

Seed for the Sower

LEROY BROWNLOW



Seed for the Sower

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Three Hundred Suggestive Sermons

by

Leroy Brownlow

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Foreword

The title of this book is suggested in the following: "The seed is the word of God" (Lk. 8:11). "A sower went out to sow his seed" (Lk. 8:5). SEED FOR THE SOWER contains three hundred textual, topical and expository sermons which have been preached by the author. The primary purpose of this book is to deal with subjects other than those pertaining to the first principles of the gospel, because the author has another book in print devoted exclusively to such topics.

These sermons are suggestive, being only sketches. Students of the Bible profit more by studying the thought of a sermon than by studying its phraseology. The thought can be developed according to the student's own characteristic manner and clothed with the living power of his own language.

Most of these sermons are original; however, in all fairness, the writer wishes to state that some are not, having been gleaned through the years from various sources, and in many instances, sources that cannot be recalled.

It is now the hope of the author that these lessons will be of help to students of the Bible, and especially to preachers, teachers, church leaders who make midweek talks, and students in training classes.

Leroy Brownlow.

Fort Worth, Texas

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GOD AND MAN

1. God, the omnipotent creator—man, the helpless creature. (1) God, the uncreated, self-existent being who created everything in the universe (Gen. 1:1). (2) Man, the creature (Gen. 1:26, 27; 2:7; Acts 17:25, 26). “All things were created by him, and for him” (Col. 1:16). Man has been created for the glory of God. The other things have been created for the happiness of man (Gen. 1:28).

2. God, immortal—man, mortal and dying. (1) God (Deut. 33:27; Gen. 21:33). (2) Man (Gen. 3:3; Job 14:1, 2; Psa. 90:10; Jas. 4:14; I Cor. 15:53).

3. God, from everlasting to everlasting—man, a time to be born and a time to die. (1) God (Psa. 41:13; 106:48; Rev. 22:13). (2) Man (Eccl. 3:2).

4. God, the holy one—man, sinful and defiled. (1) God (Rev. 4:8). (2) Man (I Kings 8:46; Rom. 3:23).

5. God, the provider—man, the recipient. (1) God (Phil. 4:19; Jas. 1:17). (2) Man (Matt. 6:11).

6. God, the author and source of wisdom—man’s thoughts are folly. (1) God (Prov. 2:6; Psa. 139:6). (2) Man (Prov. 28:26; Jer. 10:23).

7. God, the ruler—man, the subject. (1) God (Dan. 4:35; Heb. 1:1,2). (2) Man (Isa. 60:12; II Thess. 1:7,8; Prov. 8:36).

8. God, the worshiped—man, the worshiper. (1) God (Ex. 34:14; 20:3; Psa. 95:6). (2) Man (Matt. 4:10; Jno. 4:23,24).

DIVINE CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD

Psa. 139

1. Omniscient (ver. 1-6).
2. Omnipresent (ver. 7-10,18).

3. Omnivisual (ver. 11, 12, 15, 16).
4. Omnific (ver. 14).
5. Omnipotent (ver. 14).

NAMES OF GOD

1. "I Am" (Ex. 3:14). Difficult of interpretation, but perhaps shows his eternity and self-existence.

2. "The God of the spirits of all flesh" (Num. 16:22). Man is both flesh and spirit (Eccl. 12:7). God has created him this way, and is the God of all.

3. "The living God" (Matt. 16:16). All flesh dies (Heb. 9:27) but God lives. God is a Spirit (Jno. 4:24). God is not dead. He is alive to all our problems and needs.

4. "The Father of mercies" (II Cor. 1:3). The compassionate Father, the source of tender mercy, the originator of forgiving feeling. We want mercy, not justice.

5. "The God of all comfort" (II Cor. 1:3). The refuge of the broken-hearted, suffering, and sorrowful.

6. "The God of hope." Inspires the despondent with the expectation of good things to come.

7. "The Father of lights" (Jas. 1:17). God is called "the Father of lights," because he is the creator and maintainer of the heavenly bodies. He is also the source of spiritual light.

8. "The God of love and peace" (II Cor. 13:11). God is love. His love is evident. His gospel is that of peace (Rom. 10:15). His kingdom is that of peace (Rom. 14:17). His children are to follow after the things which make for peace (Rom. 14:19).

9. "Our Father" (Matt. 6:9). The fatherhood of God. Jesus taught the disciples to use this expression. We are God's offspring by creation (Acts 17:28,29; Gen.

1:26,27). We are also his children by the new birth (Jno. 3:3-5).

“THE GOODNESS AND SEVERITY OF GOD”

Rom. 11:22

1. The goodness. (1) Created man in his own image (Gen. 1:27). (2) Gave man dominion over every other creature (Gen. 1:26). (3) When man fell, God announced his intentions of sending the Saviour (Gen. 3:15). (4) Gave his Son (Jno. 3:16; Rom. 5:8). (5) Gave the gospel to all (Mk .16:15; Rom. 1:16). (6) Gave us the Bible (II Tim. 3:16,17). (7) God’s grace has been extended to all (Tit. 2:11). Saved by grace (Eph. 2:8). God’s grace may be received in vain (II Cor. 6:1). (8) Pleads for man’s salvation (Ezek. 33:11; I Tim. 2:3,4). (9) Story of the prodigal son shows the goodness of God. (Lk. 15). (10) The goodness of Jesus exemplified the goodness of God, for Jesus was God manifest in the flesh (I Tim. 3:16). (11) God is love (I Jno 4:8,16). (12) God’s goodness leads to repentance (Rom. 2:4).

2. The severity. (1) Drove Adam and Eve from Eden (Gen. 3:3,19, 22-24). (2) Sent the flood (Gen. 6:5, 6,17). (3) Destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:24, 25). (4) Turned Lot’s wife into a pillar of salt (Gen. 19:26). (5) Moses was not permitted to enter the promised land (Num. 20:7-12). (6) Nadab and Abihu were devoured (Lev. 10:1,2). (7) Ananias and Sapphira were stricken (Acts 5:1-11). (8) Herod was smitten (Acts 12:21-23). (9) Judgment (Matt. 25:31-46; Rev. 20:12-15; 6:16,17).

GOD IS NOT MOCKED

Gal. 6:7,8

1. Lesson is taught from the universal law governing

man's whole life here—whatever he sows he shall reap.

2. Some are deceived; think they can mock God, think they can sow one thing and reap something different.

3. Examples which show that God cannot be mocked. (1) Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:3; Rom. 5:12). (2) Ahab who wanted the vineyard of Naboth met the very end God told him he would meet (I Kings 21:19; 22:38). (3) Judas (Matt. 26:20-25; 27:3-5).

4. God cannot be mocked because he is all-seeing, all-knowing, all-truthful and all-powerful.

THINKING THAT GOD IS LIKE MAN

Psa. 50:21

1. Man hides from man; so he thinks he can hide from God (Gen. 3:8).

2. Man deceives man; so he thinks he can deceive God (Acts 5:1-10).

3. Man is slack in his word; so he is tempted to think that God is also like this (II Pet. 3:9).

4. Man can be bribed into approval; so he thinks he can bribe God by going to church occasionally, by giving something to the poor, etc.

5. Man thinks that sin is not so terrible; so he thinks that God feels the same way about it (Isa. 59:2).

6. Man thinks that one religion is as good as another; so he thinks God also feels the same way (Matt. 15:13,14).

GOD'S MINDFULNESS OF MAN

Psa. 8:4; Heb. 2:6

1. Mindful of man's physical needs (Jas. 1:17; Matt. 6:11, 25-30).

2. Mindful of man's social needs (Gen. 2:18).

3. Mindful of man's spiritual needs. (1) Man was created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26,27; 2:7). (2) After man's fall, God promised to send the Saviour (Gen. 3:15; Matt. 1:21; Rom. 5:8). (3) The gospel was given to save (Rom. 1:16). (4) The Scriptures were given to guide man (II Tim. 3:16,17). Man is not able to direct his steps (Jer. 10:23).

4. Mindful of man's eternal needs. (1) Christ has gone to prepare a place (Jno. 14:2). (2) He will come again (Jno 14:3; I Thess. 4:16,17; Phil. 3:21). (3) He will receive us unto himself (Jno 14:3).

WHO IS JESUS OF NAZARETH?

Matt. 16:13-16

1. The Son of God. (Mk. 1:1; Matt 27:54).
2. The Saviour (Lk. 2:11; Matt. 1:21).
3. The way (Jno. 14:6).
4. The light of the world (Jno. 8:12).
5. The truth (Jno. 14:6).
6. The great physician (Mk. 2:17).
7. The prophet, the one who speaks to the people for God (Heb. 1:1).
8. The great high priest, the one who speaks to God for the people (Heb. 3:1).
9. The captain of our salvation (Heb. 2:10).
10. The King of kings (Rev. 17:14; 19:16).
11. The Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6).
12. Counselor (Isa. 9:6).
13. Rose of Sharon (S. of S. 2:1).
14. Lily of the valley (S. of S. 2:1).
15. The good shepherd (Jno. 10:14).

THE BEST AND SHORTEST BIOGRAPHY

Acts 10:38

1. The biography of the earthly life of Jesus. "He went about doing good."

2. This story of goodness was proclaimed by angels when he was born (Lk. 2:9-14).

3. At the age of twelve (Lk. 2:49-52). (1) About the Father's business. (2) Subject to his parents. (3) "Increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man"; grew intellectually, physically, religiously, and socially.

4. Healed the sick and the unsound (Jno. 4:46-54; 5:1-9; Matt. 9:27-33, etc.)

5. Returned good for evil. (1) Taught it (Matt. 5:44). (2) Restored the ear of an enemy (Lk. 22:51). (3) Prayed for the ones who crucified him (Lk. 23:34).

6. A friend to the friendless. (1) Ate with sinners and publicans (Matt. 9:11,12). (2) The adulterous woman (Jno. 8:1-11). (3) In the home of Simon the Pharisee (Lk. 7:36-50).

7. Obedient citizen. (1) Paid taxes (Matt. 17:24-27). (2) Matt. 22:15-22.

8. Expelled the darkness of ignorance and gave to the world the light of truth. (1) Said, "Ye have heard . . . but I say unto you" (Matt. 5:33-45). (2) Golden Rule (Matt. 7:12). (3) Rebuked cold-blooded ceremonialism—taught the weightier matters of the law. (Matt. 23; 15:7-9).

9. Made his mother's physical welfare one of his last earthly cares (Jno. 19:25-27).

10. Left an example for men to follow (Matt. 16:24; I Pet. 2:21; I Cor. 11:1).

"I AMS" OF CHRIST

1. "I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last" (Rev. 1:11; Jno. 8:58).
2. "I am. . . the bright and morning star" (Rev. 22:16).
3. "I am he that searcheth the reins and hearts" (Rev. 2:23).
4. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (Jno 14:6).
5. "I am the bread of life" (Jno. 6:35).
6. "I am the light of the world" (Jno. 8:12).
7. "I am the true vine" (Jno. 15:1,5).
8. "I am the door of the sheep" (Jno. 10:7).
9. "I am the good shepherd" (Jno. 10:11).
10. "I am the resurrection, and the life" (Jno. 11:25).

THE WONDERFUL CHRIST

Isa. 9:6

1. He has wonderful eyes like unto a flame of fire (Rev. 2:18) with which to search the hearts and to see (Rev. 2:23; I Pet. 3:12; Heb. 4:12).
2. He has wonderful ears with which to hear (I Pet. 3:12).
3. He has wonderful shoulders with which to bear our burdens (Psa. 55:22).
4. He has wonderful arms with which to strengthen his children (Psa. 89:21).
5. He has wonderful hands with which to save (Isa. 50:2; 59:1).
6. He has wonderful feet like unto fine brass (Rev. 2:18) with which to walk in the midst of the churches (Rev. 2:1).

7. He has a wonderful heart with which to love the world (Jno. 15:13).

8. He has a wonderful word that will not pass away (Matt. 24:35) by which he will judge us (Jno. 12:48).

9. He has a wonderful home into which he will receive his people (Jno. 14:1-3).

10. Everything about Christ is wonderful.

THE UNCHANGEABLE CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD

Heb. 7:24

1. This is a changing world. The manner of waging war; transportation; household tasks; farming; medicine; radio; television; radar; atomic power; church creeds.

2. Human beings have not changed. (1) Same greed that characterized Lot (Gen. 13); (2) same love of pre-eminence and power, Diotrephes (III Jno. 9); (3) same love of money (I Tim. 6:9,10); (4) same lusts of the flesh (I Jno. 2:15-17; Gal. 5:19-21). (5) Man still needs: guidance because of his inability to guide himself (Jer. 10:23); salvation because of sin (Rom. 3:23); encouragement because of weakness (Gal. 6:1,2); sympathy because of sorrow (Rom. 12:15); and hope because of death (II Sam. 12:23).

3. The unchangeable Christ. (1) Does not change because he is from everlasting to everlasting (Rev. 1:8). (2) Still the King of Kings who has all authority (Matt. 28:18), whose laws are unalterable (Matt. 24:35), and whose conditions of salvation are unchangeable (Jno. 3:3-5; Mk. 16:16; Matt. 10:22). (3) Still man's only Saviour (Heb. 5:9). (4) His attitude toward sin (Jno. 8:21), disbelief (Jno. 8:24), error (Matt. 15:9), false bodies (Matt. 15:13), and man have not changed (Jno. 15:13).

CHRIST THE FRIEND OF SINNERS

1. Christ came to save sinners (Matt. 1:21; Lk. 19:10; Jno. 3:17).
2. Christ died for sinners (Rom. 5:8; Heb. 2:9).
3. Christ gave the gospel to save sinners (Gal. 1:11; Mk. 16:15,16; I Pet. 4:17).
4. Christ invites sinners (Matt. 11:28-30; 23:37).
5. Some experiences with sinners illustrate this fact:
(1) The adulterous woman who was brought before him (Jno. 8:3-11). (2) The woman who washed his feet with tears (Lk. 7:36-50). (3) Prayed for sinners who crucified him (Lk. 23:34).

CHRIST THE ANSWER TO HUMAN PROBLEMS

1. The problem of guidance. (1) Man needs guidance (Jer. 10:23). (2) Christ is the way (Jno. 14:6). (3) Christ is the head of the church (Eph. 1:22,23). (4) Christ has all authority (Matt. 28:18).
2. The problem of human relations, both individual and national. (1) Trouble comes because of selfishness, covetousness, and a failure to respect the rights of others. (2) But life lived as Jesus directs is free of these basic causes of friction (Matt. 5:38,39,43,44; 7:12).
3. The problem of labor and capital. (1) Laborers are expected to work (Eph. 6:6), and capital is expected to pay (I Tim. 5:18). (2) Each should be honest and truthful, and respect the properties and rights of the other. The Golden Rule provides for such (Matt. 7:12).
4. The problem of economics. (1) Waste brings want. Jesus taught thrift (Jno. 6:12). (2) Excessive profits and usury destroy trade. Trade between two parties must cease when one party has been so robbed

that he no longer has the means of exchange. "Live and let live" is to the advantage of both parties. Matt. 7:12; Phil. 2:4.

5. The problem of education. Jesus increased intellectually, physically, socially, and religiously (Lk. 2:52). This fourfold education still answers this problem.

6. The problem of sin. (1) Universality of sin (Rom. 3:23; I Jno. 1:9). (2) The answer to this problem is found in Christ, for he came to save from sin (Matt. 1:21; 26:28; Rom. 5:8). (3) Salvation from sin is conditional (Jno. 8:24; Lk. 13:3; Mk. 16:16). (4) Christ, our mediator (I Jno. 2:1,2).

7. The problem of living again. Christ is the answer to man's dream of life beyond the grave (Jno. 11:25; I Cor. 15:21-23; I Thess. 4:16-18).

"NEVER MAN SPAKE LIKE THIS MAN"

Jno. 7:46

1. Never man spake with such authority (Matt. 7:28, 29; Matt. 17:1-5; Heb. 1:1,2).

2. Never man spake such words of tenderness (Matt. 26:50; Jno. 8:3-11; Matt. 11:28-30; 23:37).

3. Never man spake with such love and compassion (Jno. 15:13; Lk. 23:34).

4. Never man spake such scathing rebukes (Matt. 11:20-30; 23).

5. Never man spake such profound truths with such simplicity (Matt. 13: 3-8, 18-23).

6. Never man spake such promises (Mk. 16:16; Matt. 28:19,20; Matt. 6:33).

7. Never man spake such words of hope (Jno. 14:1-4; 11:25; 8:51).

WHAT CHRIST OFFERS

1. Rest (Matt. 11:28-30; Heb. 4:3,11; Rev. 14:13).
2. Life (Jno. 10:10; 14:6).
3. Love (Jno. 15:13).
4. Salvation in a plan (Jno. 3:3-5; Mk. 16:15,16).
5. Joy (Jno. 16:24).
6. Peace (Lk. 2:14; Jno. 14:27).
7. A place prepared (Jno. 14:1-4).
8. Necessities of life (Matt. 6:33).
9. To make all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28).

IN CHRIST

1. After one has been taught (Matt. 28:19), believed (Mk. 16:16) and repented (Acts 2:38) he gets into Christ by being baptized into him (Rom. 6:3,4).
2. One body or church in Christ (Rom. 12:4,5).
3. New creature in Christ (II Cor. 5:17).
4. Good manner of life in Christ (I Pet. 3:16).
5. No condemnation in Christ if you walk after the Spirit (Rom. 8:1).
6. Triumph in Christ (II Cor. 2:14).
7. Partakers of his promise in Christ (Eph. 3:6).
8. May fall asleep in Christ (I Cor. 15:18).

IN HIS STEPS

I Pet. 2:21

1. Should follow his steps: (1) Lived a perfect life (I Pet. 2:22; Heb. 4:15; Matt. 4:1-11). (2) Is the way (Jno. 14:6). (3) Is an authority on going to heaven, because he has been over the road.

2. Concerned with the Father's business at the age of twelve (Lk. 2:42-49).

3. Baptized (Matt. 3:13-17).
4. Attended worship (Lk. 4:16).
5. Prayerful (Lk. 6:12).
6. Forgiving (Lk. 23:34).
7. Obedient (Heb. 5:8,9).
8. Taught peace (Lk. 2:14).

NO ROOM FOR CHRIST

1. No room in the inn (Lk. 2:7).
2. One of the saddest statements in the Bible, because he who came to make room for others found no room for himself.
3. No room in the Roman Empire, so Herod ordered the execution of the male children hoping to destroy the Christ (Matt. 2:16-18).
4. His own had no room for him (Jno. 1:11).
5. One of the twelve, Judas, had no room (Matt. 26:14-16, 47-49).
6. No room in this world so they finally put him out of the world (Matt. 27).
7. Very little room for him in the business world. Very few follow the Golden Rule (Matt. 7:12).
8. Very little room for Christ in many of the institutions of learning. Many have become seats of immorality and hotbeds of infidelity.
9. Very little room for the Saviour in our homes. There are many houses, but few homes.
10. Not much room for the Master in the religious world. A study of the teaching of Christ and the apostles and of Christ's church convince us of this fact.

COMPLIMENTS OF CHRIST

1. The compliments of a flatterer are nothing. (1)

Psa. 5:9; Prov. 20:19; I Thess. 2:5. (2) There is no virtue in "backslapping."

2. Jesus did not misplace a compliment, because he knew what was in man (Jno. 2:25). Complimented five persons.

3. Nathanael for his guilelessness (Jno. 1:47). There was much corruption among the Jews. Here was one who was worshiping God in honesty and sincerity. This uprightness attracted the attention of Christ.

4. The Roman centurion for his great faith (Matt. 8:5-10).

5. John the Baptist for his greatness (Matt. 11:11).

6. The widow for her liberality (Mk. 12:41-44).

7. Mary for her good work (Mk. 14:3-9).

DINING WITH JESUS

1. In the home of Matthew (Matt. 9:10-18). (1) After Matthew had enlisted with Jesus he invited his old friends to dine with Jesus. A wonderful example in personal evangelism. (2) Christ was criticized. He said, "They that are whole have no need of a physician, but they that are sick" (Lk. 5:31). (3) We are the salt of the earth (Matt. 5:13), and salt saves through contact.

2. Fed the multitudes (Matt. 14:14-21). (1) This demonstrated the power of his word. He could speak and food would multiply. There is power in his written word to save (Jas. 1:21; I Pet. 1:23). (2) Had them to sit in companies. Did things in a systematic and orderly way. We are told to "do all things decently and in order" (I Cor. 14:40). (3) Gave thanks (Jno. 6:11). So should we. (4) Taught economy by commanding them to gather up the fragments (Jno. 6:12).

3. In the home of Simon the Pharisee (Lk. 7:36-50).

(1) He failed to show Jesus some of the common courtesies of the day. (2) In supposing Jesus was not a prophet, he judged him by his own standard, because he would not have permitted the woman to touch him. (3) The woman was saved by faith (Lk. 8:50), but not by faith only. Man today is saved by faith, but not by faith only (Jas. 2:24). (4) "Who is this that forgiveth sins also?" (Lk. 8:49). Christ had power on earth to forgive sins (Lk. 5:24) just as he had power to heal the sick and raise the dead. He now has power to forgive, but men must obey the conditions laid down in his will.

4. In the home of Mary and Martha (Lk. 10:38-42). (1) Jesus did not rebuke hospitality, but anxiety. (2) Spiritual nourishment more important than physical.

5. The disciples who had fished all night and had caught nothing (Jno. 21:3-13). (1) Christ had not come to them to buy, but to supply. (2) Matt. 20:28. (3) Came not to receive, but to give.

LOOKING UPON JESUS

Matt. 26,27

1. Many different people in the audience looked upon this one crucified between thieves.

2. Religious politicians saw him as the object of their hatred. (1) They hated him because he exposed their hypocrisy and sham religion. (2) Religious people today do not like to have their errors exposed.

3. The mob looked upon Jesus. (1) They had not examined the claims of Christ, but were blindly led by their leaders. (2) People today often accept without question the word of their leaders; many acquire their religion by inheritance.

4. The soldiers. (1) They were indifferent toward

him; neither for him nor against him; did their work as a duty to be performed. (2) Much indifference today; never stop to investigate; think all religions are alike.

5. Centurion said, "Truly this was the Son of God."

(1) Weighed the evidence and reached a logical conclusion; but, as far as we know, it never went further than this. (2) Many are like this today; they say this is right and scriptural but never obey.

6. The disciples. (1) Saw Christ as their Saviour and as the object of their love. (2) We today must see him this way to be saved.

OFFENDED IN CHRIST

Matt. 11:6

1. Some became offended because of the conditions surrounding the earthly life of Christ. (1) The community in which he lived (Jno. 1:46). (2) His poverty: "Is not this the carpenter's son?" (Matt. 13:55). (3) His schooling (Jno. 7:15). (4) His family (Matt. 13:55,56).

2. Some took offense at what Jesus did. (1) Ate with sinners and publicans (Matt. 9:10-13). (2) Permitted the sinful woman to touch him (Lk. 7:39). (3) Healed on the Sabbath, and said that God was his Father (Jno. 5:18).

3. Some were offended because of what Christ said. (1) "Except ye eat of the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you" (Jno. 6:53-61). (2) "If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death" (Jno. 8:51). (3) Said that he would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days (Matt. 26:61).

4. Some today are offended at Christ because of what they think he has taught. (1) Denominationalism has driven many into infidelity. (2) The doctrine of election and

predestination helped to drive Robert Ingersoll into infidelity.

5. Others have taken offense at what Jesus actually teaches. (1) The one church (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:16; Rom. 12:4,5). (2) The design of baptism (Acts 2:38; 22:16; I Pet. 3:20,21). (3) The act of baptism (Rom. 6:3,4; Acts 8:38,39). (4) The doctrine of sacrifice (Rom. 12:1; I Cor. 16:2).

6. Some are offended at Christ because of his followers. (1) Sometimes because of their righteousness (I Pet. 3:17). (2) Most times because of their sins.

WHAT CRUCIFIED CHRIST

1. Ignorance (Acts 3:17). This crucifies him afresh. (1) God no longer winks at ignorance (Acts 17:23,30). (2) We must know (Jno. 8:32), love **and** believe (II Thess. 2:10-12), and obey the truth (I Pet. 1:22) to be saved.

2. Hatred (Jno. 7). (1) They hated Christ, because their works were evil (Jno. 3:19). (2) Men still hinder the truth in unrighteousness (Rom. 1:18).

3. Betrayal (Matt. 26:24,25,47-50). (1) Judas betrayed Christ for thirty pieces of silver. (2) There are Judases today who betray Christ for various things.

4. Religious envy (Matt. 27:18). (1) Religious envy hindered the growth of Christianity in the days of the apostles (Acts 13:44,45). (2) This spirit continues to crucify Christ afresh. Many have loyalty to party and creed rather than to Christ.

5. False testimony (Matt. 26:59,60). (1) The Lord has his false witnesses now who are crucifying him again (II Pet. 2:1-3; Matt. 7:15). (2) Such will not endure sound doctrine (II Tim. 4:3). (3) Such worship is in vain (Matt. 15:9).

IF CHRIST HAD NOT COME

Jno. 15:22

1. The law would not have been fulfilled. (1) Came not to destroy the law, but to fulfill it (Matt. 5:17). (2) Did fulfill the law and nail it to the cross (Gal. 3:19; Col. 2:14).

2. There would have been no atonement (I Pet. 2:24; Jno. 15:13; II Cor. 8:9).

3. There would have been no redeeming gospel (II Tim. 1:10; Mk. 16:15, 16; II Thess. 1:8).

4. There would have been no universal invitation (Matt. 11:28-30; Rev. 3:20).

5. There would have been no Golden Rule (Matt. 7:12). The rule before he came is found in Matt 5:38.

6. Civilization and society would have never reached its present state. (1) To estimate his influence consider the countries where the story of Jesus has not gone. (2) The birth of Christ was the birth of two great divisions of history: B. C. and A. D.

7. There would have been no place prepared for us (Jno. 14:3).

8. There would have been no gain in death. By living Christ, death becomes gain (Phil. 1:21).

"IT IS FINISHED"

Jno. 19:30

1. The life of suffering he had endured (Matt. 16:21).

2. The life of example he had lived (I Pet. 2:21).

3. The prophecies which he had fulfilled (Isa. 7:14; 40:3; 50:6; 53).

4. The law which he came to abolish (Matt. 5:17; Col. 2:14).

5. The will of God which he came to obey (Jno. 5:30; Heb. 10:9).

6. Human redemption for which he came to shed his blood (I Pet. 1:18,19; Eph. 1:7).

7. The separation from the Father. He came from the Father and would soon return to him.

THE MEN WHO FAILED HIM

1. Herod (Matt.2). Thought Christ might be a threat to his own interests. Failed him for selfish reasons.

2. His own people (Jno. 1:11; Matt. 13:57). Thought Christ was too commonplace. Many feel this way toward the Bible; think they need some other guidance.

3. Many of his disciples (Jno. 6:66). The ones today who desert him also fail him.

4. Judas (Jno. 12:3-6; Matt. 26:14-16, 47-50). The love of money caused Judas to fail him. Persons who fail to give (I Cor. 16:2) because of a love of money also fail him.

5. Peter (Matt. 26:33-35, 58, 69-75). Followed afar off; denied him; cursed.

6. Disciples (Matt. 26:56). Because of fear they forsook him and fled. Many today fail him for fear, fear of what others will say, etc.

7. False witnesses (Matt. 26:59-62). False teachers are failing him (II Pet. 2:1; I Jno. 4:1).

8. Pilate (Matt. 27:11-26). Wanted to please his people; tried to be neutral. A love for popularity is dangerous (Jno. 12:42, 43). There is no neutrality in this conflict (Matt. 12:30).

9. Soldiers (Matt. 27:27-31). Had no special malice against Jesus. Failed him because they were calloused and hard-hearted.

“WHAT SHALL I DO WITH JESUS?”**Matt. 27:11-22**

1. Universality of the question. (1) This question is asked by all races and classes. (2) After one has learned the truth about Christ, he can never be the same again.

2. Some things involved in the question. (1) One that no responsible person can ignore (Matt. 12:30). (2) The magnitude of the question is seen when we consider that he is God's spokesman to man (Heb. 1:1,2), the only mediator between God and man (I Tim. 2:5), man's only Saviour (Matt. 1:21), our perfect example (I Pet. 2:21), and that the question has to do with the soul, the judgment and eternity (Jno. 12:48).

3. What some did with Jesus. (1) Shepherds were attracted to him (Lk. 2:1-16). (2) Wise men worshiped him (Matt. 2:1,2). (3) Herod tried to kill him (Matt. 2). (4) Some tried to ensnare him in his speech (Matt. 22:23-30). (5) His own received him not (Jno. 1:11). (6) Judas betrayed him (Matt. 26:14-16). (7) Peter denied him (Matt. 26:69-75). (8) Pilate tried to be neutral (Matt. 27:24). (9) Paul persecuted him (Acts 9:1-6).

4. Some day the question will be reversed. He now stands before us and we have the right to decide what we shall do with him (Rev. 3:20). But the day will come when we shall stand before him and he will decide what to do with us (II Cor. 5:10).

HOW I WANT TO BE FOUND OF CHRIST

1. In Christ (Phil. 3:9).
2. Walking in truth (II Jno. 4).
3. Not sleeping (Mk. 13:36; I Thess. 5:6).
4. Watching (Matt. 24:36-44).

5. In peace (II Pet. 3:14).
6. Without spot (II Pet. 3:14).
7. Blameless (II Pet. 3:14).
8. Prepared (Matt. 25:1-13).
9. Unto praise and honor and glory (I Pet. 1:7).
10. Written in the book of life (Rev. 21:15).

THE MIRROR FOR THE SOUL

Jas. 1:23

1. The Bible is God's mirror for the soul. By using this mirror man can discern the character and needs of his soul. It enables man to see himself as God sees him.

2. The functions of this mirror. (1) Reveals the origin of the soul (Gen. 2:7). (2) Reveals the value of the soul (Matt. 16:26; 10:28). (3) Reveals the disfigurements of the soul (Gal. 5:19-21; II Tim. 3:1-5). (4) Reveals the destiny of the soul (Matt. 25:46).

3. The proper use of this mirror. (1) Constantly (Psa. 1:1,2). (2) Skillfully, rightly dividing the word of truth (II Tim. 2:15). (3) Obediently. No profit in being a hearer and not a doer (Jas. 1:23,24). But there is profit in looking and then acting (Jas. 1:25; II Cor. 3:18).

RULES FOR BIBLE STUDY

1. Observe who speaks. For instance, Job. 2:9.
2. Observe to whom it was given. For instance, Jno. 2:7.
3. Study the context. For example, "Top not come down" (Matt. 24:17) does not refer to a lady's hairdress.
4. Observe under which dispensation it was given: Patriarchal, Jewish, or Christian.
5. Is the language literal or figurative? Jno. 15:5; Lk. 3:4-6; Phil. 3:2.

6. Use good common sense just as in studying any other book. For instance, would it be exercising good common sense to say that "born of water" (Jno. 3:5) has reference to the first birth when Jesus is speaking of the new birth and is talking to an old man instead of an unborn child?

7. Do not construe one passage so as to contradict another passage. For example, to interpret Acts 16:31 to mean salvation by "faith only" would contradict Jas. 2:24-26.

8. Consider the historical order of the book. For instance, I Cor. and II Cor.; I Jno., II Jno. and III Jno.; etc.

9. Notice the title. The title sometimes gives a key to the book: Genesis, the beginning; Exodus, the departure of Israel.

HOW TO PREACH THE BIBLE

1. Preach the whole counsel of God, shunning none of it (Acts 20:27).

2. Keep back nothing that is profitable unto the people (Acts 20:20).

3. Preach to please God rather than men (Gal. 1:10; Acts 4:19,20).

4. Preach the truth in love—in love of the truth (Eph. 4:15).

5. Speak boldly (Eph. 6:18,19).

6. Earnestly contend for the faith (Jude 3).

7. Use simple language (I Cor. 1:17; 2:1).

8. Reprove, rebuke and exhort (II Tim. 4:2).

9. Adapt the lessons to the needs of the hearers (I Cor. 3:1,2).

BIBLE SYMBOLS

1. Lamp or light (Psa. 119:105).
2. Hammer (Jer. 23:29).
3. Fire (Jer. 23:29).
4. Milk (I Pet. 2:2).
5. Meat (Heb. 5:12-14).
6. Sword (Eph. 6:17).
7. Mirror (Jas. 1:23-25).
8. Seed (Lk. 8:11).

MAKING THE BIBLE OF NONE EFFECT

1. The word snatched away by Satan (Matt. 13:19).
2. Religious division (Jno. 17:20,21).
3. Hearts that are waxed gross; ears that are dull of hearing; eyes that are closed (Matt. 13:15).
4. Tradition (Matt. 15:6-9).
5. Lack of love for the truth (II Thess. 2:10-12).
6. Love for popularity and human praise (Jno. 12:42-43).
7. Love of money (Matt. 19:16-22).
8. Love of sin (Jno. 3:19).
9. Preaching with wisdom of men's words (I Cor. 1:17).
10. Sin and hypocrisy within the church (Rom. 1:18; Matt. 18:6).

WHY ATTEND BIBLE CLASS?

1. Commanded to study the Bible (II Tim. 2:15; I Tim. 4:13; II Pet. 1:5). The class affords a good opportunity to do this.
2. Presents an opportunity to see ourselves as God sees us. The Bible is a true mirror for the soul (Jas. 1:23-25).

3. Gain knowledge with which to teach others. Christianity is a teaching religion, and we must prepare ourselves to teach (Heb. 5:12).

4. That we may be able to give an answer for our hope (I Pet. 3:15).

5. That we may be prepared to defend the faith (Jude 3).

6. Feed our souls (I Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:12-14).

7. Because we are going to be judged by it (Jno. 12:48; Rev. 20:12); hence, we had better know what is in it.

BEATITUDES IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

1. "Blessed is he that readeth. . . ." (Rev. 1:3).

2. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord" (Rev. 14:13).

3. "Blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments" (Rev. 16:15).

4. "Blessed are they that are bidden to the marriage supper of the Lamb" (Rev. 19:9).

5. "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection" (Rev. 20:6).

6. "Blessed is he that keepeth the words of the prophecy of this book" (Rev. 22:7).

7. "Blessed are they that wash their robes [do his commandments]" (Rev. 22:14).

THE GREATNESS OF THE CHURCH

1. The only body purchased with the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28).

2. The only body with Christ as its foundation (Eph. 2:20).

3. The only body with Christ as its head (Eph. 1:22, 23).
4. The only body with perfect and everlasting laws (Jas. 1:25; Matt. 24:35).
5. Its field of labor is universal (Mk. 16:15, 16).
6. Its members wear the greatest name ever worn by men (Isa. 62:2; Acts 11:26).
7. It is the only body in which salvation is promised to lost men (Eph. 2:16; 5:23).
8. It is the only missionary society known to the Bible (I Tim. 3:15; Eph. 3:10).
9. It is the only institution of charity known to the Bible (Acts 6:1).
10. It is the only organization in which men can glorify God (Eph. 3:21).
11. It is the only institution that will last longer than time (Matt. 16:18).

THE CHURCH COMPARED TO A HUMAN BODY
I Cor. 12:14-26

1. One body and one head (Eph. 4:4-6).
2. One body, but many members (Rom. 12:4,5).
3. Head—direct it (Eph. 1:22,23; Matt. 28:18-20).
4. Ears—hear (Lk. 8:18; Matt. 13:5).
5. Eyes—see (Jno. 4:35).
6. Tongue—teach (II Tim. 2:2).
7. Shoulders—bear burdens (Gal. 6:2; Rom. 15:1).
8. Hands—work (Eph. 4:28).
9. Backbone—contend for the faith (Jude 3).
10. Feet—go (Mk. 16:15,16).
11. Question: If every member of the church should act as I act, what kind of ears, eyes, tongue, shoulders,

hands, backbone and feet would it have? Would it be a normal or deformed body?

STRENGTH OF THE CHURCH

1. Viewed negatively. (1) Does not have to have a large number (Judg. 7:4; I Sam. 14:6). Ten righteous would have saved Sodom (Gen. 18:32). (2) Wealth is not essential to the strength of a church (Rev. 3:17). Wealthy members are often worldly. (3) The organization of societies do not add strength. God has given a simple organization for the church and any additional organization weakens it. Several sets of harness will not strengthen a mule.

2. Viewed positively. (1) A membership taught in the Word. (Hos. 4:6). (2) A united membership (Matt. 12:25; Prov. 6:19; Psa. 133:1). (3) A devoted membership (Matt. 6:33). (4) A working membership (Gal. 5:6). (5) A membership with vision (Prov. 29:18). (6) An uncompromising membership (II Jno. 9-11).

HOW TO BUILD UP THE CHURCH

1. Desire it up (Rom. 10:1; Phil. 3:7,8).
2. Attend it up (Acts 20:7; Heb. 10:25).
3. Live it up (I Pet. 3:1,2; Matt. 5:16).
4. Work it up (Acts 20:20; Phil. 2:12).
5. Preach it up (Rom. 10:13,14; Acts 8:31).
6. Give it up (I Cor. 16:2; II Cor. 8:5).
7. Pray it up (Jas. 5:16; Acts 2:42).
8. Cooperate it up (II Cor. 6:1; Gal. 5:15).

"IN" MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

1. Indifferent. Rev. 3:16,17.
2. Insincere—hypocritical. Matt. 24:51; Tit. 2:7.

3. Inconsistent. Rom. 2:21-23; Matt. 23:1-4.
4. Indefinite—will not take a stand. I Cor. 16:13; Jude 3.
5. Indiscreet. Tit. 2:5.
6. Indulgent. Eph. 5:18; Gal. 5:19-21.
7. Inflated. Rom. 12:3; Lk. 14:11.

THE CHURCH A LIGHT BEARER

1. The local church is a candlestick (Rev. 1:20). (1) The function of a candlestick is to bear and support the light; this is the work of the church. (2) This is not the work of some club or fraternal order. (3) If you are not a member of the church, then you are not a part of the candlestick, helping to support the light.

2. Christ threatened to remove candlestick in the church at Ephesus (Rev. 2:4,5). Why? "Thou hast left thy first love."

3. The church is the instrument that God uses to enlighten the world. (Phil. 2:15; Rom. 13:12; Eph. 5:8).

THE SECT EVERYWHERE SPOKEN AGAINST Acts 28:22

1. At Philippi—charged with troubling the city by teaching customs not lawful for others to receive or observe (Acts 16:20,21); troublemakers.

2. At Thessalonica—accused of turning the world upside down; disturbing the quiet of religious society; uprooting the faith of others (Acts 17:6). Needed to turn the world upside down, because the wrong side was on top.

3. At Athens—accused of setting forth strange gods (Acts 17:18).

4. At Corinth—charged with persuading men to wor-

ship God contrary to the law (Acts 18:13). Law had been nailed to the cross (Col. 2:14; Heb. 10:9).

SAVE THE CHURCH

1. From worldliness (Rom. 12:2; Jas. 4:4; Ex. 23:2).
2. From adulterous marriages (Matt. 19:3-9).
3. From covetousness (Lk. 12:15-21; I Cor. 5:11).
4. From the trend to convert it into a social agency; the primary work of the church is to reach souls rather than bodies (I Tim. 3:15; Rev. 1:20).
5. From indifference and lukewarmness (Rev. 3:15, 16).
6. From doctrinal weakness and compromise (I Tim. 4:16; Gal. 1:7-9; II Jno. 9-11).

THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM

Acts 2

1. Came into existence through plain gospel preaching (ver. 36).
2. A steadfast church (ver. 42).
3. A united church (ver. 44).
4. A church of brotherly love and liberality (ver. 44, 45).
5. A church in which the members enjoyed the social life of one another (ver. 46).
6. A church which had the favor of all the people (ver. 47). This means it was respected, not popular.
7. A growing church with additions daily (ver. 47).
8. A persecuted church (Acts 8:1).
9. A church with evangelistic zeal (Acts 8:4).

DISORDERS IN THE CHURCH AT CORINTH

1. Impure living. (1) Incest tolerated (I Cor. 5:1).

- (2) Went to law one with another (I Cor. 6:1, 5-7).
2. Weak convictions. Ate things sacrificed to idols (I Cor. 8; 10:20,21).
3. Unscriptural worship. Desecrated the Lord's supper (I Cor. 11:21,22,34).
4. Unsound in doctrine. Some said, "There is no resurrection of the dead" (I Cor. 15:12).
5. Divided. There were four groups and three were wrong (I Cor. 1:10-13).
6. A church should be pure in life, strong in convictions, scriptural in worship, sound in doctrine, and united.

LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS

Rev. 2:1-7

1. Address (ver. 1). To the angel or messenger.
2. Description of speaker (ver. 1,2). (1) "Holdeth the seven stars in his right hand." The stars are the angels or messengers of the church (Rev. 1:20). (2) "Walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks." The candlesticks are the churches (Rev. 1:20). (3) "I know." The only one who really knows (Jno. 2:24,25; Heb. 4:13).
3. What is right with the church (ver. 2,3,6). (1) "Thy works and thy labor." Must work (Phil. 2:12; Jas. 2:14-26). (2) "Thy patience" or steadfastness. (Acts 2:42; I Cor. 15:58; 16:13). (3) "Thou canst not bear them which are evil." Should not fellowship the evil (II Thess. 3:6; I Cor. 5:6,11; Matt. 18:17). (4) "Tried them which say they are apostles." Thus, doctrine is important (I Tim. 4:16; Matt. 15:9). (5) "Thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans." Hated the deeds and not the people.
4. What is wrong with the church (ver. 4). (1) Had left their first love. Their love had waned; it had not

turned to hate. (2) Must have love (Matt. 22:37; I Cor. 13:1-3).

5. Admonition (ver. 5). (1) "Remember." Learn to remember and to forget; remember what "first love" did for you. (2) "Repent." Acts 8:22. (3) "Do the first works." Do as you once did.

6. Threat (ver. 5). "Will remove thy candlestick." A candlestick supports the light. No church can do this without "first love."

7. Promised reward (ver. 7). (1) To the overcomer. (2) "Eat of the tree of life." Mentioned for the first time since Gen. 3:24. Man was separated from it lest he should live forever in sin. After he has overcome, he may eat of it in the new paradise and live forever in perfection.

LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT SMYRNA

Rev. 2:8-11

1. Address (ver. 8).

2. Description of speaker (ver. 8,9). (1) "The first." Self-existent being who is the origin of all things (Jno. 1:1; 8:58; Col. 1:15-17). Should be first with man (Matt. 6:33). (2) "The last." Rev. 22:13. When others are gone he will still be here. (3) "Which was dead, and is alive." "I have been through what you are experiencing. They killed me, but I live." His death, burial and resurrection are fundamental facts of the gospel (I Cor. 15:1-4). Died for our sins (Rom. 5:8), and arose for our justification (Rom. 4:25). (4) "I know." (Prov. 15:3).

3. What is right with the church (ver. 9). (1) "Thy works." Will be judged according to works (Rev. 20:12). (2) "Thy tribulation." II Tim. 3:12; Matt. 5:11,12. Christ suffered, and we are not above him. (3) Suffering

inflicted by "the synagogue of Satan." Persecuted by those who claimed to be the children of God. Satan has his synagogues. He works in the name of religion, and has his churches, ministers, creeds, and doctrines. II Cor. 11:13-15. (4) "Poverty (but thou art rich)." Physical poverty, but spiritual riches. Jesus had experienced this (Matt. 8:20; II Cor. 8:9). They had laid up treasures in heaven (Matt. 6:19), which are the only kind that are really valuable.

4. What is wrong with the church. Nothing stated.

5. Admonition (ver. 10). (1) "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer." "Fear not" is found so many times in the Scriptures. There are many reasons why Christians should not fear. (2) "Be thou faithful unto death." If necessary, be faithful up to the endurance of death.

6. Threat. None given.

7. Promised reward (ver. 10,11). (1) "Crown of life." There are many crowns spoken of in the Bible. (2) "Shall not be hurt of the second death." Second death is explained in Rev. 20:14,15. There are two births as well as two deaths.

LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS

Rev. 2:12-17

1. Address (ver. 12).

2. Description of speaker (ver. 12). "Hath the sharp sword." Rev. 1:16; 2:16; Heb. 4:12. It pricks and cuts the heart (Acts 2:37; 7:54). The Scriptures were important with Christ. During his temptations he said repeatedly, "It is written" (Matt. 4:4,7,10). "What saith the scriptures?" was his constant appeal.

3. What is right with the church (ver. 13). (1) Face

to face with Satan. "Dwellest even where Satan's seat is." Jesus saw in Satan a real personality who was fighting man's spiritual welfare. He sows tares (Matt 13:24-30), steals the word from man's heart (Lk. 8:12), transforms himself into an angel of light (II Cor. 11:13-15), etc. (2) "Holdest fast my name." The name of Christ is important. A name stands for the person it represents. All should hold fast (I Cor. 15:58; 16:13). (3) "Hast not denied my faith." There is one faith (Eph. 4:5), and we should contend for it (Jude 3). (4) Antipas, an example of faithfulness unto death.

4. What is wrong with the church (ver. 14,15). (1) "Thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam." Num. 22-25; 31:8,15,16; Jude 11; II Pet. 2:15. (2) "Also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans." Different from the church at Ephesus which hated such deeds (Rev. 2:6). (3) Should not fellowship false doctrines (Col. 2:21,22; II Jno. 10,11).

5. Admonition (ver. 16). "Repent."

6. Threat (ver. 16). "Fight against them with the sword of my mouth."

7. Promised reward (ver. 17). (1) "Eat of the hidden manna." (2) "A white stone." (3) "A new name." Have been given one new name (Isa. 62:2), which is "Christian" (Acts 11:26). Will be given another new name over there.

LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT THYATIRA

Rev. 2:18-29

1. Address (ver. 18).

2. Description of speaker (ver. 18). (1) "Son of God." As such is the gift of God (Jno. 3:16), God's spokesman (Heb. 1:1,2), the way to the Father (Jno. 14:6),

and man's Saviour (Matt. 1:21). (2) "Eyes like a flame of fire." Eyes that can penetrate and see everything. Heb. 4:13. (3) "Feet like fine brass." Dreadful feet to sinners, but beautiful feet to the obedient.

3. What is right with the church (ver. 19). (1) "I know thy works." Said the same in each of the letters. (2) "Love." Love is the fountain from which flow true activities. Gal. 5:6; I Cor. 13. (3) "Faith." Without it our worship is ritualistic and our works are a social service. Heb. 11; Jas. 2:14-26. (4) "Service" or "ministry." Both religious and moral duties. (5) "Patience" or steadfastness. I Cor. 15:58. (6) "The last to be more than the first." A growth in works. Should grow spiritually (I Pet. 2:2; II Cor. 4:16).

4. What is wrong with the church (ver. 20). (1) "Thou sufferest that woman Jezebel." Tolerated her. Should have withdrawn from her (I Cor. 5:2-13; II Thess. 3:6). (2) "Calleth herself a prophetess." She was a teacher, and the church had made a poor selection. (3) False doctrine which leads to false practice was being taught. Such was called "the depths of Satan" (ver. 24).

5. Admonition (ver. 24,25). "As many as have not known this doctrine . . . that which ye have already hold fast till I come." Hold fast the Saviour, your worship, your service, your loyalty to truth, and your opposition to error. "Till I come"—came once and will come again.

6. Threat (ver. 21-23). (1) "I gave her time to repent." Had been long-suffering. Repentance is emphasized. (2) "Will cast her into a bed." Afflict or punish. (3) "Will kill her children with death." Her adherents will be destroyed. (4) "Will give unto every one of you according to your works." II Cor. 5:10.

7. Promised reward (ver. 26-29). (1) Promise is to the triumphant, to those who keep His works unto the end. (2) A promise of triumph and reign and the suppression of all enemies.

LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT SARDIS

Rev. 3:1-6

1. Address (ver. 1).

2. Description of speaker (ver. 1). (1) "Hath the seven Spirits of God." Possessed the Spirit without measure (Jno. 3:34). (2) "Seven stars" or angels (Rev. 1:20) were under his authority.

3. What is right with the church (ver. 4). (1) "A few names which have not defiled their garments." Few—true in too many places. Faithful few who keep the church going. Only the few had been able to keep themselves unspotted. (2) "They are worthy." Could not be said of all.

4. What is wrong with the church (ver. 1,2). (1) "Thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead." Had a good appearance and enjoyed the reputation of being alive, but were dead, posing, and unreal. A dead church. There are several causes of spiritual death. (2) Works that were not perfect or complete before God.

5. Admonition (ver. 2,3). (1) "Be watchful." Mk. 13:37; I Cor. 16:13. (2) "Strengthen the things which remain that are ready to die." Some were very weak and sickly, ready to die. Strong members have a responsibility to the weak members. (3) "Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard." Remember your past state and get back to it. (4) "Hold fast." A condition of success in every field, physical or spiritual. (5) "Repent." Lk. 13:3; Acts 17:30.

6. Threat (ver. 3). "If thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief." Not as a bandit with violence, but secretly and suddenly.

7. Promised reward (ver. 4,5). (1) "Walk with me in white." Their robes had been made white in the blood of the lamb (Rev. 7:14). (2) "Will not blot out his name out of the book of life." Phil. 4:3; Rev. 20:12; 22:19. (3) "Will confess his name before my Father." Matt. 10:32.

LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA

Rev. 3:7-13

1. Address (ver. 7).

2. Description of speaker (ver. 7). (1) "Holy." Holy in his character and life. I Pet. 2:22,23; Heb. 4:15; Rev. 4:8. (2) "True." Was the truth (Jno. 14:6). Nothing untrue or hypocritical about Christ. (3) "Hath the key of David." Keys are symbolic of authority. Christ has complete authority in the Messianic kingdom and reign, and is now on David's throne, reigning (Acts 2:29-35; I Cor. 15:23-25).

3. What is right with the church (ver. 8). (1) "I have set before thee an open door." Had a great opportunity to evangelize. (2) "Hast a little strength." God can perform wonders with little things: Gideon's reduced army, Moses' stick, Shamgar's oxgoad, and David's sling and stone. (3) "Hast kept my word." Had not only obeyed it, but had protected and guarded it. Secret of keeping the word (Jno. 14:23). (4) "Hast not denied my name." No doubt there had been times when it meant ridicule and persecution, but they were faithful to the trust.

4. What is wrong with the church. Nothing stated.

Vindication instead (ver. 9). Only two letters out of the seven do not contain some reproof. Those of the synagogue of Satan would be obliged to look to Christians. The second time "synagogue of Satan" is mentioned in these letters. Satan has religious people as well as others.

5. Admonition (ver. 11). Hold fast what you have, and it is for the purpose of keeping the crown. Must hold fast the gospel to be saved (I Cor. 15:2).

6. Threat. None given. Comfort instead (ver. 10). A period of testing was to come, but Christ would keep the ones who had kept his word. I Cor. 10:13.

7. Promised reward (ver. 12). (1) "I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God." A permanent and secure place. (2) "He shall go no more out." Shall not need to flee from that city. (3) Three names are to be written upon him.

LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT LAODICEA

Rev. 3:14-22

1. Address (ver. 14).

2. Description of speaker (ver. 14). (1) "The Amen." The true one whose words are final. (2) "Faithful and true witness." He would not misrepresent them. His testimony would not be biased. (3) "The beginning of the creation of God." Jno. 1:1-3.

3. What is right with the church. Nothing stated.

4. What is wrong with the church (ver. 15-17). (1) "Thou art neither cold nor hot." Lukewarm and self-satisfied. A little for the Lord and a little for Satan. No persecution; no spiritual warfare; no contending for the faith. (2) "Thou sayest." This was their estimate of themselves, but Jesus said, "Thou art." How one feels

may not be the way Jesus feels. (3) "Wretched and miserable." An object of pity, because of their self-complacency. (4) "Poor." Paupers; had no treasures in heaven. (5) "Blind." Blind to their obligation to Christ and to their responsibility to self and others. Without the Christian graces we are blind (II Pet. 1:5-9). (6) "Naked." This is all the worse, because it is spiritual nakedness. They had failed to put on the spiritual garments (Col. 3:12-14).

5. Admonition (ver. 18-20). (1) Admonishes them to receive his blessings that they may be enriched, clothed, and that their vision may be restored. (2) "Be zealous." Be enthusiastic and bubbling over; put your heart into it. (3) "Repent." This stands between an erring Christian and forgiveness. (4) "I stand at the door and knock." Makes a touching plea.

6. Threat (ver. 16). "I will spew thee out of my mouth." Can be lost (Heb. 3:12; Gal. 5:4; Jno. 15:6).

7. Promised reward (ver. 21). Faithful Christians rule with Jesus "by teaching and practicing his laws by which men are to be governed spiritually."

INSTRUMENTS OPPOSING THE CHURCH

Matt. 16:18

1. Persecution (Matt. 13:20,21; Acts 4:15-18; 5:40; 8:1).

2. The world (Matt. 13:22; I Jno. 2:15-17; II Tim. 4:10).

3. Mammon (Rev. 3:17; Matt. 6:24; 13:22; I Tim. 6:9,10).

4. Discord (Acts 15; Jas. 3:14-16).

5. Division (I Cor. 1:10-13; Matt. 12:25; Jno. 17:20, 21).

6. False brethren (II Cor. 11:26; Gal. 2:4).
7. False doctrine (Gal. 1:6,7; II Thess. 2:1-7; II Tim. 4:3,4).
8. Lukewarmness (Rev. 3:15,16; Amos 6:1).

MAN'S ORIGIN, FALL AND REDEMPTION

1. God created man in his image (Gen. 1:26,27).

2. God would dishonor himself if he could not or would not govern man whom he has created. (1) Government must conform to the capacity of the subject. Man has been endowed with the power to reason and to choose. If man could not disobey, then he could not obey; and if he could not obey, then he could not glorify his creator by voluntary subjection and submission. Wherever there is voluntary obedience, disobedience is possible. (2) The best way to secure obedience is to offer large rewards on the one hand and severe penalties on the other. (3) God did this in his law to Adam and Eve, but they fell.

3. How can God's law be honored and man still be redeemed? Honor demands that God enforce his law, but mercy cries out for man's redemption. Can the conflicting demands be met? (1) No man could die for the race, because all were involved (Rom. 3:23). (2) No angel nor animal would do, because they were not the guilty ones. (3) It would take a man: one who was pure and sinless as was man before the fall, and one who was the rightful owner of the price he gave. Only Jesus could qualify. Only Jesus as the Son of man and the Son of God could qualify as a redeemer and mediator from the viewpoint of being equally connected with both parties. (4) Christ died for human redemption (Eph. 1:7). Nothing else would uphold the honor of God's law. (5) A redeemer has the right to stipulate the conditions with which the

recipients of his blessings must comply. He has put reconciliation in the one body (Eph. 2:16); therefore, whatever man must do to get into the one body is what man must do to be redeemed or reconciled. The three thousand in Acts 2 had to believe, repent and be baptized to be added to this body.

SIX STATES OF MAN

1. Innocence (Ezek. 18:20; Matt. 18:3).
2. Alienation (Rom. 3:23; Gen. 8:21).
3. Promises (II Pet. 1:4; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Rev. 2:10; I Jno. 2:25).
4. Unfaithfulness (Matt. 25:14-30; 13:41,42; II Pet. 2:20-22).
5. Eternal death (Rev. 20:14,15,10; Matt. 3:11,12).
6. Eternal life (Matt 25:46; II Cor. 5:1).

MAN'S FOURFOLD RELATIONSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY

1. Social—"Honor all men" (Gal. 6:10; Acts 17:26).
2. Fraternal—"Love the brotherhood" (Rom. 12:10; I Thess. 4:9).
3. Religious—"Fear God" (Eccl. 12:13; Psa. 33:8).
4. Political—"Honor the king" (Rom. 13:1-7; Matt. 22:21).

THE SACREDNESS OF HUMAN LIFE

1. Created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26,27). God is a spirit (Jno. 4:24); so man is both spirit and flesh (Eccl. 12:7).
2. Given dominion over all other creatures (Gen. 1:28-31).
3. God legislated against murder (Ex. 20:13).
4. Man is so created that he can obey God; hence

God has enjoined commands upon him (Eccl. 12:13).

5. Bought with a price (I Cor. 6:19,20; 7:23).

6. Man must account for the way he lives (Acts 17:31; Rom. 2:6; 14:10,12).

7. God has made provisions for man's life to be continued (Phil. 1:21; I Cor. 15:42-56; Jno. 14:1-4).

WHO IS A WISE MAN?

Jas. 3:13

1. He who shows by his good life works in meekness of wisdom (Jas. 3:13).

2. He who fears the Lord (Prov. 1:7).

3. He who respects parents (Prov. 13:1).

4. He who feareth and departeth from evil (Prov. 14:16).

5. He who hearkeneth unto counsel (Prov. 12:15).

6. He who refraineth his lips (Prov. 10:19).

7. He who winneth souls (Prov. 11:30).

8. He who hears the words of the Lord and does them (Matt. 7:24-27).

MAN'S DUALITY

1. Man is a dual being—flesh and spirit (Eccl. 12:7; II Cor. 4:16; Jas. 2:26).

2. Man is a dual unit. After man was created God said, "It is not good for man to be alone" (Gen. 2:18). Man alone is not complete. He needs companionship. Woman was created to be a help meet for him. She is man's complement, and fills up that which man lacks. She helps to counteract man's tendency to restlessness, impatience, and distrust.

3. Man's salvation is dual—the divine and the human. What God has done to save man (Jno. 3:16; Rom. 1:16).

What man must do to save himself—believe, repent, be baptized (Acts 2:37-40), and then add to his faith (II Pet. 1:5-10).

4. Man's life as a Christian is dual—doctrine and practice. Both are important (I Tim. 4:16; Gal. 1:8,9; Jas. 2:18; Tit. 2:10).

MAN'S OBLIGATION TO GOD

1. Fear God (Ecl. 12:13; Heb. 12:28).
2. Obey God (I Sam. 15:22; Matt. 7:21).
3. Love God (Matt. 22:37,38; I Jno. 4:19).
4. Worship God (Matt. 4:10; Jno. 4:23,24).
5. Serve God (Matt. 4:10; 6:24).
6. Be a faithful steward of God. (I Cor. 4:2).

MAN'S OBLIGATION TO OTHERS

1. Love them (Matt. 22:39).
2. Teach them (Rom. 1:14,15; Ezek. 33:8,9).
3. Follow Golden Rule (Matt. 7:12).
4. Obey laws of the land (Rom. 13:1-7).
5. Be peacemakers (Matt. 5:9).
6. Be truthful (Eph. 4:25).
7. Refrain from evil speaking (Jas. 4:11).
8. Seek their welfare (Phil. 2:4).

MAN'S OBLIGATION TO SELF

1. Make a living for himself and family (II Thess. 3:10; I Tim. 5:8).
2. Preserve and maintain health (Acts 27:34).
3. Have a good name (Prov. 22:1).
4. Have a good influence (Rev. 14:13).
5. Study and acquire knowledge (II Tim. 2:15).
6. Investigate and make certain of his salvation (Acts 17:11).

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED

1. If an unbeliever—believe after hearing the word, repent and be baptized (Acts 16:30-34).
2. If a believer—repent and be baptized (Acts 2:36-38).
3. If a penitent believer—be baptized (Acts 22:1-16).
4. If a child of God—make election and calling sure (II Pet. 1:5-10); endure unto the end (Matt. 24:13); be faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).

JUSTIFICATION ASCRIBED TO SEVERAL AGENTS

1. God's grace, the motive agent (Rom. 3:24).
2. Christ, the ready agent (Acts 13:39).
3. Christ's blood, the procurable agent (Rom. 5:9).
4. The name or authority of the Lord, the immediate agent (I Cor. 6:11).
5. Man's faith, the human basic agent (Rom. 5:1).
6. Man's works, the human active agent (Jas. 2:24).

CONVERSIONS

1. Jews on Pentecost (Acts 2).
2. Samaritans (Acts 8:12).
3. Eunuch (Acts 8:26-39).
4. Saul (Acts 9, 22, 26).
5. Cornelius (Acts 10).
6. Lydia (Acts 16:14,15).
7. Jailer (Acts 16:31-34).
8. Corinthians (Acts 18:8).
9. Twelve men at Ephesus (Acts 19:1-5).

NON-CONVERSIONS

1. The group which stoned Stephen (Acts 7:51-60). Resisted the Holy Spirit by resisting the words spoken by

a man guided by Holy Spirit. Stopped their ears. Matt. 13:15.

2. Unbelieving Jews at Antioch (Acts 13:14-51). Were filled with envy. Put the word from them. Judged themselves unworthy of everlasting life.

3. Felix and Drusilla (Acts 24:24,25). Procrastinated; waited for a convenient season.

4. King Agrippa (Acts 26:24-29). Almost but not fully persuaded.

“WHAT LACK I?”

Matt. 19:20

1. “All these things have I kept”—young man’s extensive obedience. (1) Things mentioned in ver. 18,19. (2) To refuse obedience in one point is but to be guilty of all (Jas. 2:10).

2. “From my youth up”—his constant obedience. (1) Should obey in youth (Eccl. 12:1). (2) Obedience should be continual (Acts 2:42; I Cor. 15:58; Matt. 10:22).

3. “What lack I yet?”—had done much, but lacked much. (1) A sense of guilt (Rom. 3:23; I Jno. 1:8). (2) Whole-hearted service (Matt. 15:8; Jer. 29:13). (3) A new treasure (Matt. 6:19-21). (4) Putting the Lord first (Matt. 6:33; 19:29). (5) Self-denial (Matt. 16:24; 13:45,46).

4. “What lack I?”—a good question for each. (1) The alien lacks obedience to certain requirements to be saved (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38). (2) The Christian may lack obedience to certain things to make his election sure (II Pet. 1:5-10.)

SAVED LIKE PAUL WAS SAVED

Acts 9, 22

1. Jesus did not appear to Saul to tell him what to do to be saved, because he sent him to Ananias (Acts 9:6).
2. Christ appeared to Saul to make him a minister and a witness (Acts 26:16).
3. Paul had believed and repented, so Ananias did not tell him to do such but told him to be baptized (Acts 22:16).
4. After his conversion. (1) Straightway preached Christ (Acts 9:20). (2) Increased the more in strength (Acts 9:22). (3) Counted all things loss for Christ (Phil. 3:4-8). (4) Willing to spend and be spent (II Cor. 12:15). (5) Buffeted his body lest he be rejected (I Cor. 9:27). (6) Faltered not at persecution (II Cor. 11:23-28). (7) What he could say at the end of life (II Tim. 4:6-8).

MAN'S FALL AND RETURN

FALL

RETURN

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|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Heard error (Gen. 3) | Hear truth (Rom. 10:13, 14). |
| 2. Believed and accepted error—(Ibid.) | Believe and accept truth (Heb. 11:6). |
| 3. Obeyed error — (Ibid.) | Obey truth (Rom. 6:17, 18). |
| 4. Death—(Ibid.) | Life (Rom. 8:6). |

NOAH'S SALVATION AND OURS

1. By grace (Gen. 6:8)—(Eph. 2:8).
2. By faith (Heb. 11:7)—(Heb. 11:6).
3. By obedience (Heb. 11:7); "prepared an ark"—(Matt. 7:21-23).
4. By water (I Pet. 3:20)—(I Pet. 3:21).

CAN WE PRAY ALIEN SINS AWAY?

1. Not if it is not God's law of pardon to aliens (Prov. 28:9). Must pray in harmony with God's will (I Jno. 5:14).

2. "Repent. . . and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee" (Acts 8:22). Not given to an alien, but to an erring Christian.

3. Cornelius' prayers went up for a memorial, but his sins were not prayed away (Acts 10:4; 11:14).

4. Christ prayed for sinners (Lk. 23:34). His prayer was unanswered fifty days later on Pentecost. How do we know? When God forgives sin he remembers it no more (Heb. 10:17). On the day of Pentecost their sins were brought up again (Acts 2:36); therefore they had not been forgiven. Christ's prayer was answered when these people obeyed the law of pardon to aliens (Acts 2:36-41).

WHY MANY ARE NOT SAVED

1. Some have allowed Satan to snatch the word out of their hearts (Matt. 13:19; Lk. 8:12).

2. Some, not having the love of the truth, have been deceived (II Thess. 2:10-12).

3. Some love sin (Jno. 3:19).

4. Some love the praise of men more than the praise of God (Jno. 12:42,43).

5. Some follow parents (ancestor religion) instead of Jesus (Matt. 10:37,38).

6. Some trust in morality to save (Rom. 1:16; Eph. 5:23).

7. Some are filled with prejudice (Matt. 13:15; Acts 7:51-59).

8. Some neglect (Heb. 2:3).

9. Some have fallen away (II Pet. 2:20-22).

BIBLE ARITHMETIC

1. Addition. (1) Bible plus man's doctrine equals condemnation (Rev. 22:18; Deut. 4:2; I Cor. 4:6). (2) Belief plus baptism equals salvation (Mk. 16:16). (3) Repentance plus baptism equals salvation (Acts 2:38). One plus one equals two. One minus one equals nothing. Therefore, repentance minus baptism equals nothing. (4) Faith plus virtue plus knowledge plus temperance plus patience plus godliness plus brotherly kindness plus love equals fruitfulness (II Pet. 1:5-9).

2. Subtraction. (1) Bible minus part equals condemnation (Rev. 22:19). (2) Body minus hand which offends equals no offense (Matt. 18:8,9). (3) Church minus disorderly brethren equals purity (II Thess. 3:6; Matt. 18:17).

3. Multiplication. (1) Disciples times disciples equals growth (Acts 6:1).

4. Division. (1) Bible divided by study equals proper understanding (II Tim. 2:15). (2) House divided against self equals collapse (Matt. 12:25). (3) Religious world divided by men equals division, strife and confusion (I Cor. 1:10-13).

RECONCILED TO GOD

Eph. 2:16

1. Man sinned against God and became estranged and alienated from God (Isa. 59:2; Rom. 3:23).

2. Man needs to be reconciled to God (II Cor. 5:20). Man is to be reconciled to God, for he has done the sinning.

3. This reconciliation takes place in the one body

(Eph. 2:16). The one body is the one church (Eph. 1:22, 23; Col. 1:18; Matt. 16:18).

4. Reconciled in the one body by the cross (Eph. 2:16)
 (1) Reconciled by the grace of God, for the cross signifies God's grace (Tit. 2:11). (2) Reconciled by the death of Christ, for the cross symbolizes his death (Rom. 5:10). (3) Reconciled by the preaching of the cross (I Cor. 1:18).

DRAWING NEAR TO GOD

Heb. 10:22

1. "With a true heart." (1) Lip service will not suffice (Matt. 15:8). (2) Out of the heart are the issues of life (Prov. 4:23). (3) Approach God with a true rather than a false heart.

2. "In full assurance of faith." Heb. 11:6; Gal. 2:20; 5:6; Jas. 1:6.

3. "Having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience." (1) Conscience will not condemn if man thinks he is doing right, even though it is wrong; and for this reason Paul's conscience did not condemn when he persecuted Christians (I Cor. 15:9; Acts 23:1). (2) It is our belief that we have obeyed God and have made things right with him that relieves an evil conscience.

4. Having "our bodies washed with pure water." This is baptism (I Pet. 3:20,21; Acts 22:16; Jno. 3:23; Acts 8:36-39).

THREE STEPS TO HEAVEN

1. Out of self. (1) In stepping out of self one must deny self (Matt. 16:24), give up self (II Cor. 8:5), put off the old man (Col. 3:9,10), and forsake all (Matt. 19:27). (2) He who steps out of self no longer trusts in

self (Prov. 3:5,6), looks to self (Jer. 10:23), wishes to glorify self (Matt. 5:16), nor seeks first the welfare of self (Matt. 6:33). (3) Many have not been converted, because they have not been willing to take this step: rich young ruler (Matt. 19:22), chief priests (Jno. 11:47,48), Felix (Acts 24:25), and Agrippa (Acts 26:28).

2. Into Christ. (1) Things in Christ: new creatures (II Cor. 5:17), triumph (II Cor. 2:14), no condemnation (Rom. 8:1), and all spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3). (2) We are baptized into Christ (Rom. 6:3,4), but are not ready for baptism until we have been taught (Matt. 28:19), believe (Mk. 16:16), and have repented (Acts 2:38).

3. Into glory. (1) Must die or be transformed to reach heaven, because flesh and blood cannot inherit it (I Cor. 15:50). Die in Christ (Rev. 14:13). (2) Must also go through the judgment to reach heaven (Rom. 14:10, 12; Matt. 25). The righteous shall go into everlasting life (Matt. 25:46).

THE RICH YOUNG RULER

Matt. 19:16-22

1. "What good thing?" (ver. 16). He thought he could do some great thing and inherit eternal life, but man must do many things.

2. "Eternal life" (ver. 16). (1) We have eternal life in promise (I Jno. 2:25). (2) Eternal life in its actuality is to be received in the world to come (Mk. 10:30).

3. Jesus while living in the flesh refused the title of "Good" (ver. 17). This is in contrast with the high-sounding titles worn by many ministers: Reverend, Father, etc.

4. "If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" (ver. 17). (1) Was living under the Mosaical

law and was instructed to attain life by keeping it. (2) Law lasted until Christ nailed it to the cross (Col. 2:14). (3) After the death of Christ a new law was given (Heb. 9:16,17).

5. "What lack I yet?" (ver. 20). (1) Had kept from his youth up the commandments named by Jesus (ver. 18,19), but knew there was something lacking. (2) May do much and yet lack much. (3) Many in the church lack some things: liberality, work, zeal, and loyalty to the church and to the truth.

6. Jesus saw what he lacked (ver. 21). (1) Not a general command, but a special one in this needed case. (2) Had an idol in his heart; his god was riches.

7. "Went away sorrowful" (ver. 22). (1) Proof that Jesus saw what he needed and gave him the right advice. (2) Had a struggle between Christ and riches and lost.

WHOM CAN YOU BLAME IF YOU ARE LOST?

1. Not God. (1) God gave his Son (Jno. 3:16). (2) Would that all men might be saved (I Tim. 2:3,4). (3) Gave the gospel to save (Rom. 1:16).

2. Not Christ. (1) Died for all (Heb. 2:9). (2) Invites all (Matt. 11:28-30). (3) Does not want men to perish, but to come to repentance (II Pet. 3:9).

3. Not Holy Spirit. (1) Guided men into giving us the Bible (II Pet. 1:21), which meets our needs (II Tim. 3:16,17). (2) Invites (Rev. 22:17).

4. Yourself. (1) Man must save himself (Acts 2:40). (2) Man must work out his own salvation (Phil. 2:12). (3) It is true that man may be deceived and misled by others, but he allows this to happen.

“WHAT DOTH HINDER ME TO BE BAPTIZED?”

1. Lack of faith (Mk. 16:16; Acts 8:37).
2. Lack of repentance (Acts 2:38).
3. Lack of understanding as to the design of baptism (Acts 2:38; 22:16).
4. Lack of understanding as to the act of baptism (Acts 8:38,39; Rom. 6:3,4; Eph. 4:5).
5. Lack of understanding as to who should be baptized: infants? or believing penitents? (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38).
6. A rejection of the counsel of God (Lk. 7:30).
7. Procrastination (Acts 24:25).

WHO IS A CHRISTIAN?

1. In pursuit, a Christian is a follower of Christ (Matt. 16:24; I Pet. 2:21).
2. In knowledge, a Christian is a disciple or learner (Acts 11:26).
3. In faith, a Christian is a believer (I Tim. 4:12).
4. In character, a Christian is a saint (I Cor. 1:1,2).
5. In connection and relationship, a Christian is a branch in the vine (Jno. 15:1-6).
6. In transformation, a Christian is a new creature (II Cor. 5:17).
7. In illumination, a Christian is light (Matt. 5:14-16).
8. In influence, a Christian is leaven (Matt. 13:33).
9. In labor, a Christian is a sower (Matt. 13:3).
10. In combat, a Christian is a soldier (II Tim. 2:3; Eph. 6:11-17).
11. In alertness, a Christian is a watchman (Matt. 26:41; II Tim. 4:5).

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE IDEAL CHRISTIAN

Romans 12

1. Sacrifices (ver. 1).
2. Not like the world, but different from the world (ver. 2). I Jno. 2:15-17; Jas. 4:4.
3. Humble (ver. 3). Lk. 14:11.
4. Recognizes his being a part of the whole body and that he must do his part (ver. 4-8). I Cor. 12:14-31.
5. Loves without hypocrisy (ver. 9). Matt. 22:37-39.
6. Abhors the evil; cleaves to the good (ver. 9). Amos 5:15.
7. Has brotherly love (ver. 10). I Pet. 2:17.
8. Prefers the brethren (ver. 10). Gal. 6:10.
9. Industrious and energetic in business (ver. 11). II Thess. 3:10.
10. Fervent in spirit (ver. 11). Rev. 3:15,16.
11. Serves the Lord (ver. 11). Matt. 4:10.
12. Rejoices in hope (ver. 12). Phil. 4:4.
13. Patient or steadfast in tribulation (ver. 12). Matt. 13:20,21.
14. Benevolent (ver. 13). Jas. 1:27.
15. Hospitable (ver. 13). I Pet. 4:9.
16. Returns good for evil (ver. 14, 17, 20, 21). Matt. 5:38,39.
17. Compassionate (ver. 15). Col. 3:12.
18. Has the same mind toward all Christians regardless of their positions in life (ver. 16). Jas. 2:1-4.
19. Honest (ver. 17). Rom. 13:13.
20. Endeavors to live peaceably with all men (ver. 18). Rom. 14:19.

THE CHRISTIAN'S PLATFORM
Eph. 4:1-6

1. One God.
2. One Lord.
3. One Spirit.
4. One body.
5. One faith.
6. One baptism.

7. One hope. May have the one hope because of what has been done for us by the one God, one Lord and one Spirit, and because of what we have done for ourselves by embracing the one faith, by obeying the one baptism, and by being added to the one body. This is where the Christian stands.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
I Thess. 1:9,10

1. A changed life—"Ye turned to God from idols."
(1) Many kinds of idols: pleasure (I Cor. 10:7), mammon (Col. 3:5), etc. (2) Must be converted or turn again to be saved (Acts 3:19; Matt. 18:3). (3) Put off the old man, and put on the new man (Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:8-14). (4) "Old things are passed away. . ." (II Cor. 5:17). (5) Rom. 12:2.

2. A serving life—"To serve the living and true God."
(1) Character of service: "work of faith"; "labor of love"; "patience of hope"; "in the Lord Jesus Christ"; and "in the sight of God" (I Thess. 1:3). (2) Servants (Rom. 1:1; II Pet. 1:1; Jude 1). A servant's duty, is to serve rather than just refrain from doing evil. (3) Must also serve man to serve the Lord (Matt. 25:35-

46). (4) Greatness in the kingdom is dependent upon service (Matt. 20:26,27).

3. A waiting life—"To wait for his Son from heaven."

(1) Jesus said that he would come again (Jno. 14:1-3); they believed it and were waiting for him. (2) A glorious appearing (Tit. 2:13). (3) Time of his coming is uncertain (Matt. 24:36). (4) Should live in a constant state of waiting and watchfulness (Matt. 24:42).

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN

1. It means that we should follow Christ as sheep follow their shepherd, because he is the shepherd and we are the sheep (Jno. 10).

2. It means that we should obey Christ and be loyal to him as citizens of the kingdom, because Christ is the king and we are the citizens (Acts 2:29-35; Col. 1:13; Eph. 2:19).

3. It means that we should bear fruit for Christ as branches in the vine, because Christ is the vine and we are the branches (Jno. 15:1-6).

4. It means that we should cooperate and function as members of the body, because Christ is the head of the body and we are members (I Cor. 12:14-27).

5. It means that we should shine as lights in the world, because Christ is the light of the world (Jno. 8:12; Phil. 2:15).

6. It means that we should fight and endure hardness as soldiers, because Christ is the captain and we are the soldiers (Heb. 2:10; II Tim. 2:3; Eph. 6:14-17).

REASONS FOR BEING A CHRISTIAN

1. One's past (Rom. 3:23; 6:23).

2. One's present. We only have the promise of this

present time (Jas. 4:13-15). One's life should now be enriched with joy (Acts 8:39; 16:34), peace of heart (Phil. 4:7), and by God's promises (II Pet. 1:4).

3. One's future (Mk. 8:36,37; Rev. 20:12; I Pet. 4:17,18; Matt. 25:31-46; Rev. 21).

REASONS WHY SOME ARE NOT CHRISTIANS

1. Are not conscious of their lost state, and consequently feel no danger of being eternally lost. Such are not alarmed. Rom. 3:23; I Jno. 1:10; Jno. 8:21.

2. See no need in obeying the gospel, in being born again. Rom. 1:16; II Thess. 1:8,9; Jno. 3:3-5.

3. The mind is unsettled about the truths of the Bible. Secret skepticism. But the Scriptures have been given by inspiration (II Tim. 3:16,17).

4. The feeling that they cannot hold out, so there is no need to try. I Cor. 10:13.

5. Evil influences of some professed Christians. Matt. 18:6; I Cor. 9:12. Should be the light of the world and the salt of the earth.

6. Love of the world—love for this world's goods, or pleasures, or honors. I Jno. 2:15-17; Jno. 12:42,43; II Tim. 3:4.

"ALMOST THOU PERSUADEST ME TO BE A CHRISTIAN"

Acts 26:27,28

1. "Almost" vs. faith only.
2. "Thou" (a man) vs. a direct operation of the Holy Spirit.
3. "Persuadest me" vs. persuade God.
4. "To be" (to do) vs. to get religion.
5. "A Christian" vs. nothing in a name.

THE COST OF CHRISTIANITY

1. Cost God his Son (Jno. 3:16; Rom. 5:8).
2. Cost Jesus his life (Heb. 2:9; I Pet. 2:24).
3. Costs man: forsaking of all (Lk. 14:26; Matt. 19:29); self denial (Matt. 16:24; 6:24); a life of sacrifice (Rom. 12:1); a life of work (Phil. 2:12); a life of teaching (II Tim. 2:2); a life of suffering (II Tim. 3:12); and a life of seeking the kingdom first (Matt. 6:33).

CHRISTIANITY EXEMPLIFIED

Jas. 1:19-27

1. Self-control. "Swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath." "Bridleth . . . his tongue." Acts 24:25; Gal. 5:22,23; II Pet. 1:6.
2. Purity. "Lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness." I Tim. 4:12; 5:22; Phil. 4:8.
3. Reception. "Receive . . . the engrafted word." Matt. 13:23; I Thess. 2:13; Prov. 2:1-5.
4. Meekness. "Receive with meekness." Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:12; I Pet. 3:4.
5. Obedience. "Be ye doers of the word." Jas. 2:18; Matt. 7:21-27; Heb. 5:9.
6. Compassion and charity. "Visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction." Eph. 4:28; Acts 6:1; Matt. 10:42.
7. Unspottedness. "Keep himself unspotted." Eph. 5:27; I Tim. 6:14; II Pet. 3:14.

CHRISTIANITY A TEACHING RELIGION

1. Teaching precedes conversion (Matt. 13:15).
 (1) Examples found in Acts. (2) No new birth apart from teaching (I Pet. 1:23). (3) No gospel fruit apart from sowing the seed (Matt. 13:3-8, 18-23).

2. Teach all ages, races and classes (Matt. 28:19,20; Mk. 16:15,16). The children are especially teachable, because their minds are plastic (Deut. 11:18;19; Eph. 6:4).

3. The church is a great teaching institution. (1) Pillar and ground of the truth (I Tim. 3:15). (2) Candlestick (Rev. 1:20; 2:5). (3) Every member should be a teacher (Heb. 5:12).

4. Teaching program is two-fold. (1) Teach people to become Christians and (2) to live the Christian life (Matt. 28:19,20).

UNCONSCIOUS ENEMIES OF CHRISTIANITY

Phil. 3:18

1. Denominationalists. (1) Denominationalism mocks the prayer of Christ and encourages infidelity (Jno. 17:20, 21). (2) Repudiates the passages on unity (I Cor. 1:10-13).

2. Moralists. (1) Discourage obedience to the gospel which is necessary (II Thess. 1:8,9). (2) Discourage church membership which is essential (Eph. 5:23).

3. Modernists. Destroy confidence in the Bible and in the Christ as the Son of God.

4. Some who enjoy the fellowship of the church. (1) Lukewarm (Rev. 3:15,16). (2) Worldly (Jas. 4:4). (3) Those who misbehave in the worship (I Cor. 14:40; Jno. 4:24). (4) Those who fail to give. (5) Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God (II Tim. 3:1-5). (6) Those who stand in the way of progress. (7) Compromisers (II Jno. 9-11). (6) Promoters of factions and divisions (Rom. 16:17).

THE PROGRESSIVENESS OF SIN

1. In Joseph's brethren (Gen. 37). Hate; could not

speak peaceably to him; envy; conspiracy; cast him into a pit; sold him into slavery; deceived their father; lied to their father.

2. In the life of David (II Sam. 11). First, idleness; second, lust; third, fornication; fourth, treachery; fifth, virtual murder.

3. Psalm 1. First, walk in the counsel of the wicked; second, stand in the way of sinners; third, sit in the seat of the scoffers.

4. In the life of Peter (Matt. 26:58-75). First, followed the Lord afar off; second, denied the Lord and lied; third, denied with an oath; fourth, cursed and swore.

5. In its opposition to the church. First, threatened them (Acts 4:17); second, put them in prison (Acts 5:18); third, beat them (Acts 5:40); fourth, murder (Acts 7:59).

6. Jas. 1:14,15.

7. II Tim. 4:3,4. Steps in apostasy: (1) Will not endure—an attitude. (2) Heaping of the teachers—have only the teachers who teach what they want taught and do not teach what they do not want taught. (3) Turn away their ears from the truth—will not have it. (4) Be turned unto fables—out; gone.

COVERING SINS

1. Two ways to cover sins. (1) Wrong way (Prov. 28:13). (2) Right way (Psa. 85:2).

2. The wrong way. (1) Adam and Eve tried to cover their sins by hiding among the trees (Gen. 3:8). (2) Adam tried to blame his sin on his wife (Gen. 3:12). (3) Eve blamed her sin on the serpent (Gen. 3:13). (4) Aaron first tried to shift his sin over to the people; next, to the fire (Ex. 32:22-24). (5) Achan tried to hide his sin under

his household stuff (Josh. 7:1; 6:18,19; 7:11,21). (6) Pharisees tried to cover their sins by appearing righteous unto men (Matt. 23:5,14, 25-28). (7) Some tried to cover their sins by persecuting the man who preached against them (Acts 7:51-60). (8) Sarah attempted to cover her sin by lying (Gen. 18:10-15). (9) Some try to persuade themselves that time has covered their sins, but time means nothing to the Lord (II Pet. 3:8).

3. The right way. (1) Receive forgiveness (Psa. 85:2). (2) Law of pardon to aliens (Acts 2:37,38; 9:6; 22:16; 16:30-33). (3) Law of pardon to erring Christians (Acts 8:18-24).

“BUT HE WAS A LEPER”

II Kings 5:1-14

1. A great and honorable man, but a leper. (1) There is the moral man, but a sinner. (2) Morality will no more save you from sin than fame and greatness would save you from leprosy.

2. Naaman was told to dip in Jordan seven times and he would be clean. (1) This promise was conditional. (2) The promise of salvation is also conditional (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).

3. Naaman went away angry. (1) People often go away angry when told what the Lord wants them to do. (2) Becoming angry will not alter the truth. You cannot change your weight by smashing the scales.

4. Naaman said, “I thought.” (1) This is what is wrong with the religious world—too many are guided by opinions. (2) Should walk by faith (II Cor. 5:17).

5. Naaman expected to have his leprosy prayed away. Many want their alien sins prayed away, but this is not the law of pardon to aliens.

6. Naaman wanted to substitute—wondered why Abana and Pharpar were not as good as Jordan. Some today wish to substitute the human for the divine.

7. Naaman had to obey God to be healed. We have to obey God to be saved (Matt. 7:21-23; Rev. 22:14).

GOD'S GRACE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Tit. 2:11-14

1. Past—what God's grace has done. (1) Has brought salvation (Tit. 2:11,14). Through the Son (Tit. 2:14; Eph. 2:7; 1:7). Son has proclaimed the salvation (Heb. 2:3; 5:8,9). (2) Grace saves through blood (Eph. 1:7), by faith (Eph. 2:8), when accepted (II Cor. 6:1).

2. Present—life to be lived (Tit. 2:12). (1) Negative: "Denying ungodliness and worldly lusts." (2) Positive: "Live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world."

3. Future—things to which we look forward. (1) "Looking for that blessed hope." Expecting the great object of our hope, eternal life. I Cor. 15:19; Heb. 6:19. (2) "And the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." Matt. 24:36; II Pet. 3:10; I Thess. 4:16-18.

SAVED BY GRACE

Eph. 2:7-9

1. God manifested his grace in the gift of Christ (Eph. 2:7) and in the gift of the gospel or in the revelation of the plan of salvation (Tit. 2:11).

2. How saved by grace. (1) By a plan that can be taught (Tit. 2:11). (2) By blood (Eph. 1:7). Blood was shed for all (Heb. 2:9), but all will not be saved (Matt. 7:13,14); hence, man must do something to reach the blood.

3. By faith (Eph. 2:8). Faith saves when faith obeys. Walls fell by faith, but not until the people obeyed (Heb. 11:30).

4. "Not of works, lest any man should boast."
(1) Man cannot save himself by his own works, but he must work according to God's plan to be saved (Phil. 2:12; Jas. 2:24,26). (2) Noah was saved by grace (Gen. 6:8), by faith (Heb. 11:7) and by obedience—"prepared an ark" (Heb. 11:7). This is the way God's grace saves today.

5. God's grace is extended to all (Tit. 2:11) and it can be received in vain (II Cor. 6:1).

AUTHORITY IN RELIGION

1. Must have standards and authorities in all the affairs of life; otherwise chaos would fill the earth. Religion is no exception.

2. Shall the religion of our fathers be accepted as the standard? No! (1) Our parents were not agreed. Each person traced back seven generations has 128 parents, and they surely differed in religion. (2) Paul had to give up the religion of his ancestors (Gal. 1:14).

3. Shall we accept the conscience as the guide? (1) If so, then we have as many standards as we have individuals. Most of the religious people are conscientious, but are disagreed. (2) Many heathens are conscientious, but are wrong. (3) Paul was conscientious when persecuting the Christians (Acts 23:1).

4. Shall we follow the decisions of the majority?
(1) "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil" (Ex. 23:2). (2) The majority will be lost (Matt. 7:13,14).

5. Shall we accept church councils and leaders? No!
(1) They contradict each other, and oftentimes different

councils within the same body contradict and embarrass themselves. (2) Man is not able to direct his steps (Jer. 10:23).

6. Shall we accept the Bible as the standard of authority? Yes! Why? (1) Is the word of God (II Pet. 1:21). (2) Furnishes us unto every good work (II Tim. 3:16,17). (3) Will be judged by it (Rev. 20:12).

CONTROVERSIES TRIED

Deut. 21:5

1. Under the Mosaical dispensation controversies were tried by the word of the Levitical priesthood (Deut. 21:5).

2. There are today many controversies in the religious world, and they should be tried by the word of Christ and his apostles (Heb. 1:1,2; Matt. 17:1-5; Jno. 14:26).

3. What is the scriptural act of baptism?

4. Who are the scriptural subjects of baptism?

5. Is one church as good as another?

6. Will faith only save?

7. Is baptism essential to salvation?

8. Is there anything in a name?

9. How often should Christians take the Lord's supper?

10. What kind of music does the New Testament authorize in Christian worship? Vocal or instrumental? Or both?

11. Can a child of God so sin as to be eternally lost?

12. These and all other controversies should be tried by the Scriptures.

VITAL RELATIONSHIPS TO TRUTH

1. Rightly divide it (II Tim. 2:15).

2. Know it (Jno. 8:32).

3. Love it (II Thess. 2:10).
4. Believe it (II Thess. 2:12).
5. Obey it (I Pet. 1:22).
6. Help it (III Jno. 8).

WRONG RELATIONSHIPS TO TRUTH

1. Hold the truth in unrighteousness (Rom. 1:18).
2. Change the truth into a lie (Rom. 1:25).
3. Resist truth (II Tim. 3:8).
4. Turn away ears from truth (II Tim. 4:4).
5. Speak evil of truth (II Pet. 2:2).
6. Hinder others that they obey not the truth (Gal. 5:7).

CHRIST'S PRAYER OF EXAMPLE

Matt. 6:9-13

1. This is not the Lord's prayer but a model prayer he taught the disciples.

2. "Hallowed be thy name." (1) Hallowed in his name that it may be universally revered. (2) May hallow God's name with lips (Psa. 19:14) and by doing works to his glory (Matt. 5:16). Takes more than lip service (Matt. 15:8).

3. "Thy kingdom come." (1) The kingdom had not come at this time (Matt. 16:18,19; Mk. 9:1). (2) Is now established (Col. 1:13; Heb. 12:28).

4. "Thy will be done." (1) Jesus exemplified this lesson in his own life (Lk. 22:42; Jno. 5:30). (2) Many people want their own will.

5. "Give us this day our daily bread." (1) Necessities, not luxuries. (2) Recognizes God as the giver of life's blessings (Matt. 6:25-30,33).

6. "Forgive us our debts." (1) To be prayed by the children of God, not aliens.

7. "Lead us not into temptation." (1) Permit us to enter into temptation only so far as to come off in victory (I Cor. 10:13).

CHRIST'S PRAYER AT THE RESURRECTION OF LAZARUS

Jno. 11:41,42

1. Introductory thoughts. (1) This death was for the purpose of a resurrection. Christ would be glorified by manifesting more clearly his power over death (Jno. 11:4). (2) Death is spoken of in a very beautiful way as sleep (Jno. 11:11; I Thess. 4:13-18). (3) The tenderness and sympathy of Jesus was manifested (Jno. 11:35).

2. "I thank thee that thou hast heard me." (1) Our God hears prayer (I Pet. 3:12; I Jno. 3:22). (2) Jesus thanked God. Are we grateful?

3. "And I knew that thou hearest me always." (1) Shows the faith Jesus had. (2) Must pray in faith (Jas. 1:6,7).

4. "That they may believe that thou hast sent me." (1) Jesus performed miracles to establish the claim that he was the Son of God (Jno. 3:2). (2) Such have been recorded that we might believe (Jno. 20:30,31).

5. Jesus addressed God in prayer before performing the miracle that the people might realize the close union between him and God, that they might not attribute it to some trick.

6. The result. (1) Many believed (Jno. 11:45). (2) Some did not (Jno. 11:46). They had the same opportunities, and some believed while others disbelieved. The same is true today.

CHRIST'S PRAYER IN WHICH HE EXPLAINS HIS COMING
Jno. 12:27,28

1. "Now is my soul troubled." Clothed in human flesh which suffers, he was troubled at the prospect of a violent death.

2. "For this cause came I unto this hour." (1) "This hour," the hour of the cross. (2) Shows that he came to die (Lk. 24:46; Rom. 5:16-19). (3) Came to die that man may have propitiation of sins (I Jno. 1:2), redemption (Eph. 1:7), and reconciliation (Eph. 2:16). (4) Christ also came for a number of other reasons, for instance: fulfil prophecy, be the mediator of a better covenant (Heb. 8:6-10; 10:9) and leave us an example (I Pet. 2:21).

3. "Father, glorify thy name." Glorify thyself in all thy attributes—love, mercy, holiness, justice and truth—which were more abundantly glorified by Christ's death and resurrection.

4. God's answer: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again." (1) God had glorified his name in the Son by words of commendation at the Saviour's baptism (Matt. 3:17), at the transfiguration (Matt. 17:5) and by the performance of miracles (Jno. 11:40). (2) He would glorify it again in the death, resurrection and ascension of Christ, in the universal spreading of the gospel, and in making him head over all things to the church.

CHRIST'S PRAYER IN JNO. 17

1. Address. "Father," "O Father," "Holy Father," "O righteous Father." The interpretation Jesus gives us of God is that of "Father."

2. Circumstances. "The hour is come," the hour of the cross.

3. Prayed for disciples. (1) "Keep them through thy own name that they may be one" (ver. 11). (2) Kept them—none lost but Judas (ver. 12; Jno. 13:27; Acts 1:25). (3) World hated them (ver. 14; Jas. 4:4). (4) Should be separated but not segregated from the world (ver. 15). (5) Set apart in the truth (ver. 17).

4. Makes mention of himself. (1) The only request for himself (ver. 1). (2) Given authority over all flesh (ver. 2; Matt. 28:18-20). (3) Give eternal life (ver. 2). (4) "I have glorified thee on the earth" (ver. 4; Jno. 3:2). (5) "I have finished the work . . ." (ver. 4; Jno. 5:30). (6) Had glory with God before creation (ver. 5; Jno. 1:1).

5. Prayed for all future believers (Jno. 17:20-23). (1) Believe through word (ver. 20; Rom. 10:17). (2) May be one (ver. 21; Eph. 4:4,5). (3) Unity promotes faith (ver. 21); hence, division promotes infidelity.

CHRIST'S PRAYER FOR SINNERS

Lk. 23:34

1. When God establishes a law with which man may comply and receive a blessing, it is an abomination to ask for the blessing in disobedience to the law (Prov. 28:9).

2. God has a law of pardon to aliens; hence, it is an abomination to ask that they be saved independent of the law.

3. Christ did not pray, "Forgive them now, right now."

4. When God forgives sin he does not bring it up again (Heb. 10:17). Fifty days after the prayer, Peter

charges them with this sin (Acts 2:36). Thus, at this time Christ's prayer was unanswered.

5. They heard the gospel, believed and obeyed, and were forgiven (Acts 2:36-41). Christ could then rejoice that his prayer was answered.

PAUL'S PRAYER FOR THE PHILIPPIANS

Phil. 1:9-11

1. "I pray." (1) Prayer is a natural thing. (2) It is the fruit of faith.

2. "That your love may abound more and more." (1) Love may grow or wane. (2) To increase, it must be cultivated. (3) "In knowledge and in all judgment." Importance of knowledge (Rom. 10:2; II Pet. 1:5).

3. "That ye may approve things that are excellent." Must discern between right and wrong (Rom. 12:9; I Thess. 5:22).

4. "Be sincere." (1) Derived from two Latin words "sine" and "cera," which mean without wax, pure honey, without mixture. (2) Opposed to double-mindedness (Jas. 1:8).

5. "Without offense." (1) Be not a stumbling block (Rom. 14:13). (2) Mark the ones who cause offenses (Rom. 16:17).

6. "Being filled with the fruits of righteousness." (1) Filled, an abundance of it. (2) Fruits of righteousness, fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22,23).

"YE KNOW NOT WHAT YE ASK"

Matt. 20:20-22

1. Some ask for the kingdom to come when it has come (Mk. 9:1; Matt. 16:18,19; Acts 2:47; Col. 1:13).

2. Some ask for the baptism of the Holy Spirit when

this was a promise that has been fulfilled (Lk. 24:46-59; Acts 1:4,5; 2:1-4). Also came to Cornelius and household to demonstrate that the Gentiles were to have the gospel preached to them (Acts 10:44-48; 11:15-18).

3. Some ask for baptism in fire when this is a promise yet to be fulfilled (Matt. 3:11). Twelfth verse explains it.

4. Some ask God to perform miracles when such was done away with at the completion of the perfect law of liberty (I Cor. 13:8-10; Jas. 1:25).

5. Some ask for alien sinners to be forgiven in disobedience to the law of pardon (Prov. 28:9). The law requires faith, repentance, a confession of faith, and baptism.

6. Some ask God to bless man in following the faith of his choice in the church of his choice when there is but one faith (Eph. 4:5) and one church authorized in the Bible (Eph. 4:4; 1:22,23; Matt. 16:18).

THINGS WHICH KEEP PRAYER FROM BEING ANSWERED

1. Disbelief (Jas. 1:6,7; Matt. 21:22).
2. Disobedience (I Jno. 3:22).
3. Worldliness (Isa. 59:2, I Pet. 3:12).
4. Selfishness (Jas. 4:3).
5. An unforgiving spirit (Matt. 6:14,15).
6. Things not in harmony with the Father's will (I Jno. 3:22).
7. God witholds the things which do not work to our good (Rom. 8:28).

SCRIPTURAL PLAN OF GIVING

1. Weekly (I Cor. 16:2).
2. Willingly (II Cor. 8:12).
3. Purposely (II Cor. 9:7).
4. Proportionately (I Cor. 16:2).

5. Liberally (Rom. 12:8).
6. Sacrificially (Rom. 12:1).

LAYING BY IN STORE

I Cor. 16:2

1. When? "Upon the first day of the week."
2. Who? "Let everyone of you."
3. What? "Lay by him in store."
4. How much? "As God hath prospered him."
5. Why? "That there be no gatherings when I come!"

THE MACEDONIANS' GIVING

II Cor. 8:1-5

1. In deep poverty abounded unto liberality (ver. 2).
2. Their willingness to give exceeded their power to give (ver. 3).
3. They entreated the apostle that they be allowed to give (ver. 4).
4. First gave their own selves (ver. 5).

EXAMPLES OF GIVING

1. Abram gave tithes (Gen. 14:17-20).
2. Jacob promised to give tithes (Gen. 28:22).
3. God gave his Son (Jno. 3:16).
4. Christ gave his life (Jno. 10:17,18; II Cor. 8:9).
5. Poor widow cast in all her living (Mk. 12:41-44).
6. Jerusalem Christians gave their possessions and goods (Acts 2:45).
7. Barnabas sold his land and gave the price of it (Acts 4:36,37).
8. Ananias and Sapphira lied about their giving and God smote them (Acts 5:1-11).
9. The Macedonians first gave themselves (II Cor. 8:5).

10. Many of the early members gave incomes, homes and life itself (Acts 8:1).

STEWARDSHIP

1. The meaning of stewardship. A steward is a trusted servant to whom the master has delegated responsibility in helping to promote his affairs.

2. Where there is stewardship, there is also ownership. We are God's (I Cor. 6:19, 20). (1) We are God's by creation (Gen. 1:26). (2) We are God's by right of redemption (Jno. 3:16; Eph. 1:7). (3) We are God's by his providential provisions for us (Acts 14:17; 17:25,28; Psa. 24:1; Matt. 6:26-30).

3. All time, abilities, and resources have been entrusted to us by the Lord to be employed in his service. (1) Time (Job 1:21; Jas. 4:13,14). (2) Abilities (Deut. 8:18; Matt. 25:14,15; Jas. 1:17). (3) Resources (I Tim. 6:7). The rich fool said, "My fruits and my goods." God said, "Then whose shall those things be. . ?" (Lk. 12:16-20).

4. Stewardship involves: (1) Faithfulness (I Cor 4:2). (2) Obedience or the taking of orders (Deut. 10:12, 13; 11:26-28; Matt. 7:21-23). (3) The priority of God's claims upon us over our obligations to family, friends, and state (Matt. 10:37-39; Lk. 5:10,11; Acts 4:18-20).

LOVE ANALYZED

I Cor. 13

1. "Suffereth long." Passive and patient with the weaknesses of others.

2. "Kind." Active. Sympathy in action.

3. "Envieth not." This is love in competition; not grieved at the success of another.

4. "Vaunteth not itself." Does not put itself forward to be noticed.
5. "Is not puffed up." Humble.
6. "Doth not behave unseemly." Has good manners.
7. "Seeketh not her own." Is not selfish.
8. "Is not provoked." Is mild in temper.
9. "Taket h no account of evil." Thinks the best of people.
10. "Rejoiceth not in unrighteousness, but rejoiceth with the truth." Rejoices only over the best.
11. "Beareth all things." Perseveres.
12. "Believeth all things." Believes the best.
13. "Hopeth all things." Is optimistic.
14. "Endureth all things." Love's behavior under persecution.
15. "Never faileth." This is love summed up.

RIGHTLY DIRECTED LOVE

1. Lord's testimonies (Psa. 119:119).
2. Lord's commands (Psa. 119:127).
3. Lord's precepts (Psa. 119:159).
4. Truth (II Thess. 2:10-12).
5. God (Matt. 22:37).
6. Neighbor (Matt. 22:39).
7. Companion (Eph. 5:25; Tit. 2:4).
8. Brotherhood (I Pet. 2:17; I Jno. 3:14).
9. Enemy (Matt. 5:43-47).

MISDIRECTED LOVE

1. Darkness (Jno. 3:19,20).
2. The world (I Jno. 2:15-17; Jas. 4:4; II Tim. 4:10).
3. Money (I Tim. 6:9, 10).

4. Pleasures (II Tim. 3:4; I Tim. 5:6).
5. Human praise (Jno. 12:42, 43; Matt. 23:5-7).
6. Preeminence (III Jno. 9).
7. Self (II Tim. 3:2; Rom. 12:3).

JOHN 3:16

1. "God so loved the world." Rom 5:8. Gethsemane and the crucifixion surely exemplify this great love.

2. "That he gave his only begotten Son." (1) Love always sacrifices. (2) Christ died for all (Heb. 2:9; Matt. 26:28). (3) Saved by his blood (Eph. 1:7).

3. "That whosoever." God, Christ and the Holy Spirit invite man, and it is "whosoever will" (I Tim. 2:3, 4; Matt. 11:28-30; Rev. 22:17).

4. "Believeth in him." (1) Other passages which show the necessity of faith (Rom. 5:1; Acts 15:9; II Cor. 5:7; Gal. 2:20; Heb. 11:6; Acts 16:31; Rom. 14:23). (2) No passage says we are saved by faith only, and many passages teach that we are not (Jas. 2:17, 19, 24, 26; Jno. 12:42,43). (3) Faith saves when it obeys (Heb. 11:30,7).

5. "Should not perish, but have everlasting life." (1) Without this sacrifice man would have perished. (2) May now have everlasting life (II Cor. 5:1; Phil. 1:21).

DEATH

D—Departure (Gen. 35:18; Eccl. 12:7; Jas. 2:26).

E—Emancipation: freed of sorrow, disease, suffering, and death.

A—Award (I Cor. 15:54; Gal. 6:7,8).

T—Transportation: this is the means of getting there (I Cor. 15:50).

H—Heavenly home (Jno. 14:1-4; Rev. 21).

RESOLUTIONS

- R—Read (I Tim. 4:13).
E—Endure (II Tim. 4:5; Heb. 11:27).
S—Shine (Matt. 5:16).
O—Obey (Heb. 5:9; Phil. 2:12).
L—Love (Matt. 22:37-39).
U—Uphold (Phil. 1:20).
T—Teach (Matt. 28:19,20).
I—Increase (Prov. 1:5; II Cor. 9:10; I Thess. 4:9,10).
O—Observe (the first day of the week; Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:2).
N—Number (Psa. 90:12).
S—Serve (Matt. 4:10; Gal. 5:13).

WORSHIP

- W—Willingly (II Cor. 8:12).
O—Orderly (I Cor. 14:40).
R—Reverent (Heb. 12:28).
S—Sincere (Phil. 1:10).
H—Humble (I Pet. 5:5,6).
I—Individual (Rom. 14:12).
P—Pure (Jno. 4:23,24).

FORMS OF IDOLATRY

I Jno. 5:21

1. Image worship (Ex. 32:1-10; Deut. 5:7-9; 27:15; Acts 19:23-41).
2. Nature worship (Deut. 17:3; II Ki. 23:5).
3. Creature worship (Rom. 1:21-25).
4. Hero worship (Acts 12:21-23; 14:8-18).
5. Pleasure worship (Ex. 32:6; I Cor. 10:7; II Tim. 3:4).
6. Mammon worship (Col. 3:5; Matt. 6:19,20,24).

7. Self worship (Gen. 3:5; Phil. 3:19). The person who is trusting in morality to save is worshipping self and his own good deeds.

WATCH

Things to watch:

- W—Worship and work (Jno. 4:23,24 ;Phil. 2:12).
- A—Aims and actions (Phil. 3:13; Jas. 2:18).
- T—Time and tongue (Eph. 5:16; Jas. 3:2).
- C—Company and character (I Cor. 15:33; 15:10).
- H—Heart and home (Prov. 4:23, Isa. 39:4).

WATCHFULNESS

1. Exhortations to watchfulness (I Thess. 5:6; I Pet. 4:7).

2. Commanded (Mk. 13:37). (1) Watch at all times (Prov. 8:34). (2) Watch in all things (II Tim. 4:5). (3) A big command.

3. Watch against the incessant assaults of the devil (I Pet. 5:8). His devices (II Cor. 2:11). (1) A liar (Jno. 8:44). Lied to Eve (Gen. 3:4). (2) Perverts scripture (Matt. 4:6). (3) Transforms himself into an angel of light (II Cor. 11:14,15). (4) Has his synagogues (Rev 2:9).

4. Watch lest we enter into temptation (Matt. 26:41). We should meet temptation with scripture quotations as Jesus did (Matt. 4:1-11).

5. Watch to do good (Gal. 6:10). (1) Staying out of meanness will not suffice, because we must do good. (2) Being good is not sufficient, because we must do good.

6. Watch to strengthen the weak and dying Christians (Rev. 3:2). (1) Gal. 6:1. (2) What affects one affects all (I Cor. 12:26).

7. Watch for the uncertain time of Christ's coming

(Matt. 24:42; 25:13). (1) Do not know when Christ will come (Matt. 24: 36). (2) Parable of the virgins (Matt. 25:1-13).

8. Watch or guard the faith (I Cor. 16:13; I Tim. 6:20; Jude 3). (1) Acts 20:28-31. (2) Some made shipwreck of the faith (I Tim. 1:19,20). (3) The very churches founded by the apostles soon apostatized.

“WHY STAND YE HERE ALL THE DAY IDLE?”

Matt. 20:6

1. “No man hath hired us” (Matt. 20:7). Many are idle today, because they have not been hired or invited.

2. Some say, “If I could do a big work, I would,” but neglect to do the little things they can do. (1) He that is unjust in the least is unjust in much (Lk. 16:10). (2) Our responsibility is only proportionate to our talents (Matt. 25:14-30).

3. Others say, “I have lost interest.” (1) Are you interested in your own soul? in the souls of others? in the church? in the Lord’s work? (2) If you are interested in these, how can you say that you have lost interest?

4. Others say, “The Lord can’t use me in his work.” (1) Used two mites to teach a lesson on generosity (Mk. 12:41-44). (2) Used a stone, a sling, and a shepherd boy to overcome Goliath who had defied the army of God (I Sam. 17:38-50). (3) Used a man slow of speech to lead the Israelites (Ex. 4:10). (4) Christ used a donkey in his service (Matt. 21:1-3). (5) Used a boy’s lunch to feed the multitudes (Jno. 6:9). (6) Therefore, he can use you.

5. Reasons for working. (1) Show faith by works (Jas. 2:18). (2) Justified by works (Jas. 2:24). (3) The night cometh when no man can work (Jno. 9:4). (4) Will be judged according to works (Rev. 20:12).

DAILY RELIGION

1. Daily cross-bearing (Matt. 16:24). The cross is a symbol of duty, which is to be done daily. There can be no success in any endeavor without perseverance. How true with reference to matters pertaining to the soul! We should never slacken.

2. Daily study (Psa. 1, Acts 17:11). The soul requires daily food.

3. Daily prayer (Psa. 86:3; Matt. 6:11). Both our needs and blessings are daily; hence we need to pray daily.

4. Daily ministration (Acts 6:1). The needy must be cared for.

5. Daily teaching (Acts 5:42; 19:9). The salvation of others should be such a burden on our hearts that we would teach the Word daily.

6. Daily exhortation (Heb. 3:12,13). Each needs to be exhorted lest he should drift away from the things he has heard.

WORKERS TOGETHER WITH GOD

II Cor. 6:1

1. Should work (Jas. 2:14-26; Phil. 2:12). (1) Have a mind to work (Neh. 4:6). (2) Work now (Jno. 9:4). (3) Work with all our talents (Matt. 25:14-30). (4) Work hard (Eccl. 9:10).

2. Should work with God and not against him (II Cor. 6:1). (1) No neutrality (Matt. 12:30). (2) Teaching for doctrines the commandments of men is in vain (Matt. 15:9). (3) Human plants will be rooted up (Matt. 15:13,14). (4) Paul was once a worker against God (Acts 26:9; I Tim. 1:13).

3. Should work together (II Cor. 6:1). (1) Paul planted; Apollos watered; God gave the increase (I Cor. 3:6). (2) Joined together in the same mind (I Cor. 1:10). (3) Be of one accord, of one mind (Phil. 2:2). (4) A divided group shall not stand (Matt. 12:25).

“MEET FOR THE MASTER’S USE”

II Tim. 2:21

1. He who purges himself (II Tim. 2:21). (1) Means to cleanse, separate or cease communion with. II Cor. 6:17; Col. 2:21. (2) Moses could not be used of God until he separated himself from the Egyptians (Heb. 11:24-26). (3) Abraham had to leave his country (Heb. 11:8). (4) Israelites were separated from the nations round about them.

2. The one who loves God. (1) Full love is demanded (Matt. 22:37,38). (2) Peter was not prepared to feed the sheep or do anything else for the Lord unless he loved him (Jno. 21:15-17).

3. The person who places himself at God’s disposal. (1) Have this spirit, “Not my will, but thine be done” (Lk. 22:42). (2) This attitude, “Here am I; send me” (Isa. 6:8).

4. The man who makes preparation. (1) Some cannot be used, because they are not prepared. (2) Eph. 6:15. (3) Moses spent eighty years preparing for his work.

5. The man of prayer. (1) Great men of God have been strong and mighty in prayer. (2) Col. 4:2.

6. The student of the Word. This is our weapon (Eph. 6:17). If we do not believe it, know it, and know how to use it, we are rendered helpless.

PUTTING FIRST THINGS FIRST

1. "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" (Matt. 6:33).
2. "Cleanse first the inside of the cup" (Matt. 23:26).
3. "Cast out first the beam out of thine own eye" (Matt. 7:5).
4. "Learn first to show piety at home" (I Tim. 5:4).
5. "He findeth first his own brother and . . . brought him unto Jesus" (Jno. 1:41,42).
6. "First be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift" (Matt. 5:24).
7. "First they gave their own selves unto the Lord" (II Cor. 8:5).
8. God demanded the first of the firstfruits (Ex. 23:19).
9. First commandment, love God (Matt. 22:38).
10. First day of the week, give (I Cor. 16:2) and break bread (Acts 20:28).

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE GOSPEL?

1. Be not ashamed of it (Rom. 1:16).
2. Obey it (I Pet. 4:17; II Thess. 1:8,9).
3. Preach it (Mk. 16:15,16). This will save the lost (Rom. 1:16), edify the church (Rom. 14:19), destroy all barriers (Gal. 3:28), and set forth the best life to live.
4. Guard it (I Tim. 6:20). (1) Because it is a treasure (II Cor. 4:7). (2) Because some would pervert it (Gal. 1:7).
5. Defend it (Phil. 1:17).
6. Hold it fast (I Cor. 15:1,2).
7. Live worthily of it (Eph. 4:1). Phil. 1:27; I Cor. 9:12; Tit. 2:10.

“IN TRUST WITH THE GOSPEL”

I Thess. 2:4

1. “Were bold” (ver. 2). Courageous. Acts 4:31; Eph. 6:19,20.

2. “With much contention” (ver. 2). Uncompromising. Phil. 1:27; Jude 3.

3. “Exhortation” (ver. 3). Exhortative. Acts 2:40; II Tim. 4:2.

4. “Not as pleasing men, but God” (ver. 4). God-pleasers rather than men-pleasers. Gal. 1:10; Eph. 6:6.

5. “Neither at any time used we flattering words” (ver. 5). Sincere. Psal. 12:2,3; Tit. 2:7,8.

6. “Nor a cloak of covetousness” (ver. 5). Sought not theirs, but them. II Cor. 12:14; Heb. 13:5.

7. “Nor of men sought we glory” (ver. 6). Preached not for the praise of men. Jno. 12:42,43; Rom. 2:29.

8. “Were gentle among you” (ver. 7). Not harsh. II Tim. 2:24; Tit. 3:2.

9. “Holily and justly and unblamably we behaved ourselves among you” (ver. 10). Adorned and magnified the gospel. Tit. 2:10; Phil. 1:20. Even labored night and day lest they be chargeable to them and perhaps hinder the gospel (ver. 9).

10. “Exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you” (ver. 11). What spiritual care! II Tim. 4:2.

“ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD”

I Cor. 15:58

1. In faith (II Cor. 8:7).

2. In utterance (II Cor. 8:7).

3. In knowledge (II Cor. 8:7).

4. In diligence (II Cor. 8:7).

5. In love (II Cor. 8:7).

6. In giving (II Cor. 8:1-7).
7. In the Christian graces (II Pet. 1:5-8).
8. In every good work (II Cor. 9:8)
9. In thanksgiving (Col. 2:7).
10. In hope (Rom. 15:13).
11. Such is not in vain (I Cor. 15:58).

“WHAT DO YE MORE THAN OTHERS?”

Matt. 5:47,20

1. “Do.” (1) Christianity is not a lazy, do-nothing religion. (2) Many would take the word “do” out of the Bible, but it is there to stay (Matt 7:21-27; Jno. 15:14).

2. “More.” (1) This is the quantity or amount. (2) The foolish virgins made some preparation, but did not make enough (Matt. 25:1-13). (3) Our amount of work should be in proportion to our ability (Matt. 25:14-29).

3. “Than others.” (1) In the third place, the text suggests that the disciples of Christ should be better and do more than sinners. (2) Should make us more loving (Matt. 5:43-46), more honest (Rom. 12:17), better fathers and mothers and sons and daughters, more forgiving (Matt. 6:14,15), better neighbors (Matt 22:39), more charitable and benevolent (Matt 25:34-46) and more congenial (Rom. 14:19), than those who are not Christians. And it will.

PAUL’S MANNER OF SERVING THE LORD

Acts 20:17-27

1. Served with humility (ver. 19).
2. Served with many tears (ver. 19).
3. Kept back nothing in his preaching that was profitable (ver. 20).
4. Showed them or demonstrated what he preached (ver. 20).

5. Taught publicly and from house to house (ver. 20).
6. Was determined that bonds and afflictions would not move him (ver. 22-24).
7. Counted not his life dear unto himself (ver. 24).
8. Manner of preaching and living was such that he could say that he was pure from the blood of all men (ver. 26).
9. Shunned not to declare the whole counsel of God (ver. 27).
10. We are exhorted to be imitators of Paul (I Cor. 4:16; 11:1).

A THREEFOLD DUTY TOWARD THE LOST

1. Look—"Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields" (Jno. 4:35). A vision of the lost multitudes should move us to do something to save them. Prov. 29:18.
2. Pray—"Pray . . . that he will send forth laborers into his harvest" (Matt. 9:37,38). (1) The difficulty of the task; a great harvest, but few laborers. (2) The solution of the task is not in wealth, education, or prestige, but in laborers. (3) From the human viewpoint, the task is impossible; so we need to pray. Prayer can avail much (Jas. 5:16). (4) Underscore "laborers"; the Lord cannot use the idle.
3. Go. (1) To "all nations" (Matt. 28:19,20). (2) To "every creature" (Mk. 16:15). (3) The sinner's obedience to the last part of the commission, Mk. 16:16, is dependent upon our obedience to the first part, Mk. 16:15, (Rom. 10:13,14). (4) The blood of the lost will be on us unless we make a reasonable effort to save them (Ezek. 33:8,9).

FOUR "ALLS" OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

Matt. 28:18-20

1. "All power" or "all authority." (1) All things put under Christ's feet (Eph. 1:22). (2) Christ demonstrated his authority over demons, sickness, the elements, etc. (3) Had authority to give a better covenant (Heb. 8:6-10; 1:1,2). (4) Has authority to judge (Matt. 25:32; Jno. 12:48). (5) A full recognition of this authority would solve all religious problems.

2. "Teach all nations." (1) In the first commission to the twelve they were to go only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (Matt. 10:5,6). (2) Middle wall of partition has been broken down (Eph. 2:14). (3) Be witnesses unto the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8). (4) Gospel was preached to every creature under heaven (Col. 1:23).

3. "All things whatsoever I commanded you." (1) One thing Jesus had commanded the apostles was to "teach all nations"; thus the baptized are to do the same thing. (2) Includes all Christian duties.

4. "I am with you alway." (1) Be with you in time of temptation (I Cor. 10:13). (2) Be with you as the Captain of your salvation to direct the fight (Heb. 2:10). (3) Be with you as the Shepherd of your soul (Jno. 10).

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

1. A successful way of reaching souls because of the vast number of opportunities, the multiplicity of teachers, the power of personal contact, and because the lesson can be fitted to the person's needs.

2. All Christians are obligated to teach (Mk. 16:15; Heb. 5:12).

3. Personal work of Christ. (1) Christ personally called some of his most enthusiastic workers into the apostleship: Peter and Andrew (Matt. 4:18-20); James and John (Matt. 4:21,22); Matthew (Matt. 9:9,10). (2) Some of his greatest sermons were preached to individuals: sermons on the new birth (John 3:1-13) and on living water (Jno. 4:5-26).

4. Personal work of the early disciples. (1) Andrew "first findeth his own brother Simon" (Jno. 1:40,41). (2) Philip went to find Nathanael (Jno. 1:45). (3) Apostles taught daily in the temple and in every house (Acts 5:42). (4) Jerusalem church went everywhere preaching the word (Acts 8:4). (5) Philip was called away from the multitudes to preach to a lone Ethiopian (Acts 8:25-39). (6) Paul (Acts 20:20).

5. Ways and opportunities of personally teaching the Bible. (1) From house to house (Acts 20:20). (2) Invite the sinners into our homes as did Matthew (Matt. 9:9,10). (3) Call those in error aside and teach them (Acts 18:24-26). (4) Talk to those with whom we work. (5) If the opportunity does not come, make it.

6. Reasons why some are not personally teaching the Bible. (1) Do not have the word of God in their own hearts (Jer. 20:8,9). (2) Do not have a deep love for souls. (3) Do not know it well enough to teach it. (4) The peril of over-caution (Eccl. 11:4).

7. Rewards for personal teachers (Dan. 12:3; Jas. 5:20).

THE SOUL WINNER

1. "He that winneth souls is wise" (Prov. 11:30). (1) Working with the most valuable material. (2) Doing a work that will last the longest (Eph. 3:21).

2. The duty of every Christian to win souls: (1) The great commission teaches it (Matt. 28:19,20). (2) Grows out of the second great commandment of the law (Matt. 22:39). (3) Golden Rule requires it (Matt. 7:12).

3. How? (1) Contact (Acts 20:20). (2) Conduct (I Pet. 3:1,2). (3) Teach (Mk. 16:15,16; Rom. 10:13,14).

4. Incentives for being soul winners: (1) A commandment (Mk. 16:15,16). (2) Workers with God (II Cor. 6:1). (3) Save sinners (Mk. 8:36,37). (4) Save self (Ezek. 33:8,9).

“LEST WE SHOULD HINDER THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST”

I Cor. 9:12

1. It is better to give up meat than hinder the gospel (I Cor. 8:13; Rom. 14:15,20,21).

2. It is better to suffer wrong than go to law one with another and hamper the gospel (I Cor. 6:1,5-7).

3. Christ condemned the lawyers, scribes, and Pharisees for obstructing the Lord's work (Lk. 11:52; Matt. 23:15).

4. It would be better for one to have a millstone hanged about his neck and be drowned in the sea than to offend one of the little ones (Matt. 18:6).

5. It is a fearful thing to put a stumblingblock in a brother's way (Rom. 14:13; Matt. 13:41,42).

6. Hindering the gospel is such an awful thing that Elymas was struck blind because he sought to turn the proconsul from the faith (Acts 13:8).

7. Things that hinder. (1) Apostasy. II Pet. 2:20-22; Matt. 5:13. It preaches this message, “There is nothing to it.” (2) Lukewarmness (Rev. 3:15,16). A little for the Lord and a little for Satan. (3) Open violations of the word. Returning evil for evil (Matt. 5:39).

Drunkenness (Eph. 5:18). Cursing (Ex. 20:7). Forsaking the assembly (Acts 20:7). (4) Wrangling (Gal. 5:15). (5) Divisions (Jno. 17:20,21).

INFLUENCE

1. Men influence each other. (1) "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" (I Cor. 5:6,7). (8) "Like people, like priest" (Hos. 4:9). (3) Solomon was influenced by foreign wives to do evil.

2. God expects his children to have a good influence. (1) "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches" (Prov. 22:1). (2) Christ's disciples are called light and salt, and both have powers of influence (Matt. 5:13-16). (3) A Christian wife may win her non-Christian husband to the Lord by her influence (I Pet. 3:1,2), or vice versa.

3. How to have a good influence. (1) Be consistent. Show your faith by your works (Jas. 2:18). Practice what you preach. (2) Be uncompromising. Stand for what you believe. You lose your influence by compromising, because others lose respect for your sincerity. (3) Watch to keep from giving offense (I Cor. 8:12,13). (4) Serve the needs of others (Matt. 23:11).

4. Influence lives after one is dead (Rev. 14:13). Be careful to leave a good influence, for it will live and affect others.

"YE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD"

Matt. 5:14-16

1. It is the duty of Christians to shine, because they are lights (Phil 2:15). It is the duty of a light to shine.

2. What kind of light are you? (1) Candlelight—not a steady light, but flickers, gives off an odor; but the Bible

teaches that the Christian should be a sweet savor (II Cor. 2:15). (2) Kerosene lamp—have to keep oil in it, the wick trimmed and the globe clean. Are you just a kerosene lamp with a short wick and a smoky globe? (3) Gasoline lamp—have to keep the mantles on, gasoline in it, and keep it pumped up. Do you shine only when the preacher is present to keep you pumped up? (4) Incandescent light—a good light which shines in all kinds of weather provided it makes contact. Man must make contact with Christ to be a light.

3. How shine? (1) Before men (Matt. 5:16). Do not put your light under a bushel (Matt. 5:15). There are bushels of temper, neglect, worldliness, etc. (2) Sacrificially. A light costs, because something is being consumed. Jesus was the light of the world, but it cost. John was a light, but it was costly (Jno. 5:35). (3) Under all circumstances. Paul was a light in jail (Acts 16), before kings (Acts 26), at sea (Acts 27), on island (Acts 28), and in Rome (Acts 28:30,31).

PUTTING ON SPIRITUAL GARMENTS

Col. 3:12-14

1. A heart of compassion (I Pet. 3:8; Rom. 12:15).
2. Kindness. The good Samaritan was both sympathetic and kind (Lk. 10:33-35).
3. Lowliness or humility (I Pet. 5:5,6).
4. Meekness (Eph. 4:2; II Tim. 2:25).
5. Longsuffering (Gal. 5:22; Col. 1:11).
6. Forbearance (Eph. 4:2).
7. Forgiveness (Matt. 6:12,14,15).
8. Love (I Cor. 13).

CHRISTIAN GROWTH

I Pet. 2:1,2

1. In physical growth there is what we call the climax and the anti-climax, but in spiritual growth there should be no anti-climax (II Cor. 4:16).

2. The new birth is a prerequisite of spiritual growth (Jno. 3:3-5). Begotten by the Spirit through the word (I Pet. 1:23).

3. Requires spiritual food (I Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:12-14).

4. Requires freedom from disease or sin (Rom. 6:23).
 (1) Disease of neglect (Heb. 2:3). (2) Disease of worldliness (I Jno. 2:15-17). (3) Love of popularity (Jno. 12:42,43). (4) Disease of lukewarmness (Rev. 3:15,16).

5. Demands exercise (I Tim. 4:7).

6. Climate or environment is important (I Cor. 15:33).

7. Takes time (Heb. 5:12).

8. How we can tell we are growing. (1) Cannot see it—like learning at school. (2) Know that a child is growing physically when his clothes get tight. Know ye are growing spiritually when we outgrow some things. (3) When we quit acting like a child (I Cor. 13:11). (4) When we begin to bear fruit (Matt. 7:20).

"WHAT MANNER OF PERSONS OUGHT YE TO BE"

II Pet. 3:11

1. Ought to be mindful (ver. 1,2).

2. Ought to know that scoffers will come (ver. 3,4).

3. Ought to know that some people are ignorant of God's word (ver. 5,6).

4. Ought to be conscious of the power of God's word (ver. 7).

5. Ought to know that time does not mean anything to God (ver. 8).

6. Ought to know that the Lord is long-suffering (ver. 9).

7 Ought to know that the day of the Lord will come as a thief (ver. 10-12).

8. Ought to look for new heavens and a new earth (ver. 13).

9. Ought to be diligent that we be found of him in peace, without spot and blameless (ver. 14).

10. Ought to know that some wrest the Scriptures unto their own destruction (ver. 16).

11. Ought to beware lest we be led away and fall (ver. 17).

12. Ought to grow (ver. 18).

PAUL'S DESCRIPTIONS OF THE LORD'S PEOPLE

1. "Children of God" (Rom. 8:16).
2. "Heirs of God" (Rom. 8:17).
3. "Laborers together with God" (I Cor. 3:9).
4. "Ye are God's husbandry" (I Cor. 3:9).
5. "Ye are God's building" (I Cor. 3:9).
6. "Ye are bought with a price" (I Cor. 6:20).
7. "Saints" (II Cor. 1:1).
8. "A new creature" (II Cor. 5:17).
9. "We are his workmanship" (Eph. 2:10).
10. "Partakers of his promise in Christ" (Eph. 3:6).
11. "We are members one of another" (Eph. 4:25).
12. "The servants of Christ" (Eph. 6:6).
13. "A good soldier of Jesus Christ" (II Tim. 2:3).

PETER'S DESCRIPTIONS OF THE LORD'S PEOPLE

1. "Obedient children" (I Pet. 1:14).

2. "Newborn babes" (I Pet. 2:2).
3. "Lively stones" (I Pet. 2:5).
4. "A holy priesthood" (I Pet. 2:5).
5. "A chosen generation" or "an elect race" (I Pet. 2:9).
6. "A holy nation" (I Pet. 2:9).
7. "A peculiar people" or "a people for God's own possession" (I Pet. 2:9).
8. "The people of God" (I Pet. 2:10).
9. "Dearly beloved" or "beloved" (I Pet. 2:11).
10. "Strangers and pilgrims" or "sojourners and pilgrims" (I Pet. 2:11).
11. "The brotherhood" (I Pet. 2:17).
12. "Good stewards" (I Pet. 4:10).
13. "Flock of God" (I Pet. 5:2).

OTHER DESCRIPTIONS OF THE LORD'S PEOPLE

1. "The salt of the earth" (Matt. 5:13).
2. "The light of the world" (Matt. 5:14).
3. "My disciples" (Jno. 8:31).
4. "The branches" (Jno. 15:5).
5. "My friends" (Jno. 15:14).
6. "Christians" (Acts 11:26).
7. "Rich in faith" (Jas. 2:5).
8. "Your names are written in heaven" (Lk. 10:20).

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE UNGODLY

1. "The ungodly" (Psa. 1:1).
2. "Sinners" (Psa. 1:1).
3. "The scornful" (Psa. 1:1).
4. "The wicked" (Ezek. 33:8).
5. "False prophets" (Matt. 7:15).
6. "Wolves" (Matt. 7:15).

7. "Hypocrites" (Matt. 23:14).
8. "The child of hell" (Matt. 23:15).
9. "Blind guides" (Matt. 23:16).
10. "Fools" (Matt. 23:17).
11. "Like unto whited sepulchres" (Matt. 23:27).
12. "Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers" (Matt. 23:33).
13. "Strangers and foreigners" (Eph. 2:19).

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE UNGODLY (Continued)

1. "False apostles" (II Cor. 11:13).
2. "Deceitful workers" (II Cor. 11:13).
3. "Transformed as the ministers of righteousness" (II Cor. 11:13).
4. "Servants of men" (I Cor. 7:23).
5. "Servants of sin" (Rom. 6:17).
6. "Adulterers and adulteresses" (Jas. 4:4).
7. "Friend of the world" (Jas. 4:4).
8. "Enemy of God" (Jas. 4:4).
9. "Enemies of the cross" (Phil. 3:18).
10. "Enemies of the Lord" (Psa. 37:20).
11. "Child of the devil" (Acts 13:10).
12. "Enemy of all righteousness" (Acts 13:10).
13. "Dogs" (Phil. 3:2).
14. "Evil workers" (Phil. 3:2).
15. "The concision" (Phil. 3:2).

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE UNGODLY (Continued)

1. "Backbiters" (Rom. 1:30).
2. "Haters of God" (Rom. 1:30).
3. "Inventors of evil things" (Rom. 1:30).
4. "Covenant-breakers" (Rom. 1:31).
5. "Unbelievers" (I Cor. 6:6).

6. "The unrighteous" (I Cor. 6:9).
7. "The lawless and disobedient" (I Tim. 1:9).
8. "Unholy and profane" (I Tim. 1:9).
9. "Blasphemer" (I Tim. 1:13).
10. "Persecutor" (I Tim. 1:13).
11. "Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God" (II Tim. 3:4).
12. "Unreasonable men" (II Thess. 3:2).
13. "Unlearned and unstable" (II Pet. 3:16).
14. "Idolaters" (Rev. 22:15).

THE MEN NEEDED IN THE CHURCH

1. Men of knowledge like Timothy (II Tim. 3:14-17).
2. Men of faith like Enoch (Heb. 11:5).
3. Men who count all things loss to gain Christ like Paul (Phil. 3:7,8).
4. God-fearing men like Peter and John (Acts 4:19, 20).
5. Men of patience like Job (Job 1:21; 2:10).
6. Men of virtue and purity like Joseph (Gen. 39:1-23).
7. Men of righteousness like Noah (II Pet. 2:5).
8. Agreeable and compatible men like Abraham (Gen. 13).
9. Men of vision and determination like Nehemiah (Neh. 1:6).
10. Men of optimism like Caleb (Num. 13).

THE MEN NOT NEEDED IN THE CHURCH

1. Men who are given to wrath like Cain (Gen. 4).
2. Dictators like Diotrephes (III Jno. 9,10).
3. Men who turn back like John Mark (Acts 13:13).
4. Lovers of the world like Demas (II Tim. 4:10).

5. Lovers of money more than lovers of God like Judas (Matt. 26:14-16; 27:3).
6. Lovers of popularity like King Saul (I Sam. 15:24).
7. Envious and jealous men like Joseph's brethren (Gen. 37).
8. Self-righteous men like the Pharisee in the parable (Lk. 18:9-14).
9. Men who pout like the Elder Brother (Lk. 15:25-32).
10. Men who condemn others but do not see their own faults like David (II Sam. 11,12).

THE WOMEN NEEDED IN THE CHURCH

1. Women with great faith like the woman with an issue of blood (Mk. 5; Lk. 8).
2. Women who teach their children the Scriptures like Eunice and Lois (II Tim. 1:5; 3:15).
3. Women who place hearing the word of the Lord before cooking and house work like Mary (Lk. 10:38-42).
4. Personal workers like Priscilla (Acts 18:24-26).
5. Women who show hospitality to the servants of God like the Shunammite woman (II Ki. 4).
6. Women who respect their husbands and are in subjection to them like Sarah (I Pet. 3:6).
7. Women who know how to get along with their relatives-in-law like Naomi and Ruth (Ruth 1:4).
8. Modest women like Vashti (Esther 1).
9. Brave women like the wise and brave woman of Abel (II Sam. 20).

THE WOMEN NOT NEEDED IN THE CHURCH

1. Cruel women who persecute the preacher for

preaching the truth like Herodias (Matt. 14:1-12).

2. Women who misrepresent the truth like Sapphira (Acts 5:1-10).

3. Women who look back like Lot's wife (Gen. 19:17, 26).

4. Women who are instigators of wickedness like Jezebel of the Old Testament (I Ki. 21).

5. Women who discourage their husbands like Job's wife (Job 2:9).

6. Women who tempt men to commit fornication like Jezebel of the New Testament (Rev. 2:20).

7. Deceitful women like Delilah (Judg. 16).

8. Quarrelsome women like Euodias and Syntyche (Phil. 4:2).

TIME

1. The importance of time. (1) Time is the best builder, the best detective, the best physician, and the best arbitrator to restore broken friendships. (2) Thomas Edison said, "Time is the most important thing in the world." Character may break to pieces and be built up again. Health may be lost and regained. Lost friends may be regained or new ones won. Silver and gold may be taken from us, but time can regain them. But time cannot be recalled.

2. Time properly used can give most of us a livelihood, health, friends, happiness, and a beautiful relationship with God.

3. The brevity and uncertainty of time emphasize our responsibility in the way we use it (Psa. 39:4; 90:12; Eph. 5:15,16; Prov. 27:1; Jno. 9:4).

4. Much time is wasted. (1) Lack of application and organization. (2) Reading cheap literature. (3) Un-

wholesome recreation and entertainment. (4) Meditating on fanciful injuries. (5) Pondering past mistakes. (6) Worrying about what may happen in the future (7) Gossiping or lending ears to gossip. (8) Lying in bed longer than is needful of even helpful. (9) Killing time with parties, organizations, and unusually long telephone conversations. (10) Many men and women fill their days with too many useless things, leaving no time for God and his church. The reason that many people do not have time to do church work is that they waste their time doing things not essential.

5. God condemns idleness and laziness. (Prov. 19:15; 23:21; I Tim. 5:13; Matt. 20:6).

TIME PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

1. Yesterday. (1) Our yesterdays cannot be changed. (2) If we want our yesterdays to be pleasant, then make our todays pleasant, because tomorrow our todays will be our yesterdays.

2. Tomorrow. (1) "Boast not thyself of tomorrow" (Prov. 27:1). (2) Tomorrow may bring death (Jas. 4:13, 14). (3) Tomorrow you may lose your desire to obey the Lord. (4) Felix and his tomorrow (Acts 24:24-27).

3. Today. (1) The great word of the Bible is "Today" (Heb. 3:13,7,8; II Cor. 6:2). (2) Yesterday is gone and gone forever; tomorrow may never come; so today is all man has.

MEMORY

1. God places great emphasis on memory. He has given several memorials. (1) Rainbow (Gen. 9:14-16). (2) Passover (Ex. 13). (3) Lord's supper (I Cor. 11:24,25).

2. Remember thy creator (Ecc. 12:1). (1) In thy youth. (2) Before the evil days come.

3. Remember the consequences of disobedience. (1) Lot's wife (Lk. 17:32). (2) Old world (II Pet. 2:5). (3) Sodom and Gomorrah (II Pet. 2:6).

4. Fallen Christians should remember how they once lived (Rev. 2:5).

5. Memories will tempt us if we look back to sin (memory of the fleshpots tempted Israel, Ex. 16), torture us if they be evil (Joseph's brethren, Gen. 42:21) and comfort us if they be good (Paul, II Tim. 4:6-8).

6. Memory is carried beyond the grave (Lk. 16:25).

MEMORIALS

1. Sabbath. (1) Testified to the creation (Gen. 2:3). (2) Its observance was commanded (Ex. 20:8,9). (3) The sabbath and the first day of the week are two different days (Matt. 28:1). (4) We now observe the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:2). In doing this, we commemorate the resurrection of Christ.

2. The bow in the clouds. (1) A memorial to the covenant that God made with all flesh (Gen. 9:8-17). (2) The world will never again be destroyed by water but will be destroyed by fire (II Pet. 3:10-12).

3. The passover. (1) A memorial (Ex. 12:14). (2) What it commemorated (Ex. 12:12,13). (3) Saved by the blood (Ex. 12:13). (4) Another day will come in which the messenger of destruction will go forth (II Thess. 1:7, 8). If we are in contact with the blood, we shall be saved (Eph. 1:7; I Jno. 1:7; Rev. 7:14).

4. Omer full of manna. (1) The Lord commanded this to be kept in memory of his feeding them (Ex. 16:32-

34). (2) The Lord also promises to care for us (Matt. 6:25-30,33).

5. Lord's supper. (1) In memory of Christ (I Cor. 11:24,25). (2) Shows the death of Christ (I Cor. 11:25). (3) Acts 20:7. (4) Church at Corinth ate the Lord's supper when they assembled (I Cor. 11:20). They assembled the first day of every week (I Cor. 16:2). Therefore, they ate the Lord's supper upon the first day of every week.

"Is It I?"

Matt. 26:20-25

1. The twelve took stock by asking, "Is it I?"

2. Is it I who have committed sins of commission (I Jno. 3:4)? (1) Drunkenness (Eph. 5:18; I Cor. 6:10)? (2) Adultery (Mk. 10:19)? (3) Murder (I Jno. 3:15)? (4) Sins of the tongue (I Pet. 3:10; Jas. 3)?

3. Is it I who have sinned by omission (Jas. 4:17)? (1) Failed to give (I Cor. 16:2)? (2) Failed to attend (Acts 20:7; Heb. 10:25)? (3) Failed to study the Bible (II Tim. 2:15)? (4) Failed to pray (I Thess. 5:17,18; I Tim. 2:8)? (5) Failed to be the light of the world (Matt. 5:14-16)? (6) Failed to preach the gospel (Mk. 16:15, 16)? (7) Failed to be an example (I Tim 4:12)?

A THREE-WAY INSPECTION

1. What do others think of me? (1) We want the good opinion of others. This desire helps to regulate man's conduct. (2) Friends and admirers may think we are gods, while enemies may think we are devils. Cornelius thought Peter was divine (Acts 10:25,26), while some thought John had a devil (Matt. 11:18). However, what others think does not change the status of any man.

2. What do I think of myself? (1) Do I, like the Pharisee, have an exalted opinion of myself? (Lk. 18:9-14; 7:36-48). (2) One may think he is saved and still be lost (Prov. 14:12).

3. What does God think of me? (1) This is really what counts. What others think or what I think may not be what God thinks. (2) To find out what God thinks, we must read his word, for the Bible contains the mind of God.

CONSIDER

1. Consider the wondrous works of God (Job 37:14). (1) The universe (Psa. 19:1). (2) All blessings (Jas. 1:17).

2. Consider the ways of the ant (Prov. 6:6). (1) Bible teaches industry (II Thess. 3:10), and the ant is an example. (2) We are taught to work together (Psa. 133:1). The ants do this. (3) The ant makes preparation for winter (Prov. 30:25), and we are to prepare to meet the bridegroom (Matt. 25:1-13).

3. Consider the care God gives the fowls and the grass of the fields (Matt. 6:25-30). The God who has the power to feed the fowls and clothe the grass of the fields has the power to feed and clothe man.

4. Consider Christ (Heb. 12:3). (1) What he endured (Heb. 12:3). Think of all that he endured. (2) Did this for us (Lk. 19:10). (3) Such reflections strengthen us against weariness and fainting (Heb. 12:3).

5. Consider thyself (Gal. 6:1). (1) Lest ye be tempted (Gal. 6:1). Know your weaknesses and fortify yourself against them. (2) Consider your calling (Eph. 4:1). (3) Consider the value of the soul (Matt. 16:26).

6. Consider one another (Heb. 10:24). (1) To provoke unto good works. (2) To treat others as you wish to be treated (Matt. 7:12). (3) To bear their burdens (Gal. 6:1). (4) To be their keeper (Gen. 4:9).

“CONSIDER ONE ANOTHER”

Heb. 10:24

1. To provoke one another to good works. (1) Incite or stimulate one another to good works. (2) There should be mutual interest and care on the part of the members of the body of Christ (I Cor. 12:25).

2. In our consideration of one another we should be loving (I Thess. 4:9), forgiving (Matt. 6:12,14,15), meek (Gal. 6:1), long-suffering (Eph. 4:2), and unselfish (Phil. 2:4).

3. In ignorance of God's word (Acts 18:24-26).

4. In sin (Jas. 5:19,20; Gal. 6:1; Rev. 3:2; Matt. 18:15-17).

5. In sickness (Jas. 5:14,15; Phil. 2:26,27; Matt. 25:36,43; III Jno. 2).

6. In sorrow (Gal. 6:2; Rom. 12:15).

7. In joy (Rom. 12:15).

8. In persecution (Acts 12:5).

9. In poverty (Acts 2:44,45; 11:27-30; Matt. 22:39).

PERSEVERANCE IN WELL DOING

Gal. 6:9

1. “Well doing”—this is the duty and calling of the Christian. (1) “Let us do good unto all men” (ver. 10). (2) “Created in Christ Jesus unto good works” (Eph. 2:10). (3) “Be careful to maintain good works” (Tit. 3:8). (4) “Salt of the earth,” and “light of the world” (Matt. 5:13-16). (5) Jesus “went about doing good”

(Acts 10:38), and we should follow his steps (I Pet. 2:21).

2. "And let us not be weary"—perseverance in well doing. (1) There are innumerable difficulties: "pleasures of sin" (Heb. 11:25); "care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches" (Matt. 13:22; Rev. 3:17, 18); "tribulation or persecution" (Matt. 13:21); the flesh (Rom. 7:18-21); etc. (2) Many have become weary. Many have proved to be stony and thorny grounds (Matt. 13:20-22). Demas (II Tim. 4:10). Galatians (Gal. 5:7).

3. "For in due season we shall reap, if we faint not"—the incentive for perseverance. (1) "Shall reap." (2) What? Happiness (Psa. 144:15); peace (Phil. 4:7); satisfaction (Psa. 17:15); greatness (Matt. 20:26,27); eternal life (Gal. 6:9).

"BLESSED IS THE MAN THAT ENDURETH"

Jas. 1:12

1. Temptation—he shall receive the crown of life (Jas. 1:12).

2. Chastening—he becomes a partaker of God's holiness and yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness (Heb. 12:5-11).

3. Afflictions—he shall be counted happy or blessed (II Tim. 4:5; Jas. 5:11).

4. Persecutions—great is his reward in heaven (Matt. 5:11,12; II Tim. 3:11,12).

5. Hardness—he, with other qualifications, shall be a good soldier of Jesus Christ (II Tim. 2:3).

6. Sound doctrine—he shall not be condemned with the many who turn away from the truth (II Tim. 4:3,4; I Tim. 4:16; II Jno. 9-11).

7. The secret of enduring—see Him who is invisible (Heb. 11:27).

WALKING WITH GOD

Gen. 5:24

1. False and forbidden ways. (1) The way of the ungodly (Psa. 1). (2) The way of the transgressor (Prov. 13:15). (3) The way of the fool (Prov. 12:15). (4) The way of denominationalism or the way of men (I Cor. 3:3; 1:10-15).

2. What it means to walk with God. (1) Walk by faith (II Cor. 5:7). (2) Walk in the commandments of God (Lk. 1:6). (3) Walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:3,4). (4) Walk not after the flesh but after the spirit (Rom. 8:1; Gal. 5:19-23). (5) Walk in the narrow way (Matt. 7:13,14).

3. God blesses the ones who walk with him. (1) Noah walked with God and God saved him (Gen. 6:9). (2) Enoch walked with God and God took him (Gen. 5:24).

WALKING

1. Walk in the commandments and ordinances of the Lord (Lk. 1:6).

2. Walk in the newness of life (Rom. 6:3,4).

3. Walk in the way of holiness (Isa. 35:8).

4. Walk by faith (II Cor. 5:7).

5. Walk worthily of the calling (Eph. 4:1).

6. Walk circumspectly (Eph. 5:15).

7. Walk in unity (Amos 3:3).

8. Walk in the light (I Jno. 1:7).

9. Walk through the valley of the shadow of death (Psa. 23:4).

10. Summed up: walk with God (Gen. 5:24).

SEVEN "WALKS" OF EPHESIANS

1. In time past walked according to the course of this

world (Eph. 2:2). Once lived in sin, which is true of all the accountable (Rom. 3:23).

2. Walk in good works (Eph. 2:10). (1) Scriptures furnish unto every good work (II Tim. 3:16,17). (2) Show faith by works (Jas. 2:18).

3. Walk worthily of the Christian vocation (Eph. 4:1). (1) Told how to do this in Eph. 4:1-3. (2) The walk should be in harmony with the profession.

4. Walk not in vanity of mind (Eph. 4:17). (1) Walk not after vain and fleshly minds. (2) Walk after Christ the head (Col. 1:18).

5. Walk in love (Eph. 5:2). (1) Its essentiality (I Cor. 13:1-3). (2) Its behavior (I Cor. 13:4-8).

6. Walk as children of light (Eph. 5:8). (1) Were once children of darkness (Eph. 5:8). (2) He who follows Christ does not walk in darkness (Jno. 8:12). (3) Christians shine as lights (Phil. 2:15).

7. Walk circumspectly (Eph. 5:15). Why? (1) Just going over the road one time. (2) Satan goes about as a roaring lion (I Pet.. 5:8).

THE LANGUAGE OF DEFEAT

1. Israelites: "It had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness" (Ex. 14:12). "We are not going to succeed; so it would have been better to continue in slavery." Some today say the same with reference to spiritual matters.

2. Felix: "When I have a convenient season" (Acts 24:25). The language of procrastination is the language of defeat.

3. Israelites: "We did tell thee" (Ex. 14:12). "We told you so." Defeated before they started.

4. Job's wife: "Curse God and die" (Job 2:9). "No use; why persevere any longer."

5. Elijah: "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life" (I Kings 19:4). Was discouraged, and the language of discouragement is the language of defeat.

6. Elijah: "I, even I only, am left" (I Kings 19:14). "There is no one to help me, and I can't stem the tide by myself."

7. Spies: "They are stronger than we"; "we were in our own sight as grasshoppers" (Num. 13:31,33). Lacked confidence in self.

8. One-talent man: "I was afraid" (Matt. 25:25). Fear keeps many from using their talents.

9. Moses: "They will not believe me" (Ex. 4:1). Lacked confidence in the other fellow.

10. Moses: "I am not eloquent" (Ex. 4:10). "I can't talk."

THE LANGUAGE OF VICTORY

1. "I can do all things through Christ" (Phil. 4:13).

2. "Our God shall fight for us" (Neh. 4:20).

3. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psa. 46:1).

4. "Let us rise up and build" (Neh. 2:18).

5. "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Prov. 3:6).

6. "Yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken" (Psa. 37:25).

7. "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous" (I Pet. 3:12).

8. "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able" (I Cor. 10:13).

9. "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory"
(I Cor. 15:57).

"TAKE HEED THAT NO MAN DECEIVE YOU" OR
"LEAD YOU ASTRAY"
Matt. 24:4,5

1. Jesus in the text assigns this deceptive work to men. Other passages (Matt. 7:15; Acts 20:29,30; II Pet. 2:1-3).

2. The text implies that man can be led astray.

3. How men are deceived. (1) By smooth and fair speech (Rom. 16:18). (2) By the winds of doctrine and by cunning craftiness (Eph. 4:14). (3) By empty words (Eph. 5:6). (4) Through the means of disguise. Satan's ministers are transformed as the ministers of righteousness (II Cor. 11:14,15). Come in Christ's name (Matt. 24:5). If they should come in some other name, they would not be able to deceive. Wolf in sheep's clothing (Matt. 7:15).

4. "That no man deceive you." (1) Satan is the deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 12:9), but he works through agents. Deceived Adam and Eve through the serpent (Gen. 3:1-6). Now there are plenty of human beings through whom he may work (II Tim. 3:13). (2) All deceivers are servants of Satan regardless of their disguise. (3) Men deceive oftentimes for filthy lucre's sake (Tit. 1:10,11; II Pet. 2:3).

5. How to keep from being deceived. (1) Listen to the warning in the text. (2) Love the truth (Eph. 4:15; II Thess. 2:10-12). (3) Study that you may be able to distinguish truth from error (II Tim. 2:15). (4) Do not fellowship those with a different doctrine (II Jno. 9-11). (5) Do not listen even to an angel, if it be the proclama-

tion of a different doctrine (Gal. 1:8,9). Young prophet made a similar mistake (I Kings 13).

TAKE HEED THAT YE WATCH AND PRAY

Mk. 13:33

1. "Watch" is used in three senses. (1) To watch in order to guard (Heb. 13:17). (2) To watch, meaning to look for (Matt. 24:42). (3) A watch in the night (Lk. 12:38).

2. Watch what? (1) W—words (Matt. 12:36,37; Jas. 3). (2) A—actions, all things (II Tim. 4:5). (3) T—time (Eph. 5:16) and temptations (Matt. 26:41). (4) C—company (I Cor. 15:33). (5) H—heart (Prov. 4:23).

3. Why watch? (1) Commanded (I Cor. 16:13; II Tim. 4:5). (2) Know not the day nor the hour when Jesus will come (Matt. 25:13; Mk. 13:32,37). (3) That ye enter not into temptation (Matt. 26:41; I Pet. 5:8). (4) For opportunities to do good (Gal. 6:10).

4. Must take heed to pray. Bible is filled with examples of those who did this.

5. Some reasons for praying. (1) Dependent upon the Lord (Jno. 15:5; Phil. 4:13). (2) Need to praise his name (Matt. 6:9). (3) Need to thank him for our blessings (Phil. 4:6; Jas. 1:17). (4) Need to petition him for blessings (Jas. 5:16; Matt. 6:11). (5) Prayer avails much (Jas. 5:16).

"TAKE HEED AND BEWARE OF THE LEAVEN OF THE PHARISEES AND SADDUCEES"

Matt. 16:6; Mk. 8:15

1. "Take heed and beware"—double emphasis.

2. "Leaven" is used figuratively. A symbol of a secret, penetrating influence.

3. This leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees. (1) Self-righteousness (Lk. 18:9-14; Jno. 8:3-9). (2) Love for human praise (Matt. 6:2,5). (3) Traditionalism (Matt. 15:1-6). (4) Lip service and formality (Matt. 15:8,9). (5) Hypocrisy (Matt. 23). (6) Inconsistency (Matt. 23:23,24).

4. The leaven of the Pharisees influenced some of the rulers to reject Christ (Jno. 12:42,43).

5. The way to resist these influences. (1) Be humble (Jas. 4:6; I Pet. 5:6). (2) Do not seek earthly praise; do not try to please men (I Cor. 4:5; Gal. 1:10; Eph. 6:5-7). (3) Be sincere (Phil. 1:10; II Cor. 8:8; Tit. 2:7).

TAKE HEED HOW YE BUILD

I Cor. 3:10

1. Take heed that ye count the cost (Lk. 14:28-30). It costs: (1) Jesus before family (Matt. 10:37). (2) Jesus before one's own life (Lk. 14:26). (3) Seek first the kingdom of God (Matt. 6:33). (4) Present body as living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1). (5) Bear the cross (Matt. 16:24). (6) Work (Phil. 2:12). (7) Teach (Matt. 28:19,20). (8) Attend worship (Heb. 10:25).

2. Take heed that ye be a wise builder. (1) Paul was a wise builder (I Cor. 3:10). (2) Wise builder (Matt. 7:24,25). (3) Foolish builder (Matt. 7:26,27).

3. Take heed that ye follow a wise plan. (1) The only reliable plan on how to build spiritually is the Bible (II Tim. 3:15-17). (2) The penalty for making any change in this plan (Gal. 1:8,9).

4. Take heed that ye build on a good foundation. (1) The stability of a building depends upon its foundation. (2) Jesus is the only foundation for spiritual build-

ing (I Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:20). To build upon Jesus, we must hear and obey him (Matt. 7:24,25).

5. Take heed that ye build with good materials. (1) Cannot put fleshly materials into a spiritual building. (Gal. 5:19-21). (2) Must put spiritual materials into a spiritual building (Gal. 5:22,23). (3) In this building nothing can be hidden from the Lord (Prov. 15:3; Heb. 4:13).

TAKE HEED LEST YE FALL
I Cor. 10:12

1. A child of God can fall. (1) Admonished to take heed lest we fall (I Cor. 10:12). (2) Possible for Paul to be rejected (I Cor. 9:27). (3) A child of God can quit believing (Heb. 3:12). (4) Can fall from grace (Gal. 5:4). (5) A branch can be severed from the vine (Jno. 15:2-6). (6) A servant of the Lord can be lost (Matt. 25:14-30). (7) Certain ones shall be gathered out of the kingdom and cast into fire (Matt. 13:41,42). (8) Can be spewed out of the Lord (Rev. 3:16).

2. How take heed to keep from falling? (1) Watch (Matt. 26:41). (2) Resist the devil (Jas. 4:7). (3) Pray (Jas. 4:8). (4) Follow example of Jesus by quoting scripture (Matt. 4:1-11). (5) Add Christian graces (II Pet. 1:5-10).

3. The fallen state is worse than the alien state (II Pet. 2:20-22).

4. The fallen Christian can be restored (Gal. 6:1; Jas. 5:19,20).

5. Law of pardon to the fallen. (1) Repent (Acts 8:22). (2) Confess sins (Jas. 5:16; I Jno. 1:9). (3) Pray (Acts 8:22; Jas. 5:16).

“TAKE HEED UNTO THYSELF”

I Tim. 4:16

1. This is very personal. But after all, sin is caused by the middle letter in the word.

2. “Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him” (Lk. 17:3). (1) Defined: check, repress, reprove or reprimand. (2) Rebuke before all them that sin (I Tim. 5:20). (3) Rebuke with all long-suffering and doctrine (II Tim. 4:2).

3. Take heed to yourselves to forgive (Lk. 17:3). (1) No limit to the times we are to forgive (Matt. 18:21,22). (2) True forgiveness does not continually remind the person of the sin (Heb. 8:12). (3) Forgive freely as did Christ (Col. 3:13). (4) Must forgive men to receive forgiveness from God (Matt. 6:14,15).

4. Take heed lest your heart be overcharged with surfeiting or intemperance (Lk. 21:34). (1) Paul reasoned of temperance (Acts 24:25). (2) Must add temperance to the faith (II Pet. 1:5,6).

5. Take heed to yourselves lest your heart be overcharged with drunkenness (Lk. 21:34). This includes intoxicants, excitement, worldly pleasures, etc.

6. Take heed to yourselves lest your heart be overcharged with the cares of this life (Lk. 21:34). Cares of the world will choke the word (Mk. 4:19).

7. Take heed to yourselves lest that day come on you unawares (Lk. 21:34). (1) Will come as a thief (II Pet. 3:10-12). (2) Come at a time when you think not (Matt. 24:42-44).

8. Elders are very pointedly commanded to take heed unto themselves (Acts 20:28). Commanded to be ensamples to the flock (I Pet. 5:3).

“TAKE HEED HOW YE HEAR”

Lk. 8:18

1. The parable of the sower illustrates four kinds of hearers (Lk. 8:4-15; Matt. 13:3-9, 18-23). (1) Wayside-hearer—Satan snatches the word out of his heart. (2) Rocky-ground-hearer—checked by external influences. (3) Thorny-ground-hearer — checked by internal influences. (4) Good-ground-hearer—productive.

2. Take heed not to be: (1) Forgetful-hearers (Jas. 1:22-25). In times of sickness and death we remember, but later forget. Remember during a sermon, but forget to practice it. (2) Dull-ear-hearers (Matt. 13:15). (3) Itching-ear-hearers (II Tim. 4:3,4). (4) Stopped-ear-hearers (Acts 7:57).

3. Take heed to be: (1) Obedient-ear-hearers (Prov. 25:12; Jas. 1:22). (2) Inclined-ear-hearers (Prov. 5:13; Jer. 7:24). (3) Swift-hearers (Psa. 18:44; Jas. 1:19). The Jews on Pentecost (Acts 2), Cornelius (Acts 10), the eunuch (Acts 8), and the jailer (Acts 16) obeyed after hearing one sermon.

“TAKE HEED THAT YE DO NOT YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS
BEFORE MEN”

Matt. 6:1-7, 16-18

1. Christ warns against righteousness to be seen of men. Warns against wrong motives.

2. Brings the motive test to bear upon giving (ver. 2-4). (1) Pharisees gave for the glory of men. (2) I Cor. 16:2; II Cor. 8:5; 9:6,7; Jno. 3:16; Lk. 6:38.

3. Brings the motive test to bear upon prayer (ver. 5-7). (1) Hypocrites prayed to be seen of men. (2) Warns against vain repetitions. (3) Prayer is not to

give God a summary of the weekly news. (4) Public prayers are difficult; we are too conscious of men.

4. Brings the motive test to bear upon fasting (ver. 16-18). (1) Hypocrites fasted for the praise of men. (2) Fasting should come naturally instead of seasonably.

5. Examples of wrong motives. (1) The kiss of Judas (Matt. 26:49). (2) Herod's commission to the wise men (Matt. 2:7-16). (3) Saul's giving his daughter in marriage to David (I Sam. 18:20,21). (4) The gift of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-10).

6. Test our motives. (1) Do we quit doing good when men fail to applaud us? (2) Do we work only as long as we are in the lead? (3) Do we make a pretense of serving the Lord for earthly advantages? (4) Do we attend services for social reasons?

“TAKE HEED AND BEWARE OF COVETOUSNESS”

Lk. 12:15

1. Covetousness produced strife (Lk. 12:13,14). It caused one brother to say, “Divide,” but caused the other to say, “No.”

2. The parable of the rich fool (Lk. 12:16-21). (1) His selfishness is seen in that he used the pronouns “I” six times and “my” five times, but mentions no one else. (2) Committed five grievous blunders: Hoarded his goods instead of using them. Thought he owned time. Thought his soul could feast on the things put in barns. Commanded his soul as if he had complete authority over it, forgetting that God could command it. Left God out of his plans.

3. Reasons why we should beware of covetousness.

- (1) Love of money is the root of all evil (I Tim. 6:10).
- (2) That we be not ostracized by the brethren (I Cor.

5:10). (3) The covetous shall not inherit the kingdom of God (I Cor. 6:10). (4) A covetous man cannot be an elder (I Tim. 3:3). (5) Covetousness is idolatry (Eph. 5:5; Col. 3:5).

4. Putting covetousness to death (Col. 3:5). (1) Do not keep company with covetous persons (I Cor. 5:10). (2) "Let your conversation be without covetousness" (Heb. 13:5). (3) Covetousness comes from the heart (Mk. 7:21,22); therefore, keep the heart filled with good things. (4) Seek first the kingdom of God (Matt. 6:33). (5) Put trust in God rather than in material things. God will not fail you (Heb. 13:5). God will supply your physical needs (Matt. 6:25,30; Phil. 4:19).

THREE PHILOSOPHIES OF LIFE

Lk. 10:30-37

1. Thief: "What is yours should be mine, and I will take it." Ex. 20:15.

2. Priest and Levite: "What is mine should be mine, and I will keep it." Lk. 12:20; Matt. 25:41-46.

3. Good Samaritan: "What is mine should be yours, and I will divide it." Matt. 25:34-40; Acts 2:45; Eph. 4:28.

HOLDING LIFE SACRED

1. Cleanse yourself from all defilement of flesh and spirit (II Cor. 7:1).

2. Be separate (II Cor. 6:17).

3. Keep body healthy (III Jno. 2).

4. Recognize whole duty and do it (Eccl. 12:13).

5. Redeem time (Eph. 5:15,16).

6. Be holy (Col. 1:22).

ESSENTIALS OF THE ART OF LIVING

1. Work. (1) God created us and adapted us to work (Gen. 2:15; 3:19; II Thess. 3:10). (2) Should be happy in our work or it will be drudgery. (3) Should follow Christ (Matt. 20:28). (4) Idleness exposes a person to all kinds of imaginations, worries, and fears.

2. Love. (1) There must be someone to love, but some are too selfish ever to love anyone but themselves. (2) The teachings of Jesus take into consideration this need (Matt. 22:37-39).

3. An acceptance of self. (1) We must accept the fact that different persons have different talents (Matt. 25:14-30). We must accept what we have, even though we may have inferior talents and severe handicaps, and use them rather than complain over what we do not have. (2) Should resign ourselves to the things that happen to us (Phil. 4:11), but never be content with what we are (Phil. 3:13-14).

4. Self-examination. (1) I Cor. 11:28; II Cor. 13:5; Gal. 6:4. (2) Enables us to see ourselves as God and others see us; then we can do something about it. (3) Focuses the criticism on self. We need this lest we become too critical of others (Matt. 7:3-5). Some are so critical that they cannot enjoy living.

5. Cultivate an interest in others. (1) Phil. 2:4; Gal. 6:2; Rom. 12:15; Matt. 7:12. (2) Being self-centered robs many of happiness.

6. Live life a day at a time. (1) Matt. 6:34. (2) The only way it can be lived, because yesterday is gone, and tomorrow has not and may never come (Jas. 4:13,14). (3) Many try to carry the weight of the future and all the burdens of the past. We cannot change the past, and

the best preparation for the future is to do well at the present.

OUR OBJECTS IN LIFE

1. Save self (Acts 2:40). Salvation is ascribed to many things: God (I Tim. 2:3,4), Christ (Matt. 1:21), blood (Eph. 1:7), gospel (Rom. 1:16), grace (Eph. 2:5-8), faith (Eph. 2:5-8), works (Jas. 2:24) and baptism (I Pet. 3:20,21).

2. Be happy. (1) This follows salvation as we see in the conversions of the eunuch and the jailer (Acts 8:39; 16:34). (2) The Christian should be happy because all physical needs will be added unto him (Matt. 6:33), all things work for his good (Rom. 8:28), and because he has the promise of life eternal (I Jno. 2:25).

3. Save others. (1) This was one of Paul's objects (I Cor. 9:22). (2) The saved have a responsibility to the lost of all the earth (Mk. 16:15,16). (3) The blood of the lost will be held at our hands until we make a reasonable effort to save them (Ezek. 33:8,9).

4. Make others happy. (1) Think of all the unhappiness in the world. (2) Must make others happy to be happy; for this reason it is more blessed to give than to receive.

MAKING LIFE MEANINGFUL

1. Start now, today; do not wait (Jno. 9:4; Heb. 3:7).

2. Be busy (Matt. 20:6).

3. Do things for others (Matt. 23:11). (1) Teach and preach (Heb. 5:12). (2) Restore the fallen (Gal. 6:1). (3) Bear one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2). (4) Visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction (Jas. 1:27). (5) Visit the sick (Matt. 25:31). (6) Be our brother's

keeper (Gen. 4:9). (7) Seek first the kingdom of God (Matt. 6:33).

4. Use our money to the glory of God and to the salvation of souls (II Cor. 8:1-7).

5. Many have come close to greatness, to making life meaningful, only to lose it forever. (1) Judas. (2) Pilate. (3) Demas.

THE SURRENDERED LIFE

1. The surrendered life is devoted first of all to the service of God (Matt. 6:33; II Cor. 8:5).

2. The surrendered life gives up everything to gain the kingdom (Matt. 13:45,46).

3. The surrendered life prays, "Not my will but thine be done" (Lk. 22:42).

4. Paul's life is one of the greatest examples of a surrendered life (Phil. 3:5-8; Acts 20:24).

5. We know of many who would not at first surrender, but after considering the matter did surrender; for instance, Jonah (Jonah 1-3) and Moses (Ex. 4).

"THE LIFE WHICH I NOW LIVE IN THE FLESH"

Gal. 2:20

1. "The life which I now live in the flesh." (1) We live this life in the flesh or earthly tabernacle (II Pet. 1:13,14; II Cor. 5:1). (2) There is another life not in this flesh (I Cor. 15:50-54; Eccl. 12:7).

2. "I live by the faith of the Son of God." (1) What faith is (Heb. 11:1). (2) How faith comes (Jno. 20:30,31; Rom. 10:17). (3) Christianity is a religion of faith (Acts 15:9; Rom. 5:1; II Cor. 5:7; Heb. 11:6). (4) Christianity is not a religion of "faith only" (Jas. 2:17-26; Jno. 12:42,43).

3. "Who loved me." (1) Love proves itself (II Cor. 8:24). (2) Christ did too much for us to question his love. (3) One of the most consoling thoughts in the Bible.

4. "And gave himself for me." (1) Bore our sins in his own body on the tree (I Pet. 2:24). (2) Died for our sins (I Cor. 15:3). (3) Propitiation for our sins (I Jno. 2:2). (4) Lamb of God (Jno. 1:29).

THINGS THAT HELP US TO LIVE BETTER

1. A realization of the value of the soul (Matt. 16:26; 10:28).

2. Going about conscious of the fact that we must account for our works at the day of judgment (Rev. 20:12; II Cor. 5:10; Rom. 2:6).

3. Live each day as if it were the last day (Eccel. 9:5; Job 14:1; Jas. 4:13,14).

4. A consciousness of the fact that we must spend eternity in either heaven or hell (Matt. 25:46).

5. A greater degree of faith. Peter began to sink because he lacked faith (Matt. 14:28-31). Unbelief causes one to depart from God (Heb. 3:12).

6. Encouraging words for doing the right inspire us to do even better. What Jesus said about the Roman centurion's faith must have been an encouragement (Matt. 8:5,10). What Jesus said about the widow's gift was surely an encouragement (Mk. 12:41-44).

7. Having our sins rebuked helps us to live better. Paul told Timothy to do it (II Tim. 4:2).

8. The thought that one is an example and is helping to lead others somewhere helps one to live better (I Tim. 4:12). The Christian is Christianity on display and should magnify the Christ (Phil. 1:20).

9. Take an inventory of self and see where you can make improvements (Matt. 7:3-5).

THINGS WE DO NOT HAVE TO HAVE TO BE OF VALUE IN THE LORD'S WORK

1. Eloquence. (1) Moses was "slow of speech and of a slow tongue" (Ex. 4:10). (2) Paul (I Cor. 2:1,4).

2. Education. (1) It was said that Peter and John were unlearned and ignorant men (Acts 4:13). (2) An education is only useful as a means to an end.

3. Riches. (1) The poor widow (Mk. 12:41-44). (2) Christ (Matt. 8:20). (3) Riches are often perilous to spirituality (I Tim. 6:9). (4) The common people keep Christianity marching onward (Mk. 12:37).

4. Fine clothes. (1) John (Matt. 3:4). (2) I Pet. 3:3,4. (3) The Lord looketh on the heart (I Sam. 16:7). (4) Those who are beautiful within need not worry about outside appearances.

5. Perfect physical health. Gaius (III Jno. 2).

6. Years of instruction and experience. After Paul became a Christian he straightway preached Christ (Acts 9:19,20).

7. Everything convenient and opportune. (1) Paul and Silas did not have this in the Philippian jail (Acts 16:19-34). (2) We hear too much about "convenience" in the Lord's work. (3) Those who had this "convenience" complex did not go to the supper (Lk. 14:16-24).

THINGS WE MUST HAVE TO BE OF VALUE IN THE LORD'S WORK

1. The faith which produces the fruit of self-denial (Heb. 11:24,25).

2. A conversation which reveals that one has been with Jesus (Acts 4:13).
3. Liberality (Mk. 12:41-44).
4. An uncompromising spirit like that possessed by John the Baptist (Matt. 14:3-10).
5. Good spiritual health (III Jno. 1,2).
6. A consciousness of being in debt to all men (Rom. 1:14,15).
7. A love for souls (I Cor. 9:22; 8:13).

EXCUSE-MAKERS

1. Adam (Gen. 3:12).
2. Eve (Gen. 3:13).
3. Aaron (Ex. 32:21-24).
4. Three excuse-makers in the parable (Lk. 14:16-24).
5. One of the disciples (Matt. 8:21,22).
6. Another disciple (Lk. 9:61,62).
7. The one-talent man (Matt. 25:24-27).

EXCUSES FOR NOT OBEYING THE GOSPEL

1. "Not good enough." I Tim. 1:15,16.
2. "I am good enough." Rom. 1:16.
3. "I cannot hold out." I Cor. 10:13.
4. "Too young." Eccl. 12:1.
5. "Too old." II Pet. 3:9.
6. "Cannot leave friends." Mk. 10:29,30.
7. "Hypocrites in the church." Matt. 23; Acts 4:12.
8. "Too narrow." Matt. 7:13,14.
9. "Unpopular." Acts 28:22.

EXCUSES FOR NOT ATTENDING WORSHIP

1. "Too many inconsistent members." Rom. 2:1.

2. "Some of the members have mistreated me." Matt. 6:14,15; 7:3,4.
3. "I don't have clothes." I Sam. 16:7; Mk. 12:37.
4. "I don't have any friends in the church." Prov. 18:24.
5. "We had company last Sunday." Matt. 10:37.
6. "I let the children sleep late on Sunday morning." Eph. 6:4.
7. "I work hard all week and use Sunday for recreation." Heb. 10:25.
8. "Too hot, too cold, too rainy or too dry." II Tim. 4:2.

ABRAHAM THE FRIEND OF GOD

1. The only person to have received this title (Jas. 2:23; II Chron. 20:7; Isa. 41:8). It is good to note some of his qualities.
2. Believed God (Jas. 2:23; Heb. 11:8,9,17). Faith is a part of the plan of salvation (Heb. 11:6); but it is not the whole of it, because man can believe and be lost (Jno. 12:42,43; Jas. 2:17-26).
3. Obeyed God. (1) When told to go into another country, he went (Heb. 11:8). (2) When commanded to offer Isaac, he did (Heb. 11:17). (3) We must obey to be saved (Matt. 7:21-23; Heb. 5:9; Rev. 22:14).
4. Feared God (Gen. 22:12). Man's whole duty is to fear God and keep his commandments (Eecl. 12:13).
5. Had a deep concern for the lost (Gen. 18:16-33). Every Christian should feel a responsibility to the lost (Rom. 1:14-16).
6. There are no half and half friends with God (Matt. 6:24; 12:30; Jas. 4:4).
7. We also can be friends of God (Jno. 15:14).

THE CASE OF APOLLOS
Acts 18:24-28

1. "An Alexandrian." Alexandria had become the chief seat of Hebrew learning.

2. "An eloquent man." (1) This is not said of any other man in the Bible. (2) This increased his power.

3. "Mighty in the scriptures." (1) No ordinary accomplishment. Before the day of printing. This knowledge was acquired from manuscripts. (2) Such an accomplishment even today is unusual.

4. "Fervent in spirit." Zealous.

5. "Spoke boldly in the synagogue." Courageous and unafraid.

6. "Taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, knowing only the baptism of John." (1) Taught accurately so far as he knew, but—and this ruins it all—he knew only the baptism of John. (2) John's work was preparatory (Matt. 11:10). (3) Distinction between John's baptism and Christ's baptism. Christ's baptism in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but John's was not. Christ's baptism has promise, "Ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38), but John's did not. Those who obey Christ's baptism confess Christ (Acts 8:37). (4) Such a grievous error that Paul rebaptized John's disciples (Acts 19:1-5).

7. Aquilla and Priscilla taught him "the way of God more perfectly." Not so indifferent and unlearned as to think that "one baptism is as good as another."

BARNABAS
Acts 11:22-26

1. Liberal (Acts 4:31-37). (1) God is liberal (Jas. 1:5). Gave his Son (Jno. 3:16), and gives every good

gift (Jas. 1:17). (2) Macedonians (II Cor. 8:1-5). (3) Covetous (I Cor. 6:10).

2. An exhorter. (1) "Son of exhortation (Acts 4:36). (2) Exhorted the disciples in Antioch (Acts 11:23). (3) Should exhort both alien (Acts 2:40) and Christian (II Tim. 4:2). (4) "Exhort one another daily" (Heb. 3:13).

3. Not envious. (1) "Was glad." Not envious of the work of others. (2) "Rottenness of bones" (Prov. 14:30). (3) Envy crucified Christ (Matt. 27:18). (4) Caused men to speak against the truth (Acts 13:45).

4. "Good man." (1) Clean, upright, benevolent, merciful, honest. (2) Takes more than morality to save (Jno. 10:9; Eph. 2:16; 5:23; II Thess. 1:8,9; Acts 4:12).

5. "Full of the Holy Spirit." (1) Apostles were baptized with Holy Spirit and had miraculous gifts of the Spirit (Acts 2). (2) Those upon whom the apostles laid hands also had the Holy Spirit in miraculous form (Acts 8:18).

6. "Full of faith." (1) Shield of faith (Eph. 6:16). (2) Lost faith (Heb. 3:12).

7. Successful—"much people was added unto the Lord." (1) Cannot join the Lord's church—added (Acts 2:47). (2) Any person who has the same characteristics will do a great work for the Lord.

"THE WAY OF CAIN"

Jude 11

1. The way of vain worship (Gen. 4:3-5). (1) It is possible to worship in vain (Matt. 15:8,9). (2) Acceptable worship must be in spirit and in truth (Jno. 4:23,24).

2. The way of opinion. (1) By faith Abel offered

a more excellent sacrifice than Cain (Heb. 11:4), leaving it implied that Cain's sacrifice was not of faith. (2) Faith comes by the word of God (Rom. 10:17), but an opinion is what one thinks. (3) We are to live by faith (Gal. 2:20).

3. The way of wrath (Gen. 4:5). He made the mistake of letting the sun go down upon his wrath (Eph. 4:26).

4. The way of envy (I Jno. 3:12). (1) Envy is the rottenness of the bones (Prov. 14:30). (2) Leads to every evil work (Jas. 3:16).

5. The way of murder (Gen. 4:8). Ex. 20:13; I Jno. 3:15.

6. The way of selfishness (Gen. 4:9). Phil. 2:4.

7. The way of punishment (Gen. 4:13). We reap (Gal. 6:7).

LESSONS FROM CAIN AND ABEL

Genesis 4

1. Brothers, but different. (1) Different occupations. (2) Different in character. (3) Different worship. (4) Brothers today who are reared under the same influence and receive the same teaching are often very different.

2. Acceptable and unacceptable worship. (1) God respected Abel's offering, but did not respect Cain's offering (Gen. 4:4,5; Heb. 11:4). (2) Just any kind of worship is not acceptable to God (Matt. 15:9). (3) Acceptable worship must be in spirit and in truth (Jno. 4:23,24). (4) Are our offerings today acceptable to God?

3. "Cain was very wroth." (1) We would have expected these brothers to have lived on pleasant terms with each other. We would have never prophesied murder.

(2) Cain's anger should have been directed against himself rather than against Abel. His brother was not at fault.

4. Murder produced by envy in their religious lives. (1) Brothers should rejoice in the religious success of each other, but Cain did not. (2) Strife in the church is often the fruit of envy. Men envy positions and talents of others, and murder each other's reputations. (3) There has been more strife over religion than any other topic.

5. Cain was punished. (1) "Thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground." When you shed the blood of another in reputation, influence, usefulness, or in any other way, it will cry unto the Lord against you. (2) A curse was placed on Cain (Gen. 4:11,12).

EVE'S FALL IN SEVEN ACTS

Gen. 3:1-13

1. Listened (ver. 4).
2. Looked (ver. 6).
3. Desired (ver. 6).
4. Sinned (ver. 6).
5. Tempted (ver. 6).
6. Hid (ver. 8).
7. Blamed (ver. 13).

WHAT MADE HEZEKIAH GREAT

II Kings 18:1-6

1. Not his parents. (1) His father, Ahaz, was one of the worst kings. (2) Have known several righteous children with wicked parents, and vice versa. (3) Environment is important, but in spite of this each is responsible for himself.

2. Not his children. (1) His son, Manasseh, was

also one of the wickedest kings (II Kings 21). (2) Hezekiah had an evil father and rose above him. Manasseh had a righteous father and fell below him.

3. Not his age. (1) Ascended the throne at the age of twenty-five (II Kings 18:2). (2) Age does not contribute to greatness. Methuselah was the oldest, but not the greatest. It is gray matter rather than gray hair that really counts.

4. Not his pride. (1) This was his weakness which brought about his downfall (II Kings 20:12,13). (2) Prov. 16:18; I Jno. 2:16.

5. "Did that which was right in the sight of the Lord" (II Kings 18:3). (1) Not that which was right in the sight of man. (2) Gal. 1:10.

6. Was loyal and uncompromising. (1) His first act as king was to destroy idolatry and cleanse the house of the Lord (II Kings 18:4; II Chron. 29:3-11). (2) Putting anything or anybody before the Lord is idolatry.

7. A man of action. (1) Immediately began his work as a reformer (II Chron. 29:3,36). (2) Many have failed because of indecision.

8. "He trusted in the Lord God of Israel" (II Kings 18:5). Prov. 3:5.

9. "He clave to the Lord" (II Kings 18:6). This is a necessity. Must hold fast.

10. Kept the Lord's commandments (II Kings 18:6). Eccl. 12:13; Matt. 19:17; Jno. 14:15.

11. Prayerful (II Kings 19:14; 20:1-3).

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Matt. 3:1-17

1. His mission was that of a forerunner (Mal. 3:1; Lk. 1:16,17).

2. His parents, birth and early life. (1) Parents were righteous (Lk. 1:16). (2) Promised by the angel (Lk. 1:13-15). (3) Spiritually trained for the great work (Lk. 1:80).

3. His message. (1) Repentance (Matt. 3:1,2,7,8). (2) Baptism of repentance (Lk. 3:3). (3) The approach of the kingdom (Matt. 3:1,2; 16:18,19). (4) Eternal punishment (Matt. 3:12). (5) Rebuked the king for his adulterous marriage (Matt. 14:3,4). (6) Died instead of compromise (Matt. 14:6-12).

4. Claimed no equality with Christ (Jno. 1:19-30; 3:30; Matt. 3:11).

5. Organized no church. (1) Was dead when Jesus promised to build the church (Matt. 14:10; 16:18). (2) Was never in the kingdom or church (Matt. 11:11). (3) Paul rebaptized some of his disciples (Acts 19:1-5).

6. Then let us follow the Christ as did John's disciples (Jno. 1:35-42).

MARY AND MARTHA

Lk. 10:38-42

1. Jesus visited the home of Mary and Martha. (1) Had no home of his own (Matt. 8:20). (2) Would Jesus be welcome in our homes? If his servants are not welcome, he would not be welcome (Matt. 25:34-45). (3) "What have they seen in thine house?" (II Kings 20:15).

2. What Christ did not teach in this home. (1) Did not commend Mary for laziness. Bible teaches us to work (Gen. 2:15; 3:19; Eph 4:28; I Tim. 5:8). (2) Did not teach that no thought should be taken for food. Asked the disciples, "Children, have ye any meat?" (Jno. 21:5).

On the cross, made provision for his mother (Jno. 19:27).

3. What Christ did teach in this home. (1) Taught against being troubled and perplexed (Matt. 6:25-31; Phil. 4:6). (2) Taught against being so interested in the material that we forget the spiritual. Rich fool (Lk. 12:13-21).

4. Martha represents the attitude of the majority. (1) Make material things their first duty. (2) This attitude forgets the "good part." It is good to keep a house, but is better to make a home. It is good to make a living, but is better to live a life.

5. "Which shall not be taken away." All material things must come to ruin and decay, but the spiritual will remain.

MOSES

1. We see the providence of God in his life. (1) Due to the decrees of Pharaoh (Ex. 1:17,22) he was hidden three months (Ex. 2:2; Heb. 11:23). Herod also tried to frustrate the plan of God relative to the Christ. Both Pharaoh and Herod lost in their contests with God; men always lose in such contests. (2) Was discovered by Pharaoh's daughter as he lay in the ark of bulrushes by the river's brink (Ex. 2:3-6). This was not a chance happening.

2. First part of Moses' training was given him by his mother (Ex. 2:7-10). (1) Too much cannot be said in behalf of godly mothers. (2) We are reminded of II Tim. 1:5; 3:15.

3. Was faced with a great decision (Heb. 11:24-26). (1) Sin must have its pleasures and attractions or there would not be so many sinners, but these pleasures last only for a season. Moses could look beyond the temporal

and see the eternal. (2) We, too, are called upon to make decisions.

4. In the land of Midian an angel appeared unto him in the midst of a burning bush (Acts 7; Ex. 3:2). Bush burned but was not consumed. The same God has power to keep the fires of hell burning forever (Rev. 20:10). Hell will last as long as heaven (Matt. 25:46).

5. Moses' excuses. (1) "They will not believe me" (Ex. 4:1). God has never sent men out without giving them credentials. Gave Moses the rod (Ex. 4:17). We have the Bible (Jno. 20:30,31). (2) "I am not eloquent" (Ex. 4:10). Do not have to be eloquent to do a great work. (3) Adam and Eve offered excuses (Gen. 3:12,13), and the majority continue to do this.

6. "What is that in thine hand?" (Ex. 4:2). (1) "A rod," an insignificant thing, but when dedicated to the service of God, the Lord multiplied its value and it became great. (2) True of Shamgar's oxgoad (Judg. 3:31), boy's lunch (Matt. 14:17), and the widow's mite (Mk. 12:41-44).

7. Prophetied of Christ as one like unto himself (Deut. 18:15; Acts 3:22,23). True in many respects.

8. Moses' sin is an awful warning to us. (1) Told to speak to the rock, but he struck it twice also (Num. 20:7-12). (2) Must not add to God's word (Deut. 4:2; Rev. 22:18,19).

MOSES AS PICTURED IN HEBREWS

Heb. 11:24-27

1. Rejected earthly glory—"Refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter." Jno. 12:42,43; I Thess. 2:6.

2. Made wise choice—"Choosing rather to suffer af-

fiction with the people of God." Josh. 24:15; Isa. 7:15; Acts 13:46.

3. Correctly appraised riches—"Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt." Matt. 6:19,20; Matt. 13:45,46; I Tim. 6:9,10.

4. Lived a separated life—"He forsook Egypt." II Cor. 6:17; Jas. 4:7,8; I Thess. 5:22.

5. Feared God rather than man—"Not fearing the wrath of the king." Acts 4:19,20; 5:29; Matt. 10:28.

6. Persevered—"He endured." Matt. 10:22; I Cor. 15:58.

7. Saw the unseen—"Seeing him who is invisible." Col. 1:15,16; II Cor. 4:18.

SIMON PETER

1. Fisherman by occupation. He became a fisher of men (Matt. 4:19).

2. Was brought to Jesus through personal work (Jno. 1:41). A field of work that cannot be overemphasized.

3. Name means "rock" or "stone," but the church was not founded upon him. (1) "Thou art Peter (Petros) and upon this rock (petra) I will . . ." Different genders. Church was founded on the confession Peter made. (2) I Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:20.

4. Was given the keys to the kingdom (Matt. 16:19), but was not given anything the other apostles were not given, because the promise was later renewed to all the apostles (Matt. 18:18). True that Peter exercised this authority on the day of Pentecost, but so did the other apostles (Acts 2).

5. Refused to be worshiped (Acts 10:25,26).

6. Was a married man. (1) Wife's mother (Matt.

8:14). (2) Continued to lead about a wife (I Cor. 9:5).

7. Peter had no excellency of position over the other apostles. Was rebuked by Paul (Gal. 2:11).

8. "Unlearned and ignorant" (Acts 4:13). An education is not essential to soul winning, but a conversation which reveals that one has been with Jesus is necessary.

9. Impulsive. (1) Attempted to walk on sea (Matt. 14:28-31). (2) Cut off Malchus' ear (Jno. 18:10-12). (3) Rushed into tomb (Jno. 20:1-10).

10. His denial (Matt. 26:69-75). (1) Remembered the word of Jesus and wept bitterly. (2) The result of having "followed afar off" (Matt. 26:58).

11. On other occasions his faith was strong. (1) Before the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:19,20). (2) Beaten (Acts 5:40). (3) In prison (Acts 12:4). (4) Died for Christ. This was foretold by Christ (Jno. 21:18,19).

SIX LESSONS FROM THE PRODIGAL SON

Lk. 15:11-32

1. The way of separation from God. "He took his journey into a far country." Isa. 59:2.

2. The waste of sin. "Wasted his substance with riotous living." Waste of money, time, talent, and opportunity.

3. The unhappy consequences of sin. "Joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him . . . to feed swine."

4. The insanity of sin. "When he came to himself."

5. The wise decision. "I will arise and go to my father."

6. The decision executed. "He arose, and came to his father."

"BEING DEAD YET SPEAKETH"

Heb. 11:4

1. Abel says, "God will have respect only to the right gift, given in the right way" (Heb. 11:4).

2. Enoch: "God translated me and saved me from physical death, because I pleased him" (Heb. 11:5).

3. Noah: "God destroyed the world with a flood. Under the direction of God, I prepared an ark to the saving of my house" (Heb. 11:7).

4. Abraham: "You can place implicit faith in the guidance of God. I went out not knowing whither I went. God is able to keep his promises—gave me Isaac" (Heb. 11:8).

5. Moses: "I chose to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season" (Heb. 11:23-26).

6. Rahab: "I was saved by faith and works" (Josh. 2).

GUARANTEES FROM THE LORD

1. Every guarantee from the Lord will be kept (II Pet. 3:9; Heb. 10:23).

2. "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Prov. 3:6).

3. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mk. 16:16).

4. "Will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able" (I Cor. 10:13).

5. "Ask, and it shall be given you" (Matt. 7:7).

6. "All these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

7. "All things work together for good to them that love God" (Rom. 8:28).

8. "Lo, I am with you alway" (Matt. 28:20).
9. "I will come again and receive you unto myself" (Jno. 14:3).
10. "He that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Gal. 6:8).
11. Have you entered into these contracts that you may have these guarantees from the Lord?

SHOWING GRATITUDE

Lk. 17:11-17

1. Only one out of the ten lepers turned back to express gratitude.
2. Man shows his gratitude by his works just like he shows his faith by his works (Jas. 2:18).
3. Noah did not show his gratitude for being saved, but rather drank himself drunk (Gen. 9:21).
4. Children show gratitude for parents by honoring them (Eph. 6:1-3).
5. Parents show gratitude for children by bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4).
6. The saved show gratitude for salvation by trying to save others (Rom. 1:14).
7. Show gratitude for the church by supporting it in every way.

INDIFFERENCE IN RELIGION

Acts 18:17

1. "And Gallio cared for none of these things." This was a religious persecution and Gallio cared nothing about the religious question. His attitude was that indifference which suggests the theme. Religious condition of the majority is that of indifference.

2. Fruits of indifference. A failure to attend religious services, study, pray, give, and work in the Lord's vineyard.

3. Causes of indifference. (1) Worldliness (Matt. 6:24; Jas. 4:4). (2) Business cares that burden the mind (Matt. 13:22). (3) The impression that the services are intended to please rather than save (Gal. 1:10). (4) Ignorance of God's word; many think they can be saved in a state of lukewarmness (Rev. 3:15,16; Hos. 4:6). (5) Denominationalism which has taught that one creed is as good as another; that faith only will save; that if once saved, always saved; that if the members would only pay, everything would be taken care of; and also by "preaching to heaven" the unprepared.

4. Cure for indifference. (1) More Bible study and more faithful attendance at the services. This will increase both faith and knowledge. (2) Association with devoted Christian people (Gal. 5:9). (3) Work for the Saviour. The more we work the more interested we become.

"I WOULD NOT HAVE YOU IGNORANT"

1. "That oftentimes I purposed to come unto you" (Rom. 1:13-16). (1) Why? "That I might have some fruit among you" (ver. 13). "I am debtor" (ver. 14). (2) "As much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you" (ver. 15). "It is the power of God unto salvation" (ver. 16).

2. Concerning the deliverance of the children of Israel (I Cor. 10:1-6). (1) All baptized alike (ver. 1,2). All had the same spiritual diet (ver. 3,4). But many of them were overthrown (ver. 5). (2) This is an example or a warning to us lest we be overcome (ver. 6).

3. "Concerning spiritual gifts" (I Cor. 12:1-12). (1) Paul discusses spiritual gifts in I Cor. 12, 13, 14. There were diversities of gifts (I Cor. 12:4). (3) Miraculous gifts of the Spirit were to cease at the completion of the perfect law of liberty (I Cor. 13:8-10).

4. "Of our trouble which came to us in Asia" (II Cor. 1:8-11). (1) "Had the sentence of death in ourselves" (ver. 9); i. e., in our hopelessness we thought death was sure. (2) We trusted not in ourselves, but in God who delivered us (ver. 9,10). (3) You also helped by prayer (ver. 11).

5. "Concerning them which are asleep" (I Thess. 4:13-18). There are several comforting thoughts in this reading, so we are told to "comfort one another with these words" (ver. 18).

AN IDEAL THAT SATISFIES

Psa. 17:15

1. David's ideal is set forth in this text. Generally speaking, we attain what we seek, at least in some measure. Man's realization of an ideal is apt to be proportionate with his aspiration.

2. Men differ as to what brings satisfaction; hence, men seek it in different ways. (1) In pleasures. "Men of the world, which have their portion in this life" (Psa. 17:14). I Tim. 5:6; II Tim. 3:4; Heb. 11:25. (2) In riches. I Tim. 6:7-10; Prov. 22:1; 30:8; Eccl. 5:10-13. (3) In power. But man at the height of his power is still very helpless: cannot direct his steps (Jer. 10:23); cannot add one cubit to his stature (Matt. 6:27); is dependent upon God for every blessing (Jas. 1:17). More power brings less sleep and more worry. (4) In knowledge.

Eccl. 1:18; 12:12. (5) In position. But joy and satisfaction come from service (Matt. 20:26,27) rather than from position.

3. There is also in the text the thought of anticipation. Eager anticipation gives us much joy. There are so many things we today anticipate.

THE IDEAL EDUCATION

Lk. 2:52

1. Jesus increased in wisdom—grew intellectually.
2. Jesus increased in stature—grew physically.
3. Jesus increased in favor with God—grew religiously.
4. Jesus increased in favor with man—grew socially.

“COMFORT ONE ANOTHER WITH THESE WORDS”

I Thess. 4:13-18

1. That man may have hope (ver. 13). (1) Hope because Christ died for man (Rom. 5:8; I Cor. 15:3) and gave his gospel to save (Rom. 1:16). (2) Some do not have this hope (ver. 13), because they have not obeyed the gospel (II Thess. 1:8,9).

2. That Christ will come again (ver. 16).

3. That Christ will raise the dead (ver. 16; I Cor. 15:51-55).

4. That we may “ever be with the Lord” (ver. 17; Jno. 14:1-4; Rev. 21).

“THOU KNOWEST THE PEOPLE”

Ex. 32:22

1. A disbelieving people. (1) When Moses delayed in coming down off the mount (Ex. 32:1). (2) Their reaction to the report of the spies (Num 13:26-14:5).

2. A cowardly people. (1) When Pharaoh's army drew nigh at the Red Sea (Ex. 14:10-14). (2) Afraid to possess the promised land (Num. 13:26-14:5).

3. A forgetful people. (1) Moses said, "Beware lest thou forget" (Deut. 6:12). (2) Would soon forget the Lord after being delivered from some trying experience.

4. A rebellious people. (1) Rebelled against God's plan to lead them into Canaan—wanted to select a new leader. (2) Even Moses rebelled by adding to God's word (Num. 20:7-11).

5. An immoral people. (1) "Shall nots" of Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:3-17). (2) All kinds of prohibitions and regulations given.

6. An unstable and undependable people. (1) After being delivered from the Egyptians, they praised the Lord, but were soon grumbling and complaining. (2) Wanted to leave Egypt, and then wanted to return.

7. An idolatrous people. Put their faith in a golden calf as a god (Ex. 32).

PHARAOH'S ADVICE YESTERDAY AND SATAN'S ADVICE TODAY

1. Pharaoh: "Sacrifice to your God in the land" (Ex. 8:25). Satan: "Sacrifice in the land; do not go into Jehovah's land; do not become a member of the church."

2. Pharaoh: "Ye may sacrifice to the Lord your God in the wilderness; only ye shall not go very far away" (Ex. 8:28). Satan: "If you must, you may sacrifice in the church, but do not go very far into it; stay close to me."

3. Pharaoh: "Go now ye that are men and serve the Lord" (Ex. 10:11). Satan: "If you are determined, go serve Jehovah in the church and go all the way, but leave the women and children behind for me; let me have them."

4. Pharaoh: "Go ye, serve the Lord; only let your flocks and your herds be stayed" (Ex. 10:24). Satan: "If you must, go serve Jehovah, but do not take your possessions; leave them with me."

PROMISES OF GOD

1. They are "exceeding great and precious" (II Pet. 1:4).

2. The Lord is not slack concerning his promises (II Pet. 3:9; Heb. 10:23) .

3. What God has not promised. (1) To accept excuses (Lk. 14:16-24). (2) Another day to live (Jas. 4:13,14). (3) To save men out of the church (Eph. 5:23; Acts 2:47). (4) Another chance after death (Tit. 2:11, 12; II Cor. 6:2). (5) To hear a sinner's prayer (Jno. 9:31). (6) A life free from hardships (II Tim. 3:12).

4. Unconditional promises. (1) No more flood on the earth (Gen. 9:12-17). (2) Death (Heb. 9:27). (3) Destruction of world and judgment (II Pet. 3:10; II Thess. 1:7-10).

5. Conditional promises. (1) Forgiveness of alien sins (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38). (2) Forgiveness of sins of the erring Christian (Acts 8:22; Jas. 5:16). (3) Never see the second death (Jno. 8:51; Rev. 20:14). (4) All things work for good (Rom. 8:28). (5) All things added (Matt. 6:33).

PROVE ALL THINGS

I Thess. 5:21

1. Prove or try yourselves whether ye be in the faith (II Cor. 13:5). Compare life and doctrine with the Scriptures.

2. Show the proof of your love (II Cor. 8:24). Love

behaves a certain way (I Cor. 13; Jno. 14:23).

3. Prove what is the good and perfect will of God (Rom. 12:2). Do this by being different from the world.

4. Let every man prove his own work (Gal. 6:4). Measure himself by the words and examples of Christ rather than by others; and he shall then have rejoicing in himself alone and not in others.

EVANGELISTIC QUESTIONS

1. "If a man die, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14).

2. "Lord, to whom shall we go?" (Jno. 6:68).

3. "What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30; 2:37, 38; 22:10,16).

4. "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" (Heb. 2:3).

5. "What shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" (I Pet. 4:17).

6. "Who shall be able to stand?" (Rev. 6:17).

7. "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Matt. 16:26).

A GREAT EVANGELISTIC MEETING

Acts 2

1. Great preparation. Centuries had been leading up to it. (1) Christ had to come and die (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 53; Heb. 9:22). (2) The work of John the Baptist was preparatory (Lk. 1:17). (3) Christ taught the apostles for about three years. (4) Sent the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles (Jno. 14:26; Acts 1:4,5).

2. Great occasion. (1) Day of Pentecost. (2) Holy Spirit came (Acts 2:1-4). (3) Birth of the church (Acts 2:41,47).

3. Advertised—noised abroad (Acts 2:6).

4. Great crowd (Acts 2:6). The soil is just as vital as the sower (Matt. 13:3-8,18-23).

5. Great sermon. (1) Fulfillment of Joel's prophecy (Acts 2:16-21). (2) Christ (Acts 2:22-36). (3) Believers were told to repent and be baptized (Acts 2:38).

6. Great exhortation (Acts 2:40).

7. Great results. (1) Three thousand obeyed and were added to the church (Acts 2:41). (2) Continued steadfastly (Acts 2:42).

OBEDIENCE

1. God has always stressed obedience. (1) Adam and Eve (Gen. 3). (2) Noah (Gen. 6:14-22). (3) Saul (I Sam. 15:1-23).

2. New Testament teaching on the topic. (1) Jesus was obedient (Jno. 5:30; Lk. 22:42; Heb. 5:8,9). (2) Jesus taught obedience (Matt. 7:21-27). (3) Christ saves those who obey (Heb. 5:9). (4) Only the obedient can enter into heaven (Rev. 22:14). (5) The Lord will take vengeance on the disobedient (I Pet. 4:17,18; II Thess. 1:8,9).

3. Obedience shows confidence. (1) We show our confidence in our doctor by obeying his instructions. (2) Abraham showed confidence in God by obeying his command to go into a country, not knowing whither he went (Heb. 11:8).

4. The purpose of obedience is to fit us for heaven. Man will obey and serve God in heaven (Rev. 22:3), but it must be learned on this earth. This life is a preparation for heaven.

TIME FOR ACTION

1. Time for aliens to seek the Lord (Hos. 10:12).

(1) Why? That they may find (Matt. 7:7). (2) When? At the earliest time (Prov. 8:17). (3) How? With the whole heart (Jer. 29:13). (4) Where? Out of the book of the Lord (Isa. 34:16).

2. Time for some church members to awake out of sleep (Rom. 13:11). (1) Throughout the ages some Christians have fallen into a state of lethargy and indifference. Ephesians left their first love (Rev. 2:4). Laodiceans became lukewarm (Rev. 3:15,16). Members at Sardis were living on past reputation (Rev. 3:1). (2) Why? Eternal salvation was nearer (Rom. 13:11), because of the passing of time. The night was far spent (Rom. 13:12). This life is only a time of sojourning (I Pet. 1:17) and is not our permanent abode. We need to redeem or buy up the time that has been lost (Eph. 5:15). The nature of our work—that of saving souls—demands that we awake out of our sleep.

SOMETHING IN RETURN

Psa. 116:12

1. Text shows that God is the benefactor and man is the recipient.

2. It further shows that the querist felt an obligation to his benefactor.

3. "All his benefits toward me." (1) Creation (Gen. 2:7). (2) Elevation (Gen. 1:26,28). (3) Preservation (Matt. 6:25-30). (4) Redemption (Eph. 1:7). (5) Guidance (Jer. 10:23; II Tim. 3:16,17). (6) Hope (Tit. 3:7).

4. "What shall I render unto the Lord?" (1) Love him (Matt. 22:37). (2) Worship him (Psa. 95:6,7). (3) Fear him (Eccl. 12:13; Heb. 12:28). (4) Remember

him (Eccl. 12:1; Jer. 2:32). (5) Serve him (Matt. 4:10). (6) Glorify him (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 1:20). (7) Work with him (II Cor. 6:1).

“ZEALOUS OF GOOD WORKS”

Tit. 2:14

1. Beneficial zeal is directed by knowledge. (1) Zeal apart from knowledge is harmful (Rom. 10:2). (2) Paul’s zeal minus knowledge caused him at one time to persecute the church (Phil 3:6). (3) Misdirected zeal is doing much harm today. The motives are good, but the results are bad.

2. The right direction of zeal—“good works.” (1) Col. 1:10; Tit. 3:1. (2) “Work of faith” (I Thess. 1:3). (3) Works opposed to darkness (Rom. 13:12). (4) Jesus went about doing good (Acts 10:38); so “good works” are the works Christ did.

3. The temper or enthusiasm by which such works are accomplished—“zealous.” (1) Should work heartily (Col. 3:23). (2) Should work with all our might (Eccl. 9:10). (3) Should serve the Lord with warmth of spirit and enthusiasm (Rev. 3:15,16). The Lord said to the Laodicean church: “Be zealous therefore, and repent” (Rev. 3:19).

4. The secret of this zeal—“Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people.” (1) The fact that Jesus gave himself for us should make us zealous (I Jno. 4:19). (2) But the secret of zeal is to be found in redemption and conversion. There is a difference between the converted and the unconverted.

"I WILL NOT BE NEGLIGENT"

II Pet. 1:12

1. I will not be negligent to put others in remembrance of God's word. This is the context. A tremendous responsibility.

2. I will not be negligent of my relationship to the Lord and to his church. (1) Attend (Acts 20:7; Heb. 10:25). (2) Give (I Cor. 16:2). (3) Work (Phil. 2:12). (4) Pray (I Thess. 5:17). (5) Shine as a light (Phil. 2:15).

3. I will not be negligent of the physical needs of my family (I Tim. 5:8).

4. I will not be negligent of the spiritual needs of my family (Eph. 6:4).

5. I will not be negligent of the needy (Jas. 1:27; Eph. 4:28).

6. Summed up, I will not be negligent of the great salvation; because if I am, there is no escape (Heb. 2:3).

"NONE OF THESE THINGS MOVE ME"

Acts 20:24

1. The history and conversion of the one who said this (Acts 7:58; 8:1; 9; 22; 26).

2. Things that failed to move him. (1) Bonds and afflictions (Acts 20:23). (2) Stoned at Lystra (Acts 14:19). (3) Whipped and put in prison at Philippi (Acts 16:19-24). (4) Mobbed at Jerusalem (Acts 21:27-40). (5) Prisoner at Rome (Acts 28:16-31). (6) II Cor. 11:23-28.

3. Some others who were unmovable (1) Job (Job 1; Jas. 5:11). (2) Peter and John who were put in prison

(Acts 4:19,20). (3) Stephen who was stoned (Acts 7).

4. Why none of those things moved Paul. (1) "Neither count I my life dear unto myself" (Acts 20:24). Mk. 8:36,37; II Cor. 5:1; Phil. 1:21-23; I Cor. 15:52-55. (2) "That I might finish my course with joy." Had not finished the course, but wanted to. It is very sad for any Christian to fail to finish this course (II Pet. 2:20-22). Paul did finish the course (II Tim. 4:6-8).

"TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?"

Jno. 6:64-68

1. Preacher? (1) May teach, strengthen, encourage and help bear your burdens, but he is just a man and has no authority of his own. (2) Denominationalism is the result of having followed men (I Cor. 1:11-13). (3) Only one perfect pattern to follow (I Peter 2:21).

2. Moses? (1) Moses prophesied of the new prophet (Deut. 18:15). (2) Law was to last until Christ came (Gal. 3:19,16). (3) Law was nailed to the cross (Col. 2:14).

3. John the Baptist? (1) His work was preparatory (Lk. 1:17; Jno. 1:23,24). (2) Was dead when Jesus promised to build the New Testament church (Matt. 14:10; 16:18). (3) Was never in the kingdom or church (Matt. 11:11). (4) Some of his disciples were rebaptized (Acts 19:1-5).

4. Christ? Yes. Why? (1) God has spoken to us through his Son (Heb. 1:1,2; Matt. 17:1-5). (2) Has all authority (Matt. 28:18). (3) Man's only Saviour (Matt. 1:21; Heb. 5:9). (4) Only Christ has the words of eternal life (Jno. 6:68; 14:6).

“THEY THINK IT STRANGE”**I Pet. 4:3,4**

1. “Time past of our life”—black. (1) Lasciviousness. (2) Lusts. (3) Excess of wine. (4) Revelings. (5) Banquetings. (6) Abominable idolatries.

2. “Time past of our life . . . wrought the will of the Gentiles.” (1) Once you had their favor, but they now speak evil of you. (2) Better to be popular with God than man.

3. “They think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot.” (1) Hard for the unconverted to understand the transforming power of the gospel (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 2:1-6). (2) Can give many examples. A man obeyed the gospel and quit cursing (Ex. 20:7; Jas. 3:10-12; Col. 4:6). Friends thought his radical change was strange. A drunkard became an excellent Bible teacher. Friends thought it strange. Converted people give of their means (II Cor. 8:5; Rom. 12:1; I Cor. 16:2). Some think it strange that they do.

“BEGINNING TO SINK”**Matt. 14:30**

1. When you see men and women beginning to sink, sinking, it fills the heart with sorrow.

2. Peter’s temperament put him in this danger. Was impetuous. (1) Rushed into the tomb (Jno. 20:1-6). (2) Drew his sword in Gethsemane (Matt. 26:51).

3. Began to sink in familiar waters. (1) Peter was a fisherman by trade and perhaps knew those waters; at least, he knew water. (2) On another occasion he began to sink in the high priest’s palace (Matt. 26:69-75); here he was a stranger. (3) Judas went down in familiar

waters. One of the twelve, familiar scenes, intimate friendships, but he sank. (4) The majority of Christians who sink go down in familiar waters. Very few take up new habits which cause them to sink; it is a going back to the old.

4. Began to sink when he looked the wrong way. (1) Looked at the boisterous wind when he should have kept his eyes on the Lord. (2) Other examples: Eve (Gen. 3:6); Lot (Gen. 13:10); Lot's wife (Gen. 19:26).

5. Began to sink after loyal discipleship. (1) Peter had been loyal and sincere; he loved the Lord. (2) Faith began to weaken (Matt. 14:31). (3) Many have gone down after loyal discipleship. Demas is an example (II Tim. 4:10).

6. Peter asked the Lord to save him. (1) Did not call on the other apostles. They could not save him. (2) He recognized the Lord's power to save.

“IF A MAN DIE SHALL HE LIVE AGAIN?”

Job 14:14

1. Men in every age have had to face this question (Gen. 3:19; Heb. 9:27).

2. In every age and in every country men have hoped to live again.

3. Job's answer: “And after my skin, even this body, is destroyed, then without my flesh shall I see God” (Job 19:26).

4. David's answer: “I shall dwell in the house of Jehovah for ever” (Psa. 23:6).

5. Solomon's answer: “Man goeth to his everlasting home, and the mourners go about the streets” (Eccl. 12:5).

6. Paul's answer: “There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness” (II Tim. 4:8).

7. Christ's answer: "Because I live, ye shall live also" (Jno. 14:19).

8. Man may live again, if he believes (Jno. 11:25); obeys (Rev. 22:14); sows to the spirit (Gal. 6:8); in one word, if his name is found in the book of life (Rev. 20:15).

"SHE HATH DONE WHAT SHE COULD"

Mk. 14:8

1. Some murmured against Mary and called this waste. Jesus commended her. What we do for Jesus is not wasted.

2. "Hath done." Text suggests that Christianity is a religion of doing things; it is not something one gets, but something one does. One must do something to be saved (Acts 2:37; 9:6; 16:30), and must do good works after being saved (II Pet. 1:5-10).

3. "What she could." Text suggests that each should do what he can. God holds each responsible for what he can do rather than for what he cannot do. (1) True of giving (II Cor. 8:12). (2) True of talents (Matt. 25:14-30). (3) Hence, responsibility equals response to ability.

4. The greatest need in the church is not eloquence, education, nor wealth, but the spirit which will cause each to do what he can.

GOD CALLS BUSY MEN TO PERFORM GREAT TASKS

1. Moses was busy with his flocks (Ex. 3).

2. Saul was busy searching for his father's lost beasts (I Sam. 9,10).

3. David was busy looking after his father's sheep (I Sam. 16:19).

4. Nehemiah was busy bearing the king's winecup (Neh. 2).

5. Peter and Andrew were busy casting a net into the sea (Matt. 4:18).

6. James and John were busy mending their nets (Matt. 4:21).

7. Matthew was busy collecting taxes (Matt. 9:9).

8. Saul was busy persecuting the disciples of Christ (Acts 8:3; 9:1,2).

WHICH?

1. You are walking by faith or by opinion. Which?
(1) To walk by faith is to walk by the revealed word of God (Rom. 10:17). (2) To walk by opinions is to walk according to what men think.

2. There are two principles in religion. (1) Have only that which the Bible authorizes—be guided by what the Bible says. (2) Have anything that is not directly forbidden by the Bible—be guided by the silence of the Bible. You are following one. Which?

3. There are two classes of people in the world. (1) Righteous (Lk. 1:6; Psa. 119:172). (2) Wicked (Psa. 1). You belong to one. Which?

4. There are two great rulers in the world. (1) Christ (Matt. 28:18; I Cor. 15:23-25). (2) Satan (II Cor. 4:4). You are serving one. Which?

5. There are two roads which lead through time to eternity. (1) Narrow (Matt. 7:14). (2) Broad (Matt. 7:13). You are traveling one. Which?

6. There are two foundations on which people build. (1) Rock (Matt. 7:24,25). (2) Sand (Matt. 7:26,27). You are building on one. Which?

7. There are two deaths which people die. (1) In the Lord (Rev. 14:13). (2) In their sins (Jno. 8:21). You will die one of these deaths. Which?

8. There are two places to spend eternity. (1) Lake of fire (Rev. 20:14,15). (2) Heaven (Rev. 21). You will go to one. Which?

9. "Choose you this day whom ye will serve" (Josh. 24:15).

"WHAT HAVE THEY SEEN IN THINE HOUSE?"

II Kings 20:15

1. Authority? There must be authority in every business or institution.

2. A recognition of the true status of each person in the family? (1) Husband, head of wife (Eph. 5:23). (2) Wife, keeper at home (Tit. 2:5). (3) Children should obey parents (Col. 3:20). (4) Parents should train children in nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4).

3. Bible study and prayer?

4. Good influence? Influence lives when we are dead (Rev. 14:13).

5. Hospitality? Rom. 12:13.

6. Good literature? As a person "thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Prov. 23:7). And as a person reads, he thinks.

7. Wholesome amusement?

8. Good associates? I Cor. 15:33.

"WHERE ART THOU?"

Gen. 3:9

1. Are you trying to hide from God? (Gen. 3:8-10). If so, you cannot (Psa. 139:1-12; Prov. 15:3).

2. Are you in the Lord's church? If not, you have

neither been saved (Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23) nor reconciled to God (Eph. 2:16).

3. Are you in the family of God? Not unless you are in the church, because the church is the house or family of God (I Tim. 3:15).

4. Are you among the number which are for the Lord or are you in the group which is against the Lord? (Matt. 12:30).

5. Are you in the narrow way or are you in the broad way? (Matt. 7:13,14).

“HE SHALL BE LIKE A TREE”

Psa. 1:1-3

1. Man is likened to several things in the Bible; builders, sheep, branches, salt, light, withering grass and fading flowers, and now a tree.

2. A tree is a planted thing. (1) “Planted by the rivers of waters.” (2) Christians have also been planted (Rom. 6:3-5).

3. A tree is a rooted thing. (1) Christians are rooted and built up in Christ (Col. 2:7). (2) Takes time for a tree to become rooted, and it takes time for a person to become established in the faith (Heb. 5:12).

4. A tree is a growing thing. (1) “By the rivers of water”—place of nutriment. (2) The law of nature demands that a tree grow, and the law of God demands that a child of his grow (I Pet. 2:2). (3) It is hard for a tree to grow out of its native climate, and it is hard for a Christian to grow in some environments (I Cor. 15:33).

5. A tree is a living thing. (1) Lives in all seasons. (2) God made us living creatures (Gen. 2:7; Jno. 11:25).

6. A tree is a beautiful thing. (1) Few things in

nature as beautiful as a tree. (2) Nothing more beautiful than a godly life (Rom. 10:15).

7. A tree is a fruitful thing. (1) "Bringeth forth its fruit." (2) God's children must bear fruit (Matt. 3:10).

8. Trees may have parasitic growths. (1) Other plants may grow on a tree at the expense of a tree. (2) Christians often have parasitic growths in their lives.

"LORD TEACH US"

1. "Teach us to number our days" (Psa. 90:12).
2. "Teach me thy statutes" (Psa. 119:12).
3. "Teach me to do thy will" (Psa. 143:10).
4. "Teach me thy way" (Psa. 27:11).
5. "Lord, teach us to pray" (Lk. 11:1).

"WHAT IS THAT IN THINE HAND?"

Ex. 4:2

1. Moses: "A rod"; but when given into the service of God it became famous.

2. Shamgar: "An oxgoad" (Judg. 3:31); but when dedicated to the service of God he used it to slay six hundred Philistines.

3. David: "A sling" (I Sam. 17); but when used in the service of God it was the means of killing the giant, Goliath, who had challenged and defied the army of God.

4. Jacob: "Tools with which to dig a well" (Jno. 4:6); hence, we read of Jacob's well, which became a blessing to the Saviour of men who has living water to offer.

5. Lad: "Five loaves and two fishes" (Jno. 6:5-14); but when given into the service of the Lord, it was miraculously multiplied to feed five thousand men besides women and children. Little things given to God can be multiplied to become great.

6. Poor widow: "Two mites" (Mk. 12:41-44); but when given into the treasury of the Lord, it became one of the greatest examples to teach liberality.

7. Dorcas: "A needle" (Acts 9:36-39); but with this little needle she was able to do many good works which testified to her almsdeeds after her death.

8. Friend of today: "The Bible, my soul, and my life"; hence, obey the Bible and save your soul and enrich your life. A life, though it seems little, when dedicated to the service of God, can become of great value.

WHAT DENOMINATIONALISM DOES TO CHRIST

1. Mocks his prayer (Jno. 17:20,21).
2. Keeps many from believing in Christ (Jno. 17:21).
3. Makes him a contradictory Lord, if he has called one man to deny what he has called another to affirm.
4. Makes him a hypocritical Lord, if he endorses contradictory doctrines.
5. Makes him an incompetent Lord, if he has given us a book we cannot understand "alike."
6. Makes him a polygamous Lord, if he has many brides (Eph. 5:23).

IF I SHOULD LOSE MY SOUL

1. God's grace would be in vain as far as I am concerned (II Cor. 6:1).
2. I would lose everything, for I can take none of the things I have gained in this life with me (I Tim. 6:7).
3. I would lose much comfort, joy and sweet assurances in this life (Rom. 14:17; 8:28).
4. I would go to the judgment crying out for the mountains and rocks to fall upon me (Rev. 6:16,17).

5. I would have to spend eternity in a burning torment (Matt. 25:46; Rev. 20:10).

6. I would lose heaven (Rev. 21).

7. Through the power of influence, I would be instrumental in causing others to lose their souls (I Cor. 15:33).

SPIRITUAL SECURITY

II Pet. 1:5-11

1. We hear much about security: financial, temporal, etc. The greatest security is spiritual, and it is within the reach of all. Peter specifies the things to do to keep from falling and to be granted an entrance into the eternal kingdom. He tells us what to add.

2. Faith. (1) Must have it to please God (Heb. 11:6). (2) Live by faith (Gal. 2:20). (3) Walk by faith (II Cor. 5:7). (4) Win the victory by faith (I Jno. 5:4). (5) Let it be said, "Your faith groweth exceedingly" (II Thess. 1:3).

3. Virtue. Strength or courage. (1) This is the product of faith in God (Psa. 27:13; Phil. 4:13). (2) Hardships must be endured, and there is no place for cowards (II Tim. 2:3). (3) Paul's life was one of courage.

4. Knowledge. (1) Religious activities without knowledge invite calamity (Hos. 4:6). (2) Must know the truth (Jno. 8:32). (3) Israel had zeal without knowledge (Rom. 10:1-3).

5. Temperance. Self-control. (1) This is essential that we may make the proper use of faith, virtue, and knowledge. (2) "He that ruleth his spirit is better than he that taketh a city" (Prov. 16:32). (3) Acts 24:25; Gal. 5:23.

6. **Patience.** Steadfastness or endurance. (1) The prophets are an example (Jas. 5:10). (2) The patience of Job (Jas. 5:11). (3) Run with patience (Heb. 12:1).

7. **Godliness.** (1) Some have only a form of godliness (II Tim. 3:5). (2) Profitable unto all things (I Tim. 4:8). (3) With contentment is great gain (I Tim. 6:6).

8. **Brotherly kindness.** (1) Is easily recognized, for it is sympathy in action. (2) A fruit of love (I Cor. 13:4). (3) "Be ye kind one to another" (Eph. 4:32).

9. **Love.** (1) Must love God (Matt. 22:37), neighbor (Matt. 22:39), brethren (I Pet. 2:17), enemies (Matt. 5:44), and the truth (II Thess. 2:10-12). (2) The way love behaves (1 Cor. 13).

LOOKING FOUR WAYS AT THE LORD'S SUPPER

I Cor. 11:26-29

1. **Look without**—"ye do shew the Lord's death" (ver. 26), a witness. A silent witness which testifies to Christ's death. Just as the tomb of the Unknown Soldier bears witness of the death of a soldier for his country, so the Lord's supper bears witness of the Lord's death for man.

2. **Look forward**—"till he come" (ver. 26). (1) The Christian looks forward to the coming of Christ (Jno. 14:1-4; Acts 1:11; I Thess. 4:13-18). Our hope. (2) The unprepared dread his coming (Rev. 6:16,17; II Thess. 1:7-9). (3) The time of his coming is uncertain (II Pet. 3:10); so we are to live in a state of watchfulness (Matt. 25:13).

3. **Look within**—"let a man examine himself" (ver. 28). Each is to examine himself. It is an individual act of worship; it is a communion of the Christian with Christ (I Cor. 10:16).

4. Look backward—"discerning the Lord's body" (ver. 29). We see the Lord's body which bled and died for us. We also hear him utter the seven great statements as he was dying.

THE SINNER'S DESTRUCTION OF GOOD

Eccl. 9:18

1. How? (1) By refusing to give the cause of Christ his potential strength for good (Matt. 12:30). (2) By an evil influence (I Cor. 15:33). (3) By a bad example (Ex. 23:2). (4) By openly opposing truth and righteousness (Acts 13:6-10,45; Phil. 3:18). (5) By perverting scriptures (Gal. 1:7; II Pet. 3:16; II Cor. 11:13-15).

2. What? (1) The ideal society (Gal. 5:9). (2) The influence of truth (Matt. 18:6). (3) A good conscience (I Jno. 3:20,21). (4) His own happiness (Prov. 13:15). (5) His own soul (Acts 13:46). (6) The souls of others (Matt. 15:14).

PERSUADING MEN

II Cor. 5:1-20

1. Why? (1) "We look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen" (II Cor. 4:18) We look at the soul (Mk. 8:36,37). (2) All men must "appear before the judgment seat of Christ" (ver. 10). Matt 25:31-46; Jno. 12:48; Rev. 20:12. (3) "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord" (ver. 11). I Pet. 4:17,18; II Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 20:14,15. (4) "The love of Christ constraineth us" (ver. 14). I Jno. 4:19. (5) "We are ambassadors for Christ" (ver. 20). Christ persuades men (Matt. 11:28-30; 23:27), and we, his ambassadors, should do likewise.

2. How? (1) Tell them of heaven (ver. 1). Jno. 14:

1:4; Rev. 21. (2) Tell them of the terror of the Lord (ver. 11). Col. 3:6. (3) Tell them of the Lord's love (ver. 14, 15), Rom. 5:8; I Jno. 4:19. (4) Summed up: preach, reprove, rebuke, and exhort (II Tim. 4:1,2).

3. To what? (1) "Live unto him which died for them" (ver. 15). Rom. 14:8; Phil. 1:21. (2) To "be in Christ" (ver. 17). Eph. 1:3. (3) To "be a new creature" (ver. 17). Col. 3:9,10. (4) To "be reconciled to God" (ver. 20). Eph. 2:16.

"I AM READY"

1. This is a broad statement, but men of old uttered it. Can we truthfully say what they said?

2. "Lord, I am ready to go with thee" (Lk. 22:33).

3. "I am ready to preach the gospel" (Rom. 1:15).

4. "I am ready . . . to die . . . for the name of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 21:13).

5. "I am ready. . .to die from my youth up" (Psa. 88:15).

THE ESSENTIAL REDEMPTION

Eph. 1:7

1. "In whom"—the essential state. Redemption and all other spiritual blessings are in Christ (Eph. 1:3). The way to get into this state (Rom. 6:3,4).

2. "We have our redemption"—the essential work. Essential, because all have sinned (Rom. 3:23).

3. "Through his blood"—the essential means. "Without shedding of blood is no remission" (Heb. 9:22).

4. "The forgiveness of sins"—the essential blessing. Those who die in their sins cannot go to heaven (Jno. 8:21).

5. "According to the riches of his grace"—the essential cause. Since man did not merit salvation, it could be effected only through the grace of God (Eph. 2:7-9).

REACTIONS TO THE PREACHED WORD

1. Bereans (Acts 17:11,12). Eagerly investigated what was said, trying it by the Scriptures (Acts 17:11,12).

2. The people who listened to Stephen's speech (Acts 7:54-60). Became angry and stoned him.

3. Two reactions to Paul's sermon preached on Mar's Hill (Acts 17:32). (1) Some mocked. (2) Others said, "We will hear thee again of this matter."

4. The people of Antioch in Pisidia (Acts 13:45,46). (1) Were filled with envy and spoke against what they heard. (2) Put the word from them. (3) Judged themselves unworthy of everlasting life.

5. Felix (Acts 24:25). Feared and procrastinated.

6. Rich young man (Matt. 19:22). Went away sorrowful.

7. The people on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:36-41). Wanted to know what to do and did it.

8. Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-39). Asked to be baptized.

"THEY THAT GLADLY RECEIVED HIS WORD"

Acts 2:41

1. Changed from disbelief to belief (Acts 2:12,13,37).

2. Repented and were baptized (Acts 2:38,41).

3. Gave up their religion and the religion of their parents. They were members of the Jewish economy. Every religion which clashes with the word of God must be given up for one to receive the word (Matt. 15:9,13,14; 10:37).

4. Continued steadfastly (Acts 2:42). All who obey

the first principles must learn this, if they would reach heaven (I Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6:9).

5. Were united in the Lord's work (Acts 2:44). Christians must work together (II Cor. 6:1).

6. Were personal evangelists (Acts 8:4). Each should preach the gospel (Matt. 28:19,20).

REPENTANCE

1. Right attitude toward sin—godly sorrow (II Cor. 7:9,10).

2. Right attitude toward God—return to God (Lk. 15:18).

3. Right attitude toward self—humble self (Lk. 15:19).

4. Right attitude toward others—restitution (Acts 16:33; Lk. 19:8).

“HOW CAN YE ESCAPE THE CONDEMNATION OF HELL?”
Matt. 23:33

1. The condemnation of hell is a reality. (1) All nations shall be gathered before him (Matt. 25:32,33). (2) Everlasting punishment (Matt. 25:46). (3) Lake of fire and brimstone (Rev. 20:10). (4) Fire is not quenched (Mk. 9:44,46).

2. For a description of these people read Matt. 23. (1) A religious people with no Christ. (2) A chosen people with no Saviour. (3) A sinful people with no knowledge of it.

3. The way of escape is suggested in verse thirty-seven. (1) Could escape by going to Christ, because he is the door (Jno. 10:9), the way, the truth and the life (Jno. 14:6). (2) Could escape by doing his will (Heb. 5:9; Rev. 22:14).

4. We cannot escape if we neglect (Heb. 2:3).

“IF YE BELIEVE NOT”

Jno. 8:24

1. “If ye believe.” Faith comes through testimony or evidence. (1) Seeing the prints in Christ’s hands was evidence which caused Thomas to believe (Jno. 20:24-29). (2) Miracles were evidence (Jno. 3:2; 11:42). (3) Miraculous gifts were for the revelation and confirmation of the complete will of God. Revelation (Jno. 14:26). Confirmation (Mk. 16:20; Heb. 2:3,4). When this was accomplished, miracles ceased (I Cor. 13:8-10). (4) Written word now creates faith (Jno. 20:30,31).

2. “If ye believe not.” Without faith, you are condemned regardless of what you do (Mk. 16:16). This verse states two things to do to be saved, but only one thing to do to be lost.

3. “That I am he.” (1) Must believe in Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God, and the Saviour of the world. (2) The works that Jesus did testified to his Sonship (Jno. 10:37,38). (3) God acknowledged him as his Son (Matt. 3:17; 17:1-5). (3) One may believe and still be lost (Jno. 12:42,43; Matt. 10:33). Faith without works is dead (Jas. 2:14-26).

4. “Ye shall die in your sins.” (1) Death comes to all (Heb. 9:27; Eccl. 9:5; 12:7; Jas. 4:13,14). (2) Some will die the death of the righteous (Num. 23:10), die in faith (Heb. 11:13), and die in Christ (Rev. 14:13). (3) Others will die in sin (Jno. 8:24; Ezek. 33:8). (4) If you die in your sins (Jno. 8:21; 14:1-4).

NEW THINGS

1. A new covenant (Heb. 8:8). (1) The old was to

last until Christ came (Gal. 3:19). (2) Christ nailed the old to the cross (Col. 2:14). (3) The old was given by the prophets, but the new was given by Christ (Heb. 1:1,2). (4) Took away the first to establish the second (Heb. 10:9). (5) The old was faulty (Heb. 8:7), but the new is perfect (Jas. 1:25).

2. A new doctrine under the new covenant (Acts 17:19). (1) Paul preached Jesus and the resurrection, and this was to them a new doctrine. (2) Faith in Jesus as the Son of God (Jno. 8:24), repentance in the name of Christ (Lk. 24:47), and baptism in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19) are all new in that they are characteristic of the new covenant.

3. By obeying the new doctrine one becomes a new creature (II Cor. 5:17). (1) Must be in Christ to be a new creature; therefore, morality will not save. (2) In Christ, old things are passed away; therefore, we should be able to distinguish Christians from sinners.

4. When one becomes a new creature he is given a new name (Isa. 62:2). (1) The Gentiles saw the righteousness of God in Acts 10, and we read of the new name in the next chapter, Acts 11:26. (2) Glorify God by wearing this name (I Pet. 4:16).

5. By being faithful to the new name one may inherit the new Jerusalem (Rev. 3:12). The word "new" is characteristic of heaven; for instance: new Jerusalem, new bodies (I Cor. 15), new service (Rev. 22:3), new water (Rev. 21:6), and new food (Rev. 22:2,14).

6. In heaven we shall be given a new name (Rev. 2:17).

THINGS FALSE

1. In all the affairs of life we have both the false and the true, the counterfeit and the real.

2. False report (Ex. 23:1; 20:16; Prov. 10:18).

3. False way (Psa. 119:104). (1) Only one true way (Jno. 14:6) and it is narrow (Matt. 7:13,14). (2) One's degree of hatred for error is proportionate to his degree of love for the truth.

4. False tongue (Psa. 120:3). Flatterer, liar, etc.

5. False balance (Prov. 11:1). The merchandise appears to be sufficient when weighed by a false balance; in like manner, false doctrines appear all right when weighed by human creeds and conceptions. The true measure with which to weigh such is the Bible.

6. False brethren (II Cor. 11:26; Gal. 2:4). Saboteurs in the family of God.

7. False teachers (II Pet. 2:1-3; Matt. 7:15; I Jno. 4:1).

SOME "BETTER THINGS" IN HEBREWS

1. Christ, better than angels (1:4). (1) Christ had always been superior to the angels, but the point emphasized is that his glorification depended upon his fulfillment of the requirements of his human state. (2) When he had passed through the experiences mentioned in Phil. 2:6-8 he ascended to the right hand of God and proved what had always been true, his superiority to angels, because for a brief time he was made lower than angels (2:7).

2. Persuaded better things of you (6:9). (1) Than that you shall resemble the unfruitful ground (6:7,8). (2) That you shall not depart from the faith as many of

your brethren have done (6:4-6). (3) Persuaded that you will give heed to the things which attend the work of salvation (6:9).

3. A better hope (7:19). (1) This better hope is that which characterizes the gospel. (2) The law made nothing perfect or complete (7:19), but was only the shadow of good things to come (10:1). (3) This hope is better because it enables us to draw nigh unto God or to enter into that intimate fellowship with him (7:19).

4. A better covenant (Heb. 8:6). (1) The new covenant was a new law, the perfect law of liberty (Jas. 1:25). (2) The first covenant was not faultless, so a second was given (8:7). (3) There are many distinctions between the two covenants.

5. In heaven a better and an enduring substance (10:34). (1) Possession. (2) Earthly possessions are temporary and of little value. (3) Heaven is a better and an enduring possession.

6. A better country; that is, a heavenly (Heb. 11:16). (1) This is the desire of all. (2) This earth can offer no satisfaction.

SIX "PRECIOUS THINGS" IN PETER'S EPISTLES

1. Precious Christ (I Pet. 2:7). (1) The world is filled with men, but there is only one Saviour. (2) So precious that men will live and die for him.

2. Precious blood (I Pet. 1:18,19). (1) The blood of animals could not take away sins (Heb. 10:4). (2) Redemption is possible only through the blood of Christ (Eph. 1:7).

3. Precious stone (I Pet. 2:4). (1) This is a prophecy (Isa. 28:16). (2) Christ is a living stone, and Christians are lively stones built upon him (I Pet. 2:4,5).

(3) No other foundation can be laid (I Cor. 3:11). This is the only foundation strong enough to stand.

4. Precious faith (II Pet. 1:1). (1) Precious because it is essential to salvation (Heb. 11:6). (2) Obtained from the Word (Rom. 10:17).

5. Precious trial of your faith (I Pet. 1:7). (1) Found only here and in Jas. 1:3, meaning proof or test. (2) It is the verification of faith, which is by works (Jas. 2:18).

6. Precious promises (II Pet. 1:4). (1) They are exceeding great (II Pet. 1:4). Think how many we enjoy. (2) The Lord is not slack concerning his promises (II Pet. 3:9; Heb. 10:23).

A PICTURE OF EVERY POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
DEATH AND SIN
Lk. 23:32-49

1. This picture is seen in the text.

2. Death because of sin. We have death because of man's sin (Gen. 2:17; 3:22-24).

3. Death for sin. This is the death Jesus died (I Cor. 15:1-3; Eph. 1:7; Heb. 9:28).

4. Death to sin. This is seen in the life of one of the thieves; he died to sin; he repented. All should die to sin (I Pet. 2:24; Lk. 13:3).

5. Death in sin. This is seen in the life of the other thief; he died in sin, railing on the Lord. No hope for those who die in sin (Jno. 8:21; Rom. 6:23).

UTTERANCES FROM THE CROSS

1. Utterance of forgiveness (Lk. 23:34).

2. Utterance of salvation (Lk. 23:43).

3. Utterance of human care (Jno. 19:27).

4. Utterance of anguish (Matt. 27:46).
5. Utterance of physical suffering (Jno. 19:28).
6. Utterance of triumph (Jno. 19:30).
7. Utterance of trust and of reunion (Lk. 23:46).

HUMANITY DIVIDED INTO TWO CLASSES

1. Those for the Lord—those against the Lord (Matt. 12:30).
2. Friends of the Lord—enemies of the Lord (Jno. 15:14; Rom. 5:10; Phil. 3:18).
3. Servants of sin—servants of righteousness (Rom. 6:16-18).
4. Those in the narrow way—those in the broad way (Matt. 7:13,14).
5. The wise—the foolish (Matt. 7:24-27).
6. The church—the world (Acts 2:47; Jno. 15:19).
7. The within—the without (Col. 4:5).
8. The wheat—the tares (Matt. 3:12; 13:24-30).
9. The sheep—the goats (Matt. 25:31-33).

MAN'S ADVERSARY IN THREE FORMS

1. Subtle serpent. Beguiles man's senses and perverts his judgment (Gen. 3:1,13; II Cor. 11:3; Matt. 4:1-11).
2. Angel of light. Deceives man with false views of religion (II Cor. 11:13-15; Eph. 4:14,15). Satan has his synagogues or churches (Rev. 2:9; 3:9).
3. Roaring lion. Devours man by violent tribulation and severe persecution (I Pet. 5:8,9; Matt. 13:19-21; Rev. 2:10).

APOSTASY IN FOUR STEPS

II Tim. 4:3,4

1. "Will not endure sound doctrine"—an attitude.

2. "Heap to themselves teachers"—the segregation of teachers who teach their likes and dislikes.

3. "Turn away their ears from the truth"—refuse to hear it; will not have it.

4. "Shall be turned unto fables"—out; gone into error and apostasy.

HEARTFELT RELIGION

1. A full conversion demands the whole heart (Jer. 29:13; Matt. 22:37).

2. Man is a dual being, physical and spiritual, and each has a heart, the seat of life. (1) The heart of the physical man is the lobe of flesh which keeps up the circulation of blood. It can be pricked with a physical instrument (II Sam. 18:14). (2) The heart of the spiritual man can be pricked by the word of God, spiritual instrument (Acts 2:37). This is the heart that must be changed in conversion.

3. Character of the heart. (1) The heart is the seat of good and bad things (Matt. 15:19). (2) The character of the heart is manifested in the conduct (Matt. 12:35). (3) The words of the mouth tell what is in the heart (Matt. 12:34).

4. Analysis of the heart. In psychology man divides the heart into four divisions. (1) Intellect, which thinks (Gen. 6:5), understands (Matt. 13:15), and believes (Rom. 10:10). (2) Emotion, which despises (II Sam. 6:16), desires (Rom. 10:1), loves (Matt. 22:37), and trusts (Prov. 3:5). (3) Will, which determines (I Cor. 7:37), intends (Heb. 4:12), purposes (Acts 11:23), and obeys (Rom. 6:17). (4) Conscience, which condemns or condemns not (I Jno. 3:20,21).

STORM-PROOF RELIGION

Matt. 7:24-27

1. When the storm strikes, some will stand and others will fall (Matt. 7:24-27).

2. A storm-proof religion is one that demands faith and obedience (Matt. 7:24-27; Jas. 1:22).

3. Many who have done wonderful things will not be able to stand, because they obeyed not the Father's will (Matt. 7:21-23).

4. The five foolish virgins were turned back, because they had not made sufficient preparation (Matt. 25:1-13).

5. The storm tragically hit the one-talent man (Matt. 25:14-30).

6. The difference between those on the right hand and those on the left hand is that some "did" (Matt. 25:31-40) while the others "did not" (Matt. 25:41-45).

7. The fig tree was smitten because it was not productive (Mk. 11:13,14).

8. The builders upon the sand are deceiving themselves (Jas. 1:22).

9. It is either "hear" and "do" or be lost (Rev. 22:14; I Pet. 4:17,18).

RULES OF CONDUCT

1. Iron Rule. Do the other fellow before he does you. This regards both you and the other fellow as deceitful, cunning and wicked; and each is using all his power to get to the other.

2. Silver Rule. Do unto others as they do unto you. Treat the other fellow just like he treats you. The majority follow this rule. Even the publicans did good to the ones who did good to them (Matt. 5:46,47).

3. Rule of Gold. This is a rule of doing anything for the money. The god is gold; covetousness.

4. Golden Rule. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you (Matt. 7:12). This was given by Christ. It embraces more than a list of negatives; it calls for positive action, too.

THE NEW HYPOCRISY

1. Hypocrisy is pretending to be something you are not. Pretending to be better than what you are is the old hypocrisy. Pretending to be meaner than what you really are is the new hypocrisy.

2. The two kinds of hypocrisy are seen in the events leading up to the death of our Lord. (1) Judas was evil, but kissed Jesus appearing to be righteous (Matt. 26:49). (2) Peter was righteous, but denied Jesus making it appear that he did not know him (Matt. 26:69-75).

3. The old hypocrisy. (1) Herod sent the wise men out in search of Jesus, saying that he wanted to worship him (Matt. 2:8)—old hypocrisy. (2) The Pharisees gave and prayed to be seen of men (Matt. 6:1-7)—old hypocrisy.

4. The new hypocrisy. (1) Act meaner than what you really are to impress wicked associates. (2) Curse to make associates think you are wicked (Ex. 20:7; Col. 4:6; Jas. 3:8-12). (3) Drink with associates so they will not think you are too religious. (4) Smoke for the same reason. (5) Do not ask associates to attend church services, because you do not want them to think you are much concerned about the soul. (6) Criticize the church in the presence of outsiders to deceive them into thinking you are not much in sympathy with it.

5. Summed up. (1) The old hypocrisy is to hide your

sins so people will think you are better than you are.
 (2) The new hypocrisy is to parade your sins so people will think you are meaner than you are.

HEAVEN

Rev. 21:22:6

1. A new habitation (21:1).
2. A place prepared (21:2).
3. A dwelling with God (21:3).
4. A place free of death, tears and sorrows (21:4).
5. The nourishment (21:6; 22:1,2).
6. A home for the victorious (21:7).
7. The wicked shall not inherit it (21:8,27).
8. The bride, the Lamb's wife, will be there (21:9).
9. Description (21:10-22).
10. God is the light; no night there (21:23-25).
11. A land free of curse (22:3).
12. May serve the Lord in perfection (22:3).

THE POWER OF THE WORD

1. Power of the spoken word. (1) "And God said" is found nine times in the first chapter of Genesis, and it came to pass in every instance just as God said. (2) There was power in Christ's word to raise the dead (Jno. 11:43, 44), heal the lame (Matt. 21:14), multiply the loaves and fishes (Matt. 14:13-21), and to control the elements (Matt. 8:27).

2. Power of the written word. (1) Illuminate (Psa. 119:130). (2) Create faith (Jno. 20:30,31). (3) Make wise unto salvation (II Tim. 3:15). (4) Quicken (Psa. 119:154). (5) Convert (Psa. 19:7). (6) Save soul (Jas. 1:21). (7) Make clean (Jno. 15:3). (8) Feed soul (I Pet. 2:1,2).

3. God's word is God's word whether written or spoken; so there is as much power in the written word as there is in the spoken word.

SOME OLD TESTAMENT "WOES"

1. Woe to the companionless (Eccl. 4:10).
2. Woe to the wicked (Isa. 3:11).
3. Woe to the rebellious (Isa. 30:1).
4. Woe to the striver-with-God (Isa. 45:9).
5. Woe to the dishonest (Jer. 22:13).
6. Woe to the evil pastors (Jer. 23:1).
7. Woe to the spiritually indolent (Amos 6:1-6).
8. Woe to the drunkard (Isa. 5:11,22); also, to the ones who encourage drunkenness (Hab. 2:15).
9. Woe to the perverter (Isa. 5:20).
10. Woe to the conceited (Isa. 5:21).
11. Woe to the hiders-from-God (Isa. 29:15,16).

EVERY PERSON'S BIOGRAPHY

Told in four pages. Depends upon the person as to the number of pages.

1. Page one—a white page which represents purity. (1) This tells the condition of man's soul at the time of birth (Matt. 18:3; Ezek. 18:20; II Sam. 12:23). (2) Some die before they reach accountability, so this one page tells the story of their lives.

2. Page two—a black page which represents sin (1) This describes the condition of man's soul after he became accountable (Rom. 3:23; I Jno. 1:10). (2) Two major classes of sin: commission (I Jno. 3:4) and omission (Jas. 4:17). (3) Some die in this state (Jno. 8:21), so these two pages give their biography.

3. Page three—a red page which represents blood.

(1) Cannot be saved apart from the blood (Eph. 1:7; I Jno. 1:7). (2) Sins are not too numerous or black to be washed away (Isa. 1:18; I Tim. 1:15,16).

4. Page four—a white page which again represents purity. (1) The person washed in the blood has been born into the family of God and has another white page. (2) The child of God may spot this page and die with the last page black (I Cor. 10:8,12; Heb. 3:12; Jno. 15:6). (3) Hence, the color of this page depends upon the conduct of the Christian.

5. How will your biography read?

BIBLE TRINITIES

1. The Trinity—God, Christ, Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:18).

2. Laws—Patriarchal, Mosaical, Christian.

3. Man—body, soul, spirit (I Thess. 5:23).

4. Temptations—lust of the flesh (appetite), lust of the eyes (sight), vain glory of life (pride) (I Jno. 2:16).

5. Christ as Saviour—prophet (Acts 3:22,23), priest (Heb. 4:14), king (I Tim. 6:15).

6. Gospel facts—death, burial, resurrection (I Cor. 15:1-4).

7. Gospel commands—believe, repent, and be baptized (given in the great commission: Matt. 28:19; Mk. 16:16; Lk. 24:47).

8. Abiding principles governing the Christian life—faith, hope, love (I Cor. 13:13).

9. Witnesses on earth—Spirit, water, blood (I Jno. 5:8).

10. Rewards—glory, honor, immortality (Rom. 2:7).

GARDENS

1. The Garden of Eden (Gen. 2). (1) There man faced the serpent. (2) A beautiful place for Satan to be, but is often found in unlikely places, even churches (Rev. 2:9; 3:9; II Cor. 11:14,15). (3) Satan made an early appearance after the creation; an early appearance after Jesus entered his public ministry (Matt. 4:1-11).

2. The Garden of Gethsemane (Jno. 18:1). (1) It was a place of agony and sorrow. (2) In the garden Jesus felt the need of being alone (withdrew from the disciples), sympathetic understanding (told the disciples to watch), and help from God (prayed three times). (3) All of us in a smaller way have our Gethsemanes.

3. The Garden of the Grave (Jno. 19:41,42). (1) Joseph and Nicodemus laid the lifeless body of Jesus in this garden (Jno. 19:38,39). (2) All must enter this garden—appointed unto men to die (Heb. 9:27). (3) All earthly hopes die in this garden, but it is here that eternal hope is born (Jno 14:19; I Pet. 1:3,4).

4. Garden of God (Rev. 2:7, marginal reading). (1) Will not be marred by Satan, nor by suffering, nor by the grave, as in the other gardens. (2) There will be nothing to lessen its attraction, a place of eternal bliss.

FAITH FOR TODAY

1. Faith in self. (1) The one-talent man needed faith in himself. "I was afraid" (Matt. 25:25). (2) Many are being defeated today because of a lack of faith in themselves. (3) Success comes in "cans"; failure comes in "can'ts." (4) Learn to say, "I can" (Phil. 4:13).

2. Faith in others. (1) Paul's great faith in Timothy

(Phil. 2:20). (2) Keeps us from becoming soured on the world.

3. Faith in God and in his word. (1) Faith in his commands. Repent (Acts 17:30). Be baptized (Acts 2:38; 10:48). Assemble for worship (Heb. 10:25). Work (Phil. 2:12). (2) Faith in his promises. Forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). Lord's word will not return to him void (Isa. 55:11). Physical needs will be supplied (Matt. 6:33). Everything works together for our good (Rom. 8:28). Shall be resurrected (Jno. 5:28,29; I Thess. 4:16).

THE MOST DISASTROUS DECISION

Jno. 3:19

1. The worst plight—"This is the condemnation." (1) There is salvation for those who accept Christ (Jno. 3:16,17); but, of necessity, there is condemnation for those who reject him (Jno. 3:18; Mk. 16:16). (2) Pass judgment on ourselves (Acts 13:46). (3) Rom. 8:1. (4) Rev. 6:16,17.

2. The greatest blessing—"That light is come into the world." (1) Christ, the light (Jno. 8:12). (2) Light of life (Jno. 8:12). (3) "The light of the glorious gospel of Christ" (II Cor. 4:4). (4) Lighteth every man (Jno. 1:6-9). (5) Came to the greatest number (Jno. 3:16).

3. The most disastrous decision—"And men loved darkness rather than light." (1) Darkness of ignorance rather than "the light of the knowledge of the glory of God" (II Cor. 4:6). (2) Works of darkness (Rom. 13:12). (3) Darkness of sinful pleasure rather than the light of the gospel (II Cor. 4:4). (4) Value of a good decision (Josh. 24:15; Isa. 7:15; Heb. 11:25).

4. The unholy reason—"Because their deeds were

evil." (1) Do not want their deeds reprov'd (Jno. 3:20, 21). (2) Evil deeds come from within (Mk. 7:21-23).

PERILS OF THE SOUL

1. Doctrines of men. (1) Worship founded upon the doctrines of men is in vain (Matt. 15:9). (2) Perilous to the soul for the blind to lead the blind (Matt. 15:14). (3) Strange plants to be rooted up (Matt. 15:13). (4) He who preaches some other gospel will be damned (Gal. 1:8,9).

2. Ignorance. (1) Ignorance crucified Christ (Acts 3:17). (2) People are destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hos. 4:6). (3) Must know the truth to become free (Jno. 8:32).

3. Prejudice. Some of the Athenians were so biased that they mocked when they heard of the resurrection of the dead (Acts 17:32).

4. A desire to please men. (1) Caused King Saul to sin (I Sam. 15:24). (2) Caused Pilate to deliver Jesus (Matt. 27:24). (3) Caused the rulers to deny Jesus (Jno. 12:42,43). (4) Gal. 1:10.

5. Procrastination. Kept Felix from obeying (Acts 24:25).

6. Lukewarmness. So perilous that Jesus will spew such out of his mouth (Rev. 3:15,16).

7. Over-caution. It will leave the fields unsown in springtime or unharvested in the fall (Eccl. 11:4). It keeps people from doing the Lord's work. It breeds inactivity.

THE TWO SONS

Matt. 21:28-32

1. The father's command: "Son, go work today in

my vineyard" (ver. 28). (1) Relationship was that of father and sons. The two sons represent the Jewish rulers and the Jewish common people. (2) What? "Go work." II Cor. 6:1; Phil. 2:12. (3) When? "Today." Heb. 3:7, 8,13; II Cor. 6:2. (4) Where? "In my vineyard." Eph. 3:21; Col. 3:17.

2. The sons' answers. (1) First: "I will not." Reveals a heart in open rebellion. (2) Second: "I go, sir." Judging from his words, he was obedient.

3. The sons' actions. Actions may be greatly different from professions (Matt. 23:3). (1) The first "repented and went"—obeyed. God demands both repentance (Lk. 13:3; Acts 17:30) and obedience (Matt. 7:21-23; Heb. 5:8,9). The common people were regarded by the rulers as very careless and disobedient, but when they heard the preaching of John the Baptist they repented and did the will of God (Matt. 3:5,6). (2) The second said "and went not." The thing that counts is full obedience rather than loud talking. The rulers professed religious excellence, but they did not repent nor obey the will of God at the preaching of John the Baptist (Matt. 3:7-9).

4. Jesus' question: "Whether of them twain did the will of his father?" A personal question: have I done or am I doing the Father's will?

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Matt. 13:3-9, 18-23

1. Three things essential in producing a crop. (1) Seed—a means of reproduction. The word is the seed of the kingdom (Lk. 8:11). Begotten or born again by the word (I Pet. 1:23; I Cor. 4:15). The kind of product depends upon the kind of seed sown (Gal. 6:7). Catechism

produces a Roman Catholic. Bible and it only produces a Christian only. (2) Sower—he who sows the seed of the kingdom. I Cor. 3:6; Acts 18:8; Mk. 16:15. (3) Soil—human heart (Lk. 8:15).

2. Four different soils or hearts indicated in the parable. (1) Wayside heart. Represents several classes of people: those hardened by false teaching and prejudice, indifference, and by the deceitfulness of sin (Heb. 3:13). The devil snatches the word out lest they should believe and be saved (Lk. 8:12). He knows how faith comes (Rom. 10:17). (2) Stony-ground heart. A mixture of good soil and rocks. He grows for a time, but wilts under persecution or tribulation. Has a shallow nature. (3) Thorny-ground heart. Begins well, but lets the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches gain the mastery. (4) The fruitful heart. The good and honest heart which brought forth fruit. Paul exemplifies the fruitful heart. The sun of persecution did not scorch him. The cares of the world did not crowd him out. He brought forth fruit.

SOUND BRETHREN

1. All sound—talk too much. (1) Tattlers (I Tim. 5:13). (2) Boasters (II Tim. 3:2). (3) Sayers and not doers (Matt. 23:3). (4) Swearers (Jas. 3:9-12). (5) Liars (Acts 5:1-10).

2. Sound asleep (Rom. 13:11; I Cor. 11:30; I Thess. 5:6).

3. Sounding brass (I Cor. 13:1).

4. Sound in the faith (Tit. 1:13). (1) Sound in practice (Jas. 1:22). (2) Sound out the word (Rom. 10:18).

(3) Endure sound doctrine (II Tim. 4:3). (4) Hold the pattern of sound words (II Tim. 1:13).

GREAT SLOGANS OF THE RESTORATION MOVEMENT

1. "Where the Scriptures speak, we speak; and where the Scriptures are silent, we are silent." (1) Recognizes the completeness of the word of God (II Tim. 3:16,17; II Pet. 1:3). (2) Leads to the declaration of the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27). (3) Precludes the principle of being guided by the silence of the Scriptures. Those who take the position that it is acceptable to have and to do anything not specifically forbidden by the Scriptures wish to be guided by the silence of the Scriptures rather than by what God says. (4) Safeguards from the sin of adding to and taking from the word of God (Deut. 4:2; Rev. 22:18,19).

2. "In faith, unity; in opinion and methods, liberty; in all things, charity." (1) Makes a distinction between essentials and opinions. (2) Whatever is taught in the Scriptures by express command or by implication or by approved example is a matter of faith and is essential. (3) Whatever is not so taught in the Scriptures is a human opinion and each is allowed to exercise his own freedom in such matters.

3. "No book but the Bible; no creed but the Christ; no name but the divine name." (1) Accepts no book as binding but the Bible and stands upon it alone. (2) Accepts Christ as the supreme object of faith, disregarding all human creeds, etc. (3) Wears the name "Christian" (Acts 11:26), which is acceptable to all professed followers of Christ.

A WORTHY MOTHER

Prov. 31:10-31

1. Fears the Lord (ver. 30). Eccl. 12:13. A Christian; gives children spiritual instruction (Eph. 6:4; II Tim. 1:5).

2. Cares for physical needs of family. Food (ver. 15). Clothing (ver. 21). Keeper at home (Tit. 2:5).

3. Economical rather than extravagant. Sells goods she does not need (ver. 24). With the money, buys a field (ver. 16). Jesus taught economy: "Gather up the fragments" (Jno. 6:12).

4. Industrious, energetic, not lazy (ver. 27, 15, 13).

5. Words of mouth (ver. 26). Positive: speaks words of wisdom and kindness. Negative: no gossip; no filthy mouth.

6. Adorns herself properly. "Strength and honor are her clothing" (ver. 25); also, silk and purple (ver. 22). But her chief concern is dressing the inward man (I Pet. 3:3,4).

7. Has the trust and respect of her husband (ver. 11).

8. Has the respect of her children (ver. 28).

A MESSAGE FROM TORMENT

Lk. 16:19-31

1. That one was saved and one was lost refutes the doctrine of universal salvation. Matt. 7:13,14,21-23; Rev. 20:15.

2. The fact that these two men did not cease to exist after death refutes the doctrine of materialism. (1) Man has been created in the spiritual image of God (Gen. 1:27). (2) Man is a dual being (II Cor. 4:16; 5:1). (3) Death is a separation of the spirit from the body (Jas. 2:27; Eccl. 12:7).

3. That the rich man pleaded for mercy but was too late is a refutation of the doctrine of the second chance. (1) Now is the day of salvation (II Cor. 6:2). (2) Preparation must be made before the return of Christ (Matt. 25:1-12).

4. The fact that the rich man wanted to deliver a message to the living and could not disproves the doctrine of spiritualism.

5. The fact that God refused to send one from the dead to warn the living is proof that God will not use a miraculous power separate and apart from his word to convert people. Rom. 1:16; I Pet. 1:22,23; Jas. 1:21.

6. The fact that the rich man's brethren could hear Moses and the prophets proves the fairness of salvation and refutes the doctrine of the "elect" and "non-elect." (1) God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). (2) Jesus tasted death for every man (Heb. 2:9). (3) Invitation is extended to all (Matt. 11:28-30). (4) "Every creature" (Mk. 16:15).

7. The fact that the rich man went to a place of torment and could not cross the gulf while Lazarus went to a place of comfort refutes the doctrine of purgatory.

8. A message which testifies to the foolishness of trusting in riches. Mk. 8:36,37; I Tim. 6:6-10; Job 1:21.

9. A message which shows the awfulness of being lost.

GENESIS—THE BEGINNING

1. Beginning of man and of all other created things (Gen. 1).

2. Beginning of law (Gen. 2:16,17).

3. Beginning of the home (Gen. 2:18-24).

4. Beginning of temptation (Gen. 3:1-5).

5. Beginning of sin (Gen. 3:6).

6. Beginning of excuses (Gen. 3:12,13).
7. Beginning of nations (Gen. 10:32).
8. Beginning of tongues (Gen. 11:4-7).

**CHRIST'S GOSPEL ADAPTED TO THE NEEDS OF THE COMMON
PEOPLE**

Mk. 12:37

1. It is a free gospel—the poor can obtain it (Matt. 11:5; 8:20; Acts 3:6).
2. It is a plain gospel—the uneducated can understand it (Acts 4:13; I Cor. 14:19).
3. It is an equalizing gospel—the humble are raised by it (Matt. 23:13; 18:4; Jas. 4:10).
4. It is a compensating gospel—the destitute are rewarded by it (Jno. 6:26,27; Matt. 19:29; I Jno. 2:25).
5. It is a comforting gospel—the sorrowful are consoled by it (II Cor. 1:3,4; I Thess. 4:13-18).
6. It is an encouraging gospel—the despairing are inspired by it (II Cor. 1:8-11; Phil. 4:13).
7. It is a powerful gospel—the sinful are saved by it (Rom. 1:16; I Tim. 1:15,16).

THE EMPTY SEAT

1. In business. (1) This is a complex society. We are dependent upon the other fellow. If one fails to do his task, the welfare of others is affected. (2) "Not slothful in business" (Rom. 12:11). (3) God teaches work rather than idleness (Eph. 4:28; I Thess. 4:11; II Thess. 3:10).

2. In home. (1) Some have joined the innumerable host (I Cor. 15:22). We cherish their memories. (2) Some have married and left the home (Gen. 2:24). (3) Seats are empty because some have done as did the prodigal

son (Lk. 15:11-32). (4) Other seats are empty because of desertion. Both companions and children are often deserted. Matt. 19:6.

3. In church. (1) Some seats are empty because of death, but their works and memories fill our lives (Rev. 14:13). (2) Some seats are empty because of apostasy (II Pet. 2:20-22). (3) Other seats are empty because of lukewarmness and neglect (Rev. 3:15,16; Heb. 2:3). (4) The empty pew has an eloquent tongue. It says to the preacher, "Your sermon is not worth much." To the visitor it whispers, "You see, we have no interest here." To the treasurer it shouts, "We are sure to have a deficit." To the members who are present it suggests, "Why don't you stay away next Sunday, too?"

THE VOICES THAT CALL

1. Gospel call. (1) Called by the gospel (II Thess. 2:14). This is God's power to save (Rom. 1:16). Commands of the gospel: believe (I Jno. 3:23), repent (Acts 17:30), and be baptized (Acts 10:48). (2) Called to be saints (I Cor. 1:2). (3) The call of Jesus to aliens continues to ring out (Matt. 11:28-30). (4) Some do not answer (Isa. 65:12).

2. Call to Christian faithfulness. (1) Make calling sure (II Pet. 1:10). (2) Not all the called will be chosen (Matt. 22:14). (3) Only the faithful (Rev. 2:10), persevering (Matt. 10:22), and fruit-bearing (Jno. 15:2,6) will be eternally saved.

3. Call of the world. (1) Lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life (I Jno. 2:15-17); care of the world, deceitfulness of riches (Matt. 13:22). (2) Demas answered this call (II Tim. 4:10). (3) Moses did not (Heb. 11:24, 25). (4) All should refuse this call (Prov. 1:10).

4. Call of conscience. (1) Conscience condemns or approves (I Jno. 3:20,21). (2) Must be governed by a knowledge of God's word lest we have a false security as Paul had (Acts 23:1; 26:9). (3) The call of conscience affected Jacob (Gen. 32), Saul (I Sam. 24:17), Herod (Matt. 14:1-12), and Felix (Acts 24:25).

5. Call of death. (1) All will answer (Heb. 9:27). (2) Death is the separation of body and spirit (Ecc. 12:7; Jas. 2:26). (3) Can be gain (Phil. 1:21; I Cor. 15:50). (4) Time of the call is uncertain (Jas. 4:13,14).

6. Call to judgment. (1) All will heed this call (Jno. 5:28,29; Matt. 25:31,32). (2) When the roll is called, will our names be there? (Rev. 20:14,15). (3) Every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess (Rom. 14:11).

KEYS

1. "The keys of the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 16:19). The authority to state the terms of salvation or the terms of admission into the kingdom of heaven (Acts 2:36-38,41).

2. "The key of David" (Rev. 3:7). Christ was raised up to sit and reign on David's throne (Acts 2:30-35); hence, he has the key of David or the complete authority in the Messianic kingdom.

3. "The keys of death and of Hades" (Rev. 1:18). The resurrection of Christ's body (I Cor. 15:20) and the return of his spirit from Hades (Acts 2:27) won a victory over these enemies of mankind (I Cor. 15:54,55). So he has authority and power over them.

CROWNS

1. Crown of righteousness (II Tim. 4:8).

2. Crown of glory (I Pet. 5:4).

3. Crown of rejoicing (I Thess. 2:19; Phil. 4:1).
4. Crown of life (Rev. 2:10).

FOUR LITTLE THINGS

1. Ant (Prov. 30:25). (1) The ant has foresight enough to prepare for the future. (2) Oh! that man had such wisdom (Jno. 9:4; Amos 4:12; Matt. 25:1-13).

2. Cony (Prov. 30:26). (1) Wise enough to make house in rocks. (2) If man only had such wisdom and would build upon the rock (Matt. 7:24-27; I Cor. 3:11).

3. Locust (Prov. 30:27). (1) Recognize the strength of unity, and go together in bands. (2) The people of God should work together as members of one body (Eph. 4:1-6; Jno. 17:20, 21; I Cor. 1:10; II Cor. 6:1).

4. Spider (Prov. 30:28): (1) Works with own hands. (2) Man should work to eat (II Thess. 3:10; I Tim. 5:8). (3) Man must also work to be saved (Phil. 2:12; Lk. 9:62).

THE SPIRIT OF THE PHARISEES

1. Self-righteous. (1) Exemplified in the prayer of the Pharisee (Lk. 18:9-14). (2) Should measure ourselves by the Lord (II Cor. 10:12) and not by others as the Pharisee did.

2. Arrogant and haughty (Mk. 2:15,16; Lk. 7:36-50).

3. Religious to be seen of men (Matt. 23:5).

4. Said and did not (Matt. 23:3).

5. Made the commandment of God of none effect by their tradition (Matt. 15:1-6).

6. Drew near to the Lord with the mouth, but the heart was far from him (Matt. 15:7,8).

7. Taught for doctrines the commandments of men (Matt. 15:9).

8. Ostentatious; loved titles and chief seats in the synagogue (Matt. 23:6-8).

9. Would not enter themselves nor allow others to enter (Matt. 23:13).

10. Rejected the counsel of God, being not baptized (Lk. 7:30).

GOSPEL "FELLOWS"

1. Fellow citizens (Eph. 2:19).
2. Fellow heirs (Eph. 3:6).
3. Fellow helpers (III Jno. 8).
4. Fellow laborers (Phil. 4:3).
5. Fellow prisoners (Rom. 16:7).
6. Fellow servants (Col. 1:7).
7. Fellow soldiers (Phil. 2:25).
8. Fellow workers (Col. 4:11).

FOOLS

1. Atheistic fool (Psa. 14:1. (1) Schools of infidelity: atheists, skeptics, agnostics, diests, destructive higher critics, and unitarians. (2) Will confess at the judgment (Rom. 14:11).

2. Egotistical fool (Rom. 1:22; Prov. 12:15). Will not listen.

3. Disobedient fool (Matt. 7:21-27). Jesus divided humanity into two classes: wise and foolish.

4. Rich fool (Lk. 12:15-20). (1) Left God out of his planning. (2) Thought he could satisfy his soul with material things. (3) Thought he had a perpetual lease on life.

5. Prating fool (Prov. 10:8). Must account for our words (Matt. 12:36,37).

6. Meddling fool (Prov. 20:3). Only fools meddle in the affairs of others.

7. Careless fool (Matt. 25:1-13). Foolish virgins had made some preparation, but had been careless and had not made enough.

“I BESEECH YOU”

1. That you present your bodies a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1).
2. That you be followers of me (I Cor. 4:16).
3. That you receive not the grace of God in vain (II Cor. 6:1).
4. That you walk worthily of the calling wherewith ye were called (Eph. 4:1).
5. That you abstain from fleshly lusts (I Pet. 2:11).
6. That we love one another (II Jno. 5).

BE NOT DECEIVED

1. Be not deceived by thinking we have no sin (I Jno. 1:8).
2. Be not deceived by thinking we are something when we are nothing (Gal. 6:3).
3. Be not deceived by being hearers only (Jas. 1:22).
4. Be not deceived by thinking we can mock God: sow one thing and reap something different (Gal. 6:7,8).
5. Be not deceived by sin (Heb. 3:13).
6. Be not deceived by riches (Matt. 13:22).
7. Be not deceived by false teachers (Rom. 16:18; I Jno. 4:1).

MUST

1. Man who comes to God must believe (Heb. 11:6).
2. Man must be born again (Jno. 3:7).
3. There are things man must do to be saved from alien sins (Acts 16:30-34; 9:6; 22:16; 2:38).

4. Man must, if saved, be saved by the name of Christ (Acts 4:12).

5. Man who worships God must worship in spirit and truth (Jno. 4:24).

6. Man must suffer many tribulations to enter into the kingdom of God (Acts 14:22).

7. The days approach in which man must die (Deut. 31:14).

8. Man must stand before the judgment seat of Christ (II Cor. 5:10).

THE WISE COUNTER

1. Counts not his life dear unto himself (Acts 20:24).

2. Counts all things loss to gain Christ (Phil. 3:8).

3. Counts not himself to have apprehended (Phil. 3:13).

4. Counts other Christians as partners (Philemon 17).

5. Counts it all joy when he falls into divers temptations (Jas. 1:2-4).

6. Counts them happy who endure (Jas. 5:11).

SACRED CHARGE

1. "That this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren" (I Thess. 5:27). (1) Just as the Old Testament was read in the synagogues, the New Testament was to be read in the churches. (2) "Give attendance to reading" (I Tim. 4:13). (3) Blessed is he that reads and keeps God's word (Rev. 1:3; Psa. 1:1-3). (4) What Paul commanded, some men have forbidden.

2. "That they teach no other doctrine" (I Tim. 1:3). (1) Must take heed unto self and unto the doctrine to save self and others (I Tim. 4:16). (2) Some will not endure sound doctrine (II Tim. 4:3). (3) A curse has been pro-

nounced upon those who preach a different doctrine (Gal. 1:8,9; Rev. 22:18,19).

3. "That thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality" (I Tim. 5:21). (1) Things previously mentioned must be observed without partiality. Respecting the person of the rich has been a source of corruption. (2) "God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34), and man should not be (Jas. 2:1-4).

4. "Charge them that are rich in this world" (I Tim. 6:17-19). (1) "That they be not high-minded." (2) "Nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God." (3) "That they do good, that they be rich in good works." (4) "Ready to distribute." (5) "Willing to communicate." (6) "Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come."

5. "I charge thee" (II Tim. 4:1,2). (1) "Preach the word." (2) "Be instant in season, out of season." (3) "Reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine."

BEWARE

1. "Beware lest thou forget the Lord" (Deut. 6:12, 8:11). (1) In times of plenty we are more apt to forget God (Deut. 6:11). (2) Have often forgotten God (Jer. 2:32; II Pet. 1:9). (3) Memorials were instituted during the O. T. period to keep man from forgetting. (4) Lord's supper is a New Testament memorial (I Cor. 11:23-29).

2. "Beware and drink not wine nor strong drink" (Judg. 13:4). (1) Being filled with wine is antipodal to being filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18). (2) Drinking leads to drunkenness, and drunkenness leads to torment (I Cor. 6:10).

3. "Beware of false prophets" (Matt. 7:15). (1) Wolf in sheep's clothing (Matt. 7:15). (2) Ministers of Satan transformed as the ministers of righteousness (II Cor. 11:13-15). (3) II Pet. 2:1-3. (4) Try teachers to see whether they are true or false (I Jno. 4:1-3).

4. "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees" (Matt. 16:6,11). (1) Leaven was a symbol of a penetrating, pervasive influence. (2) An influence of formalism, self-righteousness, traditionalism, unbelief, free thought, and worldliness.

5. "Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision" (Phil. 3:2). (1) Dogs—a symbol of what was low and mean. (2) Evil workers—Judaizing teachers. (3) Concision—those who insisted on the literal act of circumcision, but had lost the spirit of its true significance.

6. "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit" (Col. 2:8). (1) Lest any man maketh spoil of you; the work of false teachers. (2) Beware lest we be used for merchandise (II Pet. 2:1-3).

7. "Beware lest ye . . . fall from your own steadfastness" (II Pet. 3:17). (1) In the first chapter we are told what to do to keep from falling (ver. 5-10) (2) In the second chapter we are told that the fallen condition is worse than the alien state (ver. 20-22). (3) In the third chapter we are told to beware lest we fall (ver. 17).

A QUEST FOR HAPPINESS

1. Solomon sought happiness in every source of worldly pleasure (Eccl. 2:3). His conclusions have been recorded so that man may know what will and will not give happiness.

2. Searched for happiness in wisdom. (I Ki. 3:12).

(1) His wisdom was able to solve difficult problems (I Ki. 3:16-28). (2) Failed to satisfy (Eccl. 1:18).

3. Searched for happiness in the realm of literature.

(1) Wrote 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs. (2) Conclusion, Eccl. 12:12.

4. Looked for happiness in riches. (1) Exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches (I Kings 10:23). (2) Forty thousand stalls of horses; twelve thousand horsemen (I Kings 4:26). (3) Richly laden table (I Kings 4:22,23). (4) Conclusion: "Wealth is hard to acquire, gives no real pleasure and soon vanishes."

5. Looked for happiness in worldly pleasures (Eccl. 2:1-3). But all was vanity and vexation of spirit.

6. Looked for happiness in power. Was the ruler of a mighty nation, but all was vanity and vexation of spirit.

7. The whole thing summed up (Eccl. 12:13,14).

THE HAPPY MAN IN FIRST PSALM

1. "Blessed is the man." (1) Man desires happiness and abhors misery. (2) Man has been created for happiness. (3) But man has so deviated from God's way that he seeks happiness where it cannot be found. Solomon searched for happiness in wisdom, wealth, knowledge, and power, but exclaimed, "All is vanity and vexation of spirit."

2. Negative. (1) "Walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly." Does not heed ungodly counsel. (2) "Nor standeth in the way of sinners." Does not stand together and cooperate with sinners. There are sinners of omission (Jas. 4:17) and commission (I Jno. 3:4). (3) "Nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." Does not mock and ridicule the holy things of God. See three degrees of sinful-

ness: the ungodly, sinners, and the scornful. This shows the progressiveness of sinning, beginning with evil counsel.

3. Positive. (1) "His delight is in the law of the Lord." His desire and affection are in the law of the Lord. It is his rule of life, and all his actions are governed by this standard. (2) "In his law doth he meditate day and night." Not only reads, but ponders what he has read; feeds on it. Does it day and night. Deut. 6:7; II Tim. 2:15; I Tim. 2:15; I Tim. 4:13; I Pet. 2:2.

4. This man is compared to a tree. (1) A planted tree. Does not grow wild of itself. (2) "By the rivers of water." Does not want for moisture to bear fruit. (3) "Bringeth forth his fruit." Fruitful. Matt. 3:10; Jno. 15:2,6. (4) "His leaf also shall not wither." An evergreen; always beautiful.

5. Contrasted with the wicked man. (1) "Not so." These things cannot be said of the wicked. (2) "Are like chaff." An empty thing blown by the wind.

6. Both must face the judgment. (1) "Ungodly shall not stand in the judgment." Shall be condemned. (2) "Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous." Will be excluded from the righteous. Matt. 13:24-30. (3) "The Lord knoweth the way of the righteous." Approved by the Lord. Makes for happiness. (4) "The way of the ungodly shall perish." Come to nought. They also will perish (Rev. 20:15).

"PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD"

Amos 4:12

1. Why prepare? (1) God says so in the text. (2) Will have to meet the Lord in judgment (Heb. 9:27; II Pet. 3:10,11; Acts 17:31). Will be horrifying for the unprepared (Rev. 6:16). (3) Hell is so terrible (Rev. 20:10,

14, 15). (4) Heaven is so wonderful (Rev. 21). (5) The joy that comes to those who prepare (Acts 8:39; 16:34; Rom. 14:17). (6) The world would be better, because the present state of wickedness is due to man's failure to prepare to meet God.

2. How prepare? (1) By becoming saved from alien sins (Jno. 8:24; Lk. 13:3; Matt. 10:32; Mk. 16:16). (2) By persevering (Matt. 10:22; Rev. 2:10).

3. When prepare? (1) Today (Heb. 3:15). (2) Now (II Cor. 6:2; Lk. 14:17). (3) Have not the promise of tomorrow (Jas. 4:13,14). (4) Know not when Jesus will come (Matt. 24:42,44).

THE JUDGMENT

Acts 24:25

1. It will be universal (Acts 17:31; Rom. 14:10).
2. It will be individual (Rom. 14:12; II Cor. 5:10).
3. It will be according to God's word (Rom. 2:2; 2:16; Jno. 12:48; Matt. 7:21-23).
4. It will be according to man's works (Rev. 20:12; Gal. 6:7,8).
5. It will be complete, including: thoughts (Prov. 23:7; Acts 8:22); words (Matt. 12:36,37); and works (Rom. 2:6); what he has done (I Jno. 3:4); and what he has failed to do (Jas. 4:17).
6. It will be final (Matt. 25:31-46).

"BE THOU FAITHFUL"

Rev. 2:10

1. Be faithful in the midst of persecution (Rev. 2:10). (1) The context concerns persecution. (2) Antipas was (Rev. 2:13). (2) II Tim. 3:12; Matt. 5:11,12.
2. Be faithful in handling the Bible (II Tim. 2:15).

3. Be faithful in service—faithful servants (Matt. 24:45). (1) A servant serves. (2) Serve the Lord by serving the church, for it is the only institution in which we can glorify God (Eph. 3:21).

4. Be faithful in stewardship (I Cor. 4:2). (1) Faithful stewards increase the talents given to them (Matt. 25:14-30). (2) Physical wealth belongs to the Lord, and we are his stewards.

5. Be faithful in prosperity. (1) Rich fool was not (Lk. 12). (2) Riches reveal character.

6. Be faithful in sorrow. David was (II Sam. 12:15-23).

7. The reward for faithfulness: crown of life (Rev. 2:10).

“FEAR NOT”

1. We fear not the darts of the wicked, because God is our shield (Gen. 15:1; Eph. 6:16).

2. We fear no danger, because of the presence of the Lord (Gen. 26:24; Matt. 28:20).

3. We fear not our enemies, because the Lord will fight for us (Ex. 14:13,14).

4. We have no fear of being forsaken, because God has promised to be with us (Deut. 31:6; Jas. 4:8).

5. We have no fear of starving, because the Lord has promised to feed us (Matt. 6:25-33).

6. We have no fear of our burdens being too heavy, because we may cast them on the Lord (Psa. 55:22; I Pet. 5:7).

7. We have no fear of man, society, because the Lord is our helper (Heb. 13:6).

8. We have no fear of persecution and martyrdom, because man is not able to kill the soul (Matt. 10:28).

9. We fear not death, because the Lord will be with us as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death (Psa. 23:4).

NO CONDEMNATION

Rom. 8:1

1. The promise—"No condemnation." (1) Many will be condemned (Matt. 7:13,14; Mk. 16:16; I Cor. 11:32). (2) Some shall come forth unto the resurrection of life, and others unto the resurrection of damnation (Jno. 5:28,29). (3) What a joy it will be to hear him say, "Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord" (Matt. 25:14-30).

2. The state—"In Christ." (1) Blessings in Christ: no condemnation (Rom. 8:1); be made alive (I Cor. 15:22); triumph (II Cor. 2:14); new creature (II Cor. 5:17); all spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3); partakers of his promise (Eph. 3:6). (2) The way to get into Christ (Gal. 3:26,27; Rom. 6:3,4).

3. The condition. (1) "Who walk not after the flesh." "They that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh" (Rom. 8:5). The works of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21). (2) "But after the Spirit." They that are after the Spirit do mind the things of the Spirit (Rom. 8:5). The works of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22,23). (3) Promise and condition restated (Rom. 8:13).

LOOKING BACKWARD AND FORWARD AT THE END OF LIFE

1. Sooner or later we must come to the end of life (Gen. 3:3; Rom. 5:12; Eccl. 9:5; Heb. 9:27).

2. Jacob (Gen. 49:28-33). Called his children together and blessed them. Some words were not very complimentary. Gave instructions about his burial.

3. Stephen (Acts 7:59,60). (1) Looked forward and

said, "Lord Jesus receive my spirit." (2) Looked backward and said, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge."

4. Rich fool (Lk. 12). (1) When he thought death was a long way off he was greatly concerned about material things. (2) Such was surely of little value when he realized he must die. (3) As he looked backward and forward he must have realized what a fool he had been.

5. Paul (II Tim. 4:6-8). (1) Concerning the past: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." Concerning the future: "There is laid up for me a crown of righteousness."

6. What will it be like when we stand between time and eternity and look backward and forward?

"YE SHALL FIND REST"

Matt. 11:28-30

1. Three things are mentioned in this text which produce the unrest of man: the wrong yoke, the wrong burden, and the wrong teaching. The unconverted person wears a galling yoke, carries an intolerably heavy burden, and follows hurtful teaching. To find rest of soul, one must exchange these for Christ's yoke, for Christ's burden, and for Christ's teaching.

2. The exchange of yokes—"My yoke is easy." Yokes have a restraining influence. They produce submission to the owner's will. Yokes are for the purpose of cooperative and united work. We are yoked to Christ.

3. The exchange of burdens—"My burden is light." In taking Christ's yoke, we do not become idlers; we become workers. There is much work to be done, but such is a real joy.

4. The exchange of teaching—"Learn of me." Take

Christ for our teacher and example. Learning of Christ produces rest; all other teaching produces unrest. The word "disciple" means pupil or learner; so to be a disciple of Christ is to be a pupil of Christ.





