

SERMON OUTLINES
for
YOUTH MEETINGS

by

J. C. CHOATE

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INTRODUCTION

For the past few years a great deal of emphasis has been placed on the young people of our land. I personally believe that our country has gone to an extreme on this subject, but no doubt it has been for a selfish purpose; that is, to make profit off them through records, movies, magazines, merchandise, etc. I feel that when these teenagers are given the reigns and allowed to say and do what they please, no good is going to come from it. They need attention, but the right kind. For instance, they need to be taught, disciplined, trained, and loved. With the proper environment, encouragement, and challenges, they can be a great asset to themselves and to the world. Otherwise, they will turn out to be greedy, wasteful, sorry, a pain in the neck, and unwanted.

The church too has expressed a greater interest in the younger generation among us. There are youth meetings, classes, singings, books, magazines, as well as other things. This is good as long as we do not go overboard and have youth elders, deacons, conventions, and a hundred and one other things that would be out of harmony with the Lord's work. So extreme wisdom and judgment should be used in deciding what to do and not to do with our youth. They need a program, but it must be kept expedient and scriptural.

Sermon Outlines for Youth Meetings is just what the title suggests. It is a collection of some fifty sermon outlines designed for any type of meeting or assembly where young people are involved. In other words, preachers and speakers are continually faced with a need for subjects or themes to use when invited to speak to a class of teenagers or some type of meeting where the emphasis is on youth.

These outlines are not intended to be complete and neither are you advised to follow them as they are, but they are suggestive, intended to give you an idea for a lesson that you may develop to suit your own style of presentation. Feel free to add such Scripture references as you think necessary.

With this explanation, and the desire to help both the speaker and the audience you will be addressing, I am happy to send this book your way. Let me encourage you to use this material, as well as other sources of material, to reach out to help the young people of our age. Especially, take every opportunity you have to remind them of our heritage, our freedom, and the privileges to worship and serve God. At the same time warn them against Communism, Catholicism, and other enemies of God. We need to speak out now. Let us so teach and train our youth that they will be preserved for leaders of tomorrow.

J. C. Choate
Winona, Mississippi
October 11, 1961

Freedom

John 8:32; Col. 1:13, 14; Ps. 119:105

INTRODUCTION:

1. Wherever the truth has gone as a whole, freedom has gone.
2. This country is a great example of that.
3. America is not a Christian nation, as some suppose, but it has been tremendously influenced by Christianity.
4. We are the most blessed people on earth.
5. Too often we take this for granted.
6. We fail to realize that we enjoy many things that millions of others are without.
7. Let us take note of these, as well as other facts that we need to ponder.

DISCUSSION:

I. Four Great Freedoms.

1. Freedom of speech.
 - a. We live in a country in which we can say what we feel like saying.
 - b. We can be "for" or "against" political leaders.
 - c. We can talk without the fear of being jailed or put to death.
2. Freedom of press.
 - a. It is a wonderful thing that the truth may be printed.
 - b. It is wonderful that we may read that truth.
 - c. In many countries the press is controlled by the government and prints only what they want the people to know.
3. Freedom of assembly.
 - a. In this country we may assemble when we like and where we like, and for any purpose.
 - b. We do not have to have permission but may feel at liberty to arrange such meetings.
4. Freedom of religion.
 - a. We may accept religion or reject it.
 - b. We can choose the religion we desire.
 - c. We may assemble when we choose.
 - d. Many cannot so worship.

II. There Are Enemies Who Would Threaten and Destroy Our Freedom.

1. Communism.
 - a. "We will bury you."
 - b. "Your grandchildren will grow up under Communism."
 - c. Yes, this terrible enemy is out to destroy us.
 - d. He vows that the job will be done by 1973.

2. Catholicism.

- a. The Pope seeks to rule over us.
- b. This would mean that our freedom of religion would be gone.

III. How We May Lose Our Freedom.

1. By taking these things for granted.
2. By reasoning that we will always have freedom.
3. By doing nothing.

IV. What We Can Do To Preserve Our Freedom.

1. Exercise the freedom that we have.
2. Tell others about it.
3. Work, give, etc.
4. Fight the enemy.
5. We can win with the gospel.
6. One preacher in a foreign country will do more to keep the peace than hundreds of soldiers.
7. We must send the gospel or send carnal weapons.

CONCLUSION:

1. Will we take a stand for freedom or give over to the enemy?
2. Young people, old people, everyone must put forth a real effort.
3. We have too much at stake to give over at this point.

Young People's Problems

INTRODUCTION:

1. Our young people are our most valuable possessions.
2. They represent the church of tomorrow.
3. We must do all that we can to spare them.
4. To do this, we must help them to solve their problems.

DISCUSSION:

I. From Where Do These Young People Come?

1. They come from Christian homes.
2. They are the children of preachers, elders, faithful Christians, etc.
3. They represent the best.

II. The Young People of Our Day Have Stated that These Are Their Most Difficult Problems.

1. Dancing. (Gal. 5:19.)
2. Dating. (1 Cor. 15:33.)
3. Swearing. (James 5:12.)
4. Mixed bathing. (1 John 2:15.)

5. Slang. (1 Tim. 4:12.)
6. Playing cards. (1 Thess. 5:22.)
7. Smoking. (1 Cor. 3:17.)
8. Love for fellowman. (Rom. 12:10.)
9. Family relations. (Eph. 6:1-4.)

III. The Answer to These Problems.

1. It is not enough to say that they are wrong.
2. There must be some proof that they are bad.
3. There must be some understanding.
4. Parents must set a good example before their children.

CONCLUSION:

1. The young people of our age don't have to be bad.
2. Let's do all we can to preserve them for the Lord.

The Debt I Owe

Rom. 1:14

INTRODUCTION:

1. A paradox — I owe nothing; I am debtor to all. (Rom. 13:8; 1:14.)
2. All men are dependent on others.
3. The wise recognize and admit their need for a higher power.

DISCUSSION:

I. I Owe God the Greatest Debt.

1. From Him comes life — my life.
2. From His hand come blessings upon me.
3. To Him I must return what He has given. (1 Cor. 6:19, 20.)

II. In My Stead, Christ Has Paid My Debt.

1. His death brought pardon for my sins. (Eph. 1:7.)
2. His church was established for my benefit.
3. I owe Him my loyalty.

III. I Owe My Parents Much. (Col. 3:20.)

1. Their concern and love are second only to God's.
2. I owe them respect.
3. I owe them obedience.

IV. I Am Obligated to My Government. (Rom. 13.)

1. Governmental powers are subject to God's authority.
2. By His command I owe obedience to civil law.
3. As a Christian, I must be a good citizen.
4. I must work for peace in the world.
 - a. Through being a peaceable person.
 - b. Through teaching the gospel of peace.

V. I Owe Something to My Fellowman. (James 2:8.)

1. I owe him the truth that I have learned.
2. I owe him my love.

VI. I Owe Myself a Great Deal.

1. I owe myself an honest heart.
2. I owe myself respect — from self and others.
3. I owe myself the right to eternal life.

CONCLUSION:

1. The full debt I owe can never be paid.
2. I must fulfill it as I can by word and by action.
3. I must put God and His will first in my life.
4. When I have done all I can, God will supply all that is lacking.

Why I Believe in God

Gen. 1:1; Heb. 11:6

INTRODUCTION:

1. Not all believe that there is a God, a supreme being, a creator, a heavenly Father.
2. The question is asked more and more, "Is there a God?"
3. Young people are faced with this question as the teacher pounds away with his doctrine of evolution.
4. Let me tell you why I believe in God.

DISCUSSION:

I. I Believe There Is a God Because of the Earth and the Things Therein. (Ps. 19:1.)

1. Where there is a creation, there must also be a creator.
2. I have viewed the Grand Canyon, and many other marvels of nature, and I am made to confess again that surely there is a supreme being.

II. I Believe There Is a God Because of Man. (Gen. 1:26, 27; 2:7.)

1. The birth of a baby, the intelligence of man, etc., all point to God.
2. As smart as man is, with his many theories, he has never been able to explain the creation and existence of life apart from God.

III. I Believe There Is a God Because the Bible Teaches It. (Gen. 1:1.)

1. The Bible says that God created the heaven and the earth.
2. It teaches that all of the things of this world testify that there is a God.
3. It says that God created man.
4. It teaches the many characteristics of God.
5. The Bible reveals God and His will for man.

IV. I Believe There Is a God Because Man Needs a Heavenly Father.

(Rom. 3:23.)

1. There is within man the desire to bow to something or to someone.
2. Man is going to worship as sure as he lives.
3. This points to the fact that God made man this way.

V. I Believe There Is a God Because the Bible Teaches that It Is Necessary To Believe. (Heb. 11:6.)

1. One must believe and be baptized to be saved.
2. We cannot please God apart from faith.

VI. I Believe There Is a God Because I Want To Believe in Him.

1. It is the only safe course that one can take.
2. There is a hereafter and I want to be prepared.
3. I am assured of many blessings by believing in God that I wouldn't otherwise have.
4. There is nothing to gain by denying God.

CONCLUSION:

1. There are many other reasons why I believe in God and I am sure that you can add a number of your own.
2. Let us believe in God and let Him bless us as He surely will.
3. This is the only smart course to take.

Why I Believe the Bible

2 Tim. 3:16, 17

INTRODUCTION:

1. We live in times in which people like to question everything, even that which is inspired of God.
2. The Bible has been under severe attacks during these modern times.
 - a. Some deny it altogether.
 - b. Others say that only certain passages are spurious.
3. Can one believe that the Bible is of God?

DISCUSSION:

I. I Believe the Bible Is of God Because It Has Come Down to Us.

1. I do not believe that this is an accident, but is a result of the providence of God.
2. Many have attempted to destroy this book but to no avail.
3. It is still the world's best seller.

II. I Believe the Bible Because of Ancient Versions.

1. We have versions of the Bible going back many centuries.
2. This is a testimony of the fact that the Bible is of God.

III. I Believe the Bible Because of the Writings of the Church Fathers.

1. Men of old, from the second and third centuries forward have written about the Scriptures and have quoted freely from them.
2. It is said that we could restore the Bible by gathering the quotations from these writers.

IV. I Believe the Bible To Be of God Because of Its Unity.

1. Although many have had part in its writing, and that over many years, nevertheless, it is a book of unity without contradictions.
2. This would not have been possible if God had not been behind it.

V. I Believe the Bible Because It Gives the History of Mankind.

1. It begins with his creation, tells of his fall, the flood, etc.
2. The Bible tells the good side of the human family and the bad side too.

VI. I Believe the Bible Because of Its Claims.

1. It gives light. (Ps. 119:105.)
2. It will stand forever. (Matt. 24:35.)
3. It is inspired of God. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17.)
4. It will judge the world. (John 12:48.)

VII. I Believe the Bible Because of Its Blessings and Promises.

1. Those who follow the Bible are blessed.
2. It reveals many treasures.
3. The promises of God are numerous.
4. It tells what the future holds.

CONCLUSION:

1. As with the reasons for believing in God, there are many reasons for believing that the Bible is His Word.
2. You can possibly think of a number of reasons why you believe in this book.
3. The smartest people on earth believe in it.
4. It is the book of all books.

Keys to Success

1 Cor. 13:13

INTRODUCTION:

1. A key is designed to open a lock so that one may go beyond that point.
2. All have keys for various purposes.
3. All likewise hold the keys to success.
4. They may be used or may be neglected, but the wise will use them.

DISCUSSION:

I. The Key of Youth. (1 Tim. 4:12.)

1. You are young and in a unique position to prepare yourselves for great things.
2. Use your time and energies to advance in the right direction.
3. Nothing can take the place of schooling, hard work, and determination.

II. The Key of Faith. (Rom. 1:17.)

1. Believe in yourself and in others.
2. Believe in what you are trying to do and you will succeed.
3. Do not let anyone or anything discourage you.

III. The Key of Work. (1 Cor. 15:58.)

1. Don't be lazy and indifferent.
2. Don't feel that someone owes you something.
3. All who have succeeded have done so because they worked hard to get where they are.
4. Set your goals and work toward them.

IV. The Key of Love. (1 John 4:7.)

1. You must love what you are doing.
2. Love others and express your feelings.

V. The Key of Giving. (Acts 20:35.)

1. Learn to work and share with others.
2. One cannot cut himself off from the world, so he must learn the art of dealing with his fellowman.
3. An individual owes much to others who help him in one way or another, and he should learn to share in return.

VI. The Key of Righteousness. (Tit. 2:11, 12.)

1. Regardless of one's efforts, unless he does the right thing the evil will catch up with him.
2. A good name will take one a long way.
3. Always do right and you'll always be right.

CONCLUSION:

1. There are many types and degrees of success.
2. Use the keys that you have and open up treasures beyond compare.
3. Use them now while you have the opportunity.

If I Were Young Again

INTRODUCTION:

1. Older people often talk about what they would do if they could live their lives over, or if they could be young again.
2. Of course, they have many things in mind that they would change if they could turn back the years.

3. We cannot go back but it is nice sometimes to dream about things of this nature.
4. I think if I were young again I would keep these things in mind.

DISCUSSION:

I. If I Were Young Again I Would Not Try To Grow Up Too Fast.

1. When I was young I was always thinking about the wonderful day when I would be twenty-one.
2. I always wanted to act older, dress older, etc., than I was.
3. Now the years are going too fast.

II. If I Were Young Again I Would Listen More to My Parents.

1. I thought then that I knew more than they did, that I knew what was best.
2. I thought how wonderful it would be to get out on my own but now I realize that those were the happiest years of my life.
3. Had I listened to their advice my life would have been much richer.

III. If I Were Young Again I Would Work Harder.

1. I thought then that the wise thing to do was to get out of as much work as possible.
2. I was lazy when I could have been industrious and made something out of myself.

IV. If I Were Young Again I Would Want To Take Advantage of the Many Opportunities I Had.

1. I would want to get all the schooling I could.
2. I would want to be of help to others.
3. I would want to prepare myself better for my future occupation.

V. If I Were Young Again I Would Want To Be More Serious About Life.

1. I would want to obey the gospel young.
2. I would want to live the Christian life.
3. I would want to get all the training possible in speaking, etc.

CONCLUSION:

1. Naturally, this is only the beginning of the things I would want to do.
2. But alas, in all probability, if I should be able to be young again I would live my life the same as before.
3. So the best thing for an individual to do is to strive to live his life the way he should the first time around.
4. You young people are in the position that many would like to hold, so make the most of it while you can.

Young People's Needs

INTRODUCTION:

1. Too often young people are overlooked altogether.
2. Parents often leave their children while they go off and work.
3. In meetings, and such like, the older people dominate the whole thing.
4. Young people have needs too and they must be cared for.
5. If they are not, serious problems arise.

DISCUSSION:

I. Young People Need Love.

1. They need affection from the time of birth on up.
2. They must feel that they are wanted; feel that they belong.

II. Young People Need a Christian Home.

1. There is the need of Christian parents.
2. Prayer and Bible study ought to be a part of each day.
3. Christ should reign in the home.

III. Young People Need a Mother.

1. Mother should remain with them as much as possible.
2. The children should come before job or anything else.

IV. Young People Need Training and Discipline.

1. It is never right to just let children grow up.
2. Proper training and discipline are absolute necessities.
3. Where they are not employed, there is disaster.

V. Young People Need To Be Taken to Worship.

1. If they do not want to go they should be taken anyway.
2. If they receive the training and help they need they will probably want to go.
3. They will need further training in worship.

VI. Young People Need Christ.

1. All of those who have reached the age of accountability need to obey the gospel.
2. It is fine and wonderful to start the Christian life early in life.

VII. Young People Need Christian Recreation.

1. They need the kind of recreation that Christians can engage in.
2. Parents and adults should provide this for them.

VIII. Young People Need Christian Education.

1. They ought to be sent to Christian schools if at all possible.
2. If they are allowed to go to state schools when they could have gone to a Christian school, someone is going to be sorry.

IX. Young People Need Prayer.

1. Yes, they need prayer just like all the rest.
2. At the same time, they need to study their Bibles.

X. Young People Need To Prepare for Death.

1. One never knows when he will depart from this world.
2. The best policy is to be prepared.

CONCLUSION:

1. If these needs are satisfied, these young people will be the finest people on earth.
2. We owe it to the young people to do what we can for them.

'Let No Man Despise Thy Youth'

1 Tim. 4:12

INTRODUCTION:

1. Youth may be respected or it may be despised, depending on how young people act.
2. Often the young are judged by the actions of a few.
3. Therefore, Paul urged Timothy to conduct himself in such a way that he might not be despised because of his youth.
4. Paul further admonished that he should be an example.
5. Today's youth needs this lesson.

DISCUSSION:

I. In Word.

1. Respect the Word.
2. Share it with others.

II. In Conversation.

1. One may be known by what he says.
2. Speak as a Christian.
3. Control the tongue.
4. Tell the truth.

III. In Charity.

1. Love God and keep His commandments.
2. Love thy neighbor.

IV. In Spirit.

1. Attitude has a lot to do with what people think of you.
2. In doing a thing, do it with all of your might.

V. In Faith.

1. Believe God.
2. Believe His Word.
3. Have faith in others.

VI. In Purity.

1. After becoming pure through Christ, remain that way.
2. Keep pure physically and spiritually.

CONCLUSION:

1. Remember, you are a member of the church and you represent Christ.
 2. Advertise Christianity by your actions.
 3. You can be a great power for good.
-

Take Time To Be Holy

1 Thess. 5:17

INTRODUCTION:

1. We are living in fast times.
2. Everyone is so busy that there is no time to do anything.
3. People work around the clock and still there is more to do.
4. Even the worship service is conducted by the clock and is kept to a bare minimum of time.
5. In all of this it might be wise to take to heart the good old song, "Take Time To Be Holy."

DISCUSSION:

I. The Importance of Time.

1. Time is a wonderful thing that all of us have.
2. We all have the same amount of it.
3. We can use it as we will.
4. It is precious.

II. Must Take the Time.

1. Many times we say that we do not have time for "so and so," but we do.
2. We may take our time and use it as we please.

III. Take Time To Be Holy.

1. Take time to smile.
2. Take time to say a kind word.
3. Take time to help others.
4. Take time to do right.
5. Take time to study.
6. Take time to pray.
7. Take time to worship.
8. Take time for the Lord.
9. Take time to practice what you preach.

IV. The Best Time To Begin Is in Youth.

1. The best policy is to start off right.
2. Begin young and develop with age.
3. In what better way could one use his time?
4. Must put first things first.

CONCLUSION:

1. Those who take the time to be holy will be richly rewarded.
 2. Take time to be holy — it takes time.
-

Are You Chicken?

INTRODUCTION:

1. Young people have a language all their own.
2. For instance they have replaced the word “coward” with the term “chicken.”
3. When a person wants to dare one to do a thing and encourage him to go through with it, then he says, “You are chicken unless you do it.”
4. The majority had rather be called anything than “chicken” so in most cases they go ahead and do what they are dared to do.
5. What they fail to realize is that there are many things worse than being called chicken.
6. Consider this lesson seriously.

DISCUSSION:**I. Are You Chicken?**

1. If you fail to endanger your life?
2. If you refuse to do what you know is wrong?
3. If you obey those in authority over you?
4. When you want to do unto others as you would have them do unto you?

II. Sometimes You Are Better Off When You Are Chicken.

1. It is better to be a live chicken than a dead one.
2. It is better to be chicken than to endanger the lives of others.
3. It is better to be chicken than to take a chance.
4. It is better to be chicken than to do wrong.
5. It is better to be chicken than to lose your friends.

III. You Are Never Chicken When You Do the Right Thing.

1. When you tell the truth.
2. When you act like you ought.
3. When you do not give over to the foolish.
4. When you do not listen to those who are having fun at your expense.
5. When you put Christ first.
6. When you think of others.

CONCLUSION:

1. What difference does it make what people call you as long as you do the right thing?

2. Those who would belittle you and call you chicken are not thinking in terms of your welfare but are seeking to hurt you.
3. Keep your head and act a man or woman regardless of who challenges you.
4. Sometimes the bravest people are those who do the opposite of that which they are asked to do by foolhardy people.

If I Were You

INTRODUCTION:

1. Have you ever wondered what you would do if you were someone else?
2. I am sure that you would want to make some changes.
3. Well, if I were you I would be certain to do these things.

DISCUSSION:

I. If I Were You.

1. I would want to make the most of my school work.
2. I would want to go to a Christian college.
3. I would want to be a Christian.
4. I would want to be a faithful Christian.
5. I would take advantage of my opportunities.
6. I would respect and obey my parents.
7. I would study as much as possible.
8. I would pray daily.
9. I would want to keep a good name.
10. I would want to watch my associations.
11. I would want to marry only in the church.
12. I would want to do all the good I could.

II. But I Am Not You.

1. So I must do all I can to encourage you to do these things.
2. I must get you to see the wisdom of doing them.
3. I want to help you.

CONCLUSION:

1. We can't be someone else but we can do our best to make the most of our lives.
2. Christ is our great example in all that we say or do.

What You Can Give the World

INTRODUCTION:

1. Everyone gives the world something, but not all give the same.
2. You are given all that you have, so the least you can do is to give something worthwhile.

3. You have within your power the ability to make this world a better place in which to live.

DISCUSSION:

I. What You Can Give the World.

1. Youth.
2. New ideas.
3. Your dreams.
4. Your innocence.
5. A good example.
6. A good name.
7. Strength.
8. Longsuffering.
9. Humility.
10. Love.
11. Faith.
12. Courage.
13. Spirit of obedience.

II. What This Will Do for the World.

1. This will shame some.
2. This will condemn some.
3. This will encourage others.
4. This will help the world.
5. This will brighten the future.

CONCLUSION:

1. The world needs more young people who are dedicated to blessing mankind instead of cursing him.
2. There are many rewards for those who put forth such an effort.

The Trouble with Money

1 Tim. 6:10

INTRODUCTION:

1. One of the major emphases of the world is placed upon money.
2. Many sell their souls for what money will do for them.
3. It could be a blessing, but is usually a curse.

DISCUSSION:

I. Money Itself.

1. Just paper and metal.
2. No power within it.
3. The power lies in what others make of it.

II. The Love of Money.

1. One may love money to the extent of hoarding it up.

2. One may love money and seek after it.
3. One may love money only as he can use it.
4. It is possible to love it, poor or rich.
5. Such love is the root of all evil.

III. The Trouble with Money.

1. The love of it is the root of all evil.
2. It does not bring happiness.
3. It creates problems.
4. It can turn friends into enemies.
5. It can hinder the cause of Christ.

IV. Take Some Good Advice on Money.

1. Do not work for money but let money work for you.
2. Do not be a slave for money.
3. Do not be covetous, but do not be wasteful either.
4. Do not let money keep you from doing right.
5. Let happiness reign in your life regardless of it, or the lack of it.

CONCLUSION:

1. Learn how to use money now and then deal with it wisely.
2. Don't let wealth, or poverty, ruin you as it has many others.

What Is Success?

INTRODUCTION:

1. Success is many things to many people.
2. In these modern times success may not come through Christian methods.
3. What is success?

DISCUSSION:

I. What It Is Not.

1. It is not making a great deal of money.
2. It is not owning property, etc.
3. It is not popularity.
4. It is not holding a good job.
5. It is not gaining recognition.
6. It is not defeating an opponent.
7. It is not just making the best grades.
8. It is not having the most dates.

II. What It Is.

1. It is the milestone of goals being set and fulfilled.
2. It is reaching and maintaining certain standards.
3. It is doing a job.
4. It is doing the right thing.

5. It is obedience to the Lord's will.
6. It is contentment with one's life and accomplishments.

CONCLUSION:

1. Are you a success?
2. Do you have the ingredients for success?
 - a. Faith?
 - b. Determination?
 - c. Steadfastness?
3. Seek it and you will find it.

'Children, Obey Your Parents'

Eph. 6:1

INTRODUCTION:

1. Our day is the day of unruly, undisciplined children.
2. Young people pride themselves in being their own boss.
3. Those who would attempt to respect their parents are criticized by others.
4. But there are some good reasons why children ought to obey their parents.

DISCUSSION:

I. Why Parents Deserve Respect.

1. They are your parents.
2. They are much older than you.
3. They are wiser.
4. They are responsible for you.

II. Why Children Should Obey Their Parents.

1. Children need guidance.
2. They need someone older to look to for help.
3. The Bible teaches obedience to those in authority.
4. Must obey to receive the promises of the Bible.
5. Obedience is demanded for the good of the child.

III. If Children Do Not Obey Their Parents.

1. They are unruly and undisciplined.
2. Many hearts are broken.
3. All have to suffer the consequences.

IV. If Children Do Obey Their Parents.

1. The children are reared as they should be.
2. The parents' job is made easier.
3. The children are a blessing to all.
4. They are blessed with long life.

CONCLUSION:

1. Do you obey your parents?
2. It is the smart thing to do.

'Be Not Unequally Yoked Together'

2 Cor. 6:14

INTRODUCTION:

1. In Old Testament times animals were not to be unequally yoked together.
2. Paul said that Christians are not to be so joined.
3. This would apply to any phase of life.
4. Especially should Christians guard against being bound unequally in marriage.

DISCUSSION:

I. Marriage Outside the Church.

1. There are those who contend that there is nothing wrong with a marriage of this nature.
2. Some argue that many are won to the truth in this way.
3. They forget to mention the many problems, and the numerous ones lost because of such marriages.

II. Why It Is Wrong To Marry Out of the Church.

1. The Bible examples teach against it.
2. Paul warned against it.
3. Widows are specifically forbidden to marry out of the church.
4. The majority who marry outside of the church are lost.
5. Such a marriage divides the home.
6. The Lord is left out.

III. What Others Have Done.

1. Israel was forbidden to marry heathen.
 - a. All was well when Israel obeyed this law.
 - b. When marriage took place outside of Israel there was a terrible price to pay.
2. The Jews continue to emphasize this.
 - a. They teach their children on the subject.
 - b. When one marries outside the faith they consider him lost.
3. All religious groups recognize the danger of intermarriage.
4. Psychologists, etc., advise against such marriages.

IV. What About Those Who Go On?

1. Some would do so if they knew for certain they would go to hell.
2. The Lord is warning against it and those who become unequally yoked in marriage are going against His wishes.
3. The guilty parties must suffer for their actions.
4. There is even the possibility of losing the children.

V. Marriage in the Church.

1. Date those in the church.

2. If you date a non-member, convert him before marriage.
 - a. You can influence him at this point.
 - b. If you can't lead him to the truth before marriage, in all probability you most certainly won't after marriage.
3. Marry in the church.

CONCLUSION:

1. Young people, don't do something you'll be sorry for all your life.
2. Do it right, and it will last.
3. Put the Lord first and keep Him in your marriage and home.

Flee Youthful Lusts

2 Tim. 2:22

INTRODUCTION:

1. Paul advised Timothy to flee youthful lusts, and if he were here today he would give the same advice.
2. There are certain sins designed to tempt and lure young people away.
3. These are the things to be avoided.

DISCUSSION:

I. Some Youthful Lusts.

1. Lewd people.
2. Evil people.
3. Indecent dress.
4. Filthy literature.
5. Evil motion pictures.
6. Dirty talking.
7. Dancing.
8. Mixed swimming.

II. Flee These Things.

1. Avoid them.
2. Fight them.
3. Do good works.
4. Put God first.

III. Follow After.

1. Righteousness.
2. Faith.
3. Charity.
4. Peace.
5. Fellowship.

CONCLUSION:

1. This is your Christian duty.
2. It is the right thing to do.
3. You'll be blessed.

Somebody Loves You

John 3:16

INTRODUCTION:

1. Love is something that everyone needs, especially young people.
2. Millions are of the mind that no one loves them.
 - a. Orphans.
 - b. Divorced people.
 - c. Prisoners.
 - d. Sick people.
3. But someone loves you.

DISCUSSION:

I. God Loves You.

1. He loves all, but He also loves each person individually.
2. He has proven His love in that He gave His Son.
3. His blessings are continually bestowed upon you.

II. Christ Loves You.

1. All others may forsake you but He will not.
2. He wants you to be His.
3. He has promised to be with you always.

III. The Church Loves You.

1. Christians love the souls of all.
2. The church wants to help you in every way possible.

IV. Your Parents Love You.

1. They are responsible for you.
2. They are trying to help you.

V. Many Others Love You Too.

1. Husband or wife.
2. Children and relatives.
3. Those you work with.
4. Your neighbors.

CONCLUSION:

1. Be thankful someone does love you.
2. Show your appreciation and express your love for them.
3. Others need your love too.

The Problem of Recreation

INTRODUCTION:

1. Young people often ask, "How can I have some fun without doing wrong?"

2. There seems to be the idea going around that the only recreation there is for young people is wrong.
3. This is bad reasoning for there are many things to do.

DISCUSSION:

I. What Is Recreation?

1. It means to re-create.
2. To do something different or to do some new thing.
3. What may be recreation to one may be work to another.

II. Questions To Determine Whether a Christian Can Engage in a Certain Activity.

1. Is it morally right?
2. Can I as a Christian engage in it?
3. Could I encourage my friends to do it?
4. Would I be setting a good example?
5. Would I want to meet Christ there?
6. Is it questionable?

III. Some Things Christians Can Do.

1. Read good books.
2. Go to football games, baseball games, etc.
3. Play outdoor games.
4. Play house games.
5. Ride horses, go boating, etc.
6. Enjoy a hobby.
7. Visit friends.
8. Go riding, picnicing, etc.

CONCLUSION:

1. Actually recreation is really no problem for those who want to do right.
2. Recreation can be Christian too -- it must be.
3. Parents ought to provide their children with wholesome entertainment.
4. Various members of the church can take the lead in providing recreation for themselves and other Christians.

Guess Who?

INTRODUCTION:

1. There are many interesting characters in the Bible.
2. It might be well for us to test our knowledge of them.
3. How much do you know?

DISCUSSION:

I. Who Was the First Man To Be Murdered? (Gen. 4:8.)

1. He was a shepherd.

2. The son of Adam and Eve.
 3. His brother was a farmer.
- II. Who Was the Man Who Never Died?** (Gen. 5:24.)
1. He walked with God.
 2. God took him one day.
- III. Who Was the Oldest Man Ever To Live?** (Gen. 5:27.)
1. Not very much is said about him.
 2. The Bible just says that he died.
- IV. Who Was Called the Friend of God?** (James 2:23.)
1. He left his country and people.
 2. He traveled in the promised land.
 3. Riches were bestowed upon him.
- V. Who Led the Children of Israel Out of Bondage?** (Heb. 11:23-29.)
1. He made excuse when God called him.
 2. On one occasion he smote the rock when he was to speak to it.
 3. Aaron was his brother.
- VI. Who Was Swallowed by a Whale?** (Jonah 1.)
1. He tried to run away from God.
 2. Later he went to Nineveh.
- VII. Who Was the Forerunner of Christ?** (Matt. 3:1-3.)
1. Lived in the desert.
 2. Beheaded by Herod.
- VIII. Who Denied Christ Three Times?** (Mk. 14:72.)
1. He was a fisherman.
 2. Later he became a great apostle.
- IX. Who Was the Apostle Who Visited Rome?** (Acts 28.)
1. He once persecuted the church.
 2. Made three missionary journeys.
 3. Went to Rome as a prisoner.

CONCLUSION:

1. Try others along with these.
2. How did you fare?
3. Let this encourage you to study more.

What Are Your Goals?

INTRODUCTION:

1. A person must have goals if he is ever to amount to anything.
2. He can go no higher than his goals.
3. Too many go for the wrong things in life.

DISCUSSION:

I. Goals of Some.

1. To be popular.
2. To be rich.
3. To be successful.
4. To have friends.
5. To enjoy life.
6. To be powerful.

II. Goals that Count.

1. To be honest.
2. To be a good neighbor.
3. To help the needy.
4. To be a Christian.
5. To be a Bible teacher.
6. To be an elder.
7. To have a good name.
8. To always do right.
9. To have a happy home.
10. To give something to the world.

III. When To Begin.

1. Begin now.
2. Set them high.
3. Aim at them.
4. Work hard to succeed.
5. Victory will follow.

CONCLUSION:

1. Some people are too selfish to ever get anywhere.
2. One must want to give instead of receive in order to amount to anything.
3. What are your goals and how badly do you want to achieve them?

Three Things that Ruin Men

INTRODUCTION:

1. Many a young man has been ruined by the things that I am going to mention.
2. Actually, when one of these things controls a person, that is enough to destroy him.
3. Because of this, young people need to be warned and encouraged to be on guard.
4. Young preachers especially need to take note of these pitfalls.

DISCUSSION:

I. Money Ruins Men.

1. The love of money.
 - a. Money mad.
 - b. Seeking higher paying jobs.
 - c. Hoarding it up.
2. Handling money.
 - a. Throwing it to the wind.
 - b. Buying foolish things.
 - c. Living "high off the hog."
3. Paying debts.
 - a. Running up bills but unable to pay.
 - b. Leaving debts behind.

II. Women Ruin Men.

1. Young men often get into trouble dating.
2. Some men are handsome and know it and therefore get special attention from the young ladies.
3. Being around so many women often leads a man astray.
4. Modern times have encouraged some men to go along with the crowd.
5. Numerous preachers have found themselves destroyed because they got too interested in the women, ran off with some woman, and got involved in some particular way.

III. Pride Ruins Men.

1. Concerning work.
 - a. Too many have become too sold on themselves and their work.
 - b. They become proud, boastful, and disgusting.
2. Concerning mistakes.
 - a. If there are mistakes made, they don't want to acknowledge them.
 - b. They feel that they are too important to admit error.
 - c. They feel that such a confession would degrade them.
3. Concerning life.
 - a. They feel better than others.
 - b. They want to have more than others.
 - c. They want others to look up to them.

CONCLUSION:

1. These things do not have to ruin a man but they often take their toll.
2. When a man gets entangled it is hard for him to cut away.

3. The answer lies in repentance and the determination to go straight.
4. So be careful — you could be next.

Who Are Your Friends?

1 Cor. 15:33

INTRODUCTION:

1. Tell me who your friends are and I'll tell you what kind of person you are.
2. You may know a person by the friends he keeps.
3. A person should be wise in choosing his friends.
4. Who are your friends?

DISCUSSION:

I. Those Who Are Known To Be Bad?

1. You can't run with a bad crowd without becoming bad.
2. It won't take too long for you to be like them.
3. Why should you lower yourself to such a level?
4. Nothing good will come from it.

II. Those Who Are Questionable?

1. Many a person has been ruined because he associated with people who had questionable characters.
2. A young person may destroy himself by associating with such people.
3. Why not make friends with those that are unquestionable in character?

III. Those Who Are Not Members of the Church?

1. It seems that some members of the church want to run around constantly with those who are not members.
2. If this is true, and there is no effort to convert the companions, harm will be done to the Christian.
3. Christians should want to be with Christians as much as possible.

IV. Those Who Are Older Than You?

1. There is a danger in this, especially for the young people.
2. Young people need to make friends with those who are their age.

V. Those Who Are Weak?

1. If you are with the weak all the time, in all probability you will become weak.
2. For instance, if you are around those who are indifferent about attending the assemblies, etc., if you are not careful you'll find yourself getting in the same rut.

VI. Those Who Gossip?

1. Some love to be around gossipers because they like what they hear and they want to gossip too.
2. Some like this type of people because they like to grumble and gripe.

VII. Those Who Are Christians?

1. Christians can help one another to become stronger and to do more.
2. This is a wonderful type of fellowship.

CONCLUSION:

1. Get to know more people — more good people — and your life will be made fuller and richer.
2. This life could be much more meaningful if we would be more friendly and strive to make more friends for ourselves.

Growing Up

Lk. 2:52

INTRODUCTION:

1. Christ was both divine and human.
2. Physically, He grew up like any other person.
3. He therefore is our great example in all.

DISCUSSION:

I. Physically.

1. Jesus grew physically.
2. He grew from a baby to adulthood before being crucified.
3. All people have to grow up.
4. A good healthy body is worth much to any individual.
5. This comes as a result of taking care of one's self, getting the proper food, exercise, etc.
6. Hard work doesn't hurt the physical body.

II. Mentally.

1. Jesus was able to converse with the doctors and lawyers even as a boy.
2. He was the smartest person ever to live.
3. We, too, need to grow mentally.
4. This may be done through school work, experiences, advice from others, etc.
5. It is as necessary to grow in mind as in anything else.

III. Socially.

1. Jesus visited others most of His life.
2. He loved people and He loved to be associated with them.

3. All should want to know more people.
4. This is truly one of the great blessings of this world.

IV. Religiously.

1. The record says that Jesus increased in stature with God.
2. If there was room for growth with Christ, surely there is with us.
3. Too often we want to remain children all of our lives when it comes to religion.
4. We have to be fed milk when we should be partaking of meat.
5. We have to be taught when we should be teaching others.
6. Let us grow up in the Lord through worship, service, study, prayer, and dedication to the One we serve.

CONCLUSION:

1. You can always tell when a person is growing.
2. It is very rewarding to be able to see that progress is being made, as well as to see the blessings that come with the growth itself.
3. Regardless of who we are, there is always room for improvement.
4. Let us grow in the grace and nurture of the Lord. (2 Pet. 3:18.)

Is It Smart To Be a Christian?

INTRODUCTION:

1. We are living in an age of doubt.
2. Young people are made to wonder about Christianity.
3. They are told that it is not smart to be a Christian.
4. But the question is not, is it smart to be a Christian, but is it smart not to be a Christian?

DISCUSSION:

I. Some Who Say It Is Not.

1. The devil.
2. The infidel.
3. The worldly.
4. The "educated."

II. Why They Say It Is Not Smart.

1. Christianity is for the sick, old, etc.
2. You can't have any fun in life.
3. You must always be sad.
4. You are tied down.
5. It costs too much.

III. Some Who Say It Is Smart.

1. The God of heaven.
2. The Spirit, through the Word.
3. Those who are Christians.
4. Many others who recognize the value of Christianity.

IV. Why It Is Smart.

1. The Bible teaches it.
2. It satisfies the needs of man.
3. One receives the blessings of God.
4. The world is made better.
5. Preparation is made for the hereafter.

V. Consider Both Sides.

1. Will your father be God or the devil?
2. Do you want to be associated with Christians or worldly people?
3. Would you prefer receiving the blessings of God or going without them?
4. Do you want to be safe or unsafe?

CONCLUSION:

1. If you are smart at all you can see that the wise thing to do is to become a Christian.
2. The more you study the question the more you will realize this.
3. So be smart.

What You Can Do To Evangelize the World

Mk. 16:15, 16

INTRODUCTION:

1. The world is lost and therefore needs the gospel.
2. We have had opportunity after opportunity to evangelize all humanity, but to date we have not taken advantage of them.
3. It appears that if the job is ever to be accomplished, it must be because of the dedicated youth who have been reared seeing the needs and having the determination to carry out the great commission.
4. Young people are in a unique position to do a tremendous job along this line.

DISCUSSION:

I. Why Young People Can Help.

1. They are not in the rut that the older generation is in.
2. They have their eyes open and can see the needs and opportunities.

3. They have the urge and determination to act on their beliefs.
4. They are well able physically, spiritually, financially, etc.

II. Why Young People Should Take the Lead.

1. The older generation has not done the job.
2. Young people can lead and others will follow.
3. They are better equipped to do the work.

III. What Young People Can Do.

1. You can prepare to go.
2. You can encourage others to go.
3. You can start a mission class.
4. You can encourage the elders to emphasize mission work.
5. You can help others to go financially, and otherwise.
6. You can pray for the work.
7. You can correspond with those who are on the field.

IV. What Young People Must Guard Against.

1. Feeling that they can do nothing.
2. Becoming indifferent about the work.
3. Leaving it up to the other fellow.
4. Making excuse.
5. Getting lazy.
6. Doing nothing.

CONCLUSION:

1. Realize that there is something that you can do, and do it.
2. Don't wait on others but take the lead.
3. The Lord will bless your efforts.

Keeping Clean

James 1:27

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Bible teaches cleanliness.
2. There is an old saying, "Cleanliness is next to godliness."
3. That which is recognized as dirty and filthy is an abomination to all.

DISCUSSION:

I. Keep a Clean Mind.

1. Put away evil thoughts.
2. Jesus says that this is where many of man's troubles begin.
 - a. Lusting after a woman.
 - b. Hating a brother.
3. As a man thinketh, so is he.

II. Keep Your Speech Clean.

1. The tongue is an unruly evil.
2. Gossip, cursing, dirty jokes, etc., often come forth.
3. These things ought to be eliminated and replaced with that which is good.
4. Instead of saying something bad about a person, say something good.
5. Let your speech be seasoned with salt.

III. Keep a Clean Body.

1. Keep clean from dirt and filth.
2. All can wash themselves.
3. Your clothes may not be much, but you can at least keep them clean.
4. Also, keep your body from fornication, drinking, and other evils that will destroy you.
5. Abstain from the use of tobacco and drugs.
6. The body is the tabernacle of the Spirit.

IV. Keep a Clean Life.

1. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
2. Be a good neighbor.
3. Help your fellowman.
4. Live above reproach.

V. Keep Clean Spiritually.

1. Do not dabble in sin.
2. Stay clear of denominational doctrines.
3. Put God first in your life.
4. Stay clean through the blood of Christ.
5. Do not let the devil destroy you but live through Christ.

CONCLUSION:

1. It is possible to stay clean in every walk of life.
2. Do not become spotted with the things of the world but practice the pure religion of Christ. (James 1:27.)

Stand Up and Be Counted

INTRODUCTION:

1. It is easy to just drift along and take no stand, but it is not the wise thing to do.
2. People want to know which side you are on, and you owe that to them and to yourself.
3. This involves making a decision, having courage, and the ability and desire to back a chosen position.

DISCUSSION:

I. Why Some Do Not Want To Stand Up and Be Counted.

1. They want to play both sides.
2. They feel that there is too much at stake, and they don't want to lose anything.
3. Don't have enough courage.
4. Don't want to make enemies.
5. Say it is too hard.

II. Why It Is Necessary To Stand Up and Be Counted.

1. To let people know where you stand.
2. In order to accept responsibility.
3. To encourage others.
4. Because it is the right thing to do.
5. In order to grow up.
6. To defeat the enemy.
7. To show you have convictions.

III. What Is Involved in Standing Up and Being Counted.

1. Seeing the issues involved.
2. Recognizing the need of taking action.
3. Making a decision for or against a thing.
4. The courage to accept the consequences.

IV. Things a Person Should Stand For.

1. Fair dealing with all.
2. Honesty and integrity.
3. Moral and righteous living.
4. Truthfulness on all subjects.
5. Christian principles in all.

V. What One Should Stand Against.

1. Bad morals.
2. Lying and cursing.
3. Gossiping about others.
4. Smoking and dancing.
5. Pride and haughtiness.
6. All things that are recognized as being wrong.

CONCLUSION:

1. Many things will come up that you haven't thought of before, so you'll have to be careful to make the right decisions concerning them.
2. Stand for that which is good and right and you'll never fall.
3. Stand up and be counted now.

Christian Education

INTRODUCTION:

1. Our young people are the most precious possessions in the world.
2. We ought to do everything within our power to keep them.
3. At the same time, we must not only provide them with a Christian education but we must sell them on the importance of attending a Christian school.

DISCUSSION:

I. Christian Education Defined.

1. It is brought about as a result of a group of Christians organizing a Christian school through which they may educate their children.
2. All the teachers are Christians.
3. The environment is kept Christian.
4. The Bible is taught daily.
5. The Lord is worshipped daily.
6. Young people learn the real meaning of Christianity.

II. The Purpose of Christian Schools.

1. One of the main purposes of such a school is to get the young people away from the world.
2. Such schools give them the type of training that will enable them to amount to something in life and yet still be Christians.
3. They strengthen the individual, the family, the church, and make a better world in which to live.

III. The Costs Involved.

1. In order to make it possible for young people to attend without costing much more than public schools, the expenses must be kept down.
 - a. This means that the money must come from elsewhere.
 - b. It is usually raised from those who are interested in Christian education.
2. The school, teachers, equipment, etc., must all be provided by money that comes from interested parties.
3. Much work and sacrifice goes into such a school.

IV. Those Who Attend.

1. Since it is a Christian school then as many Christians as possible are urged to attend.
2. Any interested person may enroll and take advantage of the services offered.

V. The Importance of Such a School to the Pupil.

1. There are Christian teachers.

2. The Bible is taught daily.
3. There is daily chapel.
4. Those over you are interested in you.
5. There is a Christian environment.
6. For those in a Christian college, it is a wonderful place to find a life companion.
7. Values and principles are instilled into the life of the individual that will forever influence him for good.
8. Friends are made for life.

VI. Things To Remember About a Christian School.

1. It is not perfect.
2. Both the faculty and students are human beings.
3. It is not to be thought of as a reform school.
4. It is trying to do a job.

CONCLUSION:

1. Christian education deserves our backing.
2. As long as it is kept in its place it will prove to be a great servant.
3. The greatest boosters of all ought to be those who have attended such a school.

Young Only Once

INTRODUCTION:

1. The majority of the people of the world know all too well that you are young only once.
2. The kind of start one makes will very likely set the course of one's life.
3. Young people, realize now what you have and make the most of it.

DISCUSSION:

I. A Sad Fact About Life.

1. The young want to be older, and the older want to be young.
2. It is hard to tell the young of the blessings that are theirs.

II. Blessings of the Young.

1. In the care of parents.
 - a. Parents provide shelter, clothing, food, etc.
 - b. Receive training, help, and schooling.
2. Go to school.
3. Have friends.
4. Provided with spending money.
5. Are without many responsibilities of those older.
 - a. Do not have to make a living.

- b. Do not have a family to care for.
- c. Do not have many other problems.

III. The State of the Young.

- 1. Pure before God.
- 2. Power of youth.
 - a. Can influence even older people.
 - b. Have many years ahead.
- 3. Great opportunities.
 - a. To go to school.
 - b. To choose a good mate.
 - c. To make something out of themselves.
 - d. To give something to the world.

IV. Don't Throw Your Youth Away.

- 1. Wishing you could be older.
- 2. Not taking advantage of your opportunities.
- 3. Being influenced by those who would destroy you.
- 4. Letting others pass you.
- 5. By waiting.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Only you can say what you will do, but remember you are young only once.
- 2. Tomorrow you might like to be young again, but it will be too late then.

What's Wrong with Movies?

INTRODUCTION:

- 1. Movies have been discussed pro and con through the years.
- 2. More and more Christians are contending that there is nothing wrong with the movies.
- 3. Let's take a look and see for ourselves.

DISCUSSION:

I. Movies Themselves.

- 1. Movies as such are no more than moving pictures.
- 2. There is nothing wrong in putting a group of pictures together and running them through a projector.
- 3. The thing in question has to do with the content and the atmosphere.

II. Three Main Questions To Be Considered.

- 1. What about the content?
 - a. The majority of pictures today emphasize sex.
 - b. There are even art theaters for this type of picture.
 - c. Others are filled with violence, bad language, drinking, dancing, gambling, smoking, etc., etc.

- d. Movies of today are seeking to stay alive on this type of diet.
- 2. What about the place in which they are shown?
 - a. It is recognized that the movie house is a place where many go to pet and engage in other questionable activity.
 - b. Also, many of the theaters now specialize in what they call "art pictures," or those that are revealing.
 - c. Your company in such a place is also to be considered.
- 3. What about those who attend?
 - a. Not long ago a theater owner stated that on the first run of a vulgar picture they usually got the sex perverts, and in time, the better classes of people would begin to show up.
 - b. What type of person would want to take a young lady to see one of the modern-day movies?
 - c. What type of young lady would consent to go with a young man to see such pictures?
 - d. What parents would want their children to see the average movie of today?

III. So You Believe It Is All Right To Go to the Movies.

- 1. What type of movies do you attend?
- 2. What movie could you endorse?
- 3. Would you want your son or daughter to see the things that are being shown today?
- 4. You may go, and you may encourage others to go, but if you do, be ready to accept the consequences.

IV. Questions About the Movie You Want To See.

- 1. Is it a clean movie?
- 2. Could you recommend it to others?
- 3. By seeing it, will it hurt your influence for good?
- 4. What are some of the good points about it?
- 5. Will it benefit you?
- 6. Is it wholesome entertainment?
- 7. Why do you want to see it?
- 8. Can you see it and still be a Christian?
- 9. Would you want your family to see it?

CONCLUSION:

- 1. I would think a long time if I were you before I got into the movie habit.
- 2. Regardless of other mediums of entertainment, right or wrong, you cannot justify movies on that basis alone.
- 3. If Christians would leave the movies alone until they begin to make decent ones, much of the indecency would be cleared up.

Christ Needs You

INTRODUCTION:

1. You represent a great power for the cause of Christ.
2. Whether your talent, services, etc., are used for good depends on you and your attitude.
3. Will you answer the call to service?

DISCUSSION:

I. Who Needs You?

1. Christ.
2. The church.
3. The needy.
4. Your neighbor.
5. The sinner.
6. The world.

II. Why Does Christ Need You?

1. To obey Him.
2. To worship Him.
3. To serve Him.
4. To help others.
5. To preach the gospel.

III. What Else Does Christ Want?

1. You, and all of you.
2. Your youth.
3. Your vision.
4. Your zeal.
5. Your talents.
6. Your money.

IV. What Will Christ Do for You?

1. Save you.
2. Bless you.
3. Reward you.

CONCLUSION:

1. The devil wants you too.
2. You submit to many others without question but Christ offers more than all others put together.
3. Christ needs you — you need Christ.

The Sin of Dancing

INTRODUCTION:

1. For ages the world has been plagued with the ungodly act of dancing.

- a. The people of Israel "rose up to play." (Ex. 32:6.)
 - b. John the Baptist lost his head because of a dance. (Mk. 6:21-24.)
2. In order to see the evils of the dance just look round about you.
- a. Night clubs, high schools, and colleges are taking the lead.
 - b. Dancing, drinking, gambling, etc., are the results.

DISCUSSION:

I. General Attitude Toward Dancing.

1. At one time the majority of the people frowned upon such a practice.
2. But in the past few years the people have weakened.
3. The world as a whole thinks nothing about the dance.
 - a. Business organizations sponsor them.
 - b. Even high schools and churches support them.
4. Some members of the church go along with this act, even to the point of taking part.
 - a. Parents send their children to a dancing school.
 - b. Some allow their children to attend school dances.
5. It is said that it teaches them to be more graceful, but look at the price they have to pay.
6. There are others who can't see any harm in it — such people have closed their eyes.
7. Friends, dancing is the devil's game.

II. Testimonies of Those Who Have Been Associated with the Dance.

1. Prof. Harry Stribes, famous champion dancer, says: "I will say that I do not believe that a woman can waltz virtuously and waltz well, for she must yield her person completely to her partner." (**The Modern Dance**, Clovis Chappell.)
2. Mr. T. A. Faulkner, ex-dancing teacher and former Proprietor of the Los Angeles Dancing Academy, says: "It is a startling fact, but a fact nevertheless, that two thirds of the girls who are ruined fall through the influence of dancing. Mark my words, I know this to be true." (**From the Ball-Room to Hell**, p. 22.)
3. Prof. William H. Holmes, former dancing teacher, says: "I found the ballroom an avenue of destruction to multitudes. This is the truth burned into the hearts of thousands of down-cast fathers and brokenhearted mothers, and husbands are legion who can look into deserted homes left desolate by wives and daughters led captive by the magnificent burst of harmony and the laying on of hands." (**The Modern Dance**, Chappell.)

III. A Doctor's Diagnosis of the Modern Dance.

1. Dr. Frank Richardson, in speaking to the Homeopathic Medical Association of New Jersey, said: "Dance halls are the modern nurseries of the divorce courts, training shops of prostitution and graduating schools of infamy and vice." (**The Carnival of Death**, p. 70.)
2. Dr. A. C. Dixon says: "The modern dance is the fine art of covering with music, indelicate, immodest and oftentimes indecent attitudes and postures between men and women. It is too bad for reformation. Its only remedy is extermination." (**The Carnival of Death**, p. 70.)

IV. Reasons Why Dancing Is Sinful.

1. It is questionable. (Rom. 14:23.)
2. It is immoral. (1 Cor. 15:33.)
3. It is worldly. (1 John 2:15.)
4. It is lasciviousness. (Gal. 5:19.)
5. It is revelry. (Gal. 5:21.)
6. It is destructive. (Rom. 6:23.)
7. It is a stumblingblock. (Rom. 14:13.)

V. Do Some Serious Thinking.

1. I am not trying to tell you that dancing is wrong without any reason for it, but I am telling you why it is wrong.
2. It may appear to be innocent, but it is poisonous.
3. If you will only question yourself about the act, you will have to admit that it is not best to engage in it.
4. To say there is nothing wrong with it is but to reject all common sense.

VI. People, Wake Up.

1. Parents, wake up to your responsibility to your children.
2. Young people, wake up before you take the wrong step.
3. Dancing is a sin and you can't participate in it without being marked.

CONCLUSION:

1. Remember, "praying knees and dancing feet do not go together."
2. Stay on the Lord's side if you expect Him to stay with you.

My Little Children

Matt. 18:1; Gal. 3:25; 1 John 2:1

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Bible speaks of children in different senses.
 - a. Children of disobedience. (Eph. 2:3.)

- b. Children of the world.
- c. Children of darkness.
- d. Children of Abraham. (John 8:39.)
- e. Children of God. (Rom. 8:13.)
- f. Children in the flesh. (Col. 3:20.)

2. The term can apply to infants but it more literally means sons.

DISCUSSION:

I. Jesus Teaches a Lesson with the Help of a Little Child. (Matt. 18:1-3.)

- 1. Must become as a little child to enter the kingdom of heaven.
- 2. Jesus used a little child to illustrate His point, because little children are:
 - a. Without sin.
 - b. Humble.
 - c. Forgiving.
 - d. Loving.
 - e. Sincere.
- 3. Some teach that children are born with sin, but if so:
 - a. Why did Jesus use a child?
 - b. Why did He not explain the status of the child?
 - c. Why did He not use a disciple?

II. Children in the flesh. (Col. 3:20; Eph. 6:1-3.)

- 1. Parents are to love and train their children. (Prov. 22:6.)
- 2. Children are to obey their parents. (Eph. 6:1-3.)
- 3. This relationship is one of the greatest ties and blessings in the world.
- 4. Over a period of time children grow to adulthood.

III. The Obedient Are Made Children of God. (Gal. 3:23, 27.)

- 1. Become children of God by obeying the gospel. (Mk. 16:16.)
- 2. God becomes our Father and Christ is our elder brother.
- 3. God loves His children and wants them saved.
- 4. However, the disobedient will be chastized and cast off if necessary. (Heb. 12:8; Matt. 13.)
- 5. In Christ we are all brothers.

IV. The Apostle John Admonishes God's Children. (1 John.)

- 1. Children are not to sin. (1 John 2:1.)
- 2. Children are warned of last times. (1 John 2:18.)
- 3. Little children to abide in God. (1 John 2:28.)
- 4. Little children of God. (1 John 4:4.)
- 5. Children's sins forgiven. (1 John 2:12.)
- 6. Children know the Father. (1 John 2:13.)
- 7. Children not to be deceived. (1 John 3:7.)

8. Children to love in word and deed. (1 John 3:18.)
9. Children to keep from idols. (1 John 5:21.)

CONCLUSION:

1. Whose child are you?
 2. Won't you become a child of God?
 3. Won't you return to your Father?
 4. Children are to obey their Father.
-

Jealousy

Song of Solomon 8:6; Prov. 6:34; 2 Cor. 11:2

INTRODUCTION:

1. "A jealous spirit may be good or bad, according to its object and tendency."
2. "Jealousy implies intolerance of rivalry and apprehension of being displaced."
3. Synonyms for jealousy:
 - a. Covetousness.
 - b. Enviousness.
 - c. Suspiciousness.
4. Where there is jealousy there is usually doubt, lack of trust, fear, etc.
5. The sin lies in what jealousy leads to.

DISCUSSION:

I. Examples of Jealousy.

1. Cain and Able. (Gen. 4.)
2. Saul and David. (1 and 2 Sam.)
3. Herod and Christ. (Matt. 27:18.)

II. Modern Day Jealousy.

1. Jealousy has broken many homes (called the green-eyed monster).
2. Jealous of one another's attainments.
3. Jealous of other Christians.
4. Jealous of other congregations.
5. Jealous of preachers.
 - a. Time.
 - b. Money.
 - c. Trips.

III. Jealousy, Envy, etc., Condemned.

1. Listed with murder. (Rom. 1:29.)
2. Envy and strife linked. (1 Tim. 6:4.)

3. Malice and envy. (Tit. 3:3.)

4. Thou shalt not covet. (Rom. 7:7.)

IV. Paul's Godly Jealousy. (2 Cor. 11:2.)

1. Afraid that they would not be true to the Lord.

2. Wanted to present them as a virgin.

V. The Lord Is a Jealous Lord. (Ex. 20:5.)

1. Wants us to be His.

2. Wants us to wear His name.

3. Wants us to worship Him.

4. Wants us to spend our time to His glory.

CONCLUSION:

1. Should put our faith in the Lord and His people.

2. Should control self always.

Holding Up the Hands of Others

Ex. 17:9-14

INTRODUCTION:

1. When Moses held his hands up Israel would win but when they came down Israel would lose.

2. Aaron and Hur held his hands up so they could win.

3. It is necessary today to hold up the hands of others.

DISCUSSION:

I. The Righteous Are To Take a Stand. (1 Cor. 16:13; 1 Thess. 3:8.)

1. For God.

2. For the truth.

3. For the church.

4. For the faith.

5. For principles.

6. For conscience's sake.

II. They Need Help To Be Able To Stand. (Gal. 6:2.)

1. Need the help of God.

2. Need the fellowship of the righteous. (Acts 2:42.)

III. Ways We Can Hold Up the Hands of Others.

1. Pray for them. (2 Thess. 1:11.)

2. Love them. (1 Thess. 4:9.)

3. Visit with one another. (James 1:27.)

4. Worship together.

5. Let it be known that we are behind them.

6. Let the public know where we stand.

7. Encourage them.

8. Have faith in them.

9. Help one another.

IV. When We Do Not Help.

1. They have to bear the load alone.
2. There is defeat.

V. Some Who Need Their Hands Held Up.

1. Elders.
2. Preachers.
3. Missionaries.
4. The weak.
5. All church members.

VI. When We Hold Up the Hands of Others.

1. We are all strengthened.
2. We are able to do more.
3. The work grows.
4. The Lord is praised.

CONCLUSION:

1. Each one is dependent upon the other.
2. Help in your own way but help.
3. Remember, you'll need some of this along the way.

Solomon's Discoveries

Eccl. 1, 2

INTRODUCTION:

1. Solomon was a wise man.
2. He sought out what was good for man to do.
3. He was a human guinea pig.
4. Observe closely the discoveries that he made.
5. Young people should pay particular attention.

DISCUSSION:

I. Solomon Tried Pleasure for Happiness.

1. He was the king and could have anything he wanted.
2. He was rich in possessions.
3. He discovered that happiness was not there.

II. Solomon Looked for Happiness in Wealth.

1. He had money and more money.
2. He had servants and maidens.
3. He had timber, pools, property, etc.
4. This was but vanity.

III. Solomon Thought He Might Find Happiness in Wisdom.

1. The wisest man of his time.
2. Wiser than any other except Christ.
3. Found it to be folly.

IV. Solomon as a Builder.

1. He built the temple in Jerusalem.
2. He also built his palace, the queen's palace, etc.
3. But this did not satisfy him.

V. Solomon as a Lover.

1. He married a princess of Egypt.
2. He also had a great harem.
3. This did not help him, but led him away from God.

VI. Solomon as a Politician.

1. He was the king of Israel.
2. The Queen of Sheba visited him.
3. He displayed his power and riches.
4. None of this gave him peace.

CONCLUSION:

1. After all of these things, Solomon reached the conclusion that they were all vanity.
2. He then said that man's whole duty was to fear God and keep His commandments. (Eccl. 12:13.)

Your Enemies

Matt. 5:43, 44; Mk. 12:36

INTRODUCTION:

1. People have been heard to say that they do not have any enemies.
2. However, they are mistaken because all have enemies.
3. Even the Christian has them.

DISCUSSION:

I. Who Is an Enemy?

1. Anyone who may oppose you.
2. A foe, an opponent, one you cannot trust.
3. One who wants to do you harm.
4. Those who would deceive you, talk about you, etc.

II. How Enemies Are Made. (Phil. 3:18; Gal. 4:16.)

1. By doing them wrong.
2. By gossiping about them.
3. Through misunderstandings.
4. By standing for the truth.
5. By preaching the Word.

III. Where Are These Enemies?

1. In the home.
2. In the world.
3. In the religious world.

4. In politics.
5. In the church.

IV. Your Enemies. (Gal. 5:16, 17.)

1. Self. (Gal. 6:7, 8.)
2. Evil companions. (1 Cor. 15:33.)
3. Worldly pleasure. (Rom. 5:10; 1 John 2:15, 17.)
4. Money. (1 Tim. 6:10.)
5. Religious world. (Phil. 3:18; Rom. 16:17, 18.)
6. Communism. (Eph. 6:10-12.)
7. Sin. (Rom. 6:23.)
8. Death. (1 Cor. 15:25, 26.)
9. The Devil. (1 Pet. 5:8.)

V. Goal of Enemies.

1. To ruin us.
2. To deceive us.
3. To hurt us.
4. To destroy us.

VI. Attitude Toward Enemies.

1. To hate the devil and his means.
2. To love our enemies. (Matt. 5:44.)
3. Do good to them. (1 Pet. 3:9.)

VII. Possible for Us To Become Enemies.

1. By rejecting truth we reject Christ.
2. By failing to do our duty we hurt the church.
3. By going back to the world we become the enemies of God.
(James 4:4.)

CONCLUSION:

1. Be careful lest your enemy destroy you.
2. Fight back as a soldier of Christ.
3. Victory is promised the faithful.

Your Record

Job 16:19

INTRODUCTION:

1. A record is a testimony or a recording of a certain thing or things.
2. It is kept on file to be used in one's favor or against him.
3. All have a record of one kind or other.

DISCUSSION:

I. Different Types of Records.

1. Business records.
2. Entertainment records.

3. Criminal records.
4. Health records.
5. Educational records.
6. Divine records.

II. The Purpose of Records.

1. To show what man can do or cannot do.
2. To endorse one.
3. To show one's past.
4. For one's own personal benefit.

III. Facts About Man-Made Records.

1. They can be lost.
2. They can be misleading.
3. They do not always show all the facts.
4. They do not take into consideration that circumstances have changed.
5. In some cases they can be changed.
6. They do not always do justice.
7. They may be tampered with.

IV. God Is Keeping a Record Too.

1. He is keeping a record of every soul.
 - a. He knows one's thoughts. (Lk. 5:22.)
 - b. He knows one's works. (Rev. 3:15.)
 - c. He is all-seeing.
2. His record is right.
 - a. Not based on prejudice.
 - b. Not part of the truth, but all.
3. Will have to face it one day.
 - a. Will be judged by our works. (2 Cor. 5:10.)
 - b. Will be judged by the words of Christ. (John 12:48.)

V. Changing God's Record.

1. Cannot be changed:
 - a. By living a good moral life only.
 - b. By attending worship services occasionally.
 - c. By giving now and then.
2. Can be changed only:
 - a. By obeying the gospel. (Acts 22:16.)
 - b. By praying to God. (1 John 1:7.)
 - c. By living for God.

VI. Your Record. (Rev. 20:12-15; Phil. 4:3.)

1. As a sinner.
2. As an erring child of God.
3. As a faithful Christian.

CONCLUSION:

1. My friend, where do you stand?
2. Will your record be sufficient to get you by?
3. What kind of record are you making now?

The Second Mile

Matt. 5:41

INTRODUCTION:

1. Jesus taught that if one compels you to go one mile, you should go another mile also.
2. The Lord is teaching that one should be willing to give more than that which is normally expected of him.
3. The second mile is the real test of Christianity; it demands that one go all the way with the Lord.

DISCUSSION:

I. To Love Our Neighbors, but We Are To Go the Second Mile and Love Our Enemies.

1. To love our neighbors as ourselves. (Matt. 19:19.)
2. But this would be no more than what others might do.
3. The real test is to love our enemies. (Lk. 6:27.)

II. To Pray for Our Loved Ones, but We Are To Go the Second Mile and Pray for Them that Despitely Use Us.

1. It is only natural that we should pray for our friends and loved ones.
2. But Jesus says that we are to include those who do us evil. (Matt. 5:43, 44.)
3. As Christians we cannot hold a grudge.

III. To Pray for Our Forgiveness, but We Are To Go the Second Mile and Forgive Those Who Sin Against Us.

1. When we sin then we must repent and ask for forgiveness.
2. But in order for the Father to forgive us, we must forgive others. (Matt. 6:14, 15.)
3. If we refuse to forgive, we cannot obtain forgiveness.

IV. To Do Good to Those Who Do Good to Us, but We Are To Go the Second Mile and Do Good to Those Who Do Evil to Us.

1. Must do good to all men, regardless of who they are.
2. Jesus says that we are to do good to those who do evil against us. (Matt. 5:44.)
3. This will be as heaping fire upon their heads. (Rom. 12:20.)

V. To Visit the Sick, but We Are To Go the Second Mile and Help Them.

1. It is easy to visit people and to tell them that we hope they soon get well, etc.
2. But the Bible teaches that we should not only visit but that we should help them in their afflictions. (James 1:27.)

VI. To Bear Our Burdens, but We Are To Go the Second Mile and Bear the Burdens of Others.

1. To bear our own burdens. (Gal. 6:5.)
2. To bear the burdens of others as opportunity affords. (Gal. 6:2.)

VII. To Obey the Gospel, but We Are To Go the Second Mile and Live a Faithful Christian Life.

1. It is necessary to obey the gospel to be saved. (Mk. 16:15, 16.)
2. But we must also live the Christian life to be eternally saved. (James 1:12.)

VIII. To Not Only Please Self, but We Are To Do unto Others as We Would Have Them Do to Us.

1. Too often we are selfish, thinking only of self.
2. Must ever practice the golden rule. (Lk. 6:31.)

CONCLUSION:

1. What is the purpose of the "second mile"?
 - a. To go beyond the sinner, or good moral person, in duty.
 - b. To show the world the difference in the world and Christianity.
 - c. To express the real spirit of Christianity.
2. Are you going the "second mile"?
 - a. Christ is there.
 - b. It is where real Christianity begins.

How Poor Are You?

INTRODUCTION:

1. It is hard to define the word "poor."
 - a. One may be poor in one thing but rich in another.
 - b. There are degrees of being poor and rich.
2. The average person doesn't like to be considered poor.
3. The average person is not poor.

DISCUSSION:

I. How Poor Are You?

1. In relation to your everyday living.
2. In relation to church work.

II. Many Say that They Are Poor Only To Get Around Their Responsibilities.

1. Blame their job.
2. Blame high prices.
3. Blame widows, etc., for contribution being no more.

III. The Christian Is Rich.

1. All blessings are from God. (James 1:17.)
2. All spiritual blessings are in Christ. (Eph. 1:7.)
3. All have some material things.

IV. The Christian Is Taught To Give.

1. Give his soul.
2. Give his time.
3. Give of his means. (1 Cor. 16:2.)

V. The Blessedness of Giving.

1. It is a blessing just to be able to give.
2. It is more blessed to give than to receive. (Acts 20:35.)

VI. The Rewards of Giving.

1. To sow much is to reap much. (1 Cor. 6:8.)
2. To sow little is to reap little.

CONCLUSION:

1. How poor are you?
 - a. Physically.
 - b. Spiritually.
2. Regardless now, heaven will make us all rich.

The Sin of Gossip

James 1:26

INTRODUCTION:

1. One of the greater problems facing the church today is that of gossip.
2. The sin of gossip is very prevalent and yet it is laughed off as a joke.
3. The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint one and all with the sin of gossip and what to do about it.

DISCUSSION:

I. Definition of Gossip.

1. Dictionary definition: "A gossip's tattle; groundless rumor; also, chatter; slander, whispering," and so on.
2. A further definition:
 - a. That which is told behind another's back.
 - b. Just passing stories on regardless of where they came from.

- c. News that is gathered and broadcast over the community by phone, visitation, etc.
- d. Passing of opinions and ideas that may hurt someone.

II. A Gossiper May Be Described as a:

- 1. Talebearer. (Prov. 11:13; 18:8; 26:20, 22; Lev. 19:16.)
- 2. Busybody. (1 Tim. 5:13; 2 Thess. 3:11; 1 Pet. 4:15.)
- 3. Meddler. (Deut. 2:5; 2 Kings 14:10; Prov. 17:14; 20:3, 19, 24; 26:17.)
- 4. Rumorer. (2 Kings 19:7; Isa. 37:7.)
- 5. Whisperer. (Prov. 16:28; Rom. 1:29, 30; 2 Cor. 12:20.)
- 6. Mutterer. (Isa. 8:19; 59:3.)
- 7. Murmurer. (Ex. 15:24; Jude 16.)
- 8. Slanderer. (1 Tim. 3:11.)

III. The Cause of Gossip.

- 1. Many simply have an urge to tell all the news they hear.
- 2. Others are jealous of certain people and therefore talk about them.
- 3. Still others have a grudge against certain ones and consequently spread rumors about them.

IV. The Result of Gossip.

- 1. It renders a person worthless to the cause of Christ.
- 2. It ruins friendships that have existed for years.
- 3. It ruins many people's names and even their very lives.
- 4. It hurts the cause of Christ in more ways than one.

V. Replacing Gossip.

- 1. Practice the golden rule.
- 2. Have a kind word to say about all.
- 3. Talk to your friends and neighbors about spiritual matters.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Use the tongue to the glory of God.
- 2. Learn to control the tongue. (James 3.)

Some Things That Should Be Found in Every Home

Prov. 22:6

INTRODUCTION:

- 1. The home is one of the greatest institutions in all the world, and that cannot be denied.
- 2. The home is no worse than man and no better than man.
- 3. Certain things should be found within each home if it is going to be the kind of home that it should be.
- 4. Please consider the following things.

DISCUSSION:

I. Some Things that Should Be Found in Every Home.

1. Christian parents. (Eph. 6:1.)
2. A daily Bible study. (2 Tim. 2:15.)
3. Daily prayer. (Lk. 18:1.)
4. Offering thanks at every meal. (Phil. 4:6.)
5. Love for one another. (Col. 3:18-21.)
6. A deep faith in God. (Heb. 11:1-6.)
7. Respect for one another. (Eph. 6:1-4.)
8. Godly living. (Tit. 2:11, 12.)
9. Wholesome activities. (Rom. 12:9.)
10. Work or good works. (Phil. 2:12.)
11. Joy and happiness. (1 Thess. 5:16.)
12. Hope in this world and beyond. (Tit. 1:2.)

II. What Kind of Home Do You Have?

1. Do you have a Christian home?
2. Do you have a godly home?
3. What are you doing to make your home the kind of home that it should be?
4. Is your home an asset to the community?
5. Does your home help to strengthen the church?
6. Do you have the kind of home that God is pleased with?

IV. Improve Your Home.

1. Add these things that have been suggested.
2. Let God live with you and direct you along life's way.
3. Follow the divine plan.

CONCLUSION:

1. There are many broken homes as a result of leaving God out.
2. The Lord would have every home to be successful.
3. As an individual, work on the things that have been suggested.
4. The Lord will bless your labors, and moreover, He will bless a Christian home.

The Laws of Sowing and Reaping

Gal. 6:7, 8

INTRODUCTION:

1. All are familiar with the process of farming.
2. The Lord used His knowledge of farming to teach some great lessons. (Matt. 13.)
3. The purpose of this lesson is to present some truth in connection with the laws of sowing and reaping.

DISCUSSION:

I. There Is Harmony Between the Laws of Nature and Spirit Pertaining to Sowing and Reaping.

1. One must sow in order to reap.
2. As sure as one sows, he will reap.
3. The harvest will be according to that which is sown.
4. One always reaps more than he sows.
5. The harvest will tell the tale.

II. Sowing and Reaping in This Physical Life.

1. A drunkard has to pay for his sin.
2. The adulterer has to suffer.
3. An obedient child is blessed with a long life.
4. A Christian gets more from life.

III. Sowing and Reaping Spiritually Speaking.

1. Be not deceived because as one sows that will he also reap.
(There is very little market for the wild oats that many feel they must sow in their youth.)
2. In sowing to the flesh one will reap condemnation, but in sowing to the spirit one will be blessed eternally.
3. The Lord will be the final judge in these matters.
4. In this case one will reap for eternity.

CONCLUSION:

1. Take warning because the harvest is coming.
2. Now is the time to sow in such a way that the harvest will be worth saving.

Look at Yourself

2 Cor. 13:5

INTRODUCTION:

1. People are examined in order to find out if they are physically able to go to the Army or to handle a task that has been set before them.
2. The term "examine" means to try, to prove, to investigate, to look into, etc.
3. Many times, as a result of an examination, certain individuals are helped considerably.
4. When it comes to spiritual matters each of us needs to examine ourselves.
5. In order that you may more fully examine yourselves, consider these questions that are to follow.

DISCUSSION:

I. Have You Obeyed the Gospel of Christ? (Mk. 16:15, 16.)

1. You must believe and be baptized.
2. There is no other way to be saved.

II. Have You Been Added to the Lord's Church? (Acts 2:47.)

1. If you have, then you are a member of the body of Christ.
2. If you have not, then you are still lost.
3. It is not enough just to be a member of some church.

III. Are You a Christian? (1 Pet. 4:16.)

1. If you are, then you have the spirit of Christ.
2. If you are not, then you are not of God.
3. One must wear the name of Christ only, to be saved.

IV. Do You Worship God Each Lord's Day? (Acts 20:7.)

1. God is to be worshipped in spirit and in truth.
2. We cannot forsake the assemblies.

V. Do You Study Daily? (2 Tim. 2:15.)

1. Must study to grow.
2. We must search the Scriptures.

VI. Do You Pray Daily? (1 Thess. 5:17.)

1. Pray without ceasing.
2. Pray according to the will of God.
3. It takes prayer to make a faithful Christian.

VII. Do You Love Your Neighbor? (Matt. 22:39.)

1. Love our neighbor as our self.
2. Show our love.

VIII. Are You Continually Working for the Lord? (1 Cor. 15:58.)

1. Work out your salvation.
2. By works faith is made perfect.

IX. Are You Faithful to the Lord? (Rev. 2:10.)

1. If you are, then you will receive a crown of life.
2. If you are not, then you need to return to God.

CONCLUSION:

1. It is easy to look at the other fellow and see his needs, but after taking a look at yourself perhaps you will want to change some things.
2. If you lack in one or more of these things, you need to take care of it immediately.
3. Examine yourself to see if you are still in the faith.
4. Do this often and it will help you.

Remember Thy Creator

Eccl. 12:1

INTRODUCTION:

1. In order to get a job done, one must have a good motive.
2. For instance, in time of war slogans like this are used: "Remember Pearl Harbor."
 - a. One must remember what has already happened.
 - b. Because of such memories one is determined to do his part to bring about victory.
3. Thus when it comes to the spiritual realm, one must remember his creator.
4. In many cases to remember God is to obey Him.

DISCUSSION:

I. The Importance of Remembering.

1. All want to be remembered.
 - a. Loved ones.
 - b. Your friends.
 - c. Your employees.
2. The majority want to be remembered after death.
 - a. In family circles.
 - b. In relation to what they did.
 - c. In history books, etc.
3. Likewise the Lord wants to be remembered.
 - a. One must remember Him to obey Him.
 - b. Those who remember Him will be remembered.

II. Why Should We Remember Our Creator?

1. Because God created us.
2. To show our gratitude.
3. To please God.
4. To be blessed of God.

III. When Should We Remember Our Creator?

1. We should begin in our youth.
 - a. Lest we forget God.
 - b. Lest we get set in perverse ways.
 - c. Lest we waste so much time.
2. All through life.
3. When God blesses us.

IV. What Should We Remember?

1. That God is our creator. (Gen. 1:26, 27.)
2. That Christ was born of a virgin. (Matt. 1.)

3. The death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. (1 Cor. 15:1-4.)
4. The gospel of Christ. (Rom. 1:16.)
5. The church of Christ. (Matt. 16:18.)
6. The importance of the Christian life. (1 Cor. 15:58.)
7. That one must die. (Heb. 9:27.)
8. Judgment is coming. (2 Cor. 5:10.)

V. Remembering While There Is Time.

1. Remember the Lord today because tomorrow may be too late.
2. To remember the Lord now is to prepare for tomorrow.

CONCLUSION:

1. The most important thing is to obey the God of heaven.
2. The Lord has many things in store for those who will remember Him.

'Don't Preach if You Can Help It'

INTRODUCTION:

1. The saying, "Don't preach if you can help it," has been going around for a long time.
2. This advice is offered to young preachers and the idea is that unless they have a burning desire to preach then they should not.
3. Another way of putting it: if you can do anything else and have a clear conscience then you should do that.
4. To make the kind of preacher that is really needed, one must feel that he just has to preach.

DISCUSSION:

I. The Great Need of Preachers.

1. There is a continual demand for preachers.
 - a. Congregations need men to work with them.
 - b. Many are needed to go into mission areas.
2. Thousands are needed today in order to serve new congregations that are beginning.
3. There is a great need for preachers to begin new works since the world as a whole is without the gospel.

II. The Kind of Preachers Needed.

1. Those who are sold on the idea of preaching.
2. The ones who are converted to God, not to man.
3. Those who know the Bible and want to teach it.
4. Those who will stand for something.
5. Those who practice what they preach.

6. Those who are willing to sacrifice.
7. Those who love the souls of men.

III. What Preachers Should Preach.

1. The gospel.
2. The truth on all subjects.
3. Condemn sin and error.
4. Speak out against worldliness.

IV. Preachers Not Needed.

1. Those who would sponge on the church.
2. Those who will not preach the Word.
3. Those who will compromise.
4. Those who do not take preaching seriously.
5. Those who are not Christian.
6. Those who proclaim error.

V. The Preacher's Wife.

1. She should be as dedicated as her husband.
2. She should be determined to help, not hinder.
3. She should use good common sense.
4. She should keep her place.

VI. Blessings That Come to Preachers.

1. Doing God's will.
2. The satisfaction of leading souls to Christ.
3. Knowing that you have been able to help others.
4. Living a good life with good people.
5. Having the promise of an eternal reward.

CONCLUSION:

1. So if you can help it, don't preach.
2. If you must preach then do so, and be determined to do your best.
3. There'll be many trials and problems but you can make it.
4. May God bless you in the greatest work on earth.

Why I Don't Use Tobacco

INTRODUCTION:

1. I don't know why you smoke, or why you don't smoke, but I have some definite reasons why I don't.
2. I used to think it was smart, a sign of growing up, but I now know better.
3. I could have used tobacco, but I didn't, and I am thankful to God.

4. Ponder seriously what I am going to say, not with prejudice, but with a desire to do the right thing.

DISCUSSION:

I. I Don't Use Tobacco Because It Doesn't Do Anyone Any Good.

1. Now you might think that it does, but it doesn't.
2. Some think that it helps to calm their nerves, but actually it makes them more nervous.
3. It doesn't make anyone think any more of you.
4. There is no food value or any other good that can come from it.

II. I Don't Use Tobacco Because I Don't Want To Have Such a Bad Habit.

1. Those who do use it are the victims of it.
2. They are in slavery or bondage to nicotine.
3. It is such a habit that many feel that they cannot break it.

III. I Don't Use Tobacco Because It Is a Filthy Practice.

1. The odor on one's breath is enough to offend anyone.
2. The smoke that comes from the tobacco, especially after being exhaled, is enough to make anyone sick.
3. Dipping snuff is not only filthy to the one using it, but it is also ugly looking for those who have to be around those who dip.

IV. I Don't Use Tobacco Because It Sets a Bad Example.

1. I don't want my children to use it and so I don't use it.
2. I don't smoke because I don't want to influence others to do so.
3. I don't smoke because I want to influence people for good.

V. I Don't Use Tobacco Because It Is a Waste of Money.

1. Many people will put tobacco before food, clothing, their family, and even before the Lord.
2. I can use my money to a better advantage.

VI. I Don't Use Tobacco Because the Majority Advise Against It.

1. Yes, even those who smoke admit that it is foolish, wasteful, etc.
2. They will tell you that you are better off never to take up the habit.
3. They don't want their children to use it.

VII. I Don't Use Tobacco Because It Would Damage My Health.

1. Bro. George Benson says that Dr. Oschner, a world renowned doctor, states that if one begins to smoke, sooner or later it will cause cancer.

- a. He says too that if a doctor says otherwise, he either smokes or he is working for a tobacco company.
2. Anyone who knows the facts of the case concerning the use of tobacco in relation to cancer, knows that tobacco definitely causes cancer.
3. So if you use tobacco, get ready for a cancer one of these days.

VIII. I Don't Use Tobacco Because My Bible Tells Me that the Body Is the Temple Where the Spirit Dwells.

1. Therefore it is a sin to destroy it.
2. I must preserve it; otherwise I am sinning.

IX. I Don't Use Tobacco Because I Believe that It Is Wrong To Use It.

1. In light of the foregoing, I would have to come to this conclusion.
2. I believe it is wrong for others to use it, especially Christians.

CONCLUSION:

1. The ugliest sight possible is to see people smoking.
2. Especially is this true with young girls, and it suggests that they are nothing.
3. You probably don't agree with me, but it won't be the first time that someone has disagreed with me.
4. But before you go too far you had better ask yourself this question: If the Lord were present, would He smoke? Would He approve the smoking of others?

Courtship, Marriage, and Divorce

INTRODUCTION:

1. One of the great needs today is to teach the young people in such a way that they will be able to enter into courtship and marriage without making a terrible mistake.
2. If mistakes are made at this time, more than one will have to pay the consequences.
3. Courtship and marriage are proper and good, provided they are kept on a high plain.

DISCUSSION:

I. Courtship.

1. Who should court?
 - a. Boys and girls who are a proper age.

- b. Those who are mature enough to be able to go together.
- c. Those who have not been married before.
- 2. When should the courting take place?
 - a. At proper hours.
 - b. With the permission of the parents.
- 3. Where should the courting take place?
 - a. At the home of the parents.
 - b. Where groups are assembled.
 - c. In proper places for Christians.
- 4. What are some things that should be avoided?
 - a. Going to questionable places.
 - b. Petting.
 - c. Late hours.

II. Marriage.

- 1. Who should marry?
 - a. Members of the church.
 - b. Those who are in position to marry scripturally.
 - c. Those who have dated long enough to be sure of their decision.
 - d. Those who love one another and have the foundation for a happy marriage.
- 2. What is the purpose of marriage?
 - a. For the sake of procreation.
 - b. To keep from sinning.
- 3. How long should the marriage last?
 - a. Until one or the other has died.
 - b. For life, unless one is unfaithful.
- 4. How can the marriage be successful?
 - a. By loving one another.
 - b. By having a family.
 - c. By having a Christian home.

III. Divorce.

- 1. Why are there divorces?
 - a. Because of unfaithfulness.
 - b. Because there is the feeling that the marriage was a mistake.
- 2. What happens when there is a divorce?
 - a. Many times children have to suffer.
 - b. The parties marry again.
 - c. Adultery is committed.
 - d. There is unhappiness.

3. Is divorce ever right?
 - a. The Lord says that when a party is unfaithful, the innocent one is free.
 - b. The innocent party may remarry but the guilty is not free to marry.

CONCLUSION:

1. Ponder these matters carefully.
2. Make a sound marriage if it is right before God.
3. Train your children so that they will be prepared for marriage.

Living Fast

INTRODUCTION:

1. The idea of "living fast" is widespread among modern-day people.
2. Young people too have followed suit.
3. Living fast can be defined as being in a hurry, being reckless, taking chances, doing as one pleases, etc.
4. This indeed is a dangerous philosophy of life.

DISCUSSION:

I. Many Feel that They Must Follow the Crowd in Living Fast.

1. Drive fast.
 - a. The majority of kids have no business at all with a car.
 - b. Many of the ones who have them are reckless and dangerous on the road.
 - c. Much of their driving is for the thrill of it and for show-off purposes.
2. Go to wild parties.
 - a. Where there is dancing and drinking.
 - b. A state of hysteria exists.
3. Use tobacco.
 - a. Both young boys and girls smoke these days.
 - b. They think it looks smart but actually it is an ugly sight.
4. Bad language.
 - a. Many curse.
 - b. Others use filthy language.
 - c. The majority use slang or have their own language.
5. Filthy literature.
 - a. Too many "True Stories," etc., are to be found in the homes.
 - b. Other material is passed about secretly or even openly.

6. Drinking.
 - a. A surprising number of young people drink beer and even liquor.
 - b. Many are already on their way to being drunkards.
7. Disrespect for parents.
 - a. Many call their parents "the old man" and "the old woman."
 - b. The parents aren't obeyed and the children do as they please.
 - c. This attitude of disrespect is also expressed to others.

II. Those Who Are Living Fast.

1. They are the show-off type.
2. They come from broken homes.
3. They are the ignorant.
4. They come from homes where they have had no training.
5. They are the result of association with the wrong type of people.

III. Where This Fast Living Leads.

1. To the juvenile courts.
2. To tragedy.
3. To heartaches for parents.
4. To wasted lives.
5. To mean, ungodly living.

IV. The Need To Slow Up.

1. These young people, as well as older ones, need to slow up and live.
2. They need to realize that living fast only brings a quick end.
3. Such people need teaching, guidance, and love.
4. There needs to be more discipline and less privileges issued.
5. The teen-ager has been treated like a king, but he has not acted like one.
6. Teen-agers themselves need to stop and think, and then try to help others.

CONCLUSION:

1. Remember, to live it up means that one day you'll have to live it down.
2. Too, you can't expect to get something out of life if you put nothing into it.
3. Living fast is always dangerous, very dangerous.

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