STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

Text: Joshua 24:14,15
Intro: Joshua challenges the Jewish people to make a choice. He called on them to make a decision. He tells them that he and his family would serve the Lord. We need more men who will lead their families in the ways of the Lord. The man is the head of the home. He needs to stand up and be counted. The Lord is seeking men and women who will stand in the gap for Him. The sins of our time will wax the love of God’s people cold for the Lord. Those who stand up can be counted on by the Lord.

I. STAND UP AND BE COUNTED FOR CHRIST.
A. The truth
1. Paul teaches us we are to be ambassadors for Christ. II Cor. 5:20 This means we are to represent Christ. To represent Him, we must be and live like Him.
2. We are to be witnesses for the Lord. Acts 1:8 To witness for the Lord means we are to tell others about Him. We are to share with others what the Lord has done for us.
3. Baptism is a public declaration of our relationship to Jesus Christ. When we follow the Lord in baptism we publicly identify with our Saviour.
4. We are Christ’s and we should not be ashamed of Christ and the gospel. Romans 1:16

B. The trouble
1. Jesus said the care of the world, deceitfulness of riches, and pleasures cause the Lord’s people to become unfruitful. Matt. 13:22 The things that the Lord mentioned are causing a lot of people to quit serving the Lord.
2. Jesus said abounding iniquity will cause the love for the Lord to wax cold. Matt. 24:12 When love waxes cold, our service to the Lord will go.

3. Love for the world will cause many to forsake the Lord and His cause. II Tim. 4:10 Demas is an example of this truth. He loved the world more than he loved the Lord.
4. John tells us the lust of flesh and pride of life will trouble us. I John 2:15-17. Contrary to what a lot of preachers are preaching, God’s people do have a sinful nature that gives them trouble. Read what Paul said in Romans 7:14-25.

C. The testifying
1. The psalmist said, "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so." May the Lord give us the grace to speak up for the Lord.
2. The Jews were to teach their children daily about the Lord. They were to share with their children the truth about the Lord and what the Lord had done for them.
3. We are to tell others about the Lord and to talk about our experience in grace. The Lord has too many silent disciples. He needs servants who will stand up and speak up for Him.
4. We can witness. We can relate the Lord’s blessing in our lives. Every day sees showers of blessings from our God.

D. The triumph
1. The Lord does have witnesses. He has some people who share the Lord with others. He will always have witnesses. If you won’t witness for Him, He will save someone else who will witness for Him.
2. Someone told us about the Lord. Some teacher, preacher, or Christian witnessed to us.

Grace Missionary Baptist Church
1823 Aldine Mail Route
Houston, Texas 77039
(713) 442-7137
3. Witnessing and testifying for the Lord can help the cause. The devil has never been able to stop all of God's people from witnessing for Him and of Him.

II. STAND UP AND BE COUNTED FOR CHRISTIANS.
A. The truth
1. The Lord's people are to associate and fellowship with one another. Remember the saying, Birds of a feather flock together? The Lord's people should associate with the Lord's people.

2. God's people share things in common. "And all that believed were together, and had all things common." Acts 2:44

3. Those who walk in the light fellowship with the Lord and one another. I John 1:6,7 The best friend that you can have is another Christian.

4. Those who feared the Lord spake often one to another. Mal. 3:16,17 We can encourage and comfort and console and challenge one another to keep on going for the Lord.

B. The trouble
1. Sinfulness will cause us not to associate with other Christians. Sinfulness will destroy your fellowship with the Lord and your desire to fellowship with His people.

2. Care of the world, deceitfulness of riches, and pleasures will cause God's people not to associate with one another. Wanting these things cause us to be around the wrong type of people.

3. Lukewarmness in the church will hinder the people of God. Rev. 3:15,16 Lukewarm people will cause others to be lukewarm. Lukewarmness involves a fleshly type service which is not acceptable to God.

C. The testifying
1. God's people should find others to fellowship with. All of God's people are different, but you will have some people that you can have sweet fellowship with.

2. Look for someone on your job, in your community, and at school. You need the Lord's people in this area. The truth is they are out there. Make a special attempt to find them.

3. God's people need to stand up and be counted for the Lord. You have no reason to be ashamed of the Lord or His people. The Lord's people are special to Him and they should be special to you.

D. The triumph
1. People influence people. Christians can influence Christians. Some preachers have made a lasting impression on my life. As long as I live, I will remember the truth their lives have taught me.

2. We need to fellowship and encourage one another. True Christian friends are hard to find. You need every friend that you have or can make.

3. This world can cause you to compromise. This world can cause you to be a silent Christian. God's people will always challenge you and give you courage to stand up and be counted.

III. STAND UP AND BE COUNTED FOR THE CHURCH.
A. The truth
1. Saved people are to give glory to God in the church. Eph. 3:21 The churches of the Lord are like candlesticks and we are to put our lights in the candlesticks for the Lord.

2. We are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together. Heb. 10:25 One of the signs of a right relationship between the Lord and His people is the regular attendance at His house. Study Leviticus 26:2. "Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the Lord."

3. We should love church and be faithful and dedicated to the Lord in one of His churches. Jesus had a custom and He expects you to have it too. Luke 4:16 We go to church to hear God's Word taught and preached and to fellowship with the saved.

B. The trouble
1. The care of this world causes some not to count. They are too busy dealing with problems and troubles in their lives to be active in church.

2. The deceitfulness of riches cause some not to be counted. Many are trying to acquire the material things of this life that they do not dedicate themselves to the services of the Lord.

3. The pleasures of this world cause some not to count for the Lord. People will love pleasure and self in the last days. II Timothy 3:2,4

C. The testifying
1. The churches of the Lord are doing His work on this earth. Jesus instructed His churches as to their work in Matthew 28:18,20. Every member of every church is to be about his Master's business.

2. God's people can labor and work in one of His churches. His churches do His work. There is something that every member can do for the Lord. There is something that only you can do.

3. We should share the blessings of our church with others. Church life is a great blessing. We can testify to having heavenly experiences in the house of God.

D. The triumph
1. Your love for the Lord can enable you to be a good church member. The Lord still has servants who love and serve Him. They haven’t quit or stopped. They are still going.

2. Poor church members are doing great harm to the Lord’s churches. The wayward backslidden member is harming and hurting the cause of Christ.

3. The Lord does have people who are dedicated and faithful to His church. This type of a member has great power and influence, even in our day and time.

IV. STAND UP AND BE COUNTED FOR THE CAUSE.

A. The truth
1. We are to run the Christian race. Hebrews 12:2 When you were saved you started the Christian race. You will or should run as long as you are alive.

2. We are to fight the Christian war. II Tim. 2:2-4 Preachers are not the only ones who should fight in the Christian war. Every saved person should stand up and fight for the Lord.

3. We are to labor in the Lord’s vineyard. I Cor. 3:9 The Lord can use each of you in His service. He has given you special abilities and talents. Find some way to use them for Him.

B. The trouble
1. Some of God’s people are involved in the cares of this world. Troubles, problems, fears, and worries will shut you down for the Lord. The devil will make sure you have your load and share of the same.

2. Some of God’s people are involved in the pleasures of this life. They have joined the sun and fun crowd. They may think they are here for the big party and feel they rightfully desire it.

3. Some are involved in the deceitfulness of riches. Their lives will not count for eternity because they are trying to make them count for time.

4. The cause of Christ is the most important cause on the face of the earth. Every saved person is expected to contribute to the cause. David fought the giant because he believed in a cause. "Is there not a cause?"

C. The testifying
1. The Christian cause is a good one. It is a spiritual cause. This is far greater than the causes for the material or the physical or the social needs of man.

2. The Christian cause seeks the salvation of souls. The cause seeks to show everyone how to get right with God. It seeks to show them how to prepare to meet God.

3. The Christian cause seeks to show people a better way to live. The Christian way of life is far better than the way of this world.

4. We seek to introduce people to the life changing Saviour of all people. People need the Lord. People need to be born of God in that heavenly birth.

D. The triumph
1. Use your money for the Christian cause. Your investment will yield heavenly dividends.

2. Use your talents for the Christian cause. Thank God for people that will take their natural talents and abilities and use them for the Lord.

3. Use your time to help in the Christian cause. Every day that we live the Lord gives us the gift of life. Read the testimony of the psalmist. Psalm 3:5

4. Invest your life in the cause that will bring rewards to you in this life and the life to come.

5. The only thing that will count when this life is over with is what you have done for the Lord and His cause. How sad it is to hear the song WASTED YEARS, OH HOW FOOLISH.

SOMETHING NEW: We had 100 copies of three different books made at Office Max. The books are 1982 BIBLE CONFERENCE, THE GREAT CONFLICT by Glen Tropp, and NOTES ON JOHN CHS. 1-3 by Glen Tropp. Send in for these books today. Please send an offering to help with the copying expense. We have been out of these books for several years.

PHILIPPIANS 1:1,2

By Ray O. Brooks

Text: Philippians 1:1,2

Introduction:

A. The apostle Paul is the human writer God used to give us this short, inspired book of instruction.

B. Paul had organized this church and had moved on.

C. This church had sent financial support to aid Paul. The support had stopped and now it had revived and he took this occasion to write and encourage them.

I. LEARN WHAT IS THE ATTITUDE MINISTERS SHOULD HAVE OF THEMSELVES. VI

A. See themselves as servants of Jesus Christ.

1. Servant (doulos) means one born into bondage.

2. All who have been born from above were born as such.

3. It means one who serves even to the disregard of his own personal safety or desire (presidential bodyguards).
4. Servants NOT OF CHURCHES except in secondary way.
5. One cannot serve Jesus Christ without serving his fellow man.

B. See themselves as equals.
1. Paul, the great apostle, shared this recognition with young Timothy.
2. There are no big "I's" and little "You's" in the service of our Lord... At least in God's sight.

II. LEARN WHAT IS THE ATTITUDE GOD'S MINISTERS SHOULD HAVE OF GOD'S PEOPLE. V. 1, 2
A. They are all saints in Christ Jesus.
1. Saint simply means "to set apart - separated ones."
2. Set apart from the world and sin; and apart to God and righteousness.
B. Recognize them to be brothers and sisters in the Lord. V. 2 OUR Father... a common father makes this true.
C. Recognize special callings and offices. V. 1
1. Bishops or pastors and deacons.
2. There are some ministers who fail to recognize these today... either in voice and/or practice.
D. Desire God's grace and peace to be upon them all.
1. Grace is unmerited favor bestowed upon those who do not deserve it. IN SALVATION and AFTER.
2. Peace means to bind together... God's grace binds the saved to God and to one another.

III. LEARN THAT GOD'S MINISTERS SHOULD BE CAREFUL TO ALWAYS CALL ATTENTION TO THE SOURCE OF ALL OUR BLESSINGS.
A. From God our Father.
B. From the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Avenue through which God the Father sends them to man. II Cor. 1:20

IV. LEARN SOME PRACTICAL TRUTHS ABOUT GOD'S PEOPLE.
A. We are still in the world which is our place of service.
1. These were at Philippi.
2. We are at Long Branch, Texas, USA.
B. There are saints other than ourselves.
1. To name Philippi was to teach by implication the existence of saints in other places.
2. Sometimes some of our Missionary Baptist people come mighty close to closing the door of God's blessings to all other than themselves.
3. Let us never be guilty of this.
C. Being called saints should challenge us to live separated lives unto God.

CONCLUSION:
A. Are you a saint of God? You can be through repentance and faith.

B. Do you live like a saint... separated from the world unto God? You should and you can with God's help.

Ray O. Brooks, 1706 Longview Dr., Henderson, Texas 75652

This is one of the outlines in the book that we have printed entitled OUTLINES OF PHILIPPIANS by Ray O. Brooks. Send in for your copy today.

THINGS HARD TO UNDERSTAND by Kenneth Click

Text: John 6:60-69

I. IT'S HARD TO UNDERSTAND, BUT THE SPIRIT GIVES LIFE. V. 63

II. IT'S HARD TO UNDERSTAND, BUT SOME DO NOT BELIEVE. V. 64

III. IT'S HARD TO UNDERSTAND, BUT THE FATHER MUST DRAW. V. 65

IV. IT'S HARD TO UNDERSTAND, BUT SOME TURN AWAY FROM FOLLOWING CHRIST. V. 66

V. IT'S HARD TO UNDERSTAND, BUT SOME HAVE UNSHAKABLE FAITH. V. 67-69

Kenneth Click, 2401 W. Bond, Denison, TX 75020

FUTURE BOOKS TO BE PRINTED

Miracles of Elisha by O.H. Griffith
Sermon Outlines by J.B. Powers
Sermon Outlines by Neal Clark
Sermon Outlines by Luther Crawford
Outlines on Colossians by Ray O. Brooks
Sermon Outlines by Gordon Shaffer
Sermon Outlines by Vernon Lierly
Revelation (Chapters 1-3) by John A. Turrentine Jr.
52 Bible Doctrine Outlines by Randy Cloud
Lord, Teach us to pray by James A. Kirkland
The Master, Morals, and Me by Kenneth Click
Bible Teaching Workbook by Mike Daniels
What We Believe by Paul Magness
40th Annual Pastors and Missionaries Conference
Illustrations Which Illustrate by Don Shultz
Sermon Outlines by Glyn Gary

PRAISE THE LORD: During a revival meeting with the Calvary Missionary Baptist Church of Silsbee, Bro. Ronnie Whittle helped us get a nine-foot tall stack of cover stock. I had to rent a trailer to bring the material home. We have enough cover stock to do a number of books. We received the cover stock through the Temple Paper Company of
Evanston. The Lord has opened so many doors for this ministry. It is amazing to see Him work.

CAN YOU HELP US? Some of you may have contacts with those who have offset paper or cover stock. You may know of someone who could contribute offset paper and cover stock to this ministry. Some paper mills give paper and cover stock to some churches or individuals. You could help us out a great deal by putting in a word for this ministry. Paper and cover stock are major expenses in this ministry of printing the truth and giving it to others.

Guidelines for Church Members (3)

Text: 1 Timothy 3:15

Introduction:

A. The PURPOSE of this series! To equip you with some guidelines which will assist you in becoming a good church member.

B. THE PRODUCTIVENESS of the church is contingent upon the members and their fellowship with the living Christ.

C. The PROPOSAL - Today we’re going to be looking at some words which began with the letter “C”. GOOD CHURCH MEMBERS will be--

I. CAUTIOUS!

A. The UNDERSTANDING - This means to be careful and exemplify precaution.

B. The UNVEILING of this is seen in the word "watch" and "beware."
   1. Consider the word "watch."
      a. Matthew 24:42.
   2. Consider the word "beware."
      d. Philippians 3:2.
   3. This carries with it the idea of alertness and awareness.
   4. These type of church members will not be easily swept off their feet by the seductive methods of the enemy.

II. COMMITTED!

A. The DEFINEMENT of the term. Committed means to pledge oneself to a position.

B. THE DISCERNMENT as it relates to Biblical perspectives.
   1. Committed to the CHRIST.
      b. The saved are to recognize that they are servants.
   2. Committed to the CHURCH.
      a. Through FAITHFUL attendance.
      b. Through FINANCIAL support.
      c. Through FERVENT prayers.
   3. Committed to the CAUSE.
      a. This relates us to the purpose of the church and our own spiritual development.
      1. Embraces the great commission.
      2. Embraces the worship area.
      3. Embraces the instruction area.

III. COMMUNICATOR!

A. Communicators of the LORD.
   1. Sharing Christ with others.
   2. Showing Christ to others.

B. Communicators through our LIFESTYLES.
   1. The Fact - our lifestyles are communicating something to others.
   2. The Focus - What am I communicating?

C. Communicators of His LOVE.
   1. Identify this type of love. (agape.)
   2. Insights concerning the proper balance in this love.
      a. Love God is first.
      b. Love others is second.

IV. CO-OPERATIVE!

A. The AWESOME need of co-operation.
   1. The need of an authority figure is embraced in this concept.
   2. The need of communication is embraced in this concept.
   3. The illustration of the man who asked his mother and sister to cut 2 inches off of his trousers.

B. The AREAS as it relates to the Lord’s work.
   1. Co-operate with the Spirit’s leadership.
   2. Co-operate with the Spiritual leader’s leadership.

V. COURAGEOUS!

A. The CONCEPT to claim. Joshua 1:9.

B. The CONCEPT explored.
   1. Don’t be easily discouraged.
   2. Don’t give up.

Glen Tropp, 882 Sonnenshine, Benton, AR 72015
THE PREACHING AND PRACTICING CHURCH
By James A. Crain

Text: Acts 3:1-4:4

Intro:
A. What caused their growth?
B. Here, it was Preaching & Practicing.

I. THE RIGHT PLACE V1
A. Revealed their spiritual Condition.
   1. Rightness with God.
   2. Desire to Worship and be used.
B. Revealed their Readiness.
   1. II Timothy 4:2 "Be instant in season, out of season..."
   2. I Peter 3:15 "Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you..."

II. RIGHT USE OF OPPORTUNITY V2-26
A. The Opportunity. 3:1-8
   2. "Use what you have" attitude. V6.
B. Secondary Opportunity. V9-12
   1. This opportunity was a result of a right use of the first. When we refuse one we miss more.
   2. The second was greater than the first. Matthew 25:21 (Talents).
   3. He gave his best -- he preached or witnessed of the gospel. Romans 10:15; I Corinthians 1:22-25.

III. THE RIGHT MESSAGE - JESUS
A. Notice:
   1. V13 "Son"
   2. V14 "Holy One"
   3. V14 "Just"
   4. V15 "Prince of Life"
   5. V15 "Resurrected one"
   6. V18 "Suffering one"
   7. V19 "Remover of sin"
   8. V20,21 "Fulfillment of Prophecy"
   9. V22-24 "Prophet to hear"
   10. V26 "A blessing"
   11. V26 Way of salvation
B. John 12:32 "...If I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto me."

IV. THE RIGHT SIDE
B. Ephesians 6 - Our battle.

V. THE RIGHT RESULTS V4
CONCLUSION:
A. When we:
   Are in the right Spiritual Condition - making use of our opportunities, preaching the right message -
   God will bless.
B. What is your spiritual Condition?

James A. Crain, 1231 Leavell Street, Bastrop, LA 71220

AVAILABLE BOOKS
Sounding Out the Word II
Sounding Out the Word V
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 Click
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
Outlines of Philippians by Ray O. Brooks
John Chapters 1-3 by Glen Tropp
1982 Bible Conference Outlines
The Great Conflict by Glen Tropp
Discipleship by Marvin Prevost

HOW TO SURVIVE 5'9" IN A 9 FOOT WORLD
by Neal Clark

Text: I Samuel 17:38-51

Introduction: Do you ever feel you are facing giants in your life? The troubles, trials, and tribulations of this life certainly are giants to overcome. The problems along the path of life, so many times seem to be bigger than we are. The fact is, problems do come and we can overcome. We must look to Him that is greater than he that is in the world.

Goliath was 9 foot 9 inches tall - type of Satan - defying God's people.

David was about 17 years old - a shepherd boy and a sweet singer.

I. DREADED THINGS WILL COME. I Samuel 17:24.
A. The giants of life.
B. The godless enemies.
C. The grievous problems - sickness, finances etc.

II. DEMANDING THINGS WILL COME. I Samuel 17:42,43.
A. That demand our attention.
B. That demand our ability.
C. That demand our action.

III. DISCOURAGING THINGS WILL COME. I Samuel 17:28.
A. That discourage our ability to serve.
B. That discourage our attention to the Saviour.
C. That discourage our action in service.

IV. DETERMINATION MUST COME IN ORDER TO STAND. I SAMUEL 17:34-37.
A. David addressed the problem-V28. Was aggressive-V45, Was absolute-V45, and was authoritative-V46.
B. David recognized the need of the hour, the nature of the problem, and the name in which he fought.
C. David realized the battle was the Lord's, the business was the Lord's, and the blasphemer was the Lord's enemy.

Neal Clark Rt. 1 Box 49-A, Daingerfield, TX 75638

This is one of the sermons from Bro. Clark's book, SERMONS FROM THE CORINTHIAN PULPIT.

JOIN OUR MONTHLY SUPPORTERS: These churches send monthly support to the Sounding Out the Word ministry: East Side Missionary Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Texas; Sharon Missionary Baptist Church of Benton, Arkansas; Faith Missionary Baptist Church of Henrietta, Texas; Timpson Missionary Baptist Church of Timpson, Texas; South Union Missionary Baptist Church of Daingerfield, Texas. We are so thankful for them. Others are considering making this ministry part of the missions they support. Individual offerings are increasing, too.

II. THAT ALL CHURCH MEMBERS ARE NOT SAVED.

A. When a person is first saved he enters his new life with devotion and dedication.
   1. As a new born soul he is prepared to give all to Christ.
   2. He usually believes that all church members are saved, dedicated, unselfish and wholesome.
   3. He is shocked to discover that many professing church members do not know Christ - others that are far from dedication and surrender - what a shock to a new born soul.

B. It is a good day for the child of God when he discovers the three classifications of people as given in God's Word.
   1. First, there is the NATURAL MAN - who is still in the flesh and is unsaved - this is according to I Cor. 2:14. "But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God."
   2. Second, there is the CARNAL MAN - Paul calls "babes in Christ." Though saved, he is walking according to the flesh and not fully after the Spirit.
3. Third, There is the SPIRITUAL MAN - who is consecrated to the will of God and ready to serve God. Happy is the new born soul who comes to the place where he says, "I am determined to be classified as a spiritual one." He then turns from the worldly walk - refuses to behave after the flesh, and walks as one who is directed by the Spirit of God. Which are you? Natural? Carnal? or Spiritual?

III. ANOTHER SHOCKING SURPRISE IS WHEN THE NEW BORN SOULS DISCOVER THEY STILL HAVE THE SIN NATURE.

A. When a soul is first saved it feels so clean and good and wholesome.
1. "I'll never sin again - I'll never swear, curse, and nothing common or unclean will ever pass over my lips again."
2. "I'll never even want to misbehave, disobey my parents, misrepresent the truth, no never again."
3. Never a day pass, but what I will pray, study my Bible, and be in my place on Sunday morning, evening and Wednesday night.
4. It comes like a bolt of lightening out of the blue when the discovery is made - "I AM STILL HUMAN!"

B. Happy is that child of God when he discovers he has TWO NATURES.
1. Nicodemus was told that what is born of the flesh is FLESH and even after you are saved you still have it.
2. It is your spirit that has been born from above and that gives you two natures which are as different as light and darkness - good and bad.
3. Your big difference now is - you have the Holy Spirit within you that is bigger, greater than he that is in the world.

C. I have a confession to make - I AM NOT PERFECT!
1. Now that doesn't shock anyone does it? I am just a sinner saved by God's grace.
2. Sometimes I act like a Christian and sometimes like a child of Adam - depraved, corrupt, and wicked.
3. What do I do then - "I confess my sin to Jesus, He forgives me, and cleanses me, never to remember my sin again."

Conclusion: THERE ARE MANY SURPRISES OUT THERE IN THE FUTURE.

A. Some of them will shock even the new born soul.
   Some will disappoint even the mature Christian.

B. Surprising shockers await the unsaved - "Depart from me ye workers of iniquity."  
   George B. Crawford, 105 Fairview, Longview, TX 75604

THE MOLDING TOUCH OF THE DIVINE POTTER'S HAND


Introduction:

A. T.T. Crabtree published a sermon in 1969 in the PASTOR'S ANNUAL on this Scripture. He pointed out three things one can see in this lesson.
1. A potter who had a purpose.
2. A possibility of perverting the potter's purpose.
3. Patience and persistence of the potter.

D. B. Wright

B. The divine potter does have a purpose in our lives. Isaiah 43:7; 1 Peter 2:9; Eph. 1:12.

C. Things which pervert the potter's purpose and mar his vessels.
1. LISTENING TO WRONG VOICES. Romans 5:12; Jeremiah 10:23; 13:23.
2. Following THE WRONG CROWD. Prov. 4:14-17.
4. Vessels are marred by THINKING WRONG THOUGHTS. Prov. 23:7; Psalm 19:14; Col. 3:1,2; II Tim. 4:10.
5. Vessels are marred by EXERCISE OF PERSONAL CHOICE PROMPTED BY THE INWARD SIN NATURE. Eph. 2:3; Psalm 58:3; Hosea 11:7.

D. Hold ON. THERE IS MORE TO THE STORY. Some have read all the Book. Some know what is in the back of the book. Four things I see in the lesson: DEFECTIVE, DEGRADED, DEFEATED VICTIMS, DETERMINED VISION (Vessels of beauty, honor, and usefulness), DESIRED VICTORY, AND DIVINELY PERFECTED VESSELS.

E. THE TOUCH OF THE MASTER'S HAND.

F. For this message:

THE MESSAGE OF THE DIVINE POTTER.

A. REVIEW-Haggai 1:5,7; Isaiah 1:3.
D. Return—Isa. 55:6,7.

II. THE MIND-SET OF THE DIVINE POTTER. ('He didn't Throw the Clay Away', by Gene Reasoner)

Empty and broken, I came back to Him,
A vessel unworthy, so scarred with sin;
But He did not despair, He started over again,
And I bless the day He didn't throw the clay away.

He is the POTTER and I am the clay,
molded in His image He wants me to stay;
But when I stumble and fall...and my vessel breaks,
He just picks up the pieces, He doesn't throw the clay away.

Over and over He molds me and makes me,
Into His likeness He fashions the clay:
A vessel of honor I am today
All because Jesus didn't throw the clay away.

A. The Divine Potter knew something.
2. Saving POWER IN THE GOSPEL. Romans 1:16.
5. Constraining POWER OF THE LOVE OF THE LORD.

B. The Divine Potter saw something.
1. He saw the POSSIBLE. II Cor. 5:17.
2. He saw POTENTIALITY.

C. The Divine Potter did something.
1. He didn't settle for sub-standard, status-quo.
2. He didn't throw away the clay.
3. He REWORKED THE CLAY AND REMADE THE VESSEL.

III. THE MISSION OF THE DIVINE POTTER.
A. Give Himself a RANSOM for all. I Tim. 2:6.

C. To RECONCILE the world to God: II Cor. 5:18,19.
E. To ROBE US IN THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF HIS SON. II Cor. 5:21.
F. To REVIVE AND RESTORE when we fall.

(Hymn) 'I've been to the Potter's House'
Tossed about by life's battles,
All my hope was sinking fast,
The sinful life that I was living,
Knew that I just could not last

Then I went down to the Potter's house
And placed this vessel in His hands,
On the wheel of grace and mercy
He made me over again.

If your life has no meaning,
The storms have taken their toll of you.
With your vessel in many pieces,
You don't know what to do.
Please come with me to the Potter's House
And place your vessel into His hands,
You'll be amazed at his ability
when he has made you again.

Yes, I've been to the Potter's house
His hands of mercy moldeth me,
He set me forth when he was finished
So that all the world could see
That he can mend a broken vessel
It matters not what shape it's in,
Yes, I've been to the Potter's house.

IV. THE MANEUVERS OF THE DIVINE POTTER.
B. His grace teaches us. Titus 2:11,12.
C. He transforms us into vessels that are beautiful, honorable, and useful. Acts 9:15.
D. He translates us into the kingdom of Christ. Col. 1:13.
F. He transmits power from His engine to our wheels. John 15:5; Phil. 4:13; II Tim. 4:17.

V. THE MASTER-PIECE OF THE DIVINE POTTER.
D. Church without spot, wrinkle, holy and without blemish. Eph. 5:27; I John 1:7.

D. B. Wright, 2214 Benson, Galena Park, 77547
MAN'S THREE GREATEST NEEDS IN PERILOUS TIMES

By Joe Brooks

Text: II Timothy 3:1-5
Intro: Paul as he admonished Timothy in things of the ministry desired him to know that in the last days perilous times would come. The condition of man prior to the return of the Lord is described in Verses 2-5. We live in such a time. Note man's three greatest needs in perilous times.

I. JESUS CHRIST

A. First and foremost man needs Jesus Christ as Saviour.
   1. We need to tell men that they are lost in the sight of God.
   2. They are sinners and that no good dwells in them. Romans 3:10-12.
   3. Tell them what the wages of sin is. Romans 3:23.
   4. Many are restless hunting something to satisfy.
      a. Want to break with the establishment.
      b. Want to be different from the crowd.
      c. All people need is Jesus as their Saviour.

B. Man needs Jesus as Master (boss) of his life.
   Matthew 6:33.
   1. Mary called Jesus Master at the tomb.
   2. In times such as these we need Jesus as Master of our lives.
   3. Many are saved, but few have Jesus as Master of their lives.
   4. Is Jesus the Master of your life?

II. CHURCHES

A. Jesus has a purpose in His church today.
   1. It is not a club for social entertainment.
   2. In and through His church He is to receive glory.
      a. He receives glory from our lives by our service to His church. Eph. 3:21
   3. It was to His church that He gave the commission.
      a. No other has it or has the right to do business for God.

B. Jesus referred to His church as:
      a. The only thing that stays the wrath of God today is His church.
   3. Time for God's churches to stand up and be counted.
   4. Perilous times are upon us. We need true churches.
      a. Hope of man today is not in: Demonstrating; Philosophy; or A world wide ecclesiastical body.


III. A PREPARED MINISTRY

A. From the pulpit
B. A prepared ministry of the church as a whole.
   1. Teachers
      a. Saved
      b. Knowledgeable in God’s Word
      c. Faithful to the church (Brother, just anybody won’t do)
   2. What is true of the teachers is true of the officers of the church, Sunday School, and B.T.C.

Joe R. Brooks, Rt. 8, Box 247, Jacksonville, Texas 75766

THE SALVATION OF THE LORD by Charles Swilling was translated in Cebuano and Tagalog dialects of the Filipino language. Bro. Warren Hill working under the Pilgrim Rest Press ministry printed and shipped these books to the Philippines. He printed 2,000 in Cebuano and 1,000 in Tagalog. The Sounding Out the Word ministry paid for the printing and shipping of these books to our brethren. THIS IS A MISSION ENDAVOR!!! We are putting the truth into the hands of people in 47 States and 34 Countries.

SPECIAL THANKS TO HIRAM MELTON: Bro. Melton led out in raising the money to print a book of outlines by Bro. Glyn Gary. Bro. Glyn died several years ago. Bro. Melton ask me if Sounding Out the Word would be interested in printing a book of outlines by this dedicated and faithful servant. I would like to see more people doing what Bro. Melton has done. THIS BOOK WILL BE AVAILABLE VERY SOON. The outlines Bro. Gary prepared and preached will be sent into many states and countries for others to use his material.

HOW CAN WE LIMIT GOD?

By Danny Chappell

Text: Psalms 78:41

Introduction:
A. God’s wise and benevolent purposes are often frustrated.
B. There are many things God would do for man if permitted.
C. God offers so much, but we settle for so little.

I. INCONSISTENT CHRISTIAN LIVING LIMITS GOD.
A. He is limited in fellowship. Isaiah 59:1,2.
   1. We are made for Him, but sin ruins our fellowship.
   2. Many Christians have such a backlog of unconfessed sins they are robbed of the good things of God. Jeremiah 5:25.
B. He is limited in available witnesses to use. I Corinthians 9:27.
   1. God can’t use a dirty vessel to be a witness for Him.
   2. Just like a spot on a necktie ruins its usefulness, so does a spotted saint lose his or her effectiveness.
C. If we want to be used of God, we must be usable. Matthew 5:16.

II. LACK OF FAITH LIMITS GOD.
   A. The disciples were hindered because of it. Matthew 17:20.
   B. John the Baptist was troubled because of it. Matthew 11:3.
      1. God wants us to have confidence, but a lack of faith breeds doubt.
      2. It kills the pioneer spirit thus limiting the blessings of God.
   C. II Corinthians 5:7.

III. SHALLOW AND SELFISH PRAYS LIMIT GOD.
   A. God desires to hear and answer prayer, but we often refuse to ask.
      1. James 4:2 - "Ye ask not."
   B. God refuses to answer prayer because we ask amiss.
      1. James 4:3 - "Ye ask amiss."
      2. When we pray we should pray for God’s will to be accomplished.

IV. A STUBBORN WILL LIMITS GOD.
   A. Christ was rejected by His own people.
      1. John 1:11.
   B. We are given the power of choice.
   C. God is willing to save all who will believe.
      1. I Timothy 2:4.
      2. II Peter 3:9.
   D. Some stubbornly wait for a better time.
   E. Some are almost persuaded.
   F. Some surrender their will and trust Christ.

Danny O. Chappell, 4605 Timber Run, Arlington, Texas 76017

THE HOPE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

By Charles Swilling

Text: Proverbs 14:27-35

I. THE RIGHTEOUS HAVE A CERTAIN HOPE.
   A. Jesus’ promises are sure. I John 1:9
   B. The Bible is plain. Hebrews 6:19

II. THE RIGHTEOUS HAVE A CHERISHED HOPE.
   A. Cherished because of our sonship. I John 3:1,2
   B. Cherished because of our fellowship. I John 1:7
   C. Cherished because of our partnership. I Cor. 3:9

III. THE RIGHTEOUS HAVE A COMPLETE HOPE.
   A. The salvation of the soul Eph. 2:1
   B. The salvation of the life Mark 8:34-38
   C. The salvation of the body. Phil. 3:21

IV. THE RIGHTEOUS HAVE A COMFORTING HOPE.
   A. It gives comfort in evil days. Rom. 15:4
   B. It gives comfort in troublous times. Psa. 39:7
   C. It gives comfort in the house of death. I Thess. 4:13-17
   D. It gives comfort in times of discouragement and disappointment.

V. THE RIGHTEOUS HAVE A COMPELLING HOPE.
   A. Compels us to trust the Lord. Isa. 26:3
   B. Compels us to righteous living. I John 3:3
   C. Compels us to serve the Lord. John 9:4

I WANT TO RECEIVE THE PAPER
Please Print

NAME:______________________________________
ADDRESS:____________________________________
CITY:_________________________ST & ZIP:_____
CHANGE OF ADDRESS:_______NEW SUBSCRIPTION:_____
OLD ADDRESS:_____________________

NEW BOOK READY!
MIRACLES OF ELISHA BY BRO. O H GRIFFITH IS NOW READY FOR DISTRIBUTION. WE HAVE PRINTED 4000 COPIES OF THIS BOOK OF STUDY OUTLINES. PLEASE CALL (713/442-7137) OR WRITE FOR YOUR FREE COPY.
HAPPY FATHER’S DAY

What is a Father?
Now let me see,
He starts in life
Just as young as can be.

He starts raising a daughter,
Or maybe a son,
He holds them and kisses them,
Their love he has won.

But as they grow older,
A pattern he must set,
For following in his footsteps
They will, you can bet.

He’s their idol, their friend,
But much to his regret,
Sometimes he has to discipline,
But now don’t you fret.

Stand strong, be honest,
Just give them the facts.
Never go back on your word,
Your good judgment, don’t relax.

They want your strength
For their lives to guide,
It gives them security
And they will abide.

In most every firm rule
You have made with love,
Guiding them with firmness and kindness
And help from above.

Yes, one can tell
By the way your children act,
If they are disciplined at home
Now that’s just a fact.

Sometimes it’s depressing
The things you must do.
To raise up your children
But God will help you.

If you stay in God’s will
And each day kneel in prayer,
And ask for his guidance
He will send it with care.

You earn their respect
And sometimes it’s hard
But one thing I know
You’ll have your reward.

So now to all fathers
All I have to say,
Just keep up the good work
You’re well on your way.

We love, we trust you,
And we hope on this date,
You all will feel honored
Because we think that you’re Great.

Dovie Brown

A YOUNG MAN THAT GAINED VICTORY
WHILE RETreating

By Wesley Waldrum


I. JOSEPH WAS TEMPTED WITH SIN - Verse 7.
   A. Joseph represented His master.
   B. Joseph reveal his morals.
   C. Joseph respected the marriage institution.
   D. Joseph reverenced the message of God.

II. JOSEPH TURNED AND RAN FROM SIN - VERSE 12.
   A. Joseph recognized that it was a sin - verse 9.
   B. Joseph refused to be seduced by Potiphar’s wicked wife - verse 10.
   C. Joseph resisted and he ran - verse 12.

III. JOSEPH TRUSTED IN THE SAVIOR.
   A. He realized the possible outcome.
   B. He rested his case in the Lord.
   C. Joseph revealed his faith in God.

IV. JOSEPH TRIUMPHED IN HIS SITUATION.
   A. Joseph was arrested and placed in prison - verse 20.
   B. Joseph advanced to a powerful position.
   C. Joseph achieved victory in his predicament.

Wesley Waldrum, 19107 Walnut Hill, Conroe, TX 77302

Dear Rev. Charles:

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I was so surprised (pleasant surprise) to receive your wonderful materials which I badly need for my ministry here. I’m really thankful for sending me such a helpful literature and I would like to request you to send me continuously in the days to come.

We badly need many good books on salvation and christian life, so that we may translate into Burmese and other tribal languages. Our church is the only church which owns a computer for literature work. thank you once again for your concern and help for my mission work here in the land of pagodas. I’m looking forward to your reply at your earliest convenience.

Lam Cin Thang
Yangon, Myanmar (Burma)