Experiencing Jesus
I Corinthians 2: 1-5

Introduction:
A. Many people found the preaching of Paul contemptible because it was plain and not eloquent.
B. This gave his message more authority. It was not of men.
C. The closer Paul drew to Jesus the more power he experienced in his life.
D. This same principle is true for each child of God.
E. Let us learn from Paul’s example.

I. Know the Blessing of Jesus Crucifixion. Vs. 2
A. Paul wanted to make Jesus the center of his preaching.
B. This message revealed the person of Jesus Christ.
C. As Jesus became more and more known, it became evident that Calvary was his future.
D. Paul had already experienced the saving power of Jesus in his own life. He wrote: God forbid that I should glory save in the cross.
E. Corn of wheat fall to the ground and die it, it die alone: but if it die it brings forth much fruit.
John 12:24

II. Experience the Gift of Jesus Power. Vs. 3, 5
A. God’s word is not just good reading it is the power of God unto salvation.
B. To Corinth Paul wrote: We have this treasure in earthen vessels. II Cor 4:7
C. In my weakness I find his strength. Vs.3
D. In my weakness the Holy Spirit is my support.
E. The success of our work is through the power of God not of ourselves.

III. Share the Effect of Jesus Witness. Vs. 4
A. Jesus did come to the Jews as their king as they expected.
B. He came as their savior and they rejected him.
C. There was no flowery speeches; no enticing words.
D. Jesus ministry was without ceremony. He healed the sick, restored sight to the blind and fed the hungry.
E. Jesus forgave sin cast out demons.
F. Their unbelief is indicated in verse 8.

IV. Grow from the Example of Jesus Faith. Vs. 16
**My Reason for Hope**

**Hebrews 1:1-4**

**Introduction:**

A. From the beginning of time God has proclaimed that the path of forgiveness is through Jesus.

B. This suggests Divine interest in human affairs. God wants to be part of your life.

C. We also learn that a man is capable of receiving communication from God.

D. These things give us hope for tomorrow because:

I. God Has Proclaimed the Truth About Redemption. Vs. 1, 2

A. Scripture plainly declares the mind and will of God. Since the world began Acts 3:21

B. Our writer opens with this great declaration. Christ is better than the prophets.

C. One after one they came they preached they died.

D. Their message was fragmentary and multiformed.

E. Throughout the Bible there has been history (Chronicles), visions (Isaiah 6), dreams (Daniel 2), poetry (Psalm 139), sermons (Matthew 5-7), miracles (John 6), and parables (Luke 15)

II. God Has Revealed the Person of Redemption. Vs. 3

A. He is the Son of God.

B. He is the Manifestation of God.

C. He is the Light of the World.

D. He is the Creator of the universe. Col 1:16

E. He is the sustainer of all creation.

III. God Has Offered the Propitiation for Redemption. Vs. 3

A. Jesus put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

B. His atonement for my sin is complete. He sat down.

C. He did what I cannot do for myself.

D. He is our great high priest.

E. Worthy is the Lamb.

IV. God Has Secured the Promise of Redemption. Vs. 4

A. He invites you to reason with him.

B. He promises to never leave you.

C. He will give you rest.

D. He will give you freedom from fear.

E. He will intercede for you.

Conclusion:

A. Eternity is a fearful prospect without God.

B. From the beginning God has announced and secured a plan to rescue sinful man.

C. Today, His message is: ‘Come unto me…’:

D. Jesus is our Prophet, proclaiming hope; Priest, interceding for us; King, coming again for us.
E. Are you ready to meet Jesus?

Pastor Carl Fitzgerald       Grace MBC Spring, TX

The Confession of a Ransomed Soul
Psalm 34:1-5

Introduction:
A. David opens with a statement of thanksgiving.
B. Being thankful is not easy in difficult times.
C. For David; it was being low on funds and the pursuit of King Saul to have him killed.
D. Praise is not an impulse.
E. It is the expression of the heart and exercise of our lives.
F. Let us offer God our praise because:

I. God Listens to My Prayers. Vs. 4
   A. I sought the Lord and he heard me.
   B. One writer noted: ‘We should give others the sunshine and tell Jesus the rest.’
   C. Think of life’s peril and God’s deliverance.
Vs.19
1. Afflictions make us pray.
2. Affliction’s bring the Lord’ hearing ear.
3. Afflictions afford room for joy.
4. Afflictions bring deliverance.
D. Vs. 15, 17
E. God wants to hear from you.

II. God Delivers Me From Fear. Vs. 4
   A. God delivers us from all fear.
   B. How great life would be if we could see the future.
   C. Since we cannot we become fearful of what might be.
   D. God delivers us from present fear and fear from future evil.
   E. Vs. 7

III. God Lights My Path. Vs. 5
   A. They looked unto to him and were lightened.

B. Look up and you will see the stronghold of God.
C. When we look to him in faith he looks to us in mercy.
D. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Psalm 119:105
E. The one who looks to the Lord has no reason to fear.

IV. God Forgives My Sins. Vs. 6
   A. Let us give thanks the sin does not block the mercy seat of God.
   B. David was in trouble and he sought deliverance.
   C. God answered him and saved him.
   D. ‘Ask and it shall be given, seek and ye shall find’. Luke 11:9
   E. God forgives and forgets.

Conclusion:
A. Vs. 18
B. He heals the broken hearted.
C. He mends their wounds.
D. He dwells with them.
E. He saves them.

Our Deepest Need
Psalm 95: 1-11

Introduction:
A. “It has seemed fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged, as with one my heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are so-mourning in foreign lands, to set apart or observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.”

Abraham Lincoln ------- 1863

B. Biblical Thanksgiving did not begin with Mr. Lincoln.
C. Abel, as an act of worship, brought the first born of his flock as a thanksgiving offering to God.
D. Numbers 18:17 tells us this was a holy offering.
E. Self-examination produces a spirit of thanksgiving.

I. A Gracious Call. Vs. 1
A. O come ... everyone. Reason together. 
B. God has sworn an oath.
C. Unworthy people. Who can drink the river of God’s love dry? Psalm leads beside still waters.
D. Burdened people. Cast cares on him. I Peter
E. Hardened unrepentant people.

II. An Eternal Foundation. Vs. 1
A. Shelter- In time of trouble he shall hide me. Psalm 27:5
B. Support – Even to your old age I am he I will carry you. Isa 46:4
C. Supply --- water from rock in wilderness Exodus 17:4ff.
D. Salvation – whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Ro 10:13
E. Security – I Cor 3:11

III. A Definite Purpose. Vs. 2
A. Worship
B. Supreme God – because of who God is.
C. Creator – because of what he has done.
D. Giver – Rest Psalm 23
E. Guide -- Shepherd

IV. A Revealing Condition. Vs. 7
A. People of his pasture... still waters
B. Example: Wilderness Exodus 17:2
C. Doubt. Questioning God. Exodus 17:7
D. Here is the strength of unbelief. Will he or won’t he?
E. People wish to hear and reserve the right to not believe.

Conclusion:
A. Our Psalm opened with the word Hear.
B. Gods message reveals an unworthy condition.
C. Our unworthy condition leads to contrition.
D. Our contrition leads to confession.
E. Our confession leads to forgiveness and trust.

Pastor Carl Fitzgerald     Grace MBC  Spring, Tx

WHITE THONE JUDGMENT
SATAN'S LAST BATTLE
"And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison" (Rev 20:7).

Through the centuries Satan has been trying to rule the universe. This will be the last attempt. I do not know just why the last fling of Satan is permitted. I do not propose to answer all questions about the end time and the day of the Lord. It is not for us to question the infinite wisdom of God. It is enough for us to accept it and be content with knowing that all things work together for good to them who love the Lord(Rom 8:28)

"Gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea" (Rev 20:8)

Dr.M.R.DeHaan gives two possible reasons for this last fling. One is to prove the incorrigibility of Satan. The second to demonstrate the absolute justice of God in overthrowing Satan and casting him into the lake of fire and brimstone to remain forever.

The above passage of scripture indicates that some will not believe to the saving of their souls even during the time of the millennium. You may say this seems strange when Jesus will be on earth in person!! However, let us be reminded that Jesus was here in person once before, performed miracles and raised the dead yet they did not accept him then.
Perhaps this great horde that will be deceived have only given lip service to the king of kings. Therefore when Satan is loosed they stand ready to follow after him. The earth will have seen its most fruitful era. I should think that death and sickness would be a very uncommon thing; because of the healthful desirable environment of the millennium.

The outcome of this prelude to the White throne judgment is given in Rev 20:9 "Fire came down out of heaven and devoured them"

"Wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat" (II Peter 3:12). God had a day of creation now a day of consummation.

PARTISIPANTS OF THIS EVENT

"The dead great and small, stand before God" (Rev 20:12).
"Death and hell delivered up the dead" (Rev 20:13)

This will include all Christ rejecting individuals from creation to the millennium and even through it. All of the many children born during the thousand years will have to be born of God. If not they will come under the deception of Satan when he is loosed from prison.

It seems apparent that although the whole earth will have to bow their knee to Jesus in the millennium yet many are not saved. From the eighth verse we see Satan going out to mobilize all the enemies of Jesus. Certainly these will be the unsaved of the thousand year reign.

This will ultimately prove that environment, culture and good works alone will not save. It shows that, in spite of what a man's outward appearance may be without regeneration he is hopelessly lost. The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked" (Jer.). There is no amount of social culture or good works that will save a soul without being born again. Surely this proves the absolute necessity of the new birth.

Notice verse twelve says the great and small. This means those who may have political prestige and great wealth as well as those who are insignificant creatures. These are the refugees of eternity.

THE BOOKS OF THIS EVENT

"And the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life" (Rev.20:12).

They are to be judged by the sixty six books of the Bible, the book recording their deeds and the book of life will be opened.

God's records are not arbitrary. There will be no successful argumentation. These two books will seal all possible appeals.

Their deeds will be read out of the record of their life. The degree and not the fact of their punishment is the main concern.

Why is the book of life opened? I should think this stands as mute evidence that their damnation is according to the records. If their name is not in this book it can mean only one thing they are doomed.

This is the reason Jesus said "Rejoice that your names are written in Heaven" (Luke 10:20)."The general assembly and the church of the first born, which are written in Heaven" (Hebrews 12:23).

The judgment seat of Christ is where the saved are rewarded according to their works. The white throne Judgment is a place where the unsaved will receive according to their works and the deeds recorded in the books. Many things may be taken into consideration.
For instance—how many gospel sermons have they heard and rejected, what kind of community were they raised in and what kind of home life they had.

"And thou Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shall be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom it would have remained to this day. But I say unto you, it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of Judgment, than for thee" (Matt.ll:23-24). surely this indicates that there will be degrees of punishment. I just cannot picture a sixteen year old girl receiving the same punishment in hell that Adolph Hitler who was responsible for so many deaths in the gas chambers and at the gallows.

Mercy is not extended to these candidates but justice will be given to all. If some should say "I have been good enough to be in the redeemed host", the book life will be there and his mouth is stopped. "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works. And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you, depart from me, ye that worketh iniquity" (Matthew 7:22-23)

The American Indians will not be held as responsible as those who have been brought up in Bible Belt of America today. The question of the heathen is a very popular one among the unsaved and skeptics of our day. A good way to put them to flight is ask them if they are saved and point out that if not they are in worse shape than the heathen. Unsaved may say "Well I will not come to the light therefore I will not be responsible". I must remind you that if the light is there and you deliberately close your eyes and ears to it this puts the whole responsibility on you. Jesus said "Ye would not come to me that ye might have life" (John 5:40)

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life; And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works" (Revelation 20:12)

This is the record of the Great white Throne Judgment. It is great because of the judge and the number who will be judged. It is also great because it is the last judgment. The white represents righteous judgment.

**MERCY OR JUSTICE**

In Revelation 4:3 we see another throne but there is a rainbow around it. The rainbow denotes mercy but there is no rainbow about this throne. We see then only absolute justice for those who have rejected the extended grace of a merciful God.

We do not ask for justice today, we cry for mercy even as the praying publican prayed "God be merciful to me a sinner"

Some say "If God is so merciful why does he judge this group worthy of eternal Hell? The answer is that they have made their own choice and the day will have come when God's patience and mercy can no longer be extended. "Look unto me and be saved all ye ends of the earth Isa 45:22. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden" (Matt.Ll:28). As I live saith the Lord I have pleasure in the death of the wicked. No my friend God wills the destruction of no one. When they have the light and refuse to accept it and walk in it then His only alternative is to judge them at the Great White Throne Judgment
JESUS SAT ON THIS THRONE

"And Him that sat on it" (Rev 20:11). This could be no one but our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. "The Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son" (John 5:22).

The supreme court of the United States will not judge at this time and The United Nations will not be the judging tribunal. The church may judge her members on this earth but at this time God will permit only his Son to Judge." And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man" (John 5:27).

THE PUNISMENT OF THIS EVENT

"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Rev 20:15).

There is a resurrection to life and a resurrection to death. John 5:29 teaches us that the righteous will be resurrected to everlasting life but the wicked to eternal damnation. The time element is not mentioned but this does not change the fact of it.

This will be a resurrection to damnation or the second death. The saved were in the first resurrection and therefore will not be numbered with the number that are judged at the White throne. "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection; on such the second death hath no power" (Rev 20:6).

My friend if you are lost why not accept Jesus and let him be your Saviour rather than your judge in the White Throne judgment day? You're not going to slip into heaven any other way. God keeps telling you this by his eternal never changing word. His life of perfection and miracles proved that he was who he said he was, He is returning soon to again confirm his word. He has said so often in his word that men must be changed by repentance and faith in the end of the millennium God will again prove that man is void of divinity without the new birth. Dear sinner friend why not trust him now for this regenerating power." Ye must be born again" Jesus said it, the prophets said it, history proves it and the Holy Spirit demonstrates it. Let the wicked forsake his ways and the unrighteous man his thoughts. Turn away from yourself and repent toward God, believe on Jesus Christ and be regenerated before it is too late (Titus 3:5).

If you are so careless and unthinking as to neglect this matter too long you will be numbered in this great throng of liars, adulterers and whoremongers. No place found for this type in God's economy-Cast into Hell with Satan. These are the refugees of eternity, the lost of every age and generation.

Brother Wayne Branson Home in Glory

ON CHRISTIAN FRIENDSHIP

Proverbs 18:24; Luke 16:9

SUBJECT: FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM
FIRST CENTURY STYLE

FRIENDSHIP: To wish one well; associate familiarly with one; companionship; find pleasure in one's company or in a thing; Loyalty to the interests of another; from the verb "to love," to delight in with the thought
of intimate companionship, to be kindly disposed toward; an inclination prompted by sense and emotion, which cannot be commanded. This is not the love of John 3:16, but of John 16:27 which denotes an intimacy of discipleship. It is possible to love and still not be friendly!

EVANGELISM: "Good News-ism," from the same word used for "Gospel." That basic Christian endeavor, which presents Jesus as Christ and Savior to all who do not know Him. It is not confined to the act of preaching from the pulpit or teaching before a class: it is the act of living and conducting one's daily affairs in conformity to Christ. This is the mission of every child of God no matter how young or old, how large or small, rich or poor, learned or unlearned. To Know Him and to Make Him Known... This is Our Mission.

I. JESUS, THE EXAMPLE.

A. Friendship Evangelism can best be understood by the example Jesus set while her on earth.

   1. A lonely, unhappy man, because of his occupation, a publican.
   2. Likely rich in money, but poor in what in reality makes life worth living.
   3. Moved with intense curiosity to see Jesus.
   4. Jesus at the Sycamore Tree.
   5. Friendship extended: "I must abide at thy house..."

C. The Samaritan Woman, John 4:1-30

   2. A woman badly scarred by sin. Perhaps she had once been happy, but now she is miserable, ostracized and despised; coming at noon to the well to avoid the contempt of other women.
   3. Her surprise at Jesus' conversation.
   4. Her wonderful conversion, and testimony to her former companions in sin.

D. The Purpose of His Coming, Luke 9:56; 19:10. He came as Savior and Friend to all. His friendship was motivated by love, which expressed itself in His sacrifice for sin.

E. Other Demonstrations of Jesus' Friendship
   1. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.
   2. The way He associated with and taught His disciples.
   3. His concern over people's needs, as seen in the feeding of the 5,000, John 6:1-14
   4. His reconciliation with the disciple who denied Him, Luke 22:54-62; Mark 16:7

F. His Friendship is evident in His claims, for each claim reveals something He wanted to share: the Good Shepherd; the Bread of Life; the Way, the Truth, the Life. See John 15:15

G. Jesus, Friend to people in all walks of life: children; social crowd, the wedding in Cana; blind; crippled; deaf; even the religious leaders, in that He is the fulfillment of their teachings.

II. THE NEW TESTAMENT --- LANGUAGE OF FRIENDSHIP

B. The primary concern of being a Christian is not in knowing the doctrine, but in knowing the Christ  John 20:31
C. Our purpose: fellowship with Him, I Cor. 1:9
D. Joy, John 15:11; 16:33
E. The world is filled with lonely people, who do not know that the recognition, security, joy they seek are in Christ, who offers Himself as Friend to each.

III. THE CHURCH---
EXPERIMENT IN FRIENDSHIP

A. Friendship with Jesus is incomplete until we have it among ourselves, I John 4:12. God uses our relationships with each other to perfect His love in us. Friendship with God is not separate from our relationship with others; it is dependent upon it.

B. Friendship with God is often expressed in the relationship of man to men. O.T. Examples:
   1. Moses, leading Israel from Egypt, Exodus.
   2. Abraham, praying for Lot, Gen. 18
   3. Joseph, to his brethren, Gen. 42-45
   4. The little slave girl, to Naaman, II Kings 5
   6. Esther on behalf of her people.

C. Paul's writing emphasize this aspect of deep friendship, in his letter to Philemon; to the various churches; and his address to the Ephesian elders, recorded in Acts 20.

D. The basis of Christian friendship: the bond that draws together in Christ, in a bond that brings out of the loneliness of a self-centered life, the relationship with Christ, which bond cannot be destroyed, Rom. 8: 38,39.

E. Our Task: to exemplify in our Church this bond of friendship which begins in Jesus, and grows to full maturity in a right relationship one with another and toward all who need our message of hope.

Brother G. F. Crumley  Home with the Lord

20th CENTURY FRIENDSHIP
EVANGELISM
Acts 1:8

INTRODUCTION - Does not begin with a carefully worked out plan. It must begin in the hearts and lives of God's people. Unless it does, any plan will accomplish little. A good plan helps, but it cannot create life. The spirit must be present before a plan can work.

I. THE DYNAMIC OF EVANGELISM.

A. In 1st Century, evangelism was not the result of plans or methods, but of the Presence of the Holy Spirit. They already had the plan -- what they needed was the power - the promised spirit, This is true today. Our first step: Make room for Him...
   1. We should not try to see how we may use the Holy Spirit, for He will not be "used."
   2. We must let Him use us. Winning men to Christ is impossible, in our own strength, John 16: 7-11.
   3. Our real job: Be God's means to use.
   B. Who is the most important person in the Church? Some say: Sunday School teacher; superintendent; minister of music; youth; deacons; pastor. The real and Bible answer: The Holy Spirit...
   1. In the days of Jesus, He was the most important Person in the Church. He was...
      a. Their Leader
      b. Their Teacher.
      c. Their Power
      d. The Presence who filled their world.
      e. But Jesus went away, leaving or sending the Holy Spirit, their Comforter, and John 14:16, 18.
   2. Now the Holy Spirit is all these things to His Church. He is the...
      a. Teacher, John 14:26
      b. Leader, John 16:13
      c. Power, Acts 1:8
      d. Presence, John 14:16
   C. How to let Him be as important as He ought?
      1. Not by official vote or action.
      2. Yield to Him, be filled. Eph. 5:18
      3. He dwells in the Church as He dwells in the individual members of the Church, Rev 3:20

II. EVANGELISM: A "LOST ART"

A. The Lord's purpose was that His Church should operate 7 days a week, Acts 2:41-47. It should not function less on Monday than on Sunday, only in a different sphere. This can only be done as the individual members apply themselves to practice New Testament principles.
   B. A three way deficiency...
      1. Seeking to win friends to Christ.
      2. Having something to share.
      3. Knowing what to say.
   C. Healing the deficiency, Col. 4:6...
      1. Friendship Evangelism is not new. This text verse could be, "Let your speech always be friendly."
      2. "Seasoned with salt," Salt has a two-fold purpose:
         a. To give flavor;
         b. To preserve from corruption and make wholesome, genuine, not sham or empty. We have something to share, not from the top of the head but from the bottom of the heart.
      3. "That you may know how you ought to answer every man." Not always to be a message delivered by a preacher. The daily conversation.

III. WHERE EVANGELISM BEGINS.

A. The most important function of the NT Church. But Church is made up of individuals. Thus, Friendship Evangelism begins with one's relationship to the people in one's own Church.
   B. Friendship must be offered in a sincere spirit; it cannot be an "assumed" role.
   C. Close personal contact reveals faults and makes them stand out. Real friendship loves in spite of the faults of others.
   D. One who cannot or will not get along with the members of his own
congregation will likely not succeed in personal witnessing. Remember Gal. 6:1.

E. When we learn to live helpfully with those around us, we are ready to reach out to those who need to be brought to Christ and His Church.

Brother G.F. Crumley  Home with the Lord

EVANGELISM THAT WINS
John 14:12

INTRODUCTION: There is tremendous latent power in any true Church. Like a Niagara, only a part of this power is being used. We need not be discouraged because of the few: the 12 were ordinary men when Jesus took them. He led them to a release of this power. The early NT Church is an example of surrender.

I. SOMETHING FOR ALL.

A. Every child of God is called into service…
   1. To be a good soldier, II Tim. 2:3
   2. An active worker, John 9:4
   4. A fisher of men. Mark 1:17

B. Many do not work because they know not what to do. They need a sense of belonging. All can help to achieve this sense, by including new with old.

C. Jesus’ purpose in forming the Church: that every person be enlisted to serve. Not enough to put people to work just to keep busy; but to "evangelize."

II. CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE EVANGELISM. It must be a Method…

A. That can be started with a few people. It is likely that not many will at first respond to the call to evangelistic service, Zech. 4:10

B. In which all can participate. This is the work of the whole Church. Though few at first, it must not end there. As the 12 at first, then all.

C. An effort that can go on without much organization. Some is needed, but must not be burdened with details.

D. That can develop as it goes on. As in natural growth, must start small but not stay small.

E. That does not require nor solely depend on pastoral leadership. Might come from a SS Class, or others. Pastor should teach, give oversight, but not be expected to do the work for the Church.

F. That is flexible enough to adapt to various situations. We must minister to all segments of our society.

G. That does not limit participation to any age group. Should have mature supervision, but any saved person can and should serve.

H. That is in full accord with the Word of God. See John 4:35; Acts 1:8; II Tim. 4:1, 2; 2:15

I. An approach neither seasonal nor temporary. Sin never stops; the battle against it should be as persistent, Ecc. 11:1-4

J. Fruitful, John 15:8. Fruit of the Spirit, Gal 5:22. See Matt. 7:16. Fruit: a better understanding of God's presence, a closer working relationship with others, a fuller appreciation for the work of the Church, increasing interest in the Word of
God, growing ability to win others, and souls won to Jesus.

III. THE MASTER'S EXAMPLE.

A. Jesus came to redeem the lost, Luke 19:10.
B. He started with a few, Matt. 4:18-22
C. He started with little organization.
D. After His ascension, the work grew and developed, with more members and officers.
E. NT Evangelism was flexible, adapted itself to various situations.
F. NT Evangelism did not demand pastoral leadership, though this is important, Acts 11:19-21.
G. Jesus did not limit participation by age or sex.
H. His method was in full accord with the things He had taught.
I. The approach He taught was neither seasonal nor temporary.
J. It was fruitful: 3000 on Pentecost, 5000 at a later time; to Asia, Europe, in one generation.

IV. PITFALLS TO BE AVOIDED.

A. Participants may be shortsighted: excited, enthusiastic at first, then cooling and falling away as they realize work and dedication are involved.
B. Becoming more interested in gaining members than in winning men. It is possible to lose sight of our purpose and mission.
C. Supplanting of spiritual with human power.
D. Sundry traps...
   1. Laziness
   2. Lack of interest, unconcern.
   3. Pre-occupation with selfish interests.
   4. Fear of dedication, cross-bearing.
   5. Lack of vision for souls.
   6. Contentious, critical spirit.

V. BELONGING MAKES SENSE.

A. A joy to feel a vital part of an indispensable work.
B. His work is our work.
C. Pitfall, barriers are many, but they can be overcome. We are "laborers together with God," and as such we can do what He wants us to do, I Cor. 3:9

Brother G.F. Crumley  Home in Glory

WHAT TIME IS IT?

It's time to awake from spiritual sleep,
It's time to plant, and water, and weep.
It's time to face the days ahead;
It's time to know what the Bible said.

It's time for lost sinners to wake up and see
It's time to sing, "Nearer My God to Thee."
It's time we responded to God's alarm,
It's time we put off the world and its charm.

It's time for unity, for peace, and grace,
It's time we really run the Christian race.
It's time, it's time the day is far spent,
It's time, O it's time to wake up and repent!

Bro. Luther Crawford  Home in Glory