

# 50 Sermon Outlines

Compiled and Arranged  
By  
J. W. Brents







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## PREFACE

Here are 50 Outlines of choice gospel sermons. They have been gathered from various persons. It is our hope that these will provide information enough for you to build sermons of your own liking. May God bless the every use, and user, of this publication.

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**Compiled and Arranged  
By  
J. W. Brents**

James Wilson Brents, the compiler of this little volume, was born March 1, 1884 near Petersburg, Tennessee. He grew up on a small farm and attended school in this rural section. He was baptized by the late Allan B. Barrett, the founder of Abilene Christian College. He was under the influence of such men as Billie Dixon, Bud Hart, Hiram Leonard, and Dr. T. W. Brents who was his great uncle.

At an early age he expressed a desire to preach the Gospel. To prepare himself, he entered Georgia Robertson Christian College, Henderson, Tennessee. He also attended the old Nashville Bible School. He did located work for many years, but finally turned his attention to mission work in the Carolinas. This work has prospered greatly.

Brother Brents keeps up his interest in the Carolina work. He and A. R. Holton started the Blue Ridge North Carolina Encampment. This is destined to become one of the great meeting places of the entire brotherhood.

Presently, he is head of the Bible Department at the Nashville Christian Institute. This is his eleventh year in the work with the veteran preacher, Marshall Keeble. He considers this the crowning work of his life. He hopes this little volume of outlines will help to lighten the burden of some busy preacher.

## ABRAHAM A BLESSING

Gen. 12:2

Introduction: In Gen. 12 we have the calling of Abraham and his journey into the land of Canaan. To prevent universal idolatry and raise up a people to whom he could give his law and ultimately bring in his Son, God called this great man to leave his home as he did. This was a severe test of his faith within itself. He was to leave all his kindred behind. Did he love God to that extent? Was he willing to make such a sacrifice? He withheld nothing from the Lord. The followers of the Lord are still subjected to trials. (Luke 14:26-34.) And so "Abraham went forth to go into the land of Canaan and into the land of Canaan he came." (Gen. 12:5, Jno. 14:17, 2 Tim. 4:7.) Let us consider the following:

### I. God's Promise to Abraham

"I will make of thee a great nation." At this time Abraham had no child. He was to leave his own nation. He could never become head of it. This was unusual faith to believe such a thing for God had restrained Sarah from bearing children. (Gen. 16:2) But his faith was such that he believed that God could raise up children unto him of the very stones.

### II. I Will Make Thy Name Great

His name heads the list - "the father of the faithful." The world has had its Caesar, Alexander, Napoleon and Frederick the Great. Here is truly a great man for God made him such. What are the butchers of mankind in comparison to great men of God? Moses, Joshua, Daniel, John the Baptist, Paul.

### III. Thou Shalt Be A Blessing

There recurs to us an old rocking chair; in it the babies were rocked; the sick convalesced; it was "the company" chair and what a blessing it was to that home. An elder of the church in a certain community loved boys and girls. He taught them, encouraged them and from that community went several, good, gospel preachers and leaders and fine Christian mothers. What a blessing was this man. You have not forgotten the old family horse. He went to mill, pulled the buggy on Sundays to church, made the crop and helped to harvest it. When one of the family was sick "old Sam" went for the doctor. The memory of this horse is still a blessing. The value of good men to the world such as Noah, Enoch, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Mordecaia, Ezra, Daniel, Pasteur, Fred Banting and myraids of others cannot be estimated. Of a Christian woman, it was said: "She was a blessing to all who knew her." Are you a blessing?



#### IV. Ways In Which Abraham Became A Blessing

His faith has blessed all mankind. "Faith is more precious than gold." (1 Pet. 1:7.) It has been said: "When faith goes out, man the thinker loses his greatest thought; man the worker loses his greatest motive; man the sinner loses his greatest help; man the sufferer loses his greatest refuge; man the lover loses his fairest vision; man the mortal loses his only hope." Abraham's obedience has been the model for all mankind and still is. He believed and obeyed. Other outstanding qualities of Abraham were: He was devoted to God wherever he went. (Gen. 12:7, 12:18.) He was a man of peace. (Gen. 13:9.) He was given to hospitality. (Gen. 18:1-5.) He commanded his children and his household after him. (Gen. 18:10.) He was interested in the welfare of others. (Gen. 18:23.) "In thy seed shall all the nations be blessed." This crowns his life with glory.

Conclusion: Abraham placed his life in the hands of God and what a blessing he became. Would that all men would walk in the steps of Abraham.

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#### THE CHURCH AND THE ALARMIST

Introduction: A danger signal which is being sounded these days is: "Brethren, we are drifting." In every age of the church there have been critics. Many of these have been a great blessing. They are the watch dogs of the kingdom of our Lord. But there is a kind of self-appointed critic that views with alarm every situation. He does little to remedy them but he can keep the mote and blemishes in the lime light. This is easy for as long as the church is composed of weak human beings there will always be plenty of wrong that may be pointed out. It is often the common fault of us all to overlook the good that is being done but magnify all the evil. Good is evident if one will only observe. We desire to point out the good that characterizes the church in this study. They are as follows:

##### I. The Church Is Divinely Created, A Product Of The Mind Of God

1. This is as true as it is true that God made our first parents. God made Adam and then caused a deep sleep to come upon him and from his side created woman. The savior went into the sleep of death upon the cross and from his wounded bleeding side emerged the church. (Acts 20:28.) The insignificant beginning of it with its powerful opposition and its rapid growth in the world stamps itself with divinity. Pagan Rome was over run by Christianity within 300 years.

2. The church is right in her intents. She is set for the defense of the gospel and of lifting up the Savior before the world. (Jno. 12:32.) "The energy of his love while he lived was like the sun-

shine all over the earth but that displayed in his death was as if it had been focussed into a burning heat and it is this energy like a powerful magnet that draws all men unto him." The successful soul-winner is the one who lifts him up. You may complain about all the sins of men but unless you get Christ lifted up in the hearts of men you are only seeking to purify the stream and neglecting the spring. You are only washing the outside of the platter when the inside is corrupt. Jesus is the answer of mankind's cry for perfection. He is a lift to those who have become weary on the long, long march. Amidst the cry of human sin and misery he is the Savior.

3. The church is right in its effort to teach the truth.  
(Gal. 1:8-9, Rev. 22:18-19.)

4. She is right in her efforts to save the lost. Never before, since the days of the apostles, has the church been more interested in this respect. Indeed, she is on the move.

5. The church is right in her stand for social purity.  
(Rom. 12:1-2, 13:12-13.)

6. She is right in her stand for a pure worship. (Acts 2:42, Col. 3:16, Eph. 5:19.)

Conclusion: When we are convinced that there is something wrong with the church the first and best thing to do about it is to tell God about it for after all it is his church.

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## SOMETHING BETTER, HE LOVES ME

1 Jno. 4:19-21

Introduction: The fact that Christ desires our love no one can question. Christ asked Peter the question: "Lovest thou me?"; might be asked of us all. Do we love him as he so desires? Once he stood at Laodicea's door and begged to be admitted. Lukewarmness had driven him out. Ephesus had left her first love for him and was in a fallen condition. That millions have loved him there is no question. They have sealed their love with their blood. They have shown it by dedicating every fiber of their being and every pulsation of their hearts to his cause. Once an old sailor who had sailed the seven seas finally returned home to die. He was asked if he loved the Lord. His reply was, "Yes, but I have something better than that, He loves me." Does this not have a tendency to cause us to stop and think? Are we sure that he loves us? Have we done those things that would really merit his love? (Dan. 9:23.) Let us notice the following:

### I. It Is Certain That Christ Loves All Men

The uplifted cross is always an evidence of this. In the fifteenth chapter of Luke we have the parables: the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost boy, all setting forth the idea of Christ's love. (Jno. 3:16, Rom. 5:6, Eph. 3:17.)

## II. In What Way May We Merit His Love?

1. By obeying his word. (Jno. 14:23.)
2. By walking in the truth and helping those who teach it.
3. By having no love for the world. (1 Jno. 2:15.)
4. By loving in deed and in truth. (1 Jno. 3:18-22.)
5. By being crucified with Christ. (Gal. 2:20.)
6. Not living unto ourselves. (2 Cor. 5:14-15.)
7. Helping those who are in need. (1 Jno. 3:17.)
8. By keeping ourselves in his love. (Jude 21.)
9. By making others think of God and trying to save their souls. (Dan. 12:1-4.)
10. By always manifesting his spirit. (Rom. 8:9.)

Conclusion: A missionary was talking one day to a native about the wonderful love of Jesus and was met with the following reply: "I don't think it is so wonderful, it is just like him."

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## BARNABAS

Introduction: An excellent way of learning the Bible is to study it by characters. In the sacred volume we will find many of whom the world is not worthy. Profane history delights to tell of its butchers and labels them as "Great". God has told us of the truest and best men who have ever lived on the earth. When we read the lives of these men they are presented to us so real and actual; more so, it would seem than the study of mere abstract truths. This worthy hero is first mentioned in Acts 4:36-37. Here he is mentioned as selling a possession and laying the price at the apostles feet. In Acts 9:27 he becomes sponsor for Saul of Tarsus and introduces him to the apostles at Jerusalem. He is next mentioned in Acts 11:22 when he is sent from Jerusalem to Antioch. In Acts 13 he starts out with Paul on their first missionary journey. Relate the circumstances which took place on this journey. Let us notice some outstanding traits of his character:

### I. Barnabas Was A Good Man

1. This is a rare commodity today. (Acts 11:24, Luk. 1:6.)
2. He loved his neighbor. He cheerfully sold his property to relieve his poor brethren. (Acts 4:36.)
3. He showed a brotherly mediation between Saul and the apostles at Jerusalem. (Acts 9:27.)
4. He gave timely counsel to the new converts at Antioch. (Acts 11:23.)
5. In his journey to Tarsus to fetch Saul he reflected a noble spirit. He stepped aside and took second place.

6. In desiring to overlook the failings of his sister's son, John Mark, he showed compassion. (Acts 15:37.)

## II. Barnabas Was A Man Full of Faith

Faith in God; faith in him to such a degree that all else is nothing without him. Faith in Christ and without such faith no man can be good in the highest sense of the word. Nor can he be a Christian in any sense of the word. It is doubtful whether there can be any real true love for men who have not faith in God or Christ themselves.

## III. Barnabas Was A Man Filled With the Spirit of God

Such goodness as was so outstanding in his life and so marked in all his acts can only come from the Spirit of our Lord. (Rom. 8:9.) To be filled with the spirit is to let the word of God dwell in you richly. (Eph. 5:18, Col. 3:16.) The fruits of the spirit are stated in Gal 5:22, Eph. 5:9.

Conclusion: There is a crying need today for men such as Barnabas.

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## FIVE BAPTISMS

Matt. 3:11

Introduction: If a theme is important in proportion to the variety of thought then we have a very important theme. In the passage before us we have three baptisms mentioned. They are as follows: water baptism, Holy Spirit baptism and the baptism of fire. There are two other baptisms mentioned in the New Testament. They are the baptism of suffering and that of the Great Commission. They will be discussed as follows:

### I. John's Baptism

"John did baptize in the wilderness and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins." (Mk. 1:4.) John preached entirely to the Jewish people and his baptism was one of repentance for the remission of sins. That is his baptism grew out of or followed repentance. And it was "for or in order to the remission of sins." John baptized in the river Jordan. It was an immersion. That is the meaning of the word baptize. (See Thayer). Besides being "for remission of their sins", baptism prepared the Jewish nation for the coming of Christ. John says: "I knew him not but that he might be made manifest to Israel therefore am I come baptizing with water." (Jno. 1:31.) (Mal. 4:5-6.) John's baptism lasted until Pentecost. Those who received his baptism after this time were "baptized in the name of the

Lord Jesus." (Acts 19:1-5.)

## II. Holy Spirit Baptism

The promise was made by John the Baptist that Christ would baptize with the Holy Ghost. (Matt. 3:11.) The same promise was repeated by Christ to the apostles in Acts 1:5. It was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-21. It was the promise Christ made to his apostles and was never a command. Its purpose was "To teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance whatsoever I have said unto you." (Jno. 14:26.) It enabled the apostles to perform various miracles to confirm the word of God. A "like gift" was poured out upon the Gentiles. (Acts 11:17.) This was to convince both Jews and Gentiles that the blessings of salvation were now for all races of men. (Acts 15:8-9, 10:44-48.) These are the only cases of Holy Spirit baptism mentioned in the New Testament.

## III. The Baptism of the Great Commission

After Jesus arose from the grave he commanded the apostles to "go ye therefore and teach all nations baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." (Matt. 28:19.) This was a command and was to be age lasting. It was water baptism for we read of their coming to the water, going down into the water and coming up out of the water. (Acts 8:38-39.) It is the one baptism spoken of by Paul in Eph. 4:5. It is to last for all time and its purpose to a penitent believer is for the remission of sins, to wash his sins away, to put him into Christ, and enter a new life. (Acts 2:38, 22:16, Rom. 6:4, Gal. 3:27.)

## IV. The Baptism of Suffering

"I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished." (Luk. 12:50.) This baptism was that of suffering. One only has to enter the garden of Gethsemane and follow him to the cross to learn how true this was. It was a complete overwhelming of his soul. It touches me more to see him agonizing in the garden than to see him hanging amidst the rabble on the cross. It was in the garden his very soul was crucified; his body was crucified on the cross. "It was for me that Jesus died on the cross of Calvary."

## V. The Baptism of Fire

John the Baptist mentions this in (Matt. 3:11.) Some of the ones to whom John was speaking would not repent and, hence would suffer the fires of torment. The twelfth verse clearly shows that John had this in mind. "He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." (Matt. 5:22, 10:28, Jas. 3:6, Rev. 20:14.) The punishment is to be everlasting. (Matt. 25:46.)

Conclusion: "God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

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## THE QUESTION OF BAPTISM

Matt. 28:19-20

Introduction: There are a number of questions which may be asked about this subject. They are as follows: Who should be baptized? How is it to be done? What is the purpose of it? There can be but one right way to answer these all important questions. Let God in his word give us the right answer. Another important question follows close on these and it is, "Who authorized baptism?" "He that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me," (Jno. 1:33) "And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God being baptized with the baptism of John." But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him." (Luk. 7:29-30.) Thus it is clearly seen that God is the Author of baptism for he commanded it and those who submitted to it "justified God"; and those who refused it "rejected the counsel of God." Jesus the Son of God our Example was baptized. (Mk. 1:9.) That should be authority enough for anyone who desires to follow him. At the baptism of Jesus God recognized him before the people as his Son and God said he was well pleased. Jesus sanctioned the baptizing done by his disciples. (Jno. 4:1-2) With all authority in heaven and on earth he commanded it to be done. (Matt. 28:19.) Jesus told his apostles the Holy Spirit would come and guide them into all truth. The apostles always baptized those who received their words. Thus it is clearly seen that there is all possible divine authority for water baptism.

### I. Who Should Be Baptized?

Jesus put his teaching before baptism. Untaught persons should not be baptized. He, therefore, baptized no infants. (Matt. 28:19) Jesus put faith before baptism. (Mk. 16:15-16.) Who, then, has a right to change it? The apostles guided by the Holy Spirit baptized only penitent believers. (Acts 2:38, 41.) This would exclude infants. "But there were household baptisms." This is true, such as Lydia and her household but it would have to be shown that God wants it done and that Lydia was a married woman and had children. It would have to be shown, also, that being a mother her children were living and that being alive her children were still in their infancy; or if they were still infants Lydia had them with her at the river side prayer meeting. And also if there were infants present the apostles ignored the terms of the Great Commission and baptized them. In the same chapter we have the conversion of the Jailor. It is said, "They rejoiced believing in God with all his house." The scriptural order for baptism is hearing, then

faith, then repentance, then confession, then baptism. There is no scriptural authority for infant baptism. The Holy Spirit never honored it. The Lord never commanded it. The infant is safe without it. "Of such is the kingdom of heaven."

## II. What Is the Act of Baptism?

"I indeed baptize you with water." (Matt. 3:11.) "They came unto a certain water." (Acts 8:36.) "Can any man forbid water?" (Acts 10:47.) There can be no such thing as baptism without water. (Jno. 3:23 - much water.) "They were all baptized of him in the river Jordan. (Mk. 1:5.) "As they went on their way they came unto a certain water." (Acts 8:36.) These passages show that the person should move to the water, not that the water should be taken to the person. A scriptural requirement is that they entered or went down into the water. (Acts 8:39.) The Scriptures make baptism represent the burial and resurrection of Jesus. To be baptized one must be buried in water and raised from it. (Rom. 6:4, Col. 2:12.) A Scriptural baptism, then, requires water, much water, coming to the water, going down into the water, coming up out of the water; it represents a burial, a birth, a resurrection. Immersion meets all these requirements. Sprinkling and pouring do not meet but one and that is they require only a little water. There is but one baptism; not two or three. (Eph. 4:5.) (Jno. 14:15.) Jas. 4:17.)

## III. The Value of Baptism to One Scripturally Receiving It

Surely it has some holy purpose. God is not the Author of meaningless forms. It is connected with putting away of sin. John preached the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. (Mk. 1:4.) "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mk. 16:15-16.) "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." (Acts 2:38.) "And now why tarriest thou, arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins calling on the name of the Lord. (Acts 22:16.) "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (Gal. 3:27.) The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us." (1 Pet. 3:21.)

Conclusion: The Bible certainly shows a close connection between baptism and salvation. Its waters do not wash away sins, they do not put away the filth of the flesh, they do not procure salvation for man but if man's heart is so changed that he is determined to turn from the power of Satan and submit to baptism God forgives his sins and makes him his child. You are in Christ, a new creature. Then be faithful until death and a crown of righteousness is yours.



## THE BEAUTY AND VALUE OF BAPTISM

Rom. 6:4

Introduction: Just before the ascension of Christ, he stood on the Mount of Olives and gave the Great Commission. (Matt. 28:19-20.) This is our reason for preaching on the subject. Another reason for so doing is because it is greatly misunderstood. It was first preached by John the Baptist. Jesus could not be baptized any sooner than he was for there was no such thing as baptism six months before this event. Passages relating to the subject: (Mk. 1:4-5, Luk. 3:3, Jno. 3:5, Matt. 28:19-20, Mk. 16:15-16, Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-4, 1 Pet. 3:21, 1 Cor. 12:13, Gal. 3:27.) From these we learn the following: Baptism is an immersion. It followed belief and repentance. It was for the remission of sins. But one says why? Philosophers are often more inquisitive than wise. Every divine institution has its design. In nature we have air, water, heat, cold. These have their purpose. One can't be substituted for the other, nor can they be dispensed with. So is it in spiritual matters; no one ordinance can be substituted for another, nor dispensed with. The blood of Christ, faith, repentance, confession, - these play their part and so does baptism. The Lord certainly orders his blessings to be obtained in his own way. Let us note the following:

### I. Baptism Is A Monument to the Burial and Resurrection of Christ

1. Were it not for this event we would never have heard of it; nor submitted to it. It is of interest to study monuments in general in the Bible. There are great events perpetuated by the following: the rainbow, the passover, Aaron's rod and the monument at the Jordan. God has preserved monuments in all parts of the world which prove his claims. They are the Moabite stone, bricks of Babylon, tombs of kings, writings and engravings, walls of Jericho. The great museums of the world are groaning under the load of mementos from all parts of the Holy Land witnessing to the great truths of the Bible.

2. Here is Christ's monument to his awful death and his glorious resurrection. The suffering attending this; the power in being raised, and the blessings coming from it must never be forgotten.

3. Soon after he had arisen he said to the apostles: Go tell all the world about this. Men must know of it for all time to come. And how true they were. Before the last one had died it could be said: "The task has been accomplished." (Col. 1:23.)

4. His resurrection was the most signal victory ever won. Great leaders have subdued the world only to be conquered by the grim monster. Tyrants have waded through blood to victory and soon thereafter have gone down by the greatest of all tyrants. Listen to this: "I am he

that was dead and behold I am alive forever more." This was the greatest and most decisive battle of all time.

5. The subjects of a king share in his victory. In submitting to this great monumental institution we rise to walk in newness of life. (Rom. (6:3-4.)

6. In baptism we put on Christ and come in possession of all his death and resurrection purchased for us.

7. In our baptism we are re-enacting the very thing that brought us life and immortality. Why should anyone hesitate to enact this scene when it means so much to him and to all mankind?

8. I claim that baptism is the only command, ordinance, order, precept, promise, right, oath that was ever performed or commanded to be done in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. No human civil government, lodge, society, or institution ever founded by man has any ceremony, oath, rite or rule of induction using these three names. They were not used in the Patriarchal dispensation, the law of Moses, nor in the tabernacle nor in the temple of Solomon which was God's dwelling place. These three names were never called upon by any human being, angels, priests, prophets, patriarchs, king or law-giver until Jesus gave the Great Commission. When the worlds were made these three worked together. (Gen. 1.) What could be more fitting when a soul is entering the kingdom of God than to invoke upon it the three most glorious names in the universe?

### III. Three Great Characteristics of the Risen Lord

1. It was a real resurrection of a real body. Such then is ours - a real new life.

2. There was no more death for him. God gives all necessary things for us to live spiritually. (2 Pet. 1:3.)

3. Much of Christ's risen life was hidden from men in prayer and communion with God. Let us also profit by this.

Conclusion: Surely if this great subject were understood in its proper light all men everywhere would gladly submit to it.

---

## WHAT IS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

Matt. 16:18

Introduction: From the fact that there are so many religious groups extant and all teaching different doctrines, it is evident that

that there is no subject more misunderstood than is that of the church. The feelings toward it are from an unalterable, fixed, unchangable attitude to that of a loose, compromising, any-thing-will do position. "It makes no difference what church one becomes a member of, just so he is honest or his heart is right." Such statements are often heard. It should be remembered by those who make such statements that one's heart can never be right so long as he believes the wrong thing. It takes believing the right thing to make the heart right. There are few subjects which stir up more malice than a discussion of the church. But in spite of all this there is no theme of more importance or more essential to our understanding than is the church. It was created in harmony with the mind and plans of God himself. Its purpose in the world is for man's happiness. It is the one and only place where we may enter and live and receive the approbation of our Father in heaven. When Jesus said: "I will build my church" he stated in one brief sentence the purpose of God for four thousand years. He was to set up a kingdom that was to stand forever. He was to create an institution that would bless all mankind. We note the following:

### I. What Jesus Did Not Say or Mean

One opines, "Do you mean to say that these narrow, creed bound, sectarian groups that fence themselves off into selfish groups and who wear a kind of straight jacket type of religion; who borrowed such from primitive, tribal customs; do you say that the present type of religious groups who have no vision of world service, no purpose, only to advance their narrow sectarian views, portray the will, mind and purposes of God for a lost world?" Nothing could have ever been farther from the mind of our God than such a conception. What then is the church of Christ?

### II. A Picture of the True Church

1. The true church and the kingdom of heaven are synonomous. They are often used interchangeably. This is evident from the fact that the Savior put the Lord's Supper in his kingdom. Is it not in the church also? It is the church when viewed from the standpoint of the called out people. It is a kingdom when viewed from the side of form of government, its King.

2. We will most surely find the true church wherever we find men and women seeking to know the commandments of Christ and to do them. (Matt. 7:21-28.)

3. Wherever we find those persons who are being led by the spirit of God we are sure to find the true church. (Rom. 8:14.)

4. Wherever we find those who wear his name. (Acts 11:26.) Worship in spirit and in truth (Jno. 4:24.) and who are living in harmony with his will we are certain to find the true church.

5. Wherever there is compassion, pity, love, mercy and a vision for service among all peoples, races, kindreds, tribes on all the face of the earth we will find the true church.

6. When we find men and women in whom Christ lives we are sure to find the real, blood-bought church.

7. When we find the true church in this world we are going to find it composed of saints. A saint is not one that has been canonized by some usurper of authority which God never gave him. He is one who relies not upon his own human powers but puts his human weakness and foolishness in God's hands so he may use him to bless humanity.

8. Wherever we find true wisdom, wisdom that comes down from above shining from the lives of men and who are always willing to lose their lives that they may find it, there will we be able to locate the true church.

### III. Strait Is the Gate and Narrow Is the Way

The Savior said: "Few there be that find it." (Matt. 7:14.) Only a few will ever conform to such requirements. This was true in the days of Christ on earth. The early church could not boast of those who lived in harmony with all these requirements. About all the seven churches had apostatized before the death of the apostle John. Some fled when he was arrested; others followed him to the cross.

Conclusion: Question: Do "we" represent the true church?

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### CHRIST TURNED OUT

Rev. 3:20

Introduction: Here is almost an unbelievable circumstance. A congregation of Christians because of their conduct has driven the Lord of Glory out of their midst. And now he is represented as standing on the outside of a corrupt, miserable congregation asking if he can come in again. He is begging for admittance. Verse seventeen gives us the reason. This congregation at Laodicea has done exactly what Jeremiah said Israel had done: "My people have committed

two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water." (Jer. 2:13.) They had become wealthy. They had placed the letter "L" in their God and now it is gold. (Matt. 6:19-25.) The lamentable part of it all was they were self-deceived. How foolish most of us act any way. Probably all the high-steppers, the gossip club, society fops, the dudes and dandies were members of this unfortunate church. Somewhere the bars had been let down and just as sure as this is done the world will jump in. It is then that the Savior bows his head and walks out. His teaching and requirements are not compatible with such conduct. Let us note their trouble:

#### I. Laodicea Became Lukewarm

Such a condition is always distasteful to the Lord. Here is a strange figure. The Lord is represented as being sick. "I will spew thee out of my mouth." This church was neither heathen nor Christian; neither good nor bad. "To good and evil bent, I'm both a devil and a saint." It was too good to go to hell and too bad to go to heaven. Such a condition seemed to have puzzled the Lord himself.

#### II. Their Pitiful Condition

Wretched, poor, blind, miserable and naked. Their thoughts were different to God's. Man looks upon the outward appearance, the Lord looks upon the heart. They were wretched, what little Christianity they had made them miserable. Poor, in spiritual development and laying up treasures in heaven. Blind, - things of this world had hidden them from the face of the Lord. They were blinded to every opportunity for doing good. Naked, - they had removed the beautiful white robe that they might clothe themselves with filthy rags.

#### III. Wise Counsel Given

1. Buy of me gold tried in the fire. Increase your faith. (1 Pet. 1:7.) (1 Jno. 5:1-4)
2. White raiment that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear. (Rev. 7:14, 19:7-8.)
3. Anoint thine eyes with eye salve. Look more diligently into the word of God.

#### IV. Things Which Drive Him Out Today

1. Sin openly practiced.
2. A love for the world. (Jas. 4:4.)
3. By bringing into the worship unscriptural things. (Matt. 15:9.)
4. By dividing his spiritual body, - the church.

#### V. Christ Still Knocks Today.

1. Through the power of the cross.

2. Through Godly lives of his people.
3. Through preaching his word.

Conclusion: Sinner hear him before he is gone. He will not remain there forever. He will not force an entrance. "There is a stranger at the door."

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## OUR CONDUCT MUST BE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGH CLAIMS OF THE GOSPEL Phil. 1:27-30

Introduction: Paul was a prisoner in Rome when he wrote this classic to the church at Philippi. He had no idea about what awaited him but whatever the issue may be it is his desire that these Christians walk worthy of the gospel of Christ. They had been converted by a divine law. They were citizens of heaven. God was their Father; Christ their Savior and due to this high and lofty calling they must honor it by walking worthy of it all. It would mean holiness of life, purity of character and a zeal for the Lord that knew no bounds. It would mean loyalty and fidelity to every commandment of Christ. To this end let us study four requisites:

### I. Steadfastness Must Be Manifested In Every Life

1. The same idea is conveyed by the apostle to the Corinthians when he delivered his valedictory address to them: "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." (1 Cor. 16:13.) The imagery is military in its import. And how fitting; Job said: "Is there not a warfare to man on the earth?"

2. "Stand fast in the faith; in the liberty; in the Lord." It is wonderful to begin but far better to be steadfast unto the end.

### II. Endeavor to Keep the Unity of the Spirit

1. These Philippian Christians were to "stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel." (Phil. 1:27) There were to be no divisions; discord and strife were not to be thought of and alienations were not to be permitted.

2. Unity would contribute to their happiness and to the progress of extending the kingdom. There would be efficiency and growth. (1 Cor. 1:10.)

### III. An Undaunted Courage must be Shown

"And in nothing terrified by your adversaries." (Phil 1:28.) The weakness of the ten spies is often seen in the church today. "We be not able" is often heard. We need the courage of Paul at Ephesus.

(Acts 19:1-20.) Christians need to study the lives of such men as Daniel, the three Hebrew children, and Polycarp.

#### IV. Rejoice to Suffer for the Lord

1. "But also to suffer for his sake." (Phil. 1:29.) There has never been a better example of one's willingness to suffer for the Lord than Paul himself. (2 Cor. 11:23-29, Heb. 12:3-12.)

2. The test of a true Christian is what he is willing to bear and suffer for his Master.

Conclusion: Those who are willing to share in the sufferings of the Lord will certainly receive ample compensation in the great afterwhile.

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### WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY?

Acts 26:28

Introduction: There is no greater question than this. A working knowledge of it is the rarest of all gifts. It is not something about Christianity which is sought. It is not what is a minimum, or what are the chief characteristics, but what is Christianity itself? An outstanding exponent tells us what it meant to him. In him great conflict with the Roman authorities it would seem that Paul arose to the very heights of his mighty powers in setting it forth. No man ever had a higher grasp of or properly evaluated the system more than did this man. Let us consider:

#### I. Christianity Speaks with Certainty

"Thou art permitted to speak." Christianity speaks of the mightiest facts that ever fell upon human ears. They are as follows:

a. It speaks of the incarnation. "The word was made flesh and dwelt among men." "This is one of the great facts in all human history." "We beheld his glory, the glory of the only begotten Son of God," (Jno. 1:1-14.)

b. It speaks of the gospel of the resurrection. This is the crowning proof of all Christ's claims of being the Son of God. (Rom. 1:4.) Christianity is false if this is not true. All else depends upon it. (1 Cor. 15:21.) With no social, financial, or political motives behind them it is unthinkable that any man of common intelligence would give his life for such a thing when he knew it was false. All the apostles did this very thing. Wherever they went they preached the resurrection from the dead. (Acts 17:31.) The attack upon this stronghold has raged for two thousand years and the battle goes



on with more intensity. All the powers of the unseen world may be brought to bear upon it but this mighty truth will stand.

c. It speaks of the kingdom of God. As citizens of this kingdom we learn our duty as delineated by the Savior in his great parables. Every act of service to be rendered to him is illustrated in some outstanding way by our Lord.

d. It speaks of the gospel of pardon. (Rom. 6:17-18.) Man in sin is a rebel against the authority of heaven. Pardon is necessary or man is lost forever. "Through this man is preached the forgiveness of sins." (Acts 13:38, 2:38, 22:16, Mk. 16:15-16.)

e. It speaks of a way of life. Sermon on the mountain.

## II. Christianity Has Something to Say for Itself

"Thou art permitted to speak for thyself." Rumor, hearsay evidence is often harmful and injures worthy causes. There were many false reports concerning the Savior. (Matt. 16:14.) This was also true of the church in the days of the apostles. (Acts 28:22.) There is entirely too much of this done today. Many people get a false conception of the Bible and the church of Christ from common reports. Often these reports are the ravings of bitter enemies of those who seek to believe the Bible and to be Christians only. Christianity should be permitted to speak for itself. It will stand on its own merits. Its blessings to humanity have been legion. Wherever its benign principles have gone it has made man wiser, happier, nobler and better.

## III. Christianity Has Something to Say for Itself Worth Hearing Patiently

It has to do with our highest interests. It desires to give us "one hundred fold in this world and in the world to come eternal life." (Matt. 19:29.) It answers the great question propounded by Job: "If a man die, shall he live again?" Also, it answers the greatest question ever asked: "What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 2:28.)

## IV. Christianity Speaks and Says, "Put Me to the Test."

When this is done our soiled garments will be white, our anxious hours will be turned to joy, our darkest moments will catch a gleam that comes from off the better land, our weakness will be made strong, our storms will be turned into calm, our sorrows lessened and our hope as firm as the rock of ages.

Conclusion: May our lives always speak the great principles of Christianity.

## THE CITY THAT LIETH FOURSQUARE

Rev. 21:16

Introduction: In contemplating the future home of the redeemed the soul goes wild at the thought. What joy to the victor when the battle is ended and the aftermath is passed! In his panoramic vision on Patmos, John was permitted to behold them. "I beheld and lo a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations and kindreds, and peoples, and tongues, stood before the throne and before the lamb, clothed with white robes and palms in their hands; and cried with a loud voice, saying Salvation to our God, which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb." One of the elders asked John "What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they?" John's reply was, "Sir, thou knowest." And he said to me: "These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them." (Rev. 7:9-17.)

### I. Heaven Represented Under Various Figures

"My Father's House." (Jno. 14:1-2.) "The kingdom prepared for you." (Matt. 25:34.) "A city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God." (Heb. 11:10.) "A better country, that is an heavenly." (Heb. 11:16.) "An inheritance, incorruptible, and undefiled and that fadeth not away." (1 Pet. 1:4.)

### II. Some Reasons for Believing Heaven Is A Reality

1. The soul has longed for it in all ages, in all lands. Surely such a longing is God given and God will not disappoint us.
2. The soul needs such a place. About the time we get ready to live we die. Our greatest accomplishments are but fragmentary in this world.
3. It would seem that justice demands such a place as heaven is said to be. "Things are not right here and never will be." Nero and Borgia sat upon thrones while millions of righteous men and women went to the stake.
4. We believe there is a heaven because the Bible says there is such a place. (Ps. 23, Isa. 25:8, Dan. 12:2-3, Matt. 19:21, Luk. 10:21, Matt. 5:11, 1 Pet. 1:4, 2 Cor. 5:2.)

### III. Heaven Described

The Holy Spirit in the twenty first chapter of revelation gives us a pen picture of the glories of that eternal city. And it would seem that the Holy Spirit himself exhausted the language in giving us a description of its foundation. He uses the most precious gems, jasper,

sapphire, emerald in his description of it. If this is the foundation what must be the beauty of the city itself?

#### IV. Who Will Go There?

This is the great and vital question. "These are they which have come out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." (Rev. 7:14.) What were these robes which had been made white in the blood of the Lamb? "And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints." (Rev. 19:8.) "For all thy commandments are righteous." (Ps. 119:172) Those who do the commandments of the Lord will enter that city. (Rev. 22:14.)

Conclusion: "Heaven holds all to me."

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### THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

Rom. 1:16

Introduction: There is not a subject in all the area of human thoughts of more importance than the gospel of Christ. The reason for this is: "It is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes it." (Rom. 1:16.) It is the thing "by which ye are saved." (1 Cor. 15:2.) Our Savior is to return again and take vengeance upon two classes: first, all who know not God, and second, all who obey not the gospel. (2 Thess. 1:8-9.) Gospel means "good news." The gospel of Christ means the good news concerning Christ. It was the sweetest song that ever fell upon human ears the night the angels sang at his birth. The words that fell from his lips for three and one half years were the most gracious words the world ever heard or ever will hear. It was good news that "the Lord laid upon him the iniquity of us all." (Isa. 53:6.) It is still greater news that he died for us and arose for our justification. (Rom. 4:15.) We have the following then relative to this great subject:

#### I. Scriptures and Truths Set Forth

(Mk. 16:15-16, Rom. 1:16, 1 Cor. 15:1-3, Gal. 1:8-9, 2 Thess. 1:8-9.) From these passages which have to do with the gospel of Christ we deduce the following truths:

- a. Only the truth of the gospel will save the soul. There is no other truth that will do this.
- b. All the apostles preached this same gospel truth. (Gal. 1:8-9.)
- c. All gospel preachers today will preach the same gospel truth that was preached by the apostles.
- d. God's powers are unlimited. Who can understand this?

But the one and only power he uses to save the soul of man is the gospel of Christ. (Rom. 1:16.)

## II. For Whom Is the Gospel?

The gospel is intended for every responsible soul, capable of believing and obeying its teachings. It is binding upon all men "from the rivers to the ends of the earth and for all time." (Mk. 16:15-16, Matt. 28:19-20, Heb. 2:9, Acts 10:34, Rev. 3:20.)

## III. What Is the Gospel of Christ?

1. It is most surely something that can be taught; conveyed to others by the medium of words. The savior said: "Teach all nations," (Matt. 28:19.) "Preach the gospel to every creature." (Mk. 16:15-16.) We also have the following scriptures to bear upon this same thought: (Acts 11:14, 2 Tim. 4:1-4, 1 Pet. 1:25, Acts 14:1, 1 Cor. 15:1-3.)

2. The great facts that Paul preached relating to the gospel were the death, the burial, and the resurrection of Christ. (1 Cor. 15:1-3.) But these are facts and facts are to be believed. He states to the Thessalonians that unless men obey the gospel that Christ will return and take vengeance upon all such. (2 Thess. 1:8-9.) The commands of the gospel which are to be obeyed are: repentance, (Luk. 13:3), confess Christ, (Acts 8:37), be baptized. (Acts 2:38.) The promises of the gospel are: forgiveness of sins, (Acts 2:38), gift of the Holy Spirit, (Acts 2:38), eternal life. (1 Jno. 2:25.)

## IV. What Are the Effects of the Gospel?

The gospel of Christ when preached produces faith and faith purifies the heart. (Acts 15:9, Prov. 4:23, 23:7, Jer. 17:9.) It leads to repentance and this effects and changes men's lives. (Rom. 1:21-32, Luk. 13:3.) Baptism is a part of the gospel and this changes our state. (Gal. 2:27, Rom. 6:3-4.) The guilt of sin is removed when the terms of the gospel are consecrated by the blood of Christ. Thus the guilt of sin is removed by contacting this blood.

## V. What Will Become of Congregations and Individuals Who Refuse to Preach the Gospel?

"For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel." (1 Cor. 9:16.)

Conclusion: "Have you obeyed the gospel?"

## THE CORONATION OF CHRIST

Introduction: The coronation of a king is a notable event in the affairs of the kingdom over which he is to reign. It is attended with ceremonies, pomp and pagentry. It is of interest to every citizen of his kingdom. It concerns all other nations. Representatives are sent from all lands to witness the great event. What scenes must have attended the coronation of the triumphant Messiah upon his return to heaven! Even his approach to heaven was attended by throngs of heavenly messengers. It was they who shouted: "Lift up your heads O ye gates, and be ye lift ye everlasting doors; and the king of glory shall come in." (Ps. 24:7.) Daniel said: "I saw in the night visions, and behold one like the Son of man came and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom." (Dan. 7:13-14.) He is both Lord and Christ now. (Acts 2:36.) Paul speaks of him as "King of Kings and Lord of Lords." (1 Tim. 6:15.) Let us note then the following:

### I. His Earthly Pilgrimage

Our Savior made a pilgrimage of thirty and three years upon the earth. He was put to death by the Roman Procurator, Pontias Pilate. After three days he arose from the dead and showed himself alive by many infallible proofs. (Acts 1:3.) He remained on the earth and talked to his apostles about things that pertained to his kingdom. (Acts 1:3.) One morning on the Mount of Olives as he was blessing his apostles a cloud chariot halted at his feet and he was taken up into heaven. (Acts 1:11, Ps. 24:7-10.)

### II. The Father Delivered the Coronation Address

This address is the finest eulogy ever paid to the Messiah. (Heb. 1:1-13, Ps. 68:17-18, 90:1-5.)

### III. Purpose of His Coronation

1. That he might have all power, in fact, both in heaven and on earth. (Matt. 28:19, Eph. 1:19-23.) Christ was raised up to sit on his throne. (Acts 2:30.) He is sitting on the right hand of God exalted.

2. To become head of his church. (Eph. 1:19-23, Col. 1:18, Eph. 5:23-24.)

3. He appeared in the presence of God in the holy of holies with his blood to make the atonement for the sins of the world.

4. To return as a conqueror from his conquest to report to his Father the result of his work on earth. What a story he could relate from his birth to his ascension.

5. To give gifts unto men. (Eph. 4:8.) These were given during the "childhood period of the church." (1 Cor. 13:11.) They ended when that which was perfect was come. (1 Cor. 13:10, Eph. 4:11-13.)

6. To send the Holy Spirit upon the apostles that the work of redemption might begin among men. (Acts 2.)

7. To become our Great High Priest.

8. To begin his mediatorial reign. (1 Cor. 15:24-25.)

Conclusion: We should remember that Christ is not Teacher and Savior alone, but he is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He has all authority. Millions accept him as "Their personal Savior." but shun statements which assert his authority as if they had never been said.

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## THE COLOSSIAN CHURCH

Introduction: This was a city in Phrygia in Asia Minor. Ephaphras started the congregation there. It made rapid strides but it was the kind of rapidity that does not always promise success. "It was too feverish to be healthy." There were some who came into the church with their cherished ideas of the time, Jewish and pagan. They saw no reason to discard them but rather defended them for Christians. How true today. History is constantly repeating itself. The consequence was that the gospel was in danger of being ruined by a mixture of non-Christian beliefs. Epaphras became alarmed and made a long perilous trip to Rome to consult with Paul about it. In and about Colossae was a hotbed of theosophy, mysticism, gnosticism whose teaching was that the gospel was imperfect. They claimed to know how to lead the Christian believer on to perfection. They taught that the flesh is the seat of sin. It must be mortified by dietary rules. The festivals of the law must be kept, also. They also taught that redemption was not through Christ alone - this work was divided among the host of God's angelic ministers and such must be worshipped also.

### I. When Errors Crept In

1. It is a fact that errors of the apostles brought forth much of Christ's teaching. This was also true of the teaching of Paul. The errors of the various congregations brought forth much teaching from him. The Colossian letter was written to restate the faith and condemn the false teaching current in that day.

2. Paul refuted the doctrine of worship and meditation of angels by setting forth the fullest idea of the person and work of Christ.  
a. The uniqueness of Christ's personality is elaborated upon. (Col. 1:15-19.) See also the following, (Jno. 14:9, 2 Cor. 4:4, 1 Cor. 11:7, Heb. 1, Isa. 9:6-7, Eph. 2:16.)

- b. The completeness of the work of Christ is also set forth. (Col. 1:20-22, 1 Jno. 1:7, 2 Cor. 5:18, Eph. 2:16.)
- c. No change or improvement would be allowed. (Col. 2:1-10)
3. These teachers had the wrong conception of God. Paul holds up Christ to them as the perfect idea of God. "In him dwells all the fullness of the god-head bodily."
4. When they sought for a true historical idea, - "all things are from Christ." (Col. 1:16.)
5. If they were wrong in their idea of redemption, Paul would correct them by stating that believers are buried with him in baptism and rise with him in newness of life. (Col. 2:12.)
6. If they sought the true idea of the atonement - Jesus by the shedding of his own blood secured the sinner's peace. (Col. 1:13.)
7. If their philosophy was wrong, Paul would correct them: "In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."
8. If they sought an insight into the hidden mysteries of God, Paul would have them know that Christ is God manifest in the flesh and the open secret of the world about God.
9. If they sought perfection - they would be complete in Christ.

Conclusion: The Colossian letter has divinity stamped upon it. It meets and refutes every innovation that will ever arise.

## PAULS CONCEPTION OF A CHRISTIAN

### Col. 3:11

Introduction: To be a Christian is the highest achievement to which one may ever aspire. To be a philosopher, philanthropist, teacher, scientist, - these are necessary but what are they when Christianity is left out? All earthly pursuits should be secondary to this one thing. It is wonderful and a great blessing to possess good health, a competence, friends, education but these are nothing when Christ is left out. How very foolish was Laodicea whose conduct was such that they drove out the Lord and how poor and wretched and miserable they became because of their ungrateful act. (Rev. 3:15-18.) Men have erected various standards as to what constitutes a true Christian. To some one is alright if he happens to be born in a Christian home and sprinkled when a baby, or if one is a friend to Christianity, or like those of whom Jesus spoke, "Do many wonderful works in his name." (Matt. 7:22.) To meet Paul's conception of a Christian one's conduct must rise far above worldly standards. To get



Paul's conception of what constitutes a true Christian we desire to use his letters to the Colossians. We notice:

### I. Christ Must Become My All In All

1. He must become my Teacher, Prophet, Priest, King. (Col. 3:11, 3:3, Jno. 1:6, Zech. 13:1.)

2. He must be filled with a knowledge of his will. (Col. 1:9, 3:16, Acts 20:32, Hos. 4:6.)

3. He must walk worthy of the Lord. (Col. 1:10.) Walk in a way to meet his approval. (Rom. 6:4, 8:8, 2 Cor. 4:2, Phil. 3:18, 1 Jno. 16 Jude 16.)

4. Being fruitful in every good work. (Col. 1:10, Gal. 5:22-23.) In this it is often that some who are the loudest proclaimers are the poorest performers in bearing the right kind of fruit. Fruit bearing is more than denouncing error. Many of us have been star performers in this.

5. He will receive his strength from the Lord. (Col. 1:11, Ps. 121.) God has promised and will fulfil. With this strength one will be able to meet his problems with patience, long-suffering and joy.

6. A Christian must be filled with thanksgiving. (Col. 1:12.) This probably is the besetting sin of Christians in America. Most of us are unthankful for our unspeakable blessings. "Lips, one day, will cry; "Lord be merciful" which never said, "Lord be praised."

7. He must "continue in the faith grounded and settled and not moved from the hope of the gospel." (Col. 1:23.)

8. We ever give glory to God, Moses.

Conclusion: In China an American was asked what he considered the most beautiful thing in the world. He began to name temples, cathedrals, sunsets, mountains, canyons. He was told what Confucius said: "The most beautiful thing in the world is a little child going down the road after you have shown him the way." God has shown us the way. . . .

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## THE LIFE AND GROWTH OF THE CHURCH

Col. 2:9

Introduction: The greatest need of the church today is a healthy growth and a ripening into a deep spiritual life. It is a lamentable fact that there are too many babes in Christ. (Heb. 5:12.) The task is great and there are burdens to bear and for this reason all Christians should become "strong in the Lord and in the power of his might." They should grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Growth should be made in love for one another, in faithful praying, in gaining a better knowledge of the Bible of our duty to God, our fellow man and to ourselves.

## I. The Source of Life and Growth Is In Christ

There are three symbols employed to portray the union that Christians have with Christ:

- c. a. The vine (Jno. 15:1-7.)
- A b. The body (Rom. 12:4.)
- B c. The mirrage bond (Eph. 5:23-24.)

## II. All Parts of the Body Must Function In Harmony

*1 Cor 12:12-27 Paul*  
From the head of the church who is Christ the body receives its instructions and functions together as a unit. As of old when the cloud moved Israel moved so much spiritual Israel follow its Guide. As the husband is the head of the wife and who is submissive to him so must the church be submissive to Christ.

## III. Good Results Depend Upon the Following

- 1. Cooperation on the part of each member. The work is sadly hindered when some are idle, and others are lukewarm.
- 2. The health of each member is necessary. "Many are weak and sickly and not a few are asleep." The right food, - the Bible; the right atmosphere, - environment; the right exercise will keep a Christian well.

## IV. Abiding In Christ Necessary

*a.* A hold upon Christ and a close contact with him are vital to life and development. (Jno. 15:1-7.) "Hold to God's unchanging hand." Grasp him with the hands of love and human need and don't let him go as Jacob did the angel in the long ago. Let everyfiber of the very being enter into it. Let the mind grasp the eternal truths of God's word; let the heart cleave to the Lord with singleness of purpose and will power asserting itself to do all his bidding and submitting to his authority.

## Conclusion:

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## A PROSPEROUS CHURCH

Introduction: In the financial, political and social world myriads of men and women are battling to succeed. With many of these the thought of spiritual success has but little consideration whatsoever. But we may well afford to be a complete failure in all also if we succeed in gaining the favor of the Lord. Lazarus failed in this world but was a success in the other. This is what counts. For a few short years the

rich man succeeded but what of it? The story is different in the next world. Men carry their work to exhaustion to succeed in material matters. If Christians would do this there would be more outstanding ones. It has often been said that if men gave as little time to their work as they do to Christianity they would soon have no business to run. Our Savior measured his days, not by the hours that passed but by the energy expended. He carried his work to weariness. (Jno. 4:6.) We are not left without precept and example as to what we should do. (Luk. 14:25-34, Luk. 12:25-41.)

#### I. Spiritual Beauty Must Be In Every Member

You plucked a beautiful flower. "No lovelier rose ever grew." Its color was rich and all about it was matchless in its prettiness and delicacy. But where is it now? It is mingling with the dust and men have trodden it under foot. You had given much time and work to that flower. You protected it from the heat and the cold. Is it not so with all earthly things? How brief are our lives! How soon the bloom of youth fades! When we are not thinking time passes by and sprinkles a little frost of winter upon our heads to remind us that winter is approaching. In view of this, then, let us all cultivate that beauty of soul that will never fade. (2 Cor. 5:1, 1 Pet. 1:3-5.)

#### II. Every Member Must Be At His Post Of Duty

There is much encouragement to be gained from Old Testament examples. (Judg. 7:21.) Here it is said that the three hundred chosen men of Gideon, "Stood every man in his place round about the camp." The secret of success does not always lie in numbers. The commander who said: "God is always on the side of the heaviest battallion," surely was not familiar with the Bible. Victories are won by courageous soldiers even though they be few in numbers. Laodicea would never win battles for the Lord. (Rev. 3:14-19, 1 Cor. 16:13-14.)

#### III. Faith In The Leader Necessary

"Cast your cares upon him for he careth for you." (1 Pet. 5:7, Jno. 14:4, Ps. 94:17, 28:7, 41:6, Matt. 6:24-34.) No battles were ever lost by the Lord. Fighting under his banner victory is sure. He conquered storms, disease and death.

#### IV. Fullest Cooperation Required

When the allies in the first world war unified their command they began to win victories. (Mk. 3:25, Ps. 133, Ps. 55:14.) A divided church is the scandal of Christianity. Protestantism is destroying its chances for world conquest because of its shameful divisions.

## V. Quiet Evangelism Needed

The Roman Empire was taken for Christ within 300 years after Pentecost. There were no auxiliaries used by Christians then. It was done by men and women like Aquilla and Priscilla, Andrew and the woman of Samaria.

## VI. Efficiency Must Characterize Every Member

"Ready for every good word and work." In the business world skilled workmen are necessary to success.

Conclusion: "The children of this world are wiser in their generation than the children of light."

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## CHRIST OUR MODEL IN SERVICE

1 Pet. 2:21

Introduction: The apostle Peter tells us that "Christ left us an example that we should follow in his steps." Also he says: "Who went about doing good." (Acts 10:38.) The mission of Christ was to save the world. His way of redeeming men was to begin with their hearts and lead them to purity of life. That this might be done more perfectly he set man an example of how he should walk. There is no way of measuring the power and influence of an example either for good or bad. The life of the child is an expression of its parents; the characteristics of the pupil reflect those of his teacher; the courage and heroism of the soldier is seen in the commander. Hence, it is easy to see the vital importance of having a sure and true pattern in religious matters. A model by which we may develop character and shape our destiny is the most essential thing known to men. In Christ we have this perfect example in all respects. He meets and satisfies every need and requirement of the human heart. Before his coming we look in vain among all the sons of men for such a leader and since he went away, we still look in vain. He alone is worthy of such honor. Let us notice some examples:

### I. The Will of His Father Was the Supreme Rule of His Conduct

1. Christ placed doing God's will before satisfying either hunger or thirst. He carried this to weariness. "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and finish his work." (Jno. 4:34, Luk. 22:42.) If such a desire as this should fill every Christian's heart the church would be pure and it would become the dynamic force God intended it to be to save the world.

2. He gave attention to little things. Many speak of baptism as a very small matter. To say the least of it he went a distance of some sixty miles to do it. He said: "One jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law till all be fulfilled." (Matt. 5:17.) Such an idea should be

embalmed upon every heart. It needs to be as "frontlets between our eyes," and stamped in golden letters on the door of our souls.

## II. He Was Straight-forward In His Teaching

1. He never kept back a truth for fear he might offend someone. He never went out of his way to wound the feelings of any one. He sought always to meet their soul's deep longings. The woman at Jacob's well, even though a sinner, was approached with the very tenderest feeling. This was also true in his approach to the sinful woman mentioned in John 8.

2. He had an utter disregard for hypocrisy. (Matt. 6:1-6, Matt. 23.)

## III. He Placed the Highest Authority on the Written Word of God

In his temptation he relied wholly upon the word of God. His answer to Satan each time he was tempted was: "It is written." (Matt. 4:1-12.) To him the word of God was the end of all controversy. It is an astounding fact but true nevertheless that most religious people do not believe that God's word should be respected that way today. Mention baptism or the observance of the Lord's supper to many and the reply comes: "It doesn't matter." Such persons should read the following. (Ps. 119:11, 132, 158, Acts 2:22, 41, 8:14, 13:26, 20:32, Eph. 1:13, Jas. 1:18, 21, Rev. 3:8, 22:18-19.)

## IV. His Life Was Wholly Consecrated to God

All he had was at his Father's disposal. He gave his life for God's glory and man's good. We should remember that "he left us an example that we should follow in his steps." (Luk. 12:42.)

## V. His Great Example In Forgiveness

"Father forgive them for they know not what they do." This prayer lifts him above the ordinary plane of men. It has done more to allay malice, break down prejudice and rid men of hatred than any prayer ever prayed.

## VI. In His Effort to Save Men From Sin

Conclusion: If there is any word we could leave, it would be: "Walk in his steps."

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## LESSONS FROM THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST Matt. 17:1-10

Introduction: Some events in the life of our Savior stand out like

great mountain peaks above the ordinary happenings. These are: his baptism, his temptation, his resurrection and the transfiguration. One week from the time he was at Old Caesarea Philippi and where Peter made the good confession and where he said: "Upon this rock I will build my church," he came to Mt. Hermon. The quiet invigorating environment of the mountains must have had a refreshing effect on Christ after long weeks of disgusting experiences with his critics and persecutors. It is said that he went into the mountain to pray. (Luk. 9:28.) Jesus prayed much; more than any of the sons of men. (Luk. 9:18.) The greatest privilege ever bestowed upon any man is that of calling upon the God of heaven. (1 Thess. 5:17.)

### I. The Journey Up the Mountain Side

1. Among the happy experiences of this writer have been the many hundreds of trips across the Great Smokey Mountains. The golden notes of birds, the dash of the wild cataract, the towering mountain peaks, so "high they kiss the sun," the cool invigorating air, - all these make a trip over the mountains among the pleasant experiences of life.

2. As Jesus and the three apostles ascended to some lofty peak of Hermon what scenes must have lay out before him? He could probably catch a gleam of all the sacred land from Dan to Beersheba. And there was the Jordan river winding its way like a silver thread and is lost in the deep valley of the Dead Sea. And too, perhaps the whole history of the Jewish nation passed in one great cavalcade before him. He thought of its history and of its doom. It is no wonder he desired to spend the time in prayer.

### II. The Apostles Sleep

If one could place himself in their stead it would seem quite impossible under the circumstances that any one could go to sleep. But such is the weakness of humanity. These same men slept under more serious circumstances than this. It was in the garden when the Savior prayed and his sweat became as it were drops of blood falling down to the ground. Johah, too, slept when the storm was raging. The storm is raging still and it is to be feared that too many of us are as sound asleep as was Jonah or these apostles.

### III. The Heavenly Visitors

Two great characters, Moses, - the law giver and Elias, - the law restorer. The scene described. (Matt. 17:2.)

### IV. The Significance of this Great Event

1. Peter said: "Let us make here three tabernacles." This was a wrong conception. It was not doing the honor to Christ as should be given him. God appeared on the scene and said: "This is my beloved

Son, in whom I am well pleased, hear ye him." The superiority of Jesus is certain and final.

2. Moses and Elias had come to lay down their authority at the feet of Jesus. (Deut. 18:18.) Eph. 2:13-17, Col. 2:14-15.)

3. To impress upon all humanity that the grave is not the end. Here are two men who have been dead for many years and yet they have lived on. Death does not end all. "We know that if the earthly house of our tabernacle were dissolved we have a building not made with hands eternal in the heavens." (2 Cor. 5:1.)

4. To sympathize, no doubt, with Jesus and to encourage him to set his face to go to Jerusalem and give his life a ransom for many upon the cross. (Luk. 9:30-31.)

#### V. Some Practical Lessons from the Transfiguration

1. Spiritual growth demands seclusion, - alone with God. (Luk. 9:28) Jesus often went into a mountain or a desert place to pray.

2. Exaltation comes through humiliation. Jesus prayed then he was transfigured. "He that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

3. Prayer and humility undergird the soul for the great duties and problems that one must inevitably face in life. "Cast your cares upon him for he careth for you." (1 Pet. 5:7.) (Matt. 28:20.)

Conclusion: The scene ends and they lift up their eyes and they see no one save Jesus only. They needed to see no other. He is our all in all. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Preachers should learn to preach this way. Parents should live this way in the home. Christ is head of this house. Business men should transact their affairs that way.

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### GLORYING IN THE CROSS

Gal. 6:14

Introduction: There has never lived a person since Christ more devoted to one idea than was the apostle Paul. Surely: "This one thing I do." His whole heart, life and soul were completely surrendered to the cause of his Master. "God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." There are two large and beautiful crosses which the writer often admires in his travels; one is near the University of the South, high up in the Cumberland mountains. The other is at Lake Junaluska deep in the Blue Ridge mountains. These have been erected by religious people as a sign of their belief, or as a banner under which they set up their standards. In thinking of such it might be well to learn if possible just what Paul meant when he said he gloried only in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. The American people glory in the stars and stripes. They glory in all that banner stands for or represents. The cross stands for the gospel of Christ,



the New Covenant which was consecrated by the blood of Christ. It stands for every promise, command, and precept given by Christ. This means more than erecting a cross on a mountain top to impress people with what they are glorying in. Let us observe the following:

### I. The Cross Was Unpopular in Paul's Day

Paul stood high as a Jew before his conversion. To become a Christian was to renounce all this for the Lord. He became an object of scorn and ridicule. (2 Cor. 11:24-28.) (1 Jno. 3:1-3.) The message of the gospel preacher is often treated just the same as Christ's message was while he was on earth.

### II. How Received By Three Classes

1. To those perishing it is foolishness. "A man must be sinking into the blackness of despair who thinks God's message is foolish." Is it foolish to look for light from the sun?

2. To the Jew the cross is a stumbling block. The cross is in his way and he no doubt will continue in that attitude of mind until he is permitted to "look on him whom they pierced."

3. To the Christian the cross is the power of God and the wisdom of God. A great Christian said: "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation."

### III. Some Things Men Glory In

1. Wealth. (Luk. 12:11-22, 1 Tim. 6:17)

2. Education. The following circumstance illustrates a general condition that exists: A young lady who was just home from a university was asked if she was going to church. Her reply was: "No, I have learned better than to accept the foolish idea of the Christian religion."

3. Self-righteousness. The Pharisee. (Luk. 18:10.)

4. Some glory in their shame. They glory in the very things they should be ashamed of.

5. Paul, - the matchless man, gloried in the cross of Christ. This man was born of a great race, a leader, an educated man, possessed a dynamic power to plead his cause before kings and caused them to tremble, ambitious with an ability and zeal to execute any plan; yet, he never gloried in any of these. His glorying was in the cross.

### IV. Reasons for Glorying in the Cross

1. "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." God's character was revealed in Jesus.

2. The cross represents God's greatest love for fallen man. God could have done many wonderful things for lost man, but surely the greatest thing he ever could have done was to give his Son.

3. The things for which the cross stand when believed and obeyed will bring about the salvation of a lost race.

4. We may glory in it because of its certain and final triumph. (Ps. 119:89.) It triumphed over Judiasm, paganism, and Greek philosophy. It will yet conquer all its enemies and will be opened at the judgment. (Rev. 20:12.)

Conclusion: Let us glory in it because: "Now are we the sons of God."

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## WAYS TO BECOME THE BEST CHRISTIAN

Ecl. 9:10

Introduction: It was king Solomon who said: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might." (Ecl. 9:10) There is a vast difference between a Christian in name only and a soul completely surrendered to God. There is such thing as a mother but not a devoted one. Some men are called husbands but their conduct is far from being such. There are those who have been baptized but do but little to honor the name of the Lord who saved them.

### I. How to Become a Christian

There are different terms used in explanation of this act. The Savior used the expression: "Except a man be born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God." (Jno. 3:5.) He also said: "Except you be converted and become as a little child you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 18:3.) Paul referred to the Corinthians as "sanctified." The terms quickened, "made alive," "new creature," "saved," "reconciled," "pardoned," "redeemed" and "adopted" are all used to refer to one's being saved. Peter used probably the plainest and more easily to be understood term on the day of Pentecost when he told anxious enquirers the following: "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38.)

### II. Some Things to Do to Become the Best Christian

1. Follow the Lord in all his appointments. Every example of the great heroes of faith, though they be dead, yet speak and warn us of this, (Heb. 11.)

2. Let love prompt every act of obedience and every humble deed of service. (1 Cor. 16:14.) "The test of one's love is what he is willing to bear and do." (Luk. 10:25-38.)

3. Put the kingdom of Christ first in all our plans of life. (Matt. 6:24-34.) It was an old country merchant who used to close his store, any hour of the day, to render a service in the name of the Lord

who said: "My business is to serve the Lord."

4. Cultivate the spirit of humility. (Matt. 18:4, 8:5-14, Jas. 4:6, 1 Pet. 5:6.)

5. Pray often. This is following in the steps of the Master. (1 Thess. 5:17, 1 Tim. 2:8.)

6. Study the Bible daily to know what the will of the Lord is.

7. Never miss a Lord's Day at the worship service. (Acts 20:7.)

8. When you commit sin be sure to confess it. (1 Jno. 1:7-8.)

9. Be faithful unto death. (Rev. 2:10.)

Conclusion: Why are we not all good Christians?

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## PROGRESS OF THE EARLY CHURCH

Introduction: The church of our blessed Lord did not come down to us without struggle. Its history is the most thrilling in the annals of time. Its persecutions have been the most bitter; opposition to it has been of the most stubborn kind. There is no crime that the persecuting hand of religious prejudice will be stayed. It has been estimated the 50,000,000 Christians have met death at the stake. If the tormenter could stand off and see the bones of his victims heaped in one mighty pile, surely, he would shudder and grasp in horror. We should rejoice that such an institution has come down to us and that we have the privilege of worshipping God free from such hatred and opposition. But in spite of all opposition, in spite of the two opposing powers which stood ready to crush out Christianity it grew. On the one hand was the power of paganism with its temples and priests in every city in the Roman empire, and on the other the power of Judaism with a religion venerated for its age and of divine origin. These both went down and Christianity planted its banner over the Roman empire in three hundred years. Let us notice the following:

### I. Five Separate Ministries

The ministry of John the Baptist which lasted only six months. And Christ's which lasted until his death. The ministry of the twelve under the limited commission. The ministry of the seventy. The ministry of the twelve on the world wide commission.

### II. Pentecost the Beginning

1. The gospel, in its fullness, had its beginning in Jerusalem on the first Pentecost after the crucifixion of Christ. The order was, "begin in Jerusalem, to Judea, Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the world."

2. It had its origin in a seed. That seed is the word of God. (Luk. 8:11.) It is divine. (1 Thess. 2:13, 1 Pet. 1:23, 1 Jno. 3:9.)

It has life or else it wouldn't spring up. Like the plant which draws nutrient from the soil, the kingdom of God absorbs into itself that which makes it expand by attaching through the power of the gospel souls from the outside world.

3. It lives by reproduction. As the seed multiplies according to its kind, so do believers who constitute the church, as it were, reproduce themselves in other believers who are added to the Lord.

4. It grew rapidly. In the first century it was widely published. (Col. 1:23.) Its influence reached to far-flung parts of the Roman Empire, even in the first century. (Acts 19:10.) Before Paul went to his reward he could state: "They have all heard."

### III. How Opposition Was Overcome

1. The zeal of its preachers. Peter and John, (Acts 4 and 5.) Stephen, (Acts 7.) Paul, (Acts 22, 2 Cor. 11:23-33.) The holy lives of the disciples. The unity of the church. (1 Cor. 1:10, Eph. 4:1-6.) Persecutions endured by early Christians. It is said: "The blood of martyrs became the seed of the church."

2. Being satisfied with God's way, the true church, the true plan of salvation, the rule of elders and deacons who "took heed unto themselves and all the flock."

Conclusion: Let us rejoice, the church is again on the move.

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## SETTING OUR RELIGIOUS CLOCKS

Introduction: In the town of Waynesville, N. C. where this is being written there is an Art Treasure House. It is filled with the most expensive oriental rugs, bric-a-brac, lamps, silverware of the most elaborate kind. Diamonds have been sold for as much as \$40,000.00. Let us suppose that the owner of this wealth makes a proposition to the citizens of Waynesville as follows: "Come to my Art Treasure House at 9 o'clock A. M. You are to kneel and be anointed for the removal of your impurities and you shall have blessings untold." Never in its history has the town been so stirred. All want to make sure that they have the correct time. Watches and time pieces are compared. No two are alike. Who has the correct time? Many suggestions are offered. "A" who is honored and respected says: "Set by my time I feel that I have the right time." "B" a good man speaks and says: "Everybody set by mine. I go by the sound of a whistle that blows always at twelve o'clock." "C" a very fine citizen, a man of wealth remarks: "Let all set, by mine. I have a Bulova; the latest and most up-to-date time piece. I am confident you will be all right." "D" an ancient citizen of the town moves, slowly, forward. He is very insistent that all set by his watch. He tells them that his grandfather owned it and then passed it on to his father and his father gave it to him. It is hoary with age. He says:

"Time that was good enough for them, surely, is good enough for every man in Waynesville." Such an idea becomes ridiculous. The matter could be settled in one moment. Let each person set by Western Union Time. All then would be together and would have correct time. Let us observe:

### I. God Has Blessings Untold

1. "Eye hat not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." (1 Cor. 2:9.)
2. The Savior invites all to come. (Matt. 11:28-30.)

### II. The Way to Receive These Blessings Is Plain

1. When the owner of the Art Treasure House made his offer not a person mis-understood. It was so simple that they could not fail to understand. "Come to my Art Treasure House at 9 o'clock A. M. You are to kneel and be anointed for the removal of your impurities and you shall have blessings untold."

2. How very senseless it would be for "A" to suggest that it will not be necessary for you to kneel and be anointed for that wealth. He tells them that he came into possession of great wealth as a result of a peculiar feeling that he once had. He tells them that they must experience this feeling to get it. And it would be just as senseless for "B" to tell them that he once received great wealth because of a strange sound that he once heard. He tells them they can get the wealth that way. And, too, it is just as unreasonable for "C" to suggest that they go and join the most popular Art Treasure House in the town and they would have the wealth. It would, indeed, be laughable for "D" to suggest that there is an ancient treasure house in the town filled with antiques. All should go to, for his grandfather and father patronized it.

3. The offer the Lord makes to people today is just as plain as words can be spoken. It is "Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mk. 16:15-16.) "Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38.)

4. In reply to this the religious world cries out and says: "All this is non-essential." You don't have to do anything to be saved." One says: "You must experience some peculiary feeling." Another: "You must hear some strange noise." Another: "Just join some popular denomination and you will be all right. So many just can't do wrong." Another says: "Its the old time religion you want. If it was good enough for grandfather and father it is good enough for us." How unwise such a procedure.

## II. The Bible Is the Correct Standard

1. If all people would regulate their lives by it they would be together and the prayer of our Savior would be answered. (Jno. 17: 20-21, 2 Tim. 3:16, Ps. 133, 1 Cor. 1:10.)

2. The church of Christ is clearly revealed in the New Testament. (Matt. 16:18, Rom. 16:16, Eph. 4:4, Col. 1:18. Salvation is in the church of Christ. "He is the Savior of the body." (Eph. 5:23.) If Christ is the Savior of the body and the body is the church how then may one be saved outside of the body?

3. "The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch." (Acts 11:26.) Many religious clocks are wrong here.

4. The Lord's Supper is misunderstood and neglected. Many people need to be set right in regard to this great institution.

5. The worship in general is far from the divine standard. It is planned for the purpose of attracting and entertaining.

Conclusion: The Master of the great treasure house has fabulous wealth for all who will accept his invitation.

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W. K. 3-26-79

## SOME SIGNS OF A TRUE DISCIPLE

Jno. 13:34

Introduction: A disciple is a learner. Sometimes the expression refers to a follower of Christ. One must certainly be a learner of Christ before he can be his follower. There are good reasons why all should be true disciples of the Lord. In becoming such one would be following the greatest character that ever blessed the world. It would mean that he would get more out of life that way than any other course he could pursue. It simply means life everlasting to all who become and remain his disciples. Let us study some of the true signs or evidences of a true disciple:

### I. He Is Known By the Doctrine He Holds

"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt save thyself, and them that hear thee." (1 Tim. 4:16, Matt. 15:9, Rom. 16:17, Eph. 4:14, Heb. 13:9, 1 Jno. 4:1, Gal. 1:8-9,)

### II. He Is Known By the Spirit He Manifests

Christ had an obedient spirit. (Phil. 2:5.) a self-denying spirit, (2 Cor. 8:9.) a forgiving spirit, (Luk. 23:34.) a courageous spirit.

### III. He Is Known By the Badge He Wears

All secret orders have a badge or an insignia by which they are known. This is true also of a true disciple. He does not wear a peculiar kind of dress, a clerical garb, a ribbon or a badge of metal. In Jno. 13:35 Jesus says: "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye love one another." See also Phil. 2:1-5, Rom. 14:19, 1 Cor. 13.

### IV. He Is Known By the Fruit He Bears

1. It is very displeasing to the Lord to bear no fruit. (Luk. 13:6, 2 Pet. 1:8.) Trees that bore no fruit were cut down. (Jno. 15:6.) (Gal. 5:22, Jas. 3:17.) Saving of souls is the greatest fruit one can bear in his life.

### Conclusion

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#### DEMAS HATH FORSAKEN ME

2 Tim. 4:10

Introduction: This sad statement was written by Paul under most trying circumstances. He was in prison at Rome and it would seem that his very hours were numbered. Soon the old soldier is to lay his armor down and cross over the river. He says: "My departure is at hand." After giving a most serious charge to preach the word, he tells of a number of his companions and where they had gone, but of Demas he says: "Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world." Elsewhere Demas is mentioned as one of Paul's faithful companions. (Col. 4:14.) In time of trial his courage failed and his faith weakened and he forsook Paul in his dire extremity. Our Savior gave a very solemn warning against this in his parable of the sower. (Matt. 13:20-23.) Due to the fact that there are multitudes who have gone the way of Demas the following observations will be timely:

#### I. It Is Possible For A Child of God to Fall Away and Be Lost

1. Jesus warned: "Because iniquity shall abound the love of many shall wax cold." (Matt. 24:12.) Why would he give such a warning if it is not possible to fall away? The Savior following this gives two clear cut examples of apostasy. It is that of the foolish virgins and the one talent man. (Matt. 25.)

2. "Whosoever seeks to be justified by the law is fallen from grace." (Gal. 5:6.) The very thing the Galatian Christians were seeking to do was to be justified by the law of Moses. Therefore, the irresistible conclusion is, they had fallen from grace.

3. "For by grace are ye saved through faith." (Eph. 2:8.) It is stated plainly here by the apostle that the Christians are saved. Thirty years later the Lord himself writing to this same congregation at Ephesus says: "Thou hast left thy first love. . . remember from whence thou art fallen and repent or I will remove thy candlestick out of its place." (Rev. 2:1-5.)

4. "They were overthrown in the wilderness." (1 Cor. 10:5.) "These things were our examples." (1 Cor. 10:6.) "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." (1 Cor. 12:12.) (Heb. 3:12.)

## II. Some Causes of Apostasy

1. False teachers. (Isa. 9:16, Eph. 4:14, 2 Tim. 4:1-7, Col. 2:18)
2. Love for worldly things. (1 Tim. 6:9-10, Matt. 13:22, 1 Jno. 2:15, Jas. 4:4.)
3. Power of sin over us and the weakness of the flesh. (Matt. 26:41, Rom. 7:15, 1 Cor. 9:27.)
4. The effects of persecution. (Matt. 13:21.)
5. Our extreme sensitiveness.
6. Becoming careless in observing the commandments of God.
7. Engaging in things that our better judgment condemns.
8. Using human expedients to help the Lord out of difficulties.

Conclusion: The New Testament is filled with instructions, warnings, admonitions to the children of God to be true and faithful. If it is impossible to fall away why all such warnings?

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## PAYING DEBTS

Rom. 1:14

Introduction: The writer has spent many happy hours in a delightful little home nestling under the shadows of the Great Smokey mountains. In fact he conducted a gospel meeting here. The people came and sat on the front portico while the preacher stood on the ground and taught them the word of the Lord. There is a Martha in this humble home but she is as true and firm for the right and as solid in her convictions as the towering mountain that stands as a silent sentinel over that home. Her mountain honesty is often expressed on this wise: "I believe in paying my honest debts." Long ago there was another who was just as honest and sincere. Paul owed a debt and he determined to pay it at all hazards.

No one knows who started the church of our Lord at Rome. It was probably started by those strangers from Rome who were in Jerusalem on Pentecost. (Acts 2:10.) It was a wonderful congregation. It was



not so wonderful as to its wealth or social standing but because its "faith was spoken of throughout the whole world." When Paul wrote the Roman letter he had never been to that city. It was his desire to go that he could "impart unto them some spiritual gift to the end ye may be established." This shows that one may become a Christian without receiving any miraculous gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8:16.)

### I. Paul the Debtor

This great man felt always a tremendous obligation to the Lord. "I owe him something. I must pay it." The following reasons are given why he felt that way:

- a. Because of the sufferings of the Savior for sinners like him.
- b. Because of his own personal salvation. (Acts 9:22, 26:3.)
- c. The trust he had received from Christ in making him an apostle and enabling him to tell the sweetest story ever told.
- d. Because he knew that the soul of man was the most valuable thing on earth.
- e. Because he knew his own eternal salvation depended upon it.

### II. God's Great Purpose to Make His Name Known In All the Earth

He used Israel to teach the Egyptians about himself. He used Daniel and Esther in Babylon for the same purpose. He drove Christians from Jerusalem by a fierce persecution so that they went everywhere preaching the gospel. He turned Saul of Tarsus, the fierce persecutor to one so deeply indebted to him that persecution, afflictions, gauntlet, scourge and dungeon had no power to stop him till his great debt was fully liquidated.

### III. Have You Paid Your Debt?

Oh you who wear his name and enjoy his blessings what are you doing about paying the debt you owe to the Lord? You should feel the same obligation as Paul did. Are you stealing God's word from your neighbor by your negligence and careless way of living? Never was a man more faithful in paying a debt than was Paul. (2 Cor. 11:24-29.) He felt this way because his Master before him had the same feeling. (Luk. 19:41-44, Matt. 24:37-39.)

Conclusion: Finally the old warrior comes to the last mile of the way and writes: "I have finished my course, I have kept the faith," - surely he had paid his debt.

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IF A MAN DIE SHALL HE LIVE AGAIN?

Job 14:14

Introduction: The great question with Job was, "After life's fitful

fever, what?" This is the question of all time. In answer to it the philosopher has reasoned, agnostics have doubted, poets have dreamed, common humanity has hoped. Is there no trustworthy answer to it? Does whispering hope hold out no bow of promise? Is dying a leap into the dark unknown? Is this life all there is of man's existence? Is there no living principle that survives when the body decays? Is there no "upper fruit" that the black hand of death cannot pluck? If there is none then we may conclude with Job, "Man that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble." Another has said, "If in this life only we have hope we are of all men most miserable."

### I. Job's Question May Be Answered In Three Ways

1. It is possible to live on. Man either had a beginning or else has always been. If, then, he had one beginning is it not altogether possible that he might have another? If he has always been is it not possible always to be?

2. It is probable that man shall live on. Universal reason seems to demand it. Nature says, "Study my laws." Not one atom has ever been destroyed. A multiplicity of changes may be brought about, but annihilation, never.

3. Universal belief demands it. A belief in eternal existence is deeply rooted in the human heart. It has been a common belief wherever man has lived on earth. The American Indians and the ancient Egyptians believed it. Even the skeptic believes it. He can't conceive of a time when he will cease to be. The great scoffer of the last century standing in the presence of death remarked: "In the night of death hope sees a star and listening love hears the rustle of a wing." Are we not to conclude, then, that the idea of immortality was implanted in the human heart by the Great Creator himself and in this he will not disappoint us?

"Thou wilt not leave us in the dust  
Thou madest man, he knows not why  
He thinks he was not made to die  
And thou hast made him, thou art just."

### II. Universal Justice Demands Another Life

1. Things are not just and right in this world. Nero and Borgia say upon thrones while millions have gone to the stake. There are those who never saw a moment's peace in all their lives.

2. Man shall live again. This is certain. The resurrection of Christ answers Job's great question. (Jno. 11:25; Phil. 3:21.)

Conclusion: Since man will live on the great and vital thing for all to do is to get ready for living over there.

## THE WAY TO SEE GOOD DAYS

1 Pet. 3:1-10

Introduction: The Bible is God's text book on right living. (2 Tim. 3:16.) Our happiness depends on our attitude to it. (Ps. 1) In this text book we have only three duties set forth. We have a duty to ourselves, our fellow man and to our God. To this end we are to "live soberly, righteously and Godly." (Tit. 2:11.) The Bible deals with character and conduct. One's religion is appraised by what it does for him. The great men of the Bible were not those of certain sentiments and opinions alone, but what they did. The old prophets were ever calling men back to God and right living. Christ is our example in service to God and in the way of life. Christ poured scorn on the popular clergy for their conduct. His life means so much, not alone for his teaching but for the sinless life he lived. (Acts 1:1.) Let us study the following:

### I. He That Will Love Life and See Good Days

Life is one of God's best gifts to man. Love for it is one of the very highest basis for society. It is the secret of our relation with our fellow man. When we value our own lives and guard them well we will then value the lives of others. Only does Christianity do this.

### II. The World Has Its Standards of How to See Good Days

Solomon tried every worldly thing seeking happiness but at the end of a long and colorful experience he found it all "vanity and vexation of spirit." Peter lays down four rules.

a. "Refrain the tongue from evil." "This is one of the most difficult of all virtues." It is hard not to answer again. Here is a good rule to follow: "It is true, is it kind, is it necessary?" Kind words are the music of the world. They are as if an angel had spoken them. Many feel that because God gave them a tongue they must give advice. But the advice they give is usually what they should keep for themselves.

b. "Let him eschew evil." "A Christian must regard tendencies." He "must avoid the very appearance of evil." He must look with suspicion upon any suggestion made by Satan. Sin has done too much harm in this world for us not to consider it seriously. God hates sin for it cost him the life of his Son. Christians must have a strong revulsion toward all manner of evil.

c. Another rule Peter gives is, "Do good." We must be doing good, seeking good, filling our lives with good, - filling them so full of good that evil can't find an opening. The house was in danger that was left empty. (Luk. 11:24.) Activity in good deeds is our safeguard. We have many examples: The Young prophet. (1 Kgs. 13.) The good Samaritan, the poor widow, Dorcas, Priscilla and Aquilla.

"Be noble and the nobleness that is in others will rise in majesty to meet thine own." It is difficult to crush out good; clouds may hide the sun but it will shine again.

d. "Seek peace and ensue it." Be a peace maker, "live peaceably with all men." The Christ tone must motivate all actions. The divine strategy is: "Overcome evil with good."

### III. Peter Gives Encouragement

1. "The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous." God takes special notice of his people. He exercises constant care and love for them. "If God be for us who can be against us?" Things are not run by guesses. Every moment is sure and God is at the helm. If he smiles what matters it who frowns?

2. "The face of the Lord is against them that do evil." Attention is called to the following examples: Cain, the anti-diluvians, Sodom and Gomorrha, Achan.

3. "Who is he that will harm you if ye be followers of that which is good?" Here is the chief weapon of the child of God: "followers of that which is good."

4. "Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts. Love him, revere him, adore him, worship him."

5. "Be ready to give an answer to every man. . . a reason of the hope that is in you." What is your hope? Do you know you are standing upon the promises of God? (Matt. 28:19-20, Mk. 16:15-16, Luk. 24:47-48, Acts 2:37-47, Acts 8:26-40, Tit. 2:11.)

Conclusion: Here is wisdom; let us profit by it.

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## ETERNITY

Isa. 57:15

Introduction: "For thus saith the high and lofty one that inhabiteth eternity whose name is holy." "From everlasting to everlasting thou art God." (Ps. 90:2.) The thought of eternity is staggering. It means infinite duration, immortality, everlasting, perpetual, existing at all times, enduring, absence of beginning or ending. Opposite words are transitory, temporal, ephemeral, timely. There is a period of duration called eternity. There is a period called time. This is only a niche between two eternities. "It is our God that inhabiteth eternity." This should inspire us all with higher and loftier thoughts of him with whom we have to do. His being and perfection are exalted infinitely above every creature, even far beyond anything of which they can conceive. He has immortality of himself and cannot be dispossessed of it. "We must shortly move into eternity but God is there and there is no cause for fear."

In this state of endless duration there are two conditions men may

be in: a state of unalloyed happiness and a state of unutterable misery. In Rev. 7:7-19 and in chapter 21 we have a description of the home of the redeemed. In chapter 20:9-15 we are given a picture of the great judgment and the punishment of the wicked. It is very doubtful whether men will make any great change until all preachers go back and warn people of this horrible state of existence. (Luk. 16:24, Matt. 10:28.)

### I. The Soul of Man Is Eternal

(Gen. 1:27, 1 Cor. 6:20, 2 Cor. 2:13, Jas. 2:26, 2 Cor. 5:14)

### II. No Value Can Be Placed on the Soul

1. The value of material things is as fluctuating as the readings of a barometer, but the value of the soul never varies. (Matt. 16:26.)
2. "What a wonderful thing it is to rally souls about the cross."

### III. Life and Time Are Given

In which to prepare for eternity. (Matt. 7:21, 12:49-50, 28:19-20, Mk. 16:15-16, Luk. 24:47-48, Acts 2:38, 8:26-40, Rom. 6:1-7, Col. 2:12, Phil. 4:8, Tit. 2:11-12, Acts 20:7, 2 Pet. 1:5-9.)

### IV. We Are Warned to Be Ready

The entire twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew is filled with warnings. Also (2 Pet. 3:11-15, Luk. 16:19-31.)

### V. Death Is the Gateway to Eternity

This gate never opens back towards time. It ever swings outward. Some have been raised from the dead but they gave no word about what is over there. There were the Shunamite's son, Jairus' daughter, Lazarus and others but their lips are silent about their experience in the grave.

### VI. There Is No Post-Mortem Gospel

1. Character is determined now; this is the day of probation and of salvation. "As the tree falls so shall it lie." (Heb. 10:27.)
2. The wild guesses of a chance after death and an escape from purgatory are the dreams of misguided persons.

Conclusion: Where will you spend eternity?

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## FOUR BEAUTIFUL EMBLEMS

Introduction: In the nineteenth Psalm we learn that the works of nature declare the glory, power and majesty of God. Except by revelation, man will never know the true God. (1 Cor. 1:21.) With

all his skill and learning the ancient Greek failed in his quest to find the one true God. The lessons we may gather from nature are legion. Jesus based many of his parables on the works of nature. He used the vine and the branches, the rock and the sand, the swoop of the eagle, the sower and the seed, the barren fig tree and the mother hen and her chickens. Somewhere I read of a man who passed by a quaint and stately castle of an ancient king. He noticed a beautiful tree growing beside a lake. He looked upon the vineyards which were at that time in the process of pruning. He saw lillies of the valley surpassing the glory of king Solomon. Then he saw waving palms as if they were greeting the rising sun. May not these four things represent to us the whole of the Christian life? Let us notice:

### I. The Tree Planted Beside the Lake

Paul uses such a figure in reference to those who have been baptized. (Rom. 6:1-6.) A planting is a burial. From this planting or burial we are raised to walk in newness of life. We are not to walk in the counsel of the ungodly. We must not stand in the way of sinners. Nor shall we sit in the seat of the scornful. We are to delight in the law of the Lord, - meditate day and night upon it. If we do these things we shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that bringeth forth his fruit in his season, his leaf also shall not wither and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." (Gal. 5:22, Luk. 13:6-11.)

### II. A Vineyard in the Process of Pruning

There are many things that a Christian must separate himself from. (Col. 3:8-9.) A Christian must undergo chastisement. (Heb. 12:5.) The chastening hand does not show God's anger; and it is for our good. Job was a stronger man after the chastening hand was laid upon him. (Job 5:17.) Joseph's brethren suffered bitterly after their mistreatment of Joseph but later it bore peaceable fruits of righteousness in their lives. When David suffered the loss of his nephew, Uzzah, he turned away from his own plan and back to God's. He then brought the ark up after the due order. After an eventful life filled with hardships and suffering Paul became a better man by it.

### III. The Lily of the Valley Blossoming Into Beauty

What is or can be more beautiful than the development of true, pure Christian character? (Rom. 6:19, 22, Phil. 4:8, 1 Thess. 4:7, 1 Tim. 2:15, Heb. 12:14, 2 Cor. 7:1, 1 Thess. 3:13, Eph. 4:24, Tit. 2:3, Gal. 5:22.)

### IV. Waving Palms--the Final Triumph

It was an epochal day in Israel's history when they stood on the shore of the Red Sea and shouted their songs of deliverance. It

will be a greater day when those "who have come out of great tribulation," "with palms in their hands" sing the song of redemption around the throne of God where the "surges cease to roll."

Conclusion: Lord plant us in thy holy hill; place upon us all that is necessary to draw us nearer my God to thee. Cause us to bring forth much fruit that one day we shall triumphantly enter through the gates into the eternal city.

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## SHIPWRECK OF THE FAITH

1 Tim. 1:19

Introduction: The word wreck is altogether too familiar these days. We have daily reports of airplane, automobile, train. Thousands of homes are being wrecked by immorality and divorce. It is said that one person out of every sixteen between the ages of forty and fifty are drunkards and only one person out of every ten ever reads the Bible. Dark and forboding days are ahead for America if such a situation continues. It seems that God gave the world America in which he could make a last and final stand. How sadly we must be disappointing him. At present this country is leading the world in wickedness.

### I. Shipwreck of the Faith

1. In Acts twenty seven we have a history of the wreck of the vessel on which Paul traveled as a prisoner to Rome. More than likely every passenger prayed during these experiences. This is always true when men are in trouble.

2. Wrecks of every kind are fearful but the most serious and worst of all is to make shipwreck of the faith.

"Far sadder sight than eye can know  
Than proud bark tossed or seaman's woe,  
Than battle fire or tempest cloud  
Than prey birds shriek or ocean's shroud  
- is the wreck of a soul."

### II. Who May Make Shipwreck of the Faith?

Any Christian. (Heb. 3:12-19, 1 Cor. 10:1-12, Rev. 2:5.)

### III. Some Very Familiar Examples

Judas, Ananias and Saphira, Demas, the Jewish nation, the church at Ephesus.

### IV. How May We Make Shipwreck of the Faith?

†

1. By departing from the faith. (1 Tim. 4:1.)

2. By a failure to add the Christian graces. (2 Pet. 1:5-10.)
3. By leaving our first love. (Rev. 2:4-5.)
4. By becoming lukewarm. (Rev. 3:15-19.)
5. By trifling with conscience.
6. By disobeying God's commands.

#### V. How May Shipwrecks Be Prevented?

Look out for and avoid dangerous places: covetousness, bad company, vile literature, disrespect for the Lord's day, negligence in Bible reading and in prayer.

Conclusion: Let the fate of others be a solemn reminder to you. It is not certain that you will continue faithful. "My soul be on thy guard, ten thousand foes arise. The hosts of sin are pressing hard to draw thee from the skies."

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### A FUNERAL SERMON

Introduction: The golden bowl has been broken, the silver cord has been loosed and the spirit of this our friend has gone back to God who gave it. (Ecl. 12.) We are here to pay our last tribute of love to the departed. Death that mysterious step has been taken. It is not only a mysterious step but it is a certain step. (Heb. 9:27.) The Roman gladiator entered the arena to fight to death paused before the emperor and said: "We who are about to die salute you." This is true of all of us. We are about to die. It is also a very uncertain step. No one knows when that hour will steal upon him. It is also a solemn, parting step. Let us notice then:

#### I. The Bible Is Different to All Other Books

It is the only book among all the books men have access to that gives us any idea of what is beyond death, - the land to which we are journeying. (Rev. 14:13, Jno. 14:1.) We desire to consult it upon such occasions as this.

#### II. The Purpose of a Funeral

1. It is not to benefit the dead. All our eulogies, prayers and beautiful flowers will avail nothing so far as the dead is concerned. (Heb. 9:27.) The only thing that will avail is the life we live.

2. It is for the purpose of sympathizing with those who are in sorrow. This was an outstanding characteristic of our Savior. It is heartening to read that Jesus wept.

3. It is an occasion in which we should warn others to prepare for this ordeal. (Matt. 7:21-29.) You will miss this loved one but may you so live that you will meet where partings are no more.



Conclusion: Heaven will be dearer now because you have loved ones there.

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## HOLDING FAST

Heb. 4:14

Introduction: The New Testament is filled with admonitions to Christians to be faithful. (Matt. 24:43-51, 25:14-21, Luk. 19:12-27, 1 Cor. 4:2, 1 Tim. 1:12, Eph. 4:14, 2 Pet. 1:4-10, Jude 20-21, Rev. 22:14.) So very much is involved in ones faithfulness. If one will take a firm stand when temptations, persecutions, sorrows, prosperity come he will not be shaken. We have the sad story of those who fell, Adam and Eve, the Anti-diluvians, Orpha, Judas, Demas, angels, Israel in the wilderness. All these are written that we may be warned.

### I. Things that Will Help

1. Strictest loyalty to all God says and leaving off all he has not commanded. (Lev. 10:1), Matt. 4:4, Acts 3:23-24, Matt. 17:5, Tit. 1:9, 2 Jno. 9.)

2. Never cease to pray. No child is ever heard to say, "I do not have to ask my parents for anything. They have provided everything for me." (1 Thess. 5:17, Matt. 6:5-16, 7:7-12.)

3. Attend all services of the church. When you awake on the first day of the week and behold the glorious sun rising from the tomb of night, remember on this day the Son of Righteousness arose from the dead and brought to light life and immortality through the gospel. Evangelist C. R. Nichol used to tell of his mother saying: "As long as Charlie comes home for his regular meals I am never uneasy about him." This is likely true with our heavenly Father.

4. Make people take knowledge of you that you have been with Jesus. (Acts 4:13.) Study the sermon on the mount and seek to make every principle a part of your very being.

5. Study the Bible daily. (Acts. 17:11.)

### II. Warnings Along the Way

1. Watch for false standards. Some popular ones are as follows: "I am as good as those who are in the church." "It is not popular to be a Christian these days."

2. Remember to watch for false teachers. (1 Jno. 4:1, Matt. 24:23-24.)

3. Seek always to please God. The gate keeper who was reminded that he was becoming quite unpopular with all the passengers entering trains, looked up and said, "Yes but I am popular with the boss and that is the main thing." (Matt. 23:5, Eph. 6:6.)

4. Avoid the danger of speculation. If you have an opinion tell it as such. Do not try to force it on another.

5. Never allow yourself to become discouraged. Read the book of Job and Heb. 11.

6. Watch about becoming affected with jealousy and filled with prejudice.

### III. Be Concerned In the Welfare of Others

\* Provoke one another to love and good works. Remember you are your brother's keeper. It is very doubtful whether anyone will enter heaven alone. They must present the credentials of a soul winner at the beautiful gate.

Conclusion: "Enter ye in at the straight gate for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction and many there be which go in there at." (Matt. 7:13.)

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## WOUNDED IN THE HOUSE OF HIS FRIENDS

Zech. 13:6

Introduction: There are many who apply these words to Christ. The contest most surely identifies them with the Messiah. Christ was born of Jewish parents. He spent his early life at Nazareth. He attended the synagogue and worked among his own people. But later we read: "He came unto his own and his own received him not." He was rejected by the whole nation. They cried, "Crucify him, crucify him." The last one of his disciples turned away from him. He yearned for pity and sympathy but often he was disappointed for his best friends were very weak. Peter denied him, and Judas betrayed him. "My friends, there are no friends" uttered Socrates. Not only at his trial and crucifixion did his friends wound him but there were those who sought to put him to death or else make his life very miserable. They were Herod, His own people at Nazareth and the Jewish leaders. Let us note the following:

### I. He Is Still Being Wounded

1. By so called Christian homes and are not. Christ would not be a welcome guest in many of these homes. The things that are allowed to go on in these homes would drive him out at once. Like Laodicea they are "rich and increased in goods and have need of nothing." When people exchange the Bible for a card table they surely wound their Lord that bought them.

2. Those who have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come. Those who were once enlightened and have

tasted the heavenly gift and made partakers of the Holy Ghost. When such fall away surely it wounds the heart of the loving Savior. When one reaches such a condition they re-enact the death of the Savior. "They act the deed afresh and inwardly approve the treatment he received."

3. By lukewarm Christians.

a. When they neglect the poor.

b. When they are indifferent toward souls for whom he died.

c. When they treat things he loved with coldness and indifference such as prayer meeting, Sunday night service.

d. When they belittle his commands and speak of them as, "Non-essentials," or "Not necessary"; such as baptism and the Lord's Supper.

4. By nations that claim to be Christian going to war with each other, and forcing those in who have conscientious convictions against taking up arms. What does he think of those poor boys who are now languishing in prison years after the war for no other reason than to respect their convictions?

5. By dividing the body of Christ. It was David Lipscomb who said: "I had rather be the soldier who pierced the physical body of Christ than to be the person who becomes guilty of dividing his spiritual body which is his church."

6. By sinners for whom he shed his blood who refuse to obey him. It was one of the sadest hours of his life when he sat on the Mount of Olives and looked over the doomed city of Jerusalem and cried: "Oh Jerusalem thou that stonest the prophets and killest them that are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together as a hen doth gather her chickens under her wings but ye would not."

Conclusion: Remember Christ is being pierced yet and that by his would be friends.

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## HOW WE OUGHT TO BEHAVE OURSELVES IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

1 Tim. 3:16

Introduction: Paul here sets forth his purpose in writing to Timothy. He wants him to know how to administer affairs in the church of our Lord. It is reasonable to see why he would want Timothy to know this for the "house of God is the church of the living God." It is God's family. (Eph. 3:15.) "It is the pillar and ground of the truth." It is to take the truth to all men everywhere until the end shall come. (Matt. 28:19-20) For these reasons it is the most important institution ever established in the world. Christ is head of it. It is the place where men are saved. (Eph. 5:23.) It will stand forever. (Dan. 2:44.) Let us study the great outstanding facts as outlined by Paul:

## I. The Doctrine of Christ

"Take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine; continue in them." (1 Tim. 4:7, 16; 1:3-4, 2:4-6, 3:16, 2 Tim. 3:16, 4:1-7; 1 Tim. 6:3-6.) There is in existence a form and body of truth.

## II. The Law and the Gospel

Paul is careful to discriminate between the two. (1 Tim. 1:6-11.) In launching what is known as the "restoration movement" the great leaders were especially careful to set forth the difference between the two. Jesus also did this in the sermon on the mount.

## III. What Shall Be Done About Praying

1. "First of all supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks for all men; For kings, for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." (1 Tim. 2:1-2.)

2. If Christians had been faithful in this who knows but what two terrible world wars could have been averted. This was our weapon but many failed to use it.

## IV. Duties of Christian Women

(1 Tim. 2:9-15) Here she is not to teach nor usurp authority over man. That is, when she teaches, she must not usurp authority over man. She could not teach in the public assembly. She can teach and is authorized to do so. (Tit. 2:2.) But she is to "keep silence in the churches." (1 Cor. 14:34.) Yes, when there was a demonstration of the various spiritual gifts. We have no such demonstration in these days. That has ended. (1 Cor. 13:10.)

## V. Duties of Elders and Deacons

Here Paul goes into detail in setting forth the qualifications of these important positions in the church. (1 Tim. 3:1-13.)

## VI. Fearful Warnings Set Forth

1. Warnings against departures. (1 Tim. 4:1-7.)
  2. Against too much bodily exercise. (1 Tim. 4:8.)
  3. Against the danger of riches. (1 Tim. 6:6-10, 17, 18, 19.)
- "Oppositions of science."

## Conclusion:

## THE WORD OF GOD

Ps. 19:7

Introduction: How wonderful the thought: The word of God. God has spoken and we have a record of what he says. To gain a knowledge of this good book should be the desire of every heart. To live in harmony with its precepts and commandments is the noblest act ever performed by an accountable being. To teach it to those who are ignorant of its contents is the greatest privilege that could come to a child of God. Were we to live always here and thank God every day for this wonderful gift we could never show sufficient gratitude for this Book. Blessed Book, God's greatest and most magnanimous gift to the human race; except the giving of his Son. The following command our attention:

### I. Seven Strong Pillars Upon Which the Bible Rests

1. It is inspired. (1 Thess. 1:13.) There are many infalible proofs of this. The many hundreds of prophecies. The wonderful influence it has in the world. Its indestructibility. It can never be improved upon; if man wrote it why can he not write a better book?
2. It speaks with authority. It has all the power of heaven behind it. Its Author has said all authority has been committed into his hands. It promises to be opened at the judgment and judge all men at the last day. "Forever O Lord thy word is settled in heaven."
3. It is intelligible. "When you read you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ." (Eph. 3:4., Ezra 8:8.)
4. It is moral. "Thy word is very pure rejoicing the heart." All manner of impurity of life is condemned in the Bible.
5. It is living and active. (Heb. 4:12, 1 Pet. 1:25, Matt. 24:35.)
6. It is world-wide in its scope. It is to be preached to every creature. (Matt. 28:19.)
7. It is a perfect guide. (2 Tim. 3:16.)

Conclusion: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

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## THE GARDEN OF THE LORD

Isa. 51:3

Attention is immediately given when a garden is mentioned. The love of plants and flowers is almost universal. Some great man wrote: "I never had any desire so strong and so like to covetousness as that one which I have had always that I might be master of a small house and a large garden and then dedicate the remainder of my life only to the culture of them and to the study of nature. A garden has been the joy of kings and all the great. Christ often restored to

Gethsemane. God thought man would be happiest in a garden. There are two hundred fifty botanical terms used in the Bible. Isaiah compares the Messianic kingdom to a well watered garden, (Isa. 51:3.) and decaying Zion to a garden that had no water. (Isa. 1:30.) In the Songs of Solomon he sings of the love of Christ for the church and he speaks many times of a garden.

## I. The Church of Christ Is the Lord's Garden

A garden speaks of cost, and care, and culture, and pruning, and fragrance, and fruitfulness, Fabulous prices have been paid for gardens. Christ gave his life for this garden.

## II. Some Great Truth Associated with this Garden

1. This garden is enclosed and one can only enter it by Christ, its owner and door. (Jno. 10:9.)
2. A garden is designed to give pleasure to its owner. Does Christ find pleasure in us? (John 1-2.)
3. The Gardener knows every plant in his garden and where they are. (Heb. 4:12-13.)
4. The variety of flowers in the garden would represent the different graces to be found in the heart, - not the different denominations.
5. From an old Dutch poem:

"The lilly white that bloometh there is purity.  
The fragrant violet is surnamed humility.  
The lovely Damask rose is there called patience.  
The rich and cheerful marigold obedience.  
One plant there is with crown delight, the rest, above  
With crown imperial and this plant is holy love."

6. It is said of a great horticulturist that he could hardly sleep whenever he heard of some new plant introduced in this country until he had secured a specimen. As we study Christ and learn the true graces of his life and their beauty, like flowers in a garden we should not rest till they become ours.

Do we lack purity? Christ did no sin. He is the Lily of the valley.

Do we lack trust and submission? (Jno. 5:30.)

Do we lack the beauty of the Christian life? He is the Rose of Sharon.

Do we lack love in our hearts? (Rom. 5:6-8.)

Do we lack the spirit of forgiveness? (Luk. 23:34.)

Do we lack a love for lost man? (Jno. 3:16, 2 Cor. 8:9.)

7. A garden is exposed to dangers without and within. As well a sowing and planting it needs watching and tending. The soil that will grow good seed will grow bad. Watch for pride, jealousy, resentment bitterness, hatred, worldliness.

8. What will heaven be but a garden? (Rev. 22:1-2.)

Conclusion:

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FROM THE CRADLE TO THE GRAVE

1 Pet. 2:11-12

Introduction: The life of a child of God is compared to many things. It is a good fight, a warfare, a race, laborers in a vineyard, a family. Peter speaks of it as a pilgrimage. We are, indeed, travelers from the cradle to the grave; from time to eternity. This journey or pilgrimage was typified by Israel's journey in the wilderness. (1 Cor. 10.) Their liberation from the tyranny of Pharaoh typifies our deliverance from Satan. Their journey in the wilderness is an example of our life in the church. Their passing the Jordan pictures our crossing the river of death. Their entering the land of Canaan typifies our entering the heavenly Canaan. We note the following:

I. Things to Do on the Journey

1. "Pass the time in fear." (1 Pet. 1:17.)
2. "Abstain from fleshly lusts." (1 Pet. 2:11.)
3. Follow the true Guide. (Heb. 12:1-2.)
4. Obey his commandments. (Heb. 3:16-18.)
5. Act becomingly. (1 Pet. 2:11.)

II. Motives for So Doing

1. Because we are redeemed by the precious blood of Christ. (1 Pet. 1:17-19.)
2. That good works in our lives may be seen. (1 Pet. 2:11-12.)
3. That we may lead men to the Lord and glorify his name. (1 Pet. 2:11-12.)
4. Because the Lord has requested it. (1 Pet. 2:11.)
5. Because gratitude should impel us.
6. The mercy of the Lord should constrain us.

Conclusion: The journey is rough; the way is straight and narrow; temptations are rife but the joy at the end of the journey far outweighs all these. Oh you who are already bending under the load take courage and press on.

## PUTTING GOD FIRST

Matt. 6:33

Introduction: This line of thought permeates the whole Bible: When men have taken God into their lives and have kept him first they have always been blessed. On the other hand when they have driven him out of their lives they have always had to suffer. The examples of these are numerous: Adam and Eve, Cain, Enoch, Moses, the ten spies, David and Goliath, Daniel. Let us study the following:

### I. In What Places Shall We Put God First?

1. In the home. (Ecl. 12:1.)
2. In the school.
3. In the church.
4. In our own lives.
5. In the hearts and lives of all we may be able to reach.

Conclusion: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."

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## DRAW NEAR TO GOD

Ps. 73:28

Introduction: The Psalmist said: "It is a good thing to draw near to God." Why is this true? Because God has said: "Draw near to me and I will draw near to you." Unless we draw near to him we frustrate his purpose. There are many things he would do for us if we would allow him to. Inconsistent living handicaps his work. (Isa. 59:1-2, Jer. 5:25.) Lack of faith in Christ limited his work. (Matt. 13:58, 17:20.) Many of us lack adventurous religion. We are afraid to launch out into the deep. Shallow and selfish prayers restrict God in his work. (Jas. 4:3.) Our stubborn wills limit his work. (Jno. 1:11, Matt. 23:37.) Laodicea drove the Lord out. He would have done much for them if they would have consented. They thought they did not need him. Let us then notice the following:

### I. In Drawing Near to God

1. We get away from self. We need to do this for we are inclined to pity ourselves and we are too selfish and self-centered. "Save me from a very bad man." Examples: The rich fool and the rich man. (Luk. 12:13-22, 16:19-31.) The elder brother was a selfish person. (Luk. 15:25-32.)

2. We are drawn away from the world. We are drawn away from mammon, snares and pitfalls. We have a fearful picture given us of



man of the world in Rom. 1.

3. For the same reason that it was good for the prodigal son to go back to his father. (Luk. 15:11-32.)

4. To draw near to God promotes Christian unity. (1 Cor. 1:10, Eph. 4:1-4.)

5. In drawing near to him we will be able to learn of him. We have been too far away from him to learn of him. (Matt. 11:28.)

6. When we draw near to him we escape the downward road. Jonah tried to get away from God. He went down to Joppa. He went from the sweet free air of the highlands to the miasma of the lowlands. He went down into the ship; down into the sea; down into the belly of the whale; down into the bottom of the great deep. Down is the key word of every life that goes away from the Lord.

7. When we draw near to God we receive his protection. There are tiny sea animals with a shell on their backs. This is God protecting them. A ship goes into harbor for protection. We are promised his protection. "Cast your cares upon him for he careth for you."

#### Conclusion:

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## SALESMANSHIP AND THE GOSPEL

Matt. 5:16

Introduction: The word salesmanship needs no defining. It is such a common expression that all from the least to the greatest understand its meaning. There is nothing quite so important in the affairs of all the people as buying and selling. This goes on constantly and should it cease for one moment chaos would follow. So important is it in the affairs of the nation that both correspondence and residence schools have been started for the purpose of teaching its principles. The principles of salesmanship are taught in many of our high schools. The principle is quite simple: customers are to be found, - those who want to buy. The salesman must interest them in whatever commodity he has for sale and then get his signature on the dotted line. There are principles of salesmanship which reach over into the kingdom of God and should be applied by every Christian. How true it is, however, that "the children of this world are wiser in their generation than the children of light." The following principles are worthy of our consideration:

### I. What Have Christians to Sell?

They have in their possession the most valuable, vital and useful thing known to men or angels. They have the gospel of Christ. "It is the power of God unto salvation." (Rom. 1:16.) It saves our souls. (1 Cor. 15:1-2.) Unless we obey the gospel we will be lost. (2 Thess. 1:8-9.) Material things fluctuate in value but there will

never be any change in the value of the gospel of our blessed Lord.

## II. Who Are the Customers?

Those to whom the gospel is to be sold include all responsible people. It was not intended for irresponsibles. The Savior said: "Preach the gospel to every creature, he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mk. 16:15-16.) This places a mighty task upon each generation. As we die so will this generation. Our responsibility is staggering, indeed.

## III. Who Are the Salesmen?

Every person who turns to God, becomes his follower. This is the true work of every Christian. His meat and his bread is to save the lost. "Go, teach all nations," is his task. He is to let his "light so shine that others may see his good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven." Many do not feel this responsibility. They become enamored with material things and neglect the most essential thing known to men. When the whole church awakes to this fact that each individual member is a soul winner for Jesus it is then that it will experience its greatest growth. "When Zion is in travail souls will be born."

## IV. Some Qualifications of a Salesman

1. He must know the thing he sells. He must study his Bible. "If the blind lead the blind they will both fall into the ditch." (2 Tim. 2:15.)
2. He must be sold on it. He must believe that it is indispensable. He must believe that men must accept it or be lost. He must feel as did Paul: "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel. He must be as deeply sold on it as John the Baptist was on his message.
3. He must partake of the thing he sells. If one sells Ford cars he must ride in one. One must "begin to do and teach." (Acts 1:1.)
4. He must use tact and diplomacy. Jesus said to his apostles: "Be wise as serpents and as harmless as doves."
5. He must persevere. If it takes one many years to save a soul his work is not in vain.

Conclusion: In selling the gospel remember you have a silent Partner; "Lo I am with you."

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## MAN'S ONLY SURE GUIDE

Jno. 9:5

Introduction: It has been said that wise men who studied the heavens went wrong always in their calculations until they began to

place the sun in its true position as the center of the solar system. The Son of Righteousness must occupy the same position in the spiritual world. In doing this it must be remembered that he cannot be separated from his word. From this there is no appeal. This is one of the most vital truths ever uttered. Men talk about Christ, plead with sinners to accept him as their personal Savior, of his being our prophet and priest but do they forget that he is King of Kings and Lord of Lords? They place the most vital things he ever said as being in the catalogue of non-essentials. God said through Moses: "Him shall ye hear and every soul who will not hear shall be destroyed from among the people." Again he appeared on the field in person and said: "This is my beloved Son, hear ye him." Men have sought guidance from many sources. They have consulted heathen oracles, human experience, various and sundry philosophies and the result has been but following a mirage. Men scoff at the idea of following the words of Christ and the result is: "The whole world is in darkness." How many times have men failed when they sought to put over measures and leave God out? How many determine on a certain course and leave the Lord out, come to disappoint? When "the blind lead the blind they both fall into the ditch." Let us study:

#### I. There Are So Many Statements Verifying This

1. The greatest sermon ever preached is brought to a close with the following words: "Therefore whosoever heareth these things of mine and doeth them, I will liken him to a wise man which built his house on a rock." (Matt. 7:24.)

2. Again we hear the Savior saying: "Whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven the same is my brother and sister and mother." (Matt. 12:50.)

3. Let him speak again: "He that rejecteth me and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him, the word that I have spoken shall judge him in the last day." (Jno. 12:48.)

4. "If ye love me keep my commandments. (Jno. 14:15.) "This is the love of God that we keep his commandments." (1 Jno. 5:3.)

5. One of the finest scenes in the New Testament is the transfiguration. Here God appears on the scene. This is his statement: "This is my beloved Son hear ye him. (Luk. 9:35.)

6. The conclusion of Paul's great sermon at Antioch verifies all this. (Acts 13:38-41.)

7. The writer of the Hebrew letter in contrasting the law of Moses with Christianity says: "See that ye refuse not him that speaketh." (Heb. 12:25.)

8. He is the Author of eternal salvation unto all who obey him. (Heb. 5:8-9.)

9. "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise." (Eph. 1:13.)

Conclusion: "Blessed are they that do his commandments that they may have a right to the tree of life and may enter in through the gates into the city." (Rev. 22:14.)

## LET US GO INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

Ps. 122:1

Introduction: Many people attend church all their lives; many are benefitted, no doubt, and some receive no help or inspiration. Surely it is one of our greatest privileges to attend the worship services and pay homage to a gracious heavenly Father. From wherever providence had led him the wandering Jew returned to his native Jerusalem to worship in the house of his God. Enemies of Christianity fully realize they will never be able to destroy it so long as church doors are open and men and women worship God. This is a good reason for attending all the services of the church. When one fails to attend he is casting his influence on the side of those who would blot out the religion of the Lord. It is admitted by all students of Christianity that it was an invariable practice of early Christians to meet on the Lord's day as it came. The kindly fellowship, inspirational songs, Bible knowledge gained, the sweet hour of prayer and the memory of the sufferings of the Savior strengthened them to meet life's problems and to brighten their hope of gaining a better world. Do we, today, receive such help? Do we return home saying: "I was glad when they said, 'Let us go up to the house of the Lord'?" Let us consider the following:

### 1. Some Helpful Suggestions

1. Never miss a service. The very nature of the things done is the very best argument for regular attendance. Medicine to be taken daily would be useless if taken once per month. Here our faith is strengthened, our hope brightened, love deepened, memory of our dying Savior is brought to us afresh. Absence from these sacred things are sure to have a deadening effect upon our spirituality.

2. Go in full possession of all your faculties. Do not attempt to worship with a tired mind and body or filled with anxiety and worry. Deep heart service can result in spiritual worship. To half way worship is probably no worship at all.

3. Leave worries behind. Business men leave their problems on the desk and never mention them at home. Drink deeply in the worship of the Lord and the peace of God will give you energy and strength to overcome your worries. "Cast all your cares upon him for he careth for you."

4. Dispossess yourself of a spirit of faultfinding. If one's heart is filled with bitterness there will be no room for better things. If there are those you do not like, pray for them. Jesus prayed for his murderers.

5. Leave all business matters at home. In some places it is a custom to "sing" the men in before the worship can start. They have brought their business with them to worship God. We should come together to pray one for another, to rekindle the flame of devotion in every heart, to confess our sins and to draw near to God.

6. Solemnly and prayerfully meditate. There is entirely too much talking and a spirit of frivolity characterizing our meetings. Upon entering the house of worship each person should be given a Bible and he should read some helpful passage and bow his head in prayer. All should think of the goodness of the Lord and of all he suffered for them and seek to get away from self as much as possible. (Ps. 91:1.)

7. Let there be a reconsecrating of ourselves to the Lord. We should reconsecrate all we are and all we ever hope to be to him from whom all blessings flow.

Conclusion: If all who go to the house of God to worship would attend diligently to these things surely angels would rejoice.

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## COME UP HIGHER

Introduction: During all our lives we have been pointed to higher things. "Hitch your wagon to a star" was parental teaching. We have sung: "Lord plant my feet on higher ground." We have prayed to be led to higher and nobler service. When in the primary department we were pointed to high school and then into college and on to the university. It must be a thrill of a life-time to an aviator to set a new high altitude mark. "Come up higher" is the signal of every worthy undertaking on earth. Christians need to learn this lesson for they should be wiser in their generation than all others. The following are of interest:

### 1. Come Up Higher

1. Our vision for service. Too long have many been unable to see beyond their own doorsteps. Many have had visions of bank stock, blackland farms and ease and luxury in this world but have lost sight of Calvary and of their duty to God and their fellow man. "Where there is no vision the people perish." (Prov. 29:19.)

2. Come up higher in righteous living. Right living has a dual purpose. It is for the salvation of our own souls and to lead others to their duty by a Christian example. (Matt. 5:16.) Luk. 12:35-41, Jno. 14:15, Acts 2:42, Rom. 12:1, 1 Cor. 16:13, 2 Cor. 13:11 Gal. 6:1-10, Eph. 5:1-5, Phil. 4:8, Col. 3:16, 1 Thess. 5:14-25, 1 Tim. 4:16, Tit. 2:12, Philemon 21, Heb. 6:1-3, Jas. 1:27, 2 Pet. 1:5-10, 1 Jno. 3:1-3, Jude 3, Rev. 22:14.)

3. Come up higher in more solemn and prayerful devotion to God and less formalism. (Matt. 6:5-16, 7:7-12.)

4. Come up higher in our sacrificing to God. (Rom. 12:1-2, 2 Cor. 8:5.)

5. Come up higher in our interest in lost souls. (Acts 20:18-24.)

Conclusion: Many of us have lived too long with our faces toward the ground. A spirit of selfishness, envy, jealousy, and unconcern has dominated our lives. We need to look up.

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## OLD ISSUES RE-STATED

Introduction: The church of our Lord was established on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ. It began in the city of Jerusalem and spread out into Judea, thence to Samaria. It over ran many of the islands of the Mediterranean Sea. It swept over Asia Minor and on into Illyricum, Greece, Macedonia and much of the Roman Empire, even before the last apostle died. Fired with a zeal that knew no bounds and with a determination that knows no surrender early Christians bared their breasts to the enemy and planted the banner of Prince Emmanuel in every city, town and hamlet in the empire. There were no auxiliaries such as are used today by most religious groups. The key to their success lies in the consecration of the members of the church. Men and women with the love of God in their hearts, such as Aquilla and Priscilla and great hosts of others went everywhere preaching the word. There were no scisms in the body of Christ. There was but one body, the church. They were not met with this appalling situation of "my church, my denomination." This has sprung up long since the last apostle died. Something over one hundred years ago there was started a movement in different parts of the world for a complete return to primitive Christianity. The movement has had its varying fortunes. Some have changed its purposes, some have proven traitors, others have returned to the meshes of denominationalism, some have simply quit. Others are pressing these principles with a zeal of crusaders for they believe they are heaven born. These principles for which they contend are as follows:

### I. An Inspired Book Called the Bible or No Book at All

The world was cursed by creeds. These, they repudiated and set up their banner: "Back to the Bible." "Where the Bible speaks let us speak and where the Bible is silent let us be silent." This was met by a stubborn determination to hold on to human creeds at all costs. Creeds have multiplied. The day has arrived that the man on the street is saying: "If this condition continues to exist it is possible that they will never have another chance to lay them aside and unite in one concerted effort to fulfill a Christian's mission in the world. What they have will be taken away from them. If this isn't done "organized religion in America today is headed for self destruction." (Ps. 119:89) The Bible is a divine book and should have supremacy above all creeds, confessions and disciplines.

## II. A Divine Christ or No Christ

The focal point of Christianity is Christ. On him it rests its claims. The resurrection of Christ proves him to be its standard bearer. The greatest enemies of Christianity are those today who would divest the Savior of all claims to being a divine being and place him in the catalogue of a son of God. "We are all sons of God," they tell us. To meet outspoken unbelief is easy; to meet such insidious deception and a poison that has bored deep into the very heart of Christianity itself is difficult indeed.

## III. A United Church or a Total Collapse of the Forces of Christendom

Agnes Meyer in LOOK brings the following charges against a divided church: "They are undertaking programs of self-aggrandizement and launching violent attacks upon each other's institutions, upon the constitution, the Supreme Court and our public schools. They are resorting to the most undignified competition for converts. They publish the results in the daily press the way rival automobiles companies advertise their production rates. Organized religion as we now know it, is perhaps being weighed in the scale of humanity for the last time. To meet the challenge, the churches must renounce their cut-throat competition. . . . She further says: "The churches work for themselves. The fact is that the social programs in most churches have been aimed more to increase their own congregations than to serve the community as a whole. Even the charities of many churches work the same way. Their object is not primarily to care for the destitute child or family, but to hold the loyalty of the young and helpless to a particular sect." And again the same writer says: "What we need in the religious world is not unification but unity." (Jno. 17:20-21, 1 Cor. 1:10, Eph. 4:1-6.)

## IV. A Scriptural Baptism or None at All

Men may cast this subject aside as of little importance. It will not be treated that way. It has a significance too deep and far-reaching to be thus cast aside with a brush of the hand. The Pope of Rome gets a third of the human race by a practice called baptism. To him it is no little thing. A little thing indeed. The eating of the forbidden fruit by our first parents has swept the earth clean of its inhabitants more than one hundred times since that fatal day. Baptism is a monumental institution. It was selected by the Savior to be done by all who come to him. It shows his burial and resurrection, an event that must never be forgotten. (Rom. 6:4, Col. 2:12.)

## V. A Dynamic, Indomitable Force Let Loose in the World

When this mighty transforming power is released in each indi-

vidual life there is nothing that can check it. Behind it are the powers of heaven. This mighty influence when unity prevailed and co-operation existed, conquered the Roman Empire in less than three hundred years. Christians must live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world.

Conclusion: With the one divine Book, a divine Christ, a united church, the one baptism and the dynamic force of a pure life all the world could have an opportunity to learn and come to Christ.

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## JUST WHO AM I, ANYWAY?

Introduction: Since "I" am involved in this question it becomes a very serious matter. It may be answered from different view points. "I am not much" answers the militarist. "Just an instrument to stand by a gun and take the consequences; only a bit of cannon fodder." "Not much" answers the dictator. "You are only an instrument of the state. You are to fulfill my wishes." The atheist answers: "Man is but a speck, whose life is short and whose value dies away." Or "Life is only what we see; we go to dust; death ends all." The poet answers: "Life is a dream, a shadow, a meteor bursting between two unknown eternities." Our Father knows man, he is mindful of him, even though he made worlds upon worlds. He knows what is in man and sent his Son to redeem him from all iniquity. "Thou hast made him a little lower than the angels and crowned him with glory and honor." (Ps. 8:5.) Let us study this question from the Lord's conception of man:

### I. I Am More Value Than Worlds Upon Worlds

1. "For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" (Matt. 16:26.) The value of a thing may be easily estimated by the price paid for it. The price paid for man's redemption was the greatest thing God could give, his Son. "This is the idea of redemption which modern heretics dare to style merchantile, but it is a scriptural one. God gave his Son. Now measure the price by the bloody sweat, the desertion, the betrayal, the scourging, the cross, the broken heart, the pierced side and "My God why?" Because of all this I must ever be grateful to him.

2. I am a sinner saved by grace.

"Upon the cross of Jesus my eye at times can see, The very dying form of one who suffered there for me. And from my smitten heart with tears, Two wonders I confess, The wonder of his glorious love, And my own worthlessness."



3. I am a steward of my Master. One day I shall stand before him and give an account of my stewardship. Which shall I be, a good and faithful steward or a wicked and slothful one. ?

4. I am a laborer in his vineyard. I have been hired to go labor in my Master's vineyard. My work must not end till close of day. (Matt. 20:1-16.)

5. I am a soldier of the cross. I must put on the whole armor of God and fight. (Eph. 6:10-19, 2 Tim. 2:1-6, Rom. 13:12.)

6. I am a citizen of a kingdom that will stand forever. (Dan. 2:44, Heb. 12:28, 1 Cor. 2:9.) As a citizen of this heavenly country I must obey its laws and be an honor to my Ruler.

7. I am like Jacob, - a Prince of God and have power with God and man and can prevail. (Gen. 32:25-34.)

9. I am my brother's keeper. Therefore I must go out into the highways and hedges and compel him to come in.

10. I am the heir to treasures untold in heaven. (Matt. 25:32, Jno. 14:1, Heb. 11:16, 1 Pet. 1:3-5.) For this reason I must not act in such a way as to forfeit my inheritance.

Conclusion: In view of all this shall a Christian ever become discouraged or enamored with things of the world as to cause him to turn from them? Surely not.

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## JUST HOW ARE YOU LIVING?

Introduction: The greatest need of the church today is righteousness in its ranks. Christianity is retarded by those who claim to be its adherents and fail to live according to divine standards. Our own personal security demands faithfulness. The salvation of our fellowman can never be brought about by those whose lives are a hindrance to the cause of Christ. "What men are, speaks louder than what they say." The sermons we live are more effective than those we preach. A Christian whose light has gone out is powerless to guide those in darkness into the light. "Ye are the salt of the earth but if the salt have lost its savor... it is thenseforth good for nothing but to be cast out and to be trodden under foot of men." The necessity of faithful living is seen by the many exhortations by every writer of the New Testament. This is the bulk of all that is written. Almost every page is filled with warnings, exhortations and admonitions to faithful living. The following have been selected because they are vital to holy living:

### I. We Mention Twelve

1. There must be a life of habitual submission to God. (Matt. 6:24-34, Jas. 4:7, Rom. 6:13.) This carries with it the idea of constant resistance to all the wiles and suggestions of Satan.

2. There must be a life of utmost faith in God. Daniel replied to the king that he had been protected because he believed in his God. That same God is yet alive. (2 Chron. 20:20, Isa. 7:9.)

3. It is a life of witnessing for the truth. (Acts 1:8, 26:16.) If you have been saved tell others. (Jno. 4:28.)

4. It is a life of self-denial. (Matt. 16:24-6.)

5. It is a life of vigilance. (Matt. 25:1-14, 1 Pet. 5:8, Rom. 16:15, Eph. 6:18.) A lukewarm attitude, an unguarded tongue and a trifling spirit must be watched.

6. It is a life of meditation on God's word. (Ps. 1, 119, Josh. 1:8, Jas. 1:25.)

7. It is a life of prayer. (Matt. 6:6, 1 Thess. 5:17.) It has been said by someone. "Stay before God till he melts you and then stay where he melts you."

8. It is a life of obedience. (1 Pet. 1:14-16, Acts 5:32.)

9. It is a life of growth. (2 Pet. 3:18.)

10. It is a life of abiding in Christ. (Jno. 15:1-11, 1 Cor. 7:20.)

11. It is a life of active service. Christianity knows nothing of the idea of one's taking himself into a desert and living in seclusion away from sin and temptation. It is going out into the highways and byways and contacting men who are down and out and seeking to relieve their sufferings.

12. It is a life of working with God. (2 Cor. 6:1, Matt. 28:19-20.)

Conclusion: The greatness of Christ's life is shown not alone by what he said but by the sinless life he lived.

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## IN ACCOUNT WITH GOD--THE JUDGMENT Rom. 14:12

Introduction: There is much said in the New Testament about the great judgment and of men's having to give an account of their way of living. (Luk. 17:23-37; Matt. 25:31; Heb. 9:27; 2 Pet. 2:4; 3:7; Rev. 20:11-14; Matt. 12:41.) We are all approaching that dread tribunal. The young with elastic tread; the old with tottering limbs; the rich in splendid attire; the poor in rags; the sinners trampling upon the love and mercy of God. The Christian whose meat and drink is to do the will of the Lord is a pilgrim to the judgment. Yes, and the backslider who has turned back like the sow to her wallow is going on to that great day. Surely such an event should cause us all to reflect upon our condition in a more solemn way than ever before. As surely as Jesus died for us he will judge us. (Acts 17:30-31; Heb. 10:30.) This is one meeting all must attend. Who could describe it? Take it to your own heart and think: a King, a Judgment seat; a crown, a gathered universe; a great separation. If one should see an awful storm approaching; see the commotion of the troubled elements; hear the roar of the distant wind; view the heavens and earth

as they seem to mingle in the terrible conflict he would cry to his friends to flee for safety. And yet the Bible reveals to us something more terrible. It pictures to us a world convulsed and falling to ruin, the sea burning like oil, whole nations rising out of the earth; the sun falling, the moon turning to blood and all earthly things passing away like an exhausted river. The flood, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah are but miniature pictures of this awful event.

### I. Will There Be A Judgment?

(Acts 17:31, Matt. 12:41-42, 25:31-46; Rev. 20:11-15.)

### II. Judged According to Our Works

1. According to what we have done, whether it be good or bad. (2 Cor. 5:10, Matt. 25:35-40, Rev. 20:30.)

2. For every idle word. The tenor of our talk here will be for or against us there. Words may seem little but they will determine our destiny. Pray: "Lord put a watch upon the door of my lips." "Out of thine own mouth will I judge you."

3. For not forgiving. The love and forgiveness of God should be our greatest incentive to forgive. (Matt. 6:14-15.)

4. For our stewardship. (Luk. 12:35.)

5. For the use of our talents. (Matt. 25:14-31.)

6. For what we might have done. (Jas. 4:17.)

7. For living after the flesh. (1 Pet. 4:3-5.)

Conclusion: The decision of the Great Judge will be fair and irrevocable. There will be no mistakes. "The Lord knoweth those that are his." Remember this thought: "We must all appear."

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## SOME THINGS ALL SHOULD KNOW

Introduction: Every person should learn as much of the Bible as possible to learn during his lifetime. The reason is it is God's book and we need to know as much about him and all he says and of his dealings with men as we can. We should, especially, know about all he commands us to do. "Blessed are they that do his commandments that they may have a right to the tree of life and enter in through the gates into the city." (Rev. 22:14.) Studying the Bible by the "favorite chapter method" might lead one to become biased in his views. There are, however, some chapters which contain such vital teaching that by all means every responsible person on earth should know. These chapters are as follows:

### I. The First Chapter of Genesis

This tells us about the creation of all things and by whom they were created. The story of the Genesis account of creation is repudi-

ated by the modernist. He has substituted the evolutionary theory. It is that all animal creation came up from a small one-celled creature. It is such a fantastic idea. Any one who can believe such a thing can very easily believe the Genesis account for it is reasonable and sensible. And besides there are overwhelming evidences that the Bible is divine. Hence this story has the stamp of divinity on it.

## II. Third Chapter of Genesis

One should become familiar with this chapter that he may know the wiles of Satan and how he deceived our first parents.

## III. The Second Chapter of Luke

This chapter is a narrative of the sweetest story ever told: "A Savior is born." The purpose of which is to save men from their sins. It was never said that any priest, prophet, sage or any one else could save people from their sins. This, then is the grandest message that ever fell upon human ears. "My sins, not in part but the whole."

## IV. The Second Chapter of Acts

That we may learn of the preaching of the Great Commission to all the world and the answer to the question. "What must I do to be saved?"

## V. First Chapter of First John

That a child of God can and does sin and how he may be forgiven.

## VI. Twenty-first Chapter of Revelation

That we may learn of that "land to which we journey, the new heaven and earth."

Conclusion: "Sing them over again to me wonderful words of life."









