HAVE YOU LOST IT?

"AND SHE SAID UNTO HIM, HOW CANST THOU SAY, I LOVE THEE, WHEN THINE HEART IS NOT WITH ME? THOU HAST MOCKED ME THREE TIMES, AND HAST NOT TOLD ME WHEREIN THY GREAT STRENGTH LIETH. AND IT CAME TO PASS, WHEN SHE PRESSED HIM DAILY WITH HER WORDS, AND URGED HIM, SO THAT HIS SOUL WAS YEXED UNTO DEATH; THAT HE TOLD HER ALL HIS HEART, AND SAID UNTO HER, THERE HATH NOT COME A RAZOR UPON MY HEAD: FOR I HAVE BEEN A NAZARITE UNTO GOD FROM MY MOTHER'S WOMB; IF I BE SHAVEN, THEN MY STRENGTH WILL GO FROM ME, AND I SHALL BECOME WEAK, AND BE LIKE ANY OTHER MAN. AND WHEN DELILAH SAW THAT SHE HAD TOLD HER ALL HIS HEART, SHE SENT AND CALLED FOR THE LORDS OF THE PHILISTINES, SAYING, COME UP THIS ONCE, FOR HE HATH SHEWED ME ALL HIS HEART, THEN THE LORDS OF THE PHILISTINES CAME UP UNTO HER, AND BROUGHT MONEY IN THEIR HAND, AND SHE MADE HIM SLEEP UPON HER KNEES, AND SHE CALLED FOR A MAN, AND SHE CAUSED HIM TO SHAVE OFF THE SEVEN LOCKS OF HIS HEAD; AND HE BEGAN TO AFFLICTION HIM, AND HIS STRENGTH WENT FROM HIM. AND SHE SAID, THE PHILISTINES BE UNTO THEE, SAMSON. AND HE AWOKE OUT OF HIS SLEEP, AND SAID, I WILL GO OUT AT OTHER TIMES BEFORE, AND SHAKE MYSELF. AND HE WIST NOT THAT THE LORD WAS DEPARTED FROM HIM." Judges 16:15-20

David confessed in Psa. 51 that he had lost the joy of his salvation and pleaded with God to restore it. Some athletes play their game in an outstanding way. They hit a slump and say, I have lost it. The ability is still there, but the drive, timing, or heart may not be.

Samson had been used of God in a mighty way. The Lord's Spirit came upon him and he experienced the power of God in a mighty way. The key to his power was his hair. He was a Nazarite. Samson told this secret to Delilah who told it to the Philistines. Delilah had Samson's hair shaved off and he was captured by the enemy. Study the last part of V20 very carefully. "AND HE WIST NOT THAT THE LORD WAS DEPARTED FROM HIM."

You can lose some precious things in the Christian life. Some times you can lose them and not even be aware of it. You may not even know they are gone. After awhile you wake up and realize you have lost it. Let's notice several questions about the subject:

I. WHAT HAVE YOU LOST?

YOU CAN LOSE JOY. When we were saved we experienced joy unspeakable and full of glory. It was a wonderful joyful experience to be saved. We were right with God. After a while you can lose that heart felt joy as a saved person.

YOU CAN LOSE FELLOWSHIP. Sweet holy communion and fellowship is experienced with the Lord. You can enjoy walking and talking with the Lord. He is real to you. It is a blessed way to live each day. You can lose fellowship with the Lord. The basis of fellow-
ship is found in I John 1:6,7. 
YOU CAN LOSE PEACE. The 
saved person is at peace with 
God.Rom.5:1 The Lord wants us 
to allow His peace to rule in 
our hearts. Col. 3:15 After 
awhile you can wake up to re-
alyze you do not have that 
sweet peace you once had.
YOU CAN LOSE THE HUNGER FOR 
SPIRITUAL THINGS. When you 
were saved you had a hunger 
for the things of the Lord. 
You had a hunger for Bible 
study, going to church, fellow 
ship with God's people, and 
witnessing. You can lose the 
hunger for spiritual things. 
YOU CAN LOSE THE WILIN-
GNESS TO SERVE. When you were 
saved you were so full of joy 
and thankfulness you wanted to 
serve the Lord in any way you 
could. You wanted to obey Rom. 
12:1 You obeyed the word with-
out question. You volunteered 
willingly. You can lose the 
williness to serve.
YOU CAN LOSE SPIRITUAL 
power. The Lord is our strength. 
II Cor. 12:9 Right after you 
were saved you believed 
from your heart that nothing 
was too difficult for God. You 
depended upon, relied upon Him 
and took everything to Him in 
Prayer. You experienced that 
enter spiritual power that en-
abled you to do things for God. 
Phil. 4:13 You can lose spiritu-
al power.
YOU CAN LOSE THE BURDEN. 
When you were saved there was 
a desire, burden, and longing 
in your soul to see people 
saved. You were burdened for 
family, friends, foes, and 
even strangers. You wanted 
the saved to serve the Lord. 
You wept and were disturbed 
when people were not saved. 
You can lose the burden.
II. WHEN DID YOU LOSE IT?
THE PROBLEM. Did you lose 
it when you began to have 
problems? Problems and trou-
bles are a part of life. Job 
14:1 Some are taught or they 
simply assume when you serve 
the Lord you won't have prob-
lems, but this isn't the 
thrust. God uses problems to 
refine His people and to 
teach us His word. Psa. 119: 
71. Your problems can drive 
you away from the Lord or to 
The Lord. We choose which 
direction to run.
THE POSITION. Did you lose 
it when you got the position? 
Sometimes people who love the 
Lord are promoted at work, or 
start another job, or join an 
an organization and get too in-
volved. The position places 
too many demands on you and 
you find that you began to 
compromise with the world.
THE POSSESSION. Did you 
lose it because of your possession? 
We are taught not to lay up treasures in 
this life. Matt. 6:19-21 Love 
for money, possessions, and 
daily cares can hurt our fellow-
ship with the Lord. 
Matt. 13:22 Life consists of 
more than what you own.
THE PRIDE. Did you lose it 
because of pride? Remember 
when you turned things over 
to the Lord and trusted Him 
for the outcome? Pride can 
kill you and make you 
think you don't need the Lord 
You can start handling things 
your way. You can do things 
in the flesh depending upon 
yourself and not ask God for 
help or guidance.
THE PASSION. Did you lose 
it because of sinful passion? 
We are not to love the things of 
the Lord. The world appeals 
to the pride of life and the 
the lust of the flesh and 
eyes. I John 2:15-17 Love 
for the world and it's sins, and 
wickedness, and corruption 
will cause you to lose your 
zeal for the Lord. Paul de-
scribed the last days as sin-
ful and wicked in II Tim. 3:1 
13. The child of God is in-
structed to not let sin domi-
nate his life. Rom. 6:12,14
III. WHY DID YOU LOSE IT?
SATAN'S ACTIVITY. Any 
time we lose it, you can know 
and rest assured satan has 
been active in our lives. 
Satan is our adversary. I Pet. 
5:8 The devil and his minis-
ters are active in their war 
with God and His people. Paul 
tells us to stand against the 
Wiles of the devil by taking 
the whole armour of God. Eph. 
6:11 Satan is a master at deal-
ing with falsehood, lies, and 
deceit. II Cor. 11:13-15; I 
Tim. 4:1; I John 4:1
When you lose it, you will 
find you have given ground to 
satan in your life. Satan can 
not get your soul because it 
is secure with the Lord, but 
he can destroy your testimony 
and make you miserable in life.
SIN’S APPEAL. The saved per-
son still has the adamic sin-
ful nature to deal with. Paul 
spoke of the constant conflict 
between the old and new nature 
or man in Rom. 7:14-25. Satan 
causes sin to be appealing 
through the sinful nature. Sin 
appeals to the lust of the 
flesh and eyes and the pride 
of life. I John 2:15-17 Sin 
appeals to the adamic nature 
because it is not subject to 
God's laws and can't be. Rom. 
8:6-8 When you lose it sin 
will be the reason. David is a 
good example of this truth.
SELFISH AMBITIONS. To have 
ambitions is not wrong. It is 
wrong to want more, do 
better, get a promotion etc.. 
It is wrong to be willing to 
get what you want at any cost, 
in any way, to satisfy our own 
pride and ego. Our goal in 
life should be to be what God 
wants us to be and do what He 
wants us to do. Study Paul's 
desire. "THAT I MAY KNOW HIM, 
AND THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECT-
ION, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS 
SUFFERINGS, BEING MADE CONFORM 
ABLE UNTO HIS DEATH," Phil. 
3:10
IV. WHERE DID YOU LOSE IT?
AT HOME. Our fellowship 
with the Lord influences our 
lives at home, at work, and at 
church. When you have problems 
in your home it can cause you 
to lose it. You can lose it 
when you have a conflict with 
your husband or wife. You can 
lose it when parents and chil-
ren have problems. You will 
have problems in your home. 
The Lord wants you to deal 
with them according to His 
word. Col. 3:18-21 If you 
aren't willing to resolve it
God's way, you can lose it.

AT WORK. You can lose it because of what you are going through on your job. The stress and pressure on you at work can cause you to lose it. You will have problems on your job. You may have a conflict with someone you work with. You may fear losing your job or getting fired. A lot of demands may be placed on you at work and it affects your fellowship with the Lord. Some go through so much they quit going to church trying to cope with the stress. Even as you cope with pressure your attitudes, motives, and outlook can be contrary to God's word.

AT CHURCH. You can lose it at church. Your church should be a second home to you. When things aren't right at home or where you work, for you things may not be right at church. Church conflicts can cause you to lose it. Every church has problems. The Lord wants His people to deal with them according to His Word. Saved people can be spiteful, cruel, and very unchristian at times. Their words, ways, and wills manifest this. This spiritual conflict can cause us to lose it. You can lose it at church.

V. HOW CAN I GET IT BACK?

The child of God cannot lose his or her salvation. We are secure in Christ eternally. That doesn't cause me to have pride. It causes me to praise the Lord for His great love. If you have lost the zeal and joy and fellowship you will be miserable. If you have lost it you should want to get it back. The Lord wants you to get it back. You can get it back. I call your attention to four things that will help you get it back.

RECOGNIZE THE LOSS. Samson didn't even realize he had lost it. He didn't know until he was faced by the enemy and taken captive. Check your life. Have you lost it? You can't get it back until you realize it is gone. Sometimes we fall asleep spiritually and we have to wake up to realize we have lost it. As we ponder on it, we can know if we still have it or not. You don't start looking for what you lose until you realize you have lost it.

REJECT YOUR SINS. David confessed his sin and pleaded with the Lord for mercy, forgiveness, and joy to be restored. He wanted the joy of God's salvation restored. This world dims the glory of the things of God to us. Sin robs us of joy and hides God's face from us. Isa. 59:1,2 Demas loved the present world and because he did, he forsook Paul. II Tim. 4:10 We will have problems to face. All problems that we face are not caused by our sins. We can deal with problems in a way that is sin. If you have sinned, repent of your sin. If you are not coping with your problems God's way, repent of it.

RECEIVE THE LORD'S WORD. Jesus said a wise man listens and obeys His Word. Matt. 7:24-26. The way to have glorious fellowship with the Lord is to walk in the light. I John 1:7 When you lose it you can attribute it to your refusing to accept God's Word. Paul teaches us plainly that God's word is inspired and profitable. II Tim. 3:16 We ought to obey God rather than man. Acts 5:29

REFORM YOUR WAYS. Stop sinning and start serving the Lord. If you have stopped praying, studying, attending church, and depending on the Lord, start praying, studying attending church etc. Forgive your sins and serve your Saviour.

If you have lost it, you can get it back. You can experience the joy, peace, fellowship, and willingness again. We lose it because we run from the Lord. The Lord calls upon you to return. Will you return TODAY?

CONCLUSION:

A. The way of salvation.
1. Supernaturally accomplished. V. 6-8
2. Individually accepted. V. 9-11
3. Universally available. V. 12-13

Maxie Haynes

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OLD ADDRESS ____________________________

May/June 1987
Mothers of Genuine Faith and Faithfulness

D.B. Wright

TEXT: II Timothy 1:1-7 Key Verse 5

INTRODUCTION:
A. The Bible has a great deal to say about Women of ill repute:
   1. The wicked, scheming wife of wicked King Ahab, JEZEBEL:
      a. Threatened Elijah's life. I Kings 19:2
      b. Forged the King's name to falsely accuse innocent Naboth, and have him executed in order to get his vineyard.
      c. Her name has become synonymous with evil, conniving, scheming women in the church: Thyatira, Rev. 2:20
   2. Potipher's wife:
      a. Sought for several days to seduce young Joseph.
      b. Lied on him causing his imprisonment for a crime he did not commit.
      a. An adulterer, unlawfully married to Herod.
      b. Plotted and schemed to martyrdom of GOD'S MESSENGER, John the Baptist.
   4. Sapphira:
      a. "Tempted the Spirit of the Lord".
      b. Lied about a PROMISED OFFERING.

B. The Bible mentions and memorializes women who were spiritual giants!
   1. Mother Hanna:
      a. A lady of "Godly Purpose" and "Prayer Power".
      b. A lady unafraid to make serious, sincere promises to God.
      c. A godly mother, who faithfully kept her promises!
   2. Esther:
      a. A woman of extreme beauty, which God used.
      b. A woman who could be influenced by a messenger of God.
      c. A woman who laid her life on the line for God's people.
      d. A woman who "relied on", believed in prayer power.

3. Anna:
   a. Faithfully serving the Lord in the temple at 84!
   b. Going from door to door, witnessing of Jesus at age 84!

4. The unnamed widow: "Gave all her living" to further the work of the Lord.

5. Aquilla:
   a. Opened her home to house a church.
   b. Qualified and willing to help teach a young preacher "the way of the Lord more perfectly".

6. The "Great Woman" in Shunam:
   a. Spiritual perception:
   b. Wanted to be a "fellow-helper".
   c. Added a room onto her home for the circuit riding preacher.

7. Dorcas:
   a. Ministered to the needs of others with her own hands.

8. The one who appointed JESUS with an alabaster box of ointment. Matt. 26:12-13

9. Eunice
   10. Lois I Tim. 3:15

I. THE BIBLE REVEALS THAT THERE IS "A FAITH THAT IS WORTHLESS."
   A. Those who believe they are saved because of their ancestors:
      1. John 8:32
      2. Their reply: John 8:33; 39
   B. Those who have faith in Men's Doctrines rather than God's plan of salvation.
      Matt. 15:8-9
   C. Those who trust their religious works instead of trusting the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour.
      Matt. 7:21-23
   E. Those who Believe and teach a "perverted gospel." Gal. 1:6-8
   F. The man without a proper wedding garment an example of all who would by pass Jesus the Son of God, the one and only Saviour and way to Heaven.
      Matt. 22; John 10:9
      John 10:1; John 14:6; II Cor. 5:21; Acts 4:12

II. THE SCRIPTURES REVEAL THAT THERE IS A HEAD FAITH.
   A. "Devils believe and tremble" James 2:19
   B. The "seed which fell on the rock". Luke 8:13
   C. The "Fair Weather believer". Luke 8:14
   D. All these may give mouth and lip service to the Lord, but the heart is unchanged, unclean, and unborn!

III. OUR SCRIPTURE READING REFERS TO A "GENUINE FAITH" WHICH IS "HEART FAITH" IN JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD!
   A. Remember, God measures hearts, not heads or hands! I Sam. 16:7; Prov. 23:7; Matt. 12:34
   B. The Word which fell on good soil: Luke 8:15
   C. The Test Of A Profession. Luke 8:36-37
   D. This explains the "must" of the new birth! Jeremiah 17:9; John 3:6-7; John 3:3, 5; Romans 10:10
MERCHANDISERS, NOT MINISTERS

George Crawford

TEXT: II Peter 2:1-3

INTRODUCTION:

A. DEFINITION: A false teacher is one who knows the truth, (intellectually) but who deliberately teaches lies that he or she might promote themselves, get financial gain from their followers (2:3&14) and be able to live in sin to please themselves (2:10, 13-14, 19-19). They use deceptive means (2:1,3) and twists the Word of God to suit their fancies.

B. But counterfeits are nothing new. Satan is the "greatest of all counterfeits". II Cor. 11:13-15
1. He has been hard at work ever since he deceived Eve in the Garden. Gen. 3:1-7; II Cor. 11:1-4.
2. He has false Christians. Matt. 13:38; John 8:44
3. He has a false Gospel. Gal. 1:6-9
4. He even has a false righteousness. Rom. 9:30; 10:4
5. One day he will present to the world a false Christ. II Thess. 2

C. The nation of Israel was constantly being astray by false prophets.
1. Elijah had to contend with the prophets of Baal. They were the men who promoted a pagan religion.
2. The JEWISH false prophets did the most damage, for they claimed to speak for Jehovah God. (God said I didn't say it).
3. Jeremiah & Ezekial exposed false prophets but the people followed the counterfeiters just the same. Why? Because the religion of the false prophets was easy, comfortable, and popular. The fact the prophets preached a false peace did not worry the people. Jer. 6:14 That was the message they wanted to hear!

D. The Apostles laid the foundation for the church & then passed from the earthly scene. Eph. 2:20
1. This is why Peter wrote about false TEACHERS, rather than false prophets, because there are still TEACHERS in the church.
2. It is easy for us to reject false prophets, those who prophecy, but harder to reject a false teacher of the Word.

3. Satan always uses the approach that will succeed for him.

I. FALSE TEACHERS ARE DECEPTIVE - "Destructive Heresies"

A. Their Message Is False.
1. Peter called it "destructive heresies" I Peter 2:1
2. Heresy originally meant "to make a choice" then it came to mean "a sect, a party".
3. Promoting a party spirit in a church is one of the works of the flesh. Gal. 5:20
4. "Are you on my side or the pastor's side?" is promoting a party spirit & causing division.

B. Not Only Is Their Message False, Their METHODS Are False.
1. They come into the church under false colors pretending to be true Christians, "secretly bring in alongside" the truth.
2. They lay their false doctrine along side of true and reject true.

C. Their Words Are False, "feigned words".
1. Exploit their followers with stories they have made up.
2. "feigned words" from PLASTO meaning PLASTIC. Plastic words, words that can be twisted to mean anything they want them to mean.
3. The false teachers use our VOCABULARY but they do not use our DICTIONARY.
4. They talk about "salvation" "inspiration" great words of the Christian faith but they do not mean what we mean.
5. Immature and untaught believers hear them and they sound right but are not right.

II. FALSE TEACHERS DENY GREAT BIBLE TRUTHS.
"even denying the Lord, etc"

A. False Teachers Better Known For What They DENY Than What They AFFIRM.
1. They deny the inspiration of the Bible, the sinfulness of man, the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ on the cross, salvation by faith ALONE and even the reality of eternal judgment.
2. And more especially deny the deity of Jesus Christ without which there is no Christian faith.

B. Remember These False Teachers Are UNSAVED.
1. They are compared to dogs and hogs, not to sheep (2:22)
2. Jude says "they have not the Spirit" and without the Spirit of God they are not a child of God. Rom. 8:9
3. They pretend to be saved and even become ordained preachers but eventually will deny the Lord and BE DENIED OF THE LORD.

III. FALSE TEACHERS ARE SENSUOUS. 2:2

A. Pernicious Ways Means Sensual Conduct.
1. That is why they deny the truths of Christian faith, they want to satisfy their own lusts and do it under the guise of religion.
2. The false prophets in Jeremiah's day were guilty of the same sins. Jer. 23: 14, 32
B. Many Follow The Evil Example Of These False Teachers! What Does That Teach Us?
1. That people would rather follow the false than the true, the sensual rather than the spiritual.
2. These false teachers are very successful in their ministry.
3. Remember Jesus said concerning the broad road "many are on it".
4. He further said many will claim to be true servants of Christ, but will be rejected on the last day. Matt. 7:21-23
C. What Happens To Their Followers?
1. They bring disgrace to the name of Christ. True Christian faith gets a bad name because of their filthy lives. Titus 1:16
D. They Are Not Ministers, They Are Merchandisers.
1. How many hospitals visits do they make? Families do they comfort?
2. If you send your money to a TV super preacher, contact him when you need a minister and see if he will minister to you.
E. True Prophet Is Jesus. Deut. 18:15

THE BENEFICIAL TEACHINGS OF CHRIST (PART 25)

SERIES: THE LIFE OF CHRIST
FOCUS: THE BENEFICIAL TEACHINGS OF CHRIST
SUBJECT: THE TWO BUILDERS
SCRIPTURE: MATT. 7:24-29

The most profound and profitable teachings of all times are found in the Sermon on the Mount. This sermon is sufficient enough to relay to us God's entire purposes for our lives. It not only deals with salvation, it deals with truths that instruct us concerning the lifestyle of a Christian. As I examine my own life and survey the lifestyles of other Christians I would very emphatically declare that all of us need to examine this sermon more clearly and apply it's teachings to our lives.

The Scripture Text for our evaluation in this lesson deals with two builders: The Wise Builder and the Unwise Builder. Let's survey and examine this passage of Scripture with a prayer in our hearts that the sweet Holy Spirit will illuminate our minds and hearts with the proper understanding so that we'll know and put into practice, in our lives, these truths.

I. THE WISE BUILDER.


There are several key words or phrases which are worthy of note. The first key word is "heareth". Seemingly, this is the problem today. Are people today "hearing" what the Lord has to say? Are preachers today preaching the Word of the Lord? Remember, there is a big difference in preaching about the Word as opposed to preaching "the" Word. Are we paying attention to what the Lord is saying or do we find ourselves just ignoring Him. Notice what He says in this passage - the wise will "hear". Notice the following truths carefully and they might reveal to us why a person might not hear.

 Isa. 55:3 "INCLINE YOUR EAR, AND COME UNTO ME: HEAR, AND YOUR SOUL SHALL LIVE; AND I WILL MAKE AN EverLASTING COVENANT WITH YOU, EVEN THE SURE MERCIES OF DAVID."

John 8:47 "HE THAT IS OF GOD HEARETH GOD'S WORDS: YE THEREFORE HEAR THEM NOT, BECAUSE YE ARE NOT OF GOD."


The second key word is "sayings". This refers to the teachings (doctrines) of the Lord. The Bible is God's Word. It's inspired and infallible.

The third key word is "doeth". It's good to hear, but if we refuse to become a doer of that Word, we are deceiving ourselves. Another passage worthy of our consideration, in light of this Word, would be James 1:21-25.

The fourth key word is "wise". Notice also Psa. 107:43. "WHOSO IS WISE, AND WILL OBSERVE THESE THINGS, EVEN THEY SHALL UNDERSTAND THE LOVING-KINDNESS OF THE LORD."

The fifth truth is presented in a phrase - "WHICH
BUILT HIS HOUSE UPON A ROCK." The FOUNDATION is the rock. This refers to our Lord and our being born again. He is the rock or foundation. Notice the following Scriptures. I Cor. 10:4; Psa. 18:2; I Cor. 3:11; Isa. 28:16 and II Tim. 2:19. The FRAMING or FOUNDATION deals with the building of a life. As we hear what He says and then become a doer of it, we are building our life according to the blueprint or pattern. This is wise. Notice also I Cor. 3:12-17 to get further information on the importance of building your life right.

The sixth truth is noted in Matthew 7:25. This refers to the testings, trials and temptations that come upon us. If our lives have been built according to the pattern or blueprint (His Word), we'll be able to stand and withstand the stresses and strains of life because of the strength He gives in accordance with our obedience.

II. THE UNWISE BUILDER.


Notice with me first of all the DIFFERENCE. This builder is different than the other in that he heard but he would not do them. He did not have the right foundation.

Notice, in the second place, the DEEDS of the unwise, foolish, wicked man. The key word in the Scriptures is fool or foolish. He thinks he can make it without God and even worse instances goes to the extreme of denying that there is a God, thus becoming Atheistic. Notice Psalms 53:1 "THE FOOL HATH SAID IN HIS HEART, THERE IS NO GOD. CORRUPT ARE THEY, AND HAVE DONE ABOMINABLE INIQUITY: THERE IS NONE THAT DOETH GOOD." He slanders. Notice Prov. 10:18. "HE THAT HIDETH HATRED WITH LYING LIPS, AND HE THAT UTERETH A SLANDER, IS A FOOL." He mocks at sin. Notice Prov. 14:9. "FOOLS make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favour." He despises instruction. Prov. 15:5. "A FOOL DESPIETH HIS FATHER'S INSTRUCTION: BUT HE THAT REGARDETH REPROSS IS PRUDENT." He's contentious. Prov. 18:6 "A FOOL'S LIPS ENTER INTO CONTENTION, AND HIS MOUTH CALLETH FOR STROKES." He's a MEDDLER. Prov. 20:3 "IT IS AN HONOR FOR A MAN TO CEASE FROM STRIFE: BUT EVERY FOOL WILL BE MEDDLING." He is self-confident. Prov. 20:26 He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered." He's dishonest. Jer. 17:11 "AS THE PARTRIDGE SITTETH ON EGGS, AND HATCHETH THEM NOT; SO HE THAT GETTHEH RICHES, AND NOT BY RIGHT, SHALL LEAVE THEM IN THE MIDST OF HIS DAYS, AND AT HIS END SHALL BE A FOOL." He's a hypocrite. Luke 11:39-40 "AND THE LORD SAID unto him, Now do ye PHARISEES make clean the OUTSIDE of the cup and the platter; but your INWARD part is full of RAVENING and WICKEDNESS. YE FOOLS, did not he THAT MADE THAT WHICH IS WITHOUT MAKE THAT WHICH IS WITHIN ALSO?"

Finally notice the DILEMMA of this man. His will fall. Notice these Scriptures along with the text. Prov. 11:5 "THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE PERFECT (mature) SHALL DIRECT HIS WAY: BUT THE WICKED SHALL FALL BY HIS OWN WICKEDNESS". Ecc. 10:8 "HE THAT DIGGETH A PIT SHALL FALL INTO IT; AND WHOSO BREAKETH AN HEDGE, A SERPENT SHALL BITE HIM." Some examples of men who have fallen are Belshazzar(Dan. 5) and Herod (Acts 12:1-3; 12:21-23). We need to be reminded that it's a fearful thing to fall into the hands of an angry God.

III. THE OBEDIENCE. V22

A. What?
B. How?
C. Why?

IV. THE OPERATION. V23

A. Being born. Gal. 3:26
B. But of incorruption. John 1:13
C. By the Word of God. I John 5:1

III. THE OBSERVATION. V. 24

A. The grass.
B. The Glory of man.
LOVE AND MARRIAGE

TEXT: Marriage Ceremony

INTRODUCTION: "In the olden days we sang a song something like this, "Love and marriage, love and marriage, they go together like a horse and carriage."

A. Virtually all couples have problems, most have some serious problems, adjustment problems, financial problems, position problems.

B. Before "I do" was voluntary, after those two words things became compulsory.

D. My subject deals with "Love and Marriage."

E. Let's talk about love and marriage.

I. WHAT KIND OF LOVE ARE COUPLES SUPPOSED TO HAVE FOR ONE ANOTHER? The Bible speaks of several.

A. One kind of love comes from the Greek word philia. It means to be a friend.

1. Peter used this word in John 21 when he told Jesus, "LORD, THOU KNOWEST THAT I LOVE THEE."

2. Married couples are to be friends.

NOTE: Friends communicate!

B. Another word is philadelphia which means, brotherly love.

1. Hebs. 13:1

2. Married couples are to love each other as brothers and sisters in the family of God.

C. One other word translated "love" is the one I will deal with most is Agape - This is God love. As children of God couples are to love each other.

1. John 3:16

2. Eph. 5:25,28

3. John 13:34 - I added this verse lest some wife think that the husband is the only one who is supposed to love this kind of love.

4. This love is translated "charity" in the KJV in I Cor. 13. Sixteen things are given to describe love. We will pay close attention to a few of these.

   a. Love is patient.
   b. Love is kind.
   c. Is not proud.
   d. Is not rude.
   e. Not self-seeking.
   f. Not easily angered.
   g. Keeps no record of wrongs.
   h. Protects.

II. IDEALLY, BOTH PARTIES WOULD ALWAYS BE ALL THAT LOVE REQUIRES, BUT THEY ARE NOT!! What is a person to do when the other person is not?

A. One thing we are NOT to do - do not even entertain the thought of divorce.

B. Husbands, the command doesn't change - LOVE YOUR WIFE!

1. No matter what she does, short of immorality.

2. Agape love is not conditional - it is a "regardless" love - like Jesus had for you and me as He hung on Calvary.

3. IMPORTANT NOTE: Men, they are our wives, NOT OUR CHILDREN. They are individual people - NOT AN EXTENSION OF US.

C. Wife, you are to lovingly submit.

1. Even if he does not do right.

2. Peter speaks to wives whose husbands are NOT even saved.

D. BOTH OF YOU MAY BE ASKING, BUT FOR HOW LONG? The answer is simply, until death do us part or until the Lord comes.

THE CHURCH'S FAITH LIFE

R.M. Thompson


Intro. There are four areas of confidence (faith) which can strengthen our churches to face whatever confronts them.

I. YOU CAN TRUST GOD'S GRACE.

A. To save. Eph. 3:8-10

B. To instruct. Gal. 4:6,7

C. To keep. John 5:24

II. YOU CAN TRUST GOD'S PROVIDENCE.

A. His certainty of purpose. Isa. 46:11; Rom. 8:28

B. His ability to supply every need. Phil. 4:19,20; Matt. 6:30-33

C. His constant presence. Matt. 28:20

III. YOU CAN TRUST GOD'S WORD.

A. That He has revealed it. II Tim. 3:16,17

B. That He will prosper it. Isa. 55:11

C. That it is powerful. Hebs. 4:12

IV. YOU CAN TRUST GOD'S SPIRIT.

A. You can trust His indwelling. Eph. 3:17

B. You can trust His renewing. Isa. 40:28-31

C. You can trust Him to empower. Acts 1:8;