WE ARE NEARER HOME


Introduction: We sang a song called NEARER HOME at one of our fellowships. This song touched my heart and gave me some thoughts for a sermon. Each day we live we are nearer home. Each experience of life brings us nearer to our heavenly home. Everyone should have three homes. You should have a family home. You should have a church or spiritual home. You should have a heavenly home.

Life has its share of ups and downs for all of us. Job assures us that we will have problems in this life. Job 14:1. Just remember you are getting nearer to your heavenly home. Troubles have a way of making us home sick. One day I decided to jog 11 or 12 miles. I started out and I became tired and weary. I started to think is it worth all the pain and agony and exhaustion? I wanted to quit and give up, but I kept thinking about getting home and finishing my course. The last several miles all I thought about was making it to my driveway and experiencing the joy of victory. You can run farther and go the distance if you keep your mind and heart on home. We are nearer home after some experiences.

1. AFTER THE TROUBLES, WE ARE NEARER HOME.

A. The fact.
1. Job reminds us that life will be full of troubles. Job 14:1
2. James calls this the trying of our faith. James 1:3
3. You may have problems with family, finances, health, church, job, and mind.
4. Sometimes the problems are many. Sometimes the problems are few. We will have problems.

B. The frustration.
1. Problems put an overload on us mentally.
2. We worry. We fret. We fear. These are natural responses to the problems we may be facing. The problems don’t have to be that big in order to get us feeling this way.
3. Troubles can destroy life and living. Elijah wanted to die. I Kings 19:1-5 He was a man of God, but troubles even work on men of God. Did you know that Moses, Jonah, and David wanted to die because of problems.
4. Job said it would have been better if he had not been born. What a desperate thought!

C. The fruit.
1. The trying of our faith works patience. James 1:3. As we deal with problems, we learn how to handle them by God’s grace.
2. Troubles are allowed to bring a maturity in life and living. Romans 5:1-5. There are some things that we cannot learn other than through times of problems.
3. Troubles should cause us to turn to the Lord for help. Hezekiah went to God’s house when troubled. Isaiah 37:1. He cried out to God for help. Isaiah 38:2. Remember Hebrews 4:15,16 and the admonition that is found there?
4. After the troubles of life, WE ARE NEARER HOME.

II. AFTER THE TEMPTATIONS, WE ARE NEARER HOME.

A. The fact.
1. We are sinners by nature, practice, and choice. Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:1-3.
2. The devil tempts us or allures us from the right way to the wrong way. He appeals to the adamic nature which we all have.
3. He tempted Christ with three things in Matthew 4:1-11. He tempted Him with position, power, and pride. He uses these same things in various forms to tempt us.
4. He works on our pride, passions, possessions, power, and position. I John 2:15-17. The devil does not test us. He tempts us to do wrong or evil.

B. The frustration.
1. Paul described the struggle within God's children in Romans 7:14-25. The child of God has two natures. One is completely sinful. One is completely sinless. There is a constant struggle between the two natures.
2. Trying to live the christian life causes great frustration to us. We have kept struggling and resisting sin. Read Galatians 5:17 to verify this truth.
3. We may feel like we keep losing. We may feel so very weak. The Lord wants us to see we are weak and we need Him to help us live for Him.
4. We cannot get so tired of it all. The Lord can give us peace and strength to fight temptation.

C. The fruit.
1. The Lord wants us to learn to lean upon Him. Matthew 11:28-30.
2. Temptations are common to all of us. I Corinthians 10:13. God is faithful to us.
3. He will not allow us to be tempted above what we are able to bear.
4. He will make a way of escape, so we can bear the temptation. I Corinthians 10:13.
5. We are to resist the devil and the temptations he sets before us. James 4:7. We are to resist him in the faith. I Peter 5:8,9.

III. AFTER THE TEARS, WE ARE NEARER HOME.
A. The fact.
1. Tears of sorrow, trouble, weakness, and heartbreak will be shed by all of us. Tears can relieve a lot of pressure and stress that builds up due to problems.
2. Troubles have a way of burdening us down. We feel the load, weight, and heaviness of the daily problems.
3. Under the troubles and burdens of life, we reach a point we can't go any longer.
4. We break down and cry. This is God's way of releasing the pressures of life.
5. Many a mother and father have cried until it seems like there are no more tears over the way their children are living.

B. The frustration.
1. Sometimes it seems like we aren't going anywhere or getting anywhere.
2. Sometimes it seems like all we are doing is dealing with problems. The problems are personal, family, friends, or church.
3. Sometimes we want to say, Give me a break. We want a little breather. We want to rest from all the problems. We may want them to go away which they will not do that.

Special Offer: Send for all eight outline books by Charles Swilling and I will pay the postage. The books are:
- Growing in Grace $2.00 ($0.65 postage)
- Bible Study $2.00 ($0.65 postage)
- Praying Christians $2.50 ($0.65 postage)
- Fellowship With God $2.50 ($0.65 postage)
- Bible Teaching $2.50 ($0.65 postage)
- How to Make a Good Church Member $2.50 ($0.65 postage)
- The Ministry of Helping Others $2.50 ($0.65 postage)
- What the Saved Person Enjoys $2.50 ($0.65 postage)
Total $19.00 $5.20

Order all eight books and save $5.20. Order from Charles Swilling, 12915 Slater Lane, Houston, TX 77039. Call 1-713-442-5137.
4. It is very difficult to be what you ought to be as an individual, mate, parent, and church worker. Sometimes it seems like as we improve in one area, we let down in all other areas of life.

C. The fruit.
1. The scriptures of God must remind us, God's Word does indeed remind us of our privilege and responsibility to serve the Lord.
2. The Spirit of God must renew us and help us serve the Lord as we ought to. He often convicts and challenges us to serve the Lord.
3. The Saviour of God must reassure us. Our precious Lord ever calls, comforts, charges, and cleanses us so that we can serve more fervently.
4. The saints of God must receive us. God's own people have often been the source of encouragement and comfort. They have set the proper example for us to follow. Their lives challenge us to live for the Lord.
5. After we have toiled and testified, WE ARE NEARER HOME.

V. AFTER THE TIME OF LIFE, I WILL GO HOME.
A. The fact.
1. We will not live eternally in this body of clay. One day we will come to know that this is a fact that is a blessing to us.
2. Death is an appointment we all will and must keep. Hebrews 9:27. We will keep this appointment. This is God's solemn decree.
3. After all the sin, suffering, sorrow, and stress, thank God I will go home. There is a better place to go to. It is a permanent place.
4. There is a precious home that awaits the tired, troubled, tested, trodden child of God.

B. The frustration.
1. We want to go home. Paul struggled in his life. He had the promise of this heavenly home.
2. He desired to depart and go on, but he needed to stay. Philippians 1:21-23. All of us have and will get home sick. We will want to go home to be with our Lord where the former things are all past.
3. Often we wonder why the Lord leaves us here. Why can't we go on home? It seems like the answer always comes back that the Lord has something else for us to do. He wants us to finish our work before we go.
4. Job said the Lord would call and he would answer. Job 14:14,15. Life and death is in the hands of Almighty God. As long as we are alive, you can be sure there is something else He wants you to do.

C. The fruit.
1. Life and death are in the hands of the Lord God.
2. Each life will come to an end upon this earth.

3. Some live a few years and go home. Some live many years and go home. At times it is hard to understand why some live long lives and others live a short life. We need to live for the Lord and if we do I don't believe we will be bothered about how long we will live.
4. Thank God for that home that awaits those who are saved. The Word of God ends with a description of that heavenly home in Revelation chapters 21,22.
5. The more sinful our world becomes the more God's people will get homesick and want to go home.
6. Take the time to read I Peter 1:3,4 again. We have an inheritance that is reserved for us because we repented of our sins and trusted Jesus as our personal Saviour.

By the time you get this paper, we will be in the process of printing Brother O.H. Griffith's book "The ABC's of Faith." You will want to get this book! We believe you will enjoy it and learn by studying it. We are planning to print 3,000 copies of this book.

IS JESUS CHRIST RELEVANT TODAY?
By John Paul Jones

Text: Hebrews 13:1-9, Verse 8

Introduction: So far as I am concerned there is no question about this. He is relevant today. Relevant means bearing upon or relating to the matter at hand; pertinent; to the point; opposed to irrelevant. Many people say by their actions that Jesus Christ is irrelevant. Those who use the church for entertainment say this. The preachers who preach social programs say this. Here are some reasons why I believe Jesus Christ is relevant today!

I. JESUS CHRIST IS RELEVANT TODAY BECAUSE SIN ABOUNDS.

A. What is the number one problem in the world today? It is the same as it has been since the days of Adam and Eve--sin.
1. Cain killed Abel. In many ways we have made progress, but it is evident from the news that we still have sin with us. Rom. 5:12; James 1:15.
2. Funeral homes, hospitals, jails all tell us that sin is still here.

B. The Bible tells of sin in the lives of the great men of the past such as Abraham and David.

C. Sin is seen throughout the world, in the United States, in our homes and even in our own lives. Romans 3:23; Ecclesiastes 7:20.

D. Jesus Christ is still the only one who can put away sin. Hebrews 9:26; Isaiah 53:10,11.

II. JESUS CHRIST IS RELEVANT TODAY BECAUSE JUDGMENT FOR SIN IS CERTAIN.
B. Hell is no joke. Psalm 9:17; Revelation 20:15.
C. See pictures of death in Hitler, prisons, and starvation in other parts of the world, but hell is far worse because it lasts forever.
D. Belshazzar took vessels of the temple and used them in praising gods of silver and stone.
   1. He saw the hand writing on the wall.
   2. Daniel interpreted the writing to mean, "Thou art weighed in the balances and found wanting." So are all lacking in themselves.
E. Jesus suffered our judgment. Hebrews 2:9.

III. JESUS CHRIST IS RELEVANT TODAY BECAUSE HE STILL SAVES THOSE WHO BELIEVE ON HIM.
A. When He was born the angel said He would save His people from their sins. Matthew 1:21.
B. Salvation in the past. Romans 4:3,4.
   1. Abraham's faith was counted for righteousness.
   2. Listen to the message of the prophets in Acts 10:43.
D. The invitation is given to all to come to Him today. Romans 10:13; Revelation 22:17.
E. My own experience and others testify that it is still true.

IV. JESUS CHRIST IS RELEVANT TODAY BECAUSE THE MANNER OF LIFE HE TAUGHT AND PRACTICED STILL PROVES BEST.
B. A man once told me that he accepted nothing as wrong until he tried it and found it so. Suppose he decided to find out about murder.
C. The ten commandments are still good rules of living. Many of the problems of today can be traced to the fact men do not accept the Word of God. Psalm 2:1-4.

V. JESUS CHRIST IS RELEVANT TODAY BECAUSE MEN STILL NEED HELP.
A. When hardships come to some, they look up to Christ to find power for a new start.
   2. He offers a hope and calms the storms for us. Hebrews 67:19.
   3. After the Chicago fire a man said, "Everything lost except my wife, children, and hope."
B. There is help when we face death.
2. The Hebrew children in the fire. Another one was with them.

Conclusion: Some try different substitutes like sincerity, morality, follow their conscience etc., but none of these things take the place of Jesus. He is still relevant today! Try Him.

BACK ISSUES: We have printed 125 papers. Send in for the back issues!!! We ask you to send an offering to help with the cost of mailing them to you.

ASK FOR THE OLD PATHS
By Joe Brooks

Text: Jeremiah 6:16

Introduction: The Bible teaches that in the last days false teachers will come. That many will not endure sound doctrine. That many shall turn from the truth unto fables. We are living in such a time. With rise of new lights, divine healing, and speaking in tongues and many other errors we need to know and ask for the old paths.

A. Because the new ones are delusive and destructive.
B. Because the new ones are man's miserable substitutes for the grand 'ole highways of God.'
C. Because the new ones only beguile the unwary into doubting castles and habitation of despair.
D. Because even though an angel from heaven should preach another gospel let him be accursed.
E. Because in the day that we live there is so much new things that are being presented.
F. Ask for the old paths and be steadfast therein.

II. WHAT ARE THE OLD PATHS?
A. Those revealed in God's Word which holy men of old walked.
B. The paths trodden by:
   1. Abel--his offering
   2. Abraham--his life
   3. Isaac, Moses, David, Elijah, and the apostles.
C. The old paths are those trodden by men who believed God and accepted His word as a lamp to their feet.
D. Those who had the testimony of God's son as the sure foundation of their hope.
E. The revealed will of God is the old un-errring path that leads to peace and paradise.
   1. When men regardless of who they are leave these paths and begin to walk new ones, we should not follow them.
   2. The old paths have been good enough for every need of man. No need to follow new ones.
F. The old paths are sprinkled with the blood of atonement. The new paths with rose water of men pleasers.

III. WHY SHOULD WE WALK IN THE OLD PATHS? Because in them the believer experiences:

A. The blood of Christ to justify.
1. Those who follow the old paths know and are justified through the blood.
2. The new path wanderers know nothing of this.

B. The Word of God to satisfy.
1. The old path pilgrim has not followed the cunningly devised fables of men, but the true light of God’s Word.
2. The theories and philosophies may satisfy for a time, but not forever.
3. God’s Word whispers sweet peace to our souls.

C. The power of the Spirit to sanctify.
1. The makers of the new paths have no place for the quickening, sanctifying enduring power of the Holy Spirit.
2. Along the new way there is found no missionary enthusiasm.
3. No need felt of being filled and led by the Spirit of God.
4. No glorying in the cross of Christ and no conversion from sin and self to God.

D. The old paths are the paths of peace. DO YOU KNOW THE OLD PATHS? ARE YOU WALKING IN THEM?

1. With a love that is divine, all embracing, and stronger than death.
2. He loved us more than the fallen angels.
3. More than we loved ourselves.
4. More than heaven itself, for He left it.
5. More than He loved Himself.

II. THE EVIDENCE OF HIS LOVE.

A. Man’s love opens up gradually and may manifest itself in gifts of ever increasing value.
1. The love of Christ gives all at the first.
2. All the riches of God are offered in Him.
3. He gave Himself for us.

B. As a voluntary offering.
1. This is one thing that makes His love so great.
2. Jesus said concerning His death and crucifixion, “No man taketh my life from me, I give it of myself.”
3. Praise God that He loved me enough. Praise God He was willing to die that we might have life by repentance and faith in Him.

C. He gave Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God.
1. Here we have the thought of substitution. “He died for us.”
2. He bore our sins in His body on the tree.
3. It is in His sacrifice, His life and death, that God is pleased.

III. THE FRUITS OF HIS LOVE IN US.

A. Note in our text verse that Paul the apostle appeals to his reader on the basis of Christ’s love. Because Christ hath loved us and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God—let us:

B. Be followers of God.
1. The Love of Christ is to constrain us to be imitators of Him who loved us.
2. We should imitate His love, patience, purity, and devotion.
3. May the Holy Spirit work in us His good will that we may be conformed unto the image of His Son.

C. Walking in love.
1. We can not truly follow God without walking in love, for God is love.
2. Abide in Him and ye will walk in love.

Conclusion:
A. May each of us right now realize and recognize the great love Christ had and has for us.
B. May God’s Spirit impress us, lost and saved alike, with the greatness of love.
C. Brothers and sisters in Christ may we recognize His love for us and show our love for Him by presenting our “…bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God…” Romans 12:1.
D. Lost sinner friend, Christ loves you now. His love has not changed. Because of this love He desires that you be saved. BE SAVED NOW!
JESUS USE ME

By Marvin Gardner


Introduction:

A. After Paul’s conversion, he became one of the greatest evangelists ever know.
   1. Paul was a wicked man, who had the authority to have peoples’ lives taken.
   2. He hated the cause of Christ, but he was sincere.

B. Saul gave consent to have Stephen stoned to death.
   1. I believe he was convicted right there.
   2. The Holy Spirit was about His work.

C. Paul was used in a mighty way by the Lord after he got saved.
   1. The Lord uses men that have had an experience with Him.
   2. It is my prayer if there is one in this assembly that has not placed his faith in Christ, that you will do so before the service is over.

D. It should be the desire of every child of God to be used by the Master in His service.

I. THE LORD USED PAUL AFTER HE SURRENDERED TO HIM.

A. Paul was saved on the road to Damascus.
   1. He was about the devil’s business when the Lord saved him.
   2. He wanted letters giving him authority to arrest the disciples of the Lord for worshipping Him.

B. After Paul’s conversion, he asked the Lord, "What will thou have me to do?" His heart was a submissive heart.
   1. Before his conversion, his heart had been hard, had no mercy on men and women, hated all of Christ’s disciples.
   2. Now his heart was melted by the Holy Spirit of God. Those he hated now he loved. The Lord he hated, now he asked what did he have for him to do?

C. If you are lost, you are under the condemnation of God. John 3:18.
   1. You are working for satan and you are unrighteous.
   2. Your pay or wages for serving him will be death (hell). Romans 6:23.
   3. Your goodness is like a dirty, filthy rag in God’s sight. Isaiah 64:6.

D. You must give your soul to Jesus exactly like Paul did.
   1. You were saved when you placed your faith in Christ. Acts 16:31.
   2. God is willing to save every one who will call upon HIM. Romans 10:13.
   3. After you are born into God’s kingdom, you should ask the question, "What will thou have me to do?"

E. There must be a self-denial in order to be used by the Lord.
   1. Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me," Matthew 16:24.
   2. The things we usually want to do are not the things God necessarily wants us to do.
   3. We need to lose our life or the things we want to do for Christ’s sake, Matthew 16:25.
   4. Jesus told Peter and Andrew, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men," Matthew 4:18,9.
   5. They did not argue. They left their vocation or livelihood and sought to do the will of the Lord. They were saying Jesus use me.
   6. If we are used by the Lord, He must be our first love, Matthew 10:37,38. We must take up our cross and follow Him.

II. THE LORD USES MEN IN VARIOUS WAYS.

A. He used Paul to preach the Word.
   1. A preacher is to preach the Word, Romans 1:14.
   2. Preaching is the means the Lord chose to tell the lost about Jesus, I Corinthians 1:18.

B. You can be used by the Lord.
   1. Witness—he that winneth souls is wise.
   2. You can tell someone about Christ and what He has done for you.
   3. Prayer—Pray for the pastor, Sunday School officers and teachers, lost father, mother, sister, or brother.
   4. Giving—Learn to give early in life and enjoy the Lord’s blessings.

C. The Lord used David when he killed the giant.
   1. David was a young man with no experience on the battlefield. Goliath was a man of war.
   2. David won the battle because he was willing to be used by the Lord. He said, "Jesus use me."

Conclusion: Can you really say JESUS USE ME. You must be saved. After you have been saved, then you can say, "Jesus use me." Jesus can use you if you are willing to be used.

Please Support Our Ministry

The Sounding Out the Word Ministries has a great outreach. You can help us out in a number of ways.
- * Send an offering to help us print more free material.
- * Donate or put us in contact with people or businesses that can give us a good price on printing paper, ink, cover stock, or other materials or machines that will help us in this ministry.
- * Pay for the printing of a book in memory of a family member, dearly loved pastor. Encourage your church or local association to support us.
HOW TO KNOW WHEN YOU ARE SINKING
By Neal Clark

Text: Matthew 14:22,23.

Introduction: In this story we see:
A. The power of the sovereign.
B. The problem of the storm.
C. The performance of the saints.
D. The peril of the sinking.

The way to know when you are sinking.
I. WHEN CALVARY DOESN'T BREAK US.
   A. The vision of calvary, Galatians 6:14.
   B. The voice of calvary, I Corinthians 1:17,18.
   C. The victory of calvary, John 19:30.

II. WHEN SIN DOESN'T BOTHER US.
   A. The language of the world, Ephesians 5:29.

III. WHEN THE PRESENCE OF THE SAVIOR DOESN'T BLESS US.
   A. They were not aware of His walk, Revelation 2:1.
   B. They were not aware of His work.
   C. They were not aware of His will.

IV. WHEN SATAN DOESN'T BATTLE US.
   A. In our preaching, I Peter 5:8.
   B. In our praying, Ephesians 4:27.
   C. In our praising, James 4:6,7.
   D. In our performance, Ephesians 6:11.

V. WHEN THE SINNER DOESN'T BURDEN US.
   C. His destiny, Revelation 20:15.

EXPOSITION OF GALATIANS
By Glen Tropp

Text: Galatians 1:6-10.

Introduction:
A. The REVIEW.
   1. The background material. (Make-up, mistake method).
   2. The bold affirmation.
   3. The basis of Christianity. (Foundation-focus).

B. The REVELATION for our consideration today presents a note of amazement in regards to a lack of settled conviction among God's people. We desperately need to become settled in our beliefs concerning the fundamentals of Christianity.
   1. The DANGER that he perceived.
   2. The DEFINITE warning that he proclaimed.
   3. The DISCERNMENT that has paramount importance.

I. THE DANGER THAT HE PERCEIVED.
Galatians 1:6-7.
   A. The MARVEL, Galatians 1:6, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel."
      1. He stood in utter amazement at the defection of the Galatian Christians.
      2. They were in danger of altering their opinion--changing their mind about a very important and fundamental truth.
      3. So soon - means readily, rashly and quickly.
      4. "From Him" refers to the God who has called us to salvation which was procured by Christ at the cross.
      5. Unto another gospel - another of a different kind. A false gospel.

B. The MEANING, Galatians 1:7, "Which is not another: But there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ."
   1. Define the term gospel - good news.
   3. Describe the aspects of the gospel
      a. POSITIONAL aspect - deals with salvation - sonship. I Corinthians 15:1-4; Romans 1:16; Ephesians 2:8-9.
   4. The gospel of Jesus Christ is totally a work of grace.
   5. The Judaizers - troubleurs - were perverting the gospel.
      a. They were troubling - disturbing mentally with excitement, perplexity, and fear the Galatian Christians.
      b. Pervert carries with it the idea of reversing, changing to the opposite or turning about.

II. THE DEFINITE WARNING THAT HE PROCLAIMED. Galatians 1:8-9. "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." Verse 9: "As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."
A. The **CORRECT UNDERSTANDING** - He wants to show the Galatians that the controversy is not just between two teachers and another - but between truth and error.

B. The **CONCEPT** - accursed comes from anathema and means set apart and devoted to destruction - one alienated from God.

III. THE DISCERNMENT THAT HAS PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE, Galatians 1:10, "For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ."

   A. The **MOTIVATION** purpose, Galatians 10a.
   B. The **MEANINGFUL** purpose, Galatians 10b.

---

**Revival Tapes by Butch Roshto**

We were really blessed by the messages preached by Brother Butch Roshto during our September revival. The tapes are available at a cost of $1.50 per message:
- How Do You Know When You Need Revival?
- Giving Your Best.
- Can A Champion Come Back?
- The Divine Concept of Marriage.
- Evergreen.
- How Will You Die?
- Life's Priorities.
- Ye Must Be Born Again.

---

**THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW**

*Text: Revelation 2:1-7*

*Introduction:*

A. **Note the COMPLIMENT from the Lord** to this church, Revelation 2:2-3,6.
   1. A working and laboring church:
   2. Patience:
   3. Did not tolerate false apostles:
   4. Hated the deeds of people rulers:

B. **Note the CONDEMNATION of the Lord toward a condition in this church: "...left thy first love."**
   1. This stripped them of their testimony! John 13:35, 1 John 3:14.
   2. This made them equal to nothing! I Corinthians 13:1-3.

C. **Note the COUNSEL of the Lord!!!**
   1. Remember how you once LOVED!

---

2. Repent of the sin of failing to love! - Loving is not an option! It is a command from the LORD!!

3. Do first things first! Love! Love! Love!

D. Note a serious CAUTION, "OR ELSE!"
   1. The Lord will have a church (His blood bought church) on the earth when He returns! His promise! Matthew 16:18, Ephesians 3:21.
   2. His church will be still doing business for Him when He comes for her!
   3. This truth is no guarantee that the church of my membership will still be here when He comes!
   4. I have never hung a wreath on a door knob! I do read my Bible!

---

I. THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW IS THE CHURCH THAT IS "LOVING" TODAY!

A. The **LORD!** (our Shepherd)
   1. Love for the Lord expresses itself in praise! Psalm 107:8.

B. The **Sheep and Lambs!**

C. **Souls that are not yet saved!**
   3. Saved people have the inborn love of God and it is natural for love to express itself!

D. May I add, the loving church member loves the Lord's church! JESUS DID! Ephesians 5:25.

II. THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW IS "LISTENING" TO JESUS TODAY!

A. Get a vision! John 4:35-36.
B. Claim the victory! I John 5:4.

C. **Try the voices!**
   2. Did not Jesus caution?
      a. Mark 4:24, "Take heed what ye hear."
      b. Luke 8:18, "Take heed how ye hear."
      c. Matthew 22:29, "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God."

   3. Scriptural appeal:
      c. Matthew 15:8-9; Matthew 7:21-23.

III. THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW IS "LINGERING" AT THE ALTAR OF PRAYER!

B. Praying for God's Servants!

C. For the sick, sorrowing, and suffering!
   James 5:14-16.
IV. THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW IS "LONGING AND LOOKING" FOR THE LOST SOULS TODAY!
A. Examples:
5. 120 in Church at Jerusalem.
B. Encouragements:
1. Psalm 126:5-6.

V. THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW IS "LIGHTING" THE PATH AND LIFE OF OTHERS TODAY!
A. Jesus came a Light to lighten every soul that cometh into the world, John 1:9.
B. It was said of His forerunner, John, "He was a bright and shining light."
C. Of His Church Jesus said, "Ye are the Light of the World," Matthew 5:14.
D. Christian fellowship is found in those who walk in the light and reflect his light! I John 1:7.

VI. THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW IS MAINTAINING A "LABOR OF LOVE" TODAY!
A. I Thessalonians 1:3, "...work of faith, and labor of love."
B. I Thessalonians 1:8, "From you sounded out the word of the Lord..."

AVOIDING THE WORSHIP OF LAST DAYS
By B. A. Morris

Text: Jude 11

I. THE MODE OF WORSHIP IN THE LAST DAYS
A. There was a place of worship.
1. A specified place was where one was to enter to worship. Genesis 4.
2. Abel entered with fat of the offering, implying an altar.
3. Altars have always been identified with worship.
4. Israel built the Tabernacle and Temple as definite places of worship.
5. The New Testament Church is a public place of worship.
B. There was an appointed time for worship, Genesis 4:3a.
1. Meaning:
   a. after being instructed how to worship.
   b. after a certain day had passed.
   c. after the two boys became a priest to the family.
2. It would have been coincidental for both boys to make an offering at the same time, if there was no appointed time.
C. There was a prescribed means of worship.
1. It was a gift presented to God, which was an act of killing, and offering in sacrifice, Hebrews 9:22.
2. The covering of Adam's nakedness came about through the act of killing an animal, Genesis 3:21.
3. Abel's offering, was an act of killing, which offering God accepted, Genesis 4:4.
4. Cain's offering was not an act of killing, which offering was rejected, Genesis 4:5.
D. Application and Conclusion:
1. Apostates follow and are adherents of Cain worship (gone away).
2. Cain worship is bloodless--human merits--salvation by works.

II. THE MOTIVE OF WORSHIP IN THE LAST DAYS - Balaam opposed the word of God, Numbers 22-24.
A. Explain the story of Balaam.
1. Balak, Moab ruler, and Balaam was a prophet.
2. Balak tried to hire Balaam to curse Israel, but God forbid.
3. Later, Balaam instructed Balak how to cause Israel trouble.
B. Explain the words.
1. ran greedily - Balaam rushed headlong, as rushing waters.
2. error - Balaam was led astray from right to wrong.
3. reward - to pay for work or service.

A Letter From One of Our Readers

Dear Brother Swilling:

I want to write and commend the Grace Church and this ministry of the printed word. It is a tremendous blessing to find others with a desire to publish the message of the gospel. I am glad to be a recipient of the paper and the benefits of the wisdom of so many of God's men.

I appreciated the additional copies of the paper, and have begun to promote the ministry among the preachers I know and in the meetings I am involved in and will continue to do so.

Thank you once again Church for a ministry to those that are in the ministry. Keep up this good work and ... "Unto HIM be glory in the church..."

A servant of Jesus Christ,
Brother Ron Lovins

Praise The Lord!
C. Balaam’s action is 1st called an error - led astray; seduction.
   1. Balaam seduced by repeated enticement (3 times).
   2. Balaam was enticed for what he could get out of it. (reward).
   3. Balaam was insistent with God.
   4. Balaam’s mind became unbalanced—not straight (madness), II Peter 2:16.
D. Balaam’s action is secondly called a way, II Peter 2:15.
E. Balaam’s action is thirdly called a doctrine, Revelation 2:14.

III. THE MANNER OF WORSHIP IN THE LAST DAYS - Korah rebelled against the word of God, Numbers 16.
A. Explain the story of Korah. Numbers 16.
   1. Korah and two other fellows and 250 men of renown, verse 2.
   2. They rebelled against Moses as he followed God, verse 3.
   3. To rebel against Moses was to rebel against God, verse 11.
   4. Moses asked God to settle the issue with Korah and the 250 men.
   5. BUT, next day others rebelled and Moses asked God to settle the issue which resulted in 14,700 people dying.
B. Explain the words.
   1. Gainsaying - Korah’s rebellion against God.
   2. Perished - died.
C. Korah was rebellious against God, Numbers 16.
   1. Korah and company were not satisfied with what God gave them, verses 9 and 10.
   2. The rebellion was open, defiant.
D. Others followed in Korah’s rebellion, verse 41.
   1. God is displeased with rebellion, verse 45.
   2. These didn’t learn a lesson from Korah and company, but right in the presence of God they rebelled.

---

**REPENTANCE**

*By George Crawford*

**Text: Matthew 3:1-12**

**Introduction:**
A. It is said of John in John 1:6, that he was a man sent from God.
B. He was sent to a particular generation with a specific message from God, and that message was a message of REPENTANCE!
C. Repentance is one message that is hated by a sin loving world. In spite of that we need more preaching on repentance!

---

**PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER IT!** Many dear men of God have gone on to meet their precious Master. They were good teachers, pastors, and warriors for God. Many of these men over the years kept the sermon outlines that they developed and used in preaching and teaching God’s people. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if a church or family wanted to remember their loved one in a special way by making it possible to print a book of outlines. This would be one way to keep a dear brother’s name and memory alive among our people. For about $1,500.00 to $1,800.00, we could print 3,000 45-page books to be given away and used by others to continue spreading the Word of God.

---

**D. In this message I desire to point out the following:**
1. What repentance is not!
2. What it is!
3. There is a false repentance!
4. There is a true repentance!
5. Who should repent!
6. There is a repentance that comes too late!

---

**I. WHAT REPENTANCE IS NOT!**

A. Repentance is not crying. Many tears are shed by those who need to repent, but tears are not repentance. Esau, for one morsel of meat sold his birthright, "For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of REPENTANCE, though he sought it carefully with TEARS."

B. Repentance is not Conviction! Many have been convicted of sin, but didn’t repent. Felix was convicted of sin, but didn’t repent. He trembled as he answered Paul, "Go thy way, for this time, when I have a convenient season I will call for thee."

1. Conviction is that which makes one conscious of guilt, and need.
2. I am disturbed because of a lack of conviction.
   No conviction, no repentance, no conversion.

---

**II. WHAT REPENTANCE IS!**

A. Repentance is an honest confession of sin. "I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father I have sinned against heaven and before thee." Luke 15:18.

B. Repentance is an honest sorrow for sin.
1. John grew up in and around the Temple. He had no doubt observed the Scribes and Pharisees, and their hypocrisy.
2. No wonder he said to them "Bring forth fruit meet for REPENTANCE." In other words show me some evidence of repentance!
3. Show me you have had a change of mind about sin with regard to God, self, and Jesus.
4. Be sorrowful that you have sinned against God, and then prove it.
C. Repentance is an honest forsaking of sin.
   1. "And he arose and came to his father..."
   2. The prodigal son forsook the hog pen. It certainly would not leave him.

III. THERE IS A FALSE REPENTANCE!
A. Pharaoh's repentance was false. Exodus 10:16 gives Pharaoh's confession, "I have sinned."
   1. This expression of repentance was only a way to get some of the pressure off. It was from the lip, and not the heart.
   2. I am afraid many people today have made a great mistake by making a false profession of faith. Gets the preacher off their back. (This is a false repentance; don't be guilty!)

B. Balaam's repentance was false. In Numbers 22:34, he cried, "I have sinned", but all the while he confessed, he still had his eye on Balak's gold. His was not an honest repentance.

C. Judas's repentance was false. In Matthew 27:4, He cried, "I have sinned", perhaps to ease his guilty conscience. He only repented to himself, and not to the Lord.

IV. THERE IS A TRUE REPENTANCE!
A. The Publican's repentance was true! Luke 18:13, He stood afar off, would not so much as lift up his eyes unto heaven, but smote himself upon his breast, saying, "God be merciful to me a sinner." He went home justified!

B. Zacchaeus' repentance was true. In Luke 19:6, "And he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully." Salvation came to his house. He was willing to make restitution.

C. The Prodigal's repentance was true. "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son."

V. WHO SHOULD REPENT?
A. Churches should repent.
   1. The church at Ephesus! "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent!"
   2. Churches today that don't preach the Bible need to repent!
   3. Churches that don't endeavor to carry out the commission need to repent.

B. Backsliders need to repent! Jeremiah 3:14-15.

C. Sinners should repent!
   2. If Peter 3:9

VI. THERE IS A REPENTANCE THAT COMES TOO LATE!

B. Five foolish virgins repented too late. Matthew 25:11-12. The door was shut, repented too late!

C. The rich man in Luke 16, no doubt, in hell was willing to repent, BUT TOO LATE!

D. The story is told in the Old Testament, 1 Kings 2:28-34, of a man by the name of Joab. Joab was stabbed while at the altar in the tabernacle. He was trying to flee from death. He ran to the house of God. He cast himself upon the altar. He refused to leave and was stabbed while hanging onto the altar. "I will die here." Too late to repent!

E. Have you repented? If not why not repent now. Tomorrow may be too late! We ought to live today, as though our funeral would be tomorrow!

---

Available Books

"Notes on John-Chapters 1-3"
"Word Studies"
"Sounding Out the Word II"
"Sounding Out the Word IV"
"Sounding Out the Word V"
"The Salvation of the Lord"
"Who the Lord Is"
"Right Sermons by Wright"
"1989 Bible Conference"
"1990 Bible Conference"
"Scanning the Scriptures: Genesis-Song of Solomon"
"Scanning the Scriptures: Isaiah-Malachi"
"37th Annual Pastors and Missionaries Conference"
"The Mysteries of the New Testament"

---

SHARING THE LAMB

By Joe Stevens


Introduction: To prepare for the passover, the children of Israel were instructed to take a lamb without blemish from among the flock to be slain and prepared for the passover. The blood was to be applied to the two side post and on the upper door post of the house so that when the death angel came he would see the blood and pass over. The flesh was to be bread and bitter herbs. Any part remaining until morning was to be burned with fire. If one household was to small for a whole lamb, the next door neighbor was to be invited to share the lamb.

Jesus is our passover lamb and we are to share Him.

I. THE LAMB TO BE SHARED.

A. One without blemish.
   1. John the Baptist said, "Behold the Lamb of God."
   2. Paul stated, "He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin..."

B. A young male. Jesus was just entering the prime of His life.

C. A tried lamb.
1. Jesus was tested by Satan.
2. He was tested by the Pharisees and Sadducees.
3. He was tested by Pilate.

D. A slain lamb by the assembly of the congregation of Israel.
1. "He came unto his own and his own received him not."
2. When presented with Jesus, they said, "away with this man", "crucify him, crucify him".
3. "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before shepherds is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth." Isaiah 53:7.

II. WHY MUST WE SHARE THE LAMB?
A. Because there is but one Lamb for all.
1. Jesus is the only one who met the requirements for sin.
2. He died a sacrifice not only for the house of Israel but for all people.
B. Because the blood of this one lamb is the only atonement for sin.
1. "...the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." I John 1:7.
2. As all who were under the blood in Egypt were saved, so all under the blood of Christ are saved.
C. Because judgment day is coming and all without the Lamb will be condemned.

III. HOW MAY WE SHARE THE LAMB?
A. By inviting others to receive Him.
1. Receive Him for nourishment.
2. Receive Him for security.
B. By actively working and supporting His church whose main business is sharing Jesus.
1. Far too often we get wrapped up in other things and fail to do our main business.
2. There will come a time when we will have to give a reason for not sharing Jesus with others.

THE RESOURCES OF THE CHRISTIAN
By G. D. Walters

Text: Colossians 2:1-10.

Introduction: The Apostle Paul is teaching the Colossians what great and far reaching resources they have in Christ. Colossians 2:9 declares that in Him dwelleth the fullness of the Godhead bodily. This teaches us that every thing that lost humanity needed is provided in Jesus Christ.

I. The Lord Jesus Christ is our PASSOVER.
A. I Corinthians 5:7
B. Man needed a way out, and over sin. Jesus Christ is that way. Literally an Overpass.

II. The Lord Jesus Christ is our SALVATION.
B. Isaiah 12:2.

III. The Lord Jesus Christ is our LIFE.
B. I John 5:12.

IV. The Lord Jesus Christ is our PEACE.
B. Colossians 1:20.

V. The Lord Jesus Christ is our WISDOM, RIGHTEOUSNESS, SANCTIFICATION, and REDEMPTION.
A. I Corinthians 1:30.

VI. The Lord Jesus Christ is our STRENGTH.
B. Colossians 1:11.

VII. The Lord Jesus Christ is our VICTORY.
A. Romans 8:37.
B. I Corinthians 15:57.

Outline Books to be Printed

We have the material and will be printing the following books as soon as we can:

Sermon Outlines by George Crawford
Scanning the Scriptures by Glen E. Tropp
Sermon Outlines by Neal Clark
Sermon Outlines by Kenneth Bazar
Sermon Outlines by Paul Bazar

We do not know which we will print next, but we will print all five of these books as we can. You can help us by sending your offering to: Sounding Out the Word Ministries, 1823 Aldine Mail Route, Houston, TX, 77039.

THE FASCINATION OF THE FOLLOWERS
By Wesley Waldrum


I. THE ANNUAL FEAST, verse 23.
A. The Town, verse 23a.
B. The Time, verse 23b.

II. THE ADMIRATION OF THE FOLLOWERS, verse 23.
A. The widespread movement, verse 23c.
B. The wonder of His miracles, verse 23d.

III. HIS ATTITUDE OF THEIR FAITH, verse 24.
A. He knew it was an intellectual belief, verse 24a.
B. He knew the inconstancy of their belief, verse 24b.

IV. THE ASTONISHMENT OF HIS FORESIGHT, verse 25.
A. His individuality of oneness, verse 25a.
B. His infinite omniscience, verse 25b.