DON'T CALL THE DOGS YET!

Text: II Tim. 4:6-10
Intro. A preacher friend of mine not long ago said, "I called the dogs last Sunday." I didn't understand what he meant by that. He explained these were words a hunter used. When a hunter is through hunting he calls the dogs and goes home. The preacher friend had resigned his church the last Sunday. That is what he meant by saying, I called the dogs last Sunday. Later on he sent the dogs back out. I thought about what he had said for awhile and I knew there had to be a sermon in there somewhere. Many saved people have called the dogs. They have quit hunting. They have quit serving the Lord. My friend, don't call the dogs yet! There is too much to be done and too little time to do it in.

I. THERE ARE SOULS TO BE REDEEMED.
A. The sinner.
   1. People are sinners by birth and nature. Psa. 51:5
   2. We became sinners through our forefather Adam. Rom. 5:12
B. The sin.
   1. Everyone has sinned against God. Rom. 3:23
   2. The wages of sin is death. Rom. 6:23
   3. We are to seek to win them to the Lord. II Cor. 5:20
C. The Saviour.
   1. Jesus Christ is man's only Saviour. Acts 4:12
   2. Jesus is our sin offering. I Pet. 2:24
   3. He satisfied God's justice. Isa. 53:11
D. The salvation.
   1. Man needs to be saved from his awful terrible condition. Eph. 2:1-3
   3. Man must trust Jesus to save his soul. Acts 16:32

II. THERE ARE SERVANTS TO BE RECLAIMED.
A. The sinner.
1. It is possible for saved people not to be the soldiers described in II Tim. 4:2.
2. We can get entangled in the world's pleasure.

B. The sin.
1. The Lord said the cares of life, deceitfulness of riches, and pleasure can ensnare us. Matt. 13:22
2. We can allow other things to claim our attention.

C. The Saviour.
1. The Lord has chosen us to be soldiers. II Tim. 2:1,2
2. We are to seek His righteousness and kingdom first. Matt. 6:33

IV. THERE ARE SAINTS TO BE REASSURED.

A. The sinner.
1. The trials and troubles can get us down spiritually.
2. Instead of exercising faith in the Lord, we can have doubts and fears.

B. The sin.
1. The devil can get us to questioning God and His word and will.
2. We take our eyes off the Lord and His word.

C. The Saviour.
1. Listen to Jesus in John 14:1 He doesn't want us worried.
2. Our faith is to be in Him in all circumstances and situations. Prov. 3:5,6; Matt. 8:23-27

D. The sureness.
1. Paul was persuaded of some things and He knew some things. II Tim. 1:12
2. Listen to Job's firm belief and conviction. Job 19:25
3. Listen to Paul in Rom. 8:28.

V. THERE IS A SAVIOUR TO REJOICE IN.

VI. THERE ARE SCRIPTURES TO BE REMEMBERED.

A. The sinner.
1. We are to study God's word. II Tim. 2:15
2. We may not read or study His word regularly.

B. The sin.
1. We may love this present world.
2. We may get too busy to read and study the word.

C. The Saviour.
1. Jesus calls upon us to gain knowledge and grace. II Pet. 3:18
2. His Holy Spirit teaches us the truth. I Cor. 2:12,13

D. The Scriptures.
1. They are inspired of Almighty God. II Tim. 3:16
2. They are profitable. II Tim. 3:16,17
3. They are food for growth. I Pet. 2:2

VII. THERE ARE SINS TO BE REPENTED OF.

A. The sinner.
1. Even saved people sin against God. I John 1:9,10
2. Sometimes death maybe more desirable than repenting and doing right.

B. The sin.
1. Our sins can clutter life up.
2. We can deny, cover up, excuse, justify, or ignore sin.

C. The Saviour.
1. The Saviour calls out to us to obey I John 1:9.
2. He is faithful and just to forgive us of sin.

D. The sins.
1. The Lord wants to reason with us about sin. Isa. 1:18
2. He wants to remove them from us. Psa. 103:12

VIII. THERE IS STRENGTH TO BE RECEIVED.

A. The sinner.
1. We are weak and needy creatures.
2. Cares, troubles, pain, and people can take our strength.

B. The sin.
1. We must confess our weakness. II Cor. 12:9
2. Too often pride prevents us from claiming God's strength.

C. The Saviour.
1. The Saviour calls to us to receive His strength.
2. He is our rock and strength. Psa. 23:1
3. He is our rock of support. Matt. 7:24,25

D. The strength.
1. It is enabling strength. Phil. 4:13
2. It is efficient strength. II Cor. 12:9
3. It is enough strength. Psa. 23:1
4. It is enduring strength.

Con. God's word teaches men will get worse and worse. II Tim. 3:13 Prevaling sin will destroy our strength and love for the Lord, if we allow it to. We may feel like calling the dogs and giving up the fight of faith and go back out into the world. Don't call the dogs yet. There is too much to be done for the Lord. Keep your eyes on the Lord and your ears open unto His word.

THE WAY TO FIGHT THE DEVIL
By Charles Swilling

Text: I Pet. 5:6-10

I. THE ADMONITION. V.6
A. The surrender.
B. The submission. James 4:7
C. The servant. I Sam. 3:10

II. THE ASSISTANCE. V.7
A. The person. Micah 7:18,19
B. The power. Hebs. 4:16

C. The procedure. V.7
D. The promise. Psa. 23:1

III. THE ADVERSARY. V.8
A. His boldness.
B. His blindness. II Cor. 4:4
C. His blasphemy. II Cor. 11:13-15
D. His business.

IV. THE ASSOCIATION. V.9
A. With commandments. II Tim. 3:16,17
B. With church. Jude 3
C. With christians. Acts 2:41-44

V. THE ADVANCEMENT. V.10
A. The schooling. II Pet. 3:18
B. The establishing. Eph. 4:14
C. The strengthening. II Cor. 12:9
D. The settling. Eph. 3:17

WHAT THE SAVED CAN SEE
By Wesley Waldrum

Text: Numbers 13:17,18,26-33

Intro.
A. Notice the commission. V2
1. The Lord commanded Moses to send 12 men into the land of Canaan to search it out.
2. One man from each of the 12 tribes of Israel.
3. Moses chose leaders out of these tribes.

B. Notice the Cannaan journey.V17-23
1. They saw a fruitful land.
2. They saw a land flowing with milk and honey.
3. They saw giants in the land.
4. They felt like grasshoppers.

C. Notice their countenance fell.V28
1. Ten of the spies felt they couldn't conquer the land that God gave them.
2. They only trusted in themselves.
3. They feared obstacles.

D. Notice the courage of Joshua and Caleb. V30
1. They saw things differently. I Cor. 2:14
2. Joshua and Caleb saw things differently because of their relationship with God!
3. Saved people today see things differently from the rest of
the world because of their relationship with God.

4. Saved people can see things and understand things from a spiritual standpoint of view.

I. THEY CAN SEE HOPE!

A. They can see hope in the Father.
   1. Psa. 38:15
   2. In His Godhead.
   3. In His creation.
   4. In His Second Coming. Tit. 2:11-14

B. They can see hope in their faith!
   1. Heb. 11:1
   2. Our faith allows us to have hope in:
      a. The Virgin Birth.
      b. The Bible we believe in.
      c. Our eternal salvation. Tit. 1:2

C. They can see hope in their fight.
   1. I Tim. 6:12
   2. Josh. 14:11
      a. This mountain was Mt. Hebron.
      b. This mountain belonged to giants; the sons of Anak.
      c. We are told that he drove out the 3 sons.
   3. Just as Caleb had hope and faith in his fight, we to have that same hope.
   4. Our battles belong to the Lord. We just need to quit trying to fight them ourselves.

D. They can see hope in their future.
   1. Many people give up on life because they have no hope in the future. (Teenage suicide is a growing problem among our teenagers today.)
   2. Saved people have a hope. They have a hope in their future with the Lord.
   3. Joshua and Caleb saw a hope in their future. They saw a land flowing with milk and honey.

II. THEY CAN SEE HAPPINESS. Psa. 146:5

A. During times of destruction.
   1. Many people are faced with times of destruction and devastation in their lives.
      a. Remember Job and all that he lost and all that he suffered.
      b. Job saw a hope and happiness in God.
   2. Many people cannot handle destruction and devastation in life.
      a. Many commit suicide.
      b. Many blame God.
      c. James 1:13
      d. Many give up serving God.
   3. Saved people see happiness in times of destruction.
      a. God's Word tells us that we are able to overcome and withstand any temptations in our lives.

B. During dangerous times.
   1. Remember when David went up against Goliath? I Sam. 17
   2. Remember when Elijah was up on Mt. Carmel with 450 of Baal's prophets? I Kings 18
   3. Remember when Paul was on Mars Hill? Acts 17
   4. Matt. 5:10-12
   5. God gives saved people vision in dangerous times.

C. During death times.
   1. All people will experience times of death of loved ones and friends.
   2. But God can and will give us the comfort, joy, and grace, to see each of us get thru these times.
   3. Remember David when he lost his son? II Sam. 12:23

III. THEY CAN SEE HILLTOPS!

A. When they are in the valleys.
   1. Psa. 23:4
   2. When God's people are at their lowest in life, they can look up and see a hilltop. Jesus is that Hilltop.
   3. He is there to pick us up when we fall.
   4. He is there to pick us up when we get knocked down.

B. When we're surrounded by a vain world.
   1. Eccl. 1:2
   2. I Kings 19:13-18 Remember when Elijah thought he was the only one serving God? He thought that all the rest of the people were wicked. But God said that there were 7,000 men who had not yet bowed their heads to Baal.
   3. Sometimes God uses the wickedness of mankind to help make us see that we can only trust Him.

C. When trapped by the vises of pressure and temptations.
   1. We all seemed to be trapped by pressures and temptations sometime or another in our life.
   2. People are looking to and for everything to help relieve themselves of these problems like drugs and alcohol.
   3. God has the only way to escape and that is thru Him.
   4. I Cor. 10:13
IV. THEY CAN SEE A HOPE!
   A. The saved have an inherited home.
      1. Rom. 8:17
      2. James 2:5
   B. The saved have an incorruptable home.
      1. A home not built out of hay or stubble.
      2. A home that has a sure foundation.
      3. A home that has no sin in it.
      4. A home that will always last.
   C. The saved have an incomparable home.
      1. John 14:2,3
      2. The saved have a home that is like no other home they have ever seen.
      3. That heavenly home is being built by our Lord.

COMING HOME TO BETHEL
THE HOUSE OF GOD

By David Snelson II

Text: Gen. 31:13; 33:18-20; 35:1-3

Intro. Little Jimmie wandered and got lost from his mother in a busy down town crowd. In fright, he begin to cry out, I'm lost. I wanna go home. Please help me get home. Some of those passing by begin to stop and give him money hoping to calm him down until he could find his way home. Finally, a police officer came over and said, Son, come with me, I'll help you get home. Little Jimmie looked up through his tear drenched eyes and said, I don't want to go home now, officer, just go away, and don't say anything. You see, Jimmie had decided he could do better away from home for a while. What a picture of Jacob. Bethel was his first real place of worship. It was his home church so to speak. God instructed him to come back home to Bethel and worship. But on the way back to Bethel, Jacob saw potential gain in Shechem and decided to pitch his tent for a while. After, almost losing everything he had, God again reminds Jacob to come back home to Him and Jacob finally said,"Let us arise and go up to Bethel." My prayer today is that this Homecoming will not just be a coming home to a place, or a building, or a people but that this will be YOUR homecoming to God.

I. GOD WANTED JACOB TO COME BACK TO REFRESH MEMORIES.
   A. It was at Bethel that Jacob felt the first pull of God to receive Him as Lord and Saviour.
   B. Gen. 28:11-15 tells us of the dream of the latter from earth to heaven and the Lord above it.
   C. The message was personal. I am the Lord God of your grand father and your daddy, put your trust in me and I will be your God also and will take care of you.
   D. Jacob responded with fear and gladness (an odd combination) and erected a marker there and called it "Bethel", the House of God. These are the things God wanted Jacob to remember.
   E. Do you have a Bethel, a place where you first heard God's personal message to you? The place where you recognized God and His greatness and yourself as a sinner in need of a Saviour. Grace M.B.C. is my Bethel.
   F. Perhaps God has brought you back here today to refresh your memory of the wonderful times He has spoken to you and dealt with you at this place.

GOD WANTED JACOB TO COME BACK AND RESTORE FELLOWSHIP.

A. Jacob was surely out of fellowship.
   1. He had tried to use breeding tricks to make his herd increase and his father-in-law's decreased. Chapter 30:37-43
   2. He had tried to buy his brothers friendship when he was afraid of them. 32:4,5
   3. He allowed his daughter, Dinah to get mixed up with worldly people. 34:1
   4. Then Simeon and Levi, Jacob's sons followed their father's pattern of trickery and got him in a terrible mess.
   5. On top of these factors we see in 35:2 that Jacob had allowed false worship in his household all along.

B. The Lord still wanted Jacob to return and worship Him. What mercy. 35:11
   1. The Lord not only desires our worship but He seeks us out. "But the hour cometh and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him." John 4:23 He sought out Jacob.
   2. And when we set our hearts to return God will not let anything stand in the way of our restored fellowship. (V5. God put fear in the hearts of those who would have stopped them).
C. Jacob was ready to return now. This was one Homecoming he wasn't going to miss.
   1. V2 "Put away your sin. Repent and clean up your lifestyle." Jacob said.
   2. V3 We are going back to the house of the Lord for worship.
   3. V4 Jacob hid them-literally buried them-they had a house cleaning and buried the trash.
   4. V6,7 It was a day of confession and worship.

D. V9 Note how the Lord responded. His presence was there and He forgave and blessed Jacob.

E. Is God calling you to come back home? Is He seeking you out? Is your tent still pitched in Shechem? Do you need to restore that fellowship you once had with God and re-establish true worship? God is waiting to forgive and bless. Don't waste anymore time.

III. THE LORD WANTED JACOB TO REMEMBER HIS POSITION.
A. V10 Your name and nature is Jacob-meaning trickster, supplanter, deceiver. You shall not have that name anymore.
B. V10 Israel-Prince of God shall be your name.
C. Stop being Jacob and start being Israel. (Act like a prince instead of a pauper.)
D. Perhaps God wants you at this Homecoming to be reminded that He has called you out of darkness into His marvellous light. That you are now a child of the King. Remember your position. You don't have to serve satan.

IV. THE LORD WANTED JACOB TO RECLAIM HIS PROMISES.
A. V11,12 I am God, listen to me this time.
   1. I will bless your children.
   2. I will provide your needs.
   3. I am with you and will keep you. 28:15
   4. All the people of the earth will be blessed through you and your children who follow me.

B. Who else can promise these things for our life and then even more for eternity?
C. Have you forgotten what God has promised to those who believe in Him and trust Him and live for Him. They are the greatest promises ever made and God never fails to keep them.

D. Let this Homecoming be a time of reclaiming God's promises to you.

CORRECTION: The price of the books GROWING IN GRACE and BIBLE STUDY is $2.00 plus 50¢ postage for each book. The advertisement was misleading in the last issue of the paper.

BELIEVERS CAN DO SOMETHING

By D. B. Wright

Text: James 1:22-25

Intro.
A. Christian happiness comes in DOING. John 13:17
B. Blessings come as a result of doing. Eccl. 11:6; Psa. 126:5,6
C. Every saved person is both SAVED and CALLED to be DOERS. Eph. 2:10; 4:1
D. Failure or neglect in doing the known will of God constitutes SIN! James 4:17
E. Believers are to DO while they can.
   1. Jesus left the example. John 9:4
   2. Eccl. 9:10 In youth. Eccl. 12:1 In old age. Eccl. 11:6
   3. Older ones have WISDOM, INSIGHT, and EXPERIENCE, don't become idle.

I. BELIEVERS CAN BUILD AND/OR REPAIR ALTARS TO GOD.
A. Before there was a CHURCH BUILDING THERE WERE ALTARS erected to God.
   1. Gen. 8:20 Noah built an altar unto the Lord.
March 1990

B. God’s commandment to Jacob. Gen. 35:1

C. Altars BELIEVERS CAN BUILD today!
   1. The altar of separation. Gal. 6:14; II Cor. 6:17
   2. GOOD REASON FOR THIS ALTAR.
      I Cor. 15:33; I Cor. 5:6
   3. Believers can build altars of PRESENTATION.
      a. Present ourselves. Rom. 12:1; II Cor. 8:5; Isa. 6:8
      b. Dedicate our own. Josh. 24:15; I Sam. 1:27,28; II Tim. 3:15
      c. We return His part. Psa. 96:8; Mal. 3:10; I Cor. 16:2

   a. Worship. Psa. 95:6,7
   b. Give to the Lord glory. Psa. 96:8,9
   c. Psa. 107:2,8
   d. Col. 3:16

5. Certainly there is a great need for believers to build ALTARS OF PRAYER to God. Luke 18:1;
   I Thess. 5:17; Acts 16:13; Acts 10:9

D. There may be need to REPAIR some of these altars!

II. BELIEVERS CAN BUILD AND MAINTAIN A SANCTUARY UNTO GOD!

A. God to Moses. Exodus 25:8
B. Jesus in Matthew 18:20.
C. Jesus is the masterbuilder. Matt. 16:18
D. Paul to Corinth. I Cor. 14:12
E. Build AN HOUSE OF PRAYER. Matt. 21:13
F. Build a GOSPEL PUBLISHING STATION. Mark 16:15; II Tim. 4:1
G. Build a PLACE OF COMMUNION WITH JESUS! Matt. 18:20; Rev. 1:13; Matt. 28:20

III. BELIEVERS CAN BUILD A ROOM...FOR THE HOLY MAN OF GOD.

A. Study Romans 10:15b.
B. Heed the admonition of Psalm 105:15.
C. Be warned by II Kings 2:23,24.
E. Believers are UNDER DIVINE ORDERS TO RESPECT GOD’S APPOINTED LEADER. I Cor. 11:1; Heb. 13:7
   2. Counted WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOR. I Tim. 5:17,18
F. Paul taught the Church of Corinth that HIS MINISTRY SHOULD BE EXPANDED BY THEIR HELP. II Cor. 10:15,16

G. Remember that beautiful Old Testament example? II Kings 4:9,10
   1. Believers ought to build ROOM IN THEIR HEARTS AND HOMES for the man of God.
   2. Happiest times in my childhood was enjoyed when God’s man spent the day and night.

BELIEVERS CAN BUILD-UP THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST BY BEARING THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION TO OTHERS!

A. Beginning in our homes.
   1. The example of Eunice. II Tim. 3:15
   2. The example of Andrew. John 1:40-42
   3. The instruction of Peter to wives. I Pet. 3:1,2
B. Testifying to and BEFORE FRIENDS. Mark 5:19
C. Telling the OLD GANG about what has happened in your life, home, etc. John 4:28,29
D. On the streets and highways or any public place where PEOPLE ARE. Acts 8:29,30
E. Every soul led to be saved by faith in Jesus becomes a LIVING STONE in the HOUSE OF GOD! I Pet. 2:5

CORRECTION: We made a mistake. The sermon printed in the Jan-Feb issue entitled WHO IN HELL-WOULD OF THOUGHT IT? was not a sermon by Glen Tropp. It was a sermon by Muncy Harris. I am sorry for the mistake.

I WANT TO RECEIVE THE PAPER

NAME ____________________________
ADDRESS __________________________
CITY __________________ STATE & ZIP __________________
CHANGE OF ADDRESS NEW SUBSCRIPTION
OLD ADDRESS ______________________
PRAYER

Text: Matthew 6:6

Introduction:

A. The Assumption
   1. These words in this verse, are a great assumption concerning prayer - not a commandment.
   2. He assumed his disciples would give themselves to the habit of prayer.

B. The Advice
   1. He gave them some wonderful instructions concerning errors to avoid and procedures to follow in the practice of prayer.
   2. He warned them against praying like the hypocrites who prayed to impress others.

C. The thoughts about prayer.
   1. The prayer closet is the best school for Christian workers.
   2. Prayer is a promoter of activity for it puts one at the disposal of God.
   3. Prayer means warfare and everytime we pray we possess more of the enemy's ground.
   4. Praying will make one cease from sinning and sinning will make one cease from praying.
   5. The prayer that ascends highest comes from the lowest depths of a humbled heart.
   6. Prayer is not a device for getting our wills done through heaven, but a desire that God's will may be done on earth--through us.
   7. Prayer must not come from the roof of the mouth but the root of the heart.

D. Consider with me - Why Jesus assumed we should pray? - We should pray

I. Because God Is Our Heavenly Father

A. The Perfect Example - Jesus Prayed.
   1. He hungered for fellowship.
   2. He hungered for strength that came through dialogue with the heavenly Father.

B. He assumed that all of God's Children would feel this way.

C. We have a wise and generous Father.

II. Because Of The Hideous Enemy - The Devil.

A. He seeks to trip us up in our actions, articulations, ambitions and attitudes.

B. Jesus was attacked by this hideous enemy.
   Matthew 4:1-11
   C. I Peter 5:8
   D. James 4:7-8

III. Because Of The Hardships We Face.

   A. Suffering is in the pathway of each of us sooner or later.
   1. We should bring our cares to him.
   2. I Peter 5:7
   B. Sufficiency for our needs can be found through prayer.

IV. Because Of The Help We Stand In Need Of

   A. Our Lord gave Himself continuously to the practice of prayer.
   B. It restored the vital energies of God to His life as He faced lies burdens and responsibilities.
   C. It brought the freshness of God's grace into His life continually.
   D. When we neglect the private place of prayer - we do so to our own impoverishment.

Prayer prevents: FEAR of the unknown, FAINTING from stress, FAILURE in our circumstances, FOOLISH ways, FORGETTING the Lord's blessings, and FATALISTIC attitudes.