SOUNDING OUT THE WORD
MARCH 2011 – APRIL 2011

A Ministry of
Grace Missionary Baptist Church
Pastor: Dr. Carl E. Fitzgerald
1823 Aldine Mail Route Road
Houston, Texas 77039
Web page: www.sotwtx.org e-mail sotwtx@sotwtx.org

“For from you sounded out the word of God…” I Thessalonians 1:8a

A Formula for Christian Growth
Haggai 1:5-11

Introduction:
A. What is your formula for personal enrichment?
B. Many believe that entitlement programs hold the key.
C. Others believe that material possessions hold the key to happiness.
D. Scripture teaches that personal enrichment and happiness is found in a personal relationship with Jesus.
E. Hebrews 11 tells us that having faith in Jesus is the key that allows us to be successful in this life.

I. Consider My Words. Psalm 119:57
A. Verse 57 gives us a pattern to live by.
B. This pattern requires obedience to God’s Word.
C. This pattern requires us to include God in our everyday plans.
D. This pattern requires us to evaluate our decisions and seek God’s help to make needed changes.
E. David declared that he would hide God’s word in his heart to guard against sin Psalm 119:11

II. Consider My Wages. Haggai 1:6
A. Solomon asked where is the profit in my work. Ecclesiastes 1:3
B. Solomon concludes that all this hard work brought vanity. Ecclesiastes 4:8
C. One writer observed we ruin our health to gain wealth; we spend our wealth to regain our health.
D. Read carefully Isaiah’s words in Isaiah 55:2

E. Paul reminds us to be unmoving steadfast always abounding in the work of the Lord. I Corinthians 15:58

III. Consider My Works. Haggai 1:8
A. The Bible contains many examples of Godly service.
B. Two such examples are:
   1. Reach out to those who are in need. Proverbs 31:20
   2. Encourage the weary. Isaiah 50:4
C. Our actions should demonstrate to others that we are God’s servants.
D. Our God given talents should not gather dust from inactivity. Matt 25:4
E. Our service to God should be consistent.

IV. Consider My Weakness. Haggai 1:9
A. The cords of my sins have bound me.
   Proverbs 5:22
B. Paul said we should cast down imaginations that exalt itself against God. II Cor 10:5
C. We must learn to exercise self-control.
D. Haggai said that without God’s blessings our work would end in failure.
E. The people of Haggai’s day had failed to care for God’s house.

Conclusion:
A. Having the presence of evil around us, we must remain diligent.
B. Our weakness is that we like the creature comforts this world.
C. Draw near to God and seek his counsel.
D. He wants to be part of your life.
E. He wants to be your Savior.
F. Have we neglected God’s work to make a more comfortable place for ourselves in this present world?
FORGET NOT
Psalm 103

Introduction:
1. Sometimes we become so preoccupied with our daily lives that we tend to forget how great a part God plays in them.
2. Being sinners, we tend to forget and need to be reminded.
3. In verse two, David seeks to remind the people of the “benefits” of the Lord and how good He had been to them.
4. At this time let us also be reminded of what He has done.

I. FORGET NOT – YOUR SINS WERE FORGIVEN
A. REMEMBER sin had its deathly, degrading hold on you.
   1. How wretched sin is!
   2. It made you do things contrary to not only God but you self as well.
      Eph. 2:2-3
   3. Sin even made you suicidal.
      Proverbs 8:36 “But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.”
   4. Sin was dragging you down to the pigpen.
B. REMEMBER sin condemned you to eternal death.
   1. Sin had no mercy on you and its end result was death. Romans 6:23 “The wages of sin is death”
   2. Sin was going to pay you off with eternal death
   3. Sin was showing you no mercy.
C. NOW REMEMBER God in His great mercy reached down and saved you from the power and penalty of sin.
   1. Remember it was you who should have paid your sin penalty. Remember you were the criminal. I Peter 3:18 “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.”

2. Forget not … through the blood of Jesus and God’s mercy you have forgiveness of your sins. 1 John 2:2
   “And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our’s only, but also for the whole world.”
   Psalm 103:12-14: Acts 10:43 “To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.”

II. FORGET NOT – THE MANY BLESSINGS GOD HAS BESTOWED ON YOU
A. REMEMBER – The many blessing on your family.
   1. Forget not – how He blessed your parents.
   2. Forget not how He blessed your children. Psalm 68:19 “Blessed be the Lord who daily loadeth us with benefits… the God of our salvation.”
   3. Forget not how He blessed your other loved ones.
B. REMEMBER – The many blessings He bestowed on you personally
   1. Forget not – The many doors He opened for you.
   2. Forget not – How He has blessed you materially.
   3. Forget not – How you trusted Him and He never failed you. Matthew 6:33
      “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.”
C. REMEMBER – the many blessings on your church.
   1. Forget not – how He guided you here.
   2. Forget not – the many souls that have been saved.
   3. Forget not – the many other blessings He has given. Psalm 100:3 “Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.”

III. FORGET NOT – THE MANY PRAYERS HE HAS ANSWERED FOR YOU.
FORGET NOT continued
A. REMEMBER – the prayers He answered concerning your family.
   1. Forget not – He heard you in sickness
   2. Forget not – He heard you in death
   3. Forget not – He heard you in troubles
      Mark 11:24 “Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”
B. REMEMBER – the prayers He answered concerning your personal life.
   1. Forget not – He heard you has you cried out in temptation. (. . . not put more on you could bear)
   2. Forget not – He heard you when you sought Him when all others turned from you.
   3. Forget not – He heard you when you needed your life saved
      Psalm 28:6-7 “Blessed be the LORD, because he hath heard the voice of my supplications. The Lord is my strength, my heart greatly rejoiceth and with my song will I praise him.”
C. REMEMBER – the prayers He answered concerning your church
   1. Forget not – He heard as you prayed for each other
   2. Forget not – He heard as you prayed for souls.
   3. Forget not – He heard as you prayed about the welfare of His work.

Conclusion:
   1. Forget not – God is still with us today
   2. He is right in our midst at this very moment.
   3. Would you turn to Him now.

Lamar Hunt – Gone to Glory

BARREN, BLIND, AND FORGETFUL
II Peter 1:4-10

INTRODUCTION:
A. Our text begins by talking about divine nature.

1. Divine nature is God’s nature.
2. We are partakers of God’s nature by accepting Jesus.

B. Verses 5-7 talk of the growing process for the saint.
   1. It begins with faith as life begins by faith in Jesus.
   2. We are to add to faith knowledge of God learned through the Bible.
   3. We are to add temperance which is self-control.
   4. We are to add patience or longsuffering.
   5. We are to add godliness or righteous living.
   6. We are to add brotherly kindness.
   7. We are to add love, that which is described in I Cor. 13.

C. We want to note the absolute importance of adding to our faith.
D. Without this addition one is a barren, blind and forgetful Christian.

I. BARREN, VS. 8.
   A. It is very sad when prospective good parents are barren. Why?
      1. Because there are thousands of children unwanted and abused by their parents.
      2. It is God’s blessing to have children.
   B. Abraham and Sarah were saddened for years because they were unable to have children.
      1. But God planned it that way. Why?
      2. So He would get the glory from giving them Isaac.
   C. It is sad to see a tree barren of fruit.
      1. They require so much care and work.
      2. When barren-they fulfill not their purpose.
   D. But what is even more sad is to see a professing Christian barren of spiritual fruit, Vs. 8.
      1. If a saved person will add to his faith the seven things listed above he will be fruitful.
      2. We are saved to bear fruit, Ga. 5:22-26.

II. BLIND, Vs. 9.
   A. What a wonderful blessing it is to be able to see.
      1. There are many people who have never seen the:
         a. Brilliant blue of the sky.
b. Bold greens of spring.
c. Soft yellows, pinks, etc. of flowers.
2. We who see know what the blind miss of God's beautiful creation.
B. The man who lacketh these six things is blind to God's will.
1. Satan blinds the eyes of the lost, II Cor. 4:3-4.
2. Many times those barren are lost.
C. This man is spiritually near sighted, Vs. 9.
1. One who can only see up close is near sighted.
2. The one who sees only his will and his life, is spiritually near sighted.
3. He is blind to those afar--others.

III. FORGETFUL, Vs. 9b.
A. It is a terrible thing to become forgetful.
1. Go into a room and forget what you went after.
2. To forget names, appointments, etc.
B. But there is something far worse--spiritual forgetfulness,
C. One who fails to serve God forgets he has purged from his old sins,
1. He forgets the wonderful --eeling of being forgiven.
2. He forgets the once had zeal--now satisfied.
3. He forgets his vow to serve God.

CONCLUSION:
A. If a man is barren, blind and forgetful what should he do?
B. He should make his calling and election sure, Vs. 10.
1. Was he ever saved?
2. If so he better go to work.

Ricky Knight  Colonial BC Grand Prairie

COME FOR ALL THINGS ARE READY
MATTHEW 22:1-10 (7-8.44); 11:30;
REVELATION 22:7

Introduction: The Lord has made thorough preparation for the Salvation of the lost.

I. God is ready.
A. He gave the Son to die. Roomans 5:6,8,10
B. He sent the Holy Spirit to convict. John 16:7-13
C. He commissioned the church to preach.
   Matthew 28: 18-20
D. He commanded all to witness. Mark 14:36
   Acts 1:8

II. The sacrifice of Christ is now ready.
A. Christ came for this hour. John 12:27
B. Christ came to seek and to save the lost. Luke 19:10
C. Christ save all who come to God by Him.
   John 6:37
D. Christ cried from the cross, "It is finished".
   John 17:4; 19:30

III. The Pastor is now ready.
A. Paul said, "I am ready to preach the gospel to Rome. Romans 1:14-16
B. Paul warned them day and night with tears.
   Acts 20:31
C. Paul prayed for the salvation of the Jews.
   Romans 10:1

IV. The church, her members are now ready.
A. The Church noe minisiters in Christ stead. 1 Corinthians 5:20
B. The church is to evangelize the world. Mark 16:15
C. The Spirit and the Bride, the Church say.
   "Come" Revelation 22:17
D. Jesus the head of the church said, "Come unto me," Matthew 11:28-30

V. Heaven is now ready.
A. Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us. John 14: 1-6
B. Angels rejoice when a soul is saved. Luke 15:7,10

VI. The promises are now ready.
A. Now is the accepted time. 2 Corinthians 6:2
B. No one who comes will be rejected, cast out.
   John 6:37
C. Whosoever calls, upon the Lord shall be saved. Romans 10:13
D. All who believe shall be saved. Acts 16:31

VII. God's pardon is now ready.
A. God will abundantly pardon. Isaiah 55:7
COME FOR ALL THINGS ARE READY
continued

B. God will cleanse all iniquity. Jeremiah 33:8
C. God is slow to anger and ready to pardon. Nehemiah 9:17

VIII. Hell is ready for you.
A. Prepared for the Devil and his angels. Matthew 25:41 Revelation 20:10-14
B. Hell enlarged herelf. Isaiah 5:14

IX. Only you the unsaved are not ready.
A. Almost persuaded is not enough. Acts 26:28
B. You alone will be to blame if you are lost.
   1. The rich young ruler went away sorrowful. Matthew 19:22
C. Your decision today will determine your destiny.
   1. How you will spend your life.
   2. Whether or not you are saved.
   3. You forsake sin and satan and suffer
      forever.
   4. If you will know the joy of eternal life.

X. Our duty is to go into the highways and
hedges and invite men to come.
Luke 14:23

Vernon Lierly       Home to Glory

THE PREACHER'S CALL
I Timothy 1:12, II Timothy 1:8-9

Introduction:
A. For some reason it has pleased God to use us
to proclaim His message to humanity.
   1. Perhaps part of the reason can be seen in I
      Corinthians 1:26-31 -- Listen closely to the
descriptive terms Paul uses.
B. Now if a preacher begins to feel a little proud
or a step ahead of others -- he ought to go
back and review those scriptures.
   1. His calling is Holy -- BUT he is not much!!
   2. Notice the terms God uses to describe us.

"NOT WISE" -- "NOT MIGHTY" -- "NOT
NOBLE" -- "FOOLISH" -- "WEAK" --
"BASE" "DESPISED" -- "THINGS
WHICH ARE NOT"

3. If you put those things down on a Job
   Application, I'm afraid you would never get
the job.

C. The reason He chose us is given in v-29
"THAT NO FLESH SHOULD GLORY IN
HIS PRESENCE"

1. The whole purpose of God in man's
   creation, in fact all creation, is to glorify
   God. Revelation 4:11, "THOU ART
   WORTHY 0 LORD, TO RECEIVE
   GLORY AND HONOR AND POWER:
   FOR THOU HAST CREATED ALL
   THINGS, AND FOR THY PLEASURE
   THEY ARE AND WERE CREATED."

2. Now one more scripture that shows the
   reason God uses us -- before we discuss the
   ACTUAL CALL. II Corinthians 4:7, "BUT
   WE HAVE THIS TREASURE (ministry)
   IN EARTHEN VESSELS, THAT THE
   EXCELLENCY OF THE POWER MAY
   BE OF GOD, AND NOT OF US"...we can't
   take credit for anything that is
   accomplished -- we are just the instruments
   God uses.

I. The Preacher's Call
A. I have heard different testimonies from
different men about their call -- I have even
heard a few who said they were not sure about
their call.

1. Now I don't want to sound harsh, and I
   speak only from my own call ... but a man
   that is not sure about his call hasn't been
called. I just don't believe God calls a man
   without him knowing for sure he has been
called. To me its just that simple.

2. Would it surprise you if I said, "THAT I
   AM AS SURE AND MORE SO ABOUT
   MY CALL THAN I AM ABOUT MY
   SALVATION" -- God's conviction to
   preach was there so long and so constant
   that there is no way I could have been
   mistaken about it.
THE PREACHER'S CALL continued

B. Now of course God doesn't call audible (I am not one of those DIRECT REVELATION fellows - there are some around) -- I went to a DEACON'S ORDINATION once when the candidate was asked to give his experience of grace -- He said "I WAS UP IN THE BARN AND LOOKED OUT THE LOFT DOOR AND SAW MY NAME WRITTEN IN THE SKY" ... I wasn't in the presbytery and didn't intend to be when I went.

C. I do believe God speaks to us through His Spirit and His Word -- In fact Jesus said He would -- John 16.

1. God lays it on the heart of a man to preach His Word ... Always remember what II Corinthians 4:7 says, "WE HAVE THIS TREASURE (ministry) IN EARTHEEN VESSELS THE EXCELLENCY OF THE POWER MAY BE OF GOD, AND NOT OF US"

D. What about the scripture that says "IF ANY MAN DESIRES THE OFFICE OF A BISHOP, HE DESIRES A GOOD WORK" -- I Timothy 3:1

1. Now by experience I know that the desire does not come from the flesh -- It has to come from the Spiritual side of me. (I wanted to do everything contrary to preaching after the flesh.)

E. I think God places and excites the desire so much so to preach that one would not be satisfied doing anything else.

1. Whatever it is -- IT IS DEFINITELY DISTINCT AND SEPARATE from an ambitious desire to preach and hold the office of a Bishop in a Church of the Lord Jesus Christ ...That's my idea of the verse - you can preach when I'm through.

F. I want to say something here that you may take exception to (and that's your privilege). It has to do with my own personal experience.

1. I wasn't saved until I was 24 years old -- and before this, while in the Army in Korea, living like most ungodly soldiers lived, I HAD THE THOUGHT TO CROSS MY MIND -- WHAT IF I WAS A PREACHER

2. It might have been because of a good Christian soldier and friend who would try to get me to go to chapel services every Sunday morning. I don't know -- I often wish I could contact him and tell him what has happened.

3. My question is ... Could God impress upon the mind of an unsaved man to preach -- PERHAPS in a PROVIDENTIAL WAY OF PREPARING HIM.

4. In all honesty it did cross my mind - YOU FIGURE IT OUT.

G. Having said that let me say this (to get out of the hot water I'm in) IT WAS IN NO WAY LIKE THE CALL AND CONVICTION TO PREACH (not as constant) as the Call after I had given my heart to God by repentance and faith.

H. Most preachers do what we commonly call "running from God" -- all of us know that is useless.

1. I have never known of one, or heard one, whom I believe God called, say that God ever LET UP IN THE CALL.

I. We had a man in our Church, whom I believe God had called to preach.

1. The only time he would ever indicate that call was when he would get drunk, then he would talk about it -- I think had he surrendered, he would have been a good one.

2. He always asked for forgiveness of his sins and could pray a prayer that just wrung his heart out to God -- it would make you cry.

3. Well, if God calls a man -- He never repents (changes His mind) ofRis call-- He won't let up -- and that man if he doesn't surrender will be a drunkard or will take his life.

4. I don't think you can live under the pressure of unsurrender.

II. Some Try To Substitute Other Things For Preaching

A. Some get busy in the Church -- Teach a class, visit -- anything -- hoping God would relent and they could satisfy themselves and God by a busy schedule.
THE PREACHER'S CALL continued

B. Some of us did the opposite -- In my own case I thought the less I attended Church -- and the less I learned about the Word of God -- the easier the burden to preach would be.
1. So like Jonah I caught a ship going to Tarshia
2. But let me emphasize -- NEVER ONCE IN ALL THAT TIME DID I EVER DOUBT GOD'S CALL OR HAVE ANY RELIEF FROM THE CALL -- Like the song says "GOD WAS THERE ALL THE TIME".
3. I asked God, "Why Me" -- there were others I could pick out several in the Church and recommend them to God -- they could do a better job preaching than I. Here I was not saved too long ago telling God what to do - God knows what to do.

C. I never told a soul -- I give my wife literally hell on earth (making fun of her putting on makeup and going to Church with them hypocrites).
1. I though maybe if she would quit it would make it easier on me.
2. I went through John Sealy Hospital where they tried to doctor me for something they didn't know anything about.
3. Every step I took it was PREACH -- I considered suicide.
4. Yet I could lay in bed at night and preach in my mind and imagination (I think here is where the DESIRE that Paul was talking about came in.).
5. I really wish I had written some of those thoughts and imaginations down -- they were a lot better than some of the sermons I preach now.
6. I didn't give up to preach in a Church house or under some man, I was on a creek fishing, supposedly to get my mind off preaching -- God's call was constant and seemingly heavier that day than any other -- Not being able to bare it any longer I finally knelt there in the woods, BAWLING LIKE A BABY, WHIPPED LIKE A DOG and said, "GOD I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT OR KNOW WHY YOU WANT ME TO PREACH, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY OR HOW TO SAY IT -- BUT IF THAT IS WHAT YOU WANT, I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY LONGER -- I'LL DO WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO."

7. I answered the call there and made it know that night in a revival meeting -- I don't think I have every really surrendered completely.
8. I remember someone asking a preacher friend of mine in Texas (Guy Culver) if there had ever been a time in his life when he thought he was completely surrendered to God -- He thought a minute and said -- No not really, but I have wanted to be a few times -- AND THAT'S OUR PROBLEM.

D. OUR SURRENDER TO HIS CALL (This may get in to tomorrow's lesson)
1. We need to work on the surrendering part.
   Now we have a Holy Calling from a Holy God -- BUT we deal with and EARTHEN VESSEL -- "NOT WISE" -- "NOT NOBLE" -- "NOT MIGHTY" -- "FOOLISH" -- "WEAK" -- "BASE" -- "DESPISED"
   2. There are times when I am up and times when I am down -- Times when I have gone to the pulpit and would give a 100.00 to get down -- other times I have gone there and wouldn't take a 100.00 to get down. Preachers are human.
3. LET'S HAVE A LITTLE TRUTH TIME TODAY:"- Oh I am not going to ask you to raise your hand -- BUT how many of you preachers have ever woke up on Sunday morning and wished it was Monday morning -- you had had a bad week the week before, nothing went right (you know none of those old sermons would fit -- already used the good ones too many times) or maybe you are about half asleep on Monday and suddenly you think it is Sunday -- then are relieved when you realize it is Monday.
4. It sort of reminds me of what Paul said in Romans 7:19, "FOR THE GOOD THAT I WOULD -- I DO NOT -- BUT THE EVIL WHICH I WOULD NOT -- THAT I DO."

Conti. on back......
The Preacher's Call continued...

6:58 We have the flesh to contend with (and any man -- PREACHER, POPE or POTENTATE -- who denies he has the flesh to deal with is lying through his teeth and anyone who listens to or promotes such a fellow ought to repent and ask God to forgive him.

E. Fellows - the call to preach is the highest call and greatest honor a human can have.

1. I think we would do well to remember our strength is in the Lord.

2. I want to read a passage in 1 Corinthians 2 in closing this lesson -- we would do well to remember it--1 Corinthians 2:1-13.

3. I suppose it is good to have wisdom and to be able to speak convincingly -- but if we have neither, we are not out of it; we can still speak in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.

4. Our calling is Holy -- we are not much -- yet enough that God chose to use us.

5. Let's not disappoint His confidence in us.

Larry Neeley
Rocky Branch MBC Naples

Grace Missionary Baptist Church
Sounding Out The Word
Via e-mail.
Please send your e-mail address
to nastorcrrl08@yahoo.com

Please consider giving to support the Ministry of SOTW. It costs approximately $2,500.00 in postage per issue. This does not include the paper and ink. Any thing that you can give will be greatly appreciated.

Say or how to say it! But it

Grace Missionary Baptist Church
1823 Aldine Mail Route Road
Houston, TX 77039
281-442-7137
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
March 2011 -- April 2011
Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
N. Houston, TX
Permit No. 271