WHEN JESUS RETURNS...

Text: John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11

Intro: We know that Jesus is going to return and He is going to return very soon. As we look at our world and what is happening in it, we must conclude we can't go on this way. People are changing just like the Lord said they would. Things are happening just the way the Lord said they would. We have the precious promise that Jesus will return. John 14:1-3 is a wonderful passage in God's Word. It offers a lot of hope and comfort to the people of God. Jesus Christ and His soon return is our great and glorious hope. May we have the same attitude that John did when he wrote, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." Revelation 22:20

I. WHEN JESUS RETURNS HE WILL FIND WICKED SINNERS.

A. Wicked sinners will love self and pleasure.
   1. Paul described the end time generation and he said they would be lovers of pleasure and self. II Timothy 3:2,4
   2. To love self simply means you will do what you want to do regardless of anything and anyone. You will put self and your desires above others, even God.
   3. We live in a pleasure loving world. The Roman empire was full of sexual pleasure lovers. Our world is driven by entertainment pleasures.
   4. A study of II Timothy 3:1-13 reveals we are living in the day and time that Paul described.

B. Wicked sinners will wax worse and worse.
   1. Paul also teaches us that people will wax worse and worse. II Timothy 3:13 When you think it can't get any worse, it gets worse.
   2. Some believe man will get better and better and the Lord will have to come back because of it.
   3. The Bible teaches us that man will get worse and worse. II Timothy 3:13 Man will have to get worse to get any satisfaction out of wickedness and sin.
   4. Jeremiah teaches us that the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked. He ask, "Who can know it?"

II. WHEN JESUS RETURNS HE WILL FIND WEARY AND WARM SAINTS.

A. The saint's love will wax cold because of sin.
   1. Because iniquity shall abound the love of many will wax cold. Matthew 24:12 Lot vexed his righteous soul in Sodom and Gomorrah. II Peter 2:6-8

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Jer. 17:9

C. Wicked sinners will be violent.
   1. In Genesis 6:5,11-13 we find where the earth was filled with violence. The writer doesn't go into any details, but the generation was simply described as violent.
   2. Jesus teaches us that as the days of Noah were so shall the days of the Son of man be. Matthew 24:37,38
   3. We are living in violent days. Drive by shootings everywhere. HIjjackings of cars, planes, etc.
   4. Parents killing children and children killing parents. It is frightening to hear of how young killers are becoming.

D. Wicked sinners will see hard times.
   1. Read and study Matthew 24:7. There will be famines, earthquakes, pestilences, and all out war.
   2. Paul started II Timothy 3 with the words, "...in the last days perilous times shall come." The word PERILOUS means difficult or dangerous.
   3. Man without God is hopeless and helpless in this end time generation.
   4. Remember in Revelation that some people will cry for the rocks and mountains to fall on them to hide them from the Son of God? Revelation 6:16 They did not want to face the Son of God.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
The people will be extremely sinful and the sinfulness will rub off on God's own people.

Jesus told one of the 7 churches of Asia that they had left their first love. Rev. 2:4,5

The first love is the love that we have for the Lord when we are first saved. This love is implanted in us by the Holy Spirit. Rom. 5:5

The saints will depart from the faith.

Paul told Timothy that in the latter time some would depart from the faith and give heed to seducing spirits. I Timothy 4:1

They are in the faith and they will depart from it. You cannot depart from something unless you have been in it.

I am afraid we live in a day when people are more concerned about what you have to offer them, than in what you believe and teach.

We are to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints. Jude 3 You must love the Lord and the Word of God to take a stand and not compromise.

Jesus accused one church of being lukewarm. Rev. 3:15-17 This church said she was rich, increased in goods, and had need of nothing.

Some of God's own people are more interested in the material and physical than they are in the spiritual.

A lukewarm church made up of lukewarm people makes God sick. A major sign of lukewarmness is the empty pews on Sunday and Wednesday nights.

We are to love the Lord with all of our heart, soul, and might. Deut. 6:5

The saints will be immature.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians and addressed them as carnal and not spiritual. I Cor. 3:1-3

They were carnal because of envying, strife, and divisions. Paul said they were babes in Christ.

The accepting, applying, and altering according to God's Word make us mature or fully developed as a saved person. II Timothy 3:16,17

All you have to do is talk to pastors and they will reveal there are a lot of immature carnal saved people who lack spiritual understanding and development.

Demas forsook Paul and the Lord's service because he loved the world. II Timothy 4:10

What this world has to offer does not satisfy the saved person. The Bible says Lot vexed or troubled his righteous soul with the filthy conversation of the wicked. II Peter 2:7,8

The writer of Hebrews tells us that we are pilgrims and strangers in this world and look for a city whose builder and maker is God. Hebs. 11:8-10

In the world you will find the lust of the flesh and eyes and the pride of life. I John 2:15-17 These are not of God, but they are of the world. The world will pass away.

When Jesus returns he will find working and worshiping servants.

Just like there were in Noah's day.

Noah's generation was very sinful and wicked. God determined to destroy them.

Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord during a wicked sinful time.

Noah built an ark believing the flood was coming and he and his family were delivered from the flood.

Can you imagine how hard it was to live for the Lord and do what the Lord told Noah to do? If you love the Lord, it will make hard things easy.

Just like there were in Malachi day.

Malachi's day was filled with religious ceremony and corruption.

The Lord told the people to give tithes and offerings of their flocks, herds, and fields. The offerings were to be of the best of their flocks or herds. They were not to have any blemishes.

They offered the animals that had blemishes of every sort. What they could not use they gave to God.

God told them that the governors would not accept them for the taxes they were to pay.

There were some who feared the Lord and spoke often to one another. Even in this sinful time the Lord had people that loved Him and lived for Him. Mal. 3:16,17

Just like there were in Jesus' day.

There was great outward religious form in Jesus day. Matt. 15:8,9

God always looks on the heart and not the outside. The religious people, even priests, pretended to be and do many things.

In Jesus' day there were the shepherds who received the news of His birth gladly. Luke 2:8-10

There were people like Simeon and Anna that rejoiced that the Saviour had come. Luke 2:25,36

Just like there were in Paul's day.

Paul was faithful and true to the Lord. Read and study II Timothy 4:6-8.

There were saved people who would live and die for the Lord. Paul had been part of the ones that persecuted the Lord's people.

In every generation the Lord has had a witness of His salvation and service.

Even when people were made to suffer and die, the Lord had people who were willing to do it.

Just like there are in our day.

Not everyone is faithful like they should be. Everyone can be faithful.

We live in days that Paul describes in II Timothy 3:1-13. The people are very sinful and wicked. We must live a separated life for the Lord. II Corinthians 6:17

We can call to remembrance men and women who
love the Lord and serve Him faithfully.

4. You can remember faithful and loving saved people who put the Lord first in their lives. Some may have gone on. Some are living before you now.

5. As stewards we are to remember it is required of stewards that a man or woman be found faithful. I Cor. 4:2

6. The only way you can be faithful is to love the Lord supremely. Yield to the Holy Spirit and His conviction. Study the Word of God that reveals the Lord and His plan for your life.

Conclusion: Jesus will return very soon. Which class of people will you fit into? Would to God that everyone in this service or who reads this article could say, I am trying to be a working and worshiping servant for the Lord.

THE CHALLENGES OF OUR GENERATION

Text: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Introduction: We are living in a day which could possibly be described as the most dramatic era of human history. It is an age of sin in which sin is both committed openly and sanctioned legally. It is an age of prosperity in which people possess more than they ever have, at least in our country. It is an age of progress and enlightenment in which we are learning new things at such a pace that school textbooks are out of date within just a year or so! It is an age of tremendous technological advancement so that communication changes daily and some new means of interaction with others is being invented almost every month. It is an age in which man is going into places he has never gone before, space and the planetary system.

It is also an age in which most people, by percentage of population, are going to church than ever before according to former US Secretary of Education William J. Bennett. It is an age in which Christian people have been able to broaden their coverage area through the use of TV, radio, the printed page, and even the Internet.

But it is also a challenging era because just as these things have increased, so have the problems which face men, women, boys, and girls. Never before has there been a generation which so desperately needs the sound of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as this one! The challenges which face us as ministers of the Gospel, as members of the Lord's churches, and every member of the family of God are manifold, but none of them are insurmountable obstacles.

Look to Matthew 13:1-9 and 18-23 as our text for the message entitled "The Challenges of Our Generation."

I believe that a clear understanding of this parable will better equip us to meet the challenges which face us in the cause of Christ for this generation and those which may come after us.

I. THE CHALLENGE OF PREPARATION

A. Surely the basic facts and customs of the age do not need to be re-established in such a well known passage, only a restatement of a few.

1. According to Luke's account in Luke 8:11, Jesus told His listeners "the seed is the Word of God."

2. It stands to reason then that the "sower" is anyone who "scatters" or proclaims the word of God.

3. Let me also add, that though we make a great point out of just who each different type of soil might represent, the "type" of seed is not qualified in this parable.

4. It might be the seed of the need and way of salvation.

5. The seed might be some section of scripture concerning tithing or giving.

6. The seed might be some passage concerning church truth.

7. Maybe the sower might scatter "seed" concerning the return of our Lord.

8. The "seed" is any portion of the Word of God.

B. Sowing the seed of the Word of God REQUIRES preparation!

1. Though we are not told of this sower's preparation, what rightly motivated sower would go forth without properly preparing himself?

2. Jesus warns us repeatedly of the greater responsibility and danger of greater condemnation for those who preach or teach the Word of God.

3. He rebuked Nicodemus for being "a master of Israel, and knowest not these things!"

4. On a recent program on the History Channel, the announcer proclaimed, "We have gained more knowledge since the turn of this century than in the history of all mankind!"

5. Admittedly man has learned much over the past 97 plus years intellectually, but he no doubt knows less about God and His Word than ever before also!!!

6. Within the heart and purpose of the church and the men who founded this seminary there must have been a great desire to do something about that dearth of knowledge of the Word of God!

7. Not only is that why this seminary is here, it is why you are here as students!

8. God has brought you to a place of preparation so that you might be better equipped to meet the need of the world to hear, learn, and obey the Word of God!

9. A place where you might: II Timothy 2:15-18; Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus: Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

10. I well remember the worst garden I ever planted.

a. I could give all kinds of excuses, late buying seedlings and primary tilling.
The challenge facing us is to be prepared and let me advise you students, do as much of it as you can now for you will find your time for study limited when you finally get into the field.

Don't be guilty of overthrowing the faith of some because you were not well prepared to sow the seed of God's Word!

And don't let your preparation end when you compete your studies here!

II. THE CHALLENGE OF PERFORMANCE

A. Notice that the sower of our Lord's parable actually WENT FORTH!
   1. The challenge of performance is one which is echoed repeatedly by our Lord.
   2. Most notably there is the command to the Lord's churches to "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations..." Matthew 28:19
   3. As Paul and Barnabas said in: Acts 13:47; For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldst be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.
   4. Seed that's left in the bag cannot sprout!

B. Every message ever imagined is being scattered today.
   1. Many in the name of Christ, adulterated, but being scattered nonetheless.
   2. According to its 1996 minute book, 36 churches were listed as associating with the Mt. Zion MBA, with a reported membership of well over 5,000.
   3. Only 150 baptisms reported, a 3% increase over the previous year.
   4. Though we should be thankful, we should never be satisfied!
   5. Those figures are mirrored elsewhere, the other local associations in which I have pastored.
   6. The need is to answer the challenge of our generation to performance!
   7. You will need your recreation and fellowship, but unless we sow the good seed, we will not reap a crop!

III. THE CHALLENGE OF PERCEPTION

A. Consider each of these soils as four classes of hearers of the Word of God.
   1. Wayside - regardless of what portion of the good seed you sow, some will be indifferent!
   2. Stony ground - some will react quickly and joyfully, but get mad just as quickly, or fizzle out just as quickly!
   3. Thorny ground - other things will begin to crowd out the seedlings of God's Word in the hearts and lives of some.
   4. Good ground - some will produce an hundred fold.

B. I personally believe Jesus was warning us about our perception of kingdom work!
   1. We have the tendency to believe that there must always be a positive response to the Word of God.
   2. There certainly should be if hearers do right!

IV. THE CHALLENGE OF PERSEVERANCE

A. Review the custom of the age concerning sowing seed.
   1. However, with time, planting and harvesting have changed greatly.
   2. Like the illustration of milking the cow a few moments ago, agriculture has come a long ways!
   3. While working with John Deere Company, we introduced a new planter that would plant rows (40 feet) at once, fold-up model, it cost about $21,000 in 1979.

B. If we are going to reach our generation, we may have to alter our methods as well.
   1. One thing is certain, we can never change the truth, the message and please our Lord and reach souls for eternity.
   2. But Jesus Himself is ample proof of the need to adapt ourselves to various situations and cultures.
   3. The apostle Paul became "all things to all men." I Cor. 9:19-23
   4. For far too long we have allowed the fact that some heretic thought of an idea keep us from using the same idea purified by the Word of God.
   5. The challenge of perseverance is not one to "keep on keeping on...", but one to search for ways to reach an ever changing population and culture!
   6. I fully believe we can answer the challenge to perseverance without compromising the Word of God or trivializing our worship of Him!

Conclusion: Until He comes for those who know Him, these challenges will face every generation.

1. The Challenge of PREPARATION
2. The Challenge of PERFORMANCE
3. The Challenge of PERCEPTION
4. The Challenge of PERSEVERANCE

How we respond to them will be a tremendous determining factor in how or if we reach our generations.

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From Texas:
Let me say, Thank you, to Grace Missionary Baptist Church and to you personally for this wonderful printing ministry. I have used materials printed by SOTW on several occasions and will continue
to be thankful for the spiritual fruit God is producing through this ministry around the World.

From Jamaica
It always bless my heart to read the Sounding Out the Word booklet you send to my father from time to time. My family rejoice to see the way the ministry has been reaching out to save souls for the kingdom of God. I must compliment you and your ministry for doing the "greatest and best work on earth." Keep it up. My family and I will always lift up in prayer you and the ministry of God.

From Myanmar
Dear Sir when I read your books, booklets I was blessed through it. I am interesting very much in it. So please send me free copies and other useful books as a gift in the name of Jesus. It will apply in my future ministry. Because in our country we have no Christian books at all. We are living with none Christians. So we need your help for the kingdom of the Lord. I will wait expectedly to receive the thing which I have request from you.

From Germany
It's a blessing to receive your Sounding Out the Word. They are very useful to me. I am a Baptist preacher who have served the Lord Jesus Christ for many years among the Vietnamese refugees in Germany. We work in factories to earn our living and it is difficult for us to prepare the sermons for the weekend. We do need materials which are useful to our ministry. May the Lord bless you so much that you will always be a blessing for another Baptist congregations.

From Ghana
I am very much interested in them (sermons outlines and books) and would be grateful if you could send me more of your outlines.
I have once received one SERMON OUTLINES BY GLYN GARY which is very good to me and it has helped me also.
The day I preached "Getting Ready for Another World" at a crusade ground, 15 men and women gave their life to Jesus. Thanks be to God.
Dear Pastor, I hope you will send me more as I have requested very soon.

From Ghana
I was drunk with joy when I came across your good works and the address with a Christian friend. I thank God that my dreams came true. How a commission has been entrusted into our hands as Christians.
The foundation has been laid down and we are to continue, but here lies the case there is a need for an assistance through donations of Bible, God's inspiring words and books...and what you have.

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Series: BUILDING FOR GOD!
Focus: PERCEPTION
Text: Nehemiah 6

Introduction:
A. IDENTIFYING the concept - "perception."
B. INSIGHT - Understanding what Satan is trying to do.
C. ILLUSTRATION - This chapter is an illustration of how Satan seeks to hinder us from doing God's work. We've already noted several ways:
   1. Ridicule
   2. Mockery
   3. Scorn
   4. Threats
   5. Infiltration efforts

I. AN APPEAL TO COMPROMISE VS 1-4
A. Their APPEAL - Notice Satan's change in strategy - VS 1,2
   1. They now come in the guise of friendship - how subtle.
   2. This is a most dangerous attack.
      a. Illus - The Lufkin tragedy.
   3. One of Satan's ways is to get us involved in all kinds of non-essential activities. You could go to meetings every night of every week.
   4. This dilutes our testimony because we get spread out in so many directions that we'll not be effective anywhere.
      a. This is even possible in Christian circles.
      b. I used to think that Christian service was defined in how many meetings you went to in the week.
   5. Mary had a little lamb who grew to be a sheep. And then it became a Baptist and died from lack of sleep.

B. Nehemiah's APPROACH VS 3,4

II. AN ATTEMPT TO SLANDER VS 5-9
A. Their REPORT VS 5-7
   1. They were misjudging or attacking Nehemiah's motives.
   2. They were saying - "you're in this for self-seeking reasons."
   3. You wouldn't believe some of the letters and phone calls I've received over the years - real dillies!

B. Nehemiah's RESPONSE - VS 8,9
   1. He responded with the truth.
   2. Listen - people are going to talk about you and question your motives.
   3. You just keep on living for Jesus - your sincerity and character will ultimately disprove their accusations.

III. THE ADVISE TO FLEE - VS 10-19

Glen E. Tropp
A. Shemaiah's REQUEST - V10 - an appeal to flee.
B. Nehemiah's REASONING (perception) VS 11-13
   1. Can you imagine what this would have done to the morale of the people if their leader had fled?
C. Nehemiah's RESPONSE - VS11-13 He rejected the attack and refused the advice.

Conclusion:
A. The wall was completed - V15
B. Nehemiah committed the opposition to God - V14
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1. Share the paper or a book with someone in the hospital.
2. Share the material with someone you visit for the Lord and your church.
3. Share the material with a preacher friend.
4. Share the material with a prisoner or someone in the military.
5. Share the material with a book store or place of business.
7. Use one of our books in a teaching class.

MAKING READY FOR THE AMAZING POWER OF GOD
Text: Joshua 3:5

Intro: Let us notice five things as background:
A. Joshua was the newly chosen leader.
B. He had given the order to the people to prepare to pass over Jordan. 1:10-18
C. Spices had been sent and had returned from Jericho. Ch.2
D. Joshua had moved the whole army right up to the banks of the river. 3:1-4
E. Only one other preparation was needed. 3:5 This final charge and command of Joshua tells us about the great need which Israel had. We at this church need the same thing as we look toward a revival and soul-winning campaign for Christ.

I. GOD IS READY AND WILLING TO DO GREAT THINGS AMONG HIS PEOPLE.
A. He is able to do amazing things among His people.
B. He has done amazing things in every age of the past.
   1. Moses and the Passover deliverance.
   2. Elijah and the fiery revival on Mt. Carmel.
   3. John the Baptist and the preparation for the coming of the Messiah.
   4. The apostles did great miracles. Paul raised the dead.
C. Jesus said that greater works would be done. John 14:12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.
D. No matter how difficult the times or problems may be, God does amazing things among His people.

II. GOD ALWAYS WORKS HIS WONDERS THROUGH A PREPARED PEOPLE.
A. God's formula given to Solomon is still good today. II Chron. 7:14 If my people, who are called by my name, will 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.
B. The earth must wait; lost souls must wait; all things must wait unto God's people are prepared.
C. The angels in heaven wait for God's people to consecrate themselves.
D. Even God waits about doing the amazing things that He wants to do among His people until they have consecrated themselves and gotten ready.
   1. Would you like to see 150 saved and join the church?
   2. What would we do with 150 new converts? Who would teach, train, and counsel them? Who would be a friend to them?

III. GOD SPECIFIES HOW HIS PEOPLE MUST PREPARE FOR HIM.
A. Joshua told the people to CONSECRATE YOURSELVES.
B. Consecrate or sanctify means two things.
   1. A separation---from sin, evil, etc.
   2. Dedication---to God's purpose and will.
   3. It does not mean a second blessing and/or sinless perfection.
C. Joshua's command in this case made it a personal matter. Consecrate yourselves—not your priests, generals, elders, or army, but yourselves.
D. When we do this God will do amazing things among us.

IV. GOD PROMISES US A GREATER DAY AHEAD.
A. The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night had guided the whole army of God toward this new land and this greater day.
B. Just across the river is that greater day and the promised land they have been looking for.
C. God is ready to use His power to usher in that greater day.
D. I wonder what amazing things God would like to do among the members of this church during our time of revival.
   1. Let's consecrate ourselves and find out!
   2. Do you suppose the reason we have had only a limited number of conversions and additions might be that God is waiting until we get ready?

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GOOD NEWS FROM A FAR COUNTRY
Text: Proverbs 25:25

Intro:

A. An angel of the Lord brought good news from heaven to shepherds watching sheep at night. Luke 2:10,11
B. Those who share the WORD OF GOD are messengers of good news from a far country! Romans 10:15
C. The gospel is good news that is THE POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION to all who believe in Jesus. Romans 1:16
D. This good news from a far country is TO ALL PEOPLE. Luke 2:10
1. Good news for the Old and the Young.
2. Good news for the Educated and Unlearned.
E. Illustrations:
1. Good News from heaven to faithful Abraham who had lifted his hand in OBEDIENCE TO GOD to take the life of his son Isaac. Genesis 22:11-13
2. Good News from the Empty Tomb. Matt. 28:6,7
3. Good News from the lips of the LIVING SAVIOUR! Rev. 1:18
F. The good news about the Good News from a far country is that it is GOD'S SURE MESSAGE! II Peter 1:19
1. It is COMFORTING, REFRESHING, and REASSURING to hear Good News from our heavenly country in times of seemingly endless DISASTER, HEARTBREAKS, ILLNESSES, WARS, RIOTS, TERRORISM, and GANG RELATED MURDERING.
2. This message deals briefly with Good News from that far away country called heaven which has been given us by the Holy Spirit inspiration and preserved for our generation!!!

I. GOD HAS PROVIDED SINNERS WITH A LIVING, LOVING, AND LONGING REDEEMER!
A. Job knew Him. Job 19:25
1. Such a One appeared to John on the isle of Patmos. Rev. 1:18
2. Those in heaven are REJOICING IN SUCH A ONE. Rev. 5:9
B. This One loves us as we are where we are. Rom. 5:8; Gal. 2:20
C. This living, loving Redeemer LONGS FOR OUR COMING TO HIM FOR SALVATION. Isa. 45:22; Matt. 11:28; John 7:39

II. GOD HAS PROVIDED REMISSION FROM SIN AND IT'S GUILT.
A. Without Jesus we are guilty and filthy. Romans 3:23; Isa. 64:6; Jer. 2:22
B. Here is the Good News from a far country.
1. Isaiah 1:18
2. Isa. 53:6

III. GOD HATH PROVIDED AN ENTRANCE INTO HIS

FAMILY BY THE REGENERATING OF THE SOUL (Spirit Birth).
A. Without Jesus one is spiritually dead in sin. Eph. 2:1; John 8:24
B. Regeneration is a must. John 3:3b; 3:5b
C. In regeneration one becomes a new creature. II Cor. 5:17
D. The unsaved sinner's part. John 1:12,13; I John 5:1; Gal. 3:26

IV. GOD ROBES THE BELIEVING SINNER IN HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS.
A. Apart from Jesus Christ there is none righteous. Romans 3:10
B. The unsaved sinner is HELPLESS to change or improve his/her situation. Jer. 13:23
C. There is Good News from a far country. II Cor. 5:21
D. More Good News. Believers in Jesus Christ are acceptable to God now. Eph. 1:6,7

V. GOD HAS PROVIDED DAILY RESTORATION. Psa. 23:3; John 21:15-17

VI. A RECEPTION AWAITS AT THE END OF LIFE'S JOURNEY.
A. Believers have an inheritance reserved in heaven. I Peter 1:3-5
B. Jesus prepared it. John 14:2
C. Jesus prayed for our homecoming. John 17:24
D. Jesus will return to receive His own. John 14:3

VII. THERE WILL BE A GRAND AND GLORIOUS REUNION FOR ALL WHO HAVE BEEN BORN INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD AT THE POINT OF FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.
A. God looks on our home-going as Precious. Psalm 116:15
B. Jesus stood to welcome martyr Stephen. Acts 7:55,56
C. Paul spoke of his own home-going as a DEPARTURE from one shore to set sail to be with Jesus. II Tim. 4:6; Phil. 1:23
D. Jesus spoke of our meeting those who had preceded us in death. Matt. 8:11
E. King David was consoled with this assurance at the death of his child. II Samuel 12:23

Conclusion: Friend, this Good News is to all of mankind. What is your response to such love, mercy, and grace? Good News---God has provided a Redeemer, remission, regeneration, righteousness, reception, and reunion.

D.B. Wright who has gone on to glory!!!

GETTING READY FOR ANOTHER WORLD
Text: II Peter 3:10-13

Intro:

A. The Bible makes plain that this world will one day pass away. V11
B. Job of old realized there was another world for he said, "I will be satisfied when I awake in thy likeness."
C. Abraham knew there was another world because he looked for a city whose builder and maker is God.
D. Because this world will pass away does not mean the end--your soul will live somewhere in another world.
E. Someone has said, "This world is a dressing room for eternity."
F. God has given each the will to determine their own destiny in the other world.---Heaven or Hell.
G. Let me speak earnestly to you on the urgent matter of getting ready for another world.

I. YOU MAY GO INTO ANOTHER WORLD AT ANY MOMENT.
A. One certain thing in life is the uncertainty of life. Heb. 9:27; James 4:13
B. There are over 5,000 deaths in the U.S. per day.
   1. How many of these deaths are unexpected?
   2. I could recount several young people who have met an unexpected death.
C. There is no second chance or coming back after you enter the other world.
   1. Eccl. 8:8
   2. Eccl. 11:8
   3. There is no way for you to be prayed out of or brought out of Hell.

II. YOU MUST BE CHANGED FROM YOUR NATURAL CONDITION TO BE READY FOR ANOTHER WORLD.
A. The Bible makes it plain the natural man is a sinner and is totally separated from God.
   1. Eccl. 7:20
   2. Eph. 2:1,3
   3. I Cor. 2:14
   4. Unless changed any person would be miserable in Heaven.
   5. All who are unchanged must spend eternity in Hell.
B. Only God's power can change the nature of a person.
   1. To be a good person is fine--but will not change your nature. (Hog, snake, fish)
   2. Being a church member will not change your nature.
   3. Being religious will not change your nature. (Illustration--Nicodemus, Paul, and others)
   4. I John 3:9
   5. John 1:13
   6. II Cor. 5:17
C. God wants you and everyone to have this change.
   1. He proved it by giving His Son to die for your sin debt. John 3:16
   2. He proved it by providing preachers and other Christians to bring you the message of hope.

D. He proved it by calling you by His Holy Spirit.
D. How you can be changed today and thereby be ready for another world.
   1. Admit you are a sinner----lost without hope.
   2. Admit you cannot bring about this change.
   4. Accept Jesus by faith as your Saviour now.
E. Has your inward nature been changed?

III. IS YOUR LIFE LIVED IN VIEW OF ANOTHER WORLD?
A. Paul lived his life this way. II Timothy 4:6
B. Are you ready to be judged now, today?
   1. You will be judged. I Cor. 5:10
   2. The question is not will we be judged, but the question is will you be ready?
C. Are you going to your treasures or are you leaving them behind?
   1. The Bible says, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth----but lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven----For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."
   2. What we do with our treasure now determines whether we go to them or leave them behind.
D. Do you know what you are going to be proud of when you enter the other world?
   1. Time you spent for God.
   2. Money you have given for His cause.
   3. Talents used for God.

Conclusion:
A. If you are not ready for the other world, get ready today.
B. Tomorrow may be too late.

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THE DEVIL LIES
Text: John 8:44

I. THE DEVIL LIES ABOUT HELL.
II. THE DEVIL LIES ABOUT HEAVEN.
III. THE DEVIL LIES ABOUT HOLINESS.
IV. THE DEVIL LIES ABOUT HAPPINESS.
V. THE DEVIL LIES ABOUT HOPE.

Rejoice!
in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice!