The Cause of Backsliding

TEXT: Prov. 14:14; Jer. 3:11-14

INTRODUCTION:
Backslide simply means to go back. A backslider's progress is backward instead of forward. As saved people we are to go forward, but we do backslide. The Lord was dealing with national Israel. The same principles involving Israel in backsliding is true with saved people. Jeremiah has a great job to do. Reading this book and seeing and understanding the wickedness of the people breaks the heart. There are seven causes for backsliding in Jeremiah Chapters 3-8.

I. THE INIQUITY. 3:13
A. The Instruction.
1. The law of Moses was given to Israel to live by.
2. Laws were given that touched on personal, civil, and religious life. Exod. 20
3. Through the law the Lord revealed His righteousness and the way to live it.

B. The Israelites.
1. Most of the Old Testament deals with the Jewish People or the Israelites.
2. Any Gentile was welcomed to accept the Lord and His law.
3. God gave the law system for Israel to live by.

C. The Iniquity.

II. THE PERVERTED WAYS. 3:21
A. The Chosen.
1. God had chosen the Jewish people out of all nations to be His chosen people.
2. Abraham their father was a man of faith. Gen. 12
3. As God's people they were to live differently from others because of who they were.

B. The Commandments.
1. The law was good, moral, and righteous.
2. The law revealed God's will for His people.
3. The law showed them what God expected of them.
4. It revealed the right and true way.

C. The Corruption.
1. Perverted means to turn aside or away from what is good or true or morally right.
2. They (the Jews) have turned aside from the right way.
3. They were doing things contrary to what God told them to do.

III. THE FORGETTING THE LORD. 3:21
A. The Fact.
1. Man's first priority is the Lord. The wise man said to fear God and keep His commandments is man's whole duty. Eccl. 12:13,14
2. The Lord gives, sustains, and enriches life. Psal. 3:5
3. We are to seek His kingdom, and righteousness first. Matt. 6:33

B. The Forgetting.
1. To forget means to treat with inattention or disregard. It means to neglect.
2. The Jewish people had neglected God and disregarded Him and His word.

C. The Future.
1. When we think we can neglect the Lord and His way, rest assured He will show you it doesn't pay.
2. In Jeremiah's day, the judgment of God would fall.
3. They would pay for their neglect.

IV. THE COMMITTING ABOMINATION. 4:1
A. The Command.
1. The Jews were not to make an image, bow down to, or worship one.
2. They were to only worship and serve the Lord.
3. To do otherwise was an abomination to the Lord.

B. The Caution.
1. The people of the Cannan Land worshipped many false gods.
2. Some sacrificed their children to them. Some became immoral as they worshipped false gods.

C. The Committing.
1. The Jews committed abomination. Abomination means loathsome or detestable.
2. Look at Jer. 3:8,9; 4:1, 5:31, 19; 6:15, 7:30
3. The worship of false gods and idols was to commit spiritual adultery.

V. THE REVOLTING AND REBELING. 5:23
A. The Truth.
1. God revealed His truth to them. They knew what God commanded.
2. They had the privilege to obey or not. They could choose. They were responsible.

B. The Trouble.
1. The Jews didn't have to obey or do what God said to do.
2. We are often lifted up with pride and think we have a better way.

C. The Testing.
1. The Word of God is true and gives us the best way.
2. We are to put to the test often, just to see if we are going to obey.

IV. THE CROVETOUSNESS AND DECEIT. 6:13
A. The Goal.
1. They wanted more materially physically.
2. One of the commandments dealt with not coveting.
3. Life doesn't consist of what a man possesses.

B. The Gain.
1. Covetousness means dishonest gain.
2. People were dealing falsely with others in order to gain.

VII. THE LACK OF SHAME. 6:15
A. Their Sins.
1. They had sinned and transgressed God's law.
2. They left and turned aside from what was right.
3. They were very bold and boastful in their sin.

B. The Shamelessness.
1. They were so stiff necked and hard hearted they were not ashamed.
2. They did not blush. They justified their sins. 3:11
3. They did not repent of wickedness and wanted to know what was wrong. 8:6
March 1988

The Requirements for Private Devotions

TEXT: Matthew 4:4

INTRODUCTION:

A. Last Sunday evening we began a series of 3 lessons on the importance of "private" devotions.
B. They're not intended as a substitute for public worship or family worship but as a potential for personal growth that your worship times will be more meaningful and worthwhile.
C. I suggested 4 reasons, last week, why I feel times of "private" devotion are so important to the child of God.
   1. VITAL TO SPIRITUAL CONSTITUTION.
   2. VITAL TO SPIRITUAL CORRECTION.
   3. VITAL TO SPIRITUAL COUNSEL.
   4. VITAL TO SPIRITUAL CONFLICT.
D. Tonight, let's examine some of the things that are required for "private" devotions.

I. A GOOD BIBLE.
   A. One with good, clear print.
   B. One with room for notes or good notebook.
   C. One with good reference material.
      1. A good cross-reference system to refer you to other related verses or topics.
      2. A good concordance. (Cruden's)
      3. A good Bible dictionary.

II. A GOOD NOTE- TAKING SYSTEM.
   A. Jot down the date.
   B. Jot down the scripture reference.
   C. Jot down the related scriptures.
   D. Jot down the thoughts God's Spirit gives.

III. A GOOD TIME.
   A. Would the morning be best?
   B. Would the noon hour be best?
   C. Would the late evening be best?
      1. The point is: a time should be fixed in your daily schedule and the appointment with the Lord faithfully kept.
      2. Select the ideal time, commit it to the Lord, and jealously guard it above everything else.

IV. A GOOD SCHEDULE.
   A. A good schedule will include a systematic method for studying God's Word.
      1. Try the "topical" method.
      2. Try the "character study" method.
      3. Try the "memorization" method.
   B. A good schedule will include a current prayer list.
      1. Oftentimes, we do not honor the requests of others for our prayers because we forget their requests.
      2. The solution is a prayer list that we can see and update during our times of daily devotions.
   C. We need a good submissive attitude.
      1. You cannot have a good submissive attitude in your "private" devotions if you "buck against the traces."
      2. And, a submissive attitude is needed because God reveals truth according to our hearts.

V. A GOOD PLACE.
   A. Would the home be the best place?
   B. Would the office be the best place?
   C. Would the porch swing be the best place?
      1. The point is: find a place that is free of distraction and lay claim to it as "your" place to be alone with God.

VI. A GOOD ATTITUDE.
   A. We need a good physical attitude.
      1. You cannot have a good physical attitude in your "private" devotions if your life is not strictly disciplined.
         a. For example: You cannot keep late hours at night and the next morning, expect to get the maximum blessing out of your "private" devotions.
         b. Paul said it like this in I Cor. 9:27, "I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."
   B. We need a good moral attitude.
      1. You cannot have a good moral attitude in your "private" devotions if your life is not morally clean.
         a. For example: If you have ought against a brother or your brother against you, you cannot expect the maximum benefit from your time alone with God.
         b. Jesus put it like this in Matt. 5:23-24, "if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way: first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."
         c. And the Psalmist said, Ps. 66:18, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."
      2. If there's something amiss in your life, make it right and then come and offer your gift of prayer and meditation upon His Word because a good moral attitude is essential to a profitable time of "private" devotions.

Page 3
to our obedience.
   a. As we obey what God has revealed, He continues to reveal.
   b. But, when we cease to obey, God ceases to reveal.
   c. Notice what Jesus says in John 7: 16-17, "My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine..."
3. So, a submissive attitude is needed for our times of "private" devotions.

Four Keys to Wisdom
R.H. Ledford

TEXT: II Chron. 1:7-12
Psalms 111:10

INTRODUCTION:
A. The fear of the Lord is not wisdom, but the beginning of wisdom.
B. The ability to acquire wisdom from God depends upon your attitude.
C. For God to speak to us from His word, we need to develop at least four attitudes within us. These four attitudes are the four keys to wisdom.

I. (first key) A HUMBLE SPIRIT.
   A. We need to have a proper understanding of our relationship with God. (Prov. 1:7)
   B. To fear God is to understand who God is and how we relate to Him.
   C. "Complacency" (being to independent) will keep you from receiving the wisdom of God.

II. (second key) A HUNGRY SOUL.
   A. Jesus said that if we hunger and thirst after righteousness, we shall be satisfied.
   B. Christians have as much of God in their life as they want, and as much as they hunger after.
   C. To have God and His wisdom we must go after it with intensity.

III. (third key) A HEARING HEART.
   A. "Understanding" means: listening with respectful attention.
   B. We can be humble and hungry, but we need to be sensitive to what God says to us.
   C. Many attend classes on how to "speak well." We need classes on how to "listen well."

IV. (fourth key) A HEEDING MIND.
   A. To know that you need God is important.
   B. But it's foolishness if you have decided that you are not going to obey Him.
   C. God's word is not for the purpose of "possible obedience."

YOU ARE A GIFTED CHILD

TEXT: Romans 12:1-8 (6-8) Maxie Haynes

INTRODUCTION:
A. Defining a Spiritual Gift:
   1. Gift of the Spirit
   2. Gifts of the Spirit. I Cor. 12:4-6

B. Discerning Our Spiritual Gift:
   1. Presentation
   2. Transformation
   3. Evaluation
   4. Cooperation

C. Discovering Our Spiritual Gift:

1. GIFTS FOR EXPounding THE Word: (6-8a)
   A. Prophecy...Inspiration of Truth.
   B. Ministry...Incarnation of Truth.
   C. Teaching...Interpretation of Truth.
   D. Exhorting...Intention of Truth.

II. GIFTS FOR EXPANDING THE Work: (8b)
   A. Giving...stewardship.
   B. Guiding...leadership.
   C. Giving mercy.

CONCLUSION:

A. We must develop our Gifts:
   1. We must not neglect our gifts. I Tim. 4:14
   2. We must commit our gifts to God. II Tim. 1:6

B. We must deploy our Gifts.
   1. For the good of others. I Pet. 4:10
   2. For the glory of God. I Pet. 4:11

BIBLE CONFERENCE SPEAKERS AND SUBJECTS

P. Cleveland-A Plea for Revival
J. Head -The First Miracle
J. Slocumb -7 Principles of Victory
D.B. Wright -Ministering One to Another
L. Crawford -The Fallacy of Dead Flies & Folly
C. Jones -The Relationship of Biblical Preaching to Church Growth
J. Stevens -Blessings to Swim in
G. Sparks -I Have Been to the Mountain
M. Evans -Examining the Paschal Lamb
G. Allen -The Truth of the Resurrection
W.E. Bell -The Need of the Church
C.H. McBryde-Some Things a Church Member Must have to Build for God
J. Williams -Why Our Labor is not in Vain
TEXT: Psalm 18:1-3

INTRODUCTION:
A. Again we see the Lord using language common to man to reveal Himself to mankind.
B. Jesus is "many things" to the one who receives Him by faith.
C. Remember He said "Search the Scriptures... they testify of Me!" John 5:39.
D. Here He presents Himself to us as ROCK, FORTRESS, DELIVERER, GOD, STRENGTH, BUCKLER, HORN OF SALVATION, HIGH TOWER.

I. JESUS IS THE SINNER'S REDEEMER! (Deliverer)
A. Paul spoke of being "sold under sin." Romans 7:14.
   1. Sold by another: Romans 5:12.
   2. Illustrated in the FALL OF THE NURSE that resulted in the Crippling for Life of Mephibosheth. II Samuel 4.
B. All have sinned and have been TRIED BY THE WORD and pronounced "GUILTY" as charged!
   1. Romans 3:19; 23
C. SIN EARN'S "WAGES" WHICH MUST BE PAID Romans 6:23
D. Apart from Christ we have nothing with which to pay!
   1. We can't "WORK IT OUT!" Eph. 2:9
   2. We can't "CHANGE OUR NATURE!" Jer. 13:23
E. Job spoke of "MY REDEEMER" Job. 19:25
   1. Paul wrote of Jesus in this role.
      Gal. 3:13; 4:4-5
   2. Peter wrote of Jesus in this same role.
      1 Peter 1:18

II. Jesus is "MY RECONCILLATOR!"
A. Before salvation one is an "enemy" to God.
   1. Col. 1:21
   2. Romans 5:10
B. Before salvation we were "ALEINS" and "STRANGERS" to God. Eph. 2:12
C. Before salvation ONE'S LIFE STYLE..."Wherein time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfiling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and WERE BY NATURE THE CHILDREN OF WRATH." Eph. 2: 2-3
D. But "GOD WAS IN CHRIST, RECONCILING THE WORLD UNTO HIMSELF NOT IMPUTING THEIR TREPASSSES UNTO THEM; and hath committed unto us the ministry of reconciliation."
E. Now...Jesus is our "PEACE OF GOD!"
   1. Eph. 2:14 and Romans 5:1

III. JESUS IS "MY REST!"
B. They not only are miserable...They rest not unless they are causing others trouble. Proverbs 4:14-16.
C. Jesus "Gives Rest!"
   1. Matthew 11:28, Isaiah 26:3
   2. Psalm 23: "Still waters," "Green Pastures"

IV. JESUS IS "MY RIGHTEOUSNESS!"
A. Apart from Jesus: Romans 3:10
B. Isaiah 64:6
C. Righteousnes Provided! II Cor. 5:21
D. Abraham: Romans 4:3
E. For Believers: Romans 4:5

V. JESUS IS "MY ROCK!"
A. Jesus does not "FORGIVE, CLEANSE, AND THEN LEAVE US!"
   1. He comes into our hearts to Live! Gal. 2:20
   2. HE HOLDS US SAFE IN HIS HANDS!
      b. Without loss of "One".
B. Before one is saved..."SINKING SAND:"
   1. Psalm 40:2, Matthew 7:26-27
C. When Jesus saves one HE LIFTS that one to a "ROCK!"
   1. That is "Solid!"
      a. II Tim. 2:19
   2. That is "ABLE" Heb. 7:25
   3. That is "SAFE!"
4. Remember...Jesus always "LIFTS to the HIGHER plane, Higher Rock!"
   a. Psalm 61:2 "From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy."
   b. Let Jesus tell us about it! Matt. 7:24-25. "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a Rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: For it was founded upon a Rock."

"Unto Him Be Glory In The Church By Christ Jesus." Eph. 3:21
The Ministry of the Spirit in our Walk

Johnny Williams

TEXT: Romans 8:1-17

INTRODUCTION:

With all the confusion about this subject it is good for us to search the Scriptures and learn the Bible teaching on the subject. This lesson concerns The Ministry of the Spirit in our daily Walk.

I. THE SPIRIT IS RESIDENT IN US V. 9

A. The Spirit's Incoming

1. At the moment of Salvation v.15
2. At the moment of Saving Faith
   "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father." Gal. 4:6
3. At the moment of the Spirit's sealing "In whom ye also trusted after that ye heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of Promise." Eph. 1:13

B. THE SPIRIT'S INWELLING I Cor. 3:16; 6:19-22

1. The Promise - John 14:16-17
2. The Presence - Acts 2:1-4
3. The Position - I Cor. 3:16

II. THE SPIRIT SHOULD REIGN IN US

A. To confirm our Faith - V.16
B. To control our Flesh - V. 6-9
C. To control our Mind - V. 6

III. THE SPIRIT SHOULD RELEASE THROUGH US V. 13-14

A. To Empower us - John 15:5; Philip 4:13
B. To Emancipate us - V. 15; 2 Cor. 3: 17
   "Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is Liberty.

God our Refuge & Strength

Billy Conner

TEXT: Ps. 46: 1-11

INTRODUCTION:

Israel undoubtedly needed much help when this particular psalm was written and the only assistance worth getting was from God. HE stood ready to help whenever HIS people called to HIM and met Him with contrite hearts and spirits. When the enemy surrounds us, when the battle is lost, when there is no hope - God can see us through. Jerusalem was probably in dire straits and about to fall; but Jehovah was there, caring, preparing to win for HIS own. HE always has, HE always will, HE is dependable.

I. PROBLEMS AND PERPLEXITIES DISOLVE AND DIS-INTEGRATE

A. Presence of YHWH real and genuine.

1. HE was with Israel.
2. Is HE any less present today with us?
3. Though the entire globe fall apart- HE is with us- SELAH!! AMEN!!
   Though my world be as bad as it can be and worse than possible.

B. Power and might of HIM cannot even be questioned.

1. Poorness of our faith in HIM is a problem but not HIM.
2. Perfect was, is, and forevermore shall be all of HIS plans.
3. Purpose of HIM shall not be diminished until finished.

C. Portection and Provision are ours from THE LORD.

1. Present Help - vs. 1- willing and able, wanting to help.
2. Pleased and proud to assist HIS own.
3. Particularly is HE interested in you - Yes even you.

II. PORTALS OF HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE THE PALACE OF GOD

A. Particularly Jerusalem

1. Poetic city of God.
2. Prophetic city of God.
3. Perpetual city of God
4. Provisional and particular capitol city of King Jesus-millenium.

B. Pounding of the armies guns will not defeat God

1. Pillar of strength & authority - vs. 5 - who will be moved?
2. Pity the foe & woe to the enemy and unbelievers.

C. Potentate- LORD GOD OF ALL- not impressed with devices of mankind

1. HIS promise to be with Israel, HIS church, HIS children-who can change HIS decree and intent, intentions

III. PROMINENCE OF THE RULER AND CREATOR OF ALL

A. Pause and consider the scope and majesty of God.

1. Power of HIS WORD and WISDOM.
2. Preeminence.
3. Plan - redemption, creation, the living beings, visible & invisible.

B. Pause - vs. 10 consider the vastness of alpha & omega

1. Plowshears out of armor.
2. Pruning hooks out of guns.
3. Peace out of desolation, battle, and war & hate.
4. Prosperity from famine, plague, perdition
5. Prince of peace will bring this exactly to pass to Prove-Messiahship.

Problem is us, not God. vs. 1- read and honestly answer: Is God my refuge and strength.

Is Christ my Lord? The answer could and should be YES - God wants it that way - What is your decision?
March 1988

SERIES: THE LIFE OF CHRIST
FOCUS: "THE BEAUTIFUL HEAVENLY MINISTRY OF CHRIST"

The writer of Hebrews declared, "WHEREFORE, HOLY BRETHREN, PARTAKERS OF THE HEAVENLY CALLING, CONSIDER THE APOSTLE AND HIGH PRIEST OF OUR PROFESSION, CHRIST JESUS." Hebrews 3:1. That's exactly what we want to do in this lesson. We want to consider Christ Jesus in reference to His beautiful Heavenly ministry. There are many aspects to this ministry but we will just focus our attention on five of them.

I. THE OFFICE OF HIGH PRIEST.

Jesus Christ is our Great High Priest. The reality of this declaration is certainly substantiated by scripture. Our text verse declared it. Another passage of verification would be Hebrews 4:14-16. "SEEING THEN THAT WE HAVE A GREAT HIGH PRIEST, THAT IS PASSING UNTO THE HEAVENS, JESUS THE SON OF GOD, LET US HOLD FAST OUR PROFESSION. FOR WE HAVE NOT AN HIGH PRIEST WHICH CANNOT BE TOUCHED WITH THE FEELINGS OF OUR INFIRMITIES: BUT WAS IN ALL POINTS TEMPTED LIKE AS WE ARE, YET WITHOUT SIN. LET US THEREFORE COME BOLDLY UNTO THE THRONE OF GRACE, THAT WE MAY OBTAIN MERCY AND FIND GRACE TO HELP IN TIME OF NEED."

The Biblical teaching concerning the priesthood reveals that they were: (1) CALLED Exod. 28:1; (2) CLEANSED- Exod. 29:4; (3) CLOTHED- Exod. 29:5-6; (4) CONSECRATED - Exod. 29:9 (5) COMPASSIONATE- Heb. 5:2; (6) COMMISSIONED-Book of Leviticus; and (7) CLASSIFIED. The 3-fold classification of the priesthood was as follows: (1) Priest, (2) High Priests and (3) Great High Priest. There as been only one Great High Priest and that's Jesus Christ, our Lord. This shows His superiority in the Priesthood. Jesus, as the Great High Priest is in Heaven representing the redeemed. Isn't it a joy to know that you have, if you’re saved, a representative in Heaven representing you?

II. THE OFFICE OF ADVOCATE.

Another aspect of His Heavenly ministry is that He's there as our advocate. The term "advocate" means one who pleads another's cause. The revelation of this fact is seen in I John 2:1. "MY LITTLE CHILDREN, THESE THINGS WRITE I UNTO YOU, THAT YE SIN NOT. AND IF ANY MAN SIN, WE HAVE AN ADVOCATE WITH THE FATHER, JESUS CHRIST THE RIGHTEOUS." True discernment of this reality should cause rejoicing and thanksgiving by each of God's children. Just think, Christ pleads our cause and case before the throne of God. Even though we offend Him through our sin, yet He stands ready, willing, and able to take up for us. What a profound truth this is. This is another aspect of His Heavenly ministry.

III. THE OFFICE OF MEDIATOR.

Verses of scripture which declare this truth are as follows:

Hebrews 8:6 "BUT NOW HATH HE OBTAINED A MORE EXCELLENT MINISTRY BY MUCH ALSO HE IS THE MEDIATOR OF A BETTER COVENANT, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED UPON BETTER PROMISES."

Hebrews 12:24 "AND TO JESUS THE MEDIATOR OF THE NEW COVENANT, AND TO THE BLOOD OF SPRINKLING, THAT SPEAKETH BETTER THINGS THAN THAT OF ABEL." I. Timothy 2:5 "FOR THERE IS ONE GOD, AND ONE MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MEN, THE MAN CHRIST JESUS."

The term "mediator" means one who intervenes to settle differences between two people. Thank God, Jesus is the go-between for us before God.

IV. THE OFFICE OF INTERCESSOR.

The term "intercessor" means, to plead in behalf of another. Jesus, as the intercessor, pleads to God on behalf of us. Notice these verses: Romans 8:34 "WHO IS HE THAT CONDEMETH? IT IS CHRIST THAT DIED YEA RATHER THAN IS RISEN AGAIN WHO IS EVEN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD WHO ALSO MAKETH INTERCESSION FOR US." Hebrews 7:25 "WHEREFORE HE IS ABLE TO SAVE THEM TO THE Uttermost That Come Unto God By Him, Seeing He Ever Liveth To Make Intercession For Them."

V. THE OFFICE OF PREPARER

The final aspect that we will notice in regards to His beautiful Heavenly ministry is that He's preparing a place for us. Isn't this wonderful? Notice Jn. 14:1-3 "LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED: YE BELIEVE IN GOD, BELIEVE ALSO IN ME. IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE ARE MANY MANSIONS: IF IT WERE NOT SO, I WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU. I GO TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU. AND IF I GO AND PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU, I WILL COME AGAIN, AND RECEIVE YOU UNTO MYSELF: THAT WHERE I AM THERE YE MAY BE ALSO."

What a joy and thrill it is to realize that Christ is involved in this beautiful Heavenly ministry for us. A true realization of this reality will humble, encourage and challenge us. Do you know Jesus as your personal Savior? If you do not, then, I plead with you, dear friend, to realize your need, repent of your sins and receive Jesus into your heart as your personal Savior. Then you'll be saved and He'll become your Great High Priest, Advocate, Mediator, Intercessor and Preparer. Trust Him today! Live for Him today!
Seven Principles of Victory
Jim Stocumb

TEXT: I Cor. 15:57

Jesus has come, lived, died, rose, & ascended to Heaven that we might have victory. The Olympic athletes train & train & train, but aren't assured of winning a medal. We, as the people of the Lord, have the victory already won through our Lord Jesus Christ.

We have a story recorded in I Sam. 17 that gives us the 7 principles of victory. It's about David & Goliath. Let's relate the story.

I. The PREPARATION.
A. The only way we can be totally prepared is by knowing God. I Sam. 16:13

II. The PERSPECTIVE. I Sam. 17:26
A. David had seen God.
B. He compared Goliath to God—not how big the giant was, but how big God was.
C. Not too big to hit but too big to miss.
D. David had perspective.
E. Goliath was no match for God.

III. The PURPOSE.
A. David did more than draw a breath and draw a salary. "Is there not a cause?" "Thy servant will go and fight."
B. The church is looking for Christians with a purpose.

IV. The PROGRESSION. I Sam. 17:33-37
A. The King said you are only a lad—no experience.
B. David said, "Hold it! I have had a little experience fighting a lion and a bear."
C. I am ready for bigger things. The lion is dead. The bear is dead.
D. Luke 16:10 "unfaithful in least will be unfaithful in much."

V. The PROTECTION. I Sam. 17:38,39
A. David wanted protection that was proven; not Saul's armor.
B. But God's armor. Eph. 6:11-17
   1. Helmet of salvation
   2. Breastplate of righteousness
   3. Shield of faith
   4. Sword of the Spirit
C. The spiritual is invisible but not invincible.

VI. The POWER. I Sam. 17:42-45
A. The Philistine saw a youth with a ruddy & fair countenance hadn't even begun to shave.
B. The giant said, "Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with sticks?"
C. The giant also said, "...I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field; And he cursed him by his gods.
D. David said in verse 45, "I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts."
E. His power was in a name-authority. Pray

in His name, saved in His name we have power in His name.

F. The policeman does not stop the 18 wheeler by his power, but in the name of the law.

G. Victory comes by using the right power.

VII. The PRAISE. I Sam. 17:46
A. The Lord will deliver thee into mine hand—No.
B. A little lad will be victorious over a giant, that the earth may know there is a God in Israel. What would it prove for a giant to overcome a giant?

Conclusion—victory—I Sam. 17:50,51
1. Preparation—salvation
2. Perspective—compare with God
3. Purpose—cause
4. Progression—from little to big
5. Protection—armor
6. Power—name
7. Praise—know God

Holy Wives and Honoring Husbands
Charles Swilling

TEXT: I Peter 3:5-7

I. HOLY WOMEN. V. 5
A. Their Manner.
B. Their Holiness.
C. Their Subjection.

II. HONOR. V. 6
A. Obedience.
B. Respect.
C. Well Doing

III. HUSBANDS. V. 7
A. Dwelling With Them.
B. Giving Honor To Them.
C. Being Heirs Together.