THE HOLY WORD OF GOD

"AND THAT FROM A CHILD THOU HAST KNOWN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES, WHICH ARE ABLE TO MAKE THEE WISE UNTO SALVATION THROUGH FAITH WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS. ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN BY INSPIRATION OF GOD, AND IS PROFITABLE FOR DOCTRINE, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION, FOR INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS: THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE PERFECTION, THROUGHLY FURNISHED UNTO ALL GOOD WORKS." II Tim. 3:15-17

These verses speak plainly concerning the Holy Word of God. All Scripture speaks of God's Holy Word. The Bible is the greatest of all books. It is the most important Book ever written. It has been the best seller for years. Millions of Bibles have been printed over the years.

The Bible expresses God's love and will for all men. It contains wisdom to live by in daily life. Lives have been changed by the truth of God's Word. Men have tried to destroy it, change it, pervert it, discredit it, deny it, and defy it, but it has stood the test of time.

Notice seven things about the Holy precious wonderful and majestic Word of God.

I. GOD'S WORD IS INSPIRED AND PROFITABLE.

It is inspired. Inspired basically means God breathed. Peter wrote, "...BUT HOLY MEN OF GOD SPOKE, AS THEY WERE MOVED BY THE HOLY GHOST." II Pet. 1:21 Referring to Psa. 41:9 Peter wrote, "MEN AND BRETHREN, THIS SCRIPTURE MUST NEEDS HAVE BEEN FULFILLED,

WHICH THE HOLY GHOST, BY THE MOUTH OF DAVID SPOKE BEFORE CONCERNING JUDAS, WHICH WAS GUIDE TO THEM THAT TOOK JESUS." Acts 1:16 Peter also spoke these words in Acts 3:18, "BUT THOSE THINGS, WHICH GOD BEFORE HAD SHOWN BY THE MOUTH OF ALL OF HIS PROPHETS, THAT CHRIST SHOULD SUFFER, HE HATH SO FULFILLED." The Bible is God's Word. God gave the messages to men who were directed by the Holy Spirit to record them.

It is profitable. Profitable means it is beneficial or one gains from it's teachings. Paul listed four reasons for the all scripture being profitable. (1) It is profitable for doctrine. Doctrine means teaching. God's Word is truth. John 17:17 It is the source of our teaching. It is the final authority on right and wrong. (2) It is profitable for reproof. This means it shows us what is wrong. The Bible is a mirror that we look into to see what God expects. The Holy Spirit convicts us of what is wrong. (3) It is profitable for correction. This means it shows us how to correct what is wrong. We are not only convicted of the wrong, but we can be cleansed and changed from the wrong. (4) It is profitable for instruction in the righteousness. The Bible gives the perfect example Jesus Christ. Rom. 10:4 The Bible instructs in the way, truth, and life. John 14:6 God's people can mature and work properly for Him by studying and applying His Word.

II. THE WORD IS A LAMP AND LIGHT.

"THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET, AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH." Psa. 119:105
A lamp unto our feet. As a lamp, it gives personal guidance and instruction. It gives light and understanding. "THE ENTRANCE OF THY WORD GIVETH LIGHT. IT GIVETH UNDERSTANDING UNTIL THE SIMPLE." Psal. 119:150 God's Word gives us direction and purpose. It teaches us how to walk in this life. "TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL THINE HEART; AND LEAN NOT UPON THINE OWN UNDERSTANDING. IN ALL THY WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, AND HE SHALL DIRECT THY PATHS." Prov. 3:5,6

A light unto my path. The Word of God shows me the path of life to take. It shows me the foolish paths that lead to destruction. It also lights my path. I can see where the path is leading to. In a sin cursed and darkened world, the written Word of God is a lamp and a light that lightens my way.

III. THE WORD IS A PREVENTIVE OF SIN.

"THY WORD HAVE I HID IN MINE HEART, THAT I MIGHT NOT SIN AGAINST THEE." Psal. 119:11 God's Word will keep you from sin. As we take heed or do as God's Word teaches us, we will cleanse our ways. Psal. 119:9 We are to hide it in our hearts to help us not sin against God. The Holy Spirit convicts us of wrong doing. God's Word will help us and show us the right way to live. Paul wrote, "ABSTAIN FROM ALL APPEARANCES OF EVIL." I Thess. 5:22 If we would heed this simple admonition we would find that we would not do, say, get involved in many things because of the appearance of evil. God's Word is a standard of righteousness which reveals the righteous and exposes the evil.

Sin will keep you from God's Word. Sin will cause our love for the Lord and His Word to wax cold. "AND BECAUSE INJUSTICE SHALL ABOUND THE LOVE OF MANY SHALL WAX COLD." Matt. 24:12 Listen to Isaiah. "BUT YOUR INIQUITIES HAVE SEPARATED BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR GOD, AND YOUR SINS HAVE HID HIS FACE FROM YOU, THAT HE WILL NOT HEAR." Is. 59:2 A cold heart doesn't long to know God's Word nor does it want to conform to it. As David gave testimony sin robs us of the joys of God's salvation. Psal. 51:12 How tragic it is for the Lord's people to fail to read and study the Bible.

IV. THE WORD OF GOD IS THE MEANS OF CHRISTIAN GROWTH.

"AS NEWBORN BABIES, DESIRE THE SINCERE MILK OF THE WORD, THAT YE MAY GROW THEREBY." 1 Peter 2:2 God wants His people to grow. He wants you to grow in grace and knowledge. II Pet. 3:18 He wants you to grow into a servant of the Lord. He wants you to grow into a helping ministering saint to others. He wants you to grow to enjoy the Christian life. He wants you to grow to maturity. Verse 17 says, "THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE PERFECT, COMPLETELY THROUGHLY FURNISHED UNTO ALL GOOD WORKS." The Christian growth process is like the human growth process. You have birth, childhood, youth, adulthood, which hopefully is maturity and wisdom. The growing and learning process is endless in both cases.

The means of our growth is the Word. We are to desire the sincere milk of the word in order to grow. Consider Hebs. 5:12-14 "FOR WHEN FOR THE TIME YE ought to be teachers, YE have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are full of age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." As we study we gain knowledge about the Lord and His way. We are to put the knowledge we gain to work in our daily lives which causes us to grow. Sometimes the trials, tests, and troubles will be severe. The Word of God becomes real and reassuring as we rely upon the Lord during such times.

V. THE WORD IS VALUABLE.

"THE LAW OF THY MOUTH IS BETTER UPON ME THAN THOUSANDS OF GOLD AND SILVER." Psal. 119:72.

Consider the Psalmist. God's law or Word was better to Him than silver and gold. He valued God's Word by saying, "THAN THOUSANDS OF GOLD AND SILVER." Psal. 119:72 Paul considered the Lord and His word this way. "UNTO ME, WHO AM LESS THAN THE LEAST OF ALL SAINTS, IS THIS GRACE GIVEN, THAT I SHOULD PREACH AMONG THE GENTILES THE UNSEARCHABLE RICHES OF CHRIST." Eph. 3:8 Money and its power will fail. There are times when money can't do anything. It is meaningless. God's Word offers that which is eternal and so comforting. To a dying man money has no value. To a dying man, Jesus, salvation, and God's Word is everything.

Consider Job. Job said, "NEITHER HAVEST THOU GONE BACK FROM THE COMMANDMENTS OF HIS LIPS; I HAVE ESTEEMED THE WORDS OF HIS MOUTH MORE THAN MY NECESSARY FOOD." Job 23:12 Esteem means to lay up, hide, conceal. The Word of God not only helps to burn away the dross in living, it also burns in the promises of God. Job lost nearly everything of human value. His wealth, health, and good will of friends and family. God's Word was what he held on to. Read Job 19:25-27 You will find that Job depended on and relied upon the coming Redeemer. Job said, "THOUGH HE SLAY ME, YET WILL I TRUST IN HIM." Job 13:15

VI. THE WORD IS THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT.

"AND TAKE THE HELMET OF SALVATION AND THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD." Eph. 6:17

We are at war. Paul told Timothy to be a good soldier. "THOU THEREFORE ENDURE HARDNESS, AS A GOOD SOLDIER OF JESUS CHRIST. NO MAN THAT WARRETH
UNITY OF THE FAITH

TEXT: Ephesians 4:11-15

Charles Murphy

INTRODUCTION:

A. Paul is telling us of some of the gifts of God to His churches.
B. Read the text.
C. Underline the "pastors and teachers" - "Pastor Teacher"
D. The Scripture instructs the Pastor Teacher to mature the congregation to the point that there is unity in the faith.
E. He does this by correcting every new doctrine that comes along, by which people are tossed to and fro, and exhorting them the Scriptures.
F. He does so firmly, speaking the truth, but does so in love.
G. In recent years many doctrines, ideas, movement, practices, have crept into the churches.
H. The charismatic issue, with it's emphasis on feelings and tongues, name it and claim it theology, health and wealth movement the doctrine of positive confession.
I. This is socialism - without evangelism, and evangelism is equally dangerous without socialism action.
J. Going off on tangents, parades and demonstrations on things such as abortions, homosexuals Christian politics are just a few of the things we have dealt with, matured through and come to the unity of the faith.
K. Some of you may not know what this is all about. But some will - There is a movement going on today that is called the deliverance ministry.
L. I am going to deal with this today by letting you know what those who teach it believe and what to the contrary we believe and for the past 2,000 years Christians have believed.
M. It is a teaching that one goes to a deliverance counselor who after a few hours will identify certain demons that are suppose to have invaded the life of the believer and then through hours of process and effort exercises and cast out and deliver from demons, (a believer now) and is set free and walks in Christian victory.
N. It is confusing and divisive in any true New Testament Church.
O. Things that they believe, and what Baptist believe.

1. THEY BELIEVE THAT THE PURSUIT OF VICTORY IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS PRIMARILY EXTERNAL FIGHTING A CONSTANT DEMON ATTACK ON CHRISTIANS.

A. True Baptist believe and great Christian writers on the subject of Christian victory have always believed that the emphasis is not that at all but that the fight is within.
1. It is a fight between the old man and the new, internal and not external it is a fight between the flesh and the Spirit. The carnal man and the spiritual man and not the thinking of this ministry, that every problem comes down to the matter of fighting the demons externally.

2. Christians have believed down through the ages that the greatest Scripture ever written on the subject of Christian victory is Romans 5, 6, 7, 8.

B. The Bible is clear that the problems that keep us from being the kind of Christian we want to be is with the human heart.

1. Look at Matt. 15:19 - This is Jesus speaking. We shall look at several verses.

2. Where do these problems come from? From demons? NO! They come from out of the heart. Human nature, forgiven but not eradicated, the old nature with which we still have to deal with the heart of man, it is internal and not external.

C. Gal. 5 - This is another classic picture and passage on the nature of the fight between the flesh and the spirit.

1. Gal. 5:16
   a. Does it say, "Fight demons and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh?" NO! "Walk in the Spirit."
   b. OR demons lust against the flesh? NO! Vs. 17
   c. Now Vs. 19 & 20 Read - does it say, "The works of demons are these?" NO! "The works of the flesh are these..."

2. Now James 1: - James is the half brother of our Lord Jesus Christ, he should know the truth.
   a. James 1:13 Let is stop here for a moment - He says, no temptation comes from God.
      1. The deliverance ministry says, "nothing of sin comes from God, therefore it is from demons." NOT SO!
      2. They rush from a premise to a conclusion with no logic.
      3. What does the Bible say, "It is not from demons, it is not from God, But Vs. 14, 15 Is it from demons? NO! It is from his own lust, and enticed.
   b. James 4:1 - This is not church members fighting in the church, it is the division in the human personality.
      1. Read. Vs 1

D. So the first proposition that these people make is that the priority of the Christian life is an obsession with being aware of constantly fighting demons.

E. The church's position and position of Christian theologians for centuries this pastor and Baptist position, is that the fight is within, the flesh against the spiritual man.

II. THEY BELIEVE THAT VICTORY THEREFORE IS ACHIEVED BY SUBMITTING TO SOMEONE COUNSELING OR MINISTRY.

A. Going through an experience or an act of a few hours and then one is delivered and victory in the Christian life is gained.

B. The position of the church is, that the possession of sanctification is not a one time act or a one afternoon experience.
   1. It is a life time process.
   2. From conversion (justification) to heaven (glorification), is a life time process of sanctification.

C. Eph. 5:18 "Be filled with the Spirit" is a verb tense which does not mean a one time act. It is constantly, "be ye filled with the Spirit."

D. Many people do not need demons cast out they need to be discipled.

E. Christian victory is achieved by submitting to the Spirit of God and not some counseling ministry.

III. THEY TEACH - THAT THE BELIEVER NEEDS TO BE DELIVERED FROM DEMONS.

A. We believe that we do not need to be delivered for we have already been delivered.

B. Col. 1:12 & 13 - We believe that no such process or any other thing needs to occur to deliver the Christian from demons.
   1. I am in the kingdom of His dear Son.
   2. I am part of a kingdom of light and not a part of the power of darkness.
   3. I have been delivered by Jesus Christ.
   4. If I have been set free from the law of sin and death, how is it that I need to be set free from the law of sin and death?
   5. If I have been converted, how is it that I have to be converted?
   6. If I have been delivered, how is it that I have to be delivered?
   7. We do not believe in the deliverance ministry, because we believe the Christian has already been delivered.
   8. The Christian needs to acknowledge what is already his through faith in Jesus Christ. He is in the light and not darkness with the demons.

IV. THEY BELIEVE THAT A CHRISTIAN CAN BE DEMON POSSESSED AND NEEDS TO HAVE THE DEMONS EXORCISED.


(continued on page 7)
THE BENEFICIAL TEACHINGS
OF CHRIST (PART 20)

SUBJECT: OUR LORD'S TEACHING
CONCERNING JUDGING!

TEXT: Matthew 7:1-6

Our minds and hearts are hopefully set on acquiring and accumulating Biblical materials which will help us in our experiences that we encounter in life. Through varied experiences, I have come to the realization that my responsibility as a pastor/teacher is to dispense and declare the divine treasures that are found in God's blessed Word. It is totally impossible for us to see or to hear for others, or to receive for others. This concept of enlightenment and understanding is between each individual and their co-operation with God's Spirit of revelation. The pastor/teacher is to proclaim God's proclamations in terms of clarity to the area of intellectual comprehension of his congregation, but the real impact of Biblical enlightenment is brought about through the ministry of the Spirit as this revealed knowledge is transferred from the head to the heart. Heart knowledge of God's truths is what moves and motivates us into actions that bring honour and glory to God. Also, it is this knowledge that develops in us conviction and character.

The real need of all of us is to put into practice the teachings of the Lord. This teaching deals with judging. Now let us notice the exposition of Matthew 7:1-6.

I. THE CRITICISM.

"JUDGE NOT, THAT YE BE NOT JUDGED. FOR WITH WHAT MEASURE YE JUDGE, YE SHALL BE JUDGED: AND WITH WHAT MEASURE YE METE, IT SHALL BE MEASURED TO YOU AGAIN." Matthew 7:1-2

Notice with me first the EXPLANATION. What does this mean? This means one is not to pass judgment on people's motives and hearts since we do not know them.

In the second place, let's notice the CONSIDERATION. Does the preacher judge when he preaches? Does the church judge in the wrong way, when she takes care of discipline problems? I Cor. 5:1-13 Well, of course not, in the sense of the teaching of the text. In both instances when the Word of God has already judged something to be wrong and the preacher is obedient in declaring the truth and the church is obedient in carrying out the proper action, both are just simply carrying out God's judgment. God has done the judging. The thought under consideration deals with our attitudes in this text. Don't be out to get someone just to make yourself look good.

Thirdly, consider the ILLUMINATION. Destructive criticism shows lack of mature Christianity. Let God do the judging. James 4:12 Destructive criticism shows a lack of control. Someone does something that does not go along with our philosophy and thus, we criticize them unjustly. We need to keep our bodies under subjection and this includes the tongue. I Cor. 9:27 Criticism, many times, reveals a lack of compassion. Notice Eph. 4:32, Rom. 15:1 and Gal. 6:1. We need to beware of self-righteousness and self-deception.

II. THE CONCERN.

"AND WHEN BEHOLDST THOU THE MOTE THAT IS IN THY BROTHER'S EYE, BUT CONSIDEREST NOT THE BEAM THAT IS IN THINE OWN EYE." Matthew 7:3

This deals with seeing the mote (small wood splinter) in your brother's eye, but not seeing the beam (log) in your own eye. It's easy for us to see others' sins, shortcomings and slackness; but we should also realize some other truths. If we cleanse ourselves, we will have no time to judge others. Rom. 14:4 Since God is perfect, we should let Him do the judging.

III. THE CONDEMNATION.

"OR HOW WILL THOU SAY TO THY BROTHER, LET ME PULL OUT THE MOTE OUT OF THINE EYE: AND BEHOLD, A BEAM IS IN THINE OWN EYE." Matthew 7:4

Once again we should realize the importance of this statement. We should be concerned about the CLEANSING, CONTROLLING and CONSECRATING of self. Review the following scriptures:

II Cor. 7:1 "HAVING THEREFORE THESE PROMISES, DEARLY BELOVED, LET US CLEANSE OURSELVES FROM ALL FULNESS OF THE FLESH AND SPIRIT PERFECTING HOLINESS IN THE FEAR OF GOD."

Psa. 34:13 "KEEP THY TONGUE FROM EVIL, AND THY LIPS FROM SPEAKING GUILE."


IV. THE CLEANSING.

"THOU HYPOCRITE, FIRST CAST OUT THE BEAM OUT OF THINE OWN EYE: AND THEN SHALT THOU SEE CLEARLY TO CAST OUT THE MOTE OUT OF THY BROTHER'S EYE." Matthew 7:5

In this area notice three things:

(1) The PERSONAL element—We should clean up our own life first.

(2) The PURGING element—We should first cast out the beam in thine own eye.

(3) The PLAN—We should live right, then you can help
V. THE CONCERN.

"GIVE NOT THAT WHICH IS HOLY UNTO THE DOGS, NEITHER CAST YE YOUR PEARLS BEFORE SWINE, LEST THEY TRAMPLE THEM UNDER THEIR FEET AND TURN AGAIN AND REND YOU." MATTHEW 7:6

The expression, "THAT WHICH IS HOLY", refers to anything connected with true and genuine Christianity. This includes the doctrines, precepts, and the principles of Christianity. The term "pearls" refers to the precious doctrines of the gospel. The term "dogs" signifies men who spurn, oppose and abuse the gospel of Jesus Christ. The term "swine" refers to those who trample these precepts under their feet. These men are corrupt, polluted, obscene and sensual. They do not know the value of the glorious gospel and the precious and pure Word of God.

The implication in this verse leads us to the conclusion that there are some people that we should not associate with. We should leave them alone. There is a Biblical concept that teaches us that we should not waste our talents on those who resist you. It takes Godly wisdom to be able to discern these things and this comes through prayer, spiritual growth and experience. Notice these verses: I John 5:16, Luke 10:10-11, & Matt. 18:15-17.

In our dealings with people we should constantly be reminded of this concept: Are we really trying to help people or just put them down so that we can feel that we are elevated. May God help all of us to heed the admonition of the Lord.

WHAT'S THAT IN YOUR HAND?

TEXT: Exodus 4:1-5

INTRODUCTION:
A. God had a WORK that needed to be done. Ex. 3:8
B. God needed a WORKER to speak for Him both to Pharaoh and to the Israelites. Ex. 3:10
C. Moses did not "seek the job" the job sought him. HE DID NOT FEEL QUALIFIED FOR THE TASK.
  1. Ex. 3:11
  2. Moses doubted that his own people would respect and believe that God had sent him. Ex. 4:1
D. THE QUESTION: "WHAT IS THAT IN THINE HAND?" Ex. 4:2
E. THE DEMONSTRATION that God can use you with what you have to accomplish His will and work. Ex. 4:3,4
F. The Application to us:

I. WHERE DID YOU GET WHAT YOU HAVE IN YOUR HANDS?
A. Paul said we "received" it! I Cor. 4:7
B. James said it came down from the Father. James 1:17
C. David said the same! I Chron. 29:12,16
D. Paul taught the church at Corinth the same principle. I Cor. 16:2
E. We are taught by Jesus that we are entrusted with the management of it according to our ability. Matt. 25:14-15

II. WHO ARE YOU "GLORIFYING" WITH WHAT HAS BEEN PLACED IN YOUR HAND?
A. King Nebuchadnezzar was glorifying self. Dan. 4:30
  1. Somethings he forgot!
     a. It came from God! Dan. 4:32
     b. God gave him the MENTAL and PHYSICAL ability he had...and was about to take it from him for seven years.
B. Herod gave not God the glory for his accomplishments. Acts 12:21-23
C. Jesus told of a wealthy, successful farmer who TOOK NOT GOD INTO HIS THOUGHTS after God blessed him with an abundance. Luke 12:16-21
D. Paul dedicated WHAT HE WAS AND HAD to MAGNIFY JESUS! Phil. 1:20b-21
  1. What's your "AIM" in life?
  2. What's your "PURPOSE" for being?
  3. WHAT ARE YOU REALLY DOING WITH WHAT GOD HAS INTRUSTED TO YOUR MANAGEMENT?
E. Christians should GLORIFY GOD with our "all". I Cor. 10:31

III. WHAT ARE YOU "DOING" WITH WHAT GOD HAD PUT IN YOUR HAND?
A. One who isn't doing anything is not demonstrating a saving faith. James 2:26
B. Let's take a look at the NEGATIVE ACTION of some:
  1. The children of Ephraim: Psalm 78:9
  2. Israel: Psalm 78:41
  3. The Five Foolish Virgins:
     a. They had lamps - Took no oil
  4. The third talent man:
     a. Had "ability"
     b. Was entrusted with "A TALENT"
     c. "HID" his talent and did nothing.
  5. Israelites in Babylon: Psa. 137:2
     a. They had "HARPS" and "SONGS".
     b. They HUNG THEIR HARPS IN A TREE.
   Let them become weather beaten,
corrode, rust. -- Refusing one of the great opportunities to SING GOD’S MESSAGE BEFORE THE UNSAVED.

C. THANK GOD...it was not that way with others!
1. Noah...had TOOLS and ABILITY to build and BUILT FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS.
2. Dorcas had a NEEDLE and ABILITY to fabricate garments for others and did it.
3. PRISCILLA AND AQUILA...had HOME and a BUSINESS.
   a. Opened their home to house a church:
   b. Shared their business with Missionary when offerings were not sufficient.
4. EZRA had ABILITY TO ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE and applied himself to LEARN, PRACTICE, and TEACH OTHERS. Ezra 7:10
5. SOME HAD A TESTIMONY and GAVE IT.
   a. An ex-manic: Mark 5:20
   b. Philip: John 1:45
   c. The Samaritan: John 4:29
   d. David: Psalm 40:1-3
   e. Hezekiah: Isaiah 38:17

IV. SOMETHINGS WE ALL HAVE IN OUR HANDS:
   A. Life
     1. Acts 17:25b What are you doing with your life?
        a. For God, Who gave it?
        b. For Yourself? Matt. 16:26
        c. For Others?
   2. A "LIGHT" if you are saved: Where is it?
      a. Under a bed? (Living only for pleasure? Too lazy to work?)
      b. Under a bushel? (Too involved with material interest to serve God or care about the lost?)
      c. "ON THE GOLDEN CANDLESTICK?" Shining to give light for others to come to Christ by?
   3. A "TESTIMONY" if saved: Eph. 2:8
      I Cor. 15:10; 1 Tim. 1:15
   4. We all have THE WORD:
      a. Which serves as a "LIGHT". Psalm 119:130
      b. Which is "LIFE". John 6:63
      c. Which is "POWER". Rom. 1:16
   5. We all have INTERCESSARY PRIVILEGE AND POWER THROUGH PRAYER!
      a. Invited to the throne room. Hebrew 4:16
      b. Prayer avails much. James 5:16
   6. We each have some "ABILITY."
   7. We have some "talent" which has been entrusted to our use.

(UNITY OF THE FAITH FROM PAGE 4)

V. THEY BELIEVE THAT THERE WAS ONE WOMAN WHO HAD A DEMON CAST OUT OF HER.
   A. The woman of whom they refer to in Luke 13 is not a christian.
      1. Luke 13:10-16 Read
      2. This text is Jewish - note - ruler of the synagogue - Sabbath day - daughter of Abraham: This was a Jewish setting with a Jewish woman.
      3. But because she was referred to as the daughter of Abraham they believe she was a christian.
      4. This woman was not a christian, she was just a Jewish woman.

VI. THEY TEACH AND BELIEVE THAT DEMONIC WARFARE FOR SAINTS IS TAUGHT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. All of that is based on Eph. 6.
   A. No such doctrine of fighting demons by Christians is found in the New Testament.
   B. Satan has power over demons and it does seem logical.
      1. Separate logic, experience, assumption and presumption from Bible doctrine.
      2. Note the passage from which they get their idea. Eph. 6
      3. The emphasis of the New Testament is that any fighting against evil is against the devil and not all these imagined demons. Eph. 6:12

UNITY OF THE FAITH CONTINUED IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE.

I WANT TO RECEIVE THE PAPER

NAME ____________________________
ADDRESS ______________________ ZIP CODE __________
CITY __________________ STATE __________
CHANGE OF ADDRESS _______ NEW SUBSCRIPTION _______
HELL IS NO JOKE

TEXT: Matthew 25:30
Randy Cloud

INTRODUCTION:
In our sophisticated society, it is popular to joke about hell. The word "joke" in the dictionary is defined as "anything said or done to arouse laughter, as a funny anecdote; something not meant to be taken seriously, a person or thing to be laughed at." Hell is no joke! Many congregations have never heard a sermon on hell, but many people use the word in their vocabularies daily.

Many people consider it crude unluring to even speak seriously about hell. However, the inspired Word of God does not avoid the subject of hell and neither can I.

Silence as to "the weeping and gnashing of teeth" as mentioned by Jesus does more to populate hell than the blasphemies of all the atheists and agnostics. Jesus Christ possessed the tenderest heart of any person who walked on earth, yet He constantly alluded to the certain, terrible and unending suffering of those who died lost.

As a God-called preacher, I preach on hell with a heart of concern and compassion because it is in the Bible. The preacher who is true to His God and to the people to whom he preaches must preach on hell. Preaching on hell has just about diminished, but it is my desire to preach "Thus saith the Lord."

I preach on hell to warn the unsaved, those who have never been born again. Let me list 7 deadly sins: (1) pleasure without conscience; (2) cleverness without character; (3) science without humanity; (4) wealth without work; (5) industry with morality; (6) politics without principle; (7) religion without reality. But remember, any sin is deadly unless you are born again.

The greatest time to come and receive Christ is in the days of your youth. 19 out of every 20 people who are saved were saved before they were 20 years old. After this age notice the percentages: After 25, one in 1,000. After 35, one in 50,000. After 45, one in 100,000. After 55, one in 300,000. After 70, one in 700,000.

If a person is not saved by the age of 18, there is an 80% chance he will die and go to hell. The longer you put off being saved, the harder your heart becomes. Heb. 3:7,8 We live in a day of hardened hearts and forgetful minds.

I. THE REALITY OF HELL.

Jesus used the Greek word "Gehenna" to describe hell. This was a valley just outside of Jerusalem. The bodies of dead animals were thrown into the valley along with the garbage. The fires burned continually to consume the matter, and the worms worked constantly in the filth. Mark 9:46

When I was pastor in a rural church during my Seminary days, I had to take our garbage to a country dump. I dreaded it every time I went. The stench of the place was terrible. It always reminded me of the words of Jesus concerning hell.

Hell is a literal place. The people who joke about meeting all their friends in the surroundings of hell had better enjoy their laughs now - there will be no laughs in hell.

Paul the beloved apostle, preached on hell. II Thess. 1:8-9 John, the apostle of love, warned of the lake of fire. Rev. 20:15 Hell is a definite, literal place. The same Bible that tells of the glories of Heaven warns of the horrors of hell. Psa. 9:17

II. THE RETRIBUTION OF HELL.


III. THE RESIDENTS OF HELL.

Hell is a place prepared for the devil and his angels. Matt. 25:41 All unsaved will be eternally separated from God in hell. Luke 13:3 The word perish means to die in your sins in the place called hell. Unsaved church members will die and go to hell. Matt. 7:21-23.

No one ever goes to hell alone. In Chicago O'Hare Airport, a girl was found who committed suicide in one of the restrooms. Her note read, "Dear Mother, I have never given you nothing but trouble in all of my life. You won't have to worry about your wayward girl anymore. Mother, tell my wicked daddy I will meet him in hell." What a tragedy for a man to bring children into this world and then refuse to let Jesus Christ make him the father he ought to be. There are multitudes of young people dying without Christ because of unbelying parents.

A preacher talked with a man in Lovington, New Mexico, one time who bragged about being lost. He had 5 boys and everyone of them bragged about being lost, just like their father. They were all apparently headed for hell. What a terrible thing it is for a father's rejection of Christ to influence a son, a daughter, a neighbor, or a friend. No one goes to hell alone - he always takes someone else with him.

Jesus Christ died on the cruel cross to save lost souls from a literal hell. The Church of the living God needs a renewed vision of the horrors of a literal burning hell-fire. We need to come alive to winning souls from a Christless eternity called hell. Every time I preach it is my prayer that souls will be saved from the terrible torments of hell.