WHAT A CHURCH SHOULD BE

Introduction: Who is using our church? The truth is there are only two people who will use you. The Devil wants to use you. He wants our church dirty, deadly, divided, dumb, and disinterested. Since our church is made up of saved people, he can't get the souls of our members, but he can get us dirty. God wants to use our church. He wants us clean, consecrated, cheerful, conquering, concerned, and conformed to His Son. The Devil wants to make us bitter. Christ wants to make us better. What kind of church can God use? What should our church be?

I. A PLACE OF SALVATION.
   A. The believing.
      1. There are many religious churches made up of people who may not be redeemed. This is not God's fault.
      2. You must believe on or in the Lord to be saved, Acts 16:31.
      3. The word BELIEVE means to trust, have faith in, or rely on. Many have a mental acceptance, but not a heart reception.
      4. You must believe or trust the Lord Jesus to save your soul. We preach and teach this truth wholeheartedly.

   B. The birth.
      1. Trusting Jesus means you experience a New Birth or a heavenly birth. John 3:3.
      2. Peter said we were begotten again unto a lively hope, 1 Peter 1:3.
      3. When we repented of sin and believed in the Lord Jesus, we experienced the New Birth.
      4. Most of the religious world are like the Pharisees. Nicodemus, a learned Pharisee, didn't even understand the Lord when He told him he must be born again, John 3.

   C. The becoming.
      1. You must be born again to become what the Lord wants you to.

   2. You will not love Him, live for Him, or be loyal to Him, if you are not saved.
   3. The text speaks of our being instruments of righteousness. The Lord wants us to serve Him, but we will not unless we are saved.
   4. We are faithful to teach that people must be saved. We teach they will want to serve the Lord in a changed way of life if they are saved.
   5. Jesus taught that you can know a person by the fruits that person bears. A saved person will produce fruits of righteousness. A lost person will produce fruits of wickedness.

II. A PLACE OF SPIRITUALITY.
   A. A spiritual person loves.
      1. Paul said he couldn't speak unto the people of Corinth as a spiritual person, 1 Corinthians 3:1. This wasn't a loving church.
      2. God's love is instilled into us when we were saved, Romans 5:5. This love is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost.
      3. We love God. We have a deep abiding love for God. If you are spiritual, you will love the Lord and it will show.
      4. One of the greatest evidences of spirituality is the experience and expression and exhortation to love people. The way we treat people will show us to be spiritual or not.

   B. A spiritual person lives.
      1. The Son sets us free to live for Him, John 8:36. It is the truth which is written and the Truth which lives that makes us free, John 8:32.
2. True living is knowing God and serving Him. We are alive. We live. We are to live unto the Lord.

3. We are to yield ourselves unto God. V13. James writes we must resist or fight the Devil to do this, James 4:6,7.

4. The Bible is the best Book to go by when examining life and what it is all about. So many accept the Devil’s philosophy and this world’s philosophy. Don’t be deceived by the temporal pleasures of this world. They will soon be over. THEY DO NOT OFFER LIFE, but rather death.

C. A spiritual person lights.

1. The light of the world lives within us. Jesus is the light of the world, John 8:12.

2. We reflect the light of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are to let our lights so shine that men may see them and glorify God, Matthew 5:16.

3. A light burns brightly and it warms the area around it. A spiritual person dwells in the light, not darkness to warm the lives of others, I John 1:7.

4. Paul tells us that we are the children of the light not darkness, I Thessalonians 5:5. Light dispels the darkness and causes us to see clearly.

5. The Bible is a light and a lamp to us as we try to live for our Lord, Psalm 119:105.

III. A PLACE OF SENSITIVITY.

A. Sensitive to the Saviour.

1. The Lord wants us to be tender and yielded. He is the Potter and we are the clay. He wants to mold and fashion us.

2. It is the tender heart that will yield, obey, and serve the Lord.

3. Sin will toughen you up. Sin will cause pride and an arrogant spirit. A tender spirit says I will do what you want me to, be what you want me to be, and go where you want me to go.

4. The Saviour knows best. He moves on us and in us to get us to do His will for our own good. Moses told the Jews to obey the law for their own good, Deuteronomy 5:33.

5. We need to be sensitive to the Lord as He convicts us and tries to change us.

B. Sensitive to the sinner.

1. You need to love the lost sinner like someone loved you before you were saved.

2. We need to be aware that we can reach out and influence someone for the Lord. Someone touched your life. It might have been family, friends, and facts of life like death, accidents, or disease.

3. Don’t let sin dirty you because it will shut you up for the Lord. You were saved to serve the Lord and to help others find Jesus as Saviour.

4. You are responsible for people around you. Your family, friends, and foes. God wants to use you like an instrument to perform His will. He used a rooster, a fish, and a donkey. He can use anything and anyone, even you.

C. Sensitive to the saint.

1. The Devil is waging a full assault on God’s people, I Peter 5:8. He is seeking a time and place and purpose to hinder you. He walks about seeking whom he may devour.

2. He is causing problems of every kind and multiplying them. Look at Job 1,2. Our world is not just changing. The god of this world is waging all out war. He is the active, aggressive, arrogant, awful person who is creating and multiplying problems of every kind.

3. When you get knocked down, I want to help you up. So many people are hurting. Let’s allow the Lord to heal them by using us and our church.

4. God help us to love in a greater way. God help us to be sensitive to people around us. God help us to be fellow helpers and associates and soldiers.

5. Loving caring people help hurting people. If you want people to love you and help you when you are down, you need to help them while they are down.

IV. A PLACE OF STABILITY.

A. Grounded in the Scriptures.

1. Paul told Timothy to study God’s Word in II Timothy 2:15. God’s Word is truth and it grounds people in truth.

2. Paul desired that the Ephesians not be like children tossed, carried away by deceit, Ephesians 4:14. Churches are to teach people to observe the truth, Matthew 28:20.

3. We are to know and accept the truth. We are to apply the truth to daily life. We are to instruct people to live according to God’s Word.


5. The truth will give us a firm foundation and something solid to stand on. God’s Word is unchanging.

B. Growing as a saint.

1. Peter states we are to desire the sincere milk of the Word to grow thereby, I Peter 2:2. He also encouraged us to grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord, II Peter 3:18.

2. We grow by taking the knowledge and putting it to use in our lives. We apply the truth to our lives. We are obedient to the Lord.
3. The growth of the physical and mental person is a picture of how we are to grow spiritually.
4. The Lord wants us to grow to maturity. We were saved for a reason and we can only fulfill that reason by maturing in the Lord.
5. The Lord has too many babies. Babies are wonderful for a while, but it takes grown people to do the work of the Lord. This takes maturity. Even the young may mature in the Lord at an early age after salvation.

C. Gracious as a son.
1. We are to let or allow the mind of Christ be in us, Philippians 2:5. THE MIND OF CHRIST is the attitude and reasoning ability which affects our outlook and action.
2. This means we are to live like Jesus. We are to forgive and love like Him. We are to see that others will say we act like Christ.
3. We are to be merciful and compassionate like Jesus. It is a blessing to see people living like Jesus.
4. It is a joy to see people loving, caring, forgiving, godly, helpful, and joyful in their living.
5. Gracious people will influence others for Christ and convict them of their need of the Lord's salvation.

V. A PLACE OF SERVICE.
A. Serve Christ.
1. Whatever we do we are to do it for the Lord Jesus, I Corinthians 10:31.
2. Our teaching, preaching, singing, and service we render should be for the Lord.
3. May we realize and recognize that we are the servants of Jesus Christ.
4. Remember when Jesus washed the feet of the disciples? He did this to teach them about a servant's heart. He was the Creator and Redeemer and King of kings, yet he washed the feet of the disciples as a servant.
5. Find something that you can do for the Lord and do it. There is something that you can do. There is so much around a church that can be done. Don't settle to sit on the side lines and cheer others on. If you are able, serve the Lord.

B. Serve the cause.
1. The greatest cause on earth is the Lord's cause. His cause counts for time and eternity. Some make the statement about things in life, it won't matter a hundred years from now. This is true in this life.
2. What we do for the Lord will make a difference a hundred years from now. What we do for the Lord will count for time and eternity.
3. We are to seek the salvation of souls, the salvaging of lives, and the separation from sin.
4. Set an example. Seek a place and position of service. Serve the Lord. God can use you as an instrument of righteousness, Romans 6:13.
5. Time and opportunity is running out. Serve the Lord while you can.

C. Serve the course.
1. Paul believed that God had a plan for his life and a course for him to run. Study II Timothy 4:7. "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:"
2. Evidently God has planned a course for each of us to run. He has a plan for our lives. There is a purpose for us to fulfill.
3. There is a reason for your life. There is a purpose in your service. There is a design and plan that you fit into.
4. God wants to use you. Will you yield to Him?
5. When you read this article, I will be 50 years old. Those are short years by the way. It is a joy for me to be invited to play volleyball or softball with the young people.
6. I do not want to reach a place that I give up and quit serving the Lord. I want to finish my course for the Lord. I want the Lord to say, Charles, I still have a course for you to run. I want you to use you still. Keep on running.
7. If I know my heart, I will be willing to go to meet the Lord when I have finished my course.

(This sermon is one of 31 that I have in a sermon set using the title WHAT A CHURCH SHOULD BE. I have taken different letters and developed sermons on this subject. If you want to obtain the series, contact me and I will be happy to talk with you about it. I am planing on printing two books with this title soon.)

PEOPLE NEED THE LORD

Text: Isaiah 55:6,7; Acts 17:22-28

Introduction:
A. The Lord created mankind with ability to be intelligent beings, to acquire more knowledge, to accomplish great things in the earth.

B. Mankind has been endowed with the ability and has used it to accomplish seemingly impossible, even the phenomenon! It remains to be seen what can be done beyond our day.

C. Mankind is not independent of the Lord!
D. One great ruler had to learn this the hard way, as he stalked in pride in his palace in great Babylon, Daniel 4:30-32

I. PEOPLE NEED THE LORD!

A. Kings and other statesmen need the Lord.
   1. The Bible instructs us to pray for all such, I Timothy 2:1-3.
   2. Jeremiah 10:23 applies to all people. "It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."

B. Parents need the Lord. Ours is a serious responsibility, Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4.

C. Young people need the Lord early in life, II Timothy 3:15-17, Ecclesiastes 12:1.

D. There never was a time in human history when children needed the Lord more than in this year. They are victims of unnatural affection, neglect, abuse, and even murder by dope, alcohol, and drug and sensuality controlled adults.

E. God's children need the Lord.
   1. John 15:5.
   2. We need His direction, Jeremiah 10:23.
   3. We need His love, John 13:1.
   4. We need His strength, II Timothy 4:17, Philippians 4:13.
   5. We need His sufficient, sustaining grace, Acts 14:26; 15:23, 49.
   6. Believers need the Lord's light in the dark days and nights of life, John 8:12.
   7. Like the Psalmist, believers need the Lord in the valley experiences of life, Psalm 23:4.
   8. The beauty of it all...as with the two sad disciples walking and talking on the lonely way, "Jesus Himself drew near, and went with them." Luke 24:15; Hebrews 13:5.

F. Believe it or not...the unsaved, unbeliever, who is lost in sin and condemned and guilty before God...needs the Lord.
   1. Unbelieving sinners are guilty before GOD, Romans 3:19.
   2. Unbelieving sinners are lost and dead to God, Luke 19:10; Ephesians 2:1.
   3. Unbelieving sinners are condemned already, John 3:18.
   4. The appeal of both Isaiah and Paul, "Seek the Lord while he may be found." Titus 2:11; Luke 19:10; John 1:9; and Acts 17.

II. PEOPLE NEED THE LORD'S WORD.

A. For cleansing, Psalm 119:9, John 15:3.
C. For instruction in day by day conduct.
   1. Flee, II Timothy 2:22.
   2. Touch not the unclean, II Corinthians 6:17.
   3. Have no fellowship with, Ephesians 5:11.
   4. "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away for they sleep not, except they have done mischief and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall."
   5. "Let your light so shine..." Matthew 5:16.

D. For what to believe-II Timothy 3:16.
F. For food-I Peter 2:2, Hebrews 5:14.

III. PEOPLE NEED THE LORD'S CHURCH.

A. The Lord's church was called into being to be a GOSPEL PREACHING PEOPLE, Mark 16:15, Romans 1:16; 10:17.
B. The Lord's church is to be a fishing people, Matthew 4:19, Acts 1:8.
C. The Lord's church is commissioned to be a child training school, Matthew 28:20, II Timothy 2:2.
D. The Lord's church could be rightly referred to as God's cafeteria feeding through His teachers and preachers who are heaven sent dieticians.
   1. God's Word is both milk and meat and is sweeter than honey to those who know it best.
   2. Our church signs could well read HEAVEN SENT FOOD SERVED HERE FOUR TIMES ON SUNDAY AND ONCE ON WEDNESDAY.
   3. The world under satanic control offers pit stops, drug busts, belly wash, brain destructors, unrepairable fixes, life ruiners, and soul dammers.
   4. God's true churches are light houses on the shores of eternity. They offer through faith in Jesus the bread of life, the water of life, the peace of God, soul cleansing, garments of a King, and a home in heaven like none this earth affords.

E. The Lord's obedient church is a caretaker ministry for the children of God, John 13:15, II Corinthians 8:1-5.

IV. PEOPLE NEED THE LORD'S PEOPLE.

A. Our Lord and Saviour was ministered to by the unsung heroes like Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna who ministered unto Him of their substance, Luke 8:2,3.
B. God has sustained his messengers by the likes of a widow woman there, I Kings 17:9, A great woman in Shunem...a little room on the wall, II Kings 4:10.
C. God has always had His Dorcas who ministered to others with personal needs, Acts 9:39.
D. I will ever be indebted to certain newborn
HELP US PRINT THESE BOOKS!

Sermon Outlines by L. Chester Gunin
Sermon Outlines by Kenneth Click
Finding Your Way by Sammy Eldredge
Miracles of Elisha by O.H. Griffith
Sermon Outlines by J.B. Powers
Sermon Outlines by Neal Clark

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - LONGSUFFERING

Text: Galatians 5:22

Introduction:

A. REVIEWING the specifics - LOVE - JOY - PEACE.
B. REALIZING the seriousness.
   1. Proper perception is tremendously needed if we are to be in its truest sense a Christian.
   2. Failure of this productivity - Glen Tropp
      a. Stifles your spiritual growth.
      b. Endangers your physical health.
      c. Hurts people.

I. LONGSUFFERING DEFINED.
   A. It's MEANING - It means "patiently bearing with difficulties or wrongs."
      1. A similar term would be "patience."
      2. It involves the emotion of anger.
      3. God's longsuffering as it embraces the concept of anger is divine.
      4. Human anger is susceptible to distortion.
   B. The MESSAGE:
      1. Patience is needed in relationships.
      2. Patience is needed in situations.
      3. Longsuffering is needed...
         a. When frustrations hinder progress.
         b. When irritations cloud perceptions.

II. LONGSUFFERING DEMONSTRATED.
   A. View the Biblical concept.
      Matthew 18:23-27 "Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. V-24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. V-25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. V-26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. V-27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt."

   B. View the believers condition. Look how longsuffering the Lord has been to us.

III. LONGSUFFERING DEMANDED.
   A. Matthew 18:28-35 'But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow servants which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, pay me that thou owest. V-29 And his fellow servant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, have patience with me and I will pay thee all. V-30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. V-31 So when his fellow servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. V-32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, 0 thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desirest me: V-33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow servant, even as I had pity on thee? V-34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. V-35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses."

   B. Colossians 3:11,12 'Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: But Christ is all, and in all. V-12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering."

IV. LONGSUFFERING DEVELOPED.
   A. REACTION - This deals with the emotion of anger as it is embraced in longsuffering.
   B. REASONINGS - This reaction can come in the following ways:
      1. REPRESSION - Is a refusal to admit that anger exists.
      2. SUPPRESSION - Is hiding of anger from others.
      3. EXPRESSION - Is letting it all hang out.
      4. CONFESSION - It admitting it to God and man.
C. REALITY - This patience involves proper expression and confession.

D. REVELATIONS.

1. Recognize where patience needs to be shown.
   a. In the building of church life - Ephesians 4:1,2 "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called. V-2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love."
   b. In relationships with trying people. I Thessalonians 5:14 "Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men."
   c. In the normal processes of life - James 5:7,8 "Be patient therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. V-8 Be ye also patient: Stablish your hearts: For the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."
   d. In the experience of suffering - James 5:10, 11. "Take, my brethren, the prophets, who, have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. V-11 Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord: That the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy."
   e. In the task of building people up. II Timothy 4:2 "Preach the word: be instant in season, out of season: reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

2. Recognize the need.
   a. Identify the need of longsuffering.
   b. Involve the Lord in the fulfillment of this need.

AN OFFERING TO HELP WITH THIS GREAT MINISTRY THAT REACHES INTO 44 STATES AND 23 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES? IF YOU CAN'T PRAY FOR US!!!

Dear Pastor Charles Swilling:

"I praised and thankful God for in so long of waiting the response, I just received the mailed sermons materials of Grace Missionary Baptist Church this last week of August. And I really appreciate it much for this will be help for me in preaching His words. The box contents 16 booklets of different authors and in all ministry I love. I considered that your ministry is the best because it response of what it can give. Praise God.

In this letter, I pray that your publications will continue, so that you can share ready made sermons to those who request, just like me, so thank you very much sir, truly, I cannot afford to buy this things in Philippines because of our situation here in Philippines."

In His Service,
Pastor Bert Gandia, Jr.

I'M A BELIEVER

By Danny Chappell

Text: John 3:16-18

Introduction:

A. God has demonstrated His great love. V16.
   1. A great God.
   2. A great love.
   3. A great gift.
   4. A great result.
B. Christ died for all, but all are not save.
   1. "Whosoever believeth."
   2. Most folk would say, "I'm a believer" but that's very general.
   3. In a sense everyone is a believer of some sort.

I. TRUE BELIEVERS.

A. The word "believe" is more than a historical head belief.
   1. James 2:19, "The devils also believe."
   2. The Greek word for "believe" means to trust in, rely on, commit, or make a deposit.
   3. When we believe in something with our heart we are willing to make a deposit or commitment, Romans 10:9,10, II Timothy 1:12.
B. The advantages of being a true believer.
   1. The forgiveness of sin.
   2. A purpose in life.
   3. A home in heaven.
C. God doesn't need our help but only our permission to save us.
   1. He is able, Hebrews 7:25.
   2. He is willing, I Timothy 2:4.
   3. He has promised, Romans 10:13.
II. UNBELIEVERS.
   A. Jesus deals with the one sin that condemns a person’s soul. V18.
      1. Who is condemned? The unbeliever.
      2. When is he condemned? Already.
      3. What does it mean to be condemned? Hell.
   B. In reality God doesn’t condemn anyone, but they condemn themselves because they refuse to believe, John 3:36.

III. MAKE BELIEVERS.
   A. The Lord deals with this group of folk in Matthew 7:21-23.
      1. They went a long way in religion.
      2. They kept it up for a long time.
      3. They heard the truth in strong terms.
   B. There are three plans of salvation in the world today.
      1. WORKS - Titus 3:5.
      2. GRACE PLUS WORKS - Romans 11:6.
      3. GRACE - Ephesians 2:8,9.
   C. Judas is an example of a make believer.
      1. He had baptism.
      2. He had church membership.
      3. He had position in the church.
      4. He was lost. John 17:12.
   D. Can you go back to the experience of accepting Christ as your Saviour?

STEPS TO A CHRISTIAN’S DOWNFALL AND RESTORATION

Text: Matthew 26:69-75.

Introduction: Here is a deeply instructive event, the apostle Peter’s denial of Jesus. It is an event which indirectly proves the truthfulness of the Bible. If the gospel had been a mere invention of man, we should never have been told that one of it’s principal preachers was once so weak and erring, as to deny His Master.

I. CONSIDER THE NATURE OF THE SIN OF WHICH HE WAS GUILTY.
   A. It was a great sin.
      1. It was great because here was a man who had followed Christ for 3 years and had been forward in professing faith and love for Him.
      2. Peter had received boundless mercies and loving kindness and had been treated by Christ as a familiar friend.
      3. Yet we see him denying three times that he knows Jesus.
   B. It was a sin committed under circumstances of great aggravation.
      1. Peter had been warned plainly of his danger.
      2. He had just enjoyed the elements of the Lord’s Supper.
      3. He had declared loudly that though he died with Him, he sure would not deny Him.

C. It was a sin committed under apparently small provocation.
   1. Two weak women made the remark that he was with Jesus.
   2. Others said, "Surely thou are one of them."
   3. No threat seems to have been used. No violence done.
   4. But it was enough to cause Peter to deny with an oath.
   5. Truly it is a humbling picture.

D. Let us store this truth in our minds.
   1. That the best of saints are only human with many infirmities.
   2. A person may be converted, have faith, hope, and love towards Christ and yet be overtaken in a fault and fall.
   3. The flesh is weak and the devil is active, so let us remember the apostle Peter and do what Paul said in Galatians 6:1.

II. LOOK AT THE SERIES OF STEPS BY WHICH PETER WAS LED TO DENY THE LORD. (May think its steps we have taken.)
   A. The first downward step was SELF-CONFIDENCE.
      1. He said, "Though all men should be offended, yet not I."
      2. "I’ll not only go to prison...I’ll die with you."
   B. Second step was INDOLENCE.
      1. His Master told him to watch and pray, but he slept.
      2. I don’t need to pray. I need some rest.
   C. Third step was cowardly compromising.
      1. Instead of keeping close to his Master, he forsook Him.
      2. Then we see him following afar off.
   D. Fourth step was needless venturing into EVIL COMPANY.
      1. He went into the priest’s place and sat with the enemy.
      2. He warmed himself by the enemy’s fire.
   E. The final step, the fall, the three fold denial, swearing.
      1. His heart had been preparing for the fall.
      2. And when a great man sins, it is a great fall.
   6. Let us learn some valuable lessons from Peter’s fall.
      1. Great falls seldom happen to a saint without a previous cause of secret backsliding, a private departure from God.
      2. Men fall in private long before they fall in public.
      3. The tree falls with a great crash, but the secret decay which accounts for it, is often not discovered till it is down.

III. PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER THE SORROW WHICH PETER’S SIN BROUGHT UPON HIM.
   "He went out and wept bitterly."
A. These words deserve more attention than they generally receive.
   1. Much said about his denial, but little said about his tears.
   2. Little said about his repentance. May we have an eye to see and a heart to understand.

B. We see in Peter’s tears, the close connection between unhappiness and departure from God.
   1. It is a merciful arrangement of God, that His children cannot be happy in disobedience.
   2. If we want inward peace, we must walk closely with God.

C. We see in Peter’s bitter tears, the grand mark of difference between the hypocrite and the true believer.
   1. When the hypocrite is overtaken by sin, he generally fails to rise no more. He has no principle of life within to raise him up.
   2. When the child of God is overtaken, he rises again by true repentance, and by the grace of God amends his life.

D. Let none of us flatter ourselves that we may sin without punishment.
   1. David committed adultery. Peter denied the Lord. These men of God sinned greatly, but did not continue in sin.
   2. They repented greatly. They mourned over their falls.
   3. They despised and abhorred their own wickedness.
   4. Many in our day would do well to imitate these men in their repentance - sinned like David and Peter - but not repented. "He that covers his sin shall not prosper - he that confesses and forsakes his sin shall have mercy."

Conclusion: The whole passage is full of lessons that we ought never forget.
   A. Do we profess to have a hope in Christ? Let us mark well the weakness of a believer and the steps that lead to a fall.
   B. Have we unhappily backslidden and left our first love? Let us remember that the Saviour of Peter still lives. There is mercy for us as well as for Him. But we must repent and seek that mercy, if we would find it.
   C. Let us all turn unto God, and He will turn to us. His compassions fail not. Lamentations 3:22.

A MORE EXCELLENT WAY
By Richard Spruiell


Introduction:
   A. Many people claim to have and exercise what they refer to as spiritual gifts.
   B. No doubt, counterfeit of the true gifts are manifested today, but they are not of God.
   C. Let us look at four assertions about these gifts that show us they are not of God.

   A. The love spoken of is in every sense of the word, a spiritual gift.
   B. Love should motivate our speech. V1.
   C. The gifts of prophecy, divine knowledge, and super-faith are based on love. V2.
      1. Prophecy, not just foretelling the future, but also includes any revelation of God’s Word.
      2. Knowledge, a knowledge that has not been acquired by study.
      3. Faith, the ability to rely totally upon God in extreme circumstances (Stephen).
   D. Acts of charity can be nothing unless based upon God given love. V3.

II. LOVE IS MANIFESTED THROUGH ITS MANY CHARACTERISTICS. Vs 4-8.
   A. Love suffers long and is kind. V4.
   B. Love is not jealous. V4.
   C. Love does not put others down to build itself up and brag about it. V4.
   D. Love does not act in a way so as to disgrace another. V5.
   E. Love endures much before getting angry. V5.
   F. Love is not self centered. V6.
   G. Love does not dwell on evil things. V5.
   H. Love is saddened by sin, but receives great joy from the truth. V6.
   I. Love is dedicated. V7.
   j. Love does not fail, as do other spiritual gifts. V8.

   A. Miraculous gifts were needed in Paul’s time because the churches were very young and did not know God’s full will for them. V9.
B. When the Bible would be completed, man and the churches, would have God's will fully revealed to them, and the needs that made these gifts necessary would be fulfilled. V 10.
C. Paul's example of himself as a child. V11.
D. Paul's example of a mirror. V12.

IV. LOVE IS THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL. V13.
A. Three gifts remain, but love is the greatest.
B. Love should be diligently sought after.
C. Displaying God's love in us through our lives is a more excellent way to reveal that love to the world.

HOW SHOULD WE GIVE?
By Sammy Eldredge

Text: II Corinthians 9:6-8

Introduction: It was thought in old times that preachers should not preach on giving because it would make people think he was preaching for money.
A. Because of this many have forgotten how to give.
B. They forgot that it is God's will to give.

I. WE SHOULD GIVE FROM THE HEART.
A. If your heart is right with God then there will be no problem.
   1. Some say, Should we tithe?
   2. Others say, Before or after taxes?
   3. Some say, We should support our family first.
B. God has definite teachings on this.
   1. Give and you will receive. Give first.
   2. Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.
   3. Bring your tithes and offerings to the storehouse and see if I will not open the windows of Heaven.
C. One who gives from a Spirit led heart, gives as he is led by the Spirit and Word. He never worries about self.

II. WE SHOULD GIVE TO HONOR GOD.
A. When the plate is passed around, How does it affect you?
   1. Does it hurt to put in what you do?
   2. If so then don't put any in! It doesn't honor God.
   3. If you are not giving freely, then God is not receiving the glory.
B. Some don't give because the preacher is getting too much.
   1. One should not give for the preacher.
   2. The preacher is not depending on you, but on God.
   3. But your holding out will bring you the poverty of selfishness.
C. You see where most people are going wrong. They think it is their strength that pays the preacher and missionary.
   1. God is to get the glory and the honor.
   2. This is where the church of Laodicea went wrong.

III. WE SHOULD GIVE WITH HONESTY.
A. There were those who got caught in this thing of being dishonest with God.
   1. Achan.
   2. Ananias.
B. It is better to not make a vow than to make one and not keep it.
   1. Don't say I believe in tithing and not tithe.
   2. Don't call a tithe something that doesn't go through the church.
   3. Make sure it is church supported.
C. Just be completely honest with your giving.

IV. WE SHOULD GIVE HABITUALLY.
A. Personal experience: I could not give this way, until I tried it. God provides a way.
B. After you start practicing giving from the heart according to God's will, then it seems as if you never missed it.
C. We should not think about what we are going to gain from it, or where it is going, but give because we love God.
D. It should be such a habit, that when we go on vacation, we should leave it behind or else it would worry us until we have caught up.

Conclusion: God's Spirit only leads those who are children of God and those who are within the will of God.
A. You know whether God is speaking to you or not.
B. If you have no feeling about giving you need to search your soul.
C. Giving does not bring salvation, but it shows that one is led of the Spirit.

UNSINKABLE FAITH
By Bill Kuykendall


Introduction:
A. Hebrews chapter 11 is the faith chapter, God's Hall of Faith.
B. 24 times faith is mentioned.
C. The unsinkable Titanic, that is what she did on her maiden voyage in 1912 from England to New York, a floating palace with ballrooms, tennis courts, swimming pool, theaters, beauty shops etc.
D. The sinking of the titanic is a great object lesson. This ship is marked by three things.
   1. Marked by confidence.
      a. Water tight compartments.
      b. Chairmen of board said, "I can't think of any disaster that could sink this ship."
      c. Nothing to fear. Safe.
      d. Sailor joking said, "God couldn't sink her."
2. Marked by carelessness.
   a. Never considered the possibility of sinking.
   b. Didn't carry enough life jackets or boats.
   c. Passengers of 2,000; boats for about half.
   d. Those keeping watch, rang a bell, all is well, lights are burning brightly.
   e. Never thought about sinking.
3. Marked by calamity.
   a. On April 14, 1912, clear night, stars, traveling 23 knots, traveling along thinking she could never sink.
   b. At 11:40 P.M. hit an ice berg, 300 foot rip along the side, 5 compartments filled with water. No alarms, can't sink, no worry.
   c. Continue with party.
   d. At 12:45 A.M. one of eight rocket were fired as a signal for help. No one saw.
   e. 1:30 A.M. women and children into life boats, circle and watched this unsinkable ship sink.
   f. The impossible had happened. All kinds of people on board, but after she sank there were only two classes, lost and saved.
   g. We have noticed the unsinkable ship under Cap. Smith sink. I want us to notice the unsinkable ship under Cap. Noah.

I. NOAH AND HIS FAITH V7.
A. Noah had a working faith."prepared an ark."
   1. He prepared this ark by faith.
   2. His faith in God's Word led him to do something.
   3. James says, "faith without works is dead."
   4. Noah may have said, "I have faith," but we could not see his faith until he prepared this unsinkable ark.
   5. Saw his faith by his works.
   6. If you have faith in God, it should show in works.
B. Noah's faith (true) was based on Divine Revelation.
   2. Noah just didn't decide I want faith, so I'll build an ark.
   3. Faith is not positive thinking.
   4. You can't have faith until God speaks to you about something.
   5. All true faith is based or rooted upon the Word of God.
   6. Romans 10:17 Before you can have any faith, God must speak first. God spoke to Noah. Noah showed his faith by building an ark. Romans 10:13; John 3:16; Genesis 1:1; Philippians 4:13; and II Corinthians 5:8
C. Noah's faith (true faith) can wait on God.
   1. 120 years before the rains came.
   2. George Muller, 35 years prayed daily for two men. 27 years went by before he died—two men—his bro.—saved.
3. Believe wait for marriage before sexual active.
4. Wait for schooling—
D. Noah's faith (true) stands alone if needed.
   1. He heard God, obeyed, showed his faith, alone.
   2. Outside his family.
E. Noah's faith (true) doesn't depend upon sight or appearance.
   1. V7 "Things not seen yet" no rain—dew.
   2. He believed God—saw his faith in the building.
   3. God said it—I believe it—I obey.

III. NOAH AND HIS FEAR.
A. V7 "moved with fear." He prepared an ark.
B. Nothing wrong with fear—God given.
C. Daily we are motivated by fear.
   1. Crossing a street—Dr. uses fear, stop that or you will die—drive proper speed—eat because you're afraid you'll get sick or die—obey parents/get a whipping.
   2. Motivated by fear daily in 100 ways, but the greatest area of fear is not what it should be for us.
   4. Jesus said, Matthew 10:28 your greatest fear is not the danger...but the greatest danger you face is standing before God unforgiven, guilty of your sins.
   5. Hell is real.
   6. Noah was motivated by fear...there is something to be warned about...get saved.
   7. Motivated by faith and fear.

IV. NOAH AND HIS FORESIGHT.
A. V7, He prepared an ark...made preparation didn't wait until rain.
B. Noah made preparation for the flood.
C. Illus: I'll take care of that when I see God.
D. Much foresight about the future—ozone, trees, water, Europe, Russia, China—but no foresight about the future with God.
E. Jesus says in Noah's day there was a lack of foresight.
      a. Indifference V38 living for self, not anti-God just indifference toward the things of God.
      b. Immorality (sexual perversion) Noah like Lot.
      c. Ignorance V39 knew not. They should have known—heard from Noah, knew about Enoch.

V. NOAH AND HIS FAMILY
A. "Saving of his house" his faith was seen in his actions and his faith leads his children and their mates.
B. Illus: Father I was talking to Noah, he said, I was afraid. Father says, Son I love you. I want the best for you.

C. What kind of father are you...like Noah or the other father.

VI. NOAH AND HIS FORECAST
A. 'He condemned the world' how did he condemn the world?
B. By warning the world of the coming flood--they would not hear.
C. I can forecast the future--according to the Word of God.
D. By building of the ark--his long patience, faithful obedience--while the ark was being prepared--the world scoffing--pronounced condemnation of an unbelieving world.
E. Noah warned--spoke of judgment--they would not believe therefore they were condemned.

VII. NOAH AND HIS FORTUNE.
A. Became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.
B. Did you ever think what it would have cost to build this ark.
C. 120 years, hire anyone, buy lumber, his life was invested in this building for God. WHAT A BUILDING PROGRAM.
D. The people of that day were investing in material things, things for self--not for God.
E. There came a day--when real estate wasn't real--under water.
F. There came a day to receive what you had invested in.
G. Noah came off that ark a wealthy man--spiritual wealthy with righteousness--wealthiest man on the earth--he had it all.
H. It pays to believe God, it pays to serve Jesus.
I. What you invest for God you'll never lose.
J. Noah didn't earn righteousness...he became an heir. Given to him.
K. This ark was a type of Christ--one door--the Door was Jesus--that gang plank was faith--Genesis 7:1 come in not go in. God was in that Ark--I am in Christ...there is safety.

Conclusion:
The Titanic was marked by confidence...I can take care of anything.
The Titanic was marked by carelessness...can't sink.
The Titanic was marked by calamity...this world will be destroyed.
I would not want to be in the unsinkable Titanic with Cap. Smith. I want to be in the unsinkable ark with Cap. Noah. Jesus is there. God said, "Noah come in"...He says today, "Come in."

BELIEVER, UNDERSTAND YOURSELF

By James Kirkland

Text: Romans 7:14-25, 8:1-11.

Introduction:

A. We believers need to understand ourselves. Often disturbed and confused because we find ourselves still tempted, prone to sin, wanting it and yielding to its appeal. 'Prone to wander, Lord I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.' Yet, we hate the very sin we are guilty of. Such a contradiction; confusing to us.

B. The Word of God teaches us about this struggle in the believer's life. Look carefully at what the word says...will help us to learn how to live the Christian life in the Spirit.

C. Two fundamental facts about us...

EVERY BELIEVER HAS TWO NATURES.
A. Both of these natures are produced by a birth. Every believer is a "twice born" person; "born again." A natural birth and a spiritual birth.

B. Everything takes the nature of that from which it is born. Illus: Fish, sheep, snake, and eagle.

1. Our first birth produces a fallen, sinful nature, Psalm 51:5.
   a. That nature is called by various names; the old man, the outer man, the flesh, the carnal mind, the natural man.
   b. What is the natural man like?
      (1) Sensual, not having the Spirit, Jude 19.
      (2) Does not belong to Christ; that is, not a Christian, not saved, Romans 8:9.
      (3) Does not want God, Romans 1:18-32.
      (4) Things of God are foolish to him, I Corinthians 2:14. Not interested in them, and cannot understand them.
      (5) Has nothing good in it, Romans 7:18, John 6:63, Ephesians 2:2,3; 4:22.
      (6) Rebellious and cannot be made to submit to God, Romans 8:7.
      (7) Does only what the natural man can do, Titus 3:3.
      (8) Cannot do anything to please God, Romans 8:8. That's why salvation can never be by the works of the flesh.
      (9) Why you must be born again to be a Christian.

2. Our new birth produces a new nature.
   a. It is also called by various names; new man, the Spirit (because Holy Spirit lives in us creating the new man), the inner man, the new creation.
   b. What is the new man like?
II. EVERY BELIEVER HAS A STRUGGLE BETWEEN THESE TWO NATURES IN HIS LIFE.

A. The apostle Paul is talking about this struggle in his own life.

1. An apostle of Jesus Christ, wrestling with a sinful nature? Yes, as all believers do. 'If he were a Christian, he wouldn't do such things.'


B. Each of these natures is struggling for control in our life, Galatians 5:17.

1. One of them will rule, depending on which we allow to rule, Romans 6:12,13.

2. We have to decide which will rule.

   a. We are to count the old nature dead. Treat it as dead, Romans 6:11. In our standing with God this is already true, Romans 8:1, Galatians 2:20. Sin’s power of condemnation is broken through Christ’s death for us. We are no longer condemned because of our fallen nature.

   b. But is the old nature dead in our experience? We are to treat it as dead by refusing to let it rule us. Decision time!

   (1) We are told to put off the old, Colossians 3:10, Ephesians 4:24.

   (2) We are told to put on the new man, Colossians 3:10, Ephesians 4:24.

   c. This is a deliberate choice, a decision. How can we do it? How can we live by this decision? Only in the power of Christ who lives in us. He is working to take control of our lives by the Holy Spirit, and we must decide to cooperate with Him and let Him do it.

3. How do we know which of these natures, the old self or the new self, is ruling in our lives? Simple: by our behavior. Each produces something. "Works of the flesh" or "fruits of the Spirit." Galatians 5:19-23. We know which is controlling by our conduct.

4. We have to make a conscious decision to walk by the Spirit, and then depend constantly upon His power to enable us to do it. When we do we will not fulfill the desires of the flesh, Galatians 5:16,25.

5. This struggle will go in your life, believer, until you die, or Jesus comes to change you into His perfect likeness.

   a. Paul’s cry of despair, Romans 7:24,25.

   b. Then his shout of victory, Romans 8:18,21,24.


Conclusion: Now do you understand why people must be born again? No good thing in the flesh. Now believer, do you understand yourself better? Do you see what is necessary to be a spiritual Christian? We make a one time decision to accept Christ by faith and be born again, but we have to make the decision every day to walk by the Spirit and let Him rule our lives. "The carnal man is the spiritual man living like the natural man." Everyone lives on one of these three planes of life.

   a. Natural: unsaved, dominated by fallen nature. Does not have the Spirit.

   b. Spiritual: born again, has the Spirit who controls his life.

   c. Carnal: has the Spirit, but has let the old self rule, I Corinthians 3:1-4.

AVAILABLE BOOKS

1 Word Studies
2 Sounding Out the Word II
3 Sounding Out the Word IV
4 Right Sermons by Wright
5 1989 Bible Conference
6 1990 Bible Conference
7 Scanning the Scriptures I
8 Scanning the Scriptures II
9 37th Annual Pastors and Missionaries Conference
10 The Mysteries of the New Testament
11 The ABC's of Faith
12 Clark's Counsel to Corinth
13 What will you do with Jesus?
14 The Preaching of the Cross
15 The Christian's Jubilee
16 Scanning the Scriptures (New Testament)
17 The Principles of Discipleship
18 Sermon Outlines by Paul Bazar
19 38th Annual Pastors and Missionaries Conference

SEND IN FOR ALL OF OUR AVAILABLE BOOKS!

I WANT TO RECEIVE THE PAPER
Please Print

NAME: ____________________________
ADDRESS: ____________________________
CITY: ____________________________ ST & ZIP: ______
CHANGE OF ADDRESS: __________ NEW SUBSCRIPTION: __________
OLD ADDRESS: ____________________________