GOOD NEWS ALL YEAR LONG


Intro: Isaiah was given a wonderful prophecy about the promised Messiah or Saviour. The Saviour would be born of a virgin, Isa. 7:14. Isaiah also said He would be a ruler and would reign over people, Isa. 9:6,7. He also described the work of the Messiah. The faithful looked and longed for that time to come when the Saviour would be born. A lot of the Jewish people thought He would set up His kingdom on earth at His first appearance. Jesus came to live and die to set men free spiritually. Let's notice what Jesus would do.

I. JESUS WOULD PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR.

A. The good tidings.
   1. The Messiah would proclaim good tidings to all people.
   2. The gospel is the good news of God to all mankind.
   3. The gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I Cor. 15:1-4.
   4. This gospel is for all people.

B. The gracious truth.
   1. God is good and gracious. His good news is for all or everyone.
   2. His invitation to salvation is: all may come and receive everlasting life. Rom. 10:13.
   3. God offers salvation from hell. He offers redemption from satan, sin, and self.
   4. His wondrous grace reaches down to every person.

C. The glorious Teacher.
   1. Jesus was anointed to preach the good news or tidings to all people.
   2. Jesus preached to one and to multitudes this good news.
   3. He proclaimed the truth in love and mercy. He reached out to those He came in contact with.
   4. He preached to the immoral and self-righteous.

II. JESUS WOULD HEAL THE BROKENHEARTED.

A. The problems in life.
   1. The heart can be broken. As I look around and see what people are going through I can see people broken hearted.
   2. Troubles and problems are multiplying. Every family is touched in some way with problems.
   3. Children are breaking parents and grandparents hearts. The parents may be breaking the children's hearts.

B. The perplexity of living.
   1. We have no control over a lot of problems.
   2. We can't change what is going on. Problems are caused by people and people must change.
   3. Many problems cause us to feel lonely and hurt and forsaken. We may lose hope.
   4. The pressure can mount up and become so heavy we just want to give up and die.

C. The power of the Lord.
   1. Jesus came to heal the brokenhearted. He could mend broken bodies and He can mend broken hearts.
   2. The Lord can give us that sufficient grace. He can give us strength.
   3. The Lord is our hope and He can give us hope to go on. Even when all earthly hope is gone, there is hope of heaven and all of its glory.

III. JESUS CAME TO DELIVER THE CAPTIVE.

A. The fact of captivity.
   1. All are slaves to sin by birth and nature. Man

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is a sinner and is a captive to sin and by sin.
2. Man is a captive of his habits and condition.
3. Sometimes we may feel that we are captives in the body and are not able to do anything about it.

B. The fooling in captivity.
1. The Devil often makes us believe we are free by doing his will.
2. Drugs and drink promise freedom, but enslave and capture those who use them.
3. The Devil is a master at deceit and disguise. He can influence your mind and cause you to think in a foolish way.

C. The freeing of the captives.
1. Jesus came to deliver man from captivity.
2. Jesus is the truth, way, and life. He can make you free.
3. The truth will make you free, John 8:32. The Son makes free indeed, John 8:36.
4. When Jesus makes you free, you are free. Sin doesn’t have to reign in your mortal body or dominate you, Rom 6:12,14.

IV. JESUS GIVES SIGHT TO THE BLIND.
A. The cause of blindness.
1. Some people were born blind physically. They cannot see.
2. All are born blind spiritually. This blindness is caused by sin.
3. We were born sinners. We practice sin. We choose sin.

B. The curse of blindness.
1. We cannot see. We cannot understand. We may not want to understand.
2. It is possible and probable that man will go through life not seeing and die and go to hell because he is blind.
3. Others must show him the way. They may be led the wrong way.

C. The cure for blindness.
1. The Lord is the cure for blindness. He had the power to heal the blind.
2. The Lord can heal our spiritual blindness.
3. He can give us spiritual sight. He does this through the new birth.

V. JESUS SETS AT LIBERTY THE BRUISED.
A. Sin bruises the body.
1. The "bruised" in this verse refers to wounds of sin.
2. Sin bruises the body. Sin can affect, alter, and awfully affect the body.
3. Wars cause great damage to those that fight in them. Go to a veteran’s hospital and see it.

B. Sin bruises the mind.
1. Sin will inflict pain on your mind.
2. Paul describes the lusts and thoughts of the mind in Eph. 2:1-3.
3. Sin bruises the mind. The Devil makes sure you remember the hurt, harm, and the horrible.

C. The Saviour will set the bruised at liberty.
1. He saves the soul and gives you forgiveness and peace.
2. He offers sufficient grace in daily living.
3. One day He will remove all effects of sin in your life. We will have a new body untouched by sin. We will stand before the Father complete.

From a reader in the Philippines:
Once again I would like you to know that your Sounding Out the Word paper has greatly benefited my ministry and myself. I just praise and thank the Lord for enabling your ministry to operate in such a way that it can help needy Christians, especially pastors who are unable to purchase necessary materials such as this to avail of the free gift offered by your ministry through which I am one of the recipients.

Pastor Harold Valdez

From a reader in Nigeria:
Beloved Pastor Charles Swilling, we have so much to be thankful for supplying us materials for evangelism, hundreds of souls were repenting through your books and tracts and they all were sending their regards to you all. They really enjoy your books. Some called it life changing word of God and some called it heart warming message, etc. All the 100 copies of THE SALVATION OF THE LORD and tracts reached us and we are on work with them only few remain now. Please brethren, some of the books/tracts do damage, try to use nice cartons in mailing so that it will protect the materials. All your books are needed. I will not mention anyone because a beggar has no choice. All is good. We only need them in large shipment for freely and prayerfully distribution to the needy/hungry souls and to our branches.

Evangelist Solomon Ekezier

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Some time ago Sounding Out the Word sent me all back issues of the publication and several books and since had me on the mailing list. What a blessing and help this material has been to me as a bi-vocational pastor and my congregation.

I am sending a small offering to help with expenses. I’ll try to continue some support with finances.

Henry Hughes

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THE WAY OF THE CROSS  
by Sammy Eldredge

Text: Philippians 2:5-8.


I. THE CROSS OF CHRIST.
   A. Was self-sacrifice.
      1. Giving up what was rightfully His.
      2. Doing this for others with no selfish motive.
      3. Giving it all.
   B. Was a bridge from God to man.
      1. Man could not reach God.
      2. Man could not please God.
      3. Jesus made a way for man to come back to God.
   C. Was an act of compassion and love.
      1. The motivation of Christ was love.
      2. His love for us when we were His enemies.
      3. "Greater love hath no man than this."
   D. Was the death blow to sin.
      1. Sin had dominion in the life of man before the cross.
      2. Sin was defeated at the cross.
      3. Ultimately through the cross, sin will be abolished.

II. THE CROSS TO THE FATHER.
   A. The answer to the sin question.
      1. God sees sin as an offense to His righteousness.
      2. He either had to allow sin and lose His righteousness.
      3. Or judge sin altogether.
      4. He judged sin by the cross of His Son.
   B. The defeat of Satan.
      1. Satan challenged God and His throne.
      2. He wished to overthrow God’s authority.
      3. He was defeated at the cross.
   C. The renewed fellowship with His creation.
      1. All of creation was affected by sin.
      2. Not only man was marred and separated, but also the whole universe.
      3. Jesus redeemed all of creation.
   D. The glory of His person.
      1. In eternity, we will see the real glory of God by the death of Jesus on the cross.
      2. The eternal glory of God will shine through all the redeemed in His kingdom.

III. THE CROSS TO MAN.
   A. Was the payment of his debt.
      1. Man owed an unpayable debt.
      2. He was a sinner and could not even approach God.
      3. Jesus paid the debt in full.
   B. Was the place of reconciliation.
      1. If a man comes to God, he must meet Him at the cross.
      2. There is no other Name under Heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.
      3. As many as received Him, to them gave He the power to become the sons of God.

C. The place of changed life.
   1. Try as he might, man could not serve God in the flesh.
   2. After a man comes to the cross, he is given the Holy Spirit in his heart and he is a new creature.

D. The place of assurance.
   1. Because Jesus paid our debt on the cross, we have assurance that we will be accepted.
   2. We are kept by the power of God because of Christ.

IV. THE CROSS TO THE REJECTER.
   A. A place of shame.
      1. Every man born of woman has the chance to accept Jesus as payment for his sin.
      2. Many do not.
      3. They will hang their heads in shame at the judgment.
   B. A place of condemnation.
      1. He that believeth not is condemned already.
      2. The cross stands to them as a monument of that failed chance.
   C. A place of division.
      1. Those who stand on the right hand side are the eternal children of God.
      2. Those who stand on the left are condemned, knowing they could have been forgiven.
   D. A picture of eternal separation.
      1. The rich man begged for comfort in torment.
      2. A great gulf was fixed.
      3. Not even an answer to a prayer for his kin would be given.
      4. He was eternally separated from God’s love.

Conclusion: You can see the cross. What does it mean to you?

Sammy Eldredge, P.O. Box 336, Timpson, TX 75975

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WHAT A LOST PERSON CAN HAVE BY BELIEVING IN JESUS CHRIST

Text: John 6:28-40, 47.
Intro: It is a fact that all people are born in a lost, sinful condition. God’s Word tells us this in Romans 5:12. It is a fact that all people are born with a free will, one that they can exercise however they please. You can believe and trust Christ as your Saviour, or you can choose not to believe! The decision is yours. By believing you choose to spend an eternity with God and have much that you are blessed with as a result of it. By not believing you have nothing. You have committed the only sin that will keep you out of heaven. The fear of giving up things here on this earth has sent many a soul to hell. But lost person there is still some hope for you. There are some things that you can have by just simply believing and trusting Christ as your Saviour. Lost person don’t choose wrong. Choose by believing. Notice with me some things that you as a lost person can have by believing in Jesus Christ as your Saviour.

I. YOU AS A LOST PERSON CAN HAVE YOUR SINS FORGIVEN!
We are told in the Bible that we have a God who is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins. And that He blots out all memory of our past. I John 1:9; Jeremiah 31:34.

A. A person who has had his sins forgiven has been washed in the blood.
1. One has to recognize that it takes a blood sacrifice. Hebrews 9:22.
2. One has to recognize that it took the blood of Jesus Christ. I Peter 1:18, 19.
3. One has to realize through faith that they have been thoroughly cleansed from all sin. I John 1:7.

B. A person who has had his sins forgiven has been written in the book.
1. It is a Book that allows you entrance into the Kingdom of God.
2. It is a Book that has never had an eraser touch its pages and never will.

4. It is a Book that allows you to escape the second death.
   a. All shall go through death.
   b. The saved shall only die once.
   c. The lost shall die twice. Rev. 20:15.

II. YOU AS A LOST PERSON CAN HAVE SPIRITUAL FREEDOM.
Believing and knowing the truth about God gives you spiritual freedom. Jesus said to those who believed in Him that "ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

A. A person who has spiritual freedom is free from Satan!
1. As a lost person you belong to the devil! Jesus said when speaking to the Pharisees in John 8:44 that "Ye are of your father the devil."
2. A saved person has been made free by the Spirit of adoption of Jesus Christ and is now joint-heir with Christ. Romans 8:14-17.

B. A person who has spiritual freedom is free from sin. I John 3:9.
1. You as a saved person will still commit sins in your everyday life, but your soul is sealed by the Holy Spirit and it cannot sin.
2. Paul leaves us an example of the two natures he struggled with in his life as a saved man. Romans 7:13-20.
3. A person who has been freed from the bondage of sin has been made righteous in the sight of God. Romans 6:18.

C. A person who has spiritual freedom is free from the statutes. (Old Testament Law)
1. The Old Testament Law never saved anyone. It was there as our schoolmaster.
2. As a saved person you have been freed from the law. Christ nailed the law to the cross when he died there on the cross. Gal. 3:18.

III. YOU AS A LOST PERSON CAN HAVE A SINCERE FRIEND.
Your friends and family in this life might fail you, but Christ never will. He’s someone you can trust and depend on.

A. Jesus is One you can lean on.
1. He’s One you can lean on for security. Micah 3:11.
2. He’s One you can lean on for sincerity. Proverbs 3:5; 18:24.
3. He’s One you can lean on for satisfaction.

B. Jesus is One who will listen to you.
2. He will hear your sorrows.

C. Jesus is One who will be loyal to you.
1. He sticks by us. Joshua 1:5.
2. He strengthens us.

D. Jesus is One who will always love you.

IV. YOU AS A LOST PERSON CAN HAVE SWEET FELLOWSHIP.
A. You can have sweet fellowship with the Saviour.
   1. You can walk with Him daily.

B. You can have sweet fellowship with the saved.
   A lost person and a saved person cannot have sweet fellowship with each other; they have nothing in common. A lost person cannot understand spiritual things. I Corinthians 2:14.
   1. You have someone to share your problems with.
   2. You have someone to pray with and for.
   3. You have someone to praise the Lord with.

V. YOU AS A LOST PERSON CAN HAVE A SEALED FUTURE.
   A. You can have a resurrected future.
      1. As Christ was raised from the dead after three days and three nights so shall you be raised when Christ comes again. I Thessalonians 4:16,17.
      2. Our resurrection will be into everlasting life. Daniel 12:2.

B. You can have a rewarding future.
   1. Every man will be rewarded for his own labors. I Corinthians 3:8.
   2. You will be rewarded for your faithfulness. Revelation 2:10.

C. You can have a restful future.
   1. You can rest from your labors and toils. Revelation 14:13.

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SIGNOS OF DRIFTING FROM THE LORD
By Charles Swilling

Text: Matthew 24:12.

I. THE LACK OF LORDSHIP IS A SIGN.
   A. The command - Romans 12:1.
   C. The consecration - I Corinthians 9:27.

II. THE LACK OF LISTENING IS A SIGN.
   B. The conflict.
   C. The consecration.

III. THE LACK OF LAW IS A SIGN.
   A. The command - II Timothy 3:16,17.
   B. The conflict - Romans 8:6-8.
   C. The consecration.

IV. THE LACK OF LEADING IS A SIGN.
   A. The command - II Cor. 5:20.

C. The consecration.

V. THE LACK OF LETTING IS A SIGN.
   A. The command - Philippians 2:5.
   B. The conflict.
   C. The consecration.

THE SOUNDING OF GOD’S ALARM CLOCK

Text: Romans 13:7-14, V11.

Introduction:

A. This Scripture is addressed to the ALREADY SAVED.
   (Dr. C.H. Spurgeon preached in a sermon, August 21, 1881...If this text had been addressed to the unsaved it would have read, "It is High Time to Awake out of Sleep, FOR NOW IS YOUR DAMNATION NEARER THAN WHEN YOU FIRST HEARD THE GOSPEL." One might well add, "Now is your damnation nearer than when you first rejected Christ, when you first ignored pleadings of loved ones and friends, prayers of concern, tears of the burdened and heart broken.")

B. This text is addressed to the SLEEPING SAVED.
   To the sleep walking saved. To such as are sleeping away precious life. Sleeping away all important opportunity.

C. Dr. Spurgeon suggests that "Sleep walkers, sleeping saved people can sing, pray, give, teach, visit and even preach in their sleep, mechanically, with little or no enthusiasm or empathy for their hearers. Just doing religious activity out of HABIT, CUSTOM, OR TRADITION, versus spirituality.

I. THE ACCEPTANCE OF JESUS CHRIST. V11.
   A. As the Son of God. Matthew 16:16; I John 5:1.
   B. As the One with Words of Eternal Life. John 6:68.
   C. As the Light from heaven which shines across the paths of one and all. John 1:9; Acts 26:13.
   D. As Heaven’s Lamb sent to save sinners. John 1:29; John 3:17.
   E. As the Good Shepherd. John 10:11.
   F. As the One.
II. THE AWARENESS (Knowing the Time).
A. The saved are INDWELT BY JESUS. Galatians 2:20; Eph. 5:14.
B. The saved are INDWELT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT OF CHRIST. JOHN 14:17; I Corinthians 2:14,15.
C. The earnest student is ENLIGHTENED BY THE WORD. Psalm 119:105,130; Acts 17:11.
D. The saved ought to be ENTHUSED BY HIS PRESENCE AND PROMISES.

III. THE AWAKENING.
A. To admissions.
   1. Lack of love.
   2. Lack of knowledge.
B. To activity.
   1. To Teaching others - Psalm 51:3.
   2. To leading others Hebrews 12:12,13.
   4. To opportunities.
      a. To be a light - Matthew 5:16.
      b. To give a testimony - Psalm 107:8.
      c. To be an example - I Timothy 4:12.
      d. To either SOW or REAP John 4:35,36.
C. To anticipation.
   2. Seeing saved people serving - Phil. 1:14; II John 4; III John 3,4.
   3. Seeing the church edified and enlarging I Corinthians 14:12; Acts 2:46,47.

IV. THE AWAITING.
(THERE ARE SOME THINGS AND SOMEONE WORTH AWAKENING TO.) I am aware that illness, exhaustion, medication, etc., can result in HALF-HEARTEDNESS AND SLEEP WALKING BELIEVERS, However, there are other causes for sleeping saved people.
   (Too long at revelry, merry-making - Matthew 24:12.)
   (Lack of interest in others - Lam. 1:12).
   (Sin-seared conscience - I Tim. 4:2.)
A. Reservation in heaven - I Peter 1:4.
   1. That which Jesus has gone to prepare.
   2. That city not made with hands.
C. Rewarding of the faithful runners. Hebrews 12:2; I Cor. 9:24; Revelation 22:12; 4:10.
D. Redeemer returning, resurrecting and receiving those whom He has saved. Job 19:25; John 11:25; 14:3.
E. Reunion of the members of the family of God. II Sam. 12:23.

A. Put on Jesus.
   1. For covering - II Cor. 5:21.
   2. For necessary Work to be done.
   3. For defense - I Peter 5:8; I John 4:4.
   4. For dignity - We who say we are saved represent Jesus. I John 1:8.

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THE PRE-EMINENCE OF THE CROSS


Introduction:
A. The CONTEXT
1. Broadly - the Book deals with the great controversy among the Galatians.
   a. They were attempting to add to the work of Christ.
   b. They were attempting to glory in their flesh.
2. Specifically, as it relates to this chapter.
   a. Participating in the ministry of helping others.
   b. Persistence in pursuing the right course in life.
B. The CONTENT of this lesson deals with the pre-eminence of the cross.

I. THE CONCERN - Gal. 6:11.
"Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand."
A. The EXPRESSIONS.
   1. "How large a letter."
   2. "With mine own hand."
B. The EXPLANATION - These expressions reveal the care and concern that Paul had for the saints.
   1. This embraces the personal touch.
   2. This is so vital, yet at times, so difficult to do when you consider the pace of our world and the job increase that we sometimes face.

II. THE CONFLICT - Gal. 6:12,13.
"As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised: Only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ."
"For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law: but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh."
A. View their MOTIVATIONS - The Judaizers V12.
B. View their INCONSISTENCY V13.
C. View the two wrong attitudes or motivations to have.
   1. Desiring to make a fair shew in the flesh.
   2. Glorying in the flesh.

III. THE CORRECT VIEW - Gal. 6:14-16.
V14 "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."
V15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. V16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God."

A. The UNDERSTANDING that is profound.
   1. The CROSS work of Christ.
   2. The CRUCIFIED life of the christian - Gal. 2:20. (Abundant living is connected with this concept.)
B. The UNVEILING of the cross message - in the cross, you see the following:
   1. The MEASURE of man's guilt.
   2. The MANIFESTATION of God's love.
   3. The MEANS of salvation.
   4. The MARK of separation.
   5. The MOTIVE for service.
   6. The MELODY of heaven.

Conclusion:
Galatians 6:17,18 "From henceforth let no man trouble me: For I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus." V18 "Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen."

Glen E. Tropp, 832 Sonnenshine, Benton, Arkansas 72015

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A GREAT MEETING DAY
By Billy Daniels


Intro:
A. Joseph, a well loved son of Jacob who later was called Israel, was disliked by his brothers. They sought to take his life, but later decided to sell him and kill an animal to get blood on Joseph's coat of many colors to deceive their father into believing Joseph was dead.
B. Many great meeting days are held on earth.
   1. Homecoming Days - when people gather back home.
   2. Family reunion days - families get together.
   3. Easter - an annual meeting time of a lot of people.
   4. Christmas - possibly the most observed day.
C. There is coming the great meeting day when all of God's children are called home. This will be the greatest meeting day of them all.
I. A GREAT MEETING DAY BECAUSE MANY LOVED ONES WILL BE PRESENT.
A. After the years of separation; Joseph was happy to see his loved ones.
1. They parted because of the brother's act, but united by Joseph's working.
2. Man is separated from God by his sin, but united through Christ's death.
3. "For as in Adam all die even so in Christ shall all be made alive."
B. The brothers were even glad to see Joseph though a little bit afraid and ready to make right the past.
C. Many families have experienced separation of one kind or another followed by a uniting.
1. Because of the conflict in South East Asia today many families are separated.
2. Death has caused its part of separations.
3. Jobs, travel, health, etc., have caused temporal partings.
4. The great joy comes when these are joined again.
D. When God's people meet in heaven it will be a happy meeting time. Twill all be joy up in Heaven, that beautiful city of God.

II. A GREAT MEETING DAY BECAUSE WE WILL MEET OUR SAVIOUR. Revelation 22:1 "And they shall see his face."
A. How wonderful it must have been for those people who walked with Jesus on earth.
1. His disciples knew Him face to face. They walked and talked with Him.
2. Many were healed by Him.
3. After His crucifixion some turned back, later they saw Him and followed.
B. Then there will be no parting from the presence of Jesus.
1. We will be able to walk and talk with Him.
2. This will be the greatest meeting in my life.
C. Thomas felt the scars of Jesus after His resurrection. All the saved will see Him on that happy meeting day.
D. Our eyes will fasten upon the loving Saviour who died for us.
1. We will see the reality of hell and heaven.
2. Our hearts will be thrilled for what Jesus did.
3. The marks of the body of Jesus will become more.
E. To see many people it will be joyous, but the greatest of all will be Jesus.
1. Our earthly parents have done many things for us.
2. Jesus has done much more.

III. A GREAT MEETING DAY BECAUSE IT WILL BE A MEETING WITHOUT END. Rev. 22:5 "And they shall reign for ever and ever."
A. Every meeting on earth must come to an end at some time or another.
1. They may be enjoyable, but end.
2. They may be profitable, but end.
3. They must end.
B. Israel's meeting Joseph came to an end.
C. The brothers were separated later.
D. Sometimes our bodies become tired at meetings on earth, but then they won't.
1. It seems as though some of those who enjoy these meetings most get tired or can't come.
2. Then we will never grow tired.
3. "For there shall be no night there." Rev. 21:25.

IV. A GREAT MEETING DAY BECAUSE IT WILL MEAN THE END OF SIN AND ITS EFFECTS. Rev. 21:27 'And there shall be no more enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination.'
A. From Adam sin has ruled many people.
1. Sin entered man through Adam's sin.
2. Cain was controlled by sin at least part of the time.
3. In Noah's day sin controlled the majority.
4. Sin was why Jesus died on the cross.
5. Sin is why we preach Jesus.
B. Sin destroys people, places, and things.
1. Many lives have been taken by sinful acts.
2. Much property damage is witnessed.
3. Organizations are destroyed.
C. Picture in your mind how wonderful this will be.
1. Everyone present will be saved.
2. Everyone present will have the same desire.
3. How wonderful this life would be if there were more christians instead of just church members.

V. SOME WILL BE LEFT OUT.
A. Because of unbelief.
1. They believed not in Noah's day.
2. If you will not hear God's Word neither would you be persuaded if one rose from the dead.
B. Because of delay - "More convenient season."
C. Because of wealth or other earthly possessions. "Went away sorrowful for he had much riches."
D. Not because of who they are or what they have, but because of who they don't have.

Conclusion:
A. Joseph, his father and brothers wept for joy on their meeting day. They had reason for joy.
B. There is coming a great meeting day for all who have Jesus.
C. Are you prepared should that day be now: "Now is the accepted time."

Billy Daniels, P.O.Box 1144, Hillsboro, Texas 76645
A CALL TO REMEMBRANCE
by Melvin Burris


Introduction:
A. The first 5 books of the Old Testament are often referred to as the Pentateuch.
B. All 5 of these books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy were written by Moses.
C. The word "Deuteronomy" literally means, "second Law." This book was named this because in it Moses restates the Law that God had given to him on Mt. Sinai.
D. Actually what you have in this book is a series of addresses or sermons preached by Moses to the nation of Israel.
E. Here in our text for this morning we find:
   1. The Israelites encamped on the border of the promised land.
   2. They've already wandered in the wilderness for 40 years.
   3. Moses is about to die.
   4. Joshua will take his place and lead the children of Israel into the land of Canaan.
F. Before he dies, Moses speaks to the people and calls upon them to remember 3 things.
   1. God's presence.
   2. God's power.

I. MOSES CALLED UPON ISRAEL TO REMEMBER GOD'S PRESENCE. V1

A. Now notice first of all that Moses said, "When" rather than "if."
   1. In the christian life if you and I will live as God would have us to live, then there's going to be a battle.
   2. The Israelites weren't bothered much in the wilderness.
   3. When they started into the land of Canaan, then it was war.
   4. As long as we just sit back and don't ever try to do anything for the Lord, then we're not going to be bothered much.
   5. Folks, once we get up off of the stool of doing nothing and start forward, it's going to be war.
B. Moses told them that there would be a battle, but he goes on to remind them that God would be with them.
C. He says, "When you go to battle and you see."
   1. The enemy.
   2. Their horses.
   3. Chariots.
D. Don't be afraid because you've got something that they don't have.
   1. The presence of Almighty God.
E. In our battles as christians how important it is to remember that God has promised us that He'd never leave us nor forsake us.
F. Regardless of:
   1. The problem.
   2. The burden.
   3. The trial.
G. Isaiah 43:1,2; Psalm 37:23-25; Hebrews 13:5.
H. There may be times when it seems that God isn't with us.
   1. There were times when it seemed that He wasn't with Israel.

II. MOSES CALLED UPON ISRAEL TO REMEMBER GOD'S POWER. V1

A. God has the power to save souls.
   1. Ill.-Israel in Egyptian bondage.
B. God has the power to strengthen us in the time of battle.
   1. I believe that's what Moses was really trying to tell the Israelites here.
   2. There are some things I just can't do in my own power. Psalm 46:1.
C. God has the power to solve problems.
   1. Someone has said: Everybody either is a problem, or he has a problem, or he lives with a problem.
   2. Many of the problems that I have are made bigger because of my refusal to give them to the Lord and let Him solve them.
   3. Ill.-Israel at the Red Sea. "Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord."
D. God has the power to send revival.
   1. When revival doesn't come it's not God's fault.

III. MOSES CALLED UPON ISRAEL TO REMEMBER GOD'S PURPOSE.

A. God's purpose for Israel was to:
   1. Give them the land of Canaan.
   2. Allow them to write and preserve the Old Testament Scriptures.
   3. Allow them to witness for Him.
   4. Allow them to be the one to bring Christ into the world.
B. Just as God had a purpose for the nation of Israel, even so God has a purpose for the life of every person whom He saves.

Melvin Burris 1317 N. Shady Lane, Benton, Arkansas 72015

The Bruce Douglass family of our church has given an offering to pay for printing one of our outline books in the memory of his parents. We are going to include a memorial page about them in the book. We would encourage others to make this kind of investment. This is the second offering of this size. I encourage other families, churches, or even associations to do so.
LESSONS TAUGHT BY DEATH
by John Paul Jones


Intro:
A. Because of the sadness brought by death some do not wish to speak of it. However, it is best for us to accept the realities of life - and death is one of these.
B. Some people believe that God is responsible and some say God is unjust to allow some of the awful things that happen.
C. The Bible tells us that "Jesus wept" at the grave of Lazarus and again it says that we should "sorrow not as others which have no hope." This tells us that God is concerned about our sorrow and that Jesus felt as we do about the loss of His friend, Lazarus.
D. It is my purpose in bringing this message that we come to accept the fact that God is wise and knows best. Job said, "God giveth and God taketh away blessed be the name of the Lord."
E. David said after the death of his baby, "But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? Can I bring him back again. I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." II Samuel 12:23.
F. The question may be asked, What is God trying to teach us by allowing death?

I. THE FIRST LESSON IS THE AWFUL EFFECTS OF SIN.
A. "Fools make a mock at sin." Prov. 14:9. In our day many things that are sinful are considered normal and to suggest that they are wrong will make some laugh at you.
B. The Bible states that death is the result of sin. Rom. 5:12; James 1:15.
C. All the suffering, sorrow, heartache, pain, and death that has come to the human race is the result of sin.
D. Not only are we to learn this lesson so far as this life is concerned, but we are to be warned about a far worse death. Matthew 10:28; Revelation 20:15.

II. THE SECOND LESSON IS THAT THIS IS THE REASON THAT JESUS CHRIST CAME INTO THE WORLD.
B. Jesus came to die for us. He came to take our place. II Corinthians 5:21.
2. Jesus came to deliver us from death through his death. Hebs. 2:13,14; I Cor. 15:20-22
C. His resurrection proved His power over death. Rev. 1:18.

III. THE THIRD LESSON IS THE LOVE OF GOD FOR US.
A. As we sorrow over our loved ones remember how God felt when He gave His Son. John 3:16; Rom. 5:8-10.
B. David's love for his son, Absalom. II Sam. 18:29,33.

IV. THE FOURTH LESSON IS TO HELP US TO PUT THINGS IN THE RIGHT PROSPECTIVE.
A. If death and suffering, the loss of loved ones and friends did not come in this life then we would be satisfied to live here forever.
1. Dr. A.J. Kirkland's statement, 'Nothing is ever properly evaluated until it is evaluated in the light of eternity.'
B. Song, "Death and decay in all around I see. O thou who changest not, Abide with me."
C. Death is a reminder that we would be wise not to place too much emphasis on this life. James 4:13,14. Life at best is short. Psalm 90:12.

V. THE FIFTH LESSON IS TO PREPARE TO MEET GOD.
A. Death is an appointment, but what comes after it. Hebs. 9:27; Amos 4:12.
B. We may prepare by repenting of our sins and trusting in Jesus Christ. Luke 13:3; Rom. 10:9,10,13.
C. When death comes to us it will be too late to prepare.
1. Where tree falls there shall it be. Eccl. 11:3.
2. Foolish virgins--Unprepared. Matt. 25

Conclusion:
A. There is much comfort in the Scriptures for those who face death as Christians. Psalm. 23; John 11:25,26; Rev. 14:13.
B. Poem-Eternal Life by Ella S. Armitage.
'Mid changing scenes of joy and pain,
There comes, again and yet again,
a vision of that changeless rest,
where God's own face shall make us blest.

And through the web of earthly life,
Its grief and gladness, work and strife,
There runs a thread divine, to tie
Our time life to the life on high.

O help us, Lord, with thankful heart,
To grasp each day's eternal part,
and build our home on that calm height,
Where saints do walk with thee in light.

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AVAILABLE BOOKS

Sounding Out the Word II
1990 Bible Conference
Scanning the Scriptures I by Glen Tropp
Scanning the Scriptures II by Glen Tropp
37th Annual Pastors and Missionaries Conference
The Mysteries of the New Testament by Herbert Brown
The ABC’s of Faith by O.H. Griffith
Clark’s Counsel to Corinth by Neal Clark
What Will you do with Jesus? by Kenneth Bazar
The Preaching of the Cross by George Crawford
The Christian’s Jubilee by Herbert Brown
Scanning the Scriptures (N.T.) by Glen Tropp
The Principles of Discipleship by Paul Magness
Sermon Outlines by Paul Bazar
38th Annual Pastors and Missionaries Conference
Waiting for the Sun Rise by L. Chester Guinn
The Salvation of the Lord by Charles Swilling
Ministerial Burnout by Charles Swilling
Fire in the Soul or Soul in the Fire by Kenneth Cleeck
Ensenanza Biblica (Bible Teaching) by Charles Swilling
Who the Lord Is by Glen Tropp
Object Lessons for Every Age by Muncy Harris
39th Annual Pastors and Missionaries Conference
Finding Your Way by Sammy Eldredge

Object: A single piece of paper and a phone book.

Emphasis:

A single piece of paper is easily torn, but several pieces bound together are very difficult to tear. The same is true of the church. When we stand alone, we are easily defeated; but, when we are bound together in unity, our enemies will concede defeat.

Procedure:

Show the class how easily you can tear a single piece of paper and how difficult it is to tear several pieces bound together. Then, share the text verses which tell us our unity will cause Satan’s crowd to turn and run because they know they don’t stand a chance.

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This is one of the object lessons from OBJECT LESSONS FOR EVERY AGE by Muncy Harris. You will enjoy this 42 page book of object lessons. Call for your free copy today. The number is 1-713-442-7137.

THE CALL OF THE CROSS

By George Crawford

Text: Matthew 26:36-41.

Introduction: All through the ministry of our Lord He heard the call of the cross. There is really no point in time when it is apparent that He became aware that the cross lay ahead. But as He nears the sunset of His earthly ministry He seems to hear more loudly and clearly the call of the cross.

I. THE CALL OF THE CROSS IS A CALL TO COMPASSIONATE PRAYER. Matthew 28:36
A. The nearer Christ came to the cross the more He felt the need of prayer.
   1. We too, have experiences when we feel the need for prayer.
   2. A difficult time is facing us - hour of testing has come to us -let us pray!
B. Jesus prayed for three things here.
   1. For Himself - "If possible, let this cup pass from me."
   2. For the will of God to be done - "Not my will, but thine be done."
   3. And for the salvation of man. In this prayer heaven, earth, and beneath was searched to find some other way, if possible, to save man. None was found and Jesus submitted to God’s plan once again.
C. Knowing what would accompany the cross and what rested beyond it, He encouraged Peter to pray. Matthew 26:40,41.
I. But Peter did not heed the call to prayer and his humiliating denial of Christ followed.

II. THE CALL OF THE CROSS IS TO GO A LITTLE FARTHER. 'And he went a little farther.'
A. The cross always calls us to go a little farther than the rank and file Christian will go.
1. "Go the second mile." "Love your enemies." "Do good to those who hate you and despitefully use you."
2. Jesus's call to go a little farther was "A stone's throw." The distance of death.
3. We too will be separated from some persons, places, and things, when we HEED THE SUBJECT.

B. But since Christ has gone a little farther even unto death, how can we be content to stay where we are?
1. Isn't it time we went a little farther in our church attendance? Attitude? Giving? Studying?
2. Are we content to stay here while others need our services?

III. THE CALL OF THE CROSS IS A CALL FOR A TOTAL SURRENDER TO GOD'S WILL. V39
A. Jesus is saying, "Father, if there is any other way to save men besides my death on the cross, save them the other way. But nevertheless, If not, Thy will be done - not mine."
1. God could find no other way.
2. And since He is omniscience - all knowing - and He could find no other way - neither can we.
3. There is no other way but His way, the way of blood.

B. And if we hear the call of the cross we too will want above all things, for His will to be done.
1. It may involve changing careers, but He will give you a better one.
2. It may mean to depart from certain friends, but God will give you better ones.
3. It may mean forming new habits, but they are better ones than the old ones.
4. Above all it could mean the salvation of souls, even your own family - brothers or sisters.

IV. LET US HEED THE CALL OF THE CROSS AND EXPERIENCE REAL VICTORY IN OUR LIVES.
A. Not be like the sleeping disciples. The statement is true - the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.

B. If we yield not to the call of the cross we may yield to the call of the wicked one.

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This is a sermon from the book PREACHING OF THE CROSS published by Sounding out the Word Ministries. If you would like a free copy, call or write Grace Missionary Baptist Church, 1823 Aldine Mail Route Road, Houston, TX 77039, 713/442-7137.

THE INVISIBLE WAR
by Neal Clark


Introduction:

The battle of the ages continues to rage. The unbeliever against the believer, world against the church, Satan against God, evil against good. We are engaged in the greatest of all battles and many times this is an invisible war. It's the truth against the untruth. Sometimes it looks as if the devil will win, but he is a defeated foe.

I. THE CHRISTIAN'S ADVERSARIES - Ephesians 6:11-12

A. The devil is a decided fact
B. The devil is a destructive force
C. The devil is a defeated foe - I John 4:4
D. The devil is:
   1. Systematic (6:12)
   2. Spiritual (6:12)
   3. Strong (6:12)

II. THE CHRISTIAN ARMOR - Ephesians 6:13-17

A. The helmet of salvation (6:17)
B. The breastplate of righteousness (6:14)
C. The girdle of truth (belt) (6:14)
D. The shield of faith (6:16)
E. The sword of the spirit (6:17)
F. The sandals of the gospel (6:15)

III. THE CHRISTIAN ATTACK - Ephesians 6:16-17

A. The shield of faith (6:16)
B. The sword of the spirit (6:17)
C. The word of God (6:17)

IV. THE CHRISTIAN'S ALLIES - Ephesians 6:18

A. The Spirit
B. The Saints
C. The Savior