BLOOD BOUGHT FREEDOM

Text: John 8:32-36

"THEN SAID JESUS UNTO THEM, WHEN YE HAVE LIFTED UP THE SON OF MAN, THEN SHALL YE KNOW THAT I AM HE, AND THAT I DO NOTHING OF MYSELF: BUT AS MY FATHER HATH TAUGHT ME, I SPEAK THESE THINGS.

AND HE THAT SENT ME IS WITH ME: THE FATHER HATH NOT LEFT ME ALONE: FOR I DO ALWAYS THOSE THINGS THAT PLEASE HIM.

AS HE SPAKE THESE WORDS, MANY BELIEVED ON HIM.

THEN SAID JESUS TO THOSE JEWS WHICH BELIEVED ON HIM, IF YE CONTINUE IN MY WORD, THEN ARE YE MY DISCIPLES INDEED:

AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."

Freedom is a special possession. I thank the Lord that He allowed me to be born in America, the land of the free. July forth is the date that marks the birth of these United States of America. Freedom is precious because it has been purchased by the blood of others. We enjoy freedom because of the men who gave their lives on bloody battlefields for our way of life. We should realize freedom is a blessing and praise and thank the Lord for it. We should use our freedom to honor and glorify the Lord.

There are three areas in which we are free. Each area has been purchased with the blood of others.

I. I AM A BLOOD-BOUGHT AMERICAN.

I am a free American. I enjoy the freedom and liberty of living my life as I choose according to the laws of this country. We live in a democracy ruled by the people and for the people. We can conduct our lives as we see fit. The Stars and Stripes represent freedom.

We enjoy freedom of speech, worship and the press. Our country offers a greater freedom than any other country upon the earth. U.S. senators and U.S. representatives publicly debate issues and courses of action to be taken by our country. Public debate is heated by the fire of controversy. Controversy is vital to the preservation of the truth and freedom.

Americans owe their freedom to God’s blessings upon our nation. God has blessed us for two major reasons. (1) God’s Word is sounded out freely in America. Our religious freedom to preach and print the truth is wonderful. Churches exist in nearly every town in our country. Churches in America send missionaries to many other countries. (2) Americans have been a friend and blessing to the Jewish people. The promise recorded in Genesis 12:3 is still true. "AND I WILL BLESS THEM THAT BLESS THEE, AND CURSE THEM THAT CURSETH THEE; AND IN THEE SHALL ALL FAMILIES OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED." May we pray fervently that our country will always be a friend to the Jews.

My American freedom was bought with blood. Many men lost their lives at the hand of British forces in our fight for freedom in the Revolutionary war. Men who highly prized freedom made statements like, "Give me liberty or give me death," and "I regret that I have but one life to give for my country."

In our rich history as Texans the Alamo stands as a monument to freedom. About 180 men fought to the end for precious freedom. At the Battle of San Jacinto which brought an end to the struggle for Texas independence, the
rallying cry was, "Remember the Alamo!"

A reminder of the price paid for our freedom is Pearl Harbor. It breaks the heart and saddens the soul to read and see how our men were slaughtered. Americans need to be reminded that freedom was purchased with the blood of millions of brave men.

II. I AM A BLOOD-BOUGHT CHILD OF GOD.

I am a child of God. The truth made me free. The truth of God's eternal word made me realize my awful condition and need of a Saviour. God's Holy Spirit penetrated the darkness and blindness and enlightened me to the truth. Jesus is the truth, the way, and the life, John 14:6. He sets men free. He gives the greatest and the highest form of freedom that can be experienced or realized.

I am free from the penalty of sin, eternity in hell. My sins are forgiven and I have peace with God, Rom. 5:1. I have the promise of living with the Lord eternally, John 3:36. I am free in Jesus to live for God or for the devil, Matt. 6:24. I can choose. I can make the choice. My freedom in Christ offers me a greater joy, peace and gladness than any other way of life.

My Christian freedom was bought with blood. Nearly 2,000 years ago Jesus died on the cross of Calvary for the sins of the whole world. His death was necessary. "AND ALMOST ALL THINGS ARE BY THE LAW PURGED WITH BLOOD: AND WITHOUT SHEDDING OF BLOOD IS NO REMISSION," Heb. 9:22. Paul wrote, "MUCH MORE THEN, BEING NOW JUSTIFIED BY HIS BLOOD, WE SHALL BE SAVED FROM WRATH THROUGH HIM," Rom. 5:9. Jesus died in my place and stood on Calvary that I might have life and liberty through Him. He is my sacrifice and substitution for sin, I Peter 2:24.

Jesus truly makes a person free. "IF THE SON THEREFORE SHALL MAKE YOU FREE, YE SHALL BE FREE INDEED," John 8:36. Jesus read these words from Isaiah in a synagogue at Nazareth, "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE HATH ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR: HE HATH SENT ME TO HEAL THE BROKEN-HEARTED, TO PREACH DELIVERANCE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERING OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET AT LIBERTY THEM THAT ARE BRUISED," Luke 4:18. Paul wrote, "STAND FAST THEREFORE IN THE LIBERTY WHEREWITH CHRIST HATH MADE US FREE, AND BE NOT ENTANGLED AGAIN WITH THE YOKE OF BONDAGE," Gal. 5:1. We were once slaves and servants to sin. We were blinded by sin. Jesus made us free.

God help us to remember the price paid for our freedom. They beat my Lord. They cursed Him, spit upon Him, and mocked Him. They drove nails into His hands and feet. They crushed the crown of thorns on His brow. They crucified the Prince of Peace and the only begotten Son of God. They pierced His side to make sure He was dead. A horrible price was paid for our freedom. God forgive us for taking our liberty in Jesus so lightly.

III. I AM A BLOOD-BOUGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST.

I am a Missionary Baptist. We enjoy more freedom than any other religious group of people. The freedom we have to conduct business for the Lord is the purest form of democracy. Each member of each local congregation has the right to express his or her opinion. Members vote on the items of business as they feel led of the Lord.

We are bound only to the laws of our Saviour and Lord as we seek to live for Him and take part in His business. We voluntarily associate and cooperate with other churches in carrying out the Great Commission in missionary endeavors. No board, messenger meeting, committee or minister or group of ministers has any right or authority to tell local congregations what to do.

Moral and doctrinal issues are discussed and debated openly and freely. Freedom to discuss and debate issues of morals, business and doctrine is vital to our Missionary Baptist freedom and the preservation of truth. This freedom can be abused and used unwisely, but thank God for this wonderful freedom.

My Missionary Baptist freedom was bought with blood. John the Baptist, Stephen and other saints were killed for the truth which Missionary Baptists preach today. Our precious Lord was crucified because He preached and taught the truth which was contrary to the ceremonial, formal and dead religious concepts of His generation.

Every saved person should take time to read Foxes' Book of Martyrs to realize the horrible price that has been paid for our freedom to worship God as we choose. Men and women have been killed and eaten by wild beasts, crucified, cast into boiling water, run through with the spear or sword, burned at a stake, hung, burned in ovens, and pulled apart by beasts because they believed in freedom of worship.

The greatest and cruelest enemy of religious freedom is a group of religious men and women who have sought to force their ideas on others. Some countries use social and economical pressure to force their religious ideas on others. Others have killed those who refused to accept their religious views.

It ought to break the heart and stir the soul to read Hebrews 11:35-38: "WOMEN RECEIVED THEIR DEAD RAISED TO LIFE AGAIN: AND OTHERS WERE TORTURED, NOT ACCEPTING DELIVERANCE: THAT THEY MIGHT OBTAIN A BETTER RESURRECTION: AND OTHERS HAD TRIAL OF CRUEL MOCKINGS AND SOURCINGS, YEA, MOREOVER OF BONDS AND IMPRISONMENT: THEY WERE STONED, THEY WERE SAWN ASUNDER, WERE TEMPTED, WERE SLAIN WITH THE SWORD: THEY WANDERED ABOUT IN SHEEP-SKINS AND GOATSKINS: BEING DESPOITOUS, AFFLICTED, TUR-
THINGS WE DON'T NEED

SAMMY ELDREDGE

Text: Galatians 5:19-21

Introduction: Just as there are things in a Christian's life that he needs, there are things that he does not need.
A. These are the things that keep him from being the kind of child that God expects.
B. They are also the things that keep him from leading others to Christ.

I. HARRIED HEARTS
A. People become hardened...
   1. Because others do not act right.
   2. Because of continual "bad luck."
   3. Because of lack of communion with God.
B. People should not become hardened...
   1. Because they were once the same way the people are whom they are becoming hard against are today.
   2. It was by the grace of God they were changed.
   3. If they do not change their attitude they will be back where they were.
C. Their attitude is keeping someone else from being saved.

II. HATEFUL ATTITUDES
A. Of all people in the world, the Christian should be full of cheer.
   1. God is love and God is in the Christian heart.
   2. If your heart is right with God and He is leading you, you will be cheerful.
B. Of all the people in the world who should want others to be saved, we should.
   1. Self-sacrifice is not only a duty but is also a necessity in winning souls.
   2. Even to those who may not be our friends. (Matt. 5:44)

C. Hatefulness is of the devil; we are of God.

III. HARMFUL REACTIONS
A. Did you ever see anyone who just flew off the handle at the drop of a hat?
   1. These are the people who have no patience?
   2. They usually have no compassion.
   3. And no self-discipline.
B. This kind of reaction keeps many from being won to the Lord.
   1. What if Jesus had been that way?
   2. You would have had to spend eternity in hell.
C. We need to keep our tempers and think long before lashing out. You might be the one who can win them.

IV. HINDERING TENDENCIES
A. I once pastored a woman who, when we had a visitor, would always invite them over and tell them all the things wrong with the church.
   1. Needless to say, it hindered the growth of the church.
   2. It also hindered the spirit of the service.
B. There are those who by their action can put a wet blanket on the service.
   1. They do not realize that this is God's service and He will only put up with it for a while and then He will remove the obstacle.
   2. We are here to grow and win souls.
   Let us not be a hinderance.

V. HIGHTHINKING SELFISHNESS
A. This attitude is that no one knows what is best but me.
B. It is also an attitude that "I am the best Christian and what I am should be standard for all incoming members."
C. The attitude "if I don't get my way I am going to stir up trouble and not let anyone else have their way either."
D. In other words, the highminded selfish person is one who thinks of no one except himself.
   1. He may have souls on his mind, but they must be won his way.
   2. He may even love the church, but not if it is not run his way.

Conclusion: Paul said, "Let us lay aside every weight and the sin that does so easily beset us and run with patience the race that is set before us."
GILGAL

In our last lesson, Chapter 3:1-17, we noticed (1) The Command; (2) The Consecration; (3) The Covenant; and (4) The Crossing as we reflected on the general subject of "The Way to Blessing." In today's lesson we will notice the importance of the place called "Gilgal." To get more out of this lesson, please read the entire fourth chapter of the Book of Joshua. You will notice as you do this that the chapter is centered around Gilgal. This place seemingly becomes their base of operation. They often return to this place as noted in the following scriptures: Joshua 4:4-19; 9:6; I Sam. 10:8; 11:44; 13:8; 14:1 and I Sam. 15:12. Gilgal becomes the line of communication.

The Christian will certainly profit from the spiritual analysis of this chapter. Review the setting of this chapter and notice the memorials that they set up. In this lesson, we will notice that Gilgal is a Place of Realization, Remembrance and Resurrection.

I. The Place of Realization

The Reality of their activities here was to cause them to realize that the Lord had a purpose for their lives after He delivered them from bondage. This realization needs to be understood by even the saved today. We have been (1) Saved to Serve, (2) Redeemed to Represent, (3) Called to become Conformed, and (4) Purchased for a Purpose.

This realization is clearly revealed in the Scriptures. Notice these scriptures.

Eph. 2:10, "FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS UNTO GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD HATH BEFORE ORDAINED THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM"

Phil. 2:12-16, "WHEREFORE, MY BELOVED, AS YE HAVE ALWAYS OBEYED NOT AS IN MY PRESENCE ONLY, BUT NOW MUCH MORE IN MY ABSENCE, WORK OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING. FOR IT IS GOD WHICH WORKETH IN YOU BOTH TO WILL AND TO DO OF HIS GOOD PLEASURE. DO ALL THINGS WITHOUT MURMURINGS AND DISPUTINGS: THAT YE MAY BE BLAMELESS AND HARNESS, THE SONS OF GOD, WITHOUT REBUKE, IN THE MIDST OF A CROOKED AND PERVERSE NATION, AMONG WHOM YE SHINE AS LIGHTS IN THE WORLD: HOLDING FORTH THE WORD OF LIFE: THAT I MAY REJOICE IN THE DAY OF CHRIST, THAT I HAVE NOT RUN IN VAIN NEITHER LABOURED IN VAIN."

Rom. 8:29-30, "FOR WHOM HE PREDESTINATE TO BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON, THAT HE MIGHT BE THE FIRSTBORN AMONG MANY BRETHREN. MOREOVER WHOM HE DID PREDESTINATE, THEM HE ALSO CALLED: AND WHOM HE CALLED, THEM HE ALSO JUSTIFIED: AND WHOM HE JUSTIFIED, THEM HE ALSO GLORIFIED."

The emancipation of Israel from Egypt and the Red Sea Experience dealt with the spiritual significance of Soul Salvation. The experience of Jordan exemplified their dedication or the Saint's Sanctification. This reflection needs to be understood by us today. There is a difference between trusting the Lord with your soul and trusting Him with your life. There is a difference in knowing Jesus as your Saviour and permitting Him to be Lord of your life. The exposition of this scripture concerns the latter—the Lordship of Christ.

Rom. 12:1-2, "I BESEECH YOU THEREFORE, BRETHREN, BY THE MERCIES OF GOD, THAT YE PRESENT YOUR BODIES A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY, ACCEPTABLE UNTO GOD, WHICH IS YOUR REASONABLE SERVICE. AND BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD: BUT BE YE TRANSFORMED BY THE RE-NEWING OF YOUR MIND, THAT YE MAY PROVE WHAT IS THAT GOOD, AND ACCEPTABLE, AND PERFECT, WILL OF GOD."

II. The Place of Remembrance

Gilgal was also the place of remembrance! The stones were a reminder to them and also to others—their children. We need to remember that not only did Jesus die on the cross, but also all of His people went unto death with Him. We are dead to self—alive only for the Saviour, (I Cor. 6:19-20).

Rom. 6:4, "THEREFORE WE ARE BURIED WITH HIM BY BAPTISM INTO DEATH: THAT LIKE AS CHRIST WAS RAISED UP FROM THE DEAD BY THE GLORY OF THE FATHER, EVEN SO WE ALSO SHOULD WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE."


III. The Place of Resurrection

Redemption has two parts. We are brought out so that we might be brought in. They were brought out—from Egypt, which is symbolic of being saved, delivered and emancipated. God desired to immediately bring them in—to the land of blessing. Biblically and historically we find that they resisted because of unbelief. Therefore, for forty years they wandered in the wilderness of carnality, unbelief and disobedience. The summation of this period can be exemplified in two words: "they murmured and complained." Instead of living in the power of the resurrected life they were living defeated lives.

What kind of Christians are you surrounded with? Those who are always murmuring and complaining or those who are
surrendering their lives to the Lordship of Christ and gaining (through His power) the promised privileges and blessings that are available now to the redeemed in Christ. Remember victorious living is a daily thing. I Cor. 9:27, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."

I Cor. 10:13, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able: but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

Eph. 2:5-6, "Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

God help us to truly realize the total concept of salvation and sanctification and remember the tremendous need to die to self and in the power of the Spirit live the resurrected life of Christ.

(Continued from June)

THE "I'S"

OF PAUL

Philippians 4:13
Galatians 2:20

VI. I BESEECH (HIS CHARGE).
A. I beseech you not to be ignorant, I Cor. 10:1. I was ignorant, I do not want you to be ignorant. Some are willing to be ignorant, II Peter 3:5. Some worship ignorantly, Acts 17:23. Some are ignorant of God's righteousness, Rom. 10:3. Time was that God winked at ignorance, but not anymore, Acts 17:30.
1. Do not be ignorant of Satan's devices, II Cor. 2:11.
2. Do not be ignorant of the mystery of Israel's blindness, and restoration, Rom. 11:25.
3. Do not be ignorant of spiritual gifts, I Cor. 12:1.
4. Do not be ignorant of the state of the dead in Christ, I Thess. 4:13.
B. I beseech you to be a living sacrifice, Rom. 12:1.
C. I beseech you to walk worthy, Eph. 4:1.
D. I beseech you to unity, Rom. 16:17; I Cor. 1:10.
1. It is good and pleasant for brethren to dwell in unity, Psa. 133:1.
2. Paul recognized there were those who would cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine, Romans 16:17.
   a. Warn them that are unruly (disorderly), I Thess. 5:14; II Thess. 3:11.
   b. Busybodies and unruly people cause division in the church.
   c. How long will the Lord's churches put up with those who seek to cause trouble and division weakening the church?
3. There must be unity of spirit, Eph. 4:3.
4. There must be unity of purpose.

VII. I AM READY TO BE OFFERED (HIS CONCLUSION)
A. I am like an animal brought to the place of sacrifice and bound with cords to the very horns of the altar. Paul's life was a life of readiness:
   1. Ready to preach.
   2. Ready to serve.
   3. Ready to suffer.
   4. Ready to die.
B. "I have fought a good fight." Here Paul speaks as a soldier of the cross. True Christianity is a fight. "Fight the good fight of faith," I Tim. 6:12.
   1. I Cor. 15:32.
   2. I Cor. 9:26-27.
   3. II Cor. 7:5.
C. "I have finished my course." Here Paul speaks as one who has run for a prize (an athlete). I have gone over the ground appointed me. I finish with joy, Acts 20:24. BECAUSE:
   1. I count not my life dear unto myself.
   2. I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God, Acts 20:27.
   4. I have coveted no man's silver, Acts 20:33.
   5. I have showed you all things, Acts 20:35.
D. "I have kept the faith." Here Paul speaks as a steward, Luke 16:2. Everyone will give an account of his stewardship.
   1. I have kept the system of faith once and for all delivered to the saints, Jude 3.
   2. I have not mingled it with man's traditions, nor spoiled its simplicity by adding my own inventions, nor allowed others to adulterate it without withstanding them to the face.
THE BLESSED WALK

D.B. WRIGHT

Text: I John 2:6

Intro:
A. The "salvation" and "soul safety" one enjoy is derived from being "in Christ." John 10:28; Deut. 33:27; Psalm 37:24.
B. The "suggestion" and "claim" of our text is that one who professes to be "in Christ" is expected to be both "new" and "different."
   1. II Cor. 5:17
   2. Romans 6:4
   3. I Peter 2:9
C. The beautiful first Psalm describes the walk of the blessed person, Psalm 1:1-2.
   1. This "blessed walk" is the result of making the choice that Joshua called for, Joshua 24:15.
   2. One cannot walk two paths, John 8:12; John 3:19,21; Matt. 6:24.
D. To lead a "double standard" is to hinder the gospel and Word of the one we profess to be in.
   1. Paul dealt with this in his letters of instructions to both Timothy and Titus.
      a. Concerning servants being on the job, I Tim. 6:1.
   2. Therefore, the impact of the text, "even as He walked."

I. THE HEAVENLY FATHER HAS "DESIGNED" THAT THOSE WHO ARE HIS CHILDREN WALK AS JESUS WALKED.
   A. God inspired John to write this and God has preserved it for us today.
   B. To this end were we "called". I Peter 2:21, 22; Romans 8:29.
   C. The grace of God that provides the Saviour, saves those who believe, also teaches the saved to live in conformity to Christ's life, Titus 2:11-14.

II. THE SAVIOUR "DESIGNS" THE SAVED TO SO WALK AS HE WALKED.
   A. Matthew 4:19, "Follow me."
      1. As we emphasize the "fishers of men" have we neglected the "follow me?"
      2. He knows where the fish are and what bait to use to bring home the catch.
   B. Matt. 11:29
   C. John 20:21
   D. Luke 14:27
      1. Jesus came to earth as the light of the world, even so the saved are to reflect

that light, John 8:12; John 1:9; Luke 8:16.
2. Jesus came to lead the sheep even so we who are saved are to seek to influence others in the right direction, John 10:4; Hebrews 10:24.
3. Jesus loved the souls and lives of people; even so we who are indwelt with the same kind of love are to love for Him now, Gal. 2:20; Rom. 10:1.
4. Jesus gives life. We are to carry the Word of Life, John 14:6; Romans 10:17.
5. Jesus manifested the Father to men. We are to tell what He has done for us, John 17:6; Mark 5:19.
6. As Jesus lifted from sin's degradation, so we are to pull them out of the fire, Psalm 40:1,2; Jude 23. Folk are headstrong, heart blind, and hell bound. Our ministry is to stand with the gospel not even try to catch them on the way down.

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT "DIRECTS" THE SAVED IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS.
   A. Romans 8:14. "Leads"
   B. Acts 1:11. "Empowers" to be a witness to Jesus.
      1. A witness agrees with.
      2. A witness says the same things.
   C. The Spirit leads in harmony with the "design" of the Father, and the "desires" of the Saviour, John 16:14; Galatians 5:16; Acts 8:29.

IV. THE "DELIGHT" OF EVERY PASTOR IS TO SEE FOLK WALK EVEN AS JESUS WALKED.
   A. Paul said the souls he had won were his crown and joy, I Thess. 2:19,20.
   B. Paul told the church of God at Corinth, "Ye are our epistle, known and read of all men:"
      II Cor. 3:2.
      1. An open letter to the public.
      2. How reads it?
   C. Paul then reminded them, "Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart."
      1. Can the lost son, daughter, companion, neighbor, fellow worker, read Christ plainly from your life?
      2. Or would it be with much difficulty?
   D. Hear John write, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth," III John 4.

E. Familiar cries from concerned pastors.
   1. "Demas hath forsaken me," II Tim. 4:10.
   3. "Where is the blessedness," Gal. 4:15.

F. Oh, but listen!
   1. "...first gave themselves...", II Cor. 5.
   2. "Onesimus, faithful and beloved...", Col. 4:9.
WHEN JESUS ENTERS THE HOUSE

BY ROY CULLEY

Text: Mark 2:1-12

Introduction:
A. Jesus was not always welcomed and invited into the house.
B. He has often met barred doors into the lives of sinners He would enter and save.
C. When Jesus returned from His first Galilean preaching tour He entered Simon's house.
D. Let us observe four things about this and the spiritual parallels in life today.

I. HIS PRESENCE CANNOT LONG BE HID.
A. "It was noise about." 
B. When Jesus entered the life of the sick of palsy, all were amazed.
C. In the same way when convicted sinners turn from their sins and open their hearts and lives to the Saviour, He will come into their lives and His presence cannot long be hid.
1. Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea were secret disciples for a while; but could no longer cover their love for Him. They came out publicly and were identified with Him in order to bury His body.
2. The woman at the well could not contain her joys.
3. The two people in gospels to whom Jesus said, "Thy sins be forgiven." Immediately revealed His presence - woman expressed her love and pained man by his new life.
D. We are not to hide His presence, but to show and confess it.

II. HE FILLS IT AND TRANSFORMS IT.
A. Peter's house was filled with people.
B. It was filled with a love and concern for the needs of others.
1. They were welcomed and not turned away.
2. Even the four sick with palsy were not stopped in their efforts.
C. Peter's house was filled with the teachings of Jesus.
D. Even so, when Christ comes into our lives as Saviour and Lord, He fills and changes our lives.
1. He gives us new, eternal life.
2. He gives us life more abundantly.
3. New peace, passing all understanding.
4. New hope, fulfilling the needs of our everlasting soul.
5. New joy, unspeakable and full of glory.
6. New concern for needs of others to be saved.
7. New walk, even as sick of palsy.
9. Only when you let Him into your life can you know what you missed without Him.

III. HE SUPPLIES EVERY NEED WITHIN.
A. The chief need of those in Peter's house was to hear the gospel. "He preached the Word unto them."
B. The need of the four workers whose faith found a way to bring the sick of palsy to Jesus was to be strengthened and rewarded for their faith.
C. The chief need in the heart of the sick of palsy was for forgiveness of his sin, "Jesus saw their faith." He had heard Jesus preaching the word, Rom. 10:17, "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee."
D. The chief need of the scribes was to know who Jesus was and what He came to do. He met that need.
E. Had they replied to the Lord's question, it would have been easier to say "sins are forgiven." But if they thought it, they were wrong as usual. It cost God nothing to make the cripple to walk, speak a word. It cost Him everything to forgive our sins, even the death of the cross. "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift."
F. Even so, when Jesus comes into our lives He supplies our every need.
1. Men need forgiveness and eternal home in Heaven.
2. Love and joy, peace, hope, assurance.

IV. IT IS BECAUSE HE IS WELCOME AND INVITED.
A. Jesus, although owner and creator of all, never forces man's will.
B. Jesus was more than welcomed in Peter's and Andrew's homes.
C. Jesus will not intrude in our homes and lives uninvited.
D. Even so the Lord Jesus never turns down a genuine invitation to enter into our lives, homes and churches. As air rushes in to fill an empty space, so does the gracious Christ enter the life which is surrendered and opened unto Him.

Conclusion:
Unsaved? Then open your heart to the Saviour, Ps. 34:14. Saved? Then publicly confess Him as your Saviour, commit your life to be His disciple and follow Him in baptism.

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THE KEY STRATEGY TO CHURCH GROWTH

MAXIE HAYNES

Text: I Corinthians 9:19-23

Introduction:
A. Relationship evangelism.
   1. Reaching the unreached.
   2. Raising bridges.
I. THERE IS AN AIM TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED, Vs. 22.
   A. Interpretations of scripture.
      1. Insulation, not isolation.
      2. Availability, not participation.
   B. Implications of scripture.
      1. Value of the soul.
      2. Fate of the soul.
      3. Future of the saved soul.
II. THERE IS AN ATTITUDE TO BE ADJUSTED, Vs. 19.
   Three reasons for an adjusted attitude?
   A. Example of Christ.
      1. Ii Cor. 8:9
      2. Phil. 2:5-8
   B. Entrustment of the gospel, vs. 17.
      1. II Cor. 4:3
      2. Psa. 126:5-6
   C. Excellency of the results, vs. 19.
      1. Path to results.
      2. Promise of results.
III. THERE ARE AFFINITIES TO BE APPLIED, Vs. 20-22.
   Two ways our affinities are to be applied.
   A. Reconversion to the world.
      1. Out of the world.
      2. Into the world.
   B. Related to their world.
      1. Mentally....Knowledge.
      2. Ministerially....understanding.

Conclusion:
A. How do I start?
B. What do I do?

WE ARE OFFERING YOU ALL OF THE ISSUES OF THE SOUNDING OUT THE WORD PAPER, A TOTAL OF 36 PAPERS. AN OFFERING TO HELP COVER HANDLING AND POSTAGE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.