I. I Am the Light of the World.

A. This implies that the world was morally dark.
B. Jesus is the physical light of the world. The sun, moon, and stars.
C. Jesus is the mental light of the world. Intellect and reason are the emanations of his genius.
D. Paul wrote that God had caused his light to shine in the believer’s heart so that we might receive the knowledge of the truth. II Corinthians 4:6
E. David declared the Lord was his light, He said: Whom shall I fear? Psalm 27:1
E. The light of Jesus will never be extinguished.

II. Trust Me and Be Saved.

A. Men are born into the darkness of ignorance and sin.
B. The Lord brings the light of forgiveness and holiness.
C. Those who partake of Jesus light will live abundantly.
D. It is better to trust in the Lord than put confidence in man. Psalm 118:8
E. Those who trust in the Lord shall be safe. Proverbs 29:25

III. Follow Me and Live.

A. Jesus said: My sheep hear my voice and they follow me. John 10:27
B. He that follows me shall not walk in darkness.
C. The believer follows he does not precede the light.
D. The believer shall have the light of Jesus. In Jesus there is life and the life was the light of men.

E. If any man serve me, let me follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my father honor. John 12:26

IV. Deny Me and Perish.

A. Man is the only creature that will deny Jesus. Even the devils believe and tremble. James 2:19

B. Many who saw the minacious works of Jesus said: He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him? John 10:20

C. Man can have a form of godliness and still deny the power thereof. II Timothy 3:5

D. If we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth there remaineth not more sacrifice for sins. Hebrews 10:26

E. Paul said: 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 armor of light. Romans 13:12

Conclusion:

A. What can a man know if he is surrounded with by darkness?

B. Outward morality will not stand the test of a Divine judge.

C. The believer is delivered from darkness into the Light of Jesus.

D. Jesus came that sinful men might have life and live eternally.

E. Do you know Him today?

Pastor Carl Fitzgerald
Grace Missionary Baptist Church
Spring Tx.
C. The rock gives strength.
   1. This is what David is saying in this song. Study II Corinthians 12:9
   2. The Lord is his fortress, rock, deliverer, shield, high tower, refuge, and Savior.
   3. David saw the Lord as his everything in everyday life.

II. The Foolishness and The Rock
   A. Human support isn’t enough.
      1. God can use you in supporting others. You can give them moral and spiritual support.
      2. But human support isn’t enough. We cannot support as the Lord can support.
      3. The Lord is everything to His people in every situation. The Lord and you make a majority.
   B. Human stability isn’t enough.
      1. You may not be easily moved by the experiences of life, but you will be moved.
      2. Jesus is an anchor to the soul. When the storms of life are raging, He can calm you in the storm.
      3. The Lord is our strength. He is the self-sufficient and Almighty One.

III. The Favor and The Rock
   A. He cares.
      1. Peter wrote of our Lord’s care in I Peter 5:8. We can cast all our care on Him.
      2. If people are sick, weak, hurt, down and out and fainting our Lord cares for them.
      3. He has compassion. Matthew 9:36 His heart goes out to those in want and need.
   B. He comforts.
      1. He wept with Mary and Martha over their brother’s death. John 11:35
      2. When Peter denied the Lord, the Lord not only convicted him, He cleansed him.
      3. He is our High Priest touched with the feeling of our infirmities. Hebrews 4:15
   C. He gives courage
      1. Why some storms take place I do not know or understand.
      2. I do know Jesus is there. He was with Daniel in the lion’s den, the three Hebrew children in the fire, and with David when he faced Goliath.
      3. The Lord gives us courage to keep going. He is our courage and strength.
IV. The Faith and The Rock.

A. Trust the living Word.
1. Jesus is living Word of God. John 1:1,14 You can depend upon what He says.
2. He does not and cannot lie. Study Hebrews 6:18 and understand this truth.
3. We are to trust Him with our whole heart. Proverbs 3:5 This means trust Him completely and entirely.

B. Trust the written Word.
1. The Bible is the inspired will and testament of our God. Inspire means God breathed. No other book is like this book.
2. It contains the will of divine God for mankind. I Timothy 2:4 It is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. II Timothy 3:16,17
3. It contains the precious promises of God for everyday living.
4. You can depend upon the truth within its pages. It is reliable.
5. Study what the psalmist wrote about God’s Word in Psalm 19:7-11

V. The Fruit and The Rock

A. He keeps us going.
1. The song goes, one day at a time sweet Jesus.

We only have the present. We are not promised a tomorrow.
2. When we think we can’t go any farther, the Lord won’t let us give up. Remember Elijah. I Kings 19:1-5
3. The most important step you will ever take is the next one.

B. He keeps us sowing.
1. We often question why go on? What is the use? This manifests our discouragement.
2. Keep sowing the precious seed. He helps us to tell a lost and dying world of the precious Redeemer.
3. He has made us a promise in Isaiah 55:10. God will always bless His Word.

C. He keeps us knowing.
1. His spirit reminds us and convicts of the truth. John 16:7-11
2. Jesus reminds us of the precious truth of His Word.
3. God’s Word gives comfort, courage, and calmness to our hearts. I Thessalonians 4:18

Bro. Charles Swilling
Conroe, Tx.
Jesus is My Reason for Living
John 10:7-11

Introduction: Jesus came into the world that He might give life to human beings and that He might give it more abundantly. He wants to give all the kind of life the heart is crying out to experience. He wants us to experience life that is abundant. He desires a greater life for people than the normal or physical. It is a superior type life. It is a spiritual life. Many people young and old are pondering the reason for life and living.

I. The Fact of the Reason for Living
A. He is life.
   1. Jesus sustains physical life according to Psalm 3:5
   2. Jesus gives or imparts life according to John 10:28
   3. Jesus is the life of the believer according to John 11:25-26
   4. Paul makes this so plain in Colossians 3:4
B. He is love
   1. God is love. I John 4:8 Jesus is the proof of the great love of God. John 3:16
   2. When we accept Jesus, the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts. Romans 5:5
   3. He is living in us and that enables us to love others. I John 3:14
C. He is living
   1. We live because He lives according to John 14:19
   2. To know Jesus Christ as Savior is to really really live.

3. Jesus gives a reason and purpose for life and living. Paul said it very beautifully. Philippians 1:21

II. The Foolishness about the Reason for Living
A. Selfish living is foolish.
   1. The carnal fleshly nature is basically selfish.
   2. The principle is seen in what John described as the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life. I John 2:15-17
   3. A person who does as he pleases is seldom pleased with what he does.
B. Sinful living is foolish
   1. The wise man said those who sin wrong their own souls. Proverbs 8:36
   2. Sin breaks our fellowship with God. Isaiah 59:2 This causes guilt, misery, and unrest. I John 1:6,7
   3. Look at what sin did to David, Achan, Israel, and saved people today.
C. Sorry living is foolish
   1. Sorry living is living a life unyielded, noncommitted, and disobedient to the Lord.
   2. Lot is a good example of living a sorry life. He was in the wrong place, doing the wrong things, surrounded by the wrong people, and suffered because of it.
   3. Sorry living offers no joy, gives no peace, manifests no
love, renders no service, accomplishes nothing, but wastes life given to us of the Lord.

III. The Favor and the Reason for Living

A. His grace offered.
   1. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Genesis 6:8
   2. God’s grace is so amazing and wonderful. Ephesians 2:8

B. His glory is promised
   1. Jesus came to live and die to bring many sons to glory. Hebrews 2:10
   2. He will make known the riches of His glory to us. Romans 9:23

C. His goodness is manifested.
   1. Paul said God’s goodness leads man to repentance. Romans 2:4
   2. The Lord withholds no good thing from the upright. Taste and see. Psalm 34:8

D. His guidance given
   1. His Word directs the feet of men in the right path. Psalm 119:105
   2. As the good Shepherd, He leads and tends the sheep. Psalm 23:1

IV. The Faith and the Reason for Living

A. Faith in His person
   1. The wise man said, “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart...” Proverbs 3:5
   2. We are to trust He Lord completely, entirely, unreservedly, and unconditionally.
   3. He is worthy of our trust. He knows all, sees all, and is all present.

B. Faith in His plan
   2. God has a plan for man. Salvation, service, serenity solutions, and soundness.
   3. God’s plan always works. We may fail to work the plan.

C. Faith in His purpose
   1. With every plan there is a definite purpose. The Lord seeks to accomplish some things by and in your life.
   2. Joseph recognized this truth. Genesis 50:20 Job recognized it. Accidents don’t happen with God

D. Faith in His provision
   1. God’s supply is unlimited. Philippians 4:19 We may not apply
   2. He took care of 2,000,000 Jews in the wilderness daily. We look ahead and faint. We look back and see fact.

V. The Fruit and the Reason for Living

A. Contentment in Jesus
   1. Paul learned to be content in all his circumstances. Philippians 4:11
   2. In Jesus we find satisfaction and meaning in life. Psalm 107:9
3. Jesus offers help, hope, honor, and health. Hebrews 6:19

B. Cheer in Jesus
1. There is the cheer of forgiveness according to Matthew 9:2
2. There is the cheer of fearlessness according to Matthew 14:27
3. There is the cheer of faith according to John 16:33

C. Calmness in Jesus
1. Jesus calmed the storm. It was a great tempest. Matthew 8:24
2. Jesus can calm you in the storms of life. Peace, peace wonderful peace is offered to the Lord’s people
3. Peace comes as a result of accepting what comes our way with faith that Jesus will see us through.

Bro. Charles Swilling
Conroe, Tx.

Jesus is My Ruler
Luke 6:46-49

Introduction: Part of the Lord’s ministry involved asking soul stirring questions. Part of His teaching involved asking very difficult questions. Questions often stimulate interest and inquiry. In the text Jesus asked a very soul stirring question. They called Him Lord or Master, but they didn’t obey Him or do as He told them to. Jesus wants to and desires to rule over us. If we would make Him Lord of our lives how much better off we would be. We have no right to call Him Lord, if we are subject to Him.

I. The Fact of the Ruler
A. Serve the Lord.
1. We are to be living sacrifices to the Lord. Romans 12:1
2. We are to live unto Him who died for us. II Corinthians 5:14
3. We are to follow the Lord’s example and be His servant. Jesus washed the disciples’ feet as a servant.
4. We are to serve and be servants of the Lord. I Thessalonians 1:9

B. Submit to the Lord
1. We are instructed to submit to God. James 4:7
2. We are to voluntarily place ourselves under the person and authority and Word of God.
3. The text deals with the fact some said they were in subjection, but, were in opposition or rebellion to the Lord.

C. Surrender to the Lord.
1. Paul admonished us to yield our members as instruments of righteousness. Romans 6:13
2. The Lord calls upon us to give up our ways, wills, works, and words that are contrary
to Him. He has the right. It is for our benefit.

II. The Foolishness and The Ruler
   A. Some won’t let Him rule.
      1. God’s own people are guilty of not allowing the Lord to rule in their lives.
      2. They resist Him. They rebel against Him. They resent His ruling.
      3. Jesus wants to rule in our hearts, but we must allow Him to. His Spirit will do a work within us, but we must let Him.
   B. Some don’t want Him to rule.
      1. Pride is a part of the depraved nature and it prevents us from letting the Lord rule.
      2. Passion, power, popularity, and position in our lives stand in opposition to Jesus being Lord.
      3. We don’t want to give up. Give in, give over, or give to the Lord.
   C. Some don’t know how to let Him rule.
      1. The key to the Lord ruling in your life is obedience to the Lord and His Word.
      2. Listen to Peter, “…We ought to obey God rather than men.” Acts 5:29
      3. Study God’s Word Determine to obey His Word. His Spirit will convict you of wrong doing and right doing. Give up your way for His way.
   D. Some won’t pay the price to let Him rule.
      1. Saved people want the Lord to rule in their lives.
      2. Most of the time in order to let Him rule, we must give something up. It may be an attitude, feeling, fear, or personal desire.
      3. The Lord cannot rule in your heart until you are willing to give up anything and everything, so He can. You won’t let Him.

III. The Favor and The Ruler
   A. The right
      1. Jesus has the right to rule in your life. He gives you physical and spiritual life and sustains it. Psalm 3:5: John 10:28
      2. Jesus does right to all. He wants to do right by you.
   B. The royalty
      1. As our ruler He treats us royally.
      2. When and as Jesus rules over His people, there is joy, peace, forgiveness, and satisfaction.
      3. At times we say He will rule, when He really isn’t
   C. The righteousness
      1. He will rule in righteousness. He will rule in peace.
      2. He will not be influenced by man’s sin, selfishness, or Satan.
3. He rules in righteousness, holiness, godliness for man’s sake

D. The reigning
1. When Jesus rules and reigns, it will definitely make a difference in your life.
2. You will praise Him. You will rejoice in Him. You will experience that more abundant life. John 10:10

IV. The Faith and The Ruler
A. The truth
1. The Bible teaches us He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Revelation 19:16
2. He is the ruler over us whether we like it or not.

B. The trust
1. We trust people around us every day in many ways
2. We need to trust the Lord completely unconditionally as our ruler.

C. The triumph
1. Faith is the victory that overcomes the world. I John 5:4
2. Hebrews 11 is a chapter full of examples of victories by faith.

V. The Fruit and The Ruler
A. We have satisfaction
1. Jesus satisfies the longing soul. Psalm 107:9
2. Paul learned how to be content in all situations. Philippians 4:11

3. There is fulness, contentment, and purposed in Jesus.
4. People who face life, death, trouble, opposition, and danger, could do so with Jesus.

B. We have serenity.
1. In Jesus our Lord we have peace which keeps the heart and mind. Philippians 4:7
2. His peace quietens us, calms us, fills us, and steadies us.
3. Look at Martha who is cumbered and Mary who is calm at Jesus’ feet. Luke 10:40

C. We have security.
1. Jesus tells us moth and rust corrupts and thieves break through and steal. Matthew 6:19-21
2. Jesus gives security to His people. We are safe in the Lord.
3. You may lose everything of earthly value, but you have security with the Lord.

Bro. Charles Swilling
Conroe, Tx.

Jesus is My Rewarder
II Corinthians 5:9-11; Revelation 22:12-14

Introduction: There are many Scriptures that teach Jesus rewards His people for their obedience. I Corinthians 3:11-15 teaches the building we do on the foundation will be tried. We do not work
for rewards, but we will be rewarded for working. The Lord is keeping a record. He knows what and how we do our work for Him. Many want the praise and commendation of man, but our precious Lord whom we shall stand before will reward His faithful servants.

I. The Fact of Rewards
   A. The promise
      1. Paul said we will receive the things done in the body.
      2. Jesus said He is coming soon to reward every man according as his works are.
      3. Paul reminds us of the seriousness of building on the one foundation.
   B. The purpose
      1. The Lord desires to bless those who faithfully serve Him.
      2. An incentive to serve the Lord is the fact He will reward us.
      3. This is the Lord’s way of honoring us for honoring Him.
      4. It is beneficial to obey and serve the Lord according to the text.
   C. The priority
      1. Knowing the Lord blesses for obedience and punishes for disobedience should move us to live for Him.
      2. In every area of life this principle is true. Study Matthew 6:33

II. The Foolishness and Rewards
   A. The chastisement
      1. The Lord will chastise to correct us if we rebel against Him. He will punish us. Hebrews 12:6
      2. How foolish it is to disobey knowing we will suffer for it.
      3. David sinned. He lost his baby, his own son ravished one of his daughters, he fled for his life, and his favorite son died.
      4. The Lord knows all, sees all, and will reward all.
   B. The corruption
      1. No man is neutral. If we disobey the Lord, we are sinning against Him.
      2. Look at Lot. It seems like one sin led to another. Look at the kind of life he led and where it took him.
      3. Demas loved the present world and forsook the Lord’s cause.
   C. The conflict
      1. The saved person experiences a great conflict. Romans 7:14-15
      2. The conflict is there when we serve the Lord. The conflict is greater when we do not serve Him.
      3. Many of God’s people are miserable and unhappy
because they will not serve the Lord.

III. The Favor and Rewards
   A. He honors His servants
      1. The Lord told Eli He honored those who honored Him. I Samuel 2:30
      2. Those who respect and reverence Him will be honored.
      3. One-day Jesus said, “Well done thou good and faithful servant.”
   B. He loves His servants
      1. He loves everyone and shows it and has proved it.
      2. He has a special love for His servants.
      3. God loves a cheerful giver. II Corinthians 9:7 There is a special love for this special grace
   C. He helps His servants
      1. He will never leave us or forsake us. He is our helper. Hebrews 13:5,6
      2. He can supply our every need. Philippians 4:19
      3. Notice the promise in Hebrew 4:15,16. He will never leave us or forsake us.

IV. The Faith and Rewards
   A. The principle
      1. The faith principle is taught throughout God’s Word.
      2. That principle is obedience will be rewarded.
      3. Malachi taught the people to bring the tithe and God will pour out His blessings. Malachi 3:10
      4. Jesus will reward His servants for service. You serve and then receive your rewards.
   B. The promise
      1. He has promised to reward His servant. Revelation 22:12
      2. He rewards in this life and in the life to come.
      3. You can depend upon Him and His Word. He is reliable. He is faithful and true.
   C. The pleasure
      1. It is a pleasure to serve the Lord. It gives the height of enjoyment.
      2. You can rest upon His Word and trust Him completely.
      3. Paul said he delighted in God’s law. Romans 7:22

V. The Fruit and Rewards
   A. Free from worry
      1. We often worry about life and daily needs.
      2. When you serve the Lord, you realize that He will reward you.
      3. This fact will prevent you from worrying as much
   B. Free from weariness
      1. Serving the Lord will free us from being weary.
      2. We will not faint and fall out as much.
      3. He gives us an inner strength and energy that keeps us going.
C. Free from waywardness
1. When we fix our eyes upon Jesus and trust Him, we will not stray.
2. We will not wander from His presence. We will not journey from Him.
3. How barren and dry and wasted is the land void of Jesus’ presence.

D. Free from weakness
1. We can’t do anything without Jesus according to John 15:5
2. He is our strength in all of life. II Corinthians 12:9
3. He can give us courage according to Philippians 4:13

Bro Charles Swilling
Conroe, Tx.

Jesus is My Reconciliation
II Corinthians 5:18-21

Introduction: How much Jesus ought to mean to us. Without Him we are nothing. WE have nothing and can do nothing. With Him we have everything. We are someone and we can do very great things. This message deals with Jesus being our reconciliation. To be reconciled simply means we are brought into harmony with God. God sought to reconcile us by the death of His Son. Man needs to accept God’s provision in Christ and be reconciled to God. God’s people are to be active in seeking the reconciliation of other sinners to God.

I. The Fact of Reconciliation
A. Man is an enemy.

1. Jesus died for us when we were enemies. Romans 5:10
2. Lost sinners are enemies because they oppose and stand against God.
3. They are of the arch enemy of God which is Satan. John 8:44; I Peter 5:8
4. Lost sinners fight, resist, and rebel against God and His way.

B. Man is evil.
1. Paul plainly describes man’s condition and activity in Ephesians 2:1-3
2. We are sinners. Romans 3:23 Sin is evil and ungodly and wicked.
3. Sin is defiance to God and His Word and His ways.

C. Man is in error.
1. He is wrong. He walks contrary to God. He chooses to walk away from God.
2. Paul wrote that none seeks after God. Romans 3:11 He also said they have no fear of God. Roman 3:18
3. In his lost condition man makes wrong choices, has wrong ways, and walks the wrong path.

II. The Foolishness About Reconciliation
A. Some don’t want to be reconciled
1. They do not see the need of being reconciled to God.
2. Others do not want to give up their ways to be reconciled to God.
3. Others will not be told what to do. They rebel against all authority, even God’s authority.

4. It is foolish because judgment day is coming, and they will give an answer to God.

B. Some don’t know how to be reconciled.
1. They may realize their condition and need of Christ, but they don’t know what to do
2. Others will do any and everything to be reconciled. A lot of false teachers are having good success at getting people religious without being redeemed.
3. Many are depending on good works, baptism, church membership, and the 10 commandments to be reconciled to God.

C. Some don’t want to pay the price.
1. Pride often causes people to live in opposition to God.
2. They do not want to admit they are wrong and they do not want to trust Jesus as Savior.
3. Repentance and faith are necessary to redemption. If men will not be reconciled God’s way, they just won’t be reconciled.

III. The Favor of Reconciliation
A. God loves man.
1. Even in our sinful condition God loved us so much that He was willing for Jesus to die for us. John 3:16
2. He loves every person regardless of what he or she has done, and He wants them to be reconciled.
3. In love He has done everything that He possibly can to reconcile man.

B. God wants to save every person.
1. “Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.” I Timothy 2:4
2. Jesus died for all men. He paid the sin debt for all that all might be reconciled to God. I John 2:1,2
3. The desire of our great God is for all men to be saved.

C. God doesn’t want any to perish.
1. Peter wrote that God doesn’t want any to perish, but He wants all to repent of sin. II Peter 3:18
2. It is against God’s holy will for lost sinners to perish without Christ and hope.
3. Why do they die without the Lord? They refuse to repent of sin and believe in Jesus.

IV. The Faith of Reconciliation
A. Accept truth about the sinner.
1. You are a sinner. Romans 3:23
2. You will die because of your sins. Romans 5:12
3. You cannot save yourself.  
   Titus 3:5

**B. Accept truth about salvation**

1. You can be saved from your sins.  
   Acts 16:31
2. You must repent of your sins.  
   Confess them to God.  
   Matthew 3:2
3. You must believe in or trust in Jesus to save.  
   Acts 4:12

**C. Accept the truth about the Savior.**

1. He is the righteous holy sinless Son of God.  
   Hebrews 7:26
2. He died as a sacrifice for our sins.  
   I Peter 2:24
3. He died for you that you might be made the righteousness of God in Him.  
   II Corinthians 5:21

**V. The Fruit of Reconciliation**

**A. Wonderful pardon**

1. The redemption of the Lord is the forgiveness of sins.  
   Ephesians 1:7
2. The Lord forgives us tenderly, lovingly, and graciously.
3. His forgiveness is full, complete, and free.

**B. Wonderful peace**

1. We have the wonderful peace with God.  
   Romans 5:1
2. We can have the satisfying peace of God.  
   Colossians 3:15
3. The experience of God’s peace is so wonderful that death is no longer a great fear.  
   Philippians 1:21; Job 13:15

**C. Wonderful protector**

1. Sinners become sons of God.  
   God is our Father.  
   Galatians 3:26
2. The Lord is good, gracious, loving, kind, and so forgiving.
3. We as Paul ought to want to know Him in a greater way.  
   Philippians 3:10

---

**Bro. Charles Swilling**

**Conroe, Tx.**

---

**Jesus is My Rest**

**Psalm 23:1,2; Matthew 11:28-30**

**Introduction:** Both texts teach us that we can have rest in Jesus. The body and soul must have rest to go on. God in His wisdom in the Old Testament set aside the seventh day for bodily rest and soul worship. We must know and realize that our rest is in Jesus. If we are tired bodily and spiritually, we must go to Jesus. We must find and receive rest in Him. When we find rest for the soul, we will find that the body can rest better to.

**I. The Fact of The Rest**

**A. We are weak.**

1. Jesus told His disciples that the flesh is weak.  
   Matthew 26:41 This means it is without strength.
2. Lack of strength, knowledge, being able to cope will manifest itself in daily living.
3. Sometimes when we feel our weakness, we are frustrated,
angry, and feel guilt. The Lord wants you to confess your weakness, so He can strengthen you. II Corinthians 12:9

B. We are weary.
1. Paul wrote, “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” Galatians 6:9
2. Weary means to faint, despond, be greatly harassed. Weary also means to lack courage, lose heart, and be faint hearted.
3. Jesus desires that we come to Him. He can supply every need that we have.

II. The Foolishness about The Rest
A. We may try to get away from it all.
1. I have known of God’s people who stopped going to church.
2. Sometimes they say, I need some room or some time to think things out.
3. Some choose to do things on Sunday instead of going to church.
B. We may not realize we are weak.
1. Spiritually you may never look at your has tank.
2. You may be so involved with other things you seldom take time to get involved with Jesus.
C. We may approach rest from the physical and mental, but not the spiritual.

D. We may choose not to rest.
1. We may just keep going to the point we fall apart spiritually.
2. We may choose and refuse to go to our precious Lord for the rest only He can give.
3. I this is true, you will find you get discouraged very easily. You are irate a lot. You complain often. You can be angry quite a bit.

III. The Favor and The Rest
A. The Lord knows.
1. The Lord knew of Elijah’s condition under the Juniper tree.
2. Jesus is letting His disciples know that they will get tired and heavy laden.
3. Jesus knows all about you and your condition. He understands. He is fully aware of your needs.
B. The Lord is kind.
1. Elijah rested and ate and drunk refreshments.
2. Sometimes when we abuse our bodies the Lord causes us to stop, take note, and so something about it.
3. The Lord is so kind in making provisions for our daily desperate needs.

C. The Lord is the key.
   1. Isn’t it simple. Notice the Lord’s invitation. Come unto me. Take my yoke upon you. Learn of me. Find rest.
   2. Our need for rest is found in Jesus. He leads us beside those still waters.
   3. We may try to find rest without Jesus. We will be going to all the wrong people and places.

IV. The Faith and The Rest
   A. Jesus wants to take our burden and cares.
      1. He is capable of taking your burdens and cares.
      2. A woman carried a heavy sack or suitcase, got on a bus, and continued to hold it.
      3. Let Jesus have your cares. I Peter 5:7
   B. Jesus wants to talk with you.
      1. Have you ever noticed how talking about burdens seem to lighten the load?
      2. Jesus wants to talk with you. His Word speaks to your need.
   C. Jesus wants to tenderly help you.
      1. How tender the Lord is to the troubled heart.
      2. Tenderly He watches over me. He comforts, calms us down, consoles us, and comes to us.

3. Jesus saw the fainting multitudes and had compassion on them.
   Matthew 9:36

V. The Fruit and the Rest
   A. We are refreshed in the Lord.
      1. As water to the thirsty and food is to the hungry, the Lord is to His people who are weak and weary.
      2. He invites those who labor and are heavy laden. He assures them of rest.
   B. We are revived in the Lord.
      1. He gives us courage to continue on. He gives us heart to continue on.
      2. He gives strength to the weak. He puts the zeal of life back into us.
      3. He charges our spiritual battery and fills our tanks up with fuel to go on.
   C. We are rekindled in the Lord.
      1. Elijah wanted to die, but the Lord gave Him strength to go on. He wouldn’t let him die.
      2. A fire may seem like it is out, but stir it a little and add more fuel and it will burn.
      3. Has someone thrown some wood on your fire? The Lord can rekindle your flame and give strength, serenity, and supply.

Bro. Charles Swilling
Conroe, Tx
Jesus is My Refuge
Psalm 46:1; 62:7

Introduction: The psalmist said God is our refuge, A refuge is a shelter or protection from danger and distress. This message is plainly directed to the Lord’s precious people. We know according to God’s Word and our own Experiences there are times when we need a refuge. Things get out of hand. We reach the end of our rope. Troubles abound on every hand. May we ever be aware of our wonderful and sweet refuge. The Lord will always be there for us and be a refuge during the storms of life that come our way.

I. The Fact of the Refuge
   A. The problems
      1. Long ago Job wrote, “Man that is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble.” Job 14:1
      2. Any person you talk with has worries over money, family, fears, health, and sin. Problems are part of life.
      3. Our troubles and problems are caused by sinners and sinfulness.
   B. The persecution
      1. Jesus said in the world we will have tribulation. John 16:33
      2. Remember what Jesus said in the beatitudes? Matthew 5
      3. Men will revile us, persecute us, and say evil falsely against us. Matthew 5:10-12

   C. The perspective
      1. During times of trouble, stress, and discouragement, we lose our perspective.
      2. Elijah crawled under a juniper tree and wanted to die. Jeremiah got into so much trouble, he decided to quit preaching. Jeremiah 20:9
      3. Many are quitting on life. Instead of seeing a good life with a few problems, they see a bad life with no good in it.

II. The Foolishness about the Refuge
   A. Some ignore problems
      1. They do not talk about them. They do not acknowledge them.
      2. They leave them alone. They feel if they ignore them, they will go away.
   B. Some become pressured
      1. The pressure builds up into resentment and bitterness.
      2. Every problem seems to add to the load and cause more anger and more frustration.
      3. Some are like bombs ready to go off at any time.
   C. Some try to deal with the problems without the Lord.
      1. We calculate the problem, reason for it, and way to take care of it.
2. The Bible is full of men and women who sought to handle problems in their own way and strength and made a mess of things.

3. The Lord is a very present help in time of trouble. Will you let Him help?

D. Some rebel against God in their problems

1. Some start to drink to escape the problems.
2. Some become sinful in their behavior. Adultery, fornication, ungodly behavior etc., are committed because of the pressure.
3. Some blame God and forsake Him and will not serve Him.

III. The Favor and The Refuge

A. God loves you.

1. God is love, and He loves supremely. I John 4:8
2. Sometimes we make wrong decisions and others do things wrong which will affect us.
3. When it does happen that doesn't mean God doesn't love you. He loves you.

B. God cares for you.

1. We are to cast all care upon the Lord because He cares for us. I Peter 5:7
3. Troubles and problems have their purpose. Study what Paul wrote in II Corinthians 12:8-10. Problems cause faith and grace to be enjoyed.

C. God supplies your need.

1. He can give you the strength you need. Philippians 3:13
2. He can give you the grace you need. I Corinthians 12:9
3. He has promised to give you your need as you seek His kingdom and righteousness first. Matthew 6:33
4. He is a very present help in time of trouble. Psalm 46:1

D. God will work things out to your good. Romans 8:28

IV. The Faith and The Refuge

A. Recognize the trial

1. The trying of faith works patience. James 1:3
2. Trials come to try or prove us. I Peter 4:12
3. Recognize the fact you will be tried. Recognize specific things as trials.

B. Recognize the trouble

1. Trials will come. You can glorify God in them or glorify the troubles.
2. You can look to God for help or you can resent the trial and lack the help He gives.

C. Recognize the trust

1. Trust the Lord with all your heart. Proverbs 3:5,6
2. Trust the Lord. Trust the Lord's Word. We walk by faith not sight. II Corinthians 5:7
V.  The Fruit and The Refuge

A.  As our Refuge, He offers hope.
   1.  He gives hope to His sheep who thinks all hope is gone. Hebrews 6:19
   2.  This hope is an anchor to the soul. It is both sure and steadfast.
   3.  The Lord is faithful and true. Revelation 19:11

B.  As our Refuge, He offers peace.
   1.  He has left His peace with us. John 16:33
   2.  Peace is a result of having our minds on Him and trusting Him. Isaiah 23:6
   3.  The Lord desires His peace to rule in our hearts. Colossians 3:15; Philippians 4:7

C.  As our Refuge, He offers protection.
   1.  When the storm is raging, He can protect you from its danger.
   2.  He can supply your need to endure it. The hurricane that hit Houston did a lot of damage, but after 2 years it is a memory.

D.  As our Refuge, He offers rejoicing.
   1.  All rejoicing in life must be in the Lord. Philippians 4:4. In Him we can rejoice always.
   2.  Job’s sufferings were so severe that he looked at death, but with consolation. Job 19:25
   3.  The salvation, Savior, serenity, and security gives joy.

Bro. Charles Swilling
Conroe, Tx.

Jesus is My Resurrection
John 11:25,26

I.  The Fact of the Resurrection

A.  The example
   1.  Jesus is the supreme example of the resurrection out from among the dead.
   2.  He said, “I AM HE THAT LIVETH, AND WAS DEAD…” Revelation 1:18
   3.  When the disciples came to the tomb expecting to see the body of Jesus, two men asks them, “WHY SEEK YE THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD?” Luke 24:5
   4.  He is the first from the dead. I Corinthians 15:20,21 He is called the first fruit from the dead and we will follow.

B.  The education
   1.  Paul describes the raising of the dead at Jesus’ return. I Thessalonians 4:13-18 This is what I read at the grave side during a funeral.
   2.  The resurrection of all men is plainly taught in John 5:28,29. Not only are the saved going to be raised, but the lost as well.
   3.  Some may question and scoff at the idea of the resurrection, but have you
heard what others are saying? Acts 26:8

4. The resurrection was taught and believed by Old Testament, New Testament, and modern-day saints.

C. The expectation
   1. The saved person has a right to expect to be resurrected. I Corinthians 15:19-23 Hope means expectation.
   2. Job was comforted in the resurrection teaching. Job 19:25-27 When you lose everything of earthly value, you have comfort from the Word. I Thessalonians 4:18
   3. Our living eternally with Jesus and serving Him in Heaven demands a resurrection.

II. The Foolishness concerning The Resurrection
   A. Some don’t believe in life after death.
      1. They believe this life is all there is. When you die that is it.
      2. Many have adopted the life style of eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die because of the idea of no existence after death.
      3. After life and death is judgment according to Hebrews 9:27
   B. Some believe in reincarnation
      1. They believe when they die they can return as a person or as an animal.
      2. Many talk about what they were in another life. That is really far out.
   C. Some ignore talking or thinking about death.
      1. They don’t like to talk about dying or what is beyond death.
      2. They are afraid and fearful of death. They have a right to be when they don’t know the Lord.
   D. Many fail to look on death as Victory Day.
      1. For the saved, death is precious in the Lord’s sight. Psalm 116:15
      2. Death is gain. Philippians 1:21 Death is a rest. Revelation 14:132 Death is a victory. I Corinthians 15:57 Death is to go into the Lord’s presence. II Corinthians 5:8

III. The Favor and The Resurrection
   A. The sin
      1. Death is the result of sin according to James 1:14,15
      2. Death takes place because we are sinners. Romans 5:12
      3. Physical and spiritual death were involved in what God told Adam in Genesis 2:17
   B. The Savior
      1. Jesus came into the world to live and die for us. I Peter 2:24
      2. John the Baptist said, “Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.” John 1:29
3. Jesus’ death satisfied God’s justice, paid our debt, and can give the hope of eternal life.

C. The salvation
1. He forgives us of sins. Ephesians 1:7
3. He delivered us from the penalty of sin, is delivering from the power of sin, Romans 6:12, and shall deliver from the presence of sin. Revelation 21:27

IV. The Faith and The Resurrection
A. I believe in God.
1. I have trusted Him as my personal Savior. Galatians 3:22
2. I understand a lot of things by faith. Hebrews 11:3

B. I believe in God’s Word.
1. You must have faith in God before you will have faith in His Word.
2. God said it and that settles it. God’s Word is true. John 17:17
3. Receive it as the inspired Word and you will believe it.

C. I believe in God’s power
1. No man has the power over the spirit of man to retain it. Eccl. 8:8

B. The fruit of comfort
1. Paul preached about death and resurrection and said we could have comfort. I Thessalonians 4:18
2. In fact, he said we should comfort one another with God’s Word.

C. The fruit of peace
1. We can have confidence in God and His Word. The result is peace of heart and mind.
2. Even in the face of death we can rejoice and recline in the precious promises of Jesus.

Bro. Charles Swilling
Conroe, Tx.