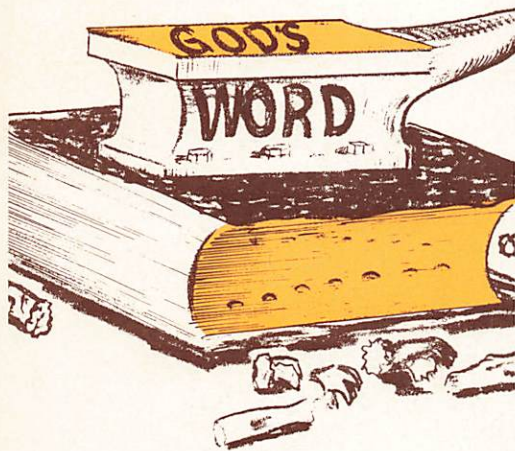


CHARTS AND SERMONS

For Overhead Projectors



STEER STRAIGHT

DON'T BLOW OWN HORN

DON'T LET CLUTCH SLIP

AUTO

OBEY LAWS

KEEP UP BATTERY

LESSONS

CHECK BRAKES

PLENTY OF FUEL

STUDY MAP

MORALITY

IN THE 20th CENTURY

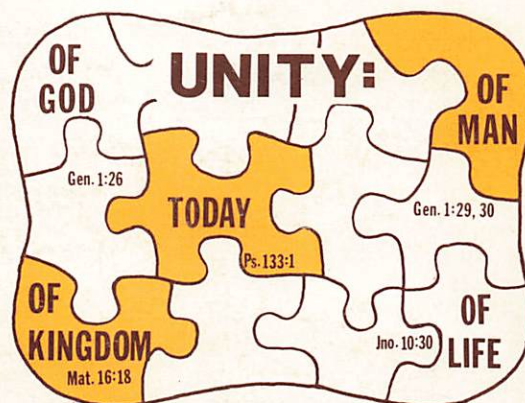
I. THE UNDERMINING OF THE DIGNITY AND SANCTITY OF THE HOME, WHICH IS THE BASIS FOR HUMAN SOCIETY

II. HIGHER AND HIGHER TAXES; THE SPENDING OF PUBLIC MONEY FOR FREE BREAD AND CIRCUSES FOR THE POPULACE

III. THE MAD CRAZE FOR PLEASURE; SPORTS BECOMING EVERY YEAR MORE EXCITING, MORE BRUTAL, MORE IMMORAL

IV. THE BUILDING OF GREAT ARMAMENTS WHEN THE REAL ENEMY WAS WITHIN — THE INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

V. THE DECAY OF RELIGION; FAITH FADING INTO MERE FORM; LOSING TOUCH WITH LIFE; LOSING POWER TO GUIDE THE PEOPLE



Benny B. Bristow

*From the Library of
Tony Lawrence*

CHARTS AND SERMONS FOR OVERHEAD PROJECTORS

*With much love, Dad
Benny*

by
Benny B. Bristow

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QUALITY PUBLICATIONS

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DEDICATION

This book is lovingly dedicated to Mr. and Mrs. Clay Boatenhammer, my grandparents, affectionately known to all the family as "MA" and "PA," and to my brother, Burrell Bristow, and sister Barbara Mize and families. These have had a positive influence for good on my life for many years.

INTRODUCTION

Preaching the word of God in all generations has been and will always be one of mankind's greatest blessings. True preaching is of the Lord, for it is "God's good pleasure through the foolishness of the preaching to save them that believe" (1 Corinthians 1:21b). It aims at satisfying man's greatest need—salvation from sin. With this awesome responsibility, those who preach should strive to do their best and to use the most effective means available to accomplish the task.

When trying to recall sermons heard in the past, one generally remembers best those that were presented using a chalkboard or charts. They made lasting impressions on the mind and illustrated the value of both seeing and hearing a sermon. In fact, over the years many souls have obeyed the Gospel, and numerous Christians have grown stronger through sermons that made use of chalkboards and charts. During recent years, however, two major problems have developed in regard to these types of visual aids. First of all, auditoriums have been greatly enlarged, making the use of a small chalkboard ineffective. Secondly, the use of a large chart is often not feasible because of the many hours required for its preparation. Still, the need for visualized preaching is just as crucial. It has been estimated that the average person will remember only 10% of what he hears but 40% of what he sees. Also, it is said that 85% of one's learning is through the eyes, and that a speaker is able to provide his audience with 35% more information through the use of visual aids than by simply lecturing! Who, then, can deny that good visual aids increase the effectiveness of preaching?

In addition to the problems of accommodating large auditoriums and busy schedules, the preacher today needs to make his visual aids attractive and interesting to the viewer. His audience, for the most part, is accustomed to good visual aids. Most of those who listen to his sermons watch several hours of television each week, and though the moral content is often questionable, the professional quality of the pictures, scenery, art work, and lettering cannot be denied. Magazines, newspapers, and store advertisements also appeal to the eyes and further demonstrate the effectiveness of visuals. Yes, visual aids are important, but they must be proper in content and of good quality to produce the maximum results. In the pulpit, as elsewhere, visuals that are too small to read or poorly prepared can defeat their purpose and have an adverse effect upon the audience. Remember, a visual must be an aid to preaching or it should not be used.

How can these problems be overcome? This book, *Charts and Sermons for Overhead Projectors*, is designed to provide a solution. Each chart may be removed from the book, and if you do not have a copier that makes transparencies, you may take them to a quick or fast copying service and get one made at a reasonable price. Purchase some cardboard frames or cut out one from poster board, and you have your sermon visual ready.

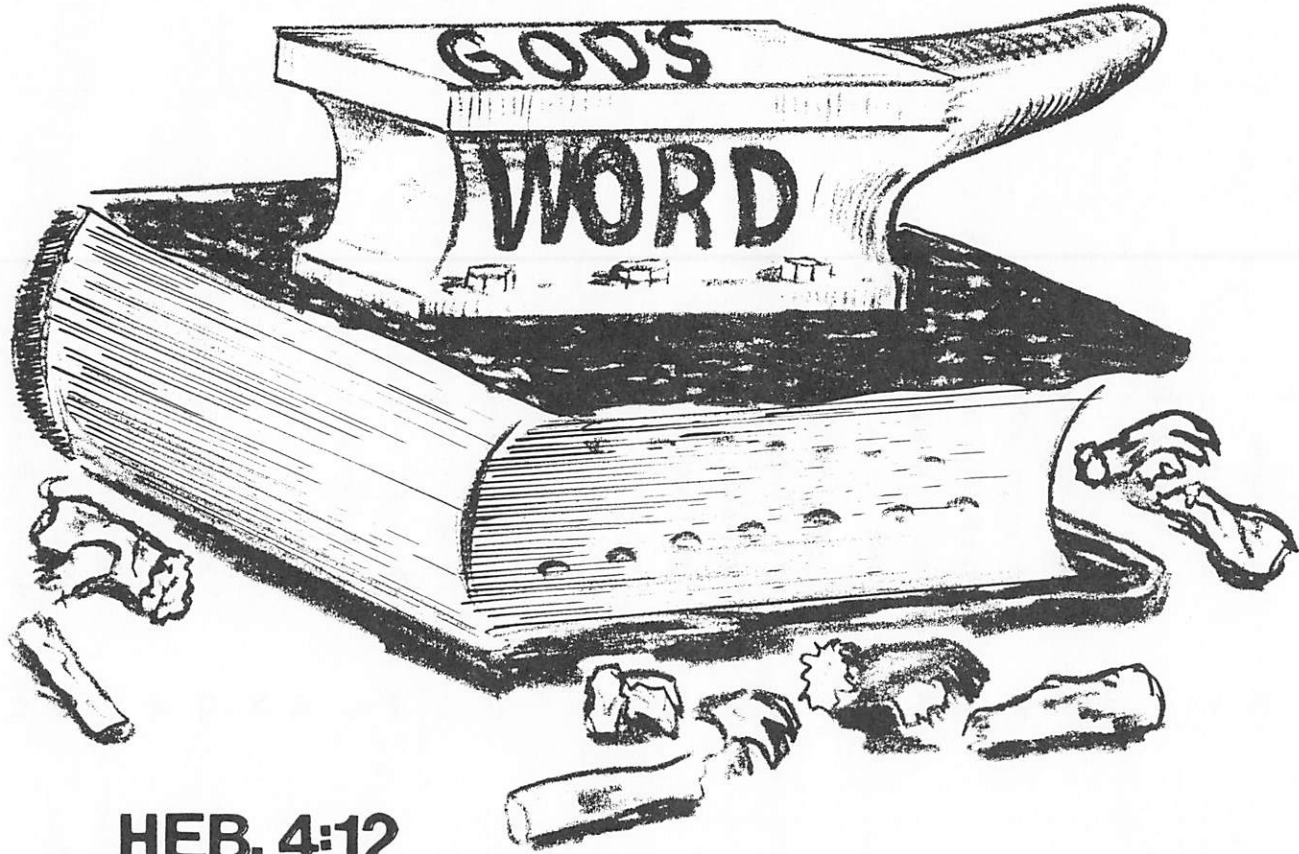
The outlines are designed with only the basic thoughts so that you may present your own input into the subject.

All of these charts were designed by this author as he preached these lessons from week to week. As the outlines were made, like most preachers, the author was influenced by books, spiritual articles, and by listening to others preach the word. To all that had a part in any way influencing these sermons, sincere gratitude is expressed.

May this book with God's guidance help in some way to make the preaching of the Gospel more effective is my prayer.

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HEB. 4:12

- **ALIVE**
- **ACTIVE**
- **SHARP**

- **PIERCES**
- **DISCERNS**
- **ETERNAL**

GOD'S WORD

Hebrews 4:12

INTRODUCTION.

- A. One of the greatest powers in the world is often overlooked.
 - 1. Man thinks of bombs, heavy machinery.
 - 2. Bible says God's Word is powerful.
- B. Six things to prove its power in this lesson.
 - 1. May we study these?

I. THE WORD OF GOD IS "ALIVE."

- A. This is the beginning point of faith.
 - 1. Too many consider Bible dead literature or history.
- B. The WORD proves itself to be alive.
 - 1. Moves hearts to change.
 - 2. Motivates lives to service.
 - 3. Deals with most difficult problem—sin.
- C. Therefore, this kind of life gives strength.

II. THE WORD OF GOD IS "ACTIVE."

- A. Compared to seed (Luke 8:11).
 - 1. Seed appears dead until planted in soil—gives life.
 - 2. Word of God in heart shows forth life.
- B. The Word is active—man must respond.
 - 1. He must accept or reject it. Demands action!
- C. Not only changes lives—keeps them changed.
 - 1. Some are guided a lifetime.
 - 2. Truth in the Word (John 17:17).
 - 3. Spirit and life (John 6:63).

III. THE WORD OF GOD IS "SHARP."

- A. In the text, the Word is compared to a sharp sword.
 - 1. Even sharper than a two-edged sword.
- B. Its sharpness makes it accurate.
 - 1. Cuts with two edges.
- C. Must study the Word for approval from God (2 Timothy 2:15).
- D. Meets all needs (2 Timothy 3:16,17).
- E. Cuts to the quick.

IV. THE WORD OF GOD PIERCES.

- A. A dull sword would not fulfill its purpose.
- B. The Word can pierce to the point of dividing soul and spirit.
 - 1. Man's needs in all areas of life are met (2 Peter 1:3).
 - 2. Nothing can be hidden.
- C. The Word goes where man cannot go or think.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 1:25.

V. THE WORD OF GOD DISCERNS.

- A. So powerful that our thoughts can be discerned.
 - 1. Even what we intend in the heart can be known.
- B. The Devil continually tries to deceive.
 - 1. The Word points out all his deceptions.
- C. The Word finds the inner man—beneath the surface.
 - 1. Man's wisdom is blind.
 - 2. Devil deceives (Ephesians 6:11).
 - 3. Word exposes the Devil's plots.

VI. THE WORD OF GOD IS ETERNAL.

- A. Matthew 24:35.
- B. Earth and works will burn up (2 Peter 3:10).
- C. The Word will judge (John 12:48).
- D. The Word tells of Christ and how to obtain eternal life.
 - 1. Teaches how God wants man to prepare for eternity.

CONCLUSION.

- A. These six things make the Word powerful.
- B. Have you obeyed the Word?
- C. Are you a Christian, living by the Word?

RESTORING *The* ORIGINAL WELL

GEN. 26:18

9
The Church

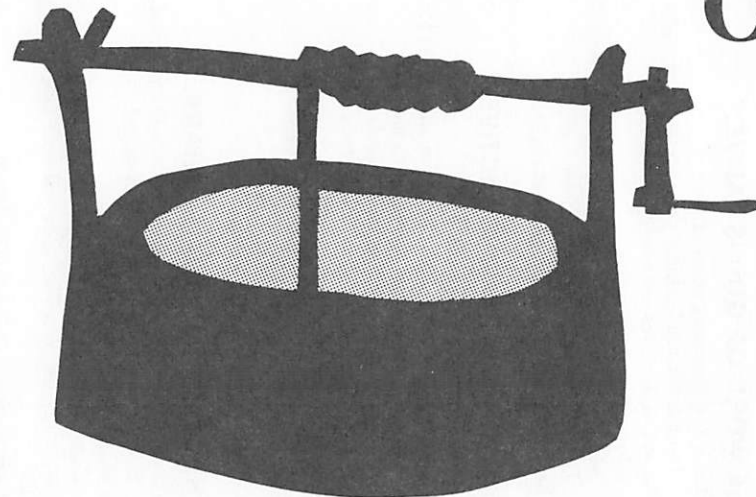
Mat. 16:18

One Head

Col. 1:18

One Faith

Eph. 4:5



**One Govern-
ment**

Ac. 14:23

One Guide

2 Tim. 3:16,17

Penalty

Gal. 1:8

RESTORING THE ORIGINAL WELL

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Two colorful characters of Old Testament are Abraham and Isaac.
 - 1. Abraham dug wells in Gerar and named them.
 - 2. Philistines filled them, but Isaac restored them.
 - 3. Read Genesis 26:18 (example of restoration).
- B. The church and Christianity can be compared to a well.
 - 1. John 4:14.
- C. Jesus dug the original well when prepared for His church and sent the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles.
 - 1. Man has clogged it—needs to be restored.
- D. Study with me the original well opened by our Lord.

I. BUILT ONE CHURCH.

- A. Contrary to man's thinking today, but a fact.
- B. Matthew 16:18.
- C. Acts 2 fulfilled.
- D. Later—many congregations one.

II. HAD ONE HEAD.

- A. Colossians 1:18.
- B. Ephesians 1:22,23, 5:23.
- C. Ephesians 4:4.

III. ONLY ONE FAITH.

- A. Common to hear of faiths—not so with original well.
 - 1. Ephesians 4:5.
- B. Warning of departure.
 - 1. 1 Timothy 4:1.
- C. Danger of denying this faith.
 - 1. 1 Timothy 5:8.
- D. Must contend for it (Jude 3).

IV. ONE TYPE OF GOVERNMENT.

- A. Each congregation had elders—simplified government.
 - 1. Acts 14:23.
 - 2. Titus 1:5.
- B. The elders were also called bishops.
 - 1. Acts 20:28.
 - 2. Qualifications (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1).
- C. Also had deacons to serve.
 - 1. Philippians 1:1; Acts 6:1-6.

V. GOD'S WORD ONLY GUIDE.

- A. All that was needed (2 Timothy 3:16,17).
- B. Anything more or less condemned (2 John 9).
- C. All needed for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).

VI. SIMPLY CALLED CHRISTIANS.

- A. Acts 11:26.
- B. 1 Peter 4:16.
- C. Acts 26:28.
- D. No other name can compare.
 - 1. Acts 4:12.

VII. PENALTY FOR CLOGGING THIS WELL.

- A. Accursed (Galatians 1:8).
- B. In ditch (Matthew 15:14).
- C. Rooted up (Matthew 15:13).
- D. Lose God and Son (2 John 9).

CONCLUSION:

- A. Is the original well important to you?
- B. Do you really believe one can clog it without penalty?
- C. Why not be just a New Testament Christian?
- D. May God help us to restore the original well.

VOICE OF HEAVEN

VS. 1-6

VALUE OF WORD

VS. 10-11

Glory of God

Psalms 19

VS. 7-9

VOICE OF WORD

VS. 12-14

SIN FORGIVEN

THE GLORY OF GOD

INTRODUCTION.

- A. God truly glorified in Psalm 19.
- B. Notice the various ways.

I. VOICE OF HEAVEN (Psalm 19:1-6).

- A. God spoke directly.
- B. Voice of creation.
- C. God's voice spoke to Noah.
- D. God's voice spoke to Abraham.
- E. God's voice spoke to Moses.
- F. God spoke through prophets.
- G. God spoke through His son (Hebrews 1:1).
- H. Isaiah 40:26.
- I. Psalm 8:1-4.

II. VOICE OF GOD'S WORD (Psalm 19:7-9).

- A. Through creation.
- B. Voice of His great Word.
- C. God talks through His Word.
- D. 2 Timothy 3:16,17.
- E. Nehemiah 9:13.

III. VALUE OF GOD'S WORD (Psalm 19:10,11).

- A. Be desired.
- B. Greater than gold.
- C. God's Word is sweet.
- D. God's Word warns.
- E. God's Word is great reward.
- F. Psalm 119:97, 40:8.

IV. FORGIVENESS OF SINS (Psalm 19:12-14).

- A. Secret sins.
- B. Presumptuous sins.
- C. 2 John 9.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Pronounce glory to God.

Remembering Christ's Death

ONE LORD

EPH. 4:5

TWO THIEVES

MATT. 27:38

3 CROSSES

JNO. 19:18

4 GARMENTS

JNO. 19:23

FIVE WOUNDS

JNO. 20:25

6 HR. CROSS

MK. 15:25
MT. 27:46

7 SAYINGS

REMEMBERING CHRIST'S DEATH

1 Corinthians 11:24,25

INTRODUCTION.

- A. We have the responsibility to remember the Lord's death.
- B. For this, we offer seven easy ways to remember that.

I. ONE LORD.

- A. Ephesians 4:5.
- B. No one else could have died for me—it took the death of Christ (Hebrews 9:11-22; Revelation 5:9).

II. TWO THIEVES.

- A. Mark 15:27.
- B. This fulfilled prophecy (Isaiah 53:12).
- C. What awful company our Lord endured.
- D. The people reviled Christ along with the thieves (Matthew 27:43,44).

III. THREE CROSSES.

- A. Matthew 27:38.
- B. One thief died **IN** his sins.
- C. The second died **TO** his sins.
- D. On the center cross, Christ died **FOR** our sins (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

IV. FOUR "PARTS" OF HIS GARMENTS.

- A. John 19:23,24.
- B. Imagine three men dying and the soldiers casting lots (throwing dice) for their garments.

V. FIVE WOUNDS.

- A. Two hands, two feet, and one side ($2 + 2 + 1 = 5$).
- B. It is true that the crown may have pierced His skin, but we know that these five did.

VI. SIX HOURS.

- A. From the third hour till the ninth hour, Christ hung on the cross (Mark 15:22-34).
- B. Can we imagine the awful agony that He must have felt in those six hours?

VII. SEVEN UTTERANCES.

- A. My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? (Matthew 27:46).
- B. Father, unto thy hands I commend my Spirit (Luke 23:46).
- C. Today thou shalt be with me in paradise (Luke 23:43).
- D. Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do (Luke 23:34).

- E. Behold thy son, behold thy mother (John 19:26,27).
- F. I thirst (John 19:28).
- G. It is finished (John 19:30).

CONCLUSION.

- A. This is as easy as counting to seven for us to remember the Lord's death.
- B. We must do it in a right manner or we will be eating and drinking damnation to ourselves.
- C. We should remember that it is possible for us to crucify the Lord all over again (Hebrews 6:4-6).

LIARS OF I JOHN

WALK IN DARKNESS
| Jno. 1:6

KEEP NOT COMMANDS
| Jno. 2:4; v. 3

DENY JESUS AS CHRIST
| Jno. 2:22

HATE OUR BROTHER
| Jno. 4:20

IF WE



LIARS OF 1 JOHN

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Subject is Liars of 1 John.
 - 1. Four places John identifies liars.
 - 2. John has Holy Spirit—knows a liar (we often judge).
- B. God has always condemned liars.
 - 1. Ninth commandment (Exodus 20:16).
 - 2. Number 2 of things God hates (Proverbs 6:17).
 - 3. Proverbs 12:22.
 - 4. John 8:44.
- C. Want to study who these liars are.
 - 1. Note: He is writing to Christians.

I. "IF WE SAY WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM, AND WALK IN DARKNESS, WE LIE, AND DO NOT THE TRUTH" (1 John 1:6).

- A. Fellowship (koinona) partnership, joint sharing, communion.
 - 1. Example: Some sold land to share.
- B. John 8:12.
- C. How do we tell the truth?
 - 1. 1 John 1:7.

II. HE THAT SAITH, I KNOW HIM, AND KEEPETH NOT HIS COMMANDMENTS, IS A LIAR, AND THE TRUTH IS NOT IN HIM" (1 John 2:4).

- A. What does it mean to know God and the Son?
 - 1. More than just a knowledge of Him.
 - 2. To enter into an intimate spiritual relationship.
 - 3. 1 John 2:3.
- B. Some teach that commands are unimportant.
 - 1. Note: Illustrate by choosing a tract with false teaching on faith only—or commands unimportant.
- C. 1 John 2:4.
- D. Do you keep the commandments of God?
- E. Must obey the first and greatest—others will be obeyed.

III. "WHO IS A LIAR BUT HE THAT DENIETH THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST?" (1 John 2:22).

- A. Gnostics of John's day denied Jesus as Christ.
- B. Many today deny Him by not confessing Him.
 - 1. Matthew 10:32,33.
- C. By refusing to stand up for Jesus.
 - 1. Example song: "Stand up for Jesus."
- D. By refusing to surrender to Jesus.
- E. We must follow in His steps (1 Peter 2:21).
 - 1. Can't if we deny Him.

IV. IF A MAN SAY, I LOVE GOD, AND HATETH HIS BROTHER, HE IS A LIAR: FOR HE THAT LOVETH NOT HIS BROTHER WHOM HE HATH SEEN, HOW CAN HE LOVE GOD WHOM HE HATH NOT SEEN?" (1 John 4:20).

- A. A direct conflict. If hate brother, can't love God!
- B. A true brother has godly qualities.
 - 1. All churches need much teaching on this.
- C. What kind of brotherly love?
 - 1. 1 John 3:18.
- D. Keep right with your brother.
 - 1. Matthew 5:23.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Being one of these liars is very serious.
- B. How does God consider you?
- C. He wants all to obey truth.
- D. Why not now?

ETHICS

ISSUES.. TODAY

**AUTHORITY
OF
GOD**

Psalms 95:4

1. ABORTION
2. EUTHANASIA
3. CAPITAL PUNISHMENT
4. HOMOSEXUALITY

**HOW
GOD HAS
LEGISLATED**

Hebrews 1:1

ETHICS

Titus 2:11,12

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Study of ETHICS—study of right and wrong conduct.
 - 1. We study ethics every time we study the Bible.
- B. To do right is ethical and to do wrong is unethical.

I. THE AUTHORITY OF GOD.

- A. Why does God have the right to tell us what we must do and must not do?
 - 1. He created us (Psalm 95:4-6).
 - 2. He gave His son to die for us (John 3:16).
- B. Therefore, God has bought us twice, and we belong to Him. Belonging to Him, He has the right to govern us.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 6:20, 7:23).

II. HOW GOD HAS LEGISLATED.

- A. There must be a law for there to be right and wrong (Romans 4:15).
- B. God gave law to fathers (Patriarchs) and children of Israel by prophets (Hebrews 1:1).
- C. Today, God gives law through His son.
 - 1. Hebrews 1:1; John 12:48.
- D. Christ also taught His apostles to teach all things that He had commanded them.
 - 1. Matthew 28:18-20.
- E. Therefore, God's Word is the standard by which we are to pattern our lives, and is able to furnish us everything.
 - 1. 2 Timothy 3:16,17.

III. SOME BASIC ISSUES TODAY.

- A. ABORTION (the purposeful taking of the life of an unborn infant).
 - 1. Life begins at conception (Luke 2:21).
 - 2. No difference made between before and after birth (Jeremiah 1:5).
 - 3. God gave us life, and He alone has the right to take it (Acts 17:25; Genesis 50:15-19).
 - 4. To murder is wrong, and that is what abortion is (Romans 13:9).
 - 5. Period point—exclamation mark.
- B. EUTHANASIA (Greek for "good health").
 - 1. Proponents argue that it would be more human and loving to take one's life than to allow them to suffer (mercy killing).
 - 2. Biblical examples (2 Samuel 1:4-10,14-16).
 - 3. We must realize that the Bible teaches there is value in suffering.
 - 4. The Bible teaches it is wrong to commit murder (Romans 13:9).
 - 5. Isaiah 5:20.

C. CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

- 1. People have discussed this for many years, leaving it up in the air.
- 2. We ought to ask, "What does the Bible say?" It is our guide.
- 3. First, the government is God's "minister for good" written about the time of Nero (Romans 13).
- 4. Second, we have a responsibility to the government (1 Peter 2:13-17).
- 5. Third, the government bears not the sword in vain!
- 6. What about Matthew 5:38 and Romans 12:19?
- 7. We are not to restrict ourselves because vengeance belongs to God, and God has appointed the government to do that task.

D. HOMOSEXUALITY (sex between two of the same gender).

- 1. Many have sought to justify all sorts of perversions under false pretenses.
- 2. Why is it wrong? God condemns it.
 - a. Romans 1:26,27.
 - b. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.
- 3. When someone says, "I can't help it," they are denying the Bible (1 Corinthians 10:13).

CONCLUSION.

- A. Many other things morally sinful.
 - 1. Dancing, pornography, immodest clothes, social drinking.
- B. The Bible must be our guide (Romans 12:1,2).
- C. Have you let God guide your life?

**GENUINE
CHRISTIAN**

I Jno. 4:8

**GENUINE
CHRISTIAN**

Jno. 14:15

**GENUINE
CHRISTIAN**

Gal. 1:10

**GENUINE
CHRISTIAN**

Mk. 16:15-16

**GENUINE
CHRISTIAN**

Rev. 14:13

LOVES

OBEYS

SERVES

SHARES

DIES IN

**C
H
R
I
S
T**

WHAT IS A GENUINE CHRISTIAN?

INTRODUCTION.

- A. The purpose of this lesson is:
 - 1. To lead you in the pathway of righteousness; and
 - 2. To motivate you to do His will.
- B. Have you ever shopped for antiques?
 - 1. Problem as to what is genuine or a copy.
 - 2. Experts look for identifying mark.
- C. Millions who are called Christians do not have marks of the New Testament.
- D. This lesson, five marks to determine whether or not genuine.

I. ONE THAT LOVES CHRIST.

- A. Too many say they are Christians without loving Christ.
- B. If you could remove love from Father and Son—destroy them as God.
 - 1. 1 John 4:8.
 - 2. Jesus is Love since one with Father (John 10:30).
- C. To be a Christian, we must love.
 - 1. Ephesians 6:24.
 - 2. James 1:12.
- D. The greatest commandment (Matthew 22:37).
- E. True love solves many problems.
 - 1. We often doctor symptoms instead of diseases.
 - 2. Example: We fail to give, attend, visit, etc., from lack of love.
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 16:2.
- F. Jesus' teaching (John 14:21,23).
- G. Instead of rebuking Peter, talked about love.
 - 1. John 21:15-17.

II. ONE THAT OBEYS CHRIST.

- A. Obedience goes hand in hand with love.
- B. Hypocritical to say "I love Jesus," but don't obey Him.
 - 1. Some say, "I'm too busy with family, work, etc."
 - 2. Jesus' response: Matthew 10:37.
- C. Others call themselves Christian, but hearers only.
 - 1. Must be doers (James 1:22; Matthew 7:21,24-27).

III. ONE THAT SERVES CHRIST.

- A. Serve sounds same as obedience.
 - 1. Attitude involved (slave).
- B. Must deny self (Matthew 16:24).
- C. Must have servant attitude.
 - 1. Example: Paul's letters to Romans, Philippians, and Titus begin with servant.

- D. Paul lived this principle.
 - 1. Philippians 1:21, 3:8.
- E. Jesus came to serve.
 - 1. Philippians 2:7.
 - 2. John 13:12-16.
- F. Christians want to hear the words:
 - 1. "Well done, good and faithful servants" (Matthew 25:21).

IV. ONE THAT SHARES CHRIST.

- A. Gospel—good news of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).
 - 1. Paul not ashamed (Romans 1:16).
 - 2. Must preach it to every creature (Mark 16:15,16).
 - 3. Acts 8:4.
- B. If won \$200,000 sweepstakes—good news.
 - 1. Want to tell everyone.
 - 2. Gospel far greater news.
 - 3. Should desire to tell this.

V. ONE THAT DIES IN CHRIST.

- A. A genuine Christian is not a quitter.
- B. Even though body grows weak.
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 4:16.
- C. Admonished to hold on.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 15:58; Galatians 6:9.
- D. Only way to be blessed.
 - 1. Revelation 14:13.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Are you a genuine Christian?
- B. Apply these principles to your life.
 - 1. Do you pass the test?
- C. Why not become a genuine Christian now?

NEW

PRAYERFUL

JNO. 3:1-5

ROM. 6:4

2 COR. 5:17

MATT. 7:7, 8

JAS. 5:16

JAS. 1:5, 6

LIFE

1 COR. 15:58

GAL. 6:9

2 TIM. 4:10

MATT. 1:21

LK. 19:10

I TIM. 1:15

FAITHFUL

SAVING

LIFE

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Life is a precious word in the Bible.
 - 1. Speaks of physical and spiritual.
- B. All should give life fullest consideration.
- C. Four things about life to consider in this lesson.

I. THE NEW LIFE.

- A. Just because one is alive physically does not mean one has the new life.
 - 1. Must ask, "Have I been born again?"
 - 2. All have had physical birth—only a few the new.
- B. Jesus taught Nicodemus the new birth (John 3:5).
 - 1. Must have birth of "water and the Spirit."
 - 2. Many seek being born of Spirit—leave off water.
 - 3. Jesus did not leave out water—baptism a part of the new birth.
- C. Titus 3:5.
 - 1. Paul writes not saved by righteousness we have done.
 - 2. Saved by mercy by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit (water and spirit).
 - 3. NIV—"He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."
 - 4. Baptism a part of God's righteousness (Matthew 3:14,15).
 - 5. The Spirit leads sinners through the Word (F-R-C-B).
 - 6. Acts 22:16.
 - 7. New life (Romans 6:4).
 - 8. In Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).
 - 9. Baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:27).

II. A PRAYERFUL LIFE.

- A. Privilege from new birth—talk to Father.
- B. Prayer defined: "A spiritual child talking to his father."
 - 1. Can't choose devil for father and still talk to God (John 9:31).
 - 2. Child of God can ask, etc. (Matthew 7:7,8).
- C. Prayer to Christian must receive top priority.
 - 1. Example: Emily Post—invited to White House—"An invitation to lunch or dine at the White House is a command, and automatically cancels any other engagement."
- D. Prayer life represents Power.
 - 1. "Remember nothing lies outside the reach of prayer except that which lies outside the will of God."
 - 2. James 5:16; James 1:5,6.
- E. Example: Japanese dwarf tree—cut off tap root.
 - 1. Prayer left off—cuts tap root.
- F. All need prayerful life to be blessed.

III. A FAITHFUL LIFE.

- A. Wonder how many souls in past centuries became unfaithful?
 - 1. Another way of saying one is lost unless repentance.
- B. New Testament sounds many warnings.
 - 1. John 15:6; 1 Corinthians 9:27, 15:58; Galatians 5:4; 1 Timothy 4:1.
- C. Example: Prospector's explanation of success—"Just keep on digging."
- D. Be faithful, even to point of death (Revelation 2:10).
- E. New Testament definition of faithfulness (Galatians 6:9).
- F. Don't make the same mistake as Demas.
 - 1. 2 Timothy 4:10.

IV. A SAVING LIFE.

- A. Adam and Eve lost something important in Eden.
 - 1. They lost life—physically and spiritually.
 - 2. They were driven from the garden and the tree of life (Genesis 3:22).
 - 3. From this time forward, man needed life.
- B. In many years God sent his Son.
 - 1. Angel announced (Matthew 1:21).
 - 2. Paul taught (1 Corinthians 15:22).
- C. Jesus' purpose to bring life.
 - 1. John 1:4; Luke 19:10.
- D. Example: A great violin burned in a fire—rescued, restored, and played. Compare to mankind. Christ rescues us, restores soul, puts us to work.
- E. Paul as an example (1 Timothy 1:15).

CONCLUSION.

- A. Therefore, a goal for all to seek.
 - 1. The new life.
 - 2. The prayerful life.
 - 3. The faithful life.
 - 4. The saving life.
- B. Would you seek these now?

DEMAS

**QUIT - AND NEVER
CAME BACK!**

LUKE

NEVER QUIT!

MARK

**QUIT - AND
CAME BACK!**

Faces Seen
Thru

TIMOTHY

Prison Bars

2 Timothy 4:10, 11

FACES SEEN THROUGH PRISON BARS

INTRODUCTION.

- A. May I take you to Rome of the first century?
 - 1. Imagine Paul behind bars in Roman prison.
 - 2. While looking through the bars, he sees faces and wrote.
 - 3. 2 Timothy 4:10,11.
- B. Notice Paul saw:
 - 1. Demas—now gone.
 - 2. Luke—faithful.
 - 3. Mark—left and came back.
 - 4. Timothy—son in Gospel.
- C. Rome had many great things to imagine and see.
 - 1. But he saw these personalities.
- D. We shall study each of these faces.

I. DEMAS IS FIRST.

- A. Was with Paul at first.
 - 1. Philemon 23 and 24.
 - 2. Colossians 4:14.
- B. What honor to be associated with Paul and Luke?
 - 1. But he pulled out!
 - 2. Judas parted company with Christ.
- C. Must not have realized the great loss.
 - 1. Erring members don't know what they are losing.
- D. Why did he leave?
 - 1. Loved the present world—probably going got rough.
- E. Many quit church when going gets rough.
 - 1. Get feelings hurt.
 - 2. Lack of personal attention.
 - 3. Not truly converted.
- F. Must deny self and give up world to be a Christian.
 - 1. 1 John 2:15; James 4:4.

II. LUKE—SECOND FACE.

- A. "Only Luke is with me."
- B. He was faithful—didn't have to come back.
 - 1. Wrote two great books.
 - 2. Stood faithfully by Paul.
- C. What does it mean to be faithful?
 - 1. Put the church first in your life (Matthew 6:33).
 - 2. Be interested in all services of the church (only half of the adult members attend Bible classes on a given Sunday).
 - 3. Don't complain—use effort to improve.

III. MARK—THIRD FACE.

- A. Paul sent for him.
- B. Was a quitter, but came back.
 - 1. Example: Happened on first journey.

- C. We can come back when we fall.
 - 1. Must not use this as a license to fall.
- D. Dangerous to fall since might not come back.
 - 1. Therefore, Bible warns against falling.

IV. TIMOTHY—FOURTH FACE.

- A. Loved him as a son.
- B. With Paul in spirit when away.
- C. Paul desired his presence.
 - 1. Paul had Demas, Crescens, and Titus to leave.
 - 2. Timothy was a great man.
- D. Needed Timothy and Mark for ministry.
 - 1. Paul fought the battle to the end.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Which are you?
 - 1. Are you faithful like Luke and Timothy?
 - 2. Why not obey and be faithful to the Lord?

**THE
LIGHT**

JNO. 8:12

**THE
BREAD**

JNO. 6:35

“ I AM ”

THE WAY

JNO. 14:6

**THE
DOOR**

JNO. 10:7

"I AM"

INTRODUCTION.

- A. The subject chosen for your consideration today is "I AM."
- B. Christ is not just one, but many things.
 - 1. One figure could not describe Him.
 - 2. These various figures help us understand Him.
 - 3. Please study some of these figures.

I. "I AM" THE LIGHT (John 8:12).

- A. Describe sin in the world (darkness) when Jesus came.
- B. John came as a witness to the light (John 1:7-9).
- C. Jesus had power to forgive sins—dispel darkness.
 - 1. Matthew 9:1-6.
 - 2. Luke 7:47.
- D. Revealed the Father's will (unveiled mysteries).
- E. We must walk in the light (1 John 1:7).
- F. God is light (1 John 1:5).

II. "I AM" THE BREAD OF LIFE (John 6:35).

- A. Bread represents an ingredient of life.
 - 1. Example: Manna for Israel sustained life.
- B. Jesus as bread, represents righteousness.
- C. Must hunger for it (Matthew 5:6).
- D. In what ways is Jesus our bread?
 - 1. Does He sustain our souls?
 - 2. Do we turn to worldly bread?
 - 3. Can't live by physical bread alone (Matthew 4:4).
- E. Jesus as our bread must be:
 - 1. Our Saviour (Matthew 1:21; Ephesians 5:23).
 - 2. Our Peace (Ephesians 2:14).
 - 3. Our Shepherd (John 10:11).
 - 4. Our King (waiting for His coming).

III. "I AM" THE WAY (John 14:6).

- A. Describe importance of the right way when traveling.
 - 1. When considering DESTINATION, we take the appropriate road regardless.
- B. Only one way to life (John 14:6; Matthew 7:13,14).
- C. Must not use human judgment (Proverbs 14:12).
- D. Must find the way and walk in it (Colossians 2:6).
 - 1. Example: Most religions are promoted by the few with the rest spectators—majority won't walk!
 - 2. Example: Like baseball—9 players vs. 65,000 spectators.
 - 3. In Christianity, no spectators.
 - 4. Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:14-27.

IV. "I AM" THE DOOR (John 10:7-9).

- A. Man's way to the Father (Ephesians 2:18).
- B. Describe the importance of a door.
 - 1. Example of building a new house without a door.
- C. Represents a way of entrance.
 - 1. Guarded gate kept Adam and Eve out of Eden.
 - 2. Example: Cities of refuge and city walls—entrance important.
- D. Christ is the door—enter to be saved.
 - 1. Romans 8:1.
 - 2. 2 Corinthians 5:17.
 - 3. Ephesians 1:3.
 - 4. Galatians 3:26,27.

CONCLUSION.

- A. These figures should be remembered.
 - 1. They teach the importance of Christ.
- B. What is Christ to you? Have you ignored Him?
- C. Will you let Him be all of these things to you?

CHRISTIAN

2 COR. 3:17



L
I
B
E
R
T
Y

IN TRUTH

JNO. 8:32

IN CHRIST

GAL. 5:1

FROM SIN

GAL. 5:13

FROM OLD LAW

GAL. 4:23 -27

CHRISTIAN LIBERTY

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Read text (2 Corinthians 3:17).
- B. Two major forces in life—either bondage or freedom.
 - 1. Example: Nations throughout history have fought for freedom.
- C. Tell story of Israel and their deliverance to freedom.
- D. Jesus' freedom greater than all that man has sought.
- E. A need, then, to study subject "Christian Liberty."

I. THERE IS LIBERTY IN TRUTH.

- A. Example: Describe a man on trial for life, set free by truth.
- B. John 8:32.
 - 1. Pilate asked, "What is truth?" (John 18:38).
- C. Truth is (John 17:17).
 - 1. Many seek sanctification through men's doctrines.
- D. Truth can't be found outside of the Word—leaves Christ out.
 - 1. John 14:6, 1:17.
 - 2. Jesus became flesh to bring truth (John 1:1, 14).
- E. Before liberty—must have truth (Ephesians 6:14).
- F. Lost without truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10).
 - 1. Even a spiritual brother is lost without truth (James 5:19).
- G. Reason why church is pillar and ground of truth (1 Timothy 3:15).

II. THERE IS LIBERTY IN CHRIST.

- A. Turn to Bible and study closely (Galatians 5:1-4).
- B. Why is there liberty in Christ?
 - 1. Because He redeems us (Titus 2:14; Colossians 1:14).
 - 2. Because He reconciles us (2 Corinthians 5:19).
 - 3. Because He is our atonement (Romans 5:11).

III. THERE IS LIBERTY FROM SIN.

- A. Paul said ye have been called unto liberty (Galatians 5:13).
- B. Man's greatest need from Adam.
- C. Sin brings bondage (Romans 6:17).
 - 1. All sin (Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8,10).
- D. Therefore, we need liberty from sin.
- E. It cost Jesus the cross for this liberty.

IV. THERE IS LIBERTY FROM THE OLD LAW.

- A. Many in New Testament refused to give up old law.
 - 1. Example: Jerusalem conference—called a yoke (Acts 15:10).

- B. Compare covenants from Galatians 4:23,24.
- C. Still, people today bind parts of the Old Testament.
- D. This causes one to lose grace.
 - 1. Galatians 5:4.
- E. Briefly show what a great liberty to be freed from Old Law.

CONCLUSION.

- A. True freedom comes from Christ.
- B. He has done His part to set us free.
- C. Man's part is to obey and serve faithfully.
- D. Have you found this freedom?

BLUEPRINT

FOR
CHRIST'S Church

ARCHITECT

Mat. 15:13
II Jno. 9

BUILDER

MAT. 16:18
REV. 22:18, 19

FOUNDATION

Mat. 16:18

I COR. 3:11

STRUCTURE

ACTS 2:47 | I PET. 2:5

PURPOSE

MK. 16:16

ACTS 8:4

BLUEPRINT FOR CHRIST'S CHURCH

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Most all familiar with blueprints.
 - 1. Give dimensions, specifications, etc.
 - 2. Be difficult to build without such.
- B. Concept of blueprint goes back to God.
 - 1. Noah's ark, tabernacle, home.
 - 2. Also for "Christ's Church."
- C. Please study what is involved in this blueprint.

I. ARCHITECT.

- A. God is the architect (man can't improve).
- B. God kept secret His plans for Kingdom from foundation of the world (Matthew 13:35).
 - 1. Not an afterthought—very important.
- C. Will be destroyed if change His plan.
 - 1. Must face Him in judgment.

II. BUILDER.

- A. The one true builder is Christ.
 - 1. Matthew 16:18.
 - 2. Did not give Peter or anyone else the right to build it.
 - 3. Said, "I will build"—"my church."
- B. Some feel it is an improvement to add or subtract from His plans.
 - 1. Punishment (Revelation 22:18,19).
- C. Must refuse any other builder other than Christ.
 - 1. All others will fail!

III. FOUNDATION.

- A. No building is stronger than its foundation.
- B. Bible specifies a strong foundation for His church.
 - 1. Rock foundation (Matthew 16:18).
 - 2. Rock: "Jesus as the Christ—the Son of God."
 - 3. Not on Peter—not John the Baptist—it would fall.
 - 4. Prove Jesus is not the Son of God—His church would fall.
- C. Can't lay another foundation and please God.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 3:11.
- D. The blood-bought church must be on this true foundation.

IV. STRUCTURE.

- A. His church—not made of bricks, stones, or wood.
- B. It is a group of people—"called out"—saved.
 - 1. Acts 2:47.
 - 2. "Lively stones" (1 Peter 2:5).
- C. It is His spiritual body.
 - 1. Colossians 1:18, 24).
 - 2. He is the head (Ephesians 1:22,23).

D. The divine blueprint specifies:

- 1. How a person becomes a Christian (Acts 2:38, 22:16; Romans 6:4); and
- 2. Things to do in worship (Ephesians 5:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; 1 Corinthians 11:26-29; Acts 20:7; John 4:24).

V. PURPOSE.

- A. Most buildings have a purpose.
 - 1. So does Christ's church.
 - 2. It is the active agent in carrying out the will of God.
- B. Three major objectives:
 - 1. Convert sinners to Christ;
 - 2. Edify members of the body of Christ; and
 - 3. Serve the needy.
- C. Convert sinners to Christ.
 - 1. An assignment to Christians (Mark 16:15,16).
 - 2. All members concerned (Acts 8:4).
 - 3. Missionaries sent (Paul's journeys).
 - 4. Church is still pillar and ground of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15).
- D. Edifying members of the body of Christ.
 - 1. Majority of New Testament deals with edification.
 - 2. This keeps the body strong.
 - 3. Under oversight of leaders (Ephesians 4:11,12).
 - 4. However, each member was responsible (Hebrews 10:24,25).
- E. Serving the needy.
 - 1. Toward fellow brothers and sisters in Christ (Acts 4:34,35).
 - 2. Part of pure religion (James 1:27).
 - 3. Concerned about all men (Galatians 6:10).
 - 4. Serving others—serve Christ (Matthew 25:34-40).

CONCLUSION.

- A. Where do you stand at this moment?
- B. Christ's church or man-made church?
- C. Obey pure Gospel—Lord will add only to His church.
- D. Remember, all others will fail!

STEER STRAIGHT

**DON'T BLOW
OWN HORN**

**DON'T LET
CLUTCH SLIP**

AUTO

OBEY LAWS

KEEP UP BATTERY

CHECK BRAKES

LESSONS

PLENTY OF FUEL

STUDY MAP

AUTO LESSONS

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Jesus used object lessons often.
 - 1. This helped impress spiritual lessons.
- B. In this lesson want to use a familiar object—auto.
 - 1. Hope to impress some spiritual lesson.
 - 2. Notice the following advice.

I. STEER STRAIGHT.

- A. Steering determines success and safety.
 - 1. When driving, important not to swerve.
- B. Way to heaven straight and narrow.
 - 1. Matthew 7:13.
 - 2. Devil lures us—must say no!
- C. World does not steer straight.
 - 1. Reason for (1 John 2:15; Romans 12:2; James 4:4).
- D. God instructed Joshua not to turn.
 - 1. Joshua 1:7.

II. DON'T LET CLUTCH SLIP.

- A. Clutch connects motor to back wheels.
- B. Hebrews 2:1.
 - 1. To avoid a slipping clutch—"take heed."
 - 2. Neglect, failing to be involved causes clutch to slip.
 - 3. Slipping clutch gradual—spiritual slipping gradual.

III. KEEP UP BATTERY.

- A. Car battery must be continually charged.
 - 1. Example: Alternator goes out—short time in trouble.
- B. Our spiritual batteries must be continually charged.
 - 1. Isaiah 40:31.
- C. Reason elders plan classes and services.
 - 1. Should want to attend for charge.
 - 2. Devotionals help.

IV. PLENTY OF FUEL.

- A. Most beautiful and powerful car helpless without fuel.
- B. Must have spiritual strength to do great things.
- C. Samson strong because of fuel from God.
 - 1. Judges 16:20.
- D. Paul could do all things through Christ.
 - 1. His fuel (Philippians 4:13).

V. DON'T BLOW OWN HORN.

- A. A horn is of value—unless abused.
- B. Have known boasters of self?
 - 1. Matthew 6:2.

VI. OBEY LAWS.

- A. Get tired of laws when driving—for our good.
- B. Auto laws should be obeyed.
 - 1. Romans 13:1.
- C. Some say fine to obey in regard to murder—not auto.
 - 1. Example: Some read "S-T-O-P" as "Slightly-Tap-On-Pedal"!

VII. CHECK BRAKES.

- A. Car most dangerous machine without brakes.
- B. Proper use of brakes avoids many accidents.
- C. Christian must have self-control.
 - 1. Example: Felix needed self-control (Acts 24:25).
- D. Temptations keep coming—must say no.

VIII. STUDY MAP.

- A. Have you ever tried to guess the way?
- B. Spiritual way may seem right, but death.
 - 1. Proverbs 14:12.
- C. Must do the Lord's will (Matthew 7:21).
- D. WORD of God—road map to heaven.

CONCLUSION.

- A. How do these lessons apply to your life?
- B. Is your spiritual auto well-tuned?
- C. Are you at this moment right with God?

THINGS OLD

... THINGS NEW

2 COR. 5:17

THERE'S A CHANGE IN:

1. Masters — Mt. 12:30;
Rom. 8:14,17
2. Gods — I Thes. 1:9
3. Dress — Isa. 64:6; 61:10
4. Life — EPH. 2:1-3; GAL. 2:20
5. Attitude — Mt. 4:4; Jno. 3:14;
2:15-17
6. Hope — Titus 2:13

DEVIL

IDOLS

SELF.

RIGHTEOUS

SIN

OLD GODS

WORLDLY GAIN

THINGS OLD THINGS NEW

2 Corinthians 5:17

INTRODUCTION.

- A. One of the great blessings in Bible is subject of becoming new.
- B. Beauty of the new birth—new creation.
- C. Notice some of the changes to the new.

I. CHANGE IN MASTERS.

- A. No man can serve two masters.
 - 1. Matthew 12:30.
- B. Satan was old master.
 - 1. Ephesians 2:2.
 - 2. John 8:44.
- C. Christ is the new master.
 - 1. Romans 8:14-17.

II. CHANGE IN GODS.

- A. Idols were the old gods.
 - 1. 1 Thessalonians 1:9.
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 10:7.
- B. Living God is new God.
 - 1. Romans 5:10.
 - 2. Acts 17:24.

III. CHANGE IN DRESS.

- A. Self-righteousness was old dress.
 - 1. Isaiah 64:6.
- B. Christ's righteousness is new dress.
 - 1. Isaiah 61:10.
 - 2. Romans 10:4.
 - 3. 2 Corinthians 5:21.

IV. CHANGE IN LIFE.

- A. Was alive to sin in old life.
 - 1. Ephesians 2:1-3.
- B. Now alive to Christ in new life.
 - 1. Galatians 2:20.

V. CHANGE IN ATTITUDE.

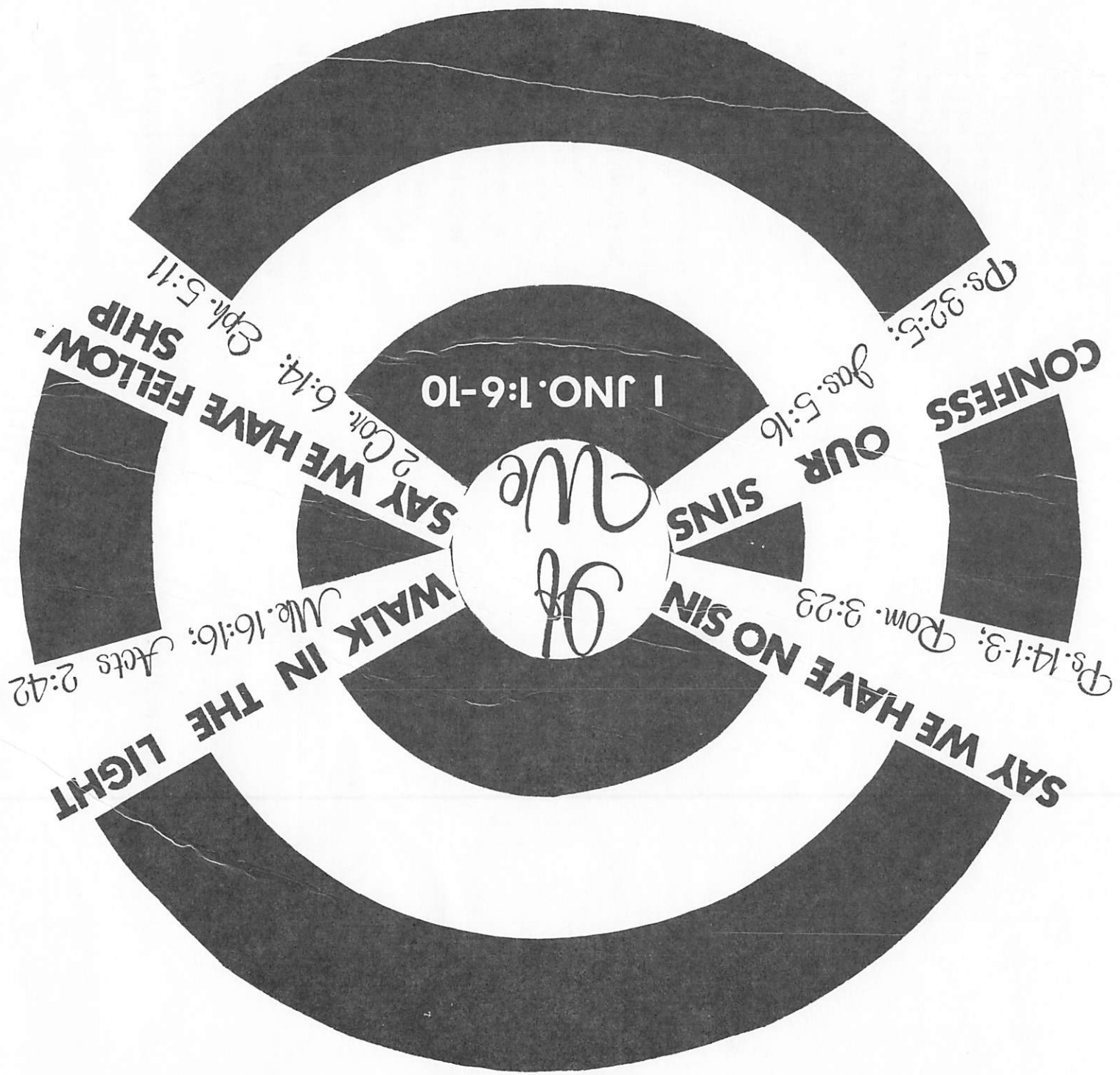
- A. Toward God's Book.
 - 1. Psalm 119:103.
 - 2. Psalm 119:105.
- B. Toward God's House.
 - 1. Psalm 84:10.
 - 2. John 2:14-17.
- C. Toward God's Work.
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 9:7.
- D. Toward world and worldliness.
 - 1. 1 John 2:15-17.

VI. CHANGE IN HOPE.

- A. Once hope only for worldly gain.
 - 1. Luke 12:16-20.
- B. Now hope for Christ's coming.
 - 1. Titus 2:13.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Without these changes, we would be lost.
- B. Have you left the old for the new?



Acts 2:42
Mr. 16:16

SAY WE HAVE NO SIN

Rom. 3:23
Ps. 14:1-3

OUR SINS

Ps. 32:5
Jas. 5:16

SAY WE HAVE FELLOW-SHIP

2 Cor. 6:14
Eph. 5:11

1 JNO. 1:6-10

WALK IN THE LIGHT

Of Me

CONFESS

"IF WE"

1 John 1:6-10

INTRODUCTION.

- A. John takes a word and uses it often.
 - 1. Lesson follows the use of this word.
 - 2. In this lesson, look at the words "IF WE."
- B. Read text.
 - 1. Notice used these words.

I. "IF WE" SAY WE HAVE NO SIN (1 John 1:8,10).

- A. "We deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."
- B. Must not come to conclusion we have no sin.
 - 1. Who is he talking to? World? No, Christians.
 - 2. "IF WE" included himself.
- C. Historians tell us some said, "Never sin after becoming a Christian."
 - 1. Many feel this way today.
 - 2. Example: If say have no sin—sins—a liar.
- D. Speaks of man in general—read (Psalm 14:1-3).
- E. "ALL"—both Jews and Gentiles—sin (Romans 3:23).
- F. Man needs to be forgiven.
 - 1. Will try to avoid sin when Christians (Romans 6:2).
 - 2. Means will not continue to sin (1 John 3:9).
- G. If ever reach point that we feel sin is no problem—deceived and in danger.
 - 1. Danger of falling (1 Corinthians 10:12).

II. "IF WE" CONFESS OUR SINS (1 John 1:9).

- A. "He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - 1. After admitting sin—need to confess them.
 - 2. This is the beauty of Jesus Christ.
- B. Psalmist acknowledged sin (Psalm 32:5).
 - 1. Some today leave church—come back never admit sin.
 - 2. Don't need to go to a "priest"—calls Christians priests.
- C. James 5:16.

III. "IF WE" WALK IN THE LIGHT (1 John 1:7).

- A. "As he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."
- B. Notice—"IF we walk in the light."
- C. What does this mean?
 - 1. Must get into the light.
 - 2. How? By getting into Christ.
 - 3. Jesus says, "I am the light."
 - 4. Must be born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:5).
 - 5. How a penitent believer gets into Christ (Galatians 3:26,27).

- D. Once you get into Christ, must walk in Him.
 - 1. Many get in and sit down.
 - 2. Suggests activity.
 - 3. Jesus walked only in light.
 - 4. Great commission—get people into light by teaching, baptize, and teach.
- E. Walked in light (Acts 2:42).
 - 1. Also had fellowship together—a walk together.
 - 2. Even sold property to share together.

IV. "IF WE" SAY WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP (1 John 1:6).

- A. "With him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth."
- B. Here is a deeper discussion of fellowship.
 - 1. Must share light together.
- C. John speaks of receiving blood of Christ by "continuing to walk."
 - 1. Some say, "I go out and do things occasionally, such as lose temper, curse, adultery, but I'm still a Christian."
 - 2. John would say, "You're a liar."
 - 3. Can't be a Christian and walk in darkness.
- D. Don't be unequally yoked (2 Corinthians 6:14).
 - 1. Some say mixed marriages.
 - 2. Yes, but more—read rest of the verse!
 - 3. Millions think they can mix light and darkness—deceived.
- E. "Have no fellowship with fruit of darkness" (Ephesians 5:11).
 - 1. When fellow says "I occasionally do wrong," he is upholding sin—should be condemning it.
 - 2. If occasionally sin, should be sorry.
- F. "They that do such things shall not inherit Kingdom of God" (Paul).
- G. Devil continually promotes darkness.
 - 1. We must fight it.
 - 2. Devil is not finished.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Review chart—we have a choice.
- B. Have you obeyed Gospel to get into light?
- C. Have you walked faithfully in the light?
 - 1. Or have you been sitting?
- D. Won't you respond to obedience?

**OF
GOD**

UNITY:

**OF
MAN**

Gen. 1:26

TODAY

Gen. 1:29, 30

Ps. 133:1

**OF
KINGDOM**

Mat. 16:18

Jno. 10:30

**OF
LIFE**

UNITY

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Four important questions about our lives:
 - 1. Who am I?
 - 2. Where did I come from?
 - 3. Why am I here?
 - 4. Where am I going?
- B. Our concern in this lesson: Why am I here?
- C. We are here to glorify God.
 - 1. Ecclesiastes 12:13.
- D. Many ways to glorify God—want to study one.
 - 1. Glorifying God in unity!

I. UNITY OF GOD.

- A. Seems like one person (Genesis 1:1), yet:
 - 1. Spirit of God (Genesis 1:2).
 - 2. "Let us" (Genesis 1:26).
 - 3. Three persons, but ONE (John 1:1-3; 14).
- B. Godhead performed work in unity.
 - 1. Creation had balance, order—dependent on other acts.
 - 2. Consider the animal kingdom—consider man.
 - 3. Heavens, stars, sun, etc.—masterpiece (Psalm 19:1-3).

II. UNITY OF MAN.

- A. Many lessons about Adam and Eve.
 - 1. Overlook unity between them and God.
- B. Beautiful picture—man with dominion over herbs, trees, beasts, fowls (Genesis 1:29-30).
- C. God put trust in them . . . felt no shame, fear—but happy!
- D. To lose all this, Devil destroyed unity between man and God.
 - 1. Sin divided.
- E. Everything changed.
 - 1. From security to fear.
 - 2. From a clear conscience to shame.
 - 3. From God's presence to hiding.
 - 4. From glorifying God in unity to estrangement and division.

III. UNITY OF LIFE.

- A. Story must not end here, or man is lost.
 - 1. No life when out of unity with God.
 - 2. Therefore, the promise (Genesis 3:15).
- B. God set forth a plan for unity.
 - 1. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David—Christ!
 - 2. Man didn't deserve this plan—love gave it.
 - 3. In approximately 4,400 years, son born—made unity as from beginning possible.

- C. CHRIST, in unity with Father, could say:
 - 1. John 10:30.
 - 2. John 14:9.
 - 3. John 15:26.
 - 4. John 16:13,14.

IV. UNITY OF KINGDOM.

- A. Division destroys (Matthew 12:25).
- B. Oneness in original church or Kingdom (Matthew 16:18).
- C. Jesus' prayer for unity (John 17:20-23).
- D. Jesus died, rose, ascended—church came with power (Acts 2).
 - 1. First hint of problems when unity disrupted (Acts 5:1-11, 6:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:3-6).

V. UNITY TODAY.

- A. Is unity needed today?
- B. Does God still insist on unity? Yes!
 - 1. Psalm 133:1.
- C. Why is it needed?
 - 1. God commands it.
 - 2. Because it works! (Show me a successful church, and I will show you unity.)
- D. How does one glorify God in unity?
 - 1. In our personal lives.
 - a. Church made of individuals—we can weaken or strengthen.
 - b. Don't be like Reuben (Genesis 49:4).
- E. By observing Biblical admonitions.
 - 1. Philippians 4:1.
 - 2. Galatians 5:1.
 - 3. 1 Thessalonians 3:8.
 - 4. Ephesians 6:11-17.
- F. As a spiritual body.
 - 1. Like human body (1 Corinthians 12:14-17).
 - 2. Must promote unity if church functions properly.
 - 3. If a program doesn't appeal to you, don't knock it because of others.
 - 4. Be careful with opinions—pressed, they can disrupt unity.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Are you contributing to unity?
- B. Work hard for unity, for souls, church, etc.
- C. This is one of the ways we glorify God.
- D. Do you belong to Him?

2 TIM. 4:6-8

DIRECTIONS

UP

ROM. 7:23,24
HEB. 12:1, 2
GAL. 1:11, 12

GAL. 4:26
2 COR. 4:17, 18
HEB. 11:13-16

BACK

AHEAD

PAUL

HEB. 9:27
JOB 14:1
PHIL. 1:21-23

2 TIM. 4:8
ROM. 14:10-12
1 JNO. 3:1-3

DOWN

LOOKED

DIRECTIONS IN WHICH PAUL LOOKED

2 Timothy 4:6-8

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Paul was a great worker for the Lord.
- B. In spite of persecutions, did great things.
- C. At the end of the way, looked in four directions:
 - 1. Downward.
 - 2. Backward.
 - 3. Forward.
 - 4. Upward.
- D. From this text, let us consider these.

I. DOWNWARD.

- A. Ready to be offered—time at hand (2 Timothy 4:6).
- B. He saw death at hand.
 - 1. James 4:13,14; Job 14:1; 1 Samuel 20:3.
- C. Must meet his appointment (Hebrews 9:27).
- D. Not even death could separate him from his Lord.
 - 1. Romans 8:38,39.
 - 2. Can't separate the faithful today.
- E. Would be better after death.
 - 1. Philippians 1:21-23, 3:20,21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

II. BACKWARD.

- A. Looked back to his faithfulness.
 - 1. 2 Timothy 4:7.
- B. He had been a good soldier.
 - 1. "I have fought a good fight."
 - 2. Greatest enemy—the devil (Ephesians 6:11-13; 1 Timothy 6:12).
 - 3. The world (Galatians 6:14).
 - 4. Battled the flesh (Romans 7:23,24).
- C. He had been a good runner.
 - 1. "I have finished the course."
 - 2. His running involved seeking souls (Hebrews 12:1,2).
 - 3. His eyes were on Jesus as he ran.
 - 4. Philippians 3:12-14.
- D. He had been a good steward.
 - 1. "I have kept the faith."
 - 2. He had not preached the wisdom of men.
 - 3. Galatians 1:11,12.
 - 4. He was not ashamed of preaching the gospel (Romans 1:16).
 - 5. He defended the true gospel (Galatians 1:6-8).

III. FORWARD.

- A. Looked forward to the crown (2 Timothy 4:8).
- B. It was a personal crown—"laid up for me."
 - 3. All must face God to give account (Romans 14:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:10).
- 4. He did not fear answering to God.
- 5. Paul did not look forward with selfishness.
- 6. "All that love his appearing" (2 Timothy 4:8).

IV. UPWARD.

- A. Things were not well on earth—Paul looked up.
- B. He believed in heaven.
- C. The world lets us down (1 John 2:15).
- D. Fleshly things bring corruption (Galatians 6:8).
- E. Faithful Christians in Book of Revelation—looked up.
 - 1. John saw for them victories.
- F. The wicked must look down—Paul looked up!

CONCLUSION.

- A. In which directions are you looking?
- B. Are you looking forward to heaven?
- C. Are you right with God?

NOT CAST DOWN

Jno. 6:37

THE

RECEIVE YOU

Jno. 14:3

BUILD MY CHURCH

Mt. 16:18

“I WILL’S”

DRAW YOU

Jno. 12:32

OF

SEND HOLY SPIRIT

Jno. 16:7

CHRIST

BE WITH YOU

Mat. 28:20

THE "I WILLS" OF CHRIST

INTRODUCTION.

- A. We like for a man's word to be his bond.
- B. Jesus greatest in this.
 - 1. Made many promises—kept all of them.
- C. Today, notice six places where He promised "I Will."
 - 1. We can put our faith in these promises.
 - 2. May we study them?

I. "I WILL" NOT CAST OUT (John 6:37).

- A. Promising salvation to sinner that comes on His terms.
 - 1. May have life deeply in sin.
 - 2. Example: Saul of Tarsus—chief (1 Timothy 1:15).
 - 3. Grace made him free.
- B. Example: Might try to join club, lodge, etc.
 - 1. Be blackballed.
 - 2. Not so with Christ, if obey.
- C. How does the sinner come?
 - 1. Must come on His terms.
 - 2. Not enough to say "I've answered His invitation."
- D. Notice a test to be sure you have come.
 - 1. Is there a change in your life (conversion)?
 - 2. Complete obedience to Christ changes one's life.
- E. When this happens, He will not cast you out.

II. "I WILL" BUILD MY CHURCH (Matthew 16:18).

- A. Review this setting—"Who do men say I am?"
- B. "Whom say ye that I am?"
 - 1. Peter—"Thou art: the Christ, the Son of God."
 - 2. Foundation rock—promised "I will build my church."
 - 3. He kept this promise (Acts 2).
- C. From the establishment of this church, lively stones added.
- D. Gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
 - 1. Devil has tried to destroy it—failed.

III. "I WILL" SEND THE HOLY SPIRIT (John 16:7).

- A. When he suggested leaving, apostles' sadness.
 - 1. Promised the Holy Spirit to comfort them.
 - 2. He would guide them into all truth.
- B. Promise fulfilled (Acts 2).
 - 1. Could perform miracles.
- C. Doesn't come directly today, but still dwells.
 - 1. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit dwells.
 - 2. Holy Spirit dwells indirectly through the Word.
- D. Don't ever feel He did not keep this promise.

IV. "I WILL" RECEIVE YOU UNTO MYSELF (John 14:3).

- A. Lonely, but cheers them with this promise.
 - 1. We can't realize the emptiness they felt.
 - 2. Prepare a place for you.
- B. Our faith often gets weak then look to heaven.
 - 1. He will come and bring something better.
- C. Example: Early Christians persecuted.
 - 1. This hope helped them—"I will receive you."
- D. Example: Moses missed Land of Canaan because of disobedience.
 - 1. Must have still longed for a home.

V. "I WILL" DRAW YOU TO ME (John 12:32).

- A. This is the magnetic power of Christ.
- B. John 6:44,45.
- C. Where did this drawing power come from?
 - 1. From the cross.
- D. Regardless of race, color, or geographical location.
 - 1. This drawing power is present.
- E. Should feel great when we see this drawing power.
 - 1. Example: Song "O Happy Day when Jesus washed my sins away."

VI. "I WILL" BE WITH YOU (Matthew 28:20).

- A. Makes this promise as part of the great commission.
- B. This promise projected to all ages.
- C. Do we lean heavily on this promise?
 - 1. Think wife, husband, and relatives are with us, but do we believe this about Christ?
- D. May not have same persecutions as first century.
 - 1. Still need the Lord today.
 - 2. We have sick, death, depressions.
- E. When we go out to convert:
 - 1. He will be with us.
 - 2. Task may seem impossible, but He'll be with us.
- F. This promise has kept many missionaries going.
 - 1. We must be willing to step out by faith.
 - 2. Promises "I will be with you."

CONCLUSION.

- A. Remember, Christ has done so much.
 - 1. Has made many promises.
 - 2. He will keep all these.
- B. Have you let Him help you?
- C. What is your spiritual condition?

WORLD WAR II IN THE 20th CENTURY

I. THE UNDERMINING OF THE DIGNITY AND SANCTITY OF THE HOME, WHICH IS THE BASIS FOR HUMAN SOCIETY

III THE MAD CRAZE FOR PLEASURE; SPORTS BECOMING EVERY YEAR MORE EXCITING MORE BRUTAL MORE IMMORAL.

II. HIGHER AND HIGHER TAXES; THE SPENDING OF PUBLIC MONEY FOR FREE BREAD AND CIRCUSES FOR THE POPULACE

IV. THE BUILDING OF GREAT ARMAMENTS WHEN THE REAL ENEMY WAS WITHIN THE INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

V. THE DECAY OF RELIGION; FAITH FADING INTO WERE FORM LOSING TOUCH WITH LIFE LOSING POWER TO GUIDE THE PEOPLE

MORALITY IN THE 20TH CENTURY

INTRODUCTION.

- A. "You've come a long way, baby" applies to America.
 - 1. Not only women, but all.
 - 2. Morally, America is on the decline.
- B. This has caused God to take action in the past.
 - 1. Genesis 6:5, 19:24.
- C. Danger has come because of change in thinking.
 - 1. Sin no longer seems so bad.
 - 2. Proverbs 14:34.
 - 3. Low morals epidemic has also hit the church.
 - 4. Salvation is a gift (Ephesians 2:8) only to those that walk in the light (1 John 1:7).
- D. God has blessed our nation.
 - 1. However, we must turn back to Him.
- E. In this lesson, look at history of Fall of Rome.
 - 1. Notice, same conditions today in America.
 - 2. Hope we can profit by their mistakes.
- F. Five reasons why Rome fell—Gibbon's history of "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire."

I. THE UNDERMINING OF THE DIGNITY AND SANCTITY OF THE HOME, WHICH IS THE BASIS FOR HUMAN SOCIETY.

- A. The concept of home originated with God.
 - 1. "As the home goes, so goes the nation!"
- B. Rome turned her back on the home.
 - 1. Quote from "The Eternal Kingdom" (F. W. Mattox, pages 22,23).
- C. America is following footsteps of Rome.
 - 1. Give latest divorce statistics.
 - 2. Legalized abortion.
 - 3. Tons of pornography being read.
 - 4. Homosexuality, adultery, fornication.

II. HIGHER AND HIGHER TAXES: THE SPENDING OF PUBLIC MONEY FOR FREE BREAD AND CIRCUSES FOR THE POPULACE.

- A. Important to levy taxes—problem, OVERTAXED.
 - 1. Rome did this (quote "The Eternal Kingdom," F. W. Mattox, page 21).
- B. Bible example—Rehoboam (1 Kings 12:1-17).
- C. Nation should be concerned about poor.
 - 1. Problem: Man abuses this by not working.
 - 2. Must provide for own (1 Timothy 5:8; 2 Thessalonians 3:10).

III. THE MAD CRAZE FOR PLEASURE: SPORTS BECOMING EVERY YEAR MORE EXCITING, MORE BRUTAL, MORE IMMORAL.

- A. Rome craved bloodshed in sports.
 - 1. Example: 10,000 gladiators were used in one game.
- B. Sports great when not abused.
- C. Wrong if want someone killed, etc. (boxing, racing).

IV. THE BUILDING OF GREAT ARMAMENTS WHEN THE REAL ENEMY WAS WITHIN—THE INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY.

- A. An adequate military force is necessary.
 - 1. Romans 13:1-3.
- B. Rome was wrong in overbuilding.
 - 1. Real enemy was within—neglected.
- C. Individual responsibility neglected.
 - 1. Human life was cheap.
 - 2. Suicide encouraged.
 - 3. Hundreds yearly reduced to slavery.
- D. We don't want this to happen to America.
 - 1. Must maintain individuality.
 - 2. Must maintain spiritual strength.

V. THE DECAY OF RELIGION: FAITH FADING INTO MERE FORM; LOSING TOUCH WITH LIFE; LOSING POWER TO GUIDE THE PEOPLE.

- A. Man has a created desire to worship.
 - 1. Must have guidance (Jeremiah 10:23).
- B. Rome had no real convictions.
 - 1. Could accept one or more gods.
 - 2. No relationship between religion and morals.
 - 3. Could never please the true God.
- C. How does this compare to America today?
 - 1. Attendance and morals falling.
 - 2. Creed books guiding many above Bible.
 - 3. Following works of flesh (Galatians 5:21).
 - 4. Refuse old-fashioned gospel.
 - 5. Seek modern—nothing new about sin.
 - 6. Condemned (Galatians 1:8; 2 John 9).
- D. America needs to return to the Book.
 - 1. THE BIBLE.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Are you following the world?
 - 1. You'll end up like Rome.
- B. Are you contributing one life?
- C. Have you believed (John 8:24), repented (Luke 13:3), confessed Christ (Romans 10:9,10), and been baptized (Acts 2:38)?
- D. Why not get on God's side now?

INSURANCE – MAT. 6:19-20

LAUNDRY – JAS. 1:27

CLOTHING – EPH. 6:13,17

LOAN COMPANY

HEBREWS 9:27

SIGN BOARDS

SIGN BOARDS

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Familiar with sign boards on highways.
 - 1. Have a message for travelers.
 - 2. Christians are like highway signs.
- B. Three conditions of signs:
 - 1. Some newly-painted (2 Corinthians 5:17).
 - 2. Some neglected (Hebrews 2:1-3).
 - 3. Some in the ditch (Matthew 5:15).
- C. Please notice some signs.

I. INSURANCE.

- A. We insure everything except your place in eternity.
- B. Can insure about anything today, but not soul.
 - 1. Insurance in heaven (Matthew 6:19,20).
 - 2. Psalm 23.
 - 3. 2 Peter 3:10-13.

II. LAUNDRY.

- A. We wash everything except character and soul.
 - 1. New birth (John 3:5).
- B. We must go to God for this.
 - 1. James 1:27.
 - 2. 1 John 1:7.

III. CLOTHING STORE.

- A. Everything for physical body, not man.
 - 1. 1 Timothy 2:9; 1 Peter 3:3.
- B. The Christian requires a special kind of spiritual clothing.
 - 1. Light of Christ (Matthew 5:16).
 - 2. Ephesians 6:13-17.

IV. LOAN COMPANY.

- A. Time extended on everything except life.
- B. Death is an appointment (Hebrews 9:17).
 - 1. 1 Peter 1:24,25.
 - 2. James 4:14.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Most signs speak of passing things.
 - 1. "Only one life soon will be passed, only what is done for Christ will last."
 - 2. "What I spent, I had; what I saved, I lost; what I gave for Christ, I have."
- B. Are you preparing for the spiritual?



PHIL. 3:8-9

In Him



II JOHN 4

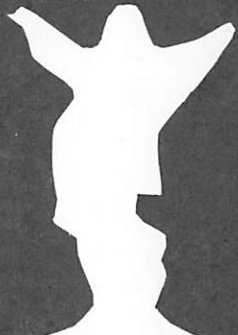
Walking In Truth



I THES. 5:6

Not Sleeping

How I Want To Be Found



MAT. 24:36-44

Watching



MAT. 25:1-13

Prepared



REV. 20:12-15

In Book of Life

HOW I WANT TO BE FOUND BY CHRIST

INTRODUCTION.

- A. The Bible (Old Testament and New Testament) teaches that Christ is coming.
 - 1. May or may not be in our lifetime.
 - 2. Matthew 25:31.
 - 3. Didn't say IF He comes, but WHEN He comes.
- B. How will He find you? Me?
- C. Want to notice how I want to be found by Christ.

I. I WANT TO BE FOUND IN HIM.

- A. This is the way Paul wanted to be found.
 - 1. Philippians 3:8,9.
- B. Why is it so important to be found in Christ?
 - 1. It is one's only hope for eternal life.
 - 2. Example: Imagine 100-mile square fenced—all inside saved, outside lost.
- C. God's Word teaches this concerning inside and outside of Christ.
 - 1. Romans 8:1.
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 15:22.
 - 3. 2 Corinthians 5:17.
 - 4. Ephesians 1:3.
 - 5. Galatians 3:26.
- D. Imagine one gate to enclosed fence.
 - 1. Only one way into Christ—obedience to gospel.

II. I WANT TO BE FOUND WALKING IN TRUTH.

- A. To elect lady (2 John 4).
 - 1. Didn't say KNOWING truth, but WALKING in truth.
 - 2. Important to know truth, but must also walk in truth (John 8:32).
- B. What is truth? Jesus and the Word.
 - 1. John 14:6.
 - 2. John 17:17.

III. I WANT TO BE FOUND NOT SLEEPING.

- A. Does not refer to physical sleep.
- B. Asleep spiritually—unconscious, inactive, etc.
 - 1. 1 Thessalonians 5:6.
- C. Jesus taught the time of His coming was unknown (neither Son or angels knew).
 - 1. Must be awake and watchful.
 - 2. Mark 13:32.
- D. Do you feel that you are awake for the Lord?
 - 1. Do you respond to responsibility?
 - 2. Do you say "they" or "we" when speaking of the work of the church?

IV. I WANT TO BE FOUND WATCHING.

- A. "Watch" is a key word in the ministry of Jesus.
 - 1. Compares "second coming" to Noah and the flood (Matthew 24:36-44).
- B. At transfiguration, instructed Peter, James and John to watch and pray.

V. I WANT TO BE FOUND PREPARED.

- A. Jesus is preparing a place (John 14:1-3).
 - 1. Only prepared can receive it.
- B. Ten virgins illustrate this (Matthew 25:1-13).
 - 1. Too many partially prepared.
 - 2. Example: School test (last-minute glance, sickening feeling).
- C. How does a Christian prepare for His coming?
 - 1. Seek Kingdom first (Matthew 6:33).
 - 2. Lay up heavenly treasure (Matthew 6:19-21).

VI. I WANT TO BE FOUND IN THE BOOK.

- A. Only those in the Book of Life will be saved.
 - 1. Revelation 20:12-15.
- B. How does one get his name in this book?
 - 1. By reaching the blood of Christ.
 - 2. When obey gospel, saved and name added (Acts 2:47).
- C. Therefore, important to be found a faithful Christian.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Where are you now?
- B. Are you NOW the way you want Jesus to find you?
- C. Now is the time to get right with God.

READY

READY

READY

READY

READY

READY

To Go with you
Lk. 22:33

To Give an answer
1 Pet. 3:15

To Preach the gospel
Rom. 1:15

To Distribute
1 Tim. 6:18

To Die
Acts 21:13

To See Jesus
Matt. 24:44

ARE YOU READY?

INTRODUCTION.

- A. The Bible emphasizes words by using them often.
 - 1. Example: The words seven, twelve, seventy, wisdom, and love.
 - 2. A very important word for this study—READY!
 - 3. Wish to study lessons from many ways this word is used.

I. PETER SAID, “LORD, I AM READY TO GO WITH YOU.”

- A. Luke 22:33.
- B. Jesus announced betrayal.
 - 1. Argument—who will be greatest.
 - 2. Peter said he was ready, but was not.
 - 3. Later denied Lord (Luke 22:55-62).
- C. We are asked to follow in steps of Jesus.
 - 1. 1 Peter 2:21.
 - 2. Must deny self (Matthew 16:24).
 - 3. Example: Rich young ruler wouldn't pay price.

II. “BE READY ALWAYS TO GIVE AN ANSWER.”

- A. 1 Peter 3:15.
- B. Must study to do this (2 Timothy 2:15).
- C. Attitude essential (notice last part of 1 Peter 3:15).
 - 1. Meekness and fear (explain each).
- D. May win an argument, but lose a soul.
- E. May lift self up, but knock another down.

III. PAUL SAID, “I AM READY TO PREACH THE GOSPEL.”

- A. Romans 1:15.
- B. Why?
 - 1. Not ashamed (Romans 1:16).
 - 2. Believed power of God (Romans 1:16).
 - 3. A debtor to Jews and Gentiles (Romans 1:14).
 - 4. Knew disobedient would be lost (2 Thessalonians 1:7,8).
- C. These should motivate us to preach today!

IV. THAT THEY (THE RICH) BE READY TO DISTRIBUTE.

- A. 1 Timothy 6:17,18.
- B. Can't be a Christian without sharing.
 - 1. God shared His Son (John 3:16).
 - 2. A way to express kindness and unselfishness.
 - 3. Example: Jesus approved Good Samaritan.

- C. Early church practiced this principle.

- 1. Acts 2:45.
- 2. Acts 4:34,35.
- 3. James 1:27.
- 4. Titus 3:1.

V. PAUL SAID, “I AM READY . . . TO DIE.”

- A. Acts 21:13.
- B. Agabus and brethren tried to keep Paul from Jerusalem—failed.
 - 1. He was bound at Jerusalem, and later imprisoned in Rome.
 - 2. He later died in Rome.
 - 3. He was ready (2 Timothy 4:6-8).
- C. Would we be ready to die today?
 - 1. Are we ready to live for Him (Romans 12:1)?

VI. JESUS WARNS US TO BE READY FOR HIS RETURN.

- A. Matthew 24:42-44.
- B. Tragedy of foolish virgins (Matthew 25:1-13).
- C. Must purpose and plan for His coming.
 - 1. Doesn't happen accidentally.
 - 2. “Battles are won the day before.”

CONCLUSION.

- A. Our only hope for eternity is to be ready.
- B. Those who are not ready will be lost.
- C. “Are you ready for that day to come?”

THE LORD'S SUPPER

I COR. 11:23-30

WHAT IS IT?

Mk. 14:12

HOW OFTEN?

Acts 20:7

INGREDIENTS

I Cor. 11:23

WITH CHRIST

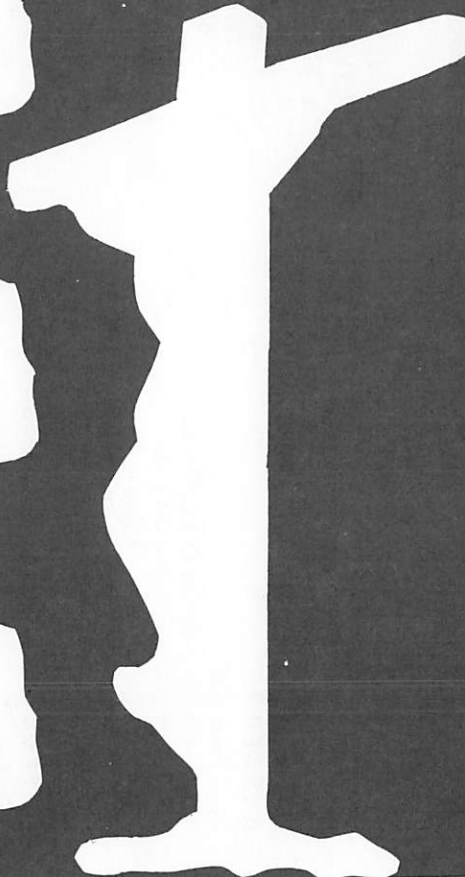
I Cor. 11:28

BIBLE NAMES

I Cor. 11:20

WORTHY MANNER

I Cor. 11:29



THE LORD'S SUPPER

INTRODUCTION.

- A. This is a very important lesson.
 - 1. Deals with the proper way to remember our Lord.
 - 2. Failure to study causes weakness.
- B. Let us seek God's will on this subject.

I. WHAT IS IT?

- A. It is a memorial.
- B. Memorials not new when Christ made this one.
 - 1. Rainbow after flood (Genesis 9:12-15).
 - 2. Jacob and the ladder from heaven (Genesis 28).
 - 3. Pile of rocks when Israel crossed Jordan (Joshua 4:4-9).
- C. Christ chose the leading Old Testament memorial (Passover) to institute the Lord's Supper (Mark 14:12-25).

II. INGREDIENTS.

- A. 1 Corinthians 11:23-30.
- B. Body ("unleavened bread") and blood ("fruit of vine").
 - 1. These ingredients available in all generations.
- C. What kind of bread? Unleavened—same as passover.
 - 1. Some argue you can use leavened bread, but why take chance?
- D. What kind of fruit of the vine?
 - 1. Doesn't call it "wine."
 - 2. "New wine in the cluster" (Isaiah 65:8).
 - 3. Assume it was grape—doesn't specify.
- E. Bread His body—fruit of the vine His blood.
 - 1. Was this literal or figurative?
 - 2. Catholics teach both become literal.
- F. Examples where Christ used things to represent.
 - 1. Seed—word of God (Luke 8:11).
 - 2. "I am the vine" (John 15).
 - 3. "I am the door" (John 10:7).
 - 4. Christ a spiritual rock (1 Corinthians 10:4).
- G. Example: Photograph "These Are Our Children."

III. BIBLE NAMES.

- A. Four names given in the Bible—should use these.
 - 1. Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:20).
 - 2. The breaking of bread (Acts 2:42).
 - 3. The table of the Lord (1 Corinthians 10:21).
 - 4. The communion of the body and the blood of the Lord (1 Corinthians 10:16).

IV. HOW OFTEN?

- A. Bible example: "Upon the first day of the week" (Acts 20:7).
- B. Since all weeks have first day, no need to specify which one—would be all.

- 1. Example: "Remember the Sabbath" (all weeks had a Sabbath).
- C. Wisdom in every Lord's Day.
 - 1. Helps closer communion with Jesus.

V. WITH CHRIST.

- A. Don't have communion with others—with Christ.
 - 1. Example: Hypocrite may be on same pew.
 - 2. Personal examination of self, not others (1 Corinthians 11:28).
 - 3. Actions of others can help us commune with Christ.
- B. The table belongs to the Lord.
 - 1. We can't force people to take or not take.
 - 2. Closed communion is not a scriptural practice.
- C. True, only God's children are commanded to partake.
 - 1. Need a lot of teaching on this!

VI. WORTHY MANNER.

- A. "For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation . . ." (1 Corinthians 11:29).
 - 1. This verse does not teach "we must be worthy" (rather, must be in a worthy manner).
 - 2. Context: Corinthians had corrupted supper into a drunken feast.
- B. "Worthy manner" means "seriously and spiritually remembering the Lord's death."
 - 1. Any other manner will condemn.
- C. Someone has said, "All elements of worship are present in true communion."
 - 1. Commemoration.
 - 2. Communion.
 - 3. A fellowship.
 - 4. A prayer.
 - 5. A thanksgiving.
 - 6. A meditation.
 - 7. An inspiration.
 - 8. A prophecy.
- D. Communion stated as reason disciples came together.
 - 1. "To break bread" (Acts 20:7).
 - 2. When you forsake assembly, you forsake the communion (Hebrews 10:25).

CONCLUSION.

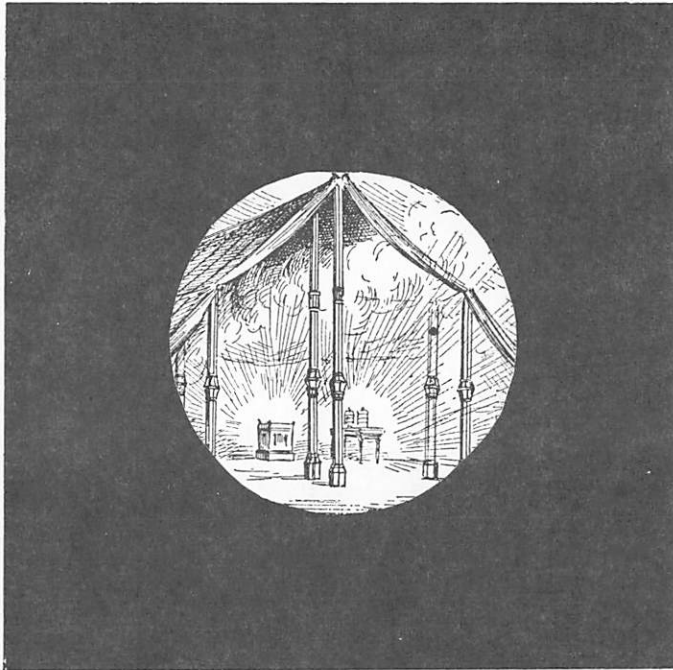
- A. Only born again are to partake.
- B. Can you scripturally partake of the Lord's Supper.
- C. If not, obedience will correct this.

Worthy Worshiper

Ps. 15

*“Lord, who shall abide
in thy tabernacle?”*

— « » —



50

Honoreth God
Ps. 1

Walketh Uprightly
Gen. 5:24

Worketh Righteous-
Gen. 7:1 ness

Speaketh Truth
JNO. 8:32

Backbiteth Not
Jas. 3

Good Neighbor
Prov. 26:20

THE WORTHY WORSHIPER

Psalm 15

INTRODUCTION.

- A. The psalmist begins by asking:
 - 1. "Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle?"
 - 2. Implies that certain requirements must be met.
- B. In the remaining verses of the psalm, he answers this question.
- C. In this study, we wish to observe who can successfully worship God.

I. HE THAT WALKETH UPRIGHTLY (verse 2).

- A. This means those that do not bend from God's Will as they walk.
- B. Those that walk with God.
 - 1. Enoch (Genesis 5:24).
 - 2. Job (Job 1:1).
- C. Today, those walking in the light.
 - 1. 1 John 1:7.

II. HE THAT WORKETH RIGHTEOUSNESS.

- A. God accepts only righteousness.
 - 1. Chose Noah over whole world (Genesis 7:1).
- B. Represents God's way—His commands.
 - 1. His Gospel (Romans 1:16,17).
- C. Jesus carried out righteousness.
 - 1. Matthew 3:15.

III. HE THAT SPEAKETH TRUTH IN HEART.

- A. Two major principles in existence:
 - 1. Truth and lies.
 - 2. God author of truth—devil lies.
- B. Obligated to learn and speak truth.
 - 1. John 8:32.
- C. Jesus is the truth (John 14:6).
- D. Only kind of worship God accepts.
 - 1. John 4:24.

IV. HE THAT BACKBITETH NOT WITH TONGUE.

- A. The tongue must be controlled for good.
 - 1. James 3.
- B. Among many sins of Gentiles, tongue listed.
 - 1. Romans 1:30.
- C. How can a worshiper turn his tongue loose and expect to be accepted in worship?
- D. One of the things Paul feared finding at Corinth.
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 12:20.

V. HE THAT SPEAKS NO EVIL AGAINST NEIGHBOR.

- A. Christian must build up, not destroy.
- B. Temptation to jump to conclusions.
- C. Speaking evil adds wood to the fire.
 - 1. Proverbs 26:20.
- D. A good neighbor will find ways to help.
 - 1. Luke 10:29-37.
- E. Our relationship to our neighbors has bearing on our worship.

VII. HE THAT HONOURETH THE GOD-FEARING.

- A. God wants His children to respect the God-fearing person.
- B. Sees beauty in a godly life.
 - 1. Psalm 1.
- C. Has respect for true elders, teachers, preachers.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Great honor to enter God's house for worship.
- B. Should strive to meet His demands for worship.
- C. "Spirit and in truth" please God.
- D. Are you one of His children?
- E. Are you a worthy worshiper?

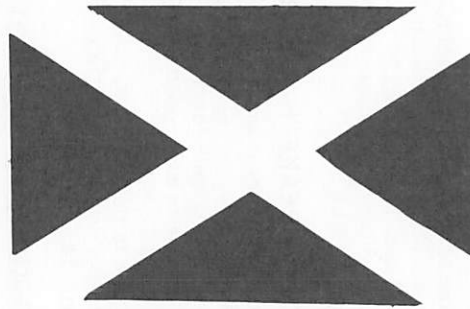
DOORS TO HEAVEN

I COR. 16:8,9

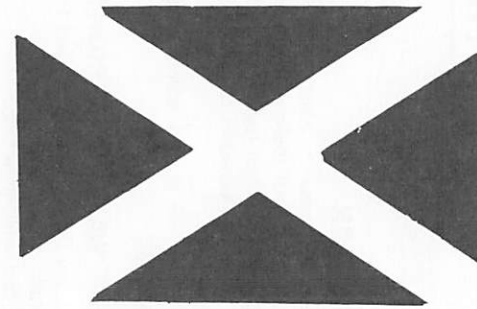
REV. 4:1

2 PET. 1:11

**- DOOR OF -
INSTRUCTION
SALVATION**



**- DOOR OF -
PRAYER
SERVICE**



DOORS TO ENTER FOR HEAVEN

1 Corinthians 16:8,9

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Paul uses door in a figure as an opportunity to preach the gospel.
- B. Door—that through which one enters.
 - 1. Revelation 4:1.
 - 2. 2 Peter 1:4-11.
 - 3. Other doors must be entered if one enters the door of heaven.
- C. Let us notice these doors.

I. DOOR OF INSTRUCTION.

- A. Jews were not instructed to enter Jewish religion.
 - 1. Instructed later.
 - 2. Born into covenant without knowledge (Deuteronomy 6:16-25).
 - 3. New covenant promised (Hebrews 8:8).
 - 4. Not like old (Jeremiah 31:31).
- B. Jesus taught one must be drawn and taught to come to the father.
 - 1. John 6:44,45.
- C. Sanctification through the Word (John 17:17).
- D. Makes us appreciate more.
 - 1. Matthew 28:19,20.
 - 2. Mark 16:15,16.
 - 3. 2 Timothy 4:1-5.
 - 4. Romans 1:16.
 - 5. 1 Peter 1:25.
 - 6. 1 Corinthians 1:21, 2:2, 9:16.

II. DOOR OF SALVATION.

- A. Jesus came to save (Matthew 1:21; John 10:9).
- B. Invitation to all (Matthew 11:28-30).
- C. Only taught can accept (John 6:44-45).
- D. To accept is to obey (Hebrews 5:9; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Romans 6:17,18).
- E. To obey—believe (John 8:24), repent (Acts 17:30) confess (Romans 10:9,10), and be baptized (Mark 16:16).
 - 1. Salvation is found in Christ.

III. DOOR OF PRAYER.

- A. This door can be entered only if one has come through the first two doors.
 - 1. John 9:31.
 - 2. Proverbs 28:9.
 - 3. 1 Peter 3:12.
- B. As sons of God, we may ask of the Father.
 - 1. Galatians 3:26,27.

IV. DOOR OF SERVICE.

- A. All the good we do will not count unless the first doors are entered.
 - 1. Matthew 7:21-23.
 - 2. Matthew 25:31-46.
- B. Work assignments—not just to please elders and preacher, but GOD!.
- C. Services give us spiritual exercise.

V. DOOR OF HEAVEN.

- A. This is the one we have been working toward.
- B. Jesus promised this door to apostles.
 - 1. John 14:1-4.
- C. The Bible describes this beautiful place.
 - 1. God wants you saved for heaven.

CONCLUSION.

- A. "Today is the day of Salvation."
- B. Don't do as five foolish virgins—waited too late to prepare (Matthew 25).
- C. Maybe you have already entered door of instruction.
 - 1. Why not the others?
- D. Why not obey now?

Jesus - Light Of World

MAL. 4:2

Be Children Of Light

JNO. 12:36

Source Of All Light

GEN. 1:14 18

Light Opposes Darkness

JNO. 3:19 21

God Is Light

2 SAM. 22:29

His Word Is Light

PS. 119:105



LIGHT

LIGHT

INTRODUCTION.

- A. As one studies through Old Testament and New Testament, figure of light used often.
 - 1. Therefore, must be very important.
- B. This sermon deals with spiritual lessons from light.

I. GOD IS LIGHT.

- A. 2 Samuel 22:29.
 - 1. We all have a potential light—candle.
 - 2. Must light up. (Example: Can have 1,000 candles, but no light unless lighted.)
- B. Psalm 18:28.
- C. Says of God (Psalm 104:2).
- D. New Testament declares God to be light.
 - 1. 1 John 1:5.

II. SOURCE OF ALL LIGHT.

- A. God created light (Genesis 1:14-18).
- B. God is Father of lights (James 1:17).
- C. First light in Eden, then darkness (sin), then a ray of light (hope)—Genesis 3:15.
- D. As Old Testament advances, light gets brighter.
 - 1. Genesis 22:18.

III. JESUS—LIGHT OF WORLD.

- A. "Sun of Righteousness" promised (Malachi 4:2).
- B. Zacharias foretold his son preparing way for light (John Baptist)—Luke 1:78,79.
- C. Jesus brought light (John 1:4,5).
- D. Jesus admitted being light (John 8:12).

IV. HIS WORD IS LIGHT.

- A. Psalm 119:105.
- B. Proverbs 6:23.
- C. Psalm 19:8.

V. LIGHT OPPOSES DARKNESS.

- A. Light makes those in darkness uncomfortable.
 - 1. John 3:19-21.
- B. Must walk in the light (1 John 1:7).
- C. The world will fight the light.
 - 1. Must still shine (Matthew 5:14-16).

VI. BE CHILDREN OF LIGHT.

- A. Must take a stand.
 - 1. Can't follow light and darkness at same time.
- B. Be children of light (John 12:36; 1 Thessalonians 5:5).
- C. A special walk (Ephesians 5:8).

CONCLUSION.

- A. What does the world see when it looks at you?
 - 1. Does your light disturb?
- B. If you are not a Christian, you're in darkness.
- C. Obedience to the gospel will bring you light.
- D. Remember, to die in darkness is to spend eternity in darkness.
- E. Why not respond to His call of light now?

DENIETH THE
SON

WHO-

HATH NOT GOD
2:23

IS BORN OF
GOD

SO-

DOETH NOT COM-
MIT SIN 3:9

HATETH HIS
BROTHER

EVER

IS A MURDERER
3:15

CONFESSES
JESUS AS SON

I JOHN

GOD DWELLETH
IN HIM 4:15

BELIEVETH JESUS
IS THE CHRIST

IS BORN OF
GOD 5:1

WHOSOEVER

INTRODUCTION.

- A. John uses the word "whosoever" in 1 John.
 - 1. A great lesson follows this word.
- B. May we examine some of the places where this word is used?

I. WHOSOEVER DENIETH THE SON.

- A. "Hath not God" (1 John 2:23).
- B. Matthew 10:33.
- C. Peter denied Jesus three times (Matthew 26:34).
- D. 2 Timothy 2:12.
- E. 1 John 2:22.

II. WHOSOEVER IS BORN OF GOD.

- A. "Doth not commit sin" (1 John 3:9).
 - 1. Present active indicative.
 - 2. Thus, doth not continue.
- B. Must be born again.
 - 1. John 3:3.
 - 2. 1 Peter 1:23.
- C. 2 Corinthians 5:17.
- D. Galatians 6:15.
- E. Romans 6:4.

III. WHOSOEVER HATETH HIS BROTHER.

- A. "Is a murderer" (1 John 3:15).
- B. Proverbs 18:19.
- C. Matthew 5:21,22.
- D. 1 John 3:11,12.

IV. WHOSOEVER CONFESSES AS SON.

- A. God dwelleth in him (1 John 4:15).
- B. 1 Timothy 6:12.
- C. Matthew 16:16.
- D. Romans 10:9,10.

V. WHOSOEVER BELIEVES JESUS IS THE CHRIST.

- A. "Is born of God" (1 John 5:1).
- B. Acts 16:31.
- C. John 3:16.
- D. John 3:36.
- E. John 6:47.
- F. Compare "passive" and "active" belief.
 - 1. John has reference to "active" belief.

CONCLUSION.

- A. All should consider his or her life.
 - 1. Apply John's statements.
- B. Are you right with God?
- C. Today is the best day to obey Him.

DEGREES

LUKEWARM

NO DESIRE

THE 12

THE 3

CHRIST

OF

REV. 3:16

MAT. 15:8

MAT. 19:27

MT. 17

REV. 21

ISA. 6:5-8

2 TIM. 2:15

HEB. 10:25



SERVICE

JAS. 4:17

DEGREES OF SERVICE

INTRODUCTION.

- A. In all generations, various degrees of service.
- B. Some closer to Christ than others.
 - 1. God desires us strong.
- C. May we see what is involved in various degrees of service?

I. OUTER CIRCLE—LUKEWARM.

- A. The entire circle represents the church.
 - 1. It is small as to what it should be.
 - 2. Christ died for all, but many won't accept.
 - 3. He stands with outstretched arms.
- B. Smallness may discourage us at times.
 - 1. Christ faced the same problem.
 - 2. Mark 16:7; 1 Corinthians 15:6-8.
- C. Outer circle—lukewarm (barely stay in circle).
 - 1. One foot in church, one in world.
 - 2. Give one hour per week out of six days—23 hours.

II. SECOND CIRCLE—STUDY, BUT NO DESIRE.

- A. It takes effort, desire and time to know Bible.
- B. These will miss Bible study often.
- C. Can't please God without study (1 Timothy 2:15).
 - 1. Can't teach others without study.
 - 2. Will do great damage to try.
- D. These will not share Word with others.

III. THIRD CIRCLE—THE TWELVE APOSTLES.

- A. They gave up all to follow Jesus.
 - 1. Had various occupations.
- B. Laid aside excuses.
 - 1. Some wish to bury father, prove oxen, and bid family farewell.
- C. These are closer to Christ.

IV. FOURTH CIRCLE—THE THREE.

- A. Singled out often by Christ.
 - 1. Transfiguration.
 - 2. Garden.
- B. Peter was given keys.
- C. Peter was delivered from prison.
- D. James first apostle killed.

V. FIFTH CIRCLE—CHRIST.

- A. The goal of every Christian.
- B. Closest we can get to God.

- C. John and Jesus' mother went to foot of cross.
- D. We must follow in Christ's footsteps.
 - 1. Learn obedience like Jesus.
 - 2. Hebrews 5:8.
- E. Must imitate His death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:1-4).

CONCLUSION.

- A. How close are you to Christ?
- B. In what circle would you be placed?
 - 1. If not close to Christ, need to get things right.
- C. If you have not entered the church through obedience, should obey.

DIRECTIONS OF GROWTH

PSALMS 1:3

EPH. 3:17

COL. 2:7

2 PET. 3:18

HEB. 12:2

PHIL. 3:20

JNO. 19:37

UPWARD



OUTWARD

MAT. 5:8

PROV. 23:7

MAT. 5:16

MK. 16:15

MAT. 28:19

LK. 24:47

DOWNWARD

INWARD

DIRECTIONS OF GROWTH

Psalm 1:3

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Spiritual growth is a vital subject in the Bible.
 - 1. One either grows or failure.
- B. The psalmist compares a righteous man to a flourishing tree.
- C. A flourishing tree grows in four directions.
 - 1. Downward, upward, inward, and outward.
- D. These are the directions we must grow as Christians.

I. DOWNWARD.

- A. The root system of a tree is very important.
 - 1. Can withstand storms and drought.
 - 2. Draws proper minerals, etc., from the earth.
- B. Spiritual growth must be rooted properly.
- C. "Being grounded in love" (Ephesians 3:17).
 - 1. Can resist the devil.
 - 2. Withstand persecutions.
- D. "Rooted and built up in Him" (Colossians 2:7).
 - 1. This is growth in Christ.
- E. Peter admonishes his reader to grow in grace and knowledge (2 Peter 3:17-18).

II. UPWARD.

- A. Since man is involved with physical, often fails to look up.
- B. He cannot grow spiritually until he looks up.
- C. Must continually look up to Jesus.
 - 1. Hebrews 12:2.
- D. Paul says the Christian's conversation is in heaven.
 - 1. Philippians 3:20.
- E. For proper growth, must seek Kingdom first.
 - 1. Matthew 6:33.
- F. One's only hope for growth is to look up to the crucified Christ.
 - 1. John 19:37.

III. INWARD.

- A. Many fail to grow because they never truly change their hearts.
- B. It is important to look inside to keep our hearts pure.
 - 1. Matthew 5:8.
- C. A Christian must strive daily to think pure thoughts.
 - 1. Proverbs 23:7.
- D. One's outward life reflects what is inside.
 - 1. This is the way we shine for Christ (Matthew 5:16).
- E. If you are not getting stronger, is it because you are not growing inward?

IV. OUTWARD.

- A. From the beginning of Christianity, taught to look outward.
- B. Must look beyond self—share good news with others.
 - 1. Mark 16:15,16.
 - 2. Matthew 28:19,20.
 - 3. Luke 24:47.
- C. When we teach others, we grow.
- D. Need to look outward to the needy.
 - 1. Christianity—a life of giving.
 - 2. This example of giving began with Christ.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Have you grown as a tree by the waters?
- B. Have you spiritually died because you did not grow?
- C. One cannot grow until in Christ.
 - 1. Have you obeyed the gospel?

**THE
WORD**
JNO. 6:63

SOUL
I SAM. 26:21

REDEEM
COL. 1:14

**THE
CHURCH**
ACTS 20:28

**THE
PRICE IS
RIGHT!**

THE PRICE IS RIGHT

INTRODUCTION.

- A. This sermon is based on an article in *Gospel Minutes*.
 - 1. Volume 23, No. 37—September 13, 1974.
- B. Many of you have seen the television program “The Price Is Right.”
 - 1. Explain how it works.
- C. Wonder how much value is placed on spiritual things.

I. WHAT IS YOUR PRICE TAG ON THE WORD?

- A. Many place very little value.
 - 1. Example: Say “Wouldn’t trade what I feel in heart”—“Honest and sincere is enough”—“Creed book is fine.”
 - 2. Members of church—some don’t bring family to classes.
- B. The Bible sets its price tag high.
 - 1. Precious—no open vision (1 Samuel 3:1).
 - 2. Spirit and life (John 6:63).
 - 3. Great and exceeding promises (2 Peter 1:4).
 - 4. The word of life (Philippians 2:16).
 - 5. Power of God (Romans 1:16).
 - 6. Has power to save (James 1:21).
 - 7. Word will awaken the dead (John 5:28,29).
 - 8. Word will comfort or judge at judgment (John 12:48).

II. WHAT PRICE TAG IS ON YOUR SOUL?

- A. Precious (1 Samuel 26:21).
 - 1. Fail to realize this (more care for body).
 - 2. Profiteth little (1 Timothy 4:8).
 - 3. Example: Parents caring for physical—neglect souls.
- B. Jesus’ value of soul (Mark 8:36,37).
 - 1. Example: Rich farmer (Luke 12:21).
 - 2. Matthew 10:28.
- C. Solomon (Proverbs 11:30).
- D. James (James 5:20).

III. WHAT PRICE IS ON REDEMPTION?

- A. What would the panel say? (Most have not considered.)
 - 1. Precious (Psalm 49:8).
 - 2. 1 Peter 1:18,19; Colossians 1:14; Hebrews 9:12; 1 Corinthians 6:20.

IV. WHAT PRICE TAG IS PUT ON THE CHURCH?

- A. Many put very little value.
- B. Compare religious world thinking to New Testament.
 - 1. Some think of the building.

- 2. Say “You can be saved out of the church”—“Church is non-essential”—“Are as good folks out of the church as in”—“One church as good as another.”
- C. Our brethren.
 - 1. Forsake assembly—spectators only.
 - 2. Material things more exciting.
- D. The Bible puts a different price.
 - 1. Jesus builder (Matthew 16:18).
 - 2. Root up man-made churches (Matthew 15:13).
 - 3. Saved added (Acts 2:41,47).
 - 4. Christ the head (Ephesians 1:22,23; Colossians 1:18,24).
 - 5. Lord Saviour of the church (Ephesians 5:23).
 - 6. Lord loves church—gave life for it (Ephesians 5:25).
 - 7. Cost Him His blood (Acts 20:28).

CONCLUSION.

- A. What value do you place on spiritual things?
- B. If not a Christian, why haven’t you obeyed?
- C. If a Christian, have you put Christ first?
- D. Why not obey if not right with God?

BE

**KIND
SOBER
CONTENT
STRONG
READY
FAITHFUL**



BIBLE BEES

INTRODUCTION.

- A. The Bible reveals that honey, produced by bees, has been very valuable throughout the centuries.
- B. The bee today is still valuable to man.
 - 1. Provides food, pollen blooms.
 - 2. Teaches valuable lessons—"busy as a bee," etc.
- C. In this lesson, wish to make a play on the word "be."
 - 1. Therefore, let us study some "Bible Bees."

I. BE KIND.

- A. Here is an admonition needed by all Christians.
- B. Ephesians 4:32.
- C. This is to counteract bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking (Ephesians 4:31).
- D. Churches have split, friendships broken, homes failed because of unkindness.
- E. Kindness is linked to forgiveness.
- F. Kindness is linked to love (1 Corinthians 13:4).
- G. Kindness one of the Christian graces (2 Peter 1:7).

II. BE SOBER.

- A. This does not limit itself to abstaining from alcohol.
 - 1. One could never take a drink and still not be sober.
- B. We must, as Christians, be serious-minded.
 - 1. To be able to fight the devil (1 Peter 5:8).
 - 2. "Gird up the loins of your mind, be sober" (1 Peter 1:13).
 - 3. Helps us pray (1 Peter 4:7).
 - 4. Helps us be watchful, prepared (1 Thessalonians 5:6).
- C. A time for laughter must not destroy our soberness.
- D. This is a very important "be" of the Bible.

III. BE CONTENT.

- A. Paul learned contentment (Philippians 4:11).
- B. Man is not content by nature.
 - 1. The more he gets, the more he wants.
- C. Paul is not suggesting laziness.
 - 1. 1 Thessalonians 4:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:10.
 - 2. Rather, after our best, be content.
- D. Contentment helps us to be thankful.
 - 1. 1 Timothy 6:8.
 - 2. Hebrews 13:5.
- E. The greatest success for man.
 - 1. "Godliness with contentment" (1 Timothy 6:6).

IV. BE STRONG.

- A. Before giving Christian armour, Paul says, "Be strong in the Lord" (Ephesians 6:10).

- B. God is strong. Therefore, wishes His children to be.
 - 1. Only way to win over the devil.
- C. A Christian gets his strength from God.
 - 1. Paul calls upon Timothy to be strong in grace (2 Timothy 2:1).
- D. Must be strong to keep from falling.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 16:13.
 - 2. Ephesians 6:10.
- E. Be a spiritual Samson for the Lord.

V. BE READY.

- A. "Ready" in the New Testament means "preparedness" (2 Timothy 4:6). Paul said, "I am now ready to be offered."
- B. This life is the time to get ready for Christ's coming.
 - 1. Only those ready will enter.
 - 2. Example: Virgins (Matthew 25:10).
- C. Must be ready to defend God's Word (1 Peter 3:15).
- D. Ready for battle with Satan.
- E. One must be ready for work (Titus 3:1).
- F. Be ready at any hour for His coming.

VI. BE FAITHFUL.

- A. Those found faithful will receive life (Revelation 2:10).
- B. Many begin the race, but falter.
 - 1. Only the faithful will win.
- C. Paul went all the way for the Lord.
 - 1. 2 Timothy 4:6.
- D. "Well done" are words reserved for the faithful servants (Matthew 25:21).

CONCLUSION.

- A. Are these "Bible Bees" a part of your life?
- B. They represent admonitions worthy of accepting.
- C. Are you on the Lord's side?
- D. If not, why not obey Him and BE His servant?

FISHERS OF MEN

MK. 1:16

- Seek Men
- Understand Men
- Attrack Men
- Catch Men

**GOD'S
PURPOSE**

- To Make Us
Fishers Of Men
- To Give Us Power
To Perform

**GOD'S
PROMISE**

- When We Recog-
nize Our Need &
Jesus' Power
- Leave All To Follow

**GOD'S
PLEASURE**

FISHERS OF MEN

Mark 1:16

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Just as Christ called apostles to fish for men, He still calls us.
- B. May we study what becoming a fisher of men means?
- C. Three major things involved:
 - 1. God's purpose.
 - 2. God's promise.
 - 3. God's pleasure.

I. GOD'S PURPOSE.

- A. He desires that we seek men.
 - 1. Example: Fish don't seek men, fishermen seek fish.
 - 2. Jesus' purpose (Luke 19:10).
 - 3. Sent disciples for same purpose (John 20:21).
- B. He desires that we understand men.
 - 1. Example: Successful fishermen understand fish.
 - 2. Jesus understood (John 2:25; Hebrews 4:15; Luke 7:36-50).
 - 3. He helps us understand (John 9:39-41).
 - 4. 2 Timothy 2:23-36; Romans 7:24,25.
 - 5. Feel compassion for others (2 Corinthians 1:3-6).
- C. He desires that we attract men.
 - 1. Example: Christ in the fisherman is the bait.
 - 2. Unity and love (John 13:34,35; 17:20,21).
 - 3. Christ's light appeals (Matthew 5:14-16).
 - 4. Power of gospel (Romans 1:16).
- D. He desires us to catch men.
 - 1. Must compel with love of Christ.
 - 2. Luke 14:23; 2 Corinthians 5:14.

II. GOD'S PROMISE.

- A. God promises to make us fishers of men (Mark 1:16,17).
 - 1. We fail if we leave God out.
 - 2. God gives the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6).
 - 3. He goes with us (Matthew 28:20).
- B. To give us power to perform.
 - 1. Jesus laid down His life (John 10:18).
 - 2. Applies today (Philippians 2:12,13, 4:13).

III. GOD'S PLEASURE.

- A. It pleases God when we become fishers of men.
 - 1. We need to catch men—God's way for our growth.
 - 2. Must recognize His power.
 - 3. Luke 5:1-11.
 - 4. 2 Corinthians 12:9.
- B. It pleases God when we leave all to follow.
 - 1. Mark 1:16-20.
 - 2. New image (Ephesians 2:8-10).
 - 3. Must seek Kingdom first (Matthew 6:33).

CONCLUSION.

- A. Are you a fisher of men?
- B. Won't you become one?
- C. If you haven't been brought to the Lord, you need to obey.
- D. Then you, too, can fish for men.

THE SOWER

MATT. 13:2-22

Sower

Mk. 4:14

Seed

Lk. 8:11

SOILS

Wayside

MK.4:15

Stony

MT. 13:20-21

Thorny

MT. 13:22

Good

MT. 13:23



THE SOWER

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Most effective and successful teacher—Jesus.
 - 1. One reason—He taught by parables.
 - 2. Matthew 13:3.
- B. Parable: “a placing of one thing beside another with a view of comparison” (vine).
 - 1. Jesus used natural things and events to teach.
- C. Parable of sower.
 - 1. Matthew 13:3-23.
 - 2. Mark 4:3-20.
 - 3. Luke 8:4-15.
- D. This lesson notices three things:
 - 1. Sower.
 - 2. Seed.
 - 3. Soils.

I. THE SOWER.

- A. Describe a man that went forth to sow in Palestine.
 - 1. A common sight in Palestine.
 - 2. Can compare to our experiences on farms.
- B. Sows the Word (Mark 4:14).
 - 1. Preaching: God’s methods in all centuries to communicate.
 - 2. Old Testament prophets—spokesmen for God.
 - 3. Expressions as “The Lord hath spoken”—“Thus saith the Lord”—“The Lord testifieth.”
 - 4. Such expressions in Old Testament—2500 times prophets—1300 times.
- C. New Testament places importance on preaching the Word.
 - 1. Romans 10:14,17.
 - 2. 2 Timothy 4:2.
- D. Many today minimize the Word.
 - 1. Seek direct Holy Spirit, miracles, etc.
- E. Examples: Acts 2, Peter on Pentecost; Acts 10, Cornelius.

II. THE SEED.

- A. Sowing good seed is important.
 - 1. Otherwise, waste labor and soil.
- B. Good spiritual seed “is the Word of God” (Luke 8:11).
 - 1. Germ of life (Hebrews 4:12).
 - 2. Power to save (James 1:21).
 - 3. Word born again (1 Peter 1:23).
- C. Thus, important to sow good seed.

III. THE SOILS.

- A. Seed fell into four types of soils:
 - 1. Wayside.
 - 2. Stony.
 - 3. Thorns.
 - 4. Good soil.
- B. These soils represent four possible hearts.

- 1. This explains why only few obey.
- 2. In this parable, ratio 1 out of 4!

IV. THE WAYSIDE SOIL.

- A. Hard, packed, without preparation.
 - 1. Either at edge of field or path through field.
- B. Seed on top of ground—easy for birds.
- C. Word preached, hears—understands not.
 - 1. Devil takes away that which was sowed (Matthew 13:19).
- D. Gospel power of God (Romans 1:16).
 - 1. Delivers only if obeyed (Romans 1:16).
- E. Devil tries to keep hearer from understanding, obeying.
 - 1. Some say can’t be understood.
 - 2. Can if study (2 Timothy 2:15).
- F. Word can’t germinate if kept out of the heart.

V. THE STONY SOIL.

- A. This soil has high concentration of rocks.
 - 1. Only enough dirt to sprout, not to grow.
 - 2. Sun scorched them.
- B. Receives the Word, but no depth.
 - 1. Matthew 13:21.
- C. Jesus teaches that one can obey, then fall.
- D. New Testament teaches that a Christian can fall.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 10:12.
 - 2. Galatians 5:4.
 - 3. 2 Timothy 4:10.
 - 4. 2 Peter 1:10.
- E. Not enough to “hear, believe, repent, confess, and be baptized”—must be faithful.
 - 1. Must grow (1 Peter 2:2).

VI. THE THORNY SOIL.

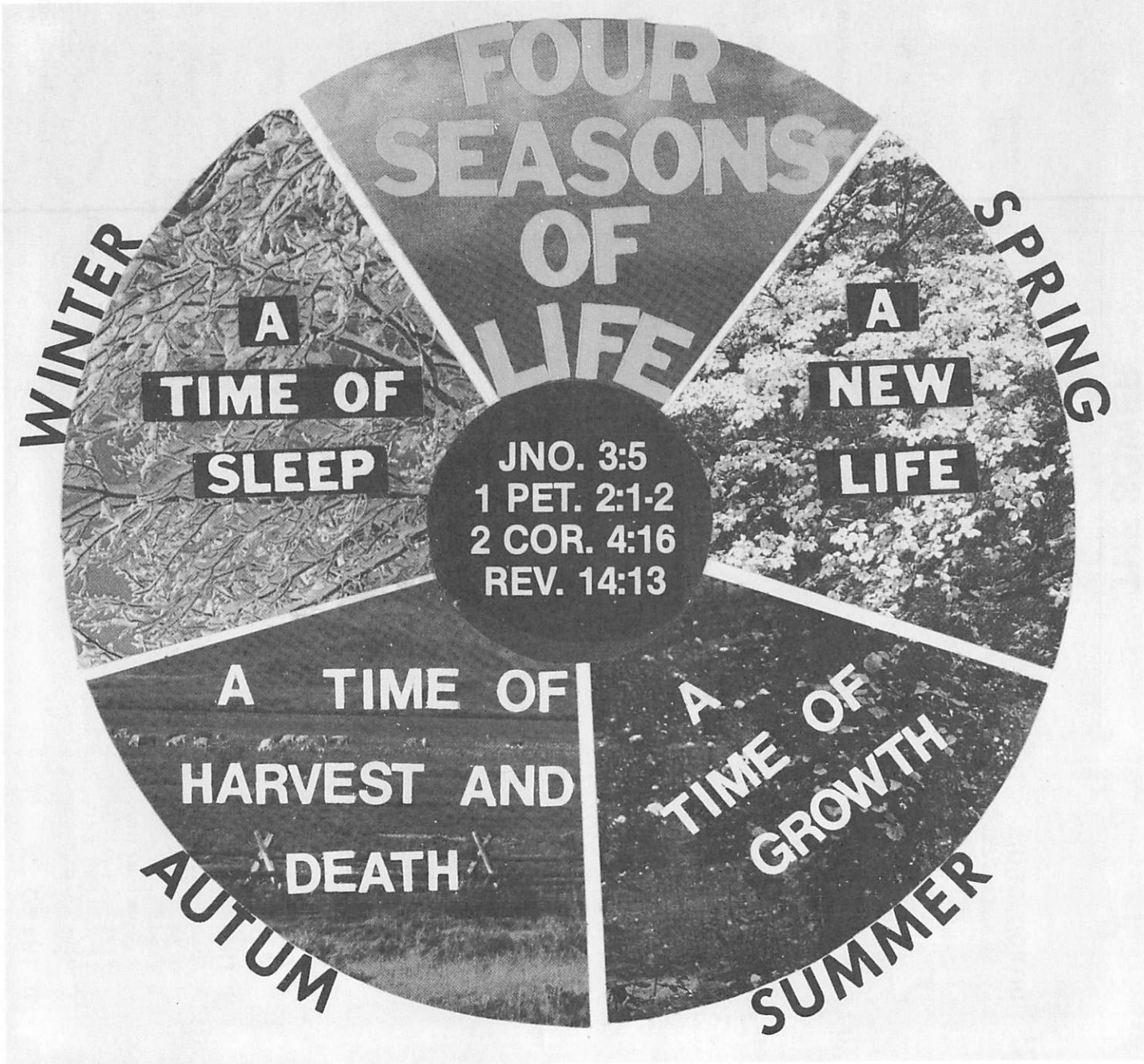
- A. Some fell among thorns—they choked them.
 - 1. Soil could not support both.
 - 2. Many choked today (Matthew 13:22).
- B. Obeys, but because of thorns, never bears fruit.
 - 1. Care of this world (1 John 2:15; Romans 12:2; 2 Timothy 4:10; Matthew 7:13).
 - 2. Deceitfulness of riches (Matthew 6:24, 19:24; 1 Timothy 6:10).

VII. THE GOOD SOIL.

- A. Good ground—fruit—100,60,30 fold.
- B. Compares to receiving Word in heart—bearing fruit.
 - 1. Bear fruit or be cut off (John 15:2).
- C. The only one that pleased God.

CONCLUSION.

- A. To be saved—must be saved, grow, bear fruit.
- B. In any audience, may have these hearts.
 - 1. Don’t let devil take Word from you.
 - 2. Obey the gospel now!



FOUR SEASONS OF MAN'S LIFE

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Life has its problems, but many beautiful things.
 - 1. Example: Four seasons of the year.
 - 2. Although you may be partial to one, all have their own beauty.
 - 3. Spring, new life; summer, long days, sunshine and brightness; autumn, falling leaves, many colors; winter, frosty morns and cold winds.
- B. These four seasons can be compared to man.
 - 1. Just as God's seasons make a complete cycle, so man's life.
 - 2. Therefore, want to study "Four Seasons of Man's Life."

I. SPRING—A NEW BEGINNING.

- A. Spring—a transforming, sudden, beautiful "miracle of nature."
- B. Spring—resurrection of plant life, new life everywhere.
- C. Season of spring in man's life is also beautiful.
 - 1. Begins with new birth (John 3:5).
 - 2. New creature (2 Corinthians 5:17).
 - 3. New life (Romans 6:4).
- D. Spring begins when one obeys gospel.
 - 1. Only if all commands obeyed.
 - 2. Hearing (Romans 10:17), believing (John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6), repenting (Luke 13:3), confessing (Romans 10:9,10; Acts 8:37), and baptism (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:17).
- E. All possible because Jesus died (John 3:16).
- F. Example: Poem "Land of Beginning Again."

II. SUMMER—A TIME OF GROWTH.

- A. Spring's beauty useless without summer for growth!
 - 1. Need long days of sunshine, warm nights.
- B. New birth important, but need season of spiritual growth.
 - 1. Without growth, plant dies.
 - 2. Without growth, man dies spiritually.
- C. Christian without growth—ugly!
 - 1. Hebrews 5:12; 1 Peter 2:2.
- D. Something to add for growth.
 - 1. 2 Peter 1:5-9.
- E. For growth, must have cultivation, irrigation, fertilizers.
 - 1. Elders chosen to watch over and feed flock.
 - 2. Each year of our summer, we should be maturing—stronger.
- F. Thus, able to begin bearing fruit.
 - 1. Note law of reproduction.
 - 2. Saved to save others—Good News must not stop with us.

- 3. Early Christians persecuted—still preached (Acts 8:4).
- G. Begin by letting your light shine (Matthew 5:16).
- H. Bring up children properly (Ephesians 6:4).
- I. Look for ways to spread gospel (Mark 16:16).
 - 1. What a beautiful summer your life will reflect.

III. AUTUMN—A TIME OF HARVEST AND DEATH.

- A. A time plant life throws off leaves, prepares for rest.
- B. Makes us sad—but even in shadow of death, beauty.
 - 1. Beauty also in time of harvest.
- C. Autumn—man reaches his last days, has fought good fight, etc.
 - 1. Souls will continue to be harvested after he is gone.
 - 2. Body has become old—inner man renewed (2 Corinthians 4:16).
 - 3. Even at death, still life (Ecclesiastes 12:7).
 - 4. Body will be raised (1 Corinthians 15:53).
- D. Beauty in death to Christian.
 - 1. Revelation 14:13.

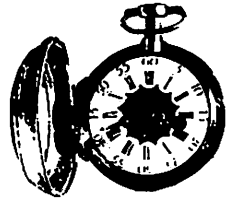
IV. WINTER—A TIME OF REST AND SLEEP.

- A. A dormant time for nature.
- B. Christians rest from their labors.
 - 1. Example: Lazarus comforted (Luke 16:19-31).
 - 2. May look dead, but as trees, man will be awakened (1 Corinthians 15:51,52).
- C. Jesus assured apostles of mansions before leaving.
 - 1. John 14:1-3.
 - 2. Jesus first fruits of resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:20).

CONCLUSION.

- A. The plant kingdom awaits another spring to begin new cycle over.
- B. Faithful Christian awaits another spring with great difference.
 - 1. This time, spring will be forever.
- C. How do you stand at this moment?
- D. Are you making plans for the winter of your life?

A Good Watch



Gal. 6:9

Job 23:10

Acts 9:36-41

Prov. 17:22

Prov. 4:23

KEEP GOING

PURE GOLD

GOOD WORKS

NEEDS OILING

MAINSRING

A GOOD WATCH

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Our lives are measured by the clock.
- B. We depend on a good watch more than we realize.
- C. A watch can be more than a time instrument.
 - 1. Teaches many lessons.
- D. Study some of these.

I. KEEP GOING.

- A. A watch that quits is useless.
- B. God wants His children to keep going.
 - 1. Galatians 6:9.
- C. It patiently ticks off the seconds.
 - 1. Hebrews 12:1,2.
- D. "A winner never quits, and a quitter never wins."
- E. Five foolish virgins didn't go all the way.

II. BE PURE GOLD.

- A. Helps determine the value of a watch.
- B. God tries our gold (Job 23:10).
- C. Don't know people until under test.

III. BE FULL OF GOOD WORKS.

- A. Dorcas had good works (Acts 9:36).
- B. Must desire to help others.
 - 1. No place for selfishness.
- C. Some evidently don't feel good works important.

IV. NEEDS OILING.

- A. Great watch can stop if no oil.
- B. Christian needs the oil of laughter.
 - 1. Proverbs 17:22.
- C. Time to be serious, but time to laugh.

V. KEEP MAINSPRING RIGHT.

- A. When mainspring off, whole watch stops.
- B. Mainspring of Christian—heart.
 - 1. Proverbs 4:23.
- C. Actions will fail without heart.
 - 1. Proverbs 23:7.

CONCLUSION.

- A. The watch can constantly remind us of spiritual truths.
- B. How does your life compare to a good watch?
- C. Are you right with God?

PLEASING

GOD

* *

PROV. 3:5-10

TRUST IN THE LORD

LEAN NOT TO OWN MIND

ACKNOWLEDGE HIM-ALL WAYS

BE NOT WISE IN OWN EYES

HONOR LORD-SUBSTANCE

PLEASING GOD

INTRODUCTION.

- A. More than anything else, need to please God.
 - 1. History reveals only those that please Him prosper.
- B. Several basic principles in Proverbs 3:5-10.
 - 1. Read this text.
- C. Want to discuss five principles.

I. TRUST IN THE LORD.

- A. Means faith and confidence in God.
- B. History would have been different if Adam and Eve had trusted.
 - 1. Psalm 18:2; Job 13:15a.
 - 2. Example: Who cares for butterfly during raging storm?
- C. "Trust and obey" is the magic formula with God.
 - 1. He can make impossible things possible.

II. LEAN NOT TO OWN UNDERSTANDING.

- A. Man in God's image—tempted to look at own understanding.
 - 1. Man can't work out spiritual alone (Jeremiah 10:23).
 - 2. Religious world divided because of this problem.
 - 3. God's thoughts different (Isaiah 55:8,9).
- B. Many say "I think" or "in my opinion."
 - 1. Wrong if not in harmony with God.
 - 2. Proverbs 14:12; Luke 6:46; Matthew 7:21, 26:39).
- C. Must let His Word guide us.
 - 1. We will hear "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

III. ACKNOWLEDGE HIM IN ALL WAYS.

- A. God as Creator has specified how man must worship Him.
 - 1. Never allowed another God (Exodus 20:3,4).
- B. Some refuse God because they can't see Him.
 - 1. Example: Like a fish hunting for ocean while swimming in it.
- C. Mankind often takes credit instead of giving such to God.
 - 1. Seek idols such as money, pleasure, etc.
 - 2. Rains on just and unjust (Matthew 5:45b).
 - 3. A day appointed (Acts 17:31).
- D. If we refuse to acknowledge Him, He'll reject us!

IV. BE NOT WISE IN OWN EYES.

- A. Warning against the sin of pride.
 - 1. One that loses his spiritual balance (Proverbs 16:18).
 - 2. Romans 12:16.
- B. Pride brought Nebuchadnezzar down.
 - 1. Daniel 4:29-32.
- C. No way to please God with pride in one's heart.

V. HONOR THE LORD WITH THY SUBSTANCE.

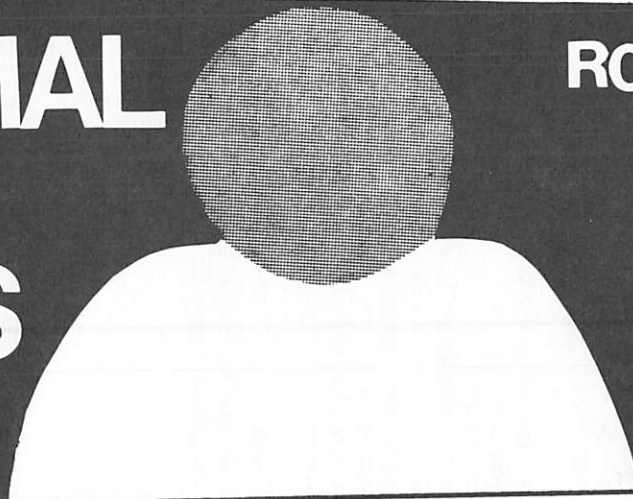
- A. Selfishness toward God—age-old problem.
 - 1. Does not recognize stewardship.
 - 2. Giving is God's test of man's love.
- B. God's law—give and it shall be given.
 - 1. Example: Boy that gave loaves and fishes did not miss lunch.
- C. Heavenly treasures are as secure (Matthew 6:19,20).
- D. God desires cheerful giving.
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 9:7.
 - 2. Greek "hilaros" root for "hilarious."
- E. Three kinds of givers: flint, sponge, and honeycomb. (Must hammer flint, squeeze sponge; honeycomb overflows with sweetness.)
- F. Scriptural giving honors God.
- G. Those who wish to stop giving to God do not love him.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Are you pleasing God in these five ways?
- B. Remember, greatest thing in life is to please Him.

COURT TRIAL OF ROMANS

ROM. 1:18-32
2:1-29
3:23
6:23



CASE STATED

FIRST WITNESS – GENTILES

SECOND WITNESS – JEWS

VERDICT – ALL GUILTY

SENTENCE – DIVINE JUSTICE

COURT TRIAL OF ROMANS

INTRODUCTION.

- A. In Romans 1, Paul described greatest court drama of all time.
 - 1. Outcome affected all races in all generations.
 - 2. Both Jews and Gentiles before God's judgment seat.
- B. An in-depth study should help us understand.
 - 1. Condition of human race.
 - 2. God's divine justice.

I. CASE STATED (Romans 1:18).

- A. God is either pleased or wrathful.
 - 1. Paul teaches the evil must deal with God.
- B. Paul therefore begins calling witnesses.
 - 1. He deals with two groups.

II. FIRST WITNESS—GENTILES.

- A. Who are the Gentiles?
- B. Take a glance backward into history.
 - 1. First dispensation began with Adam and Eve.
 - 2. Lasted until Moses.
 - 3. During these 2500 years, God spoke to heads of families.
 - 4. Human race became evil (Genesis 6:5).
 - 5. Repented God that He had made man (Genesis 6:6).
 - 6. Noah found grace—he and family saved (Genesis 7:7).
 - 7. After flood, Noah's sons began nations (Genesis 10).
 - 8. At first, only Japheth's generation called Gentiles (later, all Gentiles who were not of Abraham).
 - 9. Law through Moses—Jews only (Leviticus 26:4-6; Romans 2:14).
- C. Now, in Romans 1, Paul lists sins of Gentiles:
 - 1. Images (Romans 1:23).
 - 2. Lust (Romans 1:24).
 - 3. Homosexuality (Romans 1:27).
 - 4. God gave them over to a reprobate mind (Romans 1:28).
- D. Therefore, condemned.

III. SECOND WITNESS—JEWS.

- A. After the Gentiles step down, Jews take the stand.
 - 1. Since they had the law, thought themselves better.
 - 2. Their judging was wrong (Romans 2:1).
 - 3. Be judged by the law (Romans 2:12).
 - 4. Doers of the law justified (Romans 2:13).
 - 5. They had an advantage, but guilty (Romans 3:1,2).

IV. VERDICT—ALL GUILTY.

- A. All have sinned (Romans 3:23).
- B. Both Jews and Gentiles.
- C. Both facing death (Romans 6:23).
- D. Must await the sentence.

V. SENTENCE—DIVINE JUSTICE.

- A. God had promised death for sin in the garden (Genesis 2:17).
 - 1. Physical and spiritual death.
 - 2. Physical—separation of soul and body (James 2:26).
 - 3. Spiritual—separation of man from God (Isaiah 59:1,2).
- B. Man's only hope—to be united with God.
 - 1. Christ's death made this possible (John 3:16).
 - 2. Thus, Paul could speak of justification by faith (Romans 5:1).
 - 3. Not by faith only—such is dead (James 2:24).
 - 4. A faith that works, obeys (Romans 6:17,18).
 - 5. Faith that leads a repenting believer to be baptized (Romans 6:4).
 - 6. This brought them a new life.
 - 7. This obedience leads the sinner to the blood of Christ.
- C. This explains why the great commission was given.
 - 1. Mark 16:15,16.
 - 2. Matthew 28:18,19.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Have you allowed divine justice to work in your life?
- B. Without Christ, the verdict is death!

LIFE'S

WINDOW

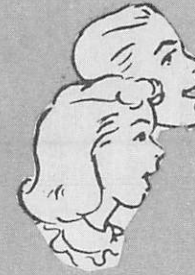
* *
JOHN 10:10

GEN. 4:1



BIRTH

ROM. 3:23



**ACCOUNT -
ABLE**

JOHN 3:3-5



NEW BIRTH

2 COR 5:17



**A
NEW LIFE**

GAL. 6:7-8



ETERNITY

LIFE'S WINDOW

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Jesus brought abundant life (John 10:10).
- B. Everlasting life (John 4:14b).
- C. From beginning, God has desired we have life.
 - 1. Tree of life in garden (Genesis 2:9).
 - 2. Tree of life (Revelation 22:2).
- D. Greatest proof for life—God gave Son.
 - 1. John 3:16.
- E. Wish to study life's window.

I. BIRTH.

- A. First pane in window of life is physical birth.
 - 1. God made first couple capable of reproduction (Genesis 4:1).
- B. Marriage, birth, God's plan.
 - 1. God has worked through birth.
 - 2. Examples: Sarah, Rebekah, Samson's mother.
- C. Most spectacular physical birth—Jesus.
- D. God approves physical birth.
 - 1. Psalm 127:3,5.
 - 2. 1 Timothy 5:14.

II. ACCOUNTABLE.

- A. Infant born pure and free of sin.
- B. In later years becomes accountable.
 - 1. Old enough to know right from wrong.
 - 2. Old enough to be taught of God (Mark 16:15,16).
- C. Become sinners (Romans 3:23).
- D. Lost must have blood of Christ.
 - 1. Titus 2:14.
 - 2. Ephesians 1:7.

III. NEW BIRTH.

- A. Redemption comes only to those born into Kingdom.
 - 1. John 3:3,5.
- B. What is meant by new Birth?
 - 1. Born of water and the Spirit.
- C. How is one born of Holy Spirit?
 - 1. It is either directly or indirectly.
 - 2. If directly, Spirit comes directly; if indirectly, Spirit must use a medium.
- E. Which way does the Spirit use?
 - 1. Bible teaches indirectly—through the Word.
 - 2. James 1:18,21; 1 Peter 1:23; Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 15:2.
- F. Jesus did not mention Spirit only also of water.

G. Apply Spirit and water.

- 1. Spirit through Word produces faith (Romans 10:17), godly sorrow (2 Corinthians 7:10), and confession (Romans 10:9,10).
- 2. Water—baptism (Galatians 3:26,27; Romans 6:4,17; Mark 16:16).

IV. A NEW LIFE.

- A. Sinner now has a new life.
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 5:17.
 - 2. Be tempted, but strive to overcome sin (Romans 6:2).
 - 3. Walk in Christ's footsteps (1 Peter 2:21); worship in "spirit and truth" (John 4:24); care for needy, keeping spotless (James 1:27); and share gospel (Acts 8:4).
- B. When sin occurs, confesses and prays.
 - 1. 1 John 1:9.
- C. Walks in the light (1 John 1:7).

V. ETERNITY.

- A. Final pane—heaven and eternal life.
 - 1. Promised to the faithful (Revelation 2:10).
 - 2. A prepared place (John 14:3; Revelation 21,22).
- C. To those that love His appearing (2 Timothy 4:8).

CONCLUSION.

- A. Take a look at the window of your life.
- B. Are all panes in order?

UNLIVED TRUTH

UNHOLY UNIONS

UNCONCERNED MEMBERS

UNCOMMITTED MAJORITY

UNCONFESSED SIN

HOW TO KILL A CHURCH

HOW TO KILL A CHURCH

SUBJECTCharacter.

TITLE“How To Kill A Church.”

PROPOSITION ... To set forth five areas that contribute to the death of a church.

OBJECTIVE To help all realize what kills a church in hope that it will be prevented.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Read Revelation 3:1.
- B. Regarding the text:
 1. It was written to the church at Sardis.
 2. It was one of the “seven churches of Asia.”
 3. Condemned as a “dead church.”
- C. In connection with this, we would like to set forth five areas that lead to the death of the local church. We do this in hope that all will try to help prevent it.
- D. May we discuss the five ways through which we can kill the church?

I. UNLIVED TRUTH.

- A. God’s Word is truth (John 17:17).
- B. We are to “walk by faith,” which is the Word of God (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:7; Romans 10:17).
- C. We are to live “soberly, righteously, and godly” (Titus 2:11,12).
- D. Because of unlive truth, the world will have reason to speak evil of the church (cf. Lamentations 2:16; 1 Peter 2:11-17; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12).
- E. A little leaven will leaven the whole lump (1 Corinthians 5:6).

II. UNHOLY UNIONS.

- A. A “union” is something bound to something else.
- B. Persons divorced for unscriptural reasons and remarried are living in an “unholy union.”
 1. According to the Bible, there are only two exceptions for remarriage:

- a. Death of marriage partner (1 Corinthians 7:39).
- b. Fornication on the part of spouse (Matthew 19:9).
2. The Biblical answer to unholy unions is separation from that union (Ezra 10:10,11).
- C. Any union that would bind us to anything other than Christ is an “unholy union” (2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Matthew 12:30).

III. UNCONCERNED MEMBERS.

- A. The body (church) is made up of many members (1 Corinthians 12:12).
- B. The body (church) is compared to a physical body (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:12-27).
- C. Just as a physical body must have all of its members contributing to work properly, so also must the church (cf. Ephesians 4:16).
- D. We must be concerned about all of the facets of the work of the church (cf. Acts 6:1-6).

IV. UNCOMMITTED MAJORITY.

- A. We are to commit ourselves to the Lord (Psalm 37:5).
- B. We must determine that we will serve the Lord (Joshua 24:15).
- C. We must also carry through with our commitments.
 1. Daniel carried through (Daniel 1:8ff.).
 2. The three Hebrew children did also (Daniel 3:12-30).
 3. The parable of the sons—one did NOT carry through (Matthew 21:28-32).
- D. There were a few at Sardis who had “not defiled their garments,” yet the church was called a “dead church” (Revelation 3:4).

V. UNCONFESSED SIN.

- A. God is willing to forgive the sins of those who confess them (1 John 1:9).
- B. God will not clear the guilty (Nahum 1:3).
- C. The church has a responsibility to do something about those who will not repent (cf. Revelation 2:20,21; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13).
- D. If this is not done, shame will be brought on the church.

CONCLUSION.

- A. We have seen five areas in which we can kill the church in hope that such might be prevented.
- B. If you are involved in any or all of these, will you not repent so the glorious church of our Lord might live!

WHAT IS A LEADER

**A
M
A
N**

**IN
FRONT**

**WHO
CALLS**

**IN
RIGHT
DIRECTION**

**WHO
MOVES**

**Jno. 1:14
Acts 6:1-3
Heb. 11:7, 8
Phil. 3:13, 14
JNO. 10:3**

WHAT IS A LEADER?

INTRODUCTION.

- A. God has chosen leaders through the centuries to lead His people.
 - 1. Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Peter, Paul, etc.
- B. He wants special leaders in Christ's church today.
 - 1. Elders, deacons, evangelists.
- C. Thus, wish to study "What Is A Leader?"

I. A LEADER IS A MAN.

- A. Not an angel, but a human being.
 - 1. Elders, deacons, evangelists are human beings.
 - 2. All great leaders and prophets are human.
 - 3. Made their mistakes—still great leaders (example: Moses).
- B. Flesh is a tool used by God for leadership.
 - 1. Even allowed His Son to become flesh.
 - 2. John 1:1,14.
- C. Can glorify God in our bodies (1 Corinthians 6:20).

II. A LEADER IS A MAN IN FRONT.

- A. Must excel, must be advanced beyond those following.
 - 1. A leader will be out front.
 - 2. Out front in experience (not a novice).
 - 3. Out front in special qualities (in mental, moral, and spiritual).
- B. Had to be special kind of man (Acts 6:1-3).

III. A LEADER IS A MAN THAT MOVES.

- A. Not only out front, but must move!
 - 1. Man can't direct his own steps (Jeremiah 10:23).
 - 2. A man that moves in the right direction.
 - 3. Must be aggressive—must take initiative.
 - 4. Noah moved, Abraham moved, and Moses moved (Hebrews 11).
- B. No congregation will advance beyond their leaders.
 - 1. Example: Driving in mountain—no passing—leader causes 50 cars to go slowly.
- C. Will point out the need to move.
 - 1. Jesus (fields white unto harvest).

IV. A MAN WHO MOVES IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

- A. Not enough to move—must move in the right direction.
 - 1. Example: False teachers busy—wrong direction.
- B. Moses followed pillow of fire—cloud.
 - 1. This was divine direction.

- C. Joshua followed the ark (Joshua 3:3).
 - 1. Divine direction.
- D. Paul moved toward Christ (Philippians 3:13,14).
- E. Leaders today are to follow Christ.
 - 1. Matters not how or when going to die—"Follow thou me" (John 21:18-22).
- F. Good leader must be in front and behind.
 - 1. In front of church, behind Christ.

V. A MAN WHO CALLS.

- A. Calls his own by name (John 10:3).
 - 1. Leader knows names.
 - 2. Some elders do not know the names of flock.
 - 3. Jesus knows all—rich, poor, etc.
 - 4. A good leader will not favor a "clique," but all!
- B. Someone has said: "The clenched fist is not a symbol of power, but the open hand is."
- C. He will not drive, but lead.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Are you a member of Christ's great church?
- B. You need to be under God's leaders.
- C. Have you been born again?

THE WALK OF A CHRISTIAN

NEW LIFE
Rom. 6:4

BY FAITH
2 Cor. 5:7

BY SPIRIT
Gal. 5:16

IN LOVE
Eph. 5:2

IN UNITY
Eph. 4:1-3

IN LIGHT
Eph. 5:8

LIKE JESUS
1 Jno. 2:6



THE WALK OF A CHRISTIAN

INTRODUCTION.

- A. How the Lord wants us to walk.
- B. Use of action.
- C. Dead don't walk.
- D. Live people walk.
- E. Notice how a Christian will walk.

I. WALK IN A NEW LIFE.

- A. Romans 6:4.
- B. New life when I become a Christian.
- C. New birth of water.
- D. Walk in new life.

II. WALK BY FAITH (2 Corinthians 5:7).

- A. Old Testament walked by sight.
- B. Physical faith—tab., ark of covenant, table of stone.
- C. New Testament walk by faith.
- D. Faith—sin forgiven.
- E. Faith in worship to God.

III. WALK BY SPIRIT.

- A. Galatians 5:16.
- B. Spirit dwells in us.
- C. Produce fruit of spirit (Galatians 5:22).
- D. Not in spirit if we have lust of flesh.

IV. WALK IN LOVE.

- A. Ephesians 5:2.
- B. Imitate Jesus' love—sacrificial.
- C. Agape love.

V. WALK IN UNITY.

- A. Ephesians 4:1-3.
- B. Endeavor to keep unity.
- C. Respect the Lord if we have unity.
- D. Pray for unity (John 17).
- E. Paul condemns division.

VI. WALK IN LIGHT.

- A. Ephesians 5:8.
- B. Darkness—devil.
- C. Light—Jesus.
- D. Christians light of world.
- E. Light exposes sin—darkness covers sin.

VII. WALK LIKE JESUS.

- A. 1 John 2:6.
- B. Sermon on Mount tells how to walk like Jesus.
- C. Jesus' steps lead to God.
- D. Where are you walking?

CONCLUSION.

- A. The walk of a Christian leads to eternal life with God.

MAN MUST

KNOW

JNO. 8:32

CONFESS

ROM. 10:9, 10

DO

GAL. 5:6

BELIEVE

ACTS 16:31

FEEL

2 COR. 7:10

ENDURE

2 TIM. 2:3

**SOMETHING
TO BE SAVED!**

WHAT MAN MUST DO

John 8:32

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Often study specific steps on this subject.
 - 1. Today, will study from a general viewpoint.
- B. May we consider what man must do to be saved?

I. MAN MUST KNOW SOMETHING.

- A. Ignorance does not excuse (Acts 17:30).
- B. Who is the guilty one, God or man?
 - 1. Man is guilty; therefore, should study.
- C. Must know the truth (John 8:32).
 - 1. Truth about self (Romans 3:23).
 - 2. Truth about God (goodness and severity).
 - 3. Truth about Christ (Matthew 1:21; Hebrews 5:8,9).
 - 4. Truth about the gospel (Romans 1:16).

II. MAN MUST BELIEVE SOMETHING.

- A. Can't just believe anything.
- B. What one believes is important.
 - 1. 2 Thessalonians 2:11.
 - 2. Hebrews 12:1,2.
- C. Error has never been as good as truth.
 - 1. Example: Eve believed error.
- D. Summarizes what to believe (Acts 16:31).
 - 1. Specifics are given in other passages.

III. MAN MUST FEEL SOMETHING.

- A. Godly sorrow (2 Corinthians 7:10).
- B. Those on Pentecost felt something (Acts 2:37-40).
- C. Some past feeling (Ephesians 4:19).
- D. Saul of Tarsus felt something.
- E. Many fall away or never converted because no feeling.

IV. MAN MUST CONFESS SOMETHING.

- A. Not his feelings—if so, would confess remorse.
- B. Not already saved.
- C. Must confess Christ (Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:9,10).
- D. What is the confession? (Acts 8:37; Matthew 16:18,19).

V. MAN MUST DO SOMETHING.

- A. Salvation is by grace.
 - 1. Ephesians 2:8.
 - 2. Galatians 5:6.
- B. Saul was saved by grace.
 - 1. Still told to do something (Acts 22:16).
- C. Taught to hear, believe, repent, confess, and be baptized.

VI. MAN MUST ENDURE SOMETHING.

- A. Two types of salvation.
 - 1. Aliens.
 - 2. From sins afterward.
- B. Must endure:
 - 1. Hardness (2 Timothy 2:3).
 - 2. Afflictions (2 Timothy 4:5).
 - 3. Temptations (James 1:12).
- C. Some endure for a while.
 - 1. Cares of world, riches, lust choke out—thorny soil (Mark 4:19).

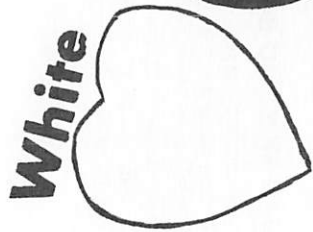
CONCLUSION.

- A. Have you met the Lord's requirements?
- B. He wants you to do something.
 - 1. Then Christ's blood will forgive.

CHANGES

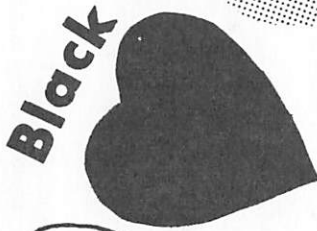
OF

THE HEART



White

Matt. 18:3



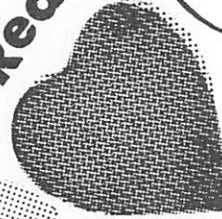
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Jer. 17:9



Brown

2Cor. 7:10



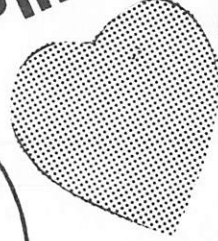
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Rom. 8:7



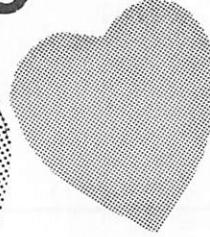
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Isa. 1:18



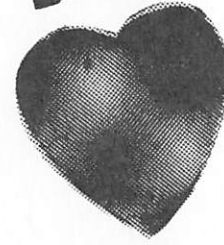
Pink

Phi. 4:4



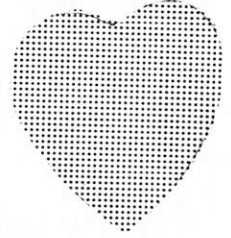
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2Pet. 3:18



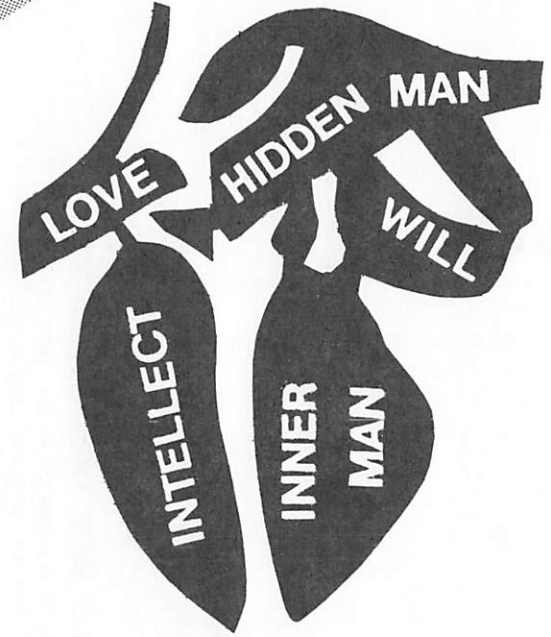
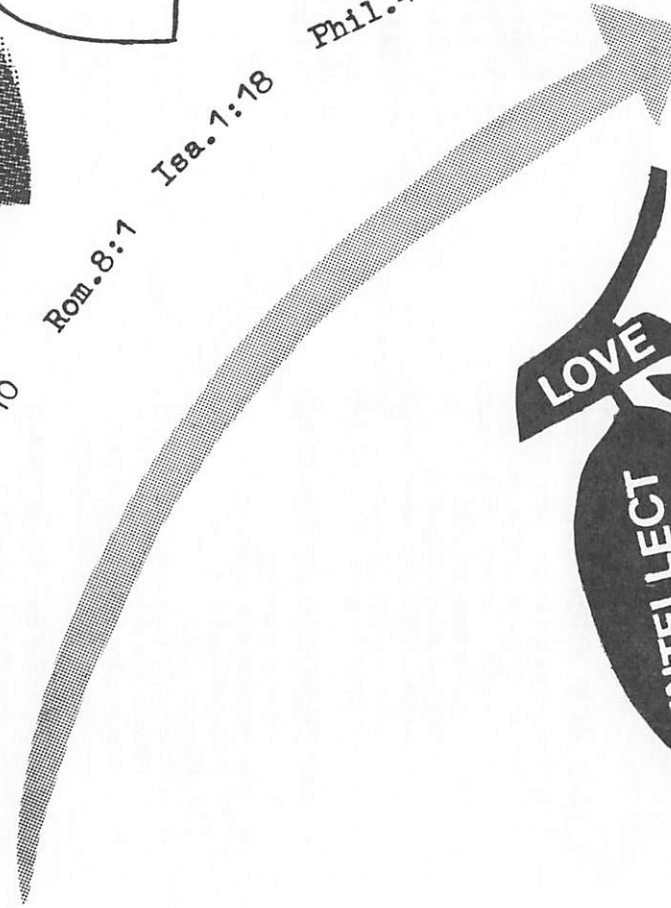
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Rev. 2:10



Gold

Jno. 14:1-3



CHANGES OF THE HEART

INTRODUCTION.

- A. The word "heart" is used often in the Bible.
- B. Defined "hidden springs of personal life"—"hidden man"—"inner man."
- C. That part of man capable of love, hate, joy, faith, etc.
- D. From birth to heaven, there are changes of the inner heart.
- E. Please study with me these changes.

I. THE WHITE HEART (born of innocence).

- A. White and pure because of no sins.
- B. Infants do not inherit personal sins.
 - 1. Inherit sin of physical death (Romans 5:12; Hebrews 9:27).
- C. Jesus accepted the pureness of children.
 - 1. Mark 10:14.
 - 2. Matthew 18:3.

II. THE BLACK HEART (full of sin).

- A. At the age of accountability, a heart sins.
- B. Heart becomes deceitful (Jeremiah 17:9).
- C. Bible history reveals man's sins.
 - 1. Genesis 6:5.
 - 2. Romans 1:24,25, 3:9.
 - 3. Romans 3:23.
 - 4. 1 John 1:8,10.

III. THE BROWN HEART (repentance).

- A. God accepts a contrite heart (Psalm 51:17).
- B. Before repentance, one must have faith.
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 7:10.
 - 2. "Change of mind."
- C. Biggest hang-up is repentance, not baptism.

IV. THE RED HEART (covered with Christ's blood).

- A. Song: "Power in the Blood."
- B. The repenting heart still needs forgiveness of past sins.
- C. Only by the blood of Christ.
 - 1. Ephesians 1:7.
 - 2. Hebrews 13:12.
 - 3. Romans 8:1.
- D. How does one get into Christ?
 - 1. Romans 6:4.
 - 2. Galatians 3:27.
 - 3. Isaiah 1:18.

V. THE WHITE HEART (forgiven).

- A. New creature in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- B. When commit sin, have advocate with the Father (1 John 2:1).
- C. Conditional—"If we walk in the light" (1 John 1:7).

VI. THE PINK HEART (happy heart).

- A. Christians should be happiest people on earth.
 - 1. Eunuch rejoiced (Acts 8:26-39).
 - 2. Because forgiveness and hope eternally.
- B. May have persecutions here—still happy.
 - 1. Acts 5:41, 16:25.
 - 2. 1 Thessalonians 5:16.
 - 3. Philippians 4:4.

VII. THE GREEN HEART (growth).

- A. A heart must grow or spiritually die.
 - 1. 1 Peter 2:2.
 - 2. 2 Peter 3:18.
- B. Spiritual exercise essential.
- C. Pure heart good soil for growth.
 - 1. Sin diseases the heart.

VIII. THE TRUE BLUE HEART (faithful).

- A. Just as important as obeying the gospel.
- B. Only the faithful heart will reach heaven.
 - 1. Revelation 2:10.
 - 2. Hebrews 10:22.
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 15:58.

IX. THE GOLD HEART (heaven).

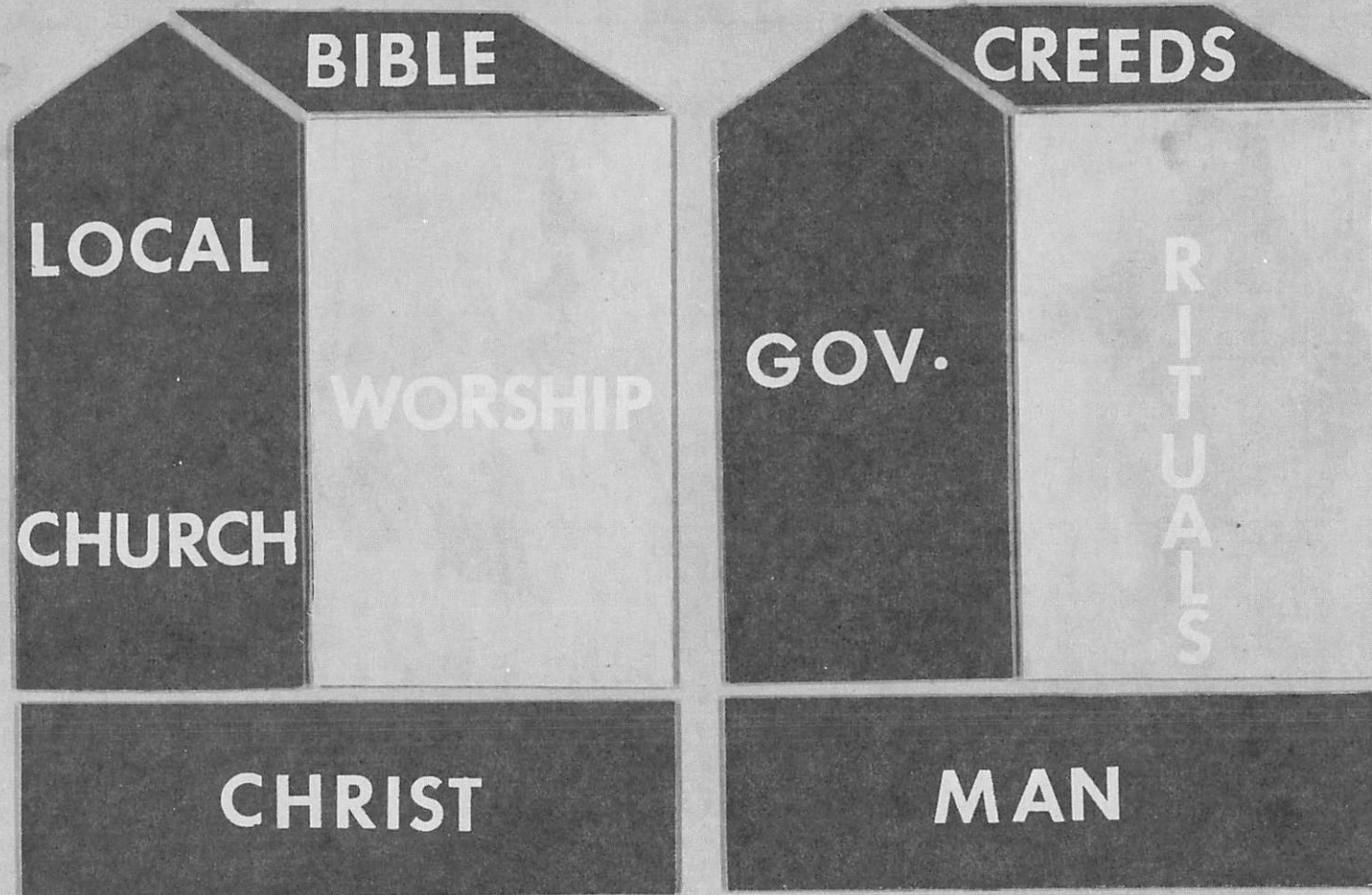
- A. Specially prepared for those prepared.
 - 1. John 14:1-4.
- B. Should be the dream of every Christian.
- C. Must have heart set on eternal life.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Do you have heart trouble?
- B. What is the condition of your heart?
- C. "Is thy heart right with God?"

THE HOUSE OF GOD

1 Tim. 3:15



THE HOUSE OF GOD

1 Timothy 3:14,15

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Announce subject.
- B. Give background of text—read it.
- C. Two houses in Bible—temple and church.
 - 1. Compare the two houses.
 - 2. New Testament house greatest: (a) Jesus built; and (b) bought it (example: boat and boy).*
- D. Want to build the House of God.

I. MUST HAVE PROPER FOUNDATION.

- A. No building is stronger than foundation.
 - 1. Foolish man—wrong foundation (Matthew 7).
- B. Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 3:11.
- C. Human churches—built on man.
- D. What is meant by building on right foundation (Ephesians 2:20)?
 - 1. Foundation determines house.

II. MUST HAVE PROPER WORSHIP.

- A. Many feel worship just any way! Wrong!
- B. John 4:24; Matthew 15:9,13; 2 John 9.
- C. Must follow way and spirit of worship (sing, pray, etc.).
 - 1. Many go through right acts, but wrong spirit.
- D. Man has rituals.

III. MUST HAVE LOCAL CONGREGATIONS.

- A. God's house universal and local.
- B. Each congregation autonomous—own elders, deacons.
- C. All congregations looking to Christ as leader.
- D. Man sets up man-made governments, parishes, dioceses.
- E. Local congregation has a great responsibility.
 - 1. Convert.
 - 2. Edify.
 - 3. Mission.
 - 4. Benevolent.

IV. MUST BE BUILT BY BLUEPRINT—BIBLE.

- A. Each house has a blueprint (mental or on paper).
 - 1. Example: Made men tear out work not according to blueprint.
- B. Even important in building houses today to follow blueprint.
- C. Majority look to creeds (Matthew 7:21,24-27).
- D. 2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:20,21; 2 John 9; Acts 17:11.
- E. Example: God gave pattern for tabernacle (Hebrews 8:5).
 - 1. Example: Must build on rock (Matthew 7).

CONCLUSION.

- A. How does one become a part of God's house?
- B. Hear, believe, repent, confess, and be baptized.

* A boy built a boat, and was proud of it. It was in a swift stream—got away and was lost. Later saw it for sale in a pawn shop window, robbed piggy bank and bought it. Asked coming out of shop, "Why so happy?" Answered, "I'm happy over this boat. You see, first I made it, and now I have bought it."

why

many

do not

think

YOUTH - TOO HAPPY

MANHOOD - TOO BUSY

PRIME of LIFE - TOO ANXIOUS

DECLINING YRS. - TOO OLD

DEATH BED - TOO ILL

DEATH TOO LATE

WHY MANY DO NOT THINK

INTRODUCTION.

- A. God made man a soul—capable of thinking.
- B. Man cannot rise above his thoughts (Proverbs 23:7).
- C. Can't be a true Christian without thinking properly.
 - 1. Philippians 4:8.
- D. Since so important to think, want to notice "why many do not think."
- E. Please study all stages of life.

I. YOUTH—TOO HAPPY.

- A. Often feel they have plenty of time to think seriously.
 - 1. Example: A student in youth class making a joke of most spiritual truths.
- B. God wants all ages to be happy.
 - 1. Proverbs 17:22.
 - 2. Beatitudes—God's formula for happiness.
 - 3. Happiness must not keep one from thinking.
- C. Important to remember creator in youth (Ecclesiastes 12:1).
 - 1. Paul's advice to Timothy (2 Timothy 2:22, 4:1,2).

II. MANHOOD—TOO BUSY.

- A. Too busy seeking more gold.
- B. Man is truly busy today.
 - 1. But can do what he really wants to do.
 - 2. Example: Christian doctors still find time for church.
- C. Rich young ruler didn't want to give up wealth (Matthew 19:16-22).
- D. Prosperous farmer thought only of self (Luke 12:16-21).
- E. Matthew 6:19,20, 16:26.

III. PRIME OF LIFE—TOO ANXIOUS.

- A. At this time, worry takes over.
- B. If he had thought of God earlier, wouldn't worry.
- C. Worry shows a lack of faith.
 - 1. Matthew 6:25-34.
 - 2. James 4:14.

IV. DECLINING YEARS—TOO OLD.

- A. As one grows older, many changes.
 - 1. Changing body and heart (Ecclesiastes 12:1).
 - 2. Old hearts may be impossible to reach.
 - 3. Example: Old man taught; only comment "I'm empty."
- B. Old Testament required to give one's best.
 - 1. First fruits, lamb without blemish, etc.
- C. Millions waste best part of their lives without God.
- D. If old, should still obey gospel.
 - 1. However, better to do so in youth.

V. DEATHBED—TOO ILL.

- A. Weak—suffering alone.
- B. A special time one needs God—don't love Him.
- C. Some try to accept God out of fear.
 - 1. God wants our love.
 - 2. Some get better, but revert to old life.
- D. Israel played this game often.
 - 1. In trouble, ran to God.
 - 2. Out of trouble, ran from God.

VI. DEATH—TOO LATE.

- A. When spirit leaves body, opportunity lost.
- B. Rich man was too late (Luke 16:25-26).
- C. Judgment day scenes too late.
 - 1. Matthew 7:22,23; Matthew 25.
 - 2. Five foolish virgins—not prepared.
- D. Revelation 20:12.

CONCLUSION.

- A. How is your thinking toward God?
- B. Don't put off thinking about Him today.

IF I WERE A TEENAGER

94

1'D

FORM GOOD HABITS
LEARN TO GET ALONG
SEEK GOOD HEALTH
BE MORE SPIRITUAL

IF I WERE A TEENAGER

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Several years ago, I was a teenager—made mistakes, but avoided some.
 - 1. Avoided some because of help from Bible teachers and parents.
- B. Aim of this lesson is to help you avoid choosing the wrong road.
- C. Therefore, want to discuss “If I Were A Teenager.”
 - 1. Here are some of the things I would do.

I. I'D FORM GOOD HABITS.

- A. Jesus was a man of good habits.
 - 1. Luke 4:16.
- B. “Habit” defined as “an action or characteristic that is often repeated.”
 - 1. Example: Pioneers began a faint blazed trail, which later became a super highway.
- C. Habits may be good or evil.
 - 1. They reflect the kind of life we're living.
- D. Evil habits are easier formed than good.
 - 1. Matthew 7:13,14.

II. I'D LEARN TO GET ALONG.

- A. Jesus did (Luke 2:52).
- B. Natural to want to be accepted—popular, and noticed.
- C. How do we accomplish this?
 - 1. Not by disrupting classes and harming others.
 - 2. By integrity, respect, skills, and “Golden Rule.”
 - 3. By being interested in others. Example: Will Rogers said, “I never saw a man that I didn't like.”
- D. Remember Solomon's law: “If you want a friend, show yourself friendly.”

III. I'D SEEK GOOD HEALTH.

- A. Parents have told you to eat vegetables, drink milk, and take vitamins for good health.
- B. Want to go further—study three things called “T-A-D.”
 - 1. T-obacco—habit hard to break—better if never touch it. (Ask a user.)
 - a. Example: Average man expects 25,000 days. If a smoker, subtract 5,000 days.
 - 2. A-lcohol—destroys in many ways. Some facts:
 - a. 51% alcoholics from alcoholic parents.
 - b. 50% juvenile delinquents from alcoholic homes.
 - c. 500,000 yearly in United States.
 - d. 1800 licenses revoked daily in United States because of alcohol.

- e. 50% fatal accidents from alcohol.
- f. One out of 10 drivers alcoholics.
- 3. Drugs—another destroyer.
 - a. You have heard much about this in school.
 - b. However, need to be reminded often.
 - c. Good rules: (1) never take anything stronger than aspirin, unless given by a doctor; (2) consider anyone that offers you a drug your worst enemy; and (3) imagine what an addict feels—avoid it.

IV. I'D BE MORE SPIRITUAL.

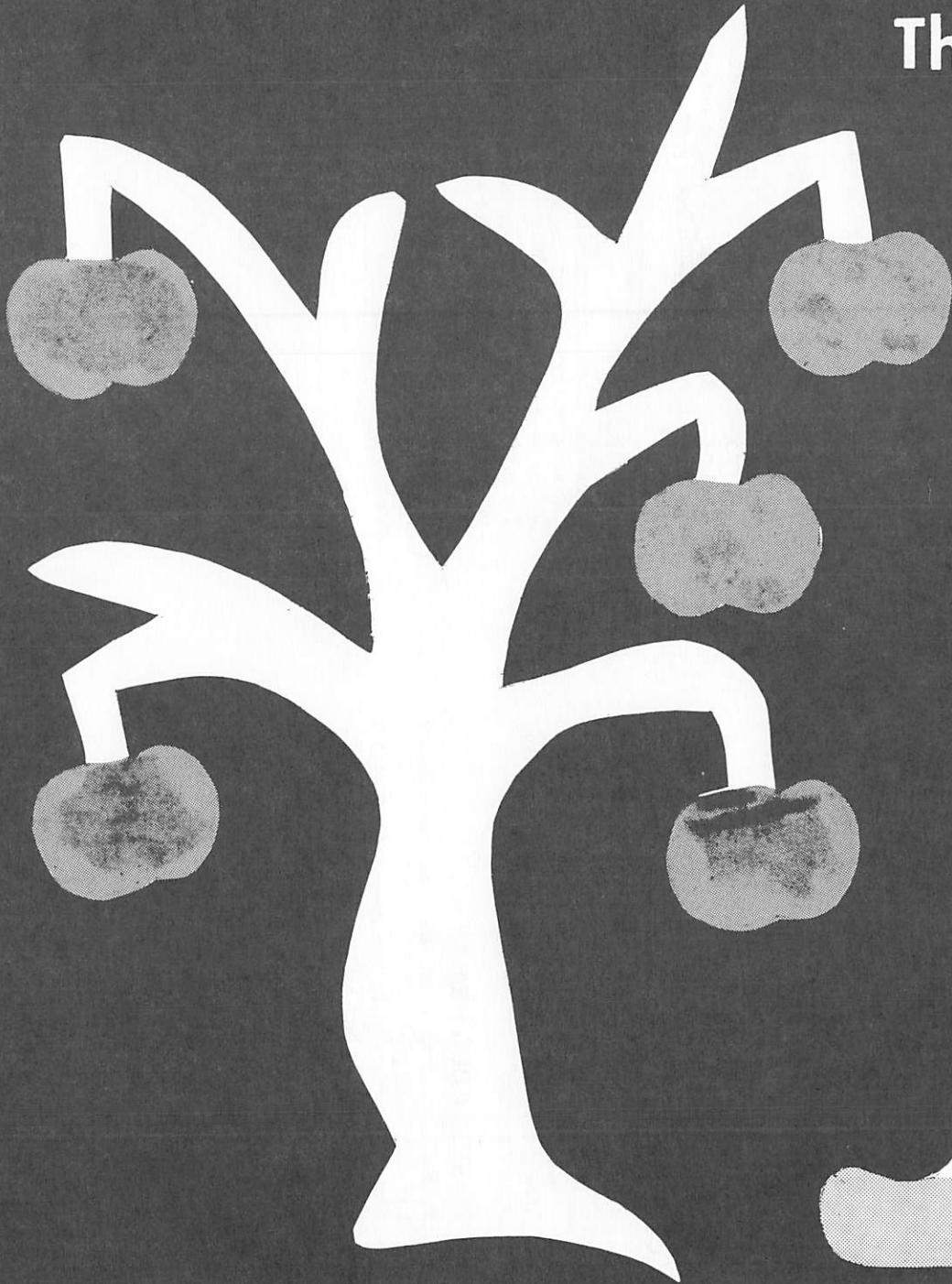
- A. What does the church mean to you?
- B. Worship and spiritual activities most important things you can ever do.
- C. What kind of habits have you formed in worship?
 - 1. Do you talk—sleep—pass notes?
 - 2. What kind of person are you in Bible class?
- D. WHAT happens when you misbehave in a class or worship?
 - 1. You turn God against you because of sin!
 - 2. You hurt your teacher or preacher.
 - 3. You harm your fellow teenagers.
 - 4. You break your parent's hearts.
- E. Young people are capable of real sincere worship to God.
 - 1. Example: Students at Christian colleges, youth camps, etc.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Please consider yourself at a fork in the road.
 - 1. Two signs, one for each road—one marked “happiness” and the other marked “misery.”
 - 2. The good road represents forming good habits for God, and the other road misery represents forming bad habits.
- B. Now you must choose a road.
 - 1. Please choose the good one.

The **FRUIT** of the
SPIRIT

GAL · 5:22-26



Love
Joy
Peace
Longsuffering

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT—#1

Galatians 5:22-26

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Some of the most important writing of Paul in this text.
 - 1. Shows both sides of the picture.
 - 2. In this lesson, wish to give attention to the Fruit of the Spirit.
- B. Works of the flesh need no cultivation.
 - 1. Fruit of the Spirit does.
- C. Let us seek to understand them.

I. FIRST ONE LISTED—LOVE.

- A. Not accident that love is listed first.
 - 1. Nothing without love (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).
 - 2. Faith, hope, love—love greatest (1 Corinthians 13:13).
 - 3. By love serve one another (Galatians 5:13).
- B. Gospel scheme of redemption based on love.
 - 1. John 3:16.
 - 2. Loved even though mankind was not lovable.
 - 3. Matthew 5:46-48.
 - 4. Romans 5:7,8.
- C. First commandment—love God with all.
 - 1. Second—neighbor as self.
- D. Love sacrifices.
- E. Love suffers long and is kind.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 13.
- F. Love bears or lightens our burdens.
 - 1. Jacob (Genesis 29:20).

II. SECOND FRUIT OF SPIRIT—JOY.

- A. The apostle Paul used "joy" and "rejoice" often.
 - 1. Romans 14:17.
 - 2. Philippians 4:4.
 - 3. Wrote of joy even in prison.
- B. Real joy comes only from God.
 - 1. Sin has a stinger in its joy.
 - 2. Sin has a way of finding you out.
 - 3. Galatians 6:7,8.
- C. God wants His people happy.
 - 1. Job—"The Lord gives and takes away."
 - 2. 2 Samuel 12:15-23.

III. THIRD FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT—PEACE.

- A. The Bible speaks often about true peace.
 - 1. Isaiah 26:3.
 - 2. Hebrews 12:14.
 - 3. Romans 5:1, 14:19.
 - 4. Isaiah 9:6.
 - 5. Ephesians 2:14.
 - 6. Romans 12:18.
 - 7. Luke 2:13,14.
- B. Never peace at any price.

IV. FOURTH FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT—LONGSUFFERING.

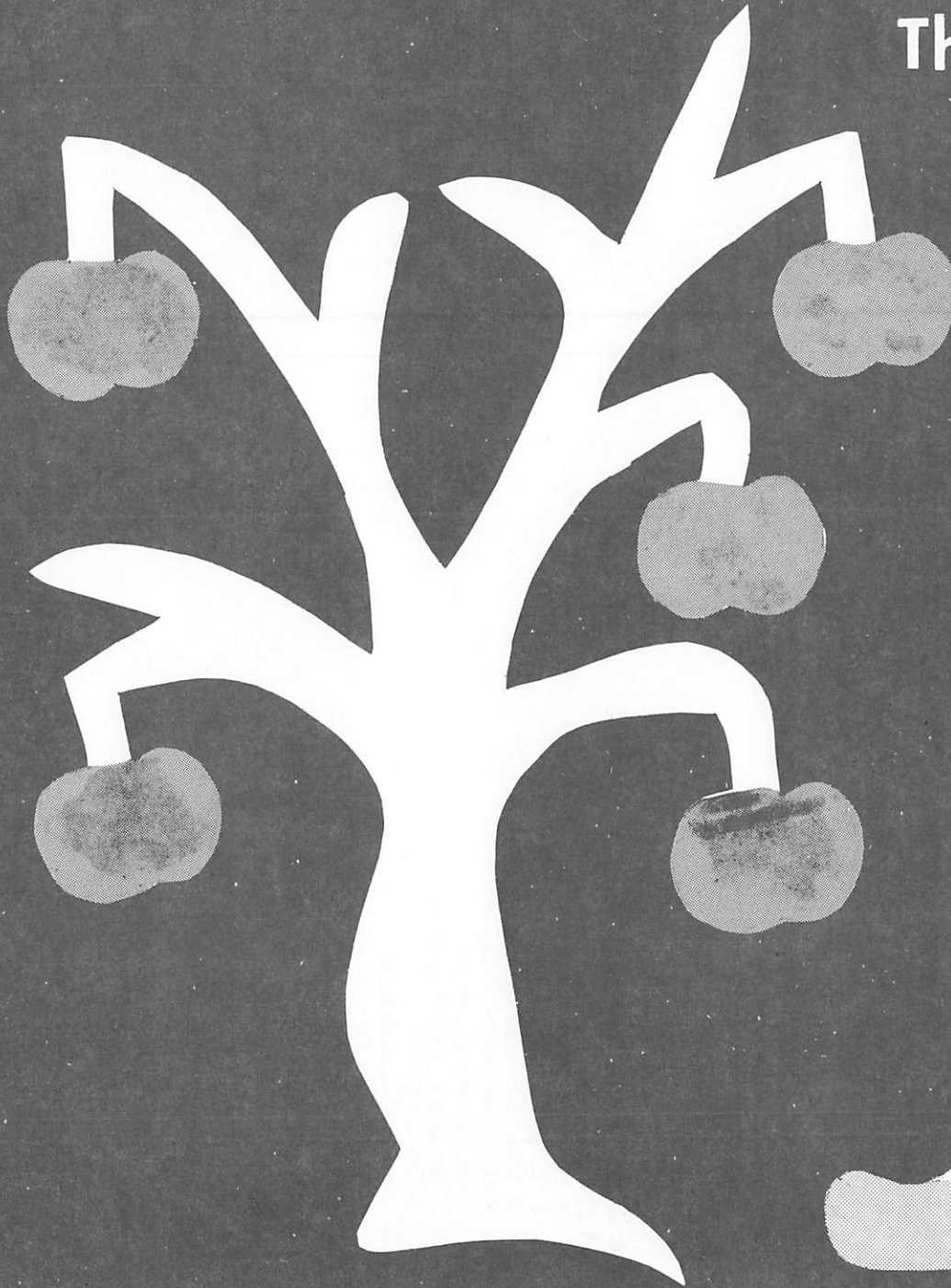
- A. Two words together—means "to suffer long."
 - 1. Examples of those that worked years to accomplish great tasks.
- B. God is greatest example of longsuffering.
 - 1. 2 Peter 3:15.

CONCLUSION.

- A. If not a Christian, God has been longsuffering.
- B. How long will He wait?
 - 1. So important to obey now.
- C. If you have left God, He wants you back.
 - 1. So important you make your life right.

The **FRUIT** of the
SPIRIT

GAL · 5:22-26



Love
Joy
Peace
Longsuffering

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT—#2

INTRODUCTION.

- A. In previous lesson, began study of Fruit of the Spirit.
 - 1. Studied LOVE, JOY, PEACE and LONGSUFFERING.
 - 2. Paul lists four others—want to study these.

I. FIFTH FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT—KINDNESS (GOODNESS).

- A. Share goods if you have love of God (1 John 3:17-19).
- B. Graces include brotherly kindness (2 Peter 1:5-11).
- C. Ephesians 4:32.
- D. Will be kind with tongue (James 1:26).
 - 1. Example: Even animals recognize kindness.
- E. Kindness leads us to help brother (James 2:15,16).
- F. Churches of first century sent help to Jerusalem.
 - 1. Showed kindness to brethren (1 Corinthians 16:1-3).
- G. Judgment day—Christ praises those who have shown kindness (Matthew 25:31-46).

II. SIXTH FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT—FAITHFULNESS.

- A. Faithfulness taught in Bible.
 - 1. Revelation 2:10.
 - 2. Matthew 25:14-30.
- B. Faithful—"full of faith to the end."
- C. Why always talking about faithfulness?
 - 1. Because always a problem.
 - 2. Example of various weaknesses in a congregation which show a lack of faithfulness.
- D. The church needs faithfulness.
 - 1. Each individual Christian needs faithfulness.

III. SEVENTH FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT—MEEKNESS.

- A. Meekness—opposite of pride and haughtiness.
 - 1. Not weakness or inferiority complex.
 - 2. Matthew 5:5; Romans 12:3,4.
- B. Must not be like 10 spies.
 - 1. Galatians 6:1.
 - 2. 2 Corinthians 10:1.

IV. EIGHTH FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT—TEMPERANCE.

- A. Defined as "self-control."
- B. Many can control everything except self.

- C. Self-control basis of Christianity.
 - 1. Paul speaks of war between flesh and spirit.
 - 2. Self-control makes spirit win!
- D. Things to control about self.
 - 1. Physical bodies (1 Corinthians 6:20).
 - 2. Habits—eating.
- E. Body, the temple of God.

CONCLUSION.

- A. God wants us to have these in our lives.
- B. These show the spirit in a Christian.
- C. Have you been born again?
- D. Is your life reflecting these things?

Warning Signs

OVER-CAUTIOUS
MATT. 25:25

PLEASING MEN
MATT. 27:24; JNO. 12:42,43

IGNORANCE
ACTS 3:17; HOS. 4:6; JNO. 8:32

WAY TO HEAVEN

WARNING SIGNS

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Christian life is described as a way.
 - 1. Matthew 7:13,14.
- B. Devil tries to get us off of narrow way to the broad way.
- C. The Word of God gives us warning signs like a highway.
- D. Please notice some of these.

I. FALSE DOCTRINE.

- A. Worship is vain if on men (Matthew 15:9).
- B. They are blind, leading themselves and others to the ditch.
 - 1. Matthew 15:14.
- C. Will be rooted up (Matthew 15:13).
- D. Another gospel condemns (Galatians 1:8).

II. IGNORANCE.

- A. This crucified Christ (Acts 3:17).
- B. Destroys God's people (Hosea 4:6).
- C. Takes truth to free (John 8:32).
- D. Important to study and teach daily God's Word.

III. PREJUDICE.

- A. Defined as "pre-judgment."
- B. Example of being prejudiced—Acts 17:32.
- C. This closes one's mind.
 - 1. Impossible to teach prejudiced person.
 - 2. He closes his mind to truth.
- D. Jesus faced this problem when teaching.

IV. PLEASING MEN.

- A. King Saul's trouble (1 Samuel 15:24).
 - 1. Led to disobedience to God.
- B. Caused Pilate to deliver Christ (Matthew 27:24).
 - 1. He knew truth about Jesus.
- C. Kept rulers from obedience (John 12:42,43).
- D. Millions today continue to teach error to please.

V. PROCRASTINATION.

- A. Defined as "to wait; to put off."
- B. Example: Felix (Acts 24:25).
- C. Causes Christians to sin.
 - 1. Example: "Some day I'll attend all services"—"Some day I'll visit"—"Some day I'll teach others about Christ."
- D. Like sand in the hourglass, our lives are running out.

VI. OVER-CAUTIOUS.

- A. Keeps us from doing anything.
- B. Important to be cautious, not over-cautious.
- C. One-talent man was over-cautious.
- D. Causes sin of "do nothing."

CONCLUSION.

- A. Are you on the way which leads to life?
 - 1. Have you ever entered the way?
 - 2. Have you entered and left?
- B. Don't let the devil lead you astray.
 - 1. Take heed to the warning signs!

WHAT IS THE
CHRISTIAN
LIFE?

A

SURROUNDED

L

SERVING

I

SPIRITUAL

F

SHINING

E

JOB 1:10

GAL. 6:10

ROM. 8:1-5

PHIL. 2:15; 1 PET. 3:10

WHAT IS THE CHRISTIAN LIFE?

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Many accept the concept of Christianity without knowing its true meaning.
 - 1. To some—being baptized.
 - 2. To others—just one's name on a church roll.
 - 3. To still others—a way to please family or business influence.
- B. True Christianity—it is a special life.
 - 1. Surrendered to the Lord (Matthew 16:24).
 - 2. Can't do as we please—do what pleases God.
 - 3. "Servants of righteousness" (Romans 6:17,18).
- C. In this lesson, look at this special kind of life.

I. CHRISTIANITY IS A SURROUNDED LIFE.

- A. Job 1:10.
- B. God did not deny this hedge.
 - 1. Allowed devil to try him—kept hedge to protect his life.
 - 2. Thus, a hedge of protection—not ornamental.
- C. The Christian life today is a surrounded life.
 - 1. Hedge of grace around us on all sides.
 - 2. Ephesians 2:8.
 - 3. Romans 5:20.
 - 4. Titus 2:11,12; Romans 1:16,17.
- D. Christ and grace greater than the world.
 - 1. 1 John 4:4.
 - 2. 1 John 2:1.
 - 3. Psalm 119:11.
- E. Example: God protected Paul in storm and shipwreck (Acts 27:39-44).

II. CHRISTIANITY IS A SERVING LIFE.

- A. Many want to be served, never to serve.
- B. The greatest example of a servant is our Master, Jesus.
 - 1. Mark 10:45.
 - 2. Paul served God (Acts 27:23).
 - 3. Serve all men (Galatians 6:10).
 - 4. Some unhappy say, "Here I am—serve me."
 - 5. Need attitude of Saul—"Lord, what would you have me do?"
 - 6. Jesus completed His job (John 17:4).
- C. Christianity must be personal.
 - 1. Can't give proxy, pay others, etc.

III. CHRISTIANITY IS A SPIRITUAL LIFE.

- A. A spiritual walk (Romans 8:1-5).
 - 1. Flesh minds flesh—spirit, things of Spirit (Romans 8:5).
 - 2. Must live life in flesh, but not after it.

- B. What does it mean to live life after Spirit?
 - 1. Be crucified (Galatians 2:20).
 - 2. Abstain from fleshly lust (1 Peter 2:11).
- C. Put Kingdom first (Matthew 6:33).

IV. CHRISTIANITY IS A SHINING LIFE.

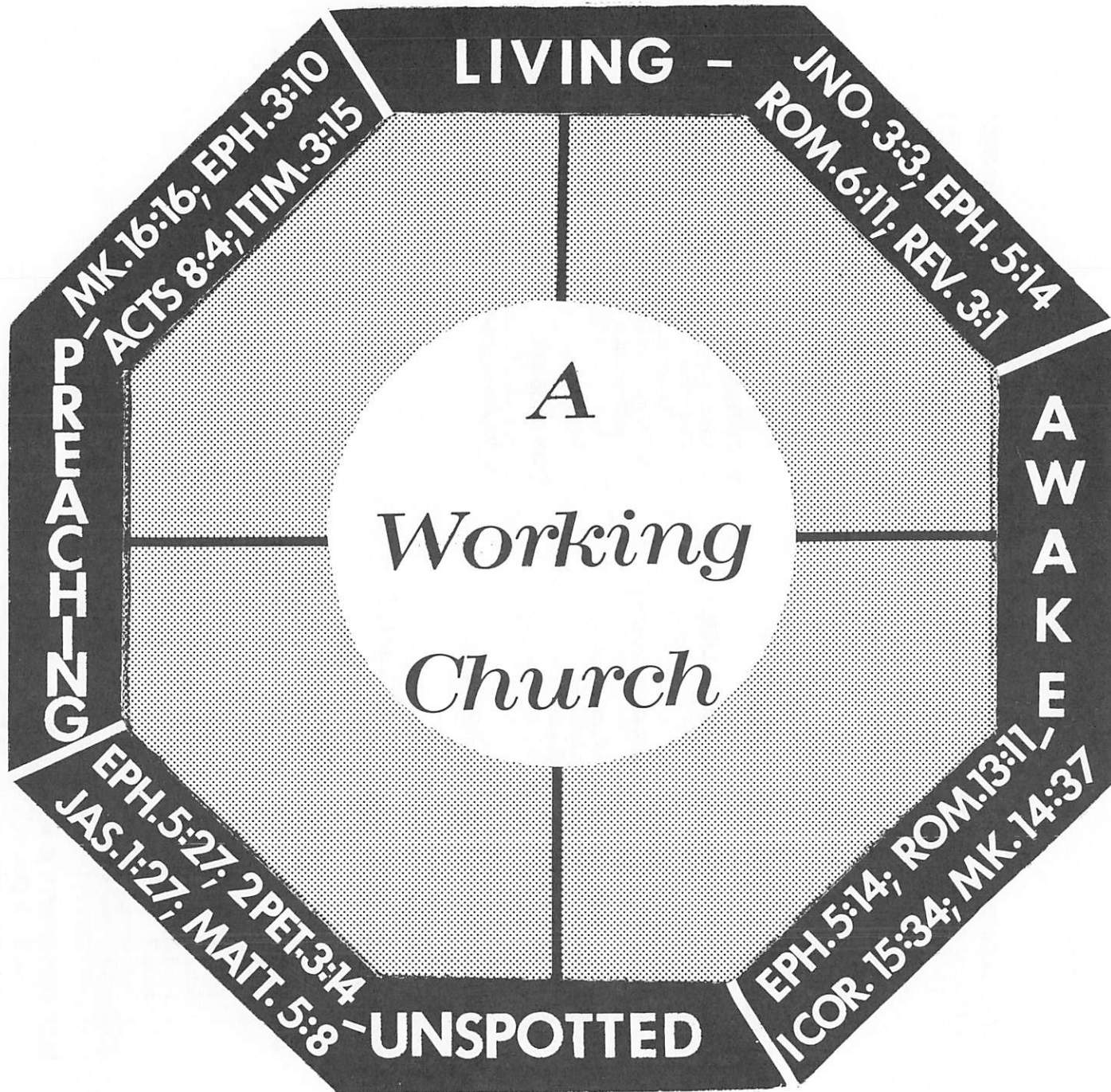
- A. Must be light (Matthew 5:14; John 8:12).
- B. Shine as lights of the world (Philippians 2:15).
 - 1. This is a natural light—not blinding or too weak.
- C. Many cover their lights. (Give examples how this happens.)

V. CHRISTIANITY IS A HAPPY LIFE.

- A. Must love life (1 Peter 3:10).
- B. God wants His children happy—even when sad.
 - 1. "Rejoice with them that do rejoice . . ."
- C. Too much unhappiness is a symptom that one has heart trouble (example: temperature).
- D. Get busy as a Christian and happiness will come after you.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Are you a Christian in these ways described?
- B. Would you consider obedience today?



A WORKING CHURCH

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Want to speak on the subject "A Working Church."
- B. Jesus said, "I must work the works of Him that sent me" (John 9:4).
- C. Not only did Jesus work, but he wanted His church to work.
 - 1. Example: All seven churches of Asia—"I know thy works."
- D. This is the only kind of church that pleases the Lord.
- E. Two purposes of this lesson:
 - 1. To show you the Lord's church must be a working church.
 - 2. To encourage you to work.
- F. May we now look at what is involved in a working church?

I. A LIVING CHURCH.

- A. The Lord's church is alive because made only of those born again (John 3:3).
 - 1. Can't enter Kingdom without new birth, new life.
- B. Can work only if we have life.
 - 1. Example: Roman man dead—"There must be something missing inside."
 - 2. Church compared to human body (example: arm paralyzed).
- C. The dead have no light.
 - 1. "Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light" (Ephesians 5:14).
 - 2. Light will not reflect from those spiritually dead in darkness.
- D. Christians are dead only to sin—alive unto God.
 - 1. "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:11).
- E. Christ condemned a dead church at Sardis.
 - 1. Had a name for life, but dead (Revelation 3:1).
 - 2. Example: Car without engine.
- F. One way to test if a church is working—"Is it alive?"

II. A CHURCH THAT IS AWAKE.

- A. Paul compares those sleeping to being dead—"Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead" (Ephesians 5:14).
- B. When sleeping, only essential organs functioning.
 - 1. Closest to death while sleeping—so it is spiritually!
- C. Can't work for the Lord while asleep.
 - 1. "And that knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed" (Romans 13:11).

- 2. "Awake to righteousness, and sin not" (1 Corinthians 15:34).

- D. Sleep kept Peter, James, and John from watching.
 - 1. "Coudest thou not watch one hour?" (Mark 14:37).
- E. Brethren, we need to wake up.
 - 1. We have been "asleep in Jesus" too long.
 - 2. If we sleep, we'll lose the spiritual harvest.

III. AN UNSPOTTED CHURCH.

- A. In spite of modern thinking, the church must be kept pure.
- B. If church is like world—no growth—people say, "Why enter?"
- C. An unspotted church is the only kind accepted by the Lord.
 - 1. "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:27).
- D. When members keep the church pure, they will respect it and work in it.
- E. Each individual must contribute one pure life.
 - 1. "Seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found in him in peace, without spot and blameless" (2 Peter 3:14).
 - 2. "Pure religion . . . keep oneself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27).
 - 3. Only the pure in heart will see God (Matthew 5:8).
- F. Our work would fail if lives impure (bad influence).

IV. A PREACHING CHURCH.

- A. The New Testament church was a preaching church.
 - 1. Reason: Jesus taught it—Mark 16:15,16 (mankind's greatest assignment).
 - 2. Required many hours of work.
- B. A preaching church is God's way of making known His wisdom.
 - 1. "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God" (Ephesians 3:10).
- C. It is also an individual responsibility.
 - 1. "Went everywhere preaching the Word" (Acts 8:4).
- D. The church is the "pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15).

CONCLUSION.

- A. Are you a part of a working church?
- B. Would you be added today?

STRENGTH OF THE CHURCH

It Is Not:

A Membership:

Large Numbers
JUD. 7:4

Wealth
REV. 3:17

Super Organization
TITUS 1:5

Taught In Word
HOS. 4:6

United
PROV. 6:9

Devoted
MAT. 6:33

Working & Vision
GAL. 5:6

STRENGTH OF THE CHURCH

INTRODUCTION.

- A. It is the Lord's wish that His church be strong.
 - 1. Daniel 2:44.
 - 2. Matthew 13:31,32.
- B. God-given principles must be applied for strength.
 - 1. May some of these be noted?

I. IT IS NOT IN LARGE NUMBERS.

- A. Numbers are important—represent souls.
 - 1. Should work for more conversions.
- B. Numbers by themselves will not give strength.
- C. Relate how God used small number with Gideon (Judges 7).
- D. Small group dedicated plus God equals power.
 - 1. Example: In the first century, small group preached gospel to whole world.

II. IT IS NOT WEALTH.

- A. Wealth can be a helpful tool.
 - 1. However, church may have money, but weak.
- B. Example: Church at Laodicea.
 - 1. Revelation 3:17.
- C. Sometimes wealth hinders growth.
 - 1. "Strings attached giving."
 - 2. Quarreling over money, etc.
 - 3. Disagreement how elders use money.
- D. Love of money is root of all evil.

III. IT IS NOT A SUPER ORGANIZATION.

- A. Some religions have worldwide organization.
 - 1. Organize themselves weak.
- B. God's organization simple for each congregation.
 - 1. Titus 1:5.
- C. Weakness comes when one goes beyond this.

IV. A MEMBERSHIP TAUGHT IN THE WORD.

- A. This is where strength begins.
 - 1. God relates how to be strong.
- B. Destruction and weakness without knowledge.
 - 1. Hosea 4:6.
- C. Without the Word, walking in darkness.
- D. Strong faith makes strong churches.
 - 1. Romans 10:17.
- E. Word is all one needs (2 Timothy 3:16,17).
 - 1. God approves (2 Timothy 2:15).

V. A MEMBERSHIP UNITED.

- A. There is strength in unity.
- B. Most powerful thing—Godhead—united.
- C. Unity is accomplished by teamwork.
 - 1. All going in the same direction.
- D. The Lord wants unity (Ephesians 4:3-6; 1 Corinthians 1:10).
- E. Much work made easy by many hands.

VI. A MEMBERSHIP DEVOTED.

- A. Many failures because heart is not into work.
- B. Even error grows from those devoted.
 - 1. This is God's way for truth to be spread.
- C. Early Christians were devoted to Christ and His church.
 - 1. Acts 4:34-37.
 - 2. Acts 8:4.

VII. A MEMBERSHIP WORKING WITH VISION.

- A. There is strength in growth.
 - 1. Growth is not possible without work and vision.
- B. Jesus accomplished His earthly task with months of planning and work.
- C. Must not sit back for growth.
 - 1. A church will lose ground.
- D. "Must plan the work and work the plan."
- E. Must put our faith to work in love.
 - 1. Galatians 5:6.
- F. Many don't plan to become strong, so they don't.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Need strong churches to fight the devil.
- B. Are you helping the church to be strong?
- C. Are you on the Lord's team serving?

CHALLENGES

MUST BE:

CHALLENGED

A GOOD CHALLENGE

CARRIED OUT



CHALLENGES

1. BE FAITHFUL

Gal. 6:9

2. BE INTERESTED IN SOULS

Acts 8:4

3. BE GOOD STEWARDS

1 Cor. 4:1-2

CHALLENGES

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Relate Nehemiah and how nothing stopped him from successfully meeting his challenge. Enemies:
 - 1. Mocked.
 - 2. Warred.
 - 3. Compromise.
- B. Three things important in regard to being challenged:
 - 1. Must be challenged.
 - 2. Must be a good challenge.
 - 3. Must be carried out.

I. MUST BE CHALLENGED.

- A. May have largest congregation, but if not challenged, very little done, becomes small.
- B. Jesus greatest leader of mankind—challenged His disciples.
 - 1. Challenged to bear fruit (John 15:1-6).
 - 2. Challenged them to follow Him by denying self (Matthew 16:24).
 - 3. Challenged to preach to whole world—every creature (Mark 16:15,16).
 - 4. Challenged seven churches to get right and do right (Revelation 2 and 3).

II. THERE MUST BE A GOOD CHALLENGE.

- A. Not enough just to be challenged—must be for right purpose.
 - 1. Example: Man breaking a zebra to plow. Why?
 - 2. Example: Breaking record longest without food. Why?
- B. Challenge must be noble in purpose.
- C. Greatest challenges are spiritual—extend into eternity.
 - 1. All earthly challenges will pass away at death—end of time.
 - 2. Jesus taught, "What is a man profited . . ." (Matthew 16:26).

III. MUST BE CARRIED OUT.

- A. Elders can make the greatest challenges, but will fail if not carried out.
- B. Therefore, I want to present challenges for us in 19_____, based on these three rules.

IV. CHALLENGE NUMBER ONE (Galatians 6:9).

- A. Be faithful to the church in 19_____!
 - 1. Are you faithful to the church? You know—even if you put up a front!
 - 2. Do you attend every possible service? You know!
 - 3. Did you participate in the work of the church last year, or did you give excuses?

- 4. Did you fail to visit either on or off of a team (James 1:27)?
- 5. Did you refuse responsibility when work was announced?
- B. I challenge you to be faithful in 19_____.
 - 1. You develop a reputation of faithfulness or unfaithfulness (within yourself, within congregation, with God).

V. TO BE MORE INTERESTED IN LOST SOULS.

- A. Look for ways to share Christ (Acts 8:4).
 - 1. Support mission work of the church (give, pray, write letters, send cards).
 - 2. Talk to and invite friends to worship.
 - 3. Use telephone (encourage weak brethren).
 - 4. Give out tracts.
 - 5. Look for special studies (examples: filmstrips, open Bible study, charts, etc.).
- B. Millions have given up on religion because of doctrine of men.
 - 1. Show them New Testament Christianity.

VI. BE GOOD STEWARDS OF GOD (1 Corinthians 4:1,2).

- A. We really own nothing—we are using it for God!
 - 1. Believe that many don't understand stewardship.
 - 2. Example: Feel \$1, \$5, \$10, etc., in plate—rest MINE (must use properly; must give account).
- B. Therefore, challenge you to:
 - 1. Purpose from a cheerful heart (2 Corinthians 9:7).
 - 2. Sacrifice by raising your giving.
 - 3. Give faithfully (52 Sundays).
 - 4. Give as you have been prospered (1 Corinthians 16:1,2).
- C. Follow Christ's rule.
 - 1. Matthew 6:33.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Be faithful—be interested in souls—be good stewards.
 - 1. Is a challenge—is a good challenge—needs carried out!
- B. If not Christian, your greatest challenge is to obey gospel. If erring child of God, greatest challenge is repent and pray.

SOMEONE

IS COMING

GEN. 3:15; HEB. 7:14

IS HERE

MT. 11:5-7; 28:6

IS ASCENDING

ACTS 1:9

IS REIGNING

LK. 1:32-33; JN. 18:37

IS COMING

HEB. 9:27, 28; 1 THES. 4:13, 16

AGAIN

SOMEONE

INTRODUCTION.

- A. A subject should keep before minds all time—Jesus.
- B. Many ways to approach it.
 - 1. Today, want to use a common word—SOMEONE!
 - 2. Let's take this word and apply it throughout the Bible.

I. SOMEONE IS COMING.

- A. First announcement made after sin introduced.
 - 1. Genesis 3:15.
- B. Wickedness before the flood great.
 - 1. Noah after flood offered a sacrifice.
 - 2. Needed someone to come.
- C. God called Abraham from Ur of Chaldees.
 - 1. Gave him Isaac.
 - 2. Isaac had Jacob and Esau.
 - 3. Jacob got a special blessing (also ladder).
 - 4. Jacob had 12 sons.
- D. Promised through one son—Judah.
 - 1. Hebrews 7:14.
 - 2. Someone is coming.
- E. Forerunner prophesied—like Elijah.
 - 1. Again, someone is coming.

II. SOMEONE IS HERE.

- A. Tell story of baby Jesus.
- B. John the Baptist came on the scene.
 - 1. "Behold the Lamb of God."
- C. Jesus taught about His coming Kingdom.
 - 1. Matthew 13.
- D. Performed miracles to confirm His words.
 - 1. Matthew 11:5-7.
- E. Died on the cross—buried in the tomb.
- F. Raised to victory.
 - 1. Matthew 28:6.

III. SOMEONE IS ASCENDED.

- A. Paint the beautiful pictures of His ascension.
 - 1. Luke 24:50,51.
- B. The apostles saw Him ascend.
 - 1. Acts 1:9.

IV. SOMEONE IS REIGNING.

- A. Gabriel promised Mary.
 - 1. Luke 1:32,33.
- B. Ascended to reign as king.
 - 1. John 18:37.

V. SOMEONE IS COMING AGAIN.

- A. Shall appear a second time.
 - 1. Hebrews 9:27,28.
- B. Will come and bring those in Jesus.
 - 1. 1 Thessalonians 4:13,14.
- C. Will come with a shout to raise the dead.
 - 1. 1 Thessalonians 4:15,16.

CONCLUSION.

- A. What does this "Someone" mean to you?
- B. Have you come to Him in obedience?
- C. Is your life right with God?

Charts and Sermons For Overhead Projectors

About the Author

Benny Bristow is a preacher and evangelist for the Church of Christ. He has authored two other Quality books, *Ten Commandments for Wives* and *Ten Commandments for Husbands*. Bristow also has written several articles for *Christian Bible Teacher* magazine.

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With an almost endless array of topics, this unique book offers preachers sermon outlines and illustrations for use with overhead projectors. Both new and veteran preachers can gain valuable ideas and lessons from Bristow's insight and organization. Topics covered in the book include leadership, morality, God's Word, heaven, ethics, Christian liberty, and many more.

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QUALITY PUBLICATIONS

P.O. BOX 1060

ABILENE, TEXAS 79604

(915) 677-6262

ISBN: 0-89137-622-4