

IF I HAD JUST ONE MORE SERMON TO PREACH

By

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DEDICATION

to

My late father, E. E. Myers

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PREFACE

I suppose that every preacher has at one time or the other thought of having published a book of sermons. The value of sermon outline books are varied. Some view them with disdain and say those who would buy and use such are simply lazy and not willing to think for themselves. Some have a sincere appreciation for the work done by others and from them build lessons to the glory of God and the salvation of those who would hear and obey the Word as it is preached. Regardless of how one might view sermon outlines by others, if these assist anyone in developing a thought that will lead a precious soul to Jesus Christ, then the time spent will have been well worth it.

Edward P. Myers
Memphis, TN

IF I HAD JUST ONE MORE SERMON TO PREACH

2 Timothy 4: 6, 7

Introduction:

1. Many have given their lives for Christ. Even today we can see about us the scores of men and women who have worn themselves out in service to Christ.
2. To be permitted to preach just one more sermon would be cause for serious meditation.
3. If I knew that this would be the last sermon I ever preached I believe these are the things I would say.

Body:

I. God is.

- A. God is creator.
 1. Genesis 1: 1.
 2. We are His creatures and He deserves our praise and service.
- B. God is perfect.
 1. Matthew 5: 48.
 2. Man, governments, and social orders are imperfect.
- C. God is good, Psalm 25: 8.
- D. God is true, John 17: 3.
- E. God is just, Deuteronomy 32: 4.
- F. God is love, 1 John 4: 8.

II. Man is lost without God.

- A. There is no hope for man without Christ, the Son of God, Ephesians 2: 12.
- B. There is salvation in no other name, Acts 4: 12.
- C. 2 Thessalonians 1: 7-9.

III. God gave man a way of escape.

- A. God so loved the world He gave His Son, John 3: 16.
- B. He loved us while we were yet sinners, Romans 5: 8.
- C. Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, John 14: 6.
 - 1. Christ gave the way of salvation.
 - 2. He promised to build the church, Matthew 16: 18.
 - 3. He did build the church, Acts 20: 28.
 - 4. He is head of the church, Colossians 1: 18.
 - 5. The plan of salvation.
 - a. Hear the Word, Romans 10: 17.
 - b. Believe, Mark 16: 16.
 - c. Repent, Luke 13: 3.
 - d. Confess, Matthew 10: 32.
 - e. Be baptized, Acts 2: 38.

Conclusion;

- 1. If this was the only sermon you would ever live to hear what would you do about it?
- 2. Come now and respond to the Word of God.

2

OUR UNION WITH CHRIST

Galatians 2: 20

Introduction:

1. These are remarkable words.
2. They seem paradoxical; how could one be crucified yet live?
3. It means that all life in me is from Christ.

Body:

I. The nature of this union with Christ.

- A. We are united with Him while we are yet on this earth.
 1. The branch abides in the vine; life flows in the sap.
 2. So the Christian abides in Christ and has life.
 3. The fruit of the vine is borne on the branches.
 4. So Christ bears fruit through us (what a great privilege).
- B. We are members of His body, Romans 12: 4, 5.
 1. The hand and foot, etc., are members of the human body.
 2. So we are members of the body of Christ.
- C. We are members of the same family.
 1. There is love and affection with a family.
 2. Christ is the great family head.
 - a. He loves the members of His family.
 - b. He guides and counsels them.

II. The comforts of this Union.

- A. **In** this union with Jesus we find all the comfort of home.
 - 1. The love of family and friends.
 - 2. The security of being a member of the body.
- B. What happens to us happens to Him, as all the body suffers when one member is injured.
- C. We have a strong defense in Him.
 - 1. Jesus is involved in all our honors, or in all our wrongs.
 - 2. "He who wrongs my family wrongs me. "

III. Our treatment of Jesus.

- A. We sing, "Oh, How I Love Jesus. "
 - 1. Our love is measured by our conduct, John 14: 21.
 - 2. If we mistreated our mates it would mean we did not love them.
- B. How would we treat Jesus if He were here?
 - 1. How would we treat great men?
 - 2. We would adore Him, as Mary and Martha did.
- C. He is here in His followers, Matthew 25: 40.
 - 1. While we are not to worship or adore His followers, we are to love and respect them.
 - 2. That includes the poorest and the weakest.

Conclusion:

- 1. There are wonderful results of this union. What glorious privileges we have. To be in Christ lifts us up.
- 2. It brings us up to a higher standard of life, with grandeur of character and joy of fellowship.
- 3. This union with Him here means union with the whole family in Heaven. How glorious! If we are happy here, what must it be yonder, with the angels, the redeemed, God, and in eternal glory?

ONE THING

Introduction:

1. Sin is deceptive, which adds to its dangers.
2. Sin puts value on temporal and earthly things.
3. We need to realize that we can have everything in this world and still not have what God wants us to have.

Body:

I. One thing of David, Psalms 27: 4.

- A. David was the greatest of the Israelite kings.
 1. He was unequalled as a warrior and general.
 2. He was a peerless Hebrew poet.
- B. None of these things was the ONE THING for David.
 1. He desired to dwell in God's house.
 2. He wanted to be in God's presence.
- C. This should be the desire of each of us.
 1. We should want to be where God wants us.
 2. If we are truly converted we will make our desires and wishes conform to His will.

II. One thing of the Rich Young Ruler, Mark

10: 21.

- A. He measured up unusually well.
 1. He had kept the commandments from his youth
 2. He was interested in what to do to gain eternal

lite.

- B. He lacked ONE THING.
 - 1. He trusted in his riches.
 - 2. He was not willing to give up his wealth.
- C. Does God, in His Word, tell us "ONE THING you lack"?
 - 1. Do we talk about the works we do, but see no need to attend worship faithfully?
 - 2. We are lacking.
 - 3. Do we claim to do good to the poor, but see no need to be baptized or lead a Christian life?
 - 4. ONE THING you lack.

III. The one thing of the blind man, John 9: 25.

- A. The blind man was questioned as a witness.
 - 1. Jesus had healed him.
 - 2. The Jews accused Jesus of being a sinner.
- B. The blind man testified that he knew ONE THING.
 - 1. He had been blind.
 - 2. Now he could see.
- C. He said that Jesus told him to go and wash.
 - 1. He obeyed without a promise.
 - 2. He demonstrated a striking degree of faith.

IV. One thing of Mary, Luke 10: 38, 42.

- A. Martha was a good hostess, much concerned with serving.
 - 1. She complained because Mary was not helping her.
 - 2. Jesus told her ONE THING was needful and Mary had chosen it.
- B. Mary had chosen to avail herself of this opportunity to sit at the feet of Jesus.
 - 1. It was the custom of the time for the student to sit at the feet of the teacher.
 - 2. Mary wanted to learn of Jesus.
- C. We must not neglect to sit at the feet of Jesus.

V. One thing of Paul, Philippians 3: 13.

- A. Paul had a high position as a Jew.
 - 1. He had social and religious prestige.
 - 2. He was well educated; taught by Gamaliel.

- B. He knew that without Christ none of those things was worthwhile.
- C. ONE THING he did — forgot the past and reached forth to the things that area before.

Conclusion:

1. What is the ONE **THING** in your life?
2. Take note of it, and act on it.

4

KEEPSAKES

1 Timothy 6: 20, 21

Introduction:

1. In every home there are keepsakes: a piece of cloth, quilt, pictures, shoes, pressed flowers; things that **have** sentimental value and wouldn't be parted with.
2. God has many important things for us to keep.

Body:

I. God wants us to keep the heart, Proverbs 4: 23.

- A. What is the heart?
 1. We believe with it, Romans 10: 10.
 2. We think with it, Matthew 9: 4.
 3. We reason with it, Luke 5: 22.
- B. Why keep it? Out of it are the issues of life.
 1. Sometimes bad things come from the heart, **Mark 7: 21, 22.**
 2. **It** may become gross and hardened.
 - a. Matthew 13: 15.
 - b. Hebrews 3: 8.
- C. How are we to keep it?
 1. We are to keep it pure, **Psalms 24: 3, 4.**
 2. Matthew 5: 8.

II. We are to keep ourselves.

- A. We are to keep ourselves in **the love of God, Jude 21.**

- B. We are to keep ourselves from idols.
 - 1. 1 John 5: 21.
 - 2. An idol is anything that comes between us and God.
- C. We are to keep our bodies, 1 Corinthians 9: 27.
- D. We are to keep ourselves unspotted from the world, James 1: 27.

III. We are to keep the commandments.

- A. It is our whole duty, Ecclesiastes 12: 13.
- B. We cannot enter into life without keeping the commandments of God, Matthew 7: 21.
- C. It is a test of our love, John 14: 15.
- D. By this we know Him, 1 John 2: 3.
- E. It results in eternal blessedness, Revelation 22: 14.

IV. We are to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

- A. The seven unities, Ephesians 4: 4-6.
- B. The bond of peace.
 - 1. Psalm 133: 1.
 - 2. Romans 14: 17.
 - 3. Hebrews 12: 14.
- C. How do we keep it?
 - 1. Romans 12: 18.
 - 2. But not at any price; we must be loyal to the Word.

Conclusion:

- 1. Are you trying to keep these things?
- 2. Unless we do keep them we cannot enter into Heaven.

IF WE BELIEVE IN CHRIST

John 9: 35

Introduction:

1. The blind man was cured.
2. The priests and rulers acted with malice.
3. The man born blind acted with honesty.
4. He was expelled from the synagogue.
5. Jesus asked him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"

Body:

I. Consider the question.

- A. The question refers to Christ.
 1. Angels are called sons of God, Job 38: 7.
 2. Believers are called sons of God, John 1: 12.
 3. Angels are sons of God by creation; believers by regeneration; but Christ is the only begotten of the Father, John 3: 16.
 - a. Romans 1: 4.
 - b. Colossians 1: 15.
- B. This question refers to faith in the Son of God.
 1. Faith is the act of heart by which we submit to Him, and obey.
 2. Faith is beholding, laying hold, and receiving Him.

II. If we believed in Christ.

- A. We would not cover our sins as these did.

1. Cain, Genesis 4: 1-9.
 2. Achan, Joshua 7: 21.
 3. David, 2 Samuel 11.
 4. Ananias, Acts 5: 1-10.
- B. We would be humble and confess our sins like the prodigal; not the confession of a sinner, but of a child, Luke 15: 11-32.
- C. We would highly esteem Him and His church. Our lips would exalt and magnify His name and church. Denounce the church and you denounce Christ.
1. We exalt Him by living for Him, Galatians 2: 20.
 2. We magnify Him by serving God with our bodies, Romans 12: 1.
- D. We will enjoy peace and comfort of mind. Christ is the prince and author of peace. The gospel is the message of peace.
1. Romans 5: 1.
 2. Those who believe in Christ can have all anxiety, restlessness, dread, and torment banished.
- E. We will submit to His authority.
1. Sinners will submit by obeying the gospel, Romans 1: 16.
 - a. Hear, Romans 10: 17.
 - b. Believe, Hebrews 11: 6.
 - c. Repent, Acts 17: 30.
 - d. Confess, Romans 10: 9.
 - e. Be baptized, Acts 2: 38.
 2. Children of God will submit by living for Him.
 - a. They will faithfully attend worship, Hebrews 10: 25.
 - b. They will give as they have prospered, 1 Corinthians 16: 1 ff.
 - c. They will grow by abiding in Christ, John 15: 2-6.
 - d. They will treat others with love, Luke 6: 31, 35.

Conclusion:

1. Let each soul say, "Lord, increase my faith. "
2. He that believes not shall perish, Mark 16: 16.

IMAGINARY HINDRANCES

Proverbs 22: 13

Introduction:

1. Our text reveals these things to us.
 - a. It is a lazy man making the excuse.
 - b. He says there is a lion outside.
 - c. His excuse is that he will be slain in the streets.
2. The man knew that lions were not usually found running around during the day in the streets of the city among people.
3. This is a lazy man's excuse.
 - a. It was his excuse for not working in the world.
 - b. Franklin said, "A man that is good at making excuses is good for nothing else. "
4. To the lazy man in the church the lion could be different things.
 - a. In the winter, it could be the cold weather.
 - b. In the summer, it could be the hot weather.
 - c. The lazy and indifferent man will have his lions whatever they may be.

Body:

I. Some begin the new life with great and high ambition.

- A. But they travel as water, choosing the path of least resistance.
 1. They dread the difficult.

2. They desire the easy.
 3. They use but a small fraction of their energy and time.
- B. They offer excuses, their "lions. "
1. There is no one to help me.
 2. I can not do as well as so and so.
 3. The elders are not interested in me.
 4. I will never be called on.

II. All attempts to rise to a higher plane of living have imaginary difficulties, "lions" when the opportunity comes to move to a higher level.

- A. The person who has been the prodigal may have "lions" when the opportunity comes to move to a higher level.
1. No one cares.
 2. I am still no good.
 3. People will not accept me.
- B. A person who has been mixing with the wrong crowd has "lions" when he has a chance to better himself.
1. I don't have any good friends.
 2. It's no use, I'm already marked.
 3. I'll be judged because of my friends.
- C. A person who has been made to see his sins can have » "lions. "
1. I still have plenty of time.
 2. I'm not as bad as so and so.
 3. The preacher was just preaching to me.
 4. If I admit I'm wrong people will look down on me.

III. There are many modern "lions" in the way of many children of God.

- A. First and foremost is the "lion" of lack of faith.
1. We do not believe we must put God's kingdom first, Matthew 6: 33.
 2. We don't have the faith to give up all for Christ, Luke 14: 33.
- B. Another "lion" is being too busy.
1. We're too busy to study. Psalms 1: 2.
 2. We're too busy to do good works, Matthew 25: 35ff.

- C. It is a "lion" to love the world, 1 John 2: 15.
- D. A "lion" for some is the excuse that the church is too narrow.
 - 1. Ephesians 4: 4.
 - 2. Colossians 1: 18.

Conclusion:

- 1. Do we as children of God permit ourselves to find imaginary "lions" or hindrances along the way?
- 2. Sinner friend, do you have the "lion" of "one church is as good as another" in your mind?
- 3. The "lions" are imaginary — the need for obeying the truth of God is real.

7

WHY BE A FAILURE?

Introduction:

1. Many in trying to live the Christian life realize how easy it is to fail to do what God wants done.
2. There are many who fail — this is a painful fact — but God has made no provision for failure.

Body:

I. The Christian life should never be a failure.

- A. We have been made partakers of divine nature, 2 Peter 1: 3, 4.
- B. The guide is infallible, 2 Timothy 3: 16, 17.
- C. The provision is sufficient; a great feast.
 1. Luke 14: 15ff.
 2. 2 Corinthians 8: 9.
 3. God will supply all our needs, Philippians 4: 19.
- D. Succor is offered.
 1. Hebrews 2: 18.
 2. Temptations may and will come, but Christ overcame them by the Word and we can do likewise.
 - a. Luke 4: 4.
 - b. 2 Peter 2: 9.
- E. Power is promised, Jude 24; Ephesians 3: 20.
- F. Victory is expected, 1 Corinthians 15: 57, 58.

II. How Christian life becomes a failure.

- A. Christian life becomes a failure when God is

forsaken.

1. 2 Peter 2: 14, 15.
 2. 1 John 2: 15.
- B. Fear of man can cause failure in the Christian life.
1. Saul sinned because he feared the people,
1 Samuel 15: 24.
 2. Acts 4: 19.
- C. Worldliness chokes our spirituality, Matthew 13: 22.
- D. Disobedience causes failure in the Christian life.
1. Isaiah 30: 9, 10.
 2. Matthew 7: 26, 27.

III. Symptoms of failure in the Christian life.

- A. Being out of fellowship with Christ brings unfruitfulness, John 15: 4.
- B. Lukewarmness is a symptom of failure.
1. Revelation 2: 4.
 2. Revelation 3: 16.
- C. Failure to follow our Head means failure in our Christian life.

Conclusion:

1. One remedy for failure is to consecrate your life to God, Romans 12: 1, 2.
2. Another is to lay aside every weight, Hebrews 12: 1.

8

RICH FOOL

Luke 12: 16-21

Introduction:

1. A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.
2. The purpose of this parable is to teach us wherein we are to be rich.
3. This parable is for the busy, successful, and active person.
4. Note some good qualities about the man.
 - a. He had invested his money into land.
 - b. He was a good manager of the land; it produced abundantly.
 - c. He was a man of foresight and decision.

Body:

I. Let's look at some mistakes this man made.

- A. He mistook the true gauge of the worth of life.
 1. He valued his day in and by money.
 2. His chief desire was to get gain.
- B. He mistook the true use of his abundance.
 1. He thought he must store it up for tomorrow.
 2. He was laying up treasure on earth.
- C. He mistook the true way of being merry.
 1. He loved the world, 1 John 2: 15ff.
 2. He sought the satisfaction of the flesh.
- D. He mistook his length of life, because his soul was required of him.

II. These things made him a fool.

- A. He was prosperous in business.
 - 1. It is not a sin to make money — Zaccheus was a prosperous man, Luke 19: 1-9.
 - 2. It is a sin to trust in this wealth, as did the Rich Young Ruler, Luke 18: 18-30.
- B. He thought first of himself.
 - 1. What shall I do? Luke 12: 17.
 - 2. He laid up his treasures for himself, Luke 12: 19.
 - 3. We are to consider others and work to spread the cause of Christ.
- C. He was mistaken in the ownership of the possessions.
 - 1. He spoke of "his" barns, "his" fruits, "his" goods, Luke 12: 18.
 - 2. These things are not ours, but God's.
 - a. Psalm 24: 1.
 - b. Psalm 50: 10.
 - c. Haggai 2: 8.
- D. He was deceived in his outlook of the future.
 - 1. He thought he had many years to enjoy his wealth.
 - 2. His soul was required of him that very night.
 - 3. We are to take no thought for tomorrow.
 - 4. We are to live each day for God.
- E. He was God-forgetful.
 - 1. He forgot that all belongs to God.
 - 2. He forgot that he was not rich toward God, Luke 12: 21.
- F. He had laid up his treasure on earth.
 - 1. Jesus taught us to lay up treasure in Heaven.
 - 2. The heart will be where the treasure is, Luke 12: 34.

Conclusion:

- 1. Aren't we much like this man, putting material things ahead of spiritual things in our day to day living?
- 2. Let's work on laying up our treasure in heaven.

9

DECISIONS

1 Kings 18: 21

Introduction:

1. Definition of the word *decision*.
 - a. To make up one's mind.
 - b. To determine.
 - c. To settle; conclude.
 - d. Opposed to vacillation.
 - e. It implies firmness; stick-to-it-iveness.
2. Making decisions is important.
 - a. It distinguishes the strong from the weak.
 - b. It determines success or failure.
 - c. Indecision causes one to lose opportunities.

Body:

- I. Wrong decisions.
 - A. Adam and Eve, when they chose to listen to Satan, Genesis 3: 1-6.
 - B. Lot, when he chose to live near Sodom, Genesis 13: 9-13.
 - C. Ahab, when he chose Jezebel as his wife, 1 Kings 16: 31.
 - D. Samson, when he chose Delilah, Judges 16: 4-21.
 - E. Rehoboam, when he took the advice of the young men, 1 Kings 12: 6-16.
 - F. The Prodigal Son, when he left home, Luke 15: 11-32.

- (i. The Rich Young Ruler, when he went away, Matthew 19: 22.

II. Right decisions.

- A. Moses, when he left Egypt, Hebrews 11: 23-27.
- B. Joshua, when he chose to serve God, Joshua 24: 15.
- C". Solomon, when he selected wisdom, 1 Kings 3: 9.
- D. Daniel, when he chose to remain pure from defilement, Daniel 1: 8.
- H. The Prodigal Son, when he decided to return home, Luke 15: 18.
- F. Paul, when he gave up the Law of Moses for Christ, Acts 9.

III. Decisions must be made.

- A. Many important decisions must be made.
 - 1. They should not be made suddenly.
 - 2. One should weigh both sides and be sure of the stand.
 - 3. The decision should then be abided by.
- B. The most important decision of all is the choice between Heaven and Hell.
 - 1. God has left it to us to decide, Joshua 24: 15.
 - 2. Some day we will make the final decision, as some have already done.
 - 3. 1 Kings 18: 21.
 - 4. We must make up our minds to let Jesus in, Revelation 3: 20.

Conclusion:

- 1. Now is the time to decide, 2 Corinthians 6: 2.
- 2. Would you be an ambassador to a rebellious king? That is what you are when you serve Satan.
- 3. You will decide before you leave the building. What is your decision to be?

10

HOW THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS DIFFERENT

Romans 16: 16

Introduction:

1. The subject of the church never grows old.
2. It must be kept before the people.
3. There are so many different religious bodies that people get the idea they are all alike.

Body:

I. Things the church is not.

- A. It is not a material building.
 1. Acts 7: 48.
 2. Acts 17: 24.
 3. The building is where the church assembles
 4. All the gold or silver in the world could not buy the church.
- B. It is not the family of Abraham according to the flesh.
 1. We are the spiritual seed of Abraham, not the physical.
 2. Matthew 3: 9.
 3. Galatians 3: 26-29.
- C. The church is not an extension of the old Jewish order.
 1. Jesus told Nicodemus he must be born again

- John 3: 3-7.
2. Nicodemus was a loyal Jew, yet had to be born again to enter the kingdom of Christ.
- D. It is not a denomination.
1. Notice the definition of the words.
 - a. Church: *ekklesia* — "A called out body of people. "
 - b. Denomination: "Act of naming; a class designation; a sect; part of a whole. "
 2. Why a denomination cannot be the church.
 - a. There is one fold, and one shepherd, John 10: 16.
 - b. The church is the body of Christ, and there is just one body.
 - (1) Colossians 1: 18.
 - (2) Ephesians 4: 4.
- E. The church is not a political organization.
1. It doesn't enter into politics.
 2. Jesus said His kingdom was not of this world, John 18: 36.
- F. It is not a social institution.
1. It is not the purpose of the church to entertain,
 2. That is within the realm of the home.

II. How the church is different from denominations.

- A. Christ is its head.
1. Colossians 1: 18.
 2. Ephesians 1: 22, 23.
 3. Hebrews 12: 23.
- B. It began in Jerusalem.
1. It began on the first Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection.
 2. People were added to it then as they were saved, Acts 2: 38, 47.
- C. It takes the Bible as the sole rule of authority, 1 Peter 4: 11.
- D. It has scriptural worship, John 4: 24.
1. Teaching the word.
 - a. Matthew 28: 20.
 - b. 2 Timothy 2: 2; 4: 2.
 2. Singing.

- a. Ephesians 5: 19.
 - b. Colossians 3: 16.
- 3. The Lord's supper.
 - a. Acts 20: 7.
 - b. 1 Corinthians 11: 23ff.
- 4. Praying.
 - a. 1 Thessalonians 5: 17.
 - b. Acts 2: 42.
- 5. Giving, 1 Corinthians 16: 2.
- E. Its members wear the name that exalts Christ.
 - 1. Acts 11: 26.
 - 2. Acts 26: 28.
 - 3. 1 Peter 4: 16.
- F. It represents the Bible plan of salvation.
 - 1. Plus nothing; and minus nothing.
 - 2. The Lord's plan.
 - a. Hear, Romans 10: 17.
 - b. Believe, Mark 16: 16.
 - c. Repent, Luke 13: 3.
 - d. Confess.
 - (1) Matthew 10: 32.
 - (2) Romans 10: 9, 10.
 - e. Be baptized.
 - (1) 1 Peter 3: 21.
 - (2) Acts 2: 38.
 - (3) Galatians 3: 26, 27.

Conclusion:

Come **and** be a member of this **great institution**.

11

THE CHRISTIAN'S ADVANTAGE

Romans 2: 28-3: 2

Introduction:

1. In days of distress, difficulty, suffering and sorrow, it is always in order to check the values of life.
2. This is the greatest source of Christian consolation.
3. Christians have many advantages others do not have.
4. It will be our aim to point out some of these advantages.

Body:

I. Consider others.

A. The Jew.

1. Romans 3: 1, 2.
2. This no doubt refers to the Jew in the flesh.
3. Even he had some advantage, but not like the true descendant of Abraham, the saint in Christ Jesus.
 - a. Galatians 3: 26, 27.
 - b. Galatians 3: 29.
4. Being God's chosen people under the old covenant and being entrusted with the oracles of God gave them much advantage over the Gentile world.

B. The Gentiles.

1. They were classed with the Jews as under sin, Romans 3: 9.
2. They worshipped gods that were not gods.

- a. Romans 1: 23.
 - b. 1 Thessalonians 1: 9.
 - c. 1 Corinthians 8: 4.
3. They were strangers and foreigners from the covenant, Ephesians 2: 11-13.

II. Realities for the Christian.

- A. Living hope in life.
 - 1. 2 Timothy 1: 12.
 - 2. 1 Thessalonians 1: 3.
 - 3. Our hope is Christ.
 - a. In Him we have salvation from sin, Ephesians 1: 7.
 - b. In Him we have all spiritual blessings, Ephesians 1: 3.
 - c. Through Him we have the hope of glory, Colossians 1: 27.
 - 4. There is no other way, Acts 4: 12.
 - a. Worldly hopes fade.
 - b. Satan's promises fail.
- B. Living hope in death.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 15: 19.
 - 2. Ecclesiastes 12: 7.
 - 3. Revelation 14: 13.
 - 4. Philippians 1: 21.
- C. Living hope in the resurrection.
 - 1. All are to be raised, John 5: 28, 29.
 - 2. The Christian comes forth to the resurrection of life.
 - 3. 1 Thessalonians 4: 16-18.
- D. Living hope in the judgment.
 - 1. 2 Timothy 1: 12.
 - 2. 2 Corinthians 5: 10.
 - 3. It will be a solemn occasion.
 - 4. The Christian will have nothing to fear.

III. There is exhortation and consolation for the Christian.

- A. We are warned of the danger of earthly gains, Matthew 16: 26ff.
 - 1. We might gain all, and still be poor.
 - 2. We might lose all for Christ, and still gain.

B. There is much assurance for the Christian.

1. John 14: 1-4.
2. 2 Corinthians 5: 1-6.
3. 1 Peter 1: 3, 4.
4. Revelation 14: 13.

Conclusion:

1. Don't you want these advantages?
2. Obey the gospel now.

12

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

Exodus 35: 1-9

Introduction:

1. The need of the hour is for Christians to study the Bible carefully and prayerfully.
2. God's will is revealed therein.
3. People give too much time to speculation and other things when they should be about the Master's business.
4. The religion of Christ is the most sensible, reasonable, and rational religion in the world.

Body:

I. Let's look at the text.

- A. Moses had gone up on the mount.
 1. The glory of the Lord was there.
 2. He must have seen and heard wonderful things.
- B. He comes down from the mount.
 1. The people approach him eagerly.
 2. They can't get near him because of the glory God shed on him while he was on the mount.
 3. Moses veils his face and tells them of their high privilege and responsibility.

II. "Take ye from among you an offering unto Jehovah, " Exodus 35: 5.

- A. God wants a sanctuary.
 1. We would suppose that He would provide the

- material.
 - a. Gold from the streets of Heaven.
 - b. Silver from the gates of glory.
 - c. Silk and linen woven by the fingers of angels in that celestial city.
- 2. But no, He calls on His people for an offering.
 - a. He depends on them.
 - b. God has always depended on man to accomplish His programs on earth.
- 3. God used many men.
 - a. He used Noah to build the ark.
 - b. He used Joshua to conquer the promised land.
 - c. He used Gideon to put the Midianites to flight.
 - d. He used David to slay the giant.
 - e. He used Solomon to erect the temple.
 - f. He used Peter, John, Paul, and others to write the New Testament.
- B. God does this because He loves man, John 3: 16.
 - 1. God had a purpose for wanting Israel to build the sanctuary.
 - a. He wanted their efforts directed toward highest accomplishment.
 - (1) They had accumulated wealth.
 - (2) God wanted their treasure where it would do the most good.
 - b. He wanted their affections set on the highest and the best, their hearts would be where their treasure was.
 - c. He wanted their possessions where they would pay spiritual dividends.
 - d. He wanted them to be an example for those to come, Romans 15: 4.
 - 2. For these same reasons God wants you.

III. Notice the comparison between Israel and man's conditions.

- A. Let's look at Israel's condition.
 - 1. They had been in bondage, helpless and hopeless, Exodus 1.
 - 2. God delivered them, Exodus 12: 51.

3. They had been hungry. Exodus 16: 3,
 4. God fed them, Exodus 16: 12.
 5. They had been thirsty, Exodus 17: 3.
 6. God gave them water, Exodus 17: 6.
 7. They had been lost, but God saved them.
- B. Now let's look at man's condition today.
1. He is in bondage to sin and Satan, Romans 3: 23.
 2. God delivers him, Colossians 1: 13.
 3. He is hungry.
 4. God feeds him, 1 Peter 2: 2.
 5. He is thirsty.
 6. God gives him to drink, John 4: 14.
 7. Man is lost.
 8. God saves, through Christ, John 11: 25.
- C. God commands an offering, Romans 12: 1, 2.
1. Our bodies and all that we have.
 2. He will not be satisfied with leftovers.
 3. Each in Israel gave what he could.
 4. We must do the same.
 5. We are responsible to God for only what we have, **BUT FOR THAT WE ARE RESPONSIBLE.**

Conclusion:

1. Will you bring an offering to God?
2. Sinner, bring your life and lay it at Jesus' feet.
3. Children of God, bring your possessions as well as your life.

13

GOD'S REVEALED AUTHORITY TO MAN IS THE BIBLE

Matthew 28: 18-20; 2 Timothy 3: 16, 17

Introduction:

1. There is a need for authority in all realms.
2. There are various authorities in various fields.
 - a. The Supreme Court for the laws of our land.
 - b. The dictionary for the proper spelling of words.
3. Man has grown to where there is somewhat of a disregard for authority.

Body:

- I. The fact that the Bible is the Word of God gives it authority.
 - A. The words are from God.
 1. Acts 10: 36.
 2. Acts 11: 1.
 3. John 14: 24.
 - B. Man will be judged by these words.
 1. John 12: 48.
 2. Revelation 20: 12.

II. The Bible is the authority in many cases.

- A. The Bible tells us how the world began, Genesis 1: 1.
- B. We know from Scripture where we came from, Genesis 1: 27.

- C. The Bible is the authority in the field of religion.
1. Creed books, manuals, disciplines, and dogmas of men are not religious authority, Matthew 15: 9.
 2. The Bible is the authority concerning the church, Matthew 16: 18.
 - a. Christ is its head.
 - (1) Colossians 1: 18.
 - (2) Ephesians 1: 22, 23.
 - b. There is just one church.
 - (1) Ephesians 4: 4.
 - (2) Colossians 1: 18.
 - c. The church wears the name of Christ.
 - (1) Matthew 16: 18.
 - (2) Romans 16: 16.
 - (3) Acts 4: 12.
 3. The Bible is the authority as to salvation, Romans 1: 16.
 - a. Hear, Romans 10: 17.
 - b. Believe, Mark 16: 16.
 - c. Repent.
 - (1) Luke 13: 3.
 - (2) Acts 17: 30.
 - d. Confess.
 - (1) Matthew 10: 32.
 - (2) Romans 10: 9, 10.
 - e. Be baptized, 1 Peter 3: 21.
 - (1) What is it? Burial, Romans 6: 3, 4.
 - (2) What does it do? Puts one into Christ, Galatians 3: 26, 27.
 - (3) What is it for? Remission of sins, Acts 2: 38.
 4. The Bible is the authority as to the plan of worship, John 4: 24.
 - a. Teaching.
 - (1) Matthew 28: 18-20.
 - (2) 2 Timothy 4: 2; 3: 16.
 - b. Singing.
 - (1) Ephesians 5: 19.
 - (2) Colossians 3: 16.
 - c. Praying, Acts 2: 42.
 - d. The Lord's supper.
 - (1) Acts 20: 7.

- (2) 1 Corinthians 11: 26ff.
- e. Giving,] Corinthians 16: 2.
- 5. The Bible is the authority as to the name to wear.
 - a. We are not to wear the names of men, 1 Corinthians 1: 12, 13.
 - b. Acts 11: 26.
 - c. Acts 26: 28.
 - d. 1 Peter 4: 16.
- 6. The Bible is our authority for how to live in this life.
 - a. 2 Peter 3: 18.
 - b. 2 Timothy 3: 16, 17.

Conclusion:

1. Will you accept the Bible as your rule and guide?
2. Come and do what it commands.

14

LIFE'S SADDEST MISTAKE

Genesis 41: 9

Introduction:

1. Most of us can see our mistakes or faults after they have been done.
2. Too late, usually, to do anything about it.
3. Most of us make mistakes. Some of us are willing to profit by them; some of us profit by the mistakes of others. Experience is a dear teacher.

Body:

I. The story of the chief butler's mistake.

- A. He was in prison with Joseph, Genesis 40: 2, 3.
 1. The butler and the baker both had dreams, Genesis 40: 5.
 2. Joseph interpreted the butler's dream, Genesis 40: 12.
 3. Joseph requests that the butler remember him to Pharaoh, Genesis 40: 14.
 4. The butler forgets Joseph, Genesis 40: 23.
- B. The butler confesses his mistake, Genesis 41: 9ft".
 1. As long as things went well with him, the butler made no effort to have Joseph delivered.
 2. Pharaoh had a dream, Genesis 41: 1-8.
 - a. No one could interpret it.
 - b. It brought sadness to the kingdom.
 3. This trouble caused the butler to remember his

- fault in forgetting Joseph.
4. He tells Pharaoh that Joseph had interpreted his dream when he was in prison.
 5. It often takes sorrow or death, etc., to cause us to remember our mistakes. At the death of loved ones many determine to live for God.

II. Judas confesses his mistake, Matthew 27: 3-5.

- A. He had sold his Christ.
- B. Many today sell Christ for silver.
- C. He saw his mistake.
- D. Many see their mistake, but will do nothing about it.
- E. He goes to those to whom he had sold Christ for help, Matthew 27: 3.
 1. They were no comfort to him, Matthew 27: 4.
 2. A few hours before Judas had claimed to be a friend to Christ.
 3. Many play the friend of Jesus, but are in reality the friend of the devil.
 4. Judas confessed his mistake, but too late.

III. Life's greatest mistake.

- A. When young people put obedience to Christ off till they are older, Ecclesiastes 12: 1.
- B. When men and women spend long lives in sin.
- C. When a person turns his back on the gospel.
- D. When one comes to press a dying pillow without God.

Conclusion:

1. Friend, come and obey the gospel while you have the time and opportunity. Do not go to death without God.
2. Take this opportunity now to obey the Lord and be added to His body.

15

HOW INFIDELS ARE MADE

1 Corinthians 1: 1-10; John 17: 20, 21

Introduction:

1. Call attention to the diagrams.
 - a. Home of Mr. and Mrs. A. **and the five A. children.**
 - b. Vacant block of property.
 - c. Seven circles.
2. Tell about the town.
 - a. It knows nothing about God, Christ, **the Bible, or** the spiritual man.
 - b. It is a successful business town.

Body:

I. A man wires the leading citizen that he wants to come and break the bread of life to them.

- A. A crowd gathers, the man appears with a little black book and is introduced.
- B. He opens the book, tells them about the creation; the fall of man; the Law of Moses; Christ's coming.
- C. He tells them that if they want to live again they must believe, John 3: 16.
- D. He calls for converts.
 1. He gets Mr. A. and several others.
 2. He tells them they must meet every week to worship.
- E. Mr. A. and the others build a church building on the vacant lot.

II. A wire comes from a second man, and he is invited to come.

- A. He tells them the same story as the first, but says they have been misled about what to do to be saved.
- B. He says all you have to do is repent. Acts 17: 30.
- C. Along with others, Mrs. A. is converted to his belief.
- D. They build a church building on the vacant lot too.

III. Another man comes.

- A. He tells the same story, but another view about being saved.
- B. All one must do is confess, 1 John 4: 15.
- C. He gets several converts, and one of the A. children.
- D. They add a third church building to the vacant lot.

IV. A fourth man comes.

- A. He also has the same story, but yet another belief about salvation.
- B. All that is necessary is baptism, 1 Peter 3: 21.
- C. There are several converted to his beliefs, including another of the A. children.
- D. A fourth building is added to the vacant lot.

V. A fifth man comes.

- A. As with the others, his story is the same, but he tells them something different about salvation.
- B. He tells them they are saved by grace alone, Ephesians 2: 8, 9.
- C. One of the A. children is converted to his belief, along with others.
- D. This group also builds a church building on the vacant lot.

VI. The last man comes.

- A. He tells the same story as the others, but yet one more belief about being saved.
- B. He gets several converts, including one more of the A. children.
- C. The sixth church building goes up on the vacant lot.

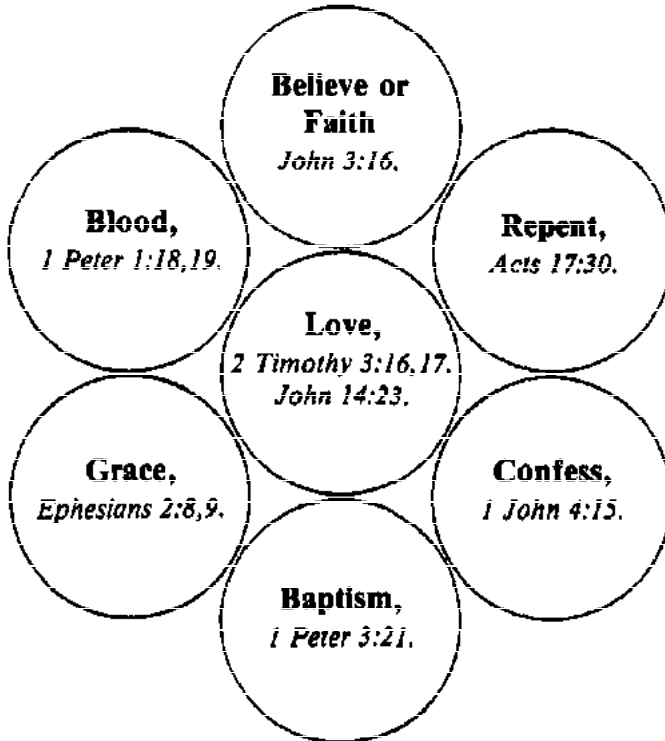
VII. The last of the A. children sees his mother, father, and each member of the family go to different church buildings.

- A. He picks up his Bible and begins to read for himself.
 - 1. Ephesians 4: 4.
 - 2. Ephesians 1: 22, 23.
 - 3. Colossians 1: 18.
 - 4. Matthew 16: 18.
 - 5. Acts 20: 28.
 - 6. 1 Corinthians 1: 1-10.
 - 7. John 17: 20, 21.
- B. He pleads with the family to accept the Bible, and *only* the Bible, but they refuse.
- C. He is discouraged by the religious division and confusion; comes under the influence of infidels; and becomes one himself.

Conclusion:

- 1. If all had gotten together on what the Bible taught, this boy would not have become an unbeliever.
- 2. It is important to accept *only* the Bible, and all of the Bible, and not follow the teachings of men.

VACANT BLOCK OF CITY



**HOME OF MR. & MRS. "A"
AND 5 CHILDREN**

16

SHOULD I BE INTERESTED IN OTHERS?

Genesis 4: 9

Introduction:

1. The attitude manifested in our text has caused the world to be in the condition it is today.
2. People of the world — of different nations — are not truly interested in the welfare of each other.
3. If the people of our cities were interested in each other, we would not have the civil and moral problems we now have.
4. We, the people of God, are, or should be, vitally interested in each other, and also in those out of Christ.

Body:

I. Where is Abel, thy brother?

- A. The very words of the text indicate that we should be interested in, and are responsible for, our brother.
- B. Cain backed away from the responsibility, as do so many today.
 1. In this case we find that Cain lied.
 2. We either do the same, or are disinterested and do not know about our brother.
 - a. Imagine this situation: A family with several children has one they can just barely remember, and they do not know where he is.

- b. We either lie to God; we are disinterested in our brothers; or we are ignorant of them.
3. The very fact that Cain worded his answer as he did, "Am I my brother's keeper?" revealed that he knew God expected him to be interested in and know of his brother.

II. The Bible reveals that we are to be interested in others.

- A. Let's look at the family relationship.
 1. Parents are to be interested in their children, Ephesians 6: 4.
 2. Children are to be interested in their parents, and in each other, Ephesians 6: 1-3.
- B. We are expected to take an interest in our brethren and our neighbors.
 1. Romans 12: 10, 13, 15.
 2. John 13: 34, 35.
 3. 1 Corinthians 8: 13.
 4. 1 John 5: 16.
 5. Matthew 22: 39.

III. Who is not interested in others.

- A. Those who have failed to grow.
- B. Those who are spiritually dead.
- C. Those who are selfish, and care only for themselves and their immediate families.
- D. Those who have not been taught that they should be interested in others.

Conclusion:

1. We must seek to grow in our love and interest for others.
2. Help us to get the work done, and be busy for the Lord.

17

A SUPREME EXAMPLE OF PERSONAL WORK

Luke 19: 10

Introduction:

1. In Jesus Christ we have the perfect example of a personal worker.
2. He is the soul winner of all soul winners.
3. To all soul winners He says, "Come and I will make you fishers of men, " Matthew 4: 19.
4. Our success depends on following Jesus Christ.

Body:

I. The marks of a personal worker that were in Christ.

- A. Prophecy set Him out as a soul winner.
 1. Isaiah 59: 20.
 2. Isaiah 62: 11.
 3. Zechariah 9: 9.
- B. Those first coming to see Him as a child spoke of Him as a Savior.
 1. The angels announced Him as a Savior, Luke 2: 11.
 2. Simeon said he had seen the salvation of the Lord, Luke 2: 30.
 3. Anna spoke of Him to all who looked for redemption in Jerusalem, Luke 2: 38.

4. John the baptist spoke of Him as the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world, John 1: 29.
- C. Why was Christ such a powerful soul winner?
1. He had the knowledge of God, and was completely obedient.
 - a. John 7: 16.
 - b. Hebrews 5: 8, 9.
 2. He had great compassion for the ruined race.
 - a. He showed it by His words of love and mercy.
 - b. He showed it by unselfish service and tireless work.
 - (1) He spent time with them.
 - (2) He had the courage to reprove and rebuke them.
 - (3) He exercised the greatest patience the world has known.
 - c. He showed it by His willingness to die for them.
 3. He was a powerful soul-winner because of His holy, sinless life.
 4. He had an artful, tactful method of teaching men.
 5. He never forgot His message.

II. Some winning characteristics of Jesus' teaching.

- A. It was simple; utilizing everyday illustrations; simple and pungent words.
- B. It had positive and divine authority, Matthew 28: 18.
- C. It was heart-searching; always personal and real.
- D. He taught with supreme tenderness and love, sometimes mingled with scathing, blistering denunciation.
- E. His teaching was direct and personal.
- F. It appealed to the highest in man.

III. Jesus' method in personal approach.

- A. He used both the direct and the indirect method of reaching men.
- B. He was always tender with sinners.
 1. He never lost patience, or became angry.

2. His scathing denunciations were turned loose on the hypocrites; those who professed to follow God.
- C. He always refused to be led away from His subject; soul-winning was His chief aim.
- D. He was never vague or indefinite about sin or its consequences.

Conclusion:

1. We can see that as individuals we need to be more like Jesus in our soul winning.
2. Study the gospels and notice the many things about Him as the great Soul-winner.

18

THE CONDITIONS OF SUCCESSFUL PERSONAL WORK

John 6: 44AS

Introduction:

1. There are certain conditions which must be met if we are to be successful in winning souls to Christ.
2. The conditions of success are few, and simple.

Body:

I. No one can come to Jesus except the Father draw him, John 6: 44.

- A. God's drawing power is the gospel, Romans 1: 16.
- B. Man's coming to Jesus depends on his learning, John 6: 45.

II, It is always the Word of God that moves people to come to Christ.

- A. Jesus told those in John 6 that they had not learned, were not drawn to Him, did not accept the Word.
- B. Peter preached the Word on the day of Pentecost, Acts 2: 14ff.
- C. Peter preached the Word in the temple, Acts 3: 12ff.
- D. Philip preached the Word to the eunuch, Acts 8: 35ff.
- E. Peter preached the Word to the Cornelius, Acts 10: 34ff.
- F. Jesus said the words are of spirit and life, John 6: 63.

III. Some conditions of soul-winning.

- A. Those who would win others to Christ must be thoroughly converted themselves.
 - 1. Jesus told Peter, "When thou are converted, strengthen thy brethren, " Luke 22: 32.
 - 2. The person that still loves the world cannot get others to leave it, 1 John 2: 15.
 - 3. The one that does not seek Christ first cannot get others to do it, Matthew 6: 33.
 - 4. The one who does not work while it is day, cannot convince others, John 9: 4.
- B. To win souls to Christ one must love the souls of men.
 - 1. One should realize that a soul is worth more than the whole world, Matthew 16: 26.
 - 2. Be ever watchful to lead a soul to Christ.
- C. Those who would win souls to Christ must know their Bibles.
 - 1. John 8: 32.
 - 2. Ephesians 6: 17.
 - 3. The Bible was written to convince and instruct men.
 - a. John 20: 30, 31.
 - b. 2 Timothy 3: 16, 17.
 - 4. There is an answer in the Bible for every seeming difficulty, and every question.
- D. Those who would win souls to Christ must be praying individuals.
 - 1. Jesus told Peter He had prayed for him, Luke 22: 32.
 - 2. Paul told the Colossians he did not cease to pray for them, Colossians 1: 9.
 - 3. 1 Thessalonians 5: 17, 25.

Conclusion:

- 1. Christians are the light of the world.
- 2. They must let that light shine that others may be **won** to Christ.

19

THE PARABLE OF THE FISH NET

Matthew 13: 47-50

Introduction:

1. The basis for our study at this time is one of the parables of Jesus.
2. We find that the meaning of the word is important.
3. Parables are given in the language of the common people, that all may understand, and each parable deals with some phase of the kingdom.
4. The parable that we are about to study deals with the consummation of the kingdom.
 - a. We are told that the kingdom or church is like a net that was cast into the sea, and gathered fish of every kind.
 - b. The good were gathered into the vessel but the bad were cast away. Let us notice some of the fish we might catch in a net and the lesson we can draw from them.

Body:

I. Gold fish.

- A. They are only good to look at.
- B. Matthew 6: 1, 2.
- C. Matthew 5: 16.

II. Mud cat.

- A. It is known for its filthy habits, and inhabits the

muddy parts of the stream.

1. 1 Thessalonians 5: 22.
 2. 1 Corinthians 15: 33.
- B. Men sometimes indulge in filthy things.

III. Goggle-eye.

- A. It is all eyes, never missing anything.
- B. They could be compared to fault-finders, Matthew 7: 3-5.

IV. Sun-perch.

- A. Small, but good for food.
- B. Lives in sunny parts of the stream, is quick to scent danger and flee.
 1. Psalm 119: 105.
 2. 1 John 1: 7.

V. Eel.

- A. Slippery; hard to hold.
- B. Represents an undependable person in the church.
 1. As John Mark left Paul and Barnabas, Acts 15: 37-40,
 2. 2 Timothy 4: 10.

VI. Scissor-bill.

- A. It is always sticking its nose into the affairs of others.
- B. 1 Peter 4: 15.
- C. 1 Thessalonians 4: 11.

VII. Crawfish.

- A. It travels backwards.
- B. Hebrews 10: 38, 39.
- C. It likes the muddy bottom.
- D. The Christian should be up contending for the faith.

VIII. Trout.

- A. It is always alert, and awake.
- B. Ephesians 5: 6-17.
- C. It is hard to deceive.

D. Galatians 6: 7.

IX. Jellyfish.

- A. It has no bony structure; is soft and without definite shape.
- B. 1 Corinthians 11: 30.
- C. We ought to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might, Ephesians 6: 10-18.

X. Snapping turtle.

- A. It has a bad disposition; always snaps at anything that comes near it.
- B. There are those in the church who hinder the cause and growth of the church by always objecting to things.

XI. Tadpole.

- A. It soon changes its form into something else.
- B. Galatians 1: 6-9.
- C. 2 John 9, 10.

XII. Electric fish.

- A. It is found in the Belgian Congo. When touched, it gives off a shock equal to a six volt battery.
- B. Some members of the church are like that: repellent, Ephesians 4: 31, 32.

XIII. Blue bass.

- A. Excellent for food, it lives in clear rock bottom streams.
- B. 1 Corinthians 15: 58.
- C. Matthew 7: 24, 25.

Conclusion:

1. All of the above can be found in the church of our Lord, but the undesirable shall be gathered out.
2. We should be like:
 - a. The Sun-perch, quick to scent danger and flee.
 - b. The Trout, alert, awake, and hard to deceive.
 - c. Blue bass, live a clean life and be on a solid foundation.

3. If we so live, when the **time of man is no more we shall**
hear: Matthew 25: 34.

20

SOME AREAS WHERE WE SHOULD BE INCREASING

2 Peter 3: 18

Introduction:

1. Christian life is growth.
2. We should be ever increasing in certain things in order to be pleasing to God.
3. We are either increasing or decreasing, therefore it behooves us to increase, or risk being lost.

Body:

- I. We need to increase in our learning.
 - A. Proverbs 1: 5.
 - B. Proverbs 9: 9.
 - C. John 8: 32.

- II. We need to increase our attendance.
 - A. Hebrews 10: 25.
 - B. Our attendance is one mark of love, and the more we come, the more we will want to come.

- III. We need to increase our faith.
 - A. Luke 17: 5.
 - B. 2 Corinthians 10: 15.
 - C. Romans 10: 17.

IV. We need to increase our love.

- A. 1 Thessalonians 3: 12.
- B. The more we love others, the more they will love us.

V. We need to increase our joy.

- A. Isaiah 29: 19.
- B. Philippians 4: 4.
- C. This day is the Lord's, rejoice and be happy in all things.

VI. We need to increase our spiritual strength.

- A. Proverbs 24: 5.
- B. Acts 9: 22.
- C. 2 Peter 1: 5-8.
- D. As we use our strength we will find that God is ready to increase it for us.

VII. We should increase our fruits of righteousness.

- A. 2 Corinthians 9: 10.
- B. Galatians 5: 22, 23.

Conclusion:

1. We need to ever be increasing in these things.
2. As we grow we will be more like Christ.

21

HINDRANCES TO THE CAUSE OF CHRIST

1 Corinthians 9: 12

Introduction:

1. That the church is becoming internally soft is no longer in question.
2. Soft preaching has caused the members to become soft in living.
 - a. Most of us know that there are members of the church who are doing things that cast reproach on the cause, because they do not know any better.
 - b. There are also those who know better and do not care.
3. It will be our purpose at this time to consider some of the things that are hurting and hindering the cause of Christ.

Body:

There are some things about which there is no doubt.

- A. Christians cannot live ungodly lives without hindering the cause of Christ.
 1. The Christian must consider his speech.
 - a. Matthew 12: 34.
 - b. Titus 2: 8.
 2. Participating in wrongdoing, while claiming to be

- a Christian, is a hindrance to the cause of Christ.
 - a. Matthew 7: 21.
 - b. James 1: 22.
- 3. The Christian must not love the world and its attractions, 1 John 2: 15.
- B. Lukewarm living hinders the cause of Christ.
 - 1. Failure to attend all church services, Hebrews 10: 25.
 - 2. Failure to stand firm for the truth, 1 Peter 3: 15.
 - 3. Failure to read the Bible daily.
 - a. Acts 17: 11.
 - b. Psalm 1: 2.
 - 4. Failure to give to the Lord.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 16: 2.
 - b. 2 Corinthians 9: 6-8.
 - 5. Failure to grow, 2 Peter 3: 18.

II. There are some brethren that see some things as matters of opinion.

- A. They would not forbid gambling.
 - 1. Romans 12: 17.
 - 2. Matthew 7: 12.
 - 3. Matthew 6: 24.
- B. They say it is all right to take a social drink.
 - 1. Proverbs 20: 1.
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 6: 10.
- C. They see nothing wrong with mixed swimming, or wearing immodest apparel, 1 Timothy 2: 9.
- D. They attend dances.
 - 1. Matthew 6: 13.
 - 2. Matthew 26: 41.
- E. They would attend, and let their children attend suggestive movies.
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 7: 1.
 - 2. Ephesians 6: 4.
- F. They belong to fraternal lodges, Colossians 3: 17.
- G. They use tobacco.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 6: 19, 20.
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 6: 12.

Conclusion:

1. These are some of the things being done by members of the church that hinder the cause of Christ.
2. Let's begin to help the cause of Christ by correcting the weaknesses in our lives.

22

THE CHURCH AND WORLDLINESS

1 John 2: 15-17

Introduction:

1. The word "church" is from the Greek word which means "called out. "
 - a. Colossians 3: 15.
 - b. 1 Thessalonians 2: 14.
2. The word "worldliness" is not a Biblical term. The nearest we find to it is in Titus 2: 12, "worldly lusts. " What some term worldliness others do not so designate.

Body:

I. The church must be kept pure.

- A. When the purity of the church is corrupted by worldliness its identity is destroyed. The line of distinction must be kept clear between the church and the world. There are certain principles by which we can determine what is worldly and what is permissible.
- B. Church members, those who are Christians, must not go back into the world,
 1. Romans 12: 2.
 2. James 1: 27.

II. Let's look at some things that come under the

term "worldliness".

- A. Things forbidden by a "thus saith the Lord" are wrong, such as the things listed in Galatians 5: 19-21.
- B. Whatever violates the law of the land is wrong, unless there is a conflict with God's law.
 - 1. Romans 13: 1-5.
 - 2. 1 Peter 2: 13-17.
 - 3. This would include gambling, violating game laws, evading income taxes, etc. Whatever is forbidden by law is wrong.
- C. Whatever is dishonest is wrong.
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 8: 21.
 - 2. Romans 12: 17.
 - 3. Any deception in trading, buying, selling, etc., is worldliness.
- D. Immodesty is worldliness.
 - 1. 1 Timothy 2: 9.
 - 2. Swimming suits, halter tops, short skirts, and shorts are not modest apparel.
- E. Things that cause one to be regarded as a sinner, and things that destroy one's identity as a Christian are worldliness.
 - 1. A Christian cannot frequent places with a worldly reputation without damaging his Christian identity.
 - 2. A Christian cannot participate with friends in worldly activities without being considered one of them.
- F. Whatever weakens a Christian's influence for good, or brings reproach on the church or on self is worldliness.
 - 1. Philippians 2: 15.
 - 2. Matthew 5: 13.
- G. Whatever is doubtful, as a rule is worldliness.
 - 1. Romans 14: 23.
 - 2. Where there is doubt, don't.
- H. Whatever hinders the Christian from doing his **duty** is worldliness.
 - 1. Matthew 6: 33.
 - 2. Romans 12: 1.
 - 3. The Christian must be careful about jobs, trips, activities, etc., that **would** take him from worship

or interfere with his service to God.

Things that are known to be harmful to **the** body, to the mind, or to the soul, are worldly.

1. 1 Corinthians 6: 19, 20.
2. 1 Corinthians 10: 31.
3. It is important for the Christian to avoid such things as drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.

Things that plant evil thoughts in the heart, and have a tendency to tempt, and suggest evil, are worldly.

1. Proverbs 4: 23.
2. James 4: 8.
3. 2 Corinthians 7: 1.
4. Dancing, and suggestive movies, pictures and books, can be a bad influence on the Christian.

Conclusion:

1. If and when at any time the church becomes so much like the world that it cannot be distinguished from it, it is worldly.
2. We must therefore strive to keep the church pure.

23

HOW TO WALK (No. 1)

*Ephesians 4: 1; Colossians 1: 10;
1 Thessalonians 2: 12*

Introduction:

1. Do you remember the first steps your baby took? How you had worked, been patient to teach and train it to walk.
 - a. At times the steps were uncertain and wobbly.
 - b. Many times there was stumbling, falling, and getting up to keep on trying to walk.
2. The child of God or babe in Christ does the same.
3. As time passes the child of God learns to walk in a manner pleasing to God.
4. This is a matter of growth.
5. The Bible speaks of walking in a worthy manner three times.

Body:

I. We are to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called, Ephesians 4: 1.

- A. Our daily walk is to correspond with our calling.
- B. We were called of Christ, therefore should walk in Him.
- C. He walked in meekness and humility, Matthew 11: 29.

II. We are to walk with lowliness and meekness, longsuffering, forbearance, endeavoring to keep unity in the bond of peace, Ephesians 4: 2, 3.

- A. This walking is to be in lowliness and meekness.
 - 1. We should have a sense of our own moral smallness and demerit.
 - 2. We need to walk in lowliness from the standpoint of guilt and weakness.
- B. Man walks in lowliness when he is aware he might fall.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 10: 12.
 - 2. Galatians 6: 1.
- C. Meekness could be translated in our language as "softness", "mildness", "gentleness."
 - 1. It is the disposition of mind in which we are able to bear without irritation or resentment the faults and injury of others.
 - 2. In the face of this understanding we need to pray that more and more of us will acquire this trait as we walk for God.
- D. Longsuffering is patience, "A disposition which leads to the suppression of anger." — Hodge.
 - 1. God was longsuffering with Abraham in his pleading for the city of Sodom, Genesis 18: 23-33.
 - 2. It is longsuffering to continually forgive one who has sinned against us, Matthew 18: 21, 22.
- E. Forbearing one another in love means holding each other up; bearing with the other.
- F. We are to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
 - 1. Endeavoring means earnestly trying.
 - 2. "Earnestness of thought and exertion to secure a thing not lightly obtained." — Ellicott.
 - 3. Unity means agreement.
 - 4. Bond means that which binds together.

Conclusion:

- 1. The bond of peace is that which results from love, humility, meekness, and mutual forbearance, which is essential to the harmony and growth of Christian men and women.

2. Yes, we must learn to walk one step at a time. That which was weak and unstable will become strong through practice.
3. Are you learning to walk?

24

HOW TO WALK (No. 2)

*Colossians 1: 10; 1 Thessalonians 2: 12,
Ephesians 4: 1*

Introduction:

1. Walking is vital as far as physical beings are concerned.
 - a. What a tragic thing it would be to not be able to walk.
 - b. Yet today in our land there are many people who for one reason or another are not able to walk, or who must walk with great difficulty.
 - c. What a joy it should be to be able to walk.
2. Last time we studied about how to walk we found that there were many things that we need to learn in this Christian life to walk pleasing to God.
 - a. We are to walk worthy of our calling.
 - b. We are to walk with lowliness and meekness.
 - c. We are to walk in longsuffering, forbearing one another in love.

Body:

I. We are to walk worthy of the Lord, Colossians 1: 10..

- A. Let it not be forgotten that we cannot separate our walk from the will of God.
- B. What does it mean to walk worthy?
 1. We must be a worthy representative of Christ,

Galatians 2: 20.

2. It means living in such a manner that Christ is honor and glorified, Colossians 3: 17.

II. How can we walk worthy of the Lord?

- A. Paul gives the answer in three short phrases.
- B. "Unto all pleasing. "
 1. This statement does not appear elsewhere in the New Testament.
 2. It does not mean, as we sometimes think, to please all; but rather means pleasing to the Lord in all things.
 3. We see that we are to so walk as to please the Lord, but not out of fear.
 - a. Fear is a motive, but not the motive that causes us to walk worthy.
 - b. We rather walk because we know we are pleasing the Lord.
 4. We walk pleasing to the Lord because we love Him, 1 Thessalonians 4: 1.
- C. "Being fruitful in every good work. "
 1. Being fruitful is evidence of walking worthy of the Lord.
 2. Sometimes we have our own definitions of what "every good work" is.
 - a. We think it is Bible study, clean living, attendance at services, etc.
 - b. It is more than that; it is even more than the good works listed in Galatians 5: 22, 23.
 - c. It is rather that each and every thing we do or enter into is a good work, or, that we produce good in everything that we do.
- D. "Increasing in the knowledge of God. "
 1. This is not an intellectual, or worldly knowledge, but a spiritual knowledge that changes and molds.
 2. John 8: 32.
 3. As we learn more we do more for God.
 4. The more we know of God's love, mercy, longsuffering, etc., the better we understand **Him** and the easier it is to walk worthy of Him.

Conclusion:

1. We have seen another aspect of how we are to walk for the Lord.
2. The following poem by Annie Johnson Flint needs to be remembered.

THE WORLD'S BIBLE

Christ has no hands but our hands
To do His work today,
He has no feet but our feet
To lead men in the way,
He has no tongue but our tongue.
To tell men how He died,
He has no help but our help
To bring them to His side.

We are the only Bible
The careless world will read,
We are the sinner's gospel,
We are the scoffer's creed.
We are the Lord's last message,
Given in deed and word.
What if the type is crooked,
What if the print is blurred?

What if our hands are busy
With other work than His?
What if our feet are walking
Where sin's allurements is?
What if our tongues are speaking
Of things His lips would spurn?
How can we hope to help Him
And hasten his return?

25

HOW TO WALK (No. 3)

*1 Thessalonians 2: 12; Ephesians 4: 1,
Colossians 1: 10*

Introduction:

1. Consider the pure joy of walking, for instance, in the case of a prisoner freed after a number of months in prison.
2. In the previous lessons we have learned several things about walking as a Christian.
 - a. We need to walk worthy of our calling.
 - b. We are to walk with lowliness; or, humbly, I Corinthians 10: 12.
 - c. We are to walk with meekness; or gently, mildly.
 - d. We are to be longsuffering; forbearing one another in love.
 - e. We are to walk as a worthy representative of Christ.
 - f. We are to be pleasing to God in all things.
 - g. We are to be fruitful and increasing in knowledge of God.

Body:

I. We are to walk worthy of God, 1 Thessalonians 2: 12.

- A. We are called to God through Christ so we are to walk in Him, Colossians 2: 6.
- B. We are to walk in newness of life, Romans 6: 4.

- C. We are to walk in love, Ephesians 5: 2.
- D. We are to walk in wisdom, Colossians 4: 5.
- E. We are to walk honestly, 1 Thessalonians **4: 12**.
- F. We are to walk in the light, 1 John 1: 7.
- G. We are to walk in truth, 3 John 3.

II. Instruction for this walk comes from God's Word.

- A. We walk by faith.
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 5: 7.
 - 2. Romans 10: 17.
- B. Paul gives us further instructions as to how to walk, Ephesians 5: 15-17.
 - 1. Circumspectly means exactly, accurately, or carefully.
 - 2. Fools are the unwise.
 - 3. Redeeming is to buy up.
 - 4. Time is opportune seasons.

Conclusion:

- 1. This poem will help us see how we **are** to walk.

TEACH ME LORD

Teach me, my Lord, to be sweet and gentle in **all the** events of life.

In disappointments.

In thoughtlessness of others.

In the insincerity of those I trusted.

In the unfaithfulness of those on whom I relied.

Let me put myself aside,

To think of the happiness of others.

To hide my little pains and heartaches.

So that I may be the only one to suffer for them.

Teach me to profit by the suffering that comes across my path.

Let me use it that it may mellow me, not harden and embitter.

That it may make me patient, not irritable.
That it may make me broad in my forgiveness, not
narrow, haughty, and overbearing.
May no one be less good for having come within my
influence.
No one less pure, less true, less kind, less noble for
having been a fellow traveler in our journey towards
eternal life.

-Unknown-

26

FOUR FACTORS IN SALVATION

1 Timothy 4: 10

Introduction:

1. There is a lot of talk about man being saved. Much is true, much is false.
2. There are four factors that are instrumental in the salvation of a soul.

Body:

I. What are these factors?.

- A. God is the Savior of all men, 1 Timothy 4: 10.
- B. Man can only be saved through Christ, Acts 4: 12.
- C. Preachers bring man the word by which they believe, 1 Corinthians 3: 5.
- D. Man must play a part in his own salvation.
 1. Acts 2: 40.
 2. Philippians 2: 12.

II. What is the work of each of these factors?

- A. God is the originator of our salvation.
 1. He loves man.
 - a. John 3: 16.
 - b. Ephesians 2: 4, 5.
 2. He is merciful, Titus 3: 5.
 3. It is His purpose for man to be saved, 1 Timothy 2: 4.
 4. He is longsuffering, 2 Peter 3: 15.

5. We are saved by His **grace**.
 - a. 2 Timothy 1: 9.
 - b. Titus 2: 11.
- B. Christ is the meritorious factor in our salvation.
 1. We are saved through His name, Acts 4: 12.
 2. We are saved through His death and subsequent life, Romans 5: 10.
 3. We are saved through His resurrection, Romans 4: 25.
 4. We are saved through His Word.
 - a. Romans 1: 16.
 - b. James 1: 21.
- C. The preacher is an instrumental factor in our salvation.
 1. Belief comes from hearing the Word preached.
 - a. Romans 10: 14-17.
 - b. 1 Corinthians 1: 21.
 2. Conversions result from the Word being preached, Romans 10: 4.
 3. The preacher prays for the salvation of souls, as Paul did, Romans 10: 1.
 4. The preacher can be an example.
 - a. Romans 11: 14.
 - b. 1 Corinthians 9: 22.
 5. A work of the preacher is to confirm **and** strengthen the churches.
 - a. Acts 14: 22.
 - b. Acts 15: 41.
- D. Man's part in his salvation is to be obedient.
 1. Hearing, Romans 10: 17.
 2. Believing.
 - a. John 8: 24.
 - b. Acts 16: 31.
 3. Repenting.
 - a. Acts 17: 30.
 - b. Luke 13: 3.
 4. Confessing.
 - a. Romans 10: 10.
 - b. Matthew 10: 32.
 5. Being baptized.
 - a. Mark 16: 16.
 - b. 1 Peter 3: 21.

6. Enduring.
 - a. Matthew 10: 22.
 - b. Revelation 2: 10.
 - c. Revelation 3: 21.

Conclusion:

1. God has done His part.
2. Christ has done His part.
3. I have tried to do my part.
4. Will you come and do yours?

27

FOLLOWERS OF PAUL

1 Corinthians 11: 1

Introduction:

1. It is important to notice that Paul says we can follow Christ, Philippians 4: 9.
2. We need to know that to be followers of Paul as he was of Christ necessitates that we have the same relationship with God that Paul had.

Body:

I. Paul was in Christ, or in the church.

- A. To be in Christ is to be in the church.
 1. Galatians 3: 27.
 2. 1 Corinthians 12: 13.
 3. Ephesians 4: 4.
 4. Colossians 1: 18.
 5. Ephesians 1: 22, 23.
- B. All spiritual blessings are in Christ, Ephesians 1: 3.
- C. Reconciliation is in Christ, Ephesians 2: 16.

II. Paul assembled with other Christians.

- A. He met with them on the Lord's day to break bread and preach, Acts 20: 7.
- B. Scripture teaches us to assemble, Hebrews 10: 25.
- C. There are several purposes for assembling.
 1. We are to teach and be taught, 2 Timothy 2: 2.
 2. We are to take the Lord's supper, Acts 20: 7.

3. We are to pray, Acts 2: 42.
4. We are to sing, Colossians 3: 16.
5. We are to give, 1 Corinthians 16: 2.
6. We are to assemble that we may hear, learn, fear, and observe the commandments of God, Deuteronomy 31: 12.

III. Paul taught us how to take the Lord's supper.

- A. We should examine ourselves, 1 Corinthians 11: 28.
- B. We must discern the Lord's body, 1 Corinthians 11: 29.
- C. The Corinthians had sickness among them because they did not take the Lord's supper properly, 1 Corinthians 11: 30.

IV. Paul instructed us to learn, and to teach.

- A. He wants us to read, and understand his knowledge of Christ, Ephesians 3: 4.
- B. He said the Bereans were more noble because they searched the Scriptures daily seeking the truth, Acts 17: 11.
- C. We are to teach the gospel of Christ to others, 2 Timothy 2: 2.
- D. We must not teach any other gospel.
 1. Galatians 1: 8, 9.
 2. 1 Timothy 1: 3.
 3. Matthew 15: 9.
 4. Colossians 2: 22.

V. Paul tells us to give as God would have us to.

- A. Paul gave himself, Galatians 2: 20.
- B. He tells us to give as we have been prospered, 1 Corinthians 16: 2.
 1. We are to give cheerfully, 2 Corinthians 9: 7.
 2. Our giving should exceed that of the Jews, Matthew 5: 20.
 3. Prosperity begins when we have more than Christ had.

Conclusion:

1. We can see that we can follow Paul, and to do so means

- we can be a Christian worthy to bear the name of Christ.
2. Let's begin today to live more as God wants us to, following Paul as he followed Christ.

28

THE LORD HATH PUT A DIFFERENCE

1 Corinthians 4: 7; Exodus 11: 7

Introduction:

1. Some people apparently do not see any reason for a difference between Christians and people of the world,
2. The difference between the Israelites and the Egyptians was very marked.
3. The difference between the church and the world is even greater.

Body:

- I. There are many respects in which the church and the world differ.
 - A. They differ in character.
 1. Originally there was no difference between the Israelites and Egyptians, since all descended from Adam.
 2. As to origin both the world and the church came from God.
 3. There is a distinction.
 - a. The church is divine.
 - (1) It is the body of Christ, Ephesians 1: 22, 23-
 - (2) It was purchased with His blood, Acts 20: 28.

- (3) It is a kingdom separate from the world, Colossians 1: 13.
 - (4) It was not a man-made difference, but a God-made difference.
 - b. The difference is internal.
 - (1) There is no change in physical makeup.
 - (2) The change is not in outward appearance.
 - (3) The change is inward, as those who were dead are now alive.
 - (a) Romans 6: 11.
 - (b) Ephesians 3: 16.
 - c. It is a great difference.
 - (1) There is as much difference between the church and the world as between light and darkness, John 1: 5.
 - (2) There is as much difference as between the wolf and the lamb, Luke 10: 3.
- B. They differ in their masters.
 - 1. The world belongs to Satan and those who do not follow God are followers of Satan.
 - a. John 12: 31.
 - b. 2 Corinthians 4: 3, 4.
 - c. 1 John 5: 19.
 - 2. Christians are followers of God. Christ is their master and God's Word is their law.
- C. They differ in their aim.
 - 1. The unsaved aim at glory of self, and love of the world, 1 John 2: 15.
 - 2. The church aims at the glory of God, Colossians 3: 17.
- D. They differ in their destiny.
 - 1. There is a difference in the fate of the world and that of the church, Mark 16: 16.
 - 2. That difference is the difference between Heaven and Hell.
 - a. Matthew 13: 41-43.
 - b. Revelation 21: 7, 8.
 - c. John 14: 1-3.

II. Where is the difference seen?

- A. The difference should be seen in the social life.
 - 1. 1 John 2: 15.

2. Who are your companions? This is a serious question.
- B. The difference should be seen in the home life.
 1. Joshua 24: 15.
 2. Does your home life truly glorify God?
- C. The difference should be seen in your religion, Matthew 15: 9.
 1. What kind of preaching do you like?
 2. How does it affect your life?
- D. The difference should be seen in the hour of trial and temptation.
 1. Do you weaken and fall? 1 Corinthians 10: 13.
 2. Are you able to bear up under trial? 2 Corinthians 4: 17.
- E. The difference should be seen in your business life.
 1. The Christian should be honest, Romans 12: 17.
 2. Christian principles should govern every aspect of business life.
- F. The difference should be seen in the hour of death, 2 Corinthians 5: 8.
- G. The difference will clearly be seen in the judgment, Matthew 24: 31ff.

III. Why should this distinction be seen?

- A. The church cannot grow if the members are not living right.
 1. The worldliness of even a few can hurt the church, 1 Corinthians 5: 6.
 2. All of Israel was defeated because of the sin of Achan, Joshua 7.
- B. There must be a distinction between the church and the world because the church must be pure.
- C. The difference must be seen to warn those who would merely profess religion.
 1. Matthew 7: 21.
 2. James 1: 22.

Conclusion:

1. We can see that there must be a difference between Christians and people of the world.
2. If there is no difference, then people are not converted.

29

WHO WROTE THE BIBLE?

1 Corinthians 10: 11

Introduction:

1. The Bible is with us, and we wonder why. A survey of its contents will reveal the writer of it.
2. 2 Timothy 3: 16-17.

Body:

I. We know who did not write it.

- A. An infidel did not write the Bible.
 1. It speaks of God, Genesis 1: 1.
 2. It calls the unbeliever a fool, Psalm 14: 1.
 3. Would an infidel have permitted these passages to have been penned?
- B. A profligate did not write the Bible.
 1. It condemns vice and sin, Galatians 5: 19-21.
 2. The vicious are condemned to death, Revelation 21: 8.
 3. Would the profligate have permitted these to have been written if he had written the Bible?
- C. A universalist did not write the Bible.
 1. We are told we must obey Christ, Hebrews 5: 8, 9.
 2. It says that those who do not obey Him will be punished, 2 Thessalonians 1: 7-9.
 3. Does this sound like one that believes all will be saved had anything to do with the writing of the Bible?

- D. A sectarian did not write the Bible.
 - 1. The Bible teaches unity, Ephesians 4: 1-6.
 - 2. It condemns division, 1 Corinthians 3: 1-4.
 - 3. Would sectarians have condemned themselves with these verses?
- E. A faith alone theorist did not write the Bible.
 - 1. The greatest attribute is love, not faith, 1 Corinthians 13: 13.
 - 2. Faith without works is dead, James 2: 17.
 - 3. Those who believe in faith alone would like to destroy these parts of the Bible, so we know they did not write it.
- F. An innovator did not write the Bible.
 - 1. We are told not to add to the word of God.
 - a. Deuteronomy 4: 2.
 - b. Revelation 22: 18, 19.
 - 2. Does this sound like an innovator wrote the Book?
- G. An unconditional grace theorist did not write the Bible.
 - 1. We are saved by grace through faith.
 - a. Ephesians 2: 8, 9.
 - b. Titus 2: 11, 12.
 - 2. The unconditional grace people wish this was not in the Bible.
- H. An uninspired creed-maker did not write the Bible.
 - 1. The Scripture is sufficient, 2 Timothy 3: 16, 17.
 - 2. The creed-maker would say the Bible is not sufficient.
- I. A covetous man did not write the Bible.
 - 1. Leviticus 27: 30-33.
 - 2. Malachi 3: 8, 9.
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 16: 2.
 - 4. 2 Corinthians 8: 3, 7.
 - 5. The covetous, stingy, tight-fisted man did not write the Bible.
- J. The luke-warm Christian did not write the Bible.
 - 1. Romans 12: 11.
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 10: 12.
 - 3. James **4: 17**.
 - 4. Romans 12: 1.
 - 5. It would have been the delight of **the luke-warm**

member of the body of Christ to have left out these passages. We know they did not write the Bible.

- K. The uninspired man did not write the Bible.
 - 1. If so why does he not write another as good or better?
 - 2. The world has advanced in all other points, so why not in the ability to do this?

II. Who did write the Bible?

- A. The Old Testament was written by men moved by the Holy Spirit, 2 Peter 1: 21.
- B. The New Testament was written by men guided by the Holy Spirit, John 16: 13; 14: 26.

Conclusion:

- 1. The Bible inspires men as no other book, the greatness of the Book is an evidence of its origin. Therefore it cannot be false.
- 2. We should, therefore, read it, believe it, and obey it.

30

TOO BUSY

1 Kings 20: 40

Introduction:

1. This parable was originally told in order to touch the conscience of Ahab.
2. Ahab had permitted Ben-Hadad, King of Syria, to escape.
3. God had delivered him into Ahab's hands, and he was to destroy him and not to spare him.
4. Afterwards Ahab met his death at the very hands of the nation whose king he allowed to escape.
5. This text suggest many things for us, which we will consider.

Body:

I. Obligation.

- A. The man was under obligation to take care of his prisoner.
- B. We are under even greater obligation.
 1. We are responsible for the care of our own soul, 1 Corinthians 10: 12.
 2. This should be our chief concern.
 3. Matthew 16: 26.
 4. Luke 12: 20.
- C. We are responsible for the souls of others.
 1. The souls of our children are our responsibility,
 - a. Proverbs 22: 6.

- b. Ephesians 6: 4.
- 2. We are responsible for the souls of our neighbors.
 - a. We are to teach others the way.
 - b. Their souls must be saved.

II. Opportunity.

- A. What an opportunity Ahab had to crush **out the life** of Israel's enemy.
- B. We are given many opportunities.
 - 1. To become Christians by obeying **the gospel plan**.
 - a. Hearing, Romans 10: 17.
 - b. Believing, Mark 16: 16.
 - c. Repenting, Acts 17: 30.
 - d. Confessing, Matthew 10: 32.
 - e. Being baptized.
 - (1) Acts 2: 38.
 - (2) Romans 6: 4.
 - 2. To grow, 2 Peter 3: 18.
 - 3. To study.
 - a. Proverbs 8: 32-36.
 - b. Proverbs 1: 7.
 - c. Proverbs 15: 32.
 - d. Psalm 119: 97-104.
 - e. Acts 17: 11.
 - 4. To do good, James 4: 17.
- C. Heaven calls.
 - 1. God says, "Give me your heart. "
 - 2. Christ says, "Come unto me. "
 - 3. The Holy Spirit says, "Today is the day. "

III. The man in the parable was "busy here and there. "

- A. Dissipation.
 - 1. What a picture of this hurrying, restless age.
 - 2. We are so busy here and there.
 - a. In commerce.
 - b. In letters.
 - c. In politics.
 - d. In domestic, social, **and** ecclesiastical matters.
 - 3. Many valuable things pass away without our knowledge while we are thus changed.

B. Ruination.

1. Opportunities for man's improvement pass away.
 - a. Youth is gone.
 - b. Time is gone.
 - c. The opportunity for religious service is gone.
2. Opportunities for usefulness pass away.
 - a. Those we might have helped are gone.
 - b. Those we might have comforted are gone.
3. The day of obedience is gone.
 - a. The heart that is too hard will not obey the Word.
 - b. God sends a strong delusion.
4. How awful to have a home here, but no mansion in the sky, John 14: Iff.
5. How terrible to have a fortune here, but no inheritance there, Matthew 6: 19-21.
6. What a shame it would be to gain the riches of the earth, and lose the soul, as the Rich Man in Luke 16: 19ff.
7. How wrong it is to look only at things seen, but not at the things unseen, Colossians 3: 2.
8. What a waste it would be to gain earth, but lose Heaven.
 - a. Begin now to put first things first.
 - b. Heaven will be your reward.
9. Many will lose their children.
 - a. Men will talk about losing the souls of their sons.
 - b. Some here have lost their sons' and daughters' souls.

Conclusion:

1. Have you been too busy and let some precious soul get away?
2. Have you failed to do what you know you should?
3. Commit yourself today to never let "too busy" be an excuse again.
4. Let's take the following poem to heart.

GOD HAS A PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE TOO!

The Lord had a job for me,
But I had too much to do.
I said, "You get somebody else,
Or wait till I get through. "
I don't know how the Lord came out —
No doubt He got along;
But I felt kind of sneaking, like:
I knew I'd done God wrong.

One day I needed the Lord —
Needed Him right away;
But He never answered me at all,
And I could hear Him say
Down in my accusing heart;
"Child, I've got too much else to do;
You get somebody else,
Or wait till I get through. "

Now when the Lord has a job for me,
I never try to shirk.
I drop what I have on hand
And do the Lord's good work.
And my affairs can run along
Or wait till I get through;
For nobody else can do the work
That God's marked out for you.

-Paul Lawrence Dunbar-

31

BINDS ON THE BIBLE

2 Timothy 2: 7-10

Introduction:

1. It is necessary to recite this text from memory since my Bible has so many binds on it that it is a closed book.
2. Many would say my Bible is not bound. It may be and you may not even recognize it.
3. Let's note some ways the Bible may be bound.

Body:

I. God's desire is for an open book.

- A. The Bible will do no good unless it is open and available to the hearts of the people, Acts 17: 11.
- B. Paul told Timothy that the Word of God is not bound.
 1. The man may be bound, but not the message.
 2. Not enough armies have ever marched to close the Bible to the people.
 3. Yet, a single individual can shut the blessings of the Book from his own life by various binds on it.

II. There are many binds on the Bible.

- A. It is closed to many because of indifference.
 1. There are not many today like those in Acts 17: 11.
 2. The best meeting is one where people are aroused

- 3. to study.
- 3. The curse of the world today is unconcern.
- B. The Bible is shut by laziness.
 - 1. 1 Timothy 4: 13.
 - 2. God's children must be diligent.
 - 3. They need to be given wholly to the work.
 - 4. All attendance, especially to Bible classes, could be increased if people were not so lazy.
- C. The blessings of the Bible are bound to some because of the doctrines of men.
 - 1. Matthew 15: 9.
 - 2. 2 John 9, 10.
 - a. The argument is that these doctrines say the same thing that is in the Bible.
 - b. If so, why not just got to the Bible, instead of to the creed?
- D. Lack of faith is a bind to some.
 - 1. Hebrews 4: 2.
 - 2. Not all men believe who read and hear.
 - 3. Yet, all men must hear in order to believe, but the Bible is a closed book to those who read in doubt.
- E. The lids of God's Book are tied tight to some by spiritual blindness.
 - 1. Matthew 13: 15.
 - 2. Isaiah 59: 10.
 - 3. We need open hearts as we read and study the Bible.
 - 4. There are none so blind as those who will not see.
- F. Stubbornness is a stout cord that binds the Book for many, Romans 1: 28.

III. The blessings of the Bible cut free all binds.

- A. It is a light to guide us, Psalm 119: 105.
- B. Its message is God's power to save, Romans 1: 16.
- C. Its promises cheer us, 2 Corinthians 1: 20.

Conclusion:

- 1. Don't let the Bible be bound for you.
- 2. Come respond to His word.

Note: Have a copy of the Bible tied with all of the above binds and cut **them loose** as you discuss each one.

CHILDISH THINGS

1 Corinthians 13: 11

Introduction:

1. In this passage we see the apostle Paul referring to things which should be put away when one becomes full grown.
2. He refers to a child as one who is half informed and underdeveloped; one whose understanding is feeble and imperfect; one who has a narrow and imperfect view of things, and who knows little.
3. A child would be thrown into transports of joy or grief at the slightest occasion, but self-control would come with maturity.
4. A child would think, argue, and reason in a weak and inconclusive manner.
 - a. They would have no growth in the Word, 2 Peter 3: 18.
 - b. They would have no full knowledge of God's Word.
 - c. They would use the language of children, and not of mature men.

Body;

I. There are some childish traits that we need never put away.

- A. Children are innocent, simple, pure, and blameless.
 1. Matthew 5: 8.
 2. 1 Timothy 5: 22.
 3. 1 Peter 1: 22.

- B. Children have a desire for knowledge.
 1. 1 Peter 2: 2.
 2. Matthew 5: 6.
 3. Acts 17: 11.
- C. Children have a forgiving spirit.
 1. Luke 23: 34.
 2. Ephesians 4: 32.
 3. Colossians 3: 13.
- D. Children are capable of profound love, loyal and true.
 1. Matthew 22: 37.
 2. Matthew 5: 44.
 3. Matthew 19: 19.
- E. Children have trusting faith.
 1. Hebrews 11: 6.
 2. Matthew 6: 33.
 3. 2 Timothy 1: 12.

II. There are some childish things that we do need to put away.

- A. Children are often selfish.
 1. Little children usually think only of themselves and their own desires and not others.
 2. James 4: 3.
 3. An example of selfishness is in the Rich Farmer, Luke 12: 16ff.
- B. Children can be peevish and pouting.
 1. They have to be humored and petted.
 2. They can become peeved at others over little things.
 3. An example would be the Older Brother, Luke 15: 28, 29.
- C. Jealousy is a childish trait.
 1. Joseph's brothers were jealous of him.
 2. 1 Corinthians 13: 4.
 3. Proverbs 14: 30.
 4. Galatians 5: 26.
- D. Children tattle, bear tales, and gossip.
 1. Paul warns against tattling and gossiping, 1 Timothy 5: 13.
 2. 1 Peter 2: 1; 4: 15.
- E. Children continually desire new toys.

1. They seek to have a good time.
2. They love fleshly things.
3. 1 John 2: 15.

Conclusion:

1. We need to develop in our lives until we have grown in the Word of God.
2. We need to be spiritual minded and not carnal minded.
3. When members of the body of Christ put away childish things they will be moving on to perfection.

33

DANGERS WE DO NOT SEE

Matthew 13: 24, 25

Introduction:

1. In speaking of dangers there are two implied.
 - a. Those we see.
 - b. Those we do not see.
2. Sometimes the *unseen* to some are the *seen* to others.
 - a. Youth should take the counsel of old age.
 - b. New born babes in Christ should take advice from mature Christians.
3. Little things can be the most dangerous.
 - a. We are so prone to ignore them.
 - b. Their effect is so deceptive.

Body:

I. There are dangers we do not see in our own conduct.

- A. We are not always aware of the consequences of little acts of discourtesy.
 1. We may at times be impolite.
 2. We may get careless and short in our speech.
- B. Discussing slights and slurs with our friends can have bad effects.
 1. It can cause us to grow critical of the brethren.
 2. It can cause criticism of the work of the church.
- C. Practicing deception, dishonesty, and untruthfulness is sinful.

1. Christ teaches us not to be deceiving.
2. We are to be honest in all matters.
3. We are to always be truthful.
- D. A sour, grumbling disposition will take its toll.
 1. We will grow to be pessimists.
 2. We won't see any good in people.
- E. Being slovenly in our Christian living is harmful.
 1. Romans 12: 11.
 2. We should be faithful in our attendance.
 3. We must be diligent in our study.
 4. We must be untiring in our work.
 5. We must be thorough in our teaching.
- F. Disobedience can cost us our souls.
 1. Hebrews 5: 8, 9.
 2. 2 Thessalonians 1: 6-9.

II. There are dangers to us in the conduct of others.

- A. We should avoid evil companions.
 1. 1 Thessalonians 5: 22.
 2. The wrong kind of company can influence us, 1 Corinthians 15: 33.
- B. Our speech must not be influenced by others.
 1. The Lord's name must not be taken in vain.
 2. It is wrong to tell filthy stories, Matthew 12: 34.
- C. Never say for a friend what is not true, and never do for one what is dishonorable, James 3: 2.
- D. There are dangers in courtship.
 1. The right kind of boy or girl should be chosen as a date.
 2. Be careful of one who wants you to be a "good sport. "

III. There are dangers we may not see in our spiritual lives.

- A. There is danger in neglecting our daily Bible reading.
 1. Acts 17: 11.
 2. Psalm 1: 2.
- B. There is danger in failure to pray.
 1. 1 Thessalonians 5: 17.
 2. Luke 18: 1.

- C. Make it a part of your religion not to disturb the worship of others, John 4: 24.
- D, There is danger in failing to really lay by in store, 1 Corinthians 16: 2.
 - 1. This will cause one to die spiritually.
 - 2. "He that soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he that soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully, " 2 Corinthians 9: 6.

Conclusion:

- 1. There are other things that we could mention, but these are enough to let us see that we can be overcome in a little thing before we realize it.
- 2. Let us take note to see the dangers and avoid them in our lives.

34

THE CHURCH THAT WAS SAVED BY GRACE AND FELL

Ephesians 2: 8, 9

Introduction:

1. There is a common teaching among certain religious people that you can not fall.
2. To them this is a wonderful teaching. If they do sin, they think that God will not let them sin unto death,
3. Some teach that you cannot sin at all. Others teach that if sin is committed it is the body that sins and not the spirit.
4. We want to notice what the Bible has to say about a group that was *saved* and *fell*.

Body:

I. We are saved by grace, Ephesians 2: 8, 9.

- A. Grace teaches and brings salvation, Titus 2: 11, 12.
 1. Grace teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts.
 2. That by doing so we should live soberly, righteously, and godly.
- B. Salvation is by grace through faith, Romans 10: 17.
 1. First comes hearing the word of truth, Ephesians 1: 13; John 17: 17.
 2. The word of truth is the gospel of salvation, Ephesians 1: 13; Romans 1: 16.

3. It is believed, Ephesians 1: 13, Mark 16: 16.
4. Repentance follows, Acts 19: 19.
5. Confession is made, Acts 19: 18.
6. The believers are baptized, Acts 19: 5; Ephesians 4: 5.
 - a. They were dead in sin, Ephesians 2: 5.
 - b. They were raised up together with Christ, Ephesians 2: 6.
 - (1) Romans 6: 3, 4.
 - (2) Galatians 3: 27.

II. "Thou art fallen, " Revelation 2: 1-5.

- A. "Thou hast left thy first love, " Revelation 2: 4.
- B. "Do the first works, " Revelation 2: 5.
 1. "I know thy labor, " Revelation 2: 2.
 2. "I know thy patience, " Revelation 2: 2.
 3. "Thou canst not bear them which are evil, " Revelation 2: 2.
 4. "Thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, " Revelation 2: 2.
- C. "I will remove thy candlestick EXCEPT THOU REPENT, " Revelation 2: 5.

Conclusion:

Thus we see that the church at Ephesus was saved by grace according to the Bible teaching of grace, BUT, that they fell and were to be lost unless they repented.

In our lesson we have noted two things:

- a. Saved by grace does not mean by grace unconditionally.
- b. A saved church or people can be lost.

35

TELL US PLAINLY

John 10: 24

Introduction:

1. Give the background to the text.
2. We should preach the gospel plainly; leave no doubts or misunderstandings.
3. There is too much at stake to do otherwise.

Body:

I. Too much in the world is not told plainly.

- A. Religious leaders will not tell their members plainly what they stand for.
- B. They try to cloud the issue.
- C. They are afraid if they tell it plainly many will turn away.

II. Some things need to be told plainly.

- A. Is there a way to Heaven?
 1. It was prophesied seven hundred years before Christ came, Isaiah 35: 8,
 2. Christ told of the way.
 - a. John 14: 6.
 - b. Matthew 7: 13, 14.
- B. Is there more than one church?
 1. Many exist — are they all right?
 2. The church and the body are the same,
 - a. Colossians 1: 18.

- b. Ephesians 1: 22, 23.
 - 3. There is only one body.
 - a. Ephesians 4: 4.
 - b. Romans 12: 4-5.
 - 4. Christ built only one church.
 - a. Matthew 16: 18.
 - b. Acts 20: 28.
- C. What must I do to be saved?
 - 1. Living in the age of religious confusion, many different things are taught on this matter.
 - 2. Jesus told us what to do.
 - a. John 8: 24.
 - b. Luke 13: 3.
 - c. Matthew 10: 32.
 - d. Mark 16: 16.
 - 3. The apostles told us what to do.
 - a. Acts 2: 38.
 - b. Acts 22: 16.
 - c. 1 Peter 3: 21.
 - d. 2 Thessalonians 1: 7-9.
- D. What is the mode of baptism?
 - 1. Is it sprinkling, pouring, or immersion?
 - 2. Matthew 3: 16.
 - 3. Acts 8: 36-39.
 - 4. Romans 6: 3, 4.
- E. How must I live after becoming a child of God?
 - 1. We are to live righteously.
 - a. Titus 2: 11, 12.
 - b. 2 Peter 1: 5-12.
 - 2. We are to grow spiritually.
 - a. 1 Peter 2: 2.
 - b. 2 Peter 3: 18.
- F. The dangers of worldly living **should be plainly** spoken about.
 - 1. James 4: 4.
 - 2. 1 John 2: 15-17.
 - 3. 1 Thessalonians 5: 22.
 - 4. James 1: 27.
- G. Is it very important to attend the services of **the** church?
 - 1. Hebrews 10: 24-29.
 - 2. Is one service sufficient? Acts 2: 46, 47.

3. Attending services is one of the greatest helps in spiritual growth.
 - a. When a child of God misses several services in a row, it is much easier to do so next time.
 - b. Faithful attendance provides food for growth.
 - c. Those that miss services are usually those who do not study at home, so they are poor in spiritual condition.

Conclusion:

1. It is necessary to tell people PLAINLY.
2. You can see what you must do; will you do it?

36

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE BIBLE

1 Thessalonians 2: 13

Introduction:

1. This lesson concerns our disposition toward the Bible.
2. In the first place our attitude toward the Bible determines the kind of servant of God we are.
3. The attitude that most people have toward the Bible is astonishing.
4. It is used for many different things.
 - a. Some use it to press flowers.
 - b. Others use it as a place to store keepsakes.

Body:

I. The Bible is perfect.

- A. It attests to its perfection.
 1. 2 Timothy 3: 16, 17.
 2. 2 Peter 1: 3.
 3. Jude 3.
 4. James 1: 25.
- B. The Bible is a unique book.
 1. Other writings are not inspired, but the Bible is.
 2. It contains all that is necessary to make the man of God complete in every good work.
 3. It grants all things that pertain to life and godliness.

4. It is a finished product.
- C. It was written by inspiration.
 1. 2 Peter 1: 21.
 2. The nature of the Bible reveals that it had to be written by inspiration.
 3. This we must accept.

II. The Bible has all authority.

- A. 1 Thessalonians 2: 13.
 1. Paul here recognizes the **authority of the Word of God**.
 2. Psalm 119: 160.
 3. Romans 3: 4.
 4. We need to be humble when God speaks.
- B. Matthew 28: 18.
 1. Hebrews 1: 1-2.
 2. John 12: 48-50.

III. The Bible has power.

- A. James 1: 21.
- B. Jeremiah 23: 29.
- C. Hebrews 4: 12.

Conclusion:

1. We urge you to turn to a study of the Bible.
2. It is the complete revealed will of God.
3. Carry one with you where ever you go.

37

OUR INHERITANCE

Romans 8: 32

Introduction:

1. Words convey meanings. They represent ideas that we think about.
2. The Bible is a medium of communication between God and man.
3. It reveals to us our inheritance.
4. The difference between us and the heathen today is just the difference between the man with the Bible and the man without it.

Body:

I. The Bible tells us what we can have.

- A. We can have forgiveness of our sins.
 1. Mark 16: 16.
 2. Acts 2: 38.
 3. 1 Peter 3: 21.
- B. We can have a new life.
 1. Colossians 3: 9, 10.
 2. 2 Corinthians 5: 17.
- C. We can have an abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness.
 1. Romans 5: 17.
 2. Grace is not some miraculous power that is felt rather than told.
 3. Titus 2: 11, 12.
- D. Sin will not have dominion over you.

1. Romans 6: 14.
2. 1 John 1: 7.
3. 1 John 1: 9.
- E. We can have unspeakable joy, 1 Peter 1: 8.
- F. We can have the peace that passes understanding, Philippians 4: 7.

II. The Bible tells us what we can be.

- A. We can be Christians.
 - 1- Acts 11: 26.
 2. 1 Peter 4: 16.
- B. We can be saints, 1 Corinthians 1: 2.
- C. We can be profitable servants, Matthew **25: 14-30**.
- D. There are other things we can be.
 1. We can be a good example to others.
 2. We can be an influence for good.
 3. We can be happy, and contented with our **lot**.

III. The Bible tells us what we can do.

- A. We can work for God, John 9: 4.
- B. We can teach others, 2 Timothy 2: 2.
- C. We can grow to be more like God, 2 **Peter 1: 5-11**.

Conclusion:

1. The final inheritance comes when we die.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 15: 55.
 - b. Matthew 25: 34.
 - c. Ten million times ten million years from now we will still be in eternity with God.
2. Come in obedience to the gospel of Christ now.
 - a. Hear, Matthew 17: 5.
 - b. Believe, Mark 16: 16.
 - c. Repent, Luke 13: 3.
 - d. Confess, Romans 10: 9, 10.
 - e. Be baptized, 1 Peter 3: 21.
 - f. Live faithful to God, Revelation 2: 10.

38

HOW TO DISOBEY GOD

Introduction:

1. It seems rather foolish to preach a sermon telling people how to do something that they know how to do so well.
2. This sermon is not to tell you how to disobey God, and encourage you in disobedience, but rather to help you classify your disobedience to God.
3. Many disobey without realizing it, and many others are ignorantly led into disobedience.
4. It is my desire that you will be able to recognize disobedience to God after this sermon.

Body:

I. We either obey or disobey God; there is no middle ground.

- A. We can choose to serve or not, Joshua 24: 15.
- B. We are either for the Lord or against Him.
 1. Matthew 12: 30.
 2. Luke 16: 13.
- C. There is no middle ground.
 1. You can't ride the fence.
 2. You are either on the Lord's side, or on the Devil's side.

II. Let's look at some ways in which God is disobeyed.

- A. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by obeying Satan.
 - 1. God told them if they ate of the tree they would die, Genesis 2: 17.
 - 2. Satan told them they would not die, Genesis 3: 4.
 - 3. They ate and had to pay the price.
 - a. They were put out of the garden.
 - b. They did suffer death.
 - 4. We can disobey God today by obeying Satan and in like manner have to pay the penalty.
- B. King Saul disobeyed God by obeying the voice of the people.
 - 1. God told Saul to destroy the Amalekites, 1 Samuel 15: 3.
 - 2. Saul spared the king, and the choice flocks.
 - a. He said the people wanted him to.
 - b. He was punished by having his kingship taken away.
 - 3. We should remember that disobedience is always punished, Hebrews 2: 1-3.
 - 4. We often disobey God by obeying people.
- C. Saul of Tarsus disobeyed God by obeying the voice of his conscience.
 - 1. Saul thought he was doing right in his persecution of Christians.
 - a. Acts 26: 9.
 - b. Acts 23: 1.
 - c. He even murdered Christians with the consent of his conscience, Acts 22: 4.
 - d. Obeying his conscience was his downfall.
- D. God can be disobeyed by adding to or taking away from His Word.
 - 1. We are told not to add to God's Word.
 - a. Revelation 22: 18.
 - b. 2 John 9-11.
 - 2. Here are some examples of how this can be done.
 - a. Missionary societies, Ephesians 3: 10.
 - b. Instrumental music in worship, Ephesians 5: 19.
 - c. Writing a law where there is no law, 2 Timothy 3: 16, 17.
 - 3. We are told not to take away from the Word of God.

- a. Revelation 22: 19.
- b. One example would be not regularly celebrating the Lord's supper, Acts 20: 7.
- E. God is disobeyed when something is substituted for what He has commanded.
 - 1. Baptism is commanded.
 - a. Mark 16: 16.
 - b. Romans 6: 4.
 - c. Sprinkling and pouring are substitutes.
 - 2. Some Christians try to substitute club or lodge work for church work, Colossians 3: 17.
- F. God is disobeyed when man's doctrines are taught concerning the plan of salvation.
 - 1. Some teach we are saved by faith only, James 2: 24.
 - 2. Others teach that we are saved before baptism and that we can be baptized if we want to, or we can be baptized into church fellowship.
 - a. Mark 16: 16.
 - b. 1 Peter 3: 21.
 - c. Acts 2: 47.

Conclusion:

- 1. We have noted some ways that people disobey God.
- 2. Which of these ways applies to you? Why not make up your mind to obey Christ, while you have the opportunity?

39

IS IT WELL WITH THEE, THY HUSBAND, THY CHILD?

2 Kings 4: 26

Introduction:

1. This Shunammite woman was one with whom Elisha had stayed. She had prepared a room in her home for him.
2. He had told her she would bear a son.
3. Because of their goodness to him he was deeply interested in them.

Body:

Is it well with thee?

- A. This is a vital question.
- B. Wife and mother, are you living as you should?
 1. You are to love your husband, Titus 2: 4.
 2. You are to be faithful to your husband, 1 Corinthians 7: 3-5.
 3. You are to be a keeper at home, Titus 2: 5.
 - a. Your children are to be taught the Word of God, 2 Timothy 1: 5.
 - b. God must be put first in all things, Matthew 6: 33.
- C. Are you being blessed?
 1. Blessings come from being obedient to God.
 2. Are you being blessed by being a light of the world? Matthew 5: 14.

II. Is it well with thy husband?

- A. This is also a vital question.
- B. Husband and father, are you living as you should?
 - 1. You are to love your wife, Ephesians 5: 25.
 - 2. You are to provide for your family, 1 Timothy 5: 8.
 - 3. You are to bring up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, Ephesians 6: 4.
 - a. Are you teaching them God's Word? Deuteronomy 6: 6, 7.
 - b. Are you being a good example?
 - 4. Are you letting your wife and children carry the load of religion in your family?
 - a. Men are to be the heads of families.
 - b. They must also lead in service to God.

III. Is it well with thy child?

- A. Here is another vital question.
- B. Children, are you obedient to your parents? Ephesians 6: 1.
- C. Children, do you love and serve the Lord?
 - 1. Remember thy creator, Ecclesiastes 12: 1.
 - 2. Do you put God first in your life? Matthew 6: 33.
 - 3. Are you faithful in Bible study?
- D. There is too little reverence for God and His Word on the part of some.
 - 1. Do you attend church services to learn and worship?
 - 2. Do you talk and pass notes, etc. ?
 - 3. There has been too much psychology and not enough old-fashioned discipline.

Conclusion:

- 1. How are things with you? Is it well with thee and thine?
- 2. Could you answer, "It is well"?

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WHEN JESUS REJOICED

Luke 10: 21

Introduction:

1. Jesus is represented as:
 - a. A man of sorrows.
 - b. Acquainted with grief.
2. He was:
 - a. Buffeted, maltreated, etc.
 - b. Trampled down by those He came by to save.
3. In the garden His heart was broken by:
 - a. The weight of the great sinfulness of the race.
 - b. He took the great penalty upon Himself to die for man, Romans 5: 8.
4. Yet in all of this there was an undertone of joy in the life of Christ.
 - a. He looked ahead; saw the end.
 - b. Hebrews 12: 2.

Body:

I. Jesus rejoiced.

- A. Christ had sent out the seventy, **Luke 10: 1-12.**
 1. He sent them two by two.
 2. Their commission:
 - a. Go to the harvest.
 - b. Carry nothing.
 - c. Enter the city and depart.
 - d. Heal the sick.

- B. Their return:
 - 1. Rejoicing.
 - 2. Luke 10: 20.

II. He had cause for rejoicing.

- A. This was His first aggressive and **consecrated group** of followers.
 - 1. There had been only twelve.
 - 2. Now there were seventy workers.
 - 3. They were obeying Christ's teachings.
 - a. Teach, Matthew 28: 18-20.
 - b. Work, John 9: 4.
 - c. Be lights to the world, Matthew 5: 14.
 - d. Be salt of the earth, Matthew 5: 13.
 - e. They loved God, Matthew 22: 37.
- B. The work was a successful work being done by rank and file followers.
 - 1. They were not content for (he apostles to do all the work.
 - 2. All followers of Christ are to teach, 2 Timothy 2: 2.
 - 3. Most of the great work of God has been done by men who would allow God to use them.
 - a. Abraham, Genesis 12: 1-5.
 - b. Joseph, Genesis 37-50.
 - c. Philip, Acts 8,
- C. He rejoiced because this was typical of the great work that would be done by: elders, deacons, members, and preachers all working together.
 - 1. All are to work.
 - a. Matthew 7: 21.
 - b. James 1: 22.
 - c. 1 John 2: 17.
 - 2. When the church is united together great work will be done. This causes joy in Heaven.
- D. He rejoiced because of their obedience to Him, Luke 10: Iff.
 - 1. God must be obeyed, Hebrews 5: 8, 9.
 - 2. Matthew 7: 24-29.
- E. He rejoiced because of their joy, Luke 10: 20.
 - 1. Followers of Christ are to rejoice.
 - 2. Romans 12: 15.

3. Philippians 4: 4.
4. 1 Thessalonians 5: 16.

Conclusion:

1. Thus we can see that Jesus had great reasons to rejoice.
2. Have you as an individual done these things to make Him rejoice now?
3. This should be your desire.

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THREE MARKS OF A STRONG CHURCH

Ephesians 6: 10

Introduction:

1. There is no need so great as having a strong church.
2. The church will be as strong as its members.
3. It should be our constant aim to build and strengthen the church.
4. There are several marks of a strong church, but we want at this time to consider three.

Body:

I. Vision.

- A. Proverbs 29: 18.
 1. "When prophecy (teaching) shall fail the people shall be scattered. " — Clark, Vol. III, p. 784.
 2. Vision is looking ahead; planning for the future.
 3. John quotes Christ about vision, John 4: 35.
- B. There are several aspects of vision.
 1. The need must be realized.
 2. Opportunities must be recognized.
 3. Plans must then be made.
 4. Luke 14: 28ff.
- C. Vision is needed in several areas.
 1. Construction of a larger and better meeting place might be planned.

- a. It would increase the church's effectiveness.
- b. It would provide incentive for growth.
- 2. There is a need for more men and women to develop into Bible class teachers.
- 3. There is need for more elders and deacons, and these must be trained to do the work.
- 4. There is need for members who will work from house to house.

II. Consecration.

A. Examples of consecration.

- 1. Exodus 32: 29.
- 2. Ezekiel 43: 26.
- 3. Romans 12: 1-3.

B. Purity must be involved in consecration.

- 1. Purity must be complete, 1 Timothy 5: 22.
- 2. The church must be pure as husband and wife are pure, Ephesians 5: 23-33.
 - a. Purity is acquired through teaching, Psalm 119: 11.
 - b. Purity is learned through patience.
 - c. Purity is supported by prayer, 1 Timothy 2: 8.
 - d. Purity is strengthened by discipline, 2 Thessalonians 3: 6.

C. Consecration involves putting first things first, Matthew 6: 33,

- 1. Make the right choice between Bible study or pleasure, Psalm 1: 2.
- 2. Choose prayer over play.
 - a. 1 Timothy 2: 8.
 - b. 1 Thessalonians 5: 17.
- 3. Work for God and not for Satan.
 - a. John 9: 4.
 - b. John 8: 44.

D. Consecration involves sincere devotion, John 4: 24.

- 1. We need to meet for worship more than once a week.
- 2. Sunday night is still the Lord's day.
- 3. The early disciples met daily, Acts 5: 42.

III. Service.

A. There is no substitute for work.

1. 1 Corinthians 15: 58.
 2. Philippians 2: 12, 13.
 3. James 1: 22.
 4. Matthew 7: 21.
- B. Service should be the chief aim of our lives.
1. Luke 22: 26.
 2. Galatians 5: 13.
- C. Our lives should be devoted to service to God.
1. 1 Corinthians 15: 58.
 2. Philippians 2: 12, 13.
 3. James 1: 22.
 4. Matthew 7: 21.
- B. Service should be the chief aim of our lives.
1. Luke 22: 26.
 2. Galatians 5: 13.
- C. Our lives should be devoted to service of God.
1. Our desire day and night should be to serve Him.
 2. We should desire to give our very best to Him.
 3. If we love God we will want to ever be near Him in our work.

Conclusion:

1. Thus we can see that to have a strong church we must have:
 - a. Vision — the ability to look forward in the work of the church.
 - b. Consecration — we must be devoted; set aside to God.
 - c. Service to God and our fellow man.
2. Have you as an individual helped to have this? If you have not done your part, then you are erring.
- 3- Why not come now and help build and make the church stronger.

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CAUSES FOR ASTONISHMENT

Jeremiah 2: 12

Introduction:

1. These are the words of the Lord; God reminding the people He had done many things for them.
 - a. He had delivered them out of Egypt.
 - b. He had led them through the wilderness.
 - c. He had given them a land of plenty.
 - d. He had delivered them from oppressors many times.
 - e. He had let them begin anew over and over.
2. In spite of these things, the people were not faithful. The priests, lawyers, scribes, and all, were drifting away from God.
3. These things were astonishing. It even caused the heavens to be astonished, and be afraid.
4. All of this is an astonishing matter, but the conduct of man today is more so.

Body;

I. There are astonishing things concerning those out of the church.

- A. It is astonishing that vast multitudes have never even heard the gospel.
 1. The population of the earth is increasing, and millions have never heard the truth,
 - a. They must hear the truth to be free, John 8: 32.

- b. They must obey the gospel to be saved, Mark 16: 15, 16.
 - c. They must obey Christ, Hebrews 5: 8, 9.
 - 2. The Bible has been translated into more languages and dialects than any other book.
 - 3. It can be purchased for a small sum.
 - B. It is astonishing that multitudes living in so-called Christian nations are so Christless.
 - 1. They will not heed His Word.
 - a. James 1: 22.
 - b. Matthew 7: 21.
 - 2. We live in a land of Bibles and men do not take the time to read the Word.
 - 3. In a land of Bibles, people will take a man's word and not go to the Bible.
 - C. It is astonishing that men take such fearful risks regarding the future.
 - 1. All men know they will die, Hebrews 9: 27.
 - 2. Most people believe in God, yet still lead a reckless life.
 - 3. They know that life is short, but continue to live in a way that they know would keep them out of Heaven.
 - D. It is astonishing that so many would allow themselves to be deceived as to the only way and the only plan of salvation.
 - 1. The only way is through Christ, who established the church.
 - a. John 14: 6.
 - b. Matthew 16: 18.
 - c. Acts 20: 28.
 - 2. The only plan is the one set forth in the Bible, and it must be obeyed, Hebrews 5: 8, 9.
 - a. Hear.
 - (1) Matthew 17: 5.
 - (2) Romans 10: 17.
 - b. Believe, Mark 16: 16.
 - c. Repent, Luke 13: 3.
 - d. Confess.
 - (1) Matthew 10: 32.
 - (2) Romans 10: 9, 10.
 - e. Be baptized.

- (1) Acts 2: 38.
- (2) 1 Peter 3: 21.

II. There are astonishing things within the church.

- A. It is astonishing that the church should so soon become modernized and apostatized.
 1. The church is becoming like the world.
 2. It is appealing to the world, 1 John 2: 15.
 3. It sometimes appeals to entertainment to gain and hold people.
- B. It is astonishing that any Christian would deliberately fall away.
 1. Some refuse to attend services, Hebrews 10: 25.
 2. Some will not study, Acts 17: 11.
 3. Some willfully commit sin.
- C. It is astonishing that Christians would be concerned about the lost.
 1. There is a desperate need to save souls.
 2. Every soul is valuable.
 3. 2 Timothy 2: 2.

Conclusion:

1. The most astonishing thing is that men should treat Jesus so disrespectfully.
 - a. How can He be treated so in the face of what He did for us? Romans 5: 8, 9.
 - b. We are made whole and clean in Him, Revelation 1: 5.
 - c. We have so many blessings through Him, Ephesians 1: 3.
2. Don't cause the Lord, and the very heavens to be astonished at you. Come and obey the gospel. Come and be restored.

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WHY STUDY THE BIBLE

Acts 17: 11

Introduction:

1. The study of the Bible is very important.
2. Many think that all that is necessary is to know the first principles.
3. It is of supreme importance to man; both young and old.

Body:

I. We should study that we might know God.

- A. He is revealed in His Word, Romans 1: 17, 18.
- B. The Bible tells us how God was revealed to the Athenians, Acts 17.
 1. They had worshipped an unknown God.
 2. Paul made Him known to them.
- C. 1 Corinthians 1: 21.

II. The New Testament reveals Him.

- A. The Gospels tell the story of His life.
 1. John 20: 30, 31.
 2. The Epistles give other of His teachings.
- B. Ignorance of Christ crucified Him then and **would** today.
 1. Luke 23: 34.
 2. Acts 3: 17.
 3. 1 Timothy 1: 13.

- C We need to know the truth.
 - 1. John 17: 3.
 - 2. John 20: 30, 31,

III. We should study so we will know the plan of salvation.

- A. Man is not able to direct his own steps, Jeremiah 10: 23.
 - 1. Many have tried.
 - 2. AH in vain, Matthew 15: 9.
- B. The New Testament reveals the plan.
 - 1. Hear.
 - a. Matthew 17: 5.
 - b. Romans 10: 17.
 - 2. Believe, Mark 16: 16.
 - 3. Repent.
 - a. Luke 13: 3.
 - b. Luke 24: 47.
 - 4. Confess,
 - a. Romans 10: 9, 10.
 - b. Matthew 10: 32.
 - 5. Be baptized.
 - a. Matthew 28: 18-20.
 - b. Acts 2: 38.
 - c. Romans 6: 3, 4.
 - d. 1 Peter 3: 21.

IV. We need to study that we may stand judgment by the Bible.

- A. Romans 14: 10.
- B. 2 Corinthians 5: 10.
- C. John 12: 48.
- D. Revelation 20: 12.

Conclusion:

- 1. The Bible is truly the greatest Book.
- 2. It is for great and small.

THE SACRED BOOK

I love the sacred Book of God,
No other can its place supply.
It points me to the saints' abode,
And bids me from destruction fly.

Sweet Book! In thee my eyes discern
The image of my absent Lord.
From thy instructive page I learn
The joys his presence will afford.

But while I'm here Thou shalt supply
His peace and tell me of His love.
I'll read with faith's discerning eye,
And thus partake of joys above.

-Thomas Kelly-

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THE BIBLE OUR ONLY GUIDE

1 Peter 4: 11

Introduction:

1. We take the Bible, and the Bible only, as our guide.
2. If the Bible is our only guide, we need to know it, John 8: 32.
3. The expression, "We speak where the Bible speaks and are silent where the Bible is silent" did not originate with Alexander Campbell, as many think, but with a Presbyterian preacher in Scotland by the name of George Campbell.

Body:

I. It is important to rightly divide the Word, 2 Timothy 2: 15.

- A. The Bible deals with man over a period of at least six thousand years.
 1. The law of God has not always been the same.
 - a. Noah, Abraham, and Moses had laws from God to live by.
 - b. The laws they had do not tell us what to do to be saved.
 2. Jesus divides the Old Testament, Luke 24: 44.
 - a. He mentions three major divisions: Laws, Psalms, and Prophets.
 - b. The books of Law include the five books of Moses and twelve books of History.

- c. Psalms would include the five books of Poetry.
 - d. There are seventeen books of Prophets.
- B. The Bible contains sixty-six books, written by about forty men over a period of approximately sixteen hundred years.

II. The Old Testament.

- A. Let's look again at the three main divisions: Law, Psalms, Prophets.
- B. Make a comparison to the books of a lawyer, or doctor.
 - 1. Law.
 - a. Books of law would be books on government.
 - b. The books of history would be books on those laws in effect.
 - 2. The books included in the heading "Psalms" would compare to books of Poetry, advice for daily living, marriage, etc.
 - 3. The books of Prophets would be like books of maps, showing people where they are, and telling them how to get to where they want to go, and where they will end up if they take the wrong way.
- C. The denominational world knows little about the divisions of the Bible.
 - 1. Some would go back to Old Testament precepts to find out what to do to be saved.
 - 2. They have little conception of Paul's charge to Timothy, 2 Timothy 2: 15.
- D. What if a sinner wants to know what to do to be saved, and is told just to read his Bible and find out, without being told that the old Law was given to the Jews?
 - 1. He would read that they had to be circumcised.
 - 2. He would also read that they were commanded to offer animal sacrifices.
- E. Suppose a Christian asks about what to do to lead a Christian life, and is told to read the Bible to find out, without being told what part of it applies to the Christian life?
 - 1. He might read about Solomon and his many

wives.

2. He would read about keeping the Jewish feast days, and the Sabbath.
- F. None of these things tells a person how to be saved or how to live a Christian life.
1. The Old Testament does not give the plan of salvation for people today.
 2. It is necessary to do what Paul told Timothy to do: Rightly divide the Word.
 3. Malachi 4: 4.

III. The New Testament.

- A. The first division is the Gospels, which tell the story of Christ and the cross, John 20: 30, 31.
- B. The book of Acts is the book of history, and man wanting to know what he must do to be saved can turn there, and see what the men and women then did.
1. The book of Acts tells us how the apostles carried out the commands of Jesus.
 2. If we do these same things, we can be pleasing to God, as the people then were.
 - a. They told the people to hear, Acts 15: 7.
 - b. They told the people to believe, Acts 16: 31.
 - c. They told the people to repent, Acts 17: 30.
 - d. They told the people to confess, Romans 10: 9-10.
 - e. They told the people to be baptized, Acts 2: 38.
 3. Some might say it is confusing.
 - a. Not everyone is told everything.
 - b. No confusion at all, because what each was told depended on the stage of their knowledge.
- C. The Epistles are the next division.
1. Paul wrote fourteen, James one, Peter two, John three, and Jude, one.
 2. They tell us how to live and govern our lives in service to Christ.
- D. Revelation is the final division of the New Testament.
1. It lifts the veil and gives us a picture of the Holy

- City, the New Jerusalem, Heaven.
2. We see a picture of the victory of the righteous over the wicked.
 3. It tells us of the place we all long to go.

Conclusion:

1. We can see how wonderful a book the Bible is.
2. We also can see the importance of knowing the Book and dividing it correctly.

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GO FORWARD

Exodus 14: 15; Philippians 3: 13, 14

Introduction:

1. The Israelites had already done much.
 - a. They had observed the Passover and left Egypt.
 - b. They had obeyed God.
 - c. They had accomplished a great thing.
 - d. Yet God told them to GO FORWARD.
2. Paul had already accomplished much in the Lord's service.
 - a. The great persecutor was now the great servant of the Lord.
 - b. He had been preaching the Word everywhere.
 - c. He had established churches in many places.
 - d. He was still doing a great work, but he knew he must still PRESS TOWARD THE MARK.
3. This congregation has done a lot for the Lord.
 - a. It is a great body of the Lord's people.
 - b. It has done many good works.
 - c. Yet it must GO FORWARD, PRESS TOWARD THE MARK.

Body:

I. There is no place to stop.

- A. The Israelites could not stop, or the Egyptians would have overtaken them.
- B. Paul could not stop, but he knew he must go on and

- keep striving.
- C. The church must go on, and not stop; or **feel like the great work is enough.**

II. Who must go forward?

- A. The church as a whole must go forward.
1. They must go forward in unity, Ephesians 4: 3.
 2. The church must continue to work, Revelation 3: 2.
 3. The church must be willing to sacrifice for the advancement of the cause.
- B. The elders must go forward.
1. They must plan for a greater work.
 2. They must continue to train men for leadership.
 3. They must go forward in caring for the church, Acts 20: 28.
 - a. Hebrews 13: 7.
 - b. Hebrews 13: 17.
- C. The preacher must go forward.
1. He must grow in his knowledge of the Word, 2 Peter 3: 18.
 2. He must go forward in the work of an evangelist, 2 Timothy 4: 1-5.
 3. He must continue to forcefully and plainly contrast error and truth.
 4. He must go forward in building up and helping to spread the cause of Christ.
- D. The members must go forward.
1. They must grow in love.
 - a. Matthew 22: 37.
 - b. John 13: 34, 35.
 2. They must grow spiritually, 2 Peter 3: 18.
 - a. Bible study is important.
 - b. Regular attendance at services aids in growth, Hebrews 10: 25.
 - c. They must add to their faith, 2 Peter 1: 5-9.
 3. Each individual Christian must sacrifice, Romans 12: 1.
 - a. We have not sacrificed when we just attend every service.
 - b. We have not sacrificed when we just give as we have been blessed.

4. Christians must go forward in their giving.
 - a. More time should be given to personal work, teaching; any work of the church.
 - b. Christians must grow in the use of their talents for the Lord.
 - c. They must also grow in giving their money.
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 16: 2.
 - (2) 2 Corinthians 9: 6-8.

Those outside Christ must go forward.

1. You believe in God, Christ, and the Bible or you would not be here.
2. Let that belief you have in Christ (John 8: 24.) move you to go forward.
 - a. Repent of your sins, Luke 13: 3.
 - b. Confess the name of Christ, Matthew 10: 32.
 - c. Be immersed into Christ.
 - (1) Galatians 3: 27.
 - (2) Romans 6: 3, 4.
 - d. Be added to the church, Acts 2: 47.

Conclusion:

1. How does it stand with you? Are you each striving to go forward?
2. Are you as elders striving to go forward?
3. Are you as a preacher striving to go forward?
4. Are you as a member of the body of Christ striving to go forward?
5. Sinner friend, are you striving to go forward?
6. Come while we stand and sing the invitation.

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BY GRACE ARE YE SAVED

Ephesians 2: 8, 9; James 2: 24

Introduction:

1. In salvation by grace God has a side and **man** has a side.
2. God gave His son, who shed His blood; a **man** a sinner must come to the blood.
3. God has spoken; man must hear Him.
4. Salvation by grace is a conditional gift; man must accept, or come to, the grace.
5. Man does not do this by his own works or by works of the law; but God does have works for him to do.
6. To fail to do what is necessary to accept the grace is to do spite to the Spirit of grace.
7. Man must live by the Spirit of grace; or, follow God's law.
8. God has made provision; man simply accepts the provision.

Body:

I. God's side of salvation by grace.

- A. What God gave.
 1. John 3: 16.
 2. Hebrews 2: 9.
 3. Hebrews 9: 22.
- B. God has spoken.
 1. Hebrews 1: 1, 2.
 2. Isaiah 34: 16.

- C. Grace is a conditional gift.
 - 1. Genesis 6: 8, 14.
 - 2. Titus 2: 11, 12.
- D. Man is not saved by his own works or by works of law.
 - 1. Ephesians 2: 8, 9.
 - 2. Romans 3: 20.
 - 3. Galatians 2: 16.
- E. To refuse to accept the grace is to do spite to the Spirit of grace, Hebrews 10: 28, 29.
- F. Those who accept have the promise of everlasting joy, Isaiah 51: 11.
- G. We are saved by the blood of Christ.
 - 1. 1 John 1: 7.
 - 2. Romans 5: 9.
 - 3. Matthew 26: 28.

II. Man's side in salvation by grace, Hebrews 5: 8, 9.

- A. All have sinned and need God's grace, Romans 3: 23.
- B. Man must hear God's Word.
 - 1. Matthew 17: 5.
 - 2. Hebrews 2: 1-5.
- C. Man must come to the grace.
 - 1. Hebrews 4: 16.
 - 2. Matthew 11: 28.
- D. Man must do the works God has for him to do.
 - 1. John 9: 4.
 - 2. Acts 10: 34, 35.
- E. Man must live by the Spirit of grace.
 - 1. Revelation 2: 10.
 - 2. 2 Peter 2: 20-22.

Conclusion:

- 1. Fulfillment comes with obedience.
 - a. Acts 2: 47.
 - b. Acts 8: 39.
- 2. Come today and accept the grace of **God**.

BY GRACE ARE YE SAVED

Ephesians 2:8,9
GOD'S SIDE - isaiah 53:4

James 2:24
MAN'S SIDE - Hebrews 5:8,9

BLOOD

1. What God gave -
John 3:16;
Hebrews 2:9; 9:22

2. God has spoken -
Hebrews 1:1;
Isaiah 34:16

3. Conditional gift -
Genesis 6:8-14;
Titus 2:11,12

4. Not by own works or law -
Ephesians 2:8-9;
Romans 3:20;
Galatians 2:16

5. Spirit of Grace -
Hebrews 10:28-30

1 John
1:7

Romans
5:9

Matthew
26:28

1. All have sinned -
Romans 3:23

2. Man must hear -
Matthew 17:5;
Hebrews 2:1-5

3. Man must come to Grace -
Hebrews 4:16;
Matthew 11:28

4. Works of God -
John 9:4; Acts 10:34,35

5. Live by Spirit of Grace -
Revelations 2:10;
2 Peter 2:20-22;
Romans 6:1

PROMISE OF JOY

Isaiah 51:11

FULFILLMENT

Acts 2:47; 8:39

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GODLINESS

1 Timothy 4: 8; 6: 1.

Introduction:

1. Godliness is profitable unto all things.
 - a. It brings the promise of this life.
 - b. It brings the promise of the life to come.
2. Definition of "godliness. "
 - a. It comes from two words: EU: "Well" and SEBOMAI: "To be devout. "
 - b. It means Godward; Godlikeness in action.

Body:

I. How to be God like.

- A. We must love, 1 John 4: 8.
 1. God loves us.
 - a. John 3: 16.
 - b. Romans 5: 8.
 - c. God seeks our welfare.
 - d. God forgives.
 2. We should love each other because God loves us, 1 John 4: 11.
 - a. We should seek the welfare of all, Romans 15: 2.
 - b. Love does no wrong to a neighbor, Romans 13: 10.
 - c. We should seek to do good to all, Galatians 6: 10.

- d. Our love should be lasting.
- B. To be like God we should be forgiving.
 - 1. God forgives us.
 - a. Daniel 9: 9.
 - b. Ephesians 1: 7.
 - c. God is always willing to forgive us if we will repent.
 - d. God forgets as well as forgives, Hebrews 10: 17.
 - 2. We are to forgive each other.
 - a. Ephesians 4: 32.
 - b. Be as God-like as possible — YOU FORGET IT.

II. To be godly we must be obedient to God, Acts 5: 29.

- A. Christ was obedient to God, Hebrews 5: 8, 9.
 - 1. Christ obeyed God in life, John 9: 4.
 - 2. He obeyed God in death, Philippians 2: 8.
- B. We are to be obedient to Christ, Hebrews 5: 9.
 - 1. We must obey Him in life, Romans 6: 16.
 - 2. We should obey Him to the death.
 - a. Revelation 2: 10.
 - b. Revelation 3: 21.
- C. We should be prayerful as Christ was, 1 Thessalonians 5: 17.
 - 1. He prayed before He selected the twelve, Luke 6: 12.
 - 2. He prayeth before the crucifixion, Matthew 26: 36-44.
 - 3. We are to pray, 1 Thessalonians 5: 17.
 - a. For all things.
 - b. For all men.

Conclusion:

- 1. We can be godly if we so desire.
- 2. These things must be added to our lives to make us **the** kind of people we should be.

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DOES GODLINESS PAY?

1 Timothy 4: 8

Introduction:

1. Many think religion is not profitable.
 - a. Some religions may not be.
 - b. True religion is.
2. Many think godliness is just attending services.
3. They do not see the profit in godliness.

Body:

I. What is godliness?

- A. Let's look at the definition of the word.
 1. It is from the Greek word that means "well"; "devout" (*Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*).
 2. "Pious, " "devout, " "righteous" (Webster).
- B. Godliness comes from God through Christ.
 1. 2 Peter 1: 3.
 2. 2 Timothy 3: 16, 17.
- C. Godliness is the ability to act and live as God would have us to.
 1. It means we must have a knowledge of the truth, Titus 1: 1.
 2. It means we must be followers of God.

II. Godliness does pay.

- A. It pays physically.

1. God promises food **and clothing**.
 - a. Matthew 6: 33.
 - b. Isaiah 33: 16.
 2. It brings comfort in affliction.
 - a. Deuteronomy 33: 27.
 - b. Psalm 46: 1.
 - c. Hebrews 13: 5.
 3. There is support in old age **and death**.
 - a. Isaiah 46: 4.
 - b. Psalm 23: 4.
 4. We can have a happy state **here, Psalm 37: 1-6**.
- B. It pays spiritually.**
1. It is more profitable than sin.
 - a. Sin ruins one's life and condemns to hell.
 - b. Godliness insures forgiveness of sins.
 - (1) Acts 2: 38.
 - (2) 1 John 1: 7.
 2. Godliness gives us victory over death.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 15: 55, 56.
 - b. Revelation 2: 10.
 - c. Revelation 3: 21.
 3. It makes us new creatures, 2 Corinthians 5: 17.
 4. It gives us all spiritual blessings, Ephesians 1: 3.

III. How may godliness be attained.

- A. The one out of Christ attains godliness by obedience to the gospel.
- B. The one in Christ attains godliness in several ways.
 1. He must study the Bible, Acts 17: 11,
 2. It is important to assemble with the saints, Hebrews 10: 25.
 3. Christians must be diligent in prayer, 1 Thessalonians 5: 17.
 4. The Christian must give.
 - a. Romans 12: 1.
 - b. 2 Corinthians 9: 7, 8.
 5. A Christian must continue to **grow**.
 - a. 2 Peter 3: 18.
 - b. 2 Peter 1: 5-11.

Conclusion:

1. From any point you look at it, godliness pays.

2. There is no angle you can present that will prove that godliness does not pay.
3. If you are not a Christian you should become one.
4. If you are a child of God but you are not growing in godliness, begin now.

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GIVE WHAT YOU HAVE

Acts 3: 6

Introduction:

1. In the phrase, "What I have, I give, " lies the center of this entire lesson.
2. God demands no more of us than what we have.
 - a. All blessings flow to us, are to flow through us, gain force from us, and flow on in refreshings beyond us.
 - b. If you recognize the fact that you have certain abilities, you must use them.
 - (1) If you are able to give, you must give.
 - (2) If you are able to teach, you must teach.
 - (3) If you have the ability to sympathize, you must sympathize.
 - (4) If you are able to cheer others, then you must bring cheer to others.
 - c. Upon you rests the responsibilities to do the things you are able to do.
 - d. Such as you have, by the grace of God, you must be ready to use and spend in service to Him, Romans 12: 1.
3. Peter and John find the lame man sitting at the gate, begging. He expects money, but they are willing to give what they have. What they gave was more valuable to him than money; Peter and John had something to give, and they gave it.

Body:

I. What others have given in the past.

- A. Some gave personal aid to those in distress, or who were afflicted.
 - 1. Peter and John caused the lame man to be healed.
 - 2. The Good Samaritan cared for the injured man, Luke 10: 25-37.
- B. Some gave their possessions, Acts 4: 34-37.
- C. Many gave their lives, as did Stephen, Acts 7: 58-60.
- D. Christ gave all.
 - 1. He gave up His glory with the Father to come to this earth and suffer for us, Philippians 2: 6-8.
 - 2. He came to do the will of God, Hebrews 10: 7.
 - 3. He accomplished the work He came to do, John 17: 4.
 - 4. Others have sold out to the Devil, but Jesus did not, Matthew 4: 8-10.
 - 5. Jesus had no earthly possessions, Matthew 8: 20.
 - 6. He died that He might give all the right to live.

II. Each should give what he has.

- A. No matter how poor, how small, or how insignificant one feels they still have something to give and should give it.
- B. Most of great work of the church is accomplished by the work of people cooperating with small gifts.
- C. Each one has time, and a fine lesson can be learned from these words.
 - 1. "Time is the stuff life is made of, do not waste it. "
 - 2. "Never be idle or vacant. Be always reading or writing or praying or meditating or employed in some useful labor for the common good. "
 - 3. John 9: 4.
- D. Each one has some talent, or talents.
 - 1. These must be used, Matthew 25: 14-30.
 - 2. Each one can smile and be happy in the work of the Lord, Philippians 4: 4.

III. The values of giving.

- A. In this age there is so much demand on people in the

form of petitions, clubs, community chests, Red Cross, etc., that there is a danger of destroying the blessings of free-will offerings.

- B. What does giving do to the man who gives?
 - 1. Giving makes a better man; it softens the heart.
 - 2. It causes one to think of another who is in need.
 - 3. It helps make brothers of men, and assists in making one Christ-like.
- C. There are certainly blessings to the one who receives.
 - 1. The Word teaches that we are to give freely and willingly and bountifully.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 16: 2.
 - b. 2 Corinthians 9: 6-8.
 - 2. Liberal giving helps the work of Christ.
 - 3. The Lord does not expect us to give what we do not have, 2 Corinthians 8: 12.
- E. Above all things we should give ourselves to the Lord.
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 8: 5.
 - 2. If we give ourselves to the Lord there will not be any question in our minds as to how LITTLE we should give.
 - 3. Christians will give until the need is met and go above that amount.

Conclusion:

- 1. Are we giving of what we have?
- 2. There are those who could give money and do not.
- 3. There are those who could give time.
 - a. They could make calls, teach others, visit the sick.
 - b. They could do work at the building.
- 4. Let us begin now to do what we know we should for the Lord and His church.

ILLUSTRATIONS

"After a charity-sermon in Edinburgh, one of the congregation by accident, put a crown-piece in the plate, instead of a penny, and, staring back at its white and precious face, asked to have it back. But he who held the place said, 'In once, in forever. 'A weel, a weel, ' grunted the

unwilling giver, 'I'll get credit for it in heaven. ' 'Na, na, ' said **the** collector, 'Ye'll get credit only for the penny. ' "

"A missionary was asking for help in spreading the gospel, when a native with a wooden leg came forward, and laying down three parcels, said, 'That's for my wife, and that's for my child, ' in all thirteen dollars. When asked if he was not giving too much, he replied, 'God's work must be done, and I may be dead. ' "

"Some men give so that you are angry every time you ask them to contribute. They give so that their gold and silver shoot you like a bullet. Others persons give with such beauty that you remember it as long as you live; and you say, 'It is a pleasure to go to such men. ' There are some men that give as springs do; whether you go to them or not, they are always full; and your part is merely to put your dish under the ever-flowing stream. Others give just as a pump does where the well is dry, and the pump leaks. "

(From *6, 000 Sermon Illustrations*, by Foster)

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JESUS WENT A LITTLE FURTHER

Matthew 26: 39

Introduction:

1. The first part of this verse forms our lesson topic.
2. What is here affirmed of the Christ can be affirmed about Him in every relationship of life, and every phase of human existence.
3. This principle at once distinguishes the Christ from every great leader that has come before us.
4. Moses, Abraham, John the baptist, and Paul went further than most of us are willing to go.
5. Christ went even further. He knows our infirmities and weaknesses, but was willing to go further.

Body:

I. Things in which Christ went further.

- A. He went further in love.
 1. He teaches that we are to love one another.
 - a. John 13: 34.
 - b. This is easy because we can all love those we are with and who are for the cause we are for.
 2. He teaches that we are to love our enemies.
 - a. Matthew 5: 44.
 - b. This is a hard test for man.
 3. Jesus said the greatest love is to lay down one's life for a friend.
 - a. John 15: 13.

- b. A lot of people would be willing to do this.
 - 4. Jesus died for His enemies.
 - a. Romans 5: 6-10.
 - b. Men as a rule are not willing to **do that**.
 - c. Christ went further in love.
- B. He went further in obedience.
 - 1. He was obedient to God.
 - a. Philippians 2: 8.
 - b. His obedience went to the point of giving His life.
 - 2. He came to do the Father's will.
 - a. John 4: 34.
 - b. John 6: 38.
 - c. Most individuals will not obey Christ in His teachings, Matthew 6: 33.
 - 3. Jesus went further in obedience and became the author of our salvation, Hebrews 5: 8, 9.
- C. He went further in prayer.
 - 1. He spent a whole night in prayer, Luke 6: 12.
 - 2. He prayed in any great undertaking.
 - a. He prayed at the transfiguration, Luke 9: 29.
 - b. He prayed at His baptism, Luke 3: 21.
 - c. He prayed after cleansing the leper, Luke 5: 16.
 - d. He prayed before calling the twelve, Luke 6: 12.
 - e. He prayed on the cross for his murderers, Luke 23: 34.
 - f. He prayed with His last breath, Luke 23: 46.
 - 3. We are to pray without ceasing.
 - a. 1 Thessalonians 5: 17.
 - b. Luke 18: 1.
 - 4. We see that Christ went further in prayer.
- D. He went further in forgiveness.
 - 1. He taught forgiveness.
 - a. Matthew 6: 14, 15.
 - b. He practiced what He taught.
 - (1) Luke 23: 34.
 - (2) Few men would go that far.
 - 2. Stephen and Paul followed His example.
 - a. Acts 7: 60.
 - b. 2 Timothy 4: 14-16.

3. We need to learn this manner of forgiveness.
 - a. Too many want to forgive without forgetting.
 - b. Some will not forgive at all.
- E. He went further in sorrow.
 1. Isaiah 53: 3.
 - a. He is able to know and feel our sorrows.
 - b. He wept with Mary and Martha over the death of their brother, John 11: 35.
 2. He was sorrowful unto death, Matthew 26: 38.
- F. He went further in goodness.
 1. Acts 10: 38.
 2. His enemies could not find fault with Him.
 3. He was the only sinless person to walk on the earth, 1 Peter 2: 22.

II. How far can you go with Him?

- A. Five thousand got close enough to Him to eat of the loaves and fishes.
 1. Matthew 14: 21.
 2. Have you gotten close enough to the Master to eat of the bread of life?
- B. Seventy got close enough to be sent on the limited commission.
 1. Luke 10: 1.
 2. Have you gotten close enough to the Lord that you have been sent on a mission to save souls?
- C. Twelve got close enough to become apostles.
 1. The apostles were ambassadors of the Word.
 2. Are you a bearer of the Word?
- D. On Pentecost 120 were close enough to be worshipping and praying.
 1. Acts 1: 14.
 2. Are you close enough to Him to worship and pray?
- E. Paul got close enough to give his life to Christ.
 1. 1 Corinthians 11: 1.
 2. Philippians 1: 21.
 3. Does Christ mean this much to you?

Conclusion:

1. How close will you get to the Lord?
2. Will you go as far as He did?

3. He should mean more to you.

JESUS DID NOT QUIT

"Jesus did not quit meeting with His disciples because Judas was a thief, nor because Peter was fickle at times, he did not quit preaching and living right because some of his brethren were unforgiving and unkind. He did not quit His post of leadership because He had in His presence the adulterous woman, a gang of Pharisees, or narrow-minded demon-worshippers. Jesus did not quit.

"Did you quit? What was the reason for it? Any reason you might name, Jesus could have given the same. He had every reason to be discouraged. His own disciples were so slow to learn. His enemies were so bent on His destruction. But He did not quit. He said, 'Know ye not that I must be about my Father's business?' (Luke 2: 49). And when the end of His earthly life was in sight, Jesus said to His Father, 'I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do' (John 17: 4). He did not quit. He finished His task.

"When you come to the end of life can you say, 'I have finished the work God has given me to do'? Or will you be compelled to say, 'I started, but quit'? Will you stand before the judgment bar of God and admit that you were a quitter? Eternal life is promised to those who endure to the end (Matthew 10: 22). There will be no consolation in the judgment day to point back to your baptism unless you can also point back to a life of faithful endurance. "

-Raymond C. Kelcy-

A Willing church is a loving church, for if we are doing His will we love each other with unfeigned love and even those out of Christ because we do not want them to be lost (1 Peter 1: 22).

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HOW TO OVERCOME FEAR

Psalm 34: 4

Introduction:

1. Fear and unrest are ever present in the world.
2. Fear is an enemy of Christians.
3. The followers of Christ today have "Fear for the body, fear of sickness, fear for the mind, fear of poverty, fear of losing the job, fear of criticism, fear of temptation, fear of the consequence of wrongdoing, fear of loneliness, fear of old age, fear of the past, fear of things present and things to come, and fear of death. " -C. E. Macartney.
4. We could add fear of not being saved, of enemies, and fear of trials.

Body:

I. What is fear?

- A. According to Webster, fear is, "A painful emotion marked by alarm, dread, and disquiet; also, an instance of this feeling. "
- B. There are many children of God that are constantly beset with dread and disquiet. This should not be. Where have we failed in this matter?

II. What do you fear?

- A. Do you fear any of the things we've already mentioned?
- B. Is there any place in the life of a child of God for

these fears?

1. 1 Peter 5: 7.
2. John 14: 1.
3. Philippians 4: 4-7.

III. Why do you fear?

- A. Fear is brought about by a lack of faith.
 1. When the disciples were with Christ in the boat and the storm came up, they were afraid, Matthew 8: 25.
 2. Jesus said, "Why are you afraid, oh you of little faith?" Matthew 8: 26.
- B. Where there is trust, there is no fear, Isaiah 12: 2.
- C. Where there is true love there is no fear, 1 John 4: 18.

Conclusion:

1. How can fear be overcome?
 - a. We must realize that God did not give us fear, 2 Timothy 1: 7.
 - b. We should go to God for all we need, Philippians 4: 6.
2. We need faith as is expressed in this hymn.

OH FOR A FAITH

Oh for a faith that will not shrink,
though pressed by every foe;
That will not tremble on the brink
of any earthly woe.
That will not murmur or complain
beneath the chastening rod,
But in the hour of grief or pain
will lean upon its God.
Lord give me such a faith as this;
and then, what-e'er may come,
We'll taste, e'en here, the hallowed bliss
of an eternal home.

3. Now let's sing "I Know Whom I Have Believed. "

52

FIVE SOLEMN FACTS

2 Corinthians 5: 10

Introduction:

1. There are many things that are very solemn and sad such as: We may have just a few more days or months to live — then DEATH.
2. But even this is not as solemn as some of the things connected with the judgment.

Body:

I. All will not be saved.

- A. There is no such thing as universal salvation. This is just a false doctrine taught by the universalists.
- B. All will appear before Him:
 1. John 5: 28, 29.
 2. Matthew 13: 24-30.
 3. Matthew 13: 47-50.
- C. "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven..., "
Matthew 7: 21.

II. The majority will be lost.

- A. This is not a pleasant thing to preach, but it is the truth! Cf. Matthew 7: 13.
- B. Some will say, "How can a God of love do this?"
 1. 1 Peter 3: 20, 21, Eight were saved in the days of Noah.

2. Genesis 19: 1 ff, Three were saved from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.
3. In America over 65 million people never enter a church building of any kind. Eight percent of the nation's population attend morning services of some kind. Two percent attend night services of some kind. Less than 1/10 of one percent attend a mid-week service anywhere.
4. Matthew 7: 22.

III. Many will perish that expect to be saved.

- A. This is a sad fact, perhaps the saddest of all, but it is true.
 1. Among these will be many "religious" people.
 2. Matthew 15: 9.
 3. James 2: 10.
 4. It will be tragic to think you are saved and then be lost. Therefore, make it as sure as you can!
- B. We must have an active religion if we would be saved.
 1. James 1: 22.
 2. James 2: 24.
 3. Matthew 7: 21.

IV. There is no salvation after death.

- A. Regardless of the teachings of various religious groups today man will not be given another chance after death to be saved.
 1. According to the Bible, it is now or never.
 2. If there is no judgment, then there will be no Hell. If no hell to fear, then what is there to worry about; thus, what is the use?
 3. 1 Corinthians 15: 13, 14.
- B. Notice the following passages:
 1. 2 Corinthians 6: 2.
 2. Philippians 2: 12.
 3. Hebrews 9: 27.
 4. Acts 17: 30, 31.

V. This may be the last opportunity for someone present.

- A. No man has assurance of tomorrow.

1. Proverbs 27: 1.
2. James 4: 14.
3. 1 Thessalonians 5: 2.
- B. God is bidding that YOU might come unto Him.
 1. Revelation 3: 20.
 2. Luke 9: 23.
- C. Why not accept Christ your Saviour?
 1. He died for you, 1 Peter 2: 24.
 2. You must obey Him, Romans 6: 17.
 - a. Hear — Matthew 17: 5; Romans 10: 17.
 - b. Believe— John 8: 24.
 - c. Repent — Luke 13: 3; Acts 17: 30, 31.
 - d. Confess — Matthew 10: 32; Romans 10: 10.
 - e. Be baptized — Mark 16: 16; Acts 2: 38; 1 Peter 3: 21.
- D. Does the cross mean nothing to you? Cf. 1 Corinthians 1: 18.

Conclusion:

1. What is your answer regarding these solemn facts?
2. Are you ready to meet Him in the judgment?
3. 2 Corinthians 5: 10.

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