

Sequatchie Valley Sermons

James S. Warren

**J. C. Choate Publications
Winona/Singapore/New Delhi/Capetown**

© Copyright 1995
James S. Warren

First Printing, 2,000 copies
Printed in U.S.A., 1995

Typesetting: Larry Headley

Order From:

James S. Warren
2101 Cumberland Avenue
South Pittsburg, TN 37380
Phone: (615) 837-6355

J. C. Choate Publications
Box 72
Winona, MS 38967 U.S.A.

Phone: (601) 283-1192
Fax: (601) 283-1191

Dedication

I would like to dedicate this book to my wife, Martha, my children, Sam, Susan and Jane and their families, and my grandchildren, Sherry, David, and Zachary. I would like to dedicate it also to the congregations where I have done regular work: Cool Springs near Pulaski, Whitwell, Jasper and Richard City in Tennessee and Edgefield, Alabama.

In Christian love,

James S. Warren
2101 Cumberland Avenue
South Pittsburg, TN 37380
Phone (615) 837-6355

STATEMENT FROM THE PUBLISHER

Bro. Charles White of Valdosta, GA called me one day to say that he had been in a meeting with the church in Richard City, TN where Bro. James S. Warren labors. He told me about Bro. Warren's unusual collection of sermons and that he had recommended that he contact me about printing them. Bro. Warren then called me and the book has progressed from that point.

I have never had the privilege of personally meeting Bro. James S. Warren. I have talked to him by phone a number of times and he and I have also corresponded while preparing this book. Through these contacts I have come to respect and appreciate him.

Since Bro. Warren has lived and preached in the Sequatchie Valley area for so many years, he wanted to give emphasis to that work by calling his book, **Sequatchie Valley Sermons**. This is most appropriate and will surely be appreciated by his brethren and many friends.

Although this is a book of sermon outlines, it is also a book of sermons since each theme or subject is thoroughly covered and supported by the scriptures. The author would encourage you who use these sermons to make them your own by re-working them to suit your own method of presentation.

We commend Bro. Warren's sermons to you and we pray that they will live on as they are used. We further pray that they will bring salvation to untold numbers and that all of this will be to the glory of God.

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

Introduction

I was pleased when asked by my friend, Jim Warren, to write an introduction to his book, **Sequatchie Valley Sermons**. I have often encouraged him to produce such a book.

My first knowledge of Jim was in 1963 when I followed him in the Lord's work with the Jasper Church of Christ, Jasper, Tennessee. Jim served as minister of the Jasper church for approximately seven years. I believe one of the best ways to get to know a man is to follow his work. The Jasper congregation spoke highly of him and he left his mark for good in this area.

My association with Jim continued as he moved to the Richard City congregation only eight miles from Jasper. In addition to his preaching, he served as a teacher of mathematics in South Pittsburg High School. I soon joined him on this faculty and we served together as teachers for several years before he became principal of a neighboring high school in Bridgeport, Alabama.

When the South Pittsburg High School principal became superintendent, the man called home to fill his shoes was Jim Warren. He was a very effective and efficient principal. I served under his leadership as a teacher for approximately ten years before I retired from teaching and became minister of the South Pittsburg congregation.

Jim is an ardent collector of sermon material. He has overflowing filing cabinets as well as a computer filled with good, sound and solid material that he has collected over his lifetime of preaching. He is well qualified to produce volumes of sermon outlines. I hope there will be other books to follow. He prepares full, complete outlines that do not leave one guessing as to what is meant. I believe preachers, church leaders or anyone wishing to know more of God's Word will profit by these outlines.

Jim Warren is the dean of gospel preachers in the Sequatchie Valley, having been born and reared in this area. He has served several congregations in the valley as the regular preacher. He has conducted gospel meetings up and down the valley. He has made

big footprints in the sands of time accomplishing much good for the Lord's Church.

His steadfastness and loyalty to the truth is unquestioned, as these outlines will attest. He has served one congregation, the Richard City Church of Christ, for twenty-eight years. Only a few preachers have surpassed this tenure with one congregation. He is also an elder in this good congregation.

I commend Jim Warren as a Christian gentleman and faithful gospel preacher to all who read this book.

**Bill Helm
Minister
South Pittsburg Church of Christ
South Pittsburg, TN**

SERMON OUTLINES

Table of Contents

Making Darkness Light	1
The Boomerang of Sin	5
The Christian Soldier	10
The Church Under Inspection	15
Don't Hang Yourself	20
Dust Off Your Bible	25
At The End Of Your Rope	31
Grasshoppers In The Land	37
Our Greatest Loss	42
The Hem Of His Garment	50
Have You Died Too Soon?	54
I Died Last Night	59
I Know Not Where They Have Laid Him	64
The Load Limit	69
Lost From Christ	74
Missing The Main Event	79
This Thing Was Not Done In A Corner	83
Our Lost Fathers	88
Our Lost Mothers	92
Pumpkins Of Temptation	97
When The Props Are Knocked Out	101
The Portable Jesus	106
A Return To The Altar	111
Spiritual Security	118
Two Births, Two Marriages, Two Deaths	123
Veils That Are On Our Hearts	128
The Church Voice Or Echo	133
Are We Waving Or Burning The Flag?	138
Waiting For A Comfortable Seat	142
Is Not The Whole Land Before Thee?	146
Too Tied Up Or Entangled	152
God's Barriers To Keep One Out Of Hell	159
The Conversion Of A Good Moral Man	166

SERMON OUTLINES

MAKING DARKNESS LIGHT

John 8:12

INTRODUCTION:

I. OUR SOLAR SYSTEM AND IT'S LIGHT.

- A. In our solar system the planets rotate around the sun.
 - 1. They get their light from the sun and also reflect this light.
 - 2. The earth receives light directly from the sun and reflectively from the moon.
- B. God made this universe and is the source of all light.
 - 1. Physical and Spiritual light.

II. CHRISTIANS ARE LIGHTS OF THE WORLD AND SHOULD REFLECT THIS LIGHT TO OUR NEIGHBORS AND TO ALL THE WORLD.

- A. We get our light from Christ and the word of God.
 - 1. John 8:12 "I am the light of the world..."
 - 2. Psalms 119:105 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my way."
- B. We are the light of the world and should reflect this light to the world.
 - 1. Matthew 5:14-16
- C. It is easy to see why God in his word says that Christ is light.
 - 1. Light is active. It moves at 186,000 miles per second and is the source of great energy.
 - 2. Light enables us to see.
 - 3. Light cheers and comforts. Hospital rooms are well lighted.
 - 4. Light is essential to all plant life and indirectly to all life.
 - 5. Light does it's work quietly.
 - 6. Light is beautiful. When it is broken down in a prism we can see all the colors of the rainbow.
 - 7. Light awakens.

III. IN THE BIBLE LIGHT IS SYNONYMOUS WITH GOD AND CHRIST. DARKNESS IS SYNONYMOUS WITH SATAN AND SIN.

- A. Christians are delivered from darkness into the Kingdom of His dear Son. Colossians 1:13.
- B. Christians were formerly darkness but now light in the Lord.

SERMON OUTLINES

They are to walk as children of light. Ephesians 5:8.

- C. Christians are a peculiar people and are to show forth the praises of him who hath called them out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9.
- D. Christians are not to be in the darkness of sin.

IV. SATAN HAS FOOLED MANY GOOD PEOPLE INTO THINKING THAT DARKNESS IS LIGHT.

- A. Illustration: Associated Press once gave a story where an experiment was carried out at a New York zoo. They asked for a \$250,000 grant to build a special house that would fool nocturnal animals into thinking that night was day and day was night. This was to be done by using fluorescent lighting which would make it possible for observers to watch these animals who would think it was night and time for activity. The animals were fooled into thinking day was night and night was day.

TRANSITION: It is possible for people today to get mixed up about darkness and light spiritually and think that darkness or sin has become light and normal.

DISCUSSION:

- I. THERE ARE THOSE THAT WOULD TWIST THE TEACHING OF GOD ON DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE INTO THINKING THAT DARKNESS WAS LIGHT.
 - A. Matthew 19:9 "And I say unto you, whosoever shall put away his wife except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery; and whoso marrieth her that is put away doeth also commit adultery."
 - B. Matthew 5:32 "But I say unto you, that whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery; and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery."
 - C. Some are teaching exceptions that God did not give and are leading people to think that darkness is light.
 - 1. Darkness is sin and will cause people to be lost.
 - 2. Usually those who make these exceptions are hunting reasons to engage in an unscriptural relationship or have family members that have violated God's laws.

SERMON OUTLINES

- II. MANY ARE NOT TEACHING WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THE CHURCH AND ARE MAKING PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT DARKNESS IS LIGHT.
- A. Christ built the church. Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:41,47.
 - 1. There is one body. Ephesians 4:4.
 - 2. That one body is the church. Ephesians 1:22,23; Colossians 1:18.
 - B. Denominations have arisen. These are churches built by man.
 - 1. These are those that would lead people to believe that one church is as good as another.
 - 2. Man made organizations can not be as good as the Lord's church.
 - C. Remember!
 - 1. Matthew 7:24-28 The foolish man's foundation was not as good as the wise man's.
 - 2. Matthew 15:13 "But he answered and said, Every plant which my Heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up."
 - D. Some would lead people to believe that salvation is not in the church.
 - 1. The saved are added to the church. Acts 2:41,47.
 - 2. Christ purchased the church with his blood. Acts 20:28.
 - a. If you have been washed in the blood the Lord has added you to the church.
 - 3. He is the Savior of the church. Ephesians 5:23.
 - E. Some in the church have darkness and light mixed up about attending the services.
 - 1. Hebrews 10:25 teaches that we are not to forsake the assembly.
 - 2. Many change darkness to light by convincing themselves that it is all right not to assemble.
- III. SOME HAVE MADE PEOPLE THINK THAT DARKNESS WAS LIGHT WITH FALSE TEACHINGS ABOUT SALVATION.
- A. Give the plan of salvation from The Great Commission. Mark 16:15, 16.
 - 1. See it in practice in Acts 2:36-38.
 - B. People are convinced that they do not have to obey the Gospel.

SERMON OUTLINES

1. Morality alone will not save. Note Cornelius in Acts 10, 11.
 2. Faith alone will not save. Note James 2:24: We are not saved by faith alone.
- C. Some are convinced that all one has to do to be saved is to give Christ their life and ask Him to come into their heart.
- D. We are going to be judged by God's Word. We cannot turn darkness into light.

IV. SOME HAVE MADE PEOPLE THINK THAT DARKNESS IS LIGHT BY LEADING THEM TO BELIEVE THAT WORLDLINESS IS ACCEPTABLE TO GOD.

- A. Many have been led into thinking that immodest apparel is acceptable to God.
1. Paul said in Timothy 2:9 ... "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and anxiety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array."
 2. They do this by causing them to believe.
 - a. We are living in a different age.
 - b. Others wear these clothes.
 - c. They are more comfortable.
 - d. People shouldn't have dirty minds.
 - f. You are just an old foggy.
- B. Drinking or social drinking is all right.
1. All forms of ungodliness are sin. Galatians 5:19.
- C. By convincing people that they have liberty and this gives us freedom.
1. It does not give us freedom to sin.

CONCLUSION:

I. SIN IS SIN.

1. Let us not use artificial lights and confuse ourselves into thinking we are doing what God says do when we are not.

SERMON OUTLINES

THE BOOMERANG OF SIN

Galatians 6:9

INTRODUCTION:

- I. THE BOOMERANG AS USED BY THE AUSTRALIAN PRIMITIVE MAN. (Read about boomerang as used by Comptons, Volume B).
 - A. What is it?
 1. A most remarkable weapon invented by primitive man.
 2. It was made of hardwood which was bent into a curve over a bed of hot coals.
 3. It was from two to four feet long, flat on one side and rounded on the other with a sharp edge.
 - B. What was it used for?
 1. An instrument for war, hunting, and amusement.
 2. It could be thrown where it would either hit the ground and return to the thrower or return after a circle in the air.
 3. People could retain remarkable skill after practice.
 4. I saw a picture of a native hitting a duck in flight by throwing around a tree to accomplish this.
 - C. I remember playing with one as a boy after receiving it as a toy. I could throw it and it would circle around and return to me.

TRANSITION: The boomerang reminds us of sin. It will return to the sinner according to our text. When one sins he will pay. As the boomerang returns every time to the skillful thrower so the effects of sin will return to the sinner.

DISCUSSION:

- I. ADAM AND EVE SINNED AND IT BOOMERANGED.
 - A. They disobeyed the simple law that God had given them.
 1. They brought sin into the world and as a result were put out of the garden and were separated from God which is spiritual death.
 2. They brought physical death into the world by their sin.
 - B. Their sin came back to them.
 1. Cain slew Abel.
 - C. Like a boomerang, sin will return to the offender every time.

SERMON OUTLINES

II. DAVID'S SIN WITH BATHSHEBA BOOMERANGED.

A. The sin occurs. 2 Samuel 11:1-12; 24; Ps. 51.

1. He saw her bathing and sent for her.
2. She was indiscreet as some women are today. Mention immodest dress. Women and girls should be careful in their dress today. They should dress modestly. 1 Timothy 2:9.
3. In this story she did not have to go or wasn't forced. She seemed to put up no opposition.
4. Adultery was committed.

B. David also committed the sin of deception and murder.

1. He could not get Uriah to co-operate in his planned deception.
2. He gave the order to have him killed.

C. David's sins boomeranged and came back to him.

1. His son Amnon raped his sister Tamar. 1 Samuel 13:14.
 - a. He was killed by his brother Absalom's servants at his command. 1 Samuel 13:29.
2. Absalom rebelled against David and he had to flee for his life. Later Absalom was killed.
3. He suffered having his son go into his tent with his wives in the sight of all the people.
4. Another son, Adonijah, tried to take the kingdom from Solomon.
5. Earlier his child by Bathsheba had died.

B. The sensual sin, committed in a moment of passion came back to him.

1. Our sins will come back to haunt us every time.

III. ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA FELL VICTIM TO THE BOOMERANG OF SIN. Acts 5:1-6.

A. Christians were selling their possessions and laying the money at the Apostles feet. (Barnabas did).

B. Ananias and Sapphira left the impression that they were doing the same.

1. They practiced the sin of deception which is practiced by many today.

C. The results of their sin came home. Both were stricken dead by the Holy Ghost.

SERMON OUTLINES

1. This should suggest the seriousness of their Christian responsibility.

IV. PAUL TEACHES THAT OUR SINS WILL BOOMERANG OR COME BACK UPON US. Galatians 6:5-8.

- A. He should have known. Paul persecuted the church and for many years he suffered persecutions.
- B. Remember his first appearance at the Stoning of Stephen. Acts 7.
 1. His sins certainly boomeranged or came back to him.

V. SOME THINGS THAT WE SHOULD CONSIDER ABOUT SIN.

- A. We will reap EXACTLY what we sow.
 1. The Word of God is seed according to Luke 8:11.
 2. The kind of seed sown determines the kind of harvest we get.
 - a. The Word of God sown in honest hearts produces Christians and the church of The Lord.
 - b. The word of men produces false religious institutions.
 3. The kind of family life we give our children is what we get from them. They either have Godly or sinful family lives or descendants.
 4. The kind of church life we give our children is the kind we see in them.
 5. The kind of behavior we engage in is the kind of life we will reap.
 - a. Sinful lives bring broken bodies.
 6. One can not sow to the flesh and it's sins and reap Eternal Life.
- B. We reap MORE than we sow.
 1. We do not plant one seed of corn and expect to get back just one seed. We expect many grains of corn.
 2. Jesus spoke of the harvest being thirty fold, sixty fold and one hundred fold.
 3. What we believe, teach and practice will return unto us in a larger measure than was sown.
- C. We will reap LONGER than time spent in sowing.
 1. A crime can be committed in a few minutes but must be paid for with many years in prison.
 2. The Israelites spied out the land of Canaan in forty days but wandered in the wilderness forty years because they failed to

SERMON OUTLINES

have faith in and trust God.

3. People have paid the rest of their lives for sowing immorality, drinking, etc.
 - a. Just ask someone who has a deformed child as a result of sinful lives.
 - b. Ask one who has been reared in a drunkards home who has been abused and mistreated.
- D. Notice the TIME when JOY OR PLEASURE comes from the sowing and reaping we have done.
 1. Does the pleasure come in sowing or in reaping.
 2. Many activities produce pleasure only in the act of sowing. So it is with sin.
 - a. Pre-marital sex—produces social diseases and unwanted children.
 - b. Sins of the flesh produce loss of self respect, feelings of guilt.
 - c. Drinking, dope, vandalism produces only pleasure for a season.
 3. In wholesome activities the pleasure is BOTH in the sowing and the reaping.
 - a. Visiting the sick and helping the bereaved are examples of this.

VI. THE BOOMERANG OF SIN WILL COME HOME TO OUR LAND.

- A. The new morality and permissiveness towards sex.
 1. Remember Sodom!
- B. The disrespect for marriage and divorce.
- C. The growth of the alcohol and dope problem.
- D. Rebellion and the disrespect for authority.
- E. Since we know that the boomerang of sin returns, what can we expect for our country?
 1. Hosea 8:7 "They that sow the wind and they shall reap the whirlwind."
- F. Sin will boomerang to our land, homes and personal lives.

CONCLUSION:

I. REMEMBER THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN!

- A. "The way of the transgressor is hard." Proverbs 13:5.

SERMON OUTLINES

B. "The soul that sinneth it shall surely die." Ez. 18:4.

C. "The wages of sin is death." Romans 6:23.

II. THERE IS ONE TIME OF SOWING AND TWO TIMES OF REAPING.

A. We sow and reap in this life.

B. The second time of reaping will be beyond this life in the hereafter.

1. Matthew 25:46; Rev. 20:15; 21:8 tells us what the disobedient will reap.

2. For the Christian there is a home with the Lord. John 14:1-6.

III. DON'T THROW THE BOOMERANG IF YOU DON'T WANT IT TO RETURN TO YOU.

A. Remember that it will hurt others when it returns.

1. These are those close to us, the ones that we love.

SERMON OUTLINES

THE CHRISTIAN SOLDIER

2 Timothy 2:3-5; Ephesians 6:10-17

INTRODUCTION:

- I. THE WORD SOLDIER MEANS MUCH TO YESTERDAY'S GENERATION.
 - A. Many were in the service during World War 2, the Korean conflict, Vietnam and the war with Iraq.
 1. It was common to see a person in uniform in our communities and our own homes.
 2. Just about every home was touched during World War 2.
 3. Many lost husbands, sons and near kin in these conflicts.
- II. THE CHURCH OF THE NEW TESTAMENT WAS IN MANY PLACES UNDER THE DOMINION OF ROME.
 - A. Rome was known for it's military power and conquered much of the known world.
 - B. It was common for them to see Roman garrisons and troops in their every day life.
 - C. Thus Paul compared the Christian life to a warfare.

TRANSITION: We would like to use this theme of the soldier and make some spiritual applications concerning the soldier and warfare.

DISCUSSION:

- I. IN THE CHRISTIAN ARMY THE LORD WANTS AND NEEDS SOLDIERS IN HIS CHURCH OR ARMY.
 - A. He is seeking recruits.
 1. In all of our branches of service we have recruiters.
 - a. They are located in large cities and come to every town seeking recruits.
 - b. They visit the guidance counselors in schools and seek to interest the students in joining the services.
 - B. The Lord's army is open to all. He invites.
 1. Matthew 11:28-29 "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."
 2. He has his recruiters in all Christians.

SERMON OUTLINES

- a. We are to solicit people into his service.
 - b. We have the command to go and do this. Mark 16:15-16.
- C. Every accountable person is eligible. There are no physical requirements.
1. Many have tried to enlist and were turned down because of a physical requirement.
 2. No one will be turned down because of race or sex.
- II. THE METHOD OF ENLISTMENT IN THE ARMY.
- A. Well do I remember the day I entered the army of the United States in 1945.
1. We were taken to a camp near Chattanooga, Tennessee.
 2. After we had our physical we were taken into a chapel and after a brief ceremony were asked to stand. We were then asked to take one step forward on a certain command and when we did we were soldiers of the United States.
- B. HOW DO WE ENLIST IN THE LORD'S ARMY?
1. We must believe in the Captain of the Lord's army, Jesus Christ. John 8:24; Mark 16:15; Hebrews 11:6.
 - a. He is the Captain of our salvation. Hebrews 2:10.
 - b. He is a perfect leader through his suffering.
 2. We must repent of our sins.
 - a. Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; Acts 7:30.
 - b. Repentance is a change of mind that leads to a change of life.
 3. We must confess Christ as the Son of God.
 - a. Rom. 10:9, 10.
 - b. Acts 8:37 "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."
 - c. Matthew 10:32, 33.
 4. We must be baptized into Christ for the remission of our sins.
 - a. Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:26, 27; Acts 22:16.
- C. When one is in the army he is no longer his own.
1. His allegiance is to his captain or leader.
 2. The whole life is committed to God. We are no longer our own.
- D. It is a voluntary service.
1. Many were drafted into the armed services.
 - a. You registered and when your time came you went.

SERMON OUTLINES

2. The Lord does not draft people into his service. One must be a volunteer.
 - a. Why is Tennessee known as the volunteer state?
 - 1) The number of volunteers during the Mexican War.
3. You serve God because you want to serve and because you feel a sense of duty.

III. WHAT KIND OF SOLDIERS DOES CHRIST WANT IN HIS ARMY?

- A. He wants good soldiers. 2 Timothy 2:3.
 1. There were many good soldiers in the conflicts of our country. They were obedient and faithful.
 2. A good soldier will be faithful.
 - a. Are you faithful in His church?
 - b. Do you attend services faithfully and work in his service?
 - c. Do you do your assigned responsibility in your congregation well?
- B. He wants soldiers that will endure hardships. 2 Timothy 2:3.
 1. Soldiers have been known to suffer many physical hardships in service.
 - a. Rain, cold, bad weather, unpleasant conditions.
- C. Being in a small garrison or church is not an excuse for not being faithful or suffering hardships.
- D. A good soldier will render whole hearted not half-hearted service.
 1. Paul said that a good soldier does not entangle himself with the affairs of this life that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.
 2. Many men gave up businesses when they entered the service during World War 2.
 - a. They knew they could not tend to their business and be a soldier.
 3. Many Christians are not good soldiers because they are **ENTANGLED** with the affairs of this life.
 - a. It is a half hearted service.
- E. Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 5:8 that we would be sober putting on the breastplate of faith.
 1. Being sober is to be a clear thinker.
 - a. The term comes from not being drunk but sober.

SERMON OUTLINES

2. Many soldiers were a disgrace to the country by getting drunk and lying in their own vomit in the streets of foreign countries.
3. Many Christians are not sober. They do not have their minds clear and on the war that we must fight.
 - a. A good Christian soldier will not drink, use drugs, or anything that will hinder him.

IV. THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT THE LORD DOES NOT EXPECT OF HIS ARMY.

- A. He does not want those who are slack and refuse to do their jobs.
 1. Those who know his will and do not prepare and do his will shall be beaten with many stripes.
 - a. Illustration of soldier at Camp Blanding who lagged behind and always messed up.
- B. He does not want deserters or AWOL troops.
 1. Peter speaks of those who entangle themselves and are overcome and says it would have been better for them to have never been in the service. 2 Peter 2:20, 21.
 2. How many deserters have we known in the Church?
 3. How many do we have at this service?
- C. He does not want cowards in his service.
 1. Gideon sent those afraid and scared back home.
 2. There are some who are spiritual cowards in the Army of God.
 - a. They are afraid to preach and stand for the truth because they might hurt someone feelings.
 - b. They are afraid to say NO to things that are wrong.

V. GOD WANTS HIS TROOPS WELL TRAINED.

- A. In the service the troops drill and train.
 1. All generals are products of training.
 2. All elders are the product of training.
 3. Training in Bible classes will produce:
 - a. Faithful Christians.
 - b. Elders, deacons, preachers, song leaders.
- B. Fathers are responsible for the spiritual training of their children. Ephesians 6.

VI. WHAT KIND OF ARMOR DOES HE PROVIDE FOR US?

- A. The armor of righteousness. 2 Corinthians 6:7.

SERMON OUTLINES

- B. The armor of light. Romans 13:12.
- C. The armor of God. Ephesians 6:11-13.
- D. God will furnish the armor and equipment.
 - 1. We must put it on.
 - 2. Soldiers furnished clothing and equipment but they had to use it.

VII. WHAT KIND OF WEAPONS DO HIS SOLDIERS USE?

- A. Not carnal weapons but spiritual. 2 Corinthians 10:4.
- B. The spiritual weapons are:
 - 1. The Bible the Sword of the Spirit. Ephesians 6:17.
 - 2. Mighty weapons. 2 Corinthians 10:4.
 - a. There are powerful weapons today but none compare to the power of God.

VIII. WHAT IS THE ENEMY THAT WE MUST FIGHT?

- A. Not flesh and blood. Ephesians 6:12.
- B. Spiritual wickedness. Ephesians 6:12.
- C. The world.
- D. Imaginations. 2 Corinthians 10:5.
- E. Paul had to buffet his own body unless he be a castaway.

CONCLUSION:

I. WHAT IS THE REWARD OF A GOOD SOLDIER?

- A. In a war today the soldier receives medals, recognition, rank.
- B. In The Lord's Army.
 - 1. Eternal life. 1 Tim. 6:12.
 - 2. A crown of righteousness.
 - 3. Heaven
- C. God expects his soldiers to fight:
 - 1. Sin
 - 2. The good fight of faith.
 - 3. Be faithful until death.

II. ARE YOU IN THE LORD'S ARMY?

- A. You can't get veterans benefits unless you have been in the service.
- B. To get benefits in Heaven you have to be in the Lord's army.

NOTE: I combined some of my thoughts and used some ideas from brother W.M. Roberts, a faithful Gospel preacher, who lived in Alabama.

SERMON OUTLINES

THE CHURCH UNDER INSPECTION

Revelation 1:4-12

INTRODUCTION:

I. LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA.

- A. John in a vision on Patmos is given the message of the book of Revelation.
- B. In chapter two we see the letters to the Seven Churches of Asia.
 - 1. The christians of that day were facing a period of persecutions and trials.
 - 2. From the vision in chapter one we see Christ in the midst of the Seven Golden Candlesticks.
 - 3. Christ was inspecting the churches to see their strengths and weaknesses and giving admonishment so that they might withstand the struggles they were facing.
 - 4. These churches were typical of all the churches of Asia and are typical of churches today.
- C. If Christ were to write a letter to this congregation today what would he find?
 - 1. A strong or weak church.

DISCUSSION:

I. WOULD HE FIND A CHURCH THAT KNOWS AND UNDERSTANDS THE WORD OF GOD?

- A. God's people can be destroyed because of a lack of knowledge. Hosea 4:6 "My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge."
- B. We are to study. 2 Timothy 2:15.
 - 1. The word is to dwell in us. Colossians 3:16.
- C. It is important that the word of God be instilled in our young people and members.
 - 1. Does the church know the scriptures as they once did?
 - 2. Do we know the scriptures on redemption, worship, the church, and christian living?
- D. A church may have a large membership but it will not be found strong spiritually unless it knows and practices God's word.

SERMON OUTLINES

- II. WOULD HE FIND THE CHURCH WITH A STRONG TEACHING PROGRAM?
- A. To be strong a good teaching program is a must.
 - B. It is possible that the church may have a good program in missions, benevolence, but may neglect it's own members and community in not having a strong teaching program.
 - C. Are the Bible classes well organized with good teachers?
 - 1. Is it a hit and miss method in selecting teachers and obtaining materials?
 - D. In the classes are these points emphasized?
 - 1. The story of Jesus Christ from birth to His Ascension.
 - 2. The plan of salvation.
 - 3. Worship as God would have it.
 - 4. An understanding of the importance of the Church that Jesus built.
 - E. Do parents take interest in their children at home and help and see that they have their Bible lessons?
 - 1. Do they show the same interest that they do in the school work of the children?
 - F. Do they send their children to classes with the right attitude?
 - 1. Do they know that they had better conduct themselves in the right manner?
 - 2. Sometimes teachers are hard to get because of the conduct of some children.
- III. WOULD HE FIND A REVERENT CHURCH?
- A. The building is not the church and is not holy, but shouldn't we have a better behavior than if we were at a ball game or picnic?
 - 1. Reverence and respect are things in which we need to have improvement.
 - B. Note how the Old Testament individuals were awe stricken and reverent in the presence of God.
 - 1. In many instances they fell to the ground as dead when they realized they were in the presence of God.
 - C. Our children need to be taught reverence. We come to worship

SERMON OUTLINES

God, not to be entertained, play or talk.

1. Young people will not become Christians or be interested until they become serious.

D. God's people practiced reverence and Godly fear.

IV. WOULD HE FIND A CHURCH WHOSE MEMBERS WERE PRESENT OR FAITHFUL IN ATTENDANCE?

A. Attendance is faithful in any successful organization.

1. A factory is hindered when too many of it's members are not at work.
2. Schools close because of low attendance in times of epidemics.
3. The Church is hindered when the members are absent.

B. The Lord knows this and admonished us in Hebrews 10:25 not to forsake the assembly.

C. When every member of the church is engaged in every service it will be stronger.

D. In inspecting the church at _____ will the Lord see this strength in the church?

1. Would he find your seat empty?
2. What excuse would you give him?

E. In attending church services we will encourage others to take notice and get interested.

1. Illustration of a man seeing full parking lots at a congregation. He decided to stop by and see what was attracting so many people when his place of worship was empty. He learned the truth and became a faithful christian.

F. By attending we convince people that the church means something to us.

1. An unbelieving mate.
2. Our children.
3. The community.

V. WOULD HE FIND A PEACEFUL CHURCH OR A DIVIDED CHURCH?

A. Peace and unity are pleasing to God. Psalms 133:1.

B. The Corinthian church had a problem of division and Paul wrote

SERMON OUTLINES

them to have no divisions among them and that they be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

1 Corinthians 1:10.

- C. Unity will give strength but division will weaken and destroy.
 - 1. Illustration of father having sons bring seven green switches. They could each break each one easily. He put them all in one bundle and none of the boys could break them. This suggested that together they would be strong.
- D. Division drives away members and weakens the church.
- E. The unity of the Jerusalem church was one reason for its outstanding success. Acts 2:42
- F. Do you contribute to the unity of the church?
 - 1. Do you criticize, pick flaws in members and leadership?
 - 2. Do you get angry when every suggestion you make is not heeded?
 - 3. Are you a knit picker?
- G. Peacemakers are blessed. Matthew 5:9.
 - 1. This attitude or characteristic has a great deal to do with the impression created about the church in the community.
- H. The person that has to be CARRIED AROUND ON A PLATTER keeps a gnawing sore in the spiritual heart of the congregation.

VI. WILL HE FIND A PURE CHURCH?

- A. Romans 12:1,2 teaches that we are to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service and that we are not to be conformed to this world but transformed by the renewing of our mind, that we may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God.
- B. The world looks for weakness or impurity.
 - 1. It cannot withstand the teaching of the scriptures doctrinally.
 - 2. It looks for hypocrisy and impure lives to criticize.
 - 3. Everyone sees sin and impure lives. They cannot be hid.
 - 4. Impurity creates weakness from within and leads to ineffective work and lost souls.

SERMON OUTLINES

VII. WILL HE FIND A CHURCH THAT WILL NOT TOLERATE FALSE DOCTRINE?

- A. The church at Thyatira tolerated the false teaching of Jezebel in verse 20. She was allowed to teach and seduce the Lord's servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed to idols.
1. There are those that will tolerate false doctrine today.
 2. There are various reasons for doing so.

VIII. WILL HE FIND CONGREGATIONS THAT HAVE LEFT THEIR FIRST LOVE?

- A. Ephesus had. Revelation 2:1.
1. They had patience and did not condone evil or false teachers. They labored and did not faint. Revelation 2:3-4.
 2. But they had left their first love.
 - a. Doing works with no feeling of love.
 3. They were urged to remember, repent, and do the first works or their candlestick would be removed. Revelation 2:5.
 - a. Wouldn't this mean that they would lose their identity as a Church of the Lord?
- B. Where is our zeal and enthusiasm for Christ in this congregation?
1. We must believe in the product we sell.
 2. The church sometimes is too draggy and motionless.

CONCLUSION:

- I. THE CHURCHES WERE UNDER INSPECTION THEN BY CHRIST TO CORRECT SHORTCOMINGS BEFORE THE GREAT TRIBULATION AND SUFFERINGS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE UNDER THE EMPEROR CULT OF RELIGION.
- A. We are under inspection or the eye of the Lord today.
- B. Unless they repented their candlestick would be removed.
- C. Unless we repent and do the works of Christ we will be lost in eternity.

SERMON OUTLINES

DON'T HANG YOURSELF

Esther 5:14; Romans 2:1-2

"Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest; for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things... But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them that commit such things."

INTRODUCTION:

- I. LESSONS FROM ESTHER LEADING UP TO THE LESSON: DON'T HANG YOURSELF!
 - A. Esther is made queen. Esther 2:17.
 - B. Haman is full of wrath because Mordecai bowed not nor did him reverence. Esther 3:5.
 1. He persuades the king to destroy the Jews. Esther 3:11.
 - C. The plan is made known to Esther.
 1. If the king does not hold out golden scepter she dies. Esther 4:11.
 2. Mordecai said, "Think not with thyself that thou shall escape more than all the Jews." Esther 4:13.
 3. Consider whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this? Esther 4:14.
 1. We too should think about our opportunities. We may have been born for such a time as this.
 4. Esther has the Jews in Sushan fast for her three days and declares, "If I perish I perish." Esther 4: 15-16.
 - D. Even though Haman had been blessed jealousy is his ruin.
 1. "Yet all this availeth me nothing... as long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the Kings gate." Esther 4:13.
 2. Hate and jealousy will always cause problems.
 - E. Zeresh persuades Haman to build gallows for Mordecai. Esther 5:14.
 1. The gallows are to be fifty feet high and tomorrow Haman was to speak to the king and persuade him to Hang Mordecai.
 2. The king honors Mordecai. Esther 6:10.
 - a. This saddens Haman because of what he has to do.

SERMON OUTLINES

3. His wife and wise men say, "If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him but shall surely fall before him."

a. The seed was Christ.

F. Haman was hanged on the gallows he had built for Mordecai, along with his ten sons. Esther 7:9-10.

TRANSITION: THERE ARE VARIOUS WAYS THAT WE MAY BE BUILDING GALLOWS THAT WILL HANG US.

DISCUSSION:

I. WE SOMETIMES HANG OURSELVES BY PASSING JUDGMENT ON OTHERS

Matthew 7:1-4 "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why holdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye; but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and behold a beam is in thine own eye?"

A. This is especially true concerning the rearing of Children.

1. Non parents will criticize children and parents and say, "If I have children they will not act that way or they will never do that."

2. These people should be careful lest they hang themselves.

B. We condemn people for the things they do in work or play and then turn around and make the identical error that they made.

1. This is done in such things as drinking, child abuse, spouse abuse, immorality.

2. But when we do such, it is the right thing to do because we are doing it.

3. We have a tendency to say that the Bible means what it says when someone else is doing wrong but when it comes home to us it is acceptable.

C. We need to treat other people like we would want to be treated. Matthew 7:12.

SERMON OUTLINES

D. It has been said that if you give a man long enough rope he will hang himself.

II. SOMETIME WE HANG OURSELVES IN MARRIAGE.

A. Some do not have the right to get married and when you marry someone in this condition you hang yourself.

1. One who has been married and is divorced for some other reason than fornication does not have the right to marry.

a. Matthew 19:9 "And I say unto you, whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery; and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."

2. Four people are involved and hang themselves spiritually.

B. When you date someone that does not have a right to marry, you are building your own gallows.

1. Some have awakened in such a relationship to see no way out.

C. When you marry a non Christian you may be building your own gallows.

1. Many have left Christ and are no longer faithful.

D. Christian widows are instructed to marry only in the Lord.
1 Corinthians 7:39.

E. When we go against the teachings of the scriptures in marriage we are building our own gallows.

III. SOME ARE BUILDING THEIR OWN GALLOWS IN REARING THEIR CHILDREN.

A. Fathers are instructed in Ephesians 6:4 "And, ye fathers provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

B. Some do not give this spiritual training.

1. They are not faithful in study and teaching or in example in living.

2. Parents who have children that are interested but do not set the right example in front of them.

a. They do not put first things first. Matthew 6:33

b. They do not show that the Church is the most important thing in life to them.

SERMON OUTLINES

- C. They do not teach their children to obey.
 - 1. Ephesians 6:1 "Children, obey your children in the Lord for this is right."
 - 2. If they do not obey their parents they will not obey God.
 - 3. Do not allow arrogance and disrespect from your children.
- D. Some parent are building gallows and will hang themselves concerning their children.
 - 1. Note: Haman was hanged along with his ten sons.
 - 2. Parents who do not follow God's instructions about rearing their children will influence them to be lost.

IV. SOME HANG THEMSELVES BY DESTROYING THEIR INFLUENCE.

- A. There are people qualified intellectually to be great servants in the Church but have hanged themselves by loose living.
- B. They cannot serve in leadership positions because they are not of good report.
 - 1. Cornelius was of good report. Acts 10:22.
 - 2. Elders are to be of good report. 1 Timothy 3:7 "More over he must have a good report of them which are without lest he fall into the reproach and the snare of the Devil."
- C. We are to be a good example. 1 Timothy 4;12.
- D. We are not to engage in worldliness Galatians chapter 5.
- E. When we do these things we are building our own gallows.
 - 1. Our soul can be lost. We will not inherit the Kingdom of Heaven. Galatians 5.
 - 2. Opportunity for service may be gone or limited.

V. WE MAY BE BUILDING OUR OWN GALLOWES CONCERNING THE SALVATION OF OUR SOULS.

- A. Refusing to obey the Gospel. 1 Peter 4:17-18.
- B. Procrastination or waiting. Felix in Acts 24 did by waiting for a convenient season.
- C. We may by making excuses about our obedience.
- D. We may by prejudice refuse to hear and seriously consider what God says.

SERMON OUTLINES

E. We may by continued indifference and lukewarmness.

1. Hebrews 6:1-6 says it may be impossible to be renewed to repentance.

CONCLUSION:

I. EACH AND EVERY DAY WE ARE BUILDING OUR OWN GALLOWS AND SLOWLY WE ARE TIGHTENING THE NOOSE ABOUT OUR NECKS.

A. When we do this it is us and not someone else.

II. CONSIDER THAT WE ARE ALSO BUILDING GALLOWS FOR OUR LOVED ONES. Esther 7:9-10.

SERMON OUTLINES

DUST OFF YOUR BIBLE

2 Kings 22:8; 2 Timothy 2:15

INTRODUCTION:

- I. IN THE REIGN OF JOSIAH THE BOOK OF THE LAW OF GOD WAS FOUND IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.
 - A. Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign.
 1. He did that which was right in the sight of the Lord and walked in the way of David his father.
 - a. He turned neither to the right hand or left.
 2. Money that had been gathered of the people to be used in repairing breaches of house of the Lord was found.
 3. While this work was going on Hilkiah the high priest said, "I have found the book of the law in house of the Lord."
 4. This book was taken to the king who rent his clothes and sought to know the will of the Lord. He sent to Huldah the prophetess.
 - a. The people of the place were to be destroyed.
 - b. The king because his heart was tender repented. Because of this he was to go to his grave in peace.
 5. Gathered all the people together and had it read to all the people and made a covenant to God and the people stood to the covenant.
 6. Idolatry was destroyed from the land.
 - II. THE BOOK OF THE LAW OF GOD NEEDS TO BE REDISCOVERED BY THE CHURCH AND CHRISTIANS TODAY.
 - A. There is a lack of Bible study and knowledge in the church today.
 1. Individuals need to study.
 2. The church needs to have good organized Bible classes.
 3. Parents and children need to study.
 - a. How many studied their Bible lesson today or even attended the services?
 - B. Remember Josiah's attitude toward the book of the law of God when it was discovered.

SERMON OUTLINES

1. How many Bibles do you have in your home?
 - a. There are countries where the Bible has to be smuggled. It is unlawful to have one and read it.

DISCUSSION:

- I. THE VALUE OF THE BIBLE TO US TODAY.
 - A. It is the inspired word of God given to us by God. It is God breathed and came from God. 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
 1. It is the only book that tells us where man comes from and where he is going and how to get there.
 2. Scriptures
 - a. Ephesians 6:11
 - b. James 2:21
 - B. It is a treasure for us.
 1. Illustration of mother telling son he could expect \$5000 from her at her death. He didn't get it but received her old worn out Bible. Years later when he was old and destitute he picked it up and found the \$5000.
 - a. He had it under his nose all the time.
 2. The Bible contains a treasure for us if we are only willing to open it's pages.
 - C. Let me suggest that you get your favorite study Bible.
 1. Study it.
 2. Bring it to services with you and let people know that you are Bible lovers and students of the Bible.
- II. THERE WAS A TIME WHEN PEOPLE HAD MORE RESPECT FOR THE BIBLE THAN THEY DO TODAY.
 - A. Respect seems to be a lost word to our vocabulary today.
 1. When the flag is being raised and when our National Anthem is sung we see disrespect.
 2. Some wear hats in the school room, in houses, or at the table when eating.
 - a. Illustration Bear Bryant in covered stadium. Mother told me not to wear a hat in the house.
 3. Not enter building while prayer is being said.

SERMON OUTLINES

4. At church services during worship, running in and out.
 - B. There was a time when you could take your Bible over to a neighbor's house and talk about Bible differences.
 1. If the Bible said it that was proof enough.
 2. There was respect for the Bible. It was God's word, and if God said it that was enough. That settled it.
 - C. Remember Moses was told to "Take off his shoes for he was on Holy ground (In the presence of God).
 - D. During the depression people had more respect for the Bible than today. They were more open and religious minded.
 1. Church houses were full.
 2. Will God have to bring us to our knees?
 - a. As individuals.
 - b. As a nation.
 - E. Why can't we have respect while we are prospering and doing well?
 - F. It bothers me that church members show disrespect.
 1. They know that the Bible says something but completely ignore it.
 - a. Attendance, teaching, giving.
- III. WE NEED TO DUST OFF OUR BIBLES AND USE (STUDY) THEM.
- A. If we were to say, "Lady! Dust off that Bible." Some good housekeeper might say, "I have you know that you will not find a speck of dust in my whole house."
 1. If this is the only reason there is no dust on your Bible, it is a sad and pitiful condition.
 2. The dust needs to be off because you have been using it.
 3. Illustration of motor boat motor now running well because it is being used. It didn't run well when only used sparingly.
 - B. Illustration of man writing and asking what kind of oil to use on Bible cover. The answer was the oil that is in your hands is the best you can buy.
 1. Scriptures.

SERMON OUTLINES

- a. Neh. 9:18
- b. Psa. 119:18
- c. Acts 17:11

C. You may read the Bible and think you are not getting anything from it only to later realize that you have.

IV. WE NEED TO DUST OFF OUR BIBLES AND CHECK ON PREACHERS OR RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS THAT WE HEAR.

A. The apostle John said, "Beloved believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

B. Some may ask, "Will not God save me if I am sincere and honest?"

1. Jesus said, "If the blind lead the blind they both shall fall into the ditch."

C. We need more like the Bereans in Acts 17:11.

D. There are many different teachings on what the Bible says. All cannot be right.

1. On how to be saved.

2. About the church.

3. About how to worship.

E. This causes infidelity and division concerning God's word.

1. Many are not Christians because of this division in the religious world.

F. What people teach about the Bible does not make that teaching right.

1. The Bible is right. It is God's word. Check the teachings you hear with the Bible.

G. It does matter.

1. Gal. 6:1-8, A curse is placed on one who would pervert or change the gospel that Paul preached.

2. Speculation and opinions on the Bible are dangerous.

a. Mark 7:6-13

b. Colossians 2:8.

SERMON OUTLINES

V. WE NEED TO DUST OFF OUR BIBLES AND DO.

- A. Dust on our Bibles is a dangerous thing but disregard for it is even worse.
 - 1. It is worse than not reading and knowing according to James 4:17.
- B. It is sad to see people know what the Bible says and not do it.
 - 1. This is true for alien sinners and church members alike.
- C. Sinners ignoring the Plan of Salvation.
 - 1. Illustration of English teacher diagraming Mark 16:16 and saying, "I know that it says that and diagrams that way, but I still don't believe that it is necessary."
- D. Christians ignoring what the Bible says.
 - 1. On attendance. Hebrews 10:25.
 - 2. On Godly living. Galatians 5:19-21.
 - 3. On marriage and divorce. Matthew 19:1-9.
 - 4. On attendance. Hebrews 10:25.
- E. Remember that a wrong life prevents many from hearing the Bible.

VI. HOW IS THE BIBLE USED TODAY?

- A. It is used as an ornament or something to decorate or look pretty.
 - 1. On living room table where it can be seen.
 - 2. When selling Bibles often asked for a white bound Bible.
- B. To make an impression.
 - 1. Illustration of father who wanted to make an impression on visiting minister. Asked son to go and get that dear old book which he loved so well. The boy went and got the Sears catalogue.
- C. Some use the Bible as a catch all.
 - 1. Read article on how the Bible is used month by month (Diary of the Bible).

VII. WE SHOULD DUST OFF OUR BIBLES AND USE THEM BECAUSE WE LOVE GOD.

SERMON OUTLINES

- A. God loves us. The Bible is a love letter from him to us.
 - 1. Illustration of a girl or boy receiving a love letter. They read it over and over again and it is precious to them.
 - 2. John 14:15 "If ye love me keep my commandments."

CONCLUSION:

- I. THERE ARE MORE BIBLES SOLD THAN ANY OTHER BOOK.
 - A. It is the best seller year after year. People buy them but do not use or read them for the right purpose.
 - 1. "What is a home without a Bible? List and ponder while I speak. Tis a home with Bibles in it, but not opened once a week."
- II. BY READING THE BIBLE OR HEARING IT ONE MAY HAVE HIS HEART PRICKED.
 - A. Scriptures
 - 1. Hebrews 4:12.
 - 2. Acts 2:36-38
- III. THE BIBLE WILL BE OPENED IN THE JUDGMENT.
 - A. Revelation 20:12.
 - B. Dust off your Bible and use it.

SERMON OUTLINES

AT THE END OF YOUR ROPE

2 Corinthians 11:23-33; 1 Kings 17-19

INTRODUCTION:

I. BEGIN BY GIVING STORY OF ELIJAH IN TEXT.

A. He made a prophesy that it would not rain but according to his word. 1 Kings 17:1.

1. Word of the Lord told him to flee and hide by the brook of Cherith.
 - a. He was to drink of he brook and ravens were to feed him. verse 4.
2. He was told to go to Zarephath where a widow had been commanded to sustain him. verse 9.
 - a. He asked her to give him a vessel to get a drink and a morsel of bread. verse 11.
 - b. The woman had only a hand full of meal and a little oil and was gathering it to give to her son thy they might eat and die. verse 12.
 - c. He instructed her to bring it to him and afterwards prepare for herself and her son. The Lord had said that the meal would not waste nor oil fail till the Lord sends rain. verse 14.
3. She and her house ate many days. verse 15.
4. These were trying times for Elijah and the woman. It seemed that they were at the end of their rope but God provided.

B. Elijah meets Ahab and tests Baal.

1. The Lord said, "Go show thyself to Ahab and I will send rain." 1 Kings 18:1.
2. Ahab and a servant hunt grass and water and for animals.
3. Elijah and the servant Obadiah meet and Elijah tells him to get Ahab and he would be there.
4. After they meet Elijah has Ahab gather the 450 false prophets of Baal and the prophets of groves.
5. Test given to see which was God and would accept offerings.
 - a. Two altars built and two bullocks offered.
 - b. Baal's priests tried all day as Elijah taunts them.

SERMON OUTLINES

- c. At end of day God's altar prepared and Elijah has water poured in it three times till filled.
 - d. Fire of Lord consumed sacrifice, wood, stone, dust and water.
 - e. People fell on faces and said, "The Lord he is God."
 6. Elijah prayed and it rained.
 - a. Give story of his prayer for rain.
 - b. There was a small cloud at first and there was a great rain.
 - C. Jezebel seeks Elijah's life and threatens, "So shall the God's do to me if I make not thy life as one of them by tomorrow about this time." 1 Kings 19:12.
 1. Elijah told to eat while under a Juniper tree. This was done twice.
 2. He thought that he was alone and desired to die.
 3. He was sent to the wilderness of Damascus to anoint a king.
 4. God told him that he had 7 thousand who had not bowed unto Baal.
 - D. Elijah thought it was all over, no hope or that he was at the end of his rope.
 1. But God provided a way.
- II. THE APOSTLE PAUL HAD MANY TRYING TIMES. SEE TEXT.
- A. What kept him from giving up during these trying times?
 1. At times he must have thought that the curtain of his life was closing or that he was at the end of his rope.
 - B. His faith in God kept him from giving up.
 1. Remember that he had seen Christ in the way.
 2. We can keep our faith by remembering how we were lost hopelessly in sin but God provided a way.

TRANSITION:

All of us become discouraged and think that it is useless to go on. We see nothing ahead but heartache and despair. This may come for different situations today because we do not normally face physical persecution.

SERMON OUTLINES

DISCUSSION:

- I. WE MAY HAVE FELT THAT WE WERE AT THE END OF THE ROPE WHEN THERE WERE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH OUR CHILDREN.
 - A. It may have been with our children while in school.
 1. They may have had trouble with arithmetic, English or some other subject. We might have been frustrated and did not know what to do.
 2. They may have been retained in school and we felt at the end of the world.
 - a. Remember! No one fails. They may have made progress but needed another year to catch up.
 - B. They may have been convicted of using drugs or alcohol and we didn't think we could bear it or go on.
 1. In these situations face the problem and take it to the Lord.
 2. Remember he sustained Elijah and he can sustain you.
 - C. The child may have been unruly and had no respect for authority.
 1. You may be reaping what you sowed.
 2. Give Paul's teaching in Ephesians 6.
 3. You may have thought more of a ball game than you did church services.
 - D. You may have seen them constantly refuse to obey the Gospel
 - E. You may have seen them leave the church for denominationalism.
 - F. You may have seen them disregard God's law of divorce and remarriage. Matthew 19:1-9.
 - G. You may have seen them engage in fornication or adultery.
 - H. Children should be a blessing but many have brought heartaches and parents have felt that they were at the end of the rope.
- II. WE MAY HAVE FELT LIKE WE WERE AT THE END OF OUR ROPE WHEN THERE WAS A SERIOUS ILLNESS OR A DEATH IN THE FAMILY.
 - A. It may have been when there was a terminal illness or when one was trying to care for someone over a period of time.

SERMON OUTLINES

1. A family can become desperate, worn out. In situations like this the family needs to help.
 2. This illness may be you, a loved one, or a very dear friend.
- B. Remember that the young are not exempt. They can become ill and die too.
1. Give an illustration of young person seriously ill.
- C. This could happen when a loved one suffers a serious accident and one is maimed for life.
1. Illustration of a twelfth grade senior and star football player who slipped while swimming and was paralyzed for life.
- D. This may happen when one is told that they have a terminal illness.
- III. WE MAY HAVE FELT THAT WE WERE AT THE END OF THE ROPE WHEN WE LOST A JOB OR FACED A FINANCIAL DISASTER.
- A. A family business may have failed or we lost in a stock or business deal.
- B. We may have worked at a certain job for a number of years.
1. The business may have closed or ceased to operate.
 2. Machinery may have replaced our position.
 3. This change may have come when you were nearing the end of your working career.
- C. A recession or hard times may have threatened something that was dear to you.
1. You may have a house nearly paid for and face loosing it.
 2. At the beginning of the great depression people were rich when they went to bed and poor when they awakened. Many committed suicide.
- IV. YOU MAY HAVE BEEN AT THE END OF THE ROPE WHEN YOUR MATE BECAME UNFAITHFUL.
- A. You may have lived with this for years but kept it on the inside to keep your family together.
1. Illustration of young woman who lost weight because of grieving.

SERMON OUTLINES

- B. Your mate may have left refusing to repent.
 - C. You may have let your mate go because of unfaithfulness.
 - D. Marriage is a serious business. God made it that way.
 - E. When people have these problems they feel at the end of the rope.
- V. WE MAY HAVE BEEN AT THE END OF OUR ROPE WITH TOO MUCH TO DO OR TOO MANY RESPONSIBILITIES.
- A. A conscientious person wants to do a good job. Sometimes they have too much on them.
 - 1. They are not able to fulfill their expectations and reach a position where they see no escape.
 - B. A father may be trying to do two or three jobs at one to keep his family in a certain lifestyle.
 - C. A mother doing house work with several small children feels tied down, worn out physically and mentally, no time for her own.
 - D. A student in school faces difficult subjects, writing a paper, an exam, or a great amount of work that seems impossible.
 - 1. The student may not have taken advantage of opportunities but still has a job to do.
 - E. Facing responsibilities that you are not accustomed to.
 - 1. Husband or wife accepting responsibilities the other did like paying bills. The money is there but they have never done it. They feel they do not know where to turn.
- VI. A CONGREGATION MAY FEEL AT THE END OF THE ROPE.
- A. Responsible leaders are old and there is no one to take their place in the congregation.
 - 1. What is the future? How will they continue?
 - B. Preacher that they love and respect leaves or resigns.
 - C. Faithful family or member becomes unfaithful or decides they are going somewhere else to worship.

CONCLUSION:

- I. GOD SEES THINGS DIFFERENT FROM US. WHEN WE THINK WE ARE AT THE END OF THE ROPE GOD MAY HAVE MORE ROPE FOR US.

SERMON OUTLINES

- A. In Elijah's case there was more for him to do.
 - B. Paul may have thought he was at the end of the rope but God gave him more rope.
 - 1. Note persecutions and hardships.
 - 2. God let him down over the wall to greater things.
 - C. When we let God direct our lives he will have all the rope we need.
 - 1. Note two lessons learned by Paul.
 - a. You can depend on God. He will not forsake you.
 - b. You can't out guess God. He might not be through with you yet.
- II. YOU ARE TRULY AT THE END OF YOUR ROPE IF:
- A. You are not a Christian
 - 1. There will be a hopeless feeling when you are called to meet your maker realizing that you are lost, separate from God, doomed to be separated from God forever.
 - B. You once knew Christ and His church and became unfaithful.
 - 1. Mention Prodigal son.
 - 2. Anyone in this condition should realize that they are at the end of their rope.
 - C. It doesn't have to be that way. You can change your life today.
 - D. REMEMBER! GOD CAN TIE ON ANOTHER LENGTH TO YOUR ROPE.

SERMON OUTLINES

GRASSHOPPERS IN THE LAND

Numbers 13:33

“And there we saw the giants the sons of Anak, which come of the giants; and we were IN OUR SIGHT AS GRASSHOPPERS and so we were in their sight.”

INTRODUCTION:

- I. GIVE A REVIEW OF ISRAEL HISTORY AND THE SENDING OF THE SPIES INTO THE LAND. Numbers 13.
 - A. The Israelites had left Egypt and were at the threshold of the promised land.
 - B. God gave Moses instructions about sending spies to view the land V. 2.
 1. One ruler was sent from every tribe.
 2. Among these were Caleb of the tribe of Judah V.6 and Oshea son of Nun, better known as Joshua of the tribe of Ephraim V. 16.
 - C. They were to see if the people were strong or weak, many or few.
 1. If the land was good or bad, cities tents or strong holds and if the land was fat or lean.
 2. They were to bring fruit from the land.
 - D. Their return and report.
 1. Surely the land floweth with milk and honey and this is the fruit of it.
 2. The people were strong, cities were walled, and we saw the children of Anak which come of the giants. We were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

TRANSITION: Many have the grasshopper complex today. When we face a new task or one that seems to have the odds stacked against success we have a defeatist outlook and are not willing to try.

DISCUSSION:

- I. PROBABLY EVERYONE AT SOME POINT IN LIFE HAS THE GRASSHOPPER COMPLEX.

SERMON OUTLINES

A. Every time you face something different you feel like a grasshopper.

1. Leaving mothers care and starting to school.
2. Changing from a lower grade in school to a higher grade.
3. Entering the armed forces.
4. Going to college.
5. Going out for cheer leader or team in school.

II. MOSES HIMSELF IS A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF ONE HAVING THIS COMPLEX.

A. When God told him to go to his people and to Pharaoh notice his attitude.

1. Exodus 4:1 "They will not believe me nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, the Lord hath not appeared unto thee."
2. "I am not eloquent, but I am slow of speech and a slow tongue."
3. After he performed the signs God gave him the people believed them. Exodus 4:31.
4. God had the power then and has the power now to help us if we will only have faith and trust him.

III. MANY HAVE A GRASSHOPPER COMPLEX ABOUT BECOMING A CHRISTIAN.

A. There's no problem with knowing how to become a Christian. People are acquainted with the Great Commission and cases of conversion in the New Testament.

1. Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15,16; Acts 2:38.

B. But they see too many Grasshoppers.

1. It would be going against the religion of their parents.
 - a. Mention Saul of Tarsus.
2. There are too many hypocrites in the church.
 - a. Matthew 23; Acts 8:12,13 Simon the Sorcer.
3. I don't think I could hold out or be faithful.
4. The church is not popular and people frown or look down on it.

SERMON OUTLINES

- a. The Jews at Rome hear Paul and say, "But we desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest; for we know that everywhere it is spoken against."
 - 5. It is too narrow minded.
 - a. Remember the strait gate and the broad way.
Matthew 7:13-14.
 - 6. I love the pleasures of sin too much to give them up.
 - C. Don't let this complex keep you from being born into the kingdom of God. John 3.
- IV. SOME HAVE THE GRASSHOPPER COMPLEX TOWARDS ANY PROPOSED WORK OF THE CHURCH.
- A. It may show up in a proposed building program where money is involved.
 - 1. We'll never be able to pay for that proposed church building or preacher's house say some.
 - 2. We can if we will give as God has prospered us.
1 Corinthians 16:1,2.
 - B. It may show up when a visitation program is proposed.
 - 1. We hear, "It won't work. We've tried it in the past. No one will participate in it."
 - C. It may show up when a new program for the young people is mentioned.
- V. THIS GRASSHOPPER COMPLEX CAN SHOW UP WHEN MEMBERS QUIT THE CHURCH.
- A. Some member mistreated me so I will quit.
 - 1. None spoke to me at services.
 - 2. No one visited me when I was sick.
 - 3. No one cares anything about me.
 - B. Remember Matthew 6:14,15. We must forgive in order to be forgiven.
 - C. I don't have any close friends at church so I don't want to go.
 - 1. Proverbs 18:14 "A man that hath friends must show himself friendly."

SERMON OUTLINES

VI. ELDERS MAY HAVE A GRASSHOPPER COMPLEX ABOUT BEGINNING PROGRAMS IN THE CHURCH.

A. They may say of flock, "They wont do that. It wont work here."

1. Elders are to lead or set example.
2. If it is a work for the Lord and according to his directions it will work.

B. Elders may say about some member.

1. Don't ask them. They can't do it.
 - a. Remember that God uses seemingly insignificant things to accomplish great things.
 - b. Remember Moses rod and the stone that David used to kill Goliath.

VII. PARENTS CAN HAVE THE GRASSHOPPER COMPLEX CONCERNING THEIR CHILDREN.

A. Some say, "I can't do anything with them."

1. This is said of small children. Have you tried? Have you spared the rod?
2. We can prevent problems by training children. Ephesians 6:4.
3. It may be true when they have been let go too long without correction.
4. We can bring them up in the nourishment and admonition of the Lord.

B. Discipline helps.

VIII. HUSBANDS AND WIVES MAY HAVE THE GRASSHOPPER COMPLEX WHEN FACING DIVORCE.

A. Remember that God hates divorce.

B. "It won do any good to talk" has been heard by many preachers and parents.

C. Being forgiving would help.

D. Attending services together would help.

CONCLUSION:

I. GRASSHOPPERS DIE IN THE FALL AND WINTER BECAUSE THEY HAVE MADE NO PREPARATION FOR THE WINTER SEASON.

SERMON OUTLINES

- A. Many live this life and make no preparation for the Judgment.
Hebrews 9:27.
 - B. Because of a lack of preparation many are going to be lost.
- II. HOW DOES ONE COPE WITH THIS COMPLEX?
- A. Develop a strong faith in God by studying his word and attending services.
 - B. See that when God makes a promise he never fails to keep it.
 - C. See that God's way has always been victorious.
- III. WE CAN BE VICTORIOUS EVEN THOUGH WE BE FEW.
- A. There were only two...Joshua and Caleb...who said we can. They encouraged the people to enter the land.
 - B. They did go into the land.
 - C. You can be victorious by obeying the Gospel and living a faithful life.

SERMON OUTLINES

OUR GREATEST LOSS

INTRODUCTION:

- I. WE ARE TOUCHED BY EVENTS IN THE MEDIA SHOWING GREAT LOSSES IN LIVES AND POSSESSIONS.
 - A. We live in a land of plenty and eat too much and have so many physical possessions that we do not appreciate them until they are taken from us.
 - B. A few years ago the great earthquake in Mexico upset many.
 1. We saw people that were under ruins for days and either lost their lives or suffered greatly.
 - C. We see children in deprived countries that are only skin and bones.
 - D. We saw pictures of people that were buried in mud slides in Central America.
- II. THESE THINGS ARE BAD AND TOUCH US BUT THERE IS SOMETHING THAT IS FAR WORSE.
 - A. The loss of people in the church.
 - B. I am nearly sixty five years old and have been in the church since childhood.
 1. It alarms me to look back and see young people that I have known who were once faithful members of the Lord's Church who are not members today.
 2. As a young boy I remember 20 or 30 teen agers attending services at the congregation where I was a member. Very few of them are faithful today.
 3. Today I see many fine, capable people who are not members but had grandparents and parents who were.
 4. Preachers are not immune. I could name Gospel preachers who have had a great influence in the church but their children and grandchildren are not. They may be good people but are far from the church.
 - C. THE CHURCHES GREATEST LOSS ISN'T MATERIAL POSSESSIONS BUT THE LOSS OF IT'S YOUNG PEOPLE.

SERMON OUTLINES

TRANSITION: In this lesson we would like to point out some ways we can prevent this great loss of our young people. We will study both the church and the home in preventing the great loss.

DISCUSSION:

- I. THE CHURCH CERTAINLY HAS A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY IN PREVENTING THE LOSS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.**
 - A. Elders are to oversee the flock. 1 Peter 5:2.**
 1. They are responsible for feeding it or teaching it God's word. Acts 20:28.
 2. They must remember that young people are not lost because of entertainment but because of a lack of teaching the Bible.
 - B. Generally the teaching program of the church is lacking.**
 1. There is a lack of organization and planning.
 2. It is hard sometimes to get teachers.
 - a. Older people sometimes feel they have served their time and want to be excused.
 - b. Sometimes Bible study teachers are selected like substitutes in our public schools. Elders just get any one they can to teach.
 - c. We want our children to have good teachers in public school and it is even more important in Bible school.
 3. In many instances there is no organized curriculum.
 - a. Teachers are told to just get any material that they want.
 - b. Children will not grow up to have a general understanding of all parts of the Bible.
 - c. A continuous course of study needs to be in progress that will give them a general understanding of the whole Bible.
 4. In many instances teachers are absent without informing anyone and this creates problems.
 - a. Teachers are picked up on a moments notice and are not prepared.
 - b. New converts are asked to teach who may not be prepared and need teaching themselves.
 - c. In public education substitute teachers sometimes are mere baby sitters. This is true also in the church.

SERMON OUTLINES

5. Parents must realize that their children cannot be taught when they are not there.
 - a. Parents must wake up and realize that they have a precious soul in their hands.
 - b. Some drag into Bible study late and do not get their children to class on time.
 - 1) Bible class programs have died because parents did not get their children in class on time.
 - 2) We get every where else on time. Why can't we get to Bible class on time?
 6. Remember children cannot be taught the basics in public school when they are not there. Neither can they be taught in Bible school when they are not present.
 7. Children do not get a good education sometimes because there are too many frills in education.
 - a. Sometimes children are not taught in Bible school because of too many programs and not enough study.
- C. The Elders need to see that there is good sound Bible preaching.
1. They are responsible for teaching and this can be done through sound preaching.
 2. Too much of the time is given to showmanship and entertainment rather than Bible preaching.
 3. A good preacher is one that preaches the word.
- II. THE HOME EVEN MORE THAN THE CHURCH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LOSS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.
- A. Public schools are blamed for many of the ills of society.
Children are in the home more than they are in the schools.
- B. Likewise they are in the home more than they are at church services.
1. In public school lack of learning is blamed on the teacher.
 2. Parents lay the blame for unfaithful young people on the elder ship and the church.
- C. We need to look at ourselves and stop laying the blame on others.

SERMON OUTLINES

III. MANY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE LOST BECAUSE OF DISRESPECT FOR AUTHORITY.

- A. God's delegated line of authority is: God, Christ, man, woman, child. 2 Corinthians 11:3.
1. Woman was created for the man. 2 Corinthians 11:9.
 2. He is the head. Eph. 6:1-5.
- B. Every home should look to God as the supreme authority.
1. God is creator and over all.
 2. Man is the head of the wife.
 - a. In the garden woman sinned and her desire was to be to her husband.
 - b. Many men have abdicated this authority.
 - c. Man is to love his wife as his own body. They are one flesh.
 3. Man is to work and support his wife and family. 1 Timothy 5:8.
 4. Man is responsible for the spiritual training of his children. Eph. 6:1.
 5. Woman is to be in subjection to her husband. Eph. 5:22.
 6. When this is not done it causes problems in the home and ruins children.
 7. Children are to obey parents. Eph. 6:1.
- C. When God's delegated authority is disregarded it will cause us to lose our young people.
1. They become so acclimated that they will not respect God or the Bible.
 2. They develop with the idea that GOD DOES NOT MEAN WHAT HE SAYS.

IV. MANY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE LOST BECAUSE BOTH PARENTS ARE NOT CHRISTIANS.

- A. Children have a better chance when both parents are Christians.
1. Some will be influenced by a good father or mother who have not obeyed the Gospel or who is not religiously inclined.
 2. Many have said when asked about becoming a christian, "My mother or father never did and they were good people."

SERMON OUTLINES

3. Many of our young people have never obeyed the Gospel or have been lukewarm because of parental influence.
 4. Many under a situation like this are seen when children but not when grown.
- V. MANY ARE LOST TO CHRIST BECAUSE FATHERS AND MOTHERS ARE NOT TEACHING THEM PROPERLY.
- A. Father's are not "bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Ephesians 6:3.
1. Never forget that the father is the head and responsible for the spiritual training.
 2. He is to set the spiritual tone for the family.
 3. How long fathers has it been since your family prayed, sang, read the bible, or discussed a religious subject together?
 4. Have your children ever heard you pray?
- B. Proverbs 22:6 tells us to train up our children in the way and they will not depart.
1. Someone has suggested that there is a difference in teaching and training.
- C. Older women are to teach the younger. Titus 2:3-4.
1. Mothers have a far reaching influence on their children.
- VI. SOME THINGS THAT PARENTS DO OR FAIL TO DO WILL CAUSE THEIR CHILDREN TO BE LOST.
- A. A failure to discipline them will cause them to be lost.
1. Ephesians 6:4 says we are to nurture and chasten them.
 2. Proverbs 13:24 says that sparing the rod shows hate for the son and that if we love our children we chasten them **BETIMES**.
 - a. Do you love your children?
 3. Discipline teaches the child the goodness and the severity of God.
- B. GIVING IN TO THE DEMANDS OF OUR CHILDREN WILL CAUSE THEM TO BE LOST.
1. Parents sometimes fear a child's anger if it doesn't get what it wants.

SERMON OUTLINES

2. When a child realizes this they manipulate the parents.
 3. This will cause a child to be unfaithful to Christ.
 - a. It will be expecting other Christians to carry them around on a pillow.
 - b. If the church says no it will cause a problem.
- C. GIVING THINGS AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR TIME WILL CAUSE A CHILD TO BE LOST.
1. This leads to permissiveness and lax discipline.
 2. This leads to resentment of parent because the parents priorities become clear.
 3. When one doesn't have time to be with the children they don't have time to ground them in the truth. This will cause them to be lost to Christ and the church.
- D. GIVING AS A RESPONSE TO MARITAL CONFLICT CAN CAUSE CHILDREN TO BE LOST.
1. One strict parent and one permissive parent can cause problems.
 2. The permissive parent undoes any discipline that the other imposes.
 3. In broken homes this is often the case.
- E. GIVING TO COMPENSATE FOR CHILDHOOD DEPRIVATION CAN CAUSE A CHILD TO BE LOST.
1. Some wont make children attend services because their parents made them attend.
 2. Some say, "I didn't get to do that when I was a child and I'm going to let them do it."
 3. This philosophy causes some children to be lost to the church.
- F. GIVING AS A RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY IMAGES CAN CAUSE A CHILD TO BE LOST.
- A. Keeping up with the Jones.
 - B. Allow to engage in questionable activities because everyone else does.
 - C. This and high living has killed the desire of young people to be in the church.

SERMON OUTLINES

G. A HIGH NEED FOR CONSTANT STIMULATION CAN CAUSE PEOPLE TO BE LOST TO THE CHURCH.

1. One wants action all the time. When external stimulation is not present you hear complaints.
2. You cannot win people to the church through their stomachs or social activities.
3. This person expects too much of brethren and the church.
 1. We hear the church is not doing anything if it is not constantly partying or engaging in some external activity or program.

H. NOT TEACHING PERSEVERANCE OR FINISHING THE JOB CAN CAUSE CHILDREN TO BE LOST TO THE CHURCH.

1. They will never finish anything that they begin.
2. They skip from one thing to another.
3. There is no depth, no dependability.
4. They have the same idea about serving God.
 - a. They will not be faithful in attendance.
 - b. They will not complete a task given.
5. They are like the foolish virgins, unprepared.

I. ALLOWING SELF INDULGENCE AND EXCESS AS BEHAVIOR PATTERNS CAN CAUSE CHILDREN TO BE LOST.

1. There is no self control, self discipline and no internal restraints. There are no brakes to hold them back from sin.
2. This allows procrastination and the avoiding of doing work.
3. It leads to selfishness toward others in the church and out.

J. A FAILURE TO TEACH SENSITIVITY CAN CAUSE OUR CHILDREN TO BE LOST.

1. There is no feeling, compassion, or respect for others.
2. Are we teaching them to have no feeling or care for others?

K. A FAILURE TO TEACH THEM TO ADAPT TO FAILURE CAN LEAD TO THEM BEING LOST.

1. We must encourage them to do the best they can and this is the best.

SERMON OUTLINES

2. Many times failures are stepping stones to success.
 3. Not everyone can be number one.
 4. Barnabas was willing to take second place to Paul.
- L. NOT TEACHING OUR CHILDREN THAT THEY MUST BE PERSONALLY ACCOUNTABLE CAN CAUSE THEM TO BE LOST.
1. Children must respect limits and know that they will suffer if they go beyond.
 2. They will be personally accountable to God.
 3. Teach them to engage in cooperative projects where they are accountable for their part.
 - a. This will cause them to work together in the church.
- M. DO NOT REFUSE TO BELIEVE THAT YOUR CHILD CAN DO WRONG.
1. When someone tells you your child has done wrong, don't take the attitude that your child wouldn't do that.
 - a. It usually has already done it.
 2. Siding with child against authority will cause it to do wrong because it got away with a wrong.

CONCLUSION:

- I. GOD HELP US THAT ARE IN THE CHURCH TO NOT LOSE THEM.
- II. GOD HELP US THAT ARE IN THE HOME TO NOT LOSE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.
- III. JUST THINK OF THE ABILITY THAT HAS BEEN LOST TO THE CHURCH.
 1. Think of the souls that have been lost because the job has not been done.

SERMON OUTLINES

THE HEM OF HIS GARMENT

Matthew 9:20-21; 14:36

INTRODUCTION:

- I. RELATE THE STORY OF THE WOMAN IN MATTHEW.
 - A. A certain ruler came and worshipped Jesus saying, "My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay your hand upon her and she shall live."
 1. Jesus arose and followed him, and so did his disciples.
 - B. On the way, in verse 20, a woman which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched THE HEM OF HIS GARMENT.
 1. "She said within herself IF I BUT TOUCH THE GARMENT I shall be whole."
 2. Jesus turned about and when he saw her, He said, "Daughter be of good comfort, THY FAITH HATH MADE THEE WHOLE," and the woman was made whole from that hour. v. 22.
 - C. Jesus came to the ruler's house, and said, "Give place; for the maid is not dead but sleepeth". And they laughed him to scorn.
 1. When the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose.
 2. Fame of this went abroad into all the land.
 - D. In these two stories we see the result of faith.
- II. RELATE HOW JESUS CAME INTO THE LAND OF GENNESARET AND MEN BROUGHT UNTO HIM ALL THAT WERE DISEASED.
 - A. Matthew 14:36 "And besought him that they might only touch THE HEM OF HIS GARMENT; AND AS MANY AS TOUCHED WERE MADE PERFECTLY WHOLE."

DISCUSSION:

- I. THOSE THAT TOUCHED THE HEM OF HIS GARMENT DID NOT OF THEIR OWN MERIT EARN BEING CURED. THE POWER WAS OF GOD.
 - A. LIKEWISE WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH.
 1. Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and

SERMON OUTLINES

that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works lest any man boast.”

B. This verse illustrates this teaching perfectly.

1. Notice AS MANY AS TOUCHED IT were made perfectly whole.
2. They were made whole by God’s goodness (Grace) and their faith.

C. Likewise Galatians 3:26-27 illustrates how we are saved by the Grace of God.

1. Notice: FOR AS MANY OF YOU as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
2. As many as touched the hem were healed.
3. As many as were baptized put on Christ.

II. TOUCHING THE HEM OF HIS GARMENT SUGGESTS DOING WHAT YOU CAN DO.

A. In obeying the Gospel...we but touch the hem of his garment.

1. The Corinthians were saved by the Gospel that Paul preached. 1 Corinthians 15:1-6.
 - a. He preached the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.
2. We are saved by obeying a form of that doctrine. Romans 6:17-18.
3. The form is dying to sin, being buried in baptism, and arising to walk in newness of life. Romans 6:3-4.

B. In obeying the Gospel we do this by:

1. Faith, repentance, confession and baptism.
2. Example of Pentecostians. Acts 2:36 ff.

C. If we do not obey the Gospel we will be lost. 1 Pet. 4:17-18; 2 Thess. 1:7-10.

D. We need to realize that we are sick in sin and come and touch the HEM OF HIS GARMENT.

1. BY DOING THIS YOUR FAITH WILL MAKE YOU WHOLE.

III. WE CANNOT TOUCH THE PHYSICAL BODY OF OUR LORD BUT WE CAN KEEP IN TOUCH WITH HIS CHURCH, WHICH IS HIS BODY.

SERMON OUTLINES

- A. Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22-23.
- B. When we obey the Gospel the Lord adds us to His church.
Acts 2:41,47.
- C. We can attend the services of the church. Heb. 10:25.
 - 1. Do we feel the need to touch his garment?
 - a. Picture a little child hanging on to mother's apron. SECURE.
- D. We can worship. Acts 2:42.
- E. We can study. 2 Tim. 2:15.
 - 1. We may feel that we cannot understand it, but we gain spiritual nourishment by studying it. 1 Peter 2:1-2.
- F. We can live Christian lives Titus 2:11-12 "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.. Teaching us, that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world."
 - 1. We may get discouraged and weak, but if we make the effort and try to keep our hearts right with God, God's grace will make us whole.
 - 2. 1 John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."
- G. We can use our talents and be involved in the activities of the church.
 - 1. We may get discouraged because we cannot do what others do (preach, lead singing, pray publicly, etc.) but if we do what we can do the Lord will bless us.
 - 2. Value of other things besides public participation: cleaning building, mowing grass, being friendly, etc.
 - 3. Mark 14:4-6 "Let her alone, she hath done what she could."

CONCLUSION:

- I. WE NEED TO BE MORE INTERESTED IN THE SPIRITUAL BODIES OF OURSELVES AND OUR FRIENDS.
 - A. Notice Mark 1:35 "When the men of that place had knowledge of him they SENT OUT INTO ALL THE COUNTRY ROUND ABOUT AND BROUGHT UNTO HIM ALL THAT WERE

SERMON OUTLINES

ABOUT AND BROUGHT UNTO HIM ALL THAT WERE DISEASED.”

B. When we learn about Jesus, we should bring our friends and those we love to his side, SO THAT THEY MAY BUT TOUCH THE HEM OF HIS GARMENT.

II. DO NOT NEGLECT YOUR SOUL'S NEEDS.

A. When we get physically ill, we go to the doctor.

B. But so many neglect the care of our spiritual bodies.

III. ARE WE CONCERNED?

SERMON OUTLINES

HAVE YOU DIED TOO SOON?

Luke 12:13-21

I. IT IS POSSIBLE FOR US TO DIE IN MANY WAYS BEFORE WE SHOULD.

A. Illustration from an article read in Readers Digest around 1970. The article was, "The Epitaph" by Helen Reed.

1. A housewife had driven past a small roadside cemetery for two years as she took her children to school.
 - a. She had driven by when it was covered with deep snow, when trees were blooming in the spring, in summer and in autumn.
2. Why on a chilling November day had she driven off the road and stopped the car in front of the cemetery?
 - a. Why did she stare at it and feel akin somehow to it's inhabitants?
 - b. Was it that she thought of herself also as dead or only half alive?
3. She reached for her purse, got out of her car and as she entered the rusty gate creaked loudly.
 - a. "You need some attention little gate and so do I", she proclaimed.
 - b. She looked at the old markers and one read, "John Barret, father 1900-1962". Underneath was a Bible quotation, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord." Psalms 37:23.
4. The words struck a bell. Her husband, Tom, was a good man. What had gone wrong the last few days?
 - a. They had begun to quarrel. He asked, "Where's my gray suit?" It was in the closet but had not been cleaned. "Can't you remember to take it to the cleaner? This shirt has a button off."
 - b. She answered, "The kitchen faucets are still leaking that you promised to fix two weeks ago."
 - c. This had been going on for a few days and she was enveloped by depression.

SERMON OUTLINES

5. She had to meet the children or be home to meet them ten to three. As she turned to leave a tombstone in the corner of the graveyard caught her attention. It was tilted, dark, half covered by mud.
 - a. It must be very old she thought.
 - b. A name was visible but that was all she could see. The name was Rachael.
 - c. She dropped to her knees and began digging with her hands. It read, "She died", and as she dug deeper, "Too soon."
 - 1). Was Rachel a baby, a little girl, a young wife?
 - d. She began to think. Who composed this epitaph? A broken hearted mother? A sorrowful father?
6. The tears that came brought relief from tension. Rachel had died too soon. Was she not actually dying a little while she was still alive?
7. After the tears were gone she resolved to go home and be appreciative of her good husband, children, and her home and to live.

TRANSITION: Use the idea "She Died Too Soon" and suggest some ways that people may be dying too soon today.

DISCUSSION:

- I. THE ONE WHO HAS LOST A MATE OR CHILD AND LIVES IN THE PAST HAS DIED TOO SOON.
 - A. Sometimes an older person who has been active secludes themselves. They will not go anywhere and have no friends. They just exist. One like this has died too soon.
 1. This person often finds refuge in self-pity or some ailment.
 2. They can become bitter and synical.
 3. They sometimes become unfaithful in attending worship services when they were formerly faithful. Hebrews 10:25.
 - B. Parents may lose a child and be guilty of neglecting their responsibilities to the rest of the family or the church.

SERMON OUTLINES

1. They can become mentally unbalanced and do harm to other children by over protecting.
 - a. You may use personal illustration of people you know to illustrate this point. I do this.
 - b. I have seen whole families become unbalanced because of this.
 - c. They live in the past and talk about diseases for years avoiding present responsibilities.
 2. Parents must remember David who was heart broken. He lost a child because of his sin with Bathsheba. 2 Samuel 12:23.
 - a. When the child was dead he turned to his responsibilities to the people and God.
- II. THE OLD COUPLE WHOSE CHILDREN HAVE MARRIED AND MOVED A DISTANCE FROM THEM MAY HAVE SECLUDED THEMSELVES AND ARE GUILTY OF DYING TOO SOON.
- A. Many parents only live for their children, and not for themselves.
 1. They may be guilty of making gods out of their children.
 2. They give everything they have to them and for them.
 3. Children do better when they have guidance but are allowed to solve their own problems.
 - B. Some work and slave for the children their whole lives.
 1. When children left home all was gone.
 - C. Some people thus have isolated themselves, had no friends. They merely existed.
 1. They must realize that they have a life of their own in Christ and the church..
 2. At this time in life people can be more active and do more for Christ than they have been able to do in previous years.
 - D. In the Lord's church there is no age gap.
 1. Some of our best friends have been older couples.
 2. We may be old in years but we can be young in heart.
 - E. Some have at one time been faithful in the church but in later years became inactive. They have died too soon.

SERMON OUTLINES

- III. SOMETIMES A FATHER OR MOTHER MAY BE DEAD TO THE HOME EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE LIVING THERE.
- A. Give responsibilities of husband and wife in the home.
Ephesians 5-6.
1. The mate that is responsible for the home not being what it ought to be has died too soon.
- B. It may be a father who was once a loving father and provided for his home.
1. He may have a drinking problem and lost all control.
 2. He may have lost his job and not be able to provide for his family.
 3. He may have lost all respect of his children.
 - a. His children may live in fear and be unhappy.
 4. They do not have a daddy even though he lives at home.
- C. It may be a mother who keeps unpleasantness in home.
1. Something may have happened. She may harden her heart toward those that she loved.
 2. She may have died as a wife and mother.
 3. She may be negative and not a good keeper of the home.
 - a. The children are victims.
 4. She has died too soon.
- IV. THE ONES WHO HAS BEEN FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS BUT HAVE LOST INTEREST IN THE WORK OF THE CHURCH HAVE DIED TOO SOON.
- A. They were once full of zeal and feeling for the work of the church but now seem to not care and there is no interest.
1. Their conscience is seared as with a hot iron. 2 Timothy 4:2
"Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron."
- B. They once were part of the church in that they visited socially, talked about the work and spiritual things. They no longer do this but have secluded themselves. They have died too soon.
- C. They may have once done works of benevolence and many good

SERMON OUTLINES

works, but no longer engage in these activities. They have died too soon.

- D. They may have once been good attenders but no longer go. They have died too soon.
- E. They may have been conscientious students in Bible study. They have stopped. They have died too soon.
- F. They may have been a faithful Bible teacher in Bible classes but have developed the idea, "I have done my part." Let someone else do it. They have died too soon.

V. THE ONE WHOSE HEART IS PRICKED BY THE WORD AND BELIEVES, BUT DOES NOTHING ABOUT IT. HE HAS DIED TOO SOON.

A. The Gospel is God's power unto salvation today. Romans 1:16.

- 1. There are those who have heard and know the truth. At one time their hearts were pricked and they were interested in obeying the Gospel. They are now no longer interested. They have died too soon.

B. Felix said, "When I have a convenient season I will call for thee."

- 1. As Paul reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come Felix trembled. Acts 24:25.
- 2. We have no record of him ever obeying. He died too soon.

C. Agrippa said, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." Acts 26:28.

- 1. Paul had preached to him. His heart was touched but he did nothing.
- 2. He died too soon.

CONCLUSION:

I. GIVE THE STORY OF THE RICH FOOL. Luke 12:13-21.

A. This night thy soul shall be required of thee.

- 1. He died too soon.

B. Are you going to die unprepared? This will be too soon.

- 1. Have you reached the point where God's word will not touch your heart? If you have you have died too soon.

SERMON OUTLINES

I DIED LAST NIGHT

Luke 12:16-21

INTRODUCTION:

I. GIVE THE PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL.

A. This night thy soul shall be required of thee. Luke 12:20.

1. The rich man trusted in possessions and was asked question, "Then whose shall those things be, which thou has provided?"

B. We all need to be conscious that death can come at any time.

1. We want to be ready when it does come.
2. We can be ready by following God's word.

II. WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

A. A wealthy man made it a practice to call his lawyer in yearly and state, "I died last night. What happens now?"

1. He had a will and wanted to be sure how it would be carried out if he had died during the night.
2. If there were any changes that he would like to make he would be able to make those changes while he was alive and had the opportunity.
 - a. After death it would be too late.

B. The last dated will would be the lawful will and the one that determined how his possessions would be distributed.

III. THE NEW TESTAMENT IS THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.

A. It is his last will and testament and in it we find his benefits for mankind.

1. In this Testament he has bequest certain promises upon certain conditions.

B. We would like to imagine that our time has come to measure our lives by these conditions in His word.

TRANSITION: Imagine that last night you died and are now measuring your life by the New Testament and ask yourself the question, "What happens now?"

SERMON OUTLINES

DISCUSSION:

- I. I WAS A GOSPEL PREACHER. I PREACHED A POSITIVE GOSPEL THAT MADE PEOPLE FEEL GOOD AND NEGLECTED CONTROVERSIAL TEACHINGS.
 - A. Really people could not tell any difference in my preaching and denominational preachers.
 - B. I didn't preach much on the plan of salvation, the church, or Christian living because there were people among the audience that would be hurt.
 1. Jesus commanded His followers to preach the Gospel. Mark 16:16.
 2. Christ promised to build His church and did. Acts 2. He added the saved to the church. Acts 2:41,47.
 3. The New Testament tells us how to live as Christians. Titus 2:11,12.
 - C. What happens now?
 1. By inspiration, Paul told Timothy to "Preach the Word... reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering..."
 2. I will be lost and many people will be lost that heard my preaching.
 - D. Let us preach the truth now while we have time and opportunity.
 1. Paul said, "Am I your enemy because I tell you the truth?" Galatians 4:16
 2. It would be too late if we died last night.
- II. I WAS A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH AND REGULAR IN ATTENDANCE BUT ENGAGED IN THINGS THAT WOULD BE CLASSIFIED AS WORKS OF THE FLESH.
 - A. I drank socially. In fact when I died last night I was under the influence of alcohol. I thought it was all right. Everyone did and the preacher never preached against it.
 1. Everyone drinks beer and I often drank with friends.
 2. At the big game I would get loaded every once in a while.
 - B. What happens now?
 1. Those that engage in such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of Heaven according to Paul in Galatians 5:19-21.

SERMON OUTLINES

2. In 1 John 2:15-17 we are not to love the world or things of the world.
- III. I HAVE BEEN MARRIED TWO OR THREE TIMES. NO IT WAS NOT BECAUSE OF UNFAITHFULNESS ON THE PART OF MY MATE. IT WAS FOR SOME OTHER REASON.
- A. Some reasons that are usually given.
 1. We just couldn't get along and I decided that I didn't love (him or her) any more.
 2. He wouldn't work and make me a living.
 3. She wasted my money and the house was filthy.
 - B. I had heard the preacher preach Matthew 19:9 but another preacher told me that God did not mean what he said.
 - C. I knew that according to Galatians 5:19 that fornication and adultery were works of the flesh.
 - D. I knew these scriptures but did it anyway. What happens now?
- IV. I WAS A GOOD HUSBAND. I HAD A GOOD WIFE AND SOME FINE CHILDREN. I WAS A GOOD PROVIDER BUT NEVER FOUND TIME FOR CHRIST AND THE CHURCH.
- A. I believed in Christ and the Church but never was baptized.
 - B. What happens now?
 1. There is a story in the Bible that you should remember in Acts 10,11.
 - a. Cornelius was a good man but to be saved he had to obey the Gospel.
 - b. 1 Peter 4:17,18; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.
 2. Jesus is the way, truth, and light. There is no way but by him. John 14:6.
 3. You would be lost.
 - C. The same is true of a good woman who's husband and children are faithful.
 1. You may have remained home, rested, cooked a meal, cleaned house.
 2. You may have been mad at your husband or children and refused to go.

SERMON OUTLINES

3. The fact remains that you were not prepared and will be lost.

V. I HAD A GOOD CHRISTIAN FATHER AND MOTHER. THEY TOOK ME TO SERVICES, TAUGHT ME ABOUT THE CHURCH AND MY RESPONSIBILITY TO OBEY THE GOSPEL. I THOUGHT I HAD PLENTY OF TIME AND NEVER OBEYED THE GOSPEL.

A. I died last night. What happens now?

1. Jesus said that if we did not believe and be baptized we would be damned. Mark 16:15,16.

2. If we don't obey the Gospel we will be lost. 1 Peter 4:17-19; 2 Thess. 1:7-9.

3. You would be lost according to his word.

B. I AM A TEEN AGGER AND HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED BUT AM GOING THROUGH THE WILD TEENS.

1. I go along with my peers in drinking, sex, etc.. but plan to settle down some day and be a faithful Christian.

2. Galatians 5:19-21 applies to you too.

VI. I WAS A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH BUT NEVER READ IN THE BIBLE ABOUT SUNDAY NIGHT AND WEDNESDAY NIGHT BEING REQUIRED. IN FACT I WASN'T TOO DILIGENT ABOUT SUNDAY ATTENDANCE. I WAS ABLE TO DO ANYTHING ELSE I WANTED TO DO.

A. I died last night. What happens now?

1. Hebrews 10:25

2. James 4:17

3. Jesus said, If you love me you will keep my commandments.

B. You will be lost.

VII. I WAS A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH. I ATTENDED EVERY SERVICE AND STUDIED MY LESSONS. I NEVER HARMED ANYONE BUT NEITHER HELPED ANYONE. I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO VISIT THE SICK, OR THOSE IN THE CHURCH WHO WERE SLIPPING. I BELIEVED IN KEEPING TO MYSELF AND LETTING EVERYONE ELSE ALONE. I DON'T BELIEVE I EVER INVITED ANYONE TO COME TO SERVICES.

A. I died last night. What happens now?

SERMON OUTLINES

B. Read Matthew 25:36-41.

VIII. I WAS AN ELDER OF THE CHURCH BUT EVEN THOUGH I DID A LOT, I DIDN'T PLAN AS I SHOULD. AS LONG AS THINGS WERE GOING SMOOTHLY AND WE HAD A GOOD CONTRIBUTION, I LET THINGS TAKE THEIR COURSE.

A. I didn't cooperate in attending planning and work sessions with other elders.

1. I did business in between classes and a few minutes after services.

B. I didn't watch each member and make every effort to save the straying members.

1. I just let the erring go and never visited to see what was wrong or restore them.

C. I died last night. What happens now?

1. Acts 20:28

IX. I WAS A FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN, ATTENDED SERVICES, STUDIED, PRAYED, TRIED TO TEACH SOULS ABOUT CHRIST AND DID BENEVOLENT WORK.

A. I died last night. What happens now?

B. Read Matthew 25:34.

C. Revelation 2:10

D. Well done... enter into the joy of the Lord.

CONCLUSION:

I. WHAT CHANGE WOULD I MAKE IF I COULD?

A. The Rich Man in Luke 16 would have made changes if he could.

B. He couldn't. It was too late.

C. You can on this side of eternity.

D. Make these changes while you have time and opportunity.

1. Salvation is in none other. Acts 4:12.

SERMON OUTLINES

I KNOW NOT WHERE THEY HAVE LAID HIM

John 20:2; 13; 15

INTRODUCTION:

- I. THE DISCIPLES OF THE LORD DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE RESURRECTION.
 - A. They had been told of his death, burial, and resurrection many times but still did not understand the true nature of his mission and kingdom.
 - B. Jesus had been crucified. They thought all had been lost.
 - C. At this time they were concerned about the physical body of the Lord. The tomb was empty!
 1. Mary Magdalene said to Peter, "They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and WE KNOW NOT WHERE THEY HAVE LAID HIM." John 20:13.
 2. The angels said to Mary, "...Why weepest thou?" Mary answered, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not WHERE THEY HAVE LAID HIM." John 20:13.
 3. Jesus spoke to Mary who thought he was a gardener and said, "Woman why weepest thou?" She answered, "Sir if thou hast borne him hence, tell me WHERE THOU HAST LAID HIM."
- II. WE APPRECIATE THEIR CONCERN BUT IT WAS NEEDLESS. JESUS HAD RISEN FROM THE TOMB.
 - A. Notice the precautions taken by his enemies to see that no one stole the body.
 1. The tomb under guard. Matthew 27:62-66.
 - a. The chief priests and the Pharisees came to Pilate and reminded him that the deceiver had said, "After three days I will arise again."
 - b. They wanted to take precautions lest his body be stolen.
 - c. Pilate said, "Ye have a watch. Make it as sure as you can."
 - d. They sealed the tomb and set a watch.
 - B. Jesus arose from the dead and made many appearances after His resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15.

SERMON OUTLINES

TRANSITION: The disciples were concerned about the literal body of Christ. True disciples of Jesus are concerned about the true body of the Lord which is His church.

DISCUSSION:

- I. AS WE THINK OF THE RESURRECTION ONE CANNOT HELP BUT THINK ABOUT THE TEACHINGS OF PAUL ABOUT THE RESURRECTION.
 - A. Paul teaches about The New Life being symbolic of the Resurrection. Romans 6:1-6.
 1. The Corinthians were saved by the Gospel that Paul preached. 1 Corinthians 15:1-6.
 2. The Romans were saved by obeying a form of that doctrine Romans 6:17,18.
 3. Romans 6:1-6 tells us what that form was.
 - a. Christ died and we die to sin.
 - b. Christ was buried in the tomb and we are buried in baptism.
 - c. Christ arose and we arise from the grave of baptism to walk in newness of life.
 - B. These people were in the body of Christ or His church.
 1. They had been baptized into one body. 1 Corinthians 12:13.
 2. There is one body Ephesians 4:4 and Christ is the head of the body. Ephesians 1:22-23.
 - C. Christ left a body, the church to carry on his work on the earth.
 1. The disciples were concerned about his physical body but our concern should be about his spiritual body which is the church.
 2. How many have you seen upset and disturbed about the condition of the church?
 - D. The mission of the church is to seek and save the lost.
 1. Ephesians 3:10.
- II. WHERE HAVE RELIGIOUS PEOPLE OF THE PAST AND PRESENT LAID THE BODY OF THE LORD?
 - A. Jesus promised to build the church. Matthew 16:18.

SERMON OUTLINES

1. He fulfilled this promise when the church was established in Acts 2.
 2. He gave specific instructions concerning the church.
 - a. Name. Matthew 16:18; Romans 16:16.
 - b. Worship. Acts 2:42; Ephesians 5:16.
 - c. Plan of salvation. Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38.
 - d. The kind of life to be lived. Titus 2:11,12.
- B. Mary thought that Jesus was the gardener.
1. Many churches would not be recognized as the Church of Christ today.
 2. Peter and early Christians would not recognize many religious institutions as the church today.
- C. People need to go back to the Bible and accept a thus saith the Lord as authority.
- D. Any body would not do.
1. Three were crucified on the cross.
 2. They were seeking the body of Jesus.
- E. Many have laid the body of Jesus down for false religious institutions not founded upon the Bible.
- III. AS THEY SEARCHED FOR THE BODY OF JESUS WE SEE CONCERN, EMOTION AND LOVE.
- A. We need emotion, compassion, feelings, zeal in the church today.
1. From Mary and the disciples we see distress, alarm, tears in her plea when seeking the body of Jesus.
 - a. John 20:13 "Woman, why weepiest thou?"
- B. We need these same feelings in the church today.
1. The church needs to be on fire for the Lord and his work.
- III. AS AN INDIVIDUAL WHERE HAVE YOU LAID HIM?
- A. Have you laid him down in attendance?
1. In your early Christian experience the doors of the church were not opened unless you were there?
 - a. Now you are there occasionally or when it is convenient.
 2. As the pain becomes less when time passes over the death of a

SERMON OUTLINES

- loved one, has your interest in the Lord's work lessened?
3. Did you lay him down last Sunday, Sunday night, Wednesday night by your failure to attend?
 4. Hebrews 10:25
 5. There may be various excuses but were we really concerned about the Body of the Lord?
- B. Have we laid Him down in Bible study?
1. At another stage in our Christian life we may have studied our Bibles and Bible lessons faithfully.
 - a. Did we lay him down by not looking at either this week?
- C. Have we laid Him down in Prayer?
1. When we first found him we may have prayed faithfully.
 2. Do we pray without ceasing or do we just pray when we are in trouble and want something?
- D. Did you lay Him down while on a date recently?
1. We as Christians are supposed to be pure.
 2. Did you engage in anything that led to impure thoughts or actions?
 3. Some things are not sinful in marriage but are sins out of marriage.
- E. Did you lay Him down by impure conversation?
1. Cursing, lying, gossiping, talking about someone?
 2. Did you do this on the job among those that were watching you?
- F. Did you lay Him down by being dishonest?
1. While on the job did you steal or refuse to work?
 2. Did you cheat on your partner in marriage?
- G. Did you lay Him down in your home?
1. Husbands and wife with each other in family
 - a. Husbands, did you fulfill your teaching role as the head of the home? Were you the head of your home?
 - b. Wives were you in subjection as a Christian wife?
 - c. Children were you obedient to your parents in the Lord? Ephesians 6.

SERMON OUTLINES

2. If we were not a Christian in our position in the home we laid him down.

H. Did you lay Him down by engaging in Worldliness?

1. The works of flesh. Galatians 5:19f.

I. Did you lay Him down by refusing to acknowledge that you were a Christian?

1. Were you ashamed to say, "I am a Christian" in the presence of evil companions?

2. We must confess him. Matthew 10:32-33.

CONCLUSION:

I. DID YOU LAY HIM DOWN BY REFUSING TO OBEY THE GOSPEL?

A. Obeying the Gospel is believing, repenting, confessing, and being baptized. Mark 16:16.

B. Why don't you obey him today?

SERMON OUTLINES

THE LOAD LIMIT

1 Corinthians 10:12

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

INTRODUCTION:

I. GENERAL DISCUSSION OF BRIDGES.

A. Mention some bridges that you are familiar with and make the following points.

1. Signs are usually posted listing the number of tons the bridge can safely carry.
2. Engineers have determined the approximate amount of stress or strain that the various materials can stand.
3. Beyond this limit we are traveling at our own risk.
4. The public is given this material in the form of posted warnings that the weight limit should not be exceeded.
 - a. Some times we see the sign, TRAVEL AT YOUR OWN RISK.

B. One may carry a load that exceeds this limit, and then carry a little more, and a little more.

1. At some point the bridge will collapse and someone will be injured or killed.
2. To ignore these warnings invites disasters of great expense.

II. WE AS HUMAN BEINGS HAVE OUR LOAD LIMITS.

A. It is common to see or hear of people having nervous breakdowns.

1. Often we hear people saying, “I can’t take any more.”

B. A person’s load limit varies because of heredity and environment.

1. It is said that every person has his breaking point.
2. Illustration: Korean and Viet Nam war captives who were brainwashed. Some were able to resist but others gave in.

SERMON OUTLINES

DISCUSSION:

- I. SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING WE ALL HAVE OUR LOAD LIMITS.
 - A. Some can bear the pressures of trial and temptation easier than others.
 - B. Everyone has a breaking point and can only bear so much.
 1. We must remember that we can't play with fire without eventually being burned.
- II. THE LORD KNOWS OUR LIMITATIONS.
 - A. He has posted warnings throughout the Bible.
 1. We are to study and notice these warnings. 2 Timothy 2:15.
 2. 1 Corinthians 10:13
 - B. Man may exceed God's warnings in the Bible by ignoring his word too many times and sooner or later he will reach his yielding point.
- III. GOD WARNS US ABOUT THEFT AND DISHONESTY.
 - A. We need to be concerned about the stress and strain of debts. People can exceed their limit and begin to take things that belong to others.
 - B. There is much stealing today. People begin in a small way and soon exceed their load limit.
 1. Illustration of a man convicted of embezzling millions of dollars. He first took money from the petty cash to buy a cup of coffee.
 2. People steal today in various ways.
 1. Taking small articles from where they work.
 2. Taking time when they are supposed to be working.
 3. The affections of another's husband or wife.
 4. Cheating in school.
 - C. Bible warnings.
 1. Ephesians 4:28 "Let him that stole steal no more, but rather let him labor, working with his hand the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."

SERMON OUTLINES

2. Exodus 20:15 "Thou shalt not steal."

3. We are to be honest. Romans 12:17. "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men".

D. Let us be careful lest we exceed our load limit and give in to stealing and dishonesty.

IV. GOD WARNS US ABOUT THE DANGERS OF ALCOHOL.

A. Scriptures:

1. Proverbs 20:1 "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

2. Galatians 5:19-21 warns us against drunkenness, revelings and such like.

B. To become an alcoholic is a terrible thing.

1. Illustration of a young man who was faithful and took a public part in services. He entered the armed forces and gave in to alcohol. He became useless in the services.

2. You may have alcoholic tendencies and do not realize it.

a. How much can you drink before you would become an alcoholic?

b. You don't know what your load limit would be.

3. Look at the broken lives all around you. We see men and women who have exceeded the load limit.

C. Remember that your body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit.

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

D. Respect God's warnings and leave alcohol alone.

V. GOD WARNS IN THE BIBLE ABOUT ADULTERY, FORNICATION AND ADULTEROUS MARRIAGES.

A. Matthew 19:9 "And I say unto you, whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery; and whoso marrieth her that is put away doeth commit adultery."

B. Man and woman were created by God.

1. Both man and woman have physical and emotional needs.

SERMON OUTLINES

2. Sex is holy and sacred in the sight of God in the marriage relationship.
 3. Outside of home it is a sin. Galatians 5:19.
 1. The sin is known as adultery or fornication.
 4. No one guilty of this sin can go to Heaven unless they repent of it.
- C. Because of the way we were made there is a danger of exceeding our load limit.
1. We have Bible examples of people who have done this.
 - a. David and Bathsheba.
- D. Because everyone has a breaking point or load limit we need to watch and be careful.
1. In the way we dress and act. 1 Timothy 2:9.
 2. In the activities we engage in.
 3. In the positions we place ourselves in.
- E. Many men and women were at one time pure and happy.
1. They would never have believed that they are where they are now.
 2. They exceeded their load limit.
- F. We must remember that God has warned us against impurity.
- VI. GOD HAS WARNED US AGAINST MARRIAGE TO NON CHRISTIANS.
- A. Women who were Christians were warned in 1 Corinthians 7:39, "The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will only in the Lord."
- B. Those who have lost a mate need to avoid weak bridges.
1. Date only those who have a right to marry.
 2. Friendships should not be cultivated that might tempt one to break God's commandments.
- C. Many have married non Christians and have become unfaithful.
1. In considering first or second marriages be careful.
 2. Don't exceed your load limit.

SERMON OUTLINES

3. Many faithful Christians have become unfaithful after marriage.

VII. GOD HAS WARNED US CONCERNING THE AFFAIRS OF THIS LIFE.

A. 2 Timothy 2:3 "Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life."

B. We may be overcome by possessions of material things, worldliness, power, business, entertainment, pleasure;etc.

1. These things can become a God in that we place more trust in them than we do God.

C. We can name once faithful Christians who have exceeded their load limit in these things.

1. What about you? Are you traveling over weak bridges?

2. Do you have the same feeling about God, Christ, and the church that you once did?

D. There are many Biblical examples.

1. The Rich Fool

2. The Rich Young Ruler

E. These things may seem innocent but we reach our load limit and become involved to the extent that we forget Christ and the church.

1. It may be visiting friends or camping.

CONCLUSION:

I. WE MAY LOOK AT A BRIDGE AND THINK THAT IT IS SAFE.

A. It cannot be measured by it's looks.

1. Some say, "I don't see anything wrong with that."

2. Engineers know stress or what a bridge will stand because they designed it.

B. God know us and knows our limits. He has warned us not to exceed these limits.

II. LET'S PLAY SAFE AND NEVER PRESS THE LOAD LIMIT SPIRITUALLY.

A. Our breaking point may not be as strong as we think.

SERMON OUTLINES

LOST FROM CHRIST

Luke 2:41-51

INTRODUCTION:

- I. AN INTERESTING AND INFORMATIVE STORY OF HIS YOUTH.
 - A. His parents took Jesus and attended the Passover feast. Verse 41. (Give meaning of Passover Feast).
 1. Worship and the House of God were important to his parents.
 2. They attended religious services regularly. Luke 2:41 "Now his parents went to Jerusalem EVERY YEAR at the feast of the Passover."
 - a. Could this be the scripture that some people follow in attending church services at Christmas or Easter ONCE A YEAR?
 3. The Parents realized that they were responsible for the religious training of their son.
 - a. Ephesians 6:4 (Parents responsible today!).
 4. Notice they TOOK him not SENT him.
 - a. They set a good example.
 5. At the age of 12 Jesus was in his Fathers house. Luke 2:42.
 - a. We should realize the importance of training our children while they are young.
 6. Jesus was interested in His Father's business at this young age.
 - a. He was able to discuss God's will in a responsible way. Luke 2:46.
 - b. Young people! He was not playing in God's house or misbehaving but was asking sensible questions.
 7. Young people need to follow his example. Luke 2:52 "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."
- II. CHRIST LOST TO HIS PARENTS.
 - A. Explain that Christ was not lost. He knew what he was doing and where he was. He was lost to his parents.
 1. When something of value is lost usually there is excitement and concern. This is true when a child is lost from it's parents.

SERMON OUTLINES

- a. Illustration Sam (Our son) as a baby lost in store.
 - b. Illustration Susan (Our daughter) lost but asleep in rear window of our car.
2. This concern or anxiety usually causes a diligent search.
- B. To many Christ is lost today.
1. Jesus was not there AND HIS PARENTS KNEW IT NOT. Verse 43. Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem... " And Joseph and his mother KNEW NOT of it."
 2. Christ is lost TO MANY TODAY and they know it not. Joseph and his mother KNEW NOT of it."
 3. Today there is much INDIFFERENCE. The average sinner is more excited over a dollar than he is Christ.
 - a. Some church members never get excited about the work of The Church.

TRANSITION: In this lesson we would like to draw some spiritual lessons from this story in the life of Christ.

DISCUSSION:

- I. JESUS WAS LOST TO THOSE LEAST EXPECTED TO LOSE HIM. (His parents Joseph and Mary).
 - A. How did he lose him?
 1. Not because they failed to love and appreciate him.
 2. Not because they were bad or irreligious people.
 - a. They had just been to worship.
 3. Not because they could not have known where he was.
 - a. If they had been more attentive they could have known.
 - B. The lost Christ because:
 1. They CARELESSLY left him. Verse 43.
 2. Mary was only human. John 2:4; 19:26
 - a. This does not go along with Catholic doctrine.
 - b. If she was divine she would have known where he was and what he was doing.
 - c. She grieved as any loving mother would grieve.
 - C. Jesus is lost to those least expected today.

SERMON OUTLINES

1. Americans as a whole who have many Bibles and who have heard much preaching.
 2. Religious people, church people, even members of the church.
 - a. Many members were once close but now far away.
 3. Children who have been reared in Christian homes.
 4. Educated people.
- II. THEY WENT A DAY'S JOURNEY SUPPOSING THAT JESUS WAS WITH THEM.
- A. They assumed or thought that Jesus was with them.
 1. They took this as an absolute certainty.
 2. They made no investigation before pitching camp for the night.
 3. Many suppose that Jesus is with them today without investigating his Word to see if he is with them.
 - a. They suppose their parents were right.
 - b. They suppose their preacher knows and is right.
 - B. Thoughtful people do not rely on supposition in business dealings. If they do they may go bankrupt.
 1. Checks, deeds, insurance, soundness of institutions.
 - C. Thoughtful people cannot rely on their feelings, conscience, suppositions about Christ but only on his word.
 1. Jeremiah 10:23 "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."
 2. Romans 1:16
 3. Those who do not have the doctrine of Christ and do not abide in it but think they have Christ.
 - a. 2 John 9,10
 - D. The New Testament teaches that to enter the Kingdom we must do the will of God. Matthew 7:21.
 1. We should search our hearts and lives to see if we are really doing or just supposing that we have Christ.
- III. THEIR SEARCH BEGAN EARNESTLY WHEN THEY REALIZED THAT THEIR SUPPOSITION WAS WRONG AND THAT JESUS WAS NOT WITH THEM.

SERMON OUTLINES

- A. When people realize that they are lost today they will earnestly and diligently begin searching for him.
 - 1. When lost people are convinced of how to find Christ they will accept him.
- B. Example in the New Testament.
 - 1. The Pentecostians were pricked in their hearts. Acts 2:36-41.
 - a. Asked men and brethren what shall we do?
 - b. Told to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins.
 - 2. Saul of Tarsus. Acts 9,22,26.
 - 3. Cornelius. Acts 10,11.
- C. When these sincere people were told how to find Christ they immediately obeyed him.

IV. HOW DID THEY FINALLY FIND JESUS? Luke 2:45,48.

- A. They first sought him among those that were with them.
 - 1. First in their own camp, then in the camps of relatives, then friends.
- B. This is the way great men in past have searched for Him.
 - 1. Luther among Catholicism.
 - 2. Campbell among denominations (Presbyterians- Baptists).
 - 3. Stone found him not among his acquaintances.
- C. Mary and Joseph RETURNED TO JERUSALEM seeking him.
 - 1. They found him. Verse 46. This was the right place.

V. TO FIND JESUS TODAY PEOPLE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO GO BACK TO JERUSALEM.

- A. The Church had it's beginning in Jerusalem. Isa. 2:2 -4; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:41.
- B. If we go back to Jerusalem and teach what the Apostles taught we will have Christ.
- C. Failing to find Christ in any of the denominations Campbell, Stone, and others went back to Jerusalem to find him.

SERMON OUTLINES

- VI. WHEN WE GO BACK TO JERUSALEM TO FIND CHRIST.
- A. We will accept what he says about being saved. Mk. 16:16;
Acts 2:28.
 - B. We will accept what he says about the Church. Matthew 16:18;
Ephesians 5:23: Acts 2:41,47.
 - C. We will accept what he says about worship.
 - D. We will accept what he says about Christian living.
Matthew 5:16.
 - E. We will keep his sayings in our heart as Mary. Luke 2:51.

SERMON OUTLINES

MISSING THE MAIN EVENT

Matthew 26:36-46

INTRODUCTION:

- I. AN ATHLETE TRAINS FOUR YEARS FOR THE OLYMPICS AND MISSES HIS EVENT.
 - A. This article caught my attention in 1962. Wim Essajas of Surinam trained four years for the Olympics. The runners qualified for their events by running in races or heats. The time for this qualifying event was changed. Messengers were sent to awaken the athletes. They were unable to awaken him and he slept through the qualifying event. When he learned what had happened he said, "It is a disaster. It is a terrible tragedy."
 - B. This one man team representing the little country had MISSED THE MAIN EVENT.
- II. PAUL WARNED CHRISTIANS AGAINST MISSING THE MAIN EVENT OF THEIR EXISTENCE.
 - A. The Thessalonians were warned to watch for the Lord's coming.
 1. 1 Thessalonians 5:5-6 "...so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober."
 2. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the arch angel and with the trump of God. And the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them to meet them in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord."
 - B. There will be no more preparation after death.
 1. Preparation is to be made now while we have opportunity.
 2. When the main event comes there will not be another chance.

TRANSITION: These passages suggest that it is possible for people to go to sleep spiritually and miss the one thing that really counts which is Heaven.

SERMON OUTLINES

DISCUSSION:

- I. THERE ARE MANY GOOD PEOPLE GOING TO BE LOST BECAUSE THEY HAVE GONE TO SLEEP AND NEVER OBEYED THE GOSPEL.
 - A. What is the Gospel?
 1. 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures. He was buried and arose again the third day according to the scriptures.
 2. Paul preached this gospel to the Corinthians.
 - a. They received it and were saved by it.
 - B. It is God's power to save. Romans 1:16.
 - C. We obey a form of this Gospel to have our sins forgiven. Romans 6:17-18.
 1. The form that we obey is faith, repentance and baptism. Romans 6:3-4.
 - D. Many good people know this truth. They believe it and intend to obey it but have various excuses for not doing so. They are in danger of missing the main event.
 - E. The Lord is coming back and they will die HAVING NOT OBEYED THE GOSPEL.
 1. They will be lost. 1 Peter 4:17-18.
 2. They will miss the main event.
- II. WE CAN MISS THE MAIN EVENT BY NOT ENJOYING WHAT WE HAVE UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE.
 - A. Many have good mates and children and do not enjoy and appreciate them as they should.
 - B. We go to sleep by placing emphasis upon the wrong priorities in life.
 1. We have the wrong majors and minors.
 2. We place emphasis on material things rather than spiritual.
 3. In hearing my children talk after they were grown I find that they placed importance on being together and engaging in family events that were not to expensive.

SERMON OUTLINES

- a. Picnics, family, events were remembered and not houses, cars and such things.
 - C. We go to sleep by not giving them the proper spiritual training while we have them under our influence in our homes.
 - 1. We do not teach them and train them as we should.
 - a. Ephesians 6:4.
 - 2. Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it."
 - a. There is a difference in teaching and training.
 - D. Churches do not give the proper teaching and training that they should and wake up to the fact that they lose many young people.
 - 1. Remember that a twig can be bent but it is hard to bend a tree.
 - E. Many of us have slept through the main event in the home and in the church while we had opportunity and wake up to the fact that it is too late now.
- III. MANY SLEEP BY MISSING THE OPPORTUNITIES OF SERVICE THAT WE ALONE CAN RENDER.
- A. Noah missed the main event.
 - 1. He faced the opportunity of assisting God build the new world but got drunk.
 - 2. One does not have to indulge in hard liquors and wines to get drunk.
 - a. One may get drunk on obsessions, power struggles, selfish pursuits.
 - b. Many times these deaden our senses to our highest potentials.
 - B. God has prepared for every person a supreme opportunity, a moment of destiny.
 - 1. When one misses this he may live in misery the rest of his life.
 - 2. Remember Esther. Esther 4:14 "For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed; and who knowest whether thou art come to the kingdom FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS."
 - C. Many of us have great opportunities for service in the church.

SERMON OUTLINES

1. There are opportunities in this congregation.
2. God placed you here for a purpose.
3. Are we going to sleep through the main event for our lives?

IV. THE MAIN EVENT IN THE HISTORY OF TIME WAS THE BIRTH OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD AS THE SON OF GOD.

A. Prophecy had pointed to it down through the ages.

1. He was the fulfillment of all the prophecies.

B. The intellect or wisdom of his day slept through the main event.

1. Meteorology was an infant science in his day.
2. They desired a sign. Matthew 16:1-3. "O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky, but can ye not discern the sign of the time."
3. The wisdom of the world slept through the main event and did not recognize the Christ as the Saviour of the world.

C. This reminds us of the intelligence and wisdom of the world today.

1. Smart people understand most things but sleep through the main event.

CONCLUSION:

I. MANY HAVE TIME FOR EVERYTHING ELSE BUT NO TIME FOR THE CHRIST OF THE BIBLE.

- ##### A. They are missing the main event.

II. TELL THE STORY OF THE TEN VIRGINS IN Matthew 25:1-13.

A. The foolish virgins slept and did not prepare.

1. They had the same opportunity as the wise virgins but slept through the main event.
2. Matthew 25:11-13 "Afterward came also the other virgins saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, verily I say unto you I know you not...Watch therefore for ye know neither the day nor the hour where in the Son of man cometh."

SERMON OUTLINES

THIS THING WAS NOT DONE IN A CORNER

Acts 26:26

"For the king knoweth of these things before whom all so I speak freely for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him, for THIS THING WAS NOT DONE IN A CORNER."

INTRODUCTION:

- I. GIVE EVENTS FROM ACTS CHAPTERS 24-26 ABOUT STORY LEADING UP TO THE LESSON.
 - A. Paul before Felix was accused by the Jews and left bound.
 1. Felix said, "When I have a convenient season I will call for thee."
 - a. We don't know that he ever did.
 - b. Many have opportunities to obey the Gospel today and never do.
 - B. Paul was before Agrippa who was schooled in the Jewish customs.
 1. Festus wanted him to hear the case so that he might have something to write to Caesar about the crimes that he had done.
 2. It would have been foolish to send him without any accusations.
 3. Paul points out to Agrippa that the king knew what he said was true because IT HAD NOT BEEN DONE IN A CORNER.

TRANSITION: There was nothing secret about what Paul had been doing. No efforts had been made to hide his teachings. No crimes had been committed against Caesar and the people. This had not been a secret movement. This could be seen by studying the teachings of Christ and Paul.

DISCUSSION:

- I. IT IS SAD AND HARD TO UNDERSTAND WHY THINGS SO OBVIOUS COULD NOT BE SEEN.
 - A. We would say that it's getting bad when someone loses his glasses and finds them on his forehead.

SERMON OUTLINES

- B. It is even more tragic when religious truths are so obvious and can not be seen.
 - C. Nothing about the christian movement was done in a corner. It was clear to all and was proclaimed by Christ and his apostles.
- II. THE ADVENT OF CHRIST WAS NOT DONE IN A CORNER.
- A. There were countless prophesies in the Old Testament about the birth of Christ.
 - 1. Gen. 3:15 "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between thy seed and her seed, it shall bruise thy heel and thou shalt bruise his head."
 - a. Notice that it was the seed of woman. This varied from God's law of propagation which was man, woman and birth.
 - b. Christ was placed in the womb of Mary by God. It was a miracle.
 - c. Notice the fulfillment. "But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son made of a woman under the law."
 - 2. Flight into Egypt. Hos. 11:1.
 - a. Fulfillment in Matthew 2:15.
 - 3. Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver. Zech. 11:12-13.
 - a. Fulfillment in Matthew 26:15.
 - B. His actual birth was not a secret or done in a corner.
 - 1. To be born in Bethlehem. Mic. 5:2.
 - a. Fulfillment in Luke 2:4.
 - 2. The Wise Men. Matthew 2:5,6.
 - a. Ask and told in Bethlehem. Mic. 5:2.
 - 3. King found where it was to occur.
 - a. Killed male infants in trying to destroy Christ. Matthew 2:16-18.
 - b. This is a fulfillment of Jeremiah 31:15.
 - C. Paul in speaking to Agrippa in Acts 26:22-23 said that he had been witnessing none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come.

SERMON OUTLINES

1. Christ was to suffer, rise from the dead, and show light unto the Gentiles.
2. Some praise themselves on being up on the current events of the day.
 1. He should have known these things.

III. THE WORK AND LIFE OF CHRIST WAS NOT SECRET OR DONE IN A CORNER.

- A. The beginning of his ministry is given... his baptism and confession of deity by God. Luke 5:21-23.
- B. The first miracle of turning water to wine is given in John 2:1-11.
 1. He did many other miracles. John 20:30-31.
- C. Visits with friends: Mary, Martha and Lazarus given.
- D. Vivid account of death, burial, and resurrection given by many witnesses. 1 Corinthians 15.
 1. Over 500 at one time saw Jesus.
- E. Before his death he had promised the Comforter or Holy Spirit to his apostles.
 1. Repentance and remission of sins were to be preached in his name to all nations beginning at Jerusalem. Lk. 24:47-49.
 2. The comforter was to teach them the things they were to teach. John 14:26.
 3. This Comforter came as recorded in Acts 2:1-4.

IV. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHURCH WAS NOT DONE IN A CORNER.

- A. Isaiah's prophesy in Isaiah 2:1,2.
 1. In last days.
 2. Law was to go forth from Jerusalem.
 3. This prophesy was fulfilled in Acts 2 according to Peter. Acts 2:16,17. This was a fulfillment of Joel's prophesy.
 - a. This is that said Peter.
- B. Christ promised to build the church. Matthew 16:18.
 1. It was established on the first Pentecost after the resurrection. Acts 2:41,47.

SERMON OUTLINES

2. People were added to it.
 - C. Enemies of Christ knew about it.
 1. Much is said about the persecution of the church.
 - D. Thousands became members of it on the first day of it's establishment. Acts 2:41,7.
 - E. The rest of the New Testament gives instructions as to how the church was to function.
 - F. It is no secret that the Lord's church is the only one mentioned in the Bible. Ephesians 4:4.
 - G. This church came down to us.
 1. A seed reproduces after it's kind.
 2. The word of God is the seed and it's preaching will give us the church.
- V. THE PLAN OF SALVATION WAS NOT GIVEN IN A CORNER.
- A. It was proclaimed to many at the beginning of the church. Acts 2:1-5.
 - B. It was to be proclaimed to the whole world.
 1. Matthew 28:18-20
 2. Mark 16:15-16
 - C. There is case after case of it's application in the book of Acts.
 1. Pentecostians
 2. Eunuch
 3. Jailer
 4. Cornelius
 - D. It is hard to understand why knowledgeable people can not understand it.

CONCLUSION:

- I. INSTEAD OF TRYING TO HUSH THESE EVENTS FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST WERE TO MAKE THEM KNOWN.
 - A. The Great Commission. Matthew 28; Mark 16:15,16.
 - B. The lives of the disciples was one of constant effort to make these things known.

SERMON OUTLINES

1. They were willing to die to make them known.
- II. WHY IS IT THAT PEOPLE OVERLOOK THESE THINGS AS THEY WERE DONE OPENLY WHERE ALL COULD SEE AND KNOW?
- A. Surely Agrippa you recognize the truth. I know that you believe.
 - B. You could have known. It was no secret. It was not done in a corner.
 - C. You have heard. Why don't you obey the Gospel today?

SERMON OUTLINES

OUR LOST FATHERS

INTRODUCTION:

I. FATHERS ARE LOST TO THE HOME BY

A. Death

1. Some fathers die before children are born or before children are old enough to know or remember them.

B. Some are lost to families because of crimes committed that have put them in prison.

C. Some have lost their fathers because of desertion.

D. Some are lost to the home because they abdicate their authority as head of the home.

TRANSITION:

Many fathers are present in the home with the children and wife but are lost to the God given responsibility of being the head of the home.

DISCUSSION:

I. THEY ARE LOST TO BEING THE HEAD OF THE HOME.

A. Man was made head of the family unit.

1. 1 Corinthians 11:2 Notice the chain of command as given by inspiration.
2. Ephesians 5:23 Husband is head of the home as Christ is head of the church.

B. This is not a joking matter as seen sometimes today. God meant what he said.

C. Man is not head because he is smarter.

1. Man is masculine, firm, robust and the woman possesses gentle, emotional, tender traits.
2. Both characters are needed to make the family strong.

D. When man is lost to this by not being head, it creates problems.

1. He is not qualified to be an elder or deacon in the church.
2. When mother is head of the house, boys especially, have a tendency to become feminine instead of masculine which often leads to sex perversion.

SERMON OUTLINES

- a. The same is true when fathers make tomboys out of daughters.
 3. Social workers often find that disciplinary problems are caused because of the father fleeing responsibility of the home and mothers being forced to fill the position of being head of the home.
 - a. This is especially true in large cities and in ghettos.
- II. FATHERS ARE LOST TO THE HOME IN INSTRUCTING AND TRAINING THEIR CHILDREN.
- A. It is the sacred duty of the father to instruct and train his children. Ephesians 6:4.
1. Illustration of dad having two jobs, coaching little league ball and failing to stress church and spiritual things.
 - a. His children never obeyed the gospel and never took worship seriously.
 - B. The duty of a child to take his father's instructions.
 1. Proverbs 1:8 tells a son to hear the instructions of his father and to not forsake the law of his mother.
 2. A child is not to be resentful of instructions.
 - a. I don't like to hear children say, "I know", in a sarcastic tone when told to do something by their parents.
 3. Abraham's children followed his commands even after he died, Genesis 18:19.
 - C. The above is true especially about Christ and the Church.
 1. Many boys and girls are reared in Christian homes but are not indoctrinated in real teaching of the scriptures.
 2. I will be responsible for my children in a way if they leave the church because of my failure to teach them.
 - a. They will be lost and I will too because of my failure.
 - D. Remember Joshua who said, "But as for me and my house we will serve Jehovah."
- III. MANY FATHERS ARE LOST TO CHURCH SERVICE.
- A. Often we see many women and children but no man present at the worship services.

SERMON OUTLINES

1. Where are the fathers?
 - B. Illustration of a little boy following his dad to a saloon. The father turned and picked the little boy up and said, "Son you will not follow my steps here anymore."
 1. Some would never go to a saloon but never set their steps to a church service.
 - a. Instead they fish, party, picnic, and continue on their journey when traveling instead of attending services.
 2. Illustration of a little boy asking his dad, "When am I going to get big enough to quit going to church?"
 - C. This means that:
 1. Some possible song leader, teacher, elder, preacher, will be lost to the cause of Christ.
 2. Some little child has lost the blessing of a daddy taking and sitting with them at church services.
 3. They will be lost to these precious memories.
- IV. FATHERS ARE LOST IN THE SENSE THAT THEY NEVER RECEIVE THE HONOR, ADORATION, REVERENCE, AND RESPECT FROM THEIR FAMILIES THAT ARE THEIR DUE.
- A. A father's human imperfections give no argument to not honoring him.
 1. A woman is to reverence (fear) her husband. Ephesians 5:33.
 2. Remember that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.
 - B. Flagrant disregard of divine law to honor the father and ridicule him in front of the children is a deadly force.
 1. It destroys character and tears down the home, family, and the whole social structure.
 - C. Mothers will be accountable who do not teach their children to love, respect, and obey the father.

CONCLUSION:

- I. ONE OF THE GREATEST TRIBUTES TO FATHER IS FOUND IN LUKE 15.

SERMON OUTLINES

- A. The prodigal son wanting to go home is a tribute to the father and the home.
 - 1. Today some children had rather be any where but home.
- II. IF YOU ARE A LOST FATHER TODAY GOD DOES NOT WANT YOU TO BE LOST.
 - A. If you are lost in sin, obey the Gospel.
 - 1. Believe, repent, confess Christ and be baptized.
 - B. If you are an erring father come back in repentance and ask the prayers of God's people.

SERMON OUTLINES

OUR LOST MOTHERS

Genesis 2:21-23; 3:20

INTRODUCTION:

- I. GIVE ILLUSTRATION OF BOY LOST IN A STORE: A little boy became separated from his mother while shopping. He became frustrated and finally went to the lost and found department and with a face smudged with tears and a quivering voice asked, "Have any mothers been turned in this morning?" To him his mother was lost.
- II. MOTHERS CAN GET LOST LIKE THE REST OF US.
 - A. We are not talking about being lost in the sense that they are not present.
 1. The news media is full of cases of mothers going wrong or engaging in various sins.
 - B. It's tragic when anyone does wrong but it seems worse when it is a mother.
 1. Men can be guilty of the same thing and it doesn't seem as bad as it would be for a mother.
 2. We know that in the sight of God, "Sin is sin."
 - C. Hollywood has it's share of lost mothers but it's not confined to any one place.
- III. MANY OF THE MOTHERS THAT ARE LOST ARE NOT MEAN.
 - A. They do not commit adultery, lie, steal, cheat.
 - B. They are just lost to what God wanted women to be and do.

DISCUSSION:

- I. SOME MOTHERS ARE LOST TO THE HOME.
 - A. No one can read the Bible without reaching the conclusion that a woman's primary sphere of influence is the home.
 1. The first home was not complete without the woman.
 2. She was given to be a companion and a help to man.
 - B. Paul's comment on the relationship of woman in the home.
 1. Titus 2:1-5.

SERMON OUTLINES

2. Paul said women are to be keepers at home.
 - a. A Christian woman controls her home.
 - b. In modern society there has been the move from the home into careers or other things that remove her from the home.
 3. Note the problems when the mother is not in the home.
 - a. No one at home when needed.
 - b. Children are responsible for themselves.
 - c. This is responsible for many of societies problems today.
 - C. There are some cases where the woman has to get away from the home to make a living.
 1. This is the role of the husband but may not be able to do it due to:
 - a. Health, sickness, or accident.
 - D. The mother molds the life of the child.
 1. Someone has said that the personality and character of a child has developed by the time it is 4 or 5 years old.
 2. A mother has more influence over a child than anyone else. Most here would testify to that fact.
 - E. The mother and the home cannot be separated.
 1. When the day arrived that many mothers sought careers out of the home and turned the duty of parenting their children to others then the church and society were placed in jeopardy.
- II. SOME MOTHERS ARE LOST TO MOTHERHOOD.
- A. Bible women greatly desired to have children. This was their primary aim in life.
 - B. They were miserable when they were not able to bear children.
 1. Rachel the wife of Jacob in Genesis 30:1 "Give me children lest I die."
 2. Hannah wife of Elkanah in 1 Samuel 1:8 " Why weepiest thou?"
 - a. She was barren.
 3. Sarah wife of Abraham. Genesis 18:12 laughed when told she would have a child.

SERMON OUTLINES

- a. It was her greatest desire to have a child.
 - C. God's will is that young women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. 1 Timothy 5:14.
 - 1. They are to bear children.
 - 2. They are to guide the house.
 - D. Prayer was the answer to Hannah's problem. There is no doubt that she had prayed many times before.
 - 1. Adoption may be the answer to your problem.
 - 2. God will not set aside his laws of procreation in the physical birth.
 - 3. Neither will he set aside his spiritual laws of procreation.
 - a. His spiritual law of procreation is: faith, repentance, confession and baptism.
 - E. There is a sad future for the church when women do not want to be mothers but seek careers.
 - 1. It is sad when women are lost to motherhood when they could be mothers.
- III. SOME MOTHERS ARE LOST TO CLEANLINESS OF BODY AND MIND.
- A. Look at Mary the mother of Jesus.
 - 1. The Bible doesn't tell too much about her and we like to know more.
 - 2. Luke 1:42 has this statement recorded: "Blessed art thou among women."
 - a. What Mary did to be so highly favored we do not know.
 - b. It is not speculation to say that she was clean in body and mind.
 - e. If she had not been she would not have been chosen to be the mother of our Lord.
 - B. Some mothers have no scruples about engaging in sin.
 - 1. Illustration of man telling woman who was having problems with her son that he had seen her doing the same things her son did.

SERMON OUTLINES

- 2. Drinking, adultery, fornication.
 - C. Sin has rendered some women incapable of becoming mothers.
 - 1. Abortion, social diseases.
 - D. Early women in Church were more careful about their character than dress. 1 Peter 3:5-6.
 - a. Peter does not forbid dressing or fixing apparel but it should not be the primary interest.
 - E. Read 1 Timothy 2:9-15 and make comments.
 - F. Those whose hope is in the world will dress to please the world; those whose hope is God will dress to please God.
 - G. Could God have chosen you to be the mother of the Son of God?
- IV. SOME MOTHERS ARE LOST TO THE PURPOSE OF MOTHERHOOD.
- A. Hannah, "I will give him unto Jehovah."
 - 1. This should be the view of every Christian mother.
 - 2. Is pointing your child to Heaven your major objective?
 - B. Let every mother know that she can give more to the world by rearing her children to belong to God than by:
 - a. Giving the world a dancer, actor, or any other profession that may be or not be acceptable.
 - b. Give your child first to God and secondarily to an honorable profession.
- V. SOME MOTHERS ARE LOST TO THE ART OF SEEING THAT THEIR CHILDREN ARE INFLUENCED TO MARRY CHRISTIANS.
- A. Rebekah determined that her son Isaac was to have a wife from among his own people.
 - 1. To Isaac, "I am weary in life because of the daughters of Heth."
 - 2. To Isaac, "Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan."
 - B. Mothers today need to teach their daughters to marry in the Lord.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 7:39-40
 - 2. It seems that if a person experienced in marriage should do this that a young inexperienced person should too.

SERMON OUTLINES

3. Marriage out of the Lord can bring many heart aches and pain to the individuals and their loved ones.
- C. Many are lost to this idea.
1. Marry daughters to the WELL TO DO regardless of their spiritual condition.
 2. To those high in society.
 3. Too many in the church are trying to be like the world.
- VI. SOME MOTHERS HAVE LOST THE ART OF LOOKING UP TO THEIR HUSBANDS WHO ARE THE HEADS OF THE HOME.
- A. Sarah is a mother that we remember.
1. Read 1 Peter 3:6.
- B. We are children of Abraham as long as we walk in the steps of Abraham.
1. See Romans 4:11,12.
 2. Galatians 3:7,29
 3. Likewise women are children of Abraham as long as they walk in his steps.
- C. Because of this some children do not respect their fathers.

CONCLUSION:

- I. THE CHURCH OF THE FUTURE DEPENDS ON THE MOTHERS OF TODAY.
- A. Those that are NOT lost to the true purpose of motherhood.
 - B. Religious training in the home will build the future for the church.
 - C. Hannah kept child only until she weaned him.
 - D. When mothers turn loose young men and women today, they can be as valuable as Samuel.

SERMON OUTLINES

PUMPKINS OF TEMPTATION

INTRODUCTION:

I. WE MUST BE CAREFUL LEST SATAN OVERCOME US WITH HIS TEMPTATIONS.

A. Some scriptures and things to consider.

1. We are to put on the whole armor of God so that we may withstand the wiles of the devil. Ephesians 6:11.
2. We need to watch lest Satan get an advantage of us with his devices. 2 Corinthians 2:11.
3. We are to be sober and vigilant because our adversary the devil walks about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. 2 Peter 5:8.

B. Some examples of the devil using his powers.

1. The temptation of Eve in the Garden of Eden.
2. His temptation of Jesus.

C. He uses clever schemes in trying to get us to yield.

1. He uses programs and methods of different kinds.
2. Even in on going programs of the Lord's church.
3. This is done to keep us from being pleasing to God.

DISCUSSION:

I. MANY TIMES WE THINK WE CAN LIVE WITH HIM AND EXPECT NO HARM.

A. Often it is too late. We are in the clutches of sin or or satan before we know it.

1. We find it hard to escape after we are taken in by his devices.

B. Illustration: Pumpkins of Temptation. Some ducks once found a feeding place in the reeds that grew on the edge of a quiet stream in South Africa. A group of boys soon laid a plan to catch them. They began by placing pumpkins in the water and letting them float down to where the ducks were swimming. At first the birds were nervous and flew away, but soon decided there was no harm in permitting them to float among them. Then came the

SERMON OUTLINES

second part of the plan. Each boy scooped out the inside of one of the pumpkins and made two small holes to see through. Then placing the hollow globe over their heads, slipped quietly into the river, allowing only the orange decoys to show above the water line, they moved slowly toward their victims. Suddenly they grasped the ducks legs under the water and captured their unsuspecting prey.

1. So it is with sin today. Things that we once recognized as danger become common place and before we know it we are in the clutches of the devil.

II. THERE IS THE PUMPKIN OF FAILURE TO STUDY OUR BIBLES AS WE SHOULD.

A. One may be acquainted with 2 Timothy 2:15 and other such passages that emphasize Bible study.

1. As newborn babes we are to desire the sincere milk of the word. 1 Peter 2:2.
2. After an amount of time we are to know the word. Hebrews 5:12.

B. As young Christians one realizes the need for food and study of the Bible.

1. They become so busy and neglect to study.
2. The conscience is hurt at first. They are nervous and concerned but after a period of non study they become complacent and are disobeying God, being in the clutches of Satan.

C. Not only young Christians but older as well sin by not studying their Bibles.

III. THERE IS THE PUMPKIN OF BEING UNFAITHFUL IN CHURCH ATTENDANCE.

A. Every young Christian feels the need of being close to the Lord.

B. They respect the Lord's command to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together. Hebrews 20:25.

1. They love the Lord and want to be in his presence.

C. They begin to miss services on Sunday and Wednesday night and then Sunday morning occasionally.

SERMON OUTLINES

- D. Missing bothers them at first but soon they can miss and there is no concern.
 - E. They are in the clutches of Satan.
- IV. THERE IS THE PUMPKIN OF EVIL COMPANIONSHIP.
- A. We are warned about evil companions.
 - 1. "Be not deceived; evil companionship corrupt good morals."
 - B. One receives fellowship and strength from Christians.
 - C. People are in the presence of business associates who are not spiritually minded.
 - 1. They are among those that drink, use bad language, are lewd.
 - D. One's conscience hurts at first and they are not comfortable and will soon be doing the same thing.
 - 1. We are deceived if we think these things will not have an influence on us.
 - E. Especially working women have been influenced under these conditions.
 - 1. This has caused many homes to break up that were once solid.
- V. THERE IS THE PUMPKIN OF MARRYING THOSE THAT ARE NOT CHRISTIANS.
- A. There is no closer relationship on earth than husband and wife. In marriage husband and wife become one.
 - B. "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers."
2 Corinthians 6:14.
 - C. Knowing this many are nervous at first when considering marriage but soon accept the idea.
 - 1. Some do this and remain faithful but what if your non Christian husband or wife wants you do and engage in things that you feel God does not want you to do?
 - D. Many have become unfaithful.
 - E. The widow is free to marry only in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 7:39.
 - 1. If a woman who has had the experience of living under the authority of a husband is commanded to marry, only in the Lord, isn't it logical that a young woman who has never had

SERMON OUTLINES

this experience should do the same?

F. Many have married non Christians and left the faith.

VI. THERE IS THE PUMPKIN OF FELLOWSHIP WITH FALSE RELIGIONS AND CHURCHES.

A. The Lord's Church was promised and established by Christ.

1. Matthew 16:18; Colossians 1:18.

2. Acts 2

B. There is one body or church. Ephesians 4:4.

C. People that begin to have fellowship with false religious institutions are nervous and concerned at first but soon are in the clutches of Satan and accept the fact that one thing is as good as another and that anything is all right as long as one is sincere.

D. They begin to accept teachings that are not in the Bible.

CONCLUSION:

I. THERE IS THE PUMPKIN OF PROCRASTINATION.

A. This is putting off until tomorrow what we ought to do today.

1. People hear the Gospel. They know that they need to obey the Gospel. 1 Peter 4:17-18.

a. What is the Gospel? 1 Corinthians 15:1-6.

1) Death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

2) People are saved by this Gospel.

b. We obey a form of this. Romans 6:17-18.

c. This form is death to sin, burial in water, and a new life. Romans 6:3-4.

2. Felix in Acts 24:25 was waiting for a convenient season.

B. People know they should become Christians but soon lose that concern.

1. They are caught in Satan's clutches by the pumpkin of procrastination.

C. People in the church are guilty of procrastination.

1. The devil likes to get God's people in his grasp.

2. He does not give up on those who have become Christians.

SERMON OUTLINES

WHEN THE PROPS ARE KNOCKED OUT

2 Corinthians 4:7-17

2 Corinthians 4:8,9 "We are troubled on every side yet not distressed, we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed." Deuteronomy 33:27 "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee and shall say destroy them".

INTRODUCTION:

- I. THERE ARE TIMES IN OUR LIVES WHEN WE FEEL THAT WE HAVE LOST EVERYTHING AND BECOME DISCOURAGED.
 - A. I receive strength when I get in this mood by looking at some Bible characters.
- II. THE APOSTLE PAUL IS AN EXAMPLE FROM WHICH WE RECEIVE STRENGTH.
 - A. He went through many trials in his Christian life.
 1. Read 2 Corinthians 11:23-28 and see the hardships suffered by him.
 - B. He did not despair because he knew that God would be with him.
 - C. The scriptures show that no matter how much suffering he underwent, he never lost courage because he could count on God for support.
 - D. Even though he suffered imprisonment and his trusted friend forsook him, "loving this present world," he said, "Not withstanding the Lord stood with me and strengthened us."

TRANSITION: Sometimes when things are not going our way we can get discouraged, despondent, and feel that we cannot go on. As Christians we can like Paul look to the Lord to strengthen us.

DISCUSSION:

- I. JOSEPH OF THE OLD TESTAMENT HAD THE PROPS KNOCKED FROM UNDER HIM.
 - A. Notice the story of his life.
 1. He was Jacob's eleventh son by his favorite wife Rachael. Genesis 30:22.

SERMON OUTLINES

2. He related two dreams which showed his superior position and his brothers hated him.
 - a. Sheaves made obeisance to his.
 - b. Sun, moon, and all stars made obeisance.
 - c. His brothers hated him the more. Genesis 37:5-11.
 3. Jacob loved him more than the others and made a coat of many colors for him which caused an increase in their hate. Genesis 37:1-4.
 4. He was sent by Jacob to his brothers at Dothan where they conspired to kill him.
 5. Judah proposed that they sell him. They dipped his coat in blood of a kid goat and led their father to believe he was dead.
 6. They had sold him as a slave and he was placed over Potiphar's household
 - a. He interpreted the dreams of the butler and baker of the king and his interpretation came to pass.
 - b. Two years later the king had a dream and the butler remembered Joseph who was brought to interpret the king's dream.
 7. Joseph interpreted the king's dreams to mean that there would be seven plentiful years and seven lean years.
 8. He was put over the land to save for the lean years.
 9. A famine brought his brothers and father to him in Egypt.
- B. Joseph was cast down but borne up by God.
- II. ALL OF US HAVE TIMES IN OUR LIVES WHEN WE FEEL THAT THE END HAS COME AND WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY SOME THINGS HAPPEN TO US.
- A. Some trust in material positions or possessions and when they are endangered or lost they feel cast down or forsaken.
1. Illustration of Wall Street Crash.
 - a. Some fell ruined and saw no way out. They committed suicide.
 2. In 1987 a man in government who faced the loss of position and prison committed suicide before a large group of people.

SERMON OUTLINES

3. Others like Joseph and Paul trusted in God and were blessed.
 - a. They came through their trials victorious.
4. You may lose your job. Facing debts and responsibilities you may feel that there is no way out.
 - a. This reminds us of many today.
- B. Some may face the death of a parent, husband, wife or child.
 1. They love them so much and feel that they cannot go on.
 2. Remember David who lost his infant son after his sin with Bathsheeba.
 - a. "Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him but he shall not return to me." 2 Samuel 12:23.
 3. We can not go on but Christ can sustain us.
 4. Certainly death changes many things and we sometime feel that there is no future.
 5. God can lift us up again.
- C. Parents have had the props knocked from under them by their children who cause problems.
 1. A son or daughter may tell them they are going to become parents out of wedlock.
 2. This interferes with so many plans they have made for them.
 3. The parents and those involved may feel that they can not go on or face the world.
 - a. They have God, Christ, the church and christian friends.
 4. Don't forget that God can lift you up.
- D. One may have house destroyed by fire or storm.
 1. They many have worked all their life for a house which is a prized possession.
 2. They must remember that house is not a home.
 3. Illustration: An old preacher went away on his horse to hold a Gospel meeting. When he returned his house had burned killing his wife and only child. All that remained were a few burned coins.
 - a. He felt that all was lost.

SERMON OUTLINES

4. We must realize that material possessions are but for a little while.
 5. When all possessions are gone Christ can bear us up and meet our needs.
- E. Loved ones or people that we have great confidence in can leave Christ and His church.
1. Demas did having loved the world. 2 Timothy 4:10.
 2. It may be a husband, wife, son or daughter.
 3. When this happens it seems like your life itself is gone.
 4. To a faithful father or mother it would be worse than death itself.
 5. Remember Christ will meet our needs if we trust in him.
- F. A child may die without having obeyed the Gospel and you may feel that the child was accountable to God.
1. Knowing that the child was lost according to the Bible a loving parent would be distraught.
 2. 1 Peter 4:17,18
 3. This has caused many parents to die a slow death through grief.
 4. Remember God is just and can lift you up.
 5. Every child who hears this lesson and is not a christian should obey the Gospel today.
- G. A husband or wife may become unfaithful.
1. After years of happiness this happens sometimes.
 2. The loving mate is crushed and feels like they cannot face the world or go on and that they are at the end of the world.
 3. We are living in trying times.
 4. Christ and Christian friends can bear you up.
- H. Someone in the church does you wrong or someone in the church that you had confidence in does wrong.
- A. Don't lose faith in Christ and his teaching.
 - B. People have always been weak and sinned.
 - C. God's word will stand. Place your confidence in it and not in people.

SERMON OUTLINES

D. God's promises will never fail.

E. Man will let you down but God never fails you.

CONCLUSION:

- I. ILLUSTRATION: "Look, Dad", said a small boy who was walking with his father by the river, "they're knocking the props from under the bridge. Why are they doing that? Won't it fall?" "No", said his father, "they just want the structure to sink down on those big stone piers. They will give the bridge the permanent support it needs."
- II. SOMETIMES EARTHLY THINGS ARE TAKEN AWAY SO THAT WE MAY COME TO REST ON GOD'S EVERLASTING ARMS.
 - A. They will bear us no matter what the load.
 - B. When the Lord allows the props to be knocked from under you He is just trying to get you to settle down on the bedrock of his comforting presence.

SERMON OUTLINES

THE PORTABLE JESUS

Matthew 28:18-20

Matthew 7:7-8

INTRODUCTION:

- I. **JESUS HAS PROMISED TO BE WITH HIS DISCIPLES.** "And low I will be with you always, even to the end of the earth."
 - A. He is available if we will seek and knock. Matthew 7:7-8 "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."
 - B. Jesus is willing to be available and with us at all times if we will only accept Him and his teachings in humble obedience.
- II. **THIS BRINGS TO OUR MINDS A WORD THAT WE ALL HAVE IN OUR VOCABULARIES AND THAT IS THE WORD: PORTABLE.**
 - A. What the word means to us: Easily carried, something we can carry or something that can be used any time that we need it.
 - B. One of the characteristics of money is it's portability. We can easily carry it with us.
 1. In the Old Testament we read of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob's riches consisting of cattle, sheep, and vast herds.
 2. In Colonial days in our country corn, tobacco, skins and other things served as money. These were not portable and could not be easily carried.
 - C. **IN OUR TIMES JUST ABOUT ANYTHING THAT IS INVENTED IS SOON MADE IN A FORM THAT IS PORTABLE OR EASILY CARRIED ABOUT.**
 1. We have **PORTABLE:** Computers, sewing machines, T.V's, books (The Portable Hemingway), electric razors, hair dryers;etc.

TRANSITION: We can apply this word to Jesus. He is a portable Jesus. We need to take Him with us where ever we go. We will need him every step of our way.

SERMON OUTLINES

DISCUSSION:

- I. BEFORE WE CAN TAKE HIM WITH US WE MUST OPEN THE DOOR OF OUR LIVES AND LET HIM IN.
 - A. If we knock the door will be opened.
 - B. How do we acquire Him in our lives in becoming a Christian?
 1. There is more to it than just saying, "Lord come into my life, I accept you as my personal Savior."
 2. We must OBEY THE GOSPEL. 1 Peter 4:17,18; Hebrews 5:8-9; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.
 3. How do we obey the Gospel? What is the Gospel?
 - a. The facts of the Gospel are the death, burial and resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15:1-6.
 - b. The commands of the Gospel are belief, repentance, and baptism. Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:37-38; Romans 6:3-4.
 - c. We obey these commands and he is with us.
 - C. Remember! YOU CAN NOT CARRY SOMETHING YOU DO NOT HAVE.
 1. Some one may ask us to bring a certain thing when we come. We can't if we do not have it.
- II. TO SOME JESUS IS TOO MUCH OR TOO HEAVY TO BE CARRIED AS A PORTABLE JESUS.
 - A. For some it is too much to become a Christian.
 1. Love of pleasure, money, lusts of the flesh are loved too much to give up. 1 John 2:15-17.
 2. Too much for Rich Young Ruler to leave riches.
 - B. For many in the church it is too much to have Jesus with them in their daily activities. A daily religion is too much.
 1. They are like Jereboam of old when he said to the people, "It is too much to go back to Jerusalem,"
 2. The TOO MUCH idea is not new.
 3. To many it is too much to:
 - a. Be a Bible teacher. Attend teachers meetings.
 - b. To attend three services a week, night services.
 - c. To attend Gospel meetings; Vacation Bible Schools.

SERMON OUTLINES

- d. To attend church socials and fellowships.
- C. To some he is KEPT LOCKED UP IN THE CHURCH BUILDING.
 - 1. They want to have him on Sunday but not daily.
 - 2. They leave him to be picked up from Sunday to Sunday or monthly.
 - 3. Do you leave your Bible study literature locked up in the building?
 - 4. In some song books we see written: "Not to be taken from this building."
 - 5. Many stamp their religion the same way, "Not to be taken from this building."
 - a. Have you known some people for years and then found out accidentally that they were Christians? Did they leave Christ in the building?
 - 6. Some must think Christ is only in the building where they worship.
 - a. Faithful there but never attend anywhere else during meeting or special service.

III. HOW CAN I CARRY JESUS WITH ME?

- A. Am I carrying Jesus with me when I carry a Bible in my pocket?
Not necessarily!
 - 1. It is commendable for people to carry Bible with them, especially to church services. I like to see members in habit of doing this.
 - 2. We have the words of Jesus with us when we carry a Bible but
DO WE HAVE THEM IN OUR HEARTS AND LIVES?
- B. How many carry a Bible on vacation but never look at it?
 - 1. How many have several Bibles in their home but never look at them?
- C. Jesus is in our Bible lessons: Sunday morning, Wednesday night, Vacation Bible School.
 - 1. How many of us look at them?
 - 2. Our young people need to study more.

SERMON OUTLINES

IV. SOME WAYS THAT I CAN CARRY CHRIST WITH ME

- A. We can carry his word with us in type but also in MEMORY, in our hearts.
 - 1. Some do not have even the simplest passages of scripture in their memories or minds.
 - 2. They can not turn to the Bible and tell people how to become Christians. .
 - 3. They can not tell people about the church and the importance of it.
 - a. When it was founded.
 - b. Why it is not a denomination.
 - c. About the worship of the church.
 - d. Why we take the Lord's supper on the Lord's day. Acts 20:7.
 - e. Why we sing instead of play. Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16.
- B. We are to study. 2 Tim. 2:15.
- C. Jesus at his temptation said. "It is written again."
- D. Some have been members of the church for many years do not have the words of Jesus in their hearts.
- E. Some Christians are never seen with the Bible, handing out tracts, inviting people to attend the services.
- F. It is just too much.
 - 1. People are drowned with life jackets in the boat. It was too much trouble to wear them.
 - 2. People die without seat belts connected. It was too much trouble to wear them.
- G. People will be lost because it was too much of a burden to carry Christ daily.

V. WOULD JESUS GO WITH US TO SOME OF THE PLACES WE GO?

- A. Do we go to some places that we cannot carry Him?
- B. Would He be found in the company that I keep?
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 15:33 "Evil companions corrupt good morals."
 - 2. Would he be found in the entertainment that I attend. Is it worldly?
 - 3. Would he be found doing the things I do?
- C. If everyone else were doing it, would Jesus do it too?

SERMON OUTLINES

VI. HAVE YOU AT ONE TIME CARRIED JESUS BUT CARELESSLY LAID HIM DOWN?

A. Illustrate by mentioning some valuable article that you had and misplaced.

1. T.V. control, glasses, tool, appliance?

B. Is it possible that you became so involved that you have put Jesus down somewhere?

1. You need to find Him again; pick him up.

2. Law of Restoration for erring Christian.

CONCLUSION:

I. WE CAN CARRY HIM BY CARRYING HIS MESSAGE TO THE WORLD.

A. How to be saved.

B. The builder and establishment of the church.

C. The oneness of His church.

D. The worship of the church.

II. SOME THINGS ARE SCARCE..BUT NOT JESUS.

A. His blessings are abundant and there are enough for all.

1. Sometimes we go to buy something and see the sign SOLD OUT. This is not true concerning Jesus.

2. He will always be there.

III. WHEN WE CARRY HIM WITH US WE DO NOT HAVE TO BE AFRAID.

A. Some things give people a feeling of security.

1. Give a coward whiskey and make him a fighter.

a. When whiskey wears off coward again.

2. Give some a weapon and they are not afraid of anything.

B. Have Jesus and you do not have to be afraid.

1. Psalms 23 "I will fear no evil."

2. Of dying of man.

IV. THE LONGER WE CARRY HIM THE MORE HE BECOMES PART OF US.

A. Pacemaker becomes part of body.

SERMON OUTLINES

A RETURN TO THE ALTAR

INTRODUCTION:

I. ABRAHAM'S CALL FROM HARAN.

1. He had left the Ur of Chaldees to go to land of Canaan with Terah his father and came to Haran where his father died. Genesis 11:31-32 "And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there. {32} And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years: and Terah died in Haran."
 - a. God called him from Ur and it seems he went unto Haran a city probably built by his brother who had died.
 - 1) Genesis 15:7 "And he said unto him, I <am> the LORD that brought thee out of [Ur] of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it."
2. ABRAHAM'S CALL AND PROMISE OF GOD GIVEN. Genesis 12:1-4 "Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: {2} And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: {3} And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. {4} So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram <was> seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran."
 - a. Abraham was 75 years old when he received this call.
3. HE LEFT HIS NATIVE LAND NOT KNOWING AT FIRST THE LAND TO WHICH HE WAS GOING.
 - a. Hebrews 11:8 "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went."
4. In this promised land he pitched his tent near Bethel and built an altar and worshipped God. Genesis 12:8 "And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent,

SERMON OUTLINES

<having> Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD. "

5. SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF ABRAHAM.

a. Known as FATHER OF THE FAITHFUL.

1) Looked for city whose builder and maker was God.

Hebrews 11:10 "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose [builder and maker <is> God]. "

2) Hebrews 11.

a) Promised inheritance, went out, now knowing whither he went.

b) Sojourned in land of Promise dwelling with Isaac and Jacob who looked for the same promise.

c) Offered Isaac, his only begotten son.

b. He was known as the FRIEND OF GOD and was the only man called his friend. James 2:23 "And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called [the Friend] of God."

II. EVEN THOUGH HE WAS GOD'S FRIEND AND FATHER OF THE FAITHFUL THERE WERE TIMES WHEN HIS FAITH SEEMED TO HAVE WAVERED.

A. There was a famine in the land. Genesis 12:10 "And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine <was> grievous in the land."

1. Shouldn't he have trusted in God to provide for him as he had trusted him to bring him into the land?

2. He went down into Egypt to sojourn there.

3. He is now leaving this land.

B. This departure into Egypt shows a decline in faith. His only refuge seemed to be in the CORN lands of Egypt.

1. This is typical of many who become Christians and forsake God by going back into the world.

2. He was taking himself and his family into great danger.

a. The same is true of parents who take their children into ungodly environments and situations.

SERMON OUTLINES

3. He resorted to worldly thinking or schemes.
 - a. His wife Sarah was of fair countenance or a beautiful woman. Gen. 12:11.
 - b. His plan. Genesis 12:12-13. DECEPTION, "Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This <is> his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive. {13} Say, I pray thee, thou <art> my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee."
 - c. Egyptians and their princes saw her and that she was of fair countenance and she was taken into Pharaoh's house. Gen. 12:14-15.
 - 1) Pharaoh's house was plagued with great plagues because of Sarah Abraham's wife. Gen. 12:17.
 - d. She was returned to Abraham and Pharaoh rebuked him. Gen. 12:18-19.
 - 1) Abraham must have felt a sense of shame as he was rebuked by this heathen monarch.
 - 2) Christians by worldly craft expose themselves to merited censures of irreligious neighbors.

TRANSITION: Upon leaving Egypt Abraham went back to an early experience in his faithful service to God. This return led to the place of the altar he had made at the first. Genesis 13:4, "Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD. "There are many low points in our Spiritual Experiences when we need to go back to firm early experiences.

DISCUSSIONS:

- I. IT MAY BE THAT WE NEED TO GO BACK TO THE TIME OF OUR CONVERSION.
 - A. Of all our experiences the time we obeyed the Gospel should be the HIGH POINT of our life.
 1. The Eunuch "Went on his way rejoicing." Acts 8:39.
 2. Do you remember the time you were born again?
 - a. Give personal experience.

SERMON OUTLINES

3. As Abraham heard God's call so were we called. Matthew 11:28-29 "Come unto me, all <ye> that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."
- B. To be born again or obey the Gospel is:
 1. Facts of Gospel: Death, burial, Resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15.
 - a. The Gospel is something that can be preached and believed. Mark 16:15-16.
 - b. It is something that can be obeyed.
 - 1) Romans 6:17-18
 - 2) 1 Peter 4:17-18
 - c. We obey a form of it. Romans 6:17-18.
 - d. The form is dying to sin and being baptized into Christ. Romans 6:3-4.
 - C. We like Abraham may have descended into Egypt. We do this by going back into sin.
 1. By social drinking and drunkenness.
 2. By immorality.
 3. By watching sinful movies and T.V. programs.
 4. By reading and enjoying smut magazines and literature.
 5. By indifference and lukewarmness.
 6. Dishonesty, lying..
 7. Forsaking the assembly. Hebrews 10:25 "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some <is>; but exhorting <one another>: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."
 - D. These are going to have to come back to their earlier faithful relationships in our worship to God.
 1. At time of our conversion there was closeness to God, rejoicing, faithfulness, worship, security.
- II. IT MAY BE THAT IN OUR HOMES WE NEED TO GO BACK TO THE RELATIONSHIP THAT WE HAD WHEN OUR MARRIAGE VOWS WERE FIRST PROCLAIMED.

SERMON OUTLINES

A. Note the feelings of a newly married couple.

1. In love, interested in each others welfare, kind, togetherness, desire and want to be together and so things for one another. They are looking forwards to a family and being together for a long time.
2. You can tell a newly married couple by how they sit in a car.

B. In a Christian home you see.

1. Husbands and wives. Ephesians 5:21 "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."
2. Wives. Ephesians 5:22 "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord."
3. Ephesians 5:25 "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it."
4. Husbands and wives loving each other as themselves. Ephesians 5:33 "Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife <see> that she reverence <her> husband."
5. There is happiness.
 - a. The woman's primary influence is the home. Titus 2:5 "<To be> discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."
 - b. Husband works and provides for home. 1 Timothy 5:8 "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." Genesis 3:19 "In the sweat of thy [face] shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou <art>, and unto dust shalt thou return."

C. Many have DESCENDED INTO EGYPT SPIRITUALLY.

1. There is no room for God.
2. Material interest is placed above spiritual interest.
3. Husband & wife have no time for each other.
4. The home becomes a battleground instead of a place of refuge and a place of happiness.

SERMON OUTLINES

5. Financial strains and other stresses take the joy out of marriage.
 6. Divorce and separations are common among God's people.
 - a. God hates divorce. Malachi 2:16 "For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for <one> covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously."
 - b. Divorce should not even be named among Christians.
 7. Sin-fornication-adultery.
- D. Many need to go back to the time of their marriage at the first.
1. Remember vows and commitment had for each other at the first.
- III. MANY NEED TO RETURN TO THE SPIRITUAL ATMOSPHERE AND SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIPS EXPERIENCED IN HOMES AND LIVES.
- A. Some homes are not like they used to be.
1. Illustration of child saying to parent. I wish things were like they used to be.
- B. Spiritual feelings once felt toward the Church.
1. There was oneness and love. You talked about the church in a warm way. There was love for those in church.
 2. You had warm feelings toward services, Gospel meetings, fellowships other spiritual relationships.
 3. There were good feelings toward sister congregations.
- C. Do we have that feeling today? Is it instilled in our children and friends who come into our lives?
- D. Perhaps we have descended into Egypt.
1. Love for the church is not felt.
 2. There is no binding tie that binds toward fellow christians.
 3. There is no concern for sister congregations.
- E. We need to return to the altar which we had at the first.
- IV. THE RELIGIOUS WORLD IN GENERAL HAS DESCENDED INTO EGYPT RELIGIOUSLY.

SERMON OUTLINES

- A. Christ presented his way and his church to us in the Bible.
 - 1. He gave us the plan of salvation.
 - a. Mark 16:15,16; Acts 2:38; Romans 10:9-10; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-17.
 - 2. Many have gotten away from this plan. They need to come back to the plan of the first century.
 - a. Radio preachers give false plan.
- B. We have the Church as it was first presented.
 - 1. The builder was Christ. Matthew 16:13-19;
 - 2. It's name and manner of worship can be found in the New Testament.
- C. Many have departed from these things. We need to go back to the way it was presented in the Bible.

CONCLUSION:

- I. ABRAHAM FACED MANY TRYING TIMES AND TEMPTATIONS.
 - A. By renewing his commitment he was more able to meet these temptations.
 - B. He came back to Bethel where he had made the altar at the first.
- II. WE ARE LIVING IN TRYING TIMES AND NEED TO COME BACK TO THE FORMER STRONG COMMITMENTS WE HAVE MADE.
 - A. We too will be able to face the future and become faithful to God.

SERMON OUTLINES

SPIRITUAL SECURITY

Psalms 146

INTRODUCTION:

- I. THE INAUGURATION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST THINGS DONE IN OUR COUNTRY FOR THE AGED.
 - A. The working man or woman can have some form of financial security after they no longer can work.
 - B. This is the only financial security that many have.
- II. CHANGES IN THIS SYSTEM WERE RECOMMENDED IN 1981 AND HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AT VARIOUS TIMES SINCE.
 - A. Some suggested changes were made.
 1. No early retirement.
 2. Increase of retirement age from 65 to 68.
 3. Cut some of the benefits and reduce the amount of the check received.
 - B. Social Security was in trouble.
 1. More was being paid out than was being taken in.
 2. There were more older people than young working people.
 3. It was being pointed out that down the road the system would be broke.
 - C. These suggested changes created unrest among those who had retired and those near retirement age.
 1. There was uncertainty, fear and doubt.
 2. Young people remarked, "There wont be any money for me when I retire."
- III. ALL HUMAN SYSTEMS AND PROGRAMS CAN TAKE YOU JUST SO FAR.
 - A. It can be said of all earthly things, "This too shall pass away."
 1. They will break down or wear out.
 2. No real security exists in man's ways.
 3. No real salvation can be found in his schemes.

SERMON OUTLINES

- a. The Bible makes this fact clear. Acts 4:12.
- B. Long range forecasts are only guesses.
- C. The present Social Security is good but it only partially meets mans needs.
 - 1. Illustration of Gospel preacher who gave his life to the work who received only \$441 per month.

TRANSITION: Real security and peace can only be found in God and placing our trust in Him. Let us now turn our thoughts to finding real security for our souls.

DISCUSSION:

I. WE CAN FIND TRUE SECURITY IN GOD'S WORD.

- A. It is enduring and will never lose it's usefulness and power.
Matthew 24:35 "Heaven and earth shall pass away but my word shall not pass away."
 - 1. It does not need any amendments or additions to keep it secure as Social Security.
 - 2. It's blessings are eternal and will never run out.
 - 3. It is an anvil that wears out the hammers of the skeptics.
- B. We will be judged by it and not the word of man. John 12:48 "He that rejecteth me and receiveth not my words hath one that judgeth him. The word that I have spoken the same shall judge him in the last day."
 - 1. We can know where we are and where we stand by doing his will.
- C. His word is able to save our souls. James 1:21 "Wherefore lay aside all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness and receive with meekness the engrafted word which is able to save your soul."
 - 1. His plan of salvation can only be found in the Bible.
 - 2. We have an example of this plan in Acts 2:37-38.
 - a. These people believed God's word, repented and were baptized.

SERMON OUTLINES

II. WE CAN FIND REAL SECURITY IN THE CHURCH OF THE LORD.

A. The Church is a never ending institution.

1. It was before the beginning of time or the world in the mind of God and in His purpose. Ephesians 3:9.
2. The Kingdom or Church will last forever. Daniel 2:44 "And in the days of these kings shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom which shall never end."
 - a. Note Daniel's interpretation of the king's dream about the image.
 - b. The days in which the kingdom was to be set up were in the days of the Roman empire. This kingdom was represented by the legs of iron and feet of iron and clay.

B. This kingdom was the church promised by Christ in Matthew 16:18 and established on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ. Acts 2:41,47.

1. It was the only institution purchased by the blood of Christ. Acts 20:28.
2. At the end of time Christ will deliver it up to God. 1 Corinthians 15:24.

C. The saved of the earth are in it. Acts 2:41,47.

1. As the ark went safely through the flood, the church will carry us safely through this sinful world till Christ comes.
2. Safety is only in the church. As there was security in the ark, there is safety in the church.

III. WE CAN FIND SECURITY FOR OUR HOME AND OUR CHILDREN IN THE PROMISES OF GOD.

A. We are concerned about the safety of our homes.

1. We put up security doors to keep the thieves and robbers out.
2. We meet the physical needs of our family such as food, shelter, protection.

B. We need to be equally concerned about the spiritual security of our family.

1. Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 22:6.

SERMON OUTLINES

2. We need to make our homes God fearing and put Him first.
 - a. Do we do this? Would our children give Christ and the home as first interests in their lives and ours?
 - C. This is a time to make resolutions about strengthening the spiritual security of our homes.
 1. We should have more Bible study and devotions in our homes.
 2. We should resolve to be more faithful in attendance.
 3. We should resolve to see that everyone in our homes are secure in Christ.
 - D. The Christian home has:
 1. The father as the head. Ephesians 5 and 6.
 2. He is responsible for the spiritual training of his children. Ephesians 6:4.
 3. The wives are to be keepers at home. Titus 2:5.
 - a. Small children feel insecure and afraid when mother is not at home.
 - b. Children run home when there is danger outside the home.
 - E. There is discipline in a secure home.
 - F. Are we really providing spiritual security in our homes?
 1. Too many young people are being lost to Christ and the Church.
 2. Our homes are being overcome by the devil.
- III. REAL SECURITY CAN BE FOUND ONLY IN CHRIST.
- A. Here we have the assurance of the pardon of sins. Acts 2:38.
 1. One becomes a new creature in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17.
 - B. In Christ we have the benefit of all spiritual blessings. Ephesians 1:3.
 - C. In Christ we have the assurance that God will hear our prayers. 1 Peter. 3:12.
 - D. In Christ we have the assurance that God will not allow us to be tempted over our ability to overcome. 1 Corinthians 10:1.
 - E. We have the assurance that Jesus was tempted in all points that we are. He understands us and is touched with the feelings of

SERMON OUTLINES

- our infirmities. Hebrews 4:15.
- F. In Christ we are assured that Jesus cares for and is touched with our anxieties and cares. 1 Peter 5:7.
- G. We are assured in Christ that all things work for our good if we love the Lord. Romans 8:28.
- H. In Christ we are assured that the Holy Spirit helps our infirmities. Romans 8:26.
- I. In Christ we have the strength and comfort of the association with brothers and sisters in Christ as we worship God.
- J. In Christ we have the hope of eternal life everlasting. Revelation 14:13.
- K. We are promised an inheritance incorruptible. 1 Peter 1:4.

CONCLUSION:

- I. THE PSALMIST KNEW WHERE REAL SECURITY WAS AND ATTACHED HIMSELF TO THE LORD.
- A. He drew his confidence from knowing the maker of heaven and earth.
1. One who seeks justice for the oppressed.
 2. One who seeks food for the hungry.
 3. One who seeks relief for the fatherless and widows.
- B. We should praise him for the daily blessings and constant support that he gives us.
- II. SOME LOSE SLEEP OVER SOCIAL SECURITY AND IT'S SOUNDNESS BUT NEVER THINK OF THEIR SOUL.
- A. They will write letters to congressmen and demonstrate for laws that will secure it's soundness.
- B. They are never seen to do anything concerning the security of their souls.
1. They never find time to become Christians.
 2. They never find time to worship and serve God in the church.
 3. They never show concern when sin threatens their lives and the church.
- C. Let us be sure that our souls are secure by being faithful to God and His word.

SERMON OUTLINES

TWO BIRTHS, TWO MARRIAGES, TWO DEATHS OR THE SUMMITS IN LIFE

INTRODUCTION:

- I. IN EVERY LIFE AND WORK THERE ARE MANY HIGH POINTS AND LOW POINTS THAT WE REMEMBER.
 - A. Some are more important than others. In this lesson we want to point out three peaks or summits that can be in every life.
 - B. Give illustration of a Gospel meeting conducted by Charles Holder, Senior. Three brothers and a young lady came forward to be baptized into Christ. I baptized them. I said the wedding ceremony for one of the young men and the young lady. Later I said the wedding ceremony of another of the young men. In less than three years I preached the funerals of the young men that had married.
 - C. I was involved in baptizing, marrying, and burying these young men.
 - D. In life we read about summit conferences among nations. At the end of our lives we can look back at summits or high points that will determine our destiny.

TRANSITION: At the end of our lives it can be said of everyone that they were born, lived, and died. The following should be events that could be said of all of us.

DISCUSSION:

- I. THE FIRST BIG EVENT IN LIFE IS BIRTH.
 - A. All of us have been born physically.
 1. A birth into a family is an important event.
 2. Much planning and preparation is done.
 3. There is much rejoicing when a baby is born.
 4. Parents have a great responsibility.
 5. A babe is born helpless, does not know right from wrong and is not accountable to God.

SERMON OUTLINES

6. Concerning birth we all know God's law of propagation as it was given in the creation .
 - a. A child is begotten by the father and brought forth by the mother.
 7. This child reaches the age of accountability and knows right from wrong. It then becomes guilty of sin.
 8. A child does not have the choice to be born or not to be born.
 - a. The choice is made by men and women.
 - b. A life is begun. Unfortunately some make the choice to end this life before the child is born in abortion. This is wrong.
- B. The second birth can be experienced by every responsible person.**
1. John 3:1-5 Give the story of Jesus conversation with Nicodemus.
 - a. A person must be born again to enter into the Kingdom of God.
 - 1) This is a spiritual kingdom which is the Church of the Lord today. Matthew 16:18.
 2. How may one be born again?
 - a. One is begotten by the word and brought forth in baptism.
 - 1). 1 Peter 1:23, One is born not of corruptible see but of incorruptible, by the word of God which liveth and abideth forever.
 - 2). 1 Corinthians 4:15, Paul had begotten them through the Gospel.
 3. In the Parable of the Sower the word is the seed.
 - a. The word is preached and enters the hearts of people today.
 - b. Some of it falls into good hearts and leads to them being born into the family of God they are begotten by the word.
 4. In the Spiritual birth one is brought forth in baptism.
 - a. Romans 6:3-4, One arises to walk in newness of of life.
 - b. Galatians 3:26,27, One is baptized into Christ.
 - c. 2 Corinthians 5:17, If one is in Christ he is a new creature.
 - d. Acts 22:16, Paul was told to arise and be baptized and wash his sins away.
- C. You don't have a choice as whether to be born physically but you**

SERMON OUTLINES

do have A CHOICE AS TO WHETHER TO BE BORN AGAIN SPIRITUALLY.

1. Man was created a free moral agent. He has the ability to choose. Adam and Eve did.
2. You can choose to serve God and become a Christian.
3. You can be lost if you make the wrong choice.

D. If you want to go to Heaven you will make the choice to be born into the Kingdom of God.

II. THE SECOND BIG EVENT IN YOUR LIFE IS MARRIAGE.

A. It is perfectly normal for a person to marry.

1. Marriage was ordained by God when he made Eve and brought her to Adam. Genesis 2:23-24.
2. We should teach our children that it is God's will that they marry.
 - a. We should point out that much care and thought should be given in choosing a mate.
 - b. The decision should be by not only looking at the physical aspects but also the spiritual.
 - c. You may be able to remain faithful but what about your children? Will they be taught the gospel and love the church?
3. Some don't take marriage seriously. You had better think about these things before you say I do!
4. One does not have to get married physically unless they want to.
 - a. They can still go to haven. In some cases it may be easier.
 - b. Some date for years and never get married. This is no sin.

B. A person can get married twice.

1. We are not talking of the marriage and divorce triangle that we see today in physical relationships.
2. Jesus gives plain teaching concerning this.
 - a. Matthew 19:9 "...Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her that is put away doth

SERMON OUTLINES

commit adultery.”

3. The innocent party in this case is free to marry but the guilty party isn't.

B. How can a person get married twice?

1. He can marry Christ spiritually.
 - a. When a person is born again he is married to Christ.
2. A marriage is not completed until the ceremony is completed.
 - a. Illustration of a physical marriage. Not husband and wife until pronounced husband and wife.
 - b. Spiritual marriage is completed when one is brought forth in baptism in the new birth.
3. Marriage is a life long contract.
 - a. Sin breaks a physical relationship.
 - b. Sin is breaking many spiritual relationships today.
4. Christ expects a pure bride just as a husband expects a pure wife.
 - a. Ephesians 5:25-27 “Christ loved the church and gave himself for it. He sanctified and cleansed it with the washing of water by the word and presented it unto himself a glorious church not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing but that it should be holy and without blemish.”
5. If we are not faithful we are living in spiritual adultery.

C. You still have a choice. You do not have to marry Christ.

1. He has asked you to become his bride but you can refuse.

III. THE THIRD BIG EVENT IN YOUR LIFE IS DEATH.

A. Because of Adam sin entered into the world.

1. As a result of this death entered into the world.

B. Everyone is going to die.

1. Hebrews 9:27
2. Genesis 3:3
3. Genesis 3:19
4. We may refuse the Gospel call, but not death's call.
5. There is no choice in physical death. We are going to die.

SERMON OUTLINES

- C. We do not have to die the second death.
 - 1. Death is not the end.
 - a. For the righteous who will be in Heaven.
 - b. For the wicked who will be in Hell.
 - 2. Revelation 20:14 "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."
- D. You have a choice. You do not have to die the second death.
 - 1. You can be born again and enter the kingdom which is the church.
 - 2. You can be faithful and experience the eternal kingdom at his coming.

SERMON OUTLINES

VEILS THAT ARE ON OUR HEARTS

2 Corinthians 3:11-18

INTRODUCTION:

- I. GIVE THE STORY OF MOSES COMING DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN AND PLACING A VEIL OVER HIS FACE
Exodus 34:29-33.
 - A. Moses had been on the mountain for 40 days and 40 nights in the presence of God.
 1. He did not eat bread nor drink water.
 2. He was given the Ten Commandments.
 3. When he came down from the mountain with the stones his face shone and he did not know it.
 4. He placed a veil on his face while speaking with the people and when he went before the Lord he took it off.
 5. Moses gave them the law of God and they agreed to keep it.
- II. PAUL USES THIS STORY IN OUR TEXT TO TEACH A LESSON.
 - A. As Moses gave the people the old law that would fade away away, the people could not look at his face. 2 Corinthians 3:7.
 1. This law came with splendor but would fade away.
 2. The new covenant would be even more beautiful and amazing.
 - B. The Jews could not see Moses face because of the veil.
 - C. Paul used a comparison to show that the Corinthians had a veil before their faces or understanding that kept them from seeing the truths of God.

TRANSITION:

The same thing happens with many today in that we have veils between us and the Gospel and the teachings found in the Bible.

DISCUSSION:

- I. THE JEWS HAD A VEIL OVER THEIR HEARTS AND COULD NOT SEE THAT CHRIST FULFILLED THE PROPHEESIES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT.
 - A. They should have been able to see that Jesus was the Christ.

SERMON OUTLINES

Isaiah, Zachariah and other prophets had spoken plainly of him in their prophecies.

1. Philip told the Eunuch about Jesus . He had been reading from Isaiah. Acts 8:30-33.
2. All of the prophecies in the Old Testament about Christ had been fulfilled.

B. Even to this day the veil is on their hearts as they read Moses. 2 Corinthians 3:15. They can't see the truth.

II. MANY TODAY HAVE THE VEIL OF THE JEWS BEFORE THEIR EYES AND HEART TODAY.

A. Many stumble over the Law of Moses by thinking that they have to observe the Sabbath as a day of worship today.

1. The Sabbath as a day of worship was done away with by Christ's death on the cross. Colossians 2:1.
2. We have a better covenant today. Hebrews 8:7-10.
3. The Sabbath as a day of worship was not made known until the commandments were given to Moses. Nehemiah 9:14.
 - a. This was written many years after the creation when God rested on the seventh day.
 - b. This passage says that it was made known on the mount.

B. Some today have a veil between them and the truth by observing Saturday instead of the first day of the week as a day of worship.

1. 1 Corinthians 16:1,2 tells us that christians met on the first day of the week.

C. Other ways in which the Law is a veil.

1. Some justify the instrument in worship by saying they were used in the Old Testament.
2. This keeps them from understanding that it is not authorized in the New Testament.
 - a. It is not commanded, inferred or given by example.
3. We are to sing. Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16.

III. THE LOVE OF THE WORLD IS A VEIL THAT KEEPS SOME FROM SEEING THE NEED OF CHRIST TODAY.

SERMON OUTLINES

- A. We are not to love the world. 1 John 2:15-17.
 - 1. The love of the world and the things that are in the world will pass away but he that does the will of God will abide forever.
 - 2. Friends of the world are enemies of God. James 4:4.
 - B. Love of the world includes obstacles to the cause of Christ: Riches advantages, pleasures which stir desires that seduces one from God.
 - 1. It is minding earthly things.
 - a. Romans 12:1-2
 - b. Philippians 3:17-19
 - C. Lot is an example of letting material things keep him from seeing the things that really counted.
 - D. Many enjoy these things and let them be as a veil between them and becoming a christian.
 - E. We have hypocritical members that are veils that keep some from Christ.
 - 1. We are to let our lights shine so that people will see our good works and glorify our Father which is in Heaven. Matthew 5:16.
- IV. OTHERS MAY HAVE THE VEIL OF EVIL THAT BLINDS CHRIST TO THEM.
- A. Matthew 6:23. "But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness."
 - B. Sin is so important to some and attractive to them that they do not consider what the bible says as being important.
 - 1. Some are murderers, thieves, and their whole life revolves around sin.
 - C. Their evil minds are a veil to keep them from seeing and serving God.
- V. SOME ARE BLINDED BY THE VEIL OF IGNORANCE.
- A. 2 Peter 1:5-9, Knowledge is one of the things that we are to add to our faith.
 - 1. If we lack in adding these things to our lives we are blind and

SERMON OUTLINES

cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that we were purged from our old sins.

B. Many are intelligent in other matters but ignorant about what the Bible says.

1. About rightly dividing scriptures.
2. About certain subjects in the Bible.
3. About the plan of salvation.
4. About the worship of the church.
5. About the church itself.

C. Bible study will remove this veil of ignorance. 2 Timothy 2:15.

VI. HATRED AND PREJUDICE WILL SERVE AS A VEIL.

A. 1 John 2:11 states that if we hate our brother we will be in darkness and not know where we are going because darkness hath blinded our eyes.

B. People are prejudice. They have their minds made up without seeing and hearing God's spoken word.

C. There will be hatred and dislike.

D. This serves as a veil to keep one from seeing the truth and doing what God says.

VII. THE VEIL OF INDIFFERENCE WILL KEEP US FROM SEEING THE TRUTH.

A. People have the "I don't care attitude."

B. Note the Lord's attitude toward indifference and lukewarmness.

VIII. CHURCHES AND PREACHERS MAY PUT ON VEILS THAT KEEP PEOPLE AWAY FROM CHRIST.

A. They put a veil on the Gospel.

B. They forbid and do not preach the Gospel on controversial subjects.

1. Marriage and divorce. Matthew 19:1-6.

2. Drinking and drugs. Galatians 5:19f.

3. Illicit sex and abortion.

4. The oneness of the church versus division.

SERMON OUTLINES

CONCLUSION:

I. WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THE VEIL ON OUR HEARTS?

A. Individually we can look with an open face. 2 Corinthians 3:18.

B. Look into the perfect law of liberty. James 1:25.

C. Take the veil off or remove it.

1. Obey the Gospel. 1 Peter 4:17-18.

2. Add the characteristics mentioned in 1 Peter 5:1-11.

II. LET IT NOT BE SAID OF US.

A. Matthew 13:15 "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted and I should heal them."

III. PROCRASTINATION CAN BE A VEIL.

A. It hindered Felix.

1. A convenient season may never come.

SERMON OUTLINES

THE CHURCH VOICE OR ECHO

1 Kings 22:1-39

INTRODUCTION:

- I. GIVE THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED AND DIVIDED KINGDOM.
 - A. Ahab was king of the northern tribes of Israel and Jehoshaphat was king of Judah.
 1. Israel was at war with Syria and a truce had been in force for three years.
 - B. Jehoshaphat had come to visit Ahab who invited him to enter into the war and help take the country of Ramoth in Gilead which was his.
 1. Before Jehoshaphat would enter into the war he wanted to inquire at the hand of the Lord. 1 Kings 22:5.
 - a. We should always want to pray before making decisions.
 2. King Ahab gathered 400 prophets and inquired about the war and was told, "Go for the Lord shall deliver it unto the hand of the king."
 - a. These were false prophets and would say anything the king wanted to hear.
 3. Jehoshaphat asked, if there was not another prophet of the Lord that they might ask?
 - a. He wanted to be sure. We need to be sure we have God's approval in things that we do.
 - b. There was a prophet named Micaiah but Ahab hated him because he did not prophesy good concerning him. Preachers are hated today because they do not speak things people want to hear.
 - c. The prophet was told to speak good things or what the king wanted to hear.
 - d. He determined, "What the Lord saith that will I speak."
 4. He first told him to go and he would prosper. He must have said it in a way where the king knew he was not telling him the truth.
 - a. The king demanded the truth.

SERMON OUTLINES

- b. Micaiah said, "I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills as sheep, that have not a shepherd: and the Lord said, These have no master. Return every man to his house in peace."
 - c. The prophet was put in prison and fed bread and water in affliction.
5. Ahab was killed in battle and prophecy fulfilled that dogs would lick up Ahab's blood in the place where they licked the blood of Naboth
- 1. God's promises are always faithful and sure.
 - 2. He will always keep his promises.

TRANSITION:

The message of the false prophets had an empty ring. It was not the voice of God but merely an ECHO. As an echo seems to be the real voice, but does not reveal the origin of the sound so was this message of the false prophets. It was not from God and did not reveal God's will. The message of many religious leaders today is echo and does not come from God.

DISCUSSION:

I. THE CHURCH IS THE TRUE SPOKESMAN FOR GOD TODAY

A. It is the job of the church to make known God's mystery that salvation is in Christ.

- 1. Ephesians 3:9-10 gives the mission of the church. "And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be made known by the church the manifold wisdom of God..."

According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

B. We are to tell people today what God wants them to hear, not what they want to hear.

- 1. Will the church be a hireling or a false prophet?
- 2. Will we have the attitude of the true prophet, "As the Lord lives what the Lord says to me, that will I speak."

SERMON OUTLINES

- C. Will the Church be merely an echo or a voice for the Almighty God?
 - 1. Does the message today have a shallow or hollow ring that will cause people to be lost?
 - D. The Church is under constant pressure to be merely an echo.
 - 1. Speak favorably to the rich and influential and say the things they want to hear.
 - 2. Many times people have their minds made up about issues and want preachers or spokesmen who will sooth their conscience.
- II. HAS THE CHURCH BECOME AN ECHO ON THE TEACHING OF DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE?
- A. Matthew 19:9 "Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication and shall marry another, committeth adultery; and whoso marrieth her which is put away committeth adultery."
 - B. Luke 10:18 repeats the same message.
 - C. Some preachers, elders, and members will forsake what God has said and look out a false teacher who will give only an echo of what God has said.
 - 1. They will change their views and hear an echo when family members become involved.
 - 2. Various reasons are give to explain why God did not mean what he said.
 - a. Illustration of ignorant farmer debating an educated professor about baptism in Mark 16: 16. After the professor would give a lengthy reason why it did not mean that the old farmer would say, "It's still thar."
 - 3. What God said in Matthew 19:9 is still there.
 - D. The real message will save but the echo will cause people to be lost.
- III. HAS THE CHURCH BECOME AN ECHO ON THE PLAN OF SALVATION?
- A. When people want to be saved today do we want to hear the 400 false prophets or one like Micaiah that will give us God's message?

SERMON OUTLINES

- B. What is the Bible plan of Salvation?
1. Hear God's word Romans 10:17, believe in Christ John 8:24, Mark 16:15,16, repent Luke 13:3, Acts 17: 30, Acts 2:38, be baptized for remission of sins Acts 2:38, 22:16, 1 Peter 3:21.
 2. This is the message of men that were inspired of God.
- C. There are numerous examples of people being saved in the book of Acts.
1. Saul's conversion is given in Acts 9, 22, 26.
 2. The Pentecostians in Acts 2:36-47.
 3. Give others if desired such as Eunuch, Cornelius.
- D. People today have leaders that teach them falsely.
1. Bow head and say I accept Christ as my personal Saviour.
 2. Send me a card saying that you believe in Christ.
 3. Baptism is no part of the Gospel and is not necessary.
- E. Which prophet are we going to believe?
- IV. HAS THE CHURCH BECOME AN ECHO IN IT'S WORSHIP TO GOD?
- A. Acts 2:42 "And they continued steadfastly in the Apostles doctrine, and fellow ship, and in breaking of bread, and prayers."
1. In this passage are listed four items of worship in the church.
- B. Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16 give singing vocally as an item of worship.
1. We are to speak to one another and teach and admonish one another.
 2. Our brethren used to teach what God said on this subject, but today some preachers and teachers are becoming an echo and saying that instruments are permissible.
 3. Do we hear an echo or a true prophet of God?
- C. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 teaches us that we are to give as God has prospered us on the first day of the week.
1. 2 Corinthians 9:7 teaches that we are to purpose and give cheerfully not grudgingly.
 2. God's way of giving has become merely an echo today.

SERMON OUTLINES

- a. People do not give as prospered.
- b. People do not purpose or plan in giving.
- D. The Lord's supper is to some but an echo.
 - 1. Acts 20:7 teaches that the disciples came together on first day of the week to break bread and hear Paul preach.
 - a. Some do not come together.
 - b. Others come together but do not really remember Christ and supper's real meaning is formality or echo.
 - 2. Is it real to us or an echo?
 - a. Do we remember Him when we partake?
- V. HAS THE CHURCH BECOME AN ECHO ON CHRISTIAN LIVING?
 - A. Do we give the message that the works of the flesh will cause us to be lost? Galatians 5:19-21.
 - B. Social drinking and evils of strong drink are overlooked and people are not warned.
 - C. Immodest apparel is not warned against. 1 Timothy 2:9 warns that women are to adorn themselves in modest apparel.
 - 1. Many congregations want no message at all on what God has said about this.
 - 2. Preachers have suffered "the bread of affliction" because of giving God's message.
 - D. Titus 2:11-12 teaches that we are to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world looking for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.
 - E. Do we want merely an echo or God's real message?

CONCLUSION

- I. WHAT KIND OF MESSAGE DO WE WANT TODAY?
 - A. An echo with no meaning?
 - B. What the Lord says.
 - 1. This message will stand at the judgment.

SERMON OUTLINES

ARE WE WAVING OR BURNING THE FLAG?

INTRODUCTION:

- I. PATRIOTISM AND RESPECT FOR OUR COUNTRY AND THE FLAG OF OUR COUNTRY IS EXPECTED OF ALL.
 - A. We are living in a great country and should respect it and uphold it.
 1. It is our duty to obey the laws of the land.
 - B. In the United States we see the providence of God.
 1. In the new world people were able to read the Bible and without oppression do what God said.
 2. Here we see today the restoration of the New Testament Church as promised and established by Christ.
 - C. Many great wars have been won by people who loved and appreciated our government.
 - D. Many times we see disrespect for the country and the Flag of the United States.
 1. Often when the National anthem is played at public functions people show no respect by continuing their activities.
 2. People laugh and talk as it is played.
 3. It's origin: During the war of 1812 Francis Scott Key was a prisoner on a ship. As darkness sat in the flag of the United States was flying. As it began to get dawn he wondered if it were still up or if it had been captured by the enemy. He saw that it was still there and wrote the song that became our National Anthem.
 4. Sometimes people have burned their flag to show opposition to some law or practice.
 - a. They can't be arrested. It is not unlawful.
 - b. At one time Congress was trying to pass a law to make it unlawful.
- II. THE CHURCH IS A DIVINE INSTITUTION AND IS THE ARMY OF THE LORD.
 - A. Old Testament prophets speak of it and desired to see it's coming.

SERMON OUTLINES

1. Daniel 2:44
2. Isaiah 2:1-4
- B. Christ promised to build it and it was at hand during his lifetime.
 1. Matthew 16:18
 2. Mark 1:9
- C. It was established as recorded in Acts 2 and people were added to it.
 1. Mention some things that God put in the church.

TRANSITION: It will be the purpose of this lesson to show that we should be good soldiers and hold up the flag and not be unloyal and have disrespect or burn the flag of The Church of The Lord.

DISCUSSION:

- I. TO BE A SOLDIER OF CHRIST YOU MUST BE IN THE ARMY OF THE LORD WHICH IS THE CHURCH.
 - A. You become a member by obeying the Gospel. 1 Peter 4:17,18.
 - B. How can we obey the Gospel?
 1. The Corinthians were saved by the Gospel that Paul preached. 1 Corinthians 15.
 - a. He preached the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.
 2. In Romans 6:17,18 people obeyed a form of the doctrine that Paul preached.
 3. This was a form of the death, burial, and resurrection. Romans 6:3,4.
 4. They died to sin, were buried in baptism, and arose to walk in newness of life.
 - C. When we follow the commands of the Apostles and the examples of conversion given in Acts we are added to the Church or God's army.
 1. Acts 2:36-41;47.
- II. TO BE A SOLDIER WE MUST:
 - A. Be loyal to the commander in chief, Jesus Christ. He is the head of the church or this army. Colossians 1:18, Ephesians 1:22, 23.

SERMON OUTLINES

1. We have his marching orders. Matthew 28:18.
 - B. The basic purpose of an army is to fight or defend. 1 Timothy 6:12.
 1. We are to contend for the faith. Jude 3.
 2. We are to war a good warfare. 1 Timothy 1:19.
 - C. Good soldiers endure hardships 1 Timothy 2:3.
 - D. Good soldiers wear the right uniform.
 1. They put on Christ. Galatians 3:26,27.
 - E. They are trained and have the right weapons which includes the Sword of the Spirit which is the word of God. Ephesians 6:17.
 - F. This army stands behind the elders, preachers, teachers in the church and these leaders stand behind the army.
 - G. Members work as the rank and file soldiers do all kinds of tasks to support the army.
- III. HOW CAN WE SHOW DISRESPECT OR BURN THE FLAG?
- A. Illustration: The Screwtape Letters: Advice was given by the old Devil to one of his agents on earth who was assigned to keep a man from becoming a real Christian. The intended victim has become a member of the church and the young agent assigned to him was worried. The Devil is experienced and tells his agent not to worry that all has not been lost. If the man's mind could be kept on little annoyances that he was still in their grasp and they still had him. He warned the agent to not let his victim see the church with her banners flying high or all would be lost. He knew that all hell trembles at the sight of the church living as God wants it.
 - B. How can we burn the flag or keep it from waving?
 1. By not preaching the word. Mark 16:15-16.
 - a. This will keep the church from growing because the word is the seed. Luke 8:11.
 - b. We will not be enlisting troops or growing.
 - c. This is the only thing that will make the church grow.
 2. By division or strife.
 - a. Romans 12:18 "If it be possible as much as lieth in you be at peace with all men."
 - b. 1 Corinthians 1:10 says we are to be of the same mind and

SERMON OUTLINES

there are to be no divisions among us.

3. When these conditions exist we hear people say, "You don't want to go there. They can't get along themselves."

4. By ungodly living.

a. Works of the flesh. Galatians 5:19.

b. People notice when people are not living for God.

c. People notice bad language, drinking, lying, gossiping, dishonesty.

5. By being unforgiving.

a. Jesus said "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

C. How would you feel about someone burning the American flag in your presence?

D. Are you burning the flag or the influence of the church by the way you are living?

IV. HOW WE WAVE OR DISPLAY THE FLAG OF THE CHURCH.

A. By faithful and zealous attendance at the services of the church. Hebrews 10:22.

1. Nothing succeeds like success. Illustration of man who noticed large crowds, attended to see and was converted.

B. By demonstration of loyalty to Divine authority.

1. Revelation 2:10

C. By living a Godly life among our fellow men. Titus 2:11,12.

D. By studying and becoming more efficient in his service. 2 Tim. 2:15.

E. By maintaining a cheerful and enthusiastic attitude toward his work.

F. By assuming financial responsibility and other responsibilities.

CONCLUSION:

I. ARE YOU WAVING OR BURNING THE FLAG?

II. MAKE UP YOUR MIND TO BE A LOYAL SOLDIER OF THE CROSS.

SERMON OUTLINES

WAITING FOR A COMFORTABLE SEAT

Acts 24:24-27

INTRODUCTION:

- I. LIFE MAY BE THOUGHT OF AS A TRIP OR JOURNEY THROUGH THIS WORLD THAT LEADS TO ETERNITY.
 - A. It begins at birth and never ends.
 1. All have experienced the physical birth.
 - a. Begotten by a father and born of a mother.
 - b. All are going to die. Hebrews 9:27.
 - B. In order to be saved we must be born again. John 3:5.
 1. We are begotten by the word.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 4:15. We are begotten by the Gospel.
 2. We are brought forth in baptism. Romans 6:3,4; Colossians 2:12.
 - C. All have been born physically but many have refused to be born again spiritually.
- II. AS WE GO THROUGH THE JOURNEY OF LIFE THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT WE MUST DO TO BE PLEASING TO GOD.
 - A. Matthew 7:21; Hebrews 5:8,9.
 - B. Many never get around to meeting these obligations and will miss Heaven.
 - C. As far as we know, Felix never got around to making preparation for death.
 1. He was touched by Paul's preaching and said, "When I have a convenient season I will call for thee." Acts 24:25.
 2. It seems that he heard many times. Acts 24:26.
- III. FELIX'S WAITING REMINDS ME OF AN ILLUSTRATION TAKEN FROM AN OLD PULPIT DIGEST.
 - A. A woman and her husband were traveling on a train. She was having a lot of trouble getting settled and was changing seats, luggage, and positions as they traveled. She remarked to her husband, "I want to get comfortable so I can enjoy the beautiful scenery". Her husband said, "Honey, we aren't going very far and the beautiful scenery will be gone before you get fixed to enjoy it."

SERMON OUTLINES

TRANSITION:

- I. Many have good intentions in life but let little things keep them from doing what they should be doing now. The journey of life is short and will soon be gone. We should do these things now before it is too late to enjoy them. Our life will soon be gone.

DISCUSSION:

- I. SOME ARE LOOKING FOR A COMFORTABLE SEAT BEFORE OBEYING THE GOSPEL.
 - A. Felix in Acts 24:25 said, "Go thy way, when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee."
 - B. Many are like Felix. They know what to do to be born again but make excuses.
 1. They know what God said in scriptures such as Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:26,27; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21,22; Romans 6:3,4.
 2. Their hearts have been pricked but for some reason they do not obey the Gospel. They are going to be lost. 1 Peter 4:17,18; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.
 3. People give different excuse for not obeying God.
 - a. Their parents and their religion.
 - b. Possible ridicule by friends and family.
 - c. The necessity of giving up their business.
 - d. They don't have a convenient time.
 - e. There are too many hypocrites in the church.
 - C. Give illustrations of those who were killed before they found time to become a christian.
 1. These people are finishing the trip, fussing about unimportant things trying to get settled down and comfortable.
 - D. By waiting around and doing unimportant things they are going to miss the most beautiful thing in the world which is Heaven.
- II. SOME LOOK FOR A COMFORTABLE SEAT IN THEIR HOME LIFE.
 - A. They spend too much time getting ready to enjoy it and miss out on the joys until it is too late.

SERMON OUTLINES

- B. Physical goals are set for the family.
 - 1. Goals such as financial security, property, education.
 - 2. To obtain these goals the father and mother are never in the home.
 - a. Fathers work two or three jobs and never enjoy being with the family.
 - b. Mothers work out of the home and are never with the children.
 - c. Because of this the family never enjoys one another.
 - 3. Personal desires are placed above the family.
 - C. The family is gone and have never experienced the satisfaction that God intended for the family.
- III. MANY HOMES GET SO BUSY THAT THEY NEVER EXPERIENCE A COMFORTABLE SEAT SPIRITUALLY.
- A. Father and mother may know the importance of having a spiritual home and importance of instilling spiritual values in their children.
 - 1. They never find time to teach and ground their children in the truth.
 - 2. They never find time to tell the old stories of the Bible to build up their faith.
 - 3. They never find time to have daily Bible reading and devotions in their home.
 - B. They know that these things are important.
 - 1. Fathers are to be the head of the home. Ephesians 5:23.
 - 2. Fathers are to bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4.
 - 3. Women are to love their husbands and keep the home. Ephesians 5:22; Titus 2:5.
 - C. They are preoccupied with things that really don't matter until it is too late. Their children are gone.
 - 1. Because parents have not done these things while they had opportunity they suffer many heart aches.
 - 2. Some things hurt worse than physical pain.
 - a. Parents can testify to this.
 - 3. They miss it all because of looking for a comfortable seat.

SERMON OUTLINES

IV. SOME ARE LOOKING FOR A COMFORTABLE SEAT AND NEVER GET AROUND TO LIVING A DEDICATED CHRISTIAN LIFE.

- A. Many know that they need to live a dedicated Christian life and have intentions of doing that someday.
- B. They know that God demands that we put off the works of the flesh and live a Godly life.
 - 1. Titus 2:11,12
 - 2. Galatians 5:19-20
- C. They know that they should be faithful in church attendance and take their families with them. Hebrews 10:25.
- D. They know that they should visit the sick and care for the widows and orphans. James 1:27.
- E. They know that they should give up bad habits.
- F. They know that they should stop being worldly. 1 John 2:15-17.
- G. They have good intentions and mean to do these things some time but they die before they get around to it.
 - 1. These have played around with their souls and missed heaven.

CONCLUSION:

I. LIFE IS SO BRIEF.

- A. It is a vapor that appears for a little while and then fades away. James 4:13-15.
- B. The journey of life can end so unexpectedly.
 - 1. Give personal illustrations of friends who have died unexpectedly. All have vivid personal illustrations.

II. WHAT ARE YOUR INTENTIONS?

- A. About becoming a Christian?
- B. About your home?
- C. About changing your life and living for God?
- D. Don't wait!
 - 1. Almost is one of the most tragic words in the Bible.
 - 2. Remember Agrippa who was almost persuaded to become a Christian. Acts 26:28.

III. DON'T WAIT TOO LATE!

SERMON OUTLINES

IS NOT THE WHOLE LAND BEFORE THEE?

Genesis 13:9

INTRODUCTION:

- I. MENTION OUR FOREFATHERS LEAVING THE OLD WORLD AND COMING TO A NEW LAND.
 - A. God may have allowed this to aid in the restoration of the Lord's church.
 - B. A whole new land was before our ancestors who left the old world and came to America.
 1. We recently celebrated our 200 th. anniversary.
 - C. Our forefathers in many ways took advantage of their opportunities in developing the new land.
- II. A WHOLE NEW LAND WAS BEFORE LOT IN OUR LESSON.
 - A. He was at the fork of the road in his life. He was asked, "Is not the whole land before thee?"
 1. He now had an opportunity and the question was how was he going to use it.
 - B. Notice some events before and after this question.
 1. In his decision he looked towards Sodom, journeyed towards Sodom, and dwelt in Sodom.
 2. Because of his decision some of his family burned in Sodom.
 3. He was mocked by his sons in law.
 4. He was captured and rescued by Abraham.
 5. His heart was vexed by their wicked deeds.
 6. He fled city and his wife was turned into a pillar of salt.
 7. He begat sons of his own daughters.
 - C. Someone has said that it was not so bad when Lot moved into Sodom but that it was bad when Sodom moved into Lot's family.
 1. We need to be careful about the places that we put our families in.
 - D. Lot had unlimited opportunities and wasted his land.
 1. At the time of our question he had opportunity.

SERMON OUTLINES

- a. The decision was before him.
- b. Soon the opportunities were gone.
- c. He wasted the whole land that was before him.

TRANSITION: All of us have to make decisions. At different stages in our lives we face the question, "Is not the whole land before thee?" How will we use the land that is before us?

DISCUSSION:

I. WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH YOUR LAND?

A. We must be a good steward

1. Parable in Luke 20 of man who planted a vineyard, let it forth to husbandmen and went into a far country.
 - a. Sent servants three times who were beaten and mistreated.
 - b. Sent Son who was killed.
 - c. Of owner of vineyard it was said, "He shall come and destroy these husbandmen, and shall give the vineyard to others.

2. We are to be blameless as stewards. Titus 1:7.

B. Are we going to waste our land as did Lot, Saul, Samson, Judas?

II. A NEW LAND IS BEFORE YOU WHEN YOU LEAVE HOME AND GO TO COLLEGE.

A. At this time in life one is usually considered to be an adult.

1. When someone finishes high school they are usually considered to be an adult in our society.

B. Someone has sacrificed and given you an opportunity.

1. The whole land is before you and you have a great opportunity.

C. What some do when they leave home and go to school.

1. Some do not even register when their parents think they are in school.
2. Some go wild, get involved with the wrong crowd, drink, use drugs, engage in illicit sex.
3. Some do nothing. They do not study but play around, date all the time, do not put first things first and flunk out of school.

SERMON OUTLINES

4. Some forget about the Lord and His church.
 - a. Some become unfaithful even though they have a good background of spiritual training.
 - D. Some recognize their opportunity and work hard. They prepare themselves to make a living and be useful in life.
- III. A NEW LAND IS BEFORE YOU WHEN YOU ARE PREPARED FOR A NEW PROFESSION OR TO MAKE A LIVING.
- A. You can work and make a good living, and help your fellow man.
 - B. You can use your training to work in the Lord's church.
 - C. Many have become involved in the world and are failures.
 1. In the world have become alcoholics and wasted their land. They have ended up in institutions.
 2. Some are lazy and will not work.
 - D. Many have wasted their training and ability to help Christ and the church.
 1. By sinful lives and high living.
 2. Unscriptural marriages that render them ineffective in the work of Christ.
 - E. Some have taken advantage of their opportunities.
 1. Work and have material blessings in life. Matt. 6:33.
 2. They are able to support families and help other people.
 3. They have money and use it in the Lord's work.
 4. They have a happy home and family.
 - G. Is not the whole land before thee?
- IV. A NEW LAND IS BEFORE YOU WHEN YOU RECOVER FROM A SERIOUS ILLNESS.
- A. A serious illness brings on a period of serious thinking.
 1. When one faces major surgery and knows that they may not survive they do some serious thinking.
 - B. Many have faced death and recovered due to God's providence through medicine or prayer.
 1. How many times has this happened in our lives?

SERMON OUTLINES

2. Do we really know? How many times have you prayed for deliverance and recovered?
 - C. During times of doubt about life we make promises to God.
 1. How have we lived up to our promises?
 2. Some have kept them for a time and then reverted to their old ways.
 3. Others have completely changed their lives and definite changes have been made.
 - a. Some have become a blessing to the church and the community.
 - D. Many have recovered to face a new land.
 1. They should realize that "They have the whole land before them."
 - E. Have you wasted your land or been true to your promise?
- V. A NEW LAND IS BEFORE YOU WHEN YOU MARRY AND FORM A NEW HOME.
- A. "And said, For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh." Matthew 19:5.
 - B. When a new home is formed every opportunity is before you to have a Christian home with God's blessings and promises.
 1. Descendants influence should be for good.
 2. Studies were made on two families.
 - a. In one mother and father religious. The children were a blessing to world.
 - b. In the other which was a non religious home, many of descendants were criminals.
 3. Are we going to head our children for Heaven by teaching them the Bible and setting a good example for them?
 - C. In a new home with children parents have an opportunity to:
 1. Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."
 2. Ephesians 6:4 "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to

SERMON OUTLINES

wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

D. Is not the whole land before you?

1. Are you going to waste it?
2. Are you going to be a good steward of God?

VI. A WHOLE NEW LAND IS BEFORE YOU WHEN A CHILD IS BORN INTO YOUR HOME.

A. God has given you a precious soul to care for.

1. How are you going to shape it?
2. You have a definite responsibility to:
 - a. Teach it. Ephesians 6:4; Deuteronomy 6:7.
 - b. To correct and discipline it. Deuteronomy 8:5; Hebrews 12:6.
 - c. To provide the necessities of life for it.

B. A child can be a blessing to you.

1. Give joy to your home.
2. Be a faithful Christian.
3. Be a comfort in your older years.

C. What will you do with this new land?

1. Remember that a twig can be bent, but not a tree.

VII. A WHOLE NEW LAND IS BEFORE YOU WHEN YOU MOVE INTO A NEW COMMUNITY

A. Not only do you have a new job but new spiritual opportunities.

B. The old has been left behind and you face a whole new land.

C. You have an opportunity to make new friends.

D. You have an opportunity to enter into a new relationship with a new congregation of new brothers and sisters in Christ.

E. When you go into a new community you should consider:

1. The influence it will have on your family.
2. Not only did Lot enter into Sodom but Sodom entered into Lot and his family.
3. The influence the new land will have on our family and their Christian growth.

SERMON OUTLINES

F. If the new land is not what we want it to be let's not waste it but change it.

1. We can influence friends, the school, the church.

VIII. WHEN YOU BECOME A CHRISTIAN A WHOLE NEW LAND IS BEFORE YOU.

A. How may one become a Christian?

1. Believe. Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24; Mark 16:15,16.

2. Repent. Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30.

3. Confess. Matthew 10:32,33; Acts 8:37.

4. Be baptized. Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Galatians 3: 26,27;
1 Peter 3:20-21.

B. When you do this you have been born again John 3:5.

1. Old things have passed away; all things have become new.
2 Corinthians 5:17.

C. Many people have desired to start all over.

1. As a Christian you now have an opportunity to do this.

D. Paul after conversion had a whole new world before him.

1. Look at what he did and became.

E. What are we going to do with our new world?

1. In our personal lives?

2. In our family lives?

3. In the Church?

CONCLUSION:

I. IS NOT THE WHOLE LAND BEFORE THEE NOW AND IN THE FUTURE?

A. The future is before us. It is our prayer that we will use the land and our opportunities.

B. Let us not waste it as Lot.

SERMON OUTLINES

TOO TIED UP OR ENTANGLED

INTRODUCTION:

- I. GOD'S PEOPLE IN THE WILDERNESS WANDERING WERE KNOWN AS THE CHURCH IN THE WILDERNESS. Acts 7:38.
"This is he, that was in [the church in the wilderness] with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sinai, and <with> our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:"
 - A. Church is a called out group. These people were those called out of Egypt by the authority of God through Moses.
 1. They left Egypt with enthusiasm and conviction.
 - B. Not too many years later they were spoken of as being entangled in the wilderness. Exodus 14:3
"For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, They <are> entangled in the land, the wilderness hath shut them in."
- II. WE SHOULD NOT BE SO ALLIED WITH EVIL THAT WE GET ENTANGLED IN IT.
 - A. Satan has his devices in which to entangle us. 2 Corinthians 2:11
"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices." 2 Timothy 2:24-26
"And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all <men>, apt to teach, patient, {25} In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; {26} And <that> they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will."
 - B. He has his spider webs and briar patches and we need to beware of them.
- III. There are ENTANGLEMENTS that we need to avoid.
 - A. AVOID BEING ENTANGLED WITH OLD LAW.
 1. It is a yoke of bondage. Galatians 5:1
"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."
 2. Yoke of Sabbath.

SERMON OUTLINES

3. Yoke of Instrumental music.
- B. AVOID BEING ENTANGLED WITH THE AFFAIRS OF THIS LIFE. 2 Timothy 2:3-4
"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. {4} No man that wareth entangleth himself with the affairs of <this> life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."
- C. AVOID BEING ENTANGLED WITH POLLUTIONS OF THIS WORLD. 2 Peter 2:20-22
"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. {21} For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known <it>, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. {22} But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog <is> turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."
- D. Denominationalism, ...Few ever get out of this SPIDER WEB.
John 17: 20-21 "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; {21} That they all may be one; as thou, Father, <art> in me, and I in thee, that they also may believe that thou hast sent me." Romans 16:17-18
"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. {18} For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."
- E. Adulterous marriages. Matthew 19:9
"And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except <it be> for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marieth her which is put a way doth commit adultery."
- F. Marrying sectarians. 1 Corinthians 7:39
"The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if

SERMON OUTLINES

her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord."

G. All sinful habits. Psalms 9:15

"The heathen are sunk down in the pit <that> they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken."

Proverbs 5:1 "My son, attend unto my wisdom, <and> bow thine ear to my understanding:"

TRANSITION: Many times many individuals feel like they are dead spiritually and that the church is not doing anything. Could it be that we are all TOO TIED UP AND ENTANGLED in other things to the extent that we are useless or dead in the church? Many times we are asked to do things and give the answer, "GET SOMEONE ELSE. I'M ALL TIED UP." The church is you. Let's look at a man who is too tied up.

DISCUSSION: THESE ACTIVITIES MAY NOT BE SINFUL WITHIN THEMSELVES.

I. SOCIAL AFFAIRS

A. Meals, weddings, school meetings, parties.

1. Jesus ate in home of Zacchaeus. Luke 19:7

"And when they saw <it>, they all murmured, saying That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner."

2. Went to a wedding. John 2:1-2

"And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: (2) And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage."

3. Jesus visited in home of Martha. Luke 10:38-40

"Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. {39} And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. {40} But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came into him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? Bid her therefore that she help me."

4. WHEN WE LET THESE THINGS HINDER US IN OUR WORK IN THE CHURCH WE ARE TOO TIED UP.

SERMON OUTLINES

B. CHARITIES

1. Organizations that do good and raise money to help the poor and needy; health organizations for children and people who have certain diseases. Heart; cancer, etc.
2. Many work in raising the money.
3. Many work in distributing the money.
4. This is good but one can become so busy in these works that they don't have time for the church.

C. FAMILY

1. The family is the older of God's two institutions: The Home and The Church.
 - a. God made Adam and then Eve and brought her to Adam. The first home.
2. DUTIES IN THE HOME. Ephesians 6:1-4
"Children, obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right. {2} Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; {3} That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. {4} And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Ephesians 5:22
"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord."
 - a. We cannot put family above the Lord. Matthew 10:37
"He that [loveth father or mother more] than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."

D. BUSINESS

Luke 14:16-20 "Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: {17} And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. {18} And they all with one <constant> began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. {19} And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. {20} And another said, I

SERMON OUTLINES

have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.”

1. Many use business as an excuse for not attending or working in the church.

E. EDUCATION

1. Education is good. The Lord wants us to have all the knowledge we can get.
2. Education has done much for the church.
3. One can let education hinder them from their Christian responsibilities.

F. SPORTS

1. Sports are not bad within themselves
2. Figures using sports teach many lessons in the Bible.
3. THE CHRISTIAN RACE Hebrews 12:1
“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset <us>, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,”
4. People can let sports keep them from being faithful.
 - a. Young people should let coaches know that Church comes first.
5. Spectators should determine to not let sports interfere with the church.

G. TRAVEL

1. Travel is good and widens ones knowledge and appreciation.
2. Some are gone a majority of the time.
3. Camper clubs—etc.—gone two or three weeks each month during the summer.
4. Mini vacations...
5. These can hinder work in church.

H. HOBBIES

1. We encourage people to be interested in different things. Hobbies are good.
2. Collecting things, making things, reading things, craft shows,

SERMON OUTLINES

flea markets, fishing, quilting.

3. If we get too involved it might hurt you and the church.

I. POLITICS

1. One could not prove politics to be good or bad.
2. Just because many politicians do wrong does not make politics wrong.
3. Government and anything to do with it could be called politics.
4. God ordains governments. Romans 13:1
"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God."
5. Some let activities in politics hinder them from being faithful to God... do wrong or become lax in service to God in church.

J. WORK

1. We are to work and not be lazy. 1 Timothy 5:8
"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is [worse than an infidel]."
2. Romans 12:11 —not be lazy.
3. Work so we will be able to support the church.
1 Corinthians 16:1-2
"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. {2} Upon the first <day> of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as <God> hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."
4. Some work so much they neglect Christ and the Church.
5. Put Christ and the Church above work.

K. CLUBS

1. Nothing wrong with clubs... Associate with businessmen, men with high principles.
2. Some clubs do much good... have good programs...
3. Some become so active in clubs that they have no time for Christ and the church.
 - a. Do more in club than they do in church.

SERMON OUTLINES

4. They are too tied down... and don't have time for anything else.

L. PLEASURE... enjoyment—having a good time—.

1. There is nothing wrong with pleasure if we do not let it interfere with Christ and the Church.

2. Some do. 1 John 2:15-17

“Love not the world, neither the things <that are> in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. {16} For all that <is> in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. {17} And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.”

3. Nothing wrong with this... satisfaction—joy... Can be good or bad.

4. Putting pleasure above God... having a good time... constantly in mind will tie one down.

CONCLUSION:

I. Why aren't we as Christians growing and enjoying a fruitful Christian life?

A. Are we TOO TIED DOWN?

II. Why isn't the church growing and doing well?

A. Are we TOO TIED DOWN?

SERMON OUTLINES

GOD'S BARRIERS TO KEEP ONE OUT OF HELL

INTRODUCTION:

I. GOD DOES NOT WANT HIS PEOPLE TO SUFFER OR BE LOST.

A. Suffering of His people has been brought on by rebellion against Him and his word.

1. Adam and Eve's disobedience caused them to be cast out of the Garden.

a. They were separated from God which means spiritual death.

b. They were to die physically and return to the dust.

c. Here we see the promise of a Redeemer. Genesis 3:15

2. In Noah's day the people sinned and God made up his mind to destroy the people. Genesis 6:5, 6 "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was on evil continually... And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart." HE DETERMINED TO DESTROY MAN WITH A FLOOD.

a. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Genesis 6:6

b. God gave Noah a plan of building the ark to escape the flood. Genesis 6:14-21.

c. Noah did according to all that God commanded him so he did. V. 22.

d. God was long suffering and gave them time to repent. Noah warned them for 120 years.

3. God at Abraham's pleading was willing to spare Sodom if ten righteous souls could be found. Genesis 18:32.

4. In Moses time God was going to destroy his people and begin again but at Moses pleading changed his mind.

II. HELL IS A BAD PLACE AND GOD DOES NOT WANT PEOPLE TO GO THERE.

A. HELL.

1. Place of everlasting fire. Matt. 25:41.

2. Place of torment. Luke 16:19-31.

SERMON OUTLINES

3. Both soul and body cast into it. Matt. 19:28.
 4. Place where worm dieth not.
 5. Place of fire and brimstone.
 6. DO YOU BELIEVE IN HELL? DO YOU WANT TO GO THERE?
 7. Just as sure as there is a Heaven there is a Hell.
- B. GOD DOES NOT WANT YOU TO GO TO HELL.
1. As soon as man was separated from Him in the garden, he gave the promise of a redeemer. Genesis 3:15.
 2. The Old Testament is a continuous history of God keeping that promise alive. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, Prophets.
 3. He gave his Son. John 3:16-17.
 4. Jesus died on the Cross to save us from our sins.
 - a. Hebrews 2:9 "...That he by the grace of God should taste death for EVERY man."
 - b. He would have every man come to the knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:4 "...Who will have all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth."

DISCUSSION:

- I. MAN'S CONDITION IN SIN.
- A. Since Adam man has been separated from God spiritually.
1. In that condition he is lost and if he dies in that condition he will go to Hell.
 - a. Ephesians 2:12-13 "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world."
- B. Man does not have to remain in that condition. He can be reconciled to God.
1. The Great Invitation, Matthew 11:28-30, "Come".
 2. By obeying the Gospel which culminates in Baptism you are in Christ or reconciled to Him. Ephesians 2:13 "But now in Christ Jesus, ye who were sometimes afar off are made nigh by the

SERMON OUTLINES

blood of Christ.”

3. Ephesians 2:16 “And that he might reconcile both into one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby.”

II. THERE ARE ONLY TWO WAYS THAT WE CAN TRAVEL IN THIS LIFE, ONLY TWO AND NO MORE.

A. Matthew 7:13-14 “Enter ye in at the strait gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way, that leads to destruction; and many there be that do in there at. Because strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leads unto lie and few there be that enter in thereat.”

B. God knows that the broad way leads to Hell and punishment and does not want you to go there.

1. He knows that it is the popular way or the easy way.
2. He has put FENCES IN THE WAY TO KEEP YOU FROM GOING THERE.

1. Illustration. One may put an expensive fence up to keep animals (Cow, Dog, Horse). They may jump or go through the fence and get lost or killed inspite of his efforts.

TRANSITION: Since God loves us so much and doesn't want us to go to Hell he has placed FENCES in the way to keep us from going there. IN this lesson we would like to NOTICE some of the FENCES that he has placed to keep us out of Hell.

DISCUSSION:

I. GOD HAS GIVEN US THE BIBLE AS A FENCE TO KEEP US OUT OF HELL.

A. The Bible is an inspired book. It was breathed by God.

1. He spake in old times by the prophets.
2. Today he speaks to us through the word given by his Son. Hebrews 1:1-2 “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets... Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.”

SERMON OUTLINES

3. Christ when before he ascended to Heaven promised the Holy Spirit to his Apostles. John 14:26 "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."
4. This Holy Spirit came on Apostles in Acts 2:1-4.
5. We were given in the Bible the message that is God's power unto salvation. Romans 1:16.
6. It is profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, that the man of God be perfect and thoroughly furnished unto every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
7. EVEN THOUGH PEOPLE HAVE COPIES OF THE BIBLE IN THEIR HOME THEY IGNORE IT AND INSIST ON RUSHING HEAD STRONG INTO HELL.

II. GOD HAS PUT GOSPEL PREACHERS AND GOSPEL SERMONS AS A FENCE TO KEEP YOU FROM GOING TO HELL.

- A. In the Old Testament when God wanted people to know it He often sent prophets or individuals to them to give them the message.
1. Sometime they did not like the message.
 2. Ahab did not like Micaiah because he did not tell him good things. He told him what God said.
 3. Naaman did not like Elisha's message about dipping in the Jordan.
- B. Today Gospel Preachers preach Gospel Sermons or the Word of God.
1. The Gospel is to be preached today. Mark 16:15-16.
 - a. This is God's plan to save today. 1 Corinthians 1:21 "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the FOOLISHNESS OF PREACHING to save them that believe.
 - b. Gospel sermons bring repentance. Acts 2:37.
 2. Some do not like God's message of salvation today and get mad when the preacher gives the message.

SERMON OUTLINES

3. God has put these sermons between them and Hell but some rush on not giving any heed.
- C. Gospel sermons are also to people in the Church who are sin by engaging in works of flesh or who become luke warm and indifferent.
1. The Preacher is to preach the word.
 2. He is to denounce sin and indifference.
 3. Mention some signs of danger here in this congregation.
 - a. 85 to 90 on roll that are expected to be regular attendees. Look at the attendance board.
 - b. A few months ago we had 80 to 90 attending regularly.
 - c. Hebrews 10:25.
 - d. Where I am there will my servant be.
 - e. Some are missing three or four Sunday's and Wednesday nights in a row.
 - f. What's happened?
 4. Even though we hear sermons and know we are going to rush over God's fence into Hell?
 5. Are we going to carry our children with us?
- III. GOD HAS PUT THE FENCE OF BAPTISM BETWEEN YOU AND HELL.
- A. Jesus was baptized Himself and commanded people today to be baptized. Mark 16:15, 16.
 - B. It is symbolic of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Romans 6:3-4.
 - C. It puts one into Christ. Galatians 3:26-27.
 - D. It is for the remission of Sins. Acts 2:38.
 - E. It is the culminating point of the New Birth. John 3:3-5.
 - F. Many know what the Bible says but insist on going over the fence that God has put between them and Hell.
- IV. GOD HAS PUT THE CHURCH AS A FENCE BETWEEN YOU AND HELL.

SERMON OUTLINES

- A. It was God's purpose that through the church the mystery of salvation in Christ would be made known to the world.
Ephesians 3:9-11.
- B. Christ promised to build it. Matthew 16:18.
- C. He is its head and it is his body. Col. 1:18; Ephesians 1:20-21.
- D. He purchased it with his blood. Acts 20:28.
- E. The saved are added to it.
- F. Are you a member or are you going over the fence in a mad rush to Hell?

V. GOD HAS PUT CHRISTIAN FATHERS AND MOTHERS AS A FENCE BETWEEN YOU AND HELL.

- A. Fathers are to teach and nourish their children spiritually.
Ephesians 6:4 "And ye fathers provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."
 - 1. Many have had faithful Christian fathers. But refuse to follow their teaching and example.
- B. Christian mothers' teachings and prayers are often overlooked.
 - 1. The power of a mother's influence. 2 Timothy 1:5
"When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which first dwelt in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that is in thee also."
 - 2. Godly mothers bring their children to God. 1 Samuel 1:27-28
Hannah, "I have lent him to the Lord."
- C. Are you running over a Godly mother and father that God gave you as a fence to keep you out of Hell?

VI. CHRISTIAN FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES ARE FENCES TO KEEP YOU OUT OF HELL.

- A. Those who love Christ will bring others to Him. John 1:2-43.
 - 1. Andrew found Simon and Philip found Nathaniel.
- B. At this congregation think of the Godly people that we have as fences to keep us out of Hell.

SERMON OUTLINES

1. Think of the older Christians who are dead and gone who God used as fences to keep us out of Hell.

C. The example of Christians wins many to Christ.

1. What about you?

2. In spite of these are you going to insist on running your course.

VII. GOD HAS PLACED THE OLD RUGGED CROSS AS A FENCE TO KEEP YOU OUT OF HELL.

A. The Cross is the Power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18

“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”

B. Here we are crucified to the world. Galatians 6:14

“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”

C. If you have rushed by all other fences don't run over the man on the cross.

CONCLUSION:

I. GOD HAS GIVEN THE FENCE OF RESTORATION.

A. SIMON THE SORCERER. Acts 8.

1. He believed and was baptized... but tried to buy the power of God with money.

2. Told to repent and pray to God else thy soul perish with thee.

II. RESPECT GOD'S FENCES.

SERMON OUTLINES

THE CONVERSION OF A GOOD MORAL MAN

Acts Chapters 10 - 11

INTRODUCTION:

- I. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THERE ARE MANY GOOD MORAL PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT OBEYED THE GOSPEL AND THUS ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE LORD'S CHURCH.
 - A. These people are: honest, sincere, live good clean lives, good family members and are productive citizens.
 - B. Many preachers when preaching funerals give the impression that these people are headed to heaven to be with the Lord and receive his blessings.
 1. This is the opinion of many people and we hear them express their sentiments about the deceased expressing this idea.
 - C. This is something to consider seriously.
 1. We all are going to stand before the judgment seat of Christ.
2 Corinthians 5:10. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things <done> in <his> body, according to that he hath done, whether <it be> good or bad." Hebrews 9:27
And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:
 2. His word will judge us. John 12:48
"He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the [last day]."
 3. Really it is not important what people think but what matters is what the Bible says.

TRANSITION: There is a story in the Book of Acts 10 and 11 which will answer this story for us. We would like to study this in our lesson today.

DISCUSSION:

- I. GIVE THE STORY AS IT IS RECORDED USING BOTH CHAPTER TO GET THE FULL STORY.

SERMON OUTLINES

- A. The tenth chapter gives Luke's account and is not necessarily in order. Chapter 11 is Peter's account and is in the order that it happened.
1. If we do not take this into account there may be seeming contradictions.
 2. Luke gives his as a story in writing the Book of Acts. Peter tells about it when he is confronted by the Apostles and brethren in Jerusalem when they heard about the conversions of the Gentiles and eating with the Gentiles. Acts 11:2-3
"And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him, {3} Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them."
 3. Peter rehearsed the matter with them from the beginning and IN ORDER. Acts 11:4 "But Peter rehearsed <the matter> from the beginning, and expounded <it> by order unto them ..."
- B. The Gospel (Great Commission) had been in operation about ten years and had been preached to the Jews.
1. Great Commission. Matthew 28:18-20
"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. {19} Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: {20} Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo I am with you always, <even> unto the end of the world. Amen. Mark 16:15-16 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. {16} He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."
 2. Apostles thought it was to be preached to the Jews of all nations.
 - a. Their conduct toward the Gentiles shows this attitude and thought.

II. THE TWO IMPORTANT CHARACTERS IN THE STORY.

A. PETER an apostle of Jesus Christ.

SERMON OUTLINES

1. Called to be an apostle by Jesus.
2. Not perfect, impetuous, and forthright.
3. Promised the keys of the kingdom by Christ upon his confession of Christ as God's Son. Matthew 16:13-19
"When Jesus came into the coast of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? {14} And they said, Some <say that thou art> John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. {15} He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? {16} And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. {17} And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed <it> unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. {18} And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. {19} And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

B. CORNELIUS A GENTILE CENTURION.

1. A centurion of the band call the ITALIAN BAND.
 - a. A Roman commander over 100 men, a centurion.
 - b. Does not authorize Instrumental music as one man said, (because he was in a band)
 - c. A devout man and one that feared God with all his house.
 - d. Gave much alms to the people (This is more than some church people do. MUCH would not describe the giving of many.)
 - e. The men who came to get Peter in this story described him as:
 - 1) A just man, one that feareth God, and of good report among all nations of the Jews.
 - f. Prayed to God always.

SERMON OUTLINES

2. He was lost because this story is about how he learned what to do to be saved.

III. CORNELIUS TOLD BY AN ANGEL TO SEND TO JOPPA AND GET PETER WHO WOULD TELL HIM WORDS WHERE BY HE AND HIS HOUSE WOULD BE SAVED. This is one of the three miracles in the story. Acts 11:13

“And he showed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter.” Acts 11:14

Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.

A. Notice God did not save him by the Angel but told him to send and get Peter... who would tell him words whereby he and his house could be saved.

B. Gospel was in earthen vessels or in the hands of men.
2 Corinthians 4:7

“But we have this treasure in [earthen vessels], that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”

C. Men are saved by hearing, believing and obeying the Gospel today. Romans 10:13-17

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. {14} How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? {15} 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! {16} But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? {17} So then faith <cometh> by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

D. God wanted Cornelius to hear the Gospel and told him to Go and get Peter who was in Joppa.

E. When the angel departed Cornelius called some household servants and sent them to get Peter.

SERMON OUTLINES

III. GOD PREPARED PETER FOR THE MESSENGERS WHO WERE COMING TO GET HIM.

A. PETER'S VISION—This is another miracle in the story.

1. Peter went on housetop to pray about the sixth hour.
2. He became very hungry and would have eaten but while they made ready he fell into a trance.
3. Saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners let down to earth.
4. All manner of four footed beasts of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and fowls of the air.
5. Voice, kill and eat.
6. Peter said, "Not so Lord; for I have never eaten anything common or unclean."
7. Voice came second time. What God hath cleansed that call not thou common.
8. This was done thrice and vessel was received up into heaven.
9. While Peter doubted what this vision meant the men came from Cornelius and made inquiry for Simons house, and stood before the gate. They asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter were lodged there.
 - a. Here we see the providence of God. The men were there and Peter was ready to go. All this at the right time.
 - b. The Gospel was in the hands of men and now God was going to bring the Gospel to the sinner.
10. "Peter went down and said I am he whom ye seek. What is the cause wherefore ye are come."
11. They told about Cornelius being warned by an angel to send for you and to hear WORDS OF THEE.
12. Peter lodged them and on the morrow went with them along with certain (six) brethren. (In controversial situation it is good to have witnesses.)
 1. On the morrow they went on their way.

SERMON OUTLINES

IV. PETER IN THE HOME OF CORNELIUS.

A. When they entered into Casarea Cornelius waited for them.

1. He had called together his kinsmen and near friends. (They were described as many that came together) v. 27.
 - a. Do we do that for a Gospel meeting or service?
 - b. NOTE ATTITUDE: We are hear to hear whatsoever hath been commanded thee of God. DO WE HAVE THIS ATTITUDE?
2. He fell down at Peter's feet and worshiped him. Peter would not allow this and said, "Stand up I also am a man." He wasn't a Pope.
3. Peter reminded them that he was a Jew and it was not allowed for him to keep company with another nation. He told them, "God hath showed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.
4. He asked, "FOR WHAT INTENT HAVE YE SENT FOR ME?"
 - a. Why do you have me as a minister here?

B. Cornelius relates how he had been fasting and was at the ninth hour and how a man stood before him in bright clothing.

1. He was told that his PRAYERS were heard and his alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God. v 31.
2. He had been told to send to Joppa and get Simon whose Surname was Peter; who lodged at the house of Simon a tanner by the sea side, who would come and speak to him.
 - a. Acts 11:14 HE WOULD TELL HIM WORDS.

Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.

V. PETERS SERMON TO CORNELIUS... VS. 34-43.

A. Contents of sermon

1. God is no respecter of persons. 34,
2. In every nation he that feareth him and worketh righteousness is accepted of him. 35.
3. God sent Word unto children of Israel, preaching peace by

SERMON OUTLINES

Jesus Christ: (He is Lord of all).

4. This was preached through all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached.
 5. God anointed Jesus with the Holy Ghost and he went about doing good, healing oppressed of the devil, For God was with him.
 6. We (apostles) were witnesses of all he did and how they slew him on a tree.
 7. God raised him up the third day and showed him openly. Not to all but to witnesses who ate and drank with him after he arose from the dead.
 8. He commanded us to preach unto the people how he would be the judge of quick and dead.
 9. To him gave all prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.
- B. HOLY GHOST falls on them during the sermon. This is another miracle in the story. NOTE: Not to save them if so, IF SO WHY SEND FOR PETER?
1. Note: by order to them. Acts 11:4
But Peter rehearsed <the matter> from the beginning, and expounded <it> by order unto them, saying,
 - a. Peter relates: "As I began to speak to them." Acts 11:15
And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.
 2. The Holy Ghost fell on them before HE TOLD THEM WORDS THAT WOULD SAVE THEM.
 3. The Holy Ghost is general but never specific.
 4. Why didn't he say like it did yesterday.
 5. He had to go back a number of years to refer to something that was similar.
 6. Why did the Holy Ghost fall on them? They were Gentiles... unacceptable to the Jews... When they (Jews) learned of the baptism of the Holy Ghost they said, Acts 11:18
When they heard these things, they held their peace, and

SERMON OUTLINES

glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

7. The Holy Ghost did not fall on them to save them but to show the Jews they were acceptable of God.

VI. PETER THEN TELLS THEM WHAT TO DO TO BE SAVED OR GIVES THEM THE MESSAGE OF GOD.

A. Then answered Peter. Acts 10:47-48

“Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? {48} And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.”

B. HE WAS TO TELL THEM WORDS BY WHICH THEY WOULD BE SAVED. Acts 11:14

Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.

1. What did he tell them? “COMMANDED THEM TO BE BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF THE LORD.” V. 48.
2. This was the same thing he taught the PENTECOSTIANS. Acts 2:38, “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

C. Here WAS A GOOD MORAL MAN WHO COULD NOT BE SAVED OUTSIDE THE CHURCH.

1. Neither can you.

CONCLUSION:

1. SHOULDN'T WE TELL PEOPLE THE SAME THING TODAY?
2. WILL YOU NOT DO AS CORNELIUS AND HIS HOUSEHOLD?