

POWERFUL

**SERMON OUTLINES
AND CHARTS**

“For the word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword.” (Hebrews 4:12)

By DAVID MACY

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DEDICATION

This book of outlines and charts is lovingly dedicated to my mother, Mrs. Edith Macy. Her early training and faithful example started me on the road to becoming a gospel preacher. She accomplished this without the help of a Christian companion and against tremendous odds. May her example inspire many others in like circumstances, not to grow weary in well doing, for in due season you shall reap if you faint not.

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FOREWORD

This book of outlines and charts contains both simple and more advanced material. Some of the outlines should appeal to beginning teachers and preachers, and hopefully some will appeal to the more experienced.

I have tried to make these outlines as complete as possible, and they are actually taken from sermons I have written over the years. The majority of the material in these sermons is not original with me, but has been gleaned from many sources. My purpose in making the outlines complete was to express as many thoughts as possible for the reader's consideration.

I am indebted to several people who have made this book possible. I especially want to express my appreciation to Brother and Sister L. M. Crouch of San Antonio, Texas for the important role they played in preparing the book. Sister Crouch proofread the manuscript and Brother Crouch did the typing in spite of a very busy schedule.

My prayer is that in some way this book will help faithful preachers and teachers carry out the great commission to preach the gospel to all the world.

— David Macy

INTRODUCTION

However true it may be that “of making many books there is no end,” it has hardly been so among our brethren. It is, then, with great pleasure that I introduce this labor of love by David Macy of San Antonio, Texas.

David is well-known among those who are His—known as one who is willing to spend and be spent for the Master’s cause. In addition, he is qualified both academically and experientially to produce a work of such serious stature.

It is my conviction that this volume has been called forth by the great need to commit the truth to those who are both faithful and able to transmit it to others. The author simply and humbly believes that the word of God is herein plainly presented, and in that confidence he commends his work to his fellow men. Far too often a word spoken or a sermon preached may be lost in the abyss of human forgetfulness while a work of this nature may live for centuries and be read by multitudes.

May God grant that this work, having now been cast into the sea of religious thinking, create a wave that will roll on and on giving courage to the timid, skill to the awkward, and help to the hesitant.

— J. Wayne McKamie

McGregor, Texas
January 27, 1971

A CHRISTIAN ATTITUDE

Introduction

A. Philippians 2:1-8

1. A person's attitude is either his greatest asset or his greatest liability.
2. A person who has a positive cheerful attitude will do a great deal of good.

I. A person who has a Christian attitude

A. Does not murmur

1. Philippians 2:14

- a. The word murmur means complaining and grumbling.
- b. We will not receive any reward for complaining and grumbling.

2. Theodore Roosevelt said, "It is not the critic who counts, nor the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and blood and sweat, who strives valiantly, who errs, comes short again and again, who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause".

3. 1 Corinthians 10:10-11

- a. The children of Israel were habitual murmurers.
- b. Because of their murmuring and lack of

faith. only two who left Egypt (of those counted in the census) entered the promised land.

- c. If we murmur and complain, we will not reach our promised land.

B. Does not find fault

1. 1 Corinthians 13:5

- a. Murmuring and faultfinding usually go hand in hand.
- b. A person who has a Christian attitude does not think evil of others and find fault.

2. Matthew 7:3-5

- a. Jesus gave a vivid illustration of faultfinding.
- b. A faultfinder's own imperfections stick out for all the world to see, yet he uses a magnifying glass trying to find the faults of others.

C. Is not indifferent

1. Revelation 3:15-16

- a. Indifference is the greatest obstacle to saving souls.
- b. Christians who remain indifferent will be spewed out of the Lord's mouth.
- c. "Excuse me while I yawn and wake me up when the preacher concludes that boring sermon."

D. Is not discouraging

1. Colossians 3:21

- a. We need a lot more encouragement and a lot less discouragement.

- b. Life has enough discouragements and setbacks without our helping to discourage our fellow men.
- c. Fathers can discourage their children and cause them to be lost.

2. Deuteronomy 1:21

- a. Because of fear and discouragement, the Israelites refused to enter the promised land and perished in the wilderness.
3. Let us always give a pat of encouragement instead of a slap of discouragement.

E. Is not bitter.

1. Ephesians 4:31

- a. A person who has a Christian attitude puts away all bitterness, anger and evil speaking about his fellow men.

b. Colossians 3:19

When bitterness comes in the front door, love goes out the back door. Love binds a couple together, but bitterness drives them apart.

c. Hebrews 12:15

When bitterness springs up in a local congregation, many members are defiled before the ugly plant is cut down and cast out.

F. Is not selfish

1. Philippians 2:4

- a. A true Christian is more concerned about the welfare of others than his own.
- b. He gives his life in service to others and is even willing to die for others.

2. Lord help me live from day to day in such a self forgetful way,
That even when I kneel to pray my prayers shall be for others.
Others, Lord, yes others, let this my motto be.
Help me to live for others, that I may live like thee.
3. Philippians 2:21
 - a. We are living in a world where almost everybody is frantically seeking his own good. The person who has a Christian attitude is a shining light in this dark picture of a greedy self-seeking world.
4. 2 Timothy 3:2
 - a. People today are in love with self and pleasure crazy.

G. Is cheerful

1. Romans 12:8
 - a. Christians have much to rejoice about.
 - b. A long face is not a Christian face.
2. 2 Corinthians 9:7
 - a. We should cheerfully give both our money and time to the Lord's work.
 - b. God is not pleased with money or time that is given grudgingly.

Conclusion

Let us work hard to develop a true Christian attitude and we will be a blessing to all with whom we come in contact. Let us become vessels of honor in the house of God.

ARE YOU TOO BUSY TO GO TO HEAVEN ?

Introduction

A. Many members of the church are too busy attending to the affairs of this life to have any time to do the good works a person must do to enter Heaven.

B. Galatians 6:9

1. We will reap a great reward if we faithfully do good works until death.

C. 1 Timothy 6:17-19

1. Riches will not save the soul, but being rich in good works will.

I. Many members are too busy to study the Bible

A. 1 Peter 2:1-2

1. New Christians should desire the milk of the word as much as a newborn baby desires milk.

B. Matthew 5:6

1. If a Christian is truly hungering after righteousness, he will find time to study God's word just as he finds time to eat his meals.

C. Hebrews 5:12

1. There are many spiritual babies in the church. They simply have not taken time to feed on the milk of the word in order to grow enough to take the meat.

II. Many members are too busy to attend all the services of the church.

A. Acts 2:42

1. The members of the church in Jerusalem continued steadfastly in the different items of worship.
2. Steadfast—unchanging and not wavering.

B. 1 Corinthians 11:33

1. Paul commanded the members of the church in Corinth to wait for each other.

In many places, if we waited for all the members every Lord's day, we would have a long wait.

C. Hebrews 10:25-26

1. If a Christian is too busy to attend the Lord's day services of the church, he is too busy to go to heaven.

III. Many members are too busy to visit

A. Many Christians are too busy going to ball games, watching television, or just killing time.

B. Matthew 25:41-45

1. Many church members feel that the preacher is the only one who should visit.
2. Christ is talking to more than preachers in Matthew 25.

C. James 5:19-20

1. Faithful members of the church should visit the unfaithful members and encourage them to return to duty.

D. Matthew 9:10-12

1. All the members should visit sinners and encourage them to repent and be baptized.
2. Jesus set the example of visiting sinners to save their souls.

IV. Many members are too busy to teach others the word of God

A. Acts 8:4

1. Many members of the church in Jerusalem taught the word of God.
2. The first church grew by leaps and bounds because of teachings by these Christians.
3. One of the primary reasons the church is not growing very fast today is that most of the members are not teachers of the word.

V. Many are too busy to help their fellow men

A. Luke 10:30-37

Many are like the priest and the Levite. They pass by on the other side when they see someone in need, simply because they are too busy to stop and help.

BAPTISM

Introduction

- A. Baptism is one of the most controversial subjects in the religious world today.
- B. There is no reason for this controversy, because the Bible teachings on baptism is plain and simple.

I. Who should be baptized?

A. Matthew 28:19-20

- 1. Only people who have been taught the gospel of Christ and are willing to become disciples can be baptized.
- 2. A baby or small child does not need to be baptized because he is already saved. Matthew 18:3.

B. Acts 8:36-37

- 1. Philip told the eunuch he could be baptized if he believed with all his heart.
- 2. A person must believe in Christ before his baptism is valid. A baby can not be baptized, because it is not capable of believing.

II. How should believers be baptized?

A. Ephesians 4:1

The Apostle Paul tells us there is only one baptism, but uninspired men today tell us there are several baptisms—sprinkling, pouring, and immersion.

B. Romans 6:3-6

1. A believer imitates the burial of Christ in baptism. The old sinful man is buried and the believer is raised from the water a sinless creature to live a new life.
2. Sprinkling or pouring does not imitate the burial of Christ.

C. Colossians 2:11-13; Romans 2:29

1. Believers are circumcised in heart.
2. Believers do not have to submit to a physical circumcision, but to a spiritual circumcision.
3. The flesh of the Jews was removed, and the fleshly sins of believers are removed.

D. John 3:23

1. John was baptizing in a place between the city of Samaria and the river Jordan, because there was much water there.

E. Acts 8:38-39

1. Both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and came up, out of the water.
2. BAPTIZO — the Greek word for baptism means to sink, dip or immerse.

F. In 251 A.D., Novation was sprinkled by the Catholic Church, because he was sick.

G. Sprinkling was declared to be equally as valid as immersion by the council of Ravenna in 1311 A.D.

III. A believer's sins are forgiven when he is baptized

A. Acts 2:38

Repent and be baptized for the remission of sins.

B. Acts 22:16

1. A preacher told Saul to arise and be baptized and wash away his sins.

**IV. A believer is baptized into the body of Christ or
The Church**

A. 1 Corinthians 12:13

1. Baptized believers do not need to join any denomination, because they have already been baptized into Christ's body, which is his Church.

B. Galatians 3:27

1. We are baptized into Christ. We can not be saved outside of Christ.

C. Ephesians 1:22-23

1. Christ's body is Christ's church.
2. When we are baptized into Christ's body, we are baptized into his Church.

V. A believer is saved when he is baptized

A. 1 Peter 3:20-21

1. God used water to save Noah and his family. In like manner he uses water to save those who believe.

B. Mark 16:16

1. When Christ gave his apostles the great commission, he told them two things the people would have to do to be saved. They would have to believe and be baptized.
2. Baptism is the final act of obedience a man must perform before God will save him from his sins.

Conclusion

Can anyone honestly say that baptism is not necessary after considering what the Holy Scriptures teach on this subject?

BEFORE DESTRUCTION

Introduction

- A. There is a chance that the United States will be destroyed or captured in the not too distant future.
- B. Russia is becoming militarily stronger and stronger, and enmity between this country and ours is increasing.
- C. With the possible destruction of our entire civilization staring us in the face, the majority of our people are totally unprepared.

I. People before the flood did not expect destruction

A. Matthew 24:38-39

- 1. Noah was a preacher of righteousness, and no doubt he told the people the flood was coming and they would soon be destroyed.
- 2. People were so wicked that God repented he ever made them. They did not believe they would soon be destroyed.

II. Natural for people to feel safe and secure on the brink of destruction

A. Genesis 19

- 1. Lot stayed in doomed Sodom until the angels took him and his family by the hand and led them out.

- B. Before the Second World War, Prime Minister Chamberlain of England returned from a conference with Adolph Hitler saying, "Peace in our time." A short time later Hitler started his campaign to conquer the world by force.

C. Herbert Hoover stated publicly that “poverty would soon be banished forever.” A few months after he made this statement the New York Stock Market crashed and this country was plunged into the most terrible depression in its history.

D. 1 Thessalonians 5:3

III. Why do people say peace and safety when destruction is near?

A. Do not realize they are unprepared to die

1. Matthew 15:8

a. Many people in United States believe that if they praise God with lips they are prepared to die no matter how they might live every day.

2. Matthew 7:21

a. Most people in United States believe they will be saved if they attend some Church and obey any kind of doctrine.

b. Obeying all the will of God saves, and saying Lord, Lord, and attending some Church will not take the place of complete obedience.

B. Do not realize they are sinners

1. All our own sins and mistakes seem so small to us. Many people feel that surely God would not cast them into an everlasting fire for their few small sins.

2. Luke 18:12-14

a. The Pharisee thanked God he was not a sinner like the publican, but he did not realize that God detested his self-righteousness and rejected his prayer.

- b. We can think we are righteous and be very sinful in the eyes of God.
- 3. Acts 26:9
 - Paul thought he was serving God by persecuting Christ, but he was the chief of sinners.
- C. Do not realize they must be in Christ's Church to be saved,
 - 1. How many people outside of the ark were saved when the flood came?
 - 2. Ephesians 5:23
 - a. Not one soul outside the ark was saved when the flood came, and not one accountable person outside of Christ's body will be saved when the end of the world comes.
 - 3. Ephesians 1:22-23
 - a. Christ's body is Christ's Church; therefore, we do not have any promise of being saved if we are not in Christ's Church.
- D. Do not believe Christ will condemn them to an everlasting Hell.
 - 1. Many people believe and teach there is not a Hell.
 - 2. Many believe there is a place called Hell, but they do not believe the people who are cast into it will be tormented forever.
 - 3. Mark 9:43-44
 - a. There is a Hell and the fire in it will never go out.
 - 4. Revelation 14:11
 - a. The wicked will be tormented in the fire of Hell forever and ever.

5. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

- a. Christ will come in flaming fire taking vengeance on the disobedient.

IV. A few people can feel safe and secure when destruction is near

- A. A person cannot feel safe and secure just because he has obeyed the first principles only.
- B. Must obey the first principles
 1. Believe in Christ—Mark 16:16
 2. Repent of all past sins—Luke 13:3
 3. Confess Christ—Romans 10:10
 4. Be baptized—Acts 2:38
- C. Must also add all the Christian graces
 1. 2 Peter 1:5-11
- D. Philippians 4:7
 1. Faithful Christians have a peace that passeth understanding even in the face of tragedy.
- E. Matthew 11:28-30
 1. Only the people who come to Jesus and learn of Him, obey the will of his Father, will find true rest and peace and not be disappointed when destruction comes.

BE ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING

Introduction

A. Philippians 4:6

Instead of being anxious and worried about the future, a Christian should trust in God to provide his needs.

I. We should not worry about the necessities of life

A. Matthew 6:25-26

1. Christians should not worry about what they will eat or drink, or if they will have any clothes.

B. Matthew 6:28-30

1. Wild flowers in the field do not spin or weave yet they are more beautifully clothed than Solomon.

C. Matthew 6:33

1. Many Christians put the church and serving Christ in second or third place in their life, and making money and raising a family first.

D. Matthew 6:34

1. Why worry about tomorrow or next week? We have no assurance we will even be living then.

II. The Lord provides for those who obey Him

A. 2 Corinthians 9:8

1. The Lord does not provide scraps and rags for his children, but he provides well for his loved ones.

B. Psalms 37:25

1. David saw neither the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread.

C. Psalms 127:2

1. Christians can rest from their daily labors, because they know God will provide without their losing sleep and worrying.

D. Psalms 34:10

1. Sometimes lions and beasts suffer hunger and perish, but these that seek the Lord will not lack any good thing.

E. James 1:17

1. Good gifts are food, clothing and shelter.
2. Perfect gifts are Jesus Christ and the holy scriptures, etc.
3. Both good and perfect gifts come from our Father in heaven.

III. We should cast all our cares on the Lord

A. 1 Peter 5:7

1. Have you ever carried a heavy load for a long distance, and someone came along and said: "Give your load to me; I will carry it awhile?"
2. When the loads of life seem unbearable for the children of God, they can cast their care on Him.

B. Matthew 11:28-30

1. Jesus lovingly invites all who are heavy laden to come to him, and he will give them rest.

C. Philippians 4:6

1. A true Christian does not try to bear all the

burdens of life alone, because he knows this is foolish and unnecessary. He turns to God in prayer and receives the help or comfort he needs.

2. Read "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

IV. Put your trust in the Lord and you will be like a tree planted by the waters

A. Jeremiah 17:7-8

1. A tree planted by the water stays green and alive, and bears much fruit.
2. A man who trusts in the Lord will live a happy, fruitful life.

B. Psalms 1:1-2

1. Instead of meditating on our problems, we should meditate on the word of God.

BE AN EXAMPLE

Introduction

A. 1 Timothy 4:6-16

I. Let no man despise thy youth

A. 1 Timothy 4:12

Instead of so living as to be looked down upon, a young person should be an example to young and old.

B. 2 Timothy 2:22

Passions of young are naturally stronger.

II. In word

A. Colossians 3:8

1. No filthy communication.

B. 2 Timothy 4:2

1. Preach the word.

C. James 1:22

1. Be doers of the word.

III. In conversation

A. Present meaning is two or more people talking.

Biblical meaning—a person's manner of life.

B. Philippians 1:27

1. Strive together with one mind.

C. Hebrews 13:5

1. Not covetous.

D. 1 Corinthians 5:11

1. Not to keep company with covetous, etc.

E. 1 Petter 3:1-2

1. Wives win unbelieving husbands by chaste conversation.

IV. In charity

A. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

1. Love greatest thing on earth.

B. 1 John 3:17

1. Do not have the love of God if we refuse to help a needy brother.

C. 2 Thessalonians 1:3

1. Can thank God when brethren love each other.

V. In spirit

A. Acts 18:25

1. Apollos was fervent in spirit.

B. 1 Peter 3:4

A meek spirit is of great price.

C. Proverbs 29:23

The humble in spirit will be honored.

VI. In faith

A. Romans 10:17

Faith comes by hearing.

B. Romans 14:23

Whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

C. 2 Corinthians 5:7

The righteous walk by faith.

VII. In purity

A. 1 Timothy 5:2

Treat older women as mothers; younger women as sisters.

B. Titus 2:14

Christ died to purify us.

(a) Pure in heart—Matthew 5:8

(b) Pure religion—James 1:27

The VOYAGE of LIFE

2 Tim. 3:15-17

Must Be
In Ship
Eph. 5:23
Eph. 1:22,23

Must Have
Good
Pilot
Heb. 4:15
Heb. 5:
8,9

Must Have
Strong Anchor
Heb. 6:19
Rom. 8:24
Rom. 15:4
Col. 1:5

Set Time
To Sail
Lk. 12:16-21
Jn. 9:4

Jas.
4:14
Ac.
22:
16

Must Have
Good
Compass
Mt. 15:14
2 Tim. 3:16,17

Must Have
Charts to
Go By
2 Pet. 1:3 Jas. 1:21

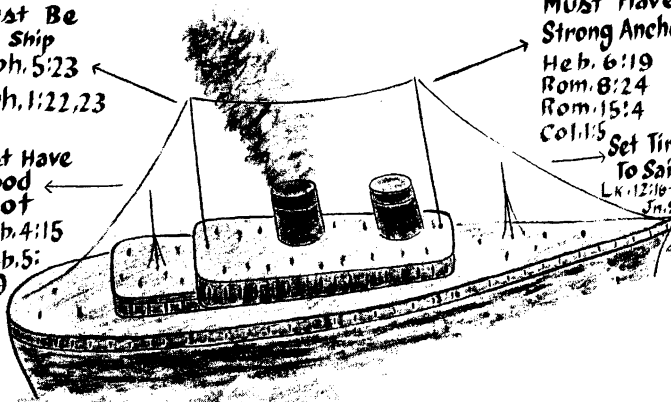
Are you sailing
toward
The Heavenly Shore?

Must Pay
Full Fare
Mk. 16:16
Ac. 1:37,38

Passengers
Must Obey
Rules

Tit. 2:11-13 Jas. 1:27

DAVID
MACY



CARNAL WARFARE

Introduction

- A. We are living in perilous times, and the threat of war hangs over our heads like a dark cloud.
- B. It is important for Christians to study their Bibles in times like these and learn if they can take any part in carnal warfare.

I. Christians are to obey God rather than men

A. Acts 5:29

- 1. The high priest rebuked the apostles for teaching in the name of Jesus, but the apostles answering, "We ought to obey God rather than men."
- 2. When the laws of men conflict with the laws of God, a Christian must always obey God's laws.

II. The Bible forbids Christians to engage in carnal warfare

A. Matthew 26:52

Jesus rebuked Peter for using his sword and informed him, "All they that take the sword shall perish with the sword."

B. Matthew 5:21-22

If we disobey God by being angry at our fellow men for no good reason, we certainly disobey God when we kill our fellow men even though our government commands it.

III. We are to love our enemies

A. Matthew 5:44

1. The followers of Christ love their enemies instead of killing them.
2. It would be impossible to love a man and be praying for his welfare and shoot him down at the same time.

B. Matthew 5:39

Christians should not resist force by using force themselves.

C. Romans 12:19

Christians are not to seek vengeance. The Lord says this belongs to him.

D. Romans 12:20

We hurt our enemies more by feeding them and giving them drink than we do by trying to kill them.

E. 1 Samuel 24

David is an outstanding example of a man who loved his enemy and refused to harm him.

IV. Christ's kingdom is not an earthly kingdom

A. John 18:36

If Christ's kingdom were an earthly one, his disciples possibly would fight with guns and bombs, but his kingdom is not of this world.

B. 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

1. Christians are in a battle against sin and Satan.
2. A Christian is completely out of place using carnal weapons instead of spiritual weapons.

C. Ephesians 6:17

We do not use carnal weapons in this battle, but we use spiritual weapons like the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God.

V. **Christians should have no fellowship with the works of darkness**

A. Ephesians 5:11

1. Carnal warfare is a work of darkness.
2. A Christian should not have any participation in carnal warfare, but rather condemn it and pray for peace.

CHRIST COMPARED TO THE LEVITICAL PRIESTS

Introduction

- A. The Levitical priesthood was inferior to the priesthood of Christ.

I. Christ was from the tribe of Judah

A. Hebrews 7:14

All priests who served under the law of Moses were from the tribe of Levi.

B. 1 Kings 12:31

Jeroboam disobeyed God by appointing priests who were not Levites.

C. Revelation 5:5

Christ is the lion of the tribe of Judah.

II. Christ was after the order of Melchisedec

- A. All priests who served under the law were descendants of Aaron.

B. Hebrews 7:15-17

1. After the likeness of Melchisedec, there arose another priest, Christ.
2. Christ is a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. (Since there was no record of genealogy of Melchisedec, Hebrews 7:3, the record of his priesthood was unbroken, uninterrupted by any changes of succession, typifying the priesthood of Christ).

C. Hebrews 5:5-6

Christ did not set himself up as the high priest. His father gave him that honor.

III. Christ did not sin

A. Hebrews 7:26-27

The Levitical priests had to offer sacrifices for their own sins and the sins of the people.

B. Hebrews 4:15

We have a sympathetic, but sinless, high priest.

IV. Christ will never die

A. Hebrews 7:23-24

The Levitical priests were ordinary men and they died. Christ is divine and he will never die.

B. Hebrews 7:25

Christ will always live to intercede between the children of God and their father.

V. Christ shed his own blood

A. Hebrews 9:25-28

1. The priests had to shed the blood of animals often for the sins of the people.
2. Christ shed his blood one time for the sins of all, before and after the cross.

B. Hebrews 9:12

1. The Levitical priests could only offer for the people yearly redemption from sin.
2. Christ gives us eternal redemption from past sins.

VI. Christ entered heaven

A. Hebrews 9:24

1. The holy place of the tabernacle was a type of the church. The most holy place was a type of heaven.
2. The high priest entered the most holy place once each year to offer blood as an atonement for sin. Jesus entered heaven where God is.

B. Hebrews 4:14

1. Only the high priest entered the most holy place. Hebrews 9:3
2. All faithful Christians will enter heaven.

VII. Christ is the mediator of a new testament

A. Hebrews 8:6-7

1. Christ is the mediator of a better covenant which is the new testament.
2. The old law under which the Levitical priests served was replaced, because it was not perfect.

VIII. Christians are priests

A. 1 Peter 2:5

1. Christ is our high priest, but every Christian is a priest.
2. As priests, we offer up spiritual sacrifices to God.

B. Revelation 1:5-6

Moses sprinkled animal blood on Aaron and his sons to purify them for the priest's office. Christians are purified by the precious blood of Christ.

CONFESSING OUR SINS

Introduction

- A. The confession of our sins is an important part of the Christian life.
- B. God has promised only to forgive the sins we confess.

I. It is impossible to cover our sins

A. Proverbs 28:13

- 1. God will punish those who try to cover their sins.
- 2. Since the beginning, people have tried to hide their sins from God.
- 3. Adam and Eve did not succeed in covering their sin.

B. Isaiah 28:20

Any covering is too short and narrow to hide our sins from God.

C. Joshua 7

- 1. Achan could not hide his forbidden spoils from God.
- 2. Achan, his children, and all his cattle were stoned and burned with fire.

II. Our sins will trouble us until we confess them

A. Psalms 38:3

- 1. A person is bone weary until he confesses his sins.
- 2. The burden of unconfessed sins is one of the heaviest burdens on earth.

3. This is the reason many criminals express relief when they are apprehended by the authorities. They prefer prison bars to the terrible burden of unconfessed guilt.

B. Psalms 32:3-5

1. Unconfessed sins are more painful than arthritis.
2. Only by bathing in the healing waters of confession can we be healed of this spiritual disease.

III. Several types of confession

A. To God

1. If a sin is committed privately, it should be confessed to God privately.
2. Sometimes a great deal of harm can be done by confessing private sins in public.
3. We should confess our sins to God and not to a priest.
4. The Roman practice of confessing private sins to a priest is one of the most erroneous practices ever devised by men.

B. To fellow Christians

1. James 5:16
 - a. If our sin is known to our fellow Christians, we should confess it before them.
 - b. The confession should be as public as the sin.

C. To those against whom we have sinned

1. Luke 17:4
 - a. When we sin against an individual, we

should confess our sin to him and not to someone else or the entire church.

D. In general

1. Psalms 51:3

- a. David made a general confession of his sins to God.
- b. We are all weak sinful creatures who come short of the glory of God daily.
- c. We should confess our weaknesses and shortcomings to God every day.

E. Specify our sins

1. Sometimes it is expedient to specify the sin or sins we have committed.

2. Acts 19:18

- a. A demon-possessed man stripped and wounded some religious imposters.
- b. This event struck fear in the hearts of the Ephesian Christians, and caused them to confess their sins and point out exactly what they had been doing wrong.

IV. More examples of confession

A. Luke 15:17-18

1. The turning point in the prodigal son's life came when he determined to confess his sins.
2. A person who is submerged in the miseries of sin can rise to the mountain tops of joy and peace by a simple confession.

B. Luke 18:10-14

1. Jesus is the recognized master of illustrating vital truths with simple parables taken from everyday life.

2. Here he scores again with a striking portrait of a haughty Pharisee and a lowly publican.
3. The Pharisee was proud as a peacock.
4. His prayer did not include any confession of sins because in his own eyes he had attained perfection.
5. The humble publican went home justified, because God forgives the humble and rejects the proud.

V. If we confess, God will forgive

- A. We do not have to beg and plead with God to forgive our sins.
- B. He is always ready and willing to forgive.
- C. 1 John 1:9
 1. God is just as faithful to forgive our sins as we are to confess them.
 2. If we neglect or refuse to confess, God will refuse to forgive.
- D. Numbers 21:7
 1. God delivered the Israelites from fiery serpents when they confessed their sins.
 2. No matter how great our sins, God will forgive and save from death if we confess and forsake sin.

COURAGE

Introduction

A. 1 Samuel 17:32-51

Story of shepherd boy, David, fighting the giant, Goliath.

I. Wicked are afraid, but righteous are bold

A. Proverbs 28:1

The wicked live in fear.

B. Matthew 6:33

Righteous are not afraid, because God has promised to take care of them.

C. Isaiah 57:20-21

The wicked have no peace.

D. 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Righteous will win a victory over death at the resurrection.

II. God gives courage

A. Ezekiel 3:9

God strengthened Ezekiel for the persecutions of children of Israel.

B. 2 Timothy 1:7

God has given us a spirit of power.

C. Hebrews 4:16

Come boldly unto the throne of grace.

III. Christians should have courage

A. 1 Corinthians 16:13

Quit you like men—be strong.

B. Philippians 1:27-28

Congregations need to have courage.

IV. Examples of courage

A. Daniel 3:16-18

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego disobeyed the king of Babylon in the face of a fiery furnace.

B. Judges 7

Gideon and three hundred men faced a multitude of Midianites.

V. Courage of preachers

A. Matthew 14:3-4

John the Baptist told Herod it was not lawful for him to have his brother's wife.

B. Acts 7:51-53

1. Stephen accused Jewish leaders of betraying and murdering the Messiah.
2. The cost of courage is great, but has a great reward.
3. The church needs today men of conviction who have the courage to stand for their convictions.

COMPASSION

Introduction

A. 1 Peter 3:8

1. The word compassion means sorrow or pity caused by the distress or misfortunes of other people.
2. Christians should be compassionate people.

I. God is full of compassion

A. Psalms 86:15

1. God has compassion for weak and sinful men.
2. The compassion of God is beyond human understanding.

B. James 5:11

God has a special compassion for the righteous.

II. Jesus had great compassion

A. Matthew 9:36

1. Jesus was moved with compassion by the condition of the people who followed him.
2. These people were ignorant, helpless and hopeless.

B. Matthew 15:32

1. Jesus fed 4,000 people because of his compassion.
2. Jesus had compassion on the hungry, naked, sick and sorrowing.

C. Hebrews 4:15

1. When Jesus ascended back to heaven, he became our high priest.
2. Jesus is a compassionate high priest.
3. I am thankful we have a compassionate high priest to plead our case before the father.

III. How we show our compassion

A. By love

1. Isaiah 49:15

- a. A mother has a deep compassion for her child because of her love.
- b. Sympathy flows from a mother's heart like a sparkling stream of pure water.
- c. If we love our fellow men, we will have compassion for them like a mother has for her child.
- d. Sympathy is two hearts tugging at one load.

B. By giving

1. 1 John 3:17-18

If we have the love of God in our hearts, we will take pity on all people who are less fortunate.

C. By teaching

1. Mark 6:34

- a. We should have more compassion for the lost than we do for the needy.
- b. If a saved man starves to death physically, he is better off; but if a man starves to death spiritually, he will gnash his teeth in hell.

- c. Teaching was the greatest service Jesus rendered to the multitudes who followed him.
- d. We must continue the work of the Master by teaching the lost.
- e. Perhaps we save only a few souls because we do not have the compassion for the lost which Jesus had.

IV. The compassionate will receive compassion

A. Proverbs 19:17; Matthew 5:7

- 1. Those who have pity on the poor will receive pity, mercy and kindness from God.
- 2. If we have no pity, we will receive no pity.

B. Luke 16:20-31

The story of the rich man and Lazarus is a vivid illustration of how the unmerciful will not receive the least bit of mercy from God after this life.

Conclusion

“If I knew that a word of mine,
A word not kind and true,
Might leave its trace,
On a loved ones face,
I’d never speak harshly, would you?”

If I knew the light of a smile
Might linger the whole day through,
And brighten some heart,
With a heavier part,
I would not withhold it, would you?”

COLORS IN THE BIBLE

Introduction

- A. Each color in the Bible symbolizes something, either good or evil, purity or sin.

I. Black

A. Symbol of affliction

1. Matthew 25:30

- a. Jesus told the parable of a master who gave each of his servants a different number of talents before he went away on a long trip.
- b. When the master returned, he praised the servants who had used their talents. He commanded that the one talent man who had not used his talent should be cast into outer darkness.
- c. People who do not use their talents in the Lord's work will be cast into blackness or darkness.

2. Jude 13

Blackness or darkness is reserved for false teachers.

II. Blue

A. Symbol of God

1. Exodus 26:1

- a. The tabernacle was the dwelling place of God, and many of the curtains in the tabernacle were blue.

- b. When the Jews moved the tabernacle, they covered the ark, the table of shewbread, the candlestick, and the altar with blue cloths. These cloths protected the sacred furniture that was used only for worshipping God. (Numbers 4:1-15)
2. Exodus 39:1
 - a. The robes that Aaron, the high priest, wore were made of three colors of cloth and blue was one of these colors.
 - b. The high priest was the leader of the Jews' worship to God.
3. Numbers 15:38-39
 - a. The Jews put a fringe on the borders of their garments and placed a blue ribbon on the fringe.
 - b. Every time a Jew looked at the blue ribbon, he was reminded of the commandments of God.
 - c. This practice started after a man was stoned to death for picking up sticks on the sabbath day. It could mean instant death to disobey one of God's commands under the law of Moses.

III. Red

A. Symbol of sin

1. Red is a hard color to cover up. It takes several coats of another color to cover up red paint. It is very difficult to wash out the crimson stain of blood in a garment.
2. Isaiah 1:18
Though our sins be red like crimson, they can be as white as wool.

3. Revelation 17:3-5

- a. John vividly pictures a wicked woman as wearing a scarlet robe and sitting on a scarlet colored beast.
- b. The scarlet robe is no doubt a symbol of sin and corruption.
- c. The woman represents the Roman Catholic Church, and the beast represents the city of Rome.

B. Red is also a symbol of purification

1. Hebrews 9:19-23

- a. Moses sprinkled the book of commandments and the people with blood and with water.
- b. The red blood of animals purified the Israelites, and the red blood of Christ purifies the penitent sinner today.
- c. Animal blood had to be shed again and again to purify the Israelites, but Christ's blood was shed only once.

IV. White

A. Symbol of purity

1. Leviticus 16:32

- a. When the high priest offered a sacrifice for the sins of the people, he wore a spotless linen garment.
- b. The high priest was a pure and righteous priest, offering a pure sacrifice to a pure and holy God, for the sins of an impure people.
- c. The high priest, dressed in spotless linen, pointed forward to the time when Christ

would sacrifice himself for the sins of the people.

d. White symbolizes purity and cleanliness today.

(1) The white uniforms worn by restaurant employees suggest that the food is clean and pure.

(2) A spotless white dairy suggests that the milk processed there is pure and clean.

2. Psalms 51:7

3. Revelation 7:13-14

a. The saints in heaven will wear white robes.

b. A white robe will be the final symbol of those who have been cleansed in Christ's blood and have lived pure lives until death.

|

DECISION

Introduction

A. Joel 3:14

Multitudes of people are in the vally of decision to-day. They are trying to decide between living a righteous life or living a wicked life.

I. We must make a decision

A. Deuteronomy 30:19

Moses put life and death before the children of Israel and commanded them to choose between the two.

B. Matthew 6:24

Man is forced to make a decision between God and Satan because it is impossible to serve both.

C. Luke 11:23

If we are not with Christ, we are against him.

D. Mark 16:15-16

A person must decide whether he will believe, be baptized and be saved, or neglect belief and and baptism and, therefore, be lost.

II. Our decision should be to serve God

A. Joshua 24:15

Choose you this day whom ye will serve, but as for me and my house we will serve the Lord.

B. Exodus 24:3

1. When Christians hear the word of God, they

should say, "We will obey its commands."

2. We should obey *all* the commands of God. Many are willing to obey *some* of the commands, but not all.

III. Some have a hard time making a decision

A. A lot of people are like a child who can not decide whether he wants ice cream or candy. Many can not decide whether they want to live for the devil or for Christ.

B. 1 Kings 18:21

1. Elijah told the children of Israel to halt no longer between two opinions and either serve God or Baal.
2. The story of the two bullocks on Mt. Carmel.
1 Kings 18:23-39

C. Luke 17:32

We should remember Lot's wife when we are halting between two opinions.

IV. We need to stick to a decision after we have made it

A. Matthew 24:13

If we make the good decision to believe in Jesus and be baptized, yet do not stick with our decision to be faithful, we will never reach heaven.

B. Romans 2:7

Only those who patiently continue in well doing will have glory, honor and eternal life.

C. 1 Corinthians 15:58

A man who sticks with his decision to obey God until death will reap all the blessings God has promised.

V. Moses is an example of a man who made a decision and stuck with it

A. Hebrews 11:24-26

1. Moses had to make a decision between luxury in the courts of Egypt or hardship with God's people.
2. Moses chose hardship with the people of God because he realized the reward for faithful service was much more valuable than the fleeting pleasures of sin.

DOUBTING

Introduction

- A. Doubt and fear have caused many people to fail to do what they could have accomplished.
- B. Jesus continually taught his disciples not to be afraid and not to doubt.

I. Jesus rebuked his disciples for doubting

A. Matthew 14:31

- 1. Peter actually walked on the water until he became afraid.
- 2. Jesus sharply rebuked Peter for his lack of faith.

II. Moses doubted he could perform the task God gave him to do

A. Exodus 3:11

- 1. God told Moses he was going to send him to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt.
- 2. Moses began to make excuses to escape this difficult task.
- 3. Moses doubted he was a big enough man for this job. He doubted that he could speak well enough.

B. 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

- 1. God has seldom chosen the strong and popular to do his work.
- 2. If God chose rich social climbers to do his

greatest work, they would receive the glory instead of Him.

III. Some Bible examples of people who doubted they would have enough food

A. One of man's greatest fears is that he will cease to have the necessities of life.

B. Matthew 6:25-33

Jesus taught his disciples not to worry about food and clothing because God will provide.

C. Psalms 37:25

Not once during David's long life did he see a righteous person begging for something to eat.

D. Numbers 11:21-23

1. Moses doubted God could give the Israelites flesh to eat because there were 600,000 men alone.

2. God's answer to Moses' unbelief was, "Is the Lord's hand waxed short?"

IV. Some doubted the resurrection of Christ

A. John 20:24-25

Doubting Thomas would not believe Jesus had arisen until he felt his nail pierced hands and the wound in his side.

V. If we doubt, we are condemned

A. Romans 14:23

If the Roman Christians ate meat doubting that it was right, they committed sin.

B. Anything a Christian does that he doubts is right is a sin to him.

- .C. We must walk by faith, and firmly believe we are always doing the right thing.

VI. We should pray without doubting

A. 1 Timothy 2:8

B. James 1:6-7

1. A man who doubts that he will receive what he prays for will not receive anything.
2. A doubter is like the waves of the sea that are tossed back and forth by the wind.

DOING ALL OF GOD'S WILL

Introduction

A. Matthew 7:21-23

If we do all the will of God, we will live in heaven.

I. We are not required to obey the law of Moses

A. Galatians 4:21-23

1. Hagar represents the law of Moses which is a law of bondage. Sarah represents the law of Christ which is the law of freedom.
2. Abraham threw out Hagar and her son, and Christ has thrown out the law of Moses.

B. Colossians 2:14

The law condemned sin, but it did not offer any permanent forgiveness; it was against man and was nailed to the cross by Christ that it might be replaced by a perfect law.

C. Hebrews 8:6-7

If the law of Moses had been perfect, it would not have been replaced by another law.

D. Galatians 3:24-25

1. The law was a schoolmaster to bring the Jews to Christ.
2. The Jews should have been prepared for the coming of Christ by the many references to him in the old testament.

E. Romans 15:4

The old testament is profitable to study, but is not binding as a law.

II. We are required to obey all the law of Christ

A. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

The scriptures teach men how to do every good work.

B. 2 Peter 1:3

The law of Christ teaches us how to live godly lives on this earth and how to obtain eternal life.

C. John 14:6

To reach heaven, a person must learn and obey the truth that Christ and his apostles taught.

D. Matthew 28:18-20

The people who believe in Christ and are baptized should observe all the things which he commanded.

E. John 14:15

If we love Christ, we will keep his commandments.

III. We must believe that Jesus is the son of God

A. John 3:16

Whosoever will believe in Jesus Christ will have everlasting life.

B. John 8:24

If a man does not believe, he will die in his sins.

C. Hebrews 11:6

Without faith it is impossible to please God.

IV. We must repent of all past sins

A. 2 Corinthians 7:10

Godly sorrow causes a person to repent.

B. Acts 17:30

God now commands all men everywhere to repent.

C. Acts 3:19

When we repent and are baptized, our sins are blotted out; they are erased and remembered no more.

V. We must be baptized for the forgiveness of sins

A. Romans 6:3-4

1. We are baptized into the death of Christ.
2. Christ's blood was shed in his death. We must be baptized to reach the cleansing blood of Christ.

B. Galatians 3:27

We are baptized into Christ.

C. 1 Corinthians 12:13

1. We are baptized into the body of Christ which is the church.
2. Ephesians 1:22-23

Conclusion

- A. Only those who obey all of God's commands will be saved. Have you obeyed these commands?

ENVY AND JEALOUSY

Introduction

- A. Envy means to be unhappy about the good fortune or possessions of another person.

I. The wicked are often jealous of the righteous

A. Ecclesiastes 4:4

1. Sometimes the more good a person does, the more others are jealous.
2. Many are too lazy to do good works and are jealous of those who do them.

B. Genesis 4:4-8

Cain was jealous of Abel because of his good works.

C. Matthew 27:17-18

Religious leaders put Jesus to death because they were jealous of his power to work miracles and draw crowds.

II. We should never envy sinners

- A. Sometimes the situation is reversed and the righteous envy sinners because they engage in worldly pleasures.

B. Proverbs 23:17

Solomon knew from experience that the pleasures and possessions of the wicked are not worthy of our envy.

C. James 1:11

The pleasures and riches of the wicked are

as fleeting as the flowers of the field.

D. Psalms 73

David envied the wicked until he considered what their end would be.

III. We should walk in the light and not have envy and jealousy in our hearts

A. Envy in our hearts will cause our feet to stray from the strait and narrow way.

B. Romans 13:13

Paul lists jealousy with revelling and drunkenness.

C. 1 Corinthians 13:13

Love is the greatest thing on earth.

D. Matthew 22:37-40

If one really loves his God and his neighbor, he will not envy his fellow man.

IV. An envious person is carnally minded

A. 1 Corinthians 3:3

Envy is a product of a carnal mind.

B. Galatians 5:19-21

Envy is a work of the flesh and not of the spirit.

V. An envious person punishes himself

A. He punishes himself much more than the person he envies.

B. He cuts off many of his own blessings from heaven.

C. Proverbs 14:30

Envy is a spiritual disease.

D. Job 5:2

Envy kills its victim.

VI. Jealousy causes other sins

A. Song of Solomon 8:6

1. Jealousy and envy make a person cruel and sometimes vicious.
2. It is the motive for many murders.

B. Saul was jealous of David

1. David killed the giant, Goliath.
2. The women honored David in song.
3. Saul tried to kill David with a spear.
4. Application: Story shows how vicious a person can become because of envy in his heart.

Conclusion

- A. All Christians should cleanse their hearts and minds of this terrible spiritual disease.

FORGIVENESS

Introduction

A. To forgive means to pardon and give up resentment.

I. **Forgiveness was not encouraged under the law of Moses**

A. Matthew 5:38

An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.

B. Matthews 5:43

The Jews were taught to love their friends and neighbors, and hate their enemies.

C. Deuteronomy 23:5-6

The Ammonites and Moabites mistreated the children of Israel, and God commanded the Israelites never to seek the peace or prosperity of these nations.

II. **If we do not forgive under the law of Christ, God will not forgive us**

A. Matthew 6:12

We are to pray that God will forgive us as we have forgiven others.

B. Matthews 6:14-15

The forgiveness of our sins is conditional, because it depends on whether we forgive our fellow men.

C. Matthew 18:23-35

1. The king forgave his servant a debt of 10,000 talents, but the same servant would not forgive

his fellowservant a debt of 100 pence.

2. As it is impossible for us to pay for the sins we have committed, how can we demand that our fellow men pay for the sins they have committed against us?

III. We should forgive others because God has forgiven us

A. Ephesians 1:7

God forgives all our sins through the blood of Christ.

B. Acts 2:38

God forgave us our sins at the time we were baptized.

C. 1 John 1:8-9

God will keep on freely forgiving our sins after we are baptized, if we will confess them.

D. Ephesians 4:32

We should be just as kind to one another as God has been to us.

IV. How many times should we forgive?

A. Matthew 18:21-22

1. Jesus said forgive seventy times seven, or four hundred and ninety times.
2. In other words, we should forgive as many times as a person asks for forgiveness.

V. Should we forgive a brother who will not repent?

A. No, but we must encourage a person who has wronged us to repent.

B. Luke 17:3

We should go to the offending party and rebuke him.

C. Matthew 18:15-17

If a brother sins against you, go to him alone.

VI. Those who are forgiven most will love most

A. Luke 7:40-43

If a creditor forgave one man ten dollars and another one hundred dollars, the man who had been forgiven the one hundred dollar debt would be the most grateful.

VII. Examples of forgiveness

A. Luke 23:34

“Father forgive them for they know not what they do.”

B. Acts 7:60

“Lord lay not this sin to their charge.”

GLORYING ONLY IN THE CROSS

Introduction

A. Galatians 6:14

Paul did not glory in his accomplishments, but in the cross of Christ.

I. Reasons why we should glory in the cross

A. Christ's death on the cross proved his love for us.

1. John 15:13

a. Christ proved how much he loved mankind by giving his life for all men.

B. His death brought an end to the law of Moses

1. Colossians 2:14-17

a. The law was nailed to the cross of Christ.

b. Christ was raised from the dead, but we have no record of the law being raised.

c. The law was contrary to man because it condemned sin, but there was no remedy or sacrifice that would forgive sin.

d. Since the law was nailed to the cross, no man can condemn Christians if they do not keep any part of the law.

e. Why should we leave the real things that can save and go back to the shadow that is powerless to save. Hebrews 10:1

2. Galatians 2:21

a. There was no need for Christ to die if men could become righteous by obeying the law of Moses.

- b. The people who obeyed the law were not completely righteous until Christ's blood was shed. Hebrews 2:9
- C. His death put the new covenant into effect
 - 1. Hebrews 9:15-17
 - a. The new testament did not become binding until Christ died on the cross.
 - b. No man's will is effective until he dies. The new testament is the will of Christ, and it did not go into effect until he died on the cross.
 - 2. Hebrews 8:6-7
 - a. The old covenant was replaced by the new because it was not perfect.
 - b. Every word of the old covenant is true, but it is powerless to save.
- D. We can receive forgiveness of sin
 - 1. Ephesians 1:7

On the cross was shed the precious blood that can wash away all sin.
 - 2. Revelation 1:5-6

Christ washed us in his precious blood when we were baptized, so we could become righteous priests who offer spiritual sacrifices to God.
- E. Christ took our place on the cross
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - a. Christ was crucified on a Roman cross like a sinner and a criminal, that we might become righteous.
 - b. Justice demands that someone be punished for our sins. Christ was punished in our place so a just God could forgive us of our

sins and make us righteous through the blood of Christ.

F. The world should be crucified unto us

1. Galatians 6:14

- a. The living have no contact with something that is dead. We remove the repulsive sight and stink of something dead as far away from us as possible.
- b. The world and its sinful pleasures should be dead to Christians. We should not have any contact with them, and they should be repulsive to us.
- c. The world was dead to Paul because of the cross of Christ. He completely lost interest in the things of the world after he began to glory in the cross.

G. Glorifying in the cross of Christ will unite all true believers.

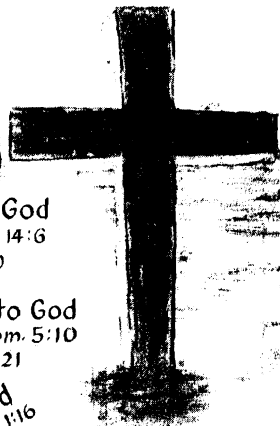
1. Ephesians 2:13-16

- a. A partition divides one part of a house from another part. The law was a middle wall of partition dividing the Jews from the Gentiles.
- b. Jesus broke down the partition wall when he nailed the law of Moses to the cross. The Jews as a nation were no longer God's chosen people, and they were not the only people with a written law from God.
- c. Now, all true believers are united in the one body of Christ, regardless of their nationality or race.

2. Galatians 3:28

Neither nationality, race nor position divides the members of the body of Christ.

The POWER OF THE CROSS



Draw Sinners
to Christ
Jn. 12:32,33

Crucify World to us
Gal. 6:14

Bring us to God
I Pet. 3:18 Jn. 14:6
I Jn. 4:7-10

Promote Zeal
2 Cor. 5:14,15

Reconcile us to God
Eph. 2:14-16 Rom. 5:10
2 Cor. 5:21

Glory only in Cross
Gal. 6:14

Power of God
I Cor. 1:18 Rom. 1:16
I Cor. 2:2

Bring Peace to Soul
Col. 1:20

Unite us in Christ
Eph. 2:14-16

HE CARETH FOR YOU

Introduction

A. 1 Peter 5:7

In these troubled times, it is a wonderful consolation to know that the almighty God will care for us.

I. Why does God care for us?

A. He loves us

1. Romans 8:38-39

- a. The love of God for his children is higher than the highest mountain and deeper than the deepest ocean.
- b. As long as we remain in Christ, there is no force on earth which can separate us from the love of God.

B. He is our Father

1. Matthew 7:7-11

- a. God gives good gifts to us, as we give good gifts to our children.
- b. God never promised to give his best gifts to those who are not his children.

II. For whom does God care?

A. The righteous

1. Psalms 37:25

- a. Literally millions of people in the world are starving to death. Most of these people live in countries where idols are worshipped instead of God.

- b. David never saw the righteous forsaken nor their children begging for bread.
- 2. Psalms 37:28
 - a. The Lord will never forsake us unless we forsake him.
 - b. God is with his children in the most adverse circumstances.
 - God was with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

III. How does God care for us?

A. By supplying all our physical needs

- 1. Philippians 4:19
 - a. Paul wrote the liberal Christians in Philippi that God would supply all their needs.
 - b. If we work and give liberally to the Lord, our physical needs will be supplied.
- 2. 2 Corinthians 9:8
 - a. God is able to send you a million dollars because he owns the heavens and the earth.
 - b. God does not send us a great deal of money because it would be harmful to most of us. We would put our trust in riches instead of the living God.
- 3. Matthew 6:26
 - a. Jesus taught his disciples not to worry about the necessities of life.
 - b. Since God feeds the inferior fowls, he will certainly feed valuable men who obey him.
- 4. Matthew 6:28-30
 - a. Since God clothes the idle fleeting flowers, we know he will clothe his children.

B. By protecting us

1. 1 Peter 3:13

- a. There is no person big enough, no weapon powerful enough, and no army large enough to harm us if it is the Lord's will to protect us.
- b. God protects the righteous as he protected the baby Moses from Pharaoh. (Exodus 2)

C. By guiding us

1. Psalms 139:10

- a. Our heavenly father guides us by his words, the Bible.
- b. If God is guiding our lives, many times he will not guide us in the direction we want to go.
- c. A poet said, "When shall I attain to this, to thank thee for the things I miss."
- d. A life guided by God misses many harmful things which seem good to men.
- e. He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
Still tis God's hand that leadeth me.
Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom,
By waters still, o'er troubled sea,
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.
And when my task on earth is done,
When by thy grace the vict'ry's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
Since God thro' Jordan leadeth me.

HELL IS REAL

Introduction

- A. Many people today do not believe in the existence of hell. Others believe hell is the grave, and still others believe it will be a state of mind and not literal fire and brimstone.
- B. Let us consider what the Bible has to say about the controversial subject of hell.

I. We should fear him who can destroy both soul and body in Hell

A. Matthew 10:28

- 1. The destruction of the body often takes a few moments of time.
- 2. The destruction of the soul will continue throughout an endless eternity.

B. Matthew 5:29

- 1. It would be much better to lose one or both eyes than suffer forever in the fires of hell.
- 2. I would rather see the glories of heaven with one eye than see the flames of hell with two good eyes.

II. Hell is not the grave

- A. Many are teaching today that hell is the grave and nothing more. If this theory is true we can eat, drink, and be merry because the “sleep of death” is the most severe punishment we will receive.

- B. This theory is supposedly based on the Hebrew word "sheol," but sheol means the world of the dead and is sometimes translated hell.
1. The fallacy of the above theory is the fact that sheol is just one of several words which are sometimes translated hell.
 2. Geena—valley of Hinnom; gehenna, a valley of Jerus, used figuratively as a name for the place of everlasting punishment.
 3. Hades—the place of departed souls.
 4. Tartaros—the deepest abyss of Hades.
(from Strong's Concordance)

III. Who will be cast into hell?

A. The wicked

1. Psalms 9:17
 - a. If hell is the grave, why did David say the wicked will be turned into hell?
 - b. Both the righteous and the wicked will enter the grave, but only the wicked will enter hell.
 - c. Hell will have an enormous population because most people who have lived since Adam and Eve will dwell there throughout eternity.
2. Revelation 21:8
 - a. There will not be any compartments in hell. The unbelievers will suffer with the whoremongers, murderers, idolaters and liars.
 - b. Some will not enter the church because of hypocrites. I would rather associate with a few hypocrites on earth than rub elbows with the vile crew which will populate hell.

B. False teachers

1. Revelation 19:20

- a. There will be many false teachers writhing in the flames of hell.
- b. My wife and I attended a service where not one word of the Bible was preached for two solid hours. The loud beat of music and the rattle of many coins were substituted for the preaching of the gospel.
- c. False teachers had better enjoy their ill-gotten gain now because it will avail them nothing in the flames of hell.

2. 1 John 4:1

False teachers will drag multitudes of gullible people down to hell with them.

C. Those who do not obey the bospel

1. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

- a. Jesus left the riches of heaven and became homeless and poor on earth and finally died on the cross to give the gospel to lost men.
- b. Those who do not appreciate the tremendous sacrifices Jesus made and neglect to believe and obey him will not have the slightest chance of missing the flames of hell.

2. Hebrews 2:2-3

There will be many good moral people in hell whose only crime was simply neglecting to obey the gospel.

D. Those who do not use their talents

1. Matthew 25:24-30

- a. All people who do not use their talents in the service of the Master will suffer eternal destruction.
- b. If you can sing, you must sing; if you can preach, you must preach; if you can teach privately, you must teach.
- c. Many people have talents which never benefit others because they are hidden and unused.
 - (1) Talents that are hidden will decay and perish.
 - (2) Talents that are used will multiply and grow.

E. Those who do not help the needy

1. Matthew 25:41-46

- a. The lake of fire will be full of selfish people.
- b. Those who neglect to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, and clothe the naked will be condemned to eternal torment.

IV. The inhabitants of hell will be tormented

A. Revelation 20:10; 14:11

Hell will be a twenty-four hour operation. There will not be any shifts for its tortured inhabitants. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

B. Matthew 13:42

The weeping shows how miserable the wicked will be and the gnashing of teeth shows how great their pain.

V. Fires of hell will never be extinguished

A. Matthew 3:12

- 1. The Jewish farmers used a large wooden fork

to throw both the wheat and the chaff into the wind. The heavier wheat fell to the threshing floor, but the lighter chaff was carried away by the wind.

2. When Jesus comes again, he will gather the righteous into heaven, but he will allow the wicked to be burned with unquenchable fire.
3. Unquenchable fire will never be extinguished and it will never end.

B. Mark 9:47-49

1. The wicked will not be annihilated like a piece of paper cast into the fire. They will never be consumed by the fires of torment.

C. Matthew 25:46

1. The punishment of the wicked will be just as everlasting as the reward of the righteous.
2. The righteous will bask in the joys of heaven forever while the wicked are tormented in the flames of hell.

Conclusion

There is a place of eternal punishment called hell, and the wicked will suffer in this place throughout eternity. By faithful obedience to the gospel of Christ you can escape this place and live in a beautiful paradise called heaven.

HOW TO BE BLESSED

Introduction

A. Matthews 5:1-13

I. Blessed are the poor in spirit

A. The poor in spirit are humble and meek.

B. James 4:6

God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble.

II. Blessed are they that mourn

A. Sometimes it is good for Christians to mourn.

B. If we never mourn, we will not be comforted.

C. 1 Corinthians 5:2

The church at Corinth was puffed up when it should have been mourning.

III. Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness

A. A person who is really hungry will do almost anything to get food. We should be so hungry for righteousness that we will study and work diligently for it.

B. Romans 1:16-17

The righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel. We become righteous by studying and obeying the gospel.

C. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

The scripture furnishes us unto all good works.

D. Matthews 7:7-8

We must seek after righteousness before we will find it.

E. Thessalonians 2:10-12

Those who do not love truth and righteousness will believe lies and be damned.

IV. Blessed are the merciful

A. If we are merciful, we can expect mercy.

B. Matthew 7:12

What you would have men do to you, do the same to them.

C. Matthew 18:23-35

1. The unmerciful servant owed his master 10,000 talents which is equal to \$15,000,000.
2. A fellow servant owed the unmerciful servant 100 pence which is equal to \$15.
3. God has forgiven us much; therefore, we should gladly forgive our fellow men of the little things they do against us.

V. Blessed are the peacemakers

A. Galatians 5:22

A person who is guided by the spirit will be a peacemaker.

B. Romans 12:18

As much as possible, we should be at peace with all men.

VI. Blessed are the persecuted

A. 2 Timothy 3:12

All who live godly will suffer persecution.

B. We should rejoice when we are persecuted for doing good because our reward in heaven will be great.

HOW SUFFERING HELPS US

Introduction

A. Ecclesiastes 7:2-3

It is better to mourn than to feast.

B. Matthew 5:4

Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

I. Christ suffered

A. The garden and the cross were steps to the right hand of God.

B. Hebrews 5:8

Christ learned obedience through suffering.

C. 1 Peter 4:12-13

If we partake of Christ's sufferings, we will partake of his glory.

II. Paul suffered

A. 2 Corinthians 11:23-28

Paul suffered, perhaps, more than any other preacher, except Christ.

B. 2 Corinthians 12:7

Paul was given a thorn in the flesh.

III. Job suffered

A. James 5:11

1. Job suffered severely, but he was patient through it all.

2. Give a brief story of Job's suffering and his faithfulness.

IV. Troubles teach us to depend on God

A. Romans 8:28

A Christian believes that even though he suffers much, God will work all things together for his good.

B. Proverbs 18:24

Loss of earthly friends will make us turn to God.

C. 1 Timothy 6:17

Riches are uncertain, and their loss has caused people to turn to God.

V. Troubles make us better

A. We can not see courage and wisdom in the face of a tiny baby. We see these qualities in the face of a wrinkled graying old man who has experienced many hardships in life.

B. Hebrews 12:6

The Lord chastens those whom he loves.

C. James 1:2-4

Troubles make us patient.

D. Revelation 7:13-14

Those who will wear white robes will come through great tribulation.

VI. Troubles make us able to sympathize with others

A. The word sympathize means to feel with. We can not feel with others when they have trouble, if we have not had similar troubles.

B. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

God comforts us so we can tell others about the comfort they can receive from God.

Conclusion

A. Troubles have a useful and important place in our Christian lives if we will take them in the right spirit and let them make us better men and women.

IMMODEST DRESS

Introduction

A. John 15:19

The world likes those who will drink with them, use the same filthy talk, and dress as they do.

B. James 4:4

1. It is impossible to be a friend of the world and a friend of God.
2. The actions that will make us a friend of the world will make us the enemy of God.

C. 1 John 2:15-17

If a Christian loves the sinful things of this world, he does not love God.

I. Immodesty in dress is one of the practices of the world that a true Christian will not engage in

A. Genesis 2:25

1. Adam and Eve were naked before they knew good from evil.
2. They were not ashamed of their nakedness because they were as pure and innocent as a newborn baby.

B. Genesis 3:7

When Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, they knew good from evil; and they immediately made some clothes.

C. Genesis 3:21

1. Adam and Eve hid from God because they were ashamed of their nakedness.

2. Fig leaf aprons were not enough clothing when they learned the difference between good and evil. God fully clothed the first man and woman with animal skins.

II. Examples of nakedness in the Bible

A. Genesis 9:20-25

1. After the flood Noah lay naked in his tent because he was drunk.
2. Noah pronounced a curse on Ham because he did not cover his nakedness.
3. It is just as wrong for men to be immodestly dressed in public as it is for women.

B. 2 Samuel 11:1-5

The sight of naked Bathsheba caused David to commit adultery with her, and finally have her husband killed.

C. Luke 8:27

1. Jesus healed a naked man who was possessed with demons.
2. The insane often want to go unclothed, but sane people should know better.
3. The man that was healed was found later sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind. Luke 8:35

III. Women are to adorn themselves in modest apparel

A. 1 Timothy 2:9

1. Modest—that which is chaste and decent.
2. If four girls posed before you attired in a bathing suit, shorts, tight pants, and a dress, which one would you say was modestly dressed?

B. Matthew 5:28

Half-dressed women cause men to sin by having evil desires.

C. Galations 5:19-21

1. Lasciviousness—that which tends to produce evil desires.
2. Is not the woman who dresses immodestly guilty of the sin of lasciviousness?

D. 1 Peter 3:3-4

A Christian woman does not adorn herself by elaborate dressing, or undressing. She is made truly beautiful by her meek and quiet spirit.

JESUS OUR SAVIOUR

Introduction

A. Matthew 1:21

An angel announced to Mary that she would have a child, and he was to be named Jesus because he would save his people.

B. Acts 4:12

C. Luke 2:11

An angel announced to the shepherds that a Saviour had been born in the city of David.

I. Jesus came to this world to save the lost

A. 1 Timothy 1:15

Paul knew that Christ came to save sinners, and he also knew he was the chief sinner Christ came to save.

B. Matthew 18:11-13

Jesus did not come to enjoy himself with the righteous, but he came to save the lost.

C. Luke 5:31-32

1. People who are well do not need a physician, but people who are sick.
2. Jesus is The Great Physician, and he came to heal the broken-hearted, etc.

II. Jesus saves us because God loves us

A. John 3:16

If God had not loved the world, Christ would

never have come to save those who will believe and obey.

B. Romans 5:8-9

God showed how much he loved men by sending his son to die for them while they were sinners and enemies.

III. Christ saved believers by his death on the cross

A. Much has been written about the birth of Christ, and it is celebrated by the world every year. But Christ's death is more important than his birth to the salvation of men's souls.

B. Hebrews 9:22

1. Christ's death is all important because he shed his blood in his death.
2. There is no forgiveness of sins without the shedding of blood.

C. Colossians 1:14

We are purchased from bondage to sin and to Satan by the blood of Christ.

D. 1 Peter 2:21-24

Christ suffered for us, dying on the cross.

E. Galatians 2:20

Read song "Why Did My Saviour Come To Earth."

IV. Jesus will save only those who come to God by Him

A. Hebrews 7:25

Jesus is able and willing to save all people who will come to God by Him. (Galatians 3:26-27)

B. John 14:6

Not one single person will come to God who does not come through Christ.

C. John 10:9

Jesus is the door.

V. Christ will save only the members of his body

A. Ephesians 5:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:17

1. When Christ comes again, only the members of his body will meet Him in the clouds and ever be with the Lord.

2. The body we must be members of is The Church. Ephesians 1:22-23.

B. Ephesians 5:25

Christ died for The Church.

VI. Christ will save only those who obey Him

A. Hebrews 5:8-9

Jesus will give salvation only to those who obey his commandments.

B. John 6:68

The words of Christ, when believed and obeyed, cause a person to have eternal life.

JESUS LOVES YOU

Introduction—Text Romans 8:35-39

- A. There is no way of knowing how many lives have been touched by the thought “Jesus loves me.”
- B. Millions of precious little children have thrilled as they sang, “Jesus loves me. This I know, for the Bible tells me so.”

I. Jesus loved people while he was here on earth

A. Matthew 9:36

- 1. Jesus was moved with compassion for the masses, because they were like sheep without a shepherd.
- 2. The majority of people today are like sheep without a shepherd. They are rushing around in many directions, but they do not really know where they are going.

B. Matthew 23:37

- 1. Jesus would have loved and protected the people of Jerusalem, but they would not let him.
- 2. Jesus can not show his great love for you unless you will let him.

C. John 11:5

- 1. Jesus had some very close friends while he lived on earth.
- 2. Jesus loved Mary, Martha and Lazarus.

D. John 11:35-36

When Jesus saw his beloved Mary weeping, he wept also.

E. John 13:23

Jesus loved John, one of the twelve apostles, very much.

F. Acts 10:38

1. Jesus went about doing good, because he loved people.
2. If we love people, we will go about doing good.

II. Jesus loved little children

A. Most people love little children, because they are so pure, innocent and loving.

B. Mark 9:36-37

Jesus took a little child in his arms, and told his apostles that anybody who received one of these little children was actually receiving him.

C. Mark 10:13-16

The disciples rebuked some people who brought little children to Jesus, but Jesus wanted little children to come unto him.

III. Jesus proved that he loves us

A. 2 Corinthians 8:9

1. Jesus left the fabulous riches of heaven to become homeless and poor on earth.
2. Jesus left unbelievable riches for extreme poverty to make it possible for you and me to gain the riches of heaven.

B. John 15:13

We are willing to do many things to show our love and appreciation for our friends. How many of us are willing to die for our friends, if necessary?

C. Galatians 2:20

D. Revelation 1:5

IV. Jesus did not call us servants, but friends

A. John 15:15

1. A servant usually knows very little about his master's business.
2. Jesus did not call us servants, but friends, because he made known to us the will of his Father.

V. The love of Christ is beyond human understanding

A. Ephesians 3:18-19

Christ's love is so deep and wide and high that human beings do not have anything to measure it by. The tallest skyscraper is not that high, the widest desert is not that wide, and the deepest ocean is not that deep.

VI. How can we remain in the love of Christ?

A. John 15:10

Those who continue to keep the commandments of Christ until death will remain in his love.

B. Romans 8:35-39

No force in heaven or earth can separate us from the love of Christ, but we ourselves can by our own disobedience.

VII. The love of Christ should cause us to love our fellow men

A. John 13:34

Since Christ was willing to sacrifice so much that you and I might have eternal life, we should be willing to make some sacrifices to show our love for our fellow men.

B. 1 John 3:17

We must prove our love for our fellow men by our actions.

C. 2 Corinthians 5:13

We need a few people “beside themselves” with love for their fellow men, in the church today—Christians who will sacrifice much to save the souls of men.

LIFE

Introduction

A. 1 Peter 3:10

1. Most people love life and will do anything to save their life.
2. As much as most people love life, they do not understand the purpose of life.

I. How life began

A. Genesis 2:7

God formed man out of the dust, and breathed life into his body of clay.

B. Ecclesiastes 12:7

When a man dies, his spirit goes back to God. His fleshly body is buried in the earth and becomes dust again.

II. The purpose of life

A. Some think the purpose of life is to accumulate as many riches as possible.

1. Matthew 6:19-20
2. 1 Timothy 6:7-10

B. Some think the purpose of life is to have as much pleasure as possible.

1. 1 Timothy 5:6
2. Proverbs 21:17

C. Some think the purpose of life is to become popular.

1. Luke 6:26

2. Matthew 5:11-12

D. Some think the purpose of life is to raise a family.

1. Raising a family and providing for them is an important Christian duty, but this is not the entire purpose of life.

2. Galatians 6:10

3. Matthew 10:37

E. Some think the purpose of life is to gain a high position among men.

1. 1 Peter 1:24

2. Luke 14:11

F. Solomon tells us what the true purpose of life is.
Ecclesiastes 12:13

III. Life is short

A. Job 7:6

Job's days were like a weaver's shuttle.

B. James 4:13-15

We should always say, "If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that." We never know when this life will end, or what may happen to change our plans.

C. Luke 12:16-20

The rich man was planning many years of ease and luxury, but he died that night.

D. 1 Chronicles 29:15

Life is like a shadow.

IV. Everlasting life is the gift of God

A. This life will soon be over, but God has provided

a way for us to obtain everlasting life in a beautiful paradise.

B. John 3:16

God sent his son to die so believers could have everlasting life.

C. John 6:68

Peter and the other apostles stayed with Jesus because they knew that only he could tell them how to obtain everlasting life.

D. Romans 2:7

1. Some teach that a person does not have to do anything to obtain everlasting life.
2. Paul wrote that we *seek* eternal life by patiently continuing to do well.

E. The words of Christ tell us how to obtain everlasting life.

1. Believe—John 3:16
2. Repent—Luke 13:3
3. Confess—Matthew 10:32-33
4. Be baptized—Mark 16:16

LIFE AFTER DEATH

Introduction

- A. This short life is only the beginning of a person's existence.

I. A baby is born into the kingdom of nature

A. James 1:14-15

1. A baby is born pure and innocent. Matthew 19:14
2. As a child grows older he begins to have evil desires.
3. Lust causes a child to sin, and sin causes him to leave the natural state and enter the power of darkness.

II. There is one way to be delivered from the power of darkness

A. Colossians 1:13

God transfers us from the power of darkness into the kingdom of Christ when we obey a few simple commands:

- a. Believe—John 8:24
- b. Repent—Luke 13:3
- c. Confess—Matthew 10:32-33
- d. Be baptized—Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3-4

We are raised from the watery grave of baptism to live a new life. We were stumbling in the darkness of sin, but

now we are walking in the light of Christ.

III. The kingdom of Christ

A. 2 Peter 1:5-11

1. After we reach the kingdom of Christ, our eternal security is conditional.
2. If we do not add the Christian graces, we will stray from the narrow way and be numbered among the unfaithful.

IV. The faithful will enter paradise or Abraham's bosom

A. Revelation 2:10

Those who add the Christian graces and remain faithful will enter paradise at death.

B. Matthew 18:3

All infants who die will enter paradise even though they never enter the kingdom of Christ.

C. Luke 23:43

Jesus told one of the thieves "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."

D. Luke 16:19-31

1. This story shows where the righteous and unrighteous dead will stay until the judgment.
2. Some say this is a parable and not a true picture of life after death.
 - a. Jesus did not say this was a parable.
 - b. If it is a parable, all parables are pictures of real life.
3. The wicked rich man was in torment and righteous Lazarus was in paradise.

V. Others who will enter torment when they die

A. The unfaithful

Those who do not add the Christian graces.

B. Alien sinners

1. 2 Thessadonians 1:7-9

2. The way of the transgressor is hard. He stumbles in the darkness of sin and after death he suffers in torment until the judgment when he will enter hell to burn forever.

VI. The judgment day

A. 2 Corinthians 5:10

All people who have ever lived will stand before Christ to be judged.

VII. The unfaithful and the sinners will be cast into hell

A. Mark 9:47-48

1. Some say the wicked will not burn forever.

2. The fire will never be quenched—it will be everlasting fire. Matthew 25:41

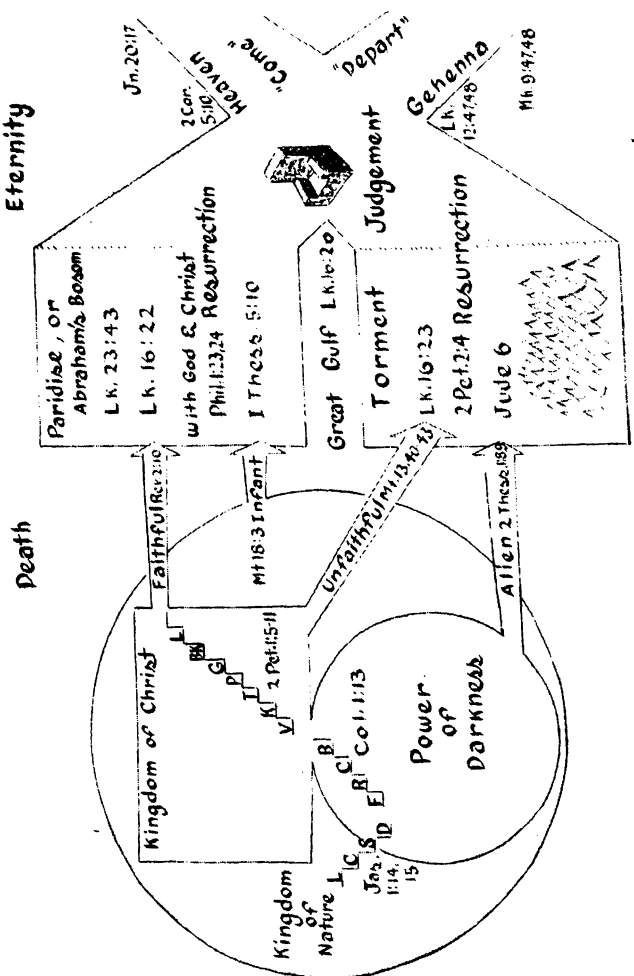
3. Smoke of their torment will ascend up forever and ever. Revelation 14:11

VIII. The righteous will enter eternal life

A. Matthew 25:34

B. Matthew 5:12

LIFE AFTER DEATH



DAVID
MACY

LIBERALITY

Introduction

A. James 1:27

1. Pure religion is to visit the fatherless and widows; to keep self unspotted from the world.
2. No matter how beautiful the words that come from our lips, or how strongly we believe, our religion is vain if we are not charitable. James 2:15-16

B. Luke 18:18-23

The rich young ruler was willing to do anything to have eternal life except the one thing he had to do.

I. **The church in Jerusalem is an example of liberality**

A. Acts 2:44-45

1. Many of the 3,000 that were baptized on the day of Pentecost sold their possessions and used the money to supply the needs of their fellow Christians.
2. They had all things common; therefore, some were not wealthy and some destitute.
3. The situation in Jerusalem was an emergency, because the members of the church were from every nation under heaven.

II. **Liberality is as important as any other Christian virtue**

A. 2 Corinthians 8:7

Paul encouraged the church in Corinth to send

relief to the needy saints in Jerusalem. He reminded them that they already abounded in faith, knowledge, etc. and encouraged them to abound in this grace also.

B. 2 Peter 1:5-7

Brotherly kindness and charity are listed along with all the other virtues of a true Christian.

C. Matthews 23:23

1. The Pharisees were careful to give a tenth of everything they earned to support the temple worship, but they ignored a more important command of the Law—to be just and merciful.
2. We, like the Pharisees, can strain at a gnat and swallow a camel (Matthew 23:24) by being careful to observe outward forms of worship and completely neglect to be merciful and liberal.

D. Hebrews 13:16

1. Christians offer spiritual sacrifices instead of animal sacrifices.
2. The word communicate in this passage means giving to someone in need.

III. If we give to the poor, we will be blessed

A. Psalms 41:1-2

David promised that those who give to the poor will not be delivered to their enemies.

B. Proverbs 19:17

1. Would you trust God to pay back anything you loaned him?
2. When we give to the poor, we are lending to the Lord.

C. Ecclesiastes 11:1

1. If we cast an object into the ocean, when the tide changes it will usually return to the beach again.
2. If we give bread to the poor, it will return to us as surely as an object in the ocean.

IV. One of the virtues of a good woman is her ministry to the poor

A. Proverbs 31:10-31

1. A woman who is a joy to her husband and is pleasing to God is an active woman.
2. A woman's primary work is to make a comfortable and happy home for her family, but a righteous woman will also feed hungry strangers and minister to needy neighbors.

B. Acts 9:36-40

1. Dorcas sewed for widows.
2. When Dorcas died, the widows she had sewed for laid her body in an upper room and called for Peter.

V. How we treat the needy will help determine whether we will enter heaven or hell

A. Matthew 25:34-40

1. Jesus will commend the righteous on the judgment day for ministering to him.
2. We have an opportunity to minister to Jesus often by ministering to our fellow men.

B. Luke 12:33-34

We lay up treasure in heaven by helping the needy.

LOVE

Introduction

A. Love is the greatest thing in the world.

I. Love is the most enduring thing on earth

A. Song of Solomon 8:6

1. No force can destroy true love.

2. True love can not be bought with money.

Example: The prodigal son—Luke 15:11-23

B. 1 Corinthians 13:8

1. Prophecies and tongues have already failed, but love will never fail.

2. Miraculous gifts were for a certain age of the church, but love is for all ages.

II. Love will cover many sins

A. Proverbs 10:12

A person who hates stirs up strife and confusion, but he who loves promotes peace and unity.

B. 1 Peter 4:8

Our love will cover a lot of our fellow-Christians' mistakes.

III. Love is more important than sacrifice

A. Mark 12:33

Loving God and our fellowmen is much more important than offering many sacrifices.

IV. Show men we are disciples of Christ by our love

A. John 13:35

The world knows we are disciples of Christ if we love our fellow Christians. The world knows we are not followers of Christ if we do not love our fellow Christians.

B. 1 John 2:10

If we love our brethren, we abide in the light.

C. 1 John 2:11; 1:7

If we do not love our brethren, we cease to walk in the light.

D. 1 John 4:9-12

We know we are in the true way if we love our fellowmen, and especially our brethren.

E. 1 John 4:20

If we are not capable of loving our brethren whom we see often, we are not capable of loving God whom we have not seen.

F. Galatians 5:22

A person who is being guided by the Spirit bears the fruit of the spirit; love, joy, peace, etc.

V. Love binds Christians together

A. Colossians 2:2

1. As long strands of wool are tightly knit together to make a garment, Christians are tightly knit together by their love for each other.

2. Read song, "Blest be the Tie That Binds."

B. Colossians 3:12-14

Love binds all the virtues it takes to make a perfect Christian.

VI. We should love our enemies

A. Matthew 5:44

1. We should work to become like Christ who could ask the Father to forgive those who crucified him.
2. We should become like Stephen who asked God to forgive those who stoned him.

B. Romans 12:20

Christians are to give food and drink to their enemies.

OBEDIENCE

Introduction

A. Matthew 7:21

Those people who obey God will enter heaven

I. God blesses those who obey him

A. Psalms 103:17-18

God promised to bless the children of Israel if they would obey him.

B. Isaiah 1:19-20

1. The willing and obedient ate of the good in the land of Canaan.
2. Land of Canaan was a rich land—it flowed with milk and honey.

C. Revelation 22:14

Greatest blessing the obedient will receive is entrance into heaven.

D. Hebrews 5:8-9

Jesus, the perfect saviour, is the giver of eternal salvation to all who obey.

II. If we love God, we will obey him

A. John 14:23

If a man loves God, he will obey his commandments.

B. 1 John 5:3

1. Commandments of God are not grievous if we love him.
2. Love makes the burden light.

III. Christ obeyed God

A. John 6:38

Jesus came down from heaven to do the will of his father.

B. John 15:10

1. God spoke from heaven saying that Jesus was his beloved son. (Matthew 3:17)
2. Parents are well pleased with obedient children.

C. John 17:20-21

1. Christ and his father are united because Christ was obedient.
2. If all Christians obeyed God like Christ did, we would all be united.

IV. God will not accept any substitute for obedience

A. 1 Samuel 15:22

1. God sent word to Saul for him to destroy the Amalekites.
2. Saul did only part of what God commanded, yet he announced to Samuel that he had obeyed the voice of the Lord.
 - a. People today do only part of what God commands.
3. Saul laid the blame on the people.
 - a. Many who are not obeying the commandments of God lay the blame on someone else.
4. Samuel told Saul that God had rejected him from being king because he had been disobedient.

V. Commands to obey

A. Romans 10:17

- B. John 3:16
- C. Luke 13:3
- D. Romans 10:10
- E. Acts 2:38

VI. The end of those who will not obey

- A. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8
 Punished with everlasting destruction.

ONLY ONE

Introduction

A. Ephesians 4:1-13

I. One faith

A. Romans 10:17

The one faith comes from hearing the word of God.

B. Ephesians 4:12-13

1. God put evangelists, teachers and elders in the church that the members might come to a unity of faith.
2. As the members are taught by evangelists, teachers and elders, they come closer to the truth and unite on the one faith.

C. 1 Timothy 4:1-3

1. Paul warned that the people who departed from the one faith would forbid people to marry and to eat meat.
2. The Catholic church fulfilled this prophsey by forbidding their priests to marry, and by forbidding their members to eat meat on Friday.

D. Jude 3

God has not delivered several faiths to men on several different occasions.

E. 2 Peter 1:1

1. If something is like something else, there is no difference between the two things.

2. If Christians have a like precious faith, there will be no difference in their faith.

F. Titus 1:4

1. When something is common, everybody shares it.
2. Every Christian should share the common faith.

II. One Lord

A. Luke 2:11

An angel announced to the shepherd that Christ the Lord had been born in the city of David.

B. Acts 2:36

1. A lord is one who has authority and power.
2. Peter informed the Jews that God made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

III. One God

A. Most people in this country believe in one God, but in the days of Christ and the apostles most people who were not Jewish believed in many gods.

B. Deuteronomy 5:6-9

1. God commanded the Jews not to have any other gods.
2. God is still a jealous God, and requires us to worship him alone.

IV. One hope

A. Romans 8:24

1. Hope is desiring something and expecting to receive it.

2. Christians desire and expect rewards they can not see with their eyes.

B. 1 Thessalonians 5:8

1. A Christian must put on armour so he can fight against the devil.
2. Part of a Christian's armour is his helmet, which is the hope of salvation.
3. We could not win the victory without hope of a reward.

C. Hebrews 6:19

The hope of salvation is the anchor of the soul.

V. One body

A. Romans 12:4-5

1. There are many members of the one body of Christ.
2. All members do not have the same work.
3. Illustration—the physical body has several members, but they do not all have the same work.

B. Colossians 1:18

1. Some say they know Christ has only one body, but all the denominations are members of this body.
2. Christ's body could not be composed of many churches, because Paul wrote that the body is the church.

C. Colossians 1:24

When Paul suffered for the body, he suffered for the church because they are the same.

D. Corinthians 12:13

1. After sinners are baptized for the forgiveness of sins, they are added to the one body.
2. Acts 2:47

VI. One baptism

A. Matthew 28:19-20

The one baptism is in the name of the **Father**, the **Son** and the **Holy Ghost**.

B. Acts 2:38

The one baptism is for the remission of **sins**.

C. Acts 8:38-39; Romans 6:3-5

The one baptism is a burial in water and not sprinkling or pouring.

PEACE

Introduction

A. 1 Peter 3:11

1. The word peace means a state of tranquility, and it also means freedom from conflict and fears.
2. Many people are seeking peace, but few are finding it because they are looking in the wrong places.

I. **Material things do not give peace**

A. The wealthy and famous are leading the throng which is searching for peace.

B. Luke 12:15

Abundant possessions do not make an abundant life.

C. Ecclesiastes 4:6

A poor man who has peace is better off than a rich man who has no peace.

II. **The wicked have no peace**

A. Isaiah 57:20-21

Many people do not have peace because they are serving the devil.

III. **Christ gives men peace**

A. Christ is the only one who can give peace to troubled men and women.

B. Luke 2:13-14

After the birth of Jesus the angels announced, "peace and good will toward men."

C. John 14:27

1. The world gives a peace that depends entirely on external things.
2. Christ gives an inward peace. We can have peace no matter what our outward condition is.

D. Romans 5:1

Peace comes through active faith in Christ.

IV. God gives men peace

A. Paul often began his epistles by saying, "Peace from God our father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

B. Romans 15:33

Everything about God and his word promotes peace between a Christian and God.

C. Psalms 4:8

1. David could sleep in peace because God was with him.
2. Peaceful sleep is a blessing that comes from God.
3. Wicked deeds are often the cause of sleeplessness.
 - a. King Darius could not sleep after he ordered Daniel thrown into a den of lions.

D. Philippians 4:7

1. The peace that comes from God passes all understandings.
2. Jesus had this peace when he slept while the storm was raging around him.
Mark 4:36-39

V. We receive peace from studying God's word

A. Psalms 119:165

1. People do not have peace because they do not love and study the word of God.
2. We feel peaceful and calm after a worship service because we heard the word of God.
3. God's word is read at funerals to comfort troubled hearts.

B. Peter 1:2-3

1. The more we learn about God and his word, the more our peace will be multiplied.
2. The key to a happy and peaceful life is found in the scriptures.

C. Isaiah 26:3

We learn from the scriptures to obtain perfect peace by putting our trusts in God.

VI. The spiritually minded have peace

A. Romans 8:6

1. A spiritual mind causes a person to do the things which give him life and peace.
2. The rich young ruler never found the peace and salvation he was seeking because he was carnally minded.

B. Galatians 5:22

A spiritually minded person bears fruit in the master's vineyard, and that fruit is love, peace, etc.

PRECIOUS PROMISES

Introduction

A. 2 Peter 1:4

God has made exceeding, great and precious promises to his obedient children.

- a. Exceeding—go beyond the limit.
- b. Great—large in size.
- c. Precious—great prize or value.

I. All promises are those in Christ

A. 2. Corinthians 1:20

God's precious promises are only to those who live and die in Christ.

II. We will receive an hundredfold in this time

A. Mark 10:29-30

1. Obeying God and following Christ is the best investment a person can make.
2. Those who sacrifice for Christ will receive an hundredfold in this life.

III. All things will work together for our good

A. Romans 8:28

1. It is a wonderful consolation to know that all the events of our life will work together for our good.
2. The hardships and the good times will work together for our good.

B. Matthew 6:33

1. If we put the church first, God will supply us with the necessities of life.
2. Many Christians do not put the church first, and then wonder why things do not work together for their good.

C. Philippians 4:19

IV. We will have peace that passes understanding

A. Philippians 4:7

1. There are more people in the mental institutions than ever before.
2. We are living in troubled and restless times.
3. God has promised peace of mind to his children.

B. Isaiah 57:20-21

1. The wicked are like the surging waves at the height of a storm.
2. The righteous are like a calm blue lake on the sunniest day.

V. Our prayers will be answered

A. Mark 11:24

1. If we believe our prayers will be answered, they will be answered.
2. God's promise to answer prayer is one of his most precious promises.

B. John 14:13-14

Jesus has promised to do whatever we ask of him (if we ask for the right things).

C. 1 Peter 3:12

God has never promised to hear the prayers of sinners. (John 9:31)

D. 1 John 3:22

VI. We will be given a new and glorious body

A. 1 Corinthians 15:51-53

1. Flesh and blood can not enter heaven; therefore, God has promised us a glorious body that will be fit to dwell in the golden city.
2. Our bodies will be changed in a moment of time, when Christ comes again.
3. The body that is raised will be entirely different from the one that was buried.

B. Philippians 3:21

1. Our new body will look like the body Christ has now.
2. All infirmities of the physical body will be absent.

VII. We will be raised from the dead

All other promises of future reward depend upon this promise.

A. 1 Corinthians 15:19

If we will not be raised from the dead, "we are of all men most miserable."

B. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

The righteous dead and the righteous living will join Christ in the clouds.

C. John 5:28-29

VIII. We will receive a rich inheritance

A. 1 Peter 1:4

Our inheritance will never decay or perish.
Gold—never tarnish.
Precious stones—never lose their luster.

B. 1 Peter 5:4

It will be a crown of glory that will never fade.

IX. We will live in a beautiful city throughout eternity

A. John 14:1-3

You may live in a humble home, but you will live in a mansion, if you remain faithful until death.

B. Revelation 21:18

The mansions will be in a golden city surrounded by a jasper wall.

C. Revelation 21:4

1. There is much misery in many earthly mansions.

2. There will not be any crying, pain or death in the heavenly mansions.

D. Revelation 14:13

Those who die in the Lord will rest from their earthly labors throughout eternity.

PRAYER

Introduction

A. James 5:16

Praying to the Heavenly Father is one of the greatest privileges of the Christian.

I. What should be included in a prayer?

A. 1 Timothy 2:1

Supplication—ask God in prayer for the things we need.

B. 2 Thessalonians 3:1

Pray for gospel preachers.

C. Ephesians 5:20

Thank God for his many blessings.

D. Matthew 6:9

Praise God.

E. 1 John 1:8

Confess our sins.

II. Pray without ceasing

The church in Jerusalem prayed without ceasing for Peter and he was released from prison.

B. Luke 18:1-8

1. The widow's request was granted because she asked again and again.
2. Christians should ask God often for the things they need.

III. Pray that God's will be done

A. 1 John 5:14-15

We should always petition God in our prayers that we want his will to be done and not our own.

B. Matthew 26:39

1. Even when Jesus was faced with the cross, He prayed that his father's will be done and not his own.
2. Many times we want God's will to be done as long as we are not harmed or inconvenienced in any way. Jesus prayed that God's will be done even when it meant his death on a cross.

IV. Believe that God will answer your prayer

A. James 1:5-6

1. Many times people pray for things they really do not believe God will give them.
2. Unless we pray believing that our prayers will be answered, we will not receive anything from God.

B. Mark 11:24

V. Humble yourself

A. Luke 18:10-14

The Pharisee prayed proudly and the publican prayed humbly. The publican's sins were forgiven and the Pharisee's were not.

VI. Live a righteous life

A. 1 John 3:22

1. God will not answer the prayers of people who are not living righteous lives.

2. A man who is not a child of God can not expect God to answer his requests, because God is not his father.

B. 1 Peter 3:12

1. God sees all the deeds of both the righteous and the unrighteous.

2. If a person who is living a wicked life prays to God, He turns his face and refuses even to listen to the sinner's request.

C. John 9:31

PUBLIC TEACHING

Introduction

A. Hebrews 10:25

1. Assembly—a coming together of people.
2. When people divide into classes, they are doing exactly the opposite of assembling.

B. Acts 11:26

1. Paul and Barnabas assembled themselves together with the church.
2. There is no mention of the first churches ever meeting together to worship except in one assembly.

I. **The Bible teaches parents to teach their children**

A. 2 Timothy 3:15

Timothy knew the scriptures from childhood.

B. 2 Timothy 1:5

There is no doubt Timothy was taught the scriptures by a godly mother and grandmother.

C. Proverbs 22:6

1. Parents have the God-given responsibility to train up their children in the way they should go.
2. Teaching a child 30 minutes each week will not train him in the right way, but we must teach our children every day.

D. Ephesians 6:4

1. It is the father's duty to bring up his children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
2. Nurture—educate and train.
3. Admonition—reprove, correct.

II. Examples of public teaching in the Old Testament

A. Romans 15:4

1. The old testament scriptures are not a law for us.
2. We should study the old in order to better understand the new.

B. Deuteronomy 6:6-7

The Jews were required to teach the commandments of God to their children day and night.

C. Deuteronomy 31:11-13

Moses commanded the priests to gather the men, women and children together and read the law to them.

III. Example of Christ

A. Luke 5:15

1. Multitudes came to hear Jesus teach and to be healed.
2. Jesus taught in one undivided assembly.

B. Luke 8:4

1. Jesus did most of his teaching by the seaside or on the mountain side.
2. People gathered to hear Jesus instead of dividing up into groups.

IV. Example of first churches

A. 1 Corinthians 14:23; 14:40

1. Paul wrote the church in Corinth how they should conduct their services decently and in order.
 2. Paul gave his instructions for the time when the whole church comes together in one place.
 3. Somebody says, "I know the church should come together in one place, but Sunday School is not the church."
- B. If Sunday School (Bible classes) is not the church, but the private work of individuals, it can not be scripturally supported by the church.
1. 1 Timothy 5:10
 - a. Should a church add a hotel to its building so the Christian women can lodge strangers?
 - b. Should a church have a pool built next to its building so the women can wash feet?
 - c. Should a church build a clinic next to its building so the Christian women can minister to the sick?
 - d. The church is not supposed to build buildings and pay the expenses for strictly an individual Christian duty.
- C. 1 Timothy 2:12
1. If Sunday School (Bible classes) is not the church but private teaching, why are the women teachers restricted to teaching women and children?
 2. Those who uphold Sunday School say 1 Timothy 2:12 does not mean women can not teach publicly, but it means she can teach if she does not usurp authority over man.
 3. Acts 18:26

- a. Priscilla and her husband taught Apollos, an evangelist, in private.
 - b. If Sunday School is private, the women teachers can scripturally teach men.
4. 1 Timothy 2:12 does not mean a woman can teach publicly as long as she does not usurp authority over man.
- a. 1 Timothy 6:17
 - (1) Nor is used in this verse like it is in 1 Timothy 2:12—to link two equal statements together.
 - (2) A rich person should not be proud, neither should he put his trust in his uncertain riches.
 - (3) A woman should not teach publicly at all, neither should she usurp authority over man at anytime.

D. 1 Corinthians 14:34-35

- 1. It is a shame for women to speak in the church.
- 2. If Bible classes are part of the church, they are certainly unscriptural, because a woman is not supposed to speak in the church.

E. Acts 20:7

It is an evident fact that the first churches met together in one undivided assembly to observe the communion and be taught God's word.

REPENTANCE

Introduction

- A. A person who repents is deeply sorry for his past sins and resolves to stop sinning and start living a righteous life.
- B. God can not save a person who will not repent.

I. Christ's teaching on repentance

A. Mark 1:14-15

Jesus traveled throughout Galilee preaching that the kingdom would soon be established; therefore, men should repent of their sins and believe that he is the son of God.

B. Mark 2:17

- 1. A doctor does not go to well people, but to the sick.
- 2. Christ did not go to the righteous, but to the sinners to call on them to repent.

C. Luke 13:3

- 1. A group of Jews informed Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus replied, "Do you think that those Galileans were greater sinners than all the other Galileans, because they have suffered in this way?"
- 2. Jesus said, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

D. Matthew 11:20-21

If the same works had been done in Tyre and

Sidon that were done in Chorazin and Bethsaida, they would have repented long ago.

II. God wants all people to repent

A. Acts 17:30

Gentiles had no written law before Christ came; therefore, God winked at their sins, but now he commands all men everywhere to repent.

B. 2 Peter 3:9

As our God is longsuffering, he does not want anyone to perish. He wants all to repent.

C. Luke 15:7

The hosts of heaven rejoice more over one sinner that repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who do not need to repent.

III. What causes men to repent?

A. Romans 2:4

Goodness of God.

B. Jonah 3:4-6

Preaching God's word.

C. 2 Corinthians 7:10

Godly sorrow.

D. 2 Corinthians 5:10

The coming judgment.

IV. Do not wait too long to repent

A. Hebrews 12:16-17

Esau did not inherit the greatest blessings because he waited too long to repent.

B. Proverbs 1:24-28

God will finally stop pleading with sinners to repent and will destroy the impenitent.

V. We must live a righteous life after we repent

A. Matthews 27:3-5

Judas repented of betraying Christ, but he did not follow up his sorrow with a righteous life.

B. Luke 15:11-24

1. The prodigal son repented in the hog pen.
2. His story had a wonderful ending because he followed up his sorrow for sin by going home to his father.

RELIGIOUS TITLES

Introduction

- A. Most of the denominations give titles to the men who preach for them. God has never commanded the church to give preachers special titles.

I. The word reverend is mentioned one time in the Bible

A. Psalms 111:9

1. David used the word reverend to praise God.
2. In a sense, when you call a man reverend, you put him on the same level with God.

B. Acts 10:25-26

Peter was one of the twelve apostles and Jesus gave him the keys of the kingdom, but he rejected all earthly honor.

II. The first preachers were not called reverend

A. 2 Timothy 1:11

Paul was not a reverend, but a preacher and an apostle.

B. 2 Timothy 4:5

Paul did not address Timothy as a reverend.

C. 2 Peter 3:15

Peter wrote the Asian brethren about beloved brother Paul.

III. All Christians are equal

A. Matthew 23:8

1. Rabbi means "my master."

2. Jesus condemned the Pharisees because they exalted themselves, and wanted to be called Rabbi.

B. Matthew 23:9

Call no man your father upon the earth; for one is your Father, which is in heaven.

C. Galatians 3:28

All members of Christ's body are brethren and on an equal level. The preachers should not receive any more honor than the other members.

IV. A pastor is an elder or bishop

A. Ephesians 4:11

1. The work of an evangelist and the work of a pastor are two different works.
2. An evangelist, or preacher, is not a pastor. The elders are the pastors of the church.
3. The work of an evangelist is not limited to one congregation, but the work of a pastor is.

B. Acts 20:28

The pastors are the overseers of the local congregations, but the preachers are not.

V. The first churches had more than one pastor

A. Philippians 1:1

The bishops are the pastors, or elders, of the church.

2. Paul addressed his letter to the bishops and deacons and saints of the church in Philippi.
3. All the churches which Paul established had more than one bishop or pastor.

B. Acts 14:23

Paul and Barnabas appointed a plurality of elders over the churches they established.

C. 1 Timothy 3:1-7

1. Very few Christian men can be appointed pastors or elders, because few can meet the rigid qualifications required to be a qualified elder.
2. Many evangelists could not be pastors because they are not old enough themselves, and their children are not old enough to become Christians.

Conclusion

- A. It is natural for men to love titles that exalt them in the eyes of their fellow men, but Christians should not strive to satisfy the whims of men. We should strive to please God.

REBUILDING THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM

Introduction

- A. There is a striking similarity between the struggles of Nehemiah and his followers to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, and the struggles of the church today.

I. Nehemiah was in Babylonian captivity (book of Nehemiah)

- A. Some Jews brought the message that Jerusalem was in ruins.
- B. This message made Nehemiah very sad.
- C. Artaxerxes, king of Babylon, asked Nehemiah about his sadness.
- D. Nehemiah asked the king to send him back to Jerusalem.
- E. The king granted Nehemiah's request.
 - 1. He wrote the governors of the neighboring countries to assist Nehemiah on his journey.
 - 2. He wrote the keeper of the forest asking him to furnish enough timber for the rebuilding.

II. Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem

- A. He surveyed the ruins of the city.
- B. He encouraged the people to rise up and build.
- C. The people were willing to undertake the great task.

III. Immediate opposition

- A. Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem were the leaders of the opposition.

- B. The opposition laughed and made fun.
 - 1. Sanballat called the workers feeble Jews.
 - 2. Tobiah said a fox could break the wall down.
 - 3. This is usually the first reaction of the opposition.
 - 4. Job 12:4
 - a. Just and upright people have always been ridiculed.
 - b. The loyal church is a laughing stock to the religious world today.
 - c. 1 Samuel 17:42-46
 - (1) The loyal church looks like a little shepherd boy to the giant religious world.
 - (2) God is with us, and like David, we will win a great victory.

IV. People had a mind to work

- A. The work went steadily on in spite of the ridicule.
- B. If people have a mind to work, opposition will not stop them.
- C. Many members do not have a mind to work for the Lord.
 - 1. They are too busy working or pursuing pleasure.
- D. James 1:25
 - 1. Only the doer of the works will be blessed.
- E. Philippians 2:12
 - 1. Others can not work out our salvation.
- F. Mark 13:34-36
 - 1. When Christ comes again, he will find many of his disciples asleep on the job.

V. Opposition joined forces to fight the workers

A. This is usually the opposition's second move.

B. Mark 3:6

1. The Jewish sects fought each other until the advent of Jesus; then they joined forces to put him to death.

C. Acts 5:33

1. The same sects plotted the death of the apostles.
2. Murder is a small thing to the devil's ministers.

VI. Nehemiah prayed to God for protection

A. The protection of God is a Christian's only defense.

B. If God took away his wall of protection from this country, all our weapons of modern warfare would not save us from destruction.

C. Psalms 18:2

2. Our God is a mighty fortress around the righteous.

D. Psalms 5:12

E. Proverbs 30:5

1. God is a shield to those only who put their trust in him.

VII. Nehemiah prepared for the enemy

A. He posted a guard around the city night and day.

B. Half of the Jews worked on the walls and half held the weapons in readiness for the enemy.

C. The workers labored with one hand and held a weapon in the other.

D. 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

1. We fight the devil with spiritual weapons.

E. Ephesians 6:17

1. The sword of the Spirit.

F. 1 Peter 3:15

1. We should always be ready to defend the truth and oppose false teachers.
2. We prepare ourselves for these spiritual battles by diligently studying God's word.

VIII. At sound of trumpet, all gathered at one place

A. We must fight together to win the battle for Christ.

B. Some Christians fight each other instead of fighting their enemies.

C. 1 Corinthians 1:10

1. The Jews were all of one mind; they were determined to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
2. All Christians should be of one mind.

D. Philippians 1:27

1. We should be striving together toward a common goal as Nehemiah and his followers were.

IX. Opposition wanted to meet with Nehemiah

A. Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem tried to arrange a meeting with Nehemiah.

B. When force fails, the ministers of Satan often succeed through compromise.

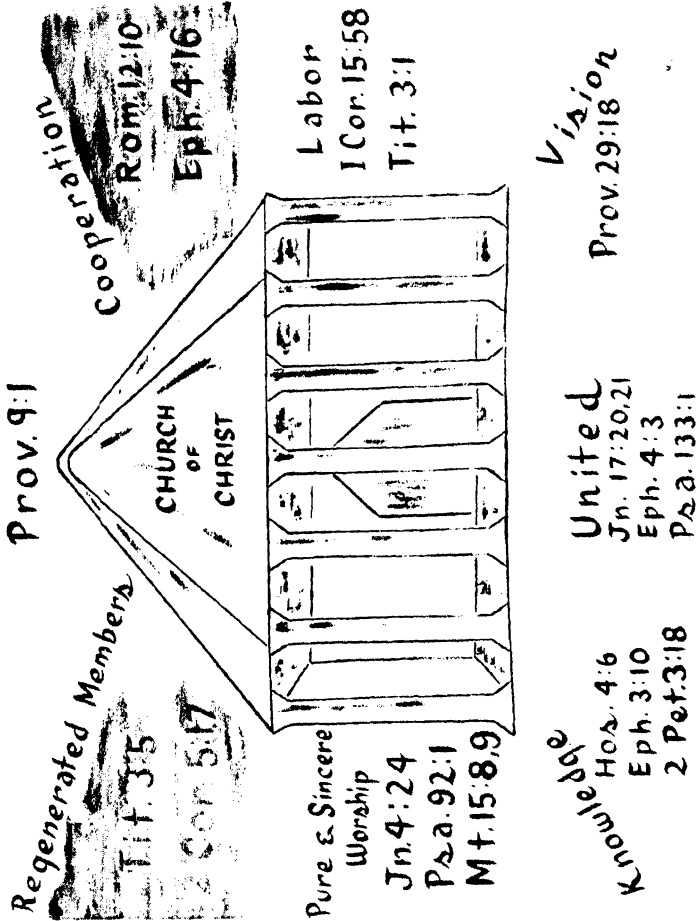
C. Nehemiah refused to meet with the opposition because he was busy doing great work.

D. Why should we cease the great work we are doing to compromise with our enemies?

Conclusion

A. Let us build up the church today as Nehemiah and his followers rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem.

Seven Pillars of the Church



REJOICE

Introduction

A. Philippians 4:4

Christians should be the happiest people on earth because their sins have been forgiven. They are the children of God, and they have the hope of living in that beautiful paradise called heaven.

I. Rejoicing of wicked is short lived

A. Job 20:5

Hypocrites, like the Pharisees, who pretend to be righteous yet steal from the poor, rejoice over their ill-gotten gain now, but their rejoicing will turn to tears on the judgment day.

II. Rejoicing comes after sorrow

A. John 16:20

1. All true Christians have some sorrow and persecutions while they live on earth, but this sorrow will be turned into joy when Christ comes again.
2. We must have some sorrow before we can have true joy. We must lose our life before we can truly find it.

B. Philippians 3:7-8

1. Paul could have been a great man on earth.
2. Paul gave up all the honors he could have had, that he might be found in Christ and be raised from the dead to rejoice with Christ throughout eternity.

III. Some things about which Christians should rejoice

A. Because Christ is preached

1. Philippians 1:18

- a. Men have different motives for preaching Christ.
- b. Paul rejoiced that Christ was being preached even though some preached with an evil motive.
- e. We rejoice about many things on this earth. Do you ever really rejoice because Christ is being preached and souls are being saved by this preaching?

2. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

- a. When people hear the preaching of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ and believe in Christ as the risen Lord, and obey his commands, they are saved.
- b. If all Christians really did rejoice that Christ is being preached, there would be adequate support for gospel preachers; great enthusiasm for gospel meetings; and every Christian would preach Christ privately whenever they had an opportunity.

3. Acts 8:5

- a. Philip preached Christ to the people of Samaria and many were baptized and saved.
- b. The preaching of Christ, followed by the baptizing of believers, is the way people were saved in the days of the early church. Galatians 3:26-27; Acts 4:12

B. Because we have God's word

1. Psalms 119:162

- a. David rejoiced over the word of God like most people rejoice over finding a precious treasure.
 - b. We could not receive any benefits from Christianity if we did not have God's word. We would not have even a saving faith. Romans 10:17.
- C. Because we are walking in the truth
- 1. It is not enough to have the truth or even to know the truth. To be truly happy, we must be obeying the truth.
 - 2. 2 John 4
 - a. The Apostle John rejoiced because the children of the elect lady were walking in the truth.
 - b. One of a Christian's greatest joys is the sight of his children walking in the truth.
 - 3. What does it mean to walk in the truth?
 - a. John 8:32
 - (1) A person walks in the truth by knowing the truth and obeying it.
 - (2) Knowledge and obedience of the truth will give a man freedom from many things — ignorance, sin, fear, etc.
 - 4. 2 Thessalonians 2:13
 - a. There is a certain kind of predestination taught in the Bible.
 - b. In the beginning God chose only those people who would believe and obey the truth to be saved.
 - 5. 1 Peter 1:22
 - Our souls are purified by obeying the truth.

E. Because we have been baptized

1. Acts 16:34

2. Acts 8:38-39

SATAN'S FIERY DARTS

Introduction

A. Ephesians 6:10-17

Satan continually throws fiery darts at the righteous.

I. Satan is the evil one

A. 1 Peter 5:8

1. The devil is our adversary.
2. Satan is like a roaring lion hunting someone he can devour.

B. John 8:44

1. If we believe in Christ and are righteous, God is our father; but if we do not believe and are evil, the devil is our father.
2. The devil is a murderer and the father of lies.

C. 2 Corinthians 11:13-14

1. Satan does not appear as a cruel beast, but he masquerades as a minister of light.
2. If Satan appeared in his true form, everyone would flee from him and escape his darts and snares.

II. Wiles of the devil

A. Lukewarmness

1. Revelation 3:14-17

- a. This is one of the devil's greatest temptations.

- b. We should be cold or hot. A Christian that is not on fire for the Lord is repulsive to Christ, and he will spew him out.

B. Lack of Bible Study

1. If a person is not a regular student of the Bible, he is a perfect target for temptation and false teaching.
2. 2 Timothy 3:15
 - a. Childhood is the time to begin studying the scriptures.
3. 2 Timothy 1:5
 - a. Unfeigned faith is sincere and not pretended.
 - b. Timothy's mother and grandmother had a sincere faith in God and Timothy had this same faith.
4. 1 Peter 3:15
 - a. Children are not the only ones who need to study the scriptures daily.
 - b. Every Christian should be able to give scriptures that support his beliefs to anyone that asks him.

C. Not giving as prospered

1. 2 Corinthians 9:6
 - a. It is a law of nature that we reap little if we sow little.
 - b. If we give little, we will reap few blessings; but if we sacrifice and give much, we will receive many blessings.
 - c. We can give by casting into the church treasury, and by helping our needy fellow men.
(1) Matthew 25:40

When we help our brethren in need, we are actually helping Christ himself.

2. 2 Corinthians 9:7

- a. The New Testament does not command a tithing system (giving of a tenth).
- b. Every Christian is to give what he wants to give, and what he knows in his own heart he should give.
- c. If a Christian is sowing bountifully, his giving will be bountifully — perhaps more than that commanded under the law of Moses.
- d. We should give cheerfully because God loves a cheerful giver.

D. Worldliness

1. James 4:4

- a. We can not be friends of the world and the friends of God also.
- b. If we are friends with the world and participate in their sinful pleasures, we separate ourselves from the friendship of God.
- c. Joining with the world in its sinful pleasures is spiritual adultery.

2. 1 John 2:15-17

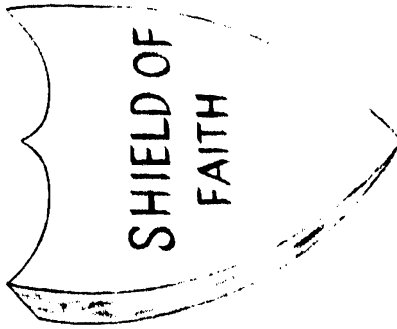
- a. If we love the sinful things of the world, we do not love God.
- b. If we love darkness, we do not love the light.

SATANS DARTS

~~Luke warmth~~
Rev. 3:14-17

~~Lack Bible Study~~
2 Tim. 3:15
2 Tim. 1:5
I Pet. 3:15

~~Forfeaking Absent~~
Hcb. 10:25
Ac. 20:7
I Cor. 11:25



~~Not Giving Prospered~~
2 Cor. 9:6
Mt. 25:40
2 Cor. 9:7

~~Worldliness~~
Jas. 4:4
I Jn. 2:15-17

~~Not Teaching~~
Ac. 8:4
I Thess. 1:8

Satan is the
Evil One
I Pet. 5:8 Jn. 8:44
2 Cor. 11:3,14

SAVED BY GRACE

Introduction

Ephesians 2:8-10

I. We are saved by grace

A. Titus 2:11

1. The grace of God is his kindness and mercy.
2. The coming of Christ proved that God loved men and had mercy on them.

B. Romans 5:1--20

1. A great deal of sin must be followed by a great deal of mercy.
2. If one of your children murdered someone, you would have to love that child very much before you could forgive him of such a great sin.

C. Romans 6:15

1. Just because we are not under the Law does not mean that we should practice sin.
2. If we continue in sin, we are no longer under grace.

II. Through faith

A. Romans 3:23-25

1. All have sinned.
2. Justification from sin is a free gift of God's grace. We accept God's free gift by having faith in his Son.

3. Christ is the propitiation or sacrifice for our sins, if we have an active faith in Christ.

B. Romans 4:16

1. Faith makes it possible for both Jews and Gentiles to receive the benefits of God's grace.

C. Romans 5:2

1. We have access to grace by our faith.

2. Illustration: we have access by our American citizenship to the many blessings of this country.

III. It is the gift of God

A. Romans 5:15

1. When we believe in Christ and obey his commands we do not earn salvation, because salvation has been made possible by the sacrifice of one man, Christ.

B. Romans 9:15

1. We can not decide who God will have mercy on by our puny human reasoning.

2. God has already decided he will have mercy on those who believe in his Son and obey him.

IV. Not of works

A. Romans 11:5-6

Either grace or works is the saving power, and God has declared that it is grace.

B. James 2:21-22

1. Being saved by grace does not mean we do not need to do any works.

2. Abraham did a work that God commanded, and God justified Abraham because of his work.

C. Titus 3:5

1. Being baptized and receiving the Holy Spirit are not works of man which merit salvation.
2. Baptism is a work of God that men must perform before the blood of Christ will cleanse them from all sin.

D. James 2:17

1. Paul could not have been talking about all works, or he and James contradicted each other.
2. Paul was talking about the works of the Law and works of men. James was talking about the works of God we must perform to be saved.

E. John 5:36

Jesus set an example of doing the works which God commands.

V. Lest any man should boast

A. Romans 3:27-28

Since we are saved by grace through faith, and not by our own works, we do not have anything of which to boast.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT HEAVEN

Introduction

- A. The Bible tells us some very interesting facts about that place called heaven.

I. Heaven is the place where God dwells

A. 1 Kings 8:30

Solomon asked God in heaven to hear the anything of which to boast.

B. Psalms 11:4

The Lord's throne is in heaven.

C. Matthew 6:9

Jesus taught his disciples to pray to their Father in heaven.

II. Will the righteous live in heaven after the judgment day?

- A. Many do not believe the righteous will live in heaven after the judgment day. They believe this earth will be transformed into a paradise when Christ comes again, and the righteous will dwell here 1,000 years.

B. 2 Peter 3:10

It will be impossible for us to live on this earth after Christ comes, because it will be burned up.

C. 1 Thessalonians 4:17

- 1. The Bible does not say Christ will ever set foot on this earth again.

2. The righteous will meet Christ in the clouds.

D. John 14:1-3

1. Jesus promised his disciples he would take them to that place he would prepare for them.
2. Christ went to heaven to prepare that place. (Acts 1:11)

E. Hebrews 11:16

The men of faith desired a heavenly country.

F. Isaiah 33:15-17

Those who walk and speak uprightly will dwell on high and see a land that is very far off.

G. Matthew 5:20

All people who practice a true religion, instead of a pretended religion as the Pharisees did, will enter the kingdom of heaven.

III. The reward for the righteous is in heaven

A. Matthew 5:12

We should rejoice when we are persecuted for doing good, because we will receive a great reward in heaven.

B. 1 Peter 1:4

The righteous have a rich inheritance reserved for them in heaven.

IV. There will be no marriages in heaven

A. Luke 20:34-35

1. There will be no beautiful brides, no well dressed grooms, no blushing bridesmaids.
2. One of the primary purposes of marriage is to multiply and replenish the earth.

3. Nobody will die in heaven; therefore, there will be no need for the birth of new generations.

V. A description of the holy city

A. Revelation 21:11

It is a city of light; there will be no darkness there.

B. Revelation 21:23

The glory of God and Christ is the light.

C. Revelation 21:18-19

1. The wall around the city is made of pure jasper.
2. The foundation of the wall is adorned with all kinds of precious stones.

D. Revelation 21:21

1. The wall will have twelve gates, and each gate will be a solid pearl.
2. The city has a street of pure gold.

VI. The saved will have a much happier life in heaven

A. Revelation 21:4

God will wipe away all tears.

B. Revelation 7:16

1. The saved will never be hungry or thirsty.
2. Sunlight and heat will not be there.

Conclusion

Don't you want to go to that beautiful place called heaven? You can go by obeying the commandments of God (Revelation 22:14).

THE BIBLE

Introduction

- A. The Bible is the best selling book in the world.
- B. The Bible has been translated into almost every language known to man.
- C. There are sixty-six books in the Bible — thirty-nine in the old testament and twenty-seven in the new testament.

I. The scriptures are inspired of God

- A. The word inspired means God-breathed. The words of the Bible came from the mouth of God and not from the mouths of puny men.
- B. Exodus 24:3-4
 - 1. The writers of the old and new testaments testified that the words they wrote came from God.
 - 2. Moses told the children of Israel the words of the Lord, and he wrote all the words of the Lord.
- C. Jeremiah 1:9
 - 1. All the prophets claimed to receive their words directly from God.
 - 2. Jeremiah testified that the Lord put the words in his mouth which he spoke to the children of Israel.
- D. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Since all the scriptures came from God and not

from men, it is all we need to tell us how to do every good work.

E. John 16:13

Only the Holy Spirit directed the apostles to write the truths he heard from the lips of God himself.

F. 2 Peter 1:20-21

The writers of both the old and the new testaments wrote only what they were moved by the Holy Ghost to write.

G. Galatians 1:11-12

Paul did not receive from man the gospel he preached to the Galatians, and no man taught it to him, but it was revealed to him by Jesus Christ.

H. 1 Thessalonians 2:13

The Thessalonians received the words that Paul and his companions spoke as the words of God and not the words of men.

II. True science proves that the Bible is true

A. Scientists have discovered that the mountains were once under the ocean.

1. Psalms 104:6-7

a. David revealed hundreds of years ago that the mountains were once under the waters.

B. It was believed for many years that the earth was flat.

1. Isaiah 40:22

a. Isaiah revealed long ago that the earth is round.

C. Modern science divides all human beings into three races: Caucasian, Negroid, Mongoloid.

1. Genesis 10.1

a. The Bible divided all men into the descendants of Shem, Ham and Japheth, the three sons of Noah.

II. The unity of the Bible proves it is true

A. The Bible was written by about forty different inspired men. Many of these men lived in different centuries and in different countries, yet there is a unity of purpose and teaching that runs through the entire Bible.

B. Common sense tells us this harmony and unity would not have been possible if the hand of God was not guiding each writer.

IV. The Bible contains the world's greatest literature

A. Poetry

1. Psalms 23

a. A more beautiful poem has probably never been written than the 23rd Psalm.

B. Love stories

1. Where can you read a more beautiful love story than the book of Ruth?

2. Ruth expresses her great love for her mother-in-law, Naomi, in Ruth 1:16-17.

C. Moral teaching

1. Many books have been written on morality, but not one of them even approaches the Bible.

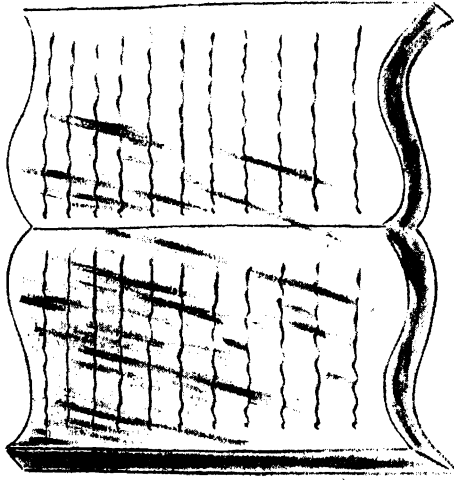
2. Psalms 15:1-3

3. Luke 6:31
 - a. No man would have ever conceived the golden rule that has shaped the lives of so many people.
 - b. James Cash Penny built his great business by practicing the golden rule.
4. Luke 6:27-28
 - a. Loving an enemy was an unheard of thing until Christ taught the sermon on the mount.
5. Romans 12:9
 - a. If a man will stay away from evil and hold fast to all good things, he will be a truly moral person.

V. The Bible is a guidebook for daily living

- A. It tells us how to get along with our neighbors.
Matthew 19:19
- B. It tells a husband and wife how to have a beautiful marriage.
Ephesians 5:25
- C. It tells a person how to be happy.
Matthew 5:3
- D. It tells us how to be prosperous.
Psalms 1:1-3
- E. It tells us how to be saved.
Mark 16:16; Luke 13:3; Matthew 10:32-33;
1 Peter 3:21; Matthew 7:21

The BIBLE



Inspired of God
Ex. 24:34
Jer. 1:9
2 Tim. 3:16,17
Jn. 16:13
2 Pet. 1:20,21
Gal. 1:11,12
1 Thess. 2:13

Science proves
Bible true
1. Mountains
under ocean
Psa. 104:6,7
2. Earth Round
Isa. 40:22
3. Three Races
Gen. 10:1

*World's greatest
Literature*

Poems - Psa. 23
Love Stories
Ruth 1:16,17
Moral Teaching
Psa. 15:1-3 Lk. 6:31
Lk. 6:27,28 Rom. 12:9
Guidebook for
daily living
Mt. 19:19
Eph. 5:25
Mt. 5:3
Psa. 1:1-3
How to be Saved
MK. 16:16 Lk. 13:3
Mt. 10:32 1 Pet. 3:21

Unity of Bible
Written 40
different men

THE BLESSINGS IN CHRIST

Introduction

- A. All spiritual blessings and salvation is in Christ. We must get into Christ to receive spiritual blessings and the salvation of our souls.

I. Redemption is in Christ

- A. Redeemed means to be delivered from the bondage and consequences of sin.
- B. Ephesians 1:7
When a person is forgiven, he is freed from the cruel bondage of sin.
- C. Romans 3:23-24
The redemption in Christ is a free gift from God.

II. Reconciliation is in Christ

- A. Reconcile means to bring back into harmony.
- B. The servants of sin are the enemies of God.
- C. 2 Corinthians 5:18
 - 1. God made friends with sinful men through his Son, Jesus Christ.
 - 2. Only in Christ can we make peace with God.
- D. Ephesians 2:16
 - 1. Christ reconciled the Jews and Gentiles to each other by his death on the cross.
 - 2. This death did away with the law of Moses which separated the Jews and Gentiles.

3. The death of the law made it possible for the Jews and Gentiles to unite in the one body of Christ.

III. New creatures in Christ

- A. It is possible for one to become a new creature without his physical appearance being changed.
- B. Many are trying to become new creatures through facials, dying the hair, and exercises.
- C. 2 Corinthians 5:17
 1. A new creature is a new creation.
 2. When a person is cleansed by the blood of Christ and enters the body of Christ, he becomes a new creation of God.
 3. He has new aims and purposes in life.
- D. 1 Peter 2:2
 1. When a person is born of water and the Spirit, he becomes a new born babe in Christ.
 2. A new born babe in Christ has the lovable characteristics of a tiny baby; innocent, trusting, loving.

IV. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in Christ

- A. The greatest treasures of wisdom and knowledge are not hid in the great universities.
- B. Colossians 2:3
 1. We must enter Christ's body to find the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
 2. A person outside of Christ does not understand the greatest truths concerning this life and the next.

C. 1 Corinthians 1:23

1. The crucified Christ was a stumblingblock to the Jews, because they expected him to be a great warrior and king.
2. One man dying for the sins of all mankind did not appeal to the human reasoning of the educated Greeks.

D. 1 Corinthians 1:24-25

1. The crucified Christ is a stumblingblock and foolishness to many today.
2. All people in Christ know the death of Christ is the power of God to save.

V. All spiritual blessings are in Christ

A. Ephesians 1:3

1. Only those people who are in Christ receive spiritual blessings.
2. The gift of the Holy Spirit, the peace that passes understanding, and a hope of eternal life are some of the spiritual blessings.

VI. Salvation is in Christ

A. Salvation is the greatest of all spiritual blessing.

B. Saved or lost will be your thoughts as you draw your last breath.

C. Saved or lost will be the concern of your Christian loved ones.

D. Saved or lost will be the primary concern of the preacher who conducts the funeral.

E. Revelation 14:13

1. The entire success or failure of your life will depend on whether or not you die in Christ!

2. If you die in Christ, your life will be a glorious success, because you will rest from your labors in the beautiful mansions of heaven, and your good works will live on for many years.

F. 2 Timothy 2:10

Paul made it possible for many to enter Christ where salvation and eternal glory are found.

VII. How does a person get into Christ

A. Galatians 3:27

A person gets into Christ by being baptized in water for the remission of sins.

B. 1 Corinthians 12:13

1. When a person is baptized into Christ's body he becomes a member of Christ's church.
2. Christ's church and Christ's body are the same thing.

THE BODY OF CHRIST

Introduction

- A. The church is the spiritual body of Christ and is similar to our physical body in many ways.

I. The church is the body of Christ

A. Ephesians 1:22-23

1. The church is not a building made of wood and stone.
2. It is a group of kindred spirits who were saved by obeying the gospel of Christ.

II. Christ is the head of his body

- A. Christ is the exalted head of his spiritual body and he has complete control over it.

- B. He controls his body through his words, or the New Testament.

1. He sent a letter from heaven, through his apostles, telling the members of his body what to do.

- C. Colossians 1:18

1. The head of the church was proven to be divine by his resurrection from the dead.

- D. Ephesians 5:23-24

1. The husband is the head of his wife, even as Christ is the head of the church.
2. The church should be subject to Christ in all things, and not just some things.

E. Collosians 2:19

1. All life and direction for the spiritual body of Christ comes from its head.

III. Members have different works to do

A. Every joint, every muscle, and every sinew has an important part to play in the proper functioning of the physical body.

B. Romans 12:4

1. The members of the church are suited by their natural abilities for different works.
2. We should concentrate on the things we can do and leave the things we can not do to others.
3. Suppose your eyes decided they wanted to hear in addition to their ability to see?

C. Ephesians 4:11-12

1. Evangelists are traveling men who primarily preach the gospel to the lost.
2. Pastors and teachers primarily teach the saved the duties of the Christian life.
3. A body will not grow and become strong unless most of its organs are functioning. The church will not grow without the evangelists, elders and teachers doing their work.

IV. Every member of the body is needed

A. 1 Corinthians 12:15-16

1. Suppose your ear decided it was not a part of your body and quit hearing, because it was not an eye and could not see.
2. Sometimes members do not consider themselves part of the body because they lack certain talents.

B. 1 Corinthians 12:17

1. If the body were one big eye, you could see your loved ones but you could not hear a word they said.
2. If every member were a preacher, who would perform the other duties?

V. There should be no distinction between members

A. 1 Corinthians 12:22-23

1. Some members of the body are not pretty to look upon, but we do not dishonor them or consider them unnecessary.
2. We should never dishonor a member of Christ's body because his talents are limited, his clothes are poor, or his income is low.

B. James 2:5

1. Our thoughts are evil if we honor the rich and humiliate the poor in our assemblies.
2. We can not judge the worth of a brother by the size of his bank account or the price of his clothing.
3. If we use this standard, we must consider all the apostles and many of the first Christians as inferior members of the body of Christ.

VI. We should suffer with other members of the body

A. 1 Corinthians 12:26

1. If your back is in pain, your whole body suffers.
2. We should suffer with our brethren in their times of suffering. Their tears should be our tears, their disappointments our disappointments, and their needs our needs.

B. Hebrews 13:3

VII. The unity of the body

A. 1 Corinthians 12:25

1. The word "schism" means division and separation.
2. There is no schism in our physical bodies as all the members work harmoniously together.
3. All the members of Christ's body should be working together to save their own souls and the souls of others.

B. 1 Corinthians 1.10

1. We need to stop singing our differences of opinion and start singing about the many things we have in common.

VIII. We are baptized into Christ's body

A. 1 Corinthians 12:13

1. Would you like to become a member of this wonderful spiritual body of Christ?
2. If you will be baptized for the remission of sins, God will add you to the body of his dear son.

THE CHRISTIAN DUTY

Introduction

- A. When a person is baptized, he accepts certain duties and responsibilities.
- B. These duties are specified in the New Testament.
- C. The heavenly Father is well pleased with a child who performs all his duties faithfully until death. The child who shuns his Christian duties is not pleasing to the Father and he will not receive a rich reward.

I. Study

A. 2 Timothy 2:15

- 1. We gain the approval of God by studying and obeying his word.
- 2. We can not obey the Father's will unless we find out what it is!
- 3. Only by innumerable hours of ceaseless toil can a famished soul be filled with a knowledge of God's will.
- 4. On the judgment day some Christians will hang their heads in shame because they have shirked their responsibility to study the holy scriptures.

B. 2 Peter 3:18

- 1. Full grown men and women in Christ receive a greater measure of God's grace.
- 2. Through increased knowledge, we learn to take advantage of all the wonderful benefits God has extended to his obedient children.

II. Worship

A. John 4:24

1. Going through an outward form of worship which does not come from the heart is completely in vain.
2. Our song of praise should swell from a heart of gratitude and our prayers should rise from a sincere and contrite heart.
3. The only really effective teaching comes from a heart filled with love and concern for those who are dying in sin.
4. We worship in truth by worshipping according to the will of God.

B. Hebrews 10:25

Some Christians take this duty lightly, but it is one of the plainest commandments of God.

C. Matthew 18:20

1. Jesus comes in our midst to bless and strengthen us for the many trials and temptations of this life.
2. If we willingly absent ourselves from the assembly, how great is our loss!
3. If you knew Christ would be visibly present next Sunday morning handing out a little courage to a brother, a little patience to a sister, and a long life to a child, would you be absent? Could anything keep you away from the service?

III. Deny self

A. Luke 9:23

1. Self keeps more people from becoming followers of Christ than anything else.

2. Everytime we want to do good, self looms up as a giant monster and bellows out NO, NO, NO. YOU CAN'T, YOU CAN'T, YOU CAN'T. It's too expensive, there's too much to give up, think of your future, and charity begins at home.
3. Only those who can turn their backs on self and keep their eyes on Jesus will follow the straight and narrow road which leads to the mansions in the sky.

B. Matthew 10:38

1. If we are not willing to take up the cross and endure some hardships and persecutions for the name of Christ, we are not worthy to be his disciples, because we do not realize how valuable the Christian life and the heavenly calling really is.
2. Many have crossed the scorching deserts, climbed the highest mountains, and swam the deepest rivers to reach diamonds and gold. Can we really expect to reach the greatest treasures of all without bearing any crosses or making any sacrifices?

C. Matthew 10:39

1. All who do not deny themselves on earth will lose eternal life in heaven.
2. Beginning with Stephen, many Christians have lost their lives at the hands of unbelievers, but they will find a far better life on the eternal shore.
3. If you are ever called upon to make an immediate choice between life now or life hereafter, what will your decision be?

IV. Do good unto all men

A. Galatians 6:10

1. This life is short and our opportunities to do good will soon be gone.
2. Jesus set the example of doing good unto all men and we should follow his blessed example.
3. A Christian should be especially sensitive to the needs of his brothers and sisters in Christ.

B. Luke 10:30-37

1. The priest and Levite could represent the negligent Christian. They were outwardly religious, but inwardly their hearts were cold and without feeling.
2. Jesus told his disciples, "Go, and do thou likewise" (following the example of the Samaritan). These words should echo in our ears everytime we see someone in need.

V. Set our affections on heavenly things

A. Colossians 3:1-2

1. We are raised from the watery grave of baptism as new creatures in Christ. "Old things are passed away, behold all things are become new."
2. The thoughts and desires of new creatures in Christ should be centered around heavenly things.
3. We should truly be a people who are seeking a better country, a heavenly one.

B. John 14:1-3

1. Jesus told his disciples he was going away, and no doubt a cloud of gloom settled over them.

2. Jesus comforted his sorrowing disciples by telling of beautiful mansions he would prepare for them in his Father's house.
3. We should earnestly desire a home in these mansions; this is where our affections should lie.
4. This world is not my resting place,
This world is not my home,
The rich and poor of every race,
Are always on the roam.

This robe of flesh can't satisfy,
My soul has found no peace,
For heaven's shiny gates I'll try,
Until this life shall cease.

The home of man is ne'er the same,
As life's dark path is trod,
He seeks for pleasure, gold and fame,
And turns then back to God.

I want a mansion when I die,
In that sweet land of rest.
Will you join me on high,
And be forever blest?

— D. M.

VI. Abstain from all appearance of evil

A. 1 Thessalonians 5:22

1. It is a Christian's duty to abstain from anything that has the appearance of evil.
2. Sometimes a good activity is considered evil by precious souls inside and outside the church. We should abstain from this activity lest we dim our light of influence and place a stumblingblock in the path of our weaker brethren.

B. Galatians 5:19-21

1. It is a Christian duty to abstain from the works of the flesh and bear the precious fruits of the spirit.
2. We should not touch, taste, or handle those sinful and corrupt things which bring misery and death.

Conclusion

- A. Are you performing your Christian duties?
- B. Are you among those who by patient continuance in well doing are seeking glory, honor, immortality, and eternal life?

THE CHURCH

Introduction

A. Ephesians 1:22-23

The church is the body of Christ.

I. Christ has only one body

A. Colossians 3:15

Christians have been called by the gospel out of the world into the one body of Christ.

B. Ephesians 4:4-7

1. Most religious people agree that there is only one Lord Jesus Christ, and only one true God.
2. Paul states just as plainly that there is one body.

C. 1 Corinthians 12:20

1. The body of Christ has many members, and it had 3,000 members added the day it was established.
2. There are many members, but just one body.
3. Illustration: Our fleshly bodies have many members, but we have only one body.

D. Ephesians 2:16

1. Reconcile—make friends.
2. After both Jews and Gentiles are reconciled to God by receiving forgiveness of their sins, they enter the one body of Christ.

II. Christ's body is not divided into many different groups

A. 1 Corinthians 1:10

1. Many teach that there is no harm in the body of Christ being divided into many different groups.
2. Paul pleaded with the church in Corinth not to be divided.
3. If Christians are perfectly joined together in the same mind, there will be no divisions among them.

III. If the church is Christ's body, it should wear his name

A. Romans 7:4

1. The church is Christ's bride, therefore it should certainly wear his name.
2. Colossians 2:14
 - a. The law of Moses died with Christ on the cross.
 - b. Since the law is dead all men are free from its authority, and can be married to Christ.

B. Matthew 16:18

Since Christ is the builder of the church, and it is his bride, it could not rightfully wear any other name but Christ's.

IV. What the word church means

A. An assembly of Christians.

B. 1 Peter 2:9

1. The church is an assembly of Christians who have been called out of the world into the light of Jesus Christ.

2. Since we have been called out of the world, we should be different from the people who are still in the world.
- C. The definition of the word church shows us why we should meet together in one assembly to conduct the worship services of the church.
 - a. The word assembly means a coming together of people, and not a dividing into separate groups or classes.

V. The church is

A. A kingdom

1. 1 Corinthians 15:24-25
 - a. The church is a kingdom, and Christ is the King of this kingdom.
 - b. A kingdom is not a democracy because the subjects of a kingdom must obey the king's demands without any choice in the matter.
 - c. Members of the church must do exactly what Christ tells them to do in his word in spite of their own desires.
2. Colossians 1:13
 - a. Translated—to remove or transfer.
 - b. God has removed us from the power that Satan and sin had over us and placed us in the kingdom of Christ.

B. The house of God

1. 1 Timothy 3:15
 - a. The church is God's house on earth.
 - b. At one time the tabernacle was God's dwelling place on earth; later, the temple was his more permanent dwelling place. God now dwells in the church.

- c. A church is not the true dwelling place of God if it is not the pillar and ground of the truth and is supporting the doctrines of men.
2. Ephesians 2:19-22
- a. Both Jews and Gentiles who have obeyed the gospel are living stones in God's house.
 - b. All members of the body of Christ should be as close together as the bricks in a house. We should be knit together by the mortar of God's love.

THE CROSS AND THE CROWN

Introduction

A. Revelation 2:10

All Christians have a cross to bear, and those who bear their cross faithfully unto the end will receive a beautiful and precious crown as a reward for their faithfulness.

I. Christ voluntarily died on the cross

A. Philippians 2:6-8

Jesus was equal with God, but he voluntarily gave up this exalted position and came to earth to die on the cross.

B. Hebrews 12:1-2

1. Christians should patiently run the Christian race until the end because of the joy that is at the end of the way; the same as the track star who patiently endures the grinding toil of an endurance race because of the prize that is given to the winner at the end of the race.
2. Christ voluntarily endured the suffering of the cross and despised the shame, because he knew he would receive a great reward for his sufferings.

II. Like Christ we must voluntarily bear a cross

- A. We are not forced to bear a cross — the decision is strictly up to us. We can either bear a cross on this earth and be rewarded in heaven, or

refuse to bear a cross and be punished in the next life.

B. Many want the rewards of a Christian life, but are not willing to bear a cross.

C. Matthew 10:38-39

1. If we are not willing to take up our cross and follow Christ, we are not worthy to be his disciples.
2. We should be willing to give up family, possessions, or anything else we value, if necessary, to follow Christ and live in the mansions he has prepared.

D. Matthew 10:24

E. Mark 10:21 (17-22)

Jesus required the rich young man to make a great sacrifice before he could take up his cross and follow Jesus, but he was not willing to make so great a sacrifice.

III. Those who carry a cross will wear a crown

A. James 1:12

One of the great rewards God has promised to the faithful is a beautiful crown.

IV. Those who are honored wear a crown

A. 1 Corinthians 9:25

1. The winner of the Greek games was crowned with a wreath of pine leaves and greatly honored.
2. The crowns that athletes and beauty queens wear do not compare with the crowns the faithful will receive.

V. A crown is precious and expensive

A. 2 Samuel 12:30

1. The crown which David took off the head of the king of the Ammonites and put on his own head was made of pure gold and garnished with precious stones.
2. When God rewards, he does not reward with something cheap. He is able to give the most priceless rewards because he owns everything.

VI. We will receive our crown on judgment day

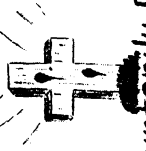
A. 2 Timothy 4:8

1. Paul knew there was a beautiful and precious crown waiting for him, because he had carried his cross faithfully until the end.
2. Christ will give Paul his crown on the judgment day, and he will give crowns to all the righteous at the same time.

B. 1 Peter 5:4

Christ is the chief shepherd, and when he returns he will give all the faithful shepherds or elders a crown.

THE CROSS and THE CROWN



1. Christ Voluntarily Died on Cross
Phil 2:6-8 Heb. 12:1,2

2. We Must Voluntarily Carry A Cross
Mt. 10:38,39 Mt. 10:24 Mk. 10:21

3. Carry A Cross - Will Wear Crown
Jas. 1:12



4. People Who are Honored-Wear Crown
I Cor. 9:25

5. Crown is Precious and Expensive
2 Sam. 12:30

6. Receive Crown on Judgement Day
2 Tim. 4:8 I Pet. 5:4

THE GREAT PHYSICIAN

Introduction

A. Luke 4:18

1. Jesus is the great physician, and he came to earth to cure men of the terrible disease of sin.
2. Jesus also heals the brokenhearted through his words.
3. Jesus gives sight to those who are spiritually blind.

4. The great physician now is near,
The sympathizing Jesus,
He speaks the drooping heart to cheer,
O hear the voice of Jesus.

Your many sins are all forgiven,
O hear the voice of Jesus,
Go on your way in peace to heaven,
And wear a crown with Jesus.

Sweetest note in seraph song,
Sweetest name on mortal tongue,
Sweetest carol ever sung,
Jesus, blessed Jesus.

I. What kind of physician is Christ?

A. He knows our case

1. John 2:24-25
 - a. Ordinarily we go back to the same doctor because he knows our case.
 - b. Jesus knows all about our case.

- c. While Jesus was on earth, he knew what men were thinking.
- B. He is able to save every patient
- 1. Hebrews 7:25
 - a. Every doctor loses a patient occasionally.
 - b. Jesus never loses a patient, but he is able to save every person who comes to him.
- C. He is a sympathetic physician
- 1. John 11:35
 - a. Most people like a kind sympathetic physician who takes a personal interest in his patients.
 - b. Jesus is the kindest and most sympathetic physician you could ever know.
 - c. Jesus wept when he saw others weeping over the death of Lazarus.
 - 2. Hebrews 4:15
 - a. Jesus sympathizes with us because he experienced the same temptations we experience.

II. What can Christ cure?

- A. Psalms 41:4
- 1. Only Christ can cure us of sin.
 - 2. Ordinary physicians can cure bodily ailments, but they can not cure sin.

III. What are the stages of this disease?

- A. Any bad disease passes through several stages.
- B. Sin passes through several stages.
- C. Sin starts like a speck of dust, but it grows to the size of a mountain.

- D. First stage — lust or evil desires
 - 1. James 1:14-15
 - a. Like a germ causes smallpox, lust causes the disease of sin.
- E. Second stage — practice of sin.
 - 1. 2 Peter 2:14
 - a. Sin makes slaves of men, and they are controlled by the sin in their lives.
- F. Final stage — death
 - 1. James 1:15
 - 2. The final stage of any fatal disease is death.
 - 3. Romans 5:12
 - a. Adam brought death into the world by his sin, and all men have continued to die since Adam because of their own sins.

IV. What is Christ's remedy for sin?

- A. One reason human physicians can not cure sin is they do not have the right medicines.
- B. Jesus' medicines for sin
 - 1. Word of God
 - a. Psalms 107:20
The first step in a sinner's treatment is hearing the gospel.
 - 2. Faith
 - a. John 8:24
Jesus only heals people spiritually who believe he is the son of God.
 - 3. Repentance
 - a. Luke 13:5
The great physician has prescribed a deep and genuine sorrow for sins committed.

4 Baptism

a. John 9:7-11

(1) Jesus healed a blind man by commanding him to wash in the pool of Siloam.

(2) Jesus heals spiritually sick people today through a washing in water.

b. Acts 22:16

When we are baptized in water, the blood of Christ washes away our sins.

c. 1 John 1:7

The blood of Christ is the complete and lasting remedy for sin.

5. Confession and prayer

a. 1 John 1:9

(1) This is the remedy for the sins of an unfaithful Christian.

(2) If our sins are public, we should confess them publicly.

(3) God is as faithful to forgive as we are to confess.

V. Why doesn't Christ heal people?

A. Many will not come

1. John 5:40

a. You must come to Jesus to be healed.

b. It is impossible for Jesus to save those who refuse or neglect to come to him.

2. Matthew 11:28-30

If we will come to Jesus, he will gladly heal all our souls' diseases.

B. Many will not obey

1. It is a waste of time to visit a doctor, if you do not obey his orders.

2. Luke 6:46

It does not benefit a person to recognize Christ as Lord if he does not obey his commands.

3. Hebrews 5:8-9

Jesus will save those who obey him from eternal death.

VI. Who needs the great physician?

1. Healthy people do not need a doctor, but people who are sick.
2. If you are a sinner or an unfaithful Christian, you need the great physician and you need him now.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Introduction

A. Romans 8:5-17

I. Born of water and the Spirit

A. John 3:5; 1 Peter 1:23

A man is born of water and the Spirit when he hears the words of the Spirit, and believes and obeys them by repenting and being baptized.

II. Gift of the Holy Ghost

A. Acts 2:38

Peter did not tell the believing Jews they would receive *a gift of* the Holy Ghost, but *the gift* of the Holy Ghost (or the Holy Ghost himself).

III. The Spirit dwells in Christians

A. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

1. The Spirit of God dwelt in the tabernacle while the children of Israel were wandering in the wilderness, later he dwelt in the temple. Now, every true Christian is a temple in which the Spirit of God dwells.
2. If a man makes his body an unfit place for the Spirit to dwell, God will destroy him.

B. Ephesians 5:18

Christians should not be filled with wine, but with the Spirit.

C. 1 Corinthians 6:18-19

Fornication makes our bodies an unfit dwelling place for the Holy Spirit.

D. Romans 8:9

1. The dwelling of the Holy Spirit makes us free from the governing power of the flesh.
2. A man that does not have the Spirit is governed by the sinful desires of his flesh.
3. Unless we possess and are governed by the Spirit of Christ, we are not followers of Christ.

IV. We have received the Spirit of his son

A. Galatians 4:6-7

Jews were servants of God, but Christians are the sons of God and have received the Spirit of his son.

B. Romans 8:15-17

Christians are the adopted sons of God, and the Spirit of God dwelling in us is the seal of our adoption.

V. We are sealed by the Holy Spirit

A. Ephesians 1:13-14

1. A seal is the sign of ownership.
2. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is a sign that a Christian has been purchased with the blood of Christ.
3. Earnest — pledge of what is to come.
4. The Holy Spirit dwelling in us is a pledge that someday we will receive a rich inheritance from God.

B. 1 John 4:13

The indwelling of the Spirit is proof that God is in us and we in him.

VI. The fruit of the Spirit

A. Galatians 5:22

1. A person who possesses the Spirit of God will bear good fruit.
2. A spiritual person will not continually bear evil fruit.

VII. How we receive the Holy Spirit

A. Galatians 3:2

We receive the Spirit when we hear God's word, have faith in it, and obey it.

B. Romans 10:17

The hearing of faith, by which we receive the Holy Spirit, takes place when we hear and obey God's word.

THE MEMBERS OF OUR BODY

Introduction

A. Romans 6:13

We can use members of the physical body to do good or evil.

B. Tongue — kind or unkind words.

Ears — open to the truth or closed to it.

Eyes — read the Bible or look with lust.

Feet — walk to church or to bars and dance halls.

Hands — minister to sick and needy, or fight, murder and steal.

I. Our tongue

A. Proverbs 21:23

1. Many times the best thing to do with the tongue is to hold it.
2. People have brought troubles upon themselves by saying the wrong words or the right words at the wrong time.

B. James 1:26

1. A man who does not control his tongue is not religious.
2. He might think he is practicing pure religion, but he is deceiving himself.

C. Proverbs 21:26

1. Wise and kind speech is characteristic of a virtuous woman.
2. One can tell a Christian woman by her speech.

D. Proverbs 15:1

1. You can calm an angry man with a soft answer.
2. Angry words, O let them never,
From the tongue unbridled slip,
May the heart's best impulse ever,
Check them ere they soil the lip,
Love is much too pure and holy,
Friendship is too sacred far,
For a moment's reckless folly,
Thus to desolate and mar.
Angry words are lightly spoken,
Bitterest thoughts are rashly stirred,
Brightest links of life are broken,
By a single angry word.
Love one another, thus saith the Saviour,
Children obey the father's blest command.

E. Ephesians 4:29

1. Speech should be that which edifies, or builds up.
2. Filthy talk does not build others up.

F. Colossians 3:8-9

1. Christians in Colosse put off filthy talk and lying.
2. In our day, lying is winked at.

G. Revelation 21:8

John lists liars with murderers and whore-mongers.

H. Revelation 21:27

Liars will not enter the pearly gates.

II. Our ears

A. Psalms 78:1

Hearing the word of God is the most important use of man's ears.

B. Nehemiah 8:3

The practice of reading and explaining the word of God in public is an old practice.

C. Proverbs 23:12

1. We should seek opportunities to hear more of God's word.
2. Many use their ears to hear everything but the word of God.

D. 2 Timothy 4:3

Many Christians are afflicted with itching ears.

III. Our eyes

A. Acts 26:18

1. Paul's work was to open the eyes of the Gentiles who were blinded by superstition and idolatry.

B. Psalms 121:1

1. Look up and not down as the world does.
2. Many people look down at bathing beauties, topless dancers, immoral movies.

C. Proverbs 22:9

1. The person with a bountiful eye will be blessed.
2. Bountiful — liberal, give freely.

D. 1 John 3:17

If we will not help a fellow Christian, we do not have the love of God.

E. Matthew 6:23

If the eye is evil, the whole body is full of

darkness. An evil eye will motivate evil thoughts and actions.

F. Lamentations 3:51

Things we see with our eyes affect our heart.

IV. Our feet

A. Luke 1:79

1. Our feet should be guided by God's word.
2. If we guide our own feet, we walk down the road to destruction.
3. If the Lord guides our feet, we walk the road to heaven.

B. Psalms 40:2

1. When we obeyed the gospel, the Lord lifted us out of the slime pits of sin, and placed our feet on the Rock of Ages.
2. As the song suggests — plant our feet on higher ground.

C. Psalms 121:3

We can not stand for the truth without the help of God.

D. Romans 10:15

We should keep feet beautiful by preaching the gospel.

E. Matthew 7:6

1. Some use their feet to trample the truth.
2. We should not give pearls to those who will trample them.
3. We should never trample the truth because it does not suit us or condemns our sins.

V. Our hands

A. Are you using your hands to bless or curse?

B. Psalms 24:3-4

We can not stain our hands with sin then pass inspection and be promoted to heaven.

C. James 4:8

D. 1 Timothy 2:8

If we lift up sin-stained hands, our prayers will not be heard or answered.

E. Ecclesiastes 9:10

Our hands should be busy doing some good work.

F. Acts 9:39

Dorcas was missed because she used her hands.

Conclusion

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated Lord to Thee,
Take my hands and let them move,
At the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for thee.
Take my voice and let me sing,
Always only for my king.
Take my will and make it thine,
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart; it is thine own,
It shall be thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At thy feet its treasure store.

THE OLD FOLKS

Introduction

A. It is just as natural to be old as it is to be young.

I. A person should not be ashamed of being old

A. Some people bemoan the fact they are old and try to hide their age.

B. Proverbs 20:29

Grey hair and advanced years are an honor to any righteous person.

II. An older person can not do as much as a young person

A. John 21:18

When a person is young, he goes anywhere he desires. When he becomes old and weak, he has to depend upon others to carry him.

III. How young people should treat older men

A. Leviticus 19:32

Young people should always respect and honor older men, because of their experience and wisdom.

B. 2 Kings 2:23-24

Two bears killed forty-two children because they mocked the bald headed prophet Elisha.

C. 1 Kings 12:6-8

Rehoboam rejected the advice of the elderly men and lost most of his subjects.

D. 1 Timothy 5:1

Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father.

E. 1 Peter 5:5

The youngest members of the church are to be subject to the elders.

IV. How young people should treat older ladies

A. Proverbs 23:22; 1 Timothy 5:4

The children and relatives of a destitute elderly lady should provide for her and not burden the church.

B. 1 Timothy 5:9-10

The church does have the responsibility of caring for certain elderly widows who do not have children or relatives.

V. How older men should conduct themselves

A. Titus 2:2

1. Older men should be sober, grave/temperate, sound in the faith, in charity, and in patience.
2. An older man who is an alcoholic, gambler, or uses vile language is a pitiful sight.
3. I visited an elderly lady in Kentucky and she told me with tears in her eyes that her aged husband gambled away his small pension every month.

VI. How older women should conduct themselves

A. Titus 2:3-5

Older women should teach the younger women how to raise their families and live pure and holy lives.

Conclusion

- A. We often emphasize the importance of young people in the church, but we should never forget how necessary the older people are to the church.
- B. We need both the enthusiasm and work of the young and the wisdom and counsel of the old.

THE PERFECT MAN

Introduction

- A. Jesus summarized his great sermon on the mount by saying, "Be ye perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matthew 5:48
- B. In this scripture the word perfect means complete or full grown.
- C. We should strive toward the perfection of God, even though we will never attain it in this life.

I. We should strive toward perfection

A. Philippians 3:12

Paul was looking forward to the resurrection when he would attain true perfection.

B. Hebrews 5:8-9

Jesus attained perfection through his suffering and death on the cross.

C. 1 Peter 2:21

- 1. We should strive to develop a perfect Christian character as an artist strives to paint the perfect picture.
- 2. He never attains his goal, but through his striving he becomes a master craftsman.
- 3. A baseball player strives to become the perfect player. He never attains such heights, but he becomes a complete player and a superstar.

D. Hebrews 6:1

1. A superstar goes beyond the basics, and learns the finer points of the game.
2. A Christian, who is striving toward perfection, must go far beyond the first principles of the gospel. He must learn and put into practice the deeper truths of God's word.

E. Hebrews 5:12

II. A perfect man is blameless

A. Philippians 2:15

1. He is blameless against which a charge of wrongdoing can not justly be made.
2. A blameless person can dispel a great amount of darkness in this wicked world.

B. 2 Peter 3:14

1. To be found blameless at the coming of Christ should be life's goal.
2. Only the blameless will hear him say, "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

III. The perfect man is obedient

A. 1 John 2:5

1. The perfect man has a mature and complete love for God. He obeys every command of God without hesitation.
2. The imperfect man has a shallow and immature love for God. He obeys the commands of God which please him and do not necessitate any sacrifice or suffering.
3. Christ was a perfect man, and the rich young ruler was an imperfect one.

B. A sign in a machine shop read, "Don't argue with

the boss." God is the boss, and a perfect man never argues with the almighty Father.

C. 1 John 5:3

1. We show the world our love for God is genuine by keeping all of his commandments.
2. Obeying God's commands is pleasant and delightful if we really love him.

IV. A perfect man behaves wisely

A. Psalms 101:2

1. The perfect man is swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath.
2. It is most difficult for a man to behave himself wisely at home. Most men behave wisely in public, but they let themselves go at home. They are like a lamb in public, but at home they become roaring tigers.

B. Proverbs 3:13

1. Today we hear that happiness is many things. Happiness is a new home, a new car, or a trip across the ocean. None of these things bring real happiness and joy. Happiness is finding wisdom and getting understanding.
2. Wisdom is the ability to discern right from wrong and make sound judgments. Wisdom is a precious treasure which every person should be diligently seeking.

C. James 1:5

We obtain wisdom by praying fervently and diligently studying God's word. The bended knee and the open book is the secret of obtaining the precious treasure of wisdom.

V. A perfect man is patient

A. Patience is bearing hardships and persecutions without complaint.

B. James 1:4

1. If we patiently do well throughout life, we will someday receive a perfect reward.
2. Patience is a virtue which brings rich rewards in this life and the life to come.

C. Romans 2:7

1. Glory — great happiness.
2. Honor — high esteem.
3. Immortality — free from suffering and decay.

D. James 5:7

1. Farmers patiently wait for the coming harvest.
2. We should patiently wait for the coming of Christ when all the faithful will reap a rich harvest of rewards.

E. A Christian should say, "I will patiently serve today, because tomorrow the Lord may come."

VI. A perfect man controls his tongue

A. James 3:2

If a man's tongue is unbridled, his whole body will be like a herd of runaway horses.

B. Matthew 12:34

1. The tongue is an instrument which is guided and directed by the heart.
2. Our battle to control the tongue will be a losing one until we cleanse our hearts through daily study of the word and prayer.

C. James 1:19

1. We often control our tongues best by saying nothing.
2. A wise old bird sat on an oak,
The more he heard the less he spoke,
The less he spoke the more he heard,
Why not model after that wise old bird?

D. Proverbs 10:19

For good or evil, there is no mightier instrument on earth than human speech. We should be extremely careful how we use this power packed instrument.

Conclusion

- A. Let us strive toward perfection every day, and someday we will reach our shining goal.

THE POWER OF GOOD THOUGHTS

Introduction

A. Proverbs 23:7

A man is as good or evil as his thoughts.

I. Good thoughts make a person healthy

A. Many ailments people have are caused by the wrong kind of thinking.

B. A New Orleans Clinic made a study of 500 of their patients and found that 383 of them had diseased bodies because they were emotionally disturbed.

C. If we will empty our minds of all dirty, mean, jealous, weak thoughts and fill our minds with good thoughts, we will have better physical health.

II. A righteous person thinks righteous thoughts

A. Proverbs 12:5

1. A righteous person *will* think righteous thoughts.

2. An evil person *will* think evil thoughts.

B. 1 Corinthians 13:5

Christians should not think evil of their fellow men.

C. Philippians 4:7-8

1. We should think on things that are true, honest, pure, lovely, and of good report.

2. If we think of these things, we will rejoice and have peace that passes understanding.

D. Matthew 5:8

The pure in heart are blessed people, because they have peace and happiness on earth and will see God.

III. Christians should think about spiritual things

A. Colossians 3:2

1. We should think about heavenly things.
2. If we think about heavenly things, we will work for them.

B. Psalms 119:97

If we love the law of God as David did, we will set our affections on things above.

C. Psalms 1:1-2

A person who meditates on the truths of the Bible will be like a tree planted by a river.

D. Romans 7:22

1. We all have an inward man and an outward man.
2. The inward man is the part of us that delights in the law of God.
3. Example: Two boys fight until one is so beaten and worn out he can not resist anymore.
4. Some people's inward man has been overcome so much by the outward man that it can not resist anymore and does not truly delight in anything good or religious.

IV. Christians should think humble thoughts

A. Romans 12:3

Proud haughty thoughts are not good thoughts.

B. 2 Corinthians 10:5

1. We should think obedient thoughts.
 2. If we think humble, obedient thoughts, we will be humble, obedient people and be saved.
- Matthew 7:21

V. Christians should think diligent thoughts

A. Proverbs 21:5

1. A person who has diligent thoughts will usually have plenty of the necessities of life.
2. We should have diligent thoughts about the Lord's work.

VI. Christians should put away childish thoughts

A. 1 Corinthians 13:11

1. Paul put away childish thoughts when he became a man.
2. Most people can put away childish thoughts about most any subject except the Bible.

B. 1 Corinthians 16:13

A real man spiritually stands firmly for the one faith.

C. James 1:5-7

God is displeased with a person who wavers like a child in his thinking.

THE POWER OF THE WORD

Introduction

A. Hebrews 4:12

1. The word of God is quicker than lightning, more powerful than the atomic bomb, and sharper than the sharpest sword.
2. The word will save those who obey it and destroy those who disobey it.

I. The word is like a fire

A. Jeremiah 20:9

1. The word of God burned like fire within the heart of Jeremiah.
2. The word of God should burn like fire in our hearts.
3. Has someone ever told you a secret you could not keep within yourself? We should not be able to keep the word to ourselves.

II. The word is like a hammer

A. Jeremiah 23:29

1. The word can break the hard hearts and stubborn wills of men.
2. A hammer is worthless if it is not put to use by skilled carpenters.
3. The word can not break hard hearts and stubborn wills if it is not used by skilled teachers and preachers.

III. The word is like rain

A. Deuteronomy 32:2

1. A good rain waters every living plant.
2. The large trees soak up a great deal of the moisture, and the smaller trees and shrubs absorb a smaller amount according to their size.
3. Mature men and women receive a good portion of the word preached, and children receive a smaller portion according to their age, training and study.

B. Deuteronomy 31:11-13

1. Moses commanded the priests to read the law to the men, women and children.
2. If children could learn the law of Moses in a public assembly, they can learn the New Testament in one assembly if it is followed up with the proper teaching in the home.

IV. The word is like a mirror

- A. Looking into the mirror of the word is a frightening and shocking experience for many people. For the first time they see themselves as they really are.**
- B. Felix, the Roman governor, trembled when he saw his true self in the mirror of the word. He saw a wicked and greedy politician who was on the road to destruction.**
- C. James 1:22-25**
Many people quickly forget what they see in the divine mirror. It is a waste of time to look and not obey.
- D. 2 Corinthians 3:18**
We see Jesus Christ in the mirror of the word. The more we look at Jesus the more we will become like the sinless son of God.

V. The word is like soap and water

A. Psalms 119:9

1. It takes soap and water to make a dirty person clean.
2. The word of God makes a sinner clean from sin when he believes and obeys it.

B. Ephesians 5:25-26

1. When a person obeys the word of God by being baptized, all his sins are washed away by the blood of Christ.
2. Acts 22:16

VI. The word is like a lamp

A. Psalms 119:105

1. We should always carry the word in our hearts to guide our steps through this dark sinful world.
2. Without the light from God's word no person can stay in the strait and narrow way which leads to the heavenly home.

B. Psalms 119:130

When an individual hears and believes the word, he truly sees the light.

C. John 3:19

1. The light of the word exposes the evil deeds of the wicked.
2. The unrighteous love darkness because they think it covers their sins.

D. 2 Corinthians 4:4

A person who allows Satan to blind his mind can not receive the light of truth.

VII. The worlds were created by the word

A. Hebrews 11:3

1. The word create means to bring something into being or cause it to exist.
2. God created the heavens and earth and all things therein by his word.
3. God did more in six days, by just speaking, than men have been able to do in several thousand years with all their discoveries and advancements.

VIII. We are saved by the word

A. James 1:21

1. The word of God is the only thing that can save the soul. Any person on earth who will meekly receive and obey the word will be saved.
2. Most people for one reason or another are simply not willing to meekly receive and obey the word of God.

IX. The word will never be destroyed

A. 1 Peter 1:24-25

1. We are here today, but we may be gone tomorrow. We may be praised and honored today, but we may be criticized and persecuted tomorrow.
2. When all flesh has gone back to the dust and all honors of this life are forgotten, the word of God will still exist as true and powerful as ever.
3. The diligent efforts of the Catholic Church to destroy the first printed Bibles were all in vain. The common people hid the precious word in bales of hay and sacks of flour.

X. We will be judged by the word

A. John 12:48

Those who reject the words of Christ will be weighed in the balances and found wanting on the judgment day. They were offered the priceless words of Christ and they rejected them as not being worthy of their time or consideration.

B. Romans 2:16

God will judge all men through his son, and he will judge them by the gospel of Christ.

Conclusion

A. Have you obeyed the words of God?

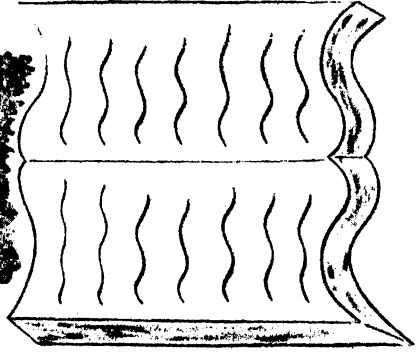
B. Are you continuing to obey them every day?

The POWER OF THE WORD

2. Like A Hammer
Jer. 23:29



1. Like A Fire
Jen. 20:9



3. Like Rain
Duet. 32:11-13



4. Like A Mirror
Jas. 1: 22-25
2 Cor. 3:18



5. Like Soap & Water
Psa. 119:9
Eph. 5:25, 26



10. Judged By Word
Rom. 2:16



Jn. 12:48

6. Like A Lamp
Psa. 119: 105
130
Jn. 3:19
2 Cor. 4:4



7. World's Created
By Word
Heb. 11:3
2 Pet. 3:5, 6



8. Saved By Word
Jas. 1:21



9. Never Be Destroyed
1 Pet. 1:24, 25



THE RESURRECTION

Introduction

1 Corinthians 15:3-20

I. Christ was raised from the dead

A. Matthew 28

1. Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and another Mary came to the sepulchre.
2. When the two women arrived at the sepulchre, the body of Jesus was gone. He had been raised from the dead.

B. Mark 16:9

1. False teachers say that Jesus was raised on the Sabbath day.
2. Mark plainly tells us Jesus was raised on the first day of the week.

C. 1 Corinthians 15:4-6

1. It takes only two or three witnesses to prove in court that an event actually happened.
2. There were hundreds of witnesses of the risen Christ.

II. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we will be raised

A. 1 Corinthians 15:20

Christ was the first person to be raised from the dead never to die again.

B. 1 Corinthians 15:23

We shall be raised when Christ comes again.

C. 1 Corinthians 6:14

The power of God raised Christ from the dead,
and it will raise us from the dead.

III. The righteous dead are asleep in Jesus

A. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

1. The righteous are at rest in the bosom of
Abraham. Luke 16:22

2. We can actually rejoice over our righteous
loved ones who have passed on because they are
far better off.

B. John 11:11

Although Jesus knew Lazarus was dead, he told
his disciples he was sleeping.

C. Mark 5:39

Jesus told the people who were mourning over
the daughter of Jairus that she was not dead,
but sleeping.

IV. The righteous and unrighteous dead will be raised

A. False teachers say that the unrighteous dead will
not be raised when Christ comes.

B. John 5:28-29

Both the good and the evil will hear Christ's
voice and come forth from the grave.

V. How are the dead raised?

A. 1 Corinthians 15:35

1. Some will not accept anything by faith. They
must be able to reason it out before they will
accept any truth.

2. Paul knew there would be people like this.

B. 1 Corinthians 15:42

The fleshly body that is sown is perishable and decays (like a seed), but the body that is resurrected is imperishable — immune to decay, immortal.

C. 1 Corinthians 15:44

Flesh and bones will not be raised, but we will be raised with a spiritual body.

D. 1 Corinthians 15:50-53

We will be changed to an incorruptible (spiritual) body in the twinkling of an eye.

E. Philippians 3:21

Our bodies will be changed into a likeness of the glorious body of Christ.

TRUTH

Introduction

- A. Truth is correct and exact. It is based on facts and not on lies and falsehoods.
- B. God is a God of truth, but the devil is the father of lies.

I. Jesus was full of truth

A. John 1:14

When Christ was dwelling on earth, he was full of truth.

B. John 14:6

- 1. Christ is not A TRUTH but THE TRUTH.
- 2. A man can not come to the father unless he believes and obeys all the truths that Christ and his apostles revealed.

C. John 1:17

The old law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

II. The word of God is true

A. John 17:17

- 1. Sanctify — to set apart.
- 2. If a person will obey the truths of God's word, he will be set apart from the sinful things of the world.

III. Preachers should preach the truth

A. 2 Timothy 4:2

1. Should preach the truth, which is the word of God.
2. When a preacher preaches the truth, he will often reprove and rebuke his listeners.

B. Acts 20:26-27

1. Paul did not shun to declare the whole counsel of God.
2. Many preachers will stand before Christ not pure from the blood of all men, for neglecting to declare the whole counsel because of fear or a desire for popularity.

C. Galatians 4:16

1. Am I become your enemy because I tell you the truth?
2. Preaching the truth has caused many people to dislike and even despise the man who preaches it.
2. Preaching the truth brought many hardships on the prophet Elijah.

IV. We should rejoice in the truth

A. 1 Corinthians 13:6

A person who loves God rejoices in the truth. He studies it for himself and wants to hear it preached.

B. 2 Thessalonians 2:13

In the beginning God chose the people who would believe and obey the truth to be saved.

C. 1 Peter 1:22

We purify our souls and make them fit to dwell in heaven by obeying the truth.

V. God will punish those who reject the truth

A. Romans 1:18

God has made known through his word, his anger at those who will not believe and obey the truth.

WHY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS THE CHURCH THAT JESUS BUILT

Introduction

A. Matthew 16:16-19

1. I believe with all my heart that the Church of Christ is the church Jesus said he would build.
2. There are over 300 denominations today, but I do not believe any of these are the church that Jesus built.

I. You can find the name of the Church of Christ in the Bible

A. Acts 4:12

1. If we are not saved in Christ and by the name of Christ, we will not be saved.
2. John the Baptist's name will not save one soul. Martin Luther's name will not save one soul.

B. Romans 16:16

Paul wrote the church at Rome that the churches of Christ saluted them.

II. Its worship service is like that of the church we read about in the Bible

A. Singing without the use of mechanical instruments of music.

1. Amos 6:5 — God may have been displeased with the mechanical instruments that were used in the Jewish worship.

- 2 Ephesians 5:19 — Sing and make melody in your heart.
 3. Colossians 3:16 — Teach and admonish one another, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.
- B. Teaching service is patterned after the New Testament church.
1. Hebrews 10:25 — Should assemble ourselves together to worship and be taught.
 2. 1 Corinthians 11:33; 14:23 — The members of the church in Corinth came together in one place to eat the Lord's Supper and be taught God's word.
 3. Deuteronomy 31:12-13 — The Jewish men, women and children all were taught the old law in one assembly. If children could learn the law of Moses in one assembly, they can learn the law of Christ in one assembly.
- C. The Lord's Supper (communion) is observed in the same manner as that of the early churches.
1. Acts 20:7 — Churches of Christ observe the communion every first day of the week. Loyal churches of Christ are careful to keep this ordinance as delivered by the Apostle Paul — 1 Corinthians 11:23.
 2. Mark 14:22-23 — Christ took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to his disciples, and they all drank of it.
- D. The collection (or contribution) is in accordance with New Testament scriptures.
1. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2
 - a. Paul commanded the members of the church

at Corinth to lay by in store on the first day of the week.

- b. Churches of Christ do not take up a collection several times each week. The members give one time — on the first day of the week.

2. 2 Corinthians 9:7

- a. Members are not required to tithe as commanded in the law of Moses; that is, they are not required to give a tenth of their income.
- b. Each member should give as he purposes in his own heart.

3. Luke 6:38

4. 2 Corinthians 9:6—If we are stingy with the Lord, he will be stingy with us.

III. The Church of Christ teaches people to be saved the same way that people were saved when the church was established

A. Acts 8:37

Believe in Christ.

B. Acts 2:38

Repent of all sin.

C. Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32-33

Confess belief (faith) in Christ

D. Acts 8:38-39

Be baptized.

The CHURCH of CHRIST

Name in Bible
Rom. 16:16
A.C. 4:12

Mt. 16:16-19

Communion

Ac. 20:7
Lk. 22:19
Mk. 14:22,23

No Instruments

Amos. 6:5
Eph. 5:19
Col. 3:16

Giving

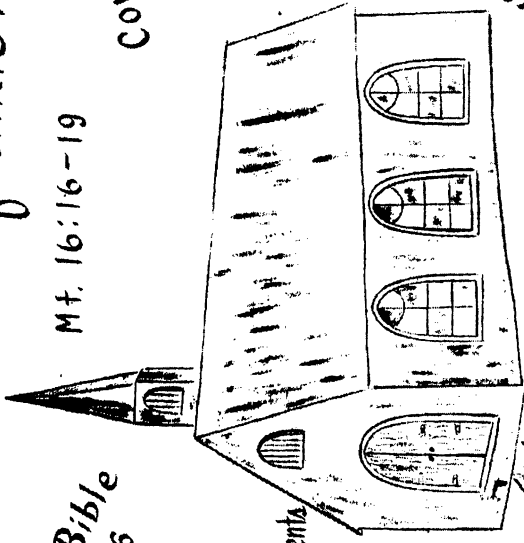
1 Cor. 16:1,2
2 Cor. 9:7
Lk. 6:38
2 Cor. 9:6

Plan of Salvation

Ac. 8:37
Ac. 2:38
Mt. 10:10
Ac. 8:38,39

The Church
Jesus built

Teaching
1 Cor. 14:23
1 Cor. 14:25
1 Cor. 14:26
1 Cor. 14:27
1 Cor. 14:28
1 Cor. 14:29
1 Cor. 14:30
1 Cor. 14:31
1 Cor. 14:32
1 Cor. 14:33
1 Cor. 14:34
1 Cor. 14:35
1 Cor. 14:36
1 Cor. 14:37
1 Cor. 14:38
1 Cor. 14:39
1 Cor. 14:40



MALT

WORSHIP

Introduction

- A. To worship God means to honor and praise him.
- B. The word worship also means to fall down at someone's feet.

I. We are commanded to worship God

A. Revelation 22:8-9

Not really a matter of choice.

B. Hebrews 10:25

II. Christ is in our midst when we worship God

A. Matthew 18:20

1. We can not see Christ with our fleshly eyes, but he is present.
2. We should always keep in mind that Christ is in our midst when we worship God and conduct ourselves accordingly.

III. We should worship GOD

A. Men have worshipped many things since the creation.

B. Luke 4:8

1. The devil tempted Christ three times.
2. Most people would worship the devil for a tiny part of one kingdom of the world. Jesus would not worship him for all the kingdoms of the world.

C. Deuteronomy 5:6-9

God warned the children of Israel not to worship anything but him.

IV. We should worship God in spirit and in truth

A. John 4:24

We worship God with our spirits and not with our flesh (carnal nature).

B. Acts 17:24-25

Paul informed the people of Athens that the true God does not dwell in temples made with hands.

C. Habakkuk 2:20

We should worship God with reverence and awe.

V. We offer spiritual sacrifices when we worship

A. 1 Peter 2:5

1. Under the law of Moses, only ordained priests could offer sacrifices.
2. All Christians are priests today and can offer spiritual sacrifices.

B. Revelation 1:5-6

C. Hebrews 13:15

We offer the sacrifice of praise.

D. Hebrews 13:16

Do good and communicate — with such sacrifices, God is well pleased.

- a. Christians should communicate unto those who teach God's word. Galatians 6:6

VI. We should enjoy worshipping God

A. Psalms 122:1

Why do not more people worship God?
Because they do not enjoy worship.

B. Psalms 119:97-105

David loved the law of God, and he loved to worship God.

VII. Where should we worship?

A. The children of Israel worshipped in the tabernacle and the temple.

B. John 4:20-24

Jesus taught that the place of worship is not the important thing. The important thing is to worship in spirit and in truth.

VIII. If we do not worship in truth, we worship in vain

A. Matthew 15:8-9

The Pharisees were great worshippers, but they worshipped in vain.

YOU NAME IT

Introduction

- A. I would like to ask the audience to name The Church I have pictured on this chart.
- B. I will give some facts about this Church from the Bible and you decide what you would name this Church if you had the responsibility of naming it.

I. The church is the bride of Christ

A. Romans 7:4

Members of The Church at Rome were dead to the Law so they could be married to Christ.

II. The Church is the body of Christ

A. Colossians 1:24

All of Paul's suffering was for the body of Christ which is The Church.

III. All spiritual blessings are in Christ

A. Ephesians 1:3

If all members of The Church must be in Christ to receive spiritual blessings, what should they name The Church of which they are members?

IV. Baptized into Christ

A. Galatians 3:26-27

- 1. When a sinner is baptized in the name of Christ for the forgiveness of sins, he is baptized into Christ.

2. Should we baptize people into Christ then ask them to wear a human name?

V. Preach Christ

A. Acts 8:5

1. The preaching of Christ is the only thing that will save the souls of men.
2. Should we save men by preaching Christ to them, then ask them to wear another name besides Christ's after they are saved?

B. 1 Corinthians 2:1-2

Paul did not have a silver tongue when he preached in Corinth, but he plainly and simply preached the gospel of Christ.

VI. Christ is the head of The Church

A. Colossians 1:18

Since Christ is the one exalted head of The Church, it certainly should wear his name.

VII. Christ is the builder of The Church

A. Matthew 16:18

Jesus promised Peter he would build his Church upon a rock.

B. Psalms 127:1

Any church that Christ did not build was built in vain and will fall.

VIII. Christ is the foundation of The Church

A. Ephesians 2:19-20

Christian Jews and Gentiles are living stones in God's house. Christ with the apostles and prophets is the foundation of this spiritual house.

B. 1 Corinthians 3:11

No man can lay any other foundation.

IX. Christ's blood purchased The Church

A. Acts 20:28

Paul commanded the Ephesian elders to feed
The Church that God purchased with his blood.

B. 1 Peter 1:18-19

They were not redeemed from sin with gold or
silver, but with the blood of Christ.

X. Christ saves

A. Ephesians 5:23

Christ will save the people who are in his body,
which is The Church.

XI. Christ's doctrine

A. 2 John 9-11

YOU NAME IT

Bride of Christ
Eph. 5:23-31
Ro. 7:4

Body of Christ
Eph. 1:22,23 Col. 1:24
I Cor. 12:13 Eph. 4:4

S.P. Blessings in
Christ
Eph. 1:3 Col. 2:3

Bapt. into Christ
Gal. 3:26,27 Rom. 6:4
I Cor. 12:13

Preach Christ
Ac. 8:4 5:12
I Cor. 2:12

Mt. 16:13-16 I Cor. 12:13
Eph. 1:22,23 4:14
Jn. 12:47,48

Christ-Head
Col. 1:18 Eph. 1:22,23

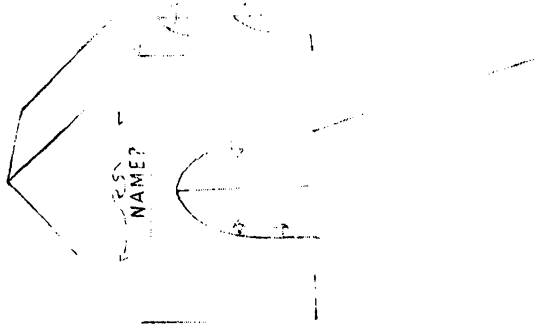
Christ-Builder
Mt. 16:18 Mk. 9:1
Psa. 127:1

Christ-Foundation
Mt. 16:18 Eph. 2:19,20
I Cor. 3:10,11

Christ-Blood
Rev. 1:5 Ac. 20:28
Eph. 1:7 1 Pet. 1:18,19

Christ-Saves
Eph. 5:23 Ac. 2:47

Christ-Doctrine
2 Jn. 9:11 Jude 3



MEMO

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