ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE 90's

Text: Hebs. 13:5-9
Intro. We are entering into a new decade. Nearly every decade brings on something new and different. Our world is changing so drastically. Change can be good or bad. The morals, mental, and mindfulness of man is changing unbelievably each new decade. The means and methods whereby we can do more for the Lord are greatly changing. We can do much more. We have the means to reach more people and do a greater work for the Master. Everyone of us will need encouragement from the pulpit to the pew. Let's notice somethings that should be encouraging to us.

1. THE SINNER STILL SINS.
   A. Man's nature,
      1. Man is a sinner by nature. Eph. 2:1-3
      2. Man is conceived with the nature to sin. Psa. 51:5
      3. All are sinners. Rom. 3:23 We are sinners as a result of Adam's sin. Rom. 5:12
      4. Regardless of the time (1890 or 1990) man's nature is the same.
      5. Sin expresses itself in the deeds and action of mankind.
   B. Man's notion.
      1. Man has always tried to work his way to heaven. There is a natural attempt to make himself acceptable like the men called Pharisees.
      2. Man has always tried to buy his way to heaven. He gives money, life, talents etc., to attain heaven.
      3. Man thinks certain things will save him. Some believe church membership, baptism, and the Lord's Supper will save, but can't.
      4. God blesses the truth as it is presented. God help us to keep teaching the truth.
   C. Man's needs.
      1. Man needs to be saved. To be saved he must repent of sins and receive the Lord as Saviour. Luke 13:3; John 3:36
      2. Man's need hasn't changed and the way to be saved hasn't changed. Acts 4:12
      3. God has always honored His Word as it is taught and preached. Isa. 55:11
      4. Men may not listen, but we are duty bound to preach the truth. Some will mock, hear us again, and some will believe.
   D. Man's newness.
      1. The only way man can be changed is through the New Birth.
      2. You must be born again or from above. John 3:6
      3. We become new creations in Christ Jesus. II Cor. 5:17 We become children of God. Gal.
3:26
4. We need to be faithful to our
calling to preach and teach
the eternal truths of God. The
truth still makes men free.
John 8:32

II. THE SAVIOUR STILL SAVES.

A. Jesus was sent.
1. God loved the world so much He
sent His Son to live and die for
us. John 3:16
2. Jesus sends His disciples into
the world, just like the Father
sent Him. John 17:18
3. The precious Son of God was will-
ing to leave heaven and all of
it's glory to live and die for
all mankind.

B. Jesus was sacrificed.
1. John the Baptist said He was the
Lamb of God. John 1:29
2. He was sinless and He died for
the sinful. II Cor. 5:21
3. He bore the full weight and
penalty for our sins. I Pet.2:24

C. Jesus will save.
seek the lost to save them.
2. God sent His Son into the world
to save sinners. John 3:17
3. Jesus saved Paul, the woman at
the well, the thief, etc., He is
able and capable of saving any-
one and everyone.

D. Jesus will seek.
1. He sought Adam in the garden of
Eden.
2. He must needs go thru Samaria.
John 4
3. He seeks the lost to save them
thru His word, preachers, His
churches and church signs, etc.
4. He seeks thru christians, print-
ed page, T.V. programs, Radio
programs etc.
5. He seeks them thru the circum-
stances, and situations in life.

III. THE SPIRIT STILL SHOWS.

A. He shows the truth.
1. He will guide you to the truth.
John 16:13
2. He is called the Spirit of the
truth. John 16:13
3. The Spirit of God teaches
people the truth. I Cor. 2:13
4. He reproves of judgement, sin,
and righteousness. John 16:8-11
Reprove means to convict or con-
vince.

B. He shows the trust.
1. The Spirit of God works with
the word of God and leads us
to trust the Lord and His Word.
2. He shows sinners they need to
trust the Lord. He shows saints
they need to trust the Lord.
3. We have felt His urging and
drawing us and convicting us to
trust the Lord.

C. He shows us the trouble.
1. The Spirit of God works in the
lives of troubled people show-
ing them they need Jesus.
2. Jesus can calm the storm in your
life or calm you in the storms
of life.
3. He is our helper who won't
leave us.

D. The torment.
1. The Spirit of God shows us the
wrath of God. He reminds us that
God will judge.
2. He reproves of sin and judgment.
Read Acts 24:25
3. Felix trembled under Paul's
preaching on righteousness,
temperance, and judgment to come.
4. Hell is real and to be shunned
and escaped at all cost.

IV. THE SCRIPTURES STILL ARE SURE.

A. The commandments.
1. The Bible is the inspired Word
of God. II Tim. 3:16,17
2. The Bible is a light and lamp.
Psa. 119:105
3. The Bible is the pure, sure,
true, tried Word of God.
4. It's content, composition,
character, and charity is a
revelation of God.

B. The conflict.
1. The world thinks differently
about the Bible.
2. Lost men say it isn't God's
Word.
3. Scoffers say it isn't true or
doesn't contain the truth.
4. Religious persons deny the
vital foundational trues.

C. The conviction.
1. We believe it is God's Word
by faith. Hebs. 11:3
2. By faith we accept it's con-
tents and stand firmly upon it.
3. The Lord said it and that settles
it.

D. The comfort.
2. Security in the truth it pre-
sents and teaches.
3. Comforts and consoles the
saved about the future.
4. Remember what Paul told his
brethren in I Thess. 4:18?
5. Our world is changing, but our
God is not changing. The things of the Lord can still be relied upon. You can count and depend upon our gracious, gentle, good, glorious, great, and giving God.

6. Take courage. Be encouraged. God is still sitting on His throne. He is still in control.

B. The EXPLORATION of this subject.
1. Peace with God - Rom. 5:1 - the opposite of CONFLICT.
   a. People are disregarding, disobeying and distrusting God.
   b. To be in peace with God is desperately serious - because if your not at peace with God you are in conflict with your reason for being.
   c. You are out of tune with the only one who can give you the right pitch.
   d. You're in the orchestra of life but you're not in tune because you're only concerned in doing your own thing and then you wonder why there is no harmony.
   e. Understand the absolute necessity for resolving this situation and coming to peace with God.

2. Peace of God - Phil. 4:7 & Col. 3:15 - the opposite of CONFUSION.
   a. Because we're confused - there is tension. We're uptight so we try to make everyone else uptight.
   b. This lack of peace comes as a result of confusion - disoriented about which is right.
   c. God is not the author of confusion.
   d. God gives order to life - relevance to life.
   e. When you realize who you are in relation to who He is, you know what you are in relation to His word.
   f. Confusion flees because you know where you came from - why your here - what's the good life and where your going.
   g. Note the term rule in Col. 3:15 Rule here means the peace of God acts as an umpire. When I'm at peace with God I'm not fighting with God. He interprets and applies the rules to my life. I accept His decision, the conflict is gone. He gives order to life then there is no confusion.

3. Peace among men - the opposite of CONFRONTATION.
   a. Peace among people is the DIVINE IDEAL. God has called us to peace. 1 Cor. 7:15 God is not the author of confusion. 1 Cor. 14:33
   b. Peace among people is a HUMAN IMPOSSIBILITY.
      1. God however has made it possible. 2. Eph. 2:13,14 - Through Christ.

II. THE SECURING OF THESE AS A REALITY.
A. How does peace with God become a reality?
   1. By repentance and faith.
   2. You cannot have peace with God until you realize that God's right and we're wrong.
   3. As long as we think we're right and
He's wrong we'll always be at conflict with Him.

4. Agree with God about your sin - seek His forgiveness - turn from your sin and trust Him to forgive - This is the basis of peace with God.

B. How does the peace of God become a reality? Phil. 4
1. Engaging in the ACTIVITY of prayer. Phil. 4:6
2. Accept the ATTITUDE of submissiveness. Col. 3:15

C. How does peace with man become a reality?
1. Realize - the way of peace is the right way to go - the thing to do.
2. Realize - peacemaking is hard work. Matt. 5
   a. Peace doesn't just happen.
   b. Peace involves hard work.
   c. Real peace is the:
      1. Resolving of the conflict.
      2. Banishing of confusion.
3. Appreciate that peace is limited. Rom. 12:18
   a. It's limited because it takes two to live in peace.
   b. Your not responsible for someone else's refusal to live in peace with you but you are to endeavor to live at peace with them.
   c. Their reaction to you is their problem.
D. Realizing 4 significant and definite disciplines.
1. Exercise the discipline of maintaining our INTEGRITY at all times.
   (Never called to be at peace with error, sin, rebellion to what God stands for).
2. Exercise the discipline of handling your own IMMURITY.
   a. II Tim. 2:22
   b. Tensions many times are due to our own immaturity.
3. Exercise the discipline of FLEXIBILITY - consider others.
4. Exercise the discipline of ACCOUNTABILITY.

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THE CHRISTIAN PATH

By D. B. Wright

Text: Hebrews 12:1,2

Intro.
A. Paul was "sports minded" or else he spent a lot of time where people were gathered for sports events.
B. He likened the christian life to a race. I Cor. 9:26
C. He admonishes others to RUN WITH PURPOSE. I Cor. 9:24
D. The christian race is A NEW AND DIFFERENT WAY as opposed to the former way of life. Matt. 7:13,14

I. THE CHRISTIAN PATH IS A PREPARED WAY.
A. The path Jesus trod. I Pet. 2:21
B. I John 2:6
C. Did He not call His disciples to FOLLOW ME? Matt. 4:19
D. This calls for the application of the Scripture like John 5:39.

II. THE CHRISTIAN PATH IS A PRESCRIBED COURSE.
A. Near the end of the race Paul gave this testimony. II Tim. 4:6-8
B. We are to run according to the GOD BREathed RULE BOOK!!! II Tim. 3:16,17
C. Hear the Word of God to His people in Jeremiah's day! Jer. 6:16

III. THE CHRISTIAN PATH IS A PLAIN PATH.
A. It leads to the Father's House. Luke 4:16
   1. The place where Jesus meets with us in a special way!Matt. 18:20
   2. The place where the soul is fed on the Word of God. I Pet. 2:24;Heb. 5:14
B. It leads out into the wild in search of the STRAYING SHEEP AND LAMBS.
   1. "He restoreth my soul." Psa. 23
   2. Luke 15:4-6
C. It leads to minister to the tired, wounded, and sorrowing ones.
   1. Psalms 23:5
   2. John 13:5
   3. Matt. 25:40
   4. Galatians 6:2
   5. I John 3:17
D. The plain path walked by Jesus leads to those lost in sin. John 4:7,10; 9:35

IV. THE CHRISTIAN PATH IS A PROTECTED PATH.
V. THE CHRISTIAN PATH IS TRAVELLED BY PECULIAR PEOPLE.

A. Children of God. Gal. 3:26; I John 3:2
B. Ambassadors of Christ. II Cor. 5:20
C. Lights of the world. Phil. 2:15,16
D. Witnesses of Christ. Acts 1:8

VI. THE CHRISTIAN PATH IS A PROSPEROUS PATH.

A. Joshua 1:8
B. Psalm 1:2,3
C. It is a life of—
   1. Peace with and of God. Rom. 5:1; Phil. 4:7
   2. Righteousness before God. Rom. 4:5
   3. It is a life of Rest in Jesus. Matt. 11:28,29
   4. It is a life of JOY and REJOICING. John 15:11; Acts 8:39

VII. THE CHRISTIAN PATH IS A PRODUCTIVE PATH.

A. John 15:8
B. John 15:16
C. Think of the good done and the bad prevented by the christian example.
   1. Brethren waxed bold because of Paul's dedication. Phil. 1:14

VIII. THE CHRISTIAN PATH IS A PROSPECTIVE PATH.

A. A timely question. Matt. 16:25-26
B. Job's prospective. Job 19:25,26
C. David's UPLook.
   1. At the death of his son.
   2. Concerning satisfaction. Psa. 17:15
D. John's ASSURANCE. I John 3:2
E. Paul's Crown.
   1. Jesus suffered all the unjust treatment of His persecutors with: JOY SET BEFORE HIM.
   2. I believe Hebrews 2:9,10 speak of this. JOY SET BEFORE HIM.
   3. I Thess. 2:19,20
F. The christian's eternal habitation.
   1. II Cor. 5:1
   2. Holy City without sin. Rev. 21:27
   3. Home with the Lord forever. Rev. 21:3,4
   4. The cross replaced by a crown.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER
Johnny Williams

Text: Matt. 7:7-12
Intro. Prayer is perhaps the greatest manifestation of faith a child of God can demonstrate. Prayer is a great privilege of redeemed souls; a weapon in the hour of conflict, a regent in the seasons of exhaustion, and a defence in the hour of peril. It is the basis of complete communion with our Lord and Saviour.

I. THE PRE-REQUISITE OF PRAYER.
A. A right relationship. Psa. 66:18
B. A right request. I John 5:4
C. A right reverence. John 14:13,14
   1. Asking in Jesus name is asking in character with what Christ would ask
   2. Asking in Jesus name is asking in character with what Christ would ask if He were in our circumstances.
   3. Asking in Jesus name is asking in keeping with the nature of Christ. V13
   4. Asking in Jesus name is asking in accordance to the Word of God.

II. THE PERSISTENCE OF PRAYER. V7,8
A. The language of the verses. A command in the "Present Imperative" in the Greek.
   1. Keep on asking
   2. Keep on seeking
   3. Keep on knocking
B. A List of scriptures that teach this principle.
   1. Jer. 29:13,33:3
   2. Luke 18:1
   3. I Thess. 5:17

III. THE PRODUCTIVITY OF PRAYER. V9-11
A. Jesus is able to answer our prayer.
B. Jesus is available to answer our prayer.
C. Jesus is aware of the answer we need. Rom. 8:26,27

IV. THE PURPOSE OF PRAYER. V12
A. The Context- The principles taught in the Sermon on the Mount.
B. The Commitment.
   1. To make us conformable to His standards.
   2. To make us compassionate to the needs of others.
   3. To make us committed to the sharing of the gospel.
Con. Prayer is the power of the church, and the place where revival begins. Let's commit ourselves to being a praying people.

Prayer Changes Things

"CALL UPON ME, AND I WILL ANSWER THEE, AND SHOW THEE GREAT AND MIGHTY THINGS WHICH THOU KNOWEST NOT." - ISA. 55:9
REQUIREMENTS OF DISCIPLESHIP

By Neal Clark


Intro.
A. People today are involved in religion for several reasons - some for profit - some political gain - some prestige - some power.
B. In the days of Jesus, He had a large following, as long as their were no demands made.
C. When Jesus began to say there were some requirements, He lost His crowd.
D. Disciple is a learner or follower.
E. Today we have the same thing going on. Many want to identify with Christ, but do not want any requirements of them.
F. As disciples we have:

I. A PERSON TO PLEASE.
A. Christ who saved us, keeps us, and called us.
B. We please Him by following Him and obeying Him.
C. Learning of Him and praying.

II. A PRICE TO PAY. Many start, Few stay.
A. Deny self, take up cross.
B. John 6:66-69
C. Faithful - fruitful.

III. A PLAN TO PURSUE. Matt. 28:19,20
A. Faithfulness
B. Fruitfulness
C. Fellowship

IV. A PRIZE TO POSSESS. II Tim. 4:8
A. Crown of life, James 1:12;Rev. 2:10
B. Incurruptible crown, I Cor. 9:24-27
C. Crown of rejoicing. I Thess. 2:19,20
D. Crown of righteousness. II Tim.4:4-8
E. Crown of glory. I Peter 5:2-4

WHO IS IT?

By L. Chester Guinn

Text: S.of S. 5:2

Intro. When someone knocks on the door, quite often you inquire, "Who is it?" And upon learning who it is, you usually say, "Come in." Here the bride recognizes the voice of the bridegroom and says, "It is the voice of my beloved." But instead of opening the door notice her reply in verse 3. Notice the excuses she offered. How strange this is. It is typical of the treatment Jesus receives at the hands of sinners, and even some who are saved. Rev. 3:20

These verses present to us three primary thoughts.

I. THE COMPASSIONATE HEART OF THE SAVIOUR.
A. See Him standing outside the door. V2 Has been there so long his head is wet with dew.
B. How marvelous His grace. It speaks of His condensation. II Cor. 8:9
1. This blessed Saviour has no home of His own in this world. Matt. 8:20
2. Why did He sleep out in the open till His head was wet with dew? Why did He come to such a sinful world as this?
3. How can we know all these things and fail to love Him?
C. He did it because of the value of a soul. "To lose your wealth is much, To lose your health is more, But to lose your souls is such a loss As no man can restore."
D. This speaks of His longsuffering. Some one has translated Rev. 3:20 this way, "I have taken my stand outside your door, and I am going to keep on knocking." II Pet. 3:9
E. Many are the ways through which He knocks.
1. Through a mother's prayers.
2. Through the pleadings of God's servants.
4. But still you must open the door.

II. THE CALLOUSED HEART OF THE SINNER.
A. The bride was indifferent to the knock and found excuses for not opening the door.
1. Little girl said to her dad, "Daddy if you were Jesus I would let you in."
2. Seven year old boy said to the Pastor, "I have lived seven years without Jesus, now I want Him."
B. The sinner is ignorant of the intentions of the Saviour.
1. Why does He stand and knock?
2. Is He there to bless or to condemn? To bring happiness or misery? As a Friend or as a foe?
C. In refusing to open the door the sinner insults the Spirit of God.

III. THE CONSEQUENCE OF REJECTING THE SAVIOUR.
A. A wasted life.
1. Many have the wrong idea. Think we can go on in their sinful ways and repent when they get ready.
2. They forget the christian life is good to live by, as well as, to die by.
B. They forget God's law of the harvest-sowing and reaping.
C. Sinners are exerting a wrong influence on
others. A dying man once said, "Gather up all my influences and bury them with me." But such is impossible.

D. Sinners run the risk of waiting too late. 
1. Notice what is said in verse 6. 
2. Remember the people in Noah's day. 
3. Remember the foolish virgins.

Con. If you do not open when He knocks, the day will come when you will knock and He won't open. 
Matt. 7:22 Remember the words of Proverbs 1:24-26.

PHONY CHRISTIANS AND CHURCHES OF THE LAST DAYS
By B. A. Morris

I. THE DECEITFULNESS OF LAST DAYS. "Crept in unawares" Crept-Slapping in the side or back door to steal something. One who slips secretly into a country from which he has been expelled. Use of an alligator slipping from river bank into water so subtly, secretly, without making water ripple.

A. Deceive by words. II Pet. 2:3
1. The words are made up at will to fit the occasion, setting at proper time (feigned).
2. Their greed for material and money gain (covet) is the reason for such behaviour.
3. They make gain of and exploit (merchandise) the people who patronize them.

B. Deceive by looks. Matt. 7:15
1. They are not inwardly what they pretend to be outwardly.
2. They are not outwardly what they really are inwardly.
3. Their purpose is to destroy the church. Acts 20:29,30

C. Deceived as to their real character. "Un-godly men."
1. Ungodly-one who has no reverence for sacred things; without fear and reverence before God. One who is not without religion, but one who actually doesn't practice what God demands.
2. They have a shell and outside image, but the inner substance is missing. II Tim. 3:5

D. No one should be taken in by these deceivers.
1. Yet, some will follow them to the ultimate end. II Pet. 2:2
2. God has openly plainly revealed that such should be in the name of religion. (Before of old ordained.)

II. THE DEMEANOR OF THE LAST DAYS. "Turn.... Tasciviousness!" Demeanor-what they manage to do in their behaviour. Turning-to turn system of God's grace into something else that it is not. Lasciviousness-anything that is of excess, usually sensual.

A. They justify their sins and wrong. Rom. 6:1
1. It is said, We are under grace and God will forgive.
2. It is thought, our salvation is secure and we won't fall from grace.
3. It is said, We are only humans.
4. They will tell you a lie and think that you ought to believe it.
5. They give out false teachings and want you to believe it.

B. They use their liberty X to where it becomes to them a license to sin. Gal. 5:13; I Cor. 8:9
1. It is assumed that our privileges in grace puts us above our obeying the Holy Word and Spirit.
2. One can lose decency, honor, respect, so he cares not who knows about his sins.
3. The same grace that saves the soul, trains, disciples, and corrects (teach) the life to live properly. Tit. 2:12

III. THE DOCTRINE OF THE LAST DAYS. "Deny..."
Deny-Disown, for fear of pressure and persecution; they deny Jesus Christ. 
A. The deity of Jesus Christ in His Virgin Birth is denied.
B. The Mastership of Jesus Christ, as being our absolute owner, controller is denied. (only Lord)
C. The Mediatorship of Jesus Christ is denied. I Tim. 2:5-6,5
D. The Saviourhood of Jesus Christ is denied.

GOD IS ABLE IF YOU ARE WILLING
By Hiram Melton

Text: Hebs. 7:19-25

Intro.
1. God is all powerful.
2. God has the power to save and use us for His honor and glory.
3. God does not force anyone who is not willing to be saved or serve Him.

I. GOD IS ABLE TO SAVE YOU IF YOU ARE WILLING.

A. God has the power to save all that will come unto Him. Text
B. God has made provision for your salvation, but you must be willing to accept God's provision. John 14:6 John 3:16

II. GOD IS ABLE TO BLESS US IF WE ARE WILLING.

A. God has promised to bless you when you follow His will for your life. Matt. 6:33; Mal. 3:10
B. Many times people wonder why God does not bless them with more financially.
   1. Have you followed God's instructions with what you have been blessed with?
   2. God is able to keep His promises if you are willing to follow His instructions.

III. GOD IS ABLE TO BRING JOY IN YOUR LIFE IF YOU ARE WILLING. Luke 10:17-20

   A. There is the joy of knowing that you have an eternal salvation.
   B. There is joy of knowing you are in God's will.
   C. Joy characterizes the consecrated life of Christians on earth with His hope for future glory. I Pet. 4:13

      1. God is able to bring joy into your life, but are you willing to suffer as a Christian?
      2. God will do His part.
      3. To experience the kind of joy God intends you to have here on earth you must live the Christian life.

IV. GOD IS ABLE TO DELIVER YOU IF YOU ARE WILLING TO FOLLOW HIM. II Tim. 2:20,21

   A. You can get out of God's will and get into trouble as did Jonah. (Swallowed by whale)
   B. When Jonah did what God had told him to do he found the blessings of God. (Delivered from the whale)
   C. God is able to chastise you when you get out of His will.
   D. God is also able to bless when you do what He asks of you.

V. GOD IS ABLE TO SURPASS OUR PETITIONS IF YOU ARE WILLING TO ASK AND LIVE FOR HIM. Eph. 3:20

VI. GOD IS ABLE TO MAKE YOU A VESSEL OF HONOR IF YOU ARE WILLING TO SUBMIT TO GOD. II Tim. 2:20,21

   A. God used such a man in Paul because he was willing. "Lord what wilt thou have me to do."
   B. He submitted himself to God and ran a successful race for God.

THE MISSION OF THE MESSENGER
By Wesley Waldrum

Text: John 1:26-34

I. THE PROCLAIMING OF THE SAVIOR. V26,27
   A. Unknown Savior. V26c
   B. Ultimate Sureness. V27a
   C. Unworthy Servant. V27b

II. THE PLACE OF SERVICE. V28
   A. A place that was Special. V28a
   B. A place that was Specific. V28b
   C. A place that was for Submerging. V28c

III. THE PERSON HE SAW. V29,30
   A. The Sacrifice for human race. V29b
   B. The Saving Redeemer. V29c
   C. The Son of righteousness. V30

IV. THE PURGING OF SINNERS. V31-34
   A. The defined Duty. V31
   B. The decending Dove. V32
   C. The detailed Description. V33,34

NEW BOOK! PRAYING CHRISTIANS is the new Outline Book that maybe available by the time you read this in our paper. The book is by Charles Swilling and contains 13 lessons on prayer. The book will sell for $2.50 plus 50¢ postage. The chapters on prayer are: The Position, Pattern, Person, Place, Praise, Privilege, Practice, and Prevention. This would be a good Outline Book to teach in Sunday School, B.T.C. Brotherhood, or Ladies Auxiliary.