HONoured by the Lord!

by

GLEN E. TROPP

In I Samuel 2:30 we find these words which will serve as the text for this message: "Wherefore the Lord God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever, but now the Lord saith, Be it far from me: for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed."

A man of God had come to Eli with this message of reproof, rebuke, and revelation. Eli had been rebuked because of the fact that his sons had sinned and he had refused to restrain them. This is seen in I Samuel 3:13. God's messenger told him that the Lord had intended to bless his household and use his family in the service of the Lord in a special way; but due to their rebellion God revealed to him that from now on those that honoured the Lord would be blessed by the Lord and those that despised the Lord would be lightly esteemed.

Notice with me this truth, "HONoured BY THE LORD," in the following areas.

I. THE WILL OF THE LORD.

It is the will of the Lord for all men, that all believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved. "And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which believeth in me may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day." This passage is recorded in John 6:40. Notice also II Peter 3:9 which reads, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

When an individual acknowledges the fact that he or she is a sinner and needs to be saved and then repents of sin and receives Jesus Christ, that person has honoured the Lord. The Lord will then honour that person by saving their soul, giving them eternal life, peace, joy, rest, and happiness because "He that honours the Lord will be honoured by the Lord."

II. THE WORD OF THE LORD.

In the message of the Lord to Joshua we notice these words, "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein; for thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and thou shalt have good success." Joshua 1:8

God has given us His precious, pure, and powerful Word. He admonishes us to read it, meditate upon it, believe it, receive it into our hearts, and then become doers of it. When we do this we will be honouring the Lord and He, in turn, will honour us, by making our way prosperous and giving us good success. This does not mean that everything will go your way as you desire, but it does mean...
that everything will be for your best in the long run or final analysis and can fall out to the furtherance of the gospel. With our finite minds it is impossible for us to grasp the infinite mind of God, but God has said, "...them that honour me, I will honour." I believe God.

This truth is given in Psalms 1:1-3, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of scorners. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he 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."

II. THE WALK FOR THE LORD.
The Lord has given us a great invitation. This invitation is recorded in Matthew 11:28-30. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

This passage of Scripture has to deal with the Lordship of Jesus Christ. There are many who know Jesus as Saviour but have never submitted or presented their lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and there is a difference in knowing the Lord as Saviour of your soul, and Sovereign of your life. When an individual surrenders their life to the Lord and makes a commitment to let the Lord live through them, they will be honouring the Lord. The Lord will then honour them and give them solace, strength, and supply. The solace is noted in the above scripture, Matthew 11:28-30. The Strength that he gives is found in Phil. 4:13 which states, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." The supply is noted in Phil. 4:19. "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

He will make you a fit and useful vessel. As a result of His work in and through our lives we'll experience blessings both here and hereafter.

IV. THE WITNESS FOR THE LORD.
As saved people we are representatives for the Lord. This is taught in II Cor. 5:20 which states, "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead be ye reconciled to God."

As a member of one of the Lord's local New Testament Churches, we have a responsibility in carrying out the Great Commission as given in Matthew 28:18-20. We are to tell others about the Lord. When we are obedient in going and telling this great and glorious news to a lost and dying world, we are honouring the Lord because he has commanded us to do this very thing. As a result of this He has promised to honour us. He promises His presence as recorded in Matthew 28:18-20, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

He promises results as noted in Psalms 126:5-6, "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." He also promises rewards as taught in Daniel 12:3, "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."

May God help us to do our part, then rely upon the Spirit to do his part, and then God will give the increase; there will be rejoicing in heaven and in the assembly of the saints because God has been honoured.

V. THE WARFARE FOR THE LORD.
There is a great battle going on between the forces of God and the forces of the Devil. As Christians, we are involved in this great conflict. This is taught in Ephesians 6. We are to take a stand. We are to contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. The only way that we can be victorious is to suit-up in the Christian's uniform, as given in Ephesians 6. When we are willing to suit-up in the Christian's uniform and become obedient to the orders of the Captain, the Lord Jesus Christ, then we can have the assurance that all will go well or for our betterment. There may be times when it looks like we are losing the battles, but those individuals who have great determination and confidence in the Lord and "His Way," will be victors, for He has said, "those that honour the Lord will be honoured by the Lord."

Some examples of this truth are as follows: David's conflict with Goliath as recorded in I Samuel 17, the 3 Hebrew Children and the King as recorded in Daniel 3, and Elijah's conflict with the Syrians as recorded in II Kings 6:13-17.

Remember the Word of the Lord states: "THOSE THAT HONOUR ME I WILL HONOUR; AND THEY THAT DESPISE ME SHALL BE LIGHTLY ESTEEMED."

Hosue your life for My sake and You will find it.
MUSIC IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE

In the last issue we noticed "Music In The Worship Service." In that article we mentioned: The Ministry of Music, The Message of The Music, and The Mastering Of the Music. Today let us conclude with:

III. THE MISSION OF THE MUSIC

At the risk of repeating myself, I want to restate something pointed out in the first point of the article. THE MUSIC SHOULD BE THAT WHICH WILL UPLIFT THE HEART AND PREPARE THE HEART TO RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD!!

There seems to be two extremes among music directors on this point, one extreme is the music Dir. who wants His Church to sound like the concert Hall with the sounds of Bach, Brahms, Beethoven, and Handel. No one can deny the Musical Value of these Master composers, however, the average church-goer receives no benefit spiritually from their compositions nor do they really enjoy them that much. The other extreme is the Music Dir. who wants His church to sound like a "Country Ho Down or Night Club." Music in the worship service should appeal to the Heart, not the Foot. We are to sing praises to God, not be entertained. I realize that this may be getting into an area of personal preference, however there are some guidelines which must be drawn on both extremes.

I personally have no objection to the use of instruments to "Dress Up" any composition. In Psalms 150 we are exhorted to Praise the Lord and many of the instruments of the Orchestra are actually named. It adds something to use just rhythm instruments with the piano. The Music Dir. who has Musicianship can use the aids tastefully and effectively without destroying the spiritual impact of the Worship Service.

If the Minister of Music will remember he is in a Ministry, and if he pays close attention to the Message, the Mastering and Mission of the Music, God can use him as an instrument in His hands to greatly enhance the experience of worship for the people of our churches. May we always give God glory and praise for all that is good.

Johnny Williams

RETURN TO THE OLD PATHS

TEXT: Jeremiah 6:16 "Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for souls. But they said, We will not hearken."

INTRODUCTION:

Israel had become careless in their religious life at this point in their history.

A. They became so hard they did not blush because of their sins. Jer. 6:15 "Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? Nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the Lord."

B. They needed to RETURN TO THE OLD PATHS.

I. SIN HAS NOT CHANGED

A. Modern day churches try to make excuses for sin instead of standing for the truth.

B. Modern man doesn't like churches that make a stand on the truths of God's Word.

1. Doesn't like to hear about responsibilities as a Christian.

2. Doesn't want to accept certain things as sin and tries to cloud the issues with half truths.

C. Men will never compromise sin with God no matter how hard they try.

1. Paul had this to say about compromise in Romans 6:16 "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are whom ye obey; whether of sin or death or of obedience unto righteousness."

2. The Bible also warns, Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

II. CHRIST HAS NOT CHANGED

A. He's still the same Saviour.

B. He still hates sin but loves the sinner.

C. He's still in the Saving Business.

III. THE WAY TO HEAVEN HAS NOT CHANGED—IT'S AN OLD PATH

A. By the blood of Christ, I John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanseth us from all sin."

B. Only one way, John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."
CHURCH GIVING

TEXT: I Cor. 16:2, II Cor. 9:7, Proverbs 3:10

INTRODUCTION:
A. Purpose: To establish the practice of liberal giving, and an understanding of God's Will on Giving.

B. Preparation: For years our Baptist people have looked on the negative side of giving with emphasis on not being under the law of giving. In these studies, we want to use the positive approach; why we should be liberal givers. The future of our churches progress depends upon our liberality in giving, II Cor. 9:7.

I. GIVING SHOULD BE DONE INDIVIDUALLY "Every Man" II Cor. 9:7
A. Many Spiritual matters are individual.
   1. Salvation is an individual matter. Romans 9:3
   2. Bible Study is an individual matter. II Tim. 2:15
   3. Prayer life is an individual matter.

B. Giving is Personal.
   Others cannot give for us. When the scriptures say "Every Man" there are no exceptions. All members can give personally. I Cor. 16:2

II. GIVING SHOULD BE DONE DELIBERATELY "As he purposeth" II Cor. 9:7
A. Purposing involves a choice.
   No other cause is so worthy of receiving our money than the cause of Christ. It is above all others and takes priority to all of them. We should make a definite choice for Christ. We have no rights, since we are bought with a price I Cor. 6:20, and should surrender all.

B. Purposing involves personal decision.
   The preacher's purpose is not to squeeze money out of people. "Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness." II Cor. 9:9. God's cause should be supported by honest deliberate giving, not tricks and gimmicks.

Purposing involves a certain amount. It is to be in proportion. "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." I Cor. 16:2

D. The New Testament amount
   1. The widow gave 100% -Mark 12:41-44
   2. The Macedonians gave "beyond their power" (More than they could afford) II Cor. 8:1-6.
   3. Jesus Christ gave 100%, II Cor. 8:9; 9:15.
   4. The New Testament standard of giving does not begin to stop at 10%.

E. Why Tithes?
   1. Because God blessed the first tither Genesis 14:18; 24:35.
   2. Because in so doing I acknowledge God's ownership of all -Gen 28:22.
   4. Because I am so commanded to support the ministry -I Cor. 9:13-14.
   6. Because Jesus lives and receives my tithes -Hebrews 7:8

III. GIVING SHOULD BE DONE SINCERELY "In his heart" II Cor. 9:7
A. Giving is on a love basis
   1. God wants our love first.
   2. Our love is demonstrated by giving, I John 3:18.

B. Giving begins with complete surrender
   I Cor. 8:5
   1. It is not the duty of a law slave, but the devotion of a love slave.
   2. Generally speaking, those who do not give do nothing else.
   3. Giving is a means of developing Christian character, of helping one grow in grace.

IV. GIVING SHOULD BE DONE INTELLIGENTLY "So let him give" II Cor 9:7
A. To what do we give?
   1. The example of David in calling for gifts to build the temple, I Chron. 29:5.
   2. We give to the cause of God (IChron. 16:29), giving not to individuals as individuals, but as representatives of God.

B. Is our giving really needed?
   1. It is God's appointed way of supporting His work.
   2. When we see the many fields without workers, we know that our giving is needed.

C. How may a Church raise money?
   1. Many churches use many different means.
   2. The best way is the Bible Way-loving, liberal, freewill giving.
   3. Some act ashamed when they speak of
giving, but they have no reason for this, if done God's way.

D. Results of liberal giving.

Suppose a church had 250 members. 75 are employed, with an income averaging $8000 per month. If these 75 would tithe, it would mean for the church an income of $6000.00. This amount would supply local need, a full-time missionary, and other matters of church business as well.

V. GIVING SHOULD BE DONE FREELY "Not grudgingly or of necessity" II Cor. 9:7

A. Negative giving

God here (the text) sounds a warning note. "Not sorrowfully or by compulsion." Some feel compelled by circumstances or custom. People pay taxes this way, but should not give this way.

B. Positive progress

A live church costs money. Think not of the act of giving, but of the things accomplished by it. God’s cause should come first, Prov. 3:9-10; Matt. 6:33.

VI. GIVING SHOULD BE DONE CHEERFULLY "God loves a cheerful giver" II Cor. 9:7

A. God is the greatest giver

He gave us Jesus. He gave us Truth. He gives all good things, James 1:17.

B. God blesses the cheerful giver.

He outgives the giver, II Cor. 9:8.

C. The joy of giving

Cheerfully in this verse means "Hilarious" there is a growing joy in giving.

BEHOLD JESUS THE TEACHER

BY
D.B. WRIGHT

SERIES:  "BEHOLD JESUS" Message No. 5

TEXT : John 3:1-19

INTRODUCTION:

A. Jesus was recognized as a teacher come from God. V. 2

1. He was indeed this and more. John 8:28-John 12:49-John 17:14a

2. He taught with Heaven’s Authority and Gave Heaven’s Message. Matt. 1:22

B. Jesus taught people the Word of God in their own language.

I. Behold Jesus, The Teacher, –Teach The Most Practical Lessons!

A. Jesus Taught Sinners

1. The Necessity of Repentance

Luke 13:3, 5

2. The Benefits of Faith in Him

John 3:16 - John 3:36

3. The Must of the New Birth

John 3:3, 5

4. That our Acceptance with the Father depends on more than an outward show of righteousness. Matt. 5:20 - Matt. 18:3

B. Jesus Taught the Saved

1. The importance of Confessing Him as their Savior. Matt. 10:32-33 Romans 10:10

2. The importance of a right relationship with His Church. Rev. 1:20 - Matthew 5:15-16

3. The Place and Purpose of Water Baptism. Matthew 3:15


6. How to Deal with offences. Luke 7:3-5


II. Behold Jesus, –Teach The Most Promising Lessons.

A. Prayer -Matt. 7:7

B. Giving - Matt. 6:33

C. Enjoying His Presence - Matt. 28:19-20

D. Concerning The Death of the Saved - John 11:25-26

E. Concerning His Return - John 14:1-3

F. Concerning a Fruitful Life on the earth - John 15:5


III. Behold Jesus, –Teach The Most Profitable Lessons.

A. Matthew 16:24-25

B. John 8:11

C. John 8:12

IV. Behold Jesus, –Teach The Most Powerful Lessons.

A. John 6:63

B. See it work in the life of the man of Gadara. Mark 5

C. See it in the life of the woman of Samaria. John 4

D. See it in the life of Zacchaeus. Luke
CONFRONTATION AT CARMELO

BY RANDY CLOUD

TEXT: I KINGS 18:17-41

INTRODUCTION:
A. Only a Divinely inspired writer could write such words as these.
B. These are words of challenge, warning, instruction, life and death; words that concern God and Man.
C. These verses begin with an accusation (I Kings 18:17-18) and end with an execution (I Kings 18:40)

I. The Problem (I Kings 18:18)
A. The Problem was, "...ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord."
B. When one forsakes the commandments of God, he has a very serious problem.
C. America has a problem; America has forsaken the commandments of God and has turned to idol gods; pleasure, power, prestige - the solution is: Come Back to God.

II. The Proclamation (I Kings 18:21)
A. Israel was divided; Some wanted to worship Baal and some wanted to worship God.
B. "How long halt ye between two opinions?"
C. "No man can serve two Masters" Matt 6:24
D. "Who is on the Lord's side?" Ex. 32:26
E. "Choose you this day whom ye will serve" Joshua 24:15

III. The Proposition (I Kings 18:23-24)
A. Elijah said, "...The God that answereth by fire, let him be God."
B. "And all the people answered and said, it is well spoken."

IV. The Priority (I Kings 18:30)
A. "...And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down."
B. We need to get our priorities in their right place- Matt. 6:33; we need to put the things of GOD - FIRST! ALTARS that are broken down need to be repaired.

V. The Power (I Kings 18:38-39)
A. "...The fire of the Lord fell...Prayer brings the power of God into our midst.
B. God is still on the throne. Our greatest need is the power of God which comes through prayer and a humble sub-

mission to do His will.

VII. The Punishment (I Kings 18:40)
A. The judgment of God is sure, sudden, and severe.
B. Disobedience brings the punishment of God.

CONCLUSION:
"How long halt ye between two opinions?"

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A SUCCESSFUL HARVEST

TEXT: Galatians 6:9
INTRODUCTION:

A. Through the scriptures, God has used the literal harvest and reaping to illustrate the reaping of a spiritual harvest.

B. This text sets forth the fact that there are conditions for reaping a great spiritual harvest.

C. Those who were raised on a farm know something of the conditions of a successful harvest.

I. BASIC FACTS OF REAPING A LITERAL HARVEST

A. Preparation of the Ground.
B. Sowing of the Seed.
C. Labor
D. Faith enough to believe that that which is planted will be harvested.
E. Trust and dependence upon God to give the increase.
F. Patience in waiting for the time of harvest.
G. Perseverance in the planting of the crop.

II. PARALLEL FACTS WHICH APPLY TO THE REAPING OF A SPIRITUAL HARVEST

A. As it is necessary to prepare the ground for a literal harvest, even so it is necessary in a Spiritual harvest.
   1. Hosea 10:12
   2. The only plow to use to prepare the ground of the heart is the Word of God.

B. As it is necessary to sow the seed before one can expect to reap a harvest, even so, it is in the Spiritual Harvest.
   1. In the parable of the sower Jesus taught that the seed is the Word of God. Luke 8:11
   2. Paul thought of his preaching as planting seed. I Cor. 3:6
   3. God commanded His Church to be a sowing Church.
   4. The more sowing the seed, the better the chances for a good crop. (Example: One sowing seed and 100 sowing—who can expect the most?)
   5. Even though many seeds are planted, some may not come up.
      a. A farmer may plant many seeds and for one reason or another, only a few come up.
      b. It is this way in our sowing of spiritual seed.
      c. However, we can be assured that the seed that falls on good ground will come forth. Luke 8:15

C. As Labor is necessary in preparing the ground, sowing the seed, and reaping the harvest in a literal harvest, even so is it in a Spiritual Harvest. (I. Cor. 3:9 & Matt. 9:37)
   1. A farmer must believe what he sows will come up or he will not waste his time.
   2. If we feel, "I would witness so and so, but it won't do any good," then we won't witness.
   3. We must have faith in God to give the increase as He has promised. Isa. 55:12 and Psalms 126:5-6

D. As the Farmer must depend upon God to give the increase, so must we in our Spiritual Harvest.
   1. Paul said, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase."
   2. It is our job to sow and water and then let God give the increase.
   3. Psalms 37:5

E. As the Farmer must be patient in waiting for the Harvest, even so must we in our Spiritual Harvest. James 5:7
   1. The Preacher may preach and pray for years at a time and yet not reap during that time.
   2. Parents may teach their children and bring them to church to hear the Word for years with many prayers and not reap as quickly as they desire and hope.
   3. In God's own time, they shall reap.

F. As a Farmer must persevere in the planting of his crop so must we in the planting of our Spiritual Crops.
   1. "If you faint not" means "If you do not give up, quit, and fall by the wayside."
   2. Continuance in any vocation is the only way to success.
      A Farmer may prepare the ground, plant the seed, but quit before the time to harvest and lose what would have been a good harvest.
   3. What a challenge this is for the Church.
      a. Let us not give up on family and friends who may be lost.
      b. Let us not give up on those that received the Word and then because of the lack of roots in Christ, fall by the wayside.
      c. Let us not give up in our church attendance because our church is not what we would like it to be.
d. But let us continue in prayer bring the lost to hear the Gospel, remaining faithful in all the services of the church, and going out to witness and win those who are lost.

e. If you are not doing these things, then now is the time to begin.

CONCLUSION:

A. May we all be challenged by this text to give up to God’s Spirit, that we may reap many souls and many great Spiritual Blessings.

B. If you are unsaved and have heard the Gospel and have felt God’s Spirit convicting you, don’t give up seeking God before you find Him and His Salvation.

C. Repent and Trust Him now.

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**Short Sermon Outlines**

**SUBJECT:** The Christian Stand  
**TEXT:** Eph. 6:11-17

I. STAND UP  
II. STAND OUT (Seperation)  
III. STAND BY  
IV. STAND FOR  
V. STAND AGAINST

**SUBJECT:** Steps In God’s Program  
**TEXT:** John 9:1-41 (25)

I. ENLIGHTENED  
II. EMANCIPATED  
III. ENRICHED  
IV. EQUIPPED  
V. EXAMPLES

**SUBJECT:** Making Your Life Count  
**TEXT:** James 4:14-15

I. REMEMBER GOD—Prov. 3:5-6  
II. RESIST TEMPTATIONS—James 4:7  
III. REDEEM THE TIME—Eph. 5:16  
IV. REDEDICATE SELF—Rom. 12:1  
V. REPRESENT CHRIST—II Cor. 5:20  
VI. RENDER GOOD DEEDS—Eccs. 9:10

**SUBJECT:** Limiting God  
**TEXT:** I Cor 10:1-12, Psa. 78:41

I. WE LIMIT WHAT THE LORD CAN DO FOR US.  
II. WE LIMIT WHAT THE LORD CAN DO WITH US.  
III. WE LIMIT WHAT THE LORD CAN DO THROUGH US.

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**SOUNDING OUT THE WORD MINISTRIES**

**GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
1823 Aldine Mall Rd Houston, TX 77039 Glen E. Tropp, Pastor

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