THE ETERNAL CHRIST

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood. And hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be the glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all the kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord which is, and which was, and which is to come the Almighty." Rev. 1:5-8

"And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying unto me, 'Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am He that liveth and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.'" Rev. 1:17,8

I was listening to a beautiful song that made three wonderful statements of truth. The song states, "Yesterday He died for me, today He lives for me, and tomorrow He is coming for me. I thought that would make a good sermon. I was right, it did.

John the Revelator des-cribes Jesus as the eternal son of God. He is the Alpha and Omega. Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet and omega is the last letter. He is the beginning and the ending. He is the first and last. John described the Lord as the one which is, was, and is to come. Jesus is the eternal son of God. I am thankful that he has much to do with my past, present, and future. Paul describes our precious Lord when he said, "...But Christ is all, and in all." Col. 3:11 Jesus said, "...For without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5 Jesus is revelant to every man in every generation. Let's look at eternal Christ as He deals with man.

I. YESTERDAY HE DIED FOR ME.

There is much about my past that I wish I could change or erase, but I can't. Some of the old neighbors could testify that I was mean and could get into more mischief than either my brother or my two sisters. I did and said somethings I am ashamed of. I will never be ashamed of that Wednesday night that I received Jesus as my personal saviour. It is heart warming and stirring to think that Jesus died for me. He gave up...
His precious life for me as well as the whole world. I John 2:1,2
He died for me when I was evil. David described man as shaped in iniquity and conceived in sin. Psa. 51:5 Paul described all men as sinning against God. Rom. 3:23 Paul wrote, "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one." Rom. 3:23 Our self righteousness is as filthy rags which make God sick. Isa. 64:6 Jeremiah rightly describes man in Jer. 17:9, "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it." Man is contrary and opposite to what God is.

He died for me when I was in error. Man by nature does not pursue or seek after God. Rom. 3:11 Thoughts of the heart expressed in words and deeds testify that we are in error. We are going the wrong way, doing the wrong thing, and thinking the wrong thoughts. Paul described us in Ephes. 2:2,3 "Wherein in the time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lust of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind: and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."

He died for me when I was empty. Man without Jesus is a vacuum. He is a hungry soul looking for that which satisfies. He is thirsty looking for that which will quench His thirst. The writer of Ecclesiastes wrote, "Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher, vanity of vanities, all is vanity." Eccl. 1:2 The wise man searched out life and concluded all as vanity or emptiness apart from God. Man is born, lives, and dies a meaningless and aimless life outside of Jesus Christ.

He died for me when I was egotistical. Man by nature and practice is dominated by sin and destructive pride. We are full of self and pleasure. I Tim. 3:2,4 Man seeks his own glory and gain. Man is like pharaoh who questioned, "Who is the Lord that I should obey his voice?" Exod. 5:2 Man can be so full of self that he declares there is no God. God said, "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God." Psa. 14:1 Man can be so arrogant that he is void of common sense.

He died for me when I was an enemy. When I hated and fought and rebelled against God. His dear son loved me and died for me. "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. When I was dead, defiant, disobedient, damned, and doomed, Jesus loved me enough to die for me.

II. TODAY HE LIVES FOR ME.
He lives to love me. I can love Jesus because He first loved me and proved that love on Calvary. I John 4:19 I need to feel and know that I am loved. The human heart needs to experience God's wonderful love. Our children sing, "Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so." God help me to ever be a child to sing of Jesus' wonderful love for me and for all men. Jesus loves me and has proved His love beyond any doubt. His love keeps me going. His love embraces me. His love is expressed in thousands of ways daily.

He lives to light up me. Jesus is the light of the world. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12 Where ever He goes, He dispels the darkness and enlightens man's heart and mind. The devil tries to keep man in darkness. In whom the God of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. II Cor. 4:4 His word is a lamp and a light unto our path. Psa. 119:105 Paul writes, "Ye are children of the day. We are not of the night." I Thess. 5:5

He lives to give life. Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10 Jesus not only gives quantity of life, much more He gives us everlasting life. You haven't really lived until you have known the Lord. He gives us everlasting life. John 3:36 He told Martha, "... I am the resurrection and life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believeth thou this?" John 1:25-26
He lives to lead me. Jeremiah plainly tells us man is not capable of directing his steps. "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." Jer. 10:23 Jesus knows all about my life. He knows what tomorrow will hold for me. He knows the end from the beginning and beginning from the end. He knows how to lead me. He knows when to lead me. He knows where to lead me. The psalmist said, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." Psa. 23:1
Often we lose our way and direction in life. We lose real meaning and purpose of living. We don't know what to do or how to do it. We try our best to make the right decisions. We make plans and set personal goals. Life at its best without Jesus is empty and vain. Jesus can lead us. He is a capable leader. He leads us beside still waters and in paths of righteousness. Psa. 23:2,3
III. TOMORROW HE WILL COME FOR ME.
His return is comforting. His return offers peace and comfort to the tired, weary, and worried pilgrims. Paul wrote about death, Jesus' return, and the resurrection.
His message to those who have hope in Christ was, "Wherefore comfort one another with these words." I Thess. 4:18 The redeemed can rest in knowing Jesus will soon return. As we see our world falling apart and on the verge of a mental breakdown we can be comforted. It won't be long.

His return is calming. Life is full of troubles. Job. 14:1 Life has its trials, tests, and terrible times. We live in constant threat of world war, uncertain economy, disease and criminal invasion. We will experience our storms in life as disciples of the Lord. Matt. 8:23-27 Jesus said we shouldn't let our hearts be troubled. John 14:1 The news of His return can calm the disturbed, discouraged, distressed, and the discontented.

His return is certain. Nearly every foundational truth is under attack. It seems like a lot of what we were taught in earlier life is placed in doubt. It seems like our generation has no certainties. We are programmed through the T.V., radio, and printed page to believe nothing is sure or certain.

Facts about history are questioned. The other day, I heard that Columbus might not have discovered America. Tests are made to prove common remedies we thought were helpful for sickness could be dangerous to our health. In an uncertain age, I am glad some things are for sure and certain. It is certain that Jesus is coming again.

His return is challenging. We have greater opportunities to reach lost men than any previous generation. Our church receives advertisements from radio stations that are able to reach millions of people. One short wave radio station in the eastern U.S.A. boasts 3,000,000 watts capable of carrying the Good News to Europe. The television and radio ministry alone has world wide coverage.

The opportunity is great. The work is vital. The time is short. The means are available. The Lord is soon to return. The day is far spent. The night is approaching when no man can work. We must work while it is day. John 9:4

His return is conquering. Jesus came the first time as a lamb, He will return as a lion. He came the first time as the Saviour, He will return as the Sovereign. He came the first time as the justifier, He will return as the judge. He came the first time as the compassionate one, He will return as the conquering one.

He will return for His people. John 14:1-3 He will return to destroy death. I Cor. 15:55,56 He will return to judge the works of the redeemed. II Cor. 5:10 He will judge the souls of the lost people. Rev. 20:11-15 He will be the conqueror at Armageddon. Rev. 19:19-21 He will be the conqueror at Gog and Magog. Rev. 20:8-10 Every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess Jesus to God's glory. Phil. 2:10,11 "Then cometh the end, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when He shall put all enemies under His feet." I Cor. 15:24,25 Jesus is a vital part of my past, present, and future. He wants to be a vital part of your life. Repent of your sins and trust Him and He will be your Saviour. Follow Him and He will be your Lord.

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FEBRUARY 16--20TH 1983

PLEASE NOTIFY US IF YOU NEED A PLACE TO STAY
WHAT PROFIT FROM A LIFE OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE?

D.B. Wright

TEXT: Hebrews 6:9-10

INTRO:

A. Oft asked questions:
   1. Psalm 4:6

B. Analyze the Text:
   1. "Work and labour of love!"
      a. We are saved to good works.
         Eph. 2:10
      b. We are to maintain good works.
         Titus 3:8
      c. Good works designed to influence others for good.
         Matt. 5:16
   2. God will remember!
      a. Job "My record is on high."
      b. Solomon Prov. 15:3

C. The Christian life is costly and expensive.
   1. It is not the life of a weakening.
   2. "By the grace of God" we can live.
      1 Cor. 15:10; Phil. 2:13; 4:13
   3. The price of a Christian life:
      a. It cost God His Son.
      b. It cost Jesus His Life.
      c. It cost us crucifixion and sacrifice.
         Gal. 6:14, 1 Cor. 15:31, Rom. 12:1

THE PROFIT OF A LIFE OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE?

I. CONSOLATION OF A CLEAR CONSCIENCE:

A. One's conscience cries out when all else is silent.
   Rom. 2:14-15
   Isaiah 57:20, Psalm 51:3

B. King Saul didn't have to be told that he was lying when he failed to carry
   out God's orders in time of battle.
   1. Listen to him... I Samuel 15:13
   2. Listen to the heart-cutting question
      God's messenger... I Samuel 15:14

C. Paul's determination:
   Acts 24:16, Rom. 9:1

D. Listen in as Jesus faces death...
   1. "I have glorified thee on the earth"
   2. "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." John 17:4
   3. "I have given unto them thy words..." John 19:30
   4. "It is finished." John 19:30

E. Hear the dying testimony of one who had been faithful in Christian service.
   1. "I am now ready..." II Tim. 4:6
   2. "I have fought a good fight" v 7

III. COMMENDATION FROM THE MASTER!

A. The Lord commended Abraham in life.
   Gen. 18:19

B. The Lord commended Job behind his back.

C. We will face our Lord in judgement for our life.
   1. Heb. 9:27
   2. Romans 14:12 "give account"
   3. II Cor. 5:10

D. Matt. 25:26; 25:30

E. Faithful believers who have invested their lives in Christian service...
   1. Faithful servant. Matt 25:21
   3. "Well done". That will erase it all!

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ALL THE BACK ISSUES. THIS WILL HELP
PAY THE POSTAGE AND HANDLING AND WILL
HELP US SOUND OUT THE WORD.

ALL THE BACK ISSUES __________
IV. CONVERSION OF SOME SOUL OR LIFE!
A. James 5:19-20
B. Daniel 12:3
C. This is what "held" Jesus to the Cross.
   1. "The joy set before Him."
   2. "Bringing many sons to glory."
If this bit of earth may be...nobler for the death I die...not in vain have I been I.

THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD

TEXT: II Peter 1:21

I. IT IS PROFITABLE
A. It is profitable to the student. II Timothy 3:16-17
B. It is profitable to the sinner. John 5:24

II. IT IS POWERFUL
A. It is powerful in salvation. Rom. 1:16
B. It is powerful in deliverance. Psalms 107:20

III. IT IS PIERCING
A. It is piercing as it uncovers our thoughts. Hebs. 4:12
B. It is piercing as it tries our souls. Psalms 105:19

IV. IT IS PERFECT
A. It is perfect in restoring the soul. Psalms 19:7
B. It is perfect in assuring the soul. John 10:27-28

V. IT IS PERSONIFIED
A. It is personified in the Saviour. Hebrews 2:17
B. It is personified in the son of God. John 1:12

VI. IT IS PREVAILING
A. It is prevailing in the midst of false doctrine. Acts 19:19-20
B. It is prevailing in cleansing our way. Psalms 119:9
C. It is prevailing in the desire it gives us. Jeremiah 20:9

VII. IT IS PERMANENT
A. It is permanent because it endures forever. I Peter 1:25
B. It is permanent because it enables us to endure. James 1:12

VIII. IT IS PURIFYING
A. It is purifying as we look for the Lord to return. Titus 2:13-14
B. It is purifying as we obey it. Psalms 119:11
C. It is purifying as it dispels darkness. Psalms 119:105

THE ARITHMETIC OF THE CROSS

George Crawford

TEXT: I Cor. 1:18-31
INTRO: Paul writing to a church just like this one and what he said to the "Church of God at Corinth" is good for "Longview MBC" in the 20th century. The old rugged cross does make a difference. To some the preaching of the cross which means the just suffering for the unjust is still foolishness and to some of us it is still the power of God. In this message let us notice the ARITHMETIC OF THE CROSS.

I. THE CROSS SUBTRACTS ONE FROM HELL.
A. Everyone of us was on our way to hell.
   1. We were by nature the born sons of wrath.
   2. We were devising to go there.
   3. But the cross of Jesus Christ subtracted us from that damnation.

B. We were subtracted instantly. John 5:24
   1. The very instant you believed on Jesus Christ you were saved.
   2. That is why salvation is by grace. If it were of works it might take a long time to be subtracted.
   3. If it were by baptism, you'd never have to wait till you could be baptized.

C. We were subtracted eternally. Romans 8:1
   1. There is therefore now and forever, no condemnation.
   2. Who can condemn a child of God? God justifies. Christ died and is risen. Rom. 8:33-34
   3. The cross is certainly "The power of God" to keep us out of hell.

II. THE CROSS ADDS ONE TO HEAVEN.
A. We were added to the family of God. Gal. 3:26
   1. "We are children of God by faith"
   2. Our names are in the book of life. Phil 4:3
   3. This is the greatest source of rejoicing because they can not be erased. Luke 10:20

B. We are added to the protection of heaven.
   1. The kingdom of satan is organized against us, the god of this world.
   2. Yet, the angel of the Lord camps around us and delivers us. Psalms 34:7
3. The number of times the Lord has delivered us from temptations, sore trials, and heart aches we may never know.

C. We are added to Heaven's dwellings. John 14:2
1. I go to prepare a place (the cross, the grave, the resurrection, the ascension.)
2. Blessed thought. Our loved ones who have died in the Lord, have gone to Paradise.
3. One day I shall dwell in a new body, a new heaven.
4. Thank God for His addition.

III. THE CROSS DIVIDES ONE FROM THE WORLD.

A. Because of a new creation. II Cor. 5:17
1. We are not just "overhauled", but made new.
2. This new creation is as different from the world as night and day.
3. We were in the kingdom of darkness—now in the kingdom of light, life, and joy.

B. Because of new habitation. Col. 3:3
1. Described this way: "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."
2. The world, nor the devil himself, can find, understand nor appreciate the life that is hidden with God.

C. Because of a new Occupant. I John 4:4
1. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them. (Those who are against Christ).
2. His Son that is with us is greater than the devil.
3. Thank God for dividing the world.

CON: THE CROSS MULTIPLIES ONE'S TREASURES AND PLEASURES AND BLESSINGS.

A. Oh no, the cross doesn't take away anything of value. The testimony of a believer.
1. Before I was saved, I had old ragged overall, shoes, hat, no friends no family.
2. Now that the cross of Christ has been believed, I have every thing new, family and friends.

B. We have a greater relationship, reward and reservation. I Peter 1:4
1. This reservation is to an inheritance that's incorruptible, undepiled, not falling away. And its reserved in Heaven for you.
2. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you. Matt. 6:33"

C. If you want blessings forever more trust Christ. If you want torments of hell forever, reject Him.

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**AT DAY'S END** ~John Hall

Is anybody happier because you passed this way?
Does anyone remember that you spoke to him today?
The day is almost over and its toiling time is through;
Is there anyone to utter now a kindly word to you?
Can you say tonight, in parting with the day that's slipping fast,
That you helped a single brother of the many that you passed?
Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said?
Does the man whose hopes were fading, now with courage look ahead?
Did you waste the day, or loose it?
Was it well or sorely spent?
Did you leave a trail of kindness, or a scar of discontent?
As you close your eyes in slumber, do you think that God will say,
"You have earned one more tomorrow by the work you did today?"

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**CALLING ON THE LORD**

I. YOU CAN GET HIM ANYTIME.

II. THERE IS NEVER ANY TROUBLE WITH THE LINE.

III. HE WILL NOT PUT YOU ON HOLD.

IV. HIS CALLS ARE ALWAYS PERSONAL.

V. YOU CAN HAVE FULL USE OF THE LINE WITHOUT CHARGE.

VI. YOU NEVER HAVE TO WAIT TO USE THE LINE.
DEFEAT

In our last study we noticed the victory that God's people experienced at Jericho as recorded in Joshua, 6. In this lesson we turn our attention to the 7th Chapter of Joshua. Pay specific attention to the opening word which is a conjunction. That word is "but." So far they had been enjoying and experiencing victory, but this one word prepares us for a turn in events. In this chapter, for our meditation today, we notice that they experienced defeat. One needs to realize right here that God means what He says and does what He means. Defeat does not just happen. When defeat comes, we need to seek the remedy. The subject before us gives one definite reason for defeat and two implied reasons. We shall notice the first and then conclude this lesson with the definite reason.

I. SELF CONFIDENCE IS ONE OF THE REASONS FOR DEFEAT.

This truth is implied in Joshua 7:3. The thinking of the people was incorrect. They thought that they had gained the victory at Jericho and so they assumed that since the city of Ai was much smaller than Jericho, there was no need for all of the men of war to go up to conquer it. They suggested to Joshua that all that was needed was 2 to 3,000 men. Their argument was based on the supposition that they (Israel) had captured Jericho.

We need to be aware of the wrong kind of self-confidence. It is the Lord who gives us the victories we experience in the Christian life. Also we need to realize that there is no experience in Christian living as full of danger as the flush of victory. Many times when this victory comes we begin to think that our abilities, knowledge and power has accomplished this, therefore; in reality we begin to take credit for the victory and want all the glory. When this happens the Lord permits us to have another experience whereby we encounter defeat as is exemplified in this passage. Remember God is jealous of His glory. We can experience His glory and the triumph of victory but only on His terms. Moses realized that the victory came because of the Lord. That's why he said on one occasion, "If Thine presence go not with me, carry us not up hence." (Exod. 33:15). This is an area of Christianity that all of us have problems with. (I Cor. 10:13).

Remember, the victory you won yesterday will not ensure success today. You don't build up a supply of grace and power. The Lord gives us His strength, grace and power daily! This is good for us because it keeps us dependent upon Him. God help us to never become so self-confident that we think we can make it without Him because the end result will be defeat.

II. SUPINENESS IN PRAYER IS ANOTHER REASON FOR DEFEAT.

The word supineness means inactivity or neglect. This means that we neglect the most vital need in our lives—prayer. As we notice this text we see immediately the problem. Joshua failed to wait on God. Compare verse two with verse one. If he had consulted God, in prayer at the moment of triumph, he would have been told immediately that there was sin in the camp.

Next, notice the procedure that we should follow. In times of victory we should go to the Lord in prayer, thanking Him for this victory and then making ourselves available to Him to receive our needed instructions for our next step. Several years ago in my ministry, the Lord taught me this tremendous truth. Now, everytime there are decisions made after I've preached the word, my first deed that I do before I go home is that I go to my study, bow my head and thank the Lord for this victory, realizing that it wasn't "my preaching" that got the victory but rather "His blessing upon His word" that accomplished the victory.

Failure to pray always makes us insensitive to sin. If we pray in time of victory, we will never have to plead in a time of defeat. Unless we maintain constant contact with the throne, we will face defeat and failure.

III. SIN OF DISOBEDIENCE WILL CAUSE DEFEAT

As we look at this scripture reading and meditate upon its setting, we see that this was the definite reason given for the defeat on this particular occasion. Achan had disobeyed the Lord and as a result, defeat came not only to him but to all of God's people. A lot of times members of the church get to feeling that it's nobody's business what they do, but people who feel this and believe this way, do not know the teachings of God's word. As this example emphatically declares, no member can sin without affecting the whole body. A cold Christian will lower the temperature of everyone around him. Victory depends on every member.

In conclusion, we might ask the question, "What ultimately brought victory?" There had to be a confession and a dealing with the sin. Many times we are more ashamed of being found out than ashamed of the sin in our hearts. We try to cover it up. You can't do this so the wise thing to do is admit when we're wrong and then confess that sin. Claim the promise of I John 1:9 and then you'll be on your way to victory again. Don't stay in defeat. The choice is yours.

GLEN E. TROPP

VICTORY IN JESUS
ORDER FOR ORDINATION OF A PREACHER

CALL FOR ALL ORDAINED DEACONS AND PREACHERS.

ELECT: Moderator
       Clerk
       Present to Presbytery
       Questioning
       Ordination Prayer
       Message and Charge
       Presentation of the Bible

Moderator calls for reading of Minutes.
Presentation of Candidate.
Questioning of Candidate.
Recommendation from Presbytery to continue Ordination.
Church votes to continue.
Ordination Prayer.
Laying of Hands.
Message
Charge
Presentation of the Bible.

NINE POINTS THAT WILL IMPROVE YOUR MINISTERIAL GAME.
1. WATCH YOUR EATING HABITS.
2. GET REGULAR EXERCISE.
3. MAKE SURE YOU FIND TIME TO REST.
4. FIND AN OUTSIDE INTEREST IN HOBBIES OR WORK.
5. TAKE TIME FOR YOUR OWN FAMILY.
6. FIND TIME TO BE WITH THE LORD.
7. REMEMBER YOU ARE HUMAN AND MAKE MISTAKES.
8. LIVE WITHIN YOUR MEANS.
9. STRIVE TO LIVE LIKE JESUS.

HAPPY NEW YEAR