DECORATIONS ON CALVARY


Introduction: At this time of the year most of us know what decorations are. Most homes will have Christmas trees and a lot of beautiful decorations on them. Decorating a Christmas tree is a tradition in many families. The decorations seem to make the tree. Jesus died on the cruel cross of Calvary. The Prince of peace died for the sins of the whole world. The cross was not a beautiful sight, but who died on Calvary and what He did for mankind is a beautiful sight to think of. That old cruel cross was decorated with some very special things. Let's notice some of them in this message.

I. LOVE DECORATED CALVARY.

A. A sacrificing love.
   1. Jesus died for the sins of the whole world, I John 2:1,2.
   3. Jesus became obedient unto the death on the cruel criminal cross, Philippians 2:8.
   4. He sacrificed His life in order that others even all might live. His love for us was the motive for such a death. Paul encouraged husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her, Ephesians 5:25.

B. A satisfying love.
   1. God is love, I John 4:8. Jesus was and is God.
   2. His nature and character is one of divine love.
   3. This love and its expression satisfies Jesus and His Father. John 3:16 is the golden text of the Bible. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son..."
   4. It is this kind of love that moves and amazes the sinner and the saint. This love is divine and spiritual. This kind of love has conquered many a stubborn and sinful person.

C. A seeking love.
   1. After Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, God out of love came seeking the sinners. God loved the very ones who He created and blessed.
   2. Jesus during His life sought sinners. He sought one and He sought the multitudes. He came to seek and save the lost, Luke 19:10.
   3. Aren't you glad that He sought you until you were saved?
   4. The Lord is constantly seeking His own children. When we get out of the way and lose our way and stray from Him, He lovingly seeks us and tries to get us to come home.
   5. He wants His people to come home. He wants to fellowship with us. He wants to walk with us. He wants to talk with us.

II. MERCY DECORATED CALVARY.

A. His mercy is tender.
   1. The prophet Micah said the Lord delights in mercy, Micah 7:18.
   2. Micah also said He will have compassion on us, Micah 7:19.
   3. Mercy has been defined as God withholding from man what man deserves.
   4. Mercy also means compassion. Truly the Lord is compassionate toward sinful people. In Matthew 9:36-38 this truth is verified. Jesus saw the multitude and was moved with compassion.
   5. He was compassionate toward the thief, adulterous woman, and the lepers. His heart went out to people in their condition. He has not and will not change. He is still compassionate.
B. His mercy is touching.
1. "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy." Psalm 103:8.
2. The Lord accepts one and all who will come unto Him.
3. His heart went out and was touched by the grief of Mary and Martha in the death of their brother in John 11.
4. His heart went out to the people of Jerusalem in Matthew 23:37. He loved those people. They stoned some of the prophets. They killed some of them for preaching the Word of God. They rejected God and the message God wanted to give them. This verse seems to show the mercy that enables our Lord and God to be touched by the condition of people.
5. His mercy is offered to all people. He tries to touch the lives of all people and let them know they need His mercy. Some are like the Pharisee in Luke 18:9-14, but the mercy is still extended.

C. His mercy is turning.
1. Paul said we are saved by His mercy, Titus 3:5.
2. How we need the Lord's beautiful and humbling mercy. You need His mercy. You may not realize it, but you need His mercy.
3. Jesus death on Calvary is a picture of God's tender mercy. He offers it, but man must receive it.
4. He is faithful and just to forgive the sinful of their sins. This has often turned people to the Lord. They have forsaken their sinful ways because the Lord is so merciful as our High Priest.

III. GRACE DECORATED CALVARY.
A. Amazing grace.
1. We sing the song, AMAZING GRACE, AND TRULY WE ARE AMAZED,
2. God's grace towards mankind is marvelous and amazing.
3. The grace of God reaches to the best of men and to the worst of men.
4. Grace is defined as God offering to man what man doesn't deserve.
5. Paul is a picture of God's amazing grace. He was a religious lost man. He persecuted the people of the Lord. He imprisoned them and stood witness as Stephen was stoned to death. God saved him and he became a mighty servant of the Lord.

B. Abounding grace.

2. God's grace is sufficient for all men, II Corinthians 12:9. All that God promises to do for the lost and saved is made possible by the death of Jesus on the cross.
3. God's grace is available to you. It reaches you where you are and in your present condition.
4. The greater the sin the greater the grace. The greater the trials and temptations the greater the grace.

C. Appearing grace.
1. God's grace has appeared unto all men, Titus 2:11.
2. I Timothy 2:4-6 tells us that God's grace reaches out to all human beings. God's will is for all to come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved. He isn't willing that any should perish, not even one, II Peter 3:9.
3. We are saved by grace through faith, Ephesians 2:8,9. Salvation is offered because of God's grace.
4. Grace appears when sin exists. Grace is more abundant than sin.

IV. PEACE DECORATED CALVARY.
A. Sweet peace.
1. There can be no lasting peace in man's heart as long as he has not made peace with God.
2. Paul said this peace passes understanding, Philippians 4:7. This peace is hard to describe and put into human words because it is a divine peace.
3. What a thought. Man who is a sinner by nature can have peace with God, Romans 5:1.
4. The death of Jesus on the cross was God's plan for our peace. "To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation." II Corinthians 5:19.

B. Soul peace.
1. Many fights with others are caused by a deep need and longing to have peace with God.
2. Making peace with God gives us true soul peace. This peace comes as a result of having a right relationship with God. A temporary peace is enjoyed by our circumstances, but it doesn't last long.
3. Jesus was God's way of saying, I want peace with you. I want to give you peace.

C. Satisfying peace.
1. The peace of God can keep the heart and mind, Philippians 4:7.
2. The peace of God can rule in the heart, Colossians 3:15.
3. The cross was God's way of offering peace to every human being, II Corinthians 5:19.

PEACE, PEACE, WONDERFUL PEACE. SENT DOWN FROM THE FATHER ABOVE.
V. FORGIVENESS DECORATED CALVARY.
A. Full forgiveness.
1. Jesus lived, died, and rose again so that man could be forgiven of sin.
2. Salvation or redemption is to have forgiveness of sins, Ephesians 1:7.
3. Jesus has the power to forgive sins, Matthew 9:4-6. In this passage He taught this very truth before He healed this man. This event showed if He could do the one, He could do the other. He could forgive of sin and He could heal the man.

B. Forever forgiveness.
1. He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins, I John 1:9. His expressed will is that He wants to forgive us of sin.
2. Jesus paid our sin debt. If we will confess our sins, He will forgive us and cleanse us of sin.
3. In forgiveness He removes the affront of sin and the effects of sin, He cleanses or removes them and their punishment from us.

C. Fervent forgiveness.
1. Jesus is able and has the power to forgive of sin.
2. Jesus wants to forgive and longs to forgive our sin.
3. His fervent forgiveness is so wonderful, He wants to forgive and He lovingly forgives us.
4. He rejoices when people come to Him for forgiveness and He rejoices to forgive them of their sins.

VI. JOY DECORATED CALVARY.
A. A holy joy.
1. Joy to the world the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King.
2. The angel brought good tidings of great joy, Luke 2:10. We may not like a lot of things about Christmas, but we will always rejoice that songs, sermons, and salutations sound out the message of the new born King.
3. The long awaited time for Messiah’s birth had arrived.
4. Jesus endured the cross and despised the shame of calvary for the joy set before Him, Hebrews 12:2. The joy was not the suffering or the separation from His Father, but many would be saved and become children of God through the New Birth.

B. A heart joy.
1. This was a blessed event to the redeemed and to all the world.
2. The sweet Saviour, Redeemer, and Deliverer of man lived and died to set man free.
3. The Saviour and His salvation gives joy to the heart. It is an endless joy. It can give joy each and every time that we remember and think of what we have in Christ.
4. The greatest and lasting joy comes from the truth that is in the heart concerning Jesus Christ.

C. A healing joy.
1. No greater joy can be known than the joy of the guilty being forgiven of their sins. We do not deserve it or merit it, but thank God we do have it.
2. Jesus came to give spiritual health to a sinful world. His salvation is often referred to as a healing of man’s sinful condition. There is a physical healing. Jesus took the truth about it and applied it to the spiritual healing that man needed.
3. Isaiah 53 deals at length with what Jesus suffered for us. It is a description of His sacrifice for our sins. Some have tried to make this refer to physical healing, but it refers to the healing of our spiritual condition. “But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5.

Conclusion: This is a very special time for the redeemed. We have a good opportunity to remind the world again about our wonderful Saviour and Lord. As you decorate your Christmas tree this year for your family, may you remember the decorations on the tree of Calvary. The old rugged cross was decorated with God’s love, mercy, grace, peace, forgiveness, and joy.

SOME ESSENTIALS FOR A GREAT REVIVAL

By G.D. Walters


Introduction: There should be at all times a wide spread interest in revivals among the Lord’s people. Making a study of the tenth chapter of Acts, you will find the following essentials for such a revival as we need here.

I. PREPARATION THROUGH PRAYER.
A. Peter went upon the housetop to pray. V9.
B. We need a specific time of prayer in our lives, if we expect God to do great things through us.
C. Cornelius was praying in his house. V2.

II. PRESENCE OF THE PEOPLE.
A. The people gathered in the home of Cornelius. They were there to hear the message of God.
B. They came because of a personal invitation.
C. The same will work today. V24.

III. PREACHING WITH POWER.
A. He preached a message of life to the people. V34.
B. He preached the need of Jesus’ death to atone for our sins.
C. He preached the resurrection of Jesus for the justification of the believer in Christ.
D. His message was received by those who heard it and they were saved.

IV. THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
A. The Holy Spirit was poured out as a gift unto the people. V.44.
B. We too will hear the shouts of new born souls when we make the necessary preparation for such blessings.
C. The Holy Spirit comes and makes known what great things the Lord can do for us.

This is one of the outlines that we have on file of Bro. G.D. Walters. It is still good to hear from a voice of the past. I will always remember Bro. G.D. and his great love for preachers. Reading this outline reminded me again of the many wonderful times of fellowship that I enjoyed with him.

SOMETHING BETTER THAN GOLD
By Gene Yates


Introduction: Like Peter and John, we probably pass men and women on our way to church every Sunday whose need for help is no less real and urgent than that of the lame man at the gate Beautiful.

A. There may not be poverty or physical infirmity, but needs that lie far deeper.
   1. The most obvious need of the lame man was for silver and gold.
   2. His deeper needs were not mentioned as he made his appeal for alms.
   3. And it was in terms of silver and gold that people were responding. Yet this was something the lame man could do without if given something better.
   4. Silver and gold he had been receiving for forty years; but it left him as he was, a helpless, hopeless cripple carried about by others, begging for alms to hold body and soul together.
   5. Silver and gold anybody could give him, but it remained for Peter and John to provide him with something better.

B. Like Peter and John, we have resources for meeting the deepest need of every man that breathes.
   1. These resources are SPIRITUAL. They are ours by the grace of God.
   2. Verse 1 tells us they went to church.
   3. Church going christians are the hope of the world.

C. The apostles looked upon the lame man with compassion. They had seen Jesus moved by compassion on several occasions.

1. Through long association, they had absorbed some of His Spirit.
2. By their Christ-like example.
3. The apostles have left us three simple rules of Christian sharing.

I. THEY SHARED WHAT THEY HAD. V.6.
A. How poor they were and yet how rich. For 3 years they had walked with Jesus who warned a would-be disciple.
   1. "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man hath not where to lay His head." Matthew 8:20.
   2. Their visible resources were virtually nil; but their invisible resources were unlimited.
   3. They had that with which the poorest is rich and without which the richest is poor.
   4. Luke 22:35 tells us the disciples testified on the night before Jesus was crucified that they had never lacked for anything.

B. To share what they had was indeed no more than they should have done, Matthew 10:8, James 4:17, Luke 12:48.

II. THEY GAVE WHAT THEY HAD IN THE NAME OF JESUS. V.6.
A. In the name of Jesus. Herein lies the merit of the gift. "Even a cup of water given in my name..." says Jesus shall not fail of its reward, Mark 9:41.
   1. In the name of Jesus. Herein lies the power of the giver. "Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." John 14:13.
   2. Some false prophets claim to do things in the name of the Lord. One day they will hear Jesus say unto them, "Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and then will I profess unto them, I never knew you, depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Matt. 7:22,23.

III. THEY GAVE SOMETHING FAR BETTER THAN SILVER AND GOLD. Vs. 8-11.
A. Silver and gold are quickly spent.
B. The gospel which is entrusted to us does what silver and gold could never do.
C. The aim of the gospel is to save.
   1. Not "by and by."
   2. Why not now?
   3. We may not have silver and gold to offer, but we who are saved by grace through faith, can offer Christ to a lost and dying world.
   4. I have a great need of Christ, but I have a great Christ for my need.

This is another voice from the past. I was a friend to Gene Yates and he mine. We have some of his outlines on file. Reading these outlines cause me to remember the times of fellowship with Gene. His outlines are still a blessing!
WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR WHEN YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR A LEADER

By A. Kenneth McInnis


Introduction: Many of the IMPORTANT THINGS are often overlooked.

A. David's father overlooked him at the feast.
1. Jesse called him "the least."
2. He was the least in the estimation of the ill judging parent.
3. This was a religious feast. Why omit any, especially the youngest?
4. Jesse didn't think David had the qualifications of a King.

B. Samuel the prophet, at first, had no idea of David's election.
1. He chose Eliab the "fine person.
2. He chose the Noble countenance.
3. He chose the well fashioned stature.
4. How many times have we made this same mistake? (With Preachers, Sunday School Teachers, Music Directors, Deacons, or seemingly interesting people.)

C. David's brothers did not think highly of him and his gifts.
1. Eliab scorned him when he spoke to the other men in the camp of Israel, I Samuel 17:28.
2. No doubt listening to Eliab you might feel that David was no COMPANION for them.

D. A pastor is the spiritual leader for the church.
1. Many questions are often asked when one is sought for.
2. Be assured that the Bible and the Spirit can answer these important questions.

I. WHAT DO WE EXPECT OF A PASTOR?

A. All good leaders were first good followers.
1. The first request of Christ to His disciples was "Follow me." Matthew 4:19.
2. The disciples followed immediately, Matthew 4:22. No gripes or complaints. They did not try to take over the lead.
4. In summation, the pastor must be a follower of Jesus.

B. Pastors are expected to have a sincere desire for the position, I Timothy 3:1.
1. His desire must be in harmony with God's qualifications, I Timothy 3:2-7.
2. His desire must be supported by the confidence of others, I Timothy 3:7.

C. Expected to be first approved.
1. Approved through study of the Word, II Timothy 2:15.
2. Approved by presenting himself as an example to believers, I Timothy 4:12.

D. Sometimes we may expect more than we should.
1. Do everything right with NO mistakes.
2. His family is expected to be perfect.
3. Expected to be everywhere, but always available.
4. Expected to be the great problem solver of the church and not suffer personal problems.
5. Expected to devote 100% of time to the ministry of the church ONLY.
6. Expected to do all the visiting all the time and some demand a daily visit.
7. Some expect him to be a Seminary graduate.

E. He is expected to be a compassionate person.
1. Have a compassion for the entire membership.
2. Have compassion for the sick, the elderly, and shut-ins.
3. Have a great compassion for the lost.
   a. All need this compassion and should be soul winners.
   b. If we're burdened for certain individuals, we as individuals should try to win them!!

II. WHAT SHOULD WE LOOK FOR THE MOST?

A. Number '1', for God's approval, I Samuel 16:12.
1. If it isn't inspired of God to choose a certain one, seek further for God's approval.
2. Remember God looks on the inside not the outside of the man. V7.
3. If God's approval is not present, nothing else will matter.

B. Number "2", a man that depends upon God's leadership.
1. His success depends upon this.
2. The success of others depends upon this.

HELP US PRINT THESE BOOKS
38th Annual Pastors and Missionaries Conference
Sermon Outlines by L Chester Guinn
Sermon Outlines by Kenneth Click
Miracles of Elisha by O.H. Griffith
Finding your Way by Sammy Eldredge

Dear Brother Swilling:
  This may sound crazy, but I just had to write you a note to say God bless you and that you're in our prayers always!
  O how I do thank you for loving me. Your Sounding Out the Word Ministries is doing so much in this ministry.
  I may not have the money, but I can pray and plea with our heavenly Father to bless you as much as He can. Amen!

I remain Bro. David
Dear Pastor:

I received a copy of your paper with the sermon outlines. They are wonderful. I appreciate the depth as opposed to just "sermonizing."

I would like to receive the paper on a regular basis if possible. I am also interested in obtaining some of the back issues.

I would like to learn more of your ministry. I am a new pastor here (7 months). I've been preaching for some 35 plus years and greatly enjoy the ministry.

Thanks for your kindness and consideration.

Bro. Jim Murphey

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**JOY - A FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

*Text: Galatians 5:22.*

*Introduction:* There is a sense in which our relationship, fellowship, and worship with the Lord should be filled with seriousness and solemnness. However, we should not obscure the unique place of joy in the Christian experience. Our focus is not on the joys or pleasures for a season, but rather on those which have eternal durations.

**I. THE COMPREHENSION OF THE CONCEPT OF JOY.**

A. Concept EXPRESSED - joy comes from the Greek word Chara (Khar-ah') and means cheerfulness, calm delight, and gladness.

B. Concept EXPLAINED.

1. Joy - is a MENTAL RESPONSE to a pleasurable stimulus.
2. Joy - is an EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION of deep satisfaction.

V2 "LOOKING UNTO JESUS THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH: WHO FOR THE JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM ENDURED THE CROSS, DESPISTING THE SHAME, AND IS SET DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE OF GOD."

c. Our present PROBLEMS, James 1:1-4. "JAMES, A SERVANT OF GOD AND OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, TO THE TWELVE TRIBES WHICH ARE SCATTERED ABROAD, GREETING." V2 "MY BRETHREN, COUNT IT ALL JOY WHEN YE FALL INTO DIVERS TEMPTATIONS; V3 "KNOWING THIS, THAT THE TRYING OF YOUR FAITH WORKETH PATIENCE." V4 "BUT LET PATIENCE HAVE HER PERFECT WORK, THAT YE MAY BE PERFECT AND ENTIRE, WANTING NOTHING."

d. Our Lord's PRESENCE, Psalm 144:15. "HAPPY IS THAT PEOPLE, THAT IS IN SUCH A CASE: YEA, HAPPY IS THAT PEOPLE, WHOSE GOD IS THE LORD."

**C. Concept EXEMPLIFIED.**


**II. THE CO-OPERATION WITH THE COMFORTER WHO PRODUCES JOY.**

A. The command - obedience - 1 Thessalonians
5:16. "REJOICE EVERMORE."

B. The dependence.
1. Involve yourself in the Spirit's ministry.
2. Trust yourself on the Spirit's working.
3. Depend upon the Spirit's power.

Conclusion:
A. Joy of sonship.
B. Joy of fellowship.
C. Joy of ambassadorship.
D. Joy of citizenship.

THREE DAYS OF A RICH MAN'S LIFE
By Luther Crawford


Introduction:
A. One of the great lessons Jesus taught in the sermon on the mount. It has to do with treasures.
B. In the gospel of Luke there are three men mentioned who should have without question learned about treasures.
C. No doubt, each of us should learn the same lesson.
D. These three men in Luke are THE RICH YOUNG RULER, THE RICH FARMER, AND THE RICH MAN IN HELL.

A. This young man had many opportunities while he was young.
1. To be educated.
2. To be successful in politics, a ruler.
3. To be rich. He was very rich.

B. Greatest opportunity he had was to meet Jesus personally, face to face.
1. Opportunity to ask the greatest and most needful question. What must I do to inherit eternal life?
2. Opportunity to be saved. Opportunity to follow Christ. To be a disciple. To do something worth while with his wealth.

C. We are afforded these same opportunities today. We are living in our day of opportunity. What shall we do with the doors of opportunity?
D. The day of opportunity closes for this young man as we see him turn away from JESUS. Will ye also go away?

A. He became satisfied with just the temporal things of the world.
B. He was satisfied with what he had accomplished with his own hands. So was Cain.
1. He was satisfied not to be thankful.
2. He was satisfied not to be trustful.

C. How sad when MEN, CHURCHES, become satisfied.
D. How sad when men work only for themselves, and their possessions become their god. How sad to hear God say, "Thou fool."
E. So the end of the day of self satisfaction comes and the final day of a LOST MAN'S LIFE BEGINS.

A. The day of death will come to us all.
B. Where our souls go depends upon what we do with the day of opportunity we were afforded.
C. The rich man chose to turn away from Christ. He chose to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. He chose to die in his sins.
D. "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torment."

Conclusion:
A. What are you doing with your DAY OF OPPORTUNITY?
B. Have you reached the place in your life that you are SELF SATISFIED?
C. Remember, THE DAY OF DESTRUCTION IS YET TO COME.

HANDLING DISCOURAGEMENT


Introduction:
A. WHEN DAVID LOOKED at the prosperity of the wicked and the suffering of the righteous HE WAS PAINED.
B. When I look...
1. At the wickedness in the world, I too am pained inwardly.
2. When I look at you, I am both DISCOURAGED and CHALLENGED.
3. When I look at myself, I am FRUSTRATED.
4. When I look at my RESPONSIBILITY, I am HUMBLED.
   a. As Amos, Amos 7:14,15.
C. When David looked to the Lord, HE UNDERSTOOD.
D. DISCOURAGEMENT IS NOT...
1. A sign of failure
2. A sigh of weakness
3. A sign of carnality, though it springs from looking upon the carnal!
4. A road sign pointing one in another direction, to another field of labor.

E. Discouragement may be allowed to CAUSE ONE TO SIN...
   1. In blaming others for the situation.
   2. In bemeaning others, even God, Jer. 20:7.
   3. In quitting what you have started for the Lord, Jeremiah 20:9.

I. RECOGNIZE THE REALITY! Discouragement is real.
   A. David faced it.
   B. Jeremiah faced it.
   C. John the Baptist faced it.
   D. Paul faced it, II Corinthians 1:8.
   E. Discouragement, WHAT IT IS:
      1. "...to weaken in qualities that maintain INTEREST, ZEAL, ACTIVITY, or POWER TO CONTINUE or RESIST."
      2. "Disheartened...the loss of heart or will to accomplish a purpose or to achieve an end."
      3. "Dispirited...the loss of cheerfulness and helpfulness."
   F. To be afflicted by it is NOT A SIN! To allow it to dominate our thinking, our activity, our choices, and our lives IS A SIN!
   G. To fail to recognize and deal with it invites more problems.

II. REVIEW THE REASONS!
   A. It oft comes from "a sense of failure."
      1. Companions who feel they fail their spouse.
      2. Parents who feel they fail their children.
      3. Children who feel they fail their parents.
      4. Preachers who feel they fail in their accomplishments.
         a. Curtis Peace to G.D. Walters, "Is any of your preaching doing any good."
         b. J.G. Sparks to fellow pastors, "Don’t come to see me on Monday if you are depressed, I will get you more depressed."
         c. Paul to christian church members in Galatia. "My little children of whom I travail in birth AGAIN until Christ be formed in you, I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice, for I Stand in doubt of you." Galatians 4:19,20.
   5. Christians in general, like Paul, feel at times that they have failed in their christian life. "I find that when I would do good, evil is present with me. I delight in the law of God after the inward man: but I see Another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members." Rom. 7:21-23.
   6. This was part of Jeremiah’s problem. Israel would not hear God’s Word.
   7. David faced the possibility of FAILURE IN MATERIAL ACCUMULATION.

B. A sense of rejection.
   1. Preachers are oft made to feel like a person with B.O. or with a bad reputation or seven year itch. Jesus was treated this way, John 1:11; 3:19.
   2. Church members are not exempt from this REJECTION. I cannot see CHRISTIANS who say they are SAVED and indwelt with the love of GOD and the spirit of Christ stooping to envy, jealousy, unkind remarks to God’s other children refusing to receive and fellowship. GOD pity them. They are miserable inside.
   3. Family members, who do not fit the MOLD and EXPECTATION set by others have to deal with rejection. One of our members comparing his own family relationship to his church fellowship commented "Those people down there are the only people who love me."

C. Poor Memory often is the cause of discouragement!
   1. Failure to remember such as, Hebrews 13:5, Philippians 4:19, I Corinthians 15:58, Matthew 5:11,12, Romans 8:31, and II Corinthians 4:16,17; 12:9; 5:1.

D. Partial vision is another major cause for discouragement.
   1. Grace changed a harlot to a soul winner, a blaspheimer to a soul winner and preacher, Bible writer, church builder, and defender of the faith.
   2. We need vision based on Philippians 2:13 and Ephesians 3:21.

III. REACH FOR THE REMEDY!
   A. TELL JESUS, Matthew 14:12, I Peter 5:7.
   C. Make your way to the SANCTUARY OF GOD! Psalm 73:16,17.
   D. Turn to the Word, Psalm 119:105, 130.
   E. Look up, Isaiah 26:3.
   F. Trust your case to the Lord, Philippians 2:13, II Corinthians 1:9-11, Psalm 37:5.

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