JESUS STRENGTHENS


Intro: Paul was a man that was greatly used of God. He had witnessed the ministry of the Lord as the other apostles had. He was given a private revelation of the Lord’s ministry. To keep him from having problems with the flesh in pride he was given a thorn in the flesh to buffet him. He had prayed for the thorn to be removed 3 times. The thorn was not removed. The Lord’s answer to the prayer was “my grace is sufficient for thee.” Part of the Lord’s work in our lives is to strengthen us. He is ever at work giving us the strength that we need to do His work.

I. THE PERSON WHO STRENGTHENS

A. Jesus is omnipresent.

1. To His first church He promised to be with her unto the end of the world. Matthew 28:20
2. Jesus is a shepherd to all of His children. Psalm 23:1 This Psalm sets forth the duties of the Shepherd. The Shepherd takes care of the sheep.
3. In the text he told Paul that His strength was made perfect in weakness. The Lord can only make weak people strong. If we think we are strong, we will not seek His strength. Notice also Philippians 4:13. Our strength comes from the Lord Christ.

B. Jesus is omniscient.

1. He is all knowing. He knows what we stand in need of. He knew what Paul needed. He knows us better than we know ourselves.
2. The psalmist questioned where he could go and the Lord not be there in Psalm 139:4-12. He has made us a special precious promise in Hebrews 13:5,6.
3. He knows what is in the heart and what is on the mind. He can see and know what is going on inside of us. No one else has that ability.

C. Jesus is omnipotent.

1. All power is given unto Jesus. Matthew 28:18

2. He has great power. He could calm the wind and sea. He could raise the dead. He could change water into wine.

3. He has the power to bless and He has the power to chastise. Hebrews 12:6; Deut. 6:3; He blesses those who live according to His Word. He chastens those who do not live according to His Word.

4. We ought to read the Bible regularly. The Bible is full of the works of God that shows us His power and ability. It encourages us to depend upon the Lord who is able.

II. THE PROMISE TO STRENGTHEN

A. The truth of God’s word.

1. There is a principle in the text. Confess your weakness to Jesus and He can strengthen you. Most of us must admit that we have many times tried to do things on our own and when we fail finally look to the Lord.

2. Jesus is our strength. He will strengthen our hearts. Ps. 27:14 Jesus said the flesh is weak. The physical and mental strength will fail.

3. There is a principle in Philippians 4:13. Paul spoke from experience. While our strength plays out, the Lord’s strength never runs out.

B. The trials in a godless world.

1. James tells us that our faith in the Lord will be tried. James 1:3 Things will happen to us that will try our faith. We will be put to the test. Faith in the Lord and His power will make us overcomers. I John 5:4,5

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2. Troubles, situations and circumstances will put us and our faith on trial. Job said troubles are a part of life. Job 14:1

3. Job is a prime example of God’s people being tried and proven. The Devil was behind all that happened to Job.

4. Study Job’s life and you will find that all that happened to him can happen to us. He lost his possessions, children, health, and was falsely accused of sin by three friends.

C. The trouble with gracious workers.
1. The saved still have a sinful fleshly nature within them. Study Romans 7:14-25 to see this truth more clearly.

2. It is only common and natural for us to try to deal with and solve our own problems that we face.

3. The Lord loves us enough to allow us to try and then learn that we must go to Him for the strength that we need. Troubles and trials will rob us of life and living.

4. Sometimes it is necessary to learn that we can’t handle our problems. The Lord teaches us lessons by allowing us to try and then find out that we can’t handle them by ourselves. We know first hand that we need the Lord. Unless you are a slow learner the next time you know what you need to do.

III. THE PROBLEMS IN STRENGTHENING
A. The feebleness
1. Jesus said, "...the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Matt. 26:41

2. The fleshly nature is weak. This nature is not subject unto the Lord. Romans 8:6-8

3. We can know what God says and still do what He says. This is because we are weak.

4. The flesh is a quitter. The flesh causes us to doubt. The flesh thinks of the worst that can happen. A common saying when I was brought up was, "you will make a mountain out of a mole hill." That is what the flesh will do.

B. The fear
1. Jesus rebuked His disciples for being fearful. They often were afraid even when He was with them. Remember the storm that the disciples were in? Matthew 8:24-27 Fear makes us do and say a lot of things that are very silly.

2. Fear is often fueled by feelings. We feel with the flesh and look at things with a fleshly eye.

3. Joshua was told, "...be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Joshua 1:9

4. The flesh will cause us to be fearful and afraid. Fear is caused by taking our eyes off of Jesus. Peter walked on the water as long as He had his eyes on Jesus. When he looked at the storm, he began to sink.

C. The flesh
1. The flesh refers to a sinful adamic nature that is a part of each of us. All of us are troubled by this sinful nature.

2. The flesh will cause us to try to walk by sight. Paul said the carnal mind or flesh is not subject to the law of God and can’t be. Romans 8:7

3. The flesh will cause doubt when we are convicted by the Spirit to walk by faith. The wise man tells us to trust or have faith in God with all of our hearts and not lean to our own understanding. Prov. 3:5,6

IV. THE PROVISION FOR STRENGTHENING
A. The cause
1. Job said that troubles or problems were a part of life. Job 14:1 No one lives without troubles. Every person will have his or her share of troubles in life.

2. The troubles may be in the physical, mental, emotional, material and spiritual realm.

3. Paul had a thorn in the flesh for a reason. He was a special vessel. The thorn served God’s purpose in Paul’s life.

4. Troubles serve a purpose. We may question why we have them, but we will have them and they are there for a reason. One purpose is to show us we need the Lord. We need to rest by faith on Him and His Word.

B. The confession
1. We think that we can handle anything that comes our way. Sometimes this is caused by pride.

2. We must confess or admit that we are weak and we can’t handle it. The strong, or those who think they are, cannot be made strong by the Lord.

3. When we confess our weakness or infirmity, we are in a position to ask for strength and to be strengthened by the Lord.

C. The care
1. Jesus cares for us beyond our understanding. I Peter 5:7 Sometimes we feel Jesus doesn’t care because of the problems that we experience. Some problems are a part of life. Many problems are caused by our sins and by the Devil.

2. He is able to supply the needed strength daily for us. Paul tells us we will be tempted. I Cor. 10:13 With every temptation comes a way of escape. We can overcome and bear the temptation without yielding to it. The Lord helps us.

3. He gives strength for the day and its needs. He knows what we need and He is able to meet the need, if we allow Him to.
4. He gives strength for the day and its troubles and trials. He wants to do this for us. His care is often realized when we learn to turn our troubles and problems over to Him.

V. THE PURPOSE FOR STRENGTHENING

A. To endure

1. Five great men in the Bible wanted to die under the pressure of life and living. Did you know that Moses, David, Job, Jonah, Elijah wanted to die? These great men felt the weight of troubles and problems in their lives.

2. The only way that we can endure what we experience, is for the Lord to enable us to stand the pressure. One song goes, "Take your burden to the place of prayer and leave it there."

3. The devil uses death, drugs, deceitfulness, wicked desires, and destruction to make us think that it helps deal with pressure. It does not.

B. To educate

1. The troubles and trials that we go through help us to understand that we need the Lord and the strength He gives.

2. Experiences help us to know that the Lord and His grace and strength are sufficient.

3. The truths of the Scriptures are taught to us in our experiences. Psalm 119:71 We may read a passage a thousand times and go through something and read it again and then for the first time (we think) we understand the scriptures more clearly.

C. To edify

1. Troubles and problems do not edify or build us up. They are used by the Devil to tear us up and down. If you want to see how strong a person is watch them as they deal with problems.

2. Turning to the Lord in such times does edify us. The Lord and His word will give us confidence and assurance. Study the truth of Matthew 11:28-30.

3. We couldn't enjoy the sun if it never rained. We couldn't enjoy the rain if the sun always shined.

4. Life has its good times and its bad times. We enjoy rest and we suffer heartache. All the different experiences make up life.

D. To exalt

1. The Lord's grace supplied causes us to exalt the Lord. He is the great and good Shepherd of His sheep.

2. The Lord's sustaining strength causes us to exalt the Lord. Only He can help us and see us through some things in life.

3. When Job lost His children the Bible says, "Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped," Job 1:20

4. We are often made to realize the tender gracious activity of the Lord in our lives by His ministering to us during troubled times.

5. We sing, "God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, He's so good to me." In all of life God is good to us. Paul said His goodness leads man to repentance.

Dear Bro. Swilling:

Enclosed please find a check in the amount of $200.00 to help further the wonderful work you all are doing in the publishing and distributing of much needed Christian Literature.

The literature we have received and forwarded to the West Indies has truly been a blessing to our church and the many souls it has touched around the globe in the West Indies.

We will keep you and your work in our prayers, as we all strive to further the work of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Yours at Salem M.B.C.

IN WHOM YE BELIEVED

Text: Ephesians 1:13,14.

Intro:

A. There are two kinds of believing.
1. Historical.
2. Heart believing. Rom. 10:9,10.

B. People draw nigh with their mouth. Matt. 15:8. Honor with their lips.

I. IN WHOM YE BELIEVE.

A. Believing in vain (Empty-worthless)
1. Believing with the lips.
2. Doing good works for salvation or to keep your salvation. Phil. 1:6.
3. Joining the church is not believing.

B. He that believeth on Jesus. John 3:16.
1. No condemnation John 3:18.
4. Will serve in spiritual truth.
5. Will keep his commandments. I John 5:3.

C. Heart believing
2. The gospel message I Cor. 15:1-4.

II. IN WHOM YE WERE SEALED.

A. Believers are the object of God's love and eternal purpose.
1. Place of sealing...IN CHRIST. Col. 3:3.
2. One who seals...HOLY SPIRIT. Eph. 1:13.
3. The one sealed...YE...THE BELIEVER.
4. Purpose of the sealing...GUARANTEE OF OUR INHERITANCE. I Peter 1:4,5.
5. Property sealed...PURCHASED POSSESSION.
6. Pledge of the sealing...UNTIL THE DAY OF REDEMPTION.
7. Praise of the sealing...HIS GLORY.

B. Sealed by the spirit. Eph. 4:30.
3. He is the testifier of Jesus John 15:26.
4. Causes us to bear testimony.
5. He guides into all truth. John 16:13,14.
6. Holy Spirit leads Romans 8:14,16.

C. Sins against the Spirit
1. We can grieve the Spirit. Eph. 4:30.
2. Quench the Spirit. I Thess. 5:19.
3. Hold back the Spirit.
4. Must be forgiven to have fellowship.

D. Devil cannot rob us of salvation.
1. Safe in the hands of God.
2. Sealed by the power of God. II Cor. 5:5.
3. Kept by the power of God. I Peter 1:5.
5. Nothing can separate the true believer Romans 8:38,39.
6. Paul: I am persuaded that he is able to keep. II Tim. 1:12.

III. IN WHOM YE WERE GIVEN THE HOLY SPIRIT.
A. Promise of the Spirit given. John 14; 15; 16.
1. These promises were fulfilled on Pentecost and since.
2. The Holy Spirit is now in the world and operating.
3. Condemning, drawing, and sealing.

B. Holy Spirit in the believer
1. Believers are not in the flesh. Romans 8:9-11.
2. Believers are the temple of Holy Spirit. I Cor. 3:16.
3. We live in Christ by the faith of the Son of God. Gal. 2:19,20.

1. In time of temptation I Cor. 10:13; Hebs. 4:15.
2. Fighting the good fight I Tim. 6:12.
3. Supporting the church, the bride of Christ II Cor. 11:2; John 3:29; Rev. 19:4-9.

IV. IN WHOM WE HAVE THE EARNEST OF OUR INHERITANCE. II Cor. 5:5.
A. The new creation II Cor. 5:17.
2. A new heart given.
3. The ultimate of inheritance...Kingdom of God.
B. We should begin a new walk.
1. Walk after Christ not the world.
C. Live righteously...Titus 2:11,12.
1. Only through Christ can we do this.

V. UNTIL THE REDEMPTION OF THE PURCHASED POSSESSION.
A. Undertaken of Jesus to buy back the possession man lost.
1. The title deed belongs to Jesus...Rev. 5:6,7.
   a. The earth
   b. The animals
   c. Humans that will believe - Through grace.
1. The second coming of Jesus draws very near.
2. Then shall we receive our inheritance.

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THREE NEW BOOKS AVAILABLE
Morals, the Master, and Me by Kenneth Click is available. This is a 48 page book with 13 lessons in it. It deals with Bible morality in a modern world.

Illustrations Which Illustrate by Don Shultz is available. Bro. Don is known for his unusual way of illustrating the truth. I know that you will enjoy this 50 page book of illustrations.

The Jordon Divided, The Healing of the Spring, and Other Miracles of Elisha by O.H. Griffith is available. This is a 57 page book with lessons on 20 miracles of Elisha. This is the same book that we have announced as Miracles of Elisha.

THE HEART, WHAT IS IT?
By Sammy Eldredge

Text: Jeremiah 17:9.
Intro: The blood pumping organ in the physical body is the center of physical life, and so is the heart of man the center of his whole being.

I. THE HEART IS THE SEAT OF MORAL NATURE AND SPIRITUAL LIFE.
A. Moral nature: Every emotion comes from this center.
1. Love for God, self, and others
2. Hate of the same comes from the heart.
B. Every desire originates here.
1. This is why the heart must be changed.
2. This is what the new birth is all about.
C. The real man is hidden in the heart (Good or bad).
1. Jesus said, "From the heart proceeds evil thoughts, adultery, fornication, murders..."
2. James wrote, "Can sweet and bitter come from the same fountain?"

II. THE HEART IS THE SEAT OF GRIEF AND JOY.
A. Grief:
1. Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled..." John 14:1.
2. "That I have great heaviness and sorrow in my heart." Romans 9:2.
3. "For out of much affliction and anguish of heart, I wrote unto you." II Cor. 2:4.

B. Joy:
1. "Ye now have sorrow, but I will see you again and your heart shall rejoice." John 16:22.
2. "Singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord." Eph. 5:19.

III. THE HEART IS THE SEAT OF DESIRES AND AFFECTIONS.
A. Desires:
1. "But I say unto you, whosoever looketh upon a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery already in his heart." Matt. 5:28.
2. "Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices, cursed children." II Peter 2:14.

B. Affections:
1. "And they said one to another, Did not our hearts burn within us, while he talked with us." Luke 24:32.

IV. THE HEART IS THE SEAT OF PERCEPTION AND THOUGHTS.
A. Perception:
1. "He hath blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts; that they should not see with their eyes and understand with their heart..." John 12:40.
2. "Having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart." Eph. 4:18.

B. Thought:
2. "...Is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Hebs. 4:12.

V. THE HEART IS THE SEAT OF UNDERSTANDING AND REASONING POWER.
A. Understanding:
1. "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing," Matt. 13:15.
2. "Because when they knew God they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish hearts were darkened." Romans 1:21.

B. Reasoning Power:
1. "But there were certain of the Jews sitting there and reasoning in their hearts." Mark 2:6.


VI. THE HEART IS THE SEAT OF IMAGINATION AND CONSCIENCE:
A. Imagination:
1. "He showed strength with His arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts." Luke 1:51.

B. Conscience:
1. "Now when they heard this they were pricked in their hearts..." Acts 2:37.
2. "For if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts." I John 3:20.

VII. THE HEART IS THE SEAT OF INTENTION AND PURPOSE.
A. Intention:
1. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Hebs. 4:12.
3. "Every man as he purposes in his heart, so let him give..." II Cor. 9:7.

VIII. THE HEART IS THE SEAT OF THE WILL AND OF FAITH.
A. Of the will:
1. "God be thanked that you were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart, that form of doctrine which was delivered you." Romans 6:17.
2. "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one; and be ye thankful." Colossians 3:15.

B. Of faith:
1. "For I say unto you, whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass, He shall have whatsoever he saith." Mark 11:23.
2. "For with the heart a man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:10
3. "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." Hebrews 3:12

Conclusion: We have taken the Word of God and have discovered what the heart is as spoken of in the Bible.
A. You can claim anything with your mouth, but your heart will speak the truth about you.
B. The question now is does your heart belong to Jesus or Satan and self?

Sammy J. Eldredge, P.O.Box 336, Timpson, TX 75975
Dear Bro. Swilling:

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. For a few months, I’ve been receiving your paper. I must say that with each paper comes more blessings. I also receive a blessing each time I open one of the many books that I’ve received. I noticed in the May paper that another book is about to be published. Because I pray that others can be just as blessed by receiving the publications made possible by Grace Missionary Baptist Church and her Sounding Out the Word ministry, I decided that I want to make a financial contribution, so that others can hear of the love and other wonders of our Lord and Savior.

Paul K. Day
Roland, Oklahoma

Danny Miles of Friendly Lane Baptist church in Burlington, N.C. gave me a copy of Sounding Out the Word. When having the time, I sat down in my study and read it. I found it to be a great blessing and sound in the 1611 KJ Bible. It always blesses my heart when I find literature of this quality. May I also add that the messages are a help as well as we also gained thoughts from them and have seen souls saved after preaching a message on repentance. My prayer is that God will continue to use this outreach ministry to touch people’s lives.

Jeff York

GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH MEMBERS
Focus: The Letter ‘E’

Text: I Timothy 3:15

Introduction:
A. The PURPOSE - To provide information which will help and stimulate us to be good church members.
B. The PARTICIPATION - We need to establish guidelines and pursue them while depending on the Lord to make them a reality in our lives.
C. The PRESENTATION - Good church members will be---

I. EAGER!

A. The ENLIGHTENMENT from the Biblical perspective.
2. Romans 12:11.
3. This eagerness or zeal needs to be according to knowledge. This links us to God’s Word. Romans 10:2,3.

B. The EXAMPLE.
1. Joshua & Caleb.

II. EDUCATORS!

A. The TEXTBOOK that we are to promote.
1. I Thessalonians 1:8.
2. Phil. 2:16.

B. The Means through which we are to do this.
1. Through EXPRESSIONS with our LIPS - we are to express Biblical precepts regarding the issues that we are confronted with.
2. Through EXAMPLE - with our lifestyles we should exemplify these Biblical precepts.
3. Through EVANGELISM - at home and abroad through financial and prayerful support.

III. EFFECTIVE!
A. The TRUTH of this effectiveness embraces our vital link with some things. (The order of these different links is important.)
3. Vitally linked with people.
   a. Because of our vital union with Christ and the Spirit, there will be the issuing forth of the correct love.
   b. This love will cause us to seek the well being of the other person.
B. The TEST of this effectiveness.
1. It will be seen in fruitfulness of productivity.
2. It will be seen in the lives of other people as they become vitally linked to Christ - Spirit - and other people because of our ministry to them.

IV. EXAMPLES!
A. Our lives should promote Biblical principles.
B. Our lives should promote the pre-eminence of Christ.

V. EXHORTERS!
A. The EXHORTATION-Hebrews 12:25.
B. The EXORTING.
   1. Encouraging one another.

Glen E. Tropp, 932 Bonnenshine, Benton, AR 72015

BEARING THE IMAGE OF CHRIST

Text: Romans 8:29.

Introduction:
A. Paul spoke of the believers in the church at Corinth as "Epistles of Christ." II Cor. 3:3.
B. Dr. C. H. Spurgeon preached a sermon from this text entitled, "PORTRAITS OF CHRIST."

C. This is the DESIGN OF THE FATHER, THE DESIRE OF THE SON, THE DIRECTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, and DELIGHT OF THE PASTOR.
1. Remember Herod thought Jesus was John the Baptist come back to life? Matt. 14:2. WHAT A COMPLIMENT TO JOHN!
2. Remember the enemies of Christ saw that Peter and John had "BEEN WITH JESUS" long after He had gone back to heaven? Acts 4:13. They were REPRODUCING JESUS IN THEIR OWN LIVES!

D. Remember it was the enemy who first called believers "CHRISTIANS...CHRIST-LIKE." Acts 11:26.

D. This is the ULTIMATE DESIGN of God in His saving, transforming grace in the heart and life of the sinner.
1. We shall bear the image of the heavenly! I Cor. 15:49.
2. We shall be LIKE HIM. I John 3:2.
3. This requires MORE than...

E. God can REPRODUCE THE IMAGE-LIKENESS OF HIS DEAR SON IN US!!! Phil. 2:13.

F. WHAT WAS CHRIST LIKE?

I. HOLINESS IN CHARACTER AND MORAL VIRTUES!
A. At the point of personal faith in Christ one is declared righteous in the sight of God.
   1. Romans 4:3.
   2. Romans 10:10.
B. God has designed that we also produce the CHARACTER AND MORAL VALUES OF CHRIST IN THE BODY.
   1. He was tempted, but He did not yield!
   2. He had to say, "Get thee behind me, Satan."
   3. He can WORK THE SAME IN US. I Cor. 10:13; I John 4:4.

II. OBEDIENCE TO THE FATHER'S WILL IN HIS LIFE!
A. John 6:36.
B. As a child - Luke 2:49.
C. As an adult - John 9:4.
D. John 17:4.
E. His submissiveness seen in His PRAYER. Matthew 26:39.
F. We too, "Ought to obey God." Acts 5:29.

III. A LIFE OF RIGHTEOUS ACTIVITY!
A. He was acquainted with the four letter word, WORK.
B. He was remembered after death as One "Who went about doing good."
C. His life was that of a MINISTER, SERVANT! Matthew 20:28.
D. Those who "bear the image of Christ" are WORKERS in His fields!
   1. I Corinthians 3:9.
   2. Titus 3:8; I Corinthians 15:58

IV. SACRIFICE AND SELF-DENIAL!
A. See the Creator as a babe born in an ox stall!
B. See the Creator of the trees...laboring as a CARPENTER'S SON in the small town of Nazareth!
C. See the SINLESS MAN hanging on a tree bearing the CURSE OF SIN!
1. Not His sin!

D. See the coming KING OF KINGS crowned with THORNS! Spit upon! Worshipped in mockery! Hanging from a cross that should have been occupied by another!

E. God has designed that the saved STOOP TO TAKE THE CROSS before BOWING TO RECEIVE THE CROWN!
1. II Timothy 2:12.
3. Romans 12:1,2.
4. II Corinthians 8:9.

V. LOWLINESS
A. He humbled himself! Philippians 2:8.
B. He was the meek and lowly One! Matthew 11:29.
C. Romans 12:3; II Cor. 3:5; I Cor. 4:7.

VI. TENDERNESS
A. Stern in denouncing the hypocrites! Matthew 23.
B. Affirmative in CLEANING THE HOUSE OF GOD!
C. Tender in forgiving those who come to God in repentance and faith! Ephesians 4:32.

VII. A LIFE OF DEVOTION TO GOD!
A. Mark 1:35.

VIII. LOVE IN THE GREATEST DEGREE!
A. Galatians 2:20.
B. Ephesians 5:25.
C. This same love which is inborn in the saved will produce SOUL WINNING and CHURCH BUILDING AND MAINTAINING ACTIVITY!
   II Cor. 5:14.
   1. Constrained to present the gospel to all. Romans 1:14-16.
   2. Constrained to care about the churches! II Cor. 11:28.

Conclusion:
A. This is the ULTIMATE DESIGN OF GOD!
B. This all begins with what is implied in II Cor. 5:17. THE MAKING OF NEW CREATURES!

D.B. Wright, 2214 Benson, Galena Park, TX 77547

THE CONVINCING POWER OF THE CROSS
Text: Matthew 27:51-54
Introduction:
A. Centurion is referred to only four times in the Bible.
   1. Matthew 8:5, 8; Acts 27; Cornelius in Acts 10.
   2. Our text.

B. A centurion (legionaire) commanded 100 men in the Roman Army.
C. The centurion at the cross believed that Jesus was the Christ.

I. THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST
A. The centurion could see the obvious goodness of Jesus.
B. Perhaps he had witnessed much of his ministry.
C. At the cross he was close enough to witness the character of Jesus.

II. THE SUFFERING OF CHRIST
A. The pictures artists draw of the crucifixion are incorrect.
B. The victim was only about one foot from the ground.
C. They were low enough for men to torture them.

III. THE WHEREABOUTS OF JESUS
A. Jesus and this centurion probably had met many times before Jesus’ death.
B. Judea and Galilee were Roman provinces.
C. Every time a crowd gathered, according to Roman law, the soldiers had to be there. (Jesus drew crowds)

IV. THE GOAL OF JESUS
A. Jesus’ goal was that God the Father be visible and seen in Him.
B. The centurion learned that Jesus was real, authentic, genuine, because of His obvious goodness.

V. THE GOODNESS OF JESUS
A. When the goodness of Jesus comes into your life there is a difference about you.
B. The goodness of Jesus in your life produces a different nature in you.
C. A good man doesn’t do anything in tonight’s darkness he would be ashamed of on tomorrow’s light.
D. He’s good inside because the Lord Jesus has made a difference in his life.

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