OUR GREATEST NEED OF THE NEW YEAR- CHRISTIAN LIVING

Text: Rom. 12:1-3
Intro. If you were ask the question, What is our greatest need as a church? What would your answer be? I think that it is important to think about what we need as a church and as an individual. You could answer: More people. More love. More fellowship. More dedication. More etc. I believe our greatest need as a church and as an individual is Christian living. Churches and people are hindered... hurt, and go lacking, etc., because people are not living the Christian life.

I. CHRISTIAN LIVING DEDICATES A LIFE.
   A. Dedicates time.
      1. Paul said we are to redeem the times. Eph. 5:16
      2. We are to live unto Him who died for us. II Cor. 5:14,15
      3. Time to go to church, study, visit, pray, and meditate.
   B. Dedicates talent.
      1. Each of us has God given talents. The Lord gave you physical and spiritual life for a reason.
      2. Use your talent for the Lord in teaching, singing, building, repairing, meeting people, etc., you have them use them.

   C. Dedicates tithes.
      1. God desires that you honor Him with tithes and offerings.
      2. The tithe belongs to Him. Lev. 27:30 Give freely, regularly, and cheerfully to the Lord.
   D. Dedicate your total life.
      1. Christian living puts the Lord and His cause first. Matt. 6:33
      2. Christian living puts... at God's reach and surrenders all to Him. Phil. 1:21

II. CHRISTIAN LIVING DEEPENS FELLOWSHIP.
   A. Controls attitudes.
      1. Paul wanted the mind of Christ to dominate his life. Phil. 2:5

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1823 Aldine Mail Road
Houston, Texas 77039

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2. Paul told the Ephesians to put away somethings in Eph. 4:28-32.
3. Watch your attitude. Let the Lord examine it. Disregard and suppress unchristian attitudes.

B. Controls actions.
1. Paul didn't want to offend his brothers or sisters in Christ. I Cor. 8:13
2. Christians do not seek to offend nor are they easily offended.
3. Paul told us to walk circumspectly. Eph. 5:15

C. Controls arguments.
1. When we have quarrels or complaints or disagreements with each other we are told how to handle them.
2. We are to forbear and forgive. Col. 3:13 We are to follow God's plan. Matt. 18:15-18
3. Most of the troubles that churches go thru is caused by unchristian words, ways, and wills.

III. CHRISTIAN LIVING DISCHARGES DUTIES.

A. Duty toward Christ.
1. The whole duty of man is to fear God and keep His commandments. Eccl. 12:13
2. We are to give our loyalty and obedience to the Lord. Luke 6:46

B. Duty toward Christians.
1. We are brothers and sisters in Christ. We are part of the same family.
2. We should pray for, encourage, help, and even when need be rebuke God's people out of love.
3. Live a Christ like life before fellow christians.

C. Duty toward church.
1. As a church member christians have a duty toward their church.
2. Be loyal and true to her teaching. Be honorable as you speak of her.
3. Be a diligent worker in carrying out your duties as a worker.

IV. CHRISTIAN LIVING DEMONSTRATES LOVE.

A. Shares love.
1. God's love is shed abroad in our hearts. Rom. 5:5
2. Love for our brethren is an evidence of salvation. I John 3:14

B. Shines love.
1. God's love will shine out in your life.
2. God's love lights up your heart and warms it.
3. Let His love shine. Demonstrate His love.

C. Shows love.
1. Shows love by telling others you love them.
2. Shows love by helping others in ways and at times of need.
3. Expresses love for people around you. Loving others is a great testimony. I John 4:8

V. CHRISTIAN LIVING DISCONTINUES IM-MORALITY.

A. Immoral words.
1. We are not to use immoral words. Eph. 4:29
2. Our speech is to be seasoned with grace to build up the hearer.

B. Immoral ways.
1. Dishonesty, slander, cheating, and stealing is wrong.
2. Our ways should be godly and righteous before God. Tit. 2:12

C. Immoral will.
1. An immoral will is selfish, sinful, and satanic.
2. We are to live for the Lord. His will should be ours. Luke 24:42

D. Immoral works.
1. Adultery, homosexuality, stealing, lying are wrong.
2. We are to do the good works the Lord saved us to do. Eph. 2:10

VI. CHRISTIAN LIVING DISCOVERS TRUE SPIRITUALITY.

A. Conformity to likeness of Saviour.
1. We are to present ourselves as living sacrifices. Text.
2. We are to be like minded as Christ. Phil. 2:5; I Pet. 2:21

B. Conduct likeness to Scriptures.
1. We are to prove the will of God Rom. 12:2
2. We are to live according to God's word. II Tim. 3:16,17
3. The Bible is the law of the Lord which we are to live according to.

C. Controlled by the Spirit.
1. We are to be filled with the Spirit. Eph. 5:18
2. This simply means we are to be controlled by Him.
3. We need Spirit filled believers. doing God's work from the heart.
JEALOUSY

Text: Song of Solomon 8:6,7
Intro. There is one emotion that is the cause of many personal sins in some people. That emotion is jealousy. We need to recognize it and learn to control it in our lives.

I. WHAT IS JEALOUSY?
A. To be apprehensive of the loss of another's exclusive devotion. 
B. Hostile toward a rival or one believed to hold an advantage.
C. Envious.

II. WHO CAN BE JEALOUS?
A. God can be and is a jealous God.
   1. There is no other God except Him.
   2. He cannot accept devotion of worship to be given to another.
   3. This is godly jealousy. (He has the right.)
B. Husbands and wives can be jealous.
   1. First let me explain that a spouse has the right to expect faithfulness from their mate.
   2. But to be domineering in a relationship, because one does not trust the other is an ungodly sin.
   3. A relationship between a man and woman as man and wife, should be built first on:
      a. Mutual love.
      b. There should be a maturity of that relationship, which breeds trust before they are united in marriage.
      c. One should be sure that they can fulfill their own responsibility in a relationship before entering it.
      d. God asks for complete commitment in a marriage relationship on both sides.
4. Hence, there should be no JEALOUSY.
C. Some people are jealous of their friends.
   1. These are within, afraid of their ability to compete with other people in personality.
   2. Therefore, they cannot have but one friend at a time, and expect that friend to not have but them for a friend.
   3. God says we are to all love one another and to fellowship with one another.
   4. This kind of jealousy is marked by selfishness and usually breeds hatred and hard feelings.
   5. This kind of jealousy can cause much trouble in a church and therefore is very wrong.
D. Some are jealous of position.
   1. I used to work with some men who could not stand for someone else in the department to get a raise unless they got one.
   2. I have seen men who would not vote to give the preacher a raise, if he was making more than they were.
   3. There are those in the church that don't like to see others excel in grace, to the position of deacon, or teacher, or any other office that they cannot attain.
   4. These are the kind of things that keep a church from going forward and cause much trouble. (They are ungodly.)

III. WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE BIBLE ABOUT JEALOUSY?
A. Jealousy is the rage of man.
   Prov. 6:34
B. It is what caused Joseph to be sold.
C. Cain killed Abel because of it.
D. Saul, the King, sought David's life because of it.
E. Ahab, caused Naboth's death because of it.
F. The wars in the Middle East today are caused by it.
G. The Bible shows by way of prophecy that even in our day in churches and in the world that much damage will be done because of jealousy.

Con. Jealousy is sin, unless it is godly jealousy.

Sammy Eldredge
THE FOUR B'S

Text: Eph. 5:14-17  Raymond Howard

Intro:
A. In this passage of scripture we find that saved people can do nothing for God.
B. Verse 14 states: We can get in a condition as if we are sleeping.
   1. This verse also says: Arise from the dead, this speaks of doing nothing for the Lord.
   2. Being inactive.
C. Verse 17 states: Be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.
   1. God has a will for our lives. Do we care what His will is?
   2. This verse tells us, if we are unconcerned what His will for us is, we are unwise.
D. Why are we unwise?
   1. Because judgement is sure and Gal. 6:7 is true.

I. THE BLOOD MAKES US SAFE.
A. We are living in a day when the blood of Jesus is ridiculed. (They call it slaughter house religion.)
   Acts 4:13
   1. Substitute the church, walking the isle, baptism, hiding behind others. If they get to heaven I will.
C. I Peter 1:18-20; Eph. 1:7; I John 1:7
D. John 1:29 --Behold the lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.
E. John 19:30--It is finished.
F. Hebs. 12:24 Abel's blood cried out for vengeance.
   1. The Lord said, Abel's blood crieth unto me from the ground.
   2. The blood of Jesus says, It is finished.
G. Rev. 5:9
   1. The song: There is a fountain is true.
   2. What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
   3. The way of the cross leads home.
H. The blood of Jesus makes us safe.
   Exod. 12:13

II. THE BIBLE MAKES US SURE.
A. Many are living defeated lives.
   1. They think salvation depends on them and are afraid they will lose it.
   2. Many don't have it to lose, they have never trusted Jesus.
B. The Bible makes us safe. What does the Bible say? John 5:24;

C. The Bible, the word of God makes us safe. Man can lie, but God cannot and His word is true.

III. THE BATTLES MAKE US STRONG.
A. The army that has been in battle is better than the one that has never faced the enemy.
B. The Christian life is not a bed of roses.
   1. If we stay true to God, battles will be faced. II Tim. 2:3
   2. I Tim. 6:12
C. After we have faced the test and stayed true to God, we are stronger.
   1. Many young Christians have been defeated by the devil.
   2. The devil has used others to defeat babes in Christ, young and old.
   3. Matt. 18:6
D. Paul didn't quit when opposition stood in his way.
E. What if Jesus had quit.

IV. THE BLESSED HOPE MAKES US SWEET.
A. Saved people have something to look forward to.
B. We have a hope that is sure.
   1. God will be with us in this life. Rom. 8:31
   2. Psa. 37:23,24,28
C. We have a sure hope beyond death.
   1. Death doesn't end it all.
      John 14:1-3
   2. I Cor. 15:57,58
D. Saved are not like I Cor. 15:19.

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WHAT SERVANTS DO

Text: John 2:1-11

Introduction:

A. The REVIEW - what servants know.
   1. Servants have knowledge of the events of the household which no outsider really knows.
   2. Servants have an intimate knowledge.
   3. Servants know the place they occupy and the privileges which are his.

B. The REVELATION for our consideration in this lesson deals with what servants do. Before we proceed let us understand our proper position in the family of God.
   1. I Pet. 5:1-7
   2. Humility should characterize our attitude about ourselves and to other lives in general.
   3. The disciples had a problem with this humility. Luke 9:46-48
   4. The way to greatness is the way of humility. Luke 22:24-30

C. The REAL significance of this ordeal as it relates to this marriage is to realize the importance connected with this festivity - a real embarrassment to run out of provisions.
   1. The servants have an integral part in this miracle.
   2. They become transmitters of blessing.
   3. What servants do. V5

I. THE COMPLETENESS OF THE SERVANT'S OBLIGATION.

A. The INCLUSIVE term - whatsoever.

B. The INSIGHT.
   1. God's whatsoever may seem to be UNUSUAL.
      a. Note verses 3, 5, 7
      b. What is involved here? They are out of wine and Jesus says fill the waterpots with water.
      c. Other examples.
         1. Moses at the burning bush. God tells him to go back to Egypt - the place of his embarrass-

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ment-failure-humility. Exod. 3, 4 That's in your hand?
3. Note-feeding the 5,000 with a lad's lunch. The servants were told to pass it around. John 6:1-13, specifically VII.

2. The Lord's whatsoever may seem to be IMPOSSIBLE.
   a. The Lord's commands embrace the Lord's enabling.
   b. Note Israel at the Red Sea.
   c. Many will never experience the mighty workings of the Lord because of the miserable puniness of their faith.

3. The Lord's whatsoever will be BENEFICIAL.
   a. Rom. 8:28
   b. Illus.-John 11:21,32
      1. Note expression "Lord if.
      2. Never second guess God.
      3. Remove this from your vocabulary.
      4. Faith reaches out and knows that God is at work

II. THE STRANGENESS OF THE SERVANT'S ORDERS. V7

A. The FACT - fill the water pots.
   1. It's not the servant's place to question the commands of the Lord.
   2. No matter how strange the orders may seem - we are to do it - say it.
   3. What would you have done?

B. The FOCUS illustrated.
   1. The command to pray. Jer.33:3
      a. What difference does it make?
      b. What impact can it make?
      c. God has His reasons for commanding us to pray - we're not called upon to OBSERVE, but rather to OBEY.

III. THE THOROUGHNESS OF THE SERVANT'S OBEDIENCE.

A. The truth declared. V7b - "They filled them up to the brim."

B. The truth discerned.
   1. They took Jesus at His word - they didn't talk back to Him.
   2. You demonstrate love when you do the little extra.
   3. Do what you do because you love Him - want to - not because you have to.
   4. When you introduce love into the context of your service then it removes the difficulty of your labour.
   5. Servants will do what the Lord
FACING THE REALITY OF SOVEREIGN SUPREME GOD

D.B. Wright

Text: Dan. 2:28; Hebs. 4:13; Amos 4:12

Introduction:

A. God is the SOVEREIGN, SUPREME RULER in the universe! (Satan only rules with usurpation.) Dan. 4:32

1. God is both giver and sustainer of our life! Acts 17:25,28

2. God is revealed to mankind in His Son. Heb. 1:3; John 17:6; 14:7,9.

3. God is SPIRITUAL FATHER to all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. Gal. 3:26

4. God is the JUDGE WHO STANDS BEFORE THE DOOR. James 5:9; Rom. 14:11,12

B. GOD IS! Gen. 1:1; John 1:1,2

C. Facing Him is an AWESOME REALITY! (He is INESCAPABLE, UNAVOIDABLE, AND FACING HIM IS INEVITABLE!).

SOME ATTRIBUTES OF THE SOVEREIGN SUPREME ONE.

A. Omni-present.

1. Psalms 139:7-9

2. Jeremiah 23:24

3. Acts 17:26

B. Omniscient. God is ALL KNOWING!

1. Psalms 139:11

2. Hebrews 4:13

C. Omnipotent. God is ALL POWERFUL!

1. Psalms 33:19

2. Genesis 17:1

3. Ephesians 3:20

4. II Corinthians 4:9-8

D. Eternal. Psalms 90:2

E. Love. I John 4:7,8

F. Merciful. Isaiah 55:7; Titus 3:5

G. Compassionate. Lam. 3:22; Psalms 78:38

H. Grace. (Saves, Secures, Seals, Sustains, Sends, Solaces etc.)

I. Faithful.

1. Psalms 89:33

2. Lam. 3:23

3. II Timothy 2:13

II. APPEARINGS AND APPEALINGS TO MAN-KIND.

A. To our fore-parents in Eden.

Gen. 3:8,9

1. No obligation! LOVE! GRACE!

B. To cold-blooded murderer.

1. Before. Gen. 4:7

2. After he murdered his brother.

Gen. 4:9-13

C. To Noah. Gen. 7:1,16

D. To sinful Israel. Isaiah 1:18; 55:7

E. OUT OF HIS GRACE TO ONE AND ALL.

Titus 2:11

F. Familiar appeals. Ecclesiastes 12:1; Acts 17:27; Isaiah 55:6; Matthew 17:5; Isaiah 45:22

III. THE ACCOUNTING TO GOD.

A. Hebrews 12:23 mentions God as GOD THE JUDGE OF ALL.

B. He stands before the door!

C. He will face Him! Romans 14:11,12

D. He has the facts! Hebrews 4:13

1. Job's reaction to this truth.

Job 9:32

2. Add Rev. 6:15-17

E. Some FACTS IN THE CASE.

1. We, as sinners, have already been JUDGED AND PRONOUNCED GUILTY AS CHARGED?


b. By His Spirit. John 16:8

IV. PROPER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE SOVEREIGN SUPREME GOD.

A. As Job. 9:32

B. As Moses. Deuteronomy 3:24

C. As Daniel in our text.

D. As Isaiah. 43:7

E. As Paul. Galatians 1:15,16; II Timothy 1:9; Acts 17:25,28


V. THE ACCLAMATION OF THE SAVED.

A. Psalms 35:6,7

B. Psalms 46:1

C. I Corinthians 15:10
REALITY-THE WAY THINGS ARE

4. It is a fact that men will have differences of opinion regarding spiritual matters.
   a. Rom. 14:1-23
   b. Men are just not going to agree on everything. Rom. 14:5, 12, 19, 22

5. It is a reality that negative preaching will not build a church.
   a. What is negative preaching?
   b. It means to lack the quality of being positive.
   c. Positive preaching is the kind that is concerned with practical matters, real life issues.
   d. Negative preaching does not:
      1. Meet the need nor feed the soul. 2. Build up, but it tears down. 3. Point to the grace of God, but the legalism and formalism. 4. Lead to Jesus, but leads to despair.
   e. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." We must preach the living Christ to dying men.

II. REALITY-RELYING ON CHRIST THE WAY HE IS.

A. The response of the apostles seems to be a good one.
   1. "...Lord, increase our faith."
   2. Make our faith greater so that we can handle this business.
   3. Make our faith larger so that we can do this work.

B. Oh! How we need faith!

C. What is faith?
   1. "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the proving of things not seen." Hebs. 11:1
   2. Faith and reality do not contradict.
   3. Faith is reality.
   4. It is not faith in one's self, or faith in others, but faith in God.
   5. Paul said that faith is a shield. Eph. 6:16
   6. When trouble, disappointments, or discouragement comes, throw up the shield of faith.
   7. If we do not live by faith, God is not pleased. Hebs. 11:6

III. REALITY-RESPONDING TO THE SITUATION THE WAY IT IS.

A. Faith is the firm conviction in the ability of Christ to perform His perfect will, but faith is not an excuse for apathy.

B. How did Jesus respond to their request?
   1. Luke 17:5-9
2. An increased faith is not the answer. It does not change the situation before you.
3. Faith helps you to face the challenge before you.
4. Faith is adherence; therefore we are to go forward doing what Jesus said; applying the principles and trusting Him for the results. JESUS NEVER FAILS!

A GOOD SHEPHERD TO HIS SHEEP

Wesley Waldrum

Text: Jer. 23:4; 3:15; I Tim. 4:11-16
Intro. We only have one true Shepherd, the chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ. We as His people are His sheep. God has called many to be His undershepherds to watch over His flocks. These pastors have a great responsibility on them. May God help all who are in this position to be worthy of the vocation whereby they are called. May each one make full proof of their ministry. II Tim. 4:5

I. A GOOD PASTOR IS A CONCERNED PASTOR!
Concern should always be on the mind of a God called pastor. It's a wonder that true concerned pastors don't die at an early age in their ministry. Much of their time is spent worrying, praying, and crying. A pastor should always be concerned.

A. About each one. Rom. 9:3
1. Those in the will of God.
2. Those out of the will of God.

B. About each one's omission. (SIN)
1. All people are sinners. Rom. 3:23
2. Even after salvation: Children of God are only sinners saved by the grace of God.
3. A concerned pastor worries about the sins of his people. I Cor. 5:1-7
   a. For their spiritual well being.
   b. For the church's spiritual being.

C. About each one's obedience.
1. To the Lord. Rom. 12:1
2. To the study. II Tim. 2:15
3. To the church. Heb. 10:25
4. To telling others. II Tim. 2:2

II. A GOOD PASTOR IS A COMPASSIONATE PASTOR! Gal. 3:12-14
A. He's forgiving.
1. A good compassionate pastor loves all of his people.
   Things don't always go the way he expects. He can't hardly please all of the people all of the time. Some will become angry with him at times, but he shouldn't hold any grudges.

B. He's forbearing. Gal. 6:2
1. The pastor listens to the problems of people.
2. The pastor tries to help with the problems.
3. The pastor tries to comfort in sickness, sorrow, and in death.

C. He's a friend.
1. Some one you can call upon.
2. Some one who makes sacrifices for you.
   a. Think about the many hospital visits.
   b. Think about the many funerals he attended.
   c. A good pastor is always there. He is on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

III. A GOOD PASTOR IS A COMMITTED PASTOR.
II Tim. 1:11,12
A. In love. Rom. 12:9,10
1. Pastors should strive to exercise and portray Christian love to all.
2. He should strive to be Christ like, as should all Christians.

B. In labor.
1. To the Lord. Rom. 1:1
2. To the Lord's church.
3. To the Lord's people.

C. In learning. I Pet. 3:15
1. Himself. II Tim. 2:15; Eccl. 12:12
2. His people. Matt. 28:20

IV. A GOOD PASTOR IS A CONSISTENT PASTOR!
A. He should be consistent in prayer. Col. 1:9; I Thess. 5:17; Acts 6:4
B. He should be consistent in preparing. I Pet. 3:15
C. He should be consistent in preaching. II Tim. 4:2; 2:2
D. He should be consistent in providing. I Tim. 5:8
E. He should be consistent in progressing. I Tim. 4:15

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