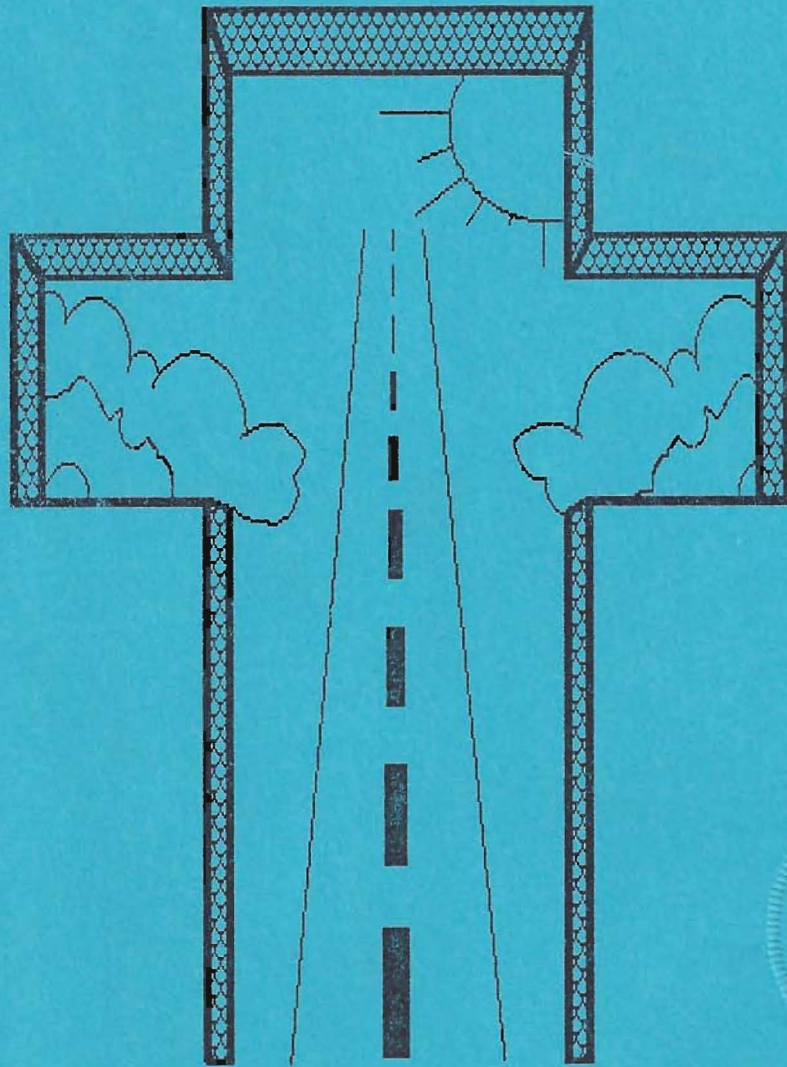


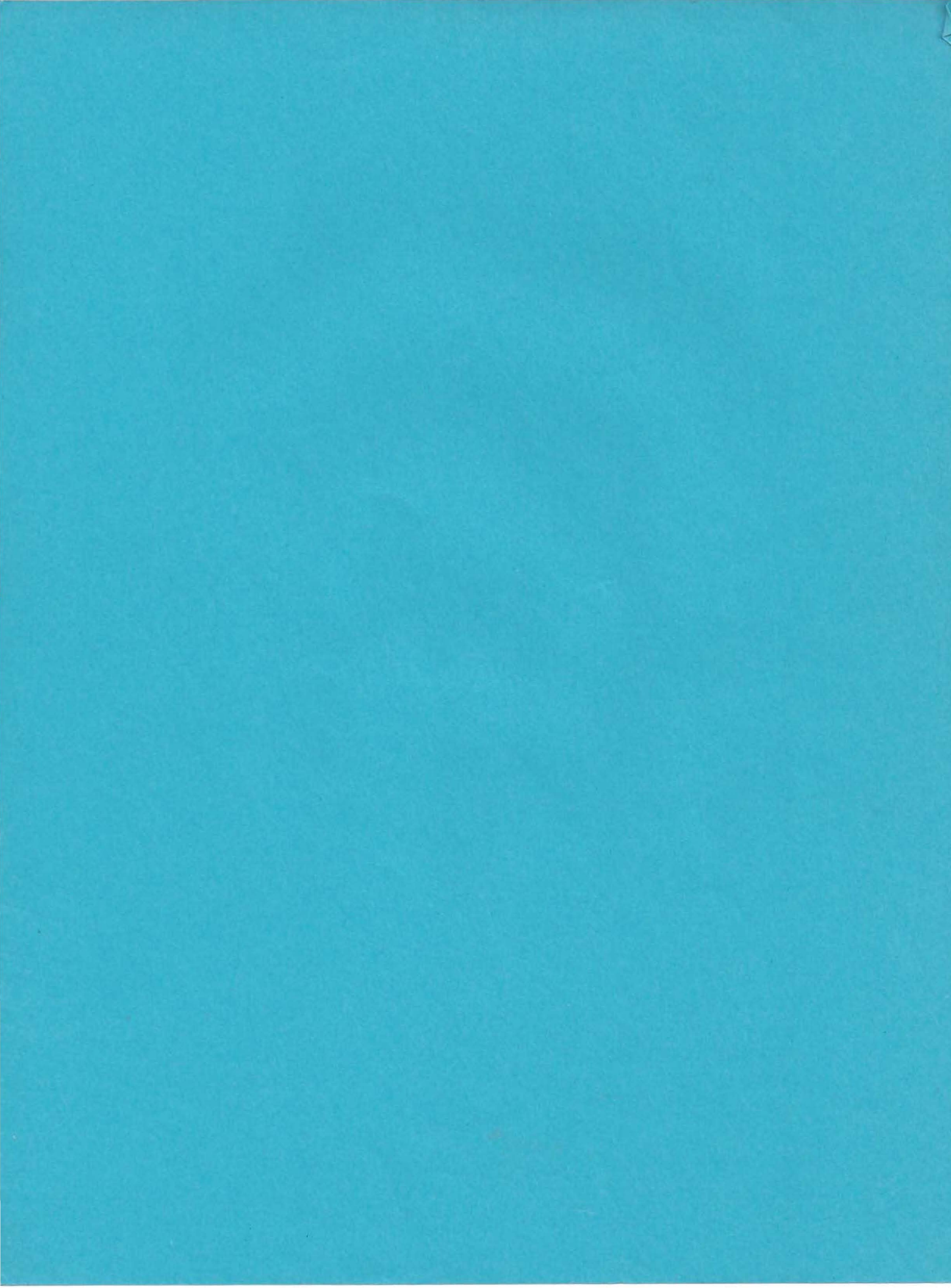
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BIBLICAL VIEWPOINTS LECTURESHIP

1989



Theme: The Journey Of Man



THE JOURNEY OF MAN

(By Clayton Winters)

INTRODUCTION

- A. The Journey of Man is primarily a journey into sin, into sickness and disease, into spiritual bankruptcy, into moral degeneracy; into eternal doom. But it is more: it is a story of the love of God, the sacrifice of Christ, his reconciliation to God in the church, his eternal redemption.
- B. We will try to give an overview of that journey; other speakers to follow will take up the story in more detail.

I. MAN'S JOURNEY FROM EDEN TO BABEL

- A. Man created in God's own image, and placed in Paradise--the Garden of God (Gen. 1:27,28; 2:22,23; 2:8,9).
- B. Man's journey from Paradise into a state of sin and death (Gen. 3:1-19; Rom. 5:12-14; 1 Cor. 5:21,22; Rom. 7:14-24).
- C. The progressive nature of sin in man's journey--jealousy and murder (Gen. 4:3-8; polygamy (Gen. 2:19), corruption in marriage (Gen. 6:1-3), thoughts evil continually (Gen. 6:5), drunkenness (9:20-27), Babel (Gen. 11:4-9).

II. MAN'S JOURNEY IN EGYPTIAN SLAVERY AND IN THE WILDERNESS OF TEMPTATION

- A. An intimation of redemption, but first man must go through the iron furnace (Gen. 12:1-3; 15:13-18; Jer. 11:4; Ex. 1:13,14).
- B. The wilderness of temptation--The bitter waters of Marah (Ex. 15:23), complaints about food (Ex. 16:2,3), The golden calf (Ex. 32:1-6), fornication (Num. 25:1-9), graves in the wilderness (Num. 14:21-23), a secret burial place on Mount Nebo (Deut. 34:1-6).

III. MAN'S JOURNEY UNDER THE JUDGES.

- A. The twelve tribes inherited the land of promise and were delivered by fifteen judges over a period of about four hundred and fifty years (Acts 13:19,20).
- B. The pattern of sin and failure continued. Israel had a yo-yo relationship with her covenant God--in and out of His favor (Jud. 2:11-19). It finally brought her to the brink of extinction (1 Sam. 4:19-22).

IV. MAN'S JOURNEY UNDER THE KINGS

- A. As Philistine forces moved on Israel, their fate seemed certain. Ignoring the fact that sin had caused their problems, they cried out for a king, and a king was given (1 Sam. 8:4-18).
- B. For a period of four hundred and sixty-three years, and through the reigns of forty-three kings, the kingdom stood, although divided after

one hundred and twenty years. Beginning with Solomon, it went deeper and deeper into the abominations of idolatry (1 Kgs. 11;1-8), and suffered its final end with its destruction by Babylon (2 Kgs. 25:1-21).

V. MAN'S JOURNEY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- A. Christ, the virgin begotten son (Isa. 7:14), came as the seed of woman (Gen. 3:15; Gal. 4:4), to fulfill the promise made to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3; Gal. 3:16), and to reign as king on David's throne (2 Sam. 7:12-14; Luke 1:31-35).
- B. He was rejected even by His own people (John 1:11,12), sent to a cross on Golgotha's Hill (Matt. 27:31-37), but rose from the dead the third day and ascended back to His Father in heaven (Mark 16:1-8,19).
- C. His chosen ambassadors preached the good news of redemption beginning with the first Pentecost after the resurrection (Acts 2), spreading the word to all parts of the world (Acts 1:8; 8:4; Rom. 10:17,18).

VI. MAN'S JOURNEY INTO APOSTASY AND RESTORATION

- A. Satan's counterfeit gospels surfaced soon after the church was established (Acts 20:28-32; Rom. 16:16-18; 2 Pet. 2:1-3), and the church more and more was led into apostasy (1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 4:1-4; 1 John 4:1-3).
- B. Accepting the Bible as the only rule of faith and practice, men of all ages have sought to return to the original pattern. Especially during the eighteen hundreds, a movement crystallized to return to the ancient order of things. Churches of Christ are still pleading for men to lay aside the doctrines of men (1 Cor. 4:6), honor the name of Christ above any other (1 Cor. 1:10-13; 3:1-3), and follow only the Bible in matters of faith (Jude 3).
- C. In our own time, men are rebelling against this movement.

VII. MAN'S JOURNEY IN ETERNITY

- A. At the hour of death, the body returns to dust and the spirit to God who gave it (Eccl. 12:5-7; 2 Cor. 5:1-10).
- B. The souls of the departed are taken to an intermediate state: the forgiven to a place of rest (Luke 16:22; 23:43; Phil. 1:21-23), the wicked to a place of flames (Luke 16:22-24).
- C. From the intermediate state, all will be called to judgment (Rev. 20:12-15). The righteous will receive eternal life with the Father, Paradise restored (Matt. 25:46; Rev. 21:1-4; 22:1-5), but the wicked will be consigned to hell with the devil and his angels (Matt. 25:41). The journey of man will have ended.

CONCLUSION: The great question now is, where will your journey end? While you can, do you not feel compelled to flee from the wrath to come? (Matt. 3:7).

EVIDENCES OF DIVINE CREATION
BY: WESLEY SIMONS

INTRODUCTION:

1. More Atheist and Evolutionist have been produced the last fifty years than ever before, why?
2. We must teach the truth on the origin of man.
3. In this lesson, we will see the shortcomings of evolution and the glory of creation.

I. REASONS WHY EVOLUTION MUST BE FOUGHT:

1. It attacks the existence of God. Genesis 1:1
2. It attacks the Word of God. Genesis 1-3.
3. It attacks man's accountability. II Corinthians 5:10.
4. It attacks Jesus Christ. John 3:16.
5. It attacks the Church. Acts 20:28.
6. It attacks Heaven. John 14:1-3
7. It attacks Hell. Matthew 25:46.
8. It attacks truth. John 8:32.

II. FALSE ARGUMENTS MADE BY THE EVOLUTIONIST ON THE ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE AND LIFE.

1. Big bang theory.
2. Mutation theory.
3. Natural selection theory.
4. "I don't know - I don't need to know theory.

III. FALSE ARGUMENTS MADE BY THE EVOLUTIONIST IN GENERAL TO SUPPORT THEIR THEORY.

1. Comparative anatomy.
2. Vestigial organs
3. Fossil record

4. The evolutionary "men"
 1. Nebraska Man
 2. Neanderthal Man
 3. Pith down Man
 4. Java Man

IV. THE MISSING LINKS

1. Nothing to space
2. Space to matter
3. Matter to living matter
4. Living matter to animals
5. Animals to human beings
6. Non-intelligence to intelligence

V. KNOWN LAWS VIOLATED BY EVOLUTIONARY THEORY

1. Biogenesis. Genesis 1:26, 27; Acts 17:28, 29; Hebrews 12:9
2. Spontaneous generation. John 1:1-3
3. First Law of Thermodynamics. Genesis 2:1, 2
4. Second Law of Thermodynamics. Hebrews 1:10-12
5. Birth or Transformation argument (See Warren/Flew Debate).

VI. WAY TO PROVE GOD'S EXISTENCE

1. By nature. Psalm 19:1-3; Romans 1:18-20.
2. By revelation. Genesis 1:1
 1. Argument for inspiration
 - (a) If the Bible is of such nature that men could not have produced it, then the Bible is the inspired word of God.
 - (b) The Bible is of such nature that men could not have produced it.
 - (b) Therefore the Bible is the inspired Word of God.
 2. A few evidences for inspiration
 - (a) Empty place in North. (Job 26:7).
 - (b) Hung the earth upon nothing (Job 26:7)
 - (c) The earth is round (Isaiah 40:22).
 - (d) The phylum and kind classes could not be crossed. (Genesis 1:24,25).
 - (e) Life brings forth life. (Genesis 1:1)
 - (f) Paths of the sea (Psalm 8)

- (g) Hittite Nation (II Samuel 11:3, 6, 17).
- (h) Stars cannot be numbered (Genesis 15:3-6).

VII. THINGS WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND AS A RESULT OF CREATION.

1. God is. Psalm 19:1-3; Romans 1:18-20
2. The power of God's Word. Psalm 1:18-20
3. The order of authority. I Timothy 2:11-15.
4. All things belong to God. Psalm 89:11
5. The earth is full of God's riches. Psalm 104:24
6. Animals and men are not on the same level. Psalm 8:1-9;
Genesis 1:26, 27.
7. To oppress one's fellowman is to oppress God (the maker)
Proverbs 13:41; 17:5.
8. God is the potter, we are the clay. Isaiah 64:8
9. That man has a spirit within him. Zechariah 12:1.
10. In God we have our being. Acts 17:28
11. We are not in a position to question God. Romans 9:20
12. Every house is built by some man. Hebrews 3:4.
13. All souls are to be entrusted to the creator. I Peter 4:19
14. That He who created the heavens and earth will bring them to an
end. II Peter 3:3-7.
15. God is worth of our adoration. Revelation 4:11.
16. All of the human race comes from Adam and Eve. Genesis 3:20.
17. Creation took place on six literal twenty four hour days and
God rested on the seventh, thus our seven day week.
Exodus 20:8-11; Exodus 31:17.

CONCLUSION:

1. As we make our journey through life we need:
 1. Goal- - John 14:1-3; I Peter 1:3,4.
 2. Road map. - - John 8:32
 3. One to direct us and one we can adore. Psalm 23.
 4. The Atheist and Evolutionist has everything to lose and nothing to
gain. Psalm 14:1.

5. My advice to you is found in Ecclesiastes 12:1.
6. Obey God today - Hebrews 5:8-9
 1. Hear -- Romans 10:17
 2. Believe -- John 8:24
 3. Confess Jesus -- Matthew 10:32,33
 4. Repent -- Luke 13:3,5
 5. And be baptized -- Mark 16:16

MAN'S JOURNEY FROM EDEN TO THE FLOOD
(GENESIS 2:7 - 6:8)
(Clarence Lavender)

INTRODUCTION:

- A. From the beginning of time man has been on a journey. His travel has been smooth at times; but often very rough and disconcerting. His obedience to God has always made the difference. *"O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps"* (Jer. 10:23). At any point in the history of man when he walked in his own ways, he always suffered the consequences.
- B. Man's journey from Eden to the flood exemplifies both attitudes as expressed above.
- C. We begin our study by noticing the relationship of God to Adam and Eve.

I. THE CREATOR IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE CREATED (Chapters 2-3)

- A. The Man Who Was Created From Dust (2:4-7).
 1. After the creation of all plants and animals, no rain on the earth, but a mist that watered the whole face of the ground.
 2. No man as yet to till the ground.
 3. Man is special in God's creation; he not only has within him the breath of life, but is also made a *"living soul."*
- B. Events In The Garden Of Delight (2:8-14).
 1. The location of Eden (?)
 2. The making of every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food.
 3. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil placed in the midst of the garden.
 4. A river with four heads (Pison, Havilah, Gihon, and Euphrates).
- C. God's Command Which Set The Limits (2:15-17).
 1. Adam placed in the garden - to dress and keep it.
 2. The divine prohibition; eat of any tree, but not of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
 3. Consequences of violating God's law: "In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."
 4. Meaning of "die."
- D. The Woman God Made (2:18-25)
 1. The formation of Eve

2. The only lonely thing God made in all of creation was a bachelor.
 3. Adam the first taxonomist
 4. Woman is made from the rib and flesh of man. "Woman" cannot be pronounced without saying "man."
 5. She was called woman because she was taken out of man.
 6. A divine decree: *"Man shall leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh."*
 7. Naked and not ashamed.
- E. The Woman The Serpent Beguiled (3:1-5).
1. The deception of the serpent - "ye shall not surely die."
 2. The serpent was the first to teach polytheism - *"ye shall be as gods."*
 3. The serpent told a half lie and a half truth by his statement.
- F. Disobedience Begets Guilt And Shame (3:6-8).
1. The fall of Adam and Eve
 2. The serpent's appeal: lust of the eye, lust of the flesh and the pride of life (I John 2:16).
 3. Here nakedness first becomes a cause for shame. *"They sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."*
 4. Guilt makes man hide himself from God.
- G. A Summons To The Presence Of God (3:9-13).
1. God asked, *"Where art thou?"* Rhetorical question, God was not seeking information as to their location. There is nothing that God does not know.
 2. Adam blames God and Eve.
 3. Eve confesses: *"The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat."*
- H. The Sentences Pronounced By God (3:14-19).
1. Serpent cursed above all beast, and upon his belly he would go and eat dust all the days of his life.
 2. Prophecy concerning Christ.
 3. Pain in conception, and subjection to her husband
 4. Ground cursed
 5. Work under difficult circumstances.
- I. The Consequences of the Fall (3:20-24).
1. Eve, the mother of all being - PROLIPSIS - an event being related before it's actual time.
 2. Man was driven from the Garden of Eden.
 3. The ground was cursed.
 4. Man was condemned to toil.
 5. Sorrow and pain was introduced.
 6. Man became a sinner.
 7. Man became mortal, a dieable creature.

II. THE FIRST MURDER AND ITS AFTERMATH (4:1-24)

- A. The Murder of Abel, A Trusting Brother (4:1-16).
1. Birth of Cain and Abel
 2. Sacrifices of two brothers
 3. God respected Abel's sacrifice, but rejected Cain's

4. Cain kills his brother Abel.
 5. "Am I my brother's keeper?"
 6. God places a mark upon Cain. "A sign for Cain."
 7. A sevenfold curse upon anyone who killed Cain.
 8. Where did Cain get his wife?
- B. Cain's Rebellious Posterity (4:17-24).
1. Enoch
 2. Irad
 3. Mehujael
 4. Methusael
 5. Lamech
 6. Jabal
 7. Jabul
 8. Tubal-Cain
 9. Naamah (daughter)

III. THE EXPANSION FROM A NEW BEGINNING (4:25 - 6:8).

- A. Adam's Third Son, Seth Is Born (4:25-26).
- B. An Abundance of Years, But Scarcity of Faith (5:1-32).
1. After the birth of Cain, Abel and Seth, Adam and Eve had other sons and daughters.
 2. Adam died at 930 years old.
 3. Enos born to Seth; Seth died at 912 years old.
 4. Cainan born to Enos; Enos died at 905 years old.
 5. Mahalaleel born to Cainan; Cainan died at 910 years old.
 6. Jared born to Mahalaleel; Mahalaleel died at 895 years old.
 7. Enoch born to Jared; Jared died at 962 years old.
 8. Methuselah born to Enoch; Enoch died at 365 (taken by God).
 9. Lamech born to Methuselah; Methuselah died at 969 years old.
 10. Noah born to Lamech; Lamech died at 777 years old.
 11. Shem, Ham and Japheth born to Noah. Noah died at 950 years old. (Genesis 9:29).
- C. The Bible teaches that the people of the antediluvian world were not mere savages, but that they had attained to a considerable degree of civilization.
1. Herdsmen (Genesis 4:20).
 2. Musicians (Genesis 4:21).
 3. Metallurgists (Genesis 4:22).
 4. Builders (Genesis 4:17).
- D. The Great Apostasy (6:1-8).

MAN'S JOURNEY FROM THE FLOOD TO SINAI

A. Lowell Altizer

Some 1650 years from the perfection of Eden, man came to the place when "every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5).

To recleanse the earth, for forty days "all the fountains of the great deep were broken up and the windows of heaven were opened" (Genesis 7:11,12).

To perpetuate all wherein was the breath of life: man, beast and fowl, Noah, who had found grace in God's sight, was given divine instruction to build an ark for the saving of a seed for all (Genesis 6:14-22). Into this ark went Noah and his wife; his sons Shem, Ham and Japheth and their wives; all clean beasts by sevens, male and female; and all unclean beasts by twos, male and female; fowls of the air by sevens, male and female (Genesis 7:1-3).

This Mighty Deluge made the whole earth a sea without a shore as for 150 days the water stood 15 cubits above the highest mountain (Genesis 7:24). For one year and ten days all stayed inside the ark, safe in God's care and subsisting upon the food stored in the ark at the beginning (Genesis 6:21).

Tests were made as to the end of the flood by sending forth a raven which went to and fro. Then a dove that was sent out and returned twice and the third time returned not (Genesis 8:6-12).

All the occupants then came forth from the ark upon an earth that was freed from all sin by the baptismal flood, "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (Not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (I Peter 3:21). Noah then built an altar unto God and made multiple offerings thereupon, a sweet savor unto the Lord, evoking from Him the promise to never again in like manner destroy the earth and it's occupants (Genesis 8:20-22).

More than a century passed by and Noah's offspring multiplied rapidly. All lived in a small geographical area and were of one language. Decision was made by them to "*build us a city and a tower whose top may reach to heaven*" (Genesis 11:4). Of this God did not approve and He confounded their language so they could not understand each other and scattered them abroad upon the face of the whole earth. This brought an end to their building plans and the unfinished edifice was then known as Babel (Genesis 11:1-9).

After the passing of some 326 years after Babel, it was evident that man reverted to his old failures and a new plan was put through Abraham and Sarah to bless all the families of the earth (Genesis 12:1-3). Special divine attention enhanced the fecundity of the barren and aged Sarah to produce Isaac, blessed to produce twins, Jacob and Esau (Genesis 25:21-26). These twins fathered two nations: Jacob for Israel and Esau for the Edomites.

From the loins of Jacob, through his two wives, Rachel and Leah and their respective handmaids, Bilhah and Zilpah, came twelve sons and one daughter. Viz. Asher, Benjamin, Dan, Gad, Issachar, Joseph, Judah, Levi, Naphtali, Reuben, Simeon, Zebulun and Dinah (Genesis 29 and 30). In the passing of time, the offspring of these twelve sons became the sires of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel.

Favors shown Joseph by his father, Jacob, provoked jealousy on the part of his brothers and they sold Joseph to a group of Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver. The brothers then took his "coat of many colours" and dipped

it in the blood of a goat and returned it to Jacob, who concluded that Joseph had been slain by some beast (Genesis 38:27-34).

The Ishmeelites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, captian of Pharaoh's guard. Potiphar's wife sought Joseph's affection and was rejected. This resulted in her accusing him falsely and his imprisonment. Therein Joseph interpreted the dream of Pharaoh's butler and was given a chance later to intrepret a dream of Pharaoh. This dream had to do with seven years of coming fruitfulness of the land followed by seven years of famine.

Joseph was elevatd and given charge of storing during the fruitfulness for the days of the famine. During the famine people came from afar to buy food. Among the comers were Joseph's own brothers. At their second coming Joseph revealed himself to them. This resulted in the whole family coming to Egypt (75 souls Acts 7:14) and they dwelt in Goshen to care for the cattle of Pharaoh.

Joseph married Asenath, daughter of Potipherah, priest of On, and produced two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. The aged Jacob gave a special blessing to these two boys and they inherited with Jacob's own sons (Genesis 48). Manasseh and Ephraim are numbered with the other ten, since Levi and Joseph had no inheritance, to make the twelve tribes.

In the passing of time Joseph died at age 110 after giving orders that he be not buried in Egypt so he was put in a coffin and kept to be buried may years thereafter (Genesis 25-26; Joshua 24:32).

Years passed and a new king, "which new not Joseph" ruled. He feared that the rapid growth of the Israelite would soon out number the Egyptians and they would rebell. To solve this was the order to midwives to kill all male babies delivered to Israelite women.

During this order Moses was born to Amram and Jochebed of the tribe of Levi (Exodus 6:20; Exodus 2). The baby was set afloat on the Nile and found by Pharaoh's daughter who took him for her own. In pharaoh's house he grew to manhood and at age 40 fled there from to serve as herdsman for Jethro. While thus serving, the Lord spoke to him from the burning bush on Horeb and he along with Aaron were sent to lead Israel from Egypt.

Ten plagues were brought upon Egypt before Pharaoh relented to let them go. Namely: river to blood, frogs, lice, flies, murrain, boils, hail, locusts, darkness and death of first born. Through the keeping of the passover, Israel was spared (Exodus 12). This passover was observed annually until Luke 22:7-16 and found fulfillment in Christ (I Corinthians 5:7).

By miracle they crossed a divided Red Sea wherein Pharaoh's army was destroyed (Exodus 14). Manna fed them (Exodus 16) and water from the rock quinched their thirst (Exodus 17:6; I Corinthians 10:4). In the wilderness they were attacked by Amalek and God promised his utter destruction (Exodus 17:14; I Samuel 15).

In the third month after leaving Egypt they came to Sinai. There, the "schoolmaster, added because of transgression" (Galatians 3:24, 19) was

delivered, the law of Moses. When it had served its purpose it was taken away (Colossians 2:14).

MAN'S JOURNEY FROM MOUNT SINAI TO MOUNT CALVARY
Halliburton Greer

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Distance Mount Sinai is from Mount Calvary.
 - 1. Air miles--about 350 miles
 - 2. Time-wise--about 1500 years.
- B. Action on Mount Sinai verses action on Mount Calvary.
 - 1. Law given to Moses--God was present.
 - 2. Life taken from Jesus--God was absent. *"My God, My God why hast thou forsaken me."*
- C. The people were similar in both instances.
 - 1. At Sinai, the Israelites were feasting and playing, forgetting what God had done for them and asking for an idol.
 - 2. At Calvary, the Jews were mocking, making fun of Jesus, ridiculing Him, taunting Him. They, too, forgot what God had done.

I. PURPOSE OF LAW:

- A. Man's inability to walk without a guide--textbook. (Jeremiah 10:23).
- B. School Master (teacher) (Galatians 3:23 & 24).
 - 1. Pedagogue (Barnes Notes and Adam Clark's Commentary).
 - 2. Preparation for the coming of the Messiah.
- C. Promise of Messiah -- (Content or Guide)
 - 1. Abraham -- Genesis 12:1-3
 - 2. Moses -- Deuteronomy 18 & 19 (15-22).
 - 3. Isaiah -- Isaiah 7:14.

II. LAW'S SCHEME OF REDEMPTION IN:

- A. Type:
 - 1. Promise Land/Heaven, "cannot enter into rest."
 - 2. Passover Lamb/Christ
 - 3. Tabernacle/Church. (Hebrews 8:2)
 - 4. Dead animal sacrifice/Living sacrifice.
 - 5. Holy of Holies & Mercy Seat/Heaven & God's Throne.
 - 6. Incense/Prayer.
- B. Shadow:
 - 1. Protection.....Psalm 91:1
 - 2. Brevity.....Psalm 102:11

- 3. Evening.....Job 7:2
- 4. Rest.....Isaiah 32:2
- 5. Change.....James 1:17
- 6. Death.....Matthew 4:16
- 7. Types.....Colossians 2:16 & 17
- 8. Old Testament Period.....Hebrews 10:1

C. Symbols--spiritual truths:

- 1. Rainbow.....Genesis 9:12 & 13
- 2. Circumcision
 - a. God's.....Genesis 17:1-14
 - b. Covenant.....Romans 4:11
- 3. Passover.....Exodus 12:3-28
- Christ.....I Cor. 5:7
- 4. Mercy Seat.....Exodus 25:17-22
- Christ.....Romans 3:25
- 5. Rock--Christ.....I Cor. 10:4
- 6. Blood-Sprinkled:
 - a. Animal's.....Exodus 12:21 & 22
 - b. Christ'.....I Peter 1:18 & 19
- 7. Bronze:
 - a. Serpent.....Numbers 21:8 & 9
 - b. Christ.....John 3:14
- 8. Lamb---Christ.....John 1:29
- 9. Bread and Wine:
 - a. The New Covenant.....Matthew 26:26-28
 - I Cor. 11:23-29.

III. PEOPLE FAILED TO KEEP THE LAW.

Why--the law did not require personal sacrifice--(life), Christ died for us instead. Only Isaac was ever required to be offered as a sacrifice, besides Christ, and Isaac was not under the law.

Today, about 3500 years after the giving of the law at Mount Sinai, we find the things that beset the people then are still besetting the world today. And all of them can be put under the broad umbrella of **DISOBEDIENCE**.

The Jews disobeyed God and suffered the consequences of their actions. Today, when we disobey Christ, we will suffer the consequences of our actions.

- A. What people were to do.....Numbers 33:50-56
- B. What the people did.....Judges 1:21-36
- C. How soon we forget.....Judges 2:6-15
- D. Ezekiel 20:10-20
- E. Acts 15:5-11

IV. SALVATION NOT IN THE LAW

- A. Hebrews 10:1-10
- B. Hebrews 8:1-13

| | |
|--------------|----------|
| C. Jeremiah | 31:31-34 |
| D. Hebrews | 7:19 |
| E. Galatians | 2:16 |
| F. Romans | 3:20 |
| G. Acts | 13:39 |
| H. Hebrews | 6:18 |

MAN'S JOURNEY IN THE CHURCH (Ed Devault)

INTRODUCTION

Life is a challenge... and each of us must face the challenge as best we can. We read in Jeremiah 20:28, "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." Our journey in life begins with:

1. Infancy
2. Childhood
3. Adolescence
4. Terrible Teens
5. Finally, Adulthood

Along the way, each individual begins to more and more become responsible for himself. Jeremiah offers a serious note, when he said "The way of man is not in himself... especially to direct his own steps." We must choose our *Journey in Life!*

I. WHICH DIRECTION SHALL I GO

Where will I go? Which direction will I go? How will I travel through this life? To answer these questions, let us consider what God's Word tells us in Matthew 7:13,14.

- 2 Decisions: Shall I enter into life by the Strait Gate, or by the wide gate?
- 2 Ways\Journeys: One that will be Narrow, one will be broad.
- 2 Destinies/Journey's Ends: One leads to life, the other leads to destruction.

The saddest thing of all is, "few" make the right decision... to follow the correct way; while "many" make the wrong decision in choosing to follow the incorrect way!

The journey that leads to Life is provided in the church that Jesus built!

II. THE CHURCH THAT JESUS BUILT

How did the church come into existence? What was it like? How can we still find it today? To answer these questions, let us read Matthew 16:13-19.

- A. The Church Was To Be Built By Jesus: "I ..will build my church.."
 - 1. Who was Jesus?
 - 2. Peter answered, "Why, you're none other than the Christ, the Son of the living God."
- B. The Church Was To Begin In The Future: "I.. *WILL BUILD*.. my church."
 - 1. It still did not exist by Acts chapter 1 (Acts 1:6).
 - 2. By the fifth chapter of Acts it is in existence (Acts 5:11).
 - 3. We learn in Acts chapter 2 the church began (Acts 2:47).
- C. The Church Belongs To Jesus: "I will build.. *MY*.. church"
 - 1. Christ is its Head (Col. 1:18).
 - 2. He purchased it with His own blood (Acts 20:28).
 - 3. Over it He has all authority (Matt. 20:28).
 - 4. It is what He will return and take to Heaven (1 Cor. 15:24).
 - 5. If Jesus *owns* the church--should it not wear His name?
 - 6. If Jesus is the *Head* of the church--should we not listen to Him, and not some council, Synog, or pope?
 - 7. If Jesus is the *Savior* of the church--should we not be a part of it?

III. THE CHURCH JESUS BUILT WILL BE TRIUMPHANT

After saying, "I will build my church," Jesus further said, "And the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." From that time to this--NO POWER has destroyed the church! It--its members who die faithfully in it--will triumphantly be presented to God (1 Cor. 15:34).

IV. PETER WAS TO ANNOUNCE THE TERMS OF ENTRANCE INTO THE CHURCH

- A. To Peter and the other apostles, Jesus promised to give the "Keys of the kingdom of heaven."
- B. What were those terms of entrance? (Acts 2:38,47).

CONCLUSION

Many "churches" have been created--Yet, Jesus only promised to build one! Many have begun, but their end is sure (Matt. 15:13).

--God knew we would need help in making the correct decisions in life.

--To assist man in making the right decisions and taking the right journey in life, God through Christ gave man the church.

--Everyone has access to it; it's conditions are clearly set.

--Those who are members of it will ultimately be victorious.. for through that "Strait Gate," along that Narrow Way" of life, there awaits HEAVEN!

Moses yearned for that Promised Land--May God help us to yearn/crave/look forward to that heavenly home we can gain as we JOURNEY THIS LIFE IN THE CHURCH!

MAN'S JOURNEY IN THE CHURCH

FEW ←———— WHICH DIRECTION SHALL I GO? —————→ MANY
Matt. 7:13,14

2 Decisions

2 Ways

2 Destinies

THE CHURCH THAT JESUS BUILT
Matt. 16:13-20

1 Who Is Jesus?

WILL BUILD

In The Future
Acts 1:6; 5:11; 2:47

MY Belongs To Jesus

CHURCH

Built Only One !
Eph. 4:4; 1:22,23

THE CHURCH JESUS BUILT WILL BE TRIUMPHANT
1 Cor. 15:24

THE TERMS OF ENTRANCE INTO THE CHURCH
"Keys To The Kingdom"

Acts 2:38,47

MAN'S JOURNEY INTO APOSTASY

Kent Bailey

TEXT: II TIMOTHY 4:1-8

INTRODUCTION: The Bible is God's Divine record to humanity giving us absolute truth that will enable us to ultimately reach eternal fellowship with God in Heaven. While certainly it is indeed the desire of God for humanity to be saved, we must never forget that God's plan is to save humanity **FROM** sin not **IN** sin.. When Go's plan is rejected **APOSTASY** is inevitable!

I. APOSTASY DEFINED

1. By the term "Apostasy" we refer to a departure from the faith.
2. Such was predicted in the New Testament as reality:
 - A. Acts 20:28-31
 - B. I Timothy chapter 4.

II. APOSTASY DELINEATED

1. The original New Testament Church was universal in its nature and local in its organization.
2. There was no hierarchy and no ecclesiastical machinery.
3. All of the saved were added to it.--Acts 2:47
4. After being added by the Lord to the Church universally, individual Christians had the responsibility to identify organizationally with an existing congregation or collectively ban together and form a local church.
 - A. Acts 9:26
 - B. Titus 1:5
5. The local Church, with Elders whose jurisprudence and jurisdiction were local **ONLY** and **NEVER** extended beyond congregational lines was the **ONLY** organization.--I Peter 5:1-4
 - A. No man was called the Master save the Lord, Jesus Christ.
 - B. The rule of Elders was an is under Christ, that of expostulation and enforcing the will of Christ in the Church of Christ.
6. The supremacy and function of the local Church as God's only collective functioning unit is thus affirmed by the New Testament:
 - A. Local Churches were organized for worship.--Hebrews 10:25
 - B. Local Churches were organized for edification--Ephesians 4:11-16
 - C. Local Churches were organized for benevolence--Acts 6:1-6
 - D. Local Churches were organized for evangelism--Mark 16:15
 - E. Local Churches were organized for discipline--I Cor. 5:1-8
7. When men seek to change God's plan for the designation, organization, worship and work of the local Church or terms of entrance to the universal Church (body) of Christ, apostasy results.--II Thess. 2:9-12.

III. APOSTASY DEVELOPED

1. In spite of the Divine warnings of coming apostasy, brethren would not be warned.

2. By the second century departures began to take place in doctrine and organization of the Church.
3. Finally by 606 A.D. Boniface III became the first Pope and by the turn of the century the use of mechanical instruments of music in the worship assemblies had been accepted.
4. Not only was the Bible rejected as the **ONLY** standard of authority but the political yoke became so galling that open division was inevitable!
 - A. Division over instrumental music resulted in the establishment of the Eastern Greek Orthodox Catholic Church.
 - B. Disagreement over the Pope's political authority as well as controversy regarding Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage brought about the Anglican Church (also known as the Church of England).
5. The rejection of Biblical salvation by one's **OBEDIENT** faith had been rejected for salvation by relics, money, gadgets and gook! such led noble men to seek Bible teaching.
6. The rejection of Biblical salvation by one's **OBEDIENT** faith had been rejected for salvation by relics, money, gadgets and gook! Such led noble men to seek Bible teaching.
7. The period of enlightenment became a movement to **REFORM** the church of Rome. While we appreciate the efforts of those men to reject many of the ungodly practices of Roman Catholicism; it is very unfortunate that they did not see the need to **RESTORE** the church of the New Testament.
 - A. Lutheran denomination
 - B. Baptist denomination
 - C. Presbyterian denomination
 - D. Wesley Brothers Methodist Movement in Church of England

IV. APOSTASY DEFRATED

1. The identity of the New Testament Church is **NOT** accomplished through a means of unbroken chain of succession of local Churches from the present to Pentecost in 30 A.D.
2. If one **COULD** trace the history of a local congregation all the way back to Jerusalem it would not necessarily insure its faithfulness.
3. The only way of true identity of the New Testament Church is by identification and application of its characteristics as found in the word of God. -- Luke 8:11
 - A. This principle was recognized by the Campbells, Stone, Johnson, Dasher and others in accepting the principle of restoration of New Testament christianity.
 - B. The identity of the church is thus accomplished by Restoration not succession!
4. The principles of restoration:
 - A. Origin
 - B. Doctrine
 - C. Name
 - D. Organization
 - E. Worship
 - F. Work
5. Let us always remember that the war against apostasy HAS NOT been won!
6. Such re-occurred in the church after its restoration on the American Continent. (Missionary Society and Instrumental Music).
7. Such has **ALREADY** occurred with another division extant in the Church of the Lord today!

- A. Pentecostalism
 - B. Premillennialism
 - C. Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage
 - D. Crossroads Movement
 - E. Unity/Grace Movement
8. Let us always remind ourselves that such is sinful and will destroy one's fellowship with God both now and in eternity.--II Peter 2:20-22

CONCLUSION: May God grant us the moral courage to reject both false teaching and false teachers and stand identified with the Church revealed in the New Testament. Christ is its Savior! Christ is its Lord! Christ is its King!

MAN'S JOURNEY IN THE INTERMEDIATE STATE

INTRODUCTION

- A. Man exists in three states: The fleshly, the Intermediate and the Eternal. Our attention in this lesson will focus Intermediate state.
 - 1. The word "intermediate" literally means that which is between two extremes. The intermediate state of man is the time between the physical death of man and the resurrection of the dead.
 - 2. We to some degree understand what happens to the physical man. He returns to the dust--Eccl. 12:6-7.
 - 3. Yet it's the spiritual part of man that causes us to ask the question, "After death--then what?"
 - (1) Many have claimed they have returned to life and tell there experiences.
 - (2) Do you suppose Lazarus was asked about his experience?
 - (3) Paul's experience in the third heaven. II Cor. 12:2
- B. Each day as we read the death notices in the paper, we become not only aware of the brevity of life, but become aware of those changing states in there existence.
- C. As we follow man's journey in the intermediate state let us examine it from three perspectives:
 - I. FALSE DOCTRINES TAUGHT REGARDING THE INTERMEDIATE STATE OF THE DEAD
 - A. The false doctrine that death is the end of man's existence.
 - B. The false doctrine that the soul sleeps.
 - C. The false doctrine of reincarnation.
 - D. The false doctrine of purgatory.

II. THE BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE OF MAN'S JOURNEY IN THE INTERMEDIATE STATE

- A. Understanding several terms is necessary when discussing this state of man's existence:
 - 1. Gehenna--translated Hell.
 - 2. Hades--the unseen or the invisible world
 - (1) Paradise--Place of the righteous.
 - (2) Tartarus--Place of the wicked. II Peter 2:4
- B. A discussion of the Rich Man and Lazarus--Luke 16:19-31
 - 1. Lazarus and Rich Man in the intermediate state.
 - 2. Both are aware of their situation.
 - 3. While both are in the intermediate state, they are not in the same place.
 - 4. They are separated by a great gulf.
 - 5. They cannot change places or return to the fleshly state.
- C. Where did the spirit of Jesus go after he died on the cross and before his ascension to the Father?
 - 1. Luke 23:43
 - 2. John 20:17
- D. When individuals die today, where do they go?
 - 1. When individuals die they enter the intermediate state of existence.
 - 2. They go to either Paradise or Tartarus.
 - 3. They remain there until the resurrection and judgement.
 - 4. Why do they not just go straight to Heaven or Hell. Is there then a need for the Judgement?

III. THE CONSOLATION THIS INTERMEDIATE STATE OF MAN PROVIDES FOR CHRISTIANS

- A. Dead can then be considered blessed:
 - 1. Psalms 116:15 Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.
 - 2. Revelation 14:13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."
- B. This can be a source of comfort to a struggling Christians.
- C. A source of comfort to those who have lost Christian loved ones.
 - 1. A sense of relief.
 - 2. A sense of release.
 - 3. A sense of graduation.

CONCLUSION

- A. Yes, death will always be to some degree a mystery. We would like to know more. God's word is sufficient!

- B. Our place in the intermediate state will be determined by the life we live in the physical or fleshly state of existence.
- C. The intermediate state is divided into two parts.
 - 1. Paradise for the saved
 - 2. Tartarus for the lost
- D. At the return of Christ those in the Hades realm will be resurrected and those who are alive when Christ returns will be judged. The righteous will go to Heaven and the wicked to Hell!

"MAN'S JOURNEY IN HELL"
JERRY BROWN

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Hell is a depressing word.
- B. Hell becomes more depressive when compared to Heaven.
- C. Two meanings of Hell are used in the King James Version.
 - 1. It means the unseen world of the dead. (Hebrew-Sheol; Greek Hades)
 - 2. It means a place of eternal torment. (Gehanna and Tartarus)
- D. This lesson will discuss the place of eternal torment.
- E. Three points will be discussed in this lecture:
 - 1. Hell is the final state of the wicked.
 - 2. The Biblical description of Hell is torment.
 - 3. Hell will last eternally.
- F. Several significant scriptures need to be known about Hell:
Revelation 20:13-14, Matthew 13:42, Psalm 9:17, Matthew 25:41, Matthew 25:46, Revelation 14:11, Matthew 12:8, Matthew 23:13, Mark 9:43-44, Revelation 21:8.

II. HELL IS THE FINAL STATE OF THE WICKED.

- A. Many will go to hell. (Matthew 7:13-14).
- B. Those who satisfy fleshy lusts will go to hell. (Revelation 21:8)
- C. Unbelievers will go to hell (Revelation 21:8; John 8:24).
- D. Disobedient believers will go to hell (John 12:42-43)
- E. Uncharitable Christians will go to hell. (Matthew 25:42, 44-46).
- F. Good moral people like Cornelius will go to hell. (Acts 10:1-2, Acts 11:14)

- G. Some Church members will go to hell:
 - 1. Lukewarm Christians are condemned. (Revelation 3:16. Acts 2:42, I Corinthians 15:58).
 - 2. Unfaithful Christians are condemned. (II Peter 2:20-22).
 - 3. Hypocrites are condemned (Matthew 23:15).
- H. All disobedient and all sinners are lost (II Thessalonians 1:7-9; I Peter 4:17,18; Romans 6:23; Romans 3:10; Romans 3:23; Mark 16:16).
 - I. Hell is the last abode of all the unrighteous.
 - 1. Hell follows judgement (Hebrews 9:27)
 - 2. After death, there is no return (Luke 16:26).

III. WHAT IS HELL LIKE?

- A. It is a place of torment.
 - 1. One torment is the furnace of fire (Matthew 13:41-42).
 - 2. It is a place of unbearable pain (Matthew 13:49,50).
 - 3. It is a place of separation from the just (Matthew 13:49,50).
 - 4. It is a place of vengeance (II Thessalonians 1:7-9).
- B. Hell is a place with a terrible physical description.
 - 1. It is a place of outer darkness (Unprepared wedding guest (Matthew 22:13; Apostates-Matthew 12:8; Reprobates - Jude 13)
 - 2. There is no rest in hell (Revelation 14:11).
 - 3. It is a place of unquenchable fire (Mark 9:43).
 - 4. It is a place of no death and no escape (Mark 9:44).
- C. Hell is the home of the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41).
- D. Every description of hell is tragic, painful, and unpleasant.

IV. HOW LONG WILL MAN'S JOURNEY IN HELL LAST?

- A. There is only one answer from the Scriptures to this question.
 - 1. Hell will last eternally (Matthew 25:41).
 - 2. Hell will last for ever and ever (Revelation 14:11)
- B. Other Scriptures teach that Hell will last eternally.
 - 1. Matthew 25:46 teaches an everlasting punishment.
 - 2. Revelation 14:11 teaches there is no rest day nor night.
 - 3. Revelation 20:10 says there will be torment day and night for ever and ever.
- C. Hell will be the same length as Heaven (Matthew 25:46).

V. CONCLUSION:

- A. Man's journey in Hell is the final state of the wicked, a journey filled with pain and agony, a journey that lasts eternally.
- B. Man now has the time and opportunity to obey his Lord and miss the disaster of eternal hell.

- C. God has provided a way of escape through His only Son.
- D. Obedience to the Gospel plan of salvation gives forgiveness of past sins, and faithful living gives the hope of eternal life.

WHY I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN
I PETER 1:3-5
BY-RDDY CRAFT

INTRODUCTION:

- A. What a topic!
- B. Mid McKnight once said...
- C. Have you ever considered what had to take place in order for us to go to Heaven?
 - 1. God had to give His only begotten Son (John 3:16).
 - 2. The Son of God had to leave Heaven and come to earth.
 - 3. The Holy Spirit had to guide the Apostles into all truth (John 16:13).
- D. I can only speak for myself but I want to go to Heaven because:

I. IT IS RIGHT:

- A. There are some things that just aren't right:
 - 1. It's not right to love the world.
(I John 2:15-17; Matthew 6:19-20; James 4:4).
 - 2. It's not right to love money
(I Timothy 6:10; Matthew 19:16-26; Luke 16:19-31).
- B. It is right to want to go to Heaven;
 - 1. We sing it
 - 2. We ought to show it (Matthew 5:16).
- C. Not only is it right to want to go to Heaven, but there are also reasons why we should want to go.

II. REASONS WHY I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN:

- A. A place of **REST**: (Matthew 11:28-30; II Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 14:13).
- B. A place of **RIGHTHOUSNESS**: (II Peter 3:13).
- C. A place of **REWARD**: (Matthew 5:11-12).
 - 1. It is an inheritance (I Peter 1:4).
 - 2. It is glorious (Romans 8:18; Col. 3:4).
 - 3. It is better and enduring (Hebrews 10:34).
 - 4. It is a place of no darkness or sun (Rev.22:5)
 - 5. It is a place of no death or pain (Rev. 21:4).

6. It is a place of no wickedness (Rev. 22:15).
 7. It is a place of no sorrow (Rev. 7:17; 21:4).
- D. Heaven is **REMARKABLE** (Hebrews 11:10).
1. It is eternal (Matthew 25:46; Rev. 22:5).
 2. It is a city (Hebrews 13:14).
 3. It is a holy city (Rev.21:10-27).
 4. It is not made with hands (II Corinthians 5:1).
- E. Heaven is **REAL** (I Peter 1:3-5).
1. Matthew 5:48; 6:19-20.
 2. Heaven is not just a figment of someone's imagination.
- F. Heaven is a place of **RESIDENCE** (II Corinthians 5:1).
1. God will be there (Matthew 6:9).
 2. Christ will be there (Hebrews 9:12, 24; 10:12).
 3. The Holy Spirit will be there (John 14:16).
 4. Angels are there (Matthew 18:10; 24:35).
 5. The redeemed will be there (Hebrews 11; Matthew 25:31-46).
 6. The righteous saints (Matthew 25:34,37; 13:34).
 7. The saved (John 3:5; 18:21).
 8. Those who endure (Revelation 2:10).
 9. The obedient (Revelation 22:14; John 5:29).
 10. The poor in spirit (Matthew 5:3).
 11. The persecuted (Matthew 5:11, 12).
 12. Song "*Home Of The Soul.*"
- G. Because my full **REDEMPTION WILL BE REALIZED**:
1. In the flesh I must continue to struggle (Galatians 5:16-17).
 2. I must be faithful (James 1:21; I Peter 1:9).
 3. The resurrected Body (I Corinthians 15:35-50). Immortality will be mine eternally.

III. RESULTS OF THOSE WHO WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN:

- A. A crown of Righteousness (II Timothy 4:6-8).
- B. Crown of Life (Revelations 2:10).
- C. The Seven Churches of Asia:
 1. Ephesus = overcome = Tree of Life
 2. Smyrna = overcome = No second death
 3. Pergamos = overcome = A new name
 4. Thyatira = overcome = Morning Star
 5. Sardis = overcome = confess name
 6. Philadelphia = overcome = Pillar in the temple
 7. Laodicea = overcome = Set in temple.
- D. Mansion (John 14:1-3).

CONCLUSION:

- A. Do you want to go to Heaven? There are a number of questions that you need to answer:
 - 1. Are you "enrolled" in Heaven? (Philippians 4:3) This is greater than and earthly roll!
 - 2. Is your name written in Heaven? (Luke 10:17-20; Heb. 12:23).
 - 3. Is your citizenship in Heaven? (Philippians 3:20).

- B. If you answered the above in the affirmative, that's great, but did you know: that your name can be blotted out? (Revelation 20:11-15; 21:27).

- C. My hope is in Heaven!
 - 1. I Corinthians 15:19, . . . "if have hope only in this life . . ."
 - 2. I Peter 1:3, I Peter 3:15).
 - 3. In hope of eternal life (Titus 3:7; Romans 8:24).

- D. The choice is yours!
 - 1. Joshua 24:15
 - 2. Heaven or Hell - which will it be?

- E. Our text emphasizes the following:
 - 1. "Incorruptible" (Things on earth decay).
 - 2. "Undefiled" (Pollution everywhere today).
 - 3. "Fadeth not away" (Never lose it's luster.)
 - 4. "Reserved in Heaven" (Not on earth) (Ecc. 9:5-6).

- F. Assured by the "Power of God."
 - 1. Maintained by our faith.
 - 2. Revelation 2:10.

JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE
(LADIES CLASS-LESSON I)
Martha Bentley

Introduction: Our journey through life began in a garden of Paradise and will, if we are faithful, end in a beautiful city. We were created perfect in the spiritual image of God (John 4:24), placed in the role of helper to man and set in a perfect garden with a close relationship with God. Only three commands were given, two of which were positive (Genesis 1:28; 2:15). One was negative and with it one promise was given (Genesis 2:17). Then came the devil!!! When Adam and Eve broke the commandment, God kept the promise (Genesis 3:22-24), and the road of life is now divided.

I. AT THE DIVISION OF THE ROADS

- A. Two ways evident according to our road map
 - 1. Jeremiah 21:8
 - 2. Isaiah 35:8
 - 3. Matthew 7:13
 - 4. We are free to choose

- B. Signs to help us choose
 - 1. Joshua 24:15
 - 2. Psalm 119:105
 - 3. Psalm 73:3-12
 - 4. Proverbs 1:10
 - 5. I Corinthians 10:13
 - 6. II Peter 3:9

II. CHOOSING THE BROAD WAY

- A. A way wide enough for all----plenty of company
- B. Maintained by the devil
 - 1. Appearance appealing but deceitful
 - a. Proverbs 16:25
 - 2. Early warning signs
 - a. Matthew 16:6
 - b. Mark 12:38-40
 - c. Luke 12:15
 - d. Philippians 3:2, 17:19
 - e. James 4:3-7
 - f. If we heed not these our hearts will be hardened
 - (1) Hebrews 3:12-13; 6:4-6
 - (as our hearts harden we will see fewer signs)
- C. "Enter at your own risk"....the choice is ours
- D. Many enticing roadside attractions
 - 1. Galatians 5:19-21
 - 2. False (denominational) doctrines and practices.
- E. Entrance ramps numerous - Exists well-guarded
 - 1. Exit only through repentance and prayer or return to the forks in the road
 - a. repentance route difficult
 - (1) facing heavy traffic
 - (2) road rocky
 - 2. Exit by own choice
 - a. no miraculous events nor voice from the Spirit

III. SOME EXAMPLES OF THOSE WHO CHOSE BROAD WAY

- A. Potipher's wife (Genesis 39:7-20).
- B. Jezebel (II Kings 9).
- C. Athaliah (II Chronicles 22:2-3, 10-12; 23:12-15; 24:7).
- D. Herodias (Mark 16:17-28).
- E. Sapphira (Acts 5)

IV. DESTINATION OF THE BROAD WAY

- A. Romans 6:21
- B. Philippians 3:18-19
- C. Hebrews 10:26-29
- D. Revelation 21:8
- E. Romans 13:2
- F. II Peter 2:20-22
- G. Matthew 25:41
- H. Luke 16:17-26...No hope
- I. Ephesians 2:12

Conclusion: If God's word is true, and it surely is (John 17:17; Psalm 119:160) and if choosing the broad way leads to destruction, which we have shown, then "how shall we escape...." (Hebrews 2:3)?

JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE **LADIES CLASS - LESSON II** **Martha Bentley**

Introduction: Since we have seen the folly of choosing the broad road through life, let us now examine the narrow way and make comparison.

I. ENTRANCE ALSO BY OUR OWN CHOICE

- A. False doctrine of elect and non-elect
- B. No direct operation of Holy Spirit or voice from God
- C. Chosen by those who seek it (Hebrews 11:6)

II. NOT A SMOOTH WAY

- A. Many potholes
 - 1. Idleness (Proverbs 19:15; I Peter 5:8)
 - 2. Persecution
 - a. from without (Psalm 143:3; Matthew 5:11-12).
 - b. from brethren (I Corinthians 3:3; 6:7-8; I Thessalonians 5:13; II Corinthians 11:26)
 - 3. Discouragement (Philippians 4:6; Psalm 37:25)
 - 4. Illness and infirmities (Proverbs 18:14; Romans 15:1).
 - 5. Sorrow (I Thessalonians 4:13-18).
 - 6. Selfishness and pride

7. Hypocrisy of others (Proverbs 12:9; Job 20:5; 27:8).
8. Discontent (Philippians 4:11; I Timothy 6:6).

B. Many Exits

1. False doctrine (evolution; humanism; denominations)
2. Forsaking the assembly (James 4:17; Hebrews 10:25)
 - a. harvest greater than the seeds sown
3. Laziness (Ecclesiastes 9:10; 12:14; John 9:4; Ephesians 4:28; Nehemiah 4:6).
4. Recreation (TV; books and magazines; movies; mixed swimming)
 - a. where do we place God?
5. Misuse of tongue (Proverbs 26:20; James 3:2-12; Proverbs 15:2; 25:11).
6. Adultery (Proverbs 3:11-12; Matthew 19:4-9)
7. Abortion (murder?)
8. Immodest apparel
 - a. example to others
 - b. reverence toward God
 - c. respect for husband
 - d. self-respect
9. Stewardship
 - a. not just money...time, a precious commodity
10. Outside job (reasons?)

III. BILLBOARDS - SIGNS

- A. Attractive signs showing what is ahead
 1. Not alone on road (Psalm 23; Micah 6:8; Hebrews 13:5)
 2. Necessities will be provided (Matthew 6:25-30)
 3. Hope of glory (Hebrews 6:18; 10:19-20; Colossians 1:27)
 4. Promise of inheritance (Revelations 21:7; Matthew 19:27-30; 25:34; I Peter 3:8-9; Hebrews 9:15).
 5. Great and precious promises (II Peter 1:4).
- B. Warning signs
 1. Take heed (Mark 4:24; Luke 8:18).
 2. Beware (Luke 12:15)
 3. Study (II Timothy 2:15)
 4. Search (John 5:39; Jeremiah 29:13; Acts 17:11)
 5. Seek (Proverbs 8:17; Isaiah 34:16; Matthew 6:33)
 6. Stand (I Corinthians 16:13; Ephesians 6:13-14; Philippians 1:27; I Corinthians 15:58)

IV. THE END OF THE ROAD

- A. New Heaven - Holy City (Revelation 21).
- B. Eternal joy (II Corinthians 5:1)
- C. Rest (Revelations 14:13).

Conclusion: "What's the use of running if we are on the wrong road?"...
German Proverb.

"FROM CHRIST'S CRADLE TO HIS GRAVE"

(By Wayne Miller)

INTRODUCTION

One of the most profound passages in all of the Bible is I John 3:1-3
"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as he is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."

This concept that imperfect man can somehow, through the goodness of God, aspire to sonship of the Father is astounding. God had granted men long generations to demonstrate by their own failure that they could not save themselves from the clutches and stain of sin. For fallen man's relationship to be restored with the Father in heaven, the life, work, and death of Christ is a necessity.

I. THE MOTIVATION OF CHRIST

- A. The eternal plan of God has always involved the good and benefit of mankind.
 - 1. This plan begins with the promise of God to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3)
 - 2. It culminates with God's son, Jesus Christ - II Tim. 1:10
- B. Jesus was willingly obedient to God's plan - Hebrews 5:8-9
 - 1. He served the will of God - John 6:38
 - 2. On one coerced Christ to obey - John 10:17,18.
- C. The motivation of Christ was **L-O-V-E**.
 - 1. Certainly the best known and beloved words that appear in the New Testament demonstrate Christ's love - John 3:16
 - 2. Love is the motivation for all that Christ accomplished for man. It is demonstrated in the service he rendered.

II. THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST

- A. The Lord had a message that originated with God. John 8:28.
 - 1. His message was and is needed by men of every station in life: rich, poor, sick, well, educated uneducated, - all men need the Lord's message.
 - 2. His message is the truth which makes men free. John 8:31-32
 - 3. It is not altered by circumstances, times, locations or what anyone may or may not think of it.
- B. With such a burning love for truth, Christ necessarily despised that which was false and erroneous.
 - 1. He warned, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves" (Matthew 7:15).

2. He cautioned the Apostles: *"Take heed and beware of the leaven (teachings) of the Pharisees and Sadducees"* (Matthew 16:6,11,12).
 3. Christ lashed out against doctrinal errors: *"Ye (Pharisees) have made void the word of God because of your tradition"* and *"In vain do they worship me, teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men"* (Matthew 15:6,8).
- C. Christ expressed His hatred for error through His works as well as His words.
1. His life of teaching was almost one continuous debate with, and refutation of, the religious errorist of His day.
 2. Scribes, Pharisees, Herodians, Sadducees - they all attacked him and sought to ensnare Him.
 3. He faithfully fought the battle against error because He knew its end was damnation: *"If the blind guide the blind, both shall fall into a pit"* (Matthew 15:14).
- D. Christ's preaching of truth resulted in three reactions.
1. Rejection - Matthew 11:20-23
 2. Resentment - Luke 4:22-29; Matthew 22:15-40
 3. Reception - Luke 7:36-50

III. THE MISSION OF CHRIST

- A. God, who is sinlessly perfect, cannot tolerate sin in His presence; therefore sin alienates men from God (Isaiah 59:1,2).
- B. As a result of sin's destructive consequences and man's helplessness to overcome it without a Saviour, Christ's mission is to save man - Matthew 1:21; Luke 19:10.
- C. Jesus was so concerned for the lost that he worked in every possible way to reach them.
1. True purpose of His miraculous activity is made clear - John 20:30,31).
 - a. He opened blind eyes, deaf ears, healed the cripple, cured the leper, he even raised the dead.
 - b. He performed these works that men would know he was from God.
 2. His brief earthly life was spent traveling, teaching, healing and helping all to one end: to redeem lost men (Mark 10:45).
 3. Many of His teachings are direct appeals to the lost - Luke 15
 4. Truly, all that Christ said and did had focus in saving man from the curse of sin.
- D. Christ's concern for the lost is seen as He struggles up the hill of calvary and willingly lays himself upon a cross.
1. because of the sinfulness of man (Romans 3:23), Jesus had to pay the price (II Cor. 5:21).
 2. In no other way could our Lord make atonement for sin. For us to live Christ had to die!!
 3. It is not by human attainment but by divine atonement that we are saved. It is not by humanly achieving, but by obediently believing

in Christ and His cross that we have our forgiveness.

CONCLUSION

The blessings of cleansing and clemency, purging and pardon can by yours to enjoy - However, they are only available through the shed blood of Christ on the cross. We must come to Him because *"there is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Emmanuel's veins, and sinners plunged beneath that blood lose all their guilty stains."*

MAN'S JOURNEY IN RESTORATION

(Jeff Trotter)

INTRODUCTION

It is sad that the topic of restoration must even be discussed. The word "restoration" suggests that something was once right, pure, and functional but has suffered disrepair, marring, and corruption. As this relates to one's spiritual standing before God, it is of course most distressing. God, however, has provided the means whereby all people may be clean again through His Word (Ephesians 5:26; II Timothy 3:16-17).

The extent to which we conform to the pattern of living and worship as conveyed in Scripture is the extent to which we can be said to have come under the restoring touch of the master. It is important that this not only be understood in an individual sense, but also in the collective sense of the church.

I. HISTORY OF RESTORATION

- A. God knew that because of the sinfulness of man, restoration would be an ongoing concern (II Timothy 4:2-5).
- B. Restoration is not reformation.
- C. For an analysis of the restoration movement many good books are in print. I personally recommend the volumes *"Search For The Ancient Order"* by Earl West.

II. RESTORATION TOOLS

- A. Courage - Swimming against the religious tide has never been easy nor cheap.
- B. Humility - In order to be the *"shaped"* and not the *"shaper"*, one must have an extremely humble attitude. (Luke 18:13-14)
- C. Objectivity - Preconceived ideas and past learning may hinder the objectivity of the restoration process.

We must ask the same question, not only concerning conversation but in every aspect of our religious service, that Saul did in Acts 9:6, "*What wilt thou have me do Lord?*"

- D. Standard of Authority - The Bible being the inspired inerrant Word of God is the only standard that can restore.

III. DANGERS OF RESTORATION

- A. A new coat of paint does not make an object new. Men agreeing that restoration has occurred does not make it so unless God says that it has!
- B. The inordinate recognition of restoration leaders must be carefully guarded against. While appreciation and thanks can and should be given for efforts of the past, a thing is either right or wrong on the basis of Scripture and none other.

IV. RESTORATION TODAY

- A. What has the "unity movement" accomplished?
- B. We have a great need to not only restore specifics of doctrine but also specifics of attitude with which we carry out that doctrine.
- C. Where are you in your personal restoration process?

