The Activity of Christianity
I Thessalonians 1:1-6

Introduction:
A. Thessalonians opens with a Paul praying for the church he had founded.
B. The church was strong and is a God model for us today.
C. However, there were two dangerous situations present.
   1. A minister who exalted himself.
   2. A layperson who tried to be an authority on the Bible without personal study.
C. In verse 3 Paul highlights the three Christian graces also noted in I Corinthians 13:13 (faith, hope and love).
D. Note that these graces form the foundation of Christian service.

I. A Work of Faith.
A. This is a confusing expression according to Ephesians 2:8, 9.
   B. The Ephesian text relates to salvation.
   C. Our text relates to service after salvation.
   D. It teaches that service must be done believing in God.
   E. When a man responds to the Word of God he is said to walk by faith.

II. A Labor of Love.
A. Through love people are motivated to do many unexplainable things.
C. Therefore we may say that love is the action of grace.
D. Jesus told his disciples: “If you love me, keep my commandments.” John 14:15
   E. If you find God’s work tedious and hard; ask yourself ‘How much do I love Jesus?’

III. The Patience of Hope.
A. Every person lives with hope in the future. It will be better tomorrow.
   B. Multitudes today place their hope in men’s achievements.
   1. They expect peace.
   2. They expect prosperity.
   C. These believers at Thessalonica had turned from their idol worship to serve the true God.
   D. They no longer looked to the future placing their hope in men.
   E. Instead they waited upon God’s promise (of his return).

IV. Lessons for Us.
A. Faith communicates God’s Word to your heart and waits for your response.
   B. As God loves us and forgives us; so we ought to love and forgive others; even our enemies. I John 4:10
   C. Every generation experiences a time of crisis. What is your hope in times like these?
   D. Remember the achievements of man will fail and fade away.
E. Hope in Jesus is eternal.

Conclusion:
A. Paul has identified three Christians grace possessed by these believers.
B. The work of faith looks back to the cross of Jesus and produces love.
C. The labor of love is the present day foundation upon which a believer stands and serves God.
D. The patience of hope looks to the future return of Jesus.
E. Where do you place your relationship with Jesus?

Pastor Dr. Carl E. Fitzgerald
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Prophecy and The End Time Attitude

Prophecy Study Part 1
Text: Genesis 3:15 {The ultimate Beginning of God's Prophecy}

Introduction: {The ultimate Fulfillment of God's Prophecy}
A. We are about to embark NOT on a sermon ABOUT Prophecy, BUT an adventure, to Explore Prophecy, from its beginning, until the end of time.
B. Invite others to join us each Sunday in our Morning Worship Service as we Explore some of the Prophecy of God's Holy Word.
C. Like (John 3: 16, 18), "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, (Why?) because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

I. First, Is A Promise of Spiritual Warfare, (Genesis 3:15).

A. The Type of Warfare.
1. We need to realize that this is a Spiritual War.
2. Sometimes it seems that we are fighting the battle, but we are not!!
3. Yes we are fighting as it were. But the real fight is within our mind, body, and spirit or soul.
4. Are we Faithful to God in Christ our Saviour, OR do we serve Satan or ourselves????
5. God, in the beginning Created all things good, (including Lucifer, who later sinned and became Satan, the devil).
6. When Lucifer rebelled, (Genesis 1:2), and was cast out of Heaven, Jesus told of event long before God Created Adam and Eve, (Luke 10:18), "And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven."
7. Therefore, when Lucifer rebelled and was cast out this first time, Satan set his purpose in overthrowing God's Throne, (Job 41:1-10; Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Luke 10:18; Revelation 12:7-12; and chapters 15 &16).
8. You and I mean nothing to Satan, except to be used, lied to, tricked, and deceived, all in fulfilling his personal agenda, (just as modem politicians do in both party's).
9. We are no more than a created animal to Satan, a goat with a rope around our neck, yanked or drug where and whenever needed, used like a worm as bait, and then crushed to death when not needed!!
10. Now that's the truth behind the wiggle-jiggle-music, Bud-light, and Honky-Tonkin!!!
11. Beloved, we were created in God's image, sadly, that makes Satan hate us even more!!!

B. The Opponents in this Warfare.
1. Jesus: God's Only Begotten Son,
Our Only Saviour!!!!!

2. Jesus Christ is the ultimate Ruler of all things, including Satan and the fallen angels, now known as demons.

3. Jesus Christ is also the Only True Judge of all created beings and things because Jesus, God's Son, is the One of the God-head that Created all Creation, (Satan included)!!

C. The Outcome of the War of Christ verses the devil.

1. Human writers hold the mystery story's outcome until the end for personal glory and finances.

2. The True Living GOD on the other hand, ASSURED all those who Repent of their sins and Trust, Believing in the Messiah or Saviour, God's Only Son, Jesus, knows RIGHT NOW, that Jesus is the VICTOR!!! (Genesis 3:15, John 3:16-18, Ephesians 2:8-10, and Revelation 14:1-14).

II. Second Is The Reason Why The Prophecy Was Given to Humanity.

A. That we are able to place our faith in the True God, not self or Satan.

1. Every lost person, (all Christ rejecters), know that the Religious War is going on.

2. Else, why such a horrendous attack of God, Christ's Local Churches, and Christianity-globally?

3. Sadly, more often (today) the only difference between some of God's people and Satan's people, (John 8:44), is knowing that God in Jesus Christ Is the Victor!!

B. The reason God in Christ Commands His children to Tell others of the Coming End and Judgment:

1. Humanity needs this warning about Satan, sin, and eternal damnation in "the lake of fire."

2. Multitudes of souls have been Saved from Hell/Fire and Damnation over the centuries, WON to Jesus Christ as Personal Saviour, because they heard the True outcome about Satan!!

3. Many souls have rejected to Call to Repentance and Salvation in Jesus Christ, God's Only Son, (Genesis 3:15), because of Satan's lies.

C. That God's Plan of Redemption of Adam's race might be understood, (step by step as it were).

1. God is busy working through Holiness and Righteousness to Save humanity from the sin-nature of Satan, in Jesus Christ as our Saviour.

2. God is also busy dealing with the FACT of Satan's sin in the world and creation.

3. Yet, sometimes we do not understand why this or that is happening, (or happening to us)!!

4. BUT, WHEN we read and better understand God's BIBLE, we then are better able to COPE with the everyday happenings of sin in the world around us.

D. That we WOULD listen to and learn more of God's Word!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

1. Why now? Because it seems that the world has gone to sleep and forgotten God in Christ.

2. That we, as God's children, can answer the questions BIBLICALLY about Earthquakes, Wars, or Famine!!!!

3. God Said, they would come, through Prophecy. What kind of an answer do you give?? God's Answer or just
III. Third, Are The Men in The Battle?
   A. JESUS, The Only Son of God Almighty!!
      1. Read (John 1:1-14).
      2. Read (chapter one of the Book of Colossians).
   B. Satan, Lucifer, or the devil.
      1. Review (Isaiah 14:12-20), which teaches of Satan's Fall into sin.
      2. Review (Ezekiel 28:12-19), which teaches of Satan's position in sin's Rebellion.
      3. This Battle thru the time-ages has NEVER been between you, me, or the devil; it has ALWAYS been between Jesus the Christ of God the Father, and Satan.
   D. BUT REMEMBER, WE ARE THE BATTLE GROUND!!!

IV. Fourth, Is How This Effects Humanity, Globally.
   A. Israel in God's Prophecy.
      1. Nations and people have hated the Jews down through the time-ages.
      2. If God in Jesus Christ is in your soul as your Only Saviour, you will believe and trust God's Word and His Prophecy, AND you will not be a Jew hater.
      3. Satan is the Jew hater, and Israel's destruction is Satan's goal.
      4. Therefore, anyone who hates Jews, or seeks Israel's destruction, or control thereof, is of Satan and an anti-Christ, even a Baptist, a president, politician, or a religious Muslim!!
   5. Israel, by God's Power, will be the Ultimate Ruling Nation of God in Christ's 1,000 year Reign, the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ on the earth.
   B. What about America in God's Prophecy as a Young Lion Nation?
      1. America is probably referred to as one of, "the Isles."
      2. America's only hope is that our nation Believe in, Worship, and Serve, the True Living God of Heaven thru His Only Son, Jesus Christ, (John 3:16-18).
      3. AND that America will continue to treat the Nation of Israel with Respect and Bible Dignity!
      4. There is No Direct Prophecy concerning America, which reveals that our nation has and Important Part in, "the last days," OR that America has NO PART either!!
      5. We, as American-Christians, must wait to see fulfilled-prophesy one way or another.
      6. YET, with our godless American government, I believe that our nation will be devoured by the End-Time Powerful Nations of Spoken Prophecy in God's Holy Word!!!
      7. Therefore, since there is no Direct End Time Prophecy Concerning America, then it is safe to teach that America does not play an important part or role in the government of the anti-Christ!!
   C. YES, All things are working together for good to them that are called according to God's Purpose in Christ Jesus.
      1. BUT, as a child of God in Christ, WE must read and study God's Word, and labour at making it an
everyday part of your life!!
2. The answer to every one of our problems and frustrations are found in God’s Word.
3. God is Working out HIS PLAN For Man; God is Fighting the battle with Satan for us!!
4. God in Christ IS THE ULTIMATE VICTOR!!
5. Therefore, there is no need for FAITHFUL children of God to WORRY or FRET about the future.

Conclusion: This is why it is so Important that you search your heart and make sure that you really know and trust in Jesus Christ as your Only Saviour.

Dr. Edward L. Davis
Memory Land Missionary Baptist Church

DEPRESSION
Psalm 43:5

DEPRESSION: low spirits, melancholy, dejection; state of low spirits or vitality, usually accompanied by slight circumstances; often merely the expression of temporary downheartedness. Dejection is a deep depression, more lasting, and caused by something serious or distressing.

Depression is a serious problem today. It costs millions in lost or unproductive time. It causes unhappiness in families. It appears to be a major cause of suicide. Psychiatrists disagree as to its cause and cure.

I. CAUSES OF DEPRESSION.
Causes of depression may be complex: what may produce it in one may not produce it in another. These causes may be grouped into three general categories. Depression may be caused by either a single factor, or a combination of factors in each of these three categories.

A. PHYSICAL CAUSES …
1. Chronic illness.
2. Injury that resists healing.
3. Hormonal change or imbalance.
4. Hypoglycemia (low blood sugar).
5. Caffeine: Heavy coffee drinkers score higher on tests for anxiety & depression, are more likely to be psychotic. Symptoms occur with 250 mgs of caffeine. The average cup of coffee contains 60 to 80 mgs; cola beverages about 40 mgs per serving; a small chocolate bar about 25 mgs; some headache preparations contain sizeable amounts of caffeine. One who consumes 3 cups coffee, 2 headache pills, a cola drink, chocolate bar, a cola drink ingests app. 400 mgs caffeine.
6. Some drugs, either over the counter or prescription. Doctors who treat depressed elderly patients may even diagnose one as senile and ignore the depression altogether. Drugs may also cause depression in the young as well as elderly; e.g., therapy with cortisone and ACTH (adrenocorticotropic hormone), a common treatment for hepatitis…

Caffeine content of common medications:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stimulants:</th>
<th>NoDoz 100 mgs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vivarin 200 mgs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diet Pills</td>
<td>Appedrine 100 mgs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dextrem 200 mgs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painkillers</td>
<td>Anacin 32.5 mgs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Excedrin 64.8 mgs</td>
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<td>Vanquish 33.0 mgs</td>
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<td>Cold/Allergy:</td>
<td>Dristan 16.2 mgs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sinarest 30. mgs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Menst. Aids:</td>
<td>Midol 32.4 mgs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Femicin 65. mgs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pre-Mens Forte 100 mgs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. Nutritional imbalance •••
   a. Low levels of:
      Tryptophan, Vitamin B6, 
      essential to serotonin (a 
      neurotransmitter), which is a 
      chemical in the brain that 
      helps control moods; niacin; 
      Vitamin B1 (thiamine); 
      calcium; magnesium; folate 
      (folic acid); tyrosine.
   b. Improper diet: too much 
      "junk food" or processed 
      foods from which nutrients 
      have been removed in 
      order to add to shelf life.

8. Poor health habits, as Elijah, 1 Kings 19:4. He allowed 
   himself to become overly tired, 
   overworked, and hungry.

B. PSYCHOLOGICAL CAUSES…
   1. Some naturally have a 
      pessimistic attitude.
   2. The normal up's and down's of 
      human experience.
   3. Loneliness, Psalms 22:1 
      88: 8, 9
   4. Rejection: by peers, friends, 
      loved ones, Psalms 43:2; 
      44:15, 16; 69:1-12.
   5. Low self-esteem, Psalm 22:6; 
      69
   6. Fear… 
      a. Of the future.
      b. Of the dark: depression is 
         particularly evident in the 
         dark days of Winter; may 
         explain in part the 
         "Holiday Blahs" that 
         occur around 
         Christmas.
   7. Deprivation, of the amenities 
      of life.

C. SPIRITUAL CAUSES…
   1. Guilt: conviction of unforgiven 
      sin, Psalm 137:1-3
   2. Wrong attitude: anger, 
      rebellion (King Saul, 1 Sam.).
   3. Lack of faith.
   4. Disobedience to known 
      principles of Scripture.

II. PATTERN OF DEPRESSION
   A. Begins with SELF-
      PROTECTION…
      1. We are hurt, so we withdraw to 
         keep from further hurt.
      2. We develop heart-callous, to 
         protect self.
      3. Isolate: refuse to take interest in 
         life.
   B. The next step: SELF-PITY…
      1. Feel sorry for self, mistreated, 
         etc.
      2. This causes us to forget that 
         others have problems the same as 
         we do, 1 Cor. 10: 13.
   C. The next step: SELF-PUNISHMENT
      1. We become both Judge and Jury, 
         to condemn self. "What did I do 
         wrong?" "I am so ugly •• dumb •• 
         clumsy •• sad."
      2. Satan reminds of past sins, 
         mistakes, failures, hurts, etc. Each 
         reminder only made the wounds 
         deeper.
   D. The final step: SELF- 
      DESTRUCTION
      1. " I' m no good •• no one will miss 
         me •• every one would be better 
         off if I were dead •• life is 
         impossible."
      2. A tool to "get even" with the 
         world.

III. DEFEATING DEPRESSION.
    When depression comes, immediately tell 
    God about the inner hurt and 
    disappointment. Do not nurse it! Give it to 
    God, as did David, Psalms 42, 43. Turn your 
    eyes away from the problem and self, to 
    God.
    A. PHYSICAL
       1. Illness/injury: obtain proper 
          medical treatment.
       2. Nutrition: proper diet; food 
          supplements, particularly the B- 
          vitamins, amino acids, proteins,
such as tryptophan, tyrosine, niacin, calcium, magnesium, folate, etc.
3. Exercise: get busy and stay busy in some necessary and enjoyable physical activity.

B. PSYCHOLOGICAL •••
1. Become involved in ministering to the needs of others.
2. Develop a Positive Attitude: a firm resolve by the act of your will. Look on the positive side of life (example: "that cup is half full," not, "that cup is half empty").

C. SPIRITUAL •••
1. Ask forgiveness of sin; confess, repent, 1 John 1:9
2. Then, trust Him to honor His Word and forgive, just as He has promised, Psalm 89:27-34.
3. Believe God will keep all His promises, Psalm 42:5-11.
4. Make a positive effort to follow the principles of the Word, regardless of your own emotions, Psalm 84:1-12.
5. Hide, engraft the Word into your life, and respond to life's situations as the Word directs.

Unknown Author

LIFE AT ITS BEST
Philippians 2:1-11

INTRODUCTION: Paul was concerned that he and his Philippian friends know life at its best, and in this passage he outlines what this life is and how it is realized.

I. IT MEANS PUTTING OTHERS FIRST vs. 1-4
A. We must take care not to advance ourselves at the expense of others.

1. Fellowship in the Spirit. vs. 1
2. Likeminded. vs. 2
3. Esteeming each other. vs. 3
4. Welfare at others. vs. 4
B. A life that is not invested in others will not bring satisfaction.

II. IT MEANS FOLLOWING THE RIGHT EXAMPLE vs. 5
A. Whatever kind at life we may build upon a basis of money-grubbing, prestige-seeking and possession-collecting, it certainly will not be a spiritual life.
B. The life that counts is in Christ Jesus
   1. John 10:10
   2. Galatians 2:20

III. IT BEING WILLING TO SERVE vs. 6, 7
A. We are to imitate Jesus Christ.
   1. Romans 8:29
B. He gave up his rights in order to serve others.
C. The best title we can achieve in this life is that of a servant.

IV. IT MEANS STARTING AT THE RIGHT POINT vs. 8, 9
A. Christ humbled himself.
B. He became obedient.
C. He died on the cross of Calvary.
D. The result - God exalted him.
E. We seek the exaltation without the humility or obedience or suffering.

V. IT MEANS RECOGNIZING JESUS CHRIST AS LORD vs. 10, 11
A. It is never hard to find alternative "lords".
   1. Hobbies
   2. Sports
   3. Television
B. We are prone to allow him to be guest.
   1. The guest is restricted in where he can go in the house.
   2. The Lord goes wherever he pleases because he owns it all.
C. If we will turn it over to Him God will get the glory v.11

Pastor Danny O. Chappell
WHAT YOUR ABSENCE TELLS OTHERS
Hebrews 10:24-27

A. An admonition to attend regularly the Lord’s services is given in this text.
B. A serious warning follows to those who will not heed the admonition.
C. The cry of the empty pew is the loudest heard in today’s church work.
D. Consider what a church member’s absence tells others:

I. THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE GOD’S WORD AS HE SHOULD.
A. Concerning promised blessings.
   1. He has promised to meet with and bless his children. Matthew 18:20, Revelation 3:20
   2. By example he has promised church blessings. Acts 2:1 and 41-47
   3. He has promised the blessing of salvation to all who will hear and believe. John 5:24
B. Concerning his judgments.
   1. Satan tells people today the same kind of falsehood that he told Eve. Genesis 3:2-5
   2. There is a chastening that awaits God’s children who do not believe the admonition, of the text. Vs 26, 27

II. THAT HE IS NOT ENJOYING GOD’S BLESSINGS AS HE CAN.
A. The Psalmist rejoiced in the blessings of God’s house. Psalms 122:1, Psalms 133:1
B. Asaph enjoyed a closer fellowship with God by coming to the sanctuary. Psalms 73
C. Church attendance ought to be viewed more as a privilege and less as a duty.

III. THAT HE DOES NOT APPRECIATE THE PRIVILEGE OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AS HE OUGHT.
A. To be a member of a church to which the great commission has been entrusted is a royal privilege. Mark 16:15
B. To help carryon His kingdom business is a wonderful opportunity.

IV. THAT HE DOES NOT HAVE THE CONCERN THAT IS NEEDED
A. For his the spiritual welfare.
   1. No man normally deprives himself of food and water.
   2. Growth in grace means very little to some people. I Peter 2:2, II Peter 3:18
B. For the church’s welfare
   1. Wrong view and attitude toward church officers.
   2. He says by his actions, "I do not care about church progress."
C. For the Spiritual welfare of others.
   1. To invite one to a service that you do not plan to attend is hypocrisy. (May account for lack of visitation effort.)
   2. To be absent when you could be present is to say, in effect, I do not care if the lost remain lost.

Conclusion:
1. Does it matter to you what your absence tells others.
2. How does the Lord view your excuses?

Brother Elvin Crocker
At Home With The Lord

WHEN IS THE PREACHER RIGHT?
Isa 54:17

Intro: My desire is to encourage every God called, God-fearing preacher to fearlessly preach the Word!
1. To allow God to tell us when the preacher is right in what he preaches and in what he does.
2. The trend is for the preacher never to rebuke sin – to talk about Heaven but never about hell - and to emphasize the love of God to the exclusion of His wrath!
3. But what saith the scripture? Just
when is the preacher right in the eyes of the Lord?

I. THE PREACHER IS RIGHT WHEN HE REBUKES SIN.
A. Paul said to Tim (5:20) "Them that sin rebuke etc."
   1. I suppose that is why people try to keep their sins a secret from the pastor - he is supposed to rebuke openly
   2. The purpose is "that others may fear"
   3. When a preacher is properly rebuked or the people are properly rebuked - it should cause others to renew their fear of the Lord and renew recognition of God's holiness.

B. Again Paul told Tim (II Tim 4:2) "preach the word - reprove, rebuke, and exhort with all longsuffering & doctrine."
   1. The preacher is right when he preaches the Word everywhere
   2. When he reproves with the word, rebukes & exhorts -
   3. Preaching must be marked by three elements; conviction, warning, and appeal.
   4. Preacher should afflict the comfortable & comfort the afflicted.
   5. God's speaker must be patient as he preaches the Word.
   6. He will not always see immediate results - sow seed!

C. Examples of right preaching -
   1. Nathan to David - "thou art the man"
   2. John the Baptist to Herod - "It is not lawful etc."
   3. Rebuke Sin in a general way - no problem - get specific and put on the "shock absorbers"

II. THE PREACHER IS RIGHT WHEN HE "RIGHTLY DIVIDES THE WORD."

II Tim 2:15
A. Teacher is a workman in the Word -
   1. "Rightly dividing" means "cutting straight" - plowing a straight furrow - cutting a straight board or sewing a straight seam.
   2. The Word is the soldier's sword & the farmer's seed =
   3. But it is also the workman's tool for building, measuring and repairing God's people.
   4. The preacher who uses the Word correctly will build the church the way God wants it to be built and that is the most important inspection of a man's ministry!

B. Timothy was to preach God's Word with the authority of heaven behind him.
   1. The Word of God is what both sinners and saints need.
   2. It is a pity, a tragedy, that many churches have substituted performances for preaching - I still affirm that nothing can take the place of the preaching of God's Word.

C. The Scriptures are profitable - Paul said to Timothy
   1. Profitable for DOCTRINE what is right!
   2. For reproof - what is not right!
   3. For correction - how to get right!
   4. For instruction in righteousness - how to stay right!

III. THE PREACHER IS RIGHT WHEN HE WARNS ABOUT FALSE DOCTRINE AND RELIGIOUS APOSTASY.
I Tim 4: 1-6
A. A preacher must not major on this point in his preaching - but he must not ignore it either.
   1. As we travel our Inter-states we see two kinds of signs - one tells us where we are going (Dallas 120 miles) - the other warns us of possible danger (ice on bridge etc.)
2. Paul preached both ways - taught a positive doctrine so the people would know what to believe and where they were going.
3. He also exposed false doctrine so they would not be seduced and led astray.

B. False preachers lead people astray - I Tim 4:1
1. Their goal is to seduce people and get them to depart from the faith -
2. Apostasy means a willful turning away from the truth of the Christian faith.
3. Cults like Pharisees of Jesus day - "compass land and & sea"
4. Cultists do not try to build up their organization by making new converts to the Lord - but proselyte weak church members to join their group and become slaves to the leaders.
5. But not all apostates are in cults - some are in churches and even pulpits, teaching false doctrine & leading people away.

C. The way to be a good minister is to put the brethren in remembrance of these things - I Tim 4:6
1. I hear some timid soul say - We ought to be Christ like - be like the Apostle Paul - o.k. by me - suits me fine.
2. I want to be a good minister, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine. Vs 6

CONCLUSION: LET US LISTEN AND TAKE HEED TO WHAT THE SERVANT OF GOD SAYS FROM THE WORD OF GOD.

1. I see a very pathetic scene - the day of death has arrived the soul of one who had itching ears" has gone into eternity He had bragged, boasted and gloried over his "preacher" while he was on earth - now in hell it's a different story.
2. Let us stay by the Word of God and the God of the Word will stay by us!

Brother George Crawford
Gone to Glory

ELIJAH'S APPEAL TO THE UNDECIDED
I Kings 18-21

Introduction:
1. Elijah ... his name means "My God is Jehovah"
2. His ministry - during Ahab's reign 16:32-33
3. At Carmel 3 classes of people.
   a. Elijah, the faithful servant of God.
   b. The false prophets, yet devoted, of Baal.
   c. The undecided-... To this group Elijah addressed his message
4. Text- "How long halt ye between two opinions"

I. THE TIME ELEMENT ••• How long halt ye??
A. How long must the heavens be shut up before realizing the God of Heaven withholds the rain?
B. How many sermons? Prayers? Tears?
C. How long, knowing the brevity of life?

II. THE POSITION ... Halted
A. At a standstill...Stopped, but time marched on
B. It is good to stand still ...and see salvation of the Lord. Some halt to long and never
C. Between two opinions. Valley of Decision
   1. They wanted to serve both
God & Baal.
2. Cannot seek favor of God and man.

III. THE APPEAL
A. If the Lord be God, follow him:
1. He did not appeal to them to follow him, but God. Many are followers of religion because someone else...
2. His appeal strictly based upon the fact of God.
B. If Baal be God then follow him
1. Decide which you will serve & follow
2. Decide if Baal is the god who can send rain, save a soul, or lead in rightness.

Conclusion:
1. Multitudes today are halted ...
2. Many are taken by death still undecided.
3. Choose this day whom ye shall serve.

Brother Luther Crawford
Gone to Glory

TRUTH LEARNED THE HARD WAY
Proverb 13:15

Introduction:
A. In life there is a continual learning process. Paul stated, "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of truth." II Tim. 3:7.
B. We can learn by listening to truth told to us by others, or can learn the hard way.
C. We learn in life:
   1. That it is dangerous to play with rattlesnakes.
   2. That crime doesn't pay.
   3. That we should respect:
      A. The Laws of nature.
      B. The Laws of the government.
      C. God and His Word.
4. We also learn that one cannot show disrespect for God and His Word without serious consequences even though the consequence may be a long time in coming.
D. Some feel God's way is hard.
   1. Jesus said, "Come unto me and I will give you rest." Matt.11:28
   2. He also said, "Take my yoke upon you and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matt. 11:29
   3. The commandments of God are not grievous. I John 5:3
E. The way of the transgressor is hard. Proverb 13:15b.
   1. A transgressor is one who violates a command or law.
   2. A transgressor may be either saved or lost.
I. SOME SAVED PEOPLE LEARN THE HARD WAY
A. About faithfulness in attendance to the Lord's services.
   2. The Lord's people need to be faithful in attendance:
      a. To be provoked unto love and good works.
      b. To provoke others unto love and good works,
      c. To take advantage of the opportunity to worship and serve God.
      d. To be a witness to lost people.
B. About rendering a service to
God while they are physically able. In. 21:15-18
1. Christ told Peter to feed His lambs and sheep.
2. He also told Peter that when he was old another would gird him and carry him where he did not want to go.
3. Too many of the Lord's people know they ought to do something for the Lord, intend to do something, but never seem to get around to it.

C. Some learn the truth about faithfulness to God the hard way.
1. It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful. I Cor. 4:2.
2. Failure to be faithful in one's responsibilities affects the lives of others: Jonah and Lot.

D. Some saved people learn the hard way that God has a definite right to a definite part of their increase. I Cor. 16:2.

II. SOME LOST PEOPLE LEARN THE TRUTH TOO LATE THE HARD WAY
A. Prov. 29:1 reads, "He, being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."
1. Kings learn the hard way: Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar.
2. Queens learn the hard way: Jezebel.
   a. He learned that a person lives after physical death.
   b. He learned that hell is real and the torments are literal.
   c. He learned that no mercy after death is extended the lost.
   d. He learned that there is no second chance.
   e. He learned that there should have been concerned about but he learned too late.
   f. He learned that God's word is true, but he learned too late.

B. He was cut off without remedy.

Conclusion: No one has to learn the hard way. One can accept and act upon truth now.

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SOUNDOING OUT THE WORD

Grace and SOTW are looking to the future and the purchase of new printing equipment. Grace is in a leased building at the present time with no place to put the equipment. When Grace get land and we build our new facility we want to be able to purchase the equipment and start back to printing more books. We only do now as we have the money to print. Keep Grace and its ministry SOTW in your prayers. Thank you for all your prayers and offerings which make possible the operation of SOTW possible. Check the web site out. From time to time I will try to get new books on it.

SOTW