NO EXCUSES ACCEPTED WITH GOD


In the first text we are told what man's whole duty is. The wise man made a search of life to find out the best thing that man can do in life. His conclusion is very plain. In the second text we see how some made excuses for not attending the supper. An excuse is a cloak or pretense. Most of the time it is a cover up for not doing something we should have and were supposed to do. People even try to make excuses when it comes to their relationship to God and His service. They put things off and offer excuses for doing so. Let us notice some things people offer excuses for.

I. NO EXCUSE WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR NOT BEING SAVED.

God's will. God desires to save all people. Paul wrote, "WHO WILL HAVE ALL MEN TO BE SAVED, AND TO COME UNTO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH," I Tim. 2:4. Paul plainly shows us that our God wants to save all people. Isaiah wrote, "LOOK UNTO ME, AND BE YE SAVED, ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH: FOR I AM GOD, AND THERE IS NONE ELSE," Isaiah 45:22. This invitation and exhortation is to all the ends of the earth. Listen to Peter in II Peter 3:9, "THE LORD IS NOT slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." Study these words of Paul in Romans 10:13, "FOR WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED."

God establishes churches, calls men to preach, makes Bibles plentiful, enables His Word to be presented on radio, television, and printed page, and leads saved people to live separated lives and witness to those who are lost. The Lord is busy and active in showing mankind His need of being saved. He deals graciously, mercifully, and lovingly with people.

Jesus lived a perfect life and died a shameful death so all could be redeemed. He is God's offering and sacrifice for sinners. "WHO HIS OWN SELF BARE OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BODY ON THE TREE, THAT..."

MAN'S EXCUSES. Some doubt and deny God's existence; therefore they reject the message from the Bible that they need to be saved. Some do not believe they are sinful and do not see the need. Some are not saved because of the hypocrites around them. Some want to be saved, but they are not ready or will be at a later time. Some aren't willing to give up sinful ways. Some are afraid. Some are confused with so many different religions and plans of salvation. The fact is every mouth will be stopped and the whole world become guilty before God, Romans 3:19. The Lord will not accept excuses for not being saved.

II. NO EXCUSES WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR NOT FOLLOWING THE LORD IN BAPTISM.

GOD'S WILL. John the Baptist was sent to baptize with water, John 1:33. Many went out to John's baptisms. "THEN WENT OUT TO HIM JERUSALEM, AND ALL JUDAEA, AND ALL THE REGION ROUND ABOUT JORDAN, AND WERE BAPTIZED OF HIM IN JORDAN, CONFESSING THEIR SINS," Matt. 3:5,6. Jesus, who is our example, was baptized of John. "THEN COMETH JESUS FROM GALILEE TO JORDAN UNTO JOHN, TO BE BAPTIZED OF HIM. BUT JOHN FORBAD HIM, SAYING, I HAVE NEED TO BE BAPTIZED OF THEE, AND COMEST THOU TO ME? AND JESUS, ANSWERING SAID UNTO HIM, SUFFER IT TO BE SO NOW: FOR THUS IT BECOMETH US TO FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS. THEN HE SUFFERED HIM." Matt. 3:13-15.


MAN'S EXCUSES. Some do not see a need to be baptized. They do not see the importance of it. Some were baptized by a different faith and do not see the need of being baptized scripturally. Some see the need, but aren't ready yet. Some are too timid and do not go forward before the people. Some do not see why they should be baptized. Some say they are trying to save a Christian life. Some say this is my church anyhow. Some are afraid of what others will think of them or say about them. Some even think people will laugh at them for making the decision. No excuses will be accepted for not being scripturally baptized.

III. NO EXCUSES WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR NOT BEING A MEMBER OF A NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH.

GOD'S WILL. We gather from Matt. 28:19,20 that the Lord intends for His churches to make disciples of all nations and that these disciples are to be baptized and taught the all the commands of Christ. This clearly teaches that saved people are to become members of a New Testament church. In Acts 2:47 we are taught the Lord added to the church daily such as should be or were being saved. Listen to Eph. 2:21: "UNTIL HIM BE GLORY IN THE CHURCH BY CHRIST JESUS THROUGHOUT ALL AGES WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN." The Lord wants the redeemed to become part of a New Testament church. Study Hebrews 10:25. "NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER AS THE MANNER OF SOME IS: BUT EXHORTING ONE ANOTHER: AND SO MUCH THE MORE, AS YE SEE THE DAY APPROACHING." Belonging to a New Testament church provides a wonderful fellowship for believers. It provides a place for believers to be taught God's Word. It is an opportunity to take part in the work of the Lord. It is a means to identify with the Lord's precious people. Churches provide encouragement and strength for fellow believers in Christ. Church membership is necessary to obey Eph. 2: 21 and Heb. 10:25.

MAN'S EXCUSES. Some do not see a need to unite with a church. Some say, I am just as good as some of the people I know who go to church. Some do not feel it is important to belong. Some are too busy with their jobs, families, and everything else to join. Some just don't think they have the time. Some aren't members because the churches are made up of hypocrites. Some think all the church wants is your money. Some say I am going to join when I find the right one. Some don't belong because they were forced to go when they were young. No excuses will be accepted for not being a member of a New Testament church.

IV. NO EXCUSES WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR NOT SERVING THE LORD.

GOD'S WILL. God wants His people to serve Him. Paul wrote, "FOR WE ARE LABORERS TOGETHER WITH GOD: YE ARE GOD'S HUSBANDRY, YE ARE GOD'S BUILDING." I Cor. 3:9 Study Ephesians 2:10, "FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMENSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS UNTO GOOD WORKS WHICH GOD HATH BEFORE ORDAINED THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM." Paul wrote these words to the Thessalonians: "FOR THEY THEMSELVES SAW OF US WHAT MANNER OF ENTERING IN WE HAD UNTO YOU, AND HOW WE TURNED TO GOD FROM IDOLS TO SERVE THE LIVING AND TRUE GOD," I Thess. 1:9 Jesus, our example, said, "I MUST WORK THE WORKS OF HIM THAT SENT ME, WHILE IT IS DAY: THE NIGHT COMETH, WHEN NO MAN CAN WORK." John 9:4 Jesus demands that we be servants. "AND WHY CALL YE ME LORD, LORD, AND DO NOT THE THINGS WHICH I SAY." Luke 6:46. Jesus said, "WHOEVER WILL COME AFTER ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME." Mark 8:34 Listen to the words of Jesus in Matt.
5:16, "LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE MEN, THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS, AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN."

MAN’S EXCUSES. Some say I don’t have the time. Some say they are too busy. Others say they do not know how. Some are afraid. Some are afraid they will be criticized. Some are depending on others to serve. Some say, "If you can't get someone else to do it, I will." Some forget to serve the Lord. Some do not feel well, so they do not serve. Saved people are professionals at making excuses for not serving the Lord. Remember how Moses made excuses for not going to Egypt in Exodus 3-5. Study the excuses made for not going to the supper. The Lord will not accept excuses for not serving Him.

V. NO EXCUSES WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR NOT LIVING A MORALLY CLEAN LIFE.

The Lord desires that we live a new kind of life because we are new creatures. II Cor. 5:17. Peter wrote, "BUT AS HE WHICH HATH CALLED YOU IS HOLY, SO BE YE HOLY IN ALL MANNER OF CONVERSATION, BECAUSE IT IS WRITTEN, BE YE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY." I Peter 1:15,16. Study Paul’s words in Titus 2:12, "TEACHING US THAT, DENYING UNGODLINESS AND WORLDLY LUSTS, WE SHOULD LIVE SOBERLY, RIGHTEOUSLY, AND GODLY IN THIS PRESENT WORLD." II Cor. 6:17, "WHEREFORE COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM, AND BE YE SEPARATE, SAITH THE LORD, AND TOUCH NOT THE UNCLEAN THING, AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU." Paul wrote plain and simple instructions in Rom. 12:1,2 "I BESEECH YOU THEREFORE, BRETHREN, BY THE MERCIES OF GOD, THAT YE PRESENT YOUR BODIES A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY, ACCEPTABLE UNTO GOD, WHICH IS YOUR REASONABLE SERVICE. AND BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD: BUT BE YE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, THAT YE MAY PROVE WHAT IS THAT GOOD, AND ACCEPTABLE, AND PERFECT, WILL OF GOD."

MAN’S EXCUSES. Man is good at offering and giving excuses for not living godly lives. Some question what is wrong about doing it or going to it. Some say, everybody else is doing it, it must be all right. Some say it is so hard to live the way God wants you to. Others say, I want to be accepted by my friends. Some say, peer pressure is so great. Some don't want to be laughed at. Some don't want others to think they are dumb. Others say, it won't hurt this one time. Some say, they dared me to do it. Some say, I had to prove to them I was a friend. Some say, I don't want to offend them. The Lord will not accept excuses offered for not living a clean life.

Years ago someone defined an excuse in one of my classes at Texas Baptist Institute and Seminary as being, "A skin of a reason stuffed with a lie." The Lord does not want people to make excuses. He wants people to simply obey Him. This simple truth is stated in Acts 5:29, "...WE OUGHT TO OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN."

No excuses will be accepted of the Lord for not being saved, not being baptized, not belonging to a New Testament church, not serving Him, and not living for Him.

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PREDESTINATION

TEXT: Romans 8:28-29

Maxie Haynes

INTRODUCTION:

I. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD’S WORK.
   A. God works constantly. "All things work"
   B. God works completely. "All things"
   C. God works coherently. "All thing work together"

II. THE COURSE OF GOD’S WORK.
   A. He foreknew. V 29
   B. He predestinated. V 29
   C. He called. V 30
   D. He justified. V 30
   E. He glorified. V 30

III. THE CONCLUSION OF GOD’S WORK.
   A. Security.
   B. Service.

THANKSGIVING

Thanks to God for my Redeemer,
Thanks for all Thou dost provide!
Thanks for prayers that Thou hast answered,
Thanks for what Thou dost deny!
Thanks for roses by the wayside,
Thanks for thorns their stems contain!
Thanks for storms that I have weathered,
Thanks for all thou dost supply!
Thanks for home and thanks for fireside,
Thanks for hope, that sweet refrain!
Thanks for pleasant, balmy springtime,
Thanks for dark and dreary fall!
Thanks for pain and thanks for pleasure,
Thanks for comfort in despair!
Thanks for hope in the tomorrow,
Thanks through all eternity!
Thanks for tears by now forgotten,
Thanks for peace within my soul!
Thanks for times now but a memory,
Thanks for Jesus by my side!
WHO THE LORD IS

TEXT: JOHN 5:39

INTRODUCTION:
A. Thinking about the Lord is the grandest meditation that mankind can be involved.
   1. This will cause you to desire to know Him more intimately.
   2. This will cause you to love Him and desire to serve Him.
B. John 5:39

I. THE GUILTLESS ONE.
A. The survey of mankind will lead you to the conclusion that all men are guilty of sin before God.
   1. Rom. 3:10-19
   2. Rom. 3:23
B. The scope of concerning the Lord is different - for He is guiltless, and sinless.
   1. John 19:4
   2. II Cor. 5:21
   3. Heb. 4:15
   4. I Pet. 2:22

II. THE GOSPEL.
A. The meaning of the term - the term "gospel" means "good news".
B. The message concerning the Lord Jesus.
   1. Luke 2:10-11
   2. Luke 2:12-14
   3. A true realization of this tremendous truth will cause the lost to be saved and the saved to be stirred and stimulated to serve the Lord.

III. THE GIVING ONE.
A. He gave His life that we might have life.
   1. Review His willingness to do this.
   2. Hebrews 2:9 with Heb. 12:2
B. He gives salvation that we might be saved and secure.
C. He gives peace for our troubled hearts.
   John 14:27
D. He gives rest to the weary.
   Matt. 11:28-30
E. He gives strength for our weakness.
   Phil. 4:13; II Cor. 12:9-10
F. He gives provisions for our poverty and need.
   II Cor. 8:9; Phil. 4:19

IV. THE GRACIOUS ONE.
A. The understanding - This refers to His kindness and compassion. This refers to His character.
B. The unequalled quality - There is no one who exemplifies this quality like Jesus Christ our Lord.

V. THE GUARDING ONE.
A. He guards our soul - security of the believer.
   1. John 18:28-29
   2. John 5:24
   3. Heb. 7:25
B. He guards our life.
   1. No one can do anything to us without the permissive will of the Lord.

VI. THE GUIDING ONE.
A. The fact established
   1. Isa. 58:11
   2. Psa. 23
B. The fact enlightened.
   1. He leads us by His Word.
   2. He leads us through the spirit.
   3. He leads us through providence.
   4. He leads us through His ordained leaders.
   5. He leads us through prayer.
   6. It's extremely important to realize that His leading in all these areas is according to His Word.

VII. THE GLORIFIED ONE.
A. The Scripture declares this.
   1. Acts 3:13
B. The saints should glorify Him.
C. The second coming will be the ultimate in this glorifying.

BLESSED BE GOD

TEXT: I Pet. 1:1-3

I. THE PERSON. V 1
A. The Man.
B. The Ministry.
C. The Mistakes.

II. THE PEOPLE. V 1
A. They were saved.
B. They were scattered.
C. They were sanctified.

III. THE POSITION. V 2
A. Elect according to God's foreknowledge.
B. Elect through sanctification of the Spirit.
C. Elect unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus.

IV. THE PROVISION. V 2
A. Grace unto you.
B. Peace be multiplied.

V. THE PRAISE. V 3
A. Blessed be God and Father of Jesus Christ.
B. Abundant mercy.
C. Begotten us again.
D. Lively hope.

I WANT TO RECEIVE THE PAPER

NAME
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THE BENEFICIAL TEACHINGS

OF CHRIST (PART 22)

SUBJECT: THE GATES
TEXT: Matthew 7:13-14

"ENTER YE IN AT THE GATE: FOR WIDE IS THE GATE, AND BROAD IS THE WAY, THAT LEADETH TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY THERE BE WHICH GO IN THEREAT: BECAUSE STRAIGHT IS THE GATE, AND NARROW IS THE WAY, WHICH LEADETH UNTO LIFE, AND FEW THERE BE THAT FIND IT."

As we develop this particular teaching of our precious Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, we will notice three main areas:

I. The Way To Hell.
II. The Way To Heaven.
III. The Way To Happiness.

I. THE WAY TO HELL!

Consider, first the ENTERING into this way. One enters this way when they reach the age of accountability. This means when a person reaches the age where they can make a choice. They are then using this age of accountability and by making that choice they may be severely affected or possibly lead to Hell.

II. THE WAY TO HEAVEN!

There are 4 areas that we will consider in this section. First, notice the STRAIGHTNESS of this way. This is seen in the expression "STRAIGHT IS THE GATE." In fact, regardless of what anyone may think or believe, there is only ONE WAY TO Heaven. We enter this way through Jesus Christ. Notice 3 verses of Scripture:


Acts 4:12 "NEITHER IS THERE SALVATION IN ANY OTHER: FOR THERE IS NONE OTHER NAME UNDER HEAVEN GIVEN AMONG MEN, WHEREBY WE MUST BE SAVED."

Rom. 3:23 "FOR THERE IS ONE GOD, AND ONE MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MEN, THE MAN CHRIST JESUS:" There are certainly other verses which could be given to prove the validity of this truth but certainly these should suffice.

Finally, in this area, consider the ENJOYMENT of this way. This may seem strange at first mention, but one needs to realize that sin does have a certain amount of pleasure and enjoyment in it. This is the reason men commit it so much. This sin will eventually make us slaves of that particular area that it has caught us in. The Bible even teaches that there is pleasure in sin but one should pay careful attention and notice that pleasure is only for a SEASON, Heb. 11:25. After that time of pleasure comes heartache, hurt and ultimately Hell.

III. THE WAY TO HAPPINESS!

The way to happiness involves a REALIZATION that must be made. We must realize that we are sinners. Rom. 3:23 and Rom. 3:10 God cannot help a person until they see their need.

The way to happiness also involves REPENTANCE. This is important and necessary in order to achieve happiness. Luke 13:3; II Cor. 7:10

The way to happiness also includes RECEPTION. When an individual receives Jesus Christ into their heart they become a Son of God. John 1:12; Rev. 3:20

This way includes REDEMPTION. We are redeemed by His Blood. Salvation which brings
happiness rests upon the finished work of Christ at Calvary. I Pet. 1:18-19. This way produces rejoicing. Psa. 16:11 states "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in Thy presence is fulness of joy; at the right hand are pleasures forever more." There will be rejoicing and happiness in our soul and rejoicing and happiness in the presence of angels. Luke 15:7. In conclusion, we could summarize this lesson by saying that the road to hell is filled with misery and heartache. The road to heaven brings happiness, holiness and honour. Which road are you on?

AND THE WALLS CAME TUMBLING DOWN

TEXT: Joshua 6:1-5, 20

Luther Crawford

INTRODUCTION:
This chapter reveals God’s instructions concerning the capture and destruction of Jericho. It reveals the importance of following God’s orders, it reveals one of the great miracles of the Old Testament. Perhaps the greatest revelation and lesson in this chapter is how spiritual victories are won by means, and upon principles utterly foolish and inadequate in the view of human wisdom. I Cor. 1:17-29; II Cor. 10:3-5. Verses 3-5 in our text tells us what God instructed to Joshua and the Israelites to do in order to capture Jericho. Most cities in olden times built walls around themselves for protection from their enemies. No doubt these walls in most cases served very good purpose, but there are times when people realize there is a wall around them which ought to tumble down. On the other hand, there are some spiritual walls which need to be built around us. May we observe first some walls that should come tumbling down from around our lives.

I. THE WALL OF SIN.
A. Figuratively speaking, every person born in the world is engulfed by a wall of sin.
B. Sin is a terrible thing because it separates us from God.
C. The main support of this wall is unbelief.
D. This wall must be torn down, it must tumble before we can have peace with God, and see Him.
E. Faith in God’s son will cause the wall of sin to tumble down that we may be free from the bondage and judgment of sin.

II. THE WALL OF SELF-SECURITY.
There are at least three classes of persons who will finally see their wall of self-security tumble.
A. The Professed Christian. (This is Judas Iscariot)
1. Judas perhaps thought himself secure.
2. He was numbered with the 12.
3. He held a position and was active in the ministry.
4. His wall of self-security tumbled when he betrayed Christ. He tried to repent but to no avail. He hanged himself and went to his own place.
B. The Faithful Disciple. (Peter & the other disciples.)
1. God must have desired that we be careful about having a wall of self-security around us, in that He led all the gospel writers to pen the account of disciples denial of Him.
2. Peter boasted that he was ready to go to prison with Christ, to go to death with Him. Mark 14:27-31, 50
C. The Rich Fool.
1. This man thought of himself as being secure.
2. His security was within himself for the abundance of things he possessed.
3. The wall of self-security tumbled on the night God said, “Thou fool this night shall thy soul be required”.

III. THE WALL OF SELFISHNESS.
A. We may, if not careful, become selfish with the gospel.
1. The gospel is the heart of the ministry, power of God unto salvation. Rom. 1:16
2. If the gospel is hid, it is hid to them that are lost. II Cor. 4:1-6
3. Let us not be selfish with the gospel.
B. We may, if not careful, become selfish with our goods.
1. With our material good. Luke 19:12-26
2. With our God-given talents, abilities
C. There are some walls needful to be built around our lives.

IV. THE WALL OF FIRE.
A. The Psalmist meditated and the fire of God burned in his heart. Psa. 39:3
B. Jeremiah came to a place in his life where he was ready to quit. Jer. 10:9 but the Word of the Lord was in his heart as a burning fire shut up in his bones.
C. Today there is a need for God’s people to stir up the gifts of God. The Spirit is within us to lead us to zealousness for Christ.

V. THE WALL OF FAITH.
A. May we ask God to increase our faith.
B. The secret to spiritual success is faith. Hebs. 11

VI. THE WALL OF FRUITFULNESS.
A. With the wall of fire about us, and the wall of faith, we can expect to be fruitful.
B. And some brought forth a hundred fold, some 60 and 30.
C. Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord. Rev. 14:13
Bobby Chrisman's Testimony
January 27, 1986

Since I now have the #1 and #2 dreaded diseases, I must move on and take advantage of my time left or whatever is in store for me. I must never forget the Lord is guiding me and I must listen to Him. He will take me if I let Him lead me.

I cannot run from it nor can I shake it off. It's here to stay unless God sees different. I must live every day at a time and touch God's hand. I will get through it all as long as it meets God's plan.

I believe all my kids are believers in God and I know my wife is.

I must do what I can for the Lord in the time I have left and do a lot of living each day and I intend to do just that.

My children, my wife's children, my brothers and sister, friends, brothers and sisters in Christ from our church and last but not least my wife has really been superb and I really appreciate it. They all see me thru, but the Lord has been here every minute of the time. I don't know how a man gets this kind of support, but thanks for it all.

Written February 9, 1986

I am still battling cancer and heart problems. The Lord has blessed me as usual and I thank God for His mercy.

If you don't know my Lord, you don't know anyone.

I have to thank my wife and kids for all their love and help. They are great to me.

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THE BORROWED AXE OR LOST POWER

TEXT: II KINGS 6:1-7

G.D. Walters

INTRODUCTION:
The student prophets under the tutorship of Elisha had grown to the extent that it was necessary to build. 2 Kings 6:1-2 The church of the Living God is a growing concern for it is the most important business on earth. In this lesson we see the sons of the prophets as they take upon themselves the business of enlarging their meeting place. They don't plan to have a bazaar, or a rummage sale to get this all important work done, but they say, "LET US GO INTO JORDAN AND TAKE THENCE EVERY MAN A BEAM."

This teaches that every member of the congregation was to work at the job of building a larger place for the services of God. We notice the wisdom of one in verse 3. Praying for the presence of the Master to go with one to work means the difference between failure and success. Let us see what lessons we may learn from the man who lost his axe.

I. HE LOST HIS POWER FOR SERVICE.
A. As soon as the axe head fell into the water he became helpless for effective service.
   1. Once he had power. Now it is gone, gone suddenly and quite unexpectedly.
   2. Just so, it is possible for a Christian worker to lose his or her power for service of God.
B. The axe, may well represent the Spirit of God which will empower us for service.
   1. If the Spirit is grieved, then the power for service is lost. Judges 16:20
      a. Sampson knew not that the Spirit had left him.

II. HE WAS WORKING WHEN HE LOST HIS POWER.
A. His power was not lost by laziness nor by idleness. He was felling a beam.
B. He had a mind to work, but was unaware of the axe slowly slipping away.
C. Just so with us, we may be working but our attention may be diverted from the cause of Christ and we might, for a moment think of ourselves as being sufficient.
D. This man may have thought he was the best axe man in all that group. But it was he who lost his power.

III. HE WAS PAINFULLY CONSCIOUS OF HIS LOSS.
A. He knew that any further effort to perform an effective service was useless.
B. When we lose the keen cutting edge of the Word of God, and the power of the Spirit to yield it, we are powerless to do effective service. II Tim. 2:15

IV. HE IMMEDIATELY APPEALED TO HIS MASTER.
A. If his master could not help, then who could?
B. If you find that you have lost power to make headway in the work of the Lord, don't give up and say there is no help for me.
C. Go straight to the Master in prayer and confess that you have lost your power, and ask that it be restored.

V. HE HAD IT MIRACULOUSLY RESTORED.
A. The Man of God said where did it fall, and he showed him.
B. II Kings 6:6-7
C. If your power for witnessing was lost by not witnessing, then go back to witnessing for God.
D. Ask God to restore that power that you once had.

O GRANT, LORD JESUS, MINE MAY BE
A LIFE SURRENDERED UNTO THEE;
A VESSEL NEED NOT BE OF GOLD,
NEED NOT BE STRONG, OR WISE OR BOLD,
IT MUST BE CLEAN, FOR THEE TO USE,
SO FILL MY HEART, TILL ALL SHALL SEE,
A LIVING, REIGNING CHRIST IN ME!
YOU ARE LOVED

Text: Romans 5:8

INTRODUCTION:
A. Pity the person who doesn't know love!
1. Love is more than some passing fancy
   that is acquired and maintained by
   gifts of gold, silver, diamonds, etc.
2. Love is strong and enduring!
   a. I Cor. 13:8
   b. Heb. 12:2; I Cor. 13:7
B. Jesus REVEALED THE FATHER'S LOVE to us
   in so many ways!
1. He stooped to take little children
   in His arms. Mark 10:16
2. He took water, a pan and a towel and
   stooped at the feet of sinful man and
   bathed their feet.
3. He RECEIVED and ATE WITH sinners.
   Luke 15:2
4. He stood with heart-broken sisters
   at the tomb of their brother and wept
   with them. John 11:35-36
C. Friend, you and I are loved! John 3:16
1. His love is everlasting. Jer. 31:3

I. YOU ARE LOVED!
A. If you are among the Lord's chosen, the
   Lord's children.
1. Jer. 31:3; John 13:1
2. Loved to the end. John 13:1
3. He will never take His love away.
   Psalm 89:33
4. Nothing present or in the future will
   separate one from God's love. Rom. 8:
   38-39
B. If you are among the MANY LOST SOULS, you
   are loved!
C. If you are among the backslidden, you
   are loved!
D. If you are among the UNFAITHFUL you are
   loved.
E. Note the NATURE OF GOD'S LOVE for us.
1. UNMERITED
   a. I John 4:19
   b. One does not work, live, self into
      the love of God!
   c. God does not love because of WHAT
      or WHO one is.
   d. God did not wait for us to CLEAN UP
      OUR ACT before He loved us. Rom.
      5:8
2. His love is "REDEEMING LOVE." Psa. 31:5
   Gal. 2:20; Isa. 38:17
3. His love for us is SIN-REMOVING LOVE!
   a. Love never makes "excuse" for sins
      committed:
   b. Love does not "whitewash" the facts
      of sin!
   c. LOVE DOES "COVER" SINS. Prov. 10:12b;
      I Pet. 4:8b; Rev. 1:5c; I John 1:7
F. YOU WERE LOVED BEFORE you were born into
   the family of God. Rom. 5:8; I John 4:10

II. YOU WHO ARE LOVED ARE ALSO "LONGED FOR".
A. I enjoy preaching a sermon entitled "THE
   LORD'S FAMILIAR CALL."
1. "Come now". Isa. 1:18
3. "Come to me and drink" John 7:37
4. "Come unto me". Matt. 11:28
5. "Come out from". II Cor. 6:17
6. "Come after me..." Matt. 4:19
7. "Come forth". John 11:43
8. "Come up hither". Rev. 4:1
B. One might think of it as "Love's Call".
   That called Adam; Paul; that opened
   Lydia's heart. That"looked" at Peter;
   that "looked up" ex-blind man.
C. The Lord "longs for".
1. Your faith.
2. Communion and fellowship. Rev. 3:20;
   II Cor. 6:17-18
3. Worship: Matt. 4:10; Psalm 96:7-8
4. The Lord longs for your love. Luke
   10:27
5. The Lord longs for "glory" from you.
   a. For this purpose He created us.
      Isa. 43:7
   b. Jesus taught us to pray: Matt.6:13
   c. Paul taught... I Cor. 10:31

III. YOU ARE "LOOKED FOR!"
A. God has had a "search party" out for
   fallen mankind ever since Adam sold the
   human race into sin's slavery.
1. God first went Himself. Gen. 3:9
2. He sent the prophets! Acts 10:43
3. He sent His Son. John 3:17; Luke 5:32
4. He sent "12" to the lost sheep of the
   House of Israel.
5. He sent "35 pairs" Luke 10:1
6. He CALLED HIS CHURCH into being and
   sent Her into all nations to every
   Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8
7. He sent the Holy Spirit! John 16:8;
   Rev. 22:17
B. The Light of the world shines across our
   paths somewhere, sometime in life. John
   1:9
C. The SAVING GRACE of GOD "APPEARS TO ALL"
   somewhere, sometime. Titus 2:11
D. A TIMELY WARNING AND APPEAL! II Cor. 6:2
   Gen. 6:3; Hebs. 3:15

GOD LOVES