The Good News of Jesus Birth  
Matthew 2:1-11

Introduction:
A. In the historical record before us there is presented a great truth.
B. This record reveals a message of love, devotion, betrayal and conspiracy.
C. Bethlehem was a small town 5.6 miles south of Jerusalem.
   D. Jacob had buried Rachel there. Genesis 35:19
   E. Ruth had married Boaz there. Ruth 1:22, 24
   F. Jesus was born there.
   G. The message of our text is simple. It is simply given to lead a sinful people to find Jesus.

I. Brought Wise Men from the East.
   A. These men had travelled a long way (perhaps Ur of the Chaldees) to worship the Christ child.
   B. They were educated in astronomy, math, and astronomy.
   C. They had developed a system of worship that resembled the Levitical system.
   D. They were focused on just one thing: finding Jesus.
   E. Those who seek Jesus will surely find him!

II. Troubled Herod the King.
   A. Herod was a political appointee. He had been declared, by Anthony, to be the King of the Jews.
   B. To the people he was a great leader having built many great things: namely theatres, race tracks, and entertainment places.
   C. In 25 B.C. during the great famine he melted palace gold to buy food for the people.
   D. This same kind generous man had his wife and three sons executed to protect his kingship.
   E. Did Herod really want to worship the Christ child?
III. Revealed Indifference in His Own People.

   A. The chief priests.
      1. One was appointed high priest by the King.
         2. One was appointed Captain of the Temple with power of imprisonment.
   B. The Scribes.
      1. They were the authorities of the Jewish Law.
         2. They knew exactly where Jesus was and when he had been born.
   C. Together they were the keepers of the house of worship.
   D. These great privileges had not touched their evil hearts of unbelief.
   E. They sat in church with cold evil hearts toward Jesus and lost souls.

IV. Instills Hope to Everyone Who Believes.

   A. The wise men found a child and worshipped Him.
   B. Salvation is a person.
   C. You either know that person or you do not.
   D. You either have a relationship with that person or you do not.
   E. Where have you placed your eternal hope?

Conclusion:

   A. The hearts of men are evil.
   B. In love God sent Jesus to be your Savior.
   C. Our text revealed the different ways people respond to Jesus.
   D. Some people seek him.
   E. Some people reject him.
   F. Which type of person are you?

Pastor Carl Fitzgerald   Grace MBC Spring, Tx

The Shepherds of Bethlehem
Luke 2: 8-18

Introduction:

   A. Hidden is some nook in the long grassy slopes to the east of Bethlehem were the lowly shepherds.
   B. They were working class men.
   C. Consider some historical facts about shepherds.
      1. 1st blood sacrifice was by a shepherd (Abel).
      2. Jesus is known as a shepherd of the sheep.
   D. They had no hidden agenda. They were just trying to get by.
   E. Even so, they were not throw a ways.
   F. They were important to God.

I. Were Considered Outcasts by Society.
Vs.8

   A. These men were not allowed to be witnesses in court. Law the Talmud.
   B. The Avodah-Zarah stated: “No help must be given to the shepherds.
   C. The Mishna tells us that the sheep for daily sacrifice in the temple were fed in Bethlehem pastures.
   D. They were poor ordinary folk.
   E. They simply did an honest work.

II. Were Considered Important By God.
Vs. 9

   A. They received a visit by an angel of the Lord.
   B. In an instant of presence, they were surrounded by Gods glory.
C. God chooses the humble not the proud.
D. God has chosen the base things of his world that no flesh should glory. I Corinthians 1:26-27
E. Jesus has always visited the outcasts of this world.

III. Were Blessed With Good News. Vs. 11

A. “Fear not, I bring you good tidings”. Immediately they were reassured by God's messenger. God is no respecter of persons.
B. When a sinful man comes into the presence of a holy God he is overcome with unworthiness.
C. His announcement: “Unto you Jesus is born”, pierced their hearts.
D. Realizing that God cared for them brought joy to their hearts.
E. Hear the message I Corinthians 15:3-4

IV. Were Witnesses to Everyone They Met. Vs. 11

A. When a person hears from God their life is forever changed.
B. Immediately they went forth.
C. Considered it an honor: did not offer excuses.
D. Are we not today too busy to be both wise and rich?
E. They work filled their hearts with joy.

Conclusion:

A. What does the Christmas season mean to you?
B. In truth, it is a season to remember Jesus birth and to worship Him!!
C. Only those who know him as Savior truly appreciate this time of joy and thanksgiving.
D. It is those who need and have found a Savior who are best adapted to tell others.

Pastor Carl Fitzgerald Grace MBC Spring, Tx.

There Is So Much Left To Do
Joshua 13:1

Introduction:

A. Whether you consider the literal Israel or the spiritual; the local church or the human heart there is much work remaining to be done.
B. This work is gradual.
C. One successful engagement of the enemy does not conclude the war.
D. The enemy renews his assaults. When one fails he tries fraud.
E. When direct temptation fails he resorts to enticements.
F. The successful Warrior is one who has learned to keep guard and focus his ways on the path of God.
G. As a new year approaches let us...

I. Forget the Past.

A. While advanced in years Joshua was not stricken with illness. Being old is not a bad thing. Proverbs 16:31
B. Job looked back and remembered the good times before his great loss. Job 29:2-7 READ
C. Looking to the past human vision is perfect.
D. Time was running out in Joshua’s life. He was not to sit down and wait for the grim reaper.
E. He prepared for the future depending upon God to guide him.

II. Seize the Present.
A. Given the advancing years of Joshua God was inspiring Joshua to get busy with the conquest of Canaan.
B. The words of that old hymn: “Work for the night is coming” seem appropriate here.
C. We should not be satisfied with past accomplishments.
D. We should “work while it is day”.
John 9:4
E. The key here is: “As you have opportunity”.

III. Share the Possibility.
A. From Joshua (age over 100 yrs.) we learn that senior saints are not to sit back and do nothing.
B. When was Joshua to divide the land? Verse 7 provides an answer. “Now”.
C. We will never know how many souls are dependent upon our action now!!!! The lesson? Today is the day to serve God.
D. God’s blessing may not be a bag of heavenly or earthly gold but of chances, opportunities and possibilities.
E. A little strength and an open door is God’s gift to everyone.

IV. Embrace the Promise.
A. Jesus died that all those who believe might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. Hebrews 9:15
C. Jesus death has delivered us from the power of darkness. Col 1:12 This allows us to be effective in our work for him today.

B. Being justified by his grace believers are made heirs according to his hope (future promise not yet realized).
Titus 3:7
D. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.
Romans 8:14
E. Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God. 1 John 3:1

Conclusion:
A. Our work is yet unfinished.
B. Yet life is long enough to accomplish what God desires us to do.
C. We cannot command success.
D. But we can be faithful to God’s command.
E. Will you go forth into the fields?

Pastor Carl Fitzgerald   Grace MBC Spring, Tx

You Have Not Passed This Way Before    Joshua 3: 1-5

Introduction:
A. Joshua had not been Israel’s leader long before he was faced with an enormous task.
B. He was to lead Israel to cross the Jordan River when it was at flood stage.
C. It was a great test of faith and obedience for everyone, especially Joshua.
D. They had never attempted anything like this before.
E. The challenge lay before them. Would they depend upon God for help? They needed to:
I. Seek Gods Wisdom. Vs. 2
   A. Their camp numbered about 1 million people.
   B. There were no bridges; no EZ- tags. They did not travel on their own.
   C. God gave them the command to cross and they were willing to listen to Gods counsel.

II. Follow Gods Way. Vs. 3
   A. When we follow Gods way we receive the promise of his presence. Vs. 8
   B. When we follow God we are assured of his strength.
   C. When we follow God we are assured of his help.
   D. Remember they were about to follow the ark into uncharted waters. Yet God was with them.
   E. In following God we must be attentive to his leading. There was neither murmuring nor disputing.

III. Honor Gods Word. Vs. 4
   A. The officers instructed the people to follow at a distance.
   B. The lesson is not the distance in following but he manner in which we follow.
   C. See Psalm 89:7
   D. Earlier Caleb has urged them to enter the promise land and they would not. Numbers 13:13

III. Prepare for Gods Work. Vs. 5
   A. Sanctify yourselves.
   B. Prepare by prayer.
   C. Prepare by meditation.
   D. Prepare by study.
   E. Prepare by separation from this world.

Conclusion:
   A. We are not only to believe in Jesus but take action to serve Him.
   B. God treats us as free agents having the ability to choose our course.

Pastor Carl Fitzgerald Grace MBC Spring, Tx

The Brevity of Time
James 4: 14

Introduction:
   A. Definition:
      1. A nonspatial continuum in which events occur in apparently irreversible succession from the past through the present to the future.
      2. A measured duration.
   B. It poses an important question. What is your Life?
   C. Consider your life in comparison with God.
   D. God is eternal: we are not.
   E. The life of the worldly minded is characterized by a lack of true foresight; with no calculation of the future.

I. Redeem Time Daily.
   A. Personal prayer; Bible study
   B. Humble attitude. Note prayer of Pharisee:
      "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are...even as this publican." Luke 18:10
"And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner". Luke 18:13

"I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Luke 18:14

C. We must ‘redeem the time for the days are evil.’ Ephesians 5:16
D. Paul discovered a law: ‘evil was present with him.’ Romans 7:21
E. We must watch for the enemy.

II. Spend Time Wisely.

A. If the Lord will .... vs. 15
B. Acknowledge God’s right to direct our affairs.
C. He alone sees the future as it will be.
D. He does not want anyone to die in their sin.
E. We are given the opportunity to blend our life with the eternal things of God.

III. Realize the Illusion of Time.

A. It is unwise to use time believing there is no consequence.
B. It is unwise to believe that time will never run out.
C. It is unwise to proclaim: “I am the captain of my fate.”
D. It is deadly to declare: “I have no need of and eternal God.”
E. It is deadly to believe: “There is time to prepare for heaven after I am dead.” Luke 16

IV. Remember the Brevity of Time.

A. Time ends with an appointment with death.
B. After death there is judgment.
Hebrews 9:27
C. A special place, after death, to prepare for heaven does not exist. To be absent from the body a person goes one of two places: heaven or hell.
D. Prepare to Meet thy God, Today.
E. Today is the day of salvation.

Conclusion:

A. Where are your priorities?
B. have you thought about eternity?
C. Are you prepared?
D. If not you can be!!!!

Pastor Carl Fitzgerald  Grace MBC Spring, Tx

THE HEART OF EVANGELISM
Proverbs 18:24; Luke 16:9

INTRODUCTION: To have friendship evangelism, we must have friendly Christians. A friendly Christian is one who makes real friendship a natural part of his life. Unselfish, genuine interest shown in attitude and action is much better than cold, methodical rules one may follow. One can consciously learn to be friendly and to make this real and unaffected.

I. HEART -- CONCERN, AN EVANGELISM BASIC.

A. Friendship must come from the heart to be evangelistic. Jesus did not go about doing good merely because it
was a good thing to do. He did it because it was His nature to show kindness: Mary & Martha; the 500 fed; little children, etc.

B. Genuine interest in others is essential: Jesus loved individuals in the crowd: as Zacchaeus (Luke 19); the woman ill for many years (Luke 8); the blind beggar (Mark 10:46), etc...

1. To be real, interest must grow from genuine concern over others' welfare; otherwise it would degenerate to "busy body."

2. Interest in others grows as self-interest decreases.

C. Interest leads to action. We should make a conscious effort to be friendly.

D. Christian concern, true friendliness grows from intercessory prayer. See I Tim. 2:1

E. Christian friendliness cannot long survive the ravages of a complaining attitude, Phil. 2:14-16

F. Christian love in the heart leads us to do some things because we love sincerely. Natural - and spiritual - ability can be improved by exercise.

1. We need to eat properly of spiritual food, and to exercise in the right way, for spiritual growth, I Tim. 4:7

II. EVANGELISTIC SITUATIONS.

A. Evangelistic campaigns are conducted in church buildings, but evangelism can - and should - be carried on anywhere. Note Jesus' example:

1. Following a religious service, John 1: 38-51;
2. At a wedding, John 2:1-11;
3. At a well, John 4: 1-42;
4. Eating with sinners, Matt. 9: 10-13; 5

B. We can make use of everyday occasions and turn them to evangelistic opportunities, by deeds prompted by Christian live and friendship. Newcomers; hospital and rest home; school, etc. Use cards, phone; but the most effective is personal contact.

III. JOY, THE BONUS OF EVANGELISM.

A. We must take seriously our own Christianity and practice it joyously. No half-hearted interest will win friends - and souls - to Christ. The one who joyously serves is the one who finds...

1. Help from study of the Word of God;
2. Rich fellowship with God's people:
3. Strength and guidance in prayer;

B. We enjoy salvation from static Christianity, as we grow in grace and knowledge of the Word.

IV. ON GUARD AGAINST DANGER.

A. We must be on constant guard against dangerous attitudes that would cripple our Christian life. One is service from a sense of duty, alone.

B. To be obsessed with the desire to save one's own soul by a campaign to save others as a means of saving self. Jesus wants us to lose ourselves in Him and in so doing save our life for Him, Matt. 16:25.

C. A sense of condemnation. Each of us should be soul-winners, but we
should not serve merely because we feel condemned if we don’t.

D. Obsession with "success." Not like the business world, where success is self-made and evident. We are to sow, water, cultivate; but it is God who gives the increase, I Cor. 3:6. Our task is to be faithful to our assigned task; His is to bless.

V. A HIGH, HOLY WORK.

A. Our reason for being here is to know Christ, and to make Him known: to win men, women, boys and girls to Jesus, both in salvation and in service, for true evangelism is incomplete until this is done.

B. Regardless of what our task may be - teacher, preacher, song leader, etc. - our main task is getting people to Jesus. This is our "high calling."

C. As we do this task, we are following "in His steps," the highest, most noble work in the world.

Brother G. F. Crumley  Home with the Lord

EVANGELISM IN ACTION
Luke 14:23

INTRODUCTION: Each Christian is to be an Evangelistic witness. Each generation is responsible for its own era. Jesus taught that the process of building up His Church is to be continuous, Matt. 16:18 We need to hear and heed the message as if it were being given for the very first time, Matt. 28:19,20; John 20:21

I. CONSIDER OUR LOCAL POTENTIAL.

A. Our own Church membership and how many members are required to reach just one person.

B. The percentage of our members who actually attend services, even fairly regularly. If they are not interested enough to attend, it is highly unlikely they are interested enough to witness.

C. The potential over 10 years, if...
   1. Our active membership would each one win one each year. (month)(week)
   2. Ten people would each win one each year. (month)(week)
   3. Our active membership would win one a year (month) (week) for 10 years. What would the result be?

II. DEVELOP AN EVANGELISTIC URGE.

A. Many about us are ready and merely waiting for someone to tell them of Jesus. They are not rebellious, but neglected. They want friends, and if these friends are Christians, there is our opportunity.

B. We must see the need, the fields, John 4:35, for they are white already unto harvest.

C. We must see the end of lost souls, and be concerned about them, II Cor. 5:11

D. We must let the mind of Christ be our mind, to be filled with compassion as He was, to see men as He sees them, Phil. 2:5-8

III. OUR PROSPECTS.

A. The spiritually destitute; unchurched; unconcerned; neglected.

B. New-comers to our community.

C. Families of members.
D. Friends of members.
E. Inactive members.
F. Nursery - Cradle Roll.
G. A literature ministry, tracts.

IV. WHY?

A. Not for our own personal glory, or to build a grand "empire to boast about.
B. "That my house may be Full..."
   (Text)

Brother G. F. Crumley   Home with the Lord

WHAT IS MY REWARD?

The gentle man in grand attire
   One day the master met.
"What is my reward, Oh Master?
   What blessing will I get?"

The Savior viewed his haughtiness,
   He saw pride within.
"I went to Church and Sunday School,
   I tried by best not to sin."

"What about your children, my child,
   The ones that strayed away?
Did you ever ask if they knew me?
   For them did you ever pray?"

"Tell me, my child, tell me one,
To me, you know you have led.
Did you witness to your neighbor?
   To their souls have you fed?"

In my dream I heard the agony,
   I saw flames leaping high.
Screaming voices I heard,
   Of friends and relatives cry.

From my dream I awaken
   As sweat rolled down my brow.
To my family I must witness,

To my neighbor, tell them now,
   To give their hearts to Jesus,
And please do not stop there,
   Tell them how to be faithful,

And go to God in Prayer.
And oh, my friends make sure
Each of your children find
   Jesus as their Savior.
For the flames of hell are real.

Just Reflections   By Dovie Brown

Day of Judgment
   Acts 17:31

Introduction:
   Paul's sermon on Mars Hill -
   There are three courts thru which each must pass
   1. Court of one's own conscience
   2. Court of human opinion - this may be a very cruel court. May judge you too harshly - critically - even condemn when no condemnation is due -
   3. Court of heaven of which Jesus is the righteous judge

I. IT WILL BE A DAY OF REVEALING

A. The secrets of hurts will be revealed
   1. Nothing hidden but what shall be made known
   2. David wrote about secret sins - secret faults - Psa. 90:8  Psa 19:12 "Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults - keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins vs 13a
   3. It is written of King Saul - David knew Saul practiced mischief Secretly -
I Sam 23:9  
4. Secret good a person has done will also be revealed Matt 6:4. 6 Secret alms giving be rewarded openly - Secret prayer be rewarded openly - why some are blessed that we do not understand  
B. The Truth about Jesus Christ shall be revealed.  
1. Some already know the truth of His person  
Psa. 25: 14 The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him:  
2. Some- still deny Jesus as being the Son of God - Matt 22:42 "What think ye of Christ? whose Son is he? Matt 26:63 Christ before Caiaphas - "I adiure thee *** art thou the Christ read vs 64. 65  
C. The true teaching of Christ will be revealed  
1. In every generation there have been false teachings - teachers and our generation is not excluded  
2. I claim no infallibility - but I want to know and make known the truth.  
3. Jesus "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall  
4. Again He said "If any man will to do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God. or whether I speak of myself.  
John 7:17

II. IT WILL BE A DAY OF REWARDING  
A. Saved will be rewarded at Judgment Seat of Christ - 2 Cor. 5:10  
B. This judgment not based on our faith but our works Isaiah 28:17  
1. Every child of God's works will be tested by the divine standard -  
2. Labors of love will be as "gold, silver, precious stones  
3. Your labors of self-praise be as wood, hay, stubble -  
4. This judgment of believer's WORKS - not his SIN  
1. Our sins have been judged already- at the cross -covered by the blood - removed as far from us as the East is from the West  
2. Hurled behind the back of God to be remembered against us no more - WHAT A THOUGHT - what cause for rejoicing -  
3. What lie you told - that cruel word spoken - that cheating on your test -  
D. Are your works good or bad?  
1. It is a good work to go to S. S. - BTC. etc.  
2. It is a good work to witness to what great things Jesus has done  
3. It is a bad work not to do so.  

III. UNSAVED WILL BE JUDGED AT THE GREAT WHITE TRONE JUDGMENT Rev. 20  
A. All unsaved will be resurrected - John 5:24  
1. Souls come from hell - vile- wicked - unclean -  
2. Bodies come from the land and the sea  
B. They will stand before God  
1. Some will cry out - Matt. 7  
C. You will personally appear -  
1. No loving father or mother stand and speak for you - bail you out  
2. No lawyer to plead your case -  
3. See Jesus face to face - He knows you better than you know yourself - He can tell you "all things you ever did"
CONCLUSION: WILL IT BE A DAY OF REJOICING OR REMORSE

A. Will you see the Lion of the Tribe of Judah or a Lamb? Rev. 5:5
B. Will you see the kind face of a loving Father thru Jesus or the stern face of a righteous judge?
C. Today HE IS THE SAVIOUR - that day the Judge

Bro. George Crawford At home in Glory

WHAT TIME IS IT IN YOUR LIFE?
Ecc: 3:1-8

Introduction:
1. Everything is on a time schedule: Planes, buses, time schedule on the job. God has even put the universe on a schedule.
2. Solomon reminds us in the verses read of a time-table. Time is valuable, redeem it, buy it up. Use it wisely.
3. According to the Bible it is the last time, or latter times, or last days. Everything seems to point to the fact that the world is on schedule. God's schedule, for consummation, and destruction.
4. But what about the TIME TABLE IN YOUR LIFE AND MINE? WHAT TIME IS IT?

I. IS IT A TIME OF NEED? (Heb.4:14-16)

A. Be assured that God has promised to supply all your need. Phil. 4-19
B. Perhaps there is a need for more FAITH!
   1. The disciples felt a time of need in their lives.
   2. They ask Jesus to increase their faith.
C. Perhaps it is WISDOM. If any man lack wisdom, let him ask Jas. 1-5.

II. IS IT A TIME OF TROUBLE IN YOUR LIFE?

A. Rest assured we are living in perilous times. II Tim. 3:1. Times of stress, Times hard to deal with. God has not made us immune to trouble. In fact He said through Job that man born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. Job 14-1
B. Nations are in trouble. Governments are in trouble financially. Nations are at war.
C. Churches are in trouble, and it's not God's fault. No vision, No conviction, No concern.
D. Individuals, and homes, and families, have trouble. Psalms 27-5 Psalms 41-1

III. IS IT TIME TO AWAKE?

A. Paul indicated to the Romans it was time to awake out of sleep. He is talking about a spiritual sleep. Are your spiritual desires asleep? Do you feel the convicting power of God anymore?
B. You may be awake physically, but asleep spiritually. You may be aware of what's going on in the world, but not aware of the lack of spirituality in the world.

IV. IS IT A TIME OF APOSTASY IN YOUR LIFE?

A. There was a time when you held the truths of the Word in high esteem; you regarded the Bible as THE BOOK. You believed it with all your heart.
B. But now..... You have doubts, the devil has you down in the don't patch.
You just don't do as you once did perhaps.

V. IS IT THE ACCEPTED TIME IN YOUR LIFE? II Cor. 6:2

A. Sinner this may be the accepted time. Time when you will accept Christ as Saviour. Today is the accepted TIME. Just as there is a time to be born physically, there is a time to be born again.

B. Christians, make this the TIME of decision in your life. As God deals with us, let us get in His time table. He is not willing any should perish.

C. So what time is it in your life?

REMEMBER—YOU SHOULD LIVE TODAY AS THOUGH YOUR FUNERAL WOULD BE TOMORROW!!!!!!!

Bro. Luther Crawford At Home in Glory

GOD’S ALARM CLOCK!

For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? I Peter 4: 17

Introduction:

1. Someone has said, "an alarm clock is a contraption designed to scare the daylight into us." We need the daylight scared into us. We pray this message will be God's Alarm Clock to awaken the sleeping saints, and sinners.

2. There are several times when God mentions what time it is according to His time clock. One day God is going to "punch His time clock" on everyone’s life, and then what? Peter says "Judgment."

3. So God's alarm clock is going off all around us. Notice some of these alarms!

I. TIME TO WAKE UP!

Romans 13:11-12 "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. V.12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light."

A. God is saying "wake up." It is time for the spiritually slumbering saints to wake up. (A man came into church and he thought he would impress his pastor, so he said, Pastor, give me a good prayer to pray unto to entering the sanctuary." The pastor knew him and knew his habits, so the pastor suggested. "Why don't you pray, 'Now I lay me down to sleep.'?"

B. God's alarm clock is going off all around us and we are still asleep.

1. Suppose the firemen remained asleep when alarm sounds

2. What if police paid no attention when security alarm is sounded? Service men paid no attention to "Battle Station alarm? You get the picture.

3. We hear and heed the world alarms, but not Gods Some-One said, "the average church member comes in the Church, sits down and hangs a "Please do not disturb sign around their neck."

C. Why be so concerned about God's alarm clock? Because the time is
short. "Our salvation is nearer than when we believed."

1. There are three tenses to salvation: (a) I was saved. (b) I am now being saved. (c) I shall be saved.

2. I was saved from the penalty of sin. I am being saved from the power of sin. One day thank God, I will be saved from the presence of sin.

D. It seems like the closer we get to the coming of Jesus, the sleepier some of the saints are. There is God's alarm clock going off everywhere: Signs are everywhere. War signs. earthquake signs, Outer space signs, Apostasy signs. Signs of Israel returning to the Holy Land.

E. Vance Havener said he was riding on a train with a man and discussing the signs of time. The man was so amazed, he said, "Dr. Havener, if someone wrote it in a book nobody would believe it." Dr. Havener said, "Sir, someone has written it in a book and nobody believes it."

II. TIME TO FACE UP. (TEXT)

A. God is saying here, that it is time for judgment to start at the House of God. There are two kinds of judgment spoken of in this verse. One is the Corrective judgment of the church and the other is the Condemnation judgment of the sinner.

B. The corrective judgment for the church is for the churches of this day to "face up" to the fact that we are going through some hard times. The fair weather Christians are going to have to make up their mind as to whether they are going to serve Jesus Christ or not. It hasn't cost us much to be Christians so far, but the day may come when it will cost us to name the name of Jesus. (We sing now, "To the old rugged cross I'll ever be true.") This may be challenged sooner than we think.

III. TIME TO SOBER UP! I Cor. 7:29–30

But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none; v. 30 And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not;

A. Paul is saying that we ought to be living in the urgency of the time. Can't you tell we are living in a day when things are happening quickly? It's time to be serious. Paul was telling the Corinthians that it was time to put some things first. He said in verse 29, that our families cannot come first. He said in verse 30, that our worries cannot come first. He said also in verse 30 that our pleasures cannot come first. Nor can our possessions.

B. It is time to put the cause of Jesus Christ first.

IV. TIME TO LOOK UP!

A. God's alarm clock is saying wake up and look up your redemption draweth nigh.

B. God's alarm clock is saying wake up; it's time to seek the Lord. Time to break up fallow ground.

Bro. Luther Crawford Home in Glory