THE IMPORTANCE OF REALIZING THE DEVIL'S WORK

Text: I Peter 5:8,9.

Introduction: One thing the saved person needs to realize is that the Devil will start and continue to work on you. Peter describes the Devil as our adversary. He stands against us and he will oppose us in every way possible. Since the Lord uses His people to do His work, the Devil will work on the Lord's people to stop them from doing the work. Let's notice several things about the Devil.

I. THE PERSON OF THE DEVIL.
A. He is the Prince of the power of the air, Ephesians 2:2; The Prince of this world, John 14:30.
B. He is the god of this age, II Corinthians 4:4.
C. He is the wicked one, Matthew 13:19.
D. He is the enemy, Matthew 13:29.
E. He is the dragon, Revelation 12:9.
F. He is the serpent, Genesis 3:1; Revelation 12:9.
G. He is the adversary, text.
H. He is the deceiver, Revelation 12:9.
I. He is a liar, John 8:44.
J. He is the father of lies, John 8:44.
K. He is a murderer, John 8:44.
L. He is a sinner, I John 3:8.
M. He is Lucifer, Isaiah 14:12.

II. THE POWER OF THE DEVIL.
A. He has power to blind the mind.
1. "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." II Corinthians 4:4.
3. He works on our minds. He can motivate thoughts, provoke attitudes, and form our outlook on life. He is the author of bad memory. Remember the evil or thinking evil.

B. He has the power over the fleshly nature.
1. Man is born with a sinful or corrupt nature, Psalm 51:5.
2. The Devil works on the lust of the flesh and the desires of the flesh and mind, Ephesians 2:2,3.
3. Most of his activity is in the lust of the flesh and the pride of life, I John 2:16.
4. He wants man to be full of pride. He wants man to be controlled by his lusts.

C. He has control over our feelings.
1. Your feelings are part of your emotional makeup. Feelings change repeatedly and rapidly.
2. What others say and do causes hurt feelings which causes people to be offended. People say and do things that hurt.
3. The Devil loves for people to live by their feelings. If you are not serving the Lord because of hurt feelings you are not very mature in Christ.
4. Your relationship to the Lord and with one another should be based on the truth not feelings. Control your feelings or they will control you.

III. THE PURPOSE OF THE DEVIL.
A. He purposes to Deceive you.
1. He deceives the whole world, Revelation 12:9.
2. He causes us to doubt God's Word and then deny it, Genesis 3:1-4.
3. Paul describes the Devil and his work and workers as (1) deceitful, (2) false and counterfeit, II Corinthians 11:13,14.

4. He will mislead, misguide, misinterpret, misjudge, etc., you in every possible way.

**B. He purposes to Discourage you.**
1. 10 of the 12 spies sent to the land of Canaan said, We can’t take the land. The people are stronger, bigger, and the land eats up the inhabitants, Numbers 13:32,33.
2. The Devil wants you to use your strength, your ability, your intelligence etc., to the exclusion of God and His power.
3. The Devil wants you to walk by sight, II Corinthians 5:7.

**C. He purposes to Distress you.**
1. The Devil caused the death of Job’s children, theft or destruction of wealth, failing health, misguided counsel of friends, and his wife’s foolish words, Job 1 and 2.
2. The Devil uses friends, family, finances, failing health, falsehood, etc., to distress us.

**D. He purposes to Dishonor you.**
1. You are the Lord’s people. He wants to move you to dishonor.
2. He wants to discredit your testimony.
3. He wants to shame and embarrass you openly.
4. He wants to dishonor God and slap at Him through His children.

**E. He purposes to Divide you.**
1. He wants to divide God and His people, Isaiah 59:1,2. He wants to divide husbands and wives, parents and children, and God’s people and churches.
2. A divided house cannot stand. So many churches are hurt because of divided families.

**F. He purposes to Deaden you, Psalm 119:11.**
He wants you to feel empty and lifeless.

**IV. THE PERSISTENCE OF THE DEVIL.**

**A. He works Daily.**
1. Morning, noon, and night, he is on the job.
2. 24 hours of the day he is scheming, scanning, and scoring against God’s people.

**B. He works Diligently.**
1. He knows all about you. He knows your weak points and your strong ones.
2. He knows how to get you in position to put stress on your weak link.

**C. He works Dirtily.**
1. He will work on you when you are down.
2. He will work on you when you are discouraged and disappointed.

**D. He works Deceptively.**
1. He will use the truth to spread a lie, II Corinthians 11:13-15.
2. Malachi’s generation called evil good and said the Lord delighted in it, Malachi 2:17.

This is one of the messages in my book GROWING IN GRACE. This book is ideal for a Study Course.

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**THANKSGIVING**

Thank you for our daily bread
The blessings to us spread
The world for us to live
Each breath you give.

Things great and small
The wonders of it all
The manifold of thy wisdom
And the surety of thy kingdom.

The bountiful and wondrous love
That only comes from above
We’re grateful for all things you do
Thank you, Lord, for being you.

By Violeta B. Hayes

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**COME, SEE A MAN**

**Text: John 4:5-19.**

**Introduction:**

A. This is the account of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well.
1. Jesus had been travelling and decided to sit down and rest.
2. Then the Samaritan woman came along.

B. Jesus was kind to her as well as everyone else He came into contact with.
1. Jesus had dealt with Nicodemus, a self-righteous formalist.
2. Now the Lord was dealing with an unlearned, carnal-minded woman whose character was more than ordinarily bad.

C. Jesus told her about that living water that only comes from God.
1. That living water is God’s teaching, grace and Spirit, and it comes by accepting Him as one’s personal Saviour.
2. She wanted the living water so she would never thirst again.

D. Jesus said, “Go, call thy husband, and come here.”
1. She said that she had no husband.
2. Jesus said you have had 5 husbands and the man you are living with now is not your husband.

E. She spread the word. "Come see a man who told me all things that ever I did. Is not this the Christ?"

F. I want us to take a close look at this verse of Scripture and the MAN.

I. NOTICE THE INVITATION - "COME".

A. The word "come" requires action. It means to move from there to here.
1. This woman was trying to get her friends to move.
2. She knew she had found something out of the ordinary.

B. Isaiah reveals the Lord's invitation for personal cleansing, Isaiah 1:18.
1. No matter what sins you have committed, they can be white as snow.
2. There is power in the blood.

C. Jesus promises rest for the soul, Matthew 11:28.
1. The invitation is to "Come unto me and I will give you rest."
2. Unrest is one great characteristic of the world. Hurry, failure, disappointment, stare us in the face on every side.
3. There is rest in Christ, rest of Conscience, and rest of heart, rest built on pardon of all sin. Rest flowing from peace with God.

II. NOTICE THE WORD - "SEE".

A. See means to know or be acquainted.
1. This woman wanted others to become acquainted with HIM.
2. When God saves an individual, He places a desire in him to live and witness for Him.

1. We can tell others how we became acquainted with Him. May the Lord help us to spread the great old gospel story.
2. When we do this others will become acquainted with HIM.

III. NOTICE THE MAN.

A. The man, Christ Jesus, was equal with God the Father.
1. He was the Word in John 1:1,2.
2. He made all things, John 1:3, Colossians 1:16,17.
3. He did not think it robbery to be equal with God. "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God."

B. He took upon Himself the nature of a man.
1. Isaiah foretold His birth, Isaiah 7:14.
2. An angel told Mary she was the chosen one to bring Him into the world, Luke 2:7. "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus."
3. "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law." Galatians 4:4.
4. John 1:14, "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us."
5. Paul said, "But made Himself of no reputation and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men."

C. He died the sinners death, I Peter 2:24.
1. Even though He knew no sin, He was manifested to take away our sins.
2. He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross, Philippians 2:8.
3. No greater love was ever shown, John 15:13.

D. He came forth out of the grave.
1. Jesus said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."
   John 2:19.
2. If Christ had not come forth the 3rd day, He would have been the biggest fraud known to mankind. He was raised for our justification, Romans 4:25.

E. He ascended back to heaven, Acts 12:8-11.

F. He is coming again, Acts 1:11; I Thessalonians 4:16,17.

Conclusion: If you have never accepted Christ, do so today. Come, see a man. The invitation is for you to become acquainted with Christ today.

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SPEAKING BOLDLY AND SCRIPTURALLY

By George Crawford


Introduction: The purpose of this message is to encourage God's people of all ages to speak up for the Lord and speak boldly and scripturally.

A. The art of ALMOST SAYING SOMETHING is in vogue.
1. It is popular in our capitals and legislative halls and in many pulpits.
2. The woman at Jacob's well did not come under conviction while Jesus talked about water - the best place to worship - but when Jesus said, "Go call thy husband" things begin to happen - "Come see a man..."
3. Aren't you glad Jesus did not generalize but that He particularized?
B. The art of ALMOST SAYING SOMETHING is clever.
   1. It sounds smart - it will not offend anyone.
   2. It will help the speaker to get ahead in this world, but this is the wrong world to get ahead in -God stands at the end of the road and He always has SOMETHING TO SAY.

I. CHURCHES NEED MEN IN THE PULPIT WHO WILL SPEAK BOLDLY AND SCRIPTURALLY.

A. We can be thankful the apostles did not listen to the voice of the Sanhedrin - (Something like the ministerial alliance today).
   1. They were commanded not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. Acts 4:18.
   2. What are they going to do? What would you have done? Or are you doing?
   3. They answered and stuck by their answer. "We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." V20.

B. That is true with preachers today.
   1. Paul wrote, "I have declared unto you..."
   2. Could be the reason so little Bible is preached from many pulpits is the preacher is studying everything except THE WORD OF GOD.
   3. Micaiah the prophet said when told to prophesy something good like all the other prophets - said "What the Lord says unto me, that will I speak." I Kings 22:14.
   4. Thank God for prophets and preachers of the past who have spoken boldly and scripturally.

II. CHURCHES NEED MEMBERS IN THE PEW WHO SPEAK BOLD AND SCRIPTURALLY.

A. Subject and texts applies to PEW as well as the PULPIT.
   1. Paul warned of the time when sound doctrine would be denounced and denied, but not endured.
   2. I pray your ears are itching to hear the Word of God and not "fables", II Timothy 4:3.

B. Need members like the tribe of Issachar.
   1. There were men who understood the times.
   2. They knew what Israel ought to do.
   3. Church members need to understand the times and know the right thing to do and to speak.

C. People who do so are thought of as being DOGMATIC. Praise the Lord for DOGMATIC CHRISTIANS.
   1. This town wants dogmatism elsewhere. When they get sick, they want a dogmatic doctor who knows what ails them. They want a dogmatic pharmacist to prepare the medicine according to the prescription.
   2. And yet, in the greatest of all fields, the ministry of the Word of God, it has become fashionable to disobey orders from heavenly headquarters and substitute the opinions of men.

III. CHURCHES NEED MESSAGES AND MESSENGERS IN PUBLIC WHO ARE SAYING SOMETHING.

A. Saying something about sin.
   1. Say more than just "We have all done many things we should not have done and left undone many etc."
   2. Say sin is real. Sin is dangerous, dooming, destructive, and separating from heaven.
   3. Say sin is "That curse word you used." That evil thought you had. That evil desire. That bad thing you said about your parents.

B. Saying something about salvation Acts 4:12.
   1. "I know whom I have believed." I know I have passed from death unto life.
   2. Faith comes by hearing, "Whosoever shall call..."
   3. For by grace are you saved - know something about salvation and say so.

C. Saying something about God's wrath.
   1. Does God hate sin enough to punish it? Look at Calvary's cross.
   2. Tell people God is angry with their sins every day.
   3. Tell them we all will face Him either as a stern-faced Judge or a kind, stern-hearted Father.

D. Saying something about godly living.
   1. The same things that were ungodly living in Old and New Testament times is ungodly today.
   2. It is ungodly whether saints or sinners are guilty.

Conclusion: THIS KIND OF BOLD AND SCRIPTURAL SPEAKING BRINGS REVIVAL.

A. When you hear men and women confess gossiping, covetousness, backbiting, temper, evil habits, naming them one by one - that is revival.

B. When God's Spirit convicts and men confess sin, nothing is done half way. We come clean with it.

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THE PRECIOUS PROMISES OF GOD

by Charles Swilling


I. THE FACT OF PRECIOUS PROMISES.
   A. The recording of the promises, Hebrews 13:5,6.
B. The reminder of the promises.
C. The rejoicing in the promises, I Peter 1:8.

II. THE FAITHFULNESS OF THE PRECIOUS PROMISES.
A. The character of the Father.
B. The communication of the Father.
C. The caring of the Father.

III. THE FIELD OF THE PRECIOUS PROMISES.
A. There are spiritual promises.
B. There are material promises.
C. There are physical promises.
D. There are mental promises.

IV. THE FUNCTION OF THE PRECIOUS PROMISES.
A. The promises settle us down.
B. The promises strengthen us.
C. The promises establish us.
D. The promises show us.

V. THE FRUIT OF THE PRECIOUS PROMISES.
A. They offer hope.
B. They offer help.
C. They offer holiness.
D. They offer heaven.

LISTENING FOR THE SHOUT
by Neal Clark


Introduction: In John 14:1-6 Jesus promised to come again. For the Christian, the coming of Christ will be a great day. Thank God for the day the Lord will shout, the angels will sing, the trumpets will sound, and the Lord will come in the clouds of glory. Until we hear the shout, we are to live in expectation.

I. WE ARE WATCHING FOR THE SAVIOR I Thessalonians 4:16; Matthew 24:42.
A. He is coming in person.
B. He is coming in power.
C. He is coming with a purpose.

II. WE ARE WALKING BY THE SCRIPTURES Psalm 119:105.
A. Scriptures are inspired, II Timothy 3:16,17.
B. Scriptures are instructive, II Timothy 3:16,17.
C. Scriptures are infallible, II Peter 1:19-21.

A. Wickedness in high places.
B. World in war and persecution.
C. Wayward living of God’s people.

IV. WE ARE TO WIN THE SINNER Matthew 28:18-20.
A. We must witness to the sinner.
B. We must warn the sinner.
C. We must win the sinner.

V. WE ARE WAITING FOR THE SHOUT.

A. The Lord will shout.
B. The angels will sing.
C. The trumpets will sound.

THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

Text: Galatians 5:22

Introduction:
A. The CONSCIOUSNESS - Christians are aware of mankind’s sinful nature.
1. Recognize the need for forgiveness.
2. Recognize the need for manifestation of a new life after they have been forgiven.
3. A new life embraces a new transformation.
4. Conversion embraces a change.
5. The incentive for this new life and all of its ramifications is summed up in the words of Jesus, John 10:10.

B. The COMPREHENSION
1. The dynamic of this new life is the Holy Spirit.
2. The nature of this new life is called the fruit of the Spirit.

I. THE REASONINGS CONCERNING LOVE.
A. The MISCONCEPTIONS due to semantics - I love my dog, wife and work.

B. The MISUNDERSTANDINGS due to secular usage.

C. The MEANINGS according to scripture.
1. EROS - egotistical love - SELFISH.
2. PHILEO - mutuastical love.
3. AGAPE - spiritualistic love.
   a. Romans 5:5.
   b. This love is both an attitude and action.
   c. Love has to be established as a right manifestation of behavior - then it needs to be expressed. (God is love - God so loved that He gave.)
   d. This is a love that seeks the well-being of others.

II. THE RECIPIENTS OF THE MANIFESTATION OF THIS LOVE (Who are we to love?)
A. We are to love God. Matthew 22:37 "Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."
1. The terms 'heart, soul, and mind' deal with discernment - desire and decision.
2. This should be the No. 1 focus - top priority.
3. When the Lord is put in His rightful place in our lives, everything else will fall into its rightful place.

B. We are to love our neighbor. Matthew 22:39 "And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

C. We are to love self, Matthew 22:39.
1. This does not deal with selfishness.
2. We need to love what the Lord is doing in us and this will cause us to have the right perspective.
3. This embraces a self esteem which is practical and productive as it embraces the Kingdom work of Christ.

D. We are to love our enemies, Matthew 5:44. "But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."
1. This embraces re-evaluation and reconciliation.
2. It is in this area where we readily ascertain our need for help.

III. THE REVELATION CONCERNING THE MANIFESTATION OF THIS LOVE.
A. DEFINITE DECISION to obey, John 13:34. "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another, as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."
1. This embraces - identifying the goal.
2. This is part of His will for our lives.

B. DEPENDENCE on the provision.
1. This deals with the ministry of the Spirit.
2. This deals with the manifestation of Christ in me and through me - the character of Christ.

THE THREEFOLD OFFICES OF CHRIST
By Julius Copeland

Text: Deuteronomy 18:18,19; Hebrews 6:20; Revelation 19:16.

Introduction:
A. The Scriptures set forth Jesus Christ as having a threefold office work:
1. He is Prophet.
2. He is Priest.
3. He is King.

B. These offices took place, and will take place, at different times.
1. During His days in the flesh, He exercised His Prophetic ministry.
2. On the Cross He began His Priestly ministry.
3. When He comes and establishes His Messianic Kingdom, He will exercise His Kingly ministry.

C. The Prophet, Priest, and King were clearly seen in the Old Testament.
1. They were mere prefigurations of Him who

...should be the Divine reality.
2. As Prophet, He saves us from the ignorance of sin.
3. As Priest, He saves us from the guilt of sin.
4. As King, He saves us from the power of sin.

I. CHRIST AS PROPHET...

-Christ was indeed a Prophet. Others perceived Him to be a Prophet-
A. The Announcement of His Prophetic Work.
1. The first prophecy of it is in Deuteronomy 18:18. "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth..."
   a. First, He will be Divine.
   b. Secondly, He will be a Jew.
   c. Thirdly, He will speak with Divine Authority.
2. As a Prophet, He was without honor, Matthew 13:57.
4. Jesus was the fulfillment of Prophecy, Acts 3:22-26.

B. The Extent of His Prophetic Work.
1. It began officially at His baptism.
2. It ended at the Cross when He offered Himself.

C. The Nature of His Prophetic Work.
1. A prophet does more than tell about future events.
2. A prophet performed two important functions.
   a. Insight...brought to light certain truths.
   b. Foresight...told of future events.
   c. A prophet was the mouthpiece of God.

D. The fulfillment of His Prophetic Work.
1. By His gracious words.
   a. Matthew 5:2 "And He opened His mouth and taught them, saying..."
   b. Any occasion Jesus was teaching, He was dealing His prophetic work.
2. By His wonderful work.
   a. "But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me." John 5:36.
   b. His works vindicated Him as God's Prophet.

II. CHRIST AS PRIEST...

A Priest is one who ministers to God; a servant.
A. The announcement of His priestly Work.
2. God ordained that Christ should be a Priest.
3. Christ identified as Priest. Hebrews 5:6 "As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest..."
for ever after the order of Melchisedec.'

4. The 'order of Melchisedec' refers to the royal authority and unending duration.

B. The Extent of His Priestly work.
1. It began officially at the cross when He offered Himself to God as a sacrifice.

C. The Nature of His Priestly work.
1. Mediation and intercession are the essential elements of a priesthood.
2. Jesus, as our Priest, serves as mediator.
   a. "There is one mediator between God and man, the man, Christ Jesus."
   b. "Mediator" one who goes between, one who intervenes between two parties."
3. As our High Priest, He offered the ultimate sacrifice and is set down at the right hand of God.
4. As our High Priest, He never offered a sacrifice for His own sin.
5. As our High Priest, He sympathizes with us.

III. CHRIST AS KING.

While on earth the crowds called Him a king. This was in disdain. However, He is King of kings.
A. As King, He fulfills the Davidic Covenant.
B. As King, He institues His own Kingdom here on earth.
C. His Kingdom is eternal, II Samuel 7:16.
D. His Kingdom is characterized by righteousness.

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FOLLOWING JESUS


Introduction:

A. The TEACHING of the Scripture.
   3. "He leadeth me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake." Psalm 23:3.

D. B. Wright

B. His tracks are found on MOUNTAIN TOPS!
   1. Mt. of Temptation, where He was tested, tried, and tempted in every way we are! Matthew 4:8; Hebrews 4:15.
   2. Mt. of EXHORTATION; Matthew 5-7.
   3. Mt. of GLORIFICATION; Matthew 17.
   4. Mt. of CRUCIFIXION (CALVARY); Matthew 27:33-35.
   5. Mt. of EXALTATION: Philippians 2:9, 10 "Wherefore God hath highly exalted Him, and given him a name which is above every name; that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that EVERY TONGUE SHOULD CONFESSION THAT JESUS IS LORD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER."

C. Trails left by Jesus LEAD YOU AND ME!
   1. To the HOUSE OF GOD, Matthew 21:12,13; Luke 4:16.
   4. To the cemetery to weep with loved ones, John 11.
   6. To the garden of prayer where Judas knew he oft resorted thither, John 18:1,2; Matthew 26:36.
   7. To the road to Emmaus where the two "sad" disciples walked and talked about His death and burial, Luke 24:15.

I. LEARN OF HIM!
   A. By study, John 5:39; 20:30,31.
   B. By Serving, Matthew 11:29.
2. Paul and Silas learned of His fruit-giving power by serving and suffering, Acts 16:25-34; 17:32-34.

II. LISTEN TO HIM!
A. Mark 4:23,24; Matthew 16:11.
C. Jesus taught the Father's doctrine! John 7:16.
D. Jesus tells us the Holy Spirit will teach his teachings! John 16:13, 14.
E. Jesus instructs us to "TEACH ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER I HAVE COMMANDED YOU" Matthew 28:20.

III. LOOK TO HIM AS OUR PERFECT EXAMPLE!
A. John 13:15-17.
C. I Peter 2:21.

IV. LEAN ON HIM!
A. I Peter 5:6; Matthew 14:12.
B. Proverbs 3:5.
C. Psalm 37:3.
D. Psalm 37:5.
E. Psalm 37:7.
G. Leave your "case (cause) with Him, Psalm 35:1.

V. BE LOYAL TO THE LORD AND HIS CAUSE!
A. He was to His Father's! Luke 2:49; John 6:38; John 9:4; John 17:4.
B. Own Him! Confess Him! Romans 10:10; Matthew 16:16.
D. Glory only in Him! Galatians 6:14; Philippians 1:20.

VI. LOVE HIM AND BE LOVED OF BOTH FATHER AND SON!
B. John 14:23.
C. Isaiah 26:3.

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THE QUESTION OF THE WORKMAN, THE WORK, AND IT'S REWARD IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

By L.H. Owen


I. THE WORKMAN.
A. God's plan has been and is MEN.
1. To begin a new nation there was ABRAHAM.
2. To lead that nation out of bondage there was MOSES.
3. To announce Jesus' coming there was JOHN.
B. These men must be disciplined or trained.
1. The soldier must have that basic training, II Timothy 2:3,4.
2. The athlete must have special training, II Timothy 2:5, I Corinthians 9:24-26.
4. It is tragic that in the training process that numbers drop out, John 6:60,66.

II. THE WORK --- GOD'S WORK.
A. It is a matter of following commands.
1. Labor otherwise is vain, Isaiah 49:3,4.
2. Instructions are clear, Acts 1:8.
B. There is no promise of ease but of an ever going presence, Exodus 33:15.
C. We are but servants, voices in the hands of the Master; brooms in the hands of the Spirit, John 1:23, Luke 15:8.
D. There must be complete submission, John 12:24. Willing to die for the Lord. The motto of a dyer of cloth in England was: 'We dye to live. We live to dye. The more we dye, the more we live; and the more we live, the more we dye.'

III. THE REWARD --- THE FRUIT.
A. The gathering of the sheaves, Psalm 126:5,6.
B. There is the fruit, John 15:2,5. Fruit, more fruit, and much fruit.
C. There is the reward, I Corinthians 3:14.
1. Spiritual reward, crown, II Timothy 4:8.
2. The reward in this life, Mark 10:28-30.
D. As a workman, I work and God gives the increase, I Corinthians 3:5-9, Revelation 22:12.
HEADING DOWN THE "PIG'S TRAIL"
by Wesley Waldron


Introduction:

A. There is in life a PIG'S PEN.
B. There is a POSITION in life you come to where nothing seems beautiful—where nothing seems attractive in life or about you.
C. The Scriptures indicate to us in the parable that the house was a house of PLENTY.
D. It was a house of PROSPERITY.
E. It was a house where the father PROVIDED for his family. "IT WAS A GOOD DADDY'S HOME."

I. WHEN YOUR HEADING DOWN THE WRONG TRAIL, YOU WANT TO TAKE YOUR LIFE INTO YOUR OWN HANDS.

A. The son had demanded his portion.
   1. The son approached his father and said, "Father give me the portion of goods that falleth to me."
   2. The son evidently became discouraged or dissatisfied with things at home.
   3. The do's and don'ts - the rules and regulations might have been too much for him.
   4. When you take your life into your own hand you don't anyone to tell you what to do.
   5. You want it all. You don't want God. You don't want Mamma. You don't want Daddy.

B. You take delight in the pleasures of sin.
   1. You just want to get out in life and live it like you want to.
   2. You want to enjoy all that the world has to offer. You want to LIVE LIFE IN THE FAST LANE and get by with it.
   3. But it doesn't work that way.
   4. There are rules and regulations in this life that we must live by.
   5. Moses chose in life to endure the troubles that go with life, rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, Hebrews 11:25.
   6. Paul said in Romans 5:20, "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound."

C. This is a dangerous position to be in.
   1. The minute you decide to leave spiritually from the control of God you'll find ENCOURAGEMENT.
   2. Satan always has a crowd out there that will try to encourage you to leave.
   3. It is dangerous because you lack wisdom. No matter how young or old you are, you need guidance. You need tutoring, you need someone BIGGER THAN YOU TO GUIDE YOU!
   4. It is dangerous because without guidance you'll take the wrong steps.
   5. You'll be out wandering around in life with no sense of direction, no idea where you are going.

II. WHEN YOU ARE HEADING DOWN THE WRONG TRAIL, YOU HAVE "LEFT THE FATHER'S HOUSE."

A. There is a series of steps involved.
   1. The prodigal separated himself from God and his family.
   2. The prodigal son was self willed. He chose to leave.
   3. The prodigal son was selfish. He wanted it all.
   4. The Bible says that he went into a far country, foreign from what he was used to, foreign from what he was reared, foreign to what he was taught, from his belief, from God. He began to waste his substance.
   5. We are living in an age of society where the road to the pig's pen is crowded.
   6. Many live with doped parents, alcoholics, children who are victimized by emotional and physical violence.
   7. Just because you live in a home like this doesn't mean that you have to turn out like this.
   8. Many of you here today have chosen to live in a far and foreign country. You have separated yourself from God and your family. You were not brought up that way. You know better.
   9. When the devil gets through with you, he is going to make you feel low, look and smell like dirt, undesirable to human society.

B. You can't make a success of sin.
   1. He began to live in riotous living.
   2. Many teenagers come to Houston to our Montrose area to engage in what they call an alternate lifestyle. But they know it's wrong deep down inside. You know that a man is a man and a woman a woman.
   3. You hear it all over the world. "When I get my life straight, When I get it all, then I will come back to church."
   4. The young boy went and joined himself to be a citizen.
   5. He picked out people that were in the same mess as he was.
   6. Sin can be added to sin. Filth can be added to filth. But you can't make a success of sin.
C. He spent all His savings.
   1. V13 "...and there wasted his substance with riotous living."
   2. He wasted it all in a foreign country.
   3. When the devil comes and takes, he comes in shifts. But his objective is all.
   4. When the devil is on your trail he wants it all.
   5. When the devil gets through with the United States, he'll have it all, unless God intervenes. There will be no more families, honesty in government, and sense of reality.

III. WHEN YOU ARE HEADING DOWN THE WRONG TRAIL, YOU BEGIN TO 'LOOK FOR HELP FROM THE HELPLESS.'
A. The famine is a sign to turn around.
   1. The young boy didn't have to go to the hog's pen at any point. He should have had enough sense to stop and realize that he was headed down the wrong trail.
   2. God has ways of getting our attention.
   3. Some of you may have smoked marijuana for the first time, TURN AROUND NOW. Some of you may have slept with an unmarried person for the first time, taken a drink for the first time or have gotten high from cocaine for the first time, have missed church for the first time.
   4. That's enough, stop and look at the signs, sniff the smell, TURN AROUND NOW.
   5. This country has gone far enough down the pig's pen trail, we need to turn around.

B. His friends had forsaken him.
   1. His friends suggested to him "Feed swine."
   2. When they were through with him they sent him to the pig pen to feed the hogs.
   3. When he began to in want he went to seek help from the helpless. It is like the blind leading the blind.
   4. His friends had turned their backs on him. They didn't want to have anything to do with him any more. They had gotten all they could out of him.

C. He was starving to be fed.
   1. The young boy had reached a point in life that many of you will reach if you don't turn around.
   2. He was starving physically and spiritually.
   3. He needed help and no one would help him.
   4. He was even willing to get down into the hog pen and eat what the hogs were eating.

IV. WHEN YOU HAVE GONE DOWN THE WRONG TRAIL AS FAR AS YOU CAN GO, YOU HAVE A "LONGING TO BE HOME."
A. You begin to realize.
   1. You realize that the life style you decided to live isn't at all what you expected it to be.
   2. When you are in the hog's pen you get a "Better view of pappa's house.
   3. Pappa's bed don't seem so bad, his food, his clothing don't seem so awful.
   4. Pappa's rules and regulation and preaching isn't so hard to live by. Pappa's house can be seen from a better view.

B. YOU WANT TO RETURN HOME.
   1. You reach a point and stop and come to your senses.
   2. In my father’s house His servants have bread enough to spare. In my father's house with all the rules and regulations, the do's and the don'ts there is BREAD ENOUGH TO SPARE.
   3. It is at this point in life when you have to make a decision. You can repent and return home, or you can stay where you're at in the hog's pen and rot away.

C. THE YOUNG BOY CHOSE TO REPENT.
   2. The young boy expected to be rejected, he felt he was no more worthy to be called a son.
   3. But we find in the Scriptures that there was a loving, caring father that was there waiting for him.
   4. When the father saw him he ran to him.
   5. The father gave him the best robe to clothe him, gave him a ring, and shoes.
   6. They killed the fattened calf and they had a party because the son that was ONCE LOST WAS FOUND.
   7. It doesn't matter how far you have gone in life. Jesus is there waiting for you to come back.
   8. Don't go down the PIG'S TRAIL!!!

WHAT TIME IS IT?
By Darrel Owens


Introduction:
A. Paul is writing to the church at Rome.
B. The verses preceding the text talk of love being the fulfillment of the law.
C. It seems that Paul follows that up by saying that it is time to wake up and put works with our love.
D. What time is it?

I. IT IS TIME TO VIEW OUR PRESENT SITUATION.
A. Our situation is an urgent one.
B. Our completed salvation is nearer than when we first believed.
   1. A simple statement, but ever so true.
   2. The day that Christ is coming after us is not far off.
C. The night is far spent, the day is at hand.
   1. The idea is that there is not much time left.
II. SEEING THE SITUATION, IT IS TIME TO WAKE UP.

A. It is high time to awake out of sleep.
   1. Sleep indicates inactivity.
   2. Also unawareness of what is going on about us. Unconcern, apathy, laxness is connected here.
   3. Sleep is a time of letting things go.

B. To awaken would mean:
   1. Activity.
   2. Concern.
   3. Keeping our guard up, being aware of people and events around us.

C. Paul said in I Corinthians 15:34, "Awake to righteousness and sin not." And again in Ephesians 5:14, "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." And once more in I Thessalonians 5:6, "Therefore, let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober."

III. ONCE WE ARE AWAKE, IT IS TIME TO GET RID OF SOME THINGS.

A. Our text said, "Let us therefore CAST OFF the works of darkness." Cast off - lay aside, get rid of.

B. We must cast off "rioting and drunkenness."
   1. Drunken partying.
   2. It would seem that God’s people would never have to be told this, but some still indulge.

C. We must cast off "chambering and wantonness."
   1. "Chambering" is illicit sexual intercourse. This is any outside of wedlock. No premarital or extra marital.
   2. "Wantonness" is unbridled lust - this would include anything concerning immorality that chambering omitted.
   3. It is time that children of God became pure from all such things.

D. We must cast off "strife and envyings." Envying is jealousy, an envious and contentious rivalry.

E. We must not make "... provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lust thereof." Let’s not help the flesh out any by providing for it’s sinful satisfaction.

IV. NOW THAT WE HAVE RIDDED OURSELVES OF THE WORKS OF DARKNESS, IT IS TIME TO PUT ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

A. V12 said, "Let us put on the armour of light."
   1. Armour speaks of weapons.
   2. This armour is listed for us in Ephesians 6:13-17.

B. V14 said, "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ."
their ears from the truth, and shall be turned
unto fables. But watch thou in all things,
endure afflictions, do the work of an
evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry." II
Timothy 4:3-5.

II. BE STEADFAST (Stand fast in the faith)
A. Faith - the body of truth delivered to
believers - Bible truth - sound doctrine.
B. "...be no more children, tossed to and fro, and
carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the
sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby
they lie in wait to deceive." Ephesians 4:14.
C. "Satan cannot take saving faith away from
us, but he can, and often does, obscure the
content of our faith, the sound doctrines of

III. BE COURAGEOUSLY MATURE (act like men).
A. "Brethren, be not children in understanding:
howbeit in malice be ye children, but in
understanding be men." I Corinthians 14:20.
B. How do we grow and mature?
1. "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk
of the word, that ye may grow thereby." II
Peter 2:2.
2. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God,
and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for
correction, for instruction in righteousness:
That the man of God may be perfect,
thoroughly furnished unto all good works." II
Timothy 3:16,17.

IV. BE STRONG.
A. "Finally, my brethren, be strong n the Lord,
and in the power of his might." Ephesians 6:10.
B. How do we become strong?
1. Self-discipline (a daily walk with God).
2. Self-denial (putting Christ first).
3. Christ-reliance (recognizing our weakness).

V. BE LOVING.
A. Divine, pure, Christian love is to be the
overridding characteristic of every believer.
B. There are nine ingredients of divine love:
1. Patience. 2. Kindness.

THE FIRST THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION
By the President of the United States of America.
A proclamation.
Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the
Providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful
for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and
favor; and,
Whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint
committee requested me to recommend to the people of the
United States a day of public Thanksgiving and prayer, to
be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the
many signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording
them an opportunity to establish a form of government for
their safety and happiness:
Now, Therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday,
the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the
people of these States to the service of that great and
glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good
that was, that is, or that will be, that we may then all unite
in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for
His kind care and protection of the people of this country
previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and
manifold mercies and favorable interpositions of His
Providence, which we experienced in the course and
confusion of the late war; for the great degree of
tranquility, union and plenty, which we have since enjoyed;
for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have
been enabled to establish constitutions of government for
our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one
now lately instituted; for the civil and religious liberty with
which we are blessed and the means we have of acquiring
and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the
great and various favors which He hath been pleased to
confer upon us.

And, also that we may then unite in most humbly offering
our prayers and supplications to the Great Lord and Ruler
of Nations, and beseech Him to pardon our national and
other transgressions, to enable us all, whether in public or
private stations, to perform our several and relative duties
properly and punctually, to render our National
Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being
a government of wise, just and constitutional laws,
discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed, to protect
and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have
shown kindness to us) and to bless them with good
government, peace, and concord. To promote the knowledge
and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of
science among them and us, and generally to grant unto all
mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone
knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New York the third
day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

"G. Washington."