Spiritual Treason
Galatians 3:1

Introduction:
A. Believers so easily allow our happiness to be taken from us.
B. By grace God supplies our every need. Yet we listen to the opinion of false teachers and turn from the living God.
C. This should cause Christians to grieve at such a prospect.
D. Yet causally one will embrace the material things of the world rather than be faithful to God.
E. Let us learn that:

I. Knowing God’s Truth Brings Great Opportunity.
   A. What are these truths?
      1. Jesus substitution for us was well known.
      2. Jesus suffering for us was undeniable.
      3. Jesus sacrifice for us was complete.
   B. These truths allow one to stand firm in the face of opposition. Ephesians 6:14
   C. These truths allow a person to be forgiven.
   D. These truths allow a person to find peace with God.
   E. These truths promise believers a place in heaven.

II. Receiving God’s Truth Brings Great Hope.
   A. Jesus does not turn anyone away. John 6:37
   B. Jesus is the anchor of the believer’s soul.
   C. Jesus is the source of God’s love to us.
   D. Jesus is the foundation of the believer’s life. I Cor. 3:11
   E. Jesus is our advocate and great high priest.

III. Practicing God’s Truth Brings Great Success.
   A. Godliness with contentment is great gain. I Timothy 6:6
   B. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Psalm 122:6
   C. See Psalm 1:1-3
D. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33
E. Paul said: I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. II Timothy 1:12

IV. Ignoring God’s Truth Brings Great Danger.

A. Note two examples of turning away from God.
   1. Lot vexed his soul. II Peter 2:5-8
   2. Peter denied his Savior and warmed his hands around a fire. Luke 22:61
B. See verses 13, 14.
C. We are just a heartbeat away from eternity.
D. Without Jesus eternal punishment waits.
E. Luke 16 records the account of the rich man who had no time for Jesus.

Conclusion:

A. The Law Says: he Gospel Says:
   Do this Christ has done it all.
   Work Believe
   Law makes Brings Promises.
   demands
B. There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. Proverbs 14:12
C. After receiving Jesus the woman at the well went to town and proclaimed: Come See a Man.

D. Where will you spend eternity?
E. Will it be peace or punishment?

Pastor Carl E. Fitzgerald
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GOD’S THOUGHTS TO YOU
JEREMIAH 29:11

This is an encouraging verse in the midst of a sad chapter. Let me read it from the New International Version.

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

It should comfort us to remember that God knows what is going on in our lives and that He has plans for our future.

➢ THE SETTING

The people of Judah had been taken captive by the armies from Babylon and had been carried away from their homes.

This had been allowed by God because they had failed to obey His law.
What they were experiencing was the result of God’s discipline for their sin.

They had spent the last several years listening to their prophets tell them that they would not be taken captive. Even though they had trusted these false prophets, they were now sitting in Babylon and their cities were devastated.
There was little hope that anything would change. It would have been understandable for them to be in total despair.

They were living in the midst of a pagan society and were surrounded by idol worship.

The prophets that were with them had sought to lift their spirits by telling them that their captivity would soon be over.

➢ THE ENCOURAGEMENT

God told them that He was thinking about them and their future.

What they were experiencing at this moment was not the end.

God had plans for their peace and a brighter future.

God knew that they would repent and He would turn their situation around.

He told them to settle in and make the most of their current circumstances. He told them to build houses, plant gardens and expand their families.

Even though their captivity would last for seventy years, there was something to look forward to.

God would finally return them to their homeland and they would enjoy His blessings.

➢ THE LESSON FOR US

God knows where we are and what circumstances we are facing.

We did not get in this situation without God knowing what was happening.

We need to be very cautious about the advice that we are given.

God is not finished with us. He has great plans for our future.

We may need to wait a while, but we should never give up!

Pastor Ernest Moyer  
Calvary MBC   Livingston, Tx.

Isaiah 55:8

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.
When I Walk Through the Valley
Psalm 23:4

Introduction:

A. Consider the words of a poem written by Lucille Britt titled “The Dash between the Dates.”

Memorial Day was over now, all had left and I was alone. I began to read the names and dates chiseled there on every stone. The dates which showed whether it was Mom or Dad or daughter or baby son were different but the amount was the same. There were two on every one. It was then that I noticed something. It was but a simple line, it was the dash between the dates placed there; it doted for time. All at once it dawned on me how important that little line. The dates placed there belonged to God, but the line is yours and mine. It’s God who gives this precious life and God who takes away: but the line between He gives to us to do what we may. We know God’s written that first date down for each and every one, and we know He’ll write that last date down, and soon, we know, for some. But upon the line between the dates I hope He’ll write “well done.”

B. Today we pause to remember and salute the many men and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom we enjoy.

C. Webster defines a veteran as a former member of the armed forces. But a more deserving definition might read: “A person who has laid aside personal freedoms and served in the armed forces in order to ensure the liberty and inalienable rights that all Americans enjoy.”

D. When I Walk Through the Valley:

I. Darkness Surrounds My Path.

A. Stepping off a transport plane into a war zone is an unsettling experience.

B. Everything that reminds one of home is gone and reality sets in.

C. There is danger on every side.

D. Many have walked into the sneer of the enemy with relentless resolve.

E. With confidence they advance into the battle to face untold danger.
F. Let us today give thanks for God’s presence with our troops on the foreign battle field,
G. Remember: “Through God we shall do valiantly.” Psalm 60:12

II. Death Looms as a Powerful Enemy.

A. God’s promise to every believer is that we shall never perish but have eternal lasting life. John 3:16

B. In the heat of battle there is one question that lingers in the human mind. Why, O Lord, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? Psalm 10:1

C. Death is one human experience that shows no partiality.

D. Many a profession of faith has come from the battle field.

F. Faced directly with the closeness of death many have turned to Jesus when they realized their need.

III. Jesus Will Guide My Path.

A. I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand, saying unto you, ”Fear not, I will help you.” Isaiah 41:13
STRIVING FOR A BETTER
RELATIONSHIP
Matt. 22:33-40

Intro. Two of the greatest commandments have to do with
1. Loving God first 2. Loving others.
The Christian life and its endeavors fail or succeed on whether or not we love God and others as we should. We can be trying to live for the Lord, but fail to have a right relationship with others and feel as if we fail. The Christian life demands that we regularly strive to maintain a right relationship with others.

I. STRIVE FOR A BETTER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

A. Commitment
1. Jesus said we must serve the Lord with all of our heart, soul, and mind.
2. We are to seek God's kingdom and righteousness first. Matt. 6:33
3. We are to glorify God in body and soul which belong to Him. I Cor. 6:19,20
4. We are to present our bodies a living sacrifice. Rom. 12:1

B. Communication.
1. Talking to the Lord and telling Him about our problem etc., will keep us from fainting. Luke 18:1
2. Paul wrote, "Pray without ceasing" I Thess. 5:17
3. Jesus pointed out the need of communication in the model prayer. Matt. 6:9-15
4. Answered prayer gives us confidence in the Lord and assurance of salvation. I John 5:14, 15

C. Consideration.
1. If we do not maintain a right relationship with the Lord, we will not have a right relationship with others.
2. Haggai ask the Israelites to consider their ways. Haggai 1:5
3. Meditation or pondering on life will give us the time to consider God.

II. STRIVE FOR A BETTER RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR MATE.

A. Commitment
1. A man is to leave father and mother and cleave unto his wife. Gen. 2:24
   "...what therefore God hath joined together, Let not man put asunder."
Matt. 19:6
2. Divorce was not hurt God’s plan. "••• But from the beginning it was not so."
Matt. 19:8; 19:5-9
3. Husbands are to love their wives. Eph. 5:25 Wives are to submit and reverence the husband in the Lord.
Eph. 5:22, 33
4. Love is a commitment, but just feelings.

B. Communication
1. A husband and wife must communicate. They must learn to talk with one another.
2. Learning to communicate with your mate is vital. Love will demand communication.
3. You must learn to express your feelings, plans, goals, and problems to each other.
4. Many marriages are doomed because of no communication. A busy schedule, anger, tiredness, etc, may prevent communication.

C. Consideration.
1. If you don’t have a right relationship with your mate, it can and will affect your fellowship with God.
2. Men and women are made differently in more ways than one.
3. Consideration, patience, understanding are vital in your relationship.

II. STRIVE FOR A BETTER RELATIONSHIP WITH PARENTS OR CHILDREN.

A. Commitment
1. Children are to obey the parents in the Lord. Eph. 6:1-3
2. Parents are to bring children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Eph. 6:4
3. Parents and children must be committed to their relationship. They are yours and you belong to them regardless.

B. Communication.
1. The children are to honor or respect the father and mother.
2. The parents are to talk with their children about the Lord.
children must talk with one another.
4. Busy schedules, T.V., rebellion may break down communications. Both must endeavor to keep the lines of communication open.

C. Consideration.
1. If you do not have a right relationship with children or parents it will affect your fellowship with God.
2. Parents and children should consider each other.
3. The Holy Spirit will lead you to consider your parents or your children. He will lead you and guide you in your relationship if you allow Him to.

III. STRIVE FOR A BETTER RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS.

A. Commitment.
1. We are to love one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. I John 3:14
2. We are to esteem each other highly in love and be at peace. I Thess. 5:13
3. We are to be kind and tender-hearted toward one another. Eph. 4:32
4. We are to pray together, fellowship together, and have common goals. Acts 2:42, 44.
5. Jesus laid some guidelines down for having a proper relationship with other saved people. Matt. 18:15-17

B. Communication.
1. God's people need to talk with one another.
2. The line of communication should ever be open.
3. We are to exhort one another. I Thess. 5:14
4. Fellowship with one another is vital. Discussing and planting together requires. Talking and communicating together.

C. Consideration.
1. If you do not 'have the right relationship with other Christians, it will affect your relationship with the Lord.
2. Jesus said, "BUT IF YE FORGIVE NOT MEN THEIR TRESPASSES, NEITHER WILL YOUR FATHER FORGIVE YOURS TRESPASSES." 'Matt. 6:15
3. "FORBEARING ONE ANOTHER, AND FORGIVING ONE
ANOTHER, IF ANY MAN HAVE A QUARREL AGAINST ANY: EVEN AS CHRIST FORGAVE YOU,' SO ALSO DO YE.” Col. 3:13

4. The Golden Rule of God's Word is to do unto others as you want them to do unto you; Matt. 7:12

Bro. Charles Swilling – Conroe, Tx

GOD IS HERE: John Chapter One

INTRO: Solomon asked, “Will God indeed dwell on earth?” (1 King 8:27) His glory dwelt in the Tabernacle (Ex 40:34) and the Temple (1 Kings 8:10,11): but that glory departed Ezek: 9:3; 10:4; II:22,23. Then, the glory came to His people again in the Person of His Son Jesus: The 4 Gospel writers give “snapshots” of Jesus' life on earth, for no complete biography Could be written (Jn:21:25):
Matthew: to Jews; Jesus as King Mark: to Romans; Jesus as Servant:
Luke: to Greeks; Jesus as Man John: to both Jews and Gentiles;
Jesus as Son of God: John often interpreted Jewish words/customs, 1:38-42; 5:2; 9:7; 19:13,17; 20:16.
Emphasis to Jews: Jesus fulfilled prophecies and types.

The first 3 Gospels describe events in the life of Jesus. John emphasizes meaning of events. All 4 record feeding of the 5000 but only John gives Jesus’ sermon on the Bread of Life that interprets it.

One theme runs throughout John’s Gospel: Jesus is the Son of God and if you commit yourself to Him He will give you eternal life (20:31). In this chapter John gives 7 names/titles that identify Jesus as God.

I. THE WORD, John 1:1-3, 14:

Words reveal heart/mind; Jesus reveals God’s heart/mind. Word is composed of letters: Jesus is Alpha and Omega Rev.1:11. He is God’s last word to man; for He is the climax of Divine revelation; He Is...

A. The Eternal Word, 1:1, 2: 8:58
B. The Creative Word 1:3. Parallel between John 1:1/Gen. 1:1, the “new creation” and the “old creation.” God created the world thru His word, Ps. 33:9; all things thru Christ, Col1:16. “Was made,” completed act. Creation is finished, not an on-going process.

A. The Incarnate Word, 1:14. He was not a phantom, spirit; He was God in the flesh...
1. The Word “was made” (became) flesh
2. Thru the Virgin Birth.

D. As the Word, Jesus revealed God’s glory in His words/works. He is the “fullness of grace,” available to all who trust in Him.

II. THE LIGHT, John 1:4-31
A. Life, key theme in John; 36 times:
   Essentials for human life: light, air, water, food. Jesus is all of these.
   1. Sun of righteousness, Mal. 4:2.
   3. Water of life, 4:10-14:
   4: Living Bread from Heaven, 6:35.

B. Light/darkness, recurring themes in Scripture …
   1. God is light (1 Jn. 1:5), Satan is darkness (Luke 22: 53)
   2. People love light / darkness, this controls actions.
   3. In creation: “Let there be light;” new creation begins with entrance of light into heart,
      2 Cor:4:3-6. JESUS’ coming was the dawn of a new day for sinful man. Luke 1:78,79

C. Not all welcome the light. It brings conflict with the powers of darkness who oppose it, 1:5.

D. Jesus’ hearers interpreted His words in a material way. Light did not penetrate the darkness of their minds; temple of His body, new birth, living water, eating His flesh, etc. John’s ministry: to tell that Light had come into the world.

E. Men reject Jesus because “They knew Him not.” He is the true Light; they are content with copies (law, temple, etc.)

F. The Light shines today - for you and for me;

III. THE SON OF GOD John 1:15-28, 49.

A. John’s ministry: call men to repent, believe, and life changed lives. This is what he had to say about Jesus …
   1. He is eternal, v.15:
   2. He has fullness of grace and truth, vv. 16, 17. Does not mean there was no grace under Law; there was (e. g, the sacrifices).
   3. He reveals God to us, v. 18;
      Col. 1:15; Heb.1:3: He explains and interprets God to us.

B. Son, a title of Jesus. “Only-begotten” unique, only one of its kind. Does not mean He was brought into being.

C. John did not come to establish a new religion: his mission was to point men (Jews) to Christ.

IV. LAMB OF GOD, John 1:29-34:

A. Lambs used in sacrifices:
   Passover; 2 offered daily, morning and evening; other personal sacrifices. These could not take away sin;

B. Baptism: picture of crucifixion; Jesus the Sacrificial Lamb.

C. Confirmed by the Spirit as a dove.

V. THE MESSIAH, John 1:35-42.
   John preached, Jesus began to gather disciples.

A. “What seek ye?” They must define goals; so must we.

B. “Where dwellest thou?”

C. Their response …
   1. Andrew to Simon.
   2. Phillip to Nathanael:
   3. Both became committed followers; Simon, became Peter.
VI. THE KING OF ISRAEL, John 1:43-49:

A. His knowledge of Nathanael was enough to convince him that Jesus was the Son of God...the King of Israel.”
B. Kings were always anointed; Jesus was God's Anointed One.

VII. THE SON OF MAN, John 1:50,51:
One of Jesus' favorite titles for Himself (83 times).

A. Denotes both Deity and humanity of Jesus:
B. As Son of Man, He is the living link between Heaven and Earth.
C. This does not deny His virgin birth Deity. It was His legal identification; a Jew is identified according to who is His father:

JESUS OF NAZARETH IS GOD COME IN THE FLESH: GOD IS HERE!

Bro. G. F. Crumley
Home With the Lord

WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?
Matt. 22:41-46

Introduction:
Setting of the chapter, the questions ask. Sermon after sermon has been preached on this subject and yet it is by no means exhausted.

It is indeed a great question. A question that man must answer in his own heart. Do not think that you can escape the importance of this question. You may for a few fleeting moments escape the question but you will eventually come face to face with it. All of the questions ask by God are important; Where art thou? What will you do in the day of visitation? How shall we escape? Etc.

It is a proper question. If you were ask about a public official. You should make up your mind about Christ. What think You of Jesus?
Not ask what you think about baptism, etc. but about a living Christ.
Did he leave heaven and come down to earth for a purpose. Was it really to seek and save?

What about His life? manger to the cross.
Was he really God? Was He God in man?

What do you think of his coming to the world? Born in a manger—left heaven. What do you think of him as a teacher, preacher, physician, and comforter?

I. Let us view both sides of the question as we call for the testimony of friends and enemies.

A. His Enemies
1. Pharisee’s. What do you think of Christ?
   b. Let Him save Himself.
2. Caiaphas – He has spoken Blasphemy Matt. 26:65
3. The crowd at his trial – He is guilty of death
4. Pilate – What think ye of Christ?
   a. His wife – have thou nothing to do with him.
   b. I find no fault in him.
5. Judas – I betrayed innocent
INTRODUCTION: John the Baptist was a man set from God to bear witness of true light and present the true light to men. John 1:1-9. He came in fulfillment of a promise, preparing a people and presenting a person. Isaiah 40:3-5

He Came as:
I. The Preparer of the Way: Luke 1:76
   A. The Messiah
   B. The Savior
   C. The King

   A. Preacher of Peace
   B. Preacher of Hope
   C. Preacher of Salvation
   D. Preacher of security

III. The Presenter of the Promise: 
    Luke 77-78
   A. Long Awaited
   B. Earnestly desired
   C. Joyfully received

IV. The Promoter of the Light: 
    Luke 1:79-80
   A. Light of the world – John 1:5-8
   B. Light of the soul – John 1:9
   C. Light of the new Jerusalem – Rev. 22:5

V. The Propagator of Peace: Luke 1:79
   A. The peace of His gift – John 14:27
   B. The peace of His grace – John 14:27
   C. The peace of His greatness – John 14:27

Conclusion: John the Baptist introduced the Savior to the sinner who lived in a sick world.