THE KIND OF BELIEVER YOU SHOULD BE

Text: John 13:34,35
Intro. John tells us the greatest evidence of salvation is love for one another. The greatest commandment is to love God with all of your heart. You are a believer now. What kind of believer are you? What kind of believer does God want you to be? You should want to be the kind that God can use in influencing mankind.

I. YOU SHOULD BE A LOVING BELIEVER.

A. Love God.
1. The greatest commandment is to love the Lord God with all of your heart, soul, and might. Deut. 6:5
2. We love Him because He first loved us. I John 4:19
3. The love of many will wax cold. Matt. 24:12

B. Love your church.
1. We are to love the church as Christ loved her and gave Himself for her. Eph. 5:25
2. We should deeply love the people, the purpose, the power, and the peace related to the Lord's churches.
3. Only love for the Lord and your church will keep you faithful and true.

C. Love christians.
1. If we can't love one another, how can we love lost souls?
2. The Lord teaches us to love one another. He commands us to.
3. We belong to the same family and Father, and future.

II. YOU SHOULD BE A LABORING BELIEVER.

A. Work for the Lord.
1. We are to be His witnesses. Acts 1:8
2. We are to be His warriors. II Tim. 2:3,4
3. We are to be His workers. I Cor. 3:9
4. We are to be winners. II Cor. 5:20

CORRECTION!!! We will only have one day of fellowship and preaching, instead of two as announced in the January issue of our paper. February 23rd is the day of fellowship. We hope to see you here on this date. Call 1-713-442-7137 if you have any questions.
B. Work for the church.
2. This truth is taught in the great commission. Matt. 28:20
3. Churches carry on mainly by the voluntary labor of members.
4. Use your talents in the Lord's blessed work.
C. Work for God's people.
1. We are fellow helpers and laborers.
2. We need to pray for one another daily.
3. We need to encourage one another. Lift one another up.
4. Help each other in physical and material ways.

III. YOU SHOULD BE A LEARNING BELIEVER.
A. Learn of the Lord.
1. Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me." Matt. 11:29
2. Learn of the Lord to find rest.
3. Peter admonished us to grow in grace and knowledge. II Pet. 3:18
4. Peter also said to desire the milk of God's word to grow. II Pet. 2:2
5. We are to learn of the Lord because Isaiah said His ways and thoughts are not ours. Isa. 55:8,9
6. We must learn them. Examine Paul's great desire in Phil. 3:10
B. Learn of His word.
1. His word is profitable. II Tim. 3:16,17
2. His word gives spiritual growth and maturity. I Pet. 2:2
3. His word is a light and lamp. Psa. 119:105
4. His word is truth. John 17:17
5. His word is a preventive of sin. Psa. 119:9-11
6. His word reveals His righteousness.
C. Learn of discipleship.
1. Discipleship demands devotion. Mark 8:34-38
2. Discipleship demands dedication. Rom. 12:1
4. Discipleship demands dependance. II Cor. 12:9; Psa. 23:1

IV. YOU SHOULD BE A LIVING BELIEVER.
A. We have a lively hope.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! Please help us out. We want to continue to offer our paper and outline books to you without charge. You can help us by sending a special or extra offering to this ministry TODAY.
FROM MIRE TO MIRTH

Text: Psa. 40:1-3
Intro. The psalmist speaks of going from mire, a horrible pit of boggy clay, to a state of mirth, song and praise. Man is bogged down in the quagmire of sin and must be set free before he can have a new song of praise in his heart and on his lips. As the psalmist was delivered from mire to mirth, so does mankind need this deliverance today.

I. THE TRANSITION. "He brought me out."

A. The horrible pit and mire clay are a type of sin that dooms every unsaved person.
B. A person can never by himself escape the mire of sin. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done..." Tit. 3:5
1. The more one tries to lift himself out by his own efforts, the more entrenched he becomes.
2. Only when one stops trying to be free and look for help will he be delivered.
C. The transition implemented.
1. Trust in the Lord. "I waited patiently for the Lord..."
2. Call upon the Lord. "And he... heart my cry..."
3. Yield to the Lord. "He brought me out."
D. There are none so bogged down in sin that the Lord cannot bring out.

II. THE TRANSFORMATION.

A. A person who has been delivered from the mire of sin is a transformed person.
1. Been brought out. As a helpless person being carried.
   a. Transformed from a non-believer to a believer.
   b. Transformed from doom to eternal life.
   c. Transformed from an enemy of God to a friend.
   d. Transformed from a stranger to a friend.
2. Securely established. "Set my feet on a rock."
   a. No longer in danger of sinking into the horrible pit.
   b. Settled securely on the rock, Christ Jesus.
3. Given new meaning and direction to life. "Established my going."
4. Given a new song. "And hath put a new song in my mouth, even praises unto our God."

III. THE TRANSILLUMINATION. "Many shall see it."

A. Transillumination means to project through as projecting an image through something to make it visible.
B. Every transformed person should be a transparency.
1. Reflecting the image of Christ.
2. Let others see Jesus in you.
C. Others cannot see Jesus in us if our lives are filled with sin. Sin blocks out the light.

IV. THE TRANSACTION RESULTING. "Many shall see it and fear, and shall trust in the Lord."

A. Every saved person can be an example and witness to others by telling what God has done for them and by reflecting a Christ like spirit.
B. The Lord chose to go about the business of saving souls by allowing others to win others.

Con. Is it possible that you are still in the mire of sin? If so, trust, call, and rely on the Lord to deliver you into the mirth of salvation.

CONTENTMENT

Text: Phil. 4:10-13
Intro. Contentment means freedom from care or discomfort. Everyone wants joy and contentment. It is available to all who trust God. Paul talks about rejoicing in the Lord and being content in the Lord.

I. THE SUBSTANCE OF CONTENTMENT.

A. It is made of trust.
   1. In God, without reservation.
   2. Triumph of good.
   3. Trust in the grace of God.
B. It is made of temperance. (This is moderation in life.)
   1. Willing to be poor without worry or griping.
   2. Willing to have or not have, do with or without.
C. It is made of tolerance.
   1. Being able to turn the other cheek.
   2. Being able to put up with
II. THE SUPPOSITION OF CONTENTMENT.
A. What some suppose about it.
1. That it is an imaginary state.
2. That it is a magic state.
3. That it is an unattainable state.
B. Contentment supposes to be a state of non worry and non apprehension.

III. THE SATISFACTION OF CONTENTMENT.
A. Biblical proof of satisfaction.
1. Christ in the boat on Galilee.
2. Paul in latter life. Text
B. Personal experience.
1. Many times in life we experience short periods of real contentment.
2. After purchasing a home, a car, or after one has been saved, and baptized, etc.
C. Promise of contentment.
1. God promised it to the children of Israel.
2. To all who will trust fully in Jesus.

IV. THE SOLITUDE OF CONTENTMENT.
A. A being separated from stress.
1. When one really trusts in God in every area of his life, and doesn't worry.
2. It is being completely in the hands of God.

V. THE SCARCITY OF CONTENTMENT.
A. How many people do you know who are completely content with their lives just as they are?
B. Is there anyone in your church?
C. Is there anyone in your city?
D. Have you ever known anyone who was content?

VI. THE SECURITY OF CONTENTMENT.
A. One must be on guard against satan's lies.
B. One must maintain his complete belief and trust in God's providential care.
C. One must be willing to sacrifice self will.

VII. THE SIMPLICITY OF CONTENTMENT.
A. Have you heard the song, "He was there all the time?"
B. Jesus said, "You shall know the truth and the truth will make you free."
1. If man really believed in God's promises with the faith he claims he would be content.
2. The very knowledge of His all power, should set us free from fret and fear.
C. God said, "Seek ye first..."
1. No reason to be apprehensive about food, and clothing, and water.
2. A place to lodge, or the future.
D. God even supplied us with the prophecies about end time events.
Con. The ones who are not content are those who do not trust God with all their lives.

GETTING IN SHAPE

Text: Hebs. 12

Luther Crawford

Introduction:
A. This generation is on a "Get in shape" kick. (Physically)
B. People walk, jog, run, ride bicycles, buy exercise machines, join clubs, millions are spent by those desiring to lose weight.
C. I was almost ashamed of myself. I am not actively engaged in such, as I sought to be, until I read where Paul said, "For bodily exercise profitable little," And I was really ashamed when I read the next statement, "But godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."
D. We probably ought to be ashamed of our spiritual condition. We ought to give some attention to godliness. We ought to desire this year to get in "Shape spiritually."

I. WE PROBABLY NEED TO LOSE SOME WEIGHT.
(The weight of sin.)
A. Even Christians sin. There may be those who claim no sin, but "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." I John 1:8
1. Sin weights us down.
2. We can't run very well with this weight.
B. Sins we commit.
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1. We sin against God.
2. We sin against our church.
3. We sin against other believers.
C. Sins of Omission.
   1. By omitting to do the things of God, we sin.
   2. Jesus pointed a finger of accusation against those who omitted the weightier matters of the law.
D. Unforgiven sins? These sins pile up and weight us down.
E. Therefore we need to lay aside the sins that fasten themselves upon us, if we would get in shape spiritually.

II. WE PROBABLY NEED TO DO SOME RUNNING.
(The Christian race)
A. Every believer is in a great race. We are not trying to outrun the devil to heaven. The Christian race is the course God has set before His children.
B. It is to be run with patience.
C. It is to be run with prayer.
D. It is to be run with vision. If we got the vision God has the provision, our eyes are to be upon Him, for He has pioneered the course for us.
   1. He is to be followed.
   2. He is to be loved.
   3. He is to be revered.
   4. He is to be obeyed.

III. WE PROBABLY NEED TO DO SOME MORE EXERCISING. (Faith)
A. Exercise our faith by believing the faith once delivered to the saints.
B. Exercise unto godliness. I Tim. 4:7
C. Exercise to discern both good and evil. Hebs. 5:14;12:11
D. Exercise to humility toward God and men. Psa. 131:1

IV. WE PROBABLY NEED TO DO SOME SPECIAL DIETING. (Soul Food)
A. Feed on the milk of the word.
B. Feast on the meat of the word.
C. Most diets say eat less. We need to eat more of the word of God.

WHAT SERVANTS RECEIVE

TEXT: John 2:1-11

INTRODUCTION:
A. The REVIEW.
   1. What servants know - the servant's place.
      - the servant's perception.
      - the servant's privilege.
   2. What servant do - the completeness of servant's obligation.
      - the strangeness of servant's orders.
      - the thoroughness of servant's obedience.
B. The REASONING - we've already established the fact that the purpose of John's writings was that Jesus might be made known to others as the Son of God.
   1. Servant's job - please & promote their master.
   2. Saved one's job - servant - the problem we have is to find our niche in the servanthood to our Lord Jesus.
   3. The difficulty - disciple's problem - they didn't see themselves, for Jesus' sake, as servants to each other but rather they wanted to lord it over each other. They wanted to be considered the best & superior; thus, they were interested in advancing themselves,
   4. Corinthian problem - elevated the servant of the Lord above the Lord Himself. I Cor.3 (This is devastating to any worship or fellowship.)
C. The REVELATION - this lesson concerns itself with what the servant receives if he occupies his place of service.

I. RECEIVED THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THEY PARTICIPATED IN SOMETHING THAT IS ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL (Participation) (Co-laborers & workers with Jesus Christ)
A. Participated in a MIRACLE that glorified the Lord. v-11.
   1. Involvement—they saw & shared the Lord at work in their midst.
      a. The glory of His PERSON - Jesus never touched the vessels—He did this work through

Glen Tropp
a command and the obedience to His servants.

b. The glory of His POWER.
c. The glory of His PROVISION—what our Lord does is good!

2. Insight - has it ever occurred to you how God uses people.
   a. Areas of salvation-service-supplies.
   b. Our desire should be that our activity might magnify the Lord.
   c. PHIL. 1:20 "ACCORDING TO MY EARNEST EXPECTATION AND MY HOPE, THAT IN NOTHING I SHALL BE ASHAMED, BUT THAT WITH ALL BOLDNESS, AS ALWAYS, SO NOW ALSO CHRIST SHALL BE MAGNIFIED IN MY BODY, WHETHER IT BY LIFE, OR BY DEATH."

B. Participated in a MINISTRY that testified love.
   1. They BELIEVED the Word of our Lord - obeyed Him.
      a. Embarrassment for him if it didn't work.
      b. Ministry of love - they believed Him.
   2. They BORE the work.
      a. Jesus knew what He was going to do. He only ask you to do what you can. He'll take over from there.
      b. Their obedience was required for the blessing to come to all.
      c. Example - John 11 - raising of Lazarus - note the stone & the servants.
   3. They BLESSED the witness of Christ.
      a. They removed the reproach - restored the rejoicing and everyone was blessed and happy.

C. Participated in a memory that satisfied life.
   1. They probably talked about this the rest of their lives.
   2. Do you remember what Jesus did in your life-home-church?
   3. When you know God has worked in your life-you're enriched.
      a. Builds your faith.
      b. Encourages your heart.

II. RECEIVED THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THEY WOULD BE PRAIS ED.
   A. Praised by the Lord. I COR.4:1-5.
      "LET A MAN SO ACCOUNT OF US, AS OF THE MINISTERS OF CHRIST, AND STEWARDS OF THE MYSTERIES OF GOD. V-2 MOREOVER IT IS REQUIRED IN STEWARDS, THAT A MAN BE FOUND FAITHFUL. V-3 BUT WITH

   B. Praised through rewarding.
      1. Matt. 24:42-47

CONCLUSION: It pays to serve Jesus - no matter what the cost.

SOME THINGS THAT DO NOT HELP

CHRISTIANS

Text: Psa. 109:24-27

Intro. In spite of the goodness of God, in spite of the love of God, and the mercy of God, some church members do become "castaways" which means "good for nothing or disqualified for the game." Even the great apostle Paul faced this problem. He wanted to be found a steadfast christian. One who stood firm and four square in the very center of the purpose and will of God for his life. Christians - church members - preachers - pastors -deacons - teachers - singers (no one escapes this problem) - every one of us or any one of us can become a "castaway." Let us consider some things that are not helpful to christians.

I. SOME HOMES ARE NOT HELPFUL FOR CHRISTIANS.

A. The finest, oldest, greatest, divine institute on the face of the earth is the HOME.
   1. To me it is one of the sweetest words in our vocabulary.
   2. To me, when I think of home, I think of a christian dad - a man who loved God, His word, His Son, His Sunday and a man who
II. WORLDLY ATMOSPHERE IS NOT HELPFUL FOR CHRISTIANS.
A. This world system wallows and glories in sin, dishonesty, lying, thievery, and impurity.
1. These are common things that even the best of people must beware.
2. No wonder the blessed apostle John warns us "love not the world neither the things etc.
I John 2:15
B. Do not be angry with the preaching of separation.
1. It is for our good that we live separated lives.
2. The world makes us unfit for service and cancels our power in prayer. Let us stand for purity and righteousness. II Tim. 2:19-21
C. Touching the world makes us a vessel unclean.
1. Touching the world means we will become a castaway.
2. Though saved we become good for nothing to self, family, church truth, and God.

III. THE RELIGIOUS WORLD IS NOT HELPFUL FOR CHRISTIANS.
A. We receive less and less assistance from the religious world to live the christian life.
1. Our papers are filled with such nonsense as "The church has lost her usefulness." God is dead. God has given me a new revelation, new visions, etc.
2. No wonder sinners and ungodly people laugh at our church and our stand for the Bible and for Christ.
B. We should appreciate a church that stands for the truth as revealed in the Word of God. II Tim. 3:16, 17
1. As pastor, I make no apology for believing the Word and preaching it to the best of my ability.
2. As a parent, I am thankful for Sunday School teachers who taught my children the Word of God.
3. As a church member, I am grateful for dedicated men and women here who are using their talents in His service and have not become "castaways."

IV. THERE IS HELP FOR US ALL AT THE HOUSE OF GOD. "There is balm in Gilead."
A. There is a true story of a little family, a dad, a mother, a little boy. Mother became seriously ill and died. Dad wanted to spare the son this sorrow as long as possible. Finally one night the little boy came to dad's bed and asked again. Dad said, "Mother is not coming back." The little boy sobbed awhile then asked, "Daddy, is your face towards mine? If it is I can go to sleep." Dad went to another room and prayed, "My Father, Is your face towards mine? If so I can bear sorrow.
B. Let every Christian make this a moment of rededication.
C. If you have never accepted Jesus Christ, do so. He is waiting to receive you NOW.
FACING
THE REALITY
OF
SATAN

D.B. Wright

Text: Isa. 14:12-15

Introduction:
A. Reality means inescapable, unavoidable, inevitable.
B. Some who faced satan.
   1. Adam and Eve in Eden.
   2. Job. Job 2:3
   3. Ananias and wife Sapphira. Acts 5
C. He is after us. I Pet. 5:8
D. He is working overtime. Rev. 12:10, 12.
E. Jesus spoke of satan. John 8:44
F. Satan appears as a serpent and as an angel. II Cor. 11:13-15

I. THE DESIRE OF SATAN.
A. To be like God.
B. To be superior to God.
C. To rule in the kingdom of men in the stead of God.
D. To prevent the salvation of the lost. II Cor. 4:3, 4
E. To destroy the FAITH, TESTIMONY, and LIFE of the already saved.
   1. Destroy faith.
   2. Disturb faithful.
   3. Dampen the fervor.
   4. Defeat the flock.
   5. Discourage the following.

II. THE DENIALS OF SATAN.
A. The preeminence of God. Text
B. The person of God. Psa. 14:1; Rom. 1:23
C. The pronouncement of God. Gen. 3:4
D. The purposes of God blocked.
   I Thess. 2:18

III. THE DECEPTIONS OF SATAN.
A. He offers freedom from restraint.
   1. He pays in BONDAGE.
   2. Prov. 5:22
B. He offers life.
   1. He pays in DEATH.
   2. Rom. 6:23; 5:12
C. He appears as an ANGEL OF LIGHT, but his kingdom is the DARKNESS.
   Col. 1:13; John 3:19

IV. THE DESTRUCTION OF SATAN.

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A. Look what he has done in God's beautiful world. "Thorns and thistles" Gen. 3:18
B. Look at Cain's plight when satan was finished with him.
C. Eli and vile sons. I Sam. 3:13
D. Ananias and wife Sapphira. Acts 5:3, 4
E. Attempts satan has made to destroy.
   1. Over and again he attempted to destroy Israel. Gen. 12:2, 3
   2. He attempted to destroy BABY JESUS. Hebs. 4:15; Matt. 4:1-11
   3. Since day one satan has sought to destroy the Lord's blood bought church.

V. THE DISTURBED SAVED.
A. Elijah. I Kings 19:10
B. Jeremiah. Jer. 20:7
C. One of the Psalmist. Psa. 73:16, 17
D. Job. Job 13:15

VI. THE DEVOURING EFFORTS OF SATAN.
A. Peter warns. I Pet. 5:8
B. Paul mentions one giving satan an ADVANTAGE. II Cor. 2:11
C. Paul warns of satan's wiles. Eph. 6:11
D. Paul also warns of satan's traps.
   II Tim. 2:25, 26
E. Paul mentions the POISONOUS ARROWS WHICH SATAN FIRES AT OUR MINDS.
   Eph. 6:16
F. The saved are indwelt by the greater. I John 4:4; Gal. 2:20; I John 5:4

VII. SATAN'S ULTIMATE AIM...DAM THE SOUL.
A. Matt. 10:28
B. The thief. John 10:10
C. The ultimate end. II Thess. 1:8, 9
D. He accomplishes this by BLINDING their minds. II Cor. 4:3, 4

VIII. SATAN'S JUST DESERT.
A. 1000 years in the bottomless pit.
B. Eternity in hell. Rev. 20:10

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