

SERMON OUTLINE COLLECTION

Volume Two

By

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INTRODUCTION

Having published Sermon Outline Collection, Volume One, the pressure has been on me to bring out Volume Two. This is the result of that effort. Needless to say, it is my prayer that it may serve a worthy purpose.

Some outlines come and go while others seem never to die. The major themes of the Bible are eternal and must continue to be preached. Other themes are more general in nature and may be approached in hundreds and even thousands of ways. That is why new outline books can continue to be brought out and that is also why they usually find a good reception among our preaching brethren. I would caution each one, however, to be sure that you fully understand and know the outline, to know that the lessons contained therein are needed, and above all, that it is fully based on God's word. I would advise you to approach these outlines in this way as well as all others. We do not preach just to preach but we preach that souls might be saved and prepared for heaven. We have a great work to do but a great responsibility to go with it.

May God bless you as you preach God's eternal word and if these outlines and thoughts would be of help to you in some way then I will be more than rewarded for my effort.

J. C. Choate
E-10/B Defence Colony
New Delhi-110024, India
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STUDY

2 Timothy 2:15; John 5:39; Acts 17:11

INTRODUCTION :

1. We have the Biblical injunction to study the scriptures.
2. Why is it that this is not done ?
3. It seems that fewer are studying now than ever before.
4. This is a subject that needs our immediate attention.

DISCUSSION :

I. *Why We Should Study.*

1. God commands us to. (2 Timothy 2:15).
2. To learn the truth. (John 8:32).
3. To rightly divide the word. (2 Timothy 2:15).
4. To gain knowledge to teach others. (1 Timothy 4:16).
5. To be more effective.
6. To have a better life.
7. To be warned. (1 Corinthians 10:12).
8. To investigate those who teach. (Acts 17:11).
9. To set a good example.
10. To give a thus saith the Lord. (Matthew 4:1-11; 1 Peter 4:11).
11. To be able to give an answer for the hope that is within you. (1 Peter 3:15).
12. To be provided with spiritual food. (Matthew 4:4; Matthew 5:6).

II. *Why We Don't Study.*

1. Not interested.
2. Afraid to learn the truth.
3. It takes time.
4. It is hard work.
5. Too lazy.
6. Have not disciplined ourselves.
7. Willing to let someone do our studying for us.

8. Offer excuses. (Too hard to understand, etc.)

III. *Who Should Study ?*

1. Every Christian.
2. All people.

IV. *When Should We Study ?*

1. Not just on Sunday.
2. Not just during Bible Study hour.
3. But we need to study daily.

V. *How Should We Study ?*

1. Sincerely.
2. Systematically.
3. Prayerfully.
4. With an open mind.
5. Honestly.

CONCLUSION :

1. The Lord wants us to know his will.
2. We must want to know in order to know it.
3. Those who fail to study will lose in the end but those who study have all to gain.

SIN

INTRODUCTION :

1. There are many ideas about sin and as to what sin is.
2. Man places his own definition upon it.
3. He talks about big sin, little sin, etc.
4. Must go to the Bible for the truth.

DISCUSSION:

I. *What Is Sin ?*

1. "Sin is the transgression of the law." (1 John 3:4).
2. "All unrighteousness is sin." (1 John 5:17).

3. Sin is wrong-doing, wickedness, iniquity, ungodliness, that which is bad and evil.

II. *Who Were The First Sinners?*

1. Adam and Eve. (Genesis 3:1-19).
2. They transgressed God's will.
3. Became God's enemy.
4. Man has been a sinner ever since.

III. *Who is the Author of Sin?*

1. Not God.
2. But Satan himself. (Genesis 3:1-19).
3. The Serpent deceived Eve. (2 Corinthians 11:3).
4. He is the enemy of all of mankind.

IV. *Who Is The Father Of The Sinner?*

1. Satan. (John 8:34-44).
2. His children serve him. (John 8:34).

V. *Who is Guilty of Sin?*

1. All have sinned. (Romans 3:23).
2. If we say we have no sin we lie. (1 John 1:8-10).
3. All are sinners. (Romans 5:8-12).

VI. *What Causes Man To Sin?*

1. Desire and lust leads to temptation. (James 1:14; James 4:1-4).
2. Man is always wanting something he does not have.

VII. *Who Causes Man To Sin?*

1. The enemy, the Devil. (Matthew 13:24, 25, 38, 39).
2. Anyone who causes us to sin is of the Devil.

CONCLUSION :

1. Sin is a terrible disease.
2. It leads to terrible consequences.

3. Must try to rid ourselves of it.

TYPES OF SIN

INTRODUCTION :

1. Sin is the transgression of the law. (1 John 3:4).
2. It literally means "to miss the mark."
 - a. The will of God is the mark.
 - b. Whenever we fail to obey it, we sin.
3. All unrighteousness is sin. (1 John 5:17).
4. Now we want to talk about the types of sin.

DISCUSSION :

I. *Man Talks About The Size Of Sin.*

1. Little sin.
 - a. Pride.
 - b. Gossip.
 - c. Anger.
 - d. Neglect.
 - e. Lying.
 - f. Dishonesty.
2. Big sin.
 - a. Murder.
 - b. Robbery.
 - c. Adultery.

II. *Man Talks About The Color Of Sin.*

1. White sin.
 - a. Lies.
 - b. Dishonesty.
2. Black sin.
 - a. Murder.
 - b. Any terrible sin.

III. *Sins Of Omission And Commission*

1. Omission. (James 4:17; Matt. 25:36).

- a. Neglect. (Heb. 2:3).
 - b. Failing to obey God. (Mk. 16:16).
 - c. Failing to pray. (Lk. 18:1).
 - d. Not attending the assemblies. (Heb. 10:25).
 - e. Not giving properly. (1 Corinthians 16:2).
2. Commission. (1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4).
- a. Sins purposely committed.
 - b. Actual acts.

IV. *Sins Of The Mind And Body.*

1. Mind.

- a. One may commit adultery in his heart. (Matt. 5:28.)
- b. One may be a murderer in his heart. (Matt. 5:22; 1 John 3:15).
- c. May have evil thoughts. (Matt. 15:19).

2. Body. (Gal. 5:19-21).

- a. Adultery.
- b. Fornication.
- c. Uncleaness.
- d. Lasciviousness.
- e. Idolatry.
- f. Witchcraft.
- g. Hatred.
- h. Variance.
- i. Emulations.
- j. Wrath.
- k. Strife.
- l. Seditions.
- m. Heresies.
- n. Envyings.
- o. Murders.
- p. Drunkenness.
- q. Revellings.
- u. Etc.

V. *Sins Of The Members Of The Body.*

1. Sins of the eyes.
 - a. Bad literature.
 - b. Adulterous eyes.
2. Sins of the ears.
 - a. Listening to bad things.
 - b. Listening to gossip.
3. Sins of the tongue.
 - a. Lying.
 - b. Cursing.
 - c. Ugly jokes.

VI. *Sins Against Man And God.*

1. Man.
 - a. Saying bad things about him.
 - b. Doing him harm.
 - c. Refusing to help him.
2. God.
 - a. Cursing him.
 - b. Neglecting him.
 - c. Going beyond his will.
 - d. Division and confusion.

CONCLUSION :

1. The Bible does not teach the degrees of sin.
 - a. All liars shall be cast into hell. (Rev. 21:8).
 - b. Sin is sin and the wages of sin is death. (Rom. 6:23).
2. God hates it and desires for man to quit it.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

INTRODUCTION:

1. Many love the things of this world.
2. They think happiness comes from the pleasures of sin.
3. They do not think about the price they must pay.

DISCUSSION :

I. *Facts About Sin.*

1. Sin brings pleasure. (Heb. 11:25).
2. It is progressive. (James 1:13-15).
3. It is very brief. (1 John 2:15-17).

II. *Is Sin Inherited?*

1. Some people teach that a baby is born with sin.
 - a. They say that the child inherits sin.
 - b. Therefore a baby is born lost.
2. But the Bible teaches that the son shall not bear the iniquity of the father. (Ezek. 18:20).
3. One must reach the age of knowing right from wrong before he is counted a sinner.
4. The Bible teaches that one must be old enough to hear, believe, repent, confess, and be baptized before he can be saved. (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 10:10).
5. The soul that sinneth it shall die.
6. Must become as little children. (Matt. 18:1-3).

III. *The Accountable Being.*

1. He is old enough to know right from wrong.
2. God warns man against sin.
3. He is allowed to make his own decision.
4. Then he must suffer the consequences.

IV. *The Consequences Of Sin.*

1. Examples.
 - a. Adam and Eve.
 - b. Cain.
 - c. The people destroyed in the flood.
 - d. Sodom and Gomorrah.
 - e. David.
 - f. Judas.
2. The way of the transgressor is hard.

3. Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap. (Gal. 6:7-8).
4. The wages of sin is death. (Rom. 6:23).
5. The soul that sinneth shall die.
6. The devil can destroy the body and the soul. (Matt. 10:26).
7. The evil will be resurrected to damnation. (John 5:28, 29).
8. The wicked shall be cast into hell. (Rev. 21:8).

CONCLUSION:

1. Sin never brings true happiness, but sorrow, pain, woe, destruction, and death.
2. Must stay away from it. (Rom. 12:9).

THE CURE FOR SIN

INTRODUCTION:

1. We have learned what sin is.
2. We have talked about the different types of sin.
3. Then we discussed the consequences of sin.
4. But how can one be cured of this horrible disease of the soul?

DISCUSSION:

I. *The Necessity Of Atonement.*

1. Man cannot atone (Make amends) for his own sins.
2. We cannot perform a multitude of good deeds and hope to erase our transgressions.
3. God will not listen to our pleas until atonement has been made. (Isa. 59:2).
4. In spite of man's sin, God still loved man and determined to make it possible for man to have forgiveness.
5. Since man could not atone for sins then God provided the atonement.
6. This means of salvation was to proceed from God's grace rather than from man's merit. (Eph. 2:8, 9).

7. It is God's will that atonement be made for sins by the shedding of blood. (Heb. 9:22).

II. *Atonement Under The Old Law.*

1. He expected animal sacrifices in which blood would be shed for the sins of the people.
2. In these sacrifices, only the best animals were used.
3. In spite of the sacrifices they were imperfect and never actually took away the people's sins.
4. They were continually remembered against them, year after year. (Heb. 10:1-4).

III. *Christ—The Perfect Sin Offering.*

1. Since animal sacrifices could not remove sins there was but one perfect sacrifice that could be offered—Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
2. God therefore sent him to earth to die on the cross, shedding his blood to atone for the sins of man. (John 3:16).
3. He was tried and tested for thirty years.
4. He was tempted but sinned not. (Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:22).
5. Being without sin He was a perfect sacrifice for the sins of man. (Heb. 5:8,9).
6. He died for us. (Rom. 5:7-9).
7. His blood cleanses our sin. (1 John 1:7).
8. Through his blood there is forgiveness. (Eph. 1:7).
9. Since Jesus died for our sins, does this mean that all men will be saved by his sacrifice?
 - a. It does not.
 - b. Only those who obey. (Heb. 5:9).

IV. *How We May Accept The Offering.*

1. Since we must obey Christ there is something that we must do to accept Him.
2. The plan of salvation revealed.
 - a. Hear. (Rom. 10:17).

- b. Believe. (Heb. 11:6).
 - c. Repent. (Acts 17:30).
 - d. Confession. (Matt. 10:32).
 - e. Baptism. (Mark. 16:16).
3. Through obedience we are saved, enter Christ and his church. (Acts 2:47; Gal. 3:26,27).
 4. Once one is in Christ he may as a Christian ask God through prayer to forgive those sins he commits from time to time. (1 John 1:1,2).
 5. As a Christian one is to be faithful. (Rev. 2:10).

CONCLUSION:

1. Christ is the great physician.
2. He came to seek and save the lost. (Luke 19:10).
3. Only Christ can give real rest. (Matt. 11:28-30).

LORD, OPEN OUR EYES

2 Kings 6:17

INTRODUCTION :

1. Tell the story of how Elisha overcame the King of Syria.
2. In this story he prayed that his servant's eyes might be opened so he could see that God's hand was greater than that of the enemy.
3. Elisha explained, "Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them."
4. Our eyes are often closed to God and his will.
5. We need to pray that our eyes may be opened that we may see.

DISCUSSION :

1. *We Need Our Eyes Opened To God's Presence.*
 1. God is over us. (Rom. 9:5; Eph. 4:6).
 2. He holds us up with his everlasting hands. (Ps. 37:24).
 3. He is behind us. (Ps. 139).

4. He goes before us. (Heb. 13:5; Ps. 142).
5. He takes us by his hand. (Ps. 139:10).
6. He is in us. (1 John 4:12).
7. He will go with us. (Matthew 28:20).
8. He will be with us. (Matthew 18:20).

II. *We Need Our Eyes Opened to God's Promises.*

1. We have received many precious promises from the Lord. (2 Peter 1:4).
2. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise. (2 Peter 3:9).
3. What he has promised, he is able to do. (Romans 4:21).
4. He is faithful that promised. (Hebrews 10:23).
5. We are partakers of the promise in Christ by the gospel. (Ephesians 3:6).
6. What are some of the promises?
 - a. That all things will be added to us. (Matthew 6:33).
 - b. That all things will work together for our good. (Romans 8:28, 31, 35-39).
 - c. All spiritual blessings given to us. (Ephesians 1:3).

III. *We Need Our Eyes Opened to God's Blessings.* (Eph. 1:3; 1 Tim. 6:6-12).

1. We often complain about all of our problems.
2. We are bad to worry.
 - a. Start young.
 - b. The tone of our voice is sad.
 - c. We enumerate all of the bad things that have happened to us.
 - d. We show this in our appearance and way of life.
3. To the contrary, we have many blessings and should rejoice to have them.
4. List your blessings.
 - a. Life.
 - b. Health.
 - c. A family.

- d. A job.
 - e. Freedom.
 - f. The necessities of life.
 - g. Salvation.
 - h. All spiritual blessings.
 - i. The hope of a better life.
5. If God has promised to be with us and to help us then surely he knows our needs and will provide for them.

CONCLUSION :

1. Have your eyes been opened?
2. Surely you can see things differently now.
3. It is amazing how different things look when our eyes are open.

FAITH IN CHRIST

INTRODUCTION :

1. The Bible teaches that one must have faith in God and Jesus Christ in order for him to be saved. (Heb. 11:7; John 3:16).
2. Let us see the meaning of faith in Christ as revealed in the scriptures.

DISCUSSION :

1. *Faith Is The Acceptance Of The Fact That Jesus Christ Is The Son Of God And The Saviour From Sin.*
 1. This is the primary meaning.
 2. We have not seen Christ but we accept him as being the Son of God and man's Saviour.
 3. We accept him on the valid evidences left concerning him. (Heb. 11:1; 1 Cor. 15:1-4).
 4. Faith comes by hearing God's word. (Rom. 10:17).
 5. Faith only though is not enough.
 - a. Some believed but were not saved. (John 12:42, 43).
 - b. The devils believe and tremble. (James 2:19).

6. However, no one can come to Christ until he does believe the facts of the gospel.

II. *To Have Faith In Christ Is To Trust In Him.*

1. One may believe the facts but still not trust Christ.
2. Faith, then, in the justifying, saving sense, involves more than giving mental assent to the facts concerning Christ; it also involves a trusting reliance on Him for salvation, a sincere desire to be redeemed from the bondage of sin by His divine power.

III. *Faith Is Obedience to Christ.*

1. Jesus said, "And why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46).
2. Only those who obey the will of the Father will be saved. (Matt. 7:21).
3. Souls are saved through obeying the truth. (1 Pet. 1:22).
4. We are justified by works. (James 2:24).
5. This does not conflict with the grace of God. (Eph. 2:8, 9).
6. The word faith is used to cover obedience or works.
7. This is seen in the cases of conversions.

CONCLUSION :

1. Do you believe in Christ?
2. Do you have a saving faith?
3. Remember, many believe but they are not saved.
4. To be saved then one must believe in the Lord enough to do what he says.
5. Only then can one be saved.

WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW JESUS

Luke 9:23-27; 57-62

INTRODUCTION :

1. Many claim to follow Jesus but do not.

2. Others would like to follow him but do not know how to do so.
3. This lesson is designed to teach what it means to follow Christ.
4. It is a very simple lesson but very broad in implications.
5. Here Jesus teaches his disciples principles that will hold true once the church has been established.

DISCUSSION :

I. *"If Any Man Will Come."*

1. Jesus commanded the gospel to be taken to all. (Mark 16:15).
2. All men have been commanded to repent. (Acts 17:30).
3. Christ has invited all to come. (Matt. 11:28-30).
4. The spirit and bride say come. (Rev. 22:17).
5. All may not come, but all are invited.

II. *"After Me."*

1. This is Jesus.
2. Jesus is the one that we are to believe in, obey, and follow. (John 8:24).

III. *"Let Him."*

1. That means you and me.
2. We are the ones who must accept Christ in obedience and follow him.
3. We need to be saved. (Rom. 3:10).

IV. *"Deny Himself."*

1. Must deny one's carnal self, one's pride, and anything in one's life that would conflict in following Christ.
2. One must quit putting his trust in himself and begin to put trust in the Lord.
3. This means repentance. (Luke 13:3).
4. It is not easy to do but must be done.

V. "And Take Up His Cross."

1. This is not a literal cross, but rather the work of Christ.
2. Christ experienced a literal cross, and we must prepare ourselves to be able to bear one if necessary, or any other type of persecution, but we are definitely to bear the yoke of Christ. (Matt. 11:28-30).
3. There is much to do and to be a follower of Christ we must be willing to take the initiative and thus to go to work for Christ.

VI. "Daily."

1. The Lord's cause is not a Sunday religion only, but it is something we do and live everyday.
2. The Lord wants all of us all the time. (Matt. 6:24).

VII. "And Follow Me."

1. Again, the emphasis is on following Christ and all that involves.
2. This is the beginning and the ending for the Christian.

CONCLUSION :

1. In Luke 9:24-27 Christ goes on to show the importance of putting first things first, of acknowledging Christ, etc.
2. In Luke 9:57-62 he gives some examples to show that one must put him before their relatives, guests, or anything else.
3. Are you a follower of Christ? What does that mean to you?

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE RICH?

2 Cor. 6:10; 2 Cor. 8:9; 1 Tim. 6:18; James 2:5

INTRODUCTION :

1. There are so many material things in this world.
2. Some people are rich with money and goods.
3. The majority long for these material things.
4. How would you like to be rich? Are you sure?

5. If you are not already, I am going to show you how you can be.

DISCUSSION :

I. Let's Take A Look At What The Lord Says About Being Materially Rich.

1. The rich shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. (Matt. 19:23).
2. Woe unto the rich. (Lk. 6:24).
3. Those who lay up earthly treasures are not rich toward God. (Lk. 12:21).
4. The rich fall into temptation. (1 Tim. 6:9).
5. The love of money is the root of all evil. (1 Tim. 6:10).
6. The very rich are made low. (James 1:10, 11).
7. Your riches will only bring you miseries. (James 5:1-3).
8. Not redeemed by corruptible things such as silver and gold. (1 Pet. 1:18, 19).

II. Now Let's Look At Some Who Were Materially Rich And See If We Would Like To Be Like Them.

1. The Rich Farmer. (Lk. 12:16-21).
2. The Rich Man who died and went to torment. (Lk. 16:19-31).
3. The Rich Young Ruler. (Lk. 18:18-23).

III. What Are Some Of The Problems Of Having Material Wealth?

1. Become covetous. (Lk. 12:15).
2. Become a lover of money. (1 Tim. 6:10).
3. Begin to worship wealth. (Matt. 6:24).
4. Become selfish. (Lk. 16:19-21).
5. Try to buy the gift of God with money. (Acts 8:20).

IV. Do Not Need Much To Live.

1. Brought nothing into the world and will take nothing out. (1 Tim. 6:6-11).
2. Trust the Lord to provide. (Matt. 6:24-34).

3. Man should not live by bread alone. (Matt. 4:4).

V. The Poor Materially Are Better Off.

1. Are not tempted by worldly wealth.
2. Do not have so much to worry about.
3. Free to think about other things.
4. Not bothered by people who always are looking for a hand out.

VI. How You Can Be Rich.

1. Already rich.
 - a. Health.
 - b. Freedom.
 - c. Family.
 - d. Friends.
 - e. Can work.
2. Above all, can be rich spiritually.
 - a. Can obey God.
 - b. Can be a Christian and a member of the church.
 - c. Can pray to the Father. (Rom. 10:12).
 - d. Have all spiritual blessings. (Eph. 1:3).
 - e. Poor but rich. (2 Cor. 6:10; Rev. 2:9).
 - f. Rich in good works. (1 Tim. 6:18).
 - g. Rich in faith. (James 2:5).
 - h. Forgiveness. (James 5:16).
 - i. Treasures in heaven. (Matt. 6:20).
 - j. Soul is most valuable possession. (Matt. 16:26).
 - k. Hope of heaven. (Rev. 22:14).

CONCLUSION :

1. Only God can make you truly rich.
2. Must learn the difference between material wealth and true riches.
3. Are you rich? If not, why wait longer?

THE PURPOSE OF PREACHING

Mk. 16:15, 16; 2 Tim. 4:2; 1 Cor. 1:21

INTRODUCTION:

1. Preaching is the means of communicating God's word to one or more.
2. It may be from the pulpit, by radio, or through the medium of television.
3. But what is the purpose of it?

DISCUSSION:

I. *Preaching Is Definitely Not For Certain Purposes.*

1. Not to preach self. (2 Cor. 4:5).
2. Not to show education. (1 Cor. 2:1-5).
3. Not for entertainment. (1 Cor. 2:2).
 - a. Joking all the time.
 - b. Telling death bed tales.
4. Not to be popular. (1 Cor. 4:9-13).
5. Not for a job only. (1 Cor. 4:12).
6. Not for promoting hobbies.
7. Not for preaching false doctrine. (Gal. 1:7-9).
8. Not for condemning only.
9. Not to preach something new. (Rev 22:18,19).
10. Not to be used.

II. *The Purpose of Preaching.*

1. Jesus has commanded it. (Mark 16:15).
2. To preach the word. (2 Tim. 4:2).
3. To evangelize. (Acts 8:4).
4. To inform or educate. (Matt. 28:19; Rom. 10:15-17).
5. To exalt Christ. (1 Cor. 1:23).
6. To condemn error. (2 Tim. 4:2).
7. To correct the ungodly. (1 Cor 5).
8. To be simple, practical, and in the language of the people.
9. To persuade men. (2 Cor. 5:11).

CONCLUSION:

1. We are sent to do a job.
2. Once the Lord's word is preached, then we leave the results with the Lord.
3. Preaching is powerful when the emphasis is on the message rather than the messenger.

"IN CHRIST"

Romans 6:3,4; 2 Cor. 5:17; Ephesians 1:22,23

INTRODUCTION:

1. What does it mean to be in Christ?
2. How does one enter Christ?
3. This is a study to see the relationship we have with Christ and how we enter into this relationship.

DISCUSSION:**I. *In Christ.***

1. No condemnation in Christ. (Romans 8:1).
2. Hope in Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:19).
3. Made alive in Christ. (2 Corinthians 2:14).
4. New creatures in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17).
5. Reconciled in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:19).
6. Have all spiritual blessings in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3).
7. Have his promise in Christ. (Ephesians 3:6).
8. Consolation is in Christ. (Philippians 2:1).
9. Stedfastness of faith in Christ. (Colossians 2:5).
10. Dead in Christ shall rise first. (1 Thessalonians 4:16).
11. Children of God in Christ. (Galatians 3:26).

II. *How Does One Enter Christ?*

1. Through baptism. (Galatians 3:26, 27).
2. By putting on Christ in baptism. (Romans 6:3, 4).

III. *What Does It Mean To Be In Christ?*

1. It means to be in his spiritual body.

- a. Christians make up the body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:27).
 - b. We are fellow heirs of the same body. (Ephesians 3:6).
 - c. To edify the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:12).
 - d. There is one body. (Ephesians 4:4).
 - e. Christ is saviour of the body. (Ephesians 5:23).
 - f. Christ is head of the body. (Colossians 1:18).
 - g. Body is of Christ. (Colossians 2:17).
 - h. Members in the body. (1 Corinthians 12:18).
 - i. No schism in the body. (Romans 12:4; 1 Corinthians 12:25).
 - j. Reconciled in the body. (Ephesians 2:16; Colossians 1:22).
 - k. Suffer in the body. (Hebrews 13:3).
 - l. One body in Christ. (1 Corinthians 10:17; 1 Corinthians 12:12).
 - m. Many members but one body. (1 Corinthians 12:20).
 - n. Called in one body. (Colossians 3:15).
2. Baptized into one body. (1 Corinthians 12:13).
 3. The body is the church. (Ephesians 1:22,23; Colossians 1:18).
 4. Those who believe and are baptized are saved and the saved are added to the church. (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:47).

CONCLUSION:

1. Are you in Christ, the body of Christ, the church of Christ?
2. You are if you are saved.
3. If you are not then you are not saved.
4. You have all to gain in Christ but all to lose outside of Christ.
5. Understand the relationship that exists between Christ and the church and you will see things differently.

THE LIVING CHURCH

Dan. 2:44; Mathew 16:18; Heb. 12:28

INTRODUCTION:

1. So many misunderstand the church.
2. They have become anti-church.

3. Need to go back to the Bible to study the church we read about there.
4. If all churches were the Lord's then all would be congregations of the same church.
5. We need to see the church in its purity and beauty as set forth in the scriptures.
6. The church is living and we want to notice some verses that bring this out.
7. What do you think of the church?

DISCUSSION:

The Living Church.

1. Christ promised to build the church. (Matthew 16:18).
2. Problems should be taken to the church. (Matthew 18:17).
3. The Lord added the saved to the church daily. (Acts 2:47).
4. Fear came upon all the church. (Acts 5:11).
5. Great persecution came against the church. (Acts 8:1; Phil. 3:6).
6. They assembled themselves together with the church. (Acts 11:26).
7. Elders were ordained in every church. (Acts 14:23).
8. The church was gathered together. (Acts 14:27).
9. They were brought on their way by the church. (Acts 15:3).
10. It pleased the elders with the whole church. (Acts 15:22).
11. Greet the church in their house. (Romans 16:5; Col. 4:15).
12. As I teach everywhere in every church. (1 Cor. 4:17).
13. Christ is head over the church. (Eph. 1:22,23; Col. 1:18).
14. Might be known by the church. (Eph. 3:10).
15. The church is subject unto Christ. (Eph. 5:24).
16. Christ loved the church and gave himself for it. (Eph. 5:25).
17. To present to himself a glorious church. (Eph. 5:27).
18. The body of Christ is the church. (Col. 1:24).

CONCLUSION:

1. How could one read all of the foregoing verses and not know what the church is and who it belongs to?
2. The Bible says there is but one body or church and that one belongs to Christ. (Eph. 4:4).
3. Any other church would be a false church, an imitation of the genuine, and competing with Christ and his church.
4. Surely we can know the truth about the church and once we know it we should settle for nothing less.
5. The church does not save but one must be in the church to be saved.
6. There are many fine people in other churches but they have been deceived.
7. We are pleading with you to study God's word so that you might not be deceived.

THE NEED FOR FORGIVENESS

Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14

INTRODUCTION :

1. Forgiveness means pardon, to give up resentment to grant relief from payment.
2. Forgiveness also means remission, to take away, to blot out, to cancel, to forget.
3. This is something that all of us need.
4. Man everywhere is constantly seeking a way to have forgiveness.

DISCUSSION :

1. *The Need of Forgiveness Is Based On The Fact That Man Is A Sinner.*
 1. All have sinned. (Romans 3:23).
 2. All are under sin. (Galatians 3:22). "But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe."

3. There is none righteous. (Roman 3:10). "As it is written, There is none righteous, no not one."
4. If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves. (1 John 1:8).
"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

II. *The Need For Forgiveness Is Based On The Terribleness Of Sin.*

1. Sin is the transgression of the law. (1 John 3:4).
"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."
2. When we sin we become the servants of sin. (Romans 6:16).
"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness."
3. In sin we are in captivity, in bondage, in slavery. (Romans 7:23).
"But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members."
4. We are dead in sin. (Ephesians 2:5).
"Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ."
5. Sin is against the body. (1 Corinthians 6:18).
"Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body."
6. "For whatsoever is not of faith is sin." (Romans 14:23).
7. "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." (James 4:17).
8. "All unrighteousness is sin." (1 John 5:17).
9. The wages of sin is death. (Romans 6:23).
10. "And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" (1 Peter 4:18).

III. *Jesus Christ Came to Bring Forgiveness.*

1. He did not sin. (1 Peter 2:22).
"Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth."
2. He bare our sin. (1 Peter 2:24).
"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."
3. Christ suffered for our sin. (1 Peter 3:18).
"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit."
4. Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures." (1 Corinthians 15:3).

IV. *There Is Forgiveness Through Christ.*

1. Forgiveness of sins. (Ephesians 1:7).
2. Remission of sins. (Acts 2:38).
3. Sins blotted out. (Acts 3:19).
4. Sins washed away. (Acts 22:16; Revelation 1:5).
5. Salvation. (Mark 16:16).
6. The old man of sin is destroyed. (Romans 6:6).
7. Freed from sin. (Romans 6:7).
8. Cleansed of sin. (1 John 1:7).

V. *How Can We Have Forgiveness Or Salvation?*

1. By believing and being baptized. (Mark 16:16).
2. By repenting and praying if we are erring Christians. (Acts 8:22.)
3. By walking in the light if we are Christians. (1 John 1:7).

CONCLUSION :

1. There is forgiveness only when we do what the Lord has said.
2. When the Lord forgives he doesn't remember those sins any more.
3. Forgiveness makes it possible for us to live with ourselves, others, and God.

DON'T BOTHER THEM

Mk. 5:1-20

INTRODUCTION :

1. Tell how Jesus cast the evil spirits out of this man.
 - a. The spirits recognized Jesus.
 - b. They didn't want Jesus to bother them.
 - c. If they were to be removed, they wanted to be cast into some living thing even if it was swine.
2. The healed man wanted to go with Jesus but Jesus refused him and sent him home.
3. There he told his story with great success.
4. We are often told that we shouldn't bother people.
 - a. We have come to bother you.
 - b. We want you to know the truth.
5. Let us notice some cases of people who should not have been bothered according to logic.

DISCUSSION :

- I. *The Ethiopian Eunuch.* (Acts 8:26-39).
 1. He was a religious fanatic.
 2. He had been all the way to Jerusalem to worship.
 3. He was even reading the scripture on his return.
 4. People today would tell us to leave such a man alone.
 5. Philip went to him and converted him.
- II. *Cornelius And His Household.* (Acts 10, 11).
 1. He was a Gentile and in the Army.
 2. But he was a good moral man and very religious.
 - a. Prayed daily.
 - b. Gave alms to the poor.
 3. Was instructed to send for Peter.
 4. Today we would be told to leave a man like that alone.
 5. Peter came, taught him, and he and his household obeyed the truth.

III. *Lydia And Her Household.* (Acts 16:12-15).

1. Paul was in Philippi.
2. He went out of the city by a river side.
3. He found some women there praying.
4. One was Lydia a seller of purple of Thyatira.
5. Many would have said to leave her alone.
6. She heard God's word and was baptized along with her household.

IV. *The Jailor And His Household.* (Acts 16:16-34).

1. Paul and Silas cast an evil spirit out of a young girl.
2. As a result they were cast into prison.
3. There they sang praises to God.
4. Miraculously they were released.
5. The jailor was about to take his life but Paul spoke up.
6. Many would have said leave him alone.
7. They taught him and his family God's word and they obeyed it.

CONCLUSION :

1. Are you leaving people alone?
2. If you are a Christian, you shouldn't.
3. If you are not a Christian, the truth will not leave you alone.

THE GREAT SALVATION

Heb. 2:1-4

INTRODUCTION :

1. Therefore, because of the foregoing things, you should take heed.
2. Should give heed to the things taught lest you forget them.
3. The word spoken by angels was important and those who heard were dealt with accordingly.
4. With that being truth, how shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation.
 - a. Which was spoken by the Lord.

- b. And was confirmed by them that heard him.
 - c. God bearing witness through miracles, etc.
5. But why is salvation so great?

DISCUSSION :

I. *It Cost So Much.*

- 1. God gave his own son. (John 3:15).
- 2. Christ gave his life. (Rom. 5:8).
- 3. Christ shed his blood to purchase us. (Acts 20:28).

II. *Jesus Christ Is The Author Of It.*

- 1. Came to offer salvation. (Mk. 16:15, 16).
- 2. Author of eternal salvation to all those who obey him. (Heb. 5:8, 9).
- 3. The author of a new and better covenant, testament, or law. (Heb. 10:9, 10).

III. *It Takes Away Sin.*

- 1. It is based on the good news of the gospel.
- 2. Those who receive it and obey the Lord are forgiven of their sins. (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38).

IV. *It Is For All People.*

- 1. The Lord has commanded the gospel to be taken into all the world. (Mark 16:15).
- 2. Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Rom. 10:13).

V. *It Brings Hope.*

- 1. All spiritual blessings are in Christ. (Eph. 1:3).
- 2. One of these blessings is hope. (Col. 1:27).

CONCLUSION :

- 1. What does salvation mean to you?
- 2. Are you saved? Do you have hope?
- 3. Please don't neglect your salvation.

AT WHAT POINT IS ONE SAVED?

Mark 16:16; Rom. 8:1; John 3:16

INTRODUCTION :

1. There are many verses that talk about salvation.
2. One might seem to indicate that one is saved at one point and another verse would indicate still another point.
3. At what point is one saved?
4. Can we know when one is saved?
5. Let us see if we can pin point it.

DISCUSSION :

- I. *On The One Hand The Scriptures Teach The Importance Of Faith Or Belief To Salvation.*
 1. Without faith it is impossible to believe in God. (Hebrews 11:6).
 2. Saved by grace through faith. (Eph. 2:7, 8).
 3. We are justified by faith. (Rom. 5:1).
 4. God sent his Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16).
 5. If you believe not ye shall die in your sins. (John 8:24).
- II. *On The Other Hand, After One Has Been Saved The Scriptures Teach That He Must Be Faithful.*
 1. The just shall live by faith. (Romans 1:16, 17).
 2. To walk by faith. (2 Cor. 5:7).
 3. To be faithful unto death. (Rev. 2:10).
- III. *Next The Bible Teaches That One Must Repent.*
 1. To repent or perish. (Luke 13:3).
 2. God commands all men to repent. (Acts 17:30).
 3. Repentance comes prior to salvation. (Acts 2:38).
- IV. *As Christians We Are To Worship And Serve God.*
 1. To continue in the Apostles teaching. (Acts 2:42).
 2. To worship on the first day of the week. (Acts 20:7; 1

Cor. 11).

3. To abound in the work of the Lord. (1 Cor. 15:58).

V. *To Confess Jesus Christ As The Son Of God.*

1. To confess with the mouth. (Rom. 10:10).
2. If we will confess him he will confess us. (Matt. 10:32, 33).
3. Example of the eunuch. (Acts 8:26-39).

VI. *The Saved Are In Christ And The Church.*

1. The Lord adds the saved to the church. (Acts 2:47).
2. Children of God in Christ. (Gal. 3:26, 27).
3. New Creatures in Christ. (2 Cor. 5:17).

VII. *At What Point Then Is One Saved?*

1. At the point of baptism. (1 Peter 3:21).
2. When one believes enough to obey the Lord in baptism. (Mark 16:16).
3. When one wants to be saved and is willing to obey the Lord's command. (Acts 2:38).
4. In scriptural baptism:
 - a. One washes away his sins. (Acts 22:16).
 - b. Enters Christ. (Romans 6:3, 4; Gal. 3:26, 27).
 - c. Enters the church. (1 Cor. 12:13, Acts 2:47).
 - d. Becomes a new creature. (John 3:3-5; 2 Cor. 5:17).
 - e. Reaches the blood of Christ. (Eph. 1:7; Rom. 6:3, 4; Acts 22:16).

CONCLUSION :

1. Are you saved?
2. How do you know you are?
3. Christ is the author of eternal salvation to all that obey him. (Heb. 5:8, 9).

WHEN GOD GIVES UP ON MAN

Rom. 6:23; 2 Pet. 2:1-10; Heb. 2:1-4

INTRODUCTION :

1. Man often becomes discouraged and gives up.
2. We think of the Lord as being one who never gives up, and as a whole, that is true.
3. We think of the grace and mercy of God being broad enough to save the whole wide world. (Eph. 2:8, 9).
4. However, there have been times when the Lord has given up on man.

DISCUSSION :

- I. *The World Became So Wicked That God Destroyed Them With A Flood.* (Gen. 6:1-6).
 1. Man became so wicked that every thought and imagination was wicked continually.
 2. It even repented God that he had made man.
 3. Only Noah and his family found grace in the sight of the Lord.

- II. *Sodom And Gomorrah Were So Wicked That He Was Moved To Destroy Them.* (Genesis 18; 19).
 1. Lot and family pitched their tent toward Sodom.
 2. They eventually ended up in Sodom.
 3. God determined to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their wickedness.
 4. Abraham wanted to know if he would destroy the righteous with the wicked.
 5. God agreed that he would not if he could find finally as many as ten.
 6. He allowed Lot and his family members to leave and be spared if they would not look back.
 7. Then he destroyed those cities.

III. *God Finally Gave Up In Dealing With Pharoah And His People.* (Exodus 5-14).

1. He sent Moses and Aaron to them again and again to get him to let the Israelities go.
2. God sent plagues upon them and finally the death of the first born.
3. Then Pharoah and his army were drowned in the sea pursuing God's people.

IV. *God Destroyed 23,000 Israelites Because Of Their Sin.* (Exodus 32; 1 Cor. 10:7, 8).

1. They were encamped while Moses went up to receive the law.
2. While gone they rose up to play and made a golden calf.
3. God destroyed those guilty on the spot.

V. *Nadab And Abihu Were Destroyed.* (Lev. 10:1, 2).

1. God had commanded a certain fire to be offered unto him.
2. They used a strange fire and the Lord consumed them.

VI. *Ananias And Sapphira Were Struck Dead.* (Acts 5:1-5).

1. They were Christians.
2. They lied to the Holy Spirit concerning their gifts.
3. Because of it they were struck dead.

VII. *God Gave Some Up To Their Own Lusts.* (Rom. 1:20-32).

1. They rejected him as God.
2. They were turned to the things of this world.
3. God gave them up.

VIII. *It Is Possible For One To Get So Far Away From God That He Will Even Send Them A Strong Delusion That They May Believe A Lie And Be Damned.* (2 Thess. 2:1-12).

1. These are people who do not love the truth.
2. They are determined to go their own way.
3. In this case God will not force them but allow them to go

to their own destruction.

IX. *If We Sin Wilfully There Remaineth No More Sacrifice For Sin.* (Heb. 10:23-31).

1. As long as we seek to obey God there is hope for us.
2. Once we reject the sacrifice for sin then there is no more hope.
3. We must be careful lest we get too far away from the Lord.

X. *When God Finally Gives Up On The World Then He Will Send His Son Back To Gather Up The Righteous.*

1. He will come to take vengeance on the ungodly. (2 Thess. 1:7-9).
2. If the righteous scarcely be saved then wherein shall the ungodly and sinner appear? (1 Pet. 4:17, 18).
3. The world and all things therein shall be burned up. (2 Pet. 3:10-12).
4. The wicked will be destroyed. (2 Pet. 2:1-10).

CONCLUSION :

1. Has God given up on you? Are you still reachable?
2. The world is spared to this day because of the few righteous who are here.
3. Thank God there is still time and opportunity. Take advantage of it now. Tomorrow may be to late.

IS THE WORLD NORMAL TODAY?

INTRODUCTION :

1. The papers tell us of crime, bad weather, sicknesses of all kinds, problems, deaths, etc.
2. T.V. gives the same report.
3. This same kind of news comes from all parts of the world.
4. Is this normal? If so, we should accept it.
5. But it is not normal and we should not be content with it.

6. We have lived in this kind of world so long that we have come to accept it.

DISCUSSION :

I. *How Was It In The Beginning?*

1. God created Adam and Eve and they were without sin.
2. There was no sickness, no pain, no death.
3. Man did not have to work in the sense that he works now.
4. There was no racial trouble.
5. Man and woman had everything including the tree of life.
6. This was the way it was and the way God intended for it to be.

II. *Then Adam And Eve Sinned.*

1. Man then became conscious, knowing right from wrong, and therefore accountable for his actions. (Genesis 3:1-6).
2. Their eyes were opened and they knew they were naked. (Genesis 3:7).
3. Woman was punished. (Genesis 3:16).
 - a. With the pain of childbirth.
 - b. Her desire would be left to her husband.
 - c. The husband would rule over her.
4. Man was likewise punished. (Genesis 3:17-19).
 - a. Cursed be the ground and you shall make your living by the sweat of your face.
 - b. Shall return to the dust of the earth.
5. Man was driven out of the garden. (Genesis 2:23).
6. Took away the tree of life. (Genesis 3:24).
7. Next murder came. (Genesis 4:1-15).
8. The world became so wicked that God sent the flood. (Genesis 6:1-8).
9. Man's language was confounded, scattered, and the result was many languages. (Genesis 11).

III. *Man Has Not Inherited The Sin Of Adam And Eve But Continues To Suffer The Consequences Of Their Sin.*

1. All have sinned. (Romans 3:23).
2. Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap. (Galatians 6:7, 8).
3. All kinds of sin shall continue until the Lord returns. (Matthew 25:36-38).
4. Finally, all will die. (Hebrews 9:27).
5. The wages of sin is death. (Romans 6:23).

IV. *The Nearest We can Come To Having A Normal Life Is Through Christ.*

1. We are saved from our past sins.
2. We are clean and pure again.
3. We are protected from the world.
4. We have one another and the Lord.
5. We have the privilege of prayer.
6. We are in heavenly places. (Ephesians 1:3).
7. The world may look upon this way of life as abnormal but actually it is normal.

V. *In Heaven We Will Return To The Normal Way Of Life.*

1. We long for that time. (Romans 8:18-22).
2. The heavens and earth will pass away.
3. There will be a new heaven and earth.
4. There will be a new Jerusalem.
5. There we will be with God.
6. There will be no sin there.
7. There will be no pain, tears, death, etc. (Revelation 21:4).
8. The tree of life will be there. (Revelation 22:14).
9. We shall live there forever.

CONCLUSION :

1. Now which way of life do you prefer?
2. Are we happy with what we have?

WHAT IS MAN?

Job 7:17; 15:14; Ps. 8; Isa. 55:8,9;
Jer. 10:23; 1 Cor. 1:18-31; Heb. 2:6

INTRODUCTION:

1. This question is as old as man.
2. It is usually asked to show the great contrast between God and man.
3. It does us good to consider this question from time to time to help us to get our feet back on the ground.

DISCUSSION:**I. *What Is Man?***

1. Man was originally created by God from the dust of the earth. (Gen. 2:7).
2. God then took a rib from man's side to create woman and gave them the power to reproduce and said to them to multiply. (Gen. 2:18-25; 1:28).
3. Man was created in the image of God. (Gen. 1:26,27; 2 Cor. 4:16).
4. Man became a sinner even in the garden of Eden. (Gen. 3:1-13; Rom. 3:10; Rom. 3:23).
 - a. Man was given a choice.
 - b. Man is not born with sin but on reaching the age of accountability man has a choice and becomes a sinner.
5. Man is therefore in need of a saviour. (2 Tim. 1:10; 1 Tim. 2:3,4; Eph 5:23).
6. Man's life is short and death is certain. (James 4:13, 14; Heb. 9:27).
7. Man will have to stand before the judgment one day. (2 Cor. 5:10).
8. The soul of man will live forever in heaven or hell. (Matt. 25:46).

II. *Man Often Forgets Who He Is.*

1. Forgets he is nothing in comparison to his creator.

2. Often trusts in his riches.
3. May trust in worldly wisdom.
4. Forgets that God is still in charge of things.
5. Thinks he is very important.
6. Tries to tell God what he can or cannot do.
7. Ignores God as though he will go away.
8. Tries to direct his own steps.
9. Tries to set himself up as God.

III. *Man Has Needs.*

1. Needs to know who he is.
2. Needs to know God.
3. Needs to humble himself.
4. Needs help from God and his fellowman.
5. Needs to be saved.

CONCLUSION:

1. How do you feel in relation to God?
2. We can be important only to the extent that we serve God.
3. We can be of service only as we allow God to work through us.
4. We will all be much better off when we finally realize who we are and what we are.

JUDGED BY THE WORD

John 12:48; Rev. 20:12

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Bible contains the truth. (John 17:17; John 8:32).
2. God sent Christ to speak his word (Matt. 17:5), and Christ affirms that his doctrine was from God. (John 7:16).
3. It will stand forever. (Matt. 24:35).
4. Therefore it is a necessity that we study it, learn the truth, and obey it.
5. Let us notice some very important things that it tells us.

DISCUSSION:**I. *Jesus Christ Is Coming Again.***

1. We don't know when. (Matt. 24:36).
2. We do know certain things:
 - a. He said he was coming. (John 14:1-3).
 - b. He will return in the way he went away. (Acts 1:9-11).
 - c. He will come as a thief. (2 Pet. 3:10).
 - d. He will come to take vengeance. (2 Thess. 1:7-9).
 - e. The righteous will be caught up into the clouds to meet him. (1 Thess. 4:16, 17).
 - f. The world will be destroyed. (2 Pet. 3:10,11).
 - g. The judgment will take place. (Heb. 9:27; 2 Cor. 5:10).

II *The Judgment.*

1. All will be there. (Matt. 25:32).
2. Christ will be the Judge. (Acts 17:31).
3. The books will be open. (John 12:48; Rev. 20:12).
4. He will divide those present as a shepherd divides the sheep and goats. (Matt. 25).

III. *Judged By The Word.*

1. This will be the Lord's word.
2. It will read then as now.
3. It will not be changed to fit our beliefs and practices.
4. It will still say the same about salvation, the church, sin, etc.
5. If we have rejected it here then it will condemn us then.

CONCLUSION:

1. How do you measure up to the word of God?
2. Do you believe it and are you obeying its teaching?
3. If you are following it now then you will be prepared to face it in the day of judgment.
4. The Lord has already given us the questions and answers to prepare for that final examination.

5. We must be honest in dealing with it because the Lord will not tolerate cheating.

AM I A CHRISTIAN?

1 Cor. 11:28; 2 Cor. 13:5

INTRODUCTION :

1. This is a very personal question.
2. You likewise need to ask yourself this question.
3. We need to examine ourselves and see where we stand.
4. Do we measure up to the teaching of God's word?

DISCUSSION :

I. *How Does One Become A Christian?*

1. By obeying the teaching of Christ. (Heb. 5:8, 9).
2. By obeying the commands of the gospel. (Mk. 16:15, 16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6).
3. Not all have done this and therefore many are not Christian.

II. *When Does One Become A Christian?*

1. Not at birth.
2. Not by being sprinkled.
3. Not by becoming a believer in Christ.
4. Not by joining some denomination.
5. But by being born again. (John 3:3-5).
6. When one enters Christ. (Rom. 6:3, 4; Gal. 3:26, 27; 2 Cor. 5: 17)
7. When one enters the Lord's family. (Acts 2:47).

III. *Who Is A Christian?*

1. He is a follower of Christ. (1 Pet. 2:21).
2. He is one who is in Christ. (Rom. 6:3).
3. He is one who has Christ living in him. (Col. 1:27).
4. He is one who is living for Christ. (Col. 3:17).
5. He is one who wears the name of Christ. (Acts 11:26;

1 Peter. 4:16).

IV. *Are You A Christian?*

1. Do we measure up to the teaching of the Bible?
2. Are we genuine or are we only pretending?

V. *Why Be A Christian?*

1. We can be saved?
2. It offers the best life.
3. It gives hope.

CONCLUSION :

1. It is great to be a Christian.
2. Let us tell the world this by word of mouth and by the way we live.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

INTRODUCTION :

1. All of us believe something.
2. I would like to tell you what I and others believe.
3. It is important only to the extent that it is based on God's word.
4. I would therefore like to encourage you to listen and compare it with the teaching of the Bible.
5. If it is the truth then accept it because it is the truth.

DISCUSSION :

I. *We Believe In God.*

1. He is the creator. (Gen. 1:1).
2. There is one. (Eph. 4:6).
3. He is Spirit. (John 4:24).
4. He has spoken through Christ. (Matt. 17:5; John 1:1; Heb. 2:1, 2).
5. He sent Christ into this world. (John 3:16).

II. *We Believe In Christ.*

1. He was with God in the beginning. (Gen. 1:26).
2. He was born of the virgin Mary. (Matt. 1).
3. He came to seek and save the lost. (Lk. 19:10).
4. There is but one Lord. (Eph. 4:1-3).
5. He died for man's sins. (Rom. 5:8).

III. *We Believe In The Holy Spirit.*

1. There is but one Spirit. (Eph. 4:1-3).
2. He was promised to the Apostles. (John 16).
3. He came upon them to give them the power to do miraculous things. (Acts 2).
4. The apostles had the power to lay their hands on certain ones that they too might have miraculous powers. (Acts 6:8).
5. He guided the Apostles and others in writing the New Testament. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17).
6. It became the perfect law of liberty. (James 1:25).
7. All baptized believers receive the gift of the Spirit. (Acts 2:38).

IV. *We Believe The Bible.*

1. It is God's word, the truth. (John. 17:17).
2. It was written that we might believe. (John 20:30, 31).
3. Faith comes by hearing the word of God. (Rom. 10:17).
4. It will stand forever. (Matt. 24:35).
5. We will be judged by it. (John 12:48).

V. *We Believe The New Testament Is Binding On Us Today.*

1. The Old Testament is the inspired word of God but not binding on us as Christians. (John 1:17).
2. The Old Testament was fulfilled and nailed to the cross. (Matt. 5:17-19).
3. The Old Law was removed that the new might become binding. (Heb. 9:16, 17; 10:9, 10).
4. God speaks to us through his Son Jesus. (Matt. 17:5).

5. We are under the blood of Christ. (Heb. 10:4; Matt. 26:28).

VI. *We Believe In The Church Of The Bible.*

1. Christ promised to build it. (Matt. 16:18).
2. It was established on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 2).
3. The saved were added to it. (Acts 2:47).
4. Christ died for it. (Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25).
5. Christ became the saviour of it. (Eph. 5:23).
6. Christ became its head. (Col. 1:18).
7. There was but one. (Eph. 4:4, 5).
8. It wears the name of Christ. (Rom. 16:16).

VII. *We Believe In The Bible Plan Of Salvation.*

1. The Lord would have one to hear, believe, repent, confess him, and be baptized. (Mk. 16:15, 16; Acts 2:38; Matt. 10:32).
2. Read examples in Acts 2; 8; 9; 16; 22).

CONCLUSION :

1. We believe these things and many other things based on God's word.
2. Study and investigate these matters for yourself.

YOUNG PEOPLE

Eccl. 12:1

INTRODUCTION :

1. Most of our work is among young people.
2. This has its advantages and disadvantages.
3. We must work hard to help our young people to grow and become mature faithful workers for the Lord.

DISCUSSION :

1. *It Is Difficult To Reach Older People.*
 1. They are already set in their ways.
 2. They usually do not want to change religions.

3. They feel that they will have too much to give up.
4. Many times those who change are unstable and only looking for material gain.
5. Those who change find it difficult to give up their old religious practices, language, and so on.

II. *It Is Usually Easier To Reach Young People.*

1. They are more open minded.
2. They may start off with a Bible course, attending meetings, and such like.
3. Once they understand the truth, they will be more prone to accept it.
4. It is easier for them to grow and to develop as Christians.
5. Usually have more energy, zeal, and determination.
6. Can move about easier, change, and adapt themselves according to the need.
7. Through training and growth they can become great Christians and workers for the Lord.

III. *There Are Some Problems With Young People Who Become Christians.*

1. They may be hindered by their parents.
2. It is sometimes difficult for them to be serious about such serious matters as have to do with salvation, being religious, death, and eternity.
3. It is hard to hold their attention.
4. They are not always stable.
5. They may be easily influenced by others and various things.
6. Older people do not always take young people seriously.
7. Paul warned, "Let no man despise thy youth." (2 Tim. 4:12).
8. He also warned, "Flee also youthful lusts." (2 Tim. 2:22).

IV. *It Is Important To Begin Young.*

1. The wise man said to "remember thy creator in the days of thy youth." (Eccl. 12:1).

2. It is easier to turn to God while young.
3. It is easier to live for God when you begin young.
4. Have more years to serve the Lord.
5. Have years to prepare and to grow to accomplish more.

V. *Some Young People Of God's Book.*

1. Jesus began to amaze people with his knowledge of the scripture even while he was young. (Luke 2:41-52).
2. The story is told of the Rich Young Ruler who kept the commandments from his youth up. (Matt. 19:16-22).
3. Paul was religious from his youth. (Acts 26:4).
4. Timothy was taught by his mother and grandmother and thus became a Christian and is known in the scriptures as a young preacher. (2 Timothy 1:5).
5. Titus was also a young preacher.
6. The scriptures also speak of young women. (1 Tim. 5:14).

VI. *Young People Therefore Must Prove Themselves.*

1. They must be serious and prove their love to the Lord.
2. They must prepare themselves well and justify their preaching and teaching.
3. Through them the Lord's cause can spread.

CONCLUSION :

1. Don't feel that there is nothing for you to do because you are young.
2. Take your youth and use it for the Lord.
3. You will not be young for long.

MAN'S RELATION WITH GOD

INTRODUCTION :

1. Man is in the image of God.
2. He definitely has a relationship with God whether he recognizes it or not.
3. In this study perhaps you will discover what your relationship

is to God.

DISCUSSION :

I. *Three Ways Man Deals With God.*

1. He ignores God as long as all is going well.
2. In times of need, he calls on God for help.
3. When the time is past for him to be helped, he often blames God for his sufferings.

II. *Many Do Not Believe In God.*

1. No excuse. (Rom. 1:20-25; 2 Thess. 1:7-9).
2. The fool has said there is no God. (Ps. 14:1).
3. One day all will acknowledge God. (Rom. 14:11; Luke 16).

III. *Many Do Believe In God.*

1. Many believe in and obey God.
2. Many believe but are in error.
3. Many believe but are indifferent.

CONCLUSION :

1. Do you believe in God ?
2. Have you obeyed God to prove your faith ?
3. Only genuine faith will lead one to God and to heaven.

FASTING

INTRODUCTION ;

1. Fasting is a Bible subject.
2. It was practiced often during the days of the Old Testament.
3. Christ and the Apostles were also familiar with it.
4. It is practiced today among Muslims and others.
5. The church places no emphasis on it.
6. It is not commanded but may be very helpful to the Christian.
7. The word fast means: "To abstain from food. To practice abstinence as a religious exercise or as a token of grief. To eat sparingly or abstain from certain foods voluntarily."

DISCUSSION:**I. *Fasting Was A Part Of The Old Testament Period.***

1. David. (2 Sam 12:16,23; Ps. 35:13; Ps. 69:10).
2. Jesus fasted 40 days. (Matthew 4:2).
3. The Jews fasted but were often hypocrites. (Matt. 6:16-18).
4. The disciples of Christ did not fast because the bridegroom was still with them. (Matt. 9:14,15; Lk. 5:33, 34; Mark 2:19).
5. The Pharisee fasted twice a week. (Lk. 8:12).

II. *Jesus Taught Lessons on Fasting.*

1. When ye fast (Matt. 6:16-18):
 - a. Don't be like the hypocrites.
 - (1) They have a sad countenance.
 - (2) They disfigure their faces.
 - (3) To be seen of men.
 - (4) They have their reward.
 - b. How to fast.
 - (1) Anoint thine head.
 - (2) Wash thy face.
 - (3) That you may appear not to fast.
 - (4) Father will see you in secret and will reward you openly.
2. The day will come when the disciples will fast. (Mark 2:19, 20).
3. Certain things can be done only by prayer and fasting. (Mk. 9:14-29).

III. *Fasting Came Over Into The New Testament Period.*

1. Saul. (Acts 9:9).
2. Cornelius. (Acts 10:30).
3. Church at Antioch. (Acts 13:2, 3).
4. Ordained Elders with prayer and fasting. (Acts 14:23).
5. Christians to give themselves to fasting and Prayer. (1 Cor, 7:5).
6. Paul fasted often. (2 Cor. 6:5; 11:27).

IV. *The Purpose Of Fasting.*

1. Not:
 - a. To diet, to save money, etc.
 - b. To appear to be religious.
 - c. To receive the praise of men.
2. But to:
 - a. Show sorrow.
 - b. Show repentance.
 - c. Grow spiritually.
 - d. Discipline self.
 - e. Clear one's thinking.
 - f. Emphasize spiritual things.
 - g. Seek the Lord's help.
 - h. Be humble.
 - i. Be purified.
 - j. Put first things first.
 - k. Make important decisions.

V. *What About Fasting Today?*

1. Not much said about it.
2. Few or none in the church practice it.
3. In a time of materialism it is easy to put too much emphasis on material things.
4. Need to be more serious.
5. Not a command but a voluntary thing for those who want to grow strong.

CONCLUSION:

1. If Christ and the Apostles practiced it, perhaps we should likewise.
2. Fasting could prove to be a great blessing in our lives.
3. Who will try it ?

CASTING OUT DEVILS

INTRODUCTION :

1. In recent times we have heard a great deal about Satan worshippers and casting out devils.
2. A book and movie on exorcism has been very popular.
3. Does the devil have the power to possess people today?
4. If so, can they be cast out?
5. If so, who can cast them out?

DISCUSSION :

I. *What The Bible Says About Satan.*

1. He is called Satan, Beelzebulb, the Devil, demon, evil spirit, and unclean spirit.
2. He is a spirit and may even be spoken of in plurality. (Mark 5:1-13; James 2:19).

II. *The Devil Actually Possessed People In The Days Of Christ And The Apostles.*

1. The man of the tombs. (Mark 5:1-13).
2. The dumb man. (Matt. 9:32).
3. Mary Magdalene. (Lk. 8:2).

III. *Explanations Offered For These Evil Spirits.*

1. Sinful angels. (Jude 6; 2 Peter 2:4).
2. Spirits of the wicked dead. (Lk. 16:26).
3. Diseases and insanity.
 - a. It would appear that some diseases were associated with evil spirits.
 - b. But the Lord made a distinction between diseases and evil spirits.

IV. *Casting Out Of Demons In The First Century.*

1. Christ had the power to do this. (Matt. 12:22-30).
 - a. Accused of doing so by Satan.
 - b. Christ asked, "Can Satan cast out Satan?"

2. Christ commanded the Apostles to cast out demons. (Matt. 10:8; Mk. 16:17, 18).
3. Not all could cast out Demons. (Acts 19:13-17).
4. God allowed Satan to have special powers so Christ and the Apostles could cast them out to demonstrate their power over him.

V. *Does Satan Possess People Today?*

1. Many would say yes.
2. There are many supposed examples given—usually among poorer, uneducated people and in heathen countries around the world.
3. Denominational preachers are often said to cast out devils.
 - a. These people are not of God but of Satan.
 - b. Can Satan cast out Satan?
4. Evil spirits are often associated with diseases and habits.
 - a. Demon of alcohol.
 - b. Demon of tobacco.
 - c. Demon of disease.
5. Often times people are ignorant and think a person has an evil spirit when it may be epilepsy, worms, and such like.
6. The devil does not possess people today against their will but does enter them and influence them.

CONCLUSION :

1. Although the devil may not be able to possess a person beyond his control still we must be careful because he is stalking us and trying to destroy us.
2. It is wonderful to know that we can free ourselves from Satan by obeying the teaching of God.

A PERFECT MAN

Colossians 1:28; 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:17; Ephesians 4:13; Hebrews 6:1.

INTRODUCTION :

1. Jesus lived a perfect life. (Hebrews 5:8, 9).

2. He is our great example. (1 Peter 2:21).
3. Although we have sin in us we are to strive to be perfect.
4. One day we will be with Christ where there is no sin.

DISCUSSION :

I. *The Meaning Of Perfect.*

1. Being without fault, defect, or sin.
2. It also means exact, precise, and complete.
3. We cannot attain the first in this life but we are perfect in the sense that we are complete in Christ. (Colossians 2:10; 4:12).
4. Our goal is perfection with Christ.

II. *The Perfect Christ.*

1. Lived a sinless life. (Hebrews 4:15)
2. Jesus came to save. (1 Timothy 1:15).
3. He left us a perfect example. (1 Peter 2:21; James 1:25).
4. He can forgive us and encourage us to go on to perfection.

III. *The Sense In Which We Are Made Perfect.*

1. Made perfect in Christ. (Philippians 3:12; Colossians 1:28).
2. We are complete in Christ. (Colossians 4:12).
3. The man of God is to be perfect, that is, he is thoroughly furnished to every good work. (2 Timothy 3:17).
4. God makes one perfect. (Hebrews 13:21).
5. Let patience have her perfect work in you. (James 1:4).
6. It is that which one works toward. (Ephesians 4:12).
7. Let us go on to perfection. (Hebrews 6:1).

IV. *How Some React To This.*

1. Think they are without sin and cannot sin.
2. Think it is impossible to live a perfect life and therefore cease to try.
3. They keep trying.

CONCLUSION :

1. Only those who remain faithful to the Lord will finally be saved.
2. Only then will we finally attain the perfection of which the Bible teaches.

DO YOU BELIEVE THE LORD?

Heb. 11:1; 11:6; Luke 6:46-49; Matt. 6:24-34; James 1:22;
Matt. 17:20

INTRODUCTION:

1. Not all people believe.
2. Not all people believe who claim to believe.
3. Faith comes by hearing God's word. (Romans 10:17).
4. It is confidence and trust in what he says.
5. It is mental acceptance of the testimony of God, Christ, the Bible, etc.
6. Once one accepts God, Christ, and his word he has confidence that if he will obey his teaching then God will keep his promises.
7. How much do you believe the Lord?

DISCUSSION:**I. *What Genuine Faith Will Do.***

1. It will accept without doubt.
2. It will accept without question.
3. It will put God's will before man's teaching.
4. It will express full trust in God to do what he has promised.
5. It will obey. (James 1:22).
6. It will work. (Phil. 2:12).

II. *The Christian's Faith Tested.*

1. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and Saviour?
2. Do you believe that Jesus saved you?
3. Do you believe that you are a Christian?
4. Do you believe that you are a member of the Lord's church?

5. Do you believe the Lord will supply you with all other things if you put him first. (Matt. 6:24-34).
6. Do you believe that Christians should meet each first day of the week to worship?
7. Do you believe the Lord is with you? (Matthew 28:20).
8. Do you believe you should work for him?
9. Do you believe in him enough to teach others?
10. Do you believe in heaven and hell?
11. What are you doing to show your faith?
12. What if the Lord judged us on what we have done during the past years? Past week?

III. *Questions For The Non-Christian.*

1. Do you believe that Christ is the Son of God?
2. Do you believe the Lord's word is final?
3. Do you believe he can save you?
4. Do you believe in him enough to obey him?

CONCLUSION:

1. A faith that will not move one is dead.
2. Faith without work is dead.
3. A living faith is a working faith.
4. Do you really believe the Lord?

CHALLENGES FOR YOUTH

Ecc. 12:1; 1 Tim. 4:12; Acts 26:4; 1 Cor. 2:2

INTRODUCTION:

1. If the great commission is to be carried out, young people must do it.
2. The older generation has not done so; and will not do so, therefore it is up to the younger generation.
3. Please don't fail.

DISCUSSION:**I. *The Advantage Of Being Young.***

1. Able to learn.
2. Have all of the past to build on.
3. Possible to get better training.
4. Can go before becoming to involved and tied down.
5. Can get support.
6. Can adjust
7. Can learn a language.
8. Can travel.

II. *Young People Are Needed.*

1. To work among younger people.
2. To go on campaigns.
3. To work on Bible Correspondence Courses.
4. To engage in printing work.
5. To spend more time in the mission field.
6. Less expensive.
7. Will have more energy to devote to the work.

III. *Some Advice.*

1. Decide to go.
2. Make plans to go.
3. Choose a field.
4. Get necessary training.
5. Get some experience.
6. Find a sponsoring congregation to send you.
7. Then go.
8. Or go through some secular profession.

IV. *Some Qualifications.*

1. Need to be converted.
2. Need to be sound in the faith.
3. Need to be serious.
4. Need to have great faith.
5. Need to have willingness to sacrifice.

6. Need great zeal.
7. Need to be prayerful.

V. *Some Challenges.*

1. Go to the world.
2. Go to all people.
3. Go by faith.
4. Go and preach Christ.
5. Use the methods that will work.
6. Go to those countries where the door is closed.

VI. *The Urgency Of Going.*

1. The Lord said go.
2. Souls are lost.
3. Time is short.
4. Population is growing.
5. The world is so big.
6. Many people are still neglected.
7. Faced more and more with an unbelieving world.
8. We know the need, so let's act.

CONCLUSION:

1. I am counting on you, but above all God is counting on you.
2. With the younger generation the gospel can be preached throughout the world.

SEVEN THINGS THAT THE LORD HATES

Proverbs 6:16-19

INTRODUCTION:

1. Did you know that God can hate? He has the capacity to hate as well as to love.
2. The word hate here means to detest, to abhor, and that which is abominable.
3. The next word that is used in this text is the word abominable

which also carries with it the idea to loathe, detest, to abhor to despise.

4. Surely there must be more than seven things that the Lord hates but the word seven is often used to mean that which is full and complete.
5. Certainly the seven things mentioned here would be some of the baser things that the Lord hates.
6. If God hates these, what should our attitude be toward them?

DISCUSSION:

I. *A Proud Look.*

1. This means to show one self above others, to be pre-eminent, arrogant, haughty.
2. It is said to always be used in the scripture in a bad sense. (2 Tim. 3:2; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5).
3. To the contrary, the Bible teaches that we should be humble. (Matt. 5:5).

II. *A Lying Tongue.*

1. An untrue statement with the intent to deceive, a falsehood, an incorrect statement.
2. With some people in some parts of the world it has become an accepted thing.
3. The Bible says that liars shall be cast into the lake of fire. (Rev. 21:8).
4. The opposite of a lie is truth, and the Lord's word is truth (John 17:17), and the truth is that which saves. (John 8:32).

III. *Hands That Shed Innocent Blood.*

1. This is murder through the act of revenge, murder, or war.
2. A work of the flesh. (Gal. 5:21).
3. Murderers will be cast into hell. (Rev. 21:8).

IV. *A Heart That Deviseth Wicked Imaginations.*

1. This is a wicked heart, one that is ever thinking, planning,

scheming, and outlining something evil. (Matthew 15:19, 20).

2. The Lord would have us to have pure hearts. (Matt. 5:8).

V. Feet That Be Swift In Running To Mischief.

1. Someone who is running about causing trouble, causing harm and injury.

2. This may be done through gossip, into the other fellow's business, etc.

3. Used to describe wickedness, villany, etc. (Acts 13:10).

VI. A False Witness That Speaketh Lies.

1. One who bears a false report.

2. One of the ten commandments. (Exodus 20:16).

3. Christ said that this sin proceeds out of the heart. (Matt. 15:19,20).

4. It is always associated with lying.

VII. He That Soweth Discord Among Brethren.

1. This is one who causes division.

2. Christ prayed that we might all be one. (John 17:20,21).

3. Paul said that there should be no division among us. (1 Cor. 1:10).

4. Paul also said that we should mark those who cause division. (Rom. 16:17,18).

CONCLUSION:

1. If God hates these things, and you are involved in them, then that means that God hates you.

2. To engage in such practices is to be opposed to God.

3. All such people will be lost.

4. We should remain free of these evils and hate them even as God does.

ON THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN AND ON THE INSIDE LOOKING OUT

1 Cor. 5:12; 2 Cor. 7:5; 1 Thess. 4:12

INTRODUCTION:

1. People generally are hard to please.
2. If they are on the outside they are not happy but often times those in the church are not content to remain where they are.
3. There is likewise often a great deal of criticism of one toward the other.

DISCUSSION:

I. *On The Outside Looking In.*

1. On the outside.
 - a. These are outside of the church and Christ himself.
 - b. They are in the world.
 - c. They are lost.
2. Looking in.
 - a. Looking into the church.
 - b. There is much good to see.
 - c. They often see the bad element of the church.
 - d. They use this to find fault with the church.

II. *On The Inside Looking Out.*

1. On the inside.
 - a. Those on the inside are those who are in Christ and the church. (Romans 6:3,4; 1 Cor 12:13).
 - b. They represent the saved. (Acts 2:47).
 - c. They have been born again. (2 Cor. 5:14).
2. Looking out.
 - a. They can see all of the world.
 - b. Should be interested in the souls that are in darkness.
 - c. They have a responsibility to them.
 - d. But there are those who are attracted by what they see.
 - e. They are tempted and are lured back into the world.

f. This is contrary to the Lord's will. (1 John 2:15).

CONCLUSION:

1. We need to know where we are and the state that we are in.
2. If we are out of the church then we need to transfer ourselves from the world into Christ. (Col. 1:13, 14).
3. If we are in church we should realize the blessed state we are in. (Eph. 1:3).
4. We should also realize the responsibility we have to God and to the world.
5. To leave it is to be lost.

HELPING THE POOR

James 2:17-26; James 1:27; Romans 15:26

INTRODUCTION:

1. To be poor is neither a blessing or a curse.
2. There have always been the poor and they will ever be with us. (Matthew 26:11; John. 12:8).
3. There are different reasons for being poor.
 - a. Born poor.
 - b. Tragedy strikes.
 - c. Out of work.
 - d. Refuse to work.
 - e. Lack of education.
4. Different degrees of poverty.
 - a. All are poor in comparison to others.
 - b. All are well off in comparison to others.
5. How shall we deal with the poor?
 - a. As individual Christians?
 - b. As the church?

DISCUSSION:

- I. *What Jesus Practiced And Taught.*
 1. Jesus himself was poor. (Luke 9:58).
 2. Jesus taught that when one makes a feast he should call

the poor, etc. (Luke 14:13).

3. Sell what you have and give it to the poor. (Matthew 19:21).
4. The poor have the gospel preached to them. (Matthew 11:5).
5. Jesus had compassion on the multitudes and fed them. (Matthew 15:32-39).
6. He healed the multitudes. (Matthew 12:15; 14:14).
7. He said it would be difficult for those with riches to be saved. (Mark 10:23).

II. *What The Church Did About The Poor.*

1. All believed and had all things common. (Acts 2:44, 45),
2. Peter and John healed a poor man. (Acts 3:1-11).
3. The Christians sold their possessions and brought the money and laid it down at the apostles feet and they distributed it according to the needs of each one. (Acts 4:34-37).
4. The poor widows were helped. (Acts 6:1-4).
5. The Christians of Macedonia and Achaia sent a contribution to help the poor saints of Jerusalem. (Romans 15:26).
6. To remember the poor. (Galatians 2:10).

III. *What the Apostles Taught.*

1. Christians are to care for their own. (1 Timothy 5:8).
2. Those that will not work, neither shall they eat. (2 Thessalonians 3:10).
3. To do good to all as we have the opportunity. (Galatians 6:10).
4. To help the fatherless and widows. (James 1:27).
5. Concerning the helping of widows: (1 Timothy 5).
 - a. Must be 60 years old.
 - b. Having been wife of one man.
 - c. Well reported of for good works.
 - d. Brought up children.

- e. Lodged strangers.
- f. Washed the saint's feet.
- g. Have relieved the afflicted.
- h. Followed every good work.
- i. Must be without any family members to help or they refuse to work.
- j. Unable to work.

IV. *The Work Of The Church Today.*

- 1. To preach the gospel.
- 2. To help the poor according to the Bible.
- 3. Not to waste the Lord's money.
- 4. To show the spirit of Christ.

V. *Where Are The Funds To Come From To Help?*

- 1. Contributions. (2 Corinthians 9:7).
- 2. Collections for poor saints. (1 Corinthians 16:1-14).
- 3. Helping individually the poor.
- 4. Sharing our own personal things with our brethren.

VI. *Who Is To Be Helped Today?*

- 1. The poor.
- 2. The sick.
- 3. Those who cannot help themselves.

VII. *Misunderstanding On Helping.*

- 1. Help everyone.
- 2. Help get jobs, etc.
- 3. Church always has plenty of money.
- 4. Help with schooling, etc.
- 5. Cannot help if there are no funds.
- 6. Can do more when there is more.
- 7. It is difficult to help the poor.
 - a. Often only looking for a handout.
 - b. Do not use it wisely.
 - c. Not thankful.

- d. Want more.
- e. Get something and leave.
- f. Often a racket.
- g. Difficult to convert them.

VIII. *What Can We Do To Help The Poor?*

1. Things that will not help.
 - a. Giving money.
 - b. Make widescale distribution except for emergencies.
 - c. Using this as a bribe.
2. Things that we should do.
 - a. Help with material needs only as needed.
 - b. Preach the gospel to them.
 - c. Show a personal interest in them.
 - d. Not to show partiality.

CONCLUSION:

1. We all need to study this subject until we understand it properly.
2. A misuse of funds can do more harm than good.
3. The poor who need help more than anybody else are the spiritually poor.

CHANGING FORMS

Phil. 2:6, 7

INTRODUCTION :

1. The Bible teaches that Christ has changed his form on various occasions.
2. Man must change his life and eventually he too will change his form.

DISCUSSION :

1. *Christ—In The Form Of God.* (Phil. 2:6).
 1. Was with God in the beginning. (John 1:1-5).
 2. By him and through him the worlds were created. (Heb.

1:1, 2).

3. Came down from God. (John 5:43).

II. *Christ—In The Form Of Man.* (Phil. 2:7).

1. Was born of the virgin Mary. (Matthew 1:21).

2. Became flesh. (John 1:14).

3. Came in the likeness of sinful flesh. (Romans 8:3).

4. Became man's saviour. (1 John 4:14).

III. *Christ—Transfiguration And Final Return To The Father.*
(Matthew 17:1-9; John 20:17; Acts 1:11).

1. Christ was transfigured or changed. (Matthew 17:1-9).

2. He arose from the grave and appeared to the disciples.
(John 20:10).

3. He returned to the Father in Heaven. (John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11).

IV. *Christ—Will Return In His Glory.* (John. 14:3).

1. Reigning now at the right hand of God. (Acts 2:33).

2. Will return again. (Acts 1:11).

3. Every eye shall see him. (Rev. 1:7).

V. *The Changes Of Man.* (1 Cor. 15).

1. Changes from being in safe state to a sinner. (Matthew 18:1-3; Romans 3:10).

2. Changes from sinner to a saved person. (Mark 16:16).

3. Leaves the world and enters Christ. (Romans 6:3, 4).

4. Can go back into the world. (Luke 15:11-32).

5. Will die, but will be eventually raised. (John 5:28, 29; 1 Corinthians 15).

CONCLUSION :

1. Christ changed his form for us.

2. We must change our form for him if we are to be saved and to live with him.

3. In what state are you living at this time?

ONE SENT

1 John 4:14; John 3:16, 17; Mark 16:15, 16

INTRODUCTION :

1. The greater sends the lesser.
2. One commands and the other obeys.
3. One has a purpose for going.
4. He is sent on a mission.
5. It is a blessing to be sent.

DISCUSSION :**I. *God Sent Jesus Christ Into This World.***

1. God sent his Son to be the saviour of the world. (1 John 4:14).
2. God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son. (John 3:16).
3. He sent his Son not to condemn the world but to save the world. (John 3:17).
4. God commended his love toward us and while we were sinners Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8).
5. Christ died for our sins. (1 Cor. 15:3).
6. His mission was successful when he died, was buried, and arose from the grave. (1 Cor. 15:20).

II. *Christ Sent The Apostles Into The World With The Gospel.*

1. He commanded them to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. (Mark 16:15, 16).
2. He commanded them to go teach all nations. (Matthew 28:19, 20).
3. He commanded to preach in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and finally to the uttermost parts of the earth. (Acts 1:8).

III. *Christ Has Likewise Sent Us To The World With The Gospel.*

1. We have the same commission that the Apostles had. (Matthew 28:19, 20).
2. To commit that which we have heard or learned to faithful

- men so they may be able to teach others. (2 Tim. 2:2).
3. To try to save ourselves and those who hear us. (1 Tim. 4:16).
 4. To preach the word. (2 Tim. 4:1, 2).

CONCLUSION :

1. Jesus completed his mission.
2. The Apostles carried out their mission.
3. How will we deal with the mission that has been given to us?

THE HUMAN AND DIVINE SIDES OF CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

INTRODUCTION :

1. Often times we think of Christ as being only divine and the church as being human only.
2. Christ was divine but he also had a human side and although the church has its human element, it also is of a divine nature.
3. It will help us to see both the human and divine sides of Christ and his church.

DISCUSSION :

I. *Christ.*

1. The human side.
 - a. Christ was born of the virgin Mary. (Matt. 1:18-25; John 1:14; Romans 8:3; Phil. 2:7).
 - b. Had the needs of man.
 - (1) Had parents.
 - (2) Ate food.
 - (3) Stayed with friends.
 - (4) Wept.
 - c. Was tempted by Satan. (Matthew 4:1-11).
 - d. Called the son of man. (Luke 19:10; John 5:27).
 - e. Died on the cross. (Matt. 27; Phil. 2:8).
2. The divine side.

- a. Jesus was with God in the beginning. (John 1:1-5).
- b. Was born miraculously. (Luke 1:35).
- c. Performed miracles. (John 3:2).
- d. Was the Son of God. (Matt. 16:16).
- e. He was resurrected from the grave. (Matt. 28; 1 Pet. 1:3; 1 Pet. 3:21).
- f. Ascended to the Father in Heaven. (Acts 1:9-11).
- g. Lived a perfect life. (Heb. 5:8, 9).
- h. Saved the obedient. (Mark 16:15, 16).
- i. Adds the saved to the church. (Acts 2:47).
- j. Blesses with spiritual blessings. (Eph. 1:3).
- k. Will come again. (John 14:1-3).

II. *The Church.*

- 1. The human side.
 - a. Was established through the preaching of the Apostles. (Acts 2).
 - b. Made up of human beings. (Acts 2:47).
 - c. Responsibilities of the members.
 - (1) Assemble on first day of the week.
 - (2) To engage in various acts of worship.
 - (3) To help the needy. (James 1:27).
 - c. To be faithful in service. (Rev. 2:10).
 - d. To preach the word. (2 Tim. 4:2).
 - e. It is possible to fall from grace.
 - f. The members often make mistakes.
 - g. To set a good example. (Matt. 5:16).
 - h. Has Elders, Deacons, preachers, etc.
- 2. The divine side.
 - a. Christ built the church. (Matt. 16:18).
 - b. He saves and adds to the church. (Acts 2:38, 47).
 - c. It wears his name. (Rom. 16:16; Acts 11:28).
 - d. It is to worship in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24).
 - e. Christ is the head. (Col. 1:18).
 - f. He shed his blood for it. (Acts 20:28).
 - g. It is governed by his teaching. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17).

- h. It is to take the gospel to all. (Mk. 16:15).
- i. Christ will come back for it. (Eph. 5:27).

CONCLUSION :

1. Man is also human and divine.
2. He needs Christ to help him to overcome his sin and his temptations.
3. If we understand the human element of the church we will understand that part is not perfect—the divine side is.

PERMISSIVENESS

1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4; Gal. 6:7, 8; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; Gal. 5:19-21

INTRODUCTION :

1. Related words: permissible, permission, permit, and permissive.
2. "Granting or denoting permission: a permissive nod."
3. "Habitually or characteristically permitting or tolerating."
4. The problem of permissiveness has now found its way into every phase of life.
5. We have what is called a permissive society.
6. We must take precautions against it.

DISCUSSION :

1. *What Is A Permissive Society Like?*

1. Immorality is accepted as standard.
 - a. Sex is openly discussed.
 - b. Marriage is old fashion.
 - c. Men and women live together outside of marriage.
 - d. Young people are permitted to stay in the same dormitory in many universities.
 - e. Abortion is a way out for those who go too far.
2. Cursing and four-letter words are common.
3. Fashions control the way people dress.
4. Drugs and drink are plentiful.
5. No respect for the law.

6. "The generation gap."
7. Anti-religion.
8. Rebellion.

II. *What Has Brought This On?*

1. Propoganda through the mass media.
 - a. Radio and television.
 - b. The printed page.
 - c. Movies.
2. Today's fashions.
3. Bad influence.
4. A materialistic age.
5. Lack of teaching, training, and discipline.
6. Pressures to conform.
7. Sin.

III. *What Can We Do About It?*

1. We can decide to obey God.
2. We can teach, train, and discipline our children.
3. We can control our children's dress, friends, reading materials, what they see on T. V., etc.
4. We can give our children the wholesome things that they need.
5. We can speak out against that which is bad and wrong.

CONCLUSION :

1. We are all faced with these matters.
2. We can be a part of the problem or decide to help solve the problem.
3. We must act now or suffer the consequences.

WORLD EVANGELISM—YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16

INTRODUCTION :

1. One of the most important works of the church is that of

preaching the gospel or evangelizing the world.

2. The church has been given this great responsibility and opportunity to influence and change the world for better.
3. In this lesson we want to see what the early church did and then see how this applies to the Lord's people in India.

DISCUSSION:

I. *The Great Commission Was Given.*

(Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16).

1. Christ gave it by his authority. (Matthew 28:18).
2. It was given to the Apostles and was to be handed on down to those that obeyed the Lord and thus it has come down to us.
3. The gospel was to be taken to every creature, of every nation, of all the world.
4. Those obedient were to be taught to observe all things that Christ had taught.

II. *The Great Commission Was Carried Out In The First Century.*

1. The gospel was to be preached in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1:8).
2. When the church was established on the Day of Pentecost there were many nations represented and no doubt many of the converts returned to their countries to plant the church. (Acts 2).
3. The church was persecuted and Christians went everywhere preaching. (Acts 8:4).
4. Paul made three missionary journeys.
5. The gospel was taken to all the world in about thirty years. (Colossians 1:23).

III. *The Great Commission Today.*

1. We have the same command to go. (Matthew 28:19,20).
2. We are taught to preach the word. (2 Timothy 4:2).
3. To save ourselves and them that hear us. (1 Timothy 4:16).
4. The things we have been taught we are to commit to faith-

- ful men who can teach others. (2 Timothy 2:2).
5. We should begin in Delhi, go on to the whole of India, then neighbouring countries, and finally to all the world.
 6. The Lord has given us all we need with which to work :
 - a. The word. (Ephesians 6:17).
 - b. The gospel. (Romans 1:16, 17).
 - c. The Lord's presence. (Matthew 28:20).
 7. What we have to our advantage.
 - a. Transportation.
 - b. Communication.
 - c. Resources.
 - d. Freedom.
 8. What we need.
 - a. Converted people.
 - b. Those who will take the initiative.
 - c. People with faith, courage, etc.
 9. What can be done.
 - a. Souls can be saved.
 - b. Congregations can be established.
 - c. The world can be influenced for better.
 - d. We can evangelize the world.

CONCLUSION :

1. Do you believe in world evangelism?
2. What are you doing to help take the gospel to the world?
3. Every member can have a part and must have a part.
4. Need to realize the great urgency for it.
5. If we fail we will only hurt ourselves.
6. We can be successful with the help of the Lord.

THE LAWS OF GOD

John 1:17; 1 John 3:4; James 1:25; Romans 13

INTRODUCTION :

1. Law represents rules and regulations made to govern a people.
2. These may be secular or religious.

3. They are as sound as the authority behind them.
4. They are to be respected and obeyed for our own good.
5. Perhaps the most famous law is the law of Moses.
6. Famous expressions: "Taking the law into one's own hands", "Lay down the law" "Law breakers," etc.

DISCUSSION :

I. *Religious Laws*

1. The Patriarchal Law. (Heb. 1:1, 2).
 - a. Began with Adam and continued to Moses.
 - b. Given by God and given to the fathers by the prophets.
 - c. Lasted 2500 years.
 - d. Oral only.
 - e. Ended with the coming of the law of Moses.
2. The law of Moses. (John 1:17).
 - a. From Moses to Christ.
 - b. Given to the Jews.
 - c. Lasted 1500 years.
 - d. A written law.
 - e. Physical and spiritual.
 - f. A law of works.
 - g. Christ lived under the law.
 - h. It ended with Christ's death. (Heb. 9:15-17; 10:9, 10).
3. The Law of Christ. (Gal. 6:2).
 - a. From the death of Christ until he returns.
 - b. It has already existed for almost 2000 years.
 - c. Christ the giver. (Matt. 28:18).
 - d. Given to all people. (Matt. 28:19, 20).
 - e. A law of grace. (Eph. 2:8, 9).
 - f. Must obey it. (Acts 17:30).
 - g. Recorded in the New Testament. (James 1:27).
 - h. A spiritual law that effects our physical lives.
 - i. The greatest law of all.
 - j. We will be judged by it. (John 12:48).

II. *Secular Laws.*

1. A law unto themselves. (Rom. 2:14).
 - a. This applied to the Gentiles.
 - b. It was a moral code.
 - c. They would be judged by it.
 - d. Do not have such a law now.
2. Man-Made Laws and Governments. (Rom. 13).
 - a. Generally based on moral laws of God's law.
 - b. These laws are ordained of God.
 - c. They are not to save spiritually but they are necessary for man's own welfare.
 - d. They serve to discipline and to make life with others possible.
 - e. They are national, state, country, and city.
 - f. They should be respected and obeyed if in harmony with God's law.

CONCLUSION:

1. What is our attitude toward law?
2. If we respect and obey God's law then we will respect and obey man's law. (1 Pet. 2:17).
3. Must teach our children to respect the law.
4. All who represent the law are not what they should be but the law is the law.

SUPPORTING THE CHURCH

Galatians 6:1-10; 1 Corinthians 16:1, 2

INTRODUCTION :

1. We know that God has given, and so has Christ. (John 3:16; Ephesians 5:23).
2. We are blessed because of what others have done.
 - a. We are Christians and members of the church.
 - b. We have all spiritual blessings and the hope of eternal life.
3. With blessings come responsibilities.

- a. Christ works through the church.
 - b. We must also work through the church.
 - c. We must support it.
4. Are we meeting our responsibilities.
- a. How much do we give to the Lord?
 - b. Are we giving enough to enable the church to do its work?

DISCUSSION :

I. *How Can The Church Here Do Its Work?*

1. It must depend on outside help.
2. It can give to care for its own needs.
3. It can fail to give and not have the funds to do its work.

II. *Hear The Word Of God On This Subject.*

1. To seek the kingdom of God first. (Matthew 6:33).
2. Freely ye have received, freely give. (Matthew 10:8).
3. It is more blessed to give than to receive. (Acts 20:35).
4. Present your bodies as a living sacrifice. (Romans 12:1,2).
5. To give as you have prospered. (1 Corinthians 16:1, 2).
6. To give as you have purposed. (2 Corinthians 9:7).
7. Christians of Macedonia and Achaia helped the poor saints of Jerusalem. (Romans 15:26).
8. The churches of Macedonia gave to Paul's needs because they had first given themselves to the Lord. (2 Corinthians 8:5).
9. Will a man rob God? (Malachi 3:8, 9).
10. Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap. (Galatians 6:1-10).

III. *What Are We Doing?*

1. Are we giving the Bible way?
2. Is the church able to do its work?
3. We claim to be so poor.
 - a. Enough for self.
 - b. Enough for tobacco.
 - c. Enough for other bad habits.

4. Willing to let someone else do our work for us.
5. Giving always, but not enough to count.
6. We show our love to the Lord by the way we give.
7. What are we going to do?

IV. *The Church Has Needs.*

1. There is rent for the building.
2. There is the preacher to be paid.
3. There are the poor to help.
4. There is literature to print.
5. There is postage for mailing materials.
6. There is advertising to be done.
7. There is the need for a meeting house.

CONCLUSION:

1. The Christian has three financial obligations.
 - a. Caring for the family. (1 Tim. 5:8).
 - b. Supporting gospel preaching. (1 Cor. 9:14; 1 Tim. 5:18).
 - c. To support the needy. (Eph. 4:28).
2. Let us begin to support the church if we are the Lord's church.

WORK OF THE CHURCH

Ephesians 2:10; Acts 2:42; Acts 11:26; Ephesians 4:11-16

INTRODUCTION:

1. The church is made up of the saved and it has a work to do.
2. It is directed by the Lord and he works through it to accomplish his purposes.
3. To work is to do, to be active, to be industrious, to give, to produce, to grow, etc.
4. This is the greatest work in all the world.

DISCUSSION:

I. *What is The Work Of The Church?*

1. Preaching the gospel. (Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15,16;

- 2 Timothy 4:2; 2 Timothy 4:5; Acts 8:4; Romans 10:13-17).
- 2. Helping the poor. (Acts 2:45; Romans 15:26; James 1:27; Galatians 6:10).
- 3. Edifying the members. (Acts 9:31; Romans 14:19; 1 Corinthians 8:1; 1 Tessalonians 5:11; 1 Corinthians 14:26; 2 Corinthians 12:19; Ephesians 4:11-16).
 - a. Preaching.
 - b. Worshipping God.
 - c. Fellowship.
 - d. Helping one another.
 - e. Working together.
 - f. Love.

II. *Who Is To Do The Lord's Work?*

- 1. The church. (Ephesians 3:21).
- 2. Individual congregations. (Acts 11:26; Revelation 3:14-16).
- 3. Individual Christians. (Philippians 2:12; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Acts 2:42).
 - a. Must be prepared.
 - b. Must work together.

III. *How Is This Work To Be Done?*

- 1. Negative.
 - a. Not by government support.
 - b. Not through business.
 - c. Not through raising funds.
 - d. Not by begging the world.
- 2. Positive.
 - a. By giving of our means to the church. (1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:7).
 - b. Doing it of our own will.
 - c. Only by giving of ourselves and our means can the church do its work.

IV. *What Is The Purpose Of All Of This?* (Ephesians 3:21).

1. To take the gospel to all.
2. To save souls.
3. To help the church to grow.
4. To care for those in need.
5. To encourage and help one and all.
6. To honor God.

CONCLUSION:

1. The world can be changed for better if the church will do its work.
2. For the church to do its work each congregation must do its part.
3. For a congregation to do its work each member must do his part.

HOW MANY WILL BE SAVED?

Hebrews 11:6; Hebrews 5:8, 9; Luke 9:23; Romans 12:1, 2;
Revelation 2:10

INTRODUCTION :

1. I used to think that we needed to show how lost man was to get him to obey the Lord, but few take heed.
2. I preached the importance of the soul, of heaven, of hell, but not much response.
3. I showed the need of love, faith, obedience, of salvation, but not much results.
4. I told them what it would do for them, for their families, for the world, but still no rush to obey God.
5. The question then is what will it take to show people the truth so that they will move to obey it?
6. Just how much must one do to be saved?
7. How little can he do and still be saved?
8. How many will finally be saved.
9. The same can be said about getting Christians involved in living the Christian life.

DISCUSSION :

I. *We Have To Beg And Plead With People To Obey The Truth.*

1. If people are aware of what sin is and what it will do for them, why should we have to beg and plead with them to leave it?
2. If the truth is preached, and the people are able to see the truth in contrast to the error, why should they have to be begged to leave the error?
3. How many really want to be saved?

II. *We Have To Beg And Plead With People To Be Faithful Christians.*

1. We have to beg them to attend worship.
2. We have to beg them to give.
3. We have to beg them to take an active part in the Lord's work.
4. Why must this be?
5. Do they think that the very fact that they have become Christians that they are going to heaven?
6. Who ever thinks of heaven?
7. How many really want to go to heaven?

III. *The Christian Life Is Not Easy.*

1. One takes the yoke of Christ upon himself. (Matthew 11: 28-30).
2. He becomes a servant of Christ. (Rom. 1:1).
3. To put the Lord's kingdom first. (Matthew 6:33).
4. To take up cross daily. (Luke 9:23).
5. To present our bodies as living sacrifices. (Rom. 12:1, 2).
6. To be willing to suffer for Christ. (1 Peter 4:16).
7. To work out our salvation. (Phil. 2:12)
8. To take the gospel to others. (Mark 16:15).
9. To be faithful unto death. (Rev. 2:10).

IV. *The Disobedient Will Not Have A Chance.*

1. How shall we escape if we neglect our salvation? (Heb.

- 2: 1-3).
2. He that believeth not shall be damned. (Mark 16:16).
 3. The Lord is going to come to take vengeance on those who know not God and obey not the gospel. (2 Thess. 1:7-9).
 4. If the righteous be saved wherein shall the sinner and ungodly appear? (1 Peter 4:17, 18).

V. *What We Really Need Today.*

1. We need people who will think, study, and act.
2. We need those who really want to be saved.
3. We need Christians who are serious about their salvation.
4. We need those who will take the initiative.

CONCLUSION :

1. Unless people change their attitudes a lot of people are going to be lost.
2. Let's work together to wake people up to their needs and responsibilities.
3. If Christians are alive and working this will go a long way in changing things.

WHAT MAKES A STRONG CHURCH?

Ephesians 2:10; Acts 2:42

INTRODUCTION :

1. The church of the Lord needs to be strong to do the work it was intended to do.
2. But how does the church become strong?
 - a. Is it strong from the beginning?
 - b. Does it gradually happen?
3. Perhaps we should look at the church in the scriptures to see what makes a strong church.

DISCUSSION :

1. *Strong Preaching.*

1. Paul said to preach the word. (2 Timothy 4:2).

2. Faith comes by hearing. (Romans 10:17).
3. Peter preached on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 2:36, 40).

II. *Genuine Conversion.*

1. They were pricked in their hearts. (Acts 2:37).
2. They gladly received the word. (Acts 2:41).
3. To believe with the heart. (Romans 10:9, 10).

III. *Steadfastness.*

1. They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine. (Acts 2:42).
2. This included fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer, etc.

IV. *Unity.*

1. They were together. (Acts 2:44).
2. They were one in Christ.
3. There is but one church.

V. *Liberality.*

1. Sold their possessions and gave to those in need. (Acts 2:45).
2. Thought of others before themselves.
3. Christians are to be liberal in their giving. (2 Cor. 9:7).

VI. *Evangelism.*

1. Jesus had said to go into all the world with the gospel. (Mark 16:15, 16).
2. They went everywhere preaching the word. (Acts 8:4).
3. The gospel was eventually taken into all the world. (Colossians 1:23).

VII. *Discipline.*

1. Ananias and Sapphira were punished for their lying. (Acts 5:1-11).
2. Paul commanded the Corinthian Christians to withdraw from the ungodly. (1 Corinthians 5).

VIII. Organization.

1. Recognized Christ as head of the church. (Colossians 1:18).
2. Elders were ordained in every city. (Titus 1:5).

IX. Happy.

1. They served with gladness and singleness of heart. (Acts 2:46).
2. They praised God and had favour with all the people. (Acts 2:47).

CONCLUSION :

1. When the church today has these qualities then it will be strong.
2. If it is strong it will be growing and spreading.
3. Surely the Lord would want no less.

REDEEMING THE TIME

Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5

INTRODUCTION :

1. Redeem means to deliver, rescue, and save.
2. Time means Now, Today, Hour, and Season.
3. We are exhorted to save our time, to use it wisely.
4. This is a good time to think about redeeming the time since we have just closed out the old year to begin a new one.

DISCUSSION :**I. Why Should We Redeem The Time?**

1. Time is valueable.
 - a. This is what life is made of.
 - b. It counts materially and spiritually.
2. Time is short.
 - a. Life is like a vapour. (James 3:13, 14).
 - b. Flesh is like grass. (1 Pet. 1:24).
3. The days are evil. (Eph. 5:16).
 - a. There is much wickedness.

- b. Unless we use our time wisely we will be destroyed.
- 4. Today is the day of salvation. (2 Cor. 6:2).
 - a. Christ has invited. (Matt. 11:28, 30).
 - b. Tomorrow may be too late.
- 5. To set a good example. (Col. 4:5).

II. *Who Should Redeem The Time?*

- 1. Young people. (Eccl. 12:1).
- 2. The Christian. (Gal. 6:10).
 - a. Prayer.
 - b. Study.
 - c. Good works.
 - d. Teaching.
- 3. The Church.
 - a. Take the gospel to the world. (Mark 16:15,16).
 - b. Help the needy. (James 1:27).
 - c. Make a better world.
- 4. The Local congregation.
 - a. Can merely exist for years.
 - b. Can waste time and opportunities.
 - c. It must be committed.
 - d. It must be faithful.
 - e. It must have a programme.
 - f. It must have goals.
 - (1) Attendance.
 - (2) Growth of members.
 - (3) Teaching others.
 - (4) Literature.
 - (5) Every good work.

CONCLUSION :

- 1. Time wasted cannot be called back.
- 2. Must act now to change tomorrow.

PRECIOUS PROMISES

2 Peter 1:4

2 Peter 3:9

INTRODUCTION :

1. Promise means a pledge, ground for expectation, to suggest beforehand.
2. Man is always making promises; sometimes he keeps them and sometimes he does not.
3. Man cannot always keep his promises.
4. The Lord has made promises also and they are said to be precious.
5. The Lord is not slack concerning his promises. (2 Peter 3:9).

DISCUSSION :*Some Of The Promises Of God.*

1. The rain to fall on the just and the unjust. (Matthew 5:45).
2. Whosoever will confess me before men I will confess before my father. (Matthew 10:32, 33).
3. Repent or perish. (Luke 13:3).
4. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. (Mark 16:16).
5. Come unto me and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28-30).
6. I will build my church. (Matthew 16:18).
7. I will be with you always. (Matthew 28:20).
8. It is appointed unto men once to die. (Hebrews 9:27).
9. I will come again. (John 14:1-3).
10. I'll give the faithful a crown of life. (Revelation 2:10)

CONCLUSION :

1. The Lord has made many promises.
2. Some are conditional and some are unconditional.
3. They involve all mankind.

HEARTFELT RELIGION

Prov. 23:7; James 1:26, 27; Heb. 4:15; John 4:24

INTRODUCTION :

1. There have always been those who overemphasized feelings in religion.
 - a. These are the ones who do not even know what the Bible heart is.
 - b. They pat their physical heart and say that they know they are saved because they can feel it right there in their heart.
 - c. To them the most important thing is their emotions, their feelings.
2. Others have overemphasized the letter of the law.
 - a. They coldly and methodically practice their religion.
 - b. They show little feeling or heart in their worship.
3. Actually, the Bible does teach heartfelt religion—God must be obeyed from the heart. (Romans 6:17, 18).

DISCUSSION :

- I. *We Must Understand What The Bible Heart Is.*
 1. "Blessed are the Pure in heart." (Matt. 5:8).
 2. "Where your treasure is there will your heart be also." (Luke 12:34).
 3. "Wherefore think ye evil in your heart?" (Matthew 9:4).
 4. "Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts?" (Matthew 15:19).
 5. "Because of the hardness of your hearts." (Matthew 19:8).
 6. "Let not your heart be troubled." (John 14:6).
 7. "That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." (Matthew 5:28).
 8. "For I am meek and lowly in heart." (Matthew 11:29).
 9. "Then cometh the devil, taketh away the word out of their hearts." (Luke 8:12).

II. *The Role The Bible Heart Plays.*

1. It is the seat of emotions.
 - a. It thinks, it reasons, it understands.
 - b. It trusts, it believes, it acts.
 - c. It feels, it is sincere, it is spirit.
 - d. It rejoices, feels sadness, and loves.
 - e. It speaks, it obeys.
2. Our obedience is to be from the heart.
 - a. Obedience to the gospel is to come from the heart. (Acts 2: 37; Acts 8: 37; Romans 10: 9, 10; Romans 6:17,18).
 - b. Our worship is to come from the heart. (John 4:24; Ephesians 5:19; 2 Corinthians 9:7; 1 Corinthians 14: 14,15).
 - c. Christian living is to be from the heart. (Ephesians 6:6; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 Peter 3:1-4; 1 Peter 3:15,16).
 - (1) "Rejoice with them that rejoice and weep with them that weep." (Romans 12:15).
 - (2) Love and sincerity. (Philippians 1:9-11).

CONCLUSION :

1. Our emotions are to be governed by the word of God.
2. We are to control our feelings rather than to allow our feelings to control us.
3. All that we do in religion is to be from the heart in all sincerity as God has directed.

PURE RELIGION

James 1:27

INTRODUCTION :

1. There are many religions in the world today.
2. We believe that there is one true religion.
3. This religion must remain pure to please God.

DISCUSSION :

I. *Religion Defined.*

1. It means service to God and worship. (James 1:27).
2. We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. (Romans 12:1, 2).
3. We have turned from sin to serve the true and living God. (1 Thessalonians 1:9).
4. Not to be slothful but fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. (Romans 12:11).
5. To serve in newness of the spirit. (Romans 7:6).
6. Not to serve sin. (Romans 6:6).
7. To serve God with reverence and fear. (Hebrews 12:28).
8. Cannot serve two masters. (Matthew 6:24).

II. *Our Religion Must Be Pure.*

1. We must be pure in heart. (Matthew 5:8).
2. We must keep ourselves pure. (1 Timothy 5:22).
3. To be sound in the faith. (Tit. 1:13).
4. To be sound in speech. (Titus 2:8).
5. To be sound in doctrine. (Titus 2:1).
6. To take heed unto the doctrine. (1 Timothy 4:16).

III. *It Is Possible For One's Religion To Be In Vain.*

1. If one fails to bridle his tongue. (James 1:26).
2. By following the doctrines and commandments of men. (Matthew 7:21-23).
3. By being a hypocrite. (Matthew 6).
4. By being unfaithful to the Lord.

CONCLUSION :

1. What kind of religion do you have?
2. It is the one true religion of God?
3. Compare it with the teaching of the Bible to know where you stand.

EVOLUTION OR CREATION

Genesis 1:1

INTRODUCTION :

1. How was the world created?
2. Where did man come from?
3. These are some questions that continue to be asked year after year.
4. We desire to learn the truth.

DISCUSSION :**I. *Science Claims To Have The Answer.***

1. The earth began with an explosion.
2. True science means truth and this is but a theory.
3. False science is at work here.

“O Timothy, Keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith.” (1 Tim. 6:20, 21).

II. *Evolution Claims To Be The Answer.*

1. This theory says that man evolved from a lower organism.
2. Why is man the only intelligent being?
3. Why aren't we seeing lower organisms developing into higher ones?
4. This is but a theory and cannot be proven.

III. *Divine Creation Is The Only Answer.*

1. Something cannot come from nothing.
2. Creation of the world suggests order.
3. Man is intelligent and has in him the desire to worship some one higher.
4. How can anyone see creation and deny the creator?
5. Consider:
 - a. Life.
 - b. A baby.

- c. Man.
- d. Animals of different colours.
- e. Fowls and their colours.
- f. Petals of a flower.
- g. Designs of leaves.
- h. The microscopic world.
- i. Outer space.
- j. All things after their kind.

IV. *Further Evidences Of God.*

1. Scientific discoveries.
2. Law of nature and its order.
3. God's order.
4. Cause and effect.

V. *What The Bible Says About Creation.*

1. God created all things. (Genesis 1).
2. God created man. (Genesis 1:26, 27).
3. The heavens declare the glory of God. (Psalms 19:1).
4. The fool says there is no God. (Psalms 14:1).
5. God formed all things. (Prov. 26:10).
6. The things that are point to its creator. (Romans 1:20-25).
7. God built the house. (Hebrews 3:3-6).

CONCLUSION :

1. To accept divine creation is to be on the safe side.
2. It is not smart to accept a theory when you could accept the truth.

A WAY THAT IS RIGHT AND CANNOT BE WRONG

Prov. 14:12; Jer. 10:23; John 14:6

INTRODUCTION :

1. The ways of men bring death. (Prov. 14:12).
2. It is not in man to direct his own steps. (Jer. 10:23).
3. Then to whom can we look?

DISCUSSION :**I. *God Is Over All.***

1. He created us. (Gen. 1:26, 27).
2. In Him we live and move and have our very being. (Acts 17:28).
3. Blesses all. (James 1:17).

II. *God Sent Christ.*

1. "I am the way." (John 14:6).
2. His way is a narrow way. (Matthew 7:13, 14).
3. Cannot get in another way. (John 10:1).

III. *God Speaks Through Christ.*

1. He speaks through Christ today. (Matthew 17:5; Heb. 1:1, 2).
2. The word written down. (2 Timothy 3:16, 17).

IV. *The Lord Has All Authority.* (Matthew 28:18).

1. Tells how to be saved. (Mark 16:15, 16).
2. Tells about the church. (Matthew 16:18; Eph. 5:23).
 - a. Called the way. (Acts 9:2).
 - b. Called the new and living way. (Hebrews 10:20).
3. Tells how to worship. (John 4:24).
4. Tells how to live. (James 1:12; Rev. 2:10).

CONCLUSION :

1. The Lord's way is the one true way to heaven.
2. It is a way that cannot be wrong.

WHAT IS THE CHRISTIAN LIFE ALL ABOUT?

1 Peter 4:16; Romans 12: 1, 2

INTRODUCTION :

1. Many people do not know what it means to be a Christian, even some who are Christians.

2. It is one thing to become a Christian and something else to be one.
3. We could talk endlessly about the Christian life and all that it involves.
4. Let us see if we can't get to the very heart of the matter.
5. Just when is one a Christian? What must one do to remain a Christian?

DISCUSSION :

I. *The Christian Life Involves Belief.*

1. One must believe in God. (Hebrews 11:6).
2. To believe in Christ also. (John 14:1).
3. Unless we believe Christ to be God's Son we will die in our sins. (John 8:24).

II. *The Christian Life Necessitates Obedience.*

1. Must believe and be baptized to be saved. (Mark 16:16).
2. To repent and be baptized for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38).
3. Must be doers of the word. (James 1:22).
4. To be obedient children. (1 Peter 1:14).

III. *The Christian Life is a State In Which One Lives.*

1. One is in Christ. (Romans 6:3, 4; Galatians 3:26, 27).
2. One is in the body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:13).
3. Translated from darkness into the Lord's kingdom. (Colossians 1:13, 14).
4. Can fellowship only those who are in the same state. (Acts 2:42).

IV. *The Christian Life Means Purity.*

1. Not of this world. (John 17:14; 1 John 2:15).
2. To be peculiar. (1 Peter. 2:9).
3. To be pure. (Titus 2:14).
4. To abstain from the appearance of evil. (1 Thess. 5:25).
5. To be a godly life. (Tit. 2:11, 12).

V. *The Christian Life Means Service.*

1. To follow Christ daily. (Luke 9:23).
2. To present one's self as a living sacrifice. (Romans 12:1, 2).
3. To practice pure religion. (James 1:27).
4. To be a worker for the Lord. (1 Corinthians 14:58).
5. To take the gospel to others. (Matthew 28:19).

VI. *The Christian Life Means Blessings.*

1. He has the privilege to worship. (John 4:24).
2. One has the Lord's presence. (Matthew 28:20).
3. All spiritual blessings. (Ephesians 1:3).
4. To receive a crown of life. (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10).

CONCLUSION :

1. The Christian life is more demanding, rewarding, and more wonderful than any other way of life.
2. It enables one to rid his life of all that is bad to hold to that which is good.
3. Try it and see for yourself.

**SOME WHO SHALL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF
GOD**

1 Cor. 6:9

INTRODUCTION:

1. The kingdom of God is the church of God of the Bible.
2. To inherit means to receive.
3. There are certain ones who cannot receive the kingdom or be a part of it.
4. The scriptures lists some of these.

DISCUSSION:

1. *Some Who Cannot Inherit The Kingdom As Stated In 1 Cor. 6:9-11.*
 - A. Some individuals listed.

1. The unrighteous.
 2. Fornicators.
 3. Idolaters.
 4. Adulterers.
 5. The effeminate.
 6. Abusers of themselves with mankind.
 7. Thieves.
 8. Covetous.
 9. Drunkards.
 10. Revilers (To abuse verbally, berate, upbraid, scold).
 11. Extortioners.
- B. He says twice that such persons cannot inherit the kingdom.
- C. Should not be deceived into thinking that it is possible for such people to be saved as they are.
- D. The Corinthians were guilty of these sins at one time.
1. But ye are washed.
 2. Ye are sanctified.
 3. Ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus by the Spirit of our God.

H. *Some Who Cannot Inherit The Kingdom Of God According To Galatians 5:19-21.*

- A. Some individual sins listed.
1. Adultery.
 2. Fornication.
 3. Uncleaness.
 4. Lasciviousness.
 5. Idolatry.
 6. Witchcraft.
 7. Hatred (enmities).
 8. Variance (strife).
 9. Emulations (jealousies).
 10. Wrath.
 11. Strife (factions).
 12. Seditions (divisions).

13. Heresies.
14. Envyings.
15. Murders.
16. Drunkenness.
17. Revellings.
18. And such like.

B. He had told them before, as now, that those who did such things cannot inherit the kingdom of God.

III. *Some Who Shall Be Cast Into The Lake Of Fire.* (Rev. 21:7-8).

A. Some individuals.

1. The fearful.
2. The unbelieving.
3. The abominable.
4. Murderers.
5. Whoremongers.
6. Sorcerers.
7. Idolators.
8. All liars.

B. These shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone.

C. All such will experience what is called the second death.

D. Those that overcome shall inherit all things.

1. God will be our God.
2. We shall be his children.

IV. *Why These People Cannot Inherit The Kingdom of God And Will Finally Be Lost?*

- A. Because they have not repented and obeyed God.
- B. Because of their sin.

CONCLUSION:

1. To be saved and to be a member of the Lord's church one must obey God. (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:47).
2. Those who remain faithful will receive a crown of life. (Rev. 2:10).

THE CHRISTIAN'S PAST LIFE

Ephesians 2; Colossians 3:1-17; Rom. 6:17,18; Matt. 11:28-30

INTRODUCTION:

1. Under the law, David was often reminded of his past life.
2. As Paul looked back on his former life he pictured himself as the chief of sinners.
3. He reminds the Ephesians and others as to who they were and what they were before they became Christians.
4. It might do us well to remember our former life from time to time.
5. It is not that we should be unwilling to forgive ourselves of what we did but by comparing our way of life now with what we once knew should help us to see how much better off we are now.

DISCUSSION:

- I. *Paul Pictures The Past Life Of The Ephesians.*
 1. They were dead in trespasses and sins.
 2. They walked according to the world.
 3. They were influenced by Satan.
 4. Their conversation was according to the lusts of the flesh.
 5. They fulfilled the desires of the flesh and of the mind.
 6. They were by nature the children of wrath.
 7. They were dead in sins.
 8. They were Gentiles in the flesh.
 9. They were without Christ.
 10. They were aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise.
 11. They had no hope.
 12. They were without God in the world.
- II. *Paul Also Shows The Other Side Of Their Life Now That They Have Obeyed God.*
 1. Christ had quickened them.
 2. God loved them and quickened them together with Christ.

3. God raised them up together.
4. He made them to sit in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.
5. They had been saved by grace through faith.
6. They were his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works.
7. In Christ they had been made nigh by the blood of Jesus Christ.
8. Christ had become their peace.
9. He had made the Jew and Gentiles one since he had broken down the middle wall between them.
10. Christ had made one new man of them, so making peace.
11. That he might reconcile unto God one body.
12. Through Christ they had access by one spirit unto the Father.
13. They are now fellowcitizens with the saints and of the household of God.
14. They are now built upon the foundations of the Apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief corner stone.
15. They had become the building of God.

III. *Values Of Comparing The Old Life And The New Life.*

1. To be reminded of one's former condition.
 - a. To know he was a sinner.
 - b. To know his terrible plight.
 - c. To know he was without hope.
 - d. To know he was in need of help.
2. To understand more fully the grace of God.
 - a. Man could not save himself.
 - b. He could never do enough to earn his salvation.
 - c. Only through God and his Son could he be saved.
3. To appreciate more one's salvation and the hope he has.
 - a. Sometimes man forgets all the Lord did for him.
 - b. He needs to remember what it took to save him.
4. To be able to compare the changes in life.
5. To tell others what the Lord can do for them.

CONCLUSION:

1. What kind of life did you have before you became a Christian?
2. What kind of person are you now?

BROTHERLY KINDNESS

2 Pet. 1:7; Heb. 13:1; 1 Thess. 4:9; Rom. 12:10

INTRODUCTION :

1. The world is so full of evil.
2. There is so much selfishness.
3. This is seen in people's faces, their frowns, their sharp words, their lack of consideration.
4. We need to take a look at the Bible and see how brotherly kindness can change all of that.
5. This begins with you and me.

DISCUSSION :**I. *What Is Brotherly Kindness?***

1. We are brothers in Christ. (Gal. 3:26).
2. This is a special close relationship that we enjoy in Christ.
3. Kindness means many things: compassion, sympathy, pleasant, gracious, love, gentle, merciful, considerate, and patience.
4. Another similar expression is brotherly love.

II. *Brotherly Kindness Is Listed As One Of The Christian Graces.*
(2 Pet. 1:7).

1. It is something to be added.
2. It rounds out the Christian graces.
3. May not seem to be much but can be very important.

III. *Some Things Involved In Brotherly Kindness.*

1. It is opposite of being ugly, discourteous, frowning, impatience, lack of thought and consideration. (Eph. 4:31, 32).
2. It comes from within—sincere and true.

3. It is a feeling or expression of concern for others.
4. It shows compassion, sympathy, mercy, gentleness, patience, understanding, and courtesy.
5. It is ready to help out.
6. It represents warmth and brings out good in others.
7. It is brotherly love. (Lk. 6:35, 36; 1 Thess. 3:12-13; Tit. 2: 1-8; 1 Cor. 13:4; 2 Cor. 6:6; Gal. 5:22, 23; Col. 3:12-14; 1 Pet. 1:22; Eph. 5:1, 2; 1 Pet. 3:8; 9; 1 John 5:1-3).
8. It is forgiveness.
9. It is being friendly.

IV. *What It Will Do.*

1. It will make an individual come to life and be a real Christian.
2. It will bring about a good response from the brethren and non-brethren alike.
3. It will open doors to do good.
4. It will strengthen the church in fellowship, working together, and concern for each other.

CONCLUSION :

1. What kind of person are you?
2. Are you kind? Do you show it?

JESUS CHRIST, MY LORD AND MASTER

Acts 2:36; Phil. 2:11; 1 Tim. 6:15; John 20:28; Acts 2:47;
John 6:68; Lk. 6:46

INTRODUCTION :

1. The term Lord is used often through the Bible.
2. It means one with power and authority, a master and ruler.
3. The purpose of this lesson is to show what the Lord's position should be in our lives.

DISCUSSION :

I. *Jesus Of The Bible.*

1. He is God. (John 1:1, 2).
2. He is the Son of God. (Matt. 16:16).
3. He is the saviour. (2 Pet. 1:11).
4. He is the head of the church. (Eph. 5:23).
5. He is the word. (John 1:1, 2).
6. He is our Lord. (Phil. 3:8).

II. *What Does Jesus Mean To You?*

1. Someone you have heard about.
2. A great man, teacher, and leader.
3. The Son of God.
4. The Saviour.
5. But is he your Lord?

III. *How Jesus Can Be Your Lord.*

1. You must totally and unconditionally surrender to him. (Matt. 11:28-30; Matt. 6:24).
 - a. To present your body as a living sacrifice. (Rom. 12:1,2).
 - b. Put him and his kingdom first. (Matt. 6:33).
 - c. Follow him daily. (Lk. 9:23).
 - d. You have been bought with a price. (1 Cor. 6:20).
2. You must believe in Him with all your heart. (Rom. 10:10; Acts 8:37).
3. You must be willing to accept him as your Lord, Master, and owner. (Matt. 23:7-12).
4. You must accept him as your king with you being his servant. (Rev. 19:16).
5. You must try to please him in all that you say and do. (Col. 3:17).
6. You must accept his power and authority over you. (Matt. 28:18).
7. You must obey him according to his wishes. (Heb. 5:8, 9).
8. You must be fully committed to him. (Rom. 6:12, 13).
9. You must worship and honour him.

10. You must be faithful to Him for the rest of your life.
(Rev. 2:10).

IV. *What The Lord Will Do For You.*

1. Save you. (Mk. 16:16).
2. Bless you. (Eph. 1:3).
3. Direct you. (1 Pet. 2:21).
4. Be with you. (Matt. 28:20).
5. Give you hope. (Col. 1:27).

CONCLUSION:

1. Is Jesus your Lord?
2. Do you know it? Does he know it?
3. If so, others will know it.
4. What a difference it will make!

“THE WEIGHTIER MATTERS OF THE LAW”

Matthew 23:23

INTRODUCTION :

1. Jesus lived in the time when the law of Moses was binding.
2. Many supposedly kept the law when in reality they had left for the traditions and teachings of men.
3. They were very strict in the things they did but it was all an act and not from the heart.
4. The thing they did stress were little and insignificant things in comparison to that which was important.
5. Jesus therefore condemned their hypocrisy and for overlooking the weightier matters of the law.
6. Then Jesus mentions some of the weightier matters.

DISCUSSION:

I. *Were Some Laws More Important Than Others?*

1. All of the laws of God are important and therefore must be obeyed.
2. However, there are some basic laws and truths that must be

recognized as a foundation on which to build.

3. Without complying with these, what good are the others even if they are complied with?
4. For example, Jesus stressed the fact that the first great commandment is to love God and the next one to it is to love thy neighbor as thyself. (Matthew 22:36-40).

II. *The Less Weightier And Weightier Matters Of The Law.*

1. These scribes and Pharisees were keeping the letter of the law to the point that they were giving a tenth of all sorts of things.
2. It was important to tithe but while they were doing so they were overlooking judgment, mercy, and faith.
3. These people therefore lost the real motive behind tithing.

III. *Today The Religious World Often Stresses Certain Fundamental Truths To The Exclusion Of Others.*

1. Emphasis is on faith, mercy, and grace only.
2. There is a lot of talk about love.
3. These basic truths and principles are not taken to their logical conclusion and therefore can not have their effect on an individual that they might otherwise have.
4. Faith only, mental acceptance, love without obedience is worthless.

IV. *Likewise In The Church We Often Leave The Weightier Matters Of The Law Undone.*

1. Our stress is often on baptism, the church, attending the assemblies, etc.
2. This does not mean that these matters are not important, but to the contrary they are very necessary to one's salvation.
3. At the same time we often overlook important truths and principles like love, faith, grace, prayer, purity, honesty, and so on.

V. *The Kind Of Obedience and Service That God Wants.*

1. He wants us to do what we do from the heart.
2. He wants us to obey his teaching.
3. He wants us to be balanced in our worship and service to him.

CONCLUSION :

1. How do you look on your service to God?
2. How do others look on it?
3. Above all, how does God see it?
4. Be not deceived in your religion.
5. Don't be a hypocrite.

CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY

Eccl. 12:13; Lk. 17:10; Rom. 15:27; Rom. 14:12; Heb. 13:17

INTRODUCTION :

1. With blessings come responsibilities.
2. Most of the New Testament is directed to the Christian with emphasis on his duty as such.
3. Responsibility means to respond, being responsible, answerable, reliable, trustworthy, accountable, and a free moral agent.
4. We must become aware of our responsibility and we must discharge it if we are to be profitable to the Lord.

DISCUSSION:

I. *We Are Responsible People.*

1. To those who give us work.
2. To our school teachers.
3. To our family.
4. To our neighbour.
5. To our country.
6. To ourselves.
7. To God.

II. *We Are Responsible In Spiritual Matters.*

1. To the church.
2. In worship.
3. In teaching.
4. In Giving.
5. In attending meetings.
6. In business meetings.
7. In helping the poor.

III. *Warnings Given To Us.*

1. To continue steadfastly in the apostles teachings. (Acts 2:42).
2. Not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together. (Heb. 10:25).
3. To remember the Lord each first day of the week. (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11).
4. To bear fruit or to be cut off. (John. 15:2).

IV. *Words That Suggest Responsibility.*

1. Duty.
2. Obligation.
3. Obedience.
4. Loyalty.
5. Faithfulness.
6. Dedication.
7. Purpose.
8. Sacrifice.
9. Service.
10. Work.
11. Involvement.
12. Dependable.

CONCLUSION:

1. One of our crying needs today is to have responsible people in the church.
2. We need those who will see their responsibility and will have

the determination to fulfill it.

3. We need people who can lead those around them to the lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world.
4. One cannot take the responsibilities of others.
5. When we become mature we will do what we need to do.

THE BLESSINGS OF A THORN IN THE FLESH

2 Cor. 12:7-10; Gal. 4:12-15

INTRODUCTION:

1. Paul is one of the great characters of the New Testament.
2. Although highly successful in the Lord's work he had many problems.
3. Among other things, he had a thorn in the flesh.
4. It is possible for this to be a blessing.
5. You may wonder how, but we will see in this lesson.

DISCUSSION :

- I. *Paul Was Given A Thorn In The Flesh.*
 1. The Lord allowed it.
 2. It was not a literal thorn.
 3. It was physical, painful and humiliating.
- II. *What Was Paul's Thorn In The Flesh?*
 1. Some think it was one thing and some another.
 2. It may have been blindness. (Gal. 4:12-15).
 3. It could have been a number of other things.
 4. We cannot say for sure what it was.
- III. *Why Was Paul Given This Thorn?*
 1. Lest he should be exalted above measure.
 2. To keep him humble.
 3. To keep him dependent on the Lord.
 4. To discipline him.
 5. For the Lord to fulfil his purpose through him.

IV. *How Did Paul React To This Thorn?*

1. He felt it was a messenger of Satan to buffet him.
2. He prayed three times that it would be removed but it was not.
 - a. The Lord assured him that his grace was sufficient for him.
 - b. That his strength would be made perfect in weakness.
3. He concluded he would glory in his infirmities.
4. In his weakness he would be strong.

V. *We May Also Have Thorns In The Flesh.*

1. Some physical handicap.
2. Sickness.
3. Lack of education.
4. Lack of ability to participate publically.
5. Age, whether young or old.
6. Unbelieving companion.
7. Being a widow.
8. Type of work we are doing.
9. Lack of money.
10. Error.
11. Worldliness.

VI. *Blessings Of A Thorn In The Flesh.* (Rom. 8:28)

1. To test us.
2. To discipline us.
3. To teach us patience.
4. To use what we have.
5. To humble us.
6. To give us greater faith.
7. To cause us to work harder.
8. To challenge us.
9. To open doors to us.
10. To cause us to lean more on the Lord.
11. To help us to pray more.
12. To encourage us to be more determined.

13. To teach us that all things will work together for our good.

VII. *Congregations May Also Have Thorns.*

1. Small number.
2. Small contribution.
3. No preacher.
4. Division.
5. Lack of interest.
6. Hard field.

VIII. *Blessings That Can Come Out Of These Hindrances.*

1. Greater dependance on the Lord.
2. Greater loyalty.
3. Greater participation.
4. Greater unity.
5. Challenged to find ways to do more.

CONCLUSION :

1. We often forget who we serve.
2. The Lord can take that which is little and insignificant and turn it into something great.
3. We need to turn our problems and difficulties around and make something great out of them.

CHRIST, THE HOPE OF INDIA

Col. 1:27; Rom. 5:5; 12:12; 15:4; Eph. 1:12, 13

INTRODUCTION :

1. Christ is the hope of the world.
2. Therefore Christ is the hope of India.
3. And Christ can help India only as we obey his command to take the gospel to India.

DISCUSSION :

- I. *We Must Emphasize Christ.*
 1. Must have faith in him and go on faith.

2. We must go believing he will be with us.
3. We must preach Christ and convert people to Christ.

II. *We Have A Great Task Before Us.*

1. India is such a large country.
2. It has so many people.
3. There is so much poverty.
4. The economical situation is so poor.
5. Inflation is so great.
6. There are so many false religions to contend with.
7. The church is so young.
8. There is so little being done.
9. But it is not an impossible task.

III. *We Will Never Evangelize India As We Are Doing.*

1. By baptizing only.
2. By hiring local people.
3. Through social work.
4. By sending Indians to America.
5. By going on short trips.
6. By counting entirely on money.

IV. *What It Is Going To Take To Evangelize India.*

1. We are going to have to be aware of India, her population, and that she is lost.
2. We are going to have to become serious about taking the gospel to India.
3. We are going to have to have people who are willing and ready to sacrifice in order to take the gospel.
4. We are going to have to have people who are willing to go and stay.
5. We are going to have to have people who will take the time to learn how to deal with the people.
6. We are going to have to be sold on the power of the gospel.
7. We are going to have to use the mass media to preach to the masses.

8. We are going to have to teach the people to take the gospel to their own people.
9. We are going to have to work together.
10. We are going to have to pray about it.

V. *Some Things We Must Learn.*

1. India is ready for us but we are not ready for India.
2. It is going to take time to build a stable church.
3. We cannot build an American Church in India.
4. Indian materialism.
5. The Indian's concept of the missionary.
6. The Indian's concept of the foreigner.

CONCLUSION:

1. No telling how much money has been spent in India.
2. Most of the work has been in vain.
3. We have a false foundation and most people are deceived concerning the work done there.
4. We are going to have to make some corrections.
5. We need to start over.
6. Who will go?

CONFESS YOUR FAULTS

James 5:16; 1 John 1:9; Acts 8:18-24; Luke 15:11-32;
2 Pet. 2:21, 22; Heb. 10:24-29

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Christian is to be pure, godly, and holy.
2. But he is not above sin and therefore may slip or fall by the way.
3. In this case, he must repent, confess his faults, and pray to God that he may be forgiven.
4. How do you stand before God?

DISCUSSION:**I. *There Is Forgiveness For Those Who Will Comply With The Lord's Will.***

1. How thankful we should be to know that we have a Lord who will forgive.
2. How thankful we should be that we can be forgiven of our sins.
3. We should gladly comply with the Lord's terms if we need forgiveness.
4. It is no disgrace to admit wrong where wrong has been done.

II. *Those Who Sin Do Not Always Look to God For Forgiveness.*

1. Do not realize their lost condition.
2. May feel that they have not done any wrong.
3. May go on as though everything is all right.
4. May point to others who have sinned to justify their own situation.
5. May have too much pride.
6. May be ashamed to confess their sins.
7. May neglect to act.
8. They may change their place of worship.
9. They may quit altogether.

III. *The Church Does Not Always Deal With The Erring Christian As It Should.*

1. Usually ignore them.
2. Don't always cease to use them.
3. Should go to the members and talk to them about their situation.
4. Should encourage and help them to do the right thing.
5. Should pray for them.
6. Should set a good example for them.
7. Should forgive them if they do respond.
8. Should discipline them if necessary. (1 Cor. 5; Matt. 18:15-17).

IV. *One Should Confess His Faults According To The Extent Others Know About Them.* (Matt. 5:23, 24; 6:12, 14, 15).

1. If one sins in his heart, then he needs to take the matter to God and settle it with him. (Phil. 4:7; 2 Tim. 2:22).
2. If you have sinned before your friend, neighbor, or such like, go to him and clear the matter up. (Matt. 5:23, 24).
3. If you have sinned in a public way then you need to take it before the church. (Acts 8:18-24; James 5:16).

V. *Conditions For Pardon.* (Acts 8:18-24; Luke 15:11-32; James 5:16).

1. Confession of sins.
2. Repentance of sins.
3. Prayer for forgiveness.

VI. *The Confession of Faults.*

1. Need not to go into detail and list every sin.
2. If so, what if you overlooked one?
3. By listing and describing every sin may do more damage than good.
4. Must confess faults—the Lord knows what our sins are.

VII. *The Results Of The Confession Of Faults.*

1. The erring Christian is restored to his former position.
2. This strengthens the church.
3. Set an example for others.
4. Gives the one involved a new beginning.

VIII. *All May Not Need To Be Publicly Restored.*

1. Man have been pressured into responding by the preacher or someone else.
2. May not understand that if the sin is not public then they do not need to publicly confess their faults.
3. None of us are perfect and every little mistake or error does not mean that we have to go forward and publicly confess our faults.

CONCLUSION :

1. God needs us, but to be worth something to him we must be faithful to him.
2. Where do we stand before him and before our fellow man?

FIRST PRINCIPLES

Hebrews 5; 2 Peter 1:9

INTRODUCTION :

1. This will be a study of first principles.
2. We want to find out what they are and how they should be rated.
3. What should be our attitude toward them?

DISCUSSION :**I. *First Principles Explained.***

1. Simple and basic truths.
2. The gospel, acts of worship, truths about the church, etc.
3. The milk of the word.

II. *Complaints About First Principles.*

1. First principles are preached too much.
2. First principles are not preached enough.

III. *Proper Place Of First Principles.*

1. We must preach first principles.
 - a. Children must be taught.
 - b. The ignorant must be taught.
 - c. The erring must be taught.
 - d. Not able to bear meat. (1 Cor. 3:1-3).
 - e. Not teachable. (Mark 8:18).
 - f. The older Christian must be reminded.
 - g. To prepare the Christian to teach others.
2. We must also preach lessons that will help the Christian to grow and to develop. (1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18).
 - a. There is the milk but there is also the meat.

- b. To add the Christian graces. (2 Peter 1:4-12).
 - c. To grow in faith. (2 Thess. 1:3).
 - d. Man shall not live by bread only. (Matt. 4:4).
 - e. The Lord's meat was to do the will of the Father. (John 4:32, 34).
 - f. Must eat spiritual meat. (1 Cor. 10:3).
 - g. To develop the inner man. (2 Cor. 4:16; Eph. 3:16; 4:13).
 - h. When one becomes a man he puts away childish things. (1 Cor. 13:11).
 - i. This growth takes place by study and exercise. (2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Tim. 4:7).
3. We need to have a balanced diet—to go to one extreme or the other only ends up in hurting someone.

IV. *The Real Problem Is Often Overlooked.*

- 1. It is not that the preacher preaches on first principles, but when he preaches on them all the time.
- 2. It is not that the members need to hear something besides first principles, but the problem arises when first principles are never taught.
- 3. There is a need for both first principles and the meat of the word to be given in the lessons presented.
- 4. Sometimes members just want to be critical.
- 5. It is possible for the audience to ever be learning but never coming to the knowledge of the truth. (2 Tim. 3:7).
- 6. The members are so well taught that everything the preacher says seems like first principles.
- 7. We need to be using our knowledge to teach others.

CONCLUSION :

- 1. How do you feel now about first principles?
- 2. Rejoice that the truth is preached.
- 3. Don't wait on the preacher, but go ahead with your study and development.

SHALL WE SUPPORT DENOMINATIONALISM?

Matt. 15:9; Matt. 7:21-23

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Bible condemns division and promotes unity.
2. We would therefore declare that we are opposed to denominationalism.
3. But there may be ways that we support it without even being conscience of doing so.
4. This lesson is to help us to examine the matter, and if necessary, to make some corrections.

DISCUSSION :

- I. *It May Be That We Are Supporting Denominationalism In Our Language, Attitude, And Actions.*
 1. Perhaps we have never really been converted.
 2. We do not understand oneness of the church.
 3. We are ignorant of the teaching of the Bible.
 4. We use the language of the denominational world. (1 Pet. 4:11).
- II. *We Support Denominationalism When We Have Fellowship With Those In Error.*
 1. We may attend their meetings.
 2. We may give to their cause.
 3. We may be indifferent about the church.
- III. *We Lend Our Support To Denominationalism When We Are Weak And We Do Not Remain Faithful To The Lord's Cause.*
 1. We do not stand up for the truth.
 2. We do not preach and teach God's word.
 3. We do not practice what we preach.
- IV. *We Support Error When We Do Not Condemn It.*
 1. Our eyes should not be closed to error.

2. Error should be shown for what it is and the beauty of truth needs to be brought out.
3. Jesus, Paul, and so on, are our great examples.

V. *We Support Error When We Preach Too Much Against Error.*

1. Often times we become so preoccupied with preaching against error that we find ourselves constantly preaching, and teaching and reminding people of what false teachers preach.
2. While error needs to be condemned, our main emphasis should be on the truth.
3. We should not be ugly, but show love.

CONCLUSION :

1. No doubt you can think of the other ways that we may support denominationalism and error in general.
2. Surely we don't want to do this, so we must take the necessary steps to avoid such.
3. We have the truth and that is what the world needs and it is up to us to give it to man.

THE BODY OF CHRIST

1 Cor. 12:12-27; Eph. 5:23-27;

Col. 1:18

INTRODUCTION :

1. There is one body and it is the church. (Eph. 4:4; 1:22, 23).
2. It is the spiritual body of Christ. (1 Cor. 12:27).
3. Christ is the head and the members compose the body. (Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 12:20).
4. The spiritual body is compared to the physical body to show the importance of each member.
5. Paul shows that different spiritual gifts were given to different members, and that each one has his own work to do.

DISCUSSION :

I. *The Physical Body.*

1. There are different members like hands, feet, eyes, ears, nose, etc.
2. Because one is not the other, that does not mean it is not a part of the body.
3. The members do not become jealous of each other but respect the work that each one has to do.
4. If the whole body were an eye, what about hearing?
5. If all were one member, what about the body?
6. One cannot say to the other, "I have no need of thee."
7. Every member has its work to do and therefore is needed.
8. God hath so put the body together so that there is no need for division.
9. We cannot do without any member.
10. When one member suffers, all the members suffer and the same with being honored.

II. *The Spiritual Body.*

1. There are many members.
2. Each member has an important work to do.
3. One cannot say that he is better than the other.
4. There is to be unity among the members.
5. If all were preachers, what about Elders?
6. Each member is to be concerned about the other members.
7. To rejoice with each other and weep with one another.

CONCLUSION :

1. This is a lesson that every Christian needs to take to heart.
2. We should never be seeking for position in the Lord's kingdom, but how to render acceptable service.
3. Only when all of the members of the Lord's body are functioning properly can that body do the work that needs to be done.

WHY THE EARLY CHURCH GREW

Acts 2:41; 4:4

INTRODUCTION:

1. First century Christianity was a great success.
2. In a matter of a few years the gospel was taken to every creature under heaven. (Col. 1:23).
3. Many believed and obeyed the Lord.
4. Why was the church so successful?
5. We need to learn and apply what we learn to our present day situation.

DISCUSSION:

- I. *The Emphasis Is On The Growth Of The First Century Church.*
 1. About 3,000 were added to the church. (Acts 2:41).
 2. Many that heard believed and the number of the men was about five thousand. (Acts 4:4)
 3. "And believers were the more added to the Lord." (Acts 5:14).
 4. "The number of disciples was multiplied." (Acts 6:1).
 5. "And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly." (Acts 6:7).
 6. They believed Philip's preaching and were baptised both men and women. (Acts 8:12).
 7. "And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord." (Acts 9:42).
 8. Barnabas taught and many were added to the Lord. (Acts 11:24).
 9. "But the word of the Lord grew and multiplied." (Acts 12:24).
 10. "And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily." (Acts 16:5).
- II. *Why The Early Church Grew.*
 1. The apostles preached to multitudes. (Acts 2, 3; 2:47).
 2. Because of persecution the disciples were scattered abroad

and they went everywhere preaching the word. (Acts 8:4).

3. Peter and John preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans. (Acts 8:25).
4. The gospel was preached in the synagogue. (Acts 13:5).
5. Paul preached to those in idolatry. (Acts 17:22-31).
6. During Paul's stay in Ephesus all in Asia heard the gospel. (Acts 19:10).
7. The disciples continued steadfastly. (Acts 2:42).
8. When Ananias and Sapphira were struck dead great fear came upon the church. (Acts 5:11).
9. As a result of Dorcas being raised from the dead, it was known throughout all Joppa and many believed in the Lord. (Acts 9:42).

III. *The Church Is Not Growing Today As It Should And There Are Reasons For This.*

1. Not preaching enough, fewer meetings, time conscious.
2. Not going to the people with the message.
3. Don't have enough time to concentrate on the work.
4. We have been convinced by the world that people are not interested in religious matters.
5. Thinking mostly of self.
6. Too much emphasis on material things.
7. Do not practice what we preach.
8. Not convinced the world is lost.

IV. *What Can Be Done To Help The Church Grow?*

1. We must first realise that something is wrong.
2. We must find out what is wrong and correct it.
3. We must be sincere and serious about the Lord's work.
4. We must pray about it.
5. We must work as a team.
6. We must go to the lost.
7. We must set a good example.
8. We must put the Lord's cause first.
9. We must believe that we can succeed.

CONCLUSION:

1. Surely man is still lost and in need of the gospel.
2. The Lord is still commanding us to go and his word is as powerful as always.
3. It is possible today for the church to grow rapidly.
4. Let's put the local church on the move forward.

ENEMIES OF THE CROSS OF CHRIST

Phil. 3:18,19

INTRODUCTION:

1. An enemy is someone who is opposed to another.
2. All have enemies, even Christ.
3. Paul said that there were those in his day who were the enemies of the cross of Christ.
4. Such enemies still exist.
5. We need to identify them so we can be aware of them.
6. Could it be that we are in such a category?

DISCUSSION:

1. *There Are Two Classes Of Enemies.*
 1. Conscious enemies.
 - a. Those who are unbelievers.
 - b. Those of other religions.
 - c. Those who intentionally continue in sin.
 2. Unconscious enemies.
 - a. Denominational people.
 - b. Those who are trying to live a good moral life.
 - c. The unfaithful Christian.
 - d. The liberalist.
 - e. Those who believe all will be saved.
 - f. Those who cause division.
 - g. Those who teach things contrary to the scriptures.
 - h. Those who fail to attend all of the services.
 - i. Those who fail to take the gospel to the world.
 - j. Those who are hypocrites.

k. Those who fail to set a good example.

II. *How Should These Enemies Be Dealt With?*

1. They should be taught.
2. They should be marked.
3. They should be condemned.
4. We should warn our brethren against them.
5. We should show love in dealing with them.
6. We should withdraw from them.
7. We should ground the church in the truth on such matters.

III. *Why Must We Act?*

1. To save souls.
2. To teach the truth.
3. Lest the enemy win out.
4. To keep souls from being deceived.

CONCLUSION:

1. We need to examine ourselves to see if we are really following the Lord.
2. If we are an enemy of the Lord we need to correct our lives and obey God.
3. We are the friends of Christ when we do what he says.

PAUL'S VISIT AT MILETUS WITH THE ELDERS OF THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS

Acts 20:17-38

INTRODUCTION :

1. Paul had established the church at Ephesus.
2. Later on his third missionary journey he returned and spent about two years there.
3. He disputed daily in the school of Tyrannus, preached in the synagogue, etc.
4. Through these efforts all of Asia, Jews and Greeks, heard the gospel.

5. Returning to Jerusalem later on, he did not go by Ephesus but asked for the Elders to meet him at Miletus.
6. There are many things brought out about Paul and his work in this meeting.

DISCUSSION :

I. *Paul Sends For The Elders Of The Church At Ephesus.*

1. This church had its own Elders.
2. Paul had their respect and love.
3. They responded and went to meet him.

II. *The Meeting In Miletus.*

1. This was a small port on Paul's route back to Jerusalem.
2. Paul had reason to believe that he would not see them again.
3. Some of the things of which Paul reminded them.
 - a. They knew the manner of his coming.
 - b. He had served the Lord with all humility of mind, tears, and temptations as a result of the lying in wait of the Jews.
 - c. He had kept back nothing that was profitable unto them.
 - (1) Had taught them publicly.
 - (2) Had taught them from house to house.
 - (3) Had taught both Jews and Greeks repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord.
 - d. Paul was now going to Jerusalem.
 - (1) He did not know what to expect.
 - (2) Was confident that the Spirit would guide him.
 - (3) None of these things moved him.
 - (4) Was not concerned about his life.
 - (5) Wanted to complete his course.
 - (6) Felt that they would see his face no more.
 - e. Declared that he was pure from the blood of all men.
 - f. He had not shunned to declare the whole counsel of God.

4. Paul then asked these Elders to take heed unto themselves and to all the flock.
 - a. To feed the church of God which Christ had purchased with his blood.
 - b. He knew after his departure false teachers would appear, not sparing the flock.
 - c. Therefore they should watch and remember that for three years he had not ceased to warn them with tears.
 - d. He commended them to the word of God which was able to build them up and to give them hope.
 - e. He reminds them that he has coveted no man's silver, gold, or apparel.
 - f. Rather he has worked with his own hands to care for his needs, and for his associates.
 - g. He had shown them by example.
 - (1) To support the weak.
 - (2) To remember the words of Jesus that it is more blessed to give than to receive.
5. Paul's departure.
 - a. Knelt down and prayed with them.
 - b. They all wept, hugged him, and kissed him.
 - c. They sorrowed for what he had said and that they would see him no more.
 - d. Then they accompanied him to the ship.

CONCLUSION :

1. This was the story of Paul's life.
2. He was sacrificial in his life and ever demonstrating what Christianity was all about.
3. Surely this was a fitting summation of his work and visit with them.
4. These things should cause us to be better Christians.

SOME WHO SHOULD NOT BE BAPTIZED

1 Cor. 1:17; Acts 8:36-38

INTRODUCTION

1. We are often accused of over-emphasizing baptism.
2. It is said that we preach baptism only.
3. We do preach the importance of baptism but only in the sense that the Bible teaches it.
4. While it is necessary for an accountable being to be baptized to be saved, there are some who should not be baptized.
5. Please consider these in the Light of God's word.

DISCUSSION :**I. *Infants Cannot Be Scripturally Baptized.***

1. They are without sin and therefore safe. (Matthew 18:1-3).
2. They are unable to comply with the terms of pardon. (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 17:30).
3. They are to be trained so that when they reach the age of accountability they will obey the Lord. (Eph. 6:4).

II. *The Unbeliever Is Not Subject To Baptism.*

1. He is lost and cannot be saved in his unbelief. (John 3:18).
2. He that believeth not shall be damned. (Mark 16:16).
3. One must believe in Christ to obey Him. (Acts 8:36-38).

III. *One Cannot Be Baptized As Long As He Continues In Sin.*

1. John required fruits meet for repentance. (Matt. 3:7, 8).
2. Christ said one must repent or perish. (Luke 13:3).
3. Peter said that one must repent and be baptized to have the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38).

IV. *One Cannot Be Scripturally Baptized If He Is Ignorant Of The Truth.*

1. One must hear to believe. (Rom. 10:17).
2. By knowing the truth one can be made free. (John 8:32).

3. God will not save one because of ignorance. (Acts 17:30).

V. *One Cannot Be Scripturally Baptized With Ulterior Motives.*

1. One must believe from the heart. (Romans 10:9, 10).

2. One must obey the Lord. (Heb. 5:8, 9).

3. One must not do so to please his wife, or some other person, but to please the Lord and to be saved.

VI. *One Cannot Be Scripturally Baptized By Sprinkling Or Pouring.*

1. Baptism is a burial. (Col. 2:12).

2. Baptism is a burial in water. (Acts 1:26-39).

3. Baptism is to put one into Christ. (Romans 6:3, 4).

VII. *One Cannot Be Scripturally Baptized When He Believes That He Is Already Saved.*

1. After believing, repenting, confessing Christ, one is to be baptized to be saved. (1 Pet. 3:21).

2. One is to be baptized to have the remission of sins, not because he already has such. (Acts 2:38).

VIII. *One Cannot Be Scripturally Baptized If He Believes That Baptism Only Saves.*

1. Baptism only does not save.

2. Baptism only will not put one into Christ and his church.

3. Baptism saves only after one believes, repents of his sins, and confessed Christ to be the Son of God. (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Matthew 10:32).

CONCLUSION :

1. Please don't think that everyone that is baptized is saved.

2. Don't think that everyone should be baptized.

3. There are many people who are not ready for baptism, and cannot be baptized, until they prepare themselves for it.

4. We need to adhere strictly to the Bible teaching on this subject and only then can we see the importance of baptism.

SANCTIFICATION

1 Cor. 1:30, 31; 2 Tim. 2:21; Acts 20:32

INTRODUCTION :

1. Sanctification is a strange sounding word that almost borders on error.
2. It is also associated with consecration, holiness, righteousness, purity, to hallow, and to be a saint.
3. We want to include these words and their meanings in our study.
4. These terms are not used often but to understand the Christian life then we must understand how these words are to effect our lives.

DISCUSSION :**I. *What Does Sanctify Or Sanctification Mean?***

1. Consecrate, hallow, purify and separate.
2. It means to be set apart.

II. *Who Sanctifies?*

1. God. (Gen. 2:3; John 10:36).
2. By the word. (John 17:17; 1 Tim. 4:5).
3. By the Holy Ghost. (Rom. 15:16).
4. Through the offering of Christ. (Heb. 10:10).
5. Through his blood. (Heb. 13:12).
6. By faith. (Acts 26:18).

III. *Who Or What Is Sanctified.*

1. The seventh day. (Gen. 2:3).
2. The firstborn. (Ex. 13:2).
3. The tabernacle. (Lev. 8:10).
4. The priests. (1 Chron. 15:14).
5. God's people. (Josh. 7:13).
6. Sacrifices. (Ex. 29:36, 37).
7. The Christian. (1 Cor. 6:11).
8. Those in Christ. (1 Cor. 1:2).

9. The church. (Eph. 5:26).

IV. *What Is Involved?*

1. One is a Saint. (Rom. 1:7).
 - a. Called to be saints. (1 Cor. 1:2).
 - b. Saints are in Christ. (Phil. 4:21).
 - c. All Christians are saints. (Eph. 3:18).
 - d. Most people define the word saint according to the way the Catholic Church uses it but this is false.
 - e. One does not have to be and cannot be perfect to be a saint.
2. Holy or Holiness.
 - a. Means clean, purity, righteousness, and hallowed.
 - b. To present our bodies holy. (Rom. 12:1).
 - c. Should be holy and without blame. (Eph. 1:4).
 - d. Church is to be holy. (Eph. 5:27).
 - e. To be holy in all manner of things. (1 Peter 1:15).
 - f. To be holy in conversation. (2 Pet. 3:11).
 - g. A holy priesthood. (1 Peter 2:5).
3. To be separated, clean, and pure.
 - a. To come out and be separate. (2 Cor. 6:17).
 - b. To be clean.
 - (1) Cleansed by the word. (John 15:3).
 - (2) To cleanse ourselves from all filthiness. (2 Cor. 7:1).
 - (3) The church is to be clean. (Eph. 5:26).
 - (4) Cleanse your hands, ye sinners. (James 4:8).
 - (5) Cleansed by the blood of Christ. (1 John 1:7).
 - c. To purify ourselves.
 - (1) Keep thyself pure. (1 Tim. 5:22).
 - (2) Purify thyself in obeying the truth. (1 Pet. 1:22).
 - (3) The Lord purified unto himself a peculiar people. (Tit. 2:14).
 - (4) Blessed are the pure in heart. (Matt. 5:8).

CONCLUSION :

1. Some of these terms have been misunderstood and misused.

2. Even though those in error have used them to teach false doctrines, that does not mean that we are to reject them.
3. May God help us to see what God expects of us and the kind of people we are to be.
4. This is God's way of keeping and preserving us for himself.

THE LOAVES AND FISHES

Matt. 14:15-21; Matt. 15:32-39; Matt. 16:6-12;
Mark 6:31-45, 52; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:5-14

INTRODUCTION:

1. In these two stories we have Jesus providing food for the physical needs of the multitudes.
2. It was a combination of showing compassion on them and producing faith in him as a result of his miracles.
3. On one occasion he fed five thousands and on another four thousand, not counting women and children.
4. There are many lessons in this for us today.

DISCUSSION:

I. *Jesus Had Great Multitudes To Follow Him.*

1. Perhaps different ones followed for different reasons.
2. He was the Master Teacher; he taught and healed them.
3. It must be Jesus who draws people today.

II. *The Disciples Asked Jesus To Send Them Home.*

1. They explained that this was a desert place and they should returned to their own place to provide for their own needs.
2. They wanted to know where they would get enough bread to feed so many.
3. Andrew said that there was a lad there that had five barley loaves and two small fishes but what would they be for so many.
4. Often times we do not show much interest in those around us.
5. We are ready at first opportunity to send them away.
6. We do not care to be bothered with them.

7. No wonder the church is not growing any faster than it is.

III. *Christ Had Compassion On Them.*

1. They were following him to hear his teachings.
 - a. They were as sheep without a shepherd.
2. He advised that they need not depart but they should be fed.
3. They had been with him for three days and he would not send them away fasting.
4. He questioned them about food but knew what he would do.
5. Jesus will not send anyone away today hungry.
6. He loves all and will save all of those who obey him.
7. Must have compassion on all physically and spiritually.

IV. *They Used What They Had.*

1. In one case it says they had five loaves and two fishes.
2. In another case they had seven loaves and a few fishes.
3. John's record said there was a lad who had five barley loaves and two small fishes.
4. The Apostles and all of this crowd of people had nothing.
5. But this lad had brought some food and because of it Jesus was able to use what he had.
 - a. No doubt he merely tagged along.
 - b. He had no idea that he had something that Jesus could use and that which would help to benefit all of these people.
6. Are you following Jesus prepared?
7. What do you have that he can use?
8. Should use what you have even though it may seem to be unimportant.
9. Can prove to be a great blessing to many.

V. *Jesus Offered Thanks.*

1. He thanked his Father for it and blessed it.
2. Through this it was multiplied to care for the needs for all.

3. We should be thankful for all that we have, as little as it may be, without griping and complaining.
4. With the proper attitude and thanks he may multiply our blessings.
5. The Lord is most pleased when we share what we have with others.

VI. *The Food Was Divided Among The People.*

1. A miracle was performed in all that were there were fed and filled.
2. The Apostles had overlooked the fact that with Jesus he could care for the needs of the people.
3. Supplying physical needs, however, does not always accomplish much because they soon forget.
 - a. Some times they begin to follow for the loaves and fishes.
 - b. One can be filled physically but lost spiritually.
 - c. The fact still remains that there are people who need physical help and they need to be cared for.
4. They were divided into groups and fed.
5. There were no complaints concerning what they were given.
6. They recognized it as a miracle and that Jesus was a prophet.

VII. *They Gathered Up Twelve Baskets Full Of Fragments.*

1. To prove that a miracle had been performed the scrapes were gathered up.
 - a. Surely four or five thousand people would be no small number to feed with only five loaves and two fishes.
 - b. But after all were fed then twelve baskets full were gathered up to show that even after feeding them they had more left over than they had started out with.
2. In our time when there is so much stress on ecology, it is interesting to note they did not leave the fragments and left-overs littered on the ground.
3. Another thing to note is that they were not wasteful but

- were saving.
- a. They were given only very simple food.
 - b. They saved the left-overs.
4. We must not be wasteful.
 - a. America is said to have more than any other country in the world.
 - b. We also are said to waste more than any other people in the world.
 - c. We are often encouraged to be wasteful since it is cheaper to buy something new than to have it repaired.
 5. Having so much encourages waste.
 - a. Waste of food.
 - b. Waste of money.
 - c. Waste of time.
 6. Must learn to use less and to take care of what we have.
 7. Must begin to share more instead of being so selfish.
 8. The early Christians were known for their fasting.

CONCLUSION:

1. Let Jesus bless you as you follow him and use what you have to his glory.
2. Perhaps yet we need to learn how to live.

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

Mark 16:15, 16

- I. *The Gospel Defined.* (Rom. 10:15).
 1. Gospel of peace.
 2. Glad tidings of good things.
 3. Good news.
- II. *There Is But One Gospel.* (Gal. 1:7-9).
 1. It must be preached.
 2. Woe to those who preach another.

- III. *The Gospel Is Powerful.* (Rom. 1:16).
1. It is the power of God unto salvation.
 2. The righteousness of God revealed through it.
- IV. *Facts Of The Gospel.* (1 Cor. 15:1-4).
1. Christ died.
 2. Christ was buried.
 3. Christ was resurrected.
- V. *The Commands Of The Gospel.* (Mark 16:15,16; Rom. 6:17,18).
1. Must believe.
 2. Must repent.
 3. Must confess.
 4. Must be baptized.
- VI. *The Promises Of The Gospel.* (Acts 2:38).
1. Salvation.
 2. Remission of sins.
 3. Gift of the Holy Spirit.
- VII. *Must Preach The Gospel To Every Creature.* (Mark 16:15).
1. Duty of each Christian to preach to others.
 2. Every man deserves the right to hear.
- VIII. *Woe Be To Those Who Obey Not The Gospel.* (2 Thess. 1:7-9).
1. The Lord will take vengeance.
 2. Will be damned.

I AM DEBTOR

Rom. 1:14-17

INTRODUCTION :

1. Owing a debt.
A responsibility, showing a grateful heart.
2. Not material, but spiritual.
3. All owe this debt.

4. Some feel the world owes them something.

DISCUSSION :

I. *Paul's Background.*

1. Had persecuted the church.
2. The Lord had appeared to him and he had been converted.
3. Felt a great responsibility to God and to his fellow man. (Acts 20).
4. Was ready. 2 Tim. 4:6.
5. Preached in Asia and Europe.
6. Died in Rome for the faith.

II. *If Paul Was A Debtor Then I Am A Debtor.*

1. To my parents.
2. To my country.
3. To God for saving me.
4. To the church for supporting me.
5. To Liberty.
6. To my family.
7. To the world.

III. *You Have A Debt Too.*

1. All you have physically and spiritually came from the Lord.
2. As a congregation you have this building, etc.

CONCLUSION:

1. Are we paying our debt?
2. We will be blessed as we do.

BRINGING LIGHT TO A DARK WORLD

John 8:12; Matt. 5:14-16; 1 John 1:7

- I. *The World Is Full Of Sin.* (Romans 3:23).
- II. *Therefore The World Is Full Of Darkness.*
 1. Darkness represents sin. (1 John 5:19).

2. Dark world of worldliness.
3. Dark world of false religions.
4. Dark world of Catholicism.
5. Dark world of Protestantism.
6. Dark world of Islam.
7. Dark world of Hinduism.

III. *The World Is In Darkness Because:*

1. Ignorance.
2. Unbelief.
3. Deceit.
4. Love of darkness. (John 3:19).

IV. *Christ Brought Light Into The World* (John 8:12). God is light. (1 John 1:5).

1. Brought truth. (John 14:6).
2. Brought a better way.
3. Brought hope.

V. *All who Follow Christ Are To Let Their Lights Shine.*

1. Not to hide their light. (Matt. 5:14-16).
2. To let it shine.
3. To glorify God.

VI. *The Church Represents The Only Light The World Has.*

1. In Karachi.
2. In Calcutta.
3. In Bangkok.
4. Around the world.
5. A great responsibility.

VII. *Evil Will Be Cast Into Darkness.* (Matt. 8:12).

SIN

INTRODUCTION :

1. The world is full of sin.

2. Yet so many are unaware of it and do not realize the consequences of it.

DISCUSSION :

- I. *God Does Not Hold One Accountable Of Sin Until The Individual Reaches The Age Of Accountability.* (Matt. 18:1-3).
- II. *All Accountable Beings Are Sinners.*
 1. All have sinned. (Rom. 3:23).
 2. If we say we have no sin we lie. (1 John 1:8).
 3. Therefore all are to repent. (Acts 17:30).
- III. *Sin Is The Transgression Of The Law.* (1 John 3:4).
- IV. *There Are Different Ways To Sin.*
 1. Actual act.
 2. Mental act.
- V. *There Are Different Kinds Of Sin.*
 1. Sins of omission. (Heb. 2:3).
 2. Sins of commission.
 3. Sins against God.
 4. Sins against others.
 5. Sins against self.
- VI. *What Sin Will Do For You.*
 1. It will hurt you physically.
 2. It will hurt you mentally.
 3. It will destroy you spiritually. (Rom. 6:23).
- VII. *The Condition Of Those In Sin.*
 1. They are lost.
 2. They are in need of salvation.
- VIII. *Must Be Conscious Of Sin to Want To Rid One Self Of It.*
 1. Realize you are a sinner.
 2. Realize the consequences of it.

3. Realize there is a remedy.
4. Christ can save you.
5. Must follow his advice.
6. You will be saved.

CONCLUSION :

1. All accountable beings are sinners.
2. Sinner must realize his lost condition.
3. Must come to Christ to be saved.

"YOU HAVE THE POOR ALWAYS WITH YOU"

Matthew 26:11; Mark 14:7; John 12:8.

INTRODUCTION :

1. Two kinds of poor—materially and spiritually.
2. Not a blessing within itself to be poor, but neither is it a disgrace.
3. There have always been poor people and there always will be.

DISCUSSION :

I. Jesus And The Disciples Were Poor.

1. The Son of man hath no place to lay his head. (Luke 9:58).
2. Silver and gold have I none. (Acts 3).
3. They stayed with friends, ate simple foods. (Matthew 10).
4. Paul had to work with his own hands to preach. (Acts 18:1-3).

II. The Gospel Was Taken To The Poor.

1. The poor have the gospel preached to them. (Matthew 11:5).
2. Why the poor?
 - a. They have no riches to put their trust in.
 - b. They will listen.
 - c. They are humble.
 - d. They want to better their lives.

III. *Why People are Poor.*

1. Born into it.
2. Circumstances.
3. No opportunity to better their lives.
4. Taken advantage of.
5. By choice.
6. Laziness.

IV. *What We Can Do For The Poor.*

1. Love them. (1 John 4:11, 12).
2. Preach the gospel to them. (Mark 16:15).
3. Help them to help themselves. (2 Thess. 3:10).
4. Teach them true values. (Galatians 6:10).
5. Not show partiality. (James 2:1-5).
6. Help those who are deserving. (Romans 15:26).

CONCLUSION :

1. Two classes that are hard to help—begging poor and very rich.
2. Can help people who are willing to be helped and who try to help themselves.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

INTRODUCTION :

1. Many people misunderstand the church.
2. They do not appreciate the Lord's kingdom.
3. Often this is due to the fact that they do not know its history.

DISCUSSION :

- I. *In The Mind of God.* (Eph. 1:4).
- II. *In Prophecy.* (Isa. 2:2, 3; Joel 2:28, 29; Dan. 2:44).
- III. *In Promise.* (Matthew 16:18, 19; Mark 9:1; Luke 24:46, 47).
- IV. *In Establishment.* (Acts 2).

V. *In Falling Away.* (1 Tim. 4:1-3; Acts 20:28-31).

In 606 the Catholic Church appointed the first Pope.
In 1500 the Reformation took place with Martin Luther, and out of this came the many denominational churches.

VI. *In Restoration.*

In the 17 and 1800's a group of people rose up who desired to return to the Bible pattern to restore pure New Testament Christianity. In so doing, they did not establish a new church but returned to the one already established.

VII. *In The Future.*

The church has never been destroyed and will not be in the future.

When the Lord returns he will find some faithful to him.

Christ will one day deliver the kingdom up to God where it shall ever dwell.

CONCLUSION :

1. Are you a member of the Lord's church?
2. It is not enough to be religious, or to be a member of some church, but you should be a member of the body of Christ.
3. Only in this way can you be saved.

WOMAN'S WORK IN THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:11, 12; Titus 2:1-5

INTRODUCTION :

1. Sometimes women may think that there is nothing for them to do in the church, but this is not true.
2. They have a work to do and it is just as important as what man does.
3. A Christian woman needs to know her job and to do it.
4. If she assumes a position or work that she is not expected to have, then this does harm.

5. Women can and should be liberated but to do only the work that God gave them to do.

DISCUSSION :

I. *The Order In Which God Created Woman.*

1. He created man and then he took a rib from Adam's side and created woman.
 - a. Woman was not to be over man and neither was man to walk on woman, but she was to be at his side.
 - b. Man is not of the woman but woman is of man. (1 Corinthians 11:8).
 - c. Man was not created for woman, but woman for man. (1 Corinthians 11:9).
2. He created man to be the head of the woman. (1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:23).
3. Woman was the first one to sin. (1 Timothy 2:13, 14; 2 Corinthians 11:3).
4. Through woman Christ came. (Galatians 4:4).

II. *A Woman's Place And Work In The Home.*

1. Should not marry an unbeliever. (2 Corinthians 6:14).
 - a. Where one is already married before becoming a Christian then let her win her husband by godly living. (1 Peter 3:1-4).
 - b. This is the example of women of old. (1 Peter 3:5, 6).
2. Younger women to marry, bear children, guide the house, live above reproach. (1 Tim. 5:14).
3. Her husband is to be head over her. (Eph. 5:23).
 - a. To be obedient to their husbands. (Tit. 2:5; Eph. 5:22; Col. 3:18).
 - b. To love their husbands. (Titus 2:4).
 - c. To be keepers at home. (Titus 2:5).
 - d. To live pure lives. (Titus 2:5).
4. To be saved by childbearing. (1 Tim. 2:15).
5. The older women should walk orderly. (Titus 2:3-6).
 - a. Their behaviour should be holy.

- b. Not false accusers.
- c. Not given to much wine.
- d. Teachers of good things.
- e. Teaching younger women.
 - (1) To be sober.
 - (2) To love their husbands.
 - (3) To love their children.
 - (4) To be discreet.
 - (5) To be chaste.
 - (6) Keepers at home.
 - (7) Good.
 - (8) Obedient to their own husbands.
 - (9) That the word of God be not blasphemed.
- 6. Widows are to marry only in the Lord. (1 Cor. 7:39).

III. *A Woman's Work In The Church.*

- 1. Negative.
 - a. Must keep silent. (1 Cor. 14:34; 1 Tim. 2:11).
 - b. Not to teach or to usurp authority. (1 Tim. 2:12).
 - c. She can't be an elder.
 - d. She can't be a deacon.
 - e. She can't be a preacher.
- 2. Positive.
 - a. Can be an elder's wife. (1 Timothy 3:2).
 - b. Can be a deacon's wife. (1 Timothy 3:11).
 - c. Can be a preacher's wife.
 - d. Can be a teacher of women.
 - e. Can be a teacher of children in classes.
 - f. Can rear her children.
 - g. Can do office work.
 - h. Can do personal work.
 - i. Can help with Bible course work.
 - j. Can set a good example.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. There have been many great women of the past. (Eve, Sarah,

- Rachel, Ruth, Mary, Dorcas, Lydia, Priscilla, etc.).
2. Women can be just as great today.
 3. There is a great need for good Christian women.
 4. In many ways women are more spiritual minded, more dedicated, and can accomplish more than men.
 5. What are you doing for the Lord?

WHY JESUS CAME

INTRODUCTION:

1. Jesus came, but he didn't just come.
2. But Jesus did not come to merely endorse what already had been given.
3. He did not come to add to the Law.

DISCUSSION:

- I. *Jesus Came To Die For Man.* (Rom. 5:8; Rom. 3:23; John 3:16).
- II. *Jesus Came To Shed His Blood.* (Matthew 26:28; Eph. 1:7).
- III. *Jesus Came To Give The Gospel.* (1 Cor. 15:1-3; Rom. 6:17, 18; Mark 16:15, 16; Rom. 1:16).
- IV. *Jesus Came to Build The Church.* (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2).
- V. *Jesus Came To Give A New Name.* (Isa. 62:2; Acts 11:26).
- VI. *Jesus Came To Give A New Day Of Worship.* (Acts 20:7).
- VII. *Jesus Came to Give A New Law.* (Matt. 5:17, 18).
- VIII. *Jesus Came To Give Hope.* (John 14:1-3).

CONCLUSION :

1. Jesus did not come in vain.
2. He accomplished his purposes.

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Jude 3

INTRODUCTION :

1. Does God and his word need to be defended?
2. We must realize that we are God's representatives today.
3. Unless we speak up for him, who will?
4. There are those who will be deceived by worldly wisdom unless we speak up for the truth.

DISCUSSION :**I. *For What Are We To Contend?***

1. For that which is written.
2. For that which was delivered to the saints.
3. For the truth.
4. For the faith.
5. To call people back to the old path.

II. *Why Are We To Contend?*

1. Because the world is full of sin.
2. There are many who are in error.
3. There are many false teachers.
4. There are those who are deceived.
5. To teach the truth.
6. To ground the saints in the faith.
7. Because God says to.
8. Man is weak and often goes astray.
9. Lest the devil get his way.

III. *With Whom Are We To Contend?*

1. With the world.
2. With false teachers.
3. With religious leaders.
4. With those who are liberal.

IV. *What Will This Do?*

1. Let God speak.
2. Make a distinction between truth and error.
3. Save soul.
4. Condemn error.
5. Encourage the weak.
6. Strengthen the church.
7. Identify those who are opposed to God's will.

V. *How Are We To Contend?*

1. Earnestly and sincerely.
2. With love.
3. With faith and courage.
4. With confidence that truth will win out.
5. With the truth.
6. With prayer.
7. With all honesty.
8. With the spirit of Christ.
9. By teaching the truth and example.

VI. *Who Is To Contend?*

1. Those who know the truth.
2. Those who are obeying God.
3. Every Christian.
4. Those who love the truth.
5. Those who have conviction.

CONCLUSION:

1. It is not wrong to stand for what you believe.
2. We are to oppose Satan and he will flee from us.
3. The truth will win out in the end.
4. To fail to contend is to fail to obey God.

THE VALUE OF A SOUL

Matt. 16:26

INTRODUCTION :

1. I wonder if many of us realize that we have a soul.
 - a. You would never know it by the way we act.
 - b. We are very careless with it.
2. I wonder if we realize how valuable it is.
 - a. We are concerned about material things when we have nothing.
 - b. We think nothing of our soul when it is the most valuable possession in the world.

DISCUSSION :**THE SOUL IS VALUABLE BECAUSE:**

- I. *It Came From God.*
 1. God created man in his own image. (Gen. 1:26, 27).
 2. Breath of life. (Gen. 2:7).
- II. *Christ Placed Value On It.*
 1. Taught it is worth more than the world. (Matthew 16:26).
 2. If you lose the soul then everything is lost.
- III. *It Cannot Be Destroyed.*
 1. The body can be destroyed but not the soul. (Matthew 10:28).
 2. Material things will not last but the soul will live on.
- IV. *Should Preserve The House Of The Soul.*
 1. Body is called the temple of God.
 2. Not to knowingly destroy that temple.
- V. *The Bible Teaches Its Value.*
 1. The scriptures teach us to prepare to meet God.
 2. They will guide us to have a better life here and then give hope.

VI. *Christ Died That The Soul Might Be Saved.*

1. Did not die for physical body.

VII. *The Soul Needs To Be Saved.*

1. Able to be saved. (James 1:21).
2. May be purified through obeying the truth. (1 Pet. 1:22).

VIII. *The Soul Will Live Forever.*

1. Whereas the physical life is short, the soul lives on.
2. There is life beyond the grave.

IX. *It Is Possible For A Soul To Go To Hell.*

1. The soul that sinneth it shall die. (Ezek. 18:20).
2. The story of the rich man. (Lk. 16).
3. Hell is a place for the evil and many will go there. (Matt. 7:13, 14).

X. *It Is Possible For A Soul To Go To Heaven.*

1. This should be the goal of everybody.
2. Here we will have all the good things of the Lord.

CONCLUSION :

1. Do not ignore your soul.
2. Do not sell it for the things of this world.
3. Keep it, save it, and preserve it for the Lord.

THE HIDDEN TREASURE

Matt. 13:44-46

INTRODUCTION :

1. Jesus often spoke in parables.
2. He did so to hide the truth from the enemy and to present it to the disciples.
3. Of course you know what a parable is, don't you?
 - a. It is a modern day illustration.
 - b. It is something that is based on a physical setting but has a

spiritual meaning.

- c. It had to do with things that all were familiar with.

DISCUSSION :

I. *The Parable Of The Hidden Treasure.*

1. Jesus talks about the kingdom being like unto a treasure hidden in a field.
2. He does not say it is a treasure hidden in the field but it is like unto it or similar to it.
3. The kingdom here is the church and it is from God and therefore of heaven. (Matt. 16:18, 19).
4. Here is a man and he finds a treasure and recognizing it as a treasure he goes and hides it and with joy goes and sells all that he has so he can purchase that property.
5. He does so naturally so he can have the treasure.
6. The same should be true when one discovers the truth, the gospel, the church.
7. He should be willing to give up whatever is necessary in order to have that treasure.
 - a. Self.
 - b. Worldly things.
 - c. Should be willing to sacrifice.
8. And then with joy he goes to tell others about it.
 - a. What does the church mean to you?
 - b. What have you been willing to give up for it?
 - c. How many have you told about the kingdom?

II. *The Parable Of The Pearl Of Great Price.*

1. Here is a man seeking goodly pearls.
2. He is looking for the best.
3. In the East this is a common thing.
4. Then he finds a pearl of great price.
5. This one is worth more than all the rest.
6. When he finds it he recognizes it and goes and sells all that he has to buy it.
7. The lesson is that the kingdom, the church, was purchased

with the blood of Christ.

8. One should be looking for it.
9. When he finds it he should be willing to pay whatever price is necessary to have it.
10. Then he should want to tell everyone about it.

CONCLUSION :

1. How do you view the Lord's kingdom?
2. Have you found it?
3. Are you a member of it yet?
4. What does it mean to you?
5. Are you anxious to tell others about it?

WHAT DO YOU SEE IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST?

1 Cor. 1:18

INTRODUCTION :

1. The Bible teaches that Christ died on the cross.
2. There are many views of this cross.
3. It can save or destroy, depending on how one looks at it.
4. What do you see in the cross of Christ?

DISCUSSION :

I. *A Story?*

1. A fable.
2. A myth.
3. A tale.

II. *A Literal Wooden Cross?*

1. A picture.
2. A cross erected on a meeting house.

III. *A Death?*

1. Many were put to death by the cross in the first century.
2. This was a slow, agonizing way to die.
3. It served as a lesson to all who witnessed it.

IV. Christ's Death?

1. Not just another death, but the death of God's Son. (John 3:16).
2. He died for all. (Rom. 5:8; 1 Pet. 1:18, 19).
3. Blotted out the law. (Col. 2:14; Heb. 10:9, 10).

V. A Sacrifice?

1. Left heaven. (1 Cor. 5:7).
2. Forsaken by God.

VI. Shedding Of Blood?

1. Baptism. (Acts 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21).
2. Remission of sins. (Matt. 26:28; Eph. 1:7).
3. A blood bought church. (Acts 20:28).

VII. The Resurrection? (John 11:25; Phil. 3:10).**VIII. The Lord's Supper?** (Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11).**IX. Hope?** (Acts 23:6; 1 Cor. 15:19).**CONCLUSION :**

1. Perhaps you see these and many other things.
2. In this you can see love, mercy, grace, forgiveness, the promises of God fulfilled, etc.
3. What does the cross of Christ mean to you?
4. It may determine where you will spend eternity.

PUTTING THE BRETHREN IN REMEMBRANCE

1 Tim. 4:6; 2 Tim. 2:14

INTRODUCTION:

1. It is important to learn.
2. We learn in these ways:
 - a. By hearing.
 - b. By studying.
 - c. By doing.

- d. By being reminded.
- 3. Paul and Peter and others were constantly calling the brethren in remembrance of the things that they had been taught.

DISCUSSION:

I. *Man Is Very Forgetful.*

1. May hear the gospel but it never registers.
 - a. Often need to hear again and again.
 - b. May be dull of hearing. (Heb. 5:11).
 - c. May not study enough.
 - d. May not go to meetings enough.
 - e. Necessary to be reminded.
2. Christians are often forgetful.
 - a. Forsake the assemblies. (Heb. 10:25).
 - b. Fail to grow. (2Pet. 1:9).
 - c. Has forgotten the Lord's exhortation. (Heb. 12:5).
 - d. Need to be taught the first principles again. (Heb. 5:12-14).
 - e. To leave the Bible is to forget what manner of person one was. (James 1:24).

II. *Must Be Called In Remembrance Again And Again.*

1. Put the brethren in remembrance. (1 Tim. 4:6).
2. Put them in remembrance charging them. (2 Tim. 2:14).
3. Put you always in remembrance. (2 Pet. 1:12).
4. Have these things in remembrance. (2 Pet. 1:15).
5. I stir up your minds by way of remembrance. (2 Pet. 3:1).
6. I will put you in remembrance. (Jude 5).

III. *Things We Need To Remember.*

1. Who we are.
2. Our need of God.
3. We are Christians.
4. We have duties.
5. Life is short.

IV. *That Is Why We Are To Do The Following:*

1. Attend the assemblies. (Heb. 10:25).
2. Partake of the Lord's Supper. (1 Cor. 11:24,25).
3. Study. (2 Tim. 2:15).
4. Be taught. (Rom. 10:17).
5. Teach others. (Matt. 28:19).

CONCLUSION:

1. How is your memory?
2. All of us need to be reminded from time to time of very simple truths.
3. By keeping them fresh in mind we can better obey them.

WHO IS HEAD?

INTRODUCTION:

1. Man often likes to think he is boss in every situation.
2. But all are subject to higher powers.
3. The sooner we realize this then the better off we'll be.

DISCUSSION:

I. *The Head Of Woman Is Man.*

1. This is not too often recognized.
2. A joke is made of it.
3. Man is head of woman. (1 Cor. 11:8,9; 1 Cor. 11:3).
4. Wives to be subject to their husbands. (Col. 3:18).
5. If this was but recognised :
 - a. More women would be at home.
 - b. More women would be taking care of their children.
 - c. Fewer homes would be broken.

II. *Head Of Man Is Christ.*

1. Christ is head. (Eph. 4:14,15).
2. Head of every man. (1 Cor. 11:3).
3. Head of the church. (Col. 1:18).
4. For this reason man serves Christ.

III. *Head Of Christ Is God.*

1. God is head. (1 Cor. 11:3).
2. Son of God. (John 3:16).

IV. *God Is Head Of All.*

1. Head over all. (Eph. 4:6).
2. Must look to him for all.

CONCLUSION:

1. Need to be humble.
2. Dependent on others always.

WHO IS A CHRISTIAN?

INTRODUCTION:

1. Infants can't be Christians.
2. Denominational people aren't Christians.
3. Then who is?

DISCUSSION:

Who Is A Christian?

1. One who has obeyed the gospel. (Mk. 16:15,16).
2. One who is a member of Christ's church. (Acts 2:47).
3. One who is a Christian only. (1 Peter 4:16).
4. One who worships the Lord each first day of the week. (Acts 20:7).
5. One who is prayerful. (Lk. 18:1; 1 Thess. 5:17; Matt. 6:9-13).
6. One who studies the Bible. (2 Tim. 2:15; John 5:39; Rom. 15:4; Heb. 4:12).
7. One who is a soul winner. (James 5:19,20).
8. One who has strong convictions. (John 8:32; Jude 3).
9. One who desires to help others. (Matt. 25:31-46).
10. One who has great faith. (Heb. 11:6).
11. One who is a good example. (Matt. 5:16).
12. One who does all in the name of the Lord. (Col. 3:17).

13. One who is a doer of the word. (James 1:22).
14. One who is a worker. (1 Cor. 15:58).
15. One who loves God. (John 14:23).
16. One who loves his neighbour. (Matt. 22:37-39).
17. One who practices pure religion. (James 1:27).
18. One who is faithful. (Rev. 2:10; James 1:12).

II. *What Does It Mean To Be A Christian?*

1. It means more than merely being baptized.
2. It means more than being a member of the church.
3. It means more than partaking of the Lord's Supper.
4. It means more than refraining from certain evils.
5. It means more than just living a good moral life.
6. It means living for Christ. (Romans 12:1,2).

CONCLUSION:

1. Are you a Christian?
2. If so, are you a true Christian?
3. If not, become one.

ANTI-CHURCH

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Bible talks about the anti-Christ. (1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John 7).
2. The anti-Christ is one who opposes Christ.
3. But to oppose Christ is to oppose his church.
4. To oppose the church is to oppose Christ. (Acts 9:1-6).
5. We have many today who have become anti-church by reason of not believing in Christ or not understanding the church.

DISCUSSION:

I. *Why So Many Are Anti-Church.*

1. Many are anti-church because of their ignorance of it.
 - a. They have not studied to learn about the church of the Bible.

- b. They see it only through denominationalism and this minimizes the church.
- 2. Many become anti-church because all of the false teaching that is done concerning the church.
 - a. They are told that one church is as good as another.
 - b. They are told that the church is not important.
 - c. They are told that the church does not save.
 - d. They are told that one can go to heaven without being a member of any church.
 - e. They are told that there are many churches.
- 3. Many become anti-church by joining the churches of men.
 - a. They must now uphold what they have done.
 - b. They end up in opposing Christ and his teaching.
 - c. They oppose the church that Christ built.
- 4. Many become anti-church because of all of religious division.
 - a. They become disgusted.
 - b. They finally conclude that all of it is bad.
- 5. Many become anti-church because they grow tired of hearing so much about the church.
- 6. Others become anti-church so they can do as they please.

II. *What We Need To Know About The Church.*

- 1. We need to know the truth about it.
 - a. What it is.
 - b. Who established it.
 - c. When it was established.
 - d. Where it was established.
 - e. Its government.
 - f. Its work.
 - g. Its oneness.
 - h. Its importance.
- 2. We need to know our need for being a member.
 - a. To be saved.
 - b. To worship the Lord.
 - c. To work for the Lord.

3. We need to see the beauty of the church.
 - a. Christ loved it and gave himself for it. (Eph. 5:25).
 - b. It is the bride of Christ. (Eph. 5:27).
 - c. It is the body of Christ. (1 Cor. 12).
4. We need to see what the church does for us.

CONCLUSION:

1. How do you feel about the church?
2. Don't become bitter about it.
3. Learn the truth and become a member of it.

ARE YOU SURE THAT YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN?

INTRODUCTION :

1. Many people think that they are Christians, but they are not.
2. Even in the church there are those who claim to be Christians when they are not.
3. Let a man examine himself to see if he is in the faith. (2 Cor. 13:5; Jude 3).

DISCUSSION :

- I. *It Is Possible To Be Accepted As A Christian When You Have Never Obeyed The Gospel Of Christ.*
 1. May have been too young to obey.
 2. Perhaps you didn't understand the truth when you went through the steps of obedience and therefore you didn't obey after all.
 3. May have had wrong motives.
- II. *It Is Possible To Be A Member Of The Church But Not Be A Faithful Christian.*
 1. You may have drifted away.
 2. You may love the world too much. (1 John 2:15).
 3. May be doing the works of the flesh. (Gal. 5).
 4. May be neglecting your salvation. (Heb. 2:2, 3).
 5. May have denied the faith.

III. *Are You Sure That You Are A Christian?*

1. Do you know what you did to become a Christian?
 - a. Could you explain that to a non-Christian so he could obey God?
 - b. Unless you can, how can you be sure of what you did?
2. What is your understanding of the church?
 - a. How many are there?
 - b. Must one be a member of the church to be saved? (Eph. 5:23).
3. What are the things that we are to do in worship?
 - a. Are they important?
 - b. Does it matter about the kind of music we are to have?
 - c. Do you have to give as you have been prospered?
 - d. Does it matter when we meet for worship?
4. What is the work of the church?
 - a. Are you helping with it?
 - b. How much do you help?
5. How often do you study?
6. How often do you pray?
7. Who is the Holy Spirit?
8. Are miracles performed today?
9. Do you have a soul?
10. What do you know about heaven and hell?
11. What must one do to go to heaven?

CONCLUSION :

1. Where do you stand on these matters and others?
2. You can know if you are a Christian.
3. It is up to you to know.
4. You can be a Christian only by obeying the Lord and following his will.
5. Are you really sure that you are a Christian ?

THREE THINGS THE DEVIL WANTS TO DO

2 Cor. 2:11; 1 Pet. 5:8; Eph. 4:27; 6:11;

James 4:7; 1 John 3:8

INTRODUCTION :

1. The devil wants to destroy you.
2. Do you believe in him?
3. We are not talking about superstition or how Satan lives.
4. We are talking about a person, a Spirit, the evil one.

DISCUSSION :**I. *Keep You Ignorant Or Keep You Out Of The Church.***

1. Paul said he did what he did in ignorance. (1 Tim. 1:13).
2. The Athenians were worshipping in ignorance. (Acts 17:23).
3. The religious world as a whole is ignorant.
4. Must hear, study, and know the truth to obey God. (Rom. 10:17; 2 Tim. 2:15; John 8:32; James 1:22).
5. If Satan can keep one ignorant then he can keep one lost.
 - a. He knows of the importance of the church. (Acts 20:28).
 - b. He knows that Christ is the saviour of the body, the church. (Eph. 5:23).
 - c. He also knows that if he can keep one out of the church that he will be lost.

II. *Get You Back Into The World.*

1. Those who obey God are in the world but not of the world.
2. Not to love the world. (1 John 2:15; James 4:4).
3. Cannot serve two masters. (Matt. 6:24).
4. The dog and the sow. (2 Pet. 2:20-22).
5. The prodigal son. (Luke 15).
6. The Lord will send his angels to gather out of the kingdom all that offend. (Matt. 13:41, 42).
7. How shall we live any longer in sin. (Rom. 6; 12:1, 2).
8. Satan therefore knows that if he can get one back into the

world and keep him there then he will be lost.

III. *Render You Worthless To The Church.*

1. If one is determined to remain with the church, not to give it up, then Satan's strategy would be to try to render that person fruitless and worthless to the church.
2. Satan would advise him:
 - a. "It is enough to be a member."
 - b. "Enough to live a good moral life."
 - c. "You are too busy to give so much time to the church."
 - d. "You have too many expenses to give more to the church."
 - e. "Why be so zealous to take the gospel to others when they have Bibles and they can learn the truth and obey if they really want it."
3. "Ought to be teachers." (Heb. 5:12-14).
4. Must work for the Lord.
5. Must be faithful to him and his cause.

CONCLUSION :

1. Have you allowed satan to get to you?
2. If not, you must be on guard or he will get to you because he never gives up.
3. The best way to escape him is to be determined to serve the Lord.

WHAT SHALL I PREACH?

Acts 8:35

INTRODUCTION:

1. I do a lot of preaching and therefore I must decide with each sermon what I am to preach.
2. Am I free to preach whatever I want to preach?
3. I must realize the seriousness of my work and I must preach according to the needs of my audience.
4. This takes a lot of fore-thought, decision-making, preparation,

and courage to present it.

DISCUSSION:

I. *What Do Others Preach?*

1. Some preach themselves.
2. Some preach against Christ.
3. Some preach the doctrines of men.
 - a. Faith only.
 - b. A good moral life.
 - c. One church is as good as another.
 - d. Baptism is not necessary to salvation.
 - e. One name is as good as another.
4. Some constantly tell emotional stories to touch the hearts of people and to cause them to respond.
5. Some preach a liberal gospel.

II. *Shall I Preach As Others Preach?*

1. Shall I preach myself?
2. Shall I agree with the religious world?
3. Shall I preach only those things that man wants to hear?
4. Shall I preach my own opinions and ideas?
5. Shall I tickle the ears of my brethren?

III. *What Shall I Preach?*

1. I cannot preach myself. (2 Cor. 4:5).
2. I must preach by the authority of Christ. (Matt. 28:18).
3. I must preach Christ crucified. (1 Cor. 1:23).
4. Woe be to me if I preach not the gospel. (1 Cor. 9:16).
5. I must preach Christ. (2 Cor. 4:5; Acts 17:3).
6. I must preach the word. (2 Tim. 4:2).
7. I must preach the gospel. (Mark 16:15, 16).
8. I must preach, warning every man. (Col. 1:28).
9. I must preach the truth. (John 8:32).
10. I must preach what Christ taught. (Matt. 28:19).
11. I must preach what the New Testament writers wrote.
12. I must be careful. (1 Cor. 9:27).

- a. Not to add to the word.
- b. Not to subtract from it.
- c. Not to substitute for it.

CONCLUSION :

- 1. I may not be a popular preacher.
- 2. I may be rejected by many.
- 3. A preacher's job is to preach the truth.
- 4. Only the proper kind of preaching will get the right results.

FOUR CONFESSIONS

Matt. 10:32, 33; Rom. 14:11, 12

INTRODUCTION :

- 1. The word confession means to declare, make a thing known to express faith in, to acknowledge.
- 2. There are several confessions mentioned in the scriptures and I would like for us to discuss four of them.

DISCUSSION:

I. *The Good Confession.*

- 1. If there is any confession that could be thought of as being the good confession I am sure it is the one that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
- 2. This confession is not only one to pronounce one's faith in Christ but it is a condition of salvation.
- 3. This is to be a public confession—made before one or more.
- 4. We must confess Christ for him to confess us. (Matt. 10:32, 33).
- 5. It is unto salvation. (Rom. 10:10).
- 6. We have an example of the Ethiopian Eunuch making that confession. (Acts 8:26-39).

II. *The Christian Confession.*

- 1. This is one that is expressed in one's daily life.

2. We do so in our worship.
3. We do so in our teaching.
4. We do so in our example. (Matt. 5:16).
5. It doesn't mean that we are to go around confessing Christ orally all the time.
6. Neither does one have to wear a sign on his back to say, "I am a Christian."
7. Neither does one have to wear a certain type of dress or a cross to show he is a Christian.
8. But he does have to follow Christ daily and show by his life that he is living for Christ. (Gal. 2:20).

III. *The Confession Of Faults.*

1. It is possible for a child of God to fall away. (1 Cor. 10:12).
2. If one sins publically then he needs to repent, confess his faults, and pray to God for forgiveness. (James 5:16).
3. We have the example of Simon. (Acts 8:13-24).
4. The story of the prodigal son. (Luke 15:11-22).

IV. *Every Tongue Shall Confess To God.*

1. Some may refuse to make the good confession.
2. Others may become Christians but refuse to confess Christ in their lives.
3. Still others may refuse to confess their faults.
4. But all will confess to God in the last day. (Romans 14:11).
5. Someone has said that there will be no unbelievers in hell.

CONCLUSION :

1. Have you made the good confession?
2. Do you need to confess your faults?
3. Please make the confession necessary and then one day the Lord will confess you before the Father in heaven.

AN ACTIVE LIFE

INTRODUCTION:

1. Often emphasis is on becoming a Christian.
2. Must become a Christian but the main emphasis is on being faithful.

DISCUSSION:

- I. *Most Of The New Testament Is Directed To The Christian.*
 1. Dealing with human beings.
 2. So easy to forget.
 3. So important that we complete the race.
- II. *The Importance Of The Christian Life Is Seen As It Is Compared To Various Things.*
 1. A race. (Heb. 12:1; 1 Cor. 9:24-27).
 2. A fight. (Eph. 6:10-17; 1 Tim. 6:12; 2 Tim. 4:7).
 3. Branches that bear fruit. (John 15:1-8).
- III. *Everything Is Arranged To Help The Christian To Be Faithful.*
 1. Building on a rock. (Matt. 7:24-27).
 2. Have been purified. (1 Pet. 1:22).
 3. Have brethren for fellowship and help. (1 John 1:7; 2 Cor. 8:4).
 4. Have a Father to look to. (1 John 3:1; 2 Cor. 6:17, 18).
 5. Have the word to guide us. (Ps. 119:105).
 6. Have worship to participate in. (Acts 2:42).
 7. Have work to do. (Phil. 2:12).
 8. Have a hope of a better life. (Col. 1:5).
- IV. *Descriptive Words That Emphasize Faithfulness.*
 1. Continuing. (Acts 2:42).
 2. Steadfastness. (1 Cor. 15:58).
 3. Growing. (2 Pet. 3:18).
 4. Work. (Phil. 2:12).
 5. Walk. (Rom. 6:4; 2 Cor. 5:7).

6. Serve. (Heb. 12:28; Rom. 12:11; Rom. 12:1).
7. Give. (Acts 20:35).
8. Keep. (James 1:27; Rev. 22:14).
9. Study. (2 Tim. 2:15).
10. Pray. (1 Thess. 5:17).
11. Obedience. (Heb. 5:8, 9).
12. Doer. (James 1:22).

V. The Christian Life Is A Life of Action.

1. You never go backward but always forward.
2. Assured of success.
3. Told of blessings ahead.
4. Told of the result of failure.
5. Why bother with it unless it is right?
6. Why bother with it unless you are going on?

VI. Ingredients That Will Help Us To Be Faithful.

1. Honesty.
2. Sincerity.
3. Truth.
4. Purity.

CONCLUSION:

1. What are you getting out of the Christian life? What are you putting into it?
2. Christianity is where the action is.
3. Only those who keep moving ahead will reach their destination.

CHRISTIAN GROWTH

Eph. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18; 2 Thess. 1:3; John 15:8

INTRODUCTION:

1. Physically, we grow.
2. Mentally, we grow.
3. In business, our aim is to grow.

4. Jesus is our example. (Luke 2:52).
5. The Christian must grow.

DISCUSSION:

I. Everything Is Based On The Assumption Of Growth.

1. To produce fruit. (John 15:1-8).
2. To let our light shine. (Matt. 5:16).
3. To run the race. (1 Cor. 9:24; Heb. 12:1).
4. To fight the fight of faith. (1 Tim. 6:12).
5. To walk in the light. (1 John 1:7).
6. To work for the Lord. (1 Cor. 15:58).

II. Two Ways To Produce Growth.

1. As we study God's word.
2. As we practice what we learn.

III. Words That Are Synonymous With Growth.

1. Discipline.
2. Sincerity.
3. Faithfulness.
4. Development.
5. Progress.

IV. Areas Where Growth Is Needed.

1. Faith.
2. Love.
3. Good works.
4. Self-Control.
5. Patience.
6. Proper motive.
7. Knowledge.
8. Teaching.
9. Giving.
10. Ability.
11. Leadership.

V. *Results Of Growth.*

1. Stable.
2. Strong.
3. Fruit.
4. Good example.
5. Faithful.
6. Spiritual maturity.
7. Powerful.

CONCLUSION:

1. Must not only learn the truth but must apply it.
2. Then we will be the kind of Christian the Lord would have us to be.

FORGIVENESS

INTRODUCTION:

1. What is the most beautiful, wonderful word in the English language?
2. You might think of love, grace, mercy, or some other word.
3. Would not forgiveness be the word we are looking for in this case?
4. There is no word like it or one that means so much.

DISCUSSION:

I. *Sin.*

1. It is the transgression of the law. (1 John 3:4).
2. It is deceitful. (Heb. 3:13).
3. It brings death. (Rom. 6:23).
4. All have sinned. (Rom. 3:23).

II. *Forgiveness.*

1. Sins sent forth, sent far away. The Scapegoat. (Lev. 16:8, 10, 26).
2. Christ took the weight of sin from us. (1 Pet. 2:24).
3. Set free, dismissal, released. (Rom. 6:17,18).

4. Bought again, redeemed. (Acts 20:28, Eph. 1:7; Tit. 2:14).
5. Cancelled out a debt. (Matt. 6:12; Matt. 18:27,32).
6. Remit, forgive, sins covered. (Acts 2:38; Eph. 4:32; Rom. 4:7).
7. Favour, mercy, grace. (Eph. 2:7,8).
8. Cleansed, washed, purified, new. (Rom. 6:3-6; Acts 22:16; John 3:3-5).
9. Out of darkness into light. (Col. 1:13,14).
10. From death to life, lost and saved. (John 3:3-5; 1 Tim. 1:15).

III. *There Is Forgiveness For All.*

1. The sinner. (Acts 2:38).
2. The erring Christian. (Acts 8:22).
3. The Christian. (1 John 1:7).

IV. *We Must Forgive One Another.* (Matt. 6:14,15).

CONCLUSION:

1. Have you been forgiven?
2. How can you bear the heavy load of sin any longer?
3. Forgiveness may be yours when you are willing to submit to the Lord the one who is able to forgive you of all of your sins.

PAUL

INTRODUCTION:

1. God saw in this man what he needed.
2. Think of the harm he could have done to the Lord's cause had he not been converted.
3. Think of what he meant to the cause of Christ because he was converted.

DISCUSSION:

1. *Paul's Conversion.* (Acts 9:20-22).

II. Paul Becomes A Missionary.

(Acts 11:22-26; Acts 13:1-4; Acts 14:27, 28; Acts 15:36).

1. Paul's great love. (Rom. 9:1-3).
2. Had a great zeal. (Acts 20:17-38).
3. Became all things to all men. (1 Cor. 9:19-27).
4. Worked with others. (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor. 6:1-10).

III. Paul's Gospel Work.

1. Sent to preach the gospel. (1 Cor. 1:14).
2. Woe unto me if I preach not the gospel. (Gal. 1:6-9).
3. Not ashamed of the gospel. (Rom. 1:16,17).
4. His glory was in the gospel. (1 Cor. 9:16; 2 Cor. 10:12-18).
5. Preach not ourselves. (2 Cor. 4:5).

IV. Paul's Feelings.

1. Chief of sinners. (1 Tim. 1:12-17).
2. Prisoner of the Lord. (Eph. 3:1; 4:1).
3. Less than others. (Eph. 3:8).
4. Pray for me. (Col. 4:3).
5. Servant. (1 Cor. 9:19; 2 Cor. 4:15).
6. Pressing on. (Phil. 3:7-14).
7. To live is Christ. (Phil. 1:21-24).

V. Paul's Dependence On The Lord.

1. When weak, then strong. (2 Cor. 12:10).
2. Christ lives in me. (Gal. 2:20).
3. Can do all things. (Phil. 4:9-13).
4. Was determined. (1 Cor. 2:1-9).

VI. Paul's Hard Times.

1. Problems. (2 Cor. 4:8-18).
2. Suffering. (2 Cor. 11:21-28).

VII. Paul's Exhortations.

1. Be followers of me. (1 Cor. 11:1; Phil. 3:17).
2. Put on the whole armour of God. (Eph. 6:10-17).

3. Preach the word. (2 Tim. 4:1, 2).

CONCLUSION:

1. Although Paul was a great man, yet he was but a man.
2. He was great as he yielded himself to the Lord.
3. What he said is of great importance because it was by inspiration.
4. We should follow Paul as he followed Christ.
5. The Lord could use some Pauls today.
6. Perhaps you might be one.

"IF I BE LIFTED UP"

John 3:14; 8:28; 12:23

INTRODUCTION:

1. Lift-to exalt, to glorify.
2. Opposite to the thinking of some, the cross has a drawing power.
3. Discuss how the serpent was lifted up and those who looked upon it were healed and show that the same is true with Christ.

DISCUSSION:

I. How Can The Cross Draw People?

1. Because of what it represents. (Rom. 5:8).
2. The cross has power. (1 Cor. 1:17, 18, 23, 24).
3. The gospel is based on the cross and it is powerful. (Rom. 1:16,17).

II. We Are Not To Lift Up Man.

1. Not to preach ourselves. (2 Cor. 4:5).
2. Not to preach with the wisdom of men. (1 Cor. 1:17).
3. Let no man glory in men. (1 Cor. 3:21).

III. We Are To Lift Up Christ.

1. Let one glory in the Lord. (2 Cor. 10:17).

2. God forbid that we glory save in the cross. (Gal. 6:14)
3. Unto him be glory in the church. (Eph. 3:21).

IV. *How Can We Lift Up Christ?*

1. Through our obedience.
2. Through our worship.
3. Through the Lord's name.
4. Through our example.
5. Through our teaching.

CONCLUSION:

1. What does Christ mean to you?
2. Have you looked to the cross yet?
3. You must look up to see Christ.
4. By looking your whole life can be changed.
5. If you refuse to look you will die spiritually.

THE NEW BIRTH

John 3:1-8

INTRODUCTION:

1. Many talk about being born again, born again Christians, the new birth, etc.
2. They define the new birth as accepting Christ as one's personal saviour, professing Christ, etc.
3. But our main objective is to learn "HOW" one is born again.

DISCUSSION:

I. *What Is Not Taught.*

1. A physical birth.
2. "Water" here isn't spiritual water.

II. *There Are Two Essentials In Birth.*

1. The begetting and the birth itself.
2. We are begotten by the Spirit as it works through the word and born of the water of baptism.

III. *Let Us Examine John 3:5.*

1. "Except"—No other way.
2. "Man"—Man and woman or an accountable being.
3. "Born"—A coming forth, the process of producing a new creature.
4. "Water—Baptism. (Acts 8; Rom. 6:3, 4).
5. "Spirit"—The Holy Spirit of God working through the word. (1 Pet. 1:22,23).
6. "Kingdom"—The church. (Matt. 16:18, 19; Col. 1:13).

IV. *The Lord Doesn't Have Two Ways.*

1. We read that when one believes and is baptised shall be saved. (Mk. 16:16).
2. The saved are added to the church. (Acts 2:47).
3. The baptized believer enters the body of Christ, the church or kingdom. (1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 2:47; Col. 1:13, 14).
4. So being born again is just another way of showing how one is saved.

CONCLUSION:

1. There is nothing strange or mysterious about this.
2. This is God's plan for spiritual reproduction.

THE SUFFERING OF CHRIST

INTRODUCTION:

1. He suffered being tempted. (Heb. 2:18).
2. He died on the cross. (Rom. 5:8).
3. May crucify him again. (Heb. 6).
4. Enemies of the cross. (Phil. 3:18).
5. Notice more closely.

DISCUSSION:

I. *The Suffering Of Christ.*

1. He left God. (John 8:42).
2. He dwelt among men. (Phil. 2:6-8).

3. He was poor. (Matt. 8:20).
4. He was despised. (Isa. 53:3).
5. He was tempted. (Heb. 2:18).
6. He was crucified. (Heb. 2:9).

II. *Suffering We Bring On Christ.*

1. When we won't hear him. (John 5:40).
2. When we won't confess him. (Matt. 10:33).
3. When we won't obey him. (Heb. 5:8, 9).
4. When we join man-made churches. (Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23-25).
5. When we wear man-made names. (Acts 4:12).
6. When we work for another. (Matt. 7:21-23).
7. When we forsake the assemblies. (Heb. 10:25, 26).
8. When we live in sin. (Tit. 2:11, 12).

III. *Christians Are To Suffer For Christ.*

1. To count the cost. (Lk. 14:28).
2. To take up the cross of Christ. (Lk. 9:23).
3. To be happy to suffer for the Lord. (Acts 5:41, 42).
4. All in Christ must suffer persecution. (2 Tim. 3:12).

CONCLUSION:

1. Suffering is not easy but it may bring blessings.
2. Are you suffering for Christ or causing him to suffer?

MEASURES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

INTRODUCTION:

1. One of the great problems in the religious world centers around the work of the Holy Spirit.
2. Most people are not aware of the measures of the Holy Spirit.
3. If the average person could understand these measures then he could easily see how the Holy Spirit works today.

DISCUSSION:**I. *Christ Received The Spirit Without Measure.* (John 3:34).**

1. Christ performed miracles.
2. This was done to show he was of God. (John 3:2).
3. He performed miracles to confirm the word. (Mark 16:20).
4. The word was given in written form that we might believe. (John 20:30, 31).

II. *The Apostles And Cornelius And His Household Received The Baptismal Measures Of The Holy Spirit.*

1. Christ was to baptize with the Holy Ghost. (Matt. 3:11).
2. He promised the Comforter to the Apostles.
 - a. Would call to their remembrance all things he had taught them. (John 14:26).
 - b. Would testify of Christ. (John 15:26, 27).
 - c. Would guide them. (John 16:13).
 - d. Would glorify Christ. (John 16:14).
3. The Apostles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 2).
 - a. They were the only ones who received the promise.
 - b. They began to speak in other languages as proof of the power they had received.
 - c. Had power to perform miracles and confirm the word. (Acts 2:43).
 - d. Gave the written word. (2 Tim. 3:16,17; 2 Pet. 1:20, 21).
4. Cornelius and his household received the baptism of the Holy Ghost to show that the Gentiles had been accepted of God even as the Jews were accepted. (Acts 10).
 - a. Peter said they received it even as the Apostles had in the beginning. (Acts 11).
 - b. As proof they spoke in other languages.

III. *The Apostles Had Power To Lay Their Hands On Selected Ones So That They Might Receive The Laying On Of Hands Measure Of The Holy Spirit.*

1. The Apostles laid their hands on the seven. (Acts 6:6).

- a. Notice that they did not lay their hands on all.
 - b. The ones they laid their hands on already had the Holy Spirit.
 - c. They had received the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38), but the Apostles laid their hands on them to give them the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit.
2. Philip went down to Samaria and preached and confirmed the word but had to call for the Apostles to lay their hands on them. (Acts 8:14-17).
- a. Again, Peter and John did not lay their hands on all.
 - b. For instance, Simon was left out because he had the wrong motive and might have mis-used this power.

IV. The Ordinary Measure Of The Holy Spirit.

- 1. The gift of the Holy Spirit is for all who obey the Lord today. (Acts 2:38).
- 2. There is no miraculous power connected with it.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. The miraculous power of the Spirit was for only awhile. (1 Cor. 13).
- 2. Now we have the perfect law of liberty. (James 1:25).
- 3. No need for it today. (John 20:30, 31).
- 4. Many are deceived. (Matt. 7:21-23).

AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?

Genesis 4:9

INTRODUCTION:

- 1. The story of Cain and Abel. (Genesis 4:1-18).
 - a. Cain tried to escape his responsibility.
 - b. God punished him for his sin.
- 2. All men are our brothers.
 - a. In the flesh.
 - b. Physical family.
 - c. Spiritual family.

3. We have a responsibility to our brother.

DISCUSSION:

I. *Who Is My Brother?*

1. My neighbor.
2. My friends.
3. My enemies.
4. All nationalities.
5. All Colors.
6. All languages.
7. Rich.
8. Poor.
9. Educated.
10. Uneducated.
11. Hippies.
12. Beggars
13. The worldly.
14. The righteous

II. *Where Is My Brother?*

1. My brother is in sin.
2. My brother is a drunkard.
3. My brother is sick.
4. My brother is on drugs.
5. My brother is in religious error.
6. My brother is an atheist.
7. My brother is a thief.

III. *What I Owe My Brother?*

1. Two major ways to help him.
 - a. Physically.
 - b. Spiritually. (Matt. 16:26).
2. We are debtors to all. (Rom. 1:14).
3. To love our neighbor as ourselves. (Matt. 22:36-38).
4. To do unto others as we would have them to do unto us. (Matt. 7:12).

5. Some things we can do for our brother.
 - a. Teach him the truth.
 - b. Give him the gospel.
 - c. Offer him help.
 - d. Show our love.
 - e. Pray for him.
 - f. Forgive him.

CONCLUSION:

1. What are you doing for your brother?
2. You can't escape your responsibility to him.

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

INTRODUCTION:

1. We have many problems.
2. Problems of money, family difficulties, out of a job, passing our examinations, following customs, etc.
3. This effects our work, religion, and happiness.
4. Our emphasis is on the wrong things.

DISCUSSION:

I. *We Are In The World.*

1. In the world but not of the world.
2. To get away from sinners we would have to go out of this world. (1 Cor. 5:10,11).
3. Not to love the world. (1 John 2:15).

II. *The Church At Corinth Had Many Problems.*

1. Division.
2. Eating of meat.
3. Fornication.
4. Going to law with a brother.
5. Making a meal out of the Lord's Supper.

III. *Some Of Our Problems.*

1. Money-not living within our means.
2. Our job-out of work.
3. Passing our examinations.
4. Family relationships.
5. Religion, obeying, assemblies, giving.
6. Relations with one another.
7. Bad habits.

IV. *Our Solutions.*

1. Try to figure it out for ourselves.
2. Go to others for help—non members usually.
3. Think that money settles all problems.
4. Quit and give up.
5. Appeal for sympathy.

V. *The Real Solution.*

1. Put God first. (Matt. 6:33).
2. Ask the Lord for help. (1 John 5:14, 15).
3. Work hard. (2 Cor. 6:1; Rom. 8:28).
4. Discipline. (2 Pet. 1:5-11).
5. Look to brethren for help. (1 Pet. 3:8,9).
6. Always do the right thing. (Rom. 12:9-21).

CONCLUSION:

1. Why don't we allow the Lord to tell us what to do?
2. How can we expect his blessings unless we do what he says?
3. We create our own problems and seem determine to add to them.

THE COMING OF THE LORD

INTRODUCTION:

1. There are three extremes taught concerning the coming of the Lord.
 - a. He has already come.

- b. He will soon come and proceed to set a date.
 - c. He will not come. (2 Pet. 3:3-8).
2. What does the Bible teach?

DISCUSSION:

I. *The Lord Will Come Again.*

- 1. Christ promised to return. (John 14:1-3).
- 2. Will come with a trump. (1 Thess. 4:13-18).

II. *When Will The Lord Come?*

- 1. Only God knows. (Matt. 24:36).
- 2. Therefore Christ, the angels, and man cannot possibly know.

III. *How Will He Come?*

- 1. As he went away. (Acts 1:11).
- 2. As a thief-at an unannounced time. (2 Pet. 3:10; 1 Thess. 5:2).
- 3. In the clouds. (Rev. 1:7).
- 4. Every eye shall see him. (Rev. 1:7).

IV. *Why Will He Come?*

- 1. To take vengeance on those who know not God and obey not the gospel. (2 Thess. 1:7-9).
- 2. To save the righteous, that is, to receive a glorious church. (Eph. 5:27; 1 Cor. 15:24).

V. *What Will He Find?*

- 1. Like in the days of Sodom. (Luke 17:26-30).
- 2. As in the days of Noah. (Matt. 24:37-39).

VI. *What Will Happen?*

- 1. All will be resurrected. (John 5:28, 29).
- 2. The heavens and earth to be burned up. (2 Pet. 3:10).
- 3. The judgment to take place. (2 Cor. 5:10).
- 4. The righteous will go away into everlasting life and the wicked into eternal punishment. (Matt. 25:46).

CONCLUSION :

1. Why has the Lord not already come?
 - a. Because of his longsuffering. (2 Pet. 3:9).
 - b. To give us opportunity to obey him and serve him.
2. Are you ready for the Lord's coming?

WHO THEN CAN BE SAVED?

Matt. 19:23-26

INTRODUCTION :

1. All want to be saved.
2. Implies not all will be saved.
 - a. People of the flood. (Gen. 6).
 - b. Sodom & Gomorrah. (Gen. 18,19).
 - c. Vengeance for the wicked. (2 Thess. 1:7-9).
3. Who then can be saved?

DISCUSSION:**I. *Who Will Be Lost?***

1. The unbeliever. (Mk. 16:16; Heb. 11:6).
2. Those of the world. (1 Cor. 6:9, 10; Gal. 5:19-21; Rev. 21:8).
3. The Rich Man. (Matt. 19:23-26; Lk. 16:19-31).
4. Those in religious error. (Matt. 7:21-23).
5. Those who refuse to repent. (Lk. 13:3; Acts 17:30).
6. The unfaithful. (Matt. 13:11).

II. *Who Then Can Be Saved?*

1. Those not accountable. (Matt. 18:1-3).
2. Those who will believe and be baptized. (Mk. 16:16).
3. The faithful. (Rev. 2:10; Rev. 21:7).

CONCLUSION:

1. God has provided salvation.
2. Man must accept it.
3. If he does not then he cannot be saved.

POWER FOR TODAY

INTRODUCTION:

1. There are many in the religious world who are deceived concerning the work of the Holy Spirit.
2. They are thinking in terms of the miraculous power of the Spirit being at work today.
3. They actually have no power whatsoever.
4. The ones who have power are the ones who have the truth.
5. The Bible gives a long list of powerful things which are at our disposal if we belong to the Lord.

DISCUSSION:

- I. *God is All-Powerful.* (1 Cor. 1:18).
- II. *Christ Is Powerful.* (John 1:12; Matt. 28:18; Rom. 1:4).
- III. *The Holy Spirit Is Powerful.* (Rom. 15:13).
- IV. *The Word Of God Is Powerful.* (Heb. 4:12).
- V. *The Gospel Is Powerful.* (Rom. 1:16).
- VI. *The Blood Of Christ Is Powerful.* (Matt. 26:28).
- VII. *The Church is Powerful.* (1 Cor. 4:20).
- VIII. *Faith Is Powerful.* (2 Thess. 1:11; 1 Pet. 1:5).
- IX. *Love Is Powerful.* (1 Cor. 13:13).
- X. *Prayer Is Powerful.* (1 John 5:14, 15).
- XI. *Christianity Is Powerful.* (Acts 3:12).

CONCLUSION:

1. This power is available to all who will believe in God and obey his will.
2. Those who accept error have only the power of Satan to work with.

3. God and his people will be victorious over Satan and his followers.

MY E-T-H SERMON OR CONTINUING ACTION

INTRODUCTION:

1. Words and the use of words are very interesting.
2. For instance, you can take a word and add to it before to it and this is what is called an affix.
3. When you add something to the beginning of a word then that is known as a prefix. An example would be sub-let, sub-contract, etc.
4. When you take a word and add some letters or word at the end then that is known as a suffix.
Note: man-ly; sweet-ness; hat-ed; soon-er.
5. Our study has to do with the suffix, eth, which in this case means continuing action.
6. As we note some of these through the New Testament, and we keep in mind that it means continuing action, then you will be able to see the significance of this little suffix.
7. It will also help us to understand better certain verses of scripture.

DISCUSSION:

I. *Believeth.* (Mk. 16:16).

1. We begin with believe but with the addition of eth then that means that belief continues right on through to baptism and the Christian life, etc.
2. This word as it is used cannot be limited to mere mental acceptance of Christ.

II. *Confesseth.* (1 John 4:2).

1. The idea here is that one continues to confess Christ.
2. You don't confess him on just one occasion or at particular times but one's life is to be a confession of Christ.

III. *Cleanseth.* (1 John 1:7).

1. Throughout the Christian life the blood of Christ continues to cleanse one of his sins, that is, as he continues faithful to the Lord.
2. This is a beautiful thought.

IV. *Dwelleth.* (1 John 4:12, 16).

1. God continues to dwell in the faithful Christian.
2. God, in other words, is with the Christian as long as the Christian is with him.

V. *Walketh.* (1 Pet. 5:8).

1. The devil continues to walk about seeking whom he may devour.
2. The idea is that just because you have become a Christian that doesn't mean that Satan is no longer stalking you.

VI. *Groweth.* (2 Thess. 1:3).

1. One's faith is to continue to grow.
2. The Christian grows strong, becomes more trusting with the passing of time.

VII. *Worketh* (Phil. 2:13).

1. God goes on working in and through the Christian.
2. One is to be a willing instrument in his hand.

VIII. *Rejoiceth.* (Matt. 18:13; 1 Cor. 13:6).

1. Love does not continue to rejoice in evil.
2. Rather, it takes pleasure always in truth.

IX. *Drinketh.* (1 Cor. 11:29).

1. If one continues to go on eating and drinking, unworthily, when it comes to the Lord's Supper, then he will continue to eat and drink damnation to himself.
2. The thought is that it is an habitual thing, something that one goes on doing.

X. Deceiveth. (Gal. 6:3; James 1:26).

1. When one thinks himself to be important then he goes on deceiving himself.
2. When a person fails to control his tongue then likewise he continues to deceive himself.

XI. Sinneth. (1 John 3:6-8; 1 John 5:18).

1. The one who abides in Christ does not continue to sin.
2. Rather, the one who continues to sin has not seen him.
3. Whosoever is born of God does not go on sinning.

CONCLUSION:

1. So when you apply the thought of continuing action to these suffixes, ETH, then you can see how meaningful it makes them.
2. The words, and verses, becomes much plainer when you keep this in mind.
3. There are other suffixes in the Bible and you might find it interesting and helpful to go over them.

JESUS WEPT

John 11:35

INTRODUCTION:

1. All of us are familiar with the shortest verse in the Bible-- "Jesus Wept." (John 11:35).
2. Note some different translations:
 - a. "Jesus burst into tears." Moffatt.
 - b. "Jesus shed tears." Goodspeed.
 - c. "And Jesus himself was weeping." Basic English.
 - d. "Tears came to Jesus' eyes." Living Bible.
3. Weeping not a sign of weakness.
4. For one to weep means several things:
 - a. Emotions showed.
 - b. One has feeling.
 - c. One is deeply touched.

- d. Suffering.
- e. Sorrow.
- f. Personal concern.
- g. Conviction.
- h. Sympathy.
- i. Sincerity.

DISCUSSION:

- I. *Jesus Wept Over An Individual.* (John 11:1-46).
- II. *Jesus Wept Over A City.* (Matt. 23:37; Luke 13:34; Luke 19:41-48).
- III. *Jesus Wept For A Nation.* (Lk. 7:31-35; John 1:11).
- IV. *Jesus Was Concerned For The World.* (Matt. 26:36-46; Luke 23:46; Heb. 5:7-9; 1 Pet. 2:21; 3:14-18).

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Jesus is interested and vitally concerned about each one of us.
- 2. Think of how it must hurt him to see the world in the condition it is in.
- 3. It must hurt deeply for him to be rejected often by his own people, thus to be crucified afresh.
- 4. Think how he must be hurt when we fail to carry out his command to take the gospel into all the world.
- 5. May the Lord help us to do better.

SCRIPTURAL TEACHING

Romans 10:17; John 8:32; John 17:17

INTRODUCTION:

- 1. It is important if we are going to teach to be sure that our teaching comes from the right source.
- 2. In God's word we can see clearly the origin of truth and the chain that finally brought it to us.
- 3. We must be sure that we do not break that chain in passing on the Lord's will.

DISCUSSION:

- I. *God.* (John 3:16, 17; John 1:1, 2; Heb. 1:1, 2; Matt. 17:5).
 1. It all began with God.
 2. He has spoken.
 3. He speaks today.
 4. It is important to see how he speaks.
- II. *Christ.* (John 14:24; John 17:8; John 12:48-50).
 1. Christ came as the spokesman for God.
 2. His words came from his Father.
 3. We will finally be judged according to that word.
- III. *Holy Spirit.* (1 Tim. 4:1; John 16:13; John 14:26).
 1. Since Christ was going away then he promised to send the Spirit to guide the Apostles.
 2. The scriptures themselves are the Spirit's word.
- IV. *Apostles.* (Gal. 1:12; John 17:8; Matt. 28:19,20).
 1. The Apostles were inspired of God.
 2. They preached not themselves but as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.
 3. They taught only the word of God.
- V. *New Testament.* (2 Tim. 3:16,17; 2 Pet. 1:3; John 20:30, 31).
 1. This contains the word of the Spirit.
 2. It was penned by inspired men.
 3. It contains the perfect law of liberty.
 4. We must study it to believe and obey it to be saved.
 5. It can lead us to heaven.
- VI. *Man.* (2 Cor. 4:7; 2 Tim. 2:15; John 5:39; 1 Pet. 4:11; James 1:25; 2 Tim. 4:2; Rev. 22:18, 19; Gal. 1:7-9; Matt. 28:19, 20; Mk. 16:15, 16).
 1. The word of God has comes to us and we must obey it and pass it on to others.
 2. Only as we obey the Lord's word can we be saved.

3. We must preach it without addition, subtraction, or substitution.
4. God works through earthen vessels today to speak to man.

CONCLUSION:

1. God lives today.
2. He speaks today.
3. He speaks through man today only as he reads and studies the Bible and then preaches the truth.
4. If you want the truth then go back to the source.

THE CHRISTIAN'S OBLIGATION TO THE CHURCH

INTRODUCTION:

1. Great stress is usually put on first principles.
2. Many times we neglect to stress obligations to be met.
3. Most organizations have obligations to be met.
4. There are definite obligations for the members of the Lord's church.
5. The sinner's obligation is to become a member of the church.

DISCUSSION:

I. *Put The Church First.*

1. Should seek first the kingdom. (Matt. 6:33).
2. Church should come before pleasure or anything else.

II. *Be A Faithful Member.*

1. Should be faithful under all circumstances.
2. Must be faithful until death. (Rev. 2:10).
3. The Lord blesses the faithful. (Matt. 25:21).

III. *Love The Church.*

1. Christ loved the church. (Eph. 5:25).
2. Paul stated his love for the church in Corinth. (1 Cor. 2:4).

3. Our love should be shown by our life and actions.

IV. *Use Talents In The Church.*

1. The Lord demands that we use our talents. (Matt. 25:14-30).
2. Should not excuse self from service.
3. Should seek to prepare for greater service.

V. *Abide By Just Decisions.*

1. In matters of opinion, voice opinions.
2. When final decisions are made, abide by them.
3. Don't have the attitude of "My way else."

VI. *Be Faithful In Attendance.*

1. We are commanded not to forsake the assembly. (Heb. 10:25).
2. We are strengthened and encouraged by attending.
3. Failure to attend weakens the church that much.
4. Bad example to others if we fail to attend.

VII. *Financially To Support The Church.*

1. The Lord commands giving. (1 Cor. 16:1, 2; 2 Cor. 9:6-8).
2. The church needs money to carry on the work.

VIII. *Right Living.*

1. To keep unspotted from the world. (James 1:27).
2. Love not the world. (1 John 2:15-17).
3. Behave in the house of God. (1 Tim. 3:15).
4. Ungodly living hurts the influence of the church.

IX. *To Defend The Church.*

1. Paul was set for the defense of the gospel. (Phil. 1:17).
2. Uphold the church to the world always.
3. Never apologise for any truth taught.

X. *Pray For The Church.*

1. Prayer is a great blessing.
2. The church needs the prayers of the members.

CONCLUSION:

1. By understanding our duties and obligations we should be better servants of the Lord.
2. Every Christian should be interested in the growth of the kingdom.
3. There is a work for every member.

HEAVENLY PLACES

Eph. 1:3; 1:20; 2:6; 3:10

INTRODUCTION :

1. John spoke of the kingdom of heaven being at hand. (Matt. 3:1, 2).
2. Jesus often spoke of the kingdom of heaven. (Matt. 13).
3. Paul speaks of that future heavenly kingdom. (2 Tim. 4:18).
4. Christ said he had prepared a place for us. (John 14:1-3).
5. Heavenly calling. (Heb. 3:1; Acts 26:19).
6. Heavenly gift. (Heb. 6:4).
7. Shadow of heavenly things. (Heb. 8:5).
8. Heavenly Jerusalem. (Heb. 12:22).
9. Heavenly Father. (Matt. 6:14, 26).
10. Bear the image of the heavenly. (1 Cor. 15:48, 49).

DISCUSSION:

I. *Heavenly Places.*

1. In Christ.
2. In the church.
3. In worship.
4. In prayer.
5. In service.

II. *Can Enter Only On Certain Conditions.*

1. Must obey the gospel.

2. Must repent as an erring Christian and live holy before the Lord.

III. *Should Be Aware Of Our Honored Position.*

1. Show reverence.
2. Remain pure.
3. Enjoy the blessings of the Lord.

CONCLUSION:

1. The Lord is preparing us for heaven itself.
2. He has given us a little taste of things to come.
3. To be in fellowship with our brethren, to do the things the Lord has asked, to have the Lord with us, is just a little of what is to follow.

BLESSED ASSURANCE

INTRODUCTION:

1. It was wonderful to be able to know the truth.
2. It is wonderful that we can obey that truth.
3. And we are so blessed to have the Lord's assurance that he will be with us and will see us through to heaven itself.

DISCUSSION:

1. *We Have Blessed Assurance:*

1. The foundation of God is sure. (2 Tim. 2:19).
2. Anchor of the soul is sure. (Heb. 6:19).
3. To make our calling and election sure. (2 Pet. 1:10).
4. We have sure word of prophecy. (2 Pet. 1:19).
5. We know the grace of our Lord. (2 Cor. 8:9).
6. We should know how to answer every man. (Col. 4:6; 1 Pet. 3:15).
7. I know in whom I have believed. (2 Tim. 1:12).
8. Know to do good. (James 4:17).
9. Know that we have been redeemed. (1 Pet. 1:18).
10. We know that we know him if we keep his commandments.

(1 John 2:3).

11. We know we have passed from death to life because we love the brethren. (1 John 3:14).
12. We know we are of the truth. (1 John 3:19).
13. We may know we have eternal life. (1 John 5:13).
14. We may know that he hears us. (1 John 5:15).

CONCLUSION:

1. Indeed we have this blessed assurance if we have obeyed the Lord and if we are remaining faithful to him.
2. He will be with us as long as we are with him.

UPON WHAT ARE YOU BUILDING?

INTRODUCTION :

1. Everyone is building on something.
2. He has something he lives by, trusts in, looks to, etc.
3. Your foundation will determine the kind of life you have, your future, and where you spend eternity.
4. Foundation—rock, stone, something upon which to build.
5. We are naturally talking about a spiritual foundation.

DISCUSSION:

The Importance Of The Right Foundation is Stressed Throughout The Bible.

1. Foundation prophesied. (Isa 8:14; Isa. 28:16).
2. The spiritual rock—Christ. (1 Cor. 10:4).
3. The sure foundation—Christ. (1 Cor. 3:11, 12).
4. The church is built on the rock—Christ. (Matt. 16:18).
 - a. Peter, a stone. (John 1:42).
 - b. Christ, the rock, a solid mass of rock.
 - c. The church rests on Christ—if it could be proven that he was not the Son of God then the church would fall and be forgotten.
5. Built upon Christ and the apostles. (Eph. 2:20).
 - a. Lively stones built up a spiritual house. (1 Pet. 2:5).

- b. The church, the house of God. (1 Tim. 3:15).
- 6. The foundation of God is sure. (2 Tim. 2:19).
- 7. The chief corner stone. (1 Pet. 2:4-8).
- 8. The stone the builders rejected. (Lk. 20:17, 18).
- 9. Doers of word are building on the rock. (Matt. 7:24-27).
- 10. Must do good works to lay a good foundation. (1 Tim. 6:19).

CONCLUSION:

- 1. The things of this world and the teachings of men are as the sand of time—they will not hold one up.
- 2. The wise man will build upon that which will stand for time and eternity.
- 3. Again, upon what are you building?

FOUR GREAT NEEDS

INTRODUCTION :

- 1. Obviously there are many needs in the world and we have our share of them.
- 2. We are going to confine ourselves to four major needs in relation to our work for the Lord.
- 3. See if you agree.

DISCUSSION:

- I. *The Need Of Finding Someone To Teach.* (Matt. 28:19; Lk. 19:10; Acts 20:17-27).
 - 1. The world is full of people who need to be taught the gospel and that is true.
 - 2. But often times in our circle or in our community we find it difficult to find someone who is really teachable.
 - 3. There are people, however, all around us that we can teach no doubt provided we have the desire and we approach them properly.

II. *The Need To Encourage People To Obey God.* (Heb. 2:3; Acts 2:40).

1. We must be Christians ourselves.
2. We must be sincere and patient with them.
3. We must convince them of their need for the Lord.

III. *The Need To Encourage Christians To Be Faithful.* (Matt. 28:19, 20).

1. They must be taught.
2. They must be brought to spiritual maturity.
3. Again we must set an example, be patient with them, but never leave them.

IV. *The Need Of Taking The Gospel To All The World.* (Mk. 16:15; Matt. 22):

1. This begins with me. How far do I want to go?
2. We must sell the church on this too and this is a real job.
3. Again, it takes teaching and lots of it.

CONCLUSION:

1. What do you consider to be our greatest needs.
2. It is easy, however, to determine our needs.
3. Do we have any solutions to offer?
4. For sure, we must work on them and be determined to be victorious.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

Matt. 28:19, 20; Mk. 16:15, 16

INTRODUCTION:

1. Sometime we have the tendency to condemn ourselves for not doing more to save the world from sin.
2. We place on ourselves all of the responsibility.
3. But the sinner also has a responsibility.
4. Let's see how it works.

DISCUSSION:

- I. *We As Christians Have The Responsibility Of Taking The Gospel To the World.*
 1. Even here we often think we must not only take the gospel but convert all we take it to.
 2. It would be wonderful if all would obey but all will not.
 3. Our job is to obey the Lord and take the gospel.
 4. Once we have done that then we have done our part.

- II. *Once The Sinner Has Obeyed The Gospel Then The Responsibility Shifts To Him.*
 1. He now knows the truth.
 2. It is up to him to accept it or to reject it.
 3. No one can force him to obey God.
 4. If he is lost now then he has no one to blame but himself.

- III. *Once The Sinner Has Accepted The Gospel In Obedience Then The Responsibility Shifts Back To The Christian To Follow It Up By Teaching Him To Observe All The Things That The Lord Has Taught Him.*
 1. He must be taught to worship, to live the Christian life, and to take the gospel to others.
 2. Many fall away from the truth because this is not done.

- IV. *Once This New Christian Has Been Taught His Duties And Responsibilities Then The Responsibility Shifts Back To The New Christian.*
 1. It is now up to him to worship, to live the Christian life, etc.
 2. Now he must go out and teach and do all of these things that was expected of the one who taught him.

CONCLUSION :

1. May God help us to recognise our responsibilities when it comes to the great Commission and above all the one who taught him.

2. Only as we do the Lord's will, will his cause grow and spread.

SOUND DOCTRINE

INTRODUCTION :

1. The religious world doesn't like to hear doctrine taught but they are teaching doctrine all the time.
2. They just don't want to hear sound doctrine.
3. What is sound doctrine? The Bible has a lot to say about it.
4. It has to do with sound teaching.

DISCUSSION:

Please Note What Is Said About Sound Doctrine.

1. Sound doctrine. (Tit. 1:9).
2. Sound words. (2 Tim. 1:13).
3. Sound faith. (Tit. 1:13).
4. Sound speech. (Tit. 2:7, 8).
5. Good doctrine. (1 Tim. 4:6).
6. Profitable for doctrine. (2 Tim. 3:16).
7. Preach the word. (2 Tim. 4:2).
8. Doctrine of God. (Tit. 2:10).
9. Will not endure sound doctrine. (2 Tim. 4:3).
10. Contrary to sound doctrine. (1 Tim. 1:10).

CONCLUSION:

1. You can't preach the truth without preaching doctrine, for sound doctrine is the teaching of the Lord.
2. Many will not accept it, some oppose it, but in so doing they reject Christ.
3. We must believe the truth, obey it, and teach it.
4. It may not always be popular but it is right and that is what counts.
5. Are you known for your stand on sound doctrine?