THINGS THAT ARE DESTROYING FAMILY LIFE

Intro: Paul by inspiration wrote again about the family and set forth a few very vital keys to family living. The Word of God gives us a very basic approach to the way to have a good home life. The Lord does not go into very many details about family life, but He gives us some basic principles to live by. If these principles are applied, family life will be meaningful and marvelous. There are some things that are destroying family life today. These things are eating away at the foundation and structure of home life.

I. LOVE OF POSSESSIONS IS DESTROYING FAMILY LIFE.
A. The Master and possessions
   1. Jesus told His disciples to beware of something and then made a great statement of truth. Luke 12:15
   2. Life does not consist of possessions. Life is not possessions.
   3. The wise man tells us not to labor to be rich. Prov. 23:4
   4. Jesus tells us not to lay up treasure upon earth. There is a reason for this. Matt. 6:19-21
B. The material and possessions
   1. Our attitude toward what we own is very important to us and to the Lord.
   2. The material deals with the houses and lands we may own.
   3. It deals with the cars we drive and the clothes we wear.
   4. It deals with having phones, televisions, CD players, VCR’s etc.
C. The mistake and possessions
   1. Your perception in life can be distorted. Many feel you are what you own.
   2. People may be more interested in brand-names, and what others think than living within their means and enjoying what they have.
   3. People may be more interested in providing the material things of this world for their children.
   4. Parents may sacrifice time and family living to have more and enjoy the material more.
D. The minding and possessions
   1. What did Jesus teach in Luke 12:20? Study this out. The idea is the possessions of the man would require the man’s soul.
   2. The idea is who owns who? Do you own possessions or do the possessions own you?
   3. Many in our day are looking after the material a lot better than they are the spiritual.

II. LOVE OF PLEASURES IS DESTROYING FAMILY LIFE.
A. The Master and pleasure
   1. He inspired Paul to write that in the last days men would be lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. II Tim. 3:4
   2. There are wholesome pleasures in life that are not wrong or sinful.
B. The medicine of pleasure
   1. Life does hold a lot of pleasure. So many things that we enjoy is like medicine to the heart.
   2. In our day of stress and strain in daily life, we need to find wholesome pleasure in something to take our minds off of the problems in life.
   3. Sometimes we may be so busy it is a matter of coming apart for a while or we will come apart.
C. The mistake and pleasure
1. Paul said the end time generation will be a pleasure loving generation. They will love pleasure more than God.
2. How much of our lives is centered around pleasure? Sports, classes, movies, game rooms, T.V. programs, may take first place in our lives.
3. It is a common saying today, I am bored! Most of the time what this means is I want to be entertained.

D. The minding and pleasure
1. When pleasure takes the place of responsibility and reverence for God, we are minding the wrong thing.
2. A lover of pleasure will be one who lives for pleasure.
3. Life may get so exciting in our pleasures that we expect and demand the services of the Lord to be exciting.

III. LOVE FOR POSITIONS IS DESTROYING FAMILY LIFE.

A. The Master and position
1. Jesus instructed His disciples not to wrestle or struggle with the idea of position in Matthew 20:25-28.
2. Jesus tells us the order or position in family life. The man is the head, the woman the helper, and the children obedient.
3. In the churches it is the Lord, pastor, deacons, teachers etc. The Lord is a Lord of order.

B. The marvel and position
1. When people respect the rightful position in life, life can be very pleasant and enjoyable.
2. If we would honor those in position and act accordingly, there would be less problems in daily life.
3. Order is necessary and vital in the well being of any group or groups in carrying out their purpose.

C. The mistake and position
1. We are living in a very selfish society. It seems like a lot of people are trying to get positions.
2. When you upset God's order of things, you will hurt the purpose of it. Listen to Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 11:3.
3. Our society is trying to reverse God's order. Women are trying to be the head of the home. Children are trying to rule the home.

D. The minding and position
1. Jesus told His disciples that the important thing was to put the right person first.
2. We are to seek His kingdom and righteousness first. Matt. 6:33
3. Even religious people were trying to acquire positions. Matt. 6:1-8

IV. LOVE OF PASSIONS IS DESTROYING FAMILY LIFE.

A. The Master and passions
1. Paul said that people would be lovers of their own selves. II Tim. 3:2
2. Jesus teaches believers to marry and raise children. The institution of marriage is ordained of God.
3. Jesus warned against looking upon a woman to lust after her. Matt. 5:27,28
4. Our world is gone crazy now with their passions. Read Romans 1:26,27.

B. The mistake and passions
1. The mistake people are making is they are placing more importance on the looks of the body than the inner person.
2. Millions are spent on advertisements selling products that will glamorize people.
3. The love a man has for a woman is very intimate as far as God is concerned.

C. The minding and passions
1. Our world is becoming drunk on passion. It is throwing out faithfulness, responsibility, and respectability.
2. Adultery and homosexuality is becoming a way of life.
3. The horrible disease of Aids is killing many because of drugs and perversion.
4. The seriousness of the problem is becoming greater and greater. This will make the saved person pray for the soon return of the Lord.
5. The best that we can do is live right and teach our children and grand children to live right.

BIBLE CONFERENCE:

This conference will be held on February 15th and 16th. We will start Wednesday night with 2 messages. We will begin Thursday morning at 9:30 and hear a lot of good singing and preaching. We normally have 9-11 sermons on Thursday. We call on preachers who are present from the floor. The meals will be provided on Thursday. If you need a place to stay, let us know. Just call 1-713-442-7137.

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JOHN SAW A SAVIOR

Text: Revelation 1:14-18

Introduction: Among the many things John saw in the book of Revelation, none are greater than Jesus Christ. John gave us a detailed description of our Lord in Revelation chapter one. John saw Him and heard Him and he fell at His feet as a dead man. What a great blessing it is to read of the great event. John saw:

I. THE RELIABLE ONE: "The faithful Witness" (Rev. 1:5)
   A. He was the faithful Son.
   B. He was the faithful sacrifice.
   C. He was the faithful Savior - "saving one".

II. THE RESURRECTED ONE: "The first begotten of the dead" (Rev. 1:5 The resurrection of Christ has done things for His people):
   A. It revived their frightened souls.
   B. It renewed their frustrated hopes.
   C. It rekindled their faltering faith.
   D. It restored their forgotten vision.
   E. It rebuked their foolish doubting.

III. THE RULING ONE: "The prince of the kings of the earth"
   A. He guides us in our worship.
   B. He guards us in our winters.
   C. He girds us in our work.

IV. THE ROMANCING ONE: "Him that loved us." (Rev. 1:5)
   A. His love was decided in eternity past-Romans 5:8.
   B. His love was demonstrated at the cross-John 19:30.
   C. His love delivered at the resurrection.
   D. His love is decisive in salvation-John 3:18.
   E. His love is delightful in results-John 10:28.

V. THE REDEEMING ONE: "Washed us from our sins in His own blood." (Rev. 1:5)
   A. With His precious blood - 1 Peter 1:18,19.
   B. With His powerful blood - Colossians 1:4.
   C. With His purchasing blood - Ephesians 1:7.

VI. THE RETURNING ONE: "Behold he cometh with clouds" (Rev. 1:7)
   A. His coming to resurrect the saved
   B. His coming to rapture the saints
   C. His coming to reward the servant

This is one of the outlines in a new book by Neal Clark entitled GLEANINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES. You can obtain a copy of this new book from him.
Dr. Neal Clark Route 1, Box 48-A, Daingerfield, Texas 75638

DID YOU KNOW? The Sounding Out the Word paper began around March of 1979. This issue makes 155 papers that we have printed. We have complete sets of back issues.

BLANK PAGES

Methuselah lived before the flood. He died at the ripe old age of 969 years. He has the distinction of living longer than any other human being. His life spanned 49 generations.
Methuselah's biography is told in 6 Bible verses. These verses tell of his birth and death and he begat children. That's all that is said about him. The Bible doesn't say that he walked with God as his father Enoch. Nor does it say that he found grace in the eyes of the Lord as his grandson Noah.
The biography of the world's oldest man is just blank pages.

What kind of biography will you leave behind? Will it be just blank pages? How much of your time have you given to God? THINK ABOUT IT.

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52 Bible Doctrine Outlines by Randy Cloud
Lord, Teach us to pray by James A. Kirkland
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THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO WIN SOULS

Text: II Timothy 2:2

Intro:
No matter what our job is our ministry is to win souls to Christ. There are many ways people can be reached with the gospel message:
1. Preaching
2. Teaching
3. Radio/T.V.

Today, we want to concentrate on personal soul-winning. Note how this works in our text verse. Paul to Timothy...Timothy to Faithful men...Faithful men to others.

I. THE ADVANTAGES OF PERSONAL WITNESSING

A. First, it can be done ANYWHERE.
   1. It doesn't have to be on church property.
   2. Our God saves souls anywhere.

B. Also, it can be done ANYTIME.
   1. Day or night...Sunday-Saturday.
   2. Our God saves anytime..."Now is the day of salvation."

C. Third, it can be done by ANYONE.
   1. Look who Jesus picked to be soul-winners.
   2. The woman of Samaria is a good example.
   3. Even in the Old Testament, God used all sorts of people.

D. Also, it can be done under any circumstances.
   1. One mail-woman witnessed in an elevator during power failure.
   2. Paul and Silas told a man how to be saved after an earthquake.

E. Another advantage is that it better meets the needs of the individual you are witnessing to.
   1. He can ask questions to you.
   2. You can make sure he understands fully.

F. Personal witnessing usually get faster results. Note with me Acts 19:8-10.
   1. Vs. 8,9 Paul preaches for 3 months and gets nowhere.
   2. Then he separates 12 disciples, teaches them and sends them out.
   3. The results..."All in Asia heard the word."

G. The Lord is looking for that faithful group of people who want to go deeper for the Lord and who are not afraid to share Christ.

II. THE FACTS ABOUT SOUL-WINNING

A. Soul-winning is not one man preaching to 50 or 100 people who have already been saved.

B. Soul-winning is one man preaching to a congregation who will go out one on one and reach hundreds who have not been saved.

C. The majority of all who claim to be Christians have not led even one person to accept Christ as Savior.

D. Here is what often happens: Someone hears a message about soul-winning and is convicted to do something. They go out and find someone and ask them "Do you know that you are a sinner and that you are going to hell." Then the person gets mad and walks away they say "See I knew it wouldn't work." Being a witness is NOT BEING RUDE...it is making yourself available to God. It is sharing the love of God with compassion.

III. THERE ARE THREE PERSONS ALWAYS INVOLVED IN PERSONAL SOUL-WINNING.

A. First is the SEEKING SOUL.
   1. Someone looking for something to fill the void in their lives.
   2. Jesus said those who seek shall find.
   3. This is someone being drawn by God to Himself. (Even though they may not even realize it.)

B. Second is the GRACIOUS GOD.
   1. He sees the heart of the seeker.
   2. He sends someone to lead them to the truth.

C. The third person is the WILLING WORKER.
   1. Everyone who has ever been saved has been led by someone else.
   2. Now, this is the problem area...there are only a few willing workers. "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few" Jesus said in Matthew 9:37.

D. The process works similar to a police dispatcher: He hears of the need, finds the nearest officer, and sends them to the location.

E. God knows of millions who are seeking. He is looking for workers to send. How willing are you to be used?
   1. Can God depend on you? At anytime can He place a lost soul in your presence knowing that you would be willing to share Christ that they might be saved?
   2. This is why we are still here. We are to be HIS WITNESSES.

F. O.K. all this sounds good, but can you give me a scriptural example of this principle, preacher? YES! I can give you three:
   1. Acts 10 - Cornelius is the seeking soul, Peter is the willing worker, and because of the Gracious God all in the house are saved.
2. Acts 9 - Saul is the seeking soul, Ananias is used as the willing worker to assure Saul of his salvation and with the Gracious God he is now called "brother Saul."
3. Acts 8 - The Ethiopian Eunuch is seeking, Philip is the willing worker, and again because of the Gracious God the man is saved.

Conclusion:
If you and I are to be willing workers we need four things:
A. PRAYER -- "Lord, here am I, send me." Prayer of concern for the lost.
B. FAITH -- Believe that God can and will work through you to reach people. Believe that souls can still be saved today.
C. COMMITMENT -- This is not going to happen by chance. We must be committed to being soul-winners. Hungry to do the Father's will.
D. STUDY -- We are prepared the more God can use us. The more training and the more experience the greater service we can give.

Will there be anyone in heaven who can come up to you and say thank you for telling me about the love of God?

David Snelson 2401 33th Avenue North, Texas City, Texas 77590

POSTAGE INCREASE: I went to the Post Office to mail out some packages in early January and found out LIBRARY RATE has almost doubled. In the past, it cost 65 cents for 1 pound and under. It now cost $1.12. If everyone who receives our paper or books could just send a small offering to help, it would take care of this problem. I know there may be some who can’t give an offering. Some of you may not have thought about it. I ASK YOU TO THINK ABOUT IT AND PRAY FOR THIS MINISTRY.

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Bro. Charles, I have long appreciated the "Sounding Out the Word" paper. I think I picked up my first copy of your paper from one of Grace's displays at an ABA meeting years ago. The enclosed offering is long overdue. I hope it will help to show my appreciation of your work there. I pray that the publication ministry will continue. It's a unique publishing ministry in our work and is greatly needed. Please thank Grace Missionary Baptist Church for me.

Jesse R. Spurlock-Oklahoma

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DID YOU KNOW? We have 10-20 people who meet and put our papers and books together. They have a good time of fellowship while they work.
GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH MEMBERS (I) #9

Text: I Timothy 3:15
Introduction:

A. Paul's DENOUNCEMENT
   He did not pre-occupy himself with the aspirations of the world or carnality.
B. Paul's DEDICATION
   He committed himself to the growth process as it related to Christ. Phil. 3:7-9
C. Paul's DETERMINATION
   He promoted the Lordship teaching in his preaching, teaching and practices.
D. The DISCOURSE - Good Church Members will be:

I. ILLUMINATORS! Matthew 5:14-16
A. The PERIL of the world.
   1. They are walking in darkness - This illustrates evil, ignorance, and peril.
   2. John 3:18-20
B. The PURPOSE of Christians.
   2. The IMPACT of the teaching of Matthew 5:14-16.
      a. Light principle deals with living - seeing warming - and revealing.
      b. This deals with the manifestation of the principles of christianity which will show to the world the character of Jesus Christ.
      c. This entails revealing the Christ of glory.
      d. This embraces revealing the need of others. Your living right reveals the inappropriate behavior of others. This is used by the Spirit to bring conviction to them.

II. ILLUSTRATORS! Romans 5:19-21
A. The DEFINEMENT of the term - Grace means the unmerited favor of God. God does something for us that we don't deserve or merit.
B. The DISCERNMENT - Grace embraces the truth of the Work of God to us - in us - and through us. We are to be revealers of His grace.
   1. Philippians 1:6
   2. Philippians 2:12,13
C. The DEMONSTRATION
   1. Are you allowing God to use you?
   2. Are we allowing Him to work through us?
   3. People need to see what God is doing in your life.

III. INSPIRERS! Hebrews 10:25
A. The FOCUS - This means ---
   1. To fill with high emotion.
   2. To stimulate to creativity or action.
B. The FACT - The proper understanding and manifestation of agape love will take care of this. Agape love is where you seek the well being of the other person.

IV. INSTRUCTORS! II Timothy 2:1-4
A. The STATEMENT - We receive to aid us in spiritual development and to share.
B. The SHARING.
   1. Through our lips.
   2. Through our lifestyles.

V. INTERCESSORS! James 5:16
A. The TREMENDOUS need for prayer warriors.
B. The TRUTH - the key to success in the Christian life is found out in the prayer closets of God's people as they are related to the truths of God's Word.

Glen Tropp 832 Sonnenshine Blvd., Benton, AR 72015

THE CHRISTIAN WALK
Text: Philippians 1:21
Introduction: In the background of our text, we find that Paul has gone through some terrible times. Yet, in all this, he makes a tremendous declaration about his goals and purposes in life. In the wording of verse 21, we can see that Paul declares certain things about the christian life. The christian life is not a fairy story or impossible goal. It is PERSONAL. It is PRACTICAL. It is POSSIBLE. It is PROFOUND.

I. TO BE A CHRISTIAN IS PERSONAL - "For me."
   A. Personally applied need-Romans 10:9
   C. Personally applied understanding-John 6:68
   D. Personally applied faith-John 1:12

II. TO BE A CHRISTIAN IS PRACTICAL - "For me to live."
   A. Practical dependance-Phil. 4:13
   B. Practical viewpoint-Phil. 3:7,8
   C. Practical realization-II Cor. 4:18
   D. Practical motivation-Phil. 4:6,7

III. TO BE A CHRISTIAN IS POSSIBLE - "For me to live is Christ."
   A. A positive commitment-Joshua 24:15
   B. A positive guarantee-II Chron. 7:14
   C. A positive determination-Phil. 3:9
   D. A positive motive-Eph. 2:10

IV. TO BE A CHRISTIAN IS PROFOUND - "To die is gain."
   A. Amazing joy - II Cor. 5:6-8
B. Amazing commendation - Matt. 25:21
C. Amazing change - Ps. 17:15
D. Amazing reward - 11 Tim. 4:6-8

V. SUMMARY
A. To be a Christian is personal - None other can do it for us.
B. To be a Christian is practical - Christ makes it so.
C. To be a Christian is possible - It is not a manufactured story.
D. To be a Christian is profound in all of its beauty.

Jesse R. Spurlock, 305 W. Jarman Dr., Midwest City, Okla. 73110

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

Text: Matthew 6:1-15
Intro:
A. In this Scripture Jesus speaks of God as the believer’s FATHER eight times.
1. "Your Father" Vs. 1,8,16
2. "Thy Father" Vs. 4, twice in verse 6
3. In prayer to God we are to address Him as "Our Father which art in heaven." V9
4. "Your Heavenly Father" V14
B. Jesus spoke of God in the Son and Father relation.
1. "My Father" Luke 2:49; John 5:17; 8:19,38; John 10:25,29; John 14:2;
2. Jesus prayed to God as His Father! John 17:1,5
3. From His cross Jesus committed His soul to God His Father. Luke 23:46
4. While yet with His disciples Jesus said, "I go to my Father." John 14:12
5. Jesus spoke of His present ministry as the believer’s Intercessor. John 14:16
C. God is known and presented to us as:
1. Creator - Genesis 1:1; Acts 17:24
2. Ruler - Daniel 4:32
3. Judge - Gen. 18:25; Romans 14:11,12
D. I like the term "Heavenly Father."
1. I have good memories of my earthly father.
a. He was a FUN PERSON.
b. He complimented an honest effort.
c. He believed in and spoke often to me of a PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH THE LORD.
d. He taught us by the BELT while mother taught us by the BIBLE.
e. He said..."A man’s word is his bond." If you say the horse is black, make it black, even if you have to take a paint brush and paint it. “Give an honest days work for an honest days pay." "All that a mule can do is all that a mule can do."
2. It is comforting to know that we who believe in Jesus have someone in heaven who cares about us in our earthly sojourn!

I. OUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS THE EVER-LIVING GOD!
A. Jesus spoke of Him, "As the living father hath sent me..." John 6:57
B. Paul and Barnabas spoke to those at Lystra who wanted to worship them. "Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the LIVING GOD, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein." Acts 14:15 Peter’s testimony. Matt. 16:16

II. OUR HEAVENLY FATHER HAS ALL SEEING EYES!
A. I Peter 3:12
B. Proverbs 15:3
C. Hebrews 4:13
D. "Sees when others do not!" Matt. 6:4,6

III. OUR HEAVENLY FATHER HAS EVER LISTENING EARS!
A. I Peter 3:12
B. This truth is beautifully illustrated in the case of Hagar and the lad. Genesis 21:17
C. Malachi 3:16
D. Therefore the beauty of Hebrews 4:16.

IV. OUR HEAVENLY FATHER HAS AN ALL KNOWING, ALL WISE MIND.
A. Note V8.
B. I like the teaching in Psalm 103:13,14.
C. He knows what is GOOD FOR US! Matt. 7:11
D. Oft times we are called upon to remember that WE KNOW NOT ABOUT THE TOMORROWS...HE KNOWS!!!
1. As in the case of Elijah. 1 Kings 17:4,9

V. OUR HEAVENLY FATHER HAS ALL POWERFUL HANDS.
A. Believers are in His hand. John 10:29
B. He is the Almighty. Gen. 17:1
C. Paul on Mars’ Hill. Acts 17:25,28
D. James 1:17
E. II Corinthians 9:8

VI. OUR HEAVENLY FATHER HAS AN EVER LOVING HEART.
A. It is His nature to love. I John 4:8
B. He loves first. I John 4:19
C. His love is EVERLASTING. Jer. 31:3
D. His greatest demonstration of love is seen in
   His sending Jesus to Calvary to pay our sin
debt and purchase our salvation!
   1. I John 4:9,10
   2. John 3:16,17

Conclusion:
A. Jesus spoke of another "father" whom those who
   know Him not, serve. John 8:38,44
B. By faith in Jesus Christ one becomes a BORN
   AGAIN CHILD OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER
   WITH EVERLASTING LIFE!
   1. Galatians 3:26
   2. I John 5:1
   3. John 14:6
   4. John 10:28

II. THERE IS A BURDEN TO REVIVE.
A. A burden for the righteousness of the battle
must be revived.
   1. By nature, we will not enter the battle unless
      we are convinced of two things.
      a. The threat of destruction is real.
      b. The cause of conflict is just.
   2. The enemy strikes at both of these
      convictions.
      a. "A little won't hurt," he insists. (Sin, lust,
         pride, selfishness)
      b. Personal rights and freedom of expression
         are used to persuade us that to battle
         against wickedness is unjust.
   3. Until we are convinced that the battle is
      righteous and necessary, we stand defeated.
B. A burden for personal responsibility must
be revived.
   1. Our duty is to enter the battle.
   2. I Timothy 6:12 "Fight the good fight of faith,
      lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art
      also called, and hast professed a good
      profession before many witnesses."
   3. II Corinthians 10:4 "(for the weapons of our
      warfare are not carnal, but mighty through
      God to the pulling down of strongholds;)
   4. Ephesians 6:12 "For we wrestle not against
      flesh and blood, but against principalities,
      against powers, against the rulers of the
      darkness of this world, against spiritual
      wickedness in high places."
C. A burden for the ramifications of the battle
must be revived. (What if I do nothing?)
   1. Satan wins...not the war, but the battle.
   2. Souls are lost.
   3. Your standing is questioned.

III. THERE IS A BARRIER TO REMOVE.
A. It may be worldly entanglements.
   1. II Timothy 2:4 "No man that warreth
      entangleth himself with the affairs of this life;
      that he may please him who hath chosen him
to be a soldier."
   2. Some believers are so wrapped up in the
      things of this life that they are rendered
      useless in the service of Christ.
B. It may be empty excuses.
   1. I can’t because I don’t know how. Exodus 3:11
      "And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I
      should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should
      bring forth the children of Israel out of
      Egypt?"
   2. I can’t because I’m poor and without
      influence. Judges 6:15 "(Gideon) said unto
      him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save
      Israel? behold, my family is poor in
      Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s
      house."
   3. The job is too hard. Proverbs 2:13 "The
      slothful man saith, There is a lion without, I
      shall be slain in the streets."
   4. I’m too weak. Jeremiah 1:6,7 "Then said I,
      Ah, Lord God! behold, I cannot speak: for I
      am a child. But the Lord said unto me, Say
      not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that
      I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command
      thee thou shalt speak."

C. It may be personal sin.
   1. Personal sin in the life of a believer will always
      be a barrier to service.
   2. It must be confessed.
   3. It must be turned from.

D. It may be misplaced values.
   1. What we want most.
   2. What we think about most.
   3. How we use our money.
   4. What we do with our leisure time.
   5. The company we enjoy.
   6. Whom and what we admire.
   7. What we laugh at.

E. It may be hurt feelings.
   1. Feelings do get hurt.
   2. Feelings are hard to ignore.
   3. Hurt feelings are not a legitimate excuse to
      withdraw from the battle!

IV. THERE IS A BLESSING TO RECEIVE.
   A. The blessing of inner fulfillment (doing the
      right thing).
   B. The blessing of outer accomplishment.
      1. Whose side you’re on will be established.
      2. Lives will be affected.
      3. Victories will be won.
   C. The blessing of reward. Matthew 16:25-27

Conclusion: It is time to get in the battle for the Lord.

This is one of the sermon outlines in the book FIRE IN
THE SOUL OR SOUL IN THE FIRE by Kenneth Click. If
you do not have a copy of this book, write or call us today
for your free copy.

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FOUR THINGS WHICH MONEY CANNOT BUY
Text: Acts 8:18-24

Introduction:
   A. A great persecution had come upon the Jerusalem
      church and resulted in a scattering of the
      disciples.
   B. What they had failed to do, by not following the
      Lord’s instructions, was accomplished through
      persecution.
   C. Many were saved and the Holy Spirit manifested
      that others were to be included in the Lord’s
      work.
   D. A man named Simon offered to buy the gift of the
      Spirit with money; by this, he revealed that which
      was in his heart.
   E. However, there are some things which money
      cannot buy.

I. MONEY CANNOT BUY GOOD HEALTH.
A. Life itself is a gift from God and the
   recipients are stewards of it.
   1. All life begins with God, Genesis 2:7.
   3. God holds man accountable for how he uses
      the gift of life, Job 31:14.

B. Good health cannot be bought; it comes
   from God who offers nothing for sale, Job
   5:17,18; Hosea 6:1.
   1. We live among a power and possession mad
      generation.
   2. God does allow the use of means in
      maintaining a satisfactory life, Matthew 9:13.
   3. He desires that we use health to serve and
      honor Him, Proverbs 3:9.

II. MONEY CANNOT BUY TRUE HAPPINESS.
A. Happiness is one thing which is sought by
   most people.
   1. Some try to buy it; Simon did, Vs 18,19.
   2. Some try to steal it, Matthew 6:19-21.
   3. Some try to work for it, Matthew 19:16.

B. True happiness is found in Jesus and His
   service.
   1. In a full recognition of God as our Father,
      Psalm 144:15.
   2. In following the Lord’s plan for our lives,
      Psalm 1:1-3.

III. MONEY CANNOT BUY A HOME IN HEAVEN.
A. Many labor for that which is not real;
   substitutes and imitations do not last, Isaiah
   55:1-5.

B. The way to glory cannot be bought, neither
   can it be earned.
   1. Salvation is a free gift, John 10:28.
   2. Sin has a wage connected with it, but salvation
      is a free gift, Romans 6:23.
C. Every saved person is assured of a home in heaven.
1. Jesus said that He would come for the saved, John 14:1-3.
2. He has reserved a place for the ones who have been born again, I Peter 3:5.
3. When the earthly house of this body has been dissolved, a building of God awaits His children, II Corinthians 5:1-5; Cf. Job 14:14; 19:25.

IV. MONEY CANNOT BUY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND HIS WORK.
A. Simon had a great misunderstanding, as many do, about the work of the Holy Spirit, Vs 18,19.
1. He looked at this matter through human reasoning, Vs 18. (Simon saw, perceived or thought that through the laying on of hands the Holy Spirit was received; the laying on of hands was only a confirmation of the fact).
2. So many do this very same thing; they are more concerned about the gifts of the Spirit than the GIFT of the Spirit, Vs 20b; I John 2:20; Romans 5:5.

B. Just as God's plans always work, so does His plan concerning the work of the Holy Spirit.
1. He convicts of sin and the need of salvation; apart from His work, there is no salvation, John 6:44; 6:8-11.
2. He makes the new birth real to a convicted sinner, who repents and accepts the Lord Jesus Christ, Acts 16:31; John 1:12,13; I John 5:1.
3. He indwells all who are saved, John 14:17; Romans 8:9.
4. He leads the saved to do God's will, Romans 8:14.
5. He seals the believer in Christ, Ephesians 1:13,14; 4:30.
6. He never works in contradiction with the written Word and exalts the Christ, John 16:13,14; 15:26.
7. He is as opposed to error as God the Father is opposed to hate, I John 4:6,8, (One has well said, "...He possesses, reveals, imparts, leads into, testifies of, and defends Truth...").

C. He leads a New Testament Church.

D. He is the restraining force, who keeps the antichrist from being in power, II Thessalonians 2:1-12.

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A RABBLING PREACHER AND A STRANGE GOSPEL
Text: Acts 17:15-21
Intro: We, too, live in a world that has rejected the great and mighty God. But why? It’s because the heart of man is "deceitful above all things and desperately wicked." Jer. 17:9. Not just mildly, but desperately wicked and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags. Isa. 64:6.
We, too, live in a world that counts the gospel of Christ as strange and foreign. But we are not the first to experience this. Years ago a man by the name of Paul preached and they dubbed him a "babbler" and called his message strange. V18. Let’s notice some things Paul preached and then identify with his congregation - moquer, procrastinator, or believer. It is my prayer each of us will believe this strange gospel.

I. PAUL PREACHED COMMITMENT IS MORE THAN CURIOSITY. V21
A. The Athenians were intellectually curious.
1. They spent their time either telling or hearing some "new" thing. (A lot of present day churches and preachers major on nothing else!)
2. New thoughts, ideas, little tidbits helped their philosophers learn to doubt the Bible.
3. Now any preacher or college professor who doubts the Word of God needs to be avoided. He’s professor fuzzy fact!

B. Paul’s message was not CURIOSITY but COMMITMENT to the Word of God.
1. You know, I’m not curious about the book of Genesis - I’m committed.
2. I’m not curious about whether this Bible is the infallible inerrant Word of God - I’m committed to it.
3. I’m not curious about the virgin birth of Christ, or His sinless life, or His substitutionary death, nor even His resurrection from the dead, I’m committed!
4. Tell you another thing - I’m not curious about the great grand and glorious return of Jesus - I am committed to it.

C. Yet we see a generation of people who are interested in nothing else but to tell or hear "some new thing."
1. We need to be like the guitar player who never moved his fingers off the one position - Why? I’ve found it.
2. You don’t need to move away from Jesus Christ.
3. This is not the time to be curious about the wild, the weird, and the way out.
4. It is time to be committed to the great, sane, saving, sensible, old-time, all-the-time, new-time, now-time, anytime, glorious gospel of Jesus Christ.
D. Curiosity not only killed the cat, it is about to bury your neighbor. V 22
1. Unless Americans quit trying new religions, new drinks, new entertainment, new freedom, new perversions, America is doomed. We need to get rid of curiosity and get committed.

II. PAUL PREACHED RELIGION IS NOT SEPARATED FROM RIGHTEOUSNESS.
A. People of Paul’s day believed they could have a religion that would not affect their lives.
1. The Pharisees mocked him because their religion was external and Jesus called them “whited sepulchers.”
2. The Sadducees did not believe in angels or the resurrection or any good thing like that (that’s why they were SAD U SEE).
3. The Stoics and Epicureans were really atheists and would get along with Madlyn meddlin O’Hara.

B. Paul preached there is a change or there never been a salvation experience. II Cor. 5:17
1. Paul was a BABBLER because he believed if a porno magazine publisher was truly born again he would cease to publish pornography.
2. Paul expected the drunkard to sober up, the gossip to simmer down, and pervert to straighten out.

III. PAUL PREACHED TIME IS RELATED TO ETERNITY.
A. Paul preached Jesus and the resurrection. Vs 18,31
1. When he preached on the day of judgement and repentance and the resurrected Christ being the Judge, they were divided.
2. Some mocked (gave him the horse laugh).
3. Some said, We will hear thee again - don’t call us etc.
4. Howbeit, some clave unto him and BELIEVED. Thank the Lord!

B. Time and earth is definitely related to eternity.
1. What we do upon this earth determines how we will live in eternity. Never forget that!
2. None of us know, but what the next breath will be our last and the next step be into the eternal realm.
3. When that happens the lost go into a burning hell and the saved go to a glorious paradise.

Conclusion: SOMETIMES THE CHILD OF GOD IN THIS AGE WILL BE CALLED A BABBLER AND THE GOSPEL CALLED STRANGE.
A. Child of God don’t worry about it.
1. The world doesn’t get to vote on you.
2. You’ve just got one to please - the Lord God of Heaven.

B. The world is bad, but remember Paul said, "I reckon that the sufferings of this present time..." Romans 8:18
C. Sinner friend, into which group do you belong right now?
1. Mockers, procrastinator or BELIEVER?
2. Both mockers and scoffers go to hell.
3. Believers in Jesus go to heaven - which place do you want to go?

George Crawford 105 Fairview, Longview, Texas 75604

Dear Brother in the Lord:
I am very glad to receive your books today. I have glanced through the books before I write this letter.
Yes, the books are exciting and inspiring. We will be happy to continue receiving books from you.
If you send to graduating students also, I will appreciate you sending 14 copies to my students graduating in June, 1986. As it took five months to reach us, they will receive the books in May if you could send in December.

Thanking you again for the books and your concern.
Khaute Khaizakham-India

Dear Bro. Charles:
Could you please add one of my good pastor friends to your mailing list? His address is at the bottom of my letter.
Also, your paper has been such a blessing to me. Every one that hears about it wants it. I only hope that they are sending an offering along as they can.

We love you and appreciate what you are doing and hope to meet you some day. When in Canada and have time please come by the Six Nation Indian Reserve and preach to our people. You will be surprised at what God has done here.

Tommy Baucom-Canada

Dear Pastor Charles:
We received Sounding Out The Word, August 1994 issue number 150. Again we are joyful with the messages contained therein. Everything is clear, basically Biblical and touches the heart to obey God’s message. Also I would like to thank the Lord God for you who really love your brother in Christ unselfishly. Personally I thank you and your staff who work this greatest work.

I would like to request the new book of outlines of Bro. Glyn Gary. I know it will be a blessing to us that God use that book to encourage our fellow brethren to do the task of soul winning. I believe that will be possible to have that book because I know you love the Lord our God.

Nestor B. Alburo-Philippines

Your letters greatly encourage our people as they work putting the papers and books together. Take a moment and write to our church.
Sounding Out the Word progress report: We are now mailing out 3,772 papers. We are mailing into 40 countries. We mailed out 152 packages in December. We printed 38,500 books in 1994. We nearly made the goal I set of 40,000 books in the beginning of the year. We now have 8 churches that have put us in their monthly mission budget.

I CAN DO ALL THINGS

Text: Philippians 4:13
Intro: Paul spoke these words concerning the fact that he was a new creature, born of the Spirit with power to overcome sin and live for Christ.
A. This should be everyone's goal.
B. To live for Christ is great gain and if you are born again you have the power to do so.

I. I CAN BE SAVED TODAY!
A. The Bible is filled with passages that tell you that this is true.
   1. Isaiah 1:18 "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."
   2. "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28
B. In the book of Hebrews it is written, "If today you hear his voice harden not your heart."
C. If you are lost today you can be saved if you will just call out to Jesus for forgiveness.

II. I CAN BUILD AN ARK TO THE SAVING OF OTHERS.
A. Read what Noah did.
   1. He heard God's Word.
   2. He moved by faith.
   3. He finished the ark of safety before the judgment came.
B. To you this means:
   1. Teach your children the things of God now.
   2. Witness to others on your job.
   3. Give them something to turn to when they feel the conviction of God.
C. When judgment comes they will be safe in the ark.

III. I CAN OVERCOME SIN.
A. Paul said in the book of Romans, ("Sin no longer has dominion over me.")
   1. What Paul meant was by the power of the Spirit that dwelt in him, he would be able to say no to sin.
   2. It did not change the fact that he was a sinner, but his power over sin.
B. Sin can no longer condemn you if you are in Christ. Rom. 8:1
   1. "There is therefore no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus..." Romans 8:1
   2. Dead unto sin and alive unto Christ.

IV. I CAN BE CONTENT WITH WHAT I HAVE.
A. This has to do with believing Jesus.
B. He has promised all things that are necessary.
C. This world is not my home. I am the heir of all things.
D. So I can be content here to wait for the real inheritance.

V. I CAN LIVE AND DIE WITH ASSURANCE.
A. I was created by the hand of God.
B. I was kept and am kept by His power.
C. It was His blood that was shed to pay my sin debt.
D. He called me by His Spirit to salvation.
E. He is the one who promised to keep me unto the day of redemption.
F. Then all I have to do is believe.

Conclusion:
A. This is what the Bible has been saying all along.
B. "Look unto me all ye ends of the earth and be saved."

Sammy Eldredge P.O. Box 386, Timpson, Texas 75975

BIBLE CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 15 & 16
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!