The Service of the Lord

Intro. In Acts 4:23-31 the disciples lifted their voices in praise to the Lord for who He was and what He was doing. In Acts 16 Paul and Silas were praising God at midnight and praying. As we meet together and assemble together as believers we should do somethings every time. Somethings ought to be true of every service. What kind of service do you want this one to be? Each of us should make the service what God wants it to be.

1. THE SERVICE SHOULD BE A PROCLAIMING SERVICE.
   A. Proclaim the Bible.
      1. Paul told Timothy to preach the Word. II Tim. 4:2
      2. Paul didn't shun to proclaim the whole counsel of God.
      3. We have no other message than a Bible message to proclaim.
   B. Proclaim the blood.
      1. We are bought with the precious blood of the Lamb. I Pet. 1:18, 19
      2. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. Hebs. 9:22
      3. The Lamb of God was slain on Calvary for our sins. I Pet. 2:24
      4. We are justified by His blood and reconciled by His death. Rom. 5:9, 10
   C. Proclaim the blessings.
      1. The Lord promises His blessings upon those who obey.

2. THE SERVICE SHOULD BE A PRAYER SERVICE.
   A. Pray for sinners.
      1. We are to cry out to God on the behalf of lost sinners.
      2. We are to plead with God for them. Many have been saved as a result of God's people praying for them.
   B. Pray for saints.
      1. Paul ask his brethren to pray for him. I Thess. 5:25
      2. God's people need the prayers of God's people. Testimonies have been given

For He Himself is our peace
that prayers were felt and answered.

3. Job 14:1 points out the reality of our need in praying for others.

C. Pray for self.
1. Nehemiah prayed for the Lord to forgive of sin. Neh. 1
2. Praying helps us to conform to God's will and way.
3. Praying allows God to speak to us and His Spirit convicts us.

D. Pray for the sick.
1. James 5:13,15 tells us to pray for the sick.
2. Many are sick, face operations, are put into the hospitals for tests.
3. We need to pray for those who are sick. God can minister to them.

III. THE SERVICE SHOULD BE A PRAISE SERVICE.

A. Praise His compassion.
1. He had compassion on the multitude. Matt. 9:36
2. He is a compassionate High Priest. Hebs. 4:15
3. He cares. 1 Pet. 5:8 Jesus loves us in all of our conditions.
4. We should always lift our hearts in praise to Him.

B. Praise His character.
1. He is the sinless Son of almighty God. 11 Cor. 5:21; 1 John 3:5
2. He is the just one. 1 Pet. 3:18
3. He is holy, separate, and undifferented, wonderful Saviour. Hebs. 7:26
4. He lived by the law and didn’t violate it in any part. Matt. 5:17

C. Praise His conquering.
1. He conquered death for each and every one of us. Rev. 1:12
2. He will give us the ultimate victory. 1 Cor. 15:57
3. He is pictured in Rev. 19 as the great and mighty conqueror of all.
4. Every tongue will confess Him and every knee will bow to Him. Ph1.2:10,11

IV. THE SERVICE SHOULD BE A POWERFUL SERVICE.

A. Spiritual power.
1. The Lord has promised to endure His churches with power from on high. Luke 24:48
2. Our power is in Jesus who can make us strong. 11 Cor. 12:9
3. The Holy Spirit of God empowers the Lord's holy people.

B. Saving power.
1. The Lord only saves sinful people. Acts 4:12
2. How He wants to demonstrate His saving power.
3. How wonderful it is to see sinners come to Jesus in His services.

C. Separating power.
1. The Lord wants His people to live separated lives. 11 Cor. 6:14-17
2. Only He can help us to live a separated life.

V. THE SERVICE SHOULD BE A PARDONING SERVICE.

A. The Master forgiving.
1. God forgives us of sin for Christ's sake. Eph. 4:32
2. Read Matt. 9:4-6 to see that Jesus has the power to forgive of sin.
3. 1 John 1:9 gives us the provision of forgiveness.

B. The man forgiving.
1. Matt. 6:14,15 gives us the plan and instruction to forgive others.
2. If we do not forgive it will embitter us. Read Eph. 4:29-31
3. God's will is for us to forgive others both saved and lost of the sins they commit against us.

C. The membership forgiving.
1. Church members are to forgive one another.
2. We may say or do something that will offend.
3. To maintain a right relationship, we must confess our sins and ask forgiveness of them from God and those we sin against.

Why Men do not Believe in Christ

Text: John 5:40

Intro. Man has always had many reasons for not accepting Christ. Christ said that they will not accept Him because of unbelief. If the New Testament is examined closely, we will see that in every instance when men were accused of failing to believe in Christ, it isn't merely because their intellect is unconvinced, but that there is something sinful in their heart or will. Why won't men believe in Christ. There are several reasons for it.

I. MEN DO NOT BELIEVE IN CHRIST.

A. BECAUSE THEY ARE SELF-RIGHTHEOUS.
1. Their hearts are skeptical. Mark 2:16
2. They don't think they are sinners.
3. They actually think they are better than others.
4. They are ignorant of God's sovereignty and righteousness.
5. They use the law as a standard of one's righteousness.

B. BECAUSE THEY ARE SENSUAL (WORLDLY).
1. They love this present world. Ti Tim. 4:10
2. It's free-wheeling spirit. Do your own thing. Be what you want to be.
3. They are comfort seekers. James 4:4
4. Pleasure seekers who want to be entertained.
5. We want what the world wants.
6. It's friends, it's fun, and it's excitement.
7. To desire the friendship of the world is to be an enemy of God.
8. They are covetous. They want to keep up with the Joneses.
9. We want what others have at any expense.
10. They hate God's characteristics.
11. They hate holiness, righteousness, love, justness, and being judged.

C. BECAUSE THEY ARE SPIRITUALLY BLIND.
1. They deny God's existence. Matt. 13:15
2. They are unwilling to hear.
3. They are unwilling to see.
4. They are afraid it might change them.
5. To avoid religion they say God isn't real. They don't believe in Him.
6. They Deny His edict (or Word.)
7. They won't accept the Bible as God's standard for life.
8. God's ways are foolish to them. I Cor. 2:14
9. Foolish because he can't understand them.

D. BECAUSE THEY ARE SLACK. (PROCRASITINATORS)
1. In their reasoning. Acts 24:22
2. The governor would have to appear first.
3. In that they think they are in control of their lives.
4. They think they can choose when to make life changing decisions.
5. Because they refuse to obey (or change).

E. BECAUSE THEY ARE SELF-DECEIVED.
1. They said yes when they mean no. Luke 14:18
2. Their excuses were empty alibis.

Individually
Responsible

D.B. Wright

Text: Rom. 14:11,12
Intro. Passing the buck (blame) is as old as the first family. Notice what Adam told God.
Gen. 3:12 Notice what Eve said to God. Gen. 3:13 King Saul to the prophet Samuel. I Sam.
15:21 Notice Samuel's reply. I Sam. 15:22
There are various MOTIVATING INFLUENCES to lead us away from the WORD and WAY and WILL of
the Lord. Some of these are satanic temptings, sensual desires, self-weakness, selfish ambi-
tions, relatives, and pressure and pleasure from the populace. Help has always been avail-
able. God's instruction helps. II Tim. 3:16
Warnings have been given. Spiritual strength has been available.
God holds one and all personally responsible for our attitudes, attention, and actions. Responsible means accountable, answerable, or liable.

1. INDIVIDUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR SINS.
   A. What sin is.
      1. Life and actions without faith. Rom. 14:23; Hebs. 11:6
      2. Good left undone. James 4:17
      3. Transgression of God's law. I John 3:4
   B. God has always had a word, a message for us.
      1. God personally instructed Adam.
      2. God's prophet had informed King Saul.
      3. God has spoken to mankind in general through His Son. Hebs. 1:1,2
      4. God has given us the written Word. II Tim. 3:16
      5. God's Holy Spirit is present to teach, lead, and convict of sin.
         a. Why do you think Adam and his wife hid from the Lord?
         b. Why do you think King Saul tried to lie and cover up his actions?
         c. Why is it said of King David, "And David's heart smote him...."
      6. For the last 2,000 years God's house.
      His church, has stood as the Light of the world.
   C. Sin is against knowledge.
   D. Individual accounting is on the way.
      Hebs. 9:27; I Tim. 5:24,25

II. INDIVIDUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR STEPS WE MAKE.
   A. The Bible has much to say about one's walk. Psa. 37:23; Gen. 17:1; Micah 6:8
   B. Much instruction has been given concerning how to walk before God.
      1. Walk in faith.
      2. Walk worthy of the Lord.
      3. Walk worthy of your calling.
      5. Walk in the light of Jesus.
      6. Walk in the steps of Jesus.
      7. Walk in the Spirit.
      8. Walk in newness of life.
     10. Walk circumspectly.
     11. Walk in love.
     C. A perfect example has been left us. John 8:12; I Pet. 2:21
     D. Blessings have been pronounced. Psa. 1:1

III. INDIVIDUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR SEED SOWN.
   A. Day-by-day living is tken unto sowing. Gal. 6:7,8
   B. One is personally responsible for the kind of seed sown.
   C. One is responsible for the amount of seed
The Face of Jesus

Danny Chappell

TEXT: Revelation 1:10-16

INTRODUCTION:

A. There are many paintings of the face of Jesus but in reality we do not know what He looked like when He was here on earth.
B. There are many in the religious world who would say they have seen Christ in person.
1. They may have seen something but not Christ.
2. We can only see Him by faith as He is revealed in the Bible.
C. When John saw Him in Rev. 1:16 His countenance was as the sun shining. This is different from what He looked like even after His resurrection.
D. There are several in the New Testament that saw the face of Jesus and were dramatically affected.

I. STEVEN SAW THE FACE OF JESUS IN THE HOUR OF DEATH.

A. Steven was the first to be chosen as a deacon.
1. Acts 6:1-8
2. We need deacons like Steven who are full of faith and power.
B. Steven had never had a course in home-litigics but preached a powerful message.
1. Acts 7
2. Deacons should be able to speak for Christ.
C. Steven was killed for His boldness.

The Results of Salvation

Neal Clark

Text: Ruth 1:11,22

Intro. Many things accompany salvation, a new heart, new hope, happiness, favor, family, home, friends, fellowship, and future.

I. RUTH FOUND A NEW PATH FOR HER FEET.

V.16 "Whither thou goest I will go."

A. Salvation brings about a new direction, new day, delight, desires, dwellings, and determination.
B. Matthew 2-Wise men walked a new road.
D. Luke 15-The prodigal son found a new path to follow.

II. RUTH FOUND A NEW PLACE FOR HER FAMILY.

V.16 "Where thou Lodgeth, I will Lodgeth."

A. Bethlehem-House of bread.
B. People of God-Place of God.
C. Salvation brings a new place to raise your family-around the cross, church, and with Christ.

III. RUTH FOUND A NEW PEOPLE FOR HER FRIENDS.

A. Salvation brings new friends.
B. Salvation brings new people to walk with, worship with, work with, and witness with.

C. Ephesians 2:1-3

IV. RUTH FOUND A NEW POWER FOR HER FAITH.

V.16 "Thy God, my God!"

A. Her faith had been in the gods of Moab.
B. Ruth denounced the gods of Moab when she left.
C. Ruth found new power to live by, love by, and labor by.

V. RUTH FOUND A NEW PROSPECT FOR HER FUTURE.

V.17 "Where thou diest, will I die!"

A. She died in a new land, a new Lord, a new love, and in a new lineage. Matt.
July-August 1988

1. Acts 7:54-60
2. He didn't beg for mercy but fell asleep in the Lord.
3. He saw Jesus standing at the right hand of the Father.

D. Though we will not see the face of Jesus as Stephen did we can be assured of dying Grace.
   1. Psalm 23:1-4
   2. Psalm 48:14

II. PAUL SAW THE FACE OF JESUS IN THE HOUR OF CONVERSION.
   A. Who was Saul?
      1. Formerly Saul of Tarsus.
      2. A Pharisee of Pharisee - Acts 26:4-7
      3. One who consented to the death of Stephen - Acts 7:58-81
   B. How was he converted?
      1. He was on the way to Damascus to persecute the Christians.
      2. He saw a great light in the sky that struck him down.
         a. Many scholars believe this light was the face of Jesus.
      b. Acts 9:3
      c. Rev. 1:16
      e. Acts 26:13
   C. Paul had been changed by religion but a look at the face of Jesus changed him.
      1. Religion cannot save. Matt. 7:21-23
      2. Good works cannot save. Eph. 2:8-9

III. PETER SAW THE LORD IN THE HOUR OF BACKSLIDING.
   A. Lessons we can learn from Peter. Luke 22:24-62
      1. He boasted about His spiritual condition. Luke 22:33
   B. One look into the face of Jesus broke his heart.
      2. It was a look of compassion and disappointment.
      3. Jesus is looking at His own all the time. This should brake our hearts when we go astray.
   C. Though Peter repented and became a very bold Christian on the day of Pentecost, he is known as the man who denied the Lord.

IV. JOHN SAW THE FACE OF JESUS IN THE HOUR OF PROPHECY.
   A. Rev. 1:17
      1. When John saw the face of the Saviour he fell at His feet.
      2. The Lord told him to "fear not".
      3. When God’s children see the Lord’s face they will not have to fear.
   B. Rev. 6:12-17

1. Here he describes the affects the face of Jesus will have on unbelievers during the great tribulation.
2. They didn’t want to hide from the earthquake, the sun that was as sackcloth or the moon that was as blood, but the face of Him that sat on the throne.
3. Paul had warned that one day every knee would bow.
4. One day every sinner will look into the face of Jesus and will hear Him say, "DEPART FROM ME I NEVER KNEW YOU".

\[\text{Realizing the Responsibilities} \]

\[\text{Text: Matt. 19:5} \]

\[\text{Intro.} \]

1. Thoughts.
   1. There must be an adequate understanding of the biblical principles of marriage.
   2. There is an increasing problem of marital breakdown and the main reason is because there is an erosion of biblical concepts in our lives, homes, and churches.
   3. The basis upon which a family is to be built is upon the basis of Bible concepts and that involves commitment.

B. Truth. The very base of marriage is summarized in 3 operative words.
   1. Leave.
   2. Cleave.
   3. Adapt.

1. LEAVE
   A. The IMPACT involved in this term.
      1. Complete termination of the old way of life.
      2. You leave the way that things were.
   B. The INSIGHT.
      1. The truths.
         a. In the old way your father and mother made the final decisions - you're leaving that.
         b. In the old way you enjoyed privileges - you expected everything to be done for you - there were no real responsibilities.
      2. The tremendous need of understanding.
         a. If just one in the marriage brings in and wants all the privileges and none of the responsibilities
then you are going to have a marriage that just isn't going to operate.
b. Desiring only the privileges without any of the responsibilities is a sign of immaturity and irresponsibility.
c. You must realize that you're entering into a whole new ball game.
d. Don't ignore the textbook for marriage - the Bible.
e. Unless there is a willingness to turn from the old life and prepare for the new in terms of leaving the old and initiating the new, there's very little hope of an adequate marriage being built in the early years.

II. CLEAVE.
   A. The definition - cleave means glued.
   B. The discernment.
      1. Live up to the marriage vows.
      2. Cleave on the basis of commitment.
      3. Cleave - no distrust - no unfaithfulness.

III. ADAPT.
   A. The thought - two become one!
      1. The only 2 things that can become one are two halves.
         a. We often talk about our better half.
      B. The tremendous insight.
         1. We find completeness and wholeness in each other.
         2. When there is a marriage where God is at work there will be qualities in one half that are lacking in the other half and vice versa - and they compliment each other.
         3. It stands to reason if you have two different personalities, then there is going to be a need for adapting if they are to fit - herein lies the problem.
         4. Opposites attract but if they are not following biblical procedures, they will become opposites that irritate.
            a. If these opposite personalities are not dealt with in love, understanding, consideration, and a willingness to subject themselves to each other, then instead of building up a wholeness between the two that compliment each other you produce two parties.
         5. If there is not a leaving-cleaving and adapting - there's a non-marriage.
   C. The truth.
      1. There is something more important than getting your rights - it's fulfilling your responsibility.
      2. A strange twist - if you would become concerned about your responsibilities and both fulfill these - then your rights will be met.

   1. If you insist on your rights you won't get them - you'll do damage to your marriage.
   2. If you make demands - insist on your rights - go your own way - you make the same thing out of your mate.
   3. Before God - fulfill your responsibilities and they'll begin to respond.

Julie-August 1988

Stresses
that
Bring on
Depression

Sammy Eldredge

Text: Isa. 43:1-3

Intro: When ever you have financial setbacks, or your mate and you do not get along, and there are other stressful situations that bring on depressions, stop and think of Israel. This nation went through one trial after another, but they are still here.

The same will prove true for the church and the child of God. We will go through stress when we wander off the path that God has prescribed. God will see that we survive, if we look to Him for help with a repentant heart.

Yes, it is your choice to be happy or depressed. People erroneously assume that the death of a child, or some other tragedy is punishment for some sin. We sometimes think that all the world revolves around us. On the other hand when a battered wife comes telling of what happened, sometimes we ask, Are you doing anything to provoke him?

These are just a couple of the types of things that people deal with, who are (as they think) responsible, mature adults, but do not understand the hidden motives and reactions of the human heart. Jeremiah told it very plainly. Jer. 17:9 Proverbs 8 tells us to use all wisdom and put aside our own thoughts and listen to God's thoughts in verse 35, 36. Solomon said, "Where no council is, the people fall, but in the multitude of counselors there is safety." God brings many to a salvation of their stressful problem by counselors, Pastors, godly psychiatrists, etc.

1. A LOSS.
   A. Probably the most common of the stress situations is caused by a loss.
      1. The loss may be a death.
July–August 1988

2. A divorce is sometimes devastating when you lose a mate upon whom you have depended.

3. The loss of a job promotion.

4. One character in the Bible became very depressed because of many losses. Job is his name.

II. ANGER TURNED INWARD.

A. When we feel loss, we also feel anger whether you realize it or not.
   1. We may get angry momentarily at a loved one who dies.
   2. Nearly all children experience this.

B. Since it is unacceptable to express anger at a dead person, we turn the anger inward.
   1. In all literature depression is described as anger turned inward.
   2. In the majority of the cases the anger is seen on facial expressions.

C. People get quiet angry at counselors who point this fact out, but it is still true.

III. A BLOW TO THE SELF-IMAGE.

A. When we sin, our conscience is bothered and we lower our self-image.

B. When the sin is forgiven by God, and self, then our conscience is cleared and our self-image is restored.

C. When someone tells you he has been depressed for two months, and you ask what he has been doing.

D. Many times they look surprised, then they tell you, confess, and repent, and the matter clears up.

E. It seems simple and is!!!

IV. SITUATIONAL STRESS AND ADJUSTMENT REACTIONS.

A. II Cor. 4:8-10

B. All of us go through situational problems that at times make us feel depressed and anxious to a certain extent.

C. We are usually able to cope and deal with the problem before it becomes depression.

The Christian's Adequacy

Text: Rom. 12:14-21

Maxie Haynes

I. CONFRONTATION WITH SOCIAL CONTACT.

A. The Desirability of Social Involvement. Rom. 14:7; Psal. 68:6

B. The responsibility of social involvement. Rom. 14:7-9

C. The accountability of social involvement. Rom. 14:12; Acts 10:38

II. CONFRONTATION OF SOCIAL CONFLICT.

A. Conflict with the lust of this world. I John 2:15,16

B. Conflict with the hatred of this world. John 15:18,19; James 4:4

C. Conflict with the god of this world. II Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2

III. CONFRONTATION OF SOCIAL CONQUEST.

A. The lust...by life of purity. Rom. 1:4

B. The hate...By life of charity. I Cor. 13:7,8

C. The devil...By life of victory. I John 3:8; 4:4; 5:4

God is Love
The Longsuffering of God

Text: 1 Peter 3:19-22

I. THE ANNOUNCEMENT. V19
   A. The extremities.
   B. The examination.

II. THE ARK. V20
   A. The disobedient.
   B. The longsuffering of God.
   C. The ark preparing.
   D. Eight souls saved.

III. THE ANSWER. V21
   A. The like figure.
   B. Not the putting away.
   C. The answer of a good conscience.
   D. By the resurrection of Jesus.

IV. THE ASCENSION OF JESUS. V22
   A. Jesus in heaven.
   B. Jesus in honor.

Charles Swilling

One Talent

"I have no voice for singing
I cannot make a speech,
I have no gift for music,
I know I cannot teach.

I am no good at leading,
I cannot "organize,"
And anything I try to write
Would never win a prize.

But at roll call in meetings
I can always answer "Here."
And when others minister,
I can lend a listening ear.

After the program's over,
I praise its every part.
My words are not flatter,
I mean them from my heart.

It seems my only talent
Is neither big nor rare,
Just to listen and to encourage
And to fill a vacant chair.

But all the gifted people
Would not so brightly shine,
Were it not for all who use
A talent such as mine!

How God Sees You

Tom Hover

Text: 1 Cor. 6:9-11

I. GOD SEES US BEGOTTEN. 1 Cor. 4:15

II. GOD SEES US AS BELIEVERS. 1 Cor. 1:21

III. GOD SEES US AS BROTHERS. 1 Cor. 2:1

IV. GOD SEES US AS BABES IN CHRIST. 1 Cor. 3:1

V. GOD SEES US AS HIS BUILDING. 1 Cor. 3:9

VI. GOD SEES US AS BOUGHT. 1 Cor. 6:20

VII. GOD SEES US AS BAPTIZED. 1 Cor. 12:13

VIII. GOD SEES US AS A BODY. 1 Cor. 12:13

IX. GOD SEES US AS BELOVED. 1 Cor. 15:58