THE IDENTIFYING OF FAITH

Text: Ephesians 2:8,9; James 1:3; Jude 3

Intro: The term FAITH is used 3
different ways in the Bible. There are others words which
mean the same thing as faith. Trust and believe mean the
same thing as faith. It is
impossible to please God
without faith. Hebrews 11:6 If
you want to please God, you
better know a lot about this
word FAITH. Lets put our minds
and hearts into the subject of
FAITH. Lets identify faith and
see what the Bible says about it.

I. THE FAITH OF SALVATION
A. The definition of faith
1. The faith in salvation is pistis which means firm
persuasion, a conviction based upon hearing,
is used in the New Testament always of faith in
God or Christ or things spiritual.
2. The main elements in faith in its relation to the
invisible God, as distinct from faith in man, are
especially brought out in the use of this noun and
the corresponding verb, pistéuo;
3. The main elements are (1) a firm conviction,
producing a full acknowledgment of God's
revelation of truth. (2) A personal surrender to
Him. (3) A conduct inspired by such surrender.
4. The dictionary defines it as believe or trust.
These are Bible terms also. Acts 16:31

B. The depth of faith
1. You may ask someone, "Are you saved?" You
explain by asking, "Have you repented of sin
and trusted Jesus to save your soul."
2. Faith is a very deep subject. Do not take
anything for granted! Many say they have faith
in God, but do not have faith in Him.
3. Many have a head knowledge of the Lord
Jesus Christ. A head knowledge is simply
agreeing with what is said about Jesus Christ.
They mentally accept what has been said about
Jesus to be the truth.

4. There is a vast difference between a head
knowledge and a heart knowledge about Jesus
Christ. While you may accept the truth that is
said about Jesus, it is not the same as trusting
Jesus to save your soul.
5. There is a great deal of difference between a
head acceptance and a heart reception of
Jesus Christ. Many believe with the head, but
do not put their faith in Jesus. Romans 10:9,10

C. The deliverance of faith
1. Too many people have a head reception of
Jesus! You can tell because this kind of
reception doesn't change many things.
2. True faith in Jesus Christ is evidenced by a
great change in one's life. Real and true faith
takes place inside and works outward.
3. Through the New Birth we are given a new
nature that is godly and divine. We are
partakers of a divine nature. II Peter 1:4
4. We are to put on the new man which is created
after God in righteousness and true holiness.
Ephesians 4:24
5. We were dead in trespasses and sins and now
we are made alive unto God. Ephesians 2:1
Paul also described the way we use to live and
be. Ephesians 2:2,3

D. The deception in faith
1. The difference between a head knowledge and
a heart reception is great.
2. You can make a great mistake in settling for
something less than a New Birth experience.
There are a lot of religious people who are not
redeemed.
3. They have a head knowledge, but they have not had a heart experience whereby they were changed and experienced the New Birth.
4. I feel like this may be a bigger problem than we think it is even in our work.
5. Many make a profession at a young age. They may not understand as much as they need to understand. They make a profession of faith, are baptized, and become church members, but do not know Jesus as personal Savior.

E. The Devil and faith
1. The Devil is in the blinding business. He will blind the lost to their condition and the way to deal with the lost condition.
2. He blinds the minds of those who believe not, lest they see the light of the glorious gospel and are saved. II Corinthians 4:3-4
3. The Devil appears as an angel of light and can make his servants appear that way also. II Corinthians 11:13-15
4. Those who are not saved will have a lot of doubts and questions because the Holy Spirit will continue to convict them of their lost condition. John 16:7-11
5. The Devil wants the lost to settle for anything and everything, but he doesn’t want them to be saved.

F. The demonstration of faith
1. James went into length and details about the fact faith will demonstrate itself.
2. “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.” James 2:17 “But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?” V20
3. “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” V26
4. Study very closely and diligently Matthew 7:15-20. The saved will produce fruit.
5. The agape love is an evidence that a person is saved. I John 3:14 God’s love is also an evidence of discipleship. John 13:34,35

II. THE FAITH OF SERVICE
A. The definition of faith
1. The faith in salvation is pistis which means firm persuasion, a conviction based upon hearing, is used in the New Testament always of faith in God or Christ or things spiritual.
2. The main elements in faith in its relation to the invisible God, as distinct from faith in man, are especially brought out in the use of this noun and the corresponding verb, pisteuo;
3. The main elements are (1) a firm conviction, producing a full acknowledgment of God’s revelation of truth. (2) A personal surrender to Him. (3) A conduct inspired by such surrender.
4. This faith is the faith that we live by and with. It is trusting the Lord for our daily needs and the needs we have to serve Him.

B. The dependance of faith
1. Faith means to rely upon, trust in, and put our faith in Jesus Christ. The model prayer teaches us to do this on a daily basis.
2. “Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.” Matthew 6:9-11
3. Read and study what the wise man wrote about trust or faith in Proverbs 3:5,6. We can and are to trust Him with the whole heart.
4. We are to have faith in God. We are to trust the Lord for those things that we stand in need of daily.

C. The diligence of faith
1. The Lord continually teaches us not to be afraid or full of fear. This is what Moses told Joshua. Joshua 1:6-9
2. We may think we are trusting the Lord, but we may not be trusting Him. You can examine your attitude and mind to see if you are or not.
3. Real true faith means you go to the Lord about a need or matter and you turn it over to Him. You trust Him for the outcome.
4. If you go into a dangerous surgery real faith trusts the Lord whether you live or die.

D. The delight of faith
1. Faith will always help you overcome the troubles and trials in your life. I John 3:4,5
2. It is a wonderful thing to have sweet peace of heart and mind in your situation. Philippians 4:7
3. It is wonderful to experience the rest and assurance in times of trouble when we trust the Lord for the outcome.
4. Hebrews 11 is a wonderful chapter in God’s holy Word. True faith drives fear away. True faith drives doubt away also.

E. The desire of faith
1. Faith desires the Lord give the strength to do His will in daily life. Philippians 4:13
2. Faith desires the Lord supply our needs as we serve Him and try to carry out His will for our lives. Philippians 4:19
3. Faith desires the Lord show us the way when things look dark and troublesome for us. Psalm 23:3
4. Faith desires to be settled down in the storms of life. People and troubles can bother us and disturb us, but faith can do a work in us. Philippians 4:7
5. Faith desires to serve the Lord in whatever way we can. Faith will enable us to present our bodies a living sacrifice to Him. Romans 12:1

III. THE FAITH OF THE SCRIPTURES
A. The definition of faith
1. The faith in the Scriptures is pistis which means: (1) a firm conviction, producing a full
acknowledgment of God’s revelation of truth. (2) A personal surrender to Him. (3) A conduct inspired by such surrender.

2. Jude spoke of the faith once delivered to the saints. This speaks of a system of teaching or revelation of truth.

3. God’s Word, the Bible, has been given to His people once for all. It is to be proclaimed as it is to men as they are.

4. Most Christian faiths have a doctrinal statement. This is a concise list of teachings they believe and stand for.

B. The Devil and faith
1. The Devil is in the blinding business. He will blind the minds of man to the truth. II Corinthians 4:3,4

2. The Devil in character is a liar and the father of lies. John 8:44 He is deceptive in nature. II Corinthians 11:13-15

3. In the garden He causes doubt in Eve, “Yea hath God said Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” Genesis 3:1

4. Since faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God, the Devil doesn’t want people to hear Bible preaching and teaching. Romans 10:17

C. The deliverance of faith
1. Jesus said, “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:32

2. “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” John 8:36

3. The truth will make people free. Falsehood and lies will ensnare and enslave people, but the truth frees.

4. Paul was assured the Lord delivered us, does deliver us, and will yet deliver us. II Corinthians 1:10

D. The devotion of faith
1. Jude instructed those he wrote to, to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints. Text

2. We are to be defenders of the faith. We are to take our stand for the Word of God and teach it as purely as we possibly can.

3. The Lord and His apostles were constantly dealing with religious error and lies in their ministries. Matthew 15:9

4. The truth must mean more to you than religion or the way you were brought up. John 14:21-23

5. We ought to be Bible believers and teachers. We ought to form our beliefs on the Bible. Too many form a belief and go to the Bible to have it verified.

6. Too many are devoted to religion, but they are not devoted to the truth of God’s Word.

E. The doctrine and faith
1. The Bible is the inspired or God breathed Word of God. II Timothy 3:16

2. The Bible is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. II Timothy 3:16,17

3. We are to desire the sincere milk of the Word that we may grow thereby. I Peter 2:1,2

4. The psalmist teaches us what the Lord’s Word is good for in Psalm 19:7-11.

5. The psalmist teaches us the Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

From Tennessee
God bless you and your church for Sounding Out the Word through your books and sermon outlines. I know these will prove as a help in my ministry. Keep up the good work. I hope this small donation will help some.

From Moca, P.R.
The paper has been a real blessing to me in my ministry here. I usually get several sermons out of it each month. Lord willing, I will be using one on the second coming of Christ this Sunday night.

I have a small radio ministry and will probably order some more books later for giving out to listeners.

From Texas
Greetings sir in Christ’s name. I would like to take this opportunity to say Thank You! Today I received your newsletter, what a blessing it was to read.

I would also like to thank you for allowing me to be a part of your monthly outreach.

What I am really excited about is the book you sent me THE FUNDAMENTALS OF CHRISTIAN LIVING, the Berean Bible Study. I have been trying to get something like this for several months. I am looking very forward to studying it and completing it.

From the Philippines
I’m enjoying the Sounding Out the Word papers and I’m preaching a lot of them in our church. They’ve been really a blessing in my preaching ministry and to our people.

The books I’ve received are great. I’ve also shared some of them to my fellow preachers and they’re thankful to you.

Praise God and thank you for being a help and blessing to our ministry in the Philippines. May God continue to bless you, your family and staff at the SOTW.

BROKEN CISTERNS THAT HOLD NO WATER
Text: Jeremiah 2:1-13, V13

Introduction: The chosen people of God were in a terrible backslidden condition. The Lord had brought them from a God forsaken place in Egypt to a land He had promised them, a land that flowed with milk and honey. They were in their homeland, but their minds and hearts were far from God. God said they had committed two evils. They had forsaken Him and they had hewed out cisterns that would hold no water. The people had devised their own plan and their plan was like a broken cistern. Today people are still
devising their own plans and those plans are still like broken cisterns.

I. GOD'S PRECIOUS PROMISES WERE FORSAKEN. Jeremiah 2:12,13
   A. Forsook God because of a backslidden condition.
   B. Forsook God for a broken cistern.
   C. Forsook God for a blind cause.
   D. Forsook God for a bad choice.

II. GOD'S PREVAILING PRINCIPLES WERE FORGOTTEN. Jeremiah 2:2,3
   A. They forgot to follow God.
   B. They forgot to favor God.
   C. They forgot to be fruitful for God.

III. GOD'S PERFECT PRACTICES WERE FLEETING. Jeremiah 2:11
   A. They fled to other gods.
   B. They fled to other glory.
   C. They fled from God's goodness.

IV. GOD'S PARDONED PEOPLE WERE FEW. Jeremiah 2:4-10
   A. Few that sacrificed right.
   B. Few that served regularly.
   C. Few that separated righteously.

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This is one of the sermons in a Sounding Out the Word book called CLARK'S COUNSEL TO CORINTH by Neal Clark. Send in for your free copy today.

Series: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF WORDS!
REGENERATION!
Scriptures: Titus 3:5 and John 3:1-7

Titus 3:5 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost."

John 3:1-7 V1 "There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews;" V2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God; for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. V3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. V4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mothers' womb, and be born? V5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. V6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. V7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye MUST BE BORN AGAIN."

Introduction:
A. The REVIEW
   1. Through words we gain knowledge - develop - minister - and communicate.
   2. God's Word is LIGHT - FOOD - TOOL - WEAPON.
   3. The significance of words and spiritual perception.
   4. Justification
      a. MEANING - The gracious act of God in declaring righteous a sinner who believes in Jesus Christ.
      b. METHOD - by - blood.
      c. MARKS
         1. ACQUISITION of peace.
         2. ACCESS to God.
         3. ASPIRATION of hope.
         4. ATTITUDE difference.
         5. AFFECTION is different.

B. The REVELATION - REGENERATION
   1. DISCERNMENT of the TERM.
   2. DIFFERENT facets of this TRUTH.
   3. DIGNITY due to this TREASURE.

I. DISCERNMENT OF THE TERM!
   A. Our English word "regeneration" is a word of Latin origin which means born again - born a second time - new birth.

B. Phraseologies which depict this revelation.
   1. Born Again
   2. New Birth
   3. Quickened.
   4. Made alive.
   5. Sons of God
   6. New Creation

C. All except Adam and Eve were born into this world - by process of a birth.
   1. As such, we were born with the nature that our parents possessed. Romans 5:12
   2. As such, we were born into this world spiritually dead.
   3. Therefore we must be born again to become a child of God.

II. DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THIS TRUTH!
   A. AUTHOR of this New Birth - God - John 1:12,13
      "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name; V13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, not of the will of man, but of God."
      1. This is God's solution to the Adamic condition.
   B. AGENT that produces this New Birth - Holy Spirit.
      2. Converts.
         a. Our parents were responsible for the life
that we possess.

b. The Holy Spirit imparts the very life of God in the believer.

C. AWARENESS - How does the Spirit accomplish this?
1. 1 Peter 1:23 "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever."
2. He does this through the Word of God.
   a. Hebrews 4:12
   b. Romans 10:17
3. The Word of God shows us why we need to be born again - because we are sinners.
4. The Word of God shows us that Jesus Christ came to be the Savior.
   a. Hebrews 2:9
   b. Our substitutionary sacrifice.
5. The Word of God shows us what to do.
   b. 1 John 5:12
   c. Listen - man's theologies - philosophies - or reasonings cannot produce the New Birth.
   d. Our need - is God's solution - not man's inventions.

D. ACTIVATED through Faith.
1. Galatians 3:26 "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."
3. Belief is receiving.
4. When the facts are received and believed the new birth occurs.
5. Illustration - Nicodemus - John 3

III. DIGNITY DUE TO THIS TREASURE!

A. Sons of God
B. Children of the King
C. Part of His kingdom.
   1. SELF DEFINITION
   2. SELF INTERPRETATION
   3. IDENTITY ESTABLISHMENT
   4. NATURE DEVELOPMENT

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SEVEN TESTS IN CHOOSING THE RIGHT CHURCH
Text: Ephesians 3:21

Intro:
A. Setting of the text.
B. Messages like this are needed today.
   1. To stabilize our own church members, "What is a New Testament Church?" Member ask.
   2. To help church members moving from other places.
   3. To help members when talking to others about church membership...visitation...witnessing to the lost.
   4. To help new converts unite with the right church.
C. Some put these tests on a church.
   1. The perfection test..."Is it perfect?"
   2. Personality test...does it suit my personality?
   3. Pleasure test.
   4. Proximity test..."Is it near my house?"
   5. Is it beautiful? How does it appear? Appearance?
D. Note these seven tests.

I. THE PERSON TEST
A. Where does the church stand with regard to the Person of Christ?
B. We must be right on this thing or we can stop right here. I John 2:22-24

II. THE POWER TEST
A. Where does the church's power come from?
B. Is it powered by the world?
C. Does the church's power come from Christ. Acts 1:8
D. Does the church's power rest in numbers? Money? Popularity?

III. THE POSITION TEST
A. Where does the church stand with regard to worldly things?
B. Is she popular with the world?
C. Some Baptists and some churches are like "salt blocks." Any old cow that comes along takes a lick.

IV. THE PRACTICE TEST
A. What does the church practice?
B. She must practice the great Bible doctrines.
   1. Salvation by grace through faith
   2. Baptism by immersion
   3. Lord's Supper (Church)
   4. Holy living
   5. Bible true...study
   6. Coming of the Lord
   7. Giving
   8. Prayer

V. THE PREACHER TEST
A. Does he preach against sin?
B. Does he preach the Word?
C. Does he preach to please the people?
D. The world asks "Is he good looking?" Is he a good mixer? Can he please everyone?
E. God does not ask such foolish questions. II Timothy 4:1,2

VI. THE PROGRAM TEST
A. The church program should be soul winning
B. Matthew 28:18-20
C. Proverbs 11:30
D. Revelation 2:5

VII. THE PURPOSE TEST
A. Why are we here?
B. What are we doing here?

Conclusion:
A. It does make a difference what you believe.
B. It does make a difference what you teach and practice on this earth.
C. Turn the searchlight of God's Word upon your church. Can it and does it pass the test?
D. Get right with God...now!

J.B. Powers at home in glory.

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CHRIST IS THE ANSWER
If you are lost, Christ is the answer. The church cannot save you. Neither can the two ordinances of the church, baptism and the Lord's Supper, save you. These pictorial ordinances point to Christ, but they do not save the lost. It is tragic to trust the pictures rather than the One pictured. The powers of redemption are not found within the heart of the sinner. God demands perfection and the sinner cannot meet this standard. However, Christ who knew no sin met every demand of God's law and then died for sinners. With joy, then, we read, "Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth" (Romans 10:4).

Christ, and Christ alone, can save you. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). When Heaven gave Jesus Christ, Heaven gave all. That Christ is the only Saviour is not a doctrine found only in the New Testament. It is the teaching of the Old Testament as well. Every Old Testament prophet preached salvation through believing in Christ. To Him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins" (Acts 10:42). If it were possible to call all the Old Testament prophets on the witness stand and ask them the simple question, "To whom did you point the people for salvation?" They would answer in unison, "Christ." The promised Messiah of the Old Testament is the resurrected Christ of the New. Some people who want to believe this glorious doctrine have some difficulty understanding how faith can be placed in one who has not yet come. Our faith in the second coming of Christ illustrates the simplicity of the whole matter. We look forward to His return when we will be given body redemption. The saints of today wait for His second coming while the saints of old waited for His first coming.

"On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand."

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Paul Goodwin 10205 Eva La, Little Rock, AR 72209

AMERICA BACK TO GOD
"Let's get God back in America",
I've heard lots of people say.
But did God ever leave America?
Or did we forget to draw near and pray?

No! God has never left this land,
He is right where he was from the start.
But I am afraid, Dear Christian friends,
He hasn't ruled the convictions of our hearts.

They say we should not mix church and state,
And I guess I really do agree.
But do not be afraid to mix God and state
If you expect this country to stay free.

Oh Christian people, draw near to God
And He will never leave you alone.
Respecting God as the head of our home
Let's stand up America, let our convictions be known.

Train up our children in the way they should go
And when they are old, they will never depart.
For one day, we will stand before God
The way we lead our children's heart.

If we people who are called by God's name
Will humble our hearts and pray,
God will hear our humble cry
And we can bring America back to God's way.

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AN INVESTMENT IN TIME AND ETERNITY!!! As I type the material for this paper, we are in the process of printing another 40,000 copies of CHRIST IS THE ANSWER by Paul Goodwin. A business friend of Paul Goodwin wanted to pay for the printing of this booklet. This makes 60,000 copies of this booklet that this dear man has paid for the cost of the printing. These booklets are being sent out to all who want to use them. We are so thankful for those who are willing to make an investment for time and eternity. If you are able to do so, I challenge you to make such an investment for time and eternity.

TIES THAT BIND
Text: Colossians 3:12-17

Key Verse: 14 "And above all these things put on charity (AGAPE), which is the BOND OF PERFECTNESS."

Intro:
A. A pastoral Epistle or LETTER OF INSTRUCTION for Christian living "TO THE SAINTS AND FAITHFUL BRETHREN IN CHRIST at Colosse:"
B. Practical admonitions in verses 12,13:
   1. Things Christians are to PUT ON.
      a. Mercy
      b. Kindness
      c. Humility
      d. Meekness
      e. Patience
      f. Forbearance
      g. Forgiveness
C. There is one superlative characteristic or attribute of a saved person! Text "And ABOVE ALL THESE THINGS:"
   1. Love fulfills all the law! Romans 13:8,10
   2. Love is the EVIDENCE that one is saved. To self: I John 3:14; I John 4:12; I John 3:17; I John 4:20
   3. Love of God's children AN EVIDENCE TO OTHERS that one is saved. John 13:35
D. The text speaks of love as ONE OF MANY TIES THAT BIND CHILDREN OF GOD TOGETHER. (Heart, Head, and Hands)
E. The Bible mentions CHILDREN OF GOD.
   1. Sitting together in heavenly places. Ephesians 2:6
   2. Dwelling together. Psalm 133:1
   3. Working together. I Cor. 3:9
   4. Suffering together. I Cor. 12:26
   5. Striving together in prayer. Romans 15:30
I. ALL SAVED PEOPLE HAVE THE SAME DIVINE LIFE.
   A. I John 5:11,12
   B. John 14:6
   C. Galatians 2:20
   D. John 10:28
II. ALL SAVED PEOPLE HAVE THE SAME HOLY

SPIRIT WITHIN.
A. From the point of personal faith in Jesus. Ephesians 1:13
B. He that doesn't have this Spirit does not belong to Jesus and is no child of God. SUCH A ONE IS NOT SAVED.
   1. It is by the Spirit that one is born again into the family of God. John 3:3,5,6,7
   2. This takes place at the point of RECEIVING JESUS BY FAITH. John 1:12,13
C. Jesus said He would be IN US to:
   1. Comfort John 14:16,17
   2. Teach John 14:26
   3. Empower for performance Acts 1:8
   4. Paul adds, to. Lead Romans 8:14

III. ALL SAVED PEOPLE HAVE THE SAME DIVINE NATURE.
A. Before one is saved one is said to be "by nature the children of wrath, even as others." Ephesians 2:3
B. The saved have been born again with a new nature, a spiritual nature.
   1. I John 5:1
   2. John 1:12,13
   3. II Peter 1:4
   4. Called in the Bible the INWARD MAN. II Corinthians 4:16
   5. Which delights to do the things taught by the Lord. Romans 7:22

IV. ALL SAVED PEOPLE HAVE THE SAME DIVINE MARCHING ORDERS! AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING!
A. We have the same promises to encourage us. I Corinthians 15:58
B. We enjoy the same assurance.
   1. Like II Timothy 2:19
   2. Like Hebrews 13:5,6
   3. Like Philippians 4:19
   4. I Corinthians 10:13
C. We enjoy the same instructions. II Timothy 3:16,17
D. We have been given the SAME RESTRICTIONS!
   1. Romans 13:10
   2. I Corinthians 13:4,5

V. ALL SAVED PEOPLE HAVE THE SAME DIVINE MOTIVES!
A. Fear and Holy reverence for God and His Word. Eccl. 12:13; I Peter 2:17; Hebrews 12:28
B. Love
   1. II Corinthians 5:14; John 14:21; Colossians 1:4; I Thessalonians 1:3
C. Every saved person POSSESES THIS LOVE IN HIS HEART. Romans 5:5
D. Love for whom?
   1. For God, our Father.
   2. For Jesus, our Saviour.
   3. For the Church, the House of God and Body of Christ.
I HAVE MY ENTRY TICKET

When I reach the gates of heaven
I know they would not let me in
For in spite of all my trying
So often I'm tripped up by sin.

But my Saviour died on Calvary
paid for my sins upon that tree
So I'll be wearing His righteousness
When the Father looks at me.

He's the ticket I will be needing
And I need not fear nor despair
For that Pearly Gate will fly open
The moment I arrive up there.

My Saviour's arms will be extended
As a smile crosses His face
And I'll start shouting hallelujah
As He shows me around the place.

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THE DEVIL'S DEVICES TO DECEIVE DISCIPLES

Text: I Thessalonians 2:18; I Peter 5:8

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

I. SATAN MAKES SIN LOOK ATTRACTIVE.
   A. He deceives poor, lost, deluded souls into thinking that sin is the best thing in this life.
   B. He has made sin so attractive the human race can't seem to resist.
   C. He made the forbidden fruit in Eden so attractive, Eve did not resist; and then insisted her husband eat also.

II. SATAN SEeks TO STOP THE WORD.
   A. Remember this: The Bible will keep you from sin. Sin will keep you from the Bible.
   B. Satan seeks to stop the Word from being READ, TAUGHT, PREACHED, AND BELIEVED.
   C. Satan has made his attack upon those who were given the responsibility to spread the Word.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9. He gets them to look at what he wants them to see, say what he wants them to say. He gets them to set the poorest example possible to a lost and dying world. This is the Devil's device to destroy the church from within. But thank God, "The gates of Hell shall not prevail."
III. SATAN ATTACKS GOD’S PREACHERS.
   A. He has his own preachers that are transformed into angels of light. They deceive poor lost sinners. II Corinthians 11:15
   B. Satan literally seeks to destroy the preacher who preaches "Thus saith the Lord."
   C. Now somebody says, "The Devil has better sense than to attack God's man." But what better way does the Devil have to accomplish his purposes than to HINDER THE WORD, and the preacher is the PROCLAIMER OF THE WORD.
      1. He will, if possible, hinder God's man from the call. Moses and Jeremiah are Bible examples. Even preachers today will say that the Devil sought to hinder them from the call.
      2. He will hinder God's man from surrendering. Jonah an example.
      3. He will wreck the preacher's home any way possible.

IV. SATAN'S DECEIVING ATTACK UPON YOUNG PEOPLE.
   A. He deceives the young through drugs. He gets as many hooked as he can.
   B. He gets young people hooked on false hope and religion.
   C. He seems to promote marriages where one mate is either not saved or is of a different faith. (The trend today is not marriage at all; just live together.)
   D. He discourages every new marriage to shun activity in a blood bought church of the Lord. He deceives them to place their affection on things below, and not on things above.

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

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

This is one of the sermons from SERMON OUTLINES by Luther Crawford. This is a free Sounding Out The Word book. Send in for it today.

**OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO EACH OTHER—THE NEGATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES**

Text: I Corinthians 12:24-27

Introduction:
   A. The Body (Church) only functions as well as each member carries out his responsibility in the body.

   1. If an ankle is sprained, the body adjusts and sympathizes till healed.
   2. We all have responsibilities.

B. In the church, we are responsible to God and to each other...V25
   1. "Schism" division, that which results from splitting.
      a. An assembly of people can still be meeting together, but they are split, divided.
      b. A church split does not necessarily mean that one side of the split left.
   2. "SAME CARE" to exercise care for, to exercise concern for.
   3. Offenses will come, so we better know our responsibilities.

C. Too often even church members act completely independently.
   1. Society says: "Do your own thing..." "Be assertive, you owe yourself..."
   2. Or, "that is their problem, not your problem."
   3. Yet, God teaches us to care for the Body... V26,27

   We can "care" for the body by Not doing certain things:

I. DON'T JUDGE ONE ANOTHER. Romans 14:13
   A. The Weaker brother V1
      1. Receive him, make him welcome, take him into your fellowship.
      2. The weaker brother was offended because of the meat issue. V2,3

   B. The judging brother V13
      1. "JUDGING" let us no longer have the habit of criticizing one another.
         a. Judging can easily become a way of life for some people in the church.
         b. We are not qualified to judge.
         c. Jesus is! V12
      2. "STUMBLINGBLOCK" an obstacle in the way which if one strikes his foot against, he falls or stumbles.
         a. Do nothing to make a brother stumble or fall.
         b. Don't put a hindrance in his way.
         c. Sometimes we cause them to fall deliberately.
      3. "OCCASIONS TO FALL" (skandalon) any impediment placed in the way and causing one to stumble or fall.
      4. Our responsibility toward our brethren is to keep them from falling and stumbling.
         a. This demands a selfless attitude. 15:1
         b. Don't insist on having your own way.

II. DON'T LIE TO ONE ANOTHER. Colossians 3:9
   A. The command
      1. "Lie not one to another."
         a. Stop lying to one another.
         b. "LIE" to speak falsely, to deceive.
2. Lying destroys one's credibility and confidence others had in you.
3. Lying hinders your relationships with fellow church members.

B. The reason
1. Because you have put off the old man.
   a. "PUT OFF" to take off completely, strip off.
   b. If one has really "put off" the old man, one must not revert to the old manner of life.
   c. "DEEDS" his doings, practices, habits.
2. Because you have put on the new man. V10
   a. "PUT ON" to clothe one's self.
   b. They had put on the new nature, the new life.
   c. The new life is not characterized by lying.
   d. It is characterized by truth!
3. Our responsibility to our brethren is to deal in truth.
   a. Any other way is unacceptable.
   b. The work of God is hindered when we don't deal in truth.

III. DON'T GRUDGE ONE ANOTHER. James 5:9
A. A call for the proper attitude.
1. The theme is patience; even in undesirable circumstances.
2. "GRUDGE NOT" murmur not, groan, sigh because of undesirable circumstances.
   a. Do not complain.
   b. Do not grumble.
   c. Don't blame your troubles on one another.

B. The reason.
1. "Behold, the judge standeth at the door."
2. "THE JUDGE" is obviously Jesus Christ.
3. This judge is near.
4. This fact should be both a comfort and a warning to them in their circumstances.
5. We are responsible to our brethren to encourage and help our brethren; not blame them and become irritable toward them.

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STRAIGHT TALK
Text: Matthew 10:24-33
Intro: Jesus instructed the disciples before sending them out. The Lord wants us to understand several important things about being one of His disciples.

I. THE LORD CLARIFIES. V24,25
A. The student is not greater than the teacher.
1. Matthew 23:12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.
2. Proverbs 16:18 Pride (goeth) before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.
3. Jeremiah 9:24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I (am) the Lord.

B. The disciple will be treated like his Master (mistreated).
John 15:20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

II. THE LORD COMMANDS. V26-28
A. Fear not! Be courageous!
1. Isaiah 41:10 Fear thou not; for I (am) with thee: be not dismayed; for I (am) thy God: I will strengthen thee; ye, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.
2. Jeremiah 1:8 Be not afraid of their faces: for I (am) with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord.
3. I Peter 3:14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy (are ye); and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

B. Speak out! Tell it like it is!
1. To the Apostles Acts 5:20 Go and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.
2. To the churches Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, (even) unto the end of the world. Amen

C. Fear only He who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

III. THE LORD CARES. V29-31
A. The Lord cares about every detail of your life.
1. I Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.
2. Psalm 34:15 The eyes of the Lord (are) upon the righteous, and his ears (are open) unto their cry.
3. Luke 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

B. The Lord takes care of His own.
1. I Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God (is) faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear (it).
2. II Peter 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

IV. THE LORD CONFESSIONS. V32,33
A. The Lord confesses ownership of all who confess Him.

B. The Lord denies ownership of all who deny Him.

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THE CHURCHES GREATEST MINISTRY
Text: Matthew 21:12,13

Intro: As we read the account of Jesus and the money changers:
A. We find many great lessons.
B. A lesson that the church is not to be active in business.
C. The lesson that sometimes it is all right to be angry.
D. In the total account we find that Jesus developed a premeditated anger. John 2:14,15

I. THE PRICE OF PRAYERLESSNESS
A. Prayerlessness costs in three directions. I Samuel 12:23
   1. Others
   2. God
   3. Us

B. First, there is the price of rebellion in prayerlessness.
   1. God commands that we pray.
   2. To ignore that command is rebellion.
   3. Rebellion is sin. Isaiah 55:6; Matthew 7:7
   4. By the example of Jesus we are challenged to pray.
   5. Prayerlessness is a refusal of God’s promises.
   6. Prayerlessness is rebellion against the teaching of Jesus.
   7. Prayerlessness is a clear violation of the Scripture.

C. Second, there is the price of deficiency in prayerlessness. James 4:2
   1. Its that simple.
   2. We don’t experience revival because we ask not.
   3. We don’t have good attendance because we ask not.
   4. We can’t do what we would like to because we fail to ask for more money.
   5. Simple...but true..no blessing..no asking.

D. Third, there is the price of powerlessness.
   1. No part of our life will be above our prayer life.
   2. There is no more power in the church than there is prayer in the church.
   3. You want power with God..ask of it.

II. WHAT IMPORTANCE DO WE PLACE ON PRAYER?
A. Its not that we don’t believe in prayer.
   1. Its that we live like we don’t believe.

B. The prime offence of those in the temple..that they neglected to pray.

C. The fact is that prayer ought to be the greatest ministry of the church.
   1. Everyone can pray.
   2. We each can be a part of this ministry.

D. Paul told the Corinthians...Know ye not that your bodies are the temple of God?

E. If I am the Temple of God...then I should be a house of prayer. John 14:12-14

F. We are to do greater works.

G. The greater works are to pray and expect God to answer.

H. Christ’s power was in Himself.
   1. Our power is in Christ.
   2. But through prayer.

III. THE PURPOSE OF PRAYER
A. This will take in three directions.
   1. Up
   2. Outward
   3. Down

B. Upward toward heaven it is called worship.
   1. The Lord’s prayer...Hallowed be Thy name.
   2. This is praise.
   3. Prayer is worship.
      a. Recognizing God’s power.
      b. Releasing our love toward Him.
      c. Receiving His love toward us.

C. Outward...to others..prayer is work.
   1. Normally we pray..then work..worship..study..dismiss in prayer.
   2. Praying requires work.
   3. The work of the church is to pray.
   4. We ought to be about this work.

D. Downward...toward hell..we see prayers as warfare. Ephesians 6:13-18
   1. The Christian gets ready for war.
   2. Puts on the garments and armor.
   3. What then is the battle. V18
   4. Prayer that is the warfare.

IV. EVERY CHILD OF GOD OUGHT TO HAVE A PRAYER PROGRAM.
A. Make a prayer list.
   1. Not just one supplied by the church.
   2. One of your own..include the church’s list.
   3. Read it to God.
   4. Ask for each person or thing needed.

B. Make a time for prayer.
   1. Don’t let anything or anyone distract you.
   2. Pick a time away from possible distractions.
   3. Pray out loud so your own mind will not distract you.

C. Record your prayers as they are answered.

D. This is where prayer becomes work.
   1. It is easy to read the newspaper..watch T.V.
   2. It becomes work to lay aside the worldly things for a season of prayer.

E. Always praise His wonderful name.

V. WHAT IS THE REASON FOR PRAYER?
A. Because the lost are bound for a Devil’s hell.
B. For our own cleansing.
   1. Confess to the Father your sins.
   2. Seek forgiveness. I John 1:9
C. We pray because Jesus died...was buried...and rose again.
D. If you have never been saved...pray first for your own salvation. Romans 10:9-13

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