PETER'S FAREWELL ADVICE

"TO HIM BE GLORY AND DOMINION FOR EVER AND EVER. AMEN. BY SILVANUS,A FAITHFUL BROTHER UNTO YOU, AS I SUPPOSE, I HAVE WRITTEN BRIEFLY,EXHORTING, AND TESTIFYING THAT THIS IS THE TRUE GRACE OF GOD WHEREIN YE STAND. THE CHURCH THAT IS AT BABYLON, ELECTED TOGETHER WITH YOU, SALUTETH YOU; AND SO DOETH MARCUS MY SON. GREET YE ONE ANOTHER WITH A KISS OF CHARITY. PEACE BE WITH YOU ALL THAT ARE IN CHRIST JESUS. AMEN." I Pet. 5:11-14

The Apostle Peter ends his first letter with these words of advice. We often are guilty of scanning the last verses of a letter because of the words of farewell. We may think them unimportant. They may lack the distinctive doctrinal truth we lovingly and diligently search for. These verses reminded me that all of God's Word is important even the last few verses of a book.

The entire fifth chapter deals with the important and vital teaching to the Elders about God's grace in light of Satan's, our diligent adversary. Special instruction is given to God's people to fight and resist the devil.

Notice six things with me in the text. We will study the glory, government, grace, group, greeting, and growth.

I. THE GLORY. V. 11

To God be the glory. He is the God of all glory. He has called us to His glory by Christ Jesus. We are to give God glory. We are to give our Lord Jesus glory. Paul writes, "UNTO HIM BE GLORY IN THE CHURCH BY CHRIST JESUS..." Eph. 3:21 The Lord is worthy. Rev. 5:9 He deserves glory for what He has done, is doing, and shall do for us. Man has a tendency to glorify himself and to boast about self, but God is worthy and deserving of glory.

Glory means splendor, brightness, magnificence, excellence, and majesty. He is glorious. He outshines the sun, moon, and stars. Our Lord is the light of the world. John 8:12 His glory will shed light for the New Jerusalem. We are helpless and hopeless without the Lord. John 15:5

The giver of glory. The angels sang, "GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST" at Jesus' birth. Luke 2:14 They praised the Lord. Luke 2:13 Peter instructs the saved and specifically elders in this chapter to give God glory. God's people are to exalt, magnify, and praise the Lord. Repeatedly the psalmist wrote, "PRAISE THE LORD." Psa. 135:1 He is worthy and deserving. The saved should give glory to God.

Charles Swilling

II. THE GOVERNMENT. V. 11

The Creator, God is to receive glory and dominion for ever and ever. The universe was created by His power. It is sustained by His power. Hebs. 1:3 He created man and gave him dominion over the animal world. Gen. 1:26,27 God is all powerful, all present, and all knowing. He is almighty. He is the self sufficient one. Our creator wants to have dominion over us.

The control. The Lord created us and sustains us each day. He desires to control us for our own good. Paul admonishes us, "...BUT BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT." Eph. 5:18

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God wants His Holy Spirit to control us. He uses His people, preachers, Word, etc., to show us the need of submitting to Him. He wants to govern His people.

The Christian. Why should Peter say to Him be dominion for ever and ever? Does this mean He doesn't have dominion unless we give it to Him? The Lord receives glory and dominion from us as we give it to Him. He will receive glory and has dominion, but He wants us to give it to Him through our lives as we yield to Him we give Him glory and dominion in our lives. Every saved person should give Him glory and dominion.

III. THE GRACE. V. 12

Faithful because of God's grace. Silvanus was a faithful brother. God's grace or unmerited favor always enables us to be faithful. Be His grace we can stand up, stand for, stand out, stand against, and stand in. We need people who will take a stand. We can only stand by and in God's wonderful grace. Paul desired the Ephesians to be able to stand. Eph. 6:11,13,14

Fruitful in God's grace. It is only by God's grace that we are fruitful. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, faith, peace, longsuffering. Gal. 5:22,23 We are saved by God's grace. Eph. 2:8,9 We stand as a Christian by His grace. We serve the Lord by His grace. God's grace offers to man what He doesn't deserve. God's grace operates in and on man in a way He can't deny. The song "AMAZING GRACE" says it all.

Fellowship in God's grace. Peter wrote of Silvanus a faithful brother. Grace always provides brothers and sisters to share in fellowship. Fellowship enables us to exhort and testify to one another. The true grace of God truly helps us to be faithful, fruitful, and fellowship.

IV. THE GROUP. V. 13

The Church. There was a church at Babylon. When we think of Babylon we think of a wicked and cruel race and place in the Old Testament. We think of a false religious system in the Book of Revelation. There was a group of saved people who were baptized, and who had covenanted together to carry out God's commands. The Lord had a representative in Babylon.

The choice. This group of people who made up the church at Babylon had made a choice. They chose Jesus. They lived in sinful, wicked, and cruel times, but they chose Jesus. They repented of their sins and trusted Jesus as personal Saviour. They were a special people because they made a special choice. They were God's people.

The Chosen. This church was made up of the elected. They were elected in Christ Jesus. God elects every person who trusts Jesus as personal Saviour. His will is for every person to be saved. I Tim. 2:4; II Pet. 3:9 They were saved. They were redeemed. They were a chosen people in the Lord.

V. THE GREETING. V. 14

The Greeting. God's people were instructed to greet one another. The word greet means to salute, bid welcome, and wish well to. As we meet one another in church or other places, we are to bid welcome and wish well to. They were to greet one another with a kiss of charity. This was a common practice in those days. They would greet one another with a kiss on the cheek. The kiss of charity was a kiss of friendship. In other places the disciples were instructed to greet one another with a holy kiss. I Cor. 16:20; II Cor. 13:12; I Thess. 5:26 The kiss was intended to reveal the love and fellowship believers had for one another. The emphasis was on their relationship with one another more than the act of kissing. Most churches would experience a great change in fellowship and witnessing, if they showed more love to one another.

The greeted. Each person has an obligation to greet others. Visitors and members of churches need to feel welcomed and loved by fellow believers. It is a blessing to be greeted with Christian love. As you travel to different places and meet fellow believers and are welcomed by them you experience warmth and love and joy. Believers want to return to a church or home where they were made welcomed.

The greeter. Each saved person has a responsibility to greet others. Welcome others into the Lord's service. Bid them welcome and wish them in Christian love and fellowship. Greet them with a smile and handshake that says we are glad you are with us today. Make it a point to let others know you love them and you welcome them with Christian fellowship and love.

VI. THE GROWTH. V. 14

The peace. Peace means (1) A state of tranquility or freedom from war (2) harmony or concord or unity between people (3) Security, safety, and prosperity. Peter desired that God's people have peace of heart, with people, and experience the feeling of security. When we are not at war, have harmony with others, we will experience security.

The people. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. He desires peace for all people. He wants His people to experience peace. Paul wrote, "AND THE PEACE OF GOD, WHICH PERSISTETH ALL UNDERSTANDING:SHALL KEEP YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS THROUGH CHRIST JESUS." Phil. 4:7 We are to live in peace as much as possible. We often do not have peace with Our Maker, of mind, or with membership because of sin and selfishness. If you do not have peace God wants you to make peace.

The position. Peter wished peace for all who were in Christ Jesus. This tells us of the position we must be in for peace. We experience peace with God when we trust Jesus as Saviour. Rom. 5:1 Notice the words of our Lord. "THOSE THINGS I HAVE SPOKEN UNTO YOU, THAT IN ME YE MIGHT HAVE PEACE IN THE WORLD YE SHALL HAVE
TRIBULATION: BUT BE OF GOOD CHEER; I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD." John 16:33 Jesus continues to tell His people, "PEACE BE STILL." Mark 4:37 As the storms of life are raging the Lord can quieten our hearts and give us sweet wonderful peace.

A MODEL PREACHER

In studying God's Word, you will find His description of the lives of great men that were faithful in proclaiming the Word of God. If we expect to amount to anything for God, we have to first see our own unworthiness, and place our lives in the hand of the Master to be used in His service.

Realizing that our calling is an unending occupation, we must continuously have a compassion for lost souls, remain true with God's minority, and never turn to what seems greener fields to enjoy favors of the world.

We should never compromise God's Word to please a gain saying people. We should visualize our messages so strongly that they will make a lasting impression upon our congregation.

Never has one of God's preachers gotten very far without a prayer life. This is a must if you expect to know God's message for the hour. The only fault that could be found in Daniel by his enemies was his loyalty to God in praying regardless of the circumstances.

We should never alter our message just to please a member that acts mighty, even if they threaten to have our salary cut or to have us fired.

We should always be found willing to lend a helping hand to those who are in need, especially a weaker brother, giving him another opportunity to prove to the world which side he is on.

Be a determined man, willing to pay the price and press toward the goal that is set before you. Never let failures stop you, but continue faithfully at your post of duty and refuse to quit regardless what the world has to offer.

You must be found busy doing God's will making your life meaningful, that your mission and purpose in life is to preach the Word, win the lost and exhort fellow Christians to love not just in word but in deed and in truth. In so doing, you will fulfill the ministry and do the work of an evangelist.

You don't realize all these attributes in your early ministry, but as the years of grace add up, you are thankful to God for having put you in the ministry and grateful for having the opportunity to serve Him in His vineyard.

Raymond Howard

I'M A BELIEVER

TEXT: John 3:16-18

INTRODUCTION: A. God has demonstrated His great love. v16

Danny Chappell

1. A great God
2. A great love
3. A great gift
4. A great result

B. Christ died for all but all are not saved.
1. "WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH"
2. Most folk would say "I'm a believer" but that's very general.
3. In a sense everyone is a believer of some sort.

I. TRUE BELIEVERS.
A. The word "believe" is more than a historical head belief.
1. James 2:19
2. The greek word for "believe" means to trust in, rely on, commit, or make a deposit.
3. When we believe in something with our heart we are willing to make a deposit or commitment. Rom. 10:9-10; II Tim. 1:12

B. The advantages of being a true believer.
1. The forgiveness of sin
2. A purpose in life
3. A home in heaven
C. God doesn't need our help but only our permission to save us.
1. He is able. Hebs. 7:25
2. He is willing. I Tim. 2:4
3. He has promised. Rom. 10:13

II. UNBELIEVERS.
A. Jesus deals with the one sin that condemns a person's soul. John 3:18
1. Who is condemned? The unbeliever
2. When is he condemned? Already
3. What does it mean to be condemned? Hell
B. In reality God doesn't condemn anyone they condemn themselves because they refuse to believe. John 3:36

III. MAKE BELIEVERS
A. The Lord deals with this group of folk in Matthew 7:21-23.
1. They went a long way in religion.
2. They kept it up for a long time.
3. They heard the truth in strong terms.
B. There are three plans of salvation in the world today.
1. Works - Titus 3:5
2. Grace plus works - Rom. 11:6
3. Grace - Eph. 2:8-9 (This is the one that works!)
C. Judas is an example of a make believer.
1. He had baptism.
2. He had church membership.
3. He had position in the church.
4. He was lost. John 17:12
D. Can you go back to the experience of accepting Christ as your Saviour?
WHAT
THE SAVED
OUT TO BE!

D.B. Wright

TEXT: Hebrews 5:11-14
INTRODUCTION:
A. Heaven rejoices when one is born into the family of God with eternal life!
2. Illustrated by the FATHER'S REACTION when the prodigal son returned in repentance and humility: "HAD COMPASSION" - Manifest it by HUG AND KISS: - Clothed him with "THE BEST ROBE" "RING ON HIS HAND" - "SHOES ON HIS FEET" - FEAST OF THE FATTED CALF
B. The newly saved are classified as "BABIES IN CHRIST."
1. I Peter 2:2
2. SUCH are to be "RECEIVED" and "FED".
   Rom. 14:1; John 21:15,16
C. The Scripture lesson reveals that the Lord DESIRES TO SEE, YEA, HATH PREDETERMINED THAT SAVED PEOPLE "GROW" UP TO BE SPIRITUALLY MATURE ... TO BE SOMETHING.
   1. These should have already done that!
   2. He instructs that the saved "Desire" to be fed to the intent of growth.
   3. Rom. 8:28 This is that "FULL AGE" or maturity!
I. WE WHO ARE SAVED OUGHT TO GROW TO BE "INFLUENTIAL LIGHTS!"
A. Jesus hath "lighted"our paths. John 1:9
B. The Father hath "SHINED INTO OUR HEARTS."
C. Now He wants us to be lights IN HIS HOUSE and in OUR WORLD. Luke 8:16; Matt. 5:16
II. WE WHO ARE SAVED OUGHT TO BE "CHRISTIAN EXAMPLES!"
A. Jesus left us an example! I Pet. 2:21
B. II Timothy 4:12
   1. Christians are "sign boards" - giving a needed message - to those who travel the road of life with us.
   2. We are ON EXHIBITION on purpose!
   3. Hebrews 12:12-13
   4. YOU ARE THE BEST "EXAMPLE"OF CHRISTIANITY SOME KNOW!
III. WE WHO ARE SAVED OUGHT TO BE "EXHORTERS" TO ONE ANOTHER!
A. At Church: Urge; beseech; stimulate; spur; excite- Heb. 10:25
B. In Day to Day living: Heb. 3:12-13
IV. WE WHO ARE SAVED OUGHT TO BE "LABORERS" IN GOD'S CHURCH AND IN OUR WORLD!
A. We are saved unto good works. Eph. 2:10
B. There is much work! Luke 10:2
C. Jesus set the "example" for us! John 9:4
D. Paul writes in I Cor. 3:9
E. There is AN INDIVIDUAL WORK: Gal. 6:4
F. Rewards will be determined partially by WORK DONE IN LIFE! II Cor. 5:10; I Cor. 3:13-15
V. WE WHO ARE SAVED OUGHT TO BE "DEDICATED-STEADY-PILLARS" IN THE LORD'S CHURCH!
A. We ought to have "FIXED HEARTS!" Psa. 108:1
B. We ought to be "SET" IN THE TRUTH of the Lord!
   1. As Paul says in Phil. 1:17.
C. Paul found JAMES, PETER AND JOHN to be such in the Church in Jerusalem. Gal. 2:9
VI. WE WHO ARE SAVED OUGHT TO BE "USABLE VESSELS" IN THE HOUSE OF GOD... THROUGH WHICH HE CAN POUR OUT HIS BLESSINGS TO OTHERS!
A. II Tim. 2:20-21
B. The Lord desires to fill us!
   1. With His Spirit! Eph. 5:18
   2. With His Righteousness! Matt. 5:6
   3. David spoke of a cup that was FULL AND RUNNING OVER! Psa. 23:5b
   4. The Lord gave David "A NEW SONG!"
   5. He gave the man of Gadara "A TESTIMONY!" Mark 5:19
VII. WE WHO ARE SAVED OUGHT TO BE "PRAYER PARTNERS!"
A. I Tim. 2:9
B. I Tim. 2:1
C. With fellow-believers: Eph. 6:18
D. For Preachers of the Gospel: Eph. 6:19
VIII. WE WHO ARE SAVED OUGHT TO BE "PREPARED TEACHERS" OF THE WORD!
A. Heb. 5:12
B. Teaching the FIRST BUSINESS OF THE CHURCH. Matt. 28:19
C. Teaching the last business of the church.
D. Admonitions toward preparation: II Tim. 2:15; I Pet. 3:15
IX. WE WHO ARE SAVED OUGHT TO BE FISHERS OF MEN.
A. First purpose! Matt. 4:19
B. Rev. 22:17
C. Promise to those who try: Psalm 126:5-6

YOU CAN LET THE WORK BOTHER YOU OR YOU CAN BE BOTHERED BY THE WORK. THE DIFFERENCE IS BETWEEN DEDICATION AND FRUSTRATION.

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THINGS WORSE THAN FIRE

Billy Daniels

TEXT: LUKE 16:22-28

INTRODUCTION:
A. Is the fire of hell real or is it a figure of speech? A figure is never used unless it can’t be described otherwise. Rev. 20:15
B. Our text gives an account of two men, one had much in this life the other had little. One was a child of God the other wasn’t.
C. Fire is real and is very painful to the human body, it is very destructive or it can be a blessing. The fire of hell is worse than anything on earth you have ever seen, but some things in hell will be even more painful.

MEMORY - "SON REMEMBER"
A. Memory is a wonderful thing in this life. It helps us to keep things straight.
B. In hell and torment this will be very painful.
1. Memory of days gone by and the opportunities to accept the Lord.
2. Of the good things you enjoyed in this life; money, health, they pass away.
3. Of days you could have served the Lord and would not.
4. Of the Word of God that has been spoken to you and the life lived before you.
5. Of the excuses you have made when you are without excuse.
6. Of all these things have come to you by the goodness of God. James 1:17
C. You will be receiving the evil portion that comes upon all who reject Christ. Reaping what you have sown.
D. This man remembered his five brothers.
1. His brothers were lost and coming to the same place.
2. Jesus had been crucified for all of them.
E. You will remember many things.

II. SEPARATION - "GREAT GULF FIXED"
A. This great gulf is the blood of Jesus which was rejected in this life.
B. Do you know what it is to be separated? Ask a mother who kissed her son good-bye. Ask a family who has seen a member go to meet Jesus.
C. From God-
1. His love
2. His joy & happiness
3. His comfort
D. From saved relatives - mothers, wives, sons.
1. For you there will be no reunion day.
2. Eternal separation is very painful.

III. HAVING NO HOPE. Luke 16:26
A. No hope of rest-
1. Rev. 14:10,11
2. Isa. 57:20,21
B. No hope of reunion, ever- cannot pass from thence to you.
C. No hope of redemption-
1. Salvation can come only while you live in this life.
2. Eccl. 11:3
3. Rev. 22:11

CONCLUSION:
Fire is bad enough and would bring great pain upon an individual, but remember, separation and having no hope will be worse.

THE LIFE OF FAITH

Maxie Haynes

TEXT: Romans 4:16-25

INTRODUCTION:
A. Principle of Faith Expounded.
B. Principle of Faith Explained.

I. ABRAHAM'S FAITH WAS CONFIDENCE IN A PERSON.
A. Faith's validity is determined by its object.
B. Faith's volume is determined by our knowledge of the object.
1. Knew God to be a God who quickens the dead... life out of deadness.
2. Knew God to be a God who calls things into existence...something out of nothingness.

II. ABRAHAM'S FAITH WAS CONVERSANT WITH THE PROBLEM. V. 19
A. Faith is not ignoring your problems.
B. Faith is thoroughly realistic.
1. Problem-Deadness: Provision-Life

III. ABRAHAM'S FAITH WAS CONSTANT IN ITS PROGRESS. V. 20
A. Initial Faith.
B. Continual Exercise of Faith.
1. Not wavering
2. Steadfast

IV. ABRAHAM'S FAITH WAS CONVINCED OF THE PROMISES. V. 21

In Faith we go Forward!
FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST

TEXT: I John 2:1-24

INTRODUCTION:
Again let us look at the facts concerning the conversation of a persons soul. Many claim fellowship with Christ, but walk contrary to the will of God. The proof according to God's Word is in our attitude toward four things.

I. FELLOWSHIP DEPENDS ON OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE COMMANDMENTS OF CHRIST.
   A. This has to do with the Ten Commandments
      1. We can truly say we don't live under the law.
      2. But a saved man does the things of the law out of love for God.
   B. This has to do with the New Testament law.
      1. The Lord went even farther in His sermon on the Mt.
      2. I John 5:3
   C. There are many things written in the Old and New Testament that we know we should know and do.
      1. Our attitude toward them is an answer to the question, "Do I really love the Lord?"
      2. I John 2:4

II. FELLOWSHIP DEPENDS ON OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE BRETHREN. Verses 9-11
   A. This passage tells us we are to love the brethren.
      1. If we don't, we don't love the Lord.
      2. Love is the measuring stick.
   B. In Matt. 6:14-15, Forgiveness is a measuring stick.
      1. Love takes different forms, and one of them is forgiveness.
      2. We must possess it.
   C. The third thing in loving is helping others.
      1. The story of the Good Samaritan.
      2. He that knoweth to do good and doeth it not it is sin.
      3. Read the 25th chapter of Matt. concerning the Judgment of the nations.

III. FELLOWSHIP DEPENDS ON OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE WORLD. Verses 15-17
   A. Jesus said,"You cannot serve two masters..."
   B. We are to view this world as a place of sojourning, while on the way home.
      1. Abraham, was looking for a city.
      2. When Jacob saw the ladder His attitude changed toward the world.
      3. David was able to face the giant, because he knew there was a power greater than that of man.
      4. Peter was able to leave his boat and occupation, because the world did not mean as much to him as it once had.
      5. We need to let go of the material lust and seek first the kingdom of God, and let Him add to us what we need.

C. The world is going to pass away and all those who depend on it will pass with it.
   1. You cannot have fellowship with Christ and the world.
   2. You must give up one or the other.

IV. FELLOWSHIP DEPENDS ON OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD CHRIST. Verse 22-24
   A. We must believe that Jesus is the Christ.
      1. This means the anointed one of the Father.
      2. It is not enough to just believe that Jesus was a man or a spirit.
      3. We must accept Him as the Christ.
   B. You can't believe in just the Father, you must believe in the Father and the Son.
      1. There are many oneness people today.
      2. They do not have fellowship with Christ, they deny the Father.
   C. We must believe in His death, burial, and resurrection.
      1. This is how our salvation was secured.
      2. Without this we do not believe the truth.
   D. We must believe He is Lord of all.

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HELP US SOUND OUT GOD'S WORD
THE BENEFICIAL TEACHINGS OF CHRIST (Part 13)

SUBJECT: THY WILL BE DONE
SCRIPTURE: Matt. 6:10

The RELEVANCE of this subject should certainly be evident. We need to be constantly keeping in mind that this prayer has practical application for the church and the child of God today. As we do some REASONING concerning this expression, "THY WILL BE DONE", we immediately recognize that this leads us to one word which is vitally needed in all of our lives. This word is "submission". This is one thing the Adamic nature does not want to do. This is verified by observing the examples of Adam and Eve and even Lucifer or the Devil himself.

You will notice that His will is being done in Heaven. The universe is singing in harmony of a creation that is living in the will of God. The sun, moon, stars, and planets are all moving swiftly through space together and not one of them is ever out of place. Even the angels are at the disposal of Jehovah, ready to obey His every command. As we look at the Throne of God, which is revealed in the scriptures, we see a blood washed host of the redeemed who have been removed from the scene of corruption, sin, and failure. Their interest is centered on the Lamb of God. In heaven, the will of God is being done with not a creature out of harmony.

Notice now that Jesus has instructed us to pray, "THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH". This is the thought that we want to develop and discern. In the development of this part we will notice:

I. The Destroying Element.
II. The Dynamic Victory.
III. The Decision.

I. THE DESTROYING ELEMENT.

First, let's notice the IDENTIFICATION of that element that hinders and keeps the will of God from being done on earth and keeps us from enjoying the blessings of our relationship in Christ. That destroying element is "I". Included in this is my will, my desires, and what I want. This keeps the will of God from being done. If you want an example of this notice I Sam. 15:1-35.

Next, notice the INCLUSION involved in this reality. This destroying element is seen in all of our lives. We need to realize this. So many times we talk about others and their problem with self but the truth of the matter is that we all have problems with "self". The result of our being concerned with what "I want" etc., is that we miss out on God's richest blessings and we do not experience the abundant life. A Biblical revelation of this reality is seen in the life of the Apostle Peter. In his early life he was wrapped up in self. He was concerned about what "he" thought or what "he" wanted to do. He even had the audacity to try to correct the Lord. Can you imagine that? Even the Lord told him that he was praying for him so that when he became converted he would strengthen the brethren. Now the Lord was not speaking about Peter getting saved because he was already saved, but rather the Lord was saying, "Peter, when you get converted to the truth that it doesn't matter what you think, want, or say that counts. But rather what I declare, then you strengthen the brethren." Undoubtedly, Peter was converted to this truth after he heard the rooster crow because the scripture reveals that when he went out and wept bitterly and from that moment on, we witness a changed man. He had moved from the "self-life" to the " submissive life."

This destroying element is also seen in the Lord's churches. We need to be concerned about what the Lord wants. The church of Laodicea depicts a lukewarm church where the rights of the people prevailed. The Lord desires His churches to (1) Preach the infallible Word of God; (2) Believe in and practice separation; (3) Love lost souls and witness to them; (4) Teach the whole council of God; and (5) Have a goal or vision.

This destroying element is seen in the world. The attitude of the world has let us make a name for ourselves and do what we want to do. For further study of this destructive element, notice Gen. 9:1, Gen. 11:1-4 and compare this attitude and outlook with the mystery Babylon of Revelation 17.

II. THE DYNAMIC VICTORY.

The SOURCE of this victory from the self-controlled and motivated life is Jesus Christ. Jesus exemplified the desire to do the Father's will. Notice John 4:34, John 6:28-29, Matt. 26:39. He did not do necessarily what He wanted to do but rather, He did His Father's will.

The SERIOUSNESS of this issue is seen in the fact that only by doing His will can we insure for ourselves blessing and productivity. The only way that we can do the will of God is through Jesus Christ. Phil. 4:13 Through Christ, we have the ministry of the Holy Spirit who is the enabler. Notice Romans 8:26-27 and Romans 8:37.

III. THE DECISION.

The decision to do the will of God will cause you to do some things which will go against your flesh, carnal de-
sires, and pride. But may God help all of us to surrender and be submissive.

Several years ago I heard Bro. D.B. Wright preach a message on what would happen if the will of God was done. Here are some of the things he said would happen if God's will was done in our lives:

1. There would be much confessions of sins.
2. There would be a demonstration of forgiving spirits.
3. There would be some back tracking (talebearers, those that have sown discord, backslidden)
4. There would be some new tracks made. (Church attendance, soul winning, giving.)
5. There would be some revelations (we would start putting God first in our lives.)
6. Lost sinners would be saved.

May God help all of us to truly SUBMIT AND SURRENDER ourselves to the Lord and pray "THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN."

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**TRANSFORMATION OF A SINNER**

Joe Stevens

**TEXT:** Acts 9:1-6

**INTRODUCTION:**

Probably no better example of the complete transformation of a sinner can be found than that of Saul. His entire life was changed. His goal, desire, purpose, mission, religion, occupation, destiny and even his name changed. The difference came when he allowed the Lord to be the Lord of His life.

The Lord wants to transform all sinners. He is not willing that any should perish. However, He will not force His power upon men. He only works in those who are willing to let Him be Lord over their lives. Those who will say, "Lord what will thou have me do?"

Let us notice some works of God in the complete transformation of a sinner.

**I. BY HIS LOVE HE SEeks US.**

A. Man by nature goes away from God.
   1. Adam set the example that all follow.
   2. Paul was not seeking God, God's way.
   3. Isa. 53:6
B. The Lord Jesus came into the world to seek and to save sinners. Luke 19:10
C. While we were yet sinners he died for us. Rom. 5:8
D. John 3:16
E. Today He seeks sinners by the Word and Spirit. The Word convicts and the Spirit woos in love.

**II. BY HIS GRACE HE SAVES US.**

A. To be saved is to be set free from the condemnation and penalty of sin.
B. We, like Paul have no goodness about us that would merit us this favor. Eph. 2:8
C. By His grace we are transformed.
D. No one is saved who will not accept His offer of grace and mercy.

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1. The rich young ruler went away lost.
2. Agrippa was almost persuaded.
3. Felix trembled.

**III. BY HIS POWER HE SEALS US.** Eph. 4:30

A. To be sealed by the power of God is to be eternally safe and secure. How safe? Rom. 8:39
B. No power in heaven or in earth or under the earth can break this seal.
C. The sinner that is saved by grace through faith is also sealed at the same time. Eph. 1:13

**IV. BY HIS WILL HE SANCTIFIES US.** Jude 1

A. To be sanctified means to be set apart.
B. Set apart from the former way of life.
C. Paul was truly sanctified.
D. Set apart to be a vessel unto honor. 2 Tim. 2:21
E. Set apart to bear witness. John 15:16
F. Set apart to do good works. Eph. 2:10

**V. BY HIS COMMAND HE SENDS US.** John 20:21

A. Sends into all the world. Matt. 28:19
   1. To all people.
   2. In the highways and byways.
B. Sends with the message of eternal life.
C. Paul was sent to the Gentiles with the message of salvation by grace.
D. This is one of God's methods of seeking sinners.

**VI. BY HIS MERCY HE SUSTAINS US.** II Cor. 3:5

A. In trials and tribulations. II Cor. 12:9
B. In all our needs. Phil. 4:19

**VII. BY HIS COMING HE SUBTRACTS US.**

A. The final phase of our transformation will come when He subtracts us from:
   1. This present evil world.
   2. Away from the unsaved.
B. He is not going to subtract us but He is going to transform us into His likeness. We shall be changed in a moment and in the twinkling of an eye.
C. What a time that will be when the Lord subtracts us from this world and adds us to the heavenly number.

**CONCLUSION:**

Will you be subtracted? Not unless you have been saved and sealed. The only thing keeping you from being saved and sealed is personal resistance. He seeks to transfer you.