I BELIEVE IN GOD, COUNTRY, FAMILY, AND CHURCH

"IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH." Genesis 1:1

"THE FOOL HATH SAID IN HIS HEART, THERE IS NO GOD. THEY ARE CORRUPT, THEY HAVE DONE ABOMINABLE WORKS, THERE IS NONE THAT DOETH GOOD. THE LORD LOOKED DOWN FROM HEAVEN UPON THE CHILDREN OF MEN, TO SEE IF THERE WERE ANY THAT DID UNDERSTAND, AND SEEK GOD. THEY ARE ALL GONE ASIDE, THEY ARE ALL TOGETHER BECOME FILTHY: THERE IS NONE THAT DOETH GOOD, NO, NOT ONE. HAVE ALL THE WORKERS OF INIQUITY NO KNOWLEDGE? WHO EAT UP MY PEOPLE AS THEY EAT BREAD, AND CALL NOT UPON THE LORD." Psalm 14:1-4

It may be old fashion. It may be out of step with our generation. It may be an out of date attitude, but I believe in God, country, family and church. If this is the old way of thinking and old conviction to some, I choose to be old and out of date in my acceptance of Bible truth and conviction.

Our country was founded upon the truth of God's Word. Many of the basic principles of God's Word helped form the Constitution of the United States of America. Study the Bill of Rights and study the Bible and you will see a similarity in the principles of the two. Freedom of speech, freedom of press, and freedom of religion are basic principles of truth. Our nation is 210 years old this year. Our country has its problems and troubles. We are heartbroken to see things changing for the worst. Our nation, state, city, and community need to hear our voices and seeing our lives witness to the truth that as Christians, we believe and hold dear our God, country, family, and church. Our country needs citizens who aren't ashamed of the truth and who are willing to stand and state their convictions in love. The best way to voice your conviction is by voting, by living a Christian life, and by voicing your conviction when the opportunity arises on your street, job, at church, public activities, and at your family gatherings.

I. I BELIEVE IN GOD.

Someone said, "God said it, I believe it, and that settles it." Someone else said, "God said it and that settles it whether I believe it or not." We do know, if God said it, it is true even if no one believes it. I am so glad that I have accepted the truth about God, country, family, and church.

IN HIS PERSON. Genesis 1:1 is a foundational Scripture. The Bible doesn't defend or try to prove God's existence. It simply states, "IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH." God is almighty, majestic, faithful, righteous, and true in His character. "WHO IS LIKE unto THEE, O LORD, AMONG THE GODS; WHO IS LIKE THEE GLORIOUS IN HOLINESS, FEARFUL IN PRAISES, DOING WONDERS?" If you take God out of the picture nothing develops right.

In every known society, or race, or people you will find the acceptance of three things. (1) They believe in a supreme being or higher power. (2) They believe their ways offend that being or higher power. (3) They
move in some way to appease
that higher being or power.
Notice the psalmists words in
Psalms 19:1 "THE HEAVENS
DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD; AND THE
FIRMAMENT SHEWETH HIS HANDY-
WORK."

IN HIS POWER. Gen.1:11,16,27
plainly states that God created
the heaven, earth, and mankind.
"FOR BY HIM WERE ALL THINGS
CREATED, THAT ARE IN HEAVEN, AND
THAT ARE ON EARTH, VISIBLE AND
INVISIBLE, WHETHER THEY BE
THRONES, OR DOMINIONS OR PRINCIP-
ALITIES, OR POWERS: ALL THINGS
WERE CREATED BY HIM, AND FOR
HIM." Col. 1:16 We are told
in Hebrews 1:3 "ALL THINGS ARE
UPHELD BY HIS POWER."

Jesus told a group of Sad-
uces, "YE DO ERR, NOT KNOWING
THE SCRIPTURES, NOR THE POWER
OF GOD." Matt. 22:29 Ignorance
of God's Word and power hinders
many of God's children as well.
We must have the knowledge and
reality of God's might and pow-
er. He is able and capable of
doing all that He says He can.

IN HIS PLAN. God has a won-
derful plan for mankind. He
created Adam and Eve and placed
them in the Garden and gave them
a job to do. Man was made to
share God's glory and fellowship
with Him. Man sinned against
God and fell from his created
state. God's plan involves the
complete redemption of man for-
ever. Paul puts it in a nut-
shell in Eph.4:13 "TILL WE ALL
COME IN THE UNITY OF THE FAITH,
AND OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON
OF GOD, UNTO A PERFECT MAN,
UNTO THE MEASURE OF THE
STATURE OF THE FULNESS OF
CHRIST." The
Lord reconciled us,"TO PRESENT
YOU HOLY AND UNBLAMEABLE
AND UNREPROVEABLE IN HIS SIGHT.
" Col. 1:22

IN HIS PRIORITY. The wis-
est of all men tells us plainly
that our whole duty is to fear
God and keep His commandments.
Eccl. 12:13 Jesus said, "BUT
SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM
OF GOD, AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS; AND
ALL THINGS SHALL BE
ADDED UPON YOU." Matt. 6:33
The Apostle Paul wrote, "I BE-
SEECH YOU THEREFORE BRETHREN,
BY THE MERCIES OF GOD, THAT YE
PRESENT YOUR BODIES A LIVING
SACRIFICE, HOLY, ACCEPTABLE
UNTO GOD, WHICH IS YOUR REA-
SONABLE SERVICE." Rom. 12:1

A top priority in any per-
son's life ought to be putting
God first. If you allow the
Lord to have His rightful
place, you will discover you
will desire to be the mate,
parent, and individual you
should be.

II. I BELIEVE IN COUNTRY.

IN HER LIBERTY. As Ameri-
cans we have freedom of speech
press, religion, and the per-
suit of happiness. Our fore-
fathers sailed on the Mayflow-
er to seek a land where they
could institute and enjoy true
freedom. Paul wrote, for
Kings, and for all that are in
authority; that we may lead a
quiet and peaceable life
in all godliness and honesty."
I Tim. 1:2 Jesus said,"RENDER
THEREFORE UNTO CAESAR THE
THINGS WHICH ARE CAESAR'S AND
UNTO GOD THE THINGS WHICH ARE
GOD'S." Matthew 22:21

We live in the land of the
free. May we thank God for
our freedom. May we use our
freedom for His glory and man's
benefit with precious freedom
comes a great responsibility.

IN HER GOVERNMENT. I be-
lieve in our democratic way of
life. Our country has a gov-
ernment which is of the people
by the people, and for
the people under God. We the
people elect county, state, and
national governmental people
to direct the affairs of our
land. We do not have a per-
fected government because it is
made up of people who are af-
fected by sin. I am sold on
and I believe in our way of
government.

The greatest privilege
we have is to vote on leaders
and laws which affect our
lives in many areas. We can
vote our convictions. We can
write or call public officials
and tell them our views even
when they disagree with gov-
ernmental views. In other coun-
cries, leaders slaughter all those
who oppose them and their ideas
and views. Our freedom of
of speech and press and reli-
gion is precious.

I believe in our flag. I
do not worship it. Our flag
represents our democratic way
of life. I believe in our
country. I will ever have re-
pect for our country's flag
because I have respect for our
country. The Bible gives us
illustrations of people loving
their country. The Jewish
people have a deep love and long-
ing for the land of Palestine.
I believe the Bible teaches us
to love our country by precept
and example.

IN HER LAW SYSTEM. A dili-
gen study of the Bible will
reveal God is a God of law and
and order. From the time Adam
and Eve disobeyed God, man
became a law breaker. Cain killed
Abel. The Bible is an illus-
tration of how people violated
law and order in attitudes, ac-
tions, lusts, and words. Paul
wrote,"PUT THEM IN MIND TO
BE SUBJECT TO PRINCIPALITIES AND
POWERS, TO OBEY MAGISTRATES, TO
BE READY TO EVERY GOOD WORK."
Titus 3:1

Laws are made to protect
us against the wicked and un-
lawful. We may not agree with
all laws, but we must agree the
law system is right. I believe
we ought to respect the laws
and those who enforce them, un-
less they contradict God's
laws. We should voice our con-
viction when laws are wrong
and try to change them in the
Christian way.

III. I BELIEVE IN THE FAMILY.

IN IT'S INSTITUTION. God
is the author and institutor of
the family unit. Moses wrote,
"THEREFORE SHALL A MAN LEAVE
HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND
SHALL CLEAVE UNTO HIS WIFE: AND
THEY SHALL BE ONE FLESH." Gen.
2:24 The woman was created to
be man's help meet for him. Gen.
2:20 God intended for marriage
to be a special union and re-
lation between a man and
woman. The union is physical,
mental, emotional, and most
important spiritual. The fruit
of the union of love and com-
mitsment is children.

The Lord commanded Adam
and Eve to, "BE FRUITFUL, AND
MULTIPLY, AND REPLENISH THE EARTH...." The word replenish means to fill or be full. God's great design in the institution of the home was to have a man and woman helping each other through life and raising and teaching their children about life.

The Lord said that it was not good for man to be alone. The family unit is God's perfect way to meet man's needs physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, and spiritually. Life is not really complete until you enjoy the fullness and contentment in family living. You think even as a saved person life is complete in Christ and it is spiritually. There are many joys as a married person. You might have thought married life was enough until you became a parent. Family life can only be experienced to the fullness when you and your family know the Lord as Saviour and you are trying to live for God as a family.

IN IT'S INSTRUCTION, Family living can make or break any and all of the family members. God has the perfect plan for family living. We may not always work His plan for the family, but His plan always works. You may say my family goes to church regularly, but we are not happy together. Some confess this and conclude God has failed. His plan doesn't work. But your conclusion is wrong. Anytime a family is not what it ought to be, someone or everyone in the family has failed. God gives us keys to a happy family life in Ephesians 5 and 6.


This same truth is recorded in Col. 3:18 Submit means to set in array under. Many divorces are taking place because women will not submit to their husbands.

The husband is to love. "HUSBANDS LOVE YOUR WIVES, EVEN AS CHRIST ALSO LOVED THE CHURCH, AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR IT." Eph. 5:25 "HUSBANDS, LOVE YOUR WIVES, AND BE NOT BITTER AGAINST THEM." Col. 3:19 The husband's love is to be like Christ's love for His church. Christ gave Himself for her. The husband is to love his wife as he loves his own body. Eph. 5:28 We are to cherish our wives. One of the reasons why so many are getting divorced is husbands do not love their wives.

Children are to obey. "CHILDREN, OBEY YOUR PARENTS IN THE LORD: FOR THIS IS RIGHT, HONOR THY FATHER AND MOTHER; WHICH IS THE FIRST COMMANDMENT WITH PROMISE." Eph. 6:1, 2 "CHILDREN, OBEY YOUR PARENTS IN ALL THINGS: FOR THIS IS WELL PLEASING UNTO THE LORD." Col. 3:20 The Lord admonishes fathers. "AND, YE FATHERS, PROVOKE NOT YOUR CHILDREN TO WRATH: BUT BRING THEM UP IN THE NURTURE AND ADMONITION OF THE LORD." Eph. 6:4 "FATHERS, PROVOKE NOT YOUR CHILDREN TO ANGER, LEST THEY BE DISCOURAGED." Col. 3:21 Many homes are unhappy and destroyed because children will not obey their parents nor honor them.

IN IT'S IMPORTANCE. The foundation of orderly society is family life. It is a proven fact that cannot be denied that your home life has a great influence upon you and the way you turn out. It not only molds your character, but it instills a way of life and living in you for a life time.

Family life should be an atmosphere of love. Love is one of the greatest gifts you can give to your family. How wonderful to express and experience and exchange love in the family. Family living should be an atmosphere of learning. A great deal should be learned about life and living in the family. We learn in the family by example and teaching. Family life should be an atmosphere of laws and responsibilities. Family members must recognize and know they have laws to live by and they are responsible in life. Parents are responsible to teach and train their children to be law abiding and to act responsible toward life.

IV. I BELIEVE IN MY CHURCH.

IN HER COMMISSION. "GO YE THEREFORE, AND TEACH ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST: TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER I HAVE COMMANDED YOU: AND, LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAY, EVEN UNTIL THE END OF THE WORLD. AMEN." Matt. 28:19, 20 The commission given unto every New Testament Church is so plain. Each church is to go into all the world and preach the gospel. When people are saved, a church is to baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. We are to teach the saved baptized person the all commands of the Lord. Paul told young Timothy about the profit and benefit of God's Word in II Tim. 3:16,17.

IN HER COMPASSION. The people as individuals and as a church are to have compassion toward others. Jesus is our example in everything, even in compassion. "BUT WHEN HE SAW THE MULTITUDES, HE WAS MOVE WITH COMPASSION ON THEM BECAUSE THEY FAINTED, AND WERE SCATTERED ABROAD, AS SHEEP HAVING NO SHEPHERD." Matt. 9:36 Paul writes, "PUT ON THEREFORE, AS THE ELECT OF GOD, HOLY AND BELOVED BOWELS OF MERCIES, KINDNESS, HUMBLINESS OF MIND, MEKNESS, LONDSUFFERING." Col. 3:12 We are to be compassionate toward others and love them in the Lord.

IN HER CHRIST-LIKENESS. A church is to ever teach her people to live like Christ. "LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU, WHICH WAS ALSO IN CHRIST JESUS." Phil. 2:5 Peter wrote, "FOR EIN HEREUNTO WERE YE CALLED: BECAUSE CHRIST ALSO SUFFERED FOR US, LEAVING US AN EXAMPLE, THAT YE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS STEPS." I Pet. 2:21 Jesus is the true pattern for a right-
eans life. Our world would be a much better place to live in, if people would live like Jesus.

IN HER COMMANDMENTS. The churches of the Lord are to teach the commands of Christ. The Bible is God's Word to all mankind. You cannot find a higher or holier way to live than what is set forth in God's Word. The Bible is the perfect law of liberty. Listen to James 1:25 "BUT WHOSO LOOKETH INTO THE PERFECT LAW OF LIBERTY, AND CONTINUETH THEREIN, HE BEING NOT A FORGETFUL HEARER, BUT A DOER OF THE WORK, THIS MAN SHALL BE BLESSED IN HIS DEED."

I believe in God, Country, Family, and Church.

THE TWO'S OF THE BIBLE

Julius Copeland

INTRODUCTION:
In the Bible the number two is the symbol of division and difference. The number two is used more than 800 times in the Bible. One excludes all difference, but two affirms there is a difference. This difference may be for good or for evil, or it may differ from evil and be good. The law was written on two tables of stone. Samson leaned against two pillars of the Temple and killed 3,000 people.

I. THERE ARE TWO TESTAMENTS.
A. There are 39 books in the Old Testament which look forward to the coming of the Lord.
B. There are 27 books in the New Testament and looks backward to Christ as He fulfilled prophecy.
C. The Old Testament concealed it while the New Testament reveals it.
D. Both contain one message.

II. THERE ARE TWO ROADS.
A. Matt. 7:13-14

III. THERE ARE TWO MASTERS.
A. You have had the Devil as your master from birth, you can keep him or have Christ.
B. Matt. 6:24 tells us that it is impossible to serve two masters.
C. There are two masters but you serve only one.

IV. THERE ARE TWO NATURES.
A. Gal. 5:17
B. The saved have a spiritual nature which is contrary to the old sin nature.

V. THERE ARE TWO DEATHS.
A. The unsaved must die twice.
B. First the Physical death.
C. The second death comes after the judgment. Rev. 20:14
D. For the saved there is only the door way to heaven.

VI. THERE ARE TWO RESURRECTIONS.
A. One for the righteous 1 Thess. 4:17
B. The other resurrection will be for the unrighteous. Rev. 20:5-6
C. There will be one thousand years between the two resurrections.

VII. THERE ARE TWO PLACES.
A. According to Rev. 20:14-15 all the unsaved will go to hell.
B. According to John 14:1-3 all of the saved will go to Heaven.
C. There are two places to spend eternity.
D. There is no limbo or purgatory, no second chance.

VIII. THERE ARE TWO BIRTHS.
A. The first is the natural birth.
B. The second birth is the Spiritual birth. John 3:5

WE WOULD SEE JESUS

Jesse Spurlock

TEXT: John 12:20-22

INTRODUCTION:
The phrase, "We would see Jesus" is a very powerful one. The ones who uttered these words may or may not have been spiritual and may or may not have intended to glorify God by making such statement, but I want to apply those words to our personal lives today, and to show how we "would see Jesus", or how we NEED TO SEE JESUS.

I. WE NEED TO SEE HIM AS OUR COMPANION IN TRAVELS. Luke 24:15
A. Our Road of Suffering. II Tim. 3:12
B. Our Road of Tribulation. John 16:33
C. Our Road of Trials. Hebs. 13:5-6
D. Our Road of Sorrow. John 14:18

II. WE NEED TO SEE HIM AS OUR PATTERN & EXAMPLE. I Pet. 2:21
A. In Our Separation. Rom. 12:1-2
B. In Our Submission. Phil. 2:8; Luke 22:42
C. In Our Suffering. I Pet. 2:23
D. In Our Service. Hebs. 12:1-2

III. WE NEED TO SEE HIM AS OUR PROVIDING ONE. John 15:5
A. A Provision of Rest. Matt. 1:28-30
B. Provision for Peace. Phil. 4:6-7
C. Provision for Protection. I Pet. 5:7-8
D. Provision for Hope. Titus 2:13

IV. WE NEED TO SEE JESUS AS OUR ALL IN ALL. Gal. 6:14
A. Ultimate Ruler. Rev. 19:16
B. Ultimate Lord. Phil. 2:9-11
C. Ultimate View. Col. 3:1-2
D. Ultimate Goal. Phil. 3:8-9

"Unto Him Be Glory In The Church By Christ Jesus." Eph. 3:21
THE BENEFICIAL TEACHINGS OF CHRIST (PART 21)

SUBJECT: THE GOLDEN RULE
TEXT: MATTHEW 7:12

"THEREFORE ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER YE WOULD THAT MEN SHOULD DO TO YOU; DO YE EVEN SO TO THEM: FOR THIS IS THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS."

Surely, we have all heard the Golden Rule, do unto others as you would have them do unto you. This rule of behaviour is derived from the teachings of our Lord as evidenced in this text. The great difficulty that we are faced with in daily life is that the philosophy of this world that we're living in is diametrical to what Christ said. Because of the lack of Biblical enlightenment or refusal to comply with God's Word, many who profess to be God's people are adopting the world's philosophy. The world's philosophy could be summed up in one word "SELFISHNESS". It is this behaviour which causes difficulties. As we develop this lesson from the Biblical perspective, hopefully all of us will be anxious, willing, and ready to comply with God's Word and thus insure for ourselves God's blessings and thereby place ourselves in a position where we can be influential and effective tools in His hands to profitably minister to others.

I. THE THINKING OF PEOPLE!

The concern in this area deals with us learning how to think. We need to learn how a Christian should think. This requires discipline and Bible study. We should be cautious in thinking about ourselves. The Christian attitude is not centered on what we think, want, etc., it's centered with the feelings of others. In connection with this study, we should be compassionate in thinking about others. As Christians, we should be different than the world. We should be different in actions, appearance, attitudes, ambitions and our articulations.

The Biblical concept of Christian thinking is found in Romans 8:6: "FOR TO BE CARNALLY MINDED IS DEATH; BUT TO BE SPIRITUALLY MINDED IS LIFE AND PEACE." According to this verse, to be spiritually minded brings life and peace. To be spiritually minded will cause you to be a bearer of the message of this world. This will excite and encourage others as opposed to hurting and harming them. To be spiritually minded will cause you to live peaceable as possible with all men. You'll not do anything that will bring unrest or uncomfortable situations and surroundings. We are BORN of the SPIRIT and we need to be CONTROLLED by the SPIRIT. John 3 and Eph. 5:18.

The Biblical concept of Christian thinking includes consecrated thoughts. Phil. 4:8 states, "FINALLY BRETHREN, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE TRUE, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE HONEST, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE JUST, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE PURE, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE LOVABLE, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE OF GOOD REPORT; IF THERE BE ANY VIRTUE, AND IF THERE BE ANY PRAISE, THINK ON THESE THINGS." If a Christian will think on the things the Apostle Paul tells us about in this passage, then he will only think the best about all people. Do you want people to think the best about you? Think of others as you would have them think of you.

II. THE TREATING OF PEOPLE!

Christians also need to learn how to TREAT others. This also includes Bible study and discipline. Notice with me in this area our POSITION and our PRACTICE.

In reference to our position we need to realize that a child of God has been born of the Spirit and is indwelt by the Spirit. One purpose of this transaction is that we might be controlled by the Spirit. Eph. 5:18 The result of being evidenced as the fruits of the Spirit are manifested in and through our lives.

Now, in regards to our practice as Christians in view of our position, we need to know what the Lord is looking for and what the people should see in our lives as Christians. We should manifest the fruits of the Spirit. These are listed in Galatians 5:22-23. "BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONGSUFFERING, GENTLENESS, GOODNESS, FAITH, MEARKNESS, TEMPERANCE: AGAINST SUCH THERE IS NO LAW." Let's notice these briefly.

LOVE. This refers to the "Agape" love. This is the love of God which is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost. Rom. 5:5 This love suffareth long, is kind, envieth not, vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, does not behave itself unevenly, is not selfish, is not easily provoked, rejoiceth not in iniquity, rejoices in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things, and never fails. I Cor. 13:4-8 This is the type of love which is to be practiced by the Christian daily towards others.

JOY. As Christians we should be joyful. This type of joy is something we can have regardless of the situation or environment we find ourselves in. This joy embraces intimate relationship and fellowship with the Lord and His purposes and plan for one's life to the ex-
tent that due to His promises the temporary difficulties that we encounter fade into the background because we know that ultimately the Lord will make something beautiful out of our life. Because of this control of the Spirit therefore, we can be filled and magnifies joy. A good example for this lifestyle would be the Apostle Paul. As Christians we should have and also manifest toward others this joy. Too many of God's people are sitting, soaking, and souring and thus their treatment of others is detrimental to the cause of Christ. Be joyful as a Christian. No one wants to be around a sad sack. They would much rather be around a sweet saint.

PEACE. As Christians we have peace with God due to the finished work of Christ at the Cross. Through obedience to our Lord we can enjoy the peace of God which passes all understanding. Under the control of the Spirit we will as much as possible live peaceably with all men. Rom. 12:18 We should not compromise with the truths of God's Word, but yet on the other hand when there is not a principle of God's Word involved, we should be willing to back down and even take the blame for something in order to keep or insure peace.

LONDSUFFERING. Matthew 5:39 This involves a willingness to turn the other cheek. It also involves patiently dealing with or working with people.

GENTLENESS. Eph. 4:32 This deals with treating people in a kind and tender-hearted way. Jesus deals with us in this way and as His representatives we are to submit to Him and allow Him, through the Spirit, to conform us to this type of behaviour.

GOODNESS. Acts 10:38 It's our responsibility and obligation to be good to others. This is genuine Christianity. When the Spirit of God is in control of us, we will be good.

FAITH. Hebs. 11:6 This certainly needed in all of us. The Spirit in wrought exemplification of faith is so desperately needed in our churches today. Rom. 10:17

MEEKNESS. Matt. 11:29 Meekness is not weakness but rather strength under control. Involved in this is humility. Christ must have first priority, then others and yourself last.

TEMPERANCE. I Cor. 9:27 This deals with control over self. Self is the biggest problem that most of us have in our process of Christian development. When one wins the battle over self they really begin to advance in God's economy.

III. THE TALKING TO PEOPLE.

As Christians we need to learn when to speak, what to say, and how to say it. In this area we'll notice the (1) plan element, (2) the purity element, (3) the problem aspect, and (4) the practice element.

First, the PLAN ELEMENT. James said, "WHEREFORE, MY BELOVED BROTHERS, LET EVERY MAN BE SWIFT TO HEAR, SLOW TO SPEAK, SLOW TO WRATH." James 1:19

II. IT IS NECESSARY TO MINIMIZE THE POWER OF SIN.

A. Sin will wreck our lives. Ex. Samson Judg. 16

B. Sin will wreck testimony. Ex. Lot Gen. 19

C. Will damn a soul in hell. Rom. 6:23; Rev. 21:8

III. IT IS NECESSARY TO TRY TO HIDE ITS PRESENCE.

A. Achan an example. Joshua 7

IV. THERE IS ONLY ONE REMEDY FOR SIN, IT IS NECESSARY TO TRY TO SEEK ANOTHER.

A. Jesus is God's remedy. Act. 4:12

B. His blood can wash away sin. Hebs. 9:22 Rev. 1:5-6

C. Have you been cleansed by the blood?

HE IS FAITHFUL AND TRUE TO YOU

THE DESTRUCTIVE POWER OF SIN

TEXT: Rom 6:23

INTRODUCTION:

Sin is in the world today. It has touched every person. It is the world's greatest sickness. It is the individual's worst enemy.

I. IT IS NECESSARY TO DENY THE FACT OF SIN.

Rom. 3:9-11; 3:23

A. All are sinners. Psa. 14:2-3 The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy. There are none that doth good, No not one.

B. Let us recognize this fact about ourself, Christ came to save sinners. Luke 19:10
The Question of Love in the Life of the Christian

L.H. Owen


I. LOVE IS A CHARACTERISTIC OF GOD. I John 4:8
   A. God loved the world. John 3:16
   B. God loves sinners even enemies. Rom. 5:8

II. GOD COMMANDS THAT WE LOVE AS HE LOVES.
   A. Love God. I John 4:19-21
   B. Love one another. John 15:12,17
   C. Love is a proof to the world of the discipleship of the Christian. John 13:34-35
   D. Love one's enemies. Matt. 5:44

III. THE LOVE CHAPTER DEFINES AND EXPLAINS TRUE GODLY LOVE.
   A. Love is preeminent. I Cor. 13:1-3
   B. Love transcends all other gifts. I Cor. 13:1-3
   C. Look carefully at the properties of love. I Cor. 13:4-8a Patience, benevolence, generosity, modesty, humility, courtesy, selflessness, self-control, magnanimity, sincerity, silence, trust, optimism, fortitude, permanence.
   D. Substitute the name "Christ" for the word charity in verses 4-8a.
   E. Substitute your own name and search your soul as you reread the verses. It is Christ's command that we love as He loves. John 15:12

IV. REMEMBER THAT GOD LOVES YOU.
   A. Remember that God wants to save you if you are not now saved. II Pet. 3:9
   B. God wants you when saved to demonstrate His love.

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

TEXT: John 14:27

Sammy Eldredge

INTRODUCTION:
   Christ was talking to His disciples about an inner peace in their lives, that can come from trusting Christ only.

I. MEN CANNOT HAVE PEACE AS LONG AS THEY HAVE IDOLS IN THEIR LIVES:
   A. The example is found in Gen. 35. Jacob preparing to go to Bethel.
   B. We have many idols in our lives. (Not Statutes.) Self-pity, hate, envy, lusts. We need to put these things out to find peace with God.

II. WE CANNOT HAVE PEACE UNTIL WE ACCEPT THE WORD OF GOD COMPLETELY.
   A. Jesus said, "MY SHEEP KNOW MY VOICE AND THEY FOLLOW ME."
   B. Some may disbelieve the Word, but they cannot deny there is unrest in our home land. They have tried everything but the Word.

III. WE CANNOT HAVE PEACE UNTIL WE LEAVE OFF SELF WILL!
   A. Paul - Romans 12:3

B. When we are down and out and there seems to be no hope, think of the many others that are less fortunate than we.

IV. WE CANNOT HAVE PEACE AS LONG AS THERE IS FEAR.
   A. I John 4:18
   B. The reason for most fears in life, is the absence of an abiding faith of Christ's presence in our heart.
   C. Therefore their hearts faint for fear.

V. WE CANNOT HAVE PEACE AS LONG AS THERE IS PERSONAL SIN IN OUR LIVES.
   A. Even those who do not know Christ, have an every knowing agony of guilt in their inner heart.
   B. We hear a little of World peace, but there will be none as long as men do not make personal peace with God.

VI. JESUS SAID, "I LEAVE YOU PEACE, MY PEACE I GIVE YOU."
   A. There is no price to buy it.
   B. It comes from personal surrender.
   C. Even though the world around you is caught up in turmoil, you can live in peace, with your mind and thoughts on the PRINCE OF PEACE.

ARE YOU LIVING LIKE YOU ARE SAVED ?

TEXT: Hebrews 6:9

D.B. Wright

INTRODUCTION:
   A. If you saw a man with a paint bucket and brush you might assume that he was a painter, but when you see paint on his clothes you have better evidence that he is.
   B. God gives the saved some "evidences" by which one can know that he is saved. John 14:23; I John 3:14
   C. The Text mentions "THINGS THAT ACCOMPANY SALVATION."
1. A Christ-like WALK is expected of one who professes to be saved.
2. Christian WORKS are expected of the saved.
3. Communion with and WORSHIP of the Lord is expected of one who professes to be saved.
4. Efforts to REACH OTHERS is the "normal" thing in the life of a saved person.
5. Jesus taught that He expected "FRUIT IN THE LIFE" of the saved as one expects figs from a fig bush.

TO LIVE AS A SAVED PERSON IS--

I. TO LIVE IN "NEWNESS" OF LIFE!
   A. The saved are new creatures in Christ Jesus. II Cor. 5:17
   B. This is the PUBLIC DECLARATION made in Scriptural Baptism. Rom. 6:4
   C. The "New Life" as opposed to the "former".
      1. The saved have been called OUT OF DARKNESS INTO THIS MARVELLOUS LIGHT.
         I Pet. 2:9
      2. Life and opposed to spiritual death: Eph. 2:1; John 5:24
   D. New Relationship
      1. To the Father. John 8:44
      2. To the world. John 17:16; Matt. 5:14
   E. New Position. Col. 1:13
   F. New Responsibilities.
      1. Own Work: Gal. 6:4; Eccl. 9:10
      2. Give own testimony; Psalm 107:2.
      3. Use of PERSONAL TALENTS AND ABILITIES. Matt. 25:15, 19; II Cor. 5:10
   G. The Scriptures give some OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES of those who manifested the NEW LIFE after they were saved.
      2. Harlot becomes a SOUL WINNER in one day. John 4
      3. Blaspheming persecutor becomes APOSTLE, MISSIONARY, EVANGELIST, CHURCH BUILDER, BIBLE WRITER. I Cor. 15:10

II. TO LIVE LIKE A SAVED PERSON IS TO LIVE A "SPIRITUAL LIFE."
   A. The Holy Spirit's Ministry is Manifest!
      1. He COMFORTS the saved. John 14:16
      2. He ASSURES THE BELIEVER OF PRESENT SALVATION. I John 5:10; Rom. 8:16
   B. There are other ministries of the Holy Spirit who indwells every saved person.
      1. He teaches us the words of Christ. John 14:26
      2. He LEADS US TO SAY AND DO! Rom. 8:14
      3. He EMPOWERS US FOR SERVICE! Acts 1:8
   C. Admonitions to LIVING A SPIRITUAL LIFE:
      Gal. 5:25; Eph. 5:18
   D. Evidences of a Spiritual life. Gal. 5:22-23
   E. The work of the spiritual includes:
      1. Witnessing to the lost: Acts 1:8
      2. Reaching out to restore the fallen. Gal. 6:1

III. TO LIVE AS A SAVED PERSON IS TO LIVE IN HIS LIGHT!
   A. Eph. 5:8
   B. John 8:12
   C. This is the secret to leading a useful and influential life. Matt. 5:16
      1. The life of the saved is designed to:
         a. Light th path of others. Luke 8:16
         b. Lead the way. Heb. 12:13
      d. Inspire and challenge: Heb. 10:24

IV. TO LIVE AS A SAVED PERSON IS TO LIVE TO THE GLORY OF GOD!
   A. The plea of the psalmist: Psalm 96:7-9
   B. I Cor. 10:31
   C. A good resolution. Gal. 6:14

V. TO LIVE LIKE A SAVED PERSON IS TO LIVE IN THE INTEREST OF AND FOR THE WELFARE OF OTHERS!
   A. To this end God sent Jesus to the world. John 3:17
   B. To this purpose Jesus lived and died: Luke 19:10
   C. Jesus left a timely example from His Cross. John 19:26, 27; I Tim. 5:8
   D. True love and benevolence encircles the globe! Gal. 6:10; James 1:27
   E. True Christianity is concerned about the spiritual welfare of others.
      1. Acts 1:8 WITNESS TO ALL MEN!
      2. I Tim. 4:12
      3. Rom. 1:14; I Cor. 9:22

REVIVAL TAPES - JAMES KIRKLAND

1A-JK- GOD CARES ABOUT YOUR FAMILY
1B-JK- THE BIBLICAL BASIS FOR THE CHURCH'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
2A-JK- GOD'S PROVISION FOR OUR GUILT
2B-JK- LIFE'S MOST BEAUTIFUL WORD
3A-JK- YOU CAN KNOW YOU ARE SAVED
3B-JK- GOD'S GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE
4A-JK- NINE PRINCIPLES OF S.S. GROWTH - COMMITMENT - PROSPECTS - NEW DEPT.
4B-JK- CONTINUED
5A-JK- NINE PRINCIPLES OF S.S. GROWTH - ENLIST WORKERS - TRAINING - SPACE AND EQUIPMENT
5B-JK- CONTINUED
6A-JK- NINE PRINCIPLES OF S.S. GROWTH - WEEKLY WORKERS MEETING - VISITATION TEACHING TO WIN AND DEVELOP.
6B-JK- CONTINUED

BE FAITHFUL TO GOD