

THANKS TO V.F.W. AM. LEG. 3:1
MEMO FROM THE DESK OF
AM. LEG. 3:1
I STAR UP YOUR PURE MINDS
Dr. Jack D. Ellis By way of
thanks for stirring memories REMEMBRANCE
MEMORIAL DAY 1992

A WAR HAS COME AND GONE SINCE LAST YEAR
A DAY FOR ~~GRATEFUL~~ REMEMBERING
GRATEFUL

MY FELLOW COMRADES IN ARMS -
DID YOU EVER THINK YOU WOULD EVER
BE HERE - BUT HERE WE ARE!
MEMORIES ARE POWERFUL WEAPONS OF WAR -
MEMORIES HAVE WON WARS ^{AT THE} ^{SCHOOL}
WITH SLOGANS LIKE: MONUMENTS TO!

REMEMBER THE MARINE 1. MARINE LEG
REMEMBER THE ALAMO 2. First man to
REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR ^{EST. 2 TOWNS} ^{NEW HAVEN, I.}
REMEMBER 9-11 ^{3 Gateway Arch}

THERE ARE THOSE WHO WANT NOTHING
TO DO WITH THE PAST - HENRY FORD
SAID ALL HISTORY IS BUNK.

IN AN AGE IN WHICH WE LIVE ^{TODAY -} ~~WHEN~~
MANY SAY LIVE IN THE PRESENT -
TODAY IS ALL THAT COUNTS - YOU
ONLY GO AROUND ONCE SO GRAB
ALL THE GUSTO YOU CAN IN THE
AGE IN WHICH WE LIVE.

SHOW THEM YOU CARE ENOUGH TO GIVE
THE VERY BEST MARKS TO VETERANS
BEST

SAYING THANKS
WWII - ~~THE FREEDOM YOU FOUGHT~~
TO A VETERAN
YOU WILL FOREVER BE APPRECIATED
~~FOR THE FREEDOM~~

~~AND REMEMBERED FOR THE~~
AND REMEMBERED IN THE HANDS
OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
AS A PROTECTION OF ALL
THAT IS GOOD

MANY YEARS HAS PASSES
SINCE THE KOREAN WAR
BUT THE FREEDOM YOU FOUGHT
FOR - HAS BEEN A LASTING
GIFT -
ONE STILL TREASURED TODAY

70% OF AMERICANS ARE EXTREMELY
PROUD TO BE AMERICANS
CARDS FOR ALL BRANCHES OF SERVICE

IT IS GOOD TO REMEMBER ⁽²⁾
Dr. Jack D. Ellis

FOR MY FRIENDS THE HIGHWAYS
OF HISTORY ARE STROWN WITH
THE NATIONS WHO HAVE FORGOTTEN
THEIR PAST.

WE ²⁰⁰³
IT SEEMS ~~OUR~~ ~~ARE~~ IN ~~1996~~ HAVE
TWO PROBLEMS:

① THE PAST AND HOW TO ~~ALWAYS~~ ^{ESCAPE IT}

② THE FUTURE AND HOW TO AVOID IT.

PEOPLE ARE ONLY CONCERNED WITH
THE PRESENT.

BUT THERE CAN BE NO PROFITABLE
PRESENT - WITHOUT A MEANINGFUL
PAST - AND A FUTURFUL FUTURE.
FOR EVERY MOMENT WE ENJOY IN
THE PRESENT IS A LINK BETWEEN
THE PAST AND THE FUTURE.

CUT US OFF FROM OUR MEMORIES ~~AND~~
~~OUR ASPIRATIONS~~ AND WE WILL
SINK INTO A STATE OF DEPRESSION
AND SPIRITUAL STAGNATION.

Dr. Jack D. Ellis

MEMORIAL DAY IS A DAY
FOR REMEMBERING:

1. GRATEFULLY

2. HOPEFULLY

3. REVERENTLY

REMEMBERING

~~Pause To Remember These
Buddies who didn't make it
Back.~~

~~Revisit Gulf War -~~

~~369 New Graves~~

~~Throughout This Nation's
Counties ON THE MEMORIAL
DAY -~~

"ADRIAN" (4)

"JOE"

Dr. Jack D. Ellis ^{LOVE} ^{Bluebirds over the white cliffs of Dover.}

REMEMBER REVERENTLY
 Adrian - Sat Down over Truck in Pacific
 OUR FAMILY - CHILDHOOD FRIENDS

LOVED ONES
 CHURCH - SAINTS OF GOD

GODS WIND
COMMUNITY - FRIENDS NEAR AND DEAR

~~ADRIAN~~

NATION - SERVICE TO COUNTRY
FRIENDS WHOM WE

LIVED WITH - SUFFERED WITH

WORKED WITH - HELD THEM

WHEN THEY DIED - WE SAW

THEM FLY OFF NEVER TO

RETURN

REMEMBER REVERENTLY

Dr. Jack D. Ellis GRATEFULLY
MY RETIREMENT DINNER
THIS IS TRUE FOR INDIVIDUALS
AND NATIONS. WHEN WE ~~FORGET~~
~~OURSELVES FROM~~ THE PAST WE
GROW CYNICAL ABOUT THE FUTURE.
WE CRUMBLE FROM WITHIN WHEN
THE GLORY OF THE PAST FADES -

SO TODAY LET US REMEMBER THE
PAST HOW GOD HAS BLESSED YOU!!
GRATEFULLY - JESUS DISCIPLES DID
THAT WAS HOW THE GOSPEL WAS
WRITTEN.

PETER SAYING REMEMBER THE
TIME JESUS STILLED THE STORM
JAMES SAYING - TELL HEAVEN
FORGET THE TIME JESUS
WALKED ON THE WATER
PHILLIP - SAYING - YES BUT
REMEMBER THE TIME HE
FOOD THE 5000. ON AND ON

Dr. Jack D. Ellis

THEY TOLD THE STORIES OF HIS
MIRACLES AND PARABLES, WHAT
HE DID HOW HE LIVED

SO IT IS WITH US. IF WE ARE TO
KNOW WHO WE ARE AND WHERE
WE ARE GOING - IF WE ARE TO
GROW AND KNOW THE TRUTH -
KNOW WHAT IS GOOD AND WHAT
IS WORTHLESS - WE MUST
REMEMBER!

WE STAND TODAY ON THE
FOUNDATIONS OF YESTERDAY AS
WE STRETCH FORTH TO TOMORROW

IF WE ARE TO STAY SANE IN
TODAYS WORLD - KNOW WHO WE ARE
AND WHERE WE ARE GOING
WE MUST REMEMBER GRATEFULLY

Dr. Jack D. Ellis

HOPEFULLY
TO COMETHE BEST IS YET
TO COME
YE HAVE NO SECN...TO REMEMBER TO SAY THANKS TO ALL
THAT HAS BEEN - IS TO SAY YES TO
ALL THAT IS TO COME.WHEN WE REALIZE HOW GOD HAS BEEN
OUR HELP IN AGES PAST - WE THEN
KNOW HE IS OUR HOPE IN YEARS TO COME.
ONLY WITH SUCH TRUST COULD PAUL
SAY "FOR THAT WE REJOICE
IN OUR SUFFERINGS, KNOWING THAT
SUFFERING PRODUCES ENDURANCE,
ENDURANCE PRODUCES CHARACTER, AND
CHARACTER PRODUCES HOPE - AND HOPE
DOES NOT DISAPPOINT US BECAUSE GOD'S
LOVE HAS BEEN Poured INTO US THROUGH
HIS HOLY SPIRIT.HOPE IS THE SAME AS MEMORY. BUT IT
IS EVEN MORE WHEN WE REMEMBER
THE GOODNESS THE GREAT DEEDS OF GODTHAT'S WHY WE MUST ALWAYS
CELEBRATE MEMORIAL DAY - AS
A NATION - AND AS INDIVIDUALS -

Redeem: there something worth while - wise use of

OL-498

TIME

EPH 5:14-17

W

To everything there is a time and a season (Ecc)

Ep. 5:16

Redeem the time

Job 7:6-7

8-2-87

①

Another version reads: Making the most of every ~~minute~~ moment because we feel hours have disappeared. MARKING TIME
SERVING TIME
SAVING TIME
LOSING TIME

Three watches on one watch band.

What's time to a hog?

One of the miracles of modern technology is the instant replay on television. When sit watching an exciting play in sports on television we kind of half way watch it because we know that we can watch the instant replay--not only the instant replay--but slow motion and stop action.

It enables us to second guess the umpire and see whether he was right or wrong.

But we watch ~~the~~ exciting event very possibly we don't seem to take it serious knowing we can see it again. Many of us have some kind of subconscious feeling that we can replay life. That is if we miss an opportunity to day--it will come back tomorrow. OR BETTER STILL WE CAN JUST VIDEO TAPE THE EVENT AND THEN GET AROUND TO DOING IT WHEN WE FIND THE TIME.

But we cannot replay life! There ~~is~~ no instant replays on life. If we miss an opportunity today it never comes again in the same way. That harsh word spoken cannot be taken back. Therefore, we should look with awe and wonder upon the present. We can never by any miracle recover one instant of it again. We must Redeem The Time.

DISCUSSION---This is what Paul was talking about in Ephesians when he said: Redeem the time/ Make Valuable
Redeem--buy back--change for the better--reform--repair--restore MAKE WISE USE OF OUR TIME IN 98
Jesus emphasized the importance of the present.

He taught it in His prayer: Give us this day our daily bread. Take no thought of tomorrow. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. TODAY IS THE DAY OF SALVATION

One day at a time was sufficient for Him. But who among us has not wasted time and in so doing missed an opportunity for service?

The question we should ask ourselves is--Shall I let this day slip by in idle talk or ritious living? Or shall I consecrate it to God?

Today is the first day of the rest of your life!

Today is your treasure of time to make ugly by sin or beautiful by service. Whether you are rich or poor, high or low, black or white you have all of the time there is--TODAY.

(LET JOE DO IT - HE HAS MORE TIME THAN I HAVE)

Every morning we have 86,400 seconds before us to spend and invest. Each day the bank named "Time" opens a new account for us. It allows no balances, no overdrafts. If we fail to use the days deposits, the loss is ours. The minutes of our life are the currency of time. Yesterday is a cancelled check and tomorrow is a promissory note. Today is the only cash we have --so we must spend it wisely.

We can make today a glorious DAY for our life with Christ if we take advantage of every moment God gives us. Time is collapsing upon us. The world is in an uneasy state. We are faced with storm clouds upon the horizon of life. Time hangs heavy upon our hands. We fail to find fulfillment and happiness-- What's wrong? Perhaps it's because we are failing to redeem the time. Jeremiah tells us: The heart is deceitful above all things who can know it? (Jer. 17:9) We need salvation we need consecration we need communication.

① Salvation is of the Lord—② The Holy Spirit is the one who consecrates and the Gospel is the one who communicates. All will come to us if we redeem the time for the Lord. *Today is the Day of Salvation!*

BREVITY OF TIME — *The Bible says Time is fleeting*

Behold thou hast made my days as an hand breadth and mine age is as nothing before thee (Ps. 39:5)

A thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night. (Ps 90:4)

One day is with Lord as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day (2 Pet. 3:8) Like the grass we spring up and like the grass we are mowed down (Ps 90:5-6) My days are like a shadow that declineth; and I am withered like grass. But thou O Lord shalt endure forever; and Thy remembrance to all generations/ (Ps. 102:11) God is from everlasting to everlasting. (Ps. 90:8)

God never had a beginning He will never have an end. My mind cannot comprehend that because I am attuned to time and space.

Each of us has been given the same ~~band~~ account of time: ① 86,400 seconds each day ② 1440 minutes-- ③ 24 hours per day ④ 168 hours per week. The days of our years are three score and ten--and if by reason of strength they are fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow, for it is soon cut off and we fly away. (Ps 90:10)

So what is your life? It is even a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and then vanish away. (Ja 4:14)

So what's the hurry? We sometimes move heaven and earth to save five minutes and then haven't the faintest idea what to do with those five minutes.

Take time to smell the roses ² listen to a robin sing--
a child laugh ³ watch a sun rise ⁴ hear the cry of others

Oh you say I'm going to do great things someday.
Someday is a myth. It never arrives because it was
there all the time. There are no practice sessions
in life. No instant replays. Everyday counts!
 (Organization called MAKE TODAY COUNT) ^{HOSPICE PROGRAM}

How does your wife add up? ^{SLEEP 23 1/2 hr} ^{SICK 4 hrs}
^{WORK 16 "} ^{DRESSING 2 1/2 hr}
^{TU 5 "} ^{WORSHIP 6 minutes}
^{EAT 15 min} ^{6 "}

II. THE URGENCY OF TIME

Our scripture says to redeem the time for the days
are evil. (Ep 5:16)

Jacques Cousteau, the undersea explorer has some
fascinating programs on TV. On one program he showed
many forms of undersea life--with many colorful, dainty
alluring flowers that cover the floor of some areas of
the sea. These flowers are so colorful you would
think they came out of paradise.

But the fact is they are cruel, devouring monsters.
Just let a small fish touch them and thousands of
poisoned tentacles dart out and destroy the fish.

We are lured in much the same way to waste our time.
Things look appealing and we touch them and are destroyed

Shakespeare once wrote: I wasted time and now time
doth waste me.

William Cullen Bryant at age 17 wrote the no topis
ride that when the summons comes.....

David Brainard who died at the age of 29 cried out:

Oh how precious is time; and how guilty it makes me
feel when I think of how I have trifled it away."

There is an inscription over the door of a cathedral
in Italy that reads --"Nothing is important save what
is eternal."

If you knew Christ was coming tomorrow would you
change the way you are using your time today?

(5)

III. Tyranny of Time

MAN ALSO KNOWETH NOT HIS TIME (ECO)

Time controls us, and we become frustrated running from one thing to another because we feel we can't have enough time to get everything done that needs to be done. In the Lord's work there is so much to be done and so little time to get it done. ~~"WE OBSERVE DAYS, MONTHS, AND YEARS OF THE YEAR!"~~
Time keeps track of what we're doing with your life
What are you doing with your time? Where does your time go?

Oh if we could only be like Jesus, who moved with such serenity. He never seemed to be in a hurry, yet he had only three years of ministry. Jesus said: "As long as it is day we must do the works of Him who sent me. Night is coming when no one can work." (John 9:4)

He taught us that the quality of life is more important than the quantity. To the world when He was on the cross--He must have seemed a failure. Yet at the end of His life he said, "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." (John 17:3)

We may not live long, but it is important to finish the work God gave us to do. That's important--Quality and not quantity.

- ① Quality of life in prayer
- ② study of the word--
- ③ witnessing
- ④ bearing the fruit of the Spirit--
- ⑤ utilizing the gifts of the Spirit.

When Jesus died, people still needed to be healed. Hungry people still needed to be fed. He didn't heal or feed them all. Jesus healed and fed those who came across His path. That's all you and I can do!

The main thing with Jesus was the cross and the resurrection. He realized that man's eternal salvation was more important than his body. To the paralyzed man brought before Him, Jesus didn't say be healed first--He said first "Thy sins be forgiven thee."

We would all rather have our sins forgiven first.

Joni Earecksen--The beautiful paralyzed Christian said, "It was worth being paralyzed to know that my sins are forgiven and I'm going to heaven."

Time ^{can be} our tool, but we can so easily become it's slave. Your life should be committed to certain purposes! Redeem the time! Time is urgent, don't waste it, use it wisely.

No Instant Replays!

The minute we are now living will never be lived again! This worship hour will never be repeated. It will be in the history books of heaven. Your thoughts will be recorded, your actions will be recorded, your decisions will be recorded.

Lost! One golden hour
Set with sixty diamond minutes
No reward is offered
For it is gone forever.

BE A GOOD DISCERNER
OF TIME.

WOMAN WITH TORR A TAIL
ON A TRAIN THROUGH
SCENIC COUNTRY.....

Time calls for immediate action--It calls for us to do something about it. Now is the accepted time. Things you ought to do--do now! The family needs you--spend more time with them. Write that letter--make that phone call--make that visit. Study now. Money you ought to give--give now. Debts you ought to pay--pay now. People you ought to pray for--pray now. Witnessing you ought to do--do now!
THERE ARE NO INSTANT REPLAYS IN LIFE!

Everytime the clock ticks it is saying --NOW NOW-NOW
~~AT THE APPOINTED TIME THE ENDS SHALL COME (DANIEL)~~
Today if you will hear His voice don't harden your heart!
Even believers can harden their hearts and lose the sensitivity to the Holy Spirit./

Some years ago a friend of mine had cancer--I went by to see him--he seemed to want to talk, but before we could talk another person came in--and was there for a long visit. I had to leave--and intended to come back--but never did--the friend died. I wish I had gone back.

^{FRIEND}
 (GEORGE) ORLANDO WAS TOLD HE HAD 6 MONTHS TO LIVE (DIAGNOSIS WRONG)

Time is running out--Time is warning us--
 (3) Don't waste the time on the wrong priorities.

Oh, you say I'm just too busy--

Too busy doing what??? REDEEM THE TIME

TAKE HEED THAT YE WATCH AND PRAY
FOR YE KNOW NOT WHEN THE TIME IS (MKS)
 Over

(OVER)

REPTURERS 10 YI 5:15-17

(5) Look carefully how you walk, not as un-wise MEN, but as wise--

(6) Making the most of the time, because the days are evil

(7) Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
 IF you would be wise in this life--
 make wise use of your time--
 That is the will of the Lord.

(OVER)

Too busy to read the Bible,
Too busy to kneel and pray,
Busy with worldly pleasures,
As you travel life's highway.

Too busy to attend church service
Or go to Sunday School,
Or even to send your children,
Or teach them the golden rule.

Too busy to comfort the sorrowing,
Or cheer them on their way,
Or help an erring brother,
Or heed what other's say.

What will you gain in this worldly rush?
Surely not a home on high!
Your too busy to save you soul,
But your not too busy to die!

"THE REAL MCCOY"

Romans 12:9-12

Hillsboro United Methodist

11-24-75

Morehead United Methodist

3-20-77

Starke United Methodist

8-27-77 (9:30 AM)

Sandy Hook United Methodist

8-27-77 (11:00 AM)

Shiloh U M C

7-22-79

(W)

~~1-12-92~~
1-12-92

(OL)

10-6-96

(OL)
10-6-96

ARE YOU
"THE REAL MCCOY"?

(W)
1-12-97

Romans 12:9-13

MATT 23:23-28

ARE YOU WHAT YOU CLAIM TO BE?

Characteristics of Christians

Around in our part of the country there is a saying, "That's the real McCoy," meaning that's the genuine article--or actually belonging to or proceeding from the reputed source, origin, or author--genuine--bonafide--authentic. Free from hypocrisy!--claiming to be something we're not. - *A Credibility Gap.*

I Is Your Christian Life The Real McCoy?!

Certainly no one likes a person who claims to be something they're not. But how can we tell when someone is claiming to be something they're not? Well, there are certain outward manifestations or actions that conflict with what a person says he is. *By their fruits ye shall know them.*

1. If a man says he is a "tee-totaler" and you see him staggering down the street
or
2. If a man says he loves his family and he runs off from them leaving them to fend for themselves.

They Talk The Talk - BUT DON'T WALK THE WALK!

Or we may present certain outward characteristics that are compatible with what we say we are:

1. We say we are a "tee-totaler" and when the local option elections come up we work to prohibit legal sale of alcohol.
or

2. We may say we see nothing wrong with drinking alcohol and when the local option elections come up we get out and work for legal sale of alcohol.

or

3. A man says he loves his family and he stays with them and sticks by them through thick and thin.

Real McCoy or Hypocrite?

External Characteristics

How do we ~~in fact~~ know someone is a christian? ^{By their fruit} How can we ~~in fact~~ know ourselves that we are living in the proper ^{Relationship} perspective with Christ and our fellow man?

I'm not saying that we are in any way to judge others in their christian life---but more importantly we should understand our own relationship to Christ and to our fellow man--because none of us want to claim anything we are not. We want our christian life to be the REAL MCCOY.

WE WANT OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE TO BE THE REAL MCCOY

So the apostle Paul is describing some outward manifestations of a certain type of character. He's said some things here that we should do--and some things we should not do.

Vs 9

(Hide under a ~~False Appearance~~ ^{GENUINE})

1. Let love be without dissimulation! Paul has so much to say about love--and ~~it is only that~~ he ~~should~~ regards love as that quality more than any other that must mark the christian. But he is saying that it must be an absolute sincere love--without pretense. It is perfectly clear that in love we find that quality that underlies the whole of God's redemptive action.

GOD'S LOVE IS THE REAL MCCOY - GENUINE

It is the secret of all that God has done for us--How could we not love God?--We love God because he first loved us. He loved us in spite of our sin.

JESUS LOVE IS GENUINE!

He loved Mary Magdeline even though he saw a woman wholly in the grasp of evil forces.

And he made her a saint. He recognized in Zaccariaeus the successful publican whom everyone in Jericho knew--to be a man to whom salvation might come.

Love alone possesses the power of discerning good from evil, and we are to abhor evil, and cling to that which is good.

Verse 10: IS YOUR LOVE THE REAL MELODY?

One of the basic Christian characteristics is our readiness to be sympathetic to the experiences of other people. We should rejoice with their successes and show sympathy in their sorrows.

Avoid envy, strife, jealousy. The root of envy in us makes us bitter when good fortune comes to others. We jealously say they don't deserve it--or that we deserve it more than they do.

God help us to be true to ourselves, to ~~you~~ other and our fellow christians by loving our fellow man--rejoicing in his success--abhorring evil--clinging to good--being understanding and sympathetic.

Verse 11: IS YOUR ~~LOVE~~ THE REAL MELODY?

We are most certainly not to be lazy in our work and should serve the Lord enthusiastically. WORK FAITHFULLY ON YOUR JOB

Is your enthusiasm the real McCoy?

Enthusiasm for life is one of God's greatest gifts-- and nothing is ever achieved without it.

It is interesting to note that the Greek word for enthusiasm was IS GOD INSIDE GOD IN US!

Has the zeal and enthusiasm gone out of your life? Have you grown dull, lackadaisical, indifferent?

(Luke 12:32)--It is the father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom and that implies enthusiastic understanding and participating in life. (Rev. 3:15,16)

I know thy works that thou are neither hot nor cold.

So therefore I will spew the out of my mouth. But zeal or enthusiasm of this kind is never attained or sustained simply by natural resources of our own persistence, It is God's Holy Spirit that

inspires and sustains our zeal. Man's spirit catches fire from God's spirit and glows with the intensity He awakens. As the writer of Proverbs expressed it:

"The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord (Prov. 20:2) and the flame is lighted when our spirits are touched by the spirit of God.

IF OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE, LOVE LABOR - LIGHT IS THE REAL MSCOY - Paul Gives US A TEST Within Ourselves IN ROMANS 12:9-

Verse 12: IF WE ARE TO BE THE REAL MSCOY WE MUST

Now verse 12 tells us 3 things we are to do. These are:

Internal Characteristics

1. Rejoice in Hope
2. Be patient in Tribulation
3. Be instant in Prayer

Hope is a peculiarly christian virtue. Life with Christ is an endless hope. Life without Christ is a hopeless end. You cannot put a great hope into a small soul and we are never beneath hope while above hell, nor above hope while beneath heaven.

About everything that is done in this world involves hope. No farmer would plant without a hope that his planting would reap a harvest. No couple would ever marry without a hope of a future together. All based upon HOPE!

And for Paul, hope is one of the 3 abiding experiences listed in I Cor. 13:13--And now abideth faith, hope, and ~~charity~~ love. These are the characteristics that last. And in I John 3:3 we read: And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself. What is this specific hope he is talking about? Well we read in I Peter 1:3-4: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead--to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away--reserved in Heaven for you!

Yes, my christian friends--It was Christ's resurrection from the dead that gives us our hope. What God has already done shows what God will yet do in the prospective of eternity.

Hope is an attitude that should seem natural to those who know that their destiny is theirs—who realize they are under God's care and are encompassed by the proof of God's goodness. When we stop and realize

The Light of God surrounds us
 The Love of God enfolds us
 The Power of God protects us
 The presence of God watches over us
 Wherever we are
 God is!

Why shouldn't we have a hope!!

2-PATIENCE REAL MSCOY IS PATIENT IN TRIBULATION

Paul tells us as Christians we are to Be Patient in Tribulation.

Paul has boldly claimed that our troubles--our sufferings--are the occasion for our rejoicing. How can we be patient in trouble? Why would we be asked to be patient in time of suffering? Because suffering can work for the spiritual good of those who in all things seek God's will. But the secret of it is that we must accept our suffering (be patient in it) and seek God's will for our life.

But so many times it seems that we don't want to accept it. They curse their lot--they question why has God sent this suffering upon me?

God did not promise his people immunity from suffering--and how sad it is when many good Christian people--ministers, Sunday School teachers--workers in the church feel that they should be above the tribulations of life.

God did not promise his people immunity from the tribulations of life. But he did promise us that He would give us the grace to understand these tribulations in life. He said He would not ask us to bear more than we could stand. When He gives us a cross to bear, He will provide the strength to bear it.

Praise God ~~this morning~~ ^{today} for this glorious promise!

AS REAL MSCOVIA CHRISTIANS!

So we should be patient in our tribulations for they are often tools by which God fashions us for better things--and the christian ~~under~~ trouble doesn't break up--he breaks out and so often our whole trouble is that we fail to ask God for help in time of trouble.

As christian people we often need tribulations to test our virtue. How can we exercise the grace of contentment if all things succeed well? Or that of forgiveness if we have no enemies--and we are always in the forge or on the anvil. By our tribulations God is shaping us for higher things.

God has many sharp cutting instruments and rough files for the polishing of His jewels, and those he especially loves and means to make the brightest He may rub the hardest.

And when a founder has cast a bell he doesn't hang it up immediately in the bell tower--but he beats it and pounds it with his hammer on every side to see if there is a flaw anywhere in it.

So God does not take us home to heaven immediately after saving us, but many times beats upon us to determine if there is any flaw in us that would make us unworthy to be hung in the bell tower of Heaven.

~~For the~~ real McCoy in our christian experience we need patience in tribulation.

SEE ATTACHED TRIBULATION

Paul also challenges us to be

3) PRAYER

Continuing Instant in Prayer

IS YOUR PRAYER THE REAL MCCOY?

To live in a constant attitude of communion with Christ--talking to Him regularly and also listening to Him respond. This is a very important part of prayer--because prayer is a 2-way street. But so often we do all of the talking--and don't take time to listen!

One part of prayer is the sincere, sensible, affectionate pouring out of the soul to God, through Christ. We don't have to be on our knees--we don't have to be by ourselves--(But it helps). But we pour out our heart to God.

There are many kinds of prayer:

1. "Gimme" Prayer
2. If Prayer (If you'll do this, I'll do this)
3. Help me prayer
4. Prayer of Supplication (Praising God)
5. Intercessory Prayer (for others)
6. Prayer of Salvation (God have mercy upon me a sinner)

There are many types of prayer. But prayer is the soul's sincere desire to be in harmony with God. But the most important thing in any prayer is not what we say to God, but what God says to us. We are inclined to pray and then hurry away without giving God a chance to answer.

I. Thess. 5:17--Pray without ceasing. And prayer is not a monologue but a dialogue. God's voice in response to ours is its most essential part. Listening to God's voice is the secret of the assurance that He will listen to ours. Matt. 6:8--Your father knoweth what ye have need of even before you ask.

John 15:7--If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

James 5:16--The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

The question the disciples asked Jesus, Lord, teach us to Pray (Luke 11:1).

Prayer is the chief agency and activity whereby ~~we~~ ~~our~~ align ourselves with God's purpose.

Prayer does not consist in battering the walls of heaven for personal benefits or the success of our plans--Rather it is the committment of ourselves to the carrying out of His purpose.

It is a telephone call to Headquarters for orders.
It is not binding God's will to ours, but our will
to God's. In prayer we tap vast reservoirs of
 spiritual power whereby God can find fuller entrance
 into ~~our~~ hearts. ~~of men.~~

In our scripture this morning Paul is commending
 christian graces, not natural virtues. He is
 pointing out what he considers the distinguishing
 marks of the christian--how to tell if it's the
 real McCoy!

These are to:

1. Rejoice in Hope
2. Be patient in tribulation
3. Be instant in prayer

So my friends if there are those ^{of you} this morning who
feel in your own heart that maybe your relationship
with Christ is not the Real McCoy--He stands ready
to make it real--real within your own soul--and real
to others.

MATT 23:27-28
 MATT 23:27-28 WOE UNTO YOU SCRIBES AND
 HYPOCRITES! YE ARE LIKE WHITE WASHED
 TOMBS - WHICH OUTWARDLY APPEAR BEAUTIFUL -
 BUT WITHIN ARE DEAD MANS BONES AND
 ALL UNCLEANNESS - SO YOU OUTWARDLY
 APPEAR RIGHTEOUS UNTO MEN - BUT WITHIN
 YOU ARE FULL OF HYPOCRACY AND SIN.

4-17-94
The world is searching, yearning, looking for happiness to day. People everywhere are running hither and yonder seeking happiness. To look at T.V. to read the newspapers today - to read the so called best seller books - you would think you would find happiness through sex. Because everywhere you look you see and read about sex of all types - perverted sex - pornography - sexual suggestive pictures and writing on every hand - People try all of these and still doesn't bring them happiness. They're still sick.

There are those that travel all over the world thinking that they will find some happiness somewhere else. The so called jet set flies to New York, Rome, Paris, London - all throughout the world. They're looking for happiness through travel - hoping to find it in other places throughout the world. But this doesn't bring them happiness . . . They're still sick.

There are those then who turn to alcohol, and drug abuse hoping to find happiness. They end up in the very lowest depths of despair, and certainly don't find happiness through drug abuse or alcohol. They're still sick.

Then others seek happiness through fame and power. They think that if they are known throughout the world, or if they have authority over the lives of many people that this will in some way bring them happiness. But it doesn't. They commit suicide, or they just give up. Fame and power doesn't bring happiness. They're still sick.

Others more down where you and I live try to find happiness through fine homes, big farms, shiny automobiles, Big boats. (Talk about Fla. and Cave Run Marina.) But they are still sick

But my friends happiness is not to be found in ⁽²⁾
any of these things. They're still sick!

we are a lot of sick people in this world.

When you get sick you go to a doctor. You may be tired, weak, listless, run down. You may have a headache, or a back ache, or an upset stomach. But when your sick you go to the doctor and he takes your temperature, your blood pressure, listens to your chest, looks in your throat, ears, eyes, and generally makes a diagnosis.

The doctor can tell by looking at you that you're sick and based upon his examination of the symptoms he prescribes a particular kind of medicine for you. This medicine is based upon your own sickness and is designed to counteract your problems. He may prescribe one pill for you that will:

1 grain or 60 mg.

- 1 - Reduce your fever
- 2 - Lower your blood pressure
- 3 - Make you sleep
- 4 - Loosen your congestion
- 5 - Sooth your upset stomach
- 6 - Fight the bug thats making you sick in the first place.

Modern medicine has come a long way when it comes to conquering diseases. There is a great deal of disease in the world, and the marvels of modern medicine have done much in conquering sickness of the body.

but there is a sickness of the soul.

But my friends what I want to talk with you about this morning is a sickness of the mind, a sadness of the spirit - a depression of the soul. That is unhappiness! And believe me, unhappiness of the spirit can cause sickness, of the body. The two are completely intertwined so as not to be able to treat one without affecting the other.

But my friends if you are unhappy, if you are down cast if your spirit is low ' Jesus said "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." He did overcome the world and He left us a prescription for un-happiness — *Spiritual sickness*

Just as surely as the physician compounds the drugs to treat a disease -- Jesus Christ the Great Physician left us a prescription through His Holy Word to treat like disease of unhappiness so prevalent throughout the world today.

Paul has given us a prescription

So lets look at our scripture for today and see if we can compound a prescription for happiness. First of all in Verse 1 we find the first ingredient to go into this pill:

I 2 Grains of Steadfastness

Paul in his writing to the church of Philippi said:

Oh dear brother Christians. I love you and you are my joy and my reward, and I long to see you joyful, and happy. So be steadfast and true to the Lord.

~~Oh my friends~~ ~~we~~ must not be cast about with every wind, with every wave. We must not be like a cork bobbing up and down on an ocean. We must not be like a ship driven about by every wind. But we must set our course - steadfastly true to God. Follow Him and His teachings. Trust Him for our anchor and our pilot.

Too many people today are taken in by every new doctrine being preached. These false teachings will lead us to despair and everlasting damnation.

But we must be steadfast in our beliefs., immovably sure of what our God will do for us. These ~~two~~ grains of steadfastness would include:

1. FORGIVENESS OF SINS

~~A~~ ~~Knowing we have sinned~~

2. REMISSION OF ALL OUR SINS

B - Asking God to forgive us of our sins.

C - Belief in His son Jesus Christ

FAITH IN CHRIST

(4)

With these ~~three~~ grains of steadfastness you can then be true to yourself - true to others - true to God. *Don't be tossed about with every passing*

prob.
I crossed the North Atlantic ocean twice by ship. Both times were in the winter time and there were many icebergs to be seen at that time of the year. The North Atlantic is rough during that time of year and our great ship was tossed about on great waves sometimes 100 feet high.

There were many icebergs in the cold water.

But how different it was with these icebergs. Like majestic white castles they glide placibly through the heavy seas. They are steadfast and defiant of the might waves that are hurled against their glistening walls and towering heads.

They don't bob about like a cork because the lower part is deep in the ocean where it is calm. Only one tenth of an iceberg is above the water and nine - tenths are below the water.

When our lives are hidden with Christ in God, the storms of life are powerless to take from us the peace we have in Christ.

Be steadfast in your Christian faith!!

II. 1 Grain of Friendliness

Phil 4:2 (Living New Testament) says:

And now I want to plead with those two dear women, Euodias and Syntyche, please, please, with the Lords help, quarrel no more, be friends again.

Oh my friends - Paul is imploring us to be of one mind - don't quarrel - be friends one to another.

5

Janis and I have said many times that one of the greatest sources of happiness that we have is through fellowship with our Christian friends. Can you imagine living in a community without friends - in a nation - or a world without friends I can think of no greater punishment than to be cast into a world without friends.

As I think back over my life there have been friends that have stood out in my life. One in particular is LeRoy McNair. We were in the Air Force together in Europe. We were together only for a few brief weeks yet I shall never forget him (His father died) (He baked me a birthday cake).

Oh as Janis' mother used to say make new friends, but keep the old, one is silver, the other is gold.

You know its great to have friends when you're young - but its even better to have friends as we get older. While we were young, friends were like everything else, a matter of course. But as we get older, it means so much more to us to have friends.

You remember that great friendship in the Bible between Johnathan and David. Johnathan was King Sauls son, and Saul became jealous of David and sought to slay him. But Johnathan saved him and eventually lost his own life.

The soul of Johnathan was knit with the soul of David, and Johnathan loved him as his own soul. (I S 18:1)

Job says there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother, Luke says: Make to yourself friends. (16:9).

1. STEND FASTNESS 300/FILNESS
2. FRINDAYNESS

III 2 Grains of Joy Verse 4 says;

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say:
Rejoice!

Man is the most joyous of all of Gods creations (6)
all others are serious. God meant for us to be
joyful - His word tellssus to make a joyful noise
unto the Lord all ye lands!

Can you imagine going around all of the time
without laughing - without showing the joy of
the Lord in our countenance.

The Bible Tells us . . .
The joy of the Lord is ~~our~~ strength. (Ne 8:10)

Isaiah says that with joy shall we draw water
out of the wells of salvation. (Is 12:3)

But the greatest joy that we can have comes
as we sing joy to the world, the Lord is come.
Luke says: Thou shalt have joy and gladness,
and many shall rejoice in his birth. (Lu 1:14)

John says: These things I have spoken unto you
that my joy might remain in you, and that your
joy might be full. (Jn 15:11)

The highest joy to the Christian almost always
comes through suffering. No flower can bloom
in Paradise which is not transplanted from Geth-
semane. No one can taste of the fruit of the
tree of life that has not tasted of the fruits
of the tree of Calvary. The crown is after the
cross.

But my friends to pursue joy is to lose it. The
only way to get it is to follow steadily the
pathway of Christ - without really thinking of
joy. Then ~~like sheep~~ it comes most surely un-
sought - because then our joy is with us forever.

MY MOTHER SLEEPS SPLENLY THROUGH STORMS
During an earthquake an elderly lady was serene
and unafraid. Someone asked her afterwards -
Weren't you afraid? She said no - I rejoiced
to know that I have a God that can shake the
world.

Helen Keller said - Resolve to keep happy and your joy shall form an invincible host against difficulty.

STIFFNESS
FRIENDLINESS

Be Steadfast - Stand firm
Be Friendly
Be Joyful / NESS

IV. 3 Grains of Unselfishness

(4:5) Amplified New Testament says it this way: Let all men know and percieve and recognize your unselfishness!

Some of the most unhappy people that I know are the most selfish people I know. They're self centered, They're spoiled - they're tight fisted. They wouldn't give a meal to a starving man - they wouldn't give a penny to the church. They wouldn't give their neighbor the time of day. They have money, they have houses, they have land, but they are miserable - Oh how unhappy they must be.

Story of Bill Brier & Roumel
Story of Chester Stanley

Its no wonder that God tells us that we're going to have to be unselfish if we're going to be happy. So we need these three grains of unselfishness. We must be generous - give freely of our time, talent, and tithe.

A. Unselfish with our time - How much time do you give to the Lord, to your neighbor, to your church? We all have the same number of hours in a day. You can't say that someone has more time than you do, because each of you has 24 hrs. every day. What are you doing with it?

(1440 dollars (minutes) every day)

B. Unselfish with our talent - Are you using what God has given you for His glory? Can you sing, play the piano, teach sunday school? Visit the sick? Cheer up the downcast? Pray for the church? What talent do you have? How are you using It?

C. Unselfish with our tithe - Are you giving generously, openly, happily. Not holding back.

W... Church Bldg.

8
Job said would a man rob God? You may not be able to give as much as someone else but you can give unselfishly.

Oh its no wonder that we need these three grains of unselfishness in our pill for happiness.

V. 5 Grains of Prayer

PRAYERFULNESS

Be careful for nothing.

(4:6) Living New Testament Says: Don't worry about anything. Instead pray about everything. Tell God your needs and don't forget to thank Him for His answers.

My friends ~~I've given this pill~~ *at present to me that this pill* for happiness ~~requires~~ a large dose of prayer. Becuase it is through prayer that we bring all of these other things together! But it says Don't Worry!

Thats easier said than done! But worry is the worst thing we can do. It effects the circulation the heart, the glands, the whole nervous system.

Worry is the interest paid on trouble before it comes due.

I've never known a healthy person who worried much about his health - or a healthy Christian who worried much about his own soul.

Oh we worry so much and so much is needless worry.

A young couple started for a drive out through the country to visit some friends. It was a beautiful day - the sun was shining and they were really enjoying themselves until they remembered that they had to go across an old bridge that was old and probably unsafe.

The wife said we just can't possibly go over that old bridge - yet its the only way to get there. She said what if we should break through into the river and drown.

9
Near the wife said suppose we got out and walked
across and suppose you would step on a rotten
board and break your leg and couldn't walk -
what would happen to the baby and me?

Well the husband said I wouldn't be able to
work then we'd starve to death. Well they kept
up all of this worrying until they go to the
bridge - There they found a solid new bridge!

I know an old fellow who said - don't tell me
it doesn't do any good to worry. I know better.
The things I worry about never happen!

But our scripture this morning says we shouldn't
worry - we should instead pray!

The Bible tells us -
We should seek the Lord and His strength - see
His face continually (1 Ch 16:11)

Yes Daniel kneeled upon his knees three times
a day and prayed, and gave thanks before his
God.

And Matthew tells us that Jesus fell on His face
and prayed - Yes He prayed that His father will
be done.

We need to pray without ceasing - continually.

We shouldn't wait until the storms of life reach
us to start praying. *We should kneel humbly
in prayer everyday*

The Camel Kneels

The camel at the close of day

Kneels down upon the sandy plain
To have his burden lifted off . . . and rest to gain

My soul thou too shouldst to thy knees

When daylight draweth to a close

And let ~~the~~ Master lift thy load,

And grant repose

(10)

Else how can thou tomorrow meet,
With all tomorrows work to do
If thou thy burden all the night
Dost carry through?

The camel kneels at break of day
To have his guide replace his load
Then rise up anew to take the desert road

So thou shouldst kneel at morning dawn,
That God may give thee daily care
Assured that He no load too great
Will make thee bear

So my prescription to you this morning for
true happiness is to have peace through Jesus
Christ our Lord. That prescription contains:

- 2 grains of steadfastness *Faith Church*
- 1 grain of friendliness *Hope*
- 2 grains of joy *Love -*
- 3 grains of unselfishness *Time - Talent - Tithe*
- 5 grains of prayer *Kindness - Ourselves - Yourselves - Lost*
my will be done

This prescription is taken from our scripture
this morning and it says it will bring you the
peace of God.

Isaiah says (26:3) Thou wilt keep him in perfect
peace whose mind is stayed on thee.
We can experience a deep settled peace in every
emergency if we keep our minds fixed upon the
Lord.

The Christians peace is not the result of passive
inaction but it is an active reliance upon
the mighty and everlasting arms of God.

In other words happiness of the heart comes
more as a result of how we build our lives upon
Gods promises rather than a good feeling we may
get in a trouble free environment.

(11)

A contest was held in which artists were invited to paint a picture of perfect peace. The judges eventually narrowed the number of competitors down to two men who had beautifully portrayed this concept on canvas.

The first artist created a scene of a still, lone lake high up in the mountains. The second painted a thundering waterfall with the branch of a birch tree bending over the foam. On the fork of that limb wet with spray, a robin sat, undisturbed on her nest.

The first picture spoke of tranquility, but the second won the prize. It showed in dramatic detail that absolute ~~calmness~~ ^{peace} can be found in the most of turbulent surroundings.

Yes its easy to remain unruffled when everything is quiet and serene. But to rest while the storm is raging that is perfect peace.

If you want to find true happiness in spite of the trials and tests of life - Try this prescription: **DEPENDS UPON YOU!**

Be ~~steadfast~~ ^{NESS} amid the trials of life

Be ~~friendly~~ ^{NESS}

Be ~~Joyful~~ ^{NESS}

Be ~~unselfish~~ ^{NESS}

Be ~~prayerful~~ ^{NESS}

We hold these truths to be self-evident:
That all men are created equal;
That they are endowed by their Creator
with certain inalienable Rights;
that among these are life, liberty,

AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS!
Declaration of Independence

What happiness is, the Bible alone
shows clearly and certainly, and
presents the way toward attainment.
Great literature of the world great
authors of the world never really explain
it. Only in the Bible do we find such
an explanation.

Yes it's easy to remain unruffled when everything
is quiet and serene. But to rest while the
storm is raging that is perfect peace.

If you want to find true happiness in spite of
the trials and tests of life - Try this pre-
scription: *Be prayerful*

Be steadfast amid the trials of life
Be friendly
Be joyous
Be unselfish
Be prayerful

BUILDING FOR THE AGES

5-3-92

(W) 1-28-82

(O) 11-8-98 (1)

BUILDING FOR THE AGES
OXFORD UNIV. ROOF

(W) 9-17-89

(O)

John 4:5-14

~~Feb 12-1-2; TIM. 5:11~~
DO NOT AVOID BY
PARTIALITY

5-26-96
Building Wells
Building Churches
Building Libraries
Building Houses
Building Lives

~~Building for the ages~~

5-2-99

(And Jacobs well was there)
(~~Read down's story about drinking from the~~ HANDLE)

1. It is good for us to be reminded from time to time that the privileges and benefits which we enjoy are ours, in the main, not by achievement but by inheritance. Like the children of Israel who came into the Promised Land and occupied houses which they had not built, and ate from orchards and vineyards which they had not planted, and drank from wells which they had not dug, we are enjoying privileges and benefits which we have not earned, but which are ours by the grace of God and the labors and sacrifices of those who have gone before us. Surely these ~~our~~ benefactors did not fail of their recompense, in time or in eternity; but, did they ever realize in the course of their labors that they were building for the ages? Probably it was with them as with Jacob, that godly patriarch of antiquity, to whose obscure labors there attached a vast unrevealed significance.

WAS IMPORTANT TO THE AGES

Now Jacobs well was there

2. In one of the most familiar Gospel incidents Jesus and his disciples, journeying from Jerusalem to Galilee by way of Samaria, made a noonday pause by the wayside—and "Jacob's well was there" (v. 6). This casual observation has far more than a casual significance. What is remarkable is that this well had been there for about ~~seventeen~~ thousand years, fulfilling its purpose: providing water for household needs and for the refreshment of weary and thirsty travelers.

(A. U. R.)

BE SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE BUILDING
① BUILDING CATHEDRALS - Three men, all
engaged in the same job were
asked what they were doing.
One said ① I'm making ~~5000~~ per day -
② Another replied he was cutting stone.
③ The third said I'm building a Cathedral!

The difference was not in what they
were doing - although I'm sure I
would rather have the third one
build for me -

① They were all earning the same wage
② they were all cutting stone but only
one had in mind he was building
a great house of God. Life meant
more to him than to the others
because he saw ~~clearly~~ further
and clearer the work he was
doing.

BUILDING FOR THE AGES

③ This wayside well, which is still intact and which has so blessed the world for nearly four thousand years, is a fitting symbol of the life of that godly patriarch, from which we may wisely gather inspiration. In several particulars it is to this day a tribute to the life of the builder.

WELLS ARE NOT AS IMPARTIAL AS ONE SCORE 1

3 ~~Wells are not as impartial as one score~~
trying to open an abandoned well and died of Asphyxiation
I. HIS WORK HAS ENDURED
Drinking from the source (DORAN) 20 ft deep

I "Now Jacob's well was there" (v. 6). Edured is still there

(QUEEN CITY RIWAN COUNTY) 1895

① Here is a reflection of the character of the builder. When we see a good piece of work—neat and sound—we know, without being told, that behind it there was a corresponding soundness of character. And when we see a slovenly piece of work, we know that behind it there was a corresponding slovenliness of character.

To build a well is a big job with 10/18 Bedouins
④ Jacob probably built under real difficulty. Even today, with modern facilities, to dig a well ninety feet deep, eight feet in diameter, mostly through solid rock, is no small undertaking. What fortitude it must have taken to build such a well with the crude facilities of four thousand years ago!

② Jacob could have built more cheaply. He would not have needed to select his stones with such care, and shape them with such accuracy, and lay them with such precision. As a matter of fact, he might have managed to get along without building a well at all. The tribesmen who had preceded him did not dig wells. Like the Bedouins of today, they would settle down with their camels, donkeys, and goats wherever there was grass and water; and here they would remain until the grass was eaten down into the roots and the creeks and water holes were drunk dry. Then they would move on and pitch camp elsewhere and repeat the whole process. They made no improvements, and left no wells behind them, but lived as so many others of whom the poet declared: "They consume the fowl, the flesh, the fish; and leave behind—an empty dish!" How different was the legacy of Jacob! He left a well that endured.

(OVER)

NEEDS REMAIN - Life passes; work is
permanent. It is all going -
fleeting and withering. Youth goes,
Mind decoys. That which is done
remains. Through ages, through
eternity, what you have done for
God, that, and only **REMAINS**.
Deeds never die.

(2) Here is a reflection of greater wisdom than the builder ever realized. If only he could have known that some day his Lord would be traveling that road and making use of the well! And if every servant of Christ could know the ultimate significance of his labors, what dignity and joy would attend even the lowliest service!

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS OF M.S.U. ST. LOUIS
THIS CHURCH

(A) A troubled mother, agonizing over her sickly child, wondered if he would live to maturity. She prayed for him and dedicated him to the Lord before his birth. Then, through many anxious days and sleepless nights, she had watched over the cradle of the little one. Later, as one childhood disease followed upon another, there were more crises, more tears, and more prayers. When finally the health problem seemed to have been overcome, there was another problem. It seemed that every teen-age influence was in one mighty conspiracy to win him away from the path of godliness in which the mother had so long sought to establish him. Now there were more tears and more prayers. Thus the struggle continued, with the mother so close to her task that she never realized what a good job she was doing. It was not until the boy was approaching the prime of life that it dawned upon the mother, rather suddenly, that she had given to the world a great man! She had built more wisely than she knew. Let faithful mothers and fathers be assured, there is a God in heaven who sees every tear that falls, and hears the prayer of every troubled heart.

Grandparents who built
Supreme Court Judge THOMAS

(B) At a Baptist convention in New Jersey, the chairman noted in the audience an old gentleman who had been for years the Sunday School teacher of Charles Evans Hughes, the boy who ultimately became the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, and the first President of the Northern Baptist Convention. This former teacher, whom the chairman invited to the platform to be introduced, appeared to be well up in the eighties. He was frail, gray, and bent beneath the weight of the years. But as he emerged from his pew and started up the aisle, he straightened up, his step became firm and lively, and it seemed that half a century rolled off his back, as he realized afresh what a privilege had been his. He had for years participated in building into the life and character of Charles Evans

DOVER

BILLY GRAMM TEACHER IN FLORIDA
AT FLORIDA TRAVEL

not because your work is worth it,
but because you are. Whenever you
are doing, you are making manhood.
Half hearted work makes only
half a man. Slipshod methods
mean loose principles. The only
way to keep character up to
the standard is by continually
living up to the highest standard
in all that you do.

(4)

Hughes what now the Chief Justice was reflecting back to his country from the highest judicial bench in the land. This teacher also had been building more wisely than he knew. (3)

(3) Last Sunday, in all likelihood, in somebody's Sunday School class, there sat a boy who is destined to be the Chief Justice of half a century hence, or a Governor or Congressman, or President of the United States. Of course, the teacher did not know. Let us hope that he was putting his dedicated best into the molding of that young life for God. Perhaps there was a woman teacher struggling with a room full of ~~beginners~~. One little fellow was particularly troublesome; he has been a problem all along. Perhaps there have been moments when her natural inclinations would have been to bind him and gag him. But she continues patiently, prayerfully, and sweetly to try to bring out the good that is in him. She had better! That little fellow may be destined some day to be her son-in-law; and she may spend the last quarter century of her life under his roof. She too may be building more wisely than she realizes.

(4) A minister was telling, in the pulpit, about his lovely three-year-old daughter. "I fell to day-dreaming the other day," he said; "and I could see the day, not far distant, when she would be starting to public school. I could see her, with happy face, and with her hair done up in pigtails, trotting off to her first day in classes. It was a beautiful vision. Then I dreamed a bit further, and saw her graduating. There she stood, in cap and gown, tall and slender like her mother when first we met. That, too, was a charming vision. I dreamed a bit further, and saw her going off to college. Then I hit a snag. Her mother also had gone to college; there she met a young man; in the course of time there was a wedding, and a new home, and afterwards this little one in the home. What so greatly concerns me is the question, Where is that boy who is destined someday to be the life companion of our loved one? Where are his father and mother? I would go anywhere to find them, and I would implore them to bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord and to surround him with every influence to insure his growing up clean and straight. Then we could look with assurance toward the day when the two would stand before the

(OVER)

4 1200 10 1200
E.H. Guest

~~THE ONE~~ who has a boy to ~~BUILD~~
Has work to keep them right & day
There's much to him he must explain
And many a doubt to clear away;
His task is one which calls for tact
And friendship of the finest kind
Because with every word and act
He molds the little fellows mind.

~~He must be careful of his speech
For careless words are quickly learned
He must be wise enough to teach
What ~~corner~~ can be safely turned.~~

(over)

3

marriage altar with the smile of God upon them." This minister was wisely concerned. Perhaps that boy was at that very moment in Junior Church receiving instruction in the things of the Lord, while his parents were in the sanctuary listening to the preacher. And perhaps the minister was even then building more wisely than he knew.

Jacob's Well - YES HIS WORK ENDURED?

II. HIS WORK HAS NEVER CEASED TO BE A BLESSING

"There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water" (v. 7).

1. The Samaritan woman reflected the gratitude of a hundred generations who have benefited from the well that Jacob built. With ~~revelation~~ ^{revelation} and affection she refers to "our father Jacob who gave us the well" (v. 12). Approximately ~~seventeen~~ ^{seventeen} centuries had elapsed, but Jacob was still being affectionately remembered. Such is the afterglow of a godly life. Truly, "their works do follow them" (Rev. 14:13). This is true in two senses:

① In the first place, they are followed into eternity by the consequences of their earthly labors. In the second place, as they pass through life there follows a trail of influences which will linger to bless and enrich the lives of those who come after them. Sometimes it is only when a life has been lived to its full length and is seen in perspective that it can be accurately appraised.

② A life well lived may be likened to the course of the sun as it passes overhead doing its day's work, without the benefit of applause, and with scant appreciation of its beauty. It is not until the day's work is done and the departing sun casts its multicolored glory upon the sky that its real beauty can be seen. Only then do we realize how beautiful and beneficial the sun has been all day long.

③ A life well lived may be likened also to the painting of some gifted artist. Standing up close, we do not see its full beauty. We see brush marks which are anything but beautiful. But stepping back to a suitable distance, we see meaning and color and beauty, and we cannot but explain, "What a masterpiece!" Similarly, as we study closely the life of Jacob we come upon passages that make us blink.

6
upon passages that make us blink. In his weaknesses he was too much like ourselves. But as we view that life in full perspective we realize that it was a life of noble dimensions, lived to the glory of God and the blessing of posterity.

HIS WORK NEVER CEASED TO BE A BLESSING
BLESSING

2) Jacob himself was not without reward.

(A) The satisfaction of a good work well done is its own reward. And when God is in the effort there is an added blessing and an element of eternity in every service. What we do may affect generations unborn and ages beyond the farthest horizons of our thinking. And what seems at the time like so much lost motion may prove to have been fruitful beyond all imagining.

A chapel speaker in a theological seminary was approached at the close of the service by a woman from the audience who told me with deep emotion, "I owe my life to you!" ^{PICK IS HANDEL} ~~He~~ did not remember ever having seen ~~him~~ before. But ~~he~~ reminded him of a hospital call he had made many years before in a distant city, while he was a seminary student. Then ~~she~~ revealed that in ~~his~~ illness ~~he~~ had reached a point of total despair, when ~~he~~ as a complete stranger, came to ~~his~~ bedside. "I was steadily sinking, and felt that the end had come; but something in your prayer gave me the lift of a new hope. It was at that moment, as I realized later, that the tide was turned and I started back on the road to recovery." Thus there will be many pleasant surprises for faithful servants of Christ when the books are opened for the final accounting.

(2) The ~~reflex~~ blessing of a good work for Christ's sake is often immediate. A warm-hearted philanthropist in New York City felt sorry for the boys who roamed the streets and alleys of a certain slum area. He conceived the idea of an all day picnic for them. On the appointed day several hundred of these boys were taken by boat to a beautiful picnic area far up the Hudson River. Abundant provision had been made for games, refreshments, and entertainment. When the frolic of those happy youngsters was at its height, someone said to the philanthropist, "Did you ever in your life see a bunch of boys having such a good time?" "No," said the philanthropist, thoughtfully, "but the boy that is getting the most out of this picnic today is not the boys there - But this boy here."

GENE REYNOLDS INTRODUCED ME
AS ONE WHO SAVED HIS LIFE
WHEN A NERVOUS
CHOCOLATE APPLES
WENT SUDDENLY

one of the boys out there, but the boy here"—pointing to himself. We can not channel blessings to others without experiencing a blessing ourselves. WHEN WE BUILD FOR THE MASSES
OUR WORK NEVER CEASES TO BE A BLESSING
TO THEM

OUR WORK
ENDURES

III. HIS WORK BROUGHT COMFORT TO THE LORD JESUS.

"Jesus . . . being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well" (v. 6).

1. Jesus not only visited the well that his servant Jacob had built, but made practical use of it. He rested upon its curb, and he drank from its water. "Give me to drink," He said to the Samaritan woman, and presumably He was thus fully refreshed. Then followed that memorable ~~message~~ on the water of life (vs. 13-14) the spirituality of all true worship (v. 24) and His own Messianic identity (v. 26) And as He ministered to her and to those other Samaritans who came to him because of her testimony, that wayside well became in the truest sense a wayside pulpit, to the blessing and salvation of many.

2. Jesus makes it clear that He derives comfort from every good work which is done to honor Him and to bless the lives of others. No service is too humble, too obscure, or too trivial to be noted. "Whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, ~~you~~ shall not lose your reward" (Mark 9:41). "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matt. 25:40)

3. How sobering, how comforting, how reassuring to know that all heaven is witnessing our humble services. In the Scriptures we are reminded of the great cloud of heavenly witnesses who look down upon us in our labors and struggles (Heb. 12:1), and again we are reminded of angel witnesses (1 Tim. 5:21) How much more compelling is the reminder that our Lord Himself sees all, hears all, makes no mistakes, forgets nothing! "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye

know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58).

(2) Beautiful in their simplicity, and perpetually relevant, are the lines of that little rhyme which the children so loved in Kindergarten:

BUILD WELL

BUILD FOR THE AGES

1 WILL ENDURE

"Build it well, whate'er ye do;

2 WILL BE A BLESSING

Build it straight and strong and true;

Build it tall and build it broad;

3 WILL BRING COMFORT TO THE LORD JESUS.

Build it for the eye of God."

Viewed in the light of the centuries, Jacob's well was a noble work which has stood the test of time. But as Jacob came to the closing moments of his earthly life, with his loved ones at his bedside, that was not what he remembered. Looking back over the long, tumultuous years of his life, he saw one thing that stood out like a brilliant star in the dark heaven. It was not the wells that he had dug, or the fortune that he had amassed, or the family that he had reared. It was that awesome night at Bethel, ninety-seven years before, when God came into his life (Gen. 28:11-22; 48:3). What gave eternal significance to the work of Jacob is that he worked with God. "Without faith it is impossible to please Him" (Heb. 11:6).

Thus building with God, we build for the ages, something that will endure, something that will never cease to be a blessing, something that will bring comfort to the Lord Jesus.

"May we be wise with His wisdom,

Our hearts aflame with His love;

May we greatly build as we build with God,

For this world and the world above!"

ARE YOU WORKING WITH GOD THIS MORNING?
ARE YOU BUILDING SO THAT IT WILL
ENDURE?

WILL YOUR BUILDING NEVER CEASE TO
BE A BLESSING?

WILL YOUR BUILDING BRING COMFORT
TO THE LORD JESUS CHRIST?

Matthew 6:24 Luke 16:13

(W) 3-13-88 ye cannot serve two masters

(My post office--bookmobile job). Military Ducks.

(C) Landing craft. (Two Backseat Drivers) 11-15-92
You liable to have a wreck.

Flies
Mortles
If I remember my biology, it seems to me that an amphibian was able to live either in water or on land. These animals and organisms had both gills and lungs enabling them to adapt themselves to two different environments. (The word amphibious is a Greek word and it means being able to lead a double life.) But by the very fact that these amphibians were able to live in either water or air, they are easy prey for those animals that live only in one environment. Why you know that old frog when he gets in the water--he is fair game for the first fish that swims along, because he is no match for the fish in ability to swim.

Also, when that frog hops out of the water and gets on land--he is immediately fair game for the first snake that slithers along. So, by the very fact that these amphibians have both gills and lungs and can adapt themselves to two entirely separate worlds, they don't do too well in either world--and are easy prey for their natural enemies in both places.

It seems to me, my friends, that there are many amphibious Christians. (Too many chiefs and not enough Indians). ^{70%} That is those christians that are still trying to live in 2 worlds. They have gills that let them live in the world. They have lungs that let them breathe in the Kingdom of God.

Ye cannot serve God and Mammon. Now, my friends, Mammon is the word for property, and it is not always used in an evil sense. It involves wealth and profit and Christ is seeing it as claiming man's heart and thereby separating him from God.

JESUS TELLS US;

②

Ye cannot serve 2 masters. This is not a threat, but Jesus is simply making a comment on life. The human personality is made for loyalty, and when these loyalties are split, problems occur. Just as the amphibian has problems living in both worlds-- we as christians begin to have problems when we try to live in both worlds. The world of God or the world of mammon--property money. We cannot have divided loyalties and live a normal healthy Christian life.

(Priorities)

The choice narrows to an alternative--here termed God and Mammon. In the final analysis, the question concerns not a hundred possible masters but just two, as Jesus repeatedly taught:

Sheep or goats, figs or thistles, right or wrong, the world or the father, the broad road or the narrow road, life or death, blessing or cursing, time or eternity--the alternatives have many names--but they still remain that one profound human choice--God. . . with whatever weaknesses or shortcomings we may have-- or Mammon . . . with whatever compunctions we may have.

God - The Things of the Spirit:

Mammon - The Things of the World (Material)

God and Mammon are good names for the alternatives that we have, because the word God is ultimate, and the word Mammon well betokens the many facets of worldliness (money--success--pride of possession, or pride of mind) by which every man is tempted.

Every invitation, every warning, every condemnation, every regret, every approval assumes this limited but unimpeachable power of choice.

I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore, choose life that both thou and thy seed may live.

(De. 30:19)

Choose ye this day whom ye shall serve.

(Jos. 24:15)

(3)

We must choose. This is our nature, and it requires it. We must come to a unity within ourselves--a man who is mean cannot at the same time be kind--a man who is selfish cannot at the same time be considerate. We cannot travel in two separate directions at the same time--and we must choose--or we will choose by default--and a choice by default is still a choice.

~~A DOUBLE MINDED MAN IS UNSTABLE IN ALL HIS WAY~~
~~James 1:8~~

He that is not with me is against me.

Perhaps the saddest part of this parable would be those who refuse to make a choice.

Dante's Divine Comedy--that classic story about a man who sold his soul to the Devil--tells of a special region in hell reserved for people who are neither hot nor cold in their allegiances. And we read in God's word where He says that He will spew those out of His mouth who are "lukewarm"--we will be totally rejected if we do not make a choice. So choose ye this day whom ye shall serve.

In matters of judgment second thoughts may be wise, but in matters of sound conscience and moral judgment first thoughts are best and second thoughts are oftentimes of the enemy of our soul and therefore ruinous to mankind. Choose ye this day?

Life is a series of choices. Therefore, life is a matter of setting priorities. Many people that I talk with--students--professors--and others--will oftentimes confess to me that they love to read but they never seem to have time, and I say to that "Fiddle-de-dee"--we do what we really want to do because we are creatures of free choice. People who never have time to read have other things on a higher priority.

4
that we put first in our lives and what we put second
show very clearly what we think is most important.
Our real values are clearly revealed by those people
whose causes that take first place with our time, our
energy, our money.

A friend once told me he had to add a ~~closet~~ to his
house for his suits. A woman celebrity once said that
she owned ~~15,000~~ pairs of shoes. Looking good was her
top priority. MARCOS - PHILIPPINES

A minister was most concerned about keeping on good
terms with his church board. His theology and his
personal convictions were quickly silenced if they
caused any disagreement with those who were responsible
for his appointment and moving up to a bigger church
with a nicer parsonage. This minister's first priority
was not God but the advancement of his career.

A woman devotes her life to chasing dirt. Her piano
in the living room must always be kept dirt free--and
a finger mark on a door is a cardinal sin (in her eyes).
These people made their choices.

And I say my friends that each of us must choose this
day and every day whom we shall serve. We must choose
because:

1. God Designs it
2. God Desires it
3. God Deserves it

Yes, my friends, God Designed it: It is all a part of
his specific plan, conceived by God for a purpose.

(3)

We read in Genesis that God made man and gave him the power to choose between right and wrong. Good and evil. Yes, this was a part of the covenant He declared unto man. ~~Yes~~, God is the great architect of the Universe. He designed it out of chaos. He brought it out of nothing and made it something.

(Big Bang Theory) *(Black Hole Theory)*

We should choose to live in the Kingdom of God because God

DESIGNED IT.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the Heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said let there be light; and there was light

God the great architect of the Universe brought something out of nothing.

He brought order out of chaos.

He brought light out of darkness.

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. And all things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made.

And God made man and gave him the power to choose between right and wrong.

Yes, my friend, God designed the great master plan for the universe--He is the great omnipotent--all powerful--all knowing God. And you and I are a part of the great master plan He designed.

Now you can't have both the gills of the world and the lungs of righteousness.

You can't live in ~~both~~ the land of God and the land of the world--and survive very long. You must make a choice--and God should be your choice because He designed this great master plan.

(Eisenhower designed the master plan for invading fortress Europe. It was a complex plan--it saved the western world and he was elected President.)

Don't be an amphibious christian my friend--it won't work--cast aside the gills of this world and choose the lungs of God's creative universe, because

GOD DESIRES IT

ed Testament - God is a jealous God.

New Testament God is a loving, But Righteous

John 3:16

John 3:17

For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world but that the world through Him might be saved.

It is not God's will that any should be lost, and if you are lost, my friend, it's your decision for God would have you choose Him.

The choice is yours--

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon Earth--
But rather lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven
(Matt. 6:19,20).

Choose to be with God and His people--even though the choice may seem difficult.

7
You can be sure that when Moses decided to cast his lot with the people of God, the majority of his friends must have thought he was throwing away a promising future--a promising career as the eventual leader of Egypt. But he saw two ways before him. He realized earthly success was only for a season--while a life of serving God would last forever.

Esgur's Ed Division

A number of years ago I was employed by Coronet Films. I was given opportunities to live and work in Chicago--Washington, D.C.--New York.

But I chose to turn them all down--choosing rather to remain here in Morehead to serve my God as best I possibly could. This was before I was called into the ministry.

Did Not want to
I ~~was trying to~~ be an amphibious christian.

Everyone must decide sooner or later whether the main object of his life is to lay up treasures on earth or to lay up treasures in Heaven.

And in all of the little decisions you make from day to day, let the abiding value of heavenly riches rather than the temporal gains of earth be your guiding principle. There are two ways of life before you--

(You can't have them both)

You can't be an amphibious christian.

Choose for eternity!

I am resolved no longer to linger
Charmed by the world's delight
Things that are higher, things that are nobler
These have allured my sight.

8

WORLDLY

Treasures in Heaven are laid up as ¹treasures on earth are laid down. God desires that we choose Him--that we get our priorities in proper perspective--to give Him pre-eminence in our lives.

And He is the head of the body, the church . . . that in all things He might have pre-eminence (Col. 1:18).

Proper priorities are of utmost importance for the believer who wants to honor the Lord. To dwell in the center of His will and experience real victory and blessing, we must give Him first place in everything. No area of our lives can be blocked off to keep Him from entering.

Keeping Him in pre-eminence and dying to self are two sides of the one coin of true discipleship.

God Desires it
God Desires it
GOD DESERVES IT

We must choose God because He deserves it. We should give Him first priority in our lives because He is the Head of the Church.

Col. 1:18

And He is the head of the body, the church . . . that in all things He might have pre-eminence.

We should come to church regularly and faithfully. Seeking the Savior who is the Head of the Church. He can be found anywhere--not always do you have to come to church to find Him.

But you can see Him more clearly when you do come to church.

9

Christ can be seen better
Inside the church.

A fellow who was not in the habit of attending church met the minister one day in front of the church. The minister said, "Don't you miss the friendly fellowship of other Christians?"

The fellow said, "I don't have to go to church to have faith." -OR to follow Christ.

"That's right," said the minister. "You don't have to go to church to see that beautiful window either, do you?"

The man said, "Why, no."

The minister then said, "Let's go inside the church for a few minutes." So they stepped inside the sanctuary. On the inside the window was so much more beautiful because of the rays of the sunshine outside. The figure of Christ that was only faintly visible on the outside stood out boldly on the inside. The tender look of compassion and love on the face of the Savior greatly impressed the man.

"It's remarkable," the fellow said, "how much clearer you can see Him on the inside."

Oh, yes, my friends, you can see Him so much clearer inside.

Choose ye this day whom ye shall serve--
Choose Christ. He deserves it because He is
the Head of the Church.

To not be in church is what the enemy of our soul desires. He tells us we don't have to go to church. But my friends, I could not live very long without food for my body. I could not live spiritually without food for my soul. A body must have nourishment or it will die. You grow spiritually through church.

He is the head of the church and

(10)

Christ is knocking . . .

Will you choose to let Him in?

Behold, I stand at the door and knock."

A little girl stood with her father gazing at the great painting--Christ Knocking at the Door. Reverently and silently they looked upon the tender beseeching face of the Savior. Then the little girl turned to her father and asked:

Daddy, did they let Him in?

Did you let Him in?

When we stand in the awesome presence of our eternal God--our eternal destiny will be determined by the choice that we made. *You can't have it both ways!*

You can't be an amphibious Christian!

Did we invite him into our lives to transform them by His grace divine?

What will you do with Jesus--Neutral you cannot be? One day your heart will be asking: What will He do with me?

What will your choice be my friend?

Deliberate Choice

to go to Hell

to be Lost

A man regularly attended a church and Sunday School. Then he suddenly stopped coming. The preacher visited him and asked him, "Why did you stop coming to church?"

The man said, "I can't come to church and Sunday School and hear that kind of preaching and teaching and still go on living the same old way."

"Then," the preacher asked him, "do you deliberately choose sin instead of the Savior? Do you deliberately choose death instead of life? Do you deliberately choose hell instead of heaven."

The man replied, "Yes, that is my choice." Later he died

THE CHRISTMAS LIGHT ~~12-24-86~~
(W) 12-23-87 24 97 Gen. 1:1-4 John 9:1-12
John 12:4-6 EP 3:8, 14. (O) (1)
LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE 6-28-92

(OL) Have you ever been in absolute total darkness. It is dark, dark! Black, black! I remember twice--once in Mammoth Cave and once in a room used for testing unusual equipment. A place where no light whatsoever, can penetrate gives one a terrible lost feeling. We can only imagine what it was like there as we read in Genesis. But light is the first thing God created. (He had to see how to create the rest of the universe) But it was Good!

There came a time in this old world that it became spiritually dark. Spiritually it was without form and darkness was upon every soul ~~that~~ God created. The prophets were gone. The word of the Lord would not come to anyone--and for 400 years the world lived in total spiritual darkness. No prophets. No sacrifices. No commandments. No worship. Malachi tells us:-
"Therefore, night shall be unto you and ye shall not have a vision; and it shall be dark unto you."

I know that many of you have walked on a dark, cloudy night when there were no moon or stars. I can remember walking down those roads and I would certainly step high and very carefully. There would be mud holes, rocks, limbs and all kinds of debris along the dark road. I would be stumbling along occasionally falling down, and hoping to stay on the right road.
(Christy Creek Jimmy & Milford) or (camping out with Bobby and Richard) AMOS BRAMWELL
BUMPING INTO A MAN

EPHESIANS

Paul's letter to the Church at Ephesus is one of the most divine creations of Man....

It is beautiful in expression, but even more beautiful in thought and carries us to the highest pinnacle of Christian experience with a daring matched only by its reverence and humility.

This very special book in the Bible wins our allegiance by its reasonableness and timeliness. Its language and imagery have become some of the most riches treasures of our Church, and have been the basis of many of our most precious hymns and songs.

One outstanding characteristic of the Epistle to the Ephesians also is that it brings to prominence in our life today is its central theme of unity.

The word unity is the most important theme in our churches today, and ~~330~~ should be the foundation of our church. With so many sects and individualism today we urgently need the theme of unity....

God's greatest creation-people- were walking in spiritual darkness. Even the Psalmist could sense this when he said: The Lord my God will enlighten my darkness and thy wonders will be made known in the dark." (Ps 18:28) and Isaiah tells us that the people that walked in darkness have seen a great light. (Is. 9:2) Blackouts of WWII. It is said that on a dark night a pilot could see a candle seven miles away. So a small amount of light can make a difference in a dark world. But when Christ came into the world He brought a great light. (John 1:9) "That was the true light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."

On that first Christmas the sky lit up around those shepherds on the Judean hillside brighter than the gas explosion lit up the Fleming County ~~ONE~~ fall. So Christ came into the world as the light of the world. He was the true light that came to light the way of everyone in the world. He is the true light--but he tells us we are also to be the light of the world. Are you living up to that commandment. **ARE YOU SHINING YOUR LIGHT FOR HIM?**

Sometimes it is hard for us to be light. We fizzle and sputter like a candle in the wind. But light has so many different characteristics it is kind of difficult for us to live up to being a light.

Jesus is called the light of the world because he exemplifies all that light symbolizes. We associate light

Confucious says: it's better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

A woman in India walking home from church each night and was followed by a great man eating tiger, yet as she held her lantern high and walked withink the light of the lantern the tiger would not bother her at all.

General Electric has perfected a light bulb that will last 342 years shining 8 hours per day 7 days per wk.

A little boy wanted a painting of Christ for his room, but his dad could not understand the kind he wanted. He kept saying he wanded A Christ that shined in the dark... What he was wanting was a luminous painting.

~~The~~ New christian changed so much it was said about her that it was as if she had a light burning inside of her.

Robert Louis Stevenson as he looked out of his window and watched the old lamplighter come along and light the street lights said ;
HE WAS MAKING HOLES IN THE DARKNESS

JESUS IS CALLED THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD BECAUSE ③
HE IS THE EXAMPLE OF ALL THAT LIGHT SYMBOLIZES. WE ASSOCIATE
with everything that is good--beauty, justice, truth and innocence on the other
hand we associate darkness with such things
as greed, fear, lust, and sin. So what
are some of the things light does might be
thought of as ~~these~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~THINGS~~
~~THAT CAN~~ ~~DO~~. **LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE.**

~~CHARACTERISTICS OF LIGHT~~ LIGHTHOUSE

1) Redirects--It shows us when we are on
the wrong way and allows us an opportunity
to change our direction. It guides us and
shows us the way that is good, right, and
leads us ever onward to be the best we can
be. "The path of the just is a shining
light, that shineth more and more unto the
perfect day."

Ps. 4:18 *It's better to light a
candle than to curse the darkness.*

2) Renews--It gives us new insight into
our problems. ("I see the light") means
you now understand what is being asked of
you and how you can start over to do a
better job the next time. "Let us there-
fore cast off the works of darkness and
let us put on the armor of light"

Ps 13:12

3) Reveals--It helps us put things in
proper perspective. It reaches out into
all of the dark corners showing the dirt
of our lives. "God who commandeth the
light to shine out of darkness that shined
in our hearts to give the light of the
knowledge of the glory of God in the
face of Jesus Christ."

2 Cor. 4:6

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed

4) Restores--We associate light with
healing, warmth, and growth. In the
warmth of Christ the human soul can grow
stronger, mature, and expand. "Restore
our fellowship" if we walk in the light as
he is in the light we have fellowship one
with another."

1 John 1:7

(7)
5) Radiates--It constantly reaches out and upward. Constantly climbing higher and higher. If you turn the candle up-side down the flame will strive to reach out and upward. It also provides warmth for cold spirits.

6) Relaxes--Turn on a night light in the room of a scared child and see them relax and go to sleep--or someone who is desperately ill--the presence of a small light in the room gives them a more relaxed feeling.

7) Reflects. It reflects off of objects. It allows one to see the object of the problem. If it did not reflect off of the object one could not see the problem.

8) Refracts--Another property of light is that it contains all of the colors of the rainbow. So by taking a glass prism and allowing the sunlight to shine through it you can see a breakdown of the beautiful colors. This is what we see in a rainbow. Light refraction.

9) Relieves--It lightens our burdens. One definition of light is to lessen our load, by helping us to see just what the load is we are carrying. Sometime we feel that our burden is too great to bear and we cannot possibly carry everything. But with the light of God through Jesus Christ we can see clearly our burden and it really is not as heavy as we thought. 'For ye were sometimes darkness but now ye are light in the Lord, walk as children of light.' (Eph 5:8)

10) Releases--In the final analysis light releases us from all fear, doubt, and death. It allows us to live a full, rich, and joyful life as we walk this earth, and allows us to know we can live forever in Christ who is the way, truth and light.

"Awake thou that sleepest and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light"

(Ep. 5:4) "Ye are all children of light, and children of the day." (I Thess 5:6)

Jesus Releases us from our fears - He is light without shadows.

Light without shadows---Sciola Lamp--
Operating Room Lamp uses a mirror to reflect light in all directions thereby, eliminating shadows.

We were darkness
We are light -
Jesus is the light of the world and you
You and I are called to be "the light of the world." Illuminating the darkness caused by sin and giving guidance to a world that has lost its way. Are we being that light? Our world desperately needs more light of spiritual awakening.

O God our creator of light and way
We have wondered far away
From Jesus Christ our Savior
Who was born on Christmas Day.
And the promise of salvation
Given to us that Christmas morn
We've forgotten why you sent Him
Jesus Christ your only Son
O Shed thy light upon us
~~As Christmas comes this year.~~
All throughout The year.

That we may feel the presence of the Lord who is near, and ~~Father~~ in thy great wisdom--lead us in the way that's right and may the darkness of this world be conquered by Thy Light.

SOWER
SEED
SOIL

Luke 8: 4-15

SUMC ①
10-2-83

It is interesting to observe how we have used the Scriptures. ① Sometimes the Scriptures are used to prove ~~APPOINT~~ ~~that we want to endorse~~ ② at other times we use the Scriptures to disprove an idea. ③ Mark Twain became involved in a debate about polygamy with a Mormon acquaintance. The devout Mormon quoted all the reasons for allowing polygamy, and then turned to the humorist, saying: "Can you cite even one verse of Scripture that ~~expressly~~ forbids polygamy?" Mark Twain smiled as he replied: "Nothing could be easier. No man can serve two masters."

The parables given by Jesus have suffered from interpretations that have read into them ideas not intended. Some interpretations have made the parables very complex; however, the real intent of the parables is to convey a simple and specific message. Their simplicity explains their lasting attraction. To illustrate, ① Jesus told about planting a mustard seed that grew and grew and became like a tree and the birds came and built their nest therein. The point of the parable is simple; namely, the seemingly insignificant can grow to that which becomes very significant. ② On another occasion he told of a shepherd who had a hundred sheep. One was lost and he left the flock and went in search of the lost sheep. Again, the message is simple. We should have a compassion and loving concern about those who are alienated and lost.

Today I would like to focus on a parable which we might entitle "The Parables of the Three S's - The Sower, The Seed, and The Soil." The parable tells of a man who went out to sow the seed. ① Some of the seed fell along the path where it was later devoured by the birds. ② Some seed fell on the rocky ground where there was shallow soil and it flourished for a short time and then withered and died. ③ Some seed fell among the thorns which choked out its growth, and some seed fell on the good soil.

CONDITION OF THE SOIL: 3/12/2011 (2)
(A) Some seed fell on the path where there was traffic.
The traffic made it impossible for the seed to grow.
This illustrates a condition that ~~exists~~ in many
of our lives. ^{more} Our generation ~~lives~~ in having more
meetings, projects, plans and demands than any people
that ever existed. It appears we measure life by how
busy we are, and that we view quietness as a sin.

(1) This is the dilemma of many areas of our lives.
Some parents are too busy to give their children
an adequate amount of time. (2) Some people are too
busy to take care of their health--which is one
of their most precious possessions. (3) Many of us are
too busy to nurture spiritual development. I am
confident most of our lives would be enriched if we
would take to our hearts these lines: written by a
Mother Superior: WE NEED TO PREPARE OUR SOIL OF

Slow me down, Lord! ~~OUR SOUL RECEIVE THE SEED.~~
Ease the pounding of my heart
by the quieting of my mind.
Steady my harried pace
With a vision of the eternal reach of time.

Give me,
Amidst the confusion of my day,
The calmness of the everlasting hills,
Break the tensions of my nerves
With the soothing music of the singing streams
That live in my memory.

Help me to know
The magical restoring power of sleep.
Teach me the art
Of taking minute ~~receptions~~ RECEPTIONS
Of slowing down to look at a flower;
To chat with an old friend or make a new one;
To pat a stray dog; to watch a spider build a web;
To smile at a child, or to read a few lines from
a good book.

Remind me each day
That the race is not always to the swift;

that there is more to life than increasing its speed. ③

Let me look upward
Into the branches of the flowering oak
And know that it grew great and strong
Because it grew slowly and well.

Slow we down, Lord.

And inspire me to send my roots deep
Into the soil of life's enduring values
That I may grow toward the stars

Pink Trees in
Fls Grow fast.

Of my greater destiny.

THE SOIL MUST BE PROPERLY PREPARED!
~~THE SEED MUST BE SOWN IN THE RIGHT PLACES.~~

① Some of the seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was shallow. The sun shone upon the shallow soil and it immediately received warmth and the plants sprung up, but the soil was so shallow that it soon withered and died.

Rocky, shallow soil is always a problem to the farmer. The story is told of a ~~man~~ ^{MAN} who was considering buying some ~~rocky~~ land, in ~~Minnesota~~. He was distressed with the presence of the rocks. The alert real estate man informed him that rocks served a purpose. The rocks held the moisture down into the ground. The ~~man~~ ^{MAN} was not really convinced, and looking to a field nearby, he commented: "All the rocks in that field seem to be piled into the corner." The quick-witted salesman immediately responded: "Oh that lazy fellow, he hasn't gotten around to spreading his rocks."

~~This dilemma of shallow soil~~ ^{is a Problem} prevails in most of our lives. ① We have bursts of enthusiasm that are not deeply rooted and then our enthusiasm suddenly dies. ② Short-term romances are prone to be a reflection of shallow soil. ③ Many people have bursts of religious enthusiasm that soon withers and dies. ④ Quick solutions to problems and ~~simplistic~~ proposals of reconciliation are often ill fated when the heat of living bears down upon them.

CONDITIONS OF THE SOIL:

⑤ Some of the seed fell among the thorns. This parable is so practical that we can identify with ~~it~~

the conditions of the soil. ~~Some of the~~ ⁴ there is a place we mistakenly call a garden. In that area there are two or three persistent roses that bloom amidst the wild grass. There ~~are a few~~ ^{are a few} daylilies that seem to be reluctant to bloom. The ~~most~~ ^{most} abundant thing in ~~his~~ ^{his} garden ~~was~~ ^{was} wild grass that seems to be indestructible. ~~It felt~~ ^{It felt} a new surge of hope having learned about the chemical product "Roundup" that will presumably kill everything it touches. ~~He~~ ^{He} eagerly awaited an opportunity to touch the wild grass with "Roundup." The wild grass and the thorns ~~were~~ ^{were} very real. In our spiritual lives they are also present. ~~All of us~~ ^{All of us} ~~know~~ ^{know} ~~of~~ ^{of} a family who formerly was active in our church, but now many other activities have crowded out their attendance. ¹ They have no quarrel with the basic message of Christianity. ² They have no grievance with the ministry of our church. ³ The problem is the "thorns of secularism" that have crowded the church out. ^{SPORTS} I surmise there are many thorns ~~that are~~ ^{that are} ~~crowding out~~ ^{crowding out} the spiritual values of our lives. To illustrate, I ~~believe~~ ^{believe} that ^{LOTTERIES} lotteries and loyalty are words which are not very harmonious. The more Las Vegas ~~casinos~~ ^{casinos} we have in our ~~state~~ ^{state}--the less interest there will be in attending church. "Casinos and churches" are not compatible. These are factors affecting declining church attendance throughout the land.

When Jesus endeavored to explain the reality of moral indifference to the disciples, he recalled these words from a prophet:

^{JESUS SAID} Their hearts have grown dull, and their ears are heavy of hearing, and their eyes they have closed.

The same condition prevails in our culture and in our church. ~~There are not a person~~ ^{There are not a person} ~~who~~ ^{who} ~~in former years were~~ ^{in former years were} active members of this church--who now are consistently absent. Across the years we have ~~failed~~ ^{failed} to develop their attendance and commitment, but their hearts have grown dull, and their ears are heavy of hearing, and their eyes they have closed. ~~The thorns have choked them out.~~ ^{The thorns have choked them out.}

the hopeful and joyous portion of the parable. Some of the seed that fell in the good soil multiplied thirty, some sixty, and some a hundred fold. Jesus wanted to assure his disciples that the good news could take root and grow and become significant. The message is clear--we need to develop the qualities of quietness and depth that allow the truths of our faith to grow and abide in our lives. We must be intentional in eliminating the thorns that crowd out the spiritual joys of life. *Condition the Soil of our Soul.*

THE SOWER

By - ~~deepening~~ *deepening* the Soil
By - ~~stowing down~~ *stowing down* rocks
By - ~~getting rid of the thorns~~ *getting rid of the thorns*

NOW CONSIDER THE SOWER! Admittedly, the sower is not the central focus of the parable; nevertheless, I believe that we, who are "the sowers of the faith" ~~twenty centuries~~ after Christ, can profit by reflecting upon this portion of the parable. If I were to describe the sower, I would call him "a careless cuss." It appears he let seeds fall everywhere. No ~~careless~~ farm owner would have kept this man as a hired hand. Who could afford to let costly hybrid seed fall on the pathway ¹ on shallow soil ² and in the thorns? Any competent farmer would expect the sower to use care that all of the seed fell into good ground. ~~Maybe~~ someone will argue that the seed may per chance grow in the undesirable areas; however, who can afford to take such a risk. We who are sowers of the word will do well to use our energies and abilities to plant the seed in good soil.

The reckless ~~reckless~~ *reckless*, reflected by the sower, may be costly in ways we do not imagine. ¹ Could it be that our universities are suffering from a decline in academic excellence because we have been too inclusive. ² Enrollment policies have been lax and universities have suffered from an increasing number of students who are not really "good soil" for the academic adventure. ³ This careless policy of admittance dilutes the academic excellence of the entire university. I ~~believe~~ *believe* that a similar situation prevails within the United Methodist Church. As sowers of the seed, we have been very careless in our "admitting

are filled with the names of persons who are shallow soil in the sense they have never made a serious commitment. Many church members are too busy to attend church, etc.

If the seed is as important as we proclaim, we ought to be more ~~careful~~ about seeking out the good soil. What constitutes good soil? Surely, the good soil is reflected in persons who are serious in wanting ~~Jesus Christ~~ to fulfill their Christian perspective of life. The good soil must have a quality of ~~humility~~ and a desire to grow. Good soil must reflect an attitude of being willing to ~~dedicate their lives~~ to their faith--even though they may be costly. The seed we are called to sow is of greatest value. We who are sowers should exercise care that it be sown in good soil. cast Not your pearls before swine.

I SOW - II SOWER

III. CONSIDER THE SEED

Now consider the third "S" namely, THE SEED. Jesus assumes the seed is fertile and good. The seed is not an issue in the parable; nevertheless, I dare to suggest that twenty centuries later we must consider the quality and the purity of the seed.

What is the seed? The seed is the "Good News of the Gospel." Unfortunately, the Good News can be corrupted. Many of us ~~perceive~~ that it has been corrupted many times. Many proclaimers of "the Good News" have made it a message of ~~personal belief~~. The Gospel is perceived to be for our personal comfort and pleasure. The Gospel is interpreted as a self-serving set of beliefs--with little regard for service to others. The Gospel for many is a message for comfort that transcends the message of Christ. The Gospel for many has become the message of "personal possibilitizing" above "prophetic courage." The Good News for many is that there is personal salvation--with little regard for the salvation of the world. For many the Good News is the assurance of "personal immortality"--

without regard to the fulfillment ~~of the day at~~
~~hand for others~~. Our interpretations of "the
 Good News" ~~are~~ as twisted and as distorted as the
 relationship reflected in the story of Mr. and Mrs.
 Appleton who entered the dentist's office early
 in the morning. Mrs. Appleton informed the dentist
 they wanted a tooth pulled, no gas or novocaine,
 because they were in a hurry. Without hesitation,
 she declared: "We want it pulled as quickly as
 possible." The dentist commented upon the bravery
 and then addressed Mrs. Appleton, saying: "Now,
 show me which tooth it is." Mrs. Appleton turned
 to her husband, and said: "Open your mouth and
 show the dentist which tooth it is, dear."

The seed is the Good News shared by Jesus!

What is the Good News? I presume each person may
 have a slightly different interpretation; however,

① I am confident the Good News must include the
 proclamation that each one of us is the child of
 God. ② It is Good News to know that we are important
 to ~~the~~ ~~God's~~ plan and have been called to be the
 light of the world. ③ It is Good News to know that
 our lives are significant--that we do count, and
 can help determine destiny. ④ The Good News gives
 authenticity to the challenge of being active
 citizens in creating a better world. ⑤ The Good
 News shared by Christ is that each one of us
 influences life as reflected in these thoughts
 by Margaret Lee Runbeck:

A man leaves all kinds of footprints
 when he walks through life. Some you can
 see, like his children and his house.
 Others are invisible, like the prints he
 leaves across other people's lives, the
 help he gives them and what he has said--
 his jokes, gossip that has hurt others,
 encouragement. A man doesn't think about
 it, but everywhere he passes, he leaves
 some kind of mark. All these marks added
 together are what man means.

(From the book: Hope of Earth)

The Good News must surely affirm the power of love that can be triumphant over hate and the power of light over darkness. The Good News would affirm these lines by Phillips Brooks:

Death is strong, but life is stronger:
Stronger than the dark, the light;
Stronger than the wrong, the right . . .

Thank God for the parable of the soils, the sower, and the seed. May we take unto our hearts the spiritual implications of this immortal parable.

He that Hears to Hear -
Let Him Hear

THE CHURCH: YESTERDAY - TODAY - AND FOREVER
Matt. 16:18

Fairview UMC 9-19-76

Goddard 9-28-80 (Homecoming)
"And I say unto thee, thou art Peter, and upon
this rock I build my church and the gates of
hell shall not prevail against it."

INTRODUCTION

REVIVAL

We've ~~beginning~~ ^{beginning} a Revival! We've ~~back in~~ ^{back in} Revival!

Why do we have a revival? It seems to me for 4 reasons.

4 Reasons for having a Revival!

1. Worship and Glorify God
2. Increase the Kingdom of God
3. Deepen our own spiritual life. *grow in grace...*
4. Strengthen and Unite our church. Vitamins-minerals - exercise necessary to the growth of the church.

And I got to thinking more and more about this number 4 strengthen and unite the church. And I began to think more about the church - not just ~~God and~~ - not just the Methodist church, but all demoninations - church of God - and all.

So with Gods help I want to preach to you this morning about the church - yesterday, today, and forever.

Matt 16:18 - Jesus said

And I say unto thee thou art Peter.

And upon this rock I will build my church and gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

~~Five - Isabela Hurricane Earthquake~~

Upon this Rock - (Peter) - Man is the very foundation of the church - all men who follow Christ - ~~and~~ *and* ~~in~~ Peter Christ chooses to build His church upon weak men who believe in Him and gain power.

I. He said he would build HIS church not my church your church - The organization of the Methodist Church - or any ~~organizations~~ *denominational* church. But it is the Church of Jesus Christ.

II. And the Gates of Hell Shall not prevail against it. *Fire - Earthquake - Tornado - Hurricane*

The power of Death - the power of Satan - The powers of the world shall not overcome the church! The church does not die, and its the only hope of the world today. *He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Church (Rev 2-7)*

THE CHURCH - YESTERDAY - TODAY - AND FOREVER
Matt 16:18

Meaning

The word church is derived from the Greek adjective Kyriakos meaning the Lords House - A Christian place of worship - Greek "ekklesia" (church) in the New Testament however refers to a local congregation of Christians and never a building. The church is never a place, but always a people; never a fold but always a flock - never a sacred building but always a believing assembly.

The church is you who pray - never where you pray. A structure of wood, brick or marble can no more be a church than your clothes of wool polyester and satin can be you. There is in this world nothing sacred but man - no sanctuary of God but the soul. *Let Brotherly Love Continue (He 13:1)*

("UPON THIS ROCK") - Old Testament Church

THE CHURCH YESTERDAY

The Old Testament church was thought of more in a sense of a building or edifice to glorify God.

We read in Genesis 28:16 Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not. And in II Chronicles 5:14 we read The Glory of the Lord had filled the House of God. And Habakuk says (2:20) The Lord is in His Holy Temple let all the earth keep silence before Him.

And the Psalmist wrote God standeth in the congregation of the mighty (Ps 82:1) Yes the old Testament church consisted of tangible evidence of a building - tabernacle or edifice to glorify God. (David wanted to build a Temple to Gods glory)

BUT THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IS BUILT UPON GODS PEOPLE.

The church in a Christian sense first appeared in Jerusalem after the ascension of Jesus. It was made up of that Galilean band of disciples together with those who responded to the preaching of the Apostles in Jerusalem. *It was Peter who first preached at Pentecost*

What distinguished the early church was their ~~unshakable~~ belief that:

1. Jesus was the Messiah. *(We believe and are sure that Jesus is the Messiah. Jn 6:69)*
2. He was raised from the dead. *(He is risen - He is not here)*
3. He would return again. *(Jesus said Jesus ye saw ascend into the heavens will come again)*
4. They practiced baptism. *(Believe & be baptized)*
5. Regular attendance of the Temple. *(He worshipped daily)*
6. Christian fellowship of believers. *(2 or 3 are met together in my name...)*
7. ~~Baptism~~ *BORN AGAIN BELIEF* *(I must be born again)*
8. Prayers and breaking of bread. *(They were in on deed)*
9. preach the good news. *(Go ye into all the world...)*
10. Go into all the world

Acts tells us:

The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. (Acts 2:47)

The world of God increased; and the number of disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly. (Ac 6:7)

The churches walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost were multiplied (Act 9:3)

Yes there was strength and there was power in the early church - the church - yesterday.

CHURCH TODAY

It is said that when the early church leaders came together they talked about their problems. The church meant everything yesterday - but what does it mean to us today?

"I will build my church"

What does the church mean to us today? Well it means many different things to many different people. *A Building - Eternal Insurance*

1. Good business opportunity
2. Social prestige
3. Opportunity for entertainment
4. Avenue of service
5. Place of leadership
6. Crutch in the time of trouble
7. Or to many it means absolutely nothing.

I ~~recently~~ traveled through 6 countries in Europe - and was impressed at how few churches there were.

O yes we say some great Cathedrals Cologne - Notre Dame - Westminster Abbey. But I said Cathedrals - not churches. I saw 1 small church on top of the Alps - 1 Baptist church in Germany 1 Methodist church in England.

The people in Western Europe are saying that the church means nothing to them.

Gallop Poll - paper

Oh my friends the church which is not restricted to the sanctuary isn't just preaching and sacraments but it's involved in the total life of the human being - ~~here is believed by~~ *here is believed by* a vast segment of people ~~being~~ *being* important in their lives today. (Nation whose smokestacks rise higher than her church steeples) Oh my friends, the church buildt by Jesus is said not to be important today!

My friends we should count it the greatest joy and privilege man has to be a part of Gods church today. Contrast the attitude of the people in Europe with the attitude of a man that I know who said: "It certainly is a privilege to be a member of our church and to teach Sunday School and to sing in the choir." He said "I'm totally wrapped up in the church, my life revolves around the activities of the church - and everyday I thank God for the wonderful opportunity to serve in His church."

If anything broke my fellowship in this church it would break my heart, but my greatest satisfaction is service to Gods church. Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy Temple. (Ps 65:4)

of the
How amiable are the tabernacles O Lord of hosts. (Ps 84:1)

My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord, my heart and my flesh crieth but for the Living God (Ps 84:2)

THE CHURCH TODAY

But if the church is to have meaning in our lives today our lives must have meaning for the church.

~~The church always defaces itself, it always denies God when it seeks to set itself apart from the world in which it exists; when it makes itself a place of refuge, a citidel with high walls inside which men can hide; when it shuts doors to close out any part of the life of man.~~

What does it mean to you to be a member of the church today?

I pray that it means: Born Again
1. Conversion - You have been converted? It means you are in fellowship with Christ

(II Cor 5:17) "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away; behold all things are new." Conversion is a definite experience. It is an encounter that a man has with Christ. Jesus said "Ye must be born again" - and when we repent of our sins and put our faith in Christ we are born again (Jn 1:12). As many as received him, to them he gave the power to become the Sons of God. We don't grow into becoming church members - that is into true fellowship with Christ - but we can only get this through a vital conversion experience with the Lord. No person should ever join the church. Ye no person can ever join the true church until he has had that conversion experience.

Some husbands join because of their wives. Some children join for the sake of their parents. But this is wrong - it is unscriptural - and cannot ever happen. Now we must admit that not all church members are converted. "By their fruits ye shall know them"

A prominent churchman said recently that he would be happy if 75% of his church members were saved. Now we need to have all church members truly converted, and totally committed to Christ. What a power they could be in the world today if they were converted. Clean - Church membership means that you are clean. Who shall ascend the hall of the Lord? Or who shall stand in His holy Place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart (Ps 24:3-4)

We sing one of our favorite songs - Are ye washed in the blood of the Lamb? Are your garments spotless are they white as snow?

You are clean - refrain from sin

We read in the scriptures - The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. Things that have been washed - ought to be clean.

CLEAN SPEECH

(1) Clean - Conversation - They said ~~to~~ Simon Peter, your speech betrays you! Does ~~your~~ speech betray ~~you~~ out there where ~~you~~ live? Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

Let the fruit of our speech be known to all - that we are Christs.

Clean Speech

A member of Gods church ought to enjoy a good joke as much as anyone - but we must be aware that our speech has an influence upon others and as such should be clean in every respect.

"But I say unto you that every ~~idle~~ word that men shall speak they shall give an account in the day of the judgement" (Matt 12:36)

Clean - Conduct

Provide things honest in the sight of men." (Romans 12:17) This means we as church members ought to pay our taxes - our bills and take care of all of our obligations.

Clean - Conduct *Be Kind and* (Considerate of others)

"Be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christs sake hath forgiven you." (Ep 4:32) *Body crying in a pulpitman*

The Church today should
Yes ~~church membership means~~ we show Christ in our every relationship. "Brother if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. (Gal 6:1)

~~The body crying in a pulpitman and
helping everyone else. - I don't know how
to do it.~~

Life is not easy for any of us. The mind without easy
 person you meet in fighting a battle. But we can
 make it easy for a fellow soldier by trying to under-
 stand him by being ready to forget the unpleasantness
 of the past.

AS members of Gods church what is your relation-
 ship toward those who have fallen? If we really
 have the spirit of Christ we are ready always to
 lend them a helping hand. It is not our place
 to criticize, but to sympathize. A fallen brother
 or sister is often brought back to sweet fellow-
 ship and good service by the sympathetic attitude
 of other Christians.

The Church today should be
Clean in Conduct & attitude & mind

Pure religion undefiled before God and the Father
 is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in
 their affliction, and to keep himself un - spotted
 from the world (James 1:27)

We are told 2 things here:

1. We are to show benevolence toward all men.
 (~~Who's who~~)
2. We are to live lives that are clean in the
 sight of God.

Yes, church membership today should mean you have
 a:

1. Conversion experience
2. That you are clean in mind, heart, and attitude.

~~Church membership today means you are also~~
cooperating.

~~The church today should be~~
~~a cooperating church~~
Cooperating (with your presence)

IF YOU ARE A CHURCH MEMBER - YOU SHOULD ATTEND SERVICE -
 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves to-
 gether as the manner of some is; but exhorting
 one another; and so much the more, as ye see the
 day approaching.

The least thing that a church member can do is
 to attend the services of the church. Attendance
 is important to you, the pastor, to others. If
 you do not attend church you are saying to the
 world that the church has no meaning for you.

ATTENDANCE WILL STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH

If we were faithful in our attendance ~~the~~ church ^{today} would be strong! and the world would be impressed by the worthwhileness of our faith.

My church today should be
Cooperating (With our prayers) - for your nation
and

It is vitally important in our church that we pray.

Moreover as for me God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing the pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way (I Sam 12:23) There are so many people who need our prayers. We sin against them when we do not pray for them.

Johnathan Edwards preached his sermon, "The Sinner in the Hands of an Angry God," many times. He preached, and the power of God fell upon the congregation. It is said that he had written out the sermon and that he had read it poorly, but hundreds were saved. What was the answer?

His church members in his home church were on their knees in prayer while he delivered his sermon.

~~Cooperating (Prayer)~~

If every church member prayed daily, there would be more love among us, we would live better lives, there would be money for every need, we would be more missionary minded - and our church would indeed be a great power for God.

Cooperating (With our personal efforts)

(I Cor 3:9) "For we are laborers together with God" This gives us the greatest partnership in the world. Are you asking yourself what can I do? You can be loyal to every call of your church and Christ.

If you have a job in the church you can be faithful to that job. If not you don't have a job - ask the preacher and he'll give you one.

We need to develop a strong sense of service as exemplified in that old song, "Like a mighty army moves the church of God."

The church today should be a conquering army
Conquering (habits) Bad Habits

We need to conquer our bad habits! Although we've been saved, the old carnal nature is still with us. There is a continuous struggle between the old nature and the new nature. Paul says that we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. The only way for us too overcome is through Christ's help.

There is no temptation taken you but such is common to man, but God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able (I Cor 10:13) but will with the temptation, also make a way of escape that ye may be able to bear it.

Conquering (bad tempers)

Our temper is like a shotgun blast. Its over in a split second and destroys everything it reaches at close range. Does your temper need to come under the will of that gentle man Jesus Christ?

Conquer (unforgiving spirits)

This is the worst thing that we as church members can have today: It robs us of all peace, joy, and power.

Conquer (Covetous hearts)

When we look upon the things that belong to others and desire them we become of all men most miserable.

Conquer (selfishness)

Poem

I had a little tea party this afternoon at 3:00. Twas very small, 3 guests was all, just I, myself, and me. Myself ate up all the sandwiches, while I drank up the tea. Twas also I who ate the pie and passed the cake to me.

Prose and
Selfishness causes all of the problems in the world today. That's why we have wars, why families are broken up, why neighbors hate each other, why men murder and steal, why the divorce rate is so high. When you look at the word SIN - you see a big (I) right in the middle of it. If we had less selfishness we would have less sin.

Consecrated *The church today needs to be a*
church.

I Beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, and acceptable unto God - which is your reasonable service (Rom 12:1)

The consecrated life is the only life of real peace - real power - real joy. The consecrated life is the only life which will receive the Masters "Well done thou good and faithful servant" - We ought never be content to live worldly lives not in a true church membership and come up empty handed at last before our Savior. When a deep sea diver goes down into the ocean his greatest danger is not from the sharks, but of his air hose - his "life-line" becoming entangled so that his air supply is shut off and he dies at the bottom of the sea. Our greatest danger as church members today is not the great sins of the world, but the matter of becoming entangled with worldly things, that choke off our spiritual life line and kills us at the bottom of the sea of sin.

The Church Yesterday - The Church Today - The Church Forever

What do we have to look forward to as to the future of the church - In spite of all of the dismal statistics of how the church is not important today - the church is forever

There is fear in many quarters about the future of the church. Many critics are claiming that the church is irrelevant today if not actually dead. Some governments are actually trying to wipe out the church. In such times as these the words of Jesus brings us great comfort, hope, and assurance. Christ is both the founder and the basis for the church. He builds the church; we only assist Him. The church is a divine institution, not a human society or club. It is a spiritual fellowship made up of all those who through faith in Jesus Christ have been born of the Spirit. The foundation of the church is in men that have confessed Jesus Christ, the son of the living God.

That's Peter!

Jesus said that the church is built on a rock. Because it is a divine institution it will stand the test of time - nothing can shake it. Opposition, persecution, and all of the combined forces of Satan will not be able to crush it or wipe it out.

In early days Roman gov't tried - Middle Ages was corrupted - ~~Later~~ Communism is trying today - but not my, *will destroy the Church.*

"The Gates of hell shall not prevail against it".

THE CHURCH YESTERDAY - TODAY - AND FOREVER

Does church membership today mean to you:

1. Conversion
2. Clean
3. Cooperating
4. Conquering
5. Consecration

TRAGEDY OF THE UNLEARNED LESSONS

9-24-2000

MARK 6:34-52

Let the Church Say Amen

TRAGEDY OF THE USS INDIANAPOLIS

I Thank God for the privilege of serving here
at ~~Camp~~. My Soul is enriched by
your love and support and I Thank God
for it. Indred Jones and I are Greatful To be
able To be here with you.

7 ^{9:15 AM} ~~Today~~ I want to invite your attention
to the words of Scripture recorded in
Mark's Gospel 6th CHAPT. vs 34-52.
(READ) - Listen for the word of the Lord.

- END MARK 6:30-52 -

you HEARD the reading of The Holy Scriptures
and we pray That God will open our hearts
to the hearing of the Holy Scriptures this
hour

Let us pray

WE OFTEN REMB!

JESUS BEGAN TO TEACH IN THE SYNAGOGUE

I want to

Call your ATTENTION

To VS 34-AND 51-52 - Listen

SPECIFICALLY TO PHILLIPS TRANSLATION - "AND HE CLIMBED ABOARD THE BOAT WITH THEM"

CLIMBED ABOARD THE BOAT WITH THEM
AND THE WIND DROPPED BUT

THEY WERE SCARED OUT OF THEIR WITS.

THEY HAD NOT THE SENSE TO LEARN THE LESSON OF THE LOMES

TODAY
I WANT TO PREACH ABOUT THE TRAGEDY⁽²⁾
OF UN-LEARNED LESSONS!

I FIND IT A VERY GREAT BLESSING
TO MY SOUL AND FOR MY MINISTRY
TO KNOW THAT THE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN JESUS AND THE DISCIPLES
WAS MOSTLY THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
A TEACHER AND HIS STUDENTS —

GODS SON —

IN ADDITION TO BEING KNOWN AS
A PREACHER AND A HEALER — HE
WAS KNOWN AS A TEACHER AND
WE KNOW THAT THE WORD DISCIPLE
MEANS LEARNER

Rabbi means a
reverent form of teacher
or teacher

THEREFORE WE SEE AND WE UNDERSTAND
THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JESUS
AND HIS DISCIPLES WAS A RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN A TEACHER AND HIS PUPILS
AS HE INSTRUCTED THEM IN THE DEEP
MATTERS OF FAITH

HE WAS ENGAGED IN THE TASK
OF EQUIPPING THEM FOR DISCIPLESHIP
SO THAT THEY MIGHT IN TURN GO OUT
AND MAKE DISCIPLES

Jesus was concerned that they ^{PREPARED} ~~WELL~~ ~~SO~~ ~~THAT~~ ³
WOULD BE ~~WELL~~ ~~SO~~ ~~THAT~~
THEY COULD BE EFFECTIVE SERVANTS
IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

WE HAVE AN EXAMPLE OF THAT
IN THIS ACCOUNT OF FEEDING THE
5000 - FOR ^{WHEN} ~~WHEN~~ MARK TELLS THIS
IN HIS GOSPEL HE IS NOT SIMPLY
DEMONSTRATING HOW JESUS WAS ABLE
TO MEET THE NEEDS OF 5000 HUNGRY
PEOPLE IN THE DESERT - BUT
MARK IS ALSO EXPOSING US TO SOME-
WHAT OF A CLASSROOM SESSION
IN WHICH JESUS IS TEACHING THE
DISCIPLES SOME VALUABLE LESSONS
ABOUT THE KINGDOM AND ABOUT
GOD'S NATURE TO PROVIDE - IN
OTHER WORDS JESUS WANTED THEM
TO LEARN SOMETHING FROM THIS
EVENT THAT WOULD STRENGTHEN
THEIR FAITH

HE WANTED THEM TO LEARN
So that they would be prepared as ④
they went out into the world to
make disciples - ~~to again be effective~~
~~in that task~~ - Note

that to facilitate their learning in
this event Jesus gave them
some practical experience UNDER HIS
SUPERVISION. Jesus did not believe
in the theory of education that
you just open the spigot and
pour the information into their
needs - where the students
mind is a receptacle and the
teacher deposits information into
the mind of the students -

and the students in turn ARE
expected to feed back to the
teacher a list of things they
have memorized!

Jesus did not believe in that
kind of education - but he tried
to lead the disciples in certain
experiences that they could
discover the truth for themselves

LESSONS OF TRUTH THAT WE HAVE (3)
~~THAT~~ ~~TRUTH~~ ~~THAT~~ ~~WE~~ ~~HAVE~~ ~~DISCOVERED~~ ~~FOR~~
 OURSELVES ~~ARE~~ ~~THAT~~ ~~WE~~ ~~EXPERIENCED~~
~~OURSELVES~~ ~~ARE~~ ~~A~~ ~~MORE~~ ~~LASTING~~
 KINDS OF TRUTHS - WE HANG ON TO
 THEM BECAUSE ~~THEY~~ ~~BECAME~~ ~~A~~
 PART OF WHO WE ARE!

PART OF WHO WE ARE!
JEFF + JEN BURNING THEIR FINGERS ON THE
^{STOVE}
SO JESUS GAVE THEM SOME
PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE ~~UNDER~~ UNDER
SUPERVISION - AND NOTE... HE INVOLVED
THEM IN THE SOLUTION TO
THE PROBLEM BY SUGGESTING THAT
THEY GIVE THE PEOPLE SOMETHING
TO EAT.

IN FEEDING THE 5000
NOTICE - HE ALSO INVOLVED THEM IN
A PERSONAL INVENTORY - BY ASKING THEM
WHAT BREAD HAVE YOU GOT?

TO TAKE AN INVENTORY OF THEIR
RESOURCES - HE DIDN'T TELL
THEM WHAT THEY HAD - HE KNEW

IN JOHN'S GOSPEL JESUS SAYS-HE
KNEW WHAT HE WAS GOING TO DO!

⑥
HE WANTED THEM TO DISCOVER -
LEARN A PERSONAL TRUTH ABOUT
THE KINGDOM FOR THEMSELVES!

HE EVEN INVOLVED THEM IN SOME
RESEARCH WORK (SOCIAL ANALYSIS)
BY ASKING THEM TO GO AND
LOOK OVER THE SITUATION OF THE
LOAVES AND FISHES - AND REMEMBER
HE INVOLVED THEM EVEN IN THE
DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

NOT ONLY THAT - BUT AFTER FEEDING
THEM HE INVOLVED THEM IN
COLLECTING THE FRAGMENTS THAT
WERE LEFT OVER!

SURELY NO ONE HAD BEEN BETTER
PREPARED TO UNDERSTAND GODS
LIBERATING POWER - UNDERSTAND GODS
ABILITY TO PROVIDE THROUGH
JESUS CHRIST - THAN THOSE
DISCIPLES!!!
WHO COULD ASK FOR ANYTHING
MORE? (TOYOTA)

IN ORDER TO DELIVER HIM HOW WOULD A PERSON
15 LEARNED YOU HAVE TO HAVE AN EXAM. (7)
AND FINAL EXAM TIME FINALLY CAME
AS FINAL EXAM TIME ALWAYS COMES.

EXAM TIME COMES NOT IN CHURCH - NOT
IN PRAYER MEETING - SUNDAY SCHOOL - BUT
EXAM TIME COMES AS WE GO TO OUR
HOUSES - OUR WORK - OUR RELATIONSHIP
WITH OTHERS

NOTE THIS — MARK TELLS US THAT
JESUS MADE THE DISCIPLES
GET INTO THE BOAT AND GO TO THE
OTHER SIDE OF THE SEA - AND JESUS
STAYED BEHIND INTENTIONALLY STAYED
BEHIND - Setting them up for exam
TIME ☺

AND WHILE THEY WERE OUT THERE
ON THE SEA IN THE BOAT MARK
SAYS - A STORM AROSE!

THE WIND WAS AGAINST THEM JUST AS
THE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE, AGAINST THEM
TO FEED 5000 PEOPLE!

NOW - (8)
AFTER WHAT THEY HAD LEARNED
FROM JESUS IN FEEDING THE 5000, (IN
THE LESSON OF THE LOAVES) (1) YOU WOULD
THINK THAT ONE OF THEM WOULD
HAVE LEARNED ENOUGH TO SAY - I
KNOW THE LORD WILL MAKE A WAY
SOMEHOW!

(2) YOU WOULD THINK THAT ONE OF THEM
WOULD HAVE LEARNED ENOUGH IN
THE LESSON OF THE LOAVES - TO SAY -
HE'S NEVER FAILED US YET - HE
WILL NOT FAIL US NOW!

(3) YOU WOULD THINK THAT ONE OF THEM
WOULD HAVE LEARNED ENOUGH IN THE
LESSON OF THE LOAVES TO CALL FOR A
TIME OF PRAYER

(4) YOU WOULD THINK THAT ONE OF THEM
WOULD HAVE LEARNED ENOUGH FROM THE
LESSON OF THE LOAVES TO CALL UPON
THE BIBLE AND QUOTE ISAIAH'S WORDS (40)
THEY THAT WAIT UPON THE LORD WILL
RENEW THEIR STRENGTH - THEY SHALL
MOUNT UP WITH WINGS AS EAGLES...

⑨
⑤ YOU WOULD THINK THAT ONE OF THEM
HAD LEARNED ENOUGH TO CALL THE
GROUP TO SING A HYMN SUCH AS
HOW GREAT THOU ART! OR
WHAT A MIGHTY GOD WE SERVE!

BUT THAT WAS NOT THE CASE!
~~THANIC SANK - HEARZEN MY GOD TO THEE~~
INSTEAD MARK TELLS US IN OUR TEXT
THEY HAD NOT THE SENSE TO LEARN THE
LESSON OF THE LEAVES <sup>ON THE TRAGEDY OF UN-
LEARNED LESSONS</sup>
① EVEN THOUGH THEY HAD BEEN WITH JESUS
EVERY DAY - EVEN ON THE MOUNTAIN TOP WITH
HIM

② EVEN THOUGH THEY HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF
BEING CLOSER TO JESUS THAN ANY ONE ELSE
CHOSEN AND

③ EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE ESPECIALLY CALLED
BY JESUS

WHEN THE STORMS OF LIFE WERE RAGING -
THEY FAILED THE TEST OF FAITH. AS A
MATTER OF FACT THEY FLUNKED THE TEST SO
BADLY THAT WHEN JESUS DID COME TO THEM
THEY DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HIM - WHY THOUGH
HE WAS A GHOST

OH THE TRAGEDY OF UNLEARNED
LESSONS YOU SAY - WHY DIDN'T THEY LEARN?

OH I DON'T KNOW WHY THE DISCIPLES
FAILED TO LEARN THEIR LESSON - THE
OFTEN THOUGHT ABOUT IT ① MAYBE IT WAS
BECAUSE THEY WERE OVERCONFIDENT.
HAD GOTTEN BEFORE A FALL

2) MAYBE IT WAS BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT (20)
THEY WERE CLOSE TO JESUS AND THEY
WOULD BE EXEMPT FROM STORMS!
YOU KNOW SOMETIMES CHRISTIANS THINK
TROUBLE WON'T COME TO THEM BUT
WE KNOW BETTER DON'T WE ??

3) MAYBE IT WAS BECAUSE THEY
TRUSTED TOO MUCH IN THEIR OWN STRENGTH

4) MAYBE IT WAS BECAUSE THEY WERE
MORE INTERESTED IN DEGREES -
HONORS - RECOGNITION - THAT WAS
THEIR PRIMARY INTEREST OF LEARNING
CERTIFICATION - CREDIT RANK
I DON'T KNOW - ALL I KNOW IS THAT
IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR FAILURE
A MARVELOUS THING HAPPENED -
JESUS CAME TO THEM!
WHAT I DO KNOW - WHEN I HAVE
EXPERIENCED IN MY OWN LIFE - IN MY
OWN MINISTRY IS THAT WHEN THOSE
DISCIPLES DID FLUNK JESUS DIDN'T
GIVE THEM AN F HE GAVE THEM
AN INCOMPLETE! PRAISE GOD
FOR HIS MERCY AND GRACE!
THEY HAD FLUNKED AND DESERVED
AN F BUT HE GAVE THEM
AN INCOMPLETE

(11)

WHEN I THINK ABOUT THE MANY TIMES IN
MY LIFE MINISTRY THAT I FLUNKED -
WHEN I WAS NOT EFFECTIVE - WHEN I
SHIPPED - WHEN I FAILED - WHEN I
DESERVED AN F - HE DIDN'T GIVE UP ON ME -
HE GAVE ME AN INCOMPLETE HE
Said JACK ELIUS I'M NOT FINISHED
WITH YOU YET - YOU'RE STILL IN PROCESS
I CAN STILL USE YOU!

JESUS CAME WALKING ON THE SEA TO
RESCUE THOSE TROUBLED DISCIPLES
THOSE FLUNKING AND FAILING DISCIPLES
AND EVEN THOUGH THEY DID NOT EVEN
RECOGNIZE HIM - THAT DIDN'T STOP HIM
FROM COMING ON ANYWAY!

HE GOT INTO THE BOAT WITH THEM -
HE CAUSED THE WINDS THAT WERE AGAINST
THEM TO CEASE (EVEN THOUGH THEY FLUNKED)
THAT THEY MIGHT AGAIN HAVE ANOTHER
EXPERIENCE THAT GOD THROUGH JESUS IS ABLE
TO PROVIDE. THANK GOD! NEVER GIVE UP ON THEM
A UNUSABLE LESSON

BISHOP ROBERT KING - THE GREAT BLACK
BISHOP OF THE METHODIST CHURCH TELLS THIS
STORY - HE SAYS HE WENT TO WILKEY COLLEGE
AND AFTER HE GRADUATED HE CAME HOME
WITH HIS DIPLOMA - HIS FATHER AND
MOTHER WORKED HARD - DONE WITHOUT
IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT HAVE - AND
THEY WELCOMED HIM HOME AND SAID SON
WE'RE PROUD OF YOU!

THEY HAD NO FORMAL EDUCATION ^{THEY SELL} THEMSELVES
BUT BISHOP KING SAID THE NEXT MORNING
AFTER HE GOT UP - HE TOLD HIS DAD HE
WANTED TO GO DOWN TO THE BANK TO
BORROW 1000 DOLLARS ^{TO BUY A CAR} HIS DAD SAID SON
I'LL GO WITH YOU AND HELP YOU - HE
SAID: NO DAD I'LL GO MYSELF - SO
HE WENT TO THE BANK ~~WITH HIS~~

~~NEW COLLEGE DEGREE~~ - AND ASKED
TO SEE THE PRESIDENT - AND TOLD
HIM HE WANTED TO BORROW 1000 DOLLARS
FOR A NEW CAR - THE PRESIDENT
SAID FINE - WHAT DO YOU HAVE FOR
COLLATERAL? HE SAID WHAT?
~~MY DIGNITY~~ - THE PRESIDENT SAID I'M SORRY

SON - BUT THEN HIS DAD CAME
SHUFFLING IN THE BANK AND SAID:
SON I'M HERE TO HELP - HE SAID: DAD
YOU CAN'T HELP ME - YOU CAN'T EVEN
WRITE - YOU ONLY CAN MAKE ~~ANY~~ ANY
X - BUT THE BANK PRESIDENT SAID -
YES POY BUT THAT IS A GOOD X!

THAT X WAS ABLE TO GET THE MONEY TO
^{GET YOU THROUGH COLLEGE}
IF I WON'T EVERY TIME - THERE'S HONESTY
AND INTEGRITY BEHIND THAT X. BISHOP KING
SAID HE LEARNED SOMETHING FROM THAT
LESSON THAT HE NEVER FORGOT THROUGHOUT HIS MINISTRY!

(13)
WE LEARNED A HUMBLE LESSON!
JUST LIKE THOSE DISCIPLES - AS JESUS CAME
TO THEM - BISHOP KING'S FATHER CAME
TO HIM - AND SO JESUS COMES TO US
AGAIN AND AGAIN - AND LET
ME SAY TO YOU THAT THROUGHOUT MY
LIFE I HAVE HAD TO LEARN SOME
THINGS THE HARD WAY - BUT I'M
SO THANKFUL FOR THE LESSONS
I'VE LEARNED - AFTER I'VE FLUNKED!

- ① I'VE LEARNED: THAT THE ONE WHO
CALLS US WILL INDEED MAKE A WAY
SOMEHOW! -
- ② I HAVE LEARNED: THAT THERE IS ONE WHO
COMES AND LEADS US IN PATHWAYS WE
WOULD NOT OTHERWISE CHOOSE TO GO
OURSELVES!
- ③ I HAVE LEARNED: THAT THE ONE WHO
SAYS FOLLOW ME IS THE ONE WHO IS
MORE INTERESTED IN THE FUTURE
THAN HE IS IN THE PAST!
- ④ I HAVE LEARNED: THAT THE ONE WHO
SAYS FOLLOW ME IS THE ONE WHO
GOES BEFORE US TO MEET US WHEN WE
GET THERE TO MEET US AND GREET US
AND BLESS US AND USE US !!!

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2) I HAVE LEARNED! THAT THE ONE WHO SAYS "FOLLOW ME IS THE ONE WHO EXTENDS A GRACIOUS INVITATION TO ALL!!

3) I HAVE LEARNED! THAT THE ONE WHO SAYS FOLLOW ME IS THE ONE WHO CALLS ME TO BE MY BEST AND NEVER GIVES UP ON ME!

4) I HAVE LEARNED SOME VALUABLE LESSONS THE HARD WAY!

5) I HAVE LEARNED! THAT IF WE ARE FAITHFUL - AND REJOICE IN TELLING THE OLD OLD STORY - AND WALK WHERE HE WALKS THAT HE WILL BLESS US IN WAYS THAT WE CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO COMPREHEND!

6) I'VE LEARNED! ENOUGH ABOUT JESUS TO SAY TO YOU TODAY - THAT MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS THAN JESUS BLOOD AND RIGHTEOUSNESS!

7) I DARE NOT TRUST THE SWEETEST WAY BUT WHOLLY LEAN ON JESUS NAME - ON CHRIST THE SOLID ROCK I STAND - ALL OTHER GROUND IS SINKING SAND - ON CHRIST THE SOLID ROCK I STAND I HAVE LEARNED THERE IS A BALM IN GILEAD THAT CLEANS THE SIN SICK SOUL!

Isaiah 42: 6, 7, 16-20

(SCRIPTURAL BACK GROUND)

88 year old ~~Isaiah~~ ^{Isaiah} who went to the sewing club to ~~think~~ ^{think} the needle of the younger people. The old Prophet of God Isaiah is calling out to Israel - God's people to open their eyes - He's saying that they are blind and have lost their way.

He's calling them in righteousness to see what they are doing - to notice what's happening all around them. That they are actually living in darkness. That they are actually captives - prisoners, who sit in darkness.

But Isaiah is also telling the people that God can make the deaf to hear and the blind to see.

He is appealing to the people who have eyes - yet refuse to see. Their vision is impaired.

What kind of vision do you have today my friends? - Are you spiritually blind? Is your spiritual eyesight impaired? Do you have
 2/20 spiritual eyesight? (Read Letter 120 ff.)

②

Heroy Koopman has a lovely little book called beauty care for the eye in which he discusses various problems of eyesight

We have five senses - touch, smell, taste, hearing, and sight. If you were told you had to give up one of these - which one would you choose to give up?

I don't know which one I would choose to give up. But I know one thing - sight is about the last one I would want to give up.

Sight is the most cherished of human senses

Through the eyes, the whole world comes into our inner being: the look of our loved ones, the glorious beauty of these wondrous hills, good books, bad television, rippling streams, stars, bugs, bats, and baseballs - both the beautiful and the ugly - most of the ~~that~~ ^{which} enriches our life or pollutes our life - ... comes through our eyes.

Do you

It's no wonder that Jesus ~~said~~
^{in the sermon on the mount, said:}
If therefore thine eye be single,
thy whole body shall be full of
light. But if thine eye be evil, thy
whole body shall be full of darkness.
If then the light which is in thee
be darkness, how great is that darkness?
(Matt 6: 22)

The Psalmist recognized his own
~~spiritual~~ blindness as he cried out:
"Open my eyes, that I may behold the
wonderous things out of thy law."
(Psalm 119: 18)

We read in (Revelations 3: 18) where
God counsels the Church at Laodicea
to buy salve to put on their eyes, so
they can see.

Realizing the importance of our eyesight we
spend much time and money to protect
and enhance them. We purchase glasses,
contact lenses, automobile safety
glass. Our sight is precious!
Since our eyes play such an important
role in our lives, it is not surprising
that God in His Word often uses the
symbol of eyesight to teach spiritual
truths.

Physical Blindness - Spiritual Blindness (4)

In our scripture today Isaiah tells us that the children of Israel could ~~NOT~~ see clearly what God would have them to do. Their vision was less than 20/20.

Do you see clearly today your place in ~~God's~~ Kingdom -

How is your spiritual vision..?

Do you have 20/20 spiritual vision?

DIVINE OPHTHALMOLOGY

Ophthalmology is a medical specialty dealing with the anatomy and treatment of the eye. When there are problems interfering with our physical eyesight we want to see a specialist to get the problem taken care of.

Just as the physical eye needs a specialist, so our spiritual eyes need a specialist. ~~We~~ We need a specialist who can diagnose the problem, prescribe a remedy and initiate a healing process.

A problem interfering with our spiritual sight needs a remedy... a divine healer... a divine Ophthalmologist.

PHYSICAL BLINDNESS

We have physical blindness when there is a total or partial loss of the ability to distinguish objects. This is the most serious of all of the maladies of the eye.

There are however degrees of blindness.

Educational Blindness - Is when you can distinguish light and dark, but your ability to receive an education is impaired. Are you blinded enough that you cannot receive a spiritual education?

Vocational Blindness - prevents a person from continuing the work he has been doing. Are you just blind enough that you can't work for the Lord?
Are you on spiritual welfare?

Economic Blindness - keeps you from doing any kind of work that requires the use of your eyes. Are you just blind enough that you cannot see the need to tithe & use your economic gifts to support the Lord's work?

Total Blindness - Is just that! One cannot distinguish light from darkness.

(SARA JAYNE BAKER)

millions of people in this world suffer from various kinds of physical blindness. That's bad, but spiritual blindness is even worse—

SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

Millions of people in this world suffer physical blindness - and we had 4 in our congregation at ~~(Fairview - George & George)~~

(George & George, Anne & Sam Baker)

The physically blind person is extremely handicapped. But the spiritually blind person has a much greater handicap.

The spiritually blind person cannot understand spiritual things. They have a lack of sensitivity to the things that affect the spirit.

A father who may provide the basic necessities of life - food, clothing and shelter for his family... yet he says no I can't take you to church today I'm going fishing... Is he spiritually blind?

(7)

understand
You may ~~understand~~ the most
complicated computer technology, or business
building a dot com program, but if you fail to
~~perceive~~ ^{perceive} that God sent His Son into the
world that you might be saved, even
you are spiritually blind. You can
see yourself as a body and mind
but not a body, and a soul. It
is spiritual blindness.

Jesus said that those who
failed to understand His parables
were a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy:
You will be ever hearing but never
understanding. You will ever be seeing
but never perceiving (Matt 13:14)

But the Disciples on the other hand
could understand. Because Jesus said:
But blessed are your eyes because they
see. (Matt 13:16)

When Jesus wept over Jerusalem He
cried out - If you even now
had only known on this day what
would bring you peace - but now
it is hidden from your eyes.
(Matt 13:16)

They were spiritually blind and they would
not see.

(8)

There are many instances in Gods Word
of spiritual blindness as then spiritual eyes.
He that hath blinded their eyes, and
hardened their hearts; that they should
not see with their eyes, nor under-
stand with their hearts. (Jn 12:40)

SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS + SPIRITUAL SIGHT

(2nd Kings 6:15-23)

When Elisha's servant, Gehazi, went
out early in the morning, he was
terrified to see the city surrounded
by the horses and chariots of the
Syrrians. He cried out in fear to Elisha.
.. Alas my master what shall we do?

And old Elisha said fear not, ...
for those who are with us, are
more than those who are
against us.

And he prayed that the young man's
eyes should be opened. And the Lord
opened the eyes of Gehazi and he
saw the mountains were full
of horses and chariots of fire
surrounding Elisha and protecting
him.

(He was blind but now
he can see) ~~any + more. But he can
now see.~~

(9)

Oh my friends you miss so much
of the power and the strength and
the glory of Gods protection in
your lives if you are spiritually blind.

My great prophet Jeremiah cried out unto
his people:

Hear this O foolish and senseless
people, who have eyes and see not!
(Jer 5:21)

~~STANLEY BAKER~~
Ethiopian Eunuch ~~but you can~~

Philip, one of the earliest evangelists in the
New Testament by following the lead-
ship of a vision by the Holy Spirit
went down into Gaza.

There he saw an Ethiopian man of great
authority sitting in his chariot reading
from the scroll of Isaiah - and he went
up to him and said do you know
what your reading - and the man
said -

How can I know unless someone
explains it to me?

Philip saw the need -

(10)

And Philip climbed into the chariot with him and explained how the prophecy was fulfilled by Jesus of Nazareth.

Then after a little while they came to some water - and there saw a man who just a few minutes before could not understand the scriptures.

Said ~~See~~ here's some water - is there anything to hinder me from now being baptized?

He was blind but Philip must have done a beautiful job explaining the scriptures to him for he immediately received his spiritual sight and could see that he needed to be baptized.

I explored a 90 year old blind woman who ~~could see her need to be baptized~~
How you my friends ever experienced the joy of helping someone to see their need of Jesus.

His new family (Dyle Harmon) and her family moved into our community near Fairview.

He became friendly with Harlan and Clyde Porter. Their lives influenced his life - they invited him to church. He came. Then one Sunday morning he came forward, and confessed Christ as his Lord and Savior.

He told me he didn't know that there were still people like that in the world today.

But there are. He just didn't see them. He was spiritually blind - and through the soft wooing of the Holy Spirit - the witness of God's people - He was blind to receive new Spiritual eyesight!

SAUL OF TARSUS

Saul of Tarsus thought Jesus was an imposter. He ~~firmly~~ believed that the new "cult" of Christianity was a threat to the correct religion of the Jewish people.

But on his way to Damascus to persecute the Christian believers he was struck down by a blinding flash of light in the middle of the day. . . and immediately said:

Who art thou Lord? (Acts 9:1-10)
(Spiritual blindness - Spiritual eyesight)

He became one of the greatest men of the New Testament and one of the greatest servants of God that the world has ever known.

Saul received his sight in a blinding flash. But ~~Some~~ people when they are temporarily blind they gradually receive their eyesight back.

(most of us receive little light at a time) (13)

My call into the ministry was not very dramatic. It was a series of events that brought my call out into a conscious knowledge of that God wanted me in the ministry.

1- I thought I was an active Christian for many years. Yet I was an empty Christian - Something was missing. I was spiritually blind!

But God began working with me.

2. Then when I went from Florida to Mass. to do advanced graduate work I had to be away from my family a lot. The loneliness of that experience brought me closer to the Lord. The thought kept staying in my mind - "Strive to show myself approved - A workman rightly dividing the word of truth."

3. I got into Communication theory. The thought kept coming to me that Ministry is made up of people who are waste communicators.

8. I became active in the Gideon ministry. Spoke in many churches throughout Ky. I thought there was no answer to the call but it was not. (I still was blind but could see a little better)

9. Gideons are not supposed to preach - but I always tried to give the people something that would lift them up or encourage them to do better.

One Sunday I spoke in the Methodist Church in Flemingsburg. Bob Woods was Pastor

10. A few months later I got a call to speak in the Methodist Church in Tex. When I got there Bob Wood was the Pastor. He told me that he asked especially for me because I preached a little in my Gideon message. (I thought a lot about that)

11. So finally through a series of eye-treatments I received my spiritual eye sight - and saw God - If there is where you want me - I'm ready to go!

Spiritual blindness and spiritual sight deal with a perspective principle that goes beneath the surface, no plumb to very depth of our soul.

Physical blindness

But my friends if we cannot see physically there is always a cause - It may be:

1. Birth defect (from birth)
2. Disease of the eye
3. Accident
4. Traumatic blindness

Some cases blindness is a direct shock to the nervous system (and a person refused literally) to see.

My friends there are reasons ^{also} for spiritual blindness in our lives.

1. Deliberate refusal to see - none are so blind yet there are those who will not see.

Jeremiah and Isaiah spoke of those who would not see - "You who have eyes but see not" (Is 43:8 - Jer 5:21)

Jesus said also there are those who have eyes but refuse to understand the meaning of His parables.

There are many reasons why people refuse to see - perhaps because it will bring a change in their life-style that they aren't ready to accept.

Perhaps it will mean they will have to go to church. Attend Sunday school - give their ~~tithe~~ to God. now they refuse because they are not ready to accept this.

People refuse to see because of their pre-occupation with the Material world. Distracted By Materialism

Jesus's Servant

Materialism was Herod's problem. He was pre-occupied with the obvious. He didn't realize that beyond the material world there was a vast world of spiritual substance as well.

The tragic loss of the rich young man
who came to grief
was due to his preoccupation
with his possessions.

The rich farmer was so busy
building bigger barns that he forgot
to build for eternity.

Oh my friends! what the poet Wordsworth
said is even true today

The world is too much with us:
late and soon,
getting and spending we lay
waste our powers.

O Dear ones ^{Do you} ~~if~~ ^{you} ~~that~~ that hazy
cloud of materialism that surrounds
you? ~~and~~ ^{then} set aside a time
for quiet introspection and open your
self to allow the sun of God's
love to clear up the cloud of
materialism that surrounds you.

(Atrophy - you lose the use of something) (19)
Loss by sight by atrophy.

Some refuse to see - others are blind to truth because they are distracted by materialism - Still others cannot see because they have lost the capability of sight

Mammoth Cave fish

many of you have been to Mammoth Cave. You ~~can~~ see the small pinkish fish that have no eyes. They are called blind fish. They've lived so long in the darkness that they've lost their ability to see

There are about 20 species of blind fish living in caves throughout the world - in the darkness of cave streams.

(GETTING USED TO THE DARK)

Is it possible for people to live in darkness so long that they cannot see. ~~that~~ They ^{actually} lose their ability to see. The rods and cones of their spiritual retina become desensitized; the optic nerves of their spirit is blocked off by the conscious growth of self.

That there is no possibility then of seeing again without radical surgery or miraculous healing.

First Corinthians 2:14 says:
 That the natural man without the Spirit
 does not accept the things that come
 from the Spirit of God. for they are
 foolishness unto him - no he
 cannot understand them, because
 they are spiritually discerned.

In Paul's letter to the Romans he says
 that those who did not glorify God
 or give thanks unto Him - that their
 thinking became futile and their
 foolish hearts were darkened.
 (Ro 1:21)

Therefore God gave them over to a
 depraved mind (1:28)

In 2nd Corinthians 4:4 the root cause
 of spiritual blindness is laid directly at the
 feet of Satan -

The god of this age has blinded the
 minds of unbelievers so that they
 cannot see the light of the Gospel
 or the glory of Christ who is the
 image of God.

Oh my friends - How sad it is because
~~some see - because~~ they cannot see.

(2)

If you were tragically afflicted with physical blindness - and you knew where you could go to regain your sight. You would go anywhere - try just about anything.

If you are afflicted by physical blindness
I have no marvelous cure for you today.
But if you are bothered by Spiritual
blindness I can offer you one
and even can baptize you in
Christ's blood.

Jesus Christ Came to Cure our Blindness.

Hundreds of years before Jesus came, the
prophet Isaiah said: (29:18)

In that day, the deaf shall hear
the words of a book,
and out of their gloom and darkness
the eyes of the blind shall see.

Jesus tells it like it is in the Gospel of John when He says:

For judgment I have come into this world so that the blind will see ~~and those who see will turn out to be blind - and those who see will turn out to be blind.~~
(John 9:39)

He is speaking here of those who will respond favorably to His offer of salvation ...
and those who will reject it.

He's saying that some who were spiritually blind will receive their spiritual sight ...

But on the other hand - those who thought themselves spiritually enlightened will by their disbelief in Christ become spiritually blind.

I offer you Jesus ~~Two ways~~ -
~~ing~~ - we ask you to:

- 1 Seek His light today
- 2 Experience the miracle of His new Birth in Him
- 3 Believe in Him as the Son of God.

Don't go through life spiritually blind.
Accept Him today.
Shall we pray.

10
DYING - THE FINAL STAGE OF LIVING

or

LIVING - THE FINAL STAGE OF DYING

I Cor. 15:35-44

54-58

Paul is discussing life and death - what

happens after death - the form of our resur-

rection. You know the very words that Paul uses

to introduce this portion of scripture indicates

that the whole question of life and death was

being debated when he says in Verse 35 "But

some will ask, How are the dead raised? With

what body do they come? And my friends these

are questions that are still being asked by

many people today/ even though we are living in

a generation in which people are trying to

forget death. Ours is a death denying culture -

death is a subject that is evaded, ignored, and

denied by our youth-worshipping, death denying,

progress oriented culture. We try to cope with

it by pretending that it does not exist. We

even try to change the appearance of death with

word games.

Now we call an "undertaker" a "mortician," a "coffin" a "casket," and a "graveyard" has gone on to be called a "cemetery", and now its even called "Memorial gardens." Yes, even in medical terminology we no longer "die" - we "expire."

We try every way we can to gloss it over - perhaps in our sub-conscious mind we think if we ignore it, it will go away or at least stay away from us for a long time anyway.

THE TRUTH IS IF WE HAVE HOPE ONLY IN THIS LIFE WE ARE ONE OF ALL MEN MOST MISERABLE
But the fact is that death is inevitable -

we are here today and gone tomorrow. It is one of the few things in life that we can count on - that we can be assured will come to pass. Yes, we are but tenants on this earth, and pretty soon the Landlord will give us notice that our lease has expired. Because we read in Hebrews 9:27 "It is appointed unto men once to die."

THE TRUTH IS THAT WE ARE ONE OF ALL MEN MOST MISERABLE
The truth is that death is the most democratic experience we have in life, because we all participate in it on an equal basis - the poor are as rich as the richest, the rich

interest

The creditor loses his usury, the debtor is acquitted of his debts. At death the proud man surrenders his dignity; the politician his honors; the wordly his pleasures and the crippled needs no wheel-chair nor the blind needs no dog. The laborer rests from his toils; the wrongs of time are righted and injustice cleared.

GO TO PAGE 5

Death is as much a part of human growth and development as being born. Yes, it is as natural to die as it is to be born, and to the infant perhaps one is as painful as the other. It is said that life is a state of embryonic growth - a preparation for life, and a man is not completely born until he has passed through death. The end of birth is death, and the end of death is birth. DYING: THE FINAL STAGE OF LIVING. LIVING: THE FINAL STAGE OF DYING.

But you know my friends, we seem to get this thing of death all turned around and it seems to me that we look at it all wrong.

Gods & Devils should always

We picture death as coming to destroy us when we should picture Christ as coming to save us. We think of death as an ending, rather we should think of it as life beginning. We think of losing when rather we should think of gaining. We think of parting, when we should think of meeting. We think of going away, when we really should be thinking of arriving - and as the voice of death whispers in our ear "you must go away from this earth," let us at the same time hear the voice of Christ saying "you are but coming home to me."

*Death is to eternal life
what birth is to earthly life*

Yes, death is as necessary to the constitution as sleep, and we shall all rise refreshed in the morning.

What is the meaning of death in human existence? To understand this question we have to look at life, because death is but one stage of life - one facet of our existence - a doorway that once we pass through it we cannot return.

I WANT TO WRITE A BOOK TODAY - THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE LIFE (3)

When I think of life in relationship to death -
there are three words that would describe life -
these are:

1. Fragile - Easily broken or destroyed -
delicately constructed.
2. Finite - Has definable limits -
Beginning with birth & ending
with death
3. Forever - Without end - immortal -
eternal

1 - Fragile - James 4:14 "For what is your life?

It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little
time, and then vanisheth away." Why do we die

when we do? Job says "No man is sure of life,"

and are not my days a few? The Psalmist says

"Remember how short my time is" - and in I chp.

29:15 "Our days on earth are as a shadow, and

there is none abiding." - Job 7:7 Remember

that my life is wind. Yes, man that is born of

woman is of a few days. - And fragile indeed is

this life we have on this earth. LIFE IS FRAGILE!

2 - Finite - Our lives have very certain *definable*
limits

6
There is a beginning of life and there is an end
of life on this earth. Proverbs 10:27 "The
fear of the Lord prolongeth days." Ephesians
6:2-3 "Honor thy father and thy mother, that it
may be well with thee, and that thy days may be
long upon this earth." The Psalmist says with
long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my
salvation and in Proverbs 4 we read that "The
years of thy life shall be many" and Job says
thou shalt come to thy grave in full age, "Like
a shock of corn cometh in her season".

Yes, life is finite and we ask what
relationship is there, if any, between our life
on this earth, and our death? Romans 5:12

"Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the
world and death by sin, and so death passed upon
all men, for that all men have sinned." This
world is the land of the dying, the next is the
land of the living.

Are there ways that we should live during our finite life here on earth that would better prepare us for the end of our life on earth?

Well my friends death offers nothing terrible which life has not made so. A faithful *of love and service* christian life lived during our finite existence on this earth is the best preparation we can (Thanatopsis) have for the end of that existence. With a time limit set on our life it is urgent that we do something productive with that time.

LIFE IS FRAGILE - FINITE - AND
3 -Forever- Life without end - eternal -

immortal. Is there a life after death? Can a man live forever? Immortality: These are great concepts - matters for wonder and awe, for long and deep pondering. And mankind has pondered them long. What is the meaning of life? Is there a life after death? What is its nature?

Paul uses the analogy of sowing the seed, and the changes it must undergo in order to grow, mature, and be harvested - which seems to emphasize what we sow is not the body which is to be. The final result is something very different from the seed originally planted. God gives us a body as he chooses, and to each kind of seed its own body. The seed lives on in a transformed but recognizable existence.

In the bottom of an old pond lived some old grubby water beetles who could not understand why none of their group ever came back after crawling up the stems of the lilies to the top of the water. They promised each other that the next one who was called to make the upward climb would return and tell them what happened.

Well- soon one of them felt an urgent impulse to seek the surface. When he reached the top he rested himself on a lily pod - and suddenly he went through a glorious trans-

In vain he tried to keep his promise - and flying back and forth over the pond he peered down at his friends below. Then he realized that even if they did see him they wouldn't recognize such a radiant creature as being one of them.

Death represents the glorious transformation to a more beautiful life. With the death of a flower we have perfume, with a cocoon, a butterfly, in man the soul. Yes, my friends there is an on going immortality of this personal entity we call a soul.

Dr. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross one of the worlds outstanding authorities on death and dying has been doing research for 30 years involving terminally ill patients by trying to help them cope with this trauma. She points out that most dying people go through five stages of emotions:

WHEN THEY ARE TOLD
THEY ARE GOING TO DIE -

1. Denying Death - No it can't happen to me.

2. Anger at it - No this shouldn't be happening to me. IT ISN'T FM 12 (10)

3. Bargaining about it - Lord if you'll only let me live I'll serve you.

4. Depression - They don't want to see any one or talk to anyone.

5. Acceptance - The ones who reach GODS PEOPLE REACH CHRIST this stage usually are in peace and tranquillity. And she farther points out that people with a deep rooted belief in God find it much easier to accept death.

But my friends ^{is} isn't this verified in Gods word where it says "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Dr. Ross declared that while she used to view death as the end of our natural existance she is now certain that it is not. She believes that only the physical body dies and the soul (or psyche) lives on. She bases this on the fact that not one of the people she has interviewed that has had a death experience that is for all practical purposes been declared "clinically dead" - (Heart stopped - Respiration stopped - Brain activity stopped) has ever been afraid to die Again

And in each instance these people always report that at first there is an experience of floating out of the body in which the dying person perceives what is happening to her corpse. There also comes an experience of wholeness and beautiful peace - and then an experience of meeting someone already dead - and sometimes out of the distant past.

Mrs Betty Patterson, a 76 year-old widow, who was very ill and who according to her physician, did die. She had a ruptured appendix and her body was full of poison. According to her physician by all medical standards she was dead for several minutes before she was revived.

When Mrs Patterson opened her eyes she said doctor, I will never be afraid of dying again - I feel myself floating. I was above my body - and could look down and see my body surrounded by doctors and nurses.

I was attracted by the sounds of beautiful music and lovely scenes which I can't describe in detail - but only the impact of them. I wanted to move in the direction of their beauty. I'd never felt so peaceful in my whole lifetime. I didn't seem to be walking - but I seemed to be above the ground. But gradually the door closed and I returned.

250 Then there was the case of a young couple - A young mother age 30 - Mother of 2 children, and her husband. They were in an automobile on the way to visit friends when their car smashed into a huge trailer truck. The husband was killed instantly and his wife lost a great deal of blood, and lay at death's door. She too according to her physician had passed from this world; but was brought back through the efforts of medical science. Her heart stopped beating and it took a team of experts five minutes to revive her.

When the doctor knew that she was alive, the
thought crossed his mind, I must now tell her
that her husband was dead - and he realized he
could not do this now.

But when she opened her eyes she said -
doctor you don't have to worry, I know John
is dead. She said she has seen her husband
and been with him during the time she was
clinically dead.

She said I seemed to float away and
suddenly I was on a country lane and every-
thing was beautiful beyond description - and
there was John coming forward to meet me.
He smiled and took me by the hand and we
walked a while down the lane together - then
he gently turned me around and told me to go
back for a while. I'm not worried about him
because I know where he is; I know he is happy,
and I know that we'll be together again.

ORANGEBURG
CHRISTIAN
6-18-06

DEAD FAITH
FAITH - DEAD OR ALIVE
LIVING FAITH

EPISTLE OF JAMES, 14-26

This is the Word of God – God’s People said Amen
New Century Version, James 2:14-26

WHAT A JOY IT IS FOR JAHNIS AND ME TO BE
WITH YOU THIS MORNING - THANK YOU FOR
Introduction INVITING US BACK.

The high school was getting ready to open ^{for} the
school year and had remodeled and cleaned and painted the
inside, and out front they planted some new flowering
bushes. The Principal was real proud of what they had
done. But a couple of days before the school year began,
when he came to work one morning he found a car had
driven through the beautiful bushes. There were its tracks
destroying the hard work.

He cleaned up the mess and replanted the bushes
and in the middle of the shrubbery he drove a steel post at
a 45 degree angle just below the top of the bushes.

The next morning he came in and found a 1975

Chevy with a hole in its radiator still impaled on the fence post.

ON THE STRAY OF THE YOUNG SUCCESSFUL
CHRISTIAN WITH HIS SLEEK SPORTSCAR

There are places in scripture that reminds us of that fence post. We're reading along merrily and all at once we run headlong into a fence post. There's one here in James when he says faith without works is dead. You can try and interpret your way around that, or explain it away but it just keeps haunting you. It keeps hitting you in the gut and makes you want to stand up and say Amen! About where someone needs food or clothes and about where we ought not to ~~show favoritism against the poor.~~

forget the poor + hungry + heart

James says:

Then all of a sudden you read: Faith without works is dead. It's the sort of thing that hits us all right in the spiritual gut. But I'd like to focus on ~~that~~ very last word.

Like a brick it gets our attention

WORD THAT I READ

because there's something there that deserves our
attention. The last word is dead - (dead faith).

Faith without words is dead; that also tells us there
is such a thing as a faith that is alive! Faith that is not just
something we talk about, think about, but is something that
lives and moves within us. So faith without works is dead.

But what does living faith look like? *How do we know
whether something is dead or alive? (Jeff Threlkoff DAV)*

when
In our biology courses we are taught that there are
four criteria that tells us that an organism (something) is
alive: these are: (1) Does it nourish itself?; (2) Does it
respond to its environment? (3) Does it grow? (4) Does it
reproduce itself?

Let's take a little journey through this word

Dead, and examine our faith by asking these questions
about our faith; do we have a living faith? How do we

know if our faith is alive? (1) First of all, does it nourish
itself? Have you heard the story about the man who
bought a parrot and brought it home in its new cage and set
it up in the kitchen, and tried to get the parrot to talk but it
just sat there. The parrot wouldn't talk. After a few days
the man went back to the pet store and told the owner that
the parrot won't make a sound just sits there all day
lifeless. The man said its probably just lonely and it would
help we have these small mirrors to put in the cage and the
parrot will think its another bird and start talking; but it did
not work. The man went back to the pet store. ^{OWNER} The man
said it needs exercise. He bought a small ladder to climb
for exercise. It didn't work. He went back again, the man
said it needs audio tape sounds so he bought a small tape
with parrots talking and played for the parrot. Finally the

Talked out
parrot said, "Do they sell any bird seed at that pet store?" (If
it's alive it will nourish itself!)

my CALL TO MINISTRY - WAS FEED MY SHEEP!
(JOHN'S)

Let us take a look at this scripture and ask if our own

faith is alive. Living things need nourishment, they need

to be fed. We know our children and our grandchildren

need to be fed everyday. There are little brown bushes

starting up all around our house. They are living flowers

that need to be fed. What happens if you don't feed or

water a plant or any living thing, it dies. That also what

happens if we don't feed our faith, it dies!

The living faith that James talks about in his

passage is something that has to be fed or it will die. There

are all kinds of ways of doing that. We're here today for

singing, worship, and prayer study. I don't know about

you, but my faith seems to be a little bit more alive on

Sunday night that other days. How long since you fed your faith; worship, study, prayer, fellowship, service to God.

How long since you nourished yourself? A thing is alive if it nourishes itself. *MY CALL TO MINISTRY: FEED MY SHEEP - RESPONSE - JOHN'S Gospel*

(2) Does it respond to its environment? A thing is alive if it responds to external stimulus. If you shine a light on a plant it will grow toward the light; respond to temperature, and animals respond to sounds. James comes up with this thought right in the middle of this scripture talking about people hungry or suffering, and is telling us that maybe if our faith is not responding to that cry or need. Not just talking about or just praying about it, and going on our way. But acting on that need, all over the world and in our community where there are those who ^{Need} keep our help. ^{DOES} The church needs to talk about it. [?] Have a committee meeting *AND DISCUSS IT - NO! BUT IT NEEDS TO ACT ON IT.*

Talked out
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~~and discuss it, NO! But it needs to act on it.~~

You may have seen the little cartoon of a small church conducting a meeting, and the church catches fire during the meeting. The caption says, I move we call the Fire Department with the yellow trucks, another said I move we call the Fire Department with the red trucks. Is there any discussion?

We love to meet, we love to discuss, we love to vote – those things are important and have their time and place. But with the world burning with those crying for help, the church needs to act. Talking is not doing (talk is cheap).

BUILDING A NEW CHURCH? IN MOREHEAD

Several years ago in Morehead we were making plans to fight a local option election at a community meeting of all the local churches opposed to the legal alcohol sales. But in the midst of that meeting a group of

Methodist got up and left the meeting to go to their church meeting on social concerns. What more of a social concern could there be than a wet or dry ^{ELECTION} committee.

Oh, sometimes the church will talk an issue to death. We need to act—living faith. Respond to the world around it, not with words or I hope things get better for you. But with action! We talk about one time faith evangelism, simple matter of saying a few words, but we need to put our words into action! Respond to our environment.

FROG IN A ~~LEAF~~ DEPTH OF WATER ON THE STOVE HEAT GRADUALLY WILL DIE.

(3) Does it grow? A few years ago a group of Bishops went to the fastest growing Methodist Church in the world in Korea. It had 20,000 members. They asked the preacher how did he do it? He did not respond, but said, lets get going and they got up and they followed the preacher around all day.

^{to}
~~preacher around all day.~~ The programs, visitations,
classes, all the usual things, and at the end of the day, the
pastor told the visiting bishops, "I'm getting up early
tomorrow morning for prayer meeting, if all of you would
like to join me you are welcome." They said what time
and the pastor said 4:00 a.m. The bishops said, no thanks.
Then they asked him, is this a special occasion. He said,
No, we do this five mornings every week. They said is it
well attended and the pastor said apologetically, well, no.
We have 20,000 members but only about 4,000 show up
for 4:00 a.m. prayer meeting. All they learned about the
church's programs and TV shows, organizations meant
nothing. It's that 4,000 in prayer meetings that keeps the
church, ^{6:20-4:10} they are not talking about it – they are praying!

Faith without works is dead. Is your faith alive?

Living things exhibit growth -

Sometimes we get in mind that faith is something we muster up ^{ONE} the time and that's it. Things that are alive grow! How long since you fed your faith? As you look back where you were a year, 2 years, ^{20 YEARS AGO} has your faith grown since then? You know when I hear Christians say that I used to believe so & so, but now I believe differently. That says they are growing, alive in the faith. It's still alive changing reaching out, growing.

(4) Does it reproduce itself?

Living faith is contagious faith. It sparks a faith in other people, awakens them to the needs around them. The story of the man who went to sleep in the Sunday morning service and the preacher said to the boy next to him, young

man, wake that man up and the boy said preacher, you put him to sleep you wake him up. So if you are asleep this morning I'm not going to point it out, I might have to wake you up. *WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO? TO YOUR LIVING FAITH THIS MORNING*

Does the world around you yawn? It may be because we as Christians appear to the world that our faith is not alive. St. Francis of Assis told a young pastor "preach the gospel in all circumstances, ^{and} when necessary use words". The world outside the church is watching you, much more than they are listening what you're saying! Fred Craddock a Methodist preacher told this story, His dad had nothing to do with church and said they're all hypocrites, all they want is your support and money. *But* Dad on his death bed, the last thing ^{him} he told his son ^{were} three words: 'I was wrong.'" No body told him that ^{he} just watched others and their faith without works was dead!

U So if your faith hasn't been fed in a while, sit up ^{AND} take ^{NOURISHMENT} notice, the world is watching you! ² For if your faith has not reproduced itself it may be dead. Maybe you need to hold a little mirror over your mouth to see if you're living. ~~MAYBE YOU~~ ^{NOT GROWING}

Faith without works is dead - and I think James is telling us it is suppose to be alive isn't he? In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen!

- DEAD OR ALIVE
- 1- IS YOUR FAITH BEING NOURISHED?
 - 2- IS YOUR FAITH RESPONDING TO ITS ENVIRONMENT
 - 3- IS YOUR FAITH GROWING?
 - 4- DOES IT REPRODUCE ITSELF IN OTHERS?

"UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER"

I Kings 20:1-4

Swingsville United Methodist
7-15-75

Fairview U M C - 6-5-77

Shuloh U M C - 6-1-80

Great War between Israel & Syria.
Struggle between great Kings & Armies

Israel was hopelessly outnumbered (32-1)
They did not have the strength to win
and if they were to be free they must win.

You and I are in a great war today -
The enemy is the evil King Satan
We're hopelessly outnumbered -
We don't have the strength to win.
But if we're going to be free we must win!
~~But we don't~~ surrender un-conditionally
we must surrender to God
un-conditionally!

If we are to ever cross Satan.

"UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER"

I Kings 20:1-4

*Ben Hadad - Syrian King
Ahab - King of Israel*

850 Be

~~When returned~~ I just returned from Lake Junaluska Laymens Conference ~~last week~~, and what a glorious mountaintop spiritual experience it was. To see so many men and women totally dedicated, totally surrendered to God's will for their life. And I came away from that conference firmly convinced that the greatest need that we have in this nation--in this community--in this church is to be totally committed to God. And in order to be totally committed to God we must surrender ourselves unconditionally to His will. Just as the scripture tells us this morning, "Thus saith Ben-hadad, Thy silver and thy gold are mine, thy wives and thy children are also mine--and because all that we have is God's and we are but stewards of it, we need to say just as King Ahab answered when he said, "My Lord, O King, according to thy saying, I am thine and all that I have." This then is absolute surrender! And I am convinced my friends that the great need in your life and my life today is absolute surrender to God, because this is the condition for obtaining God's full blessing for our lives.

What are you holding back--

You say, well this is all true but how do I do this short of entering a monastery and withdrawing from the world. God knows that there are thousands of people who have said it but who have failed miserably to do it, and there are thousands of others who long to say it but hardly dare to do so. ~~And of those who have tried absolute surrender to God and failed--~~

*And those who have the absolute
surrender to God and failed*

2

feel themselves condemned because they did not find the secret of the power to live in absolute surrender to God.

But my friends, you can achieve perfect harmony with God and thereby derive the full benefit of God's blessings through:

1. Acknowledging Your Surrender
2. Accomplishing Your Surrender
3. Accepting Your Surrender
4. Asserting Your Surrender

1. First of all--Acknowledge make known something that may have been kept hidden or concealed.

Surrender has its very foundation in the nature of God. God cannot do otherwise. Who is God? He is the fountain of life, the only source of existence, power, and goodness throughout the universe--and there is nothing good but what God works. God has created the sun, the moon, and the stars, and the flowers, the trees and the grass; and are they not absolutely surrendered to God? Do they not allow God to work in them just what He pleases? When God clothes the lily with its beauty, is it not yielded up, surrendered, given over to God as He works in it its beauty? And in God's redeemed children--Do you think that God can work His work if there is only a part of them surrendered. God cannot do it!

God is life, and love, and blessing, and power, and infinite beauty, and God delights in communicating Himself to every child who is prepared to receive Him; But, Oh--this one lack of absolute surrender is just the one thing that hinders God. But God comes and acknowledges it ~~for~~ our daily lives. Do you know in

Communism - I Kings 11-12

daily life what absolute surrender is? Well, everything has to be given up to its special, definite object and service. I have a pen in my pocket, and that pen is absolutely surrendered to the one work of writing, but in order to write properly it must be absolutely surrendered to my hand if I am to write properly with it. If someone else holds it partly, I cannot write properly with it. This coat is absolutely given up to me to cover my body. This building is entirely given ~~over~~ to religious service.

~~And now~~, do you expect that in your immortal being, in the divine nature you have received through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that God can work His work every day and every hour unless you are entirely given up to Him. God ~~cannot~~ *will not*.

The temple of Solomon was absolutely surrendered to God when it was dedicated to Him--and know ye not that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit--in which God will dwell and work mightily on one condition--absolute surrender to Him. God claims it, is worthy of it and Acknowledges it in us--and secondly Accomplishes!

2. God Accomplishes our Surrender. (*Achieve - effect fulfill perform*)

I'm sure that there is many a heart that says: Oh but that absolute surrender implies so much! I am so weak and fearful and anxious; I know I would fail. Oh, but I come to you ~~this morning~~ *to day* with a message, fearful and anxious one.

~~Accomplish achieve--effect--fulfill--perform. God will accomplish it.~~

God does not ask you ~~to give the~~ perfect surrender in your own strength, or the power of your will; God is willing to work it in you. We read in His word, "It is God that worketh in us, both to will and to do of His good pleasure." And if we will only let Him He will do it! God Himself will come into us and remove what is wrong, conquer what is evil, and work what is well-pleasing in His Sight.

God will Accomplish it!

Look at Abraham in the Old Testament. Don't you think he was totally surrendered to God when he took Isaac his only son upon the mountain to sacrifice him to God? You say I don't have that kind of ~~commitment~~ *faith*. But Oh my friends, I want to encourage you ~~this morning~~ to cast away every fear--and to come with feeble desire which says--Oh my desire is not strong enough--I don't feel bold enough to say I can accomplish absolute surrender to God. But all you have to say is, "My God, I'm willing that you make me willing." If there is anything holding you back, or any sacrifice you ~~see~~ afraid to make, come to God now and prove how gracious your God is and don't be afraid that He will ask you to do anything without giving you the ~~power~~ *power* to do it.

God ~~comes~~ and is willing to accomplish this absolute surrender in you. Oh my christian friends--all those searchings, longings, and hungerings in your heart are nothing in the world but the drawing of the divine magnet Jesus Christ.

Jesus

He lived a life of absolute surrender. *Does He*
 have possession of you? *Yes* He living in your
 heart by the Holy Spirit. *How you have hindered*
 the work of His Holy Spirit? *Yes* He desires
 to help you get hold of Him entirely--And
 he comes and draws you now by His message
 and His words. Will you not come and trust
 God to accomplish this absolute surrender in
 your heart--because if you will, He will
Accept your surrender--which brings us to our
 3rd point:

3. God Accepts Your Surrender

(Accept--Embrace--Adopt--Agree)

God works it in the secret of your heart. God
 urges *you* by the hidden power of His Holy Spirit
 to come and speak *to Him*--and to yield to Him--
 But remember, when you come and bring God that
 absolute surrender, it may as far as your
 feelings go be a thing of great imperfection,
 and you may doubt and hesitate and say: Is
 it absolute?

But remember Christ once said to a man,
 "If thou canst believe--all things are
 possible to him that believeth." And the
 man was afraid in his heart, and he cried out,
 "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief."

That was a faith that triumphed over the devil,
 and the evil spirit was cast out of him.

And when you do yield yourself in absolute surrender, let it be in the faith that God does now accept it. This is the ~~green~~ point--and a point we so often miss--that all believers should be thus occupied with God in this matter of surrender--and I pray that each and every one of you be occupied with God.

Each and every one of us would like to get to the place in our daily lives where God is clearer to us--to have pre-eminence in our heart, and be all in all to us. Now if we are to reach this in our lifetime, we must begin now and look away from ourselves and look up to God, and let each of us say within ourselves, "Lord, here am I, a poor wretched worm of an individual, full of failure, sin, and fear and unworthy of your divine grace--and no one but You knows what passes through my heart"--but just now say with all simplicity, "Oh God, I accept your terms. I have pleaded for ~~your~~ blessing on myself and others, and I now accept Your terms of absolute surrender.

Now my friends, while your heart says that in deep silence, remember there is a God present that takes note of it, and writes it down in His book, and there is a God present who at that very moment takes possession of you. Now you may not feel it; you may not even realize it, but God takes possession of you and accepts you if you will trust Him. So God Acknowledges, Accomplishes, Accepts, and God will (4thly) Assert your surrender.

4. Asserts--declare--affirm--warrant--maintain.

One of the great difficulties with many people is that they say: I have often been stirred, touched,

convicted at a great meeting, convention, or church service, and I have consecrated myself to God but it has passed away. In other words, why can't I feel and act all week like I feel and act on Sunday? Because usually after a day, week, or a month it fades away and after a time it is gone.

But Listen! This will happen only because you do not believe what I'm going to tell you now and remind you of. When God begins His work of absolute surrender in your heart, and when God accepts your surrender, ~~this~~ God holds Himself bound to care for it and keep it. Will you believe that? If ~~it~~ fails, it will be because you failed and not God.

A life of absolute surrender has its difficulties and we cannot deny this. Yes, it has something far more than difficulties. ~~that we think we can bear~~ It is a life that with men or women is absolutely impossible--and there will be many times that we become weak, disillusioned, and fall. But by the grace of God, by the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, it is a life to which God desires for us, and a life that is possible for us. Praise God forever--Let us believe that God will assert (or maintain) our absolute surrender!

We can do as King Ahab said to his enemy, *King*
Ben Hadad "My Lord, O King according to thy word I am thine, and all that I have." We can do this through absolute surrender to Christ, and this is possible by:

- (make known)
(Perform)
(Embrace)
(Declare)
1. Acknowledging Your Surrender
 2. Accomplishing Your Surrender
 3. God Accepting Your Surrender
 4. God Asserting Your Surrender

And when this is done the windows of Heaven shall open and showers of blessings will fall upon you the likes of which you never dreamed.

And as we bring this service to a close and sing our closing hymn, won't you acknowledge your complete surrender to Him--this is the first step toward a fuller, richer, happier life--because God stands ready to do the rest.

Complete surrender of every moment to God
is the foundation of happiness and the
firmest basis of communion with Him.
Unconditional surrender will help you
Keep Your Spirit Calm and
un-ruffled.

Un-conditional surrender means joy +
happiness beyond belief in this life.
It means joy + happiness beyond
belief in the next life.

He has gone to prepare a place for you—

PRAYER

Most gracious God our Heavenly Father--In whom we live and move and have our being, we recognize thee as the giver of all good and perfect gifts. Thou who art the fountain head of all mercy and blessing, and thou who openest thy hand to us and satisfies the hunger in our heart and the longing of our soul, we are humbly grateful. We praise your glorious name this day for your gifts of grace, mercy, and goodness extended to us because You have preserved our souls, granted health and prosperity to many of us and we are indeed grateful. Now, Lord, for those who are sick and afflicted--Those whose bodies are racked with pain, we pray that they may be healed. That Your Holy Spirit may hover near them and they may be comforted. Be with the doctors and nurses who minister to the sick--and strengthen those families of those who are sick. Bless those who are aged and infirmed and be in those homes where death has struck. May those who mourn be comforted and sustain the sorrowing and bring peace to their troubled souls.

Bless the leaders of our nation. Grant that those in positions of influence, power, and authority may seek Thy guidance in the decisions they have to make. Bless our Church, our homes and our families. Strengthen those who are weak in faith. Bless all who witness, work, and labor in your kingdom. Hear our prayer, O Lord, as we pray the prayer you taught us as we say, Our Father who art....

Energy Shortage (Power)

Introduction

Lindsay's week spells -
He ate cornbread & butter rich

Acts 1:1-8; 14

Do you have an energy crisis? There is no doubt but what the times, they are "a changin'."

People are rethinking their whole life style.

The economists are trying to decide if we are in a period of inflation, recession, or depression. (You know what a recession is: a recession is when your neighbor is out of work, and a depression is when you're out of work.)

Agriculture, industry, business, government, and education can no longer look at what they have done in the past and the way they have done it and say this is what we should do and this is the way we should do it. The farmer seems to be caught in the squeeze of high energy costs and low productivity; General Motors, Ford, Chrysler, the big three of industry seem to be caught in manufacturing. EVEN TOYOTA IS

Changing the Style of Their Cars so that the public won't buy because they can't afford to buy gas to run them; business seems to be caught between the high cost of energy and demand for services. (Look at the airlines that have cut back); Government seems caught in a credibility gap between what is actually happening in the energy crisis and what they say is happening; and education is caught in the conflict of what is actually being taught in our schools and what our young people need to learn to live in a complex society and they are not necessarily the same thing. Yes, we do seem to be caught in an energy crisis.

ELECTRICITY

What actually is this energy we are hearing so much about the crisis thereof? Well I'm sure you know that its gas, coal, fuel oil, steam, etc. But this is a form of energy. Energy is thought of as the capacity or power to do work. Energy is power efficiently and forcefully exerted. Energy calls up a metaphor of something acting or moving as in the exercise of power.

energy. Therefore is strength, might, force or power and although physical energy may be exchanged among various systems, or may undergo transformation from one form to another it has that tremendously important property that it can neither be created nor destroyed. (2)

Yes, we all recognize there is a tremendous reservoir of physical energy within this world that can neither be created nor destroyed, only transformed, and that a shortage of this valuable power will cause us to change our habits, our customs, and our very life styles. Yes, with this energy shortage we do seem to have an energy crisis. - POWER SHORTAGE

CHRISTIANITY A SPIRITUAL ENERGY CRISIS

But my friends I want to talk with you today about another kind of an energy crisis. That's a spiritual energy crisis. Is there a spiritual energy crisis in your life? Do you feel that you have the spiritual power you need to live a dynamic Christian life, or is your spiritual energy level sitting on empty as your gas gauge is when you get in your car after your teenage

slaves has driven it. UNLIMITED-RENEWABLE ENERGY
Unlimited Energy Source - Sun - Wind - Nuclear

I am here today to proclaim to you my Christian friends that there is an unlimited source of spiritual energy from which you can draw - and you will never have to worry about there ever being a shortage of it. The source of that infinite power is Jesus Christ. Holy Spirit.

UNLIMITED POWER

Jesus tells us in Matthew 28:18 "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." You say how can I solve my own spiritual energy crisis? It will be solved when you become more powerful. It will be solved when as it says in Acts 1:8 "But ye shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth."

This is what Christ told his disciples after his resurrection and immediately prior to ~~the ascension~~ cent 10 11 So in order to end your own spiritual energy crisis ~~and achieve your own personal~~ ascendancy you need to solve 3 particular power problems:

(we got water in gasoline on a trip)

1. Power of Patience *- Patience Level Pitiful*
2. Power of Faith *Faith Level Failing*
3. Power of Prayer *Prayer Level Puny*
4. Power of Love *Love Level Lacking*

1. Power of Patience *Is your Patience Pitiful?*
Wait for a baby to be born
Wait for a fever to leave
Wait for a cancer to be removed
Wait for death to be

He (Jesus) commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father. Jesus has been resurrected and he's getting ready to go back to the Father to leave the Disciples to cut loose from them and He's giving them some advice on how they can become spiritually powerful.

~~THEY THAT WAIT UPON THE LORD SHALL DERIVE THEIR STRENGTH~~
 Oh my friends often times patient waiting is the highest way of doing Gods will. We read where the Psalmist says: "I wait for the Lord, my soul doeth wait, and in His word do I hope." (Ps 130:5)

Light thunders and the fellow behind you blows his horn.

The patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit (Ecc 7:8)

Blessed are they that wait for Him. (Is 30:18)

But so often in our humanness, in our pride, we want to get out and be our own guide, our own strength, or our own power. Its then my friends that we do a lot of spinning of our wheels, when if we only had a little patience we would be in gear and moving, in the right direction.

We should wait upon Gods promises. The promises of God are certian, but they don't always come in 90 days or less. "For He is faithful that promised." (Heb 10:23)

If we are patient ~~my friends~~ we can even work better. In my work I have known twenty ~~per-~~
~~severing~~ impatient people for every calm patient
one. But the patient worker does a better job,
is happier, and enjoys working more. Patience
provides the power for happiness in ones work. (4)

Patience is not passive, either, on the contrary
it is active, concentrated strength and power.
But ~~you know my friends~~ its easy to find reasons
why other people should be patient. We try to
teach patience to our children, when sometimes
we ourselves need a good dose of it.

Not only can we be more powerful in our work
if we are patient, but we can be more powerful
in the Word. That is, we can understand God's
Word more clearly when we approach it with
patience.

ad Reading

The Bible seldom speaks, and certainly never
speaks its deepest, sweetest words to those who
always read it in a hurry.

(Acts 17:11) They received the word with all
readiness of mind, and searched the scripture.
In Nehemiah (8:1-8) The crowd there having just
been returned from captivity, they were back
in Jerusalem and had gathered to hear Ezra read
from the scriptures. They all listened with
rapt attention and they understood what the Lord
was saying. From morning til noon they drank
it in. How refreshed theri souls became as they
heard the word of God!

This was not a Bible reading marathon to see
how quickly they could get through the Bible.
Too many times ~~we~~ don't get much out of
reading Gods word, because they read too
fast. They skip from passage to passage like
a butterfly flitting from flower to flower trying
to find a drop of nectar.

(3)

Other people delve into Gods word like the bee that goes down to the bottom of the cup, lingering long enough to extract its luscious sweetness. The butterfly dies in October, with the flowers, ~~But~~ the bee is warm in its hive even in the dead of winter, amid the fragrant stores which it gathered beneath the bright beams of summer. Christ commanded search the scriptures. Paul exhorted young Timothy to give attendance to reading. (I Tim 4:13)

Applying these words to our lives, we must give more than a casual glance at a verse prior to rushing out the door in the morning, or just before turning the light off at night. How do you read the Bible? Flitting like the butterfly, or purposefully like the bee? Do you search the scriptures or do you just skim them? The person who only samples Gods word occasionally will never acquire much of a taste for it.

DON'T EAT 21 MEALS AT ONE SITTING!

God will only reveal portions of His Divine wisdom to those who patiently persue Hisscrip tures. Are you reading your Bible more and en joying it less? Is your daily work a drudge? Do you dread to go to work? Do you feel you have tired blood in your spiritual life? The Geritol you need may be the power of Patience.

Maybe you need to follow the Masters command to wait in Jerusalem with the Disciples.

A woman that had attended the theater came home and noticed she had lost an expensive diamond necklace. She ran breathlessly to the telephone and called the theater to talk with the manager. She asked him if he had found the diamond neck lace and he said - no, not yet madam, but hold the line for just a few minutes while we make a careful search for the necklace.

He returned in just a few minutes and said 'I've some good news for you madam - the diamond necklace has been found.

Hello, Hello, but the woman had failed to wait for her reply. The manager tried to trace the call and locate her, but was never able to reach her.

Many of God's people are like that. They fail to wait upon the Lord. His answer to our prayers will come in good time. The promise is sure.

"Call unto me and I will answer." (Jer 33:3)

But we sometimes don't have the patience to wait to see what his answer will be.

Power of Faith (Acts 1:6-7) *(Restore the Kingdom of God)*
TO YOUR FAITH FAITHFUL

But Jesus was telling his Disciples that they need to have faith. Even though they don't agree with what He's saying, even though they don't understand it, they need to accept it on faith.

Oh my friends we can't understand it - God's plan is too big for the meager, mind of men to comprehend. Did you ever wonder about the Trinity?

John Wesley said: Bring me a worm that can comprehend a man, and I'll show you a man that can comprehend a Triune God.

In the realm of the natural, seeing is believing. In the realm of the spiritual, believing is seeing. Jesus said: If thou wouldst believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God. (John 11:40)

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible, and it is the outstretched hand of the soul taking what Christ offers.

The Disciples accepted Jesus' statement of faith. ~~That~~ they didn't need to know the details of God's plan. Man knows so little in this world. Yes, amid all of the so-called information explosion we really know very little. Thomas Edison, one of the greatest minds the world

has ever known said:

Thomas Edison said,

We do not know one millionth part of one percent about anything. We don't know what water is. We don't know what light is. We don't know what electricity is. We don't know what gravity is. We don't know anything about magnetism. We have a lot of hypothesis, but that's all.

My friends, a little bit of learning is a dangerous thing. So I hope you never try to intellectually understand what God would have you do.

Do you have a spiritual energy crisis today? Do you need strength of spirit today? Don't try the power of knowledge, it will fail. But try the Power of Faith!

"The Apostles said unto the Lord, increase our faith" (Lu 17:5)

"Jesus said unto him, Thomas because thou hast seen me thou hast believed: Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet believed." (Jn 20:29)

Power of Prayer ~~Do you have a puny prayer life?~~

So my friends if you have a spiritual energy crisis you need the Power of Patience, Power of Faith and

Power of Prayer

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication. The Disciples are all in one accord in prayer and supplication. Following Jesus direction and now they are involved in the power of Prayer.

Throughout the Bible, men have come to God in Prayer when they needed strength to continue. Seek the Lord and His strength, seek His face continually. (I Ch 16:11)

Abraham prayed that God would provide a sacrifice and He would not have to offer his only son Isaac as a sacrifice.

Moses prayed and the red sea parted and the Isarelites crossed over to safety. Daniel prayed in the lions den, and the Lord gave him the power to destroy the lions.

David prayed and he destroyed the enemy of Israel. Goliath. And much of the Psalms written by David were prayers of praise to God. The Disciples said Lord Teach us to Pray. They were seeking to worship God in honor and adoration unto Him. Prayer is worship that includes all of the attitudes of the human spirit as it reaches out to God. It is a strong personal relation to God. Prayer crowns God with honor and glory due His name, and God crowns prayer with assurance and comfort. The most praying souls are the most powerful souls. Prayer is the greatest power we can wield.

If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, It shall be done for them of my father which is in heaven (Matt 18:19)

Whatsoever we ask we receive of Him because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. (1 Jn 3:22)

Oh my friends, everytime you pray, if your prayers are sincere, there will be a new feeling, a new meaning within you, and it will give you fresh courage, and you will understand that prayer power is the strongest force in the world.

A great German General stood on the battlefield in World War II and looked up at the thousands of Air Force planes flying overhead,

and make the remark "Oh to have such power in ⁽⁹⁾
my hands" or I could conquer the world!

~~Power of Love (in a 3rd)~~ ~~POWER 5 HORTAGE~~
He was suffering from an energy crisis! Are
you suffering from an energy crisis today, my
friends? If you are lets go over again what
Jesus told His Disciples He said they needed
1. Power of Patience 2. Power of Faith
3. Power of Prayer Than he said:

~~4. Power of Love~~

But ye shall receive power after the Holy Spirit
is come upon you that you shall be witnesses
unto me both in Jerusalem, and in Judea, and
in Somaria, and unto the uttermost parts of
the earth (Acts 1:8)

How high is your spiritual energy level? Are
you an effective witness to Him today? When
I say effective witness I don't necessarily
mean that you talk about Him all of the time.
But you should let your life be a witness for
Him Let your speech be a witness for Him
let whatever you do be a witness for Him.

Two professed Christians worked for ten years
in the same office. Over the years neither of
them knew that the other was a Christian. One
of these men said to his minister one day
wasn't it funny that Bill and I had worked
together all of those years and neither of us
knew that the other was a Christian?

The wise old minister said very sadly, that
wasn't funny, it was tragic. He said in my
opinion neither of you have the power to be
his witness^{4s} in your own backyard let alone
to the whole world. This wise old minister said
with a spirit of love in his voice, you both
need the power of patience, the power of faith,
and the power of prayer. ~~Power of Love~~ Then you can be His
witnesses.

Oh my friends I ask you today with all of the love I have in my heart for you. Do you have a spiritual energy crisis in your life? Where you don't seem to have enough power to witness and serve Him with your soul and your body?

POWER IN THE BLOOD

Come to Him today He'll give you the patience, the faith, the prayer ^{power} You need to be a real witness for Him

But ye shall receive power after the Holy Spirit is come upon you that you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth (Acts 1:8)

How high is your spiritual energy level? Are you an effective witness to Him today? When I say effective witness I don't necessarily mean that you talk about Him all of the time. But you should let your life be a witness for Him. Let your speech be a witness for Him. Let whatever you do be a witness for Him.

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GAMC
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"The Wounds Remain"

John 20:18-28 28

Isaiah 53:4-5

JOHN 20:18-28

①

Introduction

Scriptural Background. One of Christ's post resurrection experiences.

My Experience with multiple amputees--in Bad Hamburg Germany, WWII. Orthopedic Hospital for German Soldiers--They had no hands, stumps of arms and legs, claws for fingers, no feet--terribly disfigured.

Cosmetic Surgery Today

"Keyhole Surgery" - appendectomy, gall bladder, now even heart surgery uses Keyhole surgery so not to leave scars.

A good sermon has a strong beginning and a strong ending, drawn together as close as possible.

Dr. Paul Brand ^{was} a renowned surgeon who worked many years with lepers at the hospital in Vellore, India, reconstructing through surgery their clawed and twisted hands and deformed feet. He designed shoes they could wear and tools they could use in order that they would reclaim their dignity, re-enter society and create a future. One evening Dr. Brand was guest of honor at a party in the dormitory where the lepers lived while they waited for their surgery. He came to the party after a hard day's work. "Won't you please speak?" he was asked. He felt drained of energy and ideas, but as he rose he became conscious of hands, many clawed, some with no fingers, some half-hidden to conceal their disfigurement.

②

Dr. Brand began to speak: "I would have liked to have met Jesus and to have studied His hands; but knowing Him as my personal Savior, I can almost picture His hands: ① the carpenter's hands, rough and calloused, ② the healer's hands, sensitive and compassionate; ③ His crucified hands, marred, yes, even clawed. ④ And then there were His resurrected hands," the doctor concluded, recalled that moment when Jesus invited Thomas to touch His wounds.

Cosmetic Surgery - Hiding Blemishes
 Bikini Scar for Appendicitis

DR BRAND WENT ON TO SAY

"Why did He want to keep the wounds of His humanity?" It was because, "He carried the marks of suffering so He would always understand the needs of those who suffer. He wanted to be forever one with us." Then, silently one by one, the lepers lifted their hands, the same stumps, scars and claws, yet not the same. No one now tried to conceal them, for they had acquired a new dignity. ⑤

Yes, the wounds remained after Christ's resurrection. And it seems to me that Christ is even more glorious in His risen power because of them. And we all know the joy which Easter brings us ~~Not not~~ the joy of never suffering but the joy which we find within and beyond our suffering; ② not the joy of some trouble-free existence but the joy which emerges in the depth of our struggle when we realize that He is with us and struggles beside us. ~~But~~ It is the joy of knowing that He, having suffered in love for us, understands and cares that we suffer, that what we are going through matters and has

MEANING!

70747/3

meaning. The Risen Christ remains: (1) the wounded Healer, (2) the suffering Savior (3) the servant Lord, in order to love us through the devastations of life. Let us look at some of the deeper meanings of this resurrection truth of Why The Wounds Remain:

I. His wounds remain so that He can identify with us. The wounds remained because Christ identifies with us in our anguish, in the burden and ache which come to all of us. (1) When we hurt and feel weak, He comes with love's transforming power; (2) When we suffer and feel abandoned, He is there with love's redeeming presence. God is not an aloof observer of our struggles. He is not detached from the maze and mess of our human life. He sees our tears and is acquainted with our sorrows. His wounds remain so that: (1) When our hearts break, His heart, broken at Calvary, breaks anew; (2) When the darkness falls around us, He waits to meet us in the shadows; (3) He is there when we face a life of emptiness. He is mindful of (1) the hungry who cry out for bread, (2) the dispossessed who cry out for justice, (3) the unloved who cry out for acceptance, (4) the weak who cry out for strength, (5) the enslaved who cry out to be free, (6) the sinner who cries out for mercy, (7) the guilty who cry out for forgiveness, (8) the ~~homeless~~ who cry out to come home, (9) the despairing who cry out for a new beginning. There is nothing He in His love will not face with us; there is nothing that can happen to us which is beyond His grace. We cry out in our need and in our pain and all at once we know--we know we are not alone; we know someone cares.

This resurrection truth is crucial for us
because the problems and pain of life do not
necessarily lead us to God. In fact, just the
opposite can happen. The saying that "sorrow
teaches people to pray" is only half true.
Sorrow can so overwhelm and embitter some s
they can't even stand the thought of God. (1) Not
all foxholes produce greater faith in God;
some produce indifference and resentment.
Trials and temptations do not inevitably
strengthen character and will power; they can
also lead to cowardice, (2) compromise and
betrayal. (3) the death of a child does not
always lead a family back to church; it may
lead instead to the divorce court, the pill
bottle and the corner bar. (4) In the aftermath
of natural disaster, persons both praise and
curse God. Broken dreams and broken
promises may lead to greater Kingdom
commitment, but they can also lead to a
walking away from God!

*Not everyone who believes God created the world
 believes he created hell.*

Not everyone who has been wounded by
pain, suffering, deceit, guilt, grief, and
loss believes that God cares for them. That
is why Christ's wounds remained, when He comes
to us as wounded Healer, assuring us of love's
infinite possibilities. (1) Our need may be
great and be deep and beyond measure, but His
love is greater. (2) Our anguish and sorrow
may know no boundary, but His love never ends,
which means no night lasts forever.

A certain father found it out when he
lost his only son in combat. he tells of the
moment when the news of his son's death was
received:

At first the whole world was shaken beneath my feet. Then slowly a few certainties came steadily before me. God's existence never wavered, although I wanted to shake my fist and ask "Why?" His love in Christ remained constant, even when my heart was breaking. I seemed to sense Christ's tears as real as my own, and to hear His cry as clearly as that of the boy's mother in the next room. Christ ~~became~~ ^{was} in truth ^{as} the Elder Brother of our suffering."

His wounds remain because Christ identified with us in our pains and struggles.

II. His wounds remain so He can identify for us:

He not only identifies with us in our suffering; He identifies for us that we are to be ~~his~~ resurrection people. The suffering Savior wants us also to be wounded healers; (1) He calls us to be with others in their anguish, to empathize with their pain, to sit beside them in their grief, to show compassion, to share their burden; (2) He calls us to look for Him, "in the distressing disguise of the poor, the troubled and the down and out," as Mother Teresa put it. He wants us who have already traveled our own valley to the shadow to be with others going through theirs, bringing to them that understanding and sensitivity which are given to those who have been there and come through. "In love's service, only the wounded serve," is how Thornton Wilder summed it up in a line from one of his plays. "In love's service,

(2)

only the wounded serve."

A certain minister lived out the truth of that. He lost both of his legs in an accident. In the aftermath of that tragedy, he wrote to a friend, "They are chopping me up and throwing me piece by piece into the grave." Unable, or so he believed, to continue his work as pastor, he withdrew into a state of severe depression. He felt trapped and useless in his wheel chair. Then Christ gave him a new ministry. His doctors asked him if he would consider talking with patients facing similar radical surgery. Grace came to him as he encouraged others. He became a wounded healer and found himself being healed.

III. His wounds remain so we can identify with others:

① Parents who have lost a child through "sudden infant death" to be with other parents who suffer that same shocking loss; ② why a family where life has once more taken precedence over sorrow after a teenage suicide to minister to another family plunged into that same sorrow; ③ why we try to bring together a recovered alcoholic and that person who struggles to stay sober; ④ and why we have widow to widow, single parents, and other such support groups. In love's ministry of listening, caring, understanding, supporting and encouraging, the wounded serve best. Christ summons us to such ministry as people of the resurrection!

Because we know and have experienced how much God cares, and how He heals us, we can move out to care for others in their wastelands of sorrow and suffering, to be

⑦

living witnesses that people can survive, that
life can take precedence over sorrow, tragedy
and defeat, that by God's grace and mercy we
can begin again--and again--and again. The
resurrected Lord, who bears the wounds of His
human suffering, calls us to share the
promise, to reach out with understanding, to
be a wounded healer, even as He is.

Peter Devries' best ~~work~~ ^{BOOK}, The Blood of
the Lamb; basically it is the story of a man,
Wanderhope, and his bout with faith, his
resistance to God and his need for God.
Toward the end of the story his daughter,
Carol, is suffering from a rare blood disease.
She is taken to a reputable hospital where the
finest medical help is made available to her.
She is still there on her eighth birthday, so
the family housekeeper makes a beautiful cake
for Wanderhope to take to the hospital for the
occasion.

The father had made it a practice before
in visiting his daughter to slip into St
Catherine's Church nearby. On this particular
morning he enters the church and puts the cake
down on the pew beside him. He prays, pray
with all of his soul, for his daughter's
recovery. Then, anxious to see her, he
hurries off and forgets the cake.

When he gets to the hospital, the doctor
tries to tell him news for which there is no
language. How do you tell a father his
daughter has died? Wanderhope's whole life
passes in front of him in that awful instance.
His strength vanishes and he breaks down. As
he leaves the hospital, a desolate and
bereaved soul, he remembers the cake in the

CHURCH

⑧

church. For some reason he goes back to St. Catherine's, finds the cake which is still waiting on the pew, and walks out with it. Outside, under the main entrance of the church, he looks up at the figure of the crucified Christ, carved in stone. In a burst of passion, he removes the cake from the box and hurls it at the face of Christ. The icing falls against the crown of thorns and drips down over the face of Christ. At length the frosting falls away and the face appears, the face of Him who said, "Let the children come to me, for of such is the Kingdom of heaven," the face of Him who said to His disciples, "Peace to you", and the chapter ends with these words: "Wanderhope was thus found at that place which is the only place where life makes sense, where the suffering and pain of the world make any sense at all--at the foot of the Cross where love suffered for us all."

!

The wounds remained: The resurrected Christ is always and forever the wounded Healer who reaches out to us in our anguish. He is the suffering Messiah who measures our tears and walks beside us so that we can walk, and do, and be!

SUMMARY

- (1) His wounds remain so that He can identify with us.
- (2) His wounds remain so that He can identify for us.
- (3) His wounds remain so that ~~He~~ we can identify with others.

My experience at Bad Hamburg, Germany -
Orthopedic Hospital

Life's Highest Motto:

"Others"

Lord help me live from day to day,
In such a self-forgetful way,
That even when I kneel to pray,
My prayer shall be for—OTHERS.

Help me in all the work I do,
To ever be sincere and true,
And know that all I'd do *for You*,
Must needs be done for—OTHERS.

Let "Self" be crucified and slain,
And buried deep; and all in vain
May efforts be to rise again,
Unless to live for—OTHERS.

And when my work on earth is done,
And my new work in Heaven's begun,
May I forget the crown I've won,
While thinking still of—OTHERS.

Others, Lord, yes others,
Let this my motto be,
Help me to live *for* others,
That I may live *like* Thee.

C. D. MEIGS

The Story of It

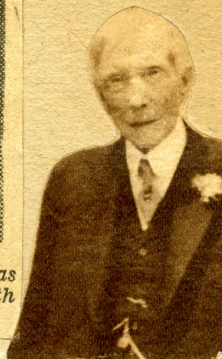
There is a story told of General Booth, that at one time he desired to send a New Year's greeting, by telegram and cablegram, to all the Salvation Army posts in the world. Cablegrams are expensive and have to be short. General Booth boiled his message down to a single word, but he was great enough and good enough to choose *the biggest word in all the dictionary*, so this was his message—and all of it:

"Others"

mes Mrs. Hugh Hutchinson



From The Collection Of:
Dr. Jack D. Ellis
852 W. Sun St.
Morehead, KY 40351
606-784-7473



on, who, before her marriage yesterday in Logan, was
wes, of Mann, W. Va., formerly of Huntington; both
d Mrs. Hutchinson are well known here.

I NEED THE CHURCH; THE CHURCH NEEDS ME. DANIEL 5:27 SAYS; THOU ART WEIGHED IN THE BALANCES AND FOUND WANTING. THERE IS MUCH TALK OF A BRAND NEW WORLD, BUT ONE CANDID LOOK AT MODERN SOCIETY WITH ITS DAILY COLUMNS OF VICE, CRIME, CORRUPTION, WARS, STRIFE, PRIDE, PREJUDICE HATRED ETC, AND WE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT SOME THING OR SOME ONE HAS GONE RADICALLY WRONG. QUITE TRUE, WE HAVE LEARNED TO FLY THRU THE AIR LIKE BIRDS, TO SWIM UNDER THE WATER LIKE FISHES, BUT HAVE YET TO LEARN TO WALK UPON THE EARTH LIKE MEN AND WOMEN. WE HAVE CONQUERED OUTERSPACE, BUT STILL HAVE THE PROBLEM OF INNERSPACE. WE HAVE BECOME SCIENTIFIC GIANTS, BUT HAVE REMAINED SPIRITUAL PIGMYS. WE ARE STRIDING IN SEVEN LEAGUE BOOTS IN TECHNOLOGY, BUT ARE CREEPING IN TOM THUMB SHOES IN MORALITY. OUT STRIPPING THE COMETS AND METEORS IN JETS AND ROCKETS, WHILE RIDING ON THE OXCART OF RELIGIOUS CONVICTIONS. WE HAVE THE ATOMIC BOMB, THE HYDROGEN BOMB, THE COBALT BOMB AND OTHER DEADLY POWERS TO DESTROY OUR WORLD, BUT ALL THIS POWER CANNOT BLAST PRIDE, ENVY, JEALOUSY, COVETOUSNESS, GREED AND HATRED FROM THE HUMAN HEART AND MIND. ONLY THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE GRACE OF HIS SON CAN DO THAT. IN THE WORDS OF THE BIG FISHERMAN SINKING BENEATH THE WAVES IN HIS PRIDE AND SELF FUFFICIENCY, WE MIGHT WELL PRAY AS HE, "LORD SAVE ME, OR I PERISH." MUCH MENTION IS MADE TODAY OF THE I.Q, THE INTELLIGENCE QUOTIENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL, BUT DO YOU EVER HEAR ANYONE SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE S.Q., THE SPIRITUAL QUOTIENT. AS SURELY AS YOU HAVE AN I. Q. YOU ALSO HAVE AN S. Q. WHAT WOULD YOUR RATING BE IF YOU WERE PUT TO TEST?? CAN WE THINK ON THESE THINGS AND NOT REALIZE FULLY HOW DESPERATELY WE NEED THE CHURCH??

THE CHURCH NEEDS ME: GALATIANS 6:9 SAYS, "AND LET US NOT BE WEARY IN WELL DOING; FOR IN DUE SEASON, WE SHALL REAP IF WE FAINT NOT. HERE THE APOSTLE PAUL INFERS THAT WE MIGHT BECOME WEARY IN DOING THE LORDS WORK, BUT AT THE SAME TIME REMINDS US OF THE HARVEST THAT SHALL BE REAPED, BYE AND BYE. THE "WELL DOING" SPOKEN OF HERE IS THE LORDS WORK, WHICH IS MORE THAN JUST BEING A GOOD PERSON, OR MORALLY GOOD, BUT RATHER IT IS THE SPECIFIC ACT OF SERVICE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST. BEHIND THESE DOORS WE HAVE TEACHING, FINANCES, MISSIONS, DEVELOPING A PROGRAM AND A BUDGET, TENDING TO THE PHYSICAL BUILDING, EVANGELIZING, CONCERN FOR THE INACTIVE AND UNCHURCHED, PRAYERS FOR THE SICK AND AFFLICTED, WORKING ON BOARDS AND COMMITTEES, SINGING IN THE CHOIR, KEEPING IN CONTACT WITH MEMBERS WHO RESIDE ELSEWHERE, COOPERATING IN THE CONFERENCE AND DISTRICT PROGRAMS. THIS IS THE LORDS WORK. NOW THE POINT IS THIS. WHERE ARE YOU IN RELATION TO ALL THIS? HAVE YOU FOUND YOUR PLACE AND PART IN HIS WORK? HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE BLESSINGS AND PRIVELEGES OF THE GOSPEL AND REFUSED TO ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS? AND IF HIS PEOPLE WILL NOT DO HIS WORK, WHO WILL???