

Bible Centered Sermon Outlines

G. L. Mann

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Box 72

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Phone 601-283-1192

Fax 601-283-1191

Introduction

At the request of Brother J.C. Choate, Winona, MS, whom I have known, loved and respected for many years, we bring forth this collection of Sermon Outlines. It is hoped that they will find a friendly reception and be used by those who love the Old Jerusalem Gospel and will preach it as the power of God unto salvation.

Many of these outlines are original with me. Some are not. I cannot recall the various sources from which all have come. For this reason there is no Bibliography. While a student at Freed-Hardeman University I heard several young preachers ask Brother N.B. Hardeman if they could preach his sermons. Brother Hardeman's reply was; "If the fellow I got it from does not care you may." Brother Hardeman made no claims for originality, although I am sure he could have done so. All these outlines are Bible centered.

There is an urgent need for gospel preachers to heed the admonition given by Paul to young Timothy:

"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Tim. 4:1-4).

The world is lost without the gospel. The gospel is God's power to save. We have a solemn obligation to present the good news to all men without addition or subtraction. We do not need a new gospel or a change in God's eternal purpose. We just need to preach the old-fashioned gospel as the Spirit revealed it and let it work in the hearts of men to convict and convert them to Christ. When Philip went to the city of Samaria, he preached Christ to them. To preach Christ means to preach Him as God's only begotten son, to preach His authority and all that He requires of us to be saved.

We need not, indeed we must not circumvent or dodge this responsibility. God will bring us to judgment for an accounting of our stewardship. When the Lord comes back for his church he will present it to God in perfection, having gathered out of it all of those — including preachers — who have been spots and blemishes. This age demands a restatement of the truths of God's Word: This is a time when every gospel preacher needs be at the post of duty giving to the world the truth that makes men free.

These outlines are designed to help bring Christ back as head over the church, to promote peace and unity and to encourage the church to be faithful and aggressive. We send forth this book in hopes that those who use it will find it helpful in bringing many souls to Christ.

G.L. Mann

A Statement from the Publisher

Through the field reports of the Gospel Advocate, for many years I have know of brother G.L. Mann as a faithful gospel preacher, working for congregations of the Lord's church in several states. Born in Bear Creek, AL, brother Mann returned often to the Alabama and Mississippi areas for gospel meetings. As a young preacher myself, I had opportunity to hear him in one of those meetings. With the passing of time, and on reaching retirement age from local work, brother Mann and his wife, Ruby Mae, returned to his home state of Alabama where he is now associated with the church in Hamilton, near his birth place.

With this knowledge of brother Mann and of his rich preaching experiences, I wrote him about the possibility of preparing a selection of his sermon outlines for publication. I felt that he would have the kind of outlines that would be helpful to young preachers, or to preachers of any age, in their efforts to present the truths of God. He responded favorably but asked for sufficient time to prepare them. When they were ready he and sister Ruby Mae came to Winona to deliver them personally.

At the time of this first real meeting we had a very good conversation about preaching the gospel and that these sermon outlines are Bible-centered. I assured brother Mann that that is the only type we are interested in printing.

I am especially honored to publish this book of sermon outlines and to be able to present them to brother Mann in his 60th year of gospel preaching. Just imagine the hundreds of thousands who heard these sermons during those years! Imagine, too, the many souls who responded to them, and all of those who will be eternally saved because of them. Now with

the printing of these outlines, think of how many more times brother Mann will be preaching through the mouths of others, and of all of the people who will be saved and blessed by them.

Brother Mann, I salute you, along with your beloved Ruby Mae, for your years of gospel preaching. Through these outlines that you have shared, you will live on to be an eternal blessing to so many.

May God continue to bless you and to use you to His honor and glory.

J.C. Choate
Winona, MS
January 8, 1995

Foreword

Let me tell you a little about the author of the book you now are holding. George Lebourn (G.L.) Mann, dedicated, faithful Gospel preacher for 60 years has saved some of his most valuable work in his life for now. For the book of sermon outlines that you hold will live for many years and will affect the lives of many people. J.C. Choate requested that he select 100 sermons to appear in this book that can be used here in the states as well as in mission work in training beginning preachers and giving them some usable sermon outlines. If Brother Mann preached and taught an average of five times a week (and for many of those years five times a week would be a serious underestimate) for 57 years that would mean he has prepared and delivered around 15,000 lessons. That's amazing! But here's the hard part. How do you narrow 15,000 down to 100?

As I have been privileged to spend some time reviewing these sermons I have been impressed with the simplicity and the boldness of the messages this sacrificial servant has presented: a respect for the Word of God that is refreshing; a simple kind of thinking that would destroy religious division and "wrangling" over foolish issues. For instance here's one quote: "Those who respect the Bible as the Word of God are anxious to know the purpose for which it was given." The lesson that follows is one that teaches the Word of God is for (1) doctrine, (2) reproof, (3) correction and (4) instruction in righteousness. The sermon immediately in front of the one is called: "The Simplicity of the Gospel" and the first point: "The Gospel is Simple and Easily Understood."

I'm saying all this to encourage you to spend some time with Brother G.L. Mann in this book. Get to know him and his love for the Lord, the lost and the Lord's Kingdom, the church.

These sermons "work." G.L. Mann loves to preach. It has been his passion across six decades. Brother Mann's clear voice has been heard and he has preached from coast to coast. He has done local work in Haleyville, Huntsville, Guin, Cherry Hill, Fayette, Rainesville, Burleson and Hamilton, Alabama, Arizona, California, Kentucky, Indiana, and Michigan. He has preached in large cities and small hamlets. He has preached in big churches and smaller cities. The last seven years he has worked with his home congregation, here at Hamilton, where he is loved and respected. The elders here have given him freedom to preach "around." The demand for his preaching skills and wisdom far outweighs his ability to fulfill all of the requests. Everywhere he has preached the church has been strengthened, built up and faithful. He neither stirs up strife nor compromises truth. He is easy to love and easy to like. What is most significant is that he lives what he preaches.

Brother Mann has been supported and loved by his faithful wife Ruby. Like any preacher's wife, she has been his greatest asset. She has protected him and taken care of him, most especially during the last few years after his heart condition made it more difficult to do the work he so loves. You cannot think of one without the other. They have stood together through some tough times. Perhaps most notably, the untimely death of their oldest son, George, who died at the age of 21. They were proud of George as they are of their other son Gary.

He has been a friend and encouragement to young preachers. I know. It has been my joy and privilege to call him friend and mentor these last seven years. I see this dedicated servant on an almost daily basis. I have never found G.L. Mann anything but encouraging, full of love and a Christian gentleman in every way. I commend these sermons to you because I know the author and I commend the author to you because he knows the Lord. These sermons are outstanding. Our generation needs these lessons from a faithful preacher who loves the church and the souls of people.

“How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” (Romans 10:15).

Dale Jenkins
Hamilton, AL

Dedication

This work is dedicated to my precious wife Ruby and our two sons, George Robert 1938-1959 and Gary Dale. They have been there in good times and bad and given encouragement when most needed.

Appreciation

Sincere appreciation is given to Brother Dale Jenkins, minister of the Hamilton Church of Christ, whose work has been valuable in checking and suggesting topics to be included.

Karen Sewell, the church secretary, has been a diligent and efficient help in doing the computer work. She has been a pleasant and tireless worker.

Appreciation also to the Elders of the Hamilton Church of Christ who have provided me an office and part-time employment as Associate minister of my home congregation. Brethren Roy Brooks, David Harmon, Paul Logan, Ray Owsley and Henry R. (Tommy) Gann are doing a great job leading in so many good works.

G.L. Mann

Fifty Years Preaching Christ

FIFTY YEARS OF PREACHING THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL OF CHRIST! A whole half century! How wonderful; how marvelous! "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry." Some said "he will never make it." "He doesn't have what it takes." God will be the judge. Others have done more. The work that I have done has not been mine but the work of him that sent me. It has been that "Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me. It is not I but Christ in me the hope of glory." "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." This is for me a momentous occasion.

THANK YOU FOR COMING TODAY. I am deeply indebted to the elders, Brethren L.L. Moore, Ray Owsley, Jim Davis, Lennie Hargett, David Harmon, for giving me this opportunity. I owe a special debt of gratitude to Brother W.T. Allison, who has worked so hard to make this occasion what it is. It would be impossible for me to chronicle fifty years of preaching in a few moments. I shall give a few highlights as best I can.

MY FIRST SERMON WAS delivered on the third Sunday in February 1936 in the old building uptown. My sermon topic was "REPENTANCE." I was scared stiff. I had had very little experience before an audience prior to that time. Among the leaders of the church at that time were: Brethren M.C. Mills, J.M. Dillard, and A.R. Britton. I received \$3.50 for that sermon. The congregation was kind and complimentary. Brother J.M.

Dillard said to me, "YOUNG man you did as well on that subject as some older preachers I have heard." That gave me confidence in myself.

TODAY, I HAVE COME FULL CIRCLE. To God who loves me and has abundantly blessed my fifty years of ministry, I am deeply and humbly thankful. Indeed "my cup runneth over." My path has not all been strewn with roses. It has been uphill and difficult all the way. I have never been sorry that I chose to be a preacher. I am glad that I have been able to suffer heartache and experience the joys of preaching the gospel of Christ.

FAMILY BACKGROUND. I was born May 5, 1914, in the Barn Creek Community of Marion County, AL. I was the third of nine children (two of whom are deceased) born to John Oliver and Susan Elizabeth Burleson Mann. My parents were members of this congregation. I owe to my mother eternal gratitude for the heritage of faith that she passed on to me, and for the reverence and respect for the word of God she instilled within me. My father was not a Christian while I was growing up. I have often wondered how different it might have been. He became a Christian at age 76. I shall never forget the day I received that good news.

DESIRE TO PREACH. As far back as I can remember, I entertained the desire to become a preacher of the gospel. The older preachers of that day fanned the flame each time I heard them. Their dignity of deportment and their knowledge of the word of God was an inspiration to me. There was a little gully that ran near our house in my early years and I would go out to

its bank, imagine I was preaching and when finished I baptized Mother's stove wood in a pool of water that was there. The little pool is still there and it brings back fond memories each time I see it. Sometimes I think the reason my mother was such a good cook is because she had the best Christian stove wood available.

I was baptized into Christ by Chester Estes while he was preaching in a meeting at Barn Creek in July 1931. I was visiting relatives there at the time. My Father had moved the family to a farm several miles west of Hamilton in late 1925 and early 1926. Because of the lack of transportation, I walked seven miles from home to church here in Hamilton on several Sunday mornings.

IMMEDIATE FAMILY. In May of 1935, I was graduated, with honors, from the old State Secondary Agricultural School here in Hamilton. I was given a scholarship to Harding College in Searcy, Arkansas, in the fall. On August 11, 1935, I was married to my high school sweetheart, Miss Ruby Mae Summerford. The Lord blessed us with two fine sons: George Robert and Gary Dale. George passed away on June 25, 1959. He was a senior Pre-Med. student at George Peabody College in Nashville, TN. A fund in memory of George has been established at David Lipscomb University to assist Pre-Med. Students. Gary Dale is a graduate of University of North Alabama. Gary is married to the former Josephine Smithson of Tusculumbia, AL. They have one beautiful daughter age 16. They live in Indianapolis, Ind., where Gary is employed with Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Indiana. They worship with the Franklin Road Church of Christ in that city. Gary has grown up to be a fine Christian man. He has worked and served the

church as both a deacon and then as an elder. We are proud of them and of our granddaughter, Heather Lori.

A TRIBUTE TO MY WIFE. A preacher could not have found a more faithful, devoted and supportive wife than Ruby has been. She has been a good wife and a good mother. She has been a source of strength and encouragement. She has been by my side in good times and bad. Her optimistic attitude has helped us through hardships and deprivation. She has been a "help meet" indeed. Together we have learned the meaning of Paul's words in Phil. 4:12,13. "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

COLLEGE YEARS. My money ran out after the first quarter at Harding College and I had to drop out to work on the farm for a year before returning to finish my freshman year at Harding. The second year was spent on a Scholarship at Freed-Hardeman College, Henderson, TN. After that I attended several colleges in cities where I lived and preached. Little by little I added credit hours to my transcript. In June 1969, I had the honor of walking across the stage at David Lipscomb College, and the president conferred upon me the B.A. Degree. My diploma is on the wall by my desk in my study. I treasure it highly. I served on the Administrative Faculty of the College for five years and preached on Sundays.

AFTER MY FIRST SERMON in 1936, I preached by appointment at various churches in this area. Few, if any, had

regular preaching. There were very few preachers in the area. No congregation in the County had full time preaching. The churches were small and weak, the economy was bad, contributions were small and there was very little money to support preaching. I did not own an automobile and it was sometimes difficult to arrange for transportation to my appointments. I walked seven miles on Sunday morning to fill an appointment. Finally I borrowed money and bought a used Model A.

THE NATURE OF MY WORK AS A PREACHER. I have conducted dozens of meetings, baptized hundreds, preached hundreds of funerals, performed hundreds of weddings, have stood by the bedside of the dying, have given spiritual counsel to hundreds. I did mission work in South Carolina and in Rainsville, AL. I debated Billy Sunday Meyers of the Church of God by correspondence, have trained several men to preach. I was editor and publisher of Jackson County Christian for two years. Once I was called upon to go to a drunk man's house and take a gun from him. He was threatening to shoot his family. (People have some cute ways of trying to get rid of preachers). Once in Flint, Michigan a drunk wandered in off the street into our Wednesday night service and when the invitation was given he came forward. Two of our good deacons seeing the predicament I was in, came forward and kindly and gently escorted him out. On at least two occasions, in the winter time, I broke the ice and baptized in a fish pond. My ministry has taken me into 14 states and the District of Columbia. In 1975 we toured Israel and Italy. While in Israel, I had the privilege of speaking to a group of tourists by the Well of Abraham near Beersheba. What a thrill that was! As a preacher of the gospel, Paul has been my guiding influence. Christ has been my example. I am not a per-

fect man. I have made some mistakes along the way, but I have always freely and readily sought the forgiveness of my Lord, whose I am and whom I serve.

MAY I NOW DIRECT YOUR ATTENTION to some matters contained in the reading of Acts 8:5-13. Philip began his work under the authority of the Commission given by Christ. *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen"* Matt. 28:19,20. I am most grateful to have been able to serve my Lord under this commission for these fifty years. I have endeavored to have the same attitude of the apostle Paul who said, *"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek"* Rom. 1:16. In the late 30's I would sometimes preach on Sunday afternoons for churches who had no preaching otherwise. At one place where I went, the men would hand me a dollar bill or some change to pay my expenses for coming. One man had a five dollar bill in the bib pocket of his overalls which I learned later that he intended to give me. But I had spoken some discouraging words about bootlegging and drinking which he did not like and he did not give me the five dollar bill. I have lived all these years without that \$5 bill.

THE SCRIPTURES ARE INSPIRED. Paul said, *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished*

unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:16,17). If we are going to believe and teach the all-sufficiency of the Bible, we must accept the implication of that teaching: there is no direct action of the Holy Spirit, no modern revelations, no authority in creeds and church councils, no leading by "haunches" or "still small voices" or "lights by the bed post." Let me emphatically insist that I believe in the plenary, verbal inspiration of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. The Bible is God's only and complete revelation to man. We do not worship the Bible; we worship God only. But if God speaks only through the Bible, and he does, we had best not listen to anything else, for if something in religion does not come from God, it comes from Satan.

"PREACHING THE GOSPEL" is "preaching Jesus" and vice versa. It pleased God to use preaching to save men from sin and eternal damnation (1 Cor. 1:21). The emphasis has never been upon the act of preaching but upon the message — the gospel of Christ. Philip was preaching Christ in Samaria. The work of the gospel preacher is indispensable in saving the lost. *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent? As it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, 'Lord, who hath believed our report?' So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* (Rom. 10:13-17).

EVERY FAITHFUL GOSPEL PREACHER must reject

and condemn false doctrine. Paul gave young Timothy this solemn charge: *"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and his kingdom; preach the word: be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine"* (2 Tim. 4:1,2). There should be no "uncertain sounds" coming from our pulpits. The word of God should be allowed to ring loud and clear from our pulpits throughout the world. Any preacher who does not love God and the souls of lost men enough to accept this challenge wholeheartedly and "preach the word" does not belong in the pulpit. "Where the Bible speaks we speak; and where the Bible is silent we are silent", must be more than just a slogan. It must be a way of life.

Paul taught Timothy to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). Through my studies of the Bible I have learned so much, but I have never had to change my position on any issue because the word of God does not change. We do not need a new message for this age. We merely need to lovingly and forcefully proclaim the old Jerusalem gospel and let it do what it is designed to do. If it does not convict and convert the sinner and instruct the Christian, we need not look for something else. There is absolutely no substitute for Bible preaching. God's plan for saving men is still the same and the gospel of Christ is still the same.

PHILIP PREACHED THE KINGDOM OF GOD. *"When they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the king-*

dom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." There was a great expectancy among the Jews that the Messiah would come and set up His kingdom. It was only logical that Philip should tell them that the Christ has come and has set up the kingdom. The book of Acts begins and closes with the kingdom concept. *"To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God"* (Acts 1:3). *"Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him"* (Acts 28:31). Let us look at the word KING-DOM. The word "king" means Lord or ruler. The suffix "DOM" means that over which the king rules. Jesus is the king and he rules in the hearts and lives of His people. The kingdom, therefore, is made up of those who do God's will on earth. This kingdom came with power on Pentecost. (Mark 9:1; Acts 2). Those in the kingdom have been delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins. (Col. 1:13,14).

In my life time the church has confronted many issues. I mention a few of them. In the mid 30's the pre-millennial theory, in the late forty's and fifties, came the anti orphan home and anti co-operation movement. The battle waxed hot and there was a polarization of those who opposed the homes and co-operation. Then came the Charismatic movement, the Cross Roads doctrine, the unity movement, the question of fellowship and instrumental music. In spite of all our problems, we became the fastest growing religious body in America in the sixties. The church today, however, is in somewhat of a stalemate. It has lost

some of its former vigor and vitality. A whole host of members in every community that I know of has deserted the church. Like Demas, they have forsaken the Lord having loved this present world. But I see the dawn of a better day for the church. I see the church taking on a new life and renewed activity.

PHILIP PREACHED THE NAME OF CHRIST in Samaria. This theme has always brought results. It did on Pentecost. It did in Samaria. Philip drove this point home with telling effect. Both men and women responded. *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved"* (Acts 4:12). Before Jesus gave the world-wide commission to the apostles, he settled the question of authority. He said, *"All authority is given unto me in Heaven and in earth."* A proper recognition of this authority among religious people today would bring us all together as one body in Christ.

THERE IS ALSO A NEED TO RECOGNIZE THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST in the area of morals and ethics. We have today a noticeable attitude of tolerance toward sin. **LYING** has become a "mis-statement of facts." Many who are living in **ADULTERY** have an "arrangement." **HOMOSEXUALITY** is a "life style." The Bible says that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (Gal. 5:19-20).

PHILIP TAUGHT THE NECESSITY OF OBEDIENCE. To preach Jesus means to preach all that he has commanded. Our Lord himself was obedient to the Father. *"Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salva-*

tion unto all them that obey him" (Heb. 5:8,9). Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven" (Matt. 7:21). Again it was Jesus who said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mk. 16:16). When believers on Pentecost day asked "Men and brethren what shall we do?", the answer was "repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:37,38). Thus the final act of obedience in the process of conversion is to be baptized for the remission of sins. We are baptized into Christ.

CONCLUSION AND OBSERVATIONS:

1. Much preaching is done today but much of it is "good words and fair speeches."
2. Gospel preachers must let the truth ring out loud and clear.
3. The gospel meeting is no longer the effective arm of evangelism it once was. In my very first meeting, I baptized 18 people. You could pitch a tent, build a brush arbor, announce a meeting and the people would fill the roads leading to the meeting place. They came in wagons, on foot, in automobiles, or on horseback. What they heard was Bible preaching and they were more receptive than now.
4. In the 30's and 40's people knew the Bible and desired to hear it preached.
5. The gospel preacher was a highly respected person. He was not encumbered with taxi work, errands, and church management. He was first and foremost a gospel

- preacher.
6. We are now a better educated people. Our preachers are better educated. Our leadership is better educated and more alert and aggressive.
 7. Our meeting houses are better located and more commodious.
 8. The Mass Media affords us greater opportunity to reach the masses with the gospel.
 9. With all the advantages and opportunities before us we are not converting the lost as we should be. We will do better.
 10. *“And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified” (Acts 20:32).*
 11. Brethren, if we are to go to Heaven, Christ must live in us here and now. Paul said, *“Christ in you is the hope of glory.”*

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**FOUR THINGS FOR WHICH THE
BIBLE WAS WRITTEN**
2 Tim. 3:16-17

INTRODUCTION:

1. Those who respect Bible as word of God are anxious to know purpose for which given.
 - A. Be willing to accept Bible's own account of itself.
 - B. Its testimony should be final. 1 Cor. 2:9-13.
2. Some things for which it was not written.
 - A. Science, philosophy, commerce, agriculture, mechanics, domestic economy.
 - B. It regulates men in all of these.
3. Paul gives four purposes for which Bible was written.

I. DOCTRINE.

1. Teaching or communicating instruction for the purpose of salvation.
2. Christianity must be taught or communicated. Matt. 28:19; 1 Cor. 14:37; 2 Tim. 2:2.
3. Some will turn away from the doctrine. 2 Tim. 4:3,4.
4. We must take heed to the doctrine. 1 Tim. 4:16.
5. We must accept no doctrine on any theme except Bible doctrine. 1 Tim. 1:3.

II. REPROOF.

1. It will convince us of sin. Jno. 16:8.
2. Since all are prone to sin, we need reproof.
3. Times when we need to reprove others.
4. Scriptures are profitable for reproof.

- A. Tells how to administer it.
 - B. Tells us how to receive it.
 - C. Like doctor and his patient.
5. Reproof must be prompted by love. 2 Cor. 11:10,11;
Gal. 4:16; Acts 13:10; Matt. 23:37.

III. CORRECTION.

- 1. By proper directions, admonitions, warnings, encouragements it brings us back to the "strait and narrow way."
- 2. The word of God will correct any life who will respond.
 - A. Felix. Acts 24:25.
 - B. Zacchaes. Luke 19:1-10.
 - C. Apollos. Acts 18:24-28.
- 3. Some do not want correction and remain in sin.

IV. INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS.

- 1. We need to be taught the principles of honesty, righteousness and justice. Phil. 4:8,9.
- 2. We are all so fallible we are liable to err.
- 3. We need a reliable guide. Jer. 10:23; Ps. 119:105; Acts 8:31.
 - A. When we go on a trip we need a map.
 - B. Visit to Onyx Cave in Ky. Guide.

Phil. 4:8. *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."*

THE SIMPLICITY OF THE GOSPEL

2 Cor. 11:1-3

INTRODUCTION:

1. Paul expressed a fear that has become reality.
2. Serpent caused Eve to believe what God had NOT said.
3. Disobedience is not due to misunderstanding but believing what God did not say.
4. In the same way people's minds are corrupted today.

I. THE GOSPEL IS SIMPLE & EASILY UNDERSTOOD.

1. It was given for all responsible people. Mk. 16:15.
2. Perverters of the gospel condemned. Gal. 1:8.
3. God would not place man under curse for perverting gospel so complicated he could not understand it.
4. Eternal punishment is penalty for failure to obey the gospel. 2 Thess. 1:7-9.
5. God would not make duty hard to understand & punish for not obeying what we could not understand.
6. The way of salvation is plain, simple & easily understood. Isa. 35:8; Matt. 7:7; Jno. 7:17; 2 Thess. 2:10-12.

II. ITS SIMPLICITY EXEMPLIFIED.

1. On Pentecost — One sermon — 1000's who had never heard it before understood & asked "What shall we do?" Acts 2:38.
2. One sermon all Eunuch needed. Acts 8:34-39.
3. Saul understood. Acts 22:16.
4. The heathen jailor. Acts 16:25-34.

III. COMMANDS OF GOSPEL ARE CLEARLY STATED.

1. Commanded to believe. Acts 16:31;
Rom. 10:17; Acts 8:37.
2. Repentance. Lk. 13:3; Acts 3:19; Matt. 12:41;
Jonah 3:10.
3. Baptism. Mk. 16:16; Col. 2:12; Acts 8:39.

IV. HOW BECAME MEMBERS OF CHURCH CLEAR.

1. Simplicity of this has been corrupted.
2. Lord adds people to church. Acts 2:47.
3. Terms of pardon & terms of membership same.

V. SIMPLICITY OF THE WORSHIP.

1. All perplexity comes from things about which the Bible is silent. Satan uses same tactics here as in the beginning.
2. All agree prayer, teaching word, eating Lord's Supper, singing spiritual songs and contributing is authorized by the word.
3. Division and misunderstanding is over things not mentioned.
4. People are confused — not over what the Bible says, but over what it does not say.
5. The old Serpent is still at work corrupting the minds of people from the simplicity of the gospel. Eph. 6:11.

FAITH
Heb. 11:1-10

INTRODUCTION:

1. Faith is important in religion. Heb. 11:6
2. To be acceptable, act must be result of faith.
3. If gospel preached, hungry fed, acts true worship performed without faith not pleasing to God.

I. FAITH DEFINED (Heb. 11:1).

1. Made up of two classes of objects: "Things hoped for" and "Things not seen."
2. Has two elements: "Confidence" and "conviction."
3. Composition of Noah's faith. Heb. 11:7.
4. Abraham's faith same. Heb. 11:8-10, 13.

II. DIFFERENCE IN FAITH, OPINION, KNOWLEDGE.

1. Conceal object in hand — person guess —
OPINION State object — Faith — Display —
Knowledge.
2. In religion men walk by faith. 2 Cor. 5:7.
3. Christ arose from dead — Not opinion & not
knowledge — Faith.
4. Christian has confidence and conviction.

III. FAITH IS RESULT OF TESTIMONY, EVIDENCE.

1. Believe God created heavens and earth
because Bible so states. Gen. 1:1.
2. Noah believed things concerning the flood.
Gen. 6:13-20.

3. Abraham had faith concerning unseen land. God spoke and he believed.

IV. FAITH COMES BY HEARING (Rom. 10:17).

1. Works of Christ described in Bible so we can believe. Jno. 20:30,31.
2. Faith comes from a study of the Bible.
3. Bible teaches by command, example, and necessary inference.
4. Any act taught by these ways may be performed by faith. Rom. 10:17.
5. Performer must believe God authorized it. Rom. 14:23.
6. Essential Bible be rightly divided. 2 Tim. 2:15.
 - A. Noah built ark by faith --- we cannot.
 - B. We cannot burn incense, use instruments of music, sprinkle or pour, for same reason.

V. FAITH MUST BE AN ACTIVE FAITH.

1. Dead faith cannot save. Jas. 2:24-26.
2. Faith that works is faith that saves. Gal. 5:6.
 - A. Noah blessed when prepared ark.
 - B. Abraham blessed when faith had expressed itself.
 - C. The blind man could see after he washed. Jno. 9:6,7.
 - D. We will be saved from past sins when obey gospel. Mk. 16:15,16.
 - E. Be saved eternally by life of faithful service to the Lord.

REPENTANCE

Isa. 55:6,7

INTRODUCTION:

1. We propose to show what repentance is, the necessity, and nature of it.
2. **REPENTANCE:** To turn from sin and dedicate oneself to the amendment of one's life. To feel regret or contrition. To change ones mind. To feel sorrow, regret or contrition for past or intended action.
3. Matt. 21:28,29; Lk. 15:18,19; Acts 9:6; Jonah 3:8; Matt. 12:41.

I. THE NECESSITY OF REPENTANCE.

1. Luke 13:1-5.
2. It is declared by the nature of God. Holy God cannot wink at and pardon those who persist in sin.
3. It is declared by the nature of the gospel. It is not a proclamation of tolerance for sin but of deliverance from it.
4. It is declared by facts of the past. God never pardoned any one while persisting in sin.
5. The well-being of the sinner himself requires that he quit sin or feel its terrible penalty.
6. To be favored with sense of pardon while sinning would confirm one in it.

II. THE NATURE OF REPENTANCE.

(Isa. 53:6; 55:7).

1. It deals with the life and conduct. Man's way.

- A. Natural way — into which one runs when left to himself. Jer. 10:23.
 - B. Habitual way — to which accustomed.
 - C. Beloved way — wherein pleasures lie.
 - D. General way — broad road where many run.
2. This, one MUST forsake.
 - A. Not enough to admit wrong, or profess sorrow for it. 2 Cor. 7:10.
 3. It deals with the thoughts. Jer. 31:33; 2 Kings 5:11; Acts 8:20,22; Rom. 12:2; Matt. 7:21-23.
 - A. Must forsake unscriptural opinions and self-formed notions about spiritual matters.
 4. It deals with man in reference to God.
 - A. "Let him return unto the Lord."
 - B. One must cease his neglect and opposition distrust and disobedience. (Jonah)
 5. Man must turn and return. *"Will arise and go to my father."*

III. THE GOSPEL OF REPENTANCE.

1. A sure promise is made. *"He will have mercy upon him."* Ninevites.
2. Full atonement has been made providing abundant pardon. Acts 2:38
3. *"Come unto me... I will give you rest."*
4. There must be a thorough, radical change of thought within and way without.
5. *"Except ye repent ye shall perish."*

THE GOOD CONFESSION

Acts 8:37

INTRODUCTION:

1. Regarded by some as an interpolation.
2. No conclusive evidence to that effect.
3. Scriptures teach such confession must be made.
Rom. 10:9; Matt. 10:32.

I. ORIGIN OF THE CONFESSION.

1. When Christ began to preach, various opinions were formed about him.
2. Some said he was prophet, impostor, Messiah.
3. Challenge of Jews. Jno. 9:22.
4. Jesus accepted that challenge. Matt. 10:32,33.
This distinguished followers of Jesus from his enemies.
5. Conversation at Caesarea Philippi.
Matt. 16:13-20.
 - A. Christ's question and Peter's answer.
 - B. Entire system of Christianity here embraced. vs. 15,16.
 - C. No wonder Christ gave Peter keys of Kingdom.

II. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CONFESSION.

1. Brief statement of system of Christianity.
2. Only thing man needs to believe to be saved.
3. Everything from creation pointed forward to Christ; Everything since his coming points back to Christ.
4. Christ is center of Christianity.

III. THE SCOPE OF THE CONFESSION.

1. *"Thou art the Christ"*... official title.
 - A. Christ means anointed one.
 - B. 3 Classes rulers anointed: Priest, King, Prophet.
 - C. When we confess that Jesus is the Christ we make him our prophet, priest and King.
 - D. As prophet, he teaches us; as Priest, he intercedes for us; as King, he rules us.
Has authority to rule.
2. *"The Son."* Not a son but THE SON.
3. *"Of the living God."* Besetting sin of Jews was idolatry -- Jesus not son of lifeless image.

IV. HOW THE CONFESSION IS MADE.

1. With the mouth. Rom. 10:9,10.
2. Before witnesses. 1 Tim. 6:12,13.
 - A. What confession witnessed. Matt. 27:22,40.
 - B. Jesus confess those who confess Him.
Matt. 10:32,33.

V. THE PLACE OF THE CONFESSION.

1. Always made before baptism. Acts 8:37,38.
2. It is test of fitness of candidate for baptism.
3. May regard it as oath of allegiance to be made before one can enter the army of Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION:

1. God first spoke to man in Eden.
2. Spoke from summit of Horeb.
3. Matt. 3:17; 17:5.
4. Do we hear him?

B A P T I S M

Acts 8:36-39

INTRODUCTION:

1. A question that has caused much controversy among religious people.
2. Not trying to perpetuate controversy but trying to ascertain truth.
3. Not 1 or 2 passages but glance through New Testament.
4. Question you must settle for church membership.
5. Hence Subject important. What is it? Who is it for? Who is eligible? Answer in the Bible.
6. Word BAPTIZE is verb. Verb always stands for one specific action. Useless to talk about modes of baptism.

I. TESTIMONY OF THE SCRIPTURES.

1. Matt. 3:6,11,16. In river Jordan, confessing sins, came up out of water. What did John do when baptized Jesus?
2. Matt. 28:18,19. Preceded by teaching — universal matter — in Name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. Mk. 1:4,5,8,9. Baptism of repentance unto remission of sins.
4. Mk. 16:15,16. Faith precedes — Salvation follows.
5. Lk. 3:3,21. This corroborates testimony of Matt. & Mark, but no additional information.
6. Lk.7:29,30. Justified God — Rejected the counsel of God.
7. Jno. 3:22,23. Much water. (Acts 19:1-5)
8. Acts 2:37,38,41. Faith and Repentance

precedes Baptism, remission of sins, and gift of Holy Spirit follows. Only those who received word were baptized and they were added to the church. vs. 47.

9. Acts 8:12.
10. Acts 8:36-39. Clear illustration of Baptism.
 - A. Circumstantial evidence of immersion "In Jordan." "Much Water," "Went down into water," "Came up out of water."
11. Rom. 6:3-5. What is specific action? Col. 2:12.
12. Gal. 3:26,27; 2 Cor.5:17.
13. 1 Pet. 3:20,21; Mk. 16:16. Acts 22:16.

II. "LET US HEAR THE CONCLUSION OF THE WHOLE MATTER."

1. Penitent believer comes to water; goes down into water; is buried with his Lord in baptism; arises to walk in newness of life; comes up out of water; goes on way rejoicing.
2. Question dividing religious people is not one of interpretation but of authority.
 - A. Luther, Calvin and Wesley agreed that immersion taught and practiced by Apostles.
 - B. Substitution of sprinkling and pouring made by authority of Roman catholic Church in Council of Ravenna 1311.
 - C. Any Priest will tell you change made by authority of Pope. But they say he is Christ's personal representative and has such authority.
3. Baptism is positive command of Jesus Christ and is condition of Salvation.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Acts 9:10-22

INTRODUCTION:

1. Every worthwhile relationship of life involves responsibility.
2. Membership in the church of Christ bestows highest and holiest privileges and blessing, therefore, involves greatest responsibilities and most serious obligations.
3. Some of these obligations are:

I. LOCAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP.

1. Congregation is the only unit of organization revealed in New Testament for doing work of Lord.
2. For Christian to be in full fellowship with church must be associated with, be a part of and amenable to local church.
3. No such thing in New Testament as **MEMBERSHIP AT LARGE.**
4. Paul always associated with local congregation. Acts 9:26-30; 13:1-3; 14:25-28.
5. He recommended Phoebe to church at Rome. Rom. 16:1,2.

II. SUBJECTION TO ELDERS.

1. Elders to exercise oversight. 1 Pet. 5:1-3.
2. *"Obey them that have the rule over you."* Heb. 13:17; 1 Tim. 5:17. *"Let the elders that rule well..."*

III. CO-OPERATION IN WORK OF THE CHURCH.

1. *"Be ready unto every good work"* Titus 3:1.

2. *"Every joint supplieth"* Eph. 4:16.
3. *"Every tree is known by his own fruit"*
Lk. 6:44
4. *"Prove your own work"* Gal. 6:4,5.

IV. PRESERVE UNITY, PEACE AND HARMONY.

1. *"No divisions among you"* 1 Cor. 1:10.
2. *"No schism...same care one for another."*
1 Cor. 12:25.
3. Avoid them that cause division among you.
Rom. 16:17,18.
4. *"Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace"* Eph. 4:1-3.

V. PRESERVE AND MAINTAIN PURITY OF THE CHURCH.

1. Christ gave His life for the church.
Eph. 5:25-27.
2. We must maintain the spiritual, moral and doctrinal purity. Eph. 5:27.

VI. HELP FULFILL MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

1. We have been united with Christ that we might bring forth fruit unto God. Rom. 7:4.
2. Fruitless branches will be cut off. Jno. 15:2.
"Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away..."
3. *"Herein is my father glorified that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples"*
Jno. 15:8.

PREPARATION TO MEET GOD

Amos 4:11-13

INTRODUCTION:

1. Everybody likes to be prepared for important events:
 - A. The meeting of an important person.
 - B. Prepare for company.
2. There is an important appointment we must keep.
Heb. 9:27; 2 Cor. 5:10; Amos 4:12.
3. Let us study some facts about preparing to meet God.

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS PREPARATION.

1. It is GOD that we will meet.
2. It will settle our destiny for eternity.
Rev. 20:12.

II. THE PREPARATION MUST BE ADEQUATE.

1. Not partial. Matt. 25:37-46; 2 Pet. 1:10.
2. Death bed repentance is not adequate.
3. We must be prepared at all times. Lk. 16:1-3;
1 Thess. 5:5,6.

III. SOME THINK THEY ARE PREPARED BUT ARE NOT.

1. The foolish virgins. Matt. 25:1-3;
2. The foolish builder. Matt. 7:24-29.
3. The man without a wedding garment.
Matt. 22:11-14.
4. Matt. 7:21-23.

IV. WHERE SHALL WE MEET GOD?

1. At the Judgment. Matt. 25:30-40.
2. At the brink of eternity.

V. HOW TO PREPARE TO MEET GOD.

1. Obey Him. Heb. 5:8,9; Jno. 14:15.
 - A. Faith. Heb. 11:6.
 - B. Repentance. Lk. 13:3.
 - C. Confession. Matt. 10:32,33.
 - D. Baptism. Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38.
2. Live a faithful Christian life. Rev. 2:10.
3. Are you prepared to meet God?
4. Today is the day of preparation.

THE IMPARTIAL GOD
Rom. 2:11; Acts 10:34, 35

INTRODUCTION:

1. Impartiality is an outstanding characteristic of a judge.
2. No amount of knowledge or ability can substitute for it. It is a rare qualification.
3. Text speaks of the impartiality of God.
4. All men are His creatures — He must be just.

I. HE HAS DECLARED ALL UNDER SIN.

1. Rom. 3:9,10,23.
2. The sins of God's most faithful servants are not concealed. (Abraham, Moses, and David).
3. Rom. 6:23.

II. A COMMON REDEEMER PROVIDED FOR ALL.

1. Jesus is not a Saviour for a particular class or race, but for all. 2 Cor. 5:14; 1 Tim. 2:6.
2. The "great commission" is world wide. Matt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15,16.
3. Jesus sows the seed upon all four classes of soil. Matt. 13.

III. THE SAME INVITATION IS EXTENDED TO ALL.

1. The weary and heavy laden. Matt. 11:28.
2. The thirsty. Jno. 7:37.
3. Who-so-ever will. Rev. 22:17.
4. No one who responds will be rejected. Jno. 7:37; Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8,9.

IV. SAME CONDITIONS OF PARDON REQUIRED OF ALL.

1. God has one plan of salvation.
Acts 2:38; 17:30; Rom. 10:12,13.
2. Man-made religions usually frame the conditions of salvation in favor of rich and the influential.

V. A COMMON CHURCH FOR ALL.

1. The Lord did not build a church for each race, class or fancy of man.
2. Word "Church" when used in universal sense is always singular. Matt. 16:18; Col. 1:18; Eph. 4:4.
3. All who obey become one in Christ.
Gal. 3:26-28; Eph. 2:16.

VI. IN THE MANNER OF JUDGING.

1. 1 Pet. 1:17.
2. God will not judge people as a nation, class, race, but as individuals. Rom. 14:12.
3. God will not judge according to wealth or influence, but according to deeds. 2 Cor. 5:10.
Rev. 20:12.

CONCLUSION:

1. The impartiality of God reveals something of His character and the fact that all men have equal rights to the gospel.
2. God is no respecter of persons but he is of character.
1 Pet. 3:23. *"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil."*

LIFE'S GREAT DISCOVERIES

John 1:35-42

INTRODUCTION:

1. What a thrill to make a discovery!
 - A. Balboa discovered Pacific ocean
Sept. 25, 1513
 - B. Christopher Columbus discovered America
Oct. 12, 1492, at 3 A.M. when a sailor on
Pinta cried out "Land, Land."
2. It is especially thrilling when discovery is precious.
James A. Marshall discovered gold Jan. 24, 1848
at John A Sutter's Mill at South Fork of American River
at Coloma, CA.
3. There are some discoveries of greater significance
than these.

I. MAN'S DISCOVERY OF HIMSELF. Lk. 15:12-20.

1. The Prodigal Son, "Came to himself."
Matt. 16:26.
 - A. He had lost himself.
 - B. Lost his best judgment.
2. His discovery of himself was preceded by
painful experiences. 14-16.
 - A. Can one not find himself without this?
 - B. Must one pass under the shadows before
he repents? 2 Cor. 7:10.
3. His discovery of himself was followed by
reflection, determination and action. 17-20.
 - A. When one finds himself he returns to
better way of life.

II. MAN'S DISCOVERY OF THE SAVIOUR.

1. Andrew said, "We have found the Messiah." 41.
 - A. Discovery of self is great but we must discover power outside ourselves.
 - B. To turn from evil is great but we must embrace good.
2. One who finds the Saviour finds life's supreme need.
 - A. The lamb of God. Jno. 1:29.
 - B. The Prince of Peace. Isa. 9:6; Eph. 2:14.
 - C. The great Physician. Isa. 61:1.
 - D. A wonderful treasure. Matt. 13:44-46.
3. We should seek him while he may be found. Isa. 55:6; Matt. 6:33; 7:7.

III. MAN'S DISCOVERY OF HIS BROTHER.

Matt. 22:39

1. Andrew found his own brother Simon and brought him to Jesus. Jno. 1:41,42.
Having discovered self and Saviour we need to find others who want a Saviour.
2. Samaritan woman forgot her water pot and went after some friends who needed Christ. Jno. 4:28-30.
3. Search for those who are looking for light. Acts 8:26-40.
4. Go fishing for men. Luke 15.
 - A. The lost sheep.
 - B. The lost piece of silver.
 - C. The lost boy.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. When you find yourself, your Saviour and your brother, you have made life's greatest discoveries.**
- 2. You have fulfilled life's supreme mission.**

SALVATION AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Eph. 5:22-27

INTRODUCTION:

1. Salvation is the pardon or forgiveness of God. The "blotting out" of our sins.
2. The church is not the saving power. vs. 23
3. The question is: "Can one enjoy the salvation of God without being in the church of God?"

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF CHURCH IS SEEN IN CHRIST'S ATTITUDE TOWARD IT.

1. He purchased it with His blood. Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 1:18-19.
2. He "*gave himself for it.*" Eph 5:25; Jno. 15:13
3. The church is God's called out people.
Mark 16:15,16; 2 Thess. 2:13,14; Col. 3:15.

II. WE CANNOT BE IN CHRIST WITHOUT BEING IN THE CHURCH.

1. 2 Cor. 5:17; 1 Cor. 1:2.
2. Christ is the head, church is his body, Christians are members. Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:21-23; 1 Cor 12:27 "*Now ye are the body of Christ...*"
3. Christ is king, church is his kingdom.
1 Tim. 5:15; Col. 1:13,14; 1:2.
4. Christ is Bridegroom, church is his Bride.
Eph 5:23-32.
 - A. The two are one. We cannot be related to Christ without being equally related to

the church.

B. A child by the same birth belongs to both the family of father and mother.

5. In Christ we are made nigh by the blood. Eph. 2:13.
6. In one body we are reconciled by the cross. Eph. 2:16. "Way of cross is way of church."
7. To be in Christ is to be in his body, and to be in his body is to be in his church.

III. ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS ARE IN CHRIST.

1. Eph. 1:3.
2. Eph. 1:23; 1 Cor. 15:24-26.

IV. TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST MEANS TO HAVE YOUR NAME ENROLLED IN HEAVEN.

1. Heb. 12:22-24.
2. To not have your name enrolled in heaven means to be lost eternally. Rev. 20:15. "*And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*"

V. THE SAME PROCESS AND CONDITIONS THAT SAVE ONE FROM SIN, MAKE ONE A CHRISTIAN AND A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST.

1. Faith, Baptism, Salvation. Mark 16:15,16.
2. Faith, Baptism, puts one into Christ. Gal. 3:26,27.
3. Faith, Baptism, adds one to the church.
4. We are not saved by one process and join the church by some other.

WHAT IT MEANS TO PREACH CHRIST

1 Cor. 1:23,24

INTRODUCTION:

1. The world's greatest need is to have Christ preached — He is God's son and our Saviour.
2. To preach Christ is to preach the power of God and the wisdom of God. (Col. 2:3).
3. Paul preached Christ crucified.
4. It means to preach the gospel. (Rom.1:16).
5. The word **POWER** is used in connection with preaching the "CRUCIFIED CHRIST."

I. TO PREACH CHRIST MEANS TO PREACH OLD TESTAMENT.

1. Old Testament is testimony of Christ.
Jno. 5:39.
2. Alexander Campbell said 333 Prophecies in Old Testament fulfilled in Christ. Lk. 24:44.
3. Philip preached Christ from Old Testament.
Acts 8:32-35.
4. Paul preached Christ from Old Testament.
Acts 17:23.

II. TO PREACH CHRIST MEANS TO PREACH THE NEW TESTAMENT.

1. Peter linked the Old & New Testaments.
2 Pet. 3:2.
2. We must preach the commandments of Christ as given through the apostles.
3. Apostle's teaching found in only one place in

world... New Testament.

4. Every line in New Testament makes it clear there is no other authority in Christian religion.
5. The Lord made HIS SAYINGS the basis for determining the destiny of men. Matt. 7:24-29.
6. This eliminates the doctrines of men. Jno.7:46

III. TO PREACH CHRIST IS TO PREACH THE FACTS, COMMANDS AND PROMISES OF THE GOSPEL.

1. Paul preached the facts "first of all."
1 Cor. 15:1-4.
2. Peter preached the commands. Acts 2:38.
3. Christ promised to save the obedient.
Heb. 5:8,9.
4. We cannot write these off as mere legalisms.
Heb. 2:2,3.

IV. TO PREACH CHRIST IS TO PREACH HIS CHURCH.

1. Deceitful catch-phrases: "More Christianity and less Churchianity." "Join Church of Choice."
2. Christ and Apostles never taught such doctrine.
3. Christ gave himself for the church, He is head of it, Saviour of it. Eph. 5:23-27.
4. To preach Christ without preaching Church is an impossibility.
5. The church and kingdom is one and same.
Matt. 16:18,19.

V. TO PREACH CHRIST IS TO PREACH PLAN OF SALVATION.

1. It is simple; yet profound.

2. Men must believe in Christ, repent of sins, confess him, be baptized for remission of sins.
3. Most of this plan is accepted but baptism is questioned.
4. Preaching Christ includes preaching all He has commanded.

VI. PREACHING CHRIST MEANS PREACHING CHRISTIAN LIVING.

1. It means preaching Christian virtues, church membership, the Lord's Supper and Christian unity.
2. It means preaching attendance and support of the church in its efforts to save the lost. Titus 1:16.
3. *"The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach."* Acts 1:1.

THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION

Phil. 3:7-12

INTRODUCTION:

1. There is power in steam, water, electricity, explosives, wind, etc.
2. Paul spoke of a power of another kind — power of the Resurrection of Christ. vs. 10; Rom. 1:3,4.
3. The power of the resurrection is seen in the following:
 - I. INSTITUTIONS AND ORDINANCES ESTABLISHED.
 1. The church. Matt. 16:18; 28:19, Lk. 24:49; Acts 2:32,36.
 2. Conditions of entrance into the church. Acts 2:37,38,41.
 3. Baptism is symbolic of burial and resurrection of Christ. Rom. 6:3,4.
 4. The Lord's day. Lk. 24:1; Acts 20:7.
 - II. IN THE FAITH IT CREATES.
 1. Christ declared to be the son of God. Matt. 3:17.
 2. Christ's miracles proved the fact. Acts 2:22.
 3. God established the TRUTH by the resurrection.
 - A. Faith in the fact was not fixed immovable principle until after the resurrection.
 - B. This was demonstrated in the apostles. Matt. 26:56; Acts 4:19.
 4. If Christ had not been raised he could not have been accepted as Son of God. Acts 2:36.

III. IN THE HOPE IT INSPIRES.

1. When Jesus was crucified and buried, his disciples lost hope. Lk. 24:13-21.
2. This hope was revived by the resurrection. 1 Pet.1:3,4; 1 Cor. 15:19.

IV. IN THE TRANSFORMATION OF LIFE.

1. Before the resurrection the disciples were filled with fear and dismay. Matt. 26:31, 35,56,58, 69-75.
2. After the resurrection they became bold and aggressive.
3. They began a mighty campaign to evangelize the world. Matt. 28:19,20; Mk. 16:19,20; Acts 4:19,20.
4. Genuine faith in Christ and the resurrection changes the lives of men. 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Col. 3:1-4.

V. IN THE VICTORY IT GIVES OVER DEATH.

1. The world of humanity dies nearly three times in a century. Nothing can halt the ravages of death.
2. Through Christ's resurrection we can overcome death. 2 Tim. 1:10; 1 Cor. 15:51-57.
3. The resurrection of Christ is a pledge of our resurrection. 1 Cor. 15:20-22.

THE GOSPEL PAUL PREACHED

Gal. 1:6-12

INTRODUCTION:

1. Paul marveled that the Galatians were moved to accept another gospel. vss. 6,7.
 - A. Not another gospel but a perverted one.
 - B. Fearful responsibility on preacher. vs. 8.
 - C. Paul would make known the gospel he preached.
2. Popular idea: "Makes no difference what one believes so long as he is honest." vs. 6; 5:4. Jno. 1:17.
 - A. Apply this reasoning to eating and drinking.
 - B. Error cannot save. Jno. 8:32; 1 Cor. 15:1-4.

I. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF GOSPEL PAUL PREACHED.

1. He preached the Original gospel. vs. 6;
2 Tim. 3:16,17.
2. He preached the Pure gospel. vs. 7; Rom. 1:16.
 - A. Food is God's power to satisfy hunger —
poison will destroy that power. (Pure
Food and Drug Act of 1906.)
 - B. Water is God's power to quench thirst...
salt will destroy its power.
 - C. Gospel is God's power to save the soul.
Have pure gospel law. Matt. 15:9;
2 Jno. 9; Acts 17:11.
3. He preached an Adequate gospel. vss. 8,9;
2 Pet. 1:3.
4. He preached a Simple gospel. 2 Cor. 11:3;
1 Cor. 2:1,2.

II. PRINCIPLES OF GOSPEL PAUL PREACHED.

1. The gospel of God. Rom. 1:1; Gen. 1:1; Ps. 100:3.
 - A. Atheism and theory of evolution.
2. The gospel of Christ. Acts 9:20.
 - A. Implies his divinity and deity.
 - B. Includes his divinity, virgin birth, vicarious death, resurrection, ascension, and coronation.
3. The gospel of Christ and his church. Eph. 5:32; 1:22,23.
 - A. Christ is head of the body, the church which is the fullness of God.
 - B. *"There is one body and one spirit..."* Eph. 4:4-6.
4. The gospel of our salvation. Gal. 3:26,27.
 - A. Salvation by faith only theory.
 - B. Salvation by prayer theory.
 - C. Salvation by signing a decision card.
 - D. Salvation by Jesus' plan. Mk. 16:16.
 - E. Salvation by Peter's plan. Acts 2:37,38.
 - F. The divine plan is the same since the Lord gave it and there is no substitute for it.
 - G. We still need faith to change the heart, thereby destroying the love of sin, repentance to change the will, destroying the practice of sin; and baptism to change the state. Gal. 3:26,27. Removing the guilt of sin.
 - H. This is the gospel Paul preached and it is a fearful thing to pervert it.

CONVICTION OR CONVENIENCE

Acts 24:24-25

INTRODUCTION:

1. We live in an age of astounding progress in transportation, technology, medicine, communications.
2. We are a most wonderfully blessed people.
3. Labor-saving devices are the rule.
4. We are bombarded on every hand to take advantage of every convenience.
5. This high pressure philosophy of convenience has invaded the church.
6. Convenience means personal comfort and ease.
7. Conviction — faith and persuasion so strong we will do it regardless of cost or sacrifice.

I. SOMETIMES NOT CONVENIENT TO ATTEND WORSHIP.

1. In past large and small families never missed, walked or rode wagons in all kinds of weather.
2. Heb. 10:25.
3. Many churches have closed doors Sunday and Wednesday nights. Not convenient to attend.
4. Responsibility of worshipping with home congregation. Rom. 12:4,5.
5. Some congregations moved away from field of service and given in to convenience.

II. NOT ALWAYS CONVENIENT TO LIVE RIGHT.

1. Many things of the world will interfere if we allow it.

- A. Not convenient to pray, read, visit.
- B. Environment makes it easy to sin.
- 2. Not convenient to abstain from evil.
1 Thess. 5:22; 1 Pet. 2:11.
- 3. Not always convenient to serve the Lord. 2 Tim. 4:10.

III. NOT ALWAYS CONVENIENT TO GIVE SCRIPTURALLY.

- 1. 1 Cor. 16:1,2; 2 Cor. 9:6,7.
- 2. We obligate ourselves for new house or car but not to God.
- 3. We spend foolishly and waste needlessly but reluctant to give to God.
- 4. Not convenient for rich man to give.
Lk. 16:19-31.
- 5. We need conviction in giving — it will break “dollar bill” habit.

IV. NOT ALWAYS CONVENIENT TO BECOME CHRISTIAN.

- 1. Pressures brought on by parents, relatives friends. Matt. 10:37,38.
- 2. Time of year deters some. Acts 17:30; 22:16.
- 3. Self-interest. Matt. 16:24.
- 4. Felix said he would wait for a more convenient season. Acts 24:24,25.

THE WORD OF GOD

Heb. 4:12,13

INTRODUCTION:

1. We need study characteristics of Word of God.
2. The word was given for definite purpose...Need.

I. IT IS DIVINE — THE WORD OF GOD.

1. It is as far above man's word as God is above man. Isa. 55:8,9.
2. We need to give it our profoundest respect. Neh. 8:1-8.

II. IT IS LIVING.

1. The Word of God is living and powerful — not a dead letter. 1 Pet. 1:23.
2. In the absence of God's word death reigns. *"For all flesh is as grass..."* 1 Pet. 1:24,25.
3. The Word of God is life and has power to impart life.
 - A. Natural life result of spoken word. Gen. 1; Jno. 11:43,44.
 - B. Spiritual life comes in response to it. Jno. 5:63.
 - C. By the word men are begotten and born again. Ps. 119:50; Acts 18:8; 1 Cor. 4:15; 1 Pet. 1:23.
 - D. God will speak and dead will respond to his voice. Jno. 5:28,29.

III. IT IS POWERFUL, ACTIVE AND FULL OF ENERGY.

1. God works through his Word. Isa. 55:10,11.

- A. In nature — he made the worlds. Ps. 33:6; Heb. 11:3.
 - B. It upholds the worlds. 2 Pet. 3:5-7.
 - C. Jesus stilled the tempest. Matt. 8:23-27.
 - D. He restored sight to the blind. Matt. 9:29.
 - E. He healed a leper. Matt. 8:1-3.
2. God's Word is powerful in grace or favor.
- A. Herod eaten of worms and died, but Word of God grew and multiplied. Acts 12:24; 19:20.
 - B. Jesus foiled the devil. Matt. 4:4,7,10.
 - C. It cannot be bound. 2 Tim. 2:9.
 - D. It makes those strong in whom it abides. Acts 20:32.
 - E. It converts sinners. Ps. 19:7; Rom. 1:16; 1 Pet. 1:22,23; Jas. 1:21; Jno. 17:17; Eph. 5:26; Jno. 15:3.

IV. IT IS SHARP.

- 1. Sharper than any two edged sword. Eph. 6:17; Rom. 1:16.
- 2. It is God's pruning knife. Jno. 15:3.
- 3. It is a sin-killer — convinces of sin and righteousness.
- 4. It saves or condemns. 2 Cor. 2:16.
- 5. It penetrates and searches the whole of man's nature. "*Piercing even to the dividing asunder.*" Heb. 4:12; Acts 2:37; 24:25.

V. IT IS A REVEALER. vs. 13

- 1. It is quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart.

2. It exercises a critical and separating power upon the thoughts and ideas, opinions and principals of the heart.
3. It reveals man to himself: sets a light where no other hand ever placed a candle and lights up the pathways of our most secret life and thought.
4. Jer. 31:31-34.

JESUS MARVELED AT MAN'S UNBELIEF

Mark 6:1-6

INTRODUCTION:

1. Marvel — that which causes wonder, astonishment, and surprise.
2. *“And they were all amazed and marveled...”* Acts 2:6,7.
3. *“I marvel that ye are so soon removed...”* Gal. 1:6.

I. WHO MARVELED?

1. It was the son of God... Deep meaning.
2. He was not grieved or angry; he marveled.
3. *“He came seeking fruit and found none.”*
Mk. 11:13; Lk. 10:19.

II. AT WHOM DID HE MARVEL?

1. At the men of Galilee and Nazareth.
Jno. 1:46.
2. He had grown up among them and he knew them well and they knew him. vs. 2,3.
3. He had done most of his miracles in Galilee.
(Water to wine — Cana; Raised widow's son — Nain.)
4. *“He came to his own, and his own received him not”* Jno. 1:11.

III. AT WHAT DID HE MARVEL?

1. Not their sins, blasphemies.
 - A. Their unbelief.
 - B. Not at disease but rejection of physician.
 - C. Not at their being lost; but their refusal to

be saved.

2. Why did he marvel at their unbelief?
 - A. It was so unreasonable. Jno. 20:30,31.
 - B. It was so unkind...he was good to them.
Raised their dead, healed their sick, gave sight to blind, fed multitudes.
 - C. It was so sinful. Treated his miracles as tricks, words as lies, Him as impostor.
 - D. It was so unprofitable. Like children preferring cheap toys to gold.
 - E. It was so dangerous. Rom. 2:5.
Throwing life away and choosing Hell.
 - F. It was so sinful. They did it deliberately.
Lk. 4:16-31.

JESUS marvels at the unbelief of sinners today. He wonders that you prefer the world to Him; death to life; hell to heaven.

Jesus marvels at the backslider. Heb. 3:12.

SCRIPTURAL REVIVALS

Ps. 85:6

INTRODUCTION:

1. The chief word in the verse is: REVIVAL.
2. This implies:
 - A. LIFE — a new creation has been accomplished.
"Passed from death unto life."
 - B. LIFE has declined and needs REVIVAL.
Natural life is weakest at beginning and end.
Spiritual life is strong in vigor of "First love."
3. The life which has declined can be revived.
4. Many have been the occasions, God's people had to be revived.

I. GOD'S ORDER OF REVIVING.

1. Revive me. Ps. 138:7.
 - A. Caleb. Num. 14:24.
 - B. Joshua. 24:15.
2. Revive us. Ps. 85:6.
 - A. We need a revival here today.
 - B. It is distressing to see lethargy and indifference.
 - C. It is seen in our attendance, giving and enthusiasm. Phil. 2:13.
 - D. To some religion seems to be a distress rather than delight.
 - E. Some are like man with headache; would not like to lose his head but is uncomfortable with it.
3. "Revive thy work." Heb. 3:2.
4. If we are alive others can be influenced and God's work will revive.

II. SOME THINGS IN WHICH WE NEED A REVIVAL.

1. Bible reading. Neh. 8:3; Acts 17:11.
2. Bible preaching. Acts 8:4; 2 Tim. 4:2.
3. Purity of living. Matt. 5:16; Titus 2:11,12
4. Clean speech. Eph. 4:29
5. Zeal for doing good. Titus 2:14.
6. Revival of love among brethren. 1 Jno. 3:18.
7. Obedience. Eph. 5:1; Heb. 5:8,9.
8. Modest apparel. 1 Tim. 2:9.
9. Kindness, tenderheartedness and the spirit of forgiveness. Eph. 4:32.
10. Spirit of unity and faithfulness. 1 Cor. 1:10; Rev. 2:10.

III. SOME BIBLE REVIVALS.

1. The Israelites. Exo. 14:30; Joshua 24:24.
2. John the Baptist created a revival.
Matt. 3:5,6.
3. Greatest Revival the world has ever known began on Pentecost. Acts 2.

“SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD”

Matt. 6:24-34

INTRODUCTION:

1. In vs. 25 Jesus stated three questions to the answering of which we devote most of our energy.
 - A. What shall I eat? What shall I drink? What shall I wear?
 - B. From temporary point of view these things are mighty important.
 - C. The body must be sustained and maintained.
 - D. We cannot escape these questions — they lie at the basis of life.
 2. The natural man is primarily concerned with things of time and of the senses. These are natural and legitimate needs.
2 Thess. 3:10.
 3. Most of life's conflicts are due to an inordinate desire for things.
 4. We are consumed by tremendous urge for security. (Bank account, land, houses, stocks and bonds.)
 - A. An Iowa farmer said: “Buy more land to raise more corn to feed more hogs to buy more land to raise more corn to feed more hogs.”
-
- I. **WE NEED TO ESTABLISH A PRIORITY OF THINGS.**
 1. One of the purposes of Divine revelation.
 2. The life of the soul is more important than life of the body; things of eternity worth infinitely more than things of time. Matt. 16:26.
 3. Salvation of the soul should be first concern.

Lk. 12:16-21.

II. "SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD."

1. SEEK it FIRST in LIFE. Lk. 9:59-62.
 - A. DOM — rule of God's will.
 - B. We are made in image of God, made for Him and to have fellowship with Him, to serve, to praise and to do His will.
2. SEEK it FIRST in the HOME. 2 Cor. 6:14.
3. SEEK it FIRST on the JOB.
4. SEEK it FIRST in RECREATION.
5. SEEK it FIRST as a STUDENT.
6. SEEK — nothing worth while comes merely by wishing for it.

III. THE REWARD IS SWEET.

1. The Talmud says, "Man is born with his hands clinched; he dies with them wide open. Entering life, he desires to possess everything; leaving the world, all that he possesses has slipped away."
2. Jesus says, "*Lay up treasures in heaven.*" Matt. 6:19,20.
3. His promise. Matt. 6:33.
 - A. Fowl of the air.
 - B. Lilies of the field.
4. Jesus will come for the kingdom. 1 Cor. 15:24; Eph. 5:27.

“LET ME FREELY SPEAK”

Acts 2:14-36

INTRODUCTION:

1. To speak freely is to speak without restraint.
2. Gospel preachers ought always to speak freely.
3. Much need to be spoken. 1 Cor. 1:21; Rom. 1:16.
4. Paul kept back nothing that was profitable.
Acts 20:20.

I. WHAT RIGHT DID PETER HAVE TO SPEAK FREELY?

1. He was under direct supervision of Holy Spirit. 2:4.
2. He had been charged by Lord to preach the gospel. Mark 16:15.
3. He had been given the keys of the kingdom.
Matt. 16:19.

II. TO WHOM DID PETER SPEAK FREELY?

1. To “men” people who were sinners...worldly.
2. To “brethren” Jews of his own nation.
 - A. Our “brethren” are those who have obeyed the gospel of Christ. 1 Cor. 15:1.
 - B. We must preach to our brethren.
Titus 2:11,12.

III. ABOUT WHAT DID PETER SPEAK SO FREELY?

1. The resurrection of Jesus. vs. 29-32.
2. The resurrection was central theme of all sermons in Acts.

- A. Peter on Solomon's porch... *"Whom God hath raised from the dead."*
 - B. Peter at house of Cornelius... *"Him God raised up the third day."*
 - C. Paul on Mars Hill... *"He preached unto them Jesus and the resurrection."* 17:18.
3. So much depends upon the resurrection of Christ. Rom. 1:4; 1 Cor. 15:13,14.

IV. EXAMPLES OF PETER'S WAY OF SPEAKING FREELY.

- 1. Christ always spoke freely... He commended the good and condemned the evil.
- 2. Stephen spoke freely. Acts 7:51-53.
- 3. Paul in Ephesus... *"I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God."* 20:27.
- 4. All early preachers spoke freely. They wanted to save souls.
- 5. We need to speak freely about:
 - A. The church
 - B. Plan of Salvation
 - C. Instrumental music in worship.
 - D. Adultery — Divorce
 - E. Giving
 - F. Sin in any form.
 - G. About good works.

V. RESULTS OF SUCH SPEAKING.

- 1. Acts 2:37-41.
- 2. Hearers were convicted of sin and converted to Christ. About 3,000 obeyed.

3. **The gospel was preached to every creature under heaven in that generation. Col. 1:23.**
4. **The same results will follow the same kind of preaching today.**
5. **The gospel is the same power to save.**
6. **There is no need for a new or different gospel today — the old fashioned gospel when freely spoken will convict and convert people today.**

“NO OTHER NAME”

Acts 4:12

INTRODUCTION:

1. The authority of Christ must be respected.
2. Acts is an account of men obeying “the commandment.”
Acts 1:1,2.
3. Great Commission given by authority of Christ.
Matt. 28:18-20.
4. Is that authority respected today?
5. Religious division & lost souls are a great price to pay for rejecting Christ’s authority.

I. THE PROBLEM OF DIVISION IS EVIDENT.

1. God-fearing Bible believing people are sadly divided.
 - A. Boys playing together on same team Friday night cannot worship together Sunday.
 - B. Men work together in Civic Clubs cannot work together for Christ.
2. The current ecumenical movement is open admission that in unity is strength — in division is weakness.
3. The scriptures would settle this problem.
Jno. 17:20,21; 1 Cor. 1:10-13.
4. How some react to the problem:
 - A. Hide head in sand of religious indifference and apathy.
 - B. Some take course of least resistance and become infidels, atheist, or skeptics.
 - C. The intelligent course is to wade through the maze of sectarianism and get to the root of the problem.

II. THE CRUX OF THE PROBLEM: WRONG AUTHORITY.

1. In some areas of life men respect authority.
 - A. Speed laws and safety regulations.
 - B. Games are played by the rules.
 - C. Business has weights and measurements.
2. In religion men appeal to various authorities.
 - A. Some appeal to Scripture and the Lord's "VICAR" on earth. Col. 1:18.
 - B. Others appeal to scripture and feelings. Prov. 14:12; Jer. 10:23.
 - C. Many appeal to Scripture and "additional revelations." 2 Tim. 3:16,17; Jude 3.
 - D. Some accept parents as authority. Acts 4:12.
 - E. Others accept word of religious leaders. Acts 4:12.
 - F. Many follow the crowd. Matt. 7:13,14.
3. The tragedy is that the additional authority supplants the Lord's authority.
 - A. The "Vicar", "additional revelation" or "feeling" becomes more important than Christ.
 - B. There is no other authority or Name but Christ's!!

III. HOW DOES ONE ARRIVE AT CHRIST'S AUTHORITY?

1. The Bible teaches explicitly and implicitly.
 - A. The explicit commands are of two kinds:
 - (1). General — "Go" preach the gospel.

- (2). Specific — “Sing” and make melody in your heart.
- B. The Implicit command (example or necessary inference) must have background command.
- 2. Extremist have plagued the church for many years.
 - A. Have taken 4 lane highway of liberalism have generalized on specific — Sing to include mechanical instruments of music.
 - B. Other have taken the narrow, crooked, pig-path of radicalism by specifying their opinions for general commands. (Visit the fatherless and widows by taking them into your home.)
- 3. Christ’s authority must be respected.
 - A. When he specifies what and how a thing is to be done, we must respect it.
 - B. When he commands a thing but does not specify how to do it, then we dare not make laws for Him!!

CONCLUSION:

- 1. *“At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow...”* Phil. 2:10
- 2. Jno. 6:66-68.

THE "COMES" OR "INVITATIONS" OF GOD'S WORD Matt. 11:28-30

INTRODUCTION:

1. The word COME — to move toward something.
Approach. To move toward or enter a scene of action or into a field of interest with purpose. To arrive at a particular place, end, result or conclusion.
2. This is the call of God — "come and get it"
3. The "Call" of the gold in California 1849.

I. COME INTO A PLACE OF SAFETY.

1. Gen. 7:1. *"And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the Ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation."*
2. There is safety for us in the church.

II. COME TO A GOODLY FELLOWSHIP.

1. Num. 10:29. *"And Moses said unto Hobab, the son of Raguel the Midianite, Moses' father-in-law, we are journeying unto the place of which the Lord said, I will give it you: Come thou with us, and we will do thee good; for the Lord hath spoken good concerning Israel."*
2. Church provides best opportunity for fellowship.

III. COME FOR PERSONAL CLEANSING.

1. Isa. 1:18. *"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though*

they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

2. Mark 16:15,16; Acts 2:38; 3:19.

IV. COME FOR SATISFACTION OF SOUL.

1. Isa. 55:1. *"Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat, yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."*
2. Eph. 1:3.

V. COME FOR REST OF SOUL.

1. Matt. 11:28. *"Come unto me, all ye that labor..."*
2. God can give rest to sin-burdened soul.

VI. COME AT THE KING'S URGENT INVITATION.

1. Matt. 22:4. *"Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage."*
2. God has made great preparation for us.

VII. COME TO THE GOSPEL FEAST.

1. Luke 14:17. *"And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, come: for all things are now ready."*
2. The gospel is great feast for the soul.

VIII. COME AT THE THREE-FOLD CALL.

1. Rev. 22:17. *"And the Spirit and the Bride say,*

*Come. And let him that heareth say, COME.
And let him that is a thirst come. And whosoever will,
let him take the water of life freely."*

2. God, Christ and the Holy Spirit unite in saying
COME.

IX. THE DIVINE CALL EMPHASIZED.

1. Jer. 35:15. *"I have sent also unto you all my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, return ye now every man from his evil way, and amend your doings, and go not after other gods to serve them, and ye shall dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your fathers: but ye have not inclined your ear, nor harkened unto me."*
2. Ezek. 33:11. *"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O, house of Israel."*
3. Hosea 6:1. *"Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up."*

RESTORE THE ERRING

Acts 8:18-24

INTRODUCTION:

1. Purpose is to urge the unfaithful to be restored.
2. To "restore" means: bring back to a former place; to bring back to a place where one once was.
3. The need of restoration is seen in:
 - A. God's people are to restore those overtaken in a fault. Gal. 6:1.
 - B. The number of people who no longer faithfully serve God.
4. Simon needed to be restored because he was:
 - A. Wicked.
 - B. In bitterness.
 - C. Bond of iniquity.

I. SIMON WAS A SAVED MAN.

1. He had heard the saving message. 8:5,12.
2. He had received God's word in faith. Jas. 1:21; Acts 8:13.
3. He had been baptized. Acts 8:13.
4. He had salvation promised by Jesus. Mk. 16:16.
5. Simon's case demonstrates that those saved from past sins may sin again and be lost.

II. SPIRITUAL STATUS OF THE ERRING.

1. He is not an alien sinner.
 - A. Those in world aliens. Col. 1:21.
 - B. Those in kingdom are citizens. Col. 1:13.

2. He is the unfruitful branch. Jno. 15:2.
 - A. One must produce good fruit. Matt. 7:20.
 - B. Must produce fruit of spirit. Gal. 5:22,23.
3. He is a "foolish virgin." Matt. 25:1-12.
 - A. Jesus was teaching people to be watching and making preparation for his coming. Matt. 24:36.
 - B. The "foolish virgins" had not prepared.
4. He is lukewarm. Rev. 3:14-16.
5. He has "*erred from the truth.*" Jas. 5:19,20.
 - A. One may err in doctrine.
 - B. One may err in morals.
6. He is in worse state than when an alien sinner.
 - 2 Pet. 2:20-22.
 - A. He has sinned against God's grace.
 - B. He has sinned against Christ's death.
 - C. His life says, "there isn't much to Christianity."

III. THERE IS POTENTIAL PARDON FOR THE ERRING.

1. Simon was told to repent. Acts 8:22.
 - A. To repent is to change the mind.
 - B. Simon's heart was not right.
 1. People sin because heart is not right. Mark 7:21-23.
 2. The "Heart of the problem" of unfaithfulness is a problem of the heart.
2. Simon was told to pray. Acts 8:22.
 - A. If Simon repented — he renounced his sin.
 - B. He confessed his sin. "*Pray ye to the Lord for me...*"
 - C. "*Repent — of this thy wickedness and pray*

God — that thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee."

CONCLUSION:

1. Simon was in danger of perishing. Acts 8:20.
 - A. The world is perishing. Jno. 3:16.
 - B. Erring Christians are in danger.
Acts 8:20.
2. The erring may be converted. Jas. 5:19,20.
3. Simon said "pray for me."
 - A. Why not repent and come back to the Lord?
 - B. Why keep Jesus waiting and knocking at the door of your heart? Rev. 3:20.

IS IT NOTHING TO YOU?

Lam. 1:1-12

INTRODUCTION:

1. The plight of Jerusalem. Sin had led to her captivity and solitariness.
2. A picture of calvary — Is it nothing to you?
3. These words should stir us to the depths of our hearts.

I. CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS ARE UNPARALLELED.

1. Because of the mockery. Matt. 17:26-43.
2. Because of the divine dignity of his person.
 - A. Kings, philosophers, princes, great men have died, but never one like this.
 - B. He was prophet, priest, and king. Acts 3:22; Heb. 4:14; 1 Tim. 6:4,15.
3. Because of the perfect innocence of his character. 2 Cor. 5:21.
 - A. Herein is sorrow never to be forgotten — the innocent suffering for the guilty.
 - B. He suffered for our sins. Isa. 53:4,5.
4. Because all his sorrow voluntarily undertaken — he did not have to die — he could have summoned 12 legions of angels. Matt. 26:53.

II. SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST HAVE DEEP INTEREST FOR MANY.

1. Some have found therein a cure for their despair. Heb. 12:3,4.
 - A. This has wrought complete

transformation in many lives. Rom. 12:2.

- B. Saul who was breathing out threatening and slaughter was converted and became a great preacher.
- 2. The sufferings of Christ has girded many to heroic deeds. Acts 7:55,56. (Polycarp)
- 3. The sufferings of Christ teach men to hate sin, when they see the agonies by which redemption is obtained.

III. WHAT HAVE YOU TO DO WITH CHRIST?

- 1. To so many he means nothing.
 - A. They rise like a balloon, filled and inflated with prosperity and pleasure.
 - B. When wine goes sour and the gold becomes corroded what then? To whom shall we go?
- 2. Christ can mean everything to you.
 - A. There must be conviction. Acts 2:36-38.
 - B. There must be a desire for pardon.
- 3. There is none other to whom we can go.
 - A. Serpent in the Wilderness — lifted up.
 - B. Christ alone can save.
Jno. 6:66; 14:6; 12:32.

WITHIN YOUR POWER

Acts 5:1-4

INTRODUCTION:

1. **THESIS:** Self-examination to produce faithfulness.
2. There are some things in life over which we have no control: Tornadoes, earthquakes, etc...
3. Some things in life over which we have relatively little control: decisions of government, actions of friends.
4. Some things we have "within our power" vs. 4.

I. MATERIAL THINGS ARE IN OUR POWER.

1. Not all material things but those you control are in your power.
2. Money is power for good or evil. 1 Tim. 6:10.
3. The command to give implies that one has money within his power. 2 Cor. 9:7.
4. Three important questions concerning money:
 - A. What does it do for you?
 - B. What does it do with you?
 - C. What does it do to you?

II. OUR TALENTS ARE IN OUR POWER.

1. The Lord taught responsibility in connection with talents. Matt. 25:14-30.
 - A. The talent was a sum of money.
 - B. Represents our abilities, energies.
2. We use our abilities to serve God or devil.

III. OUR BODIES ARE IN OUR POWER.

1. The admonition to "*present the body as a*

living sacrifice" implies this. Rom. 12:1,2.

- A. No service can be rendered to God without use of the body.
 - B. "Spiritual service" requires the use of the body.
2. "Glorify God in your body..." 1 Cor. 6:19,20.
- A. God is not glorified if our bodies are used for fornication. 1 Cor. 6:15-18.
 - B. God is not glorified in a body that is used for health destroying habits.

IV. INFLUENCE FOR GOOD IS WITHIN OUR OWN POWER.

- 1. Jesus emphasized the power of influence:
 - A. "*Ye are the salt of the earth.*" Matt. 5:13.
 - B. "*Ye are the light of the world.*" Matt. 5:14-16.
- 2. "*Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men.*" 2 Cor. 3:2.
- 3. The influence of good people lives on and on. Heb. 11:4.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Men spend a lot of time talking about things over which they have little or no control, and too little time doing something about the things that are within their power.
- 2. How are you using these four things that you have within your power?
 - A. Material Things.
 - B. Talents.
 - C. Your body.
 - D. Your influence.

PUNISHMENT OF THE WICKED

Matt. 13:47-52; 2 Thess. 1:7-9

INTRODUCTION:

1. Universalism teaches that the wicked shall not perish — a just God would not punish anyone.
2. If true the Christian has nothing to fear; if true, he has all to gain.
3. The Bible expressly teaches wicked will be punished. Justice demands it.
4. God has promised life everlasting to the obedient and a miserable life in hell for the disobedient.

I. THE WICKED WILL BE PUNISHED.

1. The angels shall sever the wicked from the just — the bad are cast away.
2. The Lord will come in flaming fire, taking vengeance on disobedient. 2 Thess. 1:8; Rom. 2:8,9.
3. God is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Matt. 10:28; Gen. 6:7.
4. God will destroy all the wicked. Ps. 145:20; Job 19:10.

II. PUNISHMENT IS NOT AND CANNOT BE ANNIHILATION.

1. If wicked are annihilated there would be no degrees of punishment. Matt. 23:14; Lk. 12:47,48.
2. There is sorer punishment for those who trample underfoot the Son of God. Heb. 10:29.
3. The state of the wicked is worse after death. Matt. 12:45; 2 Pet. 2:20.

4. Punishment for the wicked is as everlasting as life for the righteous. Matt. 25:46.

III. WHAT THAT PUNISHMENT WILL BE.

1. It will be everlasting fire. Mk. 9:46.
2. Destruction from the presence of the Lord. 2 Thess. 1:9.
3. It will be in outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Matt. 25:30.
4. It will be torment. Rev. 14:11.
5. The wicked and the devil will be cast into lake of fire and brimstone. Rev. 20:10; Matt. 13:42.
6. After death rich man was tormented in flames. Lk. 16:24.
7. It will be more than separation from righteous — punishment, torment, weeping, darkness, gnashing of teeth, crying, pain, sorrow, and misery.
8. There is no escape and no relief — a great gulf separates Heaven and hell.
9. Memories of neglect and sin will burn within and flames of hell without.
10. This is certain for the wicked and disobedient.

IV. HELL CAN BE AVOIDED.

1. The sinner must believe, repent, confess Christ and be baptized to be saved. Mk. 16:16; Lk. 13:3; Matt. 10:32,33; Acts 2:38.
2. The gospel is death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. 1 Cor. 15:1-3.

3. We must obey it in form. Rom. 6:17; 6:3-6.
4. The Lord will take vengeance on the disobedient. 2 Thess. 1:8,9.
5. We must add Christian graces — add to faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love.
6. *“Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have a right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”* Rev. 22:14.

THE COMPROMISES OF PHARAOH AND SATAN

Exo. 8:25,26

INTRODUCTION:

1. The call of Abraham and birth of Isaac.
2. Born to Isaac and Rebecca — Jacob and Esau.
3. Jacob had 12 sons among whom was Joseph.
4. Joseph sold into Egypt — brothers come for food.
5. All descendants of Abraham move to Egypt.
6. There 400 years, Moses is born.
7. Moses and Aaron to lead God's people out.
8. The message of God: "Let my people go."
9. Pharaoh refused. Plagues: Water to blood, frogs, lice, flies.

I. PHARAOH FIRST COMPROMISE. Exo. 8:25.

1. *"Go ye, sacrifice to your God in the land."*
2. Satan says, "Stay where you are, don't move."
3. Do not go into Jehovah's land the church.
4. Church does not save. Eph. 5:23.
5. *"You don't have to be in the church to be saved."* Acts 20:28.

II. PHARAOH'S SECOND COMPROMISE.

Exo. 8:28.

1. *"Ye may sacrifice to the Lord your God in the wilderness; only ye shall not go very far away."*
2. Satan says, "If you must, you may sacrifice in the church, but do not go very far into it, stay close to me."
3. God sent more plagues: cattle, boils, hail.

III. PHARAOH'S THIRD COMPROMISE.

Exo. 10:11.

1. *"Go now ye that are men, and serve the Lord"*
2. Satan says, "If you are determined, go serve Jehovah in the church and go all the way but, leave your women and children behind for me; let me have them."
3. Satan knows the value of women and young people in the church.
4. Plague of locust and darkness.

IV. PHARAOH'S FOURTH COMPROMISE.

Exo. 10:24.

1. *"Go ye, serve the Lord: only let your flocks and your herds be stayed: let your little ones also go with you."*
2. Moses said, "Our cattle also shall go with us; there shall not an hoof left behind; for thereof must we take to serve the Lord our God."
3. Satan says, "If you must, go serve Jehovah, but do not take your possessions, leave them with me."
4. Satan seeks to defeat us through poor, stingy giving.

CONCLUSION:

We must give ourselves to God without reservation. "I surrender ALL."

BARNABAS

Acts 11:22-26

INTRODUCTION:

1. The church at Antioch was established as the result of persecution of Jerusalem Church. Acts 11:19.
2. Some preached only to the Jews. vs. 19.
3. Others preached to Grecians. vs. 20.
4. The Jerusalem church sent Barnabas to Antioch. Perhaps to reconcile and coordinate efforts of first Jew-Gentile church.
5. The success of his mission depended upon his personal character.

I. THE CHARACTER OF BARNABAS.

1. He was a "good man." Amiability, kindness of purpose and manner, generosity of spirit, considerateness of others. Acts 9:26,27.
2. He was a liberal man. Acts 4:31-37.
3. He was an exhorter. Acts 11:23; 2:40; 2 Tim. 4:2; Heb. 3:13.
4. He was not ENVIOUS. "Was glad."
 - A. Envy is rottenness of bones. Prov. 14:30.
 - B. Envy crucified Christ. Matt. 27:18.
 - C. Envy caused Jews to speak against the truth spoken by Paul. Acts 13:45.
5. He was "full of Holy Spirit." Entirely under its influence. Gal. 5:22,23.
6. He was "full of faith."
 - A. He had a strong grip of gospel truth. No disputings and doubts in his mind. He

had genuine CONVICTIONS.

- B. He understood the broader aspects of the Christian system — Jew and Gentiles.
 - C. Heb. 3:12.
7. He was a successful man.
- A. *“Much people was added unto the Lord.”*
 - B. One cannot join God’s family — he is born into it or added by the Lord. Acts 2:47.

CONCLUSION:

Any person who has the same characteristics will do a great work for the Lord.

LIVING WITH JESUS

Acts 4:1-13

INTRODUCTION:

1. Peter and John were on trial before the Sanhedrin court.
(Give setting)
2. The scene presents a vivid contrast.
 - A. Sanhedrin consisted of 71 members — learned and dignified men.
 - B. Peter and John were ignorant and unlearned men.
3. Peter and John had a knowledge that was superior to that of this high court.
4. We learn from this scene the importance of conviction and boldness. 1 Cor. 1:27.

I. CHRISTIANITY IS LIVING WITH JESUS.

1. Becoming a Christian means being united with Jesus. Matt. 12:30.
 - A. Rom. 6:4; Col. 3:1; Jno. 15:4.
2. Living the Christian life means living with Jesus.
 - A. We should be with him in study and meditation. Ps. 1:2; Rom. 10:17.
 - B. We should be with him in public and private worship.
 1. Prayer. "Sweet Hour of Prayer" #36.
 2. Singing with Spirit and understanding.
 - C. We should be with Jesus in service. Acts 10:38.
3. It is a tragedy that too often we are not interested in being with Jesus. Matt. 18:20.
 - A. We consume time with other matters.
 - B. The rich fool, Demas, the Laodiceans.

C. It takes time to be Holy. (Sing #419)

II. CHRISTIAN CHARACTER IS DEVELOPED ONLY BY LIVING WITH JESUS.

1. From Him we learn courage and conviction.
Matt. 23:13-33; Jno. 18:4-8; Eph. 6:10-19.
2. We learn purity of heart from Jesus.
Matt. 5:8; 1 Tim. 5:22; Heb. 12:14.
3. We learn forgiveness from Jesus.
Lk. 9:54-56; 23:34.
4. We learn the spirit of sacrifice and usefulness from Christ. 2 Cor. 8:9; Phil. 2:5-8.
5. We must add the Christian graces.
2 Pet. 1:5-7.

III. THE WORLD WILL SEE IF WE HAVE BEEN LIVING WITH JESUS.

1. Our associates are vitally important to us.
 - A. Our young people need right kind of associates.
 - B. The Corinthians. 1 Cor. 15:33.
2. The world will see if we have been with Jesus.
 - A. They watch our attitude, language, conduct.
 - B. Our influence is good or bad.
 - C. We must live with Jesus day to day.

CONCLUSION:

1. We have the responsibility to let others see Christ in us. Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:3.
2. Our influence for good is in direct proportion to the amount of time we spend with Jesus.

THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

Eph. 5:25-27

INTRODUCTION:

1. When the purity of the church is corrupted, its identity as church of Christ is destroyed.
2. The distinction between the church and the world must be kept clear.
3. This lesson is not an attempt to draw that distinction but to point it out.

I. WHAT IS THE WORLD?

1. God so LOVED the WORLD. Jno. 3:16.
2. LOVE NOT the WORLD. 1 Jno. 2:15.
3. Go ye into all the WORLD. Mk. 16:15.
4. *"Come out from among them and be ye separate."* 2 Cor. 6:17.
5. Worldliness is of the devil.
 - A. All these will I give thee. Matt. 4:8,9.
 - B. Devil is god of this world. 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2; 6:12.
 - C. The whole world lieth in wickedness. 1 Jno. 5:19; 2 Tim. 4:10.

II. WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

1. Word church means "called out". Jno. 15:19; 17:15.
2. Called out of darkness. 1 Pet. 2:9; Col. 1:13.
3. Called to be saints. 1 Cor. 1:2; 2 Cor. 6:17.
4. Christ died to make this possible. Eph. 5:25-27; 1 Jno. 1:7; Eph. 2:13-16; 1:3,22,23.
5. The blood cleanses when we obey the gospel.

2 Thess. 2:14; Rom. 6:17,18.

III. WHAT THIS RELATIONSHIP IMPOSES.

1. A life of separation from the world.
2 Cor. 6:17.
2. Be not conformed to the world. Rom. 12:1,2.
3. Walk as new creatures. Rom. 6:4.
4. Keep thyself pure. 1 Tim. 5:22.
5. Obligation to preach the gospel. Mk. 16:15.

IV. HOW CAN THE CHRISTIAN DETERMINE WHAT IS RIGHT OR WRONG IN RECREATION?

1. Does it destroy my identity as a Christian?
2. Is the practice questionable?
3. Does it have a weakening influence on others?
4. Is it destructive to your body?
5. Does it cultivate an inordinate fleshly appetite?
6. Does it conflict with your duty as a Christian?
7. Does it bring you under weakening associations and influences?
8. Does it bring upon you an unequal yoke with unbelievers and make it difficult for you to serve the Lord?

“WHERE ART THOU?”

Gen. 3:9

- I. ONE OF OUR GREATEST NEEDS IS TO REALIZE WHERE WE ARE.
 1. One of the basic troubles of the world today, man does not know where he is or where headed.
 - A. Bible tells us where we are from, where we are now, where we are going and how to get there. 2 Tim. 3:16,17.
 2. Self-improvement can only come where there is self-knowledge.
 - A. The prodigal son “*came to himself*”. Lk. 15:17.
 3. Study the states in which others have lived it will help us to see where we are and which way to go.

- II. ADAM WAS IN HIDING.
 1. Adam, conscious of his guilt, attempted to hide. Gen. 3:8,9. “*Where art thou?*”
 2. Adam’s answer. vs. 10.
 - A. He erred in thinking God is like man. Ps. 50:21.
 3. It is impossible for man to hide from God. Prov. 15:3; Heb. 4:13; Ps. 139:11,12.

- III. JONAH WAS TRYING TO FLEE FROM GOD. 1:1-4.
 1. God asked him to go to Nineveh. vs. 2.
 - A. He did not obey. vs. 3.
 2. Jonah learned God also goes to sea. vs. 4,

Ps. 139:7-10.

3. Some hair raising experiences taught Jonah he could not run from God. 1:15-3:4.
 - A. When he was converted he converted others. 3:5-10.
 - B. Christ singled out his preaching as some of most powerful on record. Lk. 11:32.

IV. THE RICH YOUNG RULER WAS IN DISOBEDIENCE.

1. He walked away disobedient and sorrowful. Matt. 19:16-22.
2. Obedience brings joy and contentment. Acts 8:39.
3. He thought he wanted to know what to do but he really wanted to know if Lord agreed with him. Many hope the Lord agrees with them. Matt. 7:21.

V. THE LAODICEANS WERE IN LUKEWARMNESS.

Rev. 3:16,17.

1. They were religious — a little for the Lord, and a little for the devil.
2. Jesus preferred the extreme to mediocre. vss. 15,17.

VI. SIMON WAS IN DELINQUENCY. Acts 8:13-24.

1. He was saved. Mk. 16:16; Acts 8:13.
2. He fell from God's grace.
3. He was told to repent and pray. vss. 22,23.

VII. PAUL WAS IN THE "ONE BODY" MAGNIFYING CHRIST.

1. 1 Cor. 12:13.
2. Counted all things loss. Phil. 3:7.
3. His philosophy of life is solution to problems of life and death. Phil. 1:20,21.

VIII. WHERE WE ARE NOW MAY DETERMINE OUR DESTINY.

1. This is seen in story of rich man and Lazarus. Lk. 16:19-24.
2. There are four states in which we may live:
 - A. Innocence or unaccountable.
 - B. Alien.
 - C. Faithful in Christ.
 - D. Backslide.

FATHERS WHO UNDERSTAND

Eph. 6:1-4

INTRODUCTION:

1. Father's day first suggested by Mrs. John Bruce Dodd, Spokane, Washington. First observed, June 17, 1910, in honor of her own father, William Smart, a Civil War veteran, who had reared his own 6 motherless children.
2. Kate Swineford promoted it and a national Father's day association was formed in Virginia. In 1923 the 3rd Sunday in June was fixed as the official day and in 1924, President Coolidge recommended its national observance.
3. There are several kinds of fathers.
 - A. Some love and understand their children.
 - B. Some feel they have done duty when bring home a pay check.
 - C. Some are cruel, drunken and abusive.
 - D. Some are domineering, egotistical and authoritarian.
4. Bible places FATHER at the head of the family as a loving, caring, protective provider. Eph. 5:23; 6:4.
5. A good father's characteristics:
 - I. HE IS A WORKER.
 1. To the best of his ability, he provides for the physical needs of the family. 1 Tim. 5:8.
 2. He teaches his children the world does not owe them a living.
 3. He teaches them honesty and industry.
 4. He teaches them to share the home chores.

II. HE RULES BY LOVE AND NOT FEAR.

1. He does not resort to cruel and unusual punishment.
2. *"Ye fathers provoke not your children to wrath."*
 - A. The temper of a child determines character and destiny.
 - B. Petty interferences, trivial prohibitions incessant chidings and an irritable spirit in parental conduct can "provoke children to wrath."
3. A good father is positive in his directions.
 - A. Boy fell into deep water and had to be rescued. Father forbid him to go near water again. Boys called him "fraidy cat" and "Sissy."
 - B. *"Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."*
 - C. Teach them to think with accuracy, to love with purity, to act with adroitness and promptitude.
 - D. *"Admonish them in the Lord."*

III. HE PRAISES INSTEAD OF FINDING FAULT.

1. He knows children cannot be judged by adult standards.
2. He understands imaginative ability of child.
 - A. Listens patiently and calmly as child tells about big black bear in back yard.
 - B. Explains it is a dog and praises child's understanding.

- IV. HE IS AN EXAMPLE FOR THE CHILDREN.**
1. He teaches reverence and respect for God.
 2. He cuts out all bad habits for his own sake and that of his children.
 3. He teaches truthfulness and honesty.
 4. He leads his family to Bible study and church.
 5. He teaches his boys how to be good husbands and fathers.
- V. HE TEACHES THE PHYSICAL FACTS OF LIFE.**
1. He answers their questions about sex.
 2. He wants them to be clean in mind and life.
 3. He wants them to have accurate information.
- VI. HE IS FAIR AND JUST WITH HIS CHILDREN.**
1. He does not have favorites.
 2. He invites them to participate in family decisions.
 3. He finds time to associate with them.
 4. He teaches them about God, Christ and the church and leads them to Christ.

THE GOSPEL SCHOOL

John 3:1-5

INTRODUCTION:

1. It was truly a memorable night on which Nicodemus appeared before Christ.
2. It gives an insight into the school Christ established for the spiritual culture of the world.
3. There are three things that claim our attention in relation to this school.

I. THE DISTINGUISHED STUDENT.

1. This and two or three other references furnish us all information we have about Nicodemus. Jno. 7:50,51; 19:39.
2. His religious sect. PHARISEE...proud, sanctimonious, exclusive and influential. Matt. 3:7; 16:6; Matt. 23. They were the leading antagonists of Son of God. Nicodemus was breaking the shackles of this bigoted party in search of truth.
3. His civil position. "Ruler of the Jews." Seeking religious knowledge from Son of a carpenter.
4. His respectful behavior. "Rabbi" "Master" John 3:2; 1 Tim. 3:15.
5. His evident sincerity. vs. 2; 2:23.
6. His moral timidity. He came by night for instruction. Jno. 19:39. His love for truth impelled him.

II. THE MASTER WHO PRESIDED OVER THE SCHOOL.

1. The spirit he exemplifies.

- A. The spirit of faithfulness. He indulged no circumlocution, no temporizing, no attempt to make truth palatable. vs. 3. Shook foundation of Pharisaism.
 - B. Here is earnestness. Repeats necessity of change in fiery words. vss. 3,5,7.
 - C. Here is certitude. vs. 11. Absolute knowledge.
- 2. The titles he assumes.
 - A. Son of man — the ideal man.
 - B. Son of God — only begotten Son of God.
 - 3. The wonderful mission he claims. 3:13.
 - A. He claims a mission from heaven.
 - B. He claims a mission from God to save the world. vss. 14,15; 16:17.
 - C. This was the man Nicodemus was seeking for religious knowledge.

III. THE MOMENTOUS LESSON TAUGHT IN THE GOSPEL SCHOOL THIS NIGHT.

- 1. Lessons taught comprehends the two great cardinal doctrines of Regeneration and Reconciliation. Jno. 1:13; 3:3; Titus 3:5; Acts 22:16.
- 2. Eph. 2:13-17.
- 3. Titus 3:5.
 - A. Regenerate — spiritually reborn or converted.
 - B. Reconcile — to restore to friendship, harmony or communion.

THE UNCHANGEABLE CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD

Heb. 7:24

INTRODUCTION:

1. We live in a rapidly changing world.
2. Communities change, people change.
3. Manner of waging war, transportation, household tasks, farming, medicine, radio, television, radar, atomic power, church creeds.

I. HUMAN BEINGS HAVE NOT CHANGED.

1. Same greed — Lot. Gen. 13.
2. Same love of pre-eminence and power. 3 Jno. 9.
3. Same love of money. 1 Tim. 6:9,10.
4. Same lust of the flesh. 1 Jno. 2:15-17; Gal. 5:19-21.
5. Man still needs:
 - A. Divine guidance. Jer. 10:23; Acts 8:31.
 - B. Salvation from sin. Rom. 3:23; 6:23.
 - C. Encouragement because of weakness. Gal. 6:1,2.
 - D. Sympathy because of sorrow. Rom. 12:15.
 - E. Hope because of death. 2 Sam. 12:23.

II. THE UNCHANGEABLE CHRIST.

1. Christ does not change — everlasting to everlasting. Rev. 1:8; Heb. 7:24.
2. Christ is still King of Kings — has all authority. Matt. 28:18. 1 Tim. 6:15.
 - A. His laws are unalterable. Matt. 24:35.
 - B. His conditions of salvation are unchangeable. Jno. 3:3-5; Mark 16:16.

3. Christ is still man's only Saviour. Heb. 5:9.
4. Christ's attitude toward sin has not changed. Jno. 8:21.
 - A. Disbelief. Jno. 8:24.
 - B. Error. Matt. 15:9.
 - C. False religious bodies. Matt. 15:13.
 - D. Man. Jno. 15:13.

THE VOICE OF THE SON OF GOD

Jno. 5:28, 29

INTRODUCTION:

1. Never a time when such BABEL of religious voices.
 - A. Newspapers, radio, TV, all available means.
 - B. Voice of God's Son can be heard above all.
2. Wonderful to sit at feet of Jesus — hear his voice.
3. The disciples heard Him on mountain side speak as never man spake. Jno. 7:46. He spoke of the birds of the air — lilies of the field.
4. He speaks to us today. Heb. 1:1,2; Jno. 4:24-26; Mark 16:19, 20; 1 Pet. 1:22,23.

I. THE VOICE OF AUTHORITY.

1. Deut. 18:18; Acts 3:22,23.
2. Jesus taught with authority. Matt 7:28,29.
3. At His word STORMS ceased, demons obeyed, the dead heard. Matt. 8:26.
4. He has all authority. Matt. 28:18-20.

II. THE VOICE OF INSTRUCTION.

1. *"Thou art a teacher come from God."*
Jno. 3:2.
2. The way of God with man is one of teaching.
 - A. Cain and Abel. Heb. 11:4
 - B. Jesus taught and made disciples.
 - C. Commissioned the disciples to teach.
3. Some will not hear and learn. Matt. 13:15.
4. Danger in refusing to hear Him.
Matt. 7:24-27.

III. THE VOICE OF A SHEPHERD.

1. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." Jno. 10:27.
2. He calls us to a life of:
 - A. Consecration. Rom. 12:1,2.
 - B. Separation. Luke 9:57-62.
 - C. Self-denial. Matt. 16:24.
 - D. Service. Matt. 6:24.

IV. THE VOICE OF A FRIEND.

1. John 15:12-15.

V. THE VOICE OF A PHYSICIAN.

1. "*Wilt thou be made whole?*" Jno. 5:6.
2. No spiritual malady is too complicated for Jesus. 1 Cor. 6:9-11.
3. He has prescribed the remedy. Rom. 6:3,4.

VI. THE VOICE OF SAVIOUR.

1. He saves from sin. Matt. 1:21.
2. His invitation is universal. Matt. 11:28-30.

CONCLUSION:

1. Some day he will speak and the dead will come forth.
2. Hear Him now and live with Him then.

WALKING WITH GOD

Gen. 5:18-24

INTRODUCTION:

1. Little is said about the first ten Patriarchs, except they were born, grew to manhood, married wives, had children, then died.
2. Noah "*Walked with God.*" Gen. 6:9.
3. Abraham "*Walked before God.*" Gen. 17:1.
4. To walk with god there must be agreement.
Amos 3:3.

I. WHAT IS MEANT BY ENOCH'S WALKING WITH GOD?

1. That he was well-pleasing to God.
Heb. 11:6.
2. That there was amity, friendship, intimacy, and love.
3. That he was conscious of Divine presence.
Heb. 11:6.
4. That God was to him a loving friend, in whom he confided and by whom he was loved.
 - A. David. Psalm 23:4.
 - B. Paul. Phil. 1:21.
5. That he had an excellent relationship with God. 1 Tim. 1:12.
6. That his relationship with God was continuous.
7. That Enoch's life was progressive — at the end of 300 years he had gone forward in the right direction.

II. CIRCUMSTANCES CONNECTED WITH ENOCH'S WALK WITH GOD.

1. Details of his life are very few — “He walked with God” says it all.
2. His circumstances for godliness were not favorable.
 - A. He was a public man.
 - B. He was a family man.
 - C. He lived in an evil age. Gen. 6:5.

III. THE CONCLUSION OF ENOCH'S WALK.

1. He finished his work comparatively early — He was TRANSLATED when he was 365 years old.
2. Enoch was missed. His life had made such an impression on others that they looked for him.
3. “*He was not found for God had taken him.*” Heb. 11:5.

“THAT FORM OF DOCTRINE”

Rom. 6:17,18

INTRODUCTION:

1. The language of the apostle points out:

I. THE STATE OF SINNERS.

1. They were “*servants of sin.*” Eph. 2:12.
2. Sin is pictured as a raging, tyrannical king, and the sinner a cowardly slave. (Peter)
3. He is a slave to Satan & his own desires. vs. 16.
4. The members of his body are instruments of unrighteousness. vs. 19.
5. His mind entertains evil thoughts; his eyes look for evil things; his lips speak evil things; his ears listen for evil things; his hands work mischief; his feet walk in forbidden paths. Jer. 17:9; Matt. 15:19.

II. THE OBEDIENCE THEY RENDERED. vs. 17.

1. The doctrine they had heard. 1 Cor. 15:1-8.
 - A. “That Christ died.”
 - B. “That He was buried.”
 - C. “That He hath been raised.”
 - D. “That He appeared.”
2. The form they had obeyed. The doctrine is the mold, the hearers the metal. They conformed their lives unto that mold or pattern.
 - A. They died with Christ. Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20; 5:24. “*And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh...*”
 - B. They were buried with Christ. Rom. 6:4.

- C. They were raised with Christ. Col. 2:12.
 - D. They walked with him in newness of life. Rom. 6:4,5,8.
3. They obeyed "*from the heart.*"
 4. The heart consisted of 3 functions:
 - A. The intellect
 - B. The emotions
 - C. The will
 5. To obey from the heart means to obey:
 - A. Intelligently. Matt. 28:19. — teach
 - B. Emotionally. Matt. 22:37. — love
 - C. Willingly. Rev. 22:17. — whosoever will

III. THE BLESSINGS THAT FOLLOWED.

1. **FREEDOM:** "Being made free from sin" its practice, its guilt, its bondage, its consequences. Rom. 6:14. "Sin shall not have dominion over U"
2. **A NEW MASTER:** "Ye became servants of righteousness — servants of God." The members of his body became instruments of righteousness. vs. 10. His mind thinks pure thoughts; his eyes look for good things; his ears listen for good things; his lips speak good things; his hands do noble things; his feet walk in paths of peace.
3. **A FRUITFUL LIFE:** "Ye have your fruit unto sanctification." Trees are planted in the vineyard not merely for ornaments, but to bear fruit. Jno. 15:8; Gal. 5:22,23. The community's greatest asset is a Christian.
4. **A HAPPY TERMINATION:** "And the end eternal life." vss. 22,23.

IV. WE ARE GOD'S CREATURES.

1. We live in His world & feast on His bounty.
2. He has bestowed upon us His marvelous love.
3. How fitting, therefore, that we obey him.
4. We plead with you to accept this great doctrine without reservation, to obey it from the heart, for only the obedient shall see salvation. Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8,9.

THE EVIDENCE OF PARDON

Isa. 55: 6-7

INTRODUCTION:

1. How may we be assured our sins are forgiven?
2. ASSURANCE is in realm of faith & not matter of physical knowledge. Heb. 10:22. "Let us draw near with a true heart"
3. All we know about salvation comes from Word of God. 1 Jno. 5:13.

I. WE MUST DEPEND ON GOD'S PROMISES.

1. If we obey the conditions of salvation, we can trust the promises. Mk. 16:26; Heb. 5:9; 2 Pet. 1:4
2. 1 Jno. 2:3,4,5.
3. If we do not know truth, don't know whether we have fulfilled conditions of salvation.
4. Suppose you sin against a brother, he offers to forgive upon certain conditions which you faithfully perform — What is evidence of your pardon — feelings or promises?

II. FEELINGS ARE NO EVIDENCE OF PARDON.

1. A brother cannot feel me forgive him. Lk. 17:3
2. Not an act performed in him, but in my mind for him.
3. Pardon takes place in heaven in mind of God — not sinners. Jer. 31:31-34.
4. The moral changes which take place in man are not pardon. Gospel produces these. Rom. 1:16; Ps. 19:7.

III. FEELINGS ARE RESULT OF EVIDENCE AND ARE AS DECEPTIVE AS EVIDENCE PRODUCING THEM.

1. One feels saved because believes he is saved.
 - A. Testimony makes feel saved may not be true.
 - B. Catholic feels priest forgave his sins.
Deceived — “Be not deceived.”
2. For over 20 years, Jacob felt that Joseph was dead — testimony was false.
Gen. 37:23-35; 45:25-28.
3. Deception is dangerous. Jno. 16:2; Acts 3:17; Prov. 14:12
4. Paul was deceived. Acts 26:9-11; 23:1; 1 Tim.1:15
5. No intelligent person would offer feelings as evidence he is married or an American citizen.
 - A. Criminal would not argue he is pardoned because he feels pardoned.

IV. HOW MAY WE KNOW WE ARE PARDONED?

1. How does the criminal know it?
2. Rom. 8:16. *“The spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God.”*
3. The Spirit’s message to us is recorded in New Testament. Heb. 10:15-17; Acts 20:23; Heb. 3:7,8.
4. H.S. bears witness that sinners must believe, repent, confess faith in Christ, and be baptized to be saved. Mk. 16:16; Lk. 13:3; Rom. 10:9; Acts 22:16.
5. My spirit bears witness that I have done these things. 1 Cor. 2:11.*
 - A. Thus both spirits testify that I AM SAVED.

B. A feeling of joy and well-being.

* *“For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.”*

THINGS THE CHURCH OUGHT TO DO — Lesson # 1
1 Cor. 14:40, 33

INTRODUCTION:

1. Our purpose is to emphasize some things church must do to fulfill its mission.
 2. We must get a larger view of Christianity.
 - A. "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields." Jno. 4:35.
 - B. Zacchaeus climbed sycamore tree to get better view of Jesus. Lk. 19:1-10.
 3. Jesus challenges us to: "*Launch out into the deep.*" Lk. 5:4.
 4. "*Let all things be done decently and in order.*"
 5. This is the way Jesus operated. Mk. 6:30-44.
- I. **WORK FOR 100% ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS.**
1. It is possible to attend every service and not be a Christian, but no Christian can neglect the services he can attend and be faithful.
 2. The assemblies provide fellowship, communion, and indoctrination that we must have to grow. 2 Pet. 3:18.
 3. It is our aim to encourage every member to obey. Heb. 10:25.
- II. **ENCOURAGE 100% OF MEMBERS TO STUDY BIBLE.**
1. May not do all we know to do, but one thing for sure, we will not do more than we know to do.
 2. Christian thrives on God's word.

- 1 Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:11-14.
3. Many Christians undernourished and starving to death spiritually. Lk. 18:11,12.
 4. Bible school is designed to meet the needs of all by providing well-planned and well-balanced program of Bible study. 2 Tim. 2:15.
 5. Every member ought to be in Bible study classes every week.

III. WORK FOR 100% COOPERATION OF MEMBERS.

1. CO-OPERATE — to act with others.
2. 1 Cor. 1:10.
3. Division is disastrous. Matt. 12:25.
4. We must strive together. Phil. 1:27;
Exo. 17:8-13. (Ball Team)
5. How can we have unity and cooperation?
 - A. Meet, discuss and agree on plans, communicate it to church.
 - B. Keep whole church informed and working together.
 - C. Formulate a budget and try to work toward it.
6. In FAITH there must be UNITY.
In OPINION there must be LIBERTY.
In ALL things there must be LOVE.
7. *“Let all things be done decently and in order.”*
“God is not the author of confusion, but of peace as in all churches of the saints.”

THINGS THE CHURCH OUGHT TO DO — Lesson #2
Jno. 13:17

INTRODUCTION:

1. Christ gave His life for the church. Acts 20:28.
 2. The church is “the pillar and ground of the truth.” 1 Tim. 3:13.
 3. It is both Divine and Human. It has the strength of God; weakness of man.
 4. Not all who are members are faithful.
- I. RESTORE THOSE NOT LIVING RIGHT.**
1. Some walk no more with the Lord. Jno. 6:32-66.
 2. What shall we do with these people?
 - A. Restore them. Gal. 6:1.
 - B. Convert them. Jas. 5:19,20.
 - C. Warn them. 1 Thess. 5:14.
- II. WITHDRAW FROM THE DISORDERLY.**
1. Matt. 18:15-17; Rom. 16:17; 2 Thess. 3:6.
 2. Withdrawal is more than an announcement or reading a letter.
- III. WORK TO SAVE THE LOST.**
1. The great supper. Lk.14:15-24.
 - A. Come for all things are now ready.
 - B. Go into streets and lanes of the city.
 - C. Go out into highways and hedges.
 - D. Compel them to come in.
- IV. ENCOURAGE 100% MEMBERS TO GIVE**

LIBERALLY.

1. 1 Cor. 16:1,2; 2 Cor. 9:7.
2. Jews were required to give tenth. Mal. 3:8-10.
3. "*Will a man rob God?*"
4. N.T. superior to Old. (Gentile invited Jew friend to go with him to church.)
5. We need to re-examine our giving.

V. ENCOURAGE 100% MEMBERS TO WORK FOR LORD.

1. "*Son go work today in my vineyard.*" Matt. 21:28.
2. Church will grow when each does what he can. Eph. 4:16.

VI. CHURCH NEEDS TO PLAN ITS WORK.

1. Every member needs to know his place and worth.
2. Farmer plans his crop; student his course.
Ship has a port in view.
3. No substitute for good, sound planning.
4. We plan to preach the gospel.
 - A. Personal evangelism. Acts 8:4.
 - B. Pulpit, Bible school, tracts and papers.
 - C. Mission work.
5. Plan to edify the church.
 - A. Preaching, Bible school, gospel literature.
 - B. Must have an adequate building and keep it in good condition.
6. Plan to do benevolent work.
 - A. Care of homeless children.
 - B. Care of poor widows.
 - C. James 1:27; Gal. 6:10.

“NONE OF THESE THINGS MOVE ME”

Acts 20:24

INTRODUCTION:

1. The world respects person with convictions and who is not afraid to stand for them.
2. “The Rock of Gibraltar” has become symbol of firmness and solidity.
3. Paul enumerated some opposing forces and said, “None of these things move me.”
4. 1 Cor. 15:58.

I. HISTORY AND CONVERSION OF PAUL.

1. Acts 7:58; 8:1; 9:22;26.

II. THINGS THAT FAILED TO MOVE HIM.

1. Bonds and afflictions. Acts 20:23.
2. He was stoned at Lystra. Acts 14:19.
3. Whipped and imprisoned at Philippi.
Acts 15:19-24.
4. Taken by mob in Jerusalem. Acts 21:27-40.
5. Held prisoner at Rome. Acts 28:16-31.
6. Other things. 2 Cor. 11:23-28.

III. WHY NONE OF THESE THINGS MOVED PAUL.

1. “Neither count I my life dear unto myself.”
Mark 8:36,37; 2 Cor. 11:23-28.
2. “That I might finish my course with joy.”
3. It is very sad thing for any Christian to fail to finish the course. 2 Pet. 2;20-22.
4. Paul did finish the course. 2 Tim. 4:6-8.

IV. SOME OTHERS WHO WERE UNMOVEABLE.

1. Job. 2:9-10

2. Peter and John. Acts 4:19,20.

3. Stephen. Acts 7. "I see the heavens opened."

ESSENTIALS OF THE ART OF LIVING

Phil. 3:7-14

INTRODUCTION:

1. **HAPPINESS** — A state of well-being and contentment; joy.
2. God gave man the ability and capacity to be happy.
3. Let us consider some things that will help us to be happy.

I. **WORK.**

1. God has taught us to work.
Gen. 2:15; 3:19; 2 Thess. 3:10.
2. We should find what we are best suited to and be happy.
3. Do things for people. Matt. 20:28.
4. Idleness exposes to all kinds of imaginations, worries, and fear.

II. **LOVE.**

1. We must learn how to love God. Matt. 22:37.
2. We must learn to love people. Matt. 22:39.
3. Some are so in love with self — miserable.

III. **AN ACCEPTANCE OF SELF.**

1. We must learn to accept ourselves for what we are. Matt. 25:14-30. (Helen Keller)
2. Resign ourselves to the things that happen to us. Phil. 4:11; 3:13,14.
3. Not the thing that happens to us that hurts — our attitude toward it.

IV. SELF-EXAMINATION.

1. 1 Cor. 11:28; 2 Cor. 13:5; Gal. 6:4. But let every man prove his own work.
2. This enables us to see ourselves as God and others see us.
3. Focuses criticism on self. Need this lest we become too critical of others. Matt. 7:1-5.
4. A critical person is unhappy & usually makes other people unhappy.

V. CULTIVATE AN INTEREST IN OTHERS.

1. Phil. 2:4; Gal. 6:2; Rom. 12:15; Matt. 7:12.
2. Being self-centered robs many of happiness. 1 Cor. 10:33. Even as I please all men in all things not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved

VI. LIVE A DAY AT A TIME.

- 1 Matt. 6:34.
2. Yesterday is gone and tomorrow may never come. Jas. 4:13,14.
3. Many try to carry the burdens of the past and the weight of the future.
4. We cannot change the past and the best preparation for the future is to do well at the present.

CONTENDING FOR THE ANCIENT FAITH

Jude 3

INTRODUCTION:

1. Define the terms of the text:
 - A. Faith.
 - B. Contending.
 - C. Saints.
2. It is duty of the church to uphold and maintain the doctrines and principles of gospel.
3. It was necessary then and now. 1 Tim. 3:15.
4. The truth has never been long unassailed.

I. THE DUTY SPECIFIED.

1. Has respect to the faith...basis of Christian structure.
 - A. Faith in God as creator and sovereign ruler of the universe.
 - B. Faith in Christ as the Son of God and the Saviour of men. (Life, miracles, death and resurrection.)
 - C. Faith in the inerrancy of the Holy Spirit in revealing to us our fallen and depraved state and the whole purpose and plan of God to redeem us from sin.
2 Tim. 3:16,17.
2. This faith has been committed to the saints.
 - A. God has spoken by his Son. Heb. 1:1,2.
 - B. God has spoken by apostles. Heb. 2:3;
1 Cor. 15:1-4.
 - C. The faith was deposited to the vigilant

- care and guardianship of God's people.
3. That we are to contend for this faith.
 - A. Contend — literally to agonize for it.
 - B. Same word as used for Christ's agony and wrestlers and racers.
 - C. This means more than extreme care to possess it — keep it pure, defend it, preach it, die for it...if necessary.

II. THE MANNER OF DISCHARGING THIS DUTY.

1. That it be the faith once delivered to the saints.
 - A. Not the notions, opinions, creeds, confessions, disciplines and catechisms of men, but the faith itself.
 - B. *"to the law and to the testimony."*
Isa. 8:20 Let the scriptures freely speak.
2. Contending for the faith must be in the spirit of love and compassion. Jude 9; Eph 4:15.
3. Contending for the faith must be firm and unyielding.
 - A. We must conflict for it.
 - B. We must be earnest and ardent, devoted and persevering.
 - C. We must *"buy the truth and sell it not."*
 - D. Indifference to minor parts has opened the flood gates of error.

III. REASONS FOR CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH.

1. It is a divine command.
2. For the faith's sake.

- A. It is the mystery of heaven, the plan of salvation, the system of eternal benevolent truth.
- B. It is the light of the soul, atmosphere of the spirit, the water of life.
- 3. For our own sake.
 - A. *"Fight the good fight of faith."*
 - B. *"I have kept the faith."*
- 4. For the church's sake.
 - A. Purity and prosperity are connected.
 - B. We are to do it for the present and future generation.
 - C. The prosperity of the church and salvation of the world are necessarily connected.

CONCLUSION:

1. Let every man test his faith; see that it is the ancient, divine faith, once delivered to the saints.
2. Let the faith be internal and influential in our souls.
3. Rom. 1:16

HOW THE CHURCH OF CHRIST GREW

Acts 2:41-47

INTRODUCTION:

1. The 2nd Chapter of Acts records the beginning of the church of Christ. "Amazed and Marveled."
2. The book of Acts pictures a growing church. Acts 2:41; 4:4; 5:14; 6:7.
3. This growth was not accidental — Divine power enable it to live, breathe and communicate divine revelation.
4. So powerful was this movement that country after country fell before it: Judea, Samaria, world. Acts 1:8; Col. 1:6.

I. THE GOSPEL WAS BOLDLY AND EMPHATICALLY DECLARED.

1. Matt. 28:18-20.
2. It began with Peter's sermon on Pentecost.
 - A. The ground was cleared. vs. 15
 - B. The seed was sown. vs. 16
 - C. The harvest was great. vs. 41
3. God's word will get results. Heb. 4:12; Isa. 55:10,11; Rom. 1:8; Col. 1:23.

II. A NEW FORCEFUL RELIGION CAME INTO ACTION.

1. A new way of life was introduced. Acts 2:37; Jer. 31:31-33.
2. Some things they did:
 - A. Abode in apostles' doctrine. Matt. 28:20; 15:9; 2 Jno. 9.
 - B. Fellowship. vs. 45; 4:32. "New thing."

- C. Breaking of bread. vs. 42; 20:7.
- D. Prayers...line of communication with heaven — headquarters. 4:29.
- 3. There was gladness and singleness of heart. vs. 46.
- 4. The church grew daily. vs. 47.

III. DISCIPLINE WAS EXERCISED.

- 1. Annias and Sapphira were killed for lying to the Holy Spirit. Acts 5:1-14.
- 2. The church was purged. 2 Thess. 3:6.
- 3. *"Believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women."* 5:14.

IV. THE CHURCH WAS ORGANIZED.

- 1. Grecian widows were neglected.
- 2. Special servants were appointed. Acts 6:1-8; 11:30; 14:23.
- 3. Preachers were relieved of serving tables and gave full time to preaching the Word.
- 4. The Word of God increased. 6:7.

V. SINNERS WERE CONVERTED.

- 1. Judaism was invaded. Acts 6:7.
- 2. Saul was converted. Acts 9:31.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. The church needs to grow.
- 2. We must go back to living and breathing the Spirit of God.
"The Word of God is quick and powerful..."

WHY SOME CHURCHES GROW

1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18

INTRODUCTION:

1. Great Churches do not happen by accident.
2. Increases in attendance, contribution and spirituality do not just happen.
3. Great churches are the result of foresight, careful planning and faithful obedience.
4. "Cosmetics of religion" has been applied to some and they look like what they are not.

I. CHURCHES GROW WHERE SPIRIT OF LOVE AND UNITY PREVAILS.

1. 1 Cor. 13:1-7.
 - A. Love for children, wives and husbands, etc...
 - B. Love imposes certain restrictions.
 - C. Parents lose sleep over son or daughter.
 - D. Jacob loved Rachel. Gen 29:20.
 - E. "He's not heavy, he's my brother."
2. There must be unity of purpose and plans.
1 Cor. 1:10-12.
 - A. Leadership must be united.
 - B. Membership must be united.
 - C. There must be positive attitude.

II. THE CHURCH GROWS WHERE LEADERS ARE MEN OF CHARACTER, REPUTATION, AND VISION.

1. Congregation seldom rises above its leadership.
Acts 14:23.
2. Where little men oversee work of church, little

will be done.

3. Church grow in spite of; not because of its leaders. Acts 20:28.
4. Should be men of zeal and knowledge. Rom. 10:1-4
5. Men of vision — see needs and opportunities.
6. Men who are successful and not slothful. Rom. 12:11.
7. Respectable and responsible citizens.

III. CHURCH GROWS WHEN LOCAL PREACHER SETS HIGH SPIRITUAL TONE.

1. He must have deep and abiding love for God and humanity. *“Preach the word,” “Speak truth in love.”*
2. He must excite the church to do great things.
3. If narrow in attitude and small in matters of judgment and afraid to launch out, he will hinder instead of help.
4. *“As goes the preaching so goes the church.”*

IV. CHURCH GROWS WHERE THERE IS MIND TO WORK.

1. Neh. 4:6.
2. Too many churches are only worshipping societies.
3. A church at work will win souls for Lord.
4. Too many members want to be humored instead of working.

V. CHURCH GROWS WHEN IT PLANS FOR FUTURE.

1. Church who meets today's needs tomorrow — sad.

2. Needs trained men and women to serve.

**VI. CHURCH GROWS WHERE GOD IS HONORED,
CHRIST IS PREACHED, AND H.S. WORKS IN LIVES
OF THE MEMBERS.**

1. 1 Kings 18:30; 1 Cor. 2:1,2; Rom. 8:14,9.

**VII. CHURCH GROWS WHERE HOME AND CHURCH
ARE CONSCIOUS OF OBLIGATIONS TO EACH
OTHER.**

1. Church is designed to meet needs of home.
2. Home must cooperate with the church and support its work.

ATTITUDES

Exo. 5:2

INTRODUCTION:

1. **ATTITUDE** is defined as:
 - A. A mental position with regard to a fact or state.
 - B. A feeling or emotion toward a fact or state.
 - C. Position or bearing as indicating action feeling or mood.
2. Attitudes are classified as Positive or Negative. Good or Bad.
3. Attitude can determine the course of one's life, whether it's a success or failure.

I. ATTITUDE OF DISOBEDIENCE.

1. Root of all sin and misery.
2. Pharaoh. Exo. 5:2.
3. Jonah. 1:1-3.

II. "I DON'T HAVE TO."

1. This challenge to authority.
2. In Child this is so ugly.
3. Don't have to attend every service.
Heb. 10:25.
4. Don't have to worship every Lord's day.
5. Don't have to be baptized. Mk. 16:16.

III. DO AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE.

1. "Let George do it."
2. Student who just wants to get by.
3. Builder who wants to get by cheaply.

4. Church who wants to do little as possible.
- IV. SHIFT RESPONSIBILITY.
1. Husband or wife wants to shift responsibility for discipline of children.
 2. We like to shift financial responsibility in church.
 3. Some just want no responsibility at all.
- V. ATTITUDE OF NECESSITY.
1. "I don't want to — but if I have to."
 2. Give of necessity. 2 Cor. 9:7.
- VI. ATTITUDE OF FAULT FINDING.
1. Do no constructive work of their own.
 2. Like bird watcher looking through binoculars.
 3. They will find what looking for.
- VII. ATTITUDE OF FEAR.
1. The one talent man was afraid. Matt. 25:25.
 2. Love will cast out fear. 1 Jno. 4:18.
- VIII. ATTITUDE "WOULD IF..."
1. There is always some condition that is never present.
 2. "If I had a lot of money."
- IX. ATTITUDE "I CAN'T".
1. This person already defeated. (10 spies)
 2. Paul said; "*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*" Phil. 4:13.

X. ATTITUDE OF INDIFFERENCE.

1. "He couldn't care less."
2. Pilate tried this road — it didn't work.

XI. ATTITUDE OF COMPROMISE.

1. You give a little — I will give a little. 2 Jno. 9-12.

XII. DICTATORIAL OR BOSSY ATTITUDE.

1. Do it my way or not at all.
2. Diotrephes was dictatorial. 3 Jno. 9-10.

XIII. ATTITUDES OF THREE MEN.

1. Naaman got MAD. 2 Kings 5:11.
2. Rich young ruler was SAD. Mark 10:22.
3. The Eunuch was GLAD. Acts 8:39.

XIV. ATTITUDE OF LOVE.

1. Peter said: "*yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee.*" Jesus said; "*Feed my sheep.*"
2. Jesus said: "*If you love me, keep my commandments.*" Jno. 14:15.

THE MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP

Gen. 2:21-24

- I. **MARRIAGE IS ORDAINED OF GOD.**
 - 1. Not good for man to be alone. Gen. 2:18; Prov. 18:22; 19:14.
 - 2. Woman was created for man. Gen. 2:18.
 - 3. Help meet for him. Gen. 2:18.
 - 4. The first marriage. Gen. 2:21-24.

- II. **THE MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP.**
 - 1. One flesh. Gen. 2:24.
 - 2. Union is compared to that of Christ and church. Eph. 5:23.
 - 3. Superior to parental relationship. Eph. 5:31.
 - 4. Joined together by God. Matt. 19:6.
 - 5. Honorable. Heb. 13:4.

- III. **THE OBLIGATIONS ENJOINED.**
 - 1. Husbands to the wife.
 - A. Love. Eph. 5:25,28,29,31,33.
 - B. Honor. 1 Pet. 3:7.
 - C. Not bitter against. Col. 3:19.
 - 2. Wife to the husband.
 - A. Love. Titus 2:4.
 - B. Be in subjection. Eph. 5:22-24; Col. 3:18; 1 Pet. 3:1,2.
 - C. Fear or reverence (respect). Eph. 5:33.

- IV. **WHAT DISSOLVES THE RELATIONSHIP?**
 - 1. Fornication. Matt. 5:32; 19:7-9; Mk. 10:10-12;

1 Cor. 6:13-20; 7:1-5.

2. Death. Rom. 7:1-4.

V. SHOULD BELIEVERS MARRY UNBELIEVERS?

1. God's Law for Israel.

A. Intermarriage.

Deut. 7:1-5; Josh. 23:12,13.

(1). Violations of the law and consequences.

(a). Solomon. 1 Kings 11:1-8.

Foreign women led him into sin.

Neh. 13:26,27.

B. Sin of intermarriages led Israel into captivity. Ezra 9,10. God cursed them after returning from captivity.

Neh. 13:23-27.

2. The New Testament teaching.

A. Marry in the Lord. 1 Cor. 7:39.

B. A believer. 1 Cor. 9:5.

C. Be not unequally yoked. 2 Cor. 6:14;
Deut. 22:10.

RELIGION IN THE HOME

Joshua 24:15

INTRODUCTION:

1. Religion — to bind anew, to bind back, to bind fast.
2. American home life is in greatest crisis in the history of our great nation.
 - A. Divorce rate — high.
 - B. Problem of run-away fathers; run-away mothers.
 - C. Three things listed as causes of divorce:
 - (1). Money.
 - (2). Sex.
 - (3). Religion.
3. With an indomitable spirit and unswerving faith Joshua said; *"As for me and my house..."* 14:15.
4. Abraham was a man of God. Gen. 18:19.

I. THE FAMILY IS FUNDAMENTAL TO HUMAN SOCIETY.

1. Destroy the integrity and purity of the home and race of man will become barbarous.
2. Without family ties, family government and discipline, family virtue and piety, family devotion and cooperation, the church could not exist and society would fall to pieces.
3. The home life of a people is the moral and spiritual pulse of that people.
4. The individual family is basic unit of society.

II. CIVILIZATION IS THREATENED.

1. Real Estate man attempted to sell house to

young woman. She said, "A home? Why do I need a home? I was born in a hospital, educated in a college, courted in an automobile, married in a church house. I live out of a delicatessen and paper bags. I spend my mornings on the golf course, afternoons at bridge table and evenings at the movies. And when I die I'll be buried from the undertakers. All I need is a garage."

2. Our civilization is crumbling because our home life is decaying. (Unmarried couples living together today.)
3. The great need today is to bring our homes back to God.

III. WE HAVE FREE CHOICE.

1. As to morals we have full power and right to order our own lives.
2. It is within man's power to establish a course for his entire family. That course is one of man's own choosing.
3. Like Joshua, every God-honoring father should say, "*As for me and my house, we will serve Jehovah.*"

IV. THE POSITION OF THE FATHER.

1. He is by nature leader in home life. His leadership involves responsibilities.
2. Apart from man's devotion to God, his primary obligation is to his wife. Eph. 5:25.
3. The position of the father is such that he is

called upon to set the pattern for righteousness and nobility in the home.

4. It is his responsibility to set an example of devotion to moral and spiritual duty.
5. The father who fails in this most important duty has sinned against his family and God.

V. MOTHERHOOD.

1. "Motherhood is, after all, woman's great and incomparable work."
2. Every woman who becomes a mother must accept grave responsibilities. "Simply having children does not make a mother."
3. It is true that the father is obligated to plant the standards of righteousness in the home. It is equally true that mothers of men influence their course of life.
4. Emerson said, "Men are what their mothers make them."
5. Henry Ward Beecher stated, "The mother's heart is the child's school room."
6. Paul referred to Timothy's background. "*When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.*" 2 Tim. 1:5.

VI. THE FAMILY UNIT.

1. Unity of religion. "*As for me and my house...*"
2. Many families are divided religiously.
3. A successful family is united, cooperative.

4. How can unity and cooperation be achieved?
5. By engaging in God's service and by restoring family worship and devotion, man may recapture his lost ideals, strengthen home ties, increase interest and knowledge of god's kingdom.
6. By practicing pure and undefiled religion among those who should be dearest to us, we make the earth home a foretaste of the heavenly home.

HOW DO YOU LIVE?

1 Pet. 3:10-12

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Bible is greatest book on living.
 2. It tells how to be happy here and hereafter.
 3. Jesus can bring a calm to storm-ridden lives.
Lk. 8:22-25.
 4. Bible teaches how to live life and see good days.
 5. Question is not "Do you live?"; "How do you live?"
- I. LIVE AFTER THE SPIRIT: NOT THE FLESH.**
1. Spiritual life is promised to those who live after the spirit.
 2. Led by spirit through God's Word.
2 Tim. 3:16,17; Jno. 6:63.
 3. We must walk by the Spirit. Gal. 5:16,17,25.
 4. We live in the flesh but not after the flesh.
Gal. 2:20.
 5. We must deny ungodliness. Titus 2:11-14.
- II. LIVE FOR SELF BUT NOT SELFISHLY**
1. Some live unto themselves. 2 Cor. 5:15.
 2. We must seek good of own souls, but not live for self only. 2 Pet. 3:18; Phil. 2:4.
- III. LIVE FOR OTHERS: NOT INSTEAD OF OTHERS.**
1. Live to serve. Mark 10:44.
 2. Each has his own responsibility. Rom. 14:12.

3. We cannot go to heaven for others.
4. Parents cannot “settle it for their children” by having them christened or sprinkled.

IV. LIVE AS IN GOD’S PRESENCE: WE ARE.

1. Ps. 139:7-12.
2. We may deceive man but not God.
Eccl. 12:13,14.

V. LIVE AS IF EYES OF WORLD ARE UPON US: THEY ARE.

1. 2 Cor. 3:2. *“Ye are our epistles...”*
2. Matt. 6:13,14.

VI. LIVE AS IF LITTLE CHILDREN ARE FOLLOWING US.

1. Be a safe example for any child.
2. Parents bear great responsibility to lead their children in right way. Eph. 6:40.

VII. LIVE AS IF OUR LAST DAY ON EARTH: MAY BE.

1. Life is brief and uncertain. James 4:13-15.
2. Death is sure. Heb. 9:27.
3. Today is time to be saved. Heb. 3:15.

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?
Acts 16:25-34

INTRODUCTION:

1. Give setting and background of text.

I. ANALYZE THE QUESTION.

1. It is personal. *"What must I do?"*
2. It is practical. *"What must I do?"*
 - A. Not what must God do?
 - B. Not what must Holy Spirit do?
Matt. 7:21; Jas. 1:27; Rev. 22:14.
3. It is imperative. *"What must I do?"*
Jno. 3:3-7; Heb. 11:6; Acts 9:6; 2 Cor. 5:10.
4. A question of vital importance — *"To be saved?"*

II. THE ANSWER.

1. We must go to right source.
2. Jesus is right source. Matt. 9:12; Jno. 6:68; Jno. 14:6.
3. The sinner must first:
 - A. Hear the Word of God. Rom. 10:14.
 - B. Believe in Christ. Acts 16:31.
 - C. Repent of sins. Lk. 13:3; Acts 16:33.
 - D. Confess faith in Christ. Matt. 10:32; Acts 8:37.
 - E. Be baptized. Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21.

III. BLESSINGS THAT ARE IN CHRIST.

1. Salvation. Acts 4:12; 2 Tim. 2:10.

2. Redemption. Rom. 3:24; Eph. 1:7.
3. Forgiveness. Col. 1:13,14.
4. New Creature. 2 Cor. 5:17.
5. No condemnation. Rom. 8:1.
6. Spiritual life. 1 Jno. 5:11.
7. Sanctification. 1 Cor. 1:2
8. Made righteous. 2 Cor. 5:21.
9. All promises. 2 Cor. 1:20; Eph. 3:6.
10. All spiritual blessings. Eph. 1:3.

IV. HOW TO GET INTO CHRIST.

1. Baptized into Christ. Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27.
2. *"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved"* Mk. 16:16.

CONVERSION

Acts 3:19

INTRODUCTION:

1. Hear much about conversion from sectarian.
2. So few know what Bible teaches on subject.
3. Peter says, "*Repent ye, therefore and be converted.*"
"*Repent ye, therefore and turn.*"
4. It is the process of turning to God.
5. 3 distinct changes involved in fall of man — Same changes involved in restoration.

I. CHANGES INVOLVED IN ALIENATION OF MAN.

1. Change of mind. Gen. 3:1-6.
2. Change of attitude.
 - A. Eve brought her will into subjection to the devil.
3. Change of relationship. vs. 7
 - A. Curses placed upon Adam and Eve and driven from the garden — sentence pronounced. vss. 19,24.
 - B. Relationship changed by disobedience to positive divine law. Isa. 59:2.

II. SAME CHANGES INVOLVED IN RESTORATION MAN.

1. Jesus came and died and effected the way of reconciliation. Eph. 2:16; Col. 1:21; 2 Cor. 5:18.
2. The changes are:
 - A. Change of mind. Gospel produces it.
Rom. 1:16; 12:2; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Rom. 10:9.

- B. Change of attitude. Disobedient to obedient.
 - (1). Godly sorrow works repentance. 2 Cor. 7:9,10; Rom. 2:4. (This is not a pardon).
 - (2). This does not put one into kingdom.
- C. Change of relationship. (Shows faith and Repentance.)
 - (1). Gal. 3:27; 1 Pet. 3:21.
 - (2). By disobedience to positive divine law man fell, by obedience to same he may be restored. 2 Cor. 5:17.

III. 3 THINGS LEAD "UNTO", ONE PUTS "INTO" CHRIST.

1. Meaning of words "unto" and "into".
2. Belief is unto righteousness. Rom. 10:10; Matt. 3:15.
3. Repentance is unto salvation. 2 Cor. 7:10.; Matt. 27:3-5.
4. Confession is unto Salvation. Rom. 10:10; Acts 8:37.
5. Baptized INTO Christ. Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3.

IV. GOD'S LAW OF RESTORATION IS POSITIVE

1. Prayer will not alter this law. Num. 12; Lev. 13&14.
2. Christ prayed for sinners. Lk. 23:34; Acts 2:41.
3. God's law cannot be changed.
4. Converts made by "card-signing", "decision-making" evangelism, not converted at all.
5. Acts 2:38; 3:19.

THE CONVERSION OF CORNELIUS

Acts 10

INTRODUCTION:

1. Prior to time of Acts 10 gospel had not been preached to those other than Jews.
2. Scope of commission had not yet dawned upon the Apostles. Acts 11:15-18.

I. MORAL AND RELIGIOUS CHARACTER OF CORNELIUS.

1. He was a devout man — religious.
2. Feared GOD with all his house. Need of such husbands and fathers today.
3. Gave much alms to the people. Generous.
4. Prayed to God always. vss. 2,4,6.
 - A. If we judge by answer, he was asking for more knowledge. Matt. 5:6.
 - B. God did not send a direct working of Spirit to speak forgiveness in his heart.
 - C. The appearance of the angel. vss. 3-6.
 1. Case of Paul — Lord appeared. Acts 9.
 2. Case of Eunuch — Angel appeared, preached.
 3. Object was to bring men together.
5. He was a just man. Honest, fair, merciful.
6. He was of good report. vs. 22.
7. With all these good qualities he was not a Christian. Acts 11:13,14.

II. PETER'S EXPERIENCE ON THE HOUSE TOP.

1. Acts 10:9-19.

2. God's way of showing him he must preach to the Gentiles. vss. 34,35.

III. THE MEETING AT THE HOME OF CORNELIUS

1. He invited his kinsmen and near friends.
vs. 24.
2. Peter's arrival — refuses worship. vss. 25,26.
3. Cornelius tells of angel's visit. vss. 30-33.
4. Peter preaches Christ. vss. 34-43.
5. Baptized with Holy Spirit. Why? vss. 44-45.
6. Baptized in water in name of the Lord.
vss. 47,48; Mk. 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21.

IV. NOTE CONVERSION OF PAUL, EUNUCH, CORNELIUS

1. Points of Difference.

Paul	Eunuch	Cornelius
	angel to preacher	angel

Lord

Mourned

Prayed, fasted

3 days

Baptized Holy Spirit

2. Points of Agreement:

A. All heard Word of God.

B. All believed the Word. Rom. 10:17.

C. All commanded to be baptized.

D. All were baptized.

E. All were happy after baptism.

IMPORTANCE OF THE CHURCH

Matt. 16:18

INTRODUCTION:

1. This lesson may seem strange to an assembly of "Cream of the Crop" who love church and attend.
2. Many of us were brought up in it.
3. Others been religious, attended meetings, workshops, youth meeting — radio, TV programs.
4. Why such study on **IMPORTANCE OF THE CHURCH??**

I. TRENDS INDICATE NEED FOR THIS LESSON.

1. Many congregations have only 1/2 to 2/3 of "church roll" people present for any service.
2. Young people brought up in church often marry "out of church" and quit or affiliate with denominations.
3. Some Christians dispute and divide the church. 1 Cor. 1:10-12.
4. Many sincere seekers of truth in world nauseated at current trends in religion to go social, political and commercial...their first interest.
5. Some among us who could help are sending out "uncertain sounds" about Holy Spirit, tongues, worship.
6. Time for us to re-assess. Matt. 6:33.

II. HOW MAY WE DETERMINE THE VALUE OF THE CHURCH?

1. By what the church cost. Not a "discounted

- item" or "cut rate bargain." (Disposable razor)
- A. God did not plan shoddy, temporary church. Eph. 3:21.
 - B. Church was in God's eternal plan. Eph. 3:9-11.
 - C. Church was purchased with blood of Christ. Acts 20:28.
 - D. Christ gave himself for it. Eph. 5:25-27; Jno. 3:16.
 - E. The church is costliest institution in world. To mistreat or ignore it is insult to God.
2. It is important because of its benefits.
- A. Insurance salesman give you benefits of policy. Benefits of Church membership greater.
 - B. The saving blood of Christ. Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25-27.
 - C. Church is recipient of love of Christ.
 - D. All spiritual blessing. Eph. 1:3.
 - E. Pillar and ground of truth. 1 Tim. 3:15.
3. Church is important because of its owner.
- A. Common article may be valuable because of its owner. (Antique)
 - B. Church belongs to God. 1 Pet. 2:9,10.
 - C. God's people are distinctly his — "*If my people...*" 2 Chron. 7:14.
 - D. God's people are his church. 1 Cor. 6:19, 20.
 - E. Saved called "Church of God", "Church of the first born", and churches of Christ.

4. Church is important because of its mission.
 - A. When Gerald Ford became president his mission was to turn congress from pursuit of fallen president to pursuit of Nation's business.
 - B. What is mission of church? Why did God establish it?
 - C. To preach gospel, to edify itself, do deeds of love, and to worship God.
 - D. Are we functioning today as early church did?
5. The church is important because of its future.
 - A. Christ who established it and is reigning over it — will deliver it up to God.
1 Cor. 15:24,25; Eph. 5:25-27.

CONCLUSION:

1. Kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field... Matt. 13:44.
2. Kingdom of heaven is like man seeking goodly pearls of a great price. Matt. 13:45.
3. The church is the saved. Acts 2:47.

“AS MUCH AS IN ME IS”

Romans 1:15

INTRODUCTION:

1. Paul was a great man. Wrote 14 books of New Testament.
2. He had will-power, zeal, courage and great determination.
3. He had deep convictions even though not always right.
4. He did not do things half-heartedly
“As Much As In Me Is.”

I. HIS EARLY LIFE AND TRAINING.

1. He was a Jew by blood and culture (Phil 3:5).
2. He was of the dispersion (Acts 22:3).
3. His religion was that of his father (Acts 23:6).
4. His training
 - A. Taught scriptures at home.
 - B. Taught in school at Tarsus.
 - C. Taught by Gamaliel at Jerusalem (Acts 22:3).

II. HIS RELIGIOUS LIFE BEFORE CONVERSION.

1. A Persecutor of Church (Acts 9:1).
2. A Zealous Persecutor (Acts 8:3).
3. He scourged disciples (Acts 26:11).
4. He voted for execution of Christians (Acts 26:10; Acts 22:20).
5. He led persecution against church at Jerusalem (Acts 8:1-3).

6. He was a persistent persecutor. The martyrdom of Stephen did not soften him.
7. He was a conscientious persecutor (Acts 23:1; 26:9).
8. His conversion (Acts 9; 22:16).

III. PAUL AFTER HIS CONVERSION.

1. He was a whole-hearted Christian.
2. He pursued Christianity with same force and power he had in trying to destroy it.
3. Not ashamed of Gospel. (Rom.1:16).
4. He suffered persecution as a Christian.
5. He condemned religious error (Acts 13:10).

CONCLUSION:

We need to change from the spirit of "Let George Do It" to the spirit of Paul, "As Much As In Me Is."

PAUL'S VISIT TO HEAVEN

2 Cor. 12:1-5

INTRODUCTION:

1. Paul continues the subject he discussed in chapters 10 & 11.
 2. He strongly defends his apostleship — *“Paul called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God...”*
 3. Charges had been brought against him that he was a false apostle.
 4. This chapter gives five reasons for the genuineness of his apostleship.
- I. PAUL APPEALS TO AN EVIDENCE NO ONE ELSE COULD GIVE... THAT HE HAD BEEN PERMITTED TO BEHOLD THE GLORY OF THE HEAVENLY WORLD. 2 COR. 12:1-5.
1. In chapter 11 he details some of his trials
 2. Here he tells about his visit to heaven. His revelations and his *“thorn in the flesh.”*
 3. He had a desire to go to heaven. Phil. 1:23, 2 Tim. 4:6-8
- II. HE RELATES THAT HE HAD GIVEN EVERY SIGN OR EVIDENCE THAT HE WAS AN APOSTLE.
1. By his toil, patience and miracles
2 Cor. 12:12. In signs, wonders and mighty deeds.
 2. He showed that he was commissioned by the Saviour. Acts 20:24; 26:15-18

III. HE EXPRESSES HIS PURPOSE TO COME AGAIN TO SEE THEM.

1. He would not be burdensome to them. vs. 14
2. He was willing to labor and to promote their good without charge
3. He loved them and was like a father to them.
1 Cor. 4:15

IV. HE ANSWERS THE CHARGE THAT HE HAD BEEN "CRAFTY".

1. Though he had not been a burden to them; he was charged with impure motives.
2. He was charged with intent to get money from them.

V. PAUL EXPRESSES FEAR THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO DEAL SEVERELY WITH THEM. 2 COR. 12:20.

THE GLORIOUS CHURCH

Eph. 5:22-33

INTRODUCTION:

1. The church is greatest institution in the world.
2. It is like a bride adorned for her husband.
3. It is a glorious and lovely institution.

I. THE GLORY OF THE CHURCH IS REPRESENTED BY:

1. The Tabernacle. Heb. 8:2,5; 9:11.
2. The Temple. 2 Chron. 5:14.
3. A bride adorned for her husband. Rev. 21:2.
4. Its head. Eph. 1:22,23.
5. Its cost. Acts 20:28.

II. THINGS THAT CAUSE ITS GLORY TO DEPART.

1. Hypocrisy. Matt. 23:28.
2. Formality. 2 Tim. 3:5.
3. The love of pre-eminence. 3 Jno. 9,10.
4. Commercialism. 2 Cor. 2:17; 2 Pet. 2:3.
5. Class distinction. Jas. 2:4.
6. Jealousy. Rom. 13:13.

III. WHAT MAKES A GLORIOUS CHURCH?

1. A clean church. Eph. 5:26,27.
2. A faithful church. Rev. 2:10.
3. A holy church. Eph. 5:27.
4. A working church. 1 Cor. 15:58.
5. A loving church. 1 Cor. 13:3.
6. A humble church. Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:12.

7. An unselfish church. 1 Cor. 10:24,33.

8. An earnest church. 1 Cor. 8:7.

CONCLUSION:

Jesus wants a clean and glorious church to present to the Father.

SELLING THE CHURCH TO ITS COMMUNITY

1 Peter 2:9

INTRODUCTION:

1. The events of Pentecost illustrate this lesson.
 - A. The disciples were properly situated in respect to:
 1. Place. Lk. 24:49-53.
 2. Attitude. Acts 1:14.
 3. Spirit. Acts 2:1-4.
 - B. Devout men of every nation came to hear them.
2. We use word SELL in accommodated sense.
 - A. Induce others to accept teaching.
Prov. 23:23.
 - B. Four basic rules of salesmanship.

I. FIRST WE MUST GET ATTENTION.

1. Acts 2:6. Now when this was noised abroad...
2. Advertising is big business. Why? It pays to advertise.
 - A. Manufacturers — Stores — Colleges, etc.
 - B. TV, Radio, newspapers, magazines, billboards, etc.
3. Attention must be attracted to church.
 - A. Employ this mass media.
 - B. Well-kept building and grounds.
 - C. A faithful membership, good singing.
 - D. Well-balanced gospel preaching.

II. WE MUST CREATE INTEREST.

1. Acts 2:6,7 "Confounded", "Amazed", "Marveled".

- A. Spilled paint attract attention but creates no interest.
- 2. An attitude of love in the church. Fussing, quarreling, backbiting, slander won't do it.
- 3. A faithful membership who edifies itself.
 - A. Seeks to win others to Christ — Evangelistic.
 - B. Performs DEEDS of benevolence.
 - C. By this means it solves the problems of FINANCE and PEACE.

III. WE MUST INSPIRE CONFIDENCE.

- 1. Consider Peter's sermon. Acts 2:14-21.
 - A. Knew they would listen to Hebrew Prophecy. Acts 2:16; 22:2.
 - B. Did not waste time resenting the charge of drunkenness.
- 2. Sound Gospel preaching backed up by a godly life by preacher and the congregation. Acts 2:42-47; 4:32,33.

IV. WE MUST STIMULATE DEMAND.

- 1. Business or industry will fold up when no demand for product.
- 2. Acts 2:36,37,41.
 - A. Peter showed his product.
 - B. Showed their NEED for it.
 - C. 3000 gladly accepted it.
- 3. Three things help stimulate demand.
 - A. Emphasize divine nature of church.

- B. Show that church supplies all spiritual needs. Eph. 1:3
 - C. Show church furnishes best opportunity for helping others.
4. Phil. 4:13

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Matt. 16:13-20

INTRODUCTION:

1. Most Bible students are agreed that the Lord has a church in the world today.
2. There is disagreement as to the time of its establishment.
3. To understand the teaching of the Bible we must know when the church was established.

I. DEFINE SOME RELATED TERMS

1. A correct concept of these terms is necessary to understand the church.
 - A. The word "church" describes its relation to "world." It is the "called out." 1 Pet. 2:9; Jno. 15:19; 17:15,16.
 - B. From the standpoint of its government it is called a "kingdom", an absolute monarchy with legislative, judicial, and executive powers vested in Christ, the King. 1 Tim. 6:15.
 - C. From the standpoint of its organization it is called the "body" of Christ. 1 Cor. 12:12-27.
2. The term "Church of Christ" denotes ownership and is not used to denominate the church.

II. IMPORTANCE OF THE TIME OF ESTABLISHMENT

1. If wrong about time of its beginning, we could be wrong about the conditions of

membership in the church.

2. Erroneous theories about time element have resulted in unscriptural doctrines.
 - A. One false theory is that the church is an eternal covenant between Father and son and was established before time. The membership is definitely fixed. This is Calvinism.
 - B. Some contend it was established in the days of Abraham. This results in doctrine of infant membership.
 - C. Others say the church was established in days of John the Baptist and should be called by his title. Matt. 11:11.

III. THE TESTIMONY OF THE SCRIPTURES.

1. Daniel 2:1-45. "In the days of these kings" — the Caesar's and Herrods.
2. Matt. 16:13-20. The prediction here is future.
3. Mark 9:1; Lk. 24:46-49; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4.

IV. THE CHURCH WAS ESTABLISHED ON DAY OF PENTECOST.

1. Prior to that day the church was spoken of as being in the future. Matt. 3:2; 4:17; 10:5-7.
2. The events of Pentecost are plainly the fulfillment of all predictions concerning the establishment of the church. Matt. 16:19; Acts 2.
3. After Pentecost the inspired writers always speak of the church as being in existence. Acts 8:1; 9:31; 11:15.

- A. John was in kingdom AD 96. Rev. 1:9.
- B. Colossians were in the kingdom in AD 64. 1:13.
- C. Corinthians were in the kingdom in AD 59.

CONCLUSION:

The church was established on the first Pentecost day following the resurrection and ascension of Christ. Acts 2.

THE JERUSALEM CHURCH

Acts 2:41-47

INTRODUCTION:

1. This church was the first one established on earth.
2. It was under the direct guidance of the inspired apostles.
3. A study of this model church can be extremely profitable.

I. THE MAKE-UP OF THE MODEL CHURCH.

1. Devout men were present on that day.
Acts 2:5.
2. Some were there who participated in the crucifixion. Acts 2:23.
3. About 3,000 had good and honest hearts and accepted the gospel. Acts 2:41.
4. They became members of the church by obedience to gospel. Acts 2:37-47.
5. Contrast procedures then and now.

II. WORSHIP IN THE MODEL CHURCH.

1. Acts 2:42.
2. Their worship was directed by the apostles teaching.
3. The same teaching is recorded for us in the New Testament. 1 Tim. 3:16,17.
 - A. Creeds and disciplines were unknown.
 - B. Apostles teaching is to be continued.
1 Tim. 3:15; 2 Tim. 2:2.
4. The fellowship was unique and wonderful.
 - A. The Greek word for fellowship is rendered contribution in Rom. 15:26.

B. Acts 2:44,45; 2 Cor. 8:4.

5. "Breaking of bread" was the term used for observance of the Lord's supper.
6. They observed the Lord's supper every first day of the week. Acts 20:7.
7. They kept in touch with heaven through prayer.

III. THE GROWTH OF THE MODEL CHURCH.

1. 3,000 were added the first day. vs. 41,47.
2. It soon increased to 5,000. Acts 4:4.
3. Multitudes were added. Acts 5:14.
4. They invaded Judaism. Acts 6:7.

IV. THE MODEL CHURCH WAS UNITED.

1. Acts 2:44,45; 4:32.
2. Jesus had prayed for it. Jno. 17:20,21.
3. Growth and unity is closely connected.

V. THE LIBERALITY OF THE MODEL CHURCH.

1. Acts 2:44,45; 4:32.
2. People were there from every nation under heaven. vs. 5.
3. The resident Christians supplied their needs.
4. 2 Cor. 9:6,7.

VI. DISCIPLINE IN THE MODEL CHURCH.

1. The first recorded sin in Acts 5:1-10.
2. Covetousness excludes one from the kingdom of God. 1 Cor. 6:10.
3. Withdraw fellowship from those who will not repent. 1 Cor. 5.

VII. HOW THE MODEL CHURCH SETTLED TROUBLE.

1. Acts 6.
2. The church increased when it settled its problems.

VIII. PERSECUTION OF THE MODEL CHURCH.

1. A great persecution was directed against the church.
2. Persecution did not shut it down.
3. *"They went everywhere preaching the word."*
Acts 8:4.

THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Eph. 1:1-6

INTRODUCTION:

1. The question of religious unity is of vast importance.
2. Due to denominationalism it is seldom seriously considered.
3. The Bible lays great emphasis on the unity of God's people.

I. THE TESTIMONY OF THE SCRIPTURES.

1. Only one church is mentioned in these passages: Matt. 16:18; Eph. 5:25.
2. Early Christians were known simply as member of the church.
3. There are many members yet one body.
1 Cor. 12:12,13; Eph. 4:4; Rom. 12:4,5;
1 Cor. 12:18-20.
4. God adds the members to the church.
Acts 2:47.
5. The body is the church. Eph. 1:22,23; 5:23.

II. EVERY ILLUSTRATION IN BIBLE EMPHASIZES THE ONENESS OF THE CHURCH.

1. John 15:1-5. Christ is the true vine and every branch is identical in character and fruit.
1 Cor. 1:10-13.
2. The branches do not represent denominations.
3. The branches represent the disciples of Christ.
4. Eph. 3:13,14; Jno. 10:16.

III. CHRIST PRAYED FOR UNITY.

1. Jno. 17:20,21.
2. How many professed Christians help to answer that prayer?
3. We must reject names, doctrines and practices not authorized by Christ.
4. We must make sure our faith and practice is scriptural.
5. We urge all religious people to reject creeds and all unauthorized practices and let us all take our stand upon the Word of God and we will have unity.
6. We are all reconciled to God in one body.
Eph. 2:16.

THE IDENTITY OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Matt. 16:18

INTRODUCTION:

1. It has been almost 2,000 years since the Lord established the church.
2. At time he spoke the words of the text there was no church which wore his name and honored him as Lord.
3. The church was established on Pentecost and is the one spoken of throughout the remaining New Testament history.
4. Today there are some 500 denominations in U.S.
5. This makes it difficult for the average person to identify the church.

I. DOES THE CHURCH CHRIST BUILT STILL EXIST?

1. Dan. 2:44; Matt. 16:18; Heb. 12:28; Rev. 12:6.
2. These scriptures make it plain that the church the Lord built is in existence now, has been, and will be.

II. SOME OF ITS DISTINGUISHING FEATURES.

1. The New Testament spells out its distinguishing characteristics.
2. We mention some of its most outstanding principles to enable us to identify church.
3. Marks of Identification:
 - A. Christ is its founder. Matt. 16:18.
 - B. It was established in Jerusalem on Pentecost day. Acts 2.
 - C. The law by which it is governed is the New Testament. 2 Tim. 3:16,17.

4. Unless the church possess these marks it is not church Jesus built.

III. IS IT POSSIBLE TO IDENTIFY IT TODAY?

1. It is if we know its chief characteristics.
2. If its history does not go back to Christ and the apostles it cannot be the New Testament church.

IV. A PRACTICAL SEARCH.

1. The Mormon church — trace it back to 1830 and find its origin.
2. The Methodist church can be traced back to year 1729.
3. The Baptist church — trace it back to 1608.
4. The Presbyterian church goes back to 1535.
5. The Episcopal church was established in the time of Henry 8th of England.
6. The Roman Catholic church can be traced back to fifth century AD. It developed after the general council of AD 35.

V. ANOTHER VIEWPOINT.

1.

CHURCH	FOUNDER	PLACE	TIME	CREED
Church of Christ	Christ	Jerusalem	33AD	Christ
Mormon	Joseph Smith	Illinois	1830	Book Mormon
Methodist	John Wesley	England	1729	Discipline
Baptist	John Smyth	Holland	1608	Confession
Presbyterian	John Calvin	Switzerland	1535	WCF
Episcopal	Henry 8th	England	Henry 8th	

Catholic gradually developed as leaders in post-apostolic days began to depart from the truth. 2 Thess. 2.

2. Give a brief history of each of the above, and show that each was established too late to be the church Jesus built.

WHAT CHRIST IS TO THE CHURCH

Isa. 28:16

INTRODUCTION:

1. Christ established His church.
2. He has not left it without Divine guidance.
3. He loves His church and has provided for its maintenance. Eph. 5:25.

I. CHRIST IS THE FOUNDATION.

1. Foundation is that upon which a thing is founded or based.
2. If the foundation is defective, the building is insecure.
3. This is illustrated by the two builders. Matt. 7:24-27.
4. Christ is the foundation. Isa. 28:16; Matt. 16:18.
5. Men have attempted to lay others. 1 Cor. 3:10,11.
6. We have to dig beneath the rubbish of denominationalism.

II. CHRIST IS THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE.

1. The cornerstone is the principal one in the foundation. Matt. 21:42; Mark 12:10.
2. The chief priests and Pharisees were trying to build a religious house but were unable to fit the walls together. They had rejected the chief cornerstone.
3. They had rejected Jesus while trying to construct their conception of a kingdom and

at same time made Him what they did not want Him to be.

4. The Jews fell over the cornerstone. Lk. 20:18.
5. The cornerstone signifies the uniting of Jews and Gentiles. Eph. 2:16; 3:1-12.
6. Cornerstone is ending of one wall and the beginning of another.

III. CHRIST IS THE BRIDEGROOM.

1. Matt. 9:15.
2. The church is the bride. Jno. 3:29; Rev. 21:2; 22:17.
 - A. Christians are married to Christ. Rom. 7:4; Matt. 28:19.
 - B. We wear His name. 1 Pet. 4:16; Matt. 16:18.
 - C. We must be in subjection to Him. Eph. 5:22.
 - D. As the bridegroom He loves the church. Eph. 5:25. He loves only one.

IV. CHRIST IS HEAD OF THE CHURCH.

1. He exercises authority over it.
2. Man is head over woman. Eph. 5:23.
3. Law governing the church was given by Christ. Jas. 4:12; Jno. 1:17.
4. In denominations men make laws and change them. Christ is not the head of them.

V. CHRIST IS THE SAVIOUR OF THE CHURCH.

1. Some claim one can be saved outside the

church.

2. Christ did not die for a non-essential.
Acts 20:28.
3. Christians are redeemed by blood of Christ.
Col. 1:14.
4. Christians compose the church, that which
Christ purchased. 1 Cor. 6:20.
5. Christ is Saviour of the body, the church.
Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:18; Eph. 4:4.
6. If we are saved outside the church, we are
saved without blood of Christ, and Christ died
in vain.
7. Christ will deliver the kingdom or church to
God when He returns. 1 Cor. 15:24; Eph. 5:27.

CHRIST IS SAVIOUR OF THE CHURCH

Eph. 5:22-27

INTRODUCTION:

1. Much is said about Christ as Saviour.
2. Little thought is given to the Church.
3. "Oh! but church does not save."
 - A. Can be saved outside any denomination
 - B. Define Denomination:
"Denominating or naming a class or society of individuals called by the same name — a sect."
4. Church of Christ was never named or denominated.
5. "But Christ is a personal Saviour"
Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:18.

I. HOW SOME REGARD THE CHURCH.

1. Church has been ridiculed and declared unnecessary.
2. Some say they want Christ but not the church.
3. Some want nothing to do with "organized religion."

II. THE CHURCH IN GOD'S PLAN.

1. Reconciled and saved in church.
2 Cor. 5:19; Eph. 2:16.
2. Salvation is in Christ Acts 4:12; Col. 1:18.
3. We are new creatures in Christ 2 Cor. 5:17.
In body — the church.
4. We are babes in Christ 1 Cor. 3:1; Jno. 3:5.

5. If church is non-essential Christ died in vain
Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25.
6. The church is the redeemed Col. 1:13.
7. We are made nigh by blood of Christ
Eph. 2:13.
8. Christ is Saviour of the body Eph. 5:23,27,
Eph 4:4.
9. Christ saves the body. Church — He purchased it
with his blood.
10. Christ will deliver up the kingdom to God, the
Father 1 Cor. 15:24.

CONCLUSION:

1. Babes in Christ — In church.
2. New creatures in Christ — In church.
3. Saved in Christ — In church.
4. Reconciled in Christ — In church.
5. Christ saves body — church.
6. Body is the church.
7. Get into Christ and Church Gal. 3:26,27.

BUILDING UP THE CHURCH

Col. 2:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

1. Jesus asked a serious question. Lk. 18:8.
 2. Faith is the strength-building element we all need. Col. 2:7; Jude 20; Acts 16:5.
 3. Word CHURCH used in two senses:
 - A. General. Matt. 16:18.
 - B. Local. Rom. 16:16.
 4. How can we build up the local congregation?
-
- I. **A TRULY CONVERTED MEMBERSHIP.**
 1. Some are converted to doctrine but not the life... spectators and not participators.
 2. A church of half-hearted half-converted members is a church without conviction and strength. 1 Thess. 1:9.
 3. Simon's encounter with the devil was due to his lack of conviction. Lk. 22:31,32.
 4. The church of Antioch was a church with conviction and strength. Acts 11:23,26.

 - II. **THE MEMBERS MUST ATTEND THE SERVICES.**
 1. In Corinth the whole church was expected to assemble. 1 Cor. 14:23.
 2. The early church assembled on the first day of the week. Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2.
 3. Neglect hurts the church and is wrong. Jas. 4:17.
 4. Attendance and fellowship builds interest,

sing better, preach and pray better.

5. The example of Thomas. Jno. 20:24,25.

III. THE CHURCH MUST HAVE VISION.

1. Where there is no vision the people perish.
Prov. 29:18; 2 Pet. 1:9.
2. Make plans for future growth and development of the congregation. All share — vision.

IV. PRAYER IS AN IMPORTANT ITEM

1. Prayer is probably one of our weakest points.
2. Church can't grow unless we are interested enough to pray for it.
3. Prayerless church and empty pews two big clubs Satan use to club life out of church.

V. CHURCH MUST BE AMPLY SUPPORTED FINANCIALLY.

1. We must purpose to give. 2 Cor. 9:7.
2. Some purpose to give \$5.00 when prospered to give \$10.00.
3. Contribution is so low in some places because members have not given themselves.
2 Cor. 8:5.
4. We need the spirituality that will enable us to give scripturally. Acts 11:29.

VI. HOSPITALITY AND FRIENDLINESS.

1. This was characteristic of the first church.
Acts 2:46,47.

2. The barbarous people on Melita. Acts 28:2.
3. This will build the church.

VII. THE MEMBERS MUST FAITHFULLY WORK.

1. Work rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem.
Neh. 4:6.
2. There is no substitute for work.
3. Some churches hire a preacher — “Boy is he a worker.” Don’t brag about how they stand on side lines and let him do it.
4. Spirit of “Let George do it.” Damning the church.
5. Workers are needed in vineyard — the harvest is plenteous. Matt. 20:1; Matt. 9:36-38.

VIII. CHURCH MUST COOPERATE.

IX. WE MUST LIVE THE CHURCH UP.

X. WE NEED TO TALK THE CHURCH UP.

THE OLD TESTAMENT WRITTEN FOR OUR LEARNING

Rom. 15:4

INTRODUCTION:

1. Paul had just quoted from Psalm 69:9.
2. This passage refers to the Old Testament.
3. It was written for our benefit also — for our learning.
4. “Through” these scriptures and steadfastness we may have comfort and hope.
5. Jesus said “*Search the scriptures.*” John 5:39
6. The Old Testament has many lessons for us.

I. WE LEARN ABOUT CREATION AND THE ORIGIN OF MAN.

1. “*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth*” Gen. 1:31; 2:7. Heb. 4:12; 1:3.
2. God created man. Gen 1:26; 2:7.

II. WE LEARN ABOUT OBEDIENCE.

1. The forbidden fruit. Gen. 2:16,17.
2. The temptation. Gen. 3:1-6.

III. WE LEARN ABOUT WORSHIP.

1. Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:4.
2. Cain and Abel worshipped God. Gen. 4:4,5.
3. Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice.

IV. WE LEARN ABOUT WALKING WITH GOD.

1. Enoch walked with God. Gen. 5:24.

2. *"Can two walk together except they be agreed?"* Amos 3:3.

V. WE LEARN TO GIVE GOD OUR BEST.

1. God called for Abraham's best. Gen. 22:1-19
2. We must give God our best. Matt. 6:33

VI. WE LEARN TO BE PROMPT.

1. God hastened Lot to leave Sodom. Gen. 19
2. God calls on us for promptness. 2 Cor. 6:2

VII. WE LEARN THAT WE CAN BE A WINNER.

1. Caleb was a winner. Numbers 14:24
2. *"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."* Rev. 2:10

VIII. WE LEARN THAT WE CANNOT RUN FROM GOD.

1. Jonah tried it without success. (Book of Jonah)
2. God wants to save us. Luke 19:10
3. *"Come unto me..."* Matt. 11:28-30.

THE NEW AND THE OLD

Luke 5:33-39

INTRODUCTION:

1. When Jesus came upon the stage of action the religious leaders of His time were amazed and offended at His actions and teachings.
2. The Scribes and Pharisees did not understand His mission.
3. *"Why do ye eat with publicans and sinners?"*
vss. 30-32.
4. John's disciples fast and pray — Why don't yours?
vs. 33.
5. Jesus replies. vss. 34,35.
6. Jesus illustrates the Essence and Spirit of Christianity.
vss. 36-39.

I. THE OLD GARMENT.

1. Represents the old Jewish covenant.
Heb. 8:6-13.
2. The old religious system completely abrogated. Col. 2:14; Heb. 10:9,10.
3. Not one Jot or Tittle of the old is incorporated in NEW. Matt. 5:17,18.
4. All religious practices authorized by Old Testament removed.
 - A. Polygamy, animal sacrifice, incense burning, Sabbath keeping and instrumental music.
 - B. Not mechanical instruments — taught in Psalms and is not law. Jno. 10:34; Ps. 82:6; Jno. 15:25; Ps. 69:4.

II. THE NEW GARMENT.

1. Represents New covenant and New religion.
Heb. 8:9; 10:20.
2. A new thing under the sun. Heb. 10:20.
3. An original creation. Matt. 7:28,29;
Jno. 7:46; Heb. 1:2; 2:1-3.
4. The spirit of it is new. Lk. 5:37-39.
5. Established upon better Promises.
Heb. 8:6,12.

III. THE NEW LIFE.

1. The Scribes and Pharisees said, "The old is better."
2. The new Life cannot be old one patched up.
 - A. Old loyalties, old attitudes, and selfishness must go. Gal. 2:20.
 - B. New faith demands new forms of complete allegiance. 2 Tim. 3:5.
3. Transformation must be full, thorough, complete and universal. Rom. 12:2. New life must be put into new bottles.
4. Many today would be Christians if they could just patch up an old sinful life. 2 Cor. 5:17.
5. We must put off the old man and put on the new. Eph. 4:22-32.

CHRIST OR CAESAR

- I. THE DOMINANT THEME OF REVELATION IS CONFLICT BETWEEN EMPEROR WORSHIP AND WORSHIP OF CHRIST.
 1. We need to understand nature of this conflict to understand letters to 7 churches.

- II. THE ROMAN GOVERNMENT AND THE EMOTIONAL PROBLEM.
 1. Among great numbers of people the emotional forces are very strong.
 2. Patriotism and the state religion were indistinguishable.
 3. In ancient society, main purpose of religion was to bind the community together --- diverse elements.
 4. Roman empire was composed of great variety of races, cultures and religions. There were a multitude of gods — none universally accepted.
 5. Attempts were made to establish a national religion.
 6. Later the emperor, or Caesar, was deified as embodiment of the empire.

- III. RECOGNITION OF EMPEROR AS DIVINE.
 1. Encouraged universal patriotism — races, cultures, languages.
 2. Other religions were tolerated as long as they recognized the god among gods — emperor.
 3. Emperor was “the spiritual symbol of the political union.”

IV. EMPEROR WORSHIP DEVELOPED GRADUALLY.

1. After his assassination in 44 B.C. Julius Caesar was deified by the senate and his son and heir was called "son of god."
2. Augustus would not accept worship after his death, senate made him a god.
3. Vespasian jested near his death: "I see I shall shortly become a god."
4. Emperors Caligula, Nero, Domitian and Commodus considered themselves divine.

V. DOMITIAN HATED THE CHURCH.

1. 64 A.D. Nero persecuted Church.
2. Domitian demanded to be worshipped.
3. The last of the "12 Caesars" and youngest son of Vespasian, his attitude was one of suspicion, moroseness, and savagery.
4. When he came to the throne in 81:
 - A. He put to death his cousin Flavius Clemens on charge of Atheism.
 - B. He banished his cousin's wife Flavia Domitilla, who was his niece.
 - C. He lived in fear and distrust.

VI. HE REGARDED CHRISTIANITY AS A THREAT TO HIMSELF.

1. It was a crime to be a Christian and he persecuted them because they did not recognize him a god.
2. He insisted on being called "lord and god."
3. Enforcement of emperor worship was made official.

VII. JOHN SUPPOSEDLY WROTE REVELATION WHEN THIS PERSECUTION UNDER DOMITIAN WAS BEGINNING.

1. John had been banished. Rev. 1:9.
2. Christ revealed to John the persecution facing the church.
3. The province of Asia was very center of emperor worship.
4. Their first temples were built in honor of emperor — images, altars, priests, choirs.
5. In Roman garrisons emperor worship was part of military drill.

VIII. EARLY CHRISTIANS RECOGNIZED GOD ONLY AND HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON AS OBJECTS OF WORSHIP.

1. May have different opinions about limits of Compromise with Pagan customs.
2. They recognized the authority of Caesar.
Matt. 22:21; Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-17;
2 Tim. 2:1,2.
3. They refused to recognize divinity of Caesar.

IX. ROMAN OFFICIALS DID NOT UNDERSTAND OBSTINACY OF THE CHRISTIANS.

1. They had freedom of worship but would not worship the emperor.
2. Example of Polycarp — after writing of Revelation.
3. Dionysis of Alexandria — “We worship no other.”
4. Diocletian — Maximus — Julius.

X. PREJUDICE AGAINST CHRISTIANS.

1. Charged with atheism and anarchism.
2. They were blamed for every calamity that befell the empire.

XI. PERSECUTION UNDER DIOCLETIAN.

1. "Tear down the churches to the foundations, and to destroy the sacred scriptures by fire; and commanding also that those who were in honorable stations should be degraded if they persevered in their adherence to Christianity."
2. Eusebius tells of massacre of whole population of a town because they declared themselves Christian.

XII. DOMITIAN MURDERED 96 A.D.

1. By the steward of niece he had banished his wife being the party to it.
2. Local officials played a role in administering the law.
3. Christians lived in uncertainty.
4. Some Christians fell away.

XIII. THE CHURCH TURNED TO REVELATION.

1. Rev. 17:5,6.
2. Cyprian of Carthage quoted from Revelation, time and time again.

XIV. MORE RECENT CONFLICTS.

1. Japan — emperor worship similar to Rome.
2. Germany under Hitler.

3. Communism — omnipotence of the state.
4. Church to render to Caesar his dues but it must never concede to Caesar what belongs only to God.
 - A. The apostles.
 - B. Martin Luther.

INTRODUCTION: SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA
READ Rev. 1

- I. THE ENTIRE BOOK OF REV. ADDRESSED TO 7 CHURCHES.
1. This series is intended to deal with special messages to these Churches.
(Rev. 2,3; Daniel 2)
 2. To understand we must give attention to some basic considerations.
 3. The basic scriptural background is found in Chapter 1 of Revelation.
- II. THE ASIA DESIGNATED IS NOT THE CONTINENT.
1. It is the Roman province formed 130 B.C.
 2. Referred to as a proconsular and governed by a proconsul.
- III. THE SEVEN CHURCHES. 1:11
1. Ephesus 4. Thyatira 7. Laodicea
 2. Smyrna 5. Sardis
 3. Pergamum 6. Philadelphia
 8. There were churches at Dolossal, Hierapolis
Col. 4:13. Troas. Acts 20:6,7.
 9. Secular history indicates churches at Mileties,
Magnesia, Tralles.
- IV. WHO WAS "JOHN" THE ONE CHOSEN TO WRITE THE "REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST?"
1. Objections have been raised about John the Apostle.

2. Testimony to the authorship of John the apostle is very strong.
3. Justin Martyr writes of Revelation as the work of a "Certain man with us, whose name was John one of the Apostles of Christ."
4. Others who accepted John's authorship was Irenaeus who was a disciple of Clement of Alexandria who was a disciple of John. Tertullian, Origen and Hippolytus.
5. If some other John wrote it, it is still "The Revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave him to show to his servants." 1:1.

V. THE TIME OF WRITING OF REVELATION CAN BE ESTABLISHED WITH CONSIDERABLE CONFIDENCE.

1. In 180 Irenaeus wrote concerning the vision of John on Patmos: "This vision was beheld not in some remote time but almost in our generation, at the end of the reign of Domitian," which would make the time about 94 or 95.

VI. IN YEAR 95 ROMAN LAW DECLARED BEING A CHRISTIAN WAS A CRIME PUNISHABLE BY DEATH.

1. John had only suffered banishment on Isle of Patmos.
2. Through divine inspiration John saw black clouds of persecution gathering.
3. He knew a violent storm of Antagonism from the Roman Authorities was about to break on

the church.

4. The principal theme of Revelation vividly portrays the irreconcilable antipathy and antagonism between the church and the Roman empire.
5. The church proclaimed its allegiance to Christ — the empire proclaimed allegiance to Caesar, who laid claim to divine rights.
6. Christ versus Caesar!

VII. JOHN'S VISION ON PATMOS IMPLIES THE REALITY OF TROUBLE WHICH CHURCH FACED THEN AND MUST FACE NOW.

1. The 7 churches of Asia were threatened by the vicious blasphemy of Domitian.
2. Rome was a military power.
3. The church was armed with word of God. Heb. 4:12; Eph. 6:10-17.
4. It seemed the church would face extinction but that is not the way John saw it.
5. There was widespread Martyrdom and many Christians died horribly and painfully.
6. John knew Christ would triumph over Caesar.

VIII. JOHN TELLS THE 7 CHURCHES THAT IF THEY WILL BE FAITHFUL THEY WILL SHARE IN THE VICTORY OF CHRIST. REV. 2:10.

1. John challenged the Christians to courage in the face of death. Lk. 12:4.
2. Jesus Christ, "*the power of an endless life*".

Heb. 7:16 Promised his faithful martyrs the glory, grandeur and comfort of the new heaven and new earth, where God "*shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death shall be no more: the first things are passed away.*" 21:4.

IX. TO UNDERSTAND THE BOOK OF REVELATION IN RELATION TO 7 CHURCHES OF ASIA, WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT ITS MESSAGE WAS INTENDED PRIMARILY FOR THEM IN THEIR OWN TIME. "THINGS WHICH MUST SHORTLY COME TO PASS" REV. 1:1; 22:6.

1. John's basic purpose was to bring comfort and hope to 7 churches of Asia during time of Domitian.
2. Yet its message is not exhausted by its primary purpose.
3. If intended only for 7 churches there would be no need for these lessons.
4. The church still exists and is faced with battles with error and sin.
5. We must still face the forces that deny the Deity and Supreme Authority of Christ.
6. Christ, who is "*the same yesterday and today, yea and forever*" is still here to guide, strengthen, and protect His church, to lead it in triumph over all its enemies.

LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT EPHEBUS

Rev. 2:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

1. At the time John wrote, Ephesus was chief city of Asia Minor.
2. Noted for magical arts and temple of Goddess, Diana. Acts 19.
3. Paul labored there 2 years and 3 months at one time. The word was preached in all Asia. Acts 19:8-10.
4. The apostle John was writer of Revelation and these letters.

I. ADDRESS. vs. 1

1. To angel or messenger of the church. The person by whom the letter was delivered to the church.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE SPEAKER. vss. 1,2.

1. Holdeth seven stars in his right hand. Stars are angels. 1:20.
2. Walketh in midst of seven golden candlesticks.
 - A. Candlesticks are the churches. 1:20.
 - B. Indicates he will bless good; punish evil.
3. "I know thy works..." Jno. 2:25; Heb. 4:13.

III. WHAT IS RIGHT WITH THE CHURCH. vss. 2,3,6.

1. "*Thy works and thy labor.*" Phil. 2:12; Jas. 2:20.
 - A. They had labored to point of suffering and sadness.
2. They were patient and steadfast. Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 15:58.

3. *"Thou canst not bear them which are evil..."*
 - A. Must not fellowship evil. 2 Thess. 3:6;
1 Cor. 5:6,7; Acts 20:30; 19:19.
4. *"Tried them which say they are apostles."*
1 Tim. 4:16; 2 Cor. 11:13-15; Matt. 7:21-23.
5. *"Thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans."* vs. 6.

IV. WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE CHURCH? vs. 4.

1. They had left their *"first love."*
2. Must have love. Matt. 22:37; 1 Cor. 13:1-3.

V. ADMONITION.

1. Remember. Remember and forget.
 - A. Former love, zeal, work compared with present apathy.
 - B. Such serious reflection should lead to change of conduct.
2. Repent. Zealous of good works again. Acts 8:22.
3. Do the first works. Do as you once did.

VI. THREAT. vs. 6.

1. Will remove thy candlestick.
 - A. Cease to exist if did not return.

VII. PROMISED REWARD.

1. *"To him that overcometh."*
2. *"Eat of the tree of life."* Gen. 3:24.
 - A. Separated from it lest we should eat of it and live forever in sin.
 - B. After we overcome we may eat of it and live forever in the new Paradise of perfection.

LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT SMYRNA
Rev. 2:8-11

INTRODUCTION:

1. Smyrna was a populous and beautiful city 40 miles north of Ephesus.
2. It was commercial city, great Library, educational facilities and idols.
3. It was home of Polycarp who personally knew John. Church probably established by Paul on 3rd tour AD 53-56.
4. Several factors combined to make Christian life difficult and dangerous. (Jews, idol worshippers, Roman rule.)

I. LETTER ADDRESSED TO ANGEL OF THE CHURCH. vs. 8.

II. DESCRIPTION OF SPEAKER GIVEN. vss. 8,9.

1. *"The first"* Jno. 1:1; Col. 1:15-17; Matt. 6:33.
2. *"The last"* Rev. 22:13. When others gone he will be with us.
3. *"Which was dead and is alive."* Had experienced all they had and more — "but I live."
 - A. Death, burial, and resurrection — facts of gospel. 1 Cor. 15:1-4.
 - B. He died for our sins. Rom. 5:8.
 - C. He arose for our justification. Rom. 4:25.
4. *"I know"* Prov. 15:3.

III. THE GOOD THINGS ABOUT THE CHURCH. vs. 9.

1. *"Thy works."* Rev. 20:12.

2. *"Thy tribulation."* 2 Tim. 3:12; Matt. 5:11,12.
 - A. Christ suffered and we are not above him.
3. Suffering was inflicted by the *"Synagogue of Satan."*
 - A. Their persecutors claimed to be children of God.
 - B. Satan has his synagogue or church.
 - C. He works in name of religion. He has his churches, his ministers, his creeds; his doctrines. 2 Cor. 11:13-15.
4. Poverty. (But thou art rich).
 - A. Physically poor but spiritually rich. Matt. 8:20; 2 Cor. 8:9.
 - B. They had laid up treasures in heaven. Matt. 6:19.

IV. THE CHURCH IS NOT CENSORED FOR ANY WRONG DOING.

V. ADMONITION GIVEN. vs. 10.

1. *"Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer."* Fear not. Matt. 10:28.
2. *"Be thou faithful unto death."*

VI. THE CHURCH IS NOT THREATENED WITH PUNISHMENT OF ANY KIND.

VII. THE CHURCH IS PROMISED A REWARD.

vss. 10,11.

1. *"Crown of life."*
2. *"Shall not be hurt of second death."* Rev. 20:14,15.
 - A. Two births and two deaths spoken of in Bible.

THE LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS
Rev. 2:12-17

INTRODUCTION:

1. Pergamos located in Mysia north of Ephesus and Smyrna.
2. The sumptuousness of Attalic princes had raised it to rank of first city in Asia for splendor.
3. It was noted for its vast library — 200,000 volumes.
4. It was also noted for its idols. (Zeus, Jupiter, Athene, Appollo, Dionysus, Aesculapius). Called "*Satan's seat.*"

I. LETTER IS ADDRESSED TO ANGEL OF THE CHURCH.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE SPEAKER. vs. 12.

1. "*Hath the sharp sword.*" Rev. 1:16; 2:16; Heb. 4:12.
 - A. It pricks and cuts to the heart.
Acts 2:37; 7:54.
 - B. Scriptures important weapon of Christ.
Matt. 4:4,7,10.
 - C. "What saith the scriptures?"

III. THE GOOD THINGS ABOUT THE CHURCH. vs. 13.

1. Face to face with Satan, their enemy.
 - A. Satan's throne was there.
 - B. Satan is real personality fighting man's spiritual welfare.
 - C. He sows the tares. Matt. 13:24-30.
 - D. He steals the word from man's heart. Lk. 8:12.

- E. He transforms himself into an angel of light. 2 Cor. 11:13-15.
- 2. *"Holdest fast my name."* This was important because name represents the person.
- 3. *"Hast not denied my faith."*
 - A. One faith. Eph. 4:5.
 - B. Contend for it. Jude 3.
- 4. Antipas, an example of faithfulness unto death.

IV. SOME THINGS WRONG WITH THE CHURCH.

vss. 14,15.

- 1. Some hold the doctrine of Balaam.
Num. 22:25; 31:8,15,16; Jude 11; 2 Pet. 2:15.
- 2. Some hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans.
(Church at Ephesus hated such deeds.)
- 3. Church must not fellowship false doctrines.
Col. 2:21-22; 2 John 10,11.

V. THEY WERE ADMONISHED TO REPENT.

- 1. *"Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth."*
vs. 16.

VI. THEY WERE THREATENED. vs. 16.

- 1. *"Fight against them with the sword of my mouth."*

VII. THEY WERE PROMISED A REWARD. vs. 17.

- 1. *"Eat of the hidden manna."* *"I am the bread of life."*
- 2. *"Give him a white stone."* Symbol of

acquittal.

3. "A new name." Not sure what it will be.
 - A. Have been given one new name.
Isa. 62:2; Acts 11:26.

LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT THYATIRA

Rev. 2:18-29

INTRODUCTION:

1. Thyatira located northeast of Ephesus approximately 80 miles.
2. Dyeing was an important part of its industry. Lydia, seller of purple was from there. Acts 16:14.
3. Had trade guilds and they were influential and were closely connected with various forms of pagan worship.
4. Apollo was principal deity, other gods were Baachus, Artemis and Aesculapius.

I. LETTER ADDRESSED TO ANGEL OF THE CHURCH. vs. 18.

II. DESCRIPTION OF SPEAKER GIVEN. vs. 18.

1. *"The Son of God."*
 - A. Gift of God. Jno. 3:16
 - B. God's spokesman. Heb. 1:1,2.
 - C. Way to Father. Jno. 14:6.
 - D. Man's Saviour. Matt. 1:21.
2. *"Eyes like a flame of fire."* Heb. 4:13.
3. *"Feet are like fine brass."* Dreadful to sinners; beautiful to obedient.

III. GOOD THINGS ABOUT THE CHURCH GIVEN. vs. 19.

1. *"I know thy works."*
2. *"LOVE."* Fountain from which flows true activities. Gal. 5:6; 1 Cor. 13.

3. "*Faith*" Heb. 11; Jas. 2:14-26.
4. "*Service*" or ministry.
5. "*Patience*" or "*steadfastness.*" 1 Cor. 15:58.
6. "*last to be more than the first.*" 1 Pet. 2:2;
2 Cor. 4:16.

IV. THINGS WRONG WITH THE CHURCH. vs. 20.

1. "Thou sufferest that woman Jezebel." 1 Kings 19:1,2.
 - A. Should have disfellowshipped her.
1 Cor. 5:2; 2 Thess. 3:6.
2. "*Calleth herself a prophetess.*" She was a teacher and church had made a very poor choice.
3. False doctrine which leads to false practice was being taught.
 - A. Called the "*depths of Satan.*" vs. 24.

V. ADMONITION GIVEN. vss. 24,25.

1. "*As many as have not known this doctrine... that which ye have hold fast till I come.*"
 - A. Saviour, worship, service, loyalty to truth, and opposition to error.

VI. THE CHURCH IS THREATENED. vss. 21-23.

1. "*Gave her space to repent.*" he expected it.
2. "*Will cast her into a bed.*" Punishment.
3. "*Will kill her children with death.*"
4. "*Give unto everyone of you according to your works.*" 2 Cor. 5:10.

VII. PROMISED REWARD. vss. 26-29.

1. *“He that overcometh and keepeth my works unto the end.”*
2. *“Give power over the nations; rule with rod of iron and give him the morning star.”*
3. Promise of victory.

LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT SARDIS

Rev. 3:1-6

INTRODUCTION:

1. Sardis was 50 miles northeast of Smyrna and was capital of Lydia.
2. It was a very wealthy commercial city.
 - A. Cyrus took \$600,000,000 when he captured it in 548 B.C.
 - B. Art of dyeing wool invented there — noted for its purple dye.
 - C. Most noted temple dedicated to mother-goddess Cybele.
3. Derived much wealth from fertile soil round about.

I. ANGEL OF THE CHURCH IS ADDRESSED.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE SPEAKER. vs. 1.

1. *"Hath the seven spirits of God."* Jno. 3:34; 15:26.
2. *"Hath the seven stars"* or angels. Rev. 1:20.
 - A. He had authority over them.

III. THINGS RIGHT WITH THE CHURCH. vs. 4.

1. *"A few names which have not defiled their garments."*
 - A. FEW — is true in too many places.
 - B. Faithful few always keep work of church going.
 - C. Only few usually keep unspotted.
Jas. 1:27.
2. *"They are worthy."* This could not be said of

all members.

- A. The kind of character God recognizes is worthy of salvation.

IV. WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE CHURCH? vss. 1,2.

1. *"Thou hast a name that thou livest and art dead."*
 - A. They were Christian in name only.
1 Tim. 5:6.
 - B. Had a good appearance and enjoyed the reputation of being alive, but were dead, posing and unreal.
2. Their works were not perfect or complete before God. Were not carried out fully. Were slipshod and haphazard. Did not plan work properly.

V. ADMONITION. vss. 2,3

1. *"Be watchful."* Mark 13:37; 1 Cor. 16:13.
2. *"Strengthen the things which remain that are ready to die."*
 - A. Some were weak and sickly and ready to die.
 - B. Stronger members have responsibility to these. Rom. 15:1.
3. *"Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard."* Get back to your former state.
4. *"Hold fast."* Condition of success in every field. Eph. 4:14; 1 Thess. 5:21.
 - A. They are not charged with toleration of false doctrines but were slowly dying from loss of interest.
5. *"Repent."* Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30.

VI. THEY ARE THREATENED. vs. 3.

1. *"If thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief."*

VII. PROMISED REWARD. vss. 4,5.

1. *"Walk with me in white."* Rev. 7:14.
2. *"Will not blot his name out of the book of life."* Phil. 4:3; Rev. 20:12; 22:19.
3. *"Will confess his name before my father."* Matt. 10:32.
4. *"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the spirit saith unto the churches."*

LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA

Rev. 3:7-13

INTRODUCTION:

1. Philadelphia was 25 miles southwest of Sardis. Built by Attalus Philadelphus II, King of Pergamos in 140 B.C.
2. A synagogue of Hellenizing Jews there.
3. Seems to have been of little commercial significance.
4. Letter addressed to angel of the church. vs. 7.

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE SPEAKER. vs. 7.

1. "*Holy*" in character and life. 1 Pet. 2:22,23; Heb. 4:15; Rev. 4:8.
2. "*True*." He was the truth. Jno. 14:6; 18:37.
3. "*Hath the key of David*." Keys are symbolic of authority.
 - A. Christ has complete authority in Messianic Kingdom and reign and is now on David's throne reigning. Acts 2:29-36; 1 Cor. 15:23-25.

II. THINGS RIGHT WITH THE CHURCH. vs. 8.

1. "*I have set before thee an open door*."
 - A. Had great opportunities to evangelize.
2. "*Hast a little strength*." God can perform wonders with little things.
 - A. Gideon's reduced army, Moses' rod, David's sling and stone. 1 Sam. 17:40-51.
3. "*Hast kept my word*." Not only had they obeyed but had kept and guarded it. Jno. 14:23.

4. "*Hast not denied my name.*" Times when it meant ridicule and persecution.

III. THINGS WRONG WITH THE CHURCH.

1. Nothing is stated. Vindicated. vs. 9.
2. Only two letters do not contain some reproof.
3. Those of the synagogue of Satan be obliged to respect them.
4. Satan has religious people, as well as non-religious.

IV. HOLD FAST WHAT YOU HAVE. vs. 11; 1 Cor. 15:2.

V. CHURCH IS NOT THREATENED AS SOME OTHERS WERE.

1. Comforted instead. vs. 10.
2. Promise to sustain them in temptation.
1 Cor. 10:13.

VI. PROMISED REWARD. vs. 12.

1. "*I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God.*" Permanent and a secure place.
2. He shall go no more out.
3. Three names to be written upon him.

LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT LAODICEA
Rev. 3:14-22

INTRODUCTION:

1. City of importance founded by Antiochus Theos and named for his wife Laodike by whom he was later poisoned.
2. Had good roads, good trade, wealth, financial center and banking.
3. Church probably established as result of Paul's teaching in Ephesus about A.D. 60. Col. 2:1; 4:16.

I. LETTER ADDRESSED TO ANGEL OF THE CHURCH. vs. 14.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE SPEAKER. vs. 14.

1. "*The Amen.*" To make firm, true and certain final.
2. "*Faithful and true witness.*" He would not misrepresent them nor would his testimony be biased.
3. "*The beginning of the creation of God.*" Jno. 1:1-3.

III. THE GOOD THINGS ABOUT THE CHURCH.

1. No good things are mentioned and no commendation offered.

IV. THINGS WRONG WITH THE CHURCH. vss. 15-17.

1. "*Thou art neither cold nor hot.*"
 - A. Lukewarm and self-satisfied.
 - B. A little for the Lord and a little for the Devil.
 - C. No persecution; no spiritual warfare; no contending for the faith.

2. "*Thou sayest.*" This was their estimate of themselves. Jesus said, "*Thou art.*" How one feels about himself may not be the way Christ feels.
3. "*Wretched and miserable.*" An object of pity because of their self-complacency.
4. "*Poor.*" Rich paupers — had no treasure in heaven.
5. "*Blind.*" To their obligations as Christians. 2 Pet. 1:5-9.
6. "*Naked.*" Spiritual nakedness. Col. 3:12-14.

V. ADMONITION. vss. 18-20.

1. He admonishes them to receive his blessings. vs. 18.
2. "*Be zealous.*" Be full of enthusiasm and bubbling over — put your hearts into the work.
3. "*Repent.*" This stands between the erring Christian and pardon.
4. "*I stand at the door and knock.*" He makes touching appeal.

VI. HE THREATENS THEM. vs. 16.

1. "*I will spue thee out of my mouth.*"
2. We can be lost. Heb. 3:12; Gal. 5:4; Jno. 15:6.

VII. A PROMISED REWARD. vs. 21.

1. Faithful Christians rule with Jesus by teaching and practicing his laws by which men are to be governed spiritually.

CONCLUSION:

"*He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*" vs. 22.

TEACHING THE BIBLE

Matt. 28:18-20

INTRODUCTION:

1. Is the Bible having a fair chance to convert the world?
2. We have condemned Catholicism for "chaining" the Bible to the pulpit. What have we done to improve the situation?
3. Have done a lot, but not enough.

I. CHRISTIANITY IS PRE-EMINENTLY A TEACHING RELIGION.

1. Jesus, its founder is the Master Teacher. Matt. 8:19.
2. Jesus trained others to teach and commissioned them to teach others. Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15,16; Lk. 24:46,47.
3. The taught were to commit the same message to others. 2 Tim. 2:2.
4. There is a shortage of qualified teachers in church today.
5. The Apostles were uneducated men but they became great teachers of the word. Acts 4:13.

II. WHY HAVE WE NEGLECTED BIBLE SCHOOL?

1. The denominations have used it as an effective tool for growth.
2. We have emphasized the worship hour to neglect our Bible School.
3. We are not trying to APE them but we have the truth and should not let anybody get ahead of us in teaching the Bible.

4. The early disciples believed in teaching the word. Acts 8:4.
- III. THE BIBLE IS THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT BOOK.
1. This importance is the reason it should be taught in classes.
 2. Public school system is set up to meet the needs of the child as it grows and matures.
- IV. THE GOSPEL IS GOD'S POWER TO SAVE.
1. This recognition "fired" Paul to preach it.
 2. *"I am not ashamed of the gospel"* Rom. 1:16.
 3. *"I am debtor...so as much as in me is.."*
- V. IT IS SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR THE CHRISTIAN.
1. *"As new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word..."* 1 Pet. 2:2.
 2. *"But grow in grace and the knowledge..."* 2 Pet. 3:18.
- VI. THE WORD OF GOD IS A SOURCE OF COMFORT AND HOPE. Jno. 14:1-4.
- VII. IT IS A SOURCE OF LIGHT IN A DARK WORLD. Psalm 119:105.
- VIII. GOD'S WORD GIVES CULTURE AND REFINEMENT TO CHARACTER THAT CANNOT BE SECURED ANY OTHER WAY.
1. Col. 3:1,2.

2. Phil. 4:8.
3. 2 Pet. 1:5-7.

CONCLUSION:

1. The challenge is to give this most important Book a chance to convert the lost.
2. In order to do this it must be taught by trained students of the word.
3. 2 Tim. 2:15.

NAMES FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

INTRODUCTION:

1. God's people called by different names.
2. Bible names help convey proper conception of work, character, relation to Lord and to one another.
3. Followers of Christ called disciples, brethren, saints, and Christians.

I. DISCIPLES.

1. Means student, learner, pupil.
2. Applied to followers of Christ means personal adherence to His teaching. Jno. 8:31.
3. Name appears frequently in first 4 books, less frequently in Acts, not in last 22.
4. Work of Jesus on earth primarily teaching. NAME expresses relation of student to teacher.
5. Applied to followers of Christ now. Matt. 11:28,29.

II. BRETHREN.

1. Came into extensive use after ascension of Christ. Matt. 23:8.
2. Peter referred to church as brotherhood. 1 Pet. 2:17.
3. Name abounds in writings of Paul. Rom. 12:10; 1 Cor. 6:8; Gal. 6:1. Effectively expresses duties and obligations we owe to one another.
4. Brethren in Lord sustain more sacred relationship than brethren in flesh.
5. Jesus placed spiritual kinship above flesh. Mk. 3:31-35.

6. Name itself forbids all strife. Gen. 13:8.
7. So sacred is relationship, to sin against brother is to sin against Christ. 1 Cor. 8:12,13.

III. SAINTS.

1. Some say, "I'm not a saint." Better be.
2. Name means pure, holy, consecrated, clean.
3. God's people are to be pure in thought, word, life, and doctrine.
4. 2 Cor. 1:1; Eph. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:2.
5. Paul did not address Galatians and Thessalonians as saints — not pure doctrinally. Gal. 1:8,9; 5:7. Thessalonians wrong on 2nd coming of Christ.

IV. CHRISTIANS.

1. Christ has pre-eminence.
2. Includes all implied in other names.
 - A. If Christian, a disciple — learning.
 - B. A brother in family of God...Christ head.
 - C. A saint reflecting purity of Christ in thought, word, deed.
 - D. Every duty bound in others is borne in name Christian.
3. Name divinely given. Acts 11:26.
4. Paul a Christian — persuaded others. Acts 26:28,29.
5. Not to be ashamed of name Christian. 1 Pet. 4:14-16.
 - A. Don't suffer as: murderer, thief, evil doer, busybody.

WHY I GO TO EVERY SERVICE OF THE CHURCH

- I. I GO TO EVERY SERVICE OF THE CHURCH BECAUSE JESUS IS THERE.
 1. *"Where two or more are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them"* Matt. 18:20.
 2. Jesus has never forsaken an assembly, and I want to be like Him.

- II. I GO TO EVERY SERVICE OF THE CHURCH BECAUSE I AM MADE STRONGER.
 1. Power is given in worship to live a nobler life.
 2. There one is fortified against falling away. Heb. 3:12.
 3. There is the sweetest fellowship on earth. Acts 2:42.
 4. There souls are made fit for heaven. Jno. 14:1-3.
 5. There strength is given to bear the burdens of life. Phil. 4:13.
 6. Why should I want to miss any service?

- III. I GO TO EVERY SERVICE OF THE CHURCH BECAUSE GOD WANTS THE CHURCH TO GROW.
 1. The church always grows when members put God first by loyal attendance.
 2. Since the church is the saved, the growth of the church means salvation of the lost. Eph. 2:16; 4:23.
 3. Here is a way all can help in the finest work on earth.

- IV. I GO TO EVERY SERVICE OF THE CHURCH TO SET A GOOD EXAMPLE.
 1. Many are looking my way and following in

my steps. 1 Tim. 4:12.

2. Influence is either good or bad — there is no middle ground. Heb. 11:25.
3. Any hour the church meets, my influence is with or against Christ. Matt. 12:30.
4. If I attend, it is for the Lord. 1 Pet. 2:21.
5. When I neglect service, my influence is for Satan. 2 Tim. 4:10.

V. I GO TO EVERY SERVICE OF THE CHURCH TO PROVE MY LOVE AND GRATITUDE.

1. So boundless was the love of Jesus for the church that he gave His life for it. Eph. 5:25-27.
2. If I would be His disciple, I must also prove my love. Jno. 14:15; 2 Cor. 8:8.
3. Since God has given me a multitude of blessings I do not deserve, it is indeed a small sacrifice to return a few hours in public worship.
4. One who truly loves God does not ask if he must attend all services.
5. His love compels him to!
6. If I show love to God by attendance, I show lack of love by absence.

VI. I GO TO EVERY SERVICE OF THE CHURCH TO OBEY GOD.

1. The Bible says, "*forsake not the assembling of yourselves together.*" Heb. 10:25.
2. The first Christians met weekly and often daily. Acts 20:7; 2:46; 19:9.
3. Any service where the Bible is taught, prayer is made,

and God is worshipped, is good, and *“to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not to him it is sin.”*
James 4:17.

4. If it is good to be present for all services, it is bad to be absent from any.

VII. I GO TO EVERY SERVICE OF THE CHURCH TO PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST.

1. *“Seek ye first His Kingdom.”* Matt. 6:33.
2. Jesus said the church must be first to the Christian, even before seeking food, clothing, and drink.
3. First in business, first in pleasure, first in marriage. 2 Cor. 6:14.
4. Nothing could be so important as being a faithful member of the Lord's church!

VIII. I GO TO EVERY SERVICE OF THE CHURCH BECAUSE IT IS SAFE TO DO SO.

1. All who forsake an assembly wonder if they sin, but I know I am perfectly safe in attending every service. Matt. 27:65.
2. Yes, dangerous risks are taken in forsaking any assembly of the church: Christ may return in that hour, death may come, a life of neglect may begin, and others may be lost by a bad example.

IX. I GO TO EVERY SERVICE OF THE CHURCH TO ABOUND IN THE LORD'S WORK.

1. A true Christian wants to do all he can and not as little as he can.
2. Even after doing all possible, I am still an unprofitable servant. Luke 17:10.

3. Since the assemblies of the church are vital in the Lord's work, I must abound in attendance.
4. *"Finally, my brethren, be ye steadfast and unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord."* 1 Cor. 15:58.

THE WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH

I. WORSHIP.

1. Reverence tendered a divine being or supernatural power.

II. THE STANDARD OF AUTHORITY IN WORSHIP.

1. Because a thing is legitimate within itself is no reason to employ it in worship.
2. Washing of hands. Matt. 15:1-9; Mk. 7:3,4.
3. God's word is our standard of authority.
 - A. An express command.
 - B. An approved example.
 - C. A necessary inference — impossible to mean anything else.

III. KINDS OF WORSHIP.

1. There has never been but two kinds — False and True.
 - A. Cain and Abel. Gen. 4:4,5; Heb. 11:4.
 - B. Found in both Old and New Testaments.

IV. FALSE OR VAIN WORSHIP.

1. Idolatrous worship. Exo. 20:4; Covetousness Col. 3:5.
2. Worshipping Satan. Matt. 4:9,10.
3. Worshipping man. Paul. Acts 14:11. Peter. Acts 10:26.
4. Heart not in the worship. Matt. 15:8.
5. Teaching the doctrines of men. Matt. 15:9.
6. Ignorant worship. Acts 17:23-30.

V. TRUE WORSHIP.

1. God is the only object of true worship. Matt. 4:10.
2. Attributes of true worship.
 - A. Sanctify self. Matt. 5:23,24.
 - B. Faith in God and Christ. Rom. 10:17.
 - C. In Spirit and in truth. Jno. 4:23,24.

VI. ELEMENTS OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP.

1. The Lord's Supper. 1 Cor. 11:23-29; Mk. 14:23-26.
May be vain.
2. Preaching the gospel. Acts 20:7. Pervert it is vain.
3. Singing. Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19. Instrumental music perverts, adds to.
4. Praying. Jno. 14:13,14. "*Thy will be done.*"
5. Giving. 1 Cor. 16:1,2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7.

VII. SOME THINGS WE SHOULD TAKE TO WORSHIP WITH US.

1. A consciousness that we are going to worship as it is written.
2. A consciousness that Jesus is there. Matt. 18:20.
3. A quiet, prayerful, reverential spirit. Heb. 2:20.
4. A love that seeketh not her own. 1 Cor. 13:5.

VIII. WE OBSERVE THEREFORE THAT:

1. Worship directed toward the wrong object is vain.
2. Worship directed toward the right object, but not in accordance with God's teaching is also sinful and false.
3. True worship is directed to God in accordance to His Will.

4. **May we seek to do in our worship exactly what God calls on us to do. Remember we are not to please ourselves but God.**

THE LORD'S SUPPER

- I. THE ORIGIN OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.
 1. Instituted by Christ. Matt. 26:26-29; Mk. 14:22-25; Lk. 22:19,20.
 - A. The night of his betrayal. 1 Cor. 11:23.
 - B. At the appropriate time. Last words and deeds are cherished.
 2. Elements used.
 - A. Bread — my body — Matt. 26:26.
 - B. Fruit of the vine — my blood — Matt. 26:27.
 - C. We are to give thanks for each element.
- II. WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER?
 1. It is not a physical feast. 1 Cor. 11:20-30.
 2. It is a spiritual communion with Christ. 1 Cor. 10:16.
- III. THE PURPOSE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.
 1. Proclaim the Lord's death till he comes. 1 Cor. 11:26.
 2. Each partaking proclaims Christ lived, died, and will come again.
- IV. WHEN MUST WE PARTAKE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER?
 1. The first day of the week. Acts 20:7.
 2. What about observing the Lord's Supper on Thursday night before Easter Sunday?
- V. WHO CAN PARTAKE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER?
 1. The table is in the kingdom. Lk. 22:29-30.
 2. Those in the kingdom are to partake of it.

VI. CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTABLE PARTAKING.

1. Examine oneself. 1 Cor. 11:28.
2. Discerning the Lord's body — Understandingly. 1 Cor. 11:29.
3. In memory. 1 Cor. 11:26.
4. Worthily. In a worthy manner. 1 Cor. 11:29.
WORTHILY is an adverb and modifies the verbs, eateth and drinketh, rather than the subject "who-so-ever." Hence it refers to the manner of partaking.

VII. CONSEQUENCE OF SINFUL PARTAKING.

1. Weak — sickly — many sleep. 1 Cor. 11:30.
Spiritual condition.
2. Guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.
1 Cor. 11:27.
3. Eateth and drinketh damnation to himself.
1 Cor. 11:29.

VIII. CONSEQUENCES OF NOT PARTAKING.

1. Have no life in you. Jno. 6:53-56.
2. One who refuses to observe the Lord's Supper regularly is refusing to do what Jesus asked us to do. "*This do in remembrance of me.*"

CONCLUSION:

The Lord's Supper presents the Christian with the beautiful opportunity of communing with the suffering of Christ, and of proclaiming his faith in the Son of God. If we fail to commune, we fail to preach our weekly sermon.

THE CHURCH AND ITS SONG SERVICE

I. CHRISTIANITY WAS BORN WITH A SONG UPON ITS LIPS.

1. Mary sang when she learned of God's favor. Lk. 1:26.
2. Angels praised God at the birth of Christ. Lk. 2:13,14.
3. Singing is peculiar to believers in Christ. In a heathen temple there is only lamenting and wailing.

II. THE KIND OF MUSIC PECULIAR TO CHRISTIANITY.

1. Not a licentious song of one who know not God.
2. Not the songs of the present evil world.
3. The church must sing spiritual songs. Eph. 5:19.
4. Songs that draw us closer to God.
5. The Psalms were used in the early church.
6. Songs that teach and admonish. Col. 3:16.
7. Our songs should express gospel truth.

III. HOW A CHRISTIAN SINGS.

1. With the sweetest melody of which his voice is capable.
2. With the spirit...his songs arise from a deeper source than the vocal chords; he makes melody in his heart. 1 Cor. 14:15.
 - A. Eph. 5:19. Speaking, admonishing and teaching.
 - B. Heb. 2:12. *"I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee."*
3. With the understanding.
 - A. Jno. 15:10. *"If ye keep my commandments*

ye shall abide in my love"...JESUS LOVER
OF MY SOUL.

- B. Jno. 15:14. "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you"...WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS.
 - C. Jno. 14:12. "...the works that I do shall he also do; and greater works than these shall he do"...STANDING ON THE PROMISES.
 - D. Rev. 22:17. "The Spirit and the Bride say, come. And let him that heareth say, come." THERE IS A FOUNTAIN FILLED WITH BLOOD.
- 4. Sing unto God, the object of our praise.
 - 5. Leader should select songs appropriate to occasion.

IV. LET EVERYTHING THAT HATH BREATH PRAISE THE LORD. Ps. 150:6.

- 1. We do not sing merely from a sense of duty.
- 2. Like a bird it is nature of a Christian to sing.
- 3. The word dwells in him — song is the overflow.
- 4. We have a Father whose presence is everywhere.
- 5. We have a Savior who died to redeem us.
- 6. We have been delivered. Col. 1:13.
- 7. Our afflictions work for us a reward. 2 Cor. 4:17.
- 8. We have a priceless treasure laid up. 2 Tim. 4:8.
- 9. Death has been conquered for us. 1 Cor. 15:55.
- 10. Our Lord is coming again to say to the Christian, "well done."
- 11. How can we keep from singing????

GIVING

I. EXAMPLES OF GIVING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

1. The Jerusalem church. Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37.
2. Church at Philippi sent aide again and again. Phil 4:16.
3. Galatian churches purposed before hand and so did the Corinthians. 1 Cor. 16:1,2.

II. WE ARE TAUGHT TO GIVE.

1. Faithful as stewards. Lk. 16:10-13; 1 Cor. 4:2; Rom. 14:12.
2. Individually. 1 Cor. 16:1,2; 2 Cor. 8:11,12.
3. As prospered. Above scriptures.
4. Equally, proportionately. Acts 11:29; 2 Cor. 8:11,12
5. Bountifully. 2 Cor. 9:5-8; 8:7.
6. Systematically, purposely. 2 Cor. 9:7.
7. Cheerfully. 2 Cor. 9:7; 8:12.

III. THE DANGER OF BEING COVETOUS.

1. Covetousness warned against. Lk. 12:15-21.
2. Elders are to withdraw from covetous. 1 Cor. 5:11-13.
3. A covetous man cannot inherit the kingdom. 1 Cor. 6:9-11.
4. Covetousness is idolatry. Col. 3:5,6.
5. Passages that apply to a covetous man: Matt. 6:19,20; 1 Cor. 6:9,10; 1 Tim. 6:17; Jas. 5:1-2.

IV. WHY SOME DO NOT GIVE.

1. Have not been taught.
2. Their religion is secondary — last on budget

and first to cut.

3. Have not given themselves. 2 Cor. 8:5.
 - A. Heathen philosophy — give what you can get back.
 - B. Jewish philosophy was to give tenth.
 - C. Christian philosophy is to give generously, willfully, purposefully.
4. There are three kinds of givers.
 - A. One is like flint rock, harder you hit more sparks.
 - B. One is like a sponge, harder you squeeze the more you get.
 - C. One is like honey comb, a little puncture and all the sweetness runs out.

V. OUR TREASURE IS NOT OUR OWN.

1. Our body is the temple of God.
1 Cor. 6:19,20.
2. We are stewards of what God has given us.
Lk. 12:42.
3. We must use our talent. Matt. 25:14-30.

VI. OUR GIVING SHOULD BE PURPOSEFULLY AND SYSTEMATIC.

1. It is somebody's business what I give. If I am accountable to the elders for drunkenness so am I for covetousness. 1 Cor. 5:11-13.
2. Some elders ask the members to indicate to them the amount they plan to give every year so they can plan their budget based upon the amount promised.

3. We buy an automobile and promise to give so much per month on it... Is it wrong to do that for the Lord? THINK.

VII. WHAT GIVING DOES FOR THE GIVER.

1. Makes him God-like.
2. Enlarges his vision, expands his soul, purifies his heart.
3. An investment in Heaven's bank will bear interest in eternity.

“LORD TEACH US TO PRAY”

INTRODUCTION:

1. There is an urgent need for men to learn the art of framing a public prayer.
2. Jesus taught his disciples to pray.
3. “*And when ye pray...*” Matt. 6:5-13; Lk. 11:1-4.

I. WE OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

1. We must not pray to be seen of men.
2. We must not use vain repetitions.
3. We must follow the pattern of the model prayer.

II. THE MODEL PRAYER.

1. “*Our Father which art in Heaven.*” Invocation
2. “*Hallowed be thy name.*” Holy — reverently
3. “*Thy kingdom come.*”
4. “*Thy will be done, in earth as it is in Heaven.*”
5. “*Give us this day, our daily bread.*”
6. “*Forgive us our debts.*” (Sins)
7. “*Lord lead us not into temptation.*” Jas. 1:13; 1 Cor. 10:13.
8. “*For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.*”
9. “*Amen*”

III. CONTENTS OF AN ACCEPTABLE PRAYER.

1. Address to God.
2. Praise.
3. Thanksgiving.

4. Confession.
5. Petitions.
6. In the name of Christ. 1 Tim. 2:5 — conclusion.

IV. THE MAN WHO LEADS THE PRAYER.

1. He should lift up his voice. Acts 2:14.
2. He must be a Christian. Jno. 15:7; 9:31.
3. He must be a spiritually-minded man.
4. He must believe in prayer. Jas. 5:16.
5. He must speak for the congregation.
6. He should recognize the difference between private and public prayer.
7. Private prayer is a time to talk to God intimately about a number of things the congregation needs not know, or be a part of.
8. Public prayer should be such that all in the congregation knows and understands and in which every one can join with the leader.

GOD'S CONDITION OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHURCH

- I. **THE CHURCH IS GOD'S FAMILY.** 1 Tim. 3:15.
 1. We are born into a family. James 1:18;
1 Pet. 1:22,23.
 2. How are we born again?
 - A. Believe — born of God — 1 Jno. 5:1,2;
James 2:24; Jno. 14:15.
 - B. Love — born of God — 1 Jno. 4:7.
 - C. Do right — born of God — 1 Jno. 2:29.
 - D. Overcome the world — born of God —
1 Jno. 5:4.
 3. Corinthians an example of being born of God.
 - A. Begotten with Gospel. 1 Cor. 4:15;
15:1-4.
 - B. They heard, believed and were baptized.
Acts 18:8.
 - C. They were called the church of God.
1 Cor. 1:2.
 - D. Galatians 3:26-29; Eph. 2:8-22;
1 Pet. 2:1,2.

- II. **THE CHURCH IS CHRIST'S SPIRITUAL BODY.**
Col. 1:18,24.
 1. Christians are members of His body.
Rom. 12:4,5.
 2. To be **IN CHRIST** and to be **IN THE
CHURCH** is same thing.
 - A. That which admits us into Christ, admits
us into church.

- (1). There is one church or body of Christ. Col. 1:18,24.
 - (2). There is one body. Eph. 4:4; Rom. 12:4,5; 1 Cor. 12.
 - (3). There is but one church by Christ's authority.
- B. Man must come into Christ (church) to be saved.**
- (1). Salvation is in none other. Acts 4:12.
 - (2). Redemption is in Christ. Eph. 1:7.
 - (3). Saved people are added to the church. Acts 2:47.
- C. To enter the church or body of Christ:**
- (1). We must hear and learn of Christ. Jno. 6:44,45.
 - (2). We believe UNTO righteousness. Rom. 10:10; Mk. 16:16.
 - (3). Repent UNTO life. Acts 11:18; Lk. 13:3.
 - (4). Confess UNTO Salvation. Rom. 10:10; Matt. 10:32,33.
 - (5). Baptized INTO Christ. Gal. 3:26,27; Rom. 6:3-5.
- D. Christians must abide in Christ.**
Jno. 15:1-4.

III. THE CHURCH IS THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST AND GOD.

- 1. Matt. 16:18,19; Eph. 5:5; Lk. 22:30; 1 Cor. 11:19-30.
- 2. Sinners are born into the kingdom.

- Jno. 3:1-7.
3. Sinners are converted into the kingdom.
Matt. 18:3.
 4. All who do God's will are in the kingdom.
Matt. 7:21.
 5. God's will is the seed of the kingdom.
Matt. 13:1-23; Lk. 8:11.

CONCLUSION:

1. The word is preached. Mk. 16:16; 1 Cor. 4:15.
2. Believe or be lost. Mk. 16:16; Jno. 3:36.
3. Repent or perish. Lk. 13:3; Acts 17:30,31.
4. Confess or be denied. Matt. 10:32,33.
5. Be baptized. Rom. 6:3-5; 2 Thess. 1:7-9.

EXCUSES
Luke 14:15-24

INTRODUCTION:

1. "A great supper" has been prepared for mankind in the gospel.
 2. The invitation has gone forth. Matt. 11:28,20; 2 Pet. 3:9; Rev. 22:17; Lk. 15:10.
 3. As strange as it may seem people refuse and seek to justify themselves by making excuses.
- I. "I HAVE BOUGHT A FIELD," SAYS A FARMER.
1. "The cares of this world — choke the word."
 2. The sin of misplaced emphasis. Matt. 16:26.
- II. "I HAVE BOUGHT FIVE YOKE OF OXEN," SAYS A CATTLE MAN.
1. Another case of misplaced emphasis.
 2. The Bible speaks of "the deceitfulness of riches." Matt. 19:24.
- III. "I HAVE MARRIED A WIFE," SAYS A PLEASURE SEEKER.
1. He seems to say, "Your invitation is at the wrong time."
 2. Men are lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. 2 Tim. 3:4.
- IV. "I AM WATCHING FOR THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT."
1. But the gift of the Holy Spirit is promised to

those who obey the Lord. Acts 2:38; 5:32; Gal. 4:6.

V. "IT WOULD TAKE ALL THE JOY OUT OF LIFE."

1. The gospel is the only thing that gives permanent joy.
2. The gospel is a feast, a symbol of joy. John 15:11; Gal. 5:22.
3. Sin is the most deadly joy-killer known to man. Rom. 6:23; Gal. 6:7,8.

VI. "I HAVE BEEN TOO MEAN."

1. But the goodness of God makes salvation possible for all men. John 6:37; Rom. 5:20; Titus 2:11.
2. The murderous Jews were accepted. Acts 2; 1 Cor. 6:9-11.
3. "The chief of sinners" was accepted. 1 Cor. 15:10.

VII. "I AM A GOOD MORAL MAN — GOOD ENOUGH AS I AM."

1. But you are not perfect. You have sinned. Rom. 3:23. You are no better than Cornelius — it was necessary for him to obey. Acts 10:1,2,48.
2. God's kingdom cannot be entered except by birth. John 3:1-5.

VIII. "LORD, SUFFER ME FIRST TO GO AND BURY MY FATHER."

1. Matt. 8:21,22.
2. But first things should come first. Matt. 6:33.
3. A good thing may become an enemy of the best.

IX. "I CAN BE SAVED OUT OF THE CHURCH."

1. If so, you can be saved out of God's house, family. 1 Tim. 3:15.
2. If so, you can be saved out of the body of Christ. Eph. 1:22,23.
3. If so, Christ died in vain. Acts 20:28.

X. "I AM WAITING UNTIL I GET BETTER."

1. Like a sick man: "Waiting until I get better before taking the medicine." Or the hungry man: "Waiting until hunger pain leaves me before eating."
2. The gospel of God's food, God's remedy. Men never recover until they take it. Rom. 1:16,17.

XI. "LET ME BID MY FRIENDS GOOD-BYE."

1. Luke 9:61,62.
2. Man should love God supremely and follow him regardless of friends or relatives. Josh. 24:14,15; Matt. 10:37.

XII. "I BELIEVE IN UNIVERSAL SALVATION."

1. But consider the following: Matt. 7:13,14; Mk. 10:17-21; Acts 2:37; Heb. 5:8,9.

XIII. "I AM AFRAID THAT I CAN'T HOLD OUT."

1. As a babe in God's family, you would have the love and assistance of the Father, of our Elder Brother, of the Lord's family, the church. 1 John 2:1; Heb. 4:15,16.
2. By taking food and exercise, you would gain strength. Matt. 4:4; John 4:34.

XIV. "THERE ARE HYPOCRITES IN THE CHURCH."

1. Grant it. Still you are lost.
2. The only way to keep out of company of the hypocrites is to do your duty.
3. God deals with the individual. Rom. 14:12.

XV. "A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH MISTREATED ME."

1. Why should this keep you from obeying the Lord?
2. What wrong has he done you? Jer. 2:5.
3. You do yourself the greatest possible injury when you fail to lay hold on eternal life.

XVI. "I DON'T KNOW WHICH CHURCH TO JOIN."

1. Join no church.
2. Obey the Lord, and he will add you to the church, his family. Acts 2:41,47.

XVII. "I AM TOO YOUNG."

1. But you should remember the Lord in the days of your youth. Eccl. 12:1,2.
2. The person who has been taught. Matt. 28:19.
3. The person who believes. Mark 16:16.
4. The person who has the desire. Rev. 22:17.
5. Should obey the Lord.

XVIII. "THERE IS TIME ENOUGH YET."

1. Acts 24:25.
2. But this is something that you do not know. Prov. 27:1.
3. "This night" your soul may be "required of thee." Luke 12:16-20.

CONCLUSION:

The excuse-maker shall not "taste" of the joy of forgiveness, of the joy of assurance, of the joy of hope eternal. Only those who make first things first shall know the gladness of the great supper of God, the feast for the soul. Lk. 14:24.

HOW TO GET ALONG WITH PEOPLE

Romans 12:9-19

INTRODUCTION:

1. We live with people — Subject of interest.
Lk. 2:52; Acts 2:47.
2. Christian concerned about duty to God, fellow-man, and himself.
3. Attend to his three-fold duty. Titus 2:11,12.
4. Want to deal with man's relation respecting his fellows.
Some always at peace — others always in a warfare —
change location — not remedy.
5. Some laws must be observed.
6. Cannot have peace at cost of principles. Lk. 6:26;
2 Tim. 3:12.

I. CONSIDERATION OF ONE'S SELF.

1. "...as much as lieth in you" vs. 18
 - A. Use all means in your power.
 - B. Sometimes this impossible — Paul's life shows.
2. Cultivate a pleasing disposition. Matt. 7:1-5.
 - A. Faultfinding, complaining, pessimism, repulsive.
3. Poloniu's advice to his son Laertes — illustrates law.
 - A. "This above all: to thine own self be true,
and it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man."

II. BE INTERESTED IN WELFARE OF OTHERS.

1. This basic principle in life of Christ. Acts 10:38.
2. People feel kindly toward those who show
interest in them. This is human nature.

3. This principle motivated Paul's teaching. 2 Cor. 9:12-15. Eliminates jealousy and envy.
4. Many ways in which we can show interest in people.
5. Selfishness very repulsive. Do not spite or provoke.
6. Some rejoice to see evil or misfortune come to some.

III. WATCH YOUR WORDS.

1. "Shut the ashpan." Story sign on Railroad bridge. Col. 4:6. (gossiping and tattling). 1 Tim. 5:13.
2. Some boast of courage because speak their mind.
 - A. This not necessary, proper or profitable.
 - B. Effect of this best seen when tried on one who does it.
3. Prov. 15:1. Angry parent and school superintendent.
 - A. This is an act in which few proficient.

IV. DO NOT BE OVERSENSITIVE.

1. Subconscious imagination of some overdeveloped.
 - A. Look for slights, by word or deed.
 - B. Always have feet in somebody's way.
2. Ought to be and act like grown-ups — be big enough not to notice trivial matters. 1 Cor. 13:11.

V. BE TOLERANT.

1. If some one disagrees with you does not mean he is your enemy. Many things are matters of opinion.

2. Listen to others. Weigh carefully their suggestions. Think things through for yourself.
3. Different people differently constituted.
 - A. Some serious minded and some view life from other side.
 - B. Some speak quickly and sharply — others cautiously and softly.
4. Observance of these laws help us get along with others.

VI. JESUS TREATED PEOPLE RIGHT.

1. We are to treat others like we would like to be treated. Matt. 7:12.

VII. JESUS WAS COMPASSIONATE.

1. Jesus wept. Jno. 11:35.
2. He lamented over Jerusalem.
3. Jesus attended banquets, wedding feasts, he ate with publicans and sinners.

VIII. JESUS LOVED PEOPLE. Jno. 15:13.

1. *“Greater love hath no man than this; that a man lay down his life for his friends.”*
2. Mark 10:21. *“Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him.”*

HOW DO YOU KNOW ITS LOVE? 1 Cor. 13:4-8

INTRODUCTION:

1. Young people are perplexed and concerned with this question.
2. In shows you have seen love sweep down like a devastating tempest, but have been unable to experience such in real life.
3. What's the matter? Why doesn't it happen to me?
4. Other young people put aside their doubts and get married, awake after the fevered thrills of courtship to say, "I'm afraid we made a mistake." **WHAT IS LOVE?**
Unselfish concern that freely accepts another in loyalty and seeks his good.
5. Being in love is not the same as "falling in love," which is simply physical attraction. "Lovesick" "Loss of appetite."
6. Movie stars who feature romantic love are unable to find it in real life and are frantically changing partners in an effort to experience the real thing.
7. *"And yet show I unto you a more excellent way."*

I. LOVE SUFFERETH LONG, AND IS KIND.

1. Love is the response of the soul to lovable qualities in soul of another.
2. The first test of true love: Can it endure unhappiness and yet be kind.
3. In time of suffering love is deepened but selfishness seeks a way out.
4. The stories end, "And they lived happily ever after." But there comes a time of poverty,

accident, loss of friends, persecution, etc...

II. LOVE VAUNTETH NOT ITSELF: IS NOT PUFFED UP.

1. Love does not exalt itself at the expense of another.
2. Love will shield the loved one rather than ridicule.
3. Love glories in exalting all the fine qualities of another.

III. LOVE DOTHT NOT BEHAVE ITSELF UNSEEMLY.

1. Love wants to protect instead of injure. Loose talk, immoral suggestion and demands are not expressions of love.
2. During courtship bad habits are often concealed — after marriage, “We’re tied up now it doesn’t matter.”
3. These things will kill love, for it thrives on goodness.

IV. LOVE SEEKETH NOT ITS OWN.

1. Selfishness demands its way at any price: love would rather give than receive.
2. A selfish man doles out his money to his wife and demands account of spending.
3. A selfish woman spends and nags because there is not more to spend.
4. In heathen countries, the man is cruel and domineering. Eph. 5:25,33.

V. LOVE IS NOT EASILY PROVOKED.

1. Person who puts on a scene because he can’t have his way has not grown up.
2. Mature love is patient and it takes a lot before fighting back.

3. Young person who marries some one who is stubborn and demanding is asking for a life time of trouble. 2 Cor. 6:14.
4. Be smart and rid yourself of such a person.

VI. LOVE TAKETH NO ACCOUNT OF EVIL.

1. Love discounts rumor and idle gossip.
2. Selfishness leads to suspicion and jealousy.
3. There must be mutual trust and confidence.
4. "Marriage is for keeps." Matt. 19:9.

VII. REJOICES NOT IN INIQUITY.

1. Love is sacred and marriage not based upon it will not last.
2. To marry for money, spite, social position, or to get away from home is a mistake.
3. The home that has beer instead of the Bible; worldliness instead of the church is headed for trouble.
4. Love is of God and will continue as long as he is loved and obeyed.

VIII. IS IT LOVE OR INFATUATION.

1. A girl was in love with 2 boys — one on a basketball team; other in an Acappella chorus. Tests proved that she did not love either. Case of double infatuation.
2. Infatuation based on: Love based on:

A. Sex appeal	A. Many traits
B. Comes suddenly	B. Love takes time
C. Feelings of insecurity	C. Feeling of security

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| D. In love with love | D. In love with another person |
| E. Self-gratification | E. Feeling of identity with another person |
| F. Loss of ambition and appetite | F. Work & Plan to please other person |
| G. Change quickly | G. Love lasts |
3. There is no such thing as a "One and Only."
4. "*Love never faileth*"

THE MILLENNIUM

Rev. 20:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

1. The word Millennium come from Mille — 1000 + annus — years.
2. Revelation 20 is the only place 1000 years is mentioned. Other doctrines mentioned many places. This is highly symbolic.
3. Any interpretation must harmonize with every other part of the Bible.

I. A STUDY OF THE SUBJECT.

1. Some errors that are made:
 - A. Too much assuming is done.
 - B. Already fulfilled prophecies are made to apply to the future. Isa. 2:2-4.
 - C. Modern prophets contradict themselves and the Bible.
2. Pre-Millennialism involves the return of the Jews to Palestine or Israel.
 - A. Why should they return? Josh. 21:43-45.
 - B. Abraham looked for something else Heb. 11:8-10.
 - C. Jerusalem and Israel cannot be made whole again. Jer. 19:10,11.
3. Christ is not coming a second time to establish a kingdom.
 - A. We will know Christ after the flesh no more. 2 Cor. 5:16.
 - B. His kingdom is not of this world. Jno. 18:36.

- C. 2 Pet. 3:10.
 - D. 2 Thess. 1:8,9.
 - E. 2 Cor. 5:10.
 - F. John 5:28,29.
 - G. These passages clearly show that the coming of Christ, resurrection of both the righteous and wicked, and the judgment will occur at the coming of Christ and there will be no thousand years on earth.
4. Christ is now ruling. Acts 2:36;
1 Cor. 15:24-26.
- A. The apostles are ruling now.
Matt. 19:27,28.
 - B. This is the age when men are regenerated; when they eat and drink in his kingdom.
Lk. 22:29,30.
 - C. Christians are priests now. 1 Pet. 2:5,9;
Daniel 7:12,14; 1 Cor. 15:27; Eph. 1:20-22;
Heb. 12:28.

II. THE TIME OF THE END.

1. There is not time for the millennium between the judgment and eternity. The second coming, the judgment, eternity begin at same time. Acts 1:11; 1 Thess. 4:17; 1 Cor. 15:24-26; Rev. 20:11-15; Jno. 5:28,29; Heb. 9:27; Matt. 25:31-46.
2. Man's duty now is to hear Christ and keep His laws. Matt. 7:21; 17:5; Heb. 1:1,2; Eccl.12:13,14; Rev. 22:14.

“COME YE OUT FROM AMONG THEM”
II Cor. 6:14-7:1

INTRODUCTION:

1. Warfare between God and Righteousness and Satan and Wickedness.
 - A. Man in between — God pulls up — Satan down.
Gen. 6:2,5-7.
 - B. Good man Abraham lied about Sarah in Egypt.
 - C. Children of Israel worshipped Golden Calf.
 - D. Israel wanted a king.
 - E. Married foreign wives. Violated law of Moses.
 2. In New Testament period, God inaugurated Christianity, but church soon became worldly.
 - A. Church conquered heathen world, but world also conquered the church.
 3. In Old Testament period, God sent prophets like Amos, Hosea, Elijah, Jeremiah, Isaiah.
 4. In New Testament period, God raised up apostles like Peter, James and John. All sent to warn people against drifting away from God.
 5. People did not propose to leave God — simply drifted away. Joshua 24:14-16.
- I. CHRISTIANS ARE SEPARATED FROM THE WORLD.
1. Paul's charge to Timothy. 2 Tim. 4:1-2.
 2. Central Text for this message. 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1.
“Come out from among them...”
- II. TREND TOWARD WORLDLINESS.
1. Trend of our generation is away from God

toward worldliness.

A. Immodest dress of our time. Bathing suits, evening gowns, ordinary dresses, shorts, plunging necklines, sheer materials.

2. Freedom of behavior between the sexes.

A. Four or five couples in a car, park and pet, modern dance. Soft stimulating music, lights low, close bodily contact — stimulates sex organs.

III. DANGERS OF THE DANCE.

1. Not all who dance are immoral, but even for the strongest it is an unnecessary and dangerous temptation.

A. Sex urges are powerful. Heb. 13:4.

2. There has been growth in immorality in our land.

A. In high schools, colleges and universities.

B. Two boys in a university who kept records of how many different girls they could engage in sexual acts. One passed half hundred mark before graduation. Hope these are exceptions — not rule.

IV. PARENTS WANT THEIR CHILDREN PURE AND POPULAR.

1. In this parents face difficult decisions. Want them to have all legitimate pleasure young has right to.

2. Preachers must make clear God's teaching on matters such as relationship between the

sexes. Warn against practices which endanger salvation.

3. John's statement. 1 Jno. 2:15-17.
4. The warning of Paul. Gal. 5:19-21.
 - A. The word "fornication" — immoral sex relations.
 - B. Uncleanness, misuse of sex functions with those of same sex.
 - C. Lasciviousness means wanton manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females, etc. (Thayers Greek-English Lexicon)
5. The modern dance is condemned at this point... not because always ends in physical act — but sinful because it arouses unrestrained desires — cannot be fulfilled under present relations and conditions.

V. PETTING WORSE THAN DANCING.

1. Promiscuous petting is worse than dance. Use to be done when couples alone, now open, unrestrained. Can't put out fire while pouring gasoline on blaze.
2. Lewd pictures — moving or still... display sex and arouse immoral desires.
3. Filthy conversation, smutty jokes, and suggestive stories lead to lasciviousness.
4. "Drunkenness, reveling and such like."
 - A. Statement by Brother Lipscomb:
"Reveling are excessive and boisterous festivities; carousels; taking part in or

enjoying something without restraint; acting conspicuously and wantonly; giving reins to one's inclinations, propensities, or passions. This includes not only the things enumerated, but all of that kind... It is sometimes contended by worldly-minded church members that revelry does not include dancing; if not 'such like' certainly does."

VI. REASONS FOR AVOIDING EVIL.

1. Preachers must not only condemn but show why.
2. Example of mother who never taught her daughter why petting was wrong. Explain some reasons and intricate mechanism of portions of body connected by nerve communications with sex organs.
3. Sex on basis of mere sense stimulation is cheap.
4. Love and mutual respect basis of close intimacy between sexes.
5. The church is separate and distinct from the world.
 - A. "The called out."
6. This message out of harmony with spirit of our time and may be resented. Gal. 4:16; Matt. 7:13-14.

CHRIST AND YOUTH

Luke 2:39-52

1. Spiritual illiteracy is world's number 1 problem.
2. Man does himself much injury because of his illiteracy. 1 Tim. 1:13; 2 Tim. 3:15.
3. The youth of our land have not escaped the terrible consequences of this ignorance.
4. Consider the innocence and purity of a little child. It thinks and devises no evil, it treasures no malice and entertains no selfish ambitions. It is made in image of God. In a few years we see hardened and rebellious lines written across that once innocent face. What has happened? Who has done this?
5. Youth is raw material out of which the conditions of tomorrow is forged.
6. The problems of mankind cannot be solved with sword and gun. They who take the sword shall perish with it. This has been demonstrated over and over again and again.
7. Need to teach our youth to live and serve instead of to fight and die.
8. We need to be loyal to Christ in training our young people. Lk. 2:52. How Jesus grew.
 - A. Can every young person not grow like Jesus if properly guided?
9. But instead of setting the right example and leading the way, we have often been stumbling blocks in the way of our youth. Where did young who have bad habits learn them? (Isn't it a sickening scene for a son to have to correct a drunken father or for a daughter to have to

rebuke a wayward mother? And yet such things often happen because all young people have not followed a bad example.)

10. Parents ought to read Eph. 6:4 and make a sincere effort to do what it says.
11. We secure the finest doctor to care for their physical bodies but never lift a little finger in behalf of their spirituality.
 - A. We send them to school to get an education — we ought to take them to church to secure their salvation.
 - B. We take them to a physician for the body; we ought to take them to a physician for the soul. Christ is that physician. Matt. 18:11.
12. Children of today will make the world of tomorrow, but their training of today will determine what kind of world tomorrow will bring. Suppose we spend the time in training them to develop and use the atomic bomb? It has been estimated that 50% of the income of the world is spent in preparing for war and destruction.
13. Man's brain is powerful and his fingers are skillful but he is also crafty and destructive.
14. The home, the church and school should work in harmony in training young people.
15. Deut. 6:7-9. (Children lost to church who were born to members of the church) Child hurt and bleeding profusely — mother and father did not dispute and let child die — did right thing and secured a doctor. Many parents dispute over spiritual welfare of child — child dies — (One parent sectarian — other Christian)

THE PROBLEM OF ABSENTEEISM

Heb. 10:25

INTRODUCTION:

1. The problem of absenteeism in business and industry is costly in terms of man hours, production, dollars and cents.
2. The problem of absenteeism in church is costly:
 - A. In terms of talent and energy.
 - B. In terms of dollars and cents.
 - C. In terms of souls.
3. We need to face and meet this problem "head-on."

I. IN WHAT WAY IS ABSENTEEISM A PROBLEM?

1. It defeats efforts to build attendance.
2. It discourages teacher preparedness and development.
3. It hinders the spread of the gospel.
4. It reflects on the value of the service.
5. It results in the spiritual death of the delinquent.

II. WHAT IS ABSENTEEISM?

1. "Chronic absence from work or duty."
Webster's Collegiate.
2. "Condition of being absent, especially when absence is deliberate or habitual." Webster's New World.
3. When is one guilty?
 - A. Those who "quit" the church.
 - B. Those who come only infrequently.

- C. "Oncers"... attend one service a week.
- D. Those who attend most of the time, but will miss for special occasions and personal desires.
- E. Those who miss through negligence and indifference.

III. HOW MANY SERVICES MUST ONE MISS TO BE GUILTY?

- 1. Some feel that Heb. 10:25 applies Sunday A.M. only.
- 2. Passage does not mention Lord's day or Lord's Supper.
- 3. Some New Testament church had daily meetings.
- 4. The passage no doubt includes the Lord's day.
- 5. Read comments on Heb. 10:15.
- 6. Must I attend every service? Bad question. Heb. 10:25; 13:17; 1 Cor. 15:58; Rev. 2:10.

IV. WHOSE IS THE PROBLEM OF ABSENTEEISM?

- 1. The delinquent — he is lost. Heb. 2:1-4.
- 2. The elders — they must give account. Heb. 13:17.
- 3. The preacher. 2 Tim. 4:1-4.
- 4. The church. Gal. 6:1.

V. WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

- 1. First we must find the cause.
- 2. Why would one, of his own choice, neglect to assemble where he could have fellowship of

Christians, the presence of Christ, and the opportunity to know more of God's love and His will for man?

- A. He is uninformed — needs to be taught.
- B. He is without love — has not learned the love of God.
- C. He is just not converted. Has placed his faith in baptism, or Lord's Supper.

SOME THINGS OLDER PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW
1 Thess. 4:13; 1 Cor. 10:1

INTRODUCTION:

1. God does not want us to be ignorant or without KNOWLEDGE.
2. The 52 million Americans over 50 years of age constitute a vast pool of WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE.
3. Many things change across the years — our need to know remains constant.
4. Older people are unique in many ways, therefore, we have some special needs.
5. Age is neither a disease nor a disaster.
6. The lines and wrinkles in our faces are lines and marks of service — they take on a distinguishing beauty.
7. Many things we need to know — Here are a few.

I. WE NEED TO KNOW WHO WE ARE.

1. 2 Cor. 13:5. *“Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”*
2. A church custodian who talked to himself.
3. It is possible to grow old without growing up. Eph. 3:16-19.

II. WE NEED TO BE SURE WE KNOW THE LORD.

1. It is possible to be deceived. Gal. 6:7.
2. There is a way that seems right. Prov. 14:12.
3. We need to be sure we walk in the light. 1 John 1:7.

III. WE NEED TO KNOW HOW TO GET ALONG WITH OTHER PEOPLE.

1. We cannot control everything and everybody.
Rom. 14:19.
2. We need to live positive, active, enthusiastic lives.
3. We do not have to be difficult and crabby.
Rom. 12:18.

IV. WE NEED KNOW THAT WE CAN GROW OLD GRACEFULLY.

1. We need not fear getting old — one alternative.
2. There are so many favors provided for us in the world.
3. Some think older people are senile, crabby and cantankerous.
4. Most older people are sweet, kind and gentle.

V. WE NEED TO KNOW SOME OF THE PITFALLS OF LIFE.

1. Some older people become victims of con-men and various schemes to cheat us out of our life savings.
2. We need to carry ourselves cautiously and carefully lest we fall and injure ourselves.
(Loose rugs, stairways, street curbs.)
3. It is important to eat well and exercise our bodies.
4. Some people will ignore you and persecute you.

VI. WE NEED TO KNOW THAT WORRY IS FUTILE.

1. "I know worry helps; all the things I ever worried about never happened."

2. The cure for worry. Matt. 6:33.

VII. WE NEED TO KNOW THAT OLDER PEOPLE CAN STILL BE PRODUCTIVE.

1. Psalm 92:12-14. *"The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing."*
2. If we do not use our faculties we will lose them.
3. Noah Webster was 70 when he produced his Dictionary.
4. Joshua was still strong and active at age 85. Joshua 14:10,11.
5. Caleb said, *"I wholly followed the Lord my God."* Josh. 14:8.

VIII. WE NEED TO KNOW THAT AGE AND EXPERIENCE QUALIFY US TO TEACH SOME LESSONS THE YOUNG PEOPLE CANNOT TEACH.

IX. WE NEED TO KNOW THAT THIS WORLD IS NOT OUR HOME.

1. 2 Cor. 4:16-5:1.
2. The outward man will perish.
3. The inward man is renewed day by day.

CONCLUSION:

1. Titus 2:1-8.
2. 2 Cor. 4:16-5:1.

OVERCOMING GRIEF AND DEPRESSION

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me"
Phil 4:13.

INTRODUCTION:

1. We live in an age of sadness. Depression — our most prevalent emotional disorder — has assumed such epidemic proportions that we have 35 million sufferers in this country.
 2. DEPRESSION is the feeling in the pit of one's stomach that is more akin to crying than laughing, to losing than winning, and to dying than living.
 3. All people are susceptible to this abysmal feeling in one way or another.
 4. One of the worst feelings one can experience is that "bottomed out" feeling known as depression. Oh! how it hurts!
 - A. "I don't care if I live or die. I had rather be dead."
 - B. Life can be so bad that dying is preferable to living.
 5. Depression involves body, mind and spirit.
- I. THE CAUSES OF DEPRESSION ARE MANY AND COMPLEX.
1. Those who begin life with idealistic hopes.
 2. They fantasize and dream of success: Happy marriage, large income, elegant homes, etc.
 3. So many things are taken for granted. Then the bubble bursts.

- A. Disillusionment, hopelessness and despair follow.
- B. Serious illness, break up a marriage, loss of job.
- C. Death of a loved one.
- 4. *"Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble."* Job. 14:1.
- 5. COMFORT is what we need for such times — not a pain-killer nor a narcotic — the strength to meet and overcome the crises of life.
- 6. We need a source of strength, aid, refreshment, encouragement, and consolation.

II. FAITH IN GOD AS A REFUGE AND A PRESENT HELP.

- 1. My personal faith and confrontation with God.
- 2. *"But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."* Phil. 4:19.
- 3. *"I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living."* Ps. 27:13.
- 4. *"Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to thee..."* Jas. 4:8.

III. HOPE IS AN ANCHOR OF THE SOUL.

- 1. We had to come to grips with the word of God concerning those who die IN the Lord. John 14:1-3. George's faith in this passage gave us strength.
- 2. *"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that*

they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.” Rev. 14:13.

3. George was a faithful Christian — now comforted — will never experience the sorrow and grief we have. We cried and talked...the therapeutic value.

IV. FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES CAN HELP.

1. Letters, visits, phone calls, and prayers mean so much.
2. Jesus comforted Mary and Martha at the tomb of Lazarus — He wept.
3. There is a need for a close friend to listen while you talk.

V. PRAYER HELPS TO OVERCOME SORROW AND DEPRESSION.

1. *“In my distress I cried unto the Lord and He heard me” Ps. 120:1.*
2. By the returns of prayer I am here today.

VI. GOD IS THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT.

1. *“Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.” Ps. 55:22.*
2. *“Casting all your care upon him: for He careth for you.” 1 Pet. 5:7.*
3. *“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.” Isa. 41:10.*

WHEN YOU PUT YOUR MIND TO IT!

2 Pet. 3:1

INTRODUCTION:

1. *"For as he thinketh in his heart so is he..."*
Prov. 23:7.
2. *"Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life."* Prov. 4:23.
3. Our mind has an awesome effect on our life and on the work of the church.
 - A. We are dealing with people's motivation, their outlook, attitude, perspective.
 - B. Some of us need a general house cleaning — "a renewing of our minds" — a re-alignment of our thinking.
 - C. Some have good works doomed to failure before it gets started.
4. Your attitude will determine your altitude.

I. THE STORY OF REBUILDING THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM.

1. Describe the situation.
 - A. The Jews left from the captivity were in great affliction and reproach.
 - B. The wall of Jerusalem was broken down and gates were burned.
 - C. Upon learning of the situation, Nehemiah, fasted and prayed and confessed his sins and those of Israel.
 - D. He came to Jerusalem, surveyed the situation and challenged the people to rise up and build.

II. THEY HAD OPPOSITION LED BY SANBALLAT AND TOBIAH.

1. Anger — mocked — ridiculed.
2. They employed scare tactics.
3. Too much rubbish underfoot. 4:10.
4. Friends expressed fears. 4:12.
5. False accusations brought against them. 6:6.
6. Sanballat tried to trick them into stopping the work. 6:1-3.
7. Some brethren like that — want to keep an undercurrent running.

III. THE WALLS WERE REBUILT.

1. Nehemiah said, "The hand of my god was good upon me."
2. "*So built we the wall.*" 4:6.
3. The people had a mind to work.
4. Note the key words:
 - A. The people — Nehemiah, Zerubbabel, nor Ezra could have done it alone. Elders, deacons and preachers do not build churches alone.
 - B. Mind. We must sometimes make circumstances. The walls could have been built long before.
 - C. Work. The stones and mortar didn't just come together.

IV. WE MUST HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST.

1. "*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.*" Phil. 2:5.
2. "*...Now if any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of His.*" Rom. 8:9.

3. When we put our mind to it we can have the spirit of Christ.
 - A. He humbled himself. Phil. 2:8; Matt. 11:28-30.
 - B. A sacrificial attitude. Phil. 2:5-9.
 - C. A servant attitude. vs. 7; Matt. 20:27,28.
 - D. An obedient attitude. Obedient unto death — death of the cross.

V. WE CAN HAVE THE PEACE OF GOD.

1. *"And the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."* Phil. 4:7.
2. Peace, a most sought after thing yet so elusive. Isa. 26:3.

VI. WE CAN DEVELOP THE RIGHT MENTAL QUALITIES AND HAVE RIGHT MENTAL PERSPECTIVE. Phil. 4:8.

1. True — honest — just — pure — lovely — good report.
2. THINK ON THESE THINGS.

VII. THE PROBLEM IS NOT WITH GOD.

1. *"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."* Eph. 3:20.

VIII. WHEN WE SET OUR MINDS TO IT WE CAN BE TRANSFORMED. Rom. 12:1,2.

IX. WHEN OUR MINDS ARE PROPERLY ALIGNED WE CAN HAVE UNITY.

1. 1 Cor. 1:10; Phil. 1:27.

X. WHEN WE SET OUR MINDS TO IT THE CHURCH CAN GO FORWARD.

1. Phil. 3:13-15.

CONCLUSION:

1. Phil. 1:27.
2. Phil. 2:13-15.
3. 2 Pet. 3:1,2.

TRUTH AND FREEDOM

Jno. 8:31-32

INTRODUCTION:

1. In Temple at Jerusalem, Jesus stated truth about self to Pharisees and others. vs. 12-23.
 - A. *"I am the light of the world."*
 - B. *"I am not of this world."*
 - C. *"I am from above; the father that sent me beareth witness of me."* 8:18.
2. Some did not believe; others did — Jesus said to believers: Jno. 8:31,32.

I. FREEDOM.

1. One of most highly cherished objectives ever set before human beings.
 - A. Children long for it. Prisoners hope.
 - B. Pilgrim fathers came to America to enjoy it. Patrick Henry said: "Give me ..."
 - C. Our nation has fought for it.
2. Two kinds of freedom — Soul and Body.
 - A. May possess one and not the other.
 - B. Compare Pilate and Paul. Acts 26:29.
 - C. Jesus came to bring freedom of soul.
Lk. 4:18; Gal. 5:1; Jno. 3:36.

II. TRUTH.

1. This is medium through which Jesus brings freedom of soul. Rom. 1:16.
2. Truth as a means of freedom demonstrated in material things.

- A. Disease: Small pox, yellow fever.
 - B. Electricity: Labor-saving devices.
 - C. War: People learn truth won't go to war.
3. Jesus promises freedom from bondage of sin. Jno. 8:32.
 4. Gospel truth brings this freedom. Lk. 4:18.
 - A. It reveals what sin is, its origin, how it works, its consequences, and how made free from it.
 - B. Bible reveals the conditions of pardon. Faith, Repent, Confess, Baptism. Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Matt. 10:32; 1 Pet. 3:21.
 - C. Those who do not accept truth remain in sin. Matt. 13:15.
 5. Truth brings freedom only when obeyed.
 - A. Must act on truth about disease.
 - B. Must put into practice what learn about electricity.
 6. Obedience to gospel truth brings freedom from sin. Rom. 6:17; 1 Pet. 1:22.
 7. Not enough merely to believe the truth.
 - A. The Jews. Jno. 8:31,32,44; 12:42,43.
 - B. The devils. Jas. 2:19.
 - C. Faith without obedience is dead. Jas. 2:14-26.

CHRISTIANITY IS A PERSONAL RELIGION

Psalm 23

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Psalmist knew that God loved him as an individual.
2. We sometimes look at the crowd and never see the individual.
3. Like looking at the forest and never seeing the trees.
4. God looks on us as individuals. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Matt. 10:30.
5. *"Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."* Heb. 4:13.
6. God knows and cares for each of us personally.
1 Pet. 5:7.

I. WE ARE PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR SINS.

1. Adam tried to blame his sin on Eve.
Gen. 3; Isa. 50:1,2.
2. We cannot inherit or pass on sin or righteousness. Ezek. 18:20. *"The soul that sinneth it shall die..."*
3. We all sin. Rom. 3:10,23; 1 Jno. 1:8.
4. Some try to blame God. James 1:13-15.

II. GOD HAS A PERSONAL INTEREST IN US.

1. He sent His son to die. Jno. 3:16; Rom. 5:8;
1 Jno. 4:10.
2. In each verse we could substitute OUR NAME or "US" or "WE" for "the world."

3. God definitely has a personal interest in us.

III. JESUS IS OUR PERSONAL SAVIOUR.

1. He came to seek and save the lost. Lk. 19:10.
2. He died for each of us. 1 Cor. 15:1-4.
3. It is important to note how much time Christ spent with INDIVIDUALS during His personal ministry:
 - A. The woman at the well. John 4.
 - B. Zachaeus. Luke 19.
 - C. The man called Legion. Luke 8:30.

CONCLUSION:

1. You have a personal responsibility to Jesus.
2. Have you made a personal commitment?
Rom. 12:1,2.
3. Personal Pronouns used by David:
 - A. I — 3 times
 - B. Me — 7 times
 - C. Mine — 1 time
 - D. My — 2 times.

**CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH
AGAINST LIBERALISM
Jude 3; 1 Pet. 3:15**

INTRODUCTION:

1. The church has always had its problems.
 - A. Dishonesty. Acts 5.
 - B. Persecution. Acts 8:1.
 - C. Gnosticism. 1 John.
 - D. False teachers. Acts 20:28-32.
 - E. Immorality. 1 Corinthians.
 - F. Division. 1 Cor. 1:10.
 - G. Prejudice.
2. There are many problems facing church today.
 - A. "Issues" (Anti-ism, etc.)
 - B. Charismatic — "tongue speaking"
 - C. Most dangerous is liberalism — like deadly cancer eating away on unsuspecting body.
3. We must confront this false doctrine that threatens to destroy the church. Jude 3; 1 Pet. 3:15.
4. Consider some facts about defending the faith against liberalism.

I. SOME CARDINAL POINTS OF LIBERALISM.

1. The beginning of liberalism.
 - A. Old liberalism began with Schleiermacher in latter part of 18th century.
 - B. Present day liberalism begins with denial of complete inspiration of scriptures.
 - C. "Accommodate" — describes liberalism. It attempts to accommodate Christianity to

human philosophy.

2. Liberalism affirms:
 - A. Christianity is just one of many religions, nothing unique about it.
 - B. Bible is not The Word of God. It contains errors, myths and fables.
 - C. Religious authority is established by religious experience. Each is his own authority.
 - D. They reject the Divinity of Christ.
 - E. Sin is only selfishness and self-centeredness. Man is in process of evolving and will outgrow these personality problems.
 - F. We cannot know all truth.
 - G. Bible doctrines are not important — agree on Jesus and be good.
 - H. Miracles did not happen.

II. CARDINAL POINTS OF THE FAITH FOR WHICH WE MUST CONTEND.

1. The Bible is inspired Word of God.
1 Cor. 2:13.
 - A. Prophecy fulfilled.
 - B. Bible written by 40 men over 1500 years.
2. Jesus was born of a virgin. Isa. 7:14;
Matt. 1:20.
3. Christianity is exclusive.
 - A. It stands alone as hope of world.
 - B. Jno. 8:24; Acts 11:26; 4:12; Heb. 5:8,9.
4. Man is a rebellious sinner.
 - A. Isa. 59:1,2; Rom. 3:10,23.

- B. Personality problem is because of sin.
- 5. Christianity is authoritative.
 - A. Jesus is only way. Jno. 14:6.
 - B. His works authoritatively confirmed his person and words. Jno. 14:10,11.
 - C. God's word today is the final authority. Jno. 12:48; Mk. 7:7-13; 2 Tim. 3:16,17; 2 Pet. 1:3.
- 6. Christianity pleased God in early days of church by:
 - A. Meeting upon first day of the week to pray, give, sing, teach, observe Lord's Supper.
 - B. There was only ONE church. Col. 1:18.
 - C. The plan of salvation included baptism. Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. We have only touched the hem of the garment.
- 2. We must:
 - A. Remain true to God's word.
 - B. Be doers of the word.
 - C. Speak as the oracles of God.
 - D. Believe we can know the truth.
 - E. Contend for the faith.

**ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN
NUMBER 1
Heb. 8:1-5**

INTRODUCTION:

1. There are problems in every avenue of human activity.
2. The solution demands a dependable standard.
3. Confusion reigns if there are no standards or if there are too many.
4. We have a standard for weights and measurements.
5. There is a lack of agreeable standards in religion.

I. THE STANDARD IN RELIGION.

1. A standard given in every dispensation.
 - A. It was voiced to ante-diluvians. Heb. 1:1.
 - B. God gave the law through Moses. Exo. 19:20.
 - C. The law to last until Christ came.
Gal. 3:16-19.
 - D. Christ came to fulfill law. Matt. 5:17.
 - E. Law not to be altered. Deut. 12:32.
 - F. Traditions and customs crept in. Mk. 7:
Matt. 15.
 - G. Transgressors were punished. Heb. 2:2,3.
 - H. This standard removed. Col. 2:14.
 - I. It is preserved for our learning.
Rom. 15:4.
 - J. The New Testament is our standard now.
Heb. 8:6-13; Jer. 31:31-34.

II. THE PATTERN.

1. A plan or model to be imitated or copied.

2. A pattern given for the ark. Gen. 6:22.
3. Moses to build tabernacle according to the pattern. Heb. 8:5.
4. Christ trained the apostles and gave them the pattern. Jno. 14:26.
5. Christ died and was raised from the dead. Rom. 4:25.
6. He gave the world-wide commission. Matt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15-16.
7. The apostles were faithful to the charge — preached to Jews (Acts 2) and Gentiles (Acts 10).
8. We are all one in Christ. Gal. 3:26-28.
9. Paul not ashamed of the gospel. Rom. 1:16.
10. Men and angels warned against perversion of the pattern for salvation. Gal. 1:6-9.

III. THERE WAS AN APOSTASY.

1. This predicted by ancient prophet. Deut. 7:25.
2. Christ said false prophets would come. Matt. 24:23-36.
3. The "man of sin" exposed. 2 Thess. 2:1-12.
4. Paul warned church leaders against two impending dangers. Acts 20:29-30.
5. The pure church was led into apostasy. Rev. 12:6.
6. The mother of harlots deceived the nations. Rev. 17:5.

IV. THE REFORMATION MOVEMENT.

1. After apostasy reformation is in order.

2. The spiritual corruption was repulsive to some.
3. The reformers began their noble efforts.
4. Some cannot be reformed. They don't desire it.
5. The aims of the reformers were misunderstood and hundreds of denominations were established.
6. They were wrong in name, work and worship. Disregarded the New Testament pattern.
7. They are governed by human creeds and not God's inspired pattern. 2 Tim. 3:16,17.
8. Jesus prayed that all His people be one. Jno. 17:20,21.

CONCLUSION:

1. A knowledge of church history will help greatly to understand this lesson and be persuaded to obey Christ.
2. The Bible is the source book for the knowledge of salvation.

ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN NUMBER 2

INTRODUCTION:

1. Paul predicted an apostasy. 1Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 4:1-4.
2. The true church as Christ established it apostatized. Rev. 12:6.
3. Denominations are the result of the efforts to reform the apostate church.

I. A RESTORATION NECESSARY.

1. The only way to restore the original church is to sow the seed. Lk. 8:1.
2. Seed produces after its kind. Gen. 1:11.
3. The laws of nature govern sowing and reaping. Gal. 6:7.
4. Same God who created material kingdom also created the spiritual kingdom.
5. Seed of the kingdom made Christians and Christians only. Lk. 8:11; Acts 11:26; 1 Pet. 4:16.
6. "*Law of the Spirit of life*" has not changed. Rom. 8:2.
7. The gospel sown in human hearts will produce Christians after New Testament pattern and restore that blood-bought institution, the church Jesus built.
8. The Commission is world-wide and everlasting. Matt. 28:20.
9. "*The new and living way*" Never grows old. Heb. 10:20.

II. THE DIVINE PATTERN IS SIMPLE.

1. Simplicity predicted for the way of salvation. Isa. 35:8.
2. Christ is honored when his authority is respected. Matt. 28:18.
3. Christ built His own Church. Matt. 16:18.
4. He loved the church and gave himself for it. Eph. 5:25; Rom. 16:16.
5. He paid the price with his own blood. Acts 20:28.
6. He will present it to God in its original purity. Eph. 5:26,27.
7. Bible preaching brought conviction to the hearts of sinners and they asked.
 - A. *"What shall we do?"* Acts 2:37.
 - B. *"What will thou have me to do?"* Acts 9:6.
 - C. *"Sirs what must I do to be saved?"* Acts 16:30.
8. Faith in Christ is necessary. Acts 9:31; Heb. 11:6.
9. Genuine repentance is necessary. Lk. 13:3; Acts 2:38.
10. Confession of faith in Christ is necessary. Acts 8:37; Matt. 16:16; 10:32,33.
11. Baptism is essential to salvation. Eph. 4:5; Gal. 3:27; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21; Acts 8:36.
 - A. Baptized into one body. 1 Cor. 12:13; Col. 1:18.
 - B. Baptized into Christ. Gal. 3:26,27.

- C. Saved in Christ. Acts 4:12; Eph. 1:7.
 - D. No condemnation in Christ. 2 Cor. 5:17.
12. This is the simple way we come to Christ.
Matt. 11:28-30.

CONCLUSION:

Christ wants you to be saved but you have to do it His way.

THE JOYS THAT AWAIT US IN OUR HEAVENLY HOME
Rev. 21:1-5; 22:1-5

INTRODUCTION:

1. *“Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.”* Gen. 5:24.
2. All God’s plans for us are aimed at eternal home of happiness beyond the skies.
3. The words of Jesus in John 14:1-3.
4. *“Eye hath not seen nor ear heard...”* 1 Cor. 2:9.
5. Death, Hades, Satan, the beast, false prophet, all are cast into the lake of fire. THUNDERS of God’s vengeance are hushed — Manifestations of His love for His redeemed remain to be told.

I. JOHN’S VISION. Rev. 21:1-5.

1. **NEW** heaven and **NEW** earth. 2 Pet. 3:10-13.
 - A. Here our souls hope is based upon such words.
 - B. If this present order is to continue we would despair. 1 Cor. 15:19.
 - C. We long to go home to God — to live in a “land that is fairer than day.”
(Hymn 402)
2. The **NEW** Jerusalem. vss. 2-4.
 - A. This is land of sorrow, suffering, pain, and dying.
 - B. Child gets hurt — mother wipes away the tears of pain.
 - C. We stand beside the bed of sick and dying — helpless.
 - D. God himself shall wipe away all tears.

3. "Behold I make all things NEW."
 - A. Look at yourself in mirror — then look at picture of yourself made a few years ago. 2 Cor. 4:16; 5:17.
 - B. The cessation of what used to be:

(1). No more death	(5). No Alien
(2). No mourning	(6). No night or crying
(3). No pain	(7). No temple
(4). No more curse	(8). No light of the sun
4. *"These words are faithful and true."*
 - A. Not just maybe.
 - B. As sure as there is a God in heaven.
 - C. Rev. 22:1, *"and he showed me a pure river..."*

II. THE HOME OF MY SOUL AND YOURS.

1. We shall see God as He is.
2. We shall see Christ who redeemed us.
3. We shall see our loved ones who have gone there.
4. We shall see all that is new.
 - A. The river — water of life.
 - B. The tree of life.
 - C. The throne of God.
 - D. His servants shall serve Him.
 - E. The sight — see His face.
 - F. The royalty — reign forever and ever.

III. THE HEAVENLY HOME IS EVERLASTING.

1. Rev. 22:1-5.

2. The end of the race. Heb. 12:1,2.
3. The end of the battle. 2 Tim. 4:7.
4. The end of the day.
5. We can say with Paul "I have fought a good fight..."
6. We shall spend our eternity at the throne of God.

CONCLUSION:

1. There are many passages which show that the whole drift and aim of gospel redemption is to bring God and man into the most sublime fellowship.
2. The perfection of this is realized in "the holy city."