VICTORY IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

"WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST IS BORN OF GOD: AND EVERY ONE THAT LOVETH HIM THAT BEGAT LOVETH HIM ALSO THAT IS BEGOTTEN OF HIM. BY THIS WE KNOW THAT WE LOVE THE CHILDREN OF GOD, WHEN WE LOVE GOD, AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS. FOR THIS IS THE LOVE OF GOD THAT WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS: AND HIS COMMANDMENTS ARE NOT GRIEVOUS. FOR WHATSOEVER IS BORN OF GOD OVERCOMETH THE WORLD: AND THIS IS THE VICTORY THAT OVERCOMETH THE WORLD, EVEN OUR FAITH. WHO IS HE THAT OVERCOMETH THE WORLD, BUT HE THAT BELIEVETH THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD?" I John 5:1-5

The Lord is our precious Redeemer, Saviour, and Deliverer. We as His people are called upon to run the Christian race, fight the good fight of faith, and be a worker for the Lord. There will be many battles to be fought on different battlefields. The Devil will use people, problems, circumstances, temptation, suffering, and many other things to discourage us in living for the Lord.

It is possible to strive to live for the Lord and feel defeated, miserable, failing, angry, and self pity. The Lord wants us to know we can experience victory.


I. THE MEANING OF VICTORY.

The Dictionary. Victory means to overcome an enemy. It also means achievement or mas-
the victory.

The Plan. Jesus the glorious victor, has a plan for our victory. We are victors already in redemption. Paul tells us that the grave gains no victory and death has no sting for the saved person. I Cor. 15:55. Praise the Lord for I Cor. 15:57, "BUT THANKS BE TO GOD, WHICH GIVETH US THE VICTORY THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST."
The Christian can experience victory over circumstances, over the Devil, over weaknesses, and over temptation by following God's plan for victory.

The Problem. The Lord has given us the plan for victory. We are assured of victory, if we apply the plan for victory. He gave Noah the plan for the Ark and safety before He judged the world. He gave Joshua the plan to take the city of Jericho. Throughout the pages of God's Word the Lord gives the plan and principle for victory. The problem is we are not willing at times to apply the plan. God will supply if we will apply.

III. THE MESSAGE OF VICTORY.

The Lord GIVES the victory. May we always remember the Lord is the one who gives the victory. We cannot obtain the victory without Him. John 15:5 When Eleazar fought with the Philistines, "...AND THE LORD WROUGHT A GREAT VICTORY THAT DAY..." II Sam. 23:10 When Shammah fought the Philistines, "...AND THE LORD WROUGHT A GREAT VICTORY." II Sam. 23:12 The Lord still gives and works the victory. He can take ANYONE who will yield to Him and make him victorious. The Lord gives the victory.

The Lord GUARANTEES the victory. The saved person is guaranteed victory in death. I Cor. 15:57 Job could write these precious words in Job 19:25,26. "FOR I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH, AND THAT HE SHALL STAND AT THE LATTER DAY UPON THE EARTH: AND THOUGH AFTER MY SKIN WORMS DESTROY THIS BODY, YET IN MY FLESH SHALL I SEE GOD." Nearly 2000 years ago the Apostle Paul thanked the Lord for the victory in Christ. I Cor. 15:57

The Lord GUIDES to victory. Paul wrote of the conflict of the old man and new man in Rom. 7:14-25. This great struggle is between right and wrong, sin and righteousness, and God and the Devil. Paul said his deliverance came through Jesus Christ. Paul wrote, "I THANK GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, SO THEN WITH THE MIND I MYSELF SERVE THE LAW OF GOD: BUT WITH THE FLESH THE LAW OF SIN." Rom. 7:25 The Lord desires to guide us in victory. His word shows us the way. Psa. 119:105 His Spirit leads and guides us and convicts us of the right way. We are to live in the spirit. Gal. 5:25

IV. THE MODELS OF VICTORY.

Some of the Lord's people stand out as great victors who gained great victories in the Lord. They overcame trials, temptation, and troubles in life.

David's victory in faith. Israel was challenged by Goliath morning and evening for 40 days to send a man to fight him. I Sam. 17:16 David was sent by his father to carry food to his soldier brothers. When he heard Goliath offer his challenge, he accepted it and fought the giant. As you read I Sam. 17:37, 45, 47 you will realize David was trusting the Lord completely to give him the victory in battle.

Job's victory in patience. Job lost nearly everything of earthly value. He lost his ten children in death. He lost his wealth and possessions and servants in a short time. He lost his health. His three friends accused him of sin and his wife advised him to curse God and die. In all of his loss Job worshipped the Lord and blessed the name of the Lord. Job 1:20, 21 Notice Job 1:22 "IN ALL THIS JOB SINNED NOT, NOR CHARGED GOD FOOLISHLY." Job was perfect, upright, feared God, and eschewed evil. Job 1:1 James didn't write of any of those qualities of Job. James mentions the patience of Job.

Victory often comes to those who are patient in the Lord's work and Christian life.

The Hebrew children's victory in conviction. The three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to obey the King's order to fall down and worship the golden image he made. Dan. 3:14-16 They had a conviction for the truth. God instructed the Jewish people not to make images nor to worship any image. These men were in captivity. If they refused to worship the golden image they would be cast into the burning fiery furnace. Listen to the words of their conviction. "IF IT BE SO, OUR GOD WHOM WE SERVE IS ABLE TO DELIVER US FROM THE BURNING FIERY FURNACE AND HE WILL DELIVER US OUT OF THINE HAND, 0 KING, BUT IF NOT, BE IT DONE TO US AS TO THEE, 0 KING, THAT WE WOULD NOT SERVE THY GOD, NOR WORSHIP THE GOLDEN IMAGE WHICH THOU HAST SET UP." Dan. 3:17, 18 These men were willing to die for the truth. God granted them great victory out of the furnace.

Peter's victory in repentance. Peter made his boast. He said even if all of the Lord's disciples forsake Jesus, he would not. He said he would follow the Lord even to death. Jesus told him, he would deny Him three times. Peter did deny the Lord three times. When that old rooster crowed, Peter remembered the words of Jesus. "And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly." Matt. 26:75 Peter repented of his sins. He was grieved that he had sinned against the Lord and denied Him before men. You will notice a drastic change in Peter's life after this experience. The same man who denied the Lord stood as a monument on the day of Pentecost declaring the Lord's Word. This saved man had a change of mind. Victories are often enjoyed by the Lord's people as we repent of our sins.

Jesus' victory in the Father's will. Jesus took Peter,
James, and John to the garden of Gethsemane. He asked them to pray and went about a stone's cast away. He fell on His face and prayed to His Heavenly Father. He was about to be betrayed, arrested, tried by men, condemned to die by crucifixion, nailed to a cross and mocked by cruel men and forsaken for His Father. In the garden just before He would face all that would happen He prayed "Saying Father, if Thou be willing, REMOVE THIS CUP FROM ME: NEVERTHELESS NOT MY WILL, BUT THINE, BE DONE." Luke 22:42 The cup referred to the suffering and shame. He was asking God to take it out of the way. The Son of God wanted the will of His Father more than anything in His life. He wanted to accomplish the Father's will in His life. Listen to His words in John 6:38, "FOR I CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN, NOT TO DO MY OWN WILL, BUT THE WILL OF HIM THAT SENT ME." He was completely obedient to the Father. His obedience was even to the death of the cross. Phil. 2:8 These models are a few who experienced victory in life. They stand out as examples for us to follow and pattern our lives after.

V. THE MISCONCEPTION OF VICTORY.

Some Christians do not think they can be victors and gain victories in the Lord. I am glad to say you can be victorious in Jesus.

Some think victory is having no problems in life. Victory is often trusting the Lord when nearly crushed by many problems.

Some think that victory comes without them having to pay a price. Victory is given when men are willing to give up everything for the Lord. Job gained the victory while everything was taken from Him. Abraham gained the victory when he was willing to offer Isaac, but didn't have to.

Some think victory comes without heartache or pain. The greater the heartache and pain, the greater the victory.

Some think victory is the total work of the Lord without the effort on their part. David picked up five stones, ran to Goliath and used the sling shot, but the Lord gave the victory.

Some think victory is always accompanied by joy. Peter gained the victory with tears. Job gained the victory with sorrow.

Some think victory is measured with figures and standards of worldly success. Noah was only able to get seven other people in the ark. Stephen was stoned to death at the end of his sermon. Daniel was thrown in the Lion's den. These men were victorious, but not according to the world's standards.

It is a great blessing to read and believe I Cor. 15:57 "BUT THANKS BE TO GOD, WHICH GIVETH US THE VICTORY THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST." We can experience victory in the Christian life.

UNITY OF THE FAITH

Charles Murphy

VII. THEY BELIEVE THAT EXORCISM OF GENTILES AND GENTILE BELIEVERS IS TAUGHT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

A. Exorcism of not only believers but of any kind of gentile is prohibited in the New Testament.

B. Matt. 10 - I want to read to you a Scripture that is at the heart of their theology and then explain something to you.

1. Matt. 10:1 Then Vs. 5-8
2. Mark 16:16 makes it clear that those who would believe the gospel in Jesus' day were going to be believing in an atmosphere of exorcism, or miracles, of signs and wonders of healing.
3. Jesus said be sure you do this to the Jews.
4. Jesus made this clear that this was not a ministry to believers by unbelieving Jew.

VIII. THEY BELIEVE THAT ALL HUMAN MALADY IS CAUSED BY DEMONS.

A. One of their books that is so important in their ministry and school of thinking is call "PIGS IN THE PARLOR". It is about 500 or 600 demons who specialized in everythink.

1. Demons who possess people who teach in seminary.
2. Lust demons
3. Cancer demons
4. Depression demons
5. Any malady you can think of mental, physical, spiritual has a demon.

B. No such doctrine exist in the New Testament and the New Testament makes it clear that where demon possession did exist - it was manifest in blasphemy, uncontrollable actions and super human strength - not what they say today. This was lost people.


A. While that is an interesting theory, there is no Scripture for it. It is just something that they have supposed.

B. Those who believe this also believe that the healing for the body is in the atonement of the blood of the cross.
C. And this completely destroys their doctrine. They will tell us the unregenerate nature can be possessed and yet Christ died for that body, on the cross and it has been redeemed right along with the soul.

X. THEY BELIEVE THAT GOD SENDS DEMONS TO CORRECT US. This does not fit. God sends a demon to correct us, to punish us and then turns around and ask God to get rid of it because it is evil. The Bible is clear that such is not the case.
A. Christ according to II Cor. 6:14-15 hath no concord with the devil.
B. God never uses Satan for good in any way, and light has no communion with darkness.
C. God does His own correcting. He does not send it out from the devil or anyone else. Hebs. 12:5-8
D. They say, "Well Job was corrected by God who used the devil to do so.
E. Let me tell you the doctrine.
2. God did not send demons He allowed Satan.
3. He was not correcting Job, Job was stated, to be a perfect man. God said "Let me show you what a good man is.

XI. THEY BELIEVE THAT ALL EXPERIENCE IS REAL. So if it happens it must be true. Generally speaking the watch word and the cry of the charismatic movement and many of the doctrines that have spun off and movements that have spun off from it, have at their heart the cry, "But it happened." Experience is everything, they say. How can you deny experience.
A. You must argue with experience, you must analyze experience.
1. Bible truth is to be arrived at not by bringing the Scripture to your experience but by bringing your experience to the light of the Scriptures.
2. I don't care what you say happened, if it is not in accord with the New Testament you have been deceived.
B. The Bible says, "Search the Scripture, rightly divide the Word." -Try the Spirits.
1. Satan is a counterfeiter. II Cor. 11: 13-15
C. The church must go by Scripture. - Not by experience.
D. One of the things they do in these meetings is determine if you are saved or not. So they will say, "Let's get on our knees and ask God if you are saved or not.
1. Hold it! What if you think He says No and I think He says Yes! What do we do then?
2. You are to determine salvation upon what you have done with Jesus. The Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."
3. Not all this other.

GOD’S WORKING WITH PURPOSE

TEXT: Romans 8:28
INTRODUCTION:
Maxie Haynes
A. The Statement
B. The Scope of the Statement
I. THE EXTENT OF GOD’S WORKING:
A. Exclusively...God
B. Entirely...All things
II. THE METHOD OF GOD’S WORKING:
A. The Purpose
1. To Be Conformed
2. To Know Him
B. The Process
1. Ruling...over Ruling
2. Pronouncing...Permitting
III. THE LIMITS OF GOD’S WORKING:
A. Those Called
1. Interrupted
2. Disturbed
3. Apprehended
B. Those Who Loved God
1. Not a matter of Sentiment.
2. But a matter of Practicality
IV. THE RESULT OF GOD’S WORKING:
A. Our Good
B. His Purpose
V. THE CERTAINTY OF GOD’S WORKING:
A. Scripture Teaching
1. Promises
2. Dealings
B. Experimental Teachings
1. Vicariously
2. Personally

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Spiritual Gems

"HE THAT GOETH FORTH AND WEEPETH, BEARING PRECIOUS SEED, SHALL DOUBTLESS COME AGAIN WITH REJOICING, BRINGING HIS SHEAVES WITH HIM." PSALMS 126:5-6
THE BENEFICIAL TEACHINGS
OF CHRIST (PART 20)

SUBJECT: PRAYER
TEXT: Matthew 7:7-11

The subject under consideration in this portion of Christ's Beneficial Teachings is Prayer. Prayer is a great privilege of redeemed souls; a weapon in the hour of conflict; a defense in the moment of peril; and a retreat in the seasons of exhaustion. Men ought to always pray and not faint. Jesus gives some very needful principles that we should certainly understand in the matter of prayer. In the exposition of this Scripture we will notice three main areas:

I. THE REQUEST.
II. THE RESULTS.
III. THE RESEMBLANCE.

I. THE REQUEST.

"ASK AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN YOU; SEEK AND YE SHALL FIND; KNOCK, AND IT SHALL BE OPENED UNTO YOU." Matthew 7:7

The DESIRE is implied in the first part of this verse. We have to have a desire which will prompt us to make our request known unto God. The incentive that can produce this desire is not only related to the needs which are connected with our varied experiences but also Biblical enlightenment which encourages us to make these different requests known. Notice two verses in connection with the revelation. Jer. 33:3 "CALL UNTO ME, AND I SHALL ANSWER THEE, AND SHOW THEE GREAT AND MIGHTY THINGS, WHICH THOU KNOWEST NOT." I John 5:14,"AND THIS IS THE CONFIDENCE THAT WE HAVE IN HIM, THAT IF WE ASK ANY THING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, HE HEARETH US."

Along with this desire, there must be DEDICATION. This is seen in the expression "... SEEK, AND YE SHALL FIND." This suggests, that we are earnest or dedicated to the task under consideration. Notice the impact of this reality and truth in Jer. 29:13 and James 5:16. Jer. 29:13 "AND YE SHALL SEEK ME, AND FIND ME, WHEN YE SHALL SEARCH FOR ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART." James 5:16 "CONFESS YOUR FAULTS ONE TO ANOTHER, AND PRAY ONE FOR ANOTHER, THAT YE MAY BE HEALED. THE EFFECTUAL FERVENT PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN AVAILETH MUCH."

Along with the DESIRE and DEDICATION, there must be DETERMINATION. Notice the expression, "KNOCK, AND IT SHALL BE OPENED UNTO YOU." Jesus also said about the same thing in Luke 18:1 "AND HE SPAKE A PARABLE unto them to this end, THAT MEN OUGHT ALWAYS TO PRAY, AND NOT TO FAINT:" The Apostle Paul also urged us to "PRAY WITHOUT CEASING" in 1 Thess. 5:17. Certainly as one views these Scriptures you immediately notice the determination that is involved in making our requests known unto our Heavenly Father.

II. THE RESULTS.

"FOR EVERY ONE THAT ASKETH RECEIVEVETH; AND HE THAT SEEKETH FINDETH; AND TO HIM THAT KNOCKETH IT SHALL BE OPENED."

Immediately, you see the need to ASK. There are several other verses that teach this same need, but we'll just notice three: Phil. 4:6 "BE CAREFUL FOR NOTHING; BUT IN EVERY THING BY PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION WITH THANKSGIVING LET YOUR REQUESTS BE MADE KNOWN UNTO GOD."

James 4:2 "YE LUST, AND HAVE NOT; YE KILL, AND DESIRE TO HAVE, AND CANNOT OBTAIN; YE FIGHT AND WAR, YET YE HAVE NOT, BECAUSE YE ASK NOT."

Matt. 21:22 "AND IN ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER YE SHALL ASK IN PRAYER, BELIEVING, YE SHALL RECEIVE."

Notice the expression "AND HE THAT SEEKETH FINDETH," in the text verses. This deals with the ANSWER. God will keep His promises. He will not change His Word. This is very vividly declared in Numbers 23:19 "GOD IS NOT A MAN, THAT HE SHOULD LIE; NEITHER THE SON OF MAN, THAT HE SHOULD REPENT:" HATH HE SAID, AND SHALL HE NOT DO IT? OR HATH HE SPOKEN, AND SHALL HE NOT MAKE IT GOOD?"

The last part of Matt. 7:8, deals with the ATTENTION, "AND TO HIM THAT KNOCKETH IT SHALL BE OPENED." You can couple with this verse John 15:16 and Isa. 65:24

III. THE RESEMBLANCE.

"OR WHAT MAN IS THERE OF YOU, WHOM IF HIS SON ASK BREAD, WILL HE GIVE HIM A STONE? OR IF HE ASK A FISH, WILL HE GIVE HIM A SERPENT? IF YE THEN, BEING EVIL, KNOW HOW TO GIVE GOOD GIFTS UNTO YOUR CHILDREN, HOW MUCH MORE SHALL YOUR FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN GIVE GOOD THINGS TO THEM THAT ASK HIM." Matthew 7:9-11

In these verses of Scripture you notice a SIMILE. Jesus compares the earthly father to the Heavenly Father in giving of gifts. You also readily grasp the SURETY of God's promises. Notice Matt. 5:18 in verses 7 through 9 you also see the SIMPLICITY involved in God's promises in the three key words, "ASK - SEEK - KNOCK". Surely you can also note the SATISFACTION that is involved in God's promises. He will supply ALL our needs according to His riches in glory. Phil. 4:19

In conclusion, notice with me 4 final things that are very important in our prayer life:

(1) God promises to answer the PRAYER OF FAITH. Matthew 17:20
(2) God promises to answer the
prayers of THOSE WHO ABIDE IN CHRIST. John 15:7 (3) God promises to answer the prayer of THAT WHICH IS ASKED SINCERE- LY in Jesus' name. John 14:13 (4) God promises to answer the prayer which is ASKED ACCORDING TO HIS WILL. I John 5:14

Yes, real praying honours, glorifies and praises God.

HOW TO ENJOY VICTORY OVER SATAN

TEXT: James 4:6-10

INTRODUCTION:

A. Satan Attacks Us In Many "Forms".
   1. To Eve as a "snake".
   2. To Adam through Eve.
   3. To Peter through fear.
   4. To Churches of God "as an angel of light". II Cor. 11:13-15
   5. Others- Doubt, frustration, discouragement.

B. Satan Uses Many Appeals!
   1. "The lust of the flesh". I John 2:16
      a. He used this on Jesus. Matt. 4:3
   2. "The lust of the eyes".
      a. He used this on Jesus. Matt. 4:8-9
   3. The pride of life.
      a. Satan also used this on Jesus. Matt. 4:5-6 (It will make you look good in the eyes of others.)

C. Satan has but one great aim. TO DEVOUR, DESTROY YOU! Matt. 10:28; I Pet. 5:8

D. Satan is after both SAVED AND UNSAVED!
   1. He wants to keep the unsaved blinded to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. II Cor. 4:3-4 Luke 8:11-12
   2. Divert and destroy the influence of the saved.

I. BELIEVE GOD AND RECEIVE THE LORD JESUS INTO YOUR HEART!
   A. Hebrews 11:6
   B. I John 5:4
   C. I John 4:4

II. HUMBLE YOURSELF IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD!
   A. Peter's downfall was in thinking "I CAN DO IT!"
      1. He said though all other should betray Jesus I WILL NOT!
      2. He said "I AM READY TO GO WITH THEE INTO DEATH!"
   B. This was the downfall of King Saul.
      I Sam. 15:17
   C. Proverbs 16:18
   D. Matthew 18:3

III. SUBMIT TO GOD! GIVE HIM COMPLETE CONTROL IN YOUR LIFE!
   A. As David prayed, "LEAD ME IN A PLAIN PATH."
   B. As Isaiah said, "HERE AM I!"
   C. As the churches of Macedonia, "FIRST GAVE THEMSELVES TO THE LORD, and unto us by the will of the Lord."
   D. As HE ASKS! Matt. 16:24

IV. LIVE CLOSE TO GOD!
   A. James 4:8
   B. Obey His commands! John 14:23
   C. STAY WITH THE LORD!! Matt. 18:20; Isa. 57:15

V. RESIST (INSULT) THE DEVIL!
   A. Jesus did! Matt. 4:10
      1. When Satan came to Jesus in the form of a MAN, He said,"GET THEE BEHIND ME SATAN, THOU ART AN OFFENCE TO ME."

V. KEEP YOUR CONFESSION OF SIN UP TO DATE!
   A. "Cleanse your hands."
      1. I John 1:9
      2. II Cor. 7:1
      3. Luke 11:4
   B. Purify your hearts". John 15:3

GOING THE SECOND MILE

TEXT: Matt. 5:38-48

INTRODUCTION:

Many take the statement, "AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH", completely out of context and try to make it justifiable. As you will note, Jesus is teaching against just such an attitude. He is teaching tolerance, patience, forgiveness and love. To illustrate, He teaches that if you are smitten on the right cheek, turn the other, if you are sued for your coat, give also your cloak and if you are compelled to go a mile, go one.

There are a lot of one mile Christians in the world today but not so many who are willing to go that second mile.

I. GOING THE SECOND MILE IS THE SECRET TO SUCCESSFUL CHRISTIAN LIVING.

A. The first mile calls for nothing out of the ordinary, no particular sacrifice, no demonstration of love. Almost everyone can go the first mile, even the Publicans. Matt. 5:46-47

B. The second mile call for sacrifice and love beyond the usual or ordinary. Matt. 5:44-45
C. Jesus gave an example of a second mile Christian when He spoke of the Good Samaritan. Luke 10:30-35

D. It is in the second mile that joy of Christian living is realized. Service without sacrifice is meaningless.
   1. If you are not experiencing joy in your Christian life, maybe it is because you have never gone the second mile.

II. GOING THE SECOND MILE IS THE SECRET TO A SUCCESSFUL CHURCH.
A. The life, growth and success of a church depends upon second mile Christians who are:
   1. Dedicated to God.
   2. Example is word and deed.
   3. Willing to do the work without receiving the glory.
   4. Willing to bear more than their share of the load.
   5. Liberal and regular in giving.
   6. Sacrificial to attend all services.
   7. Witnessing.
B. At first, going the second mile may hurt but it will soon quit hurting if you are doing it out of love. Someone once said, "Give until it hurts, then keep on giving until it feels good."

III. GOING THE SECOND MILE IS THE SECRET TO A SUCCESSFUL HOME.
A. Selfishness may be the greatest root problem in America's homes today. We want to receive but not give, or do we just what we have to do and no more.
B. Family dwellings need to be occupied by second milers who:
   1. Love their wives as Christ loved his church and gave Himself for it.
   2. Are obedient unto their husbands in the Lord.
   3. Wise— not provoking their children unto wrath.
   4. Are obedient to parents.
   5. Share, care, love and are willing to go beyond the ordinary.

IV. GOING THE SECOND MILE IS THE SECRET TO A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE.
A. The Lord will reward His children on the basis of faithfulness. Matt. 25:21
B. Luke 14:26-27

CONCLUSION:
Jesus went the second mile. What if He had stopped at Gethsemane and said, "I have gone far enough?"

"God Is Our Refuge And Strength, A Very Present Help In Trouble."
Psalm 46:1

ABSTINENCE FROM ALL SORTS OF EVIL

TEXT: I Thess. 5:22

Muney Harris

INTRODUCTION:
A. The definition from original language.
   1. Sort or kind.
B. The declaration.
   1. The smallest sin is dangerous (any sort).
      a. The least little spark may consume the greatest house.
      b. The tiniest leak may sink the largest ship.
      c. The smallest sin (compromise, gossip, carelessness, being in the wrong place at the right time) is enough to destroy a Christian's character, testimony and influence.
      1. None are excusable and all are sparks that could ignite a disaster in your Christian life.
         a. Man is like a keg of gun powder and he must avoid the spark of sin.
   2. Notice two things concerning "all appearance of evil".

I. WE MUST BE WARNED CONCERNING ALL APPEARANCE OF EVIL.
A. Because We Naturally Tend To Do Evil.
   1. Sin at first sight is pleasant to the eye and sweet to the taste (remember Eve?).
      a. Sin took root when she would not avoid that which would tempt her to sin and it produced a bitter taste that was more deadly than poison.
B. Because It Injures Our Spirits.
   1. In our depression, we lose our joy, our prayer life, and our gratitude to Godward.
C. Because It Gives Offence To God and Others.
   1. Instead of wondering, "How far can I go without offending God and my fellow man?", we should keep as far away as possible from "all appearance of evil."
2. When faced with temptation to do evil the child of God should be so frightened by its consequences that he would run the other way.
   a. Job made a covenant with his eyes. Job 31:1
   b. Joseph avoided the company of his mistress. Gen 39:10
   c. David avoided the wrong crowd. Psa. 26:3-7

II. WE MUST BE WARY CONCERNING ALL APPEARANCE OF EVIL.
A. Because Contact Will Make Us Vulnerable.
   1. Peter's going into the palace of the
high priest made him vulnerable to the fear of man and he denied God.
2. Achan's looking made him vulnerable to covetousness and he stole.
3. Israel was not only commanded to not worship idols and avoid contact with those that did worship idols - they did not do that, so, they became vulnerable to idol worship and sinned.
4. An old Chinese proverb: "Do not stop in a cucumber field to tie a shoe".
   a. Get the point? Someone may think you are a thief.
   b. Application: Don't stop at the liquor store for directions, coke, or change.

B. Because Concern Will Make Us Victorious.
   1. Example of bird.
      a. There is a certain bird whose natural enemy is the eagle. When the
eagle is aware of his presence, he will attack and kill the small
bird. The screeching of the small bird as he flies thru the eagle's
territory is a dead giveaway to his presence, so, the bird will
scoop up a beakful of small stones and peebles before he enters ene-
my territory and thus his concern gives him the victory.
   2. Example of men.
      a. Try as hard as you will - the cold still gets into our houses. The
victory comes in the form of a roaring fire. The presence of the
Spirit can be the roaring fire that keeps us warm and expels
worldliness and sin and give me the victory over evil deeds.
   b. The Lord taught us to pray, "LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION...".

THE CHALLENGE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

TEXT: Phil. 3:12-14

Johnny Williams

INTRODUCTION:
The Apostle Paul truly was a spiritual moun-
taineer. He issued a challenge to succeeding
generations to scale the heights of God with him.

I. A PURPOSE TO BE OBLIGATED. V. 12
   A. Paul said he had been apprehended (ar-
rested) by Christ.
   B. We are saved to become like Jesus Christ
to share His reproach in the world, to
live by the principle of the cross.
   Phil. 3:10
   C. Until we learn to live with Christ, we
cannot live for Him.

II. A PRINCIPLE TO BE OBSERVED. V.13a "FOR-
GETTING THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEHIND."
   A. Forgetting past sins
B. Forgetting past failures.
C. Forgetting past blessings.
D. Forgetting past service.

III. A PLAN TO BE OBEYED. V. 14a "I PRESS TO-
WARD TO GOAL"
   A. Run the prescribed course.
   B. Obey the Word.
      1. Commit His Word to your mind
      2. Submit your will to His Word

IV. A PRIZE TO BE OBTAINED. V. 14b "THE PRIZE
OF THE HIGH CALLING OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST."
   I Cor. 10:24-27
   A. Seeing our Lord face to face.
   B. Receiving our reward.
   C. Praising Jesus Eternally.

DO YOU KNOW THE SCRIPTURES?

TEXT: Matthew 22:29

James A. Kirkland

INTRODUCTION:
Here is a sharp rebuke from Jesus, not only
to the Sadducees, but to our generation also;
the best educated in history, yet tragically
lacking in the knowledge of the Scriptures.

I. THE REASONS FOR THIS LACK OF KNOWLEDGE.
   A. The Scriptures have not been read and
studied by everyone.
   B. The Scriptures have been withheld from
many people so that they have not had op-
portunity to know them.
   C. The Scriptures have been maligned, criti-
cized and ridiculed to many people so
that they do not have faith in it as
God's Word.
   D. The Scriptures have not been properly
taught to many people.
   E. The Scriptures have appeared to many to
be dull and irrelevant.

II. THE RESULTS OF THIS LACK OF KNOWLEDGE.
   A. We may be in error about the way of sal-
vation.
   B. We may be in error in our search for
true religion.
   C. We may be in error in our conduct and
behavior.
   D. We may be in error in our view of the
future of man and the world.

SPECIAL

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