SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH

Text: I Thess. 1:7-10
Intro. There is a great need for the members of this church to seriously consider how much and how well you support your church. We are a New Testament Church. We have God's authority to do His blessed business on earth. This calls for the Lord's people to be as dedicated as possible to make sure and insure the progress of the Lord's work. This demands that each member support our church. Your support will greatly encourage your pastor, church leaders, and our church as a whole.

I. SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH WITH MEETINGS.
   A. Attend regularly.
      1. We all have read and we do remember Hebrews 10:25.
      2. We have heard many sermons on Ephesians 3:21.
      3. You should be here every service. Only sickness, death, or other providential reasons should keep you away.
      4. If you don't have a way to church, we will try to get you a way.
   B. Attend rightly.
      1. Going to church is the right thing to do.
      2. The Lord wants you to, the services will meet your needs, and it sets the right example.
      3. It shows obedience to our precious Lord.
   C. Attend righteously.
      1. Live a righteous life for the honor and glory of God. Tit. 2:12
      2. Many saved people are living in the world, like the world, and it is destroying their love for the Lord. Matt. 24:12; Isa. 59:1,2
      3. When we live for the Lord and develop a close relationship to Him, we will want to go to His house.

II. SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH WITH MONEY.
   A. The illustration.
      1. The tabernacle and its services were supported by the people. Exod. 35:21,22
      2. The temple and its services were supported by the people.
      3. The synagogues were supported by the people.
      4. The Lord intends for His churches to be supported by His people with tithes and offerings. Mal. 3:8-10; Matt. 23:23; I Cor. 9
   B. The importance.
      1. The only way that our church can continue to operate and plan for a future is the tithes of God's people.
      2. Many churches are going out of existence because members are not attending and others are not giving.

Grace Missionary Baptist Church
1823 Aldine Mail Route
Houston, Texas 77039
3. How far could we go, if it depended on your attendance and offerings?

C. The involvement.
1. We need every member involved. We need for more members to recognize God's will and do it.
2. You should give 10% of your earnings to God thru our church. How would you like to live on 10 times as much as you gave today for the week?
3. Give tithes and offerings to our Lord who has done so much for you.

III. SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH WITH MINISTERING.

A. The volunteers.
1. Most of the work done around a church is done thru volunteer labor and love.
2. You are supposed to use your talents for the Lord. If you can teach, sing, work etc., claim God's blessings and do so willingly.
3. We need more people like Isaiah, Here am I send me.

B. The value.
1. Every member needs to find a field of service and work for the Lord.
2. Every church has enough talent, ability, and resources to get the job done.
3. We need members to visit the hospitals, homes of the sick, and sorrowing, and new people.

C. The vision.
1. Downward vision, I don't see a need.
2. Selfish vision, We are doing enough.
3. Upward vision, There are a lot more things that we need to be doing.
4. Godly vision, Lord here am I, send me.

IV. SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH WITH A MODEL.

A. Model living.
1. We need more people who sacrifice in living. Rom. 12:1
2. We need more who will live for the LORD. II. Cor. 5:14,15
3. We need more who will seek God's kingdom and righteousness first. Matt. 6:33

4. We need more who live godly, soberly, and righteously. Tit. 2:12

B. Model longings.
1. Love is one of the greatest gifts. I Cor. 13:3
2. Every saved person can love God's way. John 13:34,35
4. Sin can cause this love to grow cold. Matt. 24:12
5. We can cool our relationship with Christ. Rev. 2:5
This will be seen in our lack of love for one another.

C. Model liftings.

V. SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH WITH MORALE.

A. Morale builder of prayer.
1. The Lord's house should be a house of prayer. Matt. 6:9,15
2. Pray about your service and the problems our church may have.
3. Doing things the wrong way, for the wrong reasons, going around those in charge etc., can result in problems.

B. Morale builder of praise.
1. I love to hear people praise the Lord and talk about the good their church is doing.
2. This church has a testimony that reaches many other nations.
3. Thank God for the great work we are doing.

C. Morale builder of pardon.
1. How we need to be a people that will forgive others. Eph. 4:32
2. A forgiving people is a great example for the Lord Jesus who is our supreme example.
3. Jesus taught us to forgive. Matt. 6:9,15

D. Morale builder of peace.
1. We are to be a peaceable people. John 16:33
2. We are to experience the peace of God. Phil. 4:7
3. We are to live in peace with others.

WHEN GOD FORGIVES OF SIN
Larry Neeley

Text: Col. 1:9-14

Intro.
1. Not to be confused with mom's forgiveness.
2. Divine forgiveness demands complete satisfaction to meet God's holiness.
3. Forgiveness only one of many blessings wrought in God's forgiveness: New nature, new home, new hope.
4. When God forgives sin:

I. GOD PURGES THE RECORD.
A. Every person has a record of sin. Rom. 3:23
B. Sin is a transgression.
C. Sin is iniquity. "If I regard iniquity in my heart." Paul in I Cor. 9:27
D. Sin is error. Psa. 51:4
E. Sin is unbelief. "Because they believe not on me."
F. Sin originated in satan, entered the world through Adam, and has no remedy, but in the blood of Christ.

II. GOD ERASES THE REMEMBERANCE.
B. He will remember all of His future promises.
C. But will not remember our sins. Isa. 43:25

III. GOD EMPOWERS THE RECIPIENT.
A. He empowered a cursing fisherman.
B. He empowered a christian hating Jew (Paul).
C. He empowered a small group who "went everywhere preaching the gospel."

BIBLE CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 22, 1990

HOLY MEN OF GOD
Bobby Grimes

Text: II Pet. 1:20,21

Intro. We are living in a day and time when preachers are under great scrutiny by the world. The recent publicity about the scandals of some well known T.V. evangelists have left all preachers with "black eyes." Beloved, may God help every man listening to this message understand the importance of living a godly life.

As ministers of the gospel and pastor of the Lord's church, we need to realize that the growth of the church is effected by the lifestyle of the man of God. If he has a bad reputation not only will the ministry suffer, but so will the church.
I believe God wants us to be holy men. I believe that's the kind He uses most effectively. Here are 3 things I believe God wants every preacher and pastor to know.

I. OUR CALL TO PREACH IS A PRIVILEGE.
A. Not by the will of man. V21
   1. I am amazed at the number of people who believe a man can just decide or choose to become a preacher.
   2. It is not a choice. It is a call! Eph. 1:7; Gal. 1:1
B. We should be thankful for our call.
   1. Paul was thankful. I Tim. 1:12
   2. Remember the call to preach is a privilege and it can be taken away. That is, God may set us on a shelf when our lives are not what they should be.

II. OUR CALL REQUIRES PURITY.
A. V21 b. These were holy men.
B. God will not use unclean vessels.
C. Paul wrote to Timothy and told him to be an example in purity. I Tim. 4:12
D. He admonished all of us to be pure so that the ministry should not be blamed, approving ourselves as ministers of God by pureness. II Cor. 6:3-6
E. Paul kept his body under control so that he would not become useless to the Lord. I Cor. 9:27

III. OUR CALL RESULTS IN POWER.
VII. A SENSE OF SECURITY. God is in control. Everything that happens makes us more like Him!! Rom. 8:28,29

STANDING IN THE GAP

Bobby Bryant

Text: Ezekiel 22:30

Intro.

A. God is looking for a man. God hung out a sign saying man wanted. 
B. God is looking for a real man in His service. 
C. God is looking for real men in service who will stand in the gap. 
1. It is easy to stand with the crowd. 
2. God wants men who will sometimes stand alone. 
D. God is looking for a man who will stand in the gap for the doctrines and not be moved. 
E. What kind of man does God want?

I. GOD IS LOOKING FOR A MAN WHO WILL STAND IN LOVE.

A. God wants men who will lead His people in love. 
B. A pastor is not a dictator. He is a leader. 
C. Everything he does should be motivated by love. 
D. The Bible teaches that God is love. 
E. We are to serve the Lord in love.

II. GOD IS LOOKING FOR A MAN THAT WILL SET AN EXAMPLE.

A. First, he ought to be an example of studying the Word. 
B. He should be the example in living a separated life.  
1. God is looking for a man who will say no to the world. 
2. God is looking for a man who will be an example in prayer. 
3. God is looking for a man that will be an example in witnessing.

III. GOD IS LOOKING FOR A MAN WHO WILL LISTEN TO HIM.

A. Listen to God as He speaks to you through His word. 
B. Listen to God as He speaks to you through the Holy Spirit. 
C. Listen to God as He speaks to
you through other people.
D. Listen to God as He speaks to you through circumstances.
E. Be wise enough to let God lead you in the path He has laid out for you.

5. Believers in Christ can be something.

I. BELIEVERS IN CHRIST CAN BE LOVERS.
A. We are born again with such a nature.
   1. Shed abroad in our hearts. Rom. 5:5
   2. Partakers of the divine nature. II Pet. 1:4
   3. Love is of God. I John 4:7,8
C. Loving gives a twofold testimony. I John 3:14; John 13:35

II. BELIEVERS IN CHRIST CAN BE LISTENERS.
A. Compliment. Acts 17:11
B. Admonition. Eccl. 5:1
C. Warning. Hebs. 2:1
D. We can LISTEN for the will of God in our life, home, career, business dealings.
E. We can LISTEN for the call of God.
F. We can LISTEN to the cry of lost, hurting, and helpless humanity. Acts 16:9b; 10:22
G. We can LISTEN for cries for help in our home and home church surroundings.
   1. Paul to the church of Corinth. "That we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly, to preach the gospel in the regions beyond you."
   2. Mark 5:19

III. BELIEVERS IN CHRIST CAN BE LEARNERS.
A. Among the first officers of the church were teachers. I Cor. 12:28
B. Paul to Pastor Timothy. II Tim. 2:2
C. Hebrews 5:12
D. God to dads. Eph. 6:4
E. God to older mothers. Titus 2:3-5
F. Get it. Get it once for all. One can no more teach what one does not know than one can return from where one has never been.
G. To be teachers we must first be pupils and students of the word under God's teachers. I Pet. 3:15; II Tim. 2:15

IV. BELIEVERS IN CHRIST CAN BE LIGHTS.
A. Paul to Corinth. "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, HATH SHINED IN OUR HEARTS..."
B. Jesus is light and lights every one. John 1:9
C. It was through a Light from heaven that God got the attention of the chief of sinners. I Tim. 1:15
   Acts 22:6
D. Satan knows the power of the CHRISTIAN LIGHT. II Cor. 4:4
E. Believers in Christ are designated
lights along the pathway of others. Eph. 5:8
1. As John the Baptist we can be burning and shining lights. John 5:35
2. We can be light that aids others in seeing their way to God through Christ. Luke 8:16; Matt. 5:16

V. BELIEVERS IN CHRIST CAN BE LEADERS.
A. Human beings need a peer or leader. Jer. 10:23
B. Believers have the PERFECT LEADER. Psa. 23:3; John 10:4; John 8:12
C. We, too, are to be leaders. I Cor. 11:1; John 1:40,42
   1. Andrew was a leader of his own brother.
   2. Wives can lead husbands by daily godly conduct. I Pet. 3:1,2
   3. An appeal with a timely observation. I John 2:6;

VI. BELIEVERS IN CHRIST CAN BE LIFTERS.
A. WE can lift up HOLY HANDS in prayer. I Tim. 2:8
B. We can lift up helping hands.
   1. As Aaron and Hur "STAYED UP HIS HANDS." Exod. 17:12
   2. Lifting up others in prayer. Eph. 6:19
   3. Lifting burdens of others. Acts 6:4; Gal. 6:2,10; I John 3:17

OUR IDENTITY IN THE LAST DAYS
B.A. Morris

Text: Jude 1,2
Intro. The book of Jude is the link between church epistles and Revelation. The subject matter of Jude is apostasy and the apostate. It issues an alert to apostasy and admonishes to stand for the faith.

I. WHO JUDE WAS?
A. Jude was the human writer of this letter.
   1. All scripture is inspired. II Tim. 3:16,17
   2. The subject material is apostasy and the apostate.
   3. An apostate claims experience with his lips, but not in his heart.
   4. Apostasy is a turning away from the truth. II Tim. 4:3,4
B. Jude maintains a heavenly relationship to Jesus Christ.
   1. Jude felt that he was bound to service of God. He was a bond slave.
   2. Bond slave is one whose will and capacities are wholly at the service of another.
   3. A bond servant is lowest scale of servitude, but when used it expresses the highest devotion of one who is bound by love.

C. Jude maintains an earthly relationship to Jesus Christ.
   1. He did not claim relation to Jesus Christ, but a brother to James.
   2. James and Jude were step brothers

II. WHO ARE WE?
A. We are the Beloved (sanctified) of God.
   1. The Beloved have accepted the love of God, in Christ, and are saved.
   2. The Beloved are set apart (sanctified) for God only. Sanctified means preserved or called.
   3. Illust. When a man and woman marry, they are set apart for each other.
   4. As God's beloved, he has shown a strange (what manner) love to us. I John 3:1

B. We are preserved (continually kept) in Jesus Christ.
   1. God is able to keep us from stumbling. Jude 24; II Tim. 1:12
   2. Song: "Holding on to God's unchanging Hand." No. God holds to us.
   3. God will not be lax in his keeping us. Psa. 121:3

C. We have been issued an official summons (called).
   1. God is the one who takes the initiative toward man.
   2. It is God who does the saving of the soul.
   3. It is God who begins a good work in us. Phil. 1:6

III. WHAT DO WE HAVE?
A. WE have the mercy of God.
   1. This mercy is an upward relationship with God.
   2. Mercy is a feeling of sympathy toward the miserable desiring their relief.
   3. God is rich in mercy.
   4. We can come with assurance to God for mercy. Hebs. 4:16

B. We have peace within our heart.
   1. This peace is an inward experience of a relationship with ourselves.
   2. This peace is the absence of strife and disturbance.
C. We have love.
   1. This love makes it possible to have a relationship with others.
   2. His love is in one becoming of salvation. I John 2:7,8
   3. This love is a love for self and others. John 13:34,35

THE CHRISTIAN AND SUFFERING
Charles Swilling

Text: I Pet. 4:14-19

I. THE CALMING EXTRAORDINARY. V14
   A. The reproach.
   B. The reaction. Matt. 5:11
   C. The result.

II. THE CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE. V15,16
   A. The fact. I Pet. 2:20,21
   B. The folly.
   C. The fruit.

III. THE CONVICTION EXHORTED. V17
   A. The Judge. II Tim. 4:8
   B. The judged. II Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:11-15
   C. The judgment. I Thess. 1:5

IV. THE COMMITMENT EXERCISED. V19
   A. The cruelty.
   B. The consideration. I Pet. 2:22, 23

V. THE CONSOLATION ENJOYED. V19
   A. The will of God.
   B. The faithful Creator. Phil. 4:19; II Cor. 12:9
   C. The happiness. Vl4; Acts 5:41

BOAT PEOPLE
R.H. Ledford

Text: Matt. 14:27-29

Intro.

A. Spiritually, we are called to get out of the boat of ordinary and walk on water.
B. Peter, a man with a built-in repulsion for being ordinary.

I. SOME THINGS WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WALKING ON WATER.
   A. This challenge may confront us unexpectedly.
   B. The walk of faith enlarges, but never endangers.
   C. Set identities straight before you get out of the boat.
   D. Getting out of the boat is an opportunity for victory.

II. SOME REASONS FOR GETTING OUT OF THE BOAT.
   A. Our dissatisfaction of boat life.
   B. Boat life is dull.
   C. Boat life is guilt-ridden.
   D. Boat life is a life of helplessness.
   E. Boat life is unproductive.
   F. Boat life is unchallenged and unproductive.

III. SOME REQUISITES FOR WALKING ON WATER.
   A. The desire to get where Jesus is must be greater than the fear of the unknown.
   B. There must be a willingness to fail. Peter was willing to be a failure, but not one who never tried.
   C. There must be a commitment to Jesus.
   D. The first step must be taken.

IV. CERTAIN RULES FOR WALKING ON WATER.
   A. Normal rules don't apply. Boat rules won't work.
      1. Must come to place in life where you had rather sink rather than spend rest of life on the boat.
   B. Don't listen to people on the boat. They are boat people.

V. REWARDS FOR LEAVING THE BOAT.
   A. Get out instead of hiding in the crowd.
   B. As Peter, you get to fail. It gave him opportunity to cry, "Lord save me."
   C. Victories begin with the problem of failure.
      1. You get to be rescued.
      2. You get to go to Jesus.
3. You get to walk with Jesus.
4. You get where you are going.
5. You get to worship Jesus.
6. The Lord beckons us all to a higher life.

SECURING SPIRITUAL STICKABILITY

Text: Psalms 62:1-12

Intro:

A. The simile.
1. Many experiences of life look to outsiders like a tombstone hung around our neck, but really it was only a weight necessary to keep us down while we collected pearls.
2. Afflictions are weights which are not sent to crush us, but only to enable us to gather the precious pearls of divine truth, and to add to our rich stores of Christian experience.

B. The setting.
1. Look at the experiences of the psalmist. His experiences not only taught him and enriched his life, but also through his writings others have been benefited and blessed.
2. Note the division of this Psalm.
   a. He speaks to his enemies 1-4
   b. He speaks to himself. 5-7
   c. He speaks to his friends.8-11
   d. He speaks to the Lord. 12
   a. V2 He was afraid he would be disturbed and overcome just a little.
   b. V6 After contemplating upon the Lord, he becomes radiantly optimistic and gloriously dogmatic, and exultingly shouted, "I shall not be moved."
   c. The fears of life flourish in the dark, but if you drag them out into the light of His presence, tell Him all about them, you shall be led to a sure ground of confidence. "I shall not be moved."
4. There are some things that seek to move us. The thrust of this message is on how we can secure spiritual stickability.

I. SATAN SEeks TO MOVE US.
   A. The Biblical exemplification of this concept.
      1. David was moved to number Israel. II Sam. 24:1; I Chron. 21:1
      2. David was greatly moved and terrible were the results.
         I Chron. 21:9-17
   B. The believers encounter with this conniving enemy.
      1. Satan seeks to move us to do those things which are wrong.
      2. He is perpetually plotting our overthrow.
      3. Psalms 21:7

II. SIN SEeks TO MOVE US.
   A. This motivation is exemplified in the life of Joseph.
      1. Acts 7:9
      2. Sin in all it's varied forms seeks to move us to do wrong.
   B. The meaning perceived.
      1. The slyness of this motivation needs to be realized.
      2. It is not only a temptation from without, but more dangerous, it is one from within.
      3. Beware of the little enemies entrenched within us. They are: greed, slothfulness, excessiveness, envy, anger, sinful pride, and impurity.
      4. The indweller that can help us or overcome for us. Psa. 46:5; I John 4:4

III. OUR SUFFERING AFFLICTIONS SEEK TO MOVE US.
   A. The reality. I Thess. 3:1-3
   B. The response to these afflictions.
      1. Negatively we should not be moved to complaining, murmuring, rebellion, resentment, or bitterness.
      2. Positively. Psa. 55:22
   C. The reasoning.
      1. We must be realistic and realize somethings. Job 14:1
      2. The thing that we must be concerned with is our reaction to our sufferings and afflictions.

IV. OUR SEEMINGLY FRIENDS SEEK TO MOVE US.

Happy Holidays