THINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED

Matt. 28:19-20

This is a very familiar passage of scripture. It is commonly called the Great Commission. It describes in a concise way the work the Lord wants His church to do. Also read Mark 16:15; Luke 24:48, 49; Acts 1:8 in connection with the text.

Our world and people and times are changing rapidly. Sometimes you feel like they are changing too rapidly. People are finding it difficult to cope with the changes. Sometimes hasn't changed and according to God's Word will not change. Things will not change relative to the work the Lord has given us to do. What the Lord commissioned His churches to do nearly 2,000 years ago remains the same. The Master hasn't changed His mind or orders concerning this commission. Let's notice some things that haven't changed about the commission.

1. THE MISSION HASN'T CHANGED.

We are to preach the gospel. The gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus according to the Scriptures. 1 Cor. 15:1-4 The gospel is the power of God unto salvation. Rom. 1:16 The only way a person can be saved is to receive the gospel. Acts 4:12 The gospel is the wonderful good news to lost sinners. The Angel put it this way, "...I BRING YOU GOOD TIDING OF GREAT JOY, WHICH SHALL BE TO ALL PEOPLE." Luke 2:10 God gives His churches the grace and strength to ever faithfully proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We are to teach all commands of Jesus. We are to faithfully and devotedly teach God's Word to God's people. To teach them to observe simply means to teach them to practice all of His commands. Paul told Timothy to preach the Word. II Tim. 4:2

God's Word is inspired, profitable and thoroughly furnishes unto all good works. II Tim. 3:16, 17 Paul could write to the Ephesians, "FOR I HAVE NOT SHUNNED TO DECLARE UNTO YOU ALL THE COUNSEL OF GOD." Acts 20:27 The saved are to study God's Word. II Tim. 2:15

We are to reach out to people. We are to throw out the life line. We are to be burdened for people. We need a burden for the lost person and the lingering saint. We are to be busy calling upon people for their good and the honor and glory of God. The Lord wants to use His people in reaching out to others. Notice Paul's beautiful language in II Cor. 5:20, "NOW THEN WE ARE AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST, AS THOUGH GOD DID BESEECH YOU BY US: WE PRAY YOU IN CHRIST'S STEAD, BE YE RECONCILED TO GOD."

Many churches are striving to meet the mental, emotional, physical, and social needs of people without even a concern or burden for the spiritual need. The commission of the Lord has not changed concerning the mission of His churches.

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II. THE MESSAGE HASN'T CHANGED.

The message about the sinner. Man without God is lost and undone. He is a sinner. Rom. 3:23 He is not righteous. Rom. 3:10 All of his righteousnesses are as filthy rags. Isa. 64:6 The lost sinner is dead in trespasses and sins. Eph. 2:1 He is condemned already because he hasn't believed in Jesus. John 3:18 God's Word gives a dark, ugly, and terrible description of the lost sinner's condition. God hasn't changed His mind about the lost sinner.

The message about the Saviour. The first promise of the Saviour to fallen man is found in Gen. 3:15. All of the Old Testament sacrifices were pictures of Jesus and some part of His ministry to mankind. John the Baptist said, "BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD THAT TAKETH AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD." John 1:29 Jesus was the sinless righteous Son of God who died in our place and for our sins on Calvary. I Pet. 2:24; 3:18 Jesus is our mediator I Tim. 2:5; our advocate and propitiation I John 2:1,2, and our intercessor Heb. 7:25. He is man's only Saviour. Matt. 1:21; Acts 4:12 God hasn't changed His mind about Jesus.

The message about salvation. God's will is for all men to be saved. I Tim. 2:4 He isn't willing for any to perish. II Pet. 3:9 God commands man to repent of his sins. Acts 17:30; Luke 13:3 This message was the first message of John the Baptist and Jesus. Matt. 3:2; 4:17 Man must receive Jesus as his personal Saviour to be saved. John 3:18,36 Man must trust Jesus or place his faith in Jesus to be saved. Acts 16:31 Jesus came to give life more abundantly. John 10:10 The Lord gives eternal life to all who receive Jesus as personal Saviour. John 3:16

The religious message has changed a great deal in a lot of churches. God hasn't changed His mind concerning His message to the lost sinner about Jesus and His salvation.

III. THE MESSENGER HASN'T CHANGED.

The messenger is saved. The saved are to tell the good news to others. It is a natural desire and zeal for a new convert to tell others he or she is saved. The woman of Samaria said, "COME SEE A MAN, WHICH TOLD ME ALL THINGS EVER I DID: IS NOT THIS THE CHRIST." John 4:29 The psalmist said, "LET THE REDEEMED OF THE LORD SAY SO." Psa. 107:2 Jesus told the man that he had cast the devil out of to go home and tell others how great things the Lord had done for Him. Mark 5:19 The saved have a testimony and a witness they can give to others. So many are like Nicodemus and Saul who were religious, but didn't know about the new birth experience.

The messenger must be separated. Jesus told His disciples they were in the world, but they were not to be part of it. John 17:14-16 Paul admonishes the Lord's people to come out and be separated from sinners. II Cor. 6:17 Jesus prayed for the sanctification or the setting apart of believers for His service in John 17:17. Demas loved the present world and forsook Paul and the work. II Tim. 4:10 The world and it's sinfulness will chill our love for the Lord and His work. Matt. 24:12 If we are not separated we face the danger of becoming lukewarm. Rev. 3:14

The messenger must be spiritual. Those who are spiritual set their affection on things above. Col. 3:2 Those who are spiritual have the mind of Christ. Phil. 2:5 The spiritual person presents his body a living sacrifice. Rom. 12:1 The spiritual desire to communicate the message of Christ to others. II Cor. 5:20 The spiritual have a burden and a love for those who are lost. Rom. 9:1-3; 10:1-3.

The Lord hasn't changed His mind concerning the messenger. He desires a saved person be separated from the world and spiritually minded.

IV. THE METHOD HASN'T CHANGED.

Go with love. The basic admonition is to go into all the world. We need first an undying love for the Lord Jesus. It will be love for Him that will motivate and drive us on in witnessing to the lost. Paul said the love of Christ constrains us. II Cor. 5:14 The Lord wants to love others through us.

Go with the light. Jesus is the light of the world. John 8:12 Jesus told His disciples they were the light of the world. Matt. 5:14 Jesus spoke these words to the redeemed, "LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE MEN, THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS, AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN." Matt. 5:16 God's Word is called a Light and Lamp. Psa. 119:105 As we go witnessing and testifying we are to bear precious seed. Psa. 126:5,6 We are to tell others the good news about Jesus.

Go with a longing. We need to be burdened for people. We should want to see the lost saved. We should want to see the saved serving the Lord. Paul was waiting for a fellow laborer in Athens. Paul was bothered by what he saw. "NOW WHILE PAUL WAITED FOR THEM AT ATHENS, HIS SPIRIT WAS STIRRED IN HIM, WHEN HE SAW THE CITY WHOLLY GIVEN TO IDOLATRY." Acts 17:16 Jesus had a burden for the people of Jerusalem. Matt. 23:37 He isn't willing that any should perish. II Pet. 3:9 The Lord's will for every saved person and every New Testament Church is to go, go, and keep going. Our world and many churches are changing greatly, but there are some things that have not changed and will not change. May we claim the grace of God to faithfully carry out His orders!

WITNESS AND WIN
WE SEE

JESUS

Text: Hebrews 2:9

INTRODUCTION:
A. The Bible reveals the life story of many, but there is One who is the great theme of the Bible. That One is Jesus. The world needs the story of Jesus more than any message.
B. The text says "WE SEE JESUS". I do not mean to imply that any in this generation have seen Jesus with the natural eye. We do read of those in the Bible who saw Him face to face, and beheld His glory.
C. As we gleam through the Scriptures we are reminded of some of the ways in which we must see Jesus through faith.

I. WE SEE HIM AS THE SACRIFICE FOR SINNERS.
A. Adam and Eve saw Christ typified in the animals that God slew to provide garments for them after they had sinned.
   Gen. 3:21
B. Abel saw Christ by faith and brought a lamb as a sacrificial offering unto God.
   Gen. 4:4
C. Abraham saw Christ in the Ram provided by God as He was about to offer Isaac as a sacrifice.
   Gen. 22:13
D. In the text We See Jesus, taste death for every man.

II. WE SEE JESUS AS THE SEEKER OF SINNERS.
Luke 19:10
A. He is the sinner's friend.
B. He seeks sinners because of their spiritual condition.
C. He seeks sinners because of the spiritual need.

III. WE SEE HIM AS THE SAVIOUR OF SINNERS.
A. He is able to save. Hebs. 7:25
B. He will save.
C. He does save.
   3. Nicodemus
   4. Woman at Jacob's well.
   5. Thief who died on the cross.

IV. WE SEE JESUS AS THE SOURCE OF SAFETY FOR SINNERS.
A. We are in Him, and He is in God, and no man plucks us out of the Father's hand.
B. He is the rock upon which our feet are planted.
C. He is the foundation upon which our house is built. The storms of life may come and beat upon Him, but thru the storms, trials, persecutions, tribulation, He is the source of safety.

V. WE SEE HIM AS THE SOON COMING SAVIOUR.
A. John saw this in Rev. 19.
B. He is coming to receive His people up to be with Him.
C. He is coming to separate the righteous from the wicked.
D. He is coming to take vengeance upon them that know not God.

CONCLUSION:
A. Sinner do you see Him today as your sacrifice?
B. See Him as He seeks you to be saved?
C. See Him today as your Saviour and source of safety.

THE LABOR OF LOVE

Text: Romans 1:9-17

INTRODUCTION:
A. Mark of Maturity. I Cor. 13:13
B. Evidence of Devotion. Rev. 2:1-2,4
C. Motivation In Discipleship. II Cor. 5:14-21

I. OBLIGATION WE MUST SHARE: V 14
A. I Am Debtor
   A. Intercessory Prayers. V 9
   B. Incarnational Presence. V 11
   C. Individual Preaching. V 15

II. DEDICATION WE MUST SHOW: V 15
A. I Am Ready
   A. In Spirit. V 9
   B. In Soul. V 15

III. AFFIRMATION WE MUST MAKE: V 16
A. I Am Not Ashamed
   A. Supremacy of the Gospel of God.
   B. Sufficiency of the Gospel to Salvation.
   C. Simplicity of the Gospel - Believe
HANDLING DISCOURAGEMENT

Text: Psalm 73:1-17

D.B. Wright

Introduction:
A. WHEN DAVID LOOKED at the "prosperity of the wicked" and the "suffering of the righteous" HE WAS PAINED!
B. WHEN I LOOK...
   1. At the wickedness in the worldly I too, am PAINED inwardly.
   2. When I look at you I am both DISCOURAGED and CHALLENGED.
   3. When I look at myself I AM FRUSTRATED!
      a. As Isaiah: Isa. 6:5
      b. As Paul: Rom. 7:24
4. When I look at my RESPONSIBILITY, TASK, I am HUMBLED:
   a. As Amos: Amos 7:14-15
   b. As Paul: I Cor. 15:9

C. WHEN DAVID LOOKED TO THE LORD...HE UNDERSTOOD.

D. DISCOURAGEMENT IS NOT...
   1. "A sign of failure:"
   2. "A sign of weakness:"
   3. "A sign of carelessness, though it springs from looking upon the carnal!"
   4. "A road-sign pointing one in another direction, to another field of labor."

E. Discouragement may be allowed to CAUSE ONE TO SINK...
   1. In blaming others for the situation:
   2. In bemoaning others, EVEN GOD:
      a. Jeremiah  Jer. 20:7
   3. In quitting what you have started for the Lord: Jer. 20:9

I. RECOGNIZE THE REALITY! (Discouragement is real!)
A. David faced it!
B. Jeremiah faced it!
C. John the Baptist faced it!
D. Paul faced it! II Cor. 1:8
E. Discouragement, WHAT IT IS:
   1. "...to weaken in qualities that maintain interest, zeal, activity, or power to continue or resist."
   2. "Disheartened...the loss of heart or will to accomplish a purpose or to achieve an end."
   3. Dispirited...the loss of cheerfulness and hopefulness."
F. To be afflicted by it IS NOT A S IN! To allow it to dominate our thinking, our activity, our choices, and our lives IS A S IN!
G. To fail to recognize and deal with it invites more problems.

II. REVIEW THE REASONS!
A. It often comes from "a sense of failure."
   1. Companions who feel they fail their spouse:
   2. Parents who feel they fail their child:
   3. Children who feel they fail their parents:
   4. Preachers who feel they fail in their accomplishment:
      a. Curtis Peace to G.D. Walters, "IS ANY OF YOUR PREACHING DOING ANY GOOD?"
      b. One pastor to fellow pastors, "DON'T COME TO SEE ME MONDAY IF YOU ARE DEPRESSED...I WILL GET YOU MORE DEPRESSED."
      c. Paul: To Christian Church Members of Galatia... Gal. 4:19-20
5. Christians in general, like Paul, feel at times that they have failed in their Christian life. Rom. 7:21-23
6. This was part of Jeremiah's problem.
   a. Israel would not hear God's Word.
   b. David faced the possibility of failure in material accumulation.
B. A Sense of Rejection:
   1. Preachers are oft made to feel like a person with 80 or with a bad reputation...or seven year itch.
      a. Jesus was treated this way:
         1. John 1:11; 3:19
         2. Even after feeding five thousand with fish and bread, THEY ALL TURNED AWAY FROM HIS PREACHING!
   3. He tells us - John 15:18-19
   2. Church members are not exempt from this "REJECTION!"
      a. I cannot see CHRISTIANS, who say they are saved and indwelt with the love of God and the spirit of Christ stooping to envy, jealousy, unkind remarks to God's other children, refusing to receive and fellowship, God pity them, they ARE MISERABLE INSIDE!!
   3. Family members, WHO DO NOT FIT THE MOULD and EXPECTATION set by others, have to deal with "rejection."
      a. One of our members, comparing his own family relationship to his Church Fellowship, commented "THOSE PEOPLE DOWN THERE ARE THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO LOVE ME."
C. "POOR MEMORY" often is the cause of discouragement!
   1. Failure to remember such as:
      a. Hebrews 13:5
      b. Phil. 4:19
THE RESOURCES OF THE CHRISTIAN

Text: Colossians 2:1-10

INTRODUCTION:
The Apostle Paul is teaching the Colossians what great and far reaching resources they have in Christ. The text declares "IN HIM DWELLETH ALL THE FULLNESS OF THE GODHEAD BODILY." This teaches us that everything lost humanity needed is provided in Jesus Christ.

I. TO THE SAVED, JESUS CHRIST IS OUR PASSOVER.
I Cor. 5:7
A. Man needed a way out, and over sin. Jesus Christ is that way. Literally an overpass.

II. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS OUR SALvation.

III. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS OUR LIFE. Col.3:4
I John 5:12

IV. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS OUR PEACE. Eph.2:13,14; Col. 1:20

V. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS OUR WISDOM, RIGHT-FEousNESS, SANCTIFICATION, AND REDEMPTION.
I Cor. 1:30

VI. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS OUR STRENGTH.
Phil. 4:13; Col. 1:11

VII. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS OUR VICTORY.
Rom. 8:37; I Cor. 15:57

CONCLUSION:
Do you have Christ now? Will you accept Him as your Saviour?

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SIGNS OF THE LAST DAYS

Edd Rhodes

Text: Matthew 24:3

I. SIGNS THAT THE PROPHETS GAVE
A. Increase of knowledge. Dan. 12:4
B. Many shall run to and fro, Daniel 12:4 (traveling & moving)
C. Automobiles & Airplanes. Nahum 2:3-4
D. Locks and Dams. Nahum 2:6

II. SIGNS GIVEN BY PAUL
A. Disturb for truth. II Tim. 4:3
B. Soft flowery teachers. II Tim. 4:3
C. Lovers of self. II Tim. 3:2
D. Disobedient children. II Tim. 3:2
E. Loss of natural affection. II Tim. 3:3
F. Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. II Tim. 3:4
G. Having a form of Godliness. II Tim. 3:5
H. Falling away from God. II Thess. 2:3
I. Crying for peace and safety. I Thess. 5:3

III. SIGNS GIVEN BY OTHER NEW TESTAMENT WRITERS
A. Scourgers. II Peter 3:3
B. Demanding the promise of His coming. II Pet. 3:4

IV. SOME SIGNS GIVEN BY CHRIST.
B. Abounding of iniquity. Matt. 24:12
C. The love of many waxing cold.
HOW TO FOLLOW JESUS

Text: Matthew 9:9

Introduction:
What does it mean to follow Jesus? The call to follow is clear as it comes from Jesus Himself and is such an important part of discipleship that the word itself, and its synonyms, appear seventy-five times in the gospels. In this lesson, we will consider five basic ways of following Jesus.

I. FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY
   A. His compelling invitation was overwhelming.
   B. Matthew's response was instant. Matt. 9:9
   C. The response from the fisherman was immediate. Mark 1:18
   D. When we follow Jesus, these verses imply we should do it without delay.

II. FOLLOW CLOSELY
   A. As we place our steps in the steps of the Example-Teacher we will imitate His ways. I Pet. 2:21
   B. Peter's denial resulted as he lagged behind.

III. FOLLOW FULLY
   A. Halfhearted following will not suffice.
   B. Follow fully in all areas.
      1. In teaching. I Tim. 4:6
      2. In knowledge. II Tim. 3:10

IV. FOLLOW IN COMPANY
   A. Following Jesus is never a lonely experience.
   B. When all had forsaken Jesus, we read. Mark 14:51
   C. As we follow the Lord, He is our constant companion. Hebs. 13:5

V. FOLLOW INTENTLY
   A. Our thoughts are to be directed toward Jesus.
   B. The woman who followed Jesus, thought only of Him. Luke 23:55
   C. To follow intently is self-sacrificial. Luke 9:23

NAME OF JESUS

"God has highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name."
—PHIL. 2:9

MARKS OF A CHRISTIAN

R.L. Dailey


INTRODUCTION:
In these verses of scripture that we have just read we find the word Christian used. It is the only place that we find this word Christian in the Bible. What is a Christian? Are you a Christian? In the days that this word Christian was used in the Bible it had great significance. There were various characteristics or marks in a true Christian's life.

I. THE BIRTHMARK:
   A. This is the first and most important mark or characteristic.
      1. Without this mark no one can ever begin to be a Christian. Jn 3:3; 1:12
   B. The very definition of the word Christian demands this mark.
      1. A Christian is one who is Christlike.
      2. Christ is divine in nature, therefore we must have the divine nature to be like Him. II Pet. 1:3-4
      3. Remember what Jesus said in Jn. 3:5.
      4. Jesus was of course speaking of the physical birth and the spiritual birth.
      5. So we see the first mark of the Christian is the birthmark.

II. THE WATER MARK.
   A. By this we mean scriptural baptism.
      1. Scriptural baptism is immersion of a saved person by the authority of a local New Testament Church.
      2. The authority for this is found in Matt. 16:18-19; 28:19-20
      3. The mode - Immersion is found in Matt. 3:16; Acts 8:38
      4. Eph. 4:5 tells us there is one baptism and we know this is water baptism and not Holy Ghost Baptism.
   B. Baptism is a necessity to becoming a member of the Lord's Church.
      1. Acts 2:41
      2. Baptism is a message.
The focus of our attention for this lesson is on Matt. 5:5. "BLESSED ARE THE MEEK: FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH." This is the third beatitude in The Sermon On The Mount. For a logical and concise presentation we'll notice the following: I. THE DEFINING OF THE TERM. II. THE DEFINITIVE NEED FOR MEKENESS. III. THE DIVINE EXAMPLES OF MEKENESS. IV. THE DIVINE PROMISES TO THE MEEK.

I. THE DEFINING OF THE TERM.

From the standpoint of Webster's Dictionary, the term "meek" or "meekness" means to be gentle, submissive, yielding or mild of temper.

From the standpoint of Biblical interpretation, we get a more thorough understanding. It means we are submissive to God's will. This carries with it the idea of being satisfied with the lot or place God has put us. It carries with it the idea that we realize that God knows what is best for us even though we can't fully comprehend all of the experiences that we are faced with.

Rom. 8:28

It means to be flexible or yielding to God's Word. The Bible is the final authority on any subject matter, even though sometimes, we may not be able to understand it.

"Meekness", from the Biblical perspective, means "to be humble". This is exemplified in the words of the Psalmist in Psalms 84:10, "FOR A DAY IN THY COURTS IS BETTER THAN A THOUSAND. I HAD RATHER BE A DOORKEEPER IN THE HOUSE OF MY GOD, THAN TO DWELL IN THE TENTS OF WICKEDNESS."

This term, "meekness" also carries with it the idea of being gentle, patient, forgiving and content.

II. THE DEFINITIVE NEED FOR MEKENESS.

This is certainly revealed to us in the scriptures. It is needed because it is one of the fruits of the spirit. Galatians 5:22-23 Submitting to the Lordship of Jesus Christ will cause this fruit of the spirit, as well as the others, to be evidenced in our lives.

Meekness is also needed because it is essential in effective teaching. II Tim. 2:25-26 substantiates this reality. "IN MEKENESS INSTRUCTING THOSE THAT OPPOSE THEMSELVES: IF GOD PERADVENTURE WILL GIVE THEM REPENTANCE TO THE ACKNOWLEDGING OF THE TRUTH: AND THAT THEY MAY RECOVER THEMSELVES OUT OF THE SNARE OF THE DEVIL, WHO ARE TAKEN CAPTIVE BY HIM AT HIS WILL."

Meekness is needed because it is essential in hearing correctly and productively. James 1:21 verifies this truth. "WHEREFORE LAY APART ALL FILTHINESS AND SUPERFLUITY OF NAUGHTINESS, AND RECEIVE WITH MEKENESS THE ENGRAFTED WORD, WHICH IS ABLE TO SAVE YOUR SOULS."

Finally, meekness is needed because it is precious in the Lord's sight. Notice I Peter 3:4, "BUT LET IT BE THE HIDDEN MAN OF THE HEART, IN THAT WHICH IS NOT CORRUPTIBLE, EVEN THE ORNAMENT OF A MEEK AND QUIET SPIRIT, WHICH IS IN THE SIGHT OF GOD OF GREAT PRICE."

III. THE DIVINE EXAMPLES OF MEKENESS.

An example of this characteristic is seen in Numbers 12, in the life of Moses. Num. 12:3 states, "NOW THE MAN MOSES WAS VERY MEEK, ABOVE ALL THE MEN WHICH WERE UPON THE FACE OF THE EARTH." The setting of this passage of scriptures reveals that Miriam and Aaron had spoken against Moses because he had married an Ethiopian woman. Moses was very meek, which carries with it the idea that he didn't try to take up for himself or defend himself. Listen carefully or notice carefully, this next statement. When you know where you stand with God - you don't have to defend yourself - God will! Notice what happened by reading Numbers 12:5-15.

Another example of this meek spirit is exemplified in the life of David. Notice II Sam. 16:5-14. This passage reveals that a man by the name of Shimei was cursing David and his men. David's men wanted to kill him but notice the words of David and you will see this characteristic of meekness. "AND THE KING (DAVID) SAID, WHAT HAVE I TO DO WITH YOU, YE SONS OF ZERUATH? SO LET HIM CURSE, BECAUSE THE LORD HATH SAID UNTIL HIM, CURSE DAVID, WHO SHALL THEN SAY, WHEREFORE HAST THOU DONE SO? AND DAVID SAID TO ABISHAI, AND TO ALL HIS SERVANTS, BEHOLD, MY SON, WHICH CAME FORTH OF MY BOWELS SEEKETH MY LIFE: HOW MUCH MORE NOW MAY THIS BENJAMITE DO IT? LET HIM ALONE, AND LET HIM CURSE: FOR THE LORD HATH BIDDEN HIM. IT MAY BE THAT THE LORD WILL LOOK ON MY AFFLICTION, AND THAT THE LORD WILL REQUIRE ME GOOD FOR HIS CURSING THIS DAY."

II Sam. 16:1-12

Another example in the Old Testament is Jeremiah. Read Jer. 26 and you will see that Jeremiah was obedient to the Lord in declaring an unpopular message to the people. Some of the people wanted to kill him. Notice how meek Jeremiah was during all of this confusion. He simply depended upon the Lord.

Two New Testament examples of meekness are presented
as follows: Stephen (Acts 7:60) and Paul. Notice Paul’s words in 1 Tim. 4:16-17, "AT MY FIRST ANSWER NO MAN STOOD WITH ME, BUT ALL MEN FORSOOK ME: I PRAY GOD THAT IT MAY NOT BE LAID TO THEIR CHARGE. NOTWITHSTANDING THE L ORD STOOD WITH ME AND STRENGTHENED ME: THAT BY ME THE PREACHING MIGHT BE FULLY KNOWN, AND THAT ALL THE GENTILES MIGHT HEAR: AND I WAS DELIVERED OUT OF THE MOUTH OF THE LION." Surely, you can see this characteristic portrayed in their lives.

IV. THE DIVINE PROMISES TO THE MEEK.

What does God promise to those who are meek? Notice the following:

He promises satisfaction to the meek. Notice Ps. 22:28: "THE MEEK SHALL EAT AND BE SATISFIED. THEY SHALL PRAISE THE LORD THAT SEEK HIM: YOUR HEART SHALL LIVE FOREVER."

He promises the meek that they will inherit the earth and delight themselves in the abundance of peace. Notice Ps. 37:11 "BUT THE MEEK SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH: AND SHALL DELIGHT THEMSELVES IN THE ABUNDANCE OF PEACE."

He also promises the meek that they shall be lifted up. Notice Ps. 147:6 "THE LORD LIFTETH UP THE MEEK: HE CASTETH THE WICKED DOWN TO THE GROUND."

Finally, the Scriptures reveal that the Lord promises salvation or deliverance to the meek. Notice Ps. 149:4, "FOR THE LORD TAKETH PLEASURE IN HIS PEOPLE: HE WILL BEAUTIFY THE MEEK WITH SALVATION."

"BLESSED ARE THE MEEK: FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH."

"BE NOT WEARY IN WELL DOING - FOR IN DUE SEASON, WE SHALL REAP IF WE FAINT NOT."

(MARKS OF A CHRISTIAN)
Continued from Page 6

1. Declares one to be a Child of God. Rom. 6:4-5
2. Symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. I Pet. 3:21; I Cor. 5:3-4
3. All who hear the gospel and see the message pictured in baptism should be reminded that Christ died for our sins and lives to make intercession for us. Hebs. 7:25
4. So we see the water mark is a necessity in being a Christian.

III. THE BOOK MARK.
A. The Christian will study God’s Word.
1. Early Christians did. Acts 2:42
2. Paul encountered some people on his missionary journey in Berea as we are told in Acts 17:11.
B. There are many references in the Old and New Testaments alike that urge us to study the Word of God.
1. Ps. 119:9, 11
2. II Timothy 2:15
3. Col. 3:6
C. So you see if you go by the name of Christian God expects you to study His Word.

IV. THE KNEE MARK.
A. Christians will pray regularly.
1. The early church Christians did.
   Acts 1:14; 2:42; 4:24; 12:12
B. There are conditions for successful praying.
1. Contrition- II Chron. 7:14
2. Whole-heartedness- Jer. 29:13
3. Faith- Mark 11:24
4. Righteousness- James 5:16
5. Obedience- John 3:22
C. Many other references we could turn to concerning the subject of prayer.
1. I Thess. 5:17

THE WAY TO FIGHT THE DEVIL

I Peter 5:6-10

I. THE ADMONITION. V. 6
A. The Surrender. II Cor. 12:9; Mark 6:34
B. The Submission. James 4:7
C. The Servant. I Thess. 1:9; I Sam. 3:10

II. THE ASSISTANCE. V. 7
A. The Person. Hebs. 4:15; Micah 7:18,19; II Pet. 3:18
B. The Power. Hebs. 4:16; Psa. 46:1 Matthew 8:26,27
C. The Procedure. V 7
D. The Promise. Psa. 23:1; Phil. 4:19

III. THE ADVERSARY. V 8
A. His Boldness. Isa. 14:12-14
B. His Blindness. II Cor. 4:4; Matt. 8:26; John 12:40; Eph. 6:11
C. His Blasphemy. II Cor. 11:13-15
D. His Business. V 8

IV. THE ASSOCIATION. V 9
A. With Commandments. Matt. 4:4,7,10; II Tim. 3:16,17; Psa. 119:11
B. The Church. Matt. 28:20; Jude 3
C. With Christians. Acts 2:41-44; Phil. 4:3; Hebs. 3:13

V. THE ADVANCEMENT.
B. The Stablishing. Eph. 4:14; Josh. 24:15; James 1:8
C. The Strengthening. II Cor. 12:9; Matt. 26:75; Psa. 46:1
D. The Settling. Col. 1:23; Eph. 3:17

C. Swilling