ARE WE TOO COMFORTABLE? II

Text: II Timothy 4:10
Intro: In the first message on this subject we talked about The Demand of the Scripture, The Dedication of the Saved, The Devotion to the Saviour, The Delight of the Servant, and the Discipline of the Student. The first message dealt with how we felt right after we were saved. This message will deal with some of the signs that show that we are too comfortable in the Lord’s service. When we get too comfortable, we need to watch out because we could forsake the Lord and His services like Demas did.

I. THE DEVIL IS ACTIVE.
A. The Devil and the flesh
1. We have a sinful nature as human beings. When we were saved, this nature was not taken out of us.
2. Paul said that this nature is not subject to God’s law and can’t be. Romans 8:6-8
3. Paul described the great conflict in Romans 7:14-25 between the sinful nature and the sinless nature. Study also Galatians 5:17.

B. The Devil and fear
1. The Devil is a master at causing us to fear. We were afraid before we were saved.
2. We are afraid of so many things as saved people. Fear causes lack of faith in the Lord and His power.
3. Jesus tells us who to fear and who not to fear in Matthew 10:28. We should fear God above everything and everyone.

C. The Devil and feebleness
1. Jesus tells us very plainly that the flesh is weak in Matthew 26:41.
2. The flesh is a quitter. We want to give up so many times. We do not think we can go on.
3. The Devil will try to make us think we can’t do anything. We are too weak. We don’t have the ability.

II. THE DISTRACTION IS AMBITIONS.
A. The distraction of possessions
1. The getting and keeping material things capture a lot of our attention.

B. The distraction of position
1. Sometimes we are more interested in making a name or reputation than we are in pleasing the Lord.
2. Listen to Jesus in Matthew 6:33 as to what we are to seek first.

C. The distraction of pleasure
1. Paul warned us that the end time generation would love self and pleasure more than God. II Tim. 3:2,4
2. Jesus warns us that cares, deceitfulness of riches, and pleasures would choke the word and make us fruitless. Luke 8:14; Matt. 13:22

D. The distraction of passion
1. The end time generation will be unrestrained in their passion. The Devil stirs up the flesh in this matter.
2. Listen to what the writer of Hebrews said in Hebrews 13:4. Study what Paul said in I Cor. 9:27.

E. The distraction of problems
1. The Devil will be busy stirring up a lot of problems that seemingly have no solutions.
2. Peter tells us what to do in times of problems. I Peter 5:7-9

III. THE DECEITFULNESS IS AWFUL.
A. The blinding
1. Have you studied the truth found in II Cor. 4:3,4? The Devil is the great blinder.
   2. Some called evil good and good evil in Isaiah 5:20. Listen to people today! The wicked are
      exalted and those who do good debased.
   3. Our desires blind us to the truth and cause us to do evil and suffer the consequences.

B. The blaming
   1. We fall for the Devil’s lies and then we blame others for our failures.
   2. Adam blamed Eve for his sin in the garden. She gave me to eat and I ate.
   3. Instead of being responsible for our actions, we want to feel we were right in doing wrong
      and that’s not right.

C. The briefness
   1. One thing about deceit, it is very brief. It’s not long until we know that we have been tricked.
   2. Often times we continue in deceit because of pride. Cover one sin up with a lie and cover it
      up with another lie.

IV. THE DISOBEDIENCE IS ACCEPTABLE.

A. The Word of God
   1. God’s Word teaches us to obey the Lord God. This is our obligation. Acts 5:29
   2. Sometimes we can know what the Bible says and not do it. We accept this disobedience as
      a fact that we practice.

B. The will of the guilty
   1. We can hear the Lord’s Word and choose to do our will and disregard His will.
   2. Remember the words of Paul in Gal. 6:7,8. Don’t be deceived. Whatever you sow you will
      reap.

C. The wayward
   1. When we choose to disobey the Lord, we will go in a certain direction.
   2. You can’t feel right doing wrong. You can’t feel close, when you disobey. You won’t be in
      fellowship, when you disobey. I John 1:6,7

V. THE DESERTING IS ACCEPTED.

A. The quitting
   1. You can’t live two lives. You will choose the one or the other.
   2. Demas quit Paul and the Lord because he loved the world more. There are a lot of saved
      people out of service because they loved someone or something more than God.

B. The questions
   1. The Devil caused Eve to question what God had said. Gen. 3:1-8
   2. Some who have gone to church all their lives are now questioning the teachings of the Word
      and the things of the Lord.

C. The quests
   1. Some who are saved are searching for something that will satisfy outside of the Lord
      and His Services.
   2. The wise man made a search of life. Study his conclusion in Ecclesiastes 12:13,14.

VI. THE DAMAGE IS ACCOUNTABLE.

A. The heaviness
   1. The saved cannot turn their backs on the Lord and His work without experiencing a great
      heaviness.
   2. If you want to be a Demas, prepare for a life of misery, guilt, and unhappiness.

B. The hurt
   1. You will hurt yourself and your life more than anyone else. Proverbs 8:36
   2. You, as David when he sinned, will show contempt for the Lord and His Word, and you will
      give occasion to the enemy to blaspheme God.
   3. Many who are lost may choose to stay lost because you no longer serve the Lord.

C. The hindrance
   1. You will hinder the cause of the Lord. The Devil will use you to hinder the Lord’s churches.
   2. Many sinful saints have hindered the work of the church they belonged to by their
      sinfulness. It is hard for a church to minister to a community when a saved person has given
      an excuse to blaspheme God.

D. The hardness
   1. The longer you stay in your backslidden condition the harder you will become.
   2. They become cruel and critical of others living right. They cause others to question their
      salvation.

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
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 (English)
Poems by Dovie Brown
Women for His Vessels by Violeta B. Hayes
Sermon Outlines by Raymond Howard
Human Emotions: It’s Your Choice by Sammy Eldredge
The Family by Sammy Eldredge
What I Have in Christ by Charles Swilling
A Study in Psalm 119 by J.W. Griffith
DANGERS TO THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

Text: I Peter 5:8

1. Most people see ____ (5) as the primary danger to the Christian family. Any outside influence can become harmful.

2. Others say that ____ (3) itself is the biggest danger.

3. The failure to confess faults and pray for one another as taught in ____ (5) : ____ (2) will endanger Christian families. Arrogance causes division and hostility between people; not concern for needs.

4. One danger to be watched for is the limited ____ (10) of family members to God. Many give enough for show and conscience.

5. Moses told the Hebrews "he whose heart turneth away this day from the Lord our God," (11) ____ (2) : ____ (2)," was a danger to guard against.

What catches the heart (emotions) has the entire person under control.

6. Another danger that stalks the Christian family is the unwillingness to ____ (7) trespasses and sins. cp. Gen. 50:17-21

Family members need to practice at home with each other so they'll readily do so with others.

7. Perhaps the most subtle danger is the ____ (5) involvement of family members with one another.

If family members don't spend time with one another, how can they know what to do for one another?

8. One danger that lurks to hurt the Christian family is the failure to ____ (9) the source of their preservation. Joshua 24:17

9. Failure to accept the ____ (4) of each family member as God has ordained is a danger to watch for.

Every member within a family has a particular function and responsibility.

This is one of the lessons from Mike Daniel's new book LESSONS ON THE FAMILY. If you want to buy a copy contact Mike Daniel, P.O. Box 1095, Porter, Texas 77365 or call 1-713-354-4840.

AVAILABLE BOOKS

Sounding Out the Word V
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 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 (Spanish) 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 (Spanish) by Marvin Prevost
Morals, the Master, and Me by Kenneth Click
Illustrations Which Illustrate by Don Shultz
Outlines of Colossians by Ray O. Brooks
40th Annual Pastors and Missionaries Conference
The Jordan Divided, the Healing of the Spring, and Other Miracles of Elisha by O.H. Griffith
Bible Lesson Work Book by Mike Daniels
What Are you Waiting For? by J.B. Powers
Lessons From Life by Jesse Spurlock
41st Annual Pastors and Missionaries Conference
Lessons on Prayer (Workbook) by Mike Daniel
The Revelation of Jesus Christ by John Turrentine Jr.
Discipulado Bibliico Basico by Raymond McAlister
What Young Preachers Need to Know by Herbert brown and George Crawford
The Finished Work of Christ by Elvin Crocker
Outlines on the Holy Spirit by Vernon Lierly

From the Philippines
Greetings in Christ's most precious and blessed name. It is always a joy receiving those S.O.T.W. papers. It is a joy to share to other pastors and christians. I have shared all FINDING THE WAY and THE SALVATION OF THE LORD. Today 10:40 A.M. I received the Oct.-Nov., 1995 issue with a happy heart because upon reading it, it challenge me more to do great with God's grace and help. These books are very practical and I have seen and teach them to our members of 2 years effectively. Of course, I have to prepare and translate these all in the dialect (Ilocano).
Series: GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH MEMBERS!

Focus: Presentation - Words beginning with the letter "Q".

Introduction:

A. The Christian's INCENTIVE - a stimulus that incites one into action.
   1. Love
   2. Fear
   3. Judgment Seat of Christ
   4. To hear the Master say, "Well done."

B. The Christian's INVOLVEMENT

C. The Christian's IDENTIFICATION of concepts that will help them to develop.

GOOD CHURCH MEMBERS ARE---------

I. QUALIFIED PEOPLE!
   A. Their AWARENESS
      1. Awareness of the TERM.
         a. A quality, ability, or skill that makes one suitable for a given position or task.
         b. To be competent or able.
      2. Awareness of the TRUTH.
         a. The truth EXPLAINED.
            1. They are aware of their own innate ability.
            2. They are keenly aware of the ability of the Lord.
            3. These are people who have come to grips with what they are but at the same time realizing who He is.
         b. The truth EXEMPLIFIED.
            1. Moses
               a. Notice Moses learning experience.
               b. He had to come to grips with who he was and what was expected of him.
            2. Exodus 3 - 4
               c. The truth EXPRESSED - Becoming qualified is directly linked with your relationship and fellowship with the Lord.

   B. Their ACTION
      1. They respond in a positive way to Thus saith the Lord.
      2. The correct Biblical Faith is that which makes them qualified.

II. QUALITY PEOPLE!
   A. The MEANING of the term - quality means a grade of excellence.

   B. The MESSAGE
      1. This means that due to their meaningful relationship with the Lord they are changed into quality people - a grace of excellence.
      2. They exemplify----
         a. Polish
         b. Class
         c. Christian ethics
      3. They are not cold - crude - calloused - or cruel.

III. QUICK-WITTED PEOPLE!
   A. The PERCEPTION of this element.
      1. This means that they are mentally alert.
      2. This means that they are ready to give an answer.

   B. The PROCESS
      1. Their association with the Word has caused this.
      2. Hebrews 4:12-14
      3. Colossians 4:6
      4. I Peter 3:15

IV. QUOTABLE PEOPLE!
   A. The TERM - means to be suitable for or worthy of quoting.

   B. The TERM - This deals with the impact or influence segment of one's life.
      1. Someone that we can emulate.

Glen E. Tropp 402 Shenandoah Dr., Benton, AR 72015

From Texas
We at the Central Baptist Seminary (Acuna, Mexico) would like to offer our sincerest appreciation for the ministry that Grace Missionary Baptist Church engages in through the Sounding Out the Word publishing company. We gratefully accept your free-of-charge donation of Biblical study material written in Spanish, as well as the other English publications written especially for new/preachers. We have already eagerly put these materials to immediate use in both our missions and our seminary.

We are currently about half-way through our fall semester at the Central Baptist Seminary. One of the classes that we are offering this semester is entitled Ministerial Practicalities. Your donation of material on this subject will greatly add to our ability as seminary instructors to teach the young men in the Del Rio/America area who have answered the call of God into the Ministry. Additionally, all of the area ABA missions offer weekly discipleship classes. Since we received the new Spanish book entitled Discipulado Bíblico Basico, we have been using its material in these classes as well.
THE PREACHER AND THE BIBLE
Text: II Timothy 3:16,17; II Peter 1:20,21
Intro: The Bible is the holy, inerrant, and infallible Word of God. It was written by about 38 to 40 different writers over a period of about 1,500 years. Each of the writers wrote in harmony and unity with each other. The Bible has been attacked in every age and today it stands as the all time best selling book. The Bible contains two divisions: The Old and New Testament. There are 59 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament.

1. We need to learn the Bible.
2. We need to love the Bible.
3. We need to live the Bible.
4. We need to labor using the Bible.
5. We need our language to be guided by the Bible.

I. THE BIBLE IS A BOOK OF INSPIRATION. II Timothy 3:16,17; II Peter 1:20,21
A. About the promise of God
B. About the purpose of God
C. About the power of God

II. THE BIBLE IS A BOOK OF INFORMATION.
Genesis 2; 3; John 3:16-18
A. The creation of man
B. The fall of man
C. The foundation of man
D. The future of man

III. THE BIBLE IS A BOOK OF INSTRUCTION. II Timothy 3:16
A. Instructs us about satan-sin-sinner Genesis 3 - Romans 5:12 - Romans 3:23
B. Instructs us about the Savior and salvation John 3:16 - Romans 10:9-13

This is one of the lessons in Neal Clark’s book PREACHER TO PREACHER. If you want to buy a copy contact Neal Clark, Rt. 1, Box 48-A, Daingerfield, Texas 75638 or call 1-903-645-5540.

PLEASE HELP US!!! I would like to raise enough to print a book. It takes about $1,500.00 to $1,800.00 to print 5,000 copies of a 50 page book. We are asking churches and those who receive the paper to prayerfully help raise enough money to print one book during our Bible Conference. In 1995 we raised close to $800.00 to print a book. This is about one half of what is needed. Please prayerfully consider helping us raise the amount to print one book during the conference. We do not charge for our books or the paper. We never will. Over 2,500 papers go out in our country alone. If each person just sent $1.00, we would receive more than enough to pay for one book. Be sure and mark your offering (Bible Conf. 96) so we’ll know how much we raise for this purpose. Send in one special offering to help us Sound Out the Word!!!

HOW TO BE HEALTHY IN 1996

Start with a fellowship with the Lord
Meditate upon His precious Word
Walk with Him side by side
For His love is deep and wide.

Commune with Him daily
Listen to His voice attentively
Place your life in His control
And He’ll satisfy your soul.

Obey His command-
And take Him by the hand
Take His Word far and near
To people who need to hear.

Love Him above all things
Praise Him with loud hosannas ring
To Him be faithful and true
Magnify His name whatever you do!
Violete B. Hayes

24th ANNUAL BIBLE CONFERENCE:

This is our 24th Bible Conference. This conference will be held on February 21st and 22nd. 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.

From Kentucky
I really have been enjoying the papers and books that your church has sent to us. They are very informative and very much a blessing to this evangelist and other preachers and people around us. We are seeing many people saved in this area and we thank God and praise the Lord for what He is doing. Your ministry is helping us and will continue helping us to win people to Christ while we ourselves grow from some of the material that you have already sent us. We need more people like you in this world to keep the cause of Jesus sounding out loud to a lost and dying world without Jesus and to babes in Christ and all of us for that matter to learn and grow in our Christian walks in life. Pastor you have been very nice and friendly and we do very much appreciate what you are doing. We have enclosed a $20.00 check as a donation to God’s work in your SOTW ministry.
WHAT'S THAT IN YOUR HAND?

Text: Exodus 4:1-5

Introduction:
A. God had a WORK that needed to be done. Exodus 3:8
B. God needed a WORKER to speak for Him both to Pharaoh and to the Israelites. Exodus 3:10
C. Moses did not "seek the job", the job sought him. HE DID NOT FEEL QUALIFIED FOR THE TASK.
1. Exodus 3:11
2. Moses doubted that his own people would respect and believe that God had sent him. 4:1
D. THE QUESTION: "What is that in thine hand?" V2
E. THE DEMONSTRATION that God can use you with what you have to accomplish His will and work. V3,4
F. The APPLICATION to us:

I. WHERE DID YOU GET WHAT YOU HAVE IN YOUR HAND?
A. Paul said we received it. I Cor. 4:7
B. James said it came down from the Father. James 1:17
C. David said the same. I Chron. 29:12, 16
D. Paul taught the Church at Corinth the same principle. I Cor. 16:2
E. We are taught by Jesus that we are INTRUSTED WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF IT according to our ability. Matt. 25:14-17

II. WHO ARE YOU GLORIFYING WITH WHAT HAS BEEN PLACED IN YOUR HAND?
A. King Nebuchadnezzar was glorifying self. Dan. 4:30
1. Some things he forgot.
   a. It came from God. Dan. 4:32
   b. God gave him the MENTAL and PHYSICAL ability he had and was about to take it from him for seven years.
B. Herod gave not God the glory for his accomplishments. Acts 12:21-23
C. Jesus told of a wealthy, successful farmer who TOOK NOT GOD INTO HIS THOUGHTS after God had blessed him with an abundance. Luke 12:18-21
D. Paul dedicated WHAT HE WAS AND HAD TO MAGNIFY JESUS. Phil. 1:20,21
1. What’s your aim in life?

IV. SOME THINGS WE ALL HAVE IN OUR HANDS.
A. Life- Acts 17:25 What are you doing with your life?
   1. For God, Who gave it?
   2. For Yourself? Matt. 16:26
   3. For Others?
B. A light if you are saved. Where is it?
   1. Under a bed? (Living only for pleasure?) (Too lazy to work?)
2. Under a bushel? (Too involved with material interest to serve God or care about the lost?)
3. On the golden candlestick? Shining to give light for others to come to Christ by?

C. A testimony - if saved: Eph. 2:18; I Cor. 15:10; I Timothy 1:15

D. We all have the Word.
1. Which serves as a light - Psalm. 119:130
2. Which is life - John 6:63
3. Which is power - Romans 1:16

E. We all have INTERCESSION PRIVILEGE AND POWER THROUGH PRAYER.
1. Invited to the throne room - Hebs. 4:16
2. Prayer avails much - James 5:16

F. We each have some ABILITY.
G. We have some talent which has been intrusted to our use.

MY APPEAL:
A. Dedicate WHAT IS IN YOUR HAND to God’s USE. Romans 12:1
B. Allow God to WORK IN AND THROUGH YOU to influence others. Phil. 2:13

BOOKS THAT HAVE BEEN COPIED at Office Max

John Chapters 1-3 by Glen Tropp
1982 Bible Conference Outlines
The Great Conflict by Glen Tropp
Sounding Out the Word II
Sounding Out the Word III
Sounding Out the Word IV
1989 Bible Conference
1990 Bible Conference
Going All the Way by Glen Tropp
Word Studies by Glen Tropp
Right Sermons by Wright by D.B. Wright
Scanning the Scriptures I by Glen Tropp
Scanning the Scriptures II by Glen Tropp
Reflections of the Heart by Dovie Brown
A Study of Psalm 119 by J.W. Griffith
Outlines of Ephesians by Ray O. Brooks
Sounding Out the Word I
The Preaching of the Cross by George Crawford

If you want these books, we ask that you send an offering to help us with the copying costs. We are glad to make these books available to you.

COUNTRIES THAT WE ARE MAILING INTO NOW ARE: Mexico, Canada, Peru, Japan, Costa Rica, Philippines, Nigeria, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Solomon Island, New South Wales, India, Queensland, Colombia, Korea, West Indies, Romania, France, Malaysia, Ghana, Ethiopia, Malawi, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Republic of Cameroon, Trinidad, Germany, Denmark, Venezuela, England, Kenya, Scotland, Republic of China-Taiwan, Honduras, Burma (Myanmar), Western Australia, Argentina, Guyana, Cuba, Singapore, Madagascar, Greece, New Guinea, Pakistan, Haiti, Great Britain, Brazil, and Jamaica, Switzerland, Russia, and Yugoslavia. This is 52 countries in all. We would love to add other countries to our mailing list. Would you help us out? If you know of friends who would like to receive the paper in other countries, we would rejoice in receiving their names and addresses.

WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THE ORIGINAL FAMILY
Text: Genesis 3, 4
Intro: Sin is progressive, so what began in the first family has progressed to what we see today, even with God’s intervention.

I. SIN DISRUPTS FAMILY UNITY.
   A. Adam and Eve blaming each other.
      1. After Eve sinned, she had a different attitude.
      2. She was not subject to her husband anymore.
   B. Cain kills his brother because of jealousy.
      1. He was wrong and his brother was right.
      2. Instead of repentance, vengeance was the answer.
   C. Seth ordered not to visit the Cainites.
      1. Influence from outside the family.
      2. But the desire of the flesh over-rulled.
   D. When they did what was not God’s will, violence was the effect.
      1. Selfishness, and evil desire took the place of obedience.
      2. And peace fled the home.

II. THE WOMAN’S DISRESPECT FOR HER HUSBAND’S POSITION.
   A. Making decisions on her own.
      1. Remember, “The two became one flesh.”
      2. When this principle along with the order of Authority is followed, the family is intact.
   B. Her listening to outside influence.
      1. Even today, when outside influence gets in the way of family harmony, it is a disaster.
      2. Read, The man was to leave his father’s house and “cleave unto his wife.”
   C. She knowingly went against God’s Word.
      1. It doesn’t make a difference what you think, God’s Word is always right!
      2. It doesn’t make a difference what anyone tells you, God’s Word is always right.
   D. She offered to share her sin, instead of repenting.
      1. Very rarely will a sinner come clean and repent on his own.
      2. Sin drives us to want to involve others in our misery.
III. THE MAN’S DECISION DRIVES THE DEATH NAIL.
   A. First man could have put God first.
      1. Just because his wife sinned, he did not have to.
      2. "Every one else is doing it!"
      3. Blaming someone else for our sin.
   B. He did not stop to think how many this would affect.
      1. "I got myself into this fix, but I caused others to suffer also."
      2. Sin makes us not care for anyone else.
   C. He took his eyes off God and His Word.
      1. God had given him all he needed to withstand.
      2. He simply set it aside for his own decision.
   D. He took a chance instead of a sure thing.
      1. How is gambling wrong.
      2. God said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you."

IV. FAMILY LIFE MUST BE BASED ON A UNITED EFFORT TO GLORIFY GOD.
   A. The husband is the leader and loyal to God.
      1. If you have a leader, he must be subject and loyal to the Supreme Order.
      2. If the leader is wrong, most of the followers will be wrong. (Today’s family units?)
   B. The wife (mother) subject to this order.
      1. Subject to her own husband.
      2. If he is right and she is right, then the influence is there for a right based family.
   C. The children trained up in God's way - subject to their parents influence.
      1. Keep them home.
      2. Keep them separate.
      3. Keep them training as long as they are under you.
   D. All need to be trained to think of what the future will hold, if the wrong choices are made.

Conclusion: Self sacrifice in every unit is necessary. (Jesus is our example)
   A. For His sacrifice to work, He had to be subject and self-sacrificing to God the Father.
   B. One sin would have wiped out the plan of salvation.

Sammy Eldredge P.O. Box 336, Timpson, Texas 75975

THREE SPANISH BOOKS AVAILABLE

Ensenanza Bíblica by Charles Swilling
Discipulado by Marvin Prevost
Discipulado Bíblico Basico by Raymond McAlister

We want to help our Spanish brethren in our country and in other countries. If you are involved in Spanish Missions, please pray for us and support us so we can print more books in Spanish.

THE BEST YEAR FOR SOUNDING OUT THE WORD

1. We printed the most books - over 62,000.
2. We had the most books paid for (4) - two individuals and two churches.
3. We had the most material (paper and coverstock) donated by 3 different sources.
4. We reached the largest number on the mailing list - nearly 4,400.
5. We are mailing into the most countries - 52.

A TREMENDOUS MISSION ENDEAVOR!!! The books and papers we print are put into the hands of preachers and christians who use the material and/or give it to others. We receive testimonies of people being saved, encouraged, and repenting of a wayward sinful life and returning to the Lord’s service. God has promised to bless His Word. He has! He is! He shall! Our material is being used in churches, visitation, radio ministry, prisons, armed services worldwide. Join this mission work by praying for us and supporting us.

From Greece:

What a wonderful gift I surprisingly received from you this morning! Thank you so very much for sending those books and papers to me. I am sure that they will help my ministries and my own spiritual growth a lot. Just had a look at your material. I am so grateful for these great sources to study the Word of God. I thank God for your works and my prayer is that the Holy Spirit will guide you and strengthen you in continuing to do this lovely ministry.

From North Carolina:

I want to receive the paper, Sounding Out the Word. A preacher friend gave me some of the Back Issues. They were a great help to me. I believe they were God sent by His hands. I was really discouraged, ready to give up the church I pastor. I began reading the messages. They revived me and I thank God for the article Sue Oldner wrote, "The Lord will See you Through" on page 8 No. 138 of September 1992. I’m thankful he saw me through with the messages from your paper. The preacher needs preached to, too. I thank you again and again. After getting revived and repented up toward God, He made me feel at peace, strengthened, and encouraged to go on and do what He called me to do.

I feel now I could swing over hell on a thread and the Lord would see me through.
BEHOLD HE COMETH!

Text: Revelation 1:1-8

A. Setting of the text:
1. This is God's revelation to man through John. The place is the isle of Patmos.
2. God promises to bless the church whose membership studies this book and promises to show us things which must shortly come to pass...begin to be fulfilled.

B. Since He went away...was caught up in the clouds to the right hand of the Father, men have looked for His coming.

C. Jesus said He would return. John 14:3

D. The apostles wrote of His return and how they longed for the day when Jesus should return. Luke says that He is coming as He went away. Acts 1:8

E. Just who is this Jesus who is to return? When shall He come back? And why is He returning?

I. BEHOLD HE COMETH!

A. John describes Him as the FAITHFUL WITNESS.
1. From His entrance into this world as a babe...from the manger to the cross...His very life implies faithfulness.
2. Path of human testimony is imperfect. We turn the pages of history and look at Nations as they rise to splendor then fall...look at men who have risen to heights as rulers and see them fall...see men whose fame carried them to earthly honors as they fall and fade away. Not so Jesus.
3. He did the very thing for which He came into the world. John 4:38; John 17:4; John 19:30

B. He is described as the FIRST BEGOTTEN OF THE DEAD.
1. One asks, "But were there not others who came forth from the dead? Even prior to the resurrection of Jesus?
2. Yes, but they came not forth by their own power...neither with glorified bodies. John 10:17,18
3. Jesus came forth by His own power...the first fruits of them that slept and is at the Father's hand.
4. He was killed...buried...did arise. Hebs. 2:14

C. He is the PRINCE OF THE KINGS.
1. He is King of kings....Lord of lords. Some claim this title with no right. King of country in Africa...has an inscription on his trailer..."King of Kings."
2. It is not that He now reigns, but that He will reign and by rights all things of the earth do already belong to Him. Col. 1:17; I Cor. 8:6
3. He is by right, Lord even today over all who exercise power and rulership on this earth.

D. He is the CHRIST THAT LOVES US.
1. Actually the literal translation is...Unto Him that loveth us.
2. There never has been a time when He did not love us. I John 4:19
   a. He loved us when we were yet enemies. Romans 5:8
   b. When we were ungodly. Romans 5:6
   c. When we were dead in trespasses and sins. Ephesians 2:1
   d. When we were enemies of God. Rom. 5:10
3. He loved us and gave Himself for us...to redeem us from all sin.

E. He is the CHRIST OF BLOOD REDEMPTION.
1. The way to God is by the cross of Jesus. Only by the blood of Jesus can one come to God. Just as life for the body is in the blood, so spiritual life is by the blood. Lev. 17:11
2. There is no other way. Hebrews 9:22
3. On Calvary He emptied Himself...His blood poured out...Whoever comes to God by Him has eternal life.

F. He is the Christ that made us PRIESTS UNTO GOD.
1. Under the law there was an outward cleansing...washing before the priests could offer sacrifice. Exodus 29:4
2. Under grace the blood of Jesus Christ makes the one offering forever for our sins...His blood opens the way to God's throne (Hebs. 10:20) whereby we may come boldly to the throne as a priest with Jesus as the Mediator between God and man.

II. WHEN IS HE COMING?

A. No man knows the hour. Matthew 24:36

B. Many shall and do try to set the time. Only God knows. One day when God shall say...time shall be no more...when man least expects Him...He shall come...When evil is rampant...when hearts are cold...when men are indifferent to God's way...Jesus shall come.

C. The shout of angels shall split the air...clouds shall split...Christ comes in power...all opportunity to be saved will pass as time shall come to a close...for Jesus is coming!

III. WHY IS HE COMING?

A. He is coming for His saints....His people...His church....His bride.

B. He is coming to put down sin and Satan.

C. He is coming to judge nations.

D. He is coming to execute judgment on ungodly men. Jude 15
E. He is coming to loose His wrath on all those who have trampled under feet His plan of Blood Redemption offered to man...to judge the evil...to convict and cast away the evil man...liquor dealer...ungodly men and women...vile...even the good neighbor and good companion who have refused Jesus Christ as Saviour of the soul.

Conclusion:
A. "Behold He cometh." Are you ready?
B. "Preacher I am prepared to die." But are you ready?
C. You need to get right with God...now...Will you?

This is one of Bro. J.B. Powers outlines. Bro. Powers preached this outline in September of 1958.

JUST CHILL OUT

Text: Philippians 4:6,7

Introduction: There is a current phrase that is used to express the idea of calming down and getting control of a situation: it's "chill out!" I like it. Christians need to just chill out sometimes. We worry too much and get all bent out of shape.

A. A Harris survey asked a cross section of Americans to tell what worries them the most.
    1. Seventy percent said they worried about wasting too much time, especially watching television.
    2. Other Worries included: not reading enough, not attending church regularly enough, and not being active enough in community affairs.

B. Psychologists name different causes for our "uptightness."
    1. Rush sickness - trying to cram thirty hours of activities into a twenty-four hour day.
    2. Goals straining - those who aren't getting ahead as fast as they think they should and strain harder to reach a goal, promotion, or social approval.

C. Worry has physical effects.
    1. At a British clinic an examination of 500 patients confirmed that more than one-third of their visual problems were caused by emotional tension.
    2. Dr. Leonard S. Fosdick of Northwestern University has proven conclusively that worry restricts the flow of saliva. Then, because natural mouth acids are not properly neutralized, tooth decay occurs.

D. God has given us the means to "chill out" and get a handle on worry.

I. ALLOW THE PEACE OF GOD TO GARRISON YOUR HEART AND MIND.
A. Philippians 4:7 "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts

and minds through Christ Jesus."
B. The Greek word translated "shall keep" is a military term which means "to protect or garrison by guarding."
C. The image is very comforting - God's peace shield totally surrounding the believer.
D. The operative word is "allow."
    1. Many Christians simply refuse to allow the peace of God to comfort them.
    2. Christian, just chill out!

II. VERBALLY RENOUNCE ALL WORRY TO GOD.
A. Philippians 4:6 "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."
B. The Greek phrase translated "be careful for nothing" is a bit obscured by the King James English.
    1. Phillips, "Don't worry over anything whatever..."
    2. Wuest, "Stop worrying about even one thing..."
C. The importance is two-fold.
    1. This is a command, not a suggestion.
    2. The command extends to every detail of life!
D. I have found it extremely helpful to verbally obey this command in prayer to God.

III. SUBSTITUTE YOUR THOUGHTS OF WORRY.
A. Philippians 4:8
B. "Don't tell me that worry doesn't do any good. I know better. The things I worry about don't happen!"
C. Worry is like a rocking chair: it will give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere.

IV. HAVE FAITH IN GOD.
A. Matthew 6:25-34
B. Matthew 7:7-11

Conclusion: God wants His children to be able to live each day to glorify Him. That will be impossible if we are all twisted with worry. God says, "Cast all your care on me because I care for you," or, put another way, CHILL OUT.

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The Lord our Rock and Refuge
by D.B. Wright

Psalm 95

I. Revelation and Revealor of God
II. Our Righteousness
III. Our Rock
IV. Our Refuge
V. Restorer of the fallen
VI. Reward and Rewarder
VII. Our Ruler
NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

New years resolutions
At this time of the year,
We hear everyone making.
But are we really sincere?

To resolve to do things better,
God will be pleased I know.
With His help and others,
In God's loving grace we will grow.

As we look back over the years
And search our souls deep,
How many last years resolutions
Did we really try to keep?

Look at our sins of commission,
I'm afraid it will make us sad.
But also our sins of omission,
They truly are just as bad.

Where have we failed the Master?
Did we teach and work and pray?
Did we witness to our neighbor,
And ask God to lead the way?

I believe in taking inventory
Of the year that's passed by,
And ask God to help us daily,
To do better with goals set high.

But it's not just a yearly commitment,
We must go to our God every day.
Like Daniel standing by his window,
We need to take time to fervently pray.

Asking His will in every day life,
And daily read His Word.
Listening to the wooing of the Holy Spirit,
And following, when we have heard.

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THERE'S A GREAT DAY COMING

Text: I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Introduction: The Church in Thessalonica was concerned about their loved ones who had died. What if the Lord should return? Will those who are alive at His coming have an advantage over those who have died in the Lord?

The Church in Thessalonica shared in a close-knit fellowship and in a deep bond of love. They really cared for each other. Responding to their love and concern, the apostle Paul inspired of God writes to tell them about believers who had passed on and about what would happen to them at the coming of the Lord. A love and a fellowship such as they shared created a concern that even death could not break.

In these verses, the inspired writer based his concern and comfort on five fundamental facts. Let us prayerfully consider the Revelation, the Return, the Resurrection, the Rapture, and the Reunion.

I. THE REVELATION

How can mortal man penetrate beyond the grave and find assurance and peace for his own heart? Philosophers have wrestled with the question of immortality.

The inspired writer solved the problem when he wrote, "For this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord," I Thess. 4:15

We who know Christ as Saviour need not wonder about death or life after death for we have a revelation from God in His Word. Why substitute human speculation for divine revelation?

God gave Paul a special revelation concerning the resurrection and the return of Christ. The Bible says in I Corinthians 15:51-54.

What Paul taught agreed with what Jesus taught, John 5:24-29. The revelation of God is based on the fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Since our Saviour has conquered death, we need not fear death or the future. The Bible says in I Corinthians 15:57, "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Apart from Jesus Christ there is no hope beyond the grave, but with Him there is eternal, everlasting life. The Bible says in John 3:16... The authority of God's Word gives us the assurance and comfort we need.

II. THE RETURN

The inspired apostle makes it very clear that at the time of death for the born again child of God, his soul goes to be with the Lord, I Thess. 4:14. At death, the soul of the child of God leaves the body to be with the Lord, and the body is placed in the grave to await the resurrection, II Cor. 5:8.

The Bible doctrine of the Second Coming of Christ is a great comfort to the hearts of the people of God, I Thess. 4:16.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God who suffered, bled and died for our sins on the cruel cross of Calvary is coming again! One out of every twenty-five verses in the New Testament speaks of this blessed hope.
Jesus Christ said He would come again, John 14:1-3.

Jesus will come personally and bodily, Acts 1:9-11.

The Second Coming of Christ is mentioned over 300 times in the New Testament. No man knows the day nor the hour when Jesus will come again, Matthew 24:35-44.

Jesus will come in the air for His saints and this is where we shall meet Him, I Thess. 4:17. Jesus will come "with a shout, the voice of the archangel and the trump of God." The signs of His coming are everywhere and now I am listening for the sounds of His coming. The Second Coming will take place "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye," I Cor. 15:52.

III. THE RESURRECTION

When Jesus Christ returns in the air, He will issue the "shout of command" and the "dead in Christ shall rise first," I Thess. 4:16. "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye" our bodies will be "fashioned like unto his glorious body," Phil. 3:21.

When Jesus Christ returns in the air, He will call to Himself only those who are saved through faith in Him. This is called "the first resurrection" or "the resurrection of life." The Bible says in Revelation 20:6, "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection."

At the end of time, just before God ushers in the new heaven and earth, there will be another resurrection. This is called "The second resurrection" or "The resurrection of judgment." The unsaved will be resurrected to meet the Lord at the Great White Throne Judgment, Rev. 20:11-15. Between these two resurrections, I believe that the Great Tribulation on earth and the 1,000 year kingdom of Christ will occur.

IV. THE RAPTURE

The Bible says in I Thessalonians 4:17, "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

The word "rapture" simply means "caught up." Will the unsaved world be aware of what is happening? I Corinthians 15:22 indicates that this will happen so suddenly that it will be over in the twinkling of an eye. Since the shout, voice, and trumpet apply to the people of God, there is no reason to believe that the unsaved masses will hear them.

The born again saints of God will vanish instantly, and no doubt there will be chaos, confusion, and concern. Except for those who know the Bible teaching, the world will wonder at what has happened.

V. THE REUNION

The Bible says in I Thessalonians 4:17, "...to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words."

We have walked with Jesus by faith on earth, but in the air we shall "see Him as He is and become like Him." The Bible says in I John 3:2...

What a glorious day it will be when Jesus comes! To see Jesus and to be reunited with our loved ones who have died in the Lord.

Conclusion: Jesus is coming again! Are you ready for Jesus to come? If you are unsaved, I urge you to receive Jesus as your Saviour today. Romans 10:13; II Corinthians 6:2.

Randy Cloud 3531 Muirfield Cr., Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903

The Church's Marching Orders

by Johnny Williams

Matthew 28:18-20

I. Go with Christ's power.
   A. Our authority is in Christ.
   B. Our ability is in Christ.

II. Go with Christ's program
   A. Evangelize people for Christ.
   B. Enlist people for Christ.
   C. Edify people for Christ.

III. Go with Christ's presence.
   A. Co-operation with the Lord.
   B. Conformation of the Lord.
   C. Completion in the Lord.

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