MEET THE LORD AT THE ALTAR

"AND THE LORD APPEARED UNTO ABRAHAM, AND SAID, UNTO THY SEED WILL I GIVE THIS LAND; AND THERE BUILT HE AN ALTAR UNTO THE LORD, WHO APPEARED UNTO HIM, AND HE REMOVED FROM THENCE INTO A MOUNTAIN ON THE EAST OF BETHEL, AND PITCHED HIS TENT, HAVING BETHEL ON THE EAST, AND HAI ON THE WEST: AND THERE HE BUILT AN ALTAR UNTO THE LORD, AND CALLED UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD." Gen. 12:7,8

Abraham was called of God to follow Him into another land where God would make a great nation of him. As Abraham answered God's call and proceeded to follow Him, he recognized the need and importance of building an altar and meeting the Lord at the altar. In Abraham's day it was a custom of the Lord's people to build an altar and offer sacrifices unto the Lord. There are many other examples of God's people building altars, but notice David in II Sam. 24:25 and Noah in Gen. 8:20.

The Lord's people still need altars today. We need them in our homes and in our churches. The altar was a very special place. It was a place of pardon, peace, praise, propitiation, and prayer. The Lord's work and churches are suffering today because His people are not building altars and offering self upon them. Paul entreated us to present our bodies living sacrifices. Rom. 12:1 The Lord wants to meet us at the altar.
1. THE ALTAR, A PLACE OF PARDON.

Man's sin. Nearly all the offerings were connected with man's sinfulness. There is a list of five offerings in the book of Leviticus. The offerings are: Meat Offering Lev. 2:7, Peace Offering Lev. 3:3, Sin Offering Lev. 4:3, Trespass Offering Lev. 6:2, and Burnt Offering. Lev. 6:9. These and other offerings were related some way to man's sinfulness.

Sin must be dealt with. God chooses to settle the sin question at the altar. Before the law system, family heads would approach the altar and offer sacrifices for the family. Job is an example of this. Job 1:5 The priests were ordained of God to offer sacrifices unto the Lord. Man still sins and he must meet God at the altar to settle it. "THE SACRIFICES OF GOD ARE A BROKEN SPIRIT: A BROKEN AND CONTRITE HEART, O GOD, THOU WILT NOT DESPISE." Psa. 51:17

God's pardon. God loves to pardon sin. He delights in pardoning sin. He's gracious and merciful to sinful man. He delights to do so. Micah 7:18 We sin against the Lord and He must pardon us. "BUT THAT YE

Charles Swilling

MAY KNOW THAT THE SON OF MAN HATH THE POWER TO FORGIVE SINS..." Matt. 9:5 He forgives or pardons us completely, compassionately, and continually as we confess sin.

"IF WE CONFESSION OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS, AND TO CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS." I John 1:9 He wants to reason with us about our sins. Isa. 1:18 He chooses to do so at the altar.

II. THE ALTAR, A PLACE OF PEACE.

Man's sin. Isaiah gives us a principle about sin in Isaiah 59:1,2 Our sins separate us from God. Sin destroys our peace of mind and heart with God. Sin does not sever...
our relationship with God, but it breaks our fellowship with Him. "IF WE SAY THAT WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM, AND WALK IN DARKNESS, WE LIE, AND DO NOT THE TRUTH." I John 1:6 Sin chills our love for God. Matt. 24:12 Sin causes guilt and spiritual misery. Sin takes the joy, peace, and meaning of life away. Read Psalm 51 and you will get a true picture of what sin does to the believer. You feel a need of being cleansed. You know of your sinfulness. Your joy and gladness vanishes away. You stop laboring for the Lord. David confesses sin and pleads for God's mercy and forgiveness. He lost the peace and contentment so vital in the Christian life.

God's peace. The law was used to convict and convince the Israelites of their sins and sinfulness. God wanted them to acknowledge or own up to their sins and confess them. They were to bring the proper offering to the priest who would offer the sacrifice unto God. The bringing of the sacrifice was an outward evidence of an inward faith in Christ, the supreme sacrifice for sin. When God accepted the sacrifice, He gave peace, joy, and forgiveness, to the one who brought the sacrifice. These words were recorded about the offerings of Noah, "AND THE LORD SMELLED A SWEET SAVOUR." Gen.8:21 The Jews observed the passover after they confessed their sins and separated from the heathen and rejoiced in the Lord. Ezra 6:16-22 Sin will always rob us of peace. It takes away the precious peace that God wants us to enjoy. God always gives peace to those who will meet Him at the altar. The lost sinner can receive peace with God, if he will meet Him at the altar. "THEREFORE BEING JUSTIFIED BY FAITH, WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST." Rom. 5:1 The sinful saint can receive the peace of God at the altar. "AND LET THE PEACE OF GOD RULE IN YOUR HEARTS..." Col. 3:15 "AND THE PEACE OF GOD WHICH PASSETH ALL UNDERSTANDING, SHALL KEEP YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS THROUGH CHRIST JESUS." Phil. 4:7 At the altar we confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness. We make things right with God and He makes us right. The very reason why the Lord's people are so cold and dry is they are too proud and too embarrassed to meet God at the altar on their knees. No wonder we lack precious inner peace as saved people.

III. THE ALTAR, A PLACE OF PRAISE.

Man's sin. When sin disturbs our fellowship with God, chills our love for Him, and makes us cold and indifferent, we will cease to praise the Lord. Sin will silence our praise of the Lord and blind us to His blessings and goodness. When we cease to praise the Lord, we will soon become a problem or we will experience problems.

Sin causes us to become selfish, self-centered, and self-willed. Achan was selfish when he stole what he did in Jericho. His sin was dealt with and his family suffered. David sinned against the Lord. He let passion possess him and he acted very selfishly and suffered as a result of it. David was told that he despised the Lord and His commandments. 1 Sam. 12:9,10 He ceased praising the Lord. If you aren't praising the Lord you need to go to the ALTAR.

God's praises. Praises to God should never end. The poet wrote, How can my praises ever find end. The Psalms are full of exhortations to praise the Lord. "REJOICE IN THE LORD, O YE RIGHTEOUS: FOR PRAISE IS COMELY FOR THE UPRIGHT." Psa. 33:1 Psalms 146-150 begin with, Praise the Lord. "PRAISE THE LORD: FOR IT IS GOOD TO SING PRAISES UNTO OUR GOD; FOR IT IS PLEASANT, AND PRAISE IS COMELY." Psa. 147:1 The Israelites praised the Lord when the foundation of the temple was laid."AND THEY SANG TOGETHER BY COURSE IN PRAISING AND GIVING THANKS UNTO THE LORD; BECAUSE HE IS GOOD, FOR HIS MERCY ENDURETH FOR EVER TOWARD ISRAEL. AND ALL THE PEOPLE SHOUTED WITH A GREAT SHOUT, WHEN THEY PREACHED THE LORD..." Ezra 3:11 When we go to the altar our praises are renewed and we realize and know there are so many reasons for praising the Lord.

IV. THE ALTAR, A PLACE OF PROPITIATION.

Man's sin. In order for man's sins to be forgiven a sacrifice was to be made. An animal had to be slain and offered unto the Lord. The animal died because of the sins of the offerer. As the offering was brought with the right motive and offered according to the law, and was received by the Lord, the sins of the offerer were forgiven and covered. The blood of the animals didn't take the sins away. "FOR IT IS NOT POSSIBLE THAT THE BLOOD OF BULLS AND GOATS SHOULD TAKE AWAY SINS." Heb. 10:4 It is the blood of Jesus shed for our sins which removes the sin. We are Redeemed by His precious blood. I Pet. 1:18,19 He has perfected forever them that are sanctified by His offering and sacrifice. Heb. 10:10-14 The blood that Jesus shed on Calvary satisfied God's justice. Isa. 53:11 That precious blood is the propitiation for the sins of the whole world. I John 2:2 God forgives us of sin for Christ's sake.

Eph. 4:32 God's propituation. Jesus is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. John 1:29 He died on Calvary to pay our sin debt. "WHO HIS OWN SELF BARE OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BODY ON THE TREE, THAT WE, BEING DEAD TO SINS, SHOULD LIVE UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS: BY Whose stripes ye were healed." I Pet. 2:24 We can experience the Lord's wonderful forgiveness and removal of our sins. The Psalmist wrote, "AS FAR AS THE EAST IS FROM THE WEST, SO FAR HATH HE REMOVED OUR TRANSgressions FROM US." Psa. 103:12
Our sin debt is settled at the altar. As we come to the altar confessing our sins and asking His forgiveness, we experience His forgiveness and cleansing. I John 1:9. For our sins to be covered and forgiven we must meet God at the altar. The altar is any place where we desire to reason with God and submit to Him.

V. THE ALTAR, A PLACE OF PRAYER.

Man's sin. We are sinners by nature. Psa. 51:5 Our natural fleshly tendency is to wander from the Lord. We go astray. We are so weak and we faint often. To the disciples who fell asleep while He prayed in the garden Jesus said, "WATCH AND PRAY, THAT YE ENTER NOT INTO TEMPTATION: THE SPIRIT INDEED IS WILLING, BUT THE FLESH IS WEAK." Matt. 26:41

Our sins will cause us to quit calling upon the Lord. Abraham built an altar to offer sacrifices upon it. He also called upon the Lord at the altar. The Lord's people today must make sacrifices at the altar. Sacrifices and prayer are companions in the Lord's work. Sacrifices will not be made without prayer and prayers will not be offered without sacrifices. The Lord wants us to give our bodies as living sacrifices. Rom. 12:1 When we fail to pray, we start fainting. "AND HE SPAKE A PARABLE UNTO THEM TO THIS END, THAT MEN OUGHT ALWAYS TO PRAY, AND NOT TO FAINT." Luke 18:1

The privilege of prayer. The altar is a place of prayer. Abraham built an altar and called upon the Lord. It is a wonderful blessing to call upon the Lord. It is a real blessing to talk with the Lord and to realize He is listening. A blessed passage of scripture is Hebrews 4:16. "LET US THEREFORE COME BOLDLY UNTO THE THRONE OF GRACE THAT WE MAY OBTAIN MERCY, AND FIND GRACE TO HELP IN TIME OF NEED." We can call upon the Lord for forgiveness of sin. Matt. 6:12. We can call upon Him for guidance. Psa. 23:2,3 We can call upon Him for strength. II Cor. 12:9. We can call upon Him for help.

The altar is a place where we can call upon the Lord for our needs. We can praise Him for His goodness. We can thank Him for His blessings. How we need bended knees, bowed heads, humbled hearts, willing hands, joyous spirits, eyes that see, ears that hear, and lives that are given to the Lord. These things are found at THE ALTAR.

The Lord wants to meet you at the altar. Will you meet Him there? The altar is a place of pardon, peace, praise, propituation, and prayer. Build you an altar and call upon the Lord.

IN TIMES LIKE THESE

D.B. Wright

TEXT: II Timothy 3:1-5; 12-17

INTRODUCTION:
A. Lawlessness is raging! V 1
1. Disrespect for "Civil Rights" of others and "Civil Authority."
2. Disrespect for "DIVINE LAWS:"
   c. A "NEW" COMMANDMENT: John 13:34
   Question: Why will people profess to be saved and refuse to LOVE OTHER SAVED?
B. "Humanism" Abounds: V 2
1. "Self esteem" is out of proportion!
   Rom. 12:3; 12:16; 12:10
C. The "good" are despised and persecuted.
   1. V 3
   2. V 12
D. "Deception" and "Seduction" abound!
   V 13; Rom. 1:22,28
E. Much "RELIGIOUS FORM" minus the "POWER"
   1. Jesus... John 15:5
   2. Holy Spirit... Acts 1:8

"IN TIMES LIKE THESE YOU NEED..."

I. IN TIMES LIKE THESE YOU NEED A SAVIOUR!
A. Question: Hebrews 2:3
B. Another Question: "ESCAPE WHAT?"
   1. The awesome "power" and dominion of sin.
      a. Prov. 5:22
      b. THERE IS HELP! Salvation by Grace:
         Eph. 2:8; Rom. 6:14
         JESUS IN YOU I John 4:4
         GOD'S WAY OF ESCAPE I Cor. 10:13
         HOLY SPIRIT Gal. 5:16
   2. From the "Penalty" and "Punishment" of sins:
      a. Every sin must receive a JUST PAYMENT!
      b. Someone "PAYS" for sins committed!
      c. THAT "SOMEONE" IS JESUS for all who receive Him!
         1. Gal. 3:13
         2. Hebs. 9:26b
         3. ONCE FOR ALL! Hebs. 10:12,14
         4. ADD: I Peter 1:18-19
II. IN TIMES LIKE THESE YOU NEED A LIGHT!
   A. As wonderful as the "Christian Experience" is IT GOES THROUGH "VALLEYS OF
      SHADOWS." Psa. 23:4
   B. It takes one through "WOLF COUNTRY". Luke 10:3; Matt. 10:16
   C. Though we are THE LORD'S SHEEP and live "Off His Pasture" we are NOT SELF-SUFFICIENT LEADERS!
      1. Jer. 10:23
      2. Hosea 11:7
   D. God has provided us with THREE GREAT LIGHTS!
      2. The Church: Matt. 5:14
      3. JESUS: John 8:12

III. IN TIMES LIKE THESE YOU NEED AN INTERCESSOR!
   A. Hear David pray: Psalm 35:1
   B. The Christian Battle is not against flesh and blood but against "SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS.. DEVIL INSPIRED AND MOTIVATED people. Eph. 6:12
   C. Pastor ANDERSON MORRIS writes, "I WANT THE DEVIL TO KNOW THAT I AM AWARE THAT HE IS STILL AROUND. I ALSO WANT OUR PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT THE DEVIL HAS NOT LEFT ON A ONE WAY TRIP."
   D. Peter warns: I Pet. 5:8
   E. God has provided us with "TWO INTERCESSORS.
      1. Holy Spirit: Romans 8:26
      2. Jesus: Hebrews 7:25

IV. IN TIMES LIKE THESE YOU NEED A LEADER!
   A. We are taught to pray.. Matt. 6:13
   B. Moses pleads.. Exodus 33:15
   C. Ezra's Prayer: Ezra 8:21
   D. God has provided "TWO GREAT LEADERS!"
      1. Romans 8:14 HOLY SPIRIT
      2. JESUS: John 10:4

V. IN TIMES LIKE THESE YOU NEED A "TEACHER!"
   A. Three timely prayers:
      1. Psalm 119:18
      2. Psalm 119:33
      3. Psalm 119:36
   B. God has given us TWO GREAT TEACHERS!
      1. His Son who taught us His Word.
      2. The Holy Spirit who teaches us what the Son taught. John 16:13-14

VI. IN TIMES LIKE THESE YOU NEED "AN EXAMPLE!"
   TO CHALLENGE!
   A. I Tim. 4:12
   B. I Pet. 2:21
      1. Jesus is the perfect example of what one ought to "BE"
      2. Jesus is the perfect example of what one ought to "DO".

VII. IN TIMES LIKE THESE YOU NEED A FRIEND!
   A. Romans 14:11
   B. Proverbs 18:24
   C. Jesus was not ashamed to call us "FRIENDS."

VIII. IN TIMES LIKE THESE YOU NEED A COMFORTER!
   A. God has provided three sources of Comfort!
      1. His Word: I Thess. 4:18
      2. His Spirit: John 14:16
      3. Jesus: John 14:18

IX. IN TIMES LIKE THESE YOU NEED A LOVER!
   A. God loves you. John 3:16; Romans 5:8
   B. Jesus loves you!
      1. John 15:13
      2. HE NEVER QUILTS LOVING! John 13:1

GOING TO THE DOGS, SLEEPING WITH THE HOGS,
A HOMeward JOG!

INTRODUCTION: The Lessons we learn from the prodical son are many. Let's notice five.
I. THE DESIRE OF THE SON. PROV. 14:12
   A. Self-Will V. 12
   B. Separation V. 13a
   C. Sensuality V. 13b

II. THE DISCOVERY OF THE SON. PROV. 13:15
   A. Social Destitution V. 14
   B. Self-Abasement V. 15
   C. Starvation V. 16

III. THE DECISION OF THE SON. V. 17-18
   A. Resolution V. 18
   B. Repentance V. 19
   C. Return V. 20

IV. THE DELIGHT OF THE FATHER
   A. Reconciliation V. 20
   B. Restoration V. 22
   C. Rejoicing V. 23-24

V. THE DISMAY OF THE BROTHER
   A. The Cause- Selfishness and jealousy V. 29-30
   B. The Catastrophy- Anger at the Father V. 28
   C. The Cure-Counting of Blessings V. 31-32

JOHNNY WILLIAMS

GROWING IN GRACE
1298 WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?
1308 THE IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP
1328 YOU HAVE TWO NATURES NOW
1338 THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER
1348 THE IMPORTANCE OF CHURCH ATTENDANCE
1358 THE IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE STUDY
1368 THE IMPORTANCE OF CONFESSING YOUR SINS
1378 THE IMPORTANCE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
1388 THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
1398 THE IMPORTANCE OF REALIZING THE DEVIL'S WORK
1438 THE IMPORTANCE OF WORKING FOR THE LORD
1448 THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SUFFICIENCY OF JESUS CHRIST
$1.50 Per Message
THE BENEVOLENT LIFE OF CHRIST

In this series entitled "The Life of Christ", we've noticed thus far the following main areas: (1) The Birth of Christ, (2) The Brilliance of the Person of Christ, (3) The Boyhood of Christ, and (4) The Baptism of Christ. Now let us turn our attention to The Benevolent Life of Christ.

As we notice this area of His life we'll divide it into 3 main sections for a more logical presentation.

I. HIS LIFE WAS PLEASING TO THE FATHER.

II. HIS LIFE IS PROFITABLE TO OTHERS.

III. HIS LIFE PROVIDES A PERFECT EXAMPLE FOR US.

I. HIS LIFE WAS PLEASING TO THE FATHER.

Let's notice the passages which substantiate this claim, the phases of His life which pleased the Father, and the perception which needs to be realized.

The phases which substantiate the reality that His life was pleasing to the Father are as follows:

Matt. 3:17 "AND LO A VOICE FROM HEAVEN,SAYING, THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED."

Mark 1:11 "AND THERE CAME A VOICE FROM HEAVEN, SAYING THEE ART MY BELOVED SON IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED."

Luke 3:22 "AND THE HOLY GHOST DECENDED IN A BODILY SHAPE LIKE A DOVE UPON HIM AND A VOICE CAME FROM HEAVEN, WHICH SAID, THOU ART MY BELOVED SON: IN THEE I AM WELL PLEASED."

Matt. 17:5 "WHILE HE YET SPAKE, BEHELD A BRIGHT CLOUD OVERSHADOWED THEM: AND BEHOLD A VOICE OUT OF THE CLOUD, WHICH SAID, THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED."

The phases of His life which pleased the Father are as follows: His ways, worship, words, walk, willingness, and work.

John 10:17 presents the fact that His ways pleased the Father. "THEREFORE BOTH MY FATHER LOVE ME, BECAUSE I LAY DOWN MY LIFE THAT I MIGHT TAKE IT AGAIN."

Luke 4:9 substantiates the fact that His worship pleased the Father. "AND JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO HIM, GET THEE BEHIND ME SATAN: FOR IT IS WRITTEN, THOU SHALT WORSHIP THE LORD THY GOD, AND HIM ONLY SHALT THOU SERVE."

John 8:28 reveals that His words pleased the Father. "THEN JESUS SAID UNTO THEM, WHEN YE HAVE LIFTED UP THE SON OF MAN, THEN SHALL YE KNOW I AM HE, AND THAT I DO NOTHING OF MYSELF: BUT AS MY FATHER HATH TAUGHT ME, I SPEAK THESE THINGS."

Luke 2:49 shows that His walk pleased the Father. "AND HE SAID UNTO THEM, HOW IS IT THAT YE SOUGHT ME? WIST YE THAT I MUST BE ABOUT MY FATHER'S BUSINESS?"

Matthew 26:39 proves that His willingness pleased the Heavenly Father. "AND HE WENT A LITTLE FARTHER, AND FELL ON HIS FACE AND PRAYED, SAYING O MY FATHER, IF IT BE POSSIBLE LET THIS CUP PASS FROM ME: NEVERTHELESS NOT AS I WILL, BUT AS THOU WILT."

John 10:25 reveals that His work pleased the Father. "JESUS ANSWERED THEM, I TOLD YOU AND YE BELIEVED NOT: THE WORKS THAT I DO IN MY FATHER'S NAME, THEY BEAR WITNESS OF ME."

Also, John 17:4 is a companion verse that verifies the same reality. "I HAVE GLORIFIED THEE ON EARTH. I HAVE FINISHED THE WORK WHICH THOU GAVEST ME TO DO."

The perception that needs to be realized which will be most beneficial to us if we'll allow the spirit of God to guide us into this truth is that the reason that His every deed was pleasing to the Heavenly Father was due to the purity of His life, the purity of His mission, and the purity of His motives. Notice these two verses in light of the above information."FOR HE HATH MADE HIM TO BE SIN FOR US, WHO KNEW NO SIN: THAT WE MIGHT BE MADE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM." II Cor. 5:21: "WHO DID NO SIN, NEITHER WAS GUILE FOUND IN HIS MOUTH."

II. HIS LIFE IS PROFITABLE TO THOSE AROUND HIM.

His life provides a RIGHTEOUSNESS for us. II Cor. 5:21 "FOR HE HATH MADE HIM TO BE SIN FOR US, WHO KNEW NO SIN; THAT WE MIGHT BE MADE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM." This area deals with doctrine of imputation. Adam's sin nature has been imputed and passed on to us. (Rom. 5:12). Our sins were imputed to Jesus Christ when He died on the cross. (John 1:29, I John 2:2 II Cor. 5:21, & I Cor. 15:3).

When we repent of our sins and trust the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, His righteousness is imputed to us. (Rom. 4:22, James 2:23, and Isa. 61:10).

His life also provides us with a REPRESENTATIVE who is acquainted with our difficulties. Notice Heb. 4:15. "FOR WE HAVE NOT AN HIGH PRIEST WHICH CANNOT BE TOUCHED WITH THE FEELING OF OUR INFIRMITIES (weaknesses) BUT WAS IN ALL POINTS TEMPTED LIKE AS WE ARE, YET WITHOUT SIN." In one sense, it's so wonderful to realize that our great high priest who has entered into the very Holy of Holies in the Heavens in our behalf, is acquainted with all the problems and difficulties which plague our lives. He knows, by personal experience, what we are going through. Therefore, we are admonished to come to Him for victory and for help in time of need. Yet it's one
thing for you to go to someone for advice about some problem that you're having, that they have never experienced, and yet quite another situation, when you know that the one who is advising you has had experience regarding the situation which is causing you extreme difficulties. Jesus Christ encountered all the situations and overcame sin, self, Satan, the world, and even death. There's no wonder then, that we see the admonition recorded in Heb. 4:16 "LET US THEREFORE COME BOLDLY UNTO THE THRONE OF GRACE, THAT WE MAY OBTAIN MERCY, AND FIND GRACE TO HELP IN TIME OF NEED."

Surely, by now, you'll agree that His life is profitable to us.

III. HIS LIFE PROVIDES A PERFECT EXAMPLE FOR US.

Our precious Lord invites us to walk with Him. This dear friend, has a most glorious invitation that would do you well to accept. Matt. 11:29 "TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU, AND LEARN OF ME: FOR I AM MEEK AND LOWLY IN HEART: AND YE SHALL FIND REST UNTO YOUR SOULS."

One should realize however, that the acceptance of this invitation embraces discipline. Matt. 16:24 states, "THEN SAID JESUS UNTO HIS DISCIPLES, IF ANY MAN WILL COME AFTER ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME." Discipline, in the life of the child of God, is the greatest need in the lives of God's people today.

Along with this invitation and revelation concerning discipline Jesus also gives us words of encouragement in John 13:15. "FOR I HAVE GIVEN YOU AN EXAMPLE THAT YE SHOULD DO AS I HAVE DONE TO YOU." The Master does not demand anything out of you or from you that He has not done. He simply invites us to walk with Him and submit ourselves to His teachings and example.

He also presents the incentive in Heb. 12:2 "LOOKING UNTO JESUS THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH: WHO FOR THE JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM ENDURED THE CROSS, DESPIRING THE SHAME, AND IS SET DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE OF GOD." The incentive is expressed in "THE JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM." What was this joy? I believe that Jesus realized and could see that if He was obedient to the Father's will and would, in this case, die on the cross for the sin of mankind, that this would open the door and make it possible for thousands and thousands of people to be saved and to be brought back into a proper relationship with their creator. This joy caused Him to endure some things. In the spiritual realities, connected with the Christian's life we need to see beyond to the glories that await us. This will give us the incentive for allowing Jesus to truly be Lord of our life. Notice Rom. 8:18, in conjunction with this. "FOR I RECKON THAT THE SUFFERINGS OF THIS PRESENT TIME ARE NOT WORTHY TO BE COMPARED WITH THE GLORY WHICH SHALL BE REVEALED IN US."

We conclude this section and lesson by stating that a great amount of our experiences in our growth process in Christ will involve suffering. 1 Peter 2:21 states "FOR EVEN HEREUNTO WERE YE CALLED: BECAUSE CHRIST ALSO SUFFERED FOR US, LEAVING US AN EXAMPLE, THAT YE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS STEPS." Remember, the cross comes before the crown. If we really expect to shine in glory, don't be surprised if you are called upon to suffer during this earthly pilgrimage.

IN THE SHIP WITH JESUS

Text: Matthew 8:23-27
I. THEY FOLLOWED HIM INTO THE SHIP
MATT 8:23 THEY MADE A CHOICE.
A. A Permanent Choice. I Kings 19:19-21
B. A Valid Choice. John 10:27
C. An Illuminated Choice. I John 1:6
D. The Only Sensible Choice. John 6:67-68
II. "GREAT TEMPEST AROSE" (VS 24) ALWAYS WILL WHEN WE TRAVEL WITH JESUS.
A. An assured fact. II Tim. 3:12
B. A Pre-determined reality. Phil. 1:29
C. A Serious situation. I Pet. 4:12
D. A Promised Shelter. John 16:33
III. THEY WERE "TERRIFIED"-THEY FORGOT SOME FACTS - BUT SO DO WE.
A. They knew Jesus was aboard with them Heb. 13:5
B. Jesus had already established His God Characteristics. John 2:11
C. Jesus had said,"Let us PASS OVER (Completed Journey)." (Parallel ac-
count Mark 4:35). John 16: 30-31
D. Jesus was asleep-The Master was at peace! John 14:27

IV. ASSURANCE OF OUR JOURNEY WITH JESUS.
A. Jesus rebuked the problems.
   I Peter 5:7-8
B. There was a "Great Calm". Phil. 4:6-7
C. Jesus rebuked the disciples. Rev.3:19
D. Jesus' power was verified. John 3:2

Jesse R. Spurlock

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HE LOST HIS COAT BUT NOT HIS CHARACTER

TEXT: Genesis 37:23
INTRODUCTION: The story of Joseph is a familiar one to Bible students - how that through a devious scheme his envious brothers ridded themselves of a despised kinsman. That in the turmoil of their family feud, Joseph lost his coat but he retained his Christian character. Like Joseph we live in a precarious environment - the world is out to destroy us - and we can afford to lose our worldly coats but we must hang on to our Christian character. We need to

I. LOSE THE COAT OF RANK AND RETAIN THE CHRISTIAN CHARACTER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.
   A. The coat of many colors (pieces) signified that Joseph had a high ranking in his Father's eyes.
   B. Many Christians strive to attain the coat of rank- to be exalted by their peers- and that doesn't amount to a "hill of beans."
   1. Our rank should be in the Lord.
   C. We need to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ.
   1. Joseph lost his coat of rank but he retained the Christian character of righteousness.
      a. Genesis 39:2a
   2. So we need to lose our coat of rank and retain the Christian character of righteousness.
      a. It will bring us a joy that rank cannot provide.
         b. Isaiah 61:10

II. LOSE THE COAT OF HAUGHTINESS AND RETAIN THE CHRISTIAN CHARACTER OF HUMILITY.
   A. Joseph, with his exalted position in the courts of Pharaoh, could have worn the coat of haughtiness in dealing with his brothers.
   B. But, he rejected the coat of haughtiness and retained the Christian character of humility.
      1. Genesis 45:1-5
   C. Many Christians today with their "holier than thou" attitude are wearing the coat of haughtiness.
      1. Use the title for personal gain or satisfaction but not willing to live the Christian life.
      a. It looks for neighbors, relatives and business acquaintances - it will get us ahead- we're better than other folks- more deserving- "Come to my place of business, I'm a Christian."
   D. We need to cast aside the coat of haughtiness and retain the Christian character of humility.
      1. I Peter 5:5-6

III. LOSE THE COAT OF SELFISHNESS AND RETAIN THE CHRISTIAN CHARACTER OF SUBMISSION.
   A. Joseph could have used his position to fulfill selfish lusts.
      1. He could have had Potiphar's wife.
      2. As overseer for Potiphar and eventually, Pharaoh, Joseph could have had anything he wanted- if he had worn the coat of selfishness.
      3. He discarded that garment and wore the clothing of submission.
   B. Like Joseph, the child of God must die to self and live in submission to the Lord.
      1. Galatians 2:10
      2. Romans 13:14

IV. LOSE THE COAT OF CAPTIVITY AND RETAIN THE CHRISTIAN CHARACTER OF CONQUEST.
   A. Joseph was a captive in the pit and in the prison.
      1. He shed that coat of captivity when he came to the palace and retained the character of conquest.
   B. The Christian can become a captive of the world - trapped in the prison house of corruption.
   C. But through the love of Christ that is within us we can throw off that coat of captivity and retain the Christian character of conquest.

CONCLUSION: We can vividly portray the radiant, victorious Christian character as we are willing to lose the worldly coats that weight us down.

Muncy Harris

THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

Maxie Haynes

I. THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST IS AN APPOINTMENT WHICH MUST BE MET. II COR.5:10
   A. It's a DIVINE APPOINTMENT that has been set by God.
   B. It is a definite appointment. It is God's Divine and Definite appointment with every believer.

II. THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST IS AN ACCOUNTING WHICH MUST BE MADE. Rom. 14:10
    A. Motivation for my behavior. I Cor.4:1-5
1. The Saviour will explore our motives.
2. Inner attitude of the heart.
   a. "Bring to light" manifested picture. V. 5
      1. Why I did what I did.
         a. Self Gratification
         b. Saviour Glorification
5. Materials with which we Built.
   II Cor. 3:9-15
   1. The foundation. V. 11; Matt. 7:24
      a. What is the cornerstone of your life?
   2. The materials V. 12
      a. Emphasis is on quality not quantity.
C. Mastery of our bodies. II Cor. 5:10
   1. No man can serve two masters. Matt. 7
   2. How effectively we control the Old Sin Nature. I Cor. 9:25-27; Col. 3;
      Rom. 6:11-22; Gal. 5:16-24; Gal. 6:7-9
D. Ministry to our brethren. Rom 14
   1. How we treat others- stepping stone stumbling block. Heb. 6:10; 13:7
      Matt. 10:41-42; Gal. 6:1-5
   2. This will be the four fold basis upon which the Lord shall examine us.
      b. With what I built, those things that were important to me.
      c. How I master the flesh- The old sin nature.
      d. How I related to my brothers and sisters in Christ.
III. THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST IS AN APPLICATION WHICH MUST BE MANIFESTED.
A. Rewards that must be sought. I Cor. 3:14; 11 John 8
B. Possessions + Privilages
   It is not the length of time we live.
   It is what God did through us as we yielded to Him. Five rewards:
   1. Incorruptible Crowns- Given to those who master the Old Sin Nature.
      I Cor. 9:25-27
   2. Crown of Rejoicing- Given to soul winners. Dan.12:3; 1 Thess. 2:19-20
   3. Crown of Life- Successfully endure temptation. Jamess 1:2-3; Rev 2:10
   4. Crown of Righteous- Those who love expectation) (the rapture. II Tim.4:8
   It is not the number of years we live, nor is it the amount of good we accumulate, nor is it the prestige or popularity that we enjoy. The ultimate test is how pleased is my Saviour with my life. The well done of my Saviour."LET NO MAN REGUILE YOU OF YOUR REWARD" Col 2:18
"REHOIL I COME QUICKLY; HOLD FAST THAT WHICH THOU HAST, THAT NO MAN TAKE THY CROWN" Rev. 3:11