

# Fishing with Grace and Truth

A Collection of Sermons  
by Dr. Steven A. Corbett





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by Dr. Steven A. Corbett

Oak Hill Academy Publishing  
Wyocena, WI

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Editor's note: This book contains only a small sampling of Pastor Steve's sermons and song lyrics.

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Then He said to them,  
'Follow Me, and I will make you  
fishers of men.'

Matthew 4:19 (NKJV)







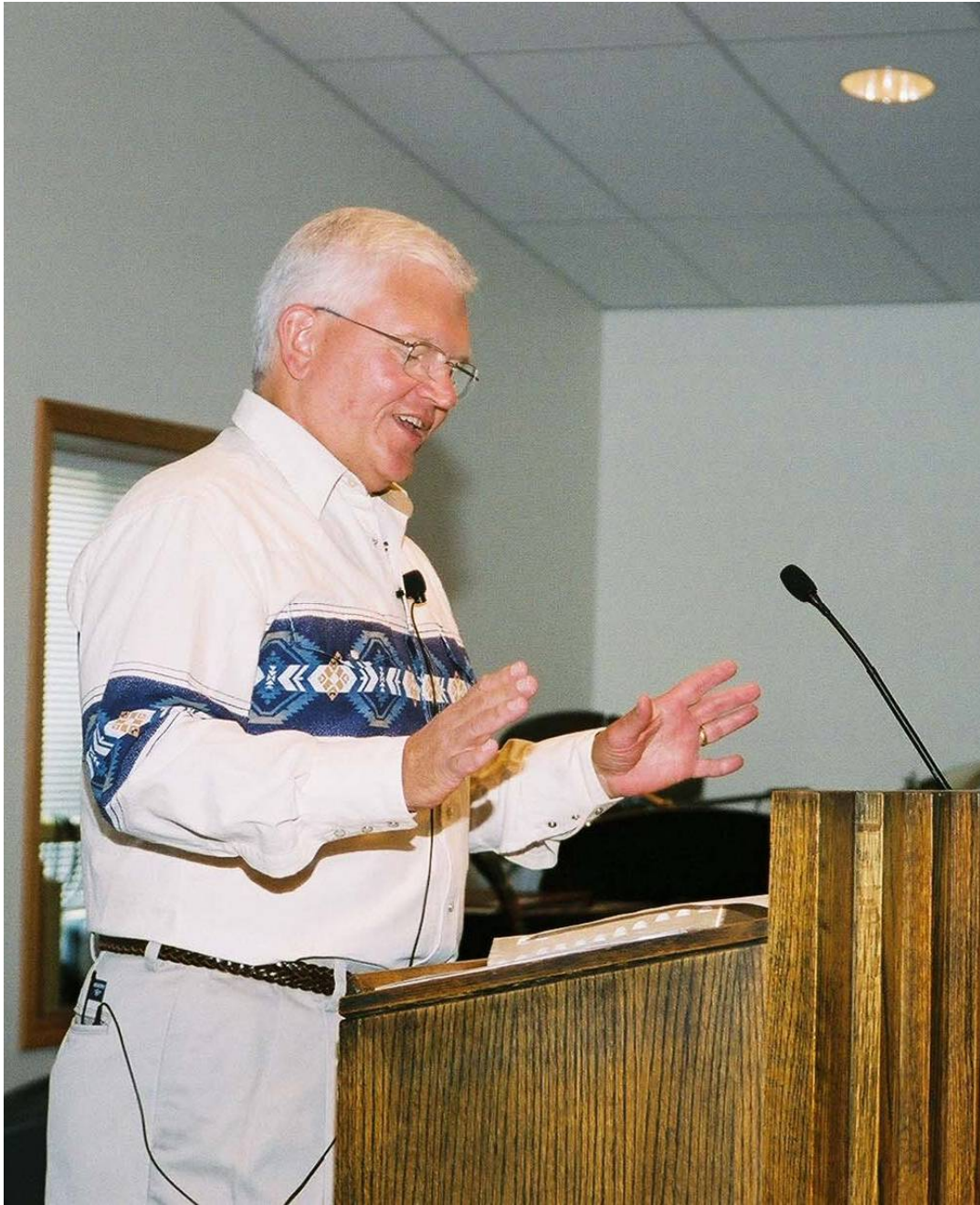
Jesus said if we follow Him, He will make us fishers of men, and the very first promise that goes with following Christ is that He will give you a passion to be a fisher of men.

Growing believers need to be committed to disciple-making. What a new believer needs more than anything else is somebody who'll come alongside them and help them be strengthened. The Greek word there is *sterizo*. It means to develop a strong root system. It takes somebody else coming alongside you to help you get deeply rooted in the Word of God.

I'll never forget the first time that I had my very own Bible study. I was just getting my feet on the ground. There was a guy from up in Chicago named Steve.... I said, "Let me show you this illustration." I drew out the bridge illustration for him -- the first time I'd ever done that in a setting like that. I had done it many times with Don, but here I was with my own Bible study with Steve, and I shared that with him, and he absolutely fell to pieces -- just wept -- threw his arms around me, hugged my neck, and I couldn't get let go of. I didn't know what to do. I had never been in an experience like that before, and he just wept and wept. And Steve accepted Christ as his Savior, and that was my introduction into what Christ wanted me to do. If I followed Him, He would make me a fisher of men.

Do you realize that disciple-making is the only thing that you can give yourself to that will never get boring, and it will last for eternity? I guarantee it. You can make money -- you can have all the fringe benefits there are in life -- and you'll never be satisfied, but -- but there's one thing that can keep you satisfied from now until eternity, and that is, just build your life into one new person this year. Ask God to give you one person that you can lead to Christ and one person that you can build your life into, and I'll tell you what, it'll light a fire in you that will never go out because you will start to say to yourself, "Wow! This is life!"

--Steve Corbett, sermon excerpt





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# **Go therefore and make disciples**

Matthew 28:19a (NKJV)



What does it mean to be a fellow worker with God in the gospel work? It means that you are a growing Christian. You're a kindred spirit with the Apostle Paul in the sense that you want to make an impact on other people's lives. It means that you have a genuine concern for the spiritual welfare of other people. It means that you have the interest of Christ at heart for somebody else's life. You realize that you have the privilege of coming alongside that person -- to plant or to water, to lay a foundation, or to build. You're growing. You're devoting yourself more and more to the ministry. You're involved in training others. Your life is on the foundation of grace. You're helping people move toward godliness.

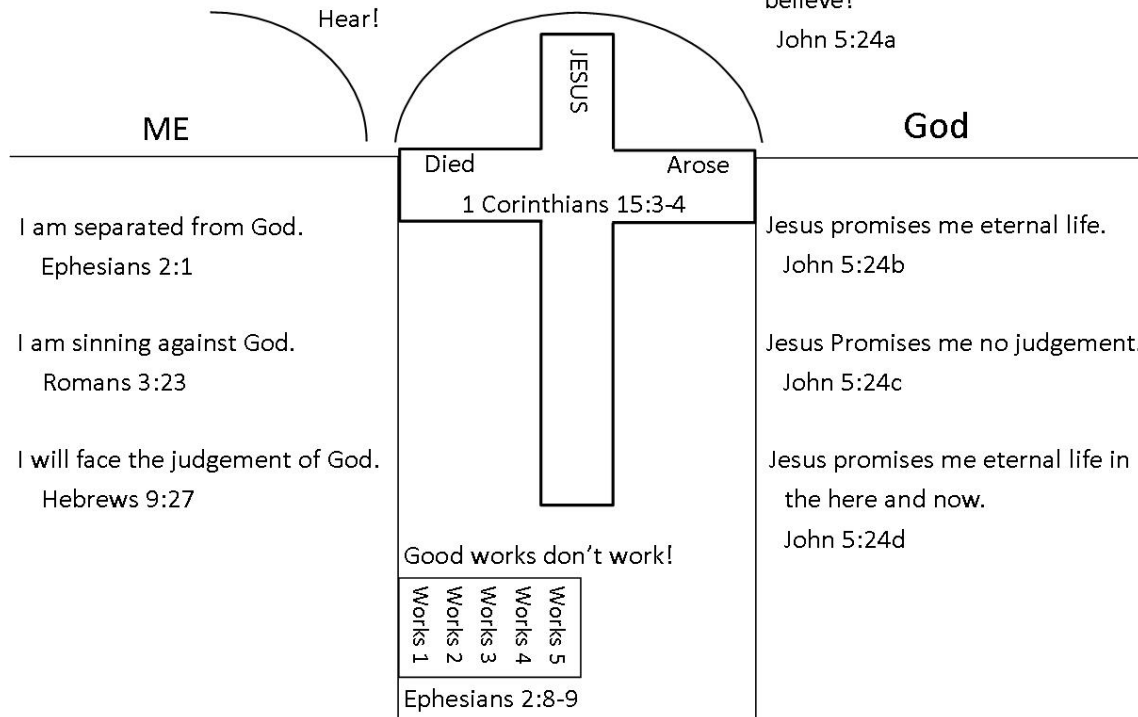
--"Building Faith, Hope, and Love," sermon excerpt

## Bad News

Hear!

believe!

## Good News





“HOW GOD MAKES YOU FISHERS OF MEN”  
PHILIPPIANS 1:12-26  
September 14, 2003

INTRO

APPLICATION FOR LIFE-CHANGE

- Let God make you more effective in winning the lost to Christ (12-14)!
  - Matthew 10:1-20
  
- Win the lost to Christ because you love the lost like God loves the lost (15-18)!
  - Luke 15:1-32
  
- In every circumstance of life live for Christ and win the lost to Him (19-21)!
  - Acts 18:1-18
  
- When you win the lost to Christ invest your life in building them up in the faith (22-26)!
  - 1 Thessalonians 2:5-14

CONCLUSION

**FISHING WITH GRACE AND TRUTH**  
**PART 3**  
**“THE LAWYER”**  
**March 18, 2001**  
**Luke 10:25-37**

**INTRO**

**MESSAGE**

**GRACE:** Jesus deals patiently with someone who is just playing games – someone who thinks he has never sinned (25-28).

- ♦ Working for eternal life requires perfect actions toward God and man. (25-28)

➔ The question in most everyone’s mind is “What can I do that will please God and move Him to reward me with eternal life?” (25)

1. “If I give enough money surely God will reward my goodness with heaven, won’t He?” Acts 8:14-24
2. “If I just try to keep the Ten Commandments and do the best I can what more could God ask?” James 2:10; Galatians 3:10; Romans 3:20,28
3. “If I am baptized and confirmed in a church, doesn’t that secure my place in heaven?” Romans 9:1-5; cf Rom. 10:1-3; Jn 8:31-47
4. “If I live the life of a humanitarian, doing good to all, won’t that open heaven’s door?” Titus 3:5; 2 Tim. 1:9; 1 Cor. 1:26-31

➔ Jesus draws out the response that “working for eternal life requires perfect actions” (26-28)

1. I must exercise love toward God from every facet of my being.
2. I must exercise love toward anyone whose need I am able to meet.

**TRUTH:** Jesus uses an object lesson – a parable – to help a “game-player” see that he is a sinner (29-37).

- ♦ Sooner or later, less-than-perfect people fail to do that which is perfect (29-37).

- ➔ When the lawyer found himself guilty on one count, he tried to plead innocent by claiming that the divine obligations upon his life were not that clear or understandable. (29)

- ➔ Jesus used a parable to show the lawyer that he had failed even a most obvious test of love (30-37).

### **IMPLICATIONS FOR RELATIONSHIPS**

At Work      How do you treat your coworkers? What is your attitude toward your neighbors' needs?

In the Neighborhood

When was the last time you felt **COMPASSION** to meet a need? (33)

When was the last time that you provided **CARE** to meet a need? (34)

When was the last time that you paid the **COST** to meet a need? (35)

### **APPLICATIONS FOR CHANGE**

1. Memorize Galatians 6:9-10.
2. What is one thing that you will do this week to fulfill the command to “all men” in this verse?

Write it out! \_\_\_\_\_

**“HOPE FOR ENEMIES OF THE CROSS”**  
**ACTS 9:1-18**  
**APRIL 13, 2008**

**INTRO**

It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.  
Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.  
I Timothy 1:15-16

**MESSAGE**

God’s design in converting Paul is to give you hope for yourself and for the people you want to see come to Christ.

The most unlikely people can be converted and are converted.

- ♦ The conversion of a committed enemy of the cross (9:1-9).
  - It was the conversion of a zealous opponent. (vs. 1-2)
  - It was sudden and unexpected. (vs. 3)
  - It was a work of sovereign grace. (vs. 4-6)
  - It was humbling. (vs. 7-9)
- ♦ The commission of a converted enemy of the cross (9:10-18).
  - It was performed by an obscure man of grace – Hananiah means “the Lord is gracious.” (vs. 10-12)
  - It required a fearless obedience to God’s will. (vs. 13-16; also Acts 22:1-16; 26:1-23)
  - It proves, once again, that we should never underestimate the value of one person brought to Christ. (vs. 17-18)

**LIFE APPLICATION**

**EVANGELISM**

“Paul had been set apart for God since he was born. So all his life was one long abuse of God, and one long rejection and mockery of Jesus Who loved him. That is why Paul says his conversion is a brilliant demonstration of Jesus’ longsuffering. It was for our sake that Jesus did it the way He did it. Lest we lose heart.”

Dr. John Piper

The most unlikely people can be converted and are converted.

**“It’s a Wonderful Life”  
(If You Know Where You Are Going)  
Christmas  
December 24, 2000  
Revelation 21:1-8**

**INTRO**

**MESSAGE**

♦ **Our Future Envisioned (21:1-4).**

- ➔ We will have a new heavens and earth (1).
- ➔ We will have a new city with a new personal mansion (2).
- ➔ We will have a new face-to-face relationship with God (3).
- ➔ We will have a new experience of life (4).

♦ **Our Future Assured (21:5-8).**

- ➔ God swears that He will make all things new (5).
- ➔ God swears that He will freely give eternal life to the one who asks Him for it (6).
- ➔ God swears that He will give His richest blessings to the one who continues to trust Him (7).
- ➔ God swears that He will remove evil from our presence forever (8).

**LIFE RESPONSE**

You cannot make a better decision than to receive God’s Christmas gift.

- If your heart tells you that you are a sinner;
- If your heart tells you that all the good things you have done in life cannot pay sin’s penalty;
- If your heart tells you that God would be just if He sent you to a Christless eternity in hell;
- Then I have some good news for you

You are experiencing the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit (John 16:8). He is convincing you that you need the Savior. Now is the time to make a decision.

The Philippian jailer asked Paul and Silas: “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They responded: “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household.”



“WINNING THE LOST WON’T BE EASY”

PHILIPPIANS 1:27-30

September 21, 2003

INTRO

APPLICATION FOR LIFE-CHANGE

- Defend the truth of salvation by grace through faith! Tolerate no false! (27a)
- Be united! Have one overarching purpose! Win the lost! (27b)

<p>Disunity is a scandal for the unbeliever. Disunity is a stumbling block for the believer. Disunity is a sin against God.</p>
---

- Do not be intimidated! Be fearless in evangelism! (28)
- Expect to suffer for the truth of the gospel! Understand its purpose! (29-30)

CONCLUSION

Those of you here understand the grace of God, and we live in a community that desperately needs God's grace, and we're made up of a collection of tax gatherers and sinners. All those former sins that were listed in First Corinthians and Galatians five we represent, don't we? Yet, God gives us the privilege of taking the message of His grace to the community in which we live. God says when we do that, unashamedly, He will bless us. Inheriting God's promises always takes shoe leather. God never just kind of plops everything in. If we want to conquer our city for Jesus Christ, it's gonna take shoe leather. The unsaved people in our community are not going to beat down the doors of the church to come in here to hear the gospel message and get saved. If we want to reach out to our community, then we are going to have to go and *DO* it.

You want to go to heaven? It's a very simple thing. You don't have to work for it. You don't have to give money, be baptized, or join the church or do all that stuff. If you want to go to heaven, then believe in Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior. Admit to God - say, "God, I am a sinner and I'm not going to heaven by my own good works. I need a Savior. I believe that Jesus died for my sin. I believe that He was resurrected from the dead. I trust you today." The Bible says the moment you make that decision, He'll give you a new life, and you'll get a new start, and you'll begin to be able to understand and apply these spiritual truths.

--"Blessing Now and Later," sermon excerpt

**“WHY GOOD PEOPLE DON’T GO TO HEAVEN”**  
**ROMANS 2:1-16**  
**February 5, 2006**

**INTRO**

**MESSAGE**    **Good, moral people are fast-approaching an eternity without Christ. You are their only hope!**

**God wants you to be a life-preserver – an aggressive, impassioned witness, a committed harvest worker.**

- ♦ The wrath and judgment of God inescapably falls on the moralist. (1-5)
  - ➔ Reason #1 He practices the same sins that he condemns. (1-3)
  - ➔ Reason #2 His stubborn, unrepentant heart mocks the gracious opportunities God gives him for repentance. (4-5)
- ♦ The wrath and judgment of God are based on a moralist’s works. (16)
  - ➔ Fact #1 Every person is judged according to his works. (16)
  - ➔ Fact #2 A person of faith produces works that glorify God while a person without faith produces works that glorify self. (7-10; notice the chiasm, ABB’A’, 7,8,9,10)
- ♦ The wrath and judgment of God falls on Jewish moralists and Gentile moralists without partiality. (11-16)
  - ➔ Problem #1 Only those who keep the Mosaic Law perfectly can be justified by the Law. Who is that? No one! (11-13)
  - ➔ Problem #2 Only those who keep their consciences perfectly can be justified by the law in their hearts. Who is that? No one! (14-16)

**LIFE-RESPONSE**

For Spiritual Growth

**teaching** – good character and good actions are important in any society, but they will not get anyone to heaven. If being good could solve our sin problems, there would be no need for Christ’s death on the cross.

**reproof** – if the Holy Spirit is speaking to your heart and you see the foolishness in trying to present your human goodness to God, now is the time to repent. You need to change your mind about what is going to get you to heaven – it is not being good or doing good!

**correction** – God’s solution to your sin problem is for you to trust the work that He has provided. He wants you to believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus as the only solution.

**training** – if you make this decision to trust Christ, the next step is to learn how to feed yourself on the Word of God. Ask one of our small group leaders to show you the ABC method of having daily quiet times.

#### For Ministry

Small group leaders – do you have an “open chair” policy? Are you encouraging your group to do evangelism? Do you believe God wants every member to “participate fully in God’s present harvest of all peoples?” What are you doing about it?



## **THERE AIN'T NO WAY THAT IT GETS ANY BETTER THAN THIS**

**By Steve Corbett**

### **VERSE 1**

<sup>G</sup>  
Well, He set my feet on the rock today  
<sup>C</sup>  
That's a mighty good deal for this old clay  
<sup>G</sup>  
I owe Him everything, What more can I say?  
  
<sup>G</sup>  
He put a song of praise on these sweet lips  
<sup>C</sup>  
I've got the Word of God at my fingertips  
<sup>G</sup> <sup>D</sup> <sup>G</sup>  
There ain't no way that it gets any better than this

### **CHORUS**

<sup>C</sup>  
**Well, He brought me up**  
**Set me down**  
**Let me go free**  
<sup>G</sup>  
**The kiss of grace is all over me**  
<sup>A</sup>  
**He loves me much**  
**Tunes me up**  
<sup>D</sup>  
**And deals with me patiently**



## VERSE 2

<sup>G</sup>  
If you want to meet Him – Here's a thing or two  
<sup>C</sup>  
Works don't bridge between Him and you  
<sup>G</sup> <sup>D</sup>  
There's a man named Jesus – with whom you have to do  
  
<sup>G</sup>  
He's the only Savior, which you can't miss  
<sup>C</sup>  
If you open the Scriptures – at your fingertips  
<sup>G</sup> <sup>D</sup> <sup>G</sup>  
There ain't no way that it gets any better than this

## CHORUS 2

<sup>C</sup>  
**Well, He brings you up**  
**Sets you down**  
**And lets you go free**  
<sup>G</sup>  
**The kiss of grace will help you see**  
<sup>A</sup>  
**He'll love you much**  
**Tune you up** <sup>D</sup>  
**And deal with you patiently**

**“ONLY PERFECT PEOPLE GO TO HEAVEN”**

**ROMANS 2:17-29**

**February 12, 2006**

**INTRO** Why does the wrath of God fall on good religious people?

**MESSAGE** If morality is going to get you to heaven, it has to be **PERFECT MORALITY**. (2:1-16)

If religion is going to get you to heaven, it has to be **PERFECT RELIGION**. (2:17-29)

The problem is that **NO ONE IS PERFECT!**

- ♦ Obeying religious codes won't get you to heaven **UNLESS YOU ARE PERFECT**. (17-24)
  - ➔ The positive religious advantages of the Jewish person. (17-18)
  - ➔ The presumed religious advantages of the Jewish person. (19-20)
  - ➔ The **LESS THAN PERFECT** obedience of the Jewish people. (21-24)
- ♦ Observing religious ceremonies won't get you to heaven **UNLESS YOU ARE PERFECT**. (25-29)
  - ➔ The positive religious advantages of the Jewish person. (25)
  - ➔ The **LESS THAN PERFECT** obedience of the Jewish people. (26-27)
  - ➔ The **PERFECTION** of the heart required to go to heaven. (28-29)

**LIFE-RESPONSE** What we cannot do for ourselves, God, through Christ, does for us.

- ➔ **PERFECTION** – A free gift  
Hebrews 9:27-10:4; 10:10-14
- ➔ **PERFECTION** – A growth in grace  
Phil. 3:10-14  
Gal. 3:1-3  
1 Tim. 1:13-17

**“SHHH! YOU’RE GUILTY! YOU NEED CHRIST!”**

**Romans 3:1-20**

**February 19, 2006**

**INTRO**

**MESSAGE** You owe people everywhere the **GOSPEL TRUTH** because they are all sinners separated from God.

- ♦ **THE OBJECTIONS:** All Jews should be allowed to go to heaven! (3:1-9)

#1 I’m Jewish, doesn’t that count for something? (1-2)

#2 I’m Jewish, hasn’t God gone back on His promises to us? (3-4)

#3 I’m Jewish, God can’t judge us and be just, can He? (5-8)

- ♦ **THE CHARGE:** All people, without exception, are under sin. (3:9)

- ♦ **THE INDICTMENT:** The sins of people demonstrate their depravity. (3:10-18)

#1 Each person is sinful in his character. (10-12)

#2 Each person is sinful in his speech. (13-14)

#3 Each person is sinful in his conduct. (15-18)

- ♦ **THE DEFENSE:** Every mouth is stopped. (3:19a)

- ♦ **THE VERDICT:** The whole world is guilty. (3:19b-20)

**LIFE RESPONSE**

“Salvation is free! God puts no price tag on the Gift of gifts – it’s free! Preachers are not salesmen for they have nothing to sell. They are bearers of Good News, the good tidings that ‘Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.’ Money can’t buy it. Man’s righteousness can’t earn it. Social prestige can’t help you acquire it. Morality can’t purchase it. It is, as Isaiah said, “without money and without price.”

From *Day by Day with Billy Graham* by Joan W. Brown

Merry Christmas 1999  
**“His Indescribable Gift”**  
2 Corinthians 9:15

**INTRO**

Why does Paul call the FIRST COMING (The INCARNATION) of Jesus the Father’s “indescribable gift” to us?

**Message**

- I. Who can fully explain our Lord’s “emptying Himself” for us (Philippians 2:5-11)?
- II. Who can fully explain our Lord’s being “made sin” for us (2 Corinthians 5:14-21)?
- III. Who can fully explain our Lord’s freely giving “the gift of righteousness” to us (Romans 5:12:21)?

**Life-Response**

“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”

Can you imagine that God the Father would call you His love “gift” to His Son (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; 17:6-8)? My friend, that is how precious you are to the Father. Did you notice that, in each passage, the person whom the Father gave to the Son began to experience this wonderful relationship because he/she “believed” in the person (God the Son) and the work (death and resurrection) of the Lord Jesus Christ?

Do you want to receive this “indescribable gift?” Do you want to experience God? If you do, then make a decision in your heart. Admit to God that you are a sinner and trust Christ as your Savior. The moment that you believe in your heart that Jesus paid the penalty for your sin and that He was raised from the dead, God will give you eternal life.

**“LIFE-CHANGING, CROSS-CENTERED, SPIRIT-REVEALED”**  
**1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-16**  
**NOVEMBER 12, 2006**

**INTRO**

**MESSAGE** God’s wisdom, the Word of God, is life-changing, cross-centered, and Spirit-revealed.

- ♦ Paul preached the life-changing Word of God. (1-5)
  - His message (1-2)
  - His method (3-4)
  - His motive (5)
- ♦ Paul preached the cross-centered Word of God. (6-9)
  - The mystery (6-7)
  - The misunderstanding (8-9)
- ♦ Paul preached the Spirit-revealed Word of God. (10-16)
  - By revelation (10-11)
  - By inspiration (12-13)
  - By illumination (14-16)

**APPLICATIONS**

1. If you have never trusted in Jesus Christ, you do not know God. You cannot know God apart from Christ. You cannot know God apart from His Word and His Spirit. Hell will be populated with countless souls who served a “god” of their own making, and such “gods” are not God at all but only idols of our mind. We cannot know God through our own wisdom or insight. We cannot see, or touch Him. But He has revealed Himself through His Word, the Bible. By the ministry of His Spirit, we can come to know God personally as the One who has provided for the forgiveness of our sins and for eternal life. God has revealed Himself in His Son, who died on the cross of Calvary, bearing the penalty for our sins. He has raised Him from the dead, as proof of His satisfaction with the work of Christ. All we need to do is believe the One whom God sent, that we are sinners, deserving eternal punishment, and that through the death of Christ, we have been punished and raised to newness of life. I urge you to view God through the pages of Holy Scripture and to trust in His provision for salvation in Jesus Christ.
2. My Christian friend, do you believe wisdom comes only from God through the Scriptures by means of the Holy Spirit? If so, where are you seeking daily wisdom to understand the events and crises of daily living? Where are you seeking a knowledge of God and of His “mind?” Where do you go to learn the glories of the coming age and of His promised kingdom? Do you read the Bible or books about the Bible, or do you read “Christian books,” sparse with references to the Word of God or the Spirit of God? God has revealed Himself through His Word and through His Spirit, and we do well to take heed. Heb. 1:1-2 Heb. 2:1-4 1 Pet. 2:1-3 2 Pet. 1:16-21

## “CAN YOU BAKE A CHERRY PIE?”

ROMANS 15:14-33  
AUGUST 28, 1988

### INTRODUCTION

Anyone can do evangelism! Anyone can contribute! Oh Yeah! How?

### OUTLINE

1. Whatever your spiritual gift is, it is suited to evangelism (15:14-16)
2. With your spiritual experience and the Holy Spirit's power, you will be attractive to the unsaved community (15:17-18)
3. You may be a cultivator or you may be a sower, but you will be fruitful if you team up with a reaper (15:20-29)
4. Your patient, persistent prayer will fill up GBC (15:30-33)

“HOW TO EXCEL AT EVANGELISM & FOLLOW-UP”

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Message #10, March 5, 1995

INTRO

Three ingredients of a powerful ministry (1 Thes. 1:5)

the Word of God  
the Spirit of God  
Christlike character & lifestyle

The Thessalonians powerful impact on their culture (1 Thes. 1:6-10)

MESSAGE

Becoming more Christlike in your character and lifestyle enables you to  
“excel still more” at evangelism and follow-up (especially with your kids!!).

**Example #1** -- Maintaining sexual purity (4:1-8)

Demonstrates a desire to please God (1)  
Expresses submission to the will of God (2-8)

**Example #2** -- Helping new believers feel family love (4:9-10)

Flows out of giving agape (sacrificial) love (9)  
Must be extended to all (10)

**Example #3** -- Establishing credibility in the work place (4:11-12)

Is not an option (11)  
Is necessary to reach unbelievers (12)

LIFE-RESPONSE

A Christlike character  
&  
Lifestyle  
is  
Powerful !!  
Excel still more!



**You Are His! Isaiah 6:1-10**  
**Steve Corbett, April 8, 2005**

**VERSE 1**

E  
Well I lift my eyes to glory  
B7  
See the throne that sits on high  
And I marvel at the beauty  
E  
Of the One who caught my eye

E  
Yeah, the angels shout, "Holy, holy"  
A  
The foundations begin to shake  
B7  
I bow before His presence  
E  
Like a dead man at a wake

**CHORUS**

A  
Woe is me, I'm a man undone  
E  
Naked before the Lord  
B7  
Have no righteousness of my own  
E  
They're gonna throw me out the door

A  
But to my surprise, He walked up to me  
E  
Took a coal and touched my lips  
B7  
Said: "The Lord loves you! He has saved you!"  
E  
"You're forgiven!" and "You are His!"



## **VERSE 2**

E

The Lord asked for a volunteer

B7

To lift high the Suffering Servant

He's the Son of God, the Messiah

E

Gotta overcome the work of the Serpent

E

The people will hear your message

A

There won't be many who agree

B7

But there will be some who need My love

E

They will trust me and bend the knee

## **(Chorus)**

## **VERSE 3**

E

Here's the moral in this story

B7

You have a job for Him to do

He has called you to His glory

E

And His purpose is clear to you

E

He wants you to be His witness

A

Take His message wherever you go

B7

Tell the people all about Jesus

E

No one else can save a soul

## **(Chorus)**

## **“YOU CAN DO THAT TOO!”**

**ACTS 11:19-30**

**MAY 11, 2008**

### **INTRO**

**MESSAGE** God wants to use you to lead your friends to Christ and help them grow spiritually.

- ♦ God used some ordinary people to lead the gentiles at Antioch to Christ and to help them learn to grow spiritually. (19-30)

**FIRST** God used the few Jews who were willing to speak to these Gentiles to lead them to Christ. (19-21)

**SECOND** God used Barnabas to come alongside and give these new Christians some encouragement. (22-24)

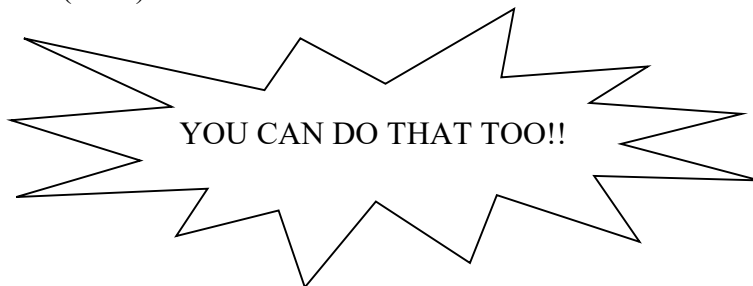
**THIRD** God used Barnabas and Paul to teach these new Christians the basics of spiritual living. (25-26)

**FOURTH** God used Agabus, a prophet, to teach these new Christians the importance of generous, biblical giving. (27-30)

1. The priority of giving to God’s work.
2. The priority of giving to God’s workers.
3. The priority of giving to God’s world.

### **LIFE-RESPONSE**

- ♦ Notice the variety in the way God meets people’s needs.
  1. Speaking (19-21) ➔ “a large number who believed turned to the Lord” (v. 21)
  2. Encouraging (22-24) ➔ “considerable numbers were brought to the Lord” (v. 24)
  3. Teaching (25-26) ➔ “taught considerable numbers” (v. 26)
  4. Sharing (27-30) ➔ “each of them determined to send a contribution” (v. 29)



**“BRAND NEW CHRISTIANS WITH DIRTY DIAPERS”**  
**ACTS 8:4-25**  
**FEBRUARY 17, 2008**

**OVERVIEW**

**MESSAGE**

- The gospel message is so powerful that it captures the heart of the person on the street. 8:4-8
- The gospel message is so powerful that it penetrates satanic strongholds and reaches even the occultist. 8:9-13
- The gospel message is so powerful that it exposes the inconsistencies of an immature faith. 8:14-25

**LIFE-RESPONSE**

EVANGELISM

5 Things that evangelism is not. (See Mark Dever, *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*)

1. Ev. is not an imposition.
2. Ev. is not a personal testimony.
3. Ev. is not social action or political involvement.
4. Ev. is not apologetics.
5. Ev. is not to be confused with the results of evangelism.

FOLLOW-UP / DISCIPLESHIP

The message of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ helps new Christians see what they need most.

1. They need FORGIVENESS AND FILLING. We call this spirituality.
  - The essence of forgiveness is agreeing with God that something you’ve done is sin.
  - The essence of filling is confessing sin as it occurs. (1 John 1:9)
2. They need FELLOWSHIP AND FOLLOW-UP. We call this growth in grace.
  - The essence of fellowship is sharing your walk in the Spirit with a friend. (Gal. 5:16 ff)
  - The essence of follow-up is explaining doctrine to a friend and showing them how to apply it. (Col. 1:28-29; 1 Thes. 2:11-12)

**“A WINDOW INTO THE WORKING OF GOD’S MERCY”**  
**ACTS 8:26-40**  
**MARCH 9, 2008**

**INTRO**

And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. Rev. 5:9

**MESSAGE** It is God’s sovereign purpose to save the lost from “every tribe and tongue and people and nation.”

→ It is God who prepares a person’s heart to hear the gospel message. (26-28)

→ It is God who sends an evangelist to preach Jesus. (29-31)

→ It is God who opens a person’s mind to understand Scripture. (32-35)

the person of the Lamb (32)

the judgment of the Lamb (33)

the necessity of instruction in the truth (34-35)

→ It is God who moves a person to believe that Jesus is the Christ. (36-40)

the unashamed confession of faith in Jesus (36-38)

the joy of salvation and service (39-40)

**LIFE-RESPONSE**

**EVANGELISM**

Are you tuned into the Holy Spirit? Would you know if the Holy Spirit wanted you to talk to someone about Christ? How would you find out?

**FOLLOW-UP / DISCIPLESHIP**

How do you follow-up from a distance? Write letters. See Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1-5 and all of the Epistles.

**SERVICE**

Why didn’t Philip go straight home to Caesarea with his great “war” story?

## THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

ROMANS 1:1-17

September 27, 1987

### INTRODUCTION

Everyone wishes they had the power to change someone else.

### OUTLINE

- I. The gospel concerns the death and resurrection of the God-man, Jesus Christ (1:1-7)
  - A. The gospel (God's power-packed message) was promised in the Old Testament (1-2)
  - B. The gospel concerns the death and resurrection of the God-man Jesus Christ (3-4)
  - C. The gospel ministry of Paul is a gift from Jesus Christ (5-7)
- II. The gospel compels you to minister to other believers and to your unsaved friends. (1:8-15)
  - A. Those who have experienced the power of the gospel are compelled to minister to one another (8-12).
  - B. The gospel also compels us to minister to our unsaved neighbors (13-15)
- III. The gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes because it reveals the righteousness of God (1:16-17)
  - A. The gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes (16)
  - B. The gospel is the power of God for salvation because it reveals the righteousness of God (17)

### LIFE RESPONSE

- 1. This truth needs to be believed. It needs to become one of our foundational convictions.
- 2. Our search for power is over. When all human attempts to change life fail, we have the powerful, divine, life-changing gospel of God. Let's commit ourselves to \_\_\_\_\_ AND TO \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**FIRST CLASS TICKET**  
**Steve Corbett, Feb. 12, 2005**

**VERSE 1**

<sup>C</sup> Well, I got me a first class ticket, <sup>F</sup> gonna fly up to the <sup>C</sup> throne  
<sup>D</sup> Gonna stand in the presence of Jesus, where He'll claim me as His own <sup>G</sup>  
<sup>C</sup> I won't have to take a back seat, I'm headin' for my brand new home <sup>F</sup>  
<sup>C</sup> I got me a first class ticket, <sup>G</sup> gonna fly up to the <sup>C</sup> throne

**CHORUS**

<sup>C</sup> Not too long ago, I was lost in sin <sup>F</sup>  
<sup>C</sup> Headin' in a wrong direction  
<sup>D</sup> I had a second class job, a back seat life  
<sup>G</sup> And bad luck was my obsession  
<sup>C</sup> But the preacher stuck a finger <sup>F</sup>  
In my chest said, "Watch out, son!" <sup>C</sup> <sup>D</sup>  
You can live or die! You can walk or fly! <sup>F</sup> <sup>G</sup> <sup>C</sup>  
Choose the devil or choose the Son!"

**VERSE 2**

<sup>C</sup> Well, the preacher got my attention and it didn't take a PhD <sup>F</sup> <sup>C</sup>  
<sup>D</sup> I was sittin' in the back row with the devil sayin' "Stay with me" <sup>G</sup>  
<sup>C</sup> But the Lord gave me a promise, if you make your heart my home <sup>F</sup>  
<sup>C</sup> I'll give you a first class ticket and I'll fly you to my throne. <sup>G</sup> <sup>C</sup> Repeat chorus

## **TOUCH DEEP FOR GOD!**

Acts 16-18 – Personal  
Follow-up

The Church will grow in direct proportion to the degree each member sees the need to take new believers by the warm hand in order to help them grow spiritually.

1. Touched the lives of individuals in Philippi (16:1-40)
  - Timothy (1-5)
  - Lydia (6-15)
  - Slave girl (16-18)
  - Jailer (19-40)
2. Reasoned from the Scriptures in Thessalonica (17:1-9)
3. Examined the Scriptures in Berea (17:10-15)
4. Preached Jesus in Athens (17:16-34)
5. Testified that Jesus was the Christ in Corinth (18:1-17)
6. Strengthened the disciples throughout the region (18:18-22)

LIFE RESPONSE - - How will you become involved in the follow-up of new believers?

Acts 19-20 -- Demonstrable  
Love

The Church will grow in direct proportion to the degree each member encourages other believers in demonstrable love.

1. Introduction at Ephesus (18:23-19:7)
2. Instruction at Ephesus (19:8-20)
3. Insurrection at Ephesus (19:21-41)
4. Interception near Ephesus (20:1-38)
  - The closely-knit team (1-6)
  - The all-night gathering (7-16)
  - The tear-filled farewell (17-38)

LIFE RESPONSE - - How will you show your love and encouragement to others?

## **“The Law, The Sacrifices and the Birth of the Messiah”**

Hebrews 10:1-10

### **INTRO**

### **Message**

#### **I. The Jewish Law and the Sacrifices (10:1-4)**

**FACT:** Keeping the (10) commandments and offering the appropriate sacrifices cannot permanently remove sin or feelings of guilt (1).

**RATIONALE:** If keeping the (10) commandments and offering the appropriate sacrifices removed sin and guilt, the sacrifices would have stopped (2).

**EFFECT:** Even the sacrifices offered yearly, on the Day of Atonement, reminded each person that he/she was hopelessly sinful (3).

**CONCLUSION:** The sacrifice of animals and the offering of their blood can never permanently remove sin (4).

#### **II. The birth (incarnation) of the Jewish Messiah (10:5-10)**

**PROBLEM:** God finds no lasting pleasure in ritualistic worship offered from hearts that are never pure (5a).

**SOLUTION:** God prepares a body for the Messiah so that He can make a sacrifice that will permanently cleanse the sinful heart and enable it to offer sincere worship (5b-6).

**DIFFERENCE:** The Messiah voluntarily comes to do God’s will, which is to offer Himself as a sacrifice (7).

**RESULT:** The Messiah’s once-for-all sacrifice for sin on the cross means that the Old Testament Law and sacrifices are no longer in effect (8-9).

**APPLICATION:** When we place our faith in the Messiah, Jesus, the benefits of His sacrifice on the cross are placed on our spiritual bank account (10).

God now considers us set apart from sin to Himself. As far as He is concerned, we are holy. We can now worship Him “in Spirit and Truth” (John 4:23).



“DO YOUR PART!”  
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2007

INTRO

MESSAGE    The Apostles need to help continue His story in their generation!

- ♦ **You and I need to help continue His story in our generation. (1-3)**
  - Continue to do and teach what Jesus began to do and teach. (1)
  - Follow Christ’s orders. (2)
  - Serve faithfully and fearlessly because of Jesus’ resurrection. (3)
- ♦ **You and I need to live moment by moment in a right relationship with the Holy Spirit so that His power can work through us. (4-5)**
  - Believe the promises of God and wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit. (4-5)
- ♦ **You and I need to carry out God’s purpose for our lives faithfully (knowing that Jesus will hold us accountable) and fearlessly (knowing that Jesus is the resurrected, living Savior and Lord). (6-9)**
  - Do not become fixated on dating the end-times. (6-7)
  - Be Spirit-filled witnesses of the Lord Jesus Christ’s resurrection. (8)
  - Carry out your purpose in life knowing that you will be accountable to the Lord Jesus who is coming again. (9)

LIFE-RESPONSE

DISCOVERING THE PURPOSE OF ACTS  
OVERVIEW  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2007

God on Mission – Applying His Salvation  
Among all Nations  
To the End of the Earth

The Trinity COMMISSIONING AND SENDING THE WITNESSES

JESUS

Apostles (Lk 24:46-48; Acts 1:8)  
Peter (Acts 10:42) to Cornelius  
Ananias (Acts 9:10,17) to Paul  
Paul & Barnabas (Acts 13:47) 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey  
Paul (Acts 18:9) Do not be afraid to speak.  
Paul (Acts 20:24) Ministry received to testify.  
Paul (Acts 23:11) Take courage – must go to Rome.  
Paul (Acts 26:16-18) I have appeared to appoint you.

HOLY SPIRIT

Philip (8:29,39) Get up and go.  
Peter (10:19-20) Follow three men / Cornelius.  
Antioch (13:2,4) Send Barnabas & Saul.  
Paul (16:6,7) Forbidden to speak in Asia.  
Paul (19:21) Purposed in the Spirit to go to Rome.  
Paul (20:22,24) Forewarned of bonds & afflictions.  
Paul (21:4,11) Forewarned of bonds & afflictions.

FATHER

Peter (10:15,18) No ethnic barriers.  
Paul (16:10) Call to Macedonia (Europe).

The Trinity WORKING WITH THE WITNESSES

The Lord

grants repentance and forgiveness (5:31)  
pours out the Spirit (2:33)  
opens individuals hearts (16:14)  
his hand is with his witnesses (11:21)  
adds daily those being saved (2:47)  
large numbers brought to the Lord (5:14, 11:24)  
validation / authentication with miracles (14:3)  
judgment on those who oppose the progress of the mission (13:11)

#### The Father

- commands everyone, everywhere to repent (17:30)
- calls Jews and Gentiles to Himself (2:39)
- directly provides all salvation blessings (3:13; 11:17-18, 15:8; 9:11)
- God “visited” to take a people from among the Gentiles (15:14)
- opens door of faith (14:27; 15:4, 12; 21:19)

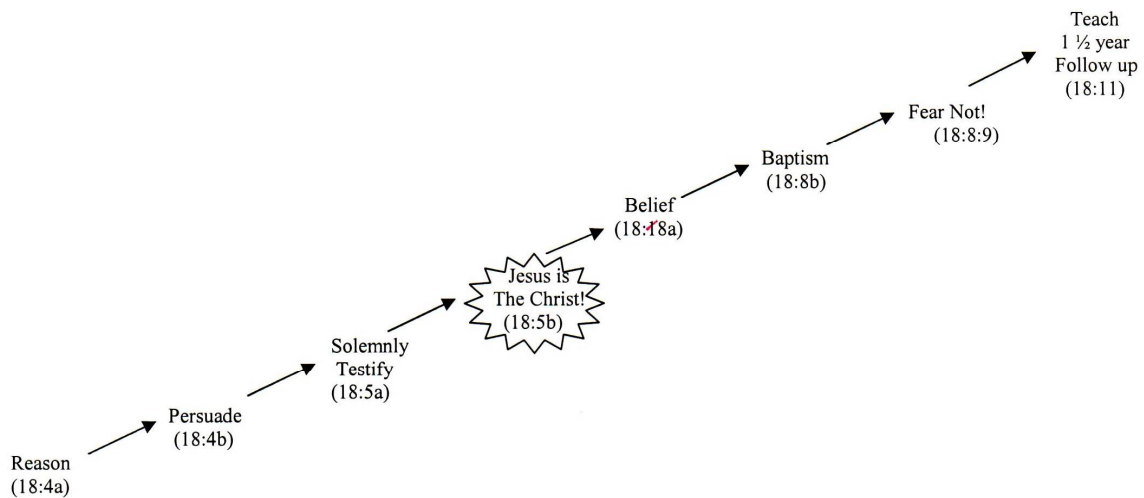
#### The Holy Spirit

- bearing direct parallel witness (5:32)

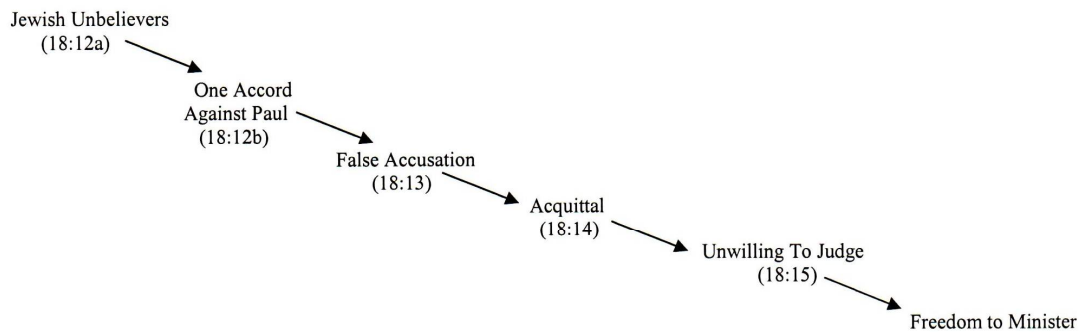
## ACTS 18:1-22

**MESSAGE IDEA** God's Gospel is unstoppable "for I have many people in this city."  
(18:10) (He is gathering the elect through our ministry. Nothing can stop that.)

**SUCCESS** - Paul's Pattern of Ministry (18:1-11)



**REJECTION** – The Jewish Pattern of Opposition (18:12-17)



**COMPLETION** – Paul's return to Antioch (18:18-21)  
(Ends 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary trip)

**"OUR MARCHING ORDERS"**  
**LUKE 24:36-53**  
**FEBRUARY 15, 2015**

<div>36</div> <div>Jesus Reminds His Disciples of His Humanity</div> <div>43</div>	<div>44</div> <div>Jesus Reminds His Disciples of Their Mission</div> <div>49</div>	<div>50</div> <div>Jesus Reminds His Disciples of His Deity</div> <div>53</div>
<p>Jesus had to be completely man in order to offer up His body as a sacrifice for sin.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do you know how to have peace with God day-in and day-out? How about peace with people? (36)</li> <li>2. What area of the Christian life do you have doubts in? Why? What can you do about it? (38)</li> <li>3. What did Jesus come to this disciples by eating fish? (39-43)</li> </ol>	<p>Jesus, the God-Man has a plan to reach the world with the gospel through their witness.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Apologetics – they have the proofs (44) Do you read carefully in the 3 kinds of OT Literature? Should you?</li> <li>5. Perception – they have the understanding (45) Do you understand how apply most Scripture? Why? Why not? 1 Cor. 1:18-21</li> <li>6. Gospel – they have the message (46) How would you explain the accomplishments of the death of Christ?</li> <li>7. Preaching – they have the methodology (47) Explain the difference between repentance and feeling sorry for sin.</li> <li>8. Witness – they have the commission (48) It's witnessing for every believer? Prove it</li> <li>9. Holy Spirit – they have the power (49) Why do we need power to be witnesses 1 Cor. 2:1-3:3</li> </ol>	<p>Jesus had to be completely God in order to offer up a sacrifice for sin that was acceptable to the Father.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. Describe your picture of their worship (52)</li> </ol>

## **“THE GOSPEL IS POWERFUL TO CHANGE LIVES”**

ACTS 19:21-41

**FEBRUARY 22, 2009**

### **INTRO**

1. Wherever the Church boldly and faithfully proclaims the gospel, lives are changed.

Do you remember Paul’s teaching on the process of spiritual change:

#### Ephesians 4:20-24

1. Learn Christ (4:20-21)
2. Put off (4:22)
3. Change thinking (4:23)
4. Put on (4:24)

#### Look at Acts 19:18-20

1. Learn Christ (19:8,9,10,18a)
2. Put off (19:18b)
3. Change thinking (19:8,9,10)
4. Put on (19:19-20)

2. Wherever the Church boldly and faithfully proclaims the gospel, it faces satanic opposition.

In Jerusalem – from organized religion (4:1-31; 5:17-42; 6:9-15; 8:1-4)

In Antioch – from prejudice and envy (13:44-52)

In Lystra – from ignorant paganism (14:8-19)

In Philippi – from reactions to victories over the demonic realm (16:16-40)

In Thessalonica – from an unruly mob, egged on by jealous religious leaders (17:1-9)

In Athens – from the opposition of worldly philosophy (17:16-34)

In Corinth – from Judaism (18:5-17)

### **MESSAGE**

- ♦ Paul plans for the advance of the powerful gospel. (19:21-22)

#### 1. Macedonia and Achaia

- Philippi
- Thessalonica
- Berea
- Corinth

#### 2. Jerusalem

#### 3. Rome

- ♦ Paul is encouraged by seeing further proof that the gospel is powerful to change lives. (19:23-41)

1. The causes of the riot in Ephesus (23-27)

- the relentless labor of one man totally committed to Jesus Christ (26)
- the true spiritual change in many people (18-19)
- the church's use of proper spiritual means (see 20:27,31)

“The Ephesian believers did not lobby the city authorities, picket the silversmith's shops, or organize demonstrations against Artemis worship. They did not try to be popular. They preached and lived out the message and let the power of their changed lives confront and push out the old ways.” MacArthur p. 184

2. The characteristics of the riot in Ephesus (28-34)

- Anger (see 7:54; 16:22-23; 21:27b-31)

“The gospel makes people angry because it confronts them with their false religion and their sin and forces them to recognize the inadequacy of their world view, exposing the emptiness of their lifestyle.” MacArthur p. 186

- Confusion

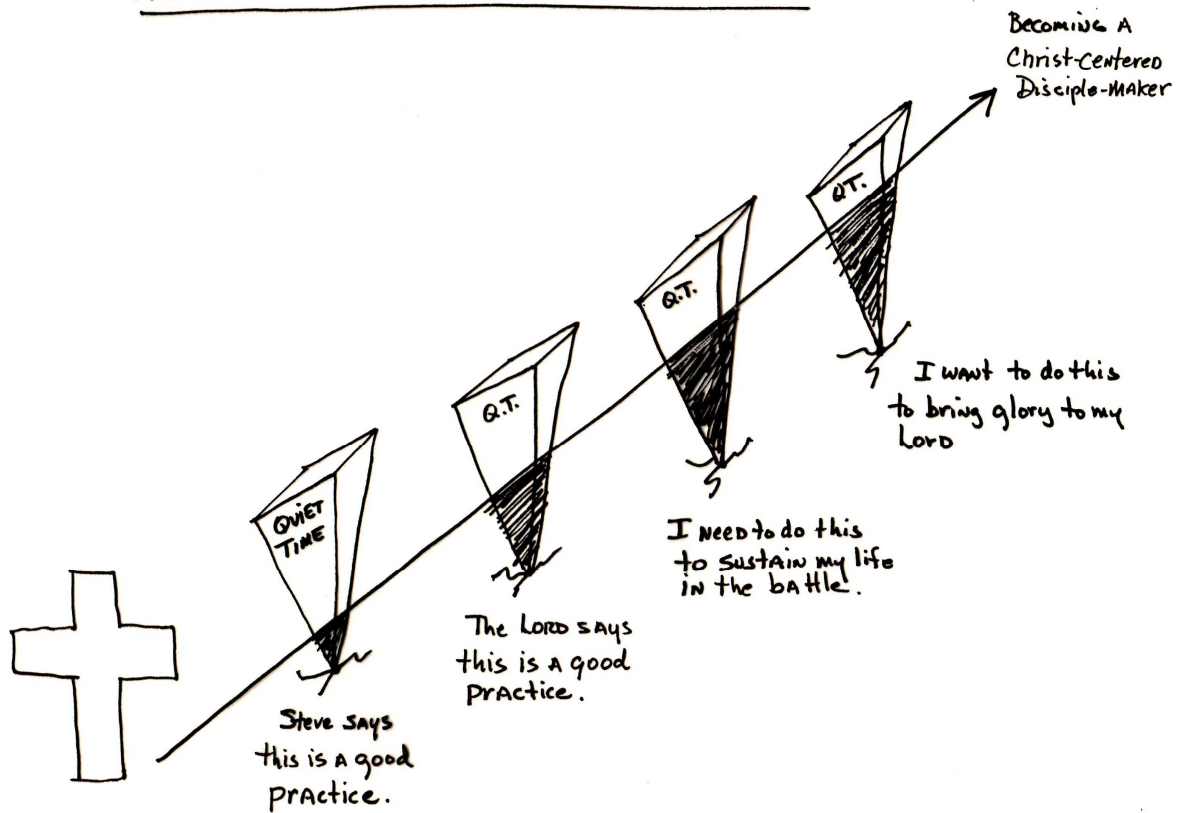
- Close-mindedness

3. The calming of the riot in Ephesus (35-41)

**APPLICATIONS**

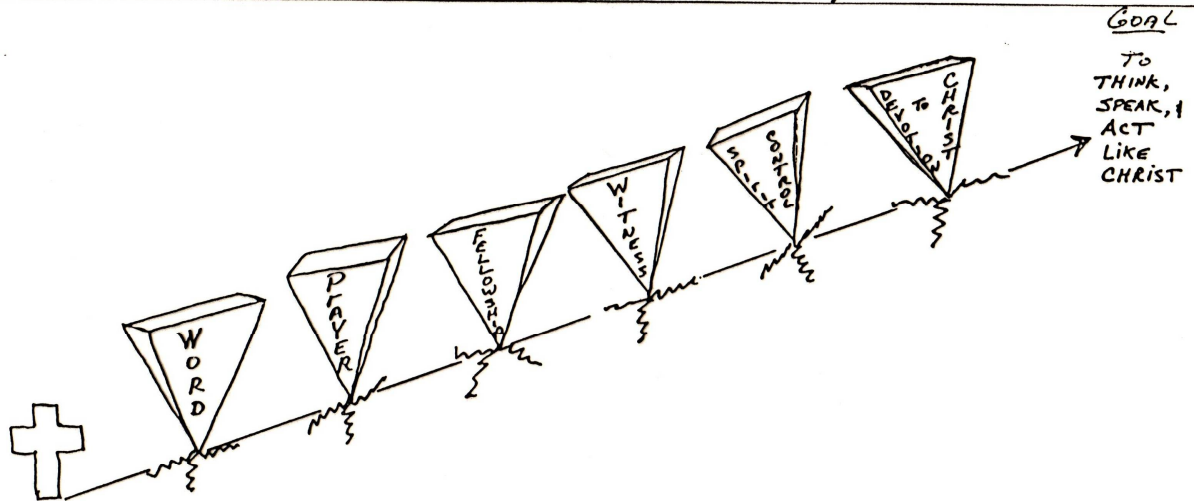
1. Notice that Paul, unless otherwise directed, is free to choose where he wants to minister and when he wants to minister. So are we! Is your soul at rest in the will of God?
2. Notice that when Satan loses souls all (you know what) breaks loose. But Paul expects opposition because he knows that the gospel changes lives. Is there anything in your life that has no other explanation than that God moved in (John 14:21,23)?

## HELPING A BELIEVER DEEPEN CONVICTIONS





## BUILDING CHRIST-CENTERED DISCIPLE-MAKERS



CONCENTRATE ON ONE THING AT A TIME  
TO BUILD LIFE-LONG CONVICTIONS  
AND  
LIFE-CHANGING APPLICATIONS

“HOW TO NEGATE THE INFLUENCE OF FALSE TEACHERS”  
PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11  
October 19, 2003

INTRO    New Christians need follow-up

Follow-up is one of the ministries of a disciple-maker.

MESSAGE    • **As a disciple-maker** protect the new believer by identifying those who falsely teach “righteousness by works!” (3:1-3)

→ Teach them to discern false teaching! (1-2)  
    dogs  
    evil workers  
    false circumcision

→ Teach them to fellowship with true believers! (3)  
    worship in the Spirit  
    glory in Christ Jesus  
    put no confidence in the flesh

• **As a disciple-maker** show the new believer why “righteousness by works” is powerless to change his/her life! (3:4-6)  
    Salvation is not by ritual (5a)  
    Salvation is not by race (5b)  
    Salvation is not by family status (5c)  
    Salvation is not by family lineage (5d)  
    Salvation is not by religion (5e)  
    Salvation is not by sincerity (6a)  
    Salvation is not by law-keeping (6b)

• **As a disciple-maker** help the new believer understand how the work of Christ on the cross provides a “righteousness by faith!” (3:7-11)

→ Christ’s work on the cross provides everything we need for salvation. (7-9)  
    • Christ alone has a life with eternal merit. (7)  
    • Christ alone is Savior and Lord. (8)  
    • Christ alone places (imputes) righteousness into our life. (9)

- ➔ Christ's work on the cross provides everything we need for our spiritual growth. (10-11)
- We will not be duped if our goal is to know Christ. (10a)
  - We will not be deceived if our goal is to exercise His resurrection power through the Holy Spirit. (10b)
  - We will not be derailed if we continue to fellowship with Him while facing suffering and trials. (10c)
  - We will be spiritual dynamite if we live the resurrected life by serving as a godly disciple-maker. (11)

## CONCLUSION

“FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF COMMITTED DISCIPLE-MAKERS”  
PHILIPPIANS 2:19-30  
October 12, 2003

INTRO

1. Conduct yourself in a way that attracts people to the gospel! (1:27-30)
  - Be united in facing opponents!
  - Be united in making disciples!
2. Unite with one another in humble, sacrificial service! (2:1-11)
  - Honor and care for one another!
  - Graciously serve one another!
3. Fulfill the purposes for which you were saved! (2:12-18)
  - Keep growing spiritually and keep making disciples!
  - Make whatever sacrifices are necessary to follow up new believers!

<p>“In this Epistle every single reference Paul makes to another person is made in connection with that person’s Koinonia, his partnership in the gospel.” Swift p. 246</p>
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MESSAGE

- Follow the example of Timothy! (2:19-24)
- Care about people! (19-21)
- Care about God’s purposes! (22-25)
  
- Follow the example of Epaphroditus! (2:25-30)
- Be a co-laborer in the gospel ministry (25-27)
- Be faithful despite hardships! (28-30)

CONCLUSION

Paul [in 2 Timothy 2:2] says one of the ways you can measure the effectiveness of church ministry is if there are four generations of people who are helping other people to help other people. Paul -- Timothy -- faithful men -- others. Every church needs to have its Pauls, its Timothys, its faithful men, and its others. In other words, my responsibility is to build my life into the elders and to other people whom God sends my way. Their responsibility is to build their lives into the people, and the people's responsibility is to build their lives into the new Christians that God gives us in our fellowship. And the real measure of a healthy church is the degree to which the leadership and the faithful people in the fellowship -- that is the growing believers -- are committed to that ministry because to the degree to which we are committed to that ministry - to *that* degree - God is free to send new Christians into our fellowship. We've been talking about what it takes to grow and develop. The answer is, people who are committed to a ministry of being co-laborers -- people who are committed to a ministry of disciple-making.

--sermon excerpt

I really like this illustration talking about Rolls Royce cars. They give meticulous attention to Rolls Royce automobiles -- four thousand, five hundred workers on each of the Rolls Royce units. Two thousand, five hundred units are produced a year. There's eight thousand, five hundred moving parts in a Rolls Royce. They give it endless, tedious attention. Specialists put a stethoscope on the engine and listen to it for eight hours. When it's done, the painters hand spray and rub ten coats of paint on each vehicle, and when it rolls off the assembly line, it has a million-mile odometer on it. Listen to the punch line: It takes time and effort to build excellence into anything. That is why being a Christian demands time and effort and constancy. Our job is to go produce some Rolls Royce Christians in the way that we lead them to Christ and follow them up. It's as simple as that!

--"Unity and Humility," Philippians 2:12-18,  
10/5/2003, sermon excerpt

**For by grace  
you have been saved  
through faith**

Ephesians 2:8a (NKJV)





**“NO STRINGS ATTACHED” FAITH**  
**LUKE 18:15-34**  
**MARCH 9, 2014**

**CONTEXT** The “Kingdom” is a hot topic! The Pharisees are looking for some flashy signs of its approach (17:20-21); the disciples are encouraged to pray for it despite its postponement (18:1-14); and Jesus wants to make sure that children are not excluded from it (18:15-34) . The children serve to illustrate the kind of faith that it takes to go to heaven.

**MESSAGE**

The Kingdom and children (16,17)  
The Kingdom and human goodness (14,25)  
The Kingdom and salvation (26,27)  
The Kingdom and dedication (29)  
The Kingdom and eternal life (30)  
The Kingdom and the cross (31-34)

**APPLICATIONS** You can help a friend make a decision that will change him for eternity! Here’s how...

1. Help him understand that faith in Christ is the only requirement for receiving eternal life but that there must be “no strings attached.” 18:15-17
2. Exhort him to place “no strings attached” faith in Christ as the only solution to the problem of sin in his life. 18:18-27
  - a. Your friend is a sinner because he is unable to obey all of God’s commandments. (18-23)
  - b. God alone can save your friend because he is helplessly caught in the sin-trap. (24-27)
3. Explain to him how God blesses “no strings attached” faith after salvation with spiritual security and stability. (28-30)
4. Encourage him with the fact that he doesn’t have to know all the answers in order to place “no strings attached” faith in Christ. 18:31-34

## “DISTORTING THE GOSPEL OF GRACE”

GALATIANS 1:1-10

January 6, 2002

Message #1

### INTRO

1. There are some of the spiritual terrorists who assault the gospel of grace.
  - world religions
  - cults
  - new age mysticism
  - liberal Christianity
  - hyper-fundamentalism (legalism)
2. There is great danger in submitting to the persuasive power of these false teachers.
  - see the list of 48 dangerous results on the next page
3. You must know the Bible doctrine thoroughly and precisely!

### MESSAGE

Spiritual terrorists always distort or deny the gospel of grace

- Get the gospel message right (1:1-5)!
  - ➔ Our Lord Jesus Christ was resurrected from the dead (1-2).
  - ➔ Our Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins (3-5)
  - ➔ Every person who believes that “Jesus Christ died for my sins and Jesus Christ arose from the dead” is going to heaven (see 2:16)
- Accept no compromise in the gospel message (1:6-10)!
  - ➔ False teachers always distort or deny the gospel message (6-7).
  - ➔ False teachers will face severe judgment (8-10).

### LIFE-RESPONSE

1. When you witness to people, present the gospel and ask people to respond the same way Scripture asks them to respond. Scripture asks them to (believe).
2. To present the gospel clearly and accurately, memorize these verses with their topics.
  - separated from God (Ephesians 2:1)
  - sinning daily (Romans 3:23)
  - facing judgment (Hebrews 9:27)
  - promise of eternal life (John 5:24)
  - good works don’t work (Ephesians 2:8-9)
  - the gospel message (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)
  - must believe (John 5:24; Ephesians 2:8)

### MOTTO

**Scripture Alone! Grace Alone! Faith Alone! Christ Alone!**

- You desert Him who called you (1:6).
- You are spiritually disturbed/unsettled (1:7)
- You lose your liberty in Christ and come into bondage (2:4).
- You yield in subjection/submission to false discipling (2:5).
- You withdraw and hold yourself aloof from fellow believers (2:13).
- You are motivated by fear (2:12).
- You are carried away by the hypocrisy of others (2:13).
- You are not straightforward about the truth of the gospel (2:14).
- You compel other believers to live like you do (2:14).
- You label other believers as sinners who do not follow you (2:17).
- You nullify the grace of God (2:21).
- You are a spiritual fool (3:1).
- You are bewitched (3:1).
- You are seeking spiritual maturity by a fleshly means (3:3)
- You are suffering (persecution/opposition/adversity) in vain (3:4).
- You turn back to weak and worthless things (4:9).
- You desire to be enslaved all over again (4:9).
- You observe the festivals of the Jewish calendar or so-called holy days (4:10).
- You lose your sense of God's blessing on your life (4:15).
- You treat other Christians as the enemy (4:16).
- You are trained to seek out false teachers to answer life's questions (4:17).
- You are no longer growing in Christlike character (4:19).
- You are no longer thinking clearly about sound doctrine (4:21).
- You are no longer standing firm (5:1).
- You are subject again to a yoke of slavery (5:1).
- You are not benefiting by your relationship to Christ (5:2).
- You are under obligation to keep the whole law (5:3).
- You are severed from fellowship with Christ (5:4).
- You are no longer living your life on the basis of grace (5:4).
- You are no longer running well (5:7).
- You are being hindered from obeying the truth (5:7).
- You are not being led by God (5:8).
- You are turning your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh (5:13).
- You are not serving others in love (5:14).
- You are verbally biting and devouring other believers (5:15).
- You are not walking by the Spirit (5:16).
- You are not being led by the Spirit (5:18).
- You are producing the fruit of the flesh (5:19-21).
- You are not growing the fruit of the Spirit (5:22-23).
- You have not crucified the flesh with its passions and desires (5:24).
- You are boastful, challenging and envying one another (5:26).
- You are trapped in sin (6:1).
- You are not bearing one another's burdens (6:2).
- You are self-deceived about your importance (6:3).
- You are not giving generously to the Lord's work (6:6).
- You are beginning to reap what you sowed (6:7-8).
- You have lost heart in doing good especially to God's people (6:9-10).
- You are attempting to escape persecution (6:12).

**“FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE”**  
**ACTS 15:1-35**  
**NOVEMBER 9, 2008**

**INTRO**

**MESSAGE**

- ♦ Some Jewish believers say that salvation is by faith plus law-keeping. (1-5)
  - A growing church will have some spiritually immature, doctrinally confused, vocal Christians. (1-2)
  - Godly leaders will respond appropriately to correct any perceived error. (3-5)
- ♦ The Jerusalem Council reaffirms that salvation is by faith alone. (6-19)
  - The Apostle Peter testifies to both the Word and the work of God in saving Gentiles by faith alone. (6-11; see Acts 10:1-11:18)
  - The Apostle Paul and Barnabas testify to the miraculous work of God in saving Gentiles by faith alone. (12; see 13:1-14:28)
  - James and the Jerusalem Church determine not to hinder God’s work among the Gentiles by adding anything to the truth of “faith alone in Christ alone.” (19)
- ♦ Having established some standards for Jewish and Gentile fellowship, the leaders of the Jerusalem Church send their decision in a letter to the Church of Antioch with Judas and Silas along with Paul and Barnabas. (20-29)
- ♦ The Church at Antioch is encouraged and strengthened in the Lord. (30-35)

**LESSONS FOR TODAY**

1. How could a former Pharisee so strongly oppose fellow-Pharisees who were genuine believers?

The best explanation for Paul’s unique stance is to be found in his view of his past religion – Pharisaism. The Pharisees sought to bring their Pharisaism with them into Christianity; Paul left his Pharisaism behind. The Pharisees took pride in their Pharisaism; Paul counted it as “dung,” boasting only in Christ. Paul saw his Pharisaism as a works system, in which a man could take pride in his spirituality, and he utterly renounced it when he came to faith in Jesus as Messiah.

2. How much of our baggage have we tried to bring along with us when we came to faith?

Paul looked upon his past religious achievements and counted them not only as worthless, but as offensive. And that is precisely what religion is to God. God does not want religious people; He wants “sinners” who would confess their sins and trust in Christ. Leave the religious baggage behind! When you see how offensive it is to God, that will make it easier to forsake.

### 3. Is there a time to fight?

There are times to avoid conflict, as we can see from other passages of Scripture, but here, it is the gospel itself which is under attack. Men, intentionally or not, were trying to adapt the gospel to their own liking, and it cannot be done. Paul's strong words in the book of Galatians are proof that there is no toleration of any error which would corrupt the gospel. Christians can disagree on many subjects, but they cannot differ on the gospel. In that we must always stand firm and united.

Look at this next verse. This is fascinating! This is one area where the Apostle Paul does not let us off the hook. He'll tolerate a lot of things as we come into the Christian life, but you'd better get straightened out doctrinally. There's no excuse to spend five years as a Christian and not know sound doctrine by that point in time. Paul always allowed people room to grow up, but he never tolerated them being inconsistent and immature forever and forever and forever. They were to mature -- get their doctrine squared away. He was very patient in that process.

People need to come and grow, but here's the thing. They need to be in an environment where they're not thrown out the door for expressing something that's not quite exactly right. They need to be in a place where they feel welcomed -- where they've got a chance to express themselves. You can't teach somebody if they're not talking to you about what they believe, but when stuff comes up that you know is a little bit off the wall, that's where you have to say, "My friend, that's an interesting position that you have. Let's have a cup of coffee sometime and open our Bibles and check that out."

Do we really expect people to grow when they trust Christ as their Savior? Absolutely! Have we been offering people an opportunity to get their doctrine straight for thirty-two years? There has never been a year, to my knowledge, when we have not been teaching *Major Bible Themes*...over the past thirty-two years. We teach it over and over and over and over. We just keep that study going. Why? Because it's the only way people can get their doctrine straightened out, and I don't just mean a Bible study. I mean, at some point in your life, you need a *systematic study* in the Word of God so that you know how to think through theological categories that are in Scripture. You need to know the doctrine of the Bible; the doctrine of God the Father; the doctrine of Jesus Christ -- called Christology; the doctrine of God -- called Theology Proper; the doctrine of the Holy Spirit -- called Pneumatology; the doctrines of man and sin -- called Hamartiology and Anthropology; the doctrine of future things -- called Eschatology; the doctrine of the work of Christ on the cross. All those great truths are systematically available, and that's where people get their doctrine straight. There's no excuse to come to Grace Bible Church for five years and still not know the difference between salvation by works and salvation by faith. Paul expects us to grow up in Christ. The issue is, we need to be growing doctrinally. Be patient with brand new Christians, but expect them to grow, and if you're one of those people, then grow in Christ.

--"Faith Alone in Christ Alone," Acts 15:1-35,  
November 9, 2008, sermon excerpt

“DEBATING THE GOSPEL OF GRACE”

GALATIANS 1:11-24

January 13, 2002

Message #2

BACKGROUND

- The gospel message is: “Jesus Christ died for our sins, Jesus arose.”
- The gospel of “justification by grace through faith” is the only gospel that Christ revealed (ch 1).
- Works-trusting, law-keeping, spiritual terrorists will distort (1:1-10) and debate (1:11- 24) the gospel of grace.

INTRO

MESSAGE How to evaluate a “so-called” teacher of spiritual truths

- Is his/her gospel the one from God revealed in Scripture (1:11-12)?
- Is there evidence of a change in his/her life that can only be explained as a work of God (1:13-17)?
- Is he/she a diligent student of the Word of God (1:18-24)?

LIFE-RESPONSE

1. If the eternal life of your child was at stake, could you refute a false gospel, clearly present the gospel of grace, and lead your child to Christ?
2. If you asked your mate/child/friend: “Is there any change you see in me that can only be explained by the presence of the Holy Spirit,” what would he/she say?
3. Would people who know you say that you have a second-hand faith? Are you totally dependent on what people have told you about Jesus? Have you read and studied the Scriptures on your own?

MOTTO **Scripture Alone! Grace Alone! Faith Alone! Christ Alone!**

## **“NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH, SO HELP ME GOD”**

1 Timothy 3:14 – 4:16

The Teaching Ministry of Highly Effective Mentors

### **INTRO**

### **Message**

- I. They teach faithful men and women that TRUTH MATTERS (3:14-16).
  - A. The Church is the pillar and support of the TRUTH (14-15).
  - B. There is ONLY ONE COMMON CONFESSION of faith (16).
- II. They teach faithful men and women that WITHOUT TRUTH SATAN TRIUMPHS (4:1-5)
  - A. The Church will always have counterfeit teachers (1-2).
  - B. Their legalistic, false teaching will contradict the TRUTH (3-5).
- III. They teach faithful men and women how to PROCLAIM & DEFEND THE TRUTH IN THE PUBLIC ARENA (6-16).
  - A. Gifted servants must TEACH BIBLICAL AND SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY for life change (6-12).
  - B. Gifted servants must STUDY and PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE SPIRITUAL LIFE AND TO THEOLOGY (13-16).

### **Life Applications**

#### **■ For Seekers**

No! All paths do not lead to the same God. The Bible is the revealed will of God. It is the only truth about God. That is why Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but by me.” If you choose to reject the revealed will of God about the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, you will perish in your sin. Romans 6:23 says: “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.” Nine times in Romans 3:21-31 it says you must believe in Jesus in order to go to heaven. Will you?



■ For Teens

1 John 2:14b says: “I have written to you, young men (and women), because you are strong, and the Word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.” What a testimony! What a mature group of teens! They were powerfully influencing their peers. It’s time to get serious about your ministry to lost teenagers. No one else can reach them like you can! You have the truth! Do something with it!

■ For Faithful Men and Women

Major Bible Themes, our 52-week doctrinal study, begins June 13, 9:00 a.m. Please be there! There are no excuses for spiritual ignorance. The book, *Major Bible Themes*, is on sale for \$14.95 (22.95) at the Family Bookstore, East Towne Mall, in Madison.

■ For Mentors

“The Sons of Issachar understood the times and knew what Israel should do.” 1 Chron. 12:23. Keep reading! Study contemporary theological issues! Know what you are talking about!



**SPREADIN' HIS GRACE OVER ME**  
**Rita & Steve Corbett August 15, 2005**

VERSE 1

E A  
There's a Savior who really loves me  
E B7  
He's King of Kings and Lord of all  
E A  
I was lost, He spoke from glory  
F# B7  
He sought me out, gave me a call

VERSE 2

E A  
Said you don't know me 'cause you're a sinner  
E B7  
I died for you to set you free  
E A  
And if you trust Me you'll be the winner  
E B7  
'Cause He was spreadin' His grace over me.

CHORUS

A E  
Every day my heart draws nearer  
B7  
He's changing me, it's plain to see  
A E A  
I don't deserve it, can't be much clearer  
E B7 E  
That He was spreadin' His grace over me

BREAK

### VERSE 3

<sup>E</sup>  
I've had some time now to get to know Him <sup>A</sup>  
<sup>E</sup> <sup>B7</sup>  
He picks me up when I fall  
<sup>E</sup> <sup>A</sup>  
I'm still a sinner but I'm sure growin'  
<sup>F#</sup> <sup>B7</sup>  
Now it's my turn to make the call

### VERSE 4

<sup>E</sup> <sup>A</sup>  
Every day I sit and wonder  
<sup>E</sup> <sup>B7</sup>  
Why does He love someone like me?  
<sup>E</sup> <sup>A</sup>  
I smile and shout "I don't belong here!"  
<sup>E</sup> <sup>B7</sup>  
But He was spreadin' His grace over me



“ARE YOU A LOOSE LIVING GOB?”  
[Note: GOB = Grace Oriented Believer]

February 7, 1988  
Romans 6:15-23

INTRODUCTION

Judaizers and legalists share a common bond.

OUTLINE

- I. PROBLEM—Does GRACE promote unrighteous (loose) living? (6:15)
  - A. The Accusations of legalists
  - B. The Assumption of legalists
  - C. The Misunderstanding of legalists
- II. PRINCIPLE—GRACE promotes righteous living! (6:16)
  - A. The principle of spiritual slavery
  - B. The principle of no middle ground
    - 1. The fruit of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21)
    - 2. The fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23)
- III. POSITION—GRACE sets you free to live righteously! (6:17-18)
  - A. The great change in personhood (v. 17)
  - B. The great change in ownership (v. 18)
- IV. PRACTICE—Loose living GOBs don't last long! (6:19-23)
  - A. GOBs must and will pursue righteousness (v. 19)
    - 1. Gal. 5:17
    - 2. Jm. 4:5
  - B. GOBs understand the pros and cons of loose living (vv. 20-23)
    - 1. The cons (20-21)
    - 2. The pros (22)
    - 3. Summary (23)

APPLICATION

“SETTING ASIDE THE GOSPEL OF GOD”  
GALATIANS 2:11-21  
January 27, 2002  
Message #4

**BACKGROUND**

- The gospel message is: “Jesus Christ died for our sins, Jesus arose.”
- The gospel of “justification by grace through faith” is the only gospel that Christ revealed (ch 1).
- Works-trusting, law-keeping, spiritual terrorists will spy out your freedom in Christ (2:1-10).

**INTRO** (Peter—Confrontational champion of grace)

**MESSAGE** How Works-trusting, law-keeping, spiritual terrorists will spoil your freedom in Christ by tempting you to set aside the grace of God.

- The Process (2:11-14)
  - ➔ Setting aside the grace of God begins with the fear of man (11-12).
  - ➔ Setting aside the grace of God culminates in the defection of believers (13-14).

**IMPORTANT LESSONS**

1. Even uniquely gifted spiritual leaders / elders can commit serious sins that require discipline.
2. Faithfulness involves more than believing the right doctrine. There must be a commitment to living that doctrine, otherwise it is hypocrisy.
3. Maintaining doctrinal integrity—upholding the truth—is more important than outward harmony and peace.

- The Problem (2:15-21)
  - ➔ Setting aside the grace of God denies “justification by faith (15-16).
  - ➔ Setting aside the grace of God denies “freedom from the law” (17-18).
  - ➔ Setting aside the grace of God denies the “substitutionary atonement of Christ” and its effects in the believer’s life (19-21).

**LIFE-RESPONSE**

1. Do you understand the doctrine of grace? Can you apply the doctrines of grace to daily living? Study Lewis Sperry Chafer’s book, *Grace*, available at your local bookstore. Everyone should read it every other year.
2. Are you a legalist? Do you know what spirituality is? What is a Spirit-filled walk ? Study Chafer’s *He That is Spiritual*. Do not fall into this trap.

**MOTTO**      **Scripture Alone! Grace Alone! Faith Alone! Christ Alone!**

“FREE TO LOVE! FREE TO LIVE! FREE TO SERVE!”

GALATIANS 5:1-15

June 23, 2002

Message #9

## INTRO

MESSAGE Christ sets us free to love, to live, and to serve—He does not set us free to sin

- (Defend) your freedom in Christ from legalism! (1)
- Have a healthy regard for the (consequences) of embracing legalism (2-6)
  - ➔ Legalism will cost you the benefits of the redemptive work of Christ. (2)
  - ➔ Legalism will obligate you to work for spiritual growth. (3)
  - ➔ Legalism will sever you from fellowship with Christ. (4a)
  - ➔ Legalism will cause you to forfeit the blessings of grace. (4b)
  - ➔ Legalism will quench the ministry of the Holy Spirit. (5)
  - ➔ Legalism will stifle the growth of the fruit of the Spirit. (6)
- (Think) your way out of legalistic bondage! (7-12)
  - ➔ Who is the legalistic messenger? (7)
  - ➔ What kind of persuasive technique is presented in the legalist's message? (8)
  - ➔ What will be the results of enslavement to this legalist's message? (9)
  - ➔ What is your own theological position? Defend your position! (10)
  - ➔ How does this legalist contradict the work of the cross? (11)
  - ➔ What is the destiny of unsaved enemies of the cross? What rewards await the carnal Christian who caves in to legalism? (12)
- (Out - love) the legalists! (13-15)
  - ➔ By serving one another. (13-14)
  - ➔ By caring for one another. (15)

MOTTO      **Scripture Alone! Grace Alone! Faith Alone! Christ Alone!**

“HOW TO LOVE! HOW TO LIVE! HOW TO SERVE!”

GALATIANS 5:16-26

June 30, 2002

Message #10

INTRO CHRIST SETS US FREE TO LOVE, TO LIVE, AND TO SERVE—HE DOES NOT SET US FREE TO SIN (GAL. 5:1-15)

MESSAGE To out-love the legalists, we must out-live the legalists (Gal. 5:16-26)

Who do I want to (control) my sin nature—the legalist or the Holy Spirit? (16-17)

Who do I want to (follow) into battle—the legalist or the Holy Spirit? (18)

What happens when the (legalist) controls me and leads me into battle? (19-21)

What happens when the (Holy Spirit) controls me and leads me into battle? (22-23)

What did (Jesus) do to my sin nature at the cross? (24)

How, then, do I out-live the legalist? (25-26)

➔ Answers: To live by the Holy Spirit I must (walk) by the Holy Spirit!

➔ Stated positively: Be (filled) with the Spirit! (Ephesians 5:18)

➔ Stated negatively: 1) Do not (grieve) the Holy Spirit! (Ephesians 4:30)

- Sinning by refusing to apply the Word of God to my life.
- Sinning by refusing to change when confronted by the Holy Spirit.

2) Do not (quench) the Holy Spirit! (1 Thess. 5:19)

- Sinning by refusing to allow other gifted believers to share God’s Word with me and apply it to my life.
- Sinning by refusing to have a teachable spirit.
- Sinning by refusing to fellowship.

## “THE FINAL FAILURE OF LEGALISM”

Romans 7:1-25  
February 14, 1988

- I. It is the Spirit-controlled believer, not the legalist, who understands the providence of the Law (7:1-6).
  - A. The Law has jurisdiction over the unbeliever (1-3).
  - B. The Law has no jurisdiction over the believer (4-6).
  
- II. It is the Spirit-controlled believer, not the legalist, who understands the purpose of the Law (7:7-13).
  - A. The Law reveals a person's sinfulness (7).
  - B. The Law revives a person's sin nature (8).
  - C. The Law reviews a person's spiritual death (9-11).
  - D. Conclusion (12-13).
  
- III. It is the Spirit-controlled believer, not the legalist, who understands the powerlessness of the Law (7:14-25).
  - A. The Law cannot prevent carnality in believers (14-17).
  - B. The Law cannot control carnality in believers (18-20).
  - C. The Law cannot eliminate carnality in believers (21-23).
  - D. Solution (24-25).



**You who fear the Lord,  
praise Him!**

Psalm 22:23a (NKJV)



# **OUR GOD IS GLORIOUS!**

**October 12, 1997**

**Psalm 8:1-9**

## **REAL PEOPLE**

### **REAL GOD**

Our God is glorious (8:1-2)!

1. His name (Yahweh. . . Adonai) is glorious (1a).
2. His work in creation is glorious (1b).
3. His praise, even from infants, is glorious (2).

### **REAL LIFE**

Our glorious God loves us (8:3-5)!

1. Do you realize how often God has you in His thoughts (3-4a)?
2. Can you fathom how much God cares for you (4b)?
3. Do you know how valuable you are as God's image-bearer (5)?

Our glorious God gives our live meaning and purpose (8:6-8)!

### **REAL CHANGE**

Our God is glorious (8-9)!

1. Do you have a relationship with God the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:3; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Philippians 2:9-11)?
2. Are you responding to the Holy Spirit's ministry in your life by confessing and dealing with sin ( 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; 1 Corinthians 6:20)?
3. Are you making wise choices about your daily schedule so that God is glorified (1 Corinthians 10:31)?
4. Are you trusting a loving, caring, glorious God to meet your needs (Philippians 4:19)?
5. His value is the basis of all worship. Are you satisfied in Him (Romans 11:36; Ephesians 3:21; Revelation 4:11)?

**"ENTHRONED UPON THE PRAISES"**  
**MAY 16, 2004**  
**PRAISE! GIVE THANKS! BLESS HIM!**

**INTRO**

**MESSAGE**

♦ **Learn the key words!**

➔ **hâlal**

NASV – to praise

Hebrew – **Excited, Joyful Boasting**

➔ **yâdâh**

NASV – to give thanks

Hebrew – **Public Acknowledgement**

➔ **bârak**

NASV – to bless

Hebrew – **Express Appreciation with Humility**

♦ **Learn the principles!**

➔ **Praise is directed to God (Yahweh).**

**1. His name**

**Psalm 135:1** Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD; Praise Him, O servants of the LORD, (h)

**Psalm 106:47** Save us, O LORD our God, And gather us from among the nations, To give thanks to Your holy name And glory in Your praise. (y)

**Psalm 96:2** Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day. (b)

**2. His character / attributes**

**Psalm 111:1** Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart, In the company of the upright and in the assembly. (h)

**Psalm 107:1** O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting. (y)

**Psalm 31:21** Blessed be the LORD, For He has made marvelous His lovingkindness to me in a besieged city. (b)

### 3. His works

**Psalm 116:19** In the courts of the LORD'S house, In the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD! (h)

**Psalm 75:1** We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks,  
For Your name is near; Men declare Your wondrous works.  
(y)

**Psalm 72:18** Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel,  
Who alone works wonders. (b)

#### ➔ Praise is the believer's privilege and responsibility

##### 1. of those who seek Him

**Psalm 22:26** The afflicted will eat and be satisfied; Those who seek Him will praise the LORD. Let your heart live forever!  
(h)

##### 2. of the righteous

**Psalm 140:13** Surely the righteous will give thanks to Your name; The upright will dwell in Your presence. (y)

##### 3. of those who revere the Lord

**Psalm 135:19,20** O house of Israel, bless the LORD; O house of Aaron, bless the LORD; O house of Levi, bless the LORD; You who revere the LORD, bless the LORD. (b)

### LIFE-RESPONSE

#### 1. What principles of praise do you observe in...

Ephesians 1:3 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 Corinthians 1:3 \_\_\_\_\_  
1 Peter 1:3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Revelation 4:8 \_\_\_\_\_  
Revelation 4:11 \_\_\_\_\_  
Revelation 5:9-10 \_\_\_\_\_  
Revelation 5:12 \_\_\_\_\_  
Revelation 5:13 \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Come prepared next Sunday to offer one praise from your quiet time.

Is there a truth that moves you to hâlal?

Is there a truth that moves you to yâdâh?

Is there a truth that moves you to bârak?

**"ENTHRONED UPON THE PRAISES"**  
**PART 2**  
**MAY 23, 2004**  
**PRAISE! GIVE THANKS! BLESS HIM!**

**REVIEW**

The key words

hâlal – NASV – to praise

yâdâh – NASV – to give thanks

bâarak – NASV – to bless

Hebrew – Excited, Joyful Boasting

Hebrew – Public Acknowledgement

Hebrew – Appreciation with deep humility

The principles

Praise is directed to God (Yahweh)

Praise is the believer's privilege and responsibility

**MESSAGE**

♦ **Learn the Principles! <continued>**

➔ **Praise is the believer's life-long pleasure**

**1. Praise is as expected as breathing.**

**Isaiah 38:18-29** For Sheol cannot thank You, Death cannot praise You; Those who go down to the pit cannot hope for Your faithfulness. It is the living who give thanks to You, as I do today; A father tells his sons about Your faithfulness.

**Psalms 30:9** What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise You? Will it declare Your faithfulness?

**Psalms 63:4** So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.

**Psalms 150:6** Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!

**2. Praise is continuous.**

**Psalms 71:6,8,14** By You I have been sustained from my birth; You are He who took me from my mother's womb; My praise is continually of You. My mouth is filled with Your praise And with Your glory all day long. But as for me, I will hope continually, And I will praise You yet more and more.

**Psalms 113:2-3** Blessed be the name of the LORD From this time forth and forever. From the rising of the sun to its setting The name of the LORD is to be praised.

### **3. Praise is appropriate in every circumstance of life.**

**Psalm 74:21** Let not the oppressed return dishonored; Let the afflicted and needy praise Your name.

**Psalm 144:1** Blessed be the LORD, my rock, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle;

**Psalm 68:19** Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, The God who is our salvation. Selah.

#### **→ Praise uses words in public worship for instruction.**

##### **1. Praise is spoken or sung.**

**Psalm 109:30** With my mouth I will give thanks abundantly to the LORD; And in the midst of many I will praise Him.

**Psalm 33:1-3** Sing for joy in the LORD, O you righteous ones; Praise is becoming to the upright. Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; Sing praises to Him with a harp of ten strings. Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy.

##### **2. Praise is offered in public worship.**

**Psalm 107:32** Let them extol Him also in the congregation of the people, And praise Him at the seat of the elders.

**Psalm 22:22** I will tell of Your name to my brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You.

##### **3. Praise is instructive both for evangelism and edification.**

**Psalm 107:1-2** O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good. For His lovingkindness is everlasting. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the adversary.

**Psalm 78:4** We will not conceal them from their children, But tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wondrous works that He has done.

### **LIFE RESPONSE**

1. Study and reflect on Psalm 103 (1-5, 6-14, 15-17).
2. Come prepared next Sunday to offer hâlâl, yâdâh, and bârak based on this Psalm.
3. In your devotional time, ask, “Did I praise God? Naw! But I will!”

N ame  
A ttributes  
W orks

**“JUST THINK ABOUT HIM – THEN ACT!”**

**PSALM 145:1-21**

**July 11, 2004**

**INTRO**

- ♦ Why should I serve the Lord?
- ♦ Why should I “present” my body “a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God” which is my “spiritual service of worship?”

**MESSAGE**

- ♦ **JOYFULLY BOAST** about God’s greatness every day! (1-6)
  - He reveals His glorious person to you. (1-3)
  - He reveals His mighty works to you. (4-6)
- ♦ **JOYFULLY BOAST** about God’s goodness every day! (7-21)
  - He reveals His tender mercies to you. (7-9)
  - He reveals His kingdom program to you. (10-13)
  - He reveals His loving care for you. (14-16)
  - He reveals His matchless grace to you. (17-21)

**SO WHAT? ACT ON IT!**

**REPAIR**

God’s love for you is unfailing. He has provided grace for your salvation, forgiveness, and blessing. You receive that grace by trusting Christ as your Savior.

**PREPARE**

God’s purpose for your life is clear. You are to love Him and be His servant. In the Age of Grace, He wants you to become a disciple-maker – leading others to Christ and following them up. His provision (above) should provide all the motivation that you need.

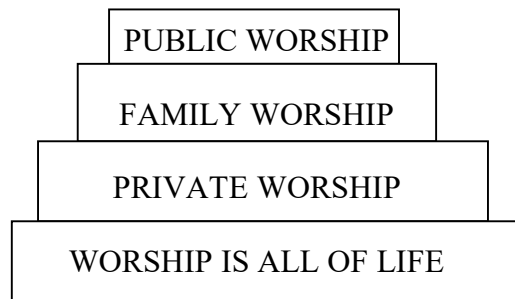


**“WORSHIP HIM”**  
**PART 2**  
**APRIL 21, 2002**  
**THE PRIORITY OF PRIVATE WORSHIP**

**INTRO**

**REVIEW**

1. Worship is a 24 hour a day lifestyle.
2. In worship, **YOU** are the **PARTICIPANT** and **GOD** is the **AUDIENCE**.
3. To the degree that you **HONOR** and **ADORE** God in your life, to that degree you will be effective in private, family, and public worship.



**MESSAGE** Worship is **HONOR** (love and obedience) and **ADORATION** (with words and works) **DIRECTED TO GOD**.

**SOME PRINCIPLES OF PRIVATE WORSHIP**

- ♦ Private worship (loving God with all of your heart, mind, soul, and strength) is the (first fruit) resulting from the filling of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18-19; Galatians 5:16,22-23; John 4:23-24).
- ♦ Private worship is characterized by a (thankful spirit), the second fruit resulting from the filling of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:20; Romans 1:21; 1 Thessalonians 5:18).
- ♦ Private worship lays the (foundation) for all redemptive relationships, the third fruit resulting from the filling of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:21; Colossians 3:12-17).

**LIFE RESPONSE**

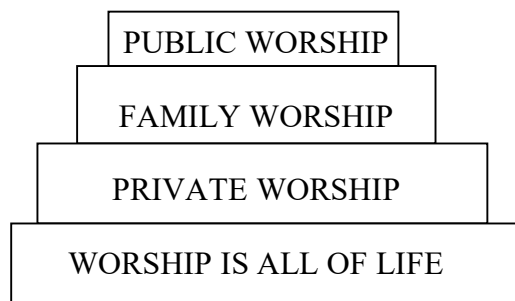
**SOME PRACTICES IN PRIVATE WORSHIP**

- ♦ (time commitment) (Psalm 119:147, 164; Daniel 6:10; Mark 1:35).
- ♦ (prayer) (Psalm 5:3; 1 John 1:9)
- ♦ (Scripture reading) (Psalm 119; Psalm 19:7-11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- ♦ (meditation) (Psalm 63:6; psalm 1:1-3).
- ♦ (praise) (Psalm 63:3-4; Psalm 29:1-2).
- ♦ (singing) (Psalm 57:7-11).
- ♦ (fasting) (Matthew 6:16-18).
- ♦ (application) (Revelation 1:3; Matthew 7:24-27).

**“WORSHIP HIM”**  
**PART 3**  
**APRIL 28, 2002**  
**THE PRIORITY OF FAMILY WORSHIP**

**INTRO**

**REVIEW**



**MESSAGE** Worship is HONOR (love and obedience) and ADORATION (with words and works) DIRECTED TO GOD.

Some principles of Family Worship

- ♦ The Scriptures emphasize the importance of the (father) exercising spiritual leadership in the family (Acts 11:13-14; 16:29-34; John 4:46-54; Psalm 78:1-8)
- ♦ Leading family worship is an (overflow) of living a life of worship (Joshua 24:14-28,31).
- ♦ Children must be (trained) to see that all of life is lived in relation to God (Deuteronomy 6:1-9)
- ♦ When your children are young, it is wise to establish a specific time each day when the family (gathers) for worship (Acts 2:40-47).
- ♦ Generally, the degree of (ungodliness) in the atmosphere of your home determines the degree of opposition your children will express to having a specific time of family worship (Ephesians 6:4; Galatians 6:7-8; Proverbs 11:29; Hosea 8:7)
- ♦ It is never too late to (repent) and start doing the right things (2 Corinthians 7:9-11).

**LIFE RESPONSE**

Questions parents ask most often.

- ♦ What are some of the (goals) of family worship?
  1. to have each child (trust) Christ as Savior and Lord (John 3:16).
  2. to have each child learn to (honor) God by believing in Him and by obeying Him (Hebrews 11:6; John 14:21,23).
  3. to have each child learn to (adore) God by expressing love to Him with good words and by serving Him with good works (Psalm 92:1-2; John 14:12)
  4. to have each child PARTICIPATE and (enjoy) family worship (Jeremiah 15:16).

- ♦ What are the most important (activities) in family worship?
  1. the creative communication of the (Word of God) . examples: reading, skits, plays, charades, puppet shows, shadow shows, crafts, movies, pictures, and so on
  2. a time of (prayer) .
  3. have a Glory Hallelujah March and Rhythm Gospel Band - (music) .  
Music creates a godly atmosphere in the home,  
Unifies the family's feelings and fellowship,  
Stresses scriptural truths for the family,  
Inspires the family to action and participation,  
Channels the family's thought God-ward.
  4. plan ways to (serve others) , i.e., ministry.
  
- ♦ How can I keep family worship (interesting) and life-changing?
 

1. Prayer	4. Participation	7. Repetition
2. Planning	5. Practicality	8. Simplicity
3. Preparation	6. Variety	9. Surprise

## “How to Live By Faith When You Face Painful Confusing Circumstances”

Psalm 77:1-70

### Intro

Why does God let things go on as long and as tragically as they do without giving any tokens of His interest and concern?

### Message

I. PROBLEM: Misery...with no relief in sight (77:1-9)

A. Where is God when I hurt? (77:1-3)

B. Why is God allowing this to happen to me? (77:4-6)

C. Has God abandoned me? (77:7-9)

II. SOLUTION: Deep reflection on the faithfulness of God (77:10-20)

A. Are God's works still on display? (77:10-12)

B. Do God's purposes still stand? (77:13-15)

C. Has God ever failed to lead? (77:16-20)

### Life-Response

1. Remember that everyone has their turn in the fire.  
(1 Pet. 1:6-8; 4:12-13; James 1:2-4)

2. Uphold one another in prayer. (Luke 22:31-32)

## **OUR GOD DOES NOT CHANGE!**

October 19, 1997

Psalm 102:1-23

### **REAL PEOPLE**

When I lose sight of my eternal, unchanging God (102:1-11)...

I begin to view life as a frustrating, joyless grind (1-7).

I become a nervous wreck dealing with problem people (8-9).

I feel like God is mad at me and doesn't want anything to do with me (10-11).

### **REAL GOD**

When I consider again the truth that God is eternal and unchanging (102:12-18)...

God's person does not change

(Malachi 3:6; James 1:17)

God's purposes do not change

(Proverbs 19:21; Isaiah 46:9-10; Hebrews 6:17-18)

God's plans do not change

(Psalm 33:11; Isaiah 14:24)

God's passion does not change

(Jeremiah 31:3)

God's promises do not change

(Numbers 23:19; Psalm 119:89)

### **REAL LIFE**

I realize that God always deals with me on the basis of grace (12-13).

I am reminded that God will never abandon me (14-17).

I recall that it is God's purpose to set me free and use me as a witness to His excellent name (18-22).

### **REAL CHANGE**

I resolve that there is no wiser thing to do than to live my brief life to His glory (23-28).

## **“Right Thinking About God in the Time of Evil”**

*Psalms 37:1-26*

April 25, 1999

### **INTRO**

**Message** Evil doers will perish in the judgment (vv 2,9,10,13,15,17,20,22)

I. **EXHORTATION**: You must remember to think rightly about God “in the time of evil” (37:1-11)

A. **PERSPECTIVE**: Evil doers will perish in judgment sooner or later. (1-2)

1. Do not worry! Do not envy! (1)
2. Judgment is coming. (2)

B. **OBEDIENCE**: Believers who know God’s character will serve Him faithfully in spite of suffering. (3-11)

1. Trust in the Lord! (3-6)
  - Do good to all people! (3)
  - Delight in the Lord! (4)
  - Commit your plans to the Lord! (5-6)
2. Rest in the Lord! (7-11)
  - Wait patiently as God’s plan develops! (7)
  - Do not be angry with God about your circumstances! (8-11)

II. **ENCOURAGEMENT**: You must remember to think rightly about evil doers “in the time of evil.” (37:12-26)

A. **PERSPECTIVE**: Evil doers will perish in judgment sooner or later. (12-22)

1. Their plans will eventually trap them. (12-13)
2. Their persecutions will eventually return upon them. (14-15)
3. Their prosperity will eventually fail them. (16-17)
4. Their suffering will eventually consume them. (18-20)
5. Their greed will eventually cause them to be cut off. (21-22)

B. **COMFORT**: God will take care of the believer in all suffering. (23-26)

1. He will fulfill His plan for our lives. (23)
2. He will not condemn us when we sin. (24)
3. He will meet our needs. (25-26)

### **Life Application**

Luke 6:46-49

And why do you call Me, Lord, Lord...?

I. The doctrine of the Lordship of Christ: Luke 6:46

A. Jesus Christ is Lord because:

1. He is equal in essence with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. Heb. 1:4-9 John 1:1-18
2. He colabors in ministry with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Eph. 1:15-23 Phil. 2:5-11
3. He will reign in His Kingdom (1000 years) and in eternity. Dan. 7:13-14 Rev. 1:12-16; 19:11-16

B. Jesus Christ is our Lord because:

1. We are His blood-bought possession. 1 Cor. 6:20 Acts 20:28
2. We have His indwelling presence. Gal. 2:20 Rom. 8:10
3. We serve adequately only in His power. John 15:5 Eph 3:20

II. How will you respond to the Lordship of Christ? Luke 6:47-49

A. You choose to live in the light of His Lordship by:

1. Recognizing His Person (6:47a)
2. Receiving His Word (6:47b)
3. Responding to His message (6:47c)

B. Your choice determines the foundation upon which you build your life. (6:48-49)

“Light Without Heat, Heat Without Light”  
The Nature of True Worship  
John 4:1-38  
(A Preparation for Jeremiah 7-10)  
Message #4

Intro            How to make true worshipers out of a harvest of harlots.

The Drama Unfolds

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Scene 1 | Jesus asks for a drink (4:5-9)  |
| Scene 2 | Jesus offers living water (4:10-15)<br>Pv. 23:14   John 6:63   John 7:37-39 |
| Scene 3 | Jesus opens up a wound (4:16-20)  |
| Scene 4 | Jesus speaks the truth in love (4:21-30)                                    |
| Scene 5 | Jesus applies the lesson to the disciples (4:31-38)                         |

Life-Response

1.     In true worship, we worship God with all our heart – Is. 29:13
  - a.     Worship is a way of honoring God.
  - b.     We can worship God in vain  
WHERE FEELINGS FOR GOD ARE DEAD, WORSHIP IS DEAD!
  - c.     What are the authentic feelings of worship?
    - (1)    Ps. 46:10; Hab. 2:20 \_\_\_\_\_
    - (2)    Ps. 33:8 \_\_\_\_\_
    - (3)    Is. 8:13; Ps. 5:7 \_\_\_\_\_
    - (4)    Ps. 51:7; Is. 57:15 \_\_\_\_\_
    - (5)    Ps. 42:1-2; Ps. 73:25-26; Ps. 63:1 \_\_\_\_\_
    - (6)    Ps. 30:11-12 \_\_\_\_\_
    - (7)    Ps. 42:5; Ps. 130:5 \_\_\_\_\_
    - (8)    Ps. 27:4; Ps. 16:11; Ps. 37:4 \_\_\_\_\_
2.     In true worship, we worship God with all our mind.
  - a.     Worship is a way of gladly reflecting back to God the radiance of His worth.
  - b.     True worshipers worship in Spirit and in truth.
    - (1)    Rom. 10:2
    - (2)    John 17:17
    - (3)    John 8:32
  - c.     Jonathan Edwards on John 5:35: “He was a burning & shining light.”  
--- light without heat  
--- heat without light

Conclusion



“Hypocritical Worship”  
Jeremiah 7-10  
The “What Have You Done For Me Lately” Church

Intro           The world’s strangest religion – the cargo cult  
The consumer oriented of today  
The drift toward human-centered worship

Message       God has a problem with consumer religion

- I. Consumer religion is hypocritical worship (7:9-11; 22-24)
- II. Consumer religionists do not want to hear a message from a true prophet of God (7:25-28).
- III. Consumer religionists refuse to face up to their personal sinfulness (8:4-7).
- IV. Consumer religionists are attracted to teaching that promises success, happiness, & problem-free living (8:8-12).
- V. Consumer religionists are so bent on “getting what I deserve in life” that they refuse to respond to God’s discipline (9:10-11 with 12-14; 9:15-22 with 23-26)
- VI. Consumer religionists foolishly reject the true and living God (10:1-16).
  - A. Idols are incapable (1-5). God is incomparable (6-7)!
  - B. Idols are vanity (8-9). God is reality (10)!
  - C. Idols are powerless (11). God is powerful (12-13)!
  - D. Idols are man-made (14-15). God is the Maker (16)!

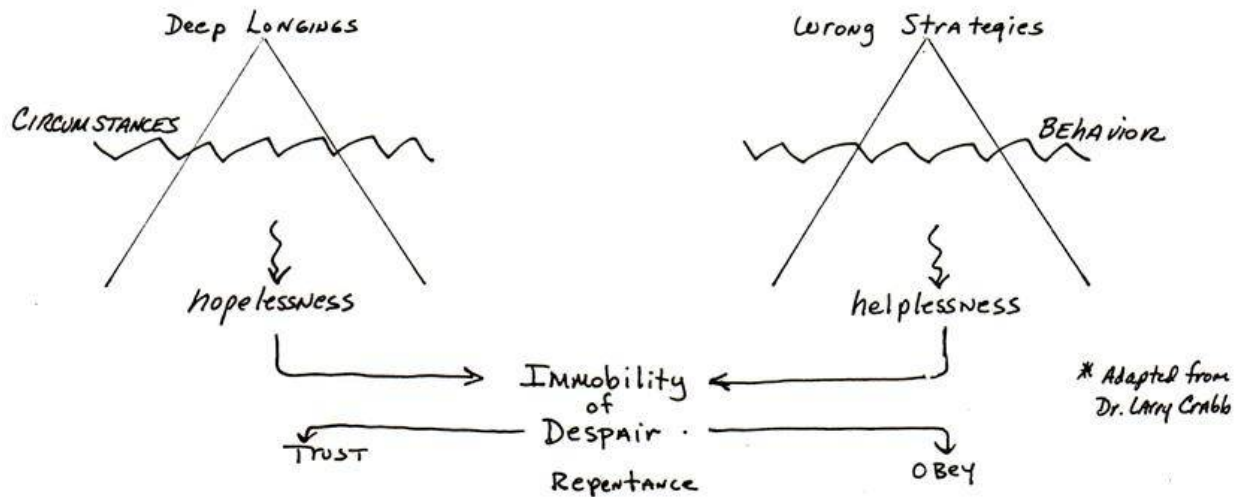
Conclusion       WHEN WE WORSHIP GOD FOR WHAT HE DOES FOR US  
RATHER THAN FOR WHO HE IS, OUR WORSHIP IS  
HYPOCRITICAL.

## “THE STEADFASTNESS OF HOPE”

1 Thessalonians 1:3c

(Message #5, Jan. 29, 1995)

INTRO. Case Story – Gomer, the Harlot, Hosea 1-3



### Observations

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

### Message

- I. Renewing a sense of hope ultimately depends on our knowledge of the Person or Character of God.
  - A. Is God faithful or isn't He?
 

1 Cor. 1:9	1 Thes. 5:24
1 Cor. 10:13	2 Thes. 3:3
2 Cor. 1:18-20	2 Tim. 2:13
  - B. Does God keep His promises or doesn't He?
 

Num. 23:19	Is. 55:10-11
Dt. 7:9	Heb. 10:23,36
Josh. 21:45; 23:14	2 Pet. 1:4
1 Kg. 8:54-56	Rev. 21:5; 22:6
- II. Renewing a sense of hope in the midst of a crisis depends on our ability to view the Problems at hand through the lens of the Person and the Promises of God.
  - A. Examples of Despair
 

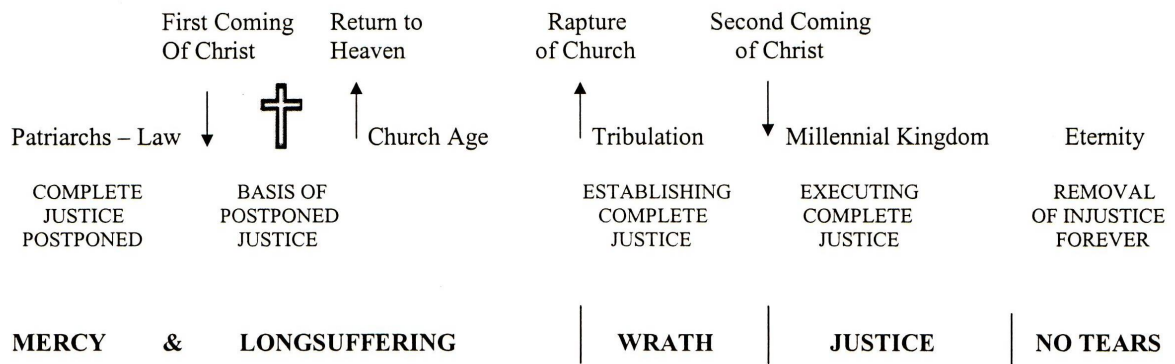
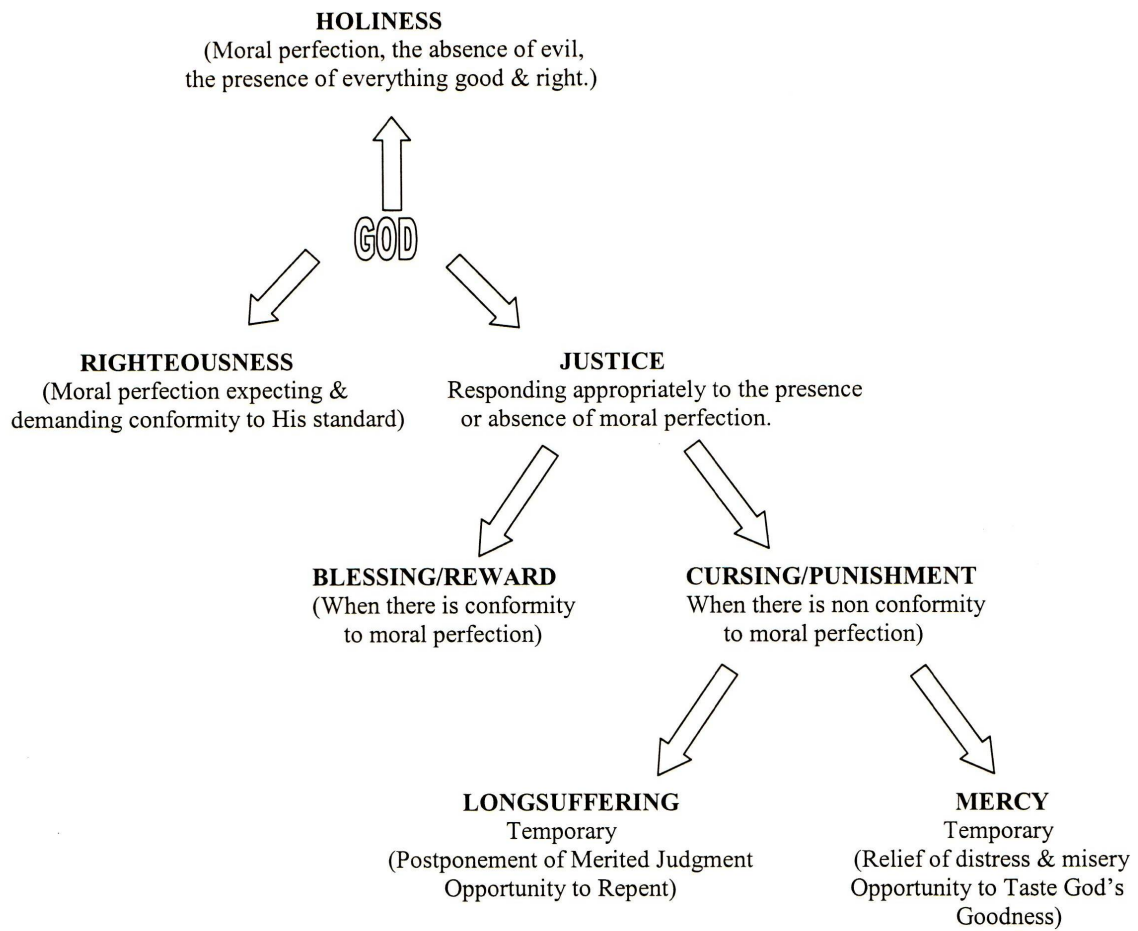
1. Jonah	2. Elijah
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  - B. Examples of Renewal
 

1. Abraham	2. Jeremiah
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### Life-Response

1. The place of repentance in renewing hope
2. The place of trust in renewing hope
3. The place of obedience in renewing hope

**RIGHT THINKING ABOUT GOD'S CHARACTER RE: TO THE PRESENCE AND IMPACT OF EVIL**



**“LOVE HIM FIRST! LOVE HIM MOST!  
PSALM 16:1-11  
June 20, 2004**

**INTRO**

- When life has you on the run...
- When circumstances cause you to reevaluate what you are doing with your life...
- When you are wondering what the wisest way to life is...

**MESSAGE LOVE GOD! LOVE HIM FIRST! LOVE HIM MOST!**

Question #1    **HOW** do I love God with all my heart? (16:1-6)

- Live in His presence! (1-2)

El	All Powerful One	My Maker
Yahweh	Covenant-Keeper	My Mediator
Adonai	Sovereign Lord	My Master

No Fear No Foe
-------------------

- Live for His people! (3-4)
- Live on His path! (5-6)

Question #2    **WHY** should I love God with all my heart? (16:7-11)

- In this life—He never stops loving you. (7-9)
  - ➔ He will guide you. (7)
  - ➔ He will guard you. (8)
  - ➔ He will give you joy. (9)
- In the life to come—He never stops loving you. (10-11)
  - ➔ He will resurrect / rapture you. (10)
  - ➔ He will reward you. (11)

# **Walk as children of light**

Ephesians 5:8b (NKJV)



**“PRAY! STUDY! OBEY!”**

**ACTS 1:12-26**

**SEPTEMBER 23, 2007**

**INTRO**

Let me remind you...

1. The Apostles had the filling of the Holy Spirit. (John 20:22)
2. The Apostles minds had been opened to understand Scripture. (Lk. 24:45)

**QUESTION**

Theophilus to Luke:

How did the Apostles deal with the deflection and death of Judas?

**MESSAGE**

Stay together! Do the will of God! Follow the Holy Spirit's leading!

- ♦ It takes a prayerful walk in the Spirit to stand together in the Lord. (12-14)
- ♦ It takes a prayerful and thoughtful study of Scripture to have the mind of Christ concerning the will of God. (15-20)
- ♦ It takes a prayerful and courageous commitment to obedience to follow the leading of the Spirit. (21-26)

**LIFE-RESPONSE**

**“BEING BOLD AND COURAGEOUS FOR THE LORD”**  
**ACTS 4:1-37**  
**JANUARY 6, 2008**

**MESSAGE**

The Events (4:1-4)

The Opposition (4:5-22)

Phase 1

The council questions the event. (5-7)

The Apostles preach the gospel. (8-12)

Phase 2

The council threatens the Apostles. (13-18)

The Apostles promise to keep preaching the gospel. (19-20)

Phase 3

The council attempts to intimidate the Apostles. (21-22)

The Apostles report to the Church. (23-24)

The Response (4:25-37)

The believers witness through their worship. (25-31)

The believers witness through their words and their works. (32-37)

**LIFE-RESPONSE**

<b>EVANGELISM</b>
-------------------

1. The Church grows when God's people obey the Lord and present the gospel to others (4:2,4)
2. God's people are powerful (Acts 1:8) in evangelism because they are filled with the Holy Spirit. (4:7, 10-12)

<b>FOLLOW-UP / DISCIPLESHIP</b>
---------------------------------

1. Follow-up is helping a new believer learn how to spend time with Jesus. (4:13)
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
2. Growing disciples have to learn how to handle persecution and suffering. (4:17-18, 19-20)
  - 1 Peter 1:3-9
  - 1 Peter 4:1-2
  - 1 Peter 4:12-19



SERVICE
---------

1. The growing disciples submit in prayer to God's sovereign plan. (4:24-28)
2. They courageously pray for (more) boldness in preaching the gospel in the face of opposition. (4:29-31)

**“GOD GUARDS HIS HOLINESS”**  
**ACTS 5:1-11**  
**JAN 13, 2008**

**INTRO**

**MESSAGE**

- ♦ Sin in the community of believers (5:1-11)
  - ➔ Event #1 – Ananias (1-2)
    - Confrontation (3-4)
    - Divine Discipline (5)
    - Burial (6)
  - ➔ Event #1 – Sapphira (7)
    - Confrontation (8-9)
    - Divine Discipline (10a)
    - Burial (10b)
- ♦ Fear in the community of believers (5:12)

**LIFE-RESPONSE**

**FOLLOW-UP DISCIPLESHIP**

1. The Holy Spirit desires holiness in us. Holiness is one aspect of Christlikeness.
  - Called to-----2 Tim. 1:9
  - Follow after-----Heb. 12:14
  - Serve God in-----Lk. 1:74-75
  - Present your members  
as instruments of-----Rom. 6:19; 12:1
  - Heart established in-----1 Thes. 3:13
  - Commanded-----1 Pet. 1:14-16
  - Justice is coming-----2 Pet. 3:11
2. Holiness is the fruit of living in a right relationship with the Holy Spirit. This means that we...
  - Respond positively to divine discipline-----Heb. 12:10-11
  - Confess sin-----1 John 1:8-2:2
  - Make up our minds to change-----2 Cor. 7:1
  - Obey Scripture-----Ephesians 4:20-24

3. Holiness is also the fruit of successfully completing trials.
- Completing trials takes endurance-----Heb. 12:1
  - Completing trials takes an example-----Heb. 12:2-3
  - Completing trials takes an education-----Heb. 12:4-11
    - the personal warfare in trials (4)
    - the parental training program in trials (5-6)
    - the parental relationship in trials (7-8)
    - the parental respect in trials (9-10)
    - the parental goal in trials (11)

**“TRUST AND OBEY – THERE’S NO OTHER WAY”**  
**ACTS 27:1-28:31**  
**JUNE 14, 2009**

**INTRO**

**BACKGROUND**     The Safe Route to Rome

1. Safe departure (27:1-12)
2. Storm (27:13-26)
3. Shipwreck (27:27-41)
4. Safely through (27:42-44)
5. Snake (28:1-6)
6. Sick (28:7-10)
7. Safe arrival (28:1-15)

\*Rest in the sovereignty of God  
**by** trusting His person and  
believing His promises.

**MESSAGE**     Where is the safest place on earth?...  
In the will of God.

♦ Paul’s report to the leading men (28:16-22)

Paul – no offense (16-17)

Jews – no grounds (18-20)

Leaders – no report (21-22)

\*Be accountable to one another  
**by** living with and testifying to  
a clear conscience

♦ Paul’s message to the crowds (28:23-29)

The message (23)

The response (24)

The rebuke (25-29)

\*Equip men and women for  
every good work **by** teaching,  
reproving, correcting, and  
training in righteousness.

♦ Paul’s ministry to the Romans (28:30-31)

Living the abundant life (30)

Preaching the kingdom of God (31a)

Teaching the Lord Jesus Christ (31b)

\*Do the will of God **by** obeying  
the commands of Scripture.

**“NEVER EXCUSE UNFAITHFULNESS”**  
**1 CORINTHIANS 7:17-40**  
**FEBRUARY 11, 2007**

**BACKGROUND**    A definition of God’s call

God’s call is:

A *sovereign* invitation. (2 Tim. 1:9)

A *gracious* invitation. (Gal. 1:15)

An *irresistible* invitation. (Romans 8:30)

to come to Christ for *salvation*. (2 Thes. 2:13-14)

to come to Christ for *fellowship*. (1 Cor. 1:9)

to come to Christ for *purpose*. (1 Peter 2:9)

resulting in *personal holiness*. (1Pet. 1:5; 1Thes. 4:7; Eph. 4:1)

resulting in *fruitful ministry*. (Col. 3:15; Acts 13:2; 16:10)

resulting in *abundant life*. (1 Thes. 2:12; 1 Pet. 5:10)

Summary

God’s call is a sovereign, gracious, irresistible invitation to come to Christ for salvation, fellowship and purpose which results in personal holiness, fruitful ministry and abundant life **for you**.

**MESSAGE**    No matter what your circumstances in life, be faithful and serve God!

- ♦ Remain faithful to God in your present calling. (7:17-24)
  - ➔ Summary principle. (17)
  - ➔ Principle illustrated. (18-24)
    - Jewish believer vs. Gentile believer. (18-20)
    - Free believer vs. enslaved believer. (21-24)
- ♦ Remain faithful to God in your present service for Him. (7:25-40)
  - ➔ Principles for singles. (25-35)
    - Be aware of the impending distress. (25-28)
    - Be aware of the imminent return of Christ. (29-31)
    - Be aware of the opportunity for undistracted service. (32-35)
  - ➔ Principles for fathers. (36-38)
    - Give her. (36)
    - Keep her. (37)
    - Choose wisely so that her needs are met. (38)
  - ➔ Principles for widows. (39-40)
    - Marry a believer. (39)
    - Serve the Lord no matter what. (40)

**“LOVE LIMITS THE USE OF FREEDOM”**  
**1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13**  
**FEBRUARY 18, 2007**

**INTRO**

The Problem Identified: Exercising your freedom in every circumstance. (8:1-13)

The Problem Clarified: Exercising your freedom without considering its effect on other believers. (8:4-8)

The Problem Elaborated: Exercising your freedom indiscriminately and causing believers to stumble. (8:9-13)

**MESSAGE** Be wise! Let love limit the use of your freedom!

- ♦ The Solution Proposed: Put love limits on the exercise of your freedom! (1-3)
- ♦ The Solution Clarified:
  - 1) You have the freedom to eat meat that has been sacrificed to idols. (4-6)
  - 2) You also have the responsibility to know how the use of your freedom affects new, growing believers. (7-8)
- ♦ The Solution Amplified:
  - 1) Exercise your freedom wisely so that you do not cause new, growing believers to stumble! (9-10)
  - 2) Do not sin against new, growing believers by leading them to do something that they are not convinced is right! (11-12)
  - 3) Be a mature believer! Be willing to limit the use of your freedom in Christ! (13)

**LIFE-RESPONSE**

- ♦ Avoiding legalism
  1. The legalist believes that every act...habit...behavior is either (black or white) .
  2. The legalist lives by rules rather than by (the Holy Spirit) .
  3. The legalist classifies everything as either (good or bad) .
  4. The legalist views (spirituality) as = do things on the good list!  
don't do things on the bad list!

**“THE COST OF SPIRITUAL SUCCESS”**  
**1 CORINTHIANS 9:1-27**  
**FEBRUARY 25, 2007**

**INTRO** Love limits liberty. (1 Corinthians 8:13)

**MESSAGE** To win the lost and to build believers, you may have to put love-limits on your freedom in Christ.

- ♦ Paul’s rights. (9:1-14)
  - ➔ The basis of Paul’s right of financial support. (1-2)
  - ➔ The proof of Paul’s right of financial support. (3-14)
    - \*1. the principle of custom. (3-7)
    - 2. the principle of just remuneration. (8-10)
    - 3. the principle of community reciprocity-rewarding beneficial service. (11)
    - 4. the precedent of other Christian leaders. (12)
    - 5. the practice of the priesthood – Nu. 18:8-32. (13)
    - 6. the instruction of Jesus – Luke 10:7. (14)
- ♦ Paul’s rights set aside. (9:15-23)
  - ➔ Paul’s motive in preaching the gospel of grace. (15-18)
    - 1. He enjoyed the integrity of his boast. (15-17)
    - 2. He enjoyed the results of his ministry. (18)
  - ➔ Paul’s motive in setting aside his right of financial support. (19-23)
    - 1. To win unsaved Jews to Jesus Christ. (19-20)
    - 2. To win unsaved Gentiles to Christ. (21)
    - 3. To win saved Corinthians (the weak) to a discipleship commitment to Christ. (22)
    - 4. To treasure up treasure in heaven and to reign with Christ in His future kingdom. (23)
- ♦ Paul’s “count” of the “cost” of setting aside his rights. (9:24-27)
  - ➔ The “prize” is worth the cost! (24)
  - ➔ The “imperishable wreath” is worth the cost! (25)
  - ➔ The desire to remain “qualified” is worth the cost! (26-27)

\*See the *Bible Knowledge Commentary* for these points.

“How God Uses Persecution to Develop Faith, Love, and Hope”

1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

Message #8 February 19, 1995

INTRO

MESSAGE

- I. What does it mean to walk worthy of your calling? (1 Thes. 2:12)
  - A. It means that you following the footsteps of the Spirit (Gal. 5:16-18).
  - B. It means that you are waging a war against your sinful tendencies (Rom. 8:9-15).
  - C. It means that you are learning to feast on the doctrines of (the faith) more and more (1 Cor. 2:12; 3:2).
- II. What is the single most important step in developing a worthy walk? (1 Thes. 2:13) Why?
  - A. Because God’s Word is alive and powerful (Heb. 4:12).
  - B. Because God’s Word always accomplishes God’s purposes (Is. 55:11).
  - C. Because God’s Word is adequate (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
  - D. Because God’s Word leads you to freedom (John 8:31-32).
- III. What is one of the evidences of a worthy walk? (1 Thes. 2:14-16).
  - A. Jesus suffered persecution because of a bold witness.
    1. Luke 7:33-34
  - B. Paul suffered persecution because of a bold witness.
    1. by zealous, unbelieving Jews (Acts 13:44-52; 14:1-7).
    2. by legalistic, believing Jews (Acts 15:1-5).
  - C. How did Jesus and Paul handle persecution?
    1. with an attitude of meekness (Is. 50:4-11).
    2. with eyes focused on Jesus (Heb. 12:1-3).
    3. with a view to increased effectiveness in the ministry (Acts 8:1,4; 11:19-21; Phil. 1:12-14).
    4. with an unshakeable confidence in the Savior’s love (Rom. 8:17, 35-39).
- IV. Who can you count on when persecution strikes? (1 Thes. 2:17-20)
  - A. A team that cares for your soul (Heb. 13:7, 17).
  - B. A team that sees the world through the individual (John 17:4, 20).
  - C. A team that sees you as their hope and joy and crown.
    1. hope – because you give them a sense of encouragement (the future is bright).
    2. joy – because you give them a sense of purpose (the ministry is worthwhile – my life counts).
    3. crown – because you give them a sense of pride (you represent a job well done).

LIFE-RESPONSE

“Faith Comes By Hearing”



**“THE HUMBLING NECESSARY FOR GREATNESS”**  
**ACTS 9:19-43**  
**APRIL 20, 2008**

**INTRO**

Before destruction the heart of man is haughty,  
but humility goes before honor.  
Proverbs 18:12

Whoever then humbles himself as this child,  
he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.  
Matthew 18:4

**MESSAGE** God will use you mightily in the ministry, but not until you are humble and dependent on Him.

Paul – The Rookie (9:19-31)

- ♦ The problem with early promotions (9:19-22)
- ♦ The breaking of a strong spirit of independence (9:23-25)
- ♦ The discovery of the value of the lesser-known brethren (9:26-31)

Peter – The Veteran (9:32-43)

- ♦ The healing of Aeneas (9:32-35)
- ♦ The resurrection of Tabitha (9:36-41)
- ♦ The commitment to follow-up (9:42-43)

**APPLICATION**

1. Value others!
2. Value God’s “humility” training program!
3. Value God’s indispensability!

## ARE YOU A LIFELONG 50%ER?

### “FRUITFULNESS IS ALWAYS YOUR CHOICE”

LUKE 8:1-21

SEPTEMBER 4, 2011

#### INTRODUCTION

Jesus was preaching the “kingdom” message (8:1). His parable was designed to teach “kingdom” truth (8:10). In fact, His teachings were new revelation (mystery) about the kingdom – material not taught in the O.T.

This parable reveals the primary character of the inter-advent age – the time between Christ’s rejection (see Mt 12) and Israel’s national conversion or Christ’s acceptance (see Rom 11:26-27).

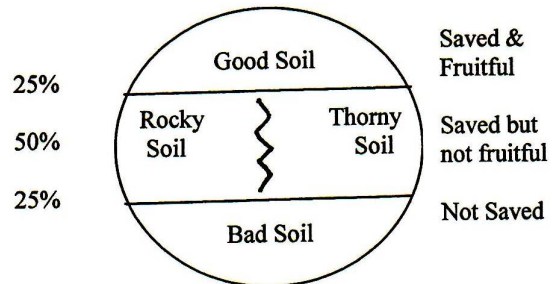
1. The period will be characterized by the sowing of the Word of God.
2. There will be some who reject the message and some who accept it.
3. It will be difficult at times to distinguish between non-Christians, carnal Christians, and fruitful Christians.

**MESSAGE** Abundant, fruitful Christian living is the product of hearing and heeding Christ’s Word! And helping other believers to do the same.

- I. The supporters of the sower. (8:1-3)
- II. The parable of the soils. (8:4-8)
- III. The purpose of the parable. (8:9-10)
- IV. The interpretation of the parable (8:11-14)

seed = the Word of God or “kingdom” truth  
sower = Christ (and you and I today)  
soil = the preparedness of our hearts

- A. the unresponsive heart (12)
- B. the impulsive heart (13)
- C. the preoccupied heart (14)
- D. the prepared heart (15)



- V. The urgency of applying the parable’s truth. (8:16-18)
- VI. The value that our Lord places on the truth of the parable. (8:19-21)

## Luke 9:1-17

### Little to Say and Little to Share

Introduction Believe it or not, as a Christian, you have supernatural ability! 1 Cor. 12:7 says that each of us has been given at least one special gift by the Holy Spirit. This gift is a supernatural enablement to minister to other members of the body of Christ (see also 1 Pet. 4:10; Eph. 4:11-12). In today's passage, even though the Church has not yet been established, there are some guidelines that we can apply as we minister to the body.

Message Without absolute dependence upon Christ for ministry you have little to say and little to share.

### Outline

I. Without dependence upon the Lord Jesus you have little to say. 9:1-6

- A. Spiritual power and authority comes from Christ alone. (1)
- B. Commission and message come from Christ alone. (2)
- C. Instruction and methodology come from Christ alone. (3-5)
- D. The Lord requires your faithful ministry. (6)

II. Parenthesis: In the light of who Jesus Christ is we ought to depend upon Him. 9:7-9

III. Without dependence upon the Lord Jesus you have little to share. 9:10-17

- A. You need to follow Christ's example in taking physical and spiritual R & R. (10)
- B. You need to follow Christ's example in serving the people to whom you minister. (11-17)

(a spiritual lesson by comparison)

- 1. never send the people home hungry (12-13a)
- 2. feed the people what you have (13b-14a)
- 3. if what you have is committed to our Lord's glory, He'll use it to satisfy their hunger (14b-17)

**“THE POWER OF PREVAILING PRAYER”**  
**ACTS 12:1-23**  
**SEPTEMBER 28, 2008**

**INTRO**

Assurance of answered prayer –John 16:24  
God sees our trials.  
God hears our prayers.  
God deals with our enemies.  
He always has and He always will.

**REVIEW**     Acts 1:8

The Church starts	The Church Scatters	The Church Sends
Acts 1-7	Acts 8-12	Acts 13-28
“Jerusalem”	“All Judea and Samaria”	“The Remotest Part”
2:41,47 5:4 6:1,7	9:31,35,42 11:21,24 12:24	14:1,21 16:5 17:12 19:20

**MESSAGE**

Persecution – Rest in the Lord. (12:1-4)  
The persecution under Herod (1)  
The martyrdom of James (2)  
The imprisonment of Peter (3-4)

Prayer – Rely on the Lord. (12:5-6)  
The challenge of prevailing prayer (5)  
The faith – rest life of Peter (3-4)

Provision – Rejoice in the Lord. (12:7-24)  
The ministry of the angel (7-11)  
The persistent prayer of the Church (12-17)  
The results of the prayer meeting (18-24)  
1. The deliverance of Peter (1-17)  
2. The discipline of Herod (18-23)  
3. The dissemination of the Word of God (24)

**LIFE-RESPONSE** To improve your prayer life...

1. You are a believer-priest. 1 Pet. 2:5,9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6
2. You have privileges before God.
  - a. confession – 1 Jn. 1:9
  - b. praise & worship – Heb. 13:15
  - c. thanksgiving – 1 Thes. 5:18
  - d. intercession – Eph. 6:18
  - e. petition – Heb. 4:16
3. You have promises from God.
  - Matt. 6:6; 7:7-8; 18:19; 21:22
  - Phil. 4:6-7

## 18 THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

I Corinthians 16:1-24

September 21, 1986

### BACKGROUND

- I. How to Manage Your Money (16:1-4)
  - A. The purpose of giving (1)
  - B. The principles of giving (2)
  - C. The protection of giving (3-4)
- II. How to Manage Your Ministry (16:5-12)
  - A. Develop a vision (5)
  - B. Be flexible (6)
  - C. Don't become superficial (7-8)
  - D. Accept opposition as a challenge (9)
  - E. Appreciate your teammates (10-11)
  - F. Be sensitive to God's leading of others (12)
- III. How to Manage Your Spiritual Development (16:13-14)
  - A. Be alert (13a)
  - B. Stand firm on the faith (13b)
  - C. Act like men (13c)
  - D. Be strong (13d)
  - E. Act in love (14)

- IV. How to Manage Your Home (16:15-20)
  - A. Serve the saints (15)
  - B. Submit to God's workers (16)
  - C. Refresh one another (17-18)
  - D. Make your home a healing community (19-20)
- V. Conclusion (16:21-24)

## “THE INDISPENSABLE FOUNDATION”

ROMANS 12:1-2

May 29, 1988

### INTRODUCTION

### OUTLINE

- I. Dedication is complete devotion to the will of God (12:1)
  - A. Dedication is a heartfelt response to the mercies of God (1a)
  - B. Dedication is the response of completely settling oneself apart to divine purpose (1b)
  - C. To dedicate yourself to God is true, inner, Spirit-directed service to God (1c)
- II. Dedication is the basis upon which you build a godly lifestyle (12:2)
  - A. Dedication motivates you to stop allowing your life to be patterned after a worldly lifestyle (2a)
  - B. Dedication motivates you to be continually changed by the renewing of the mind (2b)
  - C. Dedication is what motivates you to seek the will of God in every circumstance (2c)



## **13 QUIET TIMES IN 1 PETER ON TRIALS AND SUFFERING**

### **1 PETER**

the theme – the Salvation of the Soul

the explanation – “That total transforming work of God upon our lives, which is presently being realized in the midst of Christ-like suffering and which in the future will be unveiled in Christ-like glory.”

Prof. Zane Hodges

the process – Exercise faith  
Endure trials & suffering  
Receive God’s approval  
Grow spiritually  
Store up rewards in glory

### **SUMMARY**

New birth and future blessing - - 1:1-5

Current trials and future grace - - 1:6-12

Be holy and revere God! - - 1:13-21

Love and value one another! - - 1:22-2:10

Suffer submissively! - - 2:11-17

Suffer patiently! - - 2:18-25

Suffer redemptively! - - 3:1-7

Suffer with humility! - - 3:8-12

Suffer zealously! - - 3:13-22

Suffer purposefully! - - 4:1-6

Suffer without complaint! - - 4:7-11

Suffer joyfully! - - 4:12-19

Suffer for the unfading crown! - - 5:1-14

**“THE PURPOSE OF TRIALS”**  
**1 PETER 1:6-12**  
**December 28, 2003**

**INTRO**

**MESSAGE**

- ♦ God designs trials to change our lives (1:6-8)
  - Trials test our faith (6).
  - Trials purify our faith (7).
  - Trials strengthen our faith (8).
- ♦ God “saves our souls” as we endure these trials by faith (1:9).
- ♦ God encourages us to endure trials by studying the Prophets who understood the principle of suffering and glory (1:10-12).
  - They knew that God is gracious (10).
  - They knew that glory follows suffering (11).
  - They knew that the full realization of salvation comes later (12).

**“PRESENT TENSE” SALVATION**

Enter trials and sufferings  
Decide to patiently endure  
Prove faith by doing God’s will  
Grow spiritually  
Bear fruit  
Receive God’s approval  
Store up rewards in glory

**CONCLUSION**

When you are suffering, you discover that suffering develops compassion...because it draws us to God, and when you take a good look at God, you can see that God is the God of mercy, and that's the beginning point.

When you've been through the fire -- when you've suffered and you've been through difficult circumstances -- it qualifies you to minister.... When we go through suffering. It's always designed to be useful -- purposeful. It's always designed for us to turn around and comfort somebody else who goes through the fire later on.

I think about our own church fellowship, and I look out over your faces on Sunday mornings. I think about the losses that you've experienced in life. I think about the crises that you've been through on an individual basis. I think about the heartbreaks that I've experienced with you over the past twenty years. I think about the discouragements that I've seen in your face. I think about the broken promises and the shattered dreams, and I think about the addictions and the illnesses. When I think about the suffering that's been experienced in Grace fellowship for over a twenty-year period of time, I have to say to myself, "Yes, you are qualified to minister. You've been through the fire," and one way or another, there's somebody in this fellowship who's probably experienced what you're going through right now. Suffering strengthens your faith -- verse eight. You've been there. I know you've been there. I've watched this in our own fellowship. I've watched God take men and women and families and young people through burdens that were excessive -- that were beyond their human strength. I've seen folks even just long to go home to the Lord because they had been through enough pain and suffering in this lifetime. I've seen that kind of suffering exhaust their resources. But at the same time, notice verses nine, ten, and eleven. That suffering invited those folks in our church family to trust God's promises.

Let's become an even more caring fellowship. Let's become a healing communion, and let's do these things: Let's start more conversations. Let's listen more carefully. Let's show our feelings more. Let's speak from the heart. Let's share our life's experiences with others unashamedly.

--1997, sermon excerpt

“Suffering Today – Glory Tomorrow”

1 Peter 1:3-9

Message #3 – May 10, 1992

Intro

1. Pain in the heart (“I’m struggling”) and sin in the behavior (“I have to get down to business”) need to be dealt with. However, real, inside out change requires that we deal with sin in the heart.
2. The way God arranges things sometimes seems uniquely designed to frustrate us. Nothing is quite so unsettling as a chronic ache when there is no promise of relief. As hope fades, patient trust erodes into demandingness.
3. Perhaps the first step toward real, inside out change is to consider who is in charge. A demand that things be different represents an accusation against God, a charge that He’s guilty of mismanagement and negligence in His duties.

Message

- I. God’s plan for His children in eternity is special glory (1:3-5)
  - A. The new birth opens the door of opportunity for a glorious future inheritance (3).
  - B. A glorious future inheritance is already reserved in heaven for each one of us (4).
  - C. For the most part, this glorious future inheritance is the reward of enduring faithfulness, that is, real, inside out change (5).
- II. God’s plan for His children in time is suffering (1:6-9).
  - A. Trials are necessary if any unfaithfulness to the Lord is hindering real, inside out change (6).
  - B. Trials are always designed to promote the enduring faithfulness (real, inside out change) which is necessary to preserve our inheritance (7).
  - C. Trials are endurable because of our relationship with the Lord and because of the value of our inheritance (8-9).

Conclusion

For the unbeliever...”Glory Today – Suffering Tomorrow”  
(2 Thes. 1:3-10)

I love this illustration. The Christian life is like the dial of a clock, and the hands are the hands of God passing over and over again on the dial of the clock. The short hand, which moves an hour at a time, is the hand of discipline and trials and problems, but over that short hand of discipline passes the hand of grace, and for each movement of that hand of discipline, there's a complete sweep of the hand of grace -- day after day, moment after moment, the grace of God sweeps over our lives. Day after day, moment after moment, day after day, moment after moment. That's what it's like to be in fellowship with the Spirit of God and have the Spirit of God controlling your life.... We have to remember that the hand of grace is sweeping over that hand of trial and suffering, and we have to have that same kind of gracious application in our lives to the lives of other people around us.

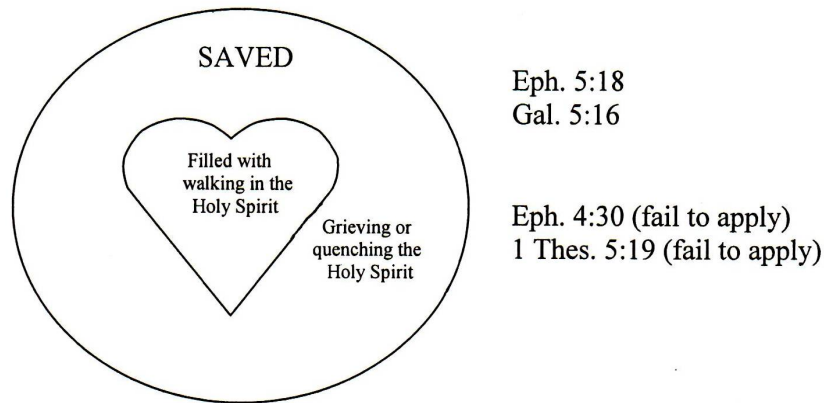
--"Unity," Philippians 2:1-11, 9/28/2003, sermon excerpt

# “HONORING SECULAR LEADERS”

1 PETER 2:11-17

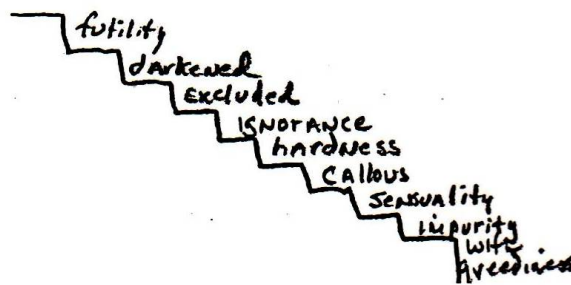
January 18, 2004

## INTRO

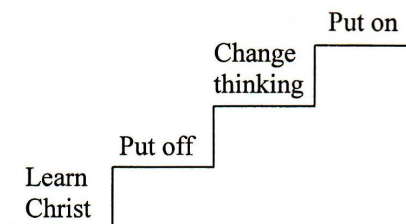


## REVIEW

Ephesians 4:17-19 THE NEED FOR CHANGE



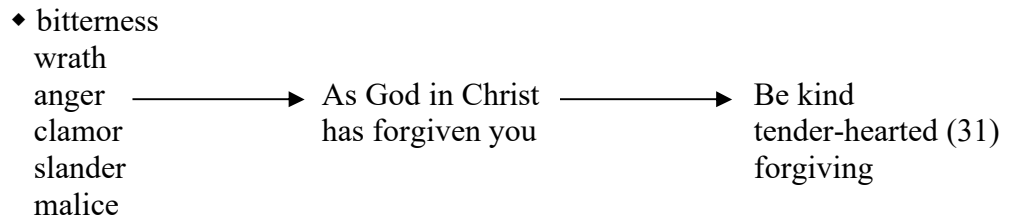
Ephesians 4:20-24 THE PROCESS OF CHANGE



Ephesians 4:25-32 THE PROOF OF CHANGE

- lying → members of one another → speak truth (25)
- anger → give devil an opportunity → resolve before sunset (26-27)
- steal → labor with hands → give to needy (28)
- unwholesome words → build up; don't tear down → speaking to present need; communicate love, acceptance, forgiveness (29)

<DO NOT GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT = DO NOT FAIL TO APPLY> (30)



**THEME** God's life-changing work in our lives as we face trials and suffering.

<How do we relate to our culture in these circumstances?>

**MESSAGE**

- ♦ The most life-impacting thing that we can do for the unsaved person is to live a godly life (2:11-12)

- Abstain from fleshly lusts! (11)

“Proper relationship with the world  
begins with the deep realization that  
we do not belong to it.”  
Zane Hodges

- Keep your behavior excellent ! (12)

“When God is glorified in every area  
of our experience the ‘soul’ is saved.”  
Zane Hodges

- ♦ The most life-impacting thing that we can do for our secular leaders is to honor them. (2:13-17)

- Submit yourself to every human institution! (13-15)
- Be an involved citizen! Be a blessing to your community! (16-17)

**CONCLUSION**

“The Attractiveness of Christlikeness in the Workplace”

1 Peter 2:18-25

Message #10 July 12, 1992

Intro

Message (Remember, real inside out change progresses along the path of suffering.)

Economic injustice (suffering in the workplace) calls for respectful submission, not resentful compliance because...

- A. that choice displays grace – one of God’s most attractive attributes – to unbelieving supervisors and co-workers (18-19).
- B. that choice puts a protective hedge around our growing treasure in heaven – the glory that continually attracts our hearts toward home (20).
- C. that choice models both an innocent and self-sacrificial spirit – core ingredients in the love of God that attracts unbelievers (21-25).



“Christlike Responses to Undeserved Suffering”

1 Peter 3:8-22

Message #13, August 9, 1992

Intro

Reminder Real, inside out change progresses along the path of suffering.

Message

- I. Christlike responses to undeserved suffering are always appropriate (3:8-12).
  - A. Extend grace to fellow-sufferers (8)!
  - B. Be gracious to those who cause your suffering (9a)!
  - C. Remember that God rewards faithfulness—now and later (9b-12)!
- II. Christlike responses to undeserved suffering are always appetizing (3:13-16)
  - A. Maintain our pursuit of God and His character (13-14a)!
  - B. Unashamedly defend our Savior and our faith (14b-15)!
  - C. Do not allow sin to ruin our testimony (16)!
- III. Christlike responses to undeserved suffering are always applauded (3:17-22)
  - A. God applauds our faithfulness (17)!
  - B. Faithfulness always leads to fruitfulness and reward (18-22)!
    1. Christ’s unashamed, public work on the cross (18-20).
    2. Our unashamed, public testimony through baptism (21-22).

The meaning of the phrase “Baptism now saves you”

Baptism

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <u>Spirit-baptism</u> which  | 2. <u>Water-baptism</u> which is  |
| 1. joins one completely to Christ (Rom. 6:3-4 – death, burial, resurrection, separation from the old life, association with new life) and | 1. a public identification with Christ - that one has exercised faith in Him (Acts 8:12; 8:35-38; 10:43-48; 16:14-15; 16:28-34) and |
| 2. joins one completely to the Body of Christ – all believers in every location (1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:5)                                  | 2. a public identification with a particular group (Acts 2:41-42).  |

Salvation

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| (have been saved)   | (are being saved)   | (will be saved)  |
| 1. The <u>imparting</u> of eternal, spiritual life. (Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5) | 2. The <u>enrichment</u> of Spiritual life already possessed (Phil. 2:12-13; 2 Cor. 3:18; James 1:21; 2:14,17,20,21,22,24,26; James 5:19-20) 1:9) | 3. The <u>treasuring up</u> of future reward for a time when spiritual life is completely perfected in glory. (Rom. 5:9-10; 1 Peter) |

## “THE ROOTS OF A CRITICAL SPIRIT”

Romans 14:1-12

July 31, 1988

### INTRODUCTION

- |    |                  |    |                               |
|----|------------------|----|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Satan's priority | 2. | Satan's 'Method of Operation' |
| 3. | God's priority   | 4. | Essentials for the saints     |

### OUTLINE

There is a problem with criticizing another believer's convictions about non-sin issues.

- I. Are you his master (14:1-4)?
  - A. The exhortation (v. 1)
  - B. The example (v. 2)
  - C. The attitude problem (v. 3)
  - D. The rationale (v. 4)
- II. Are you his conscience (14:5-9)?
  - A. The example (v. 5a)
  - B. The exhortation (v. 5b)
  - C. The motives (v. 6)
  - D. The rationale (vv. 7-9)
- III. Are you his judge (14:10-12)?
  - A. The confrontation (v. 10a)
  - B. The rationale (vv. 10b-11)
  - C. The summary (v. 12)

### APPLICATIONS

**“FAITH TESTED AND TRIUMPHANT”**  
**HEBREWS 11:17-40**  
**JUNE 13, 2010**

**INTRO** Faith believes God’s person and acts on God’s promise and wins God’s approval. (11:1-16)

**MESSAGE** Faith believes God’s person and acts on God’s promises and endures God’s testing. (11:17-40)

- I. Men and women of faith overcome life’s unsolicited (tests) (11:17-22).
  - A. The faith of overcomers (17-18).
  - B. The thinking of overcomers (19).
  - C. The conviction of overcomers (20-22).
- II. Men and women of faith overcome life’s uncalled-for (treatment) (11:23-31).
  - A. The fearlessness of overcomers (23).
  - B. The choices of overcomers (24-26).
  - C. The courage of overcomers (27-28).
  - D. The legacy of overcomers (29-31).
- III. Men and women of faith overcome life’s unexplained (tragedies) (11:32-38)
  - A. The triumphs of overcomers (32-35).
  - B. The tragedies of overcomers (36-38).
- IV. The only dynamic, liberating way to live above life’s circumstances is (to live by faith) (11:39-40).

**APPLICATIONS** When we trust God, we get what God can do.  
When we trust ourselves, we get what weak people can do.

“Discovering Your Life-Defining Purpose”

1 Peter 1:13-16

Message #5 May 24, 1992

- Intro
1. Around what have you built your identity? --- Whatever satisfies our longings most deeply will be our lord and master.
  2. For what do you long? Larry Crabb describes 3 categories of longings (Workbook p. 29)
    - #1. Casual longing – shelter, food, comfort, convenience, personal preferences
    - #2 Critical longing—deep human relationship – to be enjoyed, accepted, wanted, and competency – to have visible impact
    - #3 Crucial / Core longing—restored and deepened relationship with the Lord of the Universe – to be accepted i/s/o my sin; valued i/s/o my weakness and impact – to be useful in God’s purposes, living a life that makes an eternal difference
  3. God appeals to people to enter into relationship with Him on the basis of their longings. Relationship and Impact
  4. However, Pv. 19:3 says, “The foolishness of man subverts his way, and his heart rages against the Lord.” By nature (Jer. 2:13) we turn elsewhere to find satisfaction for our crucial longings. Whatever we turn to becomes our god.
  5. Satisfaction found in a false god will inevitably lead to a breakdown in relationships. (James 4:1-30)  
We become demanding rather than sacrificial  
We become self-occupied rather than other-centered
  6. The pursuit of satisfaction through this false god become my life-defining purpose, my goal in life.

You are saying, “This is what I must reach/do to deeply enjoy what it means to be alive. I’ll make it with or without your cooperation.”

Trans (Peter encourages us that there is hope for the satisfaction of our deepest longings. Here is what it takes.)

### Message

- I. A renewal of my mind through grace in order to put life's complexities in perspective (1:13)
- II. A commitment to surface and shed my wrong strategies (1:14)
- III. A redefinition of my life's purpose – to pursue the Lord and to possess His character (1:15-16)

### Conclusion

## 2 Timothy 2:15

### Introduction

### Message Idea

A. What effort do you put into studying your Bible? Be “diligent”

1. 2 Tim. 4:9,21
2. 1 Thes. 2:17
3. 2 Cor. 8:22

B. What is your purpose in studying your Bible? “to present yourself approved to God”

1. James 1:12
2. 2 Cor. 2:9
3. 1 Pet. 1:7

C. What is the result of studying your Bible? Positive: as a workman

1. 1 Thes. 3:2
2. 2 Cor. 1:24
3. Luke 10:2

Negative (who does not need to be) ashamed

1. 2 Cor. 7:14
2. 1 Cor. 11:22

D. How careful are you in studying your Bible? handling accurately the word of Truth?

1. Proverbs 3:6; 11:5

### Applications

1. Your devotional life
2. THE GRACE BIBLE INSTITUTE

**THE LORD'S BOND-SERVANT MUST PURSUE HOLINESS**  
**2 TIMOTHY 2:20-26**  
**JULY 14, 2013**

- I. The believer must develop a passion to pursue holiness.
  - A. Some believers pursue holiness with a passion and some don't. (v. 20)
  - B. Some believers deal with personal sin in their lives and some don't. (v. 21)
  - C. Pursuing holiness is both negative (flee) and positive (pursue) and it is not optional. (v. 22)
  - D. Don't let yourself get side-tracked from the pursuit of holiness. (v. 23)
  
- II. The believer must serve God out of a holy heart.
  - A. A believer who is passionate about pursuing holiness is the Lord's bond-servant. (v. 24)
  - B. The Lord's bond-servant is a teacher who is patient in all circumstances. (v. 25)
  - C. The Lord's bond-servant is an evangelist at heart. (v. 26)

## **“RELIGIOUS BUT NOT RIGHTEOUS”**

**LUKE 11:37-54**

**MARCH 18, 2012**

**CONTEXT** Israel’s rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ was contrary to biblical wisdom and it was spiritually disastrous. (Luke 11:14-36)

**QUESTION** How can we explain Israel’s blindness? Why did they reject overwhelming evidence proving Christ’s Messiahship? What made them follow the futile thinking and teaching of the Pharisees and scribes/lawyers?

**MESSAGE** Israel’s spiritual leaders were deceptive and deadly because they were outwardly religious without being inwardly righteous.

### **OUTLINE**

- I. The Pharisees and the lawyers deceived Israel by their inward hidden sins. (11:37-41)
  - A. The Lord’s choice not to observe pharisaic ritual shocked the spiritual leaders of Israel. (37-38)
  - B. The Lord denounced Israel’s spiritual leaders. They were unclean on the inside. (39-41)
- II. The Pharisees and the lawyers deceived Israel by their outward religious appearance. (11:42-52)
  - A. The Pharisees were deceptive because of their:
    1. False generosity (42)
    2. False respect (43)
    3. False character (44)
  - B. The lawyers were deceptive because of their:
    1. False standards (45-46)
    2. False leadership (47-51)
    3. False teaching (52)
  - C. The Pharisees and lawyers plot to kill the Lord Jesus (53)



### **APPLICATIONS**

1. Character matters. 1 Timothy 3:1-16
2. Character requires diligence. 2 Peter 1:3-11

## Luke 12:1-12

### Pressure – Packed Living

Context Israel illogically rejected Christ. 11:14-36  
Israel's so-called "spiritual" leaders were spiritually deceptive and dangerous. 11:37-41

(How are the disciples going to handle these false teachers? Should they flee if the pressure gets too intense? How can they minister to the people under these circumstances?)

Message To make a positive impact in a society that is antagonistic toward Christ:

- I. Make sure that your own actions and words are not hypocritical! 12:1-3
  - A. A hypocrite is a person who has mastered the art of keeping some things concealed. (12:1)
  - B. You can be assured that actions based on false motives and words formed in half-truths will be examined by God. (12:2-3)
- II. Allow your physical safety to rest in the hands of God the Father! 12:4-7
  - A. God alone is sovereign – nothing comes to the believer's life without His permission – therefore, reverence Him. (12:4-5)
  - B. God is your Father – He cares about you, even the insignificant details of your life. (12:6-7)
- III. Identify with and speak out for Christ in public! 12:8-12
  - A. There is no excuse for being too embarrassed (or fearful) to identify yourself as a believer in Christ. (12:8-9)
  - B. Remember the catastrophe of Israel's sin – they rejected Christ and it was spiritually devastating. (12:10)
  - C. Unashamedly speak out for Christ in pressure situations – the Third Person of the Trinity will be there with you. (12:11-12)

**FISHING WITH GRACE AND TRUTH**  
**PART 5**  
**“THE RICH FOOL”**  
**April 1, 2001**  
**Luke 12:13-24**

**CONTEXT**    Jesus trains His disciples for God’s kingdom work.  
1. Jesus is encouraging His disciples to make their faith public (12:4,5,8).  
2. Jesus assures His disciples that the Holy Spirit will enable them to share their faith effectively (12:11,12).

**MESSAGE**

**TRUTH:**    Jesus warns that a greedy attitude toward wealth can ruin your life or steal your passion for God’s kingdom work (13-21).

- ♦ The greedy pursuit of wealth often blinds the unbeliever from seeing that he is spiritually lost in sin (13-14).
- ♦ The greedy kingdom worker foolishly hoards the resources which God has provided (17-18).
- ♦ The greedy kingdom worker never thinks of ways to bless others with his resources (19-21).

**GRACE:**    Jesus promises “unfailing” wealth to the believer who invests his life and resources in God’s kingdom work (22-34).

- ♦ If you invest your life in God’s kingdom work, He will take care of you (22-31).
  - ➔ To be an effective kingdom worker, you must believe that God will meet your basic needs (22-30)
  - ➔ To be an effective kingdom worker, you must be committed to God’s will for your life (31).
- ♦ If you invest your resources in God’s kingdom work, He will make you a servant king (32-34).

Genesis 5:1-32  
#7 April 18, 1982

- Background
1. This passage links the history of the early people to the story of Noah and shows the result of sin.
  2. In spite of sin there is progress, civilization, and prosperity. What about the curse? This passage answers that question – man dies!

Message      The difference between just living and walking with God is His continued blessing.

- I. Some people just live! (5:1-20)
  - A. Life begins with so much hope and expectation. (5:1-3)
  - B. But life winds down to the dismal prospect of death. (5:4-20)
- II. Some people walk with God and enjoy His continued blessing!
  - A. The O.T. description of a walk with God.
    1. Gen. 6:9; 17:1
    2. Dt. 13:4
    3. Dt. 11:18-25
  - B. The N.T. description of a walk with God.
    1. Luke 1:6
    2. Eph. 4:1-3
    3. Eph. 5:1-17
  - C. How to walk with God and enjoy His blessing!
    1. Gal. 5:1-26
    2. Col. 1:9-10; 2 John 4-6
    3. 1 Thes. 4:1-2

## **“THE GOOD LIFE – BLESSING OR CURSING?”**

**LUKE 12:22-34**

**MAY 27, 2012**

**CONTEXT** Since you can't experience the “good life” that God gives through possessions, don't hoard them! (12:13-21)

**MESSAGE** You won't have to worry about the “good life” if you serve God. He will supply it.

### **OUTLINE**

- I. Worrying about getting and enjoying the “good life” is a faithless response to God because: (12:22-30)
  - A. Worry questions God's estimate of and response to your worth. (12:22-24)
  - B. Worry disputes God's ability to provide for you. (12:25-28)
  - C. Worry doubts God's fatherly care for you. (12:29-30)
- II. Getting and enjoying the “good life” involves learning to apply kingdom truth in the present age of grace. (12:31-34)
  - A. The “good life” involves preparation for the Kingdom Reign of Christ. (12:31)
  - B. The “good life” involves receiving gifts from God the Father. (12:32)
  - C. The “good life” involves believing and acting on the promises of God. (12:33-34)

**HOW TO HAVE A COURAGEOUS FAITH**  
**< IN A TIME WHEN GOD IS NOT MEETING YOUR EXPECTATIONS >**  
**DANIEL 10**  
**Message #11 March 23, 2003**

**INTRO**

**LIFE-CHANGE**     How to have a courageous faith

**WHEN YOU FACE CONTINUOUS, UNEXPLAINED SUFFERING...**

- ♦ Seek God and an understanding of His will through prayer and fasting (1-3).
  - ➔ Unexplained suffering (Ezra 4:1-5).
  - ➔ Need for wisdom (James 1:2-8).
- ♦ Humble yourself and worship in His presence (4-9).
  - ➔ Appearance of Christ?
    - Josh. 5:13-15, 6:2     •Ezek. 1:26-28     •Acts 9:7
    - Judges 6:11-23     •Rev. 1:13-17     •Acts 22:9
  - ➔ This then is the climactic spiritual experience in the life of Daniel, the man of God. At first he interpreted the dreams and visions of others (chaps. 2,4,5). Then he began to receive visions himself (chaps. 7,8), being transported from one geographic area to another. Next, the angel Gabriel came to Daniel's side to give him insight and understanding regarding the future of his nation (chap 9). Finally, the prophet is blessed with a glorious vision of the son of God Himself. Campbell, *Daniel*, p 118
- ♦ Do not misinterpret delay (10-12).
  - ➔ Man of preciousness (John 14:21,23).
  - ➔ Delayed answers to prayer (Luke 18:1-8).
- ♦ Let God's words of encouragement sink into your soul (13-21).
  - ➔ Angelic conflict (Rev. 12:1-9).
  - ➔ Encouragement (Luke 24:13-35).
  - ➔ Spiritual warfare
    - 1<sup>st</sup> weapon – Scripture (Eph. 6:10-18)
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> weapon – prayer (2 Cor. 10:4-5)

**COMMITMENT**

## **“BEING A FAITHFUL AND WISE STEWARD”**

**LUKE 12:35-48**

**JUNE 3, 2012**

**CONTEXT** Jesus finished the previous discourse with a reference to the Kingdom. Since it is clear that the Kingdom will not be established now (see 11:14-32), then it must be established at a later time, when He comes again (see 12:36,37,38, 39, 40,43,45,46). It is important for believers to be ready for that coming!

**MESSAGE** If you are a faithful and wise steward of the Lord, you will be rewarded with fulfilling responsibilities.

### **OUTLINE**

I. You need to be a faithful and wise steward of the Lord because He could come today. (12:35-40)

- A. Exhortation (35)
- B. Illustration (36)
- C. Reward (37-38)
- D. Application (39-40)

II. The faithful and wise steward of the Lord will be rewarded with positions of authority and governing responsibility. (12:41-44)

- A. Question (41)
- B. Definition (42-43)
- C. Reward (44)

III. The unfaithful steward will be disciplined with a severe judgment. (12:45-48)

- A. Delay (45)
- B. Unexpected visit (46)
- C. Degrees of punishment (47-48)

**APPLICATION** Today, we apply the principles of this passage with the added insight of “church doctrine.” We realize that we must be responsible stewards of our spiritual gifts. We will be rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ on the basis of our faithful use of those gifts. (2 Cor. 5:10)

As each one has received a special gift,  
employ it in serving one another  
as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 Peter 4:10

**POSITIVE STEPS TO DEVELOPING A SATISFYING MARRIAGE**  
**PART 1**  
**HONORING EACH OTHER**  
**Philippians 2:1-11**  
**September 23, 2001**

**INTRO**

**MESSAGE**    How to put your mate in first place every day!

- ♦ How two become one (1-4).
  - ➔ Spend life-changing devotional time with Christ! (1)
  - ➔ Apply what you learn about loving, committed relationships! (2)
- ♦ How two protect oneness (5-8).
  - ➔ Set aside your rights when it will help you meet your mate's deepest needs! (5-6)
  - ➔ Assume the role of a servant when it will help you meet your mate's deepest needs! (7)
  - ➔ Make personal sacrifices when it will help you meet your mate's deepest needs! (8)
- ♦ How two honor oneness (9-11).
  - ➔ Elevate your mate in your thinking! (9)
  - ➔ Elevate your mate in everyone else's thinking with praise! (10-11)

**CONCLUSION**    Three very good reasons to honor your mate!

1. The apostles taught the Church the reason for putting others first (Phil. 1:27)
2. Jesus taught the twelve to put others first (Mt. 20:25-28)
3. Jesus put the Father first (John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; 8:28-29)

**MOTTO**            **< I CHOOSE US! >**



“How to Build Relationships That Last”  
Matthew 5:17-26 (#11)

Intro

A Word to Devoted Followers

1. Jesus is teaching how to “Follow” even when we are in the midst of relationship problems.
2. The normal result of following is “Fishing.” However, sometimes we have to “unplug the salt shaker”—sometimes we have to “replace a burned out bulb” (see Mt. 5:13, 14-16). We do this by living out the character qualities of Mt. 5:3-12 in our day to day routine. It’s hard to fish when your boat is sinking.

A Word to Folks Who Are Living on the Ragged Edge

Steps to Building Relationships That Last

First Step -- Make sure that you are right with Christ (5:17-20)!

Second Step -- Deal with your anger today (5:21-22)!

Bill and Judy followed the pattern of Ephesians 4:25-32 consistently and eventually brought healing to their relationship.

1. They brought the behavioral issues that created anger out in the open (25-27).
2. They chose their words carefully – not to attack the person but to tackle the behavioral issues (29-30).
3. They made a conscious choice to affirm each other’s dignity and worth as a person while focusing on the behavioral issues (31-32).

Third Step – Take the initiative in solving problems (5:23-26)!

1. When you have been wronged – go and work it out (23-24).
2. When you have wronged someone else – go and make it right (25-26).

“A TRAITOR IN MY BED”  
Matthew 5:31-32 (#13—Part 1)

- Intro
1. Grace and Truth in Jesus (John 1)
  2. Jesus affirms the biblical standard for marriage – one man, one woman, for life (Matt. 5:31-32; 19:3-12)

Message      Determine in your heart to uphold the Lord’s standard for marriage!

- I. Make no mistake, the Lord considers the divorce of one’s wife and/or remarriage to an unbeliever the act of a traitor (Malachi 2:10-16)
  - A. The traitorous nature of the sin (10)
  - B. The specific details of the sin (11)
  - C. The inexcusability of the sin (12)
  - D. The spiritual consequences of the sin (13)
  - E. The relational consequences of the sin (14)
  - F. The national consequences of the sin (15a)
  - G. The prevention of the sin (15b-16)

Conclusion

“Footholds, Strongholds, Strangleholds”  
SPIRITUAL WARFARE  
Message #3 June 25, 1995

Intro Today’s footholds become tomorrow’s strongholds  
2 Samuel 11:1-27

Message

- I. How life-dominating sins first develop as strongholds in the mind (see 2 Cor. 10:3-5)
  - A. Environmental stimulation
    - 1. short-term exposure
    - 2. long-term exposure
  - B. Temptation
  - C. Consideration and Choice
  - D. Action, Habit, and Stronghold
- II. Why the mind needs to be renewed
  - A. Satan schemes (noema) against believers (2 Cor. 2:11)
  - B. Satan leads the mind (noema) astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ (2 Cor. 11:3).

Life-Response

Daily Devotions

Developing a habit of daily devotions (prayer, study of God’s Word, and biblical self-evaluation) will help you to:

- A. Follow the example of many people in Scripture who had a heart for God (Psalm 5:3, 63:6, 119:62, 147-148; Daniel 6:10; Acts 10:1-2, 17:11);
- B. Be equipped for spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:10-18) and to remain alert to your adversary, the devil (1 Peter 5:8);
- C. Be obedient to the scriptural command of habitual and continual prayer (Luke 18:1; Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 4:6-7; Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17);
- D. Be sustained and nourished continually by the Word of God (psalm 1:2-3; Jeremiah 15:16; Matthew 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 2:13);
- E. Be directed in all of life by the Word of God (Psalm 19:7-11; Psalm 119; II Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; II Peter 1:3-4);
- F. Focus your life on the worship and praise of God (Psalm 16:11; 34:1; 48:1; 63:1-4, 92:1-2, 95:6, 119:164; John 4:23-24; Hebrews 13:15);
- G. Examine yourself daily in the light of God’s Word (Psalm 119:105; Hebrews 4:12), confess your sins (1 John 1:9), and practice self-discipline (Galatians 5:23-24; 1 Timothy 4:7-8; II Peter 1:6), thus avoiding the necessity of the discipline of the Lord (1 Corinthians 11:31-32; Hebrews 12:5-11) and
- H. Keep yourself in a biblical position to help others (Matthew 7:1-5; Galatians 6:1-5).



DEMON TALK  
(Tune: Jailhouse Rock)  
By Steve Corbett

Verse 1

E  
Satan threw a party in the courts of hell  
The demon gang was there and they began to yell  
Got some new prisoners to attract our way  
We got to make sure they have a permanent stay

Chorus

A  
Let's talk  
E  
Let's talk  
B7 A  
Every trick in the book applies  
E A E  
Gotta feed 'em full of big fat lies

Verse 2

E  
Demon #1 hollered "evolution!"  
Got the gang dancin' like a revolution  
Satan jumped up and shouted out with glee  
We're gonna get 'em boys just follow me

Chorus

Verse 3

E

Demon #2 yelled "It's just a crutch!"

"It's all psycho-babble by just so much"

Satan gave a cry that was sheer delight

Now you're thinkin' men, we'll get 'em all tonight

Chorus

BREAK

Verse 4

E

Demon #3 shouts "Got no history!"

"It's all just fiction, not reality"

Satan was so proud said "way to go team"

We're gonna trip 'em up 'cause we got a good scheme

Chorus

**“THE IMPACT OF A SERVANT LEADER”**  
**ROMANS 15:1-13**  
**SEPTEMBER 24, 2006**

**INTRO**

The Law of Liberty (14:1-12)  
The Law of Love (14:13-23)  
The Law of Like-Mindedness (15:1-13)

**MESSAGE**

- ♦ Servant leaders maintain unity in the midst of diversity. (15:1-13)
  - ➔ The leadership of a servant leader. (1)
  - ➔ The goal of a servant leader. (2)
  - ➔ The model of a servant leader. (3-4)
  - ➔ The mind-set of a servant leader. (5-6)
  - ➔ The love of a servant leader. (7-12)
    - 1. Its expression in acceptance. (7a)
    - 2. Its source in Christ. (7b)
    - 3. Its purpose in Christ. (8-12)
      - to prove the truthfulness of God to Jewish believers (8)
      - to display the mercy of God to Gentile believers (9-12)
  - ➔ The attractiveness of a servant leader. (13)

Barnhouse well says: “This verse is a great summary of the blessed life in the brotherhood formed by our oneness in Jesus Christ.

    - The source of that life is the God of hope.
    - The measure of that life is that we shall be filled ‘with all joy and peace.’
    - The condition of that life is faith – we enter by believing.
    - The purpose of that life is that we might abound.
    - The enabling of that life is divine power.
    - The director of that life is the Holy Spirit.

These truths sum up the Christian life. (Barnhouse, pp. 72-73)

**LIFE RESPONSE**

Being a servant leader – **MEETING NEEDS** in the context of **LOVING ACCEPTANCE**.

## **“COMPETING WITH MY HEART FOR FIRST PLACE”**

**LUKE 14:25-35**

**NOVEMBER 3, 2013**

**CONTEXT** Most of Israel is following its religious leaders. They rejected Christ as Messiah and He is treating the nation, that generation, as rejected. It is obvious that there is going to be no rapid institution of the Kingdom. In this light, Jesus instructs His followers that discipleship is going to be a competition for first place in my heart.

**MESSAGE** If I want to be a useful disciple, Christ must have first place in my heart.

### **I. The requirement of discipleship. Luke 14:25-33**

A. I am not in competition with my family. 14:26

B. I am not in competition with God's will for my life. 14:27-32

1. illustration (1) 14:28-30

2. illustration (2) 14:31-32

C. I am not in competition with my possessions. 14:33

God's will for my family 14:25-26	God's will for my life 14:27-32	God's will for my possessions 14:33

### **II. The application of discipleship. 14:34-35**

A Christian who has not dedicated himself unreservedly and finally to the Lord, who has not yielded his heart's highest allegiance to Christ, is useless.

## **“THE POWER OF SPENDING TIME WITH JESUS”**

**LUKE 9:37-50**

**NOVEMBER 13, 2011**

### **REVIEW**

1. Spending time with Jesus is needed for fruitful service (9:1-17).
2. Spending time with Jesus is needed for faithful living (9:18-27).
3. Spending time with Jesus is needed for future endurance (9:28-36).

### **TRANSITION**

1. What happens when you do not sense Jesus’ presence?
2. Do you still maintain intimate fellowship with the Lord?
3. Do you still do your ministry in the strength of the Spirit?

### **MESSAGE**

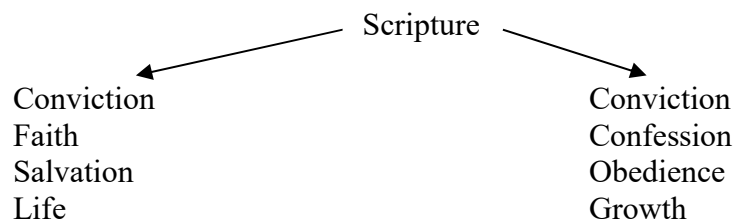
If we withdraw from spending time with Jesus, we lose our spiritual power and divine perspective on life.

### **OUTLINE**

- I. Withdrawal from spending time with Jesus wilts our faith and saps our spiritual power (9:37-43a)
- II. Withdrawal from spending time with Jesus dims the light on our ability to understand basic doctrine (9:43b-45).
- III. Withdrawal from spending time with Jesus exposes our inability to work well with others (9:46-50).

### **APPLICATION**

How do I spend time with Jesus?





**FAITH WORKS**  
Message #3 July 30, 2000  
Luke 6:27-36

**INTRO**

**Review**

**HOW TO SERVE THE UNBELIEVING COMMUNITY**

1. When we reach out to meet the needs of broken hurting people, God reaches out to bless us (Isaiah 58:1-14).
2. When we reach out to meet the needs of broken hurting people, the gospel message must come first (Luke 4:14-30).

**Message**

When we reach out to meet the needs of broken hurting people, we must display grace in our attitude and actions. (Luke 6:27-36)

**Principles in handling rejection (6:27-28)**

Keep on loving (27a)!  
Keep on doing good (27b)!  
Keep on speaking good words (28a)!  
Keep on praying (28b)!

**Examples of handling rejection (6:29-31)**

Keep on presenting (29a)!  
Do not withhold (29b)!  
Keep on giving (30a)!  
Do not keep on demanding (30b)!  
Keep on doing (31)!

**Displaying grace while handling rejection (6:32-34)**

Unconditional love displays the powerful attractive grace of God (32).  
Unconditional service displays the powerful attractive grace of God (33).  
Unconditional generosity displays the powerful attractive grace of God (34).

**Keeping the Kingdom perspective while handling rejection (6:35-36)**

Let His promises motivate you (35a).  
Let His character shape you (35b-36).

**Life Response**

“How to Deal With the Wrong Crowd”  
Team Impact (Pt. 2)  
Proverbs 1:8-19

Intro Judas (Mt. 26:47-50) and the wrong crowd.

Message

- A. Doctrine. Joiners do not change the wrong crowd (1:8-9)
1. Review – the 7 facets of wisdom (see 1:2-4) made possible through God’s Word.
    - (1) Wisdom – possessing craftsmanlike skill
    - (2) Instruction – capable of thinking in depth
    - (3) Understanding – able to discern between two options
    - (4) Wise Behavior – able to do the right thing at the right time
    - (5) Prudence – capable of seeing through deception, not gullible
    - (6) Knowledge – capable of enjoying an intimate relationship with the Lord
    - (7) Discretion – able to form realistic plans
  2. Key Verses – 1 Cor. 15:33-34; Phil. 3:18-19
- B. Reproof. The wrong crowd entices with foolhardy, godless purposes (1:10-14).
1. Symptoms to watch for
  2. Understanding deprogramming / reprogramming
- C. Correction. Avoid the wrong crowd because it always moves you toward self-destruction (1:15-19).
1. Six factors that affect your introduction into the wrong crowd.
  2. A formula for failure. False attitudes/actions + the wrong crowd feeding them = spiritual degeneration.
- D. Training. Join a team that aims at Christian character development and ministry!
- E. Ministry. Approach individuals in the wrong crowd on a team basis!

Conclusion

Romans 8:26-27

May 7, 1978

“The Problem of Prayer”

- I. The problems of prayer arise primarily from our weaknesses (infirmities) but the Holy Spirit is always present to help us pray. 8:26
  - A. One particular manifestation (example) of our weakness is that in many of life's perplexing circumstances we do not know what to pray for. (8:26a)
  - B. The Holy Spirit helps us carry the load when we are experiencing perplexity in prayer by helping us pray. (8:26b)
- II. God hears, approves, and welcomes our groanings because they are produced (ultimately) by the Holy Spirit according to God's plan. 8:27
  - A. God hears the faintest unspoken whisper of our hearts because He knows what the Holy Spirit (who is helping us) is thinking. (8:27a)
  - B. God approves and welcomes our groanings because they are part of His plan for us. (8:27b)

APPLICATION

When you are faced with uncertainties and do not know “what” to pray for start with some things that are always right.

- 1. Praise God for who and what He is and that you are in relationship to Him.
- 2. Spiritual requests: Greater knowledge of God, of the Lord Jesus, of Their love, greater holiness, spiritual growth, help in the battle against sin.
- 3. Plead (claim) the promises of God.

**“THE IMPACT OF AN UNFORGIVING SPIRIT”**

**LUKE 17:1-10**

**FEBRUARY 2, 2014**

**CONTEXT** The Pharisees, because of their legalism and ritualism, had placed many stumbling blocks before the people. In fact, their rejection of Christ caused many Jews to turn away from Him. Jesus wants to continue to disciple the twelve so He uses this occasion to talk about stumbling blocks – tempting other people to sin. If you are not careful you can cause a brother to stumble!

**MESSAGE** You can avoid tempting other Christians to sin by maintaining a forgiving spirit! Here’s how to do it!

1. Realize that an unforgiving spirit can be a stumbling block and cause other believers to sin! (vv. 1-2)
2. Don’t let one believer’s particular sin against you become an issue! When necessary – point it out! When confessed – forgive it and forget it! (vv. 3-4)
3. Believe God’s Word and act on it. Then you will strengthen your faith and you will be motivated to forgive others. (vv. 5-6)
4. Do what is right whether you feel like it or not. Forgive people because you are an obedient servant of Christ! (vv. 7-10)

**FIRST STEPS IN GLORIFYING GOD**  
**LUKE 17:11-19**  
**APRIL 6, 2008**

**CONTEXT**

At first glance, this passage is a minor incident tucked away between two important teachings (forgiveness – 17:1-10 and the signs of Christ’s coming – 17:20-37). Yet as far as the impact on your spiritual life is concerned, this portion stands at the top of the list. The Lord is going to give these apostles (17:5) great revelations and He is going to use them to accomplish great works. The primary response that is expected of these men is one of gratitude or thankfulness for these great blessings.

**MESSAGE** If you want to glorify God and enjoy Christ’s approval, learn to say “thank you!”

**OUTLINE**

- I. The cry of the ten lepers. (Luke 17:11-13)
  - A. The reasons for their cry. (11-12)
  - B. The expectation in their cry. (13)
- II. The cleansing of the ten lepers. (Luke 17:14)
  - A. The procedure for ceremonial cleansing. (14a) see Lev. 13-14.
  - B. The conviction to step out on faith (14b)
- III. The gratitude of one cleansed gentile. (Luke 17:15-19)
  - A. The leper responded to Jesus’ work. (15-16)
  - B. Jesus responded to the leper’s grateful attitude. (17-19)

**APPLICATION** Learning to say “thank-you Lord.” (eucharisteō)

What can you be thankful for according to these verses?

- 1. Rom. 6:17-18
- 2. Rom. 7:25
- 3. Rom. 14:6
- 4. 1 Cor. 15:57
- 5. 2 Cor. 2:14

What can you pray for and thank God for in the lives of fellow-believers?

- 1. Rom. 1:8
- 2. 1 Cor. 1:4
- 3. Phil. 1:3
- 4. 1 Thes. 1:2
- 5. 1 Thes. 3:8,9
- 6. 2 Thes. 1:3
- 7. 1 Tim. 2:1

**WHY DID GOD PUT ME ON THIS PLANET?**  
**ROMANS 1:1-7**  
**October 16, 2005**

**REVIEWING**

“In an exhortative letter confronting their Jewish/Gentile relationships, Paul challenged the Roman Churches to participate fully in God’s present harvest of all peoples by showing that their ethnocentrism opposed God’s eternal plan of justifying people by faith (ch. 1-4), of giving them new life in the Spirit (ch. 5-8), and of mercifully placing them in His redemptive plan (ch. 9-11).” (Russell, BibSac, April – June, 1988, p. 180)

**SUMMARIZING**    Jesus Christ is Lord of your life!

**UNDERSTANDING**

- ♦ Jesus Christ is Lord of your (life) ! (1)
  - Paul → servant                      You → servant
  - Paul → called/gifted              You → called/gifted
  - Paul → set apart/Gospel          You → set apart/Gospel
- ♦ Jesus Christ is the Lord of (all believers). (2-4)
  - He is the promised Messiah. (2)
  - He is the Son of God with power, the God-Man. (3-4)
- ♦ Jesus Christ is the Lord of your (purpose) ! (5-6)
  - Paul → champion of grace              You → champion of grace
  - Paul → purpose/obedience of faith      You → purpose/obedience of faith
- ♦ Greetings (7)
  - Beloved
  - Called
  - Grace & Peace

**APPLYING**

For spiritual growth

teaching – Do you believe these truths? Explain how you are serving Christ according to His purpose for your life.

reproof – What sin do you need to (confess) ? What non-Christ-like attitude or actions do you need to (put off) ?

correction – How has Scripture (changed your thinking) this week? What Christlike behavior do you need to (put on) ?

For fellowship

Are other believers at Grace (called, gifted, set-apart servants) of Christ?

Do you treasure them? How is this reflected in your actions? How about your attitudes?

For ministry

For evangelism

For worship

## **RELATING**

Marriage

Do you treat your mate like a called, gifted, set apart servant of Christ?

Have you hindered his/her spiritual development in any way? What are you going to do about it?

In what ways have you teamed up to accomplish God's purpose for your lives – to bring about the obedience of faith...

in your family?

in your neighborhood?

in your workplace?

Family

Work

School



## NO TURNING BACK FOR ME

Steve Corbett, 7/2/2006

### VERSE 1

E  
I am walking in Your Spirit now  
B7  
I am standing at Your throne of Grace  
E  
I am sitting in Your presence Lord  
E  
I am worshiping before Your face  
E  
I am feasting on Your holy Word  
A  
I am tasting Your reality  
A B E F#  
I am glimpsing heaven's great surprise  
A B7 E  
And there's no turning back for me

### CHORUS

A  
No turning back to family tradition  
E  
No turning back to "close your mind!"  
F#  
No turning back to empty ritual  
B  
No turning back to social climb  
A  
No turning back to works - salvation  
E A  
No turning back to slavery  
A B E F#  
I am glimpsing heaven's great surprise  
A B7 E  
And there's no turning back for me



## **VERSE 2**

E  
I am fighting sin with Your weapons Lord  
B7  
I am taking back surrendered ground  
I am staking life on Your promises  
E  
I am finding that Your power abounds  
E  
I am standing firm 'gainst the evil one  
A  
I am guarding this ole heart set free  
A B E F#  
I am glimpsing heaven's great surprise  
A B7 E  
And there's no turning back for me

**HOW TO SERVE WITH CONFIDENCE**  
**< IN A PLACE WHERE GOD IS NOT WELCOMED >**  
**DANIEL 3**  
**Message #3 January 16, 2003**

**INTRO**

**LIFE-CHANGE**      How to Serve with Confidence

- ♦ Be prepared to deal with **false accusations** when you choose to follow God's will (1-12).
  - God's enemies are competing for your heart's allegiance (1-7).
  - God's enemies are working to destroy your relationship with Him (8-12).
- ♦ Be fearless as you face **threats** that tempt you to abandon God's will (13-18).
  - God's enemies will give you many invitations to sin (13-15).
  - God's enemies will not defeat you if you know Him and trust Him (16-18).
- ♦ Remember that **difficult circumstances** come upon you to test your faith in God (19-23).
- ♦ Don't forget that God may permit you to go through difficult circumstances in order to turn one of His enemies into a **seeker** (24-30).
  - First, God gets their attention (24-27).
  - Second, God raises their opinion of His person and work (28-30).

**COMMITMENT**

**HOW TO SERVE WITH INTEGRITY**  
**< IN A PLACE WHERE GOD IS NOT WELCOMED >**  
**DANIEL 6**  
**Message #6 February 16, 2003**

**INTRO**

**LIFE-CHANGE**      How to Serve With Integrity

- Determine to obey the Lord in all things (1-9)!
  - ➔ Cultivate excellence in your professional life (1-3)!
  - ➔ Maintain integrity in your personal life (4-9)!
- Spend time with the Lord every day (10-11)!
  - ➔ Speak to God through prayer!
  - ➔ Let God speak to you through His Word!
- Depend on God's character and promises in difficult circumstances (12-28)!
  - ➔ You will be persecuted if you openly identify with Christ (12-17).
  - ➔ God will either deliver you from persecution or He will deliver you to heaven (18-24).
  - ➔ When you unashamedly identify with Christ, God gets the glory – no matter what the outcome (25-27).
  - ➔ God exalts the humble, trusting believer (28).

**COMMITMENT**

Luke 6:22-26

It Sometimes Hurts to Be Like Jesus

I. Why does the world persecute Christians?

- A. The world is in the system and the people through which Satan reigns.
- B. The satanic cosmos (world) is in direct opposition to Jesus Christ.
- C. Christians are persecuted because of the presence and the practiced of Christ in their lives.

II. What knowledge is the basis of the believer's joy in persecutions?

- A. Persecution demonstrates identity with and growth in Christ.
- B. Persecution is often used by God to draw men to Christ as they see believers respond in love.
- C. Persecution enriches your life here and now and hereafter.

III. How do you respond when you're on the firing line?

- A. Be a peace-keeper! Rom. 12:18
- B. Maintain your convictions! 2 Tim. 3:14
- C. Uphold the honor of Christ – Defend your position! 1 Pet. 3:15
- D. Trust God to work things out! 1 Pet. 4:19 Is. 43:2

**“THE IDENTITY OF A MAN OR WOMAN OF GOD”**  
**1 TIMOTHY 6:11-14**  
**DECEMBER 2, 2012**

**INTRO**

**MESSAGE** Four things identify a man or woman of God.

1. What he or she flees from

- |                          |                                    |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| a. <u>flee</u>           | b. <u>avoid</u>                    |
| 1 Cor. 6:18              | 1 Tim. 1:4                         |
| 1 Cor. 10:14             | 1 Tim. 4:7                         |
| 2 Tim. 2:22              | 1 Tim. 6:20                        |
| c. <u>false prophets</u> | d. <u>false prophets and greed</u> |
| Num. 22-24               | Acts 20:33-34                      |
| Jer. 6:13                | 1 Cor. 9:14-15                     |
| Ezek. 13:19              | Phil. 2:20-21                      |
| Micah 3:11               | 1 Thes. 2:7-9                      |

2. What he or she follows after

- |                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| a. righteousness | d. love     |
| b. godliness     | e. patience |
| c. faith         | f. meekness |

3. What he or she fights for

- a. the fight is lifelong
  - 2 Tim. 2:3-4
  - 2 Tim. 4:7
- b. the fight is agonizing
- c. the fight is a good fight
- d. the fight has its reward

4. What he or she is faithful to

- 2 Tim. 1:13-14
- 1 Kings 13:1-24

**SUMMARY** The man or woman of God is known by what he or she flees from, follows after, fights for, and is faithful to.

## **“SINGLE-MINDED DEVOTION TO THE WILL OF GOD”**

LUKE 9:51-62

**JANUARY 1, 2012**

### **INTRO**

Men and women who are used by God are single-minded in their devotion to do God's will.

Examples      Jacob (Gen. 32:24-30)      Ruth (1:16-18)      Jonathan (1 Sam. 14:6-7)

### **MESSAGE**

A disciple is useful only if he is single-minded in his devotion to Christ and commitment to do His will.

- I. Jesus determines to follow God's plan in spite of rejection by the nation (9:51-56).
  - A. Jesus' determination overcomes the heartbreak of rejection (51-53).
  - B. His rejection causes great frustration for the disciples (54).
  - C. Jesus' rebuke teaches the disciples that obedience to God's will is more important than the acceptance of men (55-56).
- II. Disciples must determine to follow Jesus regardless of circumstances or family ties (9:57-62).
  - A. The “superficial” follower never really counts the cost of being a committed disciple (57-58).
  - B. The “me first” follower never gets his priorities in order so that he can serve Christ single-mindedly (59-60).
  - C. The “mama's boy” follower never cuts the umbilical cord and gives Jesus and the will of God first allegiance (61-62).

### **APPLICATIONS**

The need:      Single-minded devotion to the will of God.

#### **Suggested by this passage**

- 1. Is there an aspect of God's will for your life that is being hindered or delayed because of parental influence?
- 2. Do “outside” commitments hinder your service for the Lord?
- 3. Are you hesitating in your dedication to serve in the local church because it might cost too much of your time and energy?

#### **Others**

- 1. Biblical morality – are your thought-life and actions unswervingly in line with God's will?
- 2. Reading the Bible – are you expanding your depth of knowledge in the Word of God?

**“HOW TO HEAT UP YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE”**  
**REVELATION 3:14-22**  
**NOVEMBER 17, 2013**

**MESSAGE**    Let’s take your spiritual temperature.

- I. The saddest, most heart-sickening thing to the Lord Jesus Christ is to be positioned in Him (14-18)...
  - A. ...but not participate in His character (14).
  - B. ...but have no passion for His work (15-16).
  - C. ...but have no perception of His presence or absence (17-18).
- II. There is only one course of action when lukewarm, carnal Christians dominate a local church (19-20).
  - A. Each one must repent and recapture his original zeal for the Lord’s work. This requires reproof and discipline (19).
  - B. Each one must reopen the door of his heart and rekindle his love for the Lord (20).
- III. The rewards for those who consistently do the right thing over time are spectacular (21-22).

**APPLICATION**    A fresh approach to heat up your quiet time – the 6 P’s

Passage – What portion of God’s Word will I study today?

Principle – What is the truth of God’s Word in this passage?

Problem – In what ways have I not lived in the light of this truth?

Plan – What will I do today to live in the light of this truth?

Proof – What will be the evidence in my life that I have applied this truth?

Partner – Who will hold me accountable to keep applying these truths?

Revelation 2:1-7

September 24, 1978

Central Idea: Personal devotion to our ever-present Lord and vital fellowship with the brethren energizes a church's ministry and produces future rewards for the faithful believer.

I. The character of the Lord (2:1)

- A. As a church we can depend upon our Lord, the all-powerful Shepherd, for supervision.
- B. As a church we can depend upon our lord, the ever-present Shepherd, for fellowship.

II. The commendation of the church (2:2-3)

- A. As a church we must minister to our community and to one another.
- B. As a church we must preserve moral and doctrinal purity.
- C. As a church we must bear one another's burdens.

III. The condemnation of the church (2:4)

- A. As a church we must grow in personal devotion to our Lord.
- B. As a church we must maintain vital fellowship with the brethren.

IV. The Counsel of the Lord (2:5-6)

- A. As a church we must constantly focus and refocus our attention on the Person of the Lord Jesus and His work on our behalf.
- B. As a church we must deal decisively with the sin that would draw our affection away from Christ and destroy our ministry.

V. The challenge to those who hear (2:7)

As an individual believer you must take active steps of obedience in each of the above areas. Your future rewards depend upon your faithfulness.



### Practical Steps for Growing in Personal Devotion to Your Lord

Our love for Christ is diminished and soon quenched by a competing love for other things, namely, the world's attractions. A believer tends to slip back in the world by stages:

1. Friendships with the world (James 4:4)
2. Spotted by the world (James 1:27)
3. Loving the world (I John 2:15-17)
4. Conformed to the world (Rom. 12:2)

**BACKSLIDING**  
**EPHESIANS 4:17-19**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Walk in futility --                                      | You make a decision that God's message is not authoritative – whatever the moral issue. (17)   |
| 2. Darkened in understanding --                             | Consequently, you have no convictions (or at least, unbiblical convictions) in the mind when they are needed for decision making. (18a)  |
| 3. Excluded from the life of --<br>God because of ignorance | If you are pressured about your decision, you will give God the stiff fist and withdraw from fellowship with Him. (18b)                  |
| 4. Hardness of heart --                                     | After that, you deliberately refuse to listen to or examine God's message on this sin. (18c)   |
| 5. Having become callous --                                 | You continue stubbornly avoiding God's message until your conscience is numbed and calloused to this sin. (19a)                          |
| 6. Sensuality --  | With the mind calloused to a particular sin, you make a commitment to gratify your senses. (19b)   |
| 7. Impurity with greediness --                              | Ultimately, you will develop an addiction to this sin, needing more and more of it to give you the previous level of satisfaction. (19c) |

**GO DEEP FOR A CHANGE!**  
**EPHESIANS 4:17-32**

Eph. 4:17-19

The Priority of Change
------------------------

Deep Addictions

Futility  
 Darkened Understanding  
 Excluded from the life of God  
 Ignorance  
 Hardness of Heart  
 Callous  
 Sensuality  
 Impurity with greediness

Eph. 4:20-24

The Process of Change
-----------------------

Deep Knowledge,  
 Repentance, and  
 Obedience

Learn Christ (20-21)

Put off (22)

Change thinking (23)

Put on (24)

Eph. 4:25-32

The Proof of Change
---------------------

Deep Abiding Fruit

Put Off

Put On

Don't lie

Speak truth (25)

Don't be angry

Deal with it before sundown (26-27)

Don't steal

Work and give (28)

Don't use hurtful words

Edify, meet needs, give grace (29-30)

Don't be bitter

Be kind, tender-hearted, forgive (31-32)

**“DON’T PASS UP THE OPPORTUNITY TO REPENT”**

**HOSEA 7:1-16**

**APRIL 14, 2013**

**INTRO** Opportunity to repent Ps. 32:1-11; 51:1-13

**MESSAGE** Terrible consequences will fall on those who harden their hearts.

I. Israel’s leaders have forsaken fellowship with the Lord. (7:1-7)

Dt. 31:16-17	Rom. 1:6	Jer. 2:13-19
1 Chron. 28:9	1 Cor. 1:9	
2 Chron. 15:2		
Ezra 8:22		
Ps. 89:30-34		

II. Israel’s leaders have compromised and hardened their unrepentant hearts. (7:8-12)

Ps. 95:6-11	Matt. 13:13-15
Ex. 17:1-7	Matt. 21:28-32
Heb. 3:7-19	Lk. 16:27-31
2 Chron. 36:11-13	
Dan. 5:20-22	

III. Israel’s leaders have demonstrated total depravity by the extent of their sin. (7:12-16)

A. They are corrupt in nature.

Job 25:4-6  
Ps. 58:3  
Jer. 17:9

B. They are evil in desire.

Gen. 6:5  
Jer. 16:12  
Jn. 3:19-20

C. They are sinful in deed.

Ps. 14:1-3  
Prov. 20:9  
Ecc. 7:20

**APPLICATION**

Isaiah 64:6  
Galatians 3:22

Ephesians 2:4-10  
“Displaying the Grace of God”  
Message #11

Intro

I. God saved you because He loves you! (2:4-5a)

- A. He is rich in mercy.
- B. He is great in love.

II. God saved you by His grace! (2:5b-6)

- A. He made you alive together with Christ.
- B. He raised you up with Christ.
- C. He seated you with Christ

III. God saved you for His glory! (2:7-10)

- A. He will display His grace in you for all eternity. (7)
- B. He expects His grace to be displayed in your life today.
  - 1. Make humility a life-time response! (8-9)
    - a. Know what humility is!  
Tapeinophrosune = servant way of thinking
    - b. Watch out for problem areas!
      - (1) Religious pride (Phil. 3:4-6)
      - (2) Social pride (Matt. 23:6-11)
      - (3) Personal pride (1 John 2:16)
    - c. Let Scripture reshape your thinking!
      - (1) What you have – you received!  
(1 Cor. 4:7 – Rel. pride)
      - (2) What you can do – you received!  
(Deut. 8:17-18 – Soc. pride)
      - (3) Who you are – you are by the grace of God!  
(1 Cor. 15:10 – Per. pride)
    - d. Claim the benefits of humility!
      - (1) dwell in them Is. 57:15
      - (2) esteem them Is. 66:2
      - (3) give them grace Jm. 4:6
      - (4) lift them up 1 Pet. 5:6
      - (5) exalt them Lk. 18:14
  - 2. Make service a life-time response! (10)

Conclusion

**“All Talk and No Show”**  
**Ephesians 4:1-16**  
**March 15, 1998**

**Intro**

To continue to “connect” with fellow believers and to experience the life changing fellowship God intended, we must deal with nine obstacles that keep popping up on our “Worthy Walk.”

#1	Personal Apathy	(4:1-6)
#2	Nonconformity	(4:7-16)
#3	Slow Change	(4:17-32)
#4	Lack of Reproof & Correction	(5:1-14)
#5	Dispassionate Worship	(5:15-21)
#6	Unloving Husbands & Disrespectful Wives	(5:22-33)
#7	Obnoxious Children & Dictator Parents	(6:1-4)
#8	Dishonest Employees & Oppressive Employers	(6:5-9)
#9	Spiritual Unpreparedness	(6:10-20)

**Message**

- I. We have a responsibility to connect with fellow believers. There is no room for “all talk and no show.” (4:1)
- II. When we take seriously our responsibility to connect we face an attitude battle and lots of hard work. (4:2-3)
  - A. Loving actions cannot be separated from loving attitudes (2)
    1. humility
    2. gentleness
    3. patience
  - B. Preserving the unity that the Holy Spirit has created is hard work (3)
- III. We have the work of our Triune God as the motivation to take seriously our responsibility to connect (4:4-6).
  - A. We have one unity in the Holy Spirit (4).
    1. one body
    2. one Spirit
    3. one hope of our calling
  - B. We have one unity in the Son (5)
    1. one Lord
    2. one faith
    3. one baptism

- C. We have unity in the Father (6)
  - 1. one God and Father

**Life-Response**

**THE PATIENCE OF GOD**  
**JONAH 1:1-4:11**  
**Message #10**  
**December 8, 2002**

**KNOWING AND EXPERIENCING GOD**

**PRESENCE**

“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is **PATIENT** toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9

Why did Jonah refuse to evangelize Nineveh?

Was the mission too **difficult**?

Was the mission too **dangerous**?

Was the mission too **depressing**?

**CONVERSATION**

- ♦ Jonah disobeys God’s command to evangelize the lost at Nineveh (1:1-2:10).

- ➔ God’s command (1:1-2)

- ➔ Jonah’s disobedience (1:3)

- ➔ God’s discipline (1:4-17)

- God sovereignly controls the wind and the seas (4-16).

- God sovereignly controls the fish (17).

- ➔ Jonah’s repentance (2:1-9)

- Jonah acknowledges God’s sovereignty (1-6).

- Jonah renews his vow to worship God alone (7-9).

- ➔ God’s deliverance (2:10).

- ♦ Jonah obeys God’s command to evangelize the lost at Nineveh (3:1-4:11).

- ➔ God recommissions (3:1-3).

- ➔ Jonah preaches (3:4).

- ➔ Nineveh believes (3:5-9).

- ➔ God forgives (3:10).



➔ Jonah pouts (4:1-5).

➔ God teaches (4:6-11).

- God prepares an illustration (6-8)
- God explains how he values lost Gentile souls (9-11).

## **RESPONSE**

### **BELIEVE?**

Did God give me something to strengthen my faith and to resolve my doubts?

- The book of Jonah is a reminder to Israel of her missionary purpose.
- God is sovereign. He will accomplish His purposes
- The repentance of the Gentiles is a rebuke to Israel. Jonah's spiritual hardness illustrates Israel's callousness. God is a God of love and grace.
- Jonah's lack of divine perspective makes his repentance (and Israel's) a greater problem than the repentance of Nineveh. Still true today!

### **FEEL?**

Did God give me something to thrill my heart and to ignite my passion?

- Salvation is not by works!
- God will not cast us aside because of faithlessness!

### **DO?**

Did God give me something to deepen my love and to challenge my commitments?

**EVANGELIZE THE LOST! HE ACCEPTS NO EXCUSES!**

“Can Anyone Count on You?”  
The Faithfulness of God (Pt. 3)

Intro

Message

What does faithfulness look like when you live it out daily?

1. You keep your promises. Pr. 25:14; 20:25; Eccl. 5:5; Mt. 5:37
2. You honor your marriage. Heb. 13:4; 1 Cor. 13:4-8
3. You have a ministry. 1 Pet. 4:10; Mt. 25:16
4. You make the most of your time. Eph. 5:15
5. You stand by your friends. Prov. 17:17
6. You manage your money wisely. Luke 16:11; 1 Cor. 16:2
7. You do your best at work. Luke 16:10; Col. 3:23
8. You commit yourself to a church. Heb. 10:25

Why is it so hard to find a faithful believer?

1. Management and the “positive reinforcement” principle.
2. What is God’s definition of faithfulness?

1 Sam. 2:35 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Kg. 12:15; 22:7 \_\_\_\_\_

Ps. 78:8 \_\_\_\_\_

Jonah 2:8 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Does a believer need a steady barrage of positive reinforcers?

Conclusion

## **“THE TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES OF WILLFUL IMMATURITY”**

HEBREWS 5:11-6:8

**FEBRUARY 21, 2010**

### **INTRO**

**MESSAGE** Let us press on to maturity.

WARNING – You are walking on thin ice spiritually if you are not growing in grace (5:11-14)

1. You still can't motivate yourself to have daily quiet times (11).
2. You still don't know how to help others grow spiritually (12a).
3. You are still feeding on spiritual baby food i.e.. doctrinal basics (12b-13).
4. You still have a hard time knowing what the will of God is i.e. distinguishing between moral and non-moral issues (14).

EXHORTATION – It's time for you to feed on the doctrine of grace (6:1-3)

1. It's time to start eating spiritual meat! You need to mature (1-2)!

Repentance from dead works  
Faith toward God  
Instructions about washings (baptisms)  
Laying on of hands  
The resurrection of the dead  
Eternal judgment

2. Yet, never let yourself get bored with the basics (3)!

EXPLANATION – There is no longer forgiveness and fellowship under the doctrines of the O.T. law (6:4-8)

1. This teaching is for Christians. They have already experienced something of the “reign of grace” (4-5)
2. It is fruitless to put yourself back under a system where fellowship – forgiveness is impossible (6-8).
  - a. The result of fellowship – forgiveness is growth in grace and blessing in time (7).
  - b. The inability to receive fellowship – forgiveness, because of a return to law-keeping, results in divine discipline in time and a loss of rewards in eternity (8).

You can't come into this fellowship without getting a grace message -- without hearing about your position in Christ -- without hearing about the filling of the Holy Spirit and the need to be a Spirit-filled person. ...We preach The Word of God verse by verse and explain to people the Word of righteousness because we believe that people can move beyond the need for milk. Hebrews [chapter] five, [verse] fourteen: "But solid food is for the mature." When you understand the Word of righteousness, ladies and gentlemen -- when you understand the teachings of grace [and] when you understand what it is to be filled with the Holy Spirit -- where does that ministry always take you? It doesn't take you into what we call licentiousness -- the idea that you can just sin with impunity and get away with it. It takes you into a life that discerns good and evil, and you make right choices. That is what the Word of grace does in a person's life.

--"The Tragic Consequences of Willful Immaturity,"  
Heb. 5:11-6:8, February 21, 2010, sermon excerpt

You need to put your life on a new foundation in your thinking about who you are. You are an incredible trophy of God's extravagant grace. How much more extravagant could God in His grace get than that He sent Jesus The Son, Jesus The Messiah, Jesus The Life, Jesus the God-In-the-Flesh to you! That is extravagant grace!

--"The Extravagance of Grace,"  
September 17, 1989, sermon excerpt

God does something in our lives to accelerate spiritual growth, that is, He brings testing. Not temptation, but He brings testing into our lives to see if we will walk with Him or not. Testing is normal in the Christian life. It's not something to be feared. Trials and tests come our way as Christians. All of the trials are designed by God to strengthen us. When we walk in the Spirit consistently, over time, we develop fruit.... We bear fruit in our character, and we bear fruit in evangelism.

--"The Power of Imitating God," Ephesians 5:1-17,  
August 17, 2008, sermon excerpt



## THE QUIET TIME BLUES

Steve Corbett

### **VERSE 1**

E  
I opened up my Bible it was Saturday night  
E7  
Sunday's a comin' I was feelin' up tight  
A  
I didn't meet the Lord the whole week long  
E  
I knew someone would ask me "Are you prayed up and strong?"  
B7  
I might as well fake it I got nothin' to lose  
E B7 E  
I'm a walkin' talkin' sermon on the quiet time blues

### **VERSE 2**

E  
I got some friends who called me said "Let's party tonight!"  
E7  
I know that they are trouble but it's not worth the fight  
A  
Somewhere it says be careful 'bout the company you keep  
E  
I thought about it briefly but I won't lose no sleep  
B7  
I guess I'll tag along, what harm could it do?  
E B7 E  
I'm a walkin' talkin' sermon on the quiet time blues

### **BRIDGE**

A  
I walk away from Scripture, feel comfortable with sin  
E  
It dominates my thinking, I'm enslaved again  
F#  
Temptation comes a callin' How do I say no?  
B7  
I'm a frustrated believer totally out of control

### **REPEAT VERSE 1**

So...

Satan's Sifting Strategy

Message Every rebound from spiritual defeat is an opportunity to minister more effectively!

I. Satan has a strategy for sifting believers. 22:31

A. by accusing you.

1. his organization. Eph. 6:11-12
2. his access. Job 1:6-11 Zech. 3:1-2 Rev. 12:9-10
3. his opponent. 1 John 2:1-2

B. by getting you to ignore the Word of God.

1. illus. – Gen. 3:4 1 Chron. 21:1
2. his approach. 1 Pet. 5:7-9
3. God's promises. Is. 26:3 Is. 41:10 Luke 1:37 Phil. 4:19

C. by hindering you from doing the will of God.

1. the issue. Gal. 5:7
2. an illustration. Eph. 5:18
3. an example. 1 Thes. 2:18

D. by getting you to take your eyes off the Lord.

1. and getting eyes on self. 1 Kings 19:10 Matt. 26:33-35
2. and getting eyes on things. Heb. 13:5
3. and getting eyes on people.

II. Christ's work as a lawyer and the exercise of our faith overcomes Satan's sifting strategy. 22:32a

A. by faith we use 1 John 1:9.

B. by faith we maintain our spirituality. Eph. 5:18

C. by faith we continue in the Word. Ps. 119

D. by faith we occupy ourselves with Christ. Heb. 12:2-3

III. Believers who have been sifted a few times make excellent ministers (in the body of Christ). 22:32b

IV. Spiritual pride opens the door for Satan's sifting attack. 22:33-34

V Satan will continue his sifting strategy through various means until Christ returns. 22:35-38

**“THE WAR AGAINST CARNALITY”**  
**1 CORINTHIANS 3:10-17**  
**NOVEMBER 26, 2006**

**INTRO**      Last week: Carnality is the root cause of disunity and it is the deadly enemy of every believer. (3:1-9)

**MESSAGE**

**BE CAREFUL HOW AND WHAT YOU BUILD IN OTHER PEOPLE’S LIVES! (10)**

- ➔ You are building in the lives of your children.
- ➔ You are building in the lives of your brothers and sisters in Christ.
- ➔ You are even building in the lives of your co-workers.

**THE FACTS**

- ◆ There is only one foundation to build on. (11)
- ◆ There are only two types of materials to build with. (12)
- ◆ The quality of your work will be tested. (13)
- ◆ If your work is high quality you will be rewarded. (14)
- ◆ If your work is poor quality you will suffer loss. (15)
- ◆ You are building in each believer—and each believer is a temple, a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. (16)
- ◆ You must build a holy temple and jealously guard that which is holy. (17)

**APPLICATIONS**

1.      My friend, let me ask you a pointed question. If, as Paul teaches in our text, every Christian is to build upon the foundation of the apostles, if each believer is to build skillfully, using only the best materials, then how is your contribution to the building going? Do you know what part you are to play? Do you know what part of the temple is yours to build? You cannot build well if you are not building at all. If you are not building at all, you are defiling the temple.
2.      We live in a consumer age. By and large, the church growth movement caters to members, or seekers, as consumers. It finds out the kind of church people want to attend, and then seeks to provide this kind of church. Consequently, some churches may have many of their pews filled, but with people who expect, even demand, to get what they want from the church in terms of services, yet at a bargain price—at little or no cost to themselves. They want to get much and give little of themselves.

**“BRINGING CARNALITY INTO SHARP FOCUS”**  
**1 CORINTHIANS 3:1-9**  
**NOVEMBER 19, 2006**

**INTRO**

**MESSAGE** Carnality is the root cause of disunity in the Church and it is a deadly enemy of every believer.

- ♦ How does a believer become carnal? (1)
  - ➔ You quench the Holy Spirit’s ministry. – 1 Thes. 5:19-20
  - ➔ You grieve the Holy Spirit. – Eph. 4:29-30
- ♦ What happens when a believer becomes carnal? (2)
  - ➔ Your relationship with the Holy Spirit changes – John 14:15-17a, 26; Gal. 5:16-18
  - ➔ Your relationship with the Word of God changes. – Heb. 5:11-14
- ♦ Why do believers continue in a pattern of carnality? (3-4)
  - ➔ You love the pleasures of the flesh. – John 3:19-20; Gal. 5:19-21
  - ➔ You pooh-pooh the consequences. –Ps. 32:107; Ps. 51:1-13
- ♦ Why is exalting spiritual leaders a carnal way of thinking? (5-9)
  - ➔ Because...they are merely servants. (5)
  - ➔ Because...they are completely dependent on the Lord for fruit in their ministries. (6-7)
  - ➔ Because...they serve in complementary ministries. (8-9)

**APPLICATIONS**

1. Salvation is a radical change. It is not merely adding Christ to our life; it is not just “inviting Christ into our life.” Salvation is the change from death to life, from darkness to light. Salvation is accompanied by repentance, the turning away from all that we once depended upon for eternal life, from all that we once held precious as non-believers. Salvation turns one’s life, one’s values and one’s thinking upside-down and inside-out. Certain instant changes do occur at conversion, but many of the changes take place in the life-long process of sanctification, that process by which we are being transformed into the image and likeness of Christ. The “carnal Christian” resists this change. While he or she is more than adequately endowed with all that is necessary for growth in godliness, they fail to appropriate these resources and, in doing so, become carnal. Over time, they lose not only their appetite for the **“milk of the Word,”** but they begin to seek their spiritual nourishment from the well of “worldly wisdom,” which is no wonder since this wisdom is amiable to the flesh. The cross of Christ requires the mortification, not the indulging, of the flesh.



2. Two of the Christian's greatest resources are the Word of God and the Spirit of God, as Paul emphasized in chapter 2. We must saturate our minds with the Word of God, so that our thinking is transformed (Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:17-24). We must also apply the truth of God's Word so that our senses are, by application of the truth, trained to discern between good and evil (Hebrews 5:12). To comprehend the Word of God, and then apply it, we must rely upon the enablement of the Holy Spirit. We are to **“walk in the Spirit,”** to avoid succumbing to the magnetic pull of the flesh (Galatians 5:13-24). We are to “sow to the Spirit” so that we shall **“from the Spirit reap eternal life.”** Spiritual growth is possible only by the grace of God, but this does not mean we must be passive in the process, or—worse yet—we should seek to pervert God's grace into an excuse for sin (Romans 5:20-6:2, 15-23; Jude 4).

\* “If there is any “key” to the spiritual life, surely it is summed up in terms of the Word of God and the Spirit of God. How great is our need to grow up as Christians and to become increasingly dependent upon God's Word and His Spirit.” Bob Deffinbaugh

## **HOLINESS: A Gift of God's Grace**

### **ROMANS 8:1-17**

#### **Intro**

#### **Message**

- I. Our father has placed us in a position to reach our full potential and to enjoy His maximum blessing (8:1-11).
  - A. Our position in Christ, coupled with our walk in the Spirit, enables us to live a holy life (1-4).
  - B. If we follow the leading of our sin nature, we will end up living just like an unbeliever (5-8).
  - C. The Holy Spirit will always be working to counteract our sin nature's influence (9-11).
- II. Our response to the pull of our sin nature makes the difference between life and death, holiness and unholiness (8:12-17).
  - A. If we choose to follow the Spirit's leading we will grow in personal holiness (12-13).
  - B. If we choose to follow the Spirit's leading we will enjoy the blessings of son-ship (14-17).

#### **Life Response**

- 1. Sin and Spirituality
- 2. Warfare and Spirituality

## “LIFE BETWEEN THE HEARTACHES AND HALLELUJAHS”

Romans 8:31-39

March 27, 1988

### INTRODUCTION

1. Suffering is real!
2. It's Okay to hurt!
3. Sometimes pain gets the best of us...when it does...
4. There will be someone present to challenge your Christianity...  
to question your salvation...to increase your suffering...  
That's the way Satan likes it. BUT...

### OUTLINE

- I. You have the protective shield of God's salvation (8:31-34)
  - A. No one is able to justly oppose you (31-32).
  - B. No one is able to justly accuse you (33).
  - C. No one is able to justly condemn you (34).
- II. You have the protective shield of Christ's love (8:35-39)
  - A. There is no conceivable circumstance that can separate you from Christ's love (35-37).
  - B. There is no conceivable force that can separate you from Christ's love (38-39).

We need perspective on the spiritual life, and I've been thinking quite a bit about what it means to be Spirit-controlled -- what it means to walk in the Spirit. You think about the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians chapter five, and it says the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control; and you think about how much of that is really experienced in the life of the fellowship. Doesn't it seem to you today that life is characterized by hate and depression and stress and impatience and rudeness and insensitivity and back-stabbing and roughness and uncontrolled lust? It seems when you talk about people in the fellowship, everyone is struggling with those problems. I'm not sure I see the fruit of the Spirit in the lives of God's people the way I would like to see it, and in my life, as well, and, you know, I was thinking about the verse in Galatians five, verse sixteen: "Walk by the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh." How simple it is. If we walk by the Spirit, sin will be under control, and the impact of being Spirit-controlled will flood itself into the fellowship, and that will affect the music -- the way we sing [and] the joy in our hearts. It will affect the way we volunteer and get involved in Sunday school programs and youth programs. It involves everything that we do.

And as I thought about some of the major passages of scripture -- First Corinthians chapters one through three, Romans eight, and Galatians five -- those passages that really talk about what it is to have life in the Spirit. When you think about those passages, you realize that it's only the Spirit of God using the Word of God that convicts our sinful hearts, that changes our sinful thinking, and that controls our sinful behavior. In other words, apart from the Spirit of God using the Word of God, we are going to be a group of people who is constantly characterized by hate, depression, stress, impatience, rudeness, insensitivity, back-stabbing, roughness, and lust. That's just the way it goes.

In Galatians chapter five, it says that if we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. The NIV translates that, "If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit." The Spirit of God is leading believers. He is like a platoon commander who is out leading the group, and all we have to do is keep in step. So the big question is, if we want to be a powerful, dynamic church -- if we want to understand the Word of God week-in and week-out and have a perspective and understand what God wants us to do in the Church and understand what our role is -- we have to be in step with the Spirit of God. If we are out of step with the Spirit of God, the flesh is in control, and we are characterized by those nine miserable traits, and that inflicts itself on everybody else in the fellowship, and then all we have is people problems in the fellowship.

Life is lived in relationships. That's what Christianity is all about. It's our relationship with the Lord, it's our relationship to one another in the body of Christ, it's our relationship to our unsaved neighbors over here, it's our relationship to the people around us, and if we are out of step with the Spirit of God, when they look at our lives what are they going to see? They are going to see a hateful person and a depressed person and a stressed person and an impatient person and a rude person -- an insensitive, back-stabbing, lust-filled rough character -- and I want to address that

issue. I want to get us back in step with the Spirit before I go on with Second Timothy because somehow I just sense that that's what I need to do.

I tell my son this: There is the way of wisdom, and there is the way of divine discipline. You can come to the Word of God and see what it says, and you can apply it, and you can live wisely, or you can go through life making every decision based on the hard times that have come upon you because of foolishness. There are only two ways to live. Which is it going to be? It's a rebuke to my own heart. It seems so obvious to me. What do I want in my own life, personally? Do I want endless sorrow, or do I want to be wrapped around by the lovingkindness of God? Man, it's no decision, really, is it, folks, because when we have a clean conscience and we've confessed sin and we're in step with the Spirit of God and God has wrapped His lovingkindness around us and He is our hiding place and we are enjoying His presence, what do we do? We are glad in the Lord and we rejoice and we shout for joy.

Father, we just love you. We are so thankful for Your Word.... Lord, enable us as a fellowship to keep in step with the Spirit. Put Your finger on the sin issues in our lives, Lord, and help us to confess those and forsake them. Father, if anyone's here today who doesn't know You, and the Holy Spirit has really convinced them in their heart that they are sinful, we pray that You might also convince them that they need a Savior. The great news is that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross and was resurrected from the dead. He paid the penalty for our sin. His resurrection proves that You accepted that payment. He's alive today. May anyone convicted by the Spirit of God put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ today -- trust Him. Give them eternal life, Lord. Begin to change them from the inside out, and give them an unashamed boldness in proclaiming Christ in the community. We love You, Lord, and we just thank You for the opportunity to be together today. In Christ's name, amen.

--sermon excerpt



## Revelation 22:6-21

How to Live faithful Until the Rapture!  
(series begun 10 Sept. 78, completed 27 May 79)

### Preface:

Reveling Through Revelation (as Dr. McGee puts it) or Review

### I. Realize that prophetic truth is infallible truth Rev. 22:6-9

#### A. Its Character

1. It is faithful and true (v. 6)
2. It produces blessing where obeyed (v. 7)
3. It leads to worship when understood (vv. 8-9)

#### B. Its Author

1. The Lord (v. 6)
2. The God of the spirits of the prophets (v. 6)

### II. Realize that prophetic truth demands response Rev. 22:10-17

#### A. Its Usefulness

1. It is a motivator for the unsaved to trust Christ (vv. 10-11, 17)
2. It is a motivator for believers to live quality lives (v. 12)
3. It is a motivator for believers to long for heaven's glories (vv. 13-15)
4. It is a motivator for believers to pray for Christ's return (vv. 16-17)

#### B. Its Author

1. The Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end (v. 13).
2. Jesus (v. 16)
3. The root and the off-spring of David (v. 16)
4. The bright morning star (v. 16)

### III. Realize prophetic truth requires accurate handling Rev. 22:18-21

#### A. Its Handling

1. It cannot be added to (i.e., add new truth) (v. 18)
2. It cannot be subtracted from (diminishing the value of or deleting revealed truth) (v. 19)

#### B. Its Author

The Lord Jesus (vv. 20 and 21)

Luke 20:19-21:4

“The Great Pretender”

#70

Message      People who pretend to be righteous are trapped when they have to apply doctrine to life.

### Outline

- I. People who pretend to be righteous are not able to apply doctrinal truths to the everyday-routine issues of life. 20:19-26
- II. People who pretend to be righteous are not able to apply doctrinal truths to biblical questions. 20:27-40
- III. People who pretend to be righteous are not able to apply doctrinal truths regarding the person of Jesus Christ. 20:41-44
- IV. People who pretend to be righteous are not able to apply doctrinal truths with regard to Christian service. 20:45-21:4

### Application

1. You can have genuine righteousness! Read Romans 5:17 and note verses 15,16 also. Is righteousness something you earn or something God gives you as a gift? How do you get this gift from God – read Romans 3:21-22? (see also Phil. 3:9)
2. You can also cultivate righteousness in your life once you possess it. What should our attitude be toward righteousness – Matt. 5:6? How about our action – 2 Tim. 2:22? You can cultivate righteousness through the study and application of sound doctrine to your life. The opportunity is available on Wednesday nights!



**“THE TRUE NATURE OF GODLY LEADERSHIP”**  
**1 CORINTHIANS 4:6-21**  
**DECEMBER 10, 2006**

**INTRO**

**MESSAGE** Only the unwise and immature rally around arrogant leaders.

- ♦ God’s leaders are farmers (3:6-9), builders (3:10-15), and stewards (4:1-5), not super-stars. (6-8)
- ♦ God’s leaders are “fools” for the Lord’s sake, not glory-hounds. (9-13)
- ♦ God’s leaders are faithful disciple-makers, not spotlight-grubbing mega-stars. (14-17)
- ♦ God’s leaders are spiritually powerful and lovingly gentle, not blowhards full of hot air. (18-21)

**APPLICATIONS**

1. Who is going to control your life. . .

The sin nature ➔ resulting in carnality?

The Spirit of God ➔ resulting in spiritual power?

2. What do you want your relationship with God to be like. . .

Coming with the rod ➔ to discipline because of carnality?

Coming with love ➔ to disciple because of spirituality?

**“THE MINISTRY OF LOVE”**  
**ROMANS 12:9-21**  
**AUGUST 20, 2006**

**INTRO**

**MESSAGE** The key to an effective ministry is learning to love people – all kinds of people.

- ♦ Your ministry in relationships will be far more effective if you learn to love people like you love your friends. (9-16)

**HOW DO YOU LOVE YOUR FRIENDS?**

1. You cherish them. (10)
  2. You serve them. (11)
  3. You are joyful around them. (12)
  4. You meet the physical needs. (13)
  5. You support them through tough times. (14)
  6. You identify with them. (15)
  7. You treat them as equals. (16)
- ♦ Your ministry in relationships will also be more effective if you learn to love all people, even the unfriendly ones. (17-21)

**HOW SHOULD YOU EXPRESS LOVE TO UNFRIENDLY PEOPLE?**

1. Seek God’s will in their lives and never pay back evil for evil in order to right a wrong. (17-18)
2. See God’s will in their lives and never take revenge in order to right a wrong. (19-21)

**LIFE-RESPONSE** The more you seek God’s will in a person’s life, the greater the potential will be for their growth and blessing.

1. How about that unsaved neighbor who seems too hard to reach, what specific steps can you take to love him this week?
2. What about that new family sitting just ahead of you in church, how can you love them?
3. What can you do to be a better friend with that guy or gal in your small group?

Freedom means that you have the freedom to come to the Word of God, and the Spirit of God there teaches you what is sin and what is not sin, and you have the freedom to obey or not to obey. If you choose to obey, you will develop in love, and you will grow, and you will put on Christ-like character. If you choose to disobey, you'll pay the consequences of that disobedience, and that may mean that, down the road, God has to get your attention through some special circumstances and change your mind about what you're doing. In either case, you've experienced freedom in your spiritual life the way God designed it. The Spirit of God will lead you into truth. He'll show you what's right and wrong. He'll convict your heart of right and wrong. He'll lead you into repentance. He'll produce godly sorrow in your life, and He's the one who will put on the Christ-like character of love, joy, peace, patience, and so on in your life. Love develops in a context of freedom.

That's what I think is *the* number one greatest strength of Grace Bible Church. In all the years that I've been here, if I could say one characteristic about this church -- I think we're weak in some areas -- but we are a group of people who know how to love. For that, I commend you to the Lord. Someday, every remembrance of mine will be your love for one another -- your labor of love. I praise God for that.

--"Labor of Love," sermon excerpt

## “QUITTING POINTS”

Romans 5:1-11  
December 27, 1987

### INTRODUCTION

### OUTLINE

- I. When you reach one of those QPs, remind yourself that the peace you have with God and the opportunities that you have to utilize His grace are eternal (5:1-2a)
  - A. Justified by faith (1a)
  - B. Peace with God (1b)
  - C. Access to grace (2a)
- II. When you reach one of those QPs, remind yourself that God uses QPs to build character and character development is the essence of the Christian life (5:2b-10)
  - A. Afflictions develop endurance (3)
  - B. Endurance develops character (4a)
  - C. Character develops hope (4b)
  - D. Hope is sustained by love (5-10)
- III. When you reach one of those QPs, remind yourself that nothing can replace knowing God as a source of joy and stability (5:11)

**“God’s Glory in You”**

1 Chronicles 16:23-29

**Prophecy Series #2**

September 12, 1999

INTRO

MESSAGE God is **MOST GLORIFIED** in you when you are **MOST SATISFIED** in Him.

THE FACTS: IT IS GOD’S PLAN TO BE GLORIFIED IN YOU.

- ♦ You are **CREATED** for God’s glory (Isaiah 43:6-7).
- ♦ You are **CALLED** to God’s glory in Christ (1 Peter 5:10; Ephesians 1:5-14).
- ♦ You are being **CHANGED** day by day by the Holy Spirit to display God’s glory (2 Corinthians 3:17-18).
- ♦ You are **CHALLENGED** to live for God’s glory decision by decision (1 Corinthians 10:31).
- ♦ You will be **CROWNED** with God’s glory at the Judgment Seat of Christ (Romans 8:28-30; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Psalm 8:4-6).
- ♦ Your God-given glory will be **CELEBRATED** by the whole creation in the Millennial Kingdom reign of Christ (Romans 8:18-22; Numbers 14:21; Isaiah 11:9).

**"THE HOLY SPIRIT AND CHILD TRAINING"**  
**JANUARY 4, 2009**

**INTRODUCTION**

Topic #1 – Christian Parenting

A. The Choices of Parents

1. The choice of blessing

Pr. 10:1a

Pr. 23:24-25

Pr. 29:17

2. The choice of cursing

Pr. 10:1b

Pr. 17:21

Pr. 29:15b

B. The Accountability of Parents

1. The requirement to train children

Dt. 6:6-7

Eph. 6:4

Pr. 22:6

2. The requirement to uphold your position

Ex. 20:12

Eph. 6:2

C. The Authority of Parents

1. The final authority of God

Ps. 47:2

Ps. 115:3

Rom. 13:1

2. The delegation of authority to parents

Col. 3:20

Eph. 6:1

3. The delegation of authority to parents protected

Mt. 15:4

Ex. 12:15,17

Pr. 30:17

Dt. 21:18-21

4. The blessing upon children who obey

Eph. 6:2-3

Ex. 20:12

Pr. 3:1-2

### Biblical Principles of Parenting

1. The only way to avoid cursing and to receive blessing is to properly (train) your children.
2. God holds parents responsible to train their children according to (His standards).
3. The child must respect his parents' (position of authority) before he can be trained.
4. Parental authority includes the right to demand (obedience) from children.
5. The parents' word is (law) to their children.
6. Parents are responsible to raise obedient and (respectful) children.
7. Parents must provide strong (leadership) for their children and stand responsible for their (outside influences).
8. Parents are the symbol and representative of (God's) authority to their children.

**“THE ROOTS OF A CRITICAL SPIRIT”**  
**ROMANS 14:1-12**  
**September 10, 2006**

**INTRO**

1. Paul wants to take the gospel to Spain. It will take a united Roman church to send him there.
2. The issue being dealt with—each other’s differences and preferences—is the heart of most Jewish and Gentile Christian relationship conflict.
3. Paul wants to teach them how to deal with their differences so that they can be a united church. If they have love (John 13:34-35) and unity (John 17:21) they will be powerful in evangelism.

**MESSAGE** Judging one another on non-moral issues—opinions and preferences— is inappropriate. Here’s why! Speaking of your brother or sister in Christ...

- ♦ You are not his master. He serves Christ’s purposes, not yours. (1-4)
- ♦ You are not his conscience. He follows the Holy Spirit’s leading, not yours. (5-9)
- ♦ You are not his judge. He responds to the Father’s discipline, not yours. (10-12)

**LIFE RESPONSE**

- ♦ Learn the difference!

The moral will of God	Non-moral issues
Commands & principles	Opinions & preferences

- ♦ Be alert to the three dangers of a critical, censorial, judgmental spirit!
  1. that the fellowship will become so divided over inconsequential issues that the unity of the Spirit will be disrupted.
  2. that the Lord Jesus Christ will be set aside as the head of the church.
  3. that someone will set up a list of do’s and don’ts to govern behavior and usurp the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the believer’s life.

Four positions on debatable issues

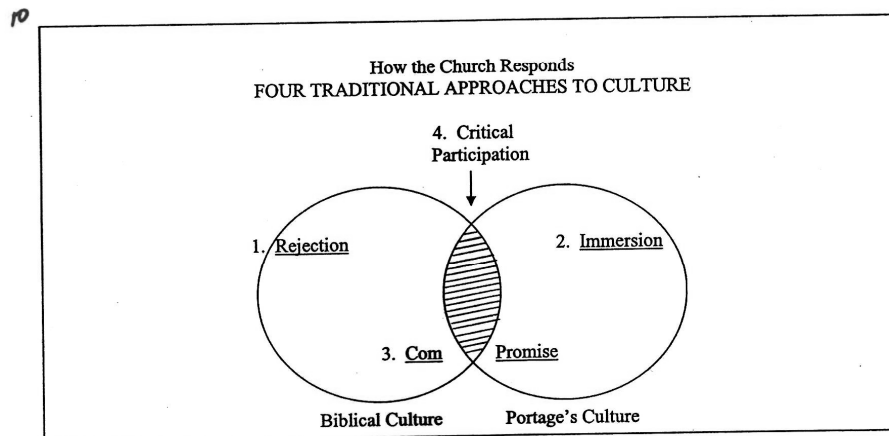
1. Professional weaker brother -- the legalist.
2. Susceptible weaker brother – the immature believer of Romans 14:1-12.



3. Nonparticipating mature brother – the mature believer who chooses not to participate in some practice or activity.
4. Participating mature brother – the mature believer who chooses to participate in some practice or activity. (both C and D represent the mature believer of Romans 14:1-12)

Four positions illustrated

	<u>Evaluation</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>	<u>Danger</u>
Professional weaker brother	wrong for everyone	all participants guilty of sin	critical of Christians who disagree
Susceptible weaker brother	probably wrong for him	not wrong for every Christian	participation without full freedom of conscience
Non-participating mature brother	either: 1. sin for him, therefore, he cannot participate 2. not sin for him, but chooses not to participate	can be sin for one believer but not sin for the other	concluding that the mature believer would be “more spiritual” if he would only limit his liberty
Participating mature brother	believes he has freedom to participate	it is okay for him, but may be sin for others	1. succumb to the legalist 2. cause the susceptible weaker brother to stumble 3. abuse liberty



**“EVERY FAITHFUL WORSHIPER GETS TESTED”**  
**GENESIS 22:1-18**  
**JULY 12, 2009**

**INTRO**      We are never too old  
                         to face new challenges,  
                         to fight new battles, and  
                         to learn new truths. (Wiersbe p. 86)

**MESSAGE**    The faithful worshiper will surrender to God whatever He asks, trusting that He will provide and bless.

- I. God may test your faithfulness by asking you to surrender to Him something dear to your heart. (1-2)
- II. If you are a faithful believer, you will be willing to surrender to God something dear to your heart, trusting Him to meet your needs. (3-10)
  - A. If you are a faithful believer, you will obey God’s call to sacrificial worship. (3-5)
  - B. If you are a faithful believer, you will make the sacrifices He demands and trust Him to meet your needs. (6-10)
- III. If you are a faithful believer, you will receive God’s provision for sacrificial worship. (11-14)
  - A. God will approve your sacrificial obedience. (11-12)
  - B. God will provide what you need to please Him in worship. (13-14)
- IV. If you are a faithful believer, you will enjoy the assurance of God’s blessing. (15-18)

**APPLICATIONS**

- 1. Expect tests from God. The Christian life is not easy. (1-2)
- 2. Focus on promises, not explanations. Faith does not demand explanations. (3-4)
- 3. Depend on God’s provisions. When you are doing the will of God, you have the right to expect the provision of God. (5-14)
- 4. God never wastes suffering. Look forward to what God has for you. (15-18)

“The Priority of a Passionate Devotion to Christ”  
Revelation 2:1-7

Introduction

Outline

- I. Our good works are short-lived without devotion to Christ (2:1-3).
- II. Our lack of devotion to Christ is a tragic, fallen condition that cannot be ignored (2:4-6).
- III. Each one of us must make a personal choice. Will devotion to Christ be our number one priority (2:7)?

Life – Goal    To Glorify God

By walking in daily  
fellowship with Him

For the purpose of  
ordering my life  
and relationships  
in accordance with  
His Word

So that I am daily investing  
my life in the evangelization of  
the lost & in the building up of  
believers

- 1. What is God teaching you about fulfilling your life goal this week?
- 2. What specifically are you going to do about it?

## **“HELPING FELLOW-SUFFERERS ENDURE”**

**1 PETER 4:7-11**  
**February 29, 2004**

### **INTRO.**

- ♦ Pray for one another! (4:7)
  - Effective prayer deals with issues in the light of God’s plan. (7a)
  - Effective prayer deals with real life issues. (7b)
- ♦ Love one another! (4:8)
  - Love stretches and sacrifices. (8a)
  - Love comforts and preserves. (8b)
- ♦ Be hospitable to one another! (4:9)
  - Hospitality accepts those outside of our comfort zone. (9a)
  - Hospitality accepts inconveniences as inevitable. (9b)
- ♦ Serve one another! (4:10-12)
  - The extent of your gifts (10a) ---- “each one”
  - The source of your gifts (10b) ---- “has received”
  - The use of your gifts (10c) ---- “serve...as good stewards”
  - The variety of your gifts (10d) ---- “of the manifold grace of God”
  - The categories of your gifts (11a) ---- “speaking gifts, serving gifts”
  - The purpose of your gifts (11b) ---- “that God may be glorified”

### **CONCLUSION**

1989  
A YEAR OF PERSONAL CHANGE

January 1, 1989

INTRODUCTION

1. The goal of personal change
2. The pattern of personal change

\*\*\*\*\*  
JOSIAH—AN AWESOME 16-YEAR-OLD  
\*\*\*\*\*

PROLOGUE—2 CHRONICLES 34:1-2

Josiah shaped his world—his world did not shape him. As a result he lived a useful and fruitful life (remember 2 Peter 1:8?)

- I. Josiah's convictions (34:3-28)
  - A. "I must seek Yahweh" (3a)
  - B. "I must seek Yahweh's glory in my world" (3b-13)
    1. Among the non-believers (3b-7)
    2. Among the believers (8-13)
  - C. "I must increase my understanding of Yahweh's will." (14-28)
    1. By appreciating His Word (14-21)
    2. By having a teachable spirit (22-28)
- II. Josiah's behavior (34:29-33)
  - A. He made a public commitment to do God's will (31)
  - B. He challenged the people to commit themselves to doing God's will (32)
  - C. He followed through with decisive action when he understood God's will (33)

“The Beginning of Real, Inside Out Change”

1 Peter 1:1-2

(Message #2, May 3, 1992)

Intro Intuitively we know that things are not as they should be. There seems to be far more pain in life than there ought to be. We have some deep longings for something that we can't quite explain.

1. Our innermost being is empty without Christ (John 7:37-38).
2. This emptiness can be described as a thirst (Ps. 42:1; Is. 55:1).

We long for (relationship), and

We long for (impact).

3. Most of our attempts to satisfy this thirst prove to be incredibly foolish (Jeremiah 2:13).

Trans God recreates us in Christ in order to quench our thirst.

He changes us from the inside out so that we will experience the (relationship) and (impact) for which we were designed.

Where does it begin?

Message You are a person in whom our Triune God has begun the process of real, inside out change. This change begins with our salvation (1:1-2).

- I. The Father planned our salvation.
- II. The Holy Spirit convinced us of our need for salvation.
- III. The Lord Jesus accomplished the sin-bearing work necessary for our salvation.

# **Exhort in sound doctrine**

Titus 1:9b (NKJV)





## GRACE – PURE UNMERITED KINDNESS AND FAVOR

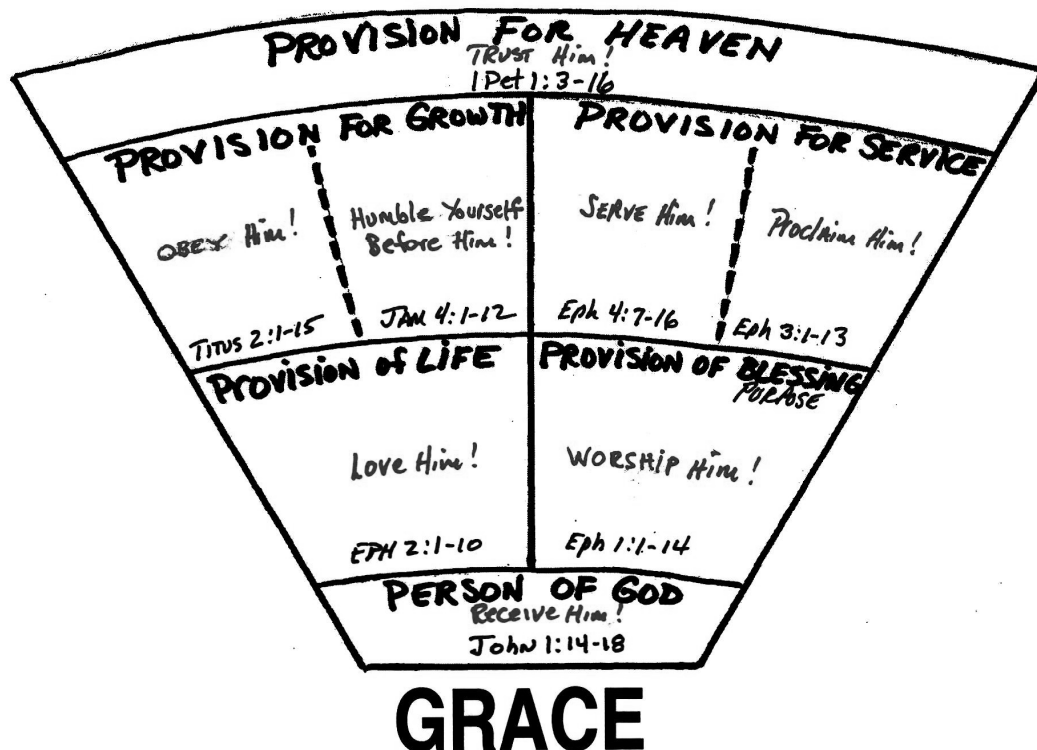
ROMANS 1:5a

October 30, 2005

**VERSE 5** You live because of and by the pure unmerited kindness and favor of God!

### **\*\*Grace**

Eph. 2:1-10 (life) Titus 2:1-15 (growth) Eph. 4:7-16 (ministry)  
Eph. 1:1-14 (purpose) James 4:1-12 (restoration) Eph. 3:1-13 (outreach)



### **\*\*Obedience**

1 Pet. 1:13-16 (holiness) Romans 6:16-17 (choices) Phil. 2:12 (workout)  
2 Cor. 4:4-5 (thinking) James 1:22-25 (blessings) Ezra 7:10 (teach it)

### **\*\*The Faith**

2 Tim. 1:13 (retain the standard) Phil. 1:25 (progress in)  
Phil. 1:27 (strive together for) 1 Tim. 4:6 (nourished on)  
1 Cor. 16:13 (stand firm in) Eph. 4:13 (attain unity)

**\*\*For His Name's Sake** (What is the chief end of man?)

**“THE LAST WORD”**  
**HEBREWS 1:1-4**  
**NOVEMBER 15, 2009**

**INTRO**

Why is Christianity exclusive? Why is Jesus Christ the only Way and the only Truth and the only Life? Is it possible for another messenger to come along whose message could supersede Christ’s message?

**MESSAGE**

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, the Second Person of the Trinity.  
His message is complete and final. Therefore...  
Believe in Him! Follow Him! Don’t turn back to Judaism!

I. God’s past messengers were temporary spokesmen whose messages were partial and anticipatory. (1:1)

II. God’s final messenger is God the Son whose message is complete and final.  
(1:2-3)

< 7 truths – 0 comparisons >

1. “Whom He appointed heir of all things”- - - -co-equal in ownership of all things.
2. “through whom also He made the world”- - - -co-equal in creation.
3. “and He is the radiance of His glory”- - - - -co-equal in glory.
4. “and (He is) the exact representation of His nature- --co-equal in essence,  
or character.
5. “and (He) upholds all things by the word of His power- - -co-equal in authority.
6. (and) “when He made purification for sins”- - -co-equal in the plan of redemption.
7. “He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on High- - - -co-equal in majesty.

**APPLICATION**

Considering the strength of your commitment to Jesus Christ and consequently to His message - - -

1. How would you respond to someone who told you that they followed a prophet whom God raised up after Jesus Christ? (For example – Mary Baker Eddy of Christian Science; Charles Taze Russell of Jehovah’s Witnesses; or Joseph Smith of Mormonism.)
2. How would you respond to someone who told you that they had an inspired revelation that either “adds to” or “supersedes” the revelation given in Jesus Christ? (Ex. *Science and Health*—CS; *New World Translation*—J.W.; *Book of Mormon*—M.)
3. Today, in addition to the Scripture, do we need revelation, in dreams\_\_? in visions\_\_? in tongues\_\_? through prophets\_\_? through experiences\_\_? Are such revelations biblical\_\_? God-sent\_\_?
4. Do you need a guru\_\_? a Jim Jones\_\_? an astroguide/horoscopist\_\_? a priest\_\_? a séance guide\_\_? a palm reader\_\_? a Rev. Moon\_\_?

If you need anyone other than the Lord Jesus Christ and your Bible you might as well carry a wishbone and a horse chestnut!

Romans 5:1-5  
The Most Sought After Things in the World  
September 11, 1977

- I. The immediate effect of justification: We have PEACE WITH God. 5:1
- A. This implies a previous state of hostility between us and God.
  - B. This indicates a cessation of hostilities.
  - C. This was achieved through the work of our Lord Jesus Christ.
  - D. This means that we have acceptance with God.
- II. The continuing effect of justification: We have ACCESS TO God. 5:2a
- A. This implies a previous state of exclusion from the presence of God.
  - B. This implies the desperate human need to gain entry into the presence of God by finding someone able to make the required introduction.
  - C. The introduction was accomplished initially through the redemptive work of Christ; it continues for believers through the priestly work of Christ.
  - D. This means that there is absolutely no barrier that can exclude us from fellowship with God.
- III. The ultimate effect of justification: We have HOPE in God. 5:2b-5
- A. The “glory of God” has two aspects: 1.) God’s glory is what God is in His essential character and power (Hebrews 1:3), which we shall behold face to face (I John 3:2). 2.) Glory is the measure of our changed lives, our Christ-likeness (2 Corinthians 3:18) and is our hope because Christ is in us (Colossians 1:27).  
NOTE: Paul focuses on this second aspect in the process of verses 3-5.
  - B. Our hope is that: 1.) we shall see God face to face, and 2.) we will be like Christ!
  - C. We can boast in the trials and sufferings of life because we know that it is making us like Christ.
  - D. The process:
    - 1. Trials produce steadfast-endurance.
    - 2. Steadfast-endurance produces (tested) character.
    - 3. Christlike character produces (stronger) hope.
  - E. The reality of our hope: The Holy Spirit confirms in our hearts that God loves us, therefore, as to
    - 1. present hope: trials and suffering do not permanently discourage us.
    - 2. future hope: we are confident that we will live with God forever.

Romans 4:1-8  
August 21, 1977

Idea: God declares people righteous by faith alone without any reference to their good works.

Definition: Justification is the act of God that declares a sinner righteous by faith on the merit of Christ's sacrifice. It is the addition of the righteousness of Christ as well as the subtraction of sins.

Importance: NOT ONE person will enter heaven without this justification-righteousness.

Outline:

- I. Abraham was justified by faith alone, not works. 4:1-3
  - A. Remember Abraham, the father of the Jewish nation, preceded the giving of the ten commandments and other laws by several hundred years. (v. 1)
  - B. If a person could be declared righteous by God on the basis of his religious achievements he would have something to boast about, to other people, not God. (v. 2)
  - C. Genesis 15:6 (O.T. proof) teaches that Abraham was justified by faith. (v. 3)
- II. One's human achievements can never merit the bestowal of the gift of justification-righteousness. 4:4-5
  - A. The one who works earns a wage, he does not receive a gift. (v. 4)
  - B. The one who believes receives a gift, he does not earn a wage. (v. 5)

Point: (1) Justification-righteousness is a gift!  
(2) A gift is received not earned!  
(3) The gift is bestowed when faith is exercised apart from any addition of good works.
- III. David was justified by faith alone, not works. 4:6-8
  - A. Remember, David lived under the law, yet he recognized that the law was not given as the means of salvation.
  - B. The only blessed person is the one whom God declares righteous through faith. Works actually impose a curse on men because it is impossible to live a perfect life. (v. 6)
  - C. When God declares a person righteous, He not only adds the righteousness of Christ but He subtracts the guilt of all sin (past, present, future). (vv. 7-8)

## Ephesians 1:3-14

Message      What God has done for you shows you how valuable you are to Him!

### Outline

1. He chose you! (election; 1:4)
2. He made you part of His family! (adoption; 1:5-6)
3. He forgave you! (redemption; 1:7-8a)
4. He gave you the key to His master plan! (revelation; 1:8b-10)
5. He promised you a great transformation! (inheritance; 1:11-12)
6. He gave you the Holy Spirit! (sealed; 1:13-14)

### Application

1. Learn to praise the Lord! (1:3,6,12,14)
2. Learn to view yourself from God's perspective!!!

**“JESUS IS THE PROMISED MESSIAH!”**  
**PALM SUNDAY**  
**MARCH 24, 2002**  
**THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY**  
**LUKE 19:28-44**

**INTRO**

- Imagine that you were a youngster about 10 years old when Jesus was born.
- Each night around the table your father would instruct you from the Law and the Prophets.
- His favorite theme was “the Messiah is coming,” “Look for the Messiah!”
- By the time you are forty the rumors are circulating about Jesus.
- You go to see Him and you observe the events accompanying His entry into Jerusalem.
- When you see what is happening you conclude, “This must be the Messiah!”

**MESSAGE**

The events accompanying Jesus’ final entry into Jerusalem proclaim one of great truth – He is the promised Messiah. Luke 19:22-48

- His entry on the colt of a donkey fulfills the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9 and declares that He is the Messiah.
- The praise of the multitudes fulfills the prophecy of Psalm 118:26 and proclaims that He is the Messiah (vv. 36-40).
- The day of His entry fulfills the prophecy of Daniel 9:25 and asserts that He is the Messiah (vv. 41-44).

**LIFE-RESPONSE**

Since Jesus Christ is the Messiah you can serve Him confidently.

- You can be confident that as you serve Him, He will supply your needs. (vv. 30-34)
- You can be confident that as you grow to love Him more, He will accept your worship. (vv. 37-40)

**“I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE!”**

April 15, 2001

John 20:30-31

**INTRO**

“Thomas” the drama team.

- 24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.  
25 The other disciples therefore were saying to him, ‘We have seen the Lord!’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I shall see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.’  
26 And after eight days again His disciples were inside and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in the midst, and said, ‘Peace be with you.’  
27 Then He said to Thomas, ‘Reach here your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and be not unbelieving, but believing.’  
28 Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’  
29 Jesus said to Him, ‘Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.’

**MESSAGE**

The seven “Faith-Building” signs of the Gospel of John

- 30 Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;  
31 But these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

**Is Jesus the Christ,  
the Son of God?**

- 
- Is Jesus the Christ,  
the Son of God?**
7. Jesus resurrected Lazarus (11:1-15/Bethany near Jerusalem).  
6. Jesus gave sight to a man born blind (9:1-41/Jerusalem/Sabbath)  
5. Jesus walked on water (6:15-21/Sea of Galilee)  
4. Jesus fed 5000 men (6:1-14/Galilee)  
3. Jesus healed a man crippled for 38 years (5:1-18/Jerusalem/Sabbath)  
2. Jesus cured a royal official’s son (4:43-54/Galilee)  
1. Jesus turned water into wine (2:1-11/Galilee)

**LIFE RESPONSE**

Are you a fool to believe in the resurrection of Jesus?

## FOOLISH AND COSTLY DECISIONS

Matthew 12:1-45

#8 Oct. 4, 1998

### **Introduction:**

### **Background:**

### **Message:**

- **MIRACLE:** Jesus heals a man on the Sabbath who is demon possessed, blind, and cannot speak (22).
- **QUESTION:** The Jewish people debate whether or not Jesus is the Messiah (23).
- **ANSWER:** The Pharisees, speaking for the religious and political leaders of Israel, pronounce that Jesus operates with demonic power (24).
- **REBUKE:** Jesus demonstrates the foolishness of the Pharisees' thinking (25-30).
  1. Generally, any organization characterized by in-house fighting will self-destruct (25).
  2. Specifically, Satan does not allow insubordination or in-house fighting (26).
  3. Experientially, if every exorcist is demon-possessed, then the Pharisees would have to admit that some of their colleagues are possessed (27).
  4. Rationally, if exorcists are not demon-possessed, then Jesus must be the Messianic King, offering the Kingdom, and operating in the power of the Holy Spirit (28).
  5. Realistically, Jesus must be far more powerful than Satan (29).
  6. Morally, there is no neutral position with regard to Jesus; He is either a liar, a lunatic, or Lord (30).
- **JUDGMENT:** The Jewish leaders, speaking for the Nation, refused every line of evidence – the testimony of the Father, the Words and works of the Son, the power of the Holy spirit. There is nothing more that God can do to convince them to believe in Jesus. This rejection is the unpardonable sin (31-37).
- **CONFIRMATION:** Jesus explains that “this generation” (v. 39,41,42,45), as a nation, is under judgment. They will not enter the Messianic Kingdom in physical bodies. NOTE: Some may trust Christ, individually, and become part of His Church, but they will not inherit the Kingdom promises given to the Jews in the Old Testament (38-45).



### **Life Applications:**

#### ■ For Seekers

1. It is not enough to clean house (moral reformation), we must also invite in the right tenant (Jesus). Mere religion will not save you. There must be regeneration – a work which the Holy Spirit accomplishes in us when we place our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. A gentle warning – prolonged rebellion against the testimony of God will have disastrous, eternal consequences!

#### ■ For Growing Disciples

1. The religion of the Pharisees was a well-developed legalism, a religion of negatives. They did not understand “life in the Spirit.” Do you operate on a set of non-biblical rules? Do you know how to live the Spirit-filled life? Study Chafer’s *He That is Spiritual!*

#### ■ For World-Changing Teens

1. What is true of Jesus is true of you. God “chose” you! God is “well-pleased” with you! God gave you His “Spirit!” God wants you to “proclaim justice” to your friends. Will you tell your friends that Jesus the Savior will soon return as Jesus the Judge?

#### ■ For Leaders

1. The Pharisees give us an illustration of the influence that leaders have on people. Paul exhorted Timothy to “pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching.” (1 Tim. 4:16) No excuses! Get your theology straight! Study Ryrie’s *Basic Theology!*

**CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS**  
**THE INCARNATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**  
**December 9, 2001**

And the Word became flesh,  
and dwelt among us,  
and we beheld His glory,  
glory as of the only begotten from the Father,  
full of grace and truth. John 1:14

**INTRO**

**MESSAGE**

- ♦ The Meaning of the Incarnation of Christ
  - ➔ TO BECOME FLESH – John 1:1,14, Philippians 2:6-7, 1 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 1:3, 1 John 4:2-3, Luke 1:26-38; 2:5-7
  - ➔ TO BECOME VIRGIN BORN – Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23, Luke 1:35, Matthew 1:16
  - ➔ TO UNITE THE DIVINE AND HUMAN NATURE – “Full deity and perfect humanity united without mixture, change, division, or separation in one Person forever” (Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, p. 246)
- ♦ The Prophecies of the Incarnation of Christ
  - ➔ the fact of His birth – Genesis 3:15
  - ➔ the method of His birth – Isaiah 7:15
  - ➔ the nature of His birth – Isaiah 9:6
  - ➔ the nationality of His birth – Genesis 12:3 (Israel); Genesis 49:10 (Tribe of Judah); 2 Samuel 7:12-13 (House of David)
  - ➔ the time of His birth – Daniel 9:24-27
  - ➔ the place of His birth – Micah 5:2 (Bethlehem)
- ♦ The Reasons of the Incarnation of Christ
  - ➔ to reveal God to us – John 1:18, John 14:7-11
  - ➔ to provide an example for our lives – 1 Peter 2:21, 1 John 2:6
  - ➔ to make an effective sacrifice for sin – Hebrews 10:1-10, Mark 10:45
  - ➔ to guarantee (fulfill in the future) the Davidic Covenant – Luke 1:31-33
  - ➔ to destroy the devil and his works – Hebrews 2:14, 1 John 3:8
  - ➔ to provide the believer with a high priest – Hebrews 2:17; 3:1; 4:14-16
  - ➔ to be able to be (fulfill in the future) a qualified Judge – John 5:22,27

**LIFE-RESPONSE**

- ♦ For believers
- ♦ For those who are searching

**“A SURE AND STEADFAST ANCHOR”**  
**HEBREWS 6:19-7:10**  
**MARCH 21, 2010**

**INTRODUCTION**

**MESSAGE**

- I. The priesthood of Jesus Christ is the only sure and steadfast anchor for our soul when we are in the pressure cooker of problems. (6:19-20)
  - A. He is a high priest. (20a)
  - B. His priesthood is eternal. (20b)
  - C. His priesthood is according to the order of Melchizedek. (20c)
    1. The Levitical priesthood is limited to the tribe of Levi, of the nation of Israel.
    2. The Levites, apart from their priestly function, were subjects of the kings of Israel.
    3. The priestly sacrifices provided no permanent forgiveness, righteousness or peace.
    4. The Levitical priesthood was hereditary – right family rather than right life.
    5. The priesthood was limited to a 25-year span age 25 to 50. (Num. 8:24-25)
- II. The priesthood of Jesus Christ is a sure and steadfast anchor for our souls because it is based on a better order. (7:1-10)
  - A. The superior order of Melchizedek’s priesthood presented (7:1-3)
    1. His priesthood is universal rather than national. (7:1)
    2. His priesthood is combined with kingship. (7:1)
    3. His priesthood accomplishes righteousness and peace. (7:2)
    4. His priesthood is personal rather than hereditary. (7:3)
    5. His priesthood is eternal rather than temporary. (7:3)
  - B. The superior order of Melchizedek’s priesthood is proven. (7:4-10)
    1. Abraham recognized Melchizedek’s spiritual superiority. (7:4-7)
    2. The Levites also must recognize the superiority of Melchizedek’s priesthood. (7:8-10)

**APPLICATIONS**



# STEVE'S INCARNATION RAP, 11/28/2006

Well, He crossed the line  
from heaven to earth  
Set aside His glory  
In the virgin birth

That's the nature of sin  
You're spiritually dead  
You don't have a clue  
What's done, what's said

Got to be a man  
Said the King of Glory  
Otherwise the cross  
Is an empty story

So I went to the cross  
And I shed My blood  
I took your hell  
But don't be smug

But here's the truth  
'Cause I speak no lie  
I came from glory  
So that I could die

Your sin is forgiven  
Your penalty's paid  
The Father guaranteed it  
When I rose from the grave

See here's the thing  
I love you all  
But you have a problem  
It's called the fall

Soon after that  
I sent my Spirit  
To open your ears  
So you could hear it

You're full of sin  
From head to toe  
It's in your nature  
You can't let go

Now's the time  
The choice is yours  
Believe in Me  
While there's open doors

You don't know Me  
Don't know the Father  
When you're left alone  
You say "Why bother?"

Better listen carefully  
Life is short  
The clock's runnin' down  
And the ball's in your court



“The Glory of God in the Face of Christ”  
The Glory of God (Pt. 4)  
The Christmas Season 1993

Intro

Message      How do we know that Christ is eligible to reveal the Father?

Hebrews 1:1-3

\*BECAUSE OF THE EXCELLENCIES OF JESUS CHRIST\*

1. His Heirship (2b)	Ps. 2:6-9	Rev. 5:1-6 Rev. 11:15
2. His Creatorship (2c)	John 1:3	Col. 1:15-16
3. His Glory (3a)	John 8:12	2 Cor. 4:4-6
4. His Person (3b)	John 14:8-9	Col. 2:9
5. His Administration (3c)	Col. 1:17-18	Eph. 1:9-10 1 Cor. 15:23-25
6. His Sacrifice (3d)	Heb. 9:12-14	1 Pet. 1:18-19
7. His Exaltation (3c)	Phil. 2:11	1 Pet. 3:22 Heb. 10:12 Rom. 8:34

Application      If Christ’s revelation of the Father is both final and perfect, how should we respond?

Hebrews 12:25-29

- 1.
- 2.

Conclusion

**“HOW THE RESURRECTION WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE”**

**JOHN 20:1-8**

**APRIL 8, 2012**

**MESSAGE** Believing in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ will change your life.

You will experience...

Pure love (John 4: The woman at the well)

Complete forgiveness (John 8: The adulterous woman)

Ultimate wholeness (John 9: The man blind from birth)

Everlasting life (John 11: The friend of Jesus, Lazarus)

The resurrection is  
God’s “Amen!”  
to Christ’s  
“It is finished!!”

The proof of the empty tomb (John 20:1-9)

The proof of the appearances (John 20:10-29)

To Mary Magdalene (10-18)

To the disciples without Thomas (19-25)

To the disciples with Thomas (26-29)

The only acceptable response to these proofs (John 10:30-31)

## LIFE IN THE GRASP OF GRACE PART 1

Romans 6:1-11  
January 10, 1988

### INTRODUCTION

The folk-tale about the tiger and the goat

### OUTLINE

- I. Believe the facts regarding your position in Christ (6:1-11)!
  - A. You have been united to Christ (1-4)
    - 1. You have “died to sin.”
    - 2. You have been “baptized into Christ Jesus.”
  - B. You have been freed from sin (5-7)
    - 1. Your “old self was crucified with HIM.”
    - 2. That our “body of sin” might be done away with.
  - C. You have been made alive to God (8-11)
    - 1. You will experience Christ’s resurrection life.
    - 2. You are absolutely secure in Christ.



**“GOD PROVIDES THE LAMB”  
AN OLD TESTAMENT CHRISTMAS  
DECEMBER 9, 2007**

**INTRO**

**MESSAGE**

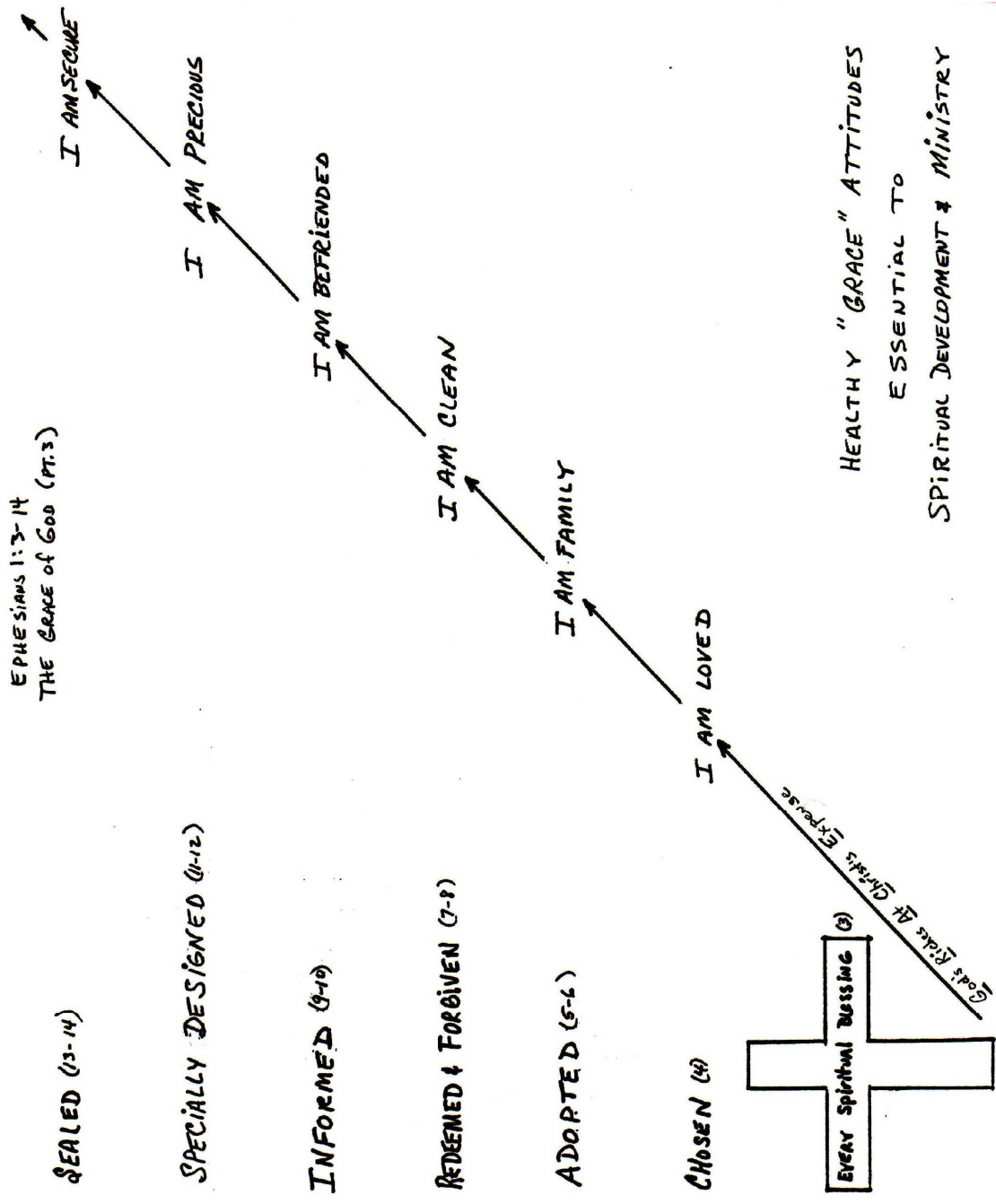
You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me. John 5:39

- ♦ God alone is the source of a satisfying, worthwhile life.
  - 1. Psalm 16:11
  - 2. Psalm 21:3-6
  - 3. Psalm 36:8-9
  
- ♦ We have separated ourselves from God.
  - 1. Leviticus 19:2
  - 2. Ecclesiastes 7:20
  - 3. Isaiah 59:2
  
- ♦ We cannot remove this sin barrier by our own effort.
  - 1. Isaiah 64:6
  - 2. Psalm 49:7-9
  
- ♦ This sin barrier can be removed by the provision of the blood atonement and faith in the ONE who provided it.
  - 1. Psalm 49:15
  - 2. Leviticus 17:11
  - 3. Genesis 15:6
  
- ♦ God has provided the blood of atonement through His servant, the Messiah.
  - 1. Isaiah 53:6
  - 2. Isaiah 53:12
  
- ♦ God made sure we could recognize the Messiah by certain identifying marks – as described by the prophets.

1. Gen. 22:18 thru Abraham	11. Dt. 18:15 Prophet like Moses
2. Gen. 21:12 thru Isaac	12. Is. 61:2 Powerful public ministry
3. Gen. 28:14 thru Jacob	13. Is. 9:1-2 Begin ministry in Galilee
4. Gen. 49:10 thru Judah	14. Ps. 22:14-17 Crucifixion
5. II Sam. 7:12-13 thru David	15. Ps. 16:10 Resurrection
6. Is. 7:14 thru a Virgin	16. Ps. 68:18 Ascension
7. Micah 5:2 Bethlehem	17. Ps. 110:1 Right hand of God
8. Ps. 72:10 Gifts from kings	18. Zech. 6:13 Priestly office in heaven
9. Mal. 3:1 Special messenger	19. Is. 28:16 Ministry lays a cornerstone
10. Is. 11:1-2 Anointed by Spirit	20. Is. 10 Conversion of Gentiles

**LIFE-RESPONSE**

How amazing is God? The evidence is overwhelming! Won't you believe in Jesus? He will give you the gift of eternal life! There is no one else! He loves you!



**“HOW IMPORTANT IS THE BLOOD?”**  
**PALM SUNDAY**  
**APRIL 1, 2012**

THE BARRIERS TO MAN’S APPROACH TO GOD.

- A. Barrier one: The offended character of God.
  - 1. God is righteous: He is the standard of all that is right.
  - 2. God is just: All that does not measure up to His standard must be judged and separated from a relationship with Him.
- B. Barrier two: The problem of sin.
  - 1. The debt of Adam’s sin: Rom. 5:12
  - 2. Slavery to the sin nature: Rom. 6:16-17
  - 3. Personal acts of sin in submission to Satan’s spiritual oversight: Eph. 2:2-3 (see also 1 John 5:19; John 12:31)
- C. Barrier three: Spiritual death: Eph. 2:1; Col. 2:13
- D. Barrier four: Personal hostility toward God: Col. 1:21-22; Rom. 5:10

THE WORK OF CHRIST THAT ELIMINATES ALL BARRIERS.

- A. Propitiation: This means “to turn away wrath” by the satisfaction of violated justice.
  - 1. Rom. 3:25: “whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation IN HIS BLOOD...”
  - 2. Propitiation brings man out from under the wrath of God through satisfying His righteousness and justice.
- B. Redemption: This has two meanings: one, to “free” from a debt and two, to “purchase out of” the slave market.
  - 1. Eph. 1:7: “In Him we have redemption THROUGH HIS BLOOD, the forgiveness of our trespasses.”
  - 2. Redemption brings man out from under the enslavement of the sin nature and of Satan through the payment of a ransom.
- C. Substitution: This means “to take the place of” in spiritual and physical death.
  - 1. Luke 22:19-20: “...This is my body which is given for you” (i.e. in the place of you) “...This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant IN MY BLOOD.”
  - 2. Substitutionary death brings man out from under the penalty of death through the death of Christ in our place.
- D. Reconciliation: This means “to be placed in a position” in which a relationship can be reestablished.
  - 1. Col. 1:20: “and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace THROUGH THE BLOOD of His cross...”
  - 2. Reconciliation brings man out from under his mental attitude of alienation from God.

YOUR RESPONSE TO THE WORK OF CHRIST

- A. Faith: The only response that rests upon the merit of what Christ has accomplished is personal faith!
- B. Eph. 2:8: “For by grace you have been saved THROUGH FAITH...”

Matthew 1:1-17  
FOLLOW ME! Message #2  
Oct. 15, 2000

**Message** Does Jesus have the legal right to redeem and to reign?

The racial connection: He is the Son of Abraham  
 God's Covenant with Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3; 15:9-17)  
 Personal Promises (Gen. 12:2)  
 Universal Promises (Gen. 12:3)  
 Gen. 22:18  
 Gal. 3:16  
 National Promises (Gen. 15:18-21)

The divine connection: He is Jesus the Anointed One.  
 Anointed Prophet (Deut. 18:15 – Luke 7:16)  
 Anointed Priest (Ps. 110:4 – Heb. 5:5,6)  
 Anointed King (Ps. 2:2, 6,6,12 – Matt. 27:11)

During the rise of the house of David (2-6a)  
 During the decline of the house of David (6b-11)  
 During the eclipse of the house of David (12-16)

- 210 -

## Life Response

1. From Matthew's genealogy we learn more than Jesus' lineage. We also see beautiful reflections of God's grace. Jesus was sent by a God of grace to be a King of grace. He would not be a King of law and of iron force, but a King of grace. His royal credentials testify of royal grace. And the people He chose to be His ancestors reveal the wonder of grace, and give hope to all sinners. (MacArthur, p.4)
2. When we study this genealogy we are impressed with the fact that even good men and women stand in need of God's grace. They are all sinners.

	<u>THEIR GOODNESS</u>	<u>THEIR SIN</u>
Abraham	Gen. 13:8-9	Gen. 12:10-20
Isaac	Gen. 26:18-25	Gen. 26:1-11
Jacob	Gen. 28:18-22	Gen. 27:18-24
Judah/Tamar	Gen. 43:8-9; 44:18-34	Gen. 38
Rahab	Josh. 2:2-21; 6:22-25	Joshua 2:1
Ruth	Ruth 1:1-4:22	Deut. 7:3; 23:3 Ezra 9:2
		Neh. 13:23
David/Bathsheba	1 Sam. 13:14; 24:1-7	2 Sam. 11
Solomon	1 Kings 3:3a	1 Kings 11:1-14
Hezekiah	2 Kings 18:3	2 Kings 20:12-21

3. The Pharisees' boasting about being descendants of Abraham (John 8) amounts to unjustifiable glorying "in the flesh." That is like you and me saying, "I'm going to heaven because I'm an American Protestant." Bull Wackee! We all need a Savior (Rom. 3:23).

## EASTER

April 15, 1979

The Resurrection is a Pivotal Doctrine

One You Can Trust!

What doctrines stand or fall with the resurrection?

1. The resurrection of Jesus establishes that there is a God and that the God of the Bible is the true God. Psalm 16:9-11 cf. Acts 2:25-32 **YOU CAN TRUST HIS MESSAGE!**
2. The resurrection of Jesus establishes the doctrine of our Lord's Deity. Romans 1:4 Acts 2:22-24 **YOU CAN TRUST HIS PERSON!**
3. The resurrection of Jesus establishes the doctrine that all who believe in Christ are justified from all sin. Romans 4:24-25 **YOU CAN TRUST HIS WORK!**
4. The resurrection of Jesus is proof that the Christian can live a life that is pleasing to God. Ephesians 1:19-20; Romans 6:4 **YOU CAN TRUST HIS POWER!**
5. The resurrection of Jesus is proof that death is not the end of this life. John 14:3 1 Thessalonians 4:14 John 14:19 1 Corinthians 15:55-57 John 6:39 John 11:25-26 **YOU CAN TRUST HIS PROMISES!**

## **“THE DOCTRINE OF THE KINSMAN REDEEMER” DECEMBER 11, 2011**

### The Kinsman Redeemer in the O.T.

Israel is redeemed as a nation out of Egypt (Ex. 6:16; Is. 63:4)

One animal should be redeemed by another (Ex. 13:13).

A lost estate could be redeemed by a kinsman (Lev. 25:25).

#### Four requirements

1. Must be a near kinsman.
2. Must be able to redeem (see Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 1:18-19)
3. Must be willing to redeem (see Heb. 10:4-10).
4. Must be free from the calamity (see Luke 1:35; Heb. 4:15)

### The Kinsman Redeemer in the N.T.

The need of redemption by all

Slaves of sin (Rom. 7:14; 1 Cor. 12:2; Eph. 2:2).

Helplessly condemned (John 3:18; Rom. 3:19; Gal. 3:10).

The price of redemption the same for all (Heb. 9:27-28).

The redeemed will not be returned (John 10:28).

The redeemed are set free (John 8:36; Rom 8:19-21; Gal. 4:13; 5:13)

### The Truth of the Gospel

God has sent you the Kinsman-Redeemer.

You are lost and you are facing a condemning judgment.

Christ has paid the full price of redemption.

Redemption will be applied to your life if you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

agorázō - to purchase in the market

exagorazó – to remove from the marketplace

apolutrósis – to set free

Captives In Babylon	Vision of A Man	Golden Image And Fery Furnace	Tree Image And Insunity	Handwriting On The Wall	Lion's Den	Four Beasts	Two Beasts	Seventy Weeks	Heavenly Messenger	Syrian - Egyptian Wars	Second Advent		
God's ETERNAL KINGDOM ADVANCING THROUGH HIS SOVEREIGN CONTROL													
DIRECTING THE COURSE OF INDIVIDUALS						DIRECTING THE COURSE OF NATIONS							
GENTILE DOMINION IN HISTORY						ISRAEL'S FUTURE IN GENTILE DOMINION							
AND FUTURE													
PREPARING A FEW CHOICE MEN	CLARIFYING THE ISSUE OF SOVEREIGNTY	OVERRULING A FOOLISH DECREE	HUMILIATING A PROUD KING	JUDGING A WICKED KING	OVERRULING A FOOLISH DECREE	DEPOSING NATIONS AT WILL	APPOINTING A TIME FOR EVERY EVENT	REDEEMING PEOPLE	CONTROLLING SATANIC OPPOSITION	BRINGING HIS DECREE TO PASS	JUDGING THE WICKED AND REWARDING THE REDEEMED		
Ch. 1	Ch. 2	Ch. 3	Ch. 4	Ch. 5	Ch. 6	Ch. 7	Ch. 8	Ch. 9	Ch. 10	Ch. 11	Ch. 12		
NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S SOVEREIGNTY CHALLENGED BY GOD	NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S SOVEREIGNTY CHALLENGED BY GOD	NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S SOVEREIGNTY CHALLENGED BY GOD	NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S SOVEREIGNTY CHALLENGED BY GOD	NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S SOVEREIGNTY CHALLENGED BY GOD	DARIUS' PROUD DECREE AND ITS HUMILIATING CONSEQUENCES	FOUR GENTILE WORLD-KINGDOMS IN PROPHETIC DISPLAY	THE CONQUEST OF PERSIA BY GREECE AND THE RISE OF ANTIOCHUS	GOD'S PLAN FOR THE REDEMPTION OF ISRAEL	THE SATANIC CONFLICT IN THE OPPOSITION TO THE PROPHETIC PROGRAM	THE RISE, REIGN AND THE TRIUMPH OF THE GREAT SALVATION OF THE TRIBUTATION, THE RESURRECTION, AND THE JUDGMENT			
A SUCCESSION OF KINGDOMS						AN APPROPRIATE END							
AN ETERNAL KINGDOM						ETERNAL REIGN							
GOD'S PRESENT ETERNAL KINGDOM AND REIGN						REDEMPTION THROUGH MESSIAH							
Satanic Opposition to the Prophetic Program						Satanic Opposition to the Prophetic Program							
ANTI CHRIST PREFIGURED AND PROPHESIED						ANTI CHRIST PREFIGURED AND PROPHESIED							
TRIBUTATION						TRIBUTATION							
DANIEL'S AGE 15	FIRST DREAM 17	SECOND DREAM 20	SECOND DREAM 29	81	83	FIRST VISION 67	SECOND VISION 69	THIRD VISION 82	FOURTH VISION 84	CYRUS			
NEBUCHADNEZZAR													
GOD'S PROPHETIC PROGRAM REVEALING THE DESTINY OF ISRAEL AND THE GENTILE NATIONS													
LOVE GOD						TRUST GOD							
MEETS NEEDS AND ADDS RESPONSIBILITY						MEETS NEEDS AND ADDS RESPONSIBILITY							
LOVE AND TRUST GOD						AVAILABLE							
MEETS NEEDS AND ADDS RESPONSIBILITY						MEETS NEEDS AND ADDS RESPONSIBILITY							
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INTRODUCTION  
Colossians 1:1-2  
“Eight Principles to Help You Become a World Class Cult Buster”

I. Introduction

A. Why are people attracted to the cults?

1. The weakened church
  - a. liberal humanism adopted
  - b. retreat from secular challenges
  - c. deficient Bible teaching
  - d. no comprehensive world-view
  - e. failure to meet personal needs
2. World problems
3. Personal reasons
  - a. cult leaders
  - b. cult followers

B. What are the distinguishing marks of the cults?

1. Extra-biblical revelation
2. A false basis of salvation
3. An uncertain hope
4. Presumptuous Messianic leadership
5. Doctrinal ambiguity
6. The claim of “special discoveries”
7. Defective Christology
8. Segmented biblical attention
9. Enslaving organizational structure
10. Financial exploitation
11. Denunciation of all other religious groups
12. Syncretism

II. Message

- A. You have been set apart for God’s glory.
- B. You are challenged to be faithful to His work.
- C. You have all the resources you need in your relationship with Christ.

## **“THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT”**

**ACTS 2:1-21**

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2007**

### **INTRO**

The Jewish Feasts

1. 1<sup>st</sup> month 14<sup>th</sup> day – Passover (Lev. 23:5)
2. 1<sup>st</sup> month 15<sup>th</sup> day – Unleavened Bread (Lev. 23:6-8)
3. 1<sup>st</sup> month 16<sup>th</sup> day – First Fruits (Lev. 23:9-14)
4. 3<sup>rd</sup> month 6<sup>th</sup> day – Pentecost (Lev. 23:15-21)
5. 7<sup>th</sup> month 1<sup>st</sup> day – Trumpets (Lev. 23:23-25)
6. 7<sup>th</sup> month 10<sup>th</sup> day – Day of Atonement (Lev. 23:27-32)
7. 7<sup>th</sup> month 15-22 day - Tabernacles (Lev. 23:33-44)

### **MESSAGE**

- ♦ The promised coming of the Holy Spirit is dramatic. (2:1-4)
  - ➔ to fulfill prophetic Scripture
  - ➔ to fill believers full for ministry
  - ➔ to form and fill up the body of Christ
- ♦ The personal proof of the coming of the Holy Spirit is a supernatural enablement for witnessing. (2:5-13)
  - ➔ foreign languages previously not learned
  - ➔ testifying about the magnificent work of the cross

Ephesians 1:13-14  
“Sealed in Him”  
Message #7

Introduction

Message Idea

I. The pre-requisites for the Holy Spirit’s sealing ministry (13).

A. Hearing “the message of truth.”

1. The truth is that you are a sinner separated from a Holy God!
2. The truth is that God loves you and sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die in your place and to be resurrected from the dead!

B. Believing “the gospel of your salvation.”

II. The purpose of the Holy Spirit’s sealing ministry (14).

A. First, the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of your eternal security.

1. A seal represented several things:
  - a. certification of genuineness (Jn. 3:33; 2 Cor. 3:3; Esther 3:12)
  - b. identification of ownership (2 Cor. 1:22; Rev. 7:2; 9:4)
  - c. indicates that which has been secured (Matt. 27:66; Eph. 4:30)

B. Second, the Holy Spirit is the pledge of our eternal inheritance.

1. The pledge in Greek commerce of biblical times meant:
  - a. earnest money in the purchase of an animal
  - b. “regarding Lampon the mouse-catcher, I paid him for you as earnest money 8 drachmae in order that he may catch the mice while they are with young” (from papyri texts)
2. The pledge in modern Greek culture means: an engagement ring.

C. Third, the sealing ministry of the Holy Spirit is meant to make us worshipers.

**THE SECURITY OF JUSTIFICATION – PT. 2**  
**“HE WILL LOVE YOU FOREVER”**  
**ROMANS 5:5-11**  
**APRIL 23, 2006**

**INTRO**

**MESSAGE** God loves you! You are eternally secure in that love!

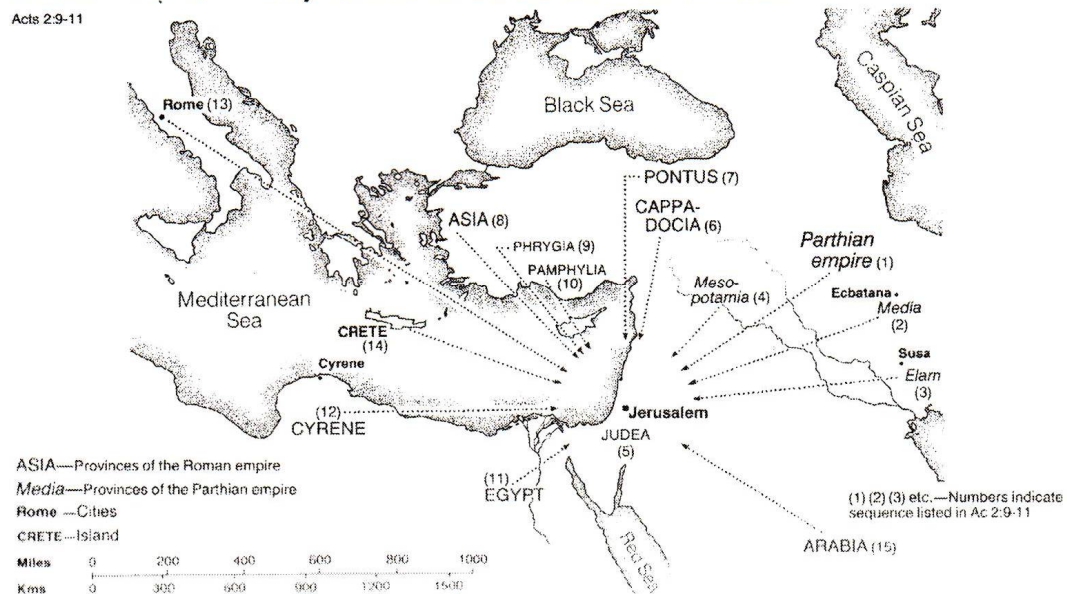
- ♦ If God loved you when you were incapable of working out any righteousness for yourself, then HE WILL LOVE YOU FOREVER! (5-6)
  - ➔ It was toward those who were “helpless” to do right. (6a)
    - (1) “Helpless” – weak, infirm, unable to achieve anything great, destitute among men; sluggish in doing right.
  - ➔ It was toward those who were “ungodly.” (6b)
    - (2) “Ungodly” – powerful to do evil; disregard for, defiance of God’s Person.
- ♦ If God loved you when you were continually deviating from the truth, then HE WILL LOVE YOU FOREVER! (7-8)
  - ➔ A few would die for a righteous man. (7a)
  - ➔ One may die for a good man. (7b)
  - ➔ But God loved and gave His Son for bad men, “sinners.” (8)
    - (3) “Sinner” – missed the mark, deviated from the Word of God, will of God and character of God.
- ♦ If God loved you when you were aggressively opposed to Him and His purposes, then HE WILL LOVE YOU FOREVER! (9-10)
  - ➔ Having justified sinners, He will save them from wrath. (9)
    - Note: The first “much more” of future safety.
    - 1. What He has done – justified sinners by His blood.
    - 2. What He will do – save them from wrath.
  - ➔ Having reconciled enemies, He will favor the reconciled ones. (10a)
    - Note: The second “much more” of future safety.
    - 1. What He has done – reconciled enemies to Himself.
      - (4) “Enemies” – a hostile person, one who cherishes hatred and wishes to do ill to God.
    - 2. What He will do – save us.
  - ➔ If the death of Christ brings us near, the life of Christ keeps us near. (10b)

## CONCLUSION

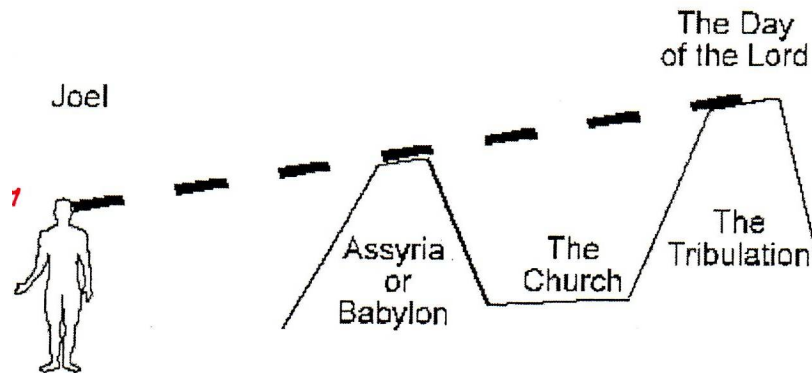
1. This love certifies the permanence of justification by faith.
2. This love of God fortifies our hope.
3. This love stimulates our boast in God. (11)

### Countries of People Mentioned at Pentecost

Acts 2:9-11



- ♦ The Scriptural proof of the coming of the Holy Spirit is a comparison of events with Joel's (2:28-32) Tribulation period prophecy. (2:14-21)



## LIFE-RESPONSE

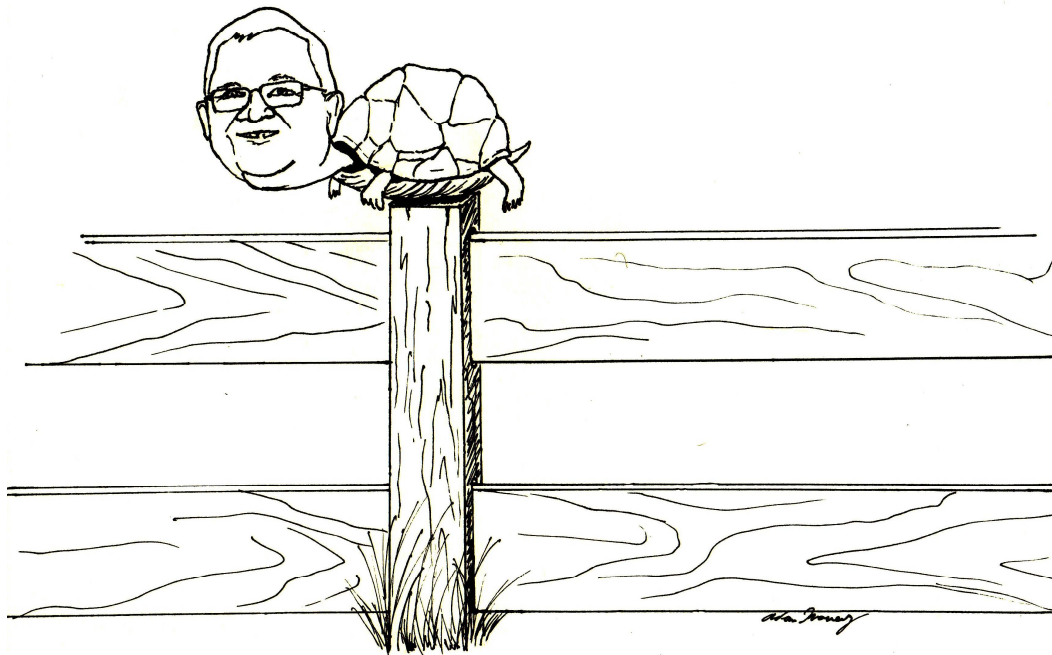
There is no power for ministry apart from the Holy Spirit. He must be in control!  
Ephesians 5:18-21

### The Ministries of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:11)

Baptismal medium	1 Cor. 12:13
Calls to ministry	Acts 13:2-4
Channel of divine revelation	2 Sam. 23:2; Neh. 9:30; Zech. 7:12; Jn. 14:17
Empowers	Ex. 31:1,2; Judg. 13:25; Acts 1:8
Fills	Luke 4:1; Acts 2:4; Eph. 5:18
Guarantees	2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5; Eph. 1:14
Guards	2 Tim. 1:14
Helps	John 14:6, 26; 15:26, 16:7
Illuminates	1 Cor. 2:10-13
Indwells	Rom. 8:9-11; 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19
Intercedes	Rom. 8:26,27
Produces fruit	Gal. 5:22,23
Provides spiritual character	Gal. 5:16, 18, 25
Regenerates	John 3:5, 6, 8
Restrains / convicts of sin	Gen. 6:3; John 16:8-10; Acts 7:51
Sanctifies	Rom. 15:16; 1 Cor. 6:11; 2 Thess. 2:13
Seals	2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:14; 4:30
Selects overseers	Acts 20:28
Source of fellowship	2 Cor. 13:14; Phil. 2:1
Source of liberty	2 Cor. 3:17, 18
Source of power	Eph. 3:16
Source of unity	Eph. 4:3,4
Source of spiritual gifts	1 Cor. 12:4-11
Teaches	John 14:26; Acts 15:28; 1 John 2:20,27

Alex Haley, the author of *Roots*, tells of a picture in his office showing a turtle sitting on top of a fence post. The picture was there to remind him of a lesson that he'd learned long ago. He said this: "If you see a turtle on a fence post, you know that he had some help." I like that picture, so if you see Steve Corbett teaching on Sunday morning, you know he had some help! There's not one of us doing what we do to serve the Lord who can stand up and say, "I'm really great! I got this because I'm so wonderful!" No, we're just a bunch of turtles sitting on a fence post, and we need to treat each other accordingly.

--"Unity," Philippians 2:1-11, 9/28/2003, sermon excerpt



**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!**  
**"THE EVIDENCE FOR CHRIST'S RESURRECTION"**  
**1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11**  
**MAY 13, 2007**

**MESSAGE** God uses the testimony of special resurrection witnesses to lead lost people to Christ.

- I. The evidence for Christ's Resurrection (15:1-11)
  - A. The testimony of believers in the Church (1-2)
    - 1. Their experience of salvation and their position in Christ is undeniable. (1)
    - 2. Their commitment to spiritual growth is commendable. (2)
  - B. The testimony of Scripture (3-4)
    - 1. He died in the place of sinners just as the Old Testament predicted. (3)
      - a. The purpose of His death
        - 1. to provide a substitutionary sacrifice for sin—"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." (John 10:11)
      - b. The proof of His death
    - 2. He was resurrected just as the Old Testament predicted because the Father accepted His redemptive work. (4)
      - a. The purpose of His resurrection
        - 1. to prove His works—"I lay down My life...I have authority to lay it down, I have authority to take it up again." (John 10:17-18)
        - 2. to prove His words—"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies." (John 11:25)
      - b. The proof of His resurrection
  - C. The testimony of eyewitnesses (5-7)
    - 1. Peter (5a)
    - 2. The twelve (5b)
    - 3. 500 plus (6)
    - 4. James (7)
  - D. The testimony of a special witness (8-11)
    - 1. He admitted the problem of sin in His life. (8-9)
    - 2. He marveled at His acceptance by God on the basis of grace. No life is too messed up. (10a)
    - 3. He was motivated to serve God because of His marvelous grace. (10b)
    - 4. He reminded the Corinthians that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ alone. (11)



**APPLICATIONS**    God can use your testimony too!

1. The power of preparing with prayer to reach unsaved friends (John 14:12-14)
2. Baptism – 1<sup>st</sup> steps in submission to the Lordship of Christ—your unashamed, public confession of Christ. (Acts 10:44-48)

I CORINTHIANS 12:9  
SPIRITUAL GIFTS—PART II  
April 27, 1986

INTRODUCTION

1. *Where is God When it Hurts?*
2. *A Miracle a Day Keeps the Devil Away*
3. Experience vs. the Bible

REVIEW

1. The controversy in Corinth
2. The variety of gifts, ministries, and results

OUTLINE

- I. The healing ministry of Jesus and the Apostles
  - A. The pattern of healing in the New Testament
    1. With a word or touch
      - a. Matthew 8:5-8  
Mark 5:25-34
      - b. Acts 9:32-35  
Acts 28:8
    2. Instantaneously
      - a. Mark 7:31-35
      - b. Acts 3:4-8
    3. Totally
      - a. Luke 4:38-39
      - b. Acts 9:32-35
    4. Everybody
      - a. Luke 4:40
      - b. Acts 5:12, 14-16
    5. Organic diseases
      - a. All the above passages
    6. Power to raise the dead
      - a. Mark 5:35-42
      - b. Acts 9:36-42
    7. Faith not essential
      - a. Luke 17:11-19
      - b. Luke 5:17-26

- B. The purpose of healing in the New Testament
  - 1. The confirmation of the messenger and the message (Acts 3:1-11; 3:12-4:5)
  - 2. The salvation of unbelievers (John 20:30-31)
  - 3. Never used to keep Christians healthy
    - a. Philippians 2:25-27
    - b. 2 Timothy 4:20

II. The Divine provision of doctors and medicine

- A. Sick people normally need a doctor (Matthew 9:12)
- B. Sick people normally need medicine (1 Timothy 5:23)

CONCLUSION

- 1. The gift of healing
- 2. The healing of God

**SABBATH – LEGALISTS**  
**LUKE 13:10-21**  
**JULY 8, 2012**

**CONTEXT** In the broad context we must remember that Israel’s religious leadership has rejected Christ as their Messiah (11:14-26). Also, Christ has taken away the privilege of this generation from ever entering into the kingdom on earth as a nation (11:29-32). His teaching is designed to help the disciples understand, live successfully in, and minister to this Christ-rejecting generation.

**MESSAGE** Sabbath-legalists hypocritically and continually misinterpret the purpose of the Sabbath day.

**OUTLINE**

- I. Sabbath-legalists hypocritically misrepresent the purpose of the Sabbath day. (13:10-17)
  - A. The healing of a crippled woman on the Sabbath day triggers the controversy. (13:10-13)
  - B. The leader of the synagogue was a Sabbath-legalist who hypocritically misrepresented the purpose of the Sabbath day. (13:14-17)
- II. So-called (professing) believers (e.g., Pharisees) will continue to introduce corrupting doctrines into God’s kingdom program. (13:18-21)
  - A. The parable of the mustard seed. (13:18-19)

In this context, the parable teaches that many “professing” believers will be found within the confines of God’s kingdom program.
  - B. The parable of the leaven. (13:20-21)

In this context, the parable teaches that “professing” believers will introduce corrupting doctrines into the kingdom program.

**IMPLICATIONS FOR BELIEVERS TODAY ON SABBATH OBSERVANCE**

1. “A ‘Christian Sabbath’ is a misnomer, and the very use of the term indicates inexcusable inattention to biblical terms.” Chafer, *Grace* (p. 245)
2. The Sabbath was given to Israel as a sign (Ex. 31:12-17) and was never given to Gentiles. (p. 250)
3. The Lord sought to rescue the Sabbath from being an enslaving institution and to restore its function as a benefit to man. Yet he never imposed the Jewish Sabbath on either Gentiles or Christians. (p. 254, 255)
4. When contemplating the Scriptural observance of the Lord’s Day (not the Jewish Sabbath), three considerations arise: (1) it belongs to a particular people; (2) it is not subject to rules; and (3) its observance is not limited to one day! (p. 283) God wants us to enjoy an unbroken Sabbath life (Heb. 4:1-16)

5. The Scriptures presuppose that the believer is a normal Christian to the extent that he is yielded to God and walking in the Spirit, that it will be his delight to do the will of God, and to rejoice above all else in the larger freedom which the Lord's Day affords for worship and service. (p. 284)
6. The believer under grace is an adult son in the Father's house, with the wider latitude which belongs to the full-grown, self-responsible man. (p. 287)
7. The real question is not, "How shall we preserve the sacredness of the day unless we have laws and enforce them?" It is rather, "Can the believer, to whom the day belongs, be trusted, when filled with the Spirit, to glorify God on the Lord's day?" (p. 288)

**“ISRAEL, THE WIFE OF JEHOVAH”**  
**HOSEA 2:1-23**  
**JANUARY 27, 2013**

1. STAGE ONE: THE MARRIAGE CONTRACT

Dt. 5:1-3  
Dt. 6:10-15  
Dt. 7:6-11  
Ezek. 16:8

2. STAGE TWO: THE GREAT ADULTERY

Jer. 3:1-5  
Jer. 3:20  
Ezek. 16:15-34  
Hosea 2:2-5

3. STAGE THREE: THE SEPARATION

Is. 50:1  
Dt. 24:1

4. STAGE FOUR: THE DIVORCE

Jer. 3:6-10

“The book of Hosea was God’s bill of divorcement of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. The book of Jeremiah was God’s bill of divorcement of the Southern Kingdom of Judah.” *The Footsteps of the Messiah* Fruchtenbaum p. 577

5. STAGE FIVE: THE PUNISHMENT

Ezek. 16:35-43  
Ezek. 16:58-59  
Hosea 2:6-13  
Jer. 3:11-18

“To this day, Israel is still in the fifth stage of her historical and prophetic relationship with Jehovah, her God. Israel is still in the period of punishment.” Fruchtenbaum p. 581

6. STAGE SIX: THE REMARRIAGE WITH RESTORED BLESSINGS

Jer. 31:31-34  
Ezek. 16:60-63  
Is. 54:1-8  
Is. 62:4-5  
Hosea 2:14-23  
1<sup>st</sup> result → not Baali but Ishi  
2<sup>nd</sup> result → peace and safety  
3<sup>rd</sup> result → the new betrothal  
4<sup>th</sup> result → the new meaning of Jezreel

**“GOD’S LOVE FOR ISRAEL”**  
**HOSEA 11:1-12**  
**SEPTEMBER 8, 2013**

**INTRO**

**MESSAGE**   god loves Israel. He will never abandon them.

- I. God calls Israel. (1-2)
- II. God cares for Israel. (3-4)
- III. God chastens Israel. (5-7)
- IV. God has compassion for Israel. (8-12)

**APPLICATIONS**

- 1. God has sovereignly chosen (elected) you.
- 2. God loves you with an unfailing love.
- 3. God reproves and rebukes you in order to conform you to the image of Christ.
- 4. God always treats you with mercy and patience

## **“SOME OF THE REASONS FOR THE JUDGMENT OF ISRAEL”**

HOSEA 8:1-14

APRIL 28, 2013

### **INTRO**

**MESSAGE** Israel, as a nation, will be judged...

- ♦ for failure in WORSHIP 101 --- offering lip-service devotion (8:1-3).
- ♦ for failure in WORSHIP 102 --- practicing idolatrous worship (8:4-7).
- ♦ for failure in WORSHIP 103 --- forming ungodly alliances (8:8-10).
- ♦ for failure in WORSHIP 104 --- trusting meaningless rituals (8:11-13).
- ♦ for failure in WORSHIP 105 --- striving in self-sufficiency (8:14).

### **APPLICATIONS**

	<u>Weak</u>			<u>Strong</u>	
1. My heart is fully devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ.	1	2	3	4	5
2. My heart is not in competition with other sources of strength and hope.	1	2	3	4	5
3. My heart is not entangled with false teaching.	1	2	3	4	5
4. My heart is not trusting in religion.	1	2	3	4	5
5. My heart is not pulled toward a works salvation or a works righteousness	1	2	3	4	5



Romans 9:1-29

“TO GOD BE THE GLORY”

May 28, 1978

- 9:1-5        The promises to Israel and the heritage of Israel as an elect nation , now temporarily rejected (set aside), provoke several unreasoned questions.
- 9:6-13       Questioning God's Faithfulness results from a failure to discern His purpose in election: TO GLORIFY HIMSELF!
- 9:14-18      Questioning God's Righteousness results from a failure to discern His purpose in extending grace to anyone: TO GLORIFY HIMSELF!
- 9:19-29      Questioning God's Justice results from a failure to discern His purpose in exercising His attributes of sovereignty and freedom: TO GLORIFY HIMSELF

## “THE IRREVOCABLE CALLING OF GOD”

Romans 11:1-36

May 15, 1988

### INTRODUCTION

Remnant theology in the Old Testament:	Isaiah 1:2-3	Rebellion
	1:4-5	Provocative
	1:6	Unresponsive
	1:9	Necessity of Choice of Remnant

### OUTLINE

- I. God’s rejection of Israel is only partial (11:1-10)
  - A. There always has been an elect remnant in Israel (1-6)
  - B. There have been unbelievers in every generation (7-10)
- II. God’s rejection of Israel is both humbling and awe-inspiring (11:11-24)
  - A. Israel’s fall opened the door of salvation and blessing for us (11-12)
  - B. Israel’s restoration will be glorious for them and us (13-15)
  - C. Our participation in Israel’s promises and privileges should humble us (16-24)
- III. God’s rejection of Israel is only temporary (11:25-32)
  - A. God’s rejection of Israel is temporary because of God’s future plans for them (25-27)
  - B. God’s rejection of Israel is temporary because the gifts and calling of His beloved people are irrevocable (28-32)
- IV. God’s dealings with Israel should inspire humility and worship (11:33-36)

### APPLICATIONS

1. Toward Israel—Do not become arrogant. They need our missionary and political support. Memorize Genesis 12:3.

2. Toward our Heavenly Father—We need to give more attention to the study of God:

	No				Yes
a. Do you have great energy for God?	1	2	3	4	5
b. Do you have great thoughts of God?	1	2	3	4	5
c. Do you have great boldness for God?	1	2	3	4	5
d. Do you have great contentment in God?	1	2	3	4	5

3. Toward One Another—We need to exercise humility toward other members of the Body of Christ:

	No				Yes
a. Are you able to “honor others above yourself?”	1	2	3	4	5
b. Have you purposely attempted to honor someone above yourself?	1	2	3	4	5
c. Do you communicate sincere appreciation toward other people?	1	2	3	4	5
d. Can you compliment others and enter into the joy of their success?	1	2	3	4	5

“THE REIGN OF THE LAW”  
PART I

ROMANS 2:1-16

October 11, 1987

IDEA

Morality will not get you or your neighbor to heaven.

INTRODUCTION

OUTLINE

- I. A moral life is good if you keep the Law perfectly (2:1-10)
  - A. But...the wrath of God will fall on every moralist (1-5)
    - 1. because he practices the same sins (1-3)
    - 2. because he mocks the grace God has extended to him (4-5)
  - B. And...the works of every moralist will prove that God's wrath is deserved (6-10)
    - 1. Works are the basis of his judgment (6)
    - 2. Do you consistently seek God's glory and honor? (7-8)
    - 3. Do you consistently do evil? (9-10)
- II. A moral life is of no spiritual advantage if you fail to keep the Law (2:11-16)
  - A. God's judgment is impartial (11)
  - B. Do you keep the Law consistently? (12-13)
  - C. Do those you judge keep the Law consistently? (14-16)

## “THE REIGN OF THE LAW”

### PART II

ROMANS 2:17-3:8

[1987]

#### OUTLINE

- I. Obeying religious codes won't get you to heaven (2:17-24)
  - A. The positive advantages of the Jew (17-18)
  - B. The presumed advantages of the Jew (19-20)
  - C. The perverted reality of Jewish practices (21-24)
    - 1. The reality: hypocrisy (21-22)
    - 2. The result: dishonor (23-24)
- II. Observing religious ceremonies won't get you to heaven (2:25-29)
  - A. The positive advantages of the Jew (25)
  - B. The perverted reality of Jewish practices (26-27)
  - C. The perfection of the heart required (28-29)
- III. Operating on religious credit won't get you to heaven (3:1-8)
  - A. The first credit check (1-2)
    - 1. Question: Do Jews have any real advantage? (1)
    - 2. Answer: Jews have God's promises! (2)
  - B. The second credit check (3-4)
    - 1. Question: Does Jews' unfaithfulness nullify the promises? (3)
    - 2. Answer: God is faithful! (4)
  - C. The third credit check (5-8)
    - 1. Question: If the Jews' sin ultimately enhances God's glory, why should God condemn them? (5)
    - 2. Answer: This would prevent God from judging anyone. It is faulty reasoning! (6-8)

# “THE PROVISION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS”

## PART I

Romans 3:21-25  
November 15, 1987

### INTRODUCTION

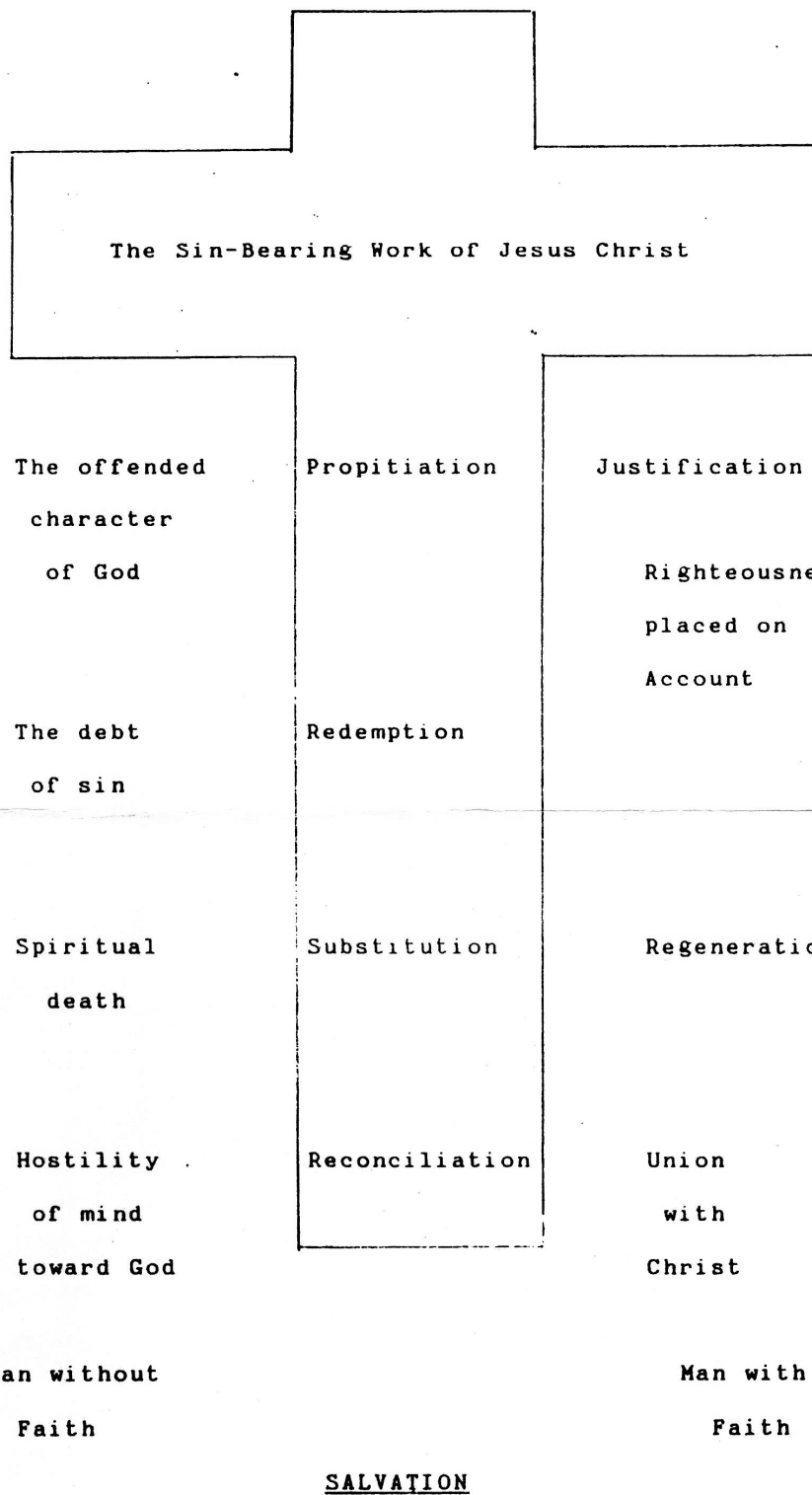
1. The most important question that any person could ever ask (Job 9:2)
2. The answer of religion
3. The answer of Scripture

### OUTLINE

- I. The revelation of “a righteousness from God” (Romans 3:21)
- II. The interpretation of “a righteousness from God” (Romans 3:21-25)
  - A. It is APART FROM LAW KEEPING (21a)
  - B. REVEALED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT (21b)
  - C. APPROPRIATED BY FAITH (22a)
  - D. PROVIDED WITHOUT DISTINCTION (22b-23)
  - E. GIVEN FREELY BY GRACE (24a)
  - F. ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH REDEMPTION (24b)
  - G. PAID FOR IN BLOOD (25a)

### LIFE-RESPONSE

1. Toward God
2. Toward Yourself
3. Toward Others



“Don’t Sweat it!”  
1 Corinthians 1:4-3:3  
SPIRITUAL IQ  
Message #2, July 28, 1996

**Intro:**

**Message:**

1. Believers are called into fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ apart from any human works. Salvation is completely a work of grace. (1:4-9)
2. A believer who understands grace sees that there is no place for braggadocio. Spiritual arrogance causes multiple relational problems in the Church. (1:10-17)
3. The work of Christ on the cross (propitiation, redemption, substitutionary atonement and reconciliation) is the basis for all that God is free to do for us. This is grace. (1:18-25)
4. All believers are on equal spiritual footing since salvation is completely God’s work. This eliminates any believer glorying in His own wisdom or goodness. (1:26-31)
5. A believer’s faith must rest completely on God, His work and His viewpoint. (2:1-5)
6. Divine viewpoint cannot originate with or be understood by even the most brilliant unbeliever. (2:6-8)
7. The doctrine of grace is an example of divine viewpoint. Every believer has the spiritual IQ to receive maximum understanding and benefit from the doctrine of grace. (2:9-11)
8. To have a maximum spiritual IQ the believer must be rightly related to the Holy Spirit of God. (2:12-13)
9. An unsaved person has no spiritual IQ because he does not have the Spirit. No matter how brilliant he is, he cannot benefit from grace teachings – divine viewpoint. (2:14)
10. Every believer in fellowship with God (rightly related to the Holy Spirit) has the mind of Christ. Regardless of his human IQ, he can have a maximum understanding of divine viewpoint. This is part of the ingenuity of God’s grace. (2:15-16)
11. A believer who is out of fellowship with the Lord, because of unconfessed sin, cannot progress in understanding and applying the doctrines of grace. He must regain his right relationship with the Holy Spirit. (3:1-3)

**Conclusion:**



“Don’t Sweat It”  
1 John 2:12-17  
Spirituality & Maturity  
Message #3, August 4, 1996

Intro:

Review:

1. Human viewpoint & Divine viewpoint
2. Human IQ & Spiritual IQ

Message:

1. spirituality is a relationship with the Holy Spirit, who indwells every believer at the moment of salvation (Gal 4:6, Romans 8:9), whereby He controls or fills the believer’s life. (Eph. 5:18; Gal. 5:16)

2. Spirituality is an absolute – not a matter of degrees. Either you are controlled by the Holy Spirit or you are controlled by the sin nature. (Gal. 5:17; Romans 8:4-8)

3. Spirituality is not the baptism of the Spirit. (I Cor. 12:13) There will never be a time when the Holy Spirit does not indwell the Church-age believer. However, the filling of the Holy Spirit comes and goes depending on whether or not there is sin in the believer’s life.

4. Spirituality differs from spiritual growth and the resulting maturity. A believer can be a spiritual babe, a spiritual adolescent or a spirit-filled mature person. (I John 2:12-14) At any stage in the growth – process the believer is either spiritual or carnal. (I Cor. 2:15-16, 3:1-3) Growth in the Christian life does not remain static. The believer is either progressing or regressing. (Hebrews 5:11-14)

5. Mature believers can be characterized by five growth words:

KNOWLEDGE	*****	They are gaining a full knowledge of the doctrines of Scripture. (2 Tim. 3:16)
FAITH	*****	They habitually trust the person of God (including His doctrine) and the promises of God. (Hebrews 11:6)
WISDOM	*****	They consistently apply God’s doctrine and promises to life’s experiences. (Heb. 5:14)
GRACE	*****	They consistently respond with the appropriate attitudes and actions to believers at any stage of growth, whether spiritual or carnal. (Romans 14:1, 13;j 15:1,7)
FRUITFULNESS	*****	They bear fruit, more fruit and much fruit in accordance with their level of maturity. (John 15:2,5,8)

## Romans 5:1-2

### A Communion Meditation

Message      When God tells you that you're O.K. spiritually you will begin to enjoy peace and grace and hope!

- I.      One of the great needs that we have is to hear God say, "I forgive you. I accept you. I count you as a friend!" (5:1a)
  - A.      We need to be "justified." (Romans 3:21-23)
  - B.      God has provided for our "justification" in Christ. (Romans 3:24-25a)
  - C.      We must accept Christ's work in order to be "justified." (Romans 4:1-5)
- II.     Hearing God say, "I forgive you, I accept you, I count you as a friend" will have a life-changing impact on us. (5:1b-2)
  - A.      As an immediate effect of justification we have "peace with God." (5:1b)
  - B.      As a continuing effect of justification we have access "into this grace." (5:2a)
  - C.      As a maturing effect of justification we have outspoken confidence regarding the future. (5:2b)

# **Declaring the end from the beginning**

Isaiah 46:10a (NKJV)



## Revelation 1:1-8

September 10, 1978

Central Idea: Jesus Christ, God's Son, Your Savior, is coming with power and great glory to bring all things under His government and dominion.

### Outline

- I. Jesus Christ is coming to bring God's plan for the ages – to bring all things under His government and dominion – to completion. Rev. 1:1-3
  - A. He is revealing God's plan.
  - B. He is enriching our spiritual lives.
- II. Jesus Christ is God the Son, the Second Person of the Trinity, the Messiah. Rev. 1:4-5a
  - A. He is the faithful witness.
  - B. He is the firstborn of the dead.
  - C. He is the ruler of the kings of the earth.
- III. Jesus Christ is our Savior. Rev. 1:5b-6a
  - A. He is the lover of our souls.
  - B. He is the redeemer of our souls at the cost of His own blood.
  - C. He is the shepherd of our souls.
- IV. Jesus Christ is coming with power and great glory. Rev. 1:6b-8
  - A. He is sovereign.
  - B. He is glorious.
  - C. He is the Almighty.

### Practical Steps in Obeying the Message of the Revelation

One of the commentators has said: "A revelation of the end of history is given not for the satisfaction of curiosity, but to inspire living in accordance with the reality unveiled."

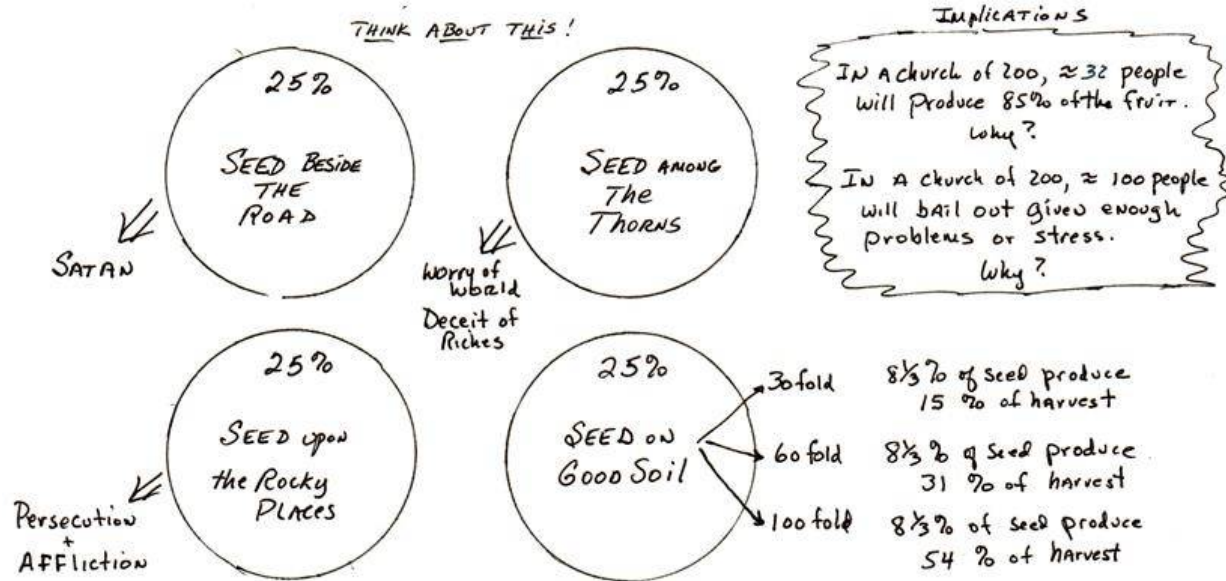
The blessing that results from obeying the Revelation (1:3) has both a present and eternal impact. In the present, the obedient Christian will be growing spiritually and will be useful as a servant of the Lord.

## "THE COMING APOSTASY"

2 Thes. 2:1-3a

Message #15 May 7, 1995

INTRO Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23



## MESSAGE

- I. What is apostasy?
- II. What are the chief characteristics of apostates?
  - A. They deny the doctrine of the trinity (1 Jn. 2:22-23).
  - B. They deny the doctrine of the incarnation of Christ (1 Jn. 4:2-3; 2 Jn. 7).
  - C. They deny the doctrine of the return of Christ (2 Pet. 3:3-4).
- III. Will we experience apostasy in the Church?
  - A. Some early examples of apostasy.
    1. Is. 14:12-15
    2. Gen. 3
  - B. Some later examples of apostasy
    1. 1 Tim. 4:1-5
    2. 2 Tim 3:1-9
    3. 2 Tim 4:3-4
- IV. What are the characteristics of the Church of the Tribulation?
  - A. Ecumenical (Rev. 17:15)
  - B. Harlot (17:1,15,16)
  - C. Exercising great political power (Rev. 17:3)
  - D. A federation (Rev. 17:5)
  - E. Persecuting true saints (Rev. 17:6)
- V. What is my life-response to the problem of apostasy?

## CONCLUSION

“I AM COMING QUICKLY”  
Revelation 22:6-21

INTRO

I. The Revelation’s Impact (22:6-9)

- A. It delivers God’s message (6)
- B. It dares obedience (7)
- C. It draws out worship (8-9)

II. The Revelation’s Importance (22:10-15)

- A. The closing of the door of opportunity (10-11)
- B. The courtroom appearance before Jesus (12-13)
- C. The crossroads of decision-making time (14-15)

III. The Revelation’s Invitation (22:16-21)

- A. Accept the gift of God! (16-17)
- B. Adhere to the Word of God! (18-19)
- C. Attend to the grace of God! (20-21)

## **“As Near as the Next Beat of Your Heart”**

Revelation 19-20

Prophecy Series #16 January 30, 2000

### **INTRO**

#### **Message**

The chronology of events related to the second coming of Christ

- ♦ The Hallelujah Chorus in heaven (19:1-10)
- ♦ The second coming of Christ (19:11-16)
- ♦ The battle of Armageddon (19:17-21)
- ♦ The binding of Satan (20:1-3)
- ♦ The resurrection of the Old Testament and martyred Tribulation saints (20:4-5)
- ♦ The Millennial Kingdom reign of Christ on earth (20:6)
- ♦ The Loosing of Satan and the final rebellion (20:7-9)
- ♦ The casting of Satan into the Lake of Fire (20:10)
- ♦ The great white throne judgment (20:11-15)
- ♦ The eternal kingdom reign of God (Ch. 21-22)

#### **Life Applications**

The Apostle Paul says that it won't be long and “we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable (resurrection), and we shall be changed (rapture).” 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

He also says: “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 15:58

The coming of the Lord is as near as our next breath, the next beat of our hearts, the next word of our lips. How should we then live?

#### **1. BE STEADFAST!**

- Literally “being seated.”
  - ♦ Being seated in the doctrines of grace (Rom. 5:1-2)
  - ♦ Being anchored in the basics of the spiritual life (Ps. 119; Mk. 1:35)
  - ♦ Being spiritual (no unconfessed sin) not carnal (1 Cor. 2:14-3:3)
- Concentrate on deepening the quality of your spiritual life!!!



2. BE IMMOVABLE!

- Literally “being motionless”
  - ♦ Not moving away from sound doctrine (Eph. 4:13-14)
  - ♦ Not moving away from taking God’s will as your rule of life (Rom. 2:1-2)
- Make a fresh commitment to the Lordship of Christ on a daily basis!!!

3. BE ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD!

- Literally “be more than enough, overflow, exceed the requirements”
  - ♦ Exceeding the requirements as workers in the harvest (Mt. 9:37-38; Lk 10:2)
  - ♦ Exceeding the requirements in reaching the lost (John 4:34-38; 15:8,16)
  - ♦ Exceeding the requirements of making disciples (John 14:12-14; 17:4)
- Purpose in your heart to win one and disciple on this year!!!

## **“Receive a Reward or Suffer Loss”**

The Judgment Seat of Christ – Part 2

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

Prophecy series #12 Dec. 26, 1999

### **INTRO**

The parable of the gracious, loving couple

### **Review**

The definition of a good work

A good work is  
a glory-motivated, word-directed, Spirit-filled

#### **ACTION**

#### **THAT RESULTS IN...**

developing Christ's life in me, or  
establishing Christ's life in a new believer, or  
enjoying Christ's life with a fellow-believer, or  
sharing Christ's life with an unbeliever

### **Message**

How do I lose my reward(s) at the Judgment Seat of Christ?

I. What makes the difference between reward and loss?

- A. The builder analogy (1 Cor. 3:10-15)
- B. The olympic runner analogy (1 Cor. 9:19-27)
- C. The manager analogy (1 Cor. 4:1-5)
- D. The sufferer analogy (James 1:2-12)
- E. The shepherd analogy (1 Pet. 5:1-5)
- F. The hard worker analogy (2 Pet. 1:3-10)
- G. The guard analogy (2 John 8)

II. How can I ensure that I receive a full reward?

- A. (Hold fast) (Rev. 2:25-28; 3:11-12)
- B. (Press on to maturity) (Heb. 5:11-6:10)

### **Life-Response**

Isn't it time to clean the slate?

“Ingratitude Stinks!”  
Revelation 16:1-21

Introduction

Outline

- I. Understanding the final judgments of the Tribulation (16:1-21)
  - A. Bowl 1: Sores (1-2)
  - B. Bowl 2: Seas / blood (3)
  - C. Bowl 3: Rivers / blood (4-7)
  - D. Bowl 4: Scorching heat (8-9)
  - E. Bowl 5: Darkness (10-11)
  - F. Bowl 6: Euphrates dried (12-16)
  - G. Bowl 7: Mass destruction (17-21)
- II. Understanding man’s reaction to the final judgments of the Tribulation (16:9, 11, 21)
  - A. The nature of our spiritual problem
    - 1. The depth of human sin Ps. 53:1-3 Rom. 3:10-12
    - 2. The deadness of the human spirit
  - B. the explanation of 16:9,11,21
- III. Appreciation of God’s saving work in your life
  - A. Election – Regeneration – Faith – Blessing (16:9,11,21)
    - 1. 2 Thes. 2:3-15                      2. 1 Pet. 1:1-3
    - 3. Acts 16:11-15                      4. John 6:35-40
  - B. Overflowing, gracious provision (16:15)

“Die Hard 3”  
Revelation 12:1-17

Introduction

Outline

- I. Satan failed to prevent God’s work  
The promised Messiah to the world (12:1-6)
- II. Satan fails to negate God’s work  
Sinning Christians at the throne of grace (12:7-12)
- III. Satan will fail to destroy God’s work  
A Jewish remnant to enter the Millennial Kingdom (12:13-17)

Life-Changing Response

- 1. Security
- 2. Victory
- 3. Endurance

## “THE COMING ANTICHRIST”

2 Thessalonians 2:3-17

Message #6 May 14, 1995

The appearing of the second person of the satanic trinity

INTRO    An overview of end-time prophecy  
              The “Tribulation” period in prophecy  
              Mid-tribulation period events

### MESSAGE

- I.        The Coming of the Antichrist (2:3-8)
  - A.    The Antichrist’s personal mission (3-5)
    - 1.    He exalts himself (3-4a)
    - 2.    He deifies himself (4b)
  - B.    God’s ultimate control of the Antichrist (6-8)
    - 1.    The Antichrist comes when God permits it (6-7)
    - 2.    The Antichrist is destroyed when God determines it (8)
- II.      The Word of the Antichrist (2:9-17)
  - A.    The Antichrist’s people mission (9-12)
    - 1.    He deceives people (9-10)
    - 2.    He leads people to eternal ruin (11-12)
  - B.    God’s ultimate control of the destiny of the elect (13-17)
    - 1.    God gives the gift of salvation to the one who believes (13)
    - 2.    God will give the glory of Christ to the one who believes (14)
  - C.    Life response (15-17)
    - 1.    God expects us to STAND FIRM in the midst of trials (15a)
    - 2.    God expects us to hold firm to APOSTOLIC DOCTRINE (15b)
    - 3.    God expects us to continue THE WORK OF FAITH and THE LABOR OF LOVE (16-17)

### CONCLUSION

**“GOD’S RESURRECTION PROGRAM”**  
**1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-28**  
**APRIL 16, 2006**

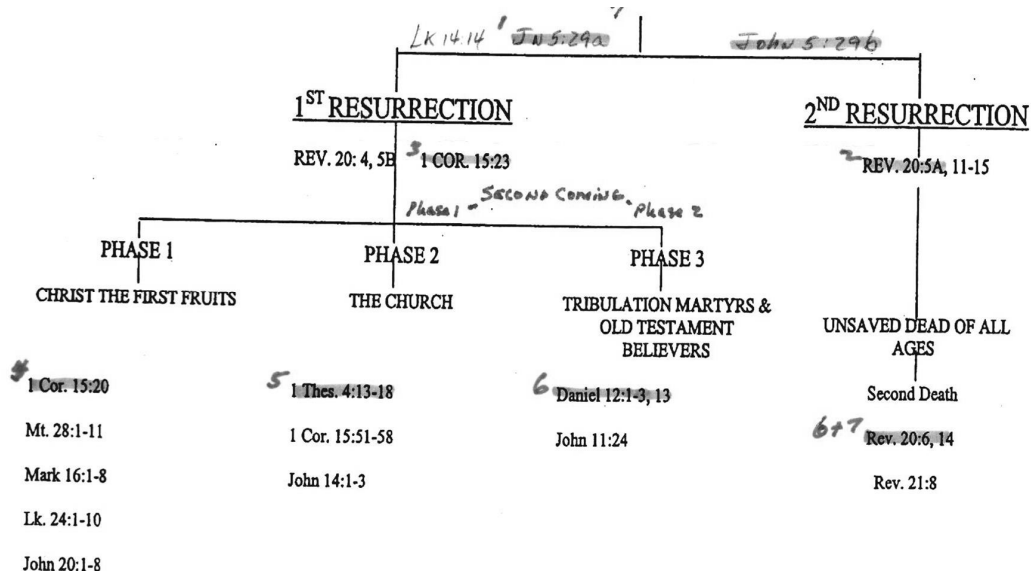
**INTRO** If there were no resurrection... (1 Cor. 15:11-19)

1. the gospel message would be lifeless since the object of faith would be a dead man (12-14)
2. the Apostles would be charlatans and liars (15-16)
3. the Corinthians’ salvation would be only a state of mind with no corresponding reality (17)
4. the Corinthians who passed away would be in perdition (18)
5. the pagans would be right, “let us eat, drink, for tomorrow we die” (19)

**MESSAGE** “But now Christ has been raised from the dead!” (15:20)

**GOD’S RESURRECTION PROGRAM (15:20-28)**

- ♦ The divine pledge for the program. (20)
- ♦ The divine provision to achieve the program. (21-22)
- ♦ The divine order in the program (23)



- ♦ The divine consummation of the program. (24-28)
  - ➔ the nature of the consummation (24a)
  - ➔ the conditions for the consummation (24b-27)
  - ➔ enjoying eternity with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (28)

**LIFE-RESPONSE** Win! Build! Send!

## RESURRECTION VICTORY

I Corinthians 15:35-58  
September 7, 1986

INTRODUCTION     When the body of the founder of Rhode Island, Roger Williams was disinterred, it was discovered that the roots of a nearby apple tree had grown through the casket. To some degree, the people who ate the apples partook of his body. At the resurrection, then, who will claim the various elements?

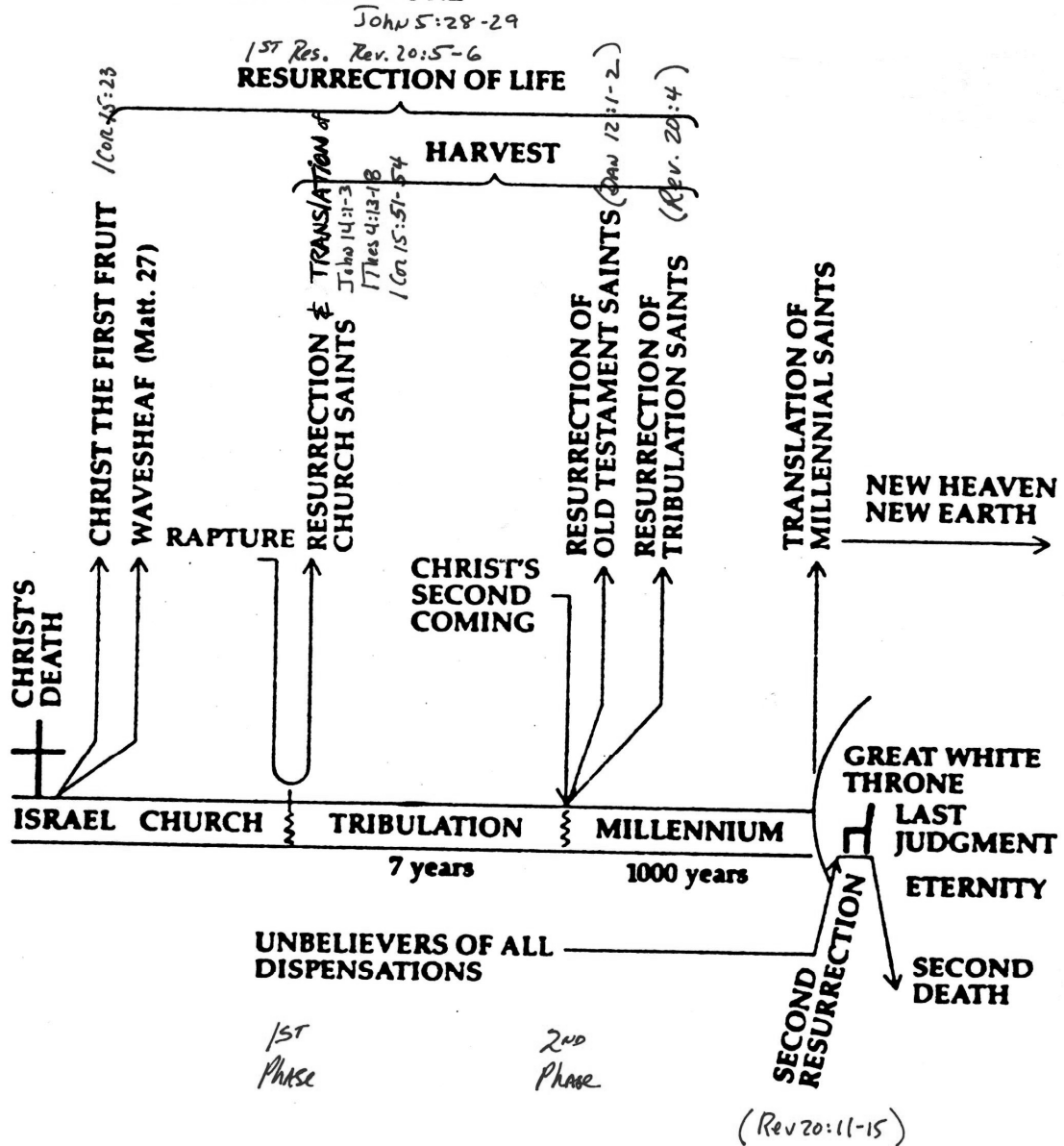
### OUTLINE

- I.     God will resurrect the dust and ashes of the dead saints (all Christians) and transform them into glorious, new bodies. (15:35-49)
  - A. Can God resurrect scattered dust and ashes and transform them into a glorious, new body? (35)
  - B. Absolutely! The principle of resurrection is evident throughout the natural world. (36-41)
    - 1. The seed and the plant analogy (36-38)
    - 2. The flesh and the body analogy (39-40)
    - 3. The planet and the star analogy (41)
  - C. Since God's resurrection processes are at work in the natural realm, they will also be at work in the spiritual realm. (42-49)
    - 1. Our natural bodies will be transformed into bodies which are fully suited for heaven. (42-44)
    - 2. Our natural bodies will be transformed into bodies just like the one that Jesus has. (45-49)
- II.    God will translate the bodies of the living saints and will also transform them into glorious, new bodies. (15:50-57)
  - A. The translation of the living will follow immediately after the resurrection of the dead with all of them receiving glorious, new bodies. (50-53)
  - B. When this resurrection occurs, death will be swallowed up in victory. (54-57)

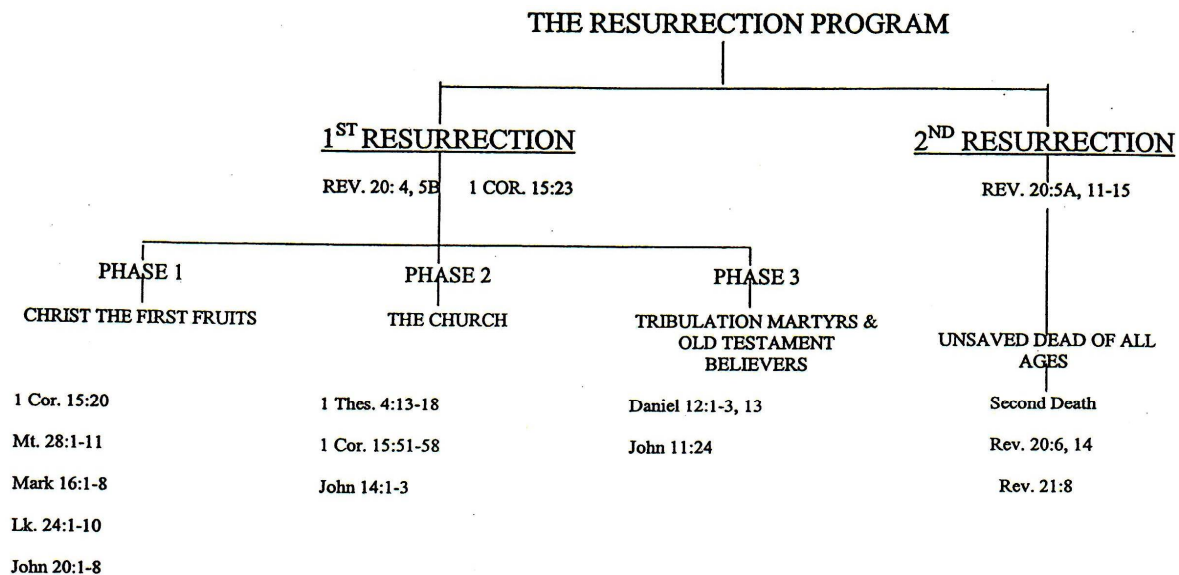
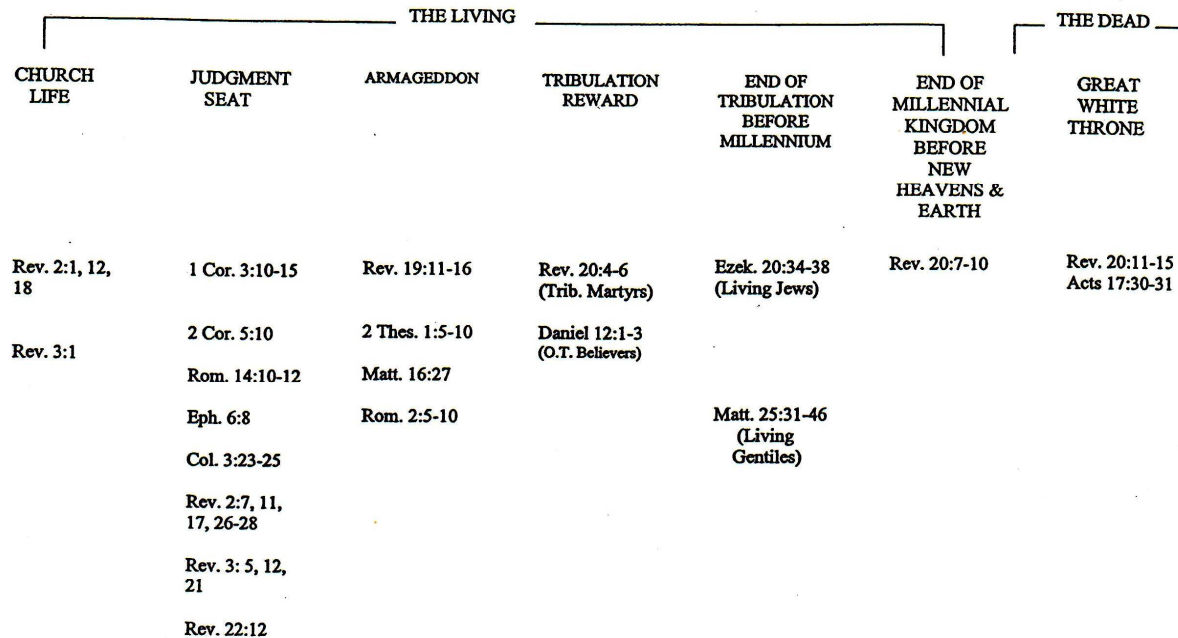
### APPLICATION



# ORDER OF RESURRECTION PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE



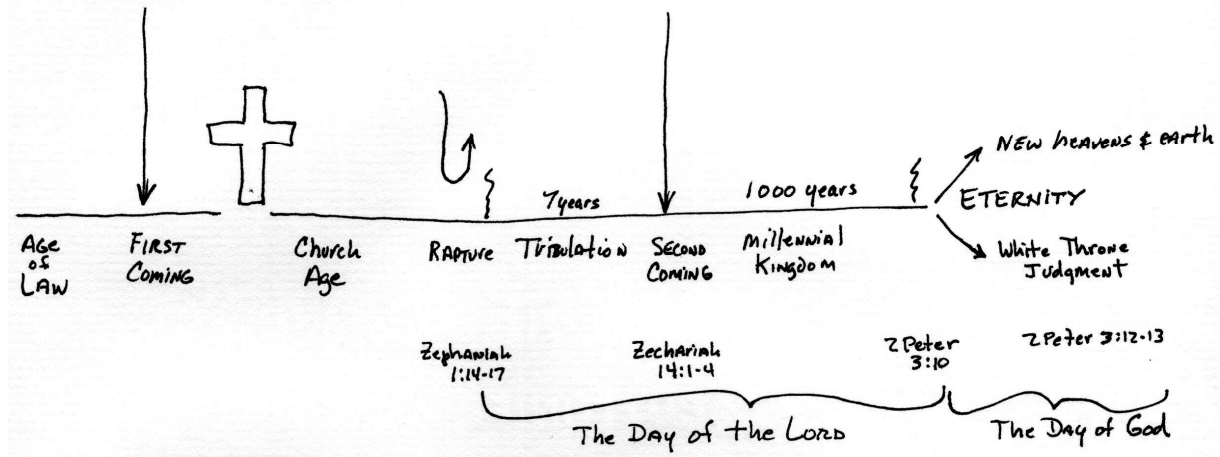
**CHRIST THE JUDGE**  
**JOHN 5:22/Rev. 1:12-16**  
**ACTS 10:42 2 TIMOTHY 4:1 1 PETER 4:5**



“Destined for Rescue”  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Message #12, April 2, 1995

INTRO

The Jewish Wedding Analogy



MESSAGE

- I. What is at stake? MY HOPE (4:13)  
Review 1 Thes. 1:9-10 (outline of book)  
Past – how you turned to God from idols (ch. 2 & 3)  
Present – to serve a living & true God (4:1-12)  
Future – to wait for His Son from heaven (4:13-18) who delivers us from the wrath to come (5:1-11)

Problem

- II. Where does Paul begin? MY KNOWLEDGE (5:1-3)
- III. What does Paul affirm? MY POSITION (5:4-5)
- IV. What is Paul's encouragement? MY RESPONSE (5:6-11)
- A. STAY ALERT! (6-10)
1. Ministry Guards the Heart (8a)
  2. Desire for Blessing Guards the Mind! (8b)
  3. Grace Guards the Future! (9-10)
- B. STAY POSITIVE! (11)

## The Worth of the Lamb

### Revelation 5

December 3, 1978

Central Idea: The Lord Jesus Christ is worthy to bring God's Kingdom to the earth because He purchased for God with His blood men and women from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

I. The Question: Who is worthy to bring God's Kingdom to the earth? 5:1-4

A. What is in a book? 5:1-2

B. With all of our human achievements why can't we open the book? 5:3-4

II. The Answer: The Lamb is worthy to bring God's Kingdom to the earth because of His relationship to the Father and His work of redemption! 5:5-7

A. The Lamb is the Son of the Father: "the Loin, the Root, the Lamb."

B. The Lamb is the substitute of the sinner: "as if slain"

III. The Response: Let us ascribe worth to the Lamb because of the blessings of our redemption! 5:8-14

A. Our blessings are many!

1. We are redeemed: "and didst purchase for God with Thy blood."
2. We are placed in the Father's domain and rule: "made them a kingdom."  
(see Col. 1:13)
3. We are placed in direct fellowship with the Father: "made them ----  
priests." (see I Pet. 2:5,9)
4. We are assured of future rewards: "and they will reign."

B. Our response is one of worship!

1. We talk about the worth of the Lamb: anywhere, any time, to anyone!
2. We praise and thank God regarding the worth of the Lamb: anywhere,  
anytime!
3. We live our lives, in all of life's relationships, in the light of the worth of  
the Lamb!

Zechariah 12:1-14  
“Israel’s Final Yom Kippur”

Introduction

The dynamic for possessing, experiencing, enjoying and expressing spiritual life is revealed in this chapter!

- I. The final battle for control of Jerusalem (12:1-9)
  - A. The power of the Lord of creation (1)
  - B. The siege of Jerusalem (2-3)
  - C. The victory of the Lord of Hosts (4-9)
    - 1. by confusing the enemy (4-5)
    - 2. by empowering the people (6-8)
    - 3. by intervening directly (9)
- II. The conversion of Israel to the Lord (12:10-14)
  - A. The conviction of the Holy Spirit (10a)
  - B. The recognition of Jesus as the Messiah (10b)
  - C. The personal conversion of every living Jewish person (11-14)

Grace-Today

-----  
Chronology of Events:

- (1) Israel makes a false covenant with the Beast and occupies her land in a false security (Dan. 9:27; Ezek. 38:8,11).
- (2) Because of a desire for spoil at the expense of an easy prey, the king of the North, ‘satanically motivated, invades Palestine (Ezek. 38:11; Joel 2:1-21; Isaiah 10:12,30:31-33; 31:8-9).
- (3) The Beast breaks his covenant with Israel and moves into the land (Dan. 11:41-45).
- (4) The king of the North is destroyed on the mountains of Israel (Ezek. 39:1-4).
- (5) The land of Palestine is occupied by the armies of the Beast (Dan. 11:45).
- (6) At this time the great coalition of nations takes place that forms one government under the Beast (Ps. 2:1-3; Rev. 13:7).
- (7) The kings of the East are brought in against the armies of the Beast (Rev. 16:12), evidently as a result of the dissolution of the government of Gog.
- (8) When the nations of the earth are gathered together around Jerusalem (Zech. 14:1-3) and the valley of Jehoshaphat (Joel 3:2), the Lord returns to destroy all Gentile world powers so that He might rule the nations Himself. (This is further described in Zechariah 12:1-9; 14:1-4; Isaiah 33:1-34:17; 63:1-6; 66:15-16; Jeremiah 25:27-33; Revelation 20:7-10)

## ETERNITY WITH THE TRIUNE GOD

### I. What will heaven be like? Revelation 21-22

- A. Above all else – It will be in the presence of God. Rev. 22:4
- B. Only the redeemed will inhabit heaven. Heb. 12:22-24
- C. The redeemed will dwell in the city of God, the New Jerusalem. Rev. 21:2,10
  - 1. characterized by the glory of God v. 11
  - 2. a place of protection v. 12
  - 3. a place of permanence v. 14
  - 4. an adequate residence v. 16
  - 5. a place of ultimate beauty v. 18ff
  - 6. a place of constant light v. 23
  - 7. a place of abundant life 22:1-2

### II. What will we do in heaven?

- A. We shall worship. Rev. 21:3,22
- B. We shall be students. Rev. 21:4 (the result of the mystery of His will explained)
- C. We shall serve and reign. Rev. 22:3,5
- D. We shall fellowship. Rev. 22:4

# **There is one body and one Spirit**

Ephesians 4:4a (NKJV)





**“THE POWER OF BODY LIFE”**  
**1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31**  
**APRIL 15, 2007**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. What's in your golf bag?
2. What's in your fishing tackle box?
- ♦ You are a member of the Body! (12-13)
  1. There is diversity in the Body. (12)
  2. There is unity in the Body. (13)
- ♦ The Body needs you!
  1. Your spiritual gift is valuable to other members of the Body. (14-17)
  2. Your spiritual gift has been given to you by God so that you can serve the Body. (18-20)
- ♦ You need the Body! (21-26)
  1. You need the gifted ministry of other members of the Body. (21-24a)
  2. You need to enjoy unity with and care for all of these gifted members of the Body (24b-26)
- ♦ Body life is essential! (27-31)
  1. God gave you your spiritual gift(s) to benefit the Body, His Church, (27-28)
  2. God did not give you all the gifts so you need the gifted ministry of your brothers and sisters in Christ. (29-31)

**LIFE-RESPONSE**

“LOVE IS A VERB”

Part I [of 5]

INTRODUCTION

- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. What love is not:       | 2. What love is       |
| a. romantic or sexual love | a. John 3:16          |
| b. emotional love          | b. John 13:1, 4-5, 34 |
| c. ecumenical love         | c. John 21:15-19      |
| d. charity                 |                       |

REVIEW

I Cor. 13:1-3 The Motivation to become lovers

Love is better than the sign gifts (v. 1)

Love is better than the speaking gifts (v. 2)

Love is better than the serving gifts (v. 3)

OUTLINE

I. The Means of becoming lovers

A. Love is patient (13:4a)

1. A word with an interesting history
2. A biblical definition of the word
  - a. A refusal to seek (revenge) .
  - b. A refusal to give up on (people) .
3. Application

B. Love is kind (13:4b)

1. A word easily misunderstood
2. Biblical examples of kindness
  - a. Jer. 52:31-34
  - b. Luke 6:27-38

CONCLUSION

## INTRODUCTION

1. Interpersonal conflict at Corinth
2. The causes of interpersonal conflict
  - a. power struggle
  - b. competing roles
  - c. separate aims
  - d. different values
  - e. contrasting perceptions

## REVIEW

1. Love is patient
  - refusal to seek revenge
  - refusal to give up on people
2. Love is kind
  - doing what is useful for another person
  - ignoring the cost, doing it sacrificially

## OUTLINE

- |                                       |  |   |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| 1. Love is not jealous                | 2. Love does not brag                        | 3. Love is not arrogant                         |
| a. Joan's problem                     | a. Attention-getting,<br>the immature method | a. Arrogance and carnality<br>walk hand in hand |
| b. What is jealousy?                  | b. What is bragging?                         | b. What is arrogance?                           |
| c. Do believers have<br>this problem? | c. Should believers boast?                   | c. How do we “put off”<br>arrogance?            |
| d. How do we “put off”<br>jealousy?   |  |   |

## CONCLUSION

## “UNINTERPRETED TONGUES INTERPRETED”

I Cor. 14:1-25  
August 17, 1986

### INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND

### OUTLINE

- I. Using uninterpreted tongues in the local church is inferior to using the gift of prophecy. (14:1-5)
  - A. Understanding the excellence of love leads one to understand the excellence of prophecy. (1)
  - B. The superiority of prophecy is demonstrated by contrasting it with uninterpreted tongues. (2-5)
    1. Uninterpreted tongues are directed to God, prophecy is directed to people.
    2. Uninterpreted tongues contain mysteries, prophecy contains edification, exhortation, comfort. (2b-3)
    3. Uninterpreted tongues edify self, prophecy edifies the church. (4-5)
- II. Using uninterpreted tongues in the local church benefits neither believers nor unbelievers. (14:6-25)
  - A. Using uninterpreted tongues in the local church denies God's people an opportunity to be nourished from God's Word. (6-12)
    1. Proposition; Uninterpreted tongues are profitless. (6)
    2. Illustration: Unintelligible instrumental notes are worthless. (7-8)
    3. Application: Uninterpreted tongues are empty. (9)
    4. Illustration: Uninterpreted languages are useless. (10-11)
    5. Conclusion: Always aim at edifying the church. (12)
  - B. Using uninterpreted tongues in the local church denies God's people an opportunity to participate in worship. (13-19)
    1. Proposition: Tongues must be interpreted. (13)

2. Reason #1: Uninterpreted tongues do not edify the mind of someone who does not know the language. (14)
  3. Conclusion: Worship in the language of the congregation. (15)
- 
4. Reason #2: Uninterpreted tongues do not allow participation in worship. (16-17)
  5. Conclusion: Understandable words are needed for edification. (18-19)
- C. Using uninterpreted tongues in the local church denies unbelievers an opportunity to be convicted of sin and to place their faith in Jesus Christ. (20-25)
1. Exhortation: Grow up and prefer prophecy. (cf. 13:11; 20)
  2. Instruction: Tongues are intended to serve as a sign to authenticate God's activity among unbelievers in an evangelistic setting. (21-22)
  3. Applicational situations:
    - a. Unbelievers attend, everyone speaks in an uninterpreted tongue, no one is communicating with anyone, conclude that they are crazy. (23)
    - b. Unbeliever attends, everyone prophesies, everyone edified, unbeliever convicted of sin, saved, joins in worship. (24-25)

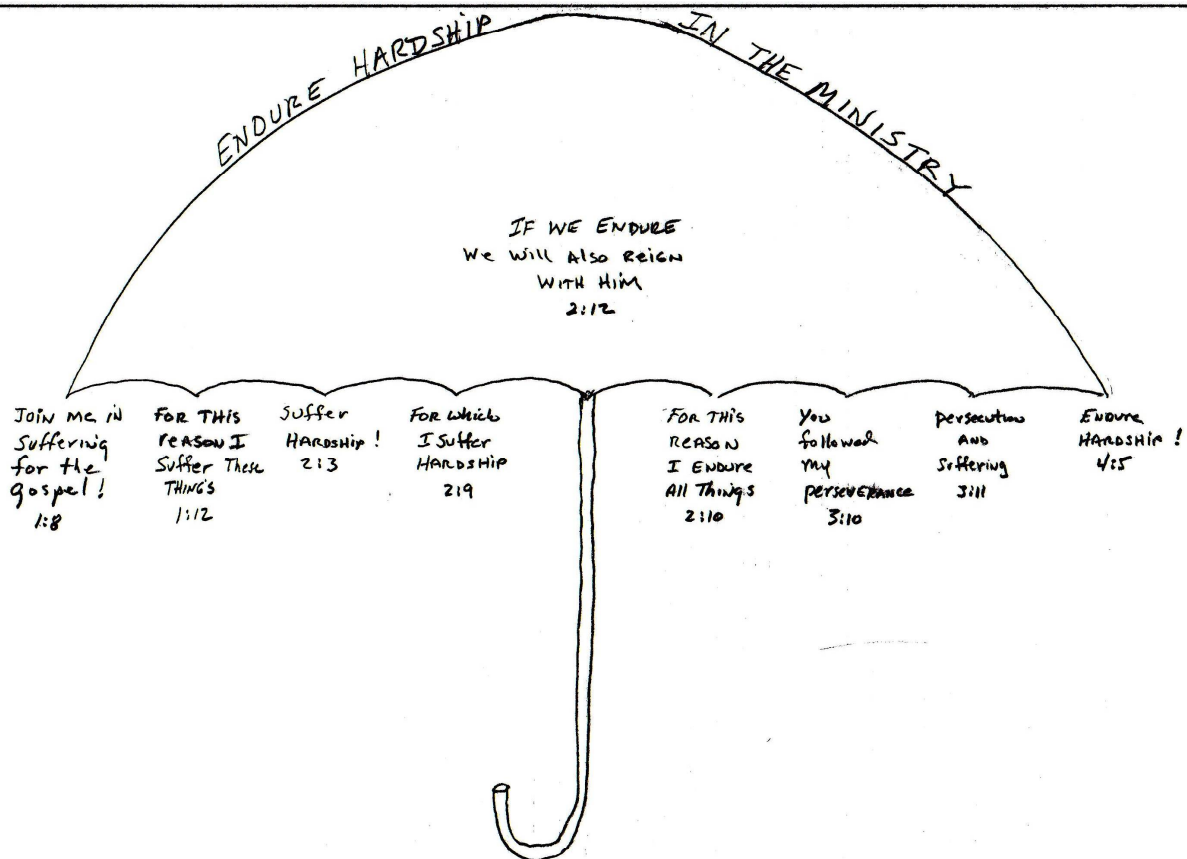
### SUMMARY

Using uninterpreted tongues in the local church is inferior to using the gift of prophecy because neither believer nor unbeliever receive any spiritual benefit.

**“WHEN TO STEP UP”**  
**2 TIMOTHY 1:1-7**  
**JUNE 2, 2013**

**INTRO**

THE THEME OF SECOND TIMOTHY



THE MINISTRY PRIORITIES IN SECOND TIMOTHY

Use your spiritual gifts	1:1-7	Pursue holiness	2:20-26
Proclaim the gospel boldly	1:8-12	Understand the times	3:1-9
Teach sound doctrine	1:13-18	Model spiritual excellence	3:10-17
Make disciples	2:1-13	Preach the Word without compromise	4:1-8
Interpret and apply the Word accurately	2:14-19	Guard against false teachers	4:9-22

**MESSAGE** In every ministry there is a time to step up and take personal responsibility for God's work.

- I. Timothy, we possess the good news about eternal life. (1-2)
- II. Timothy, your sincerity about that life fills me with joy. (3-4)
- III. Timothy, you have the faith that changes lives. (5)
- IV. Timothy, now is the time to use your spiritual gifts to lead the church. (6-7)

**APPLICATIONS**

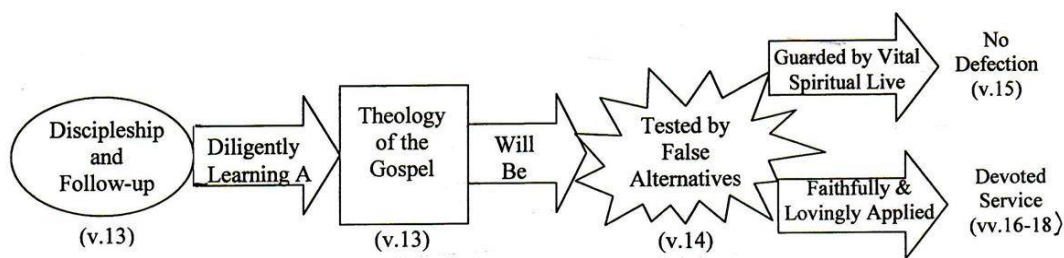
**“HOW TO EQUIP YOUR SONS & DAUGHTERES TO LEAD THE WORK”**  
**2 TIMOTHY 1:13-18**  
**“PAY ATTENTION TO THEOLOGY”**  
**JUNE 23, 2013**

**INTRO**

**MESSAGE**

How to equip God’s people to lead His church...

- I. Encourage them!
  - A. to hold firm the theology of the gospel (13a)
  - B. to use that theology faithfully & lovingly (13b)
- II. Caution them!
  - A. to guard that theology from every false intrusion (14).
- III. Remind them!
  - A. that there will be some fellow believers, under intense pressure, who sell-out their theology (15).
  - B. that there will be other fellow believers, under intense pressure, who remain devoted servants (16-18).





**BE A CHRISTLIKE LEADER!**  
**1 TIMOTHY 3:1-7**  
**OCTOBER 7, 2012**

**MESSAGE** Fight the good fight! Be a Christlike leader!

I. Do the work! (1 Timothy 3:1)

II. Display Christlikeness! (1 Timothy 3:2-7)

A. Christlikeness in your personal character. (3:2-3)

B. Christlikeness in your approach to family life. (3:4-5)

C. Christlikeness in your presence in the community. (3:6-7)

**APPLICATIONS**

**“WE HAVE NO BRAGGING RIGHTS”**  
**EPHESIANS 1:1-14**  
**JUNE 1, 2008**

**INTRO**

God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – has blessed us with every resource that we need to live a spiritual life and to be His Church – the Body of Christ.

We are one with our believing brothers and sisters because we all share these same resources (foundational / positional blessings) in Christ.

It is our solemn duty to believe God and to appropriate and use these resources “to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (4:3)

**MESSAGE** All three members of the Trinity are involved in creating the Church – the Body of Christ

The Father (1:1-16)

He chose us. (3-4)

He predestined us to adoption. (5-6)

The Son (1:7-12)

He redeemed us. (7-8)

He made the Father’s will known to us. (9-10)

He gave us an inheritance. (11-12)

The Holy Spirit (1:13-14)

He sealed us. (13-14)

**APPLICATION**

1. God gets all the glory and honor and praise for His work in creating the Church – the Body of Christ. (1:6; 1:12; 1:14)

(1) God has, from eternity past, planned to sum up all things in Christ.

(2) The summing up of all things in Christ is God’s plan for human history. It is also the climax, the culmination of human history. It is the conclusion of God’s plan for time, and the commencement of God’s plan for men in eternity.

(3) God is sovereign, in control of all history, so that His plan to sum up all things in Christ is certain.

- (4) The plan to sum up all things in Christ is the result and the reflection of God's infinite wisdom and insight (Ephesians 1:8; see also Romans 11:33-36).
  - (5) The summing up of all things in Christ centers in the person of Christ, in His first and second comings.
  - (6) The summing up of all things in Christ provides for the reversal of the fall of Adam, and the restoration of all creation from its devastating effects (see Romans 5:12-21 and 8:19-25).
  - (7) God's plan to sum up all things in Christ was a mystery until after the coming of Christ. The plan to sum up all things in Christ is one made in eternity past. It is a plan that God partially revealed in time. This plan was a mystery in that it was not revealed in full and in that it was not understood.
2. God has made His Church all "one" in Christ. We are to preserve that unity. We have no reason to put down, judge, criticize, embarrass, persecute, or be arrogant with any member of the Body of Christ.

## **CONCLUSION**

**“THE ELDERS VS. FALSE TEACHERS”**  
**1 TIMOTHY 3:14-4:6**  
**OCTOBER 21, 2012**

**INTRO**

**MESSAGE** Fight the good fight of faith by identifying and refuting false teachers in the church.

- I. False teachers attack the church’s messengers and its message. (3:14-16)
  - A. Messengers – those who know that the church is the household of the living God and the pillar and support of the truth. (14-15)
  - B. Message – the person and the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. (16)
- II. False teachers must be identified, refuted and put out of the church. (4:1-6)
  - A. The work of the elders is to identify the hypocrisy of false teachers and the lies of their false doctrines. (4:1-2)
  - B. The work of the elders is to steady those who believe and know the truth. (3-5)
  - C. The work of the elders is to be “good servants,” constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine. (6)

**APPLICATIONS**

- 1. We must separate ourselves from false religious leaders.  
Romans 16:17-18; 1 Tim. 6:3-5; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; Titus 3:9-11; 2 John 10-11
  - a. We must identify false teachers. (Rom. 16:17)
  - b. We must avoid false teachers. (Rom. 16:17c; 1 Tim. 6:5)
  - c. We must warn others against false teachers. (Acts 20:28-31)
- 2. We must separate ourselves from personal win. (Col. 3:8; 1 Tim. 5:22; 6:11)

**“EQUIPPING FAITHFUL MEN AND WOMEN IN THE LAST DAYS”**  
**2 TIMOTHY 3:1-17**  
**AUGUST 4, 2013**

**INTRO**

**MESSAGE** To prosper spiritually, the church must be led by faithful men and women.

- I. In the last days, faithful men and women are going to be harder to find and develop. (3:1-5)
- II. In the last days, evil men and women will oppose the truth of Scripture. (3:6-9)
- III. In the last days, if you live godly and develop faithful men and women, you will be persecuted. (3:10-13)
- IV. In the last days, you will equip faithful men and women by using the Scripture to teach, to reprove, to correct, and to train. (3:14-17)

**“THE PURPOSE OF CHURCH DISCIPLINE”**  
**1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-13**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2006**

**INTRO**

**MESSAGE** Believers who continue in sin must be confronted and corrected or else sin will ruin them and the church.

Problem Believers, worshiping in the local church, are living in a pattern of serious sin.

Solution

- ♦ Believers who continue in sin must not be ignored. (1-2)
  - 1. Paul expresses his shock regarding the affair. (1)
  - 2. Paul rebukes the church for their arrogant tolerance of it and their lack of godly sorrow. (2)
- ♦ Believers who continue in sin must be removed from the church for their own spiritual preservation. (3-5)
  - 1. Paul announces his judgment. (3)
  - 2. Paul instructs them in the proper procedure. (4-5)
- ♦ Believers who continue in sin must be removed from the church for the spiritual preservation of the church. (6-8)
  - 1. Paul rebukes the church for their arrogant boasting. (6)
  - 2. Paul commands the church to purify itself and its worship. (7-8)
- ♦ Believers who continue in sin must be distinguished from unbelievers who need evangelization, not condemnation. (9-13)
  - 1. Paul explains that the church must associate with unbelievers, even the immoral ones. (9-10)
  - 2. Paul explains that the church must not associate with immoral brethren in the local church. (11-13)

## **APPLICATIONS**

Leaders – Have the guts to do what God has called you to do! Guard the holiness of God!

Heb 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

Followers of Christ – Be holy!

Heb 12:14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

**VISION 2001**  
**PART 5**  
**“BALANCING LEARNING, RELATING, AND EVANGELIZING EXPERIENCES”**  
**ACTS 2:41-47**  
**FEBRUARY 4, 2001**

**INTRO**

Ephesians 4:11-16

- ♦ Paul develops the doctrine of corporate spiritual maturity.
- ♦ The goal of corporate spiritual maturity is Christlikeness (13b).
  - ➔ Christlikeness is expressed by FAITH (12-13a).
  - ➔ Christlikeness is expressed by HOPE (14-15).
  - ➔ Christlikeness is expressed by LOVE (16).

If faith, hope, and love are the marks of a growing and maturing church, then how do we produce these qualities?

**MESSAGE**

All Christians need a balance of these vital experiences in order to grow in faith, hope, and love (Acts 2:41-47).

- ♦ Vital learning experiences with the Word of God (41-42a).
  - ➔ The teacher – John 14:26; 15:26; 16:12-13.
  - ➔ The emphasis on the basics – 1 Cor. 4:17; 1 Thes. 3:2; Titus 2:1
- ♦ Vital relational experiences with God and with one another (42b-47a).
  - ➔ They ate together for the purpose of fellowship (Jude 12; 2 Peter 2:13; 1 Cor. 11:17-34).
  - ➔ They prayed together in the context of relationships (Rom. 12:10-13; 1 Thes. 5:14-18; James 5:13-16; 1 Pet. 4:7-10).
  - ➔ They shared their material possessions (44-45; Matt. 10:42)
  - ➔ They praised God together (47a; Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:18-19).
- ♦ Vital witnessing experiences with the unsaved world (47b).
  - ➔ The believers' lifestyle and community of love became the bridge that enabled them to share the gospel with their unsaved friends (John 13:34-35).



- ➔ The Spirit-created unity of a family of brothers and sisters enjoying each other is a powerful attracting force in the unsaved community (John 17:20-21,23)

**LIFE RESPONSE**

We need to STRUCTURE the ministry of Grace Bible Church to accomplish all these biblical purposes. We must maintain BALANCE.

1. The problems of churches that emphasize only Bible teaching.
2. The problems of churches that emphasize only relationships.
3. The problems of churches that emphasize only evangelism.

God's plan for every local church is to have structures that provide a healthy balance in all three experiences. When this balance is maintained, then the church can grow in faith, hope, and love.

However, whether or not it will grow depends on your participation.

“CHURCH — THE WAY IT OUGHT TO BE”  
An Introduction to First Thessalonians  
[January 1, 1995]  
Message #1

INTRO

MESSAGE

- I. The planting of the Lord’s church at Thessalonica
  - A. Paul’s calling to a church planting ministry (Acts 9:15-16; Gal. 2:7-10)
  - B. Paul’s fulfillment of a church planting ministry
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Journey (Acts 13:1-14:28)
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> Journey (Acts 15:36-18:22)
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> Journey (Acts 18:23-21:26)
- II. The Lord’s Vision for His Church
  - A. Expressed by John
    - The wedding metaphor (Rev. 19:6-9)
  - B. Expressed by Paul
    - The marriage metaphor (Eph. 5:25-27)
    - The building metaphor (1 Cor.3:10-15)
    - The body metaphor (Eph. 4:11-16)
    - Summary
  - C. Expressed by Jesus
    - A walk together in (love). (John 13:34-35)
    - A walk together in (unity). (John 17:20-23)

I just want to spend the second half of this message thinking together about church the way it ought to be. What is it that Christ really wants for His Church? If we are the Lord's church, what should we look like?

I want to start with the word pictures -- the metaphors that are used in Scripture. I want you to turn to Revelation chapter nineteen. This is a tremendous scene of worship in heaven. The saints of the Old Testament age are there. The Church, the body of Christ, is there. The Lord Jesus is about to return in glory, and there are choruses of hallelujahs and praises ringing throughout the heavens, and in that context, it says in verse six, "Then I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, and as the sound of many waters, and as the sound of mighty peals of thunder saying, 'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty reigns.'" More powerful than even -- imagine Niagara Falls and the sound of that [or] the mightiest storm that passes through here in the summer, when it vibrates your house so bad you wonder if it's going to stand. The praises that ring out from glory -- from God's saints -- are greater than all of that, and what are they saying? Look at verse seven. "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come. His bride has made herself ready." These Old Testament saints are anticipating the time when we, the body of Christ, are married to the Lamb for eternity. We're drawn up to heaven, given our resurrection bodies, we stand before the judgment seat of Christ, every tear is wiped away, we're rewarded. Now comes the marriage of the Lamb, and this takes place in heaven in between the time of the rapture of the Church and the return of Christ seven years later to the battle of Armageddon. During that marriage ceremony, there's this tremendous ringing out of praise, and you notice it says that the bride has made herself ready. There's some responsibility here on the part of people in the Church to prepare themselves for that marriage to the Lamb. How so? Look at verse eight. "And it was given to her" -- even though we have a responsibility, it's a grace gift that we're able to do this. There's still the enablement of the Holy Spirit. What is it that we are enabled to do? "And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean." You see, someday, I am going to stand in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, and I'm going to become His bride, in a sense, for all eternity, and you are, too. That's His plan for the Church, but the garment that we clothe ourselves in and the garment that we appear in before Christ that day is a garment that we are going to have a part in putting on ourselves. A bride has to go next door and put her wedding dress on to come over here to appear before the groom, and in the same way, we have to clothe ourselves with the wedding garment before we appear before Christ, and what is that clothing? Look at the last half of verse eight. "For the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints." Do works get you to heaven? *No!* Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ -- His death and resurrection -- *that* gets you to heaven, but what do works do? Works clothe you with the wedding garment fitting to present yourself to the Lord Jesus Christ in, and so John's picture of the Church is that, someday, we will be this absolutely fabulously gorgeous, beautiful bride that stands before the Lord Jesus Christ in a garment which He has enabled us to prepare.

...but now let me show you something else. Turn to First Corinthians chapter three

because when Paul talks about the Church, he often talks about the Church being a building. Look at what he says about the building. Paul says in verse ten, "According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder, I laid a foundation, and another is building on it" -- Like me, and like the other Bible teachers in this fellowship, and like all of you folks who are teaching Sunday school and youth groups. Every one of you who are using the Word of God to help young people and adults to grow -- you're building on the foundation Paul laid, but notice what it says. "But let each man be careful how he builds upon it, for no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Christ Jesus. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, and straw" -- see, those are the options. You can build with those three or the other three. "Each man's work will become evident, for the day will show it, but it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; yet he himself shall be saved, yet as through fire." Folks, according to John's wedding metaphor, our works are clothing us with a white garment. Paul says in his marriage metaphor, make sure there are no spots or wrinkles on it. Paul also says in his building metaphor, make sure it doesn't burn up before you ever get to the presence of the groom. What he's saying is, if we live an unrighteous and ungodly life, we're liable to stand before the Lord naked, so to speak -- not clothed in the white garment that John envisions. What he's saying there is that the Church -- the way it ought to be -- is a Church that focuses on holiness -- on works that clothe it in righteous white linen. He says there are some people whose work is going to be burned up. When you put those things together, it simply means the garment's gone, or part of the garment's gone, and yet they will be saved but through fire.

Now let me show you one last connection -- the body metaphor. Turn back to Ephesians chapter four. Paul uses the marriage metaphor, he uses the building metaphor, he uses the body metaphor to tell us what the Church ought to be like, and in Ephesians chapter four, verses eleven through sixteen, he talks about the body of Christ. Verses eleven and twelve give us the responsibilities of spiritual leaders in the fellowship. "He gave some as apostles, some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers," and what is their job? "...for the equipping of the saints for the work of service." Why is that work of service so important, ladies and gentlemen? It's because it's out of that work we clothe ourselves with a white linen to stand in the presence of Christ at the marriage of the Lamb. What's the result when this is all done properly? It says, "...to the building up of the body of Christ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ." What is the Lord Jesus Christ's goal for His Church? That every individual in that group measure up to the fullness of Christ. That we possess His nature -- His character. That our stature is Christ's. So, Paul is saying in this body metaphor that we are to be mature people. Mature people are Christ-like people, and they have clothed themselves in a white linen.

When you summarize all this, how can you summarize it? I think Paul's words in

Ephesians say it well. In Ephesians [chapter] one, [verse] four, Paul says that "He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him." In eternity past, He had one goal in mind: holiness and blamelessness. Then Paul says in chapter four, verse one -- he says, *Walk worthy of the calling to which you have been called*. In other words, when we put all these things together, the way the Church ought to be is simply this: We ought to be a church that understands that the one goal that Jesus Christ has for us is to possess a holiness about our lives and a blamelessness that expresses itself in a worthy walk. Every single step of every single day in our lives ought to be a day when we are walking worthy of that calling. Why? Because we so un-deserved it. It's just by the grace of God that we have eternal life. Amen?

Well, we've looked at how John expressed these things, we've looked at how Paul expressed these things, and, in conclusion, let's just look at how Jesus expressed these things. Turn to the gospel of John, chapter thirteen. We brought up this passage last week, and I'm going to bring it up again in a few more weeks, but it's a key passage. Verses thirty-four and thirty five -- Jesus says, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another." Now, notice this. "By this all men will know that you are My disciples." What is one-half of the most powerful evangelistic force on this earth? It's the love that we have for each other in the family of God. Jesus envisioned His Church as a group of people walking together in love. Now, if you will flip over to John seventeen, you'll see the other half of this. In His great prayer, the Lord Jesus is speaking to the Father, and He says -- verse twenty -- "I do not ask in behalf of these alone, but for those who believe in Me through their word" -- notice this -- "that they may all be one, even as Thou, Father, are in Me and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me." The second half of this thing -- the most powerful evangelistic force in the world -- is unity in the fellowship -- a oneness. Those two things, Jesus says, are the ultimate picture of the church the way it ought to be. It ought to be a group of people walking together in love and in oneness. When those characteristics are there -- love for one another in the body of Christ and a true oneness of heart and mind -- this church will impact Portage in an incredibly unique way because everybody pays attention to the drama of love.

...When you put all those together, you have a vision that Paul had for the church. Paul saw that the church should be a group of people who walk together in love and in oneness, and he saw that the only way that that could happen is if those people are characterized by holiness and blamelessness, and he saw that the only way that that could happen is if everybody does their part, and the body contributes all that it can to the building itself up together in love. He saw that you have to go out after quality first, and with that comes the quantity, and John saw it in his own words by saying, *The righteous acts of the saints clothe themselves to stand before Christ when He marries the bride*.

My vision for Grace Bible Church for 1995 is that we might be a church where the love and unity is seen publicly and where the holiness and blamelessness is seen personally,

and as we expound through the book of First Thessalonians, those are the things I will bring out over and over again. Next week, we'll look at the true measure of maturity of a church, and I think that you'll find that exciting. If you look at verse two, right away I think you'll see what that is.

Let's bow together in prayer. Father, we just thank You again for the Scripture. We pray that as we begin this study in First Thessalonians that we would understand the nature of the Church as the Lord Jesus Christ envisioned it. I pray that as a corporate group of believers, we might truly make the effort to demonstrate our love for one another and our unity for one another, and I pray that personally, Lord, our lives would be characterized by holiness and blamelessness. I pray, Lord, that every leader in this fellowship -- from the elders to the Sunday school teachers to the youth group workers and teachers -- every step of the way, we would be aiming at quality -- that holiness and blamelessness. And, Lord, I just pray that you'd bless us because of our faithfulness to your vision. We pray that You'd build a great church here at Grace. We pray this in Christ's name. Amen.

--"Church - The Way it Ought To Be," January 1, 1995, sermon excerpt

“DEALING WITH THE MORAL FAILURE OF CHURCH MEMBERS”

2 Thessalonians 3:1-18

Message #17, May 21, 1995

INTRO.

MESSAGE

- I. Dynamic, growing, God-pleasing churches will always have some believers who fail morally (3:1-5).
  - A. Paul acknowledges that prayer is essential for both church development and church discipline (1-2).
  - B. Paul reminds them that God is faithful and He will enable the Church to build Christ-centered disciple-makers and to deal with the believers who refuse to submit to the Lordship of Christ (3-5).
- II. The Church is responsible to deal with the moral failure of its members when there is no genuine repentance (3:6-15).
  - A. Make sure that you know the biblical teaching related to a particular sin issue (6-10).
  - B. Use the Scriptures to admonish the sinning Christians and call them to genuine repentance (11-12).
  - C. Do not fellowship with a Christian who refuses to acknowledge and repent of his / her sin (13-14).
  - D. Remember that a sinning Christian is not the enemy, but a victim of the enemy. Watch your attitude! Be compassionate! (15)
- III. The conclusion of Paul’s letter (3:16-18).

CONCLUSION

**“A WOMAN’S CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE MEETING OF THE CHURCH”**  
**1 CORINTHIANS 11:2-16**  
**MARCH 18, 2007**

**INTRO**        Hebrews 5:7-10  
                    Phil 2:5-11

**BACKGROUND**

**OUTLINE**

- I. God has sovereignly placed men in a position of authority in the local church. (11:2-3)
  - A. The importance of doctrinal traditions. (2)
  - B. The headship of the man. (3)
- II. In exceptional circumstances, when a woman exercises authority in the meeting of the church, there must be a demonstration of her submission to this God-ordained authority. (11:4-16)
  - A. The nature of exceptional circumstances. (4)
  - B. The exercise of authority in the meeting of the church. (5)
  - C. The demonstration of submission. (6)
- III. The man’s position of authority is proven by the order of creation, the order of nature, and the order in the churches. (11:7-16)
  - A. The order of creation. (7-12)
  - B. The order of nature. (13-15)
  - C. The order of the churches. (16)

**CONCLUSION**



**“A CHURCH JESUS WANTS TO GO TO”**  
**ACTS 2:41-47**  
**NOVEMBER 4, 2007**

**INTRO**      Peter’s Pentecost sermon (2:14-40)

It was Bible-Centered

Joel 2:28-32 (17-21)

Ps 16:8-11 (25-28)

Ps 110:1 (34-35)

It was Christ-Centered

His past ministry (22)

His crucifixion (23, 36)

His burial (27, 29)

His resurrection (24, 31, 32)

His ascension (33, 34)

His present ministry (34, 35, 36)

It was Change-Centered

Conviction (37)

Repentance (38)

Baptism (38)

Family responsibility (39)

Action (40)

**MESSAGE**      The early Church is a Bible-centered, Christ-centered, change-centered model church.

It is a learning, studying church. (42a)

It is a life-sharing, need-meeting church. (42b, 44, 45, 46)

It is a worshiping, praying church. (42c, 43)

It is a witnessing, evangelizing church. (47)

**LIFE-RESPONSE**

**“THE PRIMACY OF PREACHING”**  
**2 TIMOTHY 4:1-8**  
**AUGUST 18, 2013**

**BACKGROUND**

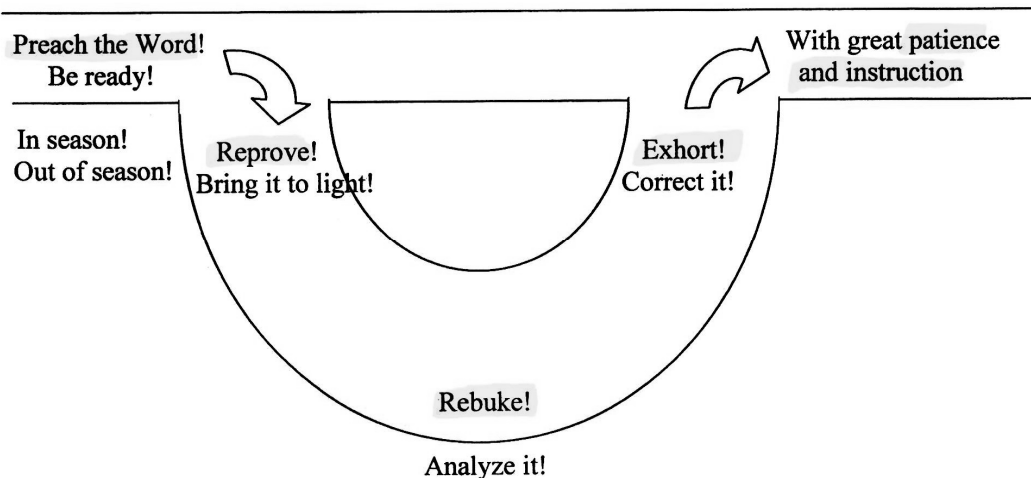
John Warwick Montgomery  
*Dammed Through the Church* 1970

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Sacramentalism  | 7. Subjectivism |
| 2. Rationalism     | 8. Mysticism    |
| 3. Orthodoxism     | 9. Pragmatism   |
| 4. Politicism      | 10. Cynicism    |
| 5. Ecumenism       | 11. Paganism    |
| 6. Experientialism |                 |

**4:1-2 THE PRIMACY OF PREACHING IN THE LAST DAYS**

The charge ---	Preach the Word
The challenge---	Be ready in season and out of season
The content---	Reprove Rebuke Exhort
The caution---	With great patience and instruction

2 Timothy 4:1-2



#### **4:3-5 THE DIFFICULTY OF PREACHING IN THE LAST DAYS**

The character---	They will not endure sound doctrine. They will accumulate teachers in accordance to their own desires. They will turn away their ears from the truth. They will turn aside to myths.
The corrective---	Be sober in all things. Endure hardship. Do the work of an evangelist. Fulfill your ministry.

#### **4:6-8 THE REWARD FOR FAITHFUL PREACHING IN THE LAST DAYS**

The cost---	A life poured out... The fight The finish The faith The future
The commitment--	And not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing

“THE TRUE MEASURE OF MATURITY OF A CHURCH”

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

[January 8, 1995]

Message #2

Intro.

1. If Paul wrote a letter to GBC what would he thank God for in his introductory prayer?
2. To what degree does GBC reflect the image of Christ?

Message

- I. The true measure of maturity of a church.
  - A. 1 Thes. 1:2-3
  - B. 2 Thes. 1:3-4
  - C. Col. 1:3-5
  - D. Eph. 1:15,18
  - E. 1 Cor. 1:4-7
- II. The impact of carnality on the maturity of a church (1 Cor. 13:1-13).
  - A. Their gifts: Not a mark of maturity (1 Cor. 13:1-3).
  - B. Their love: They had very little (1 Cor. 13:4-7).
  - C. Priority: Pursue faith, hope, love (1 Cor. 13:8-13).

Life-Response

...and so Paul shows them that the doctrines of grace are what anchor a person in the hope about their future because our future doesn't depend on how well we work -- on how great we hold onto our salvation in Christ. Our future depends on the grace of God! It's in His hands, and that gives us *hope*! If it depended on me to hang on to the bitter end, I'd be in trouble. Amen?

...You look in the mirror as a brand new Christian, and you don't see much of the image of Christ in that mirror. There's not much faith, hope, and love reflected there. When you walk out into the community, the community does not see much of the image of Christ reflected in your life, either, but you begin to grow, and God begins to make you a godly person, and He begins to root out in your life things that God finds offensive, and He begins to change you from the inside out, and as you begin to change, you begin to reflect more faith, hope, and love in your own life.

When you come to Grace on Sunday mornings, you've got people that are not believers -- that's true. You've got Christians who are living in sin and not dealing with it -- carnal Christians -- that's true. And you have believers who are in several stages of maturity: young disciples, middle-aged disciples, mature disciples. ...You know what? That is the mark of a great church! Every church ought to be characterized with those three groups. We ought to have people that are struggling and dealing with things in their lives, and God's rooting that out, and they're on the way, and some of them have started to mature, and others we're still trying to help them deal with the battles they have in their lives. There should be some mature saints who are giving direction and leadership to the fellowship. There should be some folks who are seeking and searching for God. In spite of that, there's no better place for those who lack faith, hope, and love to get it than in a fellowship of believers where they got it! Right? When you're together, you reflect faith, hope, and love, and that is what the true measure of maturity of a church is.

--"The True Measure of Maturity of a Church,"  
January 8, 1995, sermon excerpt

**“LOVE MADE VISIBLE”**  
**ACTS 20:1-12**  
**MARCH 1, 2009**

**INTRO.**

The mark of spiritual maturity is love.

Mature believers love the Church.

Phil. 1:3-7

2 Cor. 3:2

1 Thes. 2:7-8

1 John 3:18

John 15:13

Mature believers express that love in their actions.

2 Cor. 11:23-28

Mature believers' hearts ache when someone walks away.

Acts 13:13

2 Tim. 4:10

2 Cor. 7:5-6

**MESSAGE** If you love someone, your love is made visible in your actions.

Believers who love the Lord's church preach and teach the Word without compromise (20:1a,2b)

Concern for false teachers. Acts 20:29-31

Commitment to exhort with God's Word

Acts 10:42                      15:35                      20:25

Acts 13:5,32                      16:10                      28:31

Acts 14:7                      17:3,13                      1 Tim. 4:13

Tragic results w/o exhortation

No equipping by pastor – Eph. 4:12a

No work of service by saints – Eph. 4:12b

No building of body – Eph. 4:12c

Results in lack of unity – Eph. 4:13a

Results in inadequate knowledge of Christ – Eph. 4:13b

Results in spiritual immaturity – Eph. 4:13c

Results in children not doing spiritual warfare – Eph. 4:14

Believers who love the Lord's Church have a deep concern for the unity of the Church. (20:1b-2a)

Paul loved the believers in Jerusalem

1 Cor. 16:1-4 (written from Ephesus)

2 Cor. 8-9 (written from Macedonia)

Rom. 15:25-28 (written from the Achaian city of Corinth)

He remembered the poor  
Gal. 2:10      Acts 11:28

He had a deep concern for the unity of the Church  
1 John 3:16-18  
James 2:15-16

Believers who love the Lord's Church persevere in relationships in spite of  
difficult circumstances. (20:3-6)

Ok with delays and detours  
Love relentlessly, persistently pursues the good of others

Believers who love the Lord's Church make themselves available to serve others.  
(20:7-12)

The day – Sunday  
The location – Upper room  
The purpose – break bread 1 Cor. 11:20-22  
The teaching – exhortation / discussion  
The healing – Elijah 1 Kings 17:21  
                                 Elisha 2 Kings 4:34  
Selfless love – hours of teaching  
                                 --25 miles of walking  
                                 --Tirelessly available

## **APPLICATIONS**

**“THE BLESSING OF THE LORD’S SUPPER”**  
**1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-34**  
**MARCH 25, 2007**

**INTRO**

**MESSAGE** To be praiseworthy, participation in the Lord’s Supper must include a proper attitude toward the brethren and a proper remembrance of the saving work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- ♦ REBUKE – the perversion of the Lord’s Supper. (17-22)
  - ➔ Divisions in the church. (17-19)
  - ➔ Disorder at the Lord’s Supper. (20-22)
- ♦ REVIEW – the purpose of the Lord’s Supper. (23-26)
  - ➔ Remembering the body of Christ which was put to death as a substitute for our bodies. (23-24)
  - ➔ Remembering the blood of Christ which was shed in place of our blood to make atonement for sin. (25-26)
- ♦ RENEWAL – the preparation of the Lord’s Supper. (27-34)
  - ➔ Participating in an unworthy manner – knowing that you have unconfessed sin in your life – brings guilt and divine discipline. (27-30)
  - ➔ Participating in a worthy manner – knowing that you are not harboring sin in your heart – brings approval and divine blessing. (31-34)

**PRINCIPLES**

1. Division in the Church will lead, inevitably, to disorder in the worship. (17-22)
2. Disorder in the worship will lead, inevitably, to a depreciation of the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ. (23-26)
3. Depreciation of the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ will lead, inevitably, to divine discipline. (27-34)



**How to Grow Our Dream Church**  
**By**  
**Becoming a Healing Communion**  
2 Corinthians 10  
[What is a satanic stronghold? 1997]

INTRO.       What is a satanic stronghold?

MESSAGE

**I. Teach people how to eliminate the obvious building blocks that false teachers use in erecting a stronghold (1-6)**

- A. Never sacrifice your Christlike character in defense of the Lord's work. (1-2)
- B. Recognize that an in-depth knowledge of "the Apostle's doctrine" is the ultimate weapon for destroying the strongholds that false teachers erect (3-5).
- C. Understand that church discipline is important in preventing satanic strongholds from being erected in the first place (6).

**II. Teach people how to recognize true teachers (7-11).**

- A. Trust the person who led you to Christ, not the person who is adding to the simple Gospel message (7).
- B. Have confidence in the person who invests his life in you in order to build you up spiritually (8).
- C. Follow the leadership of the person who lives a consistent, godly Christian life (9-11)

**III. Teach people how to recognize false teachers (12-18).**

- A. They do not appreciate the giftedness of other servants of the Lord. Rather, they criticize God's servants and brag up their own goodness (12).
- B. They do not have a God-given, outreach-oriented, new convert growth ministry. Rather they try to steal sheep from someone else's flock (13-16)
- C. They do not give praise and glory to the Lord for their ministry. Rather, they boast in their own accomplishments (17-18).

**NINTH STEP       HELP THEM EXPERIENCE GOD'S PROTECTION**

The Church will become a healing communion to the degree that each member...

Teaches other believers how to (distinguish) between true and false messages and messengers.

**“WE ALL NEED AN ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT NOW AND THEN”**

**ACTS 6:1-7  
JANUARY 27, 2008**

**INTRO.**

**MESSAGE** How does a church continue in the awesome blessing of God when there is infighting and people leaving?

CAUSES OF PEOPLE LEAVING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dissatisfaction splits – Acts 6</li><li>• Doctrinal splits– Acts 15</li><li>• Personality splits – 1 Corinthians 1</li><li>• Spiritual gift splits – 1 Corinthians 12-14</li></ul>

➔ Three attitudes are important! Acts 6:1-6

1. Note their attitude toward SPIRITUAL GIFTS: They knew that every believer was gifted and necessary. (1-2)

SPIRITUAL GIFTS	
To deliver the message teaching serving administering shepherding evangelizing exhorting giving showing mercy pioneering (faith)	To authenticate the message Apostleship prophecy miracles healing tongues interpretation of tongues word of wisdom word of knowledge discerning spirits

1 CORINTHIANS 12-14 ROMANS 12:3-8 EPHESIANS 4:11-12 1 PETER 4:10-11
DISCERN DEFINE DEVELOP DEPLOY

2. Note their attitude toward the HOLY SPIRIT: They were convinced that the filling of the Holy Spirit was normal, everyday, necessary Christianity. (3-4)

TAKE A SPOT-CHECK ON YOUR SPIRITUALITY		
1.	1 Cor. 3:1-3 Are you harboring a carnal attitude toward a bro/sis in Christ?	Yes No
2.	Eph. 4:25-32 Are you talking about a bro/sis in Christ in a carnal way?	Yes No
3.	1 Thes. 5:19-21 Is there any area of your life where you are unresponsive to God as He talks to you about your bro/sis in Christ?	Yes No
4.		
5.	Gal. 5:16-17 Have you retreated from the battle? Does your sin nature control your relationships with any of your bro/sis in Christ?	Yes No
6.		
7.	Eph. 5:18 Are you aware that you need the Holy Spirit's control moment by moment, all day, every day?	Yes No
8.	1 John 1:1-2:2 Do you confess your sins as they occur?	Yes No

3. Note their attitude toward RESPONSIBILITY: They were dedicated to doing what was necessary to maintain the unity that the Holy Spirit had created in the Church. (5-6)

➔ When members of the body develop and live by these attitudes, the Church continues in the awesome blessing of God. Acts 6:7

**“FOUR KEY INGREDIENTS OF A FRUITFUL MINISTRY”**  
**ACTS 18:22-19:7**

**INTRO**

Getting God’s workers squared away doctrinally is the key to fruitful ministry.

It isn’t...

Spiritual gift discovery

or

Spiritual gift training

or

Spiritual gift emphasis

It is...

You doing instinctively (Spirit-empowered!) what He has called you to do. And, whatever you are doing, you talk.

So, the issue is...

Are you speaking the truth?

Are you doctrinally sound?

Are you oriented to grace?

Are you walking in the filling of the Holy Spirit?

**MESSAGE**

If you walk in the filling of the Holy Spirit and you are oriented to grace and you are doctrinally sound and you speak the truth, you will have a fruitful ministry.

Priscilla and Aquila (18:18-21)

Christians from Rome (18:1-2)

Blue collar (18:3)

Flexible (18:18)

Church planters (18:19)

Disciple-makers (18:26)

The Jerusalem, Antioch, and Southern Galatian Churches (18:22-23)

Went up – Jerusalem (18:22a)

Went down – Antioch (18:22b)

Began – 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary trip (18:23)

Apollos (18:24-28)

Issue: orientation to grace (18:25,27)

Settled: faith in Christ (cf 18:25 with 19:2)

Need #1: doctrine of the cross (18:26)

Need #2: encouragement (18:27)

Ministry: speaking the truth (18:28)

Disciples of John the Baptist at Ephesus (19:1-7)

Issue: walking in the filling of the Spirit (19:1-2)

Settled: faith in Jesus (19:2-4)

Need #1: believer's baptism (submission to the lordship of Christ) (19:5)

Need #2: the gift of the Holy Spirit (19:6)

Ministry: speaking the truth (19:7)

## “HOW TO HELP MAKE YOUR CHURCH’S VISION A REALITY”

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28  
Message #13 April 23, 1995

### Introduction

Every 5 years a church should ask & answer these questions.

1. What kind of people does this church want to deploy into the world?
2. What kind of church makes possible that kind of person?
3. What kind of leadership team makes possible that kind of church?
4. What kind of pastor makes possible that kind of leadership team?

Several verses of Scripture speak directly to these questions.

Matthew 4:19  
Mark 3:6,13,14  
John 17:4,6  
John 4:34,35  
Luke 10:1,2  
Matthew 28:18-20  
Colossians 1:28-29  
1 Thessalonians 2:7,8  
2 Timothy 2:2

Message Take responsibility! Help make your church’s vision a reality!  
YBH – Yes, but how?

- A. Encourage the leadership team! 5:12-13
  1. Appreciate them (12)!
    - hard work
    - leadership
    - teaching
  2. Esteem them (13a)!
  3. Live in peace with them & everyone else (13b)!
- B. Share the ministry with the team! 5:14-15
  1. Admonish the unruly (14a)!
  2. Encourage the fainthearted (14b)!
  3. Help the weak (14c)!
  4. Be patient with all (14d)!
  5. Help change bad attitudes (15)!
- C. Saturate the ministry with prayer! 5:16-18
  1. Rejoice always (16)!
  2. Pray without ceasing (17)!
  3. In everything give thanks (18)!

D. Obey the Word of God! 5:19-22

1. Remember that disobedience strips you of spiritual passion & power (19)!
2. Listen to anyone in the fellowship who is teaching God's Word – young or old, immature or mature (20)!
3. If the teaching promotes godly living – obey it (21)!
4. If the teaching promotes ungodly living – reject it (22)!

E. Conclusion – Paul's benediction 5:23-28

God gave me a verse this week, and I'm going to hang my heart on it for the duration. It's from Proverbs twenty-four, verse twenty-seven. Here's what it says in the New King James. It says this: "Prepare your outside work. Make it fit for yourself in the field. and afterward build your house." And as I thought about that, that's exactly the way God wants us to build this new church. Take care of business on the outside. Do the prep work that we have to do to reach new people for Jesus and win them to Christ. Take care of that out there, and then build the house. I believe it will be in that order that God will bless us. If you didn't pick anything up from those three sessions in Acts, I hope you get this: When the church gets busy doing what God wants it to do, which is to be a vital outreach to its community and to its world, God will take care of all the growth business that they need. Amen? And I really believe that the priority God is giving us is to reach our community for Jesus Christ, and the other things will take care of themselves. The book of Second Corinthians shows us how to become a healing communion. The Church should be a dynamic outreach. It should be a warm fellowship. But it needs to be a healing communion -- a place where broken people can get the grace of God into their lives and be restored to usefulness to the Lord's purposes.

--"Becoming a Healing Communion," 1997, sermon excerpt

How to Grow Our Dream Church  
By  
Becoming a Healing Communion  
2 Corinthians 11  
“Understanding Satanic Counterfeits”  
[1997]

***Message:***

**I. Teach them to be alert to Satan’s strategy of deception (11:1-15).**

- A. He wants to deceive you into committing spiritual adultery (1-2).
- B. He wants to deceive you into changing your thinking about how to get saved and how to grow spiritually (3).
- C. He wants to deceive you into embracing another Jesus, a different spirit, and a different gospel (4).
- D. He wants to deceive you into rejecting the competency of your spiritual leaders (5-6).
- E. He wants to deceive you into questioning the motives and love which your spiritual leaders have for you (7-12).
- F. He wants to deceive you into rejecting the idea that there are false teachers in the church (13-15).

**II. Teach them to evaluate so-called ministers and ministries carefully (11:16-33).**

- A. False teachers brag up what might be accomplished if there is strict (blind) adherence to the teacher and his philosophy (16-21).
- B. True teachers point to what has been accomplished through faithful endurance to the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ (22-23).

***TENTH STEP*                      Help Them Experience God’s Discernment**

The church will become a healing communion to the degree that each member...

Teaches other believers how to discern the deceptive strategies that Satan uses to (counterfeit) the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.



You know, I thought to myself, the answer is really not very complicated. To be happy in life, first of all is to know that you are in the plan of God. I mean, when you think about it, doesn't it thrill your heart to know that in eternity past, God set his love on you, and that at a certain time and a moment in history, He plucked you out of the fire, and the Holy Spirit wooed you and convicted you of sin, and faith was given to you, and you placed that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you were given eternal life, and the Holy Spirit came to dwell in you, and He was your down payment on an eternity that is even beyond our imagination? Now isn't it excellent to know that you are in the plan of God? You bet! That's one key to happiness, and the other is knowing that you're doing the will of God. You put those two things together -- knowing that you're in the plan of God and doing the will of God -- and you can have a happy and satisfied life.

...The real key is to grow ourselves into our dream church. How do we grow ourselves into our dream church? The answer is we do that by responding to the principles that are in the book of Acts. We're told here how to grow a dream church that will meet everyone's heart's desire. We started in chapter one, and we saw that to the extent that everybody had a vision to reach the world for Jesus Christ, the church was going to grow and prosper spiritually; and to the extent that everyone was filled with the Spirit, it was going to be a powerful church.; and to the extent that each member was able to share the gospel accurately, it was going to be a powerful, growing church. To the extent that people were willing to lay it all on the line -- whether they were at work or out in the community or wherever -- unrestrained boldness was going to produce a great church. We saw that it takes total involvement -- every member in Acts chapter six committed to the work to see the church grow. We saw Stephen in chapter seven -- how sacrificial commitment makes churches grow. Last week, we saw the church scattered through persecution. Beginning in Acts chapter eight, we saw men with sensitive spirits who were willing to listen -- for example, when the Holy Spirit spoke to Philip and said, *I'm going to take you from here and send you down there; catch up to that eunuch and speak to him.* And we saw that when God's people were sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit, the church is going to grow and be a powerful evangelistic church. And in nine through eleven, we saw the importance of God-chosen leadership -- that the church is able to say, *Yes the Lord has laid His hands on brother Saul. He's no longer Saul; he's now Paul.* And recognizing God-chosen leadership was a key to the growth of the church -- and intensive prayer in chapter twelve....

There was an open-handedness about that church, and I believe that's something that has always characterized Grace Bible Church. There are people that have come and gone and come back again to Grace over the years. Somebody didn't try to squeeze them and hold onto them when they were here. When they left, they left freely. When they came back freely, they returned [and] they were welcomed and loved, and it's always been that way. That's simply because God is the One who is the Shepherd of this church, and He is free to move people as He pleases, but to the extent that a church sees itself as a sending agency -- that there are always going to be people whom God is moving around to take the things they've learned here and add it to whatever they've learned prior to that and take it somewhere else, apply it there, and help the church

grow and blossom and be blessed in that place -- and that's exactly what we see in Acts chapter thirteen.

...God doesn't want the church to just sit on our hands throughout the week. We're here to get trained and disciplined and then encouraged to take what we know out to the community. It's that outward mobility that God blesses. When the church is willing to commission and send men and women to reach out to our community and on beyond that to foreign mission fields, God will bless that church.

...The church will grow in direct proportion to the degree that each member feels a vital part of the body in strong corporate unity, and, folks, I just believe that's something that God has been blessing us with in the last few years, and I'm thrilled about it, and I hope you are, too; but, folks, unity is not based on your feelings and your emotions. It's based on coming to an agreement about the great doctrines of the faith. That's where unity is established.... When the church does that, God can truly bless it.

...Notice Paul's heart in verse thirty-six, Acts chapter fifteen. "After some days Paul said to Barnabas, 'Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord and see how they are.'" In other words, he was going back there to follow them up. It's one thing to get people to come to church and to feel like the place is filled up and get excited about that. It's another thing to make sure that you're taking them by the warm hand and introducing them to Jesus Christ and showing them how to feed themselves and have a personal quiet time, and showing them how to pray and how to talk to God and know that they are in communion with the Lord, and showing them how to worship and enjoy the Lord, and showing them how to witness and have an impact on their family, their brothers and sisters and friends, and so on. Paul knows that if you don't go back and take people by the warm hand, they're going to get into all kinds of error and confusion, and so on this second missionary journey, that's what he starts to do. Look at verse five. As a result of this ministry of Paul, it says, "So the churches were being strengthened in the faith," and notice as Paul was strengthening the believer, what was God doing? God was increasing their number daily.

If the Lord knows that there are a thousand little babies out here in Portage, spiritually speaking, that are not yet His children, but He wants to draw them into the fold, and He wants them to come to know Jesus Christ, where's God going to put His new children in the Lord? He's going to put them in a church that takes serious evangelism, and He's going to put them in a church that takes serious follow-up. Why? Because He wants them to have the maximum opportunity to grow, to be blessed, to treasure up treasures in heaven, to have an impact, to have a happy life, to use their spiritual gifts, and everything else. So where's He going to send those people? He's going to send them to places that care about them, that love them, that will help them grow and develop, and it says that when we do that, God blesses and adds to their numbers daily. That excites me! How about you?

...To the extent that each member sets a personal concern for his own welfare and the

welfare of other individuals -- to *that* extent -- God blessed the church, meaning this: If we want to have a great church, let us become unselfish. Let us make up our minds that we are going to learn how to follow up another new Christian on a one-on-one basis, and when we give ourselves to making sure that those new believers are rooted and strengthened in Christ, He will not only add to our numbers daily, He will give us fresh opportunities like the Philippian jailer -- miraculous opportunities. It's just like the fruit falling off the tree. God does that when He sees a church that's committed to evangelism and follow-up. If there's anything that I think we that need to strengthen at Grace Bible Church, it's laying our hands on new people, getting into the home, and spending quality time with them in one-on-one situations and help following them up and helping them grow spiritually. That's the secret to the ministry. That's how you demonstrate love to folks.

...All throughout here there's opposition, and I want to put everything else that we've said about church growth in this context. In Acts chapter eighteen, verse nine, God says to Paul, "Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent" -- verse 10 - "for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city." That, in one way, is a summary of Paul's entire ministry of evangelism. God is saying to him, *Don't be afraid. You're going to have opposition all the time. Don't be afraid. Keep on speaking.* Why? God says, *I have many people in this city.* What's he saying? He's saying there are people in Portage to be won to Jesus Christ! There are lots of them. God has them out there, but who's going to go get them? And there are a lot of people in the state of Wisconsin and everywhere in the world, but who's going to go get them? I want to make a point here: No evangelism, no opposition. Satan is very comfortable with a church that will just sit on its hands, make itself feel good on Sunday mornings, and not go out into the community and reach anybody for Jesus Christ. There'll be no opposition. Everybody will love you. They'll all speak highly of your church, but it will be dead as a doornail and not growing. If you go out to do evangelism, there will be opposition. Unless we go out, nothing happens. But the truth is, great churches are built in the midst of opposition.... God says, *I've got people in that city! GO GET 'EM!* There will be opposition, but we'll get them, and God will grow His great church that way. When we apply these principles, God will grow His great church.

...If you're here this morning, I hope you realized by hearing this message or some of them that every one of us here is a sinner, and God has been pleased to pluck a lot of us out of the fire, but it may be that you still are without Jesus Christ. Every one of us here who's a believer will tell you this: You are never going to work your way to heaven. There must come a time in your life when you say, *You know, I am a sinner separated from a Holy God and there is nothing that a spiritually dead person can give to a Holy God that's going to cause God to say, 'Oh, aren't you wonderful, come into my heaven.'* There must be a time when you make a personal decision to place your faith in Jesus Christ. That is what Paul was preaching all of the time in all of these cities. That's what evangelism is all about. He's out there to tell people, *You need Christ! Don't perish. Don't go to a Christ-less eternity. Trust Christ.* We make that invitation to you today.

Put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He will give you eternal spiritual life and the Holy Spirit to indwell you the very moment that you acknowledge in your heart that you're a sinner and you say, *Lord, I believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as the solution to the sin in my life.* Make that decision today.

Father, we just truly thank You for being together as a church and, God, as we look at these great principles of church growth in the book of Acts, we know that we can do this. Lord, give us the faith and give us the courage to step out into our community and be evangelistically powerful and active. Lord, I pray that we would be equally as intense in following up new Christians and helping them get into Sunday School classes and flock groups and home Bible studies and individual follow-up opportunities so that you can bless us even more. And, Lord, beyond all of that, make us a holy and a godly people who deal with sin on a day-by-day basis, becoming spirit filled Christians -- powerful Christians. Lord, help us to be that kind of a church. Lord, help us to see this new church develop, and may we do it the way you're pleased to have us do it by winning new people to Jesus Christ, and, Father, if anyone's here today who's never accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, may they make that decision today. Lord, we just love You, and we thank You for this day.... Show us, Lord, that happiness is being in the plan of God from all eternity and doing the will of God and building a great church. Thank You, Father, for Your love for us, and we thank You in Christ's name. Amen.

--"How to Grow Our Dream Church,"  
January 26, 1997, sermon excerpt

**Let us go on  
to perfection**

Hebrews 6:1b (NKJV)



**Pastor Steve's final sermon,  
Grace Bible Church,  
September 6, 2015**



I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,  
Always in every prayer of mine for you making all  
request with joy, For your fellowship in the gospel  
from the first day until now; Being confident of this  
very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in  
you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

--Philippians 1:3-6 (NKJV)

**A CHURCH WHOM THE LORD LOVES  
REVELATION 3:7-13  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2015**

**HOW MUCH CAN OUR LORD ACCOMPLISH  
THROUGH OUR CHURCH IN 2015?**

**OUTLINE**

The character of the Lord (3:7)

Our Lord possesses and exercises supreme power.

He makes outreach through evangelism effective (vv. 8-9).

He exempts from the Tribulation (v. 10).

He rewards in heaven (v. 12).

The commendation of the Church (3:8-10)

Our Lord exalts a local church on the basis of its spiritual vitality and faithfulness.

He notes their walk in the Spirit (the key to power) (v. 8).

He notes their obedience to the Word of God (v. 8).

He notes their love for His Person (v. 8).

He notes their steadfast endurance in times of testing (v. 10).

The counsel of the Lord (3:11)

Our Lord promises to reward individual believers in heaven on the basis of their spiritual vitality and faithfulness.

The challenge to those who hear (3:12-13)

Our Lord promises the overcomer (the faithful believer) a fixed place of preeminence and great dignity in eternity.

**PRINCIPLES**

**“OPPORTUNITIES DEPEND ON FAITHFULNESS”**

1. Pursue the ministries to which the Lord directs you.
2. Maintain your walk in the Spirit.
3. Consistently apply God’s Word to your life.
4. Demonstrate your love for Christ in all of life’s perplexing circumstances.
5. Stand fast against persecution (whether family, friends, employers, or community).
6. Always press on – don’t become self-satisfied with your present stage of spiritual maturity.

If we apply these principles both corporately (as a local church body) and individually we will have spiritual power and will be greatly used of the Lord here in Portage in 2015.

**IT ALL DEPENDS ON YOU!**



I thought it'd be nice to preach one going out that I preached coming in. The point is, is that Christ is coming again, and people had better be ready for Him because when He comes, He's going to put to death those who are His enemies. That's what the whole tribulation period is about. Our evangelistic effectiveness is not over, yet. God's going to use us in mighty ways in spite of this difficulty....

We're still going to come out and champion obedience to God's cause. We're going to do the right thing. We're going to keep the right attitude. We're going to stay in the Scripture. We're going to memorize Scripture. We're going to pray Scripture. We're going to walk with the Lord and keep in mind all that He's already taught us. We're not going to cave in. Never. Never. Praise the Lord!

--"A Church Whom the Lord Loves," September 6, 2015, sermon excerpt



# **Fulfill your ministry**

2 Timothy 4:5b (NKJV)





#### **TESTIMONY:**

I trusted Christ as my Savior May 13, 1968, in my dorm room at the University of Illinois. Don Clark, a Navigator, presented the gospel to me. I believed, and Don began to disciple me. I was baptized by immersion in the Twin Cities Bible Church in Urbana, Illinois.

In July of 1972, my ship deployed to the Mediterranean Sea for a six-month cruise. While in the "Med," I was reading J. Dwight Pentecost's *Things to Come*. I was not that familiar with Dallas Seminary, but my interest in prophecy spurred me on. As I saw how this dear man handled the Word of God, my heart was again drawn toward more in-depth training and a pastoral ministry.

#### **TRAINING:**

As soon as I got home to Rockford, I applied at Dallas Seminary. I did not apply anywhere else. I knew that the school had a reputation for a strenuous education in the biblical languages. That's what I wanted, so that's where I applied. Thank God I was accepted! My training might be summarized thus:

**University of Illinois:** 1966-1970 B.S. Marketing

**The Navigators:** 2 years in the college ministry

**U.S. Navy:** August 1970 – November 1972

**The Navigators:** 2 ½ years in the military ministry

**Dallas Theological Seminary:** 1973 – 1977 Th.M. degree

--Major: Greek

--Minor: Hebrew

--1980 – 1986 D.Min. degree

#### **MINISTRY:**

McFarlane Road Bible Church / Grace Bible Church, Portage, Wisconsin

--Senior Pastor: 1977 - 2015

--Pastor Emeritus: 2016

**FAMILY**

Steve and Rita Corbett

Eric and Michelle Corbett

Cari and Dwaine Dailey  
Grant  
Mairyn

Kati and Anson Whitledge  
Nash  
Veda













And [Jesus] said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

—John 21:6 (NKJV)





Never STOP  
FISHING FOR MEN!!  
MATT 4:19

Steve Corbett







Steven A. Corbett, D.Min., earned his degree from Dallas Theological Seminary and served as pastor of Grace Bible Church, Portage, WI, from 1977 through 2016. He preached more than 1,200 sermons, led countless Bible studies, taught biblical Greek and Hebrew, and continues to personally invest his life in as many as the Lord gives him to disciple. This dedicated 'fisher of men' also enjoys fishing at Balsam Lake with his wife, Rita, and their family.

**“ [This year] ask God to give you one person that you can lead to Christ and one person that you can build your life into, and I’ll tell you what, it’ll light a fire in you that will never go out.”**

**Sit at the feet of Jesus with this beloved pastor -- a staunch champion of God’s grace and truth.**

**For the law was given by Moses,  
but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.**

**John 1:17 (NKJV)**



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