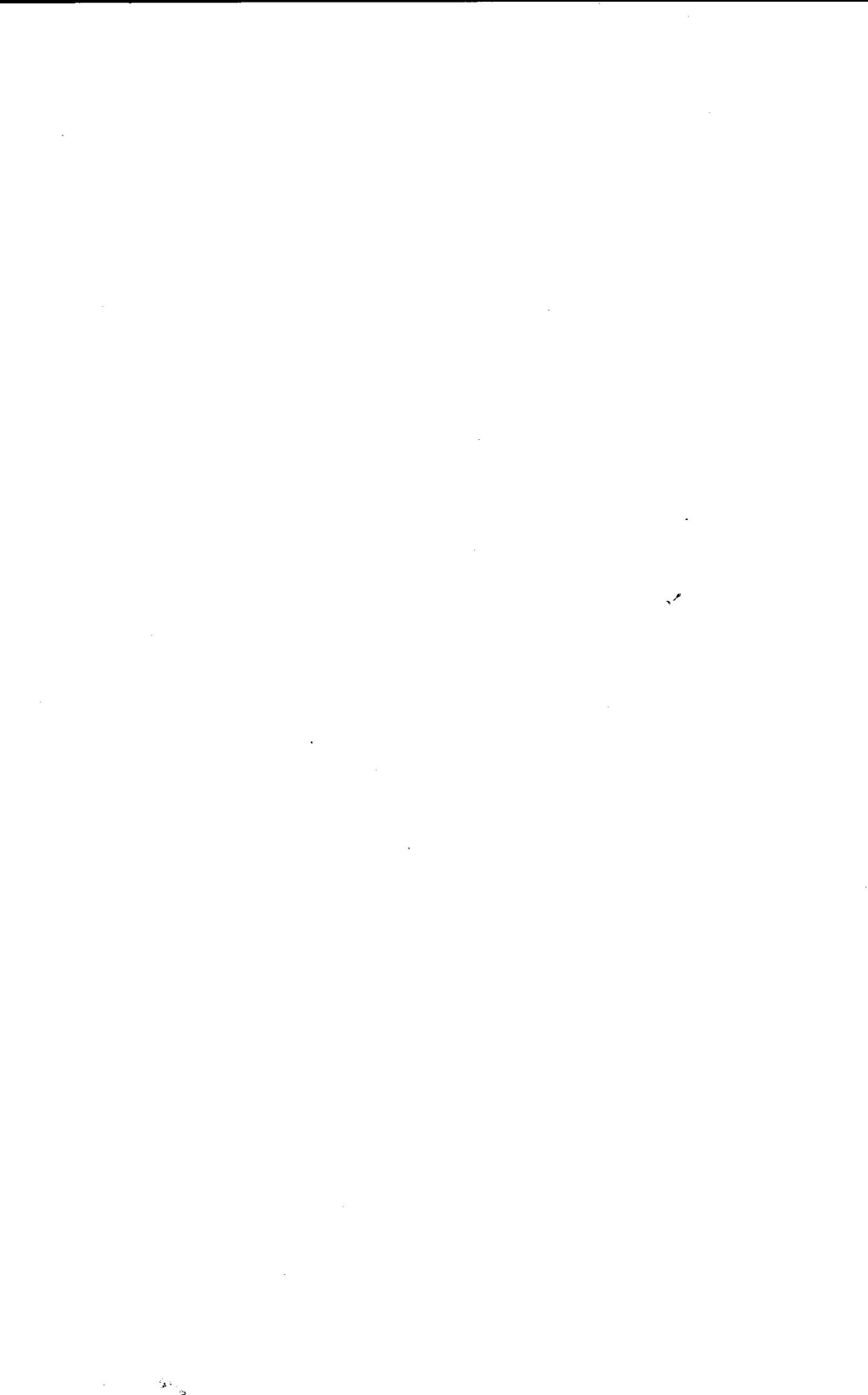


# Declaring God's Truth

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Romans 1:16

**Bill Jackson**





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# Introduction

This book entitled **Declaring God's Truth** was written and developed before the sudden passing of our co-worker Bill Jackson. In frequent conversations with this dear brother, his desires were often reflected in statements of the church today needing to get back to the fundamentals of the gospel. As Brother Jackson wrote for the *Introductory* in the 1991 Southwest Lecture volume:

We are convinced that our day and our world needs nothing more, in facing ills of hundreds of types, than a return to the Word of God ... stress fundamentals of the faith, and to warn against some moves now current as Satan seeks to destroy the faith. As apostasy is now in full swing, we want to stress these Biblical truths ... Using all of our methods, we want to herald forth the truth that God has a message for man! ... We then stand before an unbelieving world, and before a greatly disturbed brotherhood, and proclaim that God hath spoken. We urge that men hear God, and render obedience to Him.

The forty outlines contained in this work will prayerfully lead us toward a clearer understanding of the truth that can make us free (John 8:32).

We prayerfully request that you diligently study these outlines and thereby be drawn closer to the God that loves us, and demands submission and obedience to His will (Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8-9).

Paul Sain



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*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **God, His Word And Man**

### **Introduction:**

1. We now begin a series on the fundamentals.
2. We often tend to forget ... to let slip (Heb. 2:1) ... and end up with less knowledge than God expects us to have (Heb. 5:12).
3. Our series will cover the range: Creation to eternity – perhaps eight to ten lessons in all.

### **I. We Have This Order: God, The Word And Man.**

- A. It is the proper order.
- B. God is! (Psm. 14:1; 53:1). The Bible gives material in the area of evidences.
- C. God has a will, mind operative, even from the time before the world was made.
  1. Things secret from that time (Matt. 13:35).
  2. Things forordained from then (I Peter 1:20).
- D. Then, there is man. Is man subject to God? Most certainly so!

### **II. Let Us Look Back Over These Three Factors.**

- A. **God**
  1. Genesis 1:1. The Bible does not set out to prove God's existence; gives evidence.
  2. By Psalm 19:1ff, indications that man has basis for claiming evidence.
  3. Genesis 1. Day by day, the creation work.
  4. Man, made in God's image, likeness, in a spiritual fashion (Gen. 1:26-27).
- B. **The Word**
  1. God pre-existing all, had a word, will.
  2. Genesis 1:3 – God SAID – V. 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, etc.
  3. The worlds framed by the Word of God (Heb. 11:3).
  4. God had will, mind – when it is expressed to man, that is LAW!
- C. **Man**
  1. Made in image, likeness, etc., and thus with capacity for reason, determining action.

2. Man formed, placed in the garden, and man subject to God's law in dressing, keeping the garden (Gen. 2:7, 8, 15).
3. And God gave a LAW as to man's freedom, and restriction (Gen. 2:16-17). Man is GIVEN LAW, KNOWS LAW, SEES FREEDOM THE LAW ALLOWS, SEES THE RESTRICTION THE LAW CONTAINS, AND PROMISE OF PUNISHMENT!

### **III. These Three Items Are Permanent.**

- A. God, the Word, and man.
- B. When God speaks, man is subject, and is under law. Man has always been under law.

### **Conclusion**

1. God's law, today, for man is in The Christ, and made known by the gospel of Christ.
2. Man must obey that gospel (II Thess. 1:7-8), and we urge that you do so in these terms from God: Faith in The Christ, repentance of sins, confession of the Christ, and baptism for remission of sins.

*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **God, The Creator**

### **Introduction:**

1. We now begin where the Bible begins – Genesis 1:1.
2. This study is appropriate, indeed, in a day of atheism, unbelief.

### **I. The Bible Asserts, "GOD IS!" – And So Do We!**

- A. The Bible does not set out to prove God – it does provide evidence wherein one can have faith in God.
- B. Before our world there are two choices: God, or atheistic evolution.
- C. *"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God!"* (Psm. 14:1; 53:1).

### **II. Let Us Hear From God On This Matter!**

- A. Atheistic and evolutionary forces claim their view is scientific, but it is *"science, falsely so called"* (I Tim. 6:20).
- B. What are we told in the Bible?
  1. The fact of creation is announced.
    - a. *"In the beginning, God created..."* (Gen. 1:1).
    - b. *"The worlds were framed by the word of God"* (Heb. 11:3).
    - c. To idolaters in Athens, Paul spoke of the God *"who made the world, and all things therein"* (Acts 17:24).
  2. The details of creation are given.
    - a. Days 1-5, all of creation except man (Gen. 1:3-25).
    - b. And on the 6th day, man!
      - (1) In God's image, likeness (Gen. 1:26).
      - (2) Mankind, created male and female (v. 27, Matt. 19:4).
  3. The agency of creation is revealed.
    - a. Of the Christ: *"All the things were made by him"* (John 1:3).



- b. *"By him were all things created ... all things created by him and for him"* (Col. 1:16).
- c. Christ, the beginner of God's creation (Rev. 3:14).

### **III. Man, Then, Responsible Before His Creator.**

- A. Man is fearfully, wonderfully made (Psm. 139:14).
  
- B. Man is made in the image, likeness of God (Gen. 1:26). He, like his Creator, has mind, will, intellect, etc.
  1. He thus is responsible, accountable. We see that Adam and Eve were (Gen. 2:16-17).
  2. Unlike the rest of creation, man has been given the Word of God, by which to direct his life.
  
- C. Man is thus expected to obey, and to live for, God.
  1. A recommended time for this to begin – in youth (Eccl. 12:1).
  2. Always, *"NOW is the accepted time"* (II Cor. 6:2).
  3. Men are expected, through obedience, to *"commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator"* (I Peter 4:19).

### **Conclusion**

1. Your Creator, and mine, is also our Judge.
2. Men to be sent away from God eternally if they do not obey the gospel of the Christ (II Thess. 1:7-9).
3. Will you obey – through faith, repentance, confession and baptism into Christ for remission of sins?

*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **The Promise Of A Savior**

### **Introduction:**

1. Some fundamentals: Genesis 1 & 2: Creation, man placed on earth.
2. Genesis 2 & 3: God's law given, and man in violation of that law.
3. Man, then, in sin – separated from God (Gen. 2:17). Man in death!

### **I. Man In Sin! Immediately, God Purposed A Redemption!**

- A. Note: Fully in keeping with His love, mercy (Eph. 2:4).
- B. He did not make man for condemnation – desires that man be saved (I Tim. 2:3-4).
- C. It should surprise no one that the terms will be set forth by God, for man could not save himself!
- D. There, in the garden (Gen. 3:15), seed of woman, receiving a hurt, but **Himself** rendering a blow to the head of Satan/sin.
  1. Seed of woman – the Christ.
  2. This early promise of aid for man!

### **II. That Promise Kept Alive During The Course Of Old Testament History.**

- A. Genesis 12:1ff. Call of Abraham.
  1. A nation to come from him, but why?
  2. *"In thee all families of earth to be blessed"* (Gen. 12:3).
- B. God purposed that His Son be ushered into the world through a line faithful to Him, and whereby He could be identified.
  1. That line, through Judah: A lawgiver to come (Gen. 49:10).
  2. That line, through David: *"Thy seed ... his kingdom"* (II Sam. 7:12-13).
  3. *"Unto us, a child born, a son given"* (Isa. 9:6).
  4. SUM: To Him give all the prophets witness (Acts 10:43).

### **III. That Plan Involved, Remember, A Death-Blow To Satan / Sin.**

#### **A. As To Satan**

1. *'Now shall the prince of this world be cast out'* (John 12:31).
2. The Son of God manifested, to destroy the works of the devil (I John 3:8).

#### **B. As To Sin**

1. Sin separated man and God (Gen. 2:17; Isa. 59:1-2).
2. The promise from the Old Testament: *'I will remember their sin no more'* (Jer. 31:34).
3. Jesus promised a freedom (John 8:32). *'If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed'* (v. 36).
4. Sin to reign no more: Romans 6:16.

### **IV. The New Testament Is The Testament Concerning That Savior.**

A. The promise of Genesis 3:15 realized in fullness.

B. FOR ALL: Hence, all families of earth blessed (Gen. 12:3).

C. The promise and the blessings now revealed to man in a message: The GOSPEL – THE GOOD NEWS!

1. God's power to save (Rom. 1:16).
2. Salvation through obedient response (Mark 16:15-16).

### **Conclusion**

1. The Savior has come, and He is seen as the Christ.
2. There has been a death and a shedding of blood for you, made known in the gospel message.
3. You, today, through faith, repentance, confession and baptism into Christ can correctly respond to that message, and thus to God, to Christ.



*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **God Speaks Through His Son**

### **Introduction: Hebrews 1:1-2**

1. Here, the first mention of Christ in the epistle to the Hebrews.
2. Christ is introduced under the heading, "God speaks."
3. Jewish Christians were facing the temptation to return to Judaism.

### **I. Hebrews Deals With The Superiority Of The Christ.**

- A. Jesus, seen as superior:
1. To the angels (1:4-6)
  2. As God's spokesman (2:3)
  3. To Moses (3:3)
  4. As High Priest (5:5)
  5. As mediator (8:6)
  6. As minister (8:6)
  7. As to blood (9:12)
  8. As to covenant (10:9)
- B. As to reject the Christ, a sorer punishment awaits than was known under the law of Moses (10:28-29).
- C. These, under heavy temptation to return to Moses, have been shown they have no place to return, with God's blessings.
- D. Thus, God speaks to the saving of man's soul, and man must hear, believe and obey!

### **II. Our Test Verses Have Some Most Excellent Points.**

- A. There is GOD! (Psm. 14:1; 53:1).
- B. There is God, as He spake in an earlier time.
- C. In dealing with man, in early times, He used varied means, methods, procedures.
- D. Now, IN THESE LAST DAYS, God speaks to man.

- E. He speaks to man THROUGH HIS SON – the Superior One we have just noted.

### **III. God's Speaking Is Seen In Various Expressions Of It.**

- A. He speaks through His Son (1:1-2).
  - 1. *"Hear ye Him"* (Matt. 17:5).
  - 2. Christ, the Way, Truth, Life (John 14:6).
  - 3. God draws men to the Christ (John 6:44).
  
- B. God, and the Son, speak through the Word!
  - 1. That's how God draws (John 6:45).
  - 2. A *"calling,"* but by the gospel (II Thess. 2:14).
  - 3. That gospel the power to save ALL (Rom. 1:16), and is to be proclaimed to ALL (Mark 16:15-16).
  - 4. Thus, God draws, or calls, no one in any other way!

### **IV. The Word Provides A Wonderful Progression Of Points Here.**

- A. God has spoken.
  
- B. God has spoken through His Son (Heb. 1:1-2).
  
- C. The Son has spoken through His words (John 12:48).
  
- D. His words are delivered through His apostles (John 17:20).
  
- E. The message is conveyed to us through words (I Cor. 2:13).
  
- F. In our reading of it, we can understand it (Eph. 3:3-4).

### **Conclusion:**

- 1. God has thus provided the message for your salvation.
- 2. What will you now do – reject it, or obey it?
- 3. God requires of you faith in Christ, repentance from sins, a confession of that faith, and baptism into Christ.

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## **"Never Man Spake Like This Man"**

### **Introduction:**

1. John 7:32 – Jewish leaders send officers to arrest the Lord.
2. Verse 33. He pointed to a time when he would no longer be with them, and those seeking could not find him (v. 34). This disturbed them.

### **I. Jesus' Teaching Impressed Even The Officers Sent To Arrest Him.**

- A. He spoke of going to the One who had sent Him (v. 33).
- B. He spoke of providing drink to thirsty souls (v. 37).
- C. He spoke of the Holy Spirit, and rivers of living waters (v. 38).
- D. Some saw Him to be the Christ, and of David's seed (vv. 40-42), and men were divided (v. 43).
- E. Verse 45. The officers returned empty handed, stating, *"Never man spake like this man!"* The Pharisees accused them of being deceived.

### **II. Let Us See Some Points Regarding "Never Spake A Man Like This Man!"**

- A. Never man so spake of **Pre-Existence With The Father**
  1. No previous man, nor any since, could say such.
  2. Equal with God (Phil. 2:6). (Cf. John 1:1-2).
  3. *"... the glory I had with thee before the world was"* (John 17:5).
- B. Never man so spake of **Connection With The Father**
  1. *"He that hath seen me hath seen the Father"* (John 14:9)
  2. *"I and my Father are one"* (John 10:30).
- C. Never man so spake of **Completeness In Obeying The Father**
  1. *"I came not to do my own will"* (John 6:38).
  2. *"I do always those things that please Him"* (John 8:29).

- D. Never man so spake of **HIs Being The Way To God, Exclusively**
  - 1. The Way, Truth, Life (John 14:6).
  - 2. John 6:53 – Partake of Him to have life!
  
- E. Never man so spake of **So Dealing With The Devil**
  - 1. *"Get thee behind me, Satan!"* (Matt. 16:23).
  - 2. *"Now is the prince of this world cast out"* (John 12:31).
  - 3. He came to destroy the works of the devil (I John 3:8).
  
- F. Never man so spake of **The Heavenly Home Of The Soul**
  - 1. John 14:2-3 – Mansions in the Father's house.
  - 2. Matthew 5:34 – Heaven is God's throne.
  - 3. In faithfulness, lay up treasures in heaven (Matt. 6:20).
  
- G. Never man so spake of **The Worth Of The Soul!**
  - 1. Worth more than the whole world (Mark 8:36).
  - 2. Eternal – that which men cannot kill (Matt. 10:28).
  - 3. That which goes into God's care at death (Eccl. 12:7).

### **Conclusion:**

- 1. Never man so spake like this man! He authored the plan by which men are to be saved (Heb. 5:9). **There is NO other plan!**
- 2. The gospel, God's power to save (Rom. 1:16), requires faith, repentance, confession of Christ, and baptism into Christ for remission of sins.
- 3. This one, the Christ, also is the judge before whom we shall all one day stand (II Cor. 5:10). You need to obey Him – **NOW!**

*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **Authority**

### **Introduction:**

1. Just the one word, but how important a word it is!
2. How I view it says so much of myself and my relationship with God.
3. Much in the way of religious views centers on disdain for authority!

### **I. The Matter Of Authority Is Real When We Think Of God's Being.**

- A. If God exists, man, not being a god, is subject to God!
- B. Of man, God said, *'I formed him for myself'* (Isa. 43:21).
  1. Spoken of Israel, and no less of all men.
  2. Doing the will of God, the WHOLE (duty) of man (Eccl. 12:13).
  3. Men has to deal with God – no choice! (Heb. 4:13).

### **II. Note The Statements Wherein God Shows That Authority Over Us.**

- A. He is the Judge over all the earth (Gen. 18:25).
- B. We shall all stand before the judgment seat (II Cor. 5:10).
- C. Every one of us shall give account of himself to God (Rom. 14:12).
- D. Every work, good or evil, to be in judgment (Eccl. 12:14).
- E. In that day, judgment of the secrets of men (Rom. 2:16).
- F. Every man's work to be judged without respect of persons (I Peter 1:17).
- G. Every idle word to be accounted for in judgment (Matt. 12:36).  
**– Can we read such verses and not realize that we are under authority to God? –**

### **III. That Sense Of Authority Urges A Proper Attitude, Disposition Toward God And The Things Of God.**

#### **A. Toward the Word of God**

1. Do I feel obligated toward it, bound by what it says?
2. Or, do I look upon it as *"serious, but not too serious?"*
3. May I be reminded of God's seriousness in the matter:
  - a. *"Do not add to, nor take from"* (Deut. 4:2).
  - b. Add not, lest He reprove and make you a liar (Prov. 30:6).
  - c. The Words spoken will be the basis of judgment (John 12:48).
  - d. At the end of the Revelation, and the end of the Bible, the warning: Do not add to, nor take from (Rev. 22:18-19).

#### **B. Then, toward the Christ.**

1. These will amount to the same: The Christ, the Word of God.
2. God now speaks through His Son (Heb. 1:1-2).
3. *"... My beloved Son; HEAR YE HIM"* (Matt. 17:5).
4. Condemned if we go beyond the doctrine of Christ (II John 9).

#### **C. Then, toward NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING of the Christ.**

1. On the church.
2. On the plan of salvation.
3. On worship after the New Testament order.
4. On the organization of the church – etc., etc.

### **Conclusion:**

1. Religious division has ever been a sinful reaction to AUTHORITY!
2. Division within the kingdom has been the same; the liberalism of our current time is rebellion against AUTHORITY.
3. Proper response to AUTHORITY is to obey, and then live obediently in all things; if not a Christian, we hope you will, this day, have the faith, repent of sins, confess Christ, and be baptized BY HIS AUTHORITY!

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## **The Reality Of Sin**

### **Introduction:**

1. Man, created and placed in the garden (Gen. 2:8), and given labor (v. 15).
2. When given these instructions, man was then under LAW from God!
3. The word of law (vv. 16-17), indicates man had freedom of will in the matter.

### **I. Remember, God's Influence, And Man's, Was Not The Total Influence Present.**

- A. We've noted God, and man.
- B. But Satan had come to earth (Rev. 12:9), to deceive the whole world!
- C. He makes his influence felt in approaching Eve (Gen. 3:1), beguiling her with his subtily (II Cor. 11:3). He led her, and she and Adam violated the instructions God had given. She ate, and gave to her husband (Gen. 3:6).

### **II. We Now Ask, What Was This Behavior Called?**

- A. It was a step against the will of God, for God censures (Gen. 3:16-19).
- B. These, having knowledge only of God, now have participated in that which gives them knowledge of good AND evil!
- C. In I Timothy 2:14, the action called "TRANSGRESSION" – Going over, cutting across the will God gave.
- D. The common word: **SIN!** Defined: "*Sin is the transgression of the law*" (I John 3:4).

### **III. Sin, Then, Has Made An Entry Into The World, And Among All Men Living.**

- A. We thus see it in Adam and Eve.
- B. And in their family – Cain (Gen. 4).
- C. And, in the generations to follow, to find the wickedness of man great in the earth (Gen. 6:5) – hearts on evil continually.
- D. Death by sin, and death unto all men, for ALL HAVE SINNED (Rom. 5:12).
- E. The rule: Romans 3:23  
*"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God!"*

### **IV. It Will Help Us To See Some Facts About Sin.**

- A. Transgression of the law, as we have noted (1 John 3:4).
- B. Encouragement to sin can come from many sources; finally, it must reside in one's own lust, and giving in to enticement (James 1:14-15).
- C. Men can be in service to sin (Rom. 6:17).
- D. Sin can indwell the person (Rom. 7:17)

### **V. At The End...**

- A. At the end of a sin working within one, directing one, there is separation from God – spiritual death (Eph. 2:1).
- B. At the end of a life given to sin, there is eternal separation from God – into Heaven, nothing of defilement will enter (Rev. 21:27).
- C. The solution: Get rid of the sin, and live above it, contrary to it; live for God!

### **Conclusion**

- 1. That is possible through the Christ, the gospel, and one's obedience to it.
- 2. Faith, repentance, confession and baptism into Christ completes the alien's obedience; the baptism is for remission of sins (Acts 2:38).
- 3. Now, live the godly life, guided by the Word!



*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **Why The Cross?**

### **Introduction:**

1. A pertinent question: *"Why the Cross?"* Concerning any of God's will, it is not wrong to ask, *"Why?"*
2. And to recognize that God answers, to the extent that we need to know; the rest remains in His own counsel (Deut. 29:29). We are then content.
3. In the case of the cross, we have abundant information.

### **I. Asking "Why The Cross?" One Might Have In Mind That Type Of Death, But The Greater Question Would Be, "Why Any Death At All?"**

- A. The answer would involve a chain: Free-will, sin, condemnation, mercy, the Christ, death, blood, redemption, obedience.
- B. We will look at the points: Death on the cross, and why any death was needed.

### **II. Ultimately, We Are Back At The Planning Of God In The Beginning.**

- A. No question, God being God, that He could have made us otherwise than He did: Robots, mindless creatures with no options, choice.
- B. In providing for redemption, no question that God could have fashioned any system at all.
  1. We bow to our God's choosing His own plan.
  2. *"The good pleasure of His will"* (Eph. 1:5).
  3. A system of God, without man's counsel, advice (Rom. 11:33-34).
- C. So, God did the planning, involving both Christ and man – yea, Christ / His blood foreordained before the foundation of the world (I Peter 1:20) (Cf. Rev. 13:8).

- D. Thus, the mind of God and the planning of God, in advance of man's existing here.

### **III. More To The Question, "Why The Cross?"**

- A. From of old, the system of God provided that sinful man bring an innocent in sacrifice to God. Genesis 4:4 pictures this.
- B. The sacrifice system of the Patriarchal age was continued in the Mosaic system; more, even heathen systems picked it up.
- C. Deeply ingrained by time, and by God's teaching: For the guilty man, the innocent thing was sacrificed, shedding its blood, and amounting to the rule: *"Without the shedding, no remission"* (Heb. 9:22).
- D. Yet, for the redemption of mankind, God had to devise a system calling for a sacrifice both greatly meaningful to Himself, and at the same time impressive enough to man that he might see God, His love and mercy, wrapped up in it.
1. Blood of animals would not suffice (Heb. 10:4).
  2. But, HIS SON (John 3:16); Christ, in sacrifice of Himself (Heb. 9:28).
  3. In this giving, God's determinate counsel and foreknowledge was involved (Acts 2:23).

### **IV. Why The Agency Of The Cross?**

- A. From old: A cursed thing, hung upon the tree (Deut. 21:22-23) the point used in Galatians 3:13.
- B. A righteous one dying a death reserved for the most sinful (II Cor. 5:21). Paul: *"He loved me, gave Himself for me"* (Gal. 2:20).
- C. Christ knew of that particular death ahead of Him (Matt. 20:18-19), and spoke of it again and again (John 12:32-33).
- D. Obedient to death, EVEN the death of the cross (Phil. 2:8).

### **Conclusion:**

1. The gospel awaits your response to that death.
2. Obedience to the *"gospel of the cross"* demands faith, repentance, confession and baptism into Christ. Will you do that, NOW?

*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **"Redemption Through His Blood"**

### **Introduction:**

1. Ephesians 1:7 sets our topic forward: Redemption in Christ!
2. An Old Testament topic (Job 19:25), as well as the New Testament.
3. Definition: a *"buying back ... setting free ... deliverance."*

### **I. See How Christ Is Highlighted In Early Verses Of Ephesians 1.**

- A. Paul, apostle of Christ, to those faithful in Christ (v. 1).
- B. Grace and peace from the Christ (v. 2).
- C. All spiritual blessings are in the Christ (v. 3).
- D. We are chosen in Christ (v. 4).
- E. We are predestinated to be children by Christ (v. 5).
- F. We are made acceptable to God through Christ – beloved (v. 6).
- G. And, redemption is in Christ (v. 7).

### **II. For Our Salvation, A Redemption Was Needed.**

- A. Sin entered the world (Gen. 3); all have sinned (Rom. 3:23).
- B. Forgiveness of sins is what our text promises.
- C. It is in the Christ; hence, our Redeemer.

### **III. The Points In That Process, Designed By God.**

- A. Just here, remember that God had initiated sacrifice for sin, with the blood of the thing sacrificed being shed for man.
  1. We see it first in Genesis 4:4 and Abel.
  2. In time, even idolatrous systems picked it up.

- B. So God planned redemption in the Christ (Rom. 3:23-24).
- C. The plan: Christ should taste death for every man (Heb. 2:9), and thus He has rendered a benefit for all men.
- D. He, then, "*gave himself for us, to redeem us from all iniquity, to purify us*" (Titus 2:14).
  - 1. To deliver us from this present evil world (Gal. 1:4).
  - 2. Hence, redeemed, and in that, being "*called out.*"
- E. In that sacrifice, that death, the shedding of blood.
  - 1. The long-established law of God: Hebrews 9:22.
  - 2. Redeemed, not with corruptible things, but with the precious blood of Christ (I Peter 1:18-19).
- F. He, acting as Redeemer, obtained eternal redemption for us (Heb. 9:12).

**Conclusion:**

- 1. The price has been paid for your redemption.
- 2. The gospel, the "*good news*" of that redemption!
- 3. It's appeal for your faith, repentance, confession and baptism into Christ, that the blood will cleanse you.
- 4. If a wayward child, that blood awaits your return to God.
- 5. Come to obey your Redeemer!

*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **The Picture In Isaiah 2**

### **Introduction:**

1. Isaiah 2:1-4. A very striking picture of the church, from 700 B.C.
2. Old Testament prophecies tell us much, later to be seen in fulfillment in the New Testament.

### **I. First, A Point Or Two About The Prophets And Their Prophecies.**

- A. Men sent to their own generation to teach, warn and rebuke as to the sins of the day; they emphasized a RETURN TO GOD!
- B. They kept alive the picture of the coming Messiah and His kingdom – *“they ... showed before the coming of the Just One ...”* (Acts 7:52).

### **II. In Isaiah 2 We Have One Of The Best-Known, And Fuller, Pictures Of The New Testament Order Of Things.**

- A. Isaiah, one of the most-cited Old Testament prophets in the New Testament.
- B. Thus, called the *“Messianic”* prophet.
- C. Isaiah is the one to speak of the coming Lord (9:6), His government (9:7), His virgin birth (7:14), and His being the suffering Servant (Isa. 53).

### **III. Now, The Picture In Isaiah 2.**

- A. A picture of the **New Testament Age**.
  1. In *“the last days”* (v. 2).
  2. The days in which God's Son speaks (Heb. 1:1-2).
  3. Peter sees fulfillment of Joel – Acts 2:17.
- B. A picture of **The Church Of The Lord** (v. 2).
  1. The *“mountain of the Lord's house to be established”* yet, such already existed in Israel – in Judah, in Jerusalem.

2. Something yet future, then, to be exalted.
  3. We see the church pictured as the Lord's house (I Tim. 3:15), and those making up the church called the temple of God (I Cor. 3:9 – God's building; v. 16, the temple of God).
- C. A picture of **That To Embrace All Nations** (v. 2).
1. The Old Testament system for the Jews – Gentiles excluded.
  2. Isaiah, writing under the system only for the Jews, then points to God's great future house, and *"all nations shall flow unto it"* (v. 2).
  3. The Great Commission thus embraces the thought – the whole world (Mark 16:15-16), and salvation (Rom. 1:16). *"Other sheep"* – not of the Jewish fold (John 10:16).
- D. A picture of a **New Law, Going From Jerusalem** (v. 3).
1. Many people (all nations) to go and learn the will of the Lord. A law will go forth from Zion (and not Sinai) – the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
  2. Acts 2, the gospel proclaimed in the name of the resurrected Lord.
- E. A picture of the **Rule Of Peace** (v. 4).
1. Jesus, Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6).
  2. Bringing peace to men, and turning men to peaceful endeavors.
  3. A warfare, to be sure (II Cor. 10:3-5), but one spiritual in nature.

## Conclusion:

1. Men are added to that kingdom, the church, upon obedience (Acts 2:47).
2. Faith, repentance, confession, and baptism are the terms upon which one can come to, and into, that kingdom.

*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **Abraham And Christ**

### **Introduction:**

1. The call of Abraham – one of the Bible's 'mountain peak' events.
2. From this, the formation of the Jewish nation, and leading to Christ.
3. In the call, we find the promise of the seed, Savior and salvation.

### **I. In The Call To Abraham, Promise Of Great Blessing To Many.**

- A. Genesis 12:1-3.
  1. Of Abraham, a great nation to come.
  2. More: All families of the earth to be blessed.
- B. Genesis 15:2-6.
  1. All of this, unclear to Abraham at the time.
  2. But God promised (v. 5), and Abraham believed (v. 6).

### **II. Abraham's Descendants Saw The Blood Line, But No Spiritual View.**

- A. They had great reliance upon fleshly descent from Abraham, and saw their salvation in that fact.
- B. John saw them spurning his message, comforted in the fact that they were Abraham's seed (Matt. 3:9-10).
- C. Before the Lord, they made the same claim (John 8:33), needing not the freedom Jesus had offered (v. 32).
  1. The blood line was there (v. 37), but they were not, in behavior, such as Abraham would bless (vv. 39-41).
  2. Jesus showed intimacy with Abraham:
    - a. "Abraham rejoiced to see my day ... and was glad" (v. 56).
    - b. On His Deity: "Before Abraham was, I am" (v. 58).

- D. By God's truth, emphasis had been moved from Abraham's line through blood to the Christ.

### **III. Those Truly Of Abraham Are Those Obedient To The Christ.**

- A. Jewish - Gentile distinction does not apply in Christ!
- B. No benefit to the outward marks of Judaism (Rom. 2:28-29).
  - 1. Connection with God not through the flesh.
  - 2. Rather, a "*circumcision*" of the heart!
- C. Abraham, the father of those who walk in the steps of faith (Rom. 4:12).
- D. One in Christ is then Abraham's seed, and an heir of the promise made in Genesis 12:3 (Gal. 3:29).

#### **Conclusion:**

- 1. One is baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:27), and the baptism is preceded by faith, repentance and confession.
- 2. In Christ, then Abraham's seed, and an heir.
- 3. Then, one is a part of God's "*Israel*" (Gal. 6:16) of today.



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## **The Ten Commandments**

Exodus 20:3-17

### **Introduction:**

1. To many, all that God desires is, *"Keep the 10 Commandments."*
2. These have no concept of God's differing dispensations, laws.
3. It is shocking to them to be told, *"We're not under that law."*

### **I. The Ten Commandments Introduced The Law Of Moses.**

- A. A listing of them, Exodus 20:3-17.
- B. As with each law given from God – Mosaic or Christian – there is encompassed: Duty to God, duty to man.
- C. Jesus spoke of both in Matthew 22:37-39 – Love of God, and love of neighbor.

### **II. The Ten Commandments, A Part Of The Mosaic Law.**

- A. That law given only to Israel, and thus not to Gentiles.
- B. The law was only temporary, guiding Israel until the time when Christ would come, providing for obedient faith in Him (Gal. 3:23-25).
- C. In fulfilling God's mission for him, Christ:
  1. Nailed the law to the cross (Col. 2:14).
  2. Abolished the law in His flesh (Eph. 2:15).
- D. The law, then, has been done away (Heb. 10:9).

### **III. Let Us Look At What The Ten Commandments Had To Say.**

- A. Prohibiting other gods (Exod. 20:3). Still God's law.
- B. Prohibiting making of images (vv. 4-6). Still God's law.
- C. Prohibiting taking the Lord's name in vain (v. 7). Still God's law.

- D. Remembering the Sabbath day – keeping it holy (vv. 8-11). To be discussed further.
- E. Honoring of father and mother (v. 12). Still God's law.
- F. Prohibiting murder (v. 13). Still God's law.
- G. Prohibiting adultery (v. 14). Still God's law.
- H. Prohibiting stealing (v. 15). Still God's law.
- I. Prohibiting false witness (v. 16). Still God's law.
- J. Prohibiting covetousness (v. 17). Still God's law.

#### **IV. We Now Live, Serve And Worship Under The Law Of Christ.**

- A. Hebrews 1:1-2 makes that plain (cf. Matt. 17:5).
- B. The 4th commandment, applicable under the law of Moses, does not now apply: Rather, Christians worship on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2).
- C. The nine remaining commandments are also found under the law of Christ.
- D. In abiding by what is found in those nine, we do so in obedience to Christ, not Moses.

#### **Conclusion:**

1. Man must know the law he is subject to, in this Christian age.
2. Faith has always been required (Heb. 11:1-2); as has repentance of sins, but we must now confess the Christ and be baptized into Him, by His authority, to be saved.
3. This we do, subject to Christ, and to His law – and not due to subjection to the law of Moses!

*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **The Two Testaments**

(Hebrews 9:15)

### **Introduction:**

1. This volume, the Bible, is the STANDARD by which we will be judged (John 12:48).
2. It is a handbook on salvation, and all things connected with it.
3. As with any tool, it must be handled properly (II Tim. 2:15).

### **I. Notice With Us The Most Apparent Divisions: Old and New Testaments.**

- A. By *'testament'* is meant: *'Covenant, agreement, will.'*
- B. We must know of these two testaments, and man must be able to find himself as to the testament, will, dispensation or law to which he is subject.
- C. Both testaments, given from God. God spake in time past, and then, a change: He speaks through His Son (Heb. 1:1-2).

### **II. What Do We Find In The Old Testament?**

- A. 39 books, detailing two dispensations: Patriarchal and Mosaic.
- B. The Patriarchal Age – A *'patriarch'* was a *'father.'*
  1. A dispensation wherein God dealt with the *'fathers.'*
  2. No law had been written down for man, but law was given to man, as God spake to the fathers.
    - a. Adam and Eve sinned, and sin is the transgression of God's law (I John 3:4).
    - b. The men of Noah's time sinned (Gen. 6:5).
    - c. Sodom and Gomorrah sinned (II Peter 2:6).
- C. The Mosaic Age – Israel, under the Law of Moses.
  1. The law was only given to Israel (Exod. 20:1-2).
  2. The law, a schoolmaster to lead Israel until that time when justification would be by faith in Christ (Gal. 3:23-25).
  3. Christ came to fulfill that law (Matt. 5:17), being the END of it (Rom. 10:4).

- D. Hebrews 11 details those, under both Patriarchal and Mosaic law, who walked by faith, doing as God bade them.

### **III. Law For All Men Today: The New Testament Of The Christ.**

- A. 27 books – 4 giving the life of the Lord, lived under the Old Testament law, but pointing to the New.
- B. 23 books detailing the life, work, service and worship to be rendered unto God through the Christ.
- C. Reminders as to our law today:
1. Believe in the Christ, or perish (John 3:16).
  2. God says, *'Hear ye him'* (Matt. 17:5).
  3. Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life (John 14:6).
  4. Man must obey the Word of the Lord (John 12:48)!

### **Conclusion:**

1. Man can find himself – he is subject to the New Testament.
2. Salvation cannot be obtained in trying to live under either the Patriarchal or Mosaic system; Christ's law was not there!
3. You must believe in the Christ, turn from sins, confess the Christ, and be baptized for remission of sins. Then, you have responded to the proper law, and in the proper way!

*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **Why Cite The Old Testament?**

### **Introduction:**

1. Often, people are 'shocked' when we state, "We're not under the Old Testament law."
2. Some, in misunderstanding, have said: "You folks don't **believe** the Old Testament?"
3. The shock and the misunderstanding rests in a failure of men to understand what it is to rightly divide the Word of God (II Tim. 2:15).

### **I. Some Men Say, "Bible Is Bible ... The God Of The New Testament, Same As The Old."**

- A. Indeed, Genesis 1:1 is Bible, and so is Revelation 22:21, and all in between.
- B. Indeed, the God of Genesis 1:1 is the same as Revelation 22:19.
- C. But every point of law from God has not applied to all men in all time, past and present.
  1. Same God today as Genesis 6, but you and I do not have to build an ark.
  2. Same God today as Malachi 1:8, but you and I do not offer animal sacrifices.
- D. The law from God, and its time, place, people – dispensation – is vital; unless we understand these, no way to understand the Bible, and no way to please God.
- E. From this point, two factors we will consider: (1) In seeing different laws, and the value of law, (2) Why can one law be cited even though men are no longer under that law?

### **II. Let Us Make Firm That Point On Change Of Law, And Focus On Our Present Position.**

- A. The change made clear –
  1. As regards the Christ.
    - a. Men must come through Him (John 14:6).
    - b. Men must hear Him (Matt. 17:5).
    - c. Life in His name (John 20:30-31).

2. As stated concerning the law of Moses.
  - a. Nailed to His cross (Col. 2:14).
  - b. Abolished in His flesh (Eph. 2:15).
  - c. Was temporary, until the Christ (Gal. 3:23-25).
- B. We, then, are under the law of Christ.
- C. Virtually all of the book of Hebrews so stresses. We cannot be under two laws at the same time. One ended in order that the other might exist!

### III. Does That Mean That The Old Law Cannot Be Cited, Or That It Has No Value? And, If It Can Be Cited, To What End, Or For What Purpose?

- A. Let us hear from Paul on that first point.
  1. Romans 15:4. Earlier statements of law are for our learning (Cited Psm. 69:9). Scriptures provide patience, comfort – embellish hope.
  2. I Corinthians 10:11. Examples of Israel's disobedience are provided for us. We are to be warned, admonished thereby. Instances cited are from Old Testament history, but Paul uses them in writing New Testament Christians.
- B. There is value, then. Going further as to how Old Testament instances can be cited.
  1. Some matters reside in permanent principles of God, true from the very beginning, and true under each and every law, and for all time.
  2. Some Old Testament events / circumstances are the same as events / circumstances in the New, and therefore similarity is seen.
  3. Some New Testament events / circumstances are the fulfilling of Old Testament prophecy.
- C. In all of it, the New Testament is the law of Christ, and the Old Testament citations **substantiate** the New. That is the rule: Previous law in substantiation of the present law.

### Conclusion:

1. We must handle the Word properly (II Tim. 2:15). It will judge us (John 12:48).
2. Have you obeyed it? Do you presently live by it?
3. If you have not obeyed, God requires faith, repentance, confession and baptism for remission of sins. The LAW OF CHRIST so demands. Will you obey that law?

*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **The Truth Shall Make You Free**

John 8:31-32

### **Introduction:**

1. John 8:31-32. Spoken to men in bondage, but not knowing it.
2. Jesus' statement perplexed the Jews, who saw no bondage at all.
3. In what sense did He speak? He does the same, to men today.

### **I. Around Jesus' Words, Some Questions To Aid Us.**

- A. What of TRUTH?
  1. Is any ABSOLUTE? Is there real truth?
  2. *'Ye shall KNOW it'* (John 8:32). The Word is truth (John 17:17).
- B. What of FREEDOM?
  1. Greatly desirable; secular men speak of it, want it.
  2. In what sense did not these Jews have it?
  3. Bondage of sin (John 8:34)!
  4. Sin NOT to reign in us (Rom. 6:12). Freedom from sin, its dominion, desired (Rom. 6:7, following picture of verse 6).
- C. What of ACTION TO GUIDE PROPERLY?
  1. Continue in MY WORD (John 8:31).
  2. Obedience to truth (1 Peter 1:22). Obedience to that Word, that truth.

### **II. We Speak To People All The Time Who Are Not Free!**

- A. They are not aware of their bondage.
- B. They do not feel they are not free.
- C. They are not aware of spiritual death (Eph. 2:1).
- D. They do not feel in danger – soul in jeopardy (Mark 8:36).

### **III. So, We Must Still Do That Which Jesus Says Is Needed.**

- A. Point to the Word. The truth, the gospel ... gospel of your salvation (Eph. 1:13).
- B. Point out that the design of the Word is to SAVE.
  - 1. Power of God to do that (Rom. 1:16).
  - 2. The proclaimed Word saves (I Cor. 1:21).
- C. Point out that the Word is a call to the lost.
  - 1. The Word is heralded forth.
  - 2. God thus calls men, by the gospel (II Thess. 2:14).
- D. Point out that men must make obedient response – must obey.
  - 1. Condemned if they do not (II Thess. 1:7-9).
  - 2. Hebrews 5:9. Salvation to those who obey Him.
- E. Point out that in obedience, the cleansing comes.
  - 1. Baptism for remission of sins (Acts 2:38).
  - 2. To wash away sins – for salvation (Acts 22:16; I Peter 3:21).
- F. And, point out the need to continue in the Word!
  - 1. John 8:31.
  - 2. I Corinthians 15:58. Abound ... continue ... faithful unto death.
  - 3. Revelation 2:10.

### **Conclusion:**

- 1. Hearing that Word, believing it, turning from sin, confessing Christ, and then, baptism into Him. The beginning!
- 2. Now, continue till your time is ended here – continue in the Word!



*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **Are You A Glad Receiver Of The Word?**

Acts 2:41

### **Introduction:**

1. God's plan in operation: The Word and man working together.
2. The Great Commission (Mark 16:15-16) sends the Word forth, and the power placed in the gospel can effect salvation.

### **I. This Being So, How Men React To The Word Of God Is Important.**

- A. Jesus pictured four kinds of hearts, dealing with the Word, and only one was good and honest – open to truth (Luke 8:15).
- B. Jesus found it, in His own generation, much as Isaiah had: Some men close hearts, eyes, ears – blocking the Word (Matt. 13:15).
- C. Some men, in hearing the Word, thrust it away from themselves, and judge themselves unworthy of everlasting life (Acts 13:46).

### **II. Still, Some Men Are "Glad Receivers" Of The Word!**

- A. That is what we have in Acts 2:41.
- B. That is what the Lord pictured in showing us the honest and good heart (Luke 8:15).
- C. That is what is pictured in Acts 17:11, as we see the noble Bereans with readiness of mind receiving the Word.

### **III. Are You A "Glad Receiver" Of The Word? Acts 2 Describes Them.**

- A. Glad receivers BELIEVE THE SCRIPTURES, AND THE APOSTLES
  1. The Savior's words delivered through apostles (John 17:20).
  2. Scriptures are cited, vv. 16, 25, giving the truth of God.
  3. The apostles were believed as true witnesses (v. 32).

- B. Glad receivers CHANGE THEIR MINDS AND WILLS ABOUT THE CHRIST.**
1. To many, he was an imposter, blasphemer – worthy of death.
  2. Now, He is presented as Lord and Christ (v. 36).
  3. They accept the fact that authority rests in Him (v. 36).
- C. Glad receivers ACCEPT THE FACT OF THEIR SINFULNESS.**
1. There is no dodging, evading, bending or twisting.
  2. They are shown to be sinful, vv. 36-38, and in need of salvation.
- D. Glad receivers COUNT THE COST, AND PAY THE PRICE.**
1. These had to move against background, upbringing, family and follow a course bringing hardship to many of them.
  2. 3,000 of them did not try to delay, put obedience off.
  3. They did obey, to attain their salvation (vv. 38, 47).
- E. Glad receivers DO NOT BALK AT GOD'S REQUIREMENTS.**
1. Except for those who had heard John, baptism was new to them.
  2. It was commanded, by Christ's authority, for remission of sins (v. 38). 3,000 of them were baptized (v. 41).
  3. There, the honest and good heart, in right response to God!
- F. Glad receivers CONTINUE STEADFASTLY IN TRUTH.**
1. Acts 2:42. They embarked in this new way with consistency.
  2. I Corinthians 15:58. Steadfast, unmoveable, abounding in God's work.

### **Conclusion:**

1. One other point: Glad receivers LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER!
2. Will you do as these, about 3,000 of them, did nearly 2,000 years ago?
3. Will you believe Jesus is the Christ, repent of sins, confess your faith, and be baptized into the Christ? What is your attitude toward God's Word?

*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **Holding Fast The Profession Of Faith**

Hebrews 10:23-27

### **Introduction:**

1. Hebrews 10:23-27 relates to Christian living, faithfulness.
2. In contrast we have holding fast, provoking to love and good works with wavering, forsaking, and sinning wilfully.

### **I. Some General Principles Here, And In The Background.**

- A. Purpose of Hebrews: To charge those tempted to return to the law of Moses that they have nowhere to go!
- B. They are now in the new and living way (Heb. 10:20).
- C. Warning is given: *'Cast not away your confidence'* (v. 35).
  1. They have faith (full assurance of it) (v. 22).
  2. They have professed it, are to profess it (v. 23).
  3. In this, they are not to waver, be in doubt (v. 23).
  4. They are to hold fast! (cf. I Cor. 15:58).
  5. Behind it all: God is faithful (v. 23); saints are asked thus to be faithful to Him.

### **II. Now, Looking Into Our Verses For More Particulars.**

- A. The DILIGENCE required in holding fast; *'having done ALL, to stand'* (Eph. 6:13).
- B. In faithfulness, CONSIDER ONE ANOTHER (v. 24), to PROVOKE one another. I can never think just of myself, and not my brethren who make up the church. Exampleship!
  1. Before the church, and before others.
  2. Matthew 5:16; Colossians 4:5; I Timothy 4:12

### **III. Please See That The Matter Of Attendance Is Spoken Of.**

- A. In illustrating holding fast, not wavering, being faithful, consider one another, doing good works and loving – the attendance at services is the point at hand.

- B. *'Do not forsake the assembling together'* (v. 25).
  - 1. Some then had the custom of forsaking.
  - 2. The point: Plan on being present! Exhort one another in the matter!
  
- C. In this very area, WILFUL SIN then is the point, also (v. 26).
  - 1. No sacrifice covers one in wilful sin!
  - 2. What is before one is fiery indignation! (v. 27).
  
- D. Be faithful in attendance, in encouraging others, in cooperating with the elders – yea, HOLD FAST!

**Conclusion:**

- 1. Faithfulness in life is required (Rev. 2:10).
- 2. Not a child of God? Faith, repentance, confession and baptism will see you forgiven, placed in the church (Acts 2:47).
- 3. Then, faithfulness in life, work, and worship will see you placed in heaven (Rev. 22:14).

*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **Proclaiming New Testament Gospel**

### **Introduction:**

1. in our series, when we think of this present age, THE CHRISTIAN AGE, we find something entirely new: An evangelistic thrust taking men and a message to all the world!
2. Such did not exist in the Patriarchal Age; in the age of Moses, the law was for Israel and not for the Gentiles. Evangelism was not a part of the law, except as one man under the law would give encouragement or rebuke to another man also under that same law.

### **I. Even Under The Law, We Find A Pointing To The New Testament – And Benefit To All Men.**

- A. Isaiah 2:1-3 The law from Jerusalem – all nations to benefit.
- B. Joel 2:28 A pouring out upon ALL FLESH.
- C. John 10:16 Christ, having other sheep not of His present fold
- D. Acts 2:39 Promise to Jews, their descendants, and those afar off.

### **II. New Testament Fulfillment Of Old Testament Promise Waited Upon Two Events.**

- A. The death of the Christ. Redemption for man (Eph. 1:7); justification for man (Rom. 3).
- B. The resurrection of the Christ, pictured here as the gist of the gospel (I Cor. 15:1-4).
- C. Christ had promised the apostles an empowering, giving them truth (John 16:13).
- D. They were then to wait in Jerusalem for that power (Luke 14:49; Acts 1:4-5).

- E. The power came upon them (Acts 2:1-4), and now they speak that gospel!
- F. The Lord had earlier said it was to be taken to the whole world (Mark 16:15-16).


### III. And There, Acts 2, Is The Beginning.

- A. Remembering Isaiah 2:2 – All nations.
- B. The Great Commission – All the world (Mark 16:15-16).
- C. In Acts 2, promise to all – Jews, Jewish descendency, and those afar off (Acts 2:39).
- D. Here then, the beginning of the CHRISTIAN AGE, the GOSPEL AGE.

### IV. The Business Of The Church Is The Making Known Of The Gospel.

- A. What is that business? Preaching the good news (I Cor. 1:21).
- B. What is that preaching called?

And yet, there is but **ONE MESSAGE**

- 
- 1. Preaching of the gospel (Mark 16:15; I Cor. 1:17).
  - 2. Preaching of the cross (I Cor. 1:18).
  - 3. Preaching of the Christ (I Cor. 1:23).
  - 4. Preaching of Jesus (Acts 8:35).
  - 5. Preaching the faith (Gal. 1:23).
  - 6. Preaching the Word of God (Acts 13:5).
  - 7. Preaching the forgiveness of sins (Acts 13:38).
  - 8. Preaching the kingdom of God (Acts 8:12).
  - 9. Preaching the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 8:12).
  - 10. Preaching peace (Eph. 2:17).

### Conclusion:

- 1. The gospel is thus commanded to be preached, that you might be saved.
- 2. That gospel must be obeyed: Faith, repentance, confession and baptism into Christ are the terms.
- 3. In the ten points above, think of what you obey if you will now do the Lord's will; think, on the other hand, of what you reject if you spurn the message!

*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **The New Testament Church Pattern**

### **Introduction:**

1. In our series, we have noted Jesus' church: The promise to build (Matt. 16:18), and its reality (Acts 2:47).
2. The church is the Lord's body (Col. 1:18). He is its Head, and the Head regulates the body. We set forth the idea that the New Testament contains a church pattern.

### **I. The Scriptures Themselves Set Forth The Idea Of A Pattern.**

- A. All we know, authoritatively, of the church is found therein.
- B. And, the Scriptures are inspired of God, to furnish us completely unto every good work (II Tim. 3:16-17).
  1. Obeying the gospel is a good work – an essential one (II Thess. 1:7-9).
  2. In obeying, the Lord adds one to the church (Acts 2:47).
  3. If the furnishing of the Scriptures is complete, then all we need to know of the church is found therein.
  4. In the last day, the Words of the Lord will judge us (John 12:48).

### **II. There Are Marks, Or Features, Of The Church Set Forth In The Word Of God.**

- A. It is so in matters of doctrine; truth and error exist, and the Word will cause us to see the difference (I John 4:1).
- B. It is so regarding the Christ. He said that false Christs will come (Matt. 24:24), and the Word will cause us to thus see the real Christ, and expose false ones.
- C. And it is so regarding the church of the Lord, the ONE BODY He promised to build (Matt. 16:18). If He has set forth its features, then by the Scriptures we have the standard to see the truth, and see also what is false.
- D. And, remembering the Lord's warning: Every plant the Heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up (Matt. 15:13).
  1. Every system, every doctrine, every form, every teaching, every false teacher.
  2. Jesus Himself said the way is NARROW (Matt. 7:14).

### III. What, Then, Would Be Some Marks Of The New Testament Church?

- A. We must keep PATTERN in mind.
  1. Early on, in Israel, pattern was stressed (Num. 8:4; cf. Heb. 8:5).
  2. The Word being authoritative, pattern is indeed set!
- B. According to the PATTERN, what are some features of the church?
  1. In organizational structure – independent, autonomous congregations; the New Testament is silent as to any organization larger than a local congregation (Phil. 1:1).
  2. In local rule: Elders appointed as overseers (Acts 20:28); whose rule is within the local congregation (I Peter 5:2). And, plurality of elders.
  3. Worship according to New Testament simplicity:
    - a. Prayer (Acts 2:42).
    - b. Study (Acts 2:42).
    - c. Giving – freewill contributions on the first day of the week (I Cor. 16:2; II Cor. 9:7).
    - d. Lord's Supper – first day of the week (Acts 20:7).
    - e. Congregational singing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).
  4. The Bible as the only rule of faith – NO CREED (Matt. 15:9; Col. 2:22). Sufficiency of the Word (II Tim. 3:16-17).
  5. As to NAME – the church identified by Biblical terminology for the church.
    - a. Church of God (I Cor. 1:2).
    - b. Church of Christ (Rom. 16:16).
    - c. Church of the Living God (I Tim. 3:15)  
All N. T. terms, honoring of God and Christ, not man, man's things.
    - d. Followers of Christ called by the proper name set forth in the Word: CHRISTIAN (Acts 11:26; Acts 26:28; I Peter 4:16).
  6. In sum: ALL THINGS as authorized by the Word of God (I Peter 4:11).

### Conclusion:

1. In doing the RIGHT things – faith, repentance, confession and baptism – the Lord adds men to the RIGHT church – His own!
2. We urge that you obey now. The world offers plenty of variations, all to the pleasing of Satan. The New Testament of Christ offers you the RIGHT course!



*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **The Kingdom / Church**

### **Introduction:**

1. Our series on basics caused us to see the prophecy of the coming Christ – to be Ruler – King – Governor – Savior.
2. So many prophecies emphasized some aspect of a KING and His KINGDOM.
3. We now study in that area, as we proceed in our study.

### **I. As Jesus Began His Ministry:**

- A. His message: *The kingdom is AT HAND* (Matt. 4:17).
- B. John preceded Him with the same message (Matt. 3:2).  
*'At hand'* signified *'nearness.'*
- C. So much of the Lord's teaching centered on THE KINGDOM: much teaching in parables, and many of them begin with *'The kingdom of Heaven is like...'* (cf. Matt. 13).
- D. The point *'kingdom at hand'* is verified in Mark 9:1 – Some **then present** would not **taste of death** until **they saw** the kingdom **come with power**.

### **II. Jesus Spoke Of The Kingdom / Church Interchangeably.**

- A. *'Church'* – a called-out body.
- B. *'KINGDOM'* is used, but emphasis often on the people – *'The church ... the body.'* Christ did **not** build one thing, and Peter admit men into **another!**
- C. Matthew 16:18 ... build the church  
16:19 ... open the doors of the kingdom  
**One and the same Institution!**
- D. So, the Old Testament kingdom-of-promise (in the Messiah) became, in the New Testament (in the Christ), the CHURCH OF THE CHRIST!
  1. And, not a material structure, building.

2. Rather, a people; a people blood-bought (Acts 20:28).
3. More: Nothing said of a multiplicity of bodies, systems (cf. Matt. 15:13).

### III. Let Us Add Some Material On The Church, Kingdom As The Same Institution.

- A. It is needed due to widespread premillennialism: Teaching that the church has come into being, and it is **not** the kingdom, but that the kingdom will come later upon this earth. The premillennial doctrine is false to the core!
- B. The church, we are told, was in the eternal purpose of God (Eph. 3:10-11).
- C. The Great Commission (Mark 16:15-16) authorized a message, for all men, and for all time (Matt. 28:20) – the **one** message is the gospel of the kingdom, the church (Acts 8:12).
- D. Paul and the Colossians were **in** the kingdom (Col. 1:13).
- E. The Supper of the Lord, given to be observed **in the kingdom** (Matt. 26:29), was given to be observed **IN THE CHURCH** (I Cor. 1:2; I Cor. 11:23-30).

### Conclusion:

1. In the Old Testament, those in the kingdom of Israel were promised a King, a Ruler, over a Kingdom He would establish.
2. It had to do with salvation, and in the New Testament that kingdom took the form of the church, with men entering the kingdom through a spiritual birth as a message was embraced, the gospel.
3. Through faith, repentance, confession and baptism into Christ (Gal. 3:27), which is baptism into the body – the kingdom – (I Cor. 12:13), men have remission of sins.
4. Will you, today, enter into that kingdom – and in Christ – by your obedience?

*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **Acts 2 And Fulfillment**

### **Introduction:**

1. Acts 2 – Pivotal day in God's plan for man's redemption.
2. Great and notable day, with many events taking place.
3. It was indeed a day of events, but also a day of FULFILLMENT.

### **I. "This Is That Which Was Spoken By The Prophet Joel" (Acts 2:16).**

- A. Every year had its Pentecost; important to all Jews.
- B. The event brought a great gathering into Jerusalem, as verse 5 shows us.
- C. This particular day, Acts 2, was different due to FULFILLMENT.

### **II. We Begin With Peter's Words And See Areas Of Fulfillment.**

- A. A fulfilling of Joel's prophecy (Joel 2:28-32).
  1. An outpouring promised to the apostles (Acts 1:4-5).
  2. Spiritual gifts were involved (I Cor. 12:8-10); some women also prophesied (Acts 21:9). Acts 2, the beginning of fulfillment here.
- B. A fulfilling of the promise of salvation.
  1. Acts 2:21 mentions this, fulfilling Joel's words again.
  2. The "*calling upon the name of the Lord*" is the obedient reliance on God's will (vv. 36-38, 47).
  3. Whatever the Jews had in the law, they were still now subject to the gospel for their salvation!
  4. The promise had been that a law would go forth from Jerusalem (Isa. 2:3). In Acts 2, that law begins to be made known.
- C. A fulfilling of prophecies as to the Lord's death and resurrection.
  1. Isaiah 53 and other prophecies had spoken of this event.

2. Peter cites David (Acts 2:31) as speaking of the resurrection of Christ – and hence, He is Lord and Christ (v. 36).
- D. A fulfilling of prophecies on the reign of Christ on a throne.
1. The promise to David, found in II Samuel 7:13, 16 – a throne established.
  2. Peter shows that the promise of a throne (Acts 2:30) was a reference to the resurrection of Christ (v. 31).
  3. Christ now reigns, while death is in effect (I Cor. 15:24-26).
- E. A fulfilling of the promise of remission of sins in actuality.
1. From prophecy: *"I will remember their sin no more"* (Jer. 31:34).
  2. Yet, the Old Testament sacrifices could not take away sins – there was still the yearly remembrance (Heb. 10:3-4).
  3. From Adam's day, the offerings only had the sins lifted in view of Christ's coming death to accomplish it.
  4. Here, Acts 2, **after** Christ's death, remission in actuality!
- F. A fulfilling of promises pertaining to the church.
1. Isaiah 2:2. God's house (see I Tim. 3:15), a spiritual entity (I Peter 2).
  2. Tied to the giving of the law, in Jerusalem (Isa. 2:3).
  3. In their obedience, saved, and added to the church (Acts 2:47) by the Lord Himself.

### **Conclusion:**

1. Acts 2 – the law of Christ, the New Testament message, began here.
2. Men had to obey the message proclaimed: Faith, repentance, confession and baptism for remission of sins. Salvation was theirs!
3. Today, the same law, the same requirements, the same promised benefits!

*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **Misconceptions Concerning The Church #1**

### **Introduction:**

1. A great need: To be filled with understanding of God's will (Col. 1:9).
2. Psalm 119:128. God's will gives understanding in all things.
3. In that regard, let us clear up misunderstandings about the church.

### **I. We Are Not Surprised That There Are Misconceptions About The Church.**

- A. Satan's work is to beguile, deceive (II Cor. 11:3).
- B. Satan's servants, whoever they are, work at deception, even to using the Word in a deceitful fashion (II Cor. 4:2).
- C. As to our topic, Jews in Jesus' day had already formed misconceptions as to the nature of the kingdom – thought it temporal.
- D. Think of the same confusion today, as men – many of them premillennialists – still think of the kingdom in ways far, far removed from what is said in God's will.

### **II. How Important Is The Topic?**

- A. The church – in the eternal purpose of God (Eph. 3:10-11).
- B. The church – God is to be glorified by us therein (Eph. 3:21).
- C. The church – upon our obedience, we are added thereto (Acts 2:47).

### **III. Let Us See Some Of Those Current Misconceptions.**

- A. *"Alexander Campbell founded the Church of Christ."*
  1. No man can found the New Testament church; that's the point.
  2. The seed is the Word (Luke 8:11); in the New

Testament, no word given on any man *'founding'* the church in any locality.

3. Jesus is the head (Col. 1:18), and He has given the seed.
  4. All Campbell could do is what you and I can do: Take the seed, and plant it, and with several converts, a congregation.
- B. *The Church of Christ doesn't believe the Old Testament."*
1. Wrong! Every word proceeds from God's mouth (Matt. 4:4).
  2. Old Testament scriptures, those Timothy learned – inspired (II Tim. 3:15-17).
  3. But the Old Testament law ended (Gal. 3:23-25), taken away (Col. 2:14).
  4. God speaks through His Son (Heb. 1:1; Matt. 17:5).
- C. *The Church of Christ believes in salvation by works."*
1. In same fashion as Jesus did – faith a work (John 6:29).
  2. Works of merit condemned (Eph. 2:8-9); faith alone condemned (James 2:24). Works of obedience demanded (Rom. 1:5; Rom. 16:26).
- D. *The Church of Christ believes in 'water salvation,' baptismal 'regeneration."*
1. Baptism – counsel of God (Luke 7:29-30).
  2. John, a man from God, brought it (John 1:6; Mark 1:4).
  3. We teach OBEDIENCE for salvation – FULLY, COMPLETELY OBEDIENT!

## **Conclusion:**

1. Many other misconceptions exist. Another lesson will deal with more.
2. You have learned enough to see God's truths; now, will you obey them? Having heard, will you believe, repent, confess Christ and be baptized for remission of sins?
3. If you once obeyed, and wandered, will you return?

*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **Misconceptions Concerning The Church #2**

### **Introduction:**

1. Sin and ignorance – the twins of Satan working to send men to torment.
2. *"Destroyed for lack of knowledge!"* – True then (Hosea 4:6), and true now.
3. Without knowledge, man cannot be saved.

### **I. Reflect Briefly To First Lesson On This Subject.**

- A. We noted Satan, who works at deceiving.
- B. And, concerning the church, we noted the charge that Campbell founded the church, that the church does not believe the Old Testament, that we believe in salvation by works (and they have in mind, works of merit), and that the church believes in water salvation.
- C. We turned to the New Testament for the truth in these study areas.

### **II. Now, Let Us See Another List Of Common Misconceptions.**

- A. *The Church of Christ does not believe in salvation by grace.*
  1. Wrong as can be! From Adam on, to the last man ever to be saved, it all will be by God's grace!
  2. This does not mean man can shun obedience; he must obey the gospel (Heb. 5:9; II Thess. 1:7-9), and that Word is the gospel of God's grace (Acts 20:32)! Grace has provided for obedience!
- B. *The Church of Christ does not believe in music.*
  1. No more false statement can be made about our worship!
  2. But there is **singing**, and there is **the playing of an instrument**; the New Testament emphasis is on the **singing** ... throughout!

3. Matthew 26:30 – the music of the Lord, apostles; Acts 16:25; I Cor. 14:15, in proper worship; again, Eph. 5:19 and Col. 3:16 – **SINGING!**
  4. Man never authorized to tamper, change, add to the worship!
- C. *The Church of Christ believes one must be baptized by a 'Church of Christ' preacher.*
1. Some have used this, in mocking the restoration period, in that the first men obedient had to be baptized by one not a member of the church.
  2. But it is the **purpose** of the baptism that is significant – for **remission of sins, washing away of sins**, etc. (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16).
  3. If not so, then upon apostasy and passing of years, no one could ever obey the gospel of the Lord, there being no *'church of Christ'* preachers available!
- D. *The Church of Christ preaches against creeds, but prints them.*
1. An official creed would be a statement from headquarters, or a document proclaimed as creed, manual, discipline, articles of faith. Such are condemned (Matt. 15:9; Col. 2:22).
  2. A tract, article, is simply a sermon, and no more a creed than my sermon statements.

### **Conclusion:**

1. The Word is truth (John 17:17), and it dispels misconceptions.
2. Your need is to obey the truth – and purify the soul (I Peter 1:22).
3. Faith, repentance, confession and baptism for remission of sins are the terms. Will you obey, now?



*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **What About Denominationalism?**

### **Introduction:**

1. John 17:20-21. A great statement in the Lord's great prayer.
2. But more, it tells us what the Lord thinks of division, denominationalism.
3. We consider that question now: **What about denominationalism?**

### **I. What Do We Mean By The Term "Denominationalism?"**

- A. By definition: A class, a group, whether of coin, stamp, or religious system.
- B. Always the important question: Did Jesus originate such systems?
- C. And, we ask: Who is it that is pleased with denominationalism?
  1. I Corinthians 1:10. Who was pleased at this divided state? Satan!
  2. I Timothy 4:1-2. Who is pleased with this? Note: Doctrine of demons!
  3. II Timothy 4:3-4. Who is pleased with this? Satan! The division came when men had other desires than truth, and turned to fable!
  4. II Peter 2:1-2. Who is pleased with the work of the false teachers pictured as coming among us? Satan! The way of truth spurned (v. 2).

### **II. Behind All Of Denominationalism Lie The Creeds, Doctrines Of Men.**

- A. Such entered into Judaism, as Jesus points out (Matt. 15:9).
- B. Concerning problems in Galatia, men were turning to another *'gospel'* than that of Christ (Gal. 1:6-9).
- C. When the Gnostics obtained their following, notice what Paul said was behind it all: Commandments and doctrines of men (Col. 2:22).

- D. And in our times: Manuals, disciplines, articles of faith, confessions of faith, etc. ... and, declarations of councils.
- E. Either side of the coin may be the first taken: Men make a creed and follow it; or, men err from truth, then make the creed in support.

### **III. We Need To Consider: What Does God Want? What Pleases Him, And Expedites His Work On Earth?**

- A. Surely, division does not do it! (Again, I Cor. 1:10; Phil. 3:16)..
- B. Plainly, God does not want men to be confused (I Cor. 14:33).
- C. Against all of that, which man freely creates, there is a way from God, the good way – good for our souls (Jer. 6:16).

### **IV. Now, What Is The Plea Set Forth By God?**

- A. Hear this plea, and God tells us about denominationalism!
- B. These points:
  - 1. Jesus' prayer (John 17:20-21).
  - 2. The basis of the Christian system: Ephesians 4:3-6.  
Note, each one is obligated to KEEP this unity the Spirit sets forth!
  - 3. Notice the warning in II John 9.
- C. Let us notice that not one of the items mentioned in these past verses is furthered by denominationalism!
  - 1. People are not at oneness.
  - 2. One faith, one baptism, one body, one hope is not furthered.
  - 3. Men do not abide by the Word, the doctrine of Christ, but are led beyond it! Men are led to transgress, rather!
- D. Denominationalism is sinful and condemning to the soul! Only by faithful obedience to the gospel of Christ can unity be attained and furthered. The Lord's church will give itself to that unity!

### **Conclusion:**

- 1. Within that unity: ONE plan, involving faith, repentance, confession and baptism for remission of sins.
- 2. We further unity when we proclaim it, obey it, just as the Lord has given it!

*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **Called To Purity**

### **Introduction:**

1. Hear our Lord: *"Blessed are the pure in heart"* (Matt. 5:8).
2. And hear Paul: *"Keep thyself pure"* (I Tim. 5:22).
3. Then James: *"Pure religion and undefiled before God ... is this"* (James 1:27).
4. And John: *"Nothing that defileth"* shall enter into heaven (Rev. 21:27).

### **I. Let Us Note First That We Are Called.**

- A. The word *"church"* – The *"called out"* ones.
- B. Peter, in Acts 2, spoke of those God would call (v. 39).
- C. The critical point: We are called by THE GOSPEL (II Thess. 2:14).
  1. It is God's, Christ's, means of calling.
  2. Gospel to be preached to all (Mark 16:15-16); power of God to save ALL (Rom. 1:16).
  3. If God calls by the gospel, then He calls none by any other method!

### **II. Let Us Then See That We Are Called "From, Out Of" Something.**

- A. God calls man by the gospel; man is somewhere, in some circumstance, when God's call is made known to him.
- B. Note what the Bible states as to man's location:
  1. Acts 2:40                      In crooked nations.
  2. Galatians 1:4                In this present evil world.
  3. Philippians 1:15            In a crooked, perverse nation.
  4. Colossians 1:13             In the power of darkness.
  5. II Peter 1:4                 In a world corrupted by lust.
  6. Ephesians 2:1                In trespasses and sins.
- C. By the gospel, men are *"called out"* of all such, by the *"light"* of the glorious gospel (II Cor. 4:4); called out of darkness into his marvelous light (I Peter 2:9).

### **III. Called To Many Things – Just Now, We Note "Called To Purity.**

- A. Clearly, called to live apart from the sin, filth noted above.
- B. I Peter 1:15-16 – The holy God called us that we might be holy in all manner of life.
- C. John 15:19 – Early on, Jesus said, *'I have chosen you out of the world.'*
- D. Every man in Christ works to be pure – to purify himself (I John 3:3).
- E. When sin occurs, cleanse yourself (I John 1:9).
- F. A wonderful summing up of it: *'Come out from among them, and be ye separate; touch not the unclean thing'* (II Cor. 6:17).
- G. Purity in life; purity in speech; purity in dress; purity in thoughts; purity in motive - intent; purity in desire, etc.
  - 1. In one manner of living – the unfaithful type – the Word of God is being blasphemed (Titus 2:5).
  - 2. In another manner of living – godly, faithful living – the Word of God is adomed (Titus 2:10).

### **Conclusion:**

- 1. God thus calls – and calls all men – by the one means: The Gospel.
- 2. The sinner is called in no other way. He is expected to have the faith, do the repenting, make the confession, and then be baptized into Christ for remission of sins.
- 3. Then, he is to live a life of obedience, loyalty to God – purity!

*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **The Orderly, Controlled Life**

### **Introduction:**

1. I Peter 4:1-2. Living to the lusts of men, or to the will of God!  
The picture of one in sin, and then the one in Christ.
2. Colossians 2:5. Christians looked upon, *"beholding your order."*

### **I. That Says It All: The Christian Lives An Orderly, Controlled Life.**

- A. In his past, lived to the lust of men, to the flesh (I Peter 4:1-2).  
In lusts, excess, reveling, etc. (v. 3).
- B. In his past, lived according to the world, according to Satan,  
according to lustful, fleshly desires (Eph. 2:1-3).
- C. In his past, unrighteous – lost! Not to inherit the kingdom of  
God (I Cor. 6:9-11)! Some of the Corinthians were such, but had  
changed (v. 11)!

### **II. One Who Is A Christian Has Submitted, Has Obeyed.**

- A. Obedient to the Christ (Heb. 5:9).
- B. Obedient to a plan, system – the gospel (Rom. 1:16).
- C. Obedient to a design for life (Gal. 2:20).
- D. And the beginning: Denial of self (Luke 9:23) and thoughts  
submitted to Christ's will (II Cor. 10:5).

### **III. Jesus, At The Earliest, Spoke Of A Controlled Life.**

- A. The sermon on the mount (Matt. 5-7) contains our point.
- B. Beatitudes (5:3-12); influence (salt, light); control so as to not  
be controlled by anger, lust, hatred toward enemies, serving  
God or mammon (chap. 6), given to anxious care, judging, etc.

#### **IV. What Is It To Live The Orderly, Controlled Life?**

- A. The thoughts in check (II Cor. 10:5; Prov. 23:7; Phil. 4:8).
  
- B. The speech in control – the points of the Lord in Matthew 5:21-22. Speech uncontrolled leads to harsher, filthier speech.
  - 1. No filthy communication (Col. 3:8). Put such off, away!
  - 2. Speech with grace, seasoned with salt (Col. 4:6).
  
- C. Control of time. Redeem the time (Eph. 5:16).
  - 1. Make time for things of God.
  - 2. Seek the kingdom, the Word first (Matt. 6:33).
  
- D. Control in dress – males, listen to this also!
  - 1. Immodest apparel condemned (I Tim. 2:9-10).
  - 2. Body, temple of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 6:19-20).
  
- E. Control in affections – what we love, what we value.
  - 1. Set affections on things above (Col. 3:1-2).
  - 2. Love not the world, its things (I John 2:15-17).

#### **Conclusion:**

- 1. The Christian lives a controlled, orderly, regulated life.
- 2. He is known for not running with the world, to riot (I Peter 4:4).
- 3. If sinful in this, as God's child, repent and return!
- 4. If not a Christian, God's plan to take you from disorder: Believe, repent, confess Christ, be baptized for remission of sins.
- 5. Then, live the faithful, orderly, controlled life FOR GOD!

*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **The Law Of Sowing And Reaping**

### **Introduction:**

1. Galatians 6:7. The law of sowing and reaping.
2. Various applications of the law recorded in the Bible, as we shall see.
3. Uppermost in mind is this: If God's law, we must know it, be respectful of it, be warned by it.

### **I. This Goes Back To God's Law As Placed In Nature.**

- A. Genesis 1:11. First, note all things first made full-grown.
- B. Then, grass - herb - tree, with "seed in itself." Law in effect.
- C. With a world having gone upheaval, the law is: Seedtime and harvest (Gen. 8:22). That natural law is followed, world-wide.

### **II. We Want Now To See Some New Testament Applications Of The Natural Law Just Mentioned.**

- A. It is needed. Men will accept and count on that law in things of vegetation; men so often refuse to see it in other areas.
- B. The applications given in the Word:
  1. The law in the two applications (Gal. 6:7-8).
    - a. Sow to the flesh, of the flesh reap corruption (v. 8).
    - b. Sow to the Spirit, of the Spirit reap life everlasting.
  2. The law as we see it in the realm of GOOD.
    - a. Sow in righteousness, reap in mercy (Hosea 10:12).
    - b. God multiplies seed sown, and increases the fruit of righteousness (II Cor. 9:10). This follows the rule of giving: Sow bountifully, reap bountifully; sow sparingly, reap sparingly (v. 6).

- c. Used as to teaching, and preacher's support: Preacher sows spiritual things; God provided that he reap the carnal things – financial support (1 Cor. 9:11, 14).
  - d. Used, even in prophecy, in seeing return from the days of captivity – *"Sow in tears, reap in joy"* (Psm. 126:5).
3. The law as we see it in the realm of EVIL.
- a. Sow iniquity, reap vanity (nothing of good) (Prov. 22:8).
  - b. Sow wickedness, reap the same (Job 4:8).
  - c. Sow the wind, reap the whirlwind (Hosea. 8:7).
  - d. Applications we can make: A nation sowing drink, drugs, homosexuality, permissiveness ... what reaping we are doing, will do! Families sowing lack of spirituality, lack of children's training. Congregations sowing lack of real Bible teaching! **As we sow, so shall we reap!**

### Conclusion:

1. Here, a law of God in the natural world; it has applications in the realm of the spiritual. YOU are, NOW, sowing either to the flesh or to the spirit – which?
2. Begin, right now, to do proper sowing: Believe in Christ, repent of sins, confess Him, be baptized for remission of sins.
3. If wayward, sowing to the flesh, be restored and begin anew as a fruitful worker in God's vineyard.



*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **"They That Worship Him"**

### **Introduction:**

1. John 4 – Jesus, with the woman at the well in Samaria.
2. She points to a difference in worship, Jew – Samaritan (v. 20).
3. Jesus then pointed to a new order as to worship (v. 21).

### **I. That New Order: "We Know What We Worship – Salvation, Of The Jews" (v. 22).**

- A. There was a Samaritan perversion (v. 20).
- B. Jesus moved the thoughts from a physical locale: Neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem (v. 21).
- C. Emphasis on TRUE WORSHIP (v. 23).

### **II. The Father Seeks Those Who Will Truly Worship!**

- A. The wording, *True worshipper* indicates the false.
- B. And, we find false worship mentioned in the Word:
  1. Vain worship (Matt. 15:9).
  2. Ignorant worship (Acts 17:23).
  3. Will worship (Col. 2:23).
- C. Against these, and others, God seeks the TRUE WORSHIPPER.

### **III. That True Worship Has Two Parts: In Spirit And In Truth.**

- A. *"God is a Spirit"* (v. 24).
  1. Desires to hear from man on a spiritual plane.
  2. In *"spirit,"* then in attitude, disposition, intent, motive, as one's very being is involved in the worship.
- B. And, the worship must be IN TRUTH!
  1. *"Thy word is truth"* (John 17:17).
  2. Acceptable worship must be that authorized IN THE WORD!

#### **IV. What Does The New Testament Teach On This Acceptable Worship?**

##### **A. The Study Of The Word.**

1. Apostles' doctrine (Acts 2:42).
2. All sufficiency (II Tim. 3:16-17); dare not go beyond (II John 9).

##### **B. Prayer (Acts 2:42).**

1. To the Father (Matt. 6:9).
2. Through the Mediator, Christ (I Tim. 2:5).
3. Continually (Luke 18:1; I Thess. 5:17).

##### **C. The Supper Of The Lord.**

1. To be partaken in the kingdom (Matt. 26:29).
2. Acts 20:7 tells us when: The first day of the week.
3. And, discerning the body of the Lord (I Cor. 11:27, 29).

##### **D. Giving Of Our Means.**

1. On the first day of the week (I Cor. 16:2).
2. Proportionately, of free-will (I Cor. 16:2; II Cor. 9:7).

##### **E. Singing Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs.**

1. Speaking, teaching, admonishing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).
2. Singing with spirit and understanding (I Cor. 14:15).
3. The New Testament repeatedly emphasizes VOCAL MUSIC ONLY.

#### **Conclusion:**

1. This, then, worship in spirit and in truth – worship of TRUE worshippers!
2. You cannot offer such worship, unless you are in Christ; Faith, repentance, confession and baptism will see you so placed as to properly worship.

*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **What The Prophets Saw**

### **Introduction:**

1. Peter tells us the Old Testament prophets saw our salvation.
2. But they did not live to possess salvation in Christ.
3. They saw it, spoke of it, through Christ in them (cf. I Peter 3:18-20).

### **I. Let Us Ask, "Who Were The Prophets?"**

- A. They were spokesmen for God, in their times.
  1. *'My servants, the prophets'* (Jer. 26:5).
  2. 16 Old Testament books: major, minor prophets.
  3. And, other Old Testament writers uttered prophecy.
- B. They were teachers with predictive powers.
  1. Christ had witness borne of Him by all the prophets (Acts 10:43).
  2. They spoke, in their times, of benefits to us (I Peter 1:10, 12).
- C. They were sacrificial men – selfless servants.
  1. *'O Jerusalem, thou that killeth the prophets'* (Matt. 22:37).
  2. Jesus spoke of *'the blood of all the prophets'* (Luke 11:50).

### **II. Next, The Question: "What Did The Prophets See?"**

- A. They saw **a mission they had from God.**
  1. They acknowledged their words from God (Isa. 1:1-2; Jer. 1:1-2).
  2. *"What the Lord saith unto me, that will I speak"* (I Kings 22:14).
- B. They saw **the sins of their own times.**
  1. Theirs a message of condemnation.
  2. Typical: *"Polluters at worship, deceivers in worship, robbers of God"* (Mal. 1:7, 14; Mal. 3:8-9).

C. They saw **a kingdom**.

1. Jacob saw it, through Judah (Gen. 49:10).
2. Isaiah saw it, involving all nations (Isa. 2:1-4).
3. Daniel saw it, victor over all kingdoms (Dan. 2:44).

D. They saw **the Savior**.

1. One of a most miraculous birth (Isa. 7:14).
2. One who is Deity (Isa. 9:6).
3. One who would suffer for mankind (Isa. 53:3-6).

E. Then, they saw **our salvation**.

1. *'Of which salvation,'* the prophets spoke (I Peter 1:10).
2. The prophets spoke of remission of sins through Him (Acts 10:43).

**Conclusion:**

1. Prophets spoke of a saving message (Isa. 52:7; Rom. 10:15).
2. A "Good News" message, requiring faith, repentance, confession and baptism for remission of sins.
3. You can, today, participate in blessings the prophets saw!

*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **The Great Question**

### **Introduction:**

1. *'What must I do to be saved?'* The greatest of all questions.
2. It involves the greatest concern, **SALVATION**; it encompasses God and man, and the here-and-now and eternity. We want men to ask this question.

### **I. Surely We Know The Importance Of Asking And Answering Questions.**

- A. So many of them in the Bible! Many lessons therefrom.
- B. A great teaching method, and Jesus, the Master Teacher, used it often.
- C. Forces of evil use the method as well. The first question in the Bible is asked by Satan, the deceiver (Gen. 3:1).

### **II. The Question Before Us Is Acts 16:30, And Asked By The Jailor.**

- A. Paul and Silas had labored in the city, and had converted Lydia and her household (v. 15).
- B. In casting an evil spirit from a young lady, her masters brought God's servants up on charges; they were beaten, placed in prison.
- C. An earthquake loosed the stocks and opened the doors; Paul's crying out kept the jailor from committing suicide (v. 28).
- D. He, putting what he knew of their work, and now, these events, together, then comes to ask the vital question (v. 30).
- E. The answer: *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house"* (v. 31).

### III. It Is Clear That He Is Told To Do That Which He, At That Very Moment, Could Not Do.

- A. Believing in the Lord Christ will save him – as it does all.
- B. But, how can men believe in Him of whom they have not heard (Rom. 10:14)?
- C. Thus, they spake unto him the Word (the gospel) (v. 32), and we find him taking them from their cell, and he allows them to baptize him (v. 33) and brings them into his house for a meal (v. 34), and he is here called a BELIEVER.

### IV. Let Us Know That The Gospel Is The Means Of Our Salvation (Eph. 1:13).

- A. Even those who pervert truth, claim that faith is essential.
- B. That gives us our beginning, just here. Faith is by the Word (Rom. 10:17).
- C. What are the terms set forth in the gospel? What must I do to be saved?
  - 1. I must **HEAR** the Word (Rom. 10:17). *Take heed how ye hear* (Luke 8:18).
  - 2. Hearing it, properly, I must **BELIEVE** the Word.
    - a. Without faith, cannot please God (Heb. 11:6).
    - b. The word is given that we might believe (John 20:30-31).
  - 3. In that faith, I must **REPENT** (turn from) regarding my sins.
    - a. God's demand upon all (Acts 17:30).
    - b. Godly sorrow demands such (II Cor. 7:10).
  - 4. I must **CONFESS** faith in Christ (Rom. 10:10; Acts 8:37).
  - 5. I must **BE BAPTIZED** for remission of sins (Acts 2:38).
    - a. Baptism into Christ, and into His death (Rom. 6:3-4).
    - b. Baptism in order to put on Christ (Gal. 3:27).
- D. Obeying, one is added to the church by the Lord (Acts 2:47).

### Conclusion:

- 1. The gospel remains, and God's desire is that man obey, in those terms we have just mentioned: Faith, repentance, confession, and baptism.
- 2. Obedience in these primary terms then causes one to embark on a life of continuing to obey – faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).
- 3. We hope that you are ready to obey – NOW!

*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **The Vine And The Branches**

### **Introduction:**

1. *"I am the vine, and ye are the branches"* said Jesus (John 15:5).
2. This, from the context beginning in John 15:1, and here, a most powerful lesson from the Lord.
3. And, we must add, a much abused passage.

### **I. Let Us Deal, First, With The Abuse.**

- A. The claim: Jesus the vine, and the denominations are the branches.
- B. Thus, more than 300 differing bodies claim life and direction from the Head, the vine.
- C. But, acceptability with Him is seen *"by the word he has spoken"* (v. 3), and the Word condemns division, sectarianism (I Cor. 1:10; Phil. 3:16).
- D. We shall see that the *"branches"* are **not** religious bodies!

### **II. Powerful Features Here Concerning Jesus The Christ.**

- A. *"I am the vine"* (v. 5) – *"without me ye can do nothing"* – a branch useless without the vine.
- B. *"I am the TRUE vine"* (v. 1) – ONE Lord (Eph. 4:15; I Cor. 8:6).
  1. Implies a false, fake one.
  2. Warning given as to false Christs, false prophets (Matt. 24:24).
  3. Many, this very day, are attached, connected to the wrong thing!
- C. *"Abide in me"* (v. 4).
  1. In obedience, baptism, one puts on Christ (Gal. 3:27).
  2. *"Christ liveth in me,"* said Paul (Gal. 2:20).
  3. Spiritual blessings **IN** Christ (Eph. 1:3).

### **III. Points For Us In Thinking Of The Christ And The Lessons Here.**

- A. The PLACE of Christ – The Father is the husbandman in this growth, life process (v. 1). God not the husbandman regarding production of error!
- B. The obligation to BEAR FRUIT – do so, or be taken away (v. 2). Think of the beatitudes (Matt. 5), graces (II Peter 1) and fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).
- C. The need to ABIDE in Christ (v. 4, 6). If not, death! *"Withered, gathered to be burned"* (I Cor. 15:58). *"Continue in my Word"* (John 8:31).
  - 1. Can one fall from grace? This states so.
  - 2. The point plainly made in Galatians 5:4.
- D. Bearing the necessary fruit, shown to be His DISCIPLES (v. 8).
  - 1. A disciple is a learner, follower, pupil.
  - 2. Unworthy person, if there's no learning, following, doing.

### **Conclusion:**

- 1. The need to be connected with the vine – the TRUE vine.
- 2. Cannot abide in Him unless first being IN HIM.
- 3. Believing in the Christ, turning from sin, confessing Him,, and then one's baptism is into Him, to put Him on. Now: Properly attached to the true vine!
- 4. A proper life now can follow – without the obedience, it can never be done!



*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **The Contest On Mt. Carmel**

### **Introduction:**

1. One of the greatest conflicts, battles – I Kings 18.
2. Here, no opposing armies, opposing generals, and no fight over a territory; the conflict centers on spiritual matters.
3. God and Baal – a conflict for the minds, hearts of men.

### **I. This Takes Us To The Time Of Elijah, The Prophet.**

- A. God had withheld rain (I Kings 17:1), and Elijah has to flee Jezebel and Ahab.
- B. Jezebel had slain some prophets of God (18:13), and 100 of them are in hiding (18:4). Ahab had married a Baalite (16:31-32).
- C. Now, in time's passing, the rain, and Elijah return; Ahab referred to him as the *'troubler of Israel'* (18:17); Elijah points to the king as the troubler, in forsaking God's commandments (v. 18).

### **II. Now, A Contest: Elijah To Face 450 Of Baal's Prophets.**

- A. A challenge to the people – follow the TRUE God (V. 21, cf. Joshua 24:15).
- B. Two bullocks taken, laid upon the altar, and the one answering by fire will be shown to be the TRUE God. Challenge to them: *'Call on the name of your gods'* (v. 25).
  1. Morning till evening the prophets cried unto Baal.
  2. They leapt upon the altar, cut themselves with knives till blood gushed out. NO VOICE, NO ANSWER. Elijah tormented them with criticism (v. 27).
- C. Now, Elijah has his opportunity.
  1. He repaired the altar, with stones.
  2. Wood, the sacrifices placed, and all drenched with water three times, and the water ran, filling a trench.
  3. *'Let it be known that thou art God'* (v. 36-37), and fire

consumed all, including the stones, and licked up the water!

4. The people say, *The Lord, He is God* – and the prophets of Baal are slain.

### **III. Some Lessons For Us All.**

- A. Take care whom you marry! Remember Ahab (16:31, 32).
- B. Once apostasy begins ... where will it end? Beware!
- C. Let us know who really is the TROUBLER of God's people; men very often blame the one who has, stands upon, proclaims the TRUTH!
- D. God's blessings rest on those keeping the commandments (v. 18).
- E. It is not WRONG to challenge error, putting them to the test (1 John 4:1). (Cf. Rev. 2:2). Ephesus tried false apostles!
- F. Preachers, teachers, show people evidence that GOD IS!

### **Conclusion:**

1. THE WORD is truth (John 17:17), and the truth saves.
2. One in sin must believe, repent, confess and be baptized for remission of sins. One in sin is lost just as the men who served

*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **My Home – Weakness Or Strength?**

### **Introduction:**

1. In many lessons on home and family, we begin here, in Genesis.
2. Good reason: The home is not just a New Testament institution, but began in Genesis, in the garden.

### **I. A Very Great Tragedy In Our Time: A Turn From God's Plan As To Home, Marriage And Family.**

- A. Dare we wring our hands and ask, *"What's happening to us?"*
- B. No one, at any time, can pervert any of God's will and expect things to go well. Foundations destroyed (Psm. 11:3).
- C. The home as God ordained it bodes well for individuals, society in general, and the church itself.
- D. Question for all: *"Is my home a part of the **strength** needed today for God, or is it a part of the **weakness** now so evident?"*

### **II. Let Us Notice That First Home, In Eden.**

- A. The closeness of the partners in the home (Gen. 2:23-24).
- B. Over it all, this couple had a relationship with God! In that relationship, ability to aid one another in spiritual ways.
  1. The point illustrated in I Corinthians 7:16, I Peter 3:1-2.
  2. Sin was allowed to interfere with their lives, and one did indeed influence the other to sin (Gen. 3:6).

### **III. Focus On A Great Home, In Abraham's Day (Gen. 18:19).**

- A. Great tribute from God, in KNOWING Abraham.
- B. He, the father, to head that home, that family AFTER him.
  1. Emphasis on the father – as we see in Ephesians 6:4.
  2. Note Abraham's example: "... AFTER him."
- C. Question to fathers: Are you that kind of father? Do you guide that home, spiritually?

#### **IV. For All – Is Your Home Strong, And Giving Strength? Or Is It Characterized By Weakness?**

- A. Influential institution – products will likely partake of the nature of the home.
  
- B. In turn, society and the church is affected, adversely.
  
- C. The need for **STRENGTH**:
  - 1. Requires parents, marriage partners faithful in Christ.
  - 2. Requires seeing children as souls! Strongest push toward heaven or hell from the parents.
  - 3. Requires the home as a training ground (Deut. 6:6-9). Note Timothy's background (II Tim. 1:5; II Tim. 3:15).
  - 4. Requires response to God as the center of all of life; the children see Matthew 6:33, if applied or not applied. A weak or unbelieving spouse sees it as well.

#### **Conclusion:**

- 1. If a child of God, and weak in this area, make correction NOW!
- 2. If not a Christian, cannot have a Christian home until obedient to the Lord – believing in Christ, repenting of sin, confessing the Christ and being baptized for remission of sins.
- 3. Obey, to save yourself, your children, and help save others.

*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **"Remember Now Thy Creator"**

### **Introduction:**

1. This, one of the best remembered Bible verses. Young people should ever keep it before them.
2. *'As the twig is bent'* still has so much truth in it.

### **I. Our Text Verse Follows A Most Important Point For Youth.**

- A. Ecclesiastes 11:9. Give yourself to the time, things of youth!
- B. But, as always, give self to the things that are right.
- C. Thus the warning: You will be brought to judgment!
- D. There is indeed a time when one is not responsible, not accountable – the teen years surely have changed that!

### **II. We Hope That You Have These Things Going For You!**

- A. A Christian home in which you have grown up, wherein Ephesians 6:4 has been applied.
- B. A home, then, where the things of God were spoken of, talked about, in an honored fashion.
- C. A home, then, where there was constant support of the truth, and of the church.
- D. And now, that you have convictions as pertaining to that which is RIGHT!
- E. Most of all, we hope that you have obeyed the gospel, and are now living faithful to it!

### **III. You Have Not Lived In Such A World As We Have Now.**

- A. But, neither have any of us!

- B. It is far easier to sin – so open, such easy access.

#### **IV. We Offer These Suggestions To You, For Eternity's Sake.**

- A. Remember now thy creator – **and purpose to do so, never wavering** – steadfast, unmoveable (I Cor. 15:58).
- B. Remember now thy creator – **when you are in the great minority**, and you have to endure their mockings.
1. Do not follow the multitude (Exod. 23:2).
  2. You will be considered *“strange”* when you stand against them (I Peter 4:4).
- C. Remember now thy Creator – **when you are tempted to be impure**.
1. Remember Joseph (Gen. 39:7-13). He was young!
  2. And think of faithful Daniel, and his purity (Dan. 1:8).
  3. Much appeal for young, old to be impure today.
- D. Remember now thy Creator – **as you approach, enter into marriage**.
1. Much false teaching in this area, today.
  2. God's law stated simply, precisely (Matt. 19:9).
  3. Do not marry to the damning of your soul.
- E. Remember now thy Creator – **and know you are to be an example** (I Tim. 4:12).

#### **Conclusion:**

1. Patterns for youth are often permanent patterns of life.
2. Obey, live for God now. If not obedient, now obey through faith, repentance, confession and baptism into Christ.

*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **Children Under The Father's Displeasure**

### **Introduction:**

1. Probably not a soul here desiring to be displeasing to God.
2. We probably never meet that some are displeasing to God.
3. It concerns those in the kingdom - it should concern each one present.

### **I. The Reality Of Sin! We Live With It, And We Have Since Genesis 3.**

- A. The paradise condition of Eden didn't last long. Adam and Eve came under the Father's displeasure.
- B. That fellowship ruined. We can easily see what it should be:
  1. Israel as God's child: Loved, drawn with bands of love (Hosea 11:1,4).
  2. Again, "*How shall I give thee up?*" (Hosea 11:8).
  3. The Lord over Jerusalem, with his plea: (Matt. 23:37).
  4. The plea for separation unto God (II Cor. 6:17).
  5. The plea for living sacrifices, proving God's will (Rom. 12:1-2).
  6. The plea for a walking in the light (I John 1:7), and a fidelity to doctrine (I John 9).

### **II. In The New Testament, And Old, We See Terms Used By God To Portray Those He Desired To Be Close To Him, But Were Under His Displeasure. Let Us See Some Of Those Pictures:**

- A. Those seen as **backsliders**.
  1. **Lit:** "*To draw back, turn away, in rebelliousness.*"
  2. Hosea 11:7, "*Bent on backsliding.*"
  3. The will, intent, is involved - else no backsliding!
- B. Those seen as **adulterers**.
  1. Israel, adultery with stones, etc. (Jer. 3:9).
  2. Jesus, among evil and adulterous people (Matt. 12:39).

- C. Those seen as **leaving their first love**.
  1. That wording, to Ephesus, in Rev. 2:4.
  2. Faith works through love (Gal. 5:6); if the work is not done, lack of love is evident.
  
- D. Those seen as **returning to the weak, beggarly elements**.
  1. Returning to that without power, void of spirituality.
  2. Galatians 4:9 Known God, and known OF God, and then to so tum!
  
- E. Similarly, those **exchanging riches for poverty**.
  1. God, Christ, labored that you might be rich indeed (II Cor. 8:9).
  2. Matthew 5:16 Faithfulness, that men may see the riches we have.
  3. To then turn, and have men see the poverty (Rev. 3:17, in contrast with Rev. 2:9).
  
- F. Those **turning back to reuse filth** once disposed of.
  1. The sow back to the mire; the dog to his own vomit again (II Peter 2:22). To show a delight in the life we saw as sickening!
  2. The purpose ought to be, *"Reckoned dead unto sin"* (Rom. 6:11).

### **Conclusion:**

1. Are you, as God's child, in some of these circumstances? Do you feel you were made for this - or really, for something better, higher, nobler?
2. Does your faithfulness in the church, in worship, in life, in Bible study and in prayer show that you are within God's pleasure?
3. If not, time for correction, as per Acts 8:22 and or James 5:16.
4. If never having obeyed: faith repentance, confession and baptism into Christ are your needs right now.



*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **Children Of Abraham**

### **Introduction:**

1. Genesis 12:1ff. A promise of blessing to Abraham; Genesis 22:17, a promise of seed being multiplied.
2. In Abraham *"all families of earth"* to be blessed (Gen. 12:3).
3. Perhaps even he did not know that the word "seed" would be enlarged so ... enlarged to include you and me.

### **I. Being A Child Of Abraham Became A Prideful Thing Among The Jews.**

- A. Under John's strong preaching, they sought refuge in *"We have Abraham to our Father"* (Matt. 3:9).
  1. John said, *"Of no consequence."*
  2. The axe is laid at the root of the trees (v. 10).
- B. Jesus' great point on the need to be free, and being made so by the truth, was likewise spurned.
  1. *"We be Abraham's seed"* (John 8:33) – never in bondage.
  2. Jesus pointed to a bondage of sin, wherein one is indeed a servant of sin, and that included them (vv. 34, 36).
- C. In New Testament emphasis, Paul made the point that *"he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly"* (Rom. 2:28). That significance gone!

### **II. In The New Testament Age, Blood Is Still A Factor, But There Is A Change.**

- A. The Jews had looked to Abraham, and to a blood line, a family line.
- B. We, now, look to the Christ our Savior, and we look to a blood that was shed for our redemption (Eph. 1:7).

### III. You And I Can State That "We Are Abraham's Children."

- A. Faith in Christ has seen us baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:26-27).
  - 1. In Christ, neither race, economic, sex distinctions matter.
  - 2. As regards those, *'all are one in Christ Jesus'* (Gal. 3:28).
  - 3. The key factor: If ye are Christ's, ye are Abraham's seed. And, heirs according to the promise God made to him.
  
- B. Paul, to the Romans, had to deal with this matter, and the prejudice some among the Jews felt toward Gentiles.
  - 1. He shows that God had in mind the justification of all – not just those of Abraham's blood line.
  - 2. Abraham, the father *'of all them that believe'* (Rom. 4:11).
  - 3. Abraham, the father of those *'who walk in the steps of of that faith of Abraham'* (Rom. 4:12).
  
- C. It is in that vein that the church is now *'the Israel of God'* (Gal. 6:16).
  
- D. Likewise, women faithful to the teaching of the Christ are seen as *'daughters of Sarah'* (I Peter 3:6).
  
- E. I, then, am a child of Abraham, and so is every person who has now obeyed the gospel of Christ.
  - 1. The critical factor is not Abraham's blood, but Christ's.
  - 2. It is not family, but it is of obedient faith!

#### Conclusion:

- 1. Blessings pronounced and promised upon Abraham in the long ago envisioned your entering the Christ, and becoming Abraham's seed.
- 2. Faith, repentance, confession and baptism are the terms. Will you obey, NOW?

*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **Noah's Day And Our Own**

I Peter 3:20-21

### **Introduction:**

1. The events of Genesis 6, of importance now by Romans 15:4 and I Corinthians 10:11.
2. Lessons, then, from the past and for our own day.

### **I. We Would Expect Good Lessons From Such As Noah.**

- A. Listed in a roll-call of faithful ones (Heb. 11:7).
- B. Seen as one who moved by faith (Heb. 11:7).
- C. Seen as one who delivered the soul by righteousness.
- D. Seen as a preacher of righteousness (Ezek. 14:14); apart from the world of the ungodly (II Peter 2:5).

### **II. The Record, In Genesis 6, Has Ingredients For Good Lessons.**

- A. There is God.
- B. And there is man: Obedient and sinful.
- C. There is man – most of men – spurning God's way.
- D. And there is God's wrath upon such sinfulness.
- E. There is obedient man, and his being spared.

### **III. Let Us See Clearly Noah, The Rest Of Men, And God.**

- A. Noah, finding grace before God (Gen. 6:8): A just and perfect man, who walked with God (v. 9).
- B. The world: Wicked (v. 5), every imagination evil (v. 6), corrupt and violent (v. 11, 12).
- C. God: Grieved in heart (v. 6), and determined to destroy (v. 7).

- D. The sum of all:
  - 1. Man, in his move away from God.
  - 2. Growth of sin, degradation.
  - 3. God then must react to man's sinfulness.
  - 4. Noah proves the godly can live above sinful surroundings (I Peter 4:4).

#### **IV. Some Points Related To Our Own Times.**

- A. God's will still before us (II Tim. 3:16-17).
- B. Look at our world, away from God: Immoral, sectarian, given to the flesh, carnal. The tendency is for man to wax worse and worse in evil (II Tim. 3:13).
- C. God's justice demands that He will react (II Thess. 1:7-9).
- D. Saints are to live **above** the world (II Cor. 6:17).
- E. The saints are those who will be saved at last (Heb. 5:9)!

#### **Conclusion:**

- 1. One is a saint (set apart) through obedience to the gospel of the Lord.
- 2. Faith in Christ, turning from sin, confessing that faith, and baptism for remission of sins sets one apart.
- 3. His continued loyal service to God sees him in salvation.

*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **The Possibility Of Apostasy**

### **Introduction:**

1. I am a child of God, and I possess each and every blessing God has promised through the Christ: Blessings here, inheritance eternally.
2. What a happy being the Christian should be! At the end, these words of Paul should be his: II Timothy 4:8.

### **I. Can What We Have, And What We Have Been Promised, Ever Be In Jeopardy?**

- A. Some men say "No," and teach the impossibility of apostasy!
- B. "Once saved, always saved," is their boast. Men begat that, and then sought the verses to back it up.
- C. One who studies the Bible states "Once saved, always saved IF..." that conditions are laid down by God for the grace to continue.

### **II. Approaching The Matter, Let Us Consider These:**

- A. Adam and Eve were not within blessings, WITHOUT CONDITIONS!
  1. Genesis 2:16-17 lays down conditions.
  2. Promise of death (separation) if the rule is violated.
- B. Judas was not within blessings, WITHOUT CONDITIONS!
  1. Among those sent out, with power, in Matthew 10:1ff.
  2. Yet he betrayed the Lord, became a suicide (Matt. 27:5).
- C. Ananias and Sapphira were not within blessings, WITHOUT CONDITIONS!
  1. Members of the Jerusalem church – Christians – saved ones.
  2. But lied to God, and God smote them dead (Acts 5:3-4).

### **III. Men Err When They Claim "Salvation!" And Then Ignore Conditions.**

- A. John 10:28-29. *"Never perish ... no man pluck from God's hands."*
  - 1. V. 27 – Conditioned on hearing Him, following Him.
  - 2. Always the question: *"Can a man, of free-will, LEAVE the Lord?"*
  
- B. II Peter 1:10-11 – *"... Never fall ... abundant entrance into everlasting kingdom ..."*
  - 1. But condition is there: *"IF ye do these things"* (Apply Christian graces in life).
  - 2. Abundant entrance for those obedient to the Lord!

### **IV. God Has Made It So Very Plain In His Word.**

- A. Paul, for all his labors, could be a castaway (I Cor. 9:26-27).
  
- B. Some prophesied as turning from truth, from faith, from the Spirit of God and from Christ, to speak lies (I Tim. 4:1-2).
  
- C. Some turn from truth to fables (II Tim. 4:3-4).
  
- D. Some can follow a course (leaving Christ to go back under the law of Moses) amounting to being **FALLEN FROM GRACE** (Gal. 5:4).

### **Conclusion:**

- 1. One must obey (II Thess. 1:7-9), and one must continue to the end (Rev. 2:10).
- 2. One cannot end faithfully unless he begins: Faith, repentance, confession and baptism – and then to live that faithful life.

## **The Letter To Laodicea**

### **Introduction:**

1. Revelation 3:14-22. Of seven letters, this one to Laodicea.
2. This letter unique – **NOT ONE** commendable thing said!

### **I. What We Know Of The Laodiceans.**

- A. Not a sect, but citizens of Laodicea; special ones: Christians.
- B. Here, in this letter, is the majority of what we know.
- C. Other mention:

Col. 4:13	Epaphras had zeal for them
Col. 4:16	She shared letters with Colossae.
- D. Notable things missing from this letter:
  1. Nothing said of trying false teachers (Rev. 2:2).
  2. Nothing said of their hating impurity (Rev. 2:6).
  3. Nothing said of their holding fast the faith (Rev. 2:13).
  4. Nothing said of last works being greater than first (Rev. 2:19).
  5. Nothing said about keeping garments undefiled (Rev. 3:4).

### **II. Taking The Letter, What Is Said Of The Laodiceans?**

- A. They were neither hot nor cold (Rev. 3:15-16).
  1. Lukewarm! Just as much on evil's side as truth's.
  2. Love of truth is commended by God (II Thess. 2:10-12).
  3. Imagine! Lukewarm over that for which Jesus died (Acts 20:28).
- B. They had great concentration on material things (Rev. 3:17).
  1. The warning of Luke 12:15 needed badly.
  2. Warning from Mark 8:36.
- C. They had a feeling of independence – yea, from God!
  1. "Have need of nothing" (Rev. 3:17).
  2. Yet, they had need of everything that is of **real** value.

- D. They were blind to their true condition (Rev. 3:17).
  - 1. *'... to see ourselves as God sees us ...'*
  - 2. No man sees, truly, until he sees as God speaks of Him!
  - 3. They did not know they were blind, naked, poor!

### **III. What The Laodiceans Needed:**

- A. To receive counsel.
  - 1. *'I counsel thee...'* (Rev. 3:18).
  - 2. The man blessed of God walks in such counsel (Psm. 1:1-2).
  - 3. Love, preoccupation with riches, causes one to spurn counsel.
  
- B. To take rebuke to heart.
  - 1. Evidence of God's love (Rev. 3:19).
  - 2. God does not always commend, bless, uphold. The Word that speaks of exhorting also speaks of reproof, rebuke (II Tim. 4:2).
  
- C. To repent with zeal.
  - 1. Earnest desire to turn (Rev. 3:19).
  - 2. God's most specific requirement – He demands repentance (II Peter 3:9).
  
- D. To see eternity hanging in the balance.
  - 1. God waits (Rev. 3:20).
  - 2. Blessing eternally if one overcomes (Rev. 3:21).
  - 3. Eternal doom if one does not correct (James 5:20).

### **Conclusion:**

- 1. The Laodiceans – how to be remembered; a shame always.
- 2. We can do better; obey the gospel (faith, repentance, confession and baptism into Christ) and live faithful to the end.
- 3. If a *'Laodicean'* now, having attitude and actions of indifference, be restored!



*Declaring God's Truth...*

## **The Narrow Way**

### **Introduction:**

1. Matthew 5-7, Sermon on the Mount; Jesus summing up Christianity before the details are given. Christianity, some say, "in a nutshell."
2. Matthew 7:13-14 demands our attention just now: Here is **manner of life**.

### **I. This Section Of The Sermon Has Been Called "The Two Ways."**

- A. Our points, followed by two trees - two fruits; two groups in judgment; two foundations on which lives can be built (vv. 15-29).
- B. And what we find in vv. 13-14 are these:
  1. Two classes of people.
  2. Two ways to travel.
  3. Two gates to enter.
  4. Two ends, or destinies.
- C. The appeal: Enter the STRAIT gate, and walk the NARROW way.
  1. Thus the two words, strait and narrow.
  2. STRAIT: "*Compressed, reduced,*" here in contrast with the gate that is WIDE.
  3. NARROW: "*Pressed, compressed, contracted,*" here is contrast with the BROAD way.
  4. Just by these, should God's child ever be surprised when he finds that God has restricted him, confined him, in terms of behavior and activity?

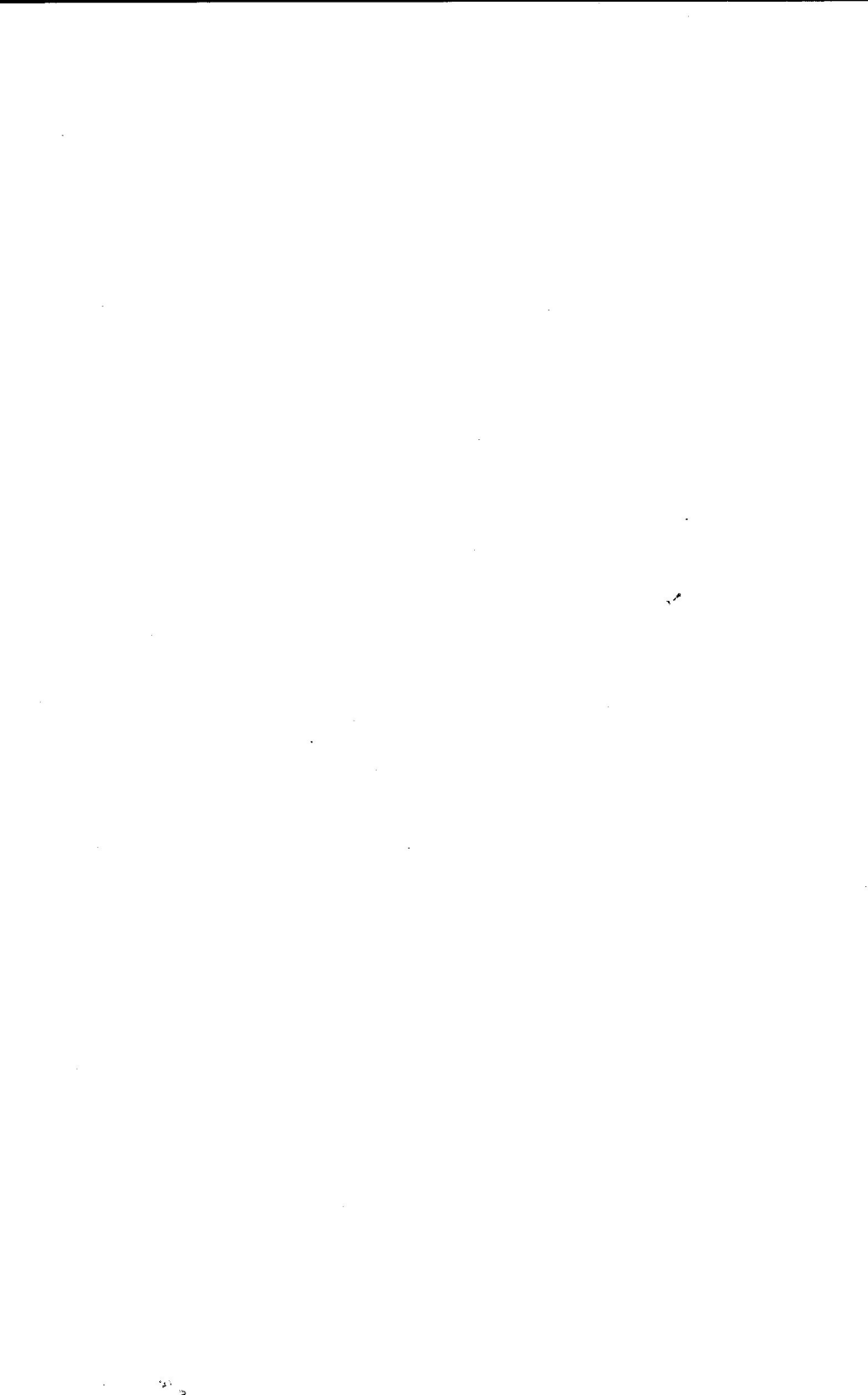
### **II. From The Terms "Strait" and "Narrow", Picture Of Confinement!**

- A. Again, the word given on those entering Heaven: They who have done the commandments of the Lord (Rev. 22:14).

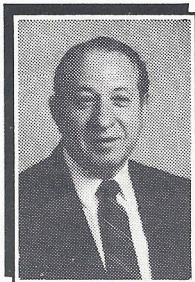
- B. Here are some points helping to illustrate the matter?
1. The way of obedience rather than disobedience.
    - a. Israel condemned for not obeying (Rom. 10:1,16)
    - b. Those in Rome praised for their obedience (Rom. 6:17).
  2. The way of the few, rather than the many.
    - a. A warning from old (Exod. 23:2).
    - b. On that broad way: *"Many there be which go in..."* (Matt. 7:13).
    - c. Stand with God, even if you must stand alone!
  3. The way of law rather than lawlessness.
    - a. Sin is lawlessness, rebellion, transgression (I John 3:4).
    - b. One in the narrow way channels his life into the area of God's law. He is a doer of its work (James 1:25).
  4. The way of purity rather than filthiness.
    - a. Filthiness - not to be named among saints (Eph. 5:4).
    - b. The world, corrupted by its lust (II Peter 1:4).
    - c. Those in the narrow way purify themselves (I John 3:3).
  5. The way of service rather than selfishness.
    - a. Bodies presented as living sacrifices (Rom. 12:1-2).
    - b. Take the cross daily, and follow the Lord (Luke 9:23).
  6. The way of giving rather than the way of covetousness.
    - a. Those in the narrow way taught to give (Luke 6:38; I Cor. 16:2).

### **Conclusion:**

1. All will walk in one way or the other.
2. If, as God's child, you still walk in the way of the world, your need is for penitence, confession of faults, prayer to God.
3. If not a child of God, faith, repentance, confession and baptism places you in that narrow way.



## **Declaring God's Truth by Bill Jackson**



The material contained in this book was prepared for publishing within the last six months of Bill's life upon this earth. He departed from this earthly life on April 5th, 1991. His love for and great interest was in the basic fundamental truths emphasized in these forty outlines.

Bill was a graduate of David Lipscomb College, with a major in Bible. He began preaching while in the Marine Corps in 1953, and entered full time work in 1958. He served in mission work in South Carolina, and in Ipswich, England. Before his death, he worked for over almost years with the Southwest congregation in Austin, Texas.

Bill married Jean Newton (of Sheffield, Alabama). Their two sons, Larry and Barry, are both full time staff members of Texas A & M.

### **Statement By The Southwest Elders**

(From the Southwesterner bulletin, April 10, 1991)

A faithful servant of God has gone home to be with the Lord and with loved ones. W. N. (Bill) Jackson passed from this life into eternity on Friday, April 5, 1991, at the age of 61. Bill spent the last hours of his life doing what he loved best, the Lord's work. Those who knew Bill and how he diligently worked in the Father's kingdom will find it no surprise that he worked in this manner to the end.

Bill had faithfully served this congregation as the local preacher since July 1981. During this time Bill attended to many duties besides preaching. He conducted the radio program for over eight years, conducted the weekly television program, "Christian Evidences," edited the "Christian Worker," taught in the School of Bible Studies and in our regular Bible classes, organized and directed the Southwest lectures, appeared on many brotherhood lectureships, was a masterful writer, a debater, made regular visits to the sick, and was always present for our workdays. As shepherds of the flock we considered Bill an elders' preacher. Bill will be remembered as a faithful gospel preacher, devoted husband and father, and a fellow-servant in the kingdom of God.