

These Things Speak (Sermon Outlines)

By

Curtis Camp

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Introduction

From the one hundred sermon outlines brother Curtis Camp prepared for me for publication, this is the second volume. As a preacher, no doubt you will want to have **Preach the Word** as well as **These Things Speak**.

Based on the text, Titus 2:15, brother Camp chose for the title of this book of outlines, **These Things Speak**. The idea is that those who stand in the pulpits of churches of Christ throughout the world must be committed to preaching only the truth, the word of God. There is no greater work a man can do.

The author of these outlines is a prime example of one who has devoted most of his long and illustrious life to the preaching of the gospel. Brother Camp, along with his talented wife, Sylvia, has worked with several congregations of the Lord's church in Oklahoma and Texas. Even after 62 years of local work, he continues to preach regularly for the Northridge Church of Christ in Amarillo, TX.

Again, you are advised to study these outlines, rework them to suit your own style of preaching, and then, **These Things Speak**. If you will do this, our purpose will have been accomplished.

I now commend the author and this book of outlines to you: **Preach the Word** and **These Things Speak**, to the glory of God and to the furtherance of his cause.

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SERMON OUTLINES

ETERNAL JUDGMENT

Hebrews 6:1-3

INTRODUCTION:

1. 2 Timothy 4:1, 2. "Preach the word..."
 - a. 1 Corinthians 15:1, "...I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you..."
 - b. Acts 8:4, "...went everywhere preaching the word"
 - c. Romans 1:15, "...ready to preach the gospel to you..."
 - d. 1 Corinthians 9:16, "...woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel"
 - e. The gospel? Usually think of first principles: F.R.C.B. However, let's look at our text: "...and of eternal judgment"
2. So, the judgment is a fundamental of New Testament Christianity
 - a. What is the biblical view of eternal judgment?

I. THE CERTAINTY OF IT

- A. John 12:48; Acts 17:30, 31 (as certain as the resurrection of Christ)
 1. Have assurance of the judgment because God raised Jesus from the dead
- B. As certain as death
 1. Hebrews 9:27
 - a. Whether one believes the Bible or not, he must accept the reality of death. "The living know they shall die," Ecclesiastes 9:5
- C. Our sense of justice makes it certain
 1. Justice will eventually triumph over injustice. Believe wrongs will one day be made right? If so, then believe in judgment and life beyond this one
 2. "The wicked shall not go unpunished," Proverbs 11:21.

II. THE JUDGE

- A. Acts 17:31; Hebrews 12:23, "...God the judge of all"

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1. Personally? No, "...by that man whom He hath ordained..."
2. John 5:22, "For the Father judgeth no man..."
3. John 5:27, "And hath given Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of man"
 - a. Jesus is God. He was the man. Understands the viewpoint of Deity. But also of humanity
 - b. So He is the one Mediator between God and man, 1 Timothy 2:5
 - c. He knows all about us. John 2:25, "...for He knew what was in man"

B. Fearful to be judged by Jesus

1. Our excuses will not be accepted. Many have thought they worked for us here, but will not work on Him

C. Yet, wonderful to be judged by the Saviour

1. Fully knows and understands us. Assured of proper verdict from Him

III. WHO WILL BE JUDGED?

A. 2 Timothy 4:1, "...the living and the dead..."

B. Revelation 20:12, "And I saw the dead, small and great..."

1. Small and great from human standpoint

C. The saved and the unsaved, Matthew 25:32

D. Judged as individuals. Romans 14:12, "So then every one of us..."

1. Not judged as families. "Finest Christian father, mother, sisters, wife, children." Talked about everybody but himself
 - a. "Take my wife and let her be. Consecrated, Lord, to Thee," instead of my life
2. Not judged as congregation, attendance, contributions, good works, etc.
 - a. Judgment will not deal with the program of the church, but with what you as an individual contribute to that program
 - b. Talents, Matthew 25:14-30. Deal with them as group or individuals?

SERMON OUTLINES

IV. BASIS OF JUDGMENT

A. Revelation, 20:12, "...out of those things written in the books."

1. **books**—by standard or book lived under
 - a. Gentiles not by law, but Jews will be
 - b. Abraham not condemned for never partaking of Lord's Supper
 - c. Moses not lost for failure to be baptized in name of Christ for the remission of sins
 - d. Faithful Christian condemned for working on Saturday (Sabbath)?

B. You and I will be judged by the gospel, John 12:48

1. Should spend some time studying it
2. Will answer for how we deal with Mark 16:16
 - a. Illu: Put Mark 16:16 on a card. On another, put "He that believeth and is not baptized shall be saved." Which would you sign?
 - b. Not be judged by books that teach man does not have to be baptized to be saved
3. Also, Hebrews 10:25. Will have to deal with it

C. Judged by our works, Revelation 20:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 2:6, "Lord will render to every man according to his deeds"

V. HOW SHALL WE ESCAPE?

A. Eternal judgment? Take God forever to judge us? No, but the consequences of judgment will be eternal

1. Matthew 25:46, Some will go away into everlasting punishment and some into eternal life

B. Hebrews 2:3, "How shall we escape, if we neglect..."

1. Nobody can answer it—in heaven, hell or on earth
 - a. None shall escape who neglect the salvation offered by Christ
2. Are you ready for the judgment day?

SERMON OUTLINES

YOUR OWN MUSEUM

INTRODUCTION:

1. You built it. It is yours. You ordered it
2. A museum is interesting because it is a place where objects of permanent interest have been placed
3. Even though this is your museum, I don't think you have ever really been through it. I want to be your guide on this tour
 - a. Am just the guide—not my purpose to condemn or justify. Things you will see are what you have put there. For you see, this building is your own heart, your own life
 - b. Let's enter the first room—over the door is written, Mark 16:15

I. THE REVIVAL ROOM

- A. Here you observe all gospel meetings conducted here, even the last one. All we have done is recorded in our subconscious mind and we can recall whatever is stored there
 1. Some attended all services, but others only on Sunday? Wednesday?
- B. Now, while you look around in this room, let me ask, "Do you now understand why we baptize so few people in gospel meetings anymore? Why people say, 'I don't think gospel meetings do much good anymore' " ?
 1. Now understanding why many countries have not yet heard the gospel? So many places in the USA where people have never heard? Why so many without hope? Understanding now why so many will let the least thing keep them from attending a gospel meeting?
 2. "But I attend all meetings—invite—work—pray." That's good and you feel good about it as you look around in this room

II. THE BOOK ROOM

- A. See over the door, 2 Timothy 2:15
 1. Will observe how many hours spent studying the Bible

SERMON OUTLINES

since becoming a Christian

- a. How much time today? Last week? Month? Year?
 2. Give you better understanding why so much spiritual ignorance in the world? Why so many members of the church are ignorant of the Bible? Been said large percentage of members could not tell another what to do to be saved. Do not want to believe this is true
 3. Ashamed for your children to know how little time you have spent in studying the Bible? If tried to talk to neighbor, be embarrassed if he knew how many hours you spent studying the Bible in the past year? Likely that one you would reach has actually spent more time studying Bible than you have? Difficult to convert one who is more enlightened than you are
- B. Remember, however, not my purpose to condemn or to justify. Am merely asking you what you observe while you are in this part of your heart

III. THE WORD ROOM

- A. Over the door is written Psalms 19:14
1. Strange thing will take place in this room. Will hear your own recorded voice. May not recognize it—may think it is not yours. But it is
 - a. Things you have said about your neighbors, brethren, elders, deacons, preachers, teachers. Embarrass you? Disturb you?
- B. Now understand some things
1. Why this church is no larger? No stronger?
 2. Listen to that voice. Critical? Gossiping? Tend to tear down? Tend to destroy? Tends to hold the church back?
- C. "That's my voice? Didn't know it sounded so harsh. Didn't know I could say such ugly things—such cutting things." Oh yes, those are your words all right
1. "What if my neighbors, brethren, etc., knew all I had said about them? I would have to move and leave no forwarding address"

SERMON OUTLINES

2. Remember, no condemning or justifying you—just your guide on this tour in your own heart

IV. THE ACTION ROOM

A. Over the door, 2 Corinthians 3:2

1. Flashes your life on the wall—your life since you obeyed the gospel
2. Not asking if you have ever made mistakes—we all have. But asking if the tenor of your life has been such as to cause people to look at your life and glorify God in heaven?
 - a. Has your life been an asset to the church? Or a hindrance to it? No doubt, church would have been better off if some people had never been identified with it. True with you?
 - b. You know—because you are here in your own heart and life. Seeing exactly the kind of person you are. Kind of father, mother, boy, or girl

V. THE PROMISE ROOM

A. See written over the door, Ecclesiastes 5:1-5

1. See promises and vows made to Lord, husband, wife, etc. Have you kept them? Vowed to serve God faithfully—to put kingdom first in your life. Kept it?
2. Disturbs you? Difficult for preacher to stand before you and say anything that will disturb you. When you look squarely into your own life, when you see promises and vows you made to God and know in your own heart that you have not kept them—surely it disturbs you

VI. THE OBEDIENCE ROOM

A. Over the door, Revelation 22:14

1. Wanted to argue, quibble about God's commands? Know you have not obeyed Him as you stand in this room?
 - a. Faith—repentance—confession—baptism. Know whether you have obeyed the Lord or not. Whether been buried in baptism and whether baptized for the remission of sins

SERMON OUTLINES

2. Don't want to argue—just your guide. Lord told you to do it to be saved. If do not, will be lost

VII. THE SACRIFICE ROOM

A. Over the door, Romans 12:1

1. On display in this room are all the sacrifices you have made for Christ and His church since obeyed the gospel. What you gave up; did without; every time you put His kingdom first; whether you denied yourself to promote the Cause of Christ
2. How is it with you in this room? Feel good or are you embarrassed?
 - a. Frankly, I am more embarrassed in this room than any other. Think I have been sacrificial until—I think of apostles—and most of all of Jesus Christ and what they did and gave to establish the church
3. When you look at this room (and you are looking at yourself) does it help you to understand why the church is so small in this community?

CONCLUSION:

1. Have now come to end of our tour—must leave you now
 - a. You have seen the kind of father you are, mother, member of the church. You know exactly the kind of person you are
2. You also know if you want to do something about your condition
 - a. Feel you should do something about it? Right now?

SERMON OUTLINES

DO YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR NEW TESTAMENT?

INTRODUCTION:

1. One reason we do not derive more benefit and find more pleasure in the study of the Bible is because we lack a proper conception of its character and structure
2. Hebrews 11:6; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Romans 10:17
 - a. Virtually important for us to know something about the Book
3. What the Book claims for itself. (Even a criminal is privileged to testify in his own behalf)
 - a. 2 Timothy 3:16, 17:
 - 1) "inspired of God"—God-breathed. The Scriptures came from God as surely as breath comes from our bodies.
 - b. 2 Peter 1:21:
 - 1) "moved"—being directed, borne along, influenced, impelled by Spirit's power
 - c. Galatians 1:11:
 - 1) "not after man"—not human in its origin
 - 2) "neither was I taught it"—his teachers were not humans
 - 3) "neither received it of man"—did not come to him through human instrumentality
 - 4) How? "By revelation of Jesus Christ"
4. Two Testaments:
 - a. Old—2 Corinthians 3:14
 - 1) Number of years make it old?
 - 2) Given to people who lived a long time ago?
 - 3) Given first—thus makes it old?
 - 4) Because God made it old—Hebrews 8:13, 8:8; (Jeremiah 31:21-34)
 - 5) "Made it old"—simply means He took it out of the way—not binding as law of faith and practice.
 - b. New—2 Corinthians 3:6; Hebrews 9:15

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1) Because it is now in effect, in force

5. New Testament described:

a. James 1:22-25; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17

6. New Testament divided: Biography, Acts, Letters, Prophecy

I. BIOGRAPHY

A. Four Books—not Four Gospels (denominational designation).

One gospel—four books descriptive of it

1. Matthew—written for Jewish readers

2. Mark—for Roman readers

3. Luke—for Greek readers

4. John—for us all

B. If person is going to be religious, his first question is, "What shall I believe?"

1. Books written to produce faith, John 20:30, 31

C. Man who believes one is saved by "faith only" needs only this part of New Testament

II. ACTS

A. Written to produce obedience

1. Great Commission in Biography. Some have doubts about what Jesus said do

2. Turn to Acts. See what they did, because what they did is what He said do. We'll be doing what He said because what He said is what they did

B. One who says, "Once saved, always saved," needs only these two divisions

III. LETTERS

A. To Christians—how to live, 2 Timothy 3:16, 17

1. How to behave in every relationship of life; worship, work of the church, etc.

IV. REVELATION

A. "So hard to understand." Yes, some matters are more difficult than others, and some matters are more important to our

SERMON OUTLINES

salvation than others in the Bible

1. Far more important to me to know what Jesus meant in Mark 16:16 than to be able to explain the "mark of the beast," the "binding of Satan," the "opening of the seven vials," and the "sounding of the trumpets"
2. A good rule to remember: That which is of greatest importance to our salvation is that which is set in simplest fashion. That which is of comparative importance to our salvation is set out more obscurely. That which is of least importance to our salvation is that which is the most difficult of apprehension
3. Written to produce hope—what to expect—a preview of heaven, the home of the soul
 - a) What righteous may expect; what wicked may expect

CONCLUSION:

1. "Perfect law of liberty" complete, etc.

SERMON OUTLINES

NO HOME DOWN HERE

2 Timothy 4:6-8

INTRODUCTION:

1. Paul to Timothy, "Timothy, this is my last letter to write. I am about to be sacrificed—my life is about to be poured out—the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight. I have finished the race, I have firmly held to the faith. Now the crown for doing right awaits me—it is the victor's crown for being right with God and for doing right. My Lord, the righteous judge, will give it to me at that great day. But not only to me, but unto all them also who have loved and yearned to hear His welcome at His appearing."
 2. Our Lord does have a home for us, John 14:1-3.
 3. It will be our eternal home, 2 Corinthians 5:1.
 4. Remember when we used to sing, "I Am Bound For the Promised Land," "In The Sweet By and By," "When I Can Read My Title Clear?"
 5. We are warned against the love of money, 1 Timothy 6:10; the cares of this world, Mark 4:19; loving this world, 1 John 2:15; laying up treasures in heaven, Matthew 6:20
 - a. He also tells us that man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things he possesses, Luke 12:15
 - b. And, our Lord proved it with the account of the "Successful Farmer," Luke 12:16-21
- I. WE ARE FORBIDDEN TO BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, Romans 12:2
- A. Who inspires us today?
 1. The successful big shot. How we admire him
 2. We use the same standards the world uses to try to glorify them with our religious phraseology. We appear to be at home in the world
 - B. Actually though, we are to be just a bunch of pilgrims and strangers marching through
 1. But we want the church to be like a super-corporation,

SERMON OUTLINES

another big business, so much like the age in which we live
—and few can tell the difference

2. It was a dark day when the church forgot that we have no home down here

II. THE THOUGHT OF HEAVEN DOES NOT THRILL US ANYMORE

A. Don't hear many old-fashioned sermons about heaven

1. Sure, "There's A Land That Is Fairer Than Day," but most of us are not looking that far ahead; we are near-sighted
2. We think of ourselves as citizens of the earth trying to get to heaven, but really we are the citizens of heaven just sojourning here on earth. Our rights of citizenship are in heaven

III. CHRISTIANITY LOSES GROUND WHEN CHRISTIANS MAKE THEMSELVES AT HOME DOWN HERE

A. We are spiritual sons of Abraham, not sons of Lot

1. We are not to settle down in Sodom. The moment we settle down, we cease to be pilgrims. We set our affections on things of the earth, while our account in heaven is bankrupt

CONCLUSION:

1. Song, "Higher Ground." Used to make our eyes fill with tears. Does it happen today?
2. It seems we settle down here. We finally reach the sad state where we no longer respond to the call from on High
3. What is your need today?
 - a. Primary obedience—to become a Christian?
 - b. Need to be restored to duty and faithfulness?
 - c. Place membership with this local church? So you can get busy bearing fruit. You know what happens when you do not?

SERMON OUTLINES

THE FACE OF JESUS

2 Corinthians 4:6

INTRODUCTION:

1. The greatest and most amazing portrait gallery of all time and place is the Bible
 - a. Far greater than the Vatican's art gallery with its 11,000 rooms
2. Splendid indeed are the pictures that look down upon us from those ancient scriptural walls in the vast art gallery of the Bible
 - a. There we see Adam in his loneliness
 - b. Eve in her dialogue with the devil
 - c. Cain running from those red spots on the ground, only to be made most miserable by the results of his own foolish envy
 - d. Abraham as he welcomes the angels standing at his door
 - e. Daniel in a dungeon with the lions, the greatest man in a thousand years
 - f. Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego as they walk to and fro in the fiery furnace
 - g. Joseph as he comes down from his great authority and kneels down with his brethren
 - h. Moses, the mighty law-giver, but better-loved because of his meekness
 - i. David, at once king, poet, prophet, and musician
 - j. John the Baptist crying out against the wickedness of his day as with a torch in one hand and a sword in the other
 - k. Paul, far greater than are Aristotle and Demosthenes rolled into one
 - l. John the beloved, marooned on Patmos but his mind traveling the ranges of a new heaven and a new earth
3. We could wander for centuries in the great Bible art gallery and not see all its glories
 - a. But all the pictures at which we have looked lose their splendor in the greater glory of the face of Jesus Christ.

SERMON OUTLINES

- 1) Of His face we shall now speak
- 2) What kind of face was it?

I. A SAD FACE

A. Isaiah 53:3, "...man of sorrows...grief"

1. Not all know fame, fortune, happiness—but all men know sorrow. He is the universal Christ

B. Psalms 69:20, "Reproach hath broken my heart..."

1. He left a place where sorrow never comes and where hearts are never broken, to come down to this? Why?

C. Isaiah 63:3, "I have trodden...alone..."

1. He saw us thinking our lives consist in the abundance of the things we possess, Luke 12:15
2. Saw us measuring ourselves by ourselves—which is never wise, 2 Corinthians 10:12
3. Saw us building our houses on the sand—hearing, but not doing, Matthew 7:26, 27
4. Saw men loving darkness rather than light, John 3:19
5. He grieved over men and sorrowed over their foolish and perverse ways

II. A SHINING FACE

A. Matthew 17:1, 2, "...His face did shine..."

1. If on Mt. Hermon, then 9,200' above sea level – there His deity and heavenly nature shining through His body
2. There He was, the One through whom God has spoken to us in these last days, by whom also He made the worlds—the brightness of God's glory and the express image of His person, Hebrews 1:2, 3
 - a. There Peter, James, and John beheld the glory of His shining face—the glory of the **only begotten Son of God**
3. His love, sympathy, glory, and authority did shine above the brightness of the midday sun, Acts 26:13

III. A STAINED FACE

A. With tears

1. John 11:33-37, at Bethany—"Jesus wept," v. 35

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2. Luke 19:41, "...He beheld the city and wept..."

a. Matthew 23:37

B. With sweat

1. Luke 22:41-44, "...His sweat was..."

a. "Let this cup pass..." What is it? Physical death?

2. Isaiah 53:6, "...laid on Him the iniquity..."

3. Isaiah 53:12, "...bore the sins of many..."

4. 2 Corinthians 5:21, "...made Him to be sin..."

5. That "cup?"

a. He was dying as a sinner—had sins upon Him

b. Sin separates from God, Isaiah 59:1, 2

c. Thus, Jesus separated from His Father—"My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"

C. With spit

1. Matthew 26:66, 67, "...did spit in His face"

a. Isaiah 50:6, "I hid not My face from shame and spitting"

D. With blood

1. Yes, blood from His feet where the spikes were driven; from His hands where the nails had pierced them; from His back from the scourging; from His side where the Roman spear went its unholy way; and blood trickled from the thorn punctures in His brow

IV. A SMITTEN FACE

A. Luke 22:63, 64

1. They beat the face where no deceit, no insincerity, no sin, no dishonesty, nor anything evil ever reigned even for a second. It never bore a trace of sin, and hypocrisy was never stamped thereupon

2. Isaiah, 52:14, "...visage marred more..."

V. A SET FACE

A. Isaiah 50:7, "...set My face like a flint..."

1. Luke 9:51, "...set His face to go..." (And, He would not be turned aside)

2. Jesus came to die

SERMON OUTLINES

- a. Not only to teach, to live a beautiful life, not merely to work miracles—but to die—and He would not be turned aside
3. Came to establish His kingdom on this earth, and He did so, because “He set His face like a flint” and would not be turned aside

VI. A SHROUDED FACE

A. In the case of Lazarus, John 11:44, “...and his face was bound about with a napkin...”

1. Jesus, John 20:7, “...and the napkin that was about His head...”

B. But the Son of God was dead

1. Born among cattle and died between two thieves on a cross of crucifixion—now reposing in the borrowed tomb of Joseph of Arimathea
 - a. Back, Mary Magdalene, to your household duties
 - b. Back, Fisherman, to your nets
 - c. Back, Matthew, to your tax-gathering
 - d. Back, Mary, mother of Jesus, and find healing for the hurt of your soul, for your first-born is dead

VII. A SEEN FACE

A. Revelation 1:7, “...every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him...”

B. 1 John 3:1, 2, “Beloved, now are we...for we shall see Him...”

C. Revelation 22:4, “And they shall see His face...”

D. Illu: Worth trip across Atlantic Ocean just to look upon the face of Mr. Wm. E. Gladstone

E. Psalms 17:15, “...I will behold Thy face...”

CONCLUSION:

1. He's looking toward you now. Do you see His face? Do you hear His invitation and His plea?
2. If these glimpses will not move you to come to Him in gospel obedience or in humble contrition, then there is no appeal I can make to cause you to respond to our Lord's invitation

SERMON OUTLINES

WHAT I SEE WHEN I LOOK AT THIS TABLE

1 Corinthians 11:23-30

INTRODUCTION:

1. Describe meeting houses of the past—front door—look directly forward and first thing we see is a small table—clean, white cloth—washed, starched and ironed—underneath, two little plates with the bread and two glasses, sparkling clean and the fruit of the vine within, I liked that. It really meant something to look at that table
 2. The Lord intended we should see something when we look at this table. He intended that we should feel something. That we should resolve something. That we should determine something. He intended that this table should be the center of everything that takes place in this Lord's Day worship.
 - a. Everything thought, said, and done here this morning should be centered around this table
 - b. Were it not for what this table represents, there would be no service here this morning
- I. A YOUNG JEW ABOUT 33½ YEARS OLD
- A. Of undistinguished parentage
 - B. Hanged on a cross as a malefactor, in an out-of-the-way Roman province, halfway around the world, 20 centuries ago.
 1. Should have spelled the end of this young man's work and the dispersal of His handful of followers who had been with Him for less than 3 years. But it didn't. Instead, thousands pay homage to Him today. And now we know that He who died on a cross 20 centuries ago was no insignificant Jew
- II. I SEE A MOB SURROUNDING JESUS
- A. Had they seriously considered Him? Did they decide that He was a threat to things they held sacred, and therefore He should die?
 1. No. They did not think at all. Each moved as the mass moved and they moved as told to by the leaders

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2. Each assumed he was doing right because everyone else was saying it was right and all agreed, because those who were supposed to know had told them so

B. How typical of religion in our age

1. How few there are who demand to know the truth
2. Most popular religion in the world is the "faith of our fathers"
 - a. "What was believed by my progenitors is good enough for me"
3. Takes courage to brave the tide of mass opinion and stand alone for truth. Most are satisfied to follow the crowd

III. I SEE A GROUP OF DEVOUT MEN—RELIGIOUS MEN

A. Who are they? The mob

1. Not thieves and murderers, but the devout from over the civilized world
2. Not the atheists and criminals of the age, but the "church-going" people. That's what they were doing in Jerusalem—had come to worship

B. We can't afford to believe and practice anything in religion simply because "good" people agree that it is right

1. What a strong argument for personal integrity and individual responsibility
2. "Good" people in all religious groups, but the point is—your relationship with the Saviour is at stake and you cannot afford to leave it carelessly in the hands of others, no matter how good they are
3. Such carelessness led these to crucify the Master

IV. I SEE PILATE, A SOLITARY AND DISTURBED FIGURE

A. Parents have given their children many outlandish names but have never known a mother to call her son "Pilate"

B. Why do we feel so much venom toward this man?

1. Know of any crime he committed?
2. Seemed to be a good family man
 - a. His wife wrote him a note during the trial—she had

SERMON OUTLINES

concern for him

3. Held office of respect and dignity—yet he is so despised
Why?
4. Because he **didn't** do anything
 - a. Better to try and fail than to run away when courageous action is called for
 - b. The neutral attitude toward Christ is the one most despised. When one has a chance to stand forward for Christ and instead retreats into the background, he imitates Pilate

C. Could you have withstood the bitterness of the hate that the people had for Jesus?

1. How do you fare against the attitude of society in which we live? How firmly do we stand for Jesus?
2. Do you have the courage to be a **real** Christian in the midst of so many who only wear the name?

V. I SEE SOME SOLDIERS ROLLING DICE (“casting lots”)

A. Insensible to the suffering and agony on the cross—thought only of what they could get for themselves

1. Too high a value placed on **things** causes one to lose sight of the value of **people**
2. Why do some not get involved in the activities of the church?
 - a. Fear it will take too much time and cost too much in material sacrifice. So, come and listen to the sermon and then slip quickly away
 - b. Insensible to the Saviour (His suffering and death for us) that they hurry back to material pursuits
 - c. Illu: Been with families in funeral homes. They are in no hurry to leave. “I just want to sit here awhile with the body of my loved one”

VI. I SEE SOME STANDING “AFAR OFF”

A. Disciples, followers—when things were going well. Now it is not too popular to be a disciple and so they follow afar off

SERMON OUTLINES

- B. Easy to be a Christian (at least in name) when being a Christian is the thing to do
 - 1. Being a church member is a good business reference
 - 2. Political candidates tell of their church-going
 - 3. Easy to belong to the church today, but how about standing by this supper when the crowd wants to go fishing on Sunday morning? What about vacation time?
- C. Sure, we believe in standing by the table, but how far off? How far away?
 - 1. Have we taught our children the unpopular side of Christianity?
 - a. Morality, honesty, fairness, self-discipline

VII. I SEE A SMALL GROUP STANDING REAL CLOSE—MOSTLY WOMEN

- A. See the heartache that must have been Mary's at the time
 - 1. This was not the amazing miracle-worker to her; not the King of the Jews, or the Messiah of the world. This was her son
 - 2. She knew He had never done any wrong, yet they hated Him enough to kill Him. The tears of grief and disbelief must have flowed down her cheeks until she could weep no more
- B. As we stand beside this table, it is as if we were standing by the cross—seeing the awfulness of sin
 - 1. He died for you and me—paid for us the penalty of our sins.
- C. As we stand by the table, we need to take time
 - 1. Some would have us sing while the supper is served; others would have someone stand by the table and read some Bible passages; others would have us hum during the communion service
 - 2. But this is a time when we are left totally alone. No one whispers to you, no gestures to get your attention, no notes are written—you are left alone to think. And to remember. And to examine one's self. Your mind is riveted upon Jesus.

SERMON OUTLINES

You eat the bread, you drink the cup, you meditate, you recall, you commune. In that blessed moment of worship all else is shut out. It's you—with Jesus Christ

- a. Don't read to me. Don't sing to me. Don't hum to me. Let me be undisturbed
- b. It's so short and some would shorten it more. "We've got to get these people out of here by 12:00 o'clock—hopefully by a quarter till." Why, we are granted only a few minutes—please don't take these few minutes from me
- c. Let me think. Let me remember. Let me pray. Let me personally thank my Saviour. Please don't take my meditation away from me. I need that time just with Jesus. Thanks for these unsurpassed moments. I'll appreciate getting to keep them

CONCLUSION:

1. Does it mean anything to you? If so, you can't really be indifferent toward Him. Toward His invitation, etc.

SERMON OUTLINES

ARE YOU TOO SENSITIVE?

Matthew 15:21-28

INTRODUCTION:

1. Through the years many people have quit the church because someone hurt their feelings
2. Others still attend but are no longer active in the Lord's work because someone hurt their feelings
3. All feel they are justified for their actions because their feelings have been wounded
 - a. Is this being overly-sensitive? To let one's wounded feelings place his soul in danger of being lost?
4. Illu: "Certain preacher said so and so;" "certain brother hurt my child's feelings and he quit when in junior high;" "sermons hurt my feelings"
5. Let's study a New Testament example. Matthew 15:22, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil"
 - a. This story presents several tests which this woman met. How sensitive was she?

I. THE FIRST TEST

- A. "But He answered her not a word," v.23
 1. If ever a time, was this not it for one to get feelings hurt?
Good time for her to have turned away and said, "Well, if that is the way you act, I will never ask you for anything else"
- B. What would you do if you asked a preacher a question and received no reply of any kind?
 1. Would your feelings be hurt?
 2. Good chance you would quit the church and would feel justified in doing so
 - a. But would they be?
- C. This woman did not let the silence of Christ turn her away
 1. Was she a woman without feelings?

SERMON OUTLINES

2. No, but she was a woman who needed something and she knew Christ was the only one who could supply that need. The life of her child was in danger and she thought more of her daughter than she did of her feelings
 - a. Illu: What of members, with children, quitting the church?
- D. Our souls are in danger and Christ and the church are the only places where safety can be found
 1. Think more of your soul than you do your feelings? Then you will not let anyone drive you away because your feelings have been wounded
- II. THE SECOND TEST: The silence of Christ was only her first test. Most would not have passed it, perhaps
 - A. Disciples now strike at her feelings
 1. "Send her away; for she crieth after us"
 - a. Should have been enough to send her away with wounded feelings
 - B. But, did she leave?
 1. No, her need was too great to let Christ's disciples stand in her way. Would not let them rob her of the blessings she needed
 - C. Example: If elders should say, "Send him away, he annoys us." Would you stay or leave?
 1. If we, like this woman, knew our needs and why we came to the services, we would remain in spite of what they said
 2. If turned back because feelings were hurt, would you not be the one to lose?
 3. God would not be pleased with their actions—it's true, but even so their actions would not justify your quitting. Be lost if quit the church. Soul more important than your feelings
 4. If let even this cause you to forsake the church, would mean you are too sensitive
- III. THE THIRD TEST: Having passed through two tests, she has more to face yet

SERMON OUTLINES

A. Jesus, "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel"

1. What would you do if someone said, "The blessings of the Lord are not for you"?

a. Get all ruffled up and leave without them? Not this woman. "Then she came and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, help me"

2. How many of us could worship under such circumstances? Would get mad and refuse to stay, much less worship

a. But should we give up? More important that we obey the gospel and serve the Lord in the church or run home with our feelings hurt?

IV. THE FOURTH TEST: She has one more test to face—will it hurt her feelings and drive her away?

A. Jesus, "It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs"

1. Most of us would not have carried the conversation far enough to have heard this statement. But what would we have done? What, if called a dog?

B. This woman simply said, "Truth, Lord, yet the dogs eat of the crumbs"

1. Saying, "I know I am unworthy; I do not ask for anything but the crumbs." She obtained the mercy she sought

a. Was it worth it? Been easy to have let her feelings rob her and her daughter of the healing she desired and needed

CONCLUSION:

1. In judgment, will we have let our feelings rob us of that welcome, "Well done...?"

2. We tell the world we walk by faith—not by feelings. What are you walking by?

a. A quitter because you have had your feelings hurt?

b. Are you walking by faith, even though your feelings have been hurt?

SERMON OUTLINES

HEAVEN, THE LAND OF NO TEARS

Revelation 21:4

INTRODUCTION:

1. We commit spiritual suicide if we live for this world only and think nothing of the world which is to come

I. THE EARTH IS THE LAND OF TEARS

This world is full of tears. Sun might shine for us for a little while, but soon the sun is gone, shadows gather round us, and we are bound to shed our bitter tears

A. There are the tears of disappointment

1. Moses' entire life—one goal—take children of Israel into the land of promise. Just when it seemed he was going to realize the fulfillment of his dreams, the disappointment came

B. There are tears of our shattered dreams

1. Our air castles come crashing down to the earth
2. We have our bright dreams which never come true
3. We have our high hopes which never materialize
4. We look forward to great days—they never dawn for us

5. Illu:

- a. Baby that doesn't live
- b. Children who do not turn out all right
- c. Accident taking one away
- d. Marriages fail

C. There are tears of death.

1. Oh, the utter darkness and bitter loneliness of the sorrow which crushes us when a loved one is taken away from us. How we "long for the touch of a vanished hand and the sound of a voice that is still"
2. We thank God that there is a place where all tears are wiped away

II. HEAVEN IS THE LAND OF NO TEARS

- A. Heaven is a place, not just an imagination or a condition

SERMON OUTLINES

1. John 14:2, 3; Hebrews 11:10, 16; Matthew 25:34
 - a. Christ has prepared the place and the way to that place.
Are you prepared for that place? "Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people"
- B. Heaven is a perfect place
 1. City is 12,000 furlongs each way—length, breadth, and height of it are equal; walls of jasper, gates of pearl, and the street is pure gold
- C. A place where many people will be
 1. Revelation 7:9
 - a. All children—all with only mind of a child
 2. Faithful in the first 2500 years
 3. Faithful in the next 1500 years
 4. Faithful Christians in the Christian Dispensation
 - a. Those in Christ
 - b. Those who are faithful in Him
- D. Heaven is a permanent city
 1. Hebrews 13:14, "...here no continuing city..."
 2. Carthage, Sparta, Pompeii, etc.
 - a. Babylon, once had population of 2 million, but now snakes and lizards crawl across its ruins
 3. New York, Chicago, London, Washington—will all one day be gone
 4. Thank God, the New Jerusalem, the heavenly city, will abide for ever and ever. It is a permanent city
- E. A place of perfect singing
 1. Revelation 5:9, 11, 12
 - a. Everybody in perfect harmony, no discords
 2. Singing praises to the Lamb that was slain
- F. A place of perfect service
 1. Revelation 22:3
- G. A perfect home

SERMON OUTLINES

1. Even though our homes here are the dearest things we know—"Be it ever so mumble, there's no place like home"—you will never find one that is perfect
 - a. One day a daughter marries; a son goes away to a distant state to seek his fortune or to fight a war which he didn't start—our homes are thus broken up. But never will be in heaven
 - b. Illu: For many years, I had no particular interest in Vienna, Austria, but a son went to live there. Then I was deeply interested in that place because I had a loved one there
 - c. Illu: "Heaven Holds All To Me"

H. A place where Jesus is

1. Heaven is more than a street of gold, jasper walls, and pearly gates—a place where we shall see His face, Revelation 22:4; 1:7
2. Illu: It was said that it was worth a trip across the Atlantic Ocean just to look upon the face of Mr. Wm. E. Gladstone whose countenance was so bright with human intelligence
 - a. But what will it be worth to look upon the face of Jesus, our Saviour—the One who died for us

CONCLUSION:

1. Don't you want to live in the land of no tears?
2. Then you must make preparation for it
 - a. This life is when it must be made
 - b. Time to begin that preparation is now

SERMON OUTLINES

BELONGING TO THE CHURCH

Acts 12:1, 2

INTRODUCTION:

1. That which distinguished James from those about him was the fact that he belonged to the church
 - a. 1 Peter 2:9, "...chosen generation..."
 - 1) A Christian is to be different. Lord expects us to be more unselfish and more eager to serve than those who do not know him. Matthew 5:47, "What do ye more than others?"
 - b. Not much difference between the church and the world today:
 - 1) Because the world has grown so much better?
 - 2) What is your notion of pleasure? Any different from the notion of the irreligious person?
 - 3) What is your ideal of happiness?
 - 4) What is your application of the rules of morality?
 - 5) Any difference at all in your general way of looking at things?
 - c. Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth"
 - 1) Salt is something we miss when it is absent, and recognize when it is present. Cannot be ignored
 - 2) Christians are to be like that. They are to be a positive, pungent folk. You may like them or dislike them, love them or hate them, fight with them or against them, but you cannot ignore them
2. Just what difference has Jesus made in me? What is there in me that simply could not be there but for Jesus Christ? If there is nothing, then my so-called Christianity is a failure
 - a. Belonging to the church is to distinguish us from those about us
3. "He killed James, the brother of John, with the sword"
 - a. How brutally brief his story is. Contrast Luke's account of the death of Stephen

SERMON OUTLINES

- 1) Stephen's death told in great detail
- 2) Account of James' death is very brief
- 3) We are reminded of how little the manner of our home-going really matters. (James first; John his brother last)
- 4) What really matters is that both belonged to the church. And that really matters. Salvation!

I. WHAT IS THIS CHURCH TO WHICH JAMES BELONGED?

A. The body of Christ

1. Colossians 1:18, "...He is head of the body..."
2. Ephesians 1:22, 23, "...gave Him to be head..."
3. John 1:14, "And the Word became flesh..." That Word was done to death on the cross, death claimed Him, but impossible for death to hold Him. He arose from the dead and continued His mighty work. This He did and is doing through His body, the church
 - a. So today, He speaks through our lips, ministers through our hands and performs errands of mercy upon our feet—those who belong to the church. The church is His body; we are the members of that body—we make up the body of Christ

B. The brotherhood

1. 1 Peter 2:17, Honor all men... fear God..."
2. 1 John 3:14, "...because we love the brethren"
3. Galatians 6:10, "...opportunity, let us..."
 - a. Belong to same family—a brotherhood
4. Ephesians 2:19, "...no more strangers..."
5. John 13:35, "By this shall all men know..."

II. WHAT IS INVOLVED IN BELONGING TO THE CHURCH?

A. Self-giving

1. Word **belong** implies this
 - a. My car. It belongs to me. I can drive it, lend it, do with it

SERMON OUTLINES

as I choose. I have a prior claim upon it. So if in reality I belong to the church, then the church has a prior claim upon me

2. To belong to the church is costly. If your church membership costs you nothing, it is worth nothing

B. Belonging carries with it the idea of fitting in

1. Truly brotherly, love one another, pleasant, congenial. If you find the atmosphere oppressive and embarrassing, do you really belong?

C. To belong is to fit in, to help build the church

1. If don't fit in, will not help but destroy
2. Being of real, available service, cooperative
3. Not to sow strife, discord—not to hate but to love. Need optimists, hope-bringers because we always have their opposites

III. HOW DO WE COME TO BELONG TO THE CHURCH?

A. Composed of people who had the power to become members of it

1. Matthew 11:28-30; Revelation 22:17, "...Spirit and the bride say, Come. Let him that heareth..."

B. Were not forced to become members

1. Church is made up of volunteers, none conscripted

C. Not in the church because improper motives availed

1. Over-persuaded; mother and father were; etc.

D. Those in the church were moved by proper motives

1. Love of God, hope of reward, fear of punishment

E. "Why I am a member of the church of Christ"

1. Because the Lord saved me, Acts 2:47

SERMON OUTLINES

THE SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

INTRODUCTION:

1. Security depends upon two things:
 - a. Knowledge of forgiveness
 - 1) Ex: Philip, eunuch; jailer—rejoicing, Mark 16:16
 - b. Faith that there is a heaven—eternal city, 2 Corinthians 5:1

I. FRUITS OF INSECURITY

A. Lack of confidence we are saved

1. Wouldn't it be wonderful to **know** you are saved?
 - a. Go to sleep at night—tornado warning—serious surgery
2. I believe we **can** know—even must know
 - a. 1 John 3:2, 3, "...now are we the sons..."
 - b. Various ways in which we know things:
 - 1) By our senses
 - 2) Because we are told
 - 3) Because we know
 - c. Adequate spiritual knowledge comes because of the testimony of God's word. It tells us something, then we know, 1 John 5:13

B. Lost joy—"the joy we once knew"

C. Living fearfully—running scared

1. Do you worry about money? The answer is on the coins we worry about

D. Mental difficulties

1. Fear, frustration, no peace of mind
2. Can't tell from one day to next whether we are saved or lost.
3. Hindrance to evangelism: "Well, of course, can't really tell if saved until the very last—is uncertain—it worries us a lot—so let me study with you so you can come on into the church and worry with us"

II. CAN AND DOES A CHILD OF GOD SIN? YES! HOW?

A. Ignorance

SERMON OUTLINES

1. Not that he wants to sin—not that he doesn't care—but because he just doesn't know

B. Weakness, Galatians 6:1

C. Inattention, Hebrews 2:1

D. Low resistance

1. Not always the same spiritually—have our highs and lows, ups and downs

E. Failure, James 4:17

III. WHAT IS REALLY INVOLVED IN BEING SAVED?

A. "In Christ," 2 Timothy 2:10. Many references that certain people were in Christ, e.g. Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians, referring to saved people

B. Now, how do we get into Christ?

1. By submission—that's what baptism is. "Baptized into Christ," Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:27 simply submerging our will into His
2. Draw circle on chalkboard—put "Christ" in it.
 - a. In Him we are saved? Yes, 1 John 5:18-20; 3:14

IV. NOW, WHAT IS INVOLVED IN BEING LOST?

A. Get angry—leave the circle? Repent in 5 minutes, come back into the circle?

B. Repeat something—not know if true—leave circle? Sorry next day—get back into circle?

C. Traffic—bad word slips out. Leave circle? Really sorry afterward. Get back into circle?

D. Now, real question is, "What if die during these brief periods when out of the circle? Be lost?"

E. Now we get into Christ by submission. What is the only way we get out of Him?

1. By rebellion, of course

- a. And these 5 sins, or ways of sinning, are not necessarily rebellion

SERMON OUTLINES

V. WELL, HOW ARE THESE FIVE SINS TAKEN CARE OF?

A. 1 John 1:7, "But if we walk in the light..."

1. Have fellowship—with Christ and His own
2. Blood cleanses us—of what?
 - a. Sin! Therefore, those who do walk in the light sin

B. But what if a person doesn't pray? Assemble?

1. Can't imagine a person who is walking in the light not praying, can you?
2. Those walking in the light do not trust in themselves and will, therefore, want to confess their sins
3. Thus the blood of Christ "keeps on cleansing" such sins

CONCLUSION:

1. Our Father knows we are going to stumble and fall, but He does not disown us. Rather He is ready and willing to forgive
 - a. Illu: Have 3 children—love all dearly. When they disobeyed me, it grieved me, but did I disown them? No! Am I a better father than my Heavenly Father? By no means. He knows we are going to stumble and fall, but does not disown us. He is ready, willing and anxious to forgive
 - b. Matthew 18:14, "It is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish."
2. Assurance is a blessed thing
 - a. To know that one is loved, has hope, is not alone
 - b. To know we can find grace to help in time of need, Hebrews 4:16
 - c. 2 Timothy 1:12, "I know whom I have believed..."
 - d. This is my story, this is my song..."

FROM EARTH TO HEAVEN

INTRODUCTION:

1. All should know that we are swift travelers from this time-world to that great eternity beyond
2. Psalmist said, "There is but a step between me and death," therefore, we may say there is but a step between this earth and heaven (for the righteous)

I. THE FIRST STEP IS SALVATION

- A. World is mixed up on this matter. We look to our own thought instead of to the Bible

1. "All men are children of God"

- a. "Do not need salvation—not necessary for Christ to come

and die on the cross, since all are saved anyway

2. "Saved by good works"

- a. Every good deed or gift adds another rung to the "ladder

of salvation"

3. "Only believe"—"By grace alone"

4. What is involved in this matter of salvation?

- B. Salvation indicates a lost condition

1. Illu: Jailer, Acts 16, "What must I do to be saved?"

2. John 3:18, "He that believeth is not condemned..."

3. "You are a pretty good fellow—many others worse than you"

- a. But fact remains—without Christ, you are eternally lost

- C. Salvation indicates a consciousness of that lost condition

1. Illu: Jailer, Acts 16, realized he was lost

2. Will not ask what to do to be saved if do not realize we are lost

- a. Will not send for doctor unless we realize we are sick

- b. Will not try to learn until we realize we are unlearned

- D. Salvation involves a turning from sin in repentance

1. Acts 17:30; Luke 13:3

2. Change of mind, will, Matthew 21:28, two sons

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- E. Salvation involves a confession of our faith in Jesus Christ, Matthew 10:32, 33; Acts 8:36, 37; Romans 10:9, 10
- F. Salvation involves a coming into Christ, 2 Timothy 2:10, Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3, 4; Galatians 3:27
- G. Salvation involves the greatest experience on this earth.
 - 1. Realize sins have been forgiven—stand as if we were never guilty of them
 - 2. Realize no longer a child of Satan but of God
 - 3. Realize not on road to hell but to heavenly home
 - 4. Realize not alone but have a divine friend to walk all along the way
 - 5. Let us sing often, "O happy day, that fixed..."

II. THE SECOND STEP IS THE STEP OF SEPARATION

- A. The world is looking at you and needs to see a difference in you. People who are not Christians can tell if our Christianity is genuine.
- B. Illu: Trucking company had sign on its gate. Every driver saw this sign as he drove away. "Beyond this gate you are the company".
 - 1. "Beyond these doors you are the church." Be careful how you live when you go out today.
- C. Don't judge others. Don't be critical of their lives. Don't think you are better than they are, but quietly take your stand by the side of Jesus Christ. Live a wholesome, happy, separated life

III. THE THIRD STEP IS THE STEP OF CONSECRATION

- A. In consecration there should be a dedication of life
 - 1. Every one—business men, professional men, housewives, farmers—all are called to give their lives to Jesus Christ
 - a. Does not mean you cease to be a professional man when you become a Christian, but that Jesus Christ will be first in your profession
 - b. Does not mean you will cease to be a business man, but that Jesus Christ will be first in your business

SERMON OUTLINES

- c. Does not mean that you will cease to be a farmer, but that Christ will be first on your farm

B. In consecration there should be a dedication of time

1. Strange paradox in modern life, we have more time saving devices than ever, but less time for God
 - a. Stores opened at 6:00 AM and closed at 7:00 PM. Today have 5-day week of 8 hours per day. Yet, God does not get as much time from us as He formerly did
2. Can't grow a great life unless you give some time to the culture of your soul
 - a. Should be time to pray, Bible reading, church-going, Christian service, etc.

C. In consecration, there should be a dedication of money

1. Illu: Little boy in candy store without funds. Man spoke to clerk, "Here is a quarter. Give the boy 25 cents worth of candy. Let him pick it out." As the little boy stuffed it in his mouth, the man said, "Is it good?" "Un-huh," the boy said. "How about giving me a piece of it?" The boy clasped the sack more closely as he ran out of the store, saying, "Mine, mine"
 - a. Way some of us treat God. He gives us everything and when He asks us to give Him back a part of it, we cry "Mine." We keep our part and God's part, too

IV. THE LAST STEP IS THE STEP OF GLORIFICATION

A. God gives salvation, then separation, followed by dedication, and at the end of the way glorification.

1. Song—"He will give me grace and glory." He gives the grace here and the glory there
2. Song—"Oh that will be glory for me, when by His grace I shall look on His face, that will be glory for me"

CONCLUSION:

1. The only thing that counts for time and eternity is our faith, love, and hope in Christ. Do you possess this?
2. We are going from earth into eternity. Where? You decide

SERMON OUTLINES

THE CROSS PULL

Romans 7:19

INTRODUCTION:

1. "Indeed, I do not do the things that I want to do, but I do practice the evil things that I do not want to do," (an English translation, Williams)
2. Paul is saying, "There is a tug of war going on inside me, a cross pull. The things I would not do I do. The things I don't want to do, those are the things I do. There's a cross pull inside me"

I. THE CROSS PULL BETWEEN WHAT IS RIGHT AND WHAT IS WRONG

A. The Bible word for it is—temptation

1. "The time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight..." At least a part of the fight was inside him, 2 Timothy 4:6, 7

"The greatest battles that ever were fought
Shall I tell you where, and when?
They were not fought on battlefields
They were fought inside of men."

2. Don't trifle or dally with temptation. "Lead us not into temptation..." Avoid temptation.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 9:27, "But I keep under my..."

II. BETWEEN OUR FEELINGS ON ONE SIDE AND GOD'S WORD...

A. Proverbs 16:23, "...a way that seemeth right..."

1. Some things that seem right to us may be entirely wrong
2. Our feelings, wishes, and desires have a way of glossing over the facts. They tempt us to rationalize and excuse our actions

B. Illu: Pilot being trained

SERMON OUTLINES

1. "Compass—you will need it—for direction is most important."
2. Other instruments—"Will tell you when your plane is level with the horizon"
3. "Now, listen carefully. You will have to trust this instrument board implicitly or it will kill you"
4. "The time will come when you will feel you are going in the right direction, but you must not trust that feeling. You must trust this compass. If you dare trust your feelings, you are going to be killed. Some night in the dark, you are going to get the feeling that your plane is not level, but you must not dare try to level it by your feelings. Look at your instrument board. You've got to learn to trust these instruments, fly by them, be guided by them, and forget your feelings"
5. Cross pull between the way God tells us to walk and the way our feelings dictate

C. There is a way that seems right, but the end is death

III. BETWEEN THE GOOD AND THE BEST

- A. "The good is often the enemy of the best"
- B. Matthew 5:47, "What do ye more than others?"
- C. Matthew 5:20, "Except your righteousness exceed..."
- D. Illu: "I am a member—attend on Sunday morning"
 1. To be a member and to attend—that's good
 2. Best: Religion of grace, "What more is there...?"

IV. BETWEEN SELFISHNESS AND SERVICE

- A. Illu: Matthew 20:20-27, mother of James and John wanted places for her sons. Jesus said it was not His to give. Wasn't He all-powerful? Couldn't He let one sit on the right hand and the other on the left?
 1. "Whosoever will be greatest among you, let him be the greatest servant"
 2. Positions of greatness are not given away; they are to be earned—by people who serve the best

SERMON OUTLINES

- B. Wm. Howard Taft elected president. A friend of his boyhood days had married a house painter. She came immediately to see him to ask a favor
1. "I want you to make my husband Secretary of Commerce of the U.S." "I must have a big man for that important place."
"Well, that's so easily taken care of. You make him Secretary of Commerce and he will be a big man"
- C. James and John wanted the big positions—Jesus said they would have to be earned
- D. Service instead of self-interest
1. I complain because I am selfish
 2. I become miffed—not in service, but in selfishness
 3. I feel neglected—not in service, but in selfishness
 4. Oh, what a cross pull

CONCLUSION:

1. We are saved by "the pull of the cross"

SERMON OUTLINES

BIBLE BAPTISM

Matthew 28:18-20

INTRODUCTION:

1. Obviously the person here is a believer
 - a. Romans 10:17; Acts 16:30-32; Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24; John 3:18
 - b. Only the taught can be baptized; therefore, only believers can be baptized

I. FAITH AND BAPTISM, Mark 16:16

A. The forgiveness of past sins; pardon; remission of sins; complete absolution of guilt

1. An executive act—takes place in mind of God in heaven—
—not in the heart of man on earth
 - a. Thus, cannot determine by inward feelings that pardon is granted. Illu: Man in penitentiary can know he is pardoned only as the executive, the Governor, declares it. So, God has a law of forgiveness and the sinner is not pardoned until he has complied with it. But then, God does the pardoning

B. By faith

1. Issue is not whether one is saved or justified by faith—to that we all agree. The issue is in the degree of faith—when is one saved by faith?
2. Some teach repentance before faith, but do not mean salvation by repentance before faith. Bible order is faith before baptism—why should one insist that salvation comes by faith before baptism while disallowing that salvation comes by repentance before faith?
3. Believe all passages that we are saved by faith, but deny that any of these passages teach or imply that one is saved by faith before he is baptized, Mark 16:16

C. By faith when

1. Hebrews 11, list of men of faith in Old Testament. By faith they were approved—by faith plus what?

SERMON OUTLINES

- a. By faith Abel offered his sacrifice and was justified
 - b. By faith Noah prepared an ark
 - c. By faith Abraham obeyed—got up and went...
 - d. See also James 2:21, 22
2. Try faith alone on any of these examples of justification by faith and see how it works
 3. Illu: Priests and rulers believed:
 - a. Acts 6:7, "...priests became obedient to the faith"
 - b. John 12:42, many of the rulers believed but would not confess. Both companies believed but only one company was justified. Faith only does not save, else both companies would have been saved, James 2:24
- D. By faith plus
1. One is to exercise faith, but his faith is also to exercise him
 - a. Illu: John 1:12. Question: How does a believer exercise the power to become a child of God?
 - b. Illu: Acts 11:21, "And the hand of the Lord was with them; and a great number that believed turned to the Lord." Question: What did these believers do when they turned unto the Lord?
 - c. Illu: Acts 3:19. Question: What did these penitent persons do when they turned to the Lord?
 - d. Illu: Hebrews 11:6. Question: What does one who has believed do when he comes to God?
 2. Becoming a child of God does not consist in mere faith:
 - a. "...power to become..." Cannot become that which we already are
 3. Turning to God does not consist in faith. They "believed" and "turned." Turning followed the believing. What was the turning act?
 4. Turning to God does not consist in repentance. Jews told to "repent" and "turn." What was the turning act in this case?
 5. Turning act in Acts 11:21 is not faith, for they "believed and turned"

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6. Coming to God in Hebrews 11:6 is not faith, one must believe in order to come to God
7. Therefore, if one is saved at the point of faith without obedience, then he is saved:
 - a. Before he comes to God, Hebrews 11:6
 - b. Before he becomes a child of God, John 1:12
 - c. Before he turns to God, Acts 11:21; 3:19

E. The turning act

1. Not faith, nor repentance. Only one act left—baptism. The act in which faith obeys
2. "He that believeth and is baptized...", the command that points out the man who is saved, "...shall be...", what? shall be saved? Not if he is already saved before he is baptized
3. "Faith only" theory would make it read, "He that believeth and is saved shall (or may) be baptized." But Jesus did not say, is saved—He said "is baptized" and "shall be saved"

CONCLUSION:

1. Anybody dare say "he that believeth and will not be baptized shall be saved"? Anyone have authority to say "he that believeth and is not baptized shall be saved"?
2. Roman Catholics, "He that is baptized shall be saved without faith
3. Protestants, "He that believeth is saved"—without baptism
4. Bible says, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Which shall we take?
5. Illu: If say, "He that believeth and is baptized shall receive \$5,000." Is there anyone who could not understand it?
Illu: If Noah had said, "He that believeth and enters the ark shall be saved," would it have meant that one who believed could have been saved without entering the ark?

SERMON OUTLINES

VOICES FROM THE DEAD

Hebrews 11:4

INTRODUCTION:

1. Death is the great mystery
 - a. Every one is affected by it
 - b. Can't communicate with the dead
 - 1) Mediums and their claims, etc.
- I. THE VOICE OF SAMUEL, 1 Samuel 28:15-19
 - A. The certainty of death—"Thou and thy sons shall be with me..." v.19
 1. Samuel was in Hades; Saul was going to die
 2. All need to be reminded of the certainty of death. Many refuse to think or talk about it, but we cannot prepare for it if we are not conscious of it
 - B. The proximity of death
 1. "...tomorrow..." v.18
 2. At best everyone is near death
 - a. "For all flesh is as grass..." 1 Peter 1:24
 - b. "Man that is born of woman is of few days..." Job 14:1
 - c. James 4:14, "...know not what shall be on the morrow..."
 - 1) Tomorrow means just a very short time
- II. THE VOICE OF THE RICH MAN, LUKE 16:23-28
 - A. The certainty of life after death
 1. "...in Hades he lifted up his eyes...seeth Abraham..." v.23
 - a. A conscious existence after death of the body
 - b. Answers Job's question, "If a man die, shall he live again?" Job 14:14
 - c. Answers the annihilationist—"I am tormented in these flames," v.24
 - B. Horrible punishment of the wicked
 1. Matthew 8:12, "...outer darkness...weeping and gnashing..."
 2. Mark 9:48, "...where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched"

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3. 2 Thessalonians 1:9, "Who shall be punished with everlasting..."

C. The rich man, "Don't come here, whatever you do"

III. THE VOICE OF ABEL, Hebrews 11:4

A. The necessity of preparation for death

1. Necessity of faith, Hebrews 11:1, 6

a. John 8:24, "...for if you believe not that I am he..."

b. 2 Corinthians 5:7, "For we walk by faith, not by sight"

2. Abel, "The life of faith is the only life to live"

B. The meaning of faith

1. "By faith Abel offered..."

2. Acceptable faith is obedient faith

a. "By faith Noah prepared an ark...", Hebrews 11:7.

b. "By faith Abraham obeyed...", 11:8

c. James 2:24, "...by works a man is justified and not by faith only"

C. An obedient faith is "reckoned for righteousness," James 2:23.

1. An obedient faith unites with Christ, Galatians 3:26, 27,
and a life of faith will lead to heaven, Revelation 2:10

CONCLUSION:

1. Hear the voice of Samuel; "The certainty of death"

2. Believe the voice of the rich man: "The certainty of life after death"

3. Obey the voice of Abel: "The necessity of preparation for death"
"...and the judgment," Hebrews 9:27

SERMON OUTLINES

THE DANGER OF DRIFTING AWAY

Hebrews 2:1, ASV

INTRODUCTION:

1. Exhortation not to the ungodly, but professing Christians
2. "...lest...we drift away from them." *"from them"* is in italics. So, we may drift away, not from the things heard, but from Christ
3. To drift away is fearfully possible
 - a. Powerful currents tend to carry us away: winds of temptation, materialism, secularism, tide of worldly custom, our own selfishness
4. The departure may be for some time imperceptible.
 - a. Glide downstream so quietly and with so little friction that the ship's passengers do not know
 - b. Silent, gradual, unnoticeable
 - c. "Drifting away" means leaving Christ without knowing it

I. DRIFTING AWAY IS DANGEROUS AND DEADLY

A. Always drift downhill

1. Not drifting toward God, but always away from Him
2. Not drifting toward the church, but away from it
3. Not drifting toward right, but towards wrong
4. Not drifting toward heaven, but toward hell

B. It is, so often, an unconscious process

1. May be entirely unaware of it—gradual at first
2. Need to stop right now and look at the landmarks along the way and see if we have unconsciously drifted
 - a. Hebrews had drifted and now could not even tell a person how to be saved. Many, many the same today
 - b. Drifted into accepting things we once disapproved of, frowned upon, and rebelled at—dancing, taking certain liberties, petting, dress and undress, etc.
- c. Our spirit of friendliness, interest in others, neighborliness, brotherliness. We loved it, admire it yet—

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only thing, we don't practice it much. Visiting the sick, new members, weak, wayward, etc.

d. Away from the real mission of the church—not a social organization nor an entertainment society

C. To drift away must end in hopeless ruin

1. Just as sure as the law of gravitation

2. "How shall we escape?" There is no answer to that.

D. Our drifting away hurts others

1. The drifting soul is a menace just as a drifting ship might be rammed by one coming upstream

a. Negligent parents—children grow up out of the church, Bible study, faithful Christian living

II. DRIFTING AWAY MAY BE PREVENTED

A. Giving earnest heed to the word

1. 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 10:17

B. "...give the more earnest heed..."

1. Give heed—give earnest heed—give the more earnest heed, Hebrews 2:1

2. Being Christians requires genuine earnestness

a. Not cleverness or vast ability but genuine earnestness.

b. To be a lukewarm Christian is to be no Christian at all, Revelation 3:14-18

c. To be only half-heartedly for Christ is actually to be against Him

III. THE TIME FOR US TO ANCHOR OURSELVES IS NOW

A. Need to get our moorings and see just how far we have drifted

1. We've been negligent—have done other things when we should have been serving the Lord

2. Once realized we should crucify the flesh with its affections and lusts, but now have drifted into habits that are questionable—dancing, social drinking, etc.

3. How many have drifted away from goodness, from God, and from love

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4. We know better, don't we? We know Christ and His way is our only hope
 - a. Think what it means to be lost, not in the dark, but in the light
 5. At the first you had no thought of quitting the church. But later, began to leave off attendance, little by little left off Bible reading and study, drifted out of the habit of prayer
- B. Must come back NOW. Before it is too late.
1. Illu: Eagle lighted on a dead sheep being swept down Niagara River—day was cold and freezing—eagle's talons froze in sheep's wool—being swept on and on
 - a. Had you shouted a warning, he would have laughed at you. "See these wings?" (I was raised right.) "There is plenty of time." (I'll change.) "There is no danger."
 - b. There was a time when that eagle could have easily saved himself, but he allowed himself the deadly luxury of drifting and the end was disaster. (Over the Falls)
 2. "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest at any time we should drift away" (from Christ), Hebrews 2:1

SERMON OUTLINES

THE BEST IS YET TO BE

John 2:1-11

INTRODUCTION:

1. The story of our Lord's first miracle—Cana, Galilee
 - a. Wedding, feast, and Jesus was invited
 - b. Wine gave out. Told servants to fill 6 big pots with water—draw some out and take to master of ceremonies. Brought out, not water, but the purest, richest wine. "...thou hast kept the good wine until now," John 2:10
2. This is typical of all that Jesus does. He touches lives and makes them better. He fills hearts with joy and peace. The longer you know Him, the sweeter He becomes. Song: "Sweeter As The Years Go By"
 - a. Robert Browning, "Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be." True only if we are following Jesus. For those who know Him, the best is yet to be
3. Some lessons as we look in on the wedding in Cana

I. JESUS IS A SOCIAL BEING

- A. Going to a wedding and a banquet following
 1. He was not a hermit—He enjoyed life and wanted others to enjoy it. He didn't come to take the joy out of life. Wants us to give up only those things which hurt us
 - a. Illu: Feast, glass of poison—snatched away—good drink in its place. Would love and thank that person. What Jesus does. The poison of sin will damn us, but He takes it away and gives us something so much better in its place
 2. Jesus went where people were and ministered to their needs

II. JESUS IS INTERESTED IN THE INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE

- A. Genesis 2:18, "It is not good that man should be alone..."
 1. Made Eve for him—not from head or feet, but side
 2. Marriage is the fitting sign and seal of love
 - a. Illu: Chinese Judge, Mr. Wang—two men, one woman.

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Had been married to one. Thought to be lost in war, she married the other. Both wanted her—she could not choose between them. Reported to men she had died and one would need to bury her. One, “No not me.” Other, “I’ll be glad to take the body and give it the best burial I possibly can.” Judge, “You take her—you are the one who merits her love”

B. Jesus was invited to the wedding

1. He ought to be to every wedding. Couple should begin married life with Him and walk with Him to the end of the way
 - a. Two people walking together in love, with Christ by their side—no finer sight. Can’t build a real home if you leave Christ out

III. JESUS CAME TO TRANSFORM LIFE

A. Took the plain common water and turned it into luscious wine

1. Does this to all of life. Lifts the lower to the higher. Takes pieces of poor human clay and makes them fit for fellowship with the angels
 - a. Illu: Took blundering Peter—made him into a great and courageous preacher. Also murderous Saul—made him into the mighty missionary

B. Christ’s work superior to man’s. First wine was good but what He made was unbelievably superior

1. Men pass laws prohibiting sins against society, but many violate them. But when Christ is directing one’s life, he does right regardless of the law

IV. JESUS USES OTHERS TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSES

A. Could have done it all by speaking a word, but He used other people to help Him

1. Called on the servants to do their part, then He was ready to do His
 - a. Illu: Feeding 5,000—used little boy with lunch. When would heal the paralytic, used 4 men to bring the sick

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man to Him. When He wanted to raise Lazarus from the dead, used some to roll away the stone

- b. Illu: When farmer wants a crop, he does his part—plows, plants, cultivates and God does the rest. Doctor said, “I bind up the wounds, God does the healing.”
- c. Does not send a good church down out of the skies. Depends upon you and me to give, serve, preach, and pray. Then He gives the results

V. JESUS ALWAYS GIVES IN ABUNDANCE

A. Gave 120 gallons of wine

1. Illu: Made sun for light and heat. Made it so hot and bright that He had to put it 93,000,000 miles away. Wanted us to enjoy the stars, so made a heaven full of them, galaxy upon galaxy. When He made the mountains, did not make just a few hills but Andes, Rockies, Himalayas, and Alps. Not just a few flowers, but decked the hills, valleys with them. For water, gave not just a bucketful, but scooped out the 7 Seas

B. Same is true in the spiritual realm

1. We need redemption. Psalms 130:7, “With Him is plenteous redemption”
2. We need pardon. Isaiah 55:7, “Let the wicked forsake his way and return unto Me and I will abundantly pardon”
3. We need salvation. Hebrews 7:25, “He will save unto the uttermost all that come unto God by Him”
4. We need life. John 10:10, “I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly”

C. He always gives us more than we ask for

1. Ephesians 3:20, “Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us”

VI. WITH JESUS EVERYTHING GETS BETTER AS WE GO ALONG

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- A. Feasts: Expected good wine at first and poorer wine as they went along
 - 1. That is the devil's way. Makes things look good for us at first but end thereof is bitter and tragic
 - 2. But with Christ life is always climbing toward the grand climax
 - a. Proverbs 4:18, "But the path of the righteous is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day"

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Mary, v.5, "Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it"
 - a. We are to do what He says, trust Him, love Him, and follow Him. Then as we continue to walk with Him, we can know that the best is yet to be!

SERMON OUTLINES

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE HALLS OF HELL

Luke 16:25

INTRODUCTION:

1. There are some journeys I should like very much to make
2. One journey which I never want to make—a journey to hell
 - a. If one goes there, he never returns
 - b. If one goes there, faces an eternity of suffering
3. In imagination, let us take that journey
 - a. Go down the halls of hell and see a few people who are there for eternity
 - b. Hear groans and cries of helpless souls who passed God by in this world
 - 1) Just remember, not one of them had to come here. No man is forced to come to hell. It is his own choice
 - c. Some were rich and proud, high and mighty in the world. But here they have no riches, no power, no authority, and no hope
 - d. Notice absence of children and infants

I. "AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?"

- A. As we go down the halls, we hear a man screaming, "Am I my brother's keeper?"
 1. Who is this man? "Cain, who slew his brother, Abel," Genesis 4:1-12
 2. Made their offerings—sheep, fruits, Hebrews 11:4, "by faith"—killed his brother and now he is in hell
 3. Why? Because he was a murderer? No. Many murderers have repented and doubtless have been forgiven. He is in hell because he would not respect God's word and way
 - a. His way is through sacrifice and blood, Hebrews 9:22
- B. Today, men are trying to find salvation the wrong way
 1. Many reject salvation by blood. The gospel of blood
 - a. They call it "inelegant"—talk of a "slaughter house religion." But that is God's way—the only way of salvation
 - b. Take the blood out of the gospel, the good news is gone, no

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life left, and no hope for the soul

2. We must accept God's way, blood-sprinkled way, the way of the cross—"I must needs go home by the way..."

C. Cain went to hell because he rejected God's way

1. "Ought to be more ways than one to be saved. If I live a good life, give to charity, and pay my debts, I ought to go to heaven."

2. But if God sets up a plan, there can be no other way

a. We accept man's imperatives—2+2 = 4; 36" in a yard;

100 cents in a \$1. We do not argue with these standards

Why argue with His standards—His one way of salvation?

(F.R.C.B.)

- D. Cain could have repented and could have gone to heaven. Could have said, "I am wrong and I see that you are right. I now come asking for forgiveness and salvation."

1. But he refused to do this, so we hear him crying out in hell, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

II. "LET US IN!" "LET US IN!" (Genesis 6-8)

A. Go down hall and hear a group crying, "Let us in, let us in"

1. Wickedness on earth—God to Noah, ark, flood, etc.

2. Noah gave part of his time to building and part of his time to preaching. "Judgment is coming. Day of reckoning. Flood will destroy all." They scoffed and laughed. "Whoever heard of such a thing"

3. Preached 120 years warning of impending judgment

a. Finally, God said, "Come in, Noah." Door shut. Rains came and people changed their tune, "Noah, let us in."

"God has shut the door. I can't open it"

4. Had sinned away their days of grace and opportunities

B. Today, God has prepared an ark of safety (Christ). Judgment is coming, Hebrews 9:27; Acts 17:30, 31. We urge people to come in before it is too late

1. Men scoff and laugh at Bible truths, forgetting that they face God

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2. Friend, the door is open now, but some day it will be shut and you will be lost forever

C. Men of Noah's day could have repented

1. "Noah, you are right. There is a God and we want to repent and turn from our wickedness and trust our God to save us from destruction"
2. God would have held back the flood. But they would not repent, so they must spend eternity in hell, crying out, "Let us in. Let us in"

III. A MAN AND WOMAN RUNNING FROM SOMETHING

A. As we walk down the halls of hell we see a man and woman running from something. Herod and Herodias, Mark 6:14-29

1. Went to Rome, brought his brother's wife back with him and he was living with her. One day a preacher named John confronted him, "You are living in sin. Can't take another man's wife and get by with it"
 - a. Made Herodias angry and had John put in prison
 - b. Dancing daughter and what ensued. "I'll show that preacher he can't talk to me like that and get by with it"
2. When she saw John's head on a platter, perhaps said, "Now you'll never bother me any more; I have shut your mouth forever. You are through"
3. Few weeks later, servant burst in, "A great prophet has arisen and is performing some mighty miracles"
 - a. King: "That's John the baptizer; he has risen from the dead." Wasn't John, of course, but Jesus
4. Herod, your conscience is troubling you, isn't it? You are not able to sleep, are you? You cut off the preacher's head and his blood is upon your hands. Now you are going to pay for it, for "whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap," Galatians 6:7
 - a. So we can imagine that down in hell Herod and Herodias always think that the head of John is chasing them. The head is not there; just cannot escape their consciences

B. They could have repented, "We are sinners; living in sin;

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marriage is all wrong; we killed John, but that act did not change the truth. We are going to straighten out our sordid lives." Any mercy? Forgiveness?

1. But they didn't. Lived in their sin, died and went down to hell

C. Maybe your sin is not as great as theirs. Never killed anyone; lived a pretty decent life, but if you don't repent of your sins and obey Christ, you will surely go down to hell and suffer with Herod and Herodias

IV. "MY BROTHERS! MY BROTHERS!"

A. Go down hall and hear man screaming, "My brothers, my brothers"

1. Rich man Jesus told about in Luke 16:19-31

a. Asked for help for himself first. "Great gulf"

2. Thought of his 5 brothers back on earth. "Send Lazarus that he might warn them to repent so that they will not come to this place." Abraham, "They have Moses and the prophets...if they won't hear them, they will not hear one though he arose from the dead"

3. People in hell interested in people on earth

a. They know what hell is; know awful agony of it, and don't want anyone to come there

b. Would speak to you today and warn you to come to Christ in gospel obedience or to return home as an erring child. We have open Bible, gospel is plainly preached, but men will not repent

B. Rich man could have been saved

1. Not lost because he had wealth—wealth will not keep one out of heaven unless one makes it his god

2. Lived sumptuously, left God out, and permitted Lazarus to starve at his gate

3. Did not repent and so he died and went to hell and we hear his cry, "I am tormented in these flames!"

V. "ALMOST, ALMOST"

A. Down the hall hear man screaming, "Almost, almost"

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1. King Agrippa, but he is not king now. Just a poor soul suffering forever in hell, Acts 26
 2. One day heard great apostle Paul, "You know the prophets, you have read the book, I know you are a believer"
 - a. Agrippa only said, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian"
 3. Not enough to hear gospel—you must act
 4. This is the most tragic thing in world—hear, know, believe in truth, and then go on without being a Christian, and wind up in hell
- B. Agrippa could have repented. "I am lost and Christ's way of salvation is the only way. I am not just almost, but am now altogether persuaded to become a Christian"
- C. You, too, have been almost persuaded? You have been saying, "Sometime I will"?
1. There is a great danger in this. Satan will lead you to put the matter off again and again. Then, one day when death slips up to summon you, it will be too late for repentance! Oh, come to Jesus now!

SERMON OUTLINES

SPONTANEOUS SPIRITUALITY

Luke 17:7-10

INTRODUCTION:

1. **Spontaneous**, of one's own accord; that which is produced naturally by internal causes rather than by external influence
 2. **Spirituality**, elevation of one's mind; unworldliness; following the direction of the Holy Spirit, therefore producing the fruit of the Spirit
 3. **Why be spiritual? Why live the Christian life?**
 - a. As preparation for heaven
 - 1) Man is immortal
 4. Preparation for heaven is found **beyond duty**
 - a. Luke 17:10
 - b. Matthew 25:30
- I. MATTHEW 5:41, "And whosoever shall compel thee to go..."
- A. Compulsion of Roman government
1. Involved interference with personal affairs, especially galling and distasteful to the Jew
 - a. Was compulsory. We never like to do that which we are compelled to do
 2. To go one mile then, was to go the mile of compulsion, the mile of command
 - a. Picture of one who is careful to do no more than he is required to do
- II. MATTHEW 25:1-12, THE TEN BRIDESMAIDS
- A. No command as to how full were to fill their lamps
1. Wise moved beyond what they thought they had to do to be ready
 2. Foolish did only what they thought they had to do
 - a. Foolish were shut out—"unprofitable servants"
- III. MATTHEW 25:14-30, THE TALENTS
- A. Master did not tell one with 5 to gain 5 others
- B. Did not tell man with 2 to gain 2 others
- C. Did not tell man with 1 to gain 1 other

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1. Did only what he thought he had to do—keep the master's talent safely and return it to him
 - a. "Cast ye the unprofitable servant..."

IV. APPLICATIONS OF THE LESSONS

A. Only one essential meeting of the church, Hebrews 10:25

1. Those who limit their attendance to only one service believed to be essential and compulsory, admit they are doing only what they **have** to do—hence are unprofitable servants
 - a. Religion of Grace goes beyond compulsion. Does not ask, "Do I have to?" "Why must I?" etc. Rather will ask, "What is there for me to do?"
2. What I Could Do If I Wanted To...
 - a. ...I could help make this church one of the most wide awake and working churches in the world
 - b. ...I could visit members who are sick and could possibly find other ways to help them
 - c. ...I could show a lot more devotion in worship and receive more from worship
 - d. ...I could profit from sermons by not resenting truth that reveals weaknesses
 - e. ...I could attend Bible classes and encourage others to do so
 - f. ...I could use my efforts to produce harmony in the church
 - g. ...I could tell others about Christ and His church and lead them to salvation
 - h. ...I could give back to the Lord regularly as I've been prospered, thereby helping spread the gospel of Christ
3. Of course, all this depends on what I want to do. I have the ability to serve the greatest of all Kings—but the question is, "What do I really want to do?"
4. Member to elder, "Do I have to attend all of the services of the church?" Elder, "I didn't know there were any services a Christian did not want to attend."

SERMON OUTLINES

B. Financial support

1. "How much should a person give?" "What is the least you think a person might give and still go to heaven?"
2. Lord does not deal in minimums, but in maximums
 - a. Not, "How little can I give and stay out of hell?" But, "How much can I give to this great Cause?"

C. Becoming a Christian

1. "Just before I die, I shall comply with the terms of salvation which constitute my duty to God"
 - a. Illu: Patients in VA Hospitals in Amarillo and Big Spring, TX. Each had known truth for so long, but in closing hours wanted to be baptized
 - b. Afraid to risk it. He wants our lives

CONCLUSION:

1. Preparation for heaven is found beyond duty
 - a. We want you to come today because you want to. Because you love the Lord with a dedication that will cause you to want to serve Him the balance of your life. This will keep you faithful and true

SERMON OUTLINES

LIKE CHRIST EVEN NOW

1 John 4:17

INTRODUCTION:

1. Here are nine little words, "as He is, so are we, in this world," that fall apart into three sets of three words each

I. "AS HE IS"

A. Not "as He was"

1. Some see Him only as an example set in the distant past. So much has happened since the days of His flesh: death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and exaltation at God's right hand. "As He is..."
 - a. We are partakers of His nature. What is His, is ours

II. "AS HE IS, SO ARE WE"

A. Not "so should we be," indeed we ought. Not, "so may we be," indeed we may and can. Not "so shall we be," shall indeed be like Him

B. But "so are we" here and now. What He is up there, we are down here

1. Our citizenship is in heaven, Philippians 3:20. Our standing up there and our state down here ought to match. Our position up there and our condition down here ought to strongly resemble
2. We are the projection of Christ into this day and age. In a Christian, Christ lives again

III. "AS HE IS, SO ARE WE, IN THIS WORLD"

A. Not just in church (where it is easy to be pious), but in this foul, polluted and perverted world. In the kitchen, on the campus, at the job, or in the office

1. Christians are not of it, but are in it. We are not saved to outdazzle each other at church, but to let our light shine everywhere, everyday

B. This text shows us what a Christian really is. "So are we"

1. What we believe is really important, but one may believe

SERMON OUTLINES

correctly with his head without anything happening in his heart

2. What we do is really important, but one may do what a Christian ought to do and still be an unconverted Pharisee
3. Creed and conduct really have their places, but we are dealing here with character; with what we are
4. Christians are not just nice people; they are new creatures
 - a. John 3:3, 5; 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - b. If one is what he has always been, he is not a Christian, for a Christian is something new

IV. WE ARE TO RECEIVE HIM, John 1:11, 12

A. Illu: Marriage is used to illustrate the relationship of Christ and the church, Ephesians 5:32; Romans 7:4; 2 Corinthians 11:2.

1. When a woman marries a man, she takes him for all that he is. She may not know all that he is, but for better or worse she took him as he was, became identified with him, and they became one. In a very real sense, from then on as he is, so is she in the world
 - a. His joys and sorrows are hers; his past, present, and future are hers

B. So, when one receives Christ, he takes Him for all that He is—both Saviour and Lord. All that He has becomes ours, and all that we have becomes His

1. When we receive Christ, "His joys become our joys"
2. "His sorrows become our sorrows"
 - a. He wept over Jerusalem and He is burdened over a lukewarm church and a lost world
 - b. I fear we smile today at what breaks His heart
3. "His friends become our friends"
 - a. 1 John 3:14, "We know that we have passed..."
 - b. We love them because the Lord's friends are ours
4. "His enemies are our enemies"
 - a. James 4:4, "The friend of the world is the..."
 - b. How can we be popular with a world that crucified our Lord?

SERMON OUTLINES

5. "His cross becomes our cross"
 - a. Not speaking of ordinary trouble—everybody has trouble. Not chastisement—that is not voluntary. The cross of Christ we choose ourselves, Matthew 16:24. Trouble, persecution, reproach we suffer because of our identification with Him—because we are Christians
 - b. Not speaking of being just a church member
That's not unpopular—it is fashionable—a status symbol—helps business and looks good in the obituary. But, honest-to-goodness and faithful Christian living
6. "His future is our future"
 - a. 2 Timothy 2:12, "If we suffer, we shall..."
 - b. John 14:1-3

CONCLUSION:

1. Are you married to this Heavenly Bridegroom?
 - a. Not "until death do us part," for death will not part us. This is for time and eternity

SERMON OUTLINES

WHEN JESUS WENT HOME WITH SOME FOLKS

INTRODUCTION:

1. Luke 19:1-6

a. Zacchaeus in Jericho, sought to see Jesus, but he was little of stature. Climbed sycamore tree. Jesus looked up, saw him, and said, "Make haste and come down; for I must abide at thy house." He made haste, came down, and received Him joyfully

2. What if Jesus were here in the flesh, singled you out, and said, "I'm going home with you today"?

3. Jesus was in many homes while He was here. I fear He is not in many of our homes today

I. JOHN 2:1-10. Wedding at Cana in Galilee

A. Usually marriage festivities lasted 7 days; not only food and wine furnished, but wedding garments as well

1. Was a great wedding—and Jesus was there

2. Jesus performed first miracle, water into wine

a. Jesus solved their first problem

B. He needs to be in the courtship, ceremony, and in the home in the wedded life

1. Can help us solve all our problems

2. V.5, "His mother...do it"

a. This should be true throughout all experiences of married life

II. LUKE 5:27-32. Matthew's house

A. Jesus saw Matthew, tax collector, said, "Follow me"

1. Next day, Matthew made feast in his own house in honor of Jesus

a. "...publicans and others sat...," v.29

b. "Scribes and Pharisees murmured, "Why do you eat and drink with publicans and sinners?" Jesus, "They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance,"

vv.30-32

SERMON OUTLINES

B. When does one need the Lord most?

1. When we are sick; when our faith is weak; when we have problems
2. Some do not invite Jesus into their home and so are overcome by some sin, sorrow, or trouble
3. Those present in Matthew's house needed Jesus

III. MARK 1:29-31; LUKE 4:38, 39. Andrew and Peter's house

A. Peter's wife's mother was ill with a fever

1. Mark says, "lay sick of a fever"
2. Luke says, "...was taken with a great fever"
 - a. "high fever," "severe," "besought Him for her"

B. "...and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them," Mark 1:31. "...and it left her, and immediately she arose and ministered unto them," Luke 4:39

1. Once again the household was running smoothly

C. Jesus makes the home run smoothly

1. Relieves weakness, causes us to view our duties differently, companions loving each other, loving children and children loving parents. Anything finer or smoother than that?

IV. LUKE 7:36-48. House of Simon the Pharisee

A. Woman weeping, washed his feet with her tears, wiped them with her hair, anointed them with ointment

1. Simon: If He were a prophet, would have known what kind of woman it was who touched Him—sinner
2. Jesus tells about creditor and two debtors. "Which of them will love him most?" "I suppose he to whom He forgave most"
3. Jesus: "I entered your house, you gave me no water for my feet, but she washed my feet with tears. You gave me no kiss, but this woman ceased not to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she hath anointed my feet with ointment"

B. Many homes today in which He is not honored

1. His name not mentioned; His word not read; thanks for food

SERMON OUTLINES

not offered in His name

2. Christ's own people not warmly received

V. LUKE 10:38-42. Mary and Martha's house

A. Gentle rebuke, "Martha, Martha,..."

1. "You are going to pieces over things"

B. Today?

1. Have heard lessons which did you so much good—even changed your life. But some have missed lessons which could have changed them even more

2. Things caused you to miss. Things are just not that important—dishes, beds, etc.

VI. ACTS 12:12. Mary and John Mark's house

A. The doors were open—the church met there

1. Some are open today. Many are not

2. One said, "I want the preacher in my home—to be around my children, my children around him"

a. Maybe will admire him and appreciate gospel preaching more, love the church more, love gospel preachers more

b. Illu: Our children used to think they were related to Joe Laird, C.E. McGaughey, Perry and Preston Cotham

VII. ACTS 1:9, 11. Jesus went to His own home

A. Went to familiar surroundings

1. Psalms 24:7-10 tells how He was received.

B. John 14:1-3

1. Beloved, if He is not in our home, we cannot be in His

SERMON OUTLINES

SOME NEW THINGS IN THE BIBLE

INTRODUCTION:

1. Past weeks have heard, "Happy New Year," "May the New Year bring you peace, happiness and much joy"
 2. Have great enthusiasm for new things:
 - a. Cars, clothes, furniture, latest inventions, etc.
 3. Some even want new changes in religion
 - a. Result: New churches, new names, and new doctrines
 - b. Lord gave us just what we needed, 2 Peter 1:3. We should not seek to improve upon it
 - c. 1 Corinthians 4:6, "...not to go beyond..."
 - d. 2 John 9, "...goeth onward and abideth not..."
 - e. The revelation of God is complete, 2 Timothy 3:16, 17
 4. However, Lord does speak about some new things
- I. A NEW COVENANT
- A. Jeremiah 31:31, 32
 1. Hebrews 8:8, 9, 13—prophecy fulfilled
 2. Hebrews 10:9, "...taketh away the first that..."
 - B. Thus, no longer live under old covenant that governed Jewish people for 1500 years
 1. Don't find authority for our religious practices from the Old Testament
 - a. Sabbath day observances
 - b. Infant church membership
 - c. Burning of incense
 - d. Instrumental music in the worship
 - e. Blood of animal sacrifices
 - C. We are under a better covenant, Hebrews 7:22, founded upon better promises, Hebrews 8:6
- II. THE NEW BIRTH
- A. John 3:3, 5
 1. Necessary—cannot enter kingdom without it
 2. Is of both "water and the Spirit"
 - a. Not of water alone or of Spirit alone

SERMON OUTLINES

- 1) Cannot avail to those who have no faith, repentance, or love. So, unscriptural to administer baptism to those too young to know the will of God
- 2) Some say older ones can be born again through influence of the Spirit without baptism—make a grievous error also

III. THE NEW CREATURE

A. 2 Corinthians 5:17

1. This new creature is called a child of God
 - a. 1 John 3:1. "...manner of love the Father..."
2. Regardless of one's ancestry, past life, obscurity or poverty, when he is born again he becomes a new creature
 - a. An heir of God and joint-heir of Jesus Christ, Romans 8:17

IV. A NEW LIFE

A. Romans 6:3, 4, "...should walk in newness of life"

1. Colossians 3:1, 2, "...be risen with Christ..."
2. Romans 12:1, 2, "...not conformed...be ye..."

V. A NEW NAME

A. Isaiah 62:2, "...Gentiles shall see thy..."

1. After church established, members were called "believers," Acts 5:14; "disciples," Acts 9:1; "brethren," Acts 6:3; and "saints," Acts 9:13. But none of these were new names
2. After Gentiles came in, Acts 10, God fulfilled His promise at Antioch, Acts 11:26
 - a. Never before had men been called "Christians"
 - b. 1 Peter 4:16, "...suffer as a Christian..."

B. Not to wear names of men, 1 Corinthians 1:12

1. Can never unite on human names—but "Christian" offers a common ground where all may come together

VI. NEW WEARING APPAREL

A. Colossians 3:12-14

B. Ephesians 6:14-17

SERMON OUTLINES

VII. FINALLY, A NEW HOME

A. John 14:2, "I go to prepare a place for you..."

1. Revelation 21:1, 2

B. No night, no sickness, no sorrow, no death, etc.

1. Jeweled foundations, walls of jasper, gates of pearl, and a street of pure gold

C. Resolve that in this new year, more than at any time in your life, you are going to live for that new home

1. Some of us may go to claim it before this new year ends

SERMON OUTLINES

THE LAND BEYOND THE SUNSET

John 14:1-3

INTRODUCTION:

1. If asked to write down your conception of heaven—
 - a. How would you depict it?
 - b. What Bible feature appeals to you most?
 - c. What would you have written?
2. Job's question, "If a man die, shall he live again?"
 - a. Is personality immortal?
 - b. Is personality to be conscious out yonder somewhere in another land?
 - c. What sort of a place is it out there?
 - d. What about that other land beyond the sunset and beyond the night?
 - e. We sing about "The Home Over There." What do we really know about it? Does the Bible tell us much?
3. Jesus has not told us much. Why?
 - a. Did not wish to divert our attention from the vast importance of this earthly life?
 - 1) Have a race to run; mission to accomplish, a niche to fill; a duty to perform, etc.
 - 2) Our eternal destiny is determined by our little, short journey here on earth
 - b. Teaches us to "walk by faith, not by sight"
 - 1) Will not have a coerced faith, a forced faith
 - 2) No church is to "force" faith; no state is to coerce faith, for Jesus will not coerce faith
4. Jesus tells us enough about heaven, and all of us are interested in it
 - a. Journeying toward it faster and faster, as the hands of the clock go their rounds by day and by night
 - b. Illu: Great Naturalist lay dying. A friend asked him about the next world. Answered, "One world at a time, please"
 - 1) Not a wise answer. This life beyond is not two lives, but one
 - 2) 1 Timothy 4:8, "...life that now is... is to come"

SERMON OUTLINES

I. HEAVEN IS A HOLY PLACE

A. Nothing defiles, maketh a lie, no human weakness, no sin, no short-comings, etc.

1. How different here. Men mislead, deceive, destroy, despise morality, set themselves against righteousness—all for just a few dollars
 - a. Battle we have with the flesh here. Constant battle with flesh and Satan. Different there

II. A PLACE OF ABSOLUTE EXEMPTION FROM WEARINESS

A. Weighty burdens that ought never to have been laid

1. Some sigh day and night under these burdens, but heaven will change all that, for “there the weary are at rest,”
Job 3:17

III. A PLACE OF GREAT ACTIVITY

A. Revelation 22:3, “His servants shall serve Him”

1. What will my task be? Greater mission than any mortal ever entrusted with
2. “One-talent” person can render any service there.
3. Those lacking opportunity to use full powers here will be able to use all their powers there

IV. A PLACE OF EXEMPTION FROM ALL SUFFERING AND PAIN

A. Revelation 7:13, 14, “...out of great tribulation,...”

B. Revelation 21:4, “...God shall wipe away all...”

V. TO BE OUR FINAL HOME

A. Home falls like healing music on our ears

1. Home means love, confidence, fellowship, and life's most intimate associations
2. Our immortality will be both individual and conscious—we shall know each other there

B. When day is done, we shall go home

1. Some of our loved ones have already preceded us there—others are very near that home of light, love, and life
 - a. Illu: Old man, “Were 11 of us children. All were

SERMON OUTLINES

Christians. I am only one left here. Won't I have a great time when I see them all over there?"

CONCLUSION:

1. Friend, this talk of heaven is not a silly sentiment
 - a. Where are you going when this earthly day is done?
 - b. What arrangements are you making? What interests do you have in the land beyond?
2. John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life..."
 - a. Can't steal your way into heaven
 - b. Can't buy your way in even if had all money in whole world and offered it all for seat in heaven
 - c. Galatians 3:26, 27, Way into heaven for way into Christ
3. You may be summoned soon—Jesus wants you NOW so He can have you there for eternity
 - a. Doesn't your heart leap with gladness that you are not cut off, not destroyed, normal today in body and in mind, and have another opportunity to obey the gospel? To return to the Shepherd and Bishop of your soul?

SERMON OUTLINES

THE MARKS OF JESUS

Galatians 6:17

INTRODUCTION:

1. Paul often speaks of himself as a servant or a bond-servant of his Master, Jesus Christ
 - a. Romans 1:1; Galatians 1:10; 1 Corinthians 7:22; Titus 1:1
2. Meaning of bond-slave, Exodus 21:1-6
 - a. He had to be purchased
 - 1) Serve 6 years, go free the 7th
 - b. If wished to remain with his master, he had to give himself whole-heartedly, of his own free will
 - 1) Had to appear before the judge
 - c. Had to have the mark of a bond-slave
 - 1) Master took an awl and bored hole in his ear
3. Paul was all this, 2 Corinthians 11:23-28
 - a. Spoke of these marks with pride
 - b. Points to cheek—ugly scar—stoned
 - c. Pulls back tunic—"Look on my shoulder and back"—cruel scourgings Jews gave him
4. We do not have outward, physical marks of persecution for Jesus' sake yet many have inward marks. Not all physical, can be spiritual
 - a. Acts 4:13, "...took knowledge...had been with Jesus"
 - 1) Had same spirit Jesus had; acted like Jesus; they had his marks

Discussion: Some marks all true bond-slaves should have:

I. LOVE OF THE BRETHREN

- A. John 13:35, "By this shall all men know..."
- B. 1 John 3:17, "...how can the love of God live..."
- C. 1 John 4:7, "Beloved, let us love one another..."
- D. 1 John 4:20, 21, "If a man say, I love God, and..."

II. KEEPING HIS WORDS

- A. John 14:23, "If a man love me, he will keep my..."
 1. Hebrews 10:25, "Not forsaking the assembling..."

SERMON OUTLINES

2. 1 Corinthians 16:2, "Upon the first day of..."
3. 1 Thessalonians 5:17, "Pray without ceasing".
4. 1 Timothy 5:22, "...keep thyself pure"
5. Mark 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized..."

III. INTEREST IN LOST SOULS

- A. Illu: Elder brother didn't leave home, not bothered when his brother did. His pillow was never wet with tears over his leaving—no prayers in his brother's behalf. Never went searching for him, nor was he thrilled when he came home—just wasn't much interested in his lost brother

IV. HUMILITY

- A. Jesus taught this mark. Luke 14:11
1. Illu: Luke 14:7-10
 2. Luke 17:10, "...unprofitable servants..."
- B. Jesus practiced this mark—washed disciples feet
- C. Proud, boastful, arrogant—not mark of Jesus

V. PURITY OF LIFE

- A. Hebrews 4:15, "...not an high priest...without sin"
- B. 2 Peter 2:22, "...dog returned...sow to her..."
- C. Hebrews 12:14, "Follow peace with all men..."
- D. 1 Thessalonians 5:22, "Abstain from all..."
- E. James 1:27, "Pure religion and undefiled before..."

CONCLUSION:

1. 2 Timothy 2:19, "Nevertheless the foundation of God...the Lord knoweth them that are his..."
2. Matthew 25—shall separate sheep from goats
 - a. How can He do that?
 - b. He will know His sheep—they will have His marks upon them

SERMON OUTLINES

A GOOD WOMAN

Acts 9:36-42

INTRODUCTION:

1. Good—morally excellent; virtuous; righteous
2. Honorable—worthy
3. Generous; loving; kind; pleasant
4. Genuine—excellent in quality, degree or kind
5. From Greek (*Vine's Dictionary of New Testament Words*):
AGATHOS—describes that which, being good in its character or constitution, is beneficial in its effect
 - a. It is used several times in its moral sense of people in the New Testament.
 - 1) Matthew 25:21, "...Well done, thou good and..."
 - 2) Luke 23:50, "...a man...he was a good man..."
 - 3) Acts 11:22-24, "...for he was a good man..."
 - 4) Titus 2:5. Older women "to teach...good..."

I. WHAT MADE DORCAS GOOD?

- A. Her "good works...which she did, "v.36? Making the coats and garments, v.39?
- B. These were the effects, the results of her being good; the fruits of her goodness
- C. What made her good?
 1. Dorcas believed something
 - a. She knew that "without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing unto God," Hebrews 11:6
 - b. Must have been a woman of deep conviction.
 - c. She proved by her works that she did not believe in salvation by "faith only"
 - 1) James 2:14-17, "...though a man say he has..."
 - 2) We say sinner cannot be saved by "faith alone" (and he can't), but James is talking to the brethren. Do we as brethren think we can be saved by faith alone? Dorcas evidently didn't believe that. Dorcas must have known that by our works we prove our faith, James 2:18.

SERMON OUTLINES

“Faith without works is dead,” v.20. Sinners can't be saved by a dead faith nor can we

2. Dorcas was something
 - a. Her **being** made such a tremendous difference in her community; among her neighbors and friends; and other members of the church
 - 1) Matters little what we have; matters much what we are. Not so much what we say, but it is what we do that really matters
 - 2) Aren't we really something? Sons of the king, children of God, brothers to Jesus, in the family of God. Thus, when we are really what we claim to be, the community will know; the church will feel the effects of our lives.
 - 3) Dorcas did something
 - a. "...all the widows stood by him weeping and showing the garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them". Though no longer with them, the sweet memory of her life of works was fresh in their hearts.
 - 1) She made clothing for the destitute. She had a needle and she used it
 - 2) One of our greatest weaknesses, I guess, is we do not use what we have
 - a) God to Moses, Exodus 4:2. Remember all the things God accomplished through that rod in the hand of Moses?
 - b) Remember the parable of the talents, Matthew 25? He knows how many and what they are. Held accountable for use we make of them ("one-talent man")
 - 4) Dorcas left something
 - a. She left pleasant memories with widows and others who knew her
 - b. Just so, our lives here should not be as the flight of a bird passing through the air, not leaving any evidence that it had ever been there. Should leave "footprints on the sands of time"

SERMON OUTLINES

- 1) Consider God's Hall of Faith, Hebrews 11
 - a) They look down on us—v. 4, Abel; v. 7, Noah; vv. 8, 17, Abraham; vv. 24-27, Moses,
 - b) Then, Paul, Peter, James, John, etc. What big footprints they left on the sands of time
 - c. What can we as Christians leave?
 - 1) The example of a Christian life—greatest and plainest sermon ever to be preached. "I'd Rather See A Sermon..."
- 2) Leave pleasant memories to our children
 - a) How do we account for all those good things in our father and mother? They were Christians, honest before us and loving toward us
- 3) Consider the rich farmer, Luke 12
 - a) V. 15, "Take heed...beware of covetousness" That man died—left all this increase and prosperity—no pleasant memories
- 4) Let us leave what we possess to God's glory
 - a) If to children, should have reared them as Christians and as faithful to the Lord, so they will continue to use your substance to the glory of God

CONCLUSION:

1. Dorcas believed something; she was something; and she was somebody; she did something; when she died she left something—all to the glory of God
2. Isn't she a good and plain example to us all?

SERMON OUTLINES

PEACE—WHAT IS IT?

INTRODUCTION:

1. Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."
2. Romans 10:15, "How beautiful are the feet..."
3. Romans 14:19, "...follow after the things...for peace"
4. 1 Corinthians 7:15, "...but God called us to peace"
5. 1 Corinthians 14:33, "God is the author of peace"
6. Ephesians 4:3, "...keep unity of Spirit in bond of peace"
7. Colossians 3:15, "...let the peace of God rule..."
8. 2 Timothy 2:22, "...follow...faith, love, peace..."
9. Hebrews 12:14, "...follow peace with all men"
10. 1 Peter 3:11, "...seek peace and pursue it"
 - a. Only 10 out of the 912 verses in the Bible which talk about peace. But, what is it?

I. PAUL

- A. When Paul made peace with God, he then made war on everything that was godless
 1. Became fearless—feared nothing but the displeasure of his Lord and Master
 2. Had a lot of trials, but had built his house upon the rock and had complete faith in the wisdom and love of God
 - a. Acts 27:22-25, Caught in a storm—on a ship—no hope—the old salty sea-dogs were ready to abandon the ship—Paul stood up and said, "...and now, I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship—angel of God stood by me saying, Fear not, Paul. God hath given thee all of them that sail with thee." That's peace in the time of storm.

II. SHADRACK, MESHACK, AND ABEDNEGO (DANIEL)

- A. It was turn or burn for them when they refused to worship Nebuchadnezzar's gods
 1. Daniel 3:16, 17 "...He will deliver us out of..."
 - a. How could they answer in such a calm, quiet way?

SERMON OUTLINES

Because of their confidence in God. Not concerned so much with would God rescue them, but they were sure He could if He chose

B. What connection in these two illustrations?

1. Peace—peace in the time of storm

III. WHAT IS PEACE?

A. Greek authors, "The state of affairs when there is no war"

B. Hebrews, peace (Shalom) carried idea of having whatever would make for one's highest good

C. We use the word to describe all kinds of things:

1. Searching for peace of mind
2. Looking for a peaceful place out in the country
3. Want a little peace and quiet around the house

D. Teacher, third graders, "What do you think would help most to bring peace in the world?"

1. "Share your toys"
2. "Don't talk back"
3. "Don't holler at anyone"
4. "I would tell others about Jesus"

a. Closer to the solution than most world leaders

E. John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you:..."

1. Peace—no struggles, no wars, no trials? No
2. Spiritual peace—a consequence of our freedom from the burden and guilt of sin—a by-product of a right relationship with our God
 - a. Romans 5:1, "...justified...we have peace..."
3. So there is the peace of reconciliation
 - a. Romans 5:10, Were enemies of God, but were reconciled to God by the death of His Son. "He is our peace..."
Ephesians 2:14
 - b. The peace of reconciliation also involves our relationship with others
 - 1) Ephesians 2:14, "For He is our peace who hath made both (Jews and Gentiles) one"

SERMON OUTLINES

4. Also the peace of confidence
 - a. The peace that comes from being a child of God, peace within
 - 1) No longer dread and fear the Creator—can come boldly unto the throne of mercy as children, Hebrews 4:16
 - b. A great human need is to feel secure
 - 1) Happy child? Knows he is loved—that father and mother will take care of his every need.
 - 2) Illu: Sparrow falling to the ground—God knows
 - 3) If child comes and asks your help and guidance, would you refuse him? Think God sets out to deliberately foul up our lives?
5. This is a trusting peace—for a peaceful soul is a trusting soul
 - a. Illu: Matthew 8. Jesus and disciples in boat—storm—disciples anxious and upset—“Carest Thou not...?” “Why are you fearful, O ye of little faith?” Arose, rebuked wind, a great calm. How could they have been so frightened with Christ in the boat? How can we? Same Jesus says to us, “And, lo, I am with you always, even...”
Matthew 28:20

CONCLUSION:

1. Philippians 4:6, 7, “Be anxious for nothing...and the peace of God, which passeth understanding...”.
2. Romans 8:28; 1 Corinthians 10:13; John 14:1-3
3. What is peace? Matthew 11:28, 29

SERMON OUTLINES

CHRIST IS REIGNING AT GOD'S RIGHT HAND

- I. HE IS NOW AT GOD'S RIGHT HAND. (Thanks be to God)
 - A. The prophets said He would be
 1. Psalms 110:1, "...Sit thou on my right hand..."
 2. Daniel 7:13, 14
 - B. This fact was declared by the apostles
 1. Colossians 3:1, "...Christ sitteth...right..."
 2. Ephesians 1:19-23
- II. THE MEANING OF "AT GOD'S RIGHT HAND"
 - A. A place or position of dominion and power
 1. Luke 22:69, "...right hand of the power of God"
 2. Mark 14:62, "...sitting on right hand of power"
- III. HOW IS HE AT GOD'S RIGHT HAND?
 - A. Not by usurpation
 1. Psalms 110:1, "...Lord said unto my Lord sit..."
 2. Daniel 7:13, 14, "...there was given unto Him..."
 3. Acts 2:36, "...God hath made that same Jesus..."
 4. Acts 2:30, 31
 - a. God to raise up Christ to sit on David's throne
 - b. "...Jesus hath God raised up..." vv. 32, 33
 5. Matthew 28:18, "All power is given unto me..."
- IV. WHAT HE DOES AT GOD'S RIGHT HAND
 - A. He reigns—as the King of His kingdom
 1. 1 Timothy 6:15, "...who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords"
 2. The name of Jesus occurs 500 times in the New Testament and has to do with His humanity. It means Emmanuel—God with us
 3. The name Christ occurs 700 times in the New Testament and means anointed. In itself it signifies kingship
 4. So the twofold name Jesus Christ means that the King is with us
 5. The word Lord has to do with authority

SERMON OUTLINES

- a. He is Jesus because He is God with us
 - b. He is Christ because He is the anointed King
 - c. He is our Lord Jesus Christ
 - 6. As a creed, He is Lord, Jesus, Christ, Saviour, and King.
This covers the entire volume of the spiritual realm. "Jesus Is All The World To Me"
 - B. He rules and governs as the Head of His church
 - 1. Ephesians 1:22, 23; 5:23
 - a. He rules and governs the life of each follower, Galatians 2:20. Self has been dethroned and Christ has been enthroned, Matthew 16:24
 - b. When one is the head of his house, he must have control of his family; his family must be in subjection
 - c. If Christ is the head of the church, then the church must be in subjection to Him in all things. We cannot have anything in the work and worship of the church not authorized by Him. He is the head and the authority
 - C. He makes intercession for us
 - 1. Romans 8:34
 - a. Intercession—seeking the presence and hearing of God on the behalf of others
- V. HOW LONG WILL HE BE REIGNING AT GOD'S RIGHT HAND?
- A. Must reign until all enemies are put under His feet. The last one is death, 1 Corinthians 15:51-55
 - 1. What is the last enemy? Death
 - 2. When is death destroyed? Not until the last dead person is raised from the grave
 - 3. Jesus will reign in heaven (at God's right hand) until death is abolished
 - a. Therefore, Christ will sit at God's right hand until the last dead person is raised
 - B. 1 Corinthians 15:20-26
 - 1. When He comes, the dead will be raised and death will be destroyed

SERMON OUTLINES

2. This marks the end of His reign and He will then “deliver up the kingdom to God...”
 - C. We will never be subject to anyone else. He is now the only authority that ever will be
 1. Our plea is that all men be submissive to Him now
- VI. WHAT HIS KINGSHIP OR AUTHORITY MEANS TO US
- A. It means that Satan is bound by Christ's authority
 1. If he is not, would Christ's authority be complete? (Remember, it is. He has all authority)
 2. Matthew 12:29; Colossians 2:14, 15; Hebrews 2:14, 15 (Enter—bind—spoil)
 3. The devil has no power over us. If anyone serves the devil, he is a willing servant
 - a. Time was when men could not escape from Satan's captivity, but Jesus Christ broke the fetters of sin and the shackles of Satan. He released us and set us free. So, his willing servant
 - b. If we do not choose to serve the devil, there is absolutely nothing he can do about it. If he could help himself he would
 - c. But, if you do not choose to serve God, there is something he can and will do about it
 - B. The first act of the King was to pardon guilty souls who crucified Him
 1. Acts 2:38, 41, 47

CONCLUSION:

1. The same king, on the same throne, offers the same pardon, on the same terms, and He will add you to the same church, in which you may have the same hope of heaven

SERMON OUTLINES

CHRIST IN ME

Galatians 2:20

INTRODUCTION:

1. Paul is saying, "I have experienced a death with Christ"
 - a. Not physically on a Roman cross but a decisive spiritual death to self
2. Matthew 16:24, "If any man...let him deny himself..."
 - a. In effect, "Get yourself off your hands, because the life that is self-centered is off-center."
3. Paul was not just dead to things—Paul was dead to Paul.
 - a. "I am crucified—my ego, my very self is..."
4. The motive of self-crucifixion
 - a. "Who loved me and gave Himself for me" as if Christ died for him alone—a very personal thing with him
 - b. God's love moves us to die to self---His grace. While I was weak, wretched, worthless, unworthy. Would have taken His blood to save me even if only lost person

I. THE REAL POWER IN CHRISTIAN LIVING

- A. Not a grudging submission to an external code
 1. It is Christ in us. Self-enthroned, Christ enthroned. The Christ-life instead of self-life
 2. The real power in Christianity is the power of the exchanged life, the self-life for the Christ-life
- B. In every persons' heart there is a cross and a throne.
 1. When self is on the throne, then Christ is on the cross.
But when self is on the cross, then Christ is on the throne
- C. Must deny self in order to follow Him
 1. Lord's terms of pardon are necessary and our obedience to them is indispensable. You may have your body immersed in water, but if you do not deny self, you cannot follow Him
 2. Matthew 16:24, "...take up his cross...follow me"
 - a. Cross-bearing must come before crown-wearing
 - b. Always willing to give Lord almost anything save what He wants most—our heart, self

SERMON OUTLINES

II. THE REAL POWER TO GRAPPLE WITH SIN

A. What is sin?

1. The very essence of sin is trusting self, serving self, exalting self to the position that is rightly occupied only by the Almighty God
 - a. Illu: Adam, Eve, Garden, first law, sinned. Their action, a declaration of independence
2. We live as if self is the one to be pleased and served. This is the very heart of sin

B. How then do we cope with the sin problem?

1. Ordinarily work on this little habit, this little practice. Treatment superficial. Occupy ourselves with surface symptoms
2. Put self on a little diet but not about to starve self to death. We miss the radical nature of Christianity, ignore the demanding nature of true discipleship
 - a. Illu: Reason for condition in Laodicea, Revelation 3:15
3. Must see that “the ax is laid at the root of the tree” as we deal with the sin problem in our lives
 - a. Illu: If to get tree out of front yard, go out and start pulling leaves off tree? Yet way many deal with the sin problem. We practice dermatology while the virus is eating us up
 - b. Jesus said, “Let a man deny self,” not habits
 - c. Self? Oh, last thing I would want to deny—could deny some habits, some practices—but not self. Yet this is what He requires. It is to this death that He calls us. When Jesus calls a man, He calls him to come and die. This death is the only door to life
4. “Take up the cross daily,” Luke 9:23
 - a. Our crosses? Grouchy boss, bad bunion, mother-in-law’s month long visit? Not what Jesus said
 - b. The cross was a means of execution. When man took up his cross in 1st century Roman world it meant he was going to his death. My cross for Christ means my death for Him

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- c. If we can ever lay ourselves unselfishly upon the altar, then everything else will follow—mind, muscle, money, time, tongue, talent, head, hand, heart. Illu: I must go to worship
- 5. Our service to Christ has often resembled an 8-cylinder car running on 2 or 3 cylinders. Barely getting along. Have been asking, "Lord, how much do I have to do? Do I have to go on Sunday night? Wednesday night? How little may I give?"
 - a. This attitude misses the whole point of grace. Not saved by labor of our hands, excellence of our performance, but by the One who died on the cross

III. SELF-RENUNCIATION IN PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

- A. "This mind"—to think like Jesus? No
 - 1. "He emptied Himself"—thus, the self-emptying mind; self-denial; totally and unreservedly committed to the will of the Father. "Not my will but thine be done"
- B. If have this mind in us, will give of our means, time, influence—not a grudging thing but joy of our life
- C. Death to self is a continuing battle
 - 1. We have died to sin—old man is dead—and is to stay dead, Romans 6:1, 2
 - 2. Colossians 3:3, 5
 - 3. With Paul, need to say, "I die daily"

SERMON OUTLINES

ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW

2 Corinthians 5:17

INTRODUCTION:

1. There are a lot of "new things" in the Bible
 - a. This, in spite of what Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 1:9, 10, "...no new thing under the sun..."
 - b. Thankful I'm not the cynic Solomon was
2. Today, there is the new birth, John 3:3, 5
3. There is the new life, 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:6, 8, 17.
4. There is the new hope, Titus 1:2
5. There is a new task, Matthew 6:33; Mark 5:1
6. There is a new body at the end, 1 Corinthians 15
7. There is a new home, John 14:1-3
8. There is a new year
 - a. The old year is done—with its heartaches, failures, disappointments, sins
 - b. Today is the time of beginning again—time for vows, promises, and resolutions to be made

I. GOD MADE VOWS AND PROMISES.

A. Genesis 9:9-13

1. He even announced this vow—bow in the sky

B. Deuteronomy 5, law given again. Moses spoke to people about it, "...God made a covenant with us in Horeb..."

1. People responded with their vow, "...we will hear it and do it," v. 5

C. Joshua 24:15-18, Joshua called for people to choose—they cried, "...we will serve the Lord..."

II. WHAT VALUE IS THERE IN MAKING VOWS?

A. Tells the world of the stand you have taken

1. Illu: Foreigner, on Naturalization Day, renounces all allegiance to old country, vows loyalty to new
2. Illu: Couple marries—vows in ceremony
3. Illu: Becoming a Christian, says in effect, "I am renouncing allegiance to Satan, serve Christ only"

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III. VOWS INDICATE STRENGTH OF CHARACTER

- A. Illu: George Washington, when elected president, "Be the journey long or short, although I may be deserted by all men, integrity and firmness shall never forsake me"
- B. Illu: Doctors bind themselves without discrimination to the service of humanity by taking the Hippocratic Oath. Goes back to Hippocrates in 4th century
- C. Daniel 3:13-18, vow of three Hebrews
- D. Daniel 1:8, vow of Daniel

IV. WHAT ABOUT OUR VOWS, RESOLUTIONS FOR NEW YEAR?

- A. Philippians 3:13, 14
 - 1. Paul looked two ways—backward and forward. To the past to be reminded to forget it.
- B. Call of the new year to noble living
 - 1. More devoted to Master
 - 2. Feeling closer relationship in and greater obligation to the church
 - 3. Determine to lead someone to Christ in new year
 - 4. Be businesslike, systematic in my weekly giving
 - 5. To pray daily and in every service
 - a. Psalms 116:12-14

SERMON OUTLINES

WHAT DID AND WHAT DOES CHRIST APPROVE?

INTRODUCTION:

1. Jesus used few words, as the Red Letter Edition of the New Testament will show
2. He used no flattery and no exaggeration
3. His compliments were not numerous, but by them we can have a good idea of what He approves in a person

I. NATHANIEL, John 1:43-51

A. V.47, "...an Israelite... in whom is no guile"

1. Was he in the minority? speaks of his genuineness and sincerity as if it were an oasis in a desert
2. Guile—treacherous, deceitful. Nathaniel none of this, thus was open, fair, honest.
3. So much like our Lord, 1 Peter 2:22
4. Peter speaks to you and me, 1 Peter 2:1

II. CENTURION, Matthew 8:5-13

A. Centurion besought Jesus for his servant. "I have not found such great faith, no, not in Israel"

1. The Lord desires that you and I have great faith, believe what He has spoken and be willing to act upon His word.
2. He commends strong, extraordinary faith
 - a. Our obedience, actions, and lives will be commensurate with our faith, strong or weak

III. THE CANAANITE WOMAN, Matthew 15:21

A. Woman came to Jesus at Tyre and Sidon

1. Her humility leads us to understand that one who has great faith is first humble
2. Pleased with our Lord's way of saving people—with His church, its worship, its work

IV. JOHN, THE BAPTIST, Luke 7:24-29

A. Jesus spoke of John

1. A man of great courage—spoke the truth wherever and to whomever needed to hear it. He died for truth. If it is worth

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living, worth dying for

V. ZACCHAEUS, Luke 19:1-9

A. Climbed tree to see Jesus. "This day is salvation come to this house"

1. Pleased to have Jesus visit him. Would we be? Pleased to have Jesus read his heart, understand his mind. Big and honest heart

VI. THE POOR WIDOW, Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4

A. Jesus sat against treasury. Saw widow give all she had

1. Two ways to evaluate contributions. How much is given? How much is left?
2. Jesus said she gave more than all the rest

VII. MARY AND THE OINTMENT, Mark 14:3-8

A. Anointed Jesus with expensive ointment. Disciples complained of waste. Jesus, "She hath done what she could...her deed spoken as memorial to her..."

1. She honored Christ. He wants us to by our lives, our choices, with our bodies and spirits
2. "She hath done what she could." Jesus approves us only when we have done what we can

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus complimented these in that which should be in each of us. Else we may not have His approval

SERMON OUTLINES

THE BIG MAN WHO LOST HIS TEMPER

2 Kings 5:1-14

I. THE MAN (Naaman)

A. Bible says some very complimentary things about him

1. A great man with his master, King Benhadad
 - a. He moved in the atmosphere of royalty
 - b. The king made him a man of high social position
 - c. He was a man of political influence
2. He was a man of substance
 - a. Took with him 10 talents of silver, 6,000 pieces of gold, and 10 changes of raiment—a fortune indeed
3. He was a military hero
 - a. When he appeared in public the people hailed him and saluted him
4. He was a man of valor—courage
 - a. Courage is a virtue universally admired
 - b. If you wrote a book about your friend and filled every page with compliments, then added at the last part of the last page these words, “but he was a coward,” it would spoil your hero. Courage is important and Naaman was a man of courage

B. He was all these things—“but...”

1. This word is an “adversative conjunction.” It goes against all that has been said before
 - a. Illu: “A beautiful car...but if he paid up all his debts, would be driving a 1956 VW”
2. Whatever the lot of man may be, there is always the other side and the hidden side. Naaman had wealth, position, power, almost everything—“but.” But what? He was a leper
 - a. Remember—always in the one whom we envy there is something that none of us would desire for ourselves. This should restrain our envy of others and teach us kindness and sympathy. There may be trouble, sorrow, and heartache where we little imagine it

SERMON OUTLINES

“If every man’s internal care
Were written on his brow,
How many who our envy share
Would have our pity now?”

3. I could say much about everyone here—but having said all that is lovely, in order to be loyal to the facts I would have to add, “We have all these treasures but...” But what? But many of us are still sinners. Still outside the ark of safety

C. The disease which afflicted Naaman

1. The most dreaded and the most loathsome of all diseases
 - a. Naaman and physician—“If you must know, you have leprosy.” “Leprosy? That awful disease of which beggars rot?” “Yes, also the ghastly disease that drags kings from their thrones. I regret to tell you there is nothing I can do. I have no cure for leprosy”
2. Desire of the young Jewess, “I wish my master would visit the prophet who is in Samaria. He would cure him of his leprosy”
 - a. “Did he ever cure anyone?” “Not as far as I know.” (Luke 4:27, “And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them were cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.”) “But if he stays here, the doctor promises nothing—if he’ll go see the prophet, there might be a chance. Why not give yourself a chance?”
3. Benhadad sent Naaman to King Jehoram
 - a. Went in pomp, pageantry, not as a leper seeking a cure, but like a prince going to receive a crown
 - b. Wrote a letter, sent expensive gifts, “This will introduce to you my servant Naaman, who comes to be cured of his leprosy”
 - c. “Who does he think I am, God, that I can kill and make alive? Asking me to do something that only God can do, cure a leper? Simply seeking a quarrel, trying to start another war?”
4. Elisha hears about this. “Send him to me that he may know

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there is a prophet in Israel”

II. NAAMAN GOES TO THE PROPHET’S HOUSE

- A. Took with him a blueprint of how he was going to be cured.
Being as important as he was, he felt he must be cured on his own terms
1. “As soon as I am announced, prophet will come out and stand, will call upon his God and wave his hand over me and I shall be cured”
- B. Didn’t work that way, however
1. Prophet sent servant out. “Go wash in Jordan 7 times and your flesh will come again to you, and you will be clean”
 2. At this Naaman’s anger knew no bounds
 - a. “Ridiculous—insulted—dip in muddy Jordan—clean rivers at home”
 - b. “Behold, I thought...” Went away in a rage. But, went away as a leper. Getting mad and storming out was no cure for leprosy
 3. Servant, “If he had commanded you to do some great thing, you would have done it. How much rather...”
 - a. If had demanded a great price, military victory, wash in Euphrates or Tigris, or climb Mt. Hermon! “How much rather wash and be clean?”

III. HIS CURE

- A. Only when he put his pride and self-sufficiency aside
1. Why did he refuse at first? “Prophet punctured my pride—did not cure me my way. Then he insulted me by putting that old muddy Jordan above my clean rivers in Damascus. He made me mad”.
 - a. Naaman was right about the rivers Abana and Pharpar having better water—clear, fresh from Mt. Hermon—but one thing they could not do for Naaman—they could not cure leprosy
 2. See how he almost missed the cure. Narrowly escaped remaining a leper the rest of his life

SERMON OUTLINES

IV. APPLICATION

A. Leprosy is a type of sin

1. Cannot recover ourselves—only God can forgive
2. Can't be saved my way
3. Remission is possible—God's way, Mark 16:16;
Acts 2:38; 22:16
 - a. "Don't like it" "Won't do it" Then, will remain a sinner

B. Who cleansed Naaman?

1. Elisha? No. His servant? No. Naaman himself? No. Water in Jordan? No. God did! When?
 - a. Illu: Paul saved on Damascus Road, Acts 22:16? "I was not disobedient...." 2 Corinthians 5:17. So Naaman dared to obey
 - b. Elisha did not cure, but knew how he could be cured; servant did not cure, but told him what to do so he could be cured; water of Jordan did not, but God did use it as a means in supplying a condition upon which he could be cured

C. Who saves us?

1. Preacher? No. Ourselves? No. Water in baptism? No.
 - a. Preacher may tell us what God wants us to do; we have a part, we do it; water has a part in that God uses it as a means to supply a condition upon which we are saved. But it is God who saves us by the blood of His Son, Hebrews 5:8, 9. When? When we obey Him
2. No other way, Galatians 3:27; Romans 6:3
 - a. Don't turn it down and go away a sinner

SERMON OUTLINES

THE EVILS OF PROCRASTINATION

James 4:13-17

INTRODUCTION:

1. Preach this only to people who are not Christians, trying to persuade them to make a decision. However, this book by James, is written to brethren. Notice the great number of times the term brethren is used by James
 - a. We can procrastinate just as ones not Christians
 2. Procrastination, the act of putting off from day to day; delay; postponement; dilatoriness
 3. V. 17, "...to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it..."
 - a. V. 16, "...all such glorying is evil..."
 4. Procrastination is dangerous:
- I. BECAUSE IT PRESUMES THE FUTURE
- A. V. 13, "...today or tomorrow we shall...;" "...continue there a year, buy...sell...get gain..."
 1. V. 14, "...ye know not what shall be on tomorrow"
 - B. Can still plan but our activity must be today
 1. Must act in terms of the present
 - C. V. 17. If I am ever to live, serve, love, work to glorify God, I must do it NOW!
 1. If I am ever to amount to anything in the church, I must do it now
- II. BECAUSE IT CAUSES US TO EXALT PHYSICAL LIFE
- A. V. 14, "What is your life?"
 1. Answer, "It is just a vapor that appears for..."
 - a. Can you imagine anything more fragile or transitory?
 - B. We study the life expectancy charts
 1. Tell ourselves the truth about our own age and decide we have 20, 30, 40 more years
 2. We think of all the things we are going to do, places we are going to before the end
 - C. Imagine we are going to live, work, then go out of this world in a blaze of glory
 1. You won't. Will slip quietly away and your going will be

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virtually unnoticed

III. BECAUSE IT DENIES THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD

A. V.15, "Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that' "

1. The providence of God may be summed up in one short sentence, "The Lord will provide, Genesis 22:8." Spoken by Abraham to Isaac at the offering on the mount

B. We must remember that in the providence of God, He has provided a purpose for our lives and a means to activate that purpose. This is also a part of the providence of God

1. Therefore, to procrastinate, not to become His child or not to be a faithful child of His, is to thwart the providence of God

2. In the work of the church: doing that which brings His approval and favor, resulting in growth of the body

a. Does God want this done? Does He want the church to do it? Then, we can't put it off until next year

b. Ephesians 2:8-10, "...are His workmanship..."

IV. BECAUSE IT CREATES WITHIN US A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY

A. V. 16, "But now ye glory in your vauntings..."

1. Brethren, we can glory in what we do and what we aim to do instead of glorying in God

2. "Here's what we are going to do"

B. Causes many of us to live in a dream world

1. Promises much but does very little

2. "Can always get busy in that tomorrow"

V. BECAUSE IT SQUANDERS TIME

A. V. 17, "...knoweth to do good..."

1. Ephesians 5:16, "Making the most of the time because the days are evil"

a. KJV, "redeeming the time"

b. Greek, "buying up the opportunity"

B. Cannot bring time back when it is gone

1. Might squander dollars and live to make more to replace

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them, but you can never regain time

2. Time cannot be expanded, accumulated, mortgaged, or retarded

VI. BECAUSE IT ENDANGERS THE SOUL

A. V. 17, "...to him it is sin"

1. Ezekiel 18:4, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die"

VII. BECAUSE IT HARDENS THE HEART

A. V.17, "... knoweth to do good..."

1. Does not do it, puts off, postpones, becomes easier and easier to delay
2. "Going to get started to services regularly"
"Going to become a soul winner," etc.
3. "Going to make things right—been differences—know about them, others do—can't go to judgment this way. Will turn loose, go forward, confess sins..." Alas, song ends, books in rack, dismissed, delayed again
4. Going to become Christian—almost persuaded. Can't remain long in this condition—soon either altogether or less persuaded
 - a. Sinner, harden not your heart

SERMON OUTLINES

THE DAY OF JUDGMENT

Amos 4:12

INTRODUCTION:

1. A long way off?
 - a. Our part is not, Hebrews 9:27

I. ALL WILL BE JUDGED

- A. Ecclesiastes 3:17, "God shall judge..."
- B. Hebrews 10:30, "The Lord shall judge His people"
- C. 1 Peter 4:17, "The time has come that judgment..."
 1. Christian going to be judged? Yes, in this sense of receiving sentence—not to determine guilt
 2. 1 John 4:17, "Herein is our love made perfect..."
 3. 1 John 2:28, "...when He shall appear we shall..."
- D. Matthew 25:32, "...before Him shall be gathered..."

II. WHEN IS THIS DAY COMING?

- A. I do not know, but I do know there will be such a day
 1. Acts 17:30, 31, "...Because He hath appointed..."
 - a. So, it is in God's appointments. He has never failed to keep one and on time
 2. John 12:48, "...rejecteth me, and receives not..."
- B. Don't know when, but do know it is an appointment God has made and will faithfully keep; and, I do know it will be the last day

III. IT WILL BE THE LAST DAY

- A. John 12:48
- B. The good will be raised on that day
 1. John 6:39, "raise...at the last day"
 2. V. 40, "...I will raise him up at the last day"
 3. V. 44, "...I will raise him up at the last day"
 4. V. 54, "...I will raise him up at the last day"
- C. Wicked will be judged on that same day
 1. John 12:48
- D. The END comes on that same day

SERMON OUTLINES

1. 1 Corinthians 15:22, 23, "...in Adam all die..."

2. V.24, "Then cometh the end..."

E. Christ comes on that same day

1. 1 Corinthians 15:23, "...Christ... firstfruits..."

F. Heavens and earth destroyed on that same day

1. 1 Peter 3:10, "...Lord will come as a thief..."

2. V. 12, "...desiring the coming of the day..."

3. Any room for 1,000 years on earth after He comes?

a. Judgment day the last day

b. Good resurrected on that same day

c. Wicked judged on that same day

d. The end comes on that same day

e. Christ comes on that same day

f. Heavens and earth destroyed on that same day—which is the Judgment Day

IV. BY WHAT SHALL WE BE JUDGED?

A. James 2:12, "...judged by the law of liberty"

B. John 12:48, "...the Word that I have spoken unto..."

C. Romans 2:16, "...when God...by Jesus Christ...gospel"

1. Judged by whatever law lived under

2. Not by creeds or by man's judgment

D. Isaiah 66:2, "...and trembleth at my word"

E. Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14, "...hear the conclusion..."

F. Luke 12:2, "...covered...revealed...hid...known"

1. Think of it. Yes, the Lord knows my heart, my life, my thoughts

2. Might well say with David, Psalms 139:7, 8 "...Whither shall I go from Thy spirit?..."

V. WHO WILL DO THE JUDGING?

A. 2 Timothy 4:1, "...I charge you...before God..."

B. John 5:22; Acts 17:31

SERMON OUTLINES

THE TERMS OF DISCIPLESHIP

Matthew 16:24; 6:3

INTRODUCTION:

1. At mention of "terms of discipleship," think of faith, repentance, confession, and baptism
 - a. True, no becoming a disciple without obedience to these primary commands of the gospel
 2. However, let's discuss the terms of a life of discipleship
 3. Is it true that true Christianity is an all-out commitment to our Lord, Jesus Christ?
 - a. Is He looking for men and women who will give their spare evenings to Him?
 - b. Or their spare week-ends, or their years of retirement?
 - c. Or for people who think they can spare Him a few dollars per year for the greatest work in the world?
 - d. Is He not rather seeking people who will give Him first place in their lives?
 4. Just what response do you think we ought to make to Calvary? The cross? The cruel punishment? The incredible suffering and agony? Just what would be a fitting response to all that?
 - a. Could it be less than an unconditional surrender?
 5. Just what is Christianity to us?
 - a. An escape from hell and a guarantee of heaven?
 - b. What beyond this? Feel our time is our own, our money is our own, our energy is our own, and we have every right to enjoy the best that this world has to offer?
 - c. Soldiers give their lives for patriotic reasons and Communists give theirs for political reasons, but that we should give our time, money, "blood, sweat, and tears" out of grateful emotion seems very remote to us
 6. There is no more room for misunderstanding the terms of discipleship for daily living than there is for misunderstanding how one becomes a disciple
- I. A SUPREME LOVE FOR JESUS CHRIST
- A. Luke 14:26, "If any man hate not...not be disciple"
 1. Our love for Christ should be so great that all other loves

SERMON OUTLINES

are hatred by comparison. Most difficult, "...yea, and his own life also"

- a. Self-love, one of the most stubborn hindrances to discipleship

II. A DENIAL OF SELF, Matthew 16:24

A. Not same as self-denial

1. Latter is foregoing certain foods, pleasures, or possessions
2. Denial of self means that self has no rights or authority at all. Doing of Lord's will always come first

III. A DELIBERATE CHOOSING OF THE CROSS

A. Matthew 16:24, "...and take up his cross"

1. Not some physical infirmity or mental anguish—these are common to all men
2. The cross is a pathway deliberately chosen. Symbolizes the shame, persecution, and abuse the world heaped upon Jesus

B. We can avoid the cross by being conformed to the world and its ways

IV. A LIFE SPENT IN FOLLOWING JESUS

A. Matthew 16:24, "...and follow Me"

1. What characterized His life?
 - a. Obedience, unselfish service, patience, long-suffering, zeal, self-control, meekness, kindness, faithfulness, devotion
2. To be His disciple we must walk as He walked

V. A FERVENT LOVE FOR ALL WHO BELONG TO CHRIST

A. John 13:35, "By this shall all men know..."

1. Love that suffers long and is kind; not easily provoked, bears all things and endures all things, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

VI. AN UNSWERVING CONTINUANCE IN HIS WORD

A. John 8:31, "If you continue...My disciples indeed..."

1. Test of reality is endurance to the end
2. Luke 9:62, "...no man...looking back is fit..."

CONCLUSION:

1. If we meet these terms of discipleship, then Christ claims us as His own

SERMON OUTLINES

KNOW THE REAL JOY OF GOOD LIVING

2 Timothy 4:1-8

INTRODUCTION:

1. Some of you may remember that my subject was a beer commercial a few years ago. Their commercial did not state the truth, really. That's what we want to see—the truth in this expression
 - a. Their claim was that if you drink their beer you will be really living. Beer after work, after evening meal, party after football games, etc. That's their idea of real living. But, that's far from God's idea about it
2. Joke: Rich man lay dying—"Any last request?" "Yes, bury me in my gold Cadillac." And they did, and as it was being lowered in an oversized grave, a black man said, "Man, that's real living"
 - a. Yes, wealth and affluence is "good living" to some
3. To others, service is the real secret of good living
 - a. Illu: Drs. Jerry Mayes and Ron Huddleston were in Tanzania, East Africa. One day while doing surgery, were asked, "How much for this operation in America?" "Oh, about \$1200." "How much here?" "Not anything but the knowledge we have helped someone—but, man, that's real living." Who is right? The beer company or those Christian doctors?

I. WHAT IS GOOD LIVING?

- A. It involves commitment to Christ
 1. One not a Christian is existing, but not living
 2. The most important thing in life is to get ready for life and death by committing oneself to the Lord
- B. It involves a vital connection in the church
 1. Not just your name on the "church roll." But a connection that means something: faithfulness, service, fellowship
 2. Remember, Christ loved the church and died for it. If we love Him then we will love the church
- C. Good living involves a separation from the world
 1. I can confess to being a Christian, and then live a worldly life and call it good living, but I have misnamed it
 - a. True, we are in the world, but not to be of the world

SERMON OUTLINES

D. Good living includes serving God

1. Illu: Slavery—man bought a 16-year old girl. She was afraid he would use and abuse her. He said, "You can go now. I bought you to set you free." She fell at his feet with tears rolling down her cheeks and said, "O, master, I want to serve you the rest of my life"
2. Jesus bought us that He might set us free. This is one of the great joys of good living

E. Good living implies cooperation with God in a world-wide task

1. Takes work, sacrifice, and giving to "go into all the world with the gospel." This will take denying ourselves—and many things to ourselves

"Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last."

2. Doing this work because you love it is good living

II. GREAT JOY IS FOUND IN THIS GOOD LIVING

A. You know your sins are forgiven

1. Psalms 32:1, "Blessed (happy)...sins forgiven"

B. You know you have someone to help you along the way

1. Hebrews 13:5, "I will never leave...forsake..."
2. Proverbs 18:24, "...friend sticketh closer..."

C. You know you are living by the best set of rules in the world

1. Thus, can have a sense of well-being, clear conscience—happiness

D. You know death has no fear for you

1. But one who has not moved up to good living has right to fear death
 - a. Then all opportunities are passed; probation ended
 - b. How about it? Is it well with your soul today? What if death should come to you today?

E. Do you know you have a home in heaven waiting for you?

1. No sorrow, pain—for the former things are passed away.
 - a. This is the climax of good living. Why don't you come to it today by coming into Christ and allowing Him to come into your life to change it, direct it, and to bless it?

SERMON OUTLINES

FRAGILE: HANDLE WITH PRAYER

INTRODUCTION:

1. Have seen sign on glassware, etc., "Fragile: handle with care"
 - a. Life is like that. Is fragile and needs to be handled with great care—and prayer
2. Bible encourages us to pray:
 - a. Luke 18:1, "...always to pray and not to faint..."
 - b. Matthew 14:38, "Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter..."
 - c. Colossians 4:2, "Continue in prayer, and watch..."
 - d. 1 Thessalonians 5:17, "Pray without ceasing"
3. Some of the fragile things of life that need to be handled with prayer:

I. PHYSICAL LIFE

- A. We take our day to day life for granted, but actually it is very fragile and deserves to be handled with care and prayer
 1. "Brittle thread of life"—may be snapped at any moment by auto accident, plane crash, hunting accident, heart attack, and a hundred other things
 - a. James 4:13-15

II. MARRIAGE

- A. Fragile and needs to be handled with prayer
 1. Being greatly desecrated in this country
 - a. Divorce is all too common. One out of three end in divorce. Fragile! Homes being broken and lives being hurt—even destroyed
- B. Must be recognized as a sacred relationship and should be entered into in a sacred and serious manner
 1. 1 Peter 3:5-7, "...husbands, dwell, honor..."
 - a. When members of a family sincerely pray for each other, the family relationship will be greatly strengthened
- C. Need to give notice and praise to those married fifty years and longer. Thank God for these

III. CHILDREN

- A. I would be afraid to try to rear my children without prayer

SERMON OUTLINES

1. They are so young, tender, and fragile. So moldable and pliable. With all the influences to which they are subjected in this day, I would hate to try to rear them without the help of the Lord. They could be broken and ruined for life
2. Psalms 127:3, "Lo, children are a heritage..."
 - a. Since they are from the Lord, should I think of trying to rear them without the Lord?
 - b. Do not need rough, harsh, cruel treatment. Need the tenderest care and prayer possible. Need the inspiration of a godly example in the home and in daily life. Need a cheerful, happy home in which to grow up—one built on reverence and respect for God and His word
 - c. Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way..."

IV. THE SOUL

- A. If physical life is fragile and needs to be handled with prayer, how much more the spiritual life and things pertaining to the soul?
 1. Alien sinner, of course, is not saved by prayer, but by belief of and obedience to the gospel. Christian, however, cannot save his soul and protect it from the ravages of sin without giving much care and prayer to it
 2. 1 Corinthians 10:12, "...him that thinketh he..."
 - a. At the close of day—afraid to pillow head without asking God's forgiveness for every sin committed that day, thank Him for every blessing He has bestowed upon me, ask Him for strength to overcome temptation, and ask Him to bless my loved ones with physical and spiritual health
 - b. James 5:16, "...prayer of a righteous man..."

CONCLUSION:

"O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry,
Everything to God in prayer."

SERMON OUTLINES

ONWARD REJOICING

Acts 8:26-39

INTRODUCTION:

1. Note, especially, v. 39, "...went on his way rejoicing"
 - a. Onward!
 - 1) Growth—continued growth—living the Christian life.
One doesn't stop with baptism—he has only just begun—he doesn't stop until he is stopped by the Lord taking him home
 - b. Rejoicing!
 - 1) Has entered into way of life that is the best; Christian life is the happiest, most satisfying, the one with promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come
 - 2) Are you a Christian? Can't go on rejoicing until you become one. Can't be one until you become one
 - c. How does one become a Christian?

I. LET'S SEE IF OUR READING TELLS US

- A. A man named Philip is mentioned in the first verse read. Who was he?
 1. First mentioned in Acts 6 as one of the seven to minister to the Grecian widows who were being overlooked or neglected
 - a. Usually think of these men as deacons. They served and the word deacon means a servant
 2. Acts 8 opens with the account of the scattering of the Jerusalem church because of the great persecution. V.5, "Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ unto them"
 - a. Acts 8:6-8, "...gave heed unto those things..."
 - b. V.12, "...when believed, baptized..."
 - 1) What should we preach? Philip preached "Christ unto them, things concerning the kingdom of God, the name of Jesus Christ." NOTE: When we preach this, what will people want to do? Be baptized!

SERMON OUTLINES

3. Then the angel of the Lord told Philip to leave all that and go into a desert region

a. "And he arose and went," v.27

B. Now, what about the eunuch?

1. He was an Ethiopian.

2. A great man—had great authority where he lived—Queen's treasurer "who had the charge of all her treasures"

3. Deeply religious

a. Been on a long trip to Jerusalem. Not a business trip but had made that long trip to worship, v. 27

b. Was Jewish—believed the Old Testament Scriptures—was reading them aloud. Philip heard him, v. 30

1) Did he have a driver? Nothing said about that

4. Here is a fine, religious, powerful man who has been to worship—but he was not saved

II. WHAT HAPPENED?

A. Spirit to Philip, "Go near, and join thyself to this chariot," v. 29

1. Heard him read the prophet Isaiah. Asked, "Understandest thou what thou readest?"

2. "How can I except some man guide me?"

3. Reading from Isaiah 53. "He was led...", vv. 32, 33

4. "Who is the prophet talking about? Himself or some other man?"

5. Philip "preached unto him Jesus," v. 35

6. Came to a certain water, both Philip and the eunuch: and he baptized him," v. 38

7. "And he went on his way rejoicing," v. 39

III. WHY DID HE GO ON HIS WAY REJOICING?

A. Now has a greater understanding of the Bible

B. Had learned that this historical Jesus is the Christ, the Saviour. (Must have heard the stories in Jerusalem about this man named Jesus)

SERMON OUTLINES

- C. Now had the remission of sins, Acts 2:38. He is now saved, Mark 16:16. Lord said he was saved! Furthermore, the Lord is saying that this is what it takes to save him
- D. Now has a great and delightful prospect of service
 - 1. No church in Ethiopia. But there will be one when he gets home. He was saved and the Lord added him to the church, Acts 2:47

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Understandable why he “went on his way rejoicing”
 - a. You can't leave here the same way if you have not done what the eunuch did. When he did this, he was saved. You are not saved unless you have done what he did!
- 2. Will you not believe as he did, confess as he confessed and go down into the water and be baptized? And you can go on your way rejoicing. Anything finer?

SERMON OUTLINES

WOULD IT HELP AND WOULD IT BE BETTER?

- I. IF LESSONS WERE BETTER PREPARED AND PRESENTED, would it help?
 - A. If teacher or preacher used resource material and thus prepared better lessons, would it help?
 - B. If he made notes when he heard others teach or preach and incorporated these into his lessons, would that be better?
 - C. If he read and used what brethren have written and used these thoughts and statements in his lessons or sermons, would it be better?
- II. IF BRETHERN REALLY STUDIED PRAYER, gave it a lot of thought and prepared themselves to lead the prayers, would it be better?
 - A. If brethren listened to others pray and listened to what is taught and preached on prayer, would it help?
 - B. If brethren would read in books all they could find on the subject, would that be better?
- III. IF WE GAVE MORE THOUGHT AND ATTENTION TO SINGING, would it be better?
 - A. If the leader learned as much as he could about leading and directing congregational singing, would that help? If they read and used what other men have practiced and advised, would that improve the singing?
 - B. If you and I truly believed singing is worship, and to be engaged in by each Christian, would that be better?
 - C. If having good song books—meaning a book of good, gospel songs—would cause us to praise God as we should, would that help?
- IV. WOULD IT HELP OUR ASSEMBLIES AND WORSHIP to have a nice meeting house, lights, fuel, air-conditioning, pews with padded seats and backs, and song book racks?
- V. IF LESSONS WERE TAUGHT AND SERMONS PREACHED ON GIVING, would that be a help?

SERMON OUTLINES

- A. If a systematic plan of work and finance were worked out—something perhaps called a budget, would that be better?
- B. Would it help to emphasize what Paul said about purposing in our hearts to give? If we could be shown that what a person purposes in his heart is no sin to write down with his hand, would that be better?
- C. If collection or contribution envelopes could be used as an aid or teaching tool for ourselves, others, and especially our children, would they be a help?

VI. "WELL, LET'S SEE..."

- A. To teach and preach the gospel is a command—worship
- B. To pray is a command—worship
- C. To sing is a command—worship
- D. To assemble is a command—worship
- E. To eat the Lord's Supper is a command—worship
 - 1. But, did you notice all of the unauthorized and unscriptural things we talked about?

VII. A LOOK AT AIDS...

- A. What men have taught and written on teaching and preaching
 - 1. Uninspired books, charts, lessons, lesson plans
- B. What uninspired men have taught and preached on prayer
- C. And what about the assembly?
 - 1. Unauthorized meeting houses, lights, fuel, pews, carpets, rest rooms, and drinking fountains
- D. Singing, what about its authorization?
 - 1. Can't find a New Testament example of a song leader to save our lives. Nor for song books
 - 2. Song leader necessary? An aid to the orderly carrying out of the New Testament command to sing in worship
- E. Are budgets, purposing (with or without purpose cards) and contribution envelopes essential?
 - 1. Been demonstrated that they are an aid to the orderly obedience to and the liberal carrying out of the New Testament command to contribute our money on the first day of the week

SERMON OUTLINES

2. Do we think the song book is more important than the purpose card or a collection envelope?
 - a. One thing is sure, the church that uses the budget and purpose system, and collection envelopes far exceeds in liberality other churches of comparable size that do not use them
 - b. Just as the church that uses the song book and a song leader will sing better than one which does not use them
 - 1) Using aids, still just singing—obeying command
 - c. So the “giving aids” are just that. Using such, a person still does his own purposing—can even write it down (not for show or display)—put it in an envelope and put it in the plate. What has he done? He gave as the Lord commanded and wished us to

CONCLUSION:

1. Would you be baptized today? In this baptistry? Water and enough in which to bury a person or immerse him

SERMON OUTLINES

THE STORY THAT LIVES FOREVER

Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:1-9; John 12:1-8

INTRODUCTION:

1. Too fascinating, winsome, thrilling to ever be forgotten.
Besides, Jesus said it would always be spoken of. "Mary, wherever My story is told, yours will be told also." So it has been, so it is still
2. Friends had invited Him to dinner—it was in Bethany. He accepted
 - a. His cross was only a week away, yet hides His sorrow and goes out to dinner. Cannot bear to disappoint His friends
 - b. In the house of Simon the leper. Who he was we don't know
 - c. All His disciples were there too and Lazarus who had been raised from the dead
 - d. And there was Mary who loved her Lord. And, while Jesus was there, his last time in Bethany, she wanted to do something

I. SHE WANTED TO DO SOMETHING

- A. Anointed His head and feet with the very precious ointment
 1. Costly, 300 pence
- B. Judas, "Why was this waste of the ointment made? It might have been sold for more than 300 pence and the proceeds given to the poor." Think how many hungry people in Jerusalem this might have fed. Think how many in rags this might have clothed. Mary does not love the poor. If she cared as I do, she would not have thrown this treasure away
 1. John 12:6, "...he was a thief..."
 2. He just had to hiss at a beautiful deed, bemean a good work, murmur at someone's generous act
 3. We usually blame Judas altogether, but Mark 14:4 says, "...some had indignation...Why was this waste of the ointment made?" V.5, "And they murmured against her." Matthew 26:8, "But when His disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, to what purpose is this waste? So, they all murmured. Peter, James, John, Philip and Bartholomew

SERMON OUTLINES

- a. When Judas dared to speak his mind, there were others who nodded approval. Criticism is contagious. It is as catching as the measles. Let someone start yelping at the heels of a brother, and soon others will join in the chase. "You are right, Brother Judas, you surely have your feet on the ground. Mary has done a silly and heartless thing"
 - C. But Mary wanted to do something, and she refused to let the objection of Judas stop her. Yet more, she was not discouraged nor stopped by the murmuring of all of the disciples. She stood alone, but she knew what was coming. She loved the Lord and went right ahead—doing something
- II. SHE WANTED TO DO WHAT SHE COULD
- A. Of course she could not be an apostle, receiving power to work miracles as she taught the limited commission. But there was something she could do and give, and she did it.
 - B. Many can't do what they would like and even feel themselves fitted to do, but there is always something one can do
 - 1. Illu: Preacher at Tarzan, TX
- III. SHE WANTED TO DO ALL SHE COULD OF WHAT SHE COULD
- A. Took the alabaster box, broke the seal, and emptied it upon Jesus' head. Kept none back
 - 1. This hurt the disciples—they felt rebuked because they did not dare to give as Mary gave
 - 2. Hosea 6:4, "...goodness...dew...it goeth away"
 - a. Hosea is saying your love is like that—it is only the love of pretention. So it was of Judas and perhaps the others, but it was not Mary's
 - 3. Romans 12:11, "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord"
 - B. Do we do our very best when we come together? Singing, praying, etc.
- IV. SHE WANTED TO DO WHAT SHE COULD FOR CHRIST
- A. She was not doing it for Judas; she was not doing it for the

SERMON OUTLINES

other disciples

1. Joshua 7:19, "...give...glory to the Lord..."

2. Revelation 22:8, 9, "...do it not...fellow servant"

B. Serve and live with an eye single to Christ and pleasing Him

1. He is the "all-seeing eye watching you." Don't knowingly and willingly offend anyone, but what we do is for Christ's glory

V. SHE WANTED TO DO WHAT SHE COULD AT AN OPPORTUNE TIME

A. Had she done this before she did, it would have been too soon

1. Her deed was beautiful in its timing

2. Many things would be well to do but could be attempted too early or too soon

a. Need to be agreeable, explored, all questions about it asked and answered, etc.

B. Had she been later in her deed, it would have been too late

1. "She is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying"

2. Illu: Nicodemus loved Jesus. After He was dead, he brought Him a wealth of precious spices and perfume. But his timing was bad

a. But Mary said, "I will beat death to Him. I will anoint Him before death arrives." And she did

C. Use our talents, time, and means now. "Behold, now is the accepted time..."

1. Use your opportunities NOW

SERMON OUTLINES

THE BEST THING THAT CAN BE SAID ABOUT A CHRISTIAN

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

INTRODUCTION:

1. What is it?
 - a. Has been elected to public office?
 - b. Has come into a lot of money?
 - c. Has been given a movie contract?
 - d. Has written or sung a #1 hit tune?
 - e. "He comes to church all the time?"
 - f. "He lives a clean life?"
 - g. "He gives generously of his money?"
2. No, none of these. But the best thing you can say about a Christian is that he is faithful
 - a. Revelation 2:10; 1 Corinthians 4:2
 - b. Men may compliment you, but when they say that you are faithful to the Lord and His church, they are paying you the highest compliment you can ever receive

I. THE FAITHFULNESS OF OTHERS

A. God is faithful

1. Lamentations 3:23, "Great is Thy faithfulness"
2. Psalms 119:90, "Thy faithfulness is unto all generations"
3. Faithful to His creation
 - a. Sun, moon, and earth revolve, bringing night and day, and the four seasons. When we go to bed, don't worry if the night will be six months long—know a faithful God is running the universe
4. Faithful to us
 - a. Provides our needs, saves and forgives us, answers our prayers
 - b. We are fickle and spasmodic, true one day and false the next. But, God is always faithful—"same yesterday, today and forever," Hebrews 13:8
5. Know some who were formerly very faithful. Never missed a service. Lived faithful for the Lord. Today have no

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concern for the church nor for the things of God. They are not faithful to God. Yet in spite of their disloyalty, God continues to be faithful to them

B. Jesus is faithful

1. His baptism in Jordan by John, "...thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteous," Matthew 3:15
2. His death on the cross. Came to die and never wavered to the right nor left. He was faithful unto death
 - a. Lived every day in the shadow of the cross and yet He was faithful
3. Faithful to His Father, to His friends, to the world for which He bled and died

C. The disciples were faithful

1. Only one of them died a natural death and that in exile.
Gave up their lives rather than be unfaithful to Christ
 - a. So easy to be a Christian today. No one will shoot you for coming to church or tear you limb from limb for following Christ. They endured all these things and still they were faithful
 - b. Illu: If man came to you and said, "I have in one hand a million dollars and in the other a gun. If you renounce Christ, I will give you your life and one million dollars. If you do not renounce Christ, I will kill you. Take your choice." How many of us would remain faithful?

D. Others have been faithful

1. Some have been though families have not been
2. Some have been though companion has not been
3. Though scorned, ridiculed, and even threatened

II. DIFFERENT MOTIVES FOR FAITHFULNESS

A. "I am going to be loyal in order to get something from God"

1. Lowest motive. Jacob an example, "If thou wilt go with me and protect me and bless me, I will give you a tenth of all that I make," Genesis 28:20-22
2. We are not to give for what we may get out of it—not because we expect God to pay us back with interest—but

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because it is right, because we love God

B. "I shall be loyal because of what God has done for me".

1. Not a bad motive, but it is not the best
 - a. Example: David, Psalms 116:112, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all of His benefits toward me?"
 - b. However, not to treat God's goodness as a debt. Not to say, "God did this for me, so I must pay Him back"
2. Of course, we can pass off lightly what He has done:
"Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all"

C. "I will be loyal in spite of anything that happens to me"

1. The highest motive
 - a. Job—rich, fine family, cup of happiness overflowed. Lost everything, children, money, health. "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him"
2. We let little things sweep us off our feet. Don't like preacher, church not run to suit, someone talked about you, someone else chosen for task. What about it? Must be loyal to God in spite of these things

III. HOW CAN WE SHOW OUR LOYALTY?

A. By consecrated, consistent Christian living

1. Spasmodic, off-and-on Christian will never have any influence for Christ. Must be a 24-hour a day, 365-day a year Christian to have any influence for the Lord
 - a. Maybe you can't speak in public, lead a song, pray a public prayer, or give huge sums. But there is one thing you can do, you can live a good life so that every day people can see Jesus in you
 - b. Suppose some have gone to hell because they watched the life of an inconsistent, unfaithful Christian.
 - c. Many have obeyed the gospel because they could not get away from the power of a consecrated, faithful Christian life

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B. By standing up for our convictions

1. Illu: Believe it when in church on Sunday. But are we willing to stand for these things before the world during the week?

C. By our obedience, Matthew 28:19, 20

D. By loyalty to the Lord's church

1. Illu: Certain couple very faithful. Started playing golf, boating and water skiing on Sunday p.m.—kept them from coming to Sunday night service. Started having dinner at Country Club (business, you know) on Wednesday night—missed mid-week service. Soon attending just once in awhile on Sunday a.m. Soon started doing things that at one time thought they never would
 - a. Say what you will about church attendance, but God put something there to help you in your life

E. By being interested in others—a soul winner

1. Illu: Andrew, little-known in Bible, but everyone knows his big brother, Simon Peter. Andrew is the one who brought him to Jesus

F. By giving God the glory in all things

1. Christian worker's greatest temptation comes right here
 - a. So easy to claim credit for ourselves when all the glory should go to God
 - b. If we accomplish anything, it is only because we have the help of others. "I have planted..."

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus' parable of talents, Matthew 25:14-23
 - a. Not, "...good and successful servant"
 - b. Not, "...good and rich servant"
 - c. But, "...good and faithful servant"
2. One talent man—unfaithful

SERMON OUTLINES

ARE YOU HEADED FOR GOATHOOD?

Matthew 25:31-46

INTRODUCTION:

1. Something here is made the basis of judgment. The scene is set, the people are there, the judge presides, the verdict is given, and the sentence is explained
 - a. The work we do—even the little works we do
 - b. This idea is not incompatible with “salvation by faith.” Things herein are works of faith and are a part of faith. Galatians 5:6, “For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision... but faith which worketh by love”
 - c. Salvation is not by “works only” any more than it is by “faith only”

I. THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS

A. The surprise of the sheep

1. “Would have done these things for you, but we did not see you in this need”
2. Sheep will hardly remember the good they did—will not even know about all the good things they did
 - a. Why? Shall see later

B. Disappointment of the goats

1. “Why, we never saw you in this need. Would have helped you some if we had seen you suffering. We never turn anybody down”
2. Would have played to the grandstand. Would have done it if it had been glamorous; if could have gotten credit for it; if could have been published as a 100%

II. SHEEP HAVE BEEN HABITUALLY CHRISTIAN AND GOOD

A. Their true and real character—their very nature

1. Do right without debate—without decision
 - a. Some brag about going to church (Easter, Mother’s Day, Christmas, etc.) but not their habit or real character. In fact, out of character when they do go
 - b. Some brag about giving to the needy, etc.

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2. But good people take no credit for themselves—they just live that way
 - a. Illu. Compliment Christian for attending services? “Glad you came to church tonight.” Why he always does. Would not be him if he didn’t

B. Christian denies self and gives himself to serve, without pressure

1. Illu: Emergency, goals, special deals, etc.
2. If have to pet and humor members to get them to attend church—Beloved, they are headed for “goathood.”
3. Any point in bragging on someone for being honest and truthful? Should be that all along. That’s just him—how he lives, etc.
 - a. Then, any point in bragging on a Christian for being faithful?

III. CHRISTIAN CHARACTER IS MADE UP OF CHRISTIAN HABITS

A. How do we get habits?

1. How did we learn to write? By doing something big and great? By signing Declaration of Independence? No. By practicing exercises over and over. Soon became a habit
2. Illu: Playing piano? Did Van Cliburn learn to play piano by going to Russia and wowing them with a great concert? No. Little finger exercises over and over and on and on—hours per day. Became habit

B. How do we develop spiritually—become sheep?

1. Not all at once by doing something big for which we are praised? No
 - a. But by attending Wednesday night, Sunday night, Bible study, gospel meetings, etc.,—giving some time and money regularly. (Seems like little things but are very important)
2. Can learn by doing little things—becomes habit
 - a. Hard to be generous giver at first. But can learn to give with grace and joy. Some have formed the habit of generous giving, and so they are always generous. Giving

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has become a part of him—its his life. As much a part of him as attending services or eating the Lord's Supper

- C. So, one is a Christian instinctively, habitually, without thinking
1. Have a deciding session about attending? No
 2. Any un-Christian action should be the exception in our lives
 - a. Illu: Preacher been faithful for years—has not missed a service—but next Sunday he just takes out and goes fishing. After all, he is due a trip—been faithful so long, etc. What would you think? "Terrible." "Horrible." Why? That is the exception
 3. Illu: Science teacher suspended bar of iron from ceiling—also a cork—could swing and hit the bar of iron—took many a bump but finally bar began to sway just a little, then to swing
 - a. So little things seem trivial, but will set a whole life swinging Godward
 - b. Christian habits are made up of little things, but Christian character is made up of Christian habits

CONCLUSION:

1. Do you see why the sheep were surprised?
 - a. They just did good without knowing it

SERMON OUTLINES

HOW MANY CHURCHES DID JESUS BUILD?

INTRODUCTION:

1. If we can know how many churches Jesus came to build, then we can know just how many He built.
 - a. Matthew 16:18, "...I will build my church"
 - b. John 10:16, "...shall be one fold and one shepherd." Thus, one flock and one shepherd. He speaks of Himself as the shepherd and of the church as the fold, and He said, "one fold."
2. John 17:4, "I have finished the work Thou gavest Me to do"
 - a. He did everything He was supposed to do. There was not a person left lame whom He ought to have healed; not a word left unspoken that He ought to have spoken; not a deed left undone that He ought to have done. His life was perfectly lived. He came to build His church and that's what He did!
3. Also, if we can learn how many churches Jesus built, then we can know how many He came to build. For He did precisely what He came to do
 - a. Ephesians 5:23, "...husband head of wife as Christ head of church...He is the saviour of the body
 - 1) One husband, one wife. How many husbands? Just as many as there are wives. How many wives? Just as many as there are husbands. Thus, one wife and one husband
 - 2) Now, how many Christs? As many as there are churches. But, how many churches? As many as there are Christs. One church, one Christ; one church
 - b. 1 Corinthians 12:13, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body"
 - 1) Ephesians 4:4, "There is one body." But what is the body? Colossians 1:18, "And He is the head of the body, the church." Ephesians 1:22, 23, "And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all"
4. So, He came to build one church, and He did what He came to do; so, He built one church

SERMON OUTLINES

- I. BUT, HOW CAN I KNOW WHICH ONE IT IS TODAY?
- A. Read the New Testament. Find some characteristics of the church He established; allow these to become marks of identification; and using them, try to find the one with these marks.
1. Some suggested marks of identification: Who? Whose? When? Why? How?
- II. THE QUESTION, "WHO?"
- A. Matthew 16:18 answers it, and it is enough
1. He did nothing that was not the will of His Father and He faithfully did everything our Father sent Him to do. John 17:4, "I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do"
- III. THE QUESTION, "WHOSE?"
- A. Of course it is His. He said it was "His church" He would build
1. That He would have a church, that He would build it, that He would be both the head and the foundation of it, that He would guide, direct, supervise, and motivate it, that He would save it, is all the will of our Heavenly Father, for Jesus is all the will of our Heavenly Father, for Jesus did nothing that was not the will of God
 2. So, the church is His. Not mine, not yours, nor does it belong to any other human being. Therefore, man doesn't decide how it is entered, who enters it, what work and service it is to be engaged in, nor how God is to be worshiped by those who are in it. The church is an absolute monarchy—not a democracy. The divine side of it is perfect, but Jesus built it for you and me. What wonderful love!
- B. Not only is the church His because He built it, but also because He bought it. Acts 20:28, "Take heed...purchased with own blood"
1. The church is people—people who have been saved, cleansed by the saving blood of Jesus Christ
- IV. THE QUESTION, "WHEN?"
- A. Matthew 16:18, "I will build My church," 32 A.D.

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B. Ephesians 2:20, "...built...foundation of apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself...chief cornerstone"

1. Paul was addressing the church in Ephesus—speaking of a building, foundation, and a cornerstone. Thus, church had already been built in 62 A.D.
2. So, somewhere between 32 and 62 A.D. the church was built
3. Mark 9:1, "...some here...not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom come." So, in the lifetime of the apostles
 - a. And the promise was that the kingdom (church) would come with power
4. Day of Lord's ascension, Acts 1:4, "...commanded not depart from Jerusalem...wait for promise of Father"
 - a. "But you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now," v. 5
 - b. They asked if He would at this time restore the kingdom to Israel. "...not for you to know the times or seasons which Father hath put in His own power," vv.5, 6. "You shall receive power after Holy Spirit is come upon you...shall be witnesses unto Me in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, uttermost part of earth," v.8.
5. Jesus said apostles would see the kingdom or church come with power, Mark 9:1; Acts 1:8. Told them would receive power when Holy Spirit came upon them. Now, when did it come upon them? Read Acts 2:1-4
 - a. Which Pentecost? First after Lord raised, 33 A.D.
 - b. Holy Spirit came, power came; therefore, kingdom or church came that day. The gospel was preached, men wanted to know what to do. About 3,000 did that. Now, what do we have? A large number of saved people. Well, what's that? Why, that's the church, Acts 2:47

V. THE QUESTION, "WHY?"

A. 1 Timothy 4:10, "Jesus is the Saviour of all men"

1. But whom, where, and what does He save?

B. Ephesians 5:23, "...husband head of wife...Christ head of church...Saviour of body"

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1. Colossians 1:18, "...He is...body, the church"
2. Ephesians 1:22, 23, "...head over all things to the church...His body...fullness of Him..."
 - a. What does Jesus save? The body. What is the body? The church. Sound as if essential?

C. Example: Colossian Christians (saved, cleansed)

1. Were in Christ, Colossians 1:2
2. Were in kingdom, 1:13
3. Were in church, 1:24
4. Were in body, 3:15

D. Example: Ephesian Christians (saved, cleansed)

1. In Christ, Ephesians 2:13
2. In His body, 2:16
3. In the house of God, 2:19

VI. THE QUESTION. "HOW?"

A. Should be easy

1. When one is saved, he is in the church, Acts 2:47
2. How many of saved does He add to church? Those who wish to be in church? No. All the saved

B. One says, "But I thought you joined the church if you wanted to be in it"

1. No, the church of Jesus Christ cannot be joined!
 - a. In joining something you exercise your own free will or volition. You can, or you can refuse; you have the power of choice. But, if you will to be saved, to become a Christian, then you have no choice but to be in the church. The moment your sins are washed away by the blood of Jesus, you are then in Christ—"baptized into Christ," Romans 6:3, in His body, His church

C. Won't you be saved now? Become a Christian, and thus come into the glorious church of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

SERMON OUTLINES

IS THE CHURCH REALLY IMPORTANT?

INTRODUCTION:

1. Without speaking about men's ideas and opinions concerning the importance of the church, let's examine the teaching of an inspired apostle on this subject in an effort to answer the question, "Is the church really important?"
2. Paul is the apostle whom we shall consult, and we shall, with few exceptions, stay in Ephesians for our study

I. EPHESIANS 5:23

A. "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and He is the Saviour of the body"

1. The body is what Jesus saves
 - a. The church is the body. If I am to be saved, I must be in that which He saves
 - 1) Colossians 1:18, "And He is the head of the body, the church..."
 - 2) But Ephesians says the same thing, 1:22, 23, "...gave Him to be the head...to the church...His body..."

II. EPHESIANS 5:25

A. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it"

1. The church was purchased—it was bought
 - a. Christ is the purchase price, Acts 20:28, "...church...purchased with His own blood"
2. The thing purchased is equal to the price paid for it. Is the blood of Christ important? See Hebrews 9:22. Just that important and precious is that which He bought
 - a. Jesus exchanged His own blood for the church. It is important if the blood of Christ is important
3. Jesus bought nothing else with His blood. It was an even exchange

III. EPHESIANS 5:31

A. "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh"

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1. Notice, the husband and wife are one. Matthew 19:5, 6, "For this cause...man...cleave to wife: and they twain shall be one flesh. What God joined together, let not man put asunder"
 - a. Note: You can't be related to your father and not be related to your mother; therefore, you cannot be related to Christ and not be related to His bride, the church. He and His bride are one. Whatever relationship I sustain to Christ, I also sustain to His church

IV. EPHESIANS 5:32

- A. "This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church"
 1. Word is not mystical, not mysterious. Not impossible of comprehension or understanding
 - a. Illu: Like a military secret—something that is not known until it is made known
 2. The plan of salvation is the mystery
 - a. Ephesians 3:3, "How that by revelation He made known unto me the mystery; (...when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)..."
 3. But in Ephesians 5:32, the mystery is the church. Therefore, the church is the plan of salvation
 - a. "Things equal to the same things are equal to each other." "Are you saying the church saves us?" No, I am saying the saved is the church and the church is the saved. You can't preach the plan of salvation and leave the church out

V. EPHESIANS 1:19-20

- A. "...and hath put all things under His feet"
 1. Hebrews 2:14, "...through death...destroy him that hath power of death...the devil"
 2. Isaiah 61:1
 - a. So, Christ had to bind Satan before He could become head of the church. Ephesians 1:22, (...put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church)

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- b. The devil would not allow Jesus to build and become head of the church if he could help it. That would mean his downfall. Mark 12:29, "...how enter a strong man's house...spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? And then he will spoil his goods"

- 1) Paul said Christ did spoil his goods; therefore, He entered his stronghold and bound him
- 2) Christ stripped Satan of his power. Devil has no power over you today. If you choose not to serve him, he can't do anything about it. If anybody serves the devil today, he is a willing servant

VI. EPHESIANS 1:22

- A. "And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church"

1. Man must not only be the head of his family, he must have control, his family be under subjection
2. Therefore, we can't have anything in the work and worship of the church not authorized by its head, Jesus Christ

VII. EPHESIANS 1:23

- A. "Which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth..."

1. The church is the fullness of Christ
 - a. Illu: False: Draw large circle, then a smaller one inside it. Let the large one represent Christ and the smaller one the church. Thus one can be "in Christ" and not be "in the church." Of course, one can also be in the church and in Christ
True: The church is the "fullness of Christ." Therefore, must keep enlarging the small circle (the church) until it is the same as the large circle—"the fullness"—therefore, they are the same. Then, if one is in Christ, he is also in the church

VIII. EPHESIANS 2:21

- A. "In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord"

1. The church is the temple (meeting house is not). If we

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worship God we must worship Him where He is and He is in His holy temple, Psalms 11:4, "The Lord is in His Holy Temple..."

2. So, if we are in Christ, we are in the holy temple which is the church. Can't worship Him outside

IX. EPHESIANS 3:10

- A. "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God"
 1. Have used this to encourage missionary work—that it is the duty and privilege of the church to send the gospel into all of the world
 - a. While this is the duty and the privilege of the church to do this, I don't believe that is the teaching of this passage
 2. Paul is saying that God's wisdom, His plan of saving men, is made known—that is, is exhibited, manifested—in the church. This is what we see when we see the church
 - a. Means then, that if we do not see God's church, we do not see His way at all. Thus, you cannot see God's plan until you look at the church. He has no plan of salvation that leaves the church out

CONCLUSION:

1. We plead with you to obey the gospel—then you will be in the church
2. Then, be faithful in the church for as long as you live upon this earth, and He will keep every promise made to you and then heaven and eternal bliss will be yours forever

SERMON OUTLINES

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CHURCH?

INTRODUCTION:

1. Visit places where church thrived and prospered but it no longer exists, only natural to ask, "What happened to the church here?"
2. The church is God's eternal purpose, Ephesians 3:8-11
 - a. Was divinely planned, purposed and perfected by the Lord
 - b. Came into being as an act of divine creation
 - c. Created by God's great miraculous power
 - 1) All things started with a miracle—the church is no exception, Acts 2
3. Daniel 2:44 prophesied that the kingdom would "never be destroyed." Hebrews 12:28, "the kingdom cannot be shaken"
 - a. This being true, then what happened to the church in certain places? And, why?
 - b. Visit Athens, Damascus, Caesarea, Ephesus and Pergamos, recall how the church was planned in these places and how it grew rapidly—"What happened to the church?"

I. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM?

- A. This is where the church began
 1. 3,000 added first day—then grew to 5,000
 2. "And they continued steadfastly..." Acts 2:42
 3. "...believers...added to the Lord," Acts 5:14
- B. Today? Less than 3 dozen members. What happened?
 1. Church can apostatize and often has. Can lose its identity and often does
 - a. Revelation 2:5, "Repent...or I'll move..."
 - b. 2 Thessalonians 2:3, Paul spoke of falling away
- C. Perhaps the Jerusalem church did not guard itself against apostasy and thus eventually lost its identity

II. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CHURCH IN DAMASCUS?

- A. It was here the great apostle Paul was converted
 1. Afterward, he preached there, Acts 9:19-21

SERMON OUTLINES

2. Church apparently very strong there at that time
 - a. So far as we know, not even one Christian in the whole city today. What happened to the church there?
 - B. The church exists in the seed. Though church may lose its identity or fall away from the faith, it still exists as long as the seed exists
 1. Luke 8:11, "The seed is the word of God." We are begotten or born again by the word of God, 1 Peter 1:23.
Matthew 24:35, "My word shall never pass away"
 2. So the church is perpetuated through the seed, not through a succession of visible congregations. It may be lost to view for centuries, but as long as the seed exists, the kingdom in potential exists
 - C. Even so, will the time ever come when somebody from another country will visit Dallas, Fort Worth, Lubbock, Nashville, or Amarillo, and say, "At one time the church was so strong in these cities—there were hundreds of churches in these places, but today not a single church exists—there is not a single Christian in any of these places." "Incredible, impossible!" NO—the church died in Jerusalem and Damascus. If it died in these places, it can die in Texas and in America
- ### III. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CHURCH IN CORINTH?
- A. Paul came to Corinth and many became Christians, Acts 18:8. But today no church exists in Corinth
 1. 1 Corinthians 15:58, "...brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable..." Reckon they failed to heed that admonition?
 2. 2 Corinthians 16:13, 14, "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, behave yourselves like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love." Maybe they didn't take those words seriously?
 3. 1 Corinthians 10:12, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed, lest he fall." Had they obeyed that admonition, the church might still be meeting and growing in the city of Corinth
 - B. A large number of problems in the church there:

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1. Division existed—chapter 1
2. Immorality of the rankest sort—chapter 5
3. Ceased to practice discipline—chapter 5
4. Fellowshiped the ungodly—chapter 5
5. Brother going to law against brother—chapter 6
6. Marital problems—chapter 7
7. Some were stumblingblocks to the weak—chapter 8
8. Some idolatry among the members—chapter 10
9. Desecrated the Lord's supper—chapter 11
10. Much misunderstanding about spiritual gifts—chapters 12, 13, 14
11. Taught error about the resurrection—chapter 15
 - a. Had they only made the corrections which were necessary. Had they listened to what Paul had to say about these problems, the church might not have lost its identity and it might still be meeting and flourishing in the area of Corinth

IV. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CHURCH IN EPHEBUS?

- A. Paul spent more time there than anywhere else in his labors—a total of 3¹/₂ years there
 1. Church at one time was so doctrinally strong that Christians couldn't tolerate false teaching, Revelation 2:4. Yet Jesus wrote them and said they had "left their first love"
 2. Ephesians 4:1, Paul wrote them to "walk worthy of the calling wherewith you are called"
 - a. Had they done this, the church might still be in existence in Ephesus
 3. Ephesians 5:2, "Walk in love." 5:16, "Redeeming the time because the days are evil." 6:6, "...doing the will of God from the heart." Had they heeded these admonitions, no doubt the future of the church would have been altogether different
 4. Ephesians 6:14, "Stand against evil." 6:13, "Withstand the evil one"
- B. Paul's warnings to the elders, Acts 20:28-31
 1. Had they listened—had they fulfilled their responsibilities

SERMON OUTLINES

and shouldered their obligations, the church would never have ceased to exist in Ephesus

CONCLUSION:

1. Are we thinking it could never happen here? Happened in places far stronger than in West Texas. If it happened there, it can happen here
2. What happened to the church—and why?
 - a. Compromise? Complacency? Allowed false teaching to creep in little by little?
 - b. Failed to stress importance of faithfulness—in life and in service?
 - c. Did not properly indoctrinate?
 - d. Let their love for the Lord grow cold?
 - e. Became worldly and fell in love with the secular?
 - f. Wanted to be like all the people around them and ceased to be a peculiar people?
 - g. Lack of preachers? Failed to support the preaching of the gospel?
 - h. Had unscriptural, unqualified and unwise elders—who permitted the church to go astray?
3. Shouldn't we take a look at our own attitude? Become aware of our own trends
4. Likely, not all members became unfaithful at the same time. But when one does, he is contributing to the death of the church. I guess we just don't feel that we are responsible for perpetuating the church into the next generation

SERMON OUTLINES

WHAT'S RIGHT WITH THE CHURCH?

Ephesians 5:22-32

INTRODUCTION:

1. If ask, "What's wrong with the church?" would get a variety of answers from many people
 - a. Easiest thing in world is to criticize the church
 - b. But, must remember that criticism is the poorest substitute in the world for service
 - c. We know we are guilty of neglect—not living up to our responsibilities, so we try to excuse ourselves by finding fault with the church
 - d. Of course church is not perfect—made up of human beings—but we must admit there is more that is right with the church than is wrong. We criticize the 2% that is wrong and forget the 98% that is right
 2. Would an auto salesman talk down his car to a prospect? Realtor criticize house he is trying to sell? Insurance salesman point out weaknesses of his company? We Christians are salesmen, too
 - a. So, instead of running down the church, let us see what is right with the church
- I. THE CHURCH IS BUILT ON THE RIGHT FOUNDATION
- A. What is it, 1 Corinthians 3:11
 1. He never wrote a book, never painted a picture, never wrote a score of music, never founded a university, never erected a skyscraper, but, He did the ONE great thing—He built His church, Matthew 16:18
 2. Never built upon a man—weak one like Peter
 - a. Psalmist sang of God as his "rock and salvation"
 - b. Paul, 1 Corinthians 10:4, says "that rock was Christ"
 - c. Then, 1 Corinthians 3:11
 - B. No building stronger than its foundation
 1. No power on earth can defeat a thing that has Christ as its foundation, Ephesians 2:20; 1 Corinthians 3:10, 11

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II. CHURCH HAS THE RIGHT PERSON AS ITS HEAD

A. Ephesians 1:22, 23; Colossians 1:18

III. THE CHURCH IS RIGHT IN ITS MESSAGE

A. What is it?

1. Message of redemption and hope. Directed to one who is in sin—lost for this world with no hope for the next and saves him and gives him hope

B. The gospel of our salvation, Matthew 28:18-20;

Mark 16:15, 16; Luke 24:46, 47

1. Not a “social” gospel

a. Not to march, demonstrate, riot, legislate to take a person out of the slums, but to take the slums out of the person

IV. THE CHURCH IS RIGHT IN ITS MEMBERSHIP

A. It is more than an institution, an organization, or a building—it is all the saved, Acts 2:47

1. No one is excluded—all races, colors, cultures, men, women, young people of all positions, who bow in humble submission to Lord’s will concerning salvation

B. No absolute perfection in any of us

1. Too often we judge the church by its sorriest members

a. World never looks at finest Christians in church and says, “What a wonderful person! Christianity must be a fine thing.” No, look at some sorry member and say, “See! There is a product of Christianity. Nothing to it”

2. Places great responsibility upon us, doesn’t it? Must live each day so that when the world looks at us, it will be forced to say, “Christianity has done something for him”

3. Proposition: Let me choose first 100 members on any church roll and you choose first 100 people you meet outside church.

When everything is added up, will find church members

far outweigh outsiders in good living and good works

C. Yes, Lord’s church the grandest in all the world. You and I are fortunate to be members of it. The highest privilege you and I will ever have—being members of it

SERMON OUTLINES

1. Now, shall we just let it go at that? Shall we drink in all the blessings of God like a sponge and do nothing about it? God forbid! With every privilege there goes an obligation

V. WHAT IS OUR OBLIGATION TO THE CHURCH?

A. First thing—"Line up with it"

1. If a Christian, then in the church of course. But not to think lightly of church by saying, "Doesn't matter about being a member of the local church"
 - a. Did Christ make a mistake when He founded the local church? Gave it as an anchor and as an opportunity for service and fellowship

B. Pray for the church

1. We can criticize it and tear it down or can pray for it and boost it up. What do you think God wants you to do?

C. Be faithful to all of its services

1. Body needs food, drink, and sleep. Flowers in the field need sunshine and rain. And my soul needs instruction, exhortation, and encouragement which is furnished by the church and its ministry. I am a poorer man when I neglect its services

D. Support its work

1. It is a world-wide work. Begins where we live and extends to the ends of the earth
2. Who is the happy man when the year ends? The one who has had a part in God's great redemptive program for the whole world

E. Invite others to share the blessings in the church

1. Be evangelistic. Invite, tracts, make calls, encourage, etc.
2. Do you have hope? Give it to someone else. Have you found the way to heaven? Then point out the way to someone else

CONCLUSION:

1. Are you still out of Christ?

- a. Illu: Little boy to go to well in darkness of the night. Asked his father to go with him. "Why do you want me to go with you?" "It is too dark to be out without a father"
- b. So, friend, the future and even the present is too dark for you to try it without a Father.

SERMON OUTLINES

THE GREAT DAY

Jude 6

INTRODUCTION:

1. Have been many great days
 - a. "Let us make man..." Genesis 1:26
 - b. When flood came, "and every living thing was destroyed...and Noah only was left, and they that were with him in the ark," Genesis 20:18
 - c. When the law of Moses was given, "in the midst of thunderings and lightnings," Exodus 20:18
 - d. When Jesus was born and angels announced to the shepherds, "There is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord," Luke 2:10, 11
 - e. When He burst the bonds of death and came forth from the grave, an angel said, "He is not here: for He is risen, as He said," Matthew 28:6
 - f. When Pentecost came, and people cried out, "Men and brethren, what shall we do? And Peter said unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized for the remission of sins," Acts 2:37, 38. That great day Jesus established His church and 3,000 were added to it as they became obedient to His gospel, Acts 2:47
 2. In Jude, writer speaks of a day yet to come as "the great day," Jude 6
 - a. Not "a great day" but "the great day"
 - b. Speaking of second coming of Christ and events to transpire on that day—events so outstanding as to warrant his calling that occasion, "the great day"
 - c. What are some of the reasons why it is so-called?
- I. TO BE A GREAT DAY OF SURPRISE
- A. Many do not believe He will actually come again.
 1. Mockers, "Where is the promise of His coming?," 2 Peter 3:10
 - B. Others will be surprised at the time of His coming
 1. "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief..."

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2 Peter 3:10; Matthew 24:44

C. Many will find out they are unprepared

1. Matthew 7:21-23, "Not every one that saith..."
 - a. Not enough to be religious—must be right religiously
Must find His will in His word, and then do it, John 8:32;
Matthew 15:9

D. Many in the body may find their preparation inadequate

1. Foolish virgins, Matthew 25
2. We are to make our "calling and election sure," 2 Peter 1:10

E. Some surprised that His coming marks the end of His reign instead of the beginning of it

1. 1 Corinthians 15:23, Christ's coming; vv. 24-26, "Then cometh the end,...deliver kingdom to God"
2. Now reigns—Christians are in His kingdom, Colossians 1:13

II. WILL BE A GREAT RESURRECTION DAY

A. Both good and bad raised that day, John 5:28, 29.

B. John 6:44, "No man can come to me, except...and I will raise him up at the last day"

1. Wicked raised too at same time, John 12:48

III. A GREAT DAY OF CHANGE FOR THE RIGHTEOUS

A. 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52, "Behold, I tell you a mystery: we shall not sleep, but...be changed"

B. Philippians 3:20, 21, "For our conversation is in heaven...change our vile body...glorious body"

C. 1 John 3:2, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God..."

IV. A GREAT DAY OF REUNION, TOO

A. 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18, "...we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not precede them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout..."

V. A GREAT GATHERING DAY

A. Matthew 25:31, 32, "When the Son of man shall come in His glory..."

B. Revelation 20:12, "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand

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before God..."

VI. A GREAT EXAMINATION DAY

- A. 2 Corinthians 5:10, "For we must all appear... according to that he hath done,..."
- B. Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14, "Let us hear the conclusion of the..."
- C. Hebrews 4:13, "...all things...opened unto the eyes"

VII. A GREAT DAY OF SEPARATION

- A. Matthew 25:32, 33, "...separate one from another..."
 - 1. v. 46, "...these...everlasting punishment...righteous into life eternal"

VIII. A GREAT DAY OF COSMIC CHANGE

- A. 2 Peter 3:10, "...heavens pass away with great noise..."

CONCLUSION:

- 1. After these observations, what?
 - a. Should prepare and be ready—obey gospel, be faithful members of His church and glorify Him while here below
 - b. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9, "...when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them..."

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THE LAST DAY

INTRODUCTION:

1. Much speculation as to when it will occur
 - a. Bible teaches that coming of Jesus is at hand
 - 1) If teaches it now, then taught it 1900 years ago when it was first written. But if taught it then it taught what was not true. Fact that He has not yet come proves that His coming was not "at hand" 1900 years ago
 - b. Apostles confidently expected Lord to come again during their lifetime
 - 1) If so, they were disappointed.
 - 2) If expected it then, then certain that Holy Spirit did not lead them to that conclusion. The conclusion was false, but the Holy Spirit did not teach the apostles to expect the Lord to return in their day
 - c. Peter did not look for the Lord's return in his day
 - 1) Lord showed him what manner of death he should die, John 21:19
 - 2) He wrote letters telling people how they should live after his death, 2 Peter 1:13-15
 - d. Paul did not look for the Lord to come in his lifetime, 2 Thessalonians 2:1
2. Some things which will happen when the Lord comes:
 - I. THE RIGHTEOUS WILL BE RAISED FROM THE DEAD, John 6:44
 - A. Someone is to be raised the last day. Who? Those who come unto Jesus—the righteous
 - II. THE WICKED WILL BE JUDGED ON THAT DAY, John 12:48
 - A. Someone is to be judged the last day. Who? Those who rejected Jesus and received not His sayings
 1. Lord will judge no one in his absence. Not even our own courts try and condemn a man in his absence. This necessitates the resurrection of the wicked before they are judged. So, we must conclude that the wicked will be raised on that day

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III. THE WICKED WILL BE RAISED ON THAT DAY, John 5:28, 29

- A. Will have to be raised either on or before the last day if they are going to be judged on the last day
 - 1. "The hour cometh"—An hour is a fractional part of a day. In that day all—ALL—shall come forth from their tombs
 - a. Who are included in that word "all"? The good and the evil. Both will come forth at the same time
- B. "Will be a 1000 years between resurrection of the wicked and the just"
 - 1. Suppose there is a scripture that says wicked are to be raised 1000 years after the righteous?
 - a. In the first place would prove that Jesus did not tell the truth when He said that all in their tombs shall come forth at the time
 - b. In second place it would prove that Jesus did not know what He was talking about when He said the righteous would be raised on the last day. If a 1000 years after the resurrection of the good, there will be 365,000 days after their resurrection. If the day on which the righteous are raised is the last day, then will have 365,000 days after the last day
 - 1) Did Jesus tell the truth when He said the righteous would be raised on the last day? Or will there be a 1000 years after the last day?

IV. JESUS IS COMING ON THE LAST DAY,

1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17

- A. The dead in Christ are the righteous dead—but they are to be raised when the Lord comes. But will be raised on the last day, and Jesus comes on that day
- B. Some think proof is in this passage that 1000 years will separate resurrection of wicked and righteous
 - 1. "Dead in Christ shall rise first." First, before what? Before wicked are raised? Does not say this. Before the righteous living are changed. Wicked are not mentioned in this passage—only those in Christ living and dead
 - 2. Suppose scripture is found that does teach the

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resurrections are separated by 1000 years?

- a. Would prove that Jesus did not know what he was talking about when He said righteous would be raised on the last day. For if there are 1000 years after righteous are raised and after Jesus comes again, then that day cannot be the last day
- b. Would prove Paul did not know what he was talking about. He knew, of course, that Jesus had said that righteous would be raised on last day. Now he says Jesus is coming on same day the righteous are raised—that's the last day and no more time remains after the last day

V. JUDGMENT DAY COMES ON THE LAST DAY, John 12:48

A. Matthew 25:31, "...before Him shall be gathered..."

1. Will take place when He comes in His glory—the last day

B. This is the judgment of the people living on the earth at the time of the coming of the Lord

1. Matthew 12:41, "...shall rise in judgment..."

a. A generation 850 B.C.—with generation of Jesus

2. Matthew 12:42, "The queen...rise up in judgment...condemn it"

a. 1000 B.C.—days of Solomon—"with this generation"

3. Matthew 11:21, Tyre and Sidon in judgment with Jesus' generation

4. Matthew 11:24, Sodom

a. About 1900 years B.C.

5. Here are 5 generations from 5 different nations—from 1900 B.C. to 30 A.D. Are to be in the same judgment

a. "All nations" will be there

C. The judgment scene as given by Jesus and Paul

1. Both wicked and good in the judgment

2. To be when Jesus comes the second time

3. Righteous to be rewarded—eternal life—"these shall go away into eternal life"

a. Go from the judgment into their eternal state of bliss and happiness. Not represented as staying here with Jesus

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for 1000 years

4. Wicked sentenced to eternal punishment in that judgment held on last day, the day the Lord comes
 - a. "Depart from Me into eternal fire....," Matthew 25:41
5. Now if all righteous are going from judgment into eternal life, and if all wicked are going from judgment into the eternal fire, how can there be a reign of 1000 years on this earth after that? Who will be here to do the reigning?
 - a. Christ and His saints will be enjoying eternal life in heaven
 - b. Devil and all the wicked will be suffering the tortures of hell

VI. HEAVENS AND EARTH DESTROYED ON THAT DAY,

2 Peter 3:10

A. When? "Day of the Lord"

1. 2 Timothy 2:2, Day of the Lord—second coming of Christ
2. Philippians 2:16, Day of Christ
3. So, "day of the Lord" is the day He comes again. Therefore earth and works therein to be consumed by fire the day the Lord comes again. How can there be a reign of 1000 years on earth after Christ's coming?

CONCLUSION:

1. Give summation of things on "Last Day"
2. Peter's conclusion—2 Peter 3:11-13

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HOW SHALL WE ESCAPE?

Hebrews 2:1-4

INTRODUCTION:

1. Bible contains a lot of impressive questions asked by different people and for different purposes:
 - a. Genesis 3:1, "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" Asked to create doubt and confusion in the mind of Mother Eve
 - b. Job 14:14, "If a man die, shall he live again?"
 - c. Matthew 16:26, "What is a man profited if he shall...?" Not raised for the purpose of obtaining information. Jesus knew the answer. Asked to impress man with the great value of the soul
 - d. Hebrews 2:3, "How shall we escape, if we neglect...?"

I. CHRIST AND HIS LAW ARE SUPERIOR

- A. "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed..."
 1. "...lest haply we drift away from them"
 - a. No danger that the word will drift away from us. Word is fixed, settled. Psalms 119:89, "Forever, O Lord, Thy word is settled in heaven." Fixed and settled where man cannot molest it. Matthew 24:35, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words..."
 - b. The danger is that we will drift away from the word of God
 2. Did not say lest we deliberately turn from God's word, but rather, lest we drift
- B. It is so easy to drift. Can do it without any conscious exercise of energy and effort
 1. "For if the word...proved steadfast...and every transgression received a just recompense..."
 - a. Illu: Leviticus 10, Nadab and Abihu, sons of Aaron
Brought their censers to the altar
They were the right men
They brought the right censers
They brought the right incense

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They came to the right place

They came at the right time

They were wrong in only one respect

(Numbers 16:46, fire used in burning incense should be taken from the altar of burnt offerings)

They obtained fire somewhere else. We do not know where. Know where they did not get it. Did not get it at the only acceptable place. May have rationalized that fire is fire, and what difference does it make; this fire will burn just the same as fire from the altar, and since the object is to burn the incense, this fire should be all right.

This was a first offense. Had never before done this—yet fire went out from God and devoured them and they died. (“...every transgression and disobedience...”)

- b. Illu: Numbers 15, man gathering sticks on the Sabbath. Don't know circumstances—may have been sickness in the family—don't know. He did not even know what the penalty was. Some found him, brought him to Moses and Aaron, they brought the matter to the Lord who said to take him outside camp and stone him to death.

A first offense, yet punished immediately and severely

- 2. Now, if under this temporary and incomplete law, every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward, how shall we escape...
 - a. If we neglect a superior, better, final message

II. “SO GREAT SALVATION”

A. Word “salvation” used in three senses in Bible:

- 1. Mark 16:16
 - a. Not in sense of final admission into heaven
 - b. Though some members live as if this were the meaning of it
 - c. But from past or alien sins. Those past sins pardoned, forgiven, remembered no more
- 2. Philippians 2:12, “Work out your own salvation with fear...”
 - a. Paul must not have heard of doctrine of salvation by faith only when he wrote this. Nor of the doctrine of

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impossibility of falling from grace. If in no danger of falling, no reason for "fear and trembling"

- b. Not salvation in sense of past or alien sins, because addressed to saints in Christ in Philippi
 - c. In sense of final victory over sin and admission into the presence of God. Same in Romans 13:11, "Now is our salvation nearer than when we believed"
3. Used in broad, comprehensive sense—to include, not only the process of becoming a Christian, but also the process of living the Christian life, dying in the faith, and going home to be with the Lord. This sense in TEXT.
- B. "Great"
1. Great because of that from which it saves us
 - a. From sin—love, practice, guilt, and punishment of sin
 2. And that for which it saves us
 - a. For service in vineyard of the Lord; for a place or habitation in the eternal city

III. THE CONSEQUENCES OF "NEGLECT"

- A. Do not need to insult friends to lose them; just neglect them, and they will be gone. Man does not have to burn his building to lose his business; just neglect it and it will fail. Does not have to drink poison to destroy his health; just neglect it and he will lose it. Does not have to spurn this great salvation to be lost; just neglect it and he will die out of Christ—lost
1. The consequences of neglect are as deadly as the consequences of deliberate choice
 - a. Illu: Death of Georgia Mae Jones—drinking medicine—doctor worked—family prayed—but she passed away. As if one had deliberately made her drink the potion

CONCLUSION:

1. If we neglect, we are lost
 - a. Remember, this was addressed to Christians. Possible for Christians to neglect this salvation. "How shall we escape...?"
 - b. Cannot escape by hiding from God—Adam tried this and

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failed miserably

- c. Cannot escape by lying to God—Cain tried this and failed
 - d. Cannot escape by fleeing from God—Jonah tried this and failed utterly
2. It is a timely question—“How shall we escape?”—It is an important question.
- a. What are you going to do about it, my backsliding and unfaithful brother?
 - b. What are you going to do about it, my sinner friend?
3. There is but one answer:
- a. There is **NO ESCAPE** if we neglect this great salvation. It is God's last provision for the salvation of man

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NOW WHAT'S AHEAD FOR US?

INTRODUCTION:

1. Our life upon this earth is not without termination: we are going to die. Proof texts for this inevitable fact are not needed
 - a. Death ends all that is material; all that is physical
2. Will be a resurrection
 - a. Psalms 17:15, "...I shall be satisfied when I awake with Thy likeness." We are going to awake
 - b. John 5:28, 29, "For the hour is coming in which..."
 - c. Acts 24:15, "...and there shall be a resurrection..."
3. Do we really want to believe in life beyond death?
 - a. Many dread thought of resurrection and giving account of our lives. We are accountable beings here and shall be accountable beings over there as well
4. Who really knows about the future life?
 - a. Scientists don't know; only God knows, and He tells us about it in His divine Book. Want to know about future life? Go to Him for your information
 - b. Jesus was raised and said, "Because I live, you shall live also," John 14:19
5. Luke 16. Two men lived; two men died, and on the other side of death one was conscious in torments; the other was conscious and enjoying the place of comfort
 - a. Do not read of mortal and immortal souls, but do read of mortal and immortal bodies, Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 15:53
 - 1) Thus, man does not possess a spirit, but man is spirit and possesses a body
6. We have a great deal to say about consecration, devotion, commitment, dedication, and strong faith—should not dare try to live without them, and we are careful not to question their genuineness in our own lives. Yet, this genuineness is reflected by our attitude toward "the last things"—death, resurrection, heaven

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- I. DO NOT HEAR MANY OLD-FASHIONED SERMONS ABOUT HEAVEN
- A. Used to sing, "There's A Land That Is Fairer Than Day," but many of us are not looking that far; we are near-sighted
1. We think of ourselves as citizens of earth trying to get to heaven, when really we are citizens of heaven sojourning on earth, Philippians 3:20
 - a. Only temporary residents of this earth. Our rights of citizenship are in heaven
 2. We are spiritual sons of Abraham, not sons of Lot. We are not to settle down in Sodom. The moment we settle down, we cease to be pilgrims
 3. Not many songs being written about heaven. Why?
 - a. Because we feel "we never had it so good"? Progress in medicine, victories over contagions, cure for cancer imminent (we hope), and if we can just stop smoking and do a lot more jogging, we are going to be here for a long time to come
 - b. "Heaven" songs are written during times of trial and persecution. If we love the world and things of the world, we forget the love of the Father. When we love the world too much, we don't long for heaven
- B. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, "For the Lord Himself shall descend..."
1. Just how wonderful will it be to meet Jesus in the air? I don't know. Don't know exactly what heaven will be like, but just to be with Jesus will be heaven itself, won't it?
Heaven is home because that's where Jesus is.
"O I want to see Him, look upon His face,
There to sing forever of His saving grace:
On the streets of glory, let me lift my voice
Cares all past, home at last, ever to rejoice"
- C. Revelation 21, 22 describe the new heaven and the new earth for which our hearts long—sublime language, but uses physical terms to describe spiritual and eternal things. Has to use what

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we can understand to teach us what He wants us to know. Heaven is beyond the intellectual comprehension of man. Heaven is bigger than big, higher than high, and better than best. Finite minds cannot comprehend all its glories—it is in a different dimension

1. Illu: Little girl blinded when a baby. Mother had explained the green of grass, blue of the sky, lace of the clouds, and the red of a rose. One day surgery was performed and sight was regained. "Mother, why didn't you tell me how beautiful everything is?"
 - a. So, we are the little blind girl. How can God describe His home to us? Revelation 21 is God's description in earthly terms. There we will ask, "Father, why didn't you tell us how beautiful heaven is?"
2. Strange as it may seem to us, God often uses the negative to tell us of the new heaven and the new earth. Whatever heaven is, He impresses us with the fact that there it is not like it is here
 - a. Our Lord uses a number of negatives in Revelation 21, 22

II. THERE IS NO PAIN, Revelation 21:14

- A. Moreover, there is no aspirin, no valium, no codeine, no morphine, no hypodermics in heaven, because there is no pain
- B. As the years pass, our steps falter, we do not hear, seeing is with difficulty, and our voices are no longer clear
 1. But there, terminal illnesses will be unknown; crippling arthritis, strokes, and heart attacks will be a threat no more

III. THERE WILL BE NO CRYING, Revelation 21:4

- A. Think of all the people who have lost their companions—what loneliness, sorrow, and crying
- B. Think of those broken-hearted and mourning parents whose sons and daughters have slipped from them by death
- C. But, Oh think of all those fathers and mothers who are suffering a living death tonight because their son or daughter rebelled against God and is living in sin—Oh the staring into space by day and the tear-soaked pillows at night

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1. But in heaven no broken hearts and no shattered dreams
 “No tears in heaven fair,
 No tears, no tears up there.
 No tears in heaven will be known”.

IV. THERE IS NO SUN OR MOON, Revelation 21:23

- A. Physical lights fade away and the eternal spiritual light of the Lamb of God radiates in glory
- B. There are no shadows, no sundowns, no gloomy days

V. THERE IS NO NIGHT, Revelation 21:25

- A. Evil and fear flourish in the darkness of night. But such will not be in heaven. There are no thieves and robbers there
- B. Sin seeks the cover of darkness, but there is no night there—no locked doors and barred windows—no security guards and no police—no fear there, but freedom from fear

VI. NO SHUT GATES IN THAT CITY, Revelation 21:25

- A. Many cities built on hill, surrounded by walls for protection from enemies. At night, the gates were closed, but in heaven the gates of pearl are never closed—no enemies to keep out

VII. THERE IS NO SIN, Revelation 21:27

- A. It hurts to see truth perverted, sin going unchecked and error running rampant. The devil wins many battles but God is going to win the war
- B. All evil will be avenged, all lies exposed, all error refuted. The devil and his angels will be in the lake of fire and brimstone. No one is tempted, no one sins, no one lies, no error is preached. No sin in heaven

VIII. THERE IS NO CURSE, Revelation 22:3

- A. The curse put on earth because of Adam's sin will then be lifted—no more thorns and thistles, no toil for food—there is the new Eden, the tree of life and the river of life, untainted beauty, joy and peace. There is no curse

IX. THERE IS NO DEATH, Revelation 21:4.

- A. There is a cemetery plot in Quanah, TX. Four times we have gone there with the bodies of those who were dearer than life to

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us. The trees are pruned, grass is well-kept, the graves are manicured, and the permanent granite markers are there, but it is not a beautiful sight to me. Man sinned in the beginning and physical death was passed upon all men—my father, my mother, my brother, and my brother-in-law whom I loved like a brother. Oh, how I hate and loathe sin

- B. But there will be no sin in heaven and no death. There will be no weeping families at an open grave
1. No spray will ever hang upon those gates of pearl, and no funeral car will ever roll down that street of gold, for there will be no more dying

CONCLUSION:

1. Oh, how I want to go to heaven, don't you? To rest in the Garden of God and eat the fruit of the tree of life! And "when I've been there 10,000 years, bright, shining as the sun, there'll be no less days to sing God's praise than when I first begun"
2. I want to go—have made up my mind to go—I don't want to miss it—not for anything in this world would I miss it!
3. Now, for everything the Lord has taught me, everything He has wanted me to do, and everything He has wanted me to be—there is a reason and purpose. He would bring everyone of us home to Himself at last without the loss of a single one!

SERMON OUTLINES

OUR LORD'S BUSY LIFE

Luke 2:40-52

INTRODUCTION:

1. Today, each feels he is busier than the rest
2. Would we say that our lives are busier than was the life of our Lord? Surely not, for He was the busiest of any who have lived
3. Note again the urgency—"I must work the works of Him that sent me," (John 9:4). "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work," John 17:34
 - a. How urgent He felt His task to be
 - b. At the close of His life, He said, "I have finished the work Thou gavest me to do," John 17:4
4. The very things we consider ourselves too busy to do were the very things which were a part of His work

I. HE WAS NOT TOO BUSY TO PRAY

A. Luke 3:21, "...Jesus being baptized and praying..."

1. His daily life was punctuated with periods of prayer—at the beginning of His ministry and at the close of it

B. Luke 9:18, "And He was alone, praying..."

1. Don't have time? One person said, "I have so many things to do today that I shall never get them done unless I spend some time in prayer"

C. If you are too busy to pray, you are busier than you ought to be

II. NOT TOO BUSY TO OBSERVE THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S HANDIWORK

A. He paused to look at the birds and the lilies. He remarked that God cares for the birds and clothes the lilies with glory surpassing that of Solomon, Matthew 6:26-29

1. Jesus was busy, but He never seemed to be in a hurry. Had time to pause and look at the wonderful works of God

III. HE WAS NOT TOO BUSY TO ATTEND A SOCIAL EVENT

A. First miracle—Cana, John 2:1-11

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1. Of course this did not form a major part of His schedule, but He did have time for such. He was a social being and associated with people
 - a. Result? Luke 2:52, "He increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man"

IV. HE WAS NOT TOO BUSY TO ATTEND A FUNERAL

A. John 11:14-35, death of Lazarus

1. What a scene this was. Jesus, the Lord of life, maker of worlds, stands there weeping. And why? He wept out of pure sympathy

B. Should be a part of every Christian's life

1. Romans 12:15, "Weep with them that weep"
2. This makes us realize that death is still real and that it is very near to all of us. These once had their joys and sorrows, their successes and failures
 - a. We are reminded once again of what is important and what is trivial

V. NOT TOO BUSY TO GIVE ATTENTION TO SICK PEOPLE

A. "One visit is worth a basketful of letters."

1. Are times, of course, when a card or letter is appropriate—but a visit, when it can be made, is more fruitful.

B. Judgment scene, Matthew 25

1. "You visited me" or "You visited me not." We visit Him by visiting people

VI. NOT TOO BUSY TO ATTEND SERVICES

A. Luke 4:16, "...as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath Day"

1. Not unusual—"as His custom was"

B. A vital part of the Christian life is regular church attendance, Acts 20:7; Hebrews 10:25

1. Jesus promises to be in the midst of those who assemble in His name, Matthew 18:20
2. Those who stay away, miss a meeting with other Christians,

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but they also miss an appointment with Jesus Christ

C. Are you too busy to attend regularly the worship services? Our Lord was not

VII. HE WAS NOT TOO BUSY TO THINK ABOUT THE ETERNAL

A. He was so busy, but he often spoke of the afterlife

1. John 14:1-3, "Let not your heart be troubled..." He was thinking and talking about the home of the soul but this did not hinder His busy life, nor did it make His life any less useful

B. Yes, we must live today, but how valueless this life unless it is viewed in the light of what is to be

1. Moses endured "as seeing Him who is invisible,"
Hebrews 11:27

2. Paul could endure because he looked "not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen,"
2 Corinthians 4:18.

CONCLUSION:

1. Though Jesus was very busy, He found time to do the will of the Father. Would you say He was Christlike?
2. If we are to be Christlike, we must never be too busy to do these things, which filled His life—our example

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WATER

INTRODUCTION:

1. God gave water a prominent place in His physical creation:
 - a. He put water between thirst and satisfaction
 - b. He put water between filth and cleanliness
 - c. He put water between death and life

I. GENESIS 6-9: World conditions, Noah, Flood, Saved

- A. 1 Peter 3:2, "...when once the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a-preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water"
 1. In the days of Noah, God put water between sin and salvation
 - a. Old world of sin—water—new world (cleansed)
- B. Why did God do it that way? I don't know, but He did

II. EXODUS 14: Israel delivered from Egyptian bondage

- A. Called Moses to be their deliverer—led them out after the tenth plague—sea parted—marched across, "which the Egyptians assaying to do, were drowned"
 1. "God saved Israel that day"
 2. 1 Corinthians 10:1, "...they were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea"
- B. So in the days of Moses, God put water between bondage and freedom
 1. Why did God do it that way? I don't know, but He did

III. EXODUS 40:11-16: Tabernacle in the wilderness—outer court, altar of burnt offering, then between the altar and the door of the Holy Place was the laver. There the priests were to wash themselves before entering the holy place

- A. So in the days of the tabernacle, God put water between impurity and sanctification

IV. 2 KINGS 5: Naaman, a leper, went to prophet's house. Finally, "Go

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and wash seven times in the River Jordan." Persuaded by servant to do it—was cleansed

A. In the days of Naaman, God put water between sickness and health

B. Why do it this way? I don't know but He did it

V. JOHN 9: Man born blind. Jesus said, "Go wash in the pool of Siloam"

A. God put water between blindness and sight

VI. BUT, DOES WATER HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH OUR SALVATION?

A. John 3:23, "...John was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there"

1. Preparing the way for Christ and His kingdom and was baptizing people in water

B. Acts 8:36, "...came unto a certain water...See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?...they went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him"

1. Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4; Galatians 3:26, 27

2. John 3:3-5

a. "Born again?" "Born of water and the Spirit"

b. "Water?" Yes. "Means baptism?" Yes.

1) Did until John Calvin came and said it means "the water in physical birth".

2) Illu: Song, "The Church's One Foundation"—"...by water and the word." Has been changed by many to "by Spirit and the word." Would then really say, "By word and the word." Make any sense?

CONCLUSION:

1. "What makes you think that it means water in John 3:5?"

a. "What means water?"

b. "Well, that passage"

c. "What in that passage does not mean water?"

SERMON OUTLINES

- d. "Why, that word water"
 - e. "Well, you tell me what water in that passage means. Does water mean water?"
 - f. "What makes you think it means anything else?"
2. So, in God's plan of salvation He put water between sin and salvation. Between being lost and being saved