ENCOURAGE YOUR PASTOR

Text: II Timothy 3:16-4:2

Intro: God calls men into the ministry to preach His holy Word and to lead the people of God in the church work for the Lord. There may be other church ministries that a preacher will take part in. He may be involved in other ministries to help people. His is a divine calling and he is human and in the flesh. We are not perfect, as you are not. Most of the pastors that I know want to be the servants God would have them to be. Let's notice some things you can do to encourage your pastor.

I. YOUR LOVE WILL ENCOURAGE YOUR PASTOR.

A. Love for the Saviour
1. We should love Him because He first loved us. I John 4:19 Love for the Lord is the supreme motive for serving Him. John 14:21-23
2. Jesus tells us how to know if we love Him or not in John 14:21-23. Our love is expressed by our practicing His will and doing His work.
3. It is always encouraging to a pastor to see His people loving the Lord as they should and the Bible teaches them to.
4. Our service reflects our love for the Lord. Our works reflect our love for the Lord. Our obedience reflects our love for the Lord.

B. Love for the Scriptures
1. If you love the Lord, you will love His holy Word. This is what the pastor is to preach. II Timothy 4:1,2 His Word reveals Him to us.
2. You should have a love for the Word that will make you enjoy Bible teaching in classes and Bible preaching in the pulpit. This love is implanted in us at the point of the New Birth. It is implanted in us by the Holy Spirit of God. Romans 5:5
3. Pastors can tell if the people are enjoying the Word. You may hear a dull sermon. It is my responsibility for this not to happen.

4. You may be a dull hearer. It is your responsibility not to be this. You need to give God your greatest attention. Be more ready to hear when you come to God’s house. Eccl. 5:1

C. Love for the servant
1. Pastors are servants of the Lord and servants of the Lord’s churches. You should love your pastor and show your love for him.
2. When God's man is carrying out His calling and work with dedication and faithfulness, you should love him for it.
3. May God help you to express your love to God's man. A lot of preachers leave churches because members do not express love for him and his family.
4. It is wonderful to pastor a group of people who love the Lord. You can tell they love the Lord by the way they live and the joy in their hearts and faces as they attend God's house.

II. YOUR LABOR WILL ENCOURAGE YOUR PASTOR.

A. The work of the Lord
1. There is a lot of work to be done by the Lord's people. We make appeals for help nearly on a weekly basis.
2. Most of the work of a New Testament church gets done by voluntary labor. One time I counted up and there were something like 55 jobs that needed to be done in one service.
3. There is work to be done in the manual, ministering, material, and mental areas of our church.
4. God saved you and has given you talents in
your life. Use those talents to bring honor and glory to Him who loved you, lived for you and died for you.

B. The way to do the work
1. You can do the work a number of different ways. Some do it complaining, grumbling, and with bad attitudes.
2. The work should be done with a spirit of joy, gladness, faithfulness, diligence, and gentleness.
3. The way you do the work and the attitude you do it in will reflect the fruit of the Spirit or the flesh.
4. It is a blessing to see people work for the Lord and express a genuine joy and gladness while doing it. You won’t find many unhappy pastors who have joyful servants.

C. The willingness to do the work
1. We need many more willing workers for the Lord. The more willing workers, the more work gets done. We were saved unto good works. Eph. 2:10
2. Accept a job or position. Be faithful to carry out the duties and jobs of that position. The real joy comes from serving the Lord.
3. There is work to be done for willing workers in the Lord’s cause. Our problem is there is a shortage of workers, not of work.
4. I have seen the backslidden, ask forgiveness and start working for the Lord and it is a blessed sight to see. Some were out 5 to 15 years, but what a joy and sweet experience to see them start working again.

III. YOUR LOYALTY WILL ENCOURAGE YOUR PASTOR.
A. Loyal to Christ
1. We are to seek God's kingdom and righteousness first. Matthew 6:33 This should be our first priority in our lives; we are to do this for Him.
2. We are to make a presentation of our bodies as a living sacrifice to the Lord in His service. Rom. 12:1 Every church is suffering because their members will not make a sacrifice for God.
3. We are to be faithful and true as the stewards of God and servants of the Lord. 1 Cor. 4:2 You are to be more faithful to God than anyone or anything in your life.
4. Jesus is called the Faithful and True One. He will never leave or forsake His people. Hebrews 13:5,6 Would to God that God's people were as faithful to Him as He is to them.

B. Loyal to the church
1. We are to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some. Hebrews 10:25 Some people think we go to church too much, but this passage reveals the opposite.
2. We are to attend Sunday morning and evening and Wednesday evening services to honor the Lord. Eph. 3:21
3. We are to be faithful and dedicated servants of the Lord in the church services. God will not settle for anything less than a faithful servant and nothing will satisfy the servant as much as faithfulness.
4. I have seen members who thought other members were visitors because of the way they attended God’s house. We have members who die and it has been so long since they have been to church, that no one knows who they are or can remember them.

C. Loyal to Christians
1. We are to fellowship with other saved people as we fellowship with the Lord. I John 1:7
2. We are to make friends with saved people and associate with them.
3. We are to make friends of Christian people everywhere we go. Sometimes a saved friend may be closer to you than your own family.
4. Hebrews 10:25 teaches us to exhort one another as we attend God’s house and so much the more as the Day of the Lord approaches.

IV. YOUR LANGUAGE WILL ENCOURAGE YOUR PASTOR.
A. Be grateful.
1. Paul teaches us to be thankful and grateful to the Lord for His blessings. Eph. 5:19,20
2. We are to count our many blessings and see what God has done for us. When we sing the song, COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS, we have a lady in our church that stands up and starts counting.
3. May we thank Him from the heart and praise Him with the mouth. All of the blessings of life come from God and blesses us.
4. You can either thank God or complain about your life. I would rather hear people praising God and thanking others than hearing people complain and gripe.

B. Be gracious.
1. We are not to allow corrupt communication to proceed out of our mouths. Eph. 4:29 Corrupt communication is not just profanity, vulgarity, or cussing.
2. You can be a gossiper, critical, sour, bitter, or you can look on the dark side of life and it be corrupt communication.
3. We are to speak words that will help minister to those who hear us. Your words can encourage and comfort others.
4. Your words can wound or win. Your words can help or hurt. Your words can edify or put down. Your words can be weapons to destroy and tear down.
C. Be godly.
   1. A godly speech is one that honors the Lord and mentions Him. It is not a speech void of corrupt communication.
   2. We should have a wholesome and moral speech. There are some other four letters words that you can use for the Lord.
   3. We should also talk about the Lord and make mention of Him to others. The Lord blessed us with a good day or morning.
   4. People can tell if you know the Lord by your speech. We should recognize and testify of the Lord’s blessings in our lives.

V. YOUR LISTENING WILL ENCOURAGE YOUR PASTOR.
   A. The attention
      1. Jesus said a wise man will listen and do His Word. Matt. 7:24-26 This is one way to tell if a man is wise or not. Jesus gives us the supreme test of wisdom and foolishness.
      2. If you have the ability to listen to people out of concern and care, God can use you.
      3. Listen as the lessons are taught and the sermons are preached. It is a shame when some people will not attend classes designed for them to learn and gain knowledge of the Lord and His service.
      4. We learn so much by listening to the Lord and His servants teach and testify for Him and of Him.

B. The application
   1. Some people can think of what good a sermon or lesson would do someone who wasn’t there.
   2. Listen as though God was talking to you every time you hear a lesson or sermon.
   3. Ask yourself, What does God want me to know and learn from this truth? Make it a personal thing.
   4. It sure blesses a pastor’s heart when God’s people are listening to him preach the Word of God. It shows respect for God and the man of God.

C. The alteration
   1. As God’s Word is preached, listen to the Lord. Allow the Lord to tell you something you need to hear.
   2. Allow the Holy Spirit to teach you the truth you need to live by. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and His conviction.
   3. When you know you need to do something or change something, ask God for the grace to do it.
   4. The Holy Spirit convicts us for a reason and a purpose. Change and become more like the Lord.
   5. We owe it to God. We are obligated to God to obey His Word. Acts 5:29 This is part of our worship. This is beneficial to you. II Timothy 3:16,17

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GOD’S WORD TO THE LOST
Text: John 3:14-21

Introduction: God has many things to say through His Word and some of the most important issues are to the lost about their condition and the salvation He offers to them through Jesus Christ. Let’s notice some of these things in this message.

I. ALL ARE SINFUL, LOST, RUINED, AND UNDONE.
   A. None righteous, no not one. Romans 3:10-20
   B. By nature, born in sin. Psalm 51:3 Children of wrath. Ephesians 2:3
   C. By choice. Loved darkness rather than light, because deeds are evil. John 3:19; Isaiah 53:6
   D. By practice. All have sinned. Romans 3:23; Matthew 12:30; James 4:17

II. CONSEQUENCE OF SIN SURE.
   A. The wages of sin is death. Romans 6:23
   B. Condemned already. Because have not believed. John 3:18; Galatians 3:20
   C. Under wrath. Treasureth up for thyself wrath. John 3:36; Romans 2:5
   D. Death. Worm dieth not, fire not quenched. Mark 9:48; James 1:15; II Thessalonians 1:9;

III. CANNOT SAVE SELF...He that believeth not shall be damned. Mark 16:16
   A. Not by works. By grace are ye saved...and not of works. Ephesians 2:8,9
   B. Not by baptism. Without shedding of blood no remission. Hebrews 9:22

IV. SALVATION OFFERED FOR ALL.
   A. Everyone that believeth. Acts 10:43
   B. God’s desire. Not willing that any should perish. II Peter 3:9
   C. God’s proof. Gave His only begotten Son. John
II. GODLY MOTHERS ARE SUBMISSIVE TO THE CHRIST. I Samuel 2:1
A. Praying mothers
B. Precious mothers
C. Powerful mothers

III. GODLY MOTHERS ARE SERVANTS OF THE CHURCH. Acts 16:14,15
A. She shares her talents.
B. She shows her tenderness.
C. She sheds her tears.
D. She serves with her time.

IV. GODLY MOTHERS WILL SACRIFICE FOR THEIR CHILDREN. Proverbs 31:15-21
A. She sustains them.
B. She shields them.
C. She satisfies them.
D. She sacrifices for them.
E. She strengthens them.

This is one of the sermons in CLARK’S COUNSEL TO CORINTH by Neal Clark. This book was printed under the Sounding Out the Word ministry. Write or call for your free copy or copies today.
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A SIMPLE SERMON ON SALVATION

Text: Ephesians 2:1-10

Introduction: This message will be a very simple sermon on a very serious subject. There may be someone here today who needs to be saved. Let's pray together that God will use the message to His glory.

This passage answers three questions:

I. WHY DO WE NEED TO BE SAVED? V1-3
   We need to be saved because...
   A. Because by nature we are dead in trespasses and sins. V1
      1. We are physically alive, but we are spiritually dead.
      2. We are separated from God on account of sin.
         a. Adam and Eve had fellowship with God in the beginning.
         b. But when sin entered the picture, their fellowship was broken and they were separated from God.
   B. Because by nature we are under the domain of Satan. V2
      1. We walked according to the course of this world.
      2. We lived according to the prince of the power of the air.
      3. We followed the spirit that works in the children of disobedience.
      4. We were under Satan's control.
      5. We were a part of Satan's kingdom.
   C. Because by nature, we are the children of wrath. V3
      1. "We all" - universal - no exceptions.
      2. We fulfilled the desires of the flesh.
      3. We fulfilled the desires of the mind.
      4. We were by nature the children of wrath.
      5. We were "even as others" - this is the state of every lost person.
   We know we need to be saved...
   D. Because God uses His Holy Spirit to impress upon us these things are true and that we need to be saved. John 6:44 "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."
      1. Jesus said, (John 12:32) "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."
      2. Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit and said, (John 16:8) "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:"
   (ILL) I was convicted of my sin and need of salvation when Bro. J.B. Powers was preaching a revival at Harmony MBC, July 22nd, 1963. I don't remember what he preached, but I remember the Holy Spirit convicting me I needed to be saved.

II. WHAT MUST WE DO TO BE SAVED? V4-9
   A. God intervened because of His love for us. V4
      1. The phrase, "But God," stands as a ray of hope.
      2. The phrase, "Who is rich in mercy" means He did not give us what we deserved.
      3. The phrase, "For His great love wherewith He loved us" tells why He gave His only begotten Son to die for us.
      4. If it were not for the divine intervention of God we could not be saved.
   B. God is the only one who can give us eternal life. V5
      1. A man who is physically dead cannot raise himself.
      2. A man who is spiritually dead cannot save himself.
   C. God makes salvation available through Christ. V6,7
      1. The one who raised Christ from the grave, can raise us up together with Christ.
      2. The spiritual life we have is in Christ Jesus.
      3. The riches of His grace is through Christ Jesus.
   (ILL) God could not have been kind to us if it had not been for His Son paying the penalty of sin on the cross in our behalf. Romans 3:23-26
   D. God's plan of salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. V8,9
      1. By grace - means He gives us something we don't deserve.
      2. Through faith - not faith in faith, but faith in Jesus Christ.
      3. It is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast.
         a. You can't work for it.
         b. You can't earn it.
         c. You can't join it.
         d. All you can do is receive it.

III. WHAT ARE WE TO DO AFTER WE ARE SAVED? V10
   A. We are to confess Him.
      1. Make a public profession of our faith.
      2. That He be not ashamed of us.
   B. We are to follow Him.
      1. In baptism
      2. To declare our faith and to picture the gospel.
   C. We are to serve Him.
      1. In a local New Testament church
      2. It is in the church that He receives honor and glory. Ephesians 3:21
   D. We are to tell others about Him.
      1. At school
      2. At work.
   E. We are to be conformed to His image.
      1. Grow by Bible study and prayer.
      2. Grow in grace and knowledge.
      3. Take on His character.
      4. Assume His attitudes - the mind of Christ.
Conclusion: I trust there has been something in this message for everyone. Now the time has come to make a decision. What will you do with Jesus Christ?
1. Will you trust Him?
2. Will you make it public?
3. Will you follow Him in scriptural baptism?
4. Will you become a part of this New Testament church?
5. Will you be a witness for Him and honor Him with your life?

David Harris 1440 Harmony Church Road, Pine Bluff, AR 71603

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What I Have in Christ by Charles Swilling

From Myanmar
What a blessing I have received from your printing ministry. Thank you for the wonderful outline books that you sent to me. What a great blessing it was for me and my church. They are very helpful to me to study the outlines to get me a message for my people. Thank you for the paper. I am going to enjoy it also.
Also, I have shared your address with some of my preacher friends to be a help to them. Please send me the following available books that you mentioned in the July-August 1996 issue of the Sounding Out the Word.

From Malawi
We brother and sisters have come across five of your books. First we read your books as the family for so many weeks, meditating on them. We felt led by the Holy Spirit to witness the message found in your books.
The most messages that have brought much awakening to both our churches and many ministries here in Malawi and our nearest country of Mozambique, have been taken in your books.
May God bless you and your ministry so that you may reach many countries with your Sounding Out the Word of God so that many will come to repentance through reading your books.

From Virginia
Thank you so much for these books. I am a young preacher and need all the help I can get. Enclosed is a small offering and I will send more when I can.

JESUS IS COMING
Text: John 14:1-3

Intro:
A. As far back as Job’s day people of God believed it and looked forward to it. Job 19:25-27
B. The psalmist looked forward to this time WHEN HE WOULD BE SATISFIED. Psalm 17:15
C. This is that BLESSED HOPE of every born again child of God. Titus 2:13
D. How do I know Jesus is coming?
   1. Unfulfilled prophecy demands it.
   2. He said it.
   3. Angels said it. Acts 1:11

I. JESUS IS COMING TO REDEEM OUR BODIES.
A. Ephesians 4:30
B. Romans 8:23
C. I Corinthians 15:51, 52
D. Philippians 3:20, 21
E. Romans 8:30

II. JESUS IS COMING TO RECEIVE HIS OWN.
A. John 14:3
B. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
C. His Bride, His church.
   1. He taught it. Matthew 25:6; John 3:29; II Corinthians 11:2
   2. Paul taught it. Ephesians 5:27
D. Revelation 19:7-9

III. JESUS IS COMING TO REVIEW OUR LIFE'S RECORD AND WORKS.
A. Job 16:19
B. 1 Corinthians 4:3-5
C. Matthew 25:19

IV. JESUS IS COMING TO REWARD HIS PEOPLE.
A. According to faithfulness. Matthew 25:20-23
B. According to works. Revelation 22:12; Matthew 16:27
C. According to use of that intrusted to our management. Matthew 25:27
D. According to fruit borne in life. John 15:8, 16; 4:36; Daniel 12:3

V. JESUS IS COMING TO REVEAL HIMSELF TO US.
A. When Jesus revealed Himself to Paul on the Damascus road Paul was physically blinded.
B. John said, "And when I saw him I fell at his feet as dead: and he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, fear not; I am the first and the last."
C. This points up the great change that will, that must take place.
D. We shall "SEE HIM AS HE IS!" 1 John 3:2,3
E. I Peter 4:13
F. We shall KNOW HIM as He can be known! Isaiah 11:9; Jeremiah 31:34
G. A sad note accompanies this glorious truth. II Thessalonians 1:7-10

VI. JESUS IS COMING TO RULE THE WORLD IN RIGHTEOUSNESS.
A. A so-called church sign read, JESUS IS COMING TO JUDGE, NOT TO RULE.
B. Revelation 19:15,16;2:26,27

D.B. Wright with the Lord in glory

**GOD'S DIVINE WILL**
Text: Ephesians 1:3-14

Intro: God has two kinds of will, His divine or decreed will and His permissive will. We will deal with His decreed will in this message or those things which will come to pass.

I. THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT ARE GOING TO HAPPEN NO MATTER WHAT!
A. God will deal with sin and Satan.
   1. It doesn't make any difference what Satan does or what men does, God will deal with sin.
   2. Satan will lose, and sin will perish from off the earth.
B. God will destroy the world as we know it today.
   1. It has been cursed with the presence of sin.
   2. Sin's effect on the world has made it so it cannot continue to exist in God's universe.
C. God will cast all rejecters into Hell.
   1. God has given man every chance to repent.
   2. If man continues to reject God beyond His grace, then he will be cast into Hell.
D. God will make all things new.
   1. Before eternity is established in the future, God will make all things new and fitting.
   2. He promised this and He will do it.

II. GOD SET HIS ETERNAL PLAN IN MOTION.
A. God knows man's nature.
   1. God is not caught by surprise, by man's actions.
   2. He knew in the beginning, what man would do.
B. God will do everything He can, to persuade man.
   1. God loved man and gave His only Son Jesus for man.
   2. All man is required to do is trust and believe.
C. God's plan cannot be stopped.
   1. Satan has spent the 6,000 years of time trying to foil God's plan.
   2. Man has tried to do away with God's revelation.
   3. God's plan is sure and cannot be stopped.
D. Only man's will can make a difference in His outcome.
   1. God left man's outcome up to him.
   2. He will not force man to be saved.

III. GOD IS GOING TO MAINTAIN AND BRING HIS WILL TO PASS.
A. God knows the end from the beginning.
   1. God is never surprised.
   2. He knew that many men would not accept His plan.
B. God will not leave salvation up to man's good.
   1. There is none good, no not one!
   2. God gave His Son the Word and the Spirit.
C. God will answer every call.
   1. It is written, "Whosoever calleth upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."
   2. God gives you all your life, however long it may be to answer.
D. Some harden their hearts, so hard by rejection that they cannot call, but God in grace awaits.

IV. MAN'S ACTIONS CAN NEVER CHANGE GOD'S DIVINE WILL.
A. Man will grow worse and worse.
   1. Paul said, "Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse."
   2. Man will never learn as a whole.
B. God will continue to offer salvation.
   1. Until the end of time, God will still offer man the chance to be saved.
   2. Man will continue to reject.
C. His will is based on Jesus' sacrifice.
   1. You see, God so loved the world.
   2. He has willed that everyone who turns to Jesus will be saved.
D. All judgment is turned over to the Son.
1. God will not judge man's salvation according to his goodness or deeds.
2. It is based on the Son's sacrifice.
3. Jesus will judge man according to His acceptance or rejection of that sacrifice.

Conclusion: Men may teach salvation by one means or another, but God's will is set in eternity: May you accept it today.

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

WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW! If your were saved as a result of reading our paper, let us know. If you were out of church and the Lord's service and repented and got back in service, let us know. If you were discouraged and were encouraged by reading our paper, let us know. WE REALLY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW and share it with our people.

HOI
Text: Isaiah 55:1

Introduction:
A. ATTENTION:
1. To listen to; give heed to a speaker.
2. To be aware of and give heed to a speaker.
B. When it comes to giving God our attention we humans try our best to be inattentive.
C. He wants our undivided attention, deserves it, and has attempted to gain it.

I. SOME FAMILIAR ATTENTION GETTERS.
A. There are some familiar attention getters:
1. Your attention, please!
2. Ladies and Gentlemen, may I have your attention!
3. Ladies, Gentlemen, boys, and girls of all ages, your attention to ring three!
4. Ding! Good evening, ladies and Gentlemen, this is your Captain speaking...
5. Your attention, K-Mart shoppers, there is a blue light special...
6. HOWD-DIEEE! I'm just so proud to be here!
7. Please hold the line for an electronic message...
8. Hello, down there!

B. God suddenly says, "Hello! Out there!"

II. GOD HAS MADE MANY EFFORTS TO GET MAN'S ATTENTION.
A. He made the creation as an attention getter.
1. The sun comes up every morning to draw attention to new life.
2. Every seed that dies in order to burst through the soil with new life is to get our attention.
3. Every new born of every species is to get our attention.
B. He made man with a built in need to receive and give attention.
1. Our emotions are designed to need attention.
2. A little baby soon learns how to get our attention.

C. He used Noah and the Ark as an attention getter.
D. The Tabernacle was designed inside and out with his purpose in mind.
1. Each board, post, pin, cloth, piece of furniture, etc., pointed to Him.

E. The Law and Priesthood were for this purpose. (What mean ye...)
F. The Prophets were used for this.
G. John the Baptist was a very loud attention getter.
H. The announcement and birth of Jesus was to all the world.
I. The New Testament Church was organized and remains as an attention getter. ("Ye are the light...on a hill.")

J. The Holy Spirit has many duties today and among them is getting our attention, through conviction, guiding, and abiding close to us.
K. God says, "HOI OUT THERE!"

III. AFTER ALL THIS, GOD HAS SPOKEN TO US THROUGH HIS SON.
A. Hebrews 1:1-4
B. God used many ways of getting our attention, but now He has used the ultimate means.
C. We had better pay attention to Him.
D. He used such terms as "Woe unto them!" "Truly, truly...", Verily, verily, I say unto you!"
E. Remember the parable that Jesus gave about the land owner who sent servant after servant to check on his property and they beat them. Finally, He sent his Son!

Conclusion:
A. Has God gotten your attention?
B. He, no doubt, has been trying.
C. Let Him have your attention and not only your attention, but your soul!
D. "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation..." Hebrews 2:3
E. II Corinthians 6:2 "Behold! (HOI) now...Behold! (HO)..."

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AN UNACCEPTED TITHE
Aim: To learn the DANGERS in wrongful tithing.

Introduction:
A. How hard is it to do right? Pretty hard since the majority of the world we live among isn't concerned with right and wrong. Did you know that you can struggle and struggle to do right and when you have reached your goal you can still be wrong? You can...
because the reason for doing something is just as important as the act itself. You can do right outwardly and still be wrong inwardly because the motive is wrong. You can have outward righteous works and still be wrong because you're doing them to be seen by men. You can go to public worship services and it still be wrong because you're going to see others or be seen by others. You can teach God's word and still be wrong because you're wanting the praise of men. You can pray publicly and still be wrong because you want to be heard by men or you have unconfessed and unforsaken sin. And last but not least you give tithes and offerings and still be wrong because your motive is wrong. A wrong motive in tithing is wrongful tithing and God will not accept it. What is an unaccepted tithe? Well, let's review what a tithe is.

B. What is tithing? Tithing is a recognition of God that leads us to give back to God at least 10% of what God has given us. Tithing isn't Christian stewardship, but a part of it and a reflection of it. When a person tithes he recognizes God. How can a man recognize God? John 1:18; John 14:7-9 When a person tithes he recognizes God by recognizing Jesus Christ. He recognizes Jesus Christ as the Creator of all things. Col. 1:16 He recognizes Jesus Christ as the Owner of all things. Rev. 4:11-5:7 He recognizes Jesus Christ as the Giver of all things. James 1:17 He recognizes Jesus Christ as the Sustainer of all things. Col. 1:17 What is recognizing Jesus Christ? Worship! God's perspective of tithing is a part of God's perspective of worship. Now, wrongful tithing takes place when you give your tithes and offerings and your focus is not on Jesus Christ. You are recognizing something/one else instead of Jesus Christ. When this takes place your tithe is unaccepted. (NOTE: The church still gets the cash, but you don't get the blessing!) Remember, the right tithe is accepted worship, therefore, the wrong tithe is unaccepted worship. When is a tithe wrong?

THE DANGERS ARE:
I. WHEN SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS ENTERS A PERSON. Luke 18:9-14
II. WHEN WE SUBSTITUTE TITHING FOR PRIORITIES. Matthew 23:23
III. WHEN TITHING IS A SOLUTION TO PROBLEMS.
IV. WHEN TITHING IS SUPPORT FOR A PROGRAM.
I. WHEN SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS ENTERS A PERSON. Luke 18:9-14
A. Tithing does not mean righteousness for the lost.
B. Tithing does not mean righteousness for the saved.

II. WHEN TITHING IS A SUBSTITUTE FOR PRIORITIES. Matthew 23:23
A. Too many of God's people focus on minor things.
   1. Have you ever noticed how temporal and physical things obtain the majority of a church's focus?
   2. Also, there are a lot of God's people who tithe and think their tithe alone is service.
B. God's people need to focus on major things.
   1. Justice-acting sincerely and sensitively toward your neighbor. It has the idea of not doing/saying anything to them that might cause them to discredit you or your God. Why? Because this is the best testimony to have in the eyes of the lost and saved. It doesn't matter how well you serve God or think you serve God, because it is empty if you damage your neighbor. James 1:26
   2. Mercy-compassion toward your neighbor. In Luke 10 the Lord told a story about a good Samaritan that perfectly depicts this word.
   3. Faith-walking humbly before our God. Gal. 3:11; Rom. 10:17; Hebs. 11:6 The reason we need to focus on the major things of God is because they are eternal and the minor things aren't.

III. WHEN TITHING IS A SOLUTION TO PROBLEMS.
A. God will not be rented for our good pleasure.
B. God is not required to do anything He doesn't want to do.

IV. WHEN TITHING IS SUPPORT FOR A PROGRAM.
A. Tithing is never to be misused in order to raise funds.
   1. The sole means for supporting God's kingdom business is tithes and offerings. Now, what is meant is to not deceitfully parade giving as a means to get people to pay for a church program. This is attacking the problem from the wrong end.
   2. What will happen is the people will feel obligated to tithe in order to pay for something instead of tithing for the right reason. Never do anything or give anything unless God leads you to do it! If you allow someone else to obligate you to do something then you become their slave instead of God's slave. That's what happened to Israel. They allowed the religious leaders to bind them under rules that God didn't prescribe for them.
B. Tithing is another way of recognizing Jesus Christ.
   1. QUOTE: "The money raised in tithing is a by-product of the deeper act of dedication." QUOTE: "There is no backdoor to dedication. We must all go through the front door of worship, recognizing God's presence and responding to his presence. Tithing among
other things is the result of a dedicated life-not substitute for it."

2. Tithing is a part of God's perspective of worship. It is giving thanks for God's abundant mercies.

Conclusion:
A. When is our tithe unaccepted? When it is motivated by anything other than love. It is unaccepted when it is intended as a substitute for dedication instead of an expression of dedication. QUOTE: "We must give in the right order--self before substance." When God gets the man he gets everything, including his money. When our tithe is motivated by love then we are recognizing Jesus Christ, then we are worshipping Him, and then our worship is accepted.

B. Lost person, your worship isn't accepted by God because you are alienated from Him. The only way you can come to God is through Jesus Christ. You need to repent of your sins and trust in Jesus Christ for your Savior.

This enables us to do more books. You might want to honor or remember a loved one in a special way. We can get 5,000 copies of a 50 page book printed for $1,500.00 to $1,800.00. We will be happy to include a page to remember or honor a loved one for you. What a way to remember a loved one and to invest in eternal things. We are mailing material into 49 states and 64 countries. Your gift could help thousands of people come to know the truth of God's Word. We have many preachers who have gone on to glory that have outlines that may not be used again. How sad that is! If God gives His man a sermon, it should live on. It can if more of God's people and churches would seriously consider this challenge. If your church can't pay for the book, ask other churches to help you. The printed Word is leaving tracks all over this old world to God's honor and glory.

Join these churches who support us regularly. They are helping us sound out the Word into 49 states and 68 countries. Any gift is welcomed and used.

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We receive an average of 40 offerings each month for the Sounding Out the Word ministry. The offerings go to help print books and the paper and mail them out. This number includes these churches and other churches and individuals.

ACCEPt THE CHALLENGE: Please prayerfully considering paying for the printing of a book!!! Last year we had two churches pay for books and two individuals pay for books.

SERIES: BUILDING FOR GOD!
FOCUS: PRINCIPLES TO ASCERTAIN!
Text: Nehemiah 11 & 12

Introduction:
A. The PROPOSAL - do you want...
   1. To hear the Master say "WELL DONE" to you?
   2. The work of the Lord to flourish in the sphere of your life and environment?

B. The PRINCIPLES - If your answer is yes to the aforementioned questions, then you must comprehend and commit yourself to the following principles.
   1. The principle of OCCUPATION
   2. The principle of DELEGATION
   3. The principle of DEDICATION

C. The PROFOUNDNESS of these principles - they are an important in every sphere of our lives.
   1. Our home
   2. Our business
   3. Our country
   4. Our church

I. THE PRINCIPLE OF OCCUPATION! Nehemiah 11:1-2
A. The AWARENESS
   1. Luke 19:13 "And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, occupy till I come."
   2. There is a position or place for every Christian and member of the church to occupy.
   3. Ephesians 4:7 "But unto everyone of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ."

B. The ACCEPTANCE
   1. Have you accepted your place and
responsibility?
2. The function of multiple ministries is to assist people in finding their function and getting them involved through the utilization of their God given abilities.
3. Christian service can be changed from drudgery to luxury if we draw upon God's all sufficient grace. II Corinthians 12:7-10

II. THE PRINCIPLE OF DELEGATION Nehemiah 11:20-23
A. The COMPREHENSION
1. Everyone had an appointed task.
2. Each phase was delegated to someone and they did it.
B. The SATISFACTION
1. We need to be content in whatever place that God has delegated for us.
2. Don't be intimidated if you have an obscure task.
3. Any part, in the Kings' task, even though it may go unnoticed, is important.
C. The CAUTION - Don't be envious or jealous of what God has delegated to someone else.

III. THE PRINCIPLE OF DEDICATION Nehemiah 12:27
A. The MEANING of dedication - To commit oneself to a course of action - to set apart for a specific use.
B. The MESSAGE Romans 12:1,2
C. The MUSINGS
1. If there is not dedication we will fail in the occupation and delegation areas.
2. ILLUSTR - examples in the home - examples in the church

Can you help! We use a lot of 9 by 12 envelopes. Each month we use 400 to 500 envelopes. If you can donate some, send them to us. If you know of someone who can give us a real good deal on them, let us know. We try to cut every corner we can and try to be the best stewards that we can be.

SAVING IS A CONCLUSIVE FACT
Text: II Corinthians 5:17-21

Intro:
A. Conclusive-defined:
1. Determining or having the power to determine an outcome. V17 Being in Christ is a phrase Paul used repeatedly to speak of a believer's spiritual relationship with Christ. This relationship is the outcome of salvation.
2. Serving the function of deciding or settling with finality. V19 Reconciliation has reference to a change in relationship from hostility to love, to acceptance, and to friendship. Many do not realize that unsaved people are biblically referred to as enemies of God. Romans 5:10; Ephesians 2:13 Salvation settles the question of one's eternal destiny.

B. By concentrating on verse 17, not four points to consider.
1. If any man be in Christ.
2. He is a new creature.
3. Old things are passed away.
4. All things are become new.

I. IF ANY MAN BE IN CHRIST.
A. "If" means on the condition that and there are some conditions that must be met before a person can become in Christ.
1. Romans 3:23 teaches that he must recognize himself a sinner.
2. Luke 13:3 stipulates that one must repent of sin.
3. Acts 20:21 declares that repentance of sin towards God and faith towards Jesus are essential conditions to be met.
4. Romans 10:9 says that confession and belief in Jesus are necessary conditions.
5. Romans 10:13 states that a personal call unto God is a condition.

B. There is an unwritten condition understood by "If." If the unsaved person does not meet God's conditions, he will not be in Christ.
1. If he dies in this condition, he will experience God's judgement on sin. John 8:24
2. To refuse to believe in Jesus brings about an eternal separation from God. John 3:18

II. HE IS A NEW CREATURE.
A. "New" means that he has been changed.

NEW BOOKS
TEACHING WITH A PURPOSE by Muncy Harris is one of our newest books that we have to offer. This 41 page books of information for teachers will be a good study for you and a great help for your teachers.

WHAT I HAVE IN CHRIST by Charles Swilling is another new book. There are 15 lessons that set forth what the saved person has in Christ. This would make a good study course or devotional guide. It would be a good series to present to your church. This book is dedicated to Linnie Bryant. Her family referred to her as Sweet Mama and they got it right.

Facts about Sounding Out The Word: We have 19 churches who send us a monthly offering. We mail material into 69 countries and 49 states. We mail out 150 packages each month. We receive around 30 - 35 offerings each month including the 19 churches. We are sending material to individuals, churches, prisons, business places, Bible Schools, and the military. We print 8 papers each year. We print 6 to 8 books each year as time and finances allow. We print 5,000 copies of each book that we print. We have been in this ministry close to 20 years.
1. He is now a son of God. John 1:12
2. He is now an heir of God. Romans 8:17
3. He is now a possessor of eternal life. John 3:36

B. The change has been done by the power of God. Titus 3:5
1. The power of God keeps this change secure. I Peter 1:5
2. There is no power that can reverse this change. Romans 8:38,39

III. OLD THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY.
A. The old death penalty. Romans 6:23
B. The old dominion of sin. Romans 6:14
1. The love of sin gone
2. The desire for sin
3. The habit of sin
4. The only reason these are seen again is because one is personally living in the old life.

IV. ALL THINGS ARE COME NEW.
A. The new things are:
   1. New desires
   2. New love for others
   3. A new hope is experienced.
   4. A new home is provided.
B. The number one thing that is new is the change in one’s relationship to God. He is born again or new born.
   1. With this new life there should be seen new attitudes.
   2. There should be new actions that are convincing of the new life. Matthew 5:16
   3. The old person and his personality should be seen as passed away.

Conclusion:
1. Death without Christ is also a conclusive fact. Revelation 20:15
2. If you’re saved and you know it, then your life will surely show it.

A. Kenneth McInnis 509 W. Lavielle, Kirbyville, Texas 75956

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THE TRUTH ABOUT SANCTIFICATION
Text: Ephesians 4:15; John 17:17

Intro: We are to speak the truth in love. We are to speak the truth about sanctification in love. The word SANCTIFY means to self apart or aside for a purpose. When we were saved, the Lord set us apart for His service. Jesus ask the Father to sanctify the disciples through His Word. Would to God all saved people would realize they are suppose to serve the Lord. They have been set aside for that purpose even if they do not fulfill it.

I. WE ARE SANCTIFIED BY THE SAVIOR.
A. The salvation of the Lord
B. The submission to the Lord
C. The supremacy of the Lord

II. WE ARE SANCTIFIED THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES.
A. The Scriptures are inspired.
B. The Scriptures instruct.
C. The Scriptures inform.

III. WE ARE SANCTIFIED FOR SERVICE.
A. The will of God
B. The work of God
C. The way of God

IV. WE ARE SANCTIFIED FOR SPIRITUALITY.
A. The birth of the saved
B. The behavior of the saved
C. The becoming of the saved

V. WE ARE SANCTIFIED FOR SEPARATION.
A. The love
B. The living
C. The leaving

He Lives! He Lives! Christ Jesus lives today,
He walks with me and talks with me
along life’s narrow way.
He Lives! He Lives! Salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives...
He lives within my heart!

Charles Swilling, 12915 Slater Lane, Houston, TX 77039

I serve a risen Savior, He’s in the world today.
I know that He is risen, no matter what men may say.
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer;
And just the time I need Him, He’s always near.