THE RESURRECTION,  
A MESSAGE OF COMFORT


Introduction:
The very core of the Christian faith -- there is life beyond the grave. This present life is brief and precedes an eternity of living with the Lord for those who are saved. These verses of scripture can give comfort and consolation to all who read them. They offer hope and give peace and even rejoicing. The resurrection message needs to be proclaimed all year long, not just on Easter Sunday.

A. Knowledge is needed.
1. Paul didn’t want the Thessalonians to be ignorant or without knowledge.
2. "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..." Hosea 4:6.
3. The Truth of the Lord will make us free. John 8:32. These verses were written to give us knowledge.

B. Kind of Sorrow.
1. Paul is not saying we are not to have sorrow. Sorrow is good.
2. Sorrow is expressed in mourning and tears and grief.
3. Crying relieves stress and strain and mental pain. It releases feelings of anxieties. It is an outlet for your feelings.
4. It reflects your sadness and feeling of loss and precedes acceptance of your loss.
5. Sorrow is normal and natural and healthy. Paul cautions them about the kind or extent of sorrow. He doesn’t want us to sorrow like those who have no hope.

II. THE REASON - VERSE 14.
A. Harmony.
1. We believe Jesus died and rose again. This was necessary to be saved. Romans 10:9,10.
2. This is the sum total of the gospel. The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, according to the scriptures. I Corinthians 15:1-4.
3. We do believe this. God help us to allow our Christian faith and the way we look at our circumstances to be in harmony.

B. Help.
1. The truth gives us aid and assistance when we falter.
2. If we believe Jesus died and rose again, we must also believe God will bring the dead in Christ with Him.

C. Hope.
1. The knowledge about the resurrection not only helps, but it offers hope.
2. We expect to see our loved ones again.
3. Our hope in Christ is an anchor to the soul both sure and steadfast to the soul. Hebrews 6:19.
4. Christ is the first fruits of them that slept. I Corinthians 15:20.

A. His Return is sure.
1. Paul is writing this book by inspiration.
2. This message is the Lord’s message. Paul is saying it by the Word of the Lord.

B. His Return is Soon.
1. Jesus closes the last book of the Bible with the message of His soon or quick return. Revelation 22:12,20.
2. Jesus is coming again for His people. John 14:1-3.
3. Read II Timothy 3:1-7 and read your paper and you must admit Jesus is coming soon.

C. His Return Will Be Sudden.
1. He will come when men do not expect Him.
2. Men will cry peace and safety, but there will be none.
3. The Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night. II Peter 3:10.

IV. THE RESURRECTION - VERSE 16.
A. The Fact of Death.
1. All must and will die. This is an appointment. Hebrews 9:27.
3. This truth becomes an awesome and solemn truth when you lose your own in death.

B. The Fruit.
1. Job ask this question, "If a man die, shall he live again?" Job 14:14.
4. Jesus went to the tomb and raised Lazarus who had been there 4 days. John 11:39.

C. The Final Outcome.
1. The Lord shall descend from heaven with a shout.
2. The dead in Christ shall rise first.
3. The graves of the saved will yield the bodies and they will come forth.

V. THE REJOICING - VERSE 17.
A. Loved ones united.
1. The dead in Christ will be raised first.
2. The living will be changed.
3. All will proceed to meet the Lord.
4. What a great Reunion Day that will be.

B. The Lord.
1. We will meet the Lord in the air.
2. We will meet the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
3. We will see the Light, Life, Lover of our Souls, Lifter up, and Lord of Glory.

C. The Lasting.
1. "So shall we ever be with the Lord."
3. We will live with, serve, praise, and exalt our Saviour forever.

VI. THE REMINDER - VERSE 18.
A. The Call.
1. As saved people we are called upon to help one another.

2. The Lord uses His people to remind each other.
3. All need to be reminded. This is especially true in trying times.

B. The Commission.
1. We are to comfort one another.
2. We are to encourage one another.
3. We are to be used of God in comforting brothers and sisters in Christ.
4. Put your arms around them. Tell them you love them. Offer your help. Most of all remind them of God's Word.

C. The Comfort.
1. "With these Words."
3. The saved are for a brief time separated from their loved ones soon to be united eternally.

HOW BEAUTIFUL THE FEET
by Wesley Waldrum

Text: II Timothy 4:1-5.

Introduction:
The man who answers and accepts the call of God to preach the Gospel has obtained an excellent work. Paul goes into great detail and length to describe the need of a preacher, the call of a preacher, the charge of a preacher, the work of a preacher, the life of a preacher. When God calls a man into the ministry, I believe that the man of God should be charged for the work and ministry he is about to enter into in. In our text, Paul uses the word "therefore", indicating what is about to be said will be spoken in light of what has already been said. Having just told Timothy that "all scripture is--is God breathe, profitable for all of man's needs", he tells Timothy to PREACH IT!. Let us notice in our text:

I. THE EXHORTATION TO PREACH THE GOSPEL - VERSE 1.

A. The Seriousness.
1. Paul an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ charged young Timothy to "PREACH THE WORD." This charge should not be taken lightly.
2. Paul declared that the charge was before God and Jesus.
3. Preaching the Gospel is the highest honor and greatest responsibility of any man.
B. The Love Indwelt.
1. The man of God is to love the Lord, the Word, the ministry, the church, and the people.
2. Most of this comes quite easy.
3. Sometimes though, it is difficult to love all of the people because of their known sin and lifestyle.
4. It takes a loving man to stand and preach.
5. Paul tells us that the Word of God is profitable for doctrine, reproof, for correction and instructions in righteousness. With that thought in mind he now tells us we are to REPROVE and REBUKE, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine.
6. All this has to be done out of love and in a loving manner.

C. The Learning Instilled.
1. Paul tells us the right kind of spirit the man must be in when rebuking and reproving, "with all longsuffering and doctrine."
2. Paul tells us in verse 1 that Jesus will judge the living and dead at His appearing and Kingdom.
3. The pastor has an important task in leading his people to righteousness and teaching them the oracles of God.
5. The pastor is to teach his people with patience and endurance.

III. THE EVIL TIMES TO PREPARE FOR - VERSE 3,4.

A. The Word Despised - verse 3a.
1. Paul said that there is going to come a time when people don't want to accept sound doctrine. The doctrines of Jesus. The doctrines which we believe in.
2. The Word will not be enough to satisfy these people.
3. We are already seeing evidence of this in our generation.
4. There are so many false doctrines and religions that teach contrary to the Word of God.
5. We must continue to preach "Thus saith the Lord."

B. The Evil Desires of Man - verse 3b.
1. People will seek out to find men in the last days that preach and teach apostasy.
2. Isaiah 30:10.
3. The church at Ephesus was rebuked because they had left their first love. Revelation 2:4.
4. Paul said that there is going to be a great falling away of the Lord's churches in the last days. II Thessalonians 2:3.
C. Spiritual Deafness - verse 4.
   1. These kind of people will be seeking to hear stories of men rather than the truth that God has for us in His Word.
   2. This is why Paul exhorts us to watch out for these kind of people.
   3. It is so easy to get caught up in compromising.
   4. These kind of people will turn a deaf ear from the Word of God.

IV. EXEMPLIFY THOROUGH PROOF OF YOUR MINISTRY - VERSE 5.
A. The Endurance.
   1. Paul tells us that we are to ENDURE HARDNESS, AFFLICTION, AND TEMPTATIONS.
   2. The man of God might at times feel like giving up. Moses felt this way, Elijah felt this way; Jeremiah felt this way.
   3. The man of God will have times of hardships, and suffering.

B. The Example.
   1. A preacher of the Gospel should act like, talk like, live like, and smell like a man of God.
   2. It matters to me what people think about me, because I represent God and His church.
   4. People look to the man of God for spiritual guidance. We should be able to guide them.

C. The Evidence.
   1. Paul said to make full proof of your ministry.
   2. This means to fulfill it.
   3. Your lives should reflect your ministry as a preacher of the Gospel.
   4. Revelation 14:13 says that your works will follow you.
   5. The man who sows a good ministry will one day reap many blessings.

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WHO JESUS IS
by Violeta B. Hayes
Mt. Carmel MBC, Bradford, AR

He is the strength to go day by day,
He is the shepherd to lead the way;
He is the door of life eternal-
He is the tiding of joy supernal.

He is the Light, that turns night to day,
He is the Bread of Life, the living way;
He is the sure foundation-
The author of creation.

He is the good Master and great teacher,
He is the Rock of Ages, the chief preacher;
He is the Rose of Sharon, the true vine,
He is everything and so divine.

He is the Lamb, slain for our sin;
That in heaven, we may enter in,
What is Jesus to you, and His word?
To me, He is my Savior and my Lord.

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REACHING AND PRESSING TOWARD FUTURE USEFULNESS & BLESSINGS!


Introduction:
A. Like Paul, other children of God are "called" to Spiritual living and CHRIST-LIKE service! II Timothy 1:9.
   1. Galatians 5:25 - "If we live in the Spirit, Let us also walk in the Spirit!"

B. Like Paul, other believers should consider ourselves "DEBTORS" to our world in our generation! Romans 1:14.

C. Like Paul, believers of today should have HIGH and HOLY ASPIRATION, AMBITION and DETERMINATION concerning our USEFULNESS and BLESSINGS in our tomorrows!
   1. Paul was determined to "FORGET THE PAST".
   2. Paul was "REACHING FORTH" to whatever God had in store for him!
   3. Paul, so to speak, had his SHOULDER TO THE WHEEL AND PRESSING TOWARD A HIGHER MARK. THE HIGH CALLING OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS.

D. May I suggest Five Steps to Greater "USEFULNESS" and "BLESSINGS" in the Lord’s service in the future?

I. SEEK TO "CONFORM TO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST".
   A. As Jesus was the "Express image of the Father," Hebrews 1:3.
   B. God's ultimate AIM for us! Romans 8:29.
C. A Compliment From the Enemy -- 'Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, THEY MARVELLED; and took knowledge of them, THAT THEY HAD BEEN WITH JESUS.'

D. Seek to REPRODUCE HIS LIFE STYLE in our life:
   2. John 8:12.

E. Seek to REFLECT HIS LIGHT.
   1. He said, "I am the light of the world."

II. STRIVE TO IMPROVE!
   B. Paul's admonition to us: I Corinthians 14:12b.

C. Three areas for improvement:
   1. "Appearance": Learn a lesson from the ant!
      c. Proverbs 24:30-34.
   2. "Attitude" can also be improved! (Disposition, Opinion).
      a. Toward the Laws (Words, Teachings) of the Lord.
      b. Toward the Ways, Work of the Lord.
      c. Toward fellow-believers, fellow-church members.
      d. Toward Others Outside the Ark of Christ, the not yet saved.
      e. It is my conviction that THE LORD'S ATTITUDE SHOULD BE MY ATTITUDE! Philippians 2:5.
   3. "Actions" can be improved:
      a. Remember the one who fell among thieves? The "Priest" passed on the other side of the road. So did the Levite! The Samaritan, out of compassion MINISTERED TO THE POOR VICTIM! Luke 10.
      c. Remember James 2:22?
      d. I Corinthians 14:40.
      e. True Love Ministers to Others! I John 3:17.

III. SEEK TO MAINTAIN 'IMPRESSIVE SERVICES' IN OUR CHURCHES!

IV. SEEK TO ALWAYS KEEP 'IMPORTANT THINGS FIRST'.
   A. II Corinthians 8:5.
   B. Matthew 6:33.
   C. Remember what Jesus said to the disciples when it was time to eat? John 4:32 & 34.
   D. Apply Ecclesiastes 9:10.

V. 'IMMEDIATE RESPONSE' TO THE KNOWN WILL OF GOD.
   A. Matthew 4:19-20.
   B. Mark 5:19-20.
   C. Acts 8:29-30.

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
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SCANNING THE SCRIPTURES I
SCANNING THE SCRIPTURES II
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THE MYSTERIES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT
THE ABC'S OF FAITH

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JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

Text: Galatians 3:1-18

Introduction:
A. Paul addressed the issue.
1. Is man justified on his own merits?
2. Is man justified by faith?
B. Paul authenticated his ministry and authority.
1. By revealing where he got his message.
2. By reminding them of his past life before he met Jesus and what he was now.
3. By reminding them of the church counsel which concluded that God had sent Paul to the Gentiles with the message of grace.
4. By reminding them of his encounter with the Apostle Peter.

A. Foolish - means unintelligent, unwise, sensual.
B. Bewitched - means fascinated or captivated - deceived.
C. Disobedient.
   1. They were being led away from the truth.
   2. They had been eye witnesses of the truth.

II. THE CONSIDERATION WHICH HE CALLS FOR - Galatians 3:2-12
B. Consider - Are you now made perfect or mature by the flesh? Galatians 3:3.
   1. He makes a declaration concerning their start in the Spirit.
C. Consider - Why have you suffered for the cause of Christianity if salvation is by works? Galatians 3:4.
D. Consider - The example of Abraham.
      a. Notice what was attributed to his righteousness.
      b. Believe in faith.
      b. The foreordained plan - Galatians 3:8; Genesis 12:3.

A. Galatians 3:13.
   1. Redeemer.
   2. Sin bearer.
   3. Substitute.
   1. The blessing comes through Jesus Christ.
   2. The blessing of being justified by faith.
C. Galatians 3:15-18.
   1. God made the covenant of blessing with Abraham by promise through faith.
   2. The promise of salvation preceded the giving of the law.

THE SINGLE MIND

by Muncy Harris


Introduction: Certainly Paul's circumstances were anything but joyful. He had been arrested and taken to Rome, and was now awaiting trial. There was division among the Christians there, 1:14-17, and some were trying to make matters worse for the apostle. How was he able to have such joy in the midst of uncomfortable circumstances? He had the single-mind. His concern was not for Paul, but for Christ and the Gospel. Five times he mentions the Gospel in this chapter, 5, 7, 12, 16, and 17, and Christ is mentioned seventeen times! Paul looked upon these circumstances as sent from Christ, 1:13, for the purpose of exalting Christ, 1:20. If Paul had been double-minded, he would have complained because life was so uncomfortable. How we need the single mind today.

A. To be "in Christ" and a part of the Christian fellowship is a source of joy when things become difficult.
B. Here is Paul, a prisoner in Rome, yet rejoicing because of the fellowship of the Gospel.
C. Three phrases summarize his joyful attitude.
1. "I have you in my mind" 1:1-6.
   a. Paul was not thinking about himself; he was thinking instead about the dear saints (set-apart ones) in far-off Philippi.
   b. Every memory was a blessing to him - including the suffering he experienced in that Philippian jail, Acts 16!
   c. As he prayed for them, he rejoiced over their salvation and growth.
   d. He knew that what Christ had begun in their lives would be completed, for Christ is the Alpha and Omega, the Author and Finisher of our faith. Revelation 2:8; Hebrews 12:1-2.

2. "I have you in my heart" 1:7-8.
   a. The Philippian church was composed of a mixed group of people, but they were bound together by love.
   b. There was the wealthy Lydia, the jailer, the slave girl (all found in Acts 16) plus other believers, mostly Gentiles.
   c. They had shared in the Gospel with Paul. Their hearts were united in their love for Christ and each other.

3. "I have you in my prayers" 1:9-11.
   a. Paul always took time to pray for people; and his prayer here is that they might live full lives.
   b. An empty Christian is a tragedy!
   c. He prayed that they might be faithful in their daily walk; and that they might be fruitful in Christian service.
   d. This was a prayer for Christian maturity; mature love, wisdom, character, and service.

A. Notice how Paul describes all the suffering he had been through.
   1. He calls these trying events "the things that have happened unto me!"
   2. Most of us would have gone into great detail, but not Paul.
   3. His desire was to honor Christ and promote the gospel.
   4. Paul had a 3 way priority list: Jesus - Others - Himself.

B. He put Christ first - 12-21.
   1. Were there chains on his wrist? These were "my bonds in Christ."
   2. Were his enemies causing trouble by their preaching? "So what?" They are preaching Christ.
   3. Are his friends worried about him and praying for him? "FINE!" This will exalt Christ!
   4. Is there a possibility that he might die? "Then Christ will be magnified by life or by death!"
   5. This is the single-mind: putting Christ and the Gospel ahead of everything else.

C. When we take Christ into every circumstance, we will have joy.
   1. Paul was not the prisoner of Rome, he was the "prisoner of Jesus Christ", Ephesians 3:1; 4:1.
   2. The soldiers chained to his wrist were not guards; they were souls for whom Christ died. Paul had a captive audience, and from 1:13 and 4:22 we conclude that he won many of them to Christ!
   3. The single-minded Christian does not allow circumstances to overcome him; he turns those circumstances into opportunities to magnify Christ and win souls.

D. He put others second, 22-26!
   1. Selfishness always breeds unhappiness. Paul had joy because he loved others.
   2. He prayed for them, encouraged them, and sought to bring joy to them.
   3. While he longed to be with Christ, he eagerly yearned to remain to help these believers grow in Christ.

E. He put himself last.
   1. His body was not his own; his future was not his own; his reputation was not his own, putting ourselves first always brings misery.
   2. "I O Y" is spelled "Jesus-Others-You". Don't try to reverse the spelling.

F. Whenever difficulties come to our lives, we should always be sure that we have the single mind that says, 'Lord, whatever comes, I want Christ to be glorified.' This is the secret of Christian Joy.

A. There are battles to fight in the Christian life, and Paul warns here about the enemies that would attack us.

B. The new Christian goes through these three stages:
   1. A son in the family, the fellowship of the gospel.
   2. A servant, the furtherance of the Gospel.
   3. A soldier, the faith of the Gospel.

C. Satan is out to defeat the Church, and Christians need to have the single mind to face him and "fight the good fight of faith."

D. Paul gives several encouragements here to help the Christian defend the faith of the Gospel.
   1. You are not standing alone 1:27. How wonderful it is to know that others are standing right with us as we fight the battle of life. There is no substitute for the unity and harmony of the Christian family.
Satan is the great divider and destroyer; Christ is the uniter and builder.

2. You are on the winning side 1:28. Don't let the enemy frighten you! Paul counseled. He knows he's losing and you're winning. The unity and faith of the believers is an evident token (clear omen or sign) to the enemy that he is going to lose.

3. It is a privilege to suffer for Christ 1:29-30. It is wonderful to believe on Christ and receive the free gift of salvation; but there is another gift, the gift of suffering for Jesus' sake. Philippians 3:10 points out that our suffering is in fellowship with Him; see also Acts 5:41. What a privilege to follow in the train of such saints as Paul, as we suffer for Jesus' sake!

E. But, whatever happens, a Christian should always act like a Christian, verse 27.
1. Someone asked Ghandi "What is the greatest hindrances to Christian missions in India?" Ghandi replied, "Christians."
2. Even in the midst of battle, we must behave like Christians.

F. In the midst of trouble, Paul showed quiet confidence.
1. He was confident that the Philippians would continue their Christian walk 1:6.
2. He was rejoicing that his trials had given the believers in Rome new confidence 1:14.
3. He was confident that he was coming through these trials and would be restored to his friends again 1:25.

G. This is the blessing of the single mind. That joyful confidence in God, knowing that he is in control of circumstances.

HELP US PRINT THESE BOOKS BY SENDING AN OFFERING TODAY!
Clark's Counsel to Corinth by Neal Clark
Sermon Outlines by Herbert Brown
Sermon Outlines by Kenneth Bazar
Sermon Outlines by Paul Bazar
Scanning the Scriptures (NT) by Glen Tropp
Sermon Outlines by George Crawford

RUNNING THE RACE
By Randy Cloud


Introduction:
The Christian life is compared to a race. There is an intensity about running. It requires energy for us to move forward. In the Christian race, we are to run and not faint.

We are to fix our eyes on Jesus for He is our goal as we run the race.

We must run the race with dedication, desire, and determination. We must run the race with courage, commitment, and consecration.

We must not look back. "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back is fit for the Kingdom of God," Luke 9:62. The Apostle Paul has written, "...but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before," Philippians 3:13.

We are to run the race with patience. This word is translated from a Greek word hupomone which means 'rugged endurance', 'continued'.

We are to finish the race. We are to run with patience and persistence until we have finished our course. The Apostle Paul has written, 'I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith,' II Timothy 4:7.

Let us consider five Biblical Essentials to remember in Running the Race.

I. WITNESSES TO ENCOURAGE US!

Hebrews 12:1, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses..." The 'cloud of witnesses' is a metaphor referring to the great amphitheater with the arena for the runners and the tiers upon tiers of seats rising up like a cloud.

The great heroes of the faith are observing us in the Christian race. Hebrews 11 mentions "God's Hall of Faith". We have witnesses to encourage us. Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, and many other heroes of the faith challenge us to "Keep on - Keeping on" in the Christian Race.

II. WEIGHTS TO ENCUMBER US!

Hebrews 12:1, "...let us lay aside every weight."

No athlete wants to be tied down when he runs a race. He does not want to wear clumsy or heavy clothing. He certainly does not want to have a weight on his back or legs. An athlete who gives himself to win strives for the goal and reaches out for the goal placed before him laying the weight aside. He wants to run the race unhindered, unencumbered.

In the Christian Race, each of us must lay aside the weights that keep us from running successfully. Whatever is hindering you in the race, lay it aside.

Doubt is a weight that must be laid aside. Do not doubt the power of God! Do not doubt the promises of God! The promises of God are sure and steadfast! Jeremiah 33:3.

Disobedience is a weight that must be laid aside. A disobedient Child of God is an unhappy Child of God. "Trust and Obey" are very important words in the life of a Child of God.
Discouragement is a weight that must be laid aside. One of the devil's most effective weapons is discouragement. If the devil can get you discouraged about singing in the choir, teaching a Sunday School Class, giving tithes and offerings, being faithful and witnessing and soul winning, Satan has you right where he wants you. Galatians 6:9.

Discontent is a weight that must be laid aside. Philippians 4:11. So many people are discontent - not really happy with anything - too hot or too cold - not really thankful. The poet said, "As a rule - humans are fools - When its hot - He wants it cool - When its cool - He wants it hot - He always wants - What is not."

Despondency is a weight that must be laid aside. The devil wants you to get so gloomy - so despondent - always looking on the dark and dreary. Lay aside this weight. Be a happy, cheerful Child of God. Philippians 4:4.

III. WICKEDNESS TO ENTANGLE US!

Hebrews 12:1, "...and the sin which doth so easily beset us." The phrase "which doth so easily beset us" describes a garment that is wrapped around one's body and perhaps tied. It is obvious that an athlete could not run like that, so he lays it aside. We are to confess our sins to God, claim His forgiveness, and seek His cleansing from the sins that hinder us.

Whatever the sin - selfishness, bitterness, malice, anger, disrespect, unforgiveness, unfaithfulness, hypocrisy, lukewarmness, jealousy, unconcern, indifference, unclean habits, etc. - must be laid aside. I John 1:9. II Chronicles 7:14.

IV. WEARINESS TO ENCOUNTER US!

Hebrews 12:3, "For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."

Have you considered Jesus lately? Have you considered the Lord Jesus who suffered and died on the Cross of Calvary? Have you considered Jesus who suffered untold agony for our sins? Have you considered Jesus who shed His precious blood on the Cross? Consider Jesus! Consider Jesus unless you become faint-hearted. II Thessalonians 3:13.


V. WINNER TO ENABLE US!

Hebrews 12:2, "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Jesus Christ has run the race. He has won the victory over sin, hell and the grave. Jesus is the Victor - the Winner - He lives at the right hand of the throne of God.

Enable means "to supply with adequate power". Jesus gives us the power to do what He would have us to do. Acts 1:8.

As we run the Christian Race, Look to Jesus!

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace."

Conclusion:

Unsaved friend, trust Christ as your Saviour. Romans 10:8-13; II Corinthians 6:2.

Child of God, lay aside every weight and the sin that hinders, and dedicate your life to God today.

NEXT BOOK: We are in the process of printing our next book. Clark's Counsel to Corinth is an Outlines Book by Neal Clark. Send in for your free copy today.

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

By J.D. Self


Introduction:

A. The One who provided our salvation through His great love.
B. The One who made provisions for us through His only begotten Son.

I. A COMPASSIONATE FATHER John 3:16; 14:23.

(He shows kindness by assistance and feeling of distress through ills of others.)

A. Bears with...longsuffering. II Pet. 3:9.
B. Sympathetic...gives peace. John 14:27.

Shares our interests and sorrows.


D. Desires to alleviate (Make more bearable). Cast thy burden upon the Lord. Psa. 55:22.

II. A CONCERNED FATHER.

A. He is disturbed...because of:
   2. Our unconsider.
   3. We should be concerned and show it.

B. Anxious for our safety. Deuteronomy 32:11.
D. Involved...How?
E. Implicated...bringing into intimate connections.


A. Isaiah 12:2.

B. Gives firmness of belief. Strength to do our daily chores.

IV. A LISTENING FATHER. II Chronicles 7:14; James 4:3.

A. And when ye pray. Matt. 6:5-7.
B. Ask and ye shall receive.
C. He listens to our needs.
D. We are to pray in secret. Matthew 6:6.
E. If you had asked. John 4:10.

V. A GIVING FATHER Philipians 4:19; James 4:17.
A. Gives opportunity of salvation.
   1. Opportunity of service.
   2. Gives faith and life.
B. Gives us His LOVE freely.
   2. Gave Jesus.
      a. To die as our sin offering.
      b. To be our High Priest.
      c. Our King.
C. Prepared us a home in heaven. John 14:2,3; I Peter 1:3-5.
   1. Jesus is preparing a place for us.
   2. He is coming for us. I Thessalonians 4:16-18.
   3. The heavens will depart as a scroll.
   4. The meeting.

VI. A DESERVING FATHER.
A. He deserves HONOR, WORSHIP, PRAISE, our surrendered service.
   2. We are to worship Him in spirit and truth.
B. Humble ourselves under His mighty hand. I Peter 5:6.
C. He will reward us for our service. Matthew 6:18; Revelation 22:12.

VII. A FORGIVING FATHER.
A. I will forgive their sins. II Chronicles 7:14.
B. The perfect Father who is just and righteous.

FROM A READER: "I recently received one of your Sounding Out the Word Ministries paper. I found this to be an excellent paper, sound in biblical truth and very challenging. I have even started to use the outlines given in the paper, as I found them helpful and inspiring. I am requesting you to send me the paper by putting me on the mailing list. I would be most appreciative of your kind gesture. Would you also send me a copy of Bro. Herbert Brown's outline book entitled Mysteries of the New Testament?"

This is part of a letter that we received from Godfrey Watson in Jamaica in the West Indies.

GOD'S PLACE FOR YOU
By L. Chester Guinn

Introduction: Elijah was a great man, but still we need to remember what James said about him. James 5:17 - He was a man who knew how to get things from God. We would do well to learn the secret of his success and power. The last word of Verse 4 expresses it. That word is "there". Do you ask where? The place where God wanted him to be. This is the best place any of us can be.

I. GOD'S PURPOSE AND WILL FOR ELIJAH WAS "THERE" BY THE BROOK.
A. It was a lonely place.
   1. At times we need to be alone.
   2. Several times Jesus went aside, alone.
   3. He was alone in Gethsemane.
B. For Elijah this was a place of prayer and meditation.
   1. We need this place.
   2. There we find God and He finds us.
C. This was a place where Elijah could listen to the Word of God.
D. It was a place where he could learn to walk by faith.
E. God's place of blessing for Elijah was "there".
   1. In our world it is easy to get away from this place.
   2. Abraham got away from this place when he went to Haran. Genesis 12:10.
   3. There is a place of blessing for you if you will only be "there".

F. Elijah had power when he was "there".
   1. Some good can be done wherever you are.
   2. If you want the fullness of power, then learn to be obedient to God, be "there".
G. God's provisions for Elijah were "there". "I have commanded the ravens to feed thee "there".
   1. God put him "there", now He is obligated to care for him.
   2. When the brook dried up and the ravens did not bring bread, God was still obligated to care for him. (Look at verse 9 and note the word "there").

II. JACOB GOT AWAY FROM GOD AND THE LORD HAD TO SAY TO HIM, "ARISE, GO TO BETHEL, AND DWELL "THERE".
A. Do you need to come back to Bethel?
B. Notice in Genesis 35:7, twice the word "there" is used.
C. "There" the Lord pronounced a blessing on Jacob. V 11.

III. IN LUKE 23:33 WE READ "THERE THEY CRUCIFIED HIM."
A. Compare this with Matthew 27:36, "They watched him "there".
B. Their redemption's price was paid. Will you come "there"? There is no other means of redemption.
THE QUESTION OF THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD
By L.H. OWEN

Text: Romans 8:28.
Introduction: “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (NIV) We cannot take the concordance, look up the word, run the references, and draw conclusions concerning the providences of God. The word is used but once in the King James Version of the New Testament, Acts 24:2, and it is used in a different sense. We must look through the Bible to find examples that definitely teach that God is at work in this manner.

I. CONSIDER THE EXAMPLE OF JOB. Job 1:8-12.
   A. The destruction of all of his possessions. 1:13-23.
   B. The physical pain 2:5-8.
   C. Even his friends turn on him. 4:8.
   D. God’s providential care was always there. 1:12;2:6.
   E. He was rewarded in the end. 42:10.

II. CONSIDER THE EXAMPLE OF ESTHER AND MORDCEAI.
   A. Vashti, the queen, was deposed. Esther 1:19.
   B. Esther was chosen in her stead. 2:17.
   C. Mordecai would not bow to Haman. 3:2.
   D. Haman arranged the slaughter of the Jews and the hanging of Mordecai. 3:13;5:14.
   E. Esther risk her life for her people. 4:14.
   F. Haman is hanged on the gallows built for Mordecai. 7:10.

   A. Jesus loved this family. 11:5.
   B. Lazarus became sick. 11:4.
   C. Jesus delayed and Lazarus died. 11:6,14.
   D. Lazarus was raised from the grave. 11:43,44.
   E. The reason for the raising. 11:42,45.

IV. GOD IS NOT AN INACTIVE GOD IN THE AFFAIRS OF MEN AS WE MIGHT MANY TIMES BELIEVE.
   A. Many things in the Scriptures make us to know that God is not insensitive to the needs and even the desires of His people. Rom. 8:28.
   B. One’s inability to understand the ‘WHY’ is many times the difficulty. Not being able to see the end or God’s purpose.
   C. Satan is the cause of many things that happen.
   D. One’s freedom to choose and one’s stubborn, obstinate, selfishness causes many of one’s sorrows.

WHAT WAIT YE FOR?
By Joe Stevens

Introduction: A great multitude of people have the thought that someday they are going to become an active servant of Christ. They intend to do this but the opportune time hasn’t arrived. Many saved people who have gotten out of service have the same thought. Very few will admit that they have no interest whatsoever in religion. If all those who are waiting for the opportune time were to suddenly do what they intend to do, churches would be overfilled today. The psalmist recognized that to trust in the things of this world was vanity and that hope is in the Lord. Psa. 39:6,7. When he realized this he ask for deliverance. V8 The question, “What wait ye for?” needs to be asked and examined today.

I. THE NEED WILL NEVER BE MORE URGENT.
   A. The need for faithful christians.
      1. Sin and evil is running wild and christians are the only restraint. Jesus said, “Ye are the salt of the earth...” Paul encouraged, “Put on the whole armor of God and stand...”.
      2. The harvest is great and the laborers are few.
      3. Because souls are dying and going to hell.

   B. The need of salvation of the lost will never be more urgent.
      1. The unsaved is just as lost today as he will ever be. “All have sinned and come short...” Also John 3:18.
      2. If a person is waiting until he feels he has committed enough sin to deserve to be cast into hell, he is waiting in vain.

II. THE WAY WILL NEVER BE MORE PLAIN.
   A. The way of christian service.
      1. Jesus said, “Follow me...” “Deny yourself...”
      2. The Bible plainly teaches us what He wants us to do.
         a. Assemble for worship.
         b. Go out to serve.

   B. The way of salvation.
      1. Some say, “If I understood it I might accept it.” Accept it then understand it.
      2. God has not confused the way, man has.
      3. It has always been by grace through faith.

III. THE DECISION WILL NEVER BE MORE EASY.
   A. Don’t deceive yourself that there will be a time when it will be easier to serve God. The longer one stays out of service the harder it is to return.
   B. Some will protest, “I will have to give up too much.” That will always be. If it’s not one thing it will be another.
C. Statistics prove that the longer one
prolongs the decision, the harder it becomes
and the less likely it will ever be made.

IV. THE TIME WILL NEVER BE MORE
CONVENIENT.
A. Because of modern conveniences all excuses
are covered.
1. Convenient place of worship and service.
2. Convenient transportation.
3. Convenient schedule.
4. People who can’t find a convenient time to
serve God just plain don’t want to.
B. The time to be saved will never be more
convenient.
1. The gospel is preached.
2. The Spirit is convicting.
3. The Lord is willing.
4. Like Felix, Many are looking for a more
convenient time which will never come. “Now
is the accepted time...today is the day...” “Boast
not thyself of tomorrow...”

V. THE PROMISES WILL NEVER BE MORE
SURE.
A. That faithful service will never go
unrewarded.
B. That eternal life is given to all who seek it.
1. “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou
shall be saved...”
2. “Whosoever believeth in him shall not perish,
but have everlasting life.”
3. “...him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast
out.” John 6:37

Conclusion: What wait ye for? Whatever it is it may never
open and you will die with good intentions, but good
intentions will not get you a heavenly reward.

THE BEST FOUNDATION FOR FAMILY LIVING
By Charles Swilling

I. THE ATTITUDE (verse 12).
A. The putting on.
B. The people.
C. The pattern.

II. THE ACTION (verse 13).
A. The forebearing.
B. The forgiving.
C. The fact.

III. THE ADORATION (verse 14).
A. The challenge.
B. The charity.
C. The completeness.

IV. THE ACCORD (verse 15).
A. The calmness.
B. The course.
C. The calling.

V. THE ACCEPTANCE (verse 16).
A. The word.
B. The will.
C. The way.

VI. THE APPEAL (verse 17).
A. The glory.
B. The giving.
C. The God.

VII. THE AGREEMENT (verses 18-21).
A. The loyalty.
B. The love.
C. The living.

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