BE STILL

Text: Psa. 46:1,2,7-11
Intro. Parents often tell their children, Be still. Children are over active, nervous, hyper, and uneasy. Can you imagine a mother telling junior who is about to get a shot, Be still? The psalmist speaks of things that cause people to be uneasy and restless. There are times God tells us to be still. He will show us He is still God. We will know or realize He is God. He will do a work that will cause us and the world to know He is God and He will be exalted. There is a time to be still.

I. BE STILL, LISTEN TO GOD.
   A. The commandments.
      1. The Father speaks to us through His word.
      2. His word is inspired, profitable, and informing. II Tim. 3:16,17
      3. When we read His word He speaks to us and He wants us to listen.
      4. He speaks to us through His creation. Psa. 19:1 He speaks to us through events, every day experiences.
   B. The contemplation.
      1. We are to meditate on God's word day and night. Psa. 1:2
      2. The psalmist remembered the Lord on his bed. Psa. 63:6

HAVE FAITH IN GOD

Doubt see the obstacles, Faith sees the way!
Doubt sees the darkest night, Faith sees the day!
Doubt dreads to take a step, Faith soars on high!
Doubt questions, "Who believes?"
Faith answers, "I!"

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Where is your Faith?
II. BE STILL, LET THE LORD DO A WORK.
   A. The examination.
      1. When you are still you can
         look and examine things and
         events closely.
      2. "...fear ye not, stand still,
         and see the salvation of the
         Lord, which he will shew to
         you today..." Exod. 14:13
      3. Take a close look. God is work-
         ing. Rom. 8:28 We often times
         figure things out without God,
         which is a mistake.
      4. Rabshakeh thought the Assyrians
         would destroy Judah. II Kings
         18:30,31 He hadn't figured God's
         angel would destroy 185,000.
         II Kings 19:35
   B. The education.
      1. You must be still to learn al-
         most anything.
      2. Times of study and learning
         are quiet times.
      3. We learn the most like Mary at
         the feet of Jesus listening.
         Luke 10:39,40
      4. You impart knowledge by speak-
         ing. You gain knowledge by
         listening.
      5. The psalmist said, "Teach me
         thy paths." Psa. 25:4
   C. The evaluation.
      1. The writer points out all of
         the trouble he then states God
         is our refuge and strength.
      2. If you are going to cut a lot
         of wood, you beter stop and
         sharpen your axe.
      3. Life is rough and tough, you
         better evaluate things properly.

III. BE STILL, LEAN UPON THE LORD.
   A. The courage.
      1. Joshua was told, Don't be a-
         fraid or dismayed. Be strong
         and of good courage.
      2. Life is difficult to live. Many
         things and people frighten us.
         Fear can destroy truth, trust,
         and triumph.
      3. The courage we need is not the
         courage to face life.
      4. We need courage to learn to
         trust the Lord completely. Prov.
         3:5,6
   B. The conviction.
      1. God did everything at the Red
         Sea. The wind, water, dry
         ground, and the people of Egypt
         were destroyed.
      2. Leaning on the everlasting arms.
         We need to learn to lean.
      3. It took conviction for Joshua

April 1989
to tell Israel the battle plans
for Jericho. Conviction pays
off.

C. The comfort.
   1. The Lord is our refuge and
      strength.
   2. He is the anchor to the soul
      both sure and steadfast. Hebs.
      6:19,20
   3. He is our strong consolation
      and very present help.
   4. We are to comfort one another
      with God's holy word. I Thess.
      4:18

IV. BE STILL, LOVE THE LORD.
   A. Love Christ.
      1. We are to love Him with all
         our heart, soul, and might.
         Deut. 6:5
      2. Love is often experienced dur-
         ing quiet times.
      3. You can get so busy doing the
         Lord's work, you don't take
         time to love Him.
   B. Love commandments.
      1. The psalmist loved God's holy
         precious word.
      2. Read, study, meditate, apply
         God's word.
      3. Man shall live by every word
         that proceeds from God's mouth.
         Matt. 4:1-11
      4. God's word reveals God to us.
         If He is precious, His word is
to.
   C. Love church.
      1. Take time to be holy. Be a-
         round God's people.
      2. Listen to the lessons and ser-
         mons and songs of praise.
      3. Christ, His word, and His church
         go hand in hand.

V. BE STILL, LEARN FROM THE LORD.
   A. Learn of His path.
      1. Which is the best way or road
         to go in life?
      2. A narrow way leads to life. A
         broad way leads to destruction.
      3. The Lord leads in paths of
         righteousness and beside the
         still waters. Psa. 23:2,3
   B. Learn of His plan.
      1. God has a plan to build a life,
         home, church etc. A wise man
         builds God's way. Matt. 7:24
      2. God's plan works. Paths of
         righteousness are God's paths.
      3. Do it God's way. Do it accord-
         ing to His plan.
   C. Learn of His perfection.
      1. God's word thoroughly furnishes
         unto every good work. II Tim.
         3:17
      2. We are to grow in grace and
knowledge of Jesus. II Pet. 3: 18.
3. Maturity, wisdom, and understanding are still valuable to us. They only come from God.

OVERTHROWN in the WILDERNESS

Text: I Cor. 10:1-11

Intro. The greatest lessons learned are those learned from the mistakes of others. Israel offers us plenty of examples of going away from God and paying the price. Paul said, "Brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant." These in the text serve as our examples that we might not be defeated spiritually. Look at the things that will cause overthrow.

I. LUST
A. "We should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted." V6
1. We live in a materialistic age that worship things. However, the greatest things in life are not things.
2. There are many who are in debt to Visa and Mastercard and still have nothing to show for it.
3. The most valuable things in life are invisible. II Cor. 4:18
What things are most valuable? Things that last or things that are temporary? The scripture says that the visible things are temporary but the spiritual invisible things are eternal.

B. God is not opposed to material prosperity, but when it becomes the object of life it brings divine disapproval. Matt. 6:33; Phil. 4:19 v.

II. IDOLATRY
A. "Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them, the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." V7
1. Pleasure was their god.
2. There are many who will come to be entertained or play some game but when it comes to doing something spiritual the crowd dwindles.
3. We live in a T.V. oriented world where kids are raised with thousands of hours of Hollywood influence credited to their memory bank and we wonder why they act like they do.
4. Many church members spend more money at the movies, on hobbies, or on the boat payment than what they give to God and His cause.

B. If anyting comes before our service to God then we are guilty of idol-
ON the EDGE of ENCOURAGEMENT

Kenneth Click

Text: Acts 14:19-22
Intro. The background is during the first missionary journey of Paul. At Lystra Paul healed a man crippled from birth. Vs 8-10 The people seeing this attempted to worship Paul and Barnabas as gods. Paul straightens them out. The Jews persuaded the people to stone Paul. Paul is raised by God and goes about the business of preaching.

A. Paul went to strengthen the hearts of the disciples and encourage them to continue in the faith.
   1. Paul understood the importance of encouragement.
   2. I believe all God's people need desperately to be encouraged.
B. William Barclay writes that, "It is easy to pour cold water on their enthusiasm; it is easy to discourage others. The world is full of discouragers. We have a Christian duty to encourage one another."
C. It is ENCOURAGEMENT that fans the flames of commitment!

I. BRETHREN, I ENCOURAGE YOU.

A. Be faithful.
   1. Ideally, the standard of faithfulness is set by Christ, who is called Faithful and True. Rev. 19:11
   2. In actuality, the standard of faithfulness is set by you and me.
   3. I encourage you to keep that standard high.
B. Be forgiving.
   1. Christians are not perfect, just forgiven.
   2. The cause of Christ is not advanced by holding grudges.
   3. Ephesians 4:30-32
C. Be followers.
   1. Of God. Eph. 5:1,2
   2. Of godly examples. 1 Cor. 11:1
   3. Of your pastor.

II. LEADERS, I ENCOURAGE YOU.

A. Be strong.
   1. Against worldly influence.
   2. Against internal foolishness.
B. Be sensitive.
   1. To the problems of others.
   2. To the ARROGANCE FACTOR.
C. Be spirited.
   1. Our churches are dying for lack of enthusiastic leadership.
   2. Emerson wrote, "Every great and commanding movement in the annals of the world is the triumph of enthusiasm - nothing great was ever achieved without it."

   3. A church will never rise above it's leadership.
   4. The answer is not to fire the pastor but to fire up the leaders.

III. BIBLE TEACHERS, I ENCOURAGE YOU.

A. Be diligent.
   1. An old English preacher once observed that: "He that studies only men, will get the body of knowledge without the soul; and he that studies only books, the soul without the body. He that to what he sees, adds observation, and to what he reads, reflection, is on the right road to knowledge, provided that in scrutinizing the hearts of others, he neglects not his own." Caleb Colton
   2. Diligence, persistence, perseverance, pertinacity, and plain old doggedness are all descriptive of a good Bible teacher.
B. Be dependent.
   2. On the council of godly scholars.
   3. A sailor is no less so because he uses compass and charts.
      a. A compass could be compared to the Holy Spirit.
      b. Ocean charts are simply the findings of those who have gone before.
C. Be dependable.
   1. A teacher that is not there is not a teacher.

IV. PREACHERS, I ENCOURAGE YOU.

A. Be bold.
   1. In your preaching. Some equate boldness with volume.
   2. In your praying. If we don't ask we will never know.
   3. In your plans.
B. Be burdened.
   1. For the lost. 9% of the world's population speak English. 90% of the world's Christians come from the 9% who speak English. 94% of the ordained ministers in the world serve the 9% who speak English. 96% of the church's income is spent among the 9% who speak English.
   2. For the needs of your people.
C. Be busy.
MINISTERING GOD’S WORD

D.B. Wright

Text: II Tim. 3:14--4:5

Intro.
A. The PRODUCT or PROCLAMATION of God as recorded in the Bible is.
   2. God's message as found in the Bible is HONEY, MILK, and STRONG MEAT for the believing soul. I Pet. 2:2; Hebs. 5:15; Psa. 119:103
B. The divinely appointed PUBLISHERS of the Proclamation.
   1. Parents. Deut. 6:6,7
   2. Preachers, teachers, superintendents. II Tim. 2:2
C. The PROCLAIMING of God's Word should be done with:
   1. Fidelity (Faithfulness, loyalty, devotion) I Cor. 4:2
   2. Firmness (Earnestly, Unyielding, immovable). Men may hold opinions, but CONVICTIONS HOLD MEN. Phil. 1:17; Jude 3
   3. Fervency (Zeal, warmth, feeling) Col. 3:23; Rom. 9:2; Acts 20:31
   4. Faith (Desiring and expecting fruit.) Isa. 55:11
   a. Desiring the salvation of the lost. Rom. 10:1; I Cor. 9:22
   b. Desiring the education and development of the saved. Matt. 28:20
   c. Desiring the edification of the church. I Cor. 14:12
   d. Expecting an enlargement of our outreach. II Cor. 10:15,16
5. Love I Cor. 13:1
D. The PERILS involved in the MINISTRY OF THE WORD.
   1. Some folk respond to the spoken Word. Acts 17:11; 17:32
   2. Some folk from the same congregation REACT to the Message of God. (Mockery, procrastination, stones, REJECTION OF THE MESSENGER, character assassination;
   3. Exile, imprisonment; MURDER.
   E. The divinely stated PURPOSE in the ministry of God's Word.
      1. Evangelization. II Tim. 4:5; Mark 16:15
      2. Endoctrination of the saved. II Tim. 3:16
      3. Transformation of LIFE of those saved. Rom. 12:2

I. MINISTER THE WORD WHICH CONVICTS THE SOUL.
   A. Hebrews 4:12
   B. The Word was designed to INFORM OF SIN AND GUILT before God. Rom. 3:19
   C. How different the Word of God reads than that one reads or hears from some today. Rom. 3:23,11; Eccl. 7:20
   D. The PROCLAMATIONS OF GOD are the Holy Spirit's Sword, and as it is used under His leadership it CUTS TO THE HEART...PRICKS THE HARDEST OF HEARTS. Acts 2:37;9

II. MINISTER THE WORD WHICH CONVERTS.
   A. It is designed to accomplish this. Psa. 19:7
   B. God's message is as a HAMMER which breaks the heart of stone. Jer. 23:29
   C. God's Word is like a FIRE that consumes the dross and purifies the silver.
   D. The Words of Jesus were to those who received them as a BATH which cleanses the soul. John 15:3
   E. Millions upon top of millions who have received the message of God have been SAVED AND TRANSFORMED INTO VESSELS OF HONOUR in the Lord's service.

III. MINISTER THE WORD WHICH CORRECTS WRONGS.
   A. A young christian-preacher was heard by two God loving saints who recognized the need for help in him. Acts 19:26
      1. They took him aside and expounded unto him the Word of the Lord more perfectly.
      2. Then one reads Acts 19:27
   B. The church of God at Corinth had a young man member who was living in OPEN AND KNOWN REBELLION TO THE WILL OF GOD and bringing reproach upon the Lord's Church of his membership. I Cor. 1:
      1. God sent them a message. I Cor. 5:4-13
      2. They ACCEPTED AND APPLIED the message. II Cor. 2:6
      3. GOD SENT THEM ANOTHER MESSAGE.
II Cor. 2:7,8
C. Remember the story of the run-away-slave?
   1. He came under the influence of the Word of God preached by Paul.
   2. Receive him as a beloved brother.

IV. MINISTER THE WORD WHICH CONFIRMS.
A. Confirm (Strengthens, makes firmer; nourishes, make sure, established.) I Pet. 2:2; I John 5:13; Rom. 10:17
B. Paul sent Timothy to Thessalonica.
C. Paul and Barnabas at Derbe.
   Acts 14:20-22
D. God to us in 1989. Hebs. 3:12,13; 10:24

V. MINISTER THAT WHICH PRODUCES CONFORMITY.
A. God's ultimate objective in redemption. Rom. 8:29
   1. This is far more than a mere profession or testimony.
   2. This will ultimately be accomplished by the transforming grace of God. I John 3:2
B. Paul expressed inward travail and pain for this type of conformity for the saved in the churches of Galatia. Ga. 4:19
C. The idea is expressed by onlookers in Acts 4:13

VI. MINISTER THAT WHICH BRINGS CONSOLATION. John 6:37; Psa. 89:33; I Cor. 10:13

DOUBT and IT'S EFFECT

Sammy Eldredge

Text: Psalm 10:1-18
Intro. It seems all these lessons on our emotional order are connected by the weakness of our flesh.
   A. We all are guilty of these emotions.
   B. And we all are shy about seeking the needed help.

I. THE CAUSE OF DOUBT.
   A. Unbelief (God's Word is full of promises.)
   B. A bad self image will cause us to doubt.
   C. Being forsaken (Or thinking we have been) by a friend or loved one.
   D. Seeing injustices around us.
      1. Not seeing the guilty punished for their crime.
      2. Seeing the righteous suffer while the wicked seem to go free.

II. THE CALCULATION OF DOUBT.
   A. Doubt can be overcome.
      1. It should be as fast as possible.
      2. It is a danger if it isn't.
   B. When not dealt with, doubt can become worse.
   C. It can cause depression and worry.
      1. We have studied the last two weeks on these subjects.
      2. Remember there is hope where God's promises are and they are to all who will believe.

III. THE CONSEQUENCE OF DOUBT.
   A. You can lose spiritual fellowship with God.
   B. Your church will not be as important to you as it should be.
   C. You can't have close friends because of doubts.

IV. THE CURE FOR DOUBT.
   A. Read God's Word.
      1. Many people think because they are familiar with the jest of the Word that they know it.
      2. There are many hidden meanings and cures for doubt, hidden within the words and passages, that can cause us to live happy contended lives.
      3. We can learn to trust others and understand their mistakes.
   B. Believe God's promises.
      1. God is always true.
      2. When we learn this then the Word is much more real and comforting to us.
      3. It will drive away all our doubts and fears.
   C. Live one day at a time.
      1. Most of our fears and doubts are from the unknown part of life.
      2. You can't do anything about what has already happened yesterday.
      3. You cannot know what tomorrow will bring.
      4. Live for today and believe God and love your neighbor and you will be rewarded with a contented life.

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A REVIEW of MAN'S HISTORY

Glen Tropp

Text: Gen. 1:26-30; 2:7, 8; 3:1-8

Intro.
A. A brief explanation of this message format for Sunday morning services.
  1. The Sin
  2. The Shamefulness
  3. The Seed of Woman
  4. The Saviour
B. The beautiful ending that is available for all men is most blessed.

I. THE SPLENDOR OF MAN.

A. His origin. Gen. 1:26, 27; 2:7
  1. Anthropology - the study of man.
  2. Man was not brought into being by evolution or natural development by reason of forces within matter; organic or inorganic.
  3. Man was——
     a. Called into being by an act of creation, Gen. 1:27
     b. Given a physical organism by an act of formation, Gen. 2:7
     c. Made a complete living personal being by final action.
     d. Created in the state of holy moral nature with the intellectual capabilities of communication with God.
     e. Created for fellowship with God - the glory of God and rulership or dominion.
     f. Created as a triune being like God - body - soul - spirit.
        1 Thess. 5:23
B. The original habitat of man.
  2. A place of paradise.
  3. Can you imagine — the beauty, the splendor, and the glory of being in that place — enjoying fellowship with God — reigning in life — and giving glory to the creator.

II. THE SCHEMER AGAINST MAN!

A. The TEXT — Gen. 3:1-8

1. He caused her to doubt God's Word.
2. He caused her to add to God's Word.
3. He caused her to deny God's Word.

B. The TEACHING of Christ - John 10:10
"THE THIEF COMETH NOT, BUT FOR TO STEAL, AND TO KILL, AND TO DESTROY: I AM COME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE, AND THEY MIGHT HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY."

C. The TREACHEROUS appearances of the schemer.

  1. He comes as a roaring lion.
     1 Pet 5:8 "BE SOBER, BE VIGILANT; BECAUSE YOUR ADVERSARY THE DEVIL, AS A ROARING LION, WALKETH ABOUT, SEEKING WHOM HE MAY DEVOUR;"
  2. He comes as an angel of life.
     2 Cor. 11:14 "AND NO MARVEL; FOR SATAN HIMSELF IS TRANSFORMED INTO AN ANGEL OF LIGHT."

D. The TASK of the devil.

  1. Blind the lost. 2 Cor. 4:3, 4
     "BUT IF OUR GOSPEL BE HID, IT IS HID TO THEM THAT ARE LOST.
     V4 IN WHOM THE GOD OF THIS WORLD HATH BLINDED THE MINDS OF THEM WHICH BELIEVE NOT, LEST THE LIGHT OF THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL OF CHRIST, WHO IS THE IMAGE OF GOD, SHOULD SHINE UNTO THEM."

III. THE SIN OF MAN.

A. The fall and it's consequences.
  1. Gen. 3:9-24

B. The foolishness of listening to the devil.

C. The fatality involved in yielding to him.
  1. Death.
  2. Separation.
  3. Defeated life.
  4. Condemnation.

"BRING YE ALL THE TITHES INTO THE STOREHOUSE, THAT THERE MAY BE MEAT IN MINI HOUSE, AND PROVE HEREWITH, THE LORD IF I WILL YOU THE OF HEAVEN, YOU OUT A THAT THERE NOT BE ROOM ENOUGH TO RECEIVE IT." Malachi 3:10
Why Our Labour is not in Vain

Johnny Williams

Text: I Cor. 15:58

Intro. It will be worth it all, when we see Jesus. NOTHING done for Christ is every wasted. EVERYTHING done for Jesus will add to the blessings of this life. ASSURANCE of victory is the motivating force of the christian.

I. WE HAVE A FOUNDATION THAT CANNOT BE MOVED. I Cor. 3:11
A. Foundation of salvation. John 14:6
B. Foundation of the church. Matt. 16:18,19
C. Foundation of the gospel. I Cor. 15:1-4

II. WE HAVE A MESSAGE THAT CANNOT BE CHANGED. Psa. 119:89
A. Men can reject the message.
B. Religions can alter the message.
C. The devil can disrupt the message.
D. No one, no power, no thing can change the message. Truth will be truth for eternity!

III. WE HAVE A CAUSE THAT CANNOT BE DEFEATED. Jude 14,15
A. Elections will not defeat us.
B. Public opinion will not defeat us.
C. Politics will not defeat us.

IV. WE HAVE A GOD THAT CANNOT LIE. Hebs. 6:13-20
A. His holiness will not allow it.
B. His nature will not allow it.
C. His justice will not allow it.

V. WE HAVE A HOPE THAT CANNOT FAIL. Tit.
A. Jesus promised to come.
B. Jesus plans to come.
C. Jesus has a purpose in coming.

VI. WE HAVE A REWARD THAT CANNOT FADE. Matt. 6:19-21
A. The trophies of man tarnish.
B. The praise of man silences.
C. The crown of reward in heaven lasts forever, gracing the feet of Jesus.

VII. WE HAVE A HOME WITH JESUS THAT WILL NOT END.
A. Heaven will be for eternity.
B. Jesus will be with us forever.
C. The beauty will last and brightness will never fade.

God's Forgiveness
1. It is a Fact. Matt. 9:5,6
2. It is Fervent. Luke 7:47
3. It is Full. Psa. 103:12
4. It is Fruitful. Psa. 51:3,12,13
5. It is Faultless. John 8:3-11
6. It is Freedom. Eph. 4:31,32; John 8:32
7. It is Frequent. Matt. 18:21-35

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D.B. Wright--MINISTERING GOD'S WORD
S. Eldredge--THE REJECTED STONE
Roy Hughes --THE MINISTER AND HIS WORK
B.A. Morris --WHERE WE CAN FIND ENCOURAGEMENT
Billy Wright--THEY BELIEVED NOT HE WAS A DISCIPLE
Weeks Dubose--SEEING HIS MAJESTY
Rufus Paris--THE DEACON AND HIS DUTY
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As a SAINT--be holy Rom. 1:7
As a CHRISTIAN--be Christlike. Acts 11:26
As SALT--be pungent. Matt. 5:13
As a LIGHT--be true. Matt. 5:14
As an EPISTLE--be legible. II Cor. 3:2
As a SOLDIER--be valiant. II Tim. 2:3
As a CHILD--be obedient. I Pet. 1:14,15