WHAT YOUR PASTOR NEEDS FROM YOU


Intro: A pastor is a man called of God to preach His Word. He is chosen by a church to become a pastor. The pastor has a grave responsibility toward God and man. He is a human being called upon to do a divine service for the Master. He feels the same way and things that you feel. He is to give His people something and his people are to give him something. There are some things I need from you. If you give me these things it will help me as I minister to you. If you do not give them to me, it can become a hindrance to me and you. It is a beautiful sight to behold a church that loves her pastor and ministers to him as he ministers to them out of love.

I. I NEED YOUR CHARITY.

A. Love makes you feel worth.

1. Love gives evidence to your salvation. I John 3:14 This is a major indication that salvation has taken place in the heart.

2. Love gives evidence to others that you are disciples of the Lord. John 13:34,35 Love for others is simply reflecting that love that Jesus has for us. Loving and caring ways lets others know that we are of the Lord.

3. Paul said those he preached to would have plucked out their eyes and given them to him. This is true sacrificing love for brethren in the Lord.

4. A pastor must feel and experience the love of his church family. There is a lot of stress and pressure in the ministry. We are to deal with problems, tragedies, heartaches, and death. Love enables us to keep on ministering.

B. Love makes you want to go on.

1. God leads men to churches. How long we stay is up to the Lord. Bro. Raymond Howard couldn’t understand why I chose to stay at Grace when the Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Roland, Oklahoma called me to be their pastor in 1986, until he attended one of our Bible Conferences. He said, "Now I know." He could sense your love for us.

2. When pastors are not loved, they may move to another church. Mean members may make his mind up to decide to leave. I have heard of the testimony of other pastors and how they have been treated by members. Then you understand why pastors do not stay at some churches very long.

3. Spiritual love for your pastor will move him to continue on with you. Love can and will create a bond between the church and the pastor.

C. Love gives you satisfaction and contentment.

1. We must feel that we are where the Lord wants us and doing what He wants us to do. When a church loves the pastor and his family you can sense you are where the Lord wants you.

2. When a church loves the pastor and it is seen and experienced, we are content to dwell and labor with our people. We can stay during difficult times because there is a great love felt and expressed.

3. The pressure, problems, and some people can make pastors wonder if they are loved. Church members need to be more expressive of their love. Love must be expressed or it is not love.

II. I NEED YOUR COMPASSION.

A. The people
1. The pastor will meet and deal with people. The ministry is a people related ministry. This is the hardest type of work that can be found.

2. The people will be different. The way they feel and look at things will be different. The pastor will not agree with everyone and every thing, but he must learn how to love people in times of disagreement and conflict.

3. Even some church people will be peculiar, odd, and different in a lot of ways. You must learn how to appreciate them as they are and try to teach them and love them.

B. The problems

1. When you work with people, you will be dealing with problems. Study what Job said in Job 14:1. Even among church people this scripture is true.

2. Part of the ministry is helping people solve their problems and working through them. Pastors do not have all the answers. We often help others by listening with love and praying for our people.

3. Problems can be minor or major or in between, but they are problems. A pastor who loves his people will feel the weight of the problems in the lives of his members.

4. Problems can cause a lot of sleepless nights for pastors and give them a lot of grey hair. Problems can give him a heart ache and heart burn.

C. The pressures

1. Trying to help people who have problems causes a lot of pressures. A lot is said about stress and burnout in our day. Pressures cause this in your life and can cause it in the life of a pastor.

2. You can help your pastor by considering him. Don’t put him in the middle. Don’t get him involved when you can settle things yourself.

3. Sometimes the closer you are to people the more pressure you feel. You can love two families that are having problems and feel for both of them. The families will have to settle their differences.

4. When people have problems with others, they often stop going to church and cause pain and heartache to their pastor. The Bible tells people how to settle their differences and continue to serve the Lord in one of His churches.

D. The perception

1. Bro. Raymond Howard pastored one church for 28 years. He said, "I thought about leaving, but the only thing that would change would be, I would have to learn a bunch of new names."

2. Problems and pressures can cause a pastor to want to move. Lack of compassion for him will make him want to move. Young pastors especially feel that if they move, another pastor could do more with the church. The older you get the more you realize that problems and troubles can be overcome and you can continue on.

3. I don’t mind the work, but I need your compassion and understanding. I need to hear you say it.

4. Problems and pressures cause some pastors to feel their people do not love or care for them. Pressures will distort your perception. Pastors need to know that and his people need to realize that.

III. I NEED YOUR CO-OPERATION.

A. Pray for me.

1. I am called to do one of the greatest jobs on earth, pastor a New Testament Church. This is a great honor and privilege for any man.

2. Your prayers will always help and aide me as I do the work. The great apostle Paul encouraged people to pray for him. I Thessalonians 5:25

3. The attendance of our people, the offerings, and the zeal and desire to work touch and trouble me.

4. A pastor is like an old mother hen. He sees the needs and troubles, and fears what could happen to the church he pastors if people do not wake up and realize what is happening.

B. Partner with me.

1. No sweeter fellowship can be experienced than to fellowship while we work. Study what John said in I John 1:6,7.

2. This church has a ministry like no other church. I not only oversee the church, but direct the Sounding Out the Word ministry. I am doing the work of two men. It is a great work and I enjoy doing it for the Lord and for our church.

3. Most of the work of our church is done by those who volunteer their time and work for the Lord. Voluntary labor is needed. We could not afford to pay people for all the work that is being done.

4. This ministry is getting bigger and bigger. We need more laborers. More people need to be willing to work for the Lord.

C. Participate with me.

1. In most churches you have 10 to 25 percent of the people doing the work of the whole church. What would it be like if all the members of any one church would work for the Lord?
2. Please consider getting more involved. With so many ministries, there is something you can do. The more people that work, the less each member will have to do.
3. When members decide to do more, it pleases and helps the pastor. It will pleasantly surprise God’s man and encourage him in the Lord’s work.
4. The real joy and satisfaction in church work comes from getting involved and working for the Lord. You can be a worker and laborer for the Lord. Your church needs more workers and laborers.

IV. I NEED YOUR COMMITMENT.

A. Commit your time.
1. We live in a fast paced lifestyle. Everyone is in a hurry and rush. There doesn’t seem to be very much time. It seems like we have too many things to do.
2. This world cries out for your involvement. Sometimes you will decide to do something when you should be in God’s House. Paul encouraged the Ephesians to redeem the time.
   Eph. 5:16
3. We need to dedicate ourselves to the Lord and our church. Romans 12:1,2 is still in the Bible. You need to present your bodies a living sacrifice unto the Lord.
4. Matthew 6:33 is still in the Bible. We are to seek God’s righteousness and kingdom first.

B. Commit your talents.
1. God blesses each person with special talents. The talents may be in the musical, manual, or ministering areas. Each person is blessed with talents.
2. With some it is ministering, manual, or minding the things of the Lord talents. Different talents for different people. God can use the different talents in His work. That is why He gives them to us.
3. When people use their God given talents for the Lord, it blesses a pastor. Matt. 6:33 Not all are willing to use their talents. Some refuse to honor the King with the talents that He has given to them.

C. Commit your tithes and offerings.
1. It takes money to get the Lord’s work done. The way that the Lord has chosen to finance His work is by the tithe of His people. The tithe must be voluntarily given by the Lord’s people.
2. All of our members need to tithe. Give 10% of your increase to the Lord through our church. Tithing is just the starting place. We are to give offerings above our tithes.
3. The Lord told Malachi’s generation that they had robbed God. They robbed God by not giving the tithes and offerings. Mal. 3:8-10
4. Give special offerings to the Lord. Special needs will arise. Give as you can. If the Lord blesses you in a great way then be a blessing to His cause.

V. I NEED YOUR COMPANIONSHIP.

A. Be a friend.
1. I have pastored dear sweet people at every church that I have pastored. We have left a trail of friends that will last for a life time. We may not get to see them very often, but we are friends.
2. Some members will always show themselves more friendly than others. Some who may be dear friends today, may not even act like friends tomorrow. The question then always arises about their friendship period. A friend loves at all times.
3. True friends will challenge a pastor to keep going for the Lord. I take it as a personal compliment when members say, "You are my friend as well as my pastor." Pastors need to make friends out of members too.
4. Pastoring can become very lonely because members will not become friends with their pastor. True friends stick close and will stick closer than a brother.

B. Be a fellow laborer.
1. It is always a blessing and satisfaction to see people labor for the Lord. You get to know a lot about people as you labor with them.
2. Those who labor together, get closer to one another. You have times of fellowship as you work. On our paper and book days when our people are busy working, you get to be around them and visit as you work together.
3. We are laborers together with God. 1 Cor. 3:9 We labor for the Lord. We labor with the Lord. We labor with one another also.
4. Those who are working give the pastor strength and courage to continue on. It is good to know that people love the Lord and will labor for Him.

C. Be a faithful member.
1. One thing that is required of the Lord’s people is faithfulness. I have known and pastored members that were not faithful to the services of the Lord.
2. A steward must be faithful to the Lord and His church. I Cor. 4:2 Faithfulness is a requirement of the Lord. It is our obligation and responsibility to be faithful. We may not be able to do a lot of things, but we can be faithful.
3. Be faithful to your church. Hebs. 10:25 Attend every service. When you miss church services you are letting the Lord down and you are
disobeying Him. You are failing to give Him the honor due to Him.

4. Lack of commitment and companionship has caused many pastors to leave a church because they feel they have failed. A common attitude among pastors is, I have failed my people and they need someone else to help them. So the pastor is willing to move.

5. Faithful members will build up the Lord's churches and the Lord's men. A dedicated people will help a pastor and a church.

Greetings in the name of the Lord. I am writing this letter to let you know what a wonderful blessing I have enjoyed since receiving the "Sounding Out the Word" literature. I have used the sermon outlines both in my personal studies and in my preaching.

The results have been rewarding. At least 35 souls have come to know the Lord as a result of my using the outlines. I have also handed out some of the Spanish literature that you gave me.

I intend to keep on using the outlines as often as I can. I pray the Lord will keep blessing both your personal ministry and the "Sounding Out the Word" ministry.

Carlos Gonzalez

ORDERING OUR LIVES ARIGHT FOR GOD

Text: Genesis 18:19

Intro:

A. Abraham was not some superhuman or freak.
B. True, he was the friend of God; he was a saint; he did please God.
C. Yet, all these things you and I can do. (What is the secret?)
   1. I think Verse 19 reveals it.
   2. I believe 4 words give the key to us being what God wants us to be.
      a. "Command" - to set up (a precept or command).
      b. "Keep" - to observe; take heed.
      c. "Justice" - right, righteousness.
      d. "Judgment" - to scrutinize, examine and correct.

I. BE RIGHT WITH GOD.

A. Abraham was right with God.
B. One must be saved to be right with God.
   1. Of the lost God says...
      a. Eph. 2:1, Dead in trespasses and in sins.
      b. Rom. 3:23, No glory to God in the life.
      c. Isa. 64:6, All his righteousness (works) are filthy.
      d. John 3:18, He is condemned before God.
   2. God wants the lost to be saved.
      a. God planned all of this. I Peter 1:18-20.
      b. God sent His Son to effect this. John 3:16.
      c. God is not willing that any should perish. II Peter 3:9. Even drawing men and women to Christ and a decision.
   3. Once saved, you are God's child.

C. One must learn God.
   1. After salvation we are to grow. II Peter 3:18.
   2. We learn of Jesus Christ and live His example. Matthew 11:28.
   3. God is pleased with us as we learn from Him.

D. One must be following His will.
   1. Abraham followed God's will, not always perfectly.
      a. He left Ur of the Chaldees.
      b. He tithed of all he had to God's priest, Melchizedek.
   2. God wants us to do His will in our lives.
      a. Each believer has a God given "course". II Timothy 4:7.
      b. Following God's will will put God first.
      c. That will make one right with God.

E. Are you right with God?

II. HAVE A RIGHT HOME RELATIONSHIP. V19.

A. Abraham had it.
   1. He was the head of the house.
      a. Every head of a house needs to do these things.
      b. You a single parent? You do these things too.
      c. You a woman? The obligation before God is still there. Even if you did not choose it.
   2. Abraham would make it a law that his family would walk after him in "keeping the way of the Lord."

B. We need a right relationship with God in our homes today. God's will being the guiding force for our lives.
   1. The law of "keeping the way of God" should be set up in our homes. (yours and mine) Joshua 24:15.
   2. Adults should keep the way of God.
   3. Children should keep the way of God.

C. Our home life should be one of "keeping the way of God."
   1. To do justice- doing right.
      a. Adults should do right (regular parents or single). Don't let kids watch shows with cursing and nudity and don't you do it either. Church member, you know better. God does not like it.
      b. You tell child, "Read your Bible and pray" and you do it.
      c. You tell child to "seek God's will and do a thing." You do it. Then the child will have an example.
      d. If our home is to be what it should be for God, we must all "keep the way of God."
2. To do “judgment” - to scrutinize our ways and to correct.
   a. This involves a self examination. You looked at self lately?
   b. This involves a confessing and forsaking of sins. 1 John 1:9.
   c. This involves a putting on of the new man who is after Christ Jesus. Col. 3:5-25.
   d. Our homes are not to be “dens of iniquity” just because we are alone or it is only the family.
   e. In our homes and outside we should judge our lives and conduct ourselves properly for the glory of God.

III. MAKE CHURCH AN INDISPENSABLE PART OF OUR LIVES AND THEN WE WILL BE RIGHT WITH GOD.

A. Abraham had an altar, a place where he met regularly and faithfully with God. Gen. 12:7.

B. Our regular and faithful point of meeting with God is in the church.
   2. Ephesians 3:21 reveals the importance of church.
   3. You do not attend church, your life is not right with God and you know it.
      a. Your life is disobedient to God and rebellious against Him.
      b. You have sin you did not use to have when you were attending church.
      c. You think more of the world and material things and very little of church and God.
      d. You don’t read your Bible or pray daily.
      e. Get into church regularly and get your life right with God. Don’t be a hypocrite.

C. Our lives should be planned around church. That’s God’s will.
   1. This is true in each day.
   2. Most certainly, Sunday, the Lord’s Day, should be given to God and His will.
   3. Church should be a central point of our life, believer.
      b. Plan to be in church service, you will make it.
      c. Plan to be involved in church growth - you will invite, attend, work in S.S. and B.T.C., become interested in the building and grounds. You will be concerned about the future of this church.
   4. Face the fact, if the church is not in your life, a bunch of sin is.

Conclusion:
   A. Let’s get right with God and stay right.
   B. Will you put God first, church member?
   C. Lost friend, will you repent of your sin and believe in Jesus Christ to save you - even coming now and praying for God to save you?

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SPIRITUAL AMNESIA
by Luther Crawford

Text: II Peter 1:1-11 (Text, V9)

Intra:
A. Written near the end of his life. V14.
B. Do you know what amnesia is? It is simply “Memory Loss.”
C. Sooner or later, the T.V. shows use this memory loss in their plots. Some character, usually the star, gets a bump on the head and wakes up not knowing who he is, or where, or what he is.
D. There are many things in life we would like to forget. Simon Peter probably went through a big portion of his life wishing he could forget that he denied the Lord, but it is doubtful if he ever forgot that day.
E. I believe one of the things plaguing christians and churches today is SPIRITUAL AMNESIA!
   1. Many christians seem to have forgotten their obligations and responsibilities to the church.
   2. I see this at our associational meetings. We vote a recommended program and then forget to back it up with action, increased offerings, etc.
F. I want to say 3 things about SPIRITUAL AMNESIA!
   1. The Cause of it.
   2. The Cost of it.
   3. The Cure for it.

THE CAUSE OF SPIRITUAL AMNESIA
A. Neglect... “This means to be careless, not to care.” This is the sinners plight, neglecting to be saved. Hebrews 2:3 "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him."

B. Neglect is also a problem of the saved. Overlook; Forgetfulness
   1. Overlooking, or neglecting a problem of the widows is found in Acts 6:1. thus the office of deacon was founded in the church.
   2. Paul exhorted Timothy not to neglect the gift within him. I Tim. 4:14.
   3. Some were told during the reign of Hezekiah not to be negligent. II Chron. 29:11.

C. Neglecting to ADD to our faith, (grow) is perhaps the greatest cause of spiritual amnesia among christians today.
   1. We are to add VIRTUE TO FAITH, (courage, bravery, force, strength of mind and body).
2. We are to add KNOWLEDGE. If ever we needed knowledge, we need it now.

3. We are to add TEMPERANCE, self control, self restraint.

4. We are to add PATIENCE, continuance, endurance, forbearance, longsuffering. Through patience we will inherit the promises. James 5:11.

5. We are to add GODLINESS, BROTHERLY KINDNESS, AND LOVE. Godliness is piety, loyalty to God, devotedness, reverence, honor, and respect. Brotherly kindness means being kind to our brothers. And perhaps none of these can be added without LOVE...God, church, and others.

D. Neglect of these things causes barrenness, (idle) unfruitful, FORGETFULNESS! (hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.)

II. THE COST OF IT

A. Costs you the JOY OF SALVATION! (Hath forgotten).
   1. David lost joy of salvation. Psalm 51:12.
   2. Salvation is designed to bring joy in all circumstances. FAMINE...Habakkuk 3:17,18.
      "Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will JOY in the God of my salvation."

3. POVERTY - II Corinthians 6:10 'As sorrowful, yet always REJOICING: as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.'

4. FIERY TRIAL AND PERSECUTION- 1 Peter 4:12,13.

B. Cost in the JOY OF SERVING.
   1. The seventy returned with JOY. Luke 10. They served with joy because they were growing in grace and knowledge.

III. THE CURE FOR IT

A. Remembrance.Remember your conversion.
B. Repentance.
C. Re-dedication.

Conclusion:
A. Do you have spiritual amnesia?
B. Have you forgotten you were purged from sin?

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GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH MEMBERS (6)

Text: I Timothy 3:15
Introduction:
A. The DESIRE to improve or develop.
B. The DEFINITE involvement - identify some areas and pursue them.
C. The DECLARATION in the office of Pastor-Teacher is to equip you with Biblical insights in order for this to be achieved.
D. The DISCOURSE - GOOD CHURCH MEMBERS WILL BE....

I. FAITHFUL! I Corinthians 4:2.
A. Faithful to the CHRIST that saved them. I Cor. 6:19,20.
B. Faithful to the CHURCH that we belong to. Hebrews 10:25.
C. Faithful to the COMMITMENTS. I Cor. 4:2.
   1. This includes our promises.
   2. This embraces the utilization of our God given abilities.

II. FELLOWSHIPERS!
A. The DEFINEMENT of the term - two or more people in the same ship going in the same direction.
B. The DISCERNMENT concerning the direction.
   2. The Direction as voted on by the church - the importance of church authority.
C. The DIVINE proclamations
   1. Ephesians 4:3.
   A. Friendliness ENCOURAGES the heart.
   B. Friendliness ENHANCES the beauty of the church fellowship.
   C. Friendliness EXPRESSES care, concern, and compassion.

IV. FRUITFUL!
   A. The IMPORTANCE of the fruit.
      1. Something which is suppose to bear fruit but doesn't is useless.
   B. The INSIGHTS concerning fruit-bearing.
      2. The Agent Principle - deals with the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
   C. The IDENTIFICATION of the fruit. Galatians 5:22,23.

V. FUNCTIONAL!
   A. DISCOVERING your area of ministry.
   B. DEVELOPING your God given ability.
   C. DEMONSTRATING your ability through worship and ministry to others.

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GOD NEEDS CHURCH MEMBERS WHO BELIEVE HIM

By Darrell Owens


Intro:

   A. The man in the text was a believer, He said, "Lord, I believe." Yet, he also said, "Help, thou mine unbelief."
   B. It is startling and even a little upsetting to us as christians for some to suggest to us that we do not believe God. Understand I did not say believe ON Him. II: Bro. Alexander in Seminary used to tell us that we did not believe all the Bible - I found out what he meant.
   C. It is a fact that we, as God's children, believers, do not always believe Him as we should.

I. BIBLE PROOF THAT SAVED PEOPLE OFTEN DO NOT BELIEVE GOD.
   A. Text.
   B. Luke 17:5,6, The apostles asked the Lord, "Increase our faith." The Lord answered, "If ye had faith the grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamore tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you."
   C. Luke 9:37-42, V41, Jesus said to His disciples after their failure to cast a demon out of a body, "O faithless and perverse generation..."
   D. In Luke 8 after Jesus had stilled the raging wind and sea, He asked the apostles, "Where is your faith?"

E. I would think we need no more proof - Believers are often guilty of not believing God.

II. GOD NEEDS CHILDREN WHO BELIEVE HIM CONCERNING HIS HOUSE.
   A. Nehemiah asked hundreds of years ago, "Why is the house of God forsaken?" Neh. 13:11. The greatest answer is that many of His children do not believe Him concerning His Word and example about attending His house.
   B. God's Word says, "Not forsaking the assembling..." - Those who believe His Word obey this command.
   C. Jesus went into the temple "As was His custom." - Believers follow His example.
   D. Failure to believe God makes every little excuse seem legitimate. Dependable church members are jewels.

III. GOD WANTS HIS CHILDREN TO BELIEVE HIM CONCERNING THE SUPPORT OF HIS CHURCH AND THE MINISTRY.

   A. Look at the promise of Malachi 3:10. "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."
      1. The windows of heaven will be opened.
      2. Blessings will pour out.
      3. Not enough room to receive them all.
   B. Jesus said, "Give, and it shall be given unto you: good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."
      1. If God's children believed this promise there would be no hesitation from them to pay their tithes and give their offerings.
      2. There would be no excuses as to why you cannot, or reasons as to why your case is an exception.
      3. Do you think God would command you to do something you cannot do?
   C. The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write to the Corinthians, "Upon the first day of the week let EVERYONE OF YOU lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."
   D. Do you believe God?
   E. What about the support of the ministry?
      1. Do you believe the Pastor is worthy of double honor?
IV. GOD WANTS HIS CHILDREN TO BELIEVE HIM CONCERNING THE JOB OF CARRYING OUT THE GREAT COMMISSION.

A. Matthew 28:19,20
B. Those who really believe this are involved in reaching people for Christ, seeing them baptized and taught. Teachers who believe this will take their classes seriously.
C. Churches who believe this will not be afraid they are going to give so much to missions that God cannot take care of their own needs.

V. GOD WANTS HIS CHILDREN TO BELIEVE HIM CONCERNING PERSONAL OFFENSES.

A. Jesus said, If your brother offends you, you go to him. May God help us to believe this.
B. Many do not, or they would not go to everyone except that person.
C. Believe God, He knows the best way to take care of it.

VI. MANY PARENTS DO NOT BELIEVE GOD CONCERNING THEIR CHILDREN.

A. God says, "...bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord".
B. Do you believe God?

VII. GOD WANTS HIS CHILDREN TO BELIEVE HIM CONCERNING HIS JUDGMENT UPON UNBELIEF.

A. Israel is a type of believers today.
   1. God gives us several things about them to remind us of His judgment on unbelief.
B. Let us take heed. The cost of not believing God is high, not just for the lost, but for God's own children.

Conclusion:

A. Time will not permit us to cover other areas of unbelief on the part of God's children, such as prayer, Bible Study, holiness, dedication, and consecration and on.
B. Will you, along with me, cry out as did the man in our text, "Lord I believe, Help thou mine unbelief."

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HOW MAY OTHERS KNOW THAT I AM A DISCIPLE?

By Hiram Melton

Text: John 8:31; Luke 14:25-33

Intro:

A. The word disciple really means learner.
B. Each believer is to be a learner of Jesus.
C. The more we learn and use what we learn, the more Christ is manifest through our lives.

I. WAY OF LEARNING TO BE A BETTER DISCIPLE.

B. Learn by receiving from others. Matthew 28:20.
   1. This is the teaching ministry of the church.
   2. One purpose in learning—to go out to others.

II. WHAT KIND OF DISCIPLE ARE YOU?

A. What have you learned about Jesus and His work?
B. Do you have a desire to be a true disciple?
C. What do others see in you that attracts them to Christ?

III. IDENTIFYING MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP.

A. Marks are things by which we may be identified.

B. Some marks of discipleship:
      a. Hate means to make secondary to other things.
      b. Our greatest need is to put self in the background.
   2. Cross bearing.
      b. Means to take your place in the Lord's work.
      a. Fruit bearing is a thing of degrees.
      b. Some bear fruit, some bear more fruit, some bear much fruit.
      c. Some 30, some 60, some 100 fold.
6. A true spirit of love.
   a. Romans 5:5.
   b. Love will make a man act like he should:
      Toward God, Toward his brother, and
      Toward a lost world.

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WE CAN'T HAVE ONE WITHOUT THE OTHER

Text: Isaiah 57:15; II Chron.
7:14; Jeremiah 6:16,17

Intro:

A. God has given a
   PLAN OF SALVA-
   TION! Matthew 1:21;
B. God has a PLAN FOR
   CHRISTIAN LIVING!
   II Cor. 6:17,18;
   Romans 12:1,2;
   Hebrews 12:1,2.
C. God has a PLAN FOR
   CHRISTIAN SER-
   VICE! Matthew 11:28;
   Matthew 4:19; II Timothy 2:2; I Cor. 2:4.
D. God has a PLAN FOR REVIVAL. Isaiah 57:15; II
   Chron. 7:14.
E. God has a plan for PEACEFUL CHRISTIAN
   LIFE. Isaiah 26:3; John 16:33.
F. A sad fact: Jer. 6:16, "We will not walk therein."
   Jer. 6:17 "We will not listen."

I. SOME WANT REVIVAL WITHOUT
   RETURNING TO THE LORD!
A. Revival can be a continuous experience.
   Psalm 23:5; 85:6.
B. Revival is always found WHERE WE LEFT
   THE LORD.
   1. It was so with Jacob. Gen. 35:1.
C. Revival is for the RETURNING
   PRODIGALS.
   1. Return to the Lord. "Seek my face."
   2. Return to the Old Paths of the Lord. (Haven't
      changed).
D. Revival is for the humble.

II. SOME DESIRE HARVEST WITHOUT
    PLANTING AND CULTIVATION.
A. I Corinthians 3:6-(Sharing the Word and
   Prayer)
D. Many like the man who HID HIS TALENT
   IN HIS SWEAT BAND.

III. REWARD WITHOUT RUNNING.

B. II Corinthians 5:10.
D. The reward is out there. Rev. 2:10; Matthew
   25:21; I Cor. 9:24; Hebrews 12:2.

IV. MANY DESIRE THE PEACE WHICH JESUS
    GIVES WITH PRACTICE.
A. Isaiah 26:3-Mind on the Lord.
B. John 16:33-Feed on the Word.
C. Note Philippians 4:6,7.

V. MANY WANT HELP WITHOUT HUMILITY.
A. Psalm 121:1,2.
B. Psalm 46:1.
C. James 1:17.
D. Help is available. II Chronicles 7:14.

VI. MANY DESIRE POSITION WITHOUT
    PARTICIPATION.
A. Some of the first disciples were anxious for
   the highest position in the future kingdom.
   Matthew 20:21,22.
B. The godly life is expensive.
   3. II Timothy 3:12.
C. Look to the reward.
   1. II Timothy 2:12.
   2. Romans 8:18.
D. Usefulness in service down here requires.
   2. Faithfulness.
      a. I Cor. 4:2.
      b. I'd like to be the teacher of a large class:
         But don't ask me to be FAITHFUL TO
         ALL THE SERVICES. But don't ask me
         to WORK IN UNITY WITH OTHERS.
         But don't ask me to VISIT, CALL, OR
         CONTACT.

VII. MANY DESIRE PREEMINENCE WITHOUT
     PERFORMANCE.

VIII. MANY DESIRE RECOGNITION WITHOUT
     RESPONSIBILITY.
A. Every office in the Lord's church has
    responsibility.
   1. Pastor.
      a. Study.
      b. Apt to teach.
      c. Prayer and the ministry of the Word.
   2. Deacons.
      a. Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure
         conscience. I Tim. 3:9.
      b. Pastor helpers.
      c. Problem solvers.
      d. People servers.
   3. Teachers.
      a. Faithful-II Tim. 2:2.
      b. Students of the Word-I Peter 3:15; II
         Timothy 2:2.
c. Seekers of students.

B. Many would have the office, but won't respond to the responsibility.

IX. MANY WANT ASSURANCE WITHOUT ACCEPTANCE.
A. Note Paul's assurance. II Tim. 1:12.
B. Note the assurance Jesus offers. John 6:37.
C. Note the purpose of much of the Bible. I John 5:13.
D. Note the assurance with which the one man who was crucified with Jesus died with. Luke 23:43; Isaiah 45:22; Romans 10:13.

X. MANY WANT REDEMPTION WITHOUT REPENTANCE.
B. Acts 2:37,38.
F. The redemption promised. Isaiah 55:6,7.

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LET US BE THANKFUL  By Neal Clark

Text: I Thessalonians 5:18; Psalm 100:1-5

Introduction: In describing the last days in II Timothy 3:2, Paul used the term "unthankful." It seems to me we are living in times when many people are just not thankful for the blessings we have received. God's people have so many things to be thankful for. We enjoy His presence, promises, and His power. This world is not our home. We are just passing through. Let us pause and thank God.

A. The basis of our hope (Christ).
B. The blessing of our hope (His promise).
C. The book of our hope (Bible).

II. THANK GOD FOR THE LORD'S HOUSE. Psalm 122:1 (house of prayer-praise).

A. Homes are ordained of the Lord.
B. Homes are observed by the Lord.
C. Homes are to be obedient to the Lord.

IV. THANK GOD FOR OUR HEALTH. III John 2.
A. Health to serve Him.
B. Health to speak for Him.
C. Health to sing for Him.

A. Happiness is working in His fellowship.
B. Happiness is worshipping with our families.
C. Happiness is walking in His favor.

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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
Discipulado by Marvin Prevost
John Chapters 1-3 by Glen Tropp
1982 Bible Conference Outlines
The Great Conflict by Glen Tropp

THE COST TO SERVE JESUS  By Maxie Haynes


Introduction:
A. No fancy Frills.
B. No Fine Print.

I. THERE IS A DEATH TO DIE. V26,27.
A. Personal relationships-V36.
B. Personal Reputation.
C. Personal Realization.

II. THERE IS A COST TO CONSIDER. V28,29.
A. Cost to consider.
B. Sacrifice to continue.

III. THERE IS A FOE TO FACE. V31,32.
A. Warriors who are not cowards.
B. Warriors who will not compromise.
C. Warriors who will not be conquered-V23.

IV. THERE IS A SAVIOUR TO SHARE. V33-35.
B. Salt Cleanses-Ezekiel 16:4.
C. Salt Irritates-Mark 8:49.
E. Salt Heals-II Kings 2.

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HE BROUGHT US OUT THAT HE MIGHT BRING US IN

By G. D. Walters


Introduction: We have one of the most comprehensive illustrations of salvation in this lesson that is to be found in all the Scriptures. This great groaning mass of humanity still needs deliverance as much as ever Israel did out of the afflictions and bondage she was in in Egypt. Our lesson teaches us that every Israelite was under special obligation to testify of His great deliverance to his children.

I. THE NEED FOR DELIVERANCE

A. While in Egypt they were exiles. They were at that time "Afar off from the holy city of divine fellowship."

B. Exiled from the enjoyment of the grace of God implies bondage to the world and sin. But thank God for Ephesians 2:13.

C. While in Egypt they were slaves. "We were Pharaoh's bondmen in Egypt." V21

1. It was not their own plan, nor by their own effort that they were delivered.

2. It was a new thing offered to everyone of them. Everyone that has been delivered from sin's bondage knows that he has experienced a new thing in his life.

II. THE MANNER OF DELIVERANCE

A. It was the Lord. "The Lord brought us out of Egypt."

B. It was through a man.

1. Moses was called and ordained for this great work.

2. The man Christ Jesus was called of God to be our Deliverer.

C. It was by might power.

1. When the Lord makes bare his Arm to smite His enemies and set His people free, who shall be able to resist?

2. There were many signs and wonders experienced by those who were delivered. V22.

3. Every conversion from sin to God is a wonder because it is a supernatural deliverance.

III. THE COMPLETENESS OF DELIVERANCE

A. They were not partially out of Egypt and partially in the wilderness.

B. The salvation of God implies the salvation of the whole man, spirit, soul, and body.

C. When our heads and our hearts have been taken out of the horrible pit, our feet also will be lifted out of the miry clay.

IV. THE TWOFOLD DELIVERANCE

A. He brought us out that he might bring us in. He brought Israel out of Egypt that He might bring them into Canaan.

B. He brings us out of the kingdom of darkness that He might bring us into the kingdom of His dear Son. Out of the weakness of self effort into the power of the Holy Spirit.

C. To get in we must get out.

G. D. Walters, a servant of God in heaven.

BACK ISSUES: We have all the papers that have been printed under the Sounding Out the Word ministry. That is 152 papers. Each paper has 8 to 10 outlines in it. The back issues are available. We ask that you send an offering to help with the copying cost. We had to copy 90 to 100 of the papers to offer all of the back issues.

AVAILABLE OUTLINE BOOKS: Did you know that we have 30 books to offer free of charge to those who want them? This includes two books in Spanish on Bible Teaching and Discipleship. We encourage offerings to help us with postage and printing future books, but an offering is not required to receive our material.

THE GRACE OF GOD THAT BRINGETH SALVATION

By M. F. Downing

Text: Titus 2:11-14

Introduction:

A. The common definition of grace.

B. My definition

1. All that God the Father is and does in redeeming man from sin to kingdom service.

2. All that God the Son is and does in redeeming man from sin to kingdom service.

3. All that God the Holy Spirit is and does in redeeming man from sin to kingdom service.

4. All of this added together equals GRACE.

C. Several graces mentioned:

1. Enabling grace-Titus 1:12.

2. Supplying grace-Philippians 4:19.


4. Victorious grace-1 Cor. 15:51-58.

5. Saving grace-Titus 2:11.

I. MAN FELL TO GRACE. Genesis 3

A. Man stood on his own merits.

B. Man was not righteous.

C. Man could make his own choice. Genesis 2:16, 17.

D. Man's choice was that of sin and death.


II. MAN FELL INTO GRACE. Genesis 3:21

A. You came to the church building and then you came into the building.

B. Man came into grace in Christ Jesus. II Corinthians 5:21.

C. Please not-1 Cor. 1:30; John 1:11-13.

D. I fell into grace a number of years ago.
III. MAN MAY FALL IN GRACE.
   A. Man working in building may fall, but will be in the building.
   B. Israel fell - but all on God's side. None on Satan's side.
   C. David fell, but on God's ground. Romans 6:1,2, 14.
   D. David confess his fall. Psalm 51.
   E. How many have fallen in God's grace?

IV. NO RECORD IS GIVEN WHERE ANYONE HAS FALLEN OUT OF GOD'S GRACE.

V. SOME MEN HAVE FALLEN FROM GRACE. Galatians 5:4.
   A. Any man who tries to be justified by the law is fallen from grace.
   B. That is; standing off from grace.

Conclusion:
   A. Have you fell into the grace that saves?
   B. If not, why not do it now?
   C. If you have fallen in grace, confess it now. I Jn 1:9

Two new Countries: We received letters from Cuba and Nicaragua, 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.

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.

WHAT SHALL WE SAY TO THESE THINGS?

Text: Romans 8:31-39

Introduction:
   A. A lot of people have hard questions, but without the answers.
   B. God's Word is an answer book to the toughest questions in time and eternity.
   C. Notice some of the questions Paul raises in his letter to the Romans.

I. IF GOD BE FOR US WHO CAN BE AGAINST US? V31
   A. How is God for us?
      1. Federally - As the head of the human race He loves us. John 3:16
      2. Redemptively - As the Kinsman Redeemer He purchased us. I Peter 12:18,19
      3. Spiritually - As the Father of His family He gives us the New Birth. II Peter 3:9
   B. Who can be against us?
      2. Sin? Romans 6:14
   C. The conclusion to this question is that no one can bring defeat to those who have God on their side.

II. HOW SHALL HE NOT WITH HIM ALSO FREELY GIVE US ALL THINGS? V32
   A. We are not worthy of anything God has.
   B. The word "freely" means "without a cause."
   C. Romans 8:17 We are joint-heirs of Christ so we receive the inheritance on the merits of Christ and not our own.
   D. Col. 1:12 - Partakers of the inheritance
   E. I Peter 1:4 - A glorious inheritance
      1. Incorruptible
      2. Undefiled
      3. Fadeth not away
      4. Reserved in heaven

III. WHO SHALL LAY ANYTHING TO THE CHARGE OF GOD'S ELECT? V33
   A. God's people have been justified by God Himself.
   B. By Grace Titus 3:7
   C. Through Faith Romans 5:1
   D. In Christ I Cor. 6:11
   E. For life Romans 5:18

IV. WHO IS HE THAT CONDEMNETH? V34
   A. The answer is "Christ" the one who was condemned that we might be set free.
   B. Why is a person condemned?
      1. John 3:18 - "Because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten son of God."
      2. Romans 3:19 - God has already had court and arrived at a verdict. GUILTY!
      3. Romans 8:1 - The only rainbow of hope for the condemned person is that Jesus the Judge went to the cross and died in his stead.

V. WHO SHALL SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF CHRIST? V35-39
   A. Notice the possibilities. V35
   B. Hear the persuasion. V38,39
   C. Consider the person. V39

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