CAN GOD COUNT ON YOU?

Text: Judges 7:2-7,19-21
Intro. God had chosen Gideon to lead His people to victory over the Midianites. Gideon and 32,000 people gathered together to fight the enemy. The Lord told Gideon to call the army down. There were 22,000 that were fearful and afraid. That left 10,000. Out of 10,000 only 300 were serious and alert and dedicated. There were 9,700 that wanted to satisfy their thirst. This shows us how concerned many of the Lord's people are today. I ask the question, Can God count on you? There is work to be done. Can He count on you? He wants you to stand. He wants you to raise your hand. He wants you to say, Yes Lord, you can count on me.

I. YOU CAN COUNT ON GOD.

A. You can count on His presence.
1. He has promised to be with His churches always. Matt. 28:20
2. The Lord tells us He will never forsake us or leave us. Hebs. 13:5,6
3. He is always there. We can count on His being near and dear to us.

B. You can count on His promises.
1. The Lord has made many precious promises to His people. II Pet. 3:9
2. What God has promised, He is able to perform. Rom. 4:21
3. He has never lied. He has not broken a promise He has made to us.

C. You can count on His pardon.
1. Those who repent of their sins will be pardoned or forgiven. I John 1:9
2. Read the promise in II Chron. 7:14. Remember I John 1:9 and it's promise.
3. God forgives us of our sins as we get right with Him.

D. You can count on His peace.
1. The Prince of peace wants to give you peace. Rom. 5:1
2. Read Col. 3:15 and Phil. 4:7. God's peace is full and complete.
3. We can experience His wonderful peace. Isa. 26:3

E. You can count on His provision.
1. "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." Psa. 23:1
2. He will supply all of our need. Phil. 4:19
3. Read David's testimony in Psa. 37:25

F. You can count on His protection.
1. He is present with us. Hebs. 13:5,6 He will not leave you.
2. Look and consider Psa. 3:5 and Matt. 7:24-26
3. Psalm 33:18-20 tells us the eye of the Lord watches over us.

G. You can count on His power.
1. The Lord is great and mighty in power. Almighty God is His name.
2. He gives power to His churches. Acts 1:8
3. He gives power to individual believers. II Cor. 12:9

H. You can count on His purpose.
1. Without the Lord there is no purpose or reason for living.
2. There is more to it than living and dying.
3. Listen to Paul as he tells us plainly this truth in Phil. 1:21 and 3:10.

II. CAN GOD COUNT ON YOU?

A. Can He count on you to live the Christian life?
1. You are now His child. You are called by His name.
2. His word teaches you how to live for Him. Rom. 12:1
3. You are to walk a different walk. You are to talk a different talk.

B. Can He count on you to be a witness?
1. He saved your soul. He has given you a new life.
2. He wants you to tell others about Him and His salvation. Acts 1:8
3. We witness by life, love, lip, and loyalty.

C. Can He count on you to be faithful to Him and one of His churches?
1. We are to give Him glory in one of His churches. Eph. 3:21
2. We are not to forsake assembling at His house. Hebs. 10:25
3. Many are like Demas who went back into the world because he loved it. II Tim. 4:10
4. Church services call upon us to worship the Lord and live for Him.

D. Can He count on you to sustain one of His churches?
1. Keep it alive by attending regularly.
2. Keep it alive by tithing and giving offerings to the Lord thru her.
3. Keep it alive by using your talents for the Lord in her and working with your might for the Lord.
4. Churches are light houses of God warning all people of the dangers in life and showing them the way.

E. Can He count on you to lead your family in the ways of the Lord?
1. Many fathers and mothers are not living for the Lord and they are not teaching their children about the Lord.
2. Men are to lead their wives in the Lord's service. Husbands and wives are to teach their children the word and ways of the Lord.
3. Your family will gain knowledge through some means. It may be T.V., radio, watching some people, reading materials, etc.
4. We brought them into the world, God help us to show them the best way out.

F. Can He count on you to be a Bible defender?
1. The Bible is inspired of God. II Tim. 3:16,17
2. The Bible is God's precious Word that illumines the mind to the truth. Psa. 119:105
3. It is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness. II Tim. 3:16,17
4. We as God's people need to have a great conviction about God's holy word. The Bible says it and that settles it.

G. Can He count on you to be an example of His love?
1. God is love. I John 4:8 He has proven His love beyond all doubt. John 3:16
2. The greatest of all characteristics in the Christ life is love. I Cor. 13:18
3. Love gives evidence we are His children. I John 3:14
4. Love gives testimony we are His disciples. John 13:34,35
5. We show and express our love to God as we love others.

H. Can He count on you?
1. We live in a world that don't mind making commitments to everyone and everything.
2. God wants you to make a commitment to Him.
3. He wants to be able to count on you. You can count on Him, but can He count on you?
4. Only a DEEP ABIDING LOVE for the Lord will make you faithful and dedicated to Him.
EXCHANGE OF LOVE
James Kirkland

Text: John 19:25-27
Intro. Jesus' and Mary's relationship was unique in some ways because of who He was, but typical in others. Their love for each other comes through in the Scriptures, nowhere more vividly than at the cross. Take a glance at Mary's life; the virtues she demonstrated, before we think of His provision for her. Key words are Presence and Provision.

I. HER PRESENCE IN HIS LIFE. The virtues that surface in her experiences.
   A. Purity. God chose a virgin of the house of David to be the mother of His Son.
   B. Modesty. Her sense of unworthiness to be chosen.
   C. Submission. "THE HANDMAID OF THE LORD."
   D. Joy. At the prospect of His birth.
   E. Devotion. Praise, worship at the temple, and the dedication of her son according to the law.
   F. Concern. When her boy was missing. (The temple incident.)
   G. Reticence. "...pondered (meditated on) all these things in her heart." Metta Thomas: Mary was "one of those women who is remarkable for the things she does not say."
   H. Interest. In what God has designed for her life.
I. Humility. Recognition of Jesus' authority. (Wedding in Cana of Galilee, "Whatever He says to you, do it.")

J. Willingness to let go. For Him to fulfill His call and God's plan for His life. Metta Thomas: "Every mother knows there comes a time in life of her child when she cannot go any farther, and the strongest test of a mother's love is to let her child go with her blessing and understanding. It takes strength and sacrifice to send them on their way, but when their road leads to victory they will want you to share their laurels."

K. Endurance. Pain at the cross. Love that stayed with Him through it all.

II. HIS PROVISION FOR HER.
   A. He provided for her care after His death and departure.
   B. He provided for her salvation.

Con. She loved Him -- when she brought Him into the world, nursed Him, taught Him, scolded Him, watched His ministry, stood by His cross, saw Him after His resurrection -- she loved Him. He loved her -- as her child, when she bathed His face and tended His bruises, when He gently reminded her that He must first be devoted to His heavenly Father; When she stood by Him in His dying hour, when He gave her into the care of the beloved John; when He died for her sins -- He loved her. And when she died, He welcomed her into His heaven.

HOPE
Sammy Eldredge

Text: Psa. 146:1-10
Intro. Hope is defined as the desire of good, accompanied by expectation. To hope means to expect something with confidence.
   A. "My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' Blood and righteousness."
   B. I hope, Jesus comes soon! (My confidence is that Jesus will come soon!
   C. Hope is:

I. THE MEANING TO LIFE.
   A. Can you imagine what life would be like if we did not have hope?
      1. Every time a tragedy happened we would go to pieces thinking of what would happen next.
      2. Paul said if our only hope was in this world, "We are of all people most miserable."
   B. Many people today have hope only in the things of this world.
I. Money is some people's hope.
   It will vanish.
II. Motive to try harder.
   A. When I played football, I remember
      the reason of the game.
      1. We were always facing our own
         goal.
      2. As we drove toward it, it gave
         us hope.
      3. On defense, as we got farther
         away, we would muster hope to
         stop the charge as we looked to-
         wards our goal.
      4. The hope was in the goal we set.
   B. Jesus gave us a goal and that goal
      is heaven and God's will.
      1. We have hope that there is a
         better life.
      2. So we try harder here.
III. A method of holding on.
   A. If there was no chance of things
      getting better, some times we would
      give up.
      1. This is what suicide is all
         about.
      2. But if we have confidence or
         hope in Jesus in the way we
         should we can hold on until it
         is better.
   B. Jesus has given us sufficient pro-
      mises to help us to hold on.
      1. The trouble with most people is
         they do not fully believe the
         promises of Jesus.
      2. My preaching will not help you
         unless you believe the one from
         whom the message comes.
      3. Then hope springs eternal.
IV. Memory of contests already won.
   A. My seminary days.
   B. You have your memories of battles
      won in Christ.
      1. Personal battles.
      2. Financial battles.
   C. As you look back and are truthful
      with yourselves it will help give
      you hope for the future.
      1. Remember, "Jesus is the same
         yesterday, today, and forever."
      2. "In him is no variability nor
         shadow of turning."
   D. If you could trust Him then you
      can now.

V. Mention of a glorious future.
   A. In heaven there will be no trouble
      or trials.
   B. In heaven there will be no big
      you and little me. All will be
      equal and happy.
   C. In heaven there will be no part-
      ing.
   D. In heaven there will be no deform-
      ity.
   E. In heaven there will be no sickness
      or disease.
   F. In heaven there will be no tears.

Con. BUT REMEMBER. Your only hope of
heaven is through JESUS and YOU must re-
ceive Him now. He must be born in your
heart. This is where the hope is, in your
heart where Jesus dwells.

THE SHAMEFULNESS
OF SIN
Glen Tropp

TEXT: Gal. 6:7-10

INTRODUCTION:
A. The summary
   1. The splendor of man.
   2. The scheme against man.
   3. The sin of man.
B. The seriousness of this issue could
determine so many things:
   1. Destiny.
   2. Delightful life.

I. The defining of the terms.
A. Sin
   1. Briefly - Sin is a transgression of
      any law of God.
      - Sin is doing that which is wrong
      or refusing to do that which is
      right.
   2. Specifically -
      a. Sins of omission - the neglect to
         do what the law of God demands.
      b. Sin of commission is the doing
         of anything which God forbids.
III. THE DIVINE EXAMPLES OF VERIFICATION.

A. The shamefulness involved when Cain killed his brother Abel.
   1. The REASON he killed his brother was jealousy because God had accepted Abel's offering but rejected his.
   2. The results
      a. Gen. 4:12
      b. The heart-ache that came upon his parents.

B. The shamefulness involved in the creation during the days of Noah.
   Gen. 6:1-8
   1. The reason he did this - covetousness
   2. The result - 36 men lost their lives.
      Josh. 7:5
      --Achan & his household were destroyed. Josh 7:22-25

C. The shamefulness involved when Achan disobeyed God and took a Babylonish garment, 200 shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold. Josh. 7:21
   1. The reason he did this - covetousness
   2. The result - 36 men lost their lives.
      Josh. 7:5
      --Achan & his household were destroyed. Josh 7:22-25

D. The shamefulness involved when David sinned.
   1. The reason - lustfulness.
   2. The results - The baby died.
      -A man lost his life.
      -Rebellion was seen in his whole household.
      -Psa. 51

E. The shamefulness involved in Ahab and Jezebel's sin. I Kings 21
   1. The reason - covetousness & pride.
   2. The results
         v.17 -- AND THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME TO ELIJAH THE TISHBITE, SAYING, v.18-ARISE, GO DOWN TO MEET Ahab KING OF ISRAEL, WHICH IS IN SAMARIA: BEHOLD, HE IS IN THE VINEYARD OF NABOTH, WHITHER HE IS GONE DOWN TO POSSESS IT, v.19-- AND THOU SHALT SPEAK UNTO HIM, SAYING, THUS SAITH THE LORD, HAST THOU KILLED, AND ALSO TAKEN POSSESSION? AND THOU SHALT SPEAK UNTO HIM, SAYING, THUS SAITH THE LORD, IN THE PLACE WHERE DOGS LICK THY BLOOD, EVEN THINE. v.20-- AND Ahab said to Elijah, hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found thee: because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the Lord.
      b. I Kings 21:23 with II Kings 9:30-36
v-23-AND OF JEZEBEL ALSO
SPEAK THE LORD, SAYING, THE
DOGS SHALL EAT JEZEBEL BY
THE WALL OF JEZREEL.

F. The shamefulness of seeing lives
ruined, parents broken, children
ashamed, churches wrecked.

CONCLUSION: Christ Jesus has come to
forgive and cleanse us from guilt and
shame of sin.

FACING THE
REALITY
OF OUR SIN
D.B. Wright

Text: I John 3:4
Intro.
A. Fools make a mock at sin. Prov.
14:9
B. If you sin against the Lord, be
sure your sins will find you out.
C. I am here to tell you sin DECEIVES,
DISTURBS, DISTRESSES, DESTROYS
lives, hopes, ambitions, dreams,
DISCOURAGES the most dedicated
among God's people, and ultimate-
ly DAMNS the souls of Christ re-
jecters.

Sin HURTS the innocent and the
guilty! Sin HINDERS the work for
which Jesus died! Sin HEAPS
heartache and sorrow upon little
ones, teens, companions, parents,
and senior citizens in their re-
clining years!

Sin DISCOURAGES the Shepherd...
DISTURBS the flock...DESTROYS the
influence and outreach of the
local church...causes DOUBTS and
frustrations in the minds of the
weaker ones.

D. Dr. C.H. Spurgeon observes about
the SNAKE in the grass...MONSTER
in the parlor...called sin.

Sin is any lack of conformity to
the perfect mind of God; or
transgression of the law.
Sin is falling short of the com-
mands of God.
Every thought, or word, or deed,
that is not in perfect conformity
with the law and will of God is
sin.

Sin denies the sovereignty of God.
...Denies His right to govern
our lives. Sin is defiance of
the mighty majesty of God.

E. Two sides to the coin of sin.
1. Amartia...I John 3:4; Rom. 3:23
To miss the mark; A failing
to hit the mark, to err, be
mistaken, to miss or wander
from the path of uprightness
and honor, to do or go wrong.
2. Anomia...Lawlessness, to cut
across, trespass, transgress,
go beyond God's command or
limitations.

F. Sin affords pleasure for a sea-
son. Hebs. 11:25
1. Sin is EXCEEDING SINFUL. Rom.
7:13
2. Sin is DECEITFUL. Hebs. 3:13
3. Sin ENSLAVES. Prov. 5:22

I. WHAT IS SIN?
A. Violation of God's HOLY, JUST,
and GOOD LAW. Rom. 7:12
B. Sin is missing the mark of
DIVINE PERFECTION of ACCEPTABLE
RIGHTEOUSNESS before God, by
God's standards! Matt. 5:48; Rom.
3:23; Rom. 3:10
C. Sin is OMISSION OF, IGNORING,
REBELLING AGAINST GOD'S WILL AND
WAY. James 4:17; Rom. 14:23;
Hebs. 11:6

II. WHO COMMITS SIN?
A. Eccl. 7:20
B. Rom. 3:23
C. Rom. 3:19
D. Rom. 2:14,15
E. I John 1:8,10

III. HOW DOES SIN WORK?
A. Sin DRAWS AWAY FROM GOD. James
1:14,15
B. The case of Satan.
1. Desire: "I will be like God."
2. His word: Undermining God
through his crowning act of
creation-Mankind.
Persecution of Israel.
Temptation of Jesus.
Persecution of the church.
False preachers in pulpits.
C. The case of the wayward son.
1. Desire: "Give me mine."
2. Denial of FATHER's way of life.
3. Departure from Father's house
and will.
4. Desecration of his Father's
PROVISIONS.
5. Destitution: From Father's
house to the hog pen.
6. Decisions: To return, repent,
re-consecrate, rejoice, re-
ceive, and rest.
D. Sin's workings today.
1. Sin HARDENS. Hebs. 3:13
   Pharoah, David, and Herod.
2. Sin HINDERS: Isa. 59:1,2
3. Sin HURTS...self and others
   Cain's sin hurt his parents
   Achan's sin hurt his wife
   and children. King David's
   sin gave the onlookers occasion to
   blaspheme us all.
4. Sin HARMS our Lord's blood
   bought church. Eph. 5:25;
   I Cor. 5:6,7
5. Sin HAUNTS with frequent
   visits and HOUNDS chases and
   nags. Psa. 51:3

IV. WHAT CAN THE SINNER DO?
   A. God has provided a LAMB. Rev.
      13:8.
   B. Matt. 1:21
   C. Romans 5:20
   D. Eph. 2:8
   E. Luke 5:32
   F. Isaiah 55:6,7
   G. I John 1:7
   H. I John 1:9
   I. Romans 6:14

ADD A LITTLE FUEL
TO THE FIRE
Wesley Waldrum

Text: Ezra 3:8–13

Intro.
   A. Israel is released.
      1. From Babylonian captivity.
      2. After 70 years of desolation.
   B. Israel restores worship to God.
   C. Israel began to rebuild.
      1. The Temple had been destroyed.
      2. The whole city was left in
         ruins.
      3. The remnant began rebuilding
         the Temple.
   D. Israel had been rekindled.
      1. The people were getting excited.
      2. Joy and happiness were once again in their hearts. Psa.
         51:12
      3. Christians of today sometimes get into the same condition as Israel did because of
         sin.
      4. Christians that once were strong, dedicated christians, end up being burnt out.
      5. Notice with me 5 things that each of us need to ask ourselves concerning our zeal in
         the christian life. May the Lord help us always keep the fires burning in our lives for
         the Lord.

I. IS YOUR CANDLE GROWING DIM? Matt.
   5:14–16
   A. Is the excitement gone?
      1. Is the excitement of knowing Jesus in your heart gone? Remember when you were first
         saved and how excited you were?
      2. Is the excitement of seeing others saved gone? Of seeing them baptized, join the church,
         and dedicate their lives.
   B. Is the enthusiasm gone?
      1. Can people still see Christ in your life?
      2. Are you still enthused about serving the Lord? Rom. 12:1
   C. Are you still encouraging others?
      1. By the way you live?
      2. By the things you say?
      3. By the places you go to?

II. IS YOUR CONCERN FADING AWAY? What used to be a heart felt concern, is it now something that you don't even worry about?
   A. Lost soul?
      1. Has your witnessing just stopped? Our main concern in life should be to see that others have an opportunity to know Jesus Christ. Rom.
         10:1
      2. Are you particular about who you witness to? Jesus came to seek and save those who are lost. He didn't disqualify anyone, no matter
         how good or how bad, no matter how rich or poor, no matter how pretty or ugly, He came to save all!
      3. Do you care who goes to heaven or who goes to hell? The rich man in hell cared, only when it was too late. Luke 16:28
         Satan's goal is to keep as many out of heaven as he can.
         Christ's goal is to get as many into heaven as He can.
         Child of God who are you helping? Don't wait till it's too late to tell someone.
   B. Lingering saint?
      1. Does it bother you to see a brother or sister in Christ sin? Gal. 6:1,2,10
      2. Does it bother you to see a brother or sister not live their lives for Christ?
   C. Loyalty in service?
      1. Are you becoming less con-
cerned about attending services regularly? Does it bother you to miss a Sunday morning service? More and more Christians think that they can serve the Lord just as well outside the church. Eph. 3:21

III. IS YOUR COMMITMENT GETTING OLD?

A. Are you tired of sacrificing?
1. Your body? Think of the body that Christ sacrificed for you.
2. Your life? Think of the life that Paul and others lived.
3. Your time? Think about the 40 years Moses spent in the wilderness.

B. Are you tired of studying?
1. Much study is wearisome. Eccl. 12:12
2. Much study is needed. II Tim. 2:15

C. Are you tired of starting over?

IV. IS YOUR COURAGE BECOMING WEAK?

A. Because of fighting the battles?
1. It took courage for Joshua to overtake the city of Jericho.
2. It took courage for Gideon to go up against the Midianites and Amalekites with only 300.
3. It took courage for David to go up against Goliath. I Sam. 17:32-50
4. It took courage for Daniel to continue to pray against the King’s order. Dan. 6:10
5. It took courage for Peter and John refusing to obey men rather than God. Acts 5:29

6. Christians are going to face many battles in their lives. Popularity—Peer Pressure—Poverty.
7. Sometimes it seems easier to quit than fight.
8. Standing up for and fighting for God’s truth always pays off.

B. Because of facing the barriers?
1. Satan will place many obstacles in one’s way. Money—Sex—Drugs—Alcohol
2. Face the barriers with Christ. I Cor. 10:13

C. Because of feeling the burdens?
1. Do the burdens of life sometimes drag you down?
2. Do other people drag you down?

3. Bring your burdens to Christ.

V. IS YOUR CANDLESTICK BURNING OUT?
The candlestick is the church. Rev. 2:5 The church at Ephesus had left her first love. The church of Laodicea was in great need of fuel in that church. They were burning out. They were out of the will of the Lord. They were lukewarm. Many churches and church members today are like this, lukewarm, burning out, they need to be refueled. Is your church becoming lukewarm because of you? Are there some things lacking in your life that is causing your church to burn out?

A. Are you lacking in faithfulness? I Cor. 4:2; Luke 17:10
1. Are you still faithful to God?
2. Do you still give faithfully?
3. Do you still have the faith that you once had?

B. Are you lacking in fellowship?
1. Fellowship with God is very important in the Christian life.
2. Fellowship with God’s people is very important.

C. Are you lacking in fruitfulness?
1. So many churches never accomplish anything because the people are not fruitful.
2. God demands His people to be fruitful.
3. Most churches are satisfied and content, never desiring to see souls changed, and people brought into fellowship.
4. Most people feel that it is only the pastor’s job.

Is your candle growing dim? Is your concern fading away? Is your commitment getting old? Is your courage becoming weak? If your fire starts to go out in your Christian life, ADD A LITTLE FUEL TO THE FIRE.