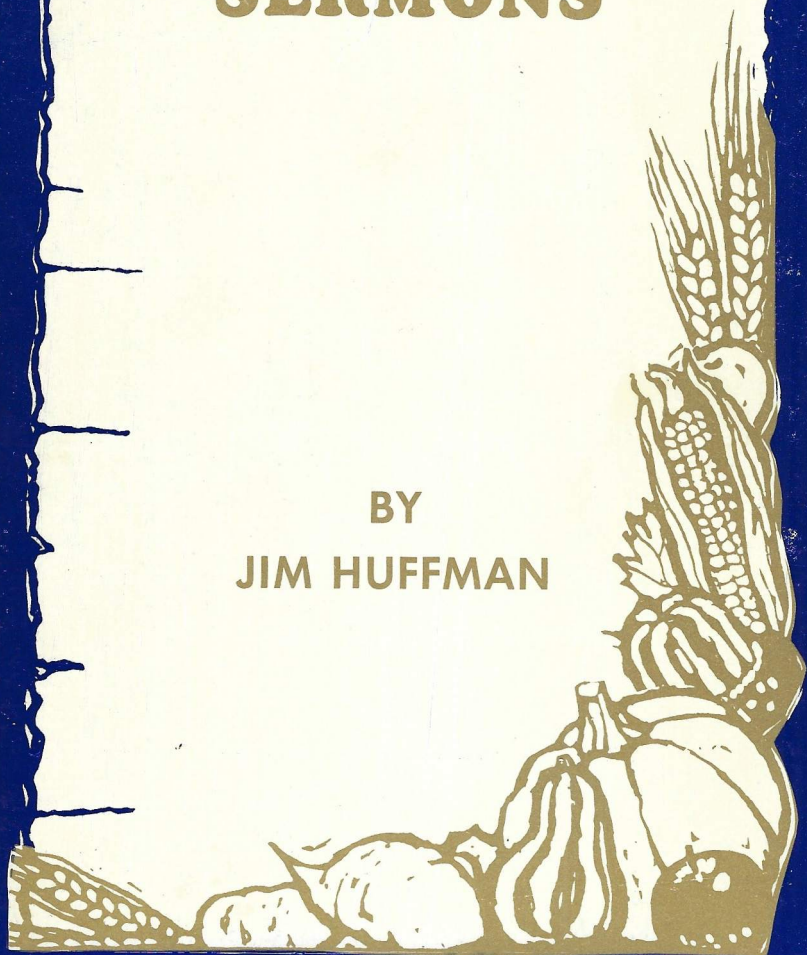


HARVEST TIME SERMONS

BY
JIM HUFFMAN



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JIM HUFFMAN**

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DEDICATION

Donald L. Stevens

Bro. Stevens is the minister of the Ellendale church of Christ in Bartlett, just outside of Memphis, Tennessee. Had it not been for him and his interest in my soul, this book would have never been published.

Jimmie C. Steele

Bro. Steele is the minister of the Sparks Street church of Christ in Paris, Tennessee. Also, had it not been for Bro. Steele, this book would have never been published. Bro. Steele has guided me in the preaching of God's word and has been there when I needed him.

For their continuing undying love and interest, I do hereby dedicate this book to these men of God with the hope that one day I too will possess the ability that these brethren have in proclaiming God's Word. Thank you, brethren.

And lovingly to my parents, Mr. & Mrs. James Huffman of Paris, Tennessee.

FOREWORD

The joy of preaching God's Word cannot be expressed. You come to know this joy only through the experience of preaching. We as ministers of the gospel can only plant and water the seed and allow God the harvest and the increase. It is because of this joy that I offer this Book to young men desiring to preach the gospel. I can remember myself and the times that I have had in coming up with a lesson for Sunday morning or night. I hope that these will be an aid to a young man; however, I hope that he will not use this book as a crutch, but only for ideas.

These sermons are some of the first lessons that I have preached. As these are preached I hope and pray that the seed will be planted deep in good and honest hearts. Only eternity will reveal the worth of this book and the influence that it has on this world.

Paul wrote to young Timothy. He offered this advice. "Preach the word be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. (2 Timothy 4:2). This would be my advice as well. I wish you the best and pray that God will bless your labors.

Jim Huffman
Author

STATEMENT FROM THE PUBLISHER

It is with great joy that I help to publish *Harvest Time Sermons* by Jim Huffman. Jim and I were fellow students at Freed-Hardeman College in the early sixties. He is a faithful gospel preacher who has seen the need of preaching through the printed page. Huffman's *Harvest Time Sermons* are basic, simple, fundamental statements of Biblical truth. This volume will be especially helpful to the younger preacher. All of us who preach can remember well the sermon outline books that guided us while in college or in our first located work. We owe a great debt of gratitude to them for putting their sermons in print.

We hope that this book will be the first of many to flow from the pen of Jim Huffman.

Dr. John Stacy
May 10, 1980

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THE SOWER

Matt. 13:1-9

INTRODUCTION:

1. Went out into a ship to preach
2. Before a great multitude
3. Taught the people in parables

DISCUSSION:

I. The wayside

A. The wayside Christian

1. Fell on the hard foot path or road

B. The wicked ones

1. Matt. 13:19

When anyone heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown, in his heart. This is he which received the seed by the way side.

2. When does the wicked one appear?

II. The stony places.

A. No deepness of earth

B. Matt. 13:20-21

But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it: Yet hath not root in himself, but endureth for awhile: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

C. Compare to a Christian

III. The thorny places

A. The word sprang up and was choked

B. A false teacher could be called thorns

C. Matt. 13:22 - He also that receiveth seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word: and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

IV. The good ground

A. The Christian - good ground

B. Matt. 13:23

But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

C. Yields good fruits.

CONCLUSION:

1. What is the seed - word.
2. Who is the sower - Christ
3. Which soil are you?

Have you yet planted on the good ground? He that hath ears to hear let him hear. He should hear the gospel. Mark 16:15 - Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel - Go sow the seed.

THE ALL-NESS OF CHRIST

Matt. 22:37

INTRODUCTION:

1. Definition of all - a) the whole amount or quantity of
b) as much as possible
(Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary)
2. Jesus said that we are to love him: HOW?
 - a) all thy heart
 - b) all thy soul
 - c) all thy mind
3. Why should we love God or Jesus Christ?
 - A. Some say that:
 1. There is no God or Christ.
 2. I don't believe, there is any proof.
 3. Religion is everyone's business since he has a right to his own belief.
 4. There may be a God, but what does it matter?
 - B. While others say:
 1. As for me and my house we will serve the Lord.
 2. Eighty and six years have I served him, I will not forsake him now.
Polycarp.
 3. Here I am send me.
 4. Speak Lord thy servant heareth, command and I will obey.
 - C. The reason why these people had this attitude was that they believed in God and Jesus Christ, for several reasons.

DISCUSSION:

- I. Jesus had and still does have ALL Power.
 - A. Matt. 28:18 - And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying ALL power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
 - B. I Peter 3:22 - Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.
 - C. Phil. 2:9 - Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name.
- II. Jesus has all the world under his control.
 - A. Mark 16:15 - And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.
 - B. John 1:10 - He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.
 - C. John 8:12 - Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.
 - D. Popular song out at one time called - He has the whole world in His hands.
- III. Jesus wants all men to come to the knowledge of truth.
 - A. Acts 17:30 - And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent:

- B. Matt. 28:19 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost;
- C. 2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

CONCLUSION:

1. All to Jesus I surrender, Do we really surrender all?
2. None of Self and All of Thee, or is it All of Self and None of Thee?
3. Jesus Christ has given ALL, God has given His ALL, What have you given to Christ and to God?

NOTES

HOW LONG HALT YE BETWEEN TWO OPINIONS? I Kings 18:21

INTRODUCTION:

1. Explanation of the chapter and the serving of Baal.
2. We have two choices.
3. We must follow after God or after Baal or Satan.

DISCUSSION:

- I. Elijah challenges the people at Mount Carmel.
 - A. We need to challenge those that have contrary belief.
 1. I John 4:1 - Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God; Because many false prophets are gone out into the world.
 2. Acts 17:11 - These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.
 - B. We need to motivate people to put Christ first.
 1. 1. People all over the world are dying outside of Christ.
 2. There are people today that are troubled and are fighting within themselves, because they have not put Christ first.
 - C. We need to activate people in studying the Bible.
 1. Matt. 28:19 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
 2. Mark 16:15 - And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.
 3. II Tim. 4:2 - Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
- II. We have two choices (God or Man)
 - A. Matt. 6:24 - No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.
 - B. Joshua 24:14-15 - Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord. And if it seems evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose ye this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.
 - C. Gal. 1:10 - For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for it yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.
 - D. I John 2:15-16 - Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

III. We must follow after God or after Baal or Satan.

- A. Jeremiah says that it is not in man to direct his own footsteps.
 - 1. Jeremiah 10:23 - O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.
- B. Christ in talking to Peter and Andrew his brother said in Matthew 4:19 - Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.
- C. Christ said that each man must deny himself in Matthew 16:24 - Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, and follow me.
- D. Even the poor to the rich can follow after Jesus. There was once a rich young ruler that came to Jesus and asked him what he must do to have eternal life. Jesus told him in Matthew 19:21 - If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come and follow me.
- E. I ask you this question today, who are you following? You have a choice to make.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Jesus says, Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28
- 2. Make the choice here and now to serve the Lord. You **MUST** make that decision to serve God or Man.
- 3. What stops or halts you from serving the Lord? You need to accept him today. Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. II Corinthians 6:2.

NOTES

IS BAPTISM ESSENTIAL?**Acts 2:38**

Acts 2:38 - Then Peter said unto them Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Baptism - Greek word - Baptizo - means to immerse or dip, a burial.

1. I Peter 4:11 - If any man speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God...
2. John 14:15 - If you love me, keep my commandments.
3. Acts 10:48 - and he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.
4. The Day of Pentecost - Acts 2:38 - Then Peter said unto them Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
5. Eunuch and Philip - Acts 8:36-38 - and as they went on their way, they came to a certain water . . .
6. Acts 16:25-34 - Philippian jailer
7. Romans 6:3-7 - Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death.
8. Gal. 3:27 - For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
9. I Peter 3:20-21 - Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even [baptism doth also now save us] (not the putting away the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Salvation - Deliverance from sin and its consequences, redemption.

Save - To deliver from sin and its penalty, and bring unto spiritual life.

This is the completion of the plan of salvation but we must continue to rise in newness of life.

NOTES

THE LADDER OF SUCCESS

Gen. 28:10-15

Gen. 28:12 - And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: And behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Every man and woman of today wants to climb to the top rung of the ladder of success.
2. There is a lot to be said about success. 1) One says if you have tried to do something and failed, you are vastly better off than if you had tried to do nothing and succeeded. 2) Behind every successful man is a successful woman. 3) If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.
3. There are no shortcuts to success. It takes a lot of hard work. As one man said, Success is nothing but a good idea coupled with hard work.
4. Let's look at some of the rungs in the ladder of success.

DISCUSSION:

I. Brotherly Kindness

1. Gal. 6:10 - As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.
2. I John 4:21 - And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also.
3. Heb. 13:1 - Let brotherly love continue.

II. Patience

1. James 5:11 - Behold, we count them happy which endure (affliction). Ye have heard of the patience of Job (Job 1:21) and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.
2. Heb. 12:1-2 - 1) Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and run with patience the race that is set before us. 2) Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith: who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.
3. I Tim. 6:11 - But thou, O Man of God, flee these things (evils of money, lust); and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.
4. This will probably be one of the many things that will keep most Christians out of Heaven.

III. Virtue - (Strength)

1. Phil 4:8 - Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

2. Phil. 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.
 3. II Peter 1:5 - And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue and to virtue knowledge.
- IV. Abstaining from Appearance of Evil
1. Romans 12:9 - Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.
 2. Romans 12:21 - Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.
 3. I Cor. 15:33 - Be not deceived; evil communications corrupt good manners.
 4. Titus 3:2 - To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle shewing all meekness unto all men.
 5. You can't run with the devil, while walking with the Lord.
- V. Be Thankful
1. I Thess. 5:17 - Pray without ceasing.
 2. Luke 18:1 - And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;
 3. James 5:16 - Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.
- VI. Rejoice Evermore - I Thess. 5:16
1. Phil. 2:16 - Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.
 2. Phil. 3:1 - Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord . . .
 3. Phil. 4:4 - Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say Rejoice.
 4. Rom. 12:15 - Rejoice with them that do rejoice and weep with them that weep.
- VII. If you are not a Christian, the first rung on the ladder of success you need to climb is the rung of obedience - one must obey the gospel.
1. Hear - Rom. 10:17
 2. Believe - Mark 16:16 - He that believeth . . .
 3. Repent - Luke 13:3-5 - Acts 17:30
 4. Confession - Rom. 10:10
 5. Baptism - Acts 2:38; Acts 10:48; I Peter 3:20-21 - All scripture is given by inspiration; II Tim. 3:16.
- VIII. Or an erring child of God
1. Come to the realization that without Christ you are lost. Eph. 2:12.
 2. Confess your faults. James 5:16
 3. And be restored to your first love. Galatians 6:1; Rev. 2:4-5

CONCLUSION:

There is no ladder to climb in the realm of failure. You just slide down to destruction.

OUR DEARLY DEPARTED

I Tim. 4:1-2

DEDICATION: To our dearly departed to the ballgames, vacation, golf games, fishing trips, etc.

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils: Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron:

INTRODUCTION:

1. Today so many people are leaving the church for vain material goods.
2. People of today do not have time to give to the Lord.
3. They have too much pride to humble themselves before God.

DISCUSSION:

- I. God loved us first.
 1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
 2. Luke 19:10 - For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.
 3. Romans 5:8 - But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
- II. Christ loved us.
 1. John 15:13 - Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
 2. I Peter 3:18 - For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.
 3. Christ went to Calvary on our behalf and suffered, bled, and died for you and me.
 4. God and Christ have shown their love toward us, how do we love God and Christ?
- III. How do we love God and Christ?
 1. Do we really love Christ?

John 14:15 says "If ye love me keep my commandments." If we do love him, we will want to worship him.
 2. John 4:23-24 - But the hour cometh and now is when the true worshipper shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and truth.
 3. So we must worship Christ in singing.
 - a) Eph. 5:19 - Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord:

4. Study or Preaching the Word.
 - a) II Tim. 2:15 - Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
 - b) II Tim. 4:2 - Preach the Word: be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
5. In Giving.
 - a) II Cor. 9:7 - Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.
6. In the Lord's Supper.
 - a) Matt. 26:26-29 - And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it and brake it and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, Drink ye all of it. For this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink it new with you this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.
 - b) Acts 20:7 - And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight. (I Cor. 11:23-30)
7. In Praying.
 - a) II Thess. 5:17 - Pray without ceasing.
 - b) Romans 12:12 - Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer.
 - c) Christ's disciples asked him to teach them to pray. Luke 11:1

Here's the conclusion of the whole matter. Now Listen.

8. In order to fulfill these commandments we must remember Heb. 10:25 - Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.
9. We can not worship the Lord in spirit and in truth only once a month or once a year or whenever you feel like worshipping the Lord.
10. How can we be edified by coming together occasionally?
11. Those dearly departed, where will all of our television, fishing boats, new cars, vacation; where will they be three (3) minutes after we are dead?
12. You need to start now by putting Jesus first by accepting His word, believing on Him and repenting of past sins and confessing Jesus and being buried with Christ in baptism to raise to walk in newness of life.
13. Gal. 6:1 - Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; **considering** thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

14. James 5:16 - Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of the righteous man availeth much.

CONCLUSION:

1. You need to be counted among the assembled instead among the departed.
2. If everyone attended church as you did, would the pews be filled or emptied?
3. If you are among the departed, you need to start right now and get your heart and life right with God and Jesus Christ.

NOTES

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

INTRODUCTION:

1. Glad to announce to you that the church which Jesus established is still in existence.
 - a. It is a divine-human organization, not perfect.
 - b. Cannot improve divine side . . . human side needs polishing.
 - c. Denominational people think this a fatal admission. The denominational groups cannot claim any divine approval.
 2. Not talking tonight about denominations.
 - a. Lord did not even mention them. I will not fool away my time on them either.
 - b. Cannot talk about the missions of denominations and stay with the Bible.
 - c. Judging by actions, their mission must be selling cakes, pies, barbeques, etc. to raise money to send a man overseas to sell cakes, pies, barbeques, etc. Must have qualified missionary! How qualified? Preach? No! Must be able to COOK!
 3. The church is simple, not mess of confusion.
 - a. Simplicity causes some to stumble. 2 Cor. 11:3
 - b. One scripture is enough to prove denominations not of God. That is 1 Cor. 14:33.
 - c. ORGANIZATION OF N.T. church is simple, scriptural.
 - d. DESIGNATIONS, or titles, of identification show ownership.
 - e. MESSAGE is clear, pure, easy to understand. Just gospel. Gal. 1:8,9
 - f. THE MISSION of that church is as clearly set forth. However, more to mission of church than some think.
 4. Carrying out this mission is not always easy.
 - a. As surely as the sinners must obey the gospel we must carry out the mission of the church.
 - b. What is the mission of the church?
- I. IT IS THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH TO PREACH THE GOSPEL. Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15,16.
 - A. Need to set up Missionary Society? Yes! Have same one first church had. Col. 1:23. The Church was that Missionary Society!
 - B. The church is:
 1. To hold forth the word of life. Phil. 2:15, 16
 2. The pillar and ground of truth. 1 Tim. 3:14, 15
 3. 1 Thess. 1:9; Eph. 3:10
 - C. How can church obey this?
 1. Through individual acts 2 Tim. 4:1-5; Acts 8:4,5,12; Acts 20:20; 5:42
 2. Church can support preachers. Phil. 4:15,16; 1:5
 3. By churches cooperating, 2 Cor. 11:8 - I robbed other churches.
 4. Specifically: pulpit, radio, T V, printed page, person to person.
 - II. IT IS THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH TO EDIFY THE SAINTS. (to build them up, cause them to grow) Eph. 4:11, 12, 16; Acts 20:32.

- A. Unless evangelize, no converts to edify. Unless edify, lose respect of community, no converts.
 - B. Edification begins where evangelization stops.
 - C. How get this done? Pulpit, class room, special training classes, home visitation, ANYWHERE!
- III. IT IS THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH TO MINISTER TO THE NEEDY Eph. 4:12; I Tim. 5:16.
- A. The FIELD of its good works.
 - 1. The household of faith - Gal. 6:10 (Acts 6:1-7; 11:27-30)
 - 2. All men - Gal. 6:10; 2 Cor. 9:13
 - B. The Purpose of good works.
 - 1. Lord expects it of us.
 - 2. Maintain respect - care for own.
 - 3. Opens door for gospel - to them and others - not show off.
 - 4. Will help those who serve - patient, merciful, sympathetic, and kind.
 - 5. Best advertising. Matt. 5:16

NOTES

THE PARABLE OF THE LOST

Luke 15

INTRODUCTION:

1. They had it.
2. They lost it.
3. They found it.
4. They rejoiced in finding it.

DISCUSSION:

I. They had it.

II Peter 2:21-22 - For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, the dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

II. They lost it.

Luke 19:10 - For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

III. They found it.

1. The lost sheep was found.
2. The lost coin was found.
3. The lost son was found.

IV. They rejoiced in finding it.

1. The man or shepherd said to his neighbors, "Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost."
2. The woman when she had cleaned the house, invited her friends and neighbors to come and rejoice with her.
3. The man with the lost son prepared a feast and rejoiced over his lost son coming home again.

CONCLUSION:

1. There are people in the world today that have heard the word of God and have obeyed from the heart and have left their first love.
2. There are people who are lost, without God and without Christ. Eph. 2:12.
3. Many people have found Jesus Christ and have been buried with him in baptism.
4. There is always rejoicing in heaven as in Luke 15:7 - I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

WHERE ARE YOUR TWO MITES?**Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4**

MITE- A small coin or sum of money; — applied in the New Testament to the Lepton; half a farthing (Webster Collegiate Dictionary). A coin current in Palestine in the time of our Lord. It seems in Palestine to have been the smallest piece of money, being the half of the farthing, which was a coin of very low value (Smith's Bible Dictionary)

FARTHING: The fourth of a penny, a small British bronze coin. It is worth half a cent U.S. (Webster Collegiate Dictionary) A current coin in Palestine in the time of our Lord. It was equivalent to two Lepta (mite) (Smith's Bible Dictionary)

INTRODUCTION:

1. Jesus watching as the people gave.
2. He observes the rich and the poor.
3. Jesus is satisfied when we sacrifice. All can give little, not many can give a lot.

DISCUSSION:

- I. God gave first
 - A. God gave us this place to live.
 - Gen. 1:1 - In the beginning God created the Heaven and the Earth.
 1. The Earth is where you dwell.
 2. God gave it to us.
 - B. God gave us.
 1. Light - Gen. 1:3
 2. Water - Gen. 1:9
 3. Grass, herb, fruit - Gen. 1:11
 4. Whales, fish, fowls,- Gen. 1:21
 5. Cattle, creeping things, beast of the earth - Gen. 1:24
 6. Made man after his image. - Gen. 1:26
 - C. God gave us his son.
 1. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
 2. Rom. 5:8 - But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
 3. I John 4:9 - In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.
 - D. God gave us the scripture or Bible.
 1. II Tim. 3:16 - All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.
 2. Luke 2:70 - As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:

- E. God gave Christ for our salvation.
1. Luke 19:10 - For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.
 2. Matt. 18:11 - For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.
 3. Matt. 9:13 - But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.
 4. I Tim. 1:15 - This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.
- F. God through Christ gave us a plan of salvation. III. God gave a plan or pattern. We must follow that pattern.
1. Hearing - Rom. 10:17 - So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.
 2. Believe - Mark 16:16 - He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.
 3. Repentance - Luke 13:3-5 - I tell you, Nay: but except you repent, ye shall all likewise perish.
 4. Confession - Rom. 10:10 - For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
 5. Baptism - Acts 10:48 - And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord . . . (Acts 2:38)
I Peter 3:21 - The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us.
- II. What Have you given to the Lord?
- A. Have you given to the Lord through Bible Study?
1. II Tim. 2:15 - Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
 2. John 17:17 - Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.
 3. John 8:32 - And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.
- B. Have you given to the Lord through church attendance?
1. Hebrews 10:25 - Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.
 2. Acts 2:42 - And they continued steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.
 3. Rom. 13:11 - And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.
- C. Have you given to the Lord by taking the Lord's Supper?
1. Matt. 26:26-29 - And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and

gave it to them, saying, drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink new with you in my Father's kingdom.

2. I Cor. 11:27-28 - Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of the cup.
 3. Romans 14:12 - So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.
- D. Have you given back to the Lord that which He has blessed you?
1. James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.
 2. I Cor. 16:2 - Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.
 3. III. If you want a church to run:
Walk - Talk it up
Trot - Pray it up.
Run - Give - Let it walk. Brother, let it walk.

CONCLUSION:

1. Are you like the widow that gave her all?
2. Have you given the Lord your life? James 4:14
3. This is the time you can start - Now is the day of salvation. (II Cor. 6:2)
This could be your day and your time.

NOTES

THE BURNING CHAFF

Matt. 3:12

Purpose: To bring to the realization of what it means to be eternally lost.

1. At the time of harvest the wheat is gathered into the garner.
 - a) Thoroughly purge his floor.
 - b) Gather his wheat into the garner.
 - c) Burn the chaff with unquenchable fire.
2. The time of judgment is at hand. Heb. 9:27
 - a) The greatest day will be this one.
 - b) The greatest crowd will be gathered.
 - c) The greatest judge will preside.
 - d) The greatest decision will be made.
 - e) The greatest separation will happen.
3. The time that we must face all of our deeds.
 - a) How many of us have visited the sick, those that are in prison, those that even clothed the naked.
 - b) Everyone judged accordingly to HIS or HER deeds. Rev. 20:12
 - c) Those not found in the book of life. Rev. 20:14-15.
4. How do we escape this unquenchable fire?
 - a) James 1:21-25 - but be ye doers of the word and not hearers only.
 - b) We need to obey from the heart that form of doctrine (Rom. 6:17) and then receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. (James 1:21)
 - c) We can do this by following God's Word. We must believe, repent, confess Christ, and be buried with Christ in baptism. Then you will arise to walk in newness of life. You must live faithfully for him to the end of your natural life.

WHY NOT DO IT RIGHT NOW?

NOTES

WHAT TIME IS IT?**1. High Time to Awake.**

Rom. 13:11 - And that, knowing the time, that it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believe.

I Thess. 5:6 - Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

2. Time to Work.

I Cor. 15:58 - Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Heb. 4:11 - Let us labour therefore to enter into rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

John 9:4 - I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: for the night cometh, when no man can work.

3. Time to Teach.

Heb. 5:12-14 (READ)

4. Redeeming the Time.

Eph. 5:13-17 (READ)

Col. 4:5 - Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

5. Harvest Time.

Luke 10:2 - Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

6. NOW is the accepted time.

II Cor. 6:2 - For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time: behold, now is the day of salvation.

7. The Time is Short.

I Cor. 7:29 - But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they have none.

NOTES

**EXCEPT THESE ABIDE IN THE SHIP,
YE CANNOT BE SAVED
Acts 27:30-34**

INTRODUCTION:

1. Most of us have heard lessons on how to get into the church.
2. Question for today is how to stay in the church.
3. After we have answered the question, "What MUST I do to be saved?", let's look at the question "What must I do to Keep saved?"

DISCUSSION:

1. Read the Bible DAILY.
 - a. Acts 17:11 - These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.
 - b. I Peter 2:2 - As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.
 - c. James 1:21 - Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.
 - d. II Tim. 2:15 - Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
 - e. John 12:48 - He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.
2. Pray to God every day.
 - a. Matt. 7:7 - Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:
 - b. I Thess. 5:17 - Pray without ceasing.
 - c. James 5:16 - Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.
3. Attend all the services of the church.
 - a. Hebrews 10:25 - Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.
 - b. "Do I have to do that?" is a dangerous question and attitude.
 - c. You do not expect to go through a day or a week without eating a physical meal, so a person should not go through a week or a day without spiritual food.
 - d. We have this as a privilege, and should be viewed as such, and take every opportunity which we have to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24)
4. Give liberally of time, talents, and means.
 - a. I Cor. 16:2 - Upon the first day of the week, let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.
 - b. Invest in Heaven. Where your treasure is, there will your heart be.
 - c. Be interested in the growth of the church; work for its success.

CONCLUSION:

A. I John 2:3 - "Hereby we know that we know him if we keep his commandments."

B. We can keep saved, but it will take effort.

NOTES

LEST YOU HANG YOURSELF

Romans 2:1-2

INTRODUCTION:

1. We are without excuse because we try to find fault with every one's life, and fail to look at ourselves as others look at us.
2. It has been said that if you give a man a long enough rope that he will hang himself.
3. We condemn people for the things that they do in work or play and then we turn around and do the identical error that they do, but yet when we do it, it is alright and it is the right thing to do because we do it.

DISCUSSION:

- I. Let us practice what we preach. Rom. 2:1-2
 - a. No excuse for those of us who judge.
 - b. When we sit and judge we are condemning ourselves..
 - c. For when we judge we do the same thing.
- II. Lest you hang yourself
 - a. Mordecai saves the King's life.
Esther 2:21-23
 - b. Haman builds the gallows for Mordecai
Esther 5:13-14
 - c. Haman is hanged on the gallows that were prepared for Mordecai along with his ten sons. Esther 7:10; 9:13-14
 - d. The enemies of the Jews are slain
Esther 9:5
- III. We are in no position to judge others.
 - a. We are not to judge, because with that judgment we will also be judged. Matt. 7:1-2
 - b. Some of us can't judge because we ourselves are also in the same position. Matt. 7:3-4
 - c. We need so much to clean off our front porch before we start with someone else. Matt.7:5
- IV. We tend to look at the persons clothes instead of his soul. James 2:1
 - a. We judge a man by what he wears. James 2:2-3
 - b. We are partial to ourselves and to other persons. James 2:4
 - c. The poor hath been chosen of this world to be rich in faith. James 2:5

CONCLUSION:

1. Each and every day we are building our own gallows and slowly we are tightening the noose about our necks.
2. We need to treat other people like we would want to be treated. (The Golden Rule - Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.)
Matt. 7:12
3. Have you asked yourself this question, Do I have the right to judge this person? I'M doing the same as they are. Is it right for me to do it and not for them.
4. We need to be careful not to hang ourselves on the same gallows that we are building for someone else.

BY GRACE ARE YE SAVED THROUGH FAITH Eph. 2:8-9

GRACE

Divine Side

1. Saviour
2. Spirit
3. Scripture

FAITH

Human Side

1. Sinner
2. Sub-mission
3. Service

What is Grace?

The unmerited favor of God toward man.

All that God has done can be summed up in one word, that word is Grace. John 3:16, Titus 2:11

Saviour - Christ II Cor. 8:9, Heb. 2:9, Matt. 26:28

Spirit - The Holy Spirit John 14:16,26; 16:8-11

Scripture Eph. 3:3-5, II Tim., 3:16-17 grace teaches

What is Faith?

All that God commands man to do to be saved by grace must be done by faith.

Certain kinds of works are excluded: works of boasting, Eph. 2:9, works of law, Gal. 2:16.

We must not exclude the work of faith.

The only way to reach the grace that has done something for us, is through a faith that will do something; Gal. 5:6, Acts 10:34-35

The Ephesians were saved by grace, through faith, this is what faith led them to do:

Hear, Believe Eph. 1:13, Repent Acts 20:17,20-21

Confession Acts 19:17-18, Romans 10

Baptism Acts 19:1-5

NOTES

BEHOLD THY MOTHER

John 19:25-27

Behold: To perceive through sight of apprehension: SEE 2. To gaze upon: OBSERVE 3. used in the imperative especially to call attention.

Thy: Ecclesiastical or literary language relative to you or your or yourself.

Mother: A female parent, of relating to, or being a mother.

(Mother's Day - the 2nd Sunday in May appointed for honoring mothers.

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary)

1. The first woman created was also the first mother. Gen. 2:22
 - a. Cain first son born to the first parents.
 - b. She conceived and bore another son - Abel.
 - c. Cain slew Abel and then she bore Seth.
2. The Greatest mother of all - Mary.
 - a. She was told that she was going to bear a son and his name was Jesus. Matt. 1:21
 - b. A mother of concern. Where is my son? Luke 21:41-49 (48)
 - c. A mother of sorrow as she makes her way to the cross. John 19:25
3. What makes a good mother? Titus 2:3-5

She must be:

 - a. Good behavior, becometh holiness.
 - b. Not false accusers.
 - c. Not given to much wine.
 - d. Teachers of good things.
 - e. Teacher of young women.
 - f. Teach the young women to be wise.
 - g. To love their husbands.
 - h. To love their children.
 - i. To be discreet.
 - j. To be chaste.
 - k. To be keepers at their own homes.
 - l. To be good, obedient to their own husband.
 - m. Last but not least, to be a Christian.

CONCLUSION:

What kind of mother are you?

- a. Alcoholism
- b. Drug Abuse
- c. Child Abuse
- d. Be ye steadfast
- e. Unmovable
- f. Always abounding in the work of the Lord. (1 Cor. 15:58)

LET ME ALONE

Exodus 14:10-12

INTRODUCTION:

1. The children of Israel were angered at the attempt to be set free and then confronted by the Red Sea at their backs and the Egyptians on the front side. They had no place to go. They cried out to Moses saying, "Why didn't you just let us alone."
2. As we talk to people today and try to tell them about Jesus Christ, they too cry out in desperation "Let me alone."
3. Children playing together and one is over in a corner playing by him or herself and the other children commence to toy and play with the child and he or she will start crying out "Let me alone."

DISCUSSION:

- I. The children of Israel cried "LET ME ALONE."
 - a. The children of Israel did not realize that the Lord God of all nations was on their side.
 - b. The children of Israel were only concerned about the easy way out of the situation.
 - c. People of today are only concerned with the easy way of doing things. If they run upon a little trouble or contradiction they immediately throw up their hands and cry out "let me alone."
- II. King Agrippa told Paul to let me alone.
 - a. In Acts 26:28 King Agrippa tells Paul that "almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." Almost, not completely but almost.
 - b. As we have record of it today, King Agrippa said "Let me alone right now."
 - c. Today we have a lot of King Agrippas in our midst. They are saying almost, but not entirely, so let me alone for right now and later I will do something about it, but for right now just let me alone."
- III. People in the church and also in the world are crying "Let me alone."
 - a. People in the religious world today with their doctrines and customs testify that they are true to the teachings of Jesus Christ. They don't want to hear anything else. As you start to tell them about Jesus Christ they will tell you to "let me alone".
 - b. The people outside of Christ are not concerned about their souls and are so-called happy about the way they are living. They shout and swear to the church "let me alone".
 - c. Paul tells us in II Cor. 5:11 - "Therefore knowing the terror of the Lord, we persuade men . . . Persuade men and women everywhere to accept Jesus Christ."
 - d. Today there are many who are saying this to Jesus. Is this your attitude?

CONCLUSION:

1. You can tell Jesus to "let me alone, I know what I am doing."
2. Or you can tell Jesus that through him "I can do all things." Phil. 4:13

SOME OTHER BAPTISMS

Matthew 3: 11

INTRODUCTION:

1. The baptism of John the Baptist with water unto repentance.
2. The baptism of Jesus with the Holy Ghost.
3. The baptism of Jesus by fire for those that are wicked.

DEFINITION OF BAPTISM: The word baptism comes from the Greek word, baptisma, which occurs in the New Testament twenty-two (22) times, and is from the root or base word baptidzo, which occurs eighty times in the New Testament, seventy-eight times rendered baptize, baptized, and one time each for wash and washing, which means to dip, immerse, cover-up with as a burial. Sprinkling and/or pouring is from their own root word raino or cheo.

1. The Flood. I Peter 3:20-21
 - A. Heb. 11:7 - By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.
 - B. 2 Peter 2:5 - And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;
 - C. Eph. 5:26 - That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.
2. To the passage through the Red Sea and the shadowing of the miraculous cloud. I Cor. 10:1-2.
 - A. Exodus 13:21 - And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night;
 - B. Isaiah 63:11 - Then he remembered the days of old, Moses and his people, saying, Where is he that brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of his flock? Where is he that put his Holy Spirit within him?
 - C. Exodus 14:22 - And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.
3. To Circumcision. Col. 2:11-12
 - A. Jeremiah 4:4 - Circumcise yourselves to the Lord, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings.
 - B. Romans 6:4 - Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
 - C. Eph. 3:7 - Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

4. And to Death - Matt. 20:20-23

A. II Cor. 5:17 - Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

1. How does one get into Christ?

a. Gal. 3:26-28 - For ye are all children of God by faith in Christ Jesus

b. Romans 6:17- But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

c. Romans 6:1-10 (READ)

CONCLUSION:

1. Are you living in Christ Jesus today?

2. Have you been sprinkled or poured as a form of baptism?

3. Do you know why you were baptized?

4. You will not, can not, and will not be saved by calling on the name of the Lord only (Acts 2:21) (Matt. 7:21), but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven.

NOTES

THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA

Rev. 3:7-13

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA:

1. Twenty-eight miles southeast of Sardis lay the city of Philadelphia. As cities went, it was not very ancient, for it had been founded by Attalus the Second in 140 B.C. Attalus was called Philadelphos, and it was after him that Philadelphia had been named.
2. Philadelphia was the gateway to the East.
3. Philadelphia commanded one of the greatest highways in the world, the highway which led from Europe to the East.
4. Philadelphia was the gateway from one continent to another.
5. It was a great grape-growing area and Philadelphia was world famous for its vintages and its wines.
6. The very fact which brought prosperity to Philadelphia also brought danger. Because it was on the edge of this volcanic area, Philadelphia was very subject to earthquakes. In the earthquake of A.D. 17, Philadelphia was also devastated and laid waste; but Tiberius, the Roman emperor, extended to it the same generosity as he extended to Sardis: he remitted its taxes and gave it a very large contribution toward the task of rebuilding the shattered city.
7. Philadelphia had still another custom which finds its echo in the letter written to it. Philadelphia was a famous center of heathen worship. Its principal god was Dionysus, the god of wine.
8. Philadelphia, with so much of its prosperity, it was natural that it should worship the god of the grape.
9. Philadelphia had so many gods and so many temples that sometimes men called it "Little Athens."

APPLICATION TO THE CHURCH FROM THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA:

- I. We have already seen that the history of Philadelphia would make us think of the door of opportunity.
 1. The door of missionary opportunity.
 2. The door of opportunity to self-improvement.
 3. The door of the opportunity to service.
 4. The door to Jesus Christ himself. (John 10:7-9)
 5. The door may be the door of prayer.
- II. Verse 9 shows defeat of heathen, triumph of Christianity.
- III. Verse 10 shows that he will keep them that keep the faith.
- IV. Verse 11 shows that no can take our crown.
- V. Verse 12 shows the "pillar in the temple of my God."

WALKING IN THE TRUTH

III John 3, 4

INTRODUCTION:

1. We all tend to walk in the footsteps of someone; most people when they are young, walk in the steps of their parents.
2. The way of the Lord is the only way for us to walk in the day that we are living today
3. John talks about the fact that he was full of joy that his children were walking in the truth. Are we proud when our children are walking in the truth?

DISCUSSION:

- I. What is Truth?
 - A. John tells us in John 17:17 - Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.
 - B. We go back to the first chapter of John and we find that Jesus was the word. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God."
 - C. The Psalmist David wrote that the Word is a lamp unto our feet. Psalm 119:105 - Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
- II. Who is truth?
 - A. In John 14:6, John tells us plainly who is the truth. Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
 - B. If Jesus Christ dwells in us today and we do not lie and we keep the commandments of God and of Jesus Christ we will be of the truth.
- III. What does the truth produce? Romans 6:18
 - A. John 8:32 tells us that the truth shall make us free. And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make us free.
 - B. This happens only if we continue in his word as he (John) mentions in the preceding verse.
 - C. Romans 6:14 - For sin shall not have dominion over you; for ye are not under the law, but under grace.
 - D. Romans 8:2 - For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.
- IV. How do we become free through the Truth?
 - A. Faith - Romans 10:17 - So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.
 - B. Hearing - Acts 2:37 - Now when they heard this they were pricked (cut-RSV) in their hearts, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?
 - C. Believe - Mark 16:16 - He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

- D. Repentance - Acts 17:30 - And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent.
- E. Confession - Matt. 10:32 - Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in Heaven. (Romans 10:10)
- F. Baptism - Gal. 3:27 - For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
- G. Children of God. - Gal. 3:26 - For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.
- H. Then heirs to his promise - Gal. 3:29; Gal. 4:1; Romans 8:16-17

CONCLUSION:

1. After this lesson you ought to know what the truth is and obey it from the heart.
2. Are you free from the burden of sin? The truth can make you free.

THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS

I Timothy 3:16

INTRODUCTION:

1. Many things in this life cannot be explained and we call it a mystery.
2. Mystery - A profound secret; something wholly unknown or something kept cautiously concealed, and exciting curiosity or wonder; (Webster Collegiate Dictionary)
3. Truly the Bible as well as this world indeed holds many mysteries which will only be revealed in the day of judgment, if then.

DISCUSSION:

- I. The manifestation of God in the flesh as seen in Prophecy.
 1. In Isaiah 7:14 - Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
 2. Isaiah 9:6 - For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.
- II. God's initial manifestation in the flesh.
 1. Matt. 2:1-12 - The description of the birth of Jesus Christ.
 2. Luke 2:1-14 - In the days of Caesar Augustus, every one went to his own home town to be taxed and then about the birth of Christ
- III. God's Manifestation in his life.
 1. At the age of twelve in the temple.
 2. At the marriage feast at Canaan.
 3. His many teachings in Parables and Miracles.
 4. John 21:25 - And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.
- IV. God's Manifestation shown in his death.
 1. John 19:1-30 - His mock trial and his walk to Calvary and his death on the cross.
- V. God's Manifestation in his ascension.
 1. Matt. 17:5 - This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.
 2. Sitting at the right hand of God forever and ever.

CONCLUSION:

SO GREAT SALVATION**Heb. 2:3**

SALVATION: Deliverance from sin and its consequences; redemption.

I. It is a Great Salvation.

A. The Hebrew writer asks how shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation. Heb. 2:3

- a. The answer is if we let the word of God slip from us and fail to obey the word, we will be lost.
- b. Paul told Timothy in II Timothy 2:15 - Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
- c. In the first chapter of II Tim. verse 13, Paul told Timothy to: Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith, and love which is in Christ Jesus.

B. Great Salvation is brought about by a Great Faith.

- a. Christ teaches his disciples about having great faith in Matthew 17:20 - And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, if ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed...
- b. There was a man that came to Jesus to have his servant healed and told Jesus that he was not worthy for him to come to his house just speak the word and his servant would be healed. Jesus replied in Matt. 8:10 - Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.
- c. There are a lot of people who have their faith lost and more each day are losing their faith in God and thereby losing their great salvation.

II. It is also an Eternal or Everlasting Salvation.

- a. Matt. 19:16 - And behold one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life.
- b. II Cor. 5:1 - For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.
- c. I Tim. 6:12 - Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.
- d. 2 Peter 1:11 - For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

III. It is a Perfect Salvation.

- a. In II Tim. 3:16-17, Paul tells us that through the scriptures the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works..

- b. Jesus Christ was perfect and he set up his plan of salvation so there-
by it also must be perfect if the man was perfect.
- IV. It is also a Common Salvation.
- a. Mark 12:37 - David therefore himself calleth him Lord; and whence
is he then his son? And the common people heard him gladly.
 - b. Jude 3 - Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the
common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and ex-
hort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was
delivered unto the saints.
 - c. Mark 16:15 - And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and
preach the gospel to every creature.

CONCLUSION:

1. This is truly a great salvation and we all need to strive for this salvation.
2. We do have a great world, a great saviour, and the hope of a great salva-
tion with Jesus Christ and all the saints who have gone on before us.
3. We all need to work out our own salvation. Paul wrote in Phillipians
2:12 - Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my
presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own
salvation with fear and trembling.

NOTES

THE CHURCH OF THE LAODICEANS

Rev. 3:14-22

HISTORY OF THE LAODICEAN CHURCH:

1. The town of Laodicea lay forty-three miles southeast of Philadelphia and about a hundred miles from Ephesus.
2. Laodicea was not a very ancient town, for it had been founded in 250 B.C. by Antiochus the second and had been called Laodicea after Antiochus' wife.
3. To add to its importance, there came three great roads to center upon Laodicea.
 - a. The road from the seacoast from Attaleia and Perga.
 - b. The road from the northwest which linked it with Philadelphia and Sardis.
 - c. The road from the northeast which came in from Dorylaeum and from Phrygia.
4. In 133 B.C. Laodicea became part of the Roman Empire, and it was then that its most spacious days began.
5. Laodicea was a notably wealthy city. It was the center of the banking arrangements of Asia minor.
6. A very considerable part of the wealth of Laodicea came from the clothing industry. The surrounding countryside was world famous for a certain breed of black-wooled sheep.
7. Laodicea was a famous medical school, and in particular it was famous for two kinds of medicine. It was famous for a certain ointment made of nard which was used to cure sore ears. But above all it was famous for a certain eye powder. (The Tephra Phrygia)

APPLICATION OF THE CHURCH AT LAODICEA:

- I. Verse 14, these things saith the Son of God;
 - a. Amen - Greek for verily, verily, which means to affirm and to guarantee a statement as absolutely true and absolutely trustworthy.
 - b. The faithful and true witness - The true witness of God the creator.
 - c. The beginning of the creation of God - John 1:1
- II. Verse 15, I know thy works, neither hot nor cold. (Lukewarm)
- III. Verse 16, Spew thee out of his mouth.
- IV. Verse 17, We are rich and need nothing, when actually we are poor and blind and need everything.
- V. Verse 18, We need to apply the eye salve to our eyes that they might be made well and we can see with our eyes.
- VI. Verse 19, As many as I love I rebuke and chasten; be zealous therefore and repent.
- VII. Verse 20, The Lord is standing at the door of our heart, and is knocking, but you must open the door, the Lord won't open it.
- VIII. Verse 21 - To him that overcometh will I grant to sit down at the throne of our Father which is in Heaven.
- Verse 22, He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

CONCLUSION:

THE CHURCH AT SARDIS

Rev. 3:1-6

History of the church at Sardis:

1. Sardis' greatest advantage was that it was the center of a knot of five different roads.
 - a. One road led northwest to Thyatira and then on to Pergamos.
 - b. One road ran west to Smyrna, 54 miles away.
 - c. One road ran east and out to Phrygia.
 - d. One road ran southeast to Philadelphia and then on to the towns of the Maeander valley.
 - e. One road led southwest to Ephesus, 63 miles away, and linked Sardis with the valley of the Cayster.
2. The first coinage ever to be minted in Asia Minor was minted in Sardis. Sardis was the place where modern money was born.
3. Let us now look at the outstanding characteristics of the city of Sardis.
 - a. Sardis was a great commercial center and extremely wealthy.
 - b. Sardis was a great center of the woolen industry.
 - c. Sardis was not a center of Caesar worship, although it would have liked to have been.
 - d. The name Sardis, even among the Pagans was a word of contempt.
 - e. Its people were notoriously loose-living, notoriously pleasure and luxury-loving.

Sardis: The church of the living death.

- I. In Rev. 3:1 God says the church at Sardis has a name that lives but it is dead.
 - a. A church is in danger of death when it begins to worship its own past, when it lives on its memories instead of finding a challenge in its hopes, when it is more taken up with its traditions than its ideals..
 - b. A church is in danger of death when it is more concerned with forms than with life.
 - c. A church is in danger of death when it loves systems more than it loves Jesus Christ.
 - d. A church is in danger of death when it is more concerned with material than with spiritual things.
- II. The theme of this letter to this church is to be watchful.
 - a. We are to be watchful at our weak point.
 1. In I Thess. 5:6 - Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.
 - b. We must be watchful at our strongest point.
 1. Watchfulness is an absolute necessity of life, for we never know when we may slip. Gal. 6:1 - Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.
- III, Jesus is looking for something in us.
 - a. Loyalty - to serve him
 - b. help - to serve and to spread his word.

CONCLUSION:

THE CHURCH OF THYATIRA

Rev. 2:18-29

History of Thyatira:

1. It was in 290 B.C. that the name of Thyatira emerged in history, and it emerged as the name of a military center.
2. The supreme importance of Thyatira was that it was the gateway to Pergamos, the capital city of Asia.
3. Thyatira was not a great religious center, it certainly was a great commercial center.
 - a. Thyatira was a great center of the wool trade and of the dyeing industry.
 - b. Lydia was a seller of purple, and this dye cost \$200.00 for one pound.
4. One outstanding characteristic which distinguished Thyatira from other towns was this - from the inscriptions which have been found in the neighborhood it is clear that Thyatira possessed more trade guilds than any other town of its size in Asia, and it would seem that the danger which threatened the church at Thyatira was the direct result of the powerful existence of these trade guilds.
5. They tried to compromise between serving the trade guilds and serving Jesus Christ.

Application to the church from the church at Thyatira:

- I. The Son of Man described. verse 18
 - eyes - like a flame of fire
 - feet - like fine brass Rev. 1:13-17
- II. I know thy works:
 - a. Charity - service
 - b. Faith - endurance
 - c. Works (last to be more than the first)
- III. The works of the woman Jezebel
 - a. To eat things sacrificed unto idols
 - b. To commit fornication
 - c. Jezebel was given a space of time to repent. Acts 17:30 - In the times of this ignorance God winked at but now commanded all men everywhere to repent.
- IV. They will be cast out unless they repent.
 - a. God gives us a chance to repent and to serve Him.
 - b. We compromise the word of God. We walk with the devil during the week and then on Sunday our consciences start to bother us so we go to church and worship God only to settle our conscience. Matt. 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven.
- V. He that overcometh and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will give power over the nations:
- VI. We have the bright and morning star.
 - a. The star outshines the darkness.
 - b. Jesus is our morning star that outshines the darkness of sin.

VII. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the spirit saith unto the churches.

CONCLUSION:

1. We cannot be divided between the world and the Lord.
2. There is no compromise in the church.
3. If we live faithfully unto the end we are guaranteed of that reward that the Lord has promised unto us.

SANCTIFY FOREVER**John 17:17**

John 17:17 - Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Definition:

Sanctify - To set apart to a sacred purpose or to religious use; consecrate.

Forever - An unspecified length of time.

In otherwise - To be set apart for an unspecified length of time.

(Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary)

INTRODUCTION:

1. There are a lot of items today that are temporary in nature.
 - a. Living Apostles
 - b. Miracles
 - c. Our own bodies.
2. There are a lot of items today that are permanent or everlasting.
 - a. The church
 - b. The word of God
 - c. Eternity
3. If we have been sanctified by Christ then we are to be separate and apart from everything but Christ.

DISCUSSION:

- I. We are to be sanctified by his word.
 - A. God's word is the truth.

John 17:17 - Sanctify them through thy word; thy word is truth.
 - B. I Timothy 4:4-5 - For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.
 - C. His word can be uplifting to us as tells in Acts 20:32 - And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.
- II. We are to be sanctified by Jesus Christ and his church (Matt. 16:18)
 - A. Christ loved the church as husbands should love their wives. Eph. 5:25-27
 - B. As also the people took their sacrifices outside of the gate so was the son of God taken outside the gate. Heb. 13:12 - Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.
 - C. Hebrews 9:28 - So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.
 - D. Hebrews 10:1-14 (Read)
- III. We are to sanctify ourselves.
 - A. I Peter 3:15 - But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

- B. I Peter 2:9 - But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth and praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:
- C. I Thess. 5:23 - And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- D. Romans 12:2 - And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
- E. Hebrews 10:25 - Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.
- F. Phil. 2:12b - Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

CONCLUSION:

1. You need to separate yourself entirely from the world.
2. You need to trust in the word of God which has the power to save souls. Rom. 1:16
3. You need to believe in Jesus Christ and accept him as your Saviour by repenting of your sins, confessing that Jesus is the Christ the son of the living God, and then to be buried with your Lord in baptism to rise to walk in newness of life.
4. This is an individual matter, none of us can be saved for you. You must work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, and then if you live faithfully unto death you will be sanctified forever.

NOTES

WHOM SEEK YE? John 18:4-8 John 20:15

THESIS: To set forth the search of Jesus Christ and His teachings and His Kingdom.

INTRODUCTION:

1. We need to determine who or what we are seeking. II Tim. 1:12.
2. We need to determine how we are going about seeking the Lord.
3. We need to look at ourselves on the inside as well as on the outside, then account for ourselves and not the person next to us.

DISCUSSION:

- I. Where do we seek after the Lord, among the living or the dead?
 - A. Mary Magdalene and Simon Peter as they entered the tomb were asked by the two men. Luke 24:5.- And as they were afraid, and bowed their faces to the earth, they said unto them, why seek ye the living among the dead?
 - B. Among the earthly materialistic places.
 1. Immoral places
 2. As a part of evil speaking people
 3. In our idolatrous way of living.
 - C. Do we really try to seek after the Lord?
- II. How can we rightly seek the Lord without the proper knowledge and instruction?

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

Ezra 7:10 - For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

II Tim. 3:15 - And from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures. Proverbs 8:17 - I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

Proverbs 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.
- III. We must have the desire to seek the Lord.
 - A. Psalm 119:131 - I opened my mouth, and panted: for I longed for thy commandments.
 - B. Psalm 84:2 - My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my flesh crieth out for the living God.
 - C. Psalm 107:9 - For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.
 - D. Psalm 119:40 - Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy holy righteousness.
 - E. Psalm 119:174 - I have longed for thy salvation, O Lord; and thy law is my delight.
 - F. Romans 1:1 - For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;

IV. We must seek the Lord **FIRST**.

A. The Rich Young Ruler - Luke 18:18

“What shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

B. The Philippian Jailer - Acts 16:30

“Sirs, What must I do to be saved?”

C. The people on the Day of Pentecost.

Acts 2:37 - “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”

D. All of these were seeking after the Lord. And the Lord answered all of these questions in Matthew 6:33 - **Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.** Note also II Cor. 8:5.

CONCLUSION:

1. Seek the Lord with all thy heart, mind, strength, and soul.
2. Seek the Lord among the living, because Christ is alive and living today.
3. Seek the Lord in the right atmosphere and with the right attitude.
4. The Lord came to seek and to save that which is lost, (Luke 19:10) are you seeking after the Lord? (Matt. 6:33) If you are searching or seeking after something and you do not know what it is, it might be the Lord. Thou are weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. Daniel 5:27.

DO I REALLY UNDERSTAND? Acts 7:1-60 (25)

INTRODUCTION:

1. Stephen is accused of blasphemy and stands before the high priest. (v. 1-2)
2. Stephen teaches about Abraham. (v. 3-8)
3. Stephen teaches about Joseph. (v. 9-19)
4. Stephen teaches about Moses. (v. 20-45)
5. Stephen teaches about David. (v. 45-50)
6. Stephen teaches about and to the high priest. (v. 51-53)
7. The people were cut to the heart at what Stephen had said and killed him. (v. 54-60)

DISCUSSION:

- I. The people on the day of Pentecost did not understand.
 1. They all stood amazed and marvelled.
Acts 2:7 - And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans?
 2. They all were in doubt.
Acts 2:12 - And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?
 3. The people thought that the apostles were filled with new wine or drunk.
Acts 2:15 - For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.
 4. But when they really did understand, there was a change of events.
Acts 2:37 - Now when they heard this, they were pricked, in their hearts, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?
- II. People with great authority can not understand what the Lord wants them to do.
 1. The eunuch had great authority.
Acts 8:27 - And he arose and went and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority unto Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasure . . .
 2. He was interested in learning and studying more about God's word.
Acts 8:28 - Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.
 3. He didn't really understand what he was reading.
Acts 8:30 - And Phillip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, understandest thou what thou readest?
 4. Acts 8:31 - And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.
- III. People today do not take the time to really understand the word of God.
 1. My Father and Mother believe this way so it must be right.
 2. I don't have the time to read about it, I just have a feeling that I am right and that is good enough for me.

3. We can't get to Heaven by what our parents believed or the way we feel about the matter, but we need to read and study the Bible daily for in it we will know the truth and the truth shall make us free. Free from sin. (John 5:39; Acts 17:11; II Tim. 2:15; and John 8:32)
- IV. Moses slew the Egyptian and took for granted the people would understand that the hand of God would deliver them.
1. We tend to suppose that a lot of people will receive the Gospel, as Luke records in Acts 7:35 - For he supposed his brethren would have understood . . .
 2. We tend to suppose that other people will preach the Gospel to these people.
 3. We think that the whole world will be converted to Christ, and we can't understand why it won't be converted.
- BUT: II Kings 5:1 Naaman-Captain, Honourable, Mighty man in Valour.
4. They understood not. Acts 7:25 BUT
 - a. A lot of people will be lost, because they just don't understand the word.
 - b. There are a lot of things we don't understand now, but later on we will be aware of it in full.
(I Cor. 13:12 - For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.)

CONCLUSION:

1. People of today can't understand why the Lord's church worships the way it does.
2. Today people are not ignorant of what is going on, but rather they just don't understand the word of God.
3. If you know of someone out of the church, don't take it for granted that they know it or someone else will teach them, but study with them and work with them about the word of God.
4. Everyone does not understand all that is to be known about the word of God, but yet we all can learn and study and grow in the grace of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

INVITATION

SETTING IN ORDER**Titus 1:5****INTRODUCTION:**

1. Titus was left behind in Crete by Paul to take care of things that were left undone.
2. He should set in order those things left undone and also to appoint Elders.
3. The House of the Lord should be left in order.

DISCUSSION:**I. Order of Worship.****1. Singing.**

Eph. 5:19 - Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

2. Prayer.

Isaiah 56:7 - Even them will I bring to my mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.

3. The Lord's Supper.

Acts 20:7 - And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

4. Preaching and teaching.

II Tim. 4:2 - Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. Matt. 28:20 - Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

5. Giving.

II Cor. 9:7 - Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver.

II. Order of Attendance.

1. Isaiah 2:3 - And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. (Acts 1:8)
2. Psalms 122:1 - I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.
3. Hebrews 10:25 - Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.
4. Acts 2:42 - And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in prayers.

III. Order of Service.

1. Psalms 100:2 - Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
2. Matt. 6:24 - No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.
3. Acts 20:19 - Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:
4. John 4:24 - God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in Spirit and in truth.

CONCLUSION:

1. We should set in order our hearts and minds when we come to worship. To cast the cares of this world from out of our minds and center it on things that are of above.
2. Our worship should be on the will of God. Most of us want to worship God on our terms.
3. Above all things - Let all things be done decently and in order.

NOTES

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES

INTRODUCTION:

John 17:17 - Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth.

John 8:32 - And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 14:6 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

I. TRUTH / CONSEQUENCES

Matt. 10:32-33 - Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in Heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

Mark 16:16 - He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Luke 13:3 & 5 - I tell you nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. I tell you nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

II. WHY SHOULD WE SEE THE TRUTH?

Matt. 7:15 - Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

II Peter 2:1-2 - But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

I John 4:1-2 - Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God;

III. WHO IS THE TRUTH PROVIDED FOR TODAY?

Rev. 22:17 - And the Spirit and the bride say, come, and let him that heareth say, come, and let him that is athirst come, and whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely.

IV. AM I BUILDING ON THE TRUTH OR THE CONSEQUENCES?

Matt. 7:24-27 - Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his

house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon the house; and it fell; and great was the fall of it.

**IF YOU KNOW THE TRUTH AND HAVE NOT AS YET OBEYED IT,
ARE YOU READY TO ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES?**

NOTES

SOME THINGS THAT HINDER

Acts 8:36 - And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; What doth hinder me to be baptized?

INTRODUCTION:

1. Hinder - To keep back or behind; check; obstruct; - To prevent, embarrass, debar; shut out. (Webster Dictionary)
2. Each and every one can find something to stop him from doing what is right but they find reason or excuse for doing what they want to do.
3. What is it that hinders you from obeying the truth? Here are some of the reasons.

DISCUSSION:

- I. Time
 1. II Cor. 6:2 - For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.
 2. James 4:14 - Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.
- II. Relatives
- III. Custom or Tradition
- IV. Too young or old
 - A. Eccl. 12:1 - Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou say, I have no pleasure in them.
- V. Attitude
 - A. Proverbs 23:7 - For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.
- VI. Lust of the Flesh, Lust of the Eyes, and Pride of Life.
 - A. I John 2:15-16 - Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.
- VII. There is nothing in the world, that I know of that hinders you, except yourself. And you and you alone will send yourself to Hell.

CONCLUSION:

WHAT IS THAT IN THINE HAND?**Exodus 4:2**

Exodus 4:2 - And the Lord said unto him what is that in thine hand?
And he said, a rod.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Moses was attending the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law.
2. God calls to Moses to go on a mission for him.
3. No matter what we have we are to use it for the glorification of God.

DISCUSSION:

- I. Moses had a rod.
 1. Used the rod to divide the waters.
Ex. 14:16 - But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.
 2. Used the rod to get water - Exodus 17:5-6.
- II. Simon Peter and Andrew his brother had nets.
 1. Matthew 4:18 - And Jesus walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers.
 2. Make of them fishers of men.
- III. The widow had two mites. Luke 21:1-4
 1. She gave all she had to the Lord.
 2. Do we give the Lord what is left?
- IV. What is in your hand for the Lord? Our hands are fullest when empty.
 1. Influence
 2. Responsibility
 3. Love
 4. Pride
 5. Meekness
 6. The word of the Lord. (The Bible)

CONCLUSION:

We are to be examples for people to follow. I Cor. 11:1 - Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

IS THE LORD SLACK?

II Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Slackness means a quality or state of being slack - Slack means to slow down; loosen; relax; retard; abate; be negligent.
2. We have a Savior that is also longsuffering - means bearing injuries or provocation for a long time with patience.
3. That all men everywhere will come to repentance - means to turn away from.

DISCUSSION:

- I. The Lord is not slack (relax) in his promises.
 - A. God's promise to Abraham to bless his seed. Gen. 26:24
 - B. God's promise to Noah. Gen. 6
 - C. God's promise to us today. James 2:5 - Harken my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love Him.
- II. The Lord is longsuffering to us.
 - A. In the matter of salvation - II Peter 3:15 - And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is Salvation:
 - B. In the days of Noah. I Peter 3:20 - Which sometimes were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah. . .
 - C. Charity or love is longsuffering. I Cor. 13:4 - Charity suffereth long and is kind.
- III. God wants all men everywhere to repent.
 - A. Luke 13:3 - I tell you nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.
 - B. Acts 2:38 - Then Peter said unto them repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
 - C. Acts 17:30 - And the times of this ignorance God winked at: but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent.

DISCUSSION:

1. Do you believe that God is slack or is it you?
2. God is longsuffering and waiting for you.
3. If you need to repent, you need to do it today.

REMEMBER THE LORD THY GOD

Deuteronomy 8:18

But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he swore unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

INTRODUCTION:

1. As we try to recall a special event or time we generally start with the expression that I remember this or that.
2. There are a lot of things that we celebrate or remember:
 - a. Birthdays
 - b. Anniversary
 - c. Father's day
 - d. Mother's day
 - e. First Date
 - f. Graduation
3. There are a lot of things we need to remember in the spiritual realm of life.

DISCUSSION:

- I. We need to remember the Lord in the days of youth. Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them:
Ecclesiastes 11:9 - Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth: and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.
I Tim. 4:12 - Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.
- II. Remember that the Lord gave himself on the cross for us today to remember him.
 - A. Remembrance of the Lord's Supper I Cor. 11:23-30 (READ)
- III. We need to remember that all good gifts and perfect gifts are from above.
 - A. Deut. 8:18 - But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth . . .
 - B James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, either shadow of turning.
- IV. We need to remember the Lord because if we fail to remember the Lord and his word, God said:
 - Deut. 8:19 - And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the Lord thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.

He also said - And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

CONCLUSION:

1. If we will remember Christ he will remember us to His Father. Matt. 10:32 - Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in Heaven.
2. There are a lot of things that we need to remember, but the most important thing to remember is that Christ died for us and that he did love us.
3. How often do you remember the Lord?

NOTES

THE I AM'S OF CHRIST

I. I AM THAT BREAD - John 6:48

John 6:32-33 - Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

Matt. 4:3-4 - And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Bread is the staff of life, and Christ tells people that he is the staff of life if all will but obey him.

II. I AM THE DOOR - John 10:9

A. The door is a symbol of entrance to people to enter. Friends enter the door but thieves enter through the window. People are known when they enter the door.

B. Rev. 3:20 - Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

III. I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD - John 10:11

A. A good shepherd knows his sheep and they know the shepherd. John 10:14

B. The Lord is our Shepherd - Psalm 23:1

IV. I AM THE RESURRECTION AND LIFE - John 11:25

A. Jesus has all power and authority even over death. He bade Lazarus to come forth from the grave after he had been dead for four days.

B. People claim today that they are from God and they can perform miracles, but yet there has been no one to raise the dead.

V. I AM THE TRUE VINE - John 15:1

A. Jesus is the vine and we are the branches and if we bear not fruit he will cut us off and we will be cast out and burned.

B. The branch will and has to be the same as the vine.

C. A good vine must of necessity bear good branches so they can bear good fruit.

CONCLUSION

THE PURPOSE OF A GOSPEL MEETING

Matt. 28:18-20 Mark 16:15-16

- I. The Son of Man has come to save the lost. Luke 19:10 - For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.
- A. Christ has all power and all authority in heaven and on earth. Matt. 28:18
- B. Our authority and power today is the inspired word of God. I Tim. 3:16-17 - All scripture is given of God, it is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

WHY

That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

- II. The Gospel should be preached to all the world beginning at Jerusalem.
- A. Luke 24:47 - And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. Christ gave us the great commission to go into all the world and teach the Gospel, baptizing them into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
- B. He said, keep on teaching them the things I have commanded you.

III. We are commanded to GO:

- A. We are told to go, not how to go.
1. Walk
 2. Horseback
 3. Camel riding
 4. Bike riding
 5. Auto riding
 6. Plane riding

BUT GO

- B. Matt. 10:5-7 - Then twelve Jesus sent forth and commanded them, saying Go not in to the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of Samaritans enter ye not. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye Go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.
- IV. Teach all nations (Matt. 28:19) Preach the Gospel (Mark 16:15)
- A. Paul told Timothy to preach the word.
- B. I Tim. 4:1-2 - I charge thee before God and the Lord Jesus Christ who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom. Preach the word, be instant in season, out of season: reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
- C. We are accursed if we preach any other gospel.
- Gal. 1:8 - But though we, or an angel from Heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.
- D. Paul said that he was sent not to baptize but to preach the word. I Cor. 1:17 - For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the

gospel; not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

Yet a lot of people believe that they must go overseas to preach the word to the whole world: The person next door is in this world and this includes him or her.

V. To every creature.

1. There is not anyone that is to be omitted from the truth. That is taken care of by the word EVERY and that means ALL. Matthew relates to us as all nations.
2. Micah 4:2 - And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of God of Jacob: and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. (Luke 24:47)
3. We must preach to every one that is in the community, that needs to hear the truth.

This is a good week to start talking to someone about Jesus Christ and then bring them to the meeting, BECAUSE:

- a. The truth will be taught. John 17:17; John 8:32
 - b. The church will be strengthened. Phil. 4:13
 - c. We edify each other.
 - d. Souls will be won to Christ.
4. Why have a Gospel meeting and spend time, money, prayers, and other things that are so important: BECAUSE:
 - a. We love people's souls and want them saved from their sins or to be restored back to their first love.
 - b. We need to strengthen the body of the church.
 - c. The Bible commands and we must obey - TO GO - TO PREACH - TO BAPTIZE.
 - d. We are promised that Christ will be with us forever and ever according to Matt. 28:20.

CONCLUSION

INTRODUCTION:

Romans 10:17 - So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God .

HEAR - 1. To perceive by the ear. 2. To gain knowledge or appreciation of by hearing; 3. To listen to; heed.
(Webster's Collegiate Dictionary)

I. The foundation of faith. Matt. 7:24

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.

II. They need someone to listen to: Romans 10:14:

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

III. We need to heed the knocking at the door.

Rev. 3:20 - Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

IV. Our belief or our faith comes to us by what we hear. Romans 10:17 -

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

CONCLUSION

NOTES

BELIEVE**Acts 4:4**

Acts 4:4 - Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of men was about five thousand.

BELIEVE - To have confidence. To exercise belief or faith.

(Webster Collegiate Dictionary)

I. Who Can Believe?

1. Matt. 7:24 - Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them I will liken him unto a wise man which built his house upon a rock.
2. Matt. 11:6 - Blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.
3. Matt. 11:28 - Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
4. John 1:12 - But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the Sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

II. In Whom Should We Believe?

1. John 3:14 - And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man (Christ) be lifted up.
2. John 5:24 - Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word and believeth on him that sent me (God), hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.
3. II Tim. 1:12 - For the which cause I also suffer these things: never the less I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

III. Why Should I Believe?

1. Matt. 7:24 - Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.
2. Matt. 11:28-29 - Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.
3. Mark 16:16 - He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved: but he that believeth not shall be damned.
4. John 1:12 - But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the Sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.
5. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
6. John 14:1-3 - Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: If it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you unto myself: that where I am there ye may be also.

IV. What Does Believing Bring About?

1. Believing brings about trust.
 - a. Matt. 14:27 - Jesus spake unto them saying, Be of good cheer; It is I; be not afraid.
 - b. Eph. 1:12-13 - That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: In whom also after that ye believe.
2. Believing brings about repentance and baptism, thus salvation.
 - a. Acts 2:37-38 - Now when they heard this they were pricked in their hearts, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the Apostles, Men and Brethren, What shall we do? Then Peter said unto them Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

CONCLUSION

NOTES

REPENT

Luke 13:3

Repent - Repent means to turn around. Webster defines to Repent as a change of mind with regard to one's conduct, from regret or dissatisfaction.

Luke 13:3 - I tell you nay; but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

1. A good example of repentance.

Matt. 21:28-29 - But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work today in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not; but afterward he repented, and went.

2. John came preaching repentance in the wilderness.

Matt. 3:2 - And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

3. The Apostles preaching on the day of Pentecost: Repent to enter the kingdom.

Acts 2:38 - Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sin, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 3:19 - Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Acts 17:30 - And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent:

4. John said, "Bring forth fruits worthy of repentance."

5. "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he" Proverbs 23:7

6. Repentance is a complete change of heart.

7. You must change your mind about yourself.

8. You must change your mind about others. The Good Samaritan.

9. You must change your mind about God.

10. Until Christ came, men were ignorant. Now that the Son of God has revealed God perfectly, there is no excuse; WE MUST REPENT. II Peter 3:9

CONCLUSION

CONFESSION

Matt. 10:32 - 33

Confess - (Webster's Collegiate Dictionary) To acknowledge, own or admit or to profess belief in.

Matt. 10:32-33 - Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in Heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in Heaven.

(CONFESSION OR DENIAL)

- I. Confession must be done by a responsible individual.
 1. Romans 10:10 - For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
 2. Romans 10:9 - If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus Christ . . .

(Acts 8:36-37)

- II. We can confess the Lord here or later.
 1. Rom. 14:11 - For it is written, *As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. (*Isaiah 45:23)
 2. Rom. 14:12 - So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.
- III. God dwells in him that confesses him.
 1. I John 4:15 - Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.
 2. Gal. 2:20 - I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave him self for me. (John 3:16)
- IV. Not only are we to confess our faults to God, but to one another as in James 5:16 - Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.
 1. The Lord will forgive if we ask
 2. I John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Why can't we forgive when people want to be forgiven?

CONCLUSION

WALKING AND PRAISING GOD

Acts 3:1-10

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Lame man sitting at the Gate called Beautiful asking for alms.
2. He was expecting to receive either Silver or Gold from Peter and John.
3. Received more than riches, he received the healing blessing of Peter and John given by Christ.
4. He stood up and started walking and praising God.

DISCUSSION:

- I. How are we to walk after God.
 - A. We are to walk circumspectly (caution) as Paul said in Ephesians 5:15 - See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise.
 - B. Walk worthy - Ephesian 4:1 - I therefore the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.
 - C. Walk honestly - Romans 13:13 - Let us walk honestly, as in the day, not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantoning, not in strife and envying.
- II. Application of the lame man.
 - A. Lame since birth - ignorant of the word of God.
 - B. Asking for alms - we search and only find material goods.
 - C. Christ offers more than Silver or Gold, life eternal.
 - D. After receiving his strength he walked and praised God - we should always walk in the light of God.
- III. Thirdly, the lame man went about praising God.
 - A. The people on the day of Pentecost when they received the word they were praising God as in Acts 2:47 - Praising God and having favour with all the people, and the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.
 - B. How do we praise God?
 1. By loving Christ. John 13:34
A new commandment I give you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.
 2. By attending the services of the church. Heb. 10:25 - Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.
 3. By studying the Bible. II Tim. 2:15 - Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
 4. By preaching the word. II Tim. 4:2 - Preach the word, be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
 - C. All the people saw him walking and praising God.
 1. We are the light of the world. Matt. 5:16
Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.

2. Be an example. I Tim. 4:12

Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

3. Action of Faith in God. Acts 3:8

- a. Leaping up stood
- b. Walked
- c. Entered into the temple
- d. Praising God

CONCLUSION:

1. Are you walking with God?
2. How often do we praise God?
3. Do we seek material goods (Gold and Silver) or do we seek the kingdom of God. Matt. 6:33 - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

NOTES

I AM RESOLVED

Luke 16:1-13

INTRODUCTION:

- I. We all make New Year's Resolutions - some we keep, and some we break.
- II. We all need a definite resolution this year. I AM, not I might or I think I can, but I AM resolved.
- III. Some are resolved by saying I AM resolved to; quit smoking, quit drinking, quit arguing with their spouse, buy a new house or a new car OR not to buy a new house or a new car.
- IV. What have you resolved to do for Christ this year?

DISCUSSION:

I AM RESOLVED:

1. Spread the Gospel - Good news or tidings
 - A. Matt. 28:19 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations . . .
 - B. Luke 24:47 - And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.
 - C. Col. 1:23 - If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;
2. To Keep God's Commandments.
 - A. John 14:15 - If ye love me, keep my Commandments.
 - B. I John 5:3 - For this is the love of God that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not grievous.
 - C. Ecclesiastes 12:13 - Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.
3. To Worship the Lord.
 - A. Psalms 122:1 - I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.
 - B. Matt. 6:33 - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
 - C. Heb. 10:25 - Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much more as ye see the day approaching.
 - D. John 4:24 - God is Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.
4. To Follow the Lord.
 - A. Luke 9:23 - And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.
 - B. John 12:26 - If any man serve me let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be; if any man serve me, him will my father honour.
 - C. Matt. 19:21 - Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

CONCLUSION:

1. Make a resolution to serve Christ more this year than in the past.
2. Resolve to follow the Saviour.
3. Resolve to enter into the kingdom.

NOTES

THE BIG SURPRISE

Matt. 25:31-46

INTRODUCTION:

1. Webster Dictionary defines surprise as to take or come upon without warning.
2. All of us enjoy surprises:
 1. parties
 2. visits
 3. new car

DISCUSSION:

- I. The ascending of our Lord into the heavens. Acts 1:11 - Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into the heaven? This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in the like manner as ye have seen him go into the heavens.
- II. Coming again in the same manner to judge the world in righteousness. Acts 17:31 - Because he hath appointed a day in the which he will judge the world in righteousness.
 - A. I Thess. 4:16 - "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God."
 - B. The Bible itself shows that the Lord will not come by messenger or by representative, but in power of his own person. As we noticed there are three sounds mentioned, they are: (1) The shout of Christ the King is the signal that the awful moment has arrived. (2) Immediately after it the voice of the archangel is heard summoning the other angels to the performance of their duty, and (3) the gathering of the saints which are just being roused from the slumber of death by the trumpet of God.
- III. Christ offers rest and relief to those who suffer evil. II Thess. 1:7 - "And to you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels." Jesus is always associated with the angels. They announced his:
 - A. birth - Luke 2:8-14
 - B. resurrection - Matt. 28:2-6
 - C. return - Acts 1:10
 - D. temptation - Matt. 4:11
 - E. In Gethsemane - Luke 22:43
 - F. judgement - Matt. 16:27
- IV. The Lord has ascended to heaven to prepare for us a home.* John 14:3 - And if I go to prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am there ye may be also.

*Eternal, perpetual (endless), ever-lasting.
- V. Paul tried hard to please Christ, he knows that he will appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

- VI. And when Christ does come with glory and takes us home to heaven we will see sights that are to behold. I Cor. 2:9 - "But it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath entered into the hearts of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."
- VII. Every one shall behold him as told in Rev. 1:7 - "Behold he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they that pierced him." The coming here means his appearance to judge is seen in the words "every eye shall see him." They that pierced him refer to all those who, directly or indirectly had anything to do with his Crucifixion and means that even his enemies must face him at the judgment. But let's continue - "And all the tribes of the earth shall mourn over him, Even so, Amen." All the tribes - people - will mourn when he comes because of their sins and the knowledge that their condemnation is a certainty.
- IX. The rewarded just and unjust as told in Matt. 25:31-45 (READ)

CONCLUSION:

We have pointed out this same hour that Christ is coming and there will be no doubt of his coming. Some of us will have a great surprise in store for us when he does come because we won't be ready to meet the Lord when he does come again to claim his own. Make your request known right now and say I am on the Lord's side, Master here am I. Behold, now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation. (II Cor. 6:2). Tomorrow's sun may never rise. Be as Joshua in the 24th chapter 15th verse - "Choose you this day whom ye will serve. Then he finished by saying - "But as for me and my house we will serve the Lord."

NOTES

LOOK UNTO THE FIELDS

John 4:31-38

INTRODUCTION:

1. Explain scripture Samaritan woman at the well.
2. The picture of a field as the wind is blowing the grain to and fro.
3. We can only reap that which we sow. A person can not plant soybeans and expect it to turn into corn.
4. After that which is sown and fruit has come forth then we must look unto the fields, because harvest is near.

DISCUSSION:

I. The Ground.

A. The parable of the sower. Matt. 13:3

1. Wayside ground. Matt. 13:4

And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up;

2. The Stony Ground. Matt. 13:5-6

Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

3. The thorny Ground. vs. 7

And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up and choked them:

4. The Good Ground. vs. 8

But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some thirtyfold.

B. Explanation of the grounds. Matt. 13:18-23

II. The Seed

A. The seed is the word of God.

Luke 8:11 - Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

B. This is a powerful word.

Acts 2:37 - What must I do to be saved?

Acts 2:38 - Peter answers question.

Acts 2:41 - Result

C. This is a saving word.

The Day of Pentecost.

III. The Sower.

A. The sower here is Jesus Christ.

B. Jesus came to this earth and lived and died at the hands of the people that he was trying to save.

C. He is in Heaven now acting as our mediator or our lawyer and he is pleading our case before God.

IV. The Cultivation

A. Definition of cultivation. To refine or improve or to encourage.

B. Study. II Tim. 2:15 - Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Rom. 1:16

C. To spread the Word of God.

1. Matt. 28:19 - Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost:

V. The Harvest.

- A. All things must come to an end. In Matt. 13:39 we find that the harvest is the end of the world and the reapers are the angels.
- B. Christ will come to separate the good grain from the tares.
- C. Christ's return will be unexpected because he will come as a thief in the night. I Thess. 5:2 - For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.
II Peter 3:20 - But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.
- D. Danger in delay and death.

CONCLUSION:

1. As we see today, the fields are truly white unto harvest the sickle will soon be swung.
2. We mustn't waste one precious minute but go to the highways and the byways and search for those people that they might be saved.
3. What kind of harvest will you yield in the day of judgment. Hebrews 9:27 tells us that it is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment so we must stand before God our judge and hear our sentence.
4. Christ saw that the fields were ready unto harvest. Shouldn't we as Christians be ready always to raise our eyes and look unto the fields. The fields show us a lost and a dying world.

NOTES

THE EMPTY MANSION

John 14:1-3

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Illus. A home where a loved one has passed away. We find an empty place at the dinner table, his favorite chair in the den is empty. There is an emptiness all over the house.
- B. There are many things in this life which cause us to be lonely. Without Christ we are truly lonely.
- C. Illus. A hotel reservation is made in ones name, he calls to say that he won't be able to make it, that his immediate plans have been changed.
- D. Many questions are asked in purchasing a home.

DISCUSSION:

- I. How is this place built?
 - A. Paul tells us in II Cor. 5:1 that it is a house not made with hands. For we know that if our earthly house of the tabernacle (tents - R.S.V.) were dissolved, we have a building of God, A house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.
 - B. Man-made houses are not everlasting.
 - 1. The ruins of an old house that has stood for years and heard the laughing and also the weeping of families which have lived in it, before it was left to rot and decay.
 - C. In Matthew's account, we see the parable of the wise man building his house upon a rock. Upon this rock - Matt. 16:18
- II. Where is this house built?
 - A. Many people are interested in the location of the house. Is it near a good place to shop or is it near a school for the children?
 - B. John said in the 14th chapter of John the second verse that I go to prepare a place for you.
 - 1. Christ said he was going, now where was he going?
 - 2. John saw this place in Rev. 21:10 - And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.
- III. How much does it cost?
 - A. Many houses of today cost different amounts of money depending upon the location.
 - B. The price of Christ's home in Heaven is the obeying of God's word. On the day of Pentecost three thousand souls were saved - Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:38) Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. (Acts 2:41) Praising God and having favour with all the people and the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. (Acts 2:47)
 - C. Christ also paid the debt when he died for us on the cross.

IV. What about the appearance?

- A. John tells us in Rev. 21 of the appearance in verse 10 of how he saw a great city descending out of Heaven from God.
- B. People are sometimes interested in how a place looks, the landscaping of the new property.

V. How is this place wired for lightning?

- A. III. During a storm when lights go out we grope for a place of light. The night of the big storm how the lights were out over most of the town. --The New York incident of 1966
- B. Christ said he is the light of the world in John 8:12.
Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have light of life.
- C. We as Christians must let our light shine in us to glorify Christ as told in Matthew 5:16 - Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven. John 14:6 - Jesus is the way, and the truth and the life.

VI. Who is the Dealer for this house?

- A. We today have many Real Estate Brokers, who go about selling houses and also property.
- B. Chapter 27 in Matthew tells us that Christ was tried and was crucified for sinners like us, Christ is in Heaven on the right hand of God and preparing for us today a mansion so that we might live with him in eternity

CONCLUSION:

- A. We have seen that the house or the mansion is not prepared by human hands.
- B. A mansion is prepared for ALL, but Christ said through the pen of Matt. in the 20th chapter and the 16th verse. So the last shall be first and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.
Also in Matthew 22:14, some, however, will not receive a mansion which he has prepared for them that love him. For many are called, but few are chosen.
Many in fact all, have the Gospel invitation, but not all accept it and live faithful through life.
- C. If you are outside of Christ even there is a vacant spot to be filled. IT IS RESERVED FOR YOU. ACCEPT CHRIST TODAY.

DOES JESUS CARE? I Peter 5:6-10

INTRODUCTION:

- I. The word care is defined in the dictionary as watchfulness, or to be interested in something or someone.
- II. Even as we are born even so our heavenly Father cares for us.

DISCUSSION:

- I. Christ knows that we will sin.
 - Rom. 3:23 - For all men sin and come short of the glory of God, but yet he will care for us.
 - A. We should be watchful but take heed lest we fall. I Cor. 10:12.
- II. Christ cares for us, so we need not to worry.
 - A. Matt. 6:25 - Sermon on the Mount

Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?
 - B. Read Matt. 6:30-32
- III. Does Jesus care for you? Let's turn the question around and ask do you care for Jesus?
 - A. God cares enough for us that he gave His only begotten son. . . .
John 3:16
 - B. Is the care of the world more important than the cares of the Lord?
Luke 8:14
- IV. How much do we care for Christ? Jesus said, Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden for I will give you rest. Matt. 11:28-30.
 - A. In Matt. 24:42, we are told "Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."
 - B. Be careful because you may not even what the next second may bring.
- V. III. The love and care a mother has toward her children.
 - III. Advertisement for Hallmark Cards - "We care enough to give the very best.

INVITATION:

SONG

THE LAST JUDGMENT

Matt. 25:31-46

INTRODUCTION:

1. Death is a sure thing.
2. The way one lives on earth will be the reward he receives in judgment.
3. We must be prepared.

DISCUSSION:

- I. The foretelling of the judgment.
 1. The Lord shall judge the people equal.
Psalm 98:9 - (Before the Lord): For he cometh to judge the earth with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.
 2. We all must appear before the judgment seat. II Corinthians 5:10 - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.
 3. All men must die.
Hebrews 9:27 - And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after that the judgment.
- II. The description of the judgment.
 1. Every one shall be called. Revelation 6:12-17 - READ
 2. The righteousness rewarded, the evil ones will be punished. I Thessalonians 1:5-10 - READ
- III. Hope of the Christian at Judgment.
 1. Not too ashamed to stand before the Lord. I John 2:28 - And now, little children, abide in him; that when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.
 2. To those that do good there will be a crown of righteousness.
Paul said in II Timothy 4:7-8 - I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

INVITATION:

1. The great day will come - be prepared.
2. For sinners it will be a sad day.
3. Are you ready for the judgment day - today.

THE SAME OLD BUSINESS

Luke 2:46-52 (49)

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Gospel has been preached to you.
 - 1. Christ has been upheld.
 - 2. Responsibilities pointed out.
 - 3. Opportunities given each time.
- B. Not all are saved - WHY?
 - 1. Some engaged in that same old business is reply to this question - excuse making.
 - 2. In life you face trouble
 - A. Christ is the way of escape.
 - B. You must choose . . .
 - 1. Believe or be damned (Mark 16:16)
 - 2. Repent or perish (Luke 13:3)
 - 3. Confess or be denied (Matt. 10:32)
 - 4. Be baptized or disobey (Matt. 28:19)
 - 5. Heaven or Hell is your destiny.

DISCUSSION:

- I. Excuse making is an old business.
 - 1. Adam blamed his wife for his sin.
 - 2. Aaron blamed the people for making the golden calf.
- II. Excuses are easily seen through.
 - 1. Excuses are but dressed lies.
 - 2. Examine the ones presented by Christ.
(Luke 14:15-24 Great Supper)
- III. What is your excuse? Why aren't you a Christian? Your answer may be as follows:
 - 1. "I am too young"
 - A. This may be true.
 - B. Excuse for youth. Eccl. 12:1 - Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;
 - 2. "I don't know enough"
 - A. Many in the New Testament obeyed the first time they heard. How much more did they know than you?
 - B. Christian growth is to follow.
 - 3. "I am afraid I can't live the Christian life"
 - A. One never knows until he tries.
 - B. A person will come nearer living right as a Christian, than as not.
 - C. Opportunity will be given to get up when you fall.
 - 4. "There are too many hypocrites in the church"
 - A. This is waiting for others to get right before we get right.
 - B. If a hypocrite stands between you and God, this means he is nearer to God than you are.
 - C. Hypocrites keep other hypocrites out of the church. No honest person and trust to himself will use such an excuse.

5. "I am afraid my parents will not approve"
 - A. This may be a way of leading them to Christ.
 - B. Our first responsibility is to God.
 6. "I can't have a good time if I become a Christian"
 - A. There are certain things of the world that can't be participated in by a Christian.
 - B. Remember our influence to others.
- IV. Do you have any real reason?
1. NO, if you are an accountable person.
 2. Our excuses fool us and become reasons only to us.

INVITATION:

- A. Why aren't you a Christian?
 1. The way is explained.
 2. The invitation is offered.
- B. All things are ready, come to the feast of good things.

NOTES

THE WORD OF GOD

I Peter 1:23-35

INTRODUCTION:

1. "The world will little note nor long remember what we say here."
—Abraham Lincoln
2. Logos - Greek word meaning word.
3. Matt. 5:14 - Ye are the light of the world.

DISCUSSION:

- I. God's Word is Powerful
 - A. The day of Pentecost
Acts 2:37 - Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?
 - B. The Philippian Jailor - Acts 16:25-33
 - C. The Word of God can uplift men.
 - D. The power to convert souls.
- II. The Word and Belief
 - A. Faith comes by hearing. Rom. 10:17 - So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.
 - B. Saul's Conversion. Acts 9:1-6 (READ)
 - C. Paul teaches to King Agrippa.
 1. Acts 26:25-28
 2. Almost persuaded to be a Christian.
 - D. Word as the Gospel - Rom. 1:16
For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto Salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.
- III. The Word to the Lost.
 - A. The Lost Sheep - Luke 15:4-5
 - B. The Lost Coin - Luke 15:8-9
 - C. Looking for the Word (lost)
 - D. The Sower Seed = Word
 1. Luke 8:5-8
 2. Where will the seed fall for us?
- IV. The Comforting Word
 - A. A promise of a home in Heaven. John 14:1-3 - Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am there ye may be also.
 - B. I Thessalonians 4:18 - Wherefore comfort one another with these words.
 - C. Come unto me - Matt. 11:28-30 (READ)
 - D. II Corinthians 1:3-4 - Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort.

Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort where with we ourselves are comforted of God.

V. Saving Power in the Word.

A. Saving starts by hearing the Word of God. Rom. 10:17

B. Believe the Word. Heb. 11:6, John 8:31

C. Repent of Sins - turn away. Acts 17:30

D. Confession - Rom. 10:10

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

E. Baptism

1. Preaching and Baptizing

Mark 16:15-16 - And he said unto the, Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

VI. Other Scriptures Concerning the Word of God

A. The Judging Word. John 12:48

He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

B. A preaching Word. II Tim. 4:2

Preach the Word, be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

C. A Studying Word - II Tim. 2:15

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.

D. A Sharp Word - Hebrews 4:12

For the Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner (seeker) of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

CONCLUSION:

1. Do you believe in the Word of God?

2. The Comforting Word - John 14:1-3

a. The story of Separation of a mother and daughter in the day of Judgment.

3. The story "What Then" - About the father and son talking over the son's life career.

INVITATION

SONG

YE DID RUN WELL**Text: Gal. 5:7****INTRODUCTION:**

- A. The thrill and joy of seeing good athletes run well.
- B. Let nothing hinder us.
 - 1. Phillip and the Ethiopian Eunuch - Acts 8:36 - And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water; and the Eunuch said, See here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?
 - 2. Starting point of the race.
 - a. "On your mark" - Hear the word.
 - b. "Get set" - When we are baptized.
 - c. "Go" - When we rise to walk in newness of life.

DISCUSSION:

- I. What does hinder you?
 - A. **Temptation** - Luke 8:13 - They on the rock are they, which when they had received the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.
 - B. Pleasures of this life - Luke 8:14 - And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with the cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.
 - C. World - I John 2:16 - For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.
- II. The beginning of the Race.
 - A. Starts at Conversion - Matt. 18:3 - And said, verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, Ye will not enter in the kingdom of Heaven.
 - B. Ends at Death - Rev. 2:10b - . . . Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life.
- III. Running the Race.
 - A. The Prize - I Cor. 9:24 - Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the Prize? So run, that ye may obtain.
 - B. The Track - Matt. 7:13-14 - Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.
 - C. Compare the prize of runner to the prize of a Christian. Hebrews 12:1 - Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run the race that is set before us.
- IV. The hurdles on the track.
 - A. Wide - Matt. 7:13 - Wide gate.
 - B. Narrow - Matt. 7:14 - Narrow gate.

C. The hurdles before us.

1. Lusts - Mark 4:19 - And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the Word, and it becomes unfruitful.
2. Unbelief - Hebrews 3:19 - So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. (enter into rest -)
3. Popularity - John 12:43 - For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

CONCLUSION:

1. Let us run the race to achieve our goal.
2. What doth hinder us today?
3. Re-read Gal. 5:7.

INVITATION:

Those that are outside of Christ.

Those who have left their first love.

Those desiring to place membership.

Come and run the race, run the race as a Child of God.

NOTES

HERE AM I, SEND ME

Isaiah 6:5-8 - I Sam. 3:1-10

INTRODUCTION:

- A. A lesson with three messages in mind. Confession, Cleansing, Commission
- B. An example to all. Be a Samuel.
- C. The reply for all Christians. Speak Lord thy servant heareth.

DISCUSSION:

Send me to:

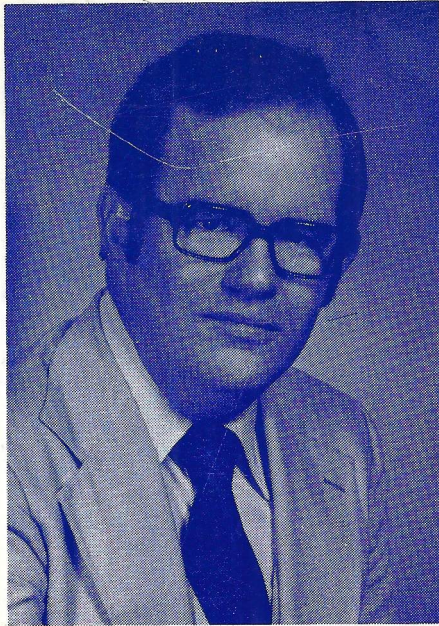
- I. Show the light of a Christian.
Matthew 5:16 - Let your light so shine before men that they may see your works, and glorify your father which is in heaven.
- II. Visit the sick.
Matthew 25:36 - Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: was in prison, and ye came unto me.
- III. Visit the widows and orphans.
James 1:27 - Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.
- IV. To help places in need.
Acts 16:9 - And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.
- V. In the mission field.
Matthew 28:19-20 - Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Send the Christian light - song
- B. Set the example for others
- C. All answer the call of Here am I Send Me.

INVITATION

THE AUTHOR



Jim Huffman was born on April 11, 1945, in Milan, Tennessee. After graduating from Grove High School in 1963, Mr. Huffman attended two years at Freed-Hardeman College and then enlisted in the United States Air Force. His preaching career started in Texas. He was then shipped to Germany, where he preached for three or four congregations on each Sunday. He was then sent to North Africa at Wheelus Air Force Base, where he preached at a church off base. He then returned to the States. He worked for two and one half years for Christian Chapel Church of Christ which meets in Gleason, Tennessee.

Mr. Huffman has preached in Gospel meetings at Cypress Tank and Sparks Street Church and also has spoken at several youth forums.

Mr. Huffman has encountered many experiences in his young life which qualifies him to talk with young people facing modern day problems.

Mr. Huffman is the son of James and Helen Huffman of Paris, Tennessee. He also has one sister, Emily Ann (Huffman) Acuff, who is married to Lucian B. Acuff of Brentwood, Tennessee. He is the grandson to the late James C. and Mattie Huffman and to Robert and Mary McCain of Paris, Tennessee.