HOW TO KEEP YOUR SANITY IN A CRAZY WORLD

Text: Prov. 3:1-8
Intro. We are living in a crazy time. The changes in the political, social, moral, medical etc., worlds are unbelievable. Man has it better financially, materially, and comfortably and yet with all we have there is less happiness and contentment and much more mental, emotional, nervous, and depression pressure than ever before. In a fast paced, changing, and wicked world, how can we as God's people keep our sanity or soundness of mind? Sometimes you hear people say, I think I am losing it or I think I have lost my mind.

I. KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE LORD.
   A. He is our pattern.
      1. "...leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps." I Pet. 2:21
      2. He did no sin. No guile was found in Him. He didn't revile or threaten. I Pet. 2:22
      3. He committed himself (His cause) to Him that judgeth Righteously. I Pet. 2:23
   B. He is our Pilot.
      1. No man knows how he should direct his steps. Jer. 10:23
      2. Jesus lived for us. He has gone before us and He can pilot us the best.
      3. You can trust Him with all your heart. Text.
      4. He won't mislead you. He won't misguide you. He knows the way. John 14:6
   C. He is our protection.
      1. He sustains me day by day. Psa. 3:5
      2. He will never leave me or forsake me. Hebs. 13:5,6
      3. He is my Shepherd each day, every day, and all the day. Psa. 23:1
   D. He is our peace.

II. KEEP YOUR EARS OPEN TO THE WORD OF GOD.
   A. The truth.
      1. God's word is truth. John 17:17 It is inspired. II Tim. 3:16
      2. It is food for the soul. I Pet. 2:2
      3. God's word tells us of the past, present, and future.
      4. Many warnings are given about the end time. I John 4:1

Charles Swilling
1. The Lord will keep us in perfect peace. Isa. 26:3
2. We will face tribulation, but Jesus gives us blessed peace. John 16:33
3. Jesus can calm you in the storms of life. Matt. 8:26

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warns us and encourages us not to lose faith.

B. The trust.
1. The issue we face as believers is can or will we trust God.
2. Our trust is dependant on what we know about God from His word.
3. God is faithful and true. His word is also faithful and true.
4. We are to completely trust in the Lord. You can depend upon His promises, provisions, plan, and purposes.

C. The trouble.
1. We are not to lean to our own understanding.
2. The wise man is not to glory. The mighty man is not to glory. Jer. 9:23
3. We often take our eyes off the Lord and put them on our circumstances, on people, on our own inabilities.
4. We are to keep our eyes fixed on the Lord which will help us keep going.

III. KEEP YOUR EXPECTATION ON THE LORD.

A. He will not disappoint you.
1. Jesus doesn't change as man does. Hebs. 13:8
2. Our disappointments come from the action of others. Sometimes we are disappointed in ourselves.
3. Jesus will always satisfy the longing soul. Psa. 107:9
4. He does all things well in His own time.

B. He will not discourage you.
1. You can always rejoice in the Lord and His ability.
2. You can always be sure the Lord will amaze us with His power and the way He works out things.
3. The Lord encourages us in His word and way and timing.
4. We are often discouraged because we expect much from people.
5. Our closest friends and acquaintances will let us down and discourage us.

C. He will not depress you.
1. The situations and circumstances we find ourselves in depress us.
2. The people we have high expectations in depress us.
3. Our weaknesses and failures depress us.
4. The words of others often depress us.
5. Jesus always challenges us to greater things.

IV. KEEP YOUR EXALTATION OF THE LORD.

A. Exalt Him as Saviour.
1. He is the one Mediator between God and man. I Tim. 2:5
2. He is the ever intercessor for all men. Hebs. 7:25
3. He is the Advocate and propitiation for sins. I John 2:1,2

B. Exalt Him as the Shepherd.
1. He is our Shepherd. Psa. 23:1
A shepherd is one who tends to the sheep.
2. He finds food and water for them. He leads them.
3. He protects them. He shears them. He watches over them.

C. Exalt Him as the solution.
1. He is the answer to the sin question.
2. He is the answer to the satan's quest.
3. He is the answer to the saints quiz.
4. He is the answer to the sincere quitting.

V. KEEP YOUR EXERCISING FOR THE LORD.

A. Exercising helps the heart.
1. The heart is a vital organ to the body.
2. You must exercise properly to keep it in shape.
3. After a heart attack, the doctors will put you to walking several miles a day.
4. Regular exercise might prevent a heart attack.

B. Exercising helps the lungs.
1. Proper exercise will help the circulation system.
2. Walking, jogging, riding your bicycle, etc., will help the lungs and your breathing.
3. Exercising helps you mentally as well.

C. Exercising helps the body muscles.
1. The condition of the body will affect your feelings and the way you function.
2. Body exercise profits for a little time, but it does profit.
3. A physically fit body enhances life and living.

D. Exercising helps control your weight.
1. Overeating and simply not exercising puts on the weight.
2. Extra weight is like extra baggage that hinders us.
3. Hard work helps us to sleep and rest properly.
Love Lifted Me
By Kenneth Click

Text: I John 4:10

Intro. God loves you! The love of God can change your life. Would you like your life to change? May I share with you what God's love does?

I. God's Love Touches.

A. The Heart (of discontent).
   Psalms 51:10 "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."

B. The Head (of knowledge).
   Isaiah 55:8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD."

C. The Heaviness (of unforgiven sin).
   Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

II. God's Love Transforms.

A. The Corrupt
   Revelation 22:17 "And the spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

B. The Cynic (syn. skeptic, unbeliever, head shaker).
   Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."

C. The Castaway.
   I Peter 5:7 "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

III. God's Love Teaches.

A. The Need of Patience.
   II Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

B. The Need of Persistence

Peter's Farewell Advice
By Charlee Swilling

Text: I Pet. 5:11-14

I. The Glory. V.11

A. God. Rev. 5:9

B. Glory. Rev. 21:23

C. Giver. Psa. 135:1

II. The Government.

A. The creator. Hebs. 1:3

B. The control. Eph. 5:18

C. The Chosen. Matt. 6:10

III. The Grace.

A. Faithful because of God's grace.

B. Fruitful in God's grace.

C. Fellowshiping in God's grace.

IV. The Group.

A. The church.

B. The choice.

C. The chosen.

V. The Greeting.

A. The greeting.

B. The greeted.

C. The greeter.

VI. The Growth.

A. The peace.

B. The people

C. The position.

We can pray, believe, and receive, or we can pray, doubt, and do without.
WHEN THE FIRE GOES OUT
By A. Kenneth McInnis

Text: Eph. 6:10-20 Jer. 20:7-18
Intro: THE FIRE - Jeremiah's had gone out. Note the reasons. Vs. 9 - "I Will Quit!"

1. We are speaking of excited feelings produced by the Holy Spirit in our Lives.
2. We are speaking of enthusiasm towards serving God.
3. When we're glowing - we're glowing.
4. There are some things that happen when the Fire Goes Out.
5. Sometimes we may not know when the Fire Goes out until we start feeling Spiritually Cold.

I. WHY DOES THE FIRE GO OUT?
EXTINGUISHED OR NEGLECTED
A. Because Jesus does not mean as much to us as He once did.
   1. Caused by the cares of the world taking over our minds. Satan controls the worried mind. Vs. 12 & Eph. 4:27
   2. Caused by avoiding the wooing of the Holy Spirit. We grieve the Spirit in many ways. Eph. 4:30
   3. Caused by avoiding prayer. Vs. 18
B. Because our Love for the work of the Church DIES.
   1. Caused by Harboring Hurt Feelings. Eph. 4:31
   2. Caused by being Deceived. Eph. 5:6 - Note the "VAIN WORDS"; Eph. 5:4 - Note "JESTING"
   3. Caused by the inactivity of others. I John 2:14,19
      a. Serve God in spite of others.
      b. Serve God if we have to serve alone.
      c. Serve God come what may.
   4. Caused by losing sight of the Lord's Will. Eph. 5:17
      a. Don't let opinions of others lead us from God's Will. Eph. 5:6
      b. Don't let the economy remove us from God's Will.
      c. Because others don't serve God as you think they should don't be led from God's Will in your life. Matt. 26:51; John 18:26
C. Because of Rebellious Hearts.
   1. Rebell ing against faithful attendance. Heb 10:25 - Satan will find you something else to do.
   2. Rebell ing against personal evangelism. Acts 1:8; Matt.

II. WHAT CAUSES THE FIRE TO CATCH BACK UP? - NEEDS REFUELING OR RE-KINDLING EXISTING FUEL.
A. Allowing the Holy Spirit to rekindle the COAL in our souls. (JESUS, church attendance, revivals, etc.) Eph. 5:18
   1. Have our minds renewed. Eph. 4:23
   2. Observing things as Christ would. Being Humble. Phil. 2:5,8
   3. Overlooking one another's faults and continue to exhibit our love for each other. Phil. 2:3-4; Eph. 4:32
B. By being more submissive to the thinking that pertains to and about God. Phil. 4:8
   1. Rejoice that he may return today.
   2. Rejoice that death has no victory over the saved.

CONCLUSION:
2. Go back to serving God and the excitement of being saved will return.
3. Joy is just a prayer away.
4. The Fires of Hell never go out!

WHY WE NEED A REVIVAL
By Julius Copeland

Text: Romans 6:

Introduction:
We as a church must all agree that revival is needed now! As members of the Lord's church we should obey the Word of God and use the knowledge God has given us.

I. A Revival is needed because of the Aggressiveness of Satan
A. If a church has a revival the Devil will know about it.
B. A saved person can say no to the Devil ten thousand times, but you won't embarrass him.
C. The aggressiveness is toward every individual.
D. Do you put up a good fight against him?

II. A Revival is needed because of the increase of Worldliness in the Church.
A. I John 2:15
B. Titus 2:12
III. A Revival is needed because of the Indifference in the Church.
A. I Kings 18:21
B. Indifference will put a church on the rock bottom.
C. Indifference will hinder the working of the Holy Spirit.
D. Indifference will cause the lost not to be saved.

IV. A Revival is needed because of the Presence of Spiritual Defeat.
A. It is hard sometimes to tell the difference between the saved and the lost.
B. Backsliding caused Peter to weep bitter tears.
C. Saved person don't be spiritually defeated; don't let sin take over in your life.

V. A Revival is needed because of the need of Fruit-Bearing Christians.
A. Fruitlessness in our lives indicates we are not growing.
B. Col. 1:10
C. Matt. 7:16
D. Romans 6:22
E. Romans 7:4

SOME THINGS WHICH HINDER SPIRITUAL PROGRESS

Glen Tropp

TEXT: II Pet. 3:18 - "BUT GROW IN GRACE AND IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. TO HIM BE GLORY BOTH NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN."

INTRO:
A. Spiritual progress is a definite need in all of our lives.
1. Text and also I Pet. 2:2 - "AS NEWBORN BABES, DESIRE THE SINCERE MILK OF THE WORD, THAT YE MAY GROW THEREBY;"
2. The largest room in the world is the room for improvement.
B. Spiritual Maturity is not an instantaneous experience!
1. Salvation is Instantaneous-Sanctification is Progressive.
2. Example: When Longfellow was well along in years, his head as white as snow, but his cheeks as red as a rose, an ardent admirer asked him how it was that he was able to keep so vigorous and write so beautifully. Pointing to a blooming apple tree nearby, he replied, "That apple tree is very old, but I never saw prettier blossoms upon it than those it now bears. The tree grows a little new wood every year, and I suppose it is out of that new wood that those blossoms came. Like the apple tree, I try to grow a little new wood every year." And what Longfellow did, we all ought to do.

3. G - Go
R - Right
O - On
W - Working.

C. Subject for your consideration today!

I. WORLDLY ALLUREMENTS
A. The Passage - Gen. 19:26 - BUT HIS WIFE LOOKED BACK FROM BEHIND HIM, AND SHE BECAME A PILLAR OF SALT."
1. The Incident - Give setting of this Scripture.
2. The Inclusiveness involved in this statement.
   a. Looked Back.
   b. Longed For.
   c. Lingered - Indecision.
   d. Lusted.

B. The Profit - Beware of getting your priorities mixed up.
1. Luke 21:34
2. Matt. 6:33
3. Col. 3:2
4. I John 2:15
5. Important - Having "things" is not wicked unless those "things" begin to control your life.

II. WRONG EQUIPMENT BEING USED
A. The Example
1. David
2. I Sam. 17:39 (Give Setting)
B. The Enticements.
1. The World is constantly enticing the Christian to act and re-act the way they do.
2. The Battles of life are not to be fought with human instruments or ideas.

III. WRETCHED DISCOURAGEMENT
A. The Biblical Example
1. During Nehemiah's day - Neh. 4:10.
2. During the days of the conquest of Canaan - Rueben and Gad
desired to settle down on the wrong side of the Jordan.—Num. 32:7-8.

3. During the first attempt to inherit the Land — Deut. 1:21-32.

B. The Bad Effects of Discouragement.
1. Causes progress to be hindered.
2. Causes people to develop a don't care attitude.
3. Causes zeal — enthusiasm — to be smothered out.
4. Causes the fires of Revival to cease.

IV. WICKED UNBELIEF
A. The proof of this statement—Jesus in Nazareth — their rejection and refusal of him—Matt. 13:56 — "AND HE DID NOT MANY MIGHTY WORKS THERE BECAUSE OF THEIR UNBELIEF."

B. The Pointed Statement.
1. Unbelief is the cause of souls going to hell.
2. Unbelief is the cause for spiritual delinquency among believers.
3. Unbelief is the cause for spiritual immaturity.
4. Unbelief is the cause for spiritual blessings being withheld.
5. Unbelief is the cause of spiritual coldness in the church.

V. WEARY IMAGINARY HINDRANCES
A. The Example — Mark 16:3-4 — An incident concerning the resurrection of Jesus.

B. The Enlightenment.
1. Our weary imaginary thoughts create for us obstacles in our Growth Process as Christians.
2. This is caused by one’s limited knowledge of the Word and Unfamiliarity with the Almighty Ability of the Lord.
3. This is created through the thought processes of those who are so negative in their thinking.
4. Some people are constantly thinking of only the hindrances — excuses — and reasons why something won't work instead of being positive and claiming the promise of Phil. 4:13 by faith.
5. Where there's a will — there's a way.

VI. WEIGHTS - SIN
A. The Scripture — Heb. 12:1 — "WHEREFORE SEEING WE ALSO ARE COMPASSED ABOUT WITH SO GREAT A CLOUD OF WITNESSES, LET US LAY ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT, AND THE SIN WHICH DOETH SO EASILY BETRAY US, AND LET US RUN WITH PATIENCE THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US."

B. The Spiritual Reality Exemplified — A Runner does not weight himself down in a race — but rather removes as much weight as possible from his body.

BELIEVERS CAN LEAVE SOMETHING

By D. B. Wright

Text: Rev. 14:13

Intro.

A. I will leave the time element of this text to those who know...the principle of ONE GENERATION LEAVING A CHRISTIAN HERITAGE TO ENCOURAGE AND CHALLENGE THE NEXT GENERATION....is the reason for this text.
1. Folk are remembered for something after they are gone from us.
2. Folk LIVE ON either to challenge or confuse those left behind.
3. I am sure you remember folk who are a constant PULL UPWARD to higher and holier living as well as greater undertaking for the Lord's cause.

B. Hebrews 11 and other Scriptures pay tribute to great men and women of God in the past who still LIVE ON TO INSPIRE AND ENCOURAGE US EVEN TODAY!
1. The example of Abel. Hebs. 11:4
2. Timothy's grandmother and his mother. II Tim. 1:5
3. The example of John the Baptist. Mark 6:14

C. Leaving a HERITAGE to those left behind is far more than leaving material and experiences to be remembered. THERE IS ALSO AN INTELLECTUAL AND A SPIRITUAL HERITAGE!!
1. Where there is material...loved
ones are to be considered.
2. Good memories should be left.
3. Good moral patterns should be left.
4. Contributions to intellectual growth are a great value. Matt. 4:4; Luke 12:15

I. BELIEVERS CAN LEAVE PROOF (TESTIMONY OR EVIDENCE) OF SALVATION!
A. Have you ever stood in the family circle where the deceased lived and wondered if they have been saved?
B. When the preacher arrived at the home of Dorcas who had died..."the widows stood by him weeping, and Sgehing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them." I John 3:17,18
C. Remember the demand of John the Baptist for FRUITS before he baptized? Matt. 3:8
D. Jesus taught the LOVING OTHERS was the one best evidence of one's having been saved? John 13:35
E. Listen to the PROOF which Paul left us of his salvation and sincere service. II Tim. 1:12; 4:6-8

II. BELIEVERS CAN LEAVE A PATTERN (MODEL, STANDARD EXAMPLE).
A. Jesus is the PERFECT pattern. I Pet. 2:21
B. Paul uses the poverty stricken churches of Macedonia as an example to challenge the church of God at Corinth! II Cor. 8:1
C. Hebrews chapter 11 gives examples of those who were people of great faith in God.
1. Abel sacrifice by faith. V.4.
2. Enoch pleased God by faith. V5.
D. Believers can leave a pattern of fidelity (Loyalty; Personal attachment to; devotion to; zeal in service to; stedfastness. I Cor. 15:58
E. Believers can leave a TESTIMONY OF FAITH!
F. BELIEVERS CAN LEAVE AN EXAMPLE OF FAITHFULNESS.
1. Job 13:15
2. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Dan.
G. Believers can leave an EXAMPLE TO INSPIRE others! Hebs. 10:24

III. BELIEVERS CAN LEAVE SPIRITUAL PATRIMONY WORTHY OF MEMORY, NOTICE, AND FOLLOWING!
A. (Patrimony--Ancestral inheritance, material, intellectual, or spiritual.)
B. Believers can SO LIVE AND CONDUCT OURSELVES AS TO LEAVE A SET OF

MORAL PRINCIPLES.
1. This can be done by teaching God's Word. Deut. 6:6,7; Eph. 6:4
2. IT IS BEST TAUGHT BY EXAMPLE!
   I Tim. 4:12
3. C. CERTAINLY BELIEVERS CAN LEAVE BEHIND IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF OTHERS A SET OF HIGH SPIRITUAL VALUES.
   1. Daniel and prayer.
   2. David and God's providence.
   3. Paul and the POWER OF LOVE.

IV. BELIEVERS CAN LEAVE A PLAIN, WELL MARKED PATH.
A. Story about a rich man...putting the word about his soon coming death...his servant hears and says NOT SO...I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM PACKING.
B. Story of the little boy who followed dad to work on the morning after a snow...trying to put his feet in dad's footsteps in the snow...dad's feet had gone by the bar on the way to work.
C. Hebrews 12:13 "And MAKE STRAIGHT PATHS FOR YOUR FEET, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed."

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NAME OF JESUS
"GOD HAS HIGHLY EXALTED HIM, AND GIVEN HIM A NAME WHICH IS ABOVE EVERY NAME."
—PHIL. 2:9
A LITTLE HEAVEN ON EARTH
By Neal Clark

Text: Deut. 11:18-21
Intro. To enjoy the best God has for His people, we must follow the plan He gave. There are some things we must do.

I. FORGET NOT GOD’S PLACE.
Deut. 12:5-14
A. Not your choice, but God’s. Deut. 11:12,13
B. Among your tribe-Like faith and order.
C. Your place of worship. Deut. 12:5
D. Your place of sacrifice. Deut. 12:6
E. Your place of tithe. Deut. 12:6
(Church is the storehouse).

II. FORSAKE NOT GOD’S PREACHER.
Deut. 12:26-28
A. Forsake not His instructions.
B. Forsake not His information.
C. Forsake not His inspiration.

III. FAIL NOT GOD’S PLAN.
Deut. 12:26-28
A. Plan of salvation.
B. Plan of separation.
C. Plan of service.
   1. Purpose of the plan.
   2. Power of the plan.
   3. Promise of the plan.

IV. FOLLOW NOT PAGAN GOD’S ENEMIES.
A. Deuteronomy 12:30,31.
B. Deuteronomy 11:16.
C. Follow God’s plan and forsake the devil’s plan.

DEFENDING THE FAITH IN THE LAST DAYS
By B.A. Morris

TEXT: JUDE 3
INTRODUCTION:
1. ‘Jude is the biggest little book in the bible’ Geo. Crawford

I. THE IMPARTIAL MESSAGE FOR LAST DAYS: COMMON SALVATION
A. Common - equal to all
B. Salvation -
   1. All equally need to be saved. Rom. 3:23
   2. All equally receive it the same way. Eph. 2:8,9
   3. All equally have the same when they are saved. II Pet. 1:1

II. THE IRRESISTIBLE MOTIVATION OF JUDE.
A. The 1st intent & desire was to write about common salvation.
   1. Our 1st concern about a human soul should be his salvation.
   2. Our top priority about a human being is to find out his spiritual relationship with God.

B. The 2nd intent & desire was to write about THE FAITH.
   1. A change in Jude’s writing subject confirms the doctrine of inspiration of scripture writing.
      a. It was not solely left up to Jude as a human being.
      b. There arose pressure or constraint (needful) from H-S because of circumstance, for Jude to write about THE FAITH.

III. THE INESCAPABLE MANDATE OF THE LAST DAYS.
A. The content of the mandate is THE FAITH.
   1. There is a difference between faith & THE FAITH.
   2. Faith is the act of believing, whereas THE FAITH is what is believed.
   3. We are to strenuously agonize in defense of THE FAITH.

B. The completeness of the faith is that there shall be no more added and will not be repeated. (once)

C. The custodians of the faith in the NT Church (saints, local)
   1. The NT Church is the custodian of truth. I Tim. 3:15

D. How can we carry out this mandate?
   1. We must love the faith.
   2. We must learn the faith. II Tim. 2:15
   3. We must live the faith. Gal. 2:20
   4. We must loose the faith. Acts 4:20
      a. We must share out faith with others.
      b. We must give it away.

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