GOING WITH THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Text: Acts 1:8-11
Intro: Some of the last words Jesus spoke were these to His church. He said they would be witnesses of Him world wide. They were to go at home and abroad carrying the gospel message. Paul defined the gospel as the death, burial, and resurrection according to the Scriptures. This gospel message is the old old story. We are to tell it to the young and the old. It is the gospel that is the power of God unto salvation. Romans 1:16

I. THE SINNER

A. The fact of sin
1. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23 Paul did not apologize for referring to all people as sinners.
2. Death is a testimony that all have sinned. All will die and are dying. Romans 5:12
3. Human history, our own conscience, and certainly others will testify to our sinning against God.
4. A member told me one time that she knew of a couple who lived above sin. Naturally you know a Bible believing Baptist preacher is about to let a member hear from God’s Word. But before I could start, the member said she knew of a couple who lived above a beer joint.
5. Sin is an awful fact in the lives of people today. Listen to a news program or read the paper and you will find a lot of evidence to this truth.

B. The foolishness of sin
1. Those who sin wrong their own souls. Prov. 8:36 Sin will always hurt those who commit it. You cannot play with fire without being burnt. Your cannot play in the hog pen without getting dirty.

2. The wages of sin is death both physical and spiritual. Romans 6:23 Man will die physically because of sin. Man may die spiritually because of his sinfulness.
3. Sin never helps; it harms. Sin is never sweet; it is sour. Sin thrills; then kills.
4. The Lord will deal with those who commit sin. He has promised that He will punish those who sin against Him. The last sinner will pay for sin. The saved sinner will pay for sin in his or her life.

C. The fruit of sin
1. Sin yields the fruit of disobedience to God. John describes this very truth in I John 3:4. Sin is the transgression of God’s law.
2. Sin yields the fruit of defiance to God. The Lord often referred to the Jews as a rebellious and stubborn people. He called them stiff-necked.
3. Sin yields the fruit of degrading and desecrating. Sin does something to us mentally, spiritually, emotionally, and physically.
4. Sin yields the fruit of danger and death. Sinning against the Lord is very dangerous and it will yield the fruit of death. Many have died because they have lived a sinful life and they have paid the price.

II. THE SENTENCE

A. The death
1. Man will die physically because of sin. Romans 5:12 The writer of Hebrews said that we have an appointment with death. Hebrews 9:27

Grace Missionary Baptist Church
1823 Aldine Mail Route
Houston, Texas 77039
(713) 442-7137
2. Man will die spiritually because of sin. James 1:14,15; Rev. 20:11-15 Adam was told that the day that he sinned he would die. We know that he didn’t die physically the day he died.
3. Man will die physically and spiritually because he sins against the Lord. Death is the end result of sin.
4. We are dying each day. Someone said that we are dying each day even while we are living physically.

B. The destruction
1. Those who do not know the Lord will suffer vengeance in flaming fire. II Thess. 1:8 The Bible does teach that there is a real literal hell that Christ rejecters will go to.
2. They will be punished with everlasting destruction. II Thess. 1:9 The Lord will ban all who have rejected Him from His presence in eternity because of their rejection.
3. Revelation 20:11-15 describes the fate of all Christ rejecters. The lake of fire is the eternal home of suffering for all who have refused Jesus as their Saviour.
4. Many religious faiths do not believe in a literal heaven or hell. If a person is going to preach God’s Word, they must admit that there is a real heaven and hell.

C. The damnation
1. God has already made up His mind as to where those who refuse to believe will go. If a person rejects Jesus nothing will change God’s mind concerning this.
2. The unbelieving Christ rejecter is already condemned. John 3:18 This verse tells us that the lost sinner stands right now condemned already. This is true now. It isn’t something that will take place.
3. The unbeliever is simply waiting on this awful sentence to be carried out. The sentence has been given already.
4. Damnation means that God has prefixed or predetermined their destiny.

III. THE SAVIOUR
A. The Saviour’s love
1. Jesus loved us first. I John 4:19 His love moves us to love Him according to this verse.
2. The scope and extent of His love is seen in John 3:16. How much did He love us? How great was His love for us? He was willing to die for us.
3. His life and death showed and proved His love for us. The song goes "He did it all for me". Jesus lived and died that we might be saved.
4. His love is the greatest kind of love and the greatest evidence of love.

B. The Saviour’s life
1. He lived up to and fulfilled the law of God for us. Matt. 5:17 Jesus left heaven and all of it’s glory to come to this earth in the form of a babe.
2. He lived a perfect life of obedience to the heavenly Father. Phil. 2:5-11 The perfect Son of God lived among sinful wicked mankind. He fulfilled the law of God.
3. His words, works, and ways testified that He was God’s holy Son. One man said, "Never man spoke like this man." He recognized Jesus as being more than just a man.
4. Jesus is our pure and true example of life and living. He is our supreme pattern to live by.

IV. THE SATISFACTION
A. The person
1. Jesus was identified by John the Baptist as the Lamb of God. John 1:29 The Lamb of God would pay the terrible price for all people.
2. Jesus was the fulfillment of all the sacrifices in the Old Testament. The Old Testament sacrifices pictured in some way the supreme sacrifice that would be made by our Lord.
3. He is the only one who could provide salvation for us. He is God and He is man.
4. John described Him as the Word of God robed in flesh. John 1:1, 14 His words, works, and ways all testified that He was more than a mere man.

B. The price
1. How could sinful depraved mankind be redeemed? You will find that the religious world has many answers to this question.
2. God demanded someone pay for sin. Sin will not go by unpunished. The sinner will die physically and may die spiritually.
3. The sinless righteous life of Jesus must be offered on behalf of our sin. Peter wrote that Jesus bore our sins in His own body on the tree. I Peter 2:24
4. In Jesus’ day people were bought and paid for with silver and gold. The common price was 30 pieces of silver. This is the amount that Judas betrayed the Lord for.
C. The purchase
1. We are bought with the precious blood of the Son of God. I Peter 1:18,19 It took more than silver or gold to pay for the redemption of mankind.
2. Blood must be shed for the remission or forgiveness of sins. Hebrews 9:22 Jesus shed His blood on Calvary for our sins.
3. He paid the terrible horrible price for my sins on calvary. I Peter 2:24
4. He purchased salvation for every person. Now, people must accept Him as their offering for their sins. They must trust Jesus by faith to save them.

V. THE SALVATION
A. Salvation is for everyone.
1. Whosoever shall call on the Lord shall be saved. Romans 10:13 Jesus died for the sins of the whole world. Anyone and everyone can be saved.
2. Whoever believes in Him shall have everlasting life. John 3:16 Anyone who trusts or relies on Jesus to forgive them of sin and save the soul can be saved. Acts 16:31
3. The Lord isn’t willing for any to perish, but all come to repentance. II Peter 3:9 He has done all that He can to save mankind.
4. Read and study I Timothy 2:4-6 carefully and you will conclude God wants everyone to be saved. Those who go to hell, reject the Lord. They will not allow Him to save them.

B. Salvation is for eternity.
1. The believer has eternal or everlasting life. John 3:15,16 Eternal means endless duration. It means from the moment you were saved you will always be saved.
2. The believer is not condemned. John 3:18 When you have trusted the Lord as your Saviour you are no longer condemned. You are free of condemnation.
3. The believer is passed from death to life. John 5:24 The dead sinner is made alive by the Lord to live spiritually forever.
4. The believer is saved. Acts 16:31 Saved denotes a completed transaction. You are saved in all or you are not saved at all.

C. Salvation is easy
1. Everyone can repent of sin. Luke 13:3,5 The plan for repentance is easy, but the act of repenting is very difficult. You must own up to being wrong.
2. Everyone can trust, believe, or have faith in Jesus. Acts 16:31 The plan is easy to trust the Lord. The act of trusting Jesus is very difficult.
3. Everyone can be saved. Read II Peter 3:9 again. Study I Timothy 2:4-6. The Lord saves regardless of the person, possessions, power, or position.
4. He has made it so easy that anyone can be saved anywhere at any time God’s Spirit convicts them of their sins.

D. Salvation is enjoyment.
1. Jesus told the disciples to rejoice because their names were written in heaven. Luke 10:20 You can rejoice in a lot of other things.
2. Those who are saved have their names written in the Lamb’s book of life. Our names are written down. A spiritual birth took place and God has a record of it.
3. You can know that you have passed from death unto life because you love the brethren.
4. It is a joy to realize what we have in the Lord and what awaits us when this life is over with.
5. It is a joy to live the life of a saved person. We have peace, love, joy, and happiness even as we live.

NEW OUTLINE BOOK: We have a new book outline by Glyn Gary. It is a 60 page book with 17 outlines in it. We have printed 4,000 copies of this very good book. Bro. Glyn Gary went to be with the Lord in January of 1987. I know that you will enjoy this book and it will bless you as you study the outlines.

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

By Glyn Gary

Text: John 20:19-23.

Introduction:
A. What a blessing it would be if the church of this century would come alive in the same way as it did in the first century.
B. The picture of the church as given in verse 19 of our text seems to fit many of the present day churches.
C. The church was behind closed doors meeting fear--fear of the consequences of being really Christian.
D. If the church had stayed behind those closed doors, real spiritual tragedy would have resulted.
E. They came out from behind the closed doors and preached the gospel in the streets of Jerusalem.
F. Their fears were overcome by the dynamic presence of the living Christ.
G. May we recognize any symptoms of cowardice that might exist in our lives and become conquering churches.

I. THE CHURCH COWERING
A. This is not a very pleasant sight.
1. Men who had walked and talked with the Lord for more than 3 years should have gained strength for this tragic hour.
2. They were guilty of 3 great errors.
B. They were forgetful of His words.
   1. Jesus spent the last 6 months seeking to prepare His disciples for this hour.
   2. He had begun to teach them that He would die, but assured them that He would rise again. Matthew 16:21
   3. Their spiritual comprehension was so low that they did not understand what He was talking about.
   4. Had they remembered His words, they would not have been hiding behind closed doors.

C. They were fearful of their enemies.
   1. When Jesus was taken prisoner in the garden of Gethsemane all of His followers forsook Him. Mark 14:50
   2. Where was the courage and faithfulness they had boasted about a few hours before in the upper room? Mark 14:31
   3. How wrong they were because from the time He was taken captive in Gethsemane until He appeared to them behind closed doors, they were full of fear.
   4. Can we be too hard on these first century believers though?
   5. How many in the churches today have actually forgotten His many promises?
   6. We are now hiding behind closed doors when we need to be proclaiming the gospel in the streets.

D. They were faithless to the Master.
   1. The Lord had called these men and trained them to carry on His great work.
   2. He told them He would die, but would rise again.
   3. They didn’t understand His program and therefore were faithless after His death.
   4. Their attitude is expressed by the disciples whom Jesus encountered on the road to Emmaus after His resurrection.
   5. Praise God the story does not end there because they had a visitor who changed the whole course of their lives.

II. THE CHURCH CHALLENGED.
A. While assembled behind closed doors suddenly Jesus was in their midst.
B. The presence of the risen Christ did great things for these cowardly disciples.
C. They were fortified for service.
   1. Human strength had failed, so the Lord came and fortified the church with renewed spiritual strength.
   2. With the knowledge they would have His abiding presence, they were ready for anything that Satan could throw against them.
   3. We need to reclaim His many promises and begin to march forth conquering for Christ.
D. They were filled with the Spirit.

1. After giving the church a challenge, Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost." John 20:19
2. What a difference the Spirit makes in a man.
3. Their faith was restored, their courage was reaffirmed, and their hopes re-established.
4. How the churches need a refilling of the Spirit.
5. We don’t need to depend on gimmicks and tricks to accomplish the work of the Master.
6. We need only to give in to the leadership of the Holy Spirit and let Him empower us for the work.

III. THE CHURCH CONQUERING.
A. After Jesus came the church broke out from behind closed doors.
   1. They were no longer full of fear, but rather full of zeal.
   2. They were ready for the great assignment given them by the Lord.
B. They were fanatic about His resurrection.
   1. There was no room for compromise in their doctrine.
   2. When they were ordered to cease their preaching the apostles refused. Acts 4:19,20
   3. God needs people who are convinced that Jesus is the Christ today.
C. They were faithful to declare the message.
   1. Even after being told to stop their preaching, they took the opportunity to preach to their enemies.
   2. The churches today need to be just this faithful to declare the message of the living Christ.
D. They were faithful in reaching souls. Acts 2:41
   1. This was not the end but rather the beginning of a great revival.
   2. The church grew by leaps and bounds because a few faithful disciples were convinced that Jesus was all He claimed to be.
   3. Why are we not reaching out for Christ today?
   4. The answer is a simple one—the church has gone back behind closed doors.
   5. What churches need today is a visit from the living Christ.
   6. A renewal of His dynamic commission and a filling with the Holy Spirit.
   7. Until we have, we will continue to hide behind closed doors and do little to take Christ to a lost and dying world.
   8. Let us come out of our closets and take up our crosses and truly follow our Lord and Master.

This is one of the outlines in a new book of outlines that we have printed under the SOUNING OUT THE WORD MINISTRIES By Glyn Gary.
GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH MEMBERS

Focus: The Letter 'D'

Introduction:

A. The AIM of this series - to assist you in focusing on some ingredients that will help you to become a better church member.

B. The AWARENESS that is needed - All of us can improve.

C. The ACTIVITY that is needed - All of us must get involved.

D. The ANNOUNCEMENT - GOOD CHURCH MEMBERS ARE--

I. DISCIPLES! 3 key words associated with this concept.

A. The TERMS
   1. Followers
   2. Disciples or discipline
   3. Learners

B. The TEXTS
   1. John 12:26
   2. Matthew 16:24
   3. Matthew 11:28-30
   4. Matthew 4:19

II. DECENT!

A. The MEANING of the term - It means to be proper and fitting - not obscene - it means to be respectable. (Exemplify class.)

B. The MUSINGS - the attitude of 'I'll show you' or 'you can't tell me how to live or dress' is not Christian.
   1. Decent in APPAREL.
   2. Decent in our ATTITUDES.
   3. Decent in our APPROACHES to people.
   4. Decent in our ACTIVITIES.

III. DEPENDABLE!

A. The Warning
   1. Proverbs 25:19
   2. James 1:8

B. The Comprehension
   1. This carries with the idea of being true, trustworthy, honest, and capable.
   2. Illustrate what I used to do - try to do it all. You can't do this, and as a leader you're not fulfilling your function if you don't allow others to do and learn.

IV. DISCERNERS!

A. They know the truth when they hear it because they have been students of the scriptures.

1. They not only have intellectual knowledge of it but also experimental knowledge because they have applied it to their lives.
2. Hebrews 5:13,14

B. They are keenly aware of the needs of others.
C. They are keenly aware of the tactics of the Devil. They are not easily led off.

V. DEVOTED!

A. Devoted - to the CHRIST that saved them.
B. Devoted - to the CHURCH of their membership. Hebrews 10:25
C. Devoted - to the CAUSE of the church. Matthew 28:18-20

Glen Tropp, 832 Sonnenshine, Benton, AR 72015

THE CHANGING AND UNCHANGING THINGS OF GOD

By A. Kenneth McInnis

Text: Malachi 3:6-10

Intro: There are some things that change and there are some things that do not change about God.

A. First, God is perfect and therefore needs no changing.
   1. He is Holy.
   2. He is Pure.
   3. He is Just.
   4. He is Righteous.

B. Although God is unchangeable in Nature and in His attributes, the Bible reveals that He does change His methods of dealing with mankind.
   1. When His methods accomplished His purpose they were discontinued.
   2. Though His methods have changed, yet God is still the same today as He was yesterday. Hebrews 13:8
   3. Tithing has not changed.

I. THE UNCHANGING THINGS OF GOD

A. His ATTRIBUTES (characteristics) are unchangeable.
   1. His natural attributes never change.
      a. He is SPIRIT. John 4:24
      b. He is self-existent. Psalm 90:2
      c. He is OMNI-PRESENT. Psalm 139:7,8
   2. His MORAL attributes never change.
      a. He is HOLY and He is LOVE. Psalm 145:17; 1 John 4:8
      b. He is ALL WISE and He is SINLESS.

B. His ATTITUDE toward sin never changes.
   Hebrews 13:8
   1. Never ending power towards sin. Psalm 147:5
   2. His promises to man concerning man's attitude toward sin. Romans 10:9

II. THE CHANGING THINGS OF GOD

A. His methods of dealing with man change.
1. PRIEST- Approached God in behalf of man by the means of sacrifices which could never take away sin. Hebrews 10:11
2. PROPHETS- Came to man as ambassadors of God challenging them to turn from their evil ways and live.
3. JUDGES- Delivered Israel from enemy oppression and ruled over them and admonished the government in behalf of God.
4. KINGS- (Israel’s idea) Led people to battle in time of war. Executed judgment in war and peace.
5. METHOD OF CONFIRMATION-Exodus 4:1-9
   a. Miracles- Mark 16:19,20
   b. Spiritual gifts- I Cor. 12:1; I Cor. 14:22
   c. Completed Word of God- II Tim. 3:16,17

B. The doom of unbelievers can be changed.
Romans 10:13; John 8:24
2. Changed by accepting Christ as Saviour. John 5:24
3. Changed by heart-felt belief. John 3:18; Romans 10:9

Conclusion: What is it about us that needs changing?

Kenneth McInnis 508 W. Laville, Kirbyville, Texas 75956

Dear Sirs:
A copy of your above named magazine (Sounding Out the Word) was received with the compliment of the Macedonia Call, Florida, USA.
It was edition #140 issued for the months of June-July 1993. Though dated, it was still very useful for sources of references from the numerous topics covered and discussed therein. It also contained several Bible study outlines which enhance our understanding and improve Bible knowledge and wisdom.
May I therefore, subscribe and receive your magazines on the regular basis mailed to the above address.

Jeffrey Lim
Singapore

THE REVEALING OF GOD
By Neal Clark

Text: Romans 1:16-20

Introduction: God has time and again revealed His power. The Bible is a book about the power, provisions, pardon and the position of God.
I. THE CREATION REVEALS GOD’S POWER.
   Genesis 1:1,2; Colossians 1:14-18
   A. The miracle of His creative command
   B. The might of His complete control
   C. The manifestation of His continuous care
II. THE CROSS REVEALS GOD’S PROVISIONS.
   Ephesians 2:16; Colossians 1:20
   A. His power - I Corinthians 1:17,18
   B. His peace - Colossians 1:20
   C. His provisions - Romans 8:32

III. THE CHRISTIAN REVEALS GOD’S PARDON.
   Philippians 2:12
   A. The Christian displays God’s person.
   B. The Christian demonstrates God’s pardon.
   C. The Christian is a delight of God’s promise.

IV. THE CHURCH REVEALS GOD’S PEOPLE.
   Ephesians 3:21
   A. Reveals God’s faithful
   B. Reveals God’s followers
   C. Reveals God’s foundation

V. THE COMMANDMENTS REVEAL GOD’S POSITION. Hebrews 6:13-20
   A. Concerning the world
   B. Concerning His will
   C. Concerning His work
   D. Concerning His way

STRIKE THREE, YOU’RE OUT
"Strike three, you’re out" cried the umpire. The dejected ball player returned to the dugout. He had three golden opportunities to hit that ball. He had the opportunity to hit a home run. He had the opportunity to get a base hit. He could have had a RBI (run batted in). Any of these three options could have won the ball game. But he stood there with his bat on his shoulder hoping for a walk, only to hear, "Strike three, you’re out."

Are you expecting a free ride in life? Are you afraid to strike at the ball, fearing you will strike out? I’d rather be a failure attempting to do something than successful in doing nothing. If I hear, "Strike three, you’re out" at least I will be swinging at the ball.

Don Shultz 3754 FM 3310 So., Henderson, Texas 75652

This is one of the many illustrations that appear in a future book entitled ILLUSTRATIONS THAT ILLUSTRATE by Don Shultz.

Something New: We have made 100 copies of SOUNDING OUT THE WORD III and GOING ALL THE WAY by Glen E. Tropp. We have been out of both of these books for a long time. Send in for your copy of them and send an offering to help with the copying expense.

Two new Countries: We received letters from Cuba and Nicaragua. This is two new countries that have written in and wanted some of our material. Both are Spanish and we have two books in Spanish now. With your help we can have more material in Spanish.
LORD, MINISTER THROUGH ME!

Text: Gal. 2:20; Phil. 2:13; Isaiah 6:5-8; Psalm 51:11-13

Intro.
A. Christ in one equal:
   1. Hope-Col. 1:27
   2. Help-John 15:5
   3. Healing-John 21:15-17; Philemon 15, 16

B. The Lord is in the TOUCHING BUSINESS. He touches human beings, people, and individuals!
   1. King Saul enjoyed the help of men whose hearts God had touched. I Sam. 10:26
   2. Through an angelic being God touched the mouth and lips of Isaiah to PURGE HIM FROM HIS SINS. Isa. 6:7
   3. Hear the testimony of Jeremiah. Jer. 1:9
   4. Through Gabriel the Lord touched Daniel to GIVE HIM SKILL AND UNDERSTANDING. Dan. 9:21, 22
   5. Jesus touched the bier of one dead and gave him life again. Luke 7:14
   7. Jesus touched the eyes of two blind men sitting by the way side and gave them sight. Matt. 20:30-34
   9. Jesus touched the beloved and loving apostle John to give him needed assurance. Rev. 1:17, 18

C. I am reminded by the hymn "He Touched Me." "Shackled by a heavy burden, 'neath a load of guilt and shame, then the hand of Jesus touched me and now I am no longer the same."

D. Remember Mark 5:19?

I. LORD LIVE THROUGH ME.
   A. Galatians 2:20-He lives in the saved.
   B. He can live through us.
      1. Noah's compliment-Gen. 7:7
      2. Eunice and Lois-2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15
      3. Appeal to wives-I Peter 3:1, 2
   C. After one's earthly stay: Rev. 14:13

II. LORD, LOVE THROUGH ME.
   A. God is love. I John 4:8
   B. Saved people are indwell by God's love. Romans 5:5; I John 4:7
   C. Love is the FRUIT OF THE INDWELLING SPIRIT. Gal. 5:22
   D. Love is after the pattern. John 13:34, 35
   E. Love expresses itself.
      1. To the Father: I John 4:19
      2. To the Son in obedience: John 14:21
      3. To other children of God in ministering to their needs: John 13; I John 3:17
      4. To the not yet saved in following Jesus in soul fishing: John 3:17; Luke 19:10; John 4:29

III. LORD, LIGHT OTHERS THROUGH ME.
   A. God lights our hearts. II Cor. 4:6
   B. Jesus lights every one. John 1:9
   C. The Lord tells us to light the lives of others by good works. Matt. 5:16
   D. Paul says we can light the paths of others by holding forth the word of life. Phil. 2:14-16
      1. Think of all the places one can serve as a Light. (Home, work place, school, place of recreation, church service, in a vehicle of transportation, hospital, funeral home, at a grave side, at a christian wedding etc.)
      2. We are to be lights to those in sin's darkness. We are said to be in the world, not of it. John 17:16

IV. LORD, LIFT ANOTHER OR ANOTHER'S LOAD THROUGH ME.
   A. Psalm 40:1-3
   B. Hebrews 12:12
   C. Aaron and Hur lifted up the hands of their leader, Moses. Exodus 17:12
   D. Use the comforting word. I Thess. 4:18; Luke 24:32
   E. Every church service with every part of the service is to be designed to reveal the source of eternal life, the love of God, to light the life of those in attendance, to lift and lighten sin's burden and sorrow's load, and to lead to a higher spiritual plateau.

V. LORD, LEAD ME THAT I MAY LEAD OTHERS.
   A. Psalm 23:2 and John 10:4 present Jesus as leading the Shepherd.
   B. Romans 8:14 tells of the Lord leading His own by His Spirit.
   C. Acts 8:29 gives an example of this.
   D. The saved are to walk so as to be able to lead others in the right ways.
      1. We are to walk as Jesus walked. I John 2:6
      2. We are to walk where He walked. Matt. 4:19
      3. We are to walk where He sends. Mark 5:19
      4. We are to leave paths easy to find and follow. Hebrews 12:13

Conclusion:
   A. The path to greatness is the servant's path. Matt. 20:26
   B. A timely prayer: "Lord make me a minister to love, light, lead, and lift others so they may both experience and enjoy your life."

D.B. Wright, 2214 Benson, Galena Park, TX 77547
THE BORROWED AXE
By O.H. Griffith

Text: II Kings 6:1-7

Introduction:
A. Again we find Elisha in a "School of the prophets." Such were in:
   2. Gilgal, II Kings 4:38.
B. It is assumed he is now in Jericho.
C. The need, Verse 1.
   1. It may be significant that as soon as the covetous Gehazi was expelled, the congregation grew so as to require a larger meeting place.
   2. They purposed to relocate and build a more commodious meeting house.
   3. But they would first secure the approval of their mentor.
D. Elisha approved the project.
   1. Note that all were involved: "Let us," verse 2.
   2. They insisted that Elisha also go, verse 3.
   3. This reminds us that we must have God's presence if we would succeed, cf Exodus 33:15.
E. What lessons may we learn from the man who lost the axe?

I. HE LOST HIS POWER FOR SERVICE.
A. As soon as the axe head fell into the water he became helpless.
   1. The axe represented power.
   2. Now it is gone, and quite unexpectedly.
B. Every true church has power.
   1. Jesus said all power was given unto Him, Matt. 28:18.
   2. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you," Acts 1:8.
C. This power can be lost - Samson, example.
   1. He had awesome power when he kept his vows.
   2. He lost the power when he took it lightly.
   3. The church at Ephesus was warned to repent, lest they lose the Divine Presence, Rev. 2:5.
D. Without the power of the Holy Spirit, our labor is useless effort.

II. HE LOST HIS POWER WHILE WORKING.
A. Did not lose it through laxness, nor idleness.
B. It was lost through carelessness.
   1. He was so busy working that he did not watch.
   2. Perhaps he was complimenting himself on how much more he was doing than the others, cf Prov. 16:18.
C. God's servants are to work, watch, and pray.

III. HE LOST THAT WHICH WAS NOT HIS OWN, VERSE 5.
A. This point is beautifully applicable to the Christian worker.

1. All our power for service is borrowed.
2. It is the power of our Lord entrusted to us.
3. We have an obligation to use, not lose it.
4. If we don't use it, we will lose it.

B. This principle is illustrated in the story of the pounds, Luke 19:12-27, Note:
   1. The Lord bestows the power and expects His servant to use it.
   2. He who bestows the power has the right to take it away if it is not used.
   3. The Lord expects the power to be used according to His instructions.

IV. HE WAS PAINFULLY CONSCIOUS OF THE LOSS.
A. As soon as the axe disappeared, further effort was useless.
   1. He could not fell a tree without an axe.
   2. To continue as if nothing had happened would have made him look stupid.
B. Many have lost the Divine Power, or they never had it.
   1. They work themselves into a frenzy, to make it look as if they are doing a great work.
   2. They are like:
      b. Or, like the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel, I Kings 18:26-29.
C. The twelve were told, "Tarry ye in Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high," Luke 24:49.

V. HE IMMEDIATELY APPEALED TO THE MASTER.
A. There was no other who could help. To add more worldly programs as churches may be tempted to do will not help.
B. Only God can restore that which one has lost.
   1. Repent and tell God plainly that you have lost that with which He entrusted you.
   2. Pray and ask Him to restore the power.
      b. David prayed, Psalm 51:12,13.
C. We should ask for God's help, even in what may seem to be trivial circumstances.

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