PLANTING PRECIOUS SEED
Text: I Corinthians 3:6-9

Intro: This church was divided over preachers. Paul said he planted, Apollos had watered, but it was God who gave the increase. Paul and Apollos were not anything, but God was for giving the increase. As a saved people we are to be in the business of sowing or planting the Word of God in the hearts of those around us. The Lord has made us a precious promise in Isaiah 55:10,11. He will prosper the Word where He sends it. He will accomplish what He pleases with the Word He sends. The Word will not return unto Him void or empty.

I. THE SEED IS HOLY.
A. God’s Word is inspired.
   1. Paul tells us that all scriptures is given by inspiration. II Tim. 3:16
   2. Inspired means God breathed. God used men in recording the Word of God. It is God’s Word and not man’s Word.
   3. The Word of God is holy. It is the revealed will of God for mankind.
B. God’s will is illuminated.
   1. The Word of God reveals the will of God for mankind.
   2. God wants you saved, baptized, and an active member of one of His churches. Matt. 28:19,20
   3. We are to try to see and understand what the Lord wants us to do in life. Romans 12:2
   4. The Holy Spirit works in connection with the Word of God in revealing God’s will for your life.
C. God’s way is illustrated.
   1. God saved you to live a different kind of life. We may choose not to live it, but that is why we were saved.
   2. The life the Lord wants us to live is a spiritual life. We are to be led of the Spirit and we are to walk in the Spirit.
   3. A spiritual life will reflect the fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22,23

II. THE SOWER IS HUMBLE.
A. The personal testimony given.
   1. We are to be witnesses of the Lord. Acts 1:8
   2. While this is the desire for His churches, churches are made up of individuals.
   3. Paul gladly gave His testimony of the Lord 9 times in the Bible.
   4. We are to be ambassadors for Christ. II Cor. 5:20
B. The profitable tapes given.
   1. The Word of God is sown in so many ways. We must take every opportunity and avenue that is available to share the truth.
   2. Many sermons and specials are presented on the Radio and Television.
   3. Many programs offer copies of tapes to be received by the listeners to listen to again and again and to share with others.
C. The printed material given.
   1. Thank God for those who dreamed about printing the Word of God so all could have a copy and read it.
   2. Many tracts and Christian papers are printed monthly and sent out all over the world.
   3. The printed page is a powerful source of teaching and testifying today. Put something printed in the hands of people and they can read and look at it later.

III. THE SOIL IS THE HEART.
A. The condition of the heart
   1. Hearts will receive some message. Hearts have various conditions.

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2. In the parable of the sower in Matthew 13, Jesus sets forth the conditions of the hearts of mankind.
3. The heart is like the soil that is planted in. There is good soil and bad soil.
4. Some hearts are hot, hard, heavy, and horrible.

B. The conviction of the Holy
1. When the Word of God is sown or planted, the Holy Spirit of God will convict and convince of the truth.
3. He is the Spirit of truth and He convicts of the truth. John 16:13

C. The choices of the hearer
1. The head and heart will listen to some message. The head and heart will hear and heed some message.
2. No heart is prefixed. Each heart will respond to the message it wants to.

IV. THE SATAN IS HORRIBLE.
A. The plucking
1. In the parable of the sower the evil one came and plucked the word that was presented.
2. Satan will do everything in his power to prevent man from hearing the truth of God's Word.
3. He will try to make the Word of God ineffective. He does this through deception, distractions, and distortions.

B. The purpose
1. He seeks to keep the lost from being saved. He blinds their minds to the truth. II Cor. 4:3,4
2. He seeks to keep the saved from serving the Lord. Therefore, he prevents the Word of God from having free course in your life.
3. The Word of God is powerful. When the seed is planted it will produce fruit. Therefore, listen with all diligence.

C. The problems
1. The distractions in our services. People talk and distract people. People get up during services and it distracts.
2. Satan will lie to you when the truth is being preached.
3. Satan will try to get you to defy the Lord God when the truth is preached.

V. THE SPIRIT IS HONORABLE.
A. The conviction of the truth
1. God's people are to teach and preach the truth. Matt. 28:20
2. The truth can right a lot of wrongs. The truth will expose error and ignorance.
3. The Holy Spirit will convict us of the truth. There is a great need for us to preach and teach the truth.

B. The convincing to trust

---

1. It is not our job to convince people of the truth. We are to teach and preach the truth to people.
2. The Holy Spirit is the only one that can teach or convince people of the truth. I Cor. 2:13
3. Conviction is the Spirit making us own up to the truth regardless of what we do about it.

C. The converting to toil
1. Many saved people need to be converted. Peter was told to strengthen the brethren when he was converted.
2. When you hear the truth, you ought to convert or practice the truth. The Lord changes you from what you are to what you should be.
3. The Thessalonians use to worship idols, but they were converted and worshipped and served the living and true God. I Thess. 1:9

GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH MEMBERS

Text: Acts 2:41-47

Introduction:

A. The MUSINGS
1. Are you satisfied with your accomplishments in the cause of Christ?
2. Are you satisfied with your advancement in the Christian experience?

B. The MESSAGES of this series are for the purpose of:
1. STIRRING or STIMULATING us into positive activity.
2. SCHOOLING us in the process of development.
   a. Establishing guidelines.
   b. Discipleship

I. SAVED!
A. The PERCEPTION concerning this statement.
   1. New Birth experience John 3
   2. Recognition of condition
   3. Reception of Christ

B. The PERSUASION of this speaker
   1. Many difficulties associated with church life is due to unsaved church members.
   2. Much high pressure attempts by leaders to get a big church has contributed to this dilemma.

C. The PROBLEM associated with this issue.
   1. You can't expect a goat to act like a sheep.
   2. An unsaved person cannot understand spiritual truth.

II. SANCTIFIED!
A. The MEANING
   1. To make holy, sacred, or pure.
   2. To set apart for a specific purpose.

B. The MESSAGE
   1. Sanctified POSITIONALLY - in Christ.
2. Sanctified PRACTICALLY - for Christ’s use.
   C. The METHOD of sanctification
      1. Ministry of the Word. John 17:17

III. SOUL WINNERS!
   B. MARVELOUS things said about soul winners.
      1. Proverbs 11:30
      2. Daniel 12:3

IV. SPIRITUAL!
   A. The MEANING
      1. Controlled by the Spirit. Ephesians 5:18
      2. Conformed to the Saviour - Because they’ll be manifesting the fruits of the Spirit which are the character of Christ. Galatians 5:22,23
   B. The MALADY of a lot of churches is carnality.

V. STEADFAST!
   A. Faithful
   B. Dependable

VI. SUBMISSIVE!
   A. To the LORD
   B. To the LEADERS
   C. To the LEGISLATION of the church

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

From the Republic of Georgia: Thank you very much for your letter of September 12th and some booklets. We will be glad to get 32 books that you have, but keep in mind we will not be able to pay for them. If it is a gift, we will accept them with gratitude.

From Moscow, Russia: I was happy to receive the books from you. It is very generous of you. I am a member of Mittish Baptist Church which is situated in the vicinity of Moscow. I find these books very useful for our spiritual growth and thank the Lord for you. There are several people in our church who may be interested in reading these books too. I will share your books with them. I would like to further receive your books and will be waiting for them soon. May God abundantly bless you for your thoughtfulness.

From the Republic of Moldova: Thank you for your letter and package of your papers and outline books. I’m very glad so much for sending me such helpful materials. It will be very helpful in my ministry to reach people for our God. Please add my name to your mailing list to receive the paper and outline books.

From New Guinea: I am very thankful and more excited about the printed material you folks have so faithfully labored to make available to people like me. Isn’t it that with the Lord - I will provide all your needs. Thank God. I truly enjoy your papers “Sounding Out the Word.” It is a great help to me and I thank God for that. I used some of the guidelines and outlines. Since I received it about four have asked Jesus into their hearts to be their personal Lord and Saviour which is blessing. Praise the Lord for it.

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The Great Need of the Hour
Text: Esther 4:13-17

Intro: Examples of people who met the need of the hour:
A. Aaron & Hur (Ex. 17:12)
B. Queen Esther
C. Epaphroditus (Phil. 2:30)
D. Paul’s nephew (Acts 23:16-21)

I. PRACTICAL REVIEW
A. Acts 20:28
B. II Cor. 13:5, “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates.”
C. II Kings 4:26, “Is it well with thee, husband, child?”

II. PRIVATE REPENTANCE
A. Ezra’s day—confessed (Neh. 9:3).
B. To churches in Asia.
   1. Rev. 2:5 (Ephesus): “Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.”
   2. Rev. 2:16 (Pergamos): “Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.”
   3. Rev. 2:21 (Thyatira): “And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.”

IV. PLAIN “RENEWAL”
A. David (Ps. 51:13).
B. Jacob (Gen. 28:20-22), “And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on. So that I come again to my father’s house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God’s house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.”
C. II Chron. 7:14, “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways;
then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

V. PUBLIC REDEDICATION (PUBLIC NEGLECT DEMANDS IT!!!)
A. Peter’s backsliding influenced others in the same direction. "I go fishing; we go also!"
B. Isaiah’s example (Isaiah 6:8).
C. Paul’s example “what?” “debtor to all” “ready”
D. Paul’s appeal (Rom. 12:1-2), "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."
E. No one is saved by "good works!"
1. Eph. 2:8-9
2. Titus 3:5
F. The truly saved "worship" and "work"
1. To "honor" the One Who saves us!
2. In the interest of others who are not yet saved!
   a. Who live contemporary with us.
   b. Future generations.

MOTHERS THAT KNOW
Text: Proverbs 3:1-10

Intro: Godly mothers are a blessing from God. They are special people and the leaders in Christianity.

I. LISTEN TO THE TRUTH OF HIS WORD: Proverbs 3:4 "Favor and good understanding."
A. Truth about sin
B. Teaching of the Savior
C. Training of the scripture
D. Testimony of the saints

II. LEARN TO TRUST IN HIS WAYS: Proverbs 3:5
"Trust in the Lord."
A. Trust the plan of God
B. Trust the power of God
C. Trust the promise of God
D. Trust the pardon of God

III. LOVE THE TIME OF HIS WORSHIP: Proverbs 3:6
"Acknowledge Him."
A. The accomplishments of the Savior
B. The authority of the scripture
C. The advise of the spirit
D. The attendance of the service

IV. LEAD A TRIUMPHANT WALK: Proverbs 3:6 "He shall direct thy paths."
A. Listening to the Savior
B. Learning on the Spirit
C. Learning from the scripture
D. Lifting up those in sorrow

Conclusion: Mothers that stand on the foundation of Christ and have their faith in Christ and that look to a future with Christ are the mothers that will continue to make this a great nation in which we live. Godly mothers are a great asset to the home, church, and community.

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

This is one of the sermons by Neal Clark in his new book, DECLARING THE WORD. You can write him and purchase a copy from him or call 1-903-645-5540.

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From Athens, Greece:
Thank you for your books and papers those I just received several days ago. Needless to say, I am so happy with your materials. Thank God for your great ministries.

Responding to your willingness of sending your books to those who need it in Vietnam, I am sending to you the address of some of my friends. They and the other pastors and leaders in Vietnam are in great need of preaching resources. For nearly 20 years most of them did not have any material, except the Bible. the Communist authority did not allow any Christian publication to be exist in Vietnam. Recently, the door in Vietnam has opened a little bit I have been sending to them some of the books and magazines. Some of them received it (sometime) but the others did not. So you could try to send to these pastors in Vietnam, hopefully they will get it.

This brother sent us 7 names and addresses and we have already sent the material to them.

Would you like to share the Sounding Out the Word Paper with a friend? We would be happy to send you 10 copies or more to share with friends and family. I have carried the paper to hospitals, Book Stores, Barber Shop, and on vacation. I have carried extra copies in my car to give to Christian people that I meet along the way.
**Sounding Out The Word**

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**THE DEVIL’S DEVICES TO DECEIVE DISCIPLES**

**TEXT:** I Thess. 2:18; I Peter 5:8

**INTRO:** First of all, we may as well face the reality of the Devil’s existence. Lucifer, the shining one, was head of a host of angels placed over the realm of material things. He was not satisfied and said, “I will ascend above the stars of God and become like the most high.” God cast him out; He became Satan and has since the beginning of time and man been the fierce enemy of God and man and all that is right. Some forty different names and titles are given to this sly, cunning, ugly, ungodly, deceptive, sinister figure.

This message sets forth some of the tactics he uses to ruin and destroy. As the Bible writer puts it, “We are not ignorant of his devices.”

**I. SATAN MAKES SIN LOOK ATTRACTIVE**

A. He deceives poor, lost, deluded souls into thinking that sin is the best thing in this life.

B. He has made sin so attractive the human race can’t seem to resist.

C. He made the forbidden fruit in Eden so attractive, Eve did not resist, and then insisted her husband eat also.

**II. SATAN SEeks TO STOP THE Word**

A. Remember this: The Bible will keep you from sin. Sin will keep you from the Bible.

B. Satan seeks to stop the word from being READ, TAUGHT, PREACHED AND BELIEVED.

C. Satan has made his attack upon those who were given the responsibility to spread the word.

1. In Old Testament times, Israel was God’s witness. Day and night Satan attacked this people, and it seemed as though he was successful in that when Jesus came on the world scene in human form. He came unto His own (The Jews) and His own received Him not. Satan’s deception caused them to, as a nation, reject the Son of God.

2. In this age, the church age, Satan has continually made assault after assault on the New Testament Church, in that he knows the church has the commission to preach the gospel to every creature.

3. His attack on the church consists of seeking to damage the influence of the members. He first sought to destroy the church from the outside through Saul of Tarsus, but that failed because God saved Saul and he became an Apostle and a soldier for the Lord.

4. He then moved on the inside of the church seeking to destroy it from within.

5. He gets as many members down in the THORN PATCH as he can and lets the cares of this life choke all the fruitfulness out of their lives.

6. He gets them down in the DOUBT PATCH so they will doubt all that is right.

7. He gets others down in the DON’T PATCH and they don’t go to church, don’t read the Bible, don’t pray, don’t witness.

8. He gets members cross-ways with each other; gets them to be critical of the church.

9. He gets them to look at what he wants them to see, say what he wants them to say. He gets them to set the poorest example possible to a lost and dying world. This is the Devil’s device to destroy the church from within.

10. But thank God, "the gates of Hell shall not prevail."

**III. SATAN ATTACKS GOD’S PREACHERS**

A. He has his own preachers that are transformed into angels of light. They deceive poor lost sinners, II Cor. 11:15.

B. Satan literally seeks to destroy the preacher who preaches “thus saith the Lord.”

C. Now somebody says, "The Devil has better sense than to attack God’s man." But what better way does the Devil have to accomplish his purposes than to hinder the WORD, and the preacher is the PROCLAIMER OF THE WORD.

1. He will, if possible, hinder God’s man from the call. Moses and Jeremiah are Bible examples. Even preachers today will say that the devil sought to hinder them from the call.

2. He will hinder God’s man from surrendering. Jonah an example.

3. He will wreck the preacher’s home any way possible.

**IV. SATAN’S DECEIVING ATTACK UPON YOUNG PEOPLE**

A. He deceives the young through drugs. He gets as many hooked as he can.

B. He gets young people hooked on false hope and religion.

C. He seems to promote marriages where one mate is either not saved or is of a different faith. (The trend today is not marriage at all; just live together.)
D. He discourages every new marriage to shun activity in a blood bought church of the Lord. He deceives them to place their affection on things below, and not on things above.

V. SATAN'S DECEPTION IS TO GIVE THE WORLD ANOTHER GOSPEL.
A. It is BLOODLESS, SOCIAL, GRACELESS, FAITHLESS GOSPEL.
B. Paul said, "Though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."

CONCLUSION: Satan discourages sinners from hearing and believing the gospel of Christ. Satan deceives by getting the sinner to believe his false gospel. Satan deceives by telling sinners there is no hell, no heaven. Don't let Satan drag you to hell. Repent and believe Christ before it is too late.

Luther Crawford P.O. Box 16, Pickton, TX 75471-0016
This is one of the sermons in the book SERMONS BY LUTHER CRAWFORD. This 63 page book has 26 sermons in it by Luther Crawford. I know you will want to get this book. We hope to print it within the next couple of months.

PRAISE THE LORD: A member of the Grace Missionary Baptist Church gave an offering of $1,500.00 to print a book for Sounding Out the Word. A member of the Longview Missionary Baptist Church also gave $1,500.00 which will be used to print a new book by George Crawford and reprint THE PRAISING OF THE CROSS (2,000 copies) by George Crawford. Both donations were made on March 3rd. All I can say is PRAISE THE LORD. Each offering will enable us to print 5,000 books and mail them into 49 states and 59 countries. In 1995 4 books were paid for by 2 individuals and 2 churches. People in other countries receive our books, read them and share them with someone else.

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Warnings From God's Word
Text: 1 Peter 5:6-9
Charles Swilling

I. Warnings about Satan
A. His person
B. His power
C. His plan

II. Warnings about self
A. Fleshly lust
B. Pickle feelings
C. Fatal pride
D. Feeble nature
E. Help fight the flesh

III. Warnings about sin
A. Sin is dangerous
B. Sin deceives
C. Sin defies God
D. Sin destroys
E. Sin defeats

The Authority and Responsibility of the Parents
Text: Ephesians 5:1-33; esp. 21-33

Intro: We are usually set in our ways as grown-ups, but our children must be trained or they will go the way of the world.

(Tragic)
I. THINK: WHAT WILL MY CHILDREN BE?
A. God made the FAMILY UNIT FOR A REASON!
   1. This is the best way to influence a society.
   2. Remember the call of Abraham. (To start a God fearing people.)
B. The world and Satan want to destroy the Family for a reason.
   1. As long as the family unit is functioning as God set it up, Satan is doomed. (In this life.)
   2. If he can destroy it and its influence then he can destroy many lives of your children and descendants.
C. Only you! You are the people who can make a difference.
   1. Whom am I talking to?
   2. Christians and potential Christians.
D. Your children and grandchildren are at stake!
   1. Do you love your children and grandchildren?
   2. Just saying it doesn't count; it takes sacrifice, dedication, and actions.

II. ATTITUDES WE NEED TO CHANGE.
A. We need Fun and Frolic!
   1. The kind of fun we are thinking of is of the flesh.
2. Read Romans 8:4-8.
3. The flesh is not subject to God.

B. "I work hard all week, Sunday is my day off."
1. Sunday is the Lord's day.
2. If He doesn't have a day, neither will your children.

C. Our children are going to learn on their own anyway.
1. Their limited isolation and teaching will make the difference in their dedication to God and you.
2. But we must be willing to make the sacrifice first.

D. "Let them be kids."
1. I believe we should let kids grow also.
2. But I also know that their minds are growing as their bodies do, and they must be taught and influenced, or else they will grow distorted.

III. GOD'S ORDER BRINGS HAPPINESS.
A. Husbands love your wives, as Christ loved the church.
1. Christ was dedicated to the happiness and the fulfillment of the church.
2. He was willing to lay His life on the line that she might be happy and fulfilled.

B. Wives submit yourselves to your own husbands, as unto the Lord.
1. Jesus is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end.
2. He is the Judge of all things and men.

C. Children be obedient unto your parents.
1. You can be rebellious, but it will come home.
2. God's way is the only way to happiness (Future).

D. Servants serve your masters well.
1. This has to do with the work place.
2. If a society is to function, then we must give ourselves even in the work place.

IV. WITH POSITION COMES RESPONSIBILITY.
A. Do you believe God is all knowing and all wise?
1. That may seem like a foolish question, but many times we want to try it our way before turning to God's way.
2. This is what gets us into problems that many times takes years to straighten out.

B. His instructions are not suggestions, but solutions.
1. God did not give us the Bible as a guide.
2. He gave it as a fool proof plan.

C. Your responsibility is to God.
1. It is for His honor and glory we are here.
2. Self and other men, are not part of it.

D. Your future happiness in this life depends on it.
1. It is not a question, will it turn out?
2. Only if God's will is done, will we be fulfilled as we should be.
3. Until men wake up and listen to God both through the Spirit and the Word, we will suffer.

Conclusion: The eternity of your family is effected by your acceptance of this responsibility. (Where will your children spend eternity?)

This is one of the sermon outlines in the book The Family by Sammy Eldredge, P.O. Box 333, Timpson, Tx 75975.

DISCIPLESHIP AND MENTORING
Text: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

INTRO: What do we mean by Discipleship and Mentoring? It is forming "vital relationships" to strengthen and encourage us in our daily walk. When paramedics respond to a call in which someone is seriously injured or unconscious, the first thing they check is the person's vital signs. The readings are vital because they indicate life. If the person's vital signs are weak or absent, death is usually close at hand.

In a similar way "vital relationships" are relationships apart from which a man cannot live and grow, spiritually speaking. If you are going to keep your spiritual and personal life vibrant and robust and constantly on the growth curve, you're going to need what is called mentoring relationships with a small group of other men.

I. WHAT IS A MENTOR?
A. He is someone committed to two things:
1. Helping you grow and keep growing, and
2. Helping you achieve your life goals. So many of us go to conferences only to forget our promise later.

B. A Mentor is a coach.
1. The job of a coach is to prepare his athletes to win an athletic contest.
2. The job of a mentor is to prepare a man to win at life.

C. Do we really need mentors to help us in life? Absolutely! The testimony of Scripture, as well as countless men of God, is that growth and change simply won't happen apart from a mentoring relationship.

II. WHY MENTOR?
A. Because of the severe shortage of leaders (I Timothy 2).
1. We need leaders in our churches. The average church in America is operated by 15 to 20 percent of its membership. Many churches have to depend on the women of the church to provide whatever leadership is found. This makes the church both weak and ineffective in its ministry. God intends for the men to provide the spiritual leadership in the church. This is the biblical way. There are only two groups of people in the church:
   a. Pillars - who support it, and
   b. Caterpillars - who crawl in and out week after week.
2. We need leaders in our homes. The American family is unraveling like a cheap sweater. May I remind you of one historical fact? No nation
has ever survived the disintegration of its home life. We need men who are willing to step up to the plate and assume the leadership role God has given them in their homes.

3. We need leaders in our society as well. In politics, in business, in industry, in education, in the military and in the professions, we need men of honesty and integrity.

B. Because of the need for mentors.

1. There is the absence of fathers in our culture. I'm not talking about physically absent; I'm talking about fathers who are also emotionally and spiritually absent.

2. There is a shortage of positive male role models. There are men like Charles Barkley and Dennis Rodman who say it's not their responsibility to be a role model for anyone. However, it is all our responsibility to be a positive role model for those in our area of influence.

C. Because of the waste of existing leadership. Two of the greatest curses ever perpetrated on a society have been crammed down our throats:

1. The "generation gap"—there is no generation gap in the body of Christ. Young people need older people to lean on and learn from, and older people need young people for a sense of purpose and a sense of worth.

2. Retirement—Retirement is cultural not Biblical. You may retire from your company, but you never retire from the Christian life and ministry.

III. HOW TO MENTOR.

A. Perhaps the one familiar to most men is when an older man influences a younger man in a profound and lasting way. This is the sort of relationship that Paul had with Timothy.

B. It's also possible for those who are about the same age to influence each other in what is called "peer mentoring." This is the sort of relationship that Paul had with Barnabas.

C. Another form of mentoring takes place in a group setting. This group dynamic takes hold when men band together to encourage and challenge one another in spiritual growth, and keeping our commitment we make to change our lives. It is called "Accountability Groups."

IV. THE REWARD OF A MENTOR.

A. We Grow Together.

B. We Work Together.

C. We Stand Together.

CONCLUSION: In the times in which we live, we need the strength of our brothers in the Lord to be what we ought to be and live as we ought to live. Satan is working overtime to destroy all of God's children, especially those who dare to exercise leadership. Don't let the "macho" image of yourself deceive you into thinking you can make it alone and that you don't need other men to help you live for the Lord. That's just simple pride. We do need each other! Of course the greatest joy of being in a mentoring relationship is satisfaction of knowing you are investing your knowledge and experience into a young life or in a new Christian, and seeing that life bring glory to God.

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**JESUS, SAVIOUR, PILOT ME**

Text: John 6:16-21

INTRO: Thomas Kelly told about his first voyage down the St. Lawrence River. The Long Sault Rapids with their rushing, foaming, tossing waters came into view. Still a safe distance away, the boat was anchored and a new pilot was taken on board. He was the only man who had brought a vessel safely through those raging waters. The pilot put his hand on the wheel and headed the boat toward the center of the rapids. With eyes riveted on an object beyond the torrent, he held the vessel steady as it moved through the rushing current. Huge rocks protruded from the water, little more than an arm's length from the hull of the boat. But the pilot knew what he was doing, and soon the danger was behind. We have a pilot who brings us through the perilous waters in the rapids of life. It is by Him that we can navigate our hazardous, uncharted voyage through life.

"JESUS, SAVIOUR, PILOT ME"

Jesus, Saviour, pilot me
Over life's tempestuous sea:
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rocks and treacherous shoal;
Charts and compass come from Thee,
Jesus, Saviour, pilot me.
Boisterous waves obey Thy will
When Thou sayest to them "Be Still!"
Wondrous Sovereign of the sea.
Jesus, Saviour, pilot me!

I. JESUS IS TAKEN ABOARD. He is the Only One Who has ever brought a vessel safely through, John 6:68.

A. An invaluable Pilot, John 15:5.
B. An incomparable Pilot, Romans 8:31.
C. An invincible Pilot, Philippians 4:13.

II. THE PILOT HEADED TOWARD THE CENTER OF THE RAPIDS, WITH EYES RIVETED ON AN OBJECT BEYOND THE TORRENT, AND HELD THE VESSEL STEADY! Joshua 3:4, "....ye have not passed this way heretofore." (But Jesus has), Hebrews 4:15.

A. Our conferred association, Matthew 17:8.
B. Our continual assertion, Romans 8:28.
C. Our conclusive assurance, Psalm 112:7.
D. Our constant assistance, Hebrews 12:2.

B. Our security during trials, 2 Corinthians 4:17-18.
C. Our supply during tribulation, John 16:33.
D. Our shelter during testing, Matthew 11:28-30.

IV. THE PILOT BROUGHT THE VESSEL SAFELY THROUGH THE PERILOUS RAPIDs.
B. Our glorious proposition, Romans 8:18.
C. Our glorious promotion, I Timothy 4:8.

V. SUMMARY
A. Jesus is the only Pilot to take afloat on our journey of life.
B. Jesus holds our vessel on course and through the trials of life.
C. Jesus brings us through all the raging circumstances and dangers of life; if we keep our eyes upon Him and what lies beyond the raging torrents of this life.

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God's Book
Text: Psalm 1:1,2

D.B. Wright

I. God's Book is a Book to be Loved.
II. God's Book is a Book to Lean on.
III. God's Book is a Book to Learn from (A Book of knowledge)
IV. God's Book is a Book to Light my life and the life of others.
V. God's Book is a Book to Live day by day life by.
VI. God's Book is a Book to Lie down by.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LOVE
Text: I John 4:7-8

INTRO: John repeats over and over the theme of love in this great Biblical letter. To be a Christian is to love as Christ loved. Unloving, cold, selfish Christians deny the Lord by their actions and hinder the work of their church. We need to be reminded of the importance of love.

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF LOVE IS SEEN BY THE NUMBER OF OCCURRENCES IN SCRIPTURE.
A. "Repent" is found 112 times.
   1. II Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."
   2. Revelation 3:19, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."
B. "Obey" is found 118 times.
   1. Acts 5:29, "Then Peter and the [other] apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."
   2. II Thessalonians 3:14, "And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him that he may be ashamed."

C. "Hope" is found 142 times.
   1. Romans 15:4, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."
   2. Ephesians 2:12, "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:"

D. "Salvation" is found 164 times.
   1. Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."
   2. Romans 10:10, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with mouth confession is made unto salvation."

E. "Faith" is found 360 times.
   1. Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God:"
   2. Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith [it is] impossible to please [him]; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and [that] he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

F. "Love" is found 522 times.

II. THE IMPORTANCE OF LOVE IS SEEN BY THE STATEMENTS OF SCRIPTURE.
A. The scripture commands us to love God!
   1. Deuteronomy 6:4-5, "Hear, 0 Israel: The Lord our God [is] one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."

B. The scripture commands us to love our neighbors!
   1. Mark 12:31
   2. Romans 13:8-9
   3. Leviticus 19:18, "Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I [am] the Lord."

C. The scripture commands us to love fellow Christians.
   1. John 13:34, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."
   2. John 15:12, "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."

D. The scripture commands husbands to love wives! (Ephesians 5:25).

E. The scripture commands us to love our enemy!
(Matthew 5:44-48).

Conclusion: Love is not an option for the believer! Let us pray that God gives us a heart of Christian love. Perhaps what is needed is salvation! “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.” — 1 John 4:8.

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THE FACE OF JESUS
Text: Revelation 1:10-16

INTRO:
1. There are many paintings of the face of Jesus but in reality we do not know what He looked like when He was here on earth.
2. There are many in the religious world who say they have seen Christ in person.
   a. They may have seen something, but not Christ.
   b. We can only see Him by faith as He is revealed in the Bible.
3. When John saw Him in Revelation 1:16, His countenance was as the sun shining. This is different from what He looked like even after His resurrection.
4. There are several in the New Testament that saw the face of Jesus and were dramatically affected.

I. STEPHEN SAW THE FACE OF JESUS IN THE HOUR OF DEATH.
   A. Stephen was the first to be chosen as a Deacon.
      2. We need deacons like Stephen who are full of faith and power.
   B. Stephen had never had a course in Homiletics but preached a powerful message.
      2. Deacons should be able to speak for Christ.
   C. Stephen was killed for his boldness.
      1. Acts 7:54-60.
      2. He didn’t beg for mercy, but “fell asleep” in the Lord.
      3. He saw Jesus standing at the right hand of the Father.
   D. Though we will not see the face of Jesus as Stephen did, we can be assured of dying Grace.

II. PAUL SAW THE FACE OF JESUS IN THE HOUR OF CONVERSION.
   A. Who was Paul?
      1. Formerly Saul of Tarsus.
   B. How was he converted?
      1. He was on the way to Damascus to persecute the Christians.
      2. He saw a great light in the sky that struck him down.
   C. Many scholars believe this light was the face of Jesus.
   D. Acts 9:3.
   E. Revelation 1:16.

III. PETER SAW THE LORD IN THE HOUR OF BACKSLIDING.
      1. He boasted about his spiritual condition, vs. 33.
      2. He followed afar off, vs. 54.
      3. He sat down among the unbelievers, vs. 55.
      4. He backslid in a short period of time, vs. 59.
   B. One look in the face of Jesus broke his heart.
      1. Vs. 61.
      2. It was a look of compassion and disappointment.
      3. Jesus is looking at His own all the time; this should break our hearts when we go astray.
   C. Though Peter repented and became a very bold Christian on the day of Pentecost, he is known as the man who denied the Lord.

IV. JOHN SAW THE FACE OF JESUS IN THE HOUR OF PROPHECY.
   A. Revelation 1:17.
      1. When John saw the face of the Saviour, he fell at His feet.
      2. The Lord told him to “fear not.”
      3. When God’s children see the Lord’s face, they will not have to fear.
   B. Revelation 6:12-17.
      1. Here he describes the effects that the face of Jesus will have on unbelievers during the great tribulation.
      2. They didn’t want to hide from the earthquake, the sun that was as sackcloth or the moon that was as blood, but the face of Him that sat on the throne.
      3. Paul had warned that one day every knee would bow.
      4. One day every sinner will look into the face of Jesus and will hear Him say, “Depart from me, I never knew you.”

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THE KIND OF PREACHING THE WORLD NEEDS!
(THE KIND THAT JESUS DID)
Text: Matthew 4:23-24

INTRO:
1. After His baptism, and wilderness experience with the devil, Jesus entered into a ministry of healing, teaching, and preaching.
2. Although the world does not want it, we stand in need of the kind of preaching that Jesus did.

I. PREACHING THAT EXALTS THE BIBLE!
A. Jesus exalted the scriptures when He preached. The Bible is likened to fire, hammer, sword, seed, mirror, and lamp.
B. Jesus questioned some about their reading of the scriptures. Matthew 21:42, "Did ye never read in the scriptures, The Stone which the builders rejected the same is become the Head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes?"
1. Notice that statement in the verse that sorta leaps out at us, "never read in the scriptures..."
2. How sad it is today, some never read.
C. Jesus quieted the Sadducees, reminding them they had erred and did not know the scriptures. Matthew 22:29, "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God."
D. Jesus expounded and explained the scriptures (Luke 24:27, 32).
E. Jesus exhorted some to search the scriptures. John 5:39, "Search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me."

II. PREACHING THAT INCLUDES BLOOD REDEMPTION!
A. Many have taken the blood songs out of their hymnals, and the blood messages out of their pulpits.
B. We must include blood in our sermons, because life is in the blood, Leviticus 17:11.
C. The blood of Christ is atonement for sins; without the shedding of blood there is no redemption.

D. The blood of Christ cleanseth from all sin. I John 1:7, "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."

E. The blood of Christ Justifies, Romans 5:9.
F. The blood of Christ Redeems, I Peter 1:18-19.
G. The blood of Christ Reconciles, Colossians 1:20.

III. PREACHING THAT EXPOSES PARTICULAR SINS!
A. Sin is transgression of God's law, yes, but what about particular sins? The Old Testament prophets preached against particular sins.
B. So did Jesus.
1. Covetousness...thou shalt not.
2. Adultery...thou shalt not.
3. Unbelief, this is a great sin. "Believe not that I am He and ye shall die in your sins."
4. Unconcern.
5. He preached against grudges, and said if we did not forgive neither would the Father in Heaven forgive.
C. Yet we must preach, that God forgives, our sins. In spite of our evils, sins, and weaknesses, God forgives.

IV. PREACHING ABOUT DEATH, HELL, AND JUDGMENT!
A. All have sinned, all will die.
B. After death, the judgment.
C. After judgment, the unsaved are cast into the lake of fire.

V. PREACHING THAT DEMANDS REPENTANCE!
A. God now commands men everywhere to repent. Be sorry for sin, change opinion about sin, God, and the Saviour. Repent, Believe, and Live.

VI. PREACHING THAT DEMANDS IMMEDIATE DECISION FOR CHRIST.
A. When Moses came down from the mountain, "...who is on the Lord's side, let him come unto me."
B. Joshua as an old man, "...choose ye this day who ye will serve."
C. Elijah on Mt. Carmel, "...how long halt ye between two opinions."
D. Jesus always preached in such a way that immediate decision was necessary.
1. Nicodemus, "...ye must be born again."
2. To the disciples: "come follow me."

Conclusion: You are traveling either the broadway or the narrow way. Will you make the tree good or bad? Will ye also go away?

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