DON'T COMPROMISE YOUR LIFE

Text: I Corinthians 15:57,58.
Introduction: God calls upon His holy people to be devoted and dedicated to Him and His cause. He demands that we be completely yielded to Him. The Lord told us man would wax worse and worse. II Timothy 3:13 Paul describes the end time generation. It will be a sinful, extremely sinful time. Jesus said, "Because iniquity shall abound the love of many will wax cold." Matthew 24:12

Charles Swilling

A cold love will not move us to godly service or living. Jesus said one church had left her first love in Revelation 3:4,5. The book of I John was written to let us know that saved people can and do sin. We are given the formula for having our sins cleansed and fellowship with God restored. I John 1:8-10 Many in the religious world will try to tell you that a saved person cannot or will not sin, but this is contrary to the teaching of God’s Word. Let’s notice some areas in which we should not compromise as saved people.

I. DON'T COMPROMISE YOUR MORALS.
   A. The moral of holiness
      1. We are to be holy as the Lord is holy. I Peter 1:15,16 The Lord’s will is for us to be a holy people. This has to do with our living according to His Word.
      2. Right and wrong still exists. Righteousness and wickedness still exists. Some would have you to believe that there is no such thing as right and wrong, but they had better read the Bible.
      3. The television, radio, movies, books, and friends can influence us to the wrong. These are not controlled by the Lord.
      4. You can adopt the philosophies of this world and not even know it. Paul said for us to not be conformed or like the world in our behavior. Rom. 12:2

   B. The moral of honesty
      1. As believers we are not to lie, but speak the truth. Eph. 4:25 Jesus is the truth and we are His children and we are to speak the truth.

   2. We are to always be truthful in our conversations. The Lord doesn’t like a false witness. His laws forbid a person to bear false witness and to use false weights or measurements.

   3. On our jobs and business dealings, God help us to be honest and have moral uprightness. Honesty and moral uprightness gives our witness influence and power. Lying and cheating and dishonesty destroys our witness and influence for the Lord.

   4. Jesus Christ is our example in all that we do and in all of life. We are to follow His example and pattern.

C. The moral of humility
   1. We are not to think too highly of ourselves. Romans 12:3 We are not to be full of pride or arrogant.

   2. We are to take good and humble heart. I Corinthians 10:12 We are nothing and can do nothing without the Lord Jesus. John 15:5


   4. No one is as worthless as the person who thinks he is extremely valuable.

   5. Humility is the opposite of pride. Notice what God’s Word says about pride in Proverbs 16:18.

II. DON'T COMPROMISE YOUR MARRIAGE.
   A. The marriage is holy
      1. God’s divine plan for marriage is a holy one.
He saw that it wasn’t good for Adam to be alone and He created the woman for the man. His will for them was to be husband and wife and be one in marriage.

2. The writer said marriage is honorable and the bed undefiled. Hebrews 13:4

3. The marriage relationship is a holy one. The choosing a partner, the helping each other, and the affection is a holy thing to God.

4. God intended for a man and woman to marry and satisfy one another in their physical needs. God condemned fornication and adultery and homosexuality.

5. The perfect plan for the marriage is found in God’s Word. Other books may explain the Bible in an understandable way, but the Bible is and remains the only book that sets forth the perfect plan of God in marriage.

B. The marriage is honest

1. The woman is to submit unto her husband. Ephesians 5:22 She is to reverence him. She is to respect him or at least the position the Lord has given him to occupy in the marriage.

2. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loved His church. Ephesians 5 Christ gave Himself for His church. The husband is to give himself to and for his wife.

3. The husband is to love his wife and not be bitter against her. This love is a commitment to her as his wife. One thing lacking in a lot of marriages today is the Bible teaching of commitment. Such a commitment lasts until death parts the couple.

4. When mates stop doing what God instructs them to honesty is destroyed in the marriage. If you keep doing what you did to obtain the affections of your mate, you probably will retain the affections of your mate.

C. The marriage is humble

1. It is hard and difficult for the man and woman to do as the Lord teaches them to do. People aren’t married long until they realize that it is hard to live with one another in harmony without the Lord. It may be almost impossible.

2. It often means sacrificing feelings, pride, and self to render to the other.

3. When people are in trouble, marriages will be too. When marriages are in trouble, churches will be too.

4. When churches are in trouble, our world will be too. One of the major problems in our world today is that the marriage and family relationships are not lived according to the Word and will of almighty God.

III. DON’T COMPROMISE YOUR MESSAGE.

A. The message of holiness

1. God’s Word is inspired and profitable. II Timothy 3:16,17 It is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. It is truth. John 17:17

2. God’s Word is holy. We have no right to change it or try to alter it. Notice what the psalmist said in Psalm 19:7-11.

3. Paul told Timothy to preach the Word. II Timothy 4:2 The man of God is to expound and explain the Word of God.

4. A time will come when people will not endure sound doctrine. We can say that time is here already. We are to preach the Word of God even if they won’t hear.

5. God’s Word sets forth principles of holiness and teaches us how to live holy lives before God.

B. The message of honesty.

1. Since God’s Word is the very truth, His message deals with things the way they are. His message should be one of honesty.

2. We should honestly seek to proclaim it and fervently and with power. We should search our hearts and make sure that we are preaching the Word of God and not self and man made teachings.

3. People are shopping for things in a church. I am afraid the kind of preaching being done is low on their shopping list.

4. People need to hear a message of truth that is honest and true before God and men.

5. This generation desperately needs to hear God’s Word preached from a heart of love for God and man.

C. The message is humble.

1. We are commanded to repent and believe. It takes grace and strength for us to repent and believe. God’s Word teaches us to submit or yield to God. James 4:6,7

2. We are commanded to live God’s holy way. We must find grace to respect and reverence God by obeying Him.

3. We must bow to the will and way of our Lord and Saviour. The message of one of humility.

4. He is all wise. He has all knowledge. He knows the past, present, and future. May we humbly accept His message and obey it for His honor and glory and for our good and well being.

5. God still resists the proud and gives grace to the humble. James 4:6,7

IV. DON’T COMPROMISE YOUR MISSION.

A. We are to evangelize.

1. Our church is to be involved in preaching the gospel to every creature. Matthew 28:19 This is the basic and primary objective of the Lord’s churches.

2. We are to evangelize at home, abroad, and in
between. Our membership is to be busy sharing the gospel at home. We are to support missionaries on the local, state, interstate, and foreign levels.

3. We are to do it individually, wholly, and heartily.
4. Jesus Christ is the central theme of the Bible and we are invited and encouraged to share the message of Christ with others as others have shared the message with us.
5. Preaching the gospel should not be set aside for any reason or played down in importance in our churches.

B. **We are to baptize.**

1. Those who are saved need to follow the Lord in baptism. Matthew 28:19,20 We are taught this by precept and example in the Word of God.
2. The saved are to publicly take a stand and identify with the Lord’s people by following the Lord in scriptural baptism.
3. We are to immerse believers by the authority of a New Testament Church.
4. Only saved people should be baptized. They should be immersed or completely submerged in the water. Only a scriptural church has the authority from God to do the baptizing.
5. A scriptural church is one that has the right stand about the Lord Jesus Christ, salvation, and the Word of God.

C. **We are to stabilize.**

1. We are to teach the saved person the all commands of Christ. Matthew 28:20
2. We are to teach them to practice or do the commands of the Lord. The commands include scriptural baptism, church membership, and living according to God’s Word.
3. God’s Word is God’s law to believers. We are to obey His Word from the heart.
4. We are to live by and according to God’s Word. The Word teaches us how to talk, walk, conduct our lives, and even our attitudes and ambitions.
5. The Word of God grounds the saved person in what he believes, becomes, and is bothered by.

D. **We are to specialize.**

1. We are to follow Jesus’ example in living. I Peter 2:21 He is our pattern and example to follow.
2. We are to fellowship with Him around His Word among His people. I John 1:7
3. We are to be fruitful for Him. John 15:1-8 mentions bearing fruit for the Master at least 3 times.
4. We are to let the mind of Christ be in us. Philippians 2:5-9 This involves thinking the way He thought. Thoughts are reproduced into actions.

V. **DON’T COMPROMISE YOUR MOTIVES.**

A. The motive is holy.

1. We are to do what we do out of a holy love for the Lord. John 14:23
2. We can do it because of fear, what others think, for getting something in return.
3. The motive generally will determine how and why we do what we do. The supreme motive in Christian living and service is to be the love that we have for the Lord.
4. Our love should move, motivate, and mobilize us for the Master. Love compels us to do all that we possibly can for the Master.

B. The motive is honesty.

1. We are called upon often to examine our motives in service.
2. The wrong motives result in a dry, lifeless, insincere, and pitiful service.
3. The Holy Spirit often pricks our hearts to do the holy work with holy motives.
4. The Word of God is a mirror that reflects what we are and what we do and why we do it. The Spirit of God convicts us to do things right and with the right motive.

C. The motive is humble.

1. We must yield to the Lord and His will. James 4:6
2. When our motives are wrong we need to confess it and ask God to forgive us.
3. We must change. Only He can help us change, so we can do it for the right reason. It doesn’t help us or God’s cause, if we do not serve out of love for the Lord.
4. Sometimes we may try to get people to do God’s will for the wrong reason. It doesn’t help them or God’s cause.
5. Return to your first love is the only answer. Revelation 3:4,5

**Conclusion:** Don’t compromise your life. This generation knows little about proper morals and decency. This world is sinful and wicked. God still wants His people to live for Him according to His Word. We should not compromise in morals, our marriage, message, mission, or motive.

**ESSENTIALS FOR LEADERSHIP**

By Dean Lawson

**Text:** Judges 6:11,12

**Introduction:**

A. Israel needed direction and leadership.
B. Someone needed to stand up and provide the desperately needed leadership to guide Israel from their moral decadence.
C. Gideon was a God called man with a God instilled potential.
D. Gideon led Israel back to victory.
E. An analysis of this account reveals essentials for leadership that are applicable today.

I. WILLINGNESS TO SERVE
A. There is a need for people in the Lord’s service.
   1. Pews are not filled on Sunday.
   2. Preachers are leaving the ministry.
   3. Enrollment in our seminaries is decreasing.
   4. God’s people are involved in worldly activities.
   5. Sin abounds - people are dying daily on their way to hell.
B. We must be willing to do something to meet that need.
   1. God calls us all to serve.
   2. Some of the things that God calls us to do may seem to be a larger task than we are able to handle.
   3. God encourages us to step out on faith.
C. Our faith will increase each time we step out and do the things that God calls us to do.

II. PERSONAL CONVINCION
A. We must feel that it is God’s will.
B. It must be a just cause. Example of David going before Goliath. I Samuel 17:29 ‘Is there not a cause.’
C. Our conviction will encourage others to take a stand.

III. PERSONAL CHARACTER 6:19-21
A. Without Christ as our Savior we labour in vain.
   1. Gideon brought the right sacrifice.
   2. His sacrifice was accepted by God.
   3. Just as God accepted Gideon’s sacrifice, He accepts our faith in the shed blood and finished work of Jesus.
B. We should continue to offer the right sacrifices in our lives.
   1. We should give of ourselves. Romans 12:1, 2
   2. We should offer the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.
   3. We should be men of prayer like Gideon.

IV. SEPARATION FROM WORLDLINESS 6:24-26
A. Gideon first tore down the altars to Baal.
B. We need to establish our allegiance to God.
C. Remove those things that truly hinder our service to God.
D. Establish God’s order in our lives, our home, and our church.
E. In other words we need to place Christ FIRST in our lives.

V. ESTABLISHED CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD 6:26
A. Gideon set up an altar to God.
B. That altar was a place of worship to God.
C. That altar was also a monument to his devotion to God.

Conclusion:
A. Through faith we can establish these leadership characteristics in our lives.
B. We can meet the challenge that is set before us.
C. We have to be willing to take the first step - letting God have His will in our lives.

THREE BRIEF BUT EFFECTIVE PRAYERS

By Raymond Howard

Text: Matthew 14:22-32

Introduction:
A. Three prayers that were answered yet the three combined consisted of only 19 words.
B. The most important part of prayer is for God to hear and answer.
C. Long prayers don’t get God’s attention because they are long.
D. The prayer that reaches the throne of grace is the prayer that comes from the heart.

I. THE PRAYER OF PETER --LORD, SAVE ME.
A. Peter was not praying for salvation, but his life to be saved.
B. He saw the boisterous wind, the waves of water, and he became afraid.
   1. Why?
   2. He took his eyes off of Jesus.
C. There are those that sink into the quagmires of sin and refuse to call on the Lord.
D. Others sink into despair and despondency and do not call on the Lord.

E. THE LORD HEARD PETER’S PRAYER.
   1. Peter looked away from self and looked to Jesus.
   2. Jesus stretched forth His hand and caught him.
   3. Jesus stilled the tempestuous water.

F. Jesus can still the storms in our lives when we look to Him and Him only.

A. The publican knew he was a sinner.
   1. He saw his sins and not the sins of others.
B. Not enough to know you are a sinner, but you have to want to be saved.
   1. This man wanted to be saved and ask God to have mercy on him.
C. He knew he was condemned before God. John 3:18
   1. Repeat the prayer.

A. Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.
B. He recognized he was without hope and nothing to offer Jesus.
   1. Unsaved, what hope do you have? Ephesians 2:12

C. He recognized he was receiving justice for a mis-lived life.
   1. A life without Jesus is mis-lived.

Conclusion:
A. Peter said, Lord save me - save my life.
   1. Our lives are in the hands of our Lord.
   2. Do you believe this?
B. The publican prayed, God be merciful to me a sinner.
   1. He went home saved.
   2. You can go home saved.
C. The thief on the cross prayed--Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.
   1. He received assurance--To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.
D. What is your standing with the Lord tonight?
   1. If unsaved, would you like to go home saved?

WHEN JESUS COMES

By Larry Neeley

Text: Acts 1:9-11

Introduction:
A. Any number of Scriptures could be used in connection with the return of Christ.
B. I like what Paul said as he spoke to Timothy about his soon death. "The time of my departure is at hand...henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, and not for me only but also for all those who love his appearing..."
C. I also like what John said, speaking of faithfulness on the part of the children of God. "And now little children abide in him, that ye be not ashamed before Him at His coming..."
D. And we couldn't pass up that classic of Paul to the Thessalonians as he comforted them concerning their loved ones who had died. "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first."
E. And there is just no way we can speak of His coming without including that blessed promise He made to broken hearted disciples and to us. "I go to prepare a place for you...I will come again and receive you unto myself..."
F. Child of God and you who are broken hearted, I ask you to just BASK IN THE TRUTH OF THOSE BLESSED PROMISES. Friends we have something to be thankful for and really nothing to dread.
G. Let me state right off. It is not a question of IF Jesus returns, but the question is WHEN Jesus returns.
H. I believe it, not because I was taught it in the seminary or because great preachers in the past have preached it, but I believe it because the Word of God says it.

I. WHEN JESUS COMES IT WILL BE A TIME OF JUDGMENT.
A. Now I am aware that a lot of folks don't like to talk or even think about judgment, but the word is clear. "Every man's work shall be tried...everyone shall give an account unto God..." We can like it or not, but its coming anyway.
B. Now I want to make this clear! For the child of God the judgment for your sin has been met and paid for, by the blood of Jesus Christ and you stand JUSTIFIED FREELY in the sight of God. Never again accountable for that soul sin condition.
   1. There is a judgment of your life, a judgment of works that all saved sinners must pass through.
   2. I think this is what Paul was referring to when he said to the Corinthians. I Corinthians 3:13,15
C. Now folks it boils down to the simple matter. We are either an asset to the cause of Christ or we are a liability. A reaper or a repeller -- an attraction or a distraction.
D. I think too many of us are going to sort of want to back up to Jesus when we get into the judgment line.
   1. He gives us 168 hours a week and we give Him back 2 maybe if the mood hits us. We are laying out for every conceivable purpose under the sun and can't give the Lord 4 or 5 hours back. "OH WELL, HE JUST GAVE HIS SON."
   2. Well I might as well go ahead and get on it. God blesses you with a job. He gives you an income and YOU TURN GREEN AROUND THE GILLS (some folks ears get red) when the word TITHE is mentioned.
      a. Oh but preacher, "I worked for that money. Yes you did, but I know some who would be glad to work for some that can't.
      b. Some say, I just can't afford to, no you've got it backward. You really can't afford not to. Malachi ask a question, "Will a man rob God?..." God says "Yet have ye robbed me...but ye say wherein have we robbed thee." God said "In tithes and offerings."
      c. Now you can't steal from God. Steal means to get it without anyone knowing. You can bet your bottom dollar God knows. But you can rob Him.
E. When Jesus comes many things are going to be brought to light.

II. WHEN JESUS COMES OUR TROUBLES WILL BE OVER.
A. A blind man can see that we've got problems in this old world. I may be in a better position to see it than you. I hardly ever go to bed at NIGHT without a thought of some person or persons in a sad condition. And folks I get so tired of that. I know they are tired in the condition.
1. It may be that Christian who is laboring under the guilt of some so called secret sin whose mind is distorted and heart is cold because they can or won't find the strength in Jesus to be victorious.
2. It may be that child of God who has had a terrible loss and is finding it hard to cope.
3. It may be the one who has an illness and despairs of life.
4. It may be one like Elijah, sitting in the desert wishing he could die.
B. Oh friend listen -- Don’t despair. When Jesus comes our troubles will be over. Just to think "This robe of flesh I’ll drop and rise to meet Him in the everlasting skies." May not be the right word, but it’s scriptural.
1. The prospects of the END OF TROUBLES OUGHT TO WARM THE HEART OF EVEN A BACKSLIDEN BAPTIST.
2. Here is a reason to hand someone your PLOW LINES to hold your mule while you shout.

III. WHEN JESUS COMES IT WILL BE TOO LATE FOR SOME.
A. If there is any sadness connected with the coming of Jesus, here it is.
1. You have had your chance. You have sinned away your day of grace and really why should you have another opportunity?
2. The gospel has been preached to you. The Holy Spirit has convicted you. The church has met for you. The Spirit and the bride say, Come.
B. One DAY--The clouds will break open and the Son of God will descend to rapture the redeemed. Don’t (I beg you) don’t be left standing saying why didn’t I when I could have. Come to Jesus now and be saved.

TRIPPED UP IN THE RACE!

Text: Galatians 5:6-11
Introduction: The Christian life is compared to a race. Hebrews 12:1,2 We don’t run this race to secure salvation, but rather out of love for what the Lord has already done and because of a desire to please Him. There are several messages in these verses.

I. THE MESSAGE OF COUNSEL. Galatians 5:6
"FOR IN JESUS CHRIST NEITHER CIRCUMCISION AVAILETH ANY THING, NOR UNCIRCUMCISION: BUT FAITH WHICH WORKETH BY LOVE."

A. Involves a STRIPPING process. Galatians 5:6a "FOR IN JESUS CHRIST NEITHER CIRCUMCISION AVAILETH ANYTHING, NOR UNCIRCUMCISION..."
1. We cannot add to the work of Christ.
2. What we do is not going to avail unless that activity is in accordance with one’s OBEDIENCE to Christ.
B. Involves a STRENGTHENING process. Galatians 5:6b "But faith which worketh..."
1. An active faith avails much.
2. Faith is a positive response to the Word of God. Romans 10:17
3. Faith is the way to victory. I John 5:4
4. Our faith needs to be increased.

C. Involves a SUSTAINING power. Galatians 5:8c - "BY LOVE"
1. The importance of love. I Corinthians 13:1-3
2. The motivation of love.
3. The power of love.

II. THE MESSAGE OF CENSURE. Galatians 5:7
"Ye did run well: who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?"

A. The race reviewed. Galatians 5:7a "Ye did run well..."
1. Their experience with Christ.
2. Their involvement with Christ.
B. The intrusion permitted. Galatians 5:7b "...Who did hinder you..."
1. They had allowed something or someone to trip them up in the race.
2. Satan - heretical teachers - worldly influences can intrude our thinking processes and trip us up.
C. The weakness exposed - Galatians 5:7c "...that ye should not obey the truth."
III. THE MESSAGE OF CAUTION. Galatians 5:8,9
V8 "This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you."
V9 "A little leaven leaventh the whole lump."
A. The PERSUASIVE power of ERROR. Galatians 5:8
1. Who had called them? The Lord
2. This error had not come from the Lord.
B. The PERVERSIVE power of EVIL. Galatians 5:9
1. Leaven is a picture of sin or error.
2. The process of leaven.

IV. THE MESSAGE OF CHEER. Galatians 5:10,11
A. Paul's EXPRESSION of confidence. Galatians 5:10
V10 "I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be."
1. He believed in the ultimate triumph of truth.
2. He believed in the ultimate punishment of falsehood.
B. Paul's EXAMPLE of confidence. Galatians 5:11
V11 "And I, brethren, If I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? Then is the offence of the cross ceased."
1. He endured persecution for the truth.
2. He carries the cross for truth.

Conclusion:
A. None but God can change a person from evil to good.
B. Illus. - Infidel Robert Ingersoll's letter to his aunt Sarah. If all Christians were like you - I probably would never have written this book attacking the Bible. Aunt Sarah was proof enough that Christ had done something in her life.

CHILDREN OF GOD, AWAKE! AWAKE! AWAKE!

Text: I Cor. 15:33,34; Romans 13:11,12; Ephesians 5:14

III. THREE OF THE VERY INNER-CIRCLE WERE ASLEEP. Matthew 26:40,41
C. The Scriptures suggest that SLEEPING IS FOR THE NIGHT, and day is for AWARENESS AND ALERTNESS AND ACTION! Thessalonians 5:4-8
D. Have you noticed that these Scriptures which deal with God's Call to Awaken call for certain things?
1. Awake to RIGHTEOUSNESS. I Cor. 15:34
2. Awake to LIFE AND LIGHT. Eph. 5:14
3. Awake and CAST OFF THE WORKS OF DARKNESS, AND PUT ON THE ARMOR OF LIGHT.
E. Each of these passages have to do with wise use of time, life, opportunity, the ever present now!
2. These believed some good things.
3. They were not fully prepared.
4. They slept when they should have been preparing.
5. They prayed, but their prayer was too late.
F. The passage from Romans 13 and I Thess. 5 mention a "Time," "A salvation nearer than when we believed." and "That day."
1. For some of us, who are on the SHORTER SIDE OF LIFE, THIS COULD BE A REMINDER TO HEED. Eccl. 9:10
2. For all believers this is a call to BE ALERT AND TAKE ADVANTAGE of these last days.

I. CHRISTIANS, AWAKE TO SING THE LORD'S PRAISES!
A. Praise His Person. Psalm 19:1-3; Psalm 96:7; Phil. 2:9-11
B. Praise Him for His provisions!
1. Praise Him for sustaining substance. Psalm 23; 100:3-5
2. Praise Him for salvation. Psalm 96:1-4
3. Praise Him for security.
4. Praise Him for His Faithfulness. Psalm 37:25; 89:33,34

II. CHRISTIANS, AWAKE TO SHOUT HIS PROCLAMATIONS!
A. In the Home. Deut. 6:7; Eph. 6:4; Eccl. 11:6
B. In the House of God. II Tim. 4:2
C. In the Highways and Hedges: Streets and lanes. Luke 14:21,23
D. In the Harvest fields. John 4:35
E. What to shout! Psalm 1:1-3 Words of life, John 6:63 Powerful gospel, Romans 1:16 Warnings Gal. 6:7, Prov. 14:12, Evil communications corrupt I Cor. 15:33, There is a broad way that leadeth to destruction, the way of the many every body is doing it. Matt. 7:13,14, Judgment to come Heb. 9:27; Rom. 14:11,12; John 16:8
III. CHRISTIANS, AWAKE TO SHARE HIS PROMISES!
A. To SINNERS: Isaiah 45:22; 55:6,7; Romans 10:13
B. To the SAVED: John 10:28; Hebs. 13:5; Phil. 4:19; John 14:3; I John 3:2
C. To the SERVANTS OF GOD: Psalm 126:5,6; Mark 9:41
D. To the SUFFERING SAINTS: Psalm 30:5; I Peter 5:7; Romans 8:18

IV. CHRISTIANS, AWAKE TO SEEK HIS PRESENCE!
A. Believers II Chron. 7:14
B. Churches Matt. 18:20; Rev. 3:20
C. Where the Lord was found:
   1. In Homes of SAVED AND UNSAVED. Luke 10:38
   2. In place of PUBLIC WORSHIP Luke 4:16
   3. In the PLACE OF PRAYER Luke 9:18
   4. In the SICK ROOM
   5. In the Cemetery
   6. On the STREETS and SEA SHORES
   7. In STORMS, FIRES, ETC.
D. How to seek the Lord. James 4:6
E. Unsaved can also seek the Lord and should:
   1. In confession of sins.
   2. In repentance for sins.
   3. For Mercy Luke 18:13
   4. "While He is near" Isa. 55:6,7
   5. WHILE IT IS THE DAY OF SALVATION. II Cor. 6:2
   6. BEFORE THE HEART IS HARDENED.
      HEBS. 3:15
   7. Early in life Ecc. 12:1

V. CHRISTIANS, AWAKE TO SERVE HIS PEOPLE.
A. He came to serve. Matt. 20:28; John 13:15
B. Galatians 6:2 (Dr. Charles Stanley...."Every ounce you carry for another that one won’t have to carry it!"
C. Gal. 6:10
D. ADMONISH, EXHORT, and CHALLENGE.
   Col. 3:16 (Coax, urge, incite, appeal) Hebs. 10:24:3:13

Giving thanks always
FOR ALL THINGS. Eph. 5:20

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SOWING IN TEARS
Neal Clark

Text: Psalms 126:5,6

Introduction: Tears have many meanings in our lives. Some are for sorrow and grief; others are for joy and happiness.
We read in John 11:35 where Jesus wept at the death of Lazarus. In Luke 19:41 Jesus had wept over the City of Jerusalem that had rejected Him. He wept because of their unbelief. Just as Jesus wept in His ministry, so do we need to shed some tears.

I. WE NEED TO WEEP BECAUSE OF THE UNBELIEF. Mark 9:23,24
A. Unbelief in the scripture
B. Unbelief in the Savior
C. Unbelief in our separation

II. WE NEED TO WEEP BECAUSE OF UNCONCERN. Psalms 126:5,6
A. Unconcern about our worship
B. Unconcern about our work
C. Unconcern about our witness
D. Unconcern about our walk

III. WE NEED TO WEEP BECAUSE OF OUR UNCOMMMITTED LIVES. Psalms 126:5,6
A. We are committed to sports, not serving.
B. We are committed to social, not service.
C. We are committed to sightseeing, not soul winning.

IV. WE NEED TO WEEP BECAUSE OF OUR UNWILLINGNESS. Psalms 126:5,6; Acts 7:51
A. Unwilling to serve as servants
B. Unwilling to sing and shout as saints
C. Unwilling to be saved as sinners
D. Unwilling to be showed by the shepherd

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