

**FIRST ANNUAL
APPALACHIAN LECTURESHIP**

AUGUST 6, 1994



**THEME:
THE CHRISTIAN AGENDA**

**Held at:
CAMPCREEK CHURCH OF CHRIST
Gen. Del. Wendover, KY 41775**

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HISTORY OF THE CAMPCREEK CHURCH OF CHRIST GEN. DEL. WENDOVER, KY 41775

The Campcreek Church of Christ was organized on December 8, 1912 by J. W. Masters. Most of those persons comprising the group formed in 1912 are now deceased and many failed to remain faithful. Therefore, by the early 1950's the church on Campcreek had all but disappeared.

Donald and Lillian Cornett, who were attending Stinnett Settlement School at that time, brought some of the teachers from the school to teach their parents and others living on the creek. The Church began to come to life again. Several members of a local denomination were converted to the church.

Jim Hayes came to Campcreek in 1955. The congregation was meeting in the Upper Campcreek School Building. Jim Hayes, Nick Caldwell, and Bill Howard shared Sunday morning preaching responsibilities. Jim Hayes preached most Sunday nights, led singing, and taught adult Bible class. After several years, the church returned to the Lower Campcreek Building, where they had met previous to 1955. After this, Leslie Morgan and his family began attending. Leslie was very active in the work at Campcreek until he moved to Georgia. As Jim Hayes became the only preacher for Campcreek, Craig Melton took over the adult Bible Class and song leading responsibilities. Both men are now sharing the preaching responsibilities at the present time.

In 1990 with funds from selling the church property, the congregation began construction of a new building containing an auditorium, five classrooms, restrooms, a fellowship hall, a library, and an office. The members is under the oversight of two elders, Jim Hayes and Craig Melton, one deacon, Hobie Hayes.

DEDICATION

We would like to dedicate this book to all the faithful men and women at the Campcreek congregation who have continued to work hard so the church can remain sound in the faith.

DANGERS FACING THE CHURCH

JUDE 3,4

Paul Vaughn

1. In our text, Jude gives warning about dangers facing the church.
 - a. Dangers need immediate attention.
 - b. False teachers were trying to lead Christians away from the Scriptures.
2. Jude's attitude toward false teachers and their false doctrines.
 - a. He was not indifferent to the problem.
 - b. He encouraged the Christian to "*earnestly contend for the faith.*"
 - c. Take extreme efforts in their defense of the truth.
 - d. All efforts to defend must be according to Christian character.
3. The early church faced many dangers.
 - a. Judaizers teaching the Law of Moses, Galatians 1:6-9 "*I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any [man] preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*"
 - b. Paul warned the Ephesian elders, Acts 20:28-31 "*Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.*"
4. What are the dangers facing the church today?

DISCUSSION:

I. APATHY TOWARD CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH.

- A. Apathy defined:
 1. "Lack of interest" (Webster).
 2. Indifference
 3. Unconcerned
 4. Having little or no emotion
- B. Examples of apathetic condition in many Christians.

1. Never reading or studying the Bible, II Timothy 2:15 *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*
2. Forsaking the assemble, Hebrews 10:24-25 *"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some [is]; but exhorting [one another]: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."*
3. No Bible school teachers, Hebrews 5:12 *"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which [be] the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat."*
4. No zeal and to rich, Revelation 3:14-17 *"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:"*

II. THE TENDENCY TO COMPROMISE WITH ERROR.

A. Old Testament examples of this tendency.

1. Israelites that out lived Joshua and the elders, Joshua 24:31 *"And Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that overlived Joshua, and which had known all the works of the LORD, that he had done for Israel."*
2. People in Isaiah's day, (Isaiah 1:15-20).
3. They compromised in Jeremiah's day, Jeremiah 2:13 *"For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, [and] hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."*
4. Compromised with image worship, Hosea 13:2 *"And now they sin more and more, and have made them molten images of their silver, [and] idols according to their own understanding, all of it the work of the craftsmen: they say of them, Let the men that sacrifice kiss the calves."*

B. New Testament examples of this tendency.

1. Scribes and Pharisees compromised with the traditions of men, (Matthew 15:1-9).

2. The church of Corinth divided up into groups, I Corinthians 1:10-13 *"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and [that] there be no divisions among you; but [that] ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them [which are of the house] of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?"*
 3. Galatians compromised with Judaizers, Galatians 1:6 *"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:"*
 4. Paul saw a time when Christians would get teachers to teach them what they want to hear, I Timothy 4:2 *"Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; V.3 Forbidding to marry, [and commanding] to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth."*
- C. How have some compromised today?
1. Liberalism.
 - a. Fellowship with denominations.
 - b. Compromises on baptism.
 2. Anti-ism.
 - a. Saints only.
 - b. Children's home.
 - c. Eating in church building.
 - d. More than one cup.
- D. Those who compromise with error are, Ephesians 4:14 *"...tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine..."*

III. MORALITY ON THE DECLINE.

- A. Moral corruption in America is effecting the church.
1. People are working at new ways to practice immorality, II Timothy 3:13 *"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."*
 2. Changing the glory of God into images of corruptible men, (Romans 1:22-32).
- B. There is a moral standard.
1. Live righteously and godly, Titus 2:11-14 *"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

2. Live for Christ, II Corinthians 5:17 *"Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."*

IV. GOD'S LAW ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE.

A. Corruption of God's marriage law by society is a danger facing the church.

1. Marriage for life is all time low in popularity.
2. Perverted ways are sinful, I Corinthians 6:9-11 *"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."*
 - a. Men marrying men.
 - b. Women marrying women.
 - c. Couple living together.
 - d. Guilty person in a divorce remarrying is against God's law on marriage.

B. Marriage is a divine institution.

1. One man and one woman for life, Matthew 19:3-6 *"The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made [them] at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."*
2. Marriage following God's plan is honorable, Hebrews 13:3 *"Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; [and] them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body. Marriage [is] honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will*

judge. [Let your] conversation [be] without covetousness; [and be] content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord [is] my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

V. OTHER DANGERS FACING THE CHURCH.

- A. Teaching of evolution.
- B. Crossroadism/Boston movement.
- C. A.D. 70 doctrine.
- D. Women preachers and elders in the church.
- E. False view of worship.
- F. False teaching on grace.
- G. Situation ethics.
- H. Social Gospel.
- I. Modern versions.
- J. Charismatic movement.
- K. Instrumental music.
- L. Unity movement.
- M. Poor leadership.
- N. Assaults on the Bible.

CONCLUSION:

1. There are many dangers facing the church today.
2. We need to be prepared for battle, (Ephesians 6:10-12).
3. We can overcome all the dangers, if we trust God and follow His Word.
4. Let us devote our whole lives in service to our Lord, "... and [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:" I Peter 3:15.

NOTES:

THE LIGHT WHICH DARKNESS CANNOT DIM (Psalm 119:105)

Jim Hayes

1. Psalms 119:105 “{NUN.} *Thy word [is] a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*”
2. John 1:5 “*And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*”

DISCUSSION:

I. HIS WORD, A LAMP

- A. Can't be put out.
- B. Can't be dimmed.

II. HIS WORD VERSUS DARKNESS — John 1:1-15.

- A. Jesus is the light.
- B. We're blind without Him.
- C. John was a witness.
- D. The world rejects the light.

III. THE LIGHT, MAN'S RESPONSIBILITY.

- A. Matthew 5:14-16 “*Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*”
- B. Were the light of the world.
- C. We must let our light shine.
- D. The world perceives the light through our light.
- E. It's our job to take the light into the world.

IV. A BLIND WORLD, A LOST WORLD.

V. GOD THE FATHER OF LIGHT.

- A. He's a light for the ages.
- B. Other lights dim and go out.
- C. He lights our way to heaven.

CONCLUSION:

1. How well do you and I see spiritually?

THE CHURCH THROUGH THE CENTURIES

HalliBurton Greer

1. God asked Job a question.
 - a. Job 38:1-4 *"Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, Who [is] this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding."*
 - b. Job 38:5-8 *"Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? Or [who] shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, [as if] it had issued out of the womb?"*
2. From the moment that God laid the foundations of the earth, He laid the foundation for the church of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION:

I. THE CHURCH IN PROMISE.

- A. When Eve was tempted of Satan, she yielded to the temptation. She ate of the forbidden fruit and sin entered into the world.
 1. Eve gave to Adam, Adam ate — sin was at the door.
 2. But God, in His infinite wisdom and mercy made a promise.
 - a. Genesis 3:15 *"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."*
- B. God made a promise to Abram.
 1. Genesis 22:15-18 *"And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only [son]: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which [is] upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy*

seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice."

C. God repeats to Isaac the promise He made to Abram.

1. Genesis 26:1-4 *"And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar. And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father; And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;"*

D. God repeats the same promise to Jacob.

1. Genesis 28:10-14 *"And Jacob went out from Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran. And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put [them for] his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I [am] the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed."*

E. We find the church promised in various scriptures of the Old Testament, for example:

1. Isaiah 2:1-3.
2. Joel 2:28-30.

F. Jesus promises to build His church.

1. Matthew 16:16-19 *"And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed [it] unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be*

bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

G. So we find the church of Christ promised.

II. THE CHURCH BUILT.

A. The oft told story of Acts chapter 2.

III. THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH.

A. The preaching in the Temple.

1. The lame man at the gate called Beautiful. (Acts 3:1-4:4)
2. The believers were of one mind and one heart. (Acts 4:32-37)

B. Stephen's sermon. (Acts 7)

1. God's visit to Abraham.
2. Isaac.
3. Jacob and the twelve patriarchs.
4. Joseph sold into Egypt.
5. The famine.
6. The bondage in Egypt.
7. Moses led them forth from Egypt.
8. The rebellious people.
9. About David.
10. About Solomon and the building of the temple.
11. How they had killed the prophets.

C. The results of Stephen's sermon.

1. Stephen was stoned.
2. Persecution followed. (Acts 8:1-3)
3. Disciples scattered abroad. (Acts 8:4)
4. Philip preached in Samaria. (Acts 8:5-25)
5. Philip preaches to the Eunuch. (Acts 8:26-40)

D. Saul of Tarsus converted. (Acts 9:1-30)

E. The church at peace. (Acts 9:31)

F. The conversion of Cornelius—the first Gentile. (Acts 10:1-48)

IV. FURTHER GROWTH THROUGH PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS.

A. First Missionary Journey.

1. Barnabas and Saul sent forth. (Acts 13:2-3)
2. With John Mark, they journey to various cities. (Acts 13:4-14:20)

B. Second Missionary Journey. (Acts 15:36)

1. Paul and Barnabas split. (Acts 15:37-39)
 - a. Paul takes Silas. (Acts 15:40)
 - b. Barnabas goes with John Mark. (Acts 15:39)
2. Paul and Silas visit and strengthen the church in several

cities. (Acts 15:41-19:41)

3. Paul in Jerusalem. (Acts 21:15-23:22)
 - a. Paul taken to Caesarea. (Acts 23:23-35)
 - b. Paul's trials. (Acts 24:1-26:32)
4. Paul's Journey to Rome. (Acts 27:1-28:16)
 - a. Paul's ministry in Rome. (Acts 28:17-31)

V. WARNINGS OF APOSTASY.

- A. Paul's Warnings.
 1. Even Elders. (Acts 20:28-32)
 2. Others. (I Timothy 4:1-3)
 3. More Warning. (II Timothy 4:2-4)
 4. Church at Thessalonica. (II Thessalonians 2:1-7)
- B. Peter's Warnings.
 1. II Peter 2:1-10.
 2. II Peter 3: 1-4.

VI. A LIST OF SOME APOSTASIES FROM THE BIBLE.

- A. Church at Corinth—Divisions. (I Corinthians 1:11-12)
- B. Churches of Galatia—Perverted Gospel. (Galatians 1:6-9)
- C. Jude saw the need to exhort the brethren. (Jude 3 & 4)
- D. John is told to write to Pergamos. (Revelation 2:12-17)

VII. A LIST OF SOME APOSTASIES FROM SECULAR HISTORY.

- A. Change in church government.
 1. One elder thought to be superior to other elders—led to election of Pope.
 2. Roman Catholic church.
- B. Some other changes.
 1. Holy Water. 120 A.D.
 2. Archbishop. 150 A.D.
 3. First Creed (Nicene). 325 A.D.

VIII. REFORMATION MOVEMENT.

- A. Difference between REFORMATION and RESTORATION.
 1. To reform is to change some of the existing structure.
 2. To restore is to put back just like it was when it was built.
- B. Some reformation leaders.
 1. Martin Luther.
 2. John Wycliff.
 3. John Calvin.
 4. Huldthurch Zwingli.
- C. Some concerns of the reformers.
 1. The selling of indulgences.

2. Total depravity.
 3. Predestination.
 4. Mode of Baptism.
- D. From these efforts of reformation came many denominations.
1. Lutheran.
 2. Anglican.
 3. Presbyterian.
 4. Baptist.
 5. Episcopalian.

IX. THE RESTORATION MOVEMENT.

- A. Some of the leaders in restoring New Testament Christianity.
1. Rice Haggard.
 2. James O'Kelly.
 3. Abner Jones.
 4. Elias Smith.
 5. Barton W. Stone.
 6. Thomas Campbell.
 7. Alexander Campbell.

X. DIGRESSIONS.

- A. In 1849, the American Christian Missionary Society was formed. This was thought to be a "better" way to spread the gospel of Christ. It led to an organization known today as the "Disciples of Christ."
- B. In 1859, at Midway, Kentucky, we find the introduction of the mechanical instrument of music. This divided a number of congregations here in Kentucky and elsewhere.
- C. We are not immune to digressions in 1994. We have those who are advocating:
1. We are all going to the same place, just taking different roads. However, Jesus said...Matthew 7:13-14 "*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide [is] the gate, and broad [is] the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*"
 2. Union in diversity. This can not be, beloved. Jesus said... Matthew 7:21-23 "*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye*

that work iniquity.”

XI. OUR RESPONSIBILITY.

- A. Watch and Pray. (Matthew 26:41)
- B. Preach the Word. (II Timothy 4:1-2)
- C. Study to be approved of God. (II Timothy 2:15)
- D. Be ready always to give an answer of our hope. (I Peter 3:15)

CONCLUSION:

1. Brethren, we have the responsibility to hold fast the word. We are to take it into all the world. It should be that our neighbors, friends, loved ones can see Christ living in each of us.
2. We need to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Brother Vance Bowling said, “**the church can be lost in one generation.**”
3. If earth time remains until we die, will we have left the true church, unadulterated, to those who come after us?

NOTES:

FUNDAMENTAL PREACHING

Clarence Howard

Scripture Readings:

1. Matthew 28:18-20 *"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen."*
2. Mark 16:15-16 *"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."*
3. Luke 24:44-49 *"And he said unto them, These [are] the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and [in] the prophets, and [in] the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."*
4. John 20:21-23 *"Then said Jesus to them again, Peace [be] unto you: as [my] Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on [them], and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; [and] whose soever [sins] ye retain, they are retained."*
5. Acts 1:6-8 *"When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."*
 - a. These passages of scripture compose the Constitution of the kingdom of God on earth. They constitute the fundamental law of the Lord's church.

- b. They were given by the Lord after he had completed his work on earth to make possible the salvation of all men to the end of time.
- c. They constitute the authority for offering salvation to lost men.
- d. They set forth the conditions on which men may accept and enjoy this salvation.
- e. The balance of the New Testament constitutes the statutes or laws given by the Holy Spirit in putting this final message, this constitution, this fundamental law into operation.
- f. Every part of the balance of the New Testament is in exact harmony with these passages. Anything different presented by men pertaining to salvation, present or future will bring the curse of God on the ones presenting it and the ones who accept it.

- 1) Mark 7:7-9 *"Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching [for] doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, [as] the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition."*
- 2) Galatians 1:6-8 *"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."*
- 3) II John 8-9 *"Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."*
- 4) Revelation 22:18-19 *"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and [from] the things which are written in this book."*

I. THIS FINAL MESSAGE CONTAINS:

- A. The thing to be preached, the gospel, Mark 16:15 *"And he*

said unto them, *Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*” Not philosophy, not science, not literature, not theology, not the traditions and commandments of men — the gospel of Christ.

- B. What is to be done by men in order to be saved?
1. They must accept and obey the gospel, Mark 16:15-16 *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the **gospel** to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”* (believe and obey — be baptized)
 2. Luke 24:47 *“And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”* (Repent — believe, repent, be baptized)
 3. II Thessalonians 1:7-9 *“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”*
 4. Hebrews 5:9 *“And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”*
- C. What is to be done in living as a Christian?
1. Matthew 28:20 *“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen.”*
 2. I Timothy 4:16 *“Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”*
 3. II Timothy 3:16-17 *“All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”*

II. THIS MESSAGE IS FOR ALL PEOPLE AND IT IS FINAL.

- A. It says *“All nations, every creature.”*
- B. It is for all time *“even unto the end of the world.”*

CONCLUSION:

1. Fundamental preaching is the answer to every one’s salvation.
2. This type of preaching will save the worst of mankind.
3. Man must not make God’s Word hard to understand, it is His word that will save.

A PLEA FOR UNITY AS WE FACE THE FUTURE

Craig Melton

1. As far back as one can remember, there has been a plea for unity in the religious world.
2. It would be wonderful if the church of our Lord could have unity throughout the brotherhood.
3. On far too many occasions, there has been a great gulf between the preaching and the performance.
4. A few months before his death in August of 1967, the beloved W. Claude Hall (former President of Freed-Hardeman College) was asked, **“What are the greatest dangers facing the church?”** His calm reply was **“the extreme left and the extreme right.”** Though several things have changed since 1967, the same two extremes can be located in 1994.
5. **A Plea For Unity As We Face The Future.**

DISCUSSION:

I. UNITY IN DOCTRINE.

- A. We must continue to preach the same doctrine.
 1. I Timothy 4:16 *“Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”*
- B. No divisions.
 1. I Corinthians 1:10 *“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and [that] there be no divisions among you; but [that] ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”*
- C. Contend earnestly.
 1. Jude 3 *“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort [you] that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”*
- D. Remember the warnings.
 1. I Timothy 4:1,2 *“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;”*
 2. Galatians 1:6-8 *“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from*

him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."

3. Matthew 15:9 "*But in vain they do worship me, teaching [for] doctrines the commandments of men."*
4. Romans 16:17,18 "*Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."*

II. UNITY IN SPIRIT.

- A. Being Christ like — Christian, means Christ like.
- B. Pray without ceasing — Christ prayed often.
 1. I Thessalonians 5:17 "*Pray without ceasing."*
- C. Thankfulness — I Thessalonians 2:13 "*For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received [it] not [as] the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."*
- D. Forgiving.
 1. Ephesians 4:32 "*And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."*
 2. Colossians 3:13 "*Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also [do] ye."*
 3. Luke 17:3,4 "*Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him."*
 4. Mark 11:25 "*And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."*

III. UNITY IN CHRISTIAN GROWTH.

- A. Study.
 1. II Timothy 2:15 "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*

B. Exercise.

1. I Timothy 4:7 *"But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself [rather] unto godliness."*
2. Galatians 5:6 *"For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love."*

C. Better environment.

1. I Corinthians 15:33 *"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."*

D. Adult behavior.

1. I Corinthians 13:11 *"When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things."*

E. Produce fruit.

1. Matthew 3:10 *"And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire."*
2. John 15:2 *"Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every [branch] that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."*

IV. UNITY IN A CHANGELESS CHURCH.

A. God never changes.

1. James 1:17 *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."*
2. Malachi 3:6 *"For I [am] the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."*

B. Bible never changes.

1. II Timothy 3:16 *"All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."*

C. Jesus still hath the words of life.

1. John 6:68 *"Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life."*
2. Hebrews 1:1,2 *"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by [his] Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of [his] glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the*

Majesty on high;”

CONCLUSION:

1. God's plan for salvation never changes.
2. Hear – Romans 10:17
3. Believe – Hebrews 11:6
4. Repent – Luke 13:3
5. Confess – Matthew 10:32
6. Baptism – Matthew 28:19

NOTES:

JESUS, FRIEND OF SINNERS

Charles Crouch

1. The Bible calls Jesus "Friend Of Sinners" and Abraham "The Friend Of God." (Matthew 11:17; James 2:23).
2. Proverbs 17:17 "A friend loveth at all times..."
 - a. A friend is "one attached to another by esteem, respect and affection; an intimate" — Webster.
 - b. A friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out.
3. Who then is your friend?
 - a. Would a doctor be your friend if he knew of a deadly disease within your body and did not tell you?
 - b. Would your banker or partner be your friend if he knew that you were investing in a failing enterprise and did not warn you?
 - c. Would a lawyer be your friend if he knew a flaw in a title, but permitted you to buy the property?
 - d. Would a preacher be your friend if he knew of an error in your life or religion and did not bring it to your attention?
 - 1) He is your friend who warns you concerning bodily ills, poor investments, and faulty titles.
 - 2) He is your friend who tells you of your sins and of any religious errors, and how to correct them!
 - 3) James 5:20 "Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."
4. "The best friend anyone can have is the one that will kindly and firmly tell him the truth" — Fred E. Dennis, *Gospel Advocate*, January 15, 1976.
5. Jesus, our heavenly friend, came to reveal his Father, to preach His word, and to die to save us from sin and to bring us to God.
 - a. He came to reveal the heavenly Father, to manifest the Father's love, and to be the measure of love for the world. (John 3:19; Romans 5:8-10; 1 John 3:1; John 8:42; 21:15-19)
6. Jesus came to do God's will and to make it known to all the world. (John 1:18; Hebrews 10:17; Matthew 28:18-20)
 - a. He came to fulfil the law and the prophets. (Matthew 5:17)
 - b. To take away the first and establish the second. (Hebrews 10:7-10)
 - c. To teach God's will and its importance. (John 5:30; Matthew 6:10; 26:39)

- d. To be the light of the world. (Malachi 4:2; John 1:17; 8:12; 12:46)
- 7. He came to speak the Father's truth, heaven's marvelous unending light.
 - a. He is the great prophet and apostle sent to reveal God's message of mercy and plan of pardon. (Matthew 17:5; John 1:14,17; Hebrews 1:1-3; 3:1)
 - b. He is the master teacher of God's word. (Matthew 7:28,29; John 7:46)
 - c. A King bearing witness to the truth. (John 18:37; 14:6)
 - d. A preacher of good tidings, peace and salvation to all. (Acts 10:36-38)
- 8. He came "*to take away sins,*" "*destroy the works of the devil,*" and save the lost. (1 John 3:5,8; John 1:29)
 - a. He came to redeem, regenerate, mediate, reconcile and make peace. (Luke 2:10-14; II Corinthians 5:18,19; Ephesians 2:14-16; Hebrews 7:25)
 - b. He came to give himself as a ransom, die as a sin offering, liberate us from the power and effects of sin, and to bring us to God. (Matthew 20:28; 1:21; John 1:29; 3:16,17; 1 Corinthians 15:3; Hebrews 12:2; 1 Peter 3:18)
- 9. To be the Friend of sinners, truly summarizes His grand mission.
 - a. Jesus came to seek, draw, receive and save them. (Luke 15:2; 19:10)
 - b. He came to be the Great Physician and to heal them. (Malachi 4:2; Luke 4:18; etc.)
- 10. What a friend we have in Jesus!

DISCUSSION:

- I. **JESUS WAS A PREACHER, ALTHOUGH SOME DO NOT THINK OF HIM AS ONE.**
 - A. Matthew 4:17,23; 11:2-6; Mark 1:14,15.
 - B. A prayerful preacher who spent much time in prayer. (Luke 6:12)
 - C. A diligent and effective preacher. (Acts 10:36-39)
 - D. He was the master preacher and teacher. (Matthew 7:29; John 7:46)
- II. **HIS PURPOSE IN PREACHING WAS GREAT AND GRAND.**
 - A. An exceedingly great purpose: (Luke 19:10)
 - B. Nicodemus was impressed with Jesus as a wonder-working "teacher come from God," but he remained a secret disciple. (John 3:2)

C. Jesus is our example and model. (1 Peter 2:21; 4:1-11)

III. THE MASTER PREACHER WAS THE MASTER OF INSTRUCTION.

- A. The master of God's message. (Matthew 7:28, 29; 4:1-11)
- B. The master of simplicity: He dealt with the most profound themes with incomparable simplicity, skill and finality: He spoke profound truth in simple language. (Mark 12:37; John 12:9)
- C. The heavenly communicator was an illustrative preacher.
 - 1. He related his lessons to life; farming; fishing; etc.
 - 2. He taught many lessons in parables, one of the most effective methods. (Luke 10; 15; Matthew 13; etc.)
- D. Because of this, his lessons, which present and deal with the most vital issues of life and destiny, are always informative, interesting, challenging and unsurpassed, but not always soothing, because "The Disturbing Christ" testified of the world "that its works are evil" and the world hated him because of that. (John 7:7)

IV. JESUS WAS A SYMPATHETIC PREACHER, SENSITIVE TO THE NEEDY AND WEAK.

- A. He truly care for people in distress. (Matthew 26:36-41)
 - 1. He was moved with infinite compassion for the multitudes. (Matthew 9:36)
 - 2. He had great compassion for a widow at Nain. (Luke 7:13-15)
 - 3. He shed tears at the grave of Lazarus. (John 11:33,35)
 - 4. He wept over impenitent Jerusalem. (Luke 19:41; Matthew 23:37)
- B. He was tender hearted, gentle and kind. (Matthew 11:2-6, 29)
- C. He had time and love for little children. (Matthew 19:13-15)
- D. His sympathy stands out in his parables. (Luke 15:20; 10:33-37)

V. THOUGH NEVER CRUEL, ABUSIVE OR GUILTY OF MISTREATMENT, BECAUSE THE HIGHEST FORM OF LOVE (*agape*) INCLUDES CHASTENING AND DISCIPLINE, THE GOODNESS AND LOVE OF JESUS INCLUDED SHARPNESS AND SEVERITY WHEN HUMAN HEARTS WERE HARD AND SET ON EVIL.

- A. To the contrite sinner willing to learn and repent, he was as gently and responsive as a mother to her erring babe. (1 Thessalonians 2:7; etc.)
- B. But because love of truth and righteousness includes hatred

of iniquity and demands correction of error and wrong, the tolerance of Jesus did not permit just anything. Generally calm, composed and not explosive, he could and did become indignant. His sympathy did not blind him to wickedness, deceit, untruth or its effect, because his love was not compromising or counterfeit.

- C. Because love of truth includes and demands its faithful defense and sacrificial support, Jesus did not gibe silent consent to error. (II Thessalonians 2:9-12; etc.)

VI. LET US NOW STUDY HOW THE FRIEND OF SINNERS PREACHED THE WORD TO DIFFERENT CLASSES OF SINNERS.

- A. The respectable sinner: Was not favored over others. (John 3:1-8)
1. Some may have instructed Jesus to "let him in easy. He will give the church social standing and strength."
 2. But Nicodemus had to be born anew: Come just as the smallest or poorest.
 3. He remained, comparatively, a secret disciple, withholding his influence from Christ until his death. (John 7:50; 19:39)
 4. No respect of persons or favorites: No bias against bigness or smallness.
- B. The disreputable sinner: Was not bypassed, overlooked or scorned.
1. the woman at Jacob's well was instructed personally. (John 4)
 2. The woman brought to be stoned was not mistreated. (John 8:1-11)
 3. His disciples, like some modern Christians, might have said, "Lord if you let those women in the church, nice (?) people won't come: you will break up the church." (John 4:27)
 4. Yet the woman at the well had more influence than Nicodemus. (John 4:39)
- C. The attractive sinner: The good rich young ruler. (Mark 10:17-22)
1. No concessions were made to the wealthy because of their wealth.
 2. Some may have said, "Lord, make any concession to get him. He will give the kingdom financial standing and security."
 3. Jesus, however, was impartial: A ruler had to come on the same conditions as a disreputable sinner: "*One thing you*

lack." (10:21)

4. That man was not far from the kingdom, and Jesus did not overlook, neglect, shun, discriminate against him or pass him by: He "loved him" and truly was his friend. (Proverbs 17:17)
- D. The unpopular sinner: Bartimaeus. (Mark 10:46-52)
1. Blind beggar, dependent, hungry for sympathy: "*Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me.*" (10:47)
 2. "Many rebuke him" for crying out to Jesus for mercy. (10:48)
 3. But Jesus did not rebuke or ignore him: "*Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole.*" (10:52a) Sympathy was the heart and secret of Christ's power.
 4. "*And straightway he received his sight, and followed him in the way.*" (10:52b)
- E. The unprincipled or crooked sinner: Zaccheus. (Luke 19:1-10)
1. He was not scorned because of his profession, though alienated, lonely, hard to reach: A publicly recognized sinner. (19:7)
 2. His willingness to restore was a sign of genuine repentance. (19:8)
 3. Divine mercy won another zealous disciple. (19:9-10)
- F. The formalist and mere pretender: The strongest and most severe words of Jesus were aimed at the insincere. (Matthew 23:13,16,17,27,28,33)
1. The presumptive, wilful sinner was exposed, not covered.
 2. He has a mere form of godliness. (II Timothy 3:5)
 3. Jesus used strong vigorous words in the parable of the tares (Matthew 13:41,42), and equally strong vigorous words concerning those who cause someone who believes in Christ to stumble. (Matthew 18:6,7)
- G. In all cases the "**friend of sinners**" was earnest and spoke directly and plainly to the point. (Luke 9:57-62; etc.)

CONCLUSION:

1. The greatest preacher was the greatest servant, but the New testament describes him as one of power and strength, not weakness.
2. We need great understanding, faith and courage that we may "wholly follow" in the steps of the Friend of sinners, the ideal preacher who preached with masterful simplicity and clarity, infinite compassion and gentleness, but also with profound wisdom, commanding power and incomparable effect. (Matthew 25:1-46; II Timothy 2:24-26)
3. May these thoughts and words help each of us to know, the

“Friend of publicans and sinners,” and be inspired to follow him more faithfully in the way of truth and righteousness, salvation and eternal life! **“WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS”!** He is the best Friend anyone ever had; and he offers unparalleled blessings, benefits, opportunities, eternal security and hope.

NOTES:

FREEDOM FROM IGNORANCE

Wesley Simon

1. Ignorance is not bliss as some think.
2. The Bible from Genesis to Revelation admonishes us not to be ignorant:
 - a. Psalms 73:22 *"So foolish [was] I, and ignorant: I was [as] a beast before thee."*
 - b. Isaiah 56:10 *"His watchmen [are] blind: they are all ignorant, they [are] all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber."*
 - c. Romans 10:3 *"For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."*
 - d. II Peter 3:5 *"For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:"*
3. There is much confusion in our religious world today about ignorance, in this lesson, we will try to clear up some of the confusion.

DISCUSSION:

I. FREEDOM FROM IGNORANCE IS:

- A. Freedom From Sin — Romans 6:7 *"For he that is dead is freed from sin."*
 1. The only way we can be free from sin is by knowledge of the truth — John 8:32 *"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*
 2. Do you have a love of the truth that you might be made free? II Thessalonians 2:10-12 *"And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."*
- B. Freedom From Satan — Don't make the mistake the Jews made in thinking that they were not in bondage to Satan. John 8:33 *"They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?"*
 1. These Jews were of their father, the devil. John 8:44 *"Ye are of [your] father the devil, and the lusts of your father*

ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

2. We don't need to be in bondage to Satan any longer. True freedom is found in Jesus Christ. John 8:36 *"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."*
- C. Freedom From Self-Righteousness — Romans 10:1-4 *"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ [is] the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."*
1. Anytime we try to establish our own righteousness instead of God's righteousness, we involve ourselves in ignorance.
 2. God's people in the past made this mistake. Hosea 4:6 *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."*
- D. Serving To The Devil — Romans 6:16-18 *"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."*

II. FREEDOM FROM IGNORANCE IS NOT:

- A. Going Along With The Crowd — Exodus 23:2 *"Thou shalt not follow a multitude to [do] evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest [judgment]:"* Many are following the multitudes but they are spiritually ignorant.
- B. Having Faith Only — James 2:19 *"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble."*
- C. Having Grace Only — Ephesians 2:8 *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God:"*
 1. The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men but not all men are saved. Titus 2:11 *"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,"*
 2. We must receive God's grace by obedient faith in order to be saved.

D. Just Being Honest And Sincere.

1. Paul was honest and sincere but lost. Acts 23:1 *"And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men [and] brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."*
2. Paul was wrong in his thinking. Acts 26:9 *"I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth."*

E. Just Using The Bible.

1. The Devil quoted Scripture. Matthew 4:6 *"And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in [their] hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone."*
2. Many so-called preachers carry Bibles and quote Scriptures but they pervert the Gospel of Christ. Galatians 1:7 *"Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ."*

F. Just Attempting To Worship God — The Athenians were attempting to worship God. Acts 17:23 *"For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you."*

1. They were engaged in ignorant worship.
2. Some worship is vain. Mark 7:7 *"Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching [for] doctrines the commandments of men."*
3. Some worshipped according to their will. Colossians 2:23 *"Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh."*
4. If we are going to worship God acceptably it must be in spirit and in truth. John 4:24 *"God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth."*

III. WHY IGNORANCE IS NO EXCUSE.

A. Because of Nature — Psalms 19:1-3 *"{To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.} The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. [There is] no speech nor language, [where] their voice is not heard."*

1. Nature takes away the excuse of man. Romans 1:20 *"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are*

made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."

2. It is a sad mistake to use ignorance as an excuse.
- B. Because of Special Revelation.
1. By special revelation, I mean the written Word of God (The Bible).
 2. We have a Bible, it is inspired, it is inerrant, it is the verbal plenary Word of God. II Timothy 3:16-17 "*All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*"
 3. The Bible is sufficient to meet man's needs intellectually, emotionally, physically and spiritually therefore ignorance is no excuse.

IV. THE CAUSES OF BIBLICAL IGNORANCE:

- A. Worldliness — Luke 8:14 "*And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of [this] life, and bring no fruit to perfection.*"
1. If we fall in love with the world, we will be making a great mistake. (I John 2:15-17)
 2. Do not become a friend to the world. James 4:4 "*Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*"
- B. The Doctrines of Men — Mark 7:7 "*Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching [for] doctrines the commandments of men.*"
1. The commandments of men have always added confusion in people's mind concerning the will of God.
 2. Many today are even advocating that doctrine isn't important but listen to John in II John 1:9,10,11 "*Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into [your] house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.*"
- C. Liberalism — Loosing what God has not loosed.
1. There are those in the church today, who would have us to believe that if God has not specified a thing, you may do it, such as instrumental music, etc.
 2. Liberalism has always been a threat to the Gospel of

Christ.

- D. Anti-ism — Making laws that God has not made.
1. There were first century anti's of which Paul warned. I Timothy 4:3 *"Forbidding to marry, [and commanding] to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth."*
 2. When people forbid what God has authorized they commit sin and promote ignorance.

V. HOW TO OVERCOME BIBLICAL IGNORANCE.

- A. Study The Word of God — II Timothy 2:15 *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*
- B. Educate The Home — Proverbs 22:6 *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*
1. Time is swiftly passing, we must not wait any longer training must begin in the home. Ephesians 6:4 *"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."*
 2. Is your home receiving the proper training?
- C. Educate The Church — The elders must continue to feed the flock. Acts 20:28 *"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."*
1. Without training we would not know how to behave ourselves in the Church. I Timothy 3:15 *"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."*
 2. One untaught generation will lead the Church into apostasy.

CONCLUSION:

1. While there are many people in our world today that are ignorant, the God that we serve is not ignorant and therefore ignorance will be no excuse.
 - a. Acts 17:30 *"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:"*
 - b. God not only knows our faults but also our thoughts. Ecclesiastes 12:14 *"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether [it be] good, or whether [it be] evil."*

2. Some people are ignorant because of the hardness of their heart.
 - a. Ephesians 4:18 *“Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart.”*
 - b. Have you hardened your heart?
3. Don't let the former lusts lead you back into ignorance. I Peter 1:14 *“As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance.”*
4. Let us never forget that in well-doing we may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. I Peter 2:15 *“For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.”*
5. Ignorance was one of the sins that crucified Jesus and it will cause us to crucify Him afresh and put Him to an open shame. Acts 3:17 *“And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did [it], as [did] also your rulers.”*

NOTES:

ABORTION

Clayton Winters

1. On January 22, 1973, now known as "**Black Monday**," the United States Supreme Court handed down its law that made abortions legal. Since then, more than thirty million babies have died at the hands of abortionists.
2. What you are about to see and hear is not pretty (abortion is a bloody business), but it is happening; and to hide our heads in the sand will not change the facts—abortion is happening all around us.

DISCUSSION:

I. ABORTION IS A CRUEL AND INHUMAN ACT.

A. Some methods of abortion.

1. **D & C (Dilation and Curettage)** — used up to the twelfth week of pregnancy. The baby is cut to pieces in the uterus, then scrapped out into a container for disposal. "When the pregnancy is under 12 weeks, we use a suction curette, sucking out the material under pressure. As long as we stay inside the uterus, everything's okay. But if we happen to perforate that softer uterus, then the machine can suck out lots of thins like intestines." (William J. Sweeney III. *Readers Digest*, April, 1973)
2. **Hysterotomy** — used after 14th or 15th week. The abdomen is surgically opened, and the baby lifted out, one hundred percent of these are live births. Once delivered, they are killed or left to die from lack of attention.
3. **Salting** — used on babies after 12th week. About a pint of saline solution is injected into the uterus. It kills the baby, and the mother delivers the dead body a few hours later.
4. **Prostaglandin** — drugs injected into the uterus to kill the baby. 24 to 36 hours later the mother delivers a dead or very sick baby.
5. **D & X** — all the baby is delivered through the opening of the uterus except the head (which is to large to pass through). The doctor then rams dull scissors into the base of the skull, enlarges the womb, and sucks out the brain. The skull collapses, and he is able then to complete the abortion.

- B. Abortion is a cruel and bloody business, a fact even those engaged in it will admit.

II. ABORTION IS THE DESTRUCTION OF INNOCENT HUMAN LIFE.

- A. When the male sperm penetrates the ovum, the little human life begins, having received from each of its parents 23 chromosomes that will determine almost every thing it is going to be: color of eyes, the size of the feet, etc.
1. The heart begins to beat at 18 to 24 days.
 2. Electrocardiogram recordings can be made as early as 10 weeks.
 3. Electroencephalographs have been recorded as early as 43 days.
 4. Actual skeletal movements begin at six weeks.
 5. At 9 to 10 weeks the baby squints, swallows, moves his tongue; and if you stroke his palm, he will make a tight fist.
 6. At 11 weeks he vigorously sucks his thumb.
 7. At 12 weeks he has fingernails.
 8. At 16 weeks he grows eyelashes.
- B. God carefully watches over the formation of this new being in the womb. (Psalm 139:13-17)
- C. Abortionists have learned to carefully avoid the term baby, choosing rather to call it blob of tissue, product of the womb, fetal tissue, etc. (Luke 2:12,16; Acts 7:19)
- D. By the destruction of these innocent little beings, we bring a blood curse on ourselves and on the land.
1. Numbers 35:30-33 *“Whoso killeth any person, the murderer shall be put to death by the mouth of witnesses: but one witness shall not testify against any person [to cause him] to die. Moreover ye shall take no satisfaction for the life of a murderer, which [is] guilty of death: but he shall be surely put to death. And ye shall take no satisfaction for him that is fled to the city of his refuge, that he should come again to dwell in the land, until the death of the priest. So ye shall not pollute the land wherein ye [are]: for blood it defileth the land: and the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein, but by the blood of him that shed it.”*

CONCLUSION:

1. It has been said, “All that is needed for evil men to triumph, is for good men to do nothing.” Isn’t it about time our voice was heard, and heard loudly, in this bloody matter?
2. Blood is defiling our land and we will have to pay the penalty.

