MOMMA, THANKS FOR NOT HAVING AN ABORTION

Introduction: When God created Adam and Eve, He told them to be fruitful and multiply. Adam called his wife Eve because she would be the mother of all living. You use to get married and have children. Today, women may not get married and they choose to have an abortion. Even parents may talk the daughter into an abortion. Some women think today that if a baby will interfere with their lives, they have the right as a wife to have an abortion. Abortion would not be an issue in our day if people would live according to God’s Word and law. Abortion is murder because you are killing a life that is conceived.

I. THE ENJOYMENT.
   A. In Conception.
      1. Remember when you first learned you were going to have a baby? Women want to become wives and wives want to become mothers.
      2. It was a very touching scene when that wife told her husband they were going to become parents.
      3. In the Old Testament it was a reproach for a wife not to have children.
      4. It may be rare, but it is still good news when a woman tells her husband, parents that she is going to have a baby.

   B. In Children.
      1. Most of us can remember our children when they were born and their childhood days.
      2. We remember how they grew, developed, changed right before our eyes.
      3. If you had more than one, you remember how each one was different.
      4. The heart of a mother is seen in a 90 year old mother introducing her 70 year old as her "baby".

C. In Children’s Children.
   1. Something happens to people when they become grandparents.
   2. Children testify Mother and Dad were tough on me, but they will let our children get by with everything.
   3. One grandparent said, "Grandchildren are so much enjoyment, I wished I’d had them first."

II. THE ENCOURAGEMENT.
   A. Mothers encourage in life.
      1. Many people who have attained to position, excel in sports etc., attributes much of their success to their mothers.
      2. Mothers play a vital role in motivating their children in life.
      3. In a day when we enjoy plenty, we look at parents and grandparents who had and have little. In some ways they had more than we have.

   B. Mothers encourage in living.
      1. They encourage their children to live life to it’s fullest.
      2. They encourage their children to pursue their interest, profession, or line of work.
      3. Mothers caution, offer advice, and enjoy the success of her children.

   C. Mothers encourage in learning.
      1. In a day when both parents may have to work, much learning is required.
      2. Mothers love to see their children learning. They can remember hearing the first words, thought patterns, and delight in learning a craft or trade.
      3. Mothers help their children learn a lot about life.
D. Mothers encourage in loving.
   1. The warmth of a mother’s body transmits love, security, joy, contentment to her children.
   2. She loves because she is a mother. A mother’s love is something wonderful.
   3. She teaches her children by example and words how to love others.
   4. Love sacrifices, is responsible, seeks to protect, and seeks the well-being of her children.

III. THE EDUCATING.
A. She educates children to the Bible.
   1. Our first impressions of the Bible teaching just might have come from our mothers.
   2. Mothers can teach their children the gospel truth of the Bible.
   3. Bible standards, truth, and ways are the finest, fairest, and fullest. You can’t find a more practical and instructive Book.

B. She educates children to believe.
   1. Children are usually very receptive to whatever you teach them.
   2. Thank God for mothers who teach their children to believe in God.
   3. They instill into their children the truths of God’s Word.
   4. They teach them to believe and accept God and His Word and to depend upon Him in all of life. Proverbs 3:5,6.
   5. She rejoices in the day when her children are saved and they personally accept Jesus as Saviour.

C. She educates children to becoming.
   1. She wants her children to be and become servants of the Lord.
   2. She wants her children to honor and praise and glorify the Lord.
   3. She wants her children to become Christian in their thoughts, behavior, and ways.

IV. THE EXAMPLE.
A. She is an example of godliness.
   1. She tries to live a godly life as Titus 2:12 admonishes her to.
   2. She tries to convey to her children that she believes and lives a godly life.
   3. She will try to let her children know how vital and important God is to her.
   4. She talks, walks, and behaves as a godly wife and mother.

B. She is an example in grace.
   1. She has received the marvelous grace of God. Ephesians 2:8.
   2. She depends upon grace in life’s situations. II Corinthians 12:9.
   3. She behaves graciously before her children.

4. She accepts the grace that God offers to her everyday.

C. She is an example in goodness.
   1. She tries to live a good life in contrast to evil.
   2. She tells her children to be good. She wants them to live right.
   3. She is fair and honest in her dealings with others.

D. She is an example in gain.
   1. We live in a materialistic world. A world that tells us you have got to have possessions to be somebody.
   3. She teaches her children that possessions are not life, but life is experiencing the many blessings of God.
   4. Money and things cannot make you happy.

THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW!


Introduction:

A. The REVIEW.
   1. The problem identified.
   2. The pronouncements introduced.

B. The REVELATION for our consideration today deals with the purpose of the law.


A. The INHERITANCE PERCEIVED. Gal. 3:19a.
   1. Paul has already established the fact that the inheritance was connected with promise.
   2. This introduces faith for justification and this connects us with the inheritance.
   3. Therefore, the logical conclusion that must be drawn is that the inheritance, promises, and blessings are connected with our faith in Christ.
   4. The final analysis of this conclusion therefore is why should we be servants of the law. This serving the law was being taught by the Judaizers.

   1. It was given as a Revealer. Gal. 3:19b-21.
   2. It was given as a Guide. Gal. 3:22-24.
C. The INSIGHT perceived - faith does not suggest inactivity.

A. The LIBERATION - Gal. 3:25.
1. What is faith?
2. Notice the importance of the object of faith.
3. Who is the schoolmaster? The law was.

1. This refers to the born again experience.
2. The importance of this experience is verified in John 3.

C. The IDENTIFICATION, Gal. 3:27.
1. This deals with spiritual oneness.
2. This concept destroys divisiveness among God's people.
3. There is no one more important than another.
4. Beware of the uni-sex concept.

E. The CONNECTION, Gal. 3:29.

THE STEWARDSHIP OF LIFE, A TRUST COMMITTED

By Joe Brooks

Text: I Corinthians 4:2; II Corinthians 4:7.

Introduction: Stewardship involves two things: God's ownership and man's self-determination. Man is created as a free moral agent, not a robot. He may say no to God, yet is accountable to God. Stewardship involves the will of man. It also involves the life each has.

I. LIFE IS A TRUST FROM GOD:

A. Ponder these questions.
1. Why was life given to you?
2. Why has the remarkable providence of God sustained and protected you?
3. Why were you born in this particular age?
4. Why were you born with distinctive racial characteristics?
5. Why were you born in a civilized and free land?

B. Perhaps the answer is found in I Corinthians 15:10.
1. God has a purpose in your life.
2. Are you fulfilling that purpose?

C. Life is a trust committed.
1. Must be accounted for as stewardship responsibilities.

II. THE STEWARDSHIP OF LIFE!

A. Three factors involved.
1. Physical, mental, and spiritual endowments.
   a. Physical-personality-life.
      (1) Created in the image of God.

B. Search the following scriptures, they teach stewardship of life.

C. Our bodies are committed to us as a trust from God.
1. Held responsible for them.
   a. House the presence of the living Christ-indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

III. WE ARE TO BE AN INSTRUMENT OF GOD'S GRACE.

A. Why He chose to so work through man is a mystery.

B. We are to yield our will and bodies to His high and holy purposes.
1. To go--at His command.
2. To use--our lips as a channel by which words of life are spoken to lost man.
3. To give--our hands in loving ministry to encourage and inspire others in the work of the Lord.
4. To let--His spirit lead us.
5. This is what Paul meant in I Corinthians 3:16.

C. The whole personality should come under the dominion of the dynamic love for God. Matthew 22:36-37.
1. The heart, the soul, and the mind is the whole of man. We are to love God with all that we have.

IV. THE STEWARDSHIP OF LIFE IS A CONQUERING GRACE:

A. Fear, anxiety, insecurity conquered.

B. Feelings of guilt, failure, frustration conquered.
1. Psalms 103:1,3,4,12.

C. Hatred, resentment, unforgiveness, vindictiveness conquered.

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REFLECTING JESUS


Introduction:
A. This is the great need of the hour! "Sirs, we would see Jesus!" Jesus needs to be seen (reflected: "to throw back light, to form an image, to manifest:")

More than a photograph - more than a statue - a living person.
1. In our personal (private and public) life:
2. In our pews:
3. In our pulpits:

B. Frank M. Fairchild says of Jesus, 'He is the mirror of deity. He is the express image of God's person. He interprets God to our dull hearts. In him God becomes visible and intelligible to us." Is not this the Divine plan and purpose of God - that our lives (attitude and actions) portray the Son of God to our generation?

C. J. R. Caldwell writes 'I find the greatest hindrance to the gospel and the greatest hindrance to many precious truths taking effect in the hearts and conscience of unbelievers is the UN-Christlike lives of those who profess the truth. Oh, give me an hundred people that are making it the business of their lives to be 'like Christ' - reading His word and crying to God to show them the right way - and I will show you a place where there will be permanent blessing.'

D. When I think of Jesus:
1. I think of a volunteer - Who gave self, service, and sacrifice of his own free will.
2. I think of a valiant (brave, strong, courageous) person.
3. I think of one of vitality (that which distinguishes the living from the non-living, energetic, forceful, vigorous, etc.)
4. I think of one who is vigilant (alert and watchful as the guiding shepherd).
5. I think of one with vision (discernment, perception, intelligent foresight - no dreamer).

6. I think of virtue! (one who displays the high quality of moral excellence, righteousness, and responsible leadership) No fault! No Sin!
7. I think of the vine from which flows life-giving, life-sustaining, fruit-producing substance.
8. I think of the victorious one! One who was victorious over self, sin, and satan. One who enables us to be victorious (I John 4:4). One who can, does give us victory over self, sin, satan, sorrow and suffering, stumbling blocks, etc.

E. Facts to remember:
1. Our Heavenly Father predestined that his children "be conformed to the image of his son."
2. There is a "lost world" and "family of God" who "would see Jesus".
   a. In our Person.
   b. In our Performance.
   c. In our Practice.
   d. In our Praying.
   e. In our Preaching.
4. We have by the new birth been conformed inwardly to the image of the son. Romans 8:9.
5. Through the transforming Spirit one can become "More like the Master!" Galatians 5:16; Philippians 2:12.
6. In the resurrection and translation our outward man will be made LIKE HIM! I John 3:2.

F. Until Then....

I. WE REFLECT JESUS IN "MEEKNESS". (By showing Patience, Humility, Submissiveness, Kindness, Gentleness).
   B. Two disciples who wanted to sit in the place of highest honor. Matthew 18:3.
   C. Romans 12:3
   D. Remember I Corinthians 15:10.

II. WE REFLECT JESUS IN "MINISTERING!" (Attendance to wants and needs, hurts, cares.)
   A. Bathing human feet:
   B. Comforting Mary and Martha: John 11.
   C. Anointing eyes of blind beggars:
   D. Calling attention to Mary and John from His cross...Their need for each other:
   E. Ministering to the hungry, sick, sorrowing, suffering, (Not as Job's friends).
III. WE REFLECT JESUS IN "MOTIVATING" OTHERS!
A. Give incentive, stimulate to action, incite.
B. II Corinthians 5:14.
C. John 4:35-36.
D. "There was something about Jesus that caused James and John to 'immediately follow'" - Matthew 4:22.
F. Young preachers saw in Paul a motivating influence! Philippians 1:14.
G. Paul to Timothy - "Be thou an example".

IV. WE REFLECT JESUS IN "MINDING" THE SHEEP AND LAMBS.
A. Out of compassion He taught! Luke 6:34.
C. Acts 1:3.

V. WE REFLECT JESUS IN "A MINISTRY OF MENDING!"
A. In His dealings with Simon Peter:
   1. Warning him! Luke 22:31; I Peter 5:8; Acts 20:31 - "Therefore watch and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."
   2. He prayed for him!

VI. WE REFLECT JESUS BY "MANIFESTING!"
(Show plainly, Display, Reveal)
A. Jesus:
   1. "Express image of his person", Hebrews 1:3.
   2. "I have glorified thee", John 17:4.
   4. "I have given them the words which thou gavest me...", John 17:8.
B. Like Jesus we are to "manifest", make known God's attributes (love, mercy, grace, power) and attitudes!

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REASONING WITH GOD

By Calvin Francis


Introduction:
A. The record of this chapter deals with what Israel was and what she seemed to be and the impending judgment.
B. In view of these facts, God calls upon them to reason with Him in view of two alternatives:
   1. Forgiveness-verse 19.


C. Definition of reasoning.

I. WE MUST REASON WITH HIM CONCERNING SIN.
A. Are we any different than they? The reason for His judgment was because the sin question was not resolved.
B. Each one is guilty of sin. We are all offspring of Adam, therefore we practice sin because of nature and will.
C. To deny sin in our lives is to deny our very nature. We are all guilty and it must be resolved. Romans 3:19.
   1. He commands that sin be repented of. Isaiah 1:16,17.
   2. This He later explains. Isaiah 55:6,7.
   3. The provision for repentant sinners is seen in verse 11 which they had not considered but dealt with the eternal purpose of God in Christ. Hence He asks, to what purpose?

II. WE MUST REASON WITH HIM ABOUT SERVICE.
A. In our text he mentions not only their sacrifices, but their assemblies and prayers that were not accepted because they had missed the motivation. Verse 11-15.
B. The purpose for our assemblies and our prayers is because we have already resolved the sin question with Him.

   1. Serving God is the natural response of the grateful heart.
C. We serve God as we serve our fellow man. verse 17. The greatest good we can do for our fellow man is as we are witnesses to the grace of God toward man in regard to the sin question.

III. WE SHOULD REASON WITH HIM CONCERNING A YOKE. MATTHEW 11:28-30.
A. Only equals can be yoked together. Israel's Law forbade the yoking of an ox and an ass together. (They could not pull equally.)
B. Believers are warned against being yoked together with unbelievers. II Cor. 6:14.
C. We are urged to be yoked together with Him. Besides fellowship this means:
   1. It keeps us from wandering from His purpose for us. The geese on Beards Lake.
   2. It helps us to be able to pull with Him and for Him. He that is not with me is against me and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.
   3. This is something no reasonable person wants.
Conclusion: HAVE YOU REASONED WITH HIM ABOUT: Sin / Service / His Yoke? Then do so now.

IN THE MEAN TIME

By Kenneth Click

Text: I Peter 2:11-12.

Introduction: After trusting Jesus Christ as Savior everything changes. The world is not the same. People are not the same. Life is not the same.

We await that great day when Jesus will come again. But what do we do in the mean time? How are we to live? What is our prime responsibility?

Peter gives us in clear and simple language what we are to be doing in the mean time.

I. THE PLEA "I BESEECH YOU".

A. To beseech is to (1) appeal to, (2) entreat, (3) beg, (4) plead with.
   1. The word carries great intensity and zeal.
   2. We need more zeal in our lives for God.

B. The word is not uncommon in Scriptures.
   1. Acts 13:42 "And when the Jews were going out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath."
   2. Romans 12:1.
   3. Ephesians 4:1 "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called."

C. Preaching consists of pleading and beseeching!

II. THE PEOPLE "DEARLY BELOVED...STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS".

A. Dearly beloved...
   1. The NIV incorrectly translates it "Dear friends."
   2. Peter loved all Christians because he loved and obeyed the Lord. I Peter 1:22-23.
   3. Christians are to love one another. I John 3:11-18.

B. Strangers...
   1. This world is not our home...we are strangers.
   2. The love, motivation, and morals of this world makes all Christians strangers.

C. Pilgrims...
   1. We are only passing through.
   2. Christians are not to make themselves "at home" in the world.
   3. This is the constant temptation.

III. THE PROBLEM "ABSTAIN FROM FLESHLY LUSTS, WHICH WAR AGAINST THE SOUL."

A. Christians, while having a new nature, must continue to deal with the old, sinful nature.
B. What are the impulses of the old nature?


C. How do we battle the impulses of the Old Sin Nature?
   1. Admit that you are powerless over the Old Nature.
   2. Believe that through the power of God you can overcome the Old Nature.
   3. Decide to turn your mind and life over to God.
   4. Take an honest inventory of yourself.
   5. Humbly ask God to remove all defects of character.
   6. Take it one day at a time.

IV. THE PURPOSE - VERSE 12.

A. To provide a godly influence in the world.
B. To portray a living example of what Christ can do.
C. To promote the worship of God, and give Him glory.

Conclusion: There is much to be done while we await the coming of our Savior. We must busy ourselves. Are you ready to get serious with God?

COMMITMENT DAY IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

By Lamar Denby


Introduction: An alarming lack of commitment to Christ abounds in many churches today. Some church members are committed to everything but the Lord and His church.

I. A GREAT DAY OF COMMITMENT - VERSE 3.
   A. It was three-fold...
   B. It was from the heart...
   C. Who made it...verse 2.
   D. When it was made...
      1. When the Book was found (explain) Deuteronomy, 34 chapters...we have 66 books.
      2. Many need to rediscover God's Holy Word!
      2. When it was read in the ears of the people. Isaiah 55:11.

E. Where it was made.
   1. In the temple.
   2. In the presence of the Lord. Ecclesiastes 5:1, 2.

II. THE RESULTS OF THEIR COMMITMENT.
   A. A Change took place...verse 4.
   B. They kept the passover (Christ in His rightful place).
   C. They gave willingly to the Lord (total 41,400; Josiah 30,000 lambs, 7,600 calves, 800 oxen).
   D. Peace in the time of Josiah (no axes to grind, unity and harmony).

III. TODAY SHOULD BE A DAY OF COMMITMENT IN GOD’S HOUSE FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN PRESENT.
   A. A commitment to worship Jesus.
B. A commitment to His Word.
C. A commitment to His Work.

Conclusion: You are committed to something. Surrender your all to God.

GOD IS LISTENING FOR YOUR CALL
By Billy Daniels


Introduction: The greatest experience anyone can have in life is to be saved. As thrilling, exciting, satisfying as other experiences may be, none compares.

In these verses Paul outlines clearly how to be saved. He also reveals God's personal care and concern for sinners.

God knows our need, has provided for our salvation and now listens for us to call on Him to be saved.

I. EVERYONE IS INVITED TO CALL.

A. Every person is invited to call on Him.
Verse 12.
1. II Peter 3:9 "The Lord...is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that ALL should come to repentance.
2. Salvation is not limited nationally or socially.
3. It is not only for the Jew, but also for Gentile; not only for American but for European, Asian, etc.

B. Whoever sees his need. Romans 3:23.
1. There is no distinction in who needs to call.
2. People are blind to their real condition until light from the Word of God reveals it.
3. We must preach against sin; not just generally, but particularly. (Illustration: criticism of preacher, "You are too plain". His reply 'When a house is on fire, you don't knock and say 'Sir, you are in some sort of danger', but 'Sir, your house is on fire!'.

II. EVERYONE MUST CALL UPON THE LORD TO BE SAVED. "THE NAME OF THE LORD".

A. This does not mean merely to repeat his name; saying Jesus, Jesus, Lord a thousand times will not bring salvation.
1. It is a sacred name, a powerful name.

B. It means to cast ourselves upon ALL His name means.
1. Jesus means Savior. "Thou shalt call his name Jesus for he shall save his people from their sins.
2. Calling upon His name means to call upon Him as Savior.
3. Calling upon One who has the authority and power.

C. Because we have no salvation unless we do. We must let this word CALL mean all it is intended to mean.

1. Calling admits our sin and repents of it. We do not call until the sin becomes a burden too great to bear.
2. Calling confesses our helplessness.
   a. Israel, like many, tried to help themselves when they saw their need.
   b. We have not reached the place of seeing our helpless condition when we try to establish our own righteousness.
   c. When we see all hope is gone, we call.

D. Salvation is immediately available to us who call. Verse 8.
1. As near as the word in our heart and mouth.
2. As near as our call of repentance and faith.
3. Calling is repentance and faith trusting.
4. Salvation is not a goal reached after a long and patient struggle, but an experience as near as the word of repentance and faith in your heart.

III. GOD MAKES AND KEEPS PROMISES TO THOSE WHO CALL.

A. You will be saved. verse 13 "Saved".
1. What a glorious word.
2. Delivered from the condemnation and power of sin.
3. Made a child of God.
4. Forgiveness and peace with God.
5. New direction and purpose in life.

B. You will not be ashamed. verse 11 Not "disappointed".
1. He never fails to hear and answer.
2. Question to life guard "How can you hear a call for help above all the noise?" Answer "I can always distinguish the cry of distress above all the noise."
3. God, in the midst of the crowd can hear the sinners call. Bartimaeus, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me." There was a crowd around Jesus, but he heard this call.
4. Thousands may be calling in their distress, but He will hear your cry.

NEW BOOK: We have finished printing Bro. Kenneth Bazar's book entitled WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH JESUS. Send in for your free copy today!

WE NEVER SAW IT ON THIS FASHION
By Carroll Grigsby

Text: Mark 2:1-12.

Introduction:

A. "Fashion" - under such circumstances; in such a condition.
B. It seems by this verse that up until this point in Jesus’ ministry things and people had been very ordinary.
   1. People gathered, heard the Lord, and went on their ordinary ways.
   2. These men were very out of 'FASHION' in their work for Jesus.
C. Today, new fashions are being set in the religious world.
   1. Yet, this religion is failing and failing people.
   2. Something is missing and what it is is the Gospel Jesus Christ. Romans 1:16.
D. True religion never fails.
   1. All that is necessary for God’s truth and Christ to flourish is for His people to do their part.
   2. There is no way God is going to fail to do His.

I. THESE FOUR MEN SET NEW FASHIONS.
A. They brought this man to Christ to receive something.
B. This man received...
   1. His sins forgiven - vs 5.
   2. The healing of his physical body - vs 11.
C. Today, it is necessary for you and me (Church folks) to do our part.
   1. We need to bring men to Jesus Christ - vs 3.
   2. When it is not possible to bring men to Christ, we need to take Christ to them.

II. THESE SET NEW FASHIONS BY THEIR FAITH.
A. These believed Jesus could do things for this man - vs 5.
   1. Herein may be one of our problems - "Do we believe Jesus can do things for people?"
   2. Do we believe Jesus can save our lost family members, friends, co-workers, etc.?
   3. Do we believe Jesus can help our friends who are troubled? sick? in need?
B. These believed Jesus saved and proved it.
   1. They brought the man to Jesus to be saved - vs 5.
   2. Do we have such faith?

III. THESE MEN SET NEW FASHIONS BY THEIR CONCERN.
A. Many say they are concerned, but we never see any proof of it.
B. True concern is manifested - vs 3.
C. These men were concerned enough to do something - vs 4.
D. When real concern is present, you will see things done.
   1. Stephen.
   2. Paul.
   3. Jesus Christ.

IV. THESE SET FORTH A NEW FASHION BY THEIR EFFORT.
A. Upon arriving where Jesus was, they could not get in to see Jesus - vs 4.
B. They had tried and no one would have expected them to do any more.
C. Yet, these were not satisfied - vs 4.
   1. They made a way when none was available.
   2. These trusted God to help them.
D. We should never be satisfied in our service to God until we have exhausted every effort possible.

V. THESE SET A NEW FASHION IN THEIR RESULTS - VS 5,9,11.
A. The sick man was saved. (That makes it worth all the effort, etc.)
   1. His sins were forgiven.
   2. His soul was at peace with God - He was dying.
B. The sick man was healed-new healthy body.
C. Soul saved, body healed, God glorified, and the people amazed.
D. We can set new fashions in religion, too, if we will get busy because we have the same God those four men had.

THE DANGER OF SLEEPING IN CHURCH
By Marc Shultz


I. THE MESSAGE WENT UNHEARD. HEBREWS 4:2.
A. The message isn’t just for the Lost.
B. The message isn’t just for other sinners. Colossians 1:23.
C. Every message has you in mind.
D. How others respond is not our concern. They will face God as individuals. We have preached the message. They can’t blame us.

D. Provided knowledge. II Timothy 3:16-17.

III. THE FELLOWSHIP COULD HAVE GONE UNRECEIVED.
A. Those present were concerned about young men. I John 1:7.
B. Preacher (Paul) was concerned about him. Ecclesiastes 12:9-10.
C. The young man should have been concerned about himself.
D. The work of the Lord could go on without you, but why should it?