

4TH ANNUAL LECTURESHIP SERIES

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“EQUIPPING THE SAINTS”

CENTRAL CAROLINA SCHOOL OF PREACHING



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Training Dedicated Men To Preach The 'Old Jerusalem' Gospel

Theme: Equipping The Saints

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Training Dedicated Men To Preach The 'Old Jerusalem' Gospel

How The Holy Spirit Works Today?

Melvin Hampton

Introduction

I. Because of Pentecostalism in the Lord's church today there is a need, to study and understand the work of the Holy Spirit today, or since the miraculous age of the church has ended.

- A. Another question that should go along with this one is, "What is the work of God or Christ today?"
- B. Today we have a complete guide to answer the questions at hand pertaining to the matter of Faith and Practice in religion today there is to be unity.
- C. And the matter of the Holy Spirit is a doctrinal matter.

II. Brother Turner suggest that "There are at least two ways in which the Holy Spirit works in the Christian's behalf today": And we need to keep in mind that it is "what the Spirit dose for us not what He does to us."

- A. He intercedes for the Christian.
- B. He indwells or dwells in the Christian.

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT INTERCEDES FOR THE CHRISTIAN. Rom. 8:26,27.

- A. The Holy Spirit today constantly and continuously intercedes for Christian. He is and intercessor.
- B. Note what Paul says. " and in life manner the Spirit also helpeth [continues to help] our infirmity: for we know not how to pray as we ought [an infirmity]; but the Spirit maketh intercessions for us with groaning [silent, unutterable needs and longings of the Christian] which cannot be uttered; and he that searcheth the hearts [God} knoweth what is in the mine of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession [not independently or apart form the prayers of the Christian, but in conjunction therewith] for the saints according to the will of God." (Rom. 8:26,27.)
- 3. The Holy Spirit intercedes in behalf of the saints.
- 4. Let us keep in mind "What the Spirit does FOR a Christian is one thing, and what

he does TO a Christian is another.

IV. THE HOLY SPIRIT INDWELLS THE CHRISTIAN:

A. We believe that the scriptures teach that the Holy Spirit indwell the Christian today.

1. In studying the Holy Spirit we believe that there are three measures of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. The baptismal measure. Received by the apostles.
 - b. The gifts or miraculous measure. Received by the first century Church.
 - c. The usual measure or the indwelling for all the saved today.
 - d. Paul said that "the Spirit of God dwelleth in you."
2. 1 Cor. 3:16, 17. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." (1 Cor. 6:19,20.)
"Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you"
3. Gal. 4:6. "...God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts,"...

B. The question before us today is not whether the Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian. By HOW?

1. The same scriptures that teaches that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you. Ye are the temple [or a dwelling place] for God. 1 Cor. 3:16. 1 Jo. 4:15. Says the "whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God." Col. 1:27. Note what Paul the inspired Apostle wrote To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of the mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, The hope of Glory.
2. To the Ephesians church Paul wrote. "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; they ye, being rooted and grounded in love, Eph. 3:14-19. But especially verse 16. And how does faith come? Ro. 10:17.

C. From these passages of Scripture we see that the Holy Spirit indwells the Christian today the same way that God, Christ. Indwells. that is through the word. That produces faith in the heart. With obedience to is the Christian is produced, and keep as he walks in the light of the gospel. Rev. 2:10.

D. Some among us believe in the personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Now if this is so would not Christ and God dwell the same way?

1. I believe that it is not a personal, literal indwelling, that the Godhead indwells the child of God through the medium.
2. And that is the word of God.

E. Brother Taylor in his book entitle, "The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit." Says this about

"THE SCRIPTURAL HOW OF INDWELLING"

1. "Minus question or quibble all Three indwell us in precisely the same way. If we can determine how one indwells us, we can know how the other two do also. Paul wrote the Ephesians saints, "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love.." Eph. 3:17. Ro. 10:17. This is the how of the son's indwells us.. Eph 5:18 we are given an apostolic directive, "be filled with the Spirit,.. " the parallel in Colossians 3:16. Provides a divinely inspired commentary on the injunction in Eph. 5:18. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom..."
2. The Son indwells us by faith or through the medium of God's word or His will. As that word or will motivates and molds us we are indwelt by the Son. The Spirit indwells us by ... Christ Word in our hearts.

V. I WOULD LIKE TO BOIL IT DOWN TO THE NEW BIRTH: ALL THAT WILL BE SAVED TO DAY MUST BE BORN AGAIN. Jo. 3:1-10.

A. And this is a process.

1. A change or purification of the heart by faith. Ac. 15:9..
2. A change of life repentance. Lk. 13:5.
3. A change of state or relation by baptism. Ro. 6:3; Gal. 3:27..

B. Through the word of God. Ps. 19:7; Jo. 6:44,45.

C. Through the Gospel. Ro. 1:16. 1 Cor. 4:14, 15.

D. By the word of truth. Ja. 1:18. 1 Pet. 1:22,23.

VI. What the spirit does for the Christian: Sweeney give it this way.

- A. He is active in our birth. Jo. 3:5; 1 Pet. 1:22,23. This is all accomplish by the Spirit of God working in, and through the Gospel.
- B. Rom. 8:16. With not to.
- C. The Spirit makes intercession for us. He dose not tell us how. God's word said it and that settle it.
- D. To change us from glory to glory. 2 Cor.3:18.
- E. Quicken our mortal body. Rom. 8:11.

This is how the Holy Spirit works today to the saving of the soul, and through the continued faithfulness to the Spirit teaching we will be saved at the last day. Jo. 6:63; 12:48.

TO ENDURE HARDNESS AND AFFLICTIONS WITH GRACE

Richard McWilliams

I. WE MUST EXPECT DIFFICULTY AS WE FOLLOW CHRIST.

- A. Jesus predicted that His followers would experience such (Mt. 10:24,25).
 - 1. It is the result of being sheep among wolves (Mt. 10:16-42).
 - 2. It is the result of being like Christ (Jn. 15:18-21).
- B. The apostles foretold of this inevitable consequence of following Christ (2 Tim. 3:12).
 - 1. It should not be a surprise (1 Pet. 4:12-14).
 - 2. Salvation was not easily provided and is not easily received (1Pet. 4:16-18).

II. WE MUST DEVELOP THE PROPER MIND SET TO ENDURE WITH GRACE

(Phil. 2:5-11).

- A. Be confident that His grace is sufficient to see us through (1 Cor. 12:9,10).
- B. Bring any anxiety to God in prayer (Phil. 4:6,7).
- C. Rely on His promise to limit temptation (1 Cor. 10:13).
- D. Entrust your soul to Him in doing what is right (1 Pet. 5:19).
- E. See persecution as God's stamp of approval (Acts 5:40-42) and of our son ship (Acts 5:40-42).
- F. Look forward to the victory we have in Christ (Rom. 8:31-39,17).
- G. Let eternity keep what we experience in perspective (2 Cor. 4:16-18).
- H. Count it all joy (Jas. 1:3-5; Phil. 1:29,30) to be able to glorify God as a Christian (1 Pet. 4:14-16).

III. WE MUST KEEP CHRIST'S EXAMPLE IN SUFFERING BEFORE US (Heb. 12:1-3).

- A. His composure was the result of His trust in God (1 Pet. 2:21-23).
- B. His choice to obey led Him through suffering to victory (Phil. 2:5-11).
- C. He prayed as he experienced His most difficult moments (Mt. 26:39; 27:46; Lk. 23:46).
- D. He kept God's word before Him (Mt. 4:1-11; Lk. 20:27-40).
- E. His primary concern was to do God's will (Jn. 6:38; 8:28,29).

"Equipping The Saints To Prevent Marital Conflict, Separation And Divorce"

Les Bonnett

Introduction:

1. One person has rightly said: "Marriage is a taste of eternity. If it is good, it's a taste of heaven. If it is bad, it's a taste of torment." Who among the informed would care to dispute such?
2. Much time need not be spent in establishing the destitute condition of the homes in our country. The marital record in our county is a travesty. The statistics show that the level of commitment to this sacred union among many is virtually a joke.
3. Unfortunately, as the reader is well aware, such has not left the church unscathed.
4. In determining what one can do to prevent marital conflict, separation and divorce, please consider the following points.

I. REALIZE THE EXPECTATIONS OF GOD. ..

A. The Bible says it was God who designed marriage:

1. At the close of the Creation, God said it was *""very good~* (Gen. 1:31).
2. There was, however, one thing, in God's perfect creation, which was not good (Gen. 2:18).
3. God then made a help meet for the man (Gen. 2:21-24; Mt. 19:9).
4. God, having designed marriage, determined what constitutes a Scriptural marriage.
 - a. Eligibility
 - 1) Never Married (1 Co. 7:1-5)
 - 2) Widowed (1 Co. 7:39)
 - 3) Innocent Party (Ro. 7:2-3; Mt. 19:3-10)
 - b. Gender (Gen. 2:22-25; 1 Co. 6:9-11)
 - c. Legal (Ro. 13; Acts 4:19; 5:29)
 - d. Personal Resolve (Surely person has some say in the matter.)
5. If these conditions have not been met, then regardless of what the world may call it, it is still not a marriage.

B. Everyone has the right to at least one Scriptural marriage:

1. So many times people look at God's marriage law as being so harsh and too restrictive.
2. May it not be forgotten that God didn't have to institute marriage to start with!
3. He didn't have to give widows and widowers a right to do it again!
4. He certainly didn't have to make provisions for the one to remarry when their spouse cheated on them.
5. However, out of His love for mankind, God gave everyone the right to at least one Scriptural marriage!

II. KEEP GOD FIRST IN YOUR LIFE. ..

A. The Bible says God is to be first:

1. Consider the passages: (Mt. 6:33; 22; 37)
2. When a marriage is comprised of two individuals who love God and are seeking first the kingdom, how can it not work?

B. The home and the Christian life are inseparably linked:

1. In order to be a faithful Christian, one must be a godly spouse (1 Pt. 3:7)!
2. You cannot be an ungodly spouse and a faithful Christian simultaneously; it just cannot be done! Such is a spiritual impossibility.
3. Certainly the "Golden Rule" if consistently implemented would help one's home (Mt. 7:12).

C. Marriage is not just an earthly agreement: -It is neither a commitment to a person, nor is it a commitment to a group of people.

1. It is neither a commitment to a legal contract, nor is it a mere personal pledge.

D. Marriage is a commitment to the Almighty God:

1. While all the strings that join people in holy matrimony may be stretched or even broken at times, there is one thing that keeps two godly people together their commitment to God!
2. The point is, God wants every married person to be faithful to their spouse and committed to the marriage regardless of what the spouse may be or do.
3. Even in circumstances of abuse, while this writer would not counsel someone to stay in an abusive situation, the person still must understand that he/ she must remain committed to the marriage.
4. As long as one has a living spouse (Ro. 7:2-3) and no Scriptural grounds for divorce (Mt. 19:9), to have God's approval, one must remain committed to the marriage.

III. COMMUNICATE WITH ONE ANOTHER. ..

A. The Bible emphasizes godly speech:

1. Consider the passages: (Mt. 12:34-36; Jam. 1:19; Col. 4:6; Eph. 4:25-32)

B. There must be communication:

1. Husbands and wives need to talk to one another!
2. Do you remember when you dated? How that you would spend hours talking about this and hours talking about that?
3. If it took communication to get you to "fall" in love, then why would not communication be an absolute necessity for you to "stay" in love?
4. This writer has learned experientially that he just cannot read the mind of his wife. He, it might be added, is certain that other men have so learned as well!

C. One's speech must be controlled even when angry:

1. While it is understood that there are situations in which a person has the right, even the obligation, to be angry, the individual still does not have the right to sin! (Mk. 3:5; Eph. 4:26)
2. This includes sin with the tongue! -It is never right to do wrong! (Ro. 3:8)

IV. DECIDE TO LOVE EACH OTHER. ..

A. The Bible's emphasis is clear:

1. Consider the passages: (Eph. 5:25-33; Tit. 2:4)
2. Such is love that is "not drawn out by any excellency in its object."
 - a. Certainly every honest spouse can say sometimes they aren't too lovable!
3. God used the same word in commanding love for one's enemy (Mt. 5:44).

B. Such love is the act of one's personal volition:

1. So many times you hear: "Well, I just don't love him anymore." To which the godly counselor says: "Well, choose to love her anyway!"
2. One has rightly said: "True love is an unconditional commitment to always act in the best interest of an imperfect person."

V. COMMIT TO STAY TOGETHER. ..

A. The Scriptures have made this plain:

1. Consider the passage: (Mt. 19:9)
2. While this passage is frequently referred to as the "Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage" passage, could it not be affirmed, without fear of successful contradiction, that this is a passage on commitment?

B. God wants people, Scripturally married, to stay together:

1. Yet even in this stern text on commitment, God has made provisions for the innocent.
2. Such is protection, not a "get out of jail free card"!

VI. CONCLUSION. ..

1. People living in the midst of a "marrying and divorcing" world can have a great marriage!
2. Good people, you do not have to be a statistic. With knowledge of God's expectations, God first in one's life, wholesome communication, chosen love and constant commitment, your marriage can be a good thing.
3. A good marriage may very well be one of the closest tastes of heavenly peace and joy one can get in this life.
4. May God help us all to do our dead level personal best to make our marriage one that God would look down upon with favor, rather than one of the statistics some preacher may someday be quoting.

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“EQUIPPING THE SAINTS TO UNDERSTAND THE REASON FOR TRAINING PREACHERS”

Paul Kirkpatrick

INTRODUCTION

1. The Lord's primary mission was clearly stated in Luke 19:10.
2. Jesus accomplished His mission by giving His life for our sins.
3. Yet we must carry on this work. If we claim to have the truth, and others do not, then we are the ones responsible to preach it and teach it.
4. How will this be done if we don't train men to do this?

DISCUSSION

I. THERE ARE SOULS TO BE SAVED.

- A. It is necessary and urgent because the harvest is plenteous. Matt. 9:37-38; John 4:35
 1. We get things in reverse today, thinking that we have plenty of teachers but no listeners, but Jesus said that the harvest is plenteous but the laborers are few.
 2. Some have a bad attitude concerning personal work. They are too quick to say, "It won't do any good," or "No one is interested."
 - a. Two salesmen in the late 1800's were sent from this country on separate missions to Africa to view the possibilities of selling shoes.
 - b. One salesman wrote back to the company and said that the prospects for selling shoes in that country was absolutely no good because everyone went barefoot.
 - c. The other salesman wrote back and said that the prospects for selling shoes there was fantastic because everyone needed shoes.
 - d. How is your attitude toward personal work?
- B. Because it is the greatest work ever.
 1. There is no other task that compares with it in importance.
 2. This is seen in the worth of a soul. If one owned all the rich oil fields, all the giant skyscrapers, all the large ships, all the factories, all the silver and gold, all the land, all the livestock, all the buildings, and all the houses, it would not equal the value of one soul. Matt. 16:26
 - a. It is made in the image of God. Gen. 1:26-28
 - b. It's value is seen in what it cost to redeem it. 1 Pet. 1:18-19
 3. Winning souls is more important than feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, or providing health care for the sick.
 - a. If we knew a bridge was out, would we not try to stop cars from plunging over into the river? Why not then try to keep souls from plunging over into eternal torment?
- C. It is necessary and urgent because God's plan of salvation demands it.
 1. Disciples are the vessels through which the gospel is carried to the lost. Rom. 10:14; 1 Cor. 1:21
 2. Only the gospel will save men. Rom. 1:16 It is not "a power, but "the" power-- the only one.

3. People must hear and learn in order to come to Jesus. John 6:45
 4. Christians are God's chosen instruments by which His word is taught, and we need to do our very best in this important task.
- D. God's work of the church requires it.
1. It is the pillar and ground of the truth. 1 Tim. 3:14-15
 2. Churches are light-bearers. Rev. 1:20
- E. God's commands to the individual Christian demands it.
1. Phil. 2:15-16; 1 Pet. 3:15
 2. All Christians have the responsibility to warn. 1 Thess. 5:14; Ezek. 3:18-19
 3. Responsibility is placed on each of us in the great commission. Matt. 28:19; 2 Tim. 2:2
 4. All should be growing spiritually that after a time they are capable to be teachers. Heb. 5:12-14
- F. The example of the Lord, and of the early Christians, demands it.
1. To be like Christ. From the beginning of His ministry and onward he gave Himself completely to the preaching of the Word. John 9:4
 2. To follow the example of the early Christians. Acts 5:42; 8:1-4; 11:19-21; 1 Thess. 1:8
 3. James tells us that we need to be doers of the word and not hearers only. James 1:22

II. BRETHREN TO BE ENCOURAGED

- A. We are of the few who believe and know the truth.
- B. We are a family, a spiritual family, and every single one of us is important.
1. The very least in the kingdom is greater than John the Baptist. Matt. 11:11
 2. "The first shall be last and the last first." Luke 13:28-30; Luke 23:43
- C. The tie that binds us together in our spiritual relationship is love. Rom. 12:9-21
- D. Let's stick together, and continue to encourage one another in love. Eph. 4:1-3
- E. You might think, "I'm not loved and appreciated."
1. But you are. You are in this spiritual family. We do love you. We are brothers and sisters in Christ, of the family of God.
 2. 1 Cor. 12:21-22 - We hope there will never come a time when any of us will say, "I have no need of you."
- F. Galatians 6:9"
1. Grow weary" means "to succumb to fatigue." John 4:6; 2 Cor. 11:27
 2. "Well doing" means "doing the good works which God ordained." Eph. 2:10; 2 Thess. 3:13
 3. "For in due season we shall reap." 1 Pet. 1:13; 2 Cor. 11:23-28
- G. We are to reprove, rebuke and EXHORT...2 Tim 4:1-5 and are to lead in this.

III. ERROR TO BE REFUTED

- A. There are far too many churches in our religious world today.
1. There are thousands of different churches with different names, creeds, and doctrines.
 - a. Surely, God is not the author of all this confusion. 1 Cor. 14:33
 - b. Division is not pleasing to God. John 17:17-21; 1 Cor. 1:10
 2. Jesus placed a special emphasis on the one church Mt 16:16-18; Act 20:28; Eph 1:21-22
- B. There are false doctrines. Matt. 15:8-9; 2 Tim. 4:3-4

- C. There are false ways. Prov. 16:25; Psalm 119:104
- D. There are false teachers. 2 Pet. 2:1-3; 2 Cor. 11:13-15
 - 1. The Bible says that evil men and seducers would grow worse and worse. 2 Tim. 3:13
 - 2. We are repeatedly warned against those who seek to deceive us. Eph. 4:14
- E. There are blind guides. Matt. 15:10-14; Acts 20:29-30; John 4:24
- F. There is a narrow way that leads to life. Matt. 7:13-14
- G. We have a responsibility to test every teacher. 1 John 4:1; Acts 17:11; Rev. 2:2;
- H. We are not to have fellowship with error, but rather expose and reprove it. Eph. 5:11;
2 John 9-11
 - 1. We are to identify (mark) those who teach error. Rom. 16:17-18; Titus 3:10-11
 - 2. We are to hate every false way. Psalm 119:104,128; Rom. 12:9; Rev. 2:6,15
 - 3. Error cannot save. Only truth can save. 2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:22
 - 4. Error condemns the soul. Titus 1:13-14; Gal. 1:6-9
 - 5. God demands that we do exactly as God has directed in His holy word. Deut. 4:2;
12:32

CONCLUSION

- 1. The man of God must be fully equipped to serve the Father faithfully.
- 2. It is imperative that we train and support men to preach.
- 3. May God bless those men who are willing to give their lives to Christ, because there...
 - a. Souls to be saved
 - b. Brethren to be encouraged
 - c. Error to be refuted

"EQUIPPING THE SAINTS"
WITH THE TOOLS OUR YOUTH NEED TO SUCCEED SPIRITUALLY

TEXT: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

Roland Cumbee

THESIS: Spiritual Success for our youth is spelled with: righteous teaching, godly life-style, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity/love, endurance, persistence and knowledge of the Holy Scriptures.

PURPOSE: Is to show the importance of equipping our youth with the right tools to succeed Spiritually.

Illustration: A Cake decorator, a Welder, a Computer Technician, Football Player, Carpenter, etc.

The above must be equipped to succeed in their trade. Our Children must be equipped spiritually if they are going to succeed.

FIRST TOOL:

I. Righteous Teaching is Mandatory For Spiritual Success (2 Timothy 3:10a)

- A. Right Instructions are mandatory for Spiritual prosperity (Deuteronomy 6:1-12).
 - 1. Commandments, Statues and Judgments of God must be kept (v. 1).
 - 2. The Fear of the Lord is needed by: father, mother and children in order to succeed in days lived (v. 2).
 - 3. Obedience is needed for an increase to be realized (v. 3).
 - 4. Total surrender of one's heart, soul and might to God (v. 5).
 - 5. Hiding God's word in the heart is of grave necessity (v.6).
 - 6. Instruction must be given to children at all times: sitting in your house, walking by the way, when you lie down and when you rise up. (v. 7).
 - 7. Instructions must be fused to one's being and character at home and abroad. Bind them (v. 8).
- B. Paul said he was transparent in his life-style and in his teaching: "But though hath fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience..." (2 Timothy 3:10a).

SECOND TOOL:

II. A Godly Life-Style is a MUST Tool Our Youth Needs To Succeed Spiritual. (2 Tim. 3:10)

- A. We need to equip our youth with the proper attitude towards the work and the workers of the Lord.
 - 1. Paul instructed Timothy to do good, like On-e-siph-o-rus; "... for he often refreshed me, (Paul) and was not ashamed of my chain" (2 Timothy 1:16). Here is to do good to God's servants.
 - 2. Avoid unholy things, such as profane and vain babblings (2 Timothy 2:16).
 - a. Profane comes from the Greek word "bebelos" unhallowed, profane, unholy and that which is not sacred.
 - b. Vain "that which is empty, no substance, no spiritual value, void of result.
 - c. Babblings comes from the Greek word "kenophonia" which is a compound word kenos "empty" and phone "a sound", which signifies empty discussion, discussion on useless subjects.
 - d. Do not get involved in foolish talking (Ephesians 5:4).
 - e. Have the ability to discern from good and evil. (I Corinthians 2:15) and he who is spiritual, doth discern indeed all things, and he himself is by no one discerned;
 - 3. Our youth must depart from iniquity (2 Timothy 2:19b) "...Let everyone that name the name of Christ depart from iniquity"
 - a. Depart "to cause to depart", "to stand off, or aloof or to depart from anyone,"
 - b. Iniquity "adikia" unrighteousness, lit. "unrightness". A condition of not being right with God according to His holiness and righteousness.

THIRD TOOL:

III. The Tool of A Godly Purpose Is the Road Map to a Successful Spiritual Life.

Paul in (II Timothy 3:10,11) said: " And thou - thou hast followed after my teaching, manner of life, purpose, faith, long-suffering, love, endurance, 11. the persecutions, the afflictions, ..."

- A. The tool of a clear goal or purpose. Who are you living for if it not for Jesus? (Galatians 2:20). "I am crucified with Christ, Nevertheless, I live, yet not I ..."
- B. An enduring goal. (Phil. 1:21) "For to me to live [is] Christ, and to die gain."
- C. Solomon searched life's avenues, then concluded (Ecclesiastes 12:13) The whole duty.
- D. Paul's un-wavering commitment kept him forever focus on his goal. (Philippians 3:13,14). Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but [this] one thing [I do], forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forward to those things which are before, 14.

I press towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

FOURTH TOOL:

IV. The Tool of Faith: Faith is the foundation where-upon one's spiritual destiny is built.

The faith that Able exemplified in his worship to God, (Genesis 4:4; Cf. Hebrews 11:4) "By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained testimony that he was righteous,..."

- A. One's faith will determine if his/her action pleases God, (Hebrews 11:6) "Without faith it is impossible to please God..."
- B. Paul said to the young teacher (2 Timothy 1:12) 12. For which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed to him against that day.
- C. True biblical faith comes as a result of truly studying the word of God (Romans 10:17)

FIFTH TOOL:

V. The Tool Longsuffering/Endurance is the quality that enables one to proceed through difficult times.

- A. Endurance, constancy: --enduring, patience, patient continuance (waiting).
- B. Job said it well "I will wait until my change come" (Job 14:14) 14. If a man dieth, shall he live [again]? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change shall come.
- C. In spite of ill treatment do not give-in or give-up (Matthews 10:22) And ye will be hated by all [men] for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.
- D. The apostle John said in (Revelations 2:10) ... be thou faithful unto death..."
- E. The natural/ physical desires that young men and women have were built in human kind But they must be managed and controlled. Paul told Timothy in (2 Timothy 2:22) "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

SIXTH TOOL:

VI. Love is the tool that cements/connects, holds together all of life's goals, struggles, and relationships.

- A. Love cements one's relationship to Jesus to God and to one's fellowman. Jesus said in 1.
 - 1. (John 14:15) "If you love me, keep my commandments." Or in
 - 2. (John 15:14) "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatever I command you".
- B. To love is to be of God, to hate is of the devil
 - 1. (1 John 4:7-21) 7. Beloved, let us love one another: for love is from God; and every

one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 8. He that loveth not, knoweth not God; for God is love. 9. In this was manifested the love of God towards us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son [to be] the propitiation for our sins. 11. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. 12. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. 13. By this we know that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. 14. And we have seen and do testify, that the Father sent the Son [to be] the Savior of the world. 15. Whoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. 16. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love: and he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God, and God in him. 17. In this is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. 18. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth, is not made perfect in love. 19. We love him, because he first loved us. 20. If a man sayeth, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar. For he that loveth not his brother, whom he hath seen, how can he love God, whom he hath not seen? 21. And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God, love his brother also.

CONCLUSION:

- A. The correct tools and the ability to use them correctly can and will prosper the one using the tools.
- B. It is God's desire that his creation come to know Him and His Son and the Spirit's message; which is able to equip men to all good works. (II Timothy 3:16,17).
- C. The righteous teaching, godly life-style, purpose/goal, faith, longsuffering/endurance, persistence and the knowledge of the Holy Scripture are divine tools that our youth need in their lives, if they are to succeed spiritually.
- D. Paul told Timothy, that from a child he had known the Holy Scriptures which is able to make him wise unto salvation..." (2 Timothy 3:16).

2. Made in God's image (Genesis 1:26-27)
3. Value of just one soul (Matthew 16:26)
4. Jesus spent much time in just teaching one soul. Only 16 discourses of a public nature—the rest personal.
 - a. Woman at the well (John 4)
 - b. Zaccheus (Luke 19:5)
 - c. Nicodemus (John 3)
5. An *infidel's* statement about the value of the soul (Gatewood on Personal Work—p. 66).

C. **(A)**—*Able*

1. Your responsibility is determined, in part, by your ability (2 Timothy 2:2)
2. Talents (Matthew 25: 14-30)
3. 1 Peter 3:15
4. Romans 15:14
5. Colossians 4:6

D. **(N)**—*Now is the time to begin:*

1. Too often we intend to do personal evangelism. If we are not careful we will be in the class of those of whom Jesus said, "...*For they say and do not.*" (Matthew 23:3)
2. Must do it (Matthew 7:21; Luke 6:46)
3. John 9:4; John 4:15; Matthew 9:37-38

E. **(G)**—*Gospel must be taught* (Romans 1:16)

1. Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16)
2. 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 —use the Scriptures—Acts 14:7

F. **(E)**—*Enthusiasm:*

1. Acts 8:30. "...Philip ran..."
2. Need to be zealous (Titus 2:14)
3. A salesman must know his product and be sold on it.
4. Must be friendly (Proverbs 18:24)

G. **(L)**—*Love for lost souls:*

1. Mark 12:31
2. Romans 10:1 ; Romans 9:3; 1 Thessalonians 2:8
3. II Corinthians 12:15. If we expect the lost to be concerned about what we teach, we must be concerned about the lost! (John 3: 16; Romans 5:8)

H. (I)—*Individual responsibility:*

1. Not very often does the individual Christian realize that he has any responsibility toward evangelism except helping support the preacher by his Lord's day contribution!
2. Must warn the wicked (Gal. 6:6; Eze. 3:18-19; II Tim. 2:2; Acts 20:26-27, 30).
3. Acts 5:42
4. Acts 8:4-5
5. Philippians 1:14.
6. Philippians 2:15-16; John 1:40-41
7. Repeat the story 30 times!

I. (S)—*Salvation the result:*

1. 1 Timothy 4:16; James 5:19-20
2. Men are in sin, no hope, wages is death (Rom. 3:23; Eph. 2:12; Rom. 6:23).
3. *Illustration:* There is a million dollars but before you can have it, you must help another get some too!

J. (M)—*Minister: Every Christian is one:*

1. A minister is a servant.
2. We need to get away from the idea that the preacher is "*the* minister." "...*by love serve one another.*" (Galatians 5:13; Mark 10:43-45)

Conclusion:

1. We Must obey The Word. Then Enthusiastic in Doing All of It.
2. Come Today And Be A Child of God.

Equipping the Saints to Discern Between Faith and Opinion in Religion

By Kerry Duke

Introduction

1. This lesson is basic and greatly needed. Failure to discern faith and opinion is the root of many errors both in and outside of the church.
2. The problem is Bible ignorance. Most people decide what matters and what does not matter in religion without going to the Bible to see what it says.
3. The Bible has the answers. We can understand it; we can determine by the Bible whether a matter is one of faith or opinion. To say, as many do, that the difference between faith and opinion is itself a matter of faith and opinion is false.
4. The Scriptures identify matters of faith and opinion and give guidelines regarding each.

I. Some Matters are Optional

A. We Can Have Opinions – Even Mistaken Ones

1. Abraham was mistaken in his opinion, but he was right in his faith (Gen. 22:1-5; Heb. 11:17-19).
2. The brethren were wrong about what Jesus said to Peter about John (John 21:20-23).
3. We can have varying, even conflicting opinions about many religious matters: the human writer of Hebrews, how and when providence works, why we will never fall in heaven, etc.

B. We Have Liberty in Many Matters.

1. Matters of conscience – Rom. 14:1-15:7; I Cor. 8:1-13; I Cor. 10:23-33; we are to respect others' conscience and we should not violate our own – there must be humility and a willingness to learn and grow
2. Matters of expedience – judgments as to how to best carry out obligations God has given us (every obligation involves expedience)
 - a. The Bible is full of examples of expedience; e.g., building the ark – Gen. 6 (tools?)
 - b. God has delegated authority to make decisions in many matters of judgment, and when those decisions are made, they are binding: elders (Heb. 13:17), parents (Eph. 6:1-3), husbands (Eph. 5:22-24), rulers (Rom. 13:1-7)

II. Some Matters are (Universally) Obligatory

A. We Must Do Certain Things

Equipping The Saints To Stand Against Liberalism And Radicalism

Melvin Sapp

1. We live in a day where departure is wide-spread from both the left and from the right.
(I Tim. 4:1-3).
2. The left cries for the bending of every rule and the right over-corrects by binding where God has not bound.
3. The truth lies between the extremes of Liberalism and Radicalism and we must avoid both of these stumbling blocks to keep the church in the straight and the narrow (Mat. 7:13-14).

I. LIBERALISM DEFINED:

- A. An attitude of laxity toward the authority of the Scriptures.
- B. When the Bible is viewed as a reference book that can be helpful, but is not binding.
- C. When the teachings of the New Testament are denied as a pattern for the 21st century Christian, but is just a collections of wise suggestions that might be adjusted to ones life.

II. RADICALISM DEFINED:

- A. An attitude that believes that the Scriptures don't go far enough in forbidding certain acts, thus going beyond the Scriptures in binding what God has not bound.
- B. It demands conformity to an option and forbids other acceptable options.
- C. Radicalism imposes restrictions that go beyond the prohibitions of God.

III. THE PROPER RESPECT FOR THE AUTHORITY OF THE SCRIPTURES WILL DEFUSE BOTH LIBERALISM AND RADICALISM.

- A. The Scriptures Are Inspired Of God And The New Testament Is Binding On All Men Today (II Tim. 3:16-17; Heb. 1:1-2; Jno. 1:17).
- B. God will stand behind His Infallible Word (Prov. 30:5-6; Mat. 24:35; I Pet. 1:23-25; Rev. 22:18-19).
- C. Proper respect will prevent "adding to" and "taking away from" the Word of God.

IV. EXAMPLE OF LIBERALISM AND RADICALISM.

A. Circumventing God's Commands By Traditions Of Men (Mat. 15:1-9).

1. The Pharisees rebuked Jesus' disciples for not keeping the traditions of men (1-2).
2. Jesus rebuked them for transgressing God's commandments by keeping the traditions of men (3-6).
3. Liberalism is the result of a "heart" problem. Liberalism gives 'lip' service to the commands of God, and then persists in doing what it wants to do (7-8).
4. God rejects Liberalistic worship that elevates the doctrines and commands of men above the commands of God (9).

B. Binding Of Unauthorized Teachings That Pervert The Commands Of God

(Acts 15:1-11).

1. Binding circumcision as a condition of salvation was false doctrine (1-6).
2. There is one gospel for both Jew and Gentile, of which circumcision is not a part (7-9; Rom. 1:16; Gal. 1:6-9).

