GOD IS PLEASED WITH JESUS

Read Matthew 17:1-5 for the text of our sermon. Note particularly verse five. "While He yet spake, Behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: And behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased: Hear ye Him."

Our blessed and glorious God breaks the silence of heaven and speaks audibly on this occasion. He declares in plain and simple language Jesus is His Son. He confirms and verifies the words of our Saviour. At the baptism of Jesus the Father spoke saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matt. 3:17 The Father proclaimed His love for His only begotten Son and assured the world that His Son greatly pleased Him. This declaration is worthy of our attention.

Let's notice three main areas in which God was pleased with His Son.

I. God is pleased with the Son.

II. God is pleased with the Sacrifice.

III. God is pleased with the Saviour.

Now, let us examine each of these three points.

I. GOD IS PLEASED WITH THE SON.

Jesus was and is sinless.

The Apostle Paul said Jesus knew no sin. "For He hath made Him to be sin for us who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." II Cor. 5:21. Although Jesus knows about sin and is aware of all of our sins, He was not acquainted with sin through experience. The writer of Hebrews writes, "For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities: But was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Heb. 4:15

Jesus said He came to fulfill the law not destroy it. Matt. 5:17. He came to live in perfect accord with the law Jesus lived according to the law and did not transgress any part of it.

Even His cruelist enemy could find no fault or imperfection in Him. Pilate and others have examined His life minutely without finding sin.

Jesus is a servant. The Son willingly became the servant to His Father. Paul stated in beautiful and inspiring language, "...and took upon him the form of a servant Phil. 2:7 "And became obedient unto death even the death of the cross." Phil. 2:8. Jesus told His disciples, "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish his work." John 3:14. Jesus ended His prayer in the garden with, "nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." Luke 22:42. Jesus was a servant to His Father and all men.
Jesus is not selfish. Jesus lived in the flesh to please the Father and to give His life for mankind. He lived in the flesh to please the Father and to give His life for mankind. He lived and died for us. He was willing to leave the glory and majesty He enjoyed with the Father to be made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death. Hebs. 2:9. Every step every heart beat, and every breath of His life was given in obedience to the Father and for the redemption of mankind.

II. GOD IS PLEASED WITH THE SACRIFICE.

Jesus is a willing sacrifice. Notice John 10:17,18 "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself, I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father." Jesus willingly and freely gave His life for all men because they were without hope. Jesus was willing to die in man's place. He was willing to take our place and die the death we should have and would have died.

Jesus is a sin stoning sacrifice. There is no remission or forgiveness of sins without the shedding of blood. Hebs. 9:22. Jesus who knew no sin became sin for us. He bore our sins in His body on the tree of Calvary. I Pet. 2:24. God accepted the sacrifice Jesus made on Calvary and He is satisfied. His justice is satisfied. Isa. 53:11

Jesus is a universal sacrifice. "Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." I Tim. 2:6 "And He died for all..." II Cor. 5:15. "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." I Tim. 2:4

He is the precious Redeemer and glorious Saviour of all the world. He opened the way for every person to be saved. And now, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Rom. 10:13. Praise the Lord! God's free salvation is available to everyone who will repent of sin and accept Jesus as personal Saviour.

III. GOD IS PLEASED WITH THE SAVIOUR.

The Saviour saves powerfully. By His glorious power dead sinners are made alive unto God. "And you have believed, who were dead in trespasses and sins." Eph. 2:1. By His marvellous power the spiritually blind are made to see, the spiritually deaf to hear, and the sinful are made pure and clean. He forgives and cleanses of all sins when He saves the Soul. In the New Birth a new nature is implanted and lives are drastically changed. Paul is a great example of God's saving and changing power.

The Saviour saves completely. By His blessed power He saves us from the penalty, power, and will save from the very presence of sin. He saved the soul from the awful destruction of hell. He wants to save the life from the power and influence of sin. He is going to change the body from its sinful state to a glorified state. After all is over with, He will "...present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in His sight," Col. 1:22

The Saviour saves eternally. I am glad I am saved once for all. Jesus gives and saves with a salvation that does not end. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life..." John 3:36 "That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:15 What I possess in Jesus grows sweeter and dearer to me each day.

No wonder, God is pleased with His dear Son. Thank the Lord for this wonderful testimony about His Son.

SEVEN MINDS

1. MIND YOUR TONGUE... Do not let it speak nasty, cruel, unkind words.

2. MIND YOUR EYES... Do not permit them to look on wicked books, pictures or objects.

3. MIND YOUR EARS... Do not suffer them to listen to wicked speeches, songs or words.

4. MIND YOUR LIPS... Do not let profanity foul them, nor strong drink pass them.

5. MIND YOUR HANDS... Do not let them steal, fight, or write evil words.

6. MIND YOUR FEET... Do not let them walk in the steps of the wicked.

7. MIND YOUR HEART... Do not let the love of sin dwell in it. Do not give it to Satan, but ask Jesus to make it His throne.
DISCIPLINE

BY

RUTH PHILLIPS

I. INTRODUCTION

"Train up a child..." Prov 22:6. More and more teachers are finding that their valuable teaching time is being robbed by their having to deal with behaviour problems. The question keeps coming up, "How can I more effectively deal with the disruptions in my class?"

Here is a look at discipline compiled from my personal experience teaching in public school and in Church and from the successes and failures of our Church's teachers and officers.

Discipline is one of those much used but often misunderstood words. Discipline is not punishment alone, but it is a "training process by instruction, control and exercise."

In our S.S. or B.T.C. it is not our job to instill the precepts of discipline in our students but rather to reinforce the disciplinary principles taught at home - always using the Bible as our standard. Before you agree or disagree, please stop to consider what your primary objective as a teacher is: to present the gospel to your class and to help each member find the Lord and then serve Him. However, you do have the responsibility and the right to develop rules of acceptable behavior for your class and then to enforce those rules.

II. MAKING RULES.

How do you decide on rules for your class? First of all, do not make a long list of "do's" and "don'ts!" Too many rules frustrate your class, especially the younger children, and are impossible for you to enforce. Can you see yourself spending the entire class time meeting out rewards and punishments? Keep it simple! Next, consider what kind of group you have. Are they all boys, all girls, mixed? What age group is your class? You certainly would not expect 2 year olds to stay in their seats perfectly still for 30 minutes or a group of 12 year old girls to never giggle! Finally, put what the Lord expects of you and your class above a strict and rigid class room structure. Rigid regimentation is not conducive to learning nor does it lead to happy children.

III. ENFORCING RULES.

My husband has always made the statement, "to have a good classroom discipline you must be you must be firm, fair, and consistent." I agree. After you have made some basic rules, you are faced with enforcing them. It takes a combination of all 3 actions to be a successful disciplinarian.

FIRM - Put your foot down the very first time you face your class. You establish control in this way. Do not be afraid to be mean (children do not judge you by how hard or how soft you are - just by how fair and how consistent you are.) Also, NEVER THREATEN - Just act. It actually does not matter what action you take, just as long as you do something. Some examples: a hard swat, no star, bad report to parent, remove child from class, take child to S.S. or B.T.C. Superintendent, or take child to parent. (I guarantee this last one - not only will your whole class be saved by the severity of the punishment, but the child will be impressed upon by the parent to never let it happen again, and an added attraction is that other parents will consider their own embarrassment if such an incident should occur and charge their own offspring to never be guilty of wrong-doing in class!) Consider this, too. If a child has misbehaved, it is up to you, his teacher, to make him feel sorry for his action.

I have found that with children, they have not truly repented until they cry. Make a big production of whatever scolding or punishment you deem appropriate. Before you ever take a child to the Superintendent or to the parents, that child should feel the full weight of his indiscretion and be repentant.

FAIR - Before you punish, ask yourself, "Did I see the misbehaviour?, Is this child an irritant to me? What are his home circumstances?, Is the punishment equal to the act?, Will it help the child or the class if I deal severely with this?, Am I showing love and concern as I teach and as I correct?" Not only in correction but also in playing favorites, a teacher has to be carefully fair. Each child should be secure about your feelings toward him. A teacher is asking for problems when she leaves a class member out of her attention and affection. Above all, be forgiving. Eph. 4:32.

CONSISTENT - Children react best when they do not have to second-guess their teacher - "Will Teacher be nice or mean today? Wait does she want from me this time?, etc." Give the same punishment for the same indiscretion each time. Try not to have a scapegoat. Treat boys and girls equally. Do not give in to your feelings: "I will be easy on June because she's my best friend's daughter," or "I feel bad today so everyone around me should be miserable too."

It is easier to generalize than to specialize so here are some specific ideas for you to consider.

-Do I have a talent to teach? It takes something special to effectively convey the counsel of God's Word. 1 Cor. 12:28

-Water everything, class members, lessons, fellowship and yourself, down with prayer. God always has the answer. Luke 18:1
- Do you have problems because your class is bored? Change up the format, use audio-visual materials, get excited.
- Keep your class busy, especially young ones. As the old saying goes, "Idle hands are the devil's workshop."
- Channel over-enthusiasm away from mischief. Let that child help you pass out books, check rool, take up offering, or hold your visual aids.
- Make an attractive conduct folder for each child—something he can show his progress in and be proud of.
- Use stars or other appropriate things as rewards or incentives.
- Get their attention: a loud clap or slap on a table or just be silent. Oftentimes the class does not realize they have gotten out of hand.
- Talk things over with your troublemaker. Let him verbalize his idea of the problem. This way you can be sure that he understood what he did wrong. When you both agree, then let him suggest a suitable punishment. I have had great success using this method with 8 year olds and up.
- Have a parent of the problem child (I say this because you should use this after you have tried other things) pick up the child after class for an immediate progress report.
- Use peer pressure—do not allow the child to participate. This works well for Juniors.
- Place the child in a corner or facing away from the class.
- Swat a hand. My own personal feelings are that a S.S. or B.T.C. teacher should not spank—there is too much chance of offending parents. But a swat works wonders.
- Sarcasm works well with teen only. I stress that because younger children usually do not understand your meaning. Also, with little ones it is easy to hurt their feelings.
- After other measures have proven unhelpful, talk the situation over with your Superintendent. He will gladly start randomly "dropping in" on your class. Often this is all it takes. However, if you do have to take a child to him during class, the Superintendent will at least be acquainted with the problem and know how strongly to deal with the child.
- As a last resort, take the problem child to the parent's class, as discussed earlier. Again, you should have already had communication with the parent. As teachers, we are supposed to work with parents, especially in the family of God.
- Lastly, and to end on a positive note, use PRAISE. This may be the most useful tool you have. Lavish praise on a child, especially if he is trying, and failing, and watch him bloom.

I am sure you realize that some of these will only work for young people and some will

IV. CONCLUSION
In expecting obedience and good behavior, we are not trying to drive unchurched visitors away. Our purpose is to teach each boy and girl a reverence for God's house and to create an atmosphere in which every pupil has an opportunity to hear God's Word. I hope these ideas are of help to you in your place of service.

**Pastor Tropp's Revival Schedule**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 6-10</td>
<td>New Liberty M.B.C.</td>
<td>Ken Ashlock</td>
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<td>April 26</td>
<td>Overton M.B.C.</td>
<td>Jack Strickland</td>
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<td>May 1</td>
<td>Overton, Texas</td>
<td>Don Harris</td>
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<td>May 11-15</td>
<td>Traskwood M.B.C.</td>
<td>Don Harris</td>
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<td>May 17-22</td>
<td>Sharon M.B.C.</td>
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<td>June 1-6</td>
<td>Timpson M.B.C.</td>
<td>Sammy Edridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 6-10</td>
<td>Mt. Harmony M.B.C.</td>
<td>Bill Westfall</td>
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Well, I think we all understand the effect our words can have on those around us and God's Word instructs us as to how our words can be "fitly spoken" and as "beautiful as Apples of Gold in Baskets of Silver" rather than a filthy trash can full of stinking garbage.

There are many beautiful words we can speak to others but, for the sake of time, I want to consider only 4 this evening.

First of all, we should speak:

I. WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT. Galatians 6:9

A. Paul, seeking to encourage the Church in Galatia, said, "Let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."

1. Now Paul could have taken his words straight from the garbage heap - he could have discouraged those people very easily.

2. By following the attitude of many of us today, he could have said, "Now folks, people are just people - and no matter how hard you try, you just can't get them to attend the Church services - and, if I were you, folks, I'd just quit! After all, you can't compete with the world."

3. We excuse the unconcern of God's people by saying, "Well, they just have too many things to take them away from the Church." Those kind of words are straight from the Devil's garbage heap. We discourage those that are on fire for the Lord by excusing those who should be in there helping - but are just to preoccupied with the world.

4. Paul carefully chose his words and they were "Golden Apples." He said, "Don't be discouraged, Don't give up, You're doing a good job and in due season people will respond if you faint not!"

II. WORDS OF INSTRUCTION.

A. We can share things from our own personal experience to help other Christians avoid making the same mistakes we made.

B. Paul didn't hesitate when it came to giving worthwhile advice.

1. He had learned many things from experience and he shared them with other Christians, but...

2. He didn't do it with a haughty spirit but, rather, with an humble heart - seeking to help a brother.

3. Timothy was young in the Ministry...
and the counsel of Paul was invaluable.
4. Paul knew from past experience that the world would ridicule the man of God and try to find fault with his teachings - He knew that the best defense was a good offense so he advised Timothy, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
5. Paul was in a position to give good advice to this young man, Timothy.
6. Likewise, we should treasure the words of instruction given by our elders - our fore fathers in faith.

WE SHOULD ALSO SPEAK:

III. WORDS OF CORRECTION

A. No matter how trivial or minor the wrong might be - we should seek to correct it with words fitly spoken.
B. As Humans, we all make mistakes - the only way for us to overcome these mistakes - by, first of all, seeing the error of our way.
   1. To me, a true friend is one who will point out my faults and, then, in a spirit of humility speak words of correction.
   2. If I have a brother who has fallen by the wayside - may we will all patience and long-suffering present words of correction that will be fitly spoken - so, he might see the error of his way.

FINALLY, WE MUST SPEAK:

IV. WORDS OF REPENTANCE. ROMANS 10:3
A. Paul said, "The word is nigh thee, even in they mouth, and in they heart: that is the word of faith, which we preach." We have the word in our mouth - in our heart and mind. What prevents us from speaking words of repentance?
B. Then in Verse 14 he asks the question, "How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?"
   1. People - if folk are to know about Jesus Christ and His saving power - we can't just leave it up to the preacher - it's our Job as well.
   2. We should speak words of Repentance to all we meet.
   3. We must "Work - while it is still day!"

CONCLUSION:
A. Solomon said in Proverbs 13:3, "He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: But he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction!"
   1. Solomon is simply saying that we should guard our tongues and restrain our mouths.
   2. Things that have taken years to build - can be destroyed in a day's time by an unruly tongue.
B. Proverbs 15:23. Solomon said, "A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: And a word spoken in due season, how good it is!"
   1. Yes, "A Word fitly spoken, can be as beautiful as Apples of God in Baskets of Silver."

Short Sermon Outlines

HOW AVOID SHAME?
1. BY STUDYING. 2 Tim. 2:15.
2. BY BELIEVING. Rom. 10:11.
5. THROUGH HOPE. Rom. 5:5.
6. BY ABIDING IN HIM. 1 John 2:23.
7. BY RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH. 2 Tim. 2:15.

WOULD YOU BE EMBARRASSED?
   A. Faith in Christ as your personal Redeemer.
   B. Forgiven for our cruel and perverted rebellion.
   C. Fear of facing crimes committed is removed.
II. ABOUT YOUR SERVICE. Eph. 6:7.
   A. Talents used for God's glory.
   B. Time properly distributed.
   C. True to total work of church.
III. ABOUT YOUR SEPARATION. 2 Cor. 6:17.
   A. Clean life for Christ's sake.
   B. Clear cut testimony to the sinner.
   C. Careful about maintaining high standards.
IV. ABOUT YOUR STEWARDSHIP. 1 Peter 4:10.
   A. Honored God with possessions.
   B. Helped bear the burden of other people.
   C. Headed the command in God's precepts.
V. ABOUT YOUR SPIRITUALITY. 1 Cor. 2:13.
   A. Shallow in Christian living.
   B. Small in Christian light.
   C. Slack in Christian love.
VI. ABOUT YOUR STAND. Eph. 6:10-17.
   A. Weak in Christian courage.
   B. Waited for convenient chance.
   C. Worldly in careless company.
VII. ABOUT YOUR LOVE FOR THE SAVIOUR.
   A. Love for His Saints.
   B. Love for the Holy Spirit.
   C. Love for the Holy Scriptures.

Jesus Outshines Them All!
there is pleasure in sin for a season. Hebr. 11:25b
5. Keep in mind, however, the expression "for a season."

II. THE WAY TO HEAVEN.
A. The STRAIGHTNESS of this way.
1. This is seen in the expression "Because straight is the gate."
2. Jesus said there was only one way to heaven. John 14:6
3. He said that men must be born again. John 3:1-8
4. Acts 4:12
5. I Tim. 2:5

B. The STRICTNESS of the way.
1. This is derived from the expression "and narrow is the way."
2. The Bible speaks of Moses suffering the reproaches of Egypt. Hebr. 11:26
3. Living for God is a hard life.
   a. John 15:18-19
   b. But it's also a very rewarding life. Rom. 8:18

C. The SALVATION of this way.
1. Note "which leadeth unto life."
2. The Salvation of the Lord not only brings us life but everlasting life.
3. The Lord Jesus spoke of passing from life unto death. John 5:24

D. The SURETY of this way.
1. Note - "and a few there be that find it.
2. Only a few will find it because of the repentance that is necessary or involved in it. John 3:16-20

III. THE WAY TO HAPPINESS.
A. The REALIZATION that must be made.
1. We must realize that we are sinners.
2. Rom. 3:23
3. Rom. 3:10
4. God cannot and will not help a person until they see their need.

B. The REPENTANCE.
1. This is important.
2. This is necessary in order to achieve happiness.
4. Repent simply means we are sorry enough to quit our sinning.
5. II Cor. 7:10
C. The RECEPTION
1. When an individual receives Jesus Christ into their heart they become a Son of God.
   a. John 1:12
2. Christ stands at our heart's door anxious and ready to enter into our hearts.

D. The REDEMPTION.
1. We are redeemed by his blood.
2. Our Salvation or redemption does not depend upon what we do, but it rests upon what Christ has done for us upon the cross.
3. I Peter 1:18-19

E. The REJOICING.
1. Psalms 16:11
2. There is rejoicing or happiness in our hearts and souls when we get saved.
3. Also, there is joy in the presence of the angels of heaven when a person accepts Christ as his or her personal Saviour.

CONCLUSION:
A. Which road are you on?
B. The Way to Hell brings misery.
C. The Way to Heaven bring Happiness, Holiness, and Honour.

GOD IS NOT A POLICEMAN!
▶ Among the first glimpse we get of our God is that of a Seeker: "Adam... Where art thou?" (Gen. 3:9). In commenting upon this question to his Bible class, a teacher said, "You can never be a preacher if you read it as though God were a policeman. Read it as though God were a brokenhearted Father looking for a lost child!"

"I NEVER GOT TO FIRST BASE!"
▶ Sam Bane Rurr, world-famed baseball player, about an aged minister, "Most of the people who have really counted in my life were not famous. Nobody ever heard of them, except those who knew and loved them. I knew an old minister once. His hair was white. His face was thin. I have written my name on thousands of baseballs in my life. The old minister wrote his name on just a few simple hearts. How I envy him! He was not trying to please himself. Fame never came to him. I am listed as a famous home-runner, yet beside that obscure minister, who was so good and so wise, I never got to first base!"

"THE HIT DOG HOLLERS!"
▶ "If you shoot into a dark hole and something holters and runs out," said Sam Jones, the outspoken evangelist of the other year, "it is because something has been hit!" People don't like to be "hit" especially the backshidden ones. The thoughts of their slumbering souls are admirably expressed in the words sometimes seen on Pullman benches, "Do Not Disturb!" As church, the ones "at ease" in God's spiritual Zion, hoist, as it were, an umbrella and shed onto others the truths their cold, calloused hearts desperately need. 