BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
Text: Ephesians 4:14-16

Intro: The Lord doesn't want us to be like children tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. We can also be affected by the sleight of men and cunning craftiness. We are to be established in the Lord. We are to build upon that foundation a good relationship with the Lord. We begin as babes in Christ and should strive to reach a maturity and growth that Jesus desires for us. The growth enables us to become better servants for Him and the cause.

I. THE SALVATION OF THE SOUL
A. The Saviour
1. Jesus Christ is the only Saviour of the world. Acts 4:12
2. There are many religions. There are many so called holy books. There are many saviours presented to the world.
3. Jesus is the only qualifying Saviour. He became man. I Tim. 2:5 He was God. John 1:1

B. The sinner
1. All have sinned against God and come short of His glory. Romans 3:23
2. The lost sinner must die and suffer eternally. Rom. 5:12; 6:23; Rev. 20:11-15
3. The lost sinner is dead in sin. Eph. 2:1 He is under the influence of Satan. John 8:44 He is acting according to his nature and choice. Eph. 2:2,3

C. The salvation
1. The Lord Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Luke 19:10
2. He lived a perfect life. Matt. 5:17 He died a sacrificial death. I Peter 3:18; 2:24
3. He has the power to give eternal life. John 3:36 He forgives of sin. Eph. 1:7 He creates us anew. II Cor. 5:17
4. We are saved by the grace of God. Eph. 2:8; John 10:10

II. THE SANSCTIFYING FOR SERVICE
A. The Word of God

1. After we are saved, we are to do the works that God has ordained that we do. Eph. 2:10
2. This requires our sanctification. We are sanctified through the truth. John 17:17
3. The Lord has set us aside for His service. We are to become instruments in the hands of God. Rom. 6:13

B. The will
1. Jesus who is our example prayed, "...Not my will, but thine be done." Luke 22:42
2. We are not to be conformed to the world, but be transformed by proving the will of God that is good, perfect, and acceptable. Rom. 12:2
3. We have a free will that expresses itself in making choices. We can serve God. We may refuse to serve God.

C. The way
1. The Holy Spirit will lead us to the truth about serving God. John 16:13-15; I Cor. 2:13
2. We are to submit or yield to the Lord God. James 4:6 We have a choice to submit or not.
3. The love of God will move us to serve the Lord and sanctify ourselves to do so.

III. THE SACRIFICE FOR SUBMISSION
A. The people
1. Every saved person is called upon to serve the Lord. The Bible is so plain on this truth. Rom. 12:1
2. We were saved for service. We were saved to become the servants of the most high God.
3. You are in the Lord's army. Make a good soldier for the Lord.

B. The presentation
1. We are called upon to present our bodies a living sacrifice unto the Lord. Rom. 12:1
2. This sacrifice is to be holy and acceptable to God. This is our reasonable service. Rom. 12:1
3. We may wonder if we would be willing to die for the Lord. Something more important. Are you willing to live for the Lord?

C. The position
1. There is coming a day when every tongue will confess Jesus Christ. Phil. 2:11
2. There is coming a day when every knee will bow to Jesus to the glory of the Father. Phil. 2:10
3. Our position is plain. We are under the authority of the most high God of heaven.

IV. THE SCHOOLING OF THE SANCTUARY

A. The truth
1. God has always had someone who loved Him and the truth enough to speak it and teach it to their generation.
2. The fathers, priesthood, and God called preachers and churches that belonged to God were and are used of God to keep the truth alive.
3. In our day God called preachers and New Testament Churches are to faithfully proclaim the Lord's Word. II Tim. 4:1,2

B. The teaching
1. The Lord's Churches are to preach the gospel in all the world. They are to teach the all commands of Jesus. Matt. 28:19,20
2. The Lord's churches are to be light houses warming and informing the human race about God's Will and Word.
3. The sad thing is a lot of people are more interest in programs and social events than in the truth of God's Word.

C. The trust
1. The churches are to teach people to trust in the Lord for salvation. John 3:16,36; Acts 16:31
2. The churches are to teach people to trust in the Lord in every day life. Prov. 3:5,6
3. The churches are to teach people to trust the Lord's Word. II Tim. 3:16,17

V. THE SORROW FOR SIN

A. The corruption
1. Sin is the transgression of God's law. I John 3:4
2. Sin is all unrighteousness. I John 5:17
4. Sin is rebellion and defiance of God's will and way. Eph. 2:2,3

B. The conviction
1. The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, judgment, and righteousness. John 16:7-11
2. The Holy Spirit convicts us of what we are doing that is wrong.
3. The Holy Spirit convicts us of what we are not doing that is right.

C. The confession
1. When the Holy Spirit convicts you, He wants you to confess your sins. I John 1:9
2. He wants you to own up to and acknowledge your sins. Psalm 51:1-3
3. Our sins should break our hearts. If we do not sorrow over sin, we will not ask God's forgiveness.

D. The cleansing
1. When we are willing to confess our sins, Jesus will cleanse us of all unrighteousness. I John 1:9
2. David wanted God to restore the joy of His salvation. Psa. 51:12
3. When our sins are forgiven, we can fellowship with the Lord. I John 1:7

GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH MEMBERS (Y)

Introduction:

A. Life should be lived----
1. In the light of Eternity.
2. In the light of Christ and my relationship to Him.
3. In the light of Church involvement.

B. Life lived in any other way-
1. Robs you or your correct identity.
2. Leaves you without a dynamic thrust to your life which will make your life meaningful.

C. Life must have focus in order to be productive and meaningful.
1. The intent of this series is to aid us in our focus.

I. YEARNERS! Matthew 5:6; Psalm 42:1,2

A. IDENTITY of the term - yearn or yearning.
1. To feel a strong desire or craving for.
2. A strong or tender longing.

B. INSIGHTS as it relates to spiritual perspectives
1. A longing to know more about the Lord. Phil. 3:7-14
2. A longing to know more about the Word.
   a. Psalm 119:40
   b. Psalm 119:97
   c. Psalm 119:103-105
   d. Psalm 119:127-130
   e. Psalm 119:140

II. YIELDERS!

A. Yield to God - PARTICIPATION - FAITH. 1. Embraces SUBMISSION - SURRENDER - SERVANT SPIRIT.
2. Embraces the Lordship principle.

B. Yield for God - PRODUCTIVITY - FRUITFULNESS.
1. Embraces the fruits of the Spirit.
2. Galatians 5:22,23

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THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

As another year is ending
And Christmas beckons at your door
I know you will recognize her
For she’s knocked many times before.
I know you will make her welcome
As your arms are open wide
"Come right in my Dear Lady
I have a cozy fire inside.
Once again tell me the story
The way that it happened long ago
I want it written upon my heart.
And each detail I wish to know."
"Well, Mary had to take a stable
There was no room at the Inn
She barely got inside the door
When her labor did begin.
She brought forth the Baby Jesus
A manger was his little bed.
While an angel spoke unto the shepherds
And this is what he said,""
"Fear not I bring you good tidings
God has come to earth this day
Find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes
Lying in a manger on some hay.”

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HEAVENLY HEARTBURN

INTRODUCTION: The Bible has a lot to say about our hearts!
The Greek word is kardia, from which we get:
1. Cardiology: the study of the heart.
2. Cardiologist: a heart specialist.
3. Electrocardiograph: an electronic monitoring device for the heart.
A. In a normal person, the heart beats 70 times a minute, 100,000 times a day, 40 million times a year.
B. The major meaning of "heart" in the Bible is figurative of the center of life, thought, feeling, and spirit.
C. "God is more concerned with the state of people's hearts than with the state of their feelings." - A. W. Tozer
D. Do you have "heavenly heartburn"?

I. CONSIDER THE TWO EXTREMES IN THE TEXT.
A. Slow Hearts (vs. 25)
1. Slow to believe.
2. Slow to understand.
3. Slow to receive.
B. Burning Hearts (vs. 32)
1. While he talked: personal encounter.
2. While he opened: personal illumination.

II. CONSIDER THE VARIOUS HEART CONDITIONS.
A. Indifferent Hearts & Caring Hearts.
B. Hypocritical Hearts & Holy Hearts
C. Prideful hearts & Humble Hearts.
D. Worldly Hearts & Spiritual Hearts.
E. Broken Hearts & Joyful Hearts.
F. How would you describe your heart condition today?

III. CONSIDER WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THE HEART.
A. It's what the Lord looks at: - I Samuel 16:7 - But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.
B. It needs preparation:
1. II Chronicles 12:14 - And he (Rehoboam) did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the Lord.
2. Psalm 51:1-12
C. It is deceitful: - Jeremiah 17:9 - The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (10) I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doing.
D. It is the well spring of thoughts and actions: - Matthew 15:18-20
E. It can be renewed:
1. Ezekiel 36:26-27
2. Psalm 51:10 - Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Conclusion: Does your heart burn today? Do you love God with all your heart? God can and will create a new heart for you.

Romans 10:9 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

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"HIS GREAT LOVE"
Text: Ephesians 2:1-13

Introduction:
A. To perk up our spiritual minds...this reading calls our attention to our gruesome past, "without Christ."
1. Insensitive to the depravity of our nature.
2. Powerless to the depths of our sin.
3. Without any desire for God.
4. Spiritually dead to God.
5. Ungrateful that God was continuously SEEKING.

D. B. Wright
DRAWING...us by "His Great Love."
6. Dominated by sinful self pride.
7. Deceptive in our attitude toward God...making Him promises and vows we did not even try to keep.
B. What God, out of "His Great Love" did for us before we were saved:
2. Kempt us alive from many dangers (John Bunyan, as a soldier..on duty as a guard..RELIEVED...his relief was killed by a sniper's bullet.)
3. Restrained us from many, many evils.
4. Kempt on "CALLING" and "DRAWING" us unto himself.
5. Loves us...solely because of "His Great Love".
C. Let us also be reminded...NOW THAT WE ARE SAVED AND ARE BORN AGAIN CHILDREN OF GOD...
1. God will never quit loving us!
2. He will never leave us to perish!
3. He will meet our NEEDS!
   a. He who waters the grass with "dew" in the night will care for His own.
   b. He who cares for the "LILIES" and the "THORNS" CARES FOR US!
D. A CHALLENGE: Since God out of "His Great Love" loves us ought we not to "Love For God"? I John 4:11
E. Let us consider the NATURE and WORK of "His Great Love."
I. HIS GREAT LOVE IS "REDEMPTIVE" LOVE!
A. Galatians 4:5, (to buy out of the hands; To set free:)
B. Why this redemptive work?
   1. Proverbs 5:22, "His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his own sins."
   2. Romans 7:14, "...but I am carnal, sold under sin."
C. An old, old, message: Job 19:25, Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die."
D. Redemption in Jesus!
   1. Galatians 3:13
   2. I Peter 1:18-19.
II. HIS GREAT LOVE IS "RAISING" LOVE!
A. Verse 6 - "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places IN CHRIST JESUS."
B. A King's Testimony: Psalm 40:2, "He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings."
C. "Raised to a Blessed Life devoted to God," Thayer
   1. From the life of a demon possesseed maniac to a Loving Father, Loyal Husband, Laboring Citizen.
   2. From the life of an "harlot" to that of a SOUL-WINNER.
   3. From a slave trader to a gospel preacher and hymn writer.
D. From the nature of a lying cheater to that of a man of benevolence.
5. This same "raising" love that has lifted these has "kept from such depths" of sin and shame millions who heeded the words of God in Ecclesiastes 12:1.
III. HIS GREAT LOVE IS "REGENERATING" LOVE!
A. The love that brings the "New Birth" into the family of God.
   1. John 3:7
   2. John 1:12
   3. Galatians 3:26
B. How did it come about? Titus 3:5.
   1. Love washes away our sin in the blood of Jesus.
IV. HIS GREAT LOVE IS "RECEIVING" LOVE!
A. We talk, teach and preach about sinners receiving Jesus; let's think for a moment about the great LOVE that receives sinners!
   1. Romans 14:3c; "God hath received him."
   2. Romans 15:7, "Wherefore receive ye one another, as CHRIST ALSO RECEIVED US to the glory of God."
   3. Luke 15:2, "This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them."
B. This word "Receive."
   1. "Take to one's home."
   2. "Take into shelter", Acts 28:2, "And the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire, and RECEIVED US every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold."
   3. "To take or draw to one's SELF as a Companion, Son, Heir" - Harper
   a. In Christ one is received as a "SON" of God and HEIR of God and JOINT HEIR with Jesus, Romans 8:16-17.
   b. Illustrated in Paul's appeal to Philommon on behalf of one run-away slave who had been saved under Paul's ministry - Philommon 1:17-18
   d. Do You Remember The SWEET Words of Romans 5:8?
V. HIS GREAT LOVE IS "RESTORING" LOVE!
A. The testimony of a "sheep" of his Shepherd, Psalm 23:3.
   1. How many times over and again has He not had to do this for us?
B. The prodigal only asked for the position of a SERVANT; but was RESTORED to the full rights of a son!
C. In love to the many, many prodigals...God has commanded- Galatians 6:1.
D. After Peter had denied his saviour...He was given the look of love...was recommissioned to feed the souls of men.
VI. HIS GREAT LOVE IS "REACHING" LOVE!
A. John 12:32
B. John 6:44
C. Titus 2:11
D. Proverbs 1:24, "Because I have CALLED (Isaiah 1:18), and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded".
E. Now He in "His Great Love" is reaching out to the one and all!
1. Isaiah 45:22
2. Matthew 11:28
3. Ecclesiastes 12:1

REFRESHED IN SPIRIT
Text: I Corinthians 16:15-18
Introduction: There are many ways of REFRESHENING and many types of REFRESHING. Physical REFRESHMENT is something NEEDED. So is mental REFRESHMENT. But Paul speaks of a REFRESHMENT which is far superior to all others - that of the SPIRIT. We might think of such refreshing as a "RESTING UP OF THE SPIRIT", but "REFRESH" & "RESTING" are two different things. Jesus promised "REST UNTO THE SOUL", but Paul said these men had REFRESHED HIS SPIRIT! "REFRESHED" has reference to a "REJUVENATION", or a "RECHARGING", so that ENTHUSIASM is stirred up to a GREATER WORK - sort of a "SECOND WIND". It is something so needful today in God's work. God's people seem to have lost their ENTHUSIASM, EXCITEMENT, & ZEAL in the Lord's work. There are several ways we can refreshen the spirit of others. We can refreshen the spirit of others by our ATTITUDES and ACTIONS!

I. WE CAN REFRESHEN EACH OTHER BY REMINDERS.
B. Reminder of God's Promises - Hebrews 13:5-6; Romans 8:31.
D. Reminder of God's Blessings, Malachi 3:10; Psalms 81:10.

II. REFRESHEN EACH OTHER BY EXAMPLE.
A. Enthusiasm in worship, Psalm 122:1.
B. Example in initiative, Psalm 84:10.
C. Eagerness in work, Ecclesiastes 9:10.
D. Excitement in witnessing, Psalm 66:16.

III. REFRESHEN EACH OTHER BY SUPPORT.

IV. RESULTS OF REFRESHENING ONE ANOTHER'S SPIRIT.
A. Blessing to the one refreshing, Hebrews 6:10.
B. Blessing to the one being refreshed, Philippians 1:3-6.
C. Blessing to the Church, I Thessalonians 1:7-8; Psalm 133:1.
D. Blessing to the Community, Matthew 5:14,

Proverbs 11:10-11.

V. SUMMARY:
A. We may refreshen each other's spirit by reminding each other of all that God has done and is doing for us.
B. We may refreshen each other's spirit by being an example to each other in all that we do in the Lord's service.
C. We may refreshen each other's spirit by getting behind the Lord's work, his people, and his preachers in every phase we can.
D. We may refreshen each other's spirit by our own attitude and actions.
E. Everyone around us is blessed by our refreshing each others' spirits.

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THE SINNERS PART IN SALVATION
Text: Romans 4:1-8
Introduction: Today we discuss something very vital, important, and interesting...it was so even in Abraham's day.
1. Almost two thousand years ago Paul wrote these words to the church at Rome.
2. He wrote through inspiration, love and earnest desire for the lost to be saved and saved useful.
3. Let the sinners part in salvation...

I. THAT MAN IS A SINNER IS CLEARLY REVEALED
A. By the Bible (man's manual)
1. Paul: All have sinned - Romans 3:23. There is none righteous - Romans 3:10.
   a. This means ALL, everybody, each are sinners.
   b. Some better than others, none righteous.
2. Isaiah: All we like sheep are gone astray- Isaiah 53:6.
   a. All men (mankind) are gone astray (lost).
   b. Our righteousness is as filthy rags-Isaiah 64:6.
   a. Spoken to the largest religious group of that day.
   b. This is true with so many people today.

B. By the Law
1. The Law reveals (Galatians 3:24) Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.
2. It was given to bring men to Christ.

C. By a look at the human race.
1. Hippies, racial trouble, vice, crime, drink, rape, war.
2. Man's history is degradation

II. THAT MAN SEeks FREEDOM FROM SIN IS QUICKLY PROVED.
A. By the inspired Word of God.
1. Men from all walks of life seek salvation.
   a. The leper - Mark 1:40.
   d. The good men, bad men...YOU.
2. Christ draws all men unto Himself - John 12:32

B. By universal worship
1. Acts 17 - These people had many gods.
2. Many gods are worshiped today.
   a. Pleasure
   b. Sports
   c. Customs
   d. Traditions

C. By yourself - 1 John 5:9

III. WHAT IS MAN’S PART IN FREEDOM FROM SIN?
A. God completed His part.
   1. John 3:16
   2. Through adoption all may become sons - Galatians 4:4-5.

B. Christ completed His part
   1. He came unto His own and they received Him not - John 1:11.
   2. He promised to draw all men to Himself - John 12:32.
   3. He gave His all for lost sinners - John 19:30.

C. The sinner’s part is
   1. To believe
      a. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name - John 1:12
      b. But the scriptures hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe - Galatians 3:22
      c. But without faith it is impossible to please God; for He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him-Hebrews 11:6.
   2. To confess
      a. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in Him, and He in God-Hebrews 11:15.
      b. Also I say unto you, whosoever shall confess Me before men, him shall the Son of Man also confess before the angels of God-Luke 12:8.
      c. That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead thou shalt be saved-Romans 10:9.
   3. To receive - John 1:12

Confession:
1. Where will you spend eternity? It’s up to you.
2. Come with us and we will do thee good.

Gordon Shaffer in Glory

STEWARDSHIP OF LIFE

Introduction: There are four basic principles of Christian stewardship:
1. God's divine ownership of all things- Psalms 24:1; Haggai 2:8.
2. Stewardship is a sacred trust which all Christians should respect - 1 Corinthians 4:1.
4. Every steward must give an account of his stewardship - Luke 16:2; Romans 14:12.

All phases of stewardship recognize the ownership of God. The following scriptures present God's ownership of mankind:
Deuteronomy 32:8; Romans 14:8; Ezekiel 18:4; (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - gives the plain and proper perspective of the stewardship of life).

I. "YE ARE NOT YOUR OWN." Life is a gift of God. No man possesses himself. God has a two-fold claim to every human life. Deuteronomy 32:6 states: “hath he not made thee, and established thee.”
   A. God’s first claim on all men is because of creation. "Hath he not made thee?” Therefore we belong to Him.
   B. God’s second claim is because He has sustained, preserved, and established our life. In Deuteronomy 32:6, the question, "hath He...not established thee?” the fact that God has preserved our life provides the second claim which He holds on all men.

II. "FOR YE ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE" This phase shows that upon the Christian God has a third claim. The Christian, having been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ and bought from the slavery of sin, belongs to the One who paid the price. To the Christian it should be evident that our life is not ours, 1 Corinthians 19:20.

III. "THEREFORE GLORIFY GOD IN YOUR BODY, AND IN YOUR SPIRIT." This is the essence of stewardship. Our life is not ours to spend it or use it as we please but we are to so conduct the life which belongs to God in a way to please Him. The life is entrusted to our care with the responsibility to so administer it in a fashion as to glorify God. The Christian who responds to the Bible teaching of Stewardship of life will live:
A. A sacrificial and holy life, Romans 12:1.
F. A yielded life, Romans 6:13.
H. A life of subjection, 1 Corinthians 9:27.
I. A mortified Life, Colossians 3:5.
J. A life of abstinence, 1 Peter 2:11.
K. A life fulfilling God’s will, 1 Peter 4:2.
L. A life of obedience, 1 John 5:14.
N. A life of love, Ephesians 5:2.
O. A life of fellowship, 1 John 1:7.
MENDING OUR NETS
Text: Matthew 4:18-22
Fishing was one of the leading occupations of Jesus day. At least four of the Apostles were fishermen by trade. Their nets were vital and it was essential to keep them mended. Jesus found James and John, with their father, Zebedee, mending their nets. The nets were often damaged causing them to be ineffective in catching fish.

Jesus called these fishermen to leave their boat and nets and take up a different type of fishing. He said, “I will make you fishers of men.” Fishers of men do not have a literal net, but a fisher of men has a spiritual net. His life, testimony, example, moral and spiritual conduct along with the Gospel serves as his net. Jesus said, “Let your light so shine that all men may see your good works and glorify the Father in heaven.”

I. SOME THINGS THAT DAMAGE OUR NETS AND MAKE THEM INEFFECTIVE.
A. Satan is like a great shark, he charges at our net constantly, trying to knock holes in it.
1. He wants to make the Gospel bait unattractive by destroying our testimony.
2. He wants to make us failures as fishermen.
B. Indifference is a hole that must be mended.
1. Indifference allows many souls to slip through the net.
2. Indifference manifests itself in our attitude toward the Gospel and the Lord’s church. In the way we support it.
3. Indifference manifests itself in the lack of concern for souls.
4. Like a fisherman who doesn’t put forth any effort. He can take it or leave it.
C. Selfishness can rip holes in our net.
1. Can cause us to leave our nets unattended.
2. Can cause us to spend more time mending our own nets than fishing for men.
D. Envy, strife, bitterness and evil speaking are also things that will damage our nets.

1. Those we are fishing for are expecting us to live by the Gospel we offer them.
2. When they know that we are not, they are not going to be interested in what we offer.

II. SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER ABOUT OUR NETS.
A. Each fisherman has his own individual net to keep mended.
1. My effectiveness as a fisherman will be determined by how I maintain my net.
2. The great problem of our day seems to be unmended nets.
B. Each fisherman is to be a part of a larger group (the church) helping with the net.
1. When we fail to guard our position in the net, the old shark runs through and the fish escape.
2. We are both individually and jointly called to be fishers of men.

III. SOME SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THE CARE OF OUR NETS.
A. Check them regularly for holes or spots that are beginning to unravel.
B. Mind them immediately before they are totally destroyed.
1. By confession
2. By repentance.
3. By rededication.
C. A good time for checking and mending is Sunday morning, Sunday evening, Wednesday night. All the rest of the time we should be fishing. There is time for mending and time for fishing.
D. Along with the Gospel (good news) our nets should be made attractive by including love, compassion, longsuffering, patience, kindness, gentleness and faith.

Does your net need mending? Are you guarding your position on the greater net? Are you holding up your portion? If the answer to any of these is no, then the fish (souls of men) that we are to be catching and saving from hell are passing right on by.

It is now net mending time.

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JESUS IS LORD
Text: Philippians 2:9-11
Introduction: This characteristic is even more marvelous when we consider the fact that JESUS CHRIST is LORD. How much more should we endeavor to take this and other characteristics of Christ. The disciple is not above his master nor the servant above his Lord.

It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his Lord. Matthew 10:24-25.
I. IN ORDER TO CALL JESUS LORD, WE MUST RECOGNIZE HIS DEITY.
A. He is Eternal, Micah 5:2; John 1:1-2; Hebrews 7:13; 13:8; Revelation 1:8-17.
B. He is Creator, John 1:3; Colossians 1:16.
C. He is Equal with the Father, John 5:17, 18, 23;
I AM NOT MY OWN
Text: I Corinthians 6:19,20
Intro - I am not my own - What a lesson in living that all of us need to learn! We do not belong to ourselves -- There is someone above us to whom we are accountable. This of course is the almighty God. When a person does not yield themselves to God, they are unhappy wretches, because according to their life style, they belong to themselves and not to God. This is not God's way!

I. I AM NOT MY OWN BECAUSE GOD CREATED ME.
A. Proof in the story of creation - Genesis 1:27.
   1. By creation, we are rightfully His.
   2. If lost in sin, God wants you to know that it is high time for you to recognize His right to have you.
B. To use our bodies, lives, our way, is to steal from God.

II. I AM NOT MY OWN BECAUSE GOD PURCHASED ME WITH A GREAT PRICE - I PETER 1:18,19.
A. Everything I am, that I have, is God's.
   1. I have no ears; they are His ears. My eyes are His eyes, my hands are His hands, my tongue is His tongue.
   2. If we lived by this, it would solve many problems regarding what we listen to, look at, read, work on, talk about, etc. What an exciting thought!
   3. We need to learn that many of our frustrations, nervous breakdowns, burdens and things that make us unhappy very often stem from the fact that we do not see God as owning the Body's members.
B. When submitted to God's ownership, a great power comes over our lives.
   1. When submitted:
      a. Preachers are not powerless.
      b. Teachers are not powerless.
      c. Churches are not powerless.
   2. Plans, programs, personalities, formalities are not the keys to power in the work of God. We've got all that -- we need recognition of and submission to the fact that God owns us.

Conclusion - The truly happy person, the truly powerful servant of God is the one who is doubly submitted to God. God created us and if saved, He purchased us. Therefore, let us not do what we want, but rather what He wants us to do.

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