

Sermons from the Bible

Volume 1
(Genesis to Malachi)

Robert H. Martin

Published by

J.C. Choate Publications
Winona, Mississippi, USA

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Cover Design: Betty (J.C.) Choate

Typesetting: Eulene Ramsey

First Printing, USA, 2009

Order from:

J.C. Choate Publications

P.O. Box 72

Winona, MS 38967

Phone: 662-283-1192

E-Mail: choate@WorldEvangelism.org

Dedication

This book is dedicated to our oldest/eldest son, Robert Stephen Martin, who left us for “that far better place” (Philippians 1:23), Abraham’s bosom/paradise, on Wednesday, June 5, 2004. To Steve and his brother, Mark, and his sisters, Tonya Hurley and Arieta Maria Martin, I dedicate this book. They and their families are a great encouragement to Mary and me in all our labors for the Master in the Pacific Islands. Without the Lord, our children, and their families we could not do all that we do for God.

Publisher's Statement

What can I say about Robert and Mary Martin, two people whom we admire and respect so greatly? Words are not adequate to paint a sufficiently vivid and detailed picture of their lives. As a young family they were motivated by the Mission Workshops at the Forest Park Church of Christ in Atlanta to move to their chosen field — Suva, Fiji, in the Pacific Islands. That was 35 years ago. Others have been added to the team through the years, and numerous men have made short trips to this region to further develop the work. Along the way, Pacific Islands Bible College was begun through the use of modern-day equipment such as video courses and correspondence lessons.

Robert and Mary have sacrificed much, personally, to continue with their commitment. With the passing of time, because of their daughter Maria's health, Mary and Maria spend most of their time in Atlanta. This allows Robert to make the needed trips to the Pacific Islands to work with the Pacific Islands Bible College, to preach in seminars and Gospel meetings, and to help guide the maturing process of preachers and churches.

Through the combined efforts of missionaries and local Christians, the church has been planted in many cities, on many of the islands. Robert's role as a "roving" missionary is invaluable in the strengthening of these brethren. He spends much of his time each year on that side of the world.

This book, *Sermon Outlines of the Bible, Genesis to Malachi*, and a companion volume, *Sermon Outlines of the Bible, Matthew to Revelation*, have been laboriously written to provide sound, well-developed studies, particularly for the Pacific Island preachers and teachers. However, its usefulness is not limited to the foreign mission field. The sermons resulting from these outlines will be inspiring and enlightening to American Christians as well. We pray God's blessings on their use.

Betty (J.C.) Choate
Winona, MS 38967

November 1, 2008

Sermons from the Bible

Volume 1

(Genesis to Malachi)

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Sin Lies at the Door

Genesis 4:7

Introduction:

- A. Sin affects everyone (Romans 4:7).
- B. Sin has a deadly effect (Romans 3:27).
- C. Sin is present everywhere (1 Peter 5:8).
- D. How does sin lie at the door?

I. By saying “I will be your servant,” but in reality you become sin’s servant.

- A. John 8:34
- B. Romans 6:16-22
- C. 2 Peter 2:19

II. By appearing to be beautiful, but it is really ugly.

- A. Adam and Eve (Genesis 3).
- B. David and Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11 and 12).
- C. How beautiful sin appears to be, but how ugly it is when one sees it as it really is.

III. By seeming to be “Right” but it is “Wrong”.

- A. 1 John 3:4
- B. 1 John 5:17
- C. Sin is a monster because it seems to be “right”, but it is seeking to damn the souls of people by enticing them to live ungodly lives.

IV. By saying “You will not reap what you sow.”

- A. Judges 1:7
- B. Galatians 6:7,8
- C. Sin deceives us by saying, “You can sow fornication, drunkenness, and unfaithfulness and reap a harvest of happiness, joy, peace, and a brighter life.”
- D. I beg you, don’t be fooled!

Conclusion:

- A. Let us all come to look not at what sin appears to be, but at what sin really is — in all its ugliness and destructiveness.
- B. Having seen sin for what it really is, let all of us “*fear God and keep His commandments*” (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

Am I My Brother's Keeper?

Genesis 4:9

Introduction:

- A. We do not make progress in the Church when we baptize people and drop them.
- B. This is a problem we often face in the family of God.
- C. What does God expect us to do?

I. Watch for their souls.

- A. Hebrews 13:17

II. Spiritual must do the restoring.

- A. Galatians 6:1

III. Bear the infirmities of the weak.

- A. Romans 15:1

IV. Bear one another's burdens.

- A. Galatians 6:2

V. Warn, comfort, support, and be patient.

- A. 1 Thessalonians 5:14

VI. Convert the erring.

- A. James 5:20

Conclusion:

- A. We are our brother's keeper.
- B. God wants us to do all we can to restore them when they leave the Church.

We Are Brethren

Genesis 13:1-11

Introduction:

- A. Strife or fighting is never good among brethren.
- B. God's people should be a loving and peaceable people.
- C. What can we learn from the story of Abram and Lot?

I. Abraham called on the name of the Lord.

- A. Genesis 13:4
- B. 1 Thessalonians 5:12,13

II. Someone must recognize that there is a problem.

- A. Genesis 13:6,7
- B. Colossians 3:12-14

III. Someone must have the right attitude.

- A. Psalm 133:1
- B. Philippians 2:2-4

Conclusion:

- A. Let us look to God for help in solving our problems.
- B. Let us be a solver of problems and not a creator of problems.
- C. Let us see the reward of being a peacemaker (Matthew 5:9).

Noah Found Grace in the Eyes of the Lord

Genesis 6:8,9

Introduction:

- A. In Genesis chapter 6 we read that the wickedness of man was great.
- B. It was so bad that every thought of man was evil all the day.
- C. The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth.
- D. But God saw one man as different — Noah, and he “*found grace in the eyes of the Lord*”. Why?

I. Noah was a just man.

- A. Acts 10:22
- B. Hebrews 10:38
- C. Hebrews 12:23

II. Noah was a perfect (blameless) man.

- A. Philippians 2:15
- B. Philippians 3:6
- C. 2 Peter 3:12-14

III. Noah walked with God.

- A. 1 John 1:7
- B. 3 John 3,4
- C. Ephesians 2:10

Conclusion:

- A. What a good example Noah is to us today in the Christian age.
- B. Let us have the character of Noah and find grace in the eyes of the Lord.

Is Anything Too Hard for the Lord?

Genesis 18:14

Introduction:

- A. When Sarah questioned the Lord, He said, *“Is anything too hard for the Lord?”*
- B. We know that the Lord does not do miracles today, but He still works in our lives.
- C. When we question the Lord as we face things in our life, He no doubt says, *“Is Anything too hard for the Lord?”*

I. We must understand that the Lord is on our side.

- A. Romans 8:31
- B. 2 Timothy 4:17

II. We must understand that we can “limit” the Holy One of Israel.

- A. Psalm 78:41
- B. Matthew 25:24-30

III. We must understand the principle, “I can do all things through Christ”.

- A. Ephesians 6:10
- B. Philippians 4:1

Conclusion:

- A. No, nothing is too hard for the Lord.
- B. We can make anything too hard for the Lord when we do not trust Him and obey Him.

The Lord Was with Joseph

Genesis 39:2-9

Introduction:

- A. It is a great comfort to know that the Lord is with us in life.
- B. Why was the Lord with Joseph? **Because:**

I. Joseph knew sin's seductive ways.

- A. Genesis 39:7
- B. Proverbs 6:24; 7:10

II. Joseph said, "No!" and meant it.

- A. Genesis 39:7
- B. Daniel 1:8

III. Joseph would not betray a trust.

- A. Genesis 39:8,9
- B. Philippians 4:8,9

IV. Joseph knew some things were not his!

- A. Genesis 39:8
- B. Hebrews 11:24,25

V. Joseph knew this was sinful.

- A. Genesis 39:9
- B. James 4:17

VI. Joseph knew this was sin against God.

- A. Genesis 39:9
- B. Psalm 51:1-4

Conclusion:

- A. Let us today have the character of Joseph that the Lord may be with us.
- B. Do you have these characteristics?
- C. Is the Lord with you?

The Excuses of Moses

Exodus 3 & 4

Introduction:

- A. Moses is so much like many of us today.

- B. When the Lord called upon Moses for a work, he made excuses.
- C. Let us look at the excuses of Moses and learn from them.
- I. Excuse #1 — “Who Am I?”**
 - A. Exodus 3:11
 - B. Romans 8:31
- II. Excuse #2 — “What Shall I Say to Them?”**
 - A. Exodus 3:13-15
 - B. John 8:57,58
 - C. Revelation 1:11
- III. Excuse #3 — “They Will Not Believe Me.”**
 - A. Exodus 4:1
 - B. Romans 10:17
 - C. Isaiah 55:11
- IV. Excuse #4 — “I Am Slow of Speech.”**
 - A. Exodus 4:10,11
 - B. 1 Corinthians 2:3-5
 - C. 1 Corinthians 3:6
- V. Excuse #5 — “Send Someone Else.”**
 - A. Exodus 4:13
 - B. Isaiah 6:8

Conclusion:

- A. Do you make excuses like Moses?
- B. Overcome your excuses and serve the Lord like Moses.
- C. The Lord is depending on you.

The Passover Lamb

Exodus 12:1-21

Introduction:

- A. The Passover Lamb was a shadow of something better to come in the New Testament.
- B. What do we learn about the Passover Lamb, and how does it apply to us today?

I. The lamb was to be without blemish.

- A. Exodus 12:5
- B. 1 Peter 1:18,19
- C. Hebrews 4:14,15

II. The lamb had to be killed.

- A. Exodus 12:6,21
- B. 1 Corinthians 5:7
- C. Hebrews 11:28

III. Salvation only came when the blood was applied.

- A. Exodus 12:7,13
- B. Romans 5:8-11
- C. Revelation 1:5; Acts 22:16

Conclusion:

- A. Christ is truly our Passover Lamb.
- B. Christ as our Passover Lamb has offered Himself for us on the Cross.
- C. Have you applied the blood of the Lamb to your life through His blood and baptism?

Holding Up the Hands of Moses

Exodus 17:8-16

Introduction:

- A. Then Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim.
- B. The next day as Israel fought Amalek, Moses, Aaron, and Hur went to the top of the hill.
- C. What do we learn from this story?

I. We learn that we must depend on the Lord.

- A. Exodus 17:9
- B. 1 Corinthians 3:6
- C. Ephesians 6:10

II. We learn that everyone has a part in the victory.

- A. Exodus 17:12

- B. 1 Corinthians 1:10
- C. 1 Corinthians 3:5,6

III. We learn how we must support one another to have victory.

- A. Exodus 17:12
- B. 1 Corinthians 3:9
- C. 2 Corinthians 6:1

Conclusion:

- A. Are you holding up other's hands in the work of the Lord?
- B. May we let the Lord be our banner.
- C. Then the Lord will give us the victory.

Selecting Leaders for God

Exodus 18:13-25

Introduction:

- A. God's people have always needed leadership.
- B. Sufficient leadership for God's people is important.
- C. Without sufficient leadership, the leadership suffers and God's people suffer.
- D. What good lessons do we learn from this story? What kind of men is the Lord looking for?

I. Able men.

- A. Exodus 18:21
- B. 2 Timothy 2:2
- C. 1 Timothy 3:1-7

II. Such as fear God.

- A. Exodus 18:21
- B. Psalm 34:9
- C. Hebrews 12:28

III. Men of truth.

- A. Exodus 18:21
- B. Psalm 91:4
- C. Ephesians 6:14

IV. Hating covetousness.

- A. Exodus 18:21

- B. Luke 12:15
- C. Hebrews 13:5

V. Men who will accept responsibility.

- A. Exodus 18:21
- B. Isaiah 6:8
- C. 1 Corinthians 16:13

VI. Let these men execute their duties.

- A. Exodus 18:22
- B. Ezekiel 22:30
- C. Matthew 25:23

Conclusion:

- A. Are you willing to grow and develop these characteristics?
- B. God is depending on you.

A Special Treasure to Me

Exodus 19:3-6

Introduction:

- A. God told Israel, *“I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself”* (Exodus 19:4).
- B. Israel of the Old Covenant was God’s “special treasure”; today we are God’s “special treasure”.
- C. What describes us as God’s “Special Treasure”?

I. An obedient people.

- A. Exodus 19:5
- B. Hebrews 5:8,9
- C. Acts 5:29

II. A kingdom of priests.

- A. Exodus 19:6
- B. Revelation 1:5,6
- C. 1 Peter 2:5

III. A holy nation.

- A. Exodus 19:6
- B. 1 Peter 2:9,10

Conclusion:

- A. We are God's "Special Treasure".
- B. Are you showing yourself to be God's "Special Treasurer"?

Make the Tabernacle Like the Pattern

Exodus 25:8,9,21,22,40; Hebrews 8:5

Introduction:

- A. God gave Moses specific instructions about how to make the tabernacle and how Israel was to worship.
- B. God has given specific instructions through Christ and His apostles about how to establish the church and its worship.
- C. Let us make the church like the New Testament pattern.

I. Founder/Foundation must be Christ.

- A. Matthew 16:18
- B. 1 Corinthians 3:11

II. Must wear Christ's name.

- A. 1 Corinthians 12:27
- B. Colossians 1:24
- C. Romans 16:16

III. Head of the church must be only Christ.

- A. Ephesians 1:22,23
- B. Ephesians 5:23
- C. Colossians 1:18

IV. The worship of the Church.

- A. Acts 20:7
- B. Acts 2:42
- C. Ephesians 5:19
- D. 1 Corinthians 16:1,2

V. The members called Christians.

- A. Acts 11:26
- B. Acts 26:28
- C. 1 Peter 4:16

VI. Each congregation must be independent or govern themselves.

- A. Acts 14:23
- B. Titus 1:5
- C. 1 Peter 5:2

Conclusion:

- A. You can become a member of the Church of Christ that is like the pattern in the New Testament by
 - 1. Believing (Acts 16:30-33).
 - 2. Repenting (Acts 2:38).
 - 3. Confessing Christ as Lord (Acts 8:36-39).
 - 4. Being baptized (Acts 22:16).

That God May Give You a Blessing Today

Exodus 32:29-33

Introduction:

- A. Moses comes down from the mountain Sinai after receiving the Ten Commandments.
- B. Israel had made the golden calf and sinned against God.
- C. Moses instructs them to do certain things to make themselves right with God.
- D. When we sin as God's children today, we must:

I. Consecrate ourselves to the Lord.

- A. Exodus 32:29
- B. Romans 12:1,2
- C. Revelation 14:4

II. Make atonement for our sins.

- A. Exodus 32:30
- B. Romans 5:8-11
- C. 1 John 2:2

III. Pray for forgiveness.

- A. Exodus 32:32
- B. James 5:16
- C. 1 John 1:9

Conclusion:

- A. God will truly give us a blessing if we will consecrate, accept His atonement, and pray for forgiveness.
- B. If you have sinned as a child of God, will you not rededicate yourself to the Lord?

The Nature of God Revealed

Exodus 34:5-7

Introduction:

- A. The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with Moses on Mount Sinai.
- B. The Lord passed before Moses and proclaimed His nature.
- C. Let us look at the nature of God.

I. He is merciful.

- A. Isaiah 54:7
- B. Isaiah 53:3
- C. 1 Peter 1:3
- D. Psalm 25:6
- E. Lamentations 3:22,23

II. He is gracious.

- A. Psalm 86:15
- B. Psalm 111:4
- C. 1 Peter 2:1-3

III. He is longsuffering.

- A. Romans 2:4
- B. 1 Timothy 1:15,16
- C. 2 Peter 3:9

IV. He abounds in goodness.

- A. Psalm 25:7
- B. Psalm 31:19
- C. Romans 11:22

V. He abounds in truth.

- A. Psalm 25:10

- B. Psalm 91:4
- C. Psalm 100:5

Conclusion:

- A. From this story we learn much about the nature of God.
- B. God is awesome.
- C. We live and serve this awesome God.

A Sweet Smelling Aroma to the Lord

Leviticus 1:9

Introduction:

- A. The patriarchs of the Old Testament built altars and offered sacrifices to the Lord.
- B. God commanded Israel to build an altar and offer sacrifices to the Lord.
- C. We are commanded to offer “*ourselves a living sacrifice*” (Romans 12:1).
- D. When we offer “*ourselves a living sacrifice*” to the Lord it is a sweet smelling aroma to Him.
- E. What can we learn about offering ourselves to the Lord, so that we will be “a sweet smelling aroma”?

I. We must offer our all on the altar.

- A. Leviticus 1:9
- B. Deuteronomy 6:5
- C. Matthew 22:37

II. We must offer ourselves a sacrifice.

- A. Leviticus 1:9
- B. Romans 12:1
- C. 1 Peter 2:5

III. We must offer an offering.

- A. Leviticus 1:9
- B. Malachi 3:3
- C. Philippians 2:17

Conclusion:

- A. Are you giving your all to the Lord?
- B. Are you giving yourself a living sacrifice to the Lord?
- C. Are **you** giving yourself as an offering to the Lord?

The Sin of Nadab and Abihu

Leviticus 10:1,2

Introduction:

- A. The first day of Aaron's ministry had not yet closed.
- B. He had offered the various sacrifices and entered the Holy Place with Moses.
- C. Returning to the court, he blessed the people.
- D. He witnessed the Lord's approval of the people, the priesthood, and the sacrifice by the fire sent forth from heaven.
- E. Now the sad event of Leviticus 10:1,2. What do we learn?

I. They offered profane (unauthorized) fire.

- A. Leviticus 10:1
- B. God had commanded them to use the fire from the brazen altar (Leviticus 16:12,13).
- C. We must only do what God has authorized (Colossians 3:17).

II. They could not add to or take from.

- A. Leviticus 10:1
- B. When God commands us what to do and how to do it, we cannot change it (Revelation 22:18,19).
- C. In worshipping God, man is limited to that which God has authorized, anything else is sin (1 Corinthians 4:6).

III. They could not change what God had commanded them.

- A. Leviticus 10:1
- B. We must do what God commands (Matthew 28:20).
- C. God accepts only what He has commanded (1 Samuel 15:22,23).

Conclusion:

- A. Do not make the mistake of Nadab and Abihu?
- B. If you do, you will pay the consequences of your sin just like they did.

- C. God will punish those who disobey Him, no matter who we are.

The Scapegoat/Goat of Removal

Leviticus 16:1-34

Introduction:

- A. There are many valuable lessons from the Old Testament for our learning (Romans 15:4).
- B. Many Old Testament things were a shadow of the real thing to come (Hebrews 10:1).
- C. What do we learn from the text about the scapegoat/goat of removal?

I. The Goat of Removal made atonement.

- A. Leviticus 16:10
- B. John 1:29
- C. 1 Corinthians 5:7
- D. Romans 3:23-26

II. The Goat of Removal carried away all their sins.

- A. Leviticus 16:21
- B. Hebrews 9:7,11,12
- C. Hebrews 9:24-28

III. The Goat of Removal made them clean before the Lord.

- A. Leviticus 16:30
- B. Ephesians 5:25,26
- C. Hebrews 9:14

Conclusion:

- A. We see Jesus as that goat of removal in Isaiah 53.
- B. Jesus is that goat of removal of the New Testament.
- C. Will **you** let Christ make **atonement for you, take away all your sins, and make you clean before the Lord?**

Obedience of God

Leviticus 26:1-39

Introduction:

- A. God has always required obedience of people.
- B. A blessing if they obey; and a curse if they disobey.
- C. God requires that of us today.

I. Requirements of obedience.

- A. Leviticus 26:1-2
- B. Luke 6:46-49
- C. Matthew 25:31-46

II. Results of obedience.

- A. Leviticus 26:3-13
- B. Matthew 7:21
- C. Hebrews 5:8,9

III. Results of disobedience.

- A. Leviticus 26:14-39
- B. Isaiah 59:1,2
- C. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

Conclusion:

- A. Are you disobeying the Lord or obeying the Lord?
- B. Will the Lord turn His face from you or look upon you favorably?

Repentance Is Making Restitution

Numbers 5:5-7

Introduction:

- A. Repentance is taught in many places in the Bible.
- B. Here is a beautiful study of repentance.
- C. This is a very important Bible subject.
- D. What do we learn in these verses about repentance?

I. Sin is against the Lord.

- A. Numbers 5:6

- B. Leviticus 20:3
- C. Deuteronomy 29:20

II. Sin is unfaithfulness to the Lord.

- A. Psalm 78:57
- B. 2 Timothy 4:10
- C. Revelation 2:10

III. What is included in repentance?

- A. Make restitution for the sin (Numbers 5:7; Matthew 3:8).
- B. Change of mind and action (Numbers 5:7; Matthew 21:28-31).
- C. Confess the sin (Numbers 5:7; Acts 19:18,19).

Conclusion:

- A. Let us strive not to sin against the Lord.
- B. Let us remember that sin is against the Lord.
- C. Let us truly repent when we sin against the Lord.

Moses, a Humble Man

Numbers 12:1-3

Introduction:

- A. The word humble means “low-lying, of low degree, brought low, lowly”.
- B. To be humble is not to be weak but the ability to bear up under any situation.
- C. Words that are associated with humble are: lowly, lowliness, courteous.

I. What produces humility?

- A. One’s unworthiness (Luke 15:17-21).
- B. Submissiveness (Luke 10:39).
- C. God’s righteousness (Philippians 3:4-9).
- D. Christ’s example (Matthew 11:29).

II. Christians are commanded to have humility.

- A. Christians are to walk in humility (Ephesians 4:1,2).
- B. Christians are to put on humility (Colossians 3:12).

- C. Christians are to be clothed with humility (1 Peter 5:5).
- D. Christians are to avoid false humility (Colossians 2:18-23).

III. Rewards of having humility.

- A. Brings blessings (2 Chronicles 7:14,15).
- B. Makes truly great (Matthew 18:4).
- C. Unlocks more grace and exaltation (James 4:6,10).
- D. Guarantees us Heaven (Matthew 5:3).

Conclusion:

- A. Humility does not come easy; it is something that we must strive for.
- B. Humility is something that we must work on daily.
- C. The reward will be heaven some day.

We Are Well Able to Overcome

Numbers 13:1-33

Introduction:

- A. The spies have been sent out to spy out the land of Canaan. These spies have seen the mighty hand of God at work.
- B. The spies return with their report after spying out the land for forty days.
- C. Ten of the spies are negative about what they see, but two of the spies are positive.
- D. Caleb quieted the people and said, *“Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it”*.
- E. Why did Caleb say “for we are well able to overcome?”

I. He knew God was on their side.

- A. Numbers 13:1,2
- B. Nehemiah 1:18
- C. Philippians 4:13

II. He could see strength in unity.

- A. Numbers 13:30
- B. Nehemiah 1:18
- C. 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

III. He knew that with God's help they were able.

- A. Numbers 13:30
- B. Romans 8:31
- C. 2 Timothy 4:17,18

Conclusion:

- A. Do you have the attitude of the ten or the attitude of Caleb?
- B. With the right attitude we can do much more for the Lord.

My Servant Caleb Has a Different Spirit

Numbers 14:20-24

Introduction:

- A. After Israel's rejection of God and His command to go up and take the land of Canaan, God tells them that they will die in the wilderness.
- B. Only Joshua and Caleb would go into the promise land.
- C. Why did God say, "*my servant Caleb has a different spirit*"?

I. Because he did not reject the Word of the Lord.

- A. Numbers 14:22
- B. 1 Samuel 15:23,26
- C. John 12:48

II. Because he listened to the Lord.

- A. Numbers 14:22
- B. Psalm 119:9
- C. Mark 4:11-20

III. Because he followed the Lord fully.

- A. Numbers 14:24
- B. Mark 8:34
- C. John 12:26

Conclusion:

- A. Caleb was pleasing to the Lord.
- B. Caleb was a "special person" because he fully followed the Lord.
- C. Are **you** like Caleb?

Because You Did Not Believe Me

Numbers 20:9-13

Introduction:

- A. After the death of Miriam, the children of Israel gathered together against Moses and Aaron.
- B. They said, “*Why have you brought us out here in this wilderness to die?*”
- C. Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before the Lord, and the Lord spoke to Moses and said, “*Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to the rock before their eyes*” (Numbers 20:8).
- D. What do we learn from this story?

I. Moses obeyed part of what the Lord said.

- A. Numbers 20:9
- B. 1 Samuel 15:1-22
- C. John 14:15

II. Moses did not believe the Lord.

- A. Numbers 20:12
- B. Psalm 78:21,22
- C. 2 Thessalonians 2:12

III. The results of Moses disobeying the Lord.

- A. Numbers 20:12
- B. 2 Thessalonians 1:8,9
- C. Revelation 21:8

Conclusion:

- A. A sad part of Moses’ life, a terrible mistake and he paid the consequences of not believing the Lord (Deuteronomy 3:26,27).
- B. If you do not believe the Lord you will pay the consequences.

The Bronze Serpent

Numbers 21:4-9

Introduction:

- A. Israel enjoys victory over the Canaanites. Israel complains against God.

- B. God sends fiery serpents to bite the people and many of the people of Israel died.
- C. This story is repeated in John 3:14,15 as Jesus taught Nicodemus about the new birth.
- D. What do we learn from this story?

I. Cause of the disease.

- A. Turned from God (Numbers 21:5; Isaiah 59:1,2).
- B. We have sinned (Numbers 21:7; Romans 3:23).
- C. Grace extended (Numbers 21:8; Ephesians 2:4-10).

II. The remedy.

- A. The remedy raised (Numbers 21:9; John 12:32).
- B. Means of death — serpent (Numbers 21:6; Romans 6:23).
- C. Means of life — serpent raised (Numbers 21:9; 1 Corinthians 15:21,22).

III. The effectual remedies.

- A. One remedy (Numbers 21:9; Acts 4:12).
- B. Demanded faith (Numbers 21:9; Mark 16:16).
- C. God's invitation (Numbers 21:9; Matthew 11:28-30).

Conclusion:

- A. The bronze serpent Moses raised up to heal those who looked upon it is looking to Christ being raised up for us.
- B. Why not be healed today of your sins? Look to Christ.
- C. Be born of the water and the spirit (John 3:5).

Do Not Add to Or Take from the Word of God

Deuteronomy 4:1-9

Introduction:

- A. Before Israel is ready to go into the Promise land, Moses gives his last discourse to God's people.
- B. In verse two, Moses gives Israel an eternal principle that will always guide them and God's people.
- C. What do we learn from this?

- I. We should hear God's word.**
 - A. Deuteronomy 4:1
 - B. Matthew 13:14-16
 - C. James 1:19
- II. Do not add to or take from God's word.**
 - A. Deuteronomy 4:2
 - B. Proverbs 30:6
 - C. Revelation 22:18,19
- III. Be careful to observe God's word.**
 - A. Deuteronomy 4:6
 - B. Joshua 24:24
 - C. Philippians 2:12
- IV. Do not forget God's word.**
 - A. Deuteronomy 4:9
 - B. Psalm 119:16
 - C. James 1:22-25

Conclusion:

- A. What eternal advice this is for us today.
- B. This will assure us of eternal life with the Lord.

Four Principles of a Strong, Godly Family Deuteronomy 6:1-15

Introduction:

- A. A new generation of Israel is gathered on the plains of Moab to hear Moses review the law in preparation for their entrance into the Promise Land.
- B. Moses begins his instructions by telling the people of Israel what a home is all about.
- C. Moses sets forth four things that must be true if the home is right with God.

- I. Hear the word of God.**
 - A. Deuteronomy 6:4
 - B. The word "Hear" in the Hebrew is "Shama" and means, "To hear, listen, and obey".
 - C. Acts 17:11

II. Must love God.

- A. Deuteronomy 6:5,6
- B. Matthew 22:37
- C. Mark 12:32,33

III. Teach the word of God.

- A. Deuteronomy 6:7-9
- B. Proverbs 3:3
- C. Proverbs 7:1-3

IV. Must fear the Lord.

- A. Deuteronomy 6:10-15
- B. Psalm 34:9
- C. Ecclesiastes 12:13,14

Conclusion:

- A. Are these four things found in your home?
- B. If not, why not start working on them with all the members of your family?
- C. This way your home will be right with the Lord.

You Are a Holy People to the Lord

Deuteronomy 7:6

Introduction:

- A. This is why God allowed His people to kill, defeat, and drive out the pagan or heathen nations.
- B. God demanded that Israel (His people) be holy, this is why they were told not to mix with the other nations.
- C. God demands that His people today be holy.
- D. Why should God's people be holy?

I. Because they are a chosen people.

- A. Deuteronomy 7:6
- B. Isaiah 43:10
- C. 1 Peter 2:9

II. Because they are a people for God.

- A. Deuteronomy 7:6

B. Psalm 100:3

C. 1 Peter 2:10

III. Because they are a special treasure.

A. Deuteronomy 7:6

B. Titus 2:14

C. 1 Peter 2:9

Conclusion:

A. Are you God's chosen one, a person for God, a special treasure?

B. Will you be God's holy person?

What God Requires of You

Deuteronomy 10:12,13

Introduction:

A. On this occasion, Moses rehearses God's mercy in Deuteronomy 10:1-11.

B. Then Moses said, "*Here is what God requires of you.*"

C. God also requires the same of us today.

I. To fear the Lord your God.

A. Deuteronomy 10:12

B. Hebrews 12:28,29

C. Hebrews 11:7

D. Matthew 10:28

II. To walk in all His ways.

A. Deuteronomy 10:12

B. John 14:6

C. John 8:12

D. 1 John 1:7

III. To love Him.

A. Deuteronomy 10:12

B. Matthew 10:37

C. John 14:15

D. John 13:34,35

IV. To serve the Lord your God with your all.

- A. Deuteronomy 10:12
- B. John 13:13-17
- C. Matthew 6:24

V. To keep the commandments of the Lord.

- A. Deuteronomy 10:13
- B. John 5:2,3
- C. Luke 8:12-15

Conclusion:

- A. God requires certain things of **you**.
- B. It is for your good, benefit, and welfare.

I Set Before You Today a Blessing Or a Cursing

Deuteronomy 11:26-28

Introduction:

- A. God has set before His people a choice.
- B. Victory depends upon God's people making the right choice.
- C. God has set before you and me a choice, and the decision we make will determine whether or not we have the victory.

I. A choice of obedience.

- A. Deuteronomy 11:27
- B. Acts 5:29
- C. Hebrews 5:8,9

II. A choice of disobedience.

- A. Deuteronomy 11:28
- B. 2 Kings 18:11,12
- C. 2 Thessalonians 1:8,9

III. Will it be a blessing or a curse?

- A. Deuteronomy 11:27,28
- B. Matthew 25:31-46
- C. Romans 6:16-18

Conclusion:

- A. There is before you **Obedience** or **Disobedience**.
- B. What you choose will determine whether you receive a **blessing** or a **cursing**.
- C. Which will it be for **you**?

The Lord Will Raise Up a Prophet Like Me

Deuteronomy 18:15-18

Introduction:

- A. There are many prophecies of Christ in the Old Testament.
- B. This is one of the early prophecies.
- C. Moses in speaking to Israel says God will raise up for them a *“Prophet like me”*.
- D. How is Christ like Moses?

I. He is a prophet.

- A. Deuteronomy 18:15,18
- B. John 6:14

II. He is a lawgiver.

- A. John 1:17
- B. Galatians 1:11,12

III. He is a mediator.

- A. Exodus 32:11
- B. Hebrews 12:24

IV. He is a deliverer.

- A. Exodus 12:30-38
- B. Romans 11:26

Conclusion:

- A. No other person so fully typifies Christ as Moses did.
- B. We are not followers of Moses, but of Christ.
- C. It is Christ who will deliver us from our sins.

Choices in Life

Deuteronomy 30:19,20

Introduction:

- A. There are many choices in life.
- B. They start young and continue until we leave this earth.
- C. You must make important choices in life. What are some?

I. To love the Lord.

- A. Deuteronomy 30:20
- B. Proverbs 8:17
- C. 1 John 2:5,6
- D. 1 John 5:3

II. To obey the Lord's word.

- A. Deuteronomy 30:20
- B. Psalm 119:1-6
- C. Proverbs 1:33
- D. 1 John 3:24

III. To cling to the Lord.

- A. Deuteronomy 30:20
- B. Acts 11:23
- C. Acts 14:22
- D. Romans 12:9

Conclusion:

- A. Let us be like Joshua of old in Joshua 24:15 and say,
"Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
- B. What choice will you make?
- C. Will you make a wise choice in life?

God Is a Rock

Deuteronomy 32:3,4

Introduction:

- A. Moses proclaims the greatness of God.
- B. Moses speaks of God as the Rock.
- C. Why is God our Rock?

I. Because His work is perfect.

- A. Deuteronomy 32:4
- B. 2 Samuel 22:31
- C. Psalm 18:30

II. Because all His ways are just.

- A. Deuteronomy 32:4
- B. Isaiah 45:21
- C. Hosea 14:9

III. Because He is truth.

- A. Deuteronomy 32:4
- B. Psalm 25:10
- C. Psalm 91:4

IV. Because He is righteous and upright.

- A. Deuteronomy 32:4
- B. Judges 5:11
- C. Revelation 16:5

Conclusion:

- A. God is the Rock for His people because they trust Him and follow Him.
- B. Let God be your Rock because you love and trust Him daily.

Be Strong and of Good Courage

Joshua 1:5-9

Introduction:

- A. After the death of Moses the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant.
- B. Moses is dead and a new leader arises to lead the children of Israel into the Promise land.
- C. God told Joshua to get up and "*go over this Jordan to the land that I am giving to the children of Israel.*"
- D. God speaks to Joshua and gives him these encouraging words.

I. I will be with you.

- A. Joshua 1:5

- B. Matthew 28:19,20
- C. Philippians 4:13

II. I will not leave you or forsake you.

- A. Joshua 1:5
- B. Hebrews 13:5
- C. Genesis 28:15

III. Observe all the Law.

- A. Joshua 1:7
- B. Deuteronomy 32:33
- C. James 1:21-25

IV. Do not be afraid or be discouraged.

- A. Joshua 1:9
- B. Hebrews 13:6
- C. Psalms 27:1

V. Be strong.

- A. Joshua 1:9
- B. Revelation 18:8
- C. Ephesians 6:10

Conclusion:

- A. What uplifting and encouraging words these were to Joshua as he served God.
- B. These are most uplifting and encouraging words to us as we live for Jesus and serve Him daily.

You Cannot Hide Your Sins

Joshua 7:1-21

Introduction:

- A. When Israel went up against Ai they were defeated because Achan took of the accursed things and tried to hide it.
- B. Some principles we should remember.

I. We cannot cover up sin from God.

- A. Joshua 7:10,11
- B. 2 Chronicles 16:9
- C. Ecclesiastes 12:14

II. Our sins will be found out.

- A. Joshua 7:11
- B. Genesis 3:8,9
- C. Galatians 6:7

III. We will not be blessed until the sin is corrected.

- A. Joshua 7:20,21
- B. Acts 8:21-24
- C. 1 John 8-10

Conclusion:

- A. When Achan confessed his sin, God blessed Israel and led them to victory against Ai.
- B. When we confess our sins to God and repent, the Lord will bless us with joy and forgiveness.

A Place of Refuge

Joshua 20:1-9

Introduction:

- A. The Lord spoke to Joshua and said, “*Appoint for yourselves cities of refuge from the avenger of blood*” (Joshua 20:2).
- B. As long as they stayed in one of the six cities designated as a “city of refuge” until the death of one of the high priests they would be safe/saved.
- C. What is our “place of refuge” today?

I. In Christ.

- A. Consolation — peace of soul (Romans 5:1).
- B. Exaltation — all spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3; 1 Peter 5:6).
- C. Satisfaction — in His name (Acts 4:12).

II. In the church.

- A. Salvation (Ephesians 5:23; Acts 2:47).
- B. Reconciliation to God (Ephesians 2:13-16; Colossians 1:24).
- C. Citizens of heaven (Ephesians 2:19; Philippians 3:2).

III. In salvation.

- A. Matthew 1:21

B. 2 Timothy 2:10

C. 1 John 5:11

Conclusion:

A. What a blessing it was for Israel to have the “cities of refuge”.

B. What a blessing it is to have “a place of refuge” today.

C. Do you have “a place of refuge”?

Choose You This Day Whom You Will Serve

Joshua 24:14,15

Introduction:

A. In Joshua 24 Joshua renews the covenant God made with Israel.

B. Joshua reminds Israel of how God has driven their enemies from before them when they walk in His ways.

C. Joshua challenges Israel to put away from themselves the god their fathers served on the other side of the Euphrates and in Egypt.

D. Joshua challenges them with this statement, “*Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve.*”

I. Fear the Lord.

A. Joshua 24:14

B. Ecclesiastes 8:12

C. Revelation 14:7

II. Serve the Lord.

A. Joshua 24:14

B. Psalm 101:6

C. Luke 4:8

III. Be sincere.

A. Joshua 24:14

B. Ephesians 6:24

C. Philippians 1:10

IV. Be truthful.

- A. Joshua 24:14
- B. Psalm 116:16
- C. Proverbs 12:22

Conclusion:

- A. We, like Israel of old, are called upon to make choices in life.
- B. Joshua said, *“But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”* (Joshua 24:15).
- C. Let us be like Joshua and serve the Lord.

Adoni-Bezek — A King Who Reaped What He Sowed Judges 1:1-7

Introduction:

- A. We read of when Judah and Simeon invaded king Adoni-Bezek’s land. In the battle, he lost ten thousand men. He tried to escape but was captured.
- B. They cut off his thumbs and toes. His thought was *“as I have done, so God has repaid me”* (Judges 1:7).
- C. Adoni-Bezek thought back to the time he had cut off seventy kings’ thumbs and toes and how they had been treated like dogs in his household.
- D. There are some good lessons that we can learn from Adoni-Bezek.

I. Be certain you will reap what you sow.

- A. Judges 1:7
- B. Galatians 6:7,8
- C. Do what is right and you will have nothing to fear.

II. Be sure your sins will find you out.

- A. Judges 1:7
- B. Numbers 32:23
- C. Hebrews 4:13

III. You will be judged before God.

- A. Judges 1:7

- B. Ecclesiastes 12:14
- C. 2 Corinthians 5:10

Conclusion:

- A. You will surely reap what you have sown.
- B. Will you sow to the flesh and reap corruption; or will you sow to the Spirit and reap everlasting life?

There Arose a Generation Who Did Not Know God

Judges 2:10-19

Introduction:

- A. Judges is about “the redeemed walking by sight and not by faith”.
- B. In Joshua, an obedient people, a people listening to God and obeying Him.
- C. In Judges, a disobedient people, a rebellious people who would not listen to God’s word.
- D. So a generation arose “*who did not know God*”.

I. They did evil in the sight of the Lord.

- A. Judges 2:11
- B. Matthew 15:19,20
- C. Matthew 12:35

II. They forsook the Lord.

- A. Judges 2:13
- B. 1 Kings 9:9
- C. Hebrews 11:27

III. They would not listen to the Lord.

- A. Judges 2:17
- B. John 8:42-44
- C. Hebrews 5:11-14

Conclusion:

- A. If we are not careful and follow after Israel, we will make the same mistakes Israel made.
- B. Let us be careful so that we are not guilty of causing a generation to arise who do not know God.

The Reason God Left the Enemy

Judges 3:1-4

Introduction:

- A. When Israel came into the Promise Land, God left some of the pagan nations.
- B. When God does something, He does it for a reason.
- C. He left the heathen nations “*that He might test Israel by them*” (Judges 3:1,4).
- D. What do we learn from this lesson?

I. God tests His people.

- A. Judges 3:1
- B. James 1:2-4
- C. 1 Peter 1:6,7

II. God tests His people to know.

- A. Judges 3:4
- B. James 1:12
- C. 1 Corinthians 10:13

III. God tests His people to know if they will obey Him.

- A. Judges 3:4
- B. Hebrews 11:8
- C. Hebrews 11:17-19

Conclusion:

- A. You and I are placed in situations and among people so that God can test us to show whether we will be faithful to Him.
- B. Does God have faith in you like He did Job in Job chapter 1?

God Needs Christians Like Gideon

Judges 7:1-7

Introduction:

- A. God always needs people who will step up and be counted for Him.
- B. There are always God-fearing men who are willing to step up for God.
- C. Today God needs Christians who have the spirit of Gideon.

I. Those who are brave (courageous).

- A. Judges 7:3
- B. 2 Chronicles 19:11
- C. Psalm 31:24

II. Those who are watchful.

- A. Judges 7:5,6
- B. 2 Timothy 4:5
- C. 1 Peter 4:7

III. Those who are the faithful few.

- A. Judges 7:7
- B. Psalm 31:23
- C. Matthew 25:21

Conclusion:

- A. The Lord is looking for Christians like Gideon.
- B. Do you have the spirit of Gideon and the faithful few?

Let This Thing Be Done for Me

Judges 11:29-39

Introduction:

- A. Jephthah made a vow to the Lord, *“If you will indeed deliver the people of Ammon into my hands, then it will be that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the people of Ammon, shall surely be the Lord’s, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering”* (Judges 11:30,31).
- B. When Jephthah came back to his house at Mizpah, his daughter came out of his house to meet him, and she was his only child. Jephthah tore his clothes and said, *“For I have given my word to the Lord, and I cannot go back on it”* (Judges 11:35).
- C. Jephthah’s daughter said to her father, *“My father, if you have given your word to the Lord, do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth”* (Judges 11:36).
- D. Then she said to her father, *“Let this thing be done for me”*.
- E. What lessons do we learn from this story?

I. Nothing wrong in making a vow.

- A. A vow is “a voluntary pledge to fulfill an agreement.”
- B. Must be voluntary (Deuteronomy 23:21,22).
- C. Make your vows to the Lord (Psalm 76:11).

II. Do not make a hasty vow.

- A. Jephthah made a hasty vow without thinking it through first (Judges 11:30-35).
- B. Rashness in making a vow is condemned (Proverbs 20:25).
- C. Abuse of vows condemned (Matthew 15:4-6)

III. You must keep your vows.

- A. Jephthah’s daughter knew the importance of keeping a vow (Judges 11:36).
- B. When you make a vow/pledge when you need His help, keep it (Psalm 66:13,14).
- C. Once you have made a vow/pledge to the Lord, you must keep it (Ecclesiastes 5:4,5).

Conclusion:

- A. Be very careful about making a vow/pledge to the Lord.
- B. When you make it, you must keep it.

Everyone Did What Was Right in His Own Eyes

Judges 21:25

Introduction:

- A. This same statement is repeated in Judges 17:6.
- B. What a sad time in the history of Israel, when “*everyone did whatever he thought was right.*”
- C. They must have believed that, “being close” was good enough.
- D. Being close is not good enough

I. In one church.

- A. Matthew 16:18
- B. Ephesians 4:4
- C. Colossians 1:24

II. In the singing.

- A. Ephesians 5:19
- B. Colossians 3:16
- C. Hebrews 2:12

III. In the Lord's Supper.

- A. Acts 20:7
- B. Acts 2:42
- C. 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

IV. In the method of baptism.

- A. Romans 6:4
- B. Acts 2:38
- C. Acts 8:36-38

Conclusion:

- A. Are **you** satisfied with being close?
- B. There is tragic results in being close.

The Good Example of Naomi

Ruth 1:16-18

Introduction:

- A. The setting for the book of Ruth is in the days of the Judges (Ruth 1:1).
- B. Ruth is the daughter-in-law of Naomi.
- C. How was Naomi a good example to Ruth?

I. Naomi had a great love for others.

- A. Ruth 1:6,7
- B. 1 Samuel 18:1
- C. John 15:13

II. Naomi thought of the welfare of others.

- A. Ruth 1:8-10
- B. Romans 15:1,2
- C. Galatians 6:10

III. Naomi desired to be the right kind of person and to do the right thing.

- A. Ruth 1:11-13

- B. Philippians 2:15
- C. Galatians 6:1,2

Conclusion:

- A. What a good example Naomi is to all of God's people.
- B. Are you setting a good example for God's people?

Husband, Love Your Wife

1 Samuel 1:1-8

Introduction:

- A. The Bible commands a husband to love his wife (Ephesians 5:25,28).
- B. A wife will love in most cases as the husband loves!
- C. From Elkanah we learn how a husband should love his wife.

I. Love her generously.

- A. 1 Samuel 1:5
- B. Ephesians 5:25

II. Love her with affection.

- A. 1 Samuel 1:5
- B. Ephesians 5:28,29

III. Love her when she is irritated.

- A. 1 Samuel 1:6
- B. Colossians 3:19

IV. Love her when she is despondent and emotional.

- A. 1 Samuel 1:7,8
- B. 1 Peter 3:7

V. Love her when she does something that seems irrational.

- A. 1 Samuel 1:8
- B. Proverbs 5:18,19

Conclusion:

- A. Husbands, **love** is certainly the key to loving our wives.
- B. Let us all strive very hard to love our wives, that we may give glory to the Lord.

Hannah Gives Her Son to the Lord

1 Samuel 1:28

Introduction:

- A. Hannah was a godly woman who loved and was dedicated to the Lord.
- B. What do we learn about Hannah's character?

I. She prayed hard to the Lord.

- A. 1 Samuel 1:10
- B. Matthew 26:36-42
- C. James 5:16

II. She made a vow (promise) to the Lord.

- A. 1 Samuel 1:11
- B. Deuteronomy 23:21,22
- C. Ecclesiastes 5:4,5

III. She gave her most precious possession to the Lord.

- A. 1 Samuel 1:19-28
- B. 2 Corinthians 8:5
- C. Romans 12:1,2

Conclusion:

- A. Yes, Hannah was a woman who loved the Lord and was dedicated to Him.
- B. Do you love the Lord and are you dedicated to Him?
- C. May we do all we can to be like Hannah.

Speak, For Your Servant Hears

1 Samuel 3:1-18

Introduction

- A. The son of Hannah, Samuel, grew in favor with the Lord and men (1 Samuel 2:26).
- B. Samuel ministered to the Lord (1 Samuel 3:1).
- C. Look at the attitude of Samuel when the Lord spoke to him.

I. Here I am.

- A. 1 Samuel 3:4
- B. Isaiah 6:8
- C. Romans 1:15

II. Speak.

- A. 1 Samuel 3:10
- B. Hebrews 1:1,2
- C. Galatians 1:11,12

III. Your servant.

- A. 1 Samuel 3:10
- B. 1 Corinthians 4:1
- C. Hebrews 12:28

IV. Hears.

- A. 1 Samuel 3:10
- B. John 8:47
- C. John 10:1-5

V. Do what seems good.

- A. 1 Samuel 3:18
- B. James 1:22-25

Conclusion:

- A. Let us have the heart of Samuel.
- B. Do you have the heart of Samuel?

Raising Ebenezers

1 Samuel 7:10-12

Introduction:

- A. Sometimes we sing without proper understanding.
 - 1. Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, *“Thus far the Lord has helped us.”*
- B. The word “Ebenezer” means, “rock of help”.
- C. It was the name Samuel gave to a monument erected to remember God’s help in a victory over the Philistines.

- D. We, too, need to raise some “Ebenezer’s” — “markers” in our lives.
- E. What kind of Ebenezers shall we raise?

I. Giving.

- A. 1 Corinthians 9:6,7
- B. Acts 20:35
- C. When I give thought to my prosperity, I can raise an Ebenezer by giving back to God.

II. Caring.

- A. Philippians 2:1-4
- B. Colossians 3:12-15
- C. When I care about others, I can raise an Ebenezer.

III. Worship.

- A. John 4:24
- B. Psalm 29:2
- C. When I worship God faithfully in spirit and in truth, I can raise an Ebenezer.

IV. Evangelism.

- A. Proverbs 11:29
- B. James 5:19,20
- C. When I teach others, I can raise an Ebenezer.

Conclusion:

- A. Are **you** raising Ebenezers to the Lord?
- B. If not, will you start today?

We Want a King Like All the Nations Around Us

1 Samuel 8:1-5,7,19,20

Introduction:

- A. Samuel is old and his sons are not walking in the way of the Lord.
- B. The elders of Israel come to Samuel at Ramah and said, “*Make for us a king to judge us like all the nations*” (1 Samuel 8:4,5).

- C. Samuel is discouraged and prays to the Lord. The Lord says to Samuel, *“They have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them”* (1 Samuel 8:7).
- D. Israel rebels and says, *“No, but we will have a king over us like the nations around us”* (1 Samuel 8:19,20).
- E. How does that apply to the Church today?

I. We want instruments in singing today.

- A. Romans 15:9
- B. 1 Corinthians 14:15
- C. Hebrews 2:12

II. We want choirs in the church today.

- A. Ephesians 5:19
- B. Colossians 3:16
- C. Colossians 3:17

III. We want clapping in the church today.

- A. 1 Corinthians 14:33
- B. 1 Corinthians 14:40
- C. Revelation 22:18,19

IV. We want the women to take a leading role in the church today.

- A. 1 Corinthians 14:34
- B. 1 Timothy 2:11,12

Conclusion:

- A. Let us not fall into the same mistake of Israel of old.
- B. Let us not try to be like denominations around us and depart from the Old Paths of the New Testament.

Obedying the Voice of the Lord

1 Samuel 15:22,23

Introduction:

- A. Samuel anoints Saul as king over Israel and reminds him, *“Now, therefore, heed the voice of the words of the Lord”* (1 Samuel 15:1).
- B. God commands Saul *“to go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them”* (1 Samuel 15:3).

- C. Saul goes and destroys all the people, but he spared Agag and all that was good in his sight (1 Samuel 15:8,9).
- D. What lessons can we learn from this story?

I. God's commands are plain and simple.

- A. 1 Samuel 15:2,3
- B. Psalm 119:105
- C. Proverbs 6:23

II. We cannot do part of what God commands.

- A. 1 Samuel 15:8,9
- B. James 1:25
- C. 1 John 1:7

III. We must obey the Word of God.

- A. 1 Samuel 15:22
- B. John 14:15
- C. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

IV. The results of disobeying the Word of God.

- A. 1 Samuel 15:23
- B. Matthew 7:21-23
- C. Matthew 25:41-45

Conclusion:

- A. We learn many good lessons from this story of Saul.
- B. Let us not make the same mistake that Saul made and pay the price for rebellion.

How Does God Look at Mankind?

1 Samuel 16:7

Introduction:

- A. Man looks one way, but God looks another way at mankind.
- B. How does God look at mankind?

I. God sees the inward person.

- A. 1 Samuel 16:7
- B. Hebrews 4:12,13
- C. 1 Peter 3:3,4

II. What does God see?

- A. The love of the heart (Matthew 22:37,38).
- B. The gentle spirit (Ephesians 4:1-3).
- C. Humility to all (Titus 3:1,2).
- D. Esteeming others better than self (Philippians 2:3,4).
- E. Kindly affectionate to others (Romans 12:10).

Conclusion:

- A. How does God and His word see you?
- B. Remember, *“All things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account”* (Hebrews 4:13).

That All the Earth May Know That There Is a God

1 Samuel 17:32,33,37,46

Introduction:

- A. The Philistines gather to battle against Saul and the men of Israel.
- B. A champion went out from the camp of the Philistines. His name was Goliath, and he was about ten feet high.
- C. He cried out to the side of Israel and said, *“Who will come and fight against me, why have you not chosen a man to come out and fight against me?”*
- D. All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were very much afraid.
- E. David overheard the men of Israel talking about Goliath the giant and said, *“For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”*
- F. David said to Goliath when he met him on the battle field, *“This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.”*
- G. How can we show that God is our God?

I. By our faithfulness to the Lord.

- A. Matthew 24:45
- B. 3 John 5
- C. Revelation 2:10

II. By our dedication to the Lord.

- A. Romans 12:1,2
- B. Galatians 2:20
- C. Colossians 3:4

III. By our zeal for the Lord's work.

- A. Romans 12:11
- B. 2 Corinthians 9:2
- C. Titus 2:14

Conclusion:

- A. Will you step up and be counted like David?
- B. Let us face the world "that they may know that there is a God."

Some Go, Some Stay By the Supplies, But All Receive the Reward

1 Samuel 30:23-25

Introduction:

- A. The Amalekites invaded the South, and David attacked Ziklag, burned it with fire, and took captives (1 Samuel 30:1,2).
- B. David inquired of the Lord what to do. The Lord told him to pursue the Amalekites and recover all (1 Samuel 30:8).
- C. David attacked the Amalekites and recovered all (1 Samuel 30:18).
- D. David comes back to the two hundred men who had been so weary that they could not follow David into battle, and some of the people did not want to share the spoils (1 Samuel 30:21,22).
- E. In 1 Samuel 30:24 David said, "*But as his part is who goes down to the battle, so shall his part be who stays by the supplies; they shall all share alike.*"

F. What do we learn from this story?

I. The ones who go into battle will reap.

- A. Romans 10:15
- B. Mark 16:15
- C. 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

II. The ones who stay by the supplies will reap.

- A. Romans 10:15
- B. Acts 9:26,27
- C. Galatians 2:9

III. All receive a reward in the Lord's work.

- A. Matthew 20:1-16
- B. 1 Corinthians 12:13-27
- C. Matthew 25:14-30

Conclusion:

- A. Let us all work for the Lord so that we may be blessed.
- B. All can do something; some can go and some can stay by the supplies.
- C. Just like in the days of David, "all shall share alike" in doing the Lord's work.

The Sin of Uzzah

2 Samuel 7:12,13

Introduction:

- A. David desired to move the ark of God from Baal-judah to Jerusalem.
- B. The ark had rested in the house of one Abinadab for some seventy years.
- C. David had recently been crowned king of Israel and had taken Jerusalem. He desired to revive the worship and to give it a central place in his new royal city.
- D. Thirty thousand chosen men were assembled to accompany the procession (2 Samuel 6:1).
- E. A new cart was prepared to carry the ark.
- F. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were in charge of driving the oxen (2 Samuel 6:3).

G. The occasion was one of great festivity with music and songs (2 Samuel 6:5).

H. What lessons do we learn from this story?

I. Right things must be done in the right way.

A. Numbers 4:15; 7:9

B. Exodus 25:14

C. Colossians 3:17

D. If we do not do right things in the right way, they will not be accepted by God.

II. Good intentions are not sufficient in God's service.

A. Isaiah 55:8,9

B. Matthew 7:21

C. Acts 5:28

D. There must be obedience to God's will.

III. We must never take it upon ourselves to carry on God's work in a way He has forbidden.

A. Leviticus 10:1-3

B. Galatians 1:7-9

C. Revelation 22:18,19

IV. We must do things according to the proper order.

A. 1 Chronicles 15:13

B. 1 Corinthians 11:23-29 — The Lord's Supper.

C. Ephesians 5:19 — Singing.

Conclusion:

A. God has never tolerated man's disregard of and disobedience to His revealed Word.

B. God shows us this fact in the story of Uzzah.

David, a Man After God's Own Heart

2 Samuel 11,12:13

Introduction:

A. David was a prophet, musician, inspired man, and through his family line, Christ would come.

- B. David was a hero of Israel and the King of Judah and all of Israel.
- C. What a man! But he was a victim of sin.
 - 1. Lust (2 Samuel 11:2).
 - 2. Adultery (2 Samuel 11:4).
 - 3. Murder and cover-up (2 Samuel 11:14,15).
- D. The Lord sent Nathan to David to confront him about his sins. In 2 Samuel 12:7, Nathan said to David, *"You are the man!"*
- E. In Acts 13:22 we read that the Lord said, *"I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all my will."*
- F. Why would the Lord say this about a man who sinned and tried to cover it up?

I. David was a man with the right heart.

- A. Psalm 34:18
- B. Isaiah 57:15
- C. 1 Kings 2:4

II. David was a man who would repent of his sins.

- A. 2 Samuel 12:13
- B. Psalm 51:1-19
- C. Luke 15:17-19

III. David was a man who would do all the will of God.

- A. Deuteronomy 5:32,33
- B. Joshua 1:7,8
- C. James 1:21-25

Conclusion:

- A. David is a great example for us today.
- B. God help us to be like David, *"a man after God's own heart."*

I Shall Go to Him

2 Samuel 12:15-23

Introduction:

- A. David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground and pleaded with God for the child.

- B. The elders went in to David and tried to raise him up from the ground but David would not get up.
- C. On the seventh day the child died. The elders of David's house were afraid to go in to David and tell him that the child was dead.
- D. David saw that his servants were whispering and David understood that the child was dead.
- E. What was David's response to the fact that his child was dead?

I. He worshiped the Lord.

- A. 2 Samuel 12:20
- B. Job 1:20,21
- C. 1 Peter 5:6,7

II. He understood that the Lord was gracious.

- A. 2 Samuel 12:22
- B. Psalm 86:15
- C. 1 Peter 2:3

III. He understood that he could go to the child.

- A. 2 Samuel 12:23
- B. John 5:28,29
- C. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Conclusion:

- A. May God help us to have the attitude of David when we lose a loved one.
- B. By having the attitude of David we will be able to face life with better joy.

Absalom My Son, My Son

2 Samuel 18:32,33

Introduction:

- A. In 2 Samuel 13 we read of incest in David's house, and David's son Absalom conspires to kill Amnon for committing incest with Tamar.
- B. Absalom fled to Talmai. David mourned for his son every

day, and King David longed to go to Absalom. David was concerned about Absalom.

- C. For two years Absalom was full of mischief, rebelled against his father, King David, and David had to flee for his life (2 Samuel 14,15,16,17).
- D. David had to finally deal with the situation and put down the rebellion in the kingdom, but he said to Joab, Abishai, and Ittai, *“Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom”* (2 Samuel 18:5).
- E. Absalom is killed on the battlefield, and when the word is brought to David the King, “He wept”. He cried and said, *“O my son Absalom — my son, my son Absalom — if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!”* (2 Samuel 18:32,33)
- F. What was Absalom’s problem?

I. Thought he was an exception to the rule.

- A. 2 Samuel 13
- B. Tamar was violated by Amnon. Absalom schemes and kills Amnon.
- C. Why? King’s son, can take the law into his own hands, exception to the rule.
- D. Youth sometimes feel they are an exception to the rule — Not true (Isaiah 59:1,2).

II. Influenced by evil companions.

- A. 2 Samuel 13:37
- B. Three years in Geshur, evil ways deepened and encouraged.
- C. Evil companions corrupt (1 Corinthians 15:33).

III. Would have his way at any cost.

- A. Burned Joab’s barley (2 Samuel 14:28-33).
- B. Stole the hearts of people in his father’s kingdom (2 Samuel 15:1-6).
- C. The way of the sinner is hard and brings destruction (Proverbs 13:15-20).

IV. Lost respect for God’s moral law.

- A. Committed sin publicly (2 Samuel 16:20-23).
- B. You will be tempted so much, only your strong tie with God

can save you (James 4:7,8).

- C. *“Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man”* (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

Conclusion:

- A. Young people, learn these good lessons from Absalom.
- B. Parents, help your children before it is too late.

Lessons From Three Mighty Men

2 Samuel 23:8-12

Introduction:

- A. At the end of David’s life, he blesses three men who had served him well.
- B. In this passage we read of the deeds of three of David’s mighty men.
- C. We learn three great lessons from this story.

I. Josheb-Basshebeth — he was a mighty warrior.

- A. 2 Samuel 23:8
- B. Ephesians 6:10,11
- C. 2 Corinthians 10:4
- D. Ephesians 6:17

II. Eleazar — he would not become weary.

- A. 2 Samuel 23:9,10
- B. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
- C. Galatians 6:9
- D. Hebrews 12:1-3

III. Shammath — he stationed himself and would not move.

- A. 2 Samuel 23:11,12
- B. 1 Corinthians 15:58
- C. Colossians 2:5
- D. 1 Peter 5:9

Conclusion:

- A. All of us need to develop these characteristics in our lives.
- B. They are a must in living for Jesus today.
- C. Are you developing these characteristics in your life?

I Will Not Offer to the Lord that Which Cost Me Nothing

2 Samuel 24:24

Introduction:

- A. God was not pleased with David and Israel, so David went to Gad and said, *“What am I going to do?”*
- B. Gad came to David and said to him, *“Go up, erect an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite”* (2 Samuel 24:18).
- C. When Araunah saw David and his men coming, he went out and bowed to the king, and said, *“You can have whatever you need to offer this burnt offering.”*
- D. David said to Araunah, *“No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God with that which costs me nothing.”*

I. Living for Jesus.

- A. Luke 14:26
- B. Matthew 10:37,38
- C. Galatians 2:20

II. Serving the Lord.

- A. Matthew 6:24
- B. Romans 12:11
- C. John 12:26

III. Worship.

- A. John 4:20-24
- B. Psalm 95:6,7
- C. Acts 20:7

IV. Dedication.

- A. Leviticus 22:17-23
- B. Romans 12:1,2
- C. 1 Peter 2:5

Conclusion:

- A. Are you offering things to the Lord that cost you nothing?
- B. Will you do like David and offer the Lord the best, that which cost you something?

The Half Has Not Been Told

1 Kings 10:1-7

Introduction:

- A. The queen of Sheba came to visit Solomon because she had heard all that he had done.
- B. After she had seen all his wisdom and accomplishments she said, "*The half has not been told*".
- C. The half has not been told of:

I. The love of God.

- A. John 3:16
- B. Ephesians 2:4,8
- C. 1 John 4:10
- D. But when I have said all this, the half has not been told of the love of God.

II. The sacrifice of Jesus.

- A. Matthew 20:28
- B. Galatians 3:13
- C. Isaiah 53
- D. But when I have said all this, the half has not been told of the sacrifice of Jesus.

III. Happiness of the believers.

- A. When I say the believer knows the Father, the half has not been told of the happiness of the believer (1 John 2:13; 2 Corinthians 6:17,18).
- B. When I say no temptation is too strong that the believer cannot overcome, the half has not been told of the happiness of the believer (1 Corinthians 10:13).
- C. When I say the believer knows the peace of God, the half has not been told of the happiness of the believer (Philippians 4:7).

IV. The agonies of the unbelievers or disobedient.

- A. Matthew 25:30
- B. Luke 16:22-24
- C. Revelation 21:8
- D. But when I have said all this, the half has not been told of the agony of the unbeliever or disobedient.

Conclusion:

- A. Are you ready to meet the Lord when He comes (2 Thesalonians 1:7-9)?
- B. Are you ready to obey the gospel and be saved (Mark 16:16)?

Do Not Turn Your Heart From God

1 Kings 11:4-13

Introduction:

- A. King Solomon disobeyed God and took many women of foreign nations; God had told the children of Israel not to intermarry with them (1 Kings 11:1-3).
- B. These women turned Solomon's heart away from the true and living God to go after other gods (religions).
- C. What lessons can we learn from the story?

I. Do not turn from the true God to other gods.

- A. Deuteronomy 4:29-31
- B. Deuteronomy 30:9,10
- C. Joshua 24:14-20

II. Do not turn from the true religion to false religions.

- A. Jeremiah 5:23-31
- B. Mark 7:3-13
- C. 2 John 9-11

III. Do not compromise with that which God has forbidden.

- A. Matthew 16:18 — One true church.
- B. Acts 20:7 — The Lord's Supper on the first day of the week.
- C. Ephesians 5:19 — Congregational singing and only singing.

Conclusion:

- A. When Solomon left the true and living God, the true religion, and compromised what God had forbidden — God punished Solomon and Israel.
- B. God will punish us when we turn from Him, His religion, and His word.

The Sin of Compromise

1 Kings 13:7-24

Introduction:

- A. A man of God went from Judah to Bethel by the word of the Lord (1 Kings 13:1).
- B. King Jeroboam said to the man of God, *“Come home with me and refresh yourself and I will give you a reward”* (1 Kings 13:7).
- C. The man of God said to the King, *“For it was commanded me by the word of the Lord saying, ‘You shall not eat bread, nor drink water, nor return by the same way you came.’”* (1 Kings 13:9).
- D. Then an old prophet who dwelt in Bethel heard how the prophet of God from Judah had denied the king’s invitation. He told his sons to saddle his donkey, and he went after the man of God.
- E. When he found him, the man of God from Judah told the old prophet from Bethel the same thing he had told the king.
- F. In 1 Kings 13:18,19 we read that the old prophet from Bethel said, *“I too am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the Lord, saying, ‘Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water.’ But he lied to him. So he went back with him, and ate bread in his house, and drank water.”*
- G. The man of God from Judah was punished for being disobedient to God (1 Kings 13:24).

I. God has spoken His Word plainly and simply.

- A. 1 Kings 13:1,9
- B. Psalm 19:7,8
- C. Psalm 119:105

II. We cannot listen to man’s word over God’s Word.

- A. 1 Kings 13:18
- B. 1 Thessalonians 1:13
- C. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

III. We cannot compromise God’s Word.

- A. 1 Kings 13:9,19
- B. Deuteronomy 12:32
- C. Proverbs 30:5,6

IV. If we compromise God's Word — we will be punished.

- A. 1 Kings 13:24,26
- B. Galatians 1:7-9
- C. Revelation 22:18,19

Conclusion:

- A. Do not make a terrible mistake and compromise God's Word, or He will punish.

How Long Will You Falter Between Two Opinions?

1 Kings 18:20-22

Introduction:

- A. The word falter means to, "halt, waver, doubt, to go limping."
- B. Ahab called all the children of Israel together at Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:20).
- C. Elijah came to all the people and said, "*How long will you falter between two opinions.*" The people did not say a word (1 Kings 18:21).
- D. Why would God's people do this — Doubt?
- E. What is the cure for doubt?

I. Recognize and confess the doubt to God as sin.

- A. Romans 14:23. Doubt is basically unbelief in God and His Word and is sin.
- B. Hebrews 11:6
- C. God has promised to hear our confession of the darkest doubt (1 John 1:8,9).

II. Study the evidences for the Christian faith.

- A. Christians have nothing to fear by looking into the facts from the Word of God.
- B. John 20:30,31
- C. Hebrews 11:1-3

III. Make certain of your salvation.

- A. 2 Corinthians 13:5
- B. Philippians 2:12
- C. 2 Timothy 1:12

IV. Faithfully study the Word of God.

- A. Romans 10:17
- B. 1 Timothy 4:13,15,16
- C. 2 Timothy 3:15-17

Conclusion:

- A. Israel of old doubted God and His Word.
- B. But when Elijah showed them God and the power of His Word, they believed.
- C. When Israel's doubt was cured they cried, "*The Lord, He is God! The Lord He is God!*" (1 Kings 18:39).

You Have Sold Yourself to Do Evil

1 Kings 21:20-22

Introduction:

- A. The word of the Lord came to Elijah and told him to go and confront Ahab for the evil thing he had done to Naboth.
- B. When Elijah finds him he tells him, "*You have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the Lord*" (1 Kings 21:20).
- C. God tells Ahab, "*I will bring calamity on you*" (1 Kings 21:21).
- D. Have you, like Ahab, "sold yourself to do evil"?

I. By drinking strong drink.

- A. 1 Corinthians 5:11
- B. 1 Corinthians 6:9,10
- C. Galatians 5:19-21

II. By lying.

- A. Proverbs 30:8
- B. Psalm 120:2
- C. Ephesians 4:25

III. By being afraid or fearful in serving the Lord.

- A. Judges 7:1-3
- B. Matthew 25:24-26
- C. Acts 18:9,10

IV. By forsaking the assembling of the saints together.

- A. Matthew 18:20
- B. Acts 20:7
- C. Hebrews 10:24-26

V. By not obeying the gospel of Christ.

- A. Mark 16:15,16
- B. Luke 13:5
- C. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

Conclusion:

- A. Do not sell yourself to the devil to do evil.
- B. When you do, you will be punished with eternal destruction from the presence of the Lord.

Behold, I Thought

2 Kings 5:1-14

Introduction:

- A. Tell the story of Naaman in 2 Kings 5:1-14.
- B. Then Naaman left, and Elisha sent out a servant and told Naaman to go and wash in the Jordan seven times and he would be clean. Naaman was furious and turned away in a rage, and said, "*Behold I thought*". How can we apply that to other things?

I. Behold I thought — salvation comes only through believing.

- A. Hebrews 11:6 – Look at all the examples; it is faith plus action.
- B. James 2:14-26
- C. Matthew 7:21

II. Behold I thought — we can partake of the Lord's Supper any day.

- A. Acts 2:42
- B. Acts 20:7
- C. 1 Corinthians 11:17-26; 1 Corinthians 16:1,2

III. Behold I thought — we can use the instrument in worship today.

- A. Ephesians 5:19
- B. Colossians 3:16
- C. Hebrews 2:12

IV. Behold I thought — one church is as good as another.

- A. Matthew 16:18
- B. Ephesians 4:4
- C. Colossians 1:24

V. Behold I thought — baptism is not essential for salvation.

- A. Mark 16:16
- B. Acts 10:48
- C. Acts 22:16

Conclusion:

- A. We cannot guide ourselves (Jeremiah 10:23).
- B. Our thoughts are not higher than God's thoughts (Isaiah 55:9).
- C. When we listen to God the way Naaman did and obey Him, we will be pleasing in God's eyes.

Do Not Fear, God Is On Our Side

2 Kings 6:13-17

Introduction:

- A. Syria planned to make war against Israel, and the king of Syria told his officers that he would set up his camp in such and such a place.
- B. The man of God sent word to the king of Israel about the plans of the king of Syria. Time and again Elisha warned the king of Israel so that he was on his guard in such places.
- C. The king of Syria called his officers and demanded to know who was on the side of the king of Israel. One of his officers spoke up and said, "*None of us, my lord the king*".
- D. The officer said, "*Elisha the prophet who is in Israel tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom.*"

- E. The king's officers told him that Elisha was in Dothan, so the king sent horses, and chariots, and a great army there, and that night they surrounded the city.
- F. When the man of God arose early the next morning and went out, there was an army surrounding the city with horses and chariots. His servant said, "*What shall we do?*"
- G. The man of God said, "*Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them*" (2 Kings 6:16).

I. We should not fear.

- A. Psalm 27:1
- B. Isaiah 35:4
- C. Revelation 2:10

II. We should realize Who is on our side.

- A. Romans 8:31
- B. Hebrews 6:17-20
- C. 1 Peter 3:12

III. We will win the victory.

- A. Romans 8:37
- B. Philippians 4:13
- C. 1 John 5:4

Conclusion:

- A. Let us have the assurance of Elisha.
- B. Let us encourage other Christians to have the assurance of Elisha, and we will have the victory.

A Day of Good News and We Remain Silent

2 Kings 7:4-9

Introduction:

- A. The king of Syria had brought an army and besieged Samaria.
- B. There were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate, and they said to themselves, "*Why are we sitting here until we die?*"

- C. So they decide to surrender to the army of the Syrians. If we live, we live, if we die, we die. So the next twilight they arose and went to the camp of the Syrians. To their surprise no one was there.
- D. The Lord had caused the army of the Syrians to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses, and the noise of a great army, so they had run off in fear.
- E. So the lepers came into the camp, ate, drank, and carried from it silver and gold and clothing, and went and hid them.
- F. Then they said to one another, *“We are not doing what is right. This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent”* (2 Kings 7:9).

I. We live in a time of good news.

- A. Ephesians 1:13
- B. Ephesians 6:16
- C. Romans 10:15

II. What if we remain silent?

- A. Romans 10:14
- B. Ephesians 3:7-9
- C. 1 Corinthians 9:16-18

III. We should share what we have.

- A. Acts 16:9,10
- B. Romans 1:14-16
- C. 1 Timothy 1:3,4

Conclusion:

- A. What are **you** doing?
- B. Have you found a treasure?
- C. Will **you** share it with others?

They Feared the Lord, Yet Served Their Own Gods

2 Kings 17:33

Introduction:

- A. The king of Assyria brought people from other heathen

nations and they took possession of Samaria and dwelt in its cities. In the beginning of their dwelling there, they did not fear the Lord; therefore the Lord sent lions among them, which killed some.

- B. So the children of Israel told the king of Assyria that the Lord had sent lions among them because they did not know the rituals of the God of the land.
- C. So the king of Assyria commanded the bringing in of one of the priests to teach them the rituals of the God of the land and how to fear the Lord.
- D. However, *“they feared the Lord, yet served their own gods”* (2 Kings 17:33).

I. They feared the Lord, but it was the wrong kind of fear.

- A. It was a fear that may be defined as, “frightful, and being afraid”.
- B. *“And Moses said to the people, Do not fear”* (Exodus 20:20).
- C. *“No one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews”* (John 7:13).
- D. *“His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue”* (John 9:22).
- E. *“After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews”* (John 19:38).

II. We must fear the Lord, but it must be the right kind of fear.

- A. It was a fear that may be defined as, “reverence, reverent, awesome respect for.”
- B. *“That you may fear the Lord your God”* (Deuteronomy 6:2).
- C. *“The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever”* (Psalm 19:9).
- D. *“Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him”* (Psalm 34:9).
- E. *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”* (Psalm 111:10).
- F. *“Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is the whole duty of man”* (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

III. Because they did not have the right fear, they did not serve the Lord.

- A. We should have the right fear that we might serve Him acceptably.
- B. *“You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him”* (Deuteronomy 6:13).
- C. *“Serve the Lord Jesus Christ”* (Colossians 3:24).
- D. *“To serve the living God”* (Hebrews 9:14).
- E. *“Not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord”* (Romans 12:11).

Conclusion:

- A. Do you have the right fear for the Lord?
- B. Do you serve the Lord?

Incline Your Ear, O Lord

2 Kings 19:15,16

Introduction:

- A. Hezekiah, the king of Judah prayed before the Lord.
- B. Hezekiah knew that God dwelt among His people.
- C. What do we learn from this?

I. God dwells among His people.

- A. 2 Kings 19:15
- B. 2 Corinthians 6:16-18
- C. Ephesians 2:19-22
- D. Revelation 21:2,3

II. He is God — Deity.

- A. 2 Kings 19:15
- B. Genesis 14:22
- C. Genesis 17:1
- D. Genesis 21:33

III. God is listening.

- A. 2 Kings 19:16 – literally, “bend low, O Lord and listen.”
- B. Psalm 34:17
- C. John 9:31
- D. 1 Peter 3:12

Conclusion:

- A. What a wonderful privilege we have as a Christian.
- B. As a Christian we have God, the Father, sitting on His throne.
- C. He listens to us and answers according to His will.

Walk Before the Lord Like Hezekiah

2 Kings 20:3

Introduction:

- A. In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death.
- B. Isaiah the prophet went in to him and said, *“Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live”* (2 Kings 20:1).
- C. Hezekiah prayed to the Lord and said, *“Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before you”* (2 Kings 20:3).
- D. How did Hezekiah walk before the Lord?

I. In truth.

- A. 2 Corinthians 5:7 — Romans 10:17
- B. 1 John 1:7
- C. 2 John 6
- D. 3 John 3,4

II. With a loyal (faithful) heart.

- A. Proverbs 3:5
- A. Mark 12:30
- B. Ephesians 6:6
- C. 1 Thessalonians 1:3
- D. 1 Peter 3:15

III. Have done what is good in Your sight.

- A. Proverbs 12:2
- B. Isaiah 1:17
- C. Colossians 1:10
- D. 1 Timothy 2:1-3

Conclusion:

- A. What a good example Hezekiah is to us.
- B. Because Hezekiah was a good man, God blessed him.

Finding the Book of God

2 Kings 22:8-20

Introduction:

- A. In this time of history Israel has fallen, and Judah is hardly able to hang on.
- B. Manasseh and Amon are evil and terrible kings of Judah.
- C. Josiah comes to the throne and is a good king.
 - 1. He does what is right in the sight of God and does not turn aside to the right hand or the left hand.
 - 2. He repairs the temple.
- D. Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, *"I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the Lord"* (2 Kings 22:8).
- E. What a sad situation in Israel, the book of the Law of the Lord had been lost, and now it is found.
- F. What happens when we lose the book of God?

I. It will not be read.

- A. 2 Kings 22:8,10
- B. Psalm 1:1-3
- C. 1 Timothy 4:13-16
- D. 2 Timothy 2:15

II. It will not be obeyed.

- A. 2 Kings 22:13
- B. Acts 5:29
- C. Hebrews 5:8,9
- D. 1 Peter 4:17

III. It will bring God's wrath.

- A. 2 Kings 22:17
- B. Ephesians 5:6
- C. Colossians 3:5,6
- D. Hebrews 2:2

Conclusion:

- A. Let us have the heart of Josiah and be upset when God's word is not read and followed.
- B. Let us have the heart of Josiah who had a tender and humble heart to follow the Lord.

Enlarging the Borders of the Kingdom

1 Chronicles 4:10

Introduction:

- A. Jabez prayed that the Lord would **enlarge his borders**.
- B. Let us pray to the Lord that He will enable us to **enlarge the Borders of His Kingdom**.
- C. Let us pray and work to:

I. Help me enlarge my borders.

- A. 1 Chronicles 4:10
- B. Hebrews 13:6
- C. 2 Timothy 4:17,18

II. Enlarge my borders.

- A. 1 Chronicles 4:10
- B. Acts 1:8
- C. 2 Thessalonians 1:7,8

III. Make me able.

- A. 1 Chronicles 4:8
- B. Ephesians 3:20
- C. 2 Timothy 1:12

IV. Protect me.

- A. 1 Chronicle 4:10
- B. 2 Samuel 22:3
- C. Psalm 94:22

V. Work untroubled.

- A. 1 Chronicles 4:10
- B. 2 Thessalonians 3:1
- C. 2 Timothy 2:9

Conclusion:

- A. God will grant what we request.
- B. God will enlarge our borders.

Lessons from Saul's Death

1 Chronicles 10:13

Introduction:

- A. The death of Saul is a terrible scene.
- B. When the Philistines defeated Saul, they found Saul and his sons, they stripped him, took his head and his armor, and sent word throughout the land of the Philistines to proclaim the news among the people (1 Chronicles 10:8,9).
- C. They took his armor in the temple and fastened his head in the temple of Dagon (1 Chronicles 10:10).
- D. When all Jabesh Gilead heard all that the Philistines had done to Saul, they went up and took the body of Saul and his sons and buried their bones and fasted seven days (1 Chronicles 10:11,12).
- E. 1 Chronicles 10:13 tells us the cause of Saul's terrible death:

I. Because of his unfaithfulness.

- A. Proverbs 25:19
- B. Hosea 10:1
- C. Matthew 25:30
- D. 2 Peter 1:8

II. Because he did not keep the Word of the Lord.

- A. 1 Kings 9:6,7
- B. 2 Kings 17:15,16,20
- C. Nehemiah 1:8,9
- D. 1 John 2:3

III. Because he asked a medium for guidance.

- A. Exodus 22:18
- B. Leviticus 19:31
- C. Deuteronomy 18:9-12
- D. Galatians 5:19-21

Conclusion:

- A. May we learn some good lessons from Saul's terrible death!
- B. This is why God allowed him to die such a terrible death.

God Means What He Says

1 Chronicles 13:6-14

Introduction:

- A. In this passage we read of Uzzah dying for touching the ark.
- B. Read Exodus 25:14,15 and 1 Chronicles 15:15 for the way God had instructed the children of Israel to move the ark.
- C. In this text we see a great lesson, “God means what He says”.
- D. Lets make application of this in the following ways.

I. God means what He said about marriage and divorce.

- A. Genesis 2:24
- B. 1 Corinthians 7:2
- C. Matthew 19:3-12

II. God means what He says about the Christian and worldliness.

- A. Romans 12:2
- B. James 1:27
- C. 1 John 2:15-17

III. God means what He says about the church.

- A. Matthew 16:18
- B. Ephesians 4:4
- C. Colossians 1:24

IV. God means what He says about baptism.

- A. Acts 8:12
- B. Colossians 2:12
- C. 1 Peter 3:21

V. God means what He says about obeying the gospel.

- A. Mark 16:15,16
- B. Acts 2:38,47
- C. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

Conclusion:

- A. The lesson, “God means what He says” could be applied to many things.
- A. God always means what He says.
- B. He means to be obeyed, and we will be punished if we do not obey Him.

Worship the Lord in His Beauty

1 Chronicles 16:29

Introduction:

- A. Worship is beautiful when we understand Who we worship.
- B. Worship is uplifting when we understand why we worship.
- C. Worship is faith-building when we understand how to worship.
- D. How can we worship the Lord in His beauty?

I. When we properly understand Who we worship.

- A. John 4:23,24
- B. Acts 24:14
- C. Matthew 4:10

II. When we properly understand why we worship.

- A. Psalm 96:8
- B. Psalm 99:5
- C. Revelation 4:9-11
- D. Hebrews 10:25

III. When we properly understand how to worship.

- A. John 4:24
- B. Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7
- C. 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:7
- D. Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16

Conclusion:

- A. Let us say with the Psalmist of old *“I was glad when they said to me, Let us go into the house of the Lord”* (Psalm 122:1).
- B. Let us worship the Lord in His beauty.

Satan Stood Up Against Israel

1 Chronicles 21:1,7,8,14

Introduction:

- A. Since Adam and Eve, Satan has stood up against mankind (1 Peter 5:8).

- B. He is standing up against mankind today.
- C. How is Satan standing up against mankind to get them to sin?

I. Unbelief.

- A. John 8:43-47
- B. John 12:37
- C. Hebrews 3:12
- D. 2 Peter 3:4,5

II. Fornication/adultery.

- A. Proverbs 6:23-29
- B. Matthew 5:28
- C. 1 Corinthians 6:9
- D. Proverbs 7:27

III. The modern dance.

- A. 1 Corinthians 6:20
- B. 1 Corinthians 15:33
- C. 1 Thessalonians 5:22
- D. Galatians 5:19-21

IV. Drinking strong drink.

- A. Proverbs 20:1
- B. Romans 13:12,13
- C. 1 Corinthians 5:11
- D. 1 Peter 4:1-3

V. Immodest clothing.

- A. Romans 12:1,2
- B. 1 Corinthians 6:20
- C. 1 Timothy 2:9
- D. 1 Peter 1:13-16

Conclusion:

- A. Don't let Satan stand up and cause you to sin.
- B. The Lord will punish us if Satan stands up against us and causes us to sin.

Everything Worthwhile Costs

1 Chronicles 21:18-24

Introduction:

- A. *“The angel of the Lord commanded Gad to say to David that David should go and erect an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite” (1 Chronicles 21:18).*
- B. David went up to Ornan; Ornan saw David and bowed down to David with his face to the ground. David said to Ornan, *“Give me the place of this threshing floor; that I may build an altar on it to the Lord.”* David said, *“You can charge me the full price.”*
- C. Ornan said to David, *“You can have it and do what is good in your eyes, and I will give you the oxen for burnt offerings, the threshing implements for wood, and the wheat for the grain offering; I give it all.”*
- D. *“Then King David said to Ornan, ‘No, but I will surely buy it for the full price, for I will not take what is yours for the Lord, nor offer burnt offerings with that which costs me nothing.’” (1 Chronicles 21:24).*

I. We should have the same attitude about giving our time.

- A. Psalm 89:47
- B. Ephesians 5:15,16
- C. Colossians 4:5

II. We should have the same attitude about giving our talents.

- A. Matthew 25:14-30
- B. Ecclesiastes 9:10
- C. Colossians 3:23,24

III. We should have the same attitude about giving our money.

- A. Acts 20:35
- B. 2 Corinthians 8:1-5
- C. 2 Corinthians 9:6,7

IV. We should have the same attitude about giving ourselves.

- A. Deuteronomy 6:5
- B. Matthew 22:37
- C. Matthew 6:33

Conclusion:

- A. Are **you** giving the Lord things that cost you nothing?
- B. Start **today** giving the Lord things that cost you something, and receive a great blessing.

For They Offered Willingly

1 Chronicles 29:6-15

Introduction:

- A. David has called on all the leaders of Israel in Jerusalem to make plans for building the temple of God.
- B. He reminds the people that this temple is not for man, but for the Lord.
- C. David tells them that he is prepared to give his best and his all for the temple of God.
- D. Then David challenges Israel to give to the Lord, and they accept the challenge to give.

I. They understood that they were giving to the Lord for the Lord's work.

- A. Exodus 35:29
- B. Matthew 6:1-4
- C. Luke 21:1-4

II. They gave willingly to the Lord.

- A. 2 Corinthians 8:1-5
- B. 2 Corinthians 8:12-14
- C. 2 Corinthians 9:1,2

III. They had a loyal heart.

- A. Mark 12:30
- B. Romans 12:1,2
- C. Ephesians 5:1,2

IV. They understood that all they had came from the Lord.

- A. Malachi 3:8-10
- B. John 3:27
- C. James 1:17

Conclusion:

- A. Remember that you are giving to the Lord.
- B. Give to the Lord willingly, with a loyal heart, and understand that the Lord has given you everything with which you are blessed.

Worship the Lord 2 Chronicles 7:3

Introduction:

- A. In every Bible age God has commanded and expected His people to worship Him.
- B. Why does the Lord want us to worship Him?

I. The first reason for worship is simply that God commands us to worship Him.

- A. Exodus 20:5,6
- B. 1 Chronicles 16:29
- C. Matthew 4:10

II. An equally important reason for worship is that God deserves our worship.

- A. Psalm 100:4,5 – God deserves our worship because of His goodness.
- B. Exodus 4:31 – God deserves our worship because of His mercy.
- C. Psalm 99:5,9 – God deserves our worship because of His holiness.
- D. Revelation 4:11 – God deserves our worship because of His creative power.

III. A final reason for worship is that men need to give it.

- A. Psalm 115:1-8
- B. John 4:23,24
- C. Revelation 7:9-12

Conclusion:

- A. When we worship the Lord in spirit and truth, we find great joy.
- B. The Lord is honored and glorified when we worship Him correctly as He commands.

Do Not Fight Against the Lord

2 Chronicles 13:1-12

Introduction:

- A. In the days when there was war between Abijah and Jeroboam, Abijah stood on Mount Zemaraim and spoke to Jeroboam and all Israel.
- B. Abijah reminds Jeroboam and Israel, “do not fight against the Lord” (2 Chronicles 13:12).
- C. What a great lesson for us today, “We cannot fight against the Lord”.

I. Because He has dominion.

- A. Psalm 8:6
- B. Daniel 4:34
- C. Jude 25

II. Because He has established His kingdom.

- A. Daniel 2:44
- B. Matthew 16:18,19
- C. Hebrews 12:28

III. Because the Lord is our God.

- A. 2 Samuel 22:2
- B. Psalm 46:1
- C. Isaiah 25:9

IV. Because we keep His commandments.

- A. John 14:15
- B. 1 John 2:3
- C. 1 John 5:3

Conclusion:

- A. Learn a valuable lesson, “We cannot fight against the Lord”.
- B. Know that He has dominion, an eternal kingdom. He is our God, and we keep His commandments.
- C. Let the Lord have dominion in your life.

The Lord Is with You

1 Chronicles 15:1-7

Introduction:

- A. For a long time Israel had been without the true God, without a teaching priest, and without law.
- B. When Israel was in trouble, they turned to the Lord and He was there for them.
- C. In verses one and two, the Spirit of God came upon Azariah, the son of Oded, and he spoke to Asa, Judah, and Benjamin, and said:

I. The Lord is with you while you are with Him.

- A. 1 Chronicles 15:2
- B. 1 Chronicles 28:9
- C. James 4:8

II. If you seek Him, He will be found by you.

- A. 1 Chronicles 15:2
- B. Isaiah 55:6
- C. Amos 5:4

III. IF YOU FORSAKE HIM, HE WILL FORSAKE YOU.

- A. 1 Chronicles 15:2
- B. Isaiah 54:6-8
- C. Jeremiah 15:6

Conclusion:

- A. If we forsake the Lord, He will forsake us.
- B. If we seek the Lord, He will seek us.
- C. If we are with the Lord, He will be with us.

The Eyes of the Lord Run To and Fro

2 Chronicles 16:7-10

Introduction:

- A. Hanani, the seer, came to Asa, king of Judah, and rebuked him because he depended on the king of Syria. Because of that, the army of Syria had escaped from Asa's hand.

- B. When Asa had depended on the Lord, the Lord delivered the Ethiopians and the Lubim which were huge armies into his hands.
 - C. Hanani told Asa, “The eyes of the Lord run to and fro” (2 Chronicles 16:9).
- I. The eyes of the Lord run to and fro through the whole earth**
- A. 2 Chronicles 16:9
 - B. Psalm 33:15,16
 - C. Habakkuk 1:13
- II. To show Himself strong.**
- A. 2 Chronicles 16:9
 - B. Psalm 46:1
 - C. Nahum 1:7
- III. On behalf of those whose hearts are loyal to Him.**
- A. 2 Chronicles 16:9
 - B. Psalm 31:23
 - C. 2 Timothy 4:7,8

Conclusion:

- A. If you and I will depend on the Lord, He will deliver us.
- B. If you and I will depend on the Lord, He will show Himself strong.

Amaziah Did Not Have a Loyal Heart

2 Chronicles 25:1-4,15

Introduction:

- A. In 2 Chronicles 25:1-4 we read of Amaziah, king of Judah.
 - B. He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem.
 - C. What do we learn about Amaziah?
- . He did what was right in the sight of the Lord.**
- A. 2 Chronicles 25:2
 - B. Deuteronomy 6:18
 - C. Matthew 13:43

II. He did not serve the Lord with a loyal heart.

- A. 2 Chronicles 25:2
- B. Mark 12:29,30
- C. Ephesians 6:6

III. God punished him because he did not have a loyal heart.

- A. 2 Chronicles 25:15,16
- B. Jeremiah 5:23-25
- C. Jeremiah 49:16

Conclusion:

- A. God will bless us when we do right in the sight of the Lord.
- B. Do not make the terrible mistake of Amaziah and fail to serve the Lord with a loyal heart.
- C. God will punish us when we fail to serve Him with a loyal heart.

Lessons from Manasseh

2 Chronicles 33:1-17

Introduction:

- A. Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem.
- B. What lessons do we learn from this king of Judah?

I. He committed sin and rebellion.

- A. 2 Chronicles 33:1-7
- B. Deuteronomy 4:19
- C. Deuteronomy 18:10-12

II. Warning.

- A. 2 Chronicles 33:8-10
- B. Deuteronomy 11:26-28
- C. 1 Samuel 15:22

III. Punishment.

- A. 2 Chronicles 33:11,12
- B. 1 Peter 2:7,8
- C. Romans 5:12-19

IV. Repentance.

- A. 2 Chronicles 33:13-17
- B. 1 Samuel 7:3
- C. Acts 8:21,222

Conclusion:

- A. Let us learn these valuable lessons from Manasseh.
- B. May God help us to have a good heart and repent when we have disobeyed the Lord.

God's Word Will Reform and Purify

2 Chronicles 34:14,29-33

Introduction:

- A. The Book of the Law had been lost.
- B. When the money was brought into the house of the Lord, Hilkiah, the priest, found the Book of the Law of the Lord given by Moses.

I. We need to share the Word of God.

- A. 2 Chronicles 34:30
- B. Matthew 28:19,20
- C. Acts 19:8-10
- D. 1 Thessalonians 1:8

II. God's Word will reform.

- A. 2 Chronicles 34:31
- B. Acts 17:30,31
- C. Acts 19:18-20
- D. Revelation 3:19

III. God's Word will purify.

- A. 2 Chronicles 34:32,33
- B. Psalm 24:3-5
- C. Titus 1:15
- D. Matthew 5:8

Conclusion:

- A. Let us teach the Word of God in our houses, in the house of God (the church), and to others.
- B. God's word will truly reform and purify a person.

The People Transgressed More and More

2 Chronicles 36:14-16

Introduction:

- A. 1 and 2 Chronicles is a divine editorial on the history of God's people.
- B. It is their high and low points, their good points and low points.
- C. It is about God's people obeying and pleasing Him and about them making their God sad.
- D. It is about God blessing His people and cursing His people.
- E. As 2 Chronicles closes, our text is about God allowing the city of Jerusalem to be destroyed and His people being carried away into captivity. Why?
- F. The people transgressed more and more. How?

I. The people defiled the house of the Lord.

- A. 2 Timothy 3:15
- B. Galatians 1:7-9
- C. Revelation 22:18,19

II. The people mocked the messengers of God.

- A. 1 Peter 4:11
- B. 2 Kings 2:22-24
- C. 2 Peter 3:1-3
- D. Jude 17-19

III. The people despised the Word of God.

- A. Jeremiah 23:28
- B. 2 Timothy 4:2-5
- C. Revelation 1:9

Conclusion:

- A. Let us not be like God's people of old.
- B. Let us respect the house of the Lord (the church), encourage and lift up the hands of those who preach the gospel faithfully, and love the word of God.

They Gave According to Their Ability

Ezra 2:68-70

Introduction:

- A. Ezra was a priest, and his job was to rebuild the spiritual condition of God's people.
- B. Ezra led the second group of Jews back to their homeland in 457 B.C.
- C. Ezra encourages the people to give to the Lord so that the house of the Lord might be rebuilt.
- D. What can we learn from their giving?

I. Heads of the family took the lead.

- A. Ezra 2:68
- B. Ephesians 5:23
- C. 1 Timothy 5:8

II. They offered freely.

- A. Ezra 2:68
- B. Romans 8:32
- C. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

III. They gave according to their ability.

- A. Ezra 2:69
- B. 2 Corinthians 8:3,5,12
- C. 1 Corinthians 16:1,2

Conclusion:

- A. Are YOU giving to the Lord?
- B. Are YOU setting the right example as the head of your family?
- C. Are YOU giving FREELY and ACCORDING TO YOUR ABILITY?

How Do We Prepare Our Heart?

Ezra 7:10

Introduction:

- A. Ezra came up from Babylon, and he was a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses.

- B. For the great spiritual revival of God's people, Ezra prepared his heart for this challenging work of the Lord.
- C. How did he prepare his heart?

I. To seek the Law of the Lord.

- A. Ezra 7:10
- B. Psalm 1:2
- C. Acts 17:11
- D. 2 Timothy 2:15

II. To do it.

- A. Ezra 7:10
- B. Matthew 7:21-27
- C. 2 Thessalonians 1:8,9
- D. James 1:21-25

III. To teach it to others.

- A. Ezra 7:10
- B. Matthew 28:19,20
- C. Acts 5:42
- D. Acts 4:29,31

Conclusion:

- A. Is your heart prepared for the challenges of life?
- B. If not, will you prepare your heart today?

The Righteous Remnant

Ezra 9:8-10,15

Introduction:

- A. The word, remnant, means, "What is left over, remaining, surviving".
- B. There has always been the "Righteous Remnant" in every Bible age or time.
- C. Let us look closer at the righteous remnant.

I. Grace is shown from the Lord.

- A. Ezra 9:8
- B. Genesis 6:8
- C. Romans 11:5-7

II. God did not forsake.

- A. Ezra 9:9
- B. Luke 14:33
- C. Hebrews 13:5

III. Mercy extended from the Lord.

- A. Ezra 9:9
- B. Lamentation 3:22,23
- C. 1 Peter 1:3
- D. Titus 3:5-7

IV. Blessings given from the Lord.

- A. Ezra 9:9
- B. Ephesians 1:3-5
- C. Colossians 1:13,14
- D. Romans 8:30

Conclusion:

- A. Yes, the Lord has a “Righteous Remnant” today, and it is those who walk in the confined way (Matthew 7:13,14).
- B. Are YOU in the “narrow way” that leads to eternal life?

Principles for Building a Church for God

Nehemiah 1 and 2

Introduction:

- A. Nehemiah was a co-worker of Ezra.
- B. Nehemiah is a governor who builds for God.
- C. Nehemiah was granted permission to return to his homeland; Nehemiah challenges God’s people to rise to the occasion.
- D. In chapters 1 and 2, we see principles for building for God.

I. Total commitment to God’s work.

- A. Nehemiah 1:4
- B. Matthew 10:37-39
- C. Acts 20:19-24

II. Saw the need.

- A. Nehemiah 2:12,13

B. Luke 9:62

C. John 4:35

III. Worked the plan.

A. Nehemiah 2:17,18

B. 1 Corinthians 3:5-11

C. Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:16

D. Ephesians 2:10

Conclusion:

A. God would bless their work for Him (Nehemiah 2:20).

B. God will bless our work for Him. (Joshua 1:7; James 1:25).

Qualities in Leadership

Nehemiah 1-4

Introduction:

A. Nehemiah holds a position of great responsibility as cupbearer to Artaxerxes I (Nehemiah 1:11).

B. Nehemiah leads the third and last return to Jerusalem from Babylon exile.

C. Nehemiah was a faithful leader of God's people and led them back to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

D. What were the qualities that he possessed that all leaders in the Lord's church need to possess?

I. Leadership must be deserved, not demanded.

A. Nehemiah 1:3,4

B. Nehemiah 2:11-13,17

II. Leaders must be men of prayer.

A. Nehemiah 1:4

B. Acts 13:4

III. Leaders must be able to plan and inspire others to engage in work.

A. Nehemiah 2:12,17,18

B. Titus 2:7

IV. Leaders must be enthusiastic.

- A. Nehemiah 2:17,20; 4:20,23
 - B. Romans 12:11
- V. Leaders must be willing to give time and thought to the work of the Lord.**
- A. Nehemiah 2:11,12
 - B. Colossians 4:5
 - C. Proverbs 23:7
- VI. Leaders must be willing to take the work of the Lord at heart.**
- A. Nehemiah 2:2
 - B. Ephesians 6:6
- VII. Leaders should not spend all their time making plans.**
- A. Nehemiah 2:17
 - B. James 1:22
- VIII. Leaders should have confidence in the Cause.**
- A. Nehemiah 2:20
 - B. 2 Timothy 1:12
- IX. Leaders must be willing to work.**
- A. Nehemiah 4:23
 - B. Titus 2:14

Conclusion:

- A. Let us develop the qualities of Nehemiah.
- B. Are you developing in your life the qualities of Nehemiah?
- C. God needs you as a leader.

We Will Have Opposition to God's Work

Nehemiah 4-6

Introduction:

- A. Nehemiah led God's people back to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
- B. In the beginning all went well in God's work.
- C. Before long, opposition set in, but Nehemiah and God's people continued.
- D. How did the opposition come?

I. Opposition came through ridicule.

- A. Nehemiah 4:1-6
- B. Matthew 5:10-12
- C. Acts 17:32

II. Opposition came through attack.

- A. Nehemiah 4:7-9
- B. Acts 4:13-22
- C. 1 Peter 4:12-16

III. Opposition came through discouragement.

- A. Nehemiah 4:10-23
- B. 2 Timothy 3:12
- C. Romans 8:31-37

V. Opposition came through compromise.

- A. Nehemiah 6:1-4
- B. Psalm 1:1
- C. 2 John 7-11

VI. Opposition came through slander.

- A. Nehemiah 6:5-9
- B. 1 Peter 2:11,12
- C. 1 Peter 3:13-16

Conclusion:

- A. Let us be like Nehemiah and Israel, let us do the Lord's work in face of opposition.
- B. Let us not let opposition stop us from being successful in doing the Lord's work.

Reading God's Word

Nehemiah 8:1-9

Introduction:

- A. The person who will read has a much better opportunity of knowing and understanding God's word than the person who depends on what others tell him about the Word of God.
- B. Reading the Word of God is a very important part of communicating God's Word to God's people.

- C. Here are some suggestions to help you in receiving the greatest benefit from reading the Bible.

I. Read it prayerfully.

- A. Psalm 119:18
- B. James 1:5

II. Read the Bible thoughtfully.

- A. Psalm 1:2
- B. 1 Timothy 4:13-16

III. Read the Bible carefully.

- A. Acts 17:11
- B. 2 Timothy 2:15

IV. Read the Bible regularly.

- A. Psalm 119:105
- B. Acts 17:11

V. Read the Bible obediently.

- A. Exodus 24:3,7
- B. James 1:21,22

Conclusion:

- A. Public reading of the Word of God was a regular part of the worship services in Israel and in the early church.
- B. We will be judged by the Word of God, so we need to read it, search it, believe it, obey it, and share it with others.
- C. Are you obeying the Word of God?

You Have Come to the Kingdom for Such a Time as This

Esther 4:13,14

Introduction:

- A. Esther is written to the many Jews who did not return to their homeland. Not all the godly people left; some did not return for legitimate reasons.
- B. Most were disobedient in staying in Persia. Nevertheless God continued to care for His people in voluntary exile.

- C. Esther is chosen by the king of Persia, Ahasuerus, as his queen. Haman rises to power, and because Mordecai would not bow to him, he plots to kill Mordecai and all the Jews.
- D. Mordecai sent word to Esther to go to the king and ask for his help. Esther sent word to Mordecai that only if requested could the queen go into the king and that she had not been called for thirty days.
- E. Read Esther 4:13,14 – *“Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”*
- F. What a question for you and me! Have you come to the kingdom (church) for such a time as this?

I. To shine as a light in the world.

- A. Matthew 5:15,16
- B. Ephesians 5:8-11
- C. Philippians 2:15,16

II. To teach the gospel to the lost.

- A. Acts 5:42
- B. Acts 8:4,5
- C. 1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

III. To edify others.

- A. Romans 14:19
- B. Romans 15:1,2
- C. 1 Thessalonians 5:11

IV. To do your part.

- A. Exodus 17:10-12
- B. Ezekiel 22:30
- C. Ephesians 4:12

Conclusion:

- A. Esther stepped up for God, went to the king, and revealed the plot of wicked Haman. King Ahasuerus hangs Haman on his own gallows, and Israel is victorious over her enemies.
- C. If you and I will understand that we have come to the kingdom for such a time as this, we will be victorious.

My Servant Job, There Is None Like Him on the Earth

Job 1:8

Introduction:

- A. The book of Job is set in the time of patriarchs, such as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.
- B. There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job.
- C. He had a wife and ten children; he had many possessions in this world.
- D. What do we learn about the character of this man Job who lived for and served God?

I. He was blameless.

- A. The word, blameless, means, “freedom from fault; innocent”.
- B. Psalm 119:80
- C. Philippians 3:15
- D. Colossians 1:22
- E. 2 Peter 3:11-14

II. He was upright.

- A. The word, Righteous, means, “that which is upright”.
- B. Matthew 13:43
- C. Ephesians 4:23,24
- D. Philippians 3:9
- E. Titus 2:11-13

III. He was one who feared God.

- A. The word, fear, here means, “awesome respect for God”.
- B. Psalm 111:10
- C. Psalm 112:1-10
- D. Hebrews 12:28

IV. He was one who shunned evil.

- A. The word, shun, means, “turn away from; avoid”.
- B. 1 Thessalonians 5:22
- C. 1 Thessalonians 4:3,4
- D. 1 Peter 2:11,12

Conclusion:

- A. Job is a great example to us in all that we face in life as a child of God.
- B. Let every Christian work daily to have the character of Job.
- B. If we will, we will be blessed in this life and in the life to come.

Purposes of Suffering

Job 2:7-9

Introduction:

- A. The book of Job shows us a suffering servant of God.
- B. Job's friends asked the question, "Why is Job suffering"?
- C. Perhaps the most painful question confronting God's children is the problem of suffering.
- D. Why does a loving and wise God permit His children to suffer?
- E. The Scriptures offer a number of reasons for this.

I. To produce fruit.

- A. It can bring forth patience (James 1:3).
- B. It can bring forth joy (Psalm 30:4,5).
- C. It can bring forth knowledge (Psalm 94:12).
- D. It can bring forth maturity (1 Peter 5:10).

II. To refine our lives.

- A. Psalm 66:10-12
- B. Proverbs 17:3
- C. 1 Peter 1:6,7

III. To teach us to depend on the Lord.

- A. This is brought out by Christ (John 15:1-4).
- B. This is brought out by Paul (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

IV. So that we can comfort others.

- A. 2 Corinthians 1:3-7
- B. It has been said that the person who has suffered much understands others.

V. To silence the devil.

- A. Satan once accused Job of simply serving God for the material blessings involved (Job 1:9-12).
- B. But the Lord allowed the devil to torment Job to show that His servant loved Him because of who He was, and not for what he could get from Him (Job 2:3-7).

VI. To glorify God.

- A. John 9:1-3
- B. John 11:1-4

Conclusion:

- A. Try to understand the purpose when you suffer.
- B. Remember that we can benefit from suffering if we have the right attitude.
- C. Suffering makes us like Jesus (Philippians 3:10).

I Will Trust Him

Job 13:15,16

Introduction:

- A. Job was a God fearing man.
- B. God allowed Satan to test him.
- C. Job faced many different kinds of trials in life.
- D. No matter what happened to Job, he trusted the Lord.
 - 1. Trust means to put one's confidence in the Lord.

I. Our trust should not be in:

- A. Man (Jeremiah 17:5).
- B. Works (Jeremiah 48:7).
- C. Wealth (Psalm 49:6,7).
- D. One's own righteousness (Ezekiel 33:13).

II. Our trust should be in:

- A. God's name, who He is (Psalm 33:21).
- B. God's Word (Psalm 119:42).
- C. Christ (Matthew 12:17-21).

III. Benefits of trusting in the Lord.

- A. Joy (Psalm 5:11).

- B. Deliverance (Psalm 22:4,5).
- C. Safety (Psalm 56:4,11).
- D. Inheritance (Isaiah 57:13).

Conclusion:

- A. Do you trust in the Lord?
- B. If so, you will reap the benefits.

Man Flees Like a Shadow

Job 14:1,2

Introduction:

- A. We are born of woman and face many challenges in life (Job 14:1).
- B. *We come forth like a flower and fade away*" (Job 14:2).
- C. *"We flee like a shadow and do not continue"* (Job 14:2).

I. We come into this world.

- A. Job 14:1
- B. Job 5:7
- C. Ecclesiastes 3:2

II. We face many trials in life.

- A. 1 Corinthians 10:13 – We can endure trials.
- B. 1 Peter 1:6-9 – Purifies our faith.
- C. James 1:3,4 – Increases patience.
- D. Matthew 5:10-12 – We will be rewarded when we face trials.

III. We flee like a shadow.

- A. 1 Chronicles 29:15 – Like a shadow.
- B. Job 7:9 – Like a cloud.
- C. James 4:14 – Like vapor.
- D. 1 Peter 1:24 – Like grass that withers.

Conclusion:

- A. How are you facing problems?
- B. How are you spending your life?
- C. Remember, life is short and passes away before you know it.

If a Man Dies, Will He Live Again?

Job 14:14

Introduction:

- A. This is a sobering question.
- B. It is a question that people have asked since the beginning.
- C. It is a question that we need to know before we die and leave this earth.
- D. It is a question that we need to know for the comfort of those who have gone before us.

I. It is certain that we will die.

- A. Job 14:14
- B. Job 10:21
- C. Ecclesiastes 9:10
- D. Hebrews 9:27

II. Will we live again?

- A. Job 14:14
- B. Psalm 23:4
- C. Luke 16:19-24
- D. 1 Corinthians 15:54-57

III. Where we will live will be determined by us.

- A. Matthew 25:40-46
- B. John 5:29
- C. 2 Corinthians 5:9,10
- D. Galatians 6:7-9

Conclusion:

- A. We will die!
- B. Are you ready to die?
- C. Live right and die right, so that you will spend eternity with the Lord.

Lay Up God's Word in Your Heart

Job 22:22

Introduction:

- A. As a Christian read God's word daily.

- B. As a Christian study God's word daily.
- C. What are the benefits of laying up God's words in your heart?

I. It keeps the child of God from sinning.

- A. Psalm 119:11
- B. Psalm 119:130
- C. Psalm 119:9,11

II. It provides comfort in times of trouble.

- A. Psalm 119:52,92
- B. Psalm 107:20
- C. Psalm 119:47,97,162

III. It keeps your mind upon God.

- A. Psalm 43:3
- B. 2 Timothy 3:16,17
- C. Hebrews 4:12

IV. It provides guidance in all situations of life.

- A. Proverbs 6:20-23
- B. Psalm 119:133
- C. Titus 2:5

V. It provides daily good for your life.

- A. Deuteronomy 8:3
- B. Ephesians 4:15
- C. 1 Peter 2:2

Conclusion:

- A. Are you reading and studying God's word daily?
- B. Do it, and you will "lay up God's word in your heart".

Stand Still and Consider the Wondrous Works of God

Job 37:14

Introduction:

- A. God is truly wonderful; God is awesome.

- B. Sometimes we need to just stand still and think about how awesome He is, and how wondrous His works are.
- C. God's wondrous works

I. God's wondrous works described as:

- A. Deuteronomy 32:4 – Perfect.
- B. Psalm 66:3 – Awesome.
- C. Psalm 86:8 – Incomparable.
- D. Revelation 15:3 – Great and Marvelous.

II. God's wondrous works shown in:

- A. Genesis 1:1-3 – Creation.
- B. Psalm 8:3 – Heavens.
- C. Psalm 107:24 – Deeps.
- D. Titus 2:14 – God's people.

III. God's people's attitude toward:

- A. Psalm 8:3 – Consider.
- B. Psalm 46:8 – Behold.
- C. Psalm 143:5 – Meditate upon.
- D. Psalm 145:4,10 – Praise God for.

Conclusion:

- A. Have YOU stood still and considered the wondrous works of God?
- B. If not, why not start doing it NOW.

The Way of the Righteous

Psalm 1:1-6

Introduction:

- A. In Psalm chapter 1, we read about the way of the righteous.
- B. The word, righteous, means, “that which is upright”.
- C. One who is righteous can be described as:

I. One who is godly.

- A. Psalm 1:1
- B. 2 Timothy 3:12
- C. Titus 2:11,12

II. His delight is in God's Word.

- A. Psalm 1:2
- B. Psalm 119:14,16,35
- C. Psalm 119:97

III. The blessings of the godly.

- A. Psalm 1:3
- B. Jeremiah 17:7,8
- C. Psalm 4:3

Conclusion:

- A. *"Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father"* (Matthew 13:43).
- A. Are YOU living a righteous life?
- B. If so, you are receiving blessings from the Lord.

Lord, You Are a Shield for Me

Psalm 3:3-8

Introduction:

- A. The word, shield, means, "a protective armor".
- B. The Lord is a protection for His people.
- C. How is the Lord a protection for His people?

I. The One who lifts up my head.

- A. Psalm 3:3
- B. Psalm 27:6
- C. James 4:10

II. The One who sustained me.

- A. Psalm 3:5
- B. Psalm 33:20
- C. Psalm 55:22

III. The One who does not allow me to be afraid.

- A. Psalm 3:6
- B. Psalm 27:1-3
- C. Psalm 56:3,4

IV. The One who gives me salvation.

- A. Psalm 3:8
- B. Psalm 18:35
- C. Psalm 68:20

Conclusion:

- A. God blesses His people with a shield.
- B. Are YOU putting on the protective armor of the Lord?

How Long, O Lord?

Psalms 13:1-6

Introduction

- A. In this text we see David, *“a man after God’s own heart”*.
- B. We see David crying out to God.
- C. We see David in three positions.

I. David on his face.

- A. Psalm 13:1,2
- B. Genesis 17:3
- C. David is on his face in respect, talking with God.
 - 1. Has God forgotten me?
 - 2. Does God care?
 - 3. I am going to work it out.

II. David on his knees.

- A. Psalm 13:3,4
- B. Ephesians 3:14
- C. Hebrews 12:12

III. David on his feet.

- A. Psalm 13:5,6
- B. 1 Thessalonians 4:1
- C. 1 Thessalonians 2:12

Conclusion:

- A. Let us be like David on our face in respect of God.
- B. Let us be like David on our knees in prayer to God.
- C. Let us be like David on our feet ready to walk in a way pleasing to God.

Deliverance By God

Psalm 18:1,2

Introduction:

- A. David, the servant of the Lord, is speaking to the Lord.
- B. David is speaking the words of this song on the day that the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies.
- C. David is speaking the words of this song on the day that the Lord delivered him from the hand of Saul.
- D. Look at the lessons we learn from David, and how he depends upon the Lord.

I. My strength.

- A. Psalm 18:1
- B. Ephesians 6:10
- C. Philippians 4:13

II. My rock.

- A. Psalm 18:2
- B. Psalm 27:5
- C. Matthew 16:18

III. My fortress.

- A. Psalm 18:2
- B. Psalm 31:2
- C. Jeremiah 1:18

IV. My deliverer.

- A. Psalm 18:2
- B. Daniel 3:17
- C. 2 Timothy 4:18

V. My God.

- A. Psalm 18:2
- B. Genesis 1:1
- C. Deuteronomy 7:21

VI. My shield.

- A. Psalm 18:2
- B. Genesis 15:1
- C. 2 Samuel 22:31

VII. My salvation.

- A. Psalm 18:2
- B. Psalm 68:20
- C. Psalm 71:15

VIII. My stronghold.

- A. Psalm 18:2
- B. 2 Samuel 22:3,40
- C. Ephesians 6:10,11

Conclusion:

- A. God will deliver us from our enemies and give us eternal life.
- B. What a great encouragement to us today.
- C. Are YOU depending on the Lord?

The Lord Is My Shepherd

Psalm 23:1-6

Introduction:

- A. There is no end to the greatness of the twenty-third Psalm.
- B. Psalm 23 is beautiful because it hold so many valuable lessons for us as the children of God.
- C. Let us look at some of these lessons.

I. We see — Divine Possession.

- A. Psalm 23:1 – “*The Lord is My Shepherd*”.
- B. John 10:27 – “*My sheep*”.

II. We See — A Divine Provision.

- A. Psalm 23:1 – “*I shall not want*”.
- B. Matthew 5:6 – “*For they shall be filled*”.

III. We See — A Divine Progression.

- A. Psalm 23:2 – “*He leads me beside the still waters*”.
- B. Matthew 11:28-30 – “*Come to me and I will give you rest*”.

IV. We See — A Divine Physician.

- A. Psalm 23:3 – “*He restores my soul*”.
- B. Psalm 51:1,2 – “*Cleanse me from my sin*”.

V. We See — A Divine Presence.

- A. Psalm 23:4 – *“For you are with me”*.
- B. Hebrews 13:5,6 – *“I will never leave you”*.

VI. We See — A Divine Providence.

- A. Psalm 23:6 – *“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life”*.
- B. Romans 8:28 – *“... all things work together for good”*.

VII. We See — A Divine Prospect.

- A. Psalm 23:6 – *“And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever”*.
- B. John 14:1-3 – *“In my Father’s house are many mansions”*.

Conclusion:

- A. We need to trust God as our Shepherd.
- B. The Lord is MY Shepherd, and that is all I want.
- C. Will YOU let the Lord be YOUR Shepherd?

The Eyes of the Lord Are on the Righteous

Psalm 34:15,16

Introduction:

- A. God’s people are a “special people”.
- B. God’s people enjoy many blessing because they are His people.
- C. In this text we see blessings for the righteous and a curse to those who do evil.

I. The Eyes of the Lord are on the Righteous.

- A. Psalm 34:15
- B. Job 36:7
- C. Proverbs 15:29

II. The Ears of the Lord are open to His People.

- A. Psalm 34:15
- B. Psalm 66:18,19
- C. 1 John 5:14

III. The face of the Lord are against those who do evil.

- A. Psalm 34:16
- B. Isaiah 59:1,2
- C. 1 Peter 3:10-12

Conclusion:

- A. It is a blessing to do right in the sight of the Lord.
- B. It is sad and a curse to do that which is against the Lord.
- C. Are you doing right in the sight of the Lord?

Roll It Off Onto the Lord

Psalm 37:5-7

Introduction:

- A. As a child of God we should not worry about things in life.
- B. As we see evil and people doing evil, we should be like David of old.
- C. What do we learn from these verses?

I. Do not fret.

- A. Psalm 37:1
- B. Matthew 6:25-35
- C. Philippians 4:6

II. Trust in the Lord.

- A. Psalm 37:3
- B. Psalm 33:21
- C. Psalm 56:3,4,11

III. Roll things off on the Lord.

- A. Psalm 37:5
- B. Psalm 55:22,23
- C. 1 Peter 5:7

III. Rest in the Lord and wait patiently.

- A. Psalm 37:7
- B. Isaiah 25:9
- C. Lamentations 3:26

Conclusion:

- A. What great and profitable lessons to learn.
- B. If we will do these things, we will be happy and pleasing to the Lord.
- C. Are you doing these things?

Confession and Forgiveness of Sin

Psalm 51

Introduction:

- A. Psalm 51 has as its background, the sin of David with Bathsheba.
- B. Nathan, the prophet/preacher, went to David and corrected him for his sin with Bathsheba.
- C. In this chapter we learn about confession and forgiveness of sin.

I. Have mercy on me.

- A. Psalm 51:1
- B. Isaiah 54:7
- C. 1 Peter 1:3

II. Blot out my transgressions.

- A. Psalm 51:1
- B. Psalm 32:1,5
- C. Psalm 103:12

III. Wash me completely from my iniquity.

- A. Psalm 51:2
- B. Revelation 1:5
- C. Acts 22:16

IV. I acknowledge my transgressions.

- A. Psalm 51:3
- B. Psalm 38:18
- C. 1 John 1:9,10

V. Create in me a clean heart.

- A. Psalm 51:10
- B. Psalm 73:1
- C. Matthew 5:8

VI. Restore to me the joy of your salvation.

- A. Psalm 51:12
- B. Acts 8:37-39
- C. Matthew 25:21,23

Conclusion:

- A. When we sin like David, we too need the mercy of the Lord.
- B. When we sin like David, we too need to acknowledge our sins.
- C. When we sin and acknowledge our sins, we again will have a clean heart and joy.

They Limited the Holy One of Israel

Psalm 78:40-42

Introduction:

- A. Israel often rebelled against God in the wilderness.
- B. Israel often grieved God in the wilderness.
- C. In Numbers 14:22, we know that Israel put God to the test again and again because they did not believe His word.
- D. Israel failed God, but how did they limit God?

I. They rebelled against God.

- A. Psalm 78:40
- B. Numbers 14:1-10
- C. Hebrews 3:14-16

II. They did not believe God's Word.

- A. Psalm 78:41
- B. Numbers 14:22
- C. Hebrews 3:17-19

III. They did not remember His power.

- A. Psalm 78:42
- B. Ephesians 1:19-23
- C. 1 Corinthians 6:14,20

IV. They did not remember His redemption.

- A. Psalm 78:42

- B. Ephesians 1:7
- C. Hebrews 9:15

Conclusion:

- A. Israel limited God and was punished for it.
- B. We can limit God and be punished for it.
- C. Are you limiting the Holy One of Israel?

The Character of God's Throne

Psalm 89:14

Introduction:

- A. Who can describe in fullness the throne of God?
- B. The throne of God is great and awesome.
- C. In this passage, we see a description of the throne of God.

I. Righteous is God's throne.

- A. Psalm 89:14
- B. John 17:25
- C. Psalm 33:4

II. Justice is God's throne.

- A. Psalm 89:14
- B. Deuteronomy 32:4
- C. Isaiah 30:18

III. Mercy is God's throne.

- A. Psalm 89:14
- B. Isaiah 54:7
- C. Isaiah 55:3

IV. Truth is God's throne.

- A. Psalm 89:14
- B. John 17:3
- C. Revelation 16:7

Conclusion:

- A. Knowing the character of God's throne should make us *"fear God and keep His commandments"*.
- B. How do you view the throne of God?

God's Word Is a Light to My Pathway

Psalm 119:105

Introduction

- A. God's word is a light to our pathway in life.
- B. Why is God's word a light to our pathway in life?

I. Because it is pure.

- A. Job 11:4
- B. Psalm 12:6
- C. Psalm 19:8

II. Because it is restraining.

- A. Psalm 119:9,11
- B. Psalm 119:133
- C. Matthew 7:13,14

III. Because it is perfect.

- A. Psalm 19:7
- B. 2 Timothy 3:16,17
- C. James 1:25

IV. Because it is sure.

- A. Psalms 111:7,8
- B. Isaiah 40:8
- C. Isaiah 55:11

Conclusion:

- A. Let God's word be a light to your pathway in life.
- B. When you let God's word be a light to your pathway in life, your life will be brighter and happier.
- C. Are you letting God's word be a light to your pathway?

How Pleasant It Is for Brethren to Dwell Together in Unity

Psalm 133:1-3

Introduction:

- A. Unity is often talked about, and many can see the need for unity.

- B. The Bible gives the answer to unity and spiritual oneness.
- C. How can we dwell together in unity as brethren?

I. Jesus prayed for it, and Paul pleaded for it.

- A. John 17:20,21
- B. 1 Corinthians 1:10

II. How can unity be achieved?

- A. Ephesians 4:1-3
 - 1. Note the word, “Walk”, – means the way of life.
 - 2. Note the word, “Worthy”, – means what is balanced, what is becoming, or fitting.
 - 3. Note the word, “Endeavoring”, – means giving diligence, putting forth the effort.
- B. Ephesians 4:4-6
 - 1. One Body (Church).
 - 2. One Spirit.
 - 3. One Hope.
 - 4. One Lord.
 - 5. One Faith.
 - 6. One Baptism.
 - 7. One God.

III. How may Christians preserve such a unity?

- A. Ephesians 4:2,3
 - 1. Lowliness is “being humble minded, not insisting on one’s own way”.
 - 2. Meekness is “accepting God’s will and not being head-strong”.
 - 3. Longsuffering is “not being short tempered, either with persons or circumstances.”
 - 4. Forbearing one another is “putting up with each other because of love”.
 - 5. Endeavoring is “being diligent to preserve it in peace”.

Conclusion:

- A. Is unity a way of life for you?
- B. Are you trying your best to do all you can to bring about unity?
- C. It is your responsibility to do all you can to bring about unity.

Balance in Teaching and Training Children

Proverbs 1:1-8

Introduction:

- A. Children are a blessing from the Lord.
- B. What a great responsibility we have in teaching and training our children.
- C. On the other hand, it is a privilege to teach and train them for heaven.

I. To know wisdom and instruction.

- A. Proverbs 1:2
- B. Deuteronomy 4:6
- C. Proverbs 9:10

II. Hear and increase learning.

- A. Proverbs 1:5
- B. Psalm 119:71,73
- C. Matthew 11:28,29

III. Acquire wise counsel.

- A. Proverbs 1:5
- B. Isaiah 28:29
- C. 1 Kings 12:8,13

IV. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.

- A. Proverbs 1:7
- B. Proverbs 9:10
- C. Ecclesiastes 12:13,14

Conclusion:

- A. When we teach and train our children, they will be a blessing to our life.
- B. They will honor and glorify God and be a blessing to others.
- C. May we teach our children so that they will honor and glorify Lord.

Seven Things that Make the Lord Sick

Proverbs 6:16-19

Introduction:

- A. These are six things that the Lord hates. Yes, the seventh makes the Lord sick.
- B. What are these seven things?

I. A proud look.

- A. Psalm 101:5 – This would be haughty eyes, or being haughty.
- B. Proverbs 16:18

II. A lying tongue.

- A. Proverbs 30:8
- B. Psalm 120:2
- C. Ephesians 4:25

III. Hands that shed innocent blood.

- A. Matthew 15:19 – This is murdering.
- B. Matthew 5:21,22
- C. 1 John 3:15

IV. A heart that devises wicked plans.

- A. Genesis 6:5 – This is plotting to do evil.
- B. Proverbs 21:10
- C. Psalm 75:8

V. Feet that are swift in running to evil.

- A. Proverbs 1:16 – This is eagerness to do wrong.
- B. Psalm 1:1-36.

VI. A false witness who speaks lies.

- A. Matthew 15:19 – This is a lying witness.
- B. Zechariah 8:17
- C. Proverbs 21:28

VII. One who sows discord among brethren.

- A. Proverbs 6:12-15 – This is one who causes division among brethren.
- B. 1 Corinthians 3:3
- C. 1 Corinthians 1:10-13

Conclusion:

- A. God hates these seven things; we too should hate these seven things and stay clear of them.
- B. Do you stay clear of these seven things?

He Who Wins Souls Is Wise

Proverbs 11:30

Introduction:

- A. Godly people are growing a tree that bears life-giving fruit.
- B. All who win souls are wise.
- C. How is one who wins souls wise?

I. Because it makes you obey the Lord.

- A. Matthew 28:18-20
- B. Mark 16:15

II. Because it makes you see the value of the soul.

- A. Mark 8:36
- B. James 5:20

III. Because it makes you see the urgency of the gospel.

- A. John 9:4
- B. Acts 16:9,10

IV. Because it makes you study more.

- A. 2 Timothy 3:15-17
- B. 1 Peter 3:15

V. Because it makes you pray more.

- A. Matthew 9:35-38
- B. Philippians 1:3-6

VI. Because it makes you an example.

- A. 1 Timothy 4:12
- B. Philippians 2:14,15

VII. Because it makes you more like Jesus.

- A. Luke 19:10
- B. Philippians 2:5

Conclusion:

- A. Are you a soul-winner for Jesus?
- B. Are you wise?

A Virtuous Wife

Proverbs 31:10-31

Introduction:

- A. The word, virtuous, means “noble, good, capable”.
- B. When a man finds a wife of this character, he has found one compared to be far above rubies or precious gems.
- C. What are the characteristics of a virtuous wife?

I. Her husband trusts her.

- A. Proverbs 31:11
- B. 1 Corinthians 13:4,7

II. She does her husband good.

- A. Proverbs 31:12
- B. Titus 2:4,5

III. She willingly works with her hands.

- A. Proverbs 31:13
- B. Acts 9:36,39

IV. She provides for her household.

- A. Proverbs 31:15
- B. 1 Timothy 5:14

V. She is energetic.

- A. Proverbs 31:15; Ecclesiastes 9:10
- B. Ecclesiastes 9:10

VI. She cares about others.

- A. Proverbs 31:19,20
- B. Galatians 6:10

VII. She is a woman of strength and honor.

- A. Proverbs 31:25
- B. Psalm 27:1

VIII. She speaks with wisdom.

A. Proverbs 31:26

B. Proverbs 16:16

IX. She watches over her household.

A. Proverbs 31:27

B. 1 Corinthians 16:13

X. Her husband and children praise her.

A. Proverbs 31:28

B. Romans 13:3

XI. She is the best of them all.

A. Proverbs 31:31

B. Matthew 5:14,16

12. She fears the Lord.

A. Proverbs 31:30

B. Proverbs 14:26,27

Conclusion:

A. A virtuous woman will be praised by all.

B. Her children will praise her.

C. Her works will praise her.

Making Sense of It All

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

Introduction:

A. The main idea of these verses is that life is frustrating (Job 14:1).

B. Life is not all good. Life is a mixture of good and bad.

C. There are “seasons” of life whether we like it or not.

D. Can we “make sense of it all?”

I. Know that the hand of God is in all that happens.

A. In verse 1-9 we are told that things keep happening over and over.

B. The name of God is not mentioned.

C. Ecclesiastes 3:10 – Now we are told that the hand of God is in all that happens (1 Peter 5:6,7).

II. Understand that there is value in all that happens.

- A. Not all these things are beautiful, but when these become a part of God's overall plan, they become beautiful (Ecclesiastes 3:11).
- B. Not all things are good, but God works them together for good to those who loved God (Romans 8:28).
- C. Open your Bible and look at:
 - 1. Job on a trash heap.
 - 2. Joseph in that stinking pit.
 - 3. Daniel in that terrible lions den.
- D. These scenes are ugly, but when the total picture is viewed, how beautiful they are.

III. Realize that there is much good in life which we should enjoy.

- A. Ecclesiastes 3:12,13
- B. Look at verses 1-8. Not only does bad follow good, but also good follows bad.
- C. When those good times do come, we need to learn to enjoy them (1 Peter 3:10-12).

IV. Learn then to trust in God and leave it all in His hands.

- A. Ecclesiastes 3:14,15
- B. Why does God want things to be repeated over and over?
 - 1. So we will realize that this world is not our home.
 - 2. So we will get the point.
- C. It has come back to the point that all is controlled by God (2 Samuel 22:2,3; 1 Timothy 4:10).

Conclusion:

- A. Let me remind us that the list of contrast in Ecclesiastes 3:1,2 began with these words, "*There is time to be born, and a time to die*".
- B. Are you ready to die?

The Best Way to Invest a Life

Ecclesiastes 11:1-5

Introduction:

- A. Ecclesiastes is an outstanding and problematic book.

- B. Ecclesiastes is the record of a deep search for meaning and satisfaction in life on this earth.
 - C. After Solomon has tried to satisfy himself with wisdom, pleasure, great accomplishments, hard work, and wealth. He then tells us, “The best way to invest in a life.”
- I. By sowing and reaping.**
- A. Ecclesiastes 11:1
 - B. Galatians 6:7-10
 - C. Titus 3:8
- II. By taking advantage of life’s opportunities.**
- A. Ecclesiastes 11:2
 - B. Ephesians 5:15,16
 - C. 1 Timothy 6:17-19
- III. By understanding that God works in our lives.**
- A. Ecclesiastes 11:5
 - B. Ecclesiastes 2:24; 3:13
 - C. Romans 8:28
- Conclusion:**
- A. How are YOU investing in a life?
 - B. Matthew 16:24-26
 - C. John 10:10

The Final Conclusion of Life

Ecclesiastes 12:13,14

Introduction:

- A. Ecclesiastes looks at life “*under the sun*” (Ecclesiastes 1:9).
 - B. Ecclesiastes looks at life from the human perspective.
 - C. After Solomon has tried everything under the sun, he declares, “*Here is the conclusion of life*” as seen by God.
- I. Fear God.**
- A. Psalm 2:11
 - B. Hebrews 11:7
 - C. Hebrews 12:28

II. Keep His commandments.

- A. John 14:15
- B. John 15:9-11
- C. 1 John 5:3

III. God will bring every work into judgment.

- A. Romans 14:10
- B. 2 Corinthians 5:10
- C. Galatians 6:7,8

Conclusion:

- A. When all that we have done in life is over, only one thing will matter.
- B. When life is over, it will not matter what we have accomplished in life, but how we have lived our life.

The Bride of the Lord

Song of Solomon

Introduction:

- A. The Song of Solomon must be seen as more than a love song written by Solomon to his lover.
- B. Allegorically, it pictures Israel as God's espoused bride (Hosea 2:19,20).
- C. Remember that the prophets often looked through the telescope of time to the future, and this must be seen with the Song of Solomon.
- D. It is pointing to the Church as the bride of Christ.
- E. As human life finds its highest fulfillment in the love of man and woman, so spiritual life finds its highest fulfillment in the love of God for His people and Christ for His church (Ephesians 5:22-33).

I. Falling in love.

- A. Song of Solomon 1:1-3:5
 - 1. The bride's longing for affection.
 - 2. Expressions of mutual love.
- B. Ephesians 5:25,28
- C. Ephesians 5:22,24,33

II. United in love.

- A. Song of Solomon 3:6-5:1
 - 1. The bride's beauty is praised.
 - 2. The coming together in marriage.
- B. Ephesians 5:26,27
- C. Ephesians 5:29-32

III. Struggling in love.

- A. Song of Solomon 5:2-7:10
 - 1. Separation for awhile.
 - 2. How beautiful the bridegroom is.
- B. Hosea 3:12
- C. 2 Corinthians 11:2

IV. Growing in love.

- A. Song of Solomon 7:11-8:14
 - 1. The bride's desire to visit her home.
 - 2. The journey and homecoming.
- B. Philippians 3:20
- C. 1 Corinthians 15:24

Conclusion:

- A. What a beautiful allegory of God and His people, of Christ and His church.

The Lord's House

Isaiah 2:1-3

Introduction:

- A. The Lord's house is the Church of the living God (1 Timothy 3:15).
- B. What do we learn about the house, the church of the living God in Isaiah 2:1-3?

I. It will be "the Lord's house".

- A. Isaiah 2:2
- B. 1 Timothy 3:15
- C. Ephesians 2:19-22
- D. 1 Peter 2:5

II. It will be established “in the latter days”.

- A. Isaiah 2:2
- B. Joel 2:28,29
- C. Acts 2:16-21
- D. Hebrews 1:2,3

III. “All nations shall flow to it”.

- A. Isaiah 2:2
- B. Acts 2:5
- C. Matthew 28:19
- D. Mark 16:15

IV. “The word of the Lord will go forth from Jerusalem”.

- A. Isaiah 2:3
- B. Luke 24:47
- C. Acts 1:8

Conclusion:

- A. Are you a member of the Lord’s house, the Church?
- B. By faith, repentance, confession, and baptism you can be added to the Lord’s house, the Church.

Here Am I, Send Me

Isaiah 6:5-11

Introduction:

- A. Isaiah sees the Lord sitting on His throne.
- B. Seraphims declare the holiness of the Lord, and they glorify the Lord.
- C. The Lord said, *“Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?”*
- D. Isaiah said, *“Here am I! Send me.”*
- E. What do we learn about Isaiah going for the Lord?

I. The cleansing.

- A. Isaiah 6:5
- B. 2 Corinthians 7:1
- C. 2 Timothy 2:21

II. The order.

- A. Isaiah 6:8

B. Mark 16:15

C. Acts 8:4

III. The message.

A. Isaiah 6:9

B. Romans 1:14-16

C. Romans 10:14,15

IV. The duration.

A. Isaiah 6:11

B. Matthew 28:19,20

C. Judges 2:10

Conclusion:

A. Isaiah said, "*Here am I! Send me*".

B. Do you have the attitude of Isaiah?

The Person of the Son of God

Isaiah 9:6,7

Introduction:

A. The Son of God is sitting upon the throne of David over His kingdom.

B. Here we see Jesus the Son of God beautifully described.

C. He is called:

I. Wonderful.

A. Psalm 111:1-10

B. Psalm 139:14

C. Matthew 21:12-15

II. Counselor.

A. Isaiah 25:1

B. Isaiah 28:29

C. Jeremiah 32:19

III. Mighty God.

A. Mark 1:7

B. Luke 24:19

C. Ephesians 1:19,20

IV. Everlasting Father.

- A. Psalm 41:13
- B. Psalm 90:2
- C. Micah 5:2

V. Prince of peace.

- A. Haggai 2:9
- B. Isaiah 52:7
- C. Isaiah 53:5

Conclusion:

- A. In John 14:8 the disciples of Jesus said, “*Show us the Father*”.
- B. In John 14:9 Jesus said, “*He who has seen Me has seen the Father*”.
- C. Do you see Jesus in this way?

On Wings Like Eagles

Isaiah 40:31

Introduction:

- A. We will all face many challenges in life.
- B. We have a great challenge before us as a Christian in living and serving Jesus Christ.
- C. God has given us the strength to live and serve Him and to face every challenge of life.
- D. How can we do this?

I. Wait on the Lord.

- A. Psalm 27:14
- B. Psalm 37:7
- C. Hebrews 12:1,2

II. Renew our strength.

- A. Ephesians 3:16
- B. Philippians 4:13
- C. 2 Timothy 4:17

III. Do not grow weary.

- A. 1 Corinthians 9:24

- B. Galatians 6:9
- C. 2 Thessalonians 3:13

Conclusion:

- A. Do you want to be successful as a Christian?
- B. You can soar on wings like eagles if you will do the above three things.
- C. Yes, you can soar on wings like eagles.

Comfort from God for His People

Isaiah 43:1-7

Introduction:

- A. When we walk with the Lord and in His ways we will be blessed.
- B. He will give us the comfort we need as we face things in our daily life.
- C. How does the Lord comfort us?

I. He has redeemed us.

- A. Isaiah 43:1
- B. Psalm 107:1,2
- C. Romans 3:23-26

II. He is our savior.

- A. Isaiah 43:3
- B. Psalm 106:21
- C. 2 Corinthians 1:3,4

III. He loves us.

- A. Isaiah 43:4
- B. John 3:16
- C. Titus 3:4

IV. He is with us.

- A. Isaiah 43:5
- B. Joshua 1:5
- C. Hebrews 13:5

V. He knows us.

- A. Isaiah 43:7
- B. Matthew 10:29-31
- C. Revelation 2:2

Conclusion:

- A. God will comfort us if we please Him and walk in His ways.
- B. The Lord is so good and will comfort us in all we face in life.

The Proclaiming of the Gospel

Isaiah 52:7

Introduction:

- A. Isaiah is the gospel of the Old Testament.
- B. So, it is here that we see the proclaiming of the gospel.
- C. What do we see the gospel proclaiming?

I. Proclaiming peace.

- A. 2 Corinthians 13:11
- B. 2 Timothy 2:22
- C. Ephesians 6:15

II. Bringing glad tidings of good things.

- A. Acts 20:24
- B. 1 Corinthians 4:15
- C. 2 Corinthians 4:4

III. Proclaiming salvation.

- A. Ephesians 1:13
- B. 2 Thessalonians 2:13,14
- C. 2 Timothy 1:10

Conclusion:

- A. What a blessing we have in the gospel.
- B. It brings salvation and the hope of eternal life.
- C. Have you obeyed the gospel?
- D. Are you continuing in the gospel?

My Word Will Not Return Void

Isaiah 55:11

Introduction:

- A. God's word must go forth to those in the world.
- B. God's word will do what God intended for it to do.
- C. God's word will not return to Him void or empty. It will:

I. Be like a:

- A. Lamp (Psalm 119:105).
- B. Fire (Jeremiah 5:14).
- C. Hammer (Jeremiah 23:29).
- D. Sword (Ephesians 6:17).

II. Make free.

- A. John 8:32
- B. John 8:36
- C. Romans 6:18

III. Heal.

- A. Psalm 107:20
- B. Isaiah 6:10
- C. James 5:16

IV. Make wise to salvation.

- A. Romans 1:16
- B. 2 Timothy 3:15-17
- C. James 1:21

Conclusion:

- A. God's word will not return to Him empty.
- B. God's word will accomplish that which God has purposed it to accomplish.
- C. God's word will succeed in the things for which God sent it to do.

A New Name for the Lord's People

Isaiah 56:5

Introduction:

- A. Names are important.

- B. If a name is not important, then sign another person's name to your check.
- C. The same is true with Bible names, they are important.
- D. What do we learn from Isaiah 56:5?

I. Given to those in God's house.

- A. Isaiah 56:5
- B. Ephesians 2:19-22
- C. 1 Timothy 3:15

II. A new name.

- A. Isaiah 56:5
- B. Isaiah 62:1,2
- C. Acts 10; Acts 11:26

III. A better name.

- A. Isaiah 56:5
- B. James 2:7
- C. 1 Peter 4:16

IV. An everlasting name.

- A. Isaiah 56:5
- B. Acts 4:12
- C. Philippians 2:9

Conclusion:

- A. What name are you wearing as a religious person?
- B. Will you wear the name given by God?
- C. Wear a name better than that of sons and daughters.

What Separates Us From God?

Isaiah 59:1,2

Introduction:

- A. What a terrible thing to be separated from our loved ones.
- B. Sin is a terrible thing that affects all our lives.
- C. Sin, regardless of its degree, always has an effect – separation.

I. God can save us.

- A. Isaiah 59:1

- B. Romans 5:8
- C. Ephesians 2:4-8

II. Sin separates us from God.

- A. Genesis 3:3
- B. Romans 6:23
- C. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

III. How can we be reconciled to God?

- A. By believing (Romans 10:10; John 8:24).
- B. By repenting (2 Corinthians 7:10; Luke 13:3).
- C. By confessing Christ (Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32,33).
- D. By being baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:27; 1 Corinthians 12:13).
- E. By obeying these steps of salvation we are “in Christ”, in the “one body” where there is:
 - 1. Salvation (2 Timothy 2:10).
 - 2. All spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3).
 - 3. Eternal life (1 John 5:11).

Conclusion:

- A. Are you separated from God?
- B. Would you like to be reconciled to God in the one body (the church)?

My People Have Committed Two Evils

Jeremiah 2:13

Introduction:

- A. God said to Judah, *“I remember your kindness, love and how you followed Me”*.
- B. God said to Judah, *“I brought you into a bountiful country and you tasted my goodness, but you defiled My land”*.
- C. What two evils did Judah commit?

I. They have forsaken Me.

- A. Deuteronomy 31:16,17
- B. Joshua 24:20,21
- C. 1 Chronicles 28:9

- D. Ezra 8:22
- E. Ezra 9:8,9
- F. Luke 14:33
- G. Matthew 19:27-29

II. They built themselves cisterns.

A cistern is a container that holds water, and it was of great importance to those in that part of the world.

- B. Deuteronomy 8:2,6,7
- C. Psalm 36:7-9
- D. Isaiah 41:18
- E. Jeremiah 17:13
- F. Revelation 7:17
- G. Revelation 21:6

Conclusion:

- A. When we forsake the Lord, He will forsake us.
- B. When we build of ourselves, we will rob ourselves of the fountain of life.
- C. Let us not be like many of God's people of old and rob ourselves of the Water of life.

They Did Not Know How to Blush

Jeremiah 6:15

Introduction:

- A. God calls on His children to repent.
- B. He reminds them of His loving kindness that He has shown to them.
- C. God calls on them to return to Him and put away their abominations.
- D. What was the problem with God's people?

I. They had lost appreciation for what God had done for them.

- A. Jeremiah 2:7
- B. Isaiah 1:2,3
- C. Hebrews 6:1-6

II. They had forsaken the Lord.

- A. Jeremiah 2:17

B. Jeremiah 17:13

C. John 6:66-69

III. They were backsliding.

A. Jeremiah 3:22

B. Hosea 11:5

C. Hosea 14:1-4

IV. They had lost appreciation for the truth.

A. Jeremiah 5:30,31

B. Amos 2:4

C. Romans 1:24,25

V. They had lost their ability to blush/feel ashamed.

A. Jeremiah 3:3

B. Jeremiah 6:15

C. 1 Corinthians 5:1-5

Conclusion:

A. May God help us not to reach the point that we cannot blush/feel ashamed when we do evil.

B. Let us have a humble and obedient spirits that we will repent when we do that which is evil in God's eyes.

Stand and Ask for the Old Paths

Jeremiah 6:16

Introduction:

A. Jeremiah said to God's people of his day when they were about to face God's wrath:

1. "...*the Lord pleads with you....*"

2. "...*Stand at the crossroads and look....*"

3. "...*Ask for the ancient paths....*"

3. "...*Ask where the good way is....*"

4. "...*and walk in it....*"

5. "...*you will find rest for your souls....*"

B. Today in the Church as in every previous generation, we need to do like God was calling on His people to do in Jeremiah's day.

- C. We need to look, ask for the ancient paths, the good way, walk in it, and find rest for our souls.
- D. Let us ask for the “ancient paths”.

I. The old Jerusalem gospel.

- A. Romans 1:16
- B. Galatians 1:6-9
- C. Galatians 1:11,12

II. One church Jesus built.

- A. Matthew 16:18
- B. Ephesians 4:4
- C. Colossians 1:24

III. The worship of the New Testament.

- A. Acts 2:42
- B. Acts 20:7
- C. Ephesians 5:19
- D. 1 Corinthians 16:1,2

IV. The gospel plan of salvation.

- A. Mark 16:15,16
- B. Luke 24:47
- C. Matthew 10:32,33
- D. 1 Corinthians 12:13

Conclusion:

- A. Will you not look? Ask for the old paths of the first century?
- B. Walk in the good way, and find rest for your soul.

You Trust in Lying Words that Cannot Profit

Jeremiah 7:8-10

Introduction:

- A. In every matter and on every subject – it is either true or a lie.
- B. In matters of religion – it is either true or alie.
- C. Let us examine some areas to show this fact.

I. Once saved, always saved.

- A. Galatians 5:4
- B. Hebrews 6:4-6
- C. 2 Peter 2:20-22

II. Saved by faith only.

- A. Galatians 3:26,27
- B. Ephesians 2:8
- C. James 2:24,26

III. Baptism is sprinkling.

- A. Acts 8:38,39
- B. Romans 6:4
- C. Colossians 2:12

IV. Baptism does not save.

- A. Mark 16:16
- B. Acts 22:16
- C. 1 Peter 3:20-22

V. The Lord's Supper once a quarter or once a year.

- A. Acts 2:42
- B. Acts 20:7
- C. Hebrews 10:25

Conclusion:

- A. Do you examine the Bible to find what is true or a lie?
- B. If we follow a lie, it cannot profit us anything.
- C. Are YOU following what is true or a lie?

The Way of Man Is Not in Himself

Jeremiah 10:23

Introduction:

- A. What a great and powerful statement this is in Jeremiah 10:23.
- B. We know that when we try to make the way ourselves, we simply fail.
- C. We need help from God to make life successful.

I. Man is not able to direct his life.

- A. Proverbs 20:24
- B. Romans 3:10-12
- C. Romans 3:23
- D. Ephesians 2:11,12

II. The Lord is able to direct us.

- A. Romans 5:9-11
- B. Ephesians 2:13
- C. Ephesians 2:8-10
- D. 1 Corinthians 10:12,13

III. How does the Lord direct us?

- A. Hebrews 1:1,2
- B. 2 Timothy 3:16,17
- C. John 14:6

Conclusion:

- A. Do you realize that you cannot effectively direct your own life?
- B. Are you depending on the Lord?
- C. Are you letting the Lord direct you through His word?

Running with Horses Jeremiah 12:5

Introduction:

- A. We find much symbolic language in the prophets.
- B. Jeremiah is called upon by God to proclaim a message of doom to the stiff-necked people of Judah.
- C. Jeremiah is despised and persecuted by his countrymen, and Jeremiah cries to the Lord.
- D. In chapter twelve Jeremiah complains to God about what he is suffering in his work for Him.
- E. It is in this setting that God says to Jeremiah, *“If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, then how can you contend with horses?”*

I. God is saying — you have a work for me and get on with it.

- A. John 9:4
- B. Philippians 2:12
- C. James 1:25

II. God is saying — you must run to win the race.

- A. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
- B. Hebrews 12:1,2
- C. 2 Timothy 4:7,8

III. God is saying — you need endurance.

- A. Hebrews 10:36
- B. 2 Timothy 4:5
- C. James 5:11

IV. God is saying — do not be mediocre.

- A. Matthew 5:20
- B. Ephesians 3:20,21
- C. Philippians 3:12-16

Conclusion:

- A. There are times that we will get down as a Christian.
- B. There are times that we will need to remember these lessons learned from Jeremiah.
- C. Let us, *“run with horses and not with men”*.

They Speak from Their Own Heart

Jeremiah 23:16

Introduction:

- A. Jeremiah's heart is broken because:
 - 1. Of the prophets (Jeremiah 23:9).
 - 2. The land is full of adulterers (Jeremiah 23:10).
 - 3. Both the prophet and priest are ungodly (Jeremiah 20:11).
- B. What is wrong with the preachers?

I. Their life is evil and not right with God.

- A. Jeremiah 23:10
- B. Genesis 6:5

- C. Amos 4:12
- D. Matthew 6:13

II. Their life is ungodly and wicked.

- A. Jeremiah 23:11
- B. 2 Peter 3:7
- C. Jude 14,15
- D. Psalm 37:9-11

III. They lead God's people astray.

- A. Jeremiah 23:13,14
- B. Judges 2:11-17
- C. James 4:4
- D. Revelation 2:14-17

IV. They speak according to their own heart.

- A. Jeremiah 23:16
- B. Acts 20:27-32
- C. 2 Timothy 4:2-5
- D. 2 Peter 2:1-3; 10-20

Conclusion:

- A. We need preachers today who will *"speak the truth in love"* (Ephesians 4:15).
- B. We need preachers today who will *"earnestly contend for the faith"* (Jude 3).
- C. We need preachers today who will do right in the sight of God and lead God's people in the right.

A New Covenant Is Coming

Jeremiah 31:31-33

Introduction:

- A. Jeremiah looks through the telescope of time and prophecies of the coming of a New Covenant.
- B. It will be a New Covenant, not like the Old Covenant that God had made with their fathers when He brought them up out of the land of Egypt.
- C. What do we learn about this from Jeremiah 31:31-33?

I. God will take away the Old Covenant.

- A. Jeremiah 31:31,32
- B. Colossians 2:12-14
- C. Hebrews 8:7,8
- D. Hebrews 10:9

II. God will establish a New Covenant.

- A. Jeremiah 31:31,32
- B. Matthew 26:28
- C. 1 Corinthians 9:21
- D. 2 Corinthians 3:6
- E. Hebrews 9:15

III. How will the new covenant be different?

- A. God will put the New Covenant in their heart (Jeremiah 31:33; 2 Corinthians 3:3-8).
- B. Yahweh will be their God and they shall be His people (Jeremiah 31:33; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18).
- C. They will be taught by God (Jeremiah 31:34; John 1:12; 6:45).
- D. Their sins will be completely removed (Jeremiah 31:34; Hebrews 10:9-17).

Conclusion:

- A. God has taken away the Old Covenant that He may establish a New Covenant.
- B. The New Covenant is far superior to the Old Covenant.
- C. There are many blessings that come from the New Covenant.

The Lord's Mercy Is Fresh Every Morning

Lamentations 3:22,23

Introduction:

- A. We are helpless without the Lord.
- B. We are helpless without the Lord's mercy.
- C. What do we learn about the Lord's mercy?

I. God's mercy is described as:

- A. Great (Isaiah 54:7).

- B. Sure (Isaiah 55:3).
- C. Abundant (1 Peter 1:3).
- D. Tender (Psalm 25:6).
- E. New every morning (Lamentations 3:22,23).

II. God's mercy is seen in:

- A. Bring about the promised Christ (Luke 1:72,78).
- B. Our being made alive (1 Peter 1:3).
- C. Salvation (Titus 3:5).
- D. Forgiveness (Psalm 51:1).

III. The attitude of the Christian towards God's mercy.

- A. Cast ourselves on God's mercy (2 Samuel 24:14).
- B. A principle by which we live (Matthew 5:7).
- C. We are to show God's mercy in our life (Romans 12:8).
- D. It is our reason for hope (Jude 21).

Conclusion

- A. Let us remember daily that our salvation depends on God's *"mercy being fresh every morning"*.
- B. Do you love and appreciate what God has done in extending His mercy to YOU?
- C. Are you looking for the hope of eternal life based on God's mercy?

Search Out Our Ways

Lamentations 3:40,41

Introduction:

- A. God has always called on His people to look at their lives and see if they are in step with His ways.
- B. It is something that we need to do daily.
- C. It is important to take the time from a busy schedule and look into the mirror of one's life.
- D. What are some of the ways we need to examine ourselves?

I. Assurance (faith).

- A. 1 Timothy 4:12
- B. Hebrews 6:11
- C. Hebrews 10:22

II. Purity of thought.

- A. Proverbs 23:7
- B. Matthew 12:34
- C. Philippians 4:8

III. Study habits.

- A. 1 Timothy 4:13
- B. 2 Timothy 2:15
- C. 2 Timothy 3:14-17

IV. Salvation.

- A. Philippians 2:12
- B. 2 Timothy 1:12
- C. Hebrews 9:28

Conclusion:

A. Do you take the time to daily examine yourself?

- B. If you find yourself lacking, will you turn back to the Lord?

Turn Back to the Lord

Lamentations 5:21

Introduction:

- A. God's people realize their condition.
 - 1. They have lost their inheritance (verse 2).
 - 2. They are like orphans (verse 3).
 - 3. They are like mothers who are widows (verse 3).
 - 4. The joy in their lives has ceased (verse 15).
 - 5. Their happiness has turned to mourning (verse 15).
 - 6. Their crown has fallen from their head (verse 16).
 - 7. They are desolate (verse 18).
- B. They now realize their sad condition and what to do about it.

I. They must repent.

- A. Lamentations 5:21
- B. Jeremiah 31:18
- C. 1 Samuel 7:3
- D. Acts 9:35

II. They must be restored.

- A. Lamentations 5:21
- B. Psalm 51:11,12
- C. Psalm 23:1-6

III. They must renew.

- A. Lamentations 5:21
- B. Psalm 51:10
- C. Isaiah 40:31; 41:1

Conclusion:

- A. When we become weak, let us remember what we had in the Lord.
- B. Let us repent, be restored, and renew our lives to the Lord.
- C. Will you do it today?

The Soul Who Sins Shall Die

Ezekiel 18:20-22

Introduction:

- A. Many religious people teach that one is born a sinner.
- B. For that reason, they teach that one must be sprinkled or poured as a means of baptism when one is a baby.
- C. What does the Bible teach on this subject?

I. Is one “born in sin”?

- A. Psalm 51:5 – “*Behold I was brought forth in iniquity, (into a sinful world) and in sin my mother conceived me.*”
- B. Ezekiel 18:20 – “*The soul who sins (the soul who disobeys God) shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father.*”
- C. What David inherited from his parents was a weakness of the flesh toward sin (see Romans 7:18).
 - 1. He did not inherit their sin.
- D. Sin itself is not inherited.
 - 1. Each person comes under the penalty of his own actions.

II. When does one become a sinner?

- A. When one is old enough to know what God's Way is (James 4:17; Romans 14:23; Romans 10:17).
- B. When one is old enough to commit sin, that is, to lust and yield to the lust (James 1:15; 1 John 3:4).
- C. When one is old enough to choose between God's Way and man's way (Romans 6:16; Joshua 24:15).

III. What about children?

- A. Matthew 18:3,4
- B. Mark 10:14
- C. Little children are pure and innocent and have no sin.
- D. Little children have no sin, and if they die, will enter the kingdom of heaven.

Conclusion:

- A. Now you have learned what the Bible teaches about "when one becomes a sinner."
- B. Have you become a sinner and have you obeyed the gospel?

A Watchman for the Lord

Ezekiel 33:1-9

Introduction:

- A. God has set Ezekiel over Judah, His people to be a "Watchman".
- B. His work is an important work for God.
- C. God is depending on Ezekiel to do His work faithfully.
- D. What kind of characteristics is this "Watchman" to have?

I. He sees.

- A. Ezekiel 33:3,7
- B. Matthew 9:36-38
- C. John 4:35

II. He must sound the alarm.

- A. Ezekiel 33:3
- B. Acts 4:20
- C. Acts 5:42

III. He cautions the people.

- A. Ezekiel 33:3
- B. Acts 20:31
- C. Colossians 1:28

Conclusion:

- A. If we do not see, sound the alarm, and warn the people, then God will require their blood on our hands.
- B. If we see, sound the alarm, and warn the people, then we will save our life.
- C. Are you being a “Watchman” for the Lord?

Daniel Purposed in His Heart

Daniel 1:8

Introduction:

- A. Daniel, what a Bible character of the Old Testament.
- B. Daniel’s life spans the entire seventy-year period of Babylonian captivity.
- C. Daniel is deported to Babylon at the age of about sixteen, and hand picked for government service.
- D. Daniel chapter one shows the faithfulness of this man.
- E. *“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself”* (Daniel 1:8).
- F. What do we see about Daniel?

I. Daniel purposed.

- A. This means that he “resolved, made up his mind”.
- B. Genesis 39:7-9
- C. Titus 2:11,12
- D. 1 Peter 2:1,2

II. Daniel purposed in his heart.

- A. Proverbs 23:7
- B. Proverbs 4:23
- C. Matthew 12:35
- D. 1 Peter 3:15

III. Daniel purposed in his heart not to defile himself.

- A. Matthew 15:19,20
- B. 1 Corinthians 15:33
- C. James 1:27
- D. Galatians 6:8

Conclusion:

- A. Let us be like Daniel and mean business in living for God and serving Him.
- B. Let us “purpose in our heart that we will not defile ourselves.”
- C. Let us “purpose in our heart to live for God and serve Him.”

A Kingdom That Would Never Be Destroyed

Daniel 2:44

Introduction:

- A. Daniel says that the Kingdom or the Church will stand forever.
- B. Therefore the Church of the Bible is changeless.
- C. Change means inconstant, fickle, and uncertain.
- D. Let us look at some reasons why the Church of Christ is changeless.

I. Christ is its builder and foundation.

- A. Matthew 16:18
- B. Ephesians 2:19,20

II. Christ is its head.

- A. Ephesians 5:23
- B. Colossians 1:18

III. Wears Christ's name.

- A. Romans 16:16
- B. 1 Corinthians 12:27

IV. The members are called Christians.

- A. Acts 11:26
- B. 1 Peter 4:16

V. Breaks bread every week.

- A. Acts 20:7
- B. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

VI. Gives on the first day of the week.

- A. 1 Corinthians 16:1,2
- B. 2 Corinthians 9:6,7

VII. Sings without instruments.

- A. Ephesians 5:19
- B. Colossians 3:16

VIII. Follows the Bible plan of salvation.

- A. Acts 8:36,37
- B. Acts 2:38,47

Conclusion:

- A. Do you want to be a member of that changeless Church?

You Have Been Weighed in God's Balances

Daniel 5:27

Introduction:

- A. What awesome words that Daniel delivered to Belshazzar, the king.
- B. You have been judged by God and you have been found lacking.
- C. Think about that being your time of judgment. What a surprise!

I. Reality will be a surprise for some.

- A. Acts 17:30,31
- B. 2 Peter 2:9

II. Time will be a surprise for some.

- A. Matthew 24:36,44
- B. 2 Peter 3:10

III. Standard will be a surprise for some.

- A. Romans 2:16
- B. Romans 14:12

IV. Just being religious will be a surprise for some.

- A. Matthew 7:21-23
- B. 1 Peter 4:17

Conclusion:

- A. Belshazzar had not lived right nor served God right.
- B. Now it was too late.
- C. How are YOU living your life?

Daniel's Character

Daniel 6:2,4,10,16,23

Introduction:

- A. Daniel is deported to Babylon at the age of about sixteen.
- B. Daniel is hand picked for government service under the reign of Nebuchadnezzar.
- C. Daniel becomes God's prophetic mouthpiece to the Gentile and Jewish world.
- D. There is nothing negative written about Daniel.
- E. What was the character of Daniel?

I. A respected leader.

- A. Daniel 6:1-3
- B. 1 Timothy 3:7
- C. Titus 2:6-8

II. A faultless person.

- A. Daniel 6:4
- B. 1 Samuel 29:3,6
- C. Philippians 2:14-16

III. Put God first.

- A. Daniel 6:10-15
- B. Matthew 6:33
- C. 2 Corinthians 8:5

IV. Recognized as God's servant.

- A. Daniel 6:16,20
- B. 2 Timothy 2:24,25
- C. Matthew 25:21

V. Believed God.

- A. Daniel 6:22,23
- B. 2 Timothy 1:12
- C. Hebrews 11:32-35

Conclusion:

- A. What a great man Daniel was! He set the standard high for all of God's future children.
- B. It is my heart's desire to be like Daniel.
- C. Work hard daily to have the character of Daniel.

My People Are Destroyed for a Lack of Knowledge

Hosea 4:6

Introduction:

- A. It has always been important that God's people have knowledge of Him and His Word.
- B. Without knowledge we cannot know God, His Son, and the way to heaven.
- C. What do we need to know about knowledge?

I. What is the source of knowledge?

- A. God is the source of knowledge (Psalm 94:10).
- B. Scripture is the source of knowledge (2 Timothy 3:15).
- C. Knowledge is doing God's will (John 17:17).

II. What should be the attitude of a Christian?

- A. Should not be puffed up (2 Corinthians 8:1).
- B. Should add to our life (2 Peter 1:5).
- C. Should grow in grace and knowledge (2 Peter 3:18).
- D. Should not forget (2 Peter 3:17).
- E. Should be filled with (Philippians 1:9).

III. What is the value of knowledge?

- A. Superior to gold (Proverbs 8:10).
- B. Increases our strength (Proverbs 24:5).
- C. Keeps us from destruction (Isaiah 5:13).
- D. Ensures stability in our life (Isaiah 33:6).

Conclusion:

- A. Are you studying daily so that your knowledge will increase?
- B. Are you attending the Bible studies on Sunday morning and Wednesday nights so that your knowledge will increase.

Sow the Wind, and Reap the Whirlwind **Hosea 8:7**

Introduction:

- A. Hosea addresses the northern kingdom of Israel.
- B. The northern kingdom of Israel is enjoying a time of prosperity; but inwardly spiritual adultery has entered the people.
- C. Israel will reap what they have sown.

I. The law of sowing.

- A. Israel had become unfaithful to God (Hosea 4:10,11,13,15).
- B. Israel had sown the wind of sin (Hosea 4:1-5:5).
- C. We may decide to sow the wind of sin/unfaithfulness to God (Matthew 12:35; Matthew 15:19,20).
- D. All have sinned and gone out of the way (Romans 3:9-18).
- E. We can choose to free ourselves of the way of sin (Romans 3:22-26).

II. The law of reaping the whirlwind.

- A. Israel had sown, now they were ready to reap (Hosea 8:7).
- B. If we sow to the flesh, we will reap a harvest of spiritual decay and death (Galatians 6:7,8).
- C. Sin has consequences (Romans 6:23)
- D. Israel was to experience physical death (Hosea 13:16).
- E. "Death now is separation from God (2 Thessalonians 1:8,9).

III. You can do something about it.

- A. We have a choice (Joshua 24:14).
- B. You can choose the way of God (Hebrews 11:24,25).
- C. You can choose the confined way that leads to heaven (Matthew 7:13,14).

Conclusion:

- A. Are you sowing the wind of sin?

- B. What will you do about sin in your life?
- C. You will reap – corruption or everlasting life?
- D. Only YOU can make that choice!

Conditional Promise of Salvation for God's People

Joel 2:12,13

Introduction:

- A. God is about to bring destruction on Judah because of her sins.
- B. God sends Joel to warn her and encourage her to return to God.
- C. Salvation is a gift from God, but it is conditional, and that is true also for God's people.
- D. What are the conditions for God's people?

I. Turn to Me with all your heart.

- A. Joel 2:12
- B. Zechariah 1:4
- C. Acts 26:18
- D. 1 Peter 3:11

II. Show your repentance.

- A. Joel 2:12
- B. Matthew 21:28-32
- C. Acts 19:17-20

III. Return to the Lord your God.

- A. Joel 2:13
- B. Deuteronomy 1-3
- C. 1 Samuel 7:3,4
- D. Jeremiah 4:1

Conclusion:

- A. God is good and His mercy is fresh every morning.
- B. If you have sin in your life, God is calling on you to turn to Him, repent, and return to Him.
- C. Will you do that now?

The Valley of Decision

Joel 3:14

Introduction:

- A. Joel tells Judah that God will soon bring about their destruction if they do not repent.
- B. Joel tells Judah that following the punishment of the wicked there will be great blessing in a material and spiritual sense.
- C. These rich promises are followed by a solemn description of the judgment of all nations in the valley of decision (Joel 3:14).
- D. What are some of the important decisions of life?

I. Decision to be baptized.

- A. Mark 16:15,16
- B. Acts 2:38,47
- C. Acts 22:16

II. Decision to stop playing church.

- A. Exodus 32:1-6
- B. Revelation 3:15,16,19

III. Decision to live a Christ centered life.

- A. Galatians 2:20
- B. Galatians 4:19

IV. Decision to serve the Lord.

- A. 1 Corinthians 4:1
- B. Hebrews 12:28
- C. Colossians 3:24

Conclusion:

- A. You are about to make the most important decision of your life.
- B. Remember, the decision you make will affect your eternity.
- C. What decision will you make?

Can Two Walk Together, Unless They Are Agreed?

Amos 3:3

Introduction:

- A. We understand the principle that two cannot walk together unless they agree.
- B. This is true in any realm of this life.
- C. Amos 3:1 says, “*Hear this word that the Lord has spoken*”.
- D. This is very true in religion.

I. A Biblical teaching.

- A. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18
- B. James 1:27
- C. James 4:4

II. Some examples.

- A. Is Christ the only head of the church (Ephesians 5:23)?
- B. Should we use instruments in worship today (Ephesians 5:19)?
- C. Does faith only save (James 2:26)?
- D. Should we have the Lord’s Supper every Sunday (Acts 20:7)?
- E. Is baptism necessary (Mark 16:16)?
- F. Is baptism sprinkling, pouring, or immersion (Colossians 2:12)?

III. How can we walk together?

- A. John 17:21,22
- B. 1 Corinthians 1:10
- C. 1 Peter 4:11

Conclusion:

- A. Is it important that we walk together in religious unity?
- B. How can we walk together?
- C. Let us strive to walk together in unity.

Prepare to Meet Your God

Amos 4:12

Introduction:

- A. The book of Amos reads like today's newspaper because the conditions are so much alike.
- B. The Northern Kingdom of Israel enjoyed social, economic, and cultural prosperity.
- C. Along with this prosperity came sins like injustice, greediness, oppression, immorality, profanity, blasphemy, and no respect for God and His way.
- D. With this in mind, the prophet Amos warns the people to "meet your God".
- E. A serious thought for us today.

I. Why prepare?

- A. Because God says so (Amos 4:12).
- B. Because we will have to meet God in the judgment (Acts 17:30,31).
- C. Because hell is terrible, and we do not want to go there (Revelation 20:10,15).
- D. Because heaven is so wonderful, and we want to go there (John 14:1-3).

II. How do we prepare?

- A. By being saved from our sins (John 8:24; Luke 13:3; Matthew 10:32; Mark 16:16).
- B. By being faithful until we die (2 Timothy 4:6-8; Revelation 2:10).

III. When should we prepare?

- A. Today — (Hebrews 3:15).
- B. Now — (2 Corinthians 6:2).
- C. Now — (Luke 14:17).

Conclusion:

- A. Are you ready?
- B. If not, will you get ready today?
- C. Will you get ready right now?

Lessons from a Plumb Line

Amos 7:7-9

Introduction:

- A. What is a plumb line? “A cord with a stone or metal weight, the plummet, tied to one end; use in testing whether a wall is perpendicular (vertically straight)”.
- B. How is the plumb line used? “Plumb line and plummet are used figuratively of God’s action in testing the uprightness of His people.”
- C. What lessons can we learn from “the plumb line”?

I. Suggests strictness.

- A. Lot’s wife (Genesis 19:26).
- B. Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10:1,2).
- C. Uzzah (2 Samuel 6:3-11).

II. The Bible, the standard.

- A. A perfect one (Psalm 19:7).
- B. It is sufficient (2 Timothy 3:16,17).
- C. It is eternal (Psalm 117:1,2).
- D. We will be judged by it (John 12:48).

III. False standards.

- A. Conscience (Proverbs 14:12; Jeremiah 10:23).
- B. Doctrines of men (Matthew 15:9; 2 John 9).

IV. What the standard reveals.

- A. Plan of salvation (Mark 16:15,16; Acts 2:38).
- B. The Church (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:47).
- C. Worship (John 4:24).
- D. The Christian life (Titus 2:11-14).

Conclusion:

- A. All will be judged (2 Corinthians 5:10).
- B. How will your actions stand the test of God?
- C. What shall the end be?

A Famine of God's Word

Amos 8:11,12

Introduction:

- A. Famine is a terrible event.
- B. Famine means “hunger”.
- C. Amos says this will not be a famine of bread or water, but for the hearing of the words of the Lord.

I. The Word of God.

- A. It is from God (2 Timothy 3:16,17).
- B. It is perfect because it is from God (Psalm 19:7).
- C. It is enduring for all times (Isaiah 40:8).
- D. It is all-sufficient (2 Timothy 3:16,17).
- E. It is living and active (Hebrews 4:12).

II. Our attitude toward the Word of God.

- A. Receive with meekness (James 1:21).
- B. Stand in awe of (Psalm 119:161).
- C. Search daily (Acts 17:11).
- D. Handle it accurately (2 Timothy 2:15).
- E. Obey (1 Peter 3:1).

III. If we do not seek God's Word.

- A. We will not know the Lord (Judges 2:10).
- B. We will do what is right in our own eyes (Judges 21:25).
- C. We will be evil in every way, and God will give us up (Romans 1:24,25).
- D. We will be punished with eternal destruction from the presence of the Lord (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

Conclusion:

- A. What a sad day for God's people.
- B. The source of life they have depended on is gone, and they cannot find it.
- C. Is there a famine of God's Word in:
 - 1. Your life?
 - 2. Your family?
 - 3. The church?

Three Important Lessons from Obadiah

Obadiah

Introduction:

- A. Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament.
- B. Obadiah's prophecy deals with a foreign nation — Edom.
- C. The descendants of Jacob were Jews; the descendants of Esau were Edomites.
- D. The relationship between Edom and Israel was really unfriendly, they were like fighting cousins.
- E. What 3 lessons do we learn from Obadiah?

I. The greatest cause of sin is pride (Obadiah 3).

- A. Pride will not allow you to see the truth of God's word (Jeremiah 43:2).
- B. God hates pride (Proverbs 8:13).
- C. Pride hinders one coming to God (Psalm 10:4).
- D. God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble (1 Peter 5:5).
- E. Pride goes before destruction (Proverbs 16:18).

II. Sin shows itself in the mistreatment of others (Obadiah 10-14).

- A. Edom was happy over the Israelites misfortunes.
- B. Some are happy when others do evil (Romans 1:32).
- C. The Christian is not happy when others do evil (1 Corinthians 13:6).
- D. Christians suffer with those who suffer and are happy with those who are happy (1 Corinthians 12:26).

III. We will reap what we sow (Obadiah 15).

- A. Judges 1:7
- B. 2 Corinthians 5:10
- C. Galatians 6:7,8

Conclusion:

- A. The Edomites thought in their own minds that they were safe and no one could bring them down from their lofty high.
- B. God was sitting on His throne and the Edomites would pay for their sins.
- C. You and I will pay for our sins if we let pride rule our hearts.

Lessons from Jonah

Jonah 1-4

Introduction:

- A. Jonah is unlike the other Minor Prophets; there are several things about Jonah that were not true of the other Minor Prophets.
 - 1. Jonah is the only Minor Prophet where miracles play an important role.
 - 2. Jonah is the only Minor Prophet whose major activity is on “foreign soil”.
 - 3. Jonah is the only Minor Prophet who preaches to a foreign people.
 - 4. Jonah is the only Old Testament character who takes a trip on the Mediterranean.
 - 5. Jonah is the only Minor Prophet mentioned by Jesus and is the only Old Testament character to whom Jesus likened Himself.
- B. But now let’s look at the lessons we learn from the book of Jonah.

I. Chapter 1 — Jonah is running from God.

- A. God said go one way; Jonah went the other.
- B. Jonah wanted to run away from the presence of the Lord (verse 3).
- C. Jonah fled from the presence of the Lord (verse 10).
- D. When we disobey the Lord, we seek to hide from God (Genesis 3:8,9; Genesis 4:8,9).
- E. We cannot run away and hid from God (Psalm 139:7-12).

II. Chapter 2 — Jonah is running to God.

- A. In chapter two you see a different man.
- B. No more running from God; now he is running to God.
- C. In chapter two we see a man who has repented, had a change of mind and action.
- D. Luke 15:11-24 tells a beautiful story of a man’s return to his Father.

III. Chapter 3 — Jonah is running with God.

- A. Running with God because he is obeying God (verse 3).
 - 1. Are you running with God?
 - 2. Are you obeying God (Hebrews 5:8,9)?
- B. Running with God is walking in the light as He is in the light (1 John 1:7).
- C. Running with God is running the race set before us (Hebrews 12:1,2).

IV. Chapter 4 — Jonah is running ahead of God.

- A. Jonah wanted to run God's business (verse 2).
- B. Man is incapable of running his own business, how can he take over God's business (Jeremiah 10:23).
- C. Jonah forgot his place in relationship to God (Isaiah 55:9).

Conclusion:

- A. What great lessons to learn in our relationship with God.
- B. Are you running to God and with God?

What Does the Lord Require of You?

Micah 6:8

Introduction:

- A. God has always required certain things of His people.
- B. The Lord always wants His people to do what is good.
- C. That's what God required of Israel, and that's what He requires of us.
- D. What does God require of us?

I. To do justly.

- A. Justly means, "honest and upright".
- B. We must think this way (Philippians 4:8).
- C. Christians always deal justly with others (Colossians 4:1).
- D. Christians always behave themselves devoutly and justly and blamelessly (1 Thessalonians 2:10).

II. To love mercy.

- A. Mercy is a Christian attitude with promise (Matthew 5:7).
- B. In view of God's mercy, we should dedicate ourselves to God (Romans 12:1).

- C. Christians will put on mercy (Colossians 3:12).
- D. Mercy is what gives us the hope of eternal life (Jude 21).

III. To walk humbly with God.

- A. Christians walk in love (Ephesians 5:2).
- B. Christians walk in light (Ephesians 5:8).
- C. Christians walk as Christ walked (1 John 2:6).
- D. Christians walk after God's commandments (2 John 6).
- E. Christians walk in the truth (3 John 3,4).
- F. Christians walk to please God (1 Thessalonians 4:1).

Conclusion:

- A. Are you doing what the Lord requires of you?
- B. If not, will you repent and confess your sins as publicly as you have committed them?

The Majesty of God in Judgment and Mercy

Nahum 1:1-8

Introduction:

- A. When God finally convinces Jonah to preach to the people of Nineveh, the whole city responds with repentance and Nineveh escapes destruction.
- B. The people of Nineveh humble themselves before God, but their humility soon changes to arrogance as Assyria becomes the most powerful empire in the world.
- C. About a century after the preaching of Jonah, God calls Nahum to proclaim the coming destruction of Nineveh.
- D. Nahum begins with a very clear description of the character of God.

I. A God who is jealous.

- A. Nahum 1:2
- B. Exodus 20:5

II. A God of vengeance.

- A. Nahum 1:2
- B. 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

III. A God of wrath.

- A. Nahum 1:2
- B. Romans 1:18

IV. A God of patience.

- A. Nahum 1:3
- B. Romans 15:5

V. A God of great power.

- A. Nahum 1:3-6
- B. Jeremiah 32:17,27

VI. A God who is good.

- A. Nahum 1: 7
- B. Romans 2:3,4

Conclusion:

- A. We see the character of God.
- B. We see the majesty of God in judgment and mercy.
- C. Seeing God this way should lead us to live for Him and serve Him daily.

The Just Shall Live By Faith

Habakkuk 2:4

Introduction:

- A. The circumstances of life sometimes appear to contradict God's revelation concerning His power and purposes.
- B. Habakkuk struggles in his faith when he sees men have no regard for God's law and change the true meaning of justice on every level, without fear for God.
- C. God tells Habakkuk that he can trust Him in even the worst circumstances.
- D. In all this God tells Habakkuk, "*But the just shall live by faith.*"

I. The just.

- A. The one who is righteous and honest before God.
- B. Genesis 6:9
- C. Romans 1:17
- D. Hebrews 10:38

II. Shall live.

- A. Galatians 2:20
- B. Philippians 1:21
- C. 2 Timothy 3:12
- D. Titus 2:12

III. By faith.

- A. Galatians 3:11
- B. Romans 4:12
- C. Acts 14:22
- D. 1 Corinthians 16:13

Conclusion:

- A. Are you just in the sight of God?
- B. Are you living by faith?
- C. Do you trust the Lord?

Consider Your Ways

Haggai 1:5

Introduction:

- A. When Haggai comes on the scene, sixteen years have passed, and only the foundation of the temple has been laid.
- B. The basic theme of Haggai is clear: the remnant must get its priorities in order.
- C. Haggai calls on God's people to:

I. To renew their courage in the Lord.

- A. Haggai 2:4,5
- B. Joshua 1:6-9
- C. 2 Chronicles 15:8
- D. Psalm 31:24

II. To renew their holiness of life.

- A. Haggai 2:11-14
- B. Deuteronomy 7:6
- C. Romans 6:9,22
- D. Ephesians 4:22-24

III. To renew their faith in the Lord.

- A. Haggai 2:20-22
- B. Romans 4:16-25
- C. 2 Corinthians 13:5
- D. 1 Peter 5:9

Conclusion:

- A. Stop at different times in your life and “*consider your ways*”.
- B. When we do this, it will help us be faithful to the Lord.
- C. Will you look at your life with eternity in mind at this time?

Putting Wages into a Bag with Holes

Haggai 1:6

Introduction:

- A. The way we live our life is very important.
- B. How are you living your life?
- C. What are the priorities of your life?
- D. How can one live a life that can be described as “*putting wages into a bag with holes.*”

I. By being unfaithful to the Lord.

- A. Numbers 12:7
- B. Nehemiah 7:1,2
- C. 2 Timothy 4:6-8

II. By being worldly.

- A. James 1:27
- B. James 4:4
- C. 1 John 2:15-17

III. By being lazy in serving the Lord.

- A. Nehemiah 6:1-4

- B. Romans 12:11
- C. 1 Thessalonians 2:9

IV. By not putting the Lord first.

- A. Matthew 6:33
- B. Philippians 2:5-7
- C. Colossians 3:1-4

Conclusion:

- A. Are you “putting wages into a bag with holes?”
- B. Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven by the way you live your life for Jesus.

Is the Seed Still in the Barn?

Haggai 2:19

Introduction:

- A. Haggai is seeking to motivate Israel to get busy rebuilding the temple.
- B. They have started the work; they have laid the foundation.
- C. But because some were disappointed at the size and grandeur of it in comparison to the previous temple, they had abandoned the project.
- D. Haggai asks his fellow Israelites a penetrating question, “Is the seed still in the barn?”

I. The challenge of getting the seed out of the barn.

- A. The Consequences: If your seed is still in the barn:
 - 1. There would be no hope of a future harvest (Ecclesiastes 11:4).
 - 2. There would be no hope of getting more (Proverbs 11:24).
 - 3. There would be no hope of anything gained (Ecclesiastes 11:6).
- B. The Challenges: Is your seed still in the barn?
 - 1. Is your money still in your pocket (Matthew 6:19-21)?
 - 2. Are you content just to sit on the pews (Luke 10:2)?
 - 3. Is the preacher content to tickle ears (2 Timothy 4:3)?

II. The challenge of planting the seed in the ground.

- A. The Resource: The challenge of seeing the resources that God has made available.
 - 1. God furnishes the farmer with all that he needs.
 - 2. God furnishes us with all we need to succeed (2 Corinthians 9:8,10).
- B. The Challenge: God expects us to do the planting.
 - 1. The farmer must plant the seed into the ground if he wants a harvest.
 - 2. We have to sow the word of God if we want a harvest (Luke 19:21,22).

III. The challenge of waiting for the seed to grow.

- A. The farmer plans and expects a harvest, he is patient (Mark 4:26-29).
- B. The farmer waits for the Lord to give the increase (James 5:7).
- C. The farmer does not become weary in his work (Galatians 6:9).
- D. The farmer does not become lazy in his work (Hebrews 6:12).

Conclusion:

- A. Everything does not depend on the sower.
- B. Our challenge is to get the seed out of the barn and into the ground.
- C. Are you doing your part of getting the seed out of the barn and into the ground?

Behold the Man Whose Name Is the Branch Zechariah 6:12,13

Introduction:

- A. Zechariah is commissioned by God to encourage the people.
- B. Zechariah seeks to encourage God's people to action by reminding them of the future.
- C. There are many messianic passages in the book of Zechariah, and one of them is found in our text.
- D. What do we learn from our text?

- I. We learn about the man — the Branch.**
 - A. Zechariah 6:12
 - B. Isaiah 11:1-10
 - C. John 1:41-45
 - D. Acts 13:16-23
- II. We learn — He shall build the temple of the Lord.**
 - A. Zechariah 6:12
 - B. 1 Corinthians 3:7,17
 - C. Ephesians 2:19-21
- III. We learn — He shall sit and rule on His throne.**
 - A. Zechariah 6:13
 - B. Psalm 110:4-7
 - C. Acts 2:22-33
 - D. Colossians 1:18-22

Conclusion:

- A. The branch, Jesus brings peace.
- B. He brings peace to those in the temple, the church He has built.
- C. He is sitting on His throne in heaven and is ruling as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Prophecies of Christ in Zechariah

Zechariah

Introduction:

- A. There are many messianic passages in the book of Zechariah.
- B. Christ is pictured as: Servant and King, Man and God.
- C. Let's look at some of the prophecies.

- I. Christ the Branch — Zechariah 3: 8; Isaiah 11:1-10; Acts 13:16-23**
- II. Christ the Servant — Zechariah 3:8; Matthew 20:28**
- III. Christ's entry to Jerusalem on a colt — Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:4,5**
- IV. Christ the betrayed One for thirty piece of silver —Zechariah 11:12,13; Matthew 27:9,10**

- V. Christ's deity — Zechariah 12:8;
- VI. Christ the smitten shepherd — Zechariah 13:7; Mark 14:27
- VII. Christ's hands pierced — Zechariah 12:10; John 19:37
- VIII. Christ's people saved — Zechariah 13:1; Matthew 1:21
- IX. Christ wounded in the house of His friends — Zechariah 13:6,7; Luke 22:47-62
- X. Christ's coming on the Mount of Olives — Zechariah 14:3-8; Acts 1:9-12

Conclusion:

- A. Over 300 prophecies of Christ in the Old Testament.
- B. Here are at least 10 in the book of Zechariah.
- C. Do you believe that Christ is the Son of God. Are you willing to confess that fact and be buried with Him in baptism?

God Hates Divorce

Malachi 2:14-16

Introduction:

- A. God's messenger, Malachi appeals to the People of God to turn from their evil ways.
- B. Malachi is appealing to backsliding Israel to return to God and stop their sinning.
- C. In this Malachi says, "*For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce for it covers one's garment with violence.*"
- D. Why does God hate divorce?

I. Broken companionship.

- A. Malachi 2:14
- B. Genesis 2:18,24
- C. Matthew 19:4,5

II. It shows a lack of respect for God's Word.

- A. Malachi 2:14
- B. Matthew 5:31,32
- C. Matthew 19:3-12

III. It leaves fatherless children.

- A. Malachi 2:15
- B. James 1:27
- C. 1 Corinthians 7:14

IV. It leads to lost souls, impurity, and hurt.

- A. Malachi 2:16
- B. Hebrews 13:4
- C. 1 Corinthians 6:13-20

Conclusion:

- A. God hates divorce, and so should we who are God's people.
- B. It affects all; the husband, the wife, the children, and future generations.
- C. God wants one man for one woman for a lifetime.

Will a Man Rob God?

Malachi 3:8-10

Introduction

- A. The people of God have many sinful problems in the book of Malachi.
- B. God's people are polluted with many sins.
 - 1. The priests have lost all respect for God's name.
 - 2. In their greed they offer only diseased and imperfect animals on the altar.
- C. What a statement by God, "*Will a man rob God?*"
- D. How can we rob God by what we offer to Him?

I. When we do not purpose in our hearts.

- A. Each person is to give as he has decided in his mind.
- B. Acts 11:23
- C. 1 Corinthians 16:1,2
- D. 2 Corinthians 9:2,7

II. When we give grudgingly.

- A. We should not give reluctantly.
- B. Exodus 25:1,2

C. 2 Corinthians 8:1-6

D. 2 Corinthians 9:7

III. When we give of necessity.

A. That is we give under compulsion or force.

B. Judges 5:2,9

C. Judges 8:23-25

D. 2 Corinthians 9:7

IV. When we are not happy to give.

A. God loves a happy giver.

B. Exodus 35:5,20-22

C. Exodus 36:5-7

D. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Conclusion:

A. What are you offering to the Lord?

B. How are you offering to the Lord?

C. Let us be like David, *“Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy....”* (Psalm 27:6).

Sermons from Genesis to Revelation

Volume 2

(Matthew to Revelation)

Robert H. Martin

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The Christian Attitudes

Matthew 5:1-12

Introduction:

- A. The heart of Christianity can be summed up in Matthew 5:1-12.
- B. These teachings will make you complete and whole (Matthew 5:48).
- C. Paul said in Philippians 2:5, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."
- D. What are these attitudes?

I. The Attitude — the Poor in Spirit.

- A. Matthew 5:3
- B. Luke 18:9-14
- C. 1 Peter 5:5,6
- D. The reward — Theirs is the Kingdom of God.

II. The Attitude — Those Who Mourn.

- A. Matthew 5:4
- B. Psalm 51
- C. Luke 6:21,25
- D. The reward — They shall be comforted.

III. The Attitude — the Meek.

- A. Matthew 5:5
- B. Ephesians 4:2
- C. Colossians 3:12
- D. The reward — They shall inherit the earth.

IV. The Attitude — Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness.

- A. Matthew 5:6
- B. Ephesians 4:24
- C. 1 John 2:29
- D. The reward — They shall be filled.

V. The Attitude — The Merciful.

- A. Matthew 5:7
- B. Luke 6:36

- C. Romans 12:1,8
- D. The reward — They shall obtain mercy.

VI. The Attitude — the Pure in Heart.

- A. Matthew 5:8
- B. Proverbs 4:20-23
- C. Proverbs 23:7
- D. The reward — They shall see God.

VII. The Attitude — The Peacemakers.

- A. Matthew 5:9
- B. Romans 14:19
- C. 2 Corinthians 13:11
- D. The reward — They shall be called the children of God.

VIII. The Attitude — Those who are persecuted for righteousness sake.

- A. Matthew 5:10-12
- B. Matthew 5:44,45
- C. 1 Peter 4:12-16
- D. The reward — Theirs is the Kingdom of God.

Conclusion:

- A. Notice that with every attitude we possess there is a reward.
- B. Let us work on our attitudes so that we may possess these wonderful rewards.

Christians Are the Salt and Light of the World

Matthew 5:13-16

Introduction:

- A. Following the Attitudes, Jesus tells Christians — you are like salt and light.
- B. In this lesson we will see the effects of Christians on the world.

I. Christians are Like — Salt.

- A. What can Jesus mean when He says, “You are the salt of the earth”? (Matthew 5:13).

- B. How are Christians like salt?
 1. Salt flavors food, Christians flavor the world they live in (Acts 2:47).
 2. Salt preserves food, Christians preserve (protects, keeps alive, saves) this world they live in (Mark 16:15,16; Colossians 2:12,13).
 3. Salt purifies water (1 Peter 1:22,23; Philippians 4:8,9).
- C. As the salt you can have an effect on the world you live in.

II. Christians are Like — Light.

- A. What can Jesus mean when he says, “You are the light of the world”? (Matthew 5:14,15).
- B. How are Christians like light?
 1. Light helps people see (Philippians 2:15,16).
 2. Light gives people warmth (1 Thessalonians 4:18).
 3. Light guides our way (Psalm 119:105).
- C. As the light of the world you can push the darkness away so that others can see Jesus.

Conclusion:

- A. Are you salt for Jesus in a sinful world, that it might be a better place to live?
- B. Are you light for Jesus in a sinful world, that others may see the right way to live?

Putting First Things First in Life

Matthew 6:19-34

Introduction:

- A. Success in living the Christian life is what this passage is all about.
- B. Serving God with singleness of purpose.
- C. Putting the concerns of God’s kingdom first.
- D. When we do this we free ourselves from worry about the lesser things of life.

I. Do Not Lay Up Treasures on Earth, but in Heaven.

- A. Matthew 6:19-21

B. Proverbs 23:4,5

C. Luke 11:34-36

II. Do Not Try to Serve Two Masters.

A. Matthew 6:24

B. Luke 16:9-13

C. Galatians 1:10

III. Do Not Worry.

A. Matthew 6:25-32

B. Matthew 13:7,22

C. 1 Timothy 6:6-8

IV. Seek First God's Kingdom and Doing Right.

A. Matthew 6:33

B. Ephesians 4:24

C. Colossians 3:1-4

Conclusion:

A. God desires that we put Him first.

B. Are you putting God first in your life?

C. Putting God first in your life will bring true happiness and eternal life.

The Two Ways of Life

Matthew 7:13,14

Introduction:

A. These words are spoken to the entire human race.

B. Must know how to enter and recognize the way we are traveling.

C. Let us now take a closer look.

I. The Two Gates.

A. Our personal responsibility.

1. "Enter you" — we enter by choice.

2. "Gate" — entrance place, in religion "a beginning, decision".

3. Jesus assumes movement, entrance, we are all traveling.
- B. The narrow gate — “it is difficult and confined.”
 1. It will take sacrifice of self (Romans 12:1,2).
 2. It is difficult for the rich (Matthew 19:16-24).
 3. You cannot accidentally enter, it will take “striving” (Luke 13:24).
- C. The wide gate — “a very elastic measurement”.
 1. One can enter by doing nothing (Hebrews 2:1-3).
 2. One can enter by making no decision (Acts 24:22-25).
 3. One may enter through mis-information (Matthew 7:15,16).

II. The Two Ways.

- A. There are only two ways, no middle ground.
 1. You cannot say, “I will not make a decision”.
 2. You must make a decision, one way or the other.
 3. Some say, “All are going some place, just different ways”.
- B. The narrow (confined) way is the way of few.
 1. The word “narrow” is thought to be repulsive, offensive.
 2. It is not a shame to be “narrow”, but rather a compliment and it indicates conviction, character, and humility.
 3. Christ was narrow (John 14:6).
 4. Christians must be “His own special people” (Titus 2:14).
- C. Why is the way “narrow”? The way of truth is always narrow, it excludes error.
 1. One body (Ephesians 4:4; Colossians 1:24).
 2. Baptism is a burial (Colossians 1:12).
 3. Baptisms saves (1 Peter 3:21).
- D. The broad way of many.
 1. The way of opinion (Proverbs 14:12).
 2. The way of the proud (1 Corinthians 1:26).
 3. The way of self-approved (Proverbs 12:15).

III. The Two Certain Ways.

- A. The judgment is the parting of the ways (Matthew 25:31).

- B. The way of life (Romans 6:23).
 - 1. Heaven is so narrow it holds only those prepared to enter.
 - 2. Get on the right train, not the popular one, for your final destination.
- C. The way of death and destruction. (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).
 - 1. Hell is the final resting place for the rebellious and disobedient.
 - 2. The way of sin is the line of least resistance, it is like a leaf in a current of a stream.

Conclusion:

- A. Make your choice today.
- B. Life is short.

A Tree and Its Fruit

Matthew 7:15-20

Introduction:

- A. Jesus in this text addresses false and true teaching.
- B. There has always been false and true teaching since the beginning of time.
- C. There will always be false and true teachings till the end of time.

I. Beware of False Teachers.

- A. Matthew 7:15
- B. Jeremiah 23:13-16
- C. Micah 3:5
- D. Acts 20:28-32

II. You Will Know Them by Their Fruit.

- A. Matthew 7:16
- B. Matthew 12:33-37
- C. 2 Peter 2:10-20
- D. Jude 4,7,8,10,11

III. Will We be a Good Tree or a Bad Tree?

- A. Matthew 7:17-20
- B. This will be determined by the way we act and by what we speak.
- C. We will be known by the way we act and by what we speak.

Conclusion:

- A. How are you acting?
- B. How are you speaking?
- C. What will you say on the Day of Judgment?

The Two Builders

Matthew 7:21-27

Introduction:

- A. In this passage Jesus tells us the Way into the kingdom.
- B. In this Scripture Jesus tells us about the importance of deeds.
- C. Jesus says to obey God is far better than talking about your obedience.

I. The Way into the Kingdom.

- A. Matthew 7:21-23
- B. Luke 6:46
- C. Romans 2:13

II. The Importance of Deeds.

- A. Matthew 7:21-23
- B. 1 Samuel 15:22,23
- C. 2 Corinthians 5:9,10

III. The Way to Build a Life.

- A. Matthew 7:24-27
- B. Luke 6:47-49
- C. 1 John 5:3

Conclusion:

- A. Judgment is the final testing (Matthew 31-46).
- B. Time is uncertain; clouds are on the horizon for some of us now.
- C. Build now for eternity.

Parable of the Soils

Matthew 13:1-23

Introduction:

- A. A parable is “an earthly story with a spiritual or heavenly meaning.”
- B. This is one of the longest parables of Jesus.
- C. Here is an important parable about the different kinds of soils or hearts of mankind.

I. Jesus First Gives the Parable in Story Form.

- A. A sower went out to sow; the sower is Christians (Acts 8:4).
- B. The seed is the word of God (Luke 8:11).
- C. The seed fell on different soils.
 - 1. Some fell by the wayside, along the pathway (Matthew 13:4).
 - 2. Some fell on stony places, on the rocky places (Matthew 13:5).
 - 3. Some fell among thorns (Matthew 13:7).
 - 4. Some fell on the good ground (Matthew 13:7).

II. Jesus Then Injects How Important it Is to Hear.

- A. Fifteen times in verses 9-23 Jesus uses the word “hear, hearing”.
- B. The way you hear will determine how you receive the word of God (John 12:47,48).
- C. We should be quick to hear God’s word (James 1:19).
- D. We should not become dull of hearing God’s word (Hebrews 5:11-14).

III. Jesus Now Shows us the (4) Kinds of Soils or Hearts.

- A. Wayside-ground (heart) represents those who know the Good News about the Kingdom (Matthew 13:19).
 - 1. Those who are hardened by false teaching, prejudice, indifference, and by the deceitfulness of sin (Hebrews 3:13)
 - 2. Satan snatches the Word of God out of their hearts (Luke 8:12).

- B. Stony-ground (heart) which is a mixture of good soil and rocks (Matthew 13:20,21).
 - 1. He grows for a time, but wilts under persecution or tribulation (2 Timothy 4:10).
 - 2. This person has a shallow way.
- C. Thorny-ground (heart) the seed and its growth is choked out by the thorns (Matthew 13:20-22).
 - 1. This is the person who entangles himself with the affairs of this life (2 Timothy 2:4).
 - 2. This person lets the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke God and the church out of his life (1 Timothy 6:9).
- D. Good-ground (heart) the good and honest heart brings forth fruit.
 - 1. The Colossians were this type of people (Colossians 1:6).

Conclusion:

- A. The kind of heart you have is determined by you.
- B. What kind of heart do you have?

Parable of the Wheat and Tares

Matthew 13:24-30

Introduction:

- A. Jesus taught in parables to get the attention of His hearers.
- B. We can learn many valuable lessons from the parables.

I. A Description of the Parables.

- A. The kingdom in this parable is the Church (Matthew 16:18,19).
- B. The good seed {the word of God} is the wheat in this parable (Luke 8:11).
- C. The bad seed {false teaching} is the tares in this parable (Galatians 1:6-9).
- D. What lesson do we learn from this parable?

II. Describes the Purity in the Kingdom.

- A. 1 Corinthians 5:1-13
- B. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
- C. Galatians 5:19-21
- D. Ephesians 5:25-27

Conclusion:

- A. “But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life” (Revelation 21:27).
- B. Are you keeping yourself pure so that your name will be in the Lamb’s Book of Life?

Parable of the Mustard Seed

Matthew 13:31,32

Introduction:

- A. This is a very interesting parable.
- B. The mustard seed is a very tiny seed, but when it grows up it becomes a large plant.
- C. What lesson do we learn from this parable?
 - 1. Mainly it describes the growth or prosperity in the Kingdom (the Church).

I. Sharing the Seed (the Word).

- A. Matthew 13:31
- B. Luke 8:5,11
- C. Mark 4:3

II. The Silent Work of God.

- A. Matthew 13:31,32
- B. Mark 4:26-29
- C. 1 Corinthians 3:5-7

III. The Small Beginning.

- A. Matthew 13:32
- B. Mark 4:30-32
- C. Acts 2:41,47

Conclusion:

- A. Never underestimate the planting of the seed (the word of God).
- B. It starts with planting it in one person, then a group, then a village, then an entire country, and the world.
- C. There is power in the seed (Romans 1:16).

Parable of the Leaven

Matthew 13:33-35

Introduction:

- A. What an interesting parable, especially to those who understand leaven.
- B. Women use yeast to leaven or influence to make things rise or get larger.
- C. What lesson do we learn from this parable?

I. Describes the Kingdom.

- A. Matthew 16:18,19
- B. John 18:36
- C. Colossians 1:13

II. The Influence of the Kingdom.

- A. Matthew 5:13-16
- B. Philippians 2:15,16
- C. Galatians 5:9

Conclusion:

- A. “You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men” (2 Corinthians 3:2).
- B. As part of the Kingdom, you and I are the leaven (influence) in the world that we live in.
- C. Are you a good influence on others for the Kingdom’s sake?

Parable of the Hidden Treasure

Matthew 13:44-46

Introduction:

- A. I love these two parables, because I love treasure.
- B. We understand about treasure, it is something valuable.
- C. We understand about pearls because we work in the Pacific Islands where there are some of the most beautiful pearls found anywhere in the world.
- D. What lesson do we learn from this parable?

I. The Treasure we Find in the Kingdom/Church.

- A. Acts 20:28
- B. Ephesians 5:25
- C. Revelation 21:9-27

II. The Treasure we Find from being in the Kingdom/ Church.

- A. Ephesians 1:3-11
- B. 2 Timothy 2:10
- C. 1 John 5:11

III. How we Should be Willing to Give up Anything for the Treasure.

- A. Matthew 6:33
- B. Matthew 22:37
- C. Romans 12:1,2

Conclusion:

- A. Realize that you can have a treasure in the Kingdom/Church.
- B. We have many treasures in the Kingdom/Church.
- C. Are you willing to give up anything for the treasure?

Parable of the Dragnet

Matthew 13:47-50

Introduction:

- A. I understand about net fishing because we work in the Pacific Islands.

- B. The dragnet when thrown in the sea gathers all kinds of fish.
- C. The fisherman keeps the good fish and throws away the bad.
- D. What lesson do we learn from this parable?

I. Many Peoples of the World in the Kingdom/Church.

- A. Matthew 8:11
- B. Mark 16:15,16
- C. Galatians 3:26-29

II. Many Talents in the Kingdom/Church.

- A. Romans 12:4-6
- B. 1 Corinthians 3:5-9
- C. 1 Corinthians 12:12-25

III. In the Kingdom/Church there is Good and Bad.

- A. Matthew 25:31-46
- B. John 5:29
- C. Galatians 6:7,8

Conclusion:

- A. Here on this earth there are good and bad in the kingdom/church.
- B. In the final judgment day there will be an eternal separation.
- C. What will be your destiny on that final judgment day?

The Parable of the Householder

Matthew 13:51,52

Introduction:

- A. Jesus saves the best for the last of the parables that is recorded in Matthew chapter 13.
- B. I love this parable, it is challenging to understand, but very interesting.
- C. What lesson do we learn from this parable?

I. The Kingdom/Church is Like a Household.

- A. Ephesians 3:19
- B. 1 Timothy 3:15
- C. Hebrews 3:6

II. Treasures in This Household/Church.

- A. Matthew 13:17
- B. Luke 10:24
- C. Hebrews 11:13
- D. 1 Peter 1:10-12

III. Old and New Blessings in This Housuehold/Church.

- A. Genesis 12:1-3
- B. Galatians 3:26-29
- C. Ephesians 1:3-11

Conclusion:

- A. What a wonderful parable.
- B. What blessings we have in knowing this parable.
- C. Are **you** in this kingdom/church/house of the Lord?

I Will Build My Church

Matthew 16:13-19

Introduction:

- A. Did Jesus promise to build a church or churches?
- B. Did Jesus keep His promise?
- C. Do you believe the church that Jesus built is in the world today?
- D. Here is an analysis of the promise in Matthew 16:13-19.

I. “I” — First Person — Singular.

- A. Jesus is the builder.
- B. The church is of divine origin (Revelation 21:2).
- C. Men did not purpose, plan, or build the church.
- D. There are many man-made churches, but only ONE built by Jesus.

II. “Will Build” — Future Tense.

- A. Not yet established at the time Jesus spoke these words.
- B. All references to the church/kingdom before Acts 2 are in the future (Matthew 3:1,2; Matthew 4:7; Mark 9:1).

- C. All references after Acts 2 show the church/kingdom to be in existence (Acts 2:47; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 12:28).

III. “My” — Possessive Pronoun.

- A. The church belongs to Jesus (Acts 20:28).
- B. Jesus is the head of His church (Ephesians 5:23).
- C. Jesus is the foundation of His church (1 Corinthians 3:11).
- D. Jesus is the Savior of His church (Ephesians 5:25).
- E. Jesus is the hope of His church (1 Corinthians 15:24; Ephesians 5:26,27).

IV. “Church”— The Called Out.

- A. Called the Kingdom (Matthew 16:18,19).
- B. Called the House of God (1 Timothy 3:15).
- C. Called the body of Christ (Colossians 1:24).
- D. Called the temple of the Lord (Ephesians 2:19-21).

Conclusion:

- A. Are you a member of the Church that Jesus built?
- B. Will you become a member of the Church that Jesus built now?

Success in Life

Matthew 16:24-26

Introduction:

- A. Success is what life is all about.
- B. Everyone struggles for success in this life.
- C. But the greatest success of all is “spiritual success”.
- D. What can bring about “spiritual success”?

I. Dessire.

- A. 1 Corinthians 7:11
- B. 2 Timothy 2:12
- C. 1 Peter 2:2

II. Deny

- A. Romans 12:1,2
- B. Titus 2:12
- C. Hebrews 11:24,25

III. Death.

- A. Romans 6:5,6,11
- B. Galatians 2:20
- C. 2 Timothy 2:11

Conclusion:

- A. Do you have a successful life according to the thinking of the world?
- B. Or do you have a successful life according to God's thinking?
- C. Will you make a decision today to have a successful spiritual life so that heaven can be your home some day?

The Rich Young Ruler

Matthew 19:16-19

Introduction:

- A. In this text we read that a young man came to Jesus
- B. He was searching for the right way in life.
- C. What do we learn?

I. This Rich Young Ruler Came to Jesus at the Right Time.

- A. Matthew 19:20
- B. Ecclesiastes 11:9,10
- C. Ecclesiastes 12:1,2
- D. 1 Timothy 4:12

II. This Rich Young Ruler Came to Jesus as the Right Person.

- A. Matthew 19:16,18
- B. John 6:66-68
- C. John 14:6

III. This Rich Young Ruler Came to Jesus with the Right Attitude.

- A. Matthew 19:16
- B. Mark 10:17
- C. Hebrews 12:28
- D. John 4:24

IV. This Rich Young Ruler Came to Jesus with the Right Question.

- A. Matthew 19:16
- B. Matthew 16:26
- C. 1 John 2:17

Conclusion:

- A. What a happy occasion when this young man came to Jesus the Savior of the world.
- B. How sad, this young man turned his back on his only hope of salvation.
- C. How will you respond to Jesus?

The Right Attitude About Serving

Matthew 20:26-28

Introduction:

- A. Jesus came to give and serve.
- B. A Christ-like Christian will do likewise.
- C. Who will be the greatest?

I. Have the Attitude of a Slave.

- A. Matthew 20:27
- B. James 1:1
- C. 1 Corinthians 4:1
- D. Matthew 25:23,30

II. Have the Attitude to Serve.

- A. Matthew 20:27
- B. Acts 20:19; Romans 12:11
- C. Romans 12:11
- D. Galatians 5:13

III. Have the Attitude to Give Your Life.

- A. Matthew 20:27
- B. Numbers 14:24
- C. Romans 12:1,2
- D. Colossians 3:4

Conclusion:

- A. Do you have the right attitude about serving Jesus?
- B. Will you repent and have the right attitude about living for and serving Jesus?

Parable of the Two Sons

Matthew 21:28-32

Introduction:

- A. Remember that a parable is, “an earthly story with a heavenly, spiritual meaning”.
- B. What a beautiful story Jesus tells about a father and his two sons.
- C. This story/parable is teaching a great lesson on repentance.

I. Repentance is Described as What?

- A. Returning (1 Samuel 7:3).
- B. Repent (Acts 8:22).
- C. Turning (Acts 9:35).
- D. Conversion (Acts 15:3).

II. What Leads to Repentance?

- A. God’s longsuffering (2 Peter 3:9).
- B. God’s goodness (Romans 2:4).
- C. Conviction of sin (Acts 2:37,38).

III. What are the Signs of Repentance?

- A. A reformation of life (Matthew 3:8).
- B. Restitution when possible (Luke 19:8).
- C. Godly sorrow (2 Corinthians 7:9,10).

Conclusion:

- A. Repentance is a change of mind that leads to a change of life.
- B. Do you need to repent of past or present sins?
- C. Will you do it now?

The Greatest Commandment

Matthew 22:34-40

Introduction:

- A. When I came up out of the watery grave of baptism, brother Stonewall Turner, an elder said to me, “son, go home and read Matthew 22:37,38, and if you will do this you will go to heaven”.
- B. I went home, I read this passage, and I have never forgotten this elder and this passage since the night I was baptized in August 1962.
- C. This is a powerful passage that will help us get to heaven.

I. God Should be the Object of our Love.

- A. Deuteronomy 6:5
- B. 2 Kings 23:25
- C. 1 John 5:2,3

II. God Demands our All.

- A. Psalm 38:9
- B. 2 Corinthians 8:5
- C. Romans 12:1

III. God Asks for our Heart, Mind, and Soul.

- A. Heart — (1 Kings 2:4).
- B. Mind — (Romans 12:2).
- C. Soul — (Deuteronomy 30:2,6,10).

IV. Love Your Neighbor as Yourself.

- A. Leviticus 19:18
- B. Romans 13:9,10
- C. **Ephesians 4:25**

Conclusion:

- A. Do you love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, and soul?
- B. Do you love your neighbor as yourself?

Jesus Instituted the Lord's Supper

Matthew 26:17-29

Introduction:

- A. It is the time of the Passover feast.
- B. Jesus takes this opportunity with His disciples to “institute a supper that will be in remembrance of Him.”
- C. What do we learn about The Lord's Supper from this text?

I. It is the Time of the Passover (Matthew 26:17-25).

- A. The Feast of the Unleavened Bread was connected with the Passover (Exodus 12:9; Leviticus 23:6-8).
- B. There could be no leaven in their house during this time (Exodus 12:15).
- C. So we learn that both the bread and fruit of the vine would not have any yeast in them.
- D. Therefore we see the “unleavened bread” and the “fruit of the vine” that would be non-alcoholic.

II. We see “The Way” Jesus did it (Matthew 26:26,27).

- A. “Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to the disciples” (1 Corinthians 11:24).
- B. *“Jesus took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, drink from it, all of you” (1 Corinthians 11:25).*
- C. I cannot see any reason that we should change “the way” Jesus did the Lord's Supper.

III. We see “What Ingredients” are Found in the Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:26-29).

- A. The unleavened bread (Matthew 26:17,26).
- B. The non-alcoholic fruit of the vine which is the grape (Matthew 26:27,29)
- C. It is important to note that the fruit of the vine, is the fruit of the grape vine (Genesis 40:9-11; Leviticus 25:1-5; Isaiah 5:1,2; Revelation 14:18).

IV. We see “When” and “Where” the Lord's Supper Will be Observed (Matthew 26:29).

- A. It will be partaken of in the “Father's kingdom”, which is the

Church (Matthew 16:18,19).

- B. It will be partaken of on the “first day of the week” (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; Hebrews 10:25).
- C. We have “a silent partner” participating in the communion with us (Matthew 26:29).

Conclusion:

- A. We learn much about the Lord’s Supper in this passage.
- B. These things will help us partake of the Lord’s Supper in the right way.
- C. Are **you** partaking of the Lord’s Supper in the right way?

Go Make Disciples for Jesus

Matthew 28:18-20

Introduction:

- A. The parting words of Jesus before leaving this earth was for his disciples to “*Go and make disciples of all the nations*” (Matthew 28:19)
- B. Jesus speaks these words with “all authority” (Matthew 28:18).
- C. Why should we go and “make disciples of all the nations” of the world?

I. Because God has Commanded us to do so.

- A. Mark 16:15,16
- B. Acts 8:4
- C. Acts 5:42

II. Because it Shows our Love for God.

- A. John 14:15
- B. 1 John 5:3

III. Because all are Lost.

- A. Romans 3:10,23
- B. Romans 6:23
- C. Romans 10:1,2

IV. Because our Sharing the Gospel is God’s Chosen Method to Tell All People.

- A. Acts 10:30-33
- B. Romans 10:14-17

V. Because God Desires to Save all People.

- A. Acts 4:12
- B. 1 Timothy 2:4
- C. 2 Peter 3:9

VI. Because Someone Only Shared the Gospel With Us.

- A. Romans 1:14-16
- B. 1 Corinthians 15:3,4

Conclusion:

- A. The Lord is depending on you to share the gospel with others.
- B. The Lord has no other plan to save others from their sins.
- C. Can the Lord depend on you?

How the Kingdom Grows

Mark 4:11-32

Introduction:

- A. All of us are really interested in secrets. Secrets immediately get our attention.
- B. In Mark 4:11 Jesus said, “I want to tell you some secrets about the kingdom of God”.
- C. Mark chapter 4 contains three parables, each one revealing a secret about the kingdom of God.

I. Sharing the Word (Mark 14:20).

- A. Jesus reminds us that those who have received the gospel seed into their lives will want to sow it or give it away.
- B. Yes, we will want to share the word with others (Acts 16:9,10; Romans 1:16).
- C. The more we sow, the more we will harvest (2 Corinthians 9:6).

II. The Silent Work of God (Mark 4:26-29).

- A. Jesus painted a picture of a farmer going out to sow his seed in the tilled soil. He sows the seed and realizes God is at

work. God is a part of this whole process and will faithfully act in due time.

1. Here we see the seed growing secretly.
- B. This is the way the seed works in human lives. How we see the silent work of God.
- C. The word is growing secretly. We may not know how it happens. We may not understand it. But it grows!
- D. Paul refers to this very process in 1 Corinthians 3:6,9.
 1. This whole process begins with perhaps just a word of teaching, encouragement, or exhortation.
 2. Then there follows a time of cultivating, a time of waiting, as God does His work.

III. The Small Beginning (Mark 4:30-32).

- A. God works in almost unnoticeable ways. Think of the way He chose to begin the kingdom.
 1. He began it in the little known country on the backside of the earth called Palestine.
 2. The Son of God walked into that little country and called to Himself a handful of fishermen whose hands were calloused and rough. He called a tax collector right off the street. He called people whom others would not touch because they smelled bad. He called the Samaritans. He called the lonely, discouraged, and despondent people who felt there was not a chance in the world of their lives ever amounting to anything.
 3. With these people He began His kingdom, the church.
- B. It was a tiny beginning, almost unnoticed. but it grew until it spread throughout the world.
- C. God works in almost unnoticeable ways: a simple handshake, an encouraging word, a loving visit, a simple sermon, can be that small beginning. It is still happening today.

Conclusion:

- A. It begins with a surrender to the will of God.
- B. It is Jesus forgiving your guilt.
- C. It is Jesus delivering you from the slavery of sin.
- D. It is Jesus in you, the hope of glory.

In Vain They Worship Me

Mark 7:5-9

Introduction:

- A. The religious leaders of Jesus day asked Jesus, “*Why do your disciples not walk according to traditions (customs) of the elders*” (Mark 7:5).
- B. Jesus quotes Isaiah in condemning these Jews for not loving the Lord and worshipping Him in vain.
- C. How can our Worship to the Lord be in vain (empty, fruitlessness, or worthlessness)?

I. By Teaching as Doctrines the Commandments of Men.

- A. Mark 7:7
- B. Isaiah 29:13
- C. Galatians 1:6-9

II. Laying Aside the Commandments of God.

- A. Mark 7:8
- B. 1 Corinthians 2:4,5
- C. 1 Peter 4:11

III. Rejecting the Commandments of God.

- A. Mark 7:9
- B. Revelation 22:18,19
- C. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

Conclusion:

- A. Hold on to the doctrine of Christ and reject the teachings of men.
- B. Is your worship to the Lord meaningful or in vain?

Eternal Reward

Mark 10:28-31

Introduction:

- A. Jesus teaches His disciples (followers) a great lesson about following Him.

- B. This lesson should be a great encouragement to every follower of Christ today.
- C. Let us look at the text and learn.

I. When we Leave all for Jesus and the Gospel.

- A. Mark 10:28,29
- B. Matthew 19:27-29
- C. Luke 18:28-30

II. When we Follow Jesus for the Sake of the Gospel.

- A. Mark 10:28,29
- B. Matthew 8:18-22
- C. John 10:27,28

III. When we Learn to be Last for Jesus.

- A. Mark 10:31
- B. Luke 13:30
- C. Philippians 2:3,4

IV. The Reward Now and Later.

- A. Mark 10:30
- B. John 10:10
- C. Matthew 25:23,46

Conclusion:

- A. When we have been through persecutions in this life, the abundant life in this world makes it all worthwhile.
- B. Later when we enjoy eternal life, all that we face in this life will make it worthwhile.
- C. It is great to be a follower of Christ.

Do You Desire to Become Great?

Mark 10:35-45

Introduction:

- A. James and John came with a request to Jesus.
- B. After the request Jesus said, "*You do not know what you ask?*"
- C. What did they ask of Jesus? They wanted to be great.

- D. Jesus told them that if you want to be great here is what you must do.

I. If you want to be great — be a servant/slave.

- A. Mark 10:43,44
- B. John 13:12-17
- C. Romans 1:1
- D. Colossians 4:12,13

II. If you want to be great — serve.

- A. Mark 10:45
- B. Luke 16:13
- C. John 12:25,26
- D. Hebrews 9:14

III. If you want to be great — give yourself.

- A. Mark 10:45
- B. Acts 20:35
- C. Philippians 1:21,22
- D. 1 Corinthians 10:24

Conclusion:

- A. True greatness is humility in its truest form.
- B. Be great according to God's expectation and not man's expectation.
- C. Are you great in the eyes of God?

She Did What She Could

Mark 14:3-9

Introduction:

- A. Mary anoints Jesus' head by pouring the precious oil on the head of Jesus.
- B. Some get upset because they thought she wasted this precious oil.
- C. Jesus said, *"Let her alone. She has done a good work for Me. She has done what she could."*
- D. Have you done what you could?

I. To Make the Church Grow.

- A. There are some who are so busy with other things they just crowd Christ out of their lives (Matthew 6:33).
- B. Going to heaven is not really an easy thing, there are certain things we must accept in accepting Christ (Matthew 16:21-28).
- C. It is so easy to get entangled in the world and not have time for Christianity (1 John 2:15-17).
- D. The only way that we can step up the Lord's work is by giving the Lord our time — talents — money — efforts.

II. To Make Your Marriage and Home a Success.

- A. God-given suggestions to the wife for making your marriage and your home a success (Ephesians 5:22-24,33):
 - 1. Submit to your own husbands as to the Lord.
 - 2. Let your husband be the head of the family.
 - 3. Be subject to your husband in everything.
 - 4. Deeply respect your husband — by obeying, praising, and honoring him.
- B. God-given suggestions to the husband for making your marriage and your home a success (Ephesians 5:25-29,33):
 - 1. Love your wife as Christ loved the church.
 - 2. Give yourself to your wife.
 - 3. Think of your wife as beautiful and without a single fault.
 - 4. Love and care for your wife as Christ loved and cared for the church.
 - 5. Love your wife by praising and honoring her.
- C. God-given suggestions for the children making the home a success (Ephesians 6:1-3).
 - 1. Obey your parents.
 - 2. Do that which is right in God's eyes.
 - 3. Honor your father and mother.

III. To Make Life Happy for Others.

- A. We must be happy ourselves before we can make others happy.
- B. The Bible says happy is he:

1. *“Happy are the people whose God is the Lord!”* (Psalm 144:15).
 2. *“Happy is the man who finds wisdom”* (Proverbs 3:13).
 3. *“Happy is he who has mercy on the poor”* (Proverbs 14:21).
 4. *“Happy is he who keeps the law”* (Proverbs 29:18).
- C. Happiness is like zeal, it rubs off on others and makes them happy.

IV. To Influence the World, Our Friends, and Neighbors

- A. Do not consider lightly your influence.
- B. Guard it as you would a precious jewel (1 Timothy 4:12).
- C. No one lives to himself; we all touch the lives of others (Romans 14:7).
- D. We influence those about us now and that influence will live on after death (Hebrews 11:4).

Conclusion:

- A. Jesus concludes this story by saying, “Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the whole world, what this woman did will also be spoken of as a memorial to her.” (Mark 14:9).
- B. Are **you** doing what you can for the Lord?
- C. Could the Lord say of you, “he or she has done what they could”?

Lord, Is It I?

Mark 14:10-21

Introduction:

- A. Judas makes his plans to betray Jesus, what a sad time in the life of Jesus.
- B. Jesus and His disciples prepare for the Passover.
- C. They celebrate the Passover together; it will be their last supper together.
- D. Jesus tells them that one of them will betray Him.

- E. The disciples began to be sorrowful and to say to Him one by one, “Is it I?” (Mark 14:19).
- F. Ask yourself “is it I”?
- I. Is it I — Who Does Not Love God With My All.**
 - A. Deuteronomy 6:5
 - B. Matthew 22:37
- II. Is it I — Who is not Putting the Church First.**
 - A. Matthew 6:33
 - B. Ephesians 5:25
- III. Is it I — Who is not Always Abounding in the Work of the Lord.**
 - A. 1 Corinthians 15:58
 - B. James 1:25
- IV. Is it I — Who is Lagging in Serving the Lord.**
 - A. Romans 12:11
 - B. Titus 2:14
- V. Is it I — Who is not Glorifying God With my Body and Spirit.**
 - A. 1 Corinthians 6:19,20
 - B. 1 Peter 4:16
- VI. Is it I — Who Needs to Repent of Sin in my Life.**
 - A. Acts 2:38,47
 - B. Acts 8:22
- Conclusion:**
 - A. A time to soul search.
 - B. A time to make things right with God.
 - C. Ask the soul searching question — “Lord is it I”?

Zacharias, a Righteous Person

Luke 1:5-10

Introduction:

- A. Zacharias lived in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.

- B. Zacharias was a priest in the Temple, serving before God.
- C. What do we learn about this man and his wife?

I. They Were Righteous Before God.

- A. The word righteous means, “the quality of being upright, right or just”.
- B. Genesis 6:9
- C. Job 1:1
- D. Psalm 34:17,18
- E. Matthew 13:43

II. They Were Walking in all the Commandments and Ordinances of the Lord.

- A. Deuteronomy 5:33
- B. Isaiah 2:5
- C. Romans 6:4
- D. 2 John 6

III. They Were Blameless Before the Lord.

- A. The word blameless means, “free from fault and innocent”.
- B. Philippians 2:15
- C. Romans 8:1
- D. 1 John 1:7-9
- E. 1 Thessalonians 5:23

Conclusion:

- A. Let us strive to be like Zacharias and Elizabeth in our lives.
- B. Are you striving to be right in the sight of God?

Rules of Kingdom

Luke 6:27-38

Introduction:

- A. In the “sermon on the mount” Jesus taught some great lessons.
- B. These lessons are the heart of living the Christian life.
- C. In this text Jesus teaches some good rules to follow in living.

I. Love Your Enemies.

- A. Luke 6:27
- B. Matthew 5:44

II. Do Good to Those Who Hate You.

- A. Luke 6:27
- B. Romans 12:17

III. Bless Those Who Curse You.

- A. Luke 6:28
- B. Romans 12:14

IV. Pray for Those Who Spitefully Use You.

- A. Luke 6:28
- B. Acts 7:60

V. Do to Others as You Want Them to do to You.

- A. Luke 6:31
- B. Galatians 6:10

VI. Be Merciful.

- A. Luke 6:36
- B. Romans 12:8

VII. Judge Not/Condemn Not.

- A. Luke 6:37
- B. Matthew 7:1

VIII. Forgive.

- A. Luke 6:37
- B. Matthew 6:12

IX. Give.

- A. Luke 6:38
- B. Acts 20:35

Conclusion:

- A. What great lessons set forth for us to learn and follow in life.
- B. These lessons lead to happiness and eternal life.
- C. Are you working on these rules in your everyday life?

The Lesson of Showing Mercy

Luke 10:25-37

Introduction:

- A. Jesus is the master teacher.
- B. Jesus taught powerful lessons for Christians.
- C. This is one of those powerful lessons that test our Christianity.

I. God's Mercy to us is Described As:

- A. Isaiah 54:7 — Great.
- B. Isaiah 55:3 — Sure.
- C. Psalm 25:6 — Tender.
- D. Lamentations 3:22,23
- E. 1 Peter 1:3 — Abundant.

II. Jesus is Merciful to us.

- A. Luke 1:72,78 — Christ's mission to this earth.
- B. Titus 3:5 — In providing our salvation.
- C. 1 Peter 1:3 — In our being born again.

III. We are to Show Mercy as a Christian.

- A. Matthew 5:7
- B. Luke 6:36
- C. Romans 12:8
- D. 2 Corinthians 1:3,4

Conclusion:

- A. Mercy is something that God has shown to us.
- B. Mercy is not something we show in our church buildings.
- C. Mercy is something that we show to others as we have opportunity.

Mary Has Chosen the Good Part

Luke 10:38-42

Introduction:

- A. Jesus goes into the village of Bethany, the village of Lazarus, Mary and Martha.

- B. Jesus is invited to their house; Martha got upset because Mary would not help her serve their visitor.
- C. Jesus told Martha, “*Mary has chosen that good part*” (Luke 10:42).
- D. What did Jesus mean?

I. She Chose to Sit at the Feet of Jesus.

- A. Luke 10:39
- B. Matthew 5:1,2
- C. Matthew 11:28-30

II. She Chose to Listen to the Words of Jesus.

- A. Luke 10:39
- B. John 6:66-68
- C. Romans 10:17

III. She was not Distracted by Worldly Things.

- A. Luke 10:40
- B. Mark 2:1,2
- C. Matthew 13:22

Conclusion:

- A. Mary chose the most important things of life.
- B. What have YOU chosen in life?

Making Excuses

Luke 14:15-24

Introduction:

- A. This teaching is connected with the teaching on discipleship in Luke 14:25-33.
- B. What is an excuse? “An invalid reason for neglect of duty.”
- C. Excuses just come natural when we do not want to do something.

I. A Great Supper Prepared.

- A. Luke 14:16
- B. Matthew 16:18,19
- C. Revelation 19:7-9

II. An Invitation is Given to Many.

- A. Luke 14:17
- B. Matthew 11:28-30
- C. Revelation 22:17

III. Excuses are Given by Those Invited.

- A. Luke 14:18-20
- B. Genesis 3:9-12
- C. 1 Samuel 15:18-23

IV. The Rejection by the Master of Those Who Made Excuses.

- A. Luke 14:21-24
- B. Exodus 4:10-12
- C. Luke 16:27-31

Conclusion:

- A. It seems natural to make excuses when we do not want to do something.
- B. It does not pay to make excuses; we will miss out on the “Great Feast” of the Master.
- C. Do not make excuses; just do all you can for the Master, and say, *“here am I, use me Lord”*.

The Cost of Discipleship

Luke 14:25-33

Introduction:

- A. A great crowd of people were following Jesus.
- B. All of a sudden, He turned and said to them.

I. You Must Love Me More Than Relatives.

- A. Luke 14:26
- B. Matthew 10:37,38
- C. Matthew 19:29

II. You Must Love Me More Than Self.

- A. Luke 14:26
- B. Galatians 2:20
- C. Philippians 2:5-7

III. You Must Bear Your Cross.

- A. Luke 14:27
- B. Galatians 5:24
- C. Colossians 3:5,6

IV. You Must Give Up Anything for Me.

- A. Luke 14:33
- B. Matthew 19:20-22
- C. Philippians 3:7,8

Conclusion:

- A. Right in the middle of this teaching Jesus says, *“You must sit down and first count the cost of following me”*.
- B. Did you first sit down and count the cost of following Jesus?
- C. Will you sit down and first count the cost of following Jesus?

Parable of the Lost Sheep

Luke 15:1-7

Introduction:

- A. Jesus teaches three parables about the lost in Luke 15.
- B. A parable is “an earthly story with a heavenly/spiritual meaning”.
- C. What do we learn from this parable?

I. We Must Go After the Sinner.

- A. Luke 15:4
- B. Matthew 28:19
- C. Mark 16:15,16

II. We Must Find the Sinner.

- A. Luke 15:4
- B. John 1:35-42
- C. John 1:43-51

III. We Must Be Tender with the Sinner.

- A. Luke 15:5
- B. Ephesians 4:15
- C. 1 Peter 3:15

IV. Bring the Sinner to the Fold/Home.

- A. Luke 15:6
- B. Acts 2:47
- C. Ephesians 2:13-19

V. Joy in Recovering a Sinner.

- A. Luke 15:6,7
- B. Acts 8:5-12
- C. Acts 8:38,39

Conclusion:

- A. In this parable we learn that the lost strayed/wandered from the chief Shepherd.
- B. God has given us the responsibility of going and finding the lost sheep for Him.
- C. Are **you** seeking the lost?

Parable of the Lost Coin

Luke 15:8-10

Introduction:

- A. In all these parables we see the Lord's concern for the lost.
- B. In this parable Jesus tells the story of a woman who lost one coin.
- C. What do we learn from this parable?

I. We Need a Light to Find the Lost.

- A. Luke 15:8
- B. John 1:4,5,14
- C. Psalm 119:105

II. We Need to Sweep the House to Find the Lost.

- A. Luke 15:8
- B. 1 Corinthians 5:1-8
- C. 1 Corinthians 6:20

III. We Need to Seek Diligently to Find the Lost.

- A. Luke 15:8

- B. Acts 5:42
- C. Acts 8:4

IV. Finding and Recovering the Lost Brings Rejoicing.

- A. Luke 15:9,10
- B. James 5:19,20
- C. Acts 16:32-34

Conclusion:

- A. This parable teaches us that sometimes the lost is lost through the carelessness of others.
- B. Is the lost that way because you are careless with your life?
- C. Help Jesus in bringing the lost to Him.

Parable of the Lost Son

Luke 15:11-24

Introduction:

- A. Truly the Father and the Son are concerned for the lost.
- B. Will you join them by being concerned for the lost?
- C. What do we learn from this parable?

I. Why was the Young Man Lost?

- A. He was self-willed (Luke 15:11; Jeremiah 7:24).
- B. He was selfish (Luke 15:12; Philippians 2:21).
- C. He separated himself from the father (Luke 15:13; Isaiah 59:1,2).
- D. He was sensual/worldly (Luke 15:13; 1 John 2:15-17).

II. What Led Him Back to the Father's House?

- A. Realization (Luke 15:17; Psalm 51:3,4).
- B. Resolution (Luke 15:17; Matthew 21:28-30).
- C. Repentance (Luke 15:18; Acts 17:30,31).
- D. Return (Luke 15:20; 1 Samuel 7:3).

III. What Was the Result of His Coming Back to the Father's House?

- A. Reconciliation (Luke 15:20; Romans 5:9-11).
- B. Re-clothing (Luke 15:22; Colossians 3:5-14)

1. Robe — to replace the rags of sin.
 2. Ring — wealth, status with the father.
 3. Sandals — only sons were allowed to wear sandals.
- C. Rejoicing (Luke 15:23,24; 1 Thessalonians 2:19,20)

Conclusion:

- A. The father did not want you to leave Him.
- B. Will you not return to the father's house/the Church?
- C. The father is waiting with outstretched arms for your return to Him.
- D. Will you not return right now?

What Happens After Death?

Luke 16:19-31

Introduction:

- A. In Job 14:14 Job mourns, "*If a man dies, shall he live again*"?
- B. What an important question for mankind throughout the ages.
- C. Let us look more closely at this subject.

I. In This Life/World (Luke 16:19-21).

- A. While we are living we can still make decisions that will affect our eternity (Joshua 24:15).
- B. We can choose to be lost or saved.
 1. John 8:24
 2. Luke 13:3
 3. Mark 16:16
- C. Which will you choose?
- D. When death comes, all choices are over (Hebrews 9:27).

II. After Death Our Soul Goes to Hades (Luke 16:22-31).

- A. In Luke 16:22 take note that the angels carried Lazarus' soul to Abraham's bosom.
- B. It will either be Abraham's bosom, or Torment (Luke 16:23).
 1. In Hades one can remember and know (Luke 16: 24,25).
 2. In Hades there is a great gulf fixed between Abraham's bosom and torment, and one cannot escape (Luke 16:26-31).

- C. Where our soul goes in Hades will be determined by the choices we make in this life.
- D. At the Resurrection our eternal destiny will be set (Acts 24:15).

III. The Final Judgment.

- A. Matthew 25:31-46
- B. Romans 14:12
- C. 2 Corinthians 5:10
- D. We will either be Rewarded or Condemned.

IV. What Words Will We Hear in the Final Judgment?

- A. “Depart” — Hell (Matthew 25:41,46; Revelation 21:8).
- B. “Come” — Heaven (Matthew 25:34,46; 1 Peter 1:4).

Conclusion:

- A. How are you living your life here on this earth?
- B. Live your life in such a way that you will hear the Lord say, *“Come you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world”*. (Matthew 25:34).

The Son of Man Came to Seek and Save the Lost

Luke 19:10

Introduction:

- A. Jesus had a mission in coming to this earth, His mission was to seek and save the lost.
- B. We have a mission in this life, and it is to carry out the mission of Jesus.
- C. How can we do this effectively?

I. Have Jesus as the Central Theme of our Seeking the Lost.

- A. Acts 5:42
- B. Acts 8:4,5
- C. Acts 8:35
- D. Acts 10:34-36

II. Have the Gospel as the Central Theme of Our Seeking the Lost.

- A. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
- B. Romans 1:16
- C. 2 Timothy 1:10
- D. Colossians 1:23

III. By Seeking the Lost Like Jesus Did.

- A. Matthew 9:35-38
 - 1. Jesus went about.
 - 2. Jesus was teaching.
 - 3. Jesus was moved with compassion.
 - 4. Jesus labored.
 - 5. Jesus prayed.
- B. Philippians 2:5 — *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus”.*
- C. John 4:35
 - 1. Jesus did not put off soul winning.
 - 2. Jesus lifted up His eyes to see the lost.
 - 3. Jesus could see the fields.
 - 4. Jesus could see the fields already white to harvest.

Conclusion:

- A. Do you have the mind of Christ?
- B. Are you seeking the lost?

The Right to Become Children of God

John 1:12

Introduction:

- A. This is a very thought provoking statement, much is involved in this statement.
- B. God has done His part in sending Jesus as our Savior.
- C. Jesus has done His part in giving His life on the cross for us.
- D. The right to become children of God belongs to those who:

I. Receive Jesus as Lord.

- A. Acts 2:36-38

- B. Acts 4:10-12
- C. Romans 10:9-13

II. Receive the Lord's Word.

- A. Acts 2:41
- B. James 1:21
- C. James 1:22,25

III. Receive the Lord's Plan of Salvation.

- A. John 4:24
- B. Luke 13:5
- C. Romans 10:10
- D. Galatians 3:26,27

Conclusion:

- A. God has done His part, and Jesus has done His part.
- B. Are **you** willing to do your part?

Born of the Water and the Spirit

John 3:1-6

Introduction:

- A. We are always hearing people talk about “being born again”, “born again Christians”, and “being born of the water and the spirit”. What do they mean?
- B. Nicodemus had in mind a physical birth; the Lord is talking about a spiritual birth.
- C. The question is, “What is Jesus talking about”?

I. “Except”.

- A. Except or unless (Luke 3:5).
- B. There is just one way to enter the Lord's kingdom.

II. “Man”.

- A. The word in Greek is “anthropos” and this Greek word refers generally to both male and female.
- B. All accountable human beings (2 Corinthians 5:10).

III. “Born”.

- A. A birth requires two (2) things:
 - 1. The begotten.
 - 2. The birth itself.
- B. In the new birth one of the essentials is the Spirit and the other is the water.
- C. In this case one is begotten of the Spirit (James 1:18), and born of the water (Romans 6:3,4).

IV. “Water”.

- A. The water here has reference to baptism.
- B. There is just one act in the Christian religion that involves water; and that is baptism (Acts 8:36; Acts 10:48).

V. “Spirit”.

- A. In the new birth one is begotten by the Spirit (1 Peter 1:22,23), but How?
- B. So the Spirit works through the Word of God to bring about a birth (1 Corinthians 4:15).

VI. “Kingdom”.

- A. This is the kingdom of God, the Church (Matthew 16:18,19).
- B. We are translated/brought us into the kingdom, the Church (Colossians 1:13).

Conclusion:

- A. Jesus says there is just one way to enter the kingdom/the church, and that is through being born of the water and Spirit.
- B. Have you been born again?

True Worshippers

John 4:22-24

Introduction:

- A. Worship is defined as an act of reverence rendered to God.

- B. Of all of God's creation, there is just one that can worship God and that is mankind.
- C. We are by nature worshipping beings.

I. We Must Worship God.

- A. John 4:24 — God is the only true object of worship.
- B. Revelation 22:9 — “Worship God”.
- C. Matthew 4:10 — “Worship God only”.
- D. Exodus 20:4,5 - God is a jealous God and doesn't want us to worship anything or anyone else.

II. We Must Recognize God as a Spirit.

- A. John 4:24
- B. Acts 17:24-29
- C. Luke 24:39
- D. God is not flesh and blood like we are.

III. We Must Worship God in Spirit and Truth (John 4:24).

- A. “In Spirit”.
 - 1. Our worship is to be in spirit. A spiritual worship.
 - 2. Worship is a frame of mind. We must approach God with reverence and fear (Hebrews 12:28).
- B. “In truth”.
 - 1. “In truth” — according to the truth of God's word (John 17:17).
 - 2. God has ordained the items of worship that please Him and set them forth in the New Testament.
- C. Let us look at each act of worship: “in spirit”, in “truth”
 - 1. Teaching/Preaching — Ephesians 4:15; 2 John 9
 - 2. Praying — 1 Corinthians 14:15; 1 John 5:14
 - 3. Giving — 2 Corinthians 9:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1,2
 - 4. Singing — 1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19
 - 5. The Lord's Supper — 2 Corinthians 11:27,29; Acts 20:7

Conclusion:

- A. Do you worship the Lord with reverence?
- B. Are you worshipping the Lord “in spirit” and in Truth”?

Christ Claims Equality with God

John 5:17-30

Introduction:

- A. John pictures Jesus in His deity (God in the flesh) as the Son of God.
- B. John shows Jesus is deity (God in the flesh) in several ways.
- C. In John chapter 5 John shows the equality of Jesus with God.

I. Equality With God in Nature/Work.

- A. John 5:17,18
- B. John 9:4
- C. John 17:4

II. Equality With God in Power.

- A. John 5:19-21
- B. Matthew 11:27
- C. John 11:25

III. Equality With God in Authority.

- A. John 5:22-30
- B. Matthew 28-18
- C. Acts 17:30,31

Conclusion:

- A. Christ is equal with His Father in Heaven.
- B. Because He is equal with his Father, then we must respect Him and obey His word.
- C. Do you respect and obey Him?

Witnesses to the Fact that Christ Is the Son of God

John 5:31-47

Introduction:

- A. Remember that John gives us many facts to show that Jesus is the Son of God.

- B. Jesus is the only Son of God.
- C. In John 5:31-37 John gives us 4 witnesses that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

I. Witness of John the Baptist.

- A. John 5:31-35
- B. Matthew 3:17
- C. John 1:29-34

II. Witness of the Works of Christ.

- A. John 5:36
- B. John 10:25
- C. John 10:33-38

III. Witness of the Father.

- A. John 5:37,38
- B. Matthew 3:17
- C. 2 Peter 1:17,18

IV. Witness of the Scriptures.

- A. John 5:39-47
- B. Luke 24:27
- C. Luke 24:44,45

Conclusion:

- A. With such witnesses, how can we deny that Christ is the Son of God?
- B. Do you believe that Christ is the Son of God?
- C. If you do, why not be baptized today and be saved?

God's Drawing Power

John 6:44,45

Introduction:

- A. There is much misunderstanding and confusion on how God draws people to Himself.
- B. Let us look at the Bible and see what it says.

I. How Does God Draw People to Himself?

- A. Romans 10:17 — Faith.
- B. 1 Peter 1:22,23 — New Birth.
- C. James 1:21 — Salvation.

II. Why is it That all Are Not Drawn?

- A. Luke 8:11-15 — Everyone is not the same kind of hearer.
- B. Mark 7:8,9 — Human traditions.
- C. John 12:42,43 — Love the praises of men.
- D. James 4:13-17 — Distorted view of time.

III. What Will Happen to Those Who are not Drawn to God?

- A. Matthew 25:41,46
- B. Mark 16:16
- C. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9

Conclusion:

- A. Will you let the Lord draw you to Him today?
- B. Do not make the mistake of putting off till tomorrow what you must do today.

The 7 “I Am’s” of John

John 8:58

Introduction:

- A. There have been many great men who have made great claims.
- B. But there has never been and never will be anyone like Jesus.
- C. The claims that Jesus made that He was deity (God in the flesh) cannot be equaled.
- D. What are the 7 “I AM’S” of John?

I. I am the Bread of Life.

- A. John 5:35
- B. Matthew 5:6
- C. Only Jesus can satisfy our spiritual needs.

II. I am the Light of the World

- A. John 8:12
- B. Ephesians 5:8

- C. Only Jesus can give us light for our spiritual growth and direction.

III. I am the Door.

- A. John 10:9
- B. Ephesians 2:18
- C. Only Jesus is the means for our spiritual salvation and security.

IV. I am the Good Shepherd.

- A. John 10:10
- B. 1 Peter 2:24,25
- C. Only Jesus was able to sacrifice Himself to save us for eternity.

V. I am the Resurrection.

- A. John 11:25
- B. 1 Corinthians 15:20-22
- C. Only Jesus' power over death ensures our resurrection.

VI. I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

- A. John 14:6
- B. Romans 5:9-11
- C. Only Jesus can bring us back to our Creator. He appeals to us to follow His way, He urges us to hear His truth.

VII. I am the True Vine.

- A. John 15:1-5
- B. 2 John 9
- C. Only Jesus can supply us life through that true vine, He pleads with us to have life in Him.

Conclusion:

- A. Jesus is the Son of God.
- B. Jesus said, "*He who has seen Me has seen the Father*" (John 14:9).
- C. Yes, Jesus is God (deity) in the flesh.

Are You Washing Feet?

John 13:1-17

Introduction:

- A. When Jesus is about to depart from this world to the Father, He teaches the greatest/most important lessons He could leave with the disciples.
- B. I have given you “an example”.
- C. If you know these things, “*Happy are you if you do them*”.

I. Christ was a Servant.

- A. Philippians 2:5-8
- B. Matthew 12:18
- C. Matthew 20:26-28

II. Why are we to Serve?

- A. 1 Corinthians 6:20
- B. John 13:14,15
- C. Matthew 25:21,23

III. How can we Serve?

- A. Do things for others (Acts 9:36).
- B. Put others before ourselves (Mark 9:35).
- C. Teaching God’s word to others (Mark 1:38).

Conclusion:

- A. What makes us great?
- B. Christ says being a servant makes us great.
- C. Who will serve?

God’s Vineyard

John 15:1-5

Introduction:

- A. On the table from where they had just risen was the “fruit of the vine”.
- B. This may have been the occasion of the striking figure that is used by John to show union with Christ.
- C. What do we learn from this text?

I. The Right Vineyard.

- A. Isaiah 5:1
- B. Jeremiah 2:21
- C. John 15:1 - Israel had proved to be a fruitless vine, so God had planted Christ as the True Vine.
- D. Christ gives life as the true vine (Ephesians 4:15,16).

II. The Right Expert.

- A. John 15:1 — The Father is the husbandman/gardener.
- B. It was the Father who planted the old Jewish Vine, which was not the True Vine, but “a figure of the true” (Hebrews 9:24).
- C. God had also sent His true Vine into the world or “planted” Him, and His care was always over the Son and has been ever since the Vine was left to grow and fill the earth (1 Corinthians 3:5-9).

III. The Right Cultivating.

- A. John 15:2
- B. The vinedresser/gardener prunes and dresses the branches so that they may be healthy and fruitful (Hebrews 12:5-13).
- C. As a vinedresser/gardener cuts off the unfruitful branches of the vine, so the Father cuts off the unfruitful branches from His Son (Matthew 15:13).

IV. The Right Contact

- A. John 15:3,4
- B. The spoken word is the instrument appointed by God for the cleansing of the soul (Ephesians 5:25,26).
- C. It is God in Christ who cleanses (Revelation 1:5; Acts 22:16).

V. The Right Fruit.

- A. John 15:5
- B. Every Christian is a branch of the True Vine (Christ), and his life is drawn directly from the vine.
- C. Branches cut off from the True Vine (Christ) cannot bear fruit, but the branches who stay attached to the True Vine (Christ) will bear much fruit (Galatians 5:22-26).

Conclusion:

- A. Do you cling to the True Vine (Christ)?
- B. Are you keeping yourself attached to the True Vine, Christ?
- C. Without the True Vine (Christ), you cannot survive.
- D. Stay attached to the True Vine (Christ), and you will bear much fruit.

Bearing Much Fruit

John 15:1-14

Introduction:

- A. To bear fruit we must understand that Christ is the true vine, and we Christians are the branches.
- B. To bear fruit we must understand that we must continue in Christ.
- C. To bear fruit requires

I. Praying.

- A. John 15:7
- B. Ephesians 6:18
- C. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

II. Obedience.

- A. John 15:10
- B. John 14:15
- C. 1 John 5:3

III. Joy.

- A. John 15:11
- B. Romans 12:12
- C. Philippians 4:4

IV. Love.

- A. John 15:12
- B. Matthew 22:37-39
- C. 1 John 4:11,12

Conclusion:

- A. God help us to accept that Christ is the true vine, and we cannot live if we are cut off from Him.
- B. God help us to continue in Christ that we might have life eternal.
- C. Are you bearing fruit?

All Religious People Are to Be “One”

John 17:20-22

Introduction:

- A. Jesus does not just pray for His disciples who are with Him at this time.
- B. Jesus also prays for all believers for all time to be “One” in Him and the Father.
- C. Can there be religious unity and oneness in Christ?

I. Can We All be One in Religion?

- A. John 17:17:20-22
- B. 1 Corinthians 1:10
- C. 1 Corinthians 12:12,25,27

II. How Can We be One in Religion?

- A. 1 Corinthians 1:10
- B. 1 Peter 4:11
- C. Revelation 22:18,19

III. Some Application to Show it is Possible to be “One” in Religion.

- A. Acts 20:7
- B. Colossians 1:24
- C. Colossians 2:12
- D. Colossians 3:16

Conclusion:

- A. Are you willing to let the Bible speak?
- B. Are you willing to obey what the Bible says?
- C. Are you willing to be “One” in the Son and Father?

Do You Love Me More than These?

John 21:15-17

Introduction:

- A. This is a very interesting study text.
- B. Jesus asks Peter three times, *“Do you love me?”*
- C. Three times Peter says, *“Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”*
- D. What do we learn from this text?

I. Jesus Uses the Greek Word “Agape” When Talking to Peter.

- A. This Greek word is the highest expression of love and devotion, it is unselfish love.
- B. John 3:16
- C. Romans 5:8
- D. John 14:15
- E. John 14:21

II. Peter Uses the Greek Word “Phileo” When Answering

- A. This Greek word is having tender affection for someone or something.
- B. The love for which Peter uses is not the highest expression of love and devotion. It is not an unselfish love.
- C. Romans 12:10 — “tenderly affection or kindly affection”.

III. What Kind of Love do You Have for Jesus?

- A. Matthew 22:37
- B. Romans 8:28
- C. 1 John 5:2

Conclusion:

- A. Is your love just that tender and kind affection for the Father and the Son?
- B. Or is your love that highest expression of love and devotion that is unselfish?
- C. The Lord desires that we love Him with the highest expression of our love and devotion that is an unselfish love.

The Day the Church Started

Acts 2:36-41,47

Introduction:

- A. What a glorious day that would be for God.
- B. The salvation of mankind is found on this day.
- C. What a day!

I. The Church in the Mind of God.

- A. Ephesians 1:4,9
- B. Ephesians 3:8-11
- C. 1 Peter 1:19-21

II. The Church in Prophecy.

- A. 2 Samuel 7:13
- B. Isaiah 2:2,3
- C. Zechariah 1:16

III. The Church in Preparation.

- A. Daniel 2:44
- B. Matthew 3:1
- C. Matthew 4:17

IV. The Church in Promise.

- A. Matthew 16:18,19
- B. Luke 24:49
- C. Mark 9:1

V. The Church in Reality.

- A. Acts 2:1 — A Great Day.
 - 1. Pentecost, fifty days after the Sabbath, the fiftieth day would be a Sunday.
 - 2. Jesus was resurrected on a Sunday, it is on this day that the Church is established.
- B. Acts 2:22-36 — A Great Message, the Gospel.
 - 1. He is proven to be the only Son of God, He died for us, He was buried for us, He was resurrected for us, He has been exalted to the right hand of God for us, He is Lord and Christ for us.

- C. Acts 2:37 — A Great Question.
- D. Acts 2:38 — A Great Answer.

Conclusion:

- A. When people obey the Lord they are then added to the Church (Acts 2:47).
- B. Have you been added to the Church that Jesus built?

The Practices of the Early Church

Acts 2:42

Introduction:

- A. The early church started on a Great Day and with Great Growth (Acts 2:1,47).
- B. We can learn much from the practices of the first century church.
- C. What did the early church continue steadfastly in?

I. Apostles' Doctrine.

- A. Galatians 1:11,12
- B. 1 Peter 4:11
- C. 1 John 4:1-6
- D. 2 John 9

II. Fellowship.

- A. 1 John 1:3
- B. 1 John 1:7
- C. Philippians 1:5
- D. Colossians 4:11

III. Breaking of Bread.

- A. Matthew 26:26-29
- B. 1 Corinthians 10:16
- C. 1 Corinthians 11:20-26

IV. Prayers.

- A. Luke 18:1
- B. Acts 12:5

- C. Ephesians 6:18
- D. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Conclusion:

- A. When we continue steadfastly in these things, we will grow as a Church.
- B. Are you doing your part to continue in these things as a Christian?

The Man from Ethiopia

Acts 8:26-39

Introduction:

- A. In the book of Acts we read about the starting of the Church.
- B. In the book of Acts we read of the spreading of the gospel.
- C. What do we learn about this man from Ethiopia?
 - 1. He was from the African country of Ethiopia.
 - 2. He was a eunuch.
 - 3. He was the treasurer for the queen of Ethiopia.
- D. What kind of mind did this man have?

I. A Mind to Worship.

- A. Acts 8:27
- B. John 4:24

II. A Mind to Study.

- A. Acts 8:28,30
- B. Acts 17:11

III. A Mind to Question.

- A. Acts 8:30-34
- B. Acts 2:37

IV. A Mind to Receive.

- A. Acts 8:35
- B. James 1:21

V. A Mind to Obey.

- A. Acts 8:36-38
- B. Hebrews 5:8,9

VI. A Mind to Rejoice.

- A. Acts 8:39
- B. Acts 16:34

Conclusion:

- A. Do you have the mind of the Ethiopian?
- B. Will you not obey the Lord today, and go away rejoicing?

Evangelizing, Edifying, and Equipping

Acts 14:21-25

Introduction:

- A. In the book of Acts we read of the establishment of the Lord's church.
- B. In the book of Acts we read of the growth of the Lord's church.
- C. In the book of Acts we read what made the Lord's church grow.
- D. Let us look at the method that Paul used in Acts that made the Lord's church grow effectively.

I. Evangelizing.

- A. Acts 14:21 — They preached the gospel.
- B. Mark 16:15,16 — They preached the gospel to everyone.
- C. Acts 5:42 — They did it daily in every place.
- D. Acts 8:4 — Wherever they went and whatever they did, they shared the gospel.
- E. Acts 17:6 — They turned the world upside down with the gospel.
- F. Romans 1:14-16 — They were not ashamed of the gospel.

II. Edifying.

- A. Acts 14:21,22 — They went back and strengthened the souls of the disciples.
- B. Acts 15:40,41 — They were strengthening the churches.
- C. Acts 16:5 — The churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in number daily.
- D. Ephesians 4:11-16 — When edifying is done, the church matures and grows.

III. Equipping.

- A. Acts 14:22,23 — They equipped men who were appointed elders.
- B. Matthew 28:19,20 — The baptized believers are being taught to observe all things.
- C. 2 Timothy 2:2 — When we equip, men will be able (capable) of teaching others.

Conclusion:

- A. God has no way to carry out the mission of the Church without you and me.
- B. Will you fail Him in carrying out His mission?
- C. Only you can answer that question.

Explaining and Proving the Christ

Acts 17:1-4

Introduction:

- A. In the book of Acts we read that the early Christians “*turned the world upside down*” with the preaching of the Christ (Acts 17:6).
- B. Christ is the central theme of the preaching of the Apostles and the first century Christians
- C. How did they explain and prove “The Christ”?

I. Jesus is the Christ (The Anointed One).

- A. Acts 17:3
- B. Acts 2:36
- C. Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:14-19
- D. Acts 10:38-43

II. Jesus Suffered for Mankind.

- A. Acts 17:3
- B. Luke 24:46,47
- C. Hebrews 2:9,10
- D. 1 Peter 3:18

III. Jesus was Buried and Raised from the Dead.

- A. Acts 17:3

- B. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
- C. Romans 1:1-4
- D. Acts 24:14,15

Conclusion:

- A. Let us study in detail the life of Christ so that we can explain and prove “the Christ” to others.
- B. Do you believe that Christ is the anointed one, Jesus suffered for your sins, that He was buried, and arose on the third day?
- C. If so, will you be baptized now?

The Fair-Minded Bereans

Acts 17:10-15

Introduction:

- A. People in the book of Acts either accepted or rejected the word of God when preached to them.
- B. Why did some accept and some reject the word of God?
- C. Why did the Bereans obey the Lord?

I. They Were Fair-Minded (Noble, Open Minded).

- A. Acts 17:11
- B. Psalm 119:161,162
- C. James 1:21

II. They Received the Word With All Readiness.

- A. Acts 17:11
- B. Nehemiah 8:8
- C. Colossians 1:9,10

III. They Searched the Scriptures Daily.

- A. Acts 17:11
- B. 1 Timothy 4:13,16
- C. Psalm 1:1,2

Conclusion:

- A. When the Bereans heard the Word of God, they received it readily and searched it daily.

- B. When the Bereans searched the Scriptures and saw that it was true, they became believers and obeyed it.
- C. Will you obey the Lord's word today?

The First Day of the Week

Acts 20:6,7

Introduction:

- A. Paul and those traveling with him sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread.
- B. In five days they joined up with other brethren at Troas, where they stayed seven days.
- C. Why did they wait at Troas for seven days?

I. This is the Day the Disciples Assembled Together.

- A. Acts 20:7
- B. 1 Corinthians 16:1
- C. Hebrews 10:25

II. This is the Day the Disciples Came Together to Break Bread.

- A. Acts 20:7
- B. Matthew 26:26-29
- C. 1 Corinthians 11:20-26

III. This is the Day the Disciples Came Together for Giving.

- A. 1 Corinthians 16:1,2
- B. 2 Corinthians 9:7
- C. Acts 20:35

Conclusion:

- A. It was important for Paul and his companions to be in Troas on the first day of the week.
- B. This is the day that the Lord's church would meet together in fellowship to worship the Lord.
- C. Is the first day of the week important to you?

The Faith in Christ

Acts 24:24,25

Introduction:

- A. Paul is before Felix, the governor of Judea.
- B. After Felix has heard the accusations by the Jews and Paul's defense, he tells Paul that he will make a decision soon.
- C. After some days Felix, with his wife Drusilla who was Jewish, sent for Paul and "*heard him concerning the faith in Christ*".
- D. What did Felix and Drusilla hear from Paul?

I. About Righteousness.

- A. Acts 24:25
- B. Ephesians 4:24
- C. Matthew 5:6,20
- D. Matthew 25:37,46

II. About Self Control.

- A. Acts 24:25
- B. Proverbs 16:32
- C. 1 Corinthians 9:25-27
- D. 2 Peter 1:5-10

III. About the Judgment to Come.

- A. Acts 24:25
- B. Romans 2:2-5
- C. 2 Corinthians 5:9,10
- D. 2 Peter 3:7-10

Conclusion:

- A. The end of this story is sad.
- B. Felix was terrified and said, "*Go away for now, and when I have a more convenient time, I will call for you again.*"
- C. As far as we know, Felix never called for Paul again — how sad.

The Gospel Will

Acts 26:15-18

Introduction:

- A. Paul has stood before Felix and Festus who were governors of Judea.
- B. Paul is now standing before King Agrippa and Paul tells Agrippa about his conversion to Christ.
- C. The Gospel Will is to:

I. Open People's Eyes.

- A. Acts 26:18
- B. Matthew 13:15
- C. Ephesians 1:18

II. Turn People from Darkness to Light.

- A. Acts 26:18
- B. Ephesians 25:8
- C. Colossians 1:13

III. Turn People from the Power of Satan to God.

- A. Acts 26:18
- B. Jeremiah 4:1
- C. Zechariah 1:3,4

IV. Receive Forgiveness of Sins.

- A. Acts 26:18
- B. Acts 2:38
- C. 1 John 1:7,9

V. Receive an Inheritance.

- A. Acts 26:18
- B. Colossians 3:24
- C. 1 Peter 1:3,4

Conclusion:

- A. Turn from darkness to light, from Satan to God, and you will receive forgiveness of sins.
- B. You will then receive an eternal inheritance.
- C. Will you do it today?

A Description of Repentance

Acts 26:20

Introduction:

- A. Repentance is required of every single person when they sin (Acts 17:30).
- B. It is either repent or perish (Luke 13:5).
- C. God is longsuffering because He does not want anyone to perish, but we must repent (2 Peter 3:9).
- D. What does God want all to do as described in this text?

I. Repent.

- A. Acts 11:18 — repentance is a gift from God.
- B. Acts 5:30,31 — repentance is a gift from Christ.
- C. Psalm 51:10 — repentance must be internal.
- D. Matthew 21:28-31 — repentance is a change of mind that brings a change in our actions.

II. Turn to God.

- A. 1 Samuel 7:3 — a return to God.
- B. 2 Chronicles 6:24,38 — a turning to the Lord.
- C. Acts 9:35 — a turning to the Lord.

III. Do Works Befitting Repentance.

- A. Matthew 3:8 — reformation of life.
- B. Luke 19:8 — restitution.
- C. 2 Corinthians 7:9,10 — a Godly sorrow that is shown in action.

Conclusion:

- A. If we have a good heart, we will make the decision to repent.
- B. Repent, turn to God, and show it by a change of life.
- C. Will you do it right now?

Almost You Persuade Me to Be a Christian

Acts 26:27-29

Introduction:

- A. Paul is before King Agrippa and he has a chance to share with him about God's word.
- B. Paul tells King Agrippa about the promise God made to their fathers.
- C. He tells King Agrippa about Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, and then his conversion.
- D. Agrippa said to Paul, "*You almost persuade me to become a Christian*".

I. Almost is not Enough.

- A. 2 Corinthians 6:2
- B. Hebrews 4:7
- C. James 4:13,14

II. Persuade Me.

- A. Acts 19:8
- B. Acts 28:23
- C. 2 Corinthians 5:11

III. To become a Christian.

- A. Acts 11:26
- B. 1 Peter 4:16
- C. Acts 2:38,47

Conclusion:

- A. King Agrippa missed an opportunity for salvation.
- B. Don't miss this opportunity that you have to obey the gospel and be saved.
- C. Will you obey the Lord and be baptized now?

The Right Attitude about Winning Souls

Romans 1:14-16

Introduction:

- A. The gospel can and must be preached to every person (Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16).
- B. It has been done and it can be done (Colossians 1:23).
- C. It is our responsibility to preach the gospel to every person, it is our supreme task, our reason for existing.
- D. How can we do it? What should be our attitude?

I. I am a Debtor.

- A. Romans 1:14
- B. Acts 20:19-21
- C. 1 Corinthians 9:16,17

II. I am Ready to Preach the Gospel.

- A. Romans 1:15
- B. Isaiah 6:8
- C. Acts 16:9,10

III. I am not Ashamed.

- A. Romans 1:16
- B. Acts 4:20
- C. Acts 8:4

Conclusion:

- A. Someone shared the gospel with you; therefore you have the responsibility to share the gospel with others.
- B. No greater gift can you give to anyone, than to share the gospel with them.
- C. Do you feel like you are a debtor to share the gospel with others? Are you ready to share the gospel with others? Do not be ashamed to share the gospel with others or they will be lost.

God's Judgment

Romans 2:2,6,11,16

Introduction:

- A. God's judgment has been well advertised in the Bible.
- B. All will be present for God's judgment.
- C. What do we learn about God's judgment in this text?

I. The Judgment of God is According to Truth.

- A. Romans 2:2
- B. John 12:48
- C. Revelation 20:12

II. The Judgment of God is According to One's Deeds.

- A. Romans 2:6
- B. Romans 14:12
- C. 2 Corinthians 5:10

III. The Judgment of God is Without Partiality.

- A. Romans 2:11
- B. Acts 10:23
- C. Galatians 6:8

IV. The Judgment of God Will Judge the Secrets of Men.

- A. Romans 2:16
- B. Psalm 139:7-12
- C. Ecclesiastes 12:14

Conclusion:

- A. We shall all be gathered before the throne of God for that Great Judgment Day (Matthew 25:31).
- B. The Son of Man will separate those who have obeyed the Lord from those who have not obeyed the Lord (Matthew 25:40,43).
- C. Those who have done wrong will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life (Matthew 25:46).

All Have Sinned

Romans 3:23-25

Introduction:

- A. Sin affects all our lives, from the young to the old.
- B. Sin has affected mankind from the beginning.
- C. Thank God that He has made a way for mankind to be rescued from sin.

I. All Have Sinned and Come Short of the Glory of God.

- A. Sin is a transgression of God's law (1 John 3:4)
- B. Sin is unrighteousness (1 John 5:7).
- C. Sin is not doing what we know we should do (James 4:17).

II. The Effects of Sin.

- A. Cuts us off from God (Isaiah 59:1,2).
- B. Enslaves us to evil (Romans 6:12,13).
- C. Leads to spiritual death (Romans 7:24,25).

III. Remedy for Sin.

- A. God's Justification (Romans 3:24; Romans 5:9)
- B. God's Grace (Romans 3:4; Ephesians 2:8)
- B. God's Redemption (Romans 3:24; Ephesians 1:7).
- C. The propitiation (Romans 3:25; 1 John 2:1,2).

Conclusion:

- A. You have sinned and come short of the glory of God, but there is hope.
- B. The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- C. Are you in Christ Jesus?

Salvation from God's Wrath

Romans 5:8-11

Introduction:

- A. God has demonstrated His love toward us.
- B. We have all sinned and have no hope within ourselves.
- C. We have hope through the death of Christ.

I. Having Been Justified by Christ's Blood.

- A. Romans 5:9
- B. Hebrews 9:22-25
- C. Revelation 1:5,6

II. We Shall be Saved from Wrath Through Christ.

- A. Romans 5:9
- B. Zechariah 7:12
- C. Romans 2:4-10

III. We Can be Reconciled to God.

- A. Romans 5:10
- B. 2 Corinthians 5:18
- C. Ephesians 2:11-16

IV. We Can Rejoice in God Through Christ.

- A. Romans 5:11
- B. Psalm 21:1
- C. Psalm 106:5

Conclusion:

- A. We have seen the goodness of God in sending His Son to die for us.
- B. We can be justified by Jesus' blood and reconciled to God by Jesus' blood.
- C. Which will it be? Wrath or Rejoicing for you?

The Believer's Death to Sin

Romans 6:1-14

Introduction:

- A. Romans chapter 6:3,4 is not just talking about baptism.
- B. In this context Paul is discussing how the believer is to "put sin to death".
- C. What happens when the believer puts sin to death?

I. Our Old Man Was Crucified With Christ.

- A. Romans 6:6
- B. Galatians 2:20
- C. Galatians 5:24

II. We are Freed from Sin.

- A. Romans 6:7
- B. John 8:32-36
- C. Galatians 5:1,13

III. We are Dead to Sin and Alive to God.

- A. Romans 6:11
- B. Ephesians 2:1-6
- C. Colossians 2:11-13

IV. We Will Not Let Sin Reign in our Moral Body.

- A. Romans 6:12
- B. Psalm 19:13
- C. Romans 5:15-21

V. We Will Not Present our Members as Instruments of Unrighteousness.

- A. Romans 6:13
- B. 1 John 5:17
- C. Romans 1:18

VI. Sin Will Not Have Dominion Over Us.

- A. Romans 6:14
- B. Psalm 119:133
- C. 1 John 3:4-8

Conclusion:

- A. We are baptized into Christ Jesus, baptized into His death.
- B. We die to sin, buried with Christ in baptism to cleanse ourselves of sin and raised as a new person, and we should walk in a new life.
- C. How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

Are You Free from Sin?

Romans 6:17,18

Introduction:

- A. Paul thanked God that the Roman Christians were no longer slaves of sin.

- B. The Roman Christians had been set free from sin.
- C. How had these Christians done this? They had obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine?
- D. What does this mean?

I. The Doctrine of a Death.

- A. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
- B. Romans 6:3
- C. Revelation 1:5
- D. Acts 22:16

II. The Doctrine of a Burial.

- A. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
- B. Romans 6:4
- C. Acts 8:34-39

III. The Doctrine of a Resurrection.

- A. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
- B. Romans 6:5
- C. Colossians 2:12

Conclusion:

- A. In baptism these Christians were no longer slaves of sin, but had become slaves of righteousness.
- B. Have you been baptized into Christ?
- C. Are you walking in the new life?

Those Who Are “in Christ”

Romans 8:1-17

Introduction:

- A. There are many blessings to those “in Christ”.
- B. In this text Paul tells us of many blessings to those “in Christ”.
- C. What are the blessings of being “in Christ”?

I. New State — “No Condemnation”.

- A. Romans 8:1
- B. Galatians 3:27
- C. 1 John 1:7

II. New Death — “Put to Death the Deeds of the Body”.

- A. Romans 8:12
- B. Galatians 5:24
- C. Colossians 3:5,8

III. New Family — “We are the Children of God”.

- A. Romans 8:16
- B. Galatians 3:26,27
- C. 1 John 5:1,2

Conclusion:

- A. Do you have these blessings?
- B. Are you in Christ?
- C. Will you be baptized into Christ now?

God Working in Our Lives

Romans 8:28

Introduction:

- A. Sometimes we call this “the providence of God”.
- B. The meaning of the word providence — “God’s guidance or care”.
- C. We can truly see the guidance and care of God for His people in the Bible, in the lives of people like Esther and Joseph.
- D. What do we learn from this verse?

I. We Know That God Works in the Lives of His People.

- A. 1 Peter 3:12
- B. 1 John 5:2,15
- C. Genesis 39:2,3

II. All Things Work Together for God.

- A. Genesis 45:4-9
- B. Genesis 50:19,20
- C. James 1:17

III. To Those Who Love the Lord.

- A. John 14:15

B. John 15:14

C. 1 John 5:3

IV. To Those Who Are Called According to His Calling.

A. 2 Thessalonians 2:14

B. 1 Thessalonians 4:7

C. 1 Timothy 6:11,12

Conclusion:

A. Let us trust the Lord and pray to Him to be with us.

B. Let us trust the Lord that He will work all things together for good.

C. Let us know that God will work in our lives if we love Him and if we are called according to His calling.

Who Is Conformed to the Image of Jesus

Romans 8:29,30

Introduction:

A. What a privilege of being transformed to the image and glory of the Lord.

B. In being conformed (to become like) or transformed (changed) into the image of Jesus Christ.

C. Who is changed into the image of Jesus Christ?

I. Those Predestined.

A. Acts 2:22,23

B. Romans 8:28,29

C. Romans 9:23

D. Galatians 3:8

E. 2 Timothy 1:9

II. Those Called.

A. Matthew 9:13

B. Galatians 5:13

C. 2 Thessalonians 2:14

D. Hebrews 3:1

E. 2 Peter 1:5-10

III. Those Justified.

- A. Romans 3:24
- B. Romans 5:1,2
- C. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
- D. James 2:24
- E. Titus 3:7

IV. Those Glorified.

- A. John 15:8
- B. 1 Corinthians 6:20
- C. 1 Peter 4:11
- D. 1 Peter 4:14,16

Conclusion:

- A. Are you being changed into the image of Christ daily?
- B. Are you becoming more like Jesus daily?
- C. It is for this purpose that God has created you.

The Transformed Life

Romans 12:1-21

Introduction:

- A. Paul says in view of the mercy of God that a Christian should present “yourself a living sacrifice”.
- B. Paul tells Christians that they should not be “pressed into a mold” like those in the world, Paul encourages Christians to have a “transformed/changed” life.
- D. In verses 3-21 Paul tells Christians how to have that “transformed life”.

I. Think Soberly.

- A. Romans 12:3
- B. 1 Thessalonians 5:6

II. Understand that all Members do not Have the Same function.

- A. Romans 12:4,5
- B. 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

III. Understand that all Members Have Different Gifts/Talents.

- A. Romans 12:6
- B. Matthew 25:14-30

- IV. Let All Use Their Gifts/Talents.**
A. Romans 12:7,8
B. Ephesians 4:16
- V. Love Without Hypocrisy.**
A. Romans 12:9
B. 1 John 3:18
- VI. Be Kindly Affectionate to One Another.**
A. Romans 12:10
B. Hebrews 13:1
- VII. Serve the Lord.**
A. Romans 12:11
B. Colossians 3:23
- VIII. Rejoice in Hope.**
A. Romans 12:12
B. Hebrews 6:18,19
- IX. Patients in Tribulation.**
A. Romans 12:12
B. Acts 14:22
- X. Continuing Steadfast in Prayer.**
A. Romans 12:12
B. Ephesians 6:18
- XI. Give to the Needs of the Saints.**
A. Romans 12:13
B. Matthew 25:35,36
- XII. Given to Hospitality.**
A. Romans 12:13
B. 1 Peter 4:9
- XIII. Bless Those who Persecute.**
A. Romans 12:14
B. Matthew 5:44
- XIV. Feel for Others in the Body.**
A. Romans 12:15
B. 1 Corinthians 12:26
- XV. Be of the Same Mind to One Another.**
A. Romans 12:16

- B. Philippians 2:1-4

XVI. Repay No One Evil for Evil.

- A. Romans 12:17
- B. Matthew 5:38-42

XVII. Live Peaceably With All Men.

- A. Romans 12:18
- B. Hebrews 12:14

XVIII. Do Not Avenge Yourself.

- A. Romans 12:19,20
- B. Luke 18:7,8

XiX. Do Not Be Overcome by Evil, Overcome Evil With Good.

- A. Romans 12:21
- B. 1 John 2:13,14

Conclusion: Are you living the transformed/changed life for Jesus?

Christian Responsibility to Government

Romans 12:1-7

Introduction:

- A. Why do governments exist?
- B. How should the Christian act toward human governments?
- C. The general function of human government, as instituted by God, may be said to be threefold.

I. The Function of Protection.

- A. Romans 13:3
- B. The moment Adam sinned it was clear that the human race would need some form of restraint and rule to protect citizens from themselves.
- C. An example of this function is seen in Acts 21:27-37 where Roman soldiers stepped in and saved Paul from being murdered by his own angry countrymen in Jerusalem.

II. The Function of Punishment.

- A. Romans 13: 3,4

- B. Paul brings this out that duly appointed human officials are to be regarded as God's servants to 'bear the sword," that is, to impose punishment upon criminals.
- C. Peter tells us that governors are "sent by Him for the punishment of evildoers" (1 Peter 2:13,14).

III. The Function of Promotion.

- A. Romans 13:4
- B. Human government is to promote the general welfare of the community where its laws are in effect.
- C. Paul commands us to pray for the human leaders "that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty" (1 Timothy 2:1,2).

IV. What is the Christian's Responsibility to Government?

- A. Romans 13:1 — We are to be subject to them.
- B. Romans 13:5 — We are to be subject for conscience' sake, or because we know we should.
- C. Romans 13:6 — We should obey the government and pay taxes so that they can keep on doing God's work, serving you.
- D. Romans 13:7 — We should show honor and respect to those in government.
- E. In all the above things, unless they command us to do something that would conflict with God's way or His word (Acts 5:29).

Conclusion:

- A. Do YOU as a Christian honor and respect your government?
- B. In all things show YOURSELF a Christian.

A Plea for Unity

1 Corinthians 1:10

Introduction:

- A. Unity is one of the themes of the Bible.
- B. There is the unity of the Godhead (John 17:21,22).
- C. There is the unity of God and man (Acts 17:28,29).

- D. There is the unity of Christ and believer (John 15:1-7).
- E. In 1 Corinthians 1:10 Paul pleads/urges that the brethren have unity, but how can this be achieved?

I. That You All Speak the Same Thing.

- A. Galatians 1:6-9
- B. Revelation 22:18,19
- C. 1 Peter 4:11

II. That There be no Divisions Among You.

- A. Jesus prayed for it (John 17:20-22).
- B. Having a carnal spirit will cause division (1 Corinthians 3:1-4).
- C. God desires that the Church have unity (1 Corinthians 12:13-25).

III. That You be Perfectly Joined Together in the Same Mind and in the Same Judgment.

- A. Ephesians 2:19-22
- B. Ephesians 4:15,16
- C. Philippians 1:27

Conclusion:

- A. Let us be united together with God and Christ in the one body, the Church.
- B. Let us show unity to the world that they might see unity that the world may believe that the Father sent the Son.
- C. Do your part to have the unity that Jesus prayed for and Paul pleaded for.

A Changed Life

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Introduction:

- A. The first verse of a Christian song begins, “What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought since Jesus came into my heart”.
- B. Without a doubt the greatest proof of the new birth is a changed life.

C. The child of God now loves the following

I. He Loves Jesus.

- A. John 8:42
- B. John 14:21
- C. 1 John 5:1,2
- D. Before conversion the sinner might hold Christ in high esteem, but after conversion he loves the Savior.

II. He Loves the Bible.

- A. Psalm 119:47,48
- B. Psalm 119:127
- C. 1 John 5:3
- D. We should love God's word, as the psalmist did He expressed his great love for God's word no less than 17 times in Psalm 119.

III. He Loves Other Christians.

- A. John 13:34
- B. Hebrews 13:1
- C. 1 John 3:14
- D. We know that we have a changed life when we love the brethren.

IV. He Loves the Souls of all People.

- A. Matthew 22:37-39
- B. Romans 10:1
- C. 2 Corinthians 5:14,15
- D. Like Paul, we too can cry out for the conversion of loved ones.

Conclusion:

- A. We have been washed, sanctified, and justified by the blood of Jesus.
- B. If you are not a Christian, will you change your life today?
- C. As a Christian, is your life changed?

Missionary Principles

1 Corinthians 9:1-23

Introduction:

- A. In this text Paul gives principles for those who minister or serve in the Lord's church.
- B. As I study these principles, they fit as "missionary principles" for those who are serving as missionaries.
- C. All missionaries should work to have these principles as a part of their lives.

I. Those Who Preach the Gospel Should Live by the Gospel.

- A. 1 Corinthians 9:14
- B. Philippians 4:15-17

II. Preach the Gospel

- A. 1 Corinthians 9:16
- B. Mark 16:15,16

III. Serve Willingly.

- A. 1 Corinthians 9:17
- B. 2 Corinthians 8:3,5

IV. You Have Been Entrusted With a Stewardship.

- A. 1 Corinthians 9:17
- B. Ephesians 3:8-11

V. Present the Gospel of Christ Without Charge.

- A. 1 Corinthians 9:18
- B. Matthew 10:7,8

VI. Make Yourself a Servant to All.

- A. 1 Corinthians 9:19
- B. 1 Corinthians 4:1

VII. Become all Things to all Men.

- A. 1 Corinthians 9:22
- B. Acts 21:17-26

Conclusion:

- A. Every Christian should have these attributes in their lives in teaching others the gospel.
- B. Every missionary should have these attributes in their lives in doing the work of the Lord.
- C. Are these attributes in your life?

How to Run the Christian Race to Win

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Introduction:

- A. The Christian life is like running a race (Hebrews 12:1,2).
- B. How can we run the Christian race to be a winner?

I. Run Doing Your Best.

- A. 1 Corinthians 9:24
- B. Ephesians 6:13
- C. Philippians 2:13,14

II. Run the Race with Temperance.

- A. 1 Corinthians 9:25
- B. Galatians 5:23
- C. 2 Peter 1:5-10

III. Run the Race With Certainty.

- A. 1 Corinthians 9:26
- B. 2 Timothy 1:12
- C. Hebrews 3:6

IV. Run the Race Having Trained.

- A. 1 Corinthians 9:27
- B. Hebrews 5:8,9
- C. Hebrews 12:7-13

Conclusion:

- A. Are you entered the Christian race?
- B. Are you doing your best in running the Christian race to receive the prize?
- C. If not, then you can start today.

The Lord's Supper

1 Corinthians 11:17-30

Introduction:

- A. Christians are to “come together” on the first day of the week for the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7).

- B. This supper is also called: “the Lord’s Supper” (1 Corinthians 11:20), “the breaking of bread” (Acts 20:7), “the communion”, (1 Corinthians 10:16).
- C. In the Lord’s Supper we:

I. Look Upward to God.

- A. 1 Corinthians 11:23
- B. Ephesians 3:14
- C. Philippians 4:6
- D. Matthew 6:9-13

II. Look Backward to the Death of Christ.

- A. 1 Corinthians 11:23,26
- B. Romans 5:8-11
- C. Hebrews 10:10
- D. Revelation 1:5

III. Look Forward to Christ Coming Again.

- A. 1 Corinthians 11:26,27
- B. Acts 1:11
- C. Philippians 3:20
- D. John 14:1-3

IV. Look Inward to Self.

- A. 1 Corinthians 11:28,29
- B. 1 Corinthians 10:16
- C. 2 Corinthians 13:5

Conclusion:

- A. The Lord’s Supper is a time to look upward to God who sent heaven’s best (Christ) for our sacrifice.
- B. It is a time to look back to the birth, life and death of Christ.
- C. It is a time to look for the time that Jesus will come again.
- D. It is a time to search our heart and thank the Lord for such a sacrifice as Christ.

The Resurrection of Christ

1 Corinthians 15:1-19

Introduction:

- A. The greatest even in history is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- B. We read the account of the resurrection of Christ in Matthew 28:1-17; Mark 16:1-14; Luke 24:430.
- C. In 1 Corinthians chapter 15 we read more about the resurrection.

I. The Facts and Proof of the Resurrection.

- A. The facts of the Gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-4) is:
 - 1. The Death of Christ.
 - 2. The Burial of Christ.
 - 3. The Resurrection of Christ.
- B. The resurrection of Christ is told in Scripture:
 - 1. Foretold in the Psalms (Psalm 16:10,11; Acts 13:30-35).
 - 2. Presented in prophecy (Isaiah 53:10-12; 1 Corinthians 15:4).
 - 3. Announced by Christ (Mark 9:9,10; John 2:19-22).
 - 4. Proclaimed by the apostles (Acts 2:32; Acts 3:15).
- C. The proof is by those who saw the risen Christ (1 Corinthians 15:5-11; also the accounts given in Matthew, Mark, and Luke.
 - 1. Not any of the ones who saw Jesus was expecting Him.
 - 2. Remember also that these people were willing to die later on rather than deny their story. No one dies for a story they know to be false.

II. The Importance of the Resurrection.

- A. The Gospel/the truth itself depends on the resurrection of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:14)
- B. Our faith depends on the resurrection of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:17).
- C. Our sins being taken away depend on the resurrection of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:17).

- D. Our eternal salvation in Christ depends on the resurrection of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:18).
- E. Our joy depends on the resurrection of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:19).

III. The Order of the Resurrection.

- A. Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the first of those who have died (1 Corinthians 15:20; Acts 26:23).
- B. Those who belong to Christ at His coming (1 Corinthians 15:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17).
- C. The last enemy Christ will destroy will be death when we are raised with Him (1 Corinthians 15:26-28).
- D. Then the kingdom that is made up of those who belong to Christ will be delivered up to the Father (1 Corinthians 15:24).

IV. The Moral Implication of the resurrection of Christ.

- A. If there is no resurrection we can just eat and drink for tomorrow we die (1 Corinthians 15:32).
- B. If there is no resurrection, we can keep company with evil people and do evil things (1 Corinthians 15:33).
- C. But no, we should be awake to the right kind of living and not sin (1 Corinthians 15:34).
- V. Bodies of the Resurrected Dead and the Translated Living.
 - A. An incorruptible body (1 Corinthians 15:42,54).
 - B. A glorious body (1 Corinthians 15:43)
 - C. A spiritual body (1 Corinthians 15:44)
 - D. A changed/transformed body (1 Corinthians 15:51)

Conclusion:

- A. We can thank the Lord that we have victory through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57).
- B. In view of the resurrection we should be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58).

All Things Done with Love

1 Corinthians 16:13,14

Introduction:

- A. The Lord opens many doors of opportunity to us.
- B. There are many enemies of Christ.
- C. We should do all things with love in living for Christ and serving Him.
- D. Therefore we should

I. Watch.

- A. Matthew 24:42
- B. 2 Timothy 4:5
- C. 1 Peter 5:8

II. Stand Fast in the Faith.

- A. Philippians 1:27
- B. Philippians 4:1
- C. 2 Thessalonians 2:15

III. Be Brave.

- A. Be men of courage, be mature.
- B. Romans 15:14
- C. 1 Corinthians 14:20

IV. Be Strong.

- A. Romans 4:20
- B. Ephesians 3:16
- C. Ephesians 6:10

Conclusion:

- A. Are you using the opportunities the Lord gives you?
- B. Are you facing your enemies?
- C. Are you living for Christ and serving Him daily?

The God of All Comfort

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Introduction:

- A. As God's children we face many tribulations and troubles in life (Proverbs 14:1).
- B. If you have not faced many tribulations and troubles, just wait, it will come down the road of life somewhere.
- C. God our Heavenly Father is the Father of mercies and God of all comfort in all we face in life.

I. God Is Our Refuge and Strength.

- A. Psalm 9:9,10
- B. Psalm 46:1
- C. Psalm 62:7,8

II. God Shows His Fatherly Comfort Through His Word.

- A. Psalm 55:22
- B. Psalm 107:20
- C. Hebrews 13:5

III. We Can Always Go to God and Cast all Our Cares on Him.

- A. Isaiah 49:13
- B. 2 Corinthians 1:3-5
- C. 2 Corinthians 12:9

IV. No Matter What Happens — if We Are on the Lord's Side We Will Be Victorious.

- A. Romans 8:31-37
- B. Philippians 4:13

Conclusion:

- A. There is never a day so dreary but God can make it bright.
- B. There is never a path so hidden but God will lead the way
- C. There is never a heart so broken but the loving Lord can heal.
- D. There is never a need that Jesus brings before the Heavenly Father that He does not deeply understand.

Be Separate, says the Lord

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Introduction:

- A. The Lord has always required His people to be separate or different from those in the world.
- B. This principle has been true in the Patriarchal Age, the Mosaic Age, and now in the Christian age.
- C. Let us look carefully at the text of the above passage.

I. A Look at the Words That Describe This Separation.

- A. In Fellowship (2 Corinthians 6:14; Acts 2:42).
- B. In communion (2 Corinthians 6:14; 1 Corinthians 10:16).
- C. In accord/united (2 Corinthians 6:15; Philippians 2:2).
- D. In agreement (2 Corinthians 6:16; 1 John 4:1-6).

II. In What Ways are we to be Separate?

- A. Righteousness with Lawlessness (2 Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 4:23-31).
- B. Light With Darkness (2 Corinthians 6:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:4-8).
- C. Believer With the Unbeliever (2 Corinthians 6:15; Ephesians 5:3-11).
- D. Temple of God With Idols (2 Corinthians 6:16; 1 Cor. 6:19,20).

III. What is the Promise if we are Separate?

- A. God will dwell with us (2 Corinthians 6:16; Ezekiel 37:26,27)
- B. We shall be God's people (2 Corinthians 6:16; Jeremiah 31:33,34)
- C. We will be God's sons and daughters (2 Corinthians 6:18; Romans 8:14-17)

Conclusion:

- A. God desires that we be His children.
- B. Are **you** one of the children of God?
- C. Will you become a child of God today or will you repent and rededicate your life as a child of God, and be an honor and glory to Him?

Readiness in Giving

2 Corinthians 9:1-5

Introduction:

- A. God ready to give His only son (John 3:16).
- B. Christ ready to give His life (Galatians 2:20).
- C. Motivation for giving: Matthew 22:37; John 14:15; 2 Corinthians 5:14.

I. Knowing Your Willingness.

- A. 2 Corinthians 9:2
- B. 2 Corinthians 8:12
- C. 1 Chronicles 29:3-9

II. Your Zeal Has Stirred up Others.

- A. 2 Corinthians 9:2
- B. Exodus 35:21-29

III. A Matter of Generosity.

- A. 2 Corinthians 9:5
- B. Luke 21:1-4

Conclusion:

- A. All the money in the world belongs to God.
- B. Everything I have is His, and I give because I love Him and want to give.

Principles in Giving

2 Corinthians 9:6,7

Introduction:

- A. God has always commanded His people to give:
 - 1. Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:1-5).
 - 2. The offering for the Tabernacle (Exodus 25:1,2).
 - 3. Christians are to give (1 Corinthians 16:1,2).
- B. Principles for giving to the Lord?

I. Sow Sparingly, Reap Sparingly — Sow Boundifully, Reap

Bountifully.

- A. 2 Corinthians 9:6
- B. Malachi 3:8-10

II. Give as You Have Purposed in Your Heart.

- A. 2 Corinthians 9:7
- B. 1 Corinthians 16:1,2

III. Do Not Give Grudgingly.

- A. 2 Corinthians 9:7
- B. 2 Corinthians 8:5

IV. Do Not Give of Necessity.

- A. 2 Corinthians 9:7
- B. Matthew 6:1-4

V. God Loves a Cheerful Giver.

- A. 2 Corinthians 9:7
- B. Acts 20:35

Conclusion:

- A. Failure to give of the money which God has given to us is a serious matter.
- B. When giving is cheerful, it will also be generous.

Promises from Giving

2 Corinthians 9:8-15

Introduction

A. Giving is a command of God (1 Corinthians 16:1,2).

- B. There is no better indicator of growth in the new life than in the area of giving.
- C. Let us look at some promises that come from giving.

I. God is Able to Give You an Abundance of all the things for every Good Work.

- A. 2 Corinthians 9:8
- B. Proverbs 11:24,25
 - 1. Ephesians 1:18
 - 2. Ephesians 1:3

II. God Will Multiply and Increase the Fruit of Your Righteousness.

- A. 2 Corinthians 9:10
- B. 2 Chronicles 31:10

III. You are Enriched in Everything.

- A. 2 Corinthians 9:11
- B. Philippians 4:19

IV. God's Indescribable Gift.

- A. 2 Corinthians 9:15
- B. James 1:17

Conclusion:

- A. My gift to God does not make Him any richer, it makes me richer.
- B. For the child of God who honors God with his money, God promises abundant blessings.

Examine Yourself?

2 Corinthians 13:5

Introduction:

- A. We need to look into the mirror of the soul (James 1:25).
- B. We need to examine ourselves daily to see if we are in the faith.
- C. Examine our:

I. Love.

- A. Matthew 6:44
- B. Matthew 22:37,39
- C. 2 Thessalonians 2:10
- D. Hebrews 13:1

II. Heart.

- A. Proverbs 4:23
- B. Matthew 12:35
- C. Ephesians 6:6
- D. 1 Peter 3:15

III. Exhortation.

- A. Acts 2:40

- B. Romans 6:6-8
- C. Hebrews 10:25

IV. Teaching.

- A. Acts 20:20
- B. Ephesians 6:4
- C. Hebrews 5:12

Conclusion:

- A. Are you looking into the mirror of the soul?
- B. Are you examining yourself daily?

The Two Covenants

Galatians 4:21-31

Introduction:

- A. The Bible says much about the two (2) covenants.
- B. There are the Old and the New covenants (Hebrews 8:7).
- C. The first one is obsolete and has been taken away (Hebrews 8:13).

I. The Old Covenant

- A. Bondwoman — Hagar (Genesis 21:10).
- B. Son — Ishmael (Genesis 16:15).
- C. Born according to the flesh (Genesis 16:1-4).
- D. This covenant — Jerusalem (1 Kings 8:21).
- E. This covenant — bondage (Galatians 5:1-3).
- F. Corresponds to earthly Jerusalem (Jeremiah 52:27).
- G. Judaism — children of the flesh (Romans 9:6-8).
- H. One covenant — from Mount Sinai (Hebrews 12:18-24).
- I. Law — Old Covenant

II. The New Covenant

- A. Freewoman — Sarah (Genesis 21:2).
- B. Son — Isaac (Genesis 21:1-3).
- C. Born according to Promise (Genesis 17:19,21).
- D. This covenant — Jerusalem from above (12:22-24).
- E. This covenant — Free (James 1:25).
- F. Corresponds to heavenly Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2-10).

- G. Christians — children of Promise (Galatians 3:26-29).
- H. One covenant — from Jerusalem (Luke 24:46,47).
- I. Grace — New Covenant

Conclusion:

- A. Which covenant are we under today?
- B. Are **you** a child of Promise?

The Three (3) Bears

Galatians 6:2,5,17

Introduction:

- A. As we study the Word of God, “words” are important.
- B. In Galatians chapter 5 we find the word “BEAR” three times.
- C. In all three verses we find it used in a different way.
- D. What do we learn about the three ways this word is used in Galatians chapter 5?

I. Bear One Another’s Burdens.

- A. Galatians 5:2
- B. Romans 15:1-3
- C. 1 Corinthians 12:25,26
- D. Philippians 2:4

II. Bear One’s Own Load.

- A. Galatians 5:5
- B. Luke 14:17
- C. Luke 9:23
- D. Romans 14:12

III. Bear the Marks of Jesus.

- A. Galatians 5:17
- B. Acts 4:13
- C. Ephesians 5:8
- D. Philippians 2:20

Conclusion:

- A. As a Christian we must “bear one another’s burdens”.

- B. As a child of God we must “bear our own load”.
- C. As a follower of Christ we must “bear the marks of Jesus”.
- D. Are you doing these things?

The Church of Christ

Ephesians Chapter 1

Introduction:

- A. Matthew 16:13-18
- B. Jesus Christ promised to build His church.
- C. In the book of Ephesians Paul so beautifully pictures the Church that Jesus built.

I. Christ — The Head of the Church.

- A. Ephesians 1:22,23
- B. Ephesians 5:23
- C. Colossians 1:18
- D. Matthew 16:18

II. The Church Is Christ’s Body.

- A. Ephesians 1:22,23
- B. Colossians 1:18
- C. Colossians 1:14
- D. 1 Corinthians 12:27

Conclusion:

- A. Is Christ the head/the only head of the church you are a member of?
- B. Do you believe that the Church is Christ’s body?

The Church of Christ

Ephesians Chapter 2

Introduction:

- A. Remember in our last lesson that Christ is the head of the Church and that the church is Christ’s body.

- B. In this lesson we will learn two more things about the Church that Jesus built.

I. Reconciliation Is in the Church.

- A. Ephesians 2:16
- B. Romans 5:10
- C. Colossians 1:19-22
- D. 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

II. The Church Is the Family of God.

- A. Ephesians 2:19-22
- B. Isaiah 2:1-3
- C. 1 Peter 2:5
- D. 1 Timothy 3:15

Conclusion:

- A. Have you been reconciled to God in the Church?
- B. Are you a member of the family of God?

The Church of Christ

Ephesians chapter 3

Introduction:

- A. We have learned from our previous lessons that:
 - 1. Christ is the head of the Church.
 - 2. The Church is Christ's body.
 - 3. That reconciliation is in the Church.
 - 4. That the church is the family of God.
- B. In this lesson we will continue to learn interesting things about the Church that Jesus built.

I. The Church is Essential to Teaching.

- A. Ephesians 3:10
- B. Acts 8:1-4
- C. Matthew 28:19,20
- D. Mark 16:15,16

II. The Church is Essential to Worship.

- A. Ephesians 3:21

- B. Acts 2:42
- C. Act 20:7
- D. Hebrews 10:24,25

Conclusion:

- A. Are you teaching others about Jesus and the Church He built?
- B. Are you faithful to worship the Lord in His church?

The Church of Christ

Ephesians chapter 4

Introduction:

- A. We continue to learn many interesting things about the Church that Jesus built.
- B. How beautiful is the Church that Jesus built as described by the apostle Paul in the book of Ephesians.

I. There is Only One Church.

- A. Ephesians 4:4
- B. Romans 12:4,5
- C. Colossians 1:24
- D. 1 Corinthians 12:12,13

II. The Church is Essential to Unity.

- A. Ephesians 4:4
- B. Matthew 16:18
- C. John 17:20,21
- D. 1 Corinthians 1:10

Conclusion:

- A. Are you a member of the one Church that Jesus built?
- B. Are you a member of the Church that Jesus built and showing to the world the unity of all believers in Him?

The Church of Christ

Ephesians chapter 5

Introduction:

- A. In this lesson we will learn more interesting things about the Church that Jesus built.
- B. We are simply going to the New Testament and learning about the Church that Jesus built.

I. The Church is Essential to Salvation.

- A. Ephesians 5:23
- B. Acts 2:47
- C. 2 Timothy 2:10
- D. Galatians 3:27; 1 Corinthians 12:13

II. Christ Died for the Church.

- A. Ephesians 5:25,27
- B. Acts 20:28
- C. 1 Corinthians 6:20
- D. 1 Peter 1:18,19

Conclusion:

- A. Are you in the Church that Jesus built, where salvation is?
- B. Christ died for His church.
- C. Are you in Christ's Church?

The Church of Christ

Ephesians chapter 6

Introduction:

- A. Some religious people say, "Give me Christ and not the church".
- B. But in these lessons from Ephesians we have seen that the Church is essential.

I. The Church is Essential to Living Socially.

- A. Ephesians 6:1,5
- B. Colossians 3:20,21

- C. 1 Timothy 6:1
- D. Romans 12:17-19

II. The Church is Essential to Standing Against Satan.

- A. Ephesians 6:10,11
- B. Romans 6:7
- C. 2 Corinthians 10:4
- D. Ephesians 6:13

Conclusion:

- A. Will you become a member of Jesus Christ's Church now?
- B. Will you live the way a person should to be happy?
- C. Will you live as a part of the Church so that you can stand against Satan?

Dead to Sin — Alive to God

Ephesians 2:1-10

Introduction:

- A. The Bible has Good News and Bad News.
- B. In these verses we can see the Bad News and the Good News.
- C. We see mankind's spiritual situation clearly in this passage.

I. The Bad News.

- A. Mankind's old condition of life.
- B. Mankind is dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1; Colossians 2:13).
- C. Walked according to the course of this world (Ephesians 2:2; 1 John 2:15,16).
- D. Fulfilling the desires of the flesh (Ephesians 2:3; 1 Peter 4:3).
- E. In the Old Condition, mankind is "dead to God".

II. The Good News.

- A. How can mankind get out of that Old Condition?
- B. God is rich in mercy (Ephesians 2:4; Titus 3:4,5; 1 Peter 1:3,4)
- B. God has great love for us (Ephesians 2:4; Jeremiah 31:3; 2 Thessalonians 2:16).

- C. God's part in our Salvation is His grace to us (Ephesians 2:7,8; Romans 3:21-26; 1 Timothy 1:12-16).
- D. Our part in our Salvation is our faith (Ephesians 2:8; Romans 5:1,2; Hebrews 11:6).
- E. Salvation is not a reward for the good we have done, so none of us can take credit for it (Ephesians 2:9; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23).
- F. Salvation is of God himself who has made us what we are and gives us new lives from Christ Jesus. God planned it this way from before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 2:10; Ephesians 1:3-6; Ephesians 3:8-11).

Conclusion:

- A. Where are you in your Salvation?
- B. Don't let the Bad News, the Old Condition, and being Dead to God get you down and destroy your life.
- C. Accept the Good News provided by God through Jesus Christ and your obedience to the Gospel.
- D. Will you do it right now?

Reconciliation in the One Body

Ephesians 2:11-22

Introduction:

- A. This is one of the great themes of the Bible.
- B. This theme is important to every person in the world.
- C. What is "Reconciliation" about - "making peace between enemies".

I. Why Is Reconciliation Necessary?

- A. Described in Ephesians 2:12:
 - 1. Without Christ.
 - 2. Aliens.
 - 3. Strangers.
 - 4. Having no hope.
 - 5. Without God.
- B. God extends reconciliation while we are:

1. Helpless (Romans 5:6).
2. Sinners (Romans 5:8).
3. Enemies of God (Romans 5:10).

II. Reconciliation Made Possible by What?

- A. By God in Christ (Ephesians 2:13-16; 2 Corinthians 5:18).
- B. By Christ's death (Ephesians 2:13,16; Romans 5:10).
- C. By Christ's blood (Ephesians 2:13; Romans 5:9,11).
- D. By Christ's Body (Ephesians 2:16; Colossians 1:24).

III. Reconciliation Brings What?

- A. It brings peace (Ephesians 2:17; Romans 5:1).
- B. It brings access to the Father (Ephesians 2:18; Romans 5:2).
- C. It brings citizenship (Ephesians 2:19; Philippians 3:20).
- D. It brings us to a family (Ephesians 2:19; 1 Timothy 3:15).

Conclusion:

- A. We have received the message of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18,19).
- B. Have you been reconciled to God by Christ's death in the one body?
- C. You can rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ by receiving the message of reconciliation (Romans 5:11).
- D. Will you receive it today?

The Bible Mystery

Ephesians 3:1-6

Introduction:

- A. We all love a mystery.
- B. I love reading a mystery book.
- C. One of the greatest mysteries of the world is the mystery of the Bible.

I. Was the Mystery Made Known?

- A. Ephesians 3:4,5
- B. Matthew 13:17
- C. Luke 10:24

- D. Romans 16:25
- E. 1 Corinthians 2:7,8
- F. 1 Peter 1:10-12

II. How was the Mystery Made Known?

- A. Ephesians 3:3-5
- B. 1 Corinthians 2:7-10
- C. John 14:26
- D. John 16:13

III. What is the Mystery?

- A. Ephesians 3:4,6
- B. Galatians 3:26-29
- C. 1 Corinthians 12:13

Conclusion:

- A. Now the mystery has been revealed to you.
- B. What do you think about this mystery?
- C. Will you receive and obey this mystery now?

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 4:7-13

Introduction:

- A. The study of the Holy Spirit is a very deep and interesting study in the Bible.
- B. Much study needs to be done on this subject because it is a deep Bible subject.
- C. The same can be said of the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- D. Here in this text is found much information about The gift of the Holy Spirit — Let us look and learn.

I. What Is Christ's Gift?

- A. Ephesians 4:7,8
- B. Acts 1:2,5
- C. Acts 2:38
- D. Acts 8:15,16,18,20

II. When Would the Gift of the Holy Spirit Be Given?

- A. Ephesians 4:8-10
- B. Acts 1:1-8
- C. Acts 1:9-11
- D. Acts 1:26-2:1-4

III. To Whom Would the Holy Spirit Be Given?

- A. Ephesians 4:11
- B. Acts 1:2-8
- C. Acts 11:19-24,28
- D. Acts 13:1,2
- E. Ephesians 3:3-5

IV. Why Would the Gift of the Holy Spirit Be Given?

- A. Ephesians 4:11,12
- B. To teach the gospel (Acts 6:5,7; Acts 8:5).
- C. Edify the saints/body (Acts 11:21-24)

V. For What Period of Time Would the Gift of the Holy Spirit Be Given?

- A. Ephesians 4:13
- B. 1 Corinthians 13:8-11
- C. James 1:25

Conclusion:

- A. Now we understand what Christ's gift is in Ephesians 4, and many things about it.
- B. Let us appreciate the gift of the Holy Spirit that was given to the first century Christians so that we might have "that which is perfect", the Gospel.

Growth in the Church

Ephesians 4:15,16

Introduction:

- A. The Lord desires that His church that He purchased with His own blood grow (Acts 20:28).

- B. He desires that His church grow spiritually and numerically.
- C. How can the Church grow as the Lord desires?

I. Spiritual Growth.

- A. Ephesians 4:15
- B. 1 Peter 2:2
- C. 2 Peter 1:5-11
- D. 2 Peter 3:18

II. Functional Growth.

- A. Ephesians 4:16
- B. 1 Corinthians 12:13-25
- C. Ephesians 2:10
- D. Titus 2:14

III. Numerical Growth.

- A. Ephesians 4:16
- B. Acts 2:47
- C. Acts 5:42
- D. Acts 6:1
- E. Acts 6:7

Conclusion:

- A. Are you growing spiritually?
- B. Are you doing your part in the Church?
- C. Are we growing in number of souls being saved?

Putting on the New Person in Christ

Ephesians 4:17-29

Introduction:

- A. In the Letter that Paul writes to the church at Ephesus, he encourages them to walk as a Christian.
- B. In Ephesians chapter 4 in this text Paul tells them there are some things you must put off and some things you need to put on when you are in Christ.
- C. Today as a Christian we must also do the same.

I. We Must Put Off the Old Man/Person.

- A. As a new person do not:
 - 1. Walk as the unsaved (Ephesians 4:17).
 - 2. Do not walk in darkness (Ephesians 4:18).
 - 3. Do not have a hard heart (Ephesians 4:18).
 - 4. Do not be past feeling (Ephesians 4:19).
 - 5. Do not give yourself over to evil (Ephesians 4:19).
 - 6. Put off the former way of life (Ephesians 4:22).
- B. As a new person you must off these:
 - 1. Deceitful lusts (Eph. 4:22; James 1:14,15; .1 Tim. 6:9).
 - 2. Lying (Ephesians 4:25; Proverbs 30:8; Revelation 21:8).
 - 3. Do not give place to the devil (Ephesians 4: James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:9).
 - 4. Stealing (Ephesians 4:28; Romans 13:9; 1 Corinthians 6:9,10).
 - 5. Bitterness (Ephesians 4:31; Proverbs 14:10; Acts 8:23; Hebrews 12:15).
 - 6. Wrath (Ephesians 4:31; Psalm 37:8; 1 Timothy 3:8)
 - 7. Anger (Ephesians 4:31; Proverbs 14:17; Proverbs 29:22).
 - 8. Loud quarreling (Ephesians 4:31; Proverbs 10:12: 1 Timothy 6:3,4).
 - 9. Evil speaking (Ephesians 4:31; James 4:11; 1 Peter 2:1).
 - 10. Malice (Ephesians 4:31)

II. We Must Put on the New Man/Person.

- A. As a new person we must:
 - 1. Have a new attitude (Ephesians 4:23).
 - 2. Created to be like God, holy and good (Ephesians 4:24).
 - 3. Put on the new and different person (Ephesians 4:24).
- B. As a new person you must put on these:
 - 1. Be righteous (Ephesians 4:24; Psalm 11:7; Proverbs 11:19).
 - 2. Be holy (Ephesians 4:24; Leviticus 11:44,45; 1 Peter 1:15).
 - 3. Be truthful (Ephesians 4:25; Psalm 15:1-5; Philippians 4:8,9).
 - 4. Work, doing something useful (Ephesians 4:28; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-14).

5. Give to those in need (Ephesians 4:28; Acts 20:35).
6. Speak to build others up (Ephesians 4:29; Romans 14:19).
7. Be kind to others (Ephesians 4:32; Galatians 5:22,23).
8. Be tenderhearted to others (Ephesians 4:32; 1 Peter 3:8).
9. Be forgiving to others (Ephesians 4:32; Luke 17:3,4).

Conclusion:

- A. Let us put off the “old person” that we might put on the “new person”.
- B. Have you done this in baptism (Romans 6:4)?
- C. As a Christian, are you working daily on being that “new person”?

Followers of God

Ephesians 5:1-21

Introduction:

- A. Paul exhorts all Christians to be “followers of God” (Ephesians 5:1).
- B. How can you and I be followers of God?

I. Walk in Love.

- A. Ephesians 5:2
- B. Matthew 22:37
- C. John 14:15,21,23
- D. 1 Thessalonians 4:9
- E. 1 John 4:11

II. Walk as Children of Light.

- A. Ephesians 5:8
- B. Matthew 5:14-16
- C. Philippians 2:14-16
- D. 1 Thessalonians 5:5

III. Walk Circumspectly (Carefully).

- A. Ephesians 5:15
- B. 2 Corinthians 3:2
- C. 1 Timothy 4:12

Conclusion:

- A. Paul said, “Be followers of me, just as I also follow Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1).
- B. Who are you following, and where will your following lead you?
- C. When others see you, who do they see you following?

The Wide Awake Christian

Ephesians 5:14-21

Introduction:

- A. People sleep during the night or, at least, in darkness.
- B. When the light is turned on, they are to wake up and be about their business.
- C. Paul calls on Christians to be “wide awake” since the spiritual light has been turned on in Jesus Christ and the gospel.
- D. What is a “wide-awake Christian”?

I. A Careful-Living Christian.

- A. Ephesians 5:15
- B. Colossians 4:5

II. An Opportunity-Minded Christian.

- A. Ephesians 5:16
- B. Ecclesiastes 11:2

III. A Studying Christian.

- A. Ephesians 5:17
- B. Acts 17:11

IV. A Meditating Christian.

- A. Ephesians 5:18
- B. Psalm 1:1,2

V. A Singing Christian.

- A. Ephesians 5:19
- B. Colossians 3:16

VI. A Thankful Christian.

- A. Ephesians 5:20
- B. Psalm 100:4

VII. An Humble Christian.

- A. Ephesians 5:21
- B. James 4:6,10

Conclusion:

- A. The light has come to us through Christ and the gospel.
- B. We are called upon to wake up and live as wide-awake Christians.
- C. It is time for action.

Relationship Between Husband and Wife

Ephesians 5:22-33

Introduction:

- A. The Lord gives us a beautiful picture of the relationship between Christ and His church in this passage.
- B. But there are many lessons we can learn as husbands and wives from this text about our relationship with one another.

I. God Wants the Wife to Submit to the Husband.

- A. Ephesians 5:22-24
- B. 1 Corinthians 11:3
- C. Colossians 3:18
- D. 1 Peter 3:1

II. God Wants the Husband to Love His Wife.

- A. Ephesians 5:25-29
- B. Proverbs 12:4
- C. Colossians 3:19
- D. Titus 2:4,5

III. God Wants the Husband and Wife to Become One.

- A. Ephesians 5:30-33
- B. Genesis 2:23,24
- C. Matthew 19:4-6
- D. Song of Solomon 4:16-5:1

Conclusion:

- A. When the Holy Spirit described the Church in Ephesians, He compares it with the beautiful relationship between a husband and wife.
- B. Is your relationship what it should be with your companion?

Relationship Between Christ and His Church

Ephesians 5:22-33

Introduction:

- A. God compares the relationship between Christ and His Church to that of the marriage relationship between a man and a woman.
 - B. What a wonderful relationship exists between Christ and His church.
 - C. Look at the comparison:
- I. As the Wife Submits to Her Husband, the Church Submits to Christ.**
 - A. Ephesians 5:22
 - B. Ephesians 1:22,23
 - II. As the Husband is the Head of the Wife, Christ is the Head of the Church.**
 - A. Ephesians 5:23
 - B. Matthew 28:18
 - III. As the Wife is Subject to Her Husband, the Church is Subject to Christ.**
 - A. Ephesians 5:24
 - B. Colossians 1:18
 - IV. As the Husband Loves His Wife, Christ Loves the Church.**
 - A. Ephesians 5:25
 - B. Ephesians 1:7,14
 - V. As the Husband Gives Himself for his Wife, Christ Gave Himself for the Church.**

A. Ephesians 5:25

B. Acts 20:28

VI. As the Wife is Holy and Without Blemish to the Husband, the Church is to Christ.

A. Ephesians 5:26,27

B. 1 John 1:7

VII. As the Wife is Glorious to Her Husband, so is the Church to Christ.

A. Ephesians 5:27

B. Song of Solomon 4:7

VIII. As the Husband Nourishes and Cherishes His Wife, Christ Nourishes and Cherishes the Church.

A. Ephesians 5:29

B. Revelation 12:5,6

IX. As the Husband and Wife Become One, so Christ and the Church Become One.

A. Ephesians 5:31

B. Romans 12:4

X. As the Wife Respects Her Husband, so the Church Must Respect Christ as the Head.

A. Ephesians 5:33

B. Matthew 6:33

Conclusion:

A. We can see the Great love that the Lord has for His church.

B. Do you love, respect, obey, and glorify the Lord and His church?

Put on the Whole Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10-17

Introduction:

A. Even in the Church we have an enemy who desires to attack us and destroy us (1 Peter 5:8).

B. What can we do to fight off all the schemings of the devil?

- C. We can “Put on the whole armor of God”.
- D. What is the armor of God?

I. Gird Your Waist With Truth.

- A. Ephesians 6:14
- B. John 17:17,19
- C. John 8:32
- D. 1 Peter 1:22
- E. 2 Peter 1:12

II. The Breastplate of Righteousness.

- A. Ephesians 6:14
- B. Psalm 23:3
- C. Matthew 5:6
- D. Romans 6:18
- E. 1 Timothy 6:11

III. Feet Shod with the Gospel of Peace.

- A. Ephesians 6:15
- B. Romans 5:1
- C. 1 Corinthians 7:15
- D. 1 Timothy 2:2
- E. Matthew 5:9

IV. Take the Shield of Faith.

- A. Ephesians 6:16
- B. Romans 10:17
- C. Romans 1:17
- D. Romans 4:12
- E. Hebrews 11:13

V. Take the Helmet of Salvation.

- A. Ephesians 6:17
- B. 2 Timothy 3:15
- C. Philippians 2:12
- D. 1 Thessalonians 5:8,9
- E. Hebrews 5:8,9

VI. Take the Sword of the Spirit Which is the Word of God.

- A. Ephesians 6:17
- B. Hebrews 4:12

- C. James 1:18,22
- D. 2 Timothy 3:16,17
- E. Acts 20:32

Conclusion:

- A. As Christians we have the equipment that we need to fight the devil.
- B. Notice that the Christian soldier is not protected on the back, because we do not turn our back on the devil.
- C. As a Christian soldier we please Him who is our captain (2 Timothy 2:3,4).
- D. We can withstand the devil “IF” we put on “the whole armor of God”.
- E. Have you put on the whole armor of God?

Christ in Philippians

Philippians

Introduction:

- A. A letter of encouragement to this congregation that Paul loves.
- B. Paul points to Christ as their model.
- C. Paul pictures Christ:

I. As the Christian’s Life.

- A. Philippians 1:21
- B. Galatians 2:20
- C. Colossians 3:4

II. As the Model of Humility.

- A. Philippians 2:5
- B. Romans 15:1,2
- C. 1 Corinthians 13:5

III. As the One Who Will Transform Our Lowly Body to a Glorious Body.

- A. Philippians 3:21
- B. 1 Corinthians 15:42-44
- C. 1 John 3:1,2

IV. As the Source of Our Strength.

- A. Philippians 4:13
- B. Romans 8:31-37
- C. 2 Timothy 4:17,18

Conclusion:

- A. What a joy and encouragement to see Christ in the letter to the church at Philippi.
- B. Is Christ your model?
- C. Is Christ your life and everything?

Thieves of Joy

Philippians 4:4

Introduction:

- A. Philippians is the epistle of joy and encouragement in the middle of adverse circumstances.
- B. Paul points the Philippians to Christ as their encouragement and joy.
- C. Christians cannot let “thieves” rob them of joy.
- D. What are some of the thieves of joy we see in Philippians?

I. The Thief of Circumstances.

- A. Philippians 1:12-18
- B. Philippians 4:11
- C. 1 Timothy 6:6,7

II. The Thief of People.

- A. Philippians 2:1-8
- B. Romans 12:18
- C. 2 Timothy 2:22

III. The Thief of Things.

- A. Philippians 3:18-20
- B. 1 Timothy 6:8-10
- C. Hebrews 13:5

IV. The Thief of Worry.

- A. Philippians 4:6,7,13,19

- B. Psalm 37:1-5
- C. Matthew 6:25-34

Conclusion:

- A. Our life will be happier if we learn to not let circumstances, people, things, and worry rob us of joy.
- B. How are you facing life?
- C. Are you really happy?

Fellowship in the Gospel

Philippians 1:3-7

Introduction:

- A. Paul writes the church in Philippi from a Roman prison. This church has a “special place” in Paul’s heart.
- B. This church is Paul’s co-worker in mission work, that of carrying the gospel to others.
- C. Paul thanks God for them:

I. Because of Their Fellowship in the Gospel.

- A. Philippians 1:5
- B. 1 Corinthians 3:5-9
- C. 2 Corinthians 6:1

II. Because of Their Good Work.

- A. Philippians 1:6
- B. Ephesians 2:10
- C. Matthew 5:16

III. Because They Had Made Themselves Near to Paul’s Heart.

- A. Philippians 1:7
- B. Acts 4:32
- C. Romans 15:5,6

IV. Because They Were Partakers With Paul of the Grace of God.

- A. Philippians 1:7
- B. Colossians 1:12
- C. Hebrews 3:14

Conclusion:

- A. Thank God that we can have fellowship in the gospel of Christ.
- B. What an honor to have fellowship with God, Christ, and one another in the gospel of Christ.
- C. Are you living such a life that you can have fellowship in the gospel of Christ?

Let Your Conduct Be Worthy of the Gospel

Philippians 1:27-30

Introduction:

- A. Our way of life should be worthy of the gospel of Christ
- B. The way we live our life should be a mirror of the gospel.
- C. How can our life be a picture of the gospel?

I. Stand Fast in One Spirit.

- A. Philippians 1:27
- B. Philippians 4:1
- C. Ephesians 6:13

II. Be of One Mind.

- A. Philippians 1:27
- B. 1 Corinthians 1:10
- C. Ephesians 4:1-6

III. Striving Together.

- A. Philippians 1:27
- B. Ephesians 4:16
- C. Colossians 2:2

IV. Do Not be Terrified by Your Adversaries.

- A. Philippians 1:28
- B. 1 Timothy 5:14
- C. 1 Peter 5:8

V. Suffer for Christ's Sake.

- A. Philippians 1:29
- B. 1 Peter 3:13-17
- C. 1 Peter 4:15,16

Conclusion:

- A. Look into the mirror of your soul.
- B. Does your life reflect the gospel of Christ?
- C. If not, will you repent and change your life today?

Christian Humility

Philippians 2:1-18

Introduction:

- A. Paul encourages Christians to a life of humility.
- B. Humility is a great Christian characteristic.
- C. What do we learn from this passage about humility?

I. Paul Encourages Christians to Show Humility (Phil. 2:1-4).

- A. Humility is being like-minded (Romans 12:16).
- B. Humility is having the same love for everyone (Romans 12:9,10).
- C. Humility is being of one accord and one mind (Phil. 4:2).
- D. Humility is not being selfish or being conceited (Rom. 11:20).
- E. Humility is having lowliness of mind (Psalm 138:6).
- F. Humility is esteeming others better than self (Rom. 12:16).
- G. Humility is not looking out for your own interest, but also looks out for the interest of others (Romans 12:9,10).

II. Christ's Example of Humility (Philippians 2:5-11).

- A. Christians should have the mind of Christ (Matthew 11:29).
- B. Christians should empty themselves of their privileges (Galatians 2:20).
- C. Christians should become servants of Christ (Jude 1).
- D. Christians should become obedient to Christ (Hebrews 5:8,9).

III. Paul's Example of Humility.

- A. Christians should be poured out for others (Romans 15:1,2).
- B. Christians should be sacrificial for the good of others (1 Corinthians 12:25,26).

- C. Christians should serve others (Galatians 5:13).

Conclusion:

- A. Are you striving for the Christian characteristic of “**humility**”?
- B. Having humility will lead to a happier life and heaven (Matthew 5:3).
- C. Do you have the mind of Christ?

Work Out Your Own Salvation

Philippians 2:12-16

Introduction:

- A. God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit have done all they can for your salvation.
- B. To the Christian, Paul says, “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”.
- C. How do we work out our own salvation with fear and trembling?

I. Do all Things Without Murmuring and Disputing.

- A. Philippians 2:14
- B. 1 Peter 4:9
- C. 2 Corinthians 9:7
- D. 1 Corinthians 10:6-11

II. Become Blameless and Harmless.

- A. Philippians 2:15
- B. Luke 1:6
- C. 1 Corinthians 1:8
- D. 2 Peter 3:14

III. Shine as Lights in the World.

- A. Philippians 2:15
- B. Matthew 5:15,16
- C. 2 Corinthians 3:2

IV. Hold Fast the Word of Life.

- A. Philippians 2:16
- B. 1 Thessalonians 5:21

- C. Titus 1:9
- D. Hebrews 3:6

Conclusion:

- A. Do you have awesome respect and fear for God?
- B. Are you working out your own salvation?
- B. If not, will you start today by repenting?

Epaphroditus' Example

Philippians 2:25-30

Introduction:

- A. We read about Epaphroditus in this passage and in Philippians 4:18.
- B. This brother is not spoken about so much like Peter and Paul, but he has many good Christian characteristics.
- C. Let us look at them and consider this faithful brother's life.

I. My Brother.

- A. Philippians 2:25
- B. Ephesians 6:21
- C. 1 Thessalonians 3:2

II. My Fellow Worker.

- A. Philippians 2:25
- B. Philippians 4:3
- C. 3 John 8

III. My Fellow Soldier.

- A. Philippians 2:25
- B. Philemon 2
- C. 2 Timothy 2:3,4

IV. A Minister (Servant).

- A. Philippians 2:25
- B. James 1:1
- C. Matthew 25:21

V. Gave His Life for the Work of Christ.

- A. Philippians 2:30

- B. Colossians 3:3
- C. Matthew 10:37-39

Conclusion:

- A. Epaphroditus was a faithful child of God.
- B. His life showed that he was a faithful servant of the Lord.
- C. Does your life show that you are truly a servant of the Lord?

How to Have Peace

Philippians 4:6-9

Introduction:

- A. We all desire peace in this life.
- B. Many seek after peace in all the wrong places.
- C. How can we as Christians have peace?

I. Do Not Worry.

- A. Philippians 4:6
- B. Luke 12:22-34
- C. Matthew 6:8,9,11

II. Let Your Request be Made Known to God.

- A. Philippians 4:6
- B. Luke 18:1
- C. Psalm 55:22

III. Be thankful for What You Have.

- A. Philippians 4:6
- B. Ephesians 5:20
- C. 1 Thessalonians 5:17,18

IV. Meditate on the Right Things.

- A. Philippians 4:8
- B. We should meditate on things that are:
 - 1. Noble (Acts 17:11).
 - 2. Just (Deuteronomy 16:20).
 - 3. Pure (Matthew 5:8).
 - 4. Lovely (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).
 - 5. Good (Romans 12:21)

Conclusion:

- A. Are you seeking those things that lead to peace?
- B. If you do, you will enjoy “the peace that surpasses all understanding”.
- C. God help us to seek after peace that will bring happiness to our life.

Christ Is the Preeminent One

Colossians 1:15-29

Introduction:

- A. In Christ dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily, He is the Preeminent One.
- B. In Colossians chapter one Paul shows the “Preeminence of Christ”.
- C. How is Christ the Preeminent One?

I. Christ is the Preeminent One in Creation (Colossians 1:15-18).

- A. Colossians 1:15 - The Greek (protoktistos) tells us that Christ is “first in rank”.
 - 1. Christ is the image of the Jehovah; He is God in the flesh.
- B. Colossians 1:16,17 — By Christ all things were created.
 - 1. All things were created through Him and for Him
 - 2. Christ is before all things, He is eternal (John 17:5).
- C. Colossians 1:18 — Christ is the head of the body, the church.
 - 1. Christ is the head of the church because He is “first in rank” from the dead.
 - 2. In “all things” Christ has the preeminence in the church (Ephesians 1:22).

II. Christ Is Preeminent in Redemption (Colossians 1:19-23).

- A. Colossians 1:19 — In Christ all the fullness of redemption should dwell.
 - 1. In Christ all the fullness of “grace” should dwell (John 1:16).

- B. Colossians 1:20 — In Christ all are reconciled to God.
 - 1. At the right time God brought together the plan to “reconcile all in Christ” (Ephesians 1:10).
 - 2. We are also reconciled to God in “the one body, church” (Ephesians 2:16).
- C. Colossians 1:20,21 — Because we have been reconciled to God by Christ.
 - 1. We have peace (Colossians 1:20).
 - 2. We are no longer alienated and enemies with God (Colossians 1:20).
 - 3. We are presented holy before God (Colossians 1:22).
 - 4. We are presented blameless before God (Col. 1:22).
 - 5. We are presented free from accusation before God (Colossians 1:22).

III. Christ Is Preeminent in the Church (Colossians 1:24-29).

- A. Colossians 1:24 — The body is the Church.
 - 1. There is only one body/church (Ephesians 4:4).
 - 2. It is the one that Christ built (Matthew 16:18).
 - 3. It is the one that we can be added to as a member (Acts 2:38,47).
- B. Colossians 1:25 — We like Paul should be a servant in the body.
 - 1. God has entrusted to us the word of God (Col. 1:25).
 - 2. God has entrusted to us the mystery, the gospel (Colossians 1:26).
- C. Colossians 1:27-29 — The mystery is that we can all be “in one body, the church”.
 - 1. The mystery is the riches of God’s glory (Col. 1:27).
 - 2. The mystery is the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27).
 - 3. The mystery is every person can be made complete (Colossians 1:28).

Conclusion:

- A. Is Christ the preeminent One in your life?
- B. Is Christ the preeminent One in Redemption and in the Church?
- C. Is Christ number one in your life?

As Christians, We Are Free

Colossians 2:1-23

Introduction:

- A. Jesus said in John 8:32, *“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”*.
- B. Paul said in Galatians 5:1, *“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free”*.
- C. What are we free from?

I. Freedom From Enticing Words (Colossians 2:4-7).

- A. Do not let anyone deceive you with persuasive words (Romans 16:18).
- B. Show your steadfastness of your faith in Christ (1 Peter 5:9).
- C. As a Christian be sure to walk in Christ (1 Thess. 4:1).
- D. Be rooted, built up, and established in the faith (Eph. 3:14-17).

II. Freedom From Vain Philosophy (Colossians 2:8-10).

- A. Watch out for those who would take you captive through philosophy and empty deceit (Acts 13:9,10).
- B. Watch out for those who would take you captive through the tradition of men (Mark 7:6-8).
- C. You are and can be complete only in Christ (Heb. 13:20,21).

III. Freedom From the Judgment of Men (Colossians 2:11-17).

- A. In Christ we have put off the body of the sins of the flesh (Romans 6:6).
- B. Because we have been buried with Christ in baptism (Romans 6:4), we are:
 - 1. Dead to sin (Ephesians 2:1-3).
 - 2. Alive with Christ (Ephesians 2:1-3).
- C. Because we are “in Christ” we are not to be judged by the Law, because it has been taken away and nailed to the cross of Christ (John 19:30; Romans 10:4).
- D. The Law was only a shadow of things to come, but the reality, however, is found in Christ (Hebrews 10:1).

IV. Freedom From Improper Worship (Colossians 2:18-19).

- A. Let no one rob you of your reward in:

1. False humility (James 3:13-18).
2. Worship (John 8:23,24).
- B. Hold on to the Head of the body/church and you will be:
 1. Nourished (Ephesians 5:22-29).
 2. Knit together and every part doing its part (Eph. 4:15,16).
- C. This will cause increase of the body/church which is from God (Ephesians 4:16).

V. Freedom From the Doctrines of Men (Colossians 2:20-23).

- A. Since you have died to the world, you should not subject yourself to the doctrines of men (2 Timothy 4:2-5).
- B. Those who follow the doctrines of men will perish (2 Peter 2:1-9).
- C. The doctrines of men are self-devised religions, and are of no value (Matthew 7:21-27).

Conclusion:

- A. Are you free from these things in Colossians chapter 2?
- B. Freedom from these things in Colossians chapter 2 makes us fit for heaven.
- C. Are you really “free in Christ” and fit for heaven?

The Way Christians Are to Live

Colossians 3:1-4

Introduction:

- A. There are some basic things that Christians must know to live for Christ.
- B. Here in Colossians Paul shares with us the basic way we are to live as Christians.
- C. How are we to live successfully as a Christian?

I. Seek Those Things Which are Above.

- A. Colossians 3:1
- B. Isaiah 55:6
- C. Matthew 6:33
- D. Hebrews 11:13,14

II. Set Your Mind on Things Above.

- A. Colossians 3:2
- B. Matthew 6:19-21
- C. Proverbs 23:7
- D. Philippians 4:8,9

III. You Died.

- A. Colossians 3:3
- B. 1 Corinthians 15:31
- C. Galatians 5:24

IV. Christ is Our Life.

- A. Colossians 3:4
- B. Philippians 2:5
- C. Galatians 2:20

Conclusion:

- A. If you do these things, you will be happy in this life.
- B. If you do these things, you will please the Lord.
- C. If you do these things, you will go to heaven.

The New Relationship in Christ

Colossians 3:5-16

Introduction:

- A. In Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians there is much information about living for Christ.
- B. If we have been baptized into Christ, we must live a different life, a different life from those in the world.
- C. In our text Paul tells us how a Christian is to live for Christ.

I. Put to Death World Characteristics.

- A. We must put to death our worldly characteristics (Colossians 3:5; Romans 6:13; Romans 8:13).
- B. The wrath of God will come upon those who are disobedient (Colossians 3:6; Romans 1:18; Ephesians 2:2).
- C. You once walked in these things when you lived in them (Colossians 3:7; 1 Corinthians 6:11).

II. We Must “Put Off” all These Worldly Characteristics (Colossians 3:5,8,9).

- A. Fornication (Matthew 15:19; 1 Corinthians 6:12-18).
- B. Uncleaness (Romans 6:19; 1 Thessalonians 4:7).
- C. Passion/lust (1 John 2:15-17; Titus 2:12).
- D. Evil desire (James 1:13-16; Ephesians 2:1-3).
- E. Covetousness (1 Timothy 6:9-11; Ephesians 5:5).
- F. Anger (Proverbs 14:17; Ephesians 4:26,31).
- G. Wrath (Psalm 37:8; Ephesians 4:26,31).
- H. Malice (Ephesians 4:31; 1 Peter 2:1).
- I. Blasphemy/slander (Proverbs 11:9; Titus 3:1,2).
- J. Filthy language (Ecclesiastes 10:12; James 4:11).
- K. Lying (Psalm 120:2; Proverbs 30:8).

III. As God’s Elect/Christians We Must “Put On” These Holy Characteristics (Colossians 3:12-16).

- A. Tender mercies (Matthew 5:7; Romans 12:1,8).
- B. Kindness (1 Corinthians 13:4; Galatians 5:22).
- C. Humility (1 Kings 3:7-14; 2 Chronicles 7:14,15).
- D. Meekness (James 1:21; James 3:13).
- E. Longsuffering (Hebrews 6:12; James 5:10).
- F. Bearing with one another (1 Corinthians 13:7; Eph. 4:1,2).
- G. Forgiving one another (Luke 17:3,4; Ephesians 4:32).
- H. Love (1 Corinthians 13:4-7; 2 Peter 1:5-7).
- I. Peace (2 Corinthians 13:11; 2 Timothy 2:22).
- J. Thankfulness (Psalm 100:4; Ephesians 5:20).
- K. Let the word dwell in you (Psalm 1:1,2; James 1:25).

Conclusion:

- A. Have you been raised from the watery grave of baptism?
- B. Are you in Christ Jesus the Lord?
- C. Are you living the way a Christian should live?
- D. Does your life show the Christian life and that new relationship with Christ?

Holiness in Your Work Life

Colossians 3:22-4:1

Introduction:

- A. Paul addresses those who are servants (slaves, workers) and their masters (employers).
- B. Paul tells them how to live a holy (consecrated, dedicated) life as Christians in their work life.
- C. We can use this today as workers or employers in our Christian life.

I. Instructions for Christian Workers in Holy Living.

- A. Do your work, obeying in all things your employer according to the flesh (Colossians 3:22; Ephesians 6:1).
- B. Do your work, not just to catch the eye and please men (Colossians 3:22; Ephesians 6:6).
- C. Do your work, having a sincere heart (Colossians 3:22; Ephesians 6:5).
- D. Do your work, fearing God (Colossians 3:22; Ephesians 6:5).
- E. Do your work heartily (Colossians 3:23; Ephesians 6:6).
- F. Do your work, knowing that your reward will come from the Lord (Colossians 3:24; Ephesians 6:8).

II. Instructions for Christian Employers in Holy Living.

- A. Employers, be just (Colossians 4:1; Ephesians 6:9).
- B. Employers, be fair to your employees (Colossians 4:1; Ephesians 6:9).
- C. Employers, know that you have a Master in heaven (Colossians 4:1; Ephesians 6:9).

Conclusion:

- A. These are good instructions to all employers and employees, whether Christians or for those who are not Christians.
- B. These instructions will lead to a life that is pleasing to the Lord of Heaven.
- C. Are you a holy employer? Are you a holy employee?

Holiness in Public Life

Colossians 4:2-6

Introduction:

- A. Christians are to be obedient children of God (1 Peter 1:14).
- B. The Lord who called us to a Christian life that is “holy” (1 Peter 1:15).
- C. Christians are to live a “holy life” (1 Peter 1:15).
- D. Paul in Colossians 4:2-6 tell us how to live a “holy life”.

I. Continue Earnestly in Prayer.

- A. Colossians 4:2
- B. Luke 18:1
- C. Ephesians 6:18

II. Speak the Mystery of Christ.

- A. Colossians 4:3
- B. Ephesians 3:1-6
- C. Ephesians 3:9-11

III. Walk in Wisdom.

- A. Colossians 4:5
- B. Matthew 10:16
- C. James 3:17,18

IV. Let Your Speech Always be With Grace.

- A. Colossians 4:6
- B. Proverbs 10:31,32
- C. Ecclesiastes 10:12

Conclusion:

- A. God help us to live a holy and happy life as His children.
- B. Be holy as the Lord is holy and you will please the Lord.
- C. Be holy and you will show the Lord in your life to others.

Will Others Remember You?

1 Thessalonians 1:2,3

Introduction:

- A. Paul thanked the Lord for the Christians in Thessalonica.

- B. There are three (3) things Paul remembered about these Christians.

I. Work of Faith.

- A. Ephesians 2:10
- B. 2 Timothy 2:21
- C. 2 Timothy 3:16,17
- D. Jeremiah 31:16

II. Labor of Love.

- A. Matthew 9:37,38
- B. Revelation 2:2
- C. 1 Corinthians 15:58
- D. Hebrews 6:10

III. Patience (Endurance) of Hope.

- A. Hebrews 10:36-39
- B. James 1:2-4
- C. Hebrews 12:1,2
- D. Romans 2:7

Conclusion:

- A. Will others remember your work of faith, labor of love, and patience (endurance) of hope?
- B. Will others remember your life?
- C. How are you living your life?

Good Instructions for Preachers

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Introduction:

- A. Most of the time we think of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus as letters that contain information for preachers.
- B. 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 also contains much good information for those who preach the gospel.
- C. What good instructions do we find in 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 for evangelists or preachers?

I. The Need for Being Bold in Preaching the Gospel.

- A. 1 Thessalonians 2:2
- B. Acts 4:29,31
- C. Acts 9:26-29

II. The Need for Exhortation.

- A. 1 Thessalonians 2:3
- B. Hebrews 3:13
- C. Hebrews 10:25

III. Do Not Please Men, but God.

- A. 1 Thessalonians 2:4
- B. Galatians 1:10
- C. 2 Timothy 2:3,4

IV. Do Not Use Flattering Words.

- A. 1 Thessalonians 2:5
- B. Romans 16:17,18
- C. Colossians 2:4-7

V. Do Not Seek the Glory of Men.

- A. 1 Thessalonians 2:6
- B. John 12:42,43
- C. 1 Corinthians 3:21

VI. Be Gentle to Others.

- A. 1 Thessalonians 2:7
- B. 1 Timothy 6:11
- C. Titus 3:1,2

VII. Be Affectionate to Others.

- A. 1 Thessalonians 2:8
- B. Romans 12:10
- C. Philippians 2:1-4

VIII. Endear Yourself to Others.

- A. 1 Thessalonians 2:8
- B. Romans 16:8,9
- C. Colossians 3:12

IX. Labor and Toil Among Those You Work With.

- A. 1 Thessalonians 2:9

B. 1 Corinthians 15:58

C. Philippians 1:22

X. Do Not be a Burden to Others.

A. 1 Thessalonians 2:9

B. 2 Corinthians 11:9

C. 2 Corinthians 12:13-18

XI. Live Devoutly, Justly, and Blamelessly Before Others.

A. 1 Thessalonians 2:10

B. Acts 8:2

C. 2 Peter 3:14

XII. Deal With Others as a Father Does His Own Children.

A. 1 Thessalonians 2:11

B. 2 Peter 1:12-14; 1 John 2:1

C. 1 John 1:4; 2:1

Conclusion:

A. These are very important words to every preacher.

B. We will be a more effective preacher if we do these things.

C. Are you doing these things?

How to Grow and Honor the Lord

1 Thessalonians 4:11,12

Introduction:

A. We should abound more and more in growing and honoring the Lord.

B. We should walk in such a way as to please God and honor Him.

C. How can we do this?

I. Lead a Quiet Life.

A. 1 Thessalonians 4:11

B. 2 Thessalonians 3:12

C. 1 Timothy 2:2

II. Mind Your Own Business.

A. 1 Thessalonians 4:11

B. 2 Thessalonians 3:11,12

C. 1 Peter 4:15

III. Work With Your Own Hands.

- A. 1 Thessalonians 4:11
- B. Ephesians 4:28
- C. 2 Thessalonians 3:10

IV. Walk Properly.

- A. 1 Thessalonians 4:12
- B. Romans 6:4
- C. Romans 13:12-14

Conclusion:

- A. Are you living a life that shows you are growing in the Lord?
- B. Are you living a life that shows that you are honoring the Lord?
- C. If not, will you repent and start doing that today?

Instructions for Holy Living

1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

Introduction:

- A. We should live a holy life because the Lord is coming again.
- B. We should live a holy life because we will stand before the Lord in Judgment.
- C. How can we live a “a holy life”?

I. Be at Peace Among Yourselves.

- A. 1 Thessalonians 5:13
- B. Mark 9:50
- C. Romans 14:19

II. Warn (Admonish), Comfort, Uphold, be Patient With Others.

- A. 1 Thessalonians 5:14
- B. 2 Thessalonians 3:14,15
- C. Romans 15:5

III. Do Not Render Evil for Evil.

- A. 1 Thessalonians 5:15
- B. Matthew 5:38-42
- C. Romans 12:17

IV. Pursue What is Good for Yourselves and for All.

- A. 1 Thessalonians 5:15

B. Galatians 6:10

C. Titus 3:8

V. Rejoice Always.

A. 1 Thessalonians 5:16

B. Psalm 33:1

C. Psalm 58:10

VI. Pray Without Ceasing.

A. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

B. Luke 18:1

C. Ephesians 6:18

VII. In Everything Give Thanks.

A. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

B. Psalm 100:4,5

C. Psalm 140:13

VIII. Test All Things.

A. 1 Thessalonians 5:21

B. 1 John 4:1-6

C. 2 Corinthians 13:5

IX. Hold Fast What is Good.

A. 1 Thessalonians 5:21

B. Titus 1:9

C. Hebrews 4:14

X. Abstain From Every Form of Evil.

A. 1 Thessalonians 5:22

B. James 4:7

C. 1 Peter 2:11

Conclusion:

A. Are you growing in holiness of life?

B. Remember, the Lord is coming again, and we must stand before Him and be judged.

C. Are you ready for that Day?

God Will Repay

2 Thessalonians 1:5-10

Introduction:

- A. Christians are undergoing persecutions when Paul writes this letter to the Thessalonians (2 Thessalonians 1:5).
- B. Paul reminds the Christians in Thessalonica that it is right for God to repay with tribulation those who trouble them (2 Thessalonians 1:6).
- C. Paul tells these Christians that God will give them rest when the Lord is revealed from heaven (2 Thessalonians 1:7).
- D. God will take vengeance on:

I. Those Who Do Not Know God.

- A. 2 Thessalonians 1:8
- B. 1 Samuel 8:7
- C. Hosea 4:6
- D. Romans 1:24-26

II. Those Who Do Not Obey the Gospel.

- A. 2 Thessalonians 1:8
- B. Mark 16:15,16
- C. Romans 2:8,9
- D. Galatians 1:6-9

III. With Punishment.

- A. 2 Thessalonians 1:9
- B. Hebrews 6:2
- C. Jude 6
- D. Matthew 25:41,46

Conclusion:

- A. In the Day of Judgment God will punish those who have not known him, and those who have not obeyed the gospel.
- B. On the other hand, the Lord will be glorified and admired among those who are His children.
- C. Do you know God?
- D. Have you obeyed the gospel?

That Christ May Be Glorified

2 Thessalonians 1:11,12

Introduction:

- A. God has created us in His image (Genesis 1:26).
- B. Our purpose on earth is to glorify God (1 Peter 4:11).
- C. You can glorify Christ by:

I. Being Counted Worthy of His Calling.

- A. 2 Thessalonians 1:11
- B. Matthew 9:13
- C. Philippians 3:14
- D. 2 Peter 1:10

II. Having Purpose in Your Life.

- A. 2 Thessalonians 1:11
- B. Psalm 17:3
- C. Daniel 1:8
- D. 2 Timothy 3:10

III. Letting Every Action be Prompted by Your Faith.

- A. 2 Thessalonians 1:11
- B. 1 Thessalonians 2:13
- C. Galatians 5:6
- D. 2 Corinthians 4:17

Conclusion:

- A. As you walk as a Christian, “be counted worthy of the Lord’s calling, have purpose in your life, and let every action be prompted by your faith”.
- B. Are you living in such a way that heaven will be your home some day?

Withdraw from the Disorderly

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

Introduction:

- A. Church discipline or “withdrawing from the disorderly” is taught in the New Testament.

- B. The New Testament church, the Church that Jesus built practiced church discipline.
- C. If we follow the New Testament, we must do the same thing.

I. The New Testament Commands Church Discipline.

- A. 2 Thessalonians 3:6,14
- B. Romans 16:17
- C. 1 Corinthians 5:9-11

II. Meaning of Church Discipline.

- A. 2 Thessalonians 3:6 — “Withdraw yourselves”.
- B. Romans 16:17 — “Mark and turn away”.
- C. 1 Corinthians 5:9-11 — “Have no company”.

III. Who Should be Disciplined?

- A. 2 Thessalonians 3:6 — Those who walk disorderly.
- B. Matthew 18:15-17 — One who sins.
- C. Romans 16:17 — Those who cause divisions with false doctrines.
- D. 1 Corinthians 5:11 — A list is given in this passage.

IV. When Should a Person be Disciplined?

- A. 2 Thessalonians 5:14 — “Encourage the person”.
- B. 1 Corinthians 5:11 — “Withdraw from him”.
- C. 1 Timothy 5:20 — “Rebuke him”.

V. How Shall We Carry Out This Command?

- A. A good pattern is given to us in Matthew 18:15-17 when Jesus teaches individuals are to handle a situation.
- B. Jesus said to take it to three steps.
 - 1. Go to the person/persons alone.
 - 2. Go with another person.
 - 3. Carry it to the whole church.
- C. How much time should be spent in this and how quickly this is to be done is a matter of opinion since Jesus did not give instructions on this matter.

VI. How the Disciplined is to be Treated?

- A. 2 Thessalonians 3:15 — Treat him as a brother.
- B. 2 Corinthians 2:6-8

1. Do not be too severe.
2. If the Christian repents, forgive, comfort, and reaffirm your love to him.

VII. Purpose of Church Discipline!

- A. 2 Thessalonians 3:14 — So that the person will be ashamed.
- B. 1 Corinthians 5:5 — To save the person.
- C. 1 Corinthians 5:6,7 — To save the church.
- D. 2 Corinthians 2:6,7 — So that the person will repent.

Conclusion:

- A. Let us have the courage to do what the Lord says.
- B. Let us do all that we do with love, care, and with the aim of restoring those who have become unfaithful to the Lord.
- C. Be sure to support the leadership of the church where you worship and do your part to make church discipline effective.

What Is the Purpose of the Commandment?

1 Timothy 1:5-7

Introduction:

- A. Paul will speak often of the Word of God, the gospel, the doctrine, the commandment, in first and second Timothy.
- B. In 1 Timothy 1:5-7 Paul says “the purpose of the commandment is...
- C. What is the purpose of the commandment?

I. Love From a Pure Heart.

- A. Matthew 22:37
- B. John 13:34
- C. Romans 12:9

II. From a Good Conscience.

- A. Hebrews 9:12-14
- B. 2 Corinthians 1:12
- C. 1 Peter 3:15,16

III. From Sincere Faith.

- A. Romans 4:20-24
- B. 2 Corinthians 8:7
- C. 1 Timothy 1:19

Conclusion:

- A. Have you allowed the gospel to work in your life?
- B. Do you love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith?
- C. If not, will you work hard to have these that you might be pleasing to the Lord?

Words That Describe a Faithful Christian

1 Timothy 2:2

Introduction:

- A. We can be a Christian or a faithful Christian.
- B. Here are some words that truly describe the faithful Christian life.
- C. Let us look carefully at these words.

I. Quiet.

- A. Proverbs 17:1
- B. 1 Thessalonians 4:11
- C. 1 Peter 3:4

II. Peaceable.

- A. 2 Corinthians 5:18-21
- B. Romans 14:19
- C. 2 Corinthians 13:11

III. Godliness.

- A. Titus 2:12
- B. 1 Timothy 6:11
- C. 1 Timothy 4:7,8

IV. Reverence (Holiness).

- A. Titus 2:1-3
- B. Hebrews 12:28
- C. Proverbs 28:14

Conclusion:

- A. Are you just a Christian, or are you a faithful Christian?
- B. Do these words describe your life?

God Desires

1 Timothy 2:1-8

Introduction:

- A. Do you do the things that you desire?
- B. Why not do the things that God desires.
- C. God desires that we...

I. Pray for Everyone.

- A. 1 Timothy 2:1-3
- B. Luke 18:1
- C. Ephesians 6:18
- D. Philippians 4:6

II. Come to the Knowledge of the Truth and be Saved.

- A. 1 Timothy 2:4
- B. John 8:32
- C. 2 Peter 1:3
- D. 2 Peter 3:18

III. Accept Christ as the Ransom for our Sins.

- A. 2 Timothy 2:6
- B. Isaiah 53:7
- C. Mark 10:45
- D. 1 Peter 1:18,19

Conclusion:

- A. God desires the very best of everything for us.
- B. What do you desire for yourself?

Christian — Be an Example

1 Timothy 4:12

Introduction:

- A. We need to carefully guard our influence.

- B. Jesus said his servants are “*not of this world*” (John 15:19), and Paul said we are to be “*a new creation*” (2 Cor. 5:17).
- C. We are reminded to be an example “of the believers” in several ways.

I. In Word.

- A. Proverbs 18:21
- B. Proverbs 25:11
- C. Colossians 4:6

II. In Conduct.

- A. Romans 6:4
- B. 2 Corinthians 3:2
- C. 1 Peter 1:15

III. In Love.

- A. John 13:35
- B. 1 Corinthians 16:14
- C. 1 Peter 4:8

IV. In Spirit.

- A. Romans 12:11
- B. Galatians 5:22: 23
- C. Galatians 6:8

V. In Faith.

- A. Romans 1:17
- B. 2 Corinthians 5:7
- C. 2 Timothy 4:7,8

VI. In Purity.

- A. Matthew 5:8
- B. James 1:27
- C. 1 John 3:2,3

Conclusion:

- A. God desires that we show ourselves a good example to others.
- B. Are you showing yourself a good example to others?

Christians Are to Pursue

1 Timothy 6:11

Introduction:

- A. As Christians we are to live a certain life style.
- B. In doing this we must flee worldly temptations, harmful lusts, and all kinds of evil.
- C. On the other hand we are to pursue (follow after, work toward) these things

I. Righteousness (Doing Right).

- A. Deuteronomy 6:25
- B. Job 29:14
- C. Psalm 4:5
- D. Psalm 11:7

II. Godliness.

- A. Psalm 4:3
- B. 1 Timothy 6:6
- C. 2 Peter 1:6,7
- D. 2 Timothy 3:12

III. Faith.

- A. Habakkuk 2:4
- B. Galatians 2:20
- C. 1 Peter 5:9
- D. Hebrews 11:13

IV. Love.

- A. Galatians 5:13
- B. Ephesians 1:15
- C. Philippians 1:9
- D. Philippians 2:1,2

V. Patience (Endurance).

- A. Ecclesiastes 7:8
- B. Romans 2:7
- C. James 5:7,8
- D. 1 Peter 2:20

VI. Gentleness.

- A. Galatians 5:22
- B. Philippians 4:5
- C. 2 Timothy 2:24
- D. James 3:17

Conclusion:

- A. Have you fled from those things that are evil?
- B. Are you pursuing those things that are good and right in the sight of God?

A Christian Is a Discipling Teacher

2 Timothy 2:1,2

Introduction:

- A. We live in challenging times for the Church of our Lord.
- B. The church will only grow when we follow the New Testament pattern.
- C. It has been tried, proven, and tested — It works.

I. The Plan Was Given First by Jesus.

- A. Matthew 28:19,20
- B. Mark 16:15,16
- C. Acts 1:8

II. This was Jesus' Plan.

- A. Luke 19:10
- B. Matthew 4:18-22
- C. John 1:39-46

III. This Plan Multiplies the Number of Disciples.

- A. 2 Timothy 2:2
- B. 1 Thessalonians 1:1-8
- C. Acts 19:10

IV. This Plan Produces Growth.

- A. Acts 2:41,47
- B. Acts 4:2,4
- C. Acts 4:29,32

- D. Acts 5:14
- E. Acts 5:42; 6:1
- F. Acts 8:4

Conclusion:

- A. Place the gospel of Christ in an individual, it spreads to the community, county, state, and the entire country.
- B. Will you be a “discipling teacher” for Jesus?

A Christian Is Like a Single-Minded Soldier

2 Timothy 2:3-5

Introduction:

- A. The Bible likens a Christian to many things that we can relate to in this life.
- B. In 2 Timothy chapter 2, Paul likens the Christian to a number of things.
- C. In the above text Paul likens the Christian to a single-minded soldier, but how?

I. Endure Hardship.

- A. Hebrews 10:36
- B. 2 Timothy 3:12
- C. 2 Timothy 2:13

II. Engage in Warfare.

- A. 2 Corinthians 10:4
- B. Ephesians 6:10-17
- C. 1 Timothy 1:18

III. Does Not Entangle Himself with the Affairs of This Life.

- A. Luke 9:62
- B. 2 Timothy 4:10
- C. 2 Peter 2:20-22

IV. Pleases Him Who Enlisted Him as a Soldier.

- A. John 8:29

- B. Romans 8:8
- C. Galatians 1:10

Conclusion:

- A. Are **you** like a single-minded soldier of Christ?
- B. Will **you** become a single-minded soldier today?

A Christian Is Like an Enduring Farmer

2 Timothy 2:6-13

Introduction:

- A. We understand what a farmer is.
- B. How is a Christian like a farmer?

I. A Farmer Must Sow the Seed.

- A. Luke 8:5,11
- B. 1 Peter 1:22-25
- C. 2 Corinthians 9:6

II. A Farmer Must Patiently Endure.

- A. Mark 4:14-20
- B. Mark 4:26-29
- C. Luke 8:15

III. A Farmer Knows Who Gives the Increase.

- A. 1 Corinthians 3:5-9
- B. 2 Corinthians 3:4,5
- C. 2 Corinthians 6:1

Conclusion:

- A. You can be an enduring farmer for the Lord.
- B. Are **you** an enduring farmer for Jesus Christ?

A Christians Is a Worker

2 Timothy 2:14-19

Introduction:

- A. Christians need to be reminded of who they are from time to time.

- B. A Christians is a diligent worker for the Lord.
- C. How is the Christian a worker for the Lord?

I. Must Be Diligent.

- A. Psalm 77:6
- B. Proverbs 12:24
- C. Deuteronomy 11:13
- D. Hebrews 4:11

II. Present Yourself Approved to God.

- A. Romans 12:1,2
- B. Romans 14:16-18
- C. Philippians 1:9,10

III. A Worker Who Does Not Need to Be Ashamed.

- A. Nehemiah 4:6
- B. John 9:4
- C. 1 Corinthians 15:58
- D. James 1:25

IV. Rightly Divide the Word of Truth.

- A. Psalm 119:133
- B. Psalm 119:160
- C. Jeremiah 23:28
- D. Acts 17:11

Conclusion:

- A. Are **you** a diligent worker?
- B. Are **you** handling the Word of truth in the right way?
- C. Are **you** approved to God?

A Christian Is a Sanctified Vessel

2 Timothy 2:20-23

Introduction:

- A. This is a sermon that our oldest son, Robert Stephen Martin and I worked up together for him to present at a Workshop in Nadi, Fiji. The cancer on the brain came back and he was not able to make that trip. This is the hardest lesson/sermon

I have ever had to present for the Lord because I knew that Steve wanted to be there and present this lesson. I dedicate this sermon to him and his memory as a Christian servant.

- B. In a house there are good and bad vessels.
- C. In God's house (church) we are either a good or bad vessel.
- D. The good vessel brings honor, the bad vessel bring dishonor.
- E. Who is a vessel for honor?

I. The One Who Cleanses Himself.

- A. Psalm 51:2
- B. 2 Corinthians 7:1
- C. Ephesians 5:25-27
- D. 1 John 1:7,9

II. The One Who Sanctifies Himself.

- A. Leviticus 11:44,45
- B. John 17:17
- C. 1 Peter 3:15
- D. 1 Corinthians 6:11

III. The One Who Is Useful for the Master.

- A. Stewardship — “a trust granted for profitable use.”
- B. 1 Peter 4:10
- C. 1 Corinthians 4:1,2
- D. Luke 12:42,43
- E. Luke 16:1-3

IV. The One Is Prepared for Every Good Work.

- A. 2 Timothy 3:16,17
- B. Ephesians 2:10
- C. Titus 2:11-14
- D. Colossians 1:10

Conclusion:

- A. God wants **you** to be a good vessel for Him.
- B. Will **you** be a good vessel for God?

A Christian Is a Servant

2 Timothy 2:24-26

Introduction:

- A. Here is a lesson that all Christians need daily.
- B. A Christian is a servant of the Lord (Romans 1:1).
- C. How is a servant of the Lord described in these verses?

I. Must Be Gentle.

- A. Isaiah 40:1
- B. Titus 3:1,2
- C. James 3:17,18
- D. 1 Peter 2:18

II. Must Be Able to Teach.

- A. Deuteronomy 4:9
- B. Acts 5:42
- C. 2 Timothy 2:2
- D. Hebrews 5:12

III. Must Be Patient.

- A. Ecclesiastes 7:8
- B. Romans 12:12
- C. 1 Thessalonians 5:14
- D. James 5:7-9

IV. Must Correct Others in Humility.

- A. Proverbs 15:33
- B. Acts 20:19
- C. Colossians 3:12
- D. 1 Peter 5:5

Conclusion:

- A. It should be our desire as a Christian to be a **servant**.
- B. Are **you** a servant of the Lord?
- C. Will **you** become a servant of the Lord today?

A Summary of the True Christian Life

2 Timothy 4:6-8

Introduction:

- A. It should be our desire to be a true Christian.
- B. Our heart's desire should be to live a true Christian life.
- C. At the end, Paul's life could be summed up in this way:

I. I Have Fought a Good Fight.

- A. 1 Timothy 1:18
- B. 2 Corinthians 10:4
- C. Ephesians 6:13-17

II. I Have Finished the Race.

- A. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
- B. Hebrews 12:1,2
- C. James 1:12

III. I Have Kept the Faith.

- A. 1 Corinthians 16:13
- B. 2 Corinthians 13:5
- C. Revelation 2:10
- D. Revelation 14:13

Conclusion:

- A. Is it your desire to be a true Christian?
- B. How are you living your life?
- C. How will your life be summed up at death?

Christians Should Show Themselves to Be a Pattern of Good Works

Titus 2:7,8

Introduction:

- A. A Christian is to show that he is a Child of God (Philippians 2:15,16).

- B. The Christian life is a “pattern” that others can use to follow that will lead to heaven.
- C. How is the Christian a “pattern” that others can use?

I. Showing Good Works.

- A. Matthew 5:16
- B. Acts 9:36
- C. 1 Peter 2:12

II. Showing Integrity (Uncorruptness).

- A. Job 31:6
- B. Psalm 25:20,21
- C. Proverbs 11:3

III. Showing Reverence.

- A. Psalm 89:7
- B. Proverbs 28:14
- C. Hebrews 12:28

IV. Showing Incorruptibility (Sincerity).

- A. Joshua 24:14
- B. 1 Corinthians 5:8
- C. 2 Corinthians 1:12

V. Showing Sound Speech.

- A. Psalm 35:28
- B. Ephesians 4:25
- C. Colossians 4:6

Conclusion:

- A. Do **you** show yourself to be a Christian?
- B. Are **you** showing yourself to be a “pattern” of good for others to follow?

Christians Should Adorn the Doctrine

Titus 2:10-13

Introduction:

- A. To adorn means “to make attractive”.

- B. Our desire as Christians should be to make the doctrine of Christ, the gospel attractive to others.
- C. How can we do this?

I. Deny Ungodliness.

- A. Romans 5:6
- B. 2 Peter 2:5,6
- C. Jude 14,15

II. Deny Worldly Lusts.

- A. Matthew 15:19
- B. James 1:14,15
- C. Galatians 5:16,24

III. Live Soberly.

- A. Romans 12:3
- B. 1 Peter 1:13
- C. 1 Peter 5:8

IV. Live Righteously.

- A. Psalm 23:3,4
- B. Isaiah 33:15,16
- C. Acts 10:35

V. Live Godly.

- A. Psalm 4:3
- B. 2 Timothy 3:12
- C. 2 Peter 2:9

Conclusion:

- A. How do **you** live as a Christian?
- B. Are **you** making the gospel “attractive”?

God’s Grace

Titus 2:11-14

Introduction:

- A. Grace simply means “God’s unmerited favor”.
- B. Grace is connected to the words — love, kindness, and mercy.

C. God's plan of salvation was shaped by the grace of God alone and becomes a reality in your life when you follow it by faith (Ephesians 2:7,8).

D. What do we learn about God's grace in Titus 2:11-14?

I. It Has Appeared.

A. Titus 2:11

B. Isaiah 55:11

C. Romans 5:15

II. It Teaches.

A. Titus 2:12

B. John 1:17

C. Ephesians 1:7

III. It Sacrifices.

A. Titus 2:13,14

B. Isaiah 53:12

C. Romans 3:23-26

IV. Its Purpose.

A. Titus 2:14

B. Acts 15:11

C. Romans 5:1,2

D. Hebrews 2:10

Conclusion:

A. God has shown us His love, mercy, and grace by sending Jesus to die for us that we might be reconciled to God in the one body.

B. Will you accept God's grace and obey Him that you might be saved today?

Philemon, a Man of Love

Philemon 1,5,6,7

Introduction:

A. The epistle of Philemon is about the gospel of Christ solving social problems.

- B. Here is a test of brotherly love in action.
- C. Does Christian love really work?
 - 1. An example, between a slave owner (Philemon) and his runaway slave (Onesimus).
- D. How do we see the Christian man Philemon in this epistle?

I. Beloved Friend.

- A. Philemon 1
- B. 1 Samuel 18:1
- C. Colossians 3:12

II. Fellow Laborer.

- A. Philemon 1
- B. Romans 16:12
- C. Philippians 4:3

III. Heard of Your:

- A. Love (Philemon 5; Galatians 5:6).
- B. Faith (Philemon 5; 1 Thessalonians 1:3).
- C. Toward God and other Christians (Phil. 5; 1 John 3:16-18).

IV. Sharing of Your Faith.

- A. Philemon 6
- B. Romans 10:16-18
- C. 1 Thessalonians 1:8

V. Refreshed the brethren.

- A. Philemon 7
- B. 1 Corinthians 16:18
- C. 3 John 5-8

Conclusion:

- A. Paul writes a postcard to Philemon, the shortest of his epistles.
- B. Paul writes with much tenderness to his Christian friend, Philemon.
- C. We learn great lessons about love from this letter.
- D. Are **you** showing your love for God and your brethren the way Philemon did?

Lessons We Learn from the Phrase “Let Us” in Hebrews

Hebrews

Introduction:

- A. We will divide this long lesson into a series of lessons.
- B. We can learn many lessons from the phrase “LET US” from the book of Hebrews.

I. Let Us Fear.

- A. Hebrews 4:1
- B. Ecclesiastes 12:13,14
- C. Luke 12:5
- D. Revelation 14:7

II. Let Us Be Diligent.

- A. Hebrews 4:11
- B. 2 Corinthians 8:7
- C. 2 Peter 1:5,10
- D. 2 Peter 3:14

III. Let Us Come Boldly to the Throne.

- A. Hebrews 4:16
- B. Ephesians 3:12
- C. Hebrews 13:6
- D. 1 John 5:14,15

IV. Let Us Go on to Perfection.

- A. Hebrews 6:1
- B. Hebrews 5:12-14
- C. Ephesians 4:11-15
- D. Philippians 3:12-15

V. Let Us Draw Near with a True Heart.

- A. Hebrews 10:22
- B. Psalm 73:1
- C. Matthew 5:8
- D. 2 Corinthians 1:12

VI. Let Us Hold Fast.

- A. Hebrews 10:23

- B. 1 Thessalonians 5:22
- C. Hebrews 3:6
- D. Revelation 3:11

VII. Let Us Consider One Another.

- A. Hebrews 10:24
- B. 1 Corinthians 12:25
- C. Hebrews 3:13
- D. 1 John 4:7

VIII. Let Us Lay Aside Every Weight and Sin.

- A. Hebrews 12:1
- B. Ephesians 4:22
- C. Colossians 3:5-8
- D. 1 Peter 2:1

IX. Let Us Have Grace.

- A. Hebrews 12:28
- B. Ephesians 2:8-10
- C. 2 Timothy 2:1
- D. 2 Peter 3:19

X. Let Us Go Forth to Christ.

- A. Hebrews 13:13
- B. Matthew 11:28,29
- C. Hebrews 11:24-26
- D. 1 Peter 4:14-16

XI. Let Us Continue to Offer Sacrifices of Praise to God.

- A. Hebrews 13:15
- B. Romans 12:1,2
- C. Philippians 4:18
- D. 1 Peter 2:5

Conclusion:

- A. What wonderful lessons we learn from the phrase “Let us” in the book of Hebrews.
- B. Let us learn that we may please the Lord and hear Him say, “Well done, good and faithful servant enter into the joy of your lord” (Matthew 25:23).

The Five Warnings of Hebrews

Hebrews

Introduction:

- A. The book of Hebrews was written to Christians who were in danger of falling away from the faith.
- B. These Christians were in danger of drifting back from the grace in Christ to the Law of Moses.
- C. The Hebrew writer gives five (5) warnings in this letter to warn and encourage Christians.

I. Warning #1 — Danger of Neglect.

- A. Hebrews 2:3
- B. Hebrews 2:1-4
- C. James 4:17

II. Warning # 2 — Danger of Hardening the Heart.

- A. Hebrews 3:8
- B. Hebrews 3:7-19
- C. Psalm 95:7,8

III. Warning # 3 — Danger of the Dullness of Hearing

- A. Hebrews 5:11
- B. Hebrews 5:11-14
- C. Matthew 13:9-23

IV. Warning # 4 — Danger of Drawing Back.

- A. Hebrews 10:39
- B. Hebrews 10:26-39
- C. 2 Peter 2:20-22

V. Warning #5 — Danger of Refusing God.

- A. Hebrews 12:25
- B. Hebrews 12:25-29
- C. Jeremiah 9:6-11

Conclusion:

- A. We need to know these dangers that these first century Christians were facing and see the solution to these dangers.
- B. These are dangers that we face in our lives as Christians and these solutions apply to us today if we desire to enter that eternal rest called heaven.

Jesus, Our High Priest

Hebrews 7:22-28

Introduction:

- A. Jesus is our High Priest, called by God (Hebrews 5:4,5).
- B. Jesus is our High Priest and He has entered heaven and is sitting at the right hand of the Father (Hebrews 9:7,12,24).
- C. Jesus is our High Priest and He shows compassion (He understands us) because He came to this earth and lived in human flesh (Hebrews 4:15,16).
- D. In Hebrews 7:26 we see a beautiful description of our High Priest, Jesus.

I. He Is Holy

- A. Hebrews 7:26
- B. Hebrews 4:15
- C. Psalm 16:102 Corinthians 5:21

II. He Is Harmless.

- A. Hebrews 7:26
- B. Matthew 27:4
- C. Acts 10:38

III. He Is Undefined.

- A. Hebrews 7:26
- B. Isaiah 53:11
- C. 1 Peter 1:18,19

IV. He Is Separate from Sinners (Set Apart from Sinners).

- A. Hebrews 7:26
- B. 2 Corinthians 5:20,21
- C. 1 Peter 2:21,22

V. He Has Become Higher than the Heavens (Exalted Above the Heavens).

- A. Hebrews 7:26
- B. Hebrews 8:1
- C. Ephesians 1:20-22

Conclusion:

- A. Will **you** obey the gospel of Christ and let Christ be your High Priest?

- B. Will **you** repent and return to your first love so that Christ may truly be your High Priest?

The 3 “Appears” of Hebrews, Chapter 9

Hebrews 9:24,26,28

Introduction:

- A. The writer of Hebrews uses the word “Appears, appeared, and appear” three times in Hebrews 9:24,26,29.
- B. The three times that the Hebrew writer uses this word, it has a great lesson for us.
- C. What are the three (3) lessons we learn from these verses?

I. Jesus Now Appears in the Presence of God for Us.

- A. Hebrews 9:24
- B. Hebrews 4:14-16
- C. Hebrews 7:22-25

II. Jesus Has Appeared to Put Away Sin.

- A. Hebrews 9:26
- B. Hebrews 2:16-18
- C. Galatians 3:26-29

III. Jesus Will Appear a Second Time.

- A. Hebrews 9:28
- B. Acts 1:9-11
- C. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

Conclusion:

- A. Jesus has appeared for **you** to be saved.
- B. Jesus has appeared in the presence of God for **you**.
- C. Jesus will come again for **you**.
- D. Are **you** ready for His second appearing?

“Let Us” of Hebrews, Chapter 10

Hebrews 10:22-25

Introduction:

- A. There are many key phrases and words in the book of Hebrews.

- B. In chapter 10 we find the phrase, “Let us”.
- C. How do we find this phrase used?

I. Let Us Draw Near with a True Heart.

- A. Hebrews 10:22
- B. 1 Samuel 14:36
- C. Psalm 73:28
- D. James 4:8
- E. 1 John 1:3,7

II. Let Us Hold Fast.

- A. Hebrews 10:23
- B. 1 Thessalonians 5:21
- C. Titus 1:9
- D. Hebrews 4:14
- E. Hebrews 3:6

III. Let Us Consider One Another.

- A. Hebrews 10:24
- B. Hebrews 10:25
- C. Roman s 12:10
- D. Philippians 2:1-4
- E. Hebrews 3:13

Conclusion:

- A. What great lessons we learn from these three phrases in Hebrews chapter 10.
- B. Have **you** drawn near to God with a true heart?
- C. Are **you** holding fast to those things that are most important?
- D. Are **you** considering others in this life?

The Danger of Drawing Back

Hebrews 10:26-31

Introduction:

- A. The Hebrews Christians were on the edge of drawing back from their faith in Christ and the gospel.
- B. The Hebrew writer encourages them throughout this epistle to consider this matter carefully.

- C. In this text the Hebrew writer warns them of the serious danger of drawing back.

I. If We Deliberately Keep on Sinning.

- A. Hebrews 10:26
- B. John 8:32
- C. James 4:17
- D. 1 Peter 4:3
- E. Romans 1:24,25,26,28,32
- F. No longer remains a sacrifice for sins (Hebrews 9:26).

II. Fearful Expectation of Judgment.

- A. Hebrews 10:27
- B. Acts 17:30,31
- C. Ecclesiastes 12:13,14
- D. 2 Corinthians 5:10,11
- E. Romans 2:2-10
- F. 1 Peter 4:17,18

III. Much Worse Punishment.

- A. Hebrews 10:28,29
- B. John 12:48
- C. Matthew 25:26,30,46
- D. Revelation 21:8

IV. I Will Repay Says the Lord

- A. Hebrews 10:30,21
- B. Romans 2:6
- C. Romans 14:12
- D. Matthew 10:28

Conclusion:

- A. This is a serious matter for us.
- B. Let us consider the seriousness of this matter carefully.
- C. Have **you** been drawing back?

Lessons from Moses in Hebrews, Chapter 11

Hebrews 11:24-26

Introduction:

- A. Moses life can be divided into three parts: 40 years in

Egypt; 40 years in the land of Midian; and 40 years in leading God's people.

- B. Moses was: a believer, faithful, and a humble man (Numbers 12:7; Hebrews 3:2-5; Numbers 12:3).
- C. Moses is listed in the "HEROES OF FAITH" in Hebrews chapter 11.
- D. In the above text we learn some great lessons about Moses and his life.

I. He Refused.

- A. Hebrews 11:24
- B. Daniel 1:8
- C. Titus 2:11-14
- D. 1 Peter 2:1,2

II. He Chose the Right.

- A. Hebrews 11:25
- B. Joshua 24:15
- C. Hebrews 5:11-14
- D. Deuteronomy 30:15,19

III. He Looked to the Reward.

- A. Hebrews 11:26
- B. Hebrews 12:1,2
- C. Hebrews 12:15
- D. 1 Peter 1:3,4

Conclusion:

- A. "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6)
- B. Keep you mind, heart, and eyes on the reward.
- C. Then heaven will be your eternal home.

Contrast Between Mount Sinai and Mount Zion

Hebrews 12:18-24

Introduction:

- A. In the Bible there are many important contrasts.

- B. Some are found in the same book, and some are found in the context.
- C. In Hebrews 12:18-24 there is an important and beautiful contrast.

I. Mount Sinai of the Old Covenant (Hebrews 12:18-21).

- A. Hebrews 12:18
- B. Hebrews 12:19
- C. Hebrews 12:20
- D. Hebrews 12:21
- E. We have **not** come to Mount Sinai of the Old Covenant....
 - 1. That could not be approached (Deuteronomy 4:11; Deuteronomy 5:22).
 - 2. That was fearful (Exodus 20:18-26).
 - 3. That its commandments could not be kept (Exodus 19:12,13).
 - 4. That made Moses and the people terrified (Deuteronomy 9:19).

II. Mount Zion of the New Covenant (Hebrews 12:22-24).

- A. We see the contrast, **“but”** you have come to Mount Zion (Hebrews 12:22).
- B. To the city of the living God (Hebrews 12:22; Revelation 21:2; Revelation 21:9,10; 14).
 - 1. The Greek word for city is polis which means, “a walled or fenced city, a community of citizens belonging to God” (Hebrews 12:22; Ephesians 2:19).
- C. To the heavenly Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:22; Revelation 21:2,3,9, Revelation 11:19; Ephesians 2:19-22).
- D. To the general assembly and church of the firstborn (Hebrews 12:23; Philippians 3:20).
- E. Jesus is the Mediator of the new covenant that was sealed with His blood (Hebrews 12:24; Matthew 26:26-29; Hebrews 8:6; Hebrews 9:14; 1 Peter 1:1,2).

III. You Can Come to...

- A. Mount Zion.
- B. The city of the living God.
- C. The heavenly Jerusalem.

- D. The general assembly and church of the firstborn.
- E. To Jesus, the Mediator of the new covenant.
- F. How do I enter that church of the firstborn? (1 Corinthians 12:13; Colossians 1:24).

Conclusion:

- A. Have **you** entered the Church of the firstborn, the one that Jesus purchased with His own blood?
- B. Why not do so **now**?

The Five (5) Pitfalls of the Christian Life

Epistle of James

Introduction:

- A. The book of James seems to be one of the earliest writings of the New Testament, probably written about 46-49 A.D.
- B. This epistle contains some practical teachings for Christians.
- C. It also contains some pitfalls that the Christian should be aware of.

I. Don't Just Think You Are Religious — Show It.

- A. James 1:26,27
- B. Matthew 5:16
- C. 1 Peter 2:11,12

II. Don't Just Talk About Your Faith — Act It.

- A. James 2:14,15
- B. Matthew 7:21-27
- C. Luke 6:46
- D. Hebrews 11:8,9

III. Don't Just Say You Understand — Prove It.

- A. James 3:13-18
- B. Philippians 2:15
- C. Romans 12:1,2
- D. 2 Corinthians 13:5

IV. Don't Just Know What Is Right — Act Upon It.

- A. James 4:17

B. James 2:20-23

C. Romans 4:12

V. Don't Just Say You Care — Express It.

A. James 5:19,20

B. Galatians 6:1

C. Luke 15:1-7

Conclusion:

A. Show that you are a true Christian.

B. Acts like you are a real Christian.

C. Prove you are a faithful Christian.

Showing By Your Good Conduct

James 3:13-17

Introduction:

A. There is a great need to “shine as lights in the world” (Philippians 2:15).

B. In the church we should conduct ourselves in a certain way (1 Timothy 3:15).

C. How do we show by good conduct?

I. By Not Following Worldly Wisdom (James 3:14-16).

A. Bitter envy/jealousy (Proverbs 14:30).

B. Selfish in your heart (1 Corinthians 13:5).

C. Do not boast/be arrogant (Proverbs 8:13).

D. Do not lie against the truth (1 John 1:8,10).

E. Disorder/confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33).

F. Every evil thing (Deuteronomy 13:5).

II. By Following Heavenly Wisdom (James 3:17,18).

A. Pure (1 Timothy 5:22).

B. Peaceable (1 Timothy 2:2).

C. Gentle (2 Timothy 2:24).

D. Willing to give in (Philippians 2:3-5).

E. Full of mercy (Proverbs 11:17).

F. Good fruits (Romans 7:4).

- G. Without partiality(1 Peter 1:17).
- H. Without hypocrisy (Romans 12:9).

III. Don't Just Say You Understand — Prove It.

- A. James 3:13-18
- B. Philippians 2:15
- C. Romans 12:1,2
- D. 2 Corinthians 13:5

Conclusion:

- A. Are you letting your light shine in a wicked world?
- B. Are you living for Jesus and serving Him daily?

What Does Grace Produce in the Christian?

James 4:7-11

Introduction:

- A. Grace is very important in the Christian's life.
- B. Without grace in the Christians life, there would be no life at all.
- C. Grace is part of what shapes the Christian's life.
- D. What does Grace produce in the Christian's life?

I. Submitting to the Lord.

- A. James 4:7
- B. Hebrews 12:9
- C. Ephesians 5:24

II. Resisting the Devil.

- A. James 4:7
- B. Ephesians 4:27
- C. Ephesians 6:11

III. Drawing Near to God.

- A. James 4:8
- B. 1 Chronicles 28:9
- C. 2 Chronicles 15:1,2

IV. Cleansing Your Heart.

- A. James 4:8

- B. Isaiah 1:16
- C. Isaiah 6:5,6

V. Purifying Your Heart.

- A. James 4:8
- B. Titus 2:14
- C. 1 Peter 1:22,23

VI. Lamenting, Mourning, and Weeping Over Your Sins.

- A. James 4:9
- B. Matthew 5:4
- C. Luke 6:21

VII. Humbling Yourself in the Sight of God.

- A. James 4:10
- B. Proverbs 16:17-19
- C. 1 Peter 5:6

VIII. Not Speaking Evil of Others.

- A. James 4:11
- B. Ecclesiastes 10:12
- C. Colossians 4:6

Conclusion:

- A. Is the grace of God working in **your** life?
- B. If it is not, will **you** let it start working today?

Hope for the Future

1 Peter 1:3,4

Introduction:

- A. Peter is writing to Christians and persecutions they are facing.
- B. Peter writes that the hope of a Christian is based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
- C. What is the description of our “living hope and inheritance”?

I. Incorruptible.

- A. Romans 2:7

- B. 1 Corinthians 15:51-54
- C. 2 Timothy 1:10

II. Undefined.

- A. Revelation 3:4
- B. Revelation 19:7,8
- C. Revelation 21:27

III. That Does Not Fade Away.

- A. Matthew 19:29
- B. Romans 6:23
- C. 1 Thessalonians 4:17

IV. Reserved in Heaven.

- A. John 14:1-3
- B. Colossians 1:5
- C. 2 Timothy 4:6-8

Conclusion:

- A. The hope that the Lord has for us is all worth living the Christian life.
- B. Are you living the Christian life?
- C. Do **you** have this hope?

Desire the Word of God

1 Peter 2:1,2

Introduction:

- A. Peter writes to Christians and encourages them to grow.
- B. In growing as a Christian we must lay aside sin and desire to grow.
- C. let us look closely at the text.

I. Christians Must Lay Aside...

- A. All Malice (Ephesians 4:31; Colossians 3:8; Rom. 1:18,29).
- B. All guile (Psalm 32:2; Psalm 34:11-14; 1 Peter 3:10).
- C. All Hypocrisy (Job 8:13; Matthew 23:27,28; James 3:17).
- D. All envy (Romans 13:13; 1 Corinthians 13:4; James 3:16).
- E. All evil speaking (Matthew 12:35; Matthew 15:18-20).

II. Christians Must...

- A. Desire (Psalm 1:1-3).
- B. Must desire the pure milk of the word (Matthew 5:6).
- C. Must desire to grow (2 Peter 3:18).

Conclusion:

- A. Do **you** desire?
- B. Do **you** desire the pure milk of the word?
- C. Do **you** desire to grow?

What God Thinks of About Us

1 Peter 2:9,10

Introduction:

- A. We are bombarded daily with messages on TV, newspaper and many other sources about what we should be, do, look like, have, to feel valued (important).
- B. In this sea of voices, the message that we often lose out on is God's message to us.
- C. **Who** are we?

I. A Chosen People.

- A. Psalm 33:12
- B. 1 Peter 2:9
- C. Ephesians 1:4,5
- D. 2 Thessalonians 2:13,14

II. A Royal Priesthood.

- A. 1 Peter 2:9
- B. Revelation 1:5,6
- C. 1 Peter 2:5
- D. Revelation 20:6

III. A Holy Nation.

- A. 1 Peter 2:9
- B. 1 Peter 1:15,16
- C. Ephesians 2:19
- D. Philippians 3:20

IV. A People Belonging to God.

- A. 1 Peter 2:9,10

- B. Deuteronomy 7:6
- C. Ephesians 1:10
- D. Titus 2:14

Conclusion:

- A. The Scriptures teach us that we are a creation of God.
- B. In God's eyes you are an original masterpiece, so live like one!

A Servant of God

1 Peter 2:16,17

Introduction:

- A. We are a "servant" of Christ (Romans 1:1).
- B. We are a "servant" to others (Galatians 5:13).
- C. As "servants of God" we must...

I. Honor All People.

- A. Proverbs 15:33
- B. 2 Corinthians 8:21
- C. 1 Peter 2:12

II. Love the Brotherhood.

- A. Romans 12:10
- B. Hebrews 13:1
- C. 1 John 2:10

III. Fear God.

- A. Psalm 19:9
- B. Psalm 34:9
- C. Psalm 111:10

IV. Honor the King.

- A. Matthew 22:21
- B. Romans 13:1-7
- C. 1 Timothy 2:1-3

Conclusion:

- A. Let us all learn to be "a servant of Christ".

- B. Let us “serve our fellow man”.
- C. Are **you** a servant of Christ and your fellow man?

Suffering for the Cause of Christ

1 Peter

Introduction:

- A. The basic theme of 1 Peter is the proper response to Christians suffering.
- B. Peter writes this letter to give them God’s view on trials so that they will be able to endure them without wavering in their faith.

I. They Should Not Be Surprised.

- A. They persecuted the prophets who were before them (Matthew 5:12).
- B. They persecuted the One they follow (1 Peter 2:21; 1 Peter 4:1,12-14).
- C. We are not the only believers who are suffering (1 Peter 5:9).

II. Why Do Christians Suffer Persecutions?

- A. It has been granted (Philippians 1:29).
- B. To follow after Christ’s example (Philippians 3:10).
- C. We must recognize that God brings these things into the lives of His children, not as punishment, but to “perfect you” (1 Peter 5:10).
- D. Trials in our lives produce patience (James 1:2,3).

III. Conduct in Suffering.

- A. Follow what is good (1 Peter 3:13).
- B. Do not be afraid and do not be troubled (1 Peter 3:14).
- C. Give the Lord a “special place in your heart” (1 Peter 3:15).
 - 1. Be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in you.
 - 2. Be meek, gentle and respect.
- D. Have a good conduct (1 Peter 3:16).
- E. Be patient (1 Corinthians 4:12).
- F. Pray (Matthew 5:44).

- G. Rejoice in (Matthew 5:12).
- H. Glorify God in (1 Peter 4:16).

Conclusion:

- A. *“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecutions”* (2 Timothy 3:12).
- B. *“If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He will deny us”* (2 Timothy 2:12).

Submission in All of Life

1 Peter 3:8,9

Introduction:

- A. As Christians we should submit to God (James 4:7).
- B. As Christians, the church should submit to Christ (Ephesians 5:24).
- C. As Christians, we should be submissive to one another (1 Peter 5:5).
- D. How can we show submissiveness?

I. Be of One Mind.

- A. Romans 12:16
- B. Romans 15:6
- C. 1 Corinthians 1:10

II. Have Compassion.

- A. Zechariah 7:9
- B. Luke 10:30-33
- C. Hebrews 10:34

III. Love as Brothers.

- A. 1 Thessalonians 4:9
- B. Romans 12:10
- C. 1 John 4:7-21

IV. Be Tenderhearted (Mercies).

- A. Psalm 37:21
- B. Ephesians 4:32
- C. Psalm 109:15,16

V. Be Courteous (Humble).

- A. Job 22:29
- B. Psalm 9:12
- C. Psalm 10:12,17

VI. Do Not Return Evil for Evil, or Reviling for Reviling.

- A. Proverbs 20:22
- B. Luke 6:27,28
- C. Romans 12:17,19

Conclusion:

- A. Be a blessing to others by being submissive.
- B. You were called by the Lord to be submissive.
- C. When we are submissive, we will inherit eternal life.

How to Stop the Devil

1 Peter 5:7-9

Introduction:

- A. The Christian has an enemy, the devil.
- B. He is like a roaring lion, going about seeking whom he can devour.
- C. How can we stop the devil?

I. Cast Your Cares on the Lord.

- A. Psalm 55:22
- B. Ephesians 6:10
- C. Philippians 4:13

II. Be Sober.

- A. 1 Thessalonians 5:6,8
- B. Titus 2:2,4,12
- C. 1 Peter 1:3

III. Be Vigilant (Watchful).

- A. Colossians 4:2
- B. 1 Corinthians 16:13
- C. 1 Thessalonians 5:6

IV. Resist the Devil

- A. James 4:7
- B. Ephesians 4:27
- C. Ephesians 6:11

Conclusion:

- A. Your enemy, the devil is after **you**.
- B. The devil's desire is to destroy **you**.
- C. How will you react to his desire to destroy **you**?

Great Promises of God

2 Peter 1:3,4; 3:9

Introduction:

- A. There are many great promises in the Bible.
- B. Here are just a few of the Great Promises in the Bible.

I. God Will Be With Us.

- A. Psalm 2:3,4
- B. Matthew 18:20
- C. Matthew 28:19,20
- D. Hebrews 13:5

II. God's Power in Our Lives.

- A. 2 Corinthians 13:4
- B. 2 Corinthians 12:10
- C. Ephesians 3:20,21

III. God's Church Will Stand

- A. Daniel 2:44
- B. Matthew 16:18,19
- C. Hebrews 12:28

IV. We Have Victory in Christ.

- A. 1 Corinthians 15:57
- B. Philippians 4:13
- C. 1 John 5:4

Conclusion:

- A. God has given us these Great Promises in His word.
- B. You can depend on the Promises of God.
- C. Do you trust in the Promises of God, and are YOU holding on to them?

Keep Growing as a Christian

2 Peter 1:5-11

Introduction:

- A. Peter introduces this subject by showing that God's word is sufficient to the Christian (1 Peter 1:3).
- B. In this text Peter encourages the Christian to have a knowledge of God and Christ.
- C. He then tells them to MAKE THEIR CALLING AND ELECTION SURE.
- D. How can they do this? By adding to their faith the following:

I. Virtue (Courage & Determination).

- A. 2 Peter 1:5
- B. Philippians 4:8,9
- C. 1 Corinthians 16:13
- D. Genesis 39:7-12

II. Knowledge.

- A. 2 Peter 1:5
- B. 1 Peter 2:2
- C. Ephesians 5:17
- D. Colossians 1:9

III. Self-Control.

- A. 2 Peter 1:6
- B. 1 Corinthians 9:25-27
- C. Galatians 5:19-25
- D. Acts 24:25

IV. Perseverance (Steadfastness, Endurance, Patience).

- A. 2 Peter 1:6
- B. Romans 2:7
- B. James 1:2-4
- D. Hebrews 1:36

V. Godliness.

- A. 2 Peter 1:6
- B. 1 Timothy 2:2
- C. 1 Timothy 4:7,8,11
- D. 2 Peter 3:9-13

VI. Brotherly Kindness.

- A. 2 Peter 1:7
- B. 1 Peter 1:22
- C. 1 John 4:7-21
- D. 1 John 5:1

VII. Love.

- A. 2 Peter 1:7
- B. 1 Corinthians 13:13
- C. Colossians 3:14
- D. 1 John 5:1-3

Conclusion:

- A. We see two kinds of Christians in 2 Peter 1:10,11.
 - 1. One who possesses these Christian qualities and is increasing in them.
 - 2. The other lacks these Christian qualities.
- B. The Christian who does not possess them has forgotten that they have been cleansed from their old sins, and they are blind and cannot see very far.
- C. If we possess these qualities, we can be sure of our eternal salvation.
- D. Do **you** possess these qualities?

Christ, the Propitiation for Sin

1 John 2:1,2; 1 John 4:10

Introduction:

- A. The word Propitiation comes from a Greek word that means, “appeasing, conciliating, or to bring peace.”
- B. Let us study more deeply concerning this subject.

I. The Need of Propitiation.

- A. Romans 3:23
- B. 1 John 3:4
- C. Romans 6:23
- D. In sin we are in a helpless and hopeless situation. We cannot save ourselves.

II. The Propitiation Provided.

- A. Matthew 1:21
- B. 1 Timothy 1:15
- C. Romans 5:8-11
- D. Jesus has pleased God as our sacrifice.

III. The Propitiation Made Use of.

- A. 2 Corinthians 5:18-21
- B. Hebrews 5:8,9
- C. Revelation 1:5
- D. Acts 22:16

Conclusion:

- A. We must respond to the sacrifice that has been given on our behalf.
- B. Jesus wants to be your **propitiation for sin if you will respond now.**

As Christians, We Can Know

1 John

Introduction:

- A. There is an idea/concept today that we cannot know for sure anything in religious matters.

- B. In 1 John the Holy Spirit makes it plain that we can **“know”**.
- C. What does John say we can **“know”**?
- I. We Can “Know” Jesus.**
 - A. 1 John 2:3
 - B. 1 John 5:20
- II. We Can “Know” that We “Know”.**
 - A. 1 John 2:3
 - B. Deuteronomy 29:29
- III. We Can “Know” We Are in Jesus.**
 - A. 1 John 2:5
 - B. 1 John 5:20
- IV. We Can “Know” It Is the Last Times.**
 - A. 1 John 2:18
 - B. 1 Peter 4:7
- V. We Can “Know” All Things.**
 - A. 1 John 2:20
 - B. Jude 3
- VI. We Can “Know” the Truth.**
 - A. 1 John 2:21
 - B. John 8:32
- VII. We Can “Know” that Jesus Is Righteous.**
 - A. 1 John 2:29
 - B. Isaiah 53:11
- VIII. We Can “Know” that Everyone Who Does Righteousness Is Born of God.**
 - A. 1 John 2:29
 - B. Matthew 25:37-46
- IX. We Can “Know” that When Jesus Appears We Shall Be Like Him.**
 - A. 1 John 3:2
 - B. Romans 8:18,19,23
- X. We Can “Know” that Jesus Was Manifested to Take Away Sins.**
 - A. 1 John 3:5
 - B. John 1:29

XI. We Can “Know” that We Have Passed from Death to Life.

- A. 1 John 3:14
- B. Colossians 2:11-13

XII. We Can “Know” that No Murderer Has Eternal Life.

- A. 1 John 3:15
- B. Galatians 5:20,21

XIII. We Can “Know” that We Are of the Truth.

- A. 1 John 3:19
- B. John 18:37

XIV. We Can “Know” that God Dwells in Us.

- A. 1 John 3:24
- B. 1 John 4:13

XV. We Can “Know” Who Has the Spirit of God.

- A. 1 John 4:2
- B. 1 John 4:1-6

XVI. We Can “Know” God.

- A. 1 John 4:6
- B. Exodus 6:7

XVII. We Can “Know” that We Dwell in God.

- A. 1 John 4:13
- B. Ephesians 2:20-22

XVIII. We Can “Know” When We Love the Children of God.

- A. 1 John 5:2
- B. Galatians 3:26,27

XIX. We Can “Know” that We Have Eternal Life.

- A. 1 John 5:13
- B. 2 Timothy 2:10

XX. We Can “Know” that God Hears Us.

- A. 1 John 5:15
- B. 1 Peter 5:7

XXI. We Can “Know” that God Will Answer Our Prayers.

- A. 1 John 5:15
- B. 1 Peter 3:12

XXII. We Can “Know” that We Are of God.

- A. 1 John 5:19
- B. John 1:12

XXIII. We Can “Know” that Jesus Has Come.

- A. 1 John 5:20
- B. Galatians 4:4,5

Conclusion:

- A. If we cannot **“know”**, then the Holy Spirit and John did not **“know”** because they wrote 26 times different things.
- B. I don’t **“know”** about you, but if God says I can **“know”**, then I **“know”** that I can **“know”**.
- C. I will believe God who **“know”** everything.

The Bible Test of Walking in the Light

1 John 1:7

Introduction:

- A. As Christians we must walk in the light (Ephesians 5:8).
- B. John writes in 1 John about taking the test of whether we are walking in the light or not.
- C. Here are the 7 statements on that test to check and see if we are “walking in the light”.

I. Do We Have Fellowship with God and Man?

- A. 1 John 1:3,7
- B. 1 Corinthians 1:9
- C. Acts 2:42

II. Do We Admit We Are Sinners?

- A. 1 John 1:8-10
- B. Psalm 32:5
- C. Psalm 51:1-19

III. Do We Keep His Commandments?

- A. 1 John 2:4
- B. John 14:15
- C. John 15:14

IV. Do We Walk As He Walked?

- A. 1 John 2:6
- B. Ephesians 5:18
- C. 1 Peter 2:21

V. Do We Love Our Brothers?

- A. 1 John 2:9,10
- B. 1 Corinthians 13:1,2
- C. 2 Peter 1:7,10

VI. Do We Love the World?

- A. 1 John 2:15,16
- B. Romans 12:2
- C. James 1:27

VII. Do We Practice Righteousness?

- A. 1 John 2:29
- B. Acts 10:34,35
- C. 1 John 3:7,10

Conclusion:

- A. How did the test go?
- B. Did **you** pass or fail the test?

Avoid Fellowship with False Teachers

2 John 9,10

Introduction:

- A. “Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (1 Corinthians 10:12).
- B. These words of the apostle Paul could well stand as a subtitle for John’s little epistle.
- C. These words were of great encouragement to Christians then and now.

I. Walk in Truth.

- A. 2 John 9,10
- B. What is truth?
 - 1. God’s word (John 17:17).
 - 2. The gospel (Galatians 2:5; Ephesians 1:13).

- C. Effects of the truth.
 - 1. Makes us free (John 8:32).
 - 2. Sanctifies us (John 17:17).
 - 3. Purifies us (1 Peter 1:22)

II. Walk in Love.

- A. 2 John 5,6.
- B. This is the first and great command (Matthew 22:37,38).
- C. Our love is shown in our obedience (John 14:15,21,23; 1 John 5:3).
- D. Shows we are followers of Christ (John 13:34).

III. Avoid False Teachers.

- A. 2 John 7,11.
- B. False teachers are deceivers (2 John 7-11; 2 Peter 2:1-3).
- C. We must abide in the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9; Galatians 1:6-9; Revelation 22:18,19).
- D. We must avoid false teachers (2 John 10,11; Romans 16:17,18).

Conclusion:

- A. We need to do all we do in dealing with false teachers, with grace, mercy, and peace in mind.
- B. We need to be firm, but loving in our dealing with false teachers.
- C. Let us not be afraid, but let us seriously approach this matter for God.

Earnestly Contend for the Faith

Jude 3

Introduction:

- A. Jude writes this epistle when it seems like false teachers are on every hand.
- B. The theme is: Fight! Contend! Do battle!
- C. Jude gives them and us instructions for dealing with false teachers.
- D. Jude uses words like (very diligent, necessary, exhorting) to “contend for the faith”.

I. Past Judgment of False Teachers (Jude 5-7)

- A. Jude gives three examples.
- B. The people who left Egypt — He points out that they were destroyed (1 Corinthians 10:1-12).
- C. The angels who did not keep their proper domain — He tells us that they were reserved in everlasting chains (2 Peter 2:4).
- D. Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them — He says that they will suffer the vengeance/punishment of eternal fire (Genesis 19:24).

II. Present Characteristics of False Teachers (Jude 8-13).

- A. They defile themselves (Romans 1:16,17)
- B. They reject authority (Hebrews 13:17).
- C. They speak evil of what they do not know (2 Peter 2:12).
- D. He gives three Old Testament examples:
 - 1. They have gone the way of Cain (Hebrews 11:4).
 - 2. They have run in the error of Balaam (2 Peter 2:15).
 - 3. They have been rebellious like Korah (Numbers 16:1-3,31-35)
- E. Jude says they are spots/stains among you (James 1:27).
- F. Jude then uses four illustrations of nature.
 - 1. They are like clouds without water.
 - 2. They are like autumn trees without fruit.
 - 3. They are like waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame.
 - 4. They are like wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

III. Future Judgment of False Teachers (Jude 14-16).

- A. God will execute judgment (2 Peter 2:4-9)
- B. God will convict all who are ungodly, of their ungodly deeds, and all their ungodly ways (2 Peter 2:18-22).
- C. God will convict the ungodly sinners who have spoken against Him.

IV. Defense Against False Teachers (Jude 17-23).

- A. Remember the words spoken by the apostles (2 Peter 3:2).
- B. Remember that there has been warning against these false teachers (2 Peter 2:1-3).

- C. Build yourselves up on your most holy faith (Acts 20:31,32).
- D. Keep yourselves in the love of God (John 14:15).
- E. On some of the false teachers show compassion, others deal with them with fear (2 Timothy 2:24-26; Titus 3:9-11).

Conclusion:

- A. As you walk faithfully with the Lord, remember that Jesus is able to keep you from stumbling.
- B. As you keep the faith, remember that Jesus can present you faultless.
- C. The power of Christ and His word through the apostles can keep us from being overthrown by error if we trust in Him.

How to Return to Your First Love

Revelation 2:5

Introduction:

- A. God knows our lives and our works (Revelation 2:2).
- B. God will test us to see if we will be faithful to him (Revelation 2:2).
- C. The problem with some of the Christians in the church at Ephesus was “they had left their first love.” (Revelation 2:4).
- D. How could these who had left their first love return? How can we return to our first love?

I. Remember.

- A. Luke 15:17
- B. Nehemiah 4:14
- C. Ephesians 1:3-11

II. Repent.

- A. Matthew 21:28-31
- B. Acts 17:30,31
- C. 2 Peter 3:9

III. Repeat.

- A. Acts 2:28,47
- B. Acts 8:34-39
- C. Romans 12:11

Conclusion:

- A. When we leave our first love let us overcome Satan.
- B. Let us return to our first love that we may eat from the tree of life.
- C. Will YOU return to your first love today?

How to Overcome Satan

Revelation 12:11

Introduction:

- A. One of the lessons of Revelation is that Christians can overcome Satan (Revelation 2:7; 2:11; 2:17; 2:26; 3:5; 3:12).
- B. How can we overcome Satan and enjoy heaven some day?

I. By the Blood of the Lamb.

- A. 1 Peter 1:18,19
- B. Revelation 1:5
- C. Acts 20:28
- D. 1 John 1:7

II. By the Word of Testimony.

- A. Psalm 119:105
- B. Psalm 119:133
- C. John 8:32
- D. Hebrews 4:12

III. By the Proper Attitude Toward Life.

- A. Matthew 10:37-39
- B. Luke 14:26
- C. Colossians 3:4
- D. Revelation 2:10

Conclusion:

- A. Overcome Satan and you will enjoy...
 - 1. Tree of life in the midst of the Paradise of God.
 - 2. The crown of life.
 - 3. Jesus confessing your name to the Father.
- B. If Satan has overcome you, don't YOU think it is time to overcome Satan?
- C. Why not do it today, right now?

