TROUBLED AREAS
IN A YOUNG PERSON'S LIFE

REJOICE, O YOUNG MAN, IN THY YOUTH; AND LET THY HEART CHEER THEE IN THE DAYS OF THY YOUTH, AND WALK IN THE WAYS OF THINE HEART, AND IN THE SIGHT OF THINE EYES: BUT KNOW THOU, THAT FOR ALL THESE THINGS GOD WILL BRING THEE INTO JUDGEMENT. ECCL. 11:9

REMEMBER NOW THY CREATOR IN THE DAYS OF THY YOUTH, WHILE THE EVIL DAYS COME NOT, NOR THE YEARS DRAW NIGH, WHEN THOU SHALT SAY, I HAVE NO PLEASURE IN THEM; ECCL. 12:1.

This is the time of year that young people are getting out of school. Some will be graduating from Senior High. This message is directed to those who are graduating. Graduating in some ways was very sad for me. I felt sad because one stage of my life was finished and another stage was starting and I wasn't sure I was ready for it.

Young people you have reached a milestone in your life. Your parents have guided you, taught you, told you and restricted you all of your life and they have rightly done so. Fathers are commanded,"...BUT BRING THEM UP IN THE NURTURE AND ADMONITION OF THE LORD." Eph. 6:4 Children are commanded,"...OBEY YOUR PARENTS IN THE LORD, FOR THIS IS RIGHT." EPH. 6:1 Now you are going to start making some decisions on your own. You may think you are ready and can handle your life, but you are in for a surprise.

Most young people do not understand the love their parents have for them nor do they realize parents want to protect them from mistakes and pitfalls. It is hard for parents to let their children go to try out their wings. The only way parents can keep their children is to let them go.

My young friend there are four troubled areas in your life that you must be aware of. The four areas are money, morals, marriage, and master. The writer of Ecclesiastes calls upon the young to remember their Creator while they are young. So many mistakes are made while we are young.

1. MONEY IS A TROUBLED AREA.

A job is important. Solomon wrote,"BEHOLD THAT WHICH I HAVE SEEN; IT IS GOOD AND COMELY FOR ONE TO EAT AND TO DRINK, AND TO ENJOY THE GOOD OF ALL HIS LABOR." Eccl. 5:18 Choose the right line of work. Do what interests you or what you enjoy doing. Parents will want to help you. Sometimes they may try to relive their lives through you.

As a worker try to get along with people. Be courteous, friendly, and concerned for others. Make the best work you can for the Lord. Listen to Prov. 14:23, "IN LABOR THERE IS PROFIT." Good, honest, hard work never has hurt anyone. It will keep you out of trouble. Some learn early in life to lie, cheat, steal, and even kill to get what they want in life. This is wrong.

Don't jeopardize your future. Manage your own money right. Learn to know what you can afford and what you can't afford. This very lesson will make or break your life. Marriage often ends in divorce because the young couple have not learned to manage their
money. Even the ants learn to manage their time, talent, and work toward the provision for winter Prov. 6:6.

Start to save your money. Make wise investments for the future. The prodigal son wasted his possessions on pleasure and good times. Luke 15:12

Choose a job that will allow you to go to church regularly. You shouldn’t quit church after you leave home. Hebs. 10:25. God receives glory as you go to church and serve Him. Eph. 3:21. Things cannot go well when you do not put the Lord in His rightful place. Matt. 6:33

Joy is experienced as you work and live for the Lord. Take joy in your work. Work isn’t work when you enjoy your job. You ought to take pleasure in your accomplishments. Enjoy living. It is good to be alive and eat of the fruits of our labors. Live life to the fullest. Jesus can show you how. Jn 10:10; Mk 8:34-38. Jesus warns us, “TAKE HEED AND BEWARE OF COVETOUSNESS: FOR A MAN'S LIFE CONSISTS NOT IN THE ABUNDANCE OF THE THINGS WHICH HE POSSESSETH.” Lk 12:15

Take time to enjoy this brief life that will soon be over.

II. MORALS IS A TROUBLED AREA.

Honesty in your dealings. Paul wrote, "WHEREFORE PUTTING AWAY LYING, SPEAK EVERY MAN TRUTH WITH HIS NEIGHBOR..." Eph. 4:25. Honesty is a virtue God demands in speech, dealings, and promises. The wise man wrote, "A FALSE BALANCE IS ABOMINATION TO THE LORD: BUT A JUST WEIGHT IS A DELIGHT." Prov. 11:1

Honesty is still the best policy. Say what you mean and mean what you say. Let your word be your bond and bounds. Names and reputations are ruined by dishonest dealings. Solomon wrote, "A GOOD NAME IS RATHER TO BE CHOSEN THAN GREAT RICHES, AND LOVING FAVOUR RATHER THAN SILVER AND GOLD." Prov. 22:1

Holiness in speech. "LET NO CORRUPT COMMUNICATION PROCEED OUT OF YOUR MOUTH, BUT THAT WHICH IS GOOD TO THE USE OF EDIFYING THAT IT MAY MINISTER GRACE UNTO, THE HEARERS." Eph. 4:29. A vulgar mouth makes me sick. Bad language like cursing, profanity, and gossip is childish and immature. Running others down, being generally critical of others, and constantly complaining is wrong. This kind of speech makes you little and much more destroys your testimony for Christ. For God's sake talk like a Christian.


Parents should teach their children about sex. It may embarrass us, but our children need to hear the truth. If we refuse to teach them, they will get the perverted view of sex. A woman or a man should not be considered a sex object. There is a vast difference between love and lust.

My young friend, you will have a tendency to experience sex for yourself, but remember you will have to pay the price for it. Many young people find love turns to hate when they have to deal with an unwanted pregnancy. Abortion is the only solution to some expectant parents. They have violated God's Law and seek to cover it up by killing and slaughtering life.

Treat those you date and court with honor. Act like a Christian and you will find you have fewer regrets and guilt.

III. MARRIAGE IS A TROUBLED AREA.

Marry for the right reason. There are a lot of wrong reasons for getting married. When young people get married for the wrong reason the marriage will not last. Here is a list of wrong reasons for getting married.

1. Afraid of being an old maid or bachelor.
2. Sexual pleasure.
3. Like the marriage idea.
4. Get away from home.
5. Everybody else is getting married.
6. For money.
7. For social standing.
8. Because you have too. These are a few of the wrong reasons for getting married. You should date someone with the same interests that you have. Enjoy your courtship with that person. Get to know the person. Marry the person you love and don't want to live without. For God's sake, your sake, and your future mate's sake marry for the right reason.

Marry in responsibility. When you marry you are taking on a great responsibility and you should think of it that way.

The husband is to love his wife and not be bitter towards her. Col. 3:19. He is to provide for his wife, care for her, and meet her needs. Eph. 5:25-33. Paul illustrates the husband's duty in Eph. 5:25-33.

The wife is to love her husband and child, be sober, discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, and obedient to her husband. Titus 2:4-5.

The husband and wife will get out of their marriage what they put into it. Marriage should be entered into with the idea and commitment that only death would separate the couple.

Marry in recognition. According to the Lord two separate lives are to become one. Not only one flesh, but one in aim, purpose, joy, and one in all of life. The unity candle symbolizes this in the marriage ceremony.

Consider you mate's feelings, fears, and frustrations. Selfishness, childishness, and down right silliness has doomed more than one marriage. The man and woman must do a lot of adjusting. For those who are deeply in love and are willing to make it work, marriage is a rewarding way of life. Sometimes I don't want to be married. Other times I wish I
had never married, but these are only brief and passing thoughts caused by frustrations in living. My wife, Jerry, and my children, Clay and Charls, give me reasons to live. They make my life worth while. I thank the Lord for my family. Family living gives me joy, strength, comfort, and even courage to keep on going.

The Lord said, "IT IS NOT GOOD THAT THE MAN SHOULD BE ALONE; I WILL MAKE HIM AN HELP MEET FOR HIM." Gen. 2:18 Marriage is ordained and instituted by the Lord. He had the happiness of both man and woman in mind when he designed the marriage idea. If you are willing to marry for the right reason in responsibility and recognition, you will find a happy and fulfilling way of life.

IV. MASTER IS A TROUBLED AREA.

The two persons involved, Jesus is God's Holy Son. God said at His baptism, "AND LO A VOICE FROM HEAVEN, SAYING, THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, IN WHOM, I AM WELL PLEASED." Matt. 3:17 Jesus is our offering and sacrifice for sin. John The Baptist said, "BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD, WHICH TAKETH AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD." John 1:29 Jesus was tempted in all points as we are yet without sin. Hebs.

4:15 He is the sinless Son of God. II Cor. 5:21 He is Just. I Pet. 3:18 He is the Compassionate High Priest. Hebs. 4:15; Matt. 9:36 He is the example and manifestation of God's love. Jn. 3:16; I Jn. 4:19

The Devil is God's and man's adversary. "BE SOBER, BE VIGILANT; BECAUSE YOUR ADVERSARY THE DEVIL, AS A ROARING LION, WALKETH ABOUT, SEEKING WHOM HE MAY DEVOUR." I Pet. 5:8 He is called the Devil, Satan, Lucifer, Serpent, The Evil or Wicked One. He Deceives. II Cor. 4:4 He Destroys. I Pet. 5:8 He Defies. Gen. 3:1 He moves to disobedience. Eph. 2:1-3 All wickedness and evilness proceed from him. Jn 8:44 The Two Powers. Jesus has all power. He is the Creator. "ALL THINGS WERE MADE BY HIM; AND WITHOUT HIM WAS NOT ANYTHING MADE THAT WAS MADE." John 1:3 He could heal the sick. Matt 4:24 He could raise the dead. Jn 11:43 He could give sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf. John 9:6 Jesus has the power to forgive of sin. "BUT THAT YE MAY KNOW THAT THE SON OF MAN HATH POWER ON EARTH TO FORGIVE SINS,(THEN SAITH HE TO THE SICK OF Palsy.) ARISE, TAKE UP THY BED, AND GO UNTO THINE HOUSE." Matt. 9:6

The Devil has great power. The Devil's power is second only to the Lord Jesus. Look at his great power in Job chapter one. He was to blame for the death of Job's children, the stealing of Job's possessions, and the bad health that Job experienced. My young friend look at his ability in II Cor. 11:13-15.

The Two Provisions. Jesus seeks to meet your eternal need. John 10:10 He wants to provide soul salvation. I Tim. 2:4 He delivers from the penalty of sin, the power or dominion of sin. And one day the very presence of sin. II Cor. 1:10; Rev. 21:27

The Devil makes provision only for the lust of the flesh and eyes, and pride of life. I John 2:15-17 The Devil desires people to take care of the material and physical and forget about the eternal and spiritual. Rev. 20:11-15

Young person you will either serve the Lord or the Devil. You will choose one or the other. God help you to make the choice Joshua did in Joshua 24:15.

These are four troubled areas in a young person's life. "REMEMBER NOW THY CREATOR IN THE DAYS OF THY YOUTH." Eccl. 12:1

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REJOICE IN SALVATION

1. Salvation is easy. JN 10:9; EPH. 2:8-9; JN 1:11-12
2. Salvation is everlasting. JN 3:16,36; 11:25,26
3. Salvation is emancipation. JN 8:36; ROM. 8:2
4. Salvation is enjoyable. LK 10:20; PSA 51:12
5. Salvation is entrance to Heaven. JN 14:1-3; I PET. 1:3,4
6. Salvation is exalting. TIT. 2:14; REV. 5:10
7. Salvation is expectation. II COR. 5:8,9; JOB 19:25; I Cor. 15:52-57; HEBS. 6:19

GOD'S WORD AND YOU

Text: Ezra 10:1-4,10-14
I. THE CATASTROPHE. 9:4
II. THE CONCERN. 10:1
III. THE CALL. 10:10,11
IV. THE CONFESSION. 10:1,2
V. THE CONVERSION AND CLEANSING. 10:12

I WANT TO RECEIVE THE PAPER

NAME ____________________________________________
ADDRESS ____________________________________________
ZIP CODE ______ CITY ___________________ STATE ______
JOB ________; I Cor. 15:52-57; HEBS. 6:19

CHANGE OF ADDRESS ____ NEW SUBSCRIPTION ______
V. SALVATION IS "SANCTIFICATION" VS. 12B
A. Sanctified to GOOD WORKS! Eph. 2:10
B. Sanctified to BEAR FRUIT! John 15:16
C. Sanctified to GLORIFY GOD! II Cor. 6:10-20
D. Sanctified to LIGHT THE PATHS OF OTHERS! Matt. 5:16

VI. SALVATION IS INDEED FILLED WITH "ANTICIPATION" & EXPECTATION!
A. Of seeing Jesus! Jn 14:3; Acts 1:11; I Thes. 4:16
B. Of being CHANGED TO BE LIKE HIM! I John 3:2; Phil. 3:19-20
C. Anticipation of beholding HIS GLORY! John 17:24
D. Anticipation of liberation from heartache and sorrow.. Rev. 6:15-17; Rev. 21:4
E. Anticipation of the GREAT REUNION with all our saved loved ones and friends from all ages.
F. Anticipation of the MILLENNIUM under King Jesus.
G. Anticipation of the NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH!

SERVING

AS A

DEacon

James Kirkland

TEXT: Acts 6:1-7; Phil. 1:1; I Tim. 3:10

When my children were small, I told one of them that I was on my way to a service to ordain some men as deacons, and she said, "Daddy, what does a deacon do anyhow?" That's a simple question, and it isn't difficult to answer. The Scriptures on which I have based this message give a clue to what deacons do.

Most Bible scholars believe that the election of the seven men in Acts 6:1-7 was the foundation of the office of deacon in the first New Testament church.

It's significant that these men were chosen as the solution to some problems. If they serve well, deacons will help solve many problems in the life of a church.

THE PROBLEMS (VERSES 1, 2)

The church in Jerusalem was growing, and problems usually arise when disciples are increasing. Sometimes this is due to Satan's effort to slow the increase. He hates effective evangelism and growing churches. Some-
times, however, problems are the natural result of growth exceeding the ability of the leadership to handle it. That seems to have been the case in Jerusalem.

The first problem came in the form of a complaint from some of the widows of the church that they were being neglected in the daily serving of food and other necessities. Acts 6:1-7 gives us the background of this. The Grecians (Greek-speaking Jewish women who had adopted Greek customs) were complaining against the Hebrews (more strict Jewish widows) because the Grecians were being neglected in the distribution. It's easy to see how the cultural differences as well as the economic problems were creating a tension between the two groups in the church.

The second problem arose from the first, actually far more serious than the first. The Apostles were being distracted from their primary work: the ministry (service) of the word of God, that is, the preaching and teaching of the word; instead, they were having to “serve tables” tend to the distribution to widows.

THE SOLUTION (VERSES 3-6)

The Apostles did not lead the church to discontinue ministering to the widows. This caring and sharing ministry is important. A church is not to minister just to the soul of a person but to the whole person. We have Jesus' example for that in the feeding of the multitude with the little boy's loaves and fishes. (John 6:1-14). In later writings the Apostle John warns how hollow is the claim to love our brother in Christ when we selfishly refuse to give him food and clothing when he needs it. (I John 3:17).

The Apostles knew, however, what should take priority for them (verse 2). Why were they so careful about this? Because the Apostles were foundation stones in the New Testament church (Eph.2:20). Through them Christ was giving His word to His people. (John 14:26;16:13-15). They were evangelists and teachers, and nothing must distract them from this primary work.

Let's draw a lesson from this. The pastors of churches today are not apostles in the unique sense of the Twelve, Matthias and Paul, but they do have a primary work: to study the word and teaching of the Apostles (Christ's word to us) and to pass this on to the people. Nothing must be allowed to distract them from this primary work.

What was the solution to this problem as the apostles led the church? Select seven men to see the distribution of the necessities.

They were to meet definite qualifications: (1) Good reputation, both inside and outside the church. It's as important what the world outside thinks of deacons as it is what the people inside the church think of them. (2) Full of the Spirit. There's nothing mystical about this; it means they walk by the Spirit and demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit in their lives. (Gal.5:22-23). (3) Full of wisdom. They must be knowledgeable, sensible, and discreet. Someone once said that any man who is going to settle a problem among quarreling women in a church had better have wisdom—and lots of it. (4) Other qualifications are given in I Tim. 3:8-10, 12, 13, but these all fit into the general qualifications of Acts 6.

They were to take charge of this task. The church would select them, and the apostles would “appoint” them (verse 3). This apparently has reference to the formal commendation to the Lord which took place later (verse 6), but it also suggests that they were to serve under the supervision of the apostles. They would relieve the apostles of this work.

No where in the New Testament are we given an explanation of what deacons are to do in the church. The New Testament gives their qualifications without describing their work in detail. However, three things give us a clue.

First of all, the meaning of the word “deacon” is “servant” or “minister.” So, they may be appointed to serve or to minister in any way the church needs their ministry. Traditionally, certain ministries have attached themselves to the office of deacon: serving the Lord's Supper, administering the finances of the church, forming pulpit committees, acting as an advisory council to the pastor, etc. These services are all quite right for them, if a church wants to appoint them to these responsibilities. However, no ministry in the church belongs to the deacons by right of office; they serve in any ministry by the direction of the church. Both churches and deacons have sometimes forgotten this, and some instances deacons have been allowed to get a traditional hold on some ministry because everyone assumes it belongs to them.

For instance, in some cases deacons meetings prior to church business meetings become authoritative sessions in which the deacons decide what the church is to do and then tell the church. That's all right, if they're recommending. But if it's more than that, they have forgotten (and so has the church) that the church tells the deacons what to do; the deacons do not tell the church what to do. It's incredible how many church members have passively accepted the idea put to me once by a man in a church I pastored (he was not a deacon): "The people down there (at the church) ought to let the pastor and deacons run the church and keep their mouths shut." That brother needed some instruction in the church's authority to govern itself under Christ.

[Continued Next Month]
FAITHFUL DETERMINATION

The passage for our consideration in this lesson will be Joshua 14:1-15. It would be beneficial for you to read this passage before proceeding with this lesson. In our last lesson we noticed the distribution of the land by lots to the tribes of Israel. They were to possess their lots and drive out the enemy. If they would be obedient to the Lord in this endeavor they would acquire the rest that God had promised them. However, their history reveals that as a whole, they did not obey the Lord; thus they never really completely enjoyed this rest and never completely lived up to their full potential to the point that they could enjoy the fullness of blessing that was available to them. They lived below their privileges. It is sad, but it’s true, that this is the lot of most Christians today. Our fearfulness, disobedience, and lack of faith robs us of so many blessings.

However, in this lesson today, we notice a man that really stands out as a worthy example for emulation. This is a good example of faithful determination. Notice with me the following truths regarding the character of this mighty man, Caleb.

I. HE HAD A FAITH IN GOD THAT NEVER WEVERED.

He was one of the spies who had been sent into the land originally to spy out the land and to bring back a report. He had come back and had given a positive report. He had faith in God. He was ready to go for God. However, the majority of the spies were weak, faithless, disobedient, and fearful, so, due to their report, the Israelites, as you know, refused to go all the way with God. Joshua and Caleb were the only one's, in this group that eventually got to enter the promised land. The rest died. As you read Joshua 14:6-9 you see that now, forty years later, that Caleb still has this tremendous faith in God. Thank God for the Caleb's! You know, even in the Lord's church we sometimes we experience these same realities. God has some forward, progressive steps that he desires for us to take and many times the majority, due to fear, disobedience, and lack of faith refuse to step out for God. As a result history reveals that many times before a church can go forward there has to be some funerals take place. This is sad, but true. God give us people who have a faith that never wavers. These are the ones who make it possible for the blessings of God to flow. Notice also the following.

II. HIS STRENGTH NEVER WEVERED.

He says in verse 11 these words, "As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me,: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in." He realized where his strength came from. He realized the great, amazing, and marvellous ability of the Lord. A New Testament parallel verse for our profit would be II Cor. 4:15-16. "For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day."

III. HE GAINED COMPLETE VICTORY.

He was the only one who succeeded in completely expelling the enemy from his lot. Notice these scriptures: Joshua 15:14, 15:63, 17:12, and 17:13. The secret that caused him to experience victory is summed up in the last part of the 12th verse in chapter 14. "......if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said." He went in the power of the Lord. He depended upon the Lord. This is the same principle that reigned and ruled in the life of the Apostle Paul. Notice Phil. 4:13.

Glen Tropp

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Notice next that,

IV. HE HAD A BLESSING THAT NEVER WASTED.

His blessings just over flowed. This was due to his obedience and faith. He even had enough to spare for his daughter and her husband. Notice Joshua 15:14-20. The blessing of his life overflowed to other people. May God fill us to overflowing so that we can be a blessing to others. In the last place we notice that this faithful determination is exemplified in another fact.

V. HE HAD A LOVE THAT NEVER DIMINISHED.

At the age of 40, one place captured his heart. That place was Hebron. Hebron was the most powerful stronghold of the enemy. It was guarded by the strongest of giants. The word Hebron means union or alliance. It conveys within itself the meaning of fellowship, love and communion. The spiritual parallel is seen in that Satan is the great strong giant who seeks to hinder us from the place where we can experience and enjoy total love, fellowship and communion with God. If he can be successful he'll destroy our ability and avenue to the richest and choicest of God's blessings. God give us this love that never diminishes. A love that will cause us to stay in fellowship and communion with God. Remember, if you're saved the Devil can't destroy your relationship
with God, but he can hinder your fellowship and thus eliminate the driving force of faithful determination which can gain for you God's best for your life. Don't allow Satan to have victory in your life. He's the thief that Jesus talked about in John 10:10. Allow Jesus to be Lord and experience and enjoy not only eternal life but the abundant life.

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I CAN DO ALL THINGS

SAMMY ELDREDGE

TEXT: Phil 4:13
INTRO: Paul spoke these words, concerning the fact that he was a new creature, born of the Spirit with power to overcome sin and live for Christ. This should be everyone's goal. To live for Christ, is great gain, and if you are born again you have the power to do so.

I. I CAN BE SAVED TODAY.
A. The Bible is filled with passages that tell you that this is true.
   1. Isaiah 1 "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."
   2. "Come unto me all you that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."
B. In the book of Hebrews, it is written, "If today you hear His voice harden not your heart."
C. If you are lost today you can be saved if you will just call out to Jesus for forgiveness.

II. I CAN BUILD AN ARK TO THE SAVING OF OTHERS.
A. Read what Noah did.
   1. He heard God's word.
   2. He moved by faith.
   3. He finished the ark of safety before the judgment came.
B. To you this means:
   1. Teach your children the things of God now.
   2. Witness to others on your job.
   3. Give them something to turn to when they feel the conviction of God.
C. When judgment comes they will be safe in the ark.

III. I CAN OVERCOME SIN.
A. Paul said in the book of Romans, "Sin no longer has dominion over me."

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1. What Paul meant was by the power the Spirit that dwelt in him, he would be able to say 'no' to sin.
2. It did not change the fact that he was a sinner, but his power over sin.
B. Sin can no longer condemn you if you are in Christ. Rom. 8:1
   1. "There is therefore no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus."
   2. Dead unto sin and alive unto Christ.

IV. I CAN BE CONTENT WITH WHAT I HAVE.
A. This has to do with believing Jesus.
B. He has promised all things that are necessary.
C. This world is not my home, I am the heir of all things.
D. So I can be content here to wait for the real inheritance.

V. I CAN LIVE AND DIE WITH ASSURANCE.
A. I was created by the hand of God.
B. I was kept and am kept by His power.
C. It was His blood that was shed to pay my sin debt.
D. He called me by His spirit to salvation.
E. He is the one who promised to keep me unto the day of redemption.
F. Then all I have to do is believe.

Conclusion: This is what the Bible has been saying all along. "Look unto me all ye ends of the earth and be saved."

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The Death Of The Redeemed

1. The death of the redeemed is precious. Psa. 116:15
2. The death of the redeemed is blessed. Rev. 14:13
3. The death of the redeemed is a home-coming. II Cor. 5:8,9
4. The death of the redeemed is gain. Phil. 1:21
5. The death of the redeemed is better. Phil. 1:23
6. The death of the redeemed is a victory. I Cor. 15:57
7. The death of the redeemed is a rest. Rev. 14:13
FULFILLING THE WORK
TEXT: Nehemiah 4:1-6

Richard Spruill

I. THE PROBLEM vs. 1-3
   A. The problem was two-fold
      1. They needed to rebuild the wall.
      2. They had to overcome the resistance.
   B. Nehemiah encouraged the building of the wall.
   C. The area rulers mocked them. vs 1-3

II. THE PRAYER vs 4-5
   A. Nehemiah recognized the greatest problem, discouragement.
   B. He recognized the greatest problem solver.
   C. He made specific request of the Lord.
      1. Look upon us because we are despised vs 4
      2. Turn their mocking back upon them. vs 4
      3. Make them the prey of those who have captured us. vs 4

III. THE PAY-OFF vs 6
   A. The wall was built in 52 days.
   B. God had made provisions and answered their prayers.
   C. The people wanted to do the work.

IV. THE PROFITABILITY
   A. Identify the problem and work on it alone.
   B. Seek God's help in solving that problem
      James 5:13-18
      1. Go to the Lord in prayer vs 13-15
      2. Make that prayer specific vs 16
      3. Proof of the power of prayer vs 17-18
   C. We are guaranteed success.
      1. God's Word is the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice.
      2. When we follow that Word, we will find full satisfaction.
      D. "Stand by the Word of God, and the God of the Word will stand by you."

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Dear Brother in Christ:
"Again I must say, I enjoy and receive a great blessing from the literature of SOUNDING OUT THE WORD MINISTRY. I am a deacon of the church and occasionally I have to fill in for our preaching deacon at his convalescent ministry and your papers or booklet come in handy at the spur of the moment for an outline. Your ministry here is much welcomed. Everyone who are receiving their literature is very thankful to have such wonderful outlines. The ministry is reaching out. Some are sending them abroad. I myself am sending them to Venezuela and to the Philippines. I gave some to my son and he rides on a bus enroute to work for two hours. People are curious about his reading and he passes it on and has noticed that it is passed on to others."

Charles Weaver