THE DEVIL IS OUR ENEMY

1. The Devil doesn’t fight fair. He fights dirty. He is a dirty fighter because he is dirty.
2. He is responsible for all conflicts in life and living. He causes the inner conflicts. He causes the church conflicts. He causes the national conflicts.
3. He is a destroyer of all that is right and good.
4. He is a liar and a murderer and he moves people to lie and kill and destroy. John 8:44.
5. He can work on our flesh. He can work on our minds. He can work on our feelings. He can work on our fears.

II. THE DEVIL IS IN ERROR.
A. He is in error in words.
1. He turned what God told Adam around by putting a "not" in there. Nots have a way of becoming "knots." Gen. 3:1.
2. Jesus said he was a liar and the father of lies in John 8:44.
3. His errors lead into deception and blindness. II Cor. 11:13-15; II Cor. 4:3, 4.
4. He is in the religious business. He is still using the same words God uses. He just changes them around and puts nots where He wants them.
5. He questions God’s Word with us just like he did with Adam, "Yea hath God said."
B. He is in error in works.
1. Works are all right with the Devil. He is interested in the why and where.
2. He wants you to work for salvation, not because you are saved.
3. He wants you to depend upon your works, not the wonderful Lord.
4. It isn’t any marvel that most religions believe you must work your way to heaven.
5. If you are saved, he wants you to work for the wrong reasons and motives.

C. He is in error in ways.
1. The Devil’s way is seen in the life of the Pharisees. They were religious, ceremonial, and lifeless.
2. The Devil will always have dividing, discouraging, deceitful, and damnable ways.
3. His ways of doing things are not according to godliness and righteousness.
4. Jesus warns us against His ways. We are to measure things according to His standards not ours.

III. THE DEVIL IS AN ENEMY.
A. He is an enemy to the Saviour.
1. He tempted Jesus in Matthew 4:1-11 in order to get Jesus to sin against His Father.
2. He moved Herod to kill male children 2 years and under after the wise men visited him and told him about the birth of the King of the Jews.
3. He will always resist Him and His work. He will fight Him until Jesus puts him down and puts him in the lake of fire.

B. He is an enemy to the saint.
1. In our text he seeks to devour and destroy.
2. He is wrecking lives at an unbelievable rate today.
3. He is tearing up homes and churches. His time is short and he is active 24 hours a day.
4. He cannot touch our souls, but he seeks to destroy our influence and testimony.

C. He is an enemy to salvation.
1. He has set forth many ways to be saved. All of them are dependent upon self efforts or works.
2. He is active when God’s Word is preached. He is active when the Holy Spirit convicts. He is active when a lost soul is about to repent of sin and trust the Lord.
3. He blinds people. He causes them to put salvation off. He will do everything he can to prevent you from being saved.
4. Every time someone is saved the Devil has lost another soul forever.

IV. THE DEVIL IS EMPTY.
A. He is empty on conversion.
1. His words and ways and works will not bring about conversion or salvation.
2. He doesn’t want you saved. He wants you religious, but not redeemed.
3. He wants you to die and go to hell eternally. That is why he is in the blinding business.

4. Listen to him and you also will be running on empty. You will experience fear, uneasiness, and insecurity.

B. He is empty on contentment.
1. The Devil can satisfy the flesh, but he can’t satisfy the soul.
2. There can be no inner peace and contentment while you listen to him.
3. He can try to take our contentment from us as saved people.
4. Churches with a lot of discontented people should recognize the Devil is working.

C. He is empty on comfort.
1. The Devil has no comfort to offer people. There isn’t anything in what he is, does, or wants you to believe that offers comfort.
2. He can’t offer comfort in the hospital, funeral home, or joints of all kind.
3. He has no comfort to offer in life. He has no comfort to offer in death.
4. He is running on empty and he has nothing to offer. He operates on the flesh and on feelings. Both of these are empty!!

BEHOLD JESUS, THE LAMB OF GOD
By D.B. Wright

Text: John 1:29.

I. BEHOLD A SPOTLESS LAMB. I Peter 1:18-20.
II. BEHOLD A SUBSTITUTE LAMB. I Peter 2:24.
III. BEHOLD A SILENT LAMB. Acts 8:32.

HOW SATAN ATTACKS
By Glen Tropp

I. SATAN ATTACKS WITH DOUBT. Neh. 4:1-3.
II. SATAN ATTACKS WITH DISCOURAGEMENT. Neh. 4:10.
III. SATAN ATTACKS WITH DIVISION. Neh. 5:1.
IV. SATAN ATTACKS WITH DIVERSION. Neh. 6:2.
V. SATAN ATTACKS WITH DECEPTION. Neh. 6:6.

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MY TESTIMONY

I was saved when I was twelve. As a result of not following in what the Lord asks us to do after salvation, I wandered astray for 23 years. I was pregnant at 16 years of age and started motherhood at 17. It was then I met whom at that time I called, "my husband." Knowing better now, he was never my husband. We lived together for 13 years, my daughter and myself. I worked in night clubs bartending and waitressing, due to lack of education, but along with working in bars comes drinking, smoking, and a number of other things which all spells SIN. The man I had lived with died in 1986. I continued working and continued to neglect my then 12 year old daughter. I think back and realize now how much Christ was in my life through all those years of fighting Him and really never realizing until now how backslidden I was.

I remember watching T.V. programs late at night and praying, but I would never actually make the change completely. It wasn't until I met my husband, Scott (we lived together) that I somehow thought that it was OK. (Boy was I wrong.) The Scripture tell us "Be sure your sins will find you out." Numbers 32:23. Scott and I were married 9 months later. It was Scott who I feel led me back to Christ. He witnessed to me. We went to church together, read the Bible together, and had a child together, but two years later we were divorced. You know the reason for our divorce really doesn't matter, but what does matter is during my divorce I kept going to church.

On February 23, 1990, I was baptized after so many years. I remembered praying while I was being baptized for the Lord to give me a whole new life. I know the Lord heard my prayers. He has given me a church home with great and wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ who saw in me what Christ did. I can't help but to stop and thank God for watching over me, His lost sheep who has found her way, half way home--the other half I'll see when I get to heaven.

I remember once hearing that we should make our obstacles into our opportunities. For some reason those words stuck in my mind and they still do until today. (Thank you Jesus!) Because of those words I was able to turn my divorce into a blessing remembering Scripture that says, "Be ye stedfast unmovable always abounding in the WORK of the Lord." I Cor. 15:58. I can't stress how important going to church and being a faithful member, working, teaching, singing, and fellowshiping is. Whatever the Lord calls you to do, do it! But be an ACTIVE member of your church home. If you don't have a church home FIND ONE, a Bible believing church, and join in on the spiritual growth the Lord has to offer and "keep on keeping on."

Keep your eyes on the cross of our Lord and Saviour. I know it's hard with all of life's ups and downs. In James 4:8 the Scripture says, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." Someone said to me twice in one day not very long ago, "I don't know how people do it without the Lord in their lives." Think about these words. Rest on them and if you don't live with the Lord, call upon Him with all your heart and you'll see how wonderful a life we have with Him than without Him. II Corinthians 5:17 tells us, "If anyone be in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things have passed away: Behold, all things have become new" (Amen). We then begin to find peace in our lives. I'm not saying that we have a bed of roses because Satan is still there trying to devour us. But you'll find your strength in Jesus Christ. We can't take our eyes off Christ! We'll see that there is hope, when we always thought, "what are we going to do?"

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is that Hope and Light we all search for. Thank you Bro. Morris for hearing your calling to preach and acting on it. Thank you Bro. Swilling for your encouragement! But most of all Thank you Jesus for saving a wretch like me.

In His service,
Elizabeth Pridie

THE AWARENESS THAT IS ESSENTIAL


Introduction:

A. The CONTRAST - the main thrust of this entire book deals with the contrast between the flesh and the spirit.

B. The COMPREHENSION of the Biblical Christian concept is vitally important.

I. THE POSSESSIONS OF CHRIST, Gal. 5:24a

24a. AND THEY THAT ARE CHRIST'S HAVE CRUCIFIED THE FLESH.

A. The IDENTIFICATION - who belongs to Christ?

1. All believers - we are His possessions by virtue of redemption.

2. I Cor. 6:19,20.

19. WHAT? KNOW YE NOT THAT YOUR BODY IS THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY GHOST WHICH IS IN YOU, WHICH YE HAVE OF GOD, AND YE ARE NOT YOUR OWN?

20. FOR YE ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE: THEREFORE GLORIFY GOD IN YOUR BODY, AND IN YOUR SPIRIT, WHICH ARE GOD'S.

B. The INSIGHT.
1. He paid your sin debt for you at Calvary.
   b. Romans 6:23.
   c. Lev. 17:11.
   e. I Peter 1:18,19.
2. Do you realize that you belong to Him?
   a. This comprehension is vitally important.
   b. A failure to realize this will cause you to
      live a self-centered life which is a life lived
      in the flesh - satisfying the desires of the
      flesh and promoting the flesh.

II. THE PERFORMANCE OF CHRISTIANS. Gal. 5:24b-25.
24b. WITH THE AFFECTIONS AND LUSTS.
25. IF WE LIVE IN THE SPIRIT, LET US ALSO
WALK IN THE SPIRIT:
A. DIED with Christ at Calvary. V24b.
   1. Die to self - a daily occurrence.
   4. Real living is found in the Biblical concept of
   1. Our POSSESSION ought to affect our
      PRACTICE.
   2. Our PROFESSION ought to affect our
      PERFORMANCE.
   3. Our PERCEPTION - what does it mean to
      walk in the Spirit?
      a. Guided by the Spirit.
      b. Led by the Spirit.
      c. Submissive to the Spirit.
      d. Controlled by the Spirit.
      e. Energized by the Spirit.

III. THE PROHIBITIONS FOR THE CHRISTIAN.
V26.
A. Desirous of vainglory - do you have or have
you had a problem with this?
   1. Glory that you seek to get for yourself.
   2. Self promotion - promoting yourself.
   3. This deals with wrong motivations.
B. Provoking one another - do you have a
   problem with this?
   1. Provoke means to cause to be irritated or
      angry - to arouse, good or spur someone to
      become hostile.
   2. It is an activity that you do in order to make
      a person look bad.
C. Envying one another - do you have a
   problem with this? Prov. 14:30.
   1. The EVIL of envy.
      b. Satan- John 8:44.
      d. Selfishness- 1 Corinthians 3:3.
   2. The EFFECTS of envy .
   a. Sours one's life.
      1. Illus. Haman.
   c. The EXIT of envy.
      a. Admit to yourself and God you have a
         problem with it.
      b. Confess it as sin.
      c. Depend upon the Lord to help you
         overcome it.

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WHY EACH SAVED PERSON SHOULD BE A
PERSONAL SOUL-WINNER

By Carroll Grigsby

Text: Mark 16:15.

Intro:
A. Our text verse needs to be scrutinized.
   1. "World" - (koinon) = earth; particularly where
      people are.
   2. "Preach" = proclaim, tell.
   3. "Gospel" - (euangellion) = good news. (I Cor. 15:1-4 describes it and it is "good news").
   4. To "creature" - (ktisei) = human creatures, beings.
B. Acts 1:8.
   1. "Power" - (dunamin) = strength, energy,
      might is given to God's people, especially in
      church capacity to do evangelism work.
   2. "Witness" - (martures) - a testifier of a
      doctrine, a witness to a circumstance.
      a. We saved people are testifiers of the
         doctrine of "Jesus saves".
      b. We saved people are witnesses to a
         circumstance, a condition, fact, or event - in
         our lives in which Jesus Christ saved us.
   c. With this in mind read again Acts 1:8.
3. We are to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ
   throughout the world, beginning here in
   Angleton and reaching wherever else we go.
   Acts 1:8.

PERSONAL SOUL-WINNERS ARE NEEDED.
A. Because God has need of personal soul-
   winners. V15,16.
   1. How else will God get the message to the lost?
   2. How else will God persuade the lost to be
      saved?
   3. God has bound Himself and His gospel in that
      He puts it in His churches and other saved
      people's hands.
B. Because the lost need of personal soul-
   winning.
   1. The matter of soul winning is greatly clouded.
   2. We seem to act as if men were safe in a
      competent hereditary portion, and might not
lay themselves out for new acquisitions. The true state of the case is, all is lost already, and the soul that is not won shall perish. To realize this would embody theory in action and change the face of the world. We would all labour more to win souls if we really believed them lost. "Fools" are "slow of heart to believe:" and therefore they are slack of hand to work. Faith knows the death by sin, and the life through Jesus; therefore the faithful work, and the workers win souls - their own first, and then their neighbor’s.

3. Romans 10:14-17.
C. Because the saved have need of personal soul-winning.
1. A saved person is not fulfilled as a Christian unless he or she is winning souls.
   a. To win souls seems to be the main fruit which the trees of righteousness bear in time. Prov. 11:30.
   b. As a branch is not fulfilled within itself; Jesus teaches no more is the saved person without fruit - souls won.
2. A saved person is not "wise" (chakam) = wise, intelligent; knowing, skillful, skilled who is not winning souls.
3. Most church troubles come from people who are not obeying Jesus Christ and winning souls and thus, they feel empty, worthless, and unprofitable to Jesus Christ and their church.
4. Jesus Christ saw the world lost and became the Saviour. We need to see the world lost and become soul-winners.

II. PERSONAL SOUL-WINNERS ARE A MUST.
A. Because without them lost souls will not know about Jesus Christ.
   1. People do not have to know about everything, but they must know about Jesus Christ.
   3. We tell the lost about Jesus Christ so they can be saved. V16.
B. Because without personal soul winners souls will never come to repentance and be saved. Luke 24:45-48.
   1. Soul winners put the message of repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ before the lost. V48.
   2. Soul winners impress upon sinners that Jesus Christ suffered, died for their sins, and arose that the lost can be saved. V46,47.
   3. Except we win souls, most of Angleton will go to hell.
C. Because without personal soul-winning being done the blood of men, women, boys and girls will be on our heads. Ezek. 3:17-20.
   1. Ezekiel, a preacher of righteousness, was warned.
   2. Like Ezekiel, we have all been made "WITNESSES" (Watchmen) over the souls of men to give them warning.
   3. We need to tell the lost about Jesus Christ that we may say with Paul Acts 18:6; 20:26.
   4. If you have failed, turn around and get things right with God.
D. Because without soul winners God’s plan will not be complete. Who will carry the message? Luke 24:48.

III. CONCLUSION:
A. Some say they do not have to do personal soul-winning, but we see how unscriptural that saying is.
B. We saved people need to do soul-winning and we can:
   1. Obey Mark 16:15. We already have the power. Acts 1:8.
   3. We must not delay to tell others of Jesus Christ and their need of salvation lest that person die without Jesus and plunge into hell.
      a. Many a nightmare is created by God's people who hold their tongue as sinners perish.
      b. A real FRIEND wins lost souls.
   4. God’s Word in Isaiah 55:11 should be our buoy as we go.
      a. "It shall not return unto me void".
      b. "It shall accomplish that which I please".
      c. "It shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."
C. There is real joy in winning souls.
D. Had any joy lately?

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THE DECEITFULNESS OF SIN


Introduction:
A. God loved sinners before we loved Him. Romans 5:8.
B. God sent Jesus to save sinners from sin, its ruin, its penalty, and its damnation. John 3:17.
D. Jesus forgave sinners and saved sinners and told them so. Luke 7:48, 50.
E. However, let it be always remembered...
   1. It required the SACRIFICIAL DEATH OF JESUS and THE SHEDDING OF HIS PRECIOUS BLOOD TO SAVE A SINNER.
   2. Let it also be remembered NOT ONE HAS BEEN SAVED WHO DID NOT FIRST "Receive Jesus into his or her heart by faith." Hebrews 11:6; John 1:12
   3. Let it also be remembered that NOT ONE PERSON HAS EVER BEEN FORGIVEN, CLEANSED FROM SIN, OR SAVED WHO DID NOT REPENT OF HIS OR HER SINS. Luke 13:3.
   F. To help us fully see the deceitfulness of sin let us be reminded that almighty God had to turn His back on His well beloved Son in order for Him to die for sins of sinners.
   1. God made His sinless Son to be sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." II Cor. 5:21.

BELOVED, SIN IS DECEITFUL.
A. Text.
C. All sin is against God. I John 3:4.
D. Sin is a big, bad, devouring wolf in sheep's clothes.
E. Sin could turn every blessing into a curse.
F. Sin puts on another dress and comes to us speaking a language which is not its own; and so, even those who would avoid sin as sin, may by degrees be tempted to evil and deluded into wrong. The deceitfulness of sin is a most ruinous evil.

G. Sin has a singular POWER TO DECEIVE.
   1. Consider the steps sin takes. Thought-Desire-Pre-meditation-Action
   2. Sin justifies its actions...by faults of others.
   3. Sin seduces people to think they can ATONE FOR THEIR SINS BY GOOD WORKS, CHURCH ATTENDANCE, AND BENEVOLENCE.
   4. Sin's first approach..."Distrust, disrespect for God's Word, the Bible...and those who would SEEK TO TEACH IT'S MESSAGE. (Parents, SS Teacher, Evangelists, Missionary, and Pastor)
   5. Sin deceives by its object.
      a. Steal to get ahead.
      b. Self gratification and pleasure.
   6. Sin deceives by its NAMES.
      a. Just this week on national TV "murder was branded as fighting for a cause."
      b. COVETOUSNESS..PRUDENTTHRIFT..
      c. INFIDELITY...ADVANCED THEOLOGY..HIGHER EDUCATION
      d. INDIFFERENCE TO GOD'S TRUTH..LIBERALITY
      e. DRINKING becomes a SPORT.
      f. GROSS IMMORALITY becomes INDIVIDUAL EXPRESSION

7. Sin is deceptive in its ARGUMENTS TO JUSTIFY.
   a. King Saul..."The people"
   b. Adam..."The woman which thou gavest me"
   c. "I am as good as so and so...look what they did.

8. Sin is deceptive in its REASONING.
   a. "Is it really wrong?"
   b. "We are not in the dark ages...times have changed." God's law has not.
   c. "I'm free, I have been liberated."
9. Sin is deceptive in the excuses offered.
   "Business, family, faults of others."
10. Sin is deceptive in its FLATTERY.
    a. You can handle it.
    b. You can go a little ways and then stop, quit.
    c. You have your rights to judge, think for yourself, to indulge, to speak your peace.
11. Sin is deceitful in its promises.
    a. Wisdom
    b. Looks good
    c. Tastes good
    d. It will turn you on. It will get you on high.
    e. It's fun.

II. SIN IS DAMAGING.
A. It grieves the Holy Spirit. Eph. 4:30.
B. It dishonours God our heavenly Father.
C. It discredits Jesus our Saviour.
D. It gives the enemy of the Lord excuse to blaspheme.
E. It destroys self-respect.
F. It destroys godly influence over others.
G. It breaks hearts, homes, and destroys nations.
I. It hides the face of God from His people. Isa. 59:1,2.

III. SIN WORKS A DEADENING EFFECT IN ONE’S CONSCIENCE.
A. I Timothy 4:2.
C. Quotes: "The same sun that melts the wax HARDS THE CLAY." "Familiarity with sin makes the conscience dull, at length deadens sensibility." "A conscience seared as with a hot iron is the sure prelude to destruction."
D. Such was Jeremiah's generation. Jer. 6:16,17.

IV. SIN DISHONORS.
A. Self: Romans 1:24 "To dishonour their own bodies."
B. God's Word: Isa. 5:20 "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight."
   1. "Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink;"
   2. "Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him."
C. Sin dishonours the body of Christ which is His blood bought church and bride to be.
   1. To the church of God at Corinth..."Despise ye the church of God?" I Cor. 5:6.
   2. Listen to God. "Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?" I Cor. 5:6.
   "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame."
D. Sin dishonours God. Hear the prodigal.
   "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight." Luke 15:21.

Conclusion:
A. God hath given influences to REVEAL OUR SINS TO US.
   2. One's own conscience, Romans 2:14.
   4. Those whose duty it is to MINISTER THE WORD.
      b. Teachers: Eph. 4:11.
B. Jesus wants to help the individual to overcome sin. I John 4:4; Phil. 4:13; I Peter 2:21.
C. Forgiveness and cleansing available to the one seeking them God's way. Isa. 55:6,7; I John 1:9.

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WHAT IS TRUTH?
By Kenneth Click

Text: John 18:37,38.

I. WHAT IS THE TRUTH ABOUT SIN?
   A. Sin is real.
   B. Sin has consequences.
   C. Sin has been conquered.

II. WHAT IS THE TRUTH ABOUT SUFFERING?
   A. God allows it.
   B. God doesn't explain it (except generally as a result of sin).
   C. We struggle with it.
   D. We believe anyway.

III. WHAT IS THE TRUTH ABOUT SALVATION?
   B. It depends on a choice. Deut. 30:15-19; Romans 10:13.
   D. It produces a change. II Cor. 5:17.

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THE COOPERATING CHURCH
By James A. Crain

A. Define: "To work together for a common cause."
B. A cooperation can be seen in the early church which caused the church to prosper.
C. We learn the value of cooperation as well as the dangers of a lack of it.

I. THE HISTORY.
A. A problem:
   1. Church had multiplied and grown. V1.
   2. The needs in the church had become too much for the Apostles. (Pastors).
B. A solution.
   1. Get some help.
C. A result.

II. THE TEACHING.
A. Need for Pastor's Bible and Prayer time.
   1. He must feed the Word to God's people. John 21:15-17 "Feed my sheep."
   2. He must warn of dangers. He is a watchman.
B. Need for cooperation in Organization.
   1. I Cor. 14:40 "Be done decently and in order."
   2. I Cor. 14:33 "God not Author of Confusion."
C. Need for Cooperation; in Delegation:
   1. Moses appointed Elders.
   2. Christ appointed Apostles.
   3. Church appointed Deacons.
      a. Deacon means "Servant" - Not to be bosses.
      b. Placed in positions of responsibility with authority to carry out duties.
      c. They were under pastoral oversight.
         (1) Not pulpit watch dogs.
         (2) Pastor is " overseer" - "Manager" (Over all). Hebs. 13:7,17; I Tim. 3:15; I Peter 5:2; Acts 20:28.
         (3) Pastor can only be removed by two ways: God or church majority.
      d. The Scope of Deacon's work.
         (1) False-material things only.
         (2) Notice: Philip and Stephen.
         (3) Deacon may perform any duty the church desires for them to do that will help with the Ministry of the church.
D. Need for cooperation with Management and Leadership:
   1. Workers should cooperate with those who are in a position of leadership over them.
   2. I Cor. 12 "One body."

III. THE APPLICATION.
A. The Church in Acts 6 prospered because of cooperation within the church.
B. We should respect and love the church enough to cooperate.
C. Lack of cooperation sometimes is because of a lack of love and too much selfishness. Repent.

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OUR NEXT PROJECT: We are preparing to print FINDING YOUR WAY by Sammy Eldredge. We appreciate Bro. Sammy so much for allowing us to use this material in our Sounding Out the Word ministry. Send in for your free copy today.

ADD A LITTLE FUEL TO THE FIRE!
By Wesley Waldrum

I. IS YOUR CANDLE GROWING DIM? Matt. 5:14-16.
   A. Is the excitement gone?
   B. Is the enthusiasm gone?
   C. Are you still encouraging others?
II. IS YOUR CONCERN FADING AWAY?
   A. Lost soul?
   B. Lingering saint?
   C. Loyalty in service?
III. IS YOUR COMMITMENT GETTING OLD?
   A. Are you tired of sacrificing?
   B. Are you tired of studying?
   C. Are you tired of starting over?
IV. IS YOUR COURAGE BECOMING WEAK?
   A. Because of fighting the battles?
   B. Because of facing the barriers?
   C. Because of feeling the burdens?
V. IS YOUR CANDLESTICK BURNING OUT?
   A. Are you lacking in faithfulness?
   B. Are you lacking in fellowship?
   C. Are you lacking in fruitfulness?

Conclusion: Is your candle growing dim? Is your concern fading away?

ADD A LITTLE FUEL TO THE FIRE!

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YOU CAN HELP: Do you have ink, offset paper, or cover stock just setting around not being used? Why not consider donating your printing supplies or equipment to the Sounding Out the Word ministry to be used in presenting and preserving God's Word.
A. Because death is decreed for every man.
   1. Hebrews 9:27 declares "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."
   2. Psalms 90:48 reads, "What man is he that liveth and shall not see death? Shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave?"

B. Death is the consequence of sin. Sin is the result of disobedience. Man disobeyed God, and divine justice placed a sentence of death upon man. Sin when it is finished bringeth forth death.

C. After man sinned, God never provided a way for man to escape physical death. God did provide the way for man to escape spiritual death, the second death. He did so by giving His Son to pay the price of sin on the cross.

III. WHAT DO MEN FACE IN ETERNITY?
   A. One of two things.
      1. Eternal punishment. If men refuse Christ, the lake of fire awaits them.
      2. Eternal life. Those who accept Christ will have eternal life in glory.

   B. There are two roads leading to eternity.
      1. There is a broad road. It is Satan's super highway to Hell. The road of unbelief.
      2. There is a narrow road that leads to heaven. Matt. 7:13,14.
      3. The broad way is the way of least resistance. The narrow road is the way of the cross of Jesus.

IV. HOW DO MEN FACE ETERNITY?
   B. Some face eternity with a fruitless life. (Example) Lot was saved, his life fruitless.
   C. Some face eternity with a fruitful life. Some 30 fold, some 60 fold, some 100 fold. This should be the desire of every christian, to have a fruitful life when we stand before God. Paul an example. II Timothy 4:7,8.

Conclusion:
   A. We shall all die. We shall all step into eternity.
   B. Sinner you should be saved today, get off that super-highway leading to hell. Take the exit that leads to Calvary, trust Jesus.
   C. After salvation, join the church, be baptized, for it is through the church a saved person can bring honor to God, and have a fruitful life.

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THE DAY HE WORE MY CROWN
By Sammy Eldredge

Text: Matthew 27:27-32

Introduction: Remember the crown that Jesus bore for us was both a crown that we should have worn and also a crown that we put on His head.
A. Not only were we responsible for his wearing it.
B. It should have been our crown to wear.

I. IT WAS A CROWN OF RANK. (Ranked with sinners.)
A. They gave it to him to show their disrespect.
B. Among men he was the most despised.
C. Read Isaiah 53.

II. IT WAS A CROWN OF REJECTION. John 1:11
A. They did not want men to think that they accepted Him as their King.
B. Instead he was to be known as the center of their ridicule. (Spat upon, beat, and kicked.)

III. IT WAS A CROWN OF RECOGNITION.
A. To recognize Him as a fool.
   1. One who claimed God’s power.
   2. One who could raise the dead, but could not save Himself.
   3. One who could heal the sick, but was about to die.
B. They wanted Him to be recognized among the others crucified with Him. (He was no different)

IV. IT WAS A CROWN OF RIDICULE. (Mock crown.)
A. A crown or diadem, has always been a sign of royalty.
B. He claimed to be King of the Jews, now they mocked Him with a crown of thorns.
C. Instead of a crown to bring brightness to His head, it brought blood from His brow.

V. IT WAS A CROWN OF RABBLE. (Insult by mob.)
A. Many of you grow chickens.
   1. If there is an off colored one, they all get together and attack it.
   2. This is rabble.
B. The crown of thorns was a cause of this kind of reaction.
C. Even those who He had helped, turned from Him.

VI. IT WAS A CROWN OF RADIANCE. (Marked by or expressive of love, etc.)
A. He could have called twelve legions of angels.
B. Instead He wore my crown.
C. He did it as an expression of love.

VII. IT WAS A CROWN OF RADICAL. (Tending to make extreme changes in existing views.)
A. To those who put it on Him, it was to show the world he was an imposter, so no one would believe on Him.
B. To Christ it was to show His humility, to prove to the world the point of His first coming.
C. To men today, it is to show our need to realize that we should have bore the punishment He bore for us.

Conclusion: I should have worn that crown, but I could not have worn it like He did.
A. Because He wore it, today, He wears the crown of the King of kings and the Lord of lords.
B. And because He wore it instead of me, I will one day wear a crown beside Him in the Kingdom of His glory.
C. You can be saved today because He wore your crown, or you can join His rejecters, and ridiculers.

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THE CHURCH OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
By Neal Clark

Text: Matthew 16:13-19

Introduction: The church of our day seems to have lost something. Christ is the head and heartbeat of the church. The preaching of the gospel is our job, but it appears at times we place emphasis on the wrong things. There seems to be so much unrest, unconcern, and unfaithfulness among our leadership.

THERE SEEMS TO BE A LACK OF:

I. CONFIDENCE IN THE LAMB John 1:29.
   A. Lack of confidence in His power.
   B. Lack of confidence in His promises.
   C. Lack of confidence in His purpose.

II. CONCERN IN OUR LIVES Matt. 10:38; Acts 20:28.
   A. Concern for the cross.
   B. Concern for the church.
   C. Concern for the christian living.

III. COMMITMENT TO HIS LAW Psalm 37:5; 119:97-105.
   A. Commitment to His way.
   B. Commitment to His Word.
   C. Commitment to His worship.

   A. We must warn the sinner.
B. We must weep for the sinner. Psa. 126:1-6.
C. We must win the sinner.

V. CONTENTMENT AMONG OUR LEADERSHIP
I Tim. 3:1-16.
A. Unrest among the leadership.
B. Uncertainty among the leadership.
C. Unfaithfulness among the leadership.
D. Unbelief among the leadership.
E. Unhappy leaders mark our day.

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LIFE AT IT’S BEST
By Danny Chappell

Text: Philippians 2:4

Introduction: Paul was concerned that he and his Philippian friends know life at its best and in this passage he outlines what this is and how it is realized.

I. IT MEANS PUTTING OTHERS FIRST. V1-4.
A. We must take care not to advance ourselves at the expense of others.
   2. Like-minded. V2.
   3. Esteeming each other. V3.
B. A life that is not invested in others will not bring satisfaction.

II. IT MEANS FOLLOWING THE RIGHT EXAMPLE. V5.
A. Whatever kind of life we may build upon a basis of money-grubbing, prestige-seeking and possession-collecting, it certainly will not be a spiritual life.
B. The life that counts is in Christ Jesus.

III. IT MEANS BEING WILLING TO SERVE. V6,7.
A. We are to imitate Jesus.
   1. Romans 8:29.
B. He gave up His rights in order to serve others.
C. The best title we can achieve in this life is that of a servant.

IV. IT MEANS STARTING AT THE RIGHT POINT. V8,9.
A. Christ humbled himself.
B. He became obedient.
C. He died on the cross of Calvary.
D. The result-God exalted Him.
E. We seek the exaltation without the humility or obedience or suffering.

V. IT MEANS RECOGNIZING JESUS CHRIST AS LORD. V10,11.
A. It is never hard to find alternative "lords."
   1. Hobbies.
   2. Sports.

B. We are prone to allow him to be guest.
1. The guest is restricted in where he can go in the house.
2. The Lord goes wherever He pleases because he owns it all.

C. If we will turn it over to Him, God will get the glory. V11.

PAYING ATTENTION TO THE PLUMBLINE
By Joe Stevens


Introduction: Amos was a prophet to the house of Israel before the captivity. The nation had strayed away from God and no matter what he did, they would not repent. He warned them, showed Amos visions of grasshoppers covering the land and fiery judgment. Then he showed him the plumbline. A plumbline is used to establish an absolute straight, undeviating line. It also can be used to separate and establish a guide. It can represent God’s unwavering righteousness. When God showed the plumbline to Amos it established the fact of judgment upon the rebellious people. V9. God has set plumblines for us to follow and it is imperative that we observe and follow them.

I. THE PLUMBLINE OF SALVATION.
A. God has established one undeviating plan for our salvation. To follow any other plan will result in complete failure and chaos.
   1. Repentance - "Except ye repent..."
   2. Faith - "Without faith it is impossible."
B. Until we place our faith on God’s plumbline, we can never be saved.

II. THE PLUMBLINE FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING.
A. Building a christian life is like building a wall, if it is not built straight it will not be strong and will soon fall down.
B. To build a strong, useful christian life, one must build it on the straight and narrow way.
   1. Follow God’s plan.
      a. Scriptural baptism
      b. Church fellowship
      c. Bible study
   2. Obey His guidelines.
      a. Walk circumspectly
      b. Glorify God

III. THE PLUMBLINE FOR HOME BUILDING.
A. God’s standard calls for a foundation of a God fearing man and woman joined together in marriage assuming their God appointed roles.
   1. Husband the head of the house. "Love his wife as Christ loved His church."
   2. Wives subject to husband in the Lord.
B. Children in the home must be obedient, honor both father and mother.
C. A home that follows God’s plumbline is one that:
   1. Puts God first.
   2. Worships and serves together. Joshua "as for me and my house we will serve the Lord."

IV. THE PLUMBLINE FOR CHURCH BUILDING.
   A. Christ the foundation.
   B. Baptized believers the material.
   C. Jesus the cornerstone.
   D. God’s Word the guide.
   E. The gospel our message and mission.
   F. Many are not paying attention to the plumbline and are building churches completely out of shape, with the wrong foundation, material, message that will not stand God’s fiery judgment.

V. THE PLUMBLINE BY WHICH WE SHALL BE JUDGED.
   A. God’s unchanging book of life. Those not found written there will be judged unworthy of heaven.
   B. God’s record of our faithfulness.
      1. Every work shall be made manifest whether good or bad.
      2. Every one shall receive his own reward.
   C. God has established the standards by which we shall be judged and He will do the judging, so it is vital that we pay attention to the plumbline.

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WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS

By Gene Yates

Text: II Corinthians 3:17

Intro: A. This statement will require some sobering thoughts from all who observe and read it.
   B. From King David we are told whether he was up, down, North, South, East, West, the Spirit of the Lord was always there.
   C. Man may ignore, deny and reject the fact of God, but he cannot avoid Him.

I. DARKNESS IS EXPELLED AND LIGHT PREVAILS.
   A. What fellowship does light have with darkness.
   B. It is impossible to have both simultaneously.
   C. No backsliders, no matter how far he or she may go ever experiences total darkness again in their soul.
   D. But a lost hell bound sinner is totally blackened with sin.

II. IGNORANCE IS EXPOSED AND TRUTH GLOWS.
   A. We are not of those who draw back into perdition.
   B. If the gospel is hid it is hid unto them that purposely believe not.
   C. They are blinded by choice by the god of this world.
   D. Ignore the truth will not put out the light of God.

III. DEATH CANNOT REIGN AND LIFE EVER SPRING.
   A. Oh death, where is thy sting?
   B. Oh grave, where is thy victory?
   C. And Stephen looked steadfastly up into Heaven, saw Christ standing.

IV. SIN IS DISPOSED AND RIGHTEOUSNESS GROWS.
   A. My little children sin not, but when you do sin you have an advocate.
   B. Beloved, now are ye yet the sons of God.
   C. You know that He was manifested to take away our sins and help us overcome the dominion of sin.
   D. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world, who is he that overcometh the world?
   E. It is he that believes to the saving of the soul that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

V. SATAN’S DOOM IS PROCLAIMED AND CHRIST’S GLORY IS EXCLAIMED.
   A. Unto us this day a Saviour is born, Behold, the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.
   B. This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.
   C. Who has the keys of death, hell, and the grave?
   D. Rev. 20:10.

VI. WHERE THE SPIRIT OF GOD IS.
   A. There is life.
   B. There is liberty.
   C. There is peace.
   D. There is joy.
   E. And the present happiness is not vain nor void in Christ Jesus.

Bro. Gene Yates went to be with the Lord several years ago.

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