HE IS LORD
Text: Psalm 95:1-7

Intro: The psalms are beautiful to read and think on. It is easy reading to read the psalms. This psalm magnifies the Lord and declares the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We do not make Him Lord. He is Lord. Allow Him to be Lord in your life. He is the great all powerful Lord of glory. He is Lord. He is Lord. He is Lord. He is the King of all kings and the Lord of all lords. May we with the psalmist magnify and exalt and lift the Lord up high to this generation.

I. JESUS IS LORD IN HIS PERSON.
A. He is righteous.
   1. He died the just for the unjust that He might bring us to God. I Peter 3:18 He is the Just One. John tells us that no sin was in Jesus. I John 3:5
   2. The righteousness of Christ is imputed to the one who believes in Jesus Christ. Romans 4:5 Jesus came to fulfill the law, not to destroy it. Matt. 5:17 He proved by words, works, and ways that He was the righteous sinless Son of God.
   3. Jesus is the out pressed image of God. Hebs. 1:3 He was God robed in human flesh. God is holy and divine. Jesus was the pressed out image of the invisible God.
   4. Joseph was told that the child Mary conceived was holy. Matthew 1:21-25

B. He is Redeemer.
   1. In Jesus we have redemption which is the forgiveness of sins. Eph. 1:7 Redemption is in a person and that person is Jesus Christ. To know Jesus is to be saved by the grace of God.
   2. We are redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus, God’s Son, who is the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. John 1:29; I Peter 1:18,19 The writer of Hebrews made it very plain that the blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin.
   3. He is the only Redeemer of all mankind. Acts 4:12 He is the only One that qualifies. He is the Mediator between God and man. I Tim. 2:5

4. Our salvation was purchased with the precious blood of Jesus on Calvary. He paid the sin debt for every person and now every person can be saved.

C. He is our refuge.
   1. The psalmist wrote these beautiful words, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psal. 46:1 A refuge is a place where you can run and hide from the troubles of this life. God is our refuge.
   2. Everyone of us need a hiding place. We need somewhere to run to or someone to run to and Jesus is the One. The old song expresses it well. Just a little talk with Jesus makes things right.
   3. Those who labor and are heavy laden are invited to come to Jesus and find rest. Matt. 11:28-30 Jesus is our rest. He is the Rock of ages who can support and sustain every human being.
   4. Jesus has promised He will never leave us or forsake us. Hebrews 13:5,6 He will always be there for us. Isn’t that wonderful?

II. JESUS IS LORD IN HIS POWER.
A. His power in creation
   1. John wrote, "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." John 1:3 John plainly teaches us that the world and whole universe was created by God through Jesus.
   2. God spoke and the world and universe came into existence. What great and wonderful power. This world is breath taking. The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows His handiwork. Psalm 19:1
   3. Every time a baby is born the Lord gives it life and sustains the life. Psa. 3:5 Every day we wake up the
Lord sustains our lives another day.

4. The mind is amazed at the earth the Lord has made even in its sin marred condition. We stand in awe of the wonderful creation of God.

B. His power in conversion
1. The apostle Paul is the demonstration of His amazing conversion power. A dead religious man became a living redeemed man.
2. Saul was a persecutor of God's people. He was saved on the road to Damascus and was changed into Paul the preacher of God's Word. Acts 9
3. O'Hare, the atheist, saw her son saved by the amazing grace of God and become a preacher of the gospel. God can do anything. God can do anything. God can do anything, but fail.
4. A friend of mine gave his testimony of being a wicked sinful church member, but was saved and is preaching the gospel in jails and to everyone that will listen.

C. His power in charity
1. The love of God is shed abroad in the hearts of those saved by grace. Rom. 5:5 The divine love of God is implanted in the lives of believers.
2. The Lord can give a strong love for people and the cause and various forms of ministering to others. The love of God is the greatest motivating power we will ever know.
3. Charity is the greatest gift of the saved. I Cor. 13:13 Charity will give you a good testimony and a great influence. Charity is giving something, love, without expecting anything in return.
4. Love gives evidence that we are saved. I John 3:14 Love gives evidence of our discipleship in the Lord. John 13:34, 35

III. JESUS IS LORD IN HIS PARDON.

A. His pardon is complete.
1. God is a forgiving God. He is tender in mercy and pardoning. When the Jews wanted to see a woman caught in the act of adultery stoned, Jesus wanted to forgive her and encourage her to go and sin no more.
2. When He forgives of sin the psalmist said the sins are removed as far as the east is from the west. Psa. 103:12 I am so thankful for the Lord's forgiveness.
3. When we confess our sins, they are removed from us. They no longer stand between us and God. Isa. 59:1,2 What a wonderful day and experience when one is saved by God's grace.
4. John teaches us that He is faithful and just to forgive us of sin and cleanse us of all unrighteousness, when we confess our sins. I John 1:9

B. His pardon is cleansing.
1. In forgiveness the Lord cleanses us from our sins. He removes them from us. They no longer stand between us and the Lord. How wonderful this experience is.
2. We are to confess our sins. When we do, He will forgive and cleanse us of sin. I John 1:9 We are to be sorry that we have sinned against God. We are to determine to forsake our sins and embrace the ways of the Lord.

3. This is no more than a spiritual bath. Only the Lord can give us a spiritual bath. How wholesome and clean is the one that is cleansed of sin by the Lord.
4. You can deny sin, ignore sin, cover it up, justify it, excuse it, and all you will feel is regret, misery, and guilt. When you confess it to God, He will cleanse you of it and rid you of it.

C. His pardon is changing.
1. True forgiveness results in our being changed and living a changed life. It is one thing to talk about your sins. It is another to really want God's forgiveness.
2. The Old Testament prophets challenged the people to REPENT or TURN FROM THEIR SINS. True repentance always results in a change in your life.
3. When we repent of our sins, we will stop doing them, and change our minds and ways about them. We will start living for God.
4. Jesus encouraged people to go and sin no more after He forgave them of their sins. He knows we are sinners and we will sin. He wants us to confess our sins and receive His forgiveness.

IV. JESUS IS LORD IN HIS PEACE.

A. Peace with Maker
1. When we trusted the Lord and put our faith in Him, we were justified and we have peace with God. Rom. 5:1 We settled up with God. We were enemies, but now we are His children.
2. It is wonderful to be a child of God and not an enemy of God. Rom. 5:10; Gal. 3:26 We became a child of God when we exercised faith in the Lord.
3. We may run from God as His children, but we are no longer running from Him as an enemy. How wonderful and good it is to be saved and at peace with God.
4. We can continue to be at peace with God. Paul wrote to us about the peace of God. Col. 3:15 We are to allow the peace of God to rule in our hearts.

B. Peace of mind
1. As believers we are encouraged to let or allow the peace of God rule in our hearts. Col. 3:15 This peace passes or goes beyond understanding and even description. Phil. 4:7
2. Jesus has left us His peace. We will have tribulation in the world. John 16:33 Even during bad and tough times, we can experience the peace of God.
3. Paul described this peace as a peace that passes understanding. Phil. 4:7 He also tells us how to have that peace in Phil. 4:8.
4. This peace will guard our hearts and minds. Phil. 4:7 No situation can take this peace from us, we will surrender it. The way to keep the peace is to keep your eyes on Jesus.

C. Peace with mankind
1. Paul instructs us to live in peace with men as much as is lieth in us. Rom. 12:18 There will be a lot of people that do not want peace.
2. The Prince of peace in our hearts moves us to live peacefully with others. Jesus is a peaceful person. He desires to have peace with all people.
3. His peace will guard our hearts and minds and
enable us to want peace with others. Phil. 4:7 Those who have peace with the Lord will want to be at peace with others.

4. Peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. When the Lord does a work in you through His Holy Spirit, the result will be peace. Gal. 5:22,23

V. JESUS IS LORD IN HIS PURPOSE.
A. Saved from penalty of sin
1. The penalty of sin is death in hell and the lake of fire. Luke 16; Rev. 20:11-15 This is the great and terrible destiny of all who reject Jesus as Saviour.
2. Paul teaches us the wages of sin is death. Rom. 6:23 The gift of God is eternal life. This truth is so simple and plain. Sin and the wages you receive will be death.
3. Those who have trusted the Lord do not have to worry about dying and going to hell. They are saved from the penalty of sin.
4. The believer has been redeemed, saved, delivered, and set free of the penalty of sin. He has settled his account with the Lord.

B. Saved from power of sin
1. Paul wanted the Romans to not allow sin to have dominion over them. Rom. 6:14 The Romans could or could not. It was up to them.
2. Paul wanted the Romans to not allow sin to reign in their mortal bodies. Rom. 6:12 They could or could not allow it. It was up to them.
3. The Devil and sin only have the power that we allow him and it to have. The Devil will draw us to his will and the Lord will draw us to His way.
4. We will decide who we will follow. Because we will decide, we also will be responsible for the decision to follow one or the other. We choose whose instrument we will become. Rom. 6:13

C. Saved from presence of sin
1. Nothing that defileth, worketh abomination, or maketh a lie will enter into heaven. Rev. 21:27 All of these things will not be a part of heaven.
2. Only the born again saved will go to heaven. These are those who are completely redeemed. The Bible teaches us the believer goes to heaven and the unbeliever goes to hell.
3. We will rule and reign with the Lord in complete obedience to Him. Rev. 22:3 The old nature will be done away with that has been connected to this earthly body.
4. If you would weigh the truth about heaven and hell, Satan and the Saviour, life with the Lord and without Him, you would choose the Lord and His way.
5. What a hope the saved have in the Lord. We are going to live forever with the Lord God and all of His wonderful redeemed people. There will be no sin or no sinner anymore.

From North Carolina:
Please send me a copy of your book, THE SALVATION OF THE LORD. Please send me extra copies of your outline paper to pass out to other preachers and interested Christians.

From Connecticut:
I am the Religious Services Coordinator at Garner CI. which houses approximately 700 male inmates many of whom are on lock down 23 hours a day. Many of these men are not able to attend services and rely on literature that we receive to hear the Gospel.

At this time, we do not have sufficient monies set aside to purchase enough pamphlets, books etc., and we rely on the generosity of other ministries to help us out. Would you kindly consider donating 100 copies of your Bible Study "Sounding Out the Word" for distribution to our inmate population? These would be ideal for our inmate population in spreading God's Word!

IS IT RIGHT OR WRONG?
In your mind, perhaps there is a question as to whether or not a certain thing is right or wrong. Below are 11 questions which in answering honestly, will with earnest prayer, help you to make the right decision.

1. THE PERSONAL TEST: Will it make me a better or worse Christian?
2. THE PRACTICAL TEST: Will it bring desirable or undesirable results?
3. THE SOCIAL TEST: Will it influence others to be better or worse Christians?
4. THE UNIVERSAL TEST: Suppose everyone did it?
5. THE SCRIPTURAL TEST: Is it expressly forbidden in the Word of God?
6. THE STEWARDSHIP TEST: Will it involve a waste of God's talents invested in me?
7. THE MISSIONARY TEST: Will it help or hinder the progress of the kingdom of God on earth?
8. THE CHARACTER TEST: Will it make me stronger or weaker morally?
9. THE PUBLICITY TEST: Will it bring credit or dishonor to my family?
10. THE COMMON SENSE TEST: Is it good, plain, everyday, ordinary, common "horse" sense?
11. THE FAMILY TEST: Will it bring credit or dishonor to my family?

I remember a statement made years ago. If you have to ask, Is it right or wrong? nine times out of ten it will be wrong.

“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.” I John 1:7
Series: BUILDING FOR GOD
Focus: PERSISTENCE IN THE FACE OF OPPOSITION
Text: Nehemiah 4:1-23

Introduction:
A. The REVIEW
1. Ch 1 - Deals with the PASSION.
2. Ch 2:1-10 - Deals with the PREPARATION.
3. Ch 2:11-20 - Deals with the PROCEDURE.
4. Ch 3 - Deals with the PARTICIPATION.
B. The REVELATION
1. The 4th chapter deals with PERSISTENCE in the face of opposition.
2. This chapter gives us some real insights to the methods of Satan as he seeks to hinder the work of God.
   a. II Cor. 2:11 - not ignorant of his DEVICES - (a plan or scheme).
   b. Eph. 6:11 - Stand against the WILES of the Devil (seductive tricks).
   c. I Tim. 3:7 - The snare of the Devil (a trap to entangle us).
3. We've already noted who the Devil uses, II Tim. 2:26 Those who will not acknowledge the truth.
4. This chapter gives us some valuable information concerning the opposition and obstacles that we will face as we seek to do a work for God.

I. THE OPPOSITION - Neh. 4:1-9
A. The REALITY you need to understand - Satan always opposes the work of God.
   1. He uses those who are not saved - without and within.
   2. He uses the carnal believer - those who will not acknowledge the truth and are not committed to Christ.
B. The REVELATION
1. Opposition through ARTICULATIONS - Neh. 4:1-3 "But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we builded the wall, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews. V2 And he spake before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, What do these feeble Jews? Will they fortify themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they make an end in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned? V3 Now Tobiah the Ammonite was by him, and he said, even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall."
   a. They minimized their importance - note the expression "Feeble Jews."
   b. Many believers stop because someone scorbs, ridicules, or mocks them.
2. Opposition through ACTIVITY - Neh. 4:7,8 "But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth. V8 And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it."

C. The RESPONSE - 3 basic things that Nehemiah did:
1. He had a HEART TO PRAY. Neh. 4:4,5
   a. He's calling on God to judge what they are doing.
   b. He's taking the matter to God in prayer.
2. They had a MIND TO WORK. Neh. 4:6.
   a. Keep on working for the Lord.
   b. Don't retaliate or respond. If you do you'll leave the work and become involved in confrontation - thus Satan accomplishes his goal.
3. They had an EYE TO WATCH. Neh. 4:9
   a. Jesus admonished us to watch and pray.

II. THE OBSTACLES - Neh. 4:10-12
A. The RUBBISH caused DISCOURAGEMENT - Neh. 4:10,12
   1. Before they could build they had to remove the rubbish.
   2. Before there can be construction - it is necessary to do some destruction work. Jer. 1:10
   3. Before you can build a positive work for God you must remove the rubbish.
   4. Anything that distracts from the primary role and function of the church is rubbish. Note Matt. 28:18-20
B. The Rubbish created a deceptive way for the enemy to get in. Neh. 4:11

III. THE OVERCOMING - Neh. 4:13-23
A. The DIVISION that he made. Neh. 4:13-18
   1. A group to BUILD - workers.
   2. A group to BATTLE - WARRIORS.
B. The DISCERNMENT that he clarified. Neh. 4:19-23
Conclusion: One of these days the great trumpet is going to sound and the Lord will gather all of His workers and warriors together - reward them and take them home.
UNTIL THEN MAY WE:
1. Fight the good fight of faith.
2. Finish our course

Glen Tropp 402 Shenandoah Dr., Benton, Arkansas 72015

New Book: Jean M. Grumley has given us the right to offer her book, HELP! I MARRIED A MINISTER, to people outside of our country. She sells the book in the U.S.A. If you want to purchase a copy you can write her at OMEGA PUBLICATIONS, 9 Paul Drive, Texarkana, Texas 75503 or call 903-794-2230 for the details. This is a 34 page book with a lot of sound advice to the preacher's wife. We are very thankful to be able to help wives of preachers in other countries. The article below is a sample of the book.
FOOD FOR THOUGHT (For ministers' wives)

HOW DO I HELP MY HUSBAND?

Pray for him: Remember that God called HIM, not YOU. Pray that he will seek the Leadership of the Holy Spirit in ALL decisions.

Listen to him: He is your authority-protector. Arrange your lifestyle flexible to his schedule (which can become hectic).

Travel with him: The more you know and observe about the work among our churches, the more you can help him in his ministry.

Critique him: Do this in a spirit designed to help and build him up.

HOW DO I IMPROVE MYSELF?

Accept myself: God made me as I am; Thank Him.

Proper attitude: Not self-righteous nor judgmental of others.

Accept others: As they are, not as you would have them to be.

Develop a quiet spirit. Not proud, nor critical. Listen and pray! Too much talk can get anyone into trouble, especially the minister's wife.

The very best thing a wife can do is to pray for her husband. Pray that he will seek God's will for himself. If he is able to be in the will of God for his life, it is also God's will for her. Any minister who finds himself outside of God's will brings misery upon the entire family. As a wife of a minister, remember that God called him to the ministry -- Not You. He is the Pastor, and leader. The wife is to follow and be a helper.

Observation: Many ministers fail (even to the point of answering God's call) because the wife objects and forces him to choose between her and God's calling. Many ministers are sometimes forced out of the pulpit because of wives who cause problems for him among the members of the congregation. Some fail because of the lack of control over the children, and this is usually blamed on the wife. Because of these problems, some ministers give up completely and return to their former employment, thereby losing some of God's choicest blessings upon himself and his family.

A JOYFUL EXPERIENCE IN THE HOUSE OF PRAYER

Text: Isaiah 56:1-8

Intro:

A. I understand these verses to speak of a time in God’s tomorrow when Israel and Judah will be gathered from all places where they have been scattered and both they and strangers (Gentiles) will worship the Lord together in God’s House of Prayer.

B. These will be a PECULIAR PEOPLE

D. B. Wright

(God's own possession). Vines "God's purchased possession.) V6

1. They have a COVENANT RELATIONSHIP with the Lord.

2. There has been a PRESENTATION of themselves to the Lord.

3. These have a LOVE RELATIONSHIP with the Lord, as in Romans 5:5.

C. I see in this passage a MESSAGE OF CHALLENGE to all who assemble at God’s House of Prayer, THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD. I Tim. 3:15

1. Every time we assemble in His name THE LORD IS THERE. Rom. 8:9

2. The Lord chose His House of Prayer to put His EARS to hear our prayers; His EYES to see our need; and His HEART to love and communique with us. II Chron. 7:15,16

3. Therefore...it is my conviction that one can have a JOYFUL (CHEERFUL, HAPPY) EXPERIENCE every time one goes to the Lord's House of Prayer.

D. Spiritual Joy is a REALITY!


2. David for a restoration of joy. Psalm 51:12

3. Paul, John, and Peter wrote about this joy. Gal 5:22 John wrote that we might experience it. John 1:4 Peter wrote of the JOY UNSPEAKABLE. I Peter 1:8

4. Children of God, believers in Jesus Christ do not have to wait till we get to heaven to HAVE A JOYFUL EXPERIENCE!

E. The CHALLENGE for this message came to me from a Christian friend who asked, WHAT MUST BE IN A LIFE FOR ONE TO HAVE A JOYFUL EXPERIENCE IN THE HOUSE OF PRAYER? I offer some suggestions for your consideration.

I. PERSONAL PREPARATION:

A. Ask God about areas in my life which need correcting. Psalm 139:23,24

B. Pray with King David..."PURGE ME...WASH ME...MAKE ME TO HEAR JOY AND GLADNESS...." Psalm 51:7,8

C. Pray for a RIGHT ATTITUDE of heart. Psalm 19:14

D. ADMIT and SEEK CLEANSING from all that God reveals that is wrong in us. II Cor. 7:1 (How? I John 1:9) God doesn’t fill dirty cups!

E. Keep things RIGHT with our fellow believers! Matt. 5:23,24

II. PERSONAL APPRECIATION:

A. For the OWNER of the House. Isa. 61:10; II Cor. 5:21

B. For whose PRESENCE we are in: It is the LORD’S HOUSE OF PRAYER! HE IS THERE! James 4:6b, 10 I once read of a young preacher who went into the pulpit with SELF ASSURANCE that he was capable of handling the situation. When he came out he felt an UTTER FAILURE. An older brother said, "If you had gone in like you came out, you would have come out like you went in.

C. Proper appreciation for the PRICE PAID for the House of Prayer. Acts 20:28

D. Personal appreciation for the PURPOSE AND
MINISTRY of the House of Prayer. Text, 1 Tim. 3:15
E. Appreciation for the MESSAGE to be shared. John 15:11 THERE IS JOY IN RECEIVING THE WORD OF THE LORD!

III. PERSONAL PRESENTATION (DEDICATION, SANCTIFICATION) OF SELF TO THE LORD:
A. Romans 12:1 "Present yourself"
B. Romans 6:13 "...yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and YOUR MEMBERS as instruments of righteousness unto God."
C. Present yourself for PURIFICATION, FILLING (Bring your cup and plate). Psalm 23:5
D. Present yourself before the Lord for ILLUMINATION! 1 Cor. 2:14; Psalm 73:16

IV. PERSONAL ANTICIPATION: Isa. 12:3 BRING YOUR BUCKET!
A. Anticipate FELLOWSHIP WITH THE LORD! Isa. 61:10
B. Anticipate SOUL FEEDING TIME! Come with a DESIRE to be fed. I Peter 2:2
C. Anticipate the FILLING! BRING AN APPETITE! Psalm 107:9

V. PERSONAL MEDITATION:
A. Spend time LISTENING to God, the Holy Spirit, and the Word of God.
   1. I enjoy the MOMENTS OF MEDITATION.
   2. The psalmist had much to say about meditation. Psalm 104:34; 119:97; 63:5-7
   3. Was it not the one who MEDITATED IN THE WORD OF THE LORD DAY AND NIGHT that was called BLESSED and STABLE and FRUITFUL? Psalm 1:1-3

VI. PERSONAL PARTICIPATION:
A. Prayer: Text, Matt. 21:13
   1. For open doors. Col. 4:3
   2. For holy boldness for those who minister Eph. 6:19
   3. For the Word to have free course and be glorified II Thess. 3:1
B. Praise: Col. 3:16; Psalm 42:4
C. Partaking of the Table of Prepared Soul Food: Eccl. 5:1
D. Participate in the Publication of that learned! Psalm 68:11; Acts 8:4; I Cor. 3:6; Psalm 126:5,6

VII. PERSONAL REALIZATION:
A. The Lord is the One who said, I...MAKE THEM JOYFUL IN MY HOUSE OF PRAYER. Text
B. Joy is the FRUIT of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22
C. Revival and Restoration is from the Lord on His terms. Psalm 85:6; Isa. 57:15; Psalm 23:3

Bro. D.B. Wright has changed addresses from the earthly to the heavenly.

GIMEL: THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF GOD'S WORD
Text: Psalm 119:17-24

I. INTRODUCTION
A. Psalm 119
   1. Longest "chapter" in the Bible
   2. An alphabetical acrostic of eight verses each.

3. Uses a word which refers to the Scriptures in every verse except 122.

B. AIM OF PSALM
1. To instruct those who returned for exile.
2. Horne: "Lord, convince us of our blindness, and restore to us our sight!"
3. Frisch: "Thou mayest consult God's Word upon whatever thou wilt, and it will never send thee away without advice. But it rests with thyself to follow it."

C. SYNOPSIS
1. Aleph: Urges men to be true to the Bible.
2. Beth: Extols the virtue of Bible knowledge; it should be early, earnest, joyful.
   a. The need for enlightenment, Vs. 17,18.
   b. The longing for enlightenment, Vs. 19,20.
   c. The barrier to enlightenment, Vs 21,22.
   d. The way to enlightenment, Vs 23,24.

II. MAIN BODY
A. The Apparent Need, Vs 17,18.
   1. That we may understand God's bounty.
   2. That we may dedicate our lives to Him.
   3. That we may recognize our opportunities.
   4. Emphasis: The more we see what we have in Christ, the better we shall serve Him.

   1. This world is not my home.
   2. It is not to hide God's will from us.
   3. Our soul should yearn to know more of the Bible.
   4. Emphasis: The Bible tells us of our heavenly home, where we shall live eternally, and should be our most important "material" possession.

C. Barriers to Enlightenment, Vs 21,22.
   1. Pride in life, which God has rebuked.
   2. Departure from His commandments.
   3. Reproach and contempt of the world.
   4. Emphasis: The flesh cannot be made to love God's Word, but must be subjected to it.

D. Enlightenment Attained, Vs 23,24
   1. By ignoring what "great" men have said against the Bible.
   2. By meditation upon the Word of God.
   3. By delighting in its testimony and counsel.
   4. Emphasis: If we will let God's Word speak to us, it will assure us against every onslaught of the world.

III. CONCLUSION
A. All men need the enlightening Word.
B. All the Saved should desire its enlightenment.
C. The world will always try to dispel its light.
D. Diligent Christians will gain the light.

J. W. Griffith went to be with the Lord on July 9th. This is one of the outlines in A Study of Psalm 119 by J. W. Griffith. We are happy that he gave the material to us to print and we offer it free to you under the Sounding Out the Word Ministry.

Thy Word is Truth!
THE RAPTURE OF THE SAINTS
Text: I Thessalonians 4:13-18; John 14:1-6

Introduction: Every saint of God lives in hope of the second coming of Christ. One day we will hear the trumpet sound, the angel sing, and the Lord shout and when this happens dear friend, the rapture will be in progress. He is not going to send an angel or someone else, but the Lord Himself is coming in power and in great glory.

I. THE PROMISE OF CHRIST DECLARED - John 14:2,3;
   I Thessalonians 4:16
   A. A promise that is fulfilled.
   B. A principle that is faultless.
   C. A plan that is finished.

II. THE POWER OF CHRIST DISPLAYED - I
   Thessalonians 4:13-16
   A. Hear the voice of the Savior.
   B. See the victory over sin.
   C. See the vengeance over Satan.

III. THE PERSON OF CHRIST DESCENDS - I
   Thessalonians 4:16
   A. A personal descending
   B. A prepared descending
   C. A planned descending

IV. THE PEOPLE OF CHRIST DELIVERED - I
   Thessalonians 4:16
   A. His people are redeemed.
   B. His people are remembered.
   C. His people are rewarded.

V. THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST DELIGHTED
   A. His presence is desired.
   B. His presence will be a delight.
   C. His presence will be divine.

Conclusion: Are you ready?
Neal Clark, Route 1, Box 48-A, Daingerfield, Texas 75638-This is one of the outlines from the book SHARING THE WORD by Bro. Clark. He sells this book. If you want a copy write to him at this address or call. 1-903-645-5540.

THE NATURE OF THE LORD'S CHURCHES

Introduction: Church truth is sorely neglected in the religious world. Why? Most groups deny the concept of a local, visible church on earth. In Matthew 5:13-16 Jesus used two symbols in presenting His churches to the world. First, salt. Science tell us it is a scientific impossibility, being composed of a solid and a liquid, which does not mix. But God's power does it. What does salt do? It does not save (nor do the Lord's churches save anyone from eternal death.) Salt preserves. This is what the Lord's churches do for believers. Second, the light of the world. Means light bearer like a candlestick. Revelation 1:20

I. THE CHURCHES OF OUR LORD ARE
   DEMOCRATIC BODIES.
   A. They call their own pastors. Acts 1:21-26
   B. They elect their own missionaries. Acts 13:1-3
   C. They pass on moral and spiritual perverseness. Matthew 18:15-17
   D. They have no ecclesiastical appointments. Matthew 20:25
   E. Their decisions are mass decisions, openly arrived at and

registered by casting lots. Acts 1:21-26

II. THE LORD'S CHURCHES ARE MISSIONARY
   BODIES.
   A. Commissioned to evangelize. Matthew 28:18-19
   B. Commissioned to baptize the saved.
   C. Commissioned to teach the saved and baptized. (What? "Whatsoever I have commanded you."

III. THE LORD'S CHURCHES ARE MILITANT BODIES.
   A. They are to make war on wickedness in the world. Ephesians 6:10-17; Matthew 10:34-40; I Corinthians 10:1-4
   B. Following divine teaching, they will never compromise divine truth.

IV. THE LORD'S CHURCHES ARE STEWARDSHIP
   BODIES.
   A. Custodians of truth I Timothy 3:15
   B. Must give an account to God as to how we handled the truth. This will be the chief issue at the Judgment Seat of Christ. I Corinthians 3:12-15

V. THE LORD'S CHURCHES ARE LOCAL VISIBLE
   BODIES.
   A. Always visible. "Tell it to the church." (One has suggested maybe not on Sunday night.)
   B. Local, not universal. Church at Antioch, church at Ephesus, etc.

VI. THE LORD'S CHURCHES ARE CHANGELESS
   BODIES.
   A. Christ, her head, never changes. Hebrews 13:8
   B. Their Keeper, the Holy Spirit, never changes.
   C. Their message, the gospel of Christ, never changes. Matthew 24:35

VII. THE LORD'S CHURCHES ARE AUTHORITATIVE
   BODIES.
   A. Sovereign within the sphere of limits bestowed by Christ. Never has a divine right to do wrong.
   B. Has the right to associate on biblical principles, or the right not to do so. Cooperation is voluntary, but never forced.

Conclusion: Three conditions seem to characterize our churches today.
   A. Compromise instead of conviction.
   B. Complacency instead of expectancy.
   C. Confusion instead of contentment.

All can be erased by simply returning to our "first love", Christ.

L. Chester Guinn who lives somewhere in Van Buren, Arkansas. This is one of the outlines from the book, WAITING FOR THE SUNRISE, Bro. Guinn gave us the material for this book several years ago. If you don't have this book we offer it under the Sounding Out the Word ministry. Send in for it today.

THINGS WE NEED TO DO TO
   BETTER SERVE THE LORD
Text: Philippians 3:13-16

Intro: We enjoy singing "Precious memories how they linger, how they ever thrill my soul." Many memories are precious, but people often live in the past on precious memories. We all have memories, some precious and some not so precious. It makes no difference which, they should not be allowed to impede our forward progress for the Lord. Paul said, "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press
toward..."What was or was not in the past should not affect what we do in the present and future. We should minimize the past, maximize the present, and mobilize for the future.

I. MINIMIZE THE PAST.
A. To forget does not mean to wipe from memory. Memory is important because it helps us avoid mistakes of the past.
B. Paul had not forgotten:
   1. His splendid position. (elite member of Israel)
   2. His worldly opportunities
   3. His vile condition (chief of sinners)
   4. The grace of God
   5. His hardship and persecution
C. None of these had any bearing upon his present. They were behind him, in the past.
D. If we are going to press forward for the Lord, we must minimize the past.
   1. Past memories and traditions.
      a. How it use to be is of no consequence today.
      b. Holding on can only impede forward progress.
   2. Past failures
      a. Past failures do not guarantee present or future failure.
      b. Lingering in the past guarantees failure.
   3. Past sins. God forgives and puts them behind Him, so should we.
   4. Past accomplishments. It is not what we did in the past that counts, but what we are doing in the present.
   5. Past disappointments
      a. Everyone who has expectations must be ready for disappointment.
      b. If we allow disappointment to keep us from trying we will never move beyond the past.
E. Our Lord’s business is not a business of the past, but of the present and future. We need to treat it that way by...

II. MAXIMIZE THE PRESENT.
A. Today is the day. The fields are white unto harvest. We can’t change the past, but we can improve in the present and lay the foundation for the future.
B. Maximize by:
   1. Reaching forth (stretch)
      a. Reach forth with heart firmly established on the present.
      b. Reach forth with eyes focused on the present and future. We must have: (1) clear vision (2) broad vision (3) sensitive vision.
      c. Reach forth with hands ready to do the work of the Lord.
   2. Pressing on

III. MOBILIZE THE FUTURE.
A. Mobilize - To bring into readiness, organize (people, resources, etc.) for active service.
B. The Lord needs all His servants mobilized and ready for service.
   1. Without regard to past successes or failures.
   2. Be ready to endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

Conclusion: Your past sin is not so great that it cannot be forgiven and forgotten by the Lord. Take action in the present that will secure your future. Repent, believe, and receive eternal life.

Joe Stevens P.O. Box 416, Avery, Texas 75554

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HOW WE SHOULD PRAISE THE LORD

Text: Psalm 119:9-16

I. WITH A WHOLESOOME LIFESTYLE V9
A. Cleansed of sin
   1. Removal of sinful manners and activities. I Peter 4:1,2
   2. Resisting appearance of evil. I Thess. 5:22
B. Committed to godliness
   1. Devoted to displaying a Christ-like attitude at all times.
   2. Dedicated to portraying an uncompromising testimony always. I Cor. 10:31
C. Counting for the cause of Christ
   1. Providing an example for others to hope in and follow. I Thess. 2:10-12
   2. Prompting others to seek God, who can provide the way to such a lifestyle.

II. WITH OUR WHOLE HEART V10-12
A. By undivided affection
   1. Affirming our love for only God. Luke 16:13
   2. Attempting to please only God.
B. In uncompromising faithfulness
   1. Firm in our promotion of God and godliness. Hebs. 12:1,2
   2. Following the leadership of the Holy Spirit in doing God’s will.
C. Through unselfish submission
   1. Setting God in His rightful place for authority over us.
   2. Surrendering to the will of God. James 4:15

III. WITH WISE SPEECH V13-16
A. Speaking God’s truth
   1. Mentioning what God has said in His Word -- the Bible. Col. 4:3,4
   2. Making proper application according to context.
B. Thinking before speaking
   1. Reflecting on what God’s Word has said and revealed.
   2. Requesting the Holy Spirit’s guidance in what to say.
C. Expressing joy in the Lord.
   1. Centering on the blessings provided by God.
   2. Challenging others to trust the Lord and experience joys from it.

Mike Daniel P.O. Box 1095, Porter, Texas 77365