LOVE’S TRANSLATION

"HEREBY PERCEIVE WE THE LOVE OF GOD, BECAUSE HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US: AND WE OUGHT TO LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR THE BRETHREN. BUT WHO SO HATH THIS WORLD’S GOOD, AND SEETH HIS BROTHER HAVE NEED, AND SHUTTETH UP HIS BOWELS OF COMPASSION FROM HIM, HOW DWELLETH THE LOVE OF GOD IN HIM? MY LITTLE CHILDREN, LET US NOT LOVE IN WORD, NEITHER IN TONGUE, BUT IN DEED AND IN TRUTH." I John 3:16-18

For several months Bro. Charles Swilling has been asking me to write my testimony concerning my feelings, attitudes, and reaction to circumstances surrounding my physical experiences, my wife’s illness, and other tiring situations. I have never considered myself to be qualified to write. I do have a "testimony" am always glad to share it. Come by for coffee and fellowship and give me the opportunity and I will. For the time... my prayer is for God to supply me grace to always say with Job, "THOUGH HE SLAY ME, YET WILL I TRUST HIM:" Job 13:15a My prayer has been for the past fifteen years... "GOD BE MERCIFUL AND GIVE ME MORE GRACE! He has and He will continue to do all He has promised!!!

A few days ago Bro. Swilling asked me to write out a sermon for the "SOUNDING OUT THE WORD" paper... I do have a message in my heart that I want to share based on the Scripture I wrote above. I have many reasons for desiring to share this message with others in any way I may have the opportunity to do so. I hope you, the reader will look for the message... not the errors.

I recently heard one say, "Love cannot be defined." After looking in Thayer’s Greek Lexicon, Harper’s Greek Lexicon, the New College Edition of the American Heritage Dictionary, and Webster’s New Dictionary of Synonyms, I am more inclined to agree with that one. I may have missed the point, but I failed to see much improvement on the word love. "LOVE IS THE GREATEST!" I Cor. 13:13 "AND NOW A-BIDETH FAITH, HOPE, CHARITY (love), these three; but the greatest of these is charity (love)." Love may not be defined; IT CAN BE EXPERIENCED! Rom. 5:5 "AND HOPE MAKETH NOT ASHAMED; BECAUSE THE LOVE OF GOD IS SHED ABROAD IN OUR HEARTS BY THE HOLY GHOST WHICH IS GIVEN UNTO US." Love may not be defined; IT CAN BE TRANSLATED into words and deeds!

I recall this illustration from KNIGHT’S MASTER BOOK OF NEW ILLUSTRATIONS.... Page 72, THE BEST TRANSLATION: "Four clergymen were discussing the merits of various translations of the Bible. One liked the King James Version best because of its simple beautiful English.

Another liked the American Revised Version best because it is more literal and comes nearer the original Hebrew and Greek.

Still another liked Moffat’s translation best because of its up-to-date vocabulary.

The fourth minister was silent. Finally he said, "LIKE MOTHER’S TRANSLATION BEST. SHE TRANSLATED IT INTO LIFE, AND IT WAS THE MOST CONVINCING TRANSLATION I EVER SAW." -N.A.E.

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HOUSTON, TEXAS
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News Bulletin Yes, beloved, LOVE IS THE GREATEST, THE BEST! Love gives the greatest... Love. Love is the greatest and the best EVIDENCE OF ONE'S SALVATION. I John 3:14, John 13:35. Remember reading this? "If you were being tried in court for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?" Love is the greatest and best MAGNET sinners have ever encountered. Love in the heart of God draws sinners to a knowledge of His love, mercy, and saving grace! Isaiah 31:3 expresses it to my heart, "THE LORD HATH APPEARED OF OLD UNTO ME, SAYING, YEA, I HAVE LOVED THEE WITH AN EVERLASTING LOVE: THEREFORE WITH LOVING KINDNESS HAVE I DRAWN THEE." Every single born-again person has this same inward quality called love! It may not be defined, nor seen; but beloved it can be translated into LOVING DEEDS, ATTITUDES, AND WORDS which light, lift, lead, and linger!

I. LOVE'S TRANSFORMATION:

Listen as Paul tells about it! "WHO WAS BEFORE A BLASPHEMER, and a persecutor, and injurious: BUT I OBTAINED MERCY BECAUSE I DID IT IGNORANTLY IN UNBELIEF." I Tim. 1:13 "FOR I AM THE LEAST OF THE APOSTLES, THAT AM NOT WORTHY TO BE CALLED AN APOSTLE BECAUSE I PERSECUTED THE CHURCH OF GOD." I Cor. 15:9 That's not all! Through God's MERCY, GRACE, and LOVE such a one became a CHILD OF GOD, A GOD SENT MISSIONARY, A SOUL WINNER, A CHURCH BUILDER, A DEFENDER OF THE FAITH, AND A BIBLE WRITER... who said of all that he did or became in life, "BUT BY THE GRACE OF GOD I AM WHAT I AM." I Cor. 15:10

Paul writes to one Philemon concerning a run-away slave who was possibly in debt to his owner... "WHICH IN TIME PAST WAS TO THEE UNPROFITABLE, BUT NOW PROFITABLE TO THEE AND ME." Philemon 1, He asked to receive him back, "NOT AS A SERVANT, BUT ABOVE A SERVANT, A BROTHER BELOVED, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?" Unsaved folk were once "DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND SIN... WITHOUT CHRIST, ALIENS, STRANGERS FROM THE COVENANTS OF PROMISE, HAVING NO HOPE AND WITHOUT GOD IN THE WORLD." Ephesians 2

The same folk have been touched and transformed so that they are NOW "without condemnation," Romans 8:1; I John 1:7; "Sons of God with eternal life with an implanted nature to love." I John 3:2, Rom. 6:23; Rom. 5:8 "NEW CREATURES IN CHRIST" II Cor. 5:17; whose purpose is to "GLORY IN THE CROSS" and "MAGNIFY CHRIST." Gal. 6:14, Phil. 1:20 They are now "Ambassadors of Christ" and "lights of the world" to point others to Christ and salvation. II Cor. 5:20, Phil. 2:15

II. LOVE TRANSMITTING.

Love bears a testimony to one's self. Our Heavenly Father knows who are His born again children. He wants us to know we are His born again ones! I John 5:13; Luke 7:50; I John 3:1-2; and Gal. 3:26.

Beloved, GOD WANTS OTHERS TO KNOW WE ARE HIS CHILDREN!!! He knows! II Tim. 2:19 He makes it possible for us to know who and what we are! He also wants others to know. John 13:34, 35, A NEW COMMANDMENT I GIVE UNTO YOU, THAT YE LOVE ONE ANOTHER; AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, THAT YE ALSO LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

By this shall ALL MEN KNOW that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." Love may not be defined, it can be experienced! Love may not be seen, it can be TRANSLATED so others can know we are God's very own... reflecting His life, light and LOVE! Love's testimony is seen in obedience. John 14:21-23 Love's testimony is given not in word and tongue only, but also in deeds which harmonize with its nature.

III. LOVE'S TRANSLATION.

As Mother's translation of the Bible was her life in day-by-day attitudes, deeds, words and actions toward others... even so love is translated! God loved and gave Heaven's best! John 3:16

Love sacrifices self! Gal. 2:20 Love laid down His life for the most undeserving! Rom. 5:8 Love is after the PERFECT EXAMPLE! John 13:34 The Lord set the example and desires that we who profess to be saved to translate our profession of love into outward expressions which are prompted by that pure, Holy and undefiled motive... DIVINELY IMPARTED LOVE!

Saturday afternoons have long since been melancholy for me. I grew up in depression days on a farm where we did it one row at a time from sun-up till dark-thirty. When the farm work was on schedule Saturday afternoons were FUN TIME at our house! We lived miles from town without a car or truck. My dear sainted Mother did it with what she had to make HAPPY TIMES FOR HER OWN on that afternoon. She made home-made pies, cookies, candy and popcorn balls. She did it out of INBORN MOTHER'S LOVE! After Marie and I were married she took up where I had left Mother and always did those little, unimportant things to make me happy on Saturday afternoons. Love has a way of LOVING BY ACTION that others may know they are loved. God loves and lets us know it! God cares and lets us know it! He comes to us as "our refuge and strength." Psalm 46:1 He gives His own all that we have that is good. James 1:17 With His gift of the Best of Heaven He also gives to us the MOST: Love, forgiveness, cleansing, life, victories and GRACE SUFFICIENT FOR THE HOUR! II Cor. 12:9

There are some unsung heroes of love who stand out as examples of "Love's Translation." Dorcas loved and made garments for others with her own hands while she lived! Acts 9:39 Epaphroditus loved and was sick nigh unto death because of his love for God's work and preachers! Phil. 2:30 "BECAUSE FOR THE WORK OF CHRIST HE WAS NIGH unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me." He didn't have to do it! "The love of Christ, inborn in him,
CONstrained Him!

Allow me the time to share testimony of others who loved and TRANSLATED IT to ministering to me and mine in the past months. Bro. Ray Brooks owes me nothing but love. He came to my home and CRIED WITH ME AND MY WIFE, praying for God's sufficient grace and said to me the most challenging words. "D.B., you have got to practice what you have been preaching to others for forty years. As hard as it seems sometimes, I'll never forget him or those words! The night God called my beloved home Bro. Gilbert Sparks drove forty miles one way to be at my home to meet me and my three daughters. He didn't have to...HE LOVED AND TRANSLATED IT! Bro. Charles Swilling has been far more than a brother in Christ for the past fifteen years! Many a time in the past four years of my "schooling by adversity" he left needed rest, study time, family or whatever to come to my bedside at home or in the hospital. As illness dug away at the health and happiness of my beloved wife... Bro. Charles would come to our home and go into the bedroom and weep and pray WITH US! He knew the pain was almost unbearable, the days were dark and lonely, and the SPIRITUAL UPLIFT was needed more than ever before! He was there to help meet that need! Jack Brooks lived in our community and ministered to the First Baptist Church. He was young and full of life. He had a full time ministry in his church. He owed me nothing but CHRISTIAN LOVE AND CONCERN! He would drive between forty and fifty miles to downtown Houston's St. Joseph's hospital to VISIT, WEEP AND PRAY with Marie and I... when we needed it so badly! The night my daughters and I were at the Howard Glennard Funeral Home greeting friends and loved ones, Bro. Jack Brooks called long distance from Kentucky and CRIED, and PRAYED and SOUGHT TO CONSOLE at his own expense! Johnny Williams and Sammy Eldredge drove over two hundred miles to be with our family in our hour of grief! What am I saying? LOVE MAY NOT BE SEEN OR DEFINED... IT CAN BE TRANSLATED! Try it! I John 3:18

Allow me this one last, but not least in importance, testimony. My companion in the Lord's work for forty three years was not a loud mouth with her faith or religion. She had a strong faith in God! She experienced human weakness and neglect. She was not bitter. The last two months of her sweet life were filled with words like, "GOD WILL PROVIDE! GOD WILL USE YOU!" May I say with love, humility and honesty... HE HAS! She lived to see it! God touched the hearts of individuals and CHURCHES from far and wide to meet the needs of His preacher and companion! Beloved, GOD LOVES AND WON'T FAIL YOU! JESUS LOVES AND WALKS WITH US THROUGH THE DARKNESS AND PUT A LIGHT IN THE NIGHT! GOD'S TRUE PEOPLE LOVE AND CAN TRANSLATE THEIR LOVE INTO WORDS, DEEDS, AND MOST OF ALL... L O V E! I shall always be indebted to YOU ALL!!! God bless you for listening! I needed to talk!

WHO

THE LORD

IS

Glen Tropp

SUBJECT: ALPHABETICAL PRESENTATION USING THE LETTER "I".
Behold the Man

TEXT: John 19:5

INTRODUCTION:
A. The SETTING - this statement was given by Pilate after the scourging of Jesus.
B. The STATEMENT calls for consideration - "Behold the man."
C. The SPIRITUAL perception reveals Jesus as:

I. THE INFINITE ONE.
A. The Terminology - the term infinite means lacking limits, endless, very great & vast.

B. The TEACHING.
1. Infinite in his CHARACTER. I Pet.2:22
2. Infinite in his CONDUCT. John 8:29
3. Infinite in his CONVERSATION (pure, pointed & powerful words.)
4. Infinite in his COMPASSION (loved the unlovely).
5. Infinite in his CONQUERING (conquered satan, sin, self, death, hell, and the grave.)

II. THE ILLUMINATION ONE.
A. The MEANING - Illuminating means to give light to, to make clear, to explain and to inform.

B. The MESSAGE.
1. Informs us of our CONDITION.
2. Informs us of his CROSS-WORK.
3. Informs us of CONVERSATION. John 3
4. Informs us of CHRISTIAN precepts and principles.
   a. This includes His word - will - way - and walk.
   b. Example of John 9

III. THE IMPARTING ONE.
A. The NEED - The Bible declares that man in his natural state is dead in trespasses and sins. Eph. 2:1
B. The NEWS - Jesus imparts life to those who open up their hearts and receive Him as Saviour.
   1. Imparts life.
   2. Imparts righteousness.

IV. THE INDWELLING ONE.
A. The BEGINNING - The indwelling begins at conversion.
   1. Eph. 3:17
   2. 1 Cor. 3:16
B. The BLESSEDNESS.
   1. His indwelling provides security.
   2. His indwelling provides productive life if I'll allow the indwelling Christ control of my life.

V. THE INTERCEDING ONE.
A. The FACT expressed.
   1. Heb. 7:25
   2. Rom. 8:34
B. The Favor Bestowed.
   1. In Christ - what a favor bestowed on us - to realize that we have a mediator - intercessor - advocate & lawyer representing us.
   2. Because of Him God the Father can favor us with blessings innumerable.

VI. THE INEXHAUSTIBLE ONE.
A. Inexhaustible in His ability to save.
B. Inexhaustible in His ability to secure.
C. Inexhaustible in His ability to supply.
D. Inexhaustible in reference to all He is!
   1. Eph. 2:7

CONCLUSION: Behold Him! Believe Him and thus brighten up your life!

A PEOPLE
ALWAYS
PRAYING

TEXT: Eph. 6:18-20

INTRODUCTION:
Paul admonishes the people of God to be strong in the Lord and to put on the whole armour of God. In verses 11-17 he defines and describes the amour of God. As he concludes he reminds them of the great need of praying always and watching thereto with all perseverance. How we need to pursue, persist, and persevere in prayer. The Lord's house is to be a house of prayer. Luke 19:46 This simply means His house is to be a place of prayer and His people a praying people.

I. PRAY FOR SAINTS.
A. Paul Needed Prayers.
   1. Paul asked the Thessalonians to pray for him. 1 Thess. 5:25
   2. Paul was a man of prayer. Rom. 10:1
   3. May God give us the grace to realize we need to pray and we need the prayers of God's people.
B. Peter Needed Prayers.
   3. Peter would be tempted. He would deny the Lord 3 times. Matt. 26:69-75
C. Jesus Needed Prayer.
   1. Jesus was the God man of prayer.
   2. In the garden before His betrayal He prayed three times to the Father. Matt. 26:36-44
   3. He prayed for His people in John 17.

II. PRAY FOR SINNERS.
A. Pray They Realize Their Condition.
   1. They are dead in trespasses and sins. Eph. 2:1-3
   2. They are condemned already. John 3:18
   3. Pray that God's Holy Spirit would have free access and course in convicting them of their condition. John 16:8
B. Pray They Repent Of Sins.
   1. John the Baptist and Jesus began their ministries with the message of repentance. Matt. 3:2; 4:17
   2. God commands all men everywhere to repent of sins. Acts 17:30, 31
   3. People will perish, if they don't repent. Luke 13:3
   4. Pray they will be willing to repent of their sins.
C. Pray They Receive Jesus As Saviour.
   1. Paul told the jailor to believe on Jesus. Acts 16:31
   2. We are saved by grace through faith. Eph. 2:8,9
   3. We should pray that sinners recognize their need of Jesus and receive Him as their Saviour. John 1:11,12

III. PRAY FOR THE SICK.
A. Some Have A Brief Sickness.
   1. They may be sick occasionally.
   2. James reminds us of the power of prayer of an effectual fervent man. James 5:16
   3. James also said we are to pray for the sick. The Lord may raise the sick up because of prayer. James 5:14,15
B. Some Have Extended Sickness.
   1. We know of people we love who must endure being sick year after year.
   2. Some may have to deal with cancer, heart trouble, etc., for the rest of their lives.
   3. Praying for them gives them support and strength. Knowing people are (CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)
SPIRITUAL CONCERN FOR THE LOST

TEXT: ROMANS 9:1-5

INTRODUCTION:
A. Paul's Spiritual Passion For Israel.
I. SINCERE PASSION - THE HONESTY OF SPIRITUAL CONCERN. V 1
   A. "I say the truth in Christ" fellowship with Christ makes insincerity impossible.
   B. "My conscience bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit" ...a true experience of Christ leads to a true exercise of conscience.
II. SORROWING PASSION - THE CONSISTENCY OF SPIRITUAL CONCERN. V 2
   A. I have a great heaviness and continual sorrow.
III. SAVING PASSION THE AGONY OF SPIRITUAL CONCERN.
   A. The Stress.
      1. Great Sorrow.
      2. Unceasing Pain.
   B. The Solution.
      1. Condemned.
      2. Committed

CONCLUSION:
And so Paul loves, and longs and prays and strives and works for Israel's salvation. Have we these marks of a soul winner.

Maxie Haynes

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JOY UNSPEAKABLE AND FULL OF GLORY

TEXT: I Peter 1:8-12

I. THE REJOICING. V 8
   A. Loving Him. Rom. 5:5; I John 5:1
   B. Believing Him. Rom. 10:9,10; Acts 16:31; John 20:29
   C. Rejoicing.

II. THE RECEIVING.
   A. The Faith. Eph. 2:8,9; John 1:12; Gal. 3:26; Rom. 4:5; Tit. 3:5
   B. The Fact. I John 3:1,2; II Tim. 1:12

III. THE RESEARCH. V 10
   A. The Prophets. Rom. 3:20
   B. The Persuing.
   C. The Prophecying. Acts 10,11

IV. THE REASON. V 11
   A. The Spirit. II Pet. 2:21
   B. The Signifying.
   C. The Suffering. Isaiah 53

V. THE REVELATION. V 12
   A. The Revelation. John 16:13-15
   B. Ministration. Eph. 4:29
   C. Presentation.

CHARLES SWILLING

A CHANCE TO BEGIN

TEXT: James 1:1 AGAIN

INTRODUCTION:
God is a God of the second chance. This is shown from the 3 testimonies we discover in James 1:1. (Note: this testimony sermon could fit well into a "testimony service.")

I. THE TESTIMONY OF A REFORMED BROTHER.
   James was the half-brother of Jesus.
   A. First - His life as a SKEPTIC towards Jesus. Matt. 13:55; John 7:5; I Cor.15:3,4,7
   B. Second - His life as a SERVANT of Jesus. James 1:1 How did he serve?
      2. Gal 2:9 - He served faithfully in the POSITION to which God had called him (i.e., to be the first pastor of the Jerusalem church.)
   C. Third - He served Christ with a PERFECT - Humility. ("James, a servant" not I'm James the famous half-brother of Jesus.)
   D. Tradition - He served his fellow believers as a PRAYER - Warrior. (said he had knees as hard as camels' knees because of his praying).
   E. Tradition - He served God regardless of PERSECUTION. (He was eventually stoned to death by the Jews.)

II. THE TESTIMONY OF A RESTORED PEOPLE.
   A. First - The people were CHOSEN by God to be the means of communicating salvation to a lost world.
      1. Rom. 3:12 - INTRUSTED with God's Word.
      2. Isa. 42:6 -INSTRUCTED to share God's word.
   B. Second - THE UNBELIEVING Jews were CUT-OFF from God.
      1. Deut. 4:25-27 - They were CAUTIONED.
      2. Rom. 11:17,20 - They were CUT-OFF.
   C. Third - The Jewish people are being CONVERTED.
      1. Rom. 10:1; 11:1-6) Many will be SAVED.
      2. Isa. 55:6-7 God's SUMMONs to be saved.

III. THE TESTIMONY OF A RENEWED JOY. James 1:1
("greeting" = lit. "I wish you joy!")
A. First - A CHRISTIAN can have renewed joy through CONFESSION. I John 1:4,7,9
B. Second - A LOST - Person can experience joy when he is CONVERTED to Christ.

CONCLUSION:
A. To the saved - RENEW your commitment to Christ.
B. To the lost - RECEIVE Christ as Saviour.

Shelton Rogers

Giving thanks always FOR ALL THINGS. Eph. 5:20
AN APPEAL THAT APPLIES TO OUR WALK

TEXT: Ephesians 4:1-3

Muney Harris

I. HE APPEALS TO US TO WALK IN WORTHINESS. V 1
A. The Nature Of This Walk.
   1. To change your affection. Col. 3:1-2
   2. To conform to His image. Rom. 8:29
   3. To cherish good works. Eph. 2:10
B. The Necessity Of This Walk.
   1. That the world not scoff at Christianity. Phil. 1:27; 2:14-15
   2. That the lost not miss Christ. Heb. 12:14

II. HE APPEALS TO US TO WALK IN LOWLINESS. V 2a
A. The Nature Of This Walk.
   1. To alter estimation of self. Rom. 12:3
   2. To allow esteem for others. Phil. 2:3
   3. To avow exaltation of Christ. Jn. 3:30
B. The Necessity Of This Walk.
   1. Because God desires it. Micah 6:8
   2. Because Christ demonstrated it. Matt. 11:29
   3. Because Christians are deepened by it. Prov. 11:2

III. HE APPEALS TO US TO WALK IN MEEKNESS. V 2b
A. The Nature Of This Walk.
   1. It causes us to submit to the authority of His Word. James 1:21
   2. It causes us to submit to the attitudes of His Son; I Pet. 3:4; Prov. 15:1; James 1:19
B. The Necessity Of This Walk.
   1. It is needed in giving a reason of our hope. I Pet. 3:15
   2. It is needed in giving a restoration to the erring. Gal. 6:1

IV. HE APPEALS TO US TO WALK IN LONG-SUFFERING. V 2c
A. The Nature Of This Walk.
   1. It causes us to be patient with a weaker brother. Rom. 15:1
   2. It causes us to be patient as we wait on the LORD. Psa. 40:1
B. The Necessity Of This Walk.
   1. God desires it as a fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22
   2. Christ demonstrated it as a fact of the Spirit. I Pet. 2:21-23

V. HE APPEALS TO US TO WALK IN FORBEARING LOVE.
A. The Nature Of This Walk.
   1. It goes the extra mile. I Cor. 13:4a
   2. It overlooks and forgives. Prov. 10:12

THE LAW OF GOD

TEXT: Romans 7:7-14

Sammy Eldredge

INTRODUCTION:
In the Church age there is a lot of discussion as to the law. Is it valid today? Can it save? The Bible answers all.

I. THE LAW IS RIGHTEOUS:
A. The Law itself is a reflection of God's righteousness.
B. The law is righteous in that if we could live according to it there would be complete happiness and contentment.
C. The law is a reflection of what the government of Heaven will be like.
D. The righteousness of the law is told in two simple sentences.
   1. Mark 12:30
   2. Mark 12:31

II. THE LAW OF GOD IS RELEVANT TODAY.
A. I don't mean that men can be saved by the law.
B. I don't mean we are bound under its penalty.
C. But the things that are written in it are just as holy today as the day they were written.
D. Either we obey God's commands or else we are rebellious.

III. THE LAW OF GOD IS REPRIMANDING.
A. When I judge my life by the law, I am reprimanded because I have not kept the law.
B. Also we are told in the law the penalty of God's people for breaking the law.
C. We realize not only the penalty we deserve, but the Grace of God who we have wronged.

IV. THE LAW IS REVEALING.
A. It reveals to me what I am.
B. It reveals to me that I deserve to be banished.
C. It reveals to me that I need mercy from God.
D. It reveals to me the impossibility, of my ever pleasing God on my merits.
E. It reveals to me the need of a Saviour.
F. It reveals to me that the only Saviour is God Himself.

Isn't that just like Jesus

TEXT: Hebrews 1

Darrel Owens

INTRODUCTION:
A. We have an expression heard pretty often especially used to characterize one who is continually doing good. We'll say, "Now, isn't that just like her or him to do that thing?".
B. I intend to use this expression to characterize our Lord's goodness.
C. Pay close attention to verse 3 of our text.
I. ISN'T IT JUST LIKE JESUS TO OFFER SALVATION FREE OF CHARGE?
A. The most precious and valuable thing there is, is free.
B. Isaiah spoke of buying without money. Isa. 55:1
C. Titus 3:5
D. Eph. 2:8,9
E. Knowing that we could not achieve it or earn it, Jesus did it for us. ISN'T THAT JUST LIKE HIM?

II. ISN'T IT JUST LIKE HIM TO KEEP US SAVED UNCONDITIONALLY?
A. His keeping is just as free as His saving.
B. Romans 8:35-39
C. Consider Heb. 6:4-6.

III. ISN'T IT JUST LIKE JESUS TO BLESS US BEYOND ALL EXPECTATIONS?
A. Psa. 23:1,2
B. One of the most beautiful illustrations is our Lord's feeding of the 5000. They had all they needed plus more left over than they started with.
C. He blesses us even when we do nothing for Him. It does rain on the just and the unjust.
D. BUT He would bless us so much more if we would co-operate with Him. LEARN A PRINCIPLE:
1. Luke 6:38
2. Mal. 3:10
3. PEOPLE OF GOD, let us please not miss the great principle here. It is THAT WE WILL NEVER loose nor go in the hole by doing for Jesus!!!
   b. In witnessing, working, using talents.

IV. ISN'T IT JUST LIKE JESUS TO COMFORT THE BROKEN-HEARTED AND DISAPPOINTED?
A. Psa. 23:4c
B. He is there when our hearts are broken:
   1. Upon the death of a loved one.
   2. The desertion of a spouse of one you love.
C. He comforts when you are disappointed:
   1. Because of the loss of a job or a promotion.
   2. What ever yours may be.
D. He truly will never leave us nor forsake us. ISN'T THAT JUST LIKE HIM?

V. ISN'T IT JUST LIKE HIM TO LOVE THE UNLOVELY?
A. His love is not conditional.
B. Child of God, He loves us even when we are contrary and sinful. He doesn't approve but He loves us. I John 3:1
C. Lost person, He loves you so much that He died for you and lives for you.

Giving thanks always FOR ALL THINGS. Eph. 5:20

IT'S HARD TO BE HUMBLE

TEXT: Luke 18:9-14

Danny Chappell

INTRODUCTION:
A. The worst "ism" facing us is not Communism, liberalism, racism, or materialism, but egotism.
   1. It made the devil the devil. Isa. 14:13-14
   2. It is the first of seven deadly sins. Prov. 6:16-19
   3. It precedes destruction. Prov. 16:18
B. Humility is given divine approval. Isa. 57:15; Matt. 18:4; Prov. 16:19; I Pet. 5:5

C. Two kinds of Pride
1. Virtue Pride - Webster, "Pride may be commendatory in indicating a justified self-esteem proper self respect or dislike of falling below one's standards that spurs one on, bouys one up or checks one from base decisions."
2. Vain Pride - Webster, "An unjustified self esteem, arising from a false, inflated and pretentious sense of one's worth, culminating in arrogant conceit."

D. The Parable of Jesus, about a Pharisee and a Publican deals with this second kind of pride.

I. WE SEE THE KING OF SINS.
A. The Pharisee thanked God that he was not like other men.
   1. Extortioners - one who steals or takes by force. Prov. 27:20; I Tim. 6:10
   2. Unjust - to be unrighteous and wicked a. a good description of the Publican b. He had made himself rich at the expense of others in the name of the law.
   3. Adulterer - one who commits adultery.
      a. Exod. 20:14
      b. Marriage is the cornerstone of our society. Adultery is one thing that Jesus said can break the bonds of marriage therefore it is a great sin.
   4. All of these things violate the basic laws of God. Could anything be worse than this trinity of evil? Yes, Pride.

B. The greatest sin is to be conscious of none.
   1. The Pharisee never was conscious of his sin and never repented.
   2. Pride leaves no room for repentance which makes it most dangerous because it is the one sin least likely to be confessed and forsaken.

II. WE SEE THE NULLIFICATION OF VIRTUES.
A. Not only did the Pharisee abstain from evil, but he also had many positive virtues.
   1. He attended worship. Luke 18:10
   2. He was a man of prayer. Luke 18:11
   3. He fasted twice a week. Luke 18:12
4. He tithed on all he possessed.
B. All of these acts were commendable but they became a point of pride their value was nullified.
1. Thomas Becket - "What is life's greatest treason? But to do the right thing for the wrong reason."
2. Regardless of all other virtues in our lives we must add humility. Without it we nullify all the other good we may do. Micah 6:8; James 4:10

III. WE SEE THE LOSS OF JUSTIFICATION.
A. The Publican repented in humility and went down to his house justified. Luke 18:14
B. Pride prevented the Pharisee from going down to his house justified.
1. He went home dignified but not justified.
C. Justification is the most important Bible doctrine. It means to be acquitted, to be found not guilty. Acts 13:39; Rom. 5:1; I Cor. 6:11; Gal. 3:24
D. Jesus not only gave us an illustration of pride but two examples of humility.
E. When we look at the cross, there is no place for pride. Phil. 2:8; Heb. 12:1-2

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

praying for you comforts and consoles.
C. Some Have Life Threatening Sickness.
1. A disease may make the threat of death real each day.
2. Dangerous operation that could take life through complications.
3. Accidents or criminal injury may make life uncertain and death likely.
4. May we pray for those who are sick as we meet to worship.

IV. PRAY FOR SERVANTS.
A. Those Already Serving.
1. It is only by God's grace and strength that we serve.
2. We know that it is God's will for us to serve Him. Rom. 12:1
3. Assemble prayerfully lifting up the people who will take part in the services today.
B. Those Almost Persuaded.
1. The Lord convicts His people of serving Him.
2. We probably have some in our services who have been thinking about it.
3. They have been concerned with Matt. 9:36
C. Those About To Surrender.
1. Some have made up their minds to walk down during invitation.
2. Some are on the verge of giving up and giving in to the Lord. Rom. 6:13

V. PRAY FOR THE SERVICES.
A. Pray For The Sunday School.
1. Teachers will teach God's Word.
2. The Spirit will convict the students of their need.
3. Pray for the times of study that God will meet the needs of people.
B. Pray For The Song Service.
1. We should pray for the song leader as he plans our service and chooses the songs.
2. We should sing from the heart the praises to the Lord.
3. We can help make a song service or break it.
C. Pray For The Sermon.
1. Pray I will allow God to lead me and lay the message on my heart.
2. Pray that I will speak God's Word boldly.
3. Pray that the messages from God's Word would be used of God and He will bless in a mighty way.
D. Pray For The Surrender of People During Our Services.

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Thursday 9:30--9:00 Speakers
All selected from floor.
Friday--7:30 Special Speaker
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