

A CHILD OF THE KING

And Other Sermon Outlines

by John Wadley

Published by

J. C. CHOATE PUBLICATIONS

Burton Drive

Winona, Mississippi 38967

U. S. A.

1978

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Winona, Mississippi 38967

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DEDICATION

To the faithful Christians of the Karns Church of Christ with whom I have labored for eight happy years and to whom all of these lessons were presented. May God bless our work together with peace and unity in the years to come as He has in the past.

—*John Waddey*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John Waddey was born in Nashville, Tennessee in 1938. He was baptized by George Prosser in 1955. Parker French encouraged him to become an evangelist. One year after his conversion he preached his first sermon at the Blackmon congregation near Murfreesboro, Tennessee. He is married to the former Reba Duncan and is the father of three daughters, Lourene, Lesia and Rebecca.

His schooling was received at the College of Evangelists and Itawamba Junior College. Much of his education was gained from his own study and experience. In his nineteen years of preaching, Brother Waddey has served churches in Mississippi, Colorado and Tennessee. Evangelistic work has carried him into fourteen other states. He has made eight overseas trips, visiting mission works in thirteen countries. He has done evangelistic work in seven foreign nations.

Since 1968 John Waddey has worked with the Karns congregation of Knoxville, Tennessee. Each year that church hosts a World Mission Workshop. He has planned and directed that program since 1968.

Each year he conducts several revival meetings. He is an officer of the Teenage Christian Camp. He has engaged in three public debates.

For eleven years Brother Waddey conducted a weekly radio broadcast. For several years he wrote a weekly newspaper column. Through the *Rocky Mountain News* of Denver, Colorado, over 50 million copies of his lessons have been circulated. His articles are carried in the Firm

Foundation, Gospel Advocate, Words of Truth, Christian Echo, Gospel Vidette, Gospel Light, World Evangelist, and other brotherhood papers.

In 1970 he assisted the Karns elders in establishing the East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions and continues to serve as a teacher in it.

This is the tenth book Brother Waddey has authored. See the list on the following page.

OTHER BOOKS BY THE AUTHOR

Searching the Scriptures, newspaper and radio sermons
(cloth)

Christianity vs. Liberalism (cloth)

The Great Commission and You, suitable for classes or
sermons (paper)

Sermons on Saints and Sinners, outlines on Bible
Characters (paper)

Growing in Grace and Knowledge, outlined studies on
basic Bible doctrine (paper)

The Anatomy of Sin, full text sermons (cloth)

An Outlined Introduction to the Bible, Vol. I
Genesis-Esther (cloth)

Preaching to Preachers

Liberalism, The Deadly Enemy of the Church

INTRODUCTION

Personally, I am fascinated by Sermon Outlines. It is so interesting to see the many lessons that can be gotten from one text. The material may be as broad and as varied as the ones who outlined them.

In a series of outlines you'll usually find several of the old themes along with a number of new titles, but in both cases the author strives to make them new and fresh while adhering to Bible principles all the way.

For example, I like the outlines in this book. John Waddey has done his usual good job of discussing timely subjects and backing them up with an abundance of scripture references. They are the kind that you can get your teeth into. I would think that they will become very popular.

May I commend this book to you with the suggestion that you study these sermons, re-work them, preach them, and make them your own. As you do so may you find them to be helpful, challenging, and productive.

—*J. C. Choate*
Winona, Mississippi
December 3, 1975

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PREFACE

The author knows no greater joy than to study and proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ. For nineteen years he has devoted himself to this sacred task. Through those years hundreds of lessons have been prepared and delivered. Although a preacher may use a sermon many times during his career, if it is a good lesson it should be made available for wider circulation. Young preachers especially can profit from the outlines of older preachers. Brethren who are not preachers are sometimes called upon to present a lesson and need some help in the preparation. Often a Bible class teacher needs materials to supplement his or her class material. Even an experienced preacher often needs fresh ideas or sermon starters to help him continue to produce stimulating and interesting lessons for the congregation.

This little book of 52 sermon outlines is sent forth with the prayer that it will help those mentioned above and be a blessing to many. It is not intended as a crutch for lazy preachers who do not study. May all who use it study as the author did in the preparation of them.

I am indebted to Ron and Jane Edlin, faithful Christians, who prepared the manuscript. Also appreciation is expressed to my brother in Christ, J. C. Choate, who has generously made all of my books available to the public. I could not close without stating my gratitude to the thousands of preachers and Bible scholars living and dead who made their wisdom available to me by recording their knowledge in written form. I claim no originality in the

thoughts of these lessons for all I know I learned from others. Perhaps there is some originality in the arrangement and wording of them.

—*John Wadley*
Rt. No. 22, Weaver Road
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Why CHRIST Came To Our Earth

John 1:1-3, 14

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The greatest event in history was that which occurred when Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, invaded the planet earth and firmly established his claim upon it and its citizens and securely established His kingdom.
 - B. In the record of his life and teaching we find a four-fold statement of purpose for his coming:
 - 1. To reveal the Father,
 - 2. To put away sin,
 - 3. To destroy the works of the devil,
 - 4. To establish the kingdom of God on earth.
 - C. Christ was in conflict with all that was contrary to the purposes of God in individual, social, national and racial life.
- I. Jesus Declared His Purpose to *Reveal the Father*.
- A. John 1:18
 - B. John 14:9
 - 1. Read John 14:1-10
 - 2. Philip was voicing the great desire of every human heart, "Show us the Father."
 - C. The term "Father" implies tenderness, law, discipline. A familiar, intimate relationship.
 - 1. Psalm 103:13-14
 - 2. If the world has not come to God through Christ, it is because the world has not yet seen him . . . The Blame rests upon us!

- D. Christ's life and message wins submission of the reason, appeals to the love of the heart, demands surrender of the will.
- II. To Take Away Sin.
- A. 1 John 3:5
 - B. Matthew 1:21; John 1:29
 - C. 2 Cor. 5:21, The method
 - 1. Heb. 9:26
 - 2. Is. 53:4-12
- III. To Destroy the Works of the Devil, 1 John 3:8
- A. What Are the Works of the Devil?
 - 1. To alienate men from God — to corrupt,
 - 2. To disrupt the will of God in the world,
 - 3. To hold every creature in the grip of death.
 - B. What Does Destroy Mean?
 - 1. "to dissolve, to loosen"
 - 2. Through Christ the works of Satan would be dissolved — lose their consistency
 - a. He destroyed death by the gift of eternal life, John 10:10.
 - b. He destroyed darkness by bringing light, John 12:46.
 - c. He destroyed hate by bringing love.
 - d. He destroyed lawlessness by the gift of Law.
 - C. Luke 10:18
 - 1. Acts 26:14-18
 - 2. Heb. 2:14
 - 3. Luke 11:20
- IV. To Establish His Kingdom
- A. Matthew 16:16-18
 - B. John 18:36-37

- C. Lk. 11:20
- D. Col. 1:12-14

CONCLUSION:

- A. He shall come again for judgment,
Matt. 25:31-32.

THE DIVINITY OF JESUS

Matt. 16:16-18

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Christian religion is founded upon the Divinity of Jesus.
 - 1. If it can be proven that Jesus was not a Divine person, then Christianity and all it stands for is a fraud and it can be easily overthrown and destroyed.
 - 2. Knowing this, Satan and his henchmen have worked unceasingly through the ages to prove him only an ordinary man . . . a created being.

I. Jesus is a Divine Person.

- A. His Birth Marks His Divinity.
 - 1. Is. 7:14, "a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."
 - 2. Luke 1:30-35.
- B. His Sinless Life proves Him Spiritual.
 - 1. I Pet. 2:21.
 - 2. Jno. 8:46 "Which of you convicteth me of sin?"
 - 3. Judas, Matt. 27:4 "innocent blood"
 - 4. Jno. 18:38 Pilate, "I find no crime in this man."
- C. His Manner and the Matter of His Speech spell Divineness.
 - 1. Matt. 5:38, "But I say unto you . . ."
 - a. He was conscious of his authority.
 - 2. John 5:22-23.

3. Matt. 28:18, "all authority."
 4. Matt. 7:29, "he taught them as one having authority and not as scribes . . ."
- D. Jesus Claimed Divinity.
1. John 5:18, "called God his own Father, making himself equal with . . ."
 2. Mark 14:61-62, "Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? and Jesus said I am."
- E. Only a Divine Person could do the Works that Jesus did.
1. John 3:2, "no one can do these signs that thou doest except God be with him."
Nicodemus.
 2. John 20:30-31 (Name a few miracles.)
 3. Would the Father have given such power to an imposter?
- F. Many Witnesses Testified of Him.
1. John the Baptist, John 1:29.
 2. The Father, Matt. 17:5.
 3. The Apostles, Matt. 16:13-16.
 4. His enemies, Matt. 27:54.
- G. The Elements bore Witness at His Death.
Matt. 27:45; the Sun. Matt. 27:51; the earth.
- H. His Resurrection proves beyond doubt His Majesty.
1. Rom. 1:4.
 2. Acts 17:30-31.
- II. Jesus is God . . . as is the Father and Holy Spirit.
- A. The Word of God. John 1:1-3; 14
 - B. His Eternal Existence, Micah 5:2.
 - C. I Am, Ex. 3:14 John 8:58.
 - D. His Equality with the Father, Phil. 2:5.
 - E. In him dwelleth the fullness of the Godhead bodily, Col. 2:9.

- F. He has all authority, Matt. 28:18.
 - G. He stands with the Father and Holy Spirit in relation to Christians and aliens.
 - H. Rom. 9:5.
 - I. Titus 2:13.
 - J. Heb. 1:8.
 - K. Isa. 9:6.
 - L. Rev. 1:1, 8, 17-18.
 - M. Jno. 20:28.
- III. In becoming man, Jesus became less than and subject to the Father.
- A. Phil. 2:5.
 John 14:28, "My Father is greater than I."
 In becoming a Son:
 1. In his fleshly body, Jesus was limited.
 2. In being subject to man emotions.
 3. In being subject to death.
 4. In being subject to temptation.
- IV. Every Soul Must Worship and Obey Jesus.
- A. Heb. 1:6, "let all the angels of God worship him."
 - B. Phil. 2:9-10.
 - C. Rev. 5:9-14.

CONCLUSION:

- A. When Jesus your Lord returns, will you be prepared to meet Him?
- B. Will you hail Him with Joy and praise or will you cry for the mountains to cover you from the impending wrath you have earned because of sin?
- C. Worship Him Obey Him Let Him Save you.

THE LORD ENGAGED IN CONTROVERSY

Matthew 22:46

“And no one was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.”

INTRODUCTION:

- A. In realization of the weakness of their theories, many declare religious debating to be wrong.
 - B. Perhaps they are cowardly, or just too lazy to prepare for the task.
 - C. Even many of our brethren say this!
 - 1. Do we fear our position?
 - 2. Do we crave the fellowship and endorsement of the sects?
 - 3. Are we ashamed of the truth?
 - D. This is especially tragic when we remember the role that religious controversy played in the history of the Restoration.
 - E. CHRIST is our EXAMPLE.
Consider HIS THINKING on this line,
1 Cor. 11:1.
- I. MATTHEW 22:15-22, “Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar?”
- A. Adversaries, Herodians, prompted by Pharisees.
 - B. Jesus, “Why make ye trial of me ye hypocrites?”
 - 1. Show me the tribute money.
 - 2. Whose is the image and superscription?
 - 3. Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar’s.

4. When they heard it, they marvelled and left him, and went away.

II. MATTHEW 22:23-33, "The woman of 7 husbands."

- A. Sadducees were Adversaries.
- B. "In the resurrection, whose wife shall she be?"
- C. "Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures or the power of God."
 1. "In the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are as angels in heaven."
 2. As touching the Resurrection . . .
 - a. Ex. 3:6, "I am the God of Abraham..."
 - b. "God is not the God of the dead, but the living."
 - c. Conclusion: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob still live.
- D. They were astonished at his teaching.

III. MATTHEW 22:34-40, Which Is the GREAT COMMANDMENTS?

- A. Pharisees, the adversaries.
 1. The Jews lived under some 600 laws.
 - a. Realizing that they could not keep all, they sought to keep the greatest ones or one.
 2. Some claimed circumcision, others fasting, others washings, tithing, the Sabbath.
- B. Christ's Answer:
 1. Deut. 6:5 "love the Lord thy God . . ."
 2. Lev. 19:18 "Love thy neighbor as self."
- C. Lk. 10:25 "Who is my neighbor?"

IV. MATTHEW 22:41-46 "What Think Ye of Christ? whose Son is He?"

- A. The Pharisees . . .

- B. They said, "The son of David."
- C. Jesus, "Then how doth David, in the spirit call him Lord?" Ps. 110:1.
- D. "If David called him Lord, how is he his son?"
- E. And no one was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions."

V. LUKE 20:1-4 "By What Authority Doest Thou These Things?"

- A. Adversaries . . . chief priests and elders.
- B. Jesus, "I will ask you a question: and tell me: the baptism of John, was it from heaven or from men?"
- C. They reasoned among themselves . . .
 - 1. If we say from heaven, he will say, "Why did you not believe?"
 - 2. If we say from men, all the people will stone us.
 - 3. They answered, We know not.
- D. Jesus, "Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things."

VI. JOHN 8:31-59.

- A. Whose children are ye?
 - 1. Jews said, Abraham was their father.
 - 2. Jesus said, the Devil is your father.
 - 3. Jesus claimed God for His Father.
 - 4. They took up stones to kill him.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Solomon said, "Debate thy cause with thy neighbor himself." Prov. 25:9.
- B. Jesus was the greatest controversialist that ever lived. He showed us that truth has nothing to

fear rather, like a gem, the more it is rubbed, the greater its gleam. Let us contend earnestly for the faith. Jude 3.

B. Examples:

1. Tolbert Fanning — in 1842 in Columbus, Miss. A Presbyterian, Mr. Lyons. A debate followed by a meeting; 80 baptized. A church established.
2. Fanning and Edward McMillan, Moulton, Ala. Debate by day, a meeting by night, 50 baptized including the Supreme Judge, Mr. Ligon, of Alabama.

THE ESSENCE OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Matthew 9:35-38

INTRODUCTION:

- A. In the 3½ brief years of his earthly ministry, Jesus was constantly engaged in “being about His Father’s business”.
 - B. We Christians and the whole of us as the church will be truly His disciples when we imitate Him in every moment of our life.
 - C. His life and work can be summed up in the verse read —
 - 1. He went about:
 - a. “teaching in their synagogues”
 - b. “preaching the gospel of the kingdom”
 - c. “healing all manner of disease and sickness”
- I. His Work is an Example for that of the Church, vs. 35.
- A. Teaching — Edifying)
 - B. Preaching — Evangelizing) Eph. 4:11-13
 - C. Healing — Benevolence)
- II. He Had Compassion
- A. “to be moved with compassion, to yearn with compassion toward those who suffer.”
 - 1. “to have pity, a feeling of distress through the ills of others.”
 - B. Things that moved Jesus to Compassion:
 - 1. The World’s *Pain*,

- a. Matthew 14:14.
- b. Matthew 20:29-34.
- 2. The World's *Sorrow*,
 - a. Lk. 7:11-13.
- 3. The World's *Hunger*,
 - a. Matthew 15:32.
- 4. The World's *Loneliness*,
 - a. Mk. 1:41.
- 5. The World's *Bewilderment*,
 - a. Matt. 9:36.
 - 1. "because they were distressed and scattered as sheep not having a shepherd."
- C. The World as Sheep MUST have shepherds:
 - 1. to lead in the right paths,
 - 2. to protect,
 - 3. to provide.
 - 4. This is our challenge.

III. The Harvest indeed is plenteous — vs. 37.

- A. Note the analogy of the grain fields ready for harvest — a great harvest.
- B. If this were true of that multitude, what of the 3½ billion souls of today?
- C. The sad story is yet the same, "The laborers are few".

IV. Pray ye that Lord of harvest, that He send forth laborers into His harvest", vs. 38.

- A. Prayer is the solution.
- B. Reapers must volunteer, Isa. 6:8.
- C. We Must send them, Rom. 10:14-15.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Jesus went about *ALL* the cities and the villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the

gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of disease and all manner of sickness.”

B. Let us follow his example.

Then we will truly be His disciples **INDEED** fit to wear the holy name **Christian**.

THE ATTRACTION OF THE AGES*

John 3:14-15

John 12:32

“I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto myself”. These marvelous words are filled with the unlimitable love Christ has for the world and hold the theme of our study, *Christ is the Attraction of the Ages*.

I. The Spectacular Works of Men and Nature Attract Multitudes.

A. The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World:

1. Colossus of Rhodes
2. Hanging Gardens of Babylon
3. Lighthouse of Alexandria
4. Mausoleum at Halicarnassus
(for Mausolus, prince of Caria)
5. Pyramids of Egypt
6. Statue of Zeus at Olympia
7. Temple of Diana in Ephesus

B. The Wonders of U. S. A.:

1. Skyscrapers
2. Lincoln's tomb
3. Mississippi River
4. Niagra Falls
5. Rocky Mountains
6. Mighty Oceans
7. Burning Deserts

C. But the works of men decay and crumble with the ages, many are lost.

D. The works of Nature attract but do not satisfy

*From a lesson in *The Minister's Monthly*.

. . . and even they will some day pass away, consumed by fire.

II. Jesus Is The Attraction of the Ages.

A. Not Because of Ancestral, Political, Financial, or Social Prestige.

1. His immediate ancestors were of lowly heritage.
2. He had no political aspirations and refused to be made a King. Jno. 6:15; John 18:36.
3. His social standing was precarious once his mission was made known. The aristocratic Pharisees and the materialistic Sadducees ostracized him because he exposed them and their schemes.
4. Is. 53:1-3, His attraction was not in physical beauty.
5. Yet thousands of common people were drawn to him and feasted upon the words that fell from his lips. Matt. 7:28-29; 5,000, Mk. 6:44.
6. A son of a lowly carpenter from despised Nazareth, no room for him in the inn, born in a stable with only the stock and his parents to see and hear . . . with no money for a lamb for the sacrifice, his mother brought a pair of pigeons and a pair of doves. With no place to lay his head, and naught to pay the tax, with only the clothes on his back . . . he was denied justice and crucified as a common thief.
7. 2 Cor. 8:9, "though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

III. Jesus and the Scriptures:

A. In Genesis he is Creator and Seed of the Women.

- B. In Exodus he is the Lamb of God for sinners slain.
- C. In Numbers he is the Star of Jacob.
- D. In Deuteronomy he is the Prophet like Moses.
- E. In Joshua he is the Captain of the Lord's Hosts.
- F. In Judges he is the Messenger of Jehovah.
- G. In Ruth he is our Kinsman Redeemer.
- H. In Samuel he is the Despised and Rejected King.
- I. In Kings and Chronicles he is the Lord of lords and King of kings.
- J. In Ezra and Nehemiah he is Lord of heaven and earth.
- K. In Job he is our Risen and Returning Redeemer.
- L. In Psalms he is the Blessed Man, the Son of God, the Coming One, the Reigning One, the Leader of Praise.
- M. In Proverbs he is our Wisdom.
- N. In Ecclesiastes he is the Forgotten Wise Man.
- O. In Song of Solomon he is my Beloved.
- P. In Isaiah he is our Suffering Substitute.
- Q. In Jeremiah he is the Lord of Righteousness.
- R. In Lamentations he is the Man of Sorrows.
- S. In Ezekiel he is the Throne Sitter.
- T. In Daniel he is the Smiting Stone.
- U. In Hosea he is the David's Greater King.
- V. In Joel he is the Lord of Bounty.
- W. In Amos he is the Rescuer of Israel.
- X. In Obadiah he is the Deliverer upon Mt. Zion.
- Y. In Jonah he is the Buried and Risen Saviour.
- Z. In Micah he is the Everlasting God.
- AA. In Nahum he is our Stronghold in the Day of Wrath.
- BB. In Habakkuk he is the Anchor of our Faith.
- CC. In Zephaniah he is the Judge and Cleanser.
- DD. In Haggai he is the Lord of Presence and Power.
- EE. In Zechariah he is the Smitten Shepherd.

- FF. In Malachi he is the Son of Righteousness.
 GG. In Matthew he is the King of Jews.
 HH. In Mark he is the Servant of Jehovah.
 II. In Luke he is the Perfect Son of Man.
 JJ. In John he is the Son of God.
 KK. In Acts he is the Ascended Lord.
 LL. In Romans he is our Righteousness.
 MM. In 1 Cor. he is the Firstfruits of the dead.
 NN. In 2 Cor. he is made Sin-offering for us.
 OO. In Galatians he is the End of the Law.
 PP. In Ephesians he is our Armour.
 QQ. In Philippians he is the Supplier of Every Need.
 RR. In Colossians he is the Pre-eminent One.
 SS. In 1 Thess. he is our Returning Lord.
 TT. In 2 Thess. he is the World's Merciful Judge.
 UU. In 1 Timothy he is the Mediator.
 VV. In 2 Timothy he is the Bestower of Crowns.
 WW. In Titus he is our Great God and Saviour.
 XX. In Philemon he is the Father's Partner.
 YY. In Hebrews he is the Rest of Faith and
 Fulfiller of Types.
 ZZ. In James he is the Lord of Sabaoth.
 AAA. In 1 Peter he is the Theme of Old Testament
 Prophecy.
 BBB. In 2 Peter he is the Long Suffering Saviour.
 CCC. In 1 John he is the Word of Life.
 DDD. In 2 John he is the Target of Antichrist.
 EEE. In 3 John he is the Personification of Truth.
 FFF. In Jude he is the Believer's Hope.
 GGG. In Revelation he is the Lovable King and Lord.

IV. What Is Jesus To YOU???

To the Artist, he is One Altogether Lovely.

To the Astronomer, he is the Sun of Righteousness,
 the Bright and Morning Star.

To the Baker, he is the Living Bread.
To the Biologist, he is the Life.
To the Builder, he is the Sure Foundation.
To the Carpenter, he is the Door.
To the Doctor, he is the Great Physician.
To the Educator, he is the Great Teacher.
To the Engineer, he is the New and Living Way.
To the Farmer, he is the Sower and Lord of the
Harvest.
To the Florist, he is the Rose of Sharon and the
Lily of the Valley.
To the Geologist, he is the Rock of Ages.
To the Judge, he is the Righteous Judge.
To the Juror, he is the Faithful and True Witness.
To the Jeweler, he is the Pearl of Great Price.
To the Lawyer, he is the Counsellor, the Lawgiver,
the Advocate.
To the Newspaper man, he is the Good News of
Great joy.
To the Philosopher, he is the Wisdom of God.
To the Sculptor, he is the Living Stone.
To the Husbandman, he is the True Vine.
To the Thirsty Pilgrim, he is the Water of Life.
To Straying Sheep, he is the Good Shepherd.
To the Hopeless, he is our Hope.
To those torn with inner conflict, he is the Calmer
of the Stormy Waters.
To the Suffering, he is the Comforter.
To the Naughty, he is the Rebuker.
To Parents, he is the Son of Man.
To Children, he is an elder brother.
To the Seaman, he is the Master of the Stormy
Waters.
To the happy Christian, he is his All in All.

V. Why Is Jesus The Attraction of the Ages?

- A. Because in Him the Love of God for Mankind is completely revealed, Jn. 3:16.
"Nothing attracts like love and we see matchless love manifested in the gift of God's Son."
- B. Jesus is attractive because of the things he said, "Never a man so spake", John 7:46.
- C. He has an exclusive distribution of the Words of Life, John 6:68.
- D. Because of the things he did: Miracles, Dead raised, Seas calmed, Sick Healed.
- E. Because of His Actions towards others:
 - 1. He wept with the sorrowing.
 - 2. He rejoiced with the happy (wedding feast).
 - 3. Compassion upon the sick and suffering.
 - 4. He prayed for his enemies.
 - 5. He was completely selfless.
- F. Because of his life . . . *Sinless* Purity, Honesty, Sincerity, Humility, Wisdom, Dedication to Purpose, Blameless Character, Understanding, Strength, Divine Power, Fearless Bravery, Diligence, Unassumingness, Humanity, Love of right and abhorrence of evil, Love for the unlovely.

VI. How Can We Account For Such a Person?

- A. Only by confessing that Jesus is more than any man. He was Theanthropos.
- B. For 2,000 years Jesus has attracted millions of earthlings unto him. In every avenue of life, in every nation, the name of Jesus is breathed humility and honor.
- C. "One is never the same after having come in contact with Jesus. He so wonderfully magnetizes and charms every life with which he has to do that that life will always be different."

CONCLUSION:

Jesus, dear friend, is the Attraction of the Ages. It behooves us to accept his merciful invitation and him as Lord and Saviour. Won't you cast all at his feet and follow where he bids you go? Your life will be sweeter, richer, more loveable and useful when dedicated to Jesus Christ, the Attraction of the Ages. Believe Him and Obey Him today.

WHAT DOES THE CROSS TEACH?*

1 Cor. 1:18-25 - 2:1-2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The fact of a crucified and risen Savior is the very heart of Christianity.
 - B. It is the most significant fact in all of history.
 - C. All other events, important as they may be, are of little significance before the Cross.
 - D. The Cross is the Supreme Declaration of God to man.
- I. The Cross Declares *Man's Guilt*.
- A. Rom. 3:9-10.
 - B. Rom. 3:23.
 - C. Isaiah 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."
 - D. The Cross says to every person, "You have sinned — done wrong — you are guilty."
Otherwise there would be no need for the Cross.
- II. The Cross Declares *God's Righteousness*.
- A. Rom. 3:24-26.
 - B. The Cross says to every soul, "Something must be done about your guilt." If God could just have overlooked your sin, there would have been no need for the Cross!
- III. The Cross Declares *Man's Helplessness Without Divine Grace*.
- A. The Cross tells us we are guilty before God and

*From a lesson by Thomas B. Warren.

that something must be done if we are to be saved. If man could save himself, God would not have had to send Jesus to die for us.

- B. Gal. 3:21 "If there could have been a law given which could make alive, verily, righteousness would have been of the law."
- C. Rom. 3:20 "by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified in his sight."
- D. Isaiah 64:6.
- E. Eph. 2:8-9.
- F. The Cross says to every man, "You are helpless without God's grace to *save* you."

IV. The Cross Declares *God's Power to Save!*

- A. Rom. 1:16.
- B. 1 Cor. 15:1-4.
- C. Rom. 8:3.
- D. The Cross says to every person "God *can* do something about your guilt."

V. The Cross Declares *God's Gracious Offer.*

- A. Heb. 2:9.
- B. Titus 2:11.
- C. Matt. 11:28-30.
- D. The Cross says, "God *will* do something about your sin if you will respond to His offer."

VI. The Cross Declares *God's Love For Man.*

- A. John 3:16.
- B. Rom. 5:8.
- C. To every man the Cross says, "Because of God's Love for you Jesus died!"

VII. The Cross Declares *The Necessity of Man's Obedience.*

- A. Phil. 2:8 "He humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death."

- B. Heb. 5:8-9.
- C. 2 Thess. 1:7-9.
- D. The Cross says, "If you want the blessings of forgiveness and heaven, you must Obey the Lord."

VIII. The Cross Declares the *Necessity of Sacrificial Living.*

- A. Lk. 9:23 "take up his cross daily . . ."
- B. He suffered for Us to save Us.
We must deny ourselves some things in this life for His sake. We must be willing to endure suffering. 1 Pet. 4:16.
- C. The Cross says, "Reject yourself as King, and recognize Christ as King, and humbly follow him in a daily life of sacrifice for Him and for Neighbor."

IX. The Cross Declares The *Basis of Our Hope.*

- A. Titus 1:2.
- B. Mk. 10:29-30.
- C. 1 John 2:25.
- D. We do not yet have that for which we Hope. Rom. 8:24-25.
- E. It is only as man views his life and destiny in the background of the Cross of Christ that he can have any real Hope of Eternal Life.

CONCLUSION:

- A. The Cross of Christ is the supreme declaration of God to man.
 1. It is the Most IMPORTANT Message which man can hear.
 2. "He that hath ears, let him hear the message of Calvary."

WHAT THE RESURRECTION MEANT

INTRODUCTION:

“The resurrection of Christ may unhesitatingly be pronounced the best established fact in history.”

Edersheim.

“If we do not know that Jesus of Nazareth rose from the dead, we do not know anything historical whatsoever.”

- I. It Meant *the Deity of Christ was Established.*
 - A. Rom. 1:4.
 - B. John 10:17-18.
- II. It Meant *His Sacrifice Was Accepted.*
 - A. Heb. 9:26.
 - B. Heb. 10:12.
 - C. Heb. 9:12.
 - D. Rom. 4:25.
- III. It Meant *That Death Had Lost Its Sting.*
 - A. Job. 14:14.
 - B. 1 Cor. 15:20.
 - C. 1 Cor. 15:22.
 - D. 1 Cor. 15:55.
- IV. It means *We Serve a Living Christ.*
 - A. Phil. 3:10.
 - B. We Can Know the power of His resurrection.
 - C. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to enable us to live the Christian life. Rom. 8:11.
 - D. 2 Peter 1:4.

CONCLUSION:

The resurrection is the heart of Christianity. Without it we would be of all creatures, most pitiful. 1 Cor. 15:17-19.

THE ASCENSION AND CORONATION OF CHRIST*

INTRODUCTION:

- A. In any nation, no event is more important than the coronation of its king.
 - B. Nothing exceeds the coronation it's grandeur and splendor.
 - C. No expense is spared, plans are elaborately layed.
 - D. Every detail is carefully considered and rehearsed.
 - E. Today let us visualize the events of that day when Jesus was coronated king of heaven and earth.
- I. The Ascension.
- A. Acts 1:6-11.
 - B. Mark 16:19 "So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken unto them was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God."
- II. The Entrance into Heaven.
- A. Psalm 24:7-10.
- III. The Receiving of the Crown and Throne.
- A. Dan. 7:13-14.
 - B. Luke 19:12.
 - C. Heb. 1:1-9, the coronation scene.
 - D. Peter declared the fact of the coronation, Acts 2:29-36.

*From a sermon by Charles Huff.

IV. The Offices of Christ Upon His Throne.

A. King.

1. 1 Tim. 6:14-15.
2. Matt. 28:18.
 - a. Law maker, John 12:48.
 - b. Judge, 2 Cor. 5:10.
3. King of his kingdom, head of the church, Col. 1:18.

B. Prophet — the spokesman for God.

Acts 3:20-22.

1. Heb. 1:1.

C. High Priest.

1. Heb. 3:1.
2. Heb. 2:17.
3. Heb. 4:14-15.
4. Heb. 9:11-12, offers the atoning blood.
5. 1 Tim. 2:5, mediator.
6. All Christians are priests under Him.
 - a. 1 Peter 2:5-9.
7. We could not enjoy the privilege of being priests until He was crowned.

D. Judge, John 5:22.

V. The Duration of His Reign.

- A. 1 Cor. 15:24-26.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Are you a citizen of His kingdom today?
- B. Are you willing to comply with the terms of citizenship?

WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?

Matt. 22:42

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Every man when confronted by the Christ is forced to make a judgment concerning Him.
 - 1. Your destiny in eternity depends upon your present response to that question.
- I. His brothers did not believe on Him.
 - A. John 7:3-5.
- II. His friends (some of them) thought He was "beside himself."
 - A. Mk. 3:21.
- III. The Pharisees charged Him with having a demon—Beelzebub.
 - A. Mk. 3:22.
- IV. The capricious crowds viewed Him as a "free meal ticket."
 - A. John 6:26.
- V. The Highpriest and council thought He was a blasphemer.
 - A. Mk. 14:63-65.
 - 1. Either He told the truth; He was God's Son, or else He was truly a blasphemer.
- VI. Pilate judged Him an innocent victim of a vengeful crew — but only an unfortunate man.
 - A. John 19:6 "I find no crime in him."

VII. Herod — an object of ridicule and contempt.

A. Lk. 23:8-11.

VIII. Many devout people only thought of Him as John the Baptist, Jeremiah or some prophet.

A. Matt. 16:14 — as do Muslims today.

IX. The apostles knew Christ better than any man. To them He was “the Christ, the Son of God.”

A. Matt. 16:16.

B. John 20:28 “My Lord and my God.”

CONCLUSION:

A. What think ye of Christ?

1. Lk. 6:46 “Why call ye me Lord Lord and do not the things which I say?”

THE DAY THE CHURCH BEGAN

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Before the church was established on earth, certain preparations had to be made.
 - 1. The *Promise*, Matthew 16:18.
 - 2. The *Purchase Price*, Acts 20:28.
 - 3. The *Coronation*, Daniel 7:13-14; Acts 1:10.
 - 4. The *Empowering*, Acts 1:8.
- B. We encourage the audience to open their Bibles to Acts chapter 2, and read along with us.
- I. The Day — Pentecost.
 - A. The *festival* as the Jews observed it.
 - B. The *date* the fifteenth day after Passover, Lev. 23:15.
 - C. The first day of the week always.
 - D. The pilgrims were from all over the civilized world, Acts. 2:9-11.
- II. The Outpouring of the Spirit, Acts 2:1-4.
 - A. The Demonstration
 - 1. The sound.
 - 2. The tongues of fire.
 - B. The effect of the outpouring, Acts 2:4.
 - 1. They all were *filled with the Spirit*.
 - 2. They began to speak in other tongues as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance.
 - a. These were languages they had not learned by natural methods.
 - (1) 2:6.
 - (2) 2:7-8.
 - (3) 2:11.

- C. The Response, 2:5-13.
 - 1. The congregation of people, 2:6.
 - 2. The curiosity, 2:7, 12.
 - 3. The amazement.
 - 4. The idle mocking, 2:13.

III. The Sermon, 2:14-37.

The Introduction:

- A. The prophecy of Joel cited as fulfilled, 2:14-21.
- B. The life of Christ summarized, 2:22.
- C. The death of Christ not an accident, 2:23.
 - 1. By God's determinate counsel and foreknowledge.
- D. The Resurrection, 2:24-32.
 - 1. David's prophecy, 2:25-28.
 - a. Ps. 16:8-11.
 - 2. The fulfillment, 2:29-36.
 - 3. The significance:
 - a. Christ's reign on David's Throne, 2:30-36.
 - b. He is exalted at God's right hand.
 - c. He has sent the Holy Spirit to complete the work of Redemption.
 - d. He is now Lord and Christ, exalted by God and all men must obey him.

IV. The Reaction, 2:37.

- A. What shall we do?
- B. The Inspired answer, 2:38.
 - 1. Repent and Be Baptized.
 - a. By whose authority?
"In the name of Jesus."
 - b. Why? "For the remission of sins".
 - (1) "Ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
 - 2. The extent of the promise:

- a. To you, your children, all that are afar off, i.e., the Gentiles.
- C. The exhortation, 2:40.
 - 1. Save yourself from this crooked generation.
- V. The Response, 2:41.
 - A. The glad reception.
 - B. 3,000 baptized.
 - C. They were added to the kingdom.

CONCLUSION:

Your response to the gospel message will determine your destiny.

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

Acts 2:42-47

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The World has always marvelled at the Church revealed in the book of Acts.
 - 1. Men for ages have sought after it.
 - 2. We here in this assembly are actively seeking to restore it.
 - B. These few verses give a thumb-nail sketch of that first church of Christ.
- I. It Was a *Learning* Church.
- A. They continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching, vs. 42.
 - B. Any church today, claiming to be that church will be a Bible-studying, Bible-teaching church.
- II. It Was a Church of Fellowship.
- A. They continued steadfastly in fellowship, vs. 42.
 - 1. They were all brothers and sisters —
One Big Family of God.
- III. It Was a Praying Church.
- A. They continued steadfastly in the prayers, vs. 42.
 - 1. The very act of prayer is a confession
 - a. of *faith in God*.
 - b. of *dependence upon Him*.
 - c. of confidence that He will Respond.
- IV. It was a Reverent Church.
- A. "fear came upon every soul"
(awe and reverence)

1. Hebrews 12:28-29.

2. Is. 6:5.

V. It Was a Church Where Things Happened.

A. "Many wonders and signs were done through the apostles," vs. 43.

B. Although we expect no miracles today, God's church is where the action is:

1. Soul winning

2. Serving

3. Working

4. Teaching

5. Fighting the good fight of faith.

VI. It Was a Sharing Church.

A. vs. 44-45 a *giving* church

1. In a moment of crisis they "had all things common."

2. A selfish person is not "Christian."

3. A selfish church is not Christ's church!

VII. It Was a Worshipping Church.

A. vs. 46, day by day continuing steadfastly with one accord in the Temple.

B. vs. 42 continued steadfastly in the breaking of bread.

C. John 4:24; 1 Cor. 4:6.

VIII. It was a happy church.

A. "They took their food with gladness and singleness of heart". vs. 46

B. Is. 12:3.

IX. It was a congregation that others Could not Help Liking . . .

A. "Having favor with all the people." vs. 47

B. Real Christianity is a lovely thing.

1. Some Christians abstain from evil and are punctillous about keeping the law but are filled with a cold hardness:
 - a. One could never turn to them for comfort.
 - b. They have not really been changed into the image of God's son.
- C. What is the image you daily portray?
- X. It Was a Growing Church.
 - A. Vs. 47b

CONCLUSION:

- A. We have looked at the tiny mustard seed which bacame a great tree.
 1. May we never forget that original simplicity and beauty.
- B. How did men become members of that church?
vs. 2:47, 2:41

WHAT IS DISTINCTIVE ABOUT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

Acts 28:22

INTRODUCTION:

- A. In a world full of different kinds of churches with a myriad of different teachings, honest souls ask, "What Is Different about the church of Christ?"
- B. What is Distinctive about it?
- C. We Need To See The Difference — Lev. 10:10.
- I. It Seeks To Worship and Serve God Exactly *As The First Christians Did.*
 - A. Jer. 6:16
 - B. Note its worship and practice
 - C. Note its simplicity
- II. It's Guide for *Faith and Practice* is *The BIBLE ONLY.*
 - A. Specifically the New Testament
 - 1. John 12:48, 1 Cor. 4:6
 - 2. Col. 2:14-17
 - 3. Heb. 8:6-13
 - B. It has no other creed than the Bible.
- III. It has A Distinctive *Vocabulary*, 1 Peter 4:11.
 - A. We call Bible Things by Bible Names.
- IV. Its *Preachers Are Distinctive:*
 - A. They hold no vain titles, "reverend".
Matt. 23:8-12, Job 32:21-21

- B. In its preachers, the knowledge of the *WORD* is stressed, not knowledge of *the World!*
 - 1. 2 Tim. 2:15
 - 2. 2 Tim. 4:1-2
 - C. They are not a *select clergy*.
 - 1. 1 Peter 2:5, 9
 - D. Not the "boss" of the congregation.
 - E. Their preaching is Biblical, Forceful and plain.
 - 1. 2 Tim. 4:1-4
 - 2. 2 Cor. 11:3
- V. It Has A Distinctive *Organization*:
- A. No Super Organization
 - B. Christ is the only head, Eph. 1:22.
 - C. Local autonomy, 1 Peter 5:1-2, Acts 20:28
 - D. The Bible, elders and deacons
- VI. It Is *Not A Denomination*:
- A. It is a restored church of Christ such as you read of in your Bible
 - B. Of what denomination were the apostles members? Of what groups were the Ephesians?
 - C. We seek to be just what they were; no more, no less.
 - D. The seed, Luke 8:11, bears the same fruit today as in the 1st century.
- VII. Its Members Live Distinctive *Lives*:
- A. Honesty
 - B. Purity
 - C. Diligence
 - D. Helping others
 - E. Working for Christ
- VIII. A Principle: "Where there is the true, there will be the counterfeit." Counterfeit churches abound.

CONCLUSION:

- A. The World needs the Lord's church for the good it can bring them . . .**
- B. You need to be a member of that church for all of God's saved are in it . . .**
- C. God will add you now if you will obey His Gospel**

THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

A Glorious Church Without Spot or Blemish

Ephesians 5:25-27

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The church's strength lies not in numbers, nor real estate nor wealth, but in the faithfulness and purity of its members.**
 - 1. Rev. 3:1-6 the church in "Sardis" a case in point.
 - 2. Satan works constantly to subvert our standing before God by corrupting us!
- I. The Church Must Be Pure in Doctrine.**
 - A. We must hold the pattern of sound words**
 - 1. 2 Timothy 1:13
 - a. Titus 2:1
 - b. Gal. 1:8-9
- II. Pure — Faithful in Obedience.**

Ecclesiastes 12:13 — Heb. 5:8-9

 - A. To His commands**
 - 1. In Worship
 - 2. In Work of the Lord
 - 3. In Unity
 - 4. In Obeying His Moral Code
 - 5. In Responsibility To Our Fellow-man
- III. Personal Purity.**
 - A. Godliness, Titus 2:11-12**
 - 1. Holiness — Sanctification
Heb. 12:14

- 2. Spiritual Minded
Rom. 8:1-2; 4-14
- 3. Christ-like
1 Peter 2:21-23
- B. THINGS THAT ROB US OF
that Spiritual Strength —
 - 1. Worldliness
 - a. Immodest dress — 1 Tim. 2:9-10
 - (1) mixed swimming
Matt. 5:28
 - b. Improper speech
 - (1) Eph. 4:29-30
 - c. Sinful recreation
 - (1) dancing
 - (2) lasciviousness — revelling
Gal. 5:19
 - d. Worldly habits
 - (1) smoking
 - (a) 1 Cor. 6:18-20, 3:16-17
 - (2) Social drinking
 - e. Worldly ethics
 - (1) Phil. 4:8
 - 2. Carnal-Minded — Fleshly
 - a. Col. 3:1-3

CONCLUSION:

- A. Josh. 3:5

BREAKING THE BREAD

John 1:29

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The apex of history was at Calvary.
 - B. All prior ages looked forward to that event; ever since men have looked back to it.
 - C. Every faithful Christian commemorates the Lord's death each first day of the week.
- I. He was the Great Passover Lamb.
 - A. Ex. 12:3-5, 7-14
 - B. 1 Cor. 5:7-8
 - II. His Was the Blood of the Covenant.
 - A. Heb. 9:18-20
 - B. Lk. 22:20
 - III. He is our Atonement.
 - A. Lev. 16:5-10, 15-16, 20-22
 - B. Heb. 9:24-25
 - C. Heb. 10:1-14, 19-22
 - D. He was led out of the gate bearing the sins of the people as Azazel.
 - IV. He was our sin-offering.
 - A. Lev. 4:22-26
 - B. Heb. 9:26b-28
 - V. Nothing was more sacred or solemn than the sacrifices and offerings to the Hebrews. Nothing should be more sacred and solemn to us than the Lord's Memorial Feast.

- A. 1 Cor. 11:17-31**
- B. Things that hinder proper communion with God:**
 - 1. Divisions, 1 Cor. 11:17-18**
 - 2. Making the Lord's Supper a common meal, 11:20-22**
 - 3. Eating and drinking in an unworthy manner, 11:27**
 - 4. Not discerning the Lord's body, 11:29.**
- C. With these thoughts in mind, let us now eat this sacred meal remembering Jesus' sacrifice for us.**

WHAT'S RIGHT WITH THE CHURCH?

INTRODUCTION:

This is a day of rebellion and rejection of all things established and no institution is held sacred.

Organized churches of all varieties have incurred heavy criticism. Even the Lord's Church has been berated by some younger members as out of touch and out of date. *We need to remind ourselves what is right with the Church.*

- I. It is of Divine Origin, Matt. 16:18
 - A. It has a human membership with human limitations.
- II. It alone has been given the divine injunction to evangelize the world for God, Eph. 3:10.
 - A. The Church is doing this more effectively than at any time since the first century.
- III. It is God's moral Beacon In A Wicked World.
 - A. Holding forth the word of life, Phil. 2:15-16
 - B. Setting forth the True Standard of Morality and Conduct.
 - C. Crying out against evil, Eph. 5:11
 1. Immorality
 2. Liquor
 3. Prostitution
 4. Lasciviousness
 5. Pornography
 6. Corruption in public office
 7. Dishonesty
 - D. The Church is constantly training a righteous remnant to live as examples of Christian virtue.

1. 1 Tim. 6:11-12

2. 2 Tim. 2:22

V. It Is God's Institution for Relieving the Needs of Suffering Humanity.

A. The aged, James 1:27

B. The homeless child

C. The poor

D. The unfortunate

E. The Sick

1. Visiting

2. Comforting

3. Praying

4. Helping

F. Helping the Confused and Bewildered.

V. It is God's Healing Institution, Lk. 4:18-19.

"They that are whole need not a physician, but they that are sick".

A. Broken Homes

B. Broken Lives

C. Delinquent children

1. Helping youngsters stay out of trouble.

D. It is God's Hospital for the sin sick.

1. Not a Private club for the perfect.

VI. It is the Family of God's children on Earth,

1 Tim. 3:15.

A. It is the Domicile of all the Saved on Earth.

1. Acts 2:47

B. It is the "Mutual burden-bearer's society", Gal. 6:1-2.

C. It is the "Training Ground" for eternity.

1. 2 Peter 1:8-11

- VII. It is God's Representative in a rebellious and troubled world seeking reconciliation.
A. 2 Cor. 5:20
- VIII. It is Declaring the *whole counsel* of God to Mankind.
A. Acts 20:26
- IX. It is striving to be *faithful in all things*.
A. Rev. 2:10

THE WORK AND RESPONSIBILITY OF ELDERS

Acts 20:28-31

1 Peter 5:1-4

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The eldership is not an honorary title to be bestowed upon one, rather it is a sacred trust; a difficult task to be performed; a responsibility to be performed.
 - B. Generally, all the stress is placed upon the qualifications and little if any on the work to be done.
 - C. **THE QUALIFICATIONS ARE IMPORTANT** because they fit a man to do the work successfully.
- I. **THE WORK** is Set Forth in the Names given to describe the office.
- A. *EPISCOPOS* Bishop; Overseer
 - 1. Acts 20:28; Phil. 1:1; Titus 1:7
 - B. *PRESBUTEROS* Presbyter, Elder
 - 1. Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5
 - C. *POIMEEN* Pastor, Shepherd
 - 1. 1 Peter 5:1-2
 - D. *HEGONMENOI* to lead, to rule
 - 1. Heb. 13:7, 17, 24
 - E. *PROISTAMENOS* Rule over you
 - 1. Rule over you, 1 Thess. 5:12
 - F. These words all refer to the same class of leaders.
 - 1. They describe different aspects of the work.

II. THE DUTIES OF THE ELDERS, 1 Tim. 3:1

"If a man seeketh the office of a bishop, he desireth a good *work*."

A. Negative Injunctions:

1. Take the oversight, but "NOT OF CONSTRAINT".
 - a. 1 Peter 5:2
2. "NOR YET FOR FILTHY LUCRE"
3. "*Neither as lording it over the charge allotted to you*"
 - a. Matthew 20:25-26

B. Positive Obligations:

1. Take Heed Unto Themselves
Take Heed Unto ALL THE FLOCK
 - a. Acts 20:28
2. "Feed the church of the Lord"
"the entire work of the shepherd"
not just feeding . . . teaching.
Leading, protecting, watching, defending,
correcting, *feeding*, nursing . . .
3. Protect the church from wolves and schismatics within.
 - a. Acts 20:29
4. "Help the weak," Acts 20:35.
Remember the words of Jesus, it is better to give than to receive . . . Exemplify this.
5. "Exhort in the sound doctrine and . . .
6. Convict the gainsayers", Titus 1:9.
7. WATCH, Acts 20:31.
Spiritual alertness . . .
8. Admonish the disorderly.
9. Encourage the Fainthearted.
10. Be Longsuffering toward all, 1 Thess. 5:14.
11. Restore the Fallen, Gal. 6:1.

12. Watch in behalf of the souls of the members, Heb. 13:17.
 13. Exercise Discipline, 2 Thess. 3:6; 14-15.
 14. Exercise the *OVERSIGHT*, not of constraint, but willingly, *according to the will of God.*" 1 Peter 5:2-3.
 15. Make themselves as ensamples to the flock, 1 Peter 5:2-3.
 - a. Maintain a blameless reputation, 1 Tim. 3:2.
 - b. Not be self-willed, for this will excite self-will in those whom he would lead.
 - c. Not soon angry.
 - d. He must not be given to wine.
 - e. He must be a lover of good men.
 - f. He must be hospitable.
 - g. He must be sober and just . . .
- C. The eldership is not an honorary office or position bestowed on one.
1. It is a difficult, serious, solemn work and responsibility one is asked to assume.
 2. The success or failure of the church depends on how he does his work.

III. IN ORDER TO DO HIS WORK WELL THE ELDER NEEDS A GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIBLE and:

- A. Knowledge and Awareness of what is happening throughout the brotherhood:
1. Good work being accomplished elsewhere.
 2. Problems; attitudes and teachings that are causing division or are hindering the work of the church.
 3. To be abreast of the mission work being done throughout the world and the needs of

workers and opportunities to do mission work.

4. Acquainted with Christian schools to encourage young people to attend.
- B. Knowledge and awareness of conditions in the local community, nation, and world that might pose problems to the church or offer opportunities to it.
- C. Interest in the cause of Christ in general in the area.
 1. Fellowship and relations with other congregations.
- D. Understanding of human needs and problems and willingness to help.
- E. Has shown zeal, enthusiasm and will to work up to this time.

CONCLUSION:

- A. If a man cannot or will not do the work of the office . . .
 1. He should resign his position that capable men may do the job. — 1 Tim. 5:17 "Let the elders that rule"
- B. May we love, respect, and obey those godly elders God has given us.

THE CHURCH'S DUTY TO ITS ELDERS

INTRODUCTION:

A. Just as God has placed solemn duties and responsibilities upon the elders, so He has placed upon the church duties towards its elders.

I. Duly Regard Them.

A. 1 Thess. 5:12-13, "esteem them highly in love".

1. Respect them as Christians.

2. Respect them as Spiritual leaders.

3. Respect them as having divinely given authority.

B. Submit to Them, Heb. 13:17.

1. Obey them.

C. Imitate Their Faith, Heb. 13:7.

D. Count Them Worthy of Double Honor.

1. 1 Tim. 5:17, "Salary, stipend, reward, wages".

E. Have Trust and Confidence in Them,

1 Tim. 5:19.

F. Have Respect in differing with an Elder,

1 Tim. 5:1.

G. "Against An Elder Receive Not An Accusation, except at the mouth of two or three witnesses,"

1 Tim. 5:19.

1. Satan will seek to destroy our confidence and alienate us from them through gossip, criticism, etc. "A house divided".

2. 1 Tim. 5:20, "Them that sin (in such matters) rebuke in the sight of all!"

H. Miscellaneous Duties.

1. We owe them the treatment we desire for ourselves, Matt. 7:12.
2. We must cooperate with them in their plans and efforts for Christ, Rom. 12:4-5; Eph. 4:15-16.
3. We must support the church financially if we expect them to lead the church to more and greater works.
4. Encourage them with words, Prov. 3:27.
5. Pray for them, 1 Thess. 5:25. Paul requested "Brethren, pray for us".
6. Offer them our suggestions.
7. We should *back* them and their decisions . . . should enemies attack from within or without.
8. Constantly work for unity, Eph. 4:1-3.
9. Remember they are human, just as we are: Thus be understanding and sympathetic.
10. Be their friend.
11. Put our trust and confidence in them, confide in them, and look to them for help and guidance when problems come.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Give these godly men the support they deserve.
 1. You will please God.
 2. You will be happier.
 3. You will make their work much easier.
 4. The church will grow as we all want it to.

THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST

2 Timothy 4:1-5

Rom. 10:14-15

1 Cor. 1:21

INTRODUCTION:

- A. A failure to know and understand God's will often causes many problems in preacher—congregation relationships.
- I. Preach the word, 2 Tim. 4:2
 - A. Ezra 7:10, Seek the law, do it; teach it.
 - B. Mk. 16:15-16, Go . . . preach the gospel to every creature.
 - C. 2 Tim. 2:15, Study to show thyself approved.
 - D. 1 Tim. 4:13-16, Give heed to reading, exhortation and teaching . . . give thyself wholly to them, take heed to thyself . . .
 - E. Acts 20:20, Teach publicly and from house to house.
- II. Set the Church in order, Titus 1:5
 - A. Appointing elders-deacons.
Assisting the congregation in this vital task.
 - B. 2 Tim. 4:2-5, Do the work of an evangelist.
 - C. 1 Tim. 4:6, Put them in remembrance.
 - D. 1 Tim. 6:17-19, Charge that are rich . . .
 - E. Acts 20:26-27, Declare the whole counsel of God.
 - F. Titus 2:15, Teach with all authority.
- III. To Train Faithful Men
2 Tim. 2:2

IV. Some Misconceptions that Hinder the Work:

- A. His only work is public sermons.
- B. The "*Pastoral concept*" — Eph. 4:11-16.
- C. The handy man.
- D. "Entertainment and social director."
- E. "We can always get another one."
- F. He is judged by a higher standard . . .
 - 1. ie. his family, etc.
- G. He can live on the lowest salary.
- H. We can tell him what to preach.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Ex. 17:12
 - 1. Aaron and Hur "held up" Moses' hands.
 - 2. Should not every Christian "hold up the hands" of faithful preachers.
 - a. Phil. 4:3

THE CHURCH AND ITS DEACONS

Acts 6:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

- A. When the Lord set up His church, He organized it the way that was best and most workable.
 - 1. He reserved for Himself all authority . . . in the Scriptures.
 - 2. He had the apostles and prophets record His Will.
 - B. He ruled that godly, qualified men should have the oversight of the church's work and worship.
 - 1. To assist these elders, He gave them deacons.
- I. What Is a Deacon?
- A. Thayer — "one who executes the commands of another, esp. of a master; a servant, attendant, minister."
 - B. Phil. 1:1 "To all the saints in Christ Jesus that are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons."
 - C. These men are chosen to assist the elders and to help lead the congregation in its work.
 - D. God gave specific qualifications in I Tim. 3:8-13.
 - E. We must not choose or reject them because of personal reasons. I Tim. 5:21.
- II. Qualifications of Deacons: I Tim. 3:8-13.
- A. Grave — "To be venerated for character, honorable."
 - 1. It is the opposite of frivolous, silly, foolish, flighty.
 - B. Not Double Tongued — "Saying one thing and meaning another; saying one thing to one per-

- son and another thing to another with the intent to deceive.
1. Positively this calls for honesty and sincerity.
- C. Not Given To Much Wine — This would not give us authority to drink any strong drink. We are commanded to abstain: I Thess. 5:22.
1. To be Temperate — II Pet. 1:6.
 2. To be good examples in influence — I Tim. 4:12.
- D. Not Greedy Of Filthy Lucre — “The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.” I Tim. 6:10.
1. The deacons handle the funds of the church. They must not be of a nature to mis-use it.
 2. A stingy man will be stingy in allotting the Lord’s money.
- E. Holding The Mystery Of Faith In A Pure Conscience.
1. Sound in the Faith: well indoctrinated as they will have many opportunities to teach as they serve.
 2. Doing the Lord’s work requires enough knowledge to do it right.
- F. Let Them First Be Proved — Men are not to be selected because the responsibility of the office may help them to be more faithful.
1. They are to prove their faithfulness first.
- G. Husbands of One Wife — They must be married.
1. They must be married to one woman in God’s sight.
- H. Ruling Their Children and Their Own Houses Well.
1. The deacons must be the head of his household.

2. He must have proper discipline over his children.
 - I. Of Good Report — Acts 6:3.
 1. Good report within and without the church.
 2. Not just absence of bad report but a positive record of good conduct and works.
 - J. Full Of The Holy Spirit — Gal. 5:22-23.
 1. This is proof of his sincerity and maturity.
 - K. Full of Wisdom — Makes good application of the knowledge he has.
 1. Be known for sane, sensible, and sound judgement in solving life's problems.
- III. The Place and Work of Deacons in the Church:
- A. Deacons are under the oversight of the elders.
 1. Only elders are said to be overseers: I Pet. 5:2; Acts 20:28.
 2. Deacons are never said to have authority.
 3. The word means those who serve under authority.
 - B. Their work is to be official on behalf of the church.
 1. Caring for "tables".
 - a. The benevolence work.
 - b. The material needs of the church: buildings, supplies, etc.
 2. Assisting in the spiritual matters.
 - a. Stephen, Philip.
- IV. Exhortations to our Deacons.
- A. Col. 3:23, "Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily..."
 - B. Rom. 12:11.
 - C. Jer. 48:10, "Cursed be he that doeth the work of the Lord negligently."
 - D. I Tim. 3:13.

DEACONS — Workers for the Lord, Servants of the Church

Acts 6:1-7

- I. The Purpose of their Office.
 - A. It is not suitable that the spiritual leaders of the congregation should forsake the “word and serve tables.” Acts 6:2.
 - B. Deacons are appointed by elders to “such business.”
 - C. “Diakonos” — servants
 - D. Philip and Stephen show they also played an important role in the teaching ministry.
- II. Though the diakonate is an office, it is not one of inherent authority . . . rather one of service.
 - A. Only so much authority as is delegated to them.
- III. Theirs is a serious work — a responsible one.
 - A. I Tim. 3:10-13.
 1. Holding the mystery of the faith in pure conscience.
 2. Let them first be proved.
 3. Full of Holy Spirit and Wisdom.
- IV. They that serve well gain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Jesus.

CONCLUSION:

- A. May God bless us with godly men to serve as deacons.

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

Acts 26:24-28

INTRODUCTION:

- A. There is so much confusion in the religious world today that few, if any, can tell us what a Christian actually is.
- B. We hope to clarify just what a Christian is in the words to follow.

I. Some MISTAKEN NOTIONS concerning what a Christian is: cleared away:

- A. Is a Citizen of a "Christian nation"
 - 1. What is a "Christian nation"?
 - 2. Many of our patriots were not Christians . . . Tom Paine, Thomas Jefferson . . . Abraham Ribicoff
 - 3. The "Christian nation" is crowned with non, even anti-Christian people
- B. Is the MORALIST not Christian? NO
 - 1. Cornelius *Acts* 10:1-2; 11:14; 10:48
 - 2. The Rich Young Ruler, *Matt.* 19:16
 - 3. "What lack I yet?" "If thou would be perfect, go, sell that which thou hast, and give to the poor and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come follow me."
- C. Is it the Sincere RELIGIOUS person? NO.
 - 1. *Acts* 17:22 "very religious" NO
 - 2. Saul of Tarsus
 - 3. *Acts* 8 Eunuch
 - 4. *Jno.* 3 Nicodemus

- D. The One who Believes Jesus is Divine?
1. John 12:42-43
 2. James 2:19
 3. Gal. 5:6
 4. Often the most ungodly believe Jesus to be God's Son. Heb. 5:8-9
- E. Are not all those of the different DENOMINATIONS Christians? No . . .
1. For they themselves say that one becomes a Christian though he may never join a denomination, they are two separate and distinct things.

II. The Biblical Description of a Christian.

- A. A *Disciple*, Acts 11:26. (A pupil or follower who accepts his master's teachings and helps to spread them) Matt. 28:19 tells how
- B. A *Son of God*, Gal. 3:26-27
Rom. 8:16-17 "if children, then heirs"
Rom. 8:14 "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."
- C. A *BROTHER* to all other Christians everywhere. Matt. 23:8 "all ye are brethren"
- D. A *CITIZEN* in the Kingdom of Heaven.
1. Col. 1:13
 2. John 3:3-5
Phil. 3:20
 3. He abides by the laws of the kingdom — issued by Jesus . . .
- E. A *SAINTE* . . . 1 Cor. 1:2 "Them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints . . ." (A person set apart to the service of God . . . holy in thoughts, words and actions Heb. 12:14) sins washed away.

F. *A PRIEST.*

1. 1 Peter 2:5 "ye also, as living stones, are built up a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."
2. Heb. 13:15 "Through him then let us offer up a sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of lips which make confession to his name."

G. *A TEMPLE OF GOD,* 1 Cor. 6:19

H. *A FUNCTIONING MEMBER OF THE BODY OF CHRIST.*

1 Cor. 12:27 THE church

I. *LIKE CHRIST,* Eph. 4:16

1. 1 Cor. 11:1

2. Col. 3:10 "Ye have put . . . on the new man, that is being renewed unto knowledge after the image of him that created him."

J. *He IS IN CHRIST,* i.e. in His Fellowship...

1. 2 Cor. 5:17

2. 2 Tim. 2:10 He is **SAVED!**

K. *He Is a Member of the Church of Christ.*

THE CHRISTIAN IS ONE WHO HAS A LIVING TRUSTING FAITH IN JESUS...

HAS LEFT SIN BEHIND HIM AND OBEYED THE LORD IN BAPTISM.

HIS SINS ARE WASHED AWAY BY CHRIST'S BLOOD.

HE IS A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST...

HE IS FAITHFUL TO GOD'S WILL IN HIS LIFE AND WORSHIP.

A CHILD OF THE KING

Gal. 3:26-27

INTRODUCTION:

- A. As children of the king of heaven and earth we have many blessings bestowed upon us.
- B. Likewise, responsibilities come with this honored position.
- I. Children of the king *Wear Princely Robes.*
 - A. Lk. 15:22, "Bring forth the best robe"
 - B. Rev. 19:8 these robes are the righteous acts of the saints.
 - C. Rev. 3:4, We Must Keep them clean.
- II. We wear the *King's name* — Christian, Isaiah 56:5.
 - A. James 2:7 "Do not they blaspheme the honorable name by which you are called?"
 - B. 1 Peter 4:15-16 "if a man suffer as a Christian . . . let him *glorify God in this name.*"
- III. The King's Children Live in the *King's House — the CHURCH.*
 - A. 1 Tim. 3:15.
 - B. The child born to a man lives in the man's house, eats at his table unless something is wrong:
 - 1. Like death, infidelity, quarreling, etc.
 - 2. The Same Is True in the Church.
 - C. Luke 22:29
- IV. Children of the King *Must Conduct Themselves Worthy of Such Royal Estate.*
 - A. Eph. 4:1-3
 - B. Phil. 2:14-16

- C. Titus 2:7-8
 - D. 1 Cor. 14:20
- V. Children of the King Should *Be Proud of Their Position to the King.*
- A. Heads should be held high, Rom. 1:16.
 - B. Never should we be ashamed, 2 Tim. 1:12.
 - C. We should be thankful for such a privilege, Col. 1:12-14.
- VI. As Sons, we enjoy the *Blessings and Wealth* of the King. 1 Cor. 3:21-23.
- A. 1 Cor. 10:31
 - B. Forgiveness
 - C. Freedom from guilt and shame, condemnation, Rom. 8:1
 - D. The privilege to talk with the King in prayer.
 - E. John 14:13
 - F. Matt. 7:7-12
- VII. Children are also *HEIRS* of the king.
- A. Rom. 8:16-17
 - B. We inherit:
 1. the home
 2. the authority
 3. the wealth
 4. the respect
- VIII. To Be a Child of the King, You must be *Born into the Family of the King.*
- A. John 3:3-5
 - B. 1 Peter 1:23 the word of God
 - C. Acts 10:47-48

CONCLUSION:

Don't you want to be a child of the king?

EXCEPT YE BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN

Matt. 18:3-4

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Children are the happiest people in the world.
- B. We will be God's children in the true sense of the term when we become as little children.
- C. Many people crave the joys of childhood but the virtues of childhood are spurned.
These two are corralaries.
One cannot be had without the other!

I. A Child's View of Life is *simple* and *uncluttered*.

- A. He accepts things as they *are*, people as they *are*.
- B. Skepticism and pessimism do not rob him of the ability to accept and enjoy undeserved generosity.
- C. Prejudices do not complicate his recognition of truth.
- D. Eph. 3:17-19; Acts 10:34-35

II. A Child's Faith has a robust but simple strength, 1 Jo. 5:4-5.

- A. A Child believes in something or someone because he wants to, John 14:1-3.
- B. He recognizes his need for a Superior help.
Matt. 14:28-31.
- C. Children openly and freely express their faith,
Mk. 9:23.

III. A Child's Prospect of the Future is Full of Boundless *Hope*. Col. 1:5; 2:7; Tit. 2:13; Heb. 6:17-18; 1 Pet. 1:3; 1 Jo. 3:3.

- A. They are not pessimistic.
Every story must have a happy ending,
Rom. 8:28.
 - B. He doesn't worry about the future, he knows
those he trusts will provide, Matt. 6:31-33.
 - C. Even though he fails, does wrongs and is
chastened, he knows his parents love him still.
Heb. 12:5-6-7.
- IV. A Child is Humble for He Knows That His Security
Rests In the Hands of Others.
- A. He knows he is not the master of his fate, so
he submits to those that are.
 1. Phil. 2:1-8
 2. Rom. 8:31
 3. Phil. 4:19
- V. He Has a Great Sense of Personal Worth.
- A. He knows he is important because of the love
others freely pour over him.
 - B. We are children of God.... Sons and Daugh-
ters of the King. We are important people.
Heb. 2:10-11; Rom. 8:14-17
- VI. He has an eagerness to learn and a willingness to
receive instruction.
- A. Matt. 11:28 "... learn of me ..."
Matt. 5:6 "... hunger and thirst ..."
 - B. The child is undaunted — though he try and
fail a hundred times, he continues trying till
he succeeds.
 - C. We must have this determination to learn and
succeed.
- VII. An uninhibited Love for all people.
- A. Matt. 22:35-40

- B. John 13:35 "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples . . ."
- C. Rom. 12:9
- D. Matt. 5:43-44

VIII. Children Are *Innocent* and *Pure*.

"Except ye turn and become as little children, ye shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven."

CONCLUSION:

The joys of childhood will be yours when you make the virtues yours.

ARE YOU SURE YOU ARE SAVED?

1 John 5:13

INTRODUCTION:

- A. This is a question often discussed and pondered.
- B. Many are sure they are saved, but mistaken . . .
- C. Others aren't sure when they should be!
- D. Salvation is experienced in three movements:
 - 1. Salvation from Past Sins, Acts 22:16
 - 2. Salvation maintained on a day by day basis, 1 John 1:7.
 - 3. Salvation in heaven. Rom. 13:11

I. HOW CAN I BE SURE I HAVE BEEN SAVED FROM A LIFE OF SIN? —

To denominational church-goers —

A. Unreliable Ways of Assurance:

- 1. Not by *FEELINGS*, Acts 23:1.
- 2. Not by Assurance of *Preacher*.
Rom. 16:18, Jer. 6:13-14
- 3. Not by Assurance of *Parents*.
Rom. 14:12 "Each one of us shall give account of himself to God." Not Parents.
- 4. Not by a *vote of a church*.
Matthew 15:14 "if the blind lead the blind"

B. GOD'S ASSURANCE TO US OF SALVATION, 1 Cor. 2:1; Jno. 16:13

- 1. Rom. 8:16, His Spirit and our spirit
- 2. 1 John 5:13, "that ye may know that ye have eternal life . . ."
 - a. 1 John 5:18, "We know that any one

born of God does not (deliberately and knowingly) practice committing sin”

— *Amplified Bible*

b. Assurance of daily good-standing

3. 1 John 3:21-22 “we have boldness toward God; . . . because *we keep his commandments* and do the things that are pleasing in his sight.”

C. Rom. 8:1-2, 4

No condemnation IN CHRIST

1. Gal. 3:26-27 tells how to get into Christ.

II. THE CHRISTIAN, THE MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST, CAN BE SURE OF HIS SALVATION DAY BY DAY.

A. 1 John 5:13, We know if we have obeyed the Gospel plan of salvation.

B. Rom. 4:7-8, “blessed is the man to whom *the Lord will not reckon sin.*”

1. 2 Cor. 5:18-19 tells us who the Lord does not impute sin to those in Christ.

2. God does not charge the guilt of sin to the saved!

C. 1 John 1:6-10

1. We know we are saved if we daily walk in the light.

2. We know we are saved if we are repenting, forsaking and confessing our sins in prayer...

3. Because the BLOOD of Jesus “continues to cleanse us from every sin”

“keeps us cleansed from sin in all its forms and manifestations.” *Amplified Bible*

We Cannot in any way EARN or MERIT this forgiveness, Eph. 2:8-9.

- D. God does not expect *PERFECTION*.
1 John 1:10; 1 Jn. 2:1
- E. 1 John 4:4 "Ye are of God, my little children, and have overcome them: because *greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world.*"
- F. *We Can Be Sure of Our Salvation Because:*
1. We are his children . . . 1 John 4:13.
 2. 1 John 2:3 "And hereby we know that we know him, *"if" we keep his commandments.* He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."
 3. We work in his vineyard. Matt. 20:1-15
 - a. The standard of reward will not be how long or how much we accomplished.
 - b. But were you in my vineyard?
 - c. Were you faithful? Rev. 2:10

CONCLUSION:

Are you sure you are saved?

If Not, MAKE IT SURE RIGHT NOW

NOW THAT I AM A CHRISTIAN

James 1:27

INTRODUCTION:

- A. In becoming a Christian, I gave my life to Christ.
 - B. Being a Christian is a new way of life; a unique mode of life lived by new standards and with new values.
 - C. Pleasing God is my daily desire.
 - D. Going to heaven is my only goal.
 - E. For this I will make every sacrifice, pay any price:
 - 1. My life is a sacrifice, Romans 12:1-2.
 - 2. God always required an unblemished sacrifice.
 - a. "But whatsoever hath a blemish that shall ye not offer for it shall not be acceptable for you." Lev. 22:20
 - 3. Being a "Christian", my life is like Christ, 1 Peter 2:21.
- I. I am Unique In My Treatment of Others.
- A. Matthew 22:39
 - B. Matthew 7:12
 - C. Gal. 5:19-21, Note the company of enmity, strife, envy, jealousy.
 - D. Gal. 5:22-23
 - E. Matt. 5:44
- II. My Attitude Towards the Present Material World is Different.
- A. 1 John 2:15
 - B. Col. 3:1-3

- C. Matt. 6:19-21
 - D. Luke 18:28-30
 - E. No longer earthly possessions for self, but earthly possessions for Christ.
 - F. Romans 12:2
- III. My Attitude of Personality
- A. Joyful happiness, Gal. 5:22
 - B. Matt. 5:3-10 Beatitudes
- IV. My Recreation is Governed By Christ.
- A. Must I Associate with evil companions?
1 Cor. 15:33
 - B. Does This appear to be evil?
1 Thess. 5:21-22
 - C. Will this Harm my Body?
1 Cor. 6:18-21
 - D. Will this Hurt my influence for Christ?
Matt. 5:16
 - E. How Will This affect others?
1 Cor. 8:12; Matt. 18:6
 - F. Would Christ Engage in This?
1 Peter 2:21
 - G. Does This leave me doubting?
Romans 14:23
- V. My Habits Will Reflect the Influence of Christ.
- A. 1 Cor. 10:31
 - B. 1 Cor. 6:19-20, 3:16-17
 1. Smoking, alcohol, gluttony, fornication, sensual movies, books, magazines
 2. mode of dress, 1 Tim. 2:12

CONCLUSION:

- A. God will Help Me Overcome
 1. 1 Cor. 10:13
 2. 2 Peter 1:4-11

HOW TO RECEIVE A BLESSING

INTRODUCTION:

Read Psalm 146

A. Psalm 122:1 "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go unto the house of Jehovah".

B. Psalm 100 read

1. Worship was a great and thrilling experience to David.
2. Yet tragically true that thousands today have never found a real happiness in the Services of God's House.
 - a. Why do so many Christians attend only *one* church service per week?
 - b. Why do some often miss even that at times?
 - c. Why do many plan and take vacations and forget about worshipping God?
 - d. Why do some sleep through most services?
 - e. Why do many grasp every opportunity as an excuse to stay away from the Lord's house?
 - f. Why do some lose interest when their favorite preacher moves away?
 - g. Why do so many grow tired of serving and worshipping God and die spiritually?
 - h. Why are others seduced into the soul-destroying denominations?
 - i. Why does the Church do so little towards fulfilling its mission of Evangelism, Edification, and Benevolence?

3. At least a part of the answer lies in the fact that many of us have forgotten . . . or else never learned how to worship God and to Profit from the assemblies we do attend.
- I. "Lord Teach Us To Pray", Luke 11:1
"Lord teach us to Worship"
 - A. Before we go far, we must destroy a fallacy in common thinking:
 1. "Mere *attendance* is not enough! The worship of God *demand*s and deserves *complete* and *active participation*."
 - B. *Classes* are one of the most fruitful sources of Spiritual strength for the Christian, every member should attend all of them he possibly can!
 1. Begin early in the week: Read the lesson (more than once) . . . Read the previous lessons, the day's discussion and ahead. Study it, trying to understand it . . . Gather ideas, discovering references and questions for the class.
 2. Prepare, as much as possible, for Sunday morning, Saturday. Retire early Saturday night.
 3. Arise early Sunday Morning, that you may have plenty of time to get ready for church without having to rush so as to get nervous, tense and upset before our Assembly. Prepare your Mind for Worship.
 4. Arrive at the meeting house early. See that you are in your seat a few minutes early: Bring Your Bible.
 - a. Read the verses for study.
 - b. Meditate . . . think of God . . . heaven . . .
 - c. Pray silently to God.

5. Pay close attention to all class discussion. (Never talk in private conversation during class.)
6. If you have a question pertaining to the topic, Ask it! If you can answer a question posed, Do So.
7. Respect the teacher and your fellow students, they will respect you.
8. Make notations of knowledge gained.
 - a. Accept God's truth, whether you like the consequences or not!
 - b. Practice the Lessons Learned and share the truth with others. Attend Every Class.

II. To Make *Worship* More Meaningful!

- A. Mere attendance is not enough. The worship of God demands and deserves complete and active participation. To give anything less is to deny ourselves the power that can fill our lives with meaning.
- B. Settle down a few moments before the services begin.
- C. Purge out all commonplace thoughts.
- D. Meditate read the words of the hymns to be sung, with contemplation.
 1. Silently pray to God (tune in on the right frequency for worship).
 2. Tell God your troubles.
 3. Confess your faults.
 4. Ask for his Spirit to dwell within you richly, to help you find Communion with Him.
Romans 8:26-27
 5. Pray for someone who needs forgiveness.

6. Think of the wonderful things God has done for you . . .
 7. And thank God for them!
- E. In the Song Worship.
1. Sing with Enthusiasm.
 2. Say the Words with Personal application.
 3. Sing the Message to others.
 4. Remember you are offering the song as a sacrifice of praise to God. Hebrews 13:15
 5. *A Word to Those Who Lead*
 - a. You are leading in worship to Almighty God!
 - b. Choose those songs that are most fitting and conducive to worship.
 - c. Rehearse them as even a teacher or preacher would his part. Pitch them correctly, lest a false start hinder worship.
- F. Prayers are conversations with God.
Prayer brings power and strength to the soul.
Jo. 14:13.
1. Whoever leads should *speak audibly* with thoughts *aforeplanned* and original.
1 Cor. 14:15.
 2. We should listen intently, our minds in communion with heaven, endorsing the thoughts stated and *adding our own special needs* and resolving to do our part to see them fulfilled.
- G. Communion in the Lord's Supper. 1 Cor. 11:23
1. Is a sharing of the sacred feast by Christians.
 2. Remembering What Christ suffered for us.
 3. An examination of ourselves.
 4. A Proclamation to the lost of our faith in His return.

5. Those who would lead:
 - a. The best possible order
be *seated* on the front together in the proper position
 - b. Dress should be so as to attract the least possible attention to itself
 - c. Words should be few to the point . . . audible.
 - d. Prayers should be specific brief . . . audible.
 - e. We should never engage in talk before, during, or immediately after the emblems.
 - f. Our contributions should be prepared before hand for easy reach lest we disturb the communicants.
- H. Our CONTRIBUTIONS should be made as offerings to the Lord . . . not to the church, or preacher.
 1. They should be purposeful, cheerful, and liberal.
 2. 2 Corinthians 9:7
- I. The Sermon should be listened to with attention and an open and receptive heart.
Mk. 4:24, What Lk. 18:8, How
 1. We should bring our Bibles
And follow the references.
 2. Make notations
 3. Seek to find application of the truths presented in your life!
 4. Accept the Challenges presented.
 5. Receive the Correction.
 6. Go forth with resolution to incorporate into your life the new instructions.
 7. Share with others the joy you have found in Christ Jesus by soul winning.

J. The following Things Hinder the Worshiper from Attaining the Ultimate:

- 1. Lack of Reverence for the Services:**
 - a. Hebrews 12:28
 - b. Habakkuk 2:20
- 2. Too Informal**

. . . less than at most any public assembly
- 3. Wrong Concepts of Leading in Worship:**

To get attention; To promote self
- 4. Sin Unrepented of**

“Worship means a complete submission of ourselves: our minds, bodies and wills, to a greater power than we can comprehend. It means forgetting self and all that binds us to the material world.
An Inward Searching and Outward Humbling of Self.

III. Extra Curricular Helps to Worship:

- A. Home devotionals.**
- B. Reading of religious books and magazines.**
- C. An interest in Missions and Educational Work (and such like) of the Church.**
- D. Personal efforts to win others to Christ.**
- E. Active participation in all the local congregation's activities.**

THE BETTER LIFE

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Proverbs 15:16 "*Better* is a little with the fear of Jehovah, than great treasures and trouble therewith."
 - B. Hebrews 11:16 "But now they desire a *better* country, that is, a heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed of them, to be called their God, for he hath prepared for them a city".
 - C. Hebrews 11:40 "God having provided some better thing concerning us . . ."
 1. Better means *Superior Preferable Greater*
 2. Man is capable of Doing Better — Being Better — and Having Better things in the temporal realm.
 3. If a man desires better things in the material realm — surely he ought to desire better things for his soul.
 - a. Many find better cars, clothes, jobs, houses, but fail to find THE *Better* Life. Happiness, Health, Home, Education, SALVATION.
 - b. Many have a mistaken notion as to "just what is better". We need to clarify, restate our sense of values.
- I. The Daily Life
- A. Money and Happiness:
 1. Proverbs 15:17 "Better is a dinner of herbs where *love* is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith."

2. Proverbs 16:8 "Better is a little with *righteousness*, than great revenues with injustice."
3. Proverbs 17:1 "Better is a dry morsel, and *quietness* therewith, than a house full of feasting with strife."
4. Proverbs 19:1 "Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips and is a fool."

B. Control of Self

1. Proverbs 16:32, "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city."

C. Wisdom and Character

1. Eccle. 7:1, "A good name is better than precious oil."
2. Eccle. 9:16, "Wisdom is better than strength."
3. Eccle. 9:18, "Wisdom is better than the weapons of war."

II. Man and his Creator

A. God transcends all of this world.

1. Ps. 118:8-9, "It is better to take refuge in Jehovah, than to put confidence in men . . . in princes."
2. Ps. 119:72, "The law of thy mouth is *Better* unto me than thousands of gold and silver."
3. Ps. 84:10, "For a day in thy courts is *Better* than a thousand, I had rather be a door keeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in tents of Wickedness."

(A day without God is a day of hopelessness, waste, SIN.)

B. Jesus and His Covenant

1. Heb. 1:4 "...having become by so much, better than the angels."
Heb. 3:3 He is greater than Moses.
2. Heb. 8:6 "But now hath he obtained a ministry the more excellent, by so much as he is also the mediator of a better covenant which hath been enacted upon *better* promises."
3. Is. 56:5 "Unto them will I give in my house and within my walls a memorial and a name, *better* than of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off." *Christian*, Acts 11:26

C. Obedience is Better

1. 1 Samuel 15:22 "Behold, to obey is better than to sacrifice and to harken than the fat of rams."
 - a. Obedience is better than faith alone.
 - b. Obedience is better than family connection.
 - c. Obedience is better than wealth.
 - d. Obedience is better than pretense.
 - e. Obedience is better than mere morality.
2. 1 Peter 3:17 "For it is better, if the will of God should so will, that ye suffer for well-doing than for evil-doing."

D. Being a Christian is Better than being a Lost Sinner.

1. A Christian home is better.
2. A Christian education is better.
3. Christian literature is better.
4. A Christian marriage mate is better.
5. The Bible is better than man's philosophies and creeds.

6. The church of Christ is better than churches made by the hands of men.
7. The Gospel plan of salvation is better than man's doctrines.
8. The simple Bible pattern of worship than man's rituals and emotionalism.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Let us seek for and find, cultivate in our lives Better things when we are busy doing right, we will have no time to do wrong.
 1. "God having provided some better thing concerning us" Hebrews 11:40
 2. "A Better Life for better people"
The Christian's life for Christ's disciples.
 3. "A better goal for better living"
Heaven for the faithful Christian.

ATTITUDES AND VALUES OF A MATURE CHRISTIAN

Eph. 4:15; 2 Pet. 3:18

INTRODUCTION:

- A. "As he thinketh in his heart, so is he", Prov. 23:7
- B. To fill the role of a mature Christian we must first have the proper attitudes or values in our heart.
 - I. The Church must come before the things of the world. Matthew 6:31-33
 - II. Christ Must Come Before Self. Matt. 16:24; Gal. 2:20.
 - III. Christ Must Come Before Relatives. Matt. 10:37.
 - IV. We Must Put the Welfare of our Inward Man before the Outward man. Mark 8:35-36
 - V. The Lost Souls of fellow-men are more important than temporal goods. Matt. 8:28-34.
 - VI. We Must Love the Truth of God and Desire it Above all Else.
 - A. 2 Thess. 2:10
 - B. John 8:32
 - C. Acts 17:11
 - D. John 6:66-68
 - E. Matt. 5:6
 - VII. Honesty and Truth Over Wealth and Success.
 - A. Ps. 84:10
 - B. Prov. 23:23
 - C. Micah 6:6-12

- VIII. Realize that our Salvation is of grace —
not our merit.
- A. Eph. 2:8-9
 - B. Isaiah 64:6
 - C. 1 Cor. 15:10
- IX. Attitudes of Love and Mercy to others —
Not just outward Conformity to Law —
- A. Matt. 12:7
 - B. Amos 5:21-24
- X. Desire to Serve — Not to Be Served.
- A. Matt. 20:25-28
 - B. John 13:1-20, He washed their feet!

CONCLUSION:

Willingness to Obey God in all matters, Eccle. 12:13.

CHRIST-LIKE CONDUCT, A MARK OF MATURITY

INTRODUCTION:

- A. There is a constant pressure on the Christian to conform to the world's sinful conduct.
 - 1. Rom. 12:1-2
 - 2. John 17:15-17
 - 3. 1 John 2:15
- I. Becoming a Christian Means — Putting Off the Old Man and Putting On the New Man.
 - A. Col. 3:5-17
 - B. 1 Pet. 2:11-12
 - C. Sinful conduct of this world is a mark of immaturity and a lack of true spirituality in Christians.
 - 1. Gal. 5:19-21
- II. Being a Christian Means — Being Like the Lord in:
 - A. Speech
 - 1. Eph. 4:25, 29; 5:3-5
 - 2. Titus 3:2
 - B. Dress
 - 1. 1 Tim. 2:9-10
 - C. Manners
 - 1. 1 Tim. 3:3 Elders must be gentle men.
 - 2. 1 Tim. 5:1-2
 - 3. Col. 3:12-15
 - 4. Eph. 4:32

D. Habits

1. Gluttony
2. Smoking
3. Drinking

E. Friendships

1. 1 Cor. 15:33

F. Dealing with our Fellow Man.

1. Matt. 7:12

III. Our Daily Life Must Be One of Doing Good.

Matt. 9:35-38

- A. Teaching and Preaching the gospel of the Kingdom.
- B. Healing all manner of diseases.
- C. Having Compassion on the Multitudes.
- D. Praying.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Let us live that men may see Christ in us every day.

THE DISCIPLES OF LIFE

Heb. 12:3-13

INTRODUCTION:

- A. It is the common lot of man to encounter difficulties in life.
 - 1. The Christian is no exception to that rule.
- B. There are at least five ways to respond to the trials of life.
 - 1. You may resignedly accept discipline as did the Stoics. They reasoned that everything that happened was God's will and it was futile to fight it.
 - a. This acceptance is not of a father's love but his power. It is not a willing but a defeated acceptance.
 - 2. Some accept discipline in life with the grim sense of getting it over as soon as possible.
 - a. To them it is an affliction to be struggled through with defiance, certainly not with gratitude.
 - 3. One may accept discipline with self pity, which will ultimately end in collapse.
 - a. They imagine that they are the only one ever thus to suffer.
 - 4. A man may accept discipline as a punishment which he resents. The question is:
 - a. What did I do to deserve this?
 - b. They should ask, What is God trying to teach me? What is He trying to make

of me? What is God's purpose for me in this unpleasant experience?

5. We should see the hard things of life as the discipline of a loving father.

a. "A father's hand will never cause his child a needless tear."

C. We will cease from self-pity, resentment and rebellious complaint if we remember that God's discipline takes its root in love and aims for our good.

I. The Promises that Go With the Discipline.

A. 1 Cor. 10:13

B. Heb. 4:14-16

C. Rom. 8:28

D. Heb. 12:6 "loves . . . chastens"

II. The Purposes of Chastening.

A. Heb. 12:10 "That we may be partakers of his holiness" "It yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness."

B. Jas. 1:2-4 "Proving of your faith worketh patience."

1. Jas. 1:12 "he shall receive the crown."

C. 1 Pet. 1:6-7 "Proved by fire."

1. 1 Pet. 4:12-14 "Partakers of Christ's sufferings."

D. By discipline, he breaks down our idols.

1. Jer. 31:18-20

E. It helps us put our values in proper order.

F. It helps us see ourselves more honestly . . . our weaknesses.

G. It helps us not to love this life too much.

H. It drives us to our knees in prayer. 1 Pet. 5:6-7.

I. It drives us to the word for guidance.

Ps. 119:71, 92-93.

- J. It drives us into the arms of our heavenly Father. Ps. 119:67, 75.
- K. Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest . . .
Ps. 94:12-14.
 - 1. Pity the man God does not chasten.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Rev. 3:19 "As many as I love, I reprove and chasten: be zealous . . . and repent. Behold I stand at the door and knock . . ."

UNCONVERTED AND UNSAVED CHURCH MEMBERS

Matt. 13:47-50

INTRODUCTION:

- A. A strange phenomenon exists today:
 - 1. Numerous souls are lost in sin . . .
 - 2. Yet they are members of God's church —
the family of the saved!
 - B. Perhaps by categorizing and analyzing some of these we can help some lost soul find salvation.
 - C. Romans 14:23; 10:17; Eph. 5:17
- I. THOSE WHO ARE MEMBERS BECAUSE IT WAS THE CHURCH OF THEIR PARENTS.
 - A. Heb. 8:10-11
 - II. THOSE WHO WERE BAPTIZED BECAUSE OTHERS WERE.
 - A. Romans 14:11-12
 - III. THOSE WHO WERE BAPTIZED TO PLEASE A MARRIAGE PARTNER.
 - A. Gal. 1:10
 - IV. THOSE WHO FOUND THE CHURCH OF CHRIST More Convenient than other churches and —or found it more to their liking. (They joined their favorite denomination.)
 - 1. John 6:66-67
 - 2. Acts 4:11-12

- V. **THOSE WHO WANTED** to show their appreciation to a favorite preacher who took a special interest in them.
A. Gal. 1:10
- VI. **THOSE WHO WERE NOT REALLY AWARE** of the meaning and purpose of their baptism.
A. Salvation — the Church, Rom. 14:23.
- VII. **THOSE WHO WERE SEEKING A "CHEAP FIRE INSURANCE."**
A. Matt. 22:37
- VIII. **THOSE WHO NEVER CONFESSED CHRIST** as their Lord.
A. Rom. 10:9-10
- IX. **THOSE WHO HAVE LET THE CARES OF the World** and the Deceitfulness of riches choke their faith.
A. Matt. 13:22
- X. **THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR FIRST LOVE.**
A. Rev. 2:4
- XI. **THOSE WHO ARE UNWILLING TO WORK** for the Master.
A. John 15:1-28
- XII. **THOSE WHO MAKE SHIPWRECK** of the Faith.
A. 1 Tim. 1:19-20
- XIII. **THOSE WHO BECOME "Friends of the World."**
A. James 4:4
- XIV. **THOSE WHO ARE FACTIOUS**
A. Titus 3:9-11
- XV. **THOSE WHO SIN WILLFULLY**
A. Hebrews 10:26ff
- XVI. **THOSE WHO HAVE "FALLEN AWAY"**
A. Heb. 6:4-6

CONCLUSION:

The sum of what we have said is this: It is not enough to just be baptized, we must have been baptized for the right reason. It is not enough just to be a member of the Lord's church, we must be faithful members of it. Are you an unsaved church member?

NOT ALL CHRISTIANS ARE CHRISTIANS

Romans 9:6

INTRODUCTION:

- A. In Rom. 2:17-29, Paul stresses that circumcision and the Jewish name ALONE could never make a Hebrew pleasing to God.
 - B. Beyond all outward forms there had to be the genuine devotion and loyalty of the heart and faithful obedience to God's Law.
- I. It was the failure of the Jews to put circumcision in the place of faith, love and holiness, instead of its right place as the divine seal upon the covenant of grace.
- A. So some Christians put church membership, baptism, communion, in the place of spiritual regeneration and faithful obedience rather than place these in their proper place.
- II. Analysis of the Verses 2:17-29
- A. List of Particulars in which Jews glorified:
 - 1. They bore *the name* of "Jew"
 - 2. They *rested upon the law*
 - 3. They approved the things that are excellent and were instructed out of the law.
 - 4. They glorified in God
 - 5. They knew His will.
 - 6. They were confident they were:
 - a. A guide of the blind
 - b. A light to them in darkness
 - c. A corrector of the foolish

- d. A teacher of babes
 - e. Having the form of knowledge and truth.
- B. He appealed to their Conscience As To THEIR FAITHFULNESS To God and His Word.
1. You teach others: Do you teach yourself?
 2. You teach "do not steal." Do you steal?
 3. You say "do not commit adultery." Do you?
 4. You abhor idols: Do you rob temples?
 5. You glorify in the Law, yet because of your sin, you dishonor God!
- C. Confirmation of the Charge:
1. God's name is blasphemed among Gentiles because of you!
- D. The Only Condition on Which Circumcision Profits Is:
1. If you Are a Doer of the Law.
 2. If you are a transgressor, your circumcision becomes as uncircumcision.
- E. For: He is not a Jew who is one outwardly. Neither is that circumcision which is outward in the flesh.
But: He is a true Jew who is one inwardly. The circumcision is of the heart and spirit.
- F. Whose Praise Is:
1. Not of Men
 2. But of God
- III. This is Also True of *Christianity*
- He is not a Christian who is one outwardly, nor is that *baptism* which is only outward in the flesh; but he is a Christian who is one inwardly, and baptism is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter, whose praise is not of men, but of God.
- A. *Baptism* profits, if you keep the law
1. Rom. 6:17; Heb. 5:8-9

2. Neither is that true baptism which is outward only . . . but that which is of the heart.
 - a. 1 Peter 3:21
 - b. Col. 2:11-12
- B. Christianity is not just the right public worship, it is the right condition of the heart and manner of living, and serving.
 1. Rom. 12:1-2
 2. John 4:24
 3. 2 Peter 1:4-9
- C. Some Attitudes That Betray This Attitude in Us.
 1. Keys to a "True Church" are Baptism, Communion, Acapella Singing, Right vocabulary. Most other things are counted relative and unimportant.
 2. "We Have the Truth". But in what way or what sense are we different from others?
 3. We scoff at Catholic's prayer beads, but we don't pray. We scoff at infant baptism, then neglect our children's souls.
 4. We scoff at faith only and then practice it.
 5. We condemn the pastor system and hire a preacher to do just that.
 6. We condemn false teachers but do little to teach our fellowman.
 7. Against Missionary Societies, but not for missions.
 8. We make light of other's failure to teach the gospel in its fulness in Bible School, then do not attend our own Bible classes.

IV. WHOSE PRAISE is of GOD, NOT of MEN

- A. Men may praise those whose professions are

loved, whose piety is ostentatious, whose observances are scrupulous.

“They have their reward”

But those who are taught by the spirit of God count it a small thing to be judged with man’s judgement.

- B. Whether men praise us or blame us, matters little, if we are serving God as His word and our conscience direct.

“Some will hate thee,

Some will love thee,

Some will flatter, some will slight.

Cease from man, and look above thee:

Trust in God and do the right.”

THE COMEBACK TRAIL*

Luke 15:11-32

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The news is often filled with stories of athletes and stars who fail, yet make a comeback.
- B. To reach a former pinnacle of ability, greatness or life, one must start on the comeback trail.
- C. The Bible presents a wonderful success story of a young man who made a remarkable comeback...
- D. Read Luke 15:11-32

I. STEPS AWAY FROM GOD

- A. **SELF-WILL** "The younger said to his father, "give me the portion of goods that falleth to me."
 - 1. Pride is at the root of most sins.
 - a. Pride is never so ugly as when viewed against the background of God's love.
 - 2. The typical delinquent resents Parental authority, authority of land and schools and God
 - a. He is proud, self-willed, boastful, and haughty.
- B. **SELFISHNESS** "Give Me"
 - 1. Sin leads us to gratify SELF to the neglect or hurt of others . . .
 - 2. Christ calls us to deny self, Mt. 16:24.
 - 3. He was full of himself and it led to ruin.
- C. **SEPARATION** He "gathered all together and took his journey into a far country."

*From a lesson by Norvel Young.

1. This country is FORGETFULNESS of God.
 2. People take life, health, intelligence, jobs and family (gifts of God) then go into a way of life apart from God, the church and Christian responsibility.
 3. Self-will and pride always lead to separation.
- D. **SENSUALITY** "He wasted his substance on riotous living". His brother accused him of devouring his living with harlots:
1. A picture of TODAY'S rebel youth
 2. He was bent on having a good time . . .
 3. He tried not to think of consequences: Drunk on pleasure.
- E. **SELF-ABASEMENT** He begged a Gentile for help . . .
1. He was so desperate he took a job herding swine.
 2. No Jew could slip lower in the eyes of family, self, and others.
- F. **STARVATION**, So hungry he would eat the hog's food.
1. His worst famine was of THE SOUL, Amos 8:11; Matthew 4:4
 2. Miserable is the man with *everything to live with* but *nothing to live for!*
- G. Thank God the story doesn't end here . . .
1. It has a wonderful ending for this young man made a remarkable comeback.

II. THE COMEBACK TRAIL TO GOD.

- A. **REALIZATION** "He came to himself"
1. When one does not see the need to return to God he is hopeless.
 2. When one comes to his senses he will return to His Father's House.

- B. *REPENTANCE*** "I have sinned"
1. He could not return until he repented.
 2. This is between every prodigal and salvation.
- C. *RESOLUTION*** "I will return"
1. Without resolve there can be no improvement of character.
 2. Phil. 4:13
- D. *RETURN*** His trip back was not as he first had planned it bare feet, in rags, head and eyes cast down.
1. What would the father say?
 2. How will friends and family receive me?
- E. *RECONCILIATION***
1. The father saw while yet afar off, was moved with compassion, ran and threw his arms around him and kissed him.
 2. God is trying to tell you something Can't you see how He wants you to come home?
- F. *RECLOTHED***
1. The best robe, a ring, shoes
 - a. Not a servant's garb, rather, the best for a son.
- G. *REJOICING*** "Bring the fatted calf . . . let us eat and make merry: for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."
1. There is joy in heaven over one sinner that repents . . .
 2. There is joy likewise on earth:
Parents, mates, children, brethren, the prodigal himself.

- III. The *elder brother* is a symbol of SELF RIGHTEOUSNESS . . .
- A. He would rather have seen the sinner destroyed than saved.
 - B. His attitude shows that his obedience to the father had been grim duty, not loving service.
 - C. He had no sympathy. He spoke of (your) son, not my brother. He would gladly have kicked the man farther into the gutter rather than lent a helping hand.
 - D. His is an example of religion that is WORKS without grace . . .
 - E. Christ's religion is one of GRACE, Mercy and forgiveness for the lost.
 - F. The attitude of the elder brother will choke a church to death . . .
 - G. The attitude of the Father will make us like Christ and His Father.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Perhaps you too need to make a Comeback . . .
- B. Christ will help you succeed;
- C. We Want You To Come Back Home,
Let Us Welcome You NOW.

CAN YOU ENDORSE YOUR RELIGION?

Acts 26:24-29

INTRODUCTION:

- A. A religion that you cannot endorse and recommend to others is not worth having.
- B. Paul recommended his religion to all men.
Can You?

I. Can you recommend your religion and endorse it?

A. What you Believe?

- 1. "I am a Baptist, but I sure don't endorse what the Baptists believe and preach."

2. 2 Tim. 1:12-13

—Mr. Katren

3. 2 Tim. 2:2

B. How You worship?

II. Does Your Life Recommend Your Religion?

A. Does it Prove That You Really Believe it?

B. Are You Like the Pharisees, Matt. 23:2?

C. Does your Life say Your Religion is powerless to change a person's Life?

1. Rom. 12:1-2

2. 2 Cor. 5:17

3. Eph. 4:22-32

D. Does Your Life Say that your Religion approves of sinful attitudes and deeds?

1. Pride, envy

2. Bitterness, Resentment, Grudges, Hostility

III. Can you Recommend Your Congregation?

A. Are You Happy to Be A Part of It?

B. Are you happy with the work being done?

1. Are the emphasis in the right place?
 - a. Mt. 6:33
 - b. 1 Cor. 9:22-23
2. Is it scriptural? Heb. 8:5
3. Are the people trying to be Christ-like in life and service? 1 Peter 4:16
- C. Do You Enjoy Fellowship With Them?
 1. 1 John 1:7
 2. Some immature Christians will not even speak to fellow-Christians.
 - a. Matt. 5:46-47, even heathen do better
- D. Can You Recommend your leadership?
 1. 1 Thess. 5:12-15
 2. Heb. 13:7, 17
- E. One Should Not Continue in a Congregation whose Leadership he cannot endorse!

IV. Recommendations for those who cannot recommend their Congregation.

- A. 2 Cor. 13:5 Try yourselves whether ye are in the faith"
- B. Are You self-righteous and hypocritical like the Pharisees?
 1. Matt. 23:27-28
- C. Are you a Diotrephes, 3 John 9-12
 1. "Run it or Ruin it"
- D. If you are the only "faithful" Christian left, leave and start you a perfect congregation, but don't let anyone else in for they will surely spoil it.
- E. Go to another congregation.
Surely there is one "faithful" church in the area you could fellowship.
- F. It is possible that after serious introspection and prayer, you will see the problem is within your

own soul and that you need to repent and pray
God for pardon, Acts 8:21-23

- V. Most Every Congregation has at least one “Thorn
in the flesh” member. Always unhappy, always
complaining, always at odds with someone.
 - A. Perhaps there is a congregational application of
2 Cor. 12:7-9
 - B. Don’t Be Upset by them.
 - C. Don’t Listen to or encourage them.
 - D. Remind them of God’s warnings against such.
 - E. Ignore them like a wart on the nose:
If it gets too bad, it will have to be cut off,
Tit. 3:10

CONCLUSION:

I can recommend my religion . . .

I can recommend my home congregation . . .

Can you?

THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN

Ecc. 1:1-8; 12:13-14

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Life is a quest — a search for happiness from the cradle to the grave.
 - 1. Solomon in writing Ecclesiastes, was in the hands of Providence as a great actor upon the stage; the whole race, his audience . . . trying to teach us that things of the world can never give the bliss for which we sigh.
- B. Ecclesiastes means “preacher or teacher.”
 - 1. The theme is simply, The Vanity of Everything Under the Sun.
 - a. He states this in Chapt. 1:2-3.
 - b. It is proven by his personal experience and observation.
 - 2. He shows that True Happiness and Satisfaction are found only as we recognize and adjust our life to Things Above The Sun: things spiritual as well as material.
- C. Some are shocked as Solomon’s conduct . . . “The race needed some one to present these things, that we might learn without such bitter and destructive experience . . .” Larimore.
- D. He who is familiar with the rest of the Bible will find some thoughts in Ecclesiastes contradictory to Truth . . . wrong (i.e., “man has no preeminence over a beast”).

1. God's Book has recorded what the preacher observed in his human wisdom.
 - a. It gives us a startling picture of how fatal it is for even the wisest of men to substitute man's wisdom for God's, and attempt to live by it.
- E. IN MAN'S SEARCH FOR HAPPINESS, ALL THINGS OF THIS WORLD ARE VANITY, EMPTINESS, FUTILITY, A STRIVING AFTER THE WIND.**
- I. Scene One: Can Happiness Be Found in Worldly Wisdom?**
- A. Eccl. 1:16-18.
 - B. God had assured him he would be the wisest of all men.
 1. 1 Kings 3:9-12.
 - C. Worldly Knowledge without God is empty . . . it is destructive.
 1. Christian education.
 2. 1 Cor. 1:18-29.
 - D. Can Wisdom Make Happy?
 1. Vanity; vexation of spirit; chasing after the wind.
 2. For we must die; wise or foolish 2:12-17.
- II. Scene Two: Will Wealth Bring Happiness?**
- A. Solomon had fabulous wealth.
 1. 1 Kings 10:14-22, 27.
 - a. 666 talents of gold; \$29,374.50 = 1 talent.
 - B. Chapt. 4:7-8.
Chapt. 2:18-20.
 - C. Chapt. 5:10-16.
Chapt. 6:1-2.
 1. It cannot, it will not satisfy.

- D. Vanity and Vexation of Spirit.
 - 1. Only a breath separates the tycoon and the pauper.
- III. Scene Three: Does Worldly Pleasure Satisfy?
- A. Chapt. 2:1-11.
 - B. Our society is on a pleasure binge: anything for kicks.
 - C. Eat, drink and be merry. Lk. 12:19
 - D. Like chasing a phantom — “striving after the wind.”
- IV. Scene Four: Can Position and Power in the World make one Happy?
- A. See Him on His Ivory Throne.
 - B. Israel under Solomon reached its pinnacle, 2 Chron. 9:26.
 “And he ruled over all the kings from the River even unto the land of the Philistines and to the border of Egypt.”
 - C. Rulers, good and bad, came to the same fate as the slave.
 - D. Vanity.
- V. Scene Five: The Conclusion of the Matter — The Test Has Been Made!
- A. Things of the world “under the sun are vanity and vexation of spirit.”
 - B. One thing alone is important and worthwhile—it alone can bring happiness and satisfaction to the sons of men.
 - 1. FEAR GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, this is the WHOLE DUTY of MAN. Chapt. 12:13-14.

THE CHRISTIAN'S PRAYER LIFE

INTRODUCTION:

To James prayer is vital to the Christian's life.

- A. It is food for his soul.
- B. Without prayer he will surely die spiritually.
- C. The theme of prayer runs throughout James' message.

- 1. "Daily prayers are the daily visits which change belief that God exists into belief in God as a loved and trusted friend."

D. J. Campbell.

I. "If any of you lacketh . . . let him ask of God. 1:5

A. Verse 5 connects in thought with 1:2-4

- 1. James had pointed out that temptations were intended to prove faith and develop patience.
- 2. Perhaps a man might wonder, "*how can I have the wisdom* to understand and deal with temptations?"
- 3. To which he hurriedly adds, God gives generously.

B. God gives "generously to all men without making them feel foolish or guilty." Phillips.

C. In this we see the character of God.

- 1. God who giveth is "*the giving God*". 1:17

D. Vs. 5 teaches five things:

- 1. We are to look to God and ask Him for our needs.
- 2. Giving is a trait of God's personality.
- 3. He gives to all His children regardless of their station.

4. He gives generously.
 5. He gives without reproaching or making us feel foolishly or guilty.
- II. Ask in Faith, nothing doubting, 1:6
- A. Vs. 6 teaches that God gives rich blessings to:
 1. Those who ask in prayer;
 2. Those who ask of God;
 3. Those who pray in faith and confidence;
 4. Those who do not doubt that God can and will answer according to His will.
- III. "Asking Amiss", 4:1-4
- A. James is setting before his readers a basic question, "What is your aim in life?: to submit to the will of God, or to gratify your own desires for pleasures of this world?"
 - B. If pleasure is the policy of life, then nothing but strife and hatred and division can follow.
 - C. To obey God's will is to be *selfless*.
- IV. "Ye lust and have not"
- A. The craving for pleasure shuts the door of prayer.
 - B. If our prayers are for things that will gratify our selfish sinful desires, then *it is impossible for God to answer them*.
 1. To answer them would be to provide man with ways of sinning?
 2. The true prayer is "Thy will be done", Matthew 26:39.
 - C. Some people fail to reach their goals in life:
 1. Because they ignore God and proudly try to succeed alone.
 2. Others because they have sinful goals that God forbids.
 3. Others because they pray wrongfully.

V. Other impediments to effectual prayer.

- A. God will not do wrong in answer to prayer.
- B. He will not change his revealed will to please man.
- C. He cannot be expected to violate the laws of nature He established.
- D. Doubts in the pray-er's heart.
- E. To neglect to work for the fulfillment of your needs . . .
- F. Lack of Persistence, Lk. 18:1-8 "we ought always to pray and faint not."
- G. Wrongdoing, Prov. 28:9 "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination."
- H. Mistreatment of one's family, 1 Peter 3:7.
- I. Self-righteousness, Lk. 18:9-12.
- J. Selfishness, James 4:3.
- K. Insincerity, Mt. 6:5-7.
- L. Failure to forgive a brother, Mt. 6:12-15.
- M. Factiousness, Mt. 5:23-24.

VI. "If the Lord will", 4:13-15

- A. The section deals with the sin of presumption, i.e., acting without taking God into account.
- B. Note James does not say there is anything wrong about making plans for the future, nor does he denounce business or the desire to make money.
What he does reprove is the absorption in worldly affairs that leaves God out.
- C. Man proposes, but God disposes.
- D. 1 John 5:14.
 - 1. We know God's will only from His revelation, the Bible. 1 Cor. 14:37.
- E. We should never make plans and then ask God to bless them. What we should do is to consult

God before making our plans, and thus let Him in on the planning. If we allow Him to guide us, we may with confidence ask His blessings on our actions.

CONCLUSION:

In every prayer there are three parts:

- A. The wish,
- B. The word, the wish expressed in prayer,
- C. The work which helps to bring the desired results. Prayer is not an occasional impulse when we are in trouble, it is a life attitude,
1 Thess. 5:17.

DEADLY SINS—OFT OVERLOOKED

Matthew 15:1-20

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Enlarge upon the text.
 - 1. Proverbs 23:7, What one holds in his heart he will likely be.
- I. Often We Have Made This Same Mistake Stressing Outward Conformity — Overlooking Attitudes of the Heart.
 - A. Behind the sinful deed is a sinful attitude!
 - 1. Matt. 12:34-35
 - B. Men will never please God with merely outward conformity to rules of religion:
 - 1. Hos. 6:6
 - 2. Matt. 23:23-28
 - 3. Amos 6:21-24
- II. Sins of the Heart — Attitudes that Will Destroy Even the Christian.
 - A. False Pride
 - 1. 1 Tim. 3:6 — Satan's destruction
 - 2. 1 John 2:16
 - 3. Prov. 8:13
 - 4. Prov. 16:18
 - 5. Rom. 12:3 — Self righteousness
 - 6. Prov. 29:23
 - B. Racial superiority and prejudice
 - 1. James 2:8-10
 - 2. Acts 17:26

- C. Lust
1. Matt. 5:28
 2. 2 Peter 2:14
 3. 2 Tim. 2:22
- D. Selfishness
1. Matt. 16:24
 2. Titus 1:7 "the bishop must not be self-willed"
 3. Matt. 22:39
 4. 1 Cor. 13:5
- E. Envy "An evil affection of the heart which makes men grieve and fret at the good and prosperity of others" Generally followed by malice and spite.
1. 1 Peter 2:1-2
 2. Rom. 1:29
 3. Joseph's brothers; Hamon; Jewish Leaders.
 4. Prov. 14:30 "the rottenness of the bones"
- F. Jealousy — "unpleasant fear, suspicion or resentment, arising from mistrust of another..."
1. James 3:14-16
 2. 1 Cor. 3:3
 3. Song of Solomon 8:6 "Jealousy is as cruel as Sheol".
- G. Grudging — Unforgiving
1. Lev. 19:18
 2. James 5:9 "Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest you be condemned" KJV
 3. Matt. 6:15
- H. Hate
1. 1 John 2:9-11
 2. 1 John 3:15
 3. Matt. 5:43-48
- I. Anger
1. Matt. 5:22

2. Prov. 22:24
 3. Prov. 29:11, 22
 4. Eph. 4:26
 5. Titus 1:7
- J. Revenge
1. Rom. 12:17-21
 2. Matt. 5:38
- K. Covetousness — Greed
1. 1 Tim. 6:9-10
 2. Rom. 13:9
 3. Eph. 5:5
- L. Slothfulness
1. Heb. 6:11-12
 2. 2 Thess. 3:10
 3. Rom. 12:11

CONCLUSION:

- A. Philippians 4:7-8
- B. Prov. 4:23

DEVICES OF SATAN

2 Corinthians 2:11

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Satan is a restless enemy of God and man.
 - B. His very name denotes an **ADVERSARY**, An **ACCUSER**, and **ENEMY**.
 - C. . . . He is always near, watching for every opportunity to tempt.
 - 1. To get the advantage over us . . .
 - 2. To cause us to miss glory.
 - D. To get the advantage over us Satan uses **DEVICES**.
 - 1. Scheme, Trick or plan with an evil design or intent . . .
 - 2. *Wiles*, Eph. 6:11 (trickery, crafty, to lie in wait for, cunning procedure, to lure or entice by these wiles:
 - a. *a method or settled plan of action*).
 - E. **INFORMED** Christians are not ignorant of these fiendish devices of Satan.
- I. **SATAN GAINS ADVANTAGES OF CHURCHES BY**
- A. Inducing them to be **MORE** interested in **QUANTITY** than in **QUALITY** of members
 - B. Getting them to Neglect **DISCIPLINE**
 - 1. Often this is done because of the financial or social position of the offender.
 - 2. Church laws are sometimes like spider webs, big flies break through while little ones get caught.

- C. Too Great a Severity of Discipline
 - 1. Severity instead of love destroys the church and victim.
 - 2. Gal. 6:1-2
- D. Prompting the church to be UNWILLING to forgive and readmit to fellowship those who offended but Repented.
 - 1. 1 Cor. 5:5
 - 2. 2 Cor. 2:6-8
- E. Blinding the church into placing Unqualified men in LEADERSHIP.
 - 1. Matt. 15:14 Blind guide the blind . . .
 - 2. 1 Tim. 3:6 "condemnation of the Devil"
- F. Subverting the Unity, DIVISION!
 - 1. One or both parties sin . . .
 - 2. God is dishonored
 - 3. Weak members are driven away
 - 4. Outsiders lose confidence
 - 5. All work is stymied
 - 6. Ground won is lost . . . for years.
- G. By destroying our confidence in our Spiritual Leaders.
 - 1. Slander and Lies, 1 Tim. 5:19
 - 2. Leading us to make Unreasonable demands and criticism of them. Ps. 105:15

II. SATAN GAINS ADVANTAGE OVER INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIANS BY:

- A. Inducing them to CONFORM to the axioms of the world; by instilling a fear of being different or standing alone.
 - 1. Rom. 12:1-2 . . .
 - 2. helping them RATIONALIZE THEIR INDULGENCE in worldliness

- B. By producing LAXNESS OF OPINION or Faith in DOCTRINE of Christ.
John 8:32; Rom. 1:16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17
1. The church is the pillar and support of truth, 1 Tim. 3:15
Christians are to contend earnestly for the faith, Jude 3 . . .
 2. Tim. 1:13 "Hold the pattern of sound words which thou hast heard from me . . ."
 2. The cause of Satan is advanced by falsehood and error and especially when Christians have the error.
- C. By producing DESPONDENCY AND DESPAIR.
1. Satan tries to overwhelm us with hinderances, *discouragements* and failures and we sometimes have to struggle alone . . .
 2. When we become glum and down-hearted, it gives the impression that religion is an unhappy, gloomy affair and many are repulsed . . . it is like chain reaction!
IF WE LISTEN TO SATAN:
"We are too small"
"You are all alone"
"Every good work is too big,
Everything worth while is impossible"
 3. Christians must be cheerful, happy and optimistic and determined! Phil. 4:13
- D. APATHY, preoccupation with other things to the neglect of Spiritual Matters.
1. "Satan is just as pleased with the Christian who is so busy with other things, he does not remember to serve God, as he is the man who never becomes a Christian."
 2. Sardis, Rev. 3:1-6.

- E. He gets the advantage over us by working through our homes . . .
 - 1. Causing ONE mate to apostasize and using him against the faithful one to discourage him.
 - 2. Causing doubt and mistrust to arise in the family circle.
 - 3. The non-Christian influencing the Christian for worse.
- F. CONTENTION AND STRIVE. He seeks to use us to cause these. When we fight one another he wins. Gal. 5:15

III. SATAN GAINS ADVANTAGE OVER ALIENS BY:

- A. Producing a false sense of security in their undone condition.
- B. Inducing them to defer attention to Religion to the future. This is an advantage because *it accomplished all he wants at the present time.*
- C. Planting False Views of Religion.
 - 1. One church good as another
 - 2. Baptism is not important
 - 3. Feelings are the safe guide
 - 4. Parent's religion is the best
 - 5. Religion is drab and sad
 - 6. Sins too great for forgiveness
- D. He convinces them they are as good as and as well off as Christians.
- E. He deludes the aged, (its too late) ;
 - 1. the young (you're too young)
- F. He deceives him with the sparkling passing pleasures of sin.

CONCLUSION:

May we never be fooled by the Devil's Devices.

THE CHRISTIAN AND RACIAL PREJUDICES

- I. All the human family is of one common stock,
Acts 17:26.
- II. There is no evidence that the mark of Cain, the
curse of Ham (Canaan) refers to black skin.
- III. The descendants of Ham and his son Canaan,
Jos. 6:25; Matt. 1:5.
 - A. Moses married a Cushite woman,
Numbers 12:1-8.
- IV. In Christ such distinctions were to be done away.
 - A. Eph. 2:13-16
 - B. Gal. 3:26-28
- V. Racial Separations and Enmity were common
between Jews and Samaritans.
 - A. John 4:4-10; 27
 - B. Luke 10:25-37, the good Samaritan
- VI. The Gospel Transcends all racial barriers.
 - A. Mk. 16:15
 - B. Eph. 4:4, ONE CHURCH — Not to be
separated in fellowship or any point.
 - C. Acts 10:34-35
 - D. Acts 10:15, 28
 - E. Rom. 2:11
 - F. 1 Sam. 16:7, God judges a person by their
heart, not by outward appearance.
- VII. To Force Another Christian to take on inferior
position to you is SIN.
 - A. James 2:1-4; 8-10
- VIII. The Church at Antioch was an integrated church:

Gentiles and Jews. It was there God bestowed the name Christian. It became the greatest congregation.

- IX. Also Symeon NIGER was a leader in Antioch, Acts 13:1.
- X. Peter sinned in the matter of respecting people's nationality to please others. Gal. 2:11-18.
- XI. All races will be together in heaven.
 - A. Rev. 7:9

THE COST OF COVETOUSNESS

Luke 12:15

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Perhaps the most prevalent sin in the church today is *covetousness*.
 - B. It is Defined: "A greedy spirit which will break all the barriers of God to secure the object of its desire; a selfish hoarding to the neglect of the needs of others; a misuse of the blessings of life on temporary and selfish pleasures."
 - C. Covetousness is a thief that robs us of life's best.
- I. Covetousness Steals God From The Heart.
- A. Ps. 10:3
 - B. Col. 3:5, "Covetousness which is idolatry"
 - 1. 1 John 5:21, "guard yourselves from idols"
 - 2. "Whatever thy heart clings to and relies on, that properly is thy God." *Luther*.
- II. Covetousness Steals Discrimination From The Mind.
- A. Lk. 12:13-21 The rich fool became twisted in his values.
 - B. It makes a man "work himself to death."
It robs children of a mother at home.
It keeps a man away from church.
It makes parents send their children to a godless school to save money.
It robs us of time to live — study God's word, enjoy our family.

It often sets friend against friend and brother against brother.

III. Covetousness Steals Service From Life.

A. Lk. 16:19-31 The Rich man failed to help poor Lazarus.

B. "When a man's supreme ambition is to get and enjoy, he will fight to keep."

IV. It Steals Christ From The Soul.

A. Matt. 19:16-22 The Rich Young Ruler.

B. Matt. 13:22

V. It Steals Satisfaction From the Heart.

A. Ecc. 5:10 "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase . . ."

B. Only one bread can satisfy the soul.

1. John 6:51 — Jesus

2. Matt. 4:4

3. 1 Tim. 6:10

VI. It Steals Progress From Life

A. Ps. 106:15 "He gave them their request, but sent leanness into their souls."

B. The Covetous man ceases to grow spiritually.

1. He loses his appetite and vision for the finer spiritual things of life.

VII. It Steals Security From The Future.

A. Prov. 23:5

B. Lk. 12:31-32

C. 1 Tim. 6:17

CONCLUSION:

A. How To Guard Against Covetousness:

1. Learn to be rich toward God. Lk. 12:21

2. Learn to be content with what we have.
Ph. 4:11
3. Refrain from fixation on the forbidden.
Col. 3:1-3; Ps. 119:36
4. Learn the meaning of self-denial.
Matt. 16:24

THE CASE FOR VIRGINITY

1 Thess. 4:3-8

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Today's society has challenged the established rules of sexual purity. Spokesmen for the New Morality:
 - 1. would destroy any guidelines for sexual conduct except one's own desires and passions.
 - 2. They re-interpret man as solely a sexually motivated animal.
 - 3. They call for unlimited expression of man's physical drives.
 - B. I challenge you to use your intelligence to weigh the evidence for Virginitv as contrasted with sexual promiscuity.
- I. Respect for God's Law Demands Virginitv.
 - A. Rom. 13:9, "Thou shalt not commit adultery."
 - II. Respect for God's Claim on Your Body.
 - A. 1 Cor. 6:13b-20.
 - III. Respect for God's Holy Spirit, whose Temple We are.
 - A. 1 Cor. 3:16-17.
 - IV. Respect For Jesus Who Gave His Life for You.
 - A. 1 Pet. 2:21-24.
 - V. Respect for Yourself: abstain from fornication.
 - A. Job 27:5 "Till I die, I will not put away mine integrity from me."
 - B. Matt. 22:39
 - 1. Your soul — for it is sin. 1 Thess. 4:6-8.
 - 2. Your conscience — it brings guilt.

3. Your happiness — fear of being found out.
Worry about consequences.
 4. Your reputation.
 - a. Prov. 22:1, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches."
 5. Your physical health — V. D.
 6. Your emotional health — guilt and anxiety;
may cause serious problems even years later.
 7. Your future.
 - a. Unwanted child.
 - b. Unwanted marriage.
 - c. Your chance for a happy marriage:
 - 1) Frigidity.
 - 2) Impotency.
 - 3) Suspicion.
 - 4) Jealousy.
 - 5) Divorce.
- VI. Respect for Your Parents.
- A. Eph. 6:1-2.
- VII. Respect for Your Partner.
- A. Matt. 22:39, "Love your neighbor as yourself."
- VIII. Respect for the Child Who May Well Be Born.
- IX. Respect for Your Nation.
- A. By 1975, an estimated 10 million Americans will have been born out of wedlock.
 - B. V. D. is Epidemic.
 - C. Homes are decaying.
 - D. Personal integrity is rapidly disappearing.
 - E. Pro. 14:34; Lev. 18:24-25

DRIFTING AWAY

Heb. 2:1-4

I. Exegete the verse.

- A. No exertion is necessary for apostasy when Satan strives to alienate from God.
 - 1. He doesn't urge them to become athiests overnight; No child of God would think of such a thing.
 - 2. But, He Will Try To Set Us Drifting!
- B. No one will reach heaven while drifting . . . drifting is always away from heaven.
 - 1. Sin means missing the mark.
 - a. Sin will separate us from heaven.
 - 2. II Jno. 9 "Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ hath not God."
- C. Usually folks fail to realize that they are drifting till punishment comes.

II. Examples of God's Children Who Drifted.

- A. Israelites, Hos. 11:7 "My people are bent on backsliding."
- B. The early church.
- C. The restored church drifted away:
 - 1. A changed attitude.
 - 2. Desire to be like their religious neighbors.
 - 3. Substituted personal ideas for God's way.
 - 4. Missionary Society — Sectarianism.

D. Jas. 1:13-15

1. Tempted when drawn away by your own lusts and enticed.
2. Lust, when conceived bringeth forth sin.
3. Sin when fullgrown bringeth forth death.

III. Symptoms of Drifting:

A. A changed attitude toward the work: a decline in zeal.

1. Indifference toward the cause.
2. Neglect in attending services.
3. Slacking off in giving.
4. Becoming unduly critical of other Christians.
5. Seeking to justify one's errors and sins rather than confessing them.
6. A deaf ear to the cry of the needy.
7. Neglect of Study and Prayer.
8. Indulgence in once questionable things.
9. Compromise with those in error.
10. Becoming angered at sermons that condemn our sins, rather than repenting.
11. Efforts to please the religious world.
12. Objection to Controversy.
13. A martyr complex.

IV. We Need to take Inventory.

- A. II Cor. 13:5 "Try your own selves, whether ye are in the faith — prove your own selves."
- B. Eph. 1:18 "having the eyes of your heart enlightened, that ye may know what the hope of his calling."
- C. II Pet. 3:17 "knowing these things beforehand, beware lest, being carried away with the error

of the wicked, ye fall from your own steadfastness.”

1. I Pet. 5:8 “Be sober, be watchful . . .”

CONCLUSION:

- A. “Stand fast in the faith” I Cor. 16:13.
- B. “Be not conformed . . . Be Transformed . . .”
Rom. 12:2
- C. Take heed brethren lest ye drift away from the things ye have heard.

CONFESSIONS

Lk. 18:9; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Jno. 4:15;
1 John 1:9; Phil. 2:9-10

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Confession is an intricate part of the Christian life . . .
- B. It is a *Daily* activity that cannot be excluded.
- C. There are four variations or varieties of confession suggested in the above verses . . .
- I. "To acknowledge faith in; to profess or avow adhesion to; (To CONFESS Christ before men)
 - A. Rom. 10:9-10, "confess Jesus as Lord"
 - B. Matt. 16:16, "Thou art the Christ"
 - C. 1 Tim. 6:12-13, "the good confession"
 - D. Jno. 12:42, "would not confess it"
 - E. Matt. 10:32, "confess me before men"
 - F. This confession must proceed from faith."
 - 1. Hebrews 11:6
 - 2. Romans 14:23
- II. "To give evidence of; to make manifest: public or open profession of faith, by obedience.
(This is commonly called PROFESSION)
 - A. The faithful life for Jesus . . .
 - 1. 1 Jno. 4:15, ". . . confess Jesus is the Son of God, God abideth in him and he in God."
 - 2. Heb. 10:23, "let us hold fast the confession of our hope, that it waver not . . ."

3. 2 Cor. 9:13, “. . . they glorify God for the obedience of your confession unto the gospel of Christ.”
 4. 1 John 1:7
 5. Phil. 1:27, “. . . let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ: that, whether I come and see you or be absent, I may hear of your state, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one soul striving for the faith of the gospel.”
 6. Eph. 4:1, “walk worthily of the calling”
 7. Matt. 5:16
- B. Not JUST A VERBAL CLAIM, BUT A LIFE IN CONFORMITY TO HIS WILL.
1. Tit. 1:16, “profess they know God, but by their works deny him.”
 2. Matt. 7:21

III. “To acknowledge or own, as a fault or a debt”

- A. Matt. 3:16, “were baptized of him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.”
- B. 1 Jno. 1:9, “if we confess our sins”
- C. James 5:16, “Confess your faults”
- D. This confession must be as public as the sin.
 1. Matt. 5:23
 2. Matt. 18:15-18
- E. This is something more than merely mouthing words to this effect.
 1. See Acts 8:22
 2. “Sorrow”, 2 Cor. 7:10
 - a. repentance
 - b. confession
 - c. prayer

NOTE: IT TAKES BUT ONE SIN THAT A SOUL REFUSES TO CORRECT AND CONFESS TO DESTROY A MAN . . . James 2:10

- IV. "An acknowledgement or recognition of facts; forced under distasteful circumstances."**
- A. Rom. 14:11 "As I live, saith the Lord to me every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess to God."**
 - B. Phil. 2:11 "and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."**
 - C. There will be no infidels in the judgement, neither will there be any impenitent sinners, all will acknowledge Christ and all will confess their sins . . . But it will be too late.**
 - D. 2 Cor. 5:10, "We must all be made manifest before the judgement seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things *done in the body*, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad."**

Make Your Confession today . . . Jesus will bless you for it. You will never regret it . . . Come while we stand and sing.

ETERNAL PRINCIPLES

INTRODUCTION:

- A. There are certain principles and laws that will stand till the end of time.
 - B. These eternal principles apply to all phases of life.
 - C. If these laws were appreciated and followed, the world would be a better place and the church would grow as in the beginning.
- I. "Honor to whom honor is due", Rom. 13:7.
- A. Honor to those in authority, Rom. 13:1.
 - 1. 1 Peter 2:13, *The law*.
 - 2. The officers.
 - B. Honor to teachers.
 - C. Honor to parents.
 - 1. Eph. 6:1-2.
 - 2. Prov. 6:20.
 - D. Honor to God, Ecclesiastes 12:13.
 - 1. Obedience.
 - 2. Worship.
 - 3. Service.
 - E. Honor to Christ, Matthew 28:18.
 - 1. Respect for him as head.
 - 2. Respect for his body the church!
 - F. Honor to Fellow-Christians.
 - 1. Romans 12:9-13.
 - 2. Gal. 6:1-2, 10.
 - 3. Respect for one another, Matthew 7:12.
 - a. 1 Thess. 5:12-13.

- II. "If any will not work neither let him eat",
2 Thess. 3:10.
 - A. Laziness in the world:
 - 1. Work: Gen. 2:15; 1 Thess. 4:11;
Eph. 4:28; 1 Cor. 9:7.
 - 2. God's rule for helping the unemployed.
 - B. Work in the Kingdom of God.
 - 1. 1 Cor. 15:58.
 - 2. Phil. 2:12.
 - 3. Titus 2:14.
- III. "A house divided against itself cannot stand",
Mt. 12:26.
 - A. Nations divided cannot stand.
 - B. Divided homes are doomed.
 - C. The church divided cannot stand.
 - 1. Rom. 16:17.
 - 2. 1 Cor. 1:10; Rom. 15:5-7.
 - 3. Eph. 4:1-5.
- IV. "Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap."
Gal. 6:7-8.
 - A. Sowing in the physical realm:
 - 1. Always the same.
 - 2. Always the quantity.
 - B. Sowing in the Moral realm:
 - 1. Corruption reaps corruption.
 - 2. Spirit reaps spirit.
 - C. Sowing in the Spiritual:
 - 1. For the individual, 2 Cor. 9:6-11.
 - 2. For the church.

CONCLUSION:

- A. These are some of the principles or rules by which life must proceed. Conform to them, and be blest; go against them and suffer.

A CREED THAT NEEDS NO REVISION

2 Tim. 3:16-17

INTRODUCTION:

There was a Battle Over the *Westminster Confession of Faith* being rewritten. *Our Creed Never Can Be Revised.*

- I. It was written by an all-wise God.
 - A. 2 Tim. 3:16a
 - B. 2 Sam. 23:1-2
- II. It was "Once for all" delivered
 - A. Jude 3
- III. It was sealed and dedicated by the blood of Jesus.
 - A. Matt. 26:27-28
- IV. It will stand forever.
 - A. Matt. 24:35
- V. It is *Truth*, John 17:17.
 - A. It honors God and Christ.
 - B. It shows man his sinfulness, Rom. 3:23.
 - C. It shows man his salvation in Christ,
Gal. 3:26-27.
 - D. Only TRUTH can make us free, John 8:32.
- VI. It is a UNIVERSAL CREED suitable for all men everywhere.
 - A. Mk. 16:15
- VII. It alone is mutually acceptable to every believer.
 - A. Members of any denomination can and will accept it.

- B. This cannot be said about any other religious creed.

VIII. It is a living creed, Heb. 4:12.

- A. Never Grows Obsolete.
- B. I challenge anyone to write a better one!

IX. It will bring ecumenical unity if followed.

- A. John 17:20-21
- B. Illustrate an ecumenical conference

CONCLUSION:

- A. To reject the Message of Christ is to reject Christ and the Father that sent him.
- B. John 12:47-50; 13:20

This creed is the sole standard by which you will be judged! This creed Is God's Message of Salvation, James 1:21; 1 Pet. 1:23, 25b.

THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

II John 9-11; Acts 2:47

INTRODUCTION:

- A. While the Bible places great emphasis on the DOCTRINE taught and believed by God's people, there is a general trend in the religious world to "play down" the great doctrines of the Faith.
 - 1. This has left many worshippers almost totally ignorant of the distinctive TRUTHS of Christianity.
 - B. Many Protestant ministers have renounced the fundamental doctrines of the Faith . . . they seek to destroy the faith of others.
 - C. Because many know not the True Doctrine, they are preyed upon and often led astray by false teachers such as the Jehovah Witnesses, Mormons, Adventists, Christian Scientists, Etc. . . .
- I. We Must Be Sound in our Doctrine.
- A. Titus 1:9, ". . . holding to the faithful word which is according to the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in the sound doctrine, and to convict the gainsayer."
 - B. Titus 2:1, "But speak thou the things which befit the sound doctrine . . ."
 - C. 1 Tim. 4:6, "If thou put the brethren in mind of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Christ Jesus nourished in the words of the

faith and of the good doctrine which thou hast followed until now.”

- D. Titus 2:7, “In all things showing thyself an ensample of good works; in thy doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned, that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of us.”

II. Sound Doctrine Can Only Be Had From God’s Word . . .

- A. 2 Tim. 3:16-17
- B. Jude 3
- C. Rom. 10:17
- D. Gal. 1:11-12 Paul’s gospel came not from man . . . but by revelation of Jesus.
- E. God’s Word is A Pattern For Our Worship, Faith, and Practice. 2 Tim. 1:13.
 - 1. Tupos:
 - a. an impression, mark of a blow.
 - b. impress of a seal.
 - c. a form or mold.
 - d. pattern.

III. We Must Take Heed to Our Doctrine.

- A. 1 Tim. 4:13, “Till I come, give heed to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.”
- B. 1 Tim. 4:16, “Take heed to thyself, and to thy doctrine. Continue in these things, for in doing this, thou shalt save both thyself and them that hear thee.”

IV. We Must Proclaim the Doctrine of Christ.

- A. 2 Tim. 2:2, “commit to faithful men”.
- B. Jude 3, “Contend”
- C. 2 Tim. 4:1-2, “preach the word”.

- D. 1 Pet. 4:11, "speak as the oracles of . . ."
- E. 1 Pet. 3:15, give an answer for the faith.
- F. Mk. 16:15.

V. False Doctrine Must Be Rejected and Exposed and Opposed.

- A. Matt. 15:6, 9 "ye have made void the word of God because of your tradition . . . But in vain do they worship me, teaching as their doctrine the precepts of men."
- B. Rom. 16:17, "Mark Them"
- C. 2 Tim. 4:3, "will not endure sound doctrine."
- D. Gal. 1:8-9.
- E. Col. 2:22.
- F. 2 John 9-10, "Receive them not, neither bid them godspeed."

VI. We Must Stand Firm In The Faith.

- A. 2 Thess. 2:15, So then brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye were taught, whether by word, or by epistle of ours."
- B. Eph. 4:14-15.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Let us contend for the faith and abide in the doctrine of Christ.

ENOCH, THE MAN WHO DID NOT DIE

Genesis 5:18-24, Hebrews 11:5-6

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Of the billions of souls that have lived on earth, only two have escaped death:
 - 1. Enoch and Elijah
 - B. Today we will consider Enoch's life and circumstances.
- I. The **TIMES** In Which Enoch Lived:
- A. The Seventh from Adam (contemporary for 300 years)
 - 1. In his life time he would have had opportunity to *know both Adam and Noah*.
 - B. He could hear from the lips of Adam and Eve the wonderful story of Eden before the Fall.
 - 1. Also the awful story of sin's entrance and ruin of the race.
 - C. His was *not an age of cave-men*.
 - 1. Specialized skills and occupations, Gen. 4:2
 - 2. Cities, Gen. 4:17b.
 - a. Portable dwellings, Gen. 4:20
 - 3. Songs and Music, Gen. 4:20
 - D. His was an age of Increasing Lawlessness and Sin, Gen. 4:23-24.
 - E. His WAS an age of Apostasy.
 - F. His was an age when Some Called Upon God, Gen. 4:26b.
 - 1. There is a great contrast in the picture of Enoch and that of the rest of his world.

II. The Conduct of Enoch:

- A. He *Walked with God*, an expression charged with meaning.
- B. He walked by Faith, Heb. 11:5-6
 - 1. He did not visibly see God, Ex. 33:20
 - a. Faith Comes by hearing God's word, Rom. 10:17
 - b. In those days God spoke to the Fathers, Heb. 1:1
 - c. He walked in agreement with God, Amos 3:3
 - d. He WALKED WITH GOD, He did not seek to lead the way. Matt. 16:24
 - e. He walked in worship, communion, and fellowship with God, Matthew 2:5-7.
 - f. He walked amidst a wicked world, Gen. 4:26; 5:5.
 - g. He walked while warning his neighbors, Jude 14-15.
 - h. He walked in Fellowship with other faithful ones, 1 John 1:7.

III. God Took Him:

- A. He did not taste of death — his reward.
- B. A rebuke to his scoffing neighbors.
- C. Proof that there is life beyond this life.

IV. Lessons for Us from his life:

- A. We must also walk with God, Mt. 16:24.
- B. We must also walk by faith, 2 Cor. 5:7.
- C. We must know God's Word, Rom. 10:17.
- D. We must walk in agreement, Amos 3:3.
- E. We must *walk with God*, not run ahead of Him.
- F. We must walk in worship, communion, and fellowship with God.

- G. We must walk humbly, Micah 6:8.
- H. We must walk in the midst of a sinful world.
- I. We must hold forth the word of Life and warn them of judgment, Phil. 2:15.
- J. We must walk in fellowship with others of God's family.

CONCLUSION:

- A. If we walk like Enoch —
 - 1. One day God will take us
 - a. 1 Peter 1:9, "Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls"
- B. Should we be alive at His Coming we who are saved will be caught up to meet Him in the air, 1 Thess. 5:16-17.
 - 1. Or we will be raised prepared for eternity.
 - a. John 14:1-3

CHRISTIANS AND CHRISTMAS

Gal. 4:8-11

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The world-wide observance of Christmas is a fact.
 - B. The serious Christian is concerned to know if this religious observance is approved of by God.
- I. Is December 25th Christ's Birthday?
- A. The Bible offers not a word on the date
 - B. History is silent.
 - 1. "The day of Christ's birth cannot be ascertained from the New Testament, or indeed, from any other source. The fathers of the first three centuries do not speak of any special observance of the nativity . . ."
McClintock and Strong, Vol. 3, p. 276
 - C. The date was determined by decree of Liberious, bishop of Rome, 354 A.D.
 - 1. The date was widely and hotly disputed, every month was set forth.
 - D. Why the date was chosen.
 - 1. "The Western Church ordered the feast to be celebrated on the day of the Mithraic rites of the birth of the sun" *Americana*
 - E. The name, Christes' Mass reveals its Catholic origin.
- II. IS IT WRONG FOR CHRISTIANS TO OBSERVE CHRISTMAS AS A HOLY DAY to God?
- A. Matt. 28:19-20 observe what Christ taught

- B. Matt. 15:9
- C. 1 Cor. 4:6
- D. Gal. 1:8-9
- E. Rev. 22:18-19
- F. God gave us only one special day the first day, the day of Christ's resurrection.
 - 1. Had God wanted us to observe special holy days, he would have told us.
 - 2. Gal. 4:8-11.

III. What shall our attitude toward this holiday be?

- A. We cannot go out of the world, 1 Cor. 5:9-10.
- B. We cannot observe it as a holy day or engage in religious observances connected with it.
- C. We can observe the legal-civil holiday as such, just as we would any other.
 - 1. We can take the day off with pay.
 - 2. We can accept the Christmas bonus.
 - 3. We can accept Christmas presents.
 - 4. We can eat Turkey and cranberries.
 - 5. We can give presents to family and friends.
 - 6. We can enjoy the festivities.
- D. Some Recommendations:
 - 1. Use seasonal cards, not religious ones.
 - 2. Avoid the religious motif in your decor.
 - 3. Teach your children that this is not a religious holiday for Christ's birth.
 - 4. Practice good will and charitableness year round.
 - 5. Treat Santa Claus just like you would all other fairy tales and fantasies.
 - 6. Learn why you do not keep Christmas as a holy day and be ready to give an answer, 1 Peter 3:15.

E. Don't Violate Your Conscience.

1. Rom. 14:22-23, If you believe it is wrong,
do not participate.

2. Rom. 14:5

F. Don't try to force your scruples on others.

1. Rom. 14:1

2. Rom. 14:4

3. Rom. 14:10, 12

4. Rom. 14:4

DEATH

Hebrews 9:27

Ezekiel 18:20

Revelation 21:8-9

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Death is one of the world's greatest mysteries.
- B. Few worry about where they came from or how they got here, but *everyone* at sometime wonders and worries about what will happen and where will he go?

DEFINITION: "originally, a separation from God."
Genesis 2:17; 3:23 . . . now, any separation."

- I. ORIGIN AND CAUSE OF DEATH . . . physical and spiritual . . . Gen. 2-3
 - A. God created man sinless and immortal
 - 1. he kept sinless by obeying God's law
 - 2. he kept immortality by partaking of the tree of life, *Gen.* 3:22-23 "lest he put forth his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat and live forever."
 - B. Adam sinned!
 - 1. His sin (transgression of law) separation from God, *Gen.* 3:23; *Is.* 59:1-2.
 - C. SPIRITUAL DEATH, DIRECT CONSEQUENCE
 - D. Physical Death, Indirect consequence for Jehovah took away his privilege of the tree of life.
 - E. FIRST CASE OF DEATH . . . murder . . . was Abel the victim of Cain (Relate the event briefly).

- F. All Adam's posterity LOST IMMORTALITY in Adam's sin . . . NOT Spiritual life.
1. Ezek. 18:20
 2. 1 Cor. 15:22 "in Adam all die"
 3. *Rom.* 5:12 "through one man sin entered the world and death through sin; and so death passed unto all man . . ."
- G. Hence, all die today, Heb. 9:27 (even innocent babies) not because of their sin, but because of father Adam's sin.

II. WE ARE SUBJECT TO MANY DEATHS

- A. We Die in Sin and toward God when we sin.
Is. 59:1-2, Ezek. 18:20, Eph. 2:1
1. All are guilty at one point of life
 2. *Rom.* 3:23
- B. We Die to the LOVE AND PRACTICE of sin
1. *Rom.* 6:2 we who died to sin . . .
 2. *Col.* 3:3 ye died and your life is hid
 3. Hence we become alive toward God.
 - a. *John* 5:24 "he that heareth my word and believeth him that sent me, hath eternal life".
 - b. *Rom.* 6:4 "we might walk in newness of life."
- C. PHYSICAL DEATH . . . Heb. 9:27
1. 2 Cor. 5:1 the earthly house of our tabernacle be dissolved . . .
 2. *Eccle.* 12:7
- D. SECOND DEATH
1. *John* 5:28-29
 2. 2 *Thess.* 1:7-9
 3. *Rev.* 20:11-15 "the lake of fire which is the second death"

III. TWO CLASSES OF MEN AND HOW THEY STAND RELATIVE TO PHYSICAL DEATH...

A. ALIEN SINNERS AND BACKSLIDERS — those spiritually dead.

1. They are UNPREPARED.
 - a. Matt. 25:31-41
 - b. Matt. 7:21-22
2. To this class DEATH IS A HORRIBLE STEP into condemnation of a just God.
3. God has no pleasure in their death.
 - a. Ezek. 18:32 "I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth."
 - b. 2 Pet. 3:19 God suffers long for them.
 - c. Lk. 12:20 "Soul REQUIRED of thee"
4. They rightly fear death . . .
 - a. Heb. 10:26-31
 - b. 2 Thess. 1:7-9

B. THE CHILDREN OF GOD: to them death is but the final step into eternal glory.

1. God anticipates their passing with joy, Ps. 116:15
2. Children who have not sinned are safe from the second death, 2 Sam. 12:23; Matt. 19:14; 18:3.
3. The angels gently bear them away to rest, Lk. 16:22
4. They are PREPARED to meet the Lord.
 - a. Stephen, Acts 7:59-60
 - b. Paul, Phil. 1:21-23 "to die is gain . . . having a desire to depart and be with Christ."
 - c. Rev. 14:13, "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord . . . they may rest..."

5. **PREPARDNESS AND UNDERSTANDING
EXPELS THE FEAR OF DEATH . . .**
 - a. Faith is the Victory that won over
dungeon, fire and sword, 1 Jn. 5:4
 - b. 2 Tim. 1:10 Jesus abolished death and
brought life and immortality to light
through the gospel.
6. The saved do not fear because we can look
beyond this life and death to the glorious
RESURRECTION of Eternal Life. For this
we hope with all confidence.
 - a. 1 Cor. 15:54-57
 - b. **DEATH WILL DIE!**

CONCLUSION:

The words of Amos are fitting in conclusion . . .
"PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD."

ONE MOMENT AFTER DEATH

INTRODUCTION:

- A. A world full of people are hoping that there is no life after this one. False teachers seek to scratch their itching ears by teaching that man sleeps in death just as animals. Sinners recklessly gamble their soul's destiny on this vain dream.
- B. God's word draws back the black veil of death and gives us a glimpse of the life beyond . . . Lk. 16:19-31.
- C. ONE MOMENT AFTER DEATH MAN WILL SEE:
 - I. *That Man Does Live On After Death.*
 - A. The soul does not sleep in death.
 - B. Separation, the true meaning of death.
 - 1. Jas. 2:26
 - 2. Eccle. 12:7
 - 3. 2 Cor. 4:16 "...though our outward man is decaying..."
 - 4. Phil 1:23 "...Depart and be with Christ"
 - II. *Two Destinies Await On the Other Side.*
 - A. Universal Salvation is a myth!
 - B. Matt. 7:13-14 "Wide is the gate . . ."
 - C. Rest or Torment are on the other side.
 - III. *The Situation is Irreversible.*
 - A. The Great Gulf

- B. Shows there is No Second Chance.
 - 1. Heb. 9:27
 - 2. Matt. 25:1-12 Ten Virgins
 - 3. 2 Cor. 6:2 "now is the day of salvation."
- IV. *In Death, We are Conscious and Remember.*
 - A. The Awareness of *what we are missing* will be awful.
 - B. We will realize the *hopelessness* of the situation.
 - C. We will *consciously suffer* anguish and pain if lost.
 - D. We will Realize it is all our fault if we are lost, 2 Pet. 3:9
- V. *Won't Be Able To Warn Those Living.*
 - A. This Refutes Spiritualism.
 - B. God calls the living to salvation.
 - 1. 1 Thess. 2:12-13
 - C. He only calls through the gospel.
 - 1. 2 Thess. 2:14
 - D. 2 Tim. 3:16-17, this is enough.
- VI. God Will *Not Send* or Use *Any Power To Convert Sinners But His Word . . .*
 - A. Rom. 1:16
 - B. Jas. 1:21
- VII. That his brethren could have heard Moses and prepared *Disproves* the *theory* of *Election.*
 - A. Acts 10:34, "God is no respecter of Persons."
 - B. Heb. 2:9 Christ "tasted death for every man."
 - C. Matt. 11:28-30
- VIII. I Will Learn That *Purgatory is a Lie.*
- IX. I Will See The *Folly of Trusting Riches.*
 - A. Mk. 8:36-37 "What doth it profit a man . . ."
 - B. 1 Tim. 6:6-10

- X. I Will See The *Utter Horror of Being Lost* . . .**
Hopeless, Helpless, Hapless.
- A. Heb. 10:31 "a fearful thing."**
 - B. Rev. 14:10-11**
 - C. It is to look forward to:**
 - 1. a bottomless pit . . .**
 - 2. a lake burning with fire and brimstone . . .**
 - 3. a place of weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth . . .**
 - 4. a place of outer darkness . . .**
 - 5. a place filled with vile and ruthless . . . the cruel and perverted . . . the devil and his angels . . .**
 - 6. endless misery.**

CONCLUSION:

- A. Behold then the foodness and severity of God. Rom. 11:22**
- B. How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation? Heb. 2:3**
- C. Be ye reconciled unto God. 2 Cor. 5:20**

DEATH, THE MOMENT OF TRUTH

(A Funeral Sermon)

Scripture Reading: Ps. 121:1-8

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills; from whence cometh my help? My help cometh from the Lord who made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."

Matt. 11:28-30: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Prayer: Dear God: with hearts heavy with sorrow, we come into thy majestic presence seeking comfort and help and hope in Jesus' name

INTRODUCTION:

A. We are assembled here this morning to pay our regards to the memory of _____, devoted and beloved wife, mother, loved one, friend and neighbor . . . and to try as best we can in these difficult moments to comfort those who remain.

I. RESPECTS FOR DECEASED:

A. Your presence here today, the beautiful flowers, the heavy hearts and the flood of tears you have shed, declare to all the world the friendship, love, devotion and affection that you held for her . . . and I am sure her life will be a wonderful memory to be treasured in the heart of all that knew her.

II. Nothing we could say at this time could help or hinder this departed one, for she now rests in the hands of a just God . . . and he has told us that each of us must be personally responsible before Him for the way we have lived in this life.

Rev. 20:13.

A. However, in this Moment of Truth, we can Let God's Eternal Truths find a place in our hearts which have been made tender and receptive by this sorrow . . .

III. When Death Strikes Close to Us:

A. We are Reminded that Death Is the Common Lot of all men.

1. 1 Cor. 15:22, "In Adam all die . . ."

Heb. 9:27, "it is appointed unto all men once to die." Josh. 23:14, "I am going the way of all the earth."

2. Although we strive to keep the thought far from us, today we are made to realize that someday we must also step from this life into another that has no end.

3. My funeral will be conducted: what memories will I leave, what will my loved ones and friends feel? What will my destiny be?

4. Since we cannot evade death, since we are

never but one step from eternity, WE MUST PREPARE TO MEET OUR GOD.

Amos 4:12.

B. Now, We see more clearly THE FUTILITY OF EARTHLY THINGS.

1. Life is too precious; happiness, joy and peace of mind are too valuable to be neglected, to be lost while rushing in a frenzy after the material things that at best last us only a few days.
2. Job. 1:21 "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return . . ."
3. 1 Tim. 6:6-8, "godliness with contentment is great gain: for we brought nothing into the world, for neither can we carry anything out; but having food and covering we shall therewith be content."
4. Matt. 6:19-20, "lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth . . . but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven . . ."

C. Today we see HOW MUCH WE DO NEED JESUS CHRIST.

1. To save us from our sinfulness . . . Lk. 19:10.
2. To lead us safely through life . . . John 10:1, the Good Shepherd.
3. To turn to for strength and comfort in moments like these . . . 1 Pet. 5:7.
4. To walk the valley of the shadow of death with us . . . Ps. 23:4.
5. To share eternity with us . . . Rev. 7:15-17.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Let us remember, not just today or this week, but every day of our lives that the MATERIAL THINGS are of no value when we are called

for eternity; that DEATH cannot be escaped; only prepared for and that we need Jesus more than anything else in life and today He says COME UNTO ME. Matt. 11:28-30.

- B. As for _____ remember those many good things of her life and profit by them . . . and let us prepare to meet our God.

Prayer: Almighty God, again we petition thee for Divine help to understand that Thy ways are right, that these sad things must be; that only in Thee can we find the strength to endure the sorrows of life. Be with us as we depart this place we humbly ask in Jesus name, Amen.

COMMITAL:

Scripture Readings: Job. 1:21; Eccl. 12:7; John 5:28

- A. Here we commit the body of _____ to its kindred dust. Our hearts still cling to this body, because we can not disassociate it from the beloved one who dwelt in it and made it alive: but really it is only the worn-out garment which the loved one has cast aside. Hence while reverencing it because of the sacred memories that gather about it, with tender hands we gently place it to rest. May we who live lay this to heart and let us here reconsecrate our lives to Him who loved us and Gave His Son to suffer and die that we might have Everlasting Life.

Prayer: Father of mercies, receive this body of this loved one and bind up the broken hearts that weep for her. Go with each of us as we return to our homes: be near to us daily, lead us in paths of righteousness and in heaven save us. In His name, Amen.

TWO VIEWS OF DEATH

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Nothing is more certain than death.
 - 1. I stand before you, a dying man, speaking to dying men and women.
 - B. The Christian religion is concerned not only with this life, but with preparing men to die; to face this arch-enemy of mankind victoriously. Heb. 2:14-18.
 - C. The family of man stands in two distinct classes in respect to death:
 - 1. Those prepared to die,
 - 2. Those unprepared.
 - D. Even God in heaven has distinctly different attitudes toward death for each of these types of men.
- I. God's Two Views of Death.
- A. Of the Wicked, Ezek. 18:32, "I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith Jehovah; wherefore turn yourselves and live."
 - 1. 2 Pet. 3:9, "The Lord is not slack as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not wishing that any should perish . . ."
 - B. Of the Righteous, Ps. 116:15. "Precious in the sight of Jehovah is the death of his saints."
 - C. "Heaven gives its favorites early death."
Lord Byron

II. Humanity's Two Views: Lk. 16:19-31.

A. The Righteous' View of Death.

1. Prov. 14:32, "The righteous hath hope in his death."
2. Rev. 14:13, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth . . . that they may rest from their labors; for their works follow with them."
3. Eccl. 7:8, "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof."
4. Beautiful Examples:
 - a. Lazarus, The angels carried him away to Abraham's bosom: paradise.
 - b. Stephen, Acts 7:54-60.
 - c. Paul, Phil. 1:21, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."
 - d. Phil. 1:23, "But I am in a straight betwixt the two having the desired to depart and be with Christ; for it is very far better."
 - e. 2 Tim. 4:6-8, "offered" — a libation poured out to gods: "departure" — unlocking, loosing fetters, unmooring a ship.
5. These thoughts magnified by the poets.
 - a. "Death to the Christian is the funeral of all his sorrows and evils, and the resurrection of all his joys." Aughey
 - b. "Death is the gate of life." Bernard of Clairvaux
 - c. "Christ has made of death a narrow, starlit strip between the companionships of yesterday and the reunions of tomorrow." W. J. Bryan
 - d. "Death to a good man, is but passing

through a dark entry, out of one little dusky room of his Father's house into another that is fair and large, lightsome and glorious and divinely entertaining." McDonald Clarke.

- e. "This world is the land of the dying; the next is the land of the living." Tryon Edwards.
 - f. "When I am dying, I want to know that I have a similarity to God, so that my will is the same as his will, and that I love and hate and wish what he does." Joseph Cook.
 - g. "We picture death as coming to destroy; let us rather picture Christ as coming to save. We think of death as ending; let us rather think of life as beginning, and that more abundantly. We think of losing; let us think of gaining. We think of parting; let us think meeting. We think of going away; let us think of arriving. And as the voice of death whispers "You must go from earth," let us hear Christ saying, "You are but coming to me." — Norman MacLeod.
- B. The Wicked See Death as a horrible step into the unknown darkness of eternity . . . and rightly so.
- 1. Heb. 10:26-31, "A fearful thing to fall into the hands of a living God."
 - 2. The Rich Man — Dives, Lk. 16:19.
 - 3. The Rich Fool, Lk. 12:16.
 - 4. Balaam, Numbers 23:10, "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his."

III. Death Will Be Destroyed.

A. When Christ Comes.

1. 1 Cor. 15:26; 15:50-57.
2. John 5:28-29.
3. Rev. 20:13-14.

B. John Donne, Holy Sonnet No. 10

"Death be not proud, though some have called thee Mighty and Dreadful, for thou art not so; For, those, whom thou thinkest thou dost overthrow, Die not, poor death, nor yet canst thou kill me . . . One short sleep past, we wake eternally, and death shall be no more; death, thou shalt die."

CONCLUSION:

A. Though we must die, we need not fear.

1. Héb. 2:14-18.
2. "Death is but a path that must be trod, if man would ever pass to God." Thomas Parnell.
3. "So live, that when thy summons comes to join the innumerable caravan, which moves to that mysterious realm, where each shall take his chamber in the silent halls of death, Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night, scouraged to his dungeon, but sustained and soothed by an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave, like one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him, and lies down to pleasant dreams." from: *Thanatopsis*, Wm. Cullen Bryant.
4. Lord, "teach us to number our days." Ps. 90:12.
5. "Prepare to meet thy God." Amos 24:12.