

Sermon Outlines Just for You

By J. C. Choate

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INTRODUCTION

If you are a preacher and looking for some outlines, then this book is just what you need. They have been prepared on numerous subjects to meet the problems and situations of our time.

Any resemblance to other outlines that you may have seen is purely coincidental. Not one statement, or even word, has been taken intentionally from anyone's material to be used in this present form. Ideas and thoughts for the same, however, have come from many sources.

These outlines are for you to study, along with your Bible, and to preach for the good that they will do. Make them yours, rearrange them, and sincerely deliver them and I believe that you will be more than happy with the results. That is why I am sharing them with you.

J.C. Choate

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ATTITUDES TOWARD WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

1. Worship is part of life.
2. However, there are different attitudes expressed.
3. True worship depends on the right attitude.

DISCUSSION

A. Attitudes Toward Worship As Expressed In The Bible.

1. The Samaritan woman — *“Our fathers worshipped in this mountain”* (John 4:20).
 - a. Attitude of following tradition.
 - b. Jesus explained the true worship (John 4:23,24).
 - c. Everyone has a right to worship God in the right way.
2. The attitude of worshipping God as you please (Mark 7:7; Matthew 15:9).
 - a. A vain worship.
 - b. *“Teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”*
 - c. True worship is according to the Bible teaching.
3. Attitude of superstition (Acts 17:22-30).
 - a. Men of Athens worshipped in ignorance (Acts 17:23).
 - b. Paul condemned them for such worship (Acts 17:30).
4. Attitude of Fellowship (Acts 2:42).
 - a. The Lord’s people should worship in this manner.
 - b. Worship in understanding (1 Corinthians 14:14,15).

5. Attitude of coming together on the First Day of the week (Acts 20:7).

B. Present Day Attitudes Toward The Worship.

1. Hypocritical attitude toward the worship.
2. Social attitude.
3. Worldly attitude in worship (1 John 2:15-17).
4. Christian attitude in worship (John 4:24).

CONCLUSION:

1. What attitude do you express toward the Lord's worship?
 - a. Do you worship to please the Lord?
 - b. Do you worship God in vain or ignorance?
2. Should consider ourself.
3. Let's try to improve our attitude in worship.

WHY SOME ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION:

1. This is another way to consider the subject of worship.
2. There are various reasons why people attend worship.
3. We want to make a prayerful study of this lesson.
4. As we study, may we examine our reasons for worship.

DISCUSSION:

A. Some people attend worship to be seen of men.

1. The attitude of self-righteousness.
2. Christ condemns people who desire merely to be seen of

men (Matthew 6:1-12).

3. Worship is not for the purpose of showing off.

B. Some people attend worship because they don't have any where else to go.

1. Just going some where.
2. That kind of worship is not worth much.

C. Some people attend worship to gossip.

1. The wrong motive is involved.
2. Must control the tongue (James 3).
3. Worship is to be a place of reverence instead of a place of gossip.

D. Some people attend worship to see others.

1. Just a way to visit.
2. The Lord's worship is not just a visiting place.

E. Some people attend worship to follow their own doctrine (Matthew 15:9).

1. Man-made doctrine is sinful (Romans 16:17,18).
2. A vain worship (Mark 7:7).
3. Be doers of the word of God (James 1:22; Matthew 7:21).
4. To be followers of Christ (1 Peter 2:21).

F. Some people attend worship to truly worship God (John 4:24).

1. Meet to be built up in the faith.
2. Should meet to encourage others.
3. Worship to set an example (Matthew 5:16).
4. Meet to praise God (Colossians 3:17).

CONCLUSION:

1. Do you attend worship for a worldly reason or for a spiritual reason? Question yourself about this matter and be sure you are attending for the right purpose.

JESUS WEPT

John 11:35

INTRODUCTION:

All of us are familiar with the shortest verse in the Bible, "*Jesus wept.*" Varying translations say, "*Jesus burst into tears*" (Moffatt), "*Jesus shed tears*" (Goodspeed), "*And Jesus Himself was weeping*" (Basic English), "*Tears came into Jesus' eyes*" (Living Bible).

DISCUSSION:

A. Weeping is not necessarily a sign of weakness. To weep indicates a number of things:

1. That the person is capable of feeling deep emotions.
2. That he is suffering, sorrowing.
3. That he feels personal concern and sincere sympathy.

B. Jesus showed deep concern on other occasions:

1. Jesus wept over an individual (John 11:1-46).
2. He wept over a city (Matt. 23:37; Lk. 13:34; 19:41-48).
3. He wept for a nation (Lk. 7:31-35; John 1:11).
4. He was concerned for the world (Matt. 26:36-46; Lk. 23:46; 1 Pet 2:21; 3:14-18).

CONCLUSION: Jesus can be moved and deeply hurt by our behavior. Let us be sure that we are not guilty of crucifying Him afresh (Heb. 6:6).

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Acts 20:7; 2:42

INTRODUCTION:

1. Many partake of the Lord's Supper.
2. Some eat and drink in an unworthy manner.
3. Must have our heart in the worship.
4. Let us study, concerning the Lord's Supper.

DISCUSSION: MANNER OF OBSERVANCE

A. In Remembrance (1 Corinthians 11:24,25).

1. Christ's love (John 3:16).
2. Christ's death (Matthew 27).
3. Cost of our redemption (Ephesians 1:7).
4. Christ our example (1 Peter 2:21).

B. Must examine self (1 Corinthians 11:28).

1. If we are in Christ (Galatians 3:26).
2. If we are in the faith (Romans 10:17).
3. If we are guilty (1 Corinthians 11:27).
4. If we love Christ (John 14:23).

C. Must observe worthily (1 Corinthians 11:27,29).

1. To show faith (James 1:22).
2. To help others (Matthew 5:16).
3. To warn others.

D. Communion with Christ must be the heart's thought (1 Corinthians 10:15-17; 11:29).

1. For strength.
2. For meditation (Matthew 26:26-28).

**E. Must be obeyed in peace and fellowship
(1 Corinthians 10:17).**

1. In faithfulness (Acts 2:42).
2. In patience.

CONCLUSION:

1. Worship God in spirit and truth.
2. Worship in thought and according to command.
3. True worship strengthens an individual, and others around him.

FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

INTRODUCTION:

1. The first day of the week is of great importance (Acts 20:7).
2. The Bible speaks of the Lord's day (Revelation 1:10).
3. The Sabbath day was blotted out with the old law (Colossians 2:14).
4. We are to recognize the first day of the week as being the Lord's Day.

DISCUSSION: IMPORTANCE OF THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

- A. The Lord's resurrection occurred on the first day of the week (Mark 16:9).**
1. Christ arose victorious from the grave.
 2. He came forth from the grave, giving hope to all.

3. A new day to worship God.
- B. The church was established on the first day of the week (Acts 2).**
1. The day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4).
 2. Peter preached the first gospel sermon on this day of importance.
 3. The first people were added to the church on this day (Acts 2:47).
 4. From thenceforth the church was to spread.
 5. Thus, the Lord fulfilled his promise to build his church.
- C. The disciples met on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7).**
1. The Lord expects worship (John 4:23,24).
 2. Disciples were obeying the commandment of the Lord.
 3. They recognized the first day of the week.
 4. Hence, we have a Bible example where disciples met to worship on the first day of the week.
- D. The Lord meets with his disciples on the first day of the week (Matthew 18:20).**
1. If we obey the Lord's commandments, he will be with us.
 2. Meet to worship and serve the Lord.
- E. Worship God in spirit and in truth on the first day of the week (John 4:24).**
1. God desires true worshippers (John 4:23).
 2. Do all to glorify God (Colossians 3:17).
 3. Worship must be from the heart and according to the will of God (1 Corinthians 14:14,15; 1 John 5:14).

F. The Lord's supper is to be partaken of on the first day of the week (Acts 2:42; 20:7).

1. Should be in remembrance of Christ (Matthew 26:26-28).
2. Must have understanding in partaking of the Lord's supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-27).
3. To worship God (John 4:24).

CONCLUSION

1. The first day of the week is important for many reasons.
2. Above all, it is the Lord's day.

THREE KINDS OF WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION:

1. Many worship God.
2. Only one way acceptable (John 4:24).

DISCUSSION:

A. Spirit with Truth (John 4:24).

1. Sing (1 Corinthians 14:14,15).
2. Pray (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Matthew 6:9-13).
3. Study (2 Timothy 2:15).
4. Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7).
5. Giving (1 Corinthians 16:2).

B. Truth without the Spirit (1 Corinthians 14:14,15; John 17:17; 4:24).

1. Sing - calling words (Colossians 3:16).

2. Pray - lack of faith (Hebrews 11:6; 1 John 5:14).
3. Study - mind drifting (John 8:32).
4. Lord's Supper - evil works (Acts 2:42).
5. Giving - not cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7).

C. Spirit without the Truth (Matthew 15:9; John 17:17).

1. Sing - with instrumental music (Romans 10:17; Ephesians 5:19).
2. Pray - many teach that God hears sinners (John 9:31).
3. Study - creeds (2 Timothy 3:16,17).
4. Lord's Supper - annually, etc. (Acts 20:7).
5. Giving - suppers, cake walks, etc. (1 Corinthians 16:2).

CONCLUSION:

1. There is a day to worship God (Acts 20:7).
2. Worship in Spirit and Truth.
3. True worship is acceptable worship.

“NO CONDEMNATION”

Romans 8:1

INTRODUCTION:

1. This is a simple study of one verse of scripture.
2. It is our purpose to see what this passage does, and does not, teach.

DISCUSSION:

A. “There is therefore now no condemnation.”

1. This is the promise of God.

2. But many want to stop right here.
3. They teach that once saved always saved.
4. However, there is more.

B. *"To them which are in Christ Jesus."*

1. Hence, to be justified one must be in Christ.
2. But how can one enter Christ (Romans 6:3)?
3. Still it is not enough to be in the Lord.
4. There is yet more.

C. *"Who walk not after the flesh."*

1. One cannot walk after the world and be saved.
2. The works of the flesh will condemn one.
3. But it is not enough to merely refrain from these things.
4. There is one other thing to be taken into consideration.

D. *"But after the Spirit."*

1. To receive the promise of "no condemnation" one must be:
 - a. In Christ.
 - b. Abstaining from sinful practices.
 - c. And striving to be faithful to the Lord.
2. Therefore, it harmonizes with all other scripture.

WHAT I OWE

Romans 1:14

INTRODUCTION:

1. A paradox — I owe nothing, I am debtor to all

(Romans 13:8).

2. All men are dependent — not independent.
3. The wise recognize their need for a higher power.

DISCUSSION:

A. What I owe God (James 1:27):

1. God created me.
2. He gives me all I have.
3. I owe him my life.
4. I owe him thanks.
5. I must praise him always.

B. What I owe Christ:

1. He died in my stead.
2. He saved me.
3. I owe him my loyalty.

C. What I owe the church:

1. Christ shed his blood for it.
2. Thankful to be a member.
3. To work as a member.
4. To give to help it do its work.

D. What I owe my parents (Colossians 3:20):

1. I owe them respect.
2. Owe them obedience.

E. What I owe my family (1 Timothy 5:8):

1. Owe them food, clothing, and shelter.
2. Owe them spiritual training.
3. Owe them a Christian education.

F. What I owe my government (Romans 13):

1. To be a good citizen.
2. To keep the peace.

G. What I owe my fellowmen (James 2:8):

1. I owe them the gospel.
2. To love my neighbors.

H. What I owe self:

1. To be honest.
2. To save my soul.

CONCLUSION:

1. What do you owe?
2. There are some debts that can never be paid in full.

FREEDOM

John 8:32; Colossians 1:13,14; Psalms 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. But 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:

A. Four great freedoms:

1. Freedom of speech.
 - a. We live in a country where we can say what we feel like saying.
 - b. We can be for or against a certain party.
 - 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. In the next place, we may read that truth.
 - c. In many countries the press is controlled by the government and they print 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.
 - 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. But many cannot so worship.

B. 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.”

2. Catholicism.
 - a. The Pope seeks to rule over us.
 - b. This would mean that our freedom of religion would be gone.
3. Humanism, the religion of atheism, has permeated most official government rulings all over the world. Its intent is to destroy faith in God.
4. Islam, today’s fastest growing religion, allows no religious freedom when it gains control in a country.

C. 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.

D. What can we do to preserve our freedom?

1. Exercise the freedom we have.
2. Tell others about it.
3. Work, give, etc., to preserve it.
4. Fight the enemy through teaching the truth.
5. Make ourselves informed about the world and its needs.
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. I will 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.

THE DIVINE AND HUMAN SIDES OF THE CHURCH

Matthew 16:18

INTRODUCTION:

1. The church has both a divine and human side to it.
2. To understand will no doubt cause one to appreciate the church more.
3. It is to be understood that the divine is perfect but the human element is subject to mistakes.

DISCUSSION:

A. The divine side of the church.

1. The church was conceived in the mind of God (Ephesians 1:3-6).
2. The prophets of God foretold the establishment of the church (Isaiah 2:2,3; Daniel 2:44).
3. The Lord promised to build his church (Matthew 16:18).
4. The church came with power (Mark 9:1; Acts 2:1-4).
5. The church was purchased with the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28).
6. Christ is the head of the church (Colossians 1:18).
7. Christ is Saviour of the body (Ephesians 5:23).
8. The church is governed by divine laws (James 1:25).

B. The human side of the church.

1. The church is composed of human beings (Acts 2:47).
2. Local congregations are made up of people who have obeyed the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).
3. Each congregation is to have elders (Philippians 1:1).
4. Each congregation is to also have deacons (1 Timothy 3:8-12).

5. The preacher is nothing more than an earthen vessel.

CONCLUSION:

1. There are some who are ever trying to change the divine while there are others who expect the human element to be perfect.
2. The divine side cannot be improved whereas the human side is to strive toward perfection.
3. Due to the human element we can understand why certain members fall away or why false doctrines sometime creep in.
4. Realize now that there is a divine side, but there is also a human side when it comes to the church.

LAYING ASIDE THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

Text: "For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do" (Mark 7:8).

LAI D ASIDE

1. Baptism
(Mark 16:16).
2. Immersion
(Colossians 2:12).
3. Faithfulness
(Revelation 2:10).
4. The word (James 1:22)

PUT IN ITS PLACE

1. Faith only.
2. Sprinkling and pouring.
3. Can't fall.
4. Creeds and manuals.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 5. The gospel
(Romans 1:16). | 5. Theories and opinions. |
| 6. True worship
(John 4:24). | 6. Worship as you please. |
| 7. Obedience
(Matthew 7:21). | 7. Grace only. |
| 8. The way
(John 14:6). | 8. Many ways. |
| 9. Preach the word
(2 Timothy 4:2). | 9. Another gospel. |
| 10. The name of Christ
(1 Peter 4:16). | 10. Sectarian names. |
| 11. The sure foundation
(1 Corinthians 3:11). | 11. Money, sand, etc. |
| 12. Godliness
(Titus 2:11,12). | 12. Worldliness.. |
| 13. Bible study
(2 Timothy 2:15). | 13. Novels, newspapers, etc. |
| 14. Prayer
(1 Thessalonians 5:17). | 14. TV, job, etc. |
| 15. Give
(1 Corinthians 16:2). | 15. Excuses. |
| 16. Help orphans
(James 1:27). | 16. Hobbies. |
| 17. God
(Matthew 6:33). | 17. New car, etc. |
| 18. Christ
(Luke 9:23). | 18. Wife, job, etc. |

Yes, many have laid aside the important things of life for worldly and selfish reasons. Would you dare tamper with God's will to promote your own interests? Think it over — in view of time and eternity.

WORK OF THE CHURCH

Ephesians 3:21

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Lord established the church that it might do his work.
2. The church represents the Lord and his will.
3. Every member must do his share of the work.

DISCUSSION: THE WORK OF THE CHURCH IS THREE-FOLD:

A. The church is to worship.

1. To meet each first day of the week (Acts 20:7).
2. To worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).
3. To remain true to the book (Revelation 22:18,19).

B. The church is to preach the gospel.

1. Christ has commanded us to "go" (Matthew 28:18-20).
2. Must preach the gospel of Christ.
3. Only the truth will save (John 8:32).

C. The church is to care for those in need.

1. The Lord would have us help the poor.
2. To practice pure religion we are to visit the fatherless and widows (James 1:27).

CONCLUSION:

1. This work cannot be done through any other institution or organization.
2. In order for the Lord to be glorified all must be done through the church or as members of the Lord's church.
3. This is the greatest work in all the world.

4. If the church fails, the Lord has no one else to whom he can turn.

LOVE FOR THE TRUTH

INTRODUCTION:

1. The truth is the most precious thing in all the world.
 - a. Spoken of as a light (Psalms 119:105).
 - b. The Lord's word is truth (John 17:17).
 - c. The truth makes you free (John 8:32).
2. What does the truth mean to you?

DISCUSSION:

A. All should love the truth of God.

1. To love the truth is but to love God.
2. To love the truth is to love all the things that God stands for.
3. To love the truth is to *obey* the truth.

B. Not all people love the truth.

1. People of the world often do not love the truth.
 - a. Have love for the pleasures that exist in the world.
 - b. Selfish, and thinking only of today (James 4:13,14).
2. Many religious people do not love the truth.
 - a. Honest and sincere, but mistaken.
 - b. Full of prejudice and hatred for the truth if it contradicts what they have already accepted.
 - c. Following the doctrines and commandments of men (Matthew 15:9).
3. Erring Christians do not love the truth.

- a. Have lost their first love (Revelation 3).
 - b. Their love has waxed cold (Matthew 24:12).
 - c. Have forsaken the Lord.
4. Some who claim to be faithful Christians do not love the truth.
- a. Neglect their duties (Hebrews 2:3).
 - b. Fail to attend the worship (Hebrews 10:25).
 - c. Begrudge giving of their money (2 Corinthians 9).
 - d. Do not love their brethren in Christ.
 - e. Fails to take the truth to others (Mark 16:15,16).
 - f. Critical of those who are doing the will of God, and those who preach the truth.
 - g. Gossip continually (James 3).

C. People who love the truth will express it.

- 1. Such people will obey it (Matthew 7:21; James 1:22; Revelation 22:14).
- 2. Will uphold the truth to others (2 Timothy 3:16,17).
- 3. Will lead others to desire to obey the truth.

D. The reward of those who love the truth.

- 1. Saved from their sins.
- 2. Happy in this life as a Christian.
- 3. Will lead many others to Christ.
- 4. An eternal reward (Revelation 22:14).

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Yes, if a person loves the truth, he will obey it.
 - a. The sinner will become a Christian (Mark 16:16).
 - b. The erring Christian will return to God.
 - c. The Christian will strive to live better every day (1 Corinthians 15:58).
- 2. Now to this question: Do you love the truth?

“SUCH AS I HAVE GIVE I THEE”

Acts 3:6

INTRODUCTION:

1. People do not always have material things to give.
2. There are some things that are more important — more important than the material and physical things of life.
3. Such as we have, we should be willing to give.

DISCUSSION:

A. The case of the lame man (Acts 3:1-11):

1. Peter and John went up into the temple.
 - a. At the hour of prayer.
 - b. Being the ninth hour.
2. They met a lame man at the Beautiful gate — the gate of the temple.
 - a. Lame from his mother's womb.
 - b. Brought daily to the gate of the temple.
 - c. Asked alms of them that entered the temple.
3. The lame man saw Peter and John.
 - a. They were about to go into the temple.
 - b. The man asked alms of them.
4. Peter and John noticed the man.
 - a. They asked the man to look on them.
 - b. The man looked expecting to receive something.
5. The lame man was healed.
 - a. Peter said, “*Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee.*”
 - b. “*In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.*”
 - c. Peter lifted him up and immediately he received strength.

- d. The man then walked, leaped, and praised God.
- 6. Witnesses of the miracle:
 - a. The people saw him walking and praising God.
 - b. They knew who he was and they were filled with wonder and amazement.
 - c. Then all turned their attention to Peter and John, thus giving them another opportunity of preaching the Gospel.

B. Things that cannot be given:

- 1. Many times we do not have material things to give.
 - a. There are still poor people.
 - b. Gospel preachers, etc., are usually poor, materially speaking.
- 2. Do not have the power to help anyone miraculously.
- 3. You can't give something when you do not have it to give.

C. Some are not willing to give under any circumstance.

- 1. There are many selfish people.
 - a. Desirous of keeping what is theirs.
 - b. Not interested in others.
- 2. Some people will not give materially, spiritually, or in any manner.

D. Such as we have we should be willing to give.

- 1. Be a good neighbor.
- 2. Should give as we have been prospered (1 Corinthians 16:2).
- 3. We have the truth and we should take it to others (2 Timothy 4:2).
- 4. The Lord would have us to give our very beings to him and the spreading of his kingdom (Matthew 6:33).

CONCLUSION:

1. Sinners should give their lives to the Lord.
2. Erring Christians should return to the fold and rededicate themselves to God and his will.
3. Christians should be the greatest givers in the world.
 - a. Give all to the Lord.
 - b. Help their fellowmen as much as possible.
4. All should be willing to give since the Lord has given so much to us.
5. Not only give, but be sacrificial in giving.
6. Let's say with the Apostle Peter, "*Such as I have give I thee.*"

“IF I HAD THE POWER”

INTRODUCTION:

1. Sometimes we wish for power to do one thing or other.
2. Usually that which we cannot do, we want to do.
3. Then again we illustrate a point by saying if we had a certain power, like many say they have, we would use it.
4. But the big question is this: Do we use the power that we have?

DISCUSSION:

A. What we sometimes say:

1. “If I had the power to perform miracles I would heal everyone.”
2. “If I had the power to raise people from the dead I would clean up the cemeteries.”

3. "If I had the power to convert people through miraculous deeds I would convert the world."

B. Different kinds of power:

1. Miraculous power.
 - a. Lasted for only a while (1 Corinthians 13).
 - b. We now have the perfect law of liberty (James 1:25).
 - c. The word furnishes us unto all good works (2 Timothy 3:16,17).
2. Ordinary power.
 - a. Power of example (Matthew 5:16).
 - b. Power of speech (2 Timothy 4:2).

C. We should use the power that we have:

1. We have the power to teach people the truth (Matthew 28:18-20).
2. We have the power to convert honest souls (Mark 16:15,16).
3. We have the power to influence people for good.
4. We have the power to be a good neighbor.
5. We have the power to love our enemies (Matthew 5:43).
6. We have the power to go to the Heavenly Father in prayer (Luke 18:1-8).
7. We have the power to study our Bibles daily (2 Timothy 2:15).
8. We have the power to assemble with the saints to worship God (Hebrews 10:25).
9. We have the power to be honest.
10. We have the power to live the Christian life (1 Peter 4:16).
11. We have the power to remain faithful to God (Revelation 2:10).

12. We have the power to oppose evil.

D. All have power:

1. The sinner has the power to obey the gospel (Mark 16:16).
2. The erring Christian has the power to return to God (James 5:16).
3. The Christian has the power to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness (Matthew 6:33).

E. Power and the uses of it:

1. Some use their power to destroy.
2. Others use their power for evil purposes.
3. Then there are those who use their power to deceive people.
4. Many use their power to glorify their own names.
5. Others use their power for good.

CONCLUSION:

1. Since we have power let us use it, but at the same time, to the glory of God.
2. If we will only use the power that has been given to us we can do many great things.
3. Think of the power that is in your possession — do not waste it, but use it.

CHRISTIANITY— YESTERDAY AND TODAY

INTRODUCTION:

1. Were they saved one way in New Testament days but in our day saved another way?
2. Did they wear one name in Bible times but in our time it is all right to wear another name?
3. Did they practice one thing back then but now it is possible to practice something else?
4. Let's find out about these matters, as well as about others.

DISCUSSION:

A. In New Testament days:

1. The truth was preached (Romans 10).
2. There was but one Saviour (Matthew 1:21).
3. There was but one gospel.
4. Repentance and baptism were conditions of salvation (Acts 2:38).
5. There was but one church (Matthew 16:18).
6. Those saved were added to the Lord's church (Acts 2:47).
7. Children of God were known as Christians only (1 Peter 4:16).
8. The people of God worshipped in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).
9. The Lord's people abounded daily in his work (1 Corinthians 15:58).
10. There was, and is, but one way to heaven (John 14:6).

C. Consider these facts:

1. We have the same truth.
2. We have the same Saviour.
3. We have the same gospel.
4. We are to obey the same commands.
5. We are to be members of the same church.
6. We are to wear the same name.
7. We are to worship the same way.
8. We are to do the same work.
9. We are to travel in the same direction.
10. We are to all go to the same place.

CONCLUSION:

1. The only difference between the people of God in New Testament times and in these last days is that we live in a different time.
2. Remember how God dealt with them and that he is dealing with us in basically the same manner.
3. God would have all people do the same thing and work for the same place.
4. By following the Lord's plan we may all be one, and at the same time, accomplish much more.
5. Put the Lord first and all will be well with you regardless of what others may do.

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” (Exodus 32:6).
 - b. John the Baptist lost his head on account of a dance (Mark 6:21-24).
2. To see the evils of the dance just look around about you.
- a. Night clubs, high schools, and colleges taking the lead.
 - b. Dancing, drinking, gambling, cursing, etc. are the results.

DISCUSSION:

A. 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, some to the point of taking part.
 - a. Parents send their children to a dance 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 those who can't see any harm in it—such people have closed their eyes.
7. Friends, dancing is the devil's game.

B. 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 Ballroom 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 downcast 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).

C. A doctor's diagnosis of the modern dance:

1. Dr. Frank Richardson, in speaking to the Homopathic 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 of times 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).

D. Reasons why dancing is sinful:

1. It is questionable (Romans 14:23).
2. It is immoral (1 Corinthians 15:33).

3. It is worldly (1 John 2:15).
4. It is lasciviousness (Galatians 5:19).
5. It is revelry (Galatians 5:21).
6. It is destructive (Romans 6:23).
7. It is a stumbling block (Romans 14:13).

E. Some questions for you:

1. Would you want to invite your Christian friends to a dance?
2. Do you believe the Lord is with you on the dance floor?
3. Could you recommend the dance as being morally and spiritually uplifting?
4. Do you think that God is glorified in such?
5. Could you talk to your dancing partner about religion?
6. Would you want to be found in such a place at the Lord's second coming?

F. 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 just 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.

QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK OF ELDERS

1 Timothy 3; Acts 20:28

INTRODUCTION:

1. There is a recognized need for leadership.
 - a. In business world.
 - b. In the church.
2. A lack of leadership among the Lord's people.
 - a. Some are unaware of their talent.
 - b. Others have just not been active enough.
3. Need more who will take a lead.
4. Don't give up in this field.
5. Train yourself for future leadership.

DISCUSSION:

A. Qualifications of elders (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1):

1. Positive qualities:
 - a. Blameless — no grounds for criticism.
 - b. Vigilant — alive and active in the work of the church.
 - c. Sober — with a sound mind and good reasoning.
 - d. Of good behavior — one who can conduct himself well at all times, can be Christian.
 - e. Given to hospitality — able to entertain.
 - f. Patient — longsuffering, meek, and gentle.
 - g. Good report of them without — has a good reputation outside the church, well thought of.
 - h. Temperate — self control, not given to bad habits.
 - i. Just — one who is fair and is able to make unprejudiced decisions.
 - j. Holy — pure and godly in heart.

2. **Negative qualities:**
 - a. Not given to wine — any intoxicating drink, social drink, etc.
 - b. Not a striker — a quarrelsome person, one who strikes back at those who disagree with him.
 - c. Not greedy of filthy lucre — no lover of money.
 - d. Not a brawler — not contentious, a trouble maker, loving strife and dissension.
 - e. Not covetous — not to be covetous of material things, honor, etc.
 - f. Not soon angry — angry tempers split churches.
 - g. Not self willed, not one who must decide every trivial issue his way, not radical, fault-finder, chronic objector.
3. **Special qualifications:**
 - a. Husband of one wife — a married man, not a polygamist or a divorced man.
 - b. Children that believe — members of the church, faithful.
 - c. One who rules well his own house — has respect of his own family, eliminates one who is dominated by his wife.
 - d. Not a novice — a new convert.
 - e. Apt to teach — be able to exhort and convince the gainsayers.

B. Work of elders (Acts 20:28):

1. Words to describe these men tell the nature of their work:
 - a. Elder — older man, one who is experienced in matters of life.
 - b. Pastor or shepherd — to lead or see after the flock.
 - c. Bishop — overseer.

- d. Presbyter — an elder.
2. To feed, rule, and lead the flock.
3. Their work calls for helpers.
 - a. Treasurer.
 - b. Janitor.
 - c. Song Leader.
 - d. Evangelist.
4. Deacons are to serve under elders.
5. Elders are to feed the flock, discipline when necessary, help the needy, etc.
6. The elders' power does not extend beyond the local congregation.

CONCLUSION:

1. Many other lessons could be added to this one.
2. Such subjects as appointing elders, the congregation's duty to the elders, etc., need to be discussed.
3. Think prayerfully about these things.

MAKING A DECISION FOR CHRIST

INTRODUCTION:

1. Much is said about making a decision.
2. Billy Graham invites his hearers to a decision for the Lord.
3. But what does it mean to make a decision? What does it include?
4. Let us look into these matters to see what all is involved.

DISCUSSION:

A. To decide for Christ is to:

1. Make up one's mind.
2. Determine to obey the Lord.
3. Follow through.

B. What prompts one to make such a decision?

1. To realize one's condition (Romans 3:23).
2. To have the facts concerning the Lord's death, etc. (Romans 5:8).
3. To want to be saved.

C. Some who have made such a decision:

1. The Pentecostians (Acts 2).
2. The eunuch (Acts 8).
3. Saul (Acts 9).
4. Cornelius (Acts 10).
5. The jailer (Acts 16:25-40).

D. Those who should make such a decision:

1. The sinner.
2. The erring Christian.
3. The Christian.

E. The frequency of a decision:

1. Every time you read God's word you'll have to decide.
2. On hearing a sermon you'll have to make a choice.
3. When you think about the Lord you'll have to make a decision.

F. Some have decided against the Lord.

1. Felix (Acts 24).
2. King Agrippa (Acts 26).

G. Make your decision for the Lord.

1. Obey the gospel.
2. Which will it be, the narrow way or the broad road?
3. No man can serve two masters.

ADVERTISING JESUS

John 1:43-46

INTRODUCTION:

1. It has been found that advertising pays.
 - a. Through billboards.
 - b. Newspapers and magazines.
 - c. Radio and television.
2. It likewise will pay in the realm of religion.
 - a. It did in the first century and it will now.
 - b. All that is needed is only more of it.

DISCUSSION:

A. Some ways of advertising Jesus in the First Century:

- 1 Through the written word (2 Timothy 3:16,17).
2. By living the life of a Christian.
3. By speaking of what they had witnessed (Acts 8:1-12).
4. By preaching the word (Mark 16:15).
5. By example (1 Corinthians 4:16).

B. Some ways of advertising Jesus in the Twentieth Century:

1. Through the written word (2 Timothy 3:16,17).
2. Through newspapers, magazines, etc.

3. Through radio, television, etc.
4. Through preaching the gospel in worship, meetings, etc. (Mark 16:15).
5. Through helping people in need, etc. (James 1:27).
6. Through setting a good example (Matthew 5:14-16).
7. Through supporting the work of the church (Acts 20).

C. Results of advertising:

1. During the first century the gospel was taken to the whole world.
2. It can be done in the twentieth century (especially with modern conveniences) if we'll go to work.
3. Thousands on top of thousands of souls can be saved.
4. The world as a whole will be much better off.

CONCLUSION:

1. What are you doing to tell the world about Jesus?
2. You know it is up to each member to do his share of the work.
3. This is the only way we will ever get the job done.

WHAT SHALL A MAN GIVE IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS SOUL?

Matthew 16:26; Mark 8:36,37

INTRODUCTION:

1. Most of our emphasis is on the physical body.
2. But the soul within the body is what we need to be concerned about.

DISCUSSION:

A. How has one been profited if he gains the world but loses his soul?

1. Physical things to pass but the soul will live on (Matthew 10:28).
2. The value of the world is nothing in comparison to the soul.
3. The Lord has made it possible for the soul to be saved.

B. Did you know that you have a soul?

1. Many do not know.
2. What are you doing about it?

C. What shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (Matthew 16:26).

1. What other translations say:
 - a. *“For a man’s soul, what price can be high enough?”*
 - b. *“What will a man offer as equivalent for his soul?”*
 - c. *“What could a man offer to buy back his soul once he had lost it?”*
2. What would you take for your soul?
 - a. Money?
 - b. Worldly goods?
 - c. Pleasure?
 - d. Man-made religion?
3. As a lost soul, what are you willing to give in exchange for it?
 - a. Obedience (Hebrews 5:8,9).
 - b. Giving up sin.
 - c. Putting God first.
 - d. Time and work.
4. If you are lost eternally, there is no way to gain your

soul back.

D. Many are careless with their souls.

1. Plenty of time.
2. Go with the world.
3. Accept teachings of men.
4. Play religion.
5. Try to live good moral lives.

E. Some who lost their souls:

1. The rich man (Luke 12:16-31).
2. Judas (Acts 1).
3. The rich fool (Luke 12:16-21).
4. Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5).

F. The soul:

1. God created it.
2. In the image of God.
3. A spirit.
4. Lives in each human being.
5. Will live forever.
6. Can be lost.
7. Can be saved.

CONCLUSION:

1. What value do you place on your soul?
2. Jesus died for you that you might be saved.

WHY I CANNOT OBSERVE CHRISTMAS

INTRODUCTION:

1. The "Christian world" has chosen December 25 to celebrate the birthday of Christ.
2. Although Christians do not believe that this should be done, yet more and more are coming to accept this practice.
3. I personally cannot go along with this.
 - a. Not that I want to be fanatical.
 - b. Neither do I want to be gullible and do as others do.

DISCUSSION:

A. I cannot observe Christmas.

1. Christ is not in it.
2. No where taught in the Bible.
3. Like other religious festivals.
4. This scripture condemns it (Galatians 4:10).
5. We set a bad example for those around us.
6. We mislead our children.
7. We are helping to keep the traditions of men alive if we take part in it.
8. We waste our time and money on things that are but mockery to God.
9. It is very confusing to our foreign brethren and they wonder why we would condemn other religious festivals and replace them with one of our own.

B. Why "Christians" want to celebrate Christmas:

1. It is easy to follow traditions when one is brought up to do so.

2. It is the popular thing to do when so many do it.
3. It is a lot of fun for the parents and children.
4. Many really believe that it represents the birthday of Christ.

C. How can the Christian handle Christmas?

1. He should abstain from it.
2. He should not be fanatical in opposing it.
3. He should go on with his normal way of life during this period.
4. He can enjoy a day off from his work if it is a national holiday.
5. There is nothing wrong in giving at any time but gifts should not be given specifically because it is Christmas.

D. Things to think about:

1. When we do not celebrate Christmas that does not mean that we are denying Christ.
2. What would we think of those new Christians in foreign countries if they continued to go along with Hindu, Muslim, and other religious festivals?
3. To the Christian who has seen other religious festivals and to see how similar the Christmas festival is to them, it becomes very clear the position that we should take.
4. All religious festivals become very distasteful and repulsive to the genuine Christian.

CONCLUSION:

1. Regardless of what you do, I cannot accept Christmas in any sense of the word.
2. Because of my rejection of it, I feel a freedom that I had never known before.
3. I ask that you sincerely consider these matters:

- a. I would hope that you will stop and think about why you put up a Christmas tree and involve your family in the Christmas tradition.
- b. What are you saying to those who observe your practice?
4. How God must detest all of these heathen traditions!
5. Christianity is most beautiful and meaningful when we leave it as God gave it.

SOME THINGS THAT TOOK PLACE ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Acts 2

INTRODUCTION:

1. The day of Pentecost was a great day and many great things took place on that day.
2. The purpose of this lesson is to consider some of the things that took place on that day.

DISCUSSION:

A. The Power came.

1. It had been prophesied that the kingdom would come with power (Joel 2:28,29).
2. Christ promised to send the Comforter to the apostles (John 16:13).
 - a. He was to guide them into all truth.
 - b. He was to give them power to perform miracles, etc.
3. The apostles were baptized with the Spirit (Acts 2:1-4).

B. The apostles began to speak in tongues.

1. They spoke in different tongues (Acts 2:4).
2. Everyone was able to hear the truth in his own language (Acts 2:8).

C. The gospel was preached for the first time in fact.

1. Previously the gospel had been preached in promise, etc. (Matthew 3).
2. Now Peter preached the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (Acts 2:32).
3. Peter also presented the commands of the gospel (Acts 2:38).

D. The Lord's church was established.

1. Approximately three thousand people obeyed the gospel of Christ (Acts 2:41).

E. The saved were added to the church.

1. One cannot join the Lord's church.
2. The Lord decides whether one is to be added to His church (Acts 2:47).
3. One must obey the Lord's will in order to become a member of the church of Christ, and then must be faithful to Him in order to go to heaven (Matthew 7:21-23).

F. Early Christians followed the apostles' doctrine.

1. They worshipped God according to His will (Acts 2:42).
2. Because of their unusual circumstances, they divided their goods as every man had need (Acts 2:44).
3. They offered all the praise unto the God of heaven (Acts 2:47).

G. The various prophecies were fulfilled.

1. Joel's prophecy came to pass (Acts 2:16-21).
2. The Lord's promise was fulfilled (Mark 9:1).

CONCLUSION:

1. The things that took place on that day have been remembered down to the present time.
2. The church that was established on that day has not been destroyed, and moreover, will never be destroyed.
3. The day of Pentecost will be remembered forever because the Lord's hand was in it.
4. Because of the things that happened on that day man will ever be blessed.

FOUR FORMS OF LOVE

INTRODUCTION:

1. "Love" is so loosely used:
 - a. I love my cat, dog, bird.
 - b. I love my car.
 - c. I love ice cream, good food, and fruit.
 - d. I love my city, my state, my country.
 - e. I love to fly, to travel, and to go home.
 - f. I love school, my job, etc.
2. "Love" is used to cover everything.
3. Most people do not know what love is all about; they are ignorant of its meaning.
4. The trouble is that in the English language one word is used to cover all forms of love.

6. In the Greek there are at least four forms of love, three of which are mentioned in the New Testament, and the other is suggested or described.
7. When we understand each form, and the role it plays, many of our misunderstandings concerning love will be cleared up.

DISCUSSION:

A. Agape love:

1. Mentioned 224 times in the New Testament and Matthew 7:12 gives a good definition of it.
2. This is the highest form of love.
3. It means to seek the other's welfare, to put God first, to obey him.
4. The kind of love that is commanded by God.
5. It does not necessarily involve affectionate feelings.
6. This is the kind of love God had for the world (John 3:16; Romans 5:8).
7. The kind of love Christ had for the world and the church (John 15:13; Ephesians. 5:25).
8. Love works no ill to his neighbor (Romans 13:10).
9. Love is the greatest (1 Corinthians 13:13).
10. We are to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44).
11. We are to love God (Matthew 22:37).
12. We are to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matt. 22:39).
13. Husbands are to love their wives (Ephesians 5:25).
14. The older women are to teach the young women to love their husbands, to love their children (Titus 2:4).
15. This kind of love is a new commandment (John 13:34.35).
16. Agape love chastens (Hebrews 12:6).
17. Love does say NO at times.

B. Phileo love:

1. Delight to be in the presence of the other person, warmth, friendship love.
2. Feelings for another, affection.
3. May be expressed for God, for friend, for marriage companion.
 - a. Jesus was said to have loved a disciple (John 13:23).
4. Cannot *command* phileo love;— it is *encouraged*.
5. Comes and goes at varying intensity.
6. No sin when we do not have this love for others or even in marriage at all times — be patient, it will come, or will return under proper conditions; ideal for it to be there.
7. The absence of phileo love from a marriage at various times is no reason to give up and seek a divorce.
8. Some have guilty because they have developed feelings for others — but if there is no lust, no temptation to sin, then those phileo feelings are not wrong.
 - a. Must remember that Jesus was tempted in all points as man is tempted, yet without sin.
 - b. Must not intentionally place ourselves in situations where we may be tempted since it might lead to our downfall.
9. Phileo love should be accompanied by agape love.

C. Storge love:

1. Natural bond in families.
2. Can exist without other loves.
3. Can be killed, but it is generally there.
4. Different from other forms of love.
5. More ideal with Agape love.
6. Can encourage it.
 - a. By eating together.

- b. Sharing experiences.
- c. Showing love by our actions.
 - (1) No record that Jesus ever told anyone, "I love you."
 - (2) Jesus communicated his love in a non-oral way.

D. Erotic love:

1. Not used in the New Testament but is described.
 - a. Two becoming one flesh.
 - b. The bed undefiled in marriage.
2. Sensual love, sexual love.
3. Nothing dirty or wrong with it when it is within scriptural marriage.
 - a. We tend to go to extremes — erotic love is either hushed up or else it is blabbed to everyone.
 - b. Should keep it where the Lord put it and emphasize it as the Bible teaches it.
 - c. If it is according to the teaching of God it is beautiful; the Lord and his church are compared to marriage between a man and a woman.
4. Can be possible without other forms of love.
5. Without Agape love, however, erotic love can be meaningless.
6. Agape love is the key to successful married love.

CONCLUSION:

1. Many people don't know how to express agape love and don't have other forms of love.
2. But because they crave love, they may put themselves in distress to get attention — they may be sickly all the time or accident-prone.
 - a. In time, this attitude wipes out all other kinds of love.
 - b. The danger of constantly placing oneself in seeming distress would be that perhaps no one will respond

- to real needs when they arise.
- c. When a person becomes overloaded with burdens we are to help him (Galatians 6:2).
 3. What the world needs is love — the right kind.
 4. What kind of love do you have? What kind of love do you give? What kind of love are you looking for?

WHY I DO NOT CELEBRATE EASTER

INTRODUCTION:

1. Most of the so-called Christian world observes Easter each year.
2. This is the time it is said that the Lord arose from the grave.
3. In other words, it would be classified as his death, burial, and resurrection anniversary.
4. Can we as Christians celebrate this anniversary?
5. I personally cannot and I hope you feel the same.

DISCUSSION:

A. Reasons why I cannot celebrate Easter:

1. It is not taught in the Bible as such.
2. We have no authority for celebrating it.
3. I cannot go along with all of the customs and traditions that have grown out of this annual celebration.
4. I do not want to lead my family to accept such a practice or set a bad example for those around me.
5. I cannot encourage my foreign brethren to give up various festivals if I am going to have mine.

6. I prefer to follow the Lord and remember him as he has instructed.

B. What does Easter Sunday mean to me?

1. It is just another day of worship.
2. I am sad to see the religious world follow the traditions of men.
3. I am saddened even more when I see my brethren go along with these traditions.

C. What can we do about Easter?

1. We can stay away from it.
2. We can teach the truth on it as we have the opportunity.
3. We can do this without being fanatical but we must take a stand against it.
4. We dare not go along with the world on this.

CONCLUSION:

1. It is so wonderful to be able to follow God's way and to know that you are free from all of the traditions of men.
2. I therefore cannot celebrate Easter.
3. Where do you stand on this matter?
4. Remember, if we stand alone, but have the truth, we are still right.

ARE YOU A TRUE CHRISTIAN?

1 Peter 4:11-19

INTRODUCTION:

1. It is possible for you to be a true Christian.
2. However, you cannot be a true Christian by following certain things:
 - a. Such as your feelings.
 - b. Walking after the world.
3. To be a true Christian you must follow God's plan.

DISCUSSION:

A. Are you a true Christian?

1. Do you believe in God (Hebrews 11:6)?
2. Do you believe in Christ (John 14:1)?
3. Do you believe the word of God (2 Timothy 3:16,17)?
4. Have you been truly converted (Acts 2:38)?
5. Do you attend the various assemblies (Hebrews 10:25)?
6. Are you abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)?
7. Do you visit the sick (James 1:27)?
8. Do you have the spirit of Christ (Philippians 2:8)?
9. Are you a faithful Christian (Revelation 2:10)?

B. Investigate your case.

1. Examine your faith and practice (1 Corinthians 11:28).
2. Examine your self (2 Corinthians 13:5).
3. Be able to prove all things (1 Thessalonians 5:21).
4. Try the spirits (1 John 4:1).
5. Must walk separate from the world (James 1:21).
6. It's possible to be deceived (James 1:26).

C. One can be a true Christian.

1. By obeying the doctrine of Christ.
2. By wearing the name of Christ (1 Peter 4:16).
3. By accepting the New Testament as the only creed (James 1:25).
4. By doing all in the name of the Lord (Colossians 3:17).

D. You may help preserve New Testament Christianity.

1. By speaking as the oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11).
2. By rejecting human names and creeds (Romans 16:17,18).
3. By not binding your opinions (1 Corinthians 1:10).
4. By acknowledging the sufficiency of the law of Christ (Revelation 22:18,19).
5. By honoring the author of the New Testament (Hebrews 9:15-17).

CONCLUSION:

1. You should know now whether or not you are a Christian.
2. Remember that it is one thing to be of the world and another thing to be of Christ.
 - a. Are you of the world?
 - b. Do you think you are a Christian?
 - c. Are you an erring Christian?
 - d. Are you a true Christian?
3. Do not try to deceive any one but be honest with yourself, and above all, be honest with God.
4. If you are not a Christian, then become one.
5. If you are a Christian, then remain faithful to the end.
6. The Lord will bless the Christian with eternal life.

THE LAWS OF SOWING AND REAPING

Galatians 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 (Matthew 13).
3. The purpose of this lesson is to present some truths in connection with the laws of sowing and reaping.

DISCUSSION:

A. 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 surely as one sows, he will reap.
3. The harvest will be according to that which is sown.
4. Almost without fail, one reaps more than he sows.
5. The harvest will tell the tale.

B. Sowing and reaping in this physical life.

1. A drunkard will pay for his sins.
2. An adulterer will suffer in many ways.
3. An obedient child is blessed with a long life.
4. The life of a Christian is fulfilling and rewarding.

C. Spiritual sowing and reaping.

1. Be not deceived; whatever a person sows spiritually, he will surely reap.
2. If one sows to the flesh he will reap condemnation, but those who sow to the spirit will be blessed eternally.
3. The Lord will be the final judge in these matters.
4. There will be no chance to turn back and make changes after death and the judgment.

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 a blessing to reap.

CAN ONE BE A CHRISTIAN TODAY?

INTRODUCTION:

1. There are those who refuse to obey the gospel on the grounds that it is impossible to be a Christian today.
2. Others who are Christians use this as an excuse for not being faithful to the Lord.
3. Could it be that it is impossible to be a faithful Christian today?

DISCUSSION:

A. Excuses offered:

1. "The world is too full of sin."
2. "Christianity is out of date."
3. "Can't enjoy life as a Christian."
4. "Too many are opposed to Christianity."
5. "The majority are hypocrites."

B. Why do people make these excuses?

1. Because many are but looking for an excuse.
2. Others are not determined as they ought to be.
3. Some misunderstand Christianity.
4. Some are not truly converted.

C. People have always been able to obey God.

1. Enoch walked with God (Genesis 5:21-25).
2. Noah obeyed God in spite of an evil world (Genesis 6:22).
3. Abraham left his country to do God's will (Genesis 12:1).
4. Moses led the people of Israel out of bondage (Exodus 14).
5. Daniel refuses to bow to man (Daniel 6).
6. Paul became a Christian under trying circumstances.
7. Cornelius became a Christian (Acts 10).

D. One can be a Christian today.

1. Can be a Christian only.
2. It is possible for one to live the Christian life, or else the Lord would not have commanded it.

E. Essentials to be a Christian:

1. One must *want* to be a Christian.
2. He must work at it (Philippians 2:12).
3. He must put God first in all things (Matthew 6:33).
4. He must love righteousness (Heb. 1:9; Jas. 1:20).
5. He must be able to discipline himself (1 Cor. 9:27).
6. He must want to be saved (Acts 2:40).

F. But one cannot be a faithful Christian and:

1. Love the world (James 4:4).
2. Run with the wrong crowd (1 Cor. 15:33).
3. Drink (1 Cor. 6:10).
4. Gamble.
5. Dress immodestly (1 Peter 3:3-5).
6. Take the Lord's name in vain (Exodus 20:7).

G. Rewards of the Christian life:

1. Freedom from sin (1 John 1:7).
2. Christian fellowship.
3. All spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3).
4. Privilege of prayer (1 John 5:14,15).
5. Contentment of life (Philippians 4:11).

CONCLUSION:

1. The greatest life is the Christian life.
2. You can be a Christian.

BIBLE CONVERSION

We speak so many times of conversion. We talk about a certain individual being converted. Or we talk about a congregation being converted on a certain point. But what is conversion? Bible conversion?

DEFINITION:

The word "convert" means simply to turn from, to turn back, to start afresh, to make a change.

WHAT IT IS NOT:

1. Conversion is not merely a formality.
2. It is not simply believing that Christ is the Son of God.
3. It is not a matter of joining a church.
4. It is not just professing religion.
5. It is not just a good moral life.

WHAT IT IS:

1. Conversion is based upon the hearing of God's word (Romans 10:17).
2. It is followed by a deep abiding faith (Hebrews 11:6; John 14:1).
3. Then comes genuine repentance (Luke 13:3).
4. Next there is the confession (Romans 10:10).
5. Finally, the individual is baptized (Mark 16:16).

THIS IS BIBLE CONVERSION — ACTS 3:19.

TRUE CONVERSION WILL BRING FORTH FRUIT.

1. The converted will attend the assemblies (Hebrews 10:25).
2. The converted will give as they have prospered (1 Corinthians 16:2).
3. The converted will put God first in all they say and do (Matthew 6:33).
4. The converted will be concerned about the lost (Mark 16:15).
5. The converted will be faithful to the Lord (Revelation 2:10).

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE CHURCH?

1. Too many have been exposed to the truth but have never really made up their minds for the Lord.
2. Too many have never been converted, thus they are the ones who are holding the church back.
 - a. They won't attend the services.
 - b. They won't give of their means.
 - c. They live with the world.
 - d. They are the gossipers.
 - e. They are the critics.
 - f. They are the lost.

Brethren and friends, we need to make up our minds that we are going to obey God and then stick by it. Be converted and live the Christian life.

WORLDLINESS IN THE CHURCH

**Romans 12:2; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15;
Galatians 5:19; Titus 2:11,12**

INTRODUCTION:

A. Some in the church are worldly.

1. Think worldly.
2. Talk worldly.
 - a. Tell dirty jokes.
 - b. Curse God.
3. Hear worldly.
 - a. Give ear to gossip.
 - b. Give ear to evil tales.
4. See worldly.
 - a. Delight in evil pictures.
 - b. Always see the bad.
5. Walk worldly.
6. Smell worldly.
 - a. Smell of beer.
 - b. Smell of tobacco.
7. Look worldly.
 - a. Bathing suits.
 - b. Shorts.
8. Act worldly.

- a. Dancing.
- b. Mixed bathing.
- c. Gambling.
- d. Movies.
- e. Drinking.
- f. Fornication.
- g. Adultery.
- h. Cursing.
- i. Christmas.

B. What can we do about it?

1. We must obey God ourselves.
2. We must condemn sin.
3. We must let the world know what the church stands for.
4. We must set a good example.

CONCLUSION:

1. Where do you stand?
2. Are you a Christian?

“WHAT SHALL I PREACH?”

INTRODUCTION:

1. There is a great responsibility in preaching.
2. Must make a decision as to what to preach.
3. My salvation and the salvation of others depend on it.
4. What shall I preach?

DISCUSSION:

A. The preacher is important.

1. Sent forth (Mark 16:15).
2. How shall they hear without a preacher?
(Romans 10:14)?

B. The message is important.

1. A means of declaring God's will.
2. God's plan to save them that believe
(1 Corinthians 1:21).

C. What shall I preach?

1. The world answers:
 - a. Preach on the life of some great person.
 - b. Preach on your own life.
 - c. Preach on the death of some loved one.
 - d. Preach on the world and its problems.
 - e. Preach on moral problems.
 - f. Preach on love.
 - g. Preach Christ but leave everyone else alone.
2. The Bible answer:
 - a. Preach Christ and His kingdom (Acts 8: 5,12)
 - b. Preach the word (2 Timothy 4:1,2; John 8:32).
 - c. Preach the gospel (Mark 16:15).

D. Other facts about the message:

1. It must be free of error.
2. It cannot be perverted.
3. There is but one gospel (Galatians 1:7-9).
4. All must obey it (2 Thessalonians 1:7,8).

CONCLUSION:

1. The word of God is sufficient (2 Timothy 3:16,17).

2. Must deal honestly with it or we'll have to answer to God.
3. I must preach the truth — there is not another choice.

GOD'S MISSIONARY PROGRAM

Acts 1:8

INTRODUCTION:

1. This is a study of the missionary program of the church of the first century.
2. The definition of a missionary program:
 - a. A program of work that has a specific mission.
 - b. The mission is the preaching the gospel.
 - c. There are two kinds of mission work:
 - (1) Local.
 - (2) Foreign.
3. The importance of the church:
 - a. The manifold wisdom of God is made known through the church (Ephesians 3:10).
 - b. The Lord works only through the church in preaching the gospel to others (Ephesians 2:10; Mark 16:15,16).
4. First we'll consider the missionary program of the first century and then the missionary program for the twentieth century.

DISCUSSION:

- A. God's missionary program for the first century (Acts 1:8).**
 1. The gospel was to be preached first in Jerusalem.

- a. The Lord promised the apostles that repentance and remission of sins should be preached first in Jerusalem (Luke 24:47). The first gospel sermon in fact was preached in Jerusalem (Acts 2).
- b. The sermon at the temple (Acts 3).
- c. Stephen and his preaching (Acts 6,7).
2. The gospel was next preached in Judaea.
 - a. This took place in Jerusalem (Acts 2,3).
 - b. This also included the small villages, etc., around Jerusalem.
 - c. After the gospel was preached in Jerusalem it spread throughout Judaea.
3. Then the gospel was preached in Samaria.
 - a. Philip took the gospel to Samaria (Acts 9).
 - b. He also preached the gospel to the eunuch (Acts 8).
4. And finally, the gospel was taken to the uttermost parts of the earth.
 - a. After Paul's conversion he did much to bring this about (Acts 9).
 - b. The gospel was preached to both the Jews and the Gentiles (Acts 10:34,35).
 - c. The gospel was preached in Corinth, Ephesus, Antioch, Rome, Berea, etc. (1 Corinthians 1; Ephesians 1; Acts 11; Romans 1; Acts 17).
 - d. The gospel was preached throughout Asia, Europe, and over the earth (Acts 2; Romans 1).
 - e. Even in Paul's day the truth had been made known throughout the world (Colossians 1:5,6).

B. God's missionary program for the twentieth century (Mark 16:15,16).

1. Christians are still responsible to take the gospel to the world (Mark 16:15).

- a. To every nation (Matthew 28:19,20).
- b. To every creature (Mark 16:15,16).
2. As in the first century, the gospel should be preached locally and then spread everywhere.
3. If all would but endeavor to carry out the Lord's plan of doing mission work it would not be long until the world would know the truth.
4. Each member can do his part of the work.
 - a. By living the Christian life.
 - b. By preaching the gospel to others.
 - c. By cooperating with the local congregation.
 - d. By giving to such a cause.
5. Each congregation can do its part of the work.
 - a. By keeping each member faithful.
 - b. By preaching the gospel at home.
 - c. By reaching out to other fields.
 - d. By cooperating with other congregations in such work.
 - e. By giving as much as possible to these programs.
6. The church as a whole body will have impact.
 - a. By remaining true to the will of God.
 - b. By continually concentrating on evangelism.
 - c. By involving new Christians in teaching others.

CONCLUSION:

1. It is the Lord's will that all should hear the truth and thereby be saved (1 Timothy 2:4).
2. Let's consider the first century plan for mission work and keep in mind that the Lord would have us preach the gospel to the whole world even in this age.
3. We should not rest until we have accomplished His will.

WHAT IS TRUTH?

John 18:37,38

INTRODUCTION:

1. Pilate asked this question of Jesus.
2. Many others have asked it — some sincerely and some otherwise.
3. It concerns you and me.

DISCUSSION:

A. Truth defined:

1. Honesty.
2. State of being true.
3. Body of real events or facts.
4. Correctness, agreement with fact or reality.
5. A standard of authority.
6. Truth never contradicts itself.
7. Oneness.

B. What is truth?

1. Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ (John 1:17).
2. Christ is truth (John 14:6).
3. *"Thy word is truth"* (John 17:17).
4. Truth of the gospel (Galatians 2:5).
5. The word of truth (Ephesians 1:13).
6. The truth, the word of God (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

C. Facts about the truth:

1. Will not divide but unites.
2. Always the same, does not change.
3. Guides and blesses.
4. Saves and makes free (John 8:32).

5. It limits.
6. It is clear and plain (Isaiah 35:8).

D. Truth that is corrupted ceases to be the truth.

1. When added to or subtracted from (Revelation 22:18,19).
2. When substituted (Galatians 1:7-9).
3. When falsely interpreted (2 Peter 1:20).

E. Not all people love the truth.

1. Those in sin (John 3:18-21).
2. Some received not the love of the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10).
3. Those who believed not the truth will be condemned (2 Thessalonians 2:12).
4. Some are never able to come to the truth (2 Timothy 3:7).
5. Many have turned their ears from the truth (2 Timothy 4:4).

F. The Bible reveals the truth concerning:

1. Sin and its consequences (Romans 6:23).
2. The gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16).
3. The one church of the Bible (Ephesians 4:3-6).
4. How to worship God (John 4:24; Acts 20:7).
5. The Christian life (Revelation 2:10).
6. How to be faithful.
7. All things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3).

CONCLUSION:

1. You can know the truth and obey it.
2. Do you want the truth?

WHO IS A CHRISTIAN?

Acts 11:26

INTRODUCTION:

1. The name Christian is scriptural inasmuch as the New Testament speaks of the disciples of Christ as being Christians (Acts 11:26).
2. Paul almost persuaded King Agrippa to become a Christian (Acts 26:28).
3. Peter later says that one should glorify the Lord through the name Christian (1 Peter 4:16).
4. The Bible further teaches that salvation is in this name (Acts 4:12).
5. The name under consideration was foretold in Old Testament prophecy (Isaiah 62:2).

DISCUSSION:

A. Some who are not Christians:

1. Those who lean on morality only (Acts 10).
2. Those who are entangled in the jungle of denominationalism (Mark 7:7).
3. Those who walk with the world (1 Peter 2:21).

B. A Christian is:

1. A person who has been converted (Acts 3:19).
2. A person who is humble (Matthew 18:4).
3. A person who is reverent (Hebrews 12:28,29).
4. A person who is innocent (Philippians 2:14,15).
5. A person who is sanctified (1 Corinthians 1:1,2).
6. A person who is thankful (1 Thessalonians 5:17,18).
7. A person who has influence (Matthew 5:13,16).
8. A person who is active (Hebrews 4:9,11).

9. A person who is a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17).

CONCLUSION:

1. Now, are you a Christian?
2. Am I a Christian?
3. Let us think seriously about these matters.
4. If we are not a Christian, then let us become one today.

SINS OF OMISSION AND COMMISSION

INTRODUCTION:

1. All sins may be categorized as sins of *omission* or the sins of *commission*.
2. Omission simply means to “omit” or “fail to do” and commission means to “commit”, to do a thing.
3. In other words, this sermon deals with sins of neglect and the sins of an intentional nature.
4. Be it remembered that both types of sin are destructive.

DISCUSSION:

A. Sins of omission (Hebrews 2:3; James 4:17):

1. Many fail to pray daily (Luke 18:1).
2. Others neglect their Bible study (John 5:39).
3. Multitudes forsake the assemblies (Hebrews 10:25).
4. There are so many who do not use their talents (Matthew 25:14-30).
5. Still others fail to preach the word (2 Timothy 4:2).
6. Many do not bridle their tongues (James 3:2-8).

- a. To every nation (Matthew 28:19,20).
- b. To every creature (Mark 16:15,16).
2. As in the first century, the gospel should be preached locally and then spread everywhere.
3. If all would but endeavor to carry out the Lord's plan of doing mission work it would not be long until the world would know the truth.
4. Each member can do his part of the work.
 - a. By living the Christian life.
 - b. By preaching the gospel to others.
 - c. By cooperating with the local congregation.
 - d. By giving to such a cause.
5. Each congregation can do its part of the work.
 - a. By keeping each member faithful.
 - b. By preaching the gospel at home.
 - c. By reaching out to other fields.
 - d. By cooperating with other congregations in such work.
 - e. By giving as much as possible to these programs.
6. The church as a whole body will have impact.
 - a. By remaining true to the will of God.
 - b. By continually concentrating on evangelism.
 - c. By involving new Christians in teaching others.

CONCLUSION:

1. It is the Lord's will that all should hear the truth and thereby be saved (1 Timothy 2:4).
2. Let's consider the first century plan for mission work and keep in mind that the Lord would have us preach the gospel to the whole world even in this age.
3. We should not rest until we have accomplished His will.

2. Must grow or die.

- a. Desire sincere milk of the word (1 Peter 2:2).
- b. Grow in grace and knowledge (2 Peter 3:18).
- c. Lesson on talents (Matthew 25).
- d. Vine and branches (John 15).
- e. Do all in the Lord's name (Colossians 3:17).
- f. Be strong (1 Corinthians 16:13).

3. Work for every member.

- a. Every member is important.
- b. Every member can do something that the others can't.
- c. Every member must do something to please God.
- d. To work in unity.
- e. Victory will come in the end.

4. What we can do:

- a. Attend all the services (Hebrews 10:25).
- b. Wait on communion table.
- c. Help serve the Lord's Supper.
- d. Help prepare the table.
- e. Lead singing.
- f. Lead prayer.
- g. Help clean building.
- h. Provide way to services.
- i. Serve as usher.
- j. Greet visitors.
- k. Do personal work.
- l. Have a Bible study in the home.
- m. Visit members.

5. Results:

- a. Happy souls.
- b. Working congregation.

- c. Souls saved.
- d. Vicinity evangelized.
- e. A home in heaven.

HOME

INTRODUCTION:

- 1. Home defined: one's abode or residence, fixed dwelling place of a man and his family. A happy congenial place of abode. One's own country.
- 2. A place where one has ties, familiar people, surroundings, a place where you can relax and be comfortable.

DISCUSSION:

A. Birth home (Titus 2:5).

- 1. A place where there are family members.
- 2. A place of training (Ephesians 6:1,2).
- 3. Make the most of it while others are caring for your needs.

B. Marriage home.

- 1. Marry only a Christian (2 Corinthians 6:14).
- 2. Love your wife (Ephesians 5:25).
- 3. Train your children (Ephesians 6:4).
- 4. Make it a wonderful place.

C. A Country home.

- 1. Your citizenship is there.

2. You have certain responsibilities.
3. You have benefits.
4. A place to belong.

D. A spiritual home (1 Timothy 3:15).

1. In Christ, in the church.
2. A member of the local congregation.
3. Have brothers and sisters.
4. A place to work.
5. Settle down and stay put to be more effective.

E. A heavenly home.

1. In comparison to eternity, we are here for a short time.
2. We are pilgrims and strangers (1 Peter 2:11).
3. We must not adjust too well because we cannot stay here forever.
4. We must therefore prepare for that heavenly abode (John 14:1-3).
5. Heaven is the home of the souls.

CONCLUSION:

1. What kind of home do you have?
2. What does home mean to you?
3. What home are you most interested in?

ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER

INTRODUCTION:

1. Encouragement: to hearten, to help, to inspire, promote.

- urge, cheer.
2. This is such a simple thing but so badly needed by all.
 3. We are not thieves, murderers, immoral, bad people, but we are human; we err, sin, make mistakes, and we need help and encouragement.

DISCUSSION:

A. Need to be encouraged to obey God.

1. May be close to obedience.
2. Know the truth, realize our need for God, but just need that little encouragement to take that last step.

B. Need to be encouraged to attend the assemblies.

1. May have allowed some small thing to hinder us.
2. Need to be personally reminded of the importance of attending.

C. Need to be encouraged to return to God and His church.

1. Need to be shown our error.
2. Need to know that our brethren are concerned about us.

D. Need to be encouraged to be a better son or daughter, husband or wife, worker, and citizen.

E. Need to encourage young men to preach the gospel.

F. Need to encourage the members to give as they have prospered.

G. We are encouraged in many ways:

1. A kind word.
2. Being a friend.
3. A smile.

4. A visit.
5. Love.
6. Help.
7. A good example.
8. Attending the assemblies.
9. A good work.
10. Bible study.
11. Prayer.

CONCLUSION:

1. Since we know the value of encouragement we should put forth every effort to encourage others.
2. It may not be much, but it can save a soul or be the very thing that is needed to help one overcome a problem.
3. Although it may be considered a small thing it can be a big thing since it may make all the difference.

NEW TESTAMENT PRAYER

Luke 18:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:17

INTRODUCTION:

1. Prayer is a means of pouring out, supplication, petition, entreating, a medium of speaking to God.
2. The Bible teaches that God speaks to us through his word and we are able to talk to him through prayer.
3. The New Testament emphasizes the importance of prayer.
 - a. Christ prayed often (John 17).

- b. Apostles were prayerful men (1 Thessalonians 1:2).
- c. The early church continued in prayer (Acts 2:42).
- 4. The Lord taught his disciples how to pray (Matthew 6:1-13).

DISCUSSION:

A. Why do many people pray?

- 1. For the forgiveness of sins.
- 2. To “get religion.”
- 3. To “get the Holy Ghost.”
- 4. Because they need help.
- 5. It is merely a habit.

B. Why do many fail to pray?

- 1. Because of lack of teaching.
- 2. Because of lack of faith.
- 3. As a result of pure neglect.

C. Who has the right to pray?

- 1. Not the alien sinner (John 9:31).
- 2. Only the Christian (1 John 5:14).

D. Why pray?

- 1. God commands it (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- 2. To ask forgiveness of sins (James 5:16).
- 3. To overcome temptations (Matthew 6:13).
- 4. To offer thanks unto God (Philippians 4:6).
- 5. For the purpose of making requests (Philippians 4:6).

E. When should one pray?

- 1. On the Lord’s day (Acts 2:42).
- 2. At the meal table (Matthew 6:11).
- 3. Without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

F. How should one pray?

1. In all humility (Luke 18:10-14).
2. In secrecy (Matthew 6:6).
3. In public worship and other gatherings (Acts 20:36).

G. For whom should we pray?

1. For self (Matthew 6:11).
2. For others (James 5:16).

H. What will prayer do for one?

1. Draw one near to God.
2. Make a better Christian out of one.
3. Keep him faithful to the Lord.

CONCLUSION:

1. Prayer has great power.
2. But remember, prayer will not:
 - a. Take the place of obedience.
 - b. Serve as a substitute for the work we can do.
 - c. Bring about a miracle.
 - d. Do anything alone.
3. Prayer can do great things when it is motivated by faith and accompanied by the works of faith and love that we can do in God's overall plan — try it.

THE CHRISTIAN'S JOY

1 Thessalonians 5:16

INTRODUCTION:

1. The subject is synonymous with rejoicing, thanksgiving, happiness, gladness, etc.

2. On turning to the Bible you will find that this theme is a preeminent one throughout.
3. The Christian life is the happiest life of all.

DISCUSSION:

A. Misunderstanding of joy:

1. The world thinks that happiness is to be found in the things of this world (1 John 2:15-17).
2. The religious world is little better off inasmuch as they promote theories that are unscriptural (Acts 26:9).
 - a. "It's better felt than told."
 - b. "All is well, as long as you are happy."
3. Many, on the other hand, have the idea that the Christian life is altogether a sad and uninteresting life.

B. Reasons for the Christian's joy:

1. He realizes that God loved him to the extent of making a way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13).
2. He is happy because his sins have been washed away (Acts 8:39).
3. He understands that he now has the hope of eternal life (John 14:1-3).
4. He is now a member of the church for which Christ died (Colossians 1:13).
5. He has now the privilege of wearing the name of Christ (1 Peter 4:16).
6. He can now meet with the Lord's people for the purpose of worshipping God in spirit and in truth (Acts 2:38-47).
 - a. To pray.
 - b. To sing.
 - c. To study.
 - d. To commune.
 - e. To give.

7. He has the opportunity of suffering for the Lord (Colossians 1:24).
8. He has the wonderful experience of seeing others won to Christ (Luke 15:4-10).
9. He has access to all spiritual blessings in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).
10. He has God's word for guidance in life (Psalm 119:105).

C. A part of the Christian life:

1. To love the Lord is to be happy (John 14:28).
2. Rejoice with those who rejoice (Romans 12:15).
3. The fruit of the Spirit is joy (Galatians 5:22).

CONCLUSION:

1. Friend, if you want to be happy then become a Christian.
2. If you aren't happy as a Christian, something must be wrong.
3. Show the world what it means to be a Christian, with the hope of life eternal.

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

Matthew 26:26-28

INTRODUCTION:

1. Blood has always played a great part in man's religious life.
 - a. God commanded Cain and Abel to offer a bloody sacrifice (Genesis 4).
 - b. Life is in the blood (Genesis 9:4).

2. Without blood there is no remission of sins (Hebrews 9:22).

DISCUSSION:

A. Under the Old Covenant:

1. The blood was counted holy and sacred (Deut. 12:23).
2. It was used to purify, sanctify, and make holy other things (Leviticus 17:11).
3. God commanded his people to offer sacrifices to cleanse sin (Leviticus 4,5).
4. But the blood of animals could not permanently do away with sin (Hebrews 10:4).
5. Therefore, it was necessary for Christ to come and shed his blood (Eph. 1:7; Rom. 3:24-26; 5:6-11; Heb. 8-10).

B. Under the New Covenant:

1. Christ, the perfect sacrifice.
 - a. Sent of God (John 3:16).
 - b. Died for man (Romans 5:8).
2. The blood of Christ remits sins altogether (Ephesians 1:7).

C. The significance of the blood of Christ:

1. The blood of Christ has power to wipe away sin (Hebrews 9:22).
2. The church was purchased by the shedding of Christ's blood (Acts 20:28).
3. The blood of Christ continues to blot out the sins of the faithful (1 John 1:7).
4. Christians are to remember the blood of Christ in partaking of the Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:26-28).
5. Only those who have been washed in the blood can go to heaven (Revelation 1:5).

6. Through the blood there is peace (Colossians 1:20).

D. Contacting the blood:

1. Not through faith only or some other man-made way.
2. But simply by obeying the gospel of Christ
(Mark 16:15,16; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

CONCLUSION:

1. Many people feel “worldly wise” and deny God, but to be truly intelligent one must recognize that there is real power in the blood of Christ.
2. Being cleansed in His blood makes an eternal difference.
3. Have you been washed in the blood?

BECOMING A CHRISTIAN

Acts 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16; Acts 2:38

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Christian life is the greatest life there is.
2. All should want to be a part of the family of God.
3. This is a study of what one must do to be a Christian.

DISCUSSION:

A. Much has been done to make it possible for one to be a Christian.

1. God gave his son (John 3:16,17).
2. Christ gave his life (Matthew 26:28).
3. The Bible given (James 1:25).
4. The gospel preached (Mark 16:15).

B. Man must recognize his need for becoming a Christian.

1. That he is a sinner, lost as he is (Romans 3:23).
2. His inability to save himself (Romans 3:23).
3. He must want to be a Christian.
 - a. Some that did not:
 - (1) King Agrippa (Acts 26:28).
 - (2) Felix (Acts 24:25).
 - b. Some who wanted to:
 - (1) Saul (Acts 9:6).
 - (2) The eunuch (Acts 8:36).
4. He must be willing to pay the cost (Luke 9:25).

C. Becoming a Christian.

1. There is something that must be done (Matthew 7:21).
 - a. Can't become a Christian by:
 - (1) Praying through.
 - (2) Faith only.
 - (3) Doing good works.
 - b. Must know the truth and act upon it.
 - (1) Believing in God (Hebrews 11:6).
 - (2) Repenting of all sins (Luke 13:3).
 - (3) Confessing Christ (Romans 10:10).
 - (4) And being baptized (Mark 16:16).
2. Then the Lord does his part:
 - a. He adds the saved to the church (Acts 2:47).
 - b. Permits one to wear the name Christian.

D. Being a Christian only.

1. A scriptural name (1 Peter 4:16).
2. Responsible only to the Lord (Matthew 28:18; Colossians 1:18).
3. Free to act in Christ (Romans 6:3).

E. Blessings of becoming a Christian:

1. Save your soul from sin (Acts 2:38).
2. Can live a good life, a happy life (Acts 8).
3. The privilege of serving others.
4. The hope of a mansion in heaven (John 14:1-3).
5. All spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3).

CONCLUSION:

1. Are you a Christian?
2. Become one now while you have the time and opportunity.
3. It will mark the beginning of a new life for you.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Colossians 3:3

INTRODUCTION:

1. What does it mean to live the Christian life?
2. What kind of life is the Christian life?
3. Let us look into these matters, as well as others.

DISCUSSION:

A. Defining the title, the Christian life:

1. Christian simply means Christ-like, with the spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9); it is the name that one takes when he obeys the Lord (Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16).
2. Life suggests that he is alive, that he has become a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17); it means that from now on he will live a life similar to that which Christ lived.

B. The Christian life does not suggest what many think that it does.

1. It does not mean that one must live a perfect life (1 John 1:8; James 5:16).
2. It does not mean that it is a dull life (1 Peter 3:10,11).

C. The Christian life does suggest a number of things:

1. It suggests that an individual is set apart to do a certain work (1 Corinthians 1:1,2).
2. It suggests that the individual is to stay as pure before God as is possible (James 1:27).
3. It suggests to put forth an effort to please the Lord in all that he says or does (Colossians 3:17).

D. The Christian life itself:

1. A life of obedience (Hebrews 5:8,9).
2. A life of worship (John 4:23,24).
3. A life of preaching (1 Timothy 4:16).
4. A life of helping others (Galatians 6:1,2).
5. A life of waiting.

E. Churchanity or Christianity?

1. Many are members of the church but are not Christians.
2. One must not only be a member of the church but truly practice pure New Testament Christianity to go to heaven.
3. This calls for consecrated devotion and service.
 - a. Patience.
 - b. Brotherly kindness.
 - c. Love.
 - d. Loyalty.

F. The Christian life is rewarding.

1. Is blessed above all others.
2. Has all spiritual blessings.
3. Will be saved eternally.

CONCLUSION:

1. Live a life that counts.
2. Walk in the steps of Christ.

A LIFE OF BLESSINGS

Ephesians 1:3

INTRODUCTION:

1. The sinner is blessed in many ways but not in comparison with that of the Christian (Matthew 5:45).
2. Sometimes there are those who reach the conclusion that the evil are blessed more than the righteous.
 - a. This is not true because the Christian is blessed spiritually as well.
 - b. But the Christian is blessed more so materially because he is taught to save and to make it the honest way.

DISCUSSION:

A. Blessings defined:

1. It means divine favor, mercy, grace.
2. It is that which is given to us, a reward for our labors.

B. Different kinds of blessings (Ezekial 34:26):

1. Material or physical blessings (James 1:17).
 - a. The rain, sun, food, clothing, shelter, etc.
 - b. A family, friends, doctors, etc.
2. Spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3).
3. Blessings in disguise.
 - a. Abraham offering Isaac (Genesis 22).
 - b. Naaman dipping seven times (2 Kings 5).
 - c. Being poor (James 2:5).

C. A life of blessings.

1. Forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 2:8).
2. The privilege to wear the name of Christ (1 Peter 4:16).
3. Being a member of the Lord's church (Hebrews 12:28).
4. The privilege to worship (Acts 20:7;
1 Corinthians 10:16).
5. The privilege to study the Bible (Psalms 119:105).
6. The privilege to pray to God (1 John 5:14).
7. A good conscience (2 Timothy 1:3).
8. The opportunity to serve (Ephesians 6:7).
9. Hope of eternal life (2 Thessalonians 2:16).

D. Blessed

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, etc. (Matthew 5:1-11).
2. Blessed be the God who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3).
3. Blessed are they that keep his commandments (Revelation 22:14).

E. Blessings not appreciated until they are missed.

1. Don't appreciate our house until it is burned down.
2. Don't appreciate health until it is broken.
3. Many don't appreciate salvation but it will be to their

damnation.

F. There is set before us blessing and cursing (Deuteronomy 11:26).

1. To obey God is to be blessed.
2. To reject God is to be cursed.
3. Can make up our own minds.

CONCLUSION:

1. We are blessed now so let us be blessings to others.
2. If we'll remain faithful unto death the Lord will give us eternal life.

ORGANIZATION AND COOPERATION

INTRODUCTION:

1. Organization and cooperation are necessary in the business world, educational world, etc.
2. This is also a Bible subject.

DISCUSSION:

A. Definition of terms:

1. Organization — A unit or body that has been brought into existence to do a particular work.
2. Also, the orderly plans that may be made to carry out a task.
3. Cooperation — Working together, unity in doing a particular work.

B. The pattern of the Lord's church (Acts 2; 1 Corinthians 12:13-27; Romans 16:16).

- 1. The church is a spiritual organization or institution.**
 - a. Christ is the head (Colossians 1:18).
 - b. Individual members make up the body (1 Corinthians 12).
 - c. Elders are to watch over the flock (Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:1-7).
 - d. Deacons are to serve (1 Timothy 3:8-13).
 - e. Preachers and evangelists are to teach and evangelize the world (2 Timothy 4:5).
 - f. Members are to let their lights shine (Matthew 5:14-16).
- 2. The church is to organize its work.**
 - a. Within this biblically developed structure, there must be organization of the plans for accomplishing the work the church has been left in the world to do.
 - b. Without goals and plans, any group will stagnate.
- 3. There is to be cooperation in doing the work of the church (1 Corinthians 1:10).**
 - a. Cooperation among congregations (2 Corinthians 9:1-5).
 - b. Cooperation among members in the congregation.
 - c. Yet, each one must use his individual talents (Matthew 25:14-30).
 - (1) Not to quarrel about how the work is to be done.
 - (2) Not to excuse oneself from work on the basis of judging that others are not doing enough.
- 4. As a cooperative, the church locally and worldwide is to:**
 - a. Preach the gospel to the whole world.
 - (1) From pulpit.
 - (2) Through personal work.
 - (3) Through training Christians in the living of the Christian life, as the scriptures are taught in classes and worship assemblies.

- b. **Worship God.**
 - (1) Attending the assemblies.
 - (2) Being reverent.
- c. **Help the poor.**
 - (1) Must want to help.
 - (2) Christians must give so that there will be money on hand to help those in need (1 Cor. 16:2).
- d. **Live exemplary lives among society.**
 - (1) Fellowship among Christians.
 - (2) Bear the burdens of others (Galatians 6:2).

C. Both organization and cooperation are needed.

- 1. There may be plans but they are to no avail unless there is cooperation in carrying them out.
- 2. Where a program is organized and then put into operation much good will be done.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Many congregations are dead because of a lack of organization and cooperation.
- 2. What about this congregation?

HARDENING OUR HEARTS

INTRODUCTIONS:

- 1. The majority of the people are lost.
 - a. All who are out in the world are lost.
 - b. Many members of the church are actually lost, too, and will be gathered out of the kingdom when the Lord returns (Matthew 13:41).
- 2. This is true because the people as a whole have

hardened their hearts to the truth.

DISCUSSION:

A. Truths that should move people:

1. That God exists (Genesis 1:1).
2. That Christ died for the sinner (Romans 5:8).
3. The power of the gospel (Romans 1:16).
4. The glorious church.
5. The reality of death (Hebrews 9:27).
6. The recognition of eternity (Matthew 25:46).

B. But not all are moved.

1. Difficult to convert the people of the world (John 5:40).
2. Religious people are looking for something different (Matthew 13:15).
3. The erring Christian has turned his back upon God (Revelation 3:13-16).
4. Some members of the church:
 - a. Continually murmur against elders, preacher, members, etc.
 - b. Attend services only when it is convenient.
 - c. Refuse to give as they have been prospered.
 - d. Walking with the world.
 - e. Lazy and won't work.

C. Some ways that one's heart is hardened:

1. Because of error.
2. Because of lack of love for truth.
3. Because of old age.
4. Because of love for the world.
5. Because of neglect.
6. Because of doing a wrong thing over a period of time.
7. Because of the pressure or example of others.

D. The results of hardening one's heart:

1. It is possible to get so far that it is impossible to repent (Hebrews 10:26).
2. The Lord will send a strong delusion (2 Thessalonians 2:11).
3. There is danger of being lost for time and eternity.

E. What can be done to prevent such hardness?

1. Let worship, the Bible, prayer, etc., mean something to you.
 - a. Don't let spiritual things become empty formality.
 - b. Don't take them for granted.
 - c. Don't let them become common place.
2. Obey God in all matters without question.
 - a. Leave out your opinions and ideas.
 - b. Do not listen to man.
3. Train your children to respect God and his word.
4. Keep preaching the word to the world.

CONCLUSION:

1. God will save the righteous only.
2. How do you stand?

**DOES JESUS SEE WHAT HE
WANTS TO SEE?**

Revelation 3:15; Matthew 18:20

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Lord knows all about us since he continually

- observes us.
2. Christ is ever in the midst of the Christian people throughout the world.
 3. Consider the question and at the same time resolve to do something about it.

DISCUSSION:

A. Does Jesus see what he wants to see in the world (1 John 2:15)?

1. The world is continually faced with the fear of war.
2. Division and confusion exist on every hand.
3. Worldly pleasures are exalted over the righteousness of God.
4. Therefore, the Lord is displeased with what he sees.

B. Does Jesus see what he wants to see in the home (Ephesians 6:1-4)?

1. Divorce and remarriage are prevalent.
2. Anger and abuse characterize many human relationships.
3. The Lord has been left out and sin has taken over.
4. The Lord is not pleased with what he sees.

C. Does Jesus see what he wants to see in the religious world (Romans 16:17,18)?

1. There are over many hundreds of religious groups.
2. All kinds of doctrines and theories are being propagated.
3. Hence, the Lord is not pleased with what he sees.

D. Does Jesus see what he want to see in the church (Matthew 28:18-20)?

1. Even within the Lord's church there are many factions.
2. Certain members want to be honored and esteemed

above the others.

3. The real work of the church — evangelizing — is often forgotten.
3. Thus, the Lord is not pleased with much that he sees in the church.

E. Does Jesus see what he wants to see in the worship (John 4:24)?

1. So many members of the church neglect the assemblies.
2. Others fail to worship God in spirit and in truth.
3. There are always those who refuse to take an active part.
4. No, the Lord is not pleased with much that takes place in worship.

F. Does Jesus see what he wants to see in man (James 4:17)?

1. Many refuse to obey the Lord.
2. Some fail to live up to their commitment as Christians.
3. The Lord is not pleased with much that he sees in man.

CONCLUSION:

1. What does Jesus want to see?
 - a. Obedience to his will.
 - b. Righteousness prevailing.
 - c. Happiness for all.
2. Keep in mind that the Lord is ever watching.
3. One may hide from man, but he cannot hide from God.
4. Resolve now to live a better life.

WORKERS TOGETHER WITH GOD

Acts 2:44; 2 Corinthians 6:1

INTRODUCTION:

1. Man is of the nature that he prefers to share what he is doing with some one else.
 - a. In work — washing dishes.
 - b. At play — there are very few games that are designed for only one.
 - c. In worship — Studying the Bible, singing, etc.
2. A great deal is being said today about togetherness.
 - a. “A family that prays together will stay together.”
 - b. “Two heads are better than one.”
3. Being alone can prove to be a dreadful thing.
 - a. Keepers of prisons have long used solitary confinement as a means of discipline.
 - b. Parents sometimes use aloneness to punish their children for some misdeed.
 - c. It has proven too much for some people.
 - (1) Some suffer depression from being alone.
 - (2) Children are scarred by lack of human interaction and expressions of love.
 - (3) Church members, left alone, often grow weak and fall away from God.

DISCUSSION:

A. God recognized that it was not good for man to be alone.

1. Made man a help meet for Adam (Genesis 2:18).
2. The apostle Paul said that if men could not contain themselves they should marry (1 Corinthians 7:9).

B. God usually sent more than one to do a job.

1. Twelve spies were sent into Canaan (Deut. 1:23).

2. Christ sent the apostles forth two by two (Mark 6:7).
3. Paul always took someone with him (Acts 17:1).

C. The church is to dwell together in unity, a statement which implies a multiplicity of people.

1. Christ prayed that we might be one (John 17:20,21).
2. *"A kingdom divided against itself cannot stand"* (Mark 3:24).

D. We are to serve together.

1. Workers together with God (2 Corinthians 6:1).
2. To fight the good fight of faith together (1 Tim. 6:12).
3. *"Rejoice with those that rejoice and weep with those that weep"* (Romans 12:15).

E. We are to worship together.

1. Let the whole family attend worship.
2. To sing, pray, study, etc., together is better because we can encourage one another (Hebrews 10:25).

F. The family should be together.

1. To love one another.
2. To do things together.
3. To study and pray together.

G. We shall be caught up together to meet our Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

1. All shall die (Hebrews 9:27).
2. All shall stand before the Lord on the day of judgment.
3. All shall spend eternity somewhere.

H. The danger of standing alone, spiritually, in this world.

1. Likely to become discouraged and quit.
2. More easily tempted.

I. The blessings of standing together:

1. Can bear one another's burdens.
2. There is fellowship.

CONCLUSION:

1. There are some things, though, that each one must do on his own.
 - a. Must obey the gospel.
 - b. Must live the Christian life.
 - c. Must give an account for self.
2. Let us cling to God and we shall never be really alone.

“I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED”

2 Timothy 1:12

INTRODUCTION:

1. The apostle Paul knew God and for that reason became the great servant that he was.
2. The Bible, church, work, and all that we do, are based on this great principle of “knowing” God in whom we believe.
3. There are various ways in which we may know whom we have believed.

DISCUSSION:

A. This is life, to know God.

1. Only in God is there life.
2. Has the power to give life (1 Timothy 6:13).

B. Knowing Him through His love (Ephesians 3:19).

1. He gave His Son (Romans 5:8).
2. His love for the world prompted his gift (John 3:16).

C. Knowing through our love (Matthew 22:37).

1. To know God is to love Him.
2. To love Him is to obey him (John 14:15).
3. We are to express that love for one others (Hebrews 13:1).

D. Worldly Wisdom is not enough (1 Corinthians 1:21).

1. Many are well educated but are ignorant of God.
2. A knowledge of God comes only through spiritual channels (1 Corinthians 1:26,27).

E. Knowing by works of Christ.

1. Christ came from God (John 3:1,2).
2. His miracles were to make believers (John 20:31).
3. Some of his miracles:
 - a. Healed the blind — can heal the spiritually blind.
 - b. Healed the deaf — can open spiritual ears.
 - c. Healed the dumb — can loose the sp^{irit}ual tongue.
 - d. Healed diseases — can heal us from sin.
 - e. Raised the dead — can raise us from the dead in the day of resurrection.
4. Christ arose from the grave, overcoming death himself.

F. Knowing how to determine the truth (John 8:32).

1. Must have a knowledge of the Bible to determine what is right.
2. To know the Spirit one must confess Christ (1 John 4:2).
3. Must try the spirits (1 John 4:1).

G. Knowing by power of hope (Ephesians 1:18).

1. Life would be miserable without hope.
2. Hope maketh not ashamed.
3. Hope influences one to go on.

H. Knowing Him through our works (Philippians 2:13).

1. Because of a knowledge of God one does the works of God.
2. We become the tools for God.

I. Knowing through the power of the resurrection.

1. We believe that if Christ was resurrected that we too shall rise.
2. Because of this belief we are moved to respond to His wishes.

J. Knowing God keeps us from falling.

1. Just because we are saved does not mean that we can't fall.
2. It is possible to fall, but unnecessary.
3. A knowledge of Christ can give one power to overcome every sin.

CONCLUSION:

1. Nothing can separate us from the love of God when we truly know Him (Romans 8:38,39).
2. Do you know the Lord?

BAD

INTRODUCTION:

1. The term “bad” means that which is morally evil and wicked; below standard, unfavorable, defective, worthless, etc.
2. Anything that is opposed to good is bad.

DISCUSSION:

1. A bad name.
2. Bad conversation or behavior.
3. A bad report.
4. Bad morals.
5. Bad influence.
6. Bad teachers.
7. Bad doctrine.

THE ORIGIN OF GOOD AND BAD

1. All that God made was good (Genesis 1:31).
2. By choosing to disobey God, man made things that are bad (Genesis 3).
3. God created man without sin.
 - a. He soon reaches the age of accountability.
 - b. He becomes a sinner (Romans 3:23).
 - c. In this state he is lost.
4. Man must obey God’s commands to be saved (Mark 16:16; 1 John 5:3).

CONCLUSION:

1. The bad, and those engaged in evil, will be destroyed.
2. We don’t have to be bad; we may choose to be good by choosing to love and obey God.

GOOD

INTRODUCTION:

1. The word "good" is used many times in the Bible.
2. It means "kind, excellent, virtuous, sound, beneficial, worthy, true," etc.
3. Let us look at some of the ways that it is used.

DISCUSSION:

1. Creation was good (Genesis 1:4).
2. The Lord's word is good (Isaiah 39:8).
3. The Lord is good (Nahum 1:7).
4. A good name (Ecclesiastes 7:1).
5. The good way (1 Kings 8:36; Jeremiah 6:16).
6. The good doctrine (Proverbs 4:2).
7. A good man (Matthew 12:35).
8. A good servant (Matthew 25:21).
9. All things work together for good (Romans 8:28).
10. Cleave to that which is good (Romans 12:9).
11. Overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21).
12. Let us do good to all men (Galatians 6:10).
13. Created unto good works (Ephesians 2:10).
14. A good hope (2 Thessalonians 2:16).
15. A good conscience (1 Timothy 1:5).
16. Every good gift from above (James 1:17).
17. Good days (1 Peter 3:10).
18. Good fight of faith (1 Timothy 6:12).
19. A good confession (1 Timothy 6:13).
20. A good conversation (James 3:13).
21. Good morals (1 Corinthians 15:33).
22. A good report (1 Timothy 3:7).

CONCLUSION:

1. That which is good is of God (3 John 11).
2. What good are you doing?

OUR PERFECT EXAMPLE

John 13:15

INTRODUCTION:

1. Man is easily influenced.
2. He is always looking for some one to pattern his life after.
3. Christ wants to be our example in all things.

DISCUSSION:

A. Christ, our perfect example:

1. In prayer (John 17).
2. In love (Ephesians 5:25).
3. In faith (Matthew 4:4).
4. In giving (1 Corinthians 1:4).
5. In sacrifice (Acts 8:32,33).
6. In patience (Matthew 18:26,27).
7. In preaching (Matthew 28:19,20).
8. In courage (Matthew 23:1-12).
9. In humility (John 13:15).
10. In a forgiving spirit (Luke 23:34).
11. In suffering (James 5:10,11).
12. Purity (1 Peter 1:18,19).
13. In obedience (Hebrews 5:8,9).

14. In growth (Luke 2:52).
15. In worship (Matthew 4:10).
16. In temptation (Matthew 4).

CONCLUSION:

1. Are you walking in the steps of Jesus?
2. Follow the Lord and be a good example.

LIMITING GOD

Psalms 78:41

INTRODUCTION:

1. Did you know that it is possible to limit God?
2. One individual may keep God from doing what He wants to do.
3. What could God do for the world if man did not limit Him?
4. What could God do for this area if man did not limit Him?
5. What could God do for this congregation if we did not limit Him?
6. What could God do for you if you did not limit Him?
7. Man is the only living thing that can do this.

DISCUSSION:

- A. It is possible to limit God because of the way He works.**
1. God does not talk directly to individuals today.
 2. Rather, God works *through* individuals, providentially (2 Corinthians 4:7).
 3. In the conversion of humans, a human teacher is neces-

sary (example: Acts 8:26...)

- a. There are no examples contrary to this in the book of Acts in converting sinners to Christ.
 - b. The preacher is necessary in converting souls.
3. But man ties the Lord's hands when he refuses to do His works.

B. Examples where God was limited:

1. Adam and Eve (Genesis 3).
2. The world was destroyed because people would not listen (Genesis 6,7).
3. Israel kept God from doing many things because of unbelief (Psalms 78:41).
4. The majority of the Jews were lost because they would not come to Christ (John 5:40).

C. People who limit God today:

1. The Jew because he does not believe in Christ.
2. The world because of its love for sin.
3. Christians who refuse to go and teach.
4. Preachers.
5. Elders.

D. Acts of man that limit God:

1. Sin (Romans 6:23).
2. Failure to obey the gospel (Mark 16:16).
3. Failure to return to God (James 5:16).
4. The way we worship (John 4:24).
5. A lack of study (2 Timothy 2:15).
6. A neglect to pray (1 John 5:14).
7. No love (Matthew 22:37).
8. Refusal to preach (Matthew 28:19).
9. Not attending the assemblies (Hebrews 10:25).

E. God is limited:

1. Can't save the sinners.
2. Can't save the erring.
3. Can't bless the Christian.
4. Can't answer a prayer.
5. Can't preach to every creature.
6. Can't forgive.
7. Can't reward eternal life.

CONCLUSION:

1. Are you limiting God?
2. Are you tying His hands?
3. Are you keeping Him back?
4. Remember that God can do no more than you allow.
5. Remember too that Christians stand between God and the lost world.
6. God wants to save, bless, etc., but he can go no farther than you will permit.
7. Don't limit God.
8. To do so is but to bring disaster to yourself.

WHAT MAKES THE CHURCH STRONG?

1 Corinthians 16:13; Ephesians 6:10

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Lord established the church and meant for it to be strong.
2. His displeasure was poured out on the church at Laodicea because of its lukewarmness

(Revelation 3:15,16).

3. But what makes a church strong?

DISCUSSION:

A. Some things that are not necessary to make a church strong:

1. A large number (Deuteronomy 7:7).
2. Worldly riches (1 Timothy 6:17-19).
3. Worldly wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:21.)
4. A fine meeting house (Acts 17:24).
5. A number of preachers (Galatians 1:7-9).
6. Popularity (Matthew 7:13,14).

B. Some things necessary to have a strong church:

1. A converted membership (Acts 3:19).
2. A taught membership (Matthew 28:19,20).
3. A teaching congregation (1 Timothy 4:16).
4. A church that is rich in the faith (Romans 1:8).
5. A church that is faithful and pure in worship (Acts 2:42).
6. A church that is strong in Christian living (James 1:27).
7. A church that is unified (Psalms 133:1).
8. A working church (James 1:25).
9. A sacrificial church (Romans 12:1).
10. A praying church (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
11. A loving church (1 Corinthians 13).
12. Scriptural organization
(1 Timothy 3; Titus 1; Acts 20:28).
13. Discipline is maintained (2 Thessalonians 3:6).

C. Results of a strong church:

1. The Lord is with it (Matthew 28:20).
2. Souls are kept pure.
3. Souls are saved.

3. Souls are saved.
4. The gospel is proclaimed.
5. Good is done.

CONCLUSION:

1. For this to be, every member must play a part.
2. Unless the church is strong it will not accomplish much.

WHAT THINK YE OF THE CHURCH?

Matthew 22:42; Acts 9:4,5

INTRODUCTION:

1. In the first century, men thought of the church as a curse to humanity. They tried to destroy it by persecution.
2. In the centuries that followed, men thought of the church as an imperfect body. They formed churches, apart from the true one, that pleased their own wisdom.
3. In this century people are still accepting man's churches above the church Christ established. They look on this body as a small, despised, bigoted group.
4. What think ye of the church?

DISCUSSION:

A. In the first place, do you know what the church is?

1. It is not a monstrous cathedral, a modern temple, or even a building.
2. It is not a social organization.
3. The word "Ekklesea" in Greek is translated into the word "church" in English. It simply means "the called out."
4. The church, therefore, is composed of all those Christians

who have been truly called out of the world by the pure word of God.

B. The church is composed of those who have obeyed Christ.

1. He says we must believe in the Father.
2. We must give up the world and turn to doing only good.
3. We must confess before men that we believe in God's Son.
4. We must picture his death on the cross, his burial and his resurrection in baptism. That is, we die to sin and the lusts of the world; we are buried in water to wash away all past sins. We go forth, dead to sin, and alive to righteousness, saved creatures. Many good moral people feel that they are Christians but unless they are striving to obey the New Testament in its entirety they are deceived. Don't take salvation for granted.

C. As members of this group that God has set apart from all other men we are called Christians. Christian means Christ-like.

1. Christ was a special person — he was God's only Son.
2. In being Christ-like, and in following him, we become the children of God.
3. We must always strive to live just the kind of life that he did, or we can no longer truthfully call ourselves Christians.

D. Christians are aimed in a different direction to the rest of the world.

1. Men are selfish.
2. Men are sinful.
3. Men are interested in this world only.

ON THE OTHER HAND:

1. Christians are willing to give and sacrifice all — even their lives.
2. Christians strive to live lives as sinless as possible — when they unintentionally sin, the blood of Christ cleanses them.
3. They strive to teach others of this way so that they may be saved also.

E. As a group Christians have certain duties:

1. They remember God every first day of the week in worship to him.
2. They strive to help their fellow men and those who cannot help themselves.
3. They strive to teach others of this way so that they may be saved also.

F. The church is the bride of Christ.

1. As his wife, it wears the name of the husband — Christ.
2. The bridegroom is coming to receive His church. When He takes it up to heaven to be with Him, all those who once became a part of it but then later fell into unrighteousness will be taken out and cast into hell.
3. Only those in the church, and only the righteous of that group, will be eternally saved.

CONCLUSION:

1. This is the church — the body of people that belongs to Christ. What think ye of the church? Would you like to be part of it?
 - a. Believe (John 8:24).
 - b. Repent (Acts 2:38).

- c. Confess (Matthew 10:32).
 - d. Be baptized (Acts 2:38).
2. If you have once obeyed the gospel and have forgotten your love for Christ, come back and be a real Christian now, so that when he comes for his bride you'll be ready to go.
 - a. Repent (Luke 15:7).
 - b. Confess faults (James 5:16).
 - c. Pray.

RULES FOR LIFE

INTRODUCTION:

1. Rules and regulations in the camp.
2. All organizations have some type of standard.
3. The Bible is a book of law.

DISCUSSION:

1. Have a strong faith.
 - a. In God (Hebrews 11:6).
 - b. In Christ (John 14:1).
 - c. In word (John 20:30,31).
 - d. In fellowman.
 - e. In self.
 - f. Walk by faith.
 - g. Working by faith.
 - h. Growing faith.
2. Read your Bible every day.
 - a. Search the scriptures (John 5:39).

- b. Study (2 Timothy 2:15).
3. Pray every day.
 - a. Men ought always to pray (Luke 18:1).
 - b. Pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
 - c. Pray according to the will of God (1 John 5:14).
4. Love.
 - a. Love God (Matthew 22:37).
 - b. Love your neighbor (Matthew 22:39).
5. Obey your parents.
 - a. This is right (Ephesians 6:1-4).
6. Live a pure life.
 - a. Keep pure speech.
 - b. Watch your dress.
 - c. Have pure thoughts.
 - d. Guard your reading habits.
 - e. Be careful about listening habits.
 - f. Be careful about your associates.
7. Engage in Christian recreation.
 - a. Recreation — re-creation. Something new and revitalizing.
 - b. “Christian” — “Christ-like” — meaning just that.
 - c. Many things to avoid.
 - d. Can do many things that are good in themselves.
8. Practice the Golden Rule.
9. Work.
10. Obey God.
 - a. Obey the gospel.
 - b. Be a part of His church.
 - c. Live the Christian life.

CONCLUSION:

1. Yours will be a happy life.
2. You will be prepared to leave this world.
3. Heaven will be your home.

HOW TO KEEP THE CHURCH FROM BECOMING LUKEWARM

Revelation 3:15,16

INTRODUCTION:

1. It is possible for a church to become lukewarm.
2. The church of Laodicea is an example.
3. Conditions of such a church:
 - a. Neither cold nor hot.
 - b. Indifferent, negligent, "I don't care" spirit.
4. Results will be condemnation.

DISCUSSION:

A. How a congregation may become lukewarm:

1. By just keeping house for the Lord.
2. By trying to "hold its own".
3. By placing emphasis on the wrong things.
4. By always being afraid.
5. By not doing anything.

B. How to keep the church from becoming lukewarm:

1. By sowing with the Master (2 Corinthians 9:6).
2. By having enthusiasm for the Lord's church, etc. (Matthew 6:33). "Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm" (Ralph Waldo Emerson).
3. By developing leadership (1 Timothy 3).
4. By planning with faith (Hebrews 11:6).
5. By working.
6. By having a visitation program (Luke 14:23).
7. By working with the young people (Ecclesiastes 12:1).
8. By advertising.
9. By honoring those who deserve it (Romans 12:10).

10. By avoiding ruts.
11. By using the printed page.
12. By developing Bible teachers and program.

CONCLUSION:

1. Some are cold and some are lukewarm but Christ wants us to be hot.
2. The church need not be lukewarm but it can "March for the Master."

WHAT DO YE MORE THAN OTHERS?

Matthew 5:47

INTRODUCTION:

1. Jesus taught his disciples that they must do something (Matthew 7:21).
2. He taught them that they had individual responsibility.
3. He further taught them that they must do more than others.

DISCUSSION:

A. Jesus taught the highest standard of living on earth.

1. It is above the standard of the world (Matthew 5:47).
2. It surpasses even the standard of the religious world (Matthew 5:20).

B. Jesus' standard of living:

1. A standard of doing.
2. A standard of the second mile.

3. Must put God first (Matthew 6:33).
4. Must put one's self into it (Romans 12:1).

C. What do ye more than others?

1. Christians are expected to live better than others.
2. Cannot afford to be just average.
3. What are you doing to prove that you are a Christian?

D. The standard of man is not enough.

1. Must not kill — but to love our enemy (Matthew 5:44).
2. Must not steal — to give to the poor (Ephesians 4:28).
3. Not to seek revenge — leave that to the Lord (Rom. 12:17-19).
4. Be a member of a church — the Lord's (Matt. 16:18).

E. Must do more than others to go to heaven.

1. Not a matter of doing little, but much.
2. Can't afford to compare what we do to others — it may not be enough.
3. How much do you want to go to heaven?

CONCLUSION:

1. What are you doing to go to heaven?
2. Only those who invest can expect to reap.

WHAT WOULD JESUS DO? WHAT WOULD JESUS HAVE ME DO?

INTRODUCTION:

1. All of us are faced with all kinds of problems in every

phase of life.

2. There is one who can solve them all if we will but let him — that one is Jesus (1 Peter 5:7).
3. But for him to help us we must observe the following:
 - a. We must believe in Jesus (John 8:24).
 - b. We must be willing to go to him with our problems.
 - c. We must follow his advice if we are to be benefitted.

DISCUSSION:

A. In religion — what would Jesus have me to do?

1. Obey the gospel (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).
2. Be a member of his church (John 3:3-5).
3. Worship in spirit and truth (John 4:24).
4. Live the Christian life (Revelation 2:10).

B. In morality — what would Jesus have me do?

1. Live a good moral life (1 Thessalonians 5:22).
2. Remain pure and whole (1 Timothy 3:9).
3. Keep good company ((1 Corinthians 15:33).

C. In recreation — what would Jesus have me do?

1. Do only those things that are good and wholesome.
2. Would Christ engage in this activity?

D. In business — what would Jesus have me do?

1. Would want me to be honest and fair (Luke 6:31).
2. Would want me to be a Christian always.
3. Be industrious (2 Thess. 3:10).

E. In education — what would Jesus have me do?

1. He would want me to hold to His word above the theories of men (1 Corinthians 3:18-21).
2. Education should not puff me up with pride (Col. 2:18)..

F. In social world — what would Jesus have me do?

1. Love my neighbor (Matt. 5:43).
2. Keep good company, but try to help and teach those who need the gospel, though they may be “bad” (Matt. 9:12,13).

G. In marriage — what would Jesus have me do?

1. Marry in the Lord (2 Corinthians 6:14).
2. Respect scriptural marriage (Matthew 19:3-12).

H. In the home — what would Jesus have me do?

1. Let love abide (Ephesians 5:22-33).
2. Be a Christian — Christ-like.

I. In politics — what would Jesus have me do?

1. To uphold the right.
2. Train our children to respect government (Rom. 13:1-7).

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus can help us.
2. Take all our concerns about life to the Lord in prayer.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

Mark 16:16; Romans 8:24; Acts 16:30

INTRODUCTION:

1. One may be saved from any number of things.
2. To be saved means that one has been delivered, spared, freed, received remission of sins, etc.
3. This is a study of salvation.

DISCUSSION:

A. To be saved:

1. One must be made to realize that he is lost (Romans 3:10).
2. Cannot direct his own steps (Jeremiah 10:23).
3. The consequences of sin (Luke 16).

B. The term saved is used in two senses:

1. Saved from past sins — saved at present (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:40; 2:38; 16:31).
 - a. May be saved and lost again.
 - b. Because many misunderstand the way the terms are used they think once saved always saved.
2. Saved eternally (Romans 8:24; Revelation 2:10; 1 Peter 4:18).
 - a. To be eternally saved one must live the Christian life.
 - b. Only the judgment will give the final answer.

C. What it means to be saved:

1. It means that one has received the remission of sins.
2. It means that one is putting God first (Matt. 6:33).
3. It means that one has the hope of eternal life.
4. One is a Christian.
5. One is a member of Christ's church (Acts 2:47).

CONCLUSION:

1. Can be saved but then be lost (Hebrews 3:12-14).
2. Must obey the gospel and then fight the good fight of faith (Romans 6:17; 1 Timothy 6:12).
3. Heaven will be worth all the effort.

THE DIVINE CALLING

Hebrews 3:1

INTRODUCTION:

1. There are many callings.
 - a. The call to a vocation.
 - b. The call to responsibility.
 - c. The call of the world.
 - d. The call of death.
2. The important calling is the holy calling.
3. It may be answered or rejected.

DISCUSSION:

A. The deceit that is related to this subject:

1. Many believe that they are called of God by a direct operation of the Spirit upon their heart.
 - a. Some have "a dream".
 - b. Others see some "sign".
 - c. Still others hear "a wee small voice".
2. Then there are those who believe that they are called in some miraculous manner to preach.
3. None of these things are actually scriptural.

B. Those who do the calling, according to the Bible:

1. God calls us (Romans 11:29).
2. Christ calls us (Matthew 11:28-30).
3. The gospel calls us (2 Thessalonians 2:14).
4. The church calls us (Revelation 22:17).
5. The word calls us (2 Timothy 3:16,17).

C. The character of the divine calling:

1. It is a holy calling (2 Timothy 1:9).

2. It is a heavenly calling (Hebrews 3:1).

D. The calling itself:

1. One is called to believe in God (Hebrews 11:6).
2. One is called to repent of his sins (Acts 17:30).
3. One is called to confess Christ (Matthew 10:32).
4. One is called to be baptized (Mark 16:16).
5. One is called to be a member of the church (Ephesians 5:23).
6. One is called to be a Christian (1 Peter 4:16).
7. One is called to worship God (John 4:24).
8. One is called to do the works of God (Philippians 2:12).
9. One is called to be faithful to the Lord (Revelation 2:10).
10. One is called to make his calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10).

E. The purpose of this calling:

1. That one might have peace (1 Corinthians 7:15).
2. That one might have liberty (Galatians 5:13).
3. That one might have hope (Ephesians 4:4).
4. That one might have salvation (1 Timothy 6:12).

CONCLUSION:

1. It is not enough to hear the Lord's call — one must answer it to be saved.
2. Also, one must follow the Lord's will in order to answer his call.
3. Those who answer his call are blessed accordingly — therefore, make the right decision.

“WHY SIT WE HERE UNTIL WE DIE?”

2 Kings 7:1-20

INTRODUCTION:

1. Read the story of the four leprous men.
2. The question asked is a great one and should be pondered.
3. Our question likewise should be: Why sit we here until we die?

DISCUSSION:

A. Why should an individual sit around and die without obeying the gospel?

1. It is the Lord's will that all should be saved (1 Timothy 2:4).
2. Now is the accepted time and today is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2).

B. Why should a Christian sit around and die spiritually?

1. The Christian must exercise unto godliness (1 Timothy 4:7).
2. To partake of the milk of the word and then the meat (1 Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:12-14).
3. He must abound in the work of the Lord daily (1 Corinthians 15:58).

C. Why should a person sit at home failing to worship God, and thus to die?

1. It is the duty of every Christian to attend every assembly (Hebrews 10:25).
2. One must meet with the Lord's people to worship in order to remain faithful (Acts 20:7).

3. It takes some effort to worship the Lord (James 1:12).

D. Why should an individual sit around and let others die and go to hell?

1. The Lord would have his people carry the gospel to the world (Mark 16:16).
2. Each Christian must preach the word either publicly or by example (2 Timothy 4:2).

E. Why sit around and go to hell?

1. Get up and obey the Lord (Hebrews 5:8,9).
2. Each individual is to work out his own salvation.

F. Why sit around and die?

1. One may die but he can prepare for it (Amos 4:12).
2. Every soul will die and appear at the judgment (Hebrews 9:27).

G. Why sit around?

1. Laziness has never gotten anyone anywhere (Matthew 25:31-46).
2. The Lord would have each soul to be industrious (Acts 22:16).
3. It takes obedience and faithfulness to save (Revelation 2:10).

CONCLUSION:

1. You can sit around and die or you can get up and live.
2. Every soul should at least try — it doesn't hurt to try.
3. Few people fail when they put forth some effort.

THINGS THAT BAPTISM WON'T DO

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Bible teaches that baptism is a part of the gospel (Mark 16:15,16).
2. The Bible also teaches that baptism saves (1 Peter 3:21).
3. One must be baptized to enter Christ or the church (Romans 6:3; 1 Corinthians 12:13).
4. Baptism will do many things, but on the other hand, there are some things that it won't do.

DISCUSSION:

A. Baptism won't take the place of faith.

1. It takes faith to please God (Hebrews 11:6).
2. Faith is a prerequisite of baptism (Mark 16:16).
3. Without faith one cannot be saved (John 6:36-40).

B. Baptism won't take the place of repentance.

1. One must repent or perish (Luke 13:3).
2. All men everywhere are expected to repent (Acts 17:30).
3. Repentance is a prerequisite of baptism (Acts 2:38).

C. Baptism won't take the place of the confession.

1. Must confess Christ for him to confess us (Matthew 10:32).
2. One must confess with the mouth unto salvation (Acts 8:35-39).
3. The confession is a prerequisite of baptism (Acts 8:35-39).

D. Baptism won't take the place of the church.

1. Baptism puts one into the church (1 Corinthians 12:13).
2. The church is important and such must be recognized (Ephesians 5:23).
3. One must be a member of the church to go to heaven (Ephesians 5:27).

E. Baptism won't take the place of the Christian life.

1. One must be baptized to be a Christian (Galatians 3:26,27).
2. Upon becoming a Christian one must live the Christian life (1 Peter 4:16).
3. The Christian is to add the Christian graces (2 Peter 1:5-11).

F. Baptism won't take the place of works.

1. Each soul must work out his own salvation (Philippians 2:12).
2. Must abound daily in the work of the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58).

G. Baptism won't spare one of temptation.

1. Even the Lord was tempted (Matthew 4).
2. The Christian may be tempted but the Lord will make a way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:12,13).

H. Baptism won't keep one from falling from grace.

1. As a Christian one may fall from grace (Galatians 5:4).
2. Consider the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15).

I. Baptism won't save apart from faithfulness.

1. The Lord would have his people to remain faithful (Revelation 2:10).

2. One must endure unto the end (Matthew 10:22).
3. Nothing will take the place of obedience (Revelation 22:14).

J. Baptism only won't save.

1. Baptism saves, according to the Bible (1 Peter 3:21).
2. But baptism only has never saved anyone (Acts 19).

CONCLUSION:

1. The Lord would have all to be saved (2 Peter 3:9).
2. At the same time, he would have all to obey him (Hebrews 5:8,9).
3. Those who have enough faith to obey him will be saved (Matthew 7:21).