NOAH KEPT BUILDING THE ARK

Text: Genesis 6:11-17; II Peter 2:5

Intro: The world had become so sinful that the Lord determined to destroy all flesh. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. He was perfect in his generation. He walked with the Lord. The Lord chose him to carry the message of judgment to come. The Spirit would strive with man for 120 years and then judgment would come. Man had become very wicked. Every imagination of the heart was only evil continually. The earth was filled with violence. I will have to confess that I do not remember reading about the violence in the earth in Noah’s day. Maybe it hits home as we think of all of the violence in our day. Noah’s generation was probably a lot worse than ours, but it hardly seems possible as we hear and read about the news of the violence in our day and time. May we look at this account in a different light.

I. NOAH KEPT BUILDING THE ARK IN SPITE OF THE DEPRAVITY.

A. The character

1. God describes the people as wicked and they had wicked imaginations. Imagination has to do with the thinking and planning in the heart of the deeds man would do.

2. People do what they do because of what they are. They were wicked and therefore they thought wicked thoughts and did wicked things. God saw the wickedness of man was great. Wicked man doesn’t seem to think he is doing wickedly, but God does.

3. God said the world was full of violence. When people are wicked, they will do wicked things. This includes being violent in their behavior. The heart cries out to God as we hear and read about the wicked deeds of our generation.

B. The conduct

1. One thing that proved they were wicked was they were violent in their behavior. Violence often reflects force someone applies to someone else to get what they want when they want it.

2. The conduct refers to the action or behavior. A person’s character will express itself in his or her conduct or the way the person walks in life.

3. The character and thoughts of people will be expressed in their conduct. God said they were wicked and had evil imaginations continually. They were violent.

C. The continually

1. The character and conduct is the product of our thoughts and imagination. Jesus said it is what comes out of the heart that defiles a person. Matthew 15:11, 18-20

2. Every imagination of the thoughts of man’s heart was only evil continually. The violent and wicked behavior results from people imagining wickedness. Thoughts can be produced into actions.

3. The deeper you go into sin the deeper you have to go to get any temporary satisfaction out of it. Adultery leads to homosexuality and other depraved sexual desires.

4. The morally loose commit adultery, then the threesome, then with children etc., People become slaves to their sinful desires. They must become more wicked to find any satisfaction.
D. The consecration
1. Noah just kept on doing what God told him to do. Noah was not moved by the depravity of his generation. He kept right on doing what God told him to do.
2. The depravity probably pointed out to him the anger of God and the fact of God’s judgment. The spiritually mature see things different than what the worldly minded people see.
3. We must consecrate ourselves to the Lord as we look out on a sinful world. The world is calling us to join in with it. We must seek to obey Matthew 6:33.

II. NOAH KEPT BUILDING THE ARK IN SPITE OF THE DECEIT.
A. The flesh
1. The sinful must feel like they are justified in their sinfulness. Most people want to be told that they are doing right by doing wrong. They cry out for someone to say their actions are right.
2. The sinner wants to be told that he is not to blame for his sin. Call it a disease. Call it your surroundings. Put the blame on anyone and everyone, but the real person who is to blame.
3. The flesh must seek self justification in sin. The flesh wants to feel it is right to do wrong. Talk to anyone that is guilty of sin and they will give you a reason why they did it. The reason seems to make sin right, but you just can’t feel right doing wrong.

B. The false
1. Some probably got around where Noah was building the ark and said God told me to tell you to quit building the ark.
2. Old Noah is crazy. He has lost his mind. He is talking about a flood and we have never seen any rain. How can a mist flood the earth? You can just think of what the sinful nature moved men and women to say to this faithful servant of God as he labored building the ark.
3. Those who do not believe the Word of God have their ways of trying to prove those who are doing right are doing wrong.
4. Study what Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 4:1. Paul tried to warn the young preacher Timothy. Study what John said in 1 John 4:1. Jesus said before His return there will be many false Christs. Matthew 24:4,5

C. The false
1. Satan always counteracts what God does by counterfeiting what God does. The devil is in the religious business in a big way.
2. Study the truth in II Corinthians 11:13-15. Many of God’s people do not believe that Satan has churches and preachers who oppose the truth. The Word of God tells us that Satan does have churches and preachers.
3. Study out what John wrote in 1 John 4:1. You have an obligation to obey this verse. Put the spirits to test or try them. Measure what you hear and see up to the Word of God.

D. The fearfulness
1. Noah had a reverence and a respect for God. He walked with Him. He was perfect and found grace in the eyes of the Lord.
2. He kept right on building the ark in spite of the deceit and falsehood around him. We should respect and reverence God in spite of the situation or the condition of mankind.
3. God said it and that settles it whether we believe it or not. How many times do we read, “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.” God’s Word is truth and we had better respect it.

III. NOAH KEPT BUILDING THE ARK IN SPITE OF THE DEFANCE.
A. The warning
1. Noah was a preacher of righteousness. II Peter 2:5 The flood came 120 years after Noah starting building the ark and preaching.
2. He warned them of God’s judgment. He preached the judgment of God. He preached by building the ark.
3. Thank God for people who are willing to obey the Lord when it looks like they have lost all of their marbles.
4. We also must preach Hebrews 9:27 and Luke 13:3,5 and II Corinthians 5:10. As we teach and preach the Word of God, we will warn people of the judgment that is coming.

B. The will
1. Paul tells us to get ready for the end time generation. Get prepared as to what kind of people they are.
2. He describes them in II Timothy 3:1-13. You can almost conclude this is the way our generation is acting.
3. Noah’s generation would not listen. They were wicked and very violent. They were defiant. They were going to live their own way in spite of the coming judgment of God.
4. Men and women can choose to do what they want to do even knowing that they will face God in judgment and give an account of what they are doing.

C. The wickedness
1. People do not come to the light or Jesus because their deeds are evil. John 3:19,20 Jesus said people hate the light because it reveals there evil deeds.
2. They thought wicked thoughts and did wicked deeds because they were wicked. The Devil blinds people in their wickedness. They can’t
see the harm that it is doing to self and others.
3. Our generation has a gang problem, violent problem, moral problem, drug problem, alcohol problem, and very few seem disturbed over it.
4. It is hard to recognize that many people do not seem to think we have a problem with these things and that is a real problem.

D. The working
1. Noah warned the people for 120 years the flood was coming. The people seemed dead set on their way of life.
2. The wicked were determined, but so was Noah. He kept right on building the ark. Even if all the world defied God, Noah was going to keep doing what God had saved him to do and told him to do.
3. There certainly is a cause. There is coming a pay day some day. The defiant will face the righteous Judge of all and give an account.

IV. NOAH KEPT BUILDING THE ARK IN SPITE OF DISTRACTIONS.
A. The ridicule
1. Peter said that scoffers will come in the last days. II Peter 3:3 Some people will laugh and call us names and make fun of us for living for the Lord. Guess who is going to get the last laugh?
2. A lot of people will make fun and laugh at true Bible believers and the truth they teach and try to live by. I wonder how many of God’s children have been the object of someone’s joke?
3. The wicked like to joke and laugh at the people of God. They probably did this as Noah was building the ark. They probably had parties laughing at this man and his 3 sons and their wives building an ark.
4. When the flood came, they stopped their laughing and started their crying, but it was too late.

B. The reviling
1. They even probably accused him of frightening the people. Preach and teach the truth and it will frighten people.
2. You are upsetting people they might have told him. How cruel you must be to frighten and scare people like you are scaring them, they could have said.
3. I can imagine someone saying, "The trouble with our world is Noah who is causing a lot of problems."
4. There are people who will say and believe that preachers who preach the truth out of a heart of love are the cause for all the problems today. When God’s man preaches the truth, he is trying to get people to make peace and receive the blessings of God.

C. The rebuking
1. There were probably those who went to Noah and accused him of wanting attention.
2. There were those who probably thought that something ought to be done to Noah because of what he was doing.
3. Someone ought to whip him or beat him or kill him. If they judged the Lord worthy of death, where does that put the Lord’s people?

D. The reservation
1. The Devil will always try to distract us as we serve the Lord. Distraction has always been a plot in warfare. Just divert their attention or distract them when we do what we are going to do.
2. Noah’s generation didn’t distract him. He kept right on building the ark as God told him to.
3. Very few appreciated what Noah was doing. No one listened. No one responded in a positive way to his message of God’s judgment upon the world. He didn’t win any awards given out by men.
4. Noah and his sons and their wives went aboard the Ark and escaped the judgment of God on his generation. The human race perished in the flood. How horrible and frightening it is to realize that man can become so sinful he would rather die in his sins than to change and repent as he hears the message of truth from God’s messenger.

A HERO FOR GOD

Text: Numbers 14:6-8; Joshua 24:15, 29-31

Introduction:
A. These verses speak of Joshua the hero of God. His name is not listed among the heroes of faith, but his deeds are there. Hebrew 11:30
B. People have always had heroes and always will have them.
1. Sports and movie figures.
2. Political and military figures like Washington, Lincoln, MacArthur, Yasser Arafat, etc.
C. What the world needs is heroes that stand for God. As we consider this lesson about Joshua let us determine that we too will be heroes for God.
D. Joshua may be described as a man of faith, courage, enthusiasm, faithfulness to duty, leadership etc. In our text there are three outstanding virtues he had that we can and should emulate.

I. HE WAS A MAN OF UNQUESTIONABLE FAITH IN GOD. Numbers 14:6
A. To be sure, he believed the unbelievable. They could easily see the advantages that the Amalekites had.
1. He did not look to the arm of flesh, but to the strength of God.
2. To begin with, the Christian life is based upon believing the unbelievable. The world seriously questions the principles of Christianity.
B. His faith puts him in a minority regardless of where he might be found. This is evidenced from Numbers 14:1-4, 10.
C. When believers will spend the time of communing with God their faith will also be unquestionable.

II. HE WAS A MAN WHO FILLED THE PLACE THAT GOD GAVE HIM. Joshua 15
A. God had given him the place of leadership which he took.
B. You may not be the man of the house, but God has given you a place of responsibility to serve the Lord and as you make the decision to serve the Lord, you can lead others to serve Him with you.

III. HE WAS A MAN WITH AN INFLUENCE THAT DID NOT DIE WITH HIM.
A. Notice the remarkable statement of verses 29-32.
B. Real influence does not die when we die.
C. Influence then becomes a blessing or a detriment depending upon what we have done with the proposition just discussed regarding service to God.

Conclusion:
A. The world needs its heroes and yet the greatest hero of all is Jesus in what He did, is doing, and will do.
B. Let us seek to be a hero with Him and for Him to influence others to trust in Him and worship Him forever.

Calvin Francis went to be with the Lord August 13, 1993.

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THE HOME


INTRODUCTION: The first institution on earth was the home. God created Adam and Eve and joined them together, thus beginning the first home. The home is a very special place. God's plan for New Testament believers is that they have three homes. Much of the Bible addresses the family Home, Church Home, and our Heavenly Home.

NOTICE:

I. RESIDENCE: "THE HOME OF OUR FAMILY.”

Genesis 2:18-25

A. The order of the home-Ephesians 5:22-25
B. The obligation of the home-Ephesians 6:1-4
C. The obedience of the home-Eph. 5:21-25
D. The opposition to the home-I Peter 5:8

II. CHURCH: "THE HOME OF OUR FAITH.” I Timothy 3:15

A. Center of our attention-I Timothy 3:15
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B. Center of our assurance-I Timothy 3:15
C. Center of our activity-Ephesians 3:21
D. Center of our authority-Matthew 28:18-20

III. HEAVEN: "THE HOME OF OUR FUTURE."
Revelation 21:1,2
A. Place of the legitimate King-Revelation 19:16
B. Place of the lovely city-Revelation 21:2
C. Place of our lasting joy-Revelation 21:4
D. Place of the living Christ-Revelation 1:18

CONCLUSION: May each of us take godly pride in our earthly home as we serve the Lord in our church home looking forward to our Heavenly home.

Sin will Damn you
Satan will Deceive you
Saviour will Deliver you
Scripture will Direct you
Spirit will delight you

Dr. Neal Clark, Route 1, Box 48-A, Daingerfield, Texas 75638

SERIES: GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH MEMBERS

Focus: Words Beginning with the Letter "L."

INTRODUCTION:

A. The CONSIDERATION - Do you desire to be ENRICHED and EQUIPPED as a Christian and as a church member?

B. The COMPREHENSION
1. To be so - you must be DEDICATED.
2. To be so - you must be DISCIPLINED.

C. The CONCEPT explored - Good church members are:

I. LIBERAL!
A. The MEANING - The definition that we want to understand from this term is summarized in the word GENEROUS.

B. The MESSAGE
1. Proverbs 11:25
2. Luke 6:38

II. LIFTERS!
A. The MEANING - This term means to elevate or raise.

B. The MESSAGE
1. It embraces the concept of ENCOURAGEMENT.
2. It embraces the concept of HELPING.
   a. Helping the weaker brother.

b. Galatians 6:1,2
c. The ministry of restoration is a vital need in most churches.
d. This does not mean that we condone errors or wrongs - but it means when the individual has realized the error of their ways - that we seek to lift them up.
e. Illustration - the immoral man in I Corinthians and the admonition later on to restore him.

III. LIKEMINDED!
A. Likeminded in our PURPOSE. Romans 15:5,6
B. Likeminded in our PASSION for others. Philippians 2:2,20,21
C. Likeminded in our PURSUITS. Ephesians 4:1-3

IV. LISTENERS!
A. The PONDERING - Do we really care about what the Lord wants our life and church to be?

B. The PARTICIPATION
1. Listen to Him - DISCERNMENT.
2. Lean upon Him - DEPENDANCE.
3. Live for Him - DEMONSTRATE.

C. The PASSAGES
1. Matthew 11:15 "he that hath ears to hear, let him hear."
2. Matthew 13:15,16
3. Revelation 2:7

D. The PROBLEMS which arise many times is because we don't hear.
1. The illustration of Jericho - Achan - Ai
2. The illustration of Simon Peter.

V. LOYAL!
A. Loyal to the Lord.
B. Loyal to the Word.
C. Loyal to the Church.
D. Loyal to the leaders.

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WRITE US TODAY!!! Your letters and comments about this ministry would be greatly appreciated. Please take a few minutes and write our church. Our church members love to read about the blessing of the Lord in your ministry and how much good the Sounding Out the Word materials are doing. If our materials have blessed your life, write us and the authors that contribute the material to this ministry. LET US HEAR FROM YOU!!! Be an encouragement to all the workers that help in the Sounding Out the Word ministry. They hear me all the time. It is time that they heard from you. TAKE A FEW MINUTES RIGHT NOW.
THE EVIDENCE OF FAITH

Text: Hebrews 11:1-6

Introduction:
1. Faith is defined in verse one as both substance and evidence.
2. Faith is used in at least three different ways in the Scriptures.
3. Historical faith or fact faith is believing that something exists.
4. The faith system refers to the doctrines, which are taught.
5. Faith which brings salvation is personal trust; both fact faith and personal trust are shown in verse six.
6. Now, let's consider some of the evidence of faith; evidence is a certain persuasion.

THE PRESENCE OF FAITH (PERSONAL TRUST) IS EVIDENCE:

I. THAT THE TRUTH OF GOD'S ETERNAL WORD HAS BEEN PROCLAIMED, Romans 10:17.
A. Through the foolishness of preaching, God is pleased to save souls, I Corinthians 1:21.
B. God's power in salvation is exercised through the preached Gospel, I Corinthians 1:17,18; Romans 1:15,16.
C. No other message supports the same promise as does the Word of God, Psalm 119:130; I Corinthians 2:1-5; Acts 11:14.

A. Repentance and faith are looked upon as inseparable graces, (see doctrinal statement).
B. If one has experienced saving faith, it was preceded by repentance.
C. Repentance accomplishes that which no other act can.
   1. In the case of the Ninevites, Jonah 3:6-9.

III. THAT ONE HAS CALLED UPON THE LORD FOR SALVATION, Romans 10:9-14.
A. Saul of Tarsus called upon the Lord, Acts 9:6,7.
D. Every true believer in Christ has called upon the Lord, Romans 10:9-14.

IV. THAT SINS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, John 8:24; Ephesians 1:7.
A. Only believers in Christ have theirs sins forgiven.

John 8:24.
B. Through faith in Him, His blood cleanses from all sin, Ephesians 1:7;
C. It is preached that through the man Christ Jesus is forgiven, Acts 13:38,39.

V. THAT ONE HAS BEEN TRANSLATED FROM THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S DEAR SON, Colossians 1:13.
A. With the devil as our father, we were all in the kingdom of darkness.
   1. To some unbelieving religious people, Jesus said, "Ye are of your father the devil..." (John 8:44).
   2. The devil's kingdom is the kingdom of darkness and wickedness, I John 5:19; Ephesians 2:2,3.
B. True believers in Christ have been translated into the Kingdom of God's dear Son, Colossians 1:12-14.

VI. THAT NO CONDEMNATION AWAITS THE ONE WHO HAS EXPERIENCED FAITH, John 3:18; Romans 8:1.
A. While the lost are condemned already, there is no condemnation for the true believer in Christ, John 3:18.
B. There is no condemnation now, nor shall there ever be for the ones who are in Christ by faith, Galatians 3:26; Romans 8:1.
C. Christ will never condemn the believer and no other has the power and right to do it, Romans 8:33.

VII. THAT A RESERVATION HAS BEEN MADE ON OUR BEHALF, I Peter 1:3-9.
A. A special reservation, which has been confirmed and guaranteed, has been made every believer in Christ, I Peter 1:3,4.
B. Through God's almighty power, believers are kept for their reservation, I Peter 1:5,6a.

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LOVING AS JESUS LOVED

Text: John 13:34,35

Intro:
A. Three things to observe in these verses:
   1. The EXAMPLE OF LOVING—Jesus loved and manifested it, demonstrated it, and showed it.
   2. The COMMAND TO LOVE
      a. One's life is not right unless one is loving.
      b. When one is SAVED or BORN AGAIN OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD one becomes a possessor of the Divine Nature which is the nature to love. II Peter 1:4; Rom.5:5
      c. When one leads a SPIRITUAL LIFE and BEARS THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT one loves. Galatians 5:22
   d. OBEEDIENCE TO THE COMMANDS OF JESUS INCLUDES LOVING.
   3. The EVIDENCE OF BEING SAVED.
      a. As Jesus stood by Mary and Martha He wept and onlookers exclaimed..."BEHOLD, HOW HE LOVED HIM."
      b. Dr. Ben M. Bogard often said, "The proof of the pie is in the eating."
      c. One's manifestations of love for fellow believers is one's PROOF OF SALVATION. I John 3:14

B. The outline for this particular message is taken from an article in "The Good News Paper" by Anne Ortlund.
   1. She writes that the "proof of salvation" is not in impressive church buildings, charming personalities, nor up-to-date techniques.
   2. She adds, "When people in the world see authentic, biblical love within God's family, they'll believe."
   3. She further states..."The greatest sin of christians today is the sin of WITHHOLDING LOVE.

C. Let's note "How Jesus loves me."

I. JESUS LOVES US WITH U TTERMOST LOVE!
   A. Jesus loves us with complete love.
      1. He loves to the fullest extent. John 15:13
      2. He loves to the end. John 13:1
         a. Jesus NEVER QUITS loving. Jer. 31:3
         b. The Bible teaches that NO THING, CIRCUMSTANCE, nor PERSON OR POWER can separate A SAVED PERSON from the love of God in Christ. Romans 8:35-39; John 6:37
   3. For Jesus...LOVING WAS EXPRESSED in:
      a. Sacrificing the glory He enjoyed WITH THE FATHER.
      b. Humiliating Himself even unto death.
      c. Sacrificial service.

B. True christian love never fails. I Cor. 13:8
   1. Love loves as one is.
   2. Love loves in spite of one's FAULTS AND FAILURES - LIKE AND DISLIKES.
   3. Love cares, continues to care, and keeps on caring.
   4. Love covers the mistakes and sins of others. Proverbs 10:12
   5. Love is the bond of perfection, Colossians 3:14. The nearest thing to heaven on earth is a CHURCH WHERE EACH MEMBER IS RULED BY LOVE, WORSHIPS OUT OF LOVE, and SERVES BOTH GOD AND MAN FROM A HEART OF LOVE.
   6. Love puts others first. Romans 12:10
   7. Love loves for NO OTHER REASON THAN LOVE IS LOVE!

II. JESUS LOVES US WITH A SERVING LOVE!
   A. Matthew 20:28
      1. Jesus fed the hungry out of compassion.
      2. Jesus lifted the sinking.
      3. Jesus TOUCHED BLINDED YES...ANOINTING THEM with mud.
      4. Jesus "riseth from supper and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself; After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples feet, and to wipe them with the towel where with he was girded." John 13:4,5
      5. Jesus COMFORTED the broken hearted!
      6. Jesus TAUGHT the scattered and unlearned out of compassion.
      7. Jesus PRAYED "FOR" AND "WITH" His disciples.

B. Christian love serves other Christians!
   1. "We're to be responsible for each other's growth and improvement. WE HAVE TO CARE. WE HAVE TO STICK WITH EACH OTHER UNTIL IT HAPPENS." Anne Ortlund
   2. "You can't be right in your doctrine and wrong in your living." We might well add, "One can't be right in your living and wrong in your loving."
   3. Galatians 5:13,14

C. Christian love MINISTERS TO OTHERS ON THE SAME BASIS WITH WHICH WE RECEIVE FROM THE LORD. I Peter 4:10

III. JESUS LOVES US WITH A PERSONAL LOVE.
   A. Jesus called, has drawn us unto Himself with love.
VI. JESUS LOVES US WITH A MAGNETIC LOVE.
II Corinthians 5:14
A. Christ's love constrains us. Acts 18:5
B. Christ's love compels and controls us.
C. As Christians "Love as Jesus loves." We will have that constraining, compelling influence in the hearts and lives of loved ones and friends. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for another."

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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Text: Numbers 30:1, 2
Introduction: What is a pledge or a vow? It is a promise. It is a statement of intent. It is a declaration of commitment.
A. God intends that we keep our commitments.
B. God keeps His word, we ought to keep ours.
C. What have you pledged yourself to?

I. I PLEDGE MY ALLEGIANCE TO MY COUNTRY.
A. Think of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. (218 years ago, July 4, 1776, it was adopted by the Continental Congress of the Thirteen United States of America.)
1. The 56 men who signed it did more than write their names--they pledged everything they had for a dream -- freedom.
2. The document contains powerful words.
B. Each man knew that the best he could hope for would be years of hardship and struggle in a new nation. If they were unsuccessful, it was the hangman's noose as traitors!
C. The role of government is protection and personal freedom or as they put it --"Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."
D. The founding principles of our country are in complete harmony with the Word of God.
E. I reaffirm my pledge of allegiance to my country today.

II. I PLEDGE MY ALLEGIANCE TO MY MATE.
A. Jesus' teaching on marriage-- Mark 10:2-9.
B. I pledged my allegiance to my wife; to love and to cherish, in sickness and in health, for better or for worse, as long as we both shall live.
C. I reaffirm that pledge today.

III. I PLEDGE MY ALLEGIANCE TO MY CHILDREN.
A. I have never really pledged allegiance to my children before - but I do so here and now.
B. I pledge to protect them with my life.
C. I pledge to tell them the truth.
D. I pledge to never forsake them.
E. I pledge to show them the way to God.
F. I pledge to love them for all time.

IV. I PLEDGE MY ALLEGIANCE TO MY FAMILY.
A. I pledge my lifelong allegiance to my parents and grandparents.
B. I pledge to care for them in their old age.
C. I pledge to be understanding and compassionate for their feelings.
D. I pledge to uphold the family name and honor.

V. I PLEDGE MY ALLEGIANCE TO MY CHURCH.
A. I pledge my spiritual support to my church.
B. I pledge my moral support to my church.
C. I pledge my financial support to my church.
D. I pledge my faithfulness to my church.
E. I pledge my support of the doctrines of my church.

VI. I PLEDGE MY ALLEGIANCE TO GOD.
A. To go where He sends me.
B. To do what He asks of me.
C. To be what He wants me to be.

Conclusion: Have you made a pledge to God? Keep it.

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NO PASS - NO ENTRY

Wednesday, April 19, 1995 at 9:02 A.M., Oklahoma City as we knew it, came to an abrupt end. The extremely wicked terrorist bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal building in Oklahoma City physically, mentally, and spiritually shook anyone with any human feelings. Over 200 people lost their lives and over 400 were injured. The tragedy of it was devastating to Oklahomans who felt secure in America's heartland. Welcome to the world of terrorism!

In spite of the tragic situation, several interesting incidents occurred. Since our building was only two blocks from the center of the blast, we were included within the perimeter. This created several problems in entering our building. The police were issuing passes for people needing to enter the disaster zone. They said our bank employees were exempt and didn't need passes. That word wasn't passed on to everyone at all check points.

Twelve of our employees, including a manager tried to get to our building to go to work, but were stopped by the National Guard. I went to the location to identify our employees and tried to get them through the line so they could get their work done.

I was met by a Second Lieutenant. I explained the situation. He said, "No pass - No entry!" I advised him that we were told we were exempt from needing a pass. He said, "No pass - No entry!"
I advised him that the employees processed checks for the Federal Reserve Bank. There would be a profound impact on the local economy if they weren't permitted to pass. He said, "No Pass - No Entry!" I told him that every minute's delay was costing millions, because of deadlines. He said, "No Pass - No Entry!"

Our employees went to the command post and got a pass and returned. They showed the passes to the Second Lieutenant. He said, "You have a pass - You may enter!"

Although I was frustrated by the short, robot-like answer to all our arguments, I was impressed with the Second Lieutenant's sobriety to his orders. His orders were to let no one cross that line without a pass. He didn't interpret it. He didn't question it. He didn't think he had any choice. He understood, "If they don't have a pass, they don't cross the line!" I doubt if President Clinton would have gotten past him without a pass.

God's people need to take our command as seriously as the Second Lieutenant took his command. Jesus said in Acts 1:8, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye SHALL BE witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." The words "SHALL BE" are not permissive words. This is an imperative command. Jesus didn't say, "I WISH you would be witnesses." He said, "Ye SHALL BE witnesses." It isn't up to us to decide whether or not we want to be. We have no choice in the matter. "If they are unsaved - we tell them about Jesus!" No excuses, no exceptions, and no fooling!

Jesse R. Spurlock 305 W. Jarman Dr., Midwest City, OK 73110
FUTURE BOOKS TO BE PRINTED

Sermon Outlines by Neal Clark
Sermon Outlines by Luther Crawford
Sermon Outlines by Gordon Shaffer
Sermon Outlines by Vernon Lierly
Revelation (Chapters 1-3) by John A. Turrentine Jr.
52 Bible Doctrine Outlines by Randy Cloud
Lord, Teach us to pray by James A. Kirkland
What We Believe by Paul Magness
Basic Bible Training by Larry McAlister (Spanish)
Poems by Dovie Brown
Women for His Vessels by Vielto B. Hayes
The Finished Work of Christ by Elvin Crocker
Sermon Outlines by Raymond Howard
Lessons On Prayer by Mike Daniel
41st Annual Pastors and Missionaries Conference Book

JOY IN THE LORD

Text: John 16:20-24

I. CAUSES FEARS AND DOUBTS TO BE REMOVED. V20,21; Matthew 17:1,2,5
   A. About the person of Jesus.
      1. He is God’s only begotten Son.
      2. He did live in the flesh as a man.
   B. About the possession of salvation—Acts 2:21
      1. If God was obeyed and followed in His way to get it.
      2. Cannot be lost or removed. Romans 8:35-38
   C. About the promises of God
      1. He will fulfill them. II Peter 3:9
      2. They will benefit His children.

II. CAUSES FELLOWSHIP TO BE RENEWED. V22
   A. The Lord’s presence is realized.
      1. His Spirit indwells those that are His. Galatians 4:6
      2. The believer’s soul is sealed by the Spirit’s presence. Eph. 1:13,14
   B. The love for God is revived.
      1. Returned to high level of emotional feeling.
      2. Selfishness is overcome.
   C. The relationship is assured.
      1. The presence of the Spirit gives assurance.
      2. Receipt of blessings and punishments assures. Hebrews 12:5-8

III. CAUSES FAITH TO BE RESTORED. V23; Psalm 103
   A. God is listening.
      1. None of His children are unimportant.
      2. He is watching over them all.
   B. God is concerned.
      1. He cares for all that are His.
      2. He desires to provide what is needed.
   C. God does respond.

1. He is quick to act on our behalf.
2. He is immediate in His answer.

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SOUNDING OUT THE WORD IS A MISSION WORK.
We are mailing material into 40 Countries and 49 States. We have 35 books printed in English. We have printed 100,000 tracts in the Romanian language. We have 2 books in Spanish and another one planned for the near future. One book has been printed in 2 dialects of the Filipino language. Some of our books are being translated and printed in the Filipino language by the Pilgrim Rest Press ministry. Brethren in other countries are translating some of the material in their languages. PLEASE, PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER PUTTING THE SOUNDING OUT THE WORD MINISTRY IN YOUR MISSION MINISTRY BUDGET. This printing ministry is A MISSION WORK!!! Join us please.

THANK GOD FOR CHRISTIANS IN LARGE COMPANIES!!! I HAVE MET 2 CHRISTIAN MEN WHO WORK AT THE SIMPSON PASADENA PAPER COMPANY. These men make decisions about donations of paper and cover stock. They have been a great blessing to the Sounding Out the Word Ministry. We have received 4 or 5 large donations from this company this year.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU

Text: Genesis 28:3-4

By George Crawford

Introduction:
1. In every age it has been important for a man to seek the blessing of God for himself - his family and his community - even the economy.

2. How often is this expression used--
   a. When I was ordained to the ministry several fine men laid their hands on my head saying - "May God Bless You."
   b. I liked that - and I have often said to others the same thing - when a young man goes into service we say "May God Bless You", or off to school - or gets married - etc. --each needs to hear it.

3. Now what does it mean when we say "May God Bless You"?

I. IT MEANS "MAY GOD GUIDE YOU."
   A. How badly we need God’s guidance - we are stumbling people, we are weak and needy and frail and uncertain.
      1. Psalm 32:8 says "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."
2. Isaiah 58:11 says "And the LORD shall guide thee continually."

B. The blessing of Divine guidance is one of the greatest of all blessings.
1. When God guides, He provides - let young & old get it.
2. God never fails - you are His child and He will see you through every difficulty.

C. Every one of us needs God's guidance - I do - deacons do - teachers do - singers do - anyone who does not?
1. God's guidance will keep us from sinful, wasteful, weakening mistakes.
2. But best of all, God's guidance will lead us into victorious living - Follow His guidance - May God Bless YOU!

II. IT MEANS 'MAY GOD CHASTEN (SPANK) YOU.' Hebrews 12:6
A. If you get away from the Lord, you are going to suffer -
B. So, let us live that we may avoid the chastening of God.
1. Chastening comes upon those who stray from His side.
2. Don't stray - be in the right place - obey God.

C. Be alert to recognize the chastening when it comes -
1. Ever walk away from a spanking at home saying "That didn't hurt!" What happened then? Finished the spanking and it hurt -
2. Search for any failures, any sin that may be in your life.
3. Be alert to something else - When you DO SIN and are Not chastened for it...WHY NOT?

D. Be quick to confess and correct your life - I John 1:7-9.
1. May God Bless you - really means May God Chasten You!

III. IT MEANS "MAY GOD KEEP YOU TRUE TO THE SAVIOUR."
A. So many people are up and down - in and out - walk with God one day and turn away the next - come to Sunday School and Church awhile and then quit and go on their way forget all about it. Gal. 5:7.
1. May God keep you clean in life - doctrinally & morally.
2. Paul's prayer for himself should be prayed by each of us. - I Corinthians 9:27 "But I keep under my body..."

B. I have watched the vain people go down.
1. Seen church members who trusted in themselves go down - who wanted to have their own way regardless.
2. Seen the proud, egotistical, trouble makers, critical.
3. Seen them go down, leave the church, angry, and every time they have failed their Saviour, their family, their church.

4. Be true to the Saviour.

IV. IT MEANS "MAY GOD KEEP YOU FAITHFUL IN SERVICE."
A. How we need to pray for people in Christian service to be faithful.
1. Not calling for perfection - just faithfulness.
2. I am so glad there have been faithful people and still are those who remain faithful to His service.

B. Faithfulness must be our goal.
1. Preachers - missionaries - teachers - Sunday School Workers -
2. Leaders of youth - all need to be faithful. MAY GOD BLESS YOU!

Conclusion: IT MEANS "MAY GOD GIVE YOU DYING GRACE." my grace is...
A. Be true to Him to the end of life -
1. All about us are the dying - and all of us are dying.
2. Our God gives us grace for every moment, hour and even in the hour of death.
3. Read blessed story of a 90 year old Christian man who asked his pastor to pray for him that he could live to be 100 - but at the age of 95 asked his pastor to pray, "Let me die, Lord, I'm now ready." There was no fear of death to him.

B. How may I have the blessing of God?
1. First, by knowing His Son - accepting Jesus as Saviour now!
2. Second, by doing His will - Many may need to say "Lord, I bow before You in submission - I give myself to you NOW."
3. Third, today I will begin to live according to Your Word. That will change your life - change how you live on Mon - Sat and Sunday morning and evening - in your home, etc., Illustration: - very interesting story from WWII - King of England had all children evacuated from a certain area where bombs were falling - little girl on train with her brother crying said - "I don't know where I'm going" - Brother said "Neither do I, but the King does!"

REPRINT: We have printed another 5,000 copies of the book, PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLESHIP by Paul Magness. Bro. Magness uses this material in a new members class in their Sunday School. This is a very good book. We printed 5,000 copies 2 years ago and they didn't last long, so we had to reprint 5,000 more.

NEW BOOK: We will have completed LESSONS ON PRAYER by Mike Daniel by the time you get your paper.
THE CARES OF LIFE AND ITS PROMISED CURE

Introduction:
A. These three verses have one thing in common, that being they all mention the cares of life.
B. The bulk of the cares of this life are of the material nature.
C. These verses as well as some others we shall notice shows the effect for evil and the effect for good that the cares of this world bring.

A. Philippians 4:6
1. The carefulness here refers to "under anxiety" which can be very injurious. (Anxiety; mean, pain, uneasiness of mind over an impending or anticipated ill.)
2. Anxiety causes much evil.
   a. Divides the heart
   b. Distracts the mind
   c. Chokes the Word
   d. Leads to distrust
   e. Destroys our peace
   f. And is inconsistent with our profession of Christianity
3. Because we belong to Christ, the entire responsibility of our life is upon His shoulders.
   a. This means that we should consider our home, our property, our business and our all as His and trust Him to undertake and overrule in all things.
   b. Because of his veracity, fidelity, and unchangeableness no promise of His can or will be broken or forfeited.
   c. He has each one of us on His heart.
B. Therefore, to fret, worry, or yield to unbelieving anxiety injures our soul.

II. WE SHOULD CAST OUR CARE ON HIM.
A. Problems and needs will come yet we are to seek the Lord and cast our cares on Him.
1. "I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause: which doeth great things and unsearchable marvelous things without number." Job 5:8,9.
2. With such an all-powerful Creator, whose wonders are displayed in the universe and who is also our living Heavenly Father, we should be content to leave our cares and cause to Him.
B. The marvels of His creation are only to be matched by His gracious care for those who rest in His will.

III. HIS PROMISE TO RELIEVE THE CARES OF THE WORLD "HE CARETH FOR YOU."
A. Consider His care for things of lesser importance than His children. Matt. 6:25-34.
B. "In nothing be anxious...let your request be made

1. In this blessed invitation to approach the mercy seat with our requests, there is the promise of relief.
2. We should be careful for nothing; this does not mean we should not plan and seek security in this life, but to go beyond this and be worrisome about it is sin.
   a. It is a sign of distrust when we allow ourselves to be shaken with uncertainties and ceaseless alarms.
   b. For today and tomorrow we must trust God.
3. We should be prayerful for everything.
4. We should be thankful for anything.
   a. Note the scope of this gratitude—anything.
   b. Not only thankful for the pleasant things of life, but for the unpleasant experiences as well.
   c. For trials as well as triumphs, for losses as well as gains.
   d. Jesus set the example by being thankful for the bitter cup.

Conclusion:
A. If we will have a fixed and constant faith in the promise "he careth for us" we can have deliverance from all fear and doubt and anxiety associated with the cares of this world.
B. When we have a whole hearted acceptance of this promise, we can have a peaceful mind and heart in the midst of life's cries and changes.
C. When we fail to appropriate the promises, we deprive ourselves of their solid comfort and give way to unbelief and forgetfulness of the Promiser Himself.
D. We must never forget that no matter what our lot in life we can overcome through Christ for "He careth for us."

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