BACK TO BETHEL

"AND THE LORD APPEARED UNTO ABRAM, AND SAID, UNTO THY SEED WILL I GIVE THIS LAND: AND THERE BUILDEST HE AN ALTAR UNTO THE LORD, WHO APPEARED UNTO HIM. AND HE REMOVED FROM THENCE UNTO A MOUNTAIN ON THE EAST OF BETHEL, AND PITCHED HIS TENT, HAVING BETHEL ON THE WEST, AND HAI ON THE EAST: AND THERE HE BUILT AN ALTAR UNTO THE LORD, AND CALLED UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD. AND ABRAM Journeyed, going on still toward the south. And there was a famine in the land: AND ABRAM WENT DOWN INTO EGYPT TO SOJOURN THERE; FOR THE FAMINE WAS GRIEVOUS IN THE LAND." Genesis 12:7-10


God called Abraham to leave his country and his people to go to a land that God would show him. The Lord promised to make a great nation of Abraham and make him a blessing to all the families of the earth. Abraham answered God's call and began his journey. He came to a place called Bethel and built an altar unto the Lord and called upon His name. Later he traveled to Egypt because of a grievous famine. In Egypt Abraham experienced some problems and returned to Bethel to the altar he had built at the beginning.

As we study this period in Abraham's life, we can see a cycle that God's people often go thru in their Christian lives. The experiences of the Old Testament saints were recorded for our examples and admonition. I Cor. 10:11 we can learn a valuable lesson in living as we study their experiences.

I. BASIC FACTS CONCERNING ABRAM AND BETHEL.
A. He was called of God.
B. He answered God's call.
C. He built an altar to the Lord.
D. He went into Egypt.
E. He experienced problems in Egypt.
F. He returned to Bethel.

II. PARALLEL FACTS CONCERNING OUR SERVICE TO GOD.

Grace Missionary Baptist Church
1823 Aldine Mall Road
Houston, Texas 77039
to call out to man. He calls in two main areas.

He calls to salvation. He wants all to be saved. I Tim. 2:4 He is not willing that any should perish. II Pet. 3:9 Isaiah wrote, "LOOK UNTO ME, AND BE YE SAVED, ALL THE ENDS THE EARTH: FOR I AM GOD, AND THERE IS NONE ELSE." Isa.45:22 Jesus said, "FOR THE SON OF MAN IS COME TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THAT WHICH WAS LOST." Luke 19:10 God's people are ambassadors for Christ besieching man to be reconciled to God. II Cor. 5:20 The Lord and His people call to sinners to come to Jesus. "AND THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE SAY, COME. AND LET HIM THAT HEARETH SAY, COME. AND LET HIM THAT IS THIRSTY COME. AND WHOSOEVER WILL, LET HIM TAKE THE WATER OF LIFE FREELY." Rev. 22:17

He calls to service. Paul said we are to present our bodies a living sacrifice. Rom. 12:1 Jesus called to His disciples, "FOLLOW ME, AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERMEN OF MEN." Matt. 4:19 We are to live unto Him who died for us. II Cor. 5:14,15 Jesus also said, "...WHOEVER WILL COME AFTER ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME." Mark 8:34.

B. As Abraham Answered God's Call In Obedience, So We Should Answer God's Call.

God made His will known to Abraham who was willing to do what God called upon him to do. He left his land and people. "SO ABRAM DEPARTED, AS THE LORD HAD SPOKEN UNTO HIM..." He was obedient to the Lord and His will for his life. How wonderful it would be if people would move as God called them.

God calls upon His people to serve Him. He asks us to present ourselves as sacrifices. He asks us to be His followers. He asks us to glorify Him in body and spirit. I Cor. 6:19,20. There are several things that you can do when He calls you to service. He may call you to surrender your life to preach the gospel. He may impress upon you the need of special service in Music, Youth Work, Writing, etc. You are called upon to use your God given talent for the Lord.

God is calling you to service. What will your answer be? Will you just ignore the call thinking God will quit calling you? Will you refuse God's call and say No? Will you offer excuses as God calls you? When God called Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt, Moses offered excuses. Moses first questioned, Who Am I? Exod.3:11 Who shall I tell them sent me? Exod. 3:13 He said they would not believe him. Exod. 4:1 Moses said, "I AM NOT ELOQUENT OF SPEECH." Exod. 4:10 God give us more people like Isaiah who said, "HERE AM I, SEND ME." Isa. 6:8 The scriptures say, "WHEREFORE (AS THE HOLY GHOST SAITH, TODAY IF YE WILL HEAR HIS VOICE, HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS..." Hebs. 3:7,8 C. As Abraham Built An Altar To The Lord, So Should We Build An Altar.

One of the first things Abraham did after he answered God's call and started on his way was to build an altar. He offered a sacrifice and called upon the name of the Lord. In Abraham's day, the head of the family would offer a sacrifice for his family unto the Lord. An example of this truth is Job in Job 1:5.

The altar was a very special place. A sacrifice was always made on the altar. We are reminded of Bible instruction to be crucified with Christ Gal. 2:20; 5:24 and to mortify certain things from our members. Col. 3:5 An altar was also a place of worship and praise. At the altar the sin debt was settled and man experienced and realized the blessedness of God's forgiveness and mercy and love. Men often lifted their voices in praise and worship to the Lord. Ezra 3 The altar was a place of obedience. Man met God's requirement at the altar. The altar was also a place of reverence. The offerer was reminded of God's holiness and righteousness. The altar was a place of forgiveness. Sins were confessed and forgiven at the altar. The altar was a place of prayer. Abraham built an altar and called upon the Lord.

The altar is a vital place in the lives of God's people. When God calls you to His service and you answer His call, you need to build you an altar and call regularly upon the Lord. The altar doesn't have to be near the front of the church or auditorium. You need to build an altar in your life where you can meet God at any time and in any place. The altar will be a place of sacrifice, worship and praise, obedience, reverence, forgiveness, and prayer. When we refuse to build an altar and do not approach God's throne of grace, we will be fainting. Luke 18:1 At the altar we find help and grace. Hebs. 4:16

D. As Abraham went into Egypt, Even So We Go Into Egypt.

A very precious famine came upon the land. Abraham decided to go to the land of Egypt because of the famine. Famines cause a shortage of water which speaks of refreshments and a shortage of food which speaks of nourishment. The trip to Egypt was a fruitless trip for Abraham. Egypt is a type of the world and sin. The Lord often rebuked Israel for going to Egypt for help instead of depending upon the Lord for their needs.
The Lord's people can go back into the world. We can experience some spiritual famines in our lives. Instead of looking to the Lord and depending on Him we can look to the world. Demas was one of Paul's fellow helpers. He was a worker for the Lord, but II Tim. 4:10 tells us Demas went back into the world. "FOR DEMAS HATH FORSAKEN ME, HAVING LOVED THIS PRESENT WORLD..."
The cares of life and the deceitfulness of riches can cause us to be unfruitful. Matt. 13:22

Job said everyone would experience problems. Job 14:1 Troubles in marriage, with children, with finances, and with health can cause a spiritual famine in your life. Your problems can cause you to be slack in prayer, reading your Bible, and trusting the Lord. God's Word teaches us to live a separated life. Paul teaches us that there can be no fellowship between righteousness and unrighteousness. II Cor. 6:14-16 John made it so plain that you cannot walk in the light and darkness at the same time. I John 1:6,7 Paul wrote, "WHEREFORE COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM, AND BE YE SEPARATE, SAITH THE LORD..."

II Cor. 6:17

E. Abraham Got Into Trouble In Egypt, So The Lord's People Will Get Into Trouble In The World.

Abraham journeyed to Egypt to escape the famine. He thought things would be better in Egypt. The scriptures simply tell us he went to Egypt. Nothing is said about the Lord telling Abraham to go. No record is given about Abraham seeking divine guidance.

A brief history of Abraham's trip to Egypt is recorded in Gen. 12:10-20. While in Egypt Abraham learns to do things which are not right. He learned how to be deceitful.

He told the men of Egypt Sarah was his sister. He told half of the truth. Sarah was his half-sister, but he implied she was not his wife. Most lies are a mixture of a little truth with a lot of lies. Abraham learned how to be afraid. He said Sarah was his sister because he feared some man would want her and kill him to get her. He even allowed Pharaoh to take Sarah to his house knowing Pharaoh's interest in her. Abraham was confronted with what he had done and makes his acknowledgements and confession.

The Lord's people will go thru some troubled times. We will have our problems just like the lost people. If we do not depend upon the Lord we may go into the world. The world has nothing to offer the Lord's people. The world is governed by the lust of the flesh and eyes and the pride of life. I John 2:15,16 We can be like a prodigal. We can have plenty of the Lord's blessings and go into the world and live riotously and waste time, talent, money, and health before we come to our senses and return to the Lord.

When you have your problem just remember four things.

(1) The Lord knows you and He loves you. John 13:35 (2) The Lord wants the problem to take place or He allows it to happen. The problem will serve a purpose or reason in your life. Job is a good example of this. (3) The Lord's grace is sufficient. II Cor. 12:9 (4) Trust in the Lord because faith will obtain the victory. I John 5:4 Forsaking the Lord and going into the world will only make things worse.

F. As Abraham Returned To Bethel, So We Need To Return To Bethel.

Abraham's trip to Egypt had proven to be very troublesome and difficult. Looking back at what had happened Abraham could have easily concluded he should not have gone to Egypt. Many of life's greatest lessons are learned only thru experience.

Abraham left Egypt and went back to Bethel. He went back to the place where he had started from. Gen 13:3 He returned to Bethel. "UNTO THE PLACE OF THE ALTAR, WHICH HE HAD MADE THERE AT THE FIRST: AND THERE ABRAM CALLED ON THE NAME OF THE LORD." Gen. 13:4

The Lord shows us that we need to return to Bethel and the altar and call upon Him. We can act hastily and foolishly when troubled or when dealing with many problems or constant problems. We can take a trip into the world and learn that it doesn't pay. We can go out full and return to the Lord empty.

Jesus said He had some things against the Church at Ephesus. This church had left her first love. Rev. 2:4 The Lord instructed her to repent and do her first works. Rev. 2:5 How pitiful to have to start over and try to build a testimony and life that will count for the Lord.

I am so thankful that the Lord invites His wayward, backslidden people to repent of sins and live for Him. He gave a plan to Israel to return from her sinful condition, "IF MY PEOPLE, WHICH ARE CALLED BY MY NAME, SHALL HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND PRAY AND SEEK MY FACE, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS: THEN WILL I HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN, AND WILL HEAL THEIR LAND." II Chron. 7:14

Listen to the Lord's beautiful invitation. "COME UNTO ME, ALL YE THAT LABOR AND ARE HEAVY LADED, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST." Matt. 11:28 May the Lord give you the grace to return to Bethel.
SEVEN “C’s” FOR A SUCCESSFUL CHRISTIAN

TEXT: Romans 12:1-2

INTRODUCTION: For everything there is a formula for success. The salesman must have poise, personality, push, and persuasion. The businessman must have capital, courage, conviction and caution. All these are important in the Christian life, but there are seven musts for success:

I. CONVICTION. "A state of being convinced; a strong persuasion of belief."
   A. Daniel had conviction. Dan. 1:8
   B. The three Hebrew children had convictions. Dan. 3:16,17
   C. Peter showed convictions. Acts 4:19-20
   D. Stephen died for his convictions. Acts 7:51-60
   E. Paul and Silas suffered for their convictions. Acts 16:23

II. COURAGE. "The quality of mind which enables us to meet danger and difficulty with firmness. A human quality which keeps one going in face of opposition and danger."
   A. Daniel had courage when he purposed his heart.
   B. Harry Shelton refused to obey an order to work at the canteen, saying, "I joined to be a soldier—not a bartender." He was reported, he told the commanding officer the same and the captain said, "This is the kind of men we need."
   C. We need "HOLY BOLDNESS". Acts 4:31
   D. Joseph was courageous when he ran from the wicked woman. Gen. 39:7-13

III. CHASTITY. Pure and clean. II. Tim. 2:21
   A. God may use an ugly vessel but not an unclean one.
   B. There is power in purity. Sir Galahad had strength of ten because his heart was pure.

IV. CONSECRATION. "Dedicated: to set apart or devote to the service of worship of God. To render sacred."

V. CONCERN. This is the lost word in our vocabulary. Psalm 152:4
   A. Jesus was concerned. Matt. 18:11
   B. He wept over Jerusalem. Matt. 23:37
   C. He was concerned for the mob. Luke 23:34
   D. He was concerned for the conditions of their hearts. Luke 23:39

IV. CROSS BEARING Luke 14:27
   A. A little girl was saved. Her father beat her, and just before she died, she said, "Mother, give me a piece of the blood stained cloth I wore. I want to let Jesus know I suffered for Him."

VII. CHRIST This is not last, only saved until the last. This must come first.
   John 1:12
   A. Revelation 22:17
   B. Acts 4:12
   C. Acts 10:43

W.L. TULLOS

THE PREACHER AND THE PULPIT

TEXT: Nehemiah 8:4

INTRODUCTION:

A. That day all the elements were present for a worship service
   1. People were gathered.
   2. Preacher, (Ezra the Priest)
   3. Pulpit made for the purpose

B. The term has come to be used SYNONYMously with the preacher, and/or preaching.

C. In this message may we see the relationship of the preacher and the pulpit. This verse is the only verse in the Bible where the word "pulpit" is used. Notice the following:

I. SOME FLEE THE PULPIT.
   A. By refusing to accept the call to preach.
      1. Not every saved person is called to preach in a pulpit
      2. Yet God does call some, and there are many no doubt who will accept not His call.
   B. By running from God. (Jonah)
   C. By returning home.(John Mark)(Disciples we go fishing)

D. By reasons of persecution.
   1. Elijah fled at the word of Jezebel's persecution.
   2. Jeremiah would quit, but the Word burned in his bones.

II. SOME FEAR THE PULPIT
   A. By reason of Reverence. "awed"
      1. This is as it ought to be.
      2. It is a fearful thing to fall in the hands of God.
   B. By reason of ridicule- "mock"
      1. Preachers are subject to be mocked. Elisha
      2. God's men sometimes fear the reproaches, but remember it is not wise to mock God's preachers.
   C. By reason of their responsibility.
      1. It is a great duty. preach-minister witness-comfort.
      2. Sometimes we fear that we haven't said the right thing, or done the right thing.

III. SOME FAIL THE PULPIT
   A. By putting other things first.
         (CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)
THE BRILLIANCE OF CHRIST'S PERSON (3)

This lesson today is Part 3 of the subject, "THE BRILLIANCE OF THE PERSON OF CHRIST." This particular series of messages deals with the life of Christ. Thus far, we have studied (1) The Birth of Christ; (2) The Brilliance of the Person of Christ as it relates to His deity; and (3) The Brilliance of the Person of Christ as it relates to His humanity. In this lesson, we'll notice The Brilliance of the Person of Christ as seen in His titles. We'll develop 5 main titles for your consideration and contemplation.

I. HE'S THE MESSIAH.

The divine Word declares this truth in John 4:24-26 and John 1:41. The discernment of this truth is gleaned from the definition of the term Messiah. This is the Hebrew word to which the Greek word Christos answers. This simply means that Jesus is the Christ or the anointed one. He is the anointed or appointed one by God to deliver His people and ultimately set upon the royal throne of David, ruling and reigning forever. This, as the anointed one, you can easily see His supremacy and The Brilliance of His Person.

II. HE'S THE MESSENGER AND MESSAGE.

The scriptural declarations that reveal to us that He is the messenger sent from God are as follows: John 6:38- "For I came down from Heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me." John 8:42 "Jesus said unto them, if God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me," and Heb. 1:1-2 "God, who at sundry times, and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days Spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;" The scriptural declarations revealing the fact that He is the messenger are seen in the following verses. John 5:39 "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which Testify of me." I Cor. 1:23-24 "But we preach Christ crucified unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; but unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

The spiritual comprehension that needs to be ascertained is that Jesus Christ as the messenger and message is the revelation, manifestation & communication of God to man. He is the Living Word. The Bible is the Written Word. As THE Word of God, He is a medium of revelation. By words, a speaker exhibits both his intellectual caliber and his moral character. Christ, as the Word, reveals the attributes and perfection of God. He displayed His power, manifested His wisdom, exhibited His holiness, and unveiled His heart. As the Word of God, He is also the medium of manifestation. I have in my mind a thought, but others know not its nature. One clothes their thoughts in a word or words and then people begin to know something about them or what they are thinking. Christ as the Word, manifests the invisible God. Finally, as the Word, Christ is the means of communication. By words, I make known my will, express myself, and impart knowledge. Christ is the divine communicator or transmitter, communicating to us the life, laws, and love of God. Surely, you can see The Brilliance of His Person in these terms.

III. HE'S THE MISSING CORNER STONE.

The passages which verify this title are Acts 4:10-11 and I Pet. 2:6-8. The impact of this reality is that without Him we are incomplete (Col. 2: 10); without Him we have no foundation (I Cor. 3:11, Psa. 40: 1-3); without Him our life and it's works cannot stand the stresses and strains of life (I Cor. 3); and without Him we cannot do anything (John 15 and Phil. 4:13).

This stone, Jesus Christ, which seeks to make you complete, saved, safe, secure, and stable will become a stumbling stone and a rock of offense if you reject Him. (I Pet. 2:6-8). This stone will ultimately grind to powder those who refuse and reject Him. An exemplification of this reality is seen in the dream that Nebuchadnezzar had which is recorded in Daniel 2:25-45. This image was an object lesson portraying the history of Gentile supremacy. The first empire was the Babylonian Empire under Nebuchadnezzar, (Dan. 2:36-38). The second empire was the Mede & Persian Empire. (Dan. 2:39 & Dan. 5:30-31). The third empire was the Grecian Empire under Alexander. (Dan. 2:29 & Dan. 7). The fourth empire was the Roman Empire: (Dan. 2:40-41). The Roman Empire was existing during the days of Christ. History reveals that it became divided into two parts. Around 475 to 500 AD, the Roman Empire desintegrated into oblivion. Its parts became empires or nations within themselves. (Italy, Germany, Great Britain, etc). In Daniel 2:42-44a, we see that the last form of Gentile supremacy will be a coalition of 10 nations from the revived Roman Empire. Three of these nations will sort of go together and from these the super leader will arise to control the world. In the prophesy of Zechariah, he says the leader, or Anti-christ will
then bring the united army to Israel to destroy the people of God. This transpires in what is known as the Tribulation Period. The final world power will be the Kingdom of Heaven. (Dan. 2:44-45). The stone will crush these 10 nations to pieces. The stone is Jesus Christ - the Rock of All Ages. Israel stumbled over Him, the church is built on Him, and the future Gentile world will be crushed by Him. Once again, in this title, you can see The Brilliance of His Person.

IV. HE'S THE MASTER.

The term master carries with it the idea of one who rules over a household. It means Lord. It seems like that all of creation realizes this with the exception of man. The scriptures verify this through the presentation of several examples. In Mark 11:1-11, you see where a colt (donkey) realized this. In verse 2 of this selection of scripture you see where that no man had ever sat on this colt. However, Christ got on him and he didn’t buck once. He knew who was on him. In Mark 4:35-41, you see where the winds and the waves obeyed Him as He stilled the storm. In Genesis 22:15 in the incident where Abraham had gone to offer up Isaac, we see that after God viewed the complete willingness of Abraham, He stopped Abraham from slaying his son, and yet we note that there was a sacrifice provided because there was a ram nearby which was caught in the thicket. Do you think it was just an accident that the ram was there? In John 11, you see where that even death responds to Him in the raising of Lazarus.

Men today will not allow Him to be their Master or Lord. We use terms today so loosely without realizing there true significance. Jesus tried to get us to realize this in Luke 6:46, when he said, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

V. HE’S THE MAGNIFICENT TRUE VINE. John 15:1-4

The purpose of the Lord’s teachings is to produce Christians and productivity.

There is a great profit to be derived from this passage if we'll allow the Holy Spirit to minister to us. Verses 1-3 deals with bearing fruit. Notice the definitions of the following terms in these verses. In verse 1, the term vine refers to a plant with a long stem and the term husbandman refers to a manager. In verse 2 the term branch refers to a woody extension growing from the truck or main stem; the term beareth means to produce; the term fruit refers to the result or product, and the term purgeth means to cleanse or to rid of impurities. In verse 3 the term clean means to be free from contamination or impurities.

As we look at the phrases containing these terms may God help us to discern the teaching. The first phrase is "I am the true vine." The personal pronoun "I" refers to the speaker who is the Lord. The adjective "true" implies that there are some false vines. False vines either do not produce or they produce the wrong fruit. A good example of producing the wrong fruit is found in Isaiah 5:1-7. The vine refers to life, strength, or sustenance. Jesus Christ is the life and the one who produces life. (John 1:4, John 10:10, John 11:25 and John 14:6).

The next phrase is "my father is the husbandman." This refers to the Heavenly Father's divine care, compassion, and complete provisions for our needs. Included in this is (1) His will, (2) His watchfulness, and (3) our willingness. (Psa. 115:12, Matt. 6:32, Luke 12:7 & 1 Pet. 5:7).

The next phrase is "every branch in me." This refers to the saved. The subject under consideration is fruit bearing - not salvation. This is very important for the correct interpretation of this passage of scripture. Remember - the subject under consideration is productivity - not personal salvation.

The next phrase is "that beareth not fruit." This refers to a failure to produce or bear fruit. Unfruitfulness will receive divine judgment. (Matt. 3:10). Unfruitfulness is also caused by worldliness (Matt. 15:22); will cause the Master to be disappointed (Luke 13:6); and is also the result of a failure to invest life's resources due to indifference, apathy or laziness. (Luke 19:20). The fruit that we're talking about is listed in Gal. 5:22-23.

The phrase, "He taketh away" refers to setting on the shelf or losing one's influence and usefulness. I Cor. 9:27.

The phrase, "every branch that beareth fruit" refers to those who are producing or fulfilling their function.

The phrase "He purgeth it" refers to cutting off, clipping or chastisement. (Prov. 3:11-12) The benefit derived from this purging or affliction is that this could be a blessing in disguise. (Job 5:17, Job 35:10, Psa. 119:67, II Cor. 4:17 and Heb. 12:11).

Finally, you notice the phrase "that it may bring forth more fruit." This testing or trying is for our profit. This phrase also teaches us that there are degrees of fruitfulness. (Matt. 13:8).

Now, as we notice the divine procedure involved in this task (John 15:3), we'll note (1) the passages, (2) the procedure, and (3) the principle that the Christian must not forget.

The passages that you need to study in reference to this teaching are as follows: Psa. 119:9, John 17:17, Eph. 5:26, & I Pet. 1:22.

The procedure which must be followed is of a three-fold nature. (1) the presentation of the Word (Eph. 6:17), (2) the performance of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 6:17, Heb. 4:12), (3) the preparation of the individual (Matt. 13:18-23).

The principles that the Christian must not forget. In this notice with me first, THE FACT THAT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD (John 15:4), we must depend on Him! (II Chron. 20:12, Psa. 127:1, Jer. 10:23, John 3:7, II Cor. 3:5, and Phil. 4:13).
**texto plano**

Scofield says that this abiding in Christ means to have no known sin unjudged and unconfessed; to have no interest into which the Lord is not included; no life which He cannot share. It means you take your burdens to Him; draw all wisdom, life, and strength from Him; and that you allow nothing in your life that will damage your fellowship with Him.

In verse 5 you notice THE FRUIT THAT WILL BE UNVEILED. The Christ-like life will be seen through you. This includes the fruits of the Spirit and all other Christian graces. (Gal. 5:22-23, II Cor. 6:6, and II Pet. 1:5-7). The three conditions that must exist in order for there to be real fruit bearing are as follows: (1) contact with the Living Water and Word (Psa. 1:1-3), (2) spiritual receptivity (Matt. 15:23) & (3) the death of the old man. (John 12:24, Col. 3:8-10, Rom. 6:1-13 and Col. 3:12-17). The Christ life will be realized in you. You will realize and recognize the change that is taking place in your heart and life. You will become less occupied with self and selfish desires and you'll find yourself becoming more occupied with the Saviour. You'll realize your utter helplessness and your dire need to depend upon Him.

In verse 6, you notice THE FAILURE THAT WILL BE UNVEILED. You'll become separated, backslidden, and a castaway as far as, service and usefulness is concerned, if you do not depend upon Him.

The summation of the Lord's work is seen in John 15:7-14 as it relates to fruitbearing. The REQUIREMENTS are seen in the words, abide (v-7), bear (v-8), continue (v-9), keep (v-10), love (v-12), and do (v-14). The REASONS for these requirements are as follows: (1) We should abide in Him so that our prayers will be answered; (2) We should bear fruit because this glorifies the Father and makes us truly His disciples; (3) We should continue in Him because He loves us; (4) We should keep His commandment because this proves our love to Him; (5) We should love one another because He loves us; and (6) We should do His commands because this is the way to really be His friend. The RESULTS of all this action will be that the Father will be glorified (v-8) and we will experience full joy (v-11).

Surely, by now, you can see The Brilliance of the Person of Christ.

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**PRECIOUS PROMISES**

**TEXT:** II Peter 1:1-4

**INTRODUCTION**

A. Of Abraham Rom. 4:20-21
B. Of Paul II Cor. 1:20
C. Peter II Pet. 3:9,13

**I. THE PRECIOUS PROMISE OF HIS RETURN:**

A. The Promise
   1. Illustration by Jesus: Luke:12-13
   2. Testimony of the "MEN IN WHITE:" Acts 1:11

B. Purpose of the Return:
   1. To receive His own!
   2. Review our works since we were saved!
   3. Reward for FAITHFULNESS and SERVICE RENDERED!
   4. Reveal His glory TO and IN us!
      a. Paul uses this to ENCOURAGE the troubled children of God in Thessalonica. II Thess. 1:7, 10

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**b. Paul asked the saved in Rome to LOOK AWAY FROM THE ACHES AND PAINS TO THE GLORY! Rom. 8:18**

**II. THE PRECIOUS PROMISE OF BODILY RESURRECTION:**

A. John 11:25-26
B. John 11:41-44
C. I Cor. 15:51-52
D. John 5:28-29
E. Put Rev. 1:18 and John 14:19 together and LOOK UP!

**III. THE PRECIOUS PROMISE OF REUNION!**

A. Associate these passages:
   1. Prayer of Jesus to be with His own:
      John 17:24
   2. II Cor. 5:8
   3. I Thess. 4:16-17
   B. David's Faith: II Sam. 12:23
   C. Matthew 8:11
   D. Illustrated in the MT. of Transfiguration: Matt 17:1-3

**IV. THE PRECIOUS PROMISE OF REWARD FOR FAITHFULNESS AND SERVICE!**

A. Hebrews 6:10
B. I Cor. 3:13-15
C. II Cor. 5:10
D. Matthew 25:21
E. Paul's Ambition. Phil. 3:14
F. Paul's Admonition to believers. I Cor. 9:24; 25b

**V. THE PRECIOUS PROMISE OF HIS REIGN ON EARTH!**

A. Psa. 24:7-10
B. Luke 1:32-33
D. Matthew 26:29
E. Rev. 3:21
2. The disciples in Acts 6 - They were serving tables.
3. May the pulpit never become second place.
B. By preaching false doctrine. It is failure to preach anything other than what God bids.
1. Guilty in O.T. Jer. 23:11; 13
2. Guilty in N.T. II Peter 2; Jude
C. By pushing themselves-
D. By preaching to please others & not God.
IV. SOME FILL THE PULPIT
A. By expounding and explaining the Word. This is the case of Ezra.
B. By exposing sin. Ezra reminded the folks of their sin.
C. By edifying the church. (As members are built up in the Lord, so the church is built up, and glorifies God.
D. By Exalting Jesus.
E. By evangelizing--
1. Preach all have sinned.
2. Preach all need salvation.
3. Preach all can be saved through Christ.

LUTHER CRAWFORD

Follow Christ’s Call
“So Run, That Ye May Obtain.” (I Cor. 9:24)

1984 ANNUAL BIBLE CONFERENCE
1A Joe Morrell VICTORY OVER SIN
1B D.B. Wright SINNERS SOUGHT BY THE GRACE OF GOD
2A Marlin Freeman ENTHUSIASM
2B Irvin Roshlo THE HELP OF GOD AND HOW TO OBTAIN IT
3A Devin Ward READY MAN
3B Odis Bryan BE CAREFUL
4A Calvin Gould WORKING OUT OUR OWN SALVATION
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5A Luther Crawford THE PREACHER AND THE PULPIT
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6B Maxie Haynes VALLEYS
7A Maxie Haynes VALLEYS (CONTINUED)
7B John Williams SO GREAT SALVATION
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9A D.B. Wright STANDING BY GRACE (CONTINUED)
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SOUNDING OUT THE WORD MINISTRIES

The Personnel
DIRECTOR .................................. CHARLES WILLING
TREASURER ................................ JOHN SKIPPER
ASSISTANT TREASURER .................... JAMES THOMPSON

The Purpose
(1) Sound Out The Gospel with a prayer that someone, somewhere may hear and be saved.
(2) Sound Out The Word to help Christians Intake Spiritual Food which is so vital in their Growth Process in Christ.
(3) Serve as a helper in helping others find a Missionary Baptist Church of like faith and order in their area so that they can give God glory in and through her.

The Program
Mission Ministry
Support various Missionaries, 2 Seminaries, and 1 Youth Camp

Radio Ministry
KCOL ... 9:30 PM Each Sunday... Houston, Texas ... 1071 FM
KPBC ... 2:30 PM Each Sunday... Dallas, Texas ... 1040 AM
KHYM ... 4:00 PM Each Sunday... Gilmer, Texas ... 1060 AM

Publication Ministry
We print a monthly Religious Paper which contains sermon and study outlines to help you better understand the Scriptures. In addition to our paper we have printed six outline books and desire to print others in the near future. All publications are for free distribution. Write for further information.

Help us SOUND OUT THE WORD through...MISSIONS.... RADIO....AND PUBLICATIONS. Why not consider this a mission project in your church? All checks should be made out to: SOUNDING OUT THE WORD MINISTRIES, and send to the following address: GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH 1823 Aldine Mail Route, Houston, Texas 77039. Your prayerful and financial help will be greatly appreciated.