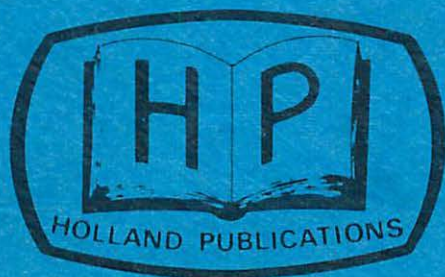


SOUL-SIGHTED SERMONS

THOMAS H. HOLLAND





Edwin Burgess

SOUL-SIGHTED SERMONS
(In Outline)

by

Thomas H. Holland

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1974

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Edwin Burgess

Dedicated To
My Parents (in law)
Carmon and Lucille Lannom
Rutherford, Tennessee

Edwin Burgess

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FOREWORD

These sermon outlines are being published in the hope that they will be of use to fellow-labourers in the gospel, and that God's work will be helped by the publication and proclamation of these lessons.

The author has attempted to be somewhat creative in approach to the "Old Jerusalem Gospel". He is not so naive in this regard as to assert originality. In reality, the ideas for the sermons outlined in this book have come from so many different sources and people that it would be a mistake to attempt to name all of them.

All sermon outline books have their limitations. First, the author has the advantage of research that went into the development of the sermon. The only way known to this writer by which one who uses an outline can compensate for this limitation is to do personal research in connection with each outline used. By "research" is meant the reading of commentaries on the various passages of scripture used in the sermon; reading full length written sermons on the same subject; reading articles in religious journals which discuss the subject.

Second, the minds of men differ as they approach a subject. A variety of approaches is used in these outlines. Further, it is hoped that the outlines are flexible enough that one can utilize the outline and adapt it to the desired aim he has for a particular lesson.

Third, sermon outlines can be lifeless things unless the user makes the sermon his own. This can only be done as the outline is used as a guide in research and thorough preparation for the presentation of the lesson. If the preacher relies exclusively on the outline, he will probably receive little if any satisfaction from preaching

the sermon, and the audience will probably receive less!

These sermons have been preached in gospel meetings as well as in local congregational work. They have been tested in the laboratory of actual preaching situations.

It is with confidence that they can be useful in the Lord's work that these sermon outlines are sent forth.

Tom Holland
January 1974

RELEVANCY OF GOD'S REVELATION

Matthew 24:35

Thesis To show why contemporary man still sorely needs the Bible.

Introduction

1. The one prominent characteristic of the day is change.
 - A. Means of transportation have changed in the past few years.
 - B. Think of the change in agriculture.
 - C. Medicine has made great strides.
 - D. This is the age of the technological revolution.
2. Bacon said: "They that reverence too much old times are but a scorn to the new."
 - A. Shall we surrender modern cars for the horse and buggy?
 - B. Shall farmers trade power-guided tractors for a team of mules?
 - C. Why then hold on to an old Bible?
3. In the areas of change, man is improving on what he has made or discovered.
4. The Bible is from God (2 Tim. 3:16) and is perfect (James 1:25).
 - A. Man can improve on what he has made.
 - B. He dare not tamper with that which God Almighty has delivered.

Discussion

1. The Bible Is Relevant Because Sin Is Prevalent.
 - A. There are three words used often in Scripture to describe a condition of man.
 1. Sin. This means to "miss the mark". (Romans 3:23.)
 2. Transgression. Literally, to step a-

cross God's fixed boundary. (1 John 3:4.)

3. Iniquity. This means that which is crooked or deviates from the standard. (Isa. 59:1,2.)

B. Sin, transgression, iniquity are realities.

1. Some significant facts point up the reality of sin in our society: 5 million alcoholics; 7 million now living who were born out of wedlock; crime bill now \$128.00 per capita.
2. Men may label it "social stigma", but as long as men kill, rob, steal, plunder, rape, hate, lie, curse, get drunk, and covet, they sin!
3. To deny the reality of sin is to doubt the reports given daily via newspapers, radio, and TV.

C. The Bible deals with the problem of sin.

1. The Bible is not a book of science or economics.
2. The Bible deals with the reality of sin. (Rom. 3:23.)
3. It reveals the desire of God to save men from sin. (1 Tim. 2:4; John 3:16; Rom. 5:6-9.)
4. It reveals what men must do in order to be saved. (Jas. 1:21.)

II. God's Pertinent Message Gives Purpose To Life.

A. Life is more than skin deep. (Matt. 4:4.)

1. Man cannot, like the animal, eat, drink, and lie down to contentment.
2. He must have a purpose for being.

B. The "whole of man" was stated by one who had been in the "laboratory of life" trying to ascertain those things which

would make man happy. (Ecc. 12:13,14.)

- C. God's word gives purpose for living and hope in dying. (1 Cor. 15:19.)

III. God's Book Is Modern Because Of The Mass Of Men.

- A. This is the age of the "population explosion".

1. Some 3 billion people now live on earth.
2. U. N. Census Report estimates that by 2000 there will be 7.4 billion!
3. The individual is lost in the mass of humanity; he becomes a number.

- B. The Bible places the emphasis on the worth of the individual.

1. The worth of the individual soul. (Matthew 16:26.)
2. God knows the individual personally. (Psalms 139:1-12.)
3. If He knows the fall of the sparrow, He knows men. (Matthew 10:29,30.)

- C. Jesus demonstrated his concern with the individual.

1. Jesus would take the time to teach Nicodemus. (John 3:1-8.)
2. He would teach the woman of Samaria. (John 4.)

Conclusion

1. It is not true that education and Bible belief are incompatible.
2. In the midst of change, God's word and His kingdom do not change. (Matthew 24:35; Hebrews 12:28.)
3. In this highly scientific age, the Bible is still very relevant. "If humanity is destroyed by an atomic war, it will be the hate and greed

of man that triggers it." - - Paul Harvey,
ABC News.

SCRIPTURAL REASONS FOR "PREACHING THE WORD"

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Thesis To emphasize the acute need man has
for God's word.

Introduction

1. The New Testament emphasis on preaching:
 - A. John the Baptist prepared the way for Christ by preaching. (Matthew 3:1-2.)
 - B. Jesus was a preacher. (Matthew 4:23.)
 - C. Christ sent the apostles to preach. (Mark 16:15.)
2. The right thing must be preached.
 - A. 1 Corinthians 1:21--not the act of preaching; the message proclaimed.
 - B. 2 Timothy 4:1--"preach the word."
 1. Word--scripture (graphe, i. e., sacred writings.)
 2. Why preach the word?
3. This is not "reasoning in a circle", because we begin with a message from God!

Discussion

- I. Scriptures Make One Wise Unto Salvation. (2 Timothy 3:15.)
 - A. Salvation defined:
 1. "The saving of man from the power and effects of sin"--Webster.
 2. "Deliverence, preservation, safety, salvation"--Thayer.
 - a. Salvation as the present possession of all true Christians. (2 Timothy 2:10.)
 - b. Future salvation...(1 Pet.1:5,10.) Thayer, p. 612.
 - B. Salvation is dependent upon a knowledge of God's word. (1 Timothy 2:1-4.)

- C. Salvation is dependent upon obedience to God's word. (James 1:18-25.)
- II. All The Needs Of Men Are Supplied By The Scriptures. (2 Timothy 3:16,17.)
- A. Teaching (doctrine) is necessary. (John 6:44,45; Matthew 28:18-20.)
 - B. "Reproof" (Conviction--Vincent, Vol. IV, p. 317.)
 - 1. Conviction proceeds conversion.
 - 2. Conviction: of sin and lost condition.
 - C. "Correction" ("Restoring to an upright state; setting right--Ibid.)
 - 1. How to receive forgiveness of sins. (alien or erring.)
 - 2. Confidence that correction can be made.
 - D. "Instruction in right doing." (Chastisement or discipline--Ibid.)
 - 1. Guards one against sin. (Psalms 119:11; Matthew 4:1ff.)
 - 2. Things on which one should think. (Philippians 4:6.)
 - 3. Reveals what God's children are to do in positive way.
- III. Standard Of Authority In Doctrine And Morality. (2 Timothy 4:2.)
- A. Prevalent idea today is that everything is relative.
 - 1. The only thing some are absolutely certain of is that one cannot be absolutely certain about anything!
 - 2. "What is truth?" skeptical Pilate asked Jesus.
 - B. "Reprove" implies that one is in error and needs arguments presented to convince him of the truth.

1. This implies a standard for measuring lives.
2. The word is that standard.
- C. "Rebuke" implies that one must be warned of wrong done.
 1. If all is relative, then there is no wrong or right, per se.
 2. However, we have a standard of right and wrong--the word of God!
- D. How apply the standard?
 1. Some things specifically condemn. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-20.)
 2. Some things are condemned in principle. (Romans 14.)
 3. When in doubt, don't. (1 Thessalonians 5:22.)

IV. Men Turn To Fables If The Word Is Not Preached. (2 Timothy 4:3-4.)

- A. 2 Timothy 2:15-19.
 1. Words which subvert.
 2. "Profane and vain babblings"--empty speculations and suppositions.
 3. "Increase to ungodliness"--Gets attention off of word which sets forth responsibility to God.
- B. Today there are many fables in religion.
 1. New Birth is made a mystery.
 2. Conversion is made a mysterious operation of the Holy Spirit.
 3. Direct operation of Holy Spirit. (Including new fad of "speaking in tongues").
 4. "Additional revelations" of Joe Smith, Ellen G. White, et. al.
 5. Religion made a show.

V. Men Shall Be Judged By The Word.(2 Timothy 4:1.)

A. Judgment is certain. (Hebrews 9:27 ; Acts 17:30,31.)

B. All present upon that occasion. (2 Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 25:31ff.)

C. Judged by word of God. (John 12:48; 2 Timothy 4:1.)

1. Not by philosophy, psychology, politics, etc.

2. If men are to be judged by the word, let preachers preach the word!

Conclusion

1. How beautiful are preachers' feet! (Romans 10:13-17.)

2. Let us go and preach the gospel; the word of God, the truth, the scriptures.

EVANGELIST, THE WORK OF 2 Timothy 4:5

Thesis To encourage brethren to let a preacher do the work set forth in the New Testament.

Introduction

1. Much is written in the New Testament about preaching and preachers.
2. Four reasons study is important:
 - A. Many in church have come from denominationalism and we assume that they know work of a preacher...often they do not. (ill. "This is our pastor.")
 - B. We preach on the work of elders. Why? Just for elders sake?
 - C. Possible to drift from New Testament concept of an evangelist.
 - D. We need to encourage young men to become preachers.

Discussion

- I. What Is An Evangelist?
 - A. Concept church often has:
 1. "Whip"--one who gets program of work going even if some members resist.
 2. Spiritual putty--fill in whatever gaps are lacking in the personnel or leadership of the church.
 3. Poor sucker--who can't do anything else.
 - B. Concept religious world often has... and sometimes some Christians:
 1. Itinerant preacher--one who goes from place to place.
 2. Revivalist--one who holds "union

meetings".

3. Located preacher--one who runs the show..."evangelistic authority."
- C. Webster--"bringer or bearer of good tidings"; preacher of the gospel.
- D. Illustration: Acts 8: 5, 12, 35, 40..cf. Acts 21:8.
- E. Evangelists are ministers. (2 Timothy 4:5.)
 1. Diakonos: "one who executes the commands of another; a servant, attendant, a minister."
 2. Same word deacon comes from this word.

II. The Work Of An Evangelist As Outlined In 2 Timothy.

- A. Follow pattern of sound words. (1:13.)
- B. Guard the truth: (1:14.)
 1. False teachers are constantly working.
 2. Unfaithful members pose threat to work of the Lord. (Galatians 6:1.)
- C. Teach faithful men. (2:2.)
- D. Suffer as a soldier. (2:3.)
- E. Avoid words to no profit. (2:14.)
- F. Study. (2:15; 3:14,15.)
- G. Correct opponents of the truth. (2:25.)
- H. Preach the word of God. (4:1-4.)(See sermon: "Scriptural Reasons For Preaching The Word, p.11.)

III. Relationship To Preacher.

- A. Support preacher.
 1. Taught are to "communicate" with teacher. (Galatians 6:6.)
 2. Paul's argument shows responsibility of church to support preacher. (1

Corinthians 9:7-14.)

- a. Soldier worthy of wages. vs. 7
- b. Plant a vineyard, eat fruit. vs. 7
- c. Feed flock, drink milk. vs. 7
- d. Law-- don't muzzle ox treading out the corn. vs. 9
- e. Expect remuneration. vs.10
- f. Sow spiritual, reap carnal.vs.11
- g. Those waited at altar, supported. vs. 12
- h. Lord has ordained... vs. 14

3. Preacher can support himself. (Acts 18.)

4. Other churches can support him. (Phillipians 4:14ff.)

B. "Let the preacher preach."

1. Aug. 20, 1957 Life-- "Why Ministers Are Breaking Down." (His role as conceived by average church member cannot be filled.)

2. Let all Christians be workers. (1 Corinthians 12 body with all members functioning.)

C. Respect him for work he does.

1. Many think preacher has life of ease.

2. Your life in a glass bowl; family does; one is public property.

3. Encourage him--cooperation and commendation.

D. Stand behind him when he preaches the truth.

Conclusion

1. Feet of the preacher are beautiful. (Romans 10:13-17.)

2. No greater work on earth; rewards are heavenly .

HOW TO HEAR Luke 8:18

Thesis The hearer has a vital role in the progress of communicating the word of God.

Introduction

1. Way for Christ was prepared by a preacher. (Matthew 3:1,2.)
 - A. "Preach": to proclaim as a herald.
 1. Message did not originate with the herald.
 2. He was obligated to faithfully proclaim the message.
 - B. God could have used other means, but He didn't.
2. Salvation is to be preached. (Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46,47.)
3. God's plan for saving man is a preaching plan. (1 Corinthians 1:21.)
4. Effective preaching demands responsive hearing as well as a faithful proclamation of the gospel.

Discussion

1. Importance Of The Hearer.
 - A. Hearer must help produce powerful preaching.
 1. Jesus could not do the job by Himself. (Matthew 13:15,16.)
 2. One today could say, "Preacher, you had better make it good; I have many important things that could engage my thinking."
 - B. Some results of placing all the responsibility on the preacher:

1. Preaching becomes a competitive performance on the part of preachers.
 2. This sometimes produces envy and jealousy which in turn results in strife.
 3. Efforts sometimes are made to make the pulpit compete with the entertainment world.
- C. Sermons, scriptural discourses, are not ends in themselves.
1. Sermons are not exhibits to be analyzed by curious spectators.
 2. They are lessons designed to enlighten, stir, inform, and save.
 3. Sermons should "comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable."

II. The Emphasis On Hearing In The Parable Of The Sower. (Luke 8:4-16.)

- A. Nothing wrong with the seed. (Luke 8:11.)
1. God's word is living and powerful. (Hebrews 4:12.)
 2. God's word is able to save the soul. (James 1:21.)
- B. What was the real problem?
1. Not the sower, who so often must take the blame.
 2. In this parable the real problem was the hearer.
 - a. Buttrick has called this parable, "The parable of the soils", or "The responsibility of the hearers."
 - b. Hearing is urgent business. (Luke 8:8.)
- C. Who are the hearers described and warned in this parable?

1. Hearer with the shut mind. (unteachable)
 - a. Mind could be closed by pride.
 - b. Fear of learning new truth.
2. Hearer who fails to think things out.
3. Hearer with excessive interests in life.
4. Hearer with good and honest heart.

III. How Should One Hear?

A. One should not be:

1. An indifferent hearer. (James 1:18; Acts 10:33.)
2. A captious hearer. (Proverb 5:13.)
3. A forgetful hearer. (James 1:22-25.)
4. A hearer with "Itching ears". (2 Timothy 4:3,4.)

B. One should hear in order to understand. (Ephesian 5:17; Luke 8:8.)

1. One must give careful attention to the lesson in spite of noise, heat, time, etc.
2. One must overcome mental laziness.
3. Strive to analyze the lesson being presented:
 - a. What is the aim of the sermon?
 - b. What are the main points?
4. Note taking often helps one keep up with the lesson.

Conclusion

1. There is a law of action and reaction, "to him that hath shall be given."
2. Let hearer accept his responsibility in the preaching situation.
3. The hearer must obey. (James 1:21.)

JESUS' ATTITUDE TOWARD SCRIPTURES

Philippians 2:5; 2 Corinthians 13:5

Thesis Deeper respect for the Bible.

Introduction

1. Scriptures Are The Standard For Life. (Matthew 4:4.)
 - A. Quoted from Deuteronomy 8:3. (God let the people get hungry, then the Lord fed them, so they would realize dependence on God.)
 - B. Man must have standard besides self. (Jeremiah 10:23.)
 1. Divine Comedy: "In the middle of the journey of this life; I came to myself in a dark wood, where there the direct way was lost."
 2. The word of the Lord is a lamp and a light. (Psalms 119:105.)
 - C. Men have standards--(values by which they measure things.)
 1. Their own desires. (Men often decide by emotion and then rationalize.)
 2. Crowds. (Matthew 7:13,14.)
 3. Friends.
 - D. Man of God completely furnished! (2 Timothy 3:16,17.)
- II. Scriptures Are Accurate. (Matthew 5:17,18.)
 - A. "Jot" or "tittle"--stroke of a pen.
 - B. Matthew 22:29,31--Lord quoted and thereby recognized the validity of a translation.
 - C. Old Testament things--
 1. "Rib story" (Matthew 19:4,5.) Note: "Read what God said."
 2. "Flood"--(Luke 17:26-32.)

3. "Sodom"--(Luke 17.)
4. "Lot's wife"--(Luke 17:32.)
5. "The fish story"--(Matthew 12:40, 41.)
- D. Paul's argument hinges on one letter. (Galatians 3:16.)
- III. Scriptures Are Authoritative. (John 10:35.)
 - A. Scripture cannot be broken by:
 1. Tradition.
 2. Desires of men.
 3. Opinions.
 - B. Burning issue now!!!
 1. Will Bible plus pope, Book of Mormon, etc. be the authority in religion?
 2. Holy Spirit guided the Apostles into all Truth. (John 16:13.)
 3. Things Apostles wrote are Lord's commands. (1 Corinthians 14:37.)

Conclusion

1. The poem: "The Anvil".
2. Hard to invent methods of showing reverence for the scriptures that New Testament writers did not show toward Old Testament.
3. Jesus demonstrated a respect for the Scriptures that those who follow him will also have.
4. One's attitude toward Scriptures determines his acceptance or rejection of God's word.

GOD WILL HAVE ALL MEN TO BE SAVED

1 Timothy 2:1-6

Introduction

1. There are four classes of people in the world:
 - A. Those that are unconcerned about salvation.
 - B. Those who feel that they are morally good enough to be saved without obeying the Gospel.
 - C. Those who feel that they are too wicked to be saved.
 - D. Those who will learn and obey the truth.
2. Four fundamental facts men must face:
 - A. All responsible people are lost out of Christ.
 - B. They are responsible for their conduct.
 - C. God wants all men to be saved.
 - D. Men really can be saved.
3. Salvation defined:
 - A. Thayer: "Rescue from danger of destination; saved from punitive wrath of God at judgment of the Last Day."
 - B. Webster: "Delivered from the spiritual consequences of sin."
 - C. Bible definition: John 3:13--Perish.
 1. Thayer: (Perish) "Incur the loss of eternal life; to be delivered up to eternal misery."
 2. Romans 5:7. "Wrath of God."

Discussion

1. Four Arguments To Prove That God Wants All To Be Saved:
 - A. One God-- creator of all. (Acts 17:28,

29; Hebrews 12:9; 1 Peter 4:19.)

1. God made man to serve Him. (Ecclesiastes 12:12,13.)
2. According to Toynbee, man has worshipped three things: nature, self, God.

B. One Christ--mediator for all.

1. A mediator goes between parties at variance.
2. Problem: Separated from God by sin. (Isaiah 59:1,2.)
 - a. Need God's hand--help.
 - b. Need God's ears--when pray.
3. The mediator: the man. (John 1:4.)
 - a. He knows how weak we are. (1 John 2:1.)
 - b. He was tempted like we are. (Hebrews 4:15.)

C. One Ransom--Jesus died for all.

1. Ransom: price paid to free slaves.
2. Jesus died to free us from slavery of sin:
 - a. Consequences of sin. (Romans 6:23.)
 - b. Guilt and condemnation. (Hebrews 10:1-4.)
3. Picture calvary. (Isaiah 53:10.)

D. One Testimony--Gospel designed to save all.

1. God's power to save all men. (Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.)
2. Man is not saved by dreams, visions, and special revelations.

II. One Must Learn The Truth In Order To Be Saved.

- A. If God wants men saved (four arguments just preceding), if one must learn truth

to be saved, did God give the truth so we can learn it?

1. If not, why not?

a. Could He not do it?--challenges His greatness: that which makes Him God.

b. Would He not do it but could?---challenges His goodness.

2. If yes, then denominationalism is wrong when asserts that one can't really know; just be honest and sincere. (John 8:32.)

B. Can know does not mean "will know."

1. Proper attitude toward Truth is essential. (Matthew 13:23.; cf.; Luke 8:15.)

III. The Truth To Save.

A. Question asked three times in Acts: "What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30; 2:37; 9:6.)

B. Answer for you depends on your spiritual condition when you ask.

1. If you are a believer: repent and be baptized. (Acts 2:38.)

2. If a penitent believer: "Arise and be baptized." (Acts 22:16.)

Conclusion

1. This study has been concerned with salvation requirements for the alien sinner.

2. Christian must add "Graces". (2 Peter 1:5-11.)

3. Don't neglect salvation. (Hebrews 2:1-3.)

THE HIDDEN GOSPEL

2 Corinthians 4:1-5

Thesis Show why men fail to understand the saving gospel with the hope that they will understand the truth.

Introduction

1. The gospel is God's power to save men.
 - A. 1 Corinthians 15:1-3. The context shows that men were saved by the gospel. Paul preached, not by some miraculous operation of the Holy Spirit.
 1. 1 Corinthians 12, the manifestation of spiritual gifts.
 2. 1 Corinthians 13, the duration of these gifts.
 3. 1 Corinthians 14, the regulation of these gifts.
 4. 1 Corinthians 15:1-3, saved by the gospel!
 - B. Romans 1:16-18. Gospel God's power to save because it is a "revealer"!
 1. Gospel reveals God's righteousness, i. e., the way God makes men righteous.
 2. Gospel reveals the unrighteousness of men.
 3. Gospel reveals the wrath of God against all unrighteousness.
2. The gospel has:
 - A. Facts to be believed. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4.)
 - B. Commands to be obeyed. (1 Thessalonians 1:7-9.)
3. Why do men fail to understand and obey the gospel?

- A. Not a new problem.
- B. Paul gives some reasons in context of 2 Corinthians 4.

Discussion

- I. Failure To See Place Of Old Testament In Plan Of Salvation.
 - A. The "ministry" of 2 Corinthians 4:1 is discussed in 3:6-16.
 1. Old covenant, including that written on stones, viz., the ten commandments, is no longer binding.
 2. But many failed to learn this lesson. (2 Corinthians 3:12-15.)
 - B. The problem in the early church:
 1. Acts 15.
 2. Galatians. (The law plus the gospel.)
 - a. Galatians 1:6-9. This is a perversion of the gospel.
 - b. Galatians 3:16-19. Law added "till" Christ shall come.
 3. Hebrews. (Rejecting Christ for the law.)
 - a. Hebrews 8:7-12.
 - b. Hebrews 10:9,10.
 - C. A failure to distinguish between the covenants leads men today to teach that people can be saved like:
 1. Palsied man. (Mark 2:8.)
 2. Sinful woman. (Luke 7:48.)
 3. Thief on the cross. (Luke 23:43.)
- II. God's Word Is Handled Deceitfully Today As Then. (2 Corinthians 4:2.)
 - A. "Prove anything by the Bible" if this is the intention!
 - B. Men will use the Bible in an effort to

prove:

1. Man is "dead sinner" and incapable of believing gospel until a miracle is performed by God on man's heart.
 2. Bible is dead letter and incapable of instructing man; Bible must have a "divine interpreter".
 3. Direct operation of Holy Spirit necessary to saving men from sin.
- C. All these theories tend to blind men to the need to responding to God's word. (Hebrews 4:12; James 1:21.)
- D. Men try to prove the "faith only" theory by appealing to passages which affirm salvation by faith. (James 2:24.)
- E. God's law of pardon for alien sinner often confused with law of pardon for erring Christian.

III. Men Preach Themselves. (2 Corinthians 4:5)

- A. People often blindly follow religious leaders. (Acts 17:11.)
- B. A preacher is to minister the word. (2 Timothy 4:1-5.)
- C. Paul placed the emphasis on the feet, not on the preacher's head! (Roman 10:13-17.)
- D. Peter admonished men to speak as the oracles of God. (1 Peter 4:11.)

IV. "God Of This World" Blinds Minds. (2 Corinthians 4:4.)

- A. Note: The gospel is addressed to the mind!
1. Must be a hearing and a learning. (John 6:44,45.)
 2. Romans 10:13-17.
 3. Some religious today place too much

emphasis on the emotions and feelings
become the criterion for proof of
salvation.

- B. Devil uses pleasures to keep men bound in sin. (Hebrews 11:24,25.)
- C. Some men value acclaim of fellows more than approval of God. (John 5:44.) Satan has deceived them.

Conclusion

1. Jesus commanded His disciples to "preach the gospel." (Mark 16:15,16.)
2. Obey the gospel to your salvation; reject to your condemnation. (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.)

NATURES OF THE NEW BIRTH

John 3:1-8

Thesis To show true nature of being "born again".

Introduction

1. No apology for discussing The Old New Birth.
2. Change whereby one leaves the service of Satan for the service to God so radical: Birth; i.e., beginning of life in a new environment. (Isaiah 1:18; 2 Corinthians 5:17.)
3. Four natures involved in new birth.

Discussion

- I. Nature Of One Who Said, "You Must Be Born Again."
 - A. Is Jesus God? (John 1:1,2,14.)
 - B. John testimony. (John 1:29.)
 - C. John 20:30,31.
 - D. 1 John 1:1-4; 2 Peter 1:16-18.
- II. Nature Of Man Who Must Be "Born Again".
 - A. Like the wind!
 - B. 2 Corinthians 4:16--Inward man.
 - C. 1 Peter 3:1-3--Hidden man of the heart.
 1. Thinks. (Hebrews 4:12.)
 2. Reasons. (Matthews 2:8.)
 3. Loves. (Matthews 22:37.)
 4. Purposes. (2 Corinthians 9:7.)
 - D. Why new birth needed? (Ephesians 2:1-3; Titus 1:15.)
 1. Serving Satan.
 2. "god of this world" (2 Cor. 4:4.)
- III. Nature Of Kingdom--Environment Into Which One Is Born.
 - A. Spiritual domain!

- B. Luke 17:20,21.
 - 1. "of God"--ownership.
 - 2. "of heaven"--locality
- C. Colossians 1:12,13.
- D. Hebrews 12:28.
 - 1. Kingdoms of the world--temporal.
 - 2. Kingdom of heaven--permanent!

IV. Nature Of The Birth.

- A. Not incomprehensible; mysterious operation.
- B. Matthew 18:3--New Birth - -Conversion
Matthew 7:21--New Birth--doing God's will
- C. One Birth: deliverance from one state into another.
 - 1. Two elements:
 - a. Water
 - b. Spirit
 - 2. Water:
 - a. "Only three things born of water: mosquitoes, tadpoles, and campbellites".
 - b. Water's connection is baptism.
 - 3. Spirit leads through God's word.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 12:15; 6:9-11; Acts 18:8.
 - b. 1 Peter 18,19.
 - c. 1 Peter 1:22-25; 1:12.

Conclusion

- 1. You must!
- 2. If no human responsibility--God's fault if you aren't.

THE CHURCH THAT CHRIST BUILT

Matthews 16:13-19

Thesis To lead men to see the importance of being members of the Lord's church.

Introduction

1. Many people have idea that they cannot understand the Biblical teaching relative to the church. (See Ephesians 3:1-6.)
 - A. Paul received truth by revelation.
 - B. Those who read what he wrote could have the understanding that Paul had of the body of Christ.
2. Jesus promised knowledge to those who sincerely wanted to know. (John 7:17.)

Discussion

1. Jesus Built The Church According To God's Blueprint.
 - A. God's plan for the church had been discussed by some of the prophets. (Isaiah 2:2-4.)
 1. God's "house" is the church. (1 Timothy 3:15.)
 2. "All nations" would flow to "it". (Ephesians 2:16.)
 3. The church consists of those who:
 - a. Are taught God's ways. (Isaiah 55:8,9.)
 - b. Walk in God's paths. (Psalms 23; 119:173.)
 4. The "law" is connected with the church in Isaiah 2.
 - a. Law of salvation accepted and proclaimed by the church. (Ro-

mans 8:1-3.)

b. The law of Christ.(Galatians 6:2.)

5. Nature of the church. (Isaiah 2:4.)

a. The old covenant was a combination of civil and religious.

b. Sword would be taken away from God's spiritual Israel. (John 18:36.)

B. The foundation on which the church would be built was also revealed by the prophet. (Isaiah 28:16.)

1. The "stone" would be tried or tested.

2. The foundation would be sure.

II. The Church Christ Built Belongs To Him.

A. He is the builder of it.(Matthew 16:18.)

B. He is the head of it. (Ephesians 1:22, 23; Colossians 1:18.)

C. He decides who enters. (Acts 2:47.)

1. Never read in the Bible, "What must I do to become a member of the church?"

2. Never read of men voting to decide who could become a member.

3. Never read of people "joining the church".

D. He is the Savior of the body. (Ephesians 5:23.)

III. The Church Of Christ Is Built On The Foundation Of Christ.

A. If Christ built church on Peter, it is still built on him.

1. Perversion of Matthew 16:18 to assert that the church was built on Peter and his successors!

2. Nothing in Matthew 16:18 about "Holy See" or apostolic office.

3. In the context of the passage, is Peter the foundation or door keeper?

(Matthew 16:18,19.)

- B. Church built on Christ.
 - 1. Can't get into church without faith in Christ.
 - 2. Church is people saved by Christ. (Acts 2:47; Acts 4:12.)
- C. Other foundation can no man lay! (1 Corinthians 3:11.)
- IV. Christ Built The Church To Be God's Holy Temple. (Ephesians 2:21,22.)
 - A. Beauty of God's temple. (Ephesians 5:25-27.)
 - 1. "Beauty of holiness."
 - 2. Beauty of godly living.
 - B. Worship in God's temple. (1 Peter 2:5.)
 - 1. Beauty and power of singing.
 - 2. Spiritual strength from partaking of Lord's Supper. (1 Corinthians 11.)
 - 3. Beauty of prayer.
 - 4. Power of giving. (2 Corinthians 9:7.)
 - 5. Strength from God's word. (Acts 20:32.)

Conclusion

- 1. "The Church" is the saved. (Acts 2:47.)
- 2. Implies man's need to be in the church.
- 3. Will you be saved, by obeying God's Truth (Acts 2:40), and believe that the Lord will add you to the church?

THE MISSION OF CHRIST'S CHURCH

1 Corinthians 15:58

Thesis To get each Christian to work in all areas of Christian service.

Introduction

1. The "Church" defined:
 - A. The saved. (Acts 2:47.)
 1. Saved from sin, i.e., having received the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38.)
 2. Saved for service to Christ. (1 Thessalonians 1:9.)
 - B. "Church" is the EKKLESIA.
 1. EKKLESIA is from ek, out of, and klesis, a calling.
 2. It has two applications to companies of Christians:
 - a. To the whole company of the redeemed throughout the present era. (Matthew 16:18.)
 - b. In the singular number (Matthew 18:17, R. V. marg. "congregation") to a company consisting of professed believers. (Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 1:2.)--W. E. Vine, An Expository Dictionary
2. The "church" at Corinth was to abound in the Lord's work.
3. Nothing walks with aimless feet; the church has a mission given by the Lord.

Discussion

1. The Mission Of The Church Is To Save Souls.
 - A. The universal need: people are lost in

sin. (Romans 3:23.)

1. The world is "dead in sins". (Ephesians 2:1-3.)

2. The danger: eternal hell. (Romans 6:23.)

B. The Great Commission is binding on Christians. (Matthew 28:18-20.)

1. Jesus said those taught and baptized were to do what the apostles had been commissioned to do, viz., teach and baptize.

2. This would continue until the "end of the world."

C. Who is to teach the saving word to the lost?

1. Individual Christians. (Acts 8:5,12.)

2. Congregations. (Acts 13:1-5; 14:26, 27.)

D. Avenues of activity:

1. The pulpit.

2. Personal evangelism in "cottage meetings."

3. Radio and TV.

E. There is a place for every Christian to labor for Christ.

II. The Mission Of The Church Is To Strengthen The Saved.

A. The need of edification. (1 Peter 2:1,2; 2 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 4:11-16.)

B. Who is to strengthen the saved?

1. Individuals in the church. (Romans 14:19.)

2. Congregations of Christians. (Ephesians 4:11,12.)

C. Areas for growth:

1. Socially.

2. In Business.

3. In home.

4. Spiritually.
 - D. Avenues for activity:
 1. Classes in homes.
 2. Special training groups: singing classes; personal work programs; preacher-training classes.
 3. Classes on the Lord's Day.
 - E. There is a place for every Christian to labor.
- III. The Mission Of The Church Is To Serve The Suffering.
- A. The need. (Matthew 26:11.)
 - B. Why help the poor?
 1. Command. (Galatians 6:10.)
 2. In view of judgment. (Matthew 25:21-46.)
 3. Promised blessings. (2 Corinthians 9:9.)
 4. To follow Jesus. (1 Peter 2:21.)
 5. Because we love them. (1 John 3:17.)
 6. It is a part of "pure religion". (James 1:27.)
 - C. Who is to do this work?
 1. Individuals. (Matthew 25:41-46; 1 Timothy 5:16.)
 2. Congregations. (2 Corinthians 8:1-5; Galatians 6:10.)
 - D. How?
 1. In the realm of expediency.
 2. The ability of the church, the nature of the case, and the law of the land will determine method(s) to be employed:
 - a. A family has lost everything in a fire.
 - b. Three orphan children in a community.
 - c. A man is sick and unable to work.

E. There is a place for all of God's people to serve in this area.

Conclusion

1. "Unto him (God) be glory in the church."
(Ephesians 3:21.)
2. God is glorified in the church when the church is faithful to its mission.
3. Let all of God's people truly sing: "I will work, I will pray, I will labor every day in the vineyard of the Lord."

✓ DEMANDS OF DISCIPLESHIP ✓

Matthew 16:24-26

Thesis One must be willing to pay the price to become and be a Christian.

Introduction

1. A disciple is a follower or learner.
2. Jesus often used the term, disciple.
3. It is a common term in the New Testament.
4. In Acts the term became synonymous with "baptized believer". (Acts 11:26.)

Discussion

- ✓ I. "If Any Man": Shows Great Possibility.
 - A. Jesus called men to be disciples from various walks of life.
 1. Peter, Andrew, James, and John were fishermen.
 2. Matthew had been a despised publican.
 - B. The "Great Invitation" was given after people had rejected Jesus. (Matthew 11:28-30; 20-24.)
 - C. There is the great possibility of men to-day--rich, poor, educated, uneducated, sick and well--coming to Jesus.
 1. Salvation is common. (Jude 3.)
 2. "Whosoever will". (Revelation 22:17.)
- ✓ II. "Follow Me": Discipleship Demands That The Leader Be Followed.
 - A. Some have wanted Jesus to follow them.
 1. Lord had to tell Peter, "Get behind me." (Matthew 16:21-23.)
 2. Some would become disciples today if Jesus would follow them.
 - B. Song: "Where He Leads Me, I Will

Follow" expresses the idea.

- C. Disciples have Jesus for an example. (1 Peter 2:21.)

✓ III. The Personal Challenge Of Discipleship:

A. "Deny self".

1. Involves more than denying some things for self.
2. Self must be crucified. (Galatians 6:14; 2:20.)
3. The disciple does what the Lord says, not what the disciple wants to do.

B. "Take up His cross."

1. The cross is any hardship or sacrifice one bears in becoming and being a Christian.
2. May be cross of ridicule. (1 Peter 4:3,4.)
3. May be cross of sacrificing position. (Philippians 3:7,8.)
4. May be cross of family rejection. (Matthew 10:36.)

✓ Conclusion

1. Why become a disciple?
 - A. Enjoy the abundant life. (John 10:10.)
 - B. Prepare for eternity.
2. Can you afford to become a disciple?
3. Can you afford not to? (John 12:48.)

GOD'S PLAN FOR CHURCH EDIFICATION

Ephesians 4:1-16

Thesis To arouse brethren to accept personal responsibility in the development of the church.

Introduction

1. The church is a living organism made up of thinking, feeling people.
2. A congregation has a personality and character which is determined by the combined attitudes and actions of the members.
3. A church will either grow or die. It may commit spiritual suicide through inactivity.
4. The church was designed by God. (Ephesians 3:10,11.)
5. God has a plan for church edification. (text)

Discussion

- I. The Church Must Work For Unity. (Ephesians 4:1-3.)
 - A. Religious division in or out of the church is a hindrance to spirituality.
 1. Jesus prayed for unity that the world might believe. (John 17:20,21.)
 2. The teaching of the Holy Spirit, when followed, produces unity. (Ephesians 4:3.)
 - B. Unity is not an accident looking for a congregation where it can happen.
 1. Each person must share the responsibility for "keeping the unity of the Spirit." (Ephesians 4:1-3.)
 2. Unity must be desired. (Psalms 133.)

- C. Unity results from common belief.
 - 1. It cannot be legislated into existence.
 - 2. An agreement to disagree obviously does not produce unity.
 - D. Unity must be achieved on the congregational level.
- II. The Church Must Speak The Truth. (Ephesians 4:15.)
- A. Teaching is necessary to the establishment of a congregation.
 - 1. People gladly received the word and were baptized, thus the Lord added them to the church. (Acts 2:40,41, 47.)
 - 2. The church in Antioch was the product of God's word preached, believed, and obeyed. (Acts 11:19.)
 - B. The church cannot survive if it ceases to preach and teach God's word.
 - 1. The "social gospel" would place the emphasis on the social aspects of Christianity to the neglect of teaching God's truth. (2 Timothy 4:1-4.)
 - 2. A church cannot be built on a foundation of "everything is relative, there is no truth per se." (John 8:31,32.)
 - C. A congregation will be no stronger spiritually than:
 - 1. The Bible study program on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening.
 - 2. The pulpit preaching.
 - 3. The study of the scriptures in the family setting.
 - 4. The gospel meetings.
- III. Every Member Of The Church Must Be Active. (Ephesians 4:16.)

- A. The preacher cannot do the work of the church by himself.
- B. Think of the power lying dormant in most congregations today.
 - 1. God's people today have the intelligence and education to do His work.
 - 2. Christians have the financial resources to get the job done.
 - 3. Each member must be aroused to his personal responsibility to the church.
- C. The church must be consecrated.
 - 1. Jesus died to purchase a people who would be zealous of good works. (Titus 2:14.)
 - 2. Christians at Thessalonica turned to serve. (1 Thessalonians 1:9.)

IV. Godly Living Edifies The Church.(Ephesians 4:17-30.)

- A. This is the essential ingredient of church growth.
 - 1. Church may use every high pressure technique available, but this is no substitute for godliness. (Titus 2:11,12)
 - 2. God's people are the light of the world and the salt of the earth. (Matthew 5:12-16.)
- B. There is a negative aspect of godly living.
 - 1. "Walk not" (Ephesians 4:17.)
 - 2. "Put off" (Ephesians 4:22.)
- C. There is a positive side to godliness. (Ephesians 4:24.)

Conclusion

- 1. Edification is not an end within itself. The

end is:

- A. Strengthening the saints.
 - B. Saving the lost.
 - C. Blessing humanity.
 - D. Glorifying God.
2. One's labor is not in vain in the Lord.
(1 Corinthians 15:58.)
 3. Will you accept your personal responsibility
to church edification?

THE IMPERATIVE OF WORSHIP

John 17:3

Thesis Worship is a rewarding experience
 only as the worshipper knows God.

Introduction

1. A contemporary historian, Arnold Toynbee, observes that in all of man's history, he has worshipped but three things:
 - A. Nature. (varies from primitive idolatry to modern scientism.)
 - B. Self.
 - C. Deity or God.
2. Worship: acts of reverence paid to deity--Webster.
 - A. Worship is more than an attitude of the heart.
 - B. Worship is action which comes from the heart.

Discussion

- I. Evidently Worship Is Not A Simple Matter.
 - A. Some have worshipped in vain. (Matthew 15:8,9.)
 1. This vain worship was according to the "commandments of men."
 2. God has always told man how to worship. (John 4:24.)
 3. How can men show respect for God in worship if they rebel against God by using unauthorized practices, such as mechanical instruments of music. (Ephesians 5:19.)
 - B. Paul wrote of "will worship". (Colossians 2:23.)

1. A "self-made religion"--- Arndt and Gingrich, Greek-English Lexicon.
 2. "Self-inspired efforts at worship"-- Phillips.
 3. Will worship is presumptuous sin.
 - C. The Athenians were "ignorant" worshippers. (Acts 17:22.)
 1. Ignorance is no excuse. (Acts 17:30,31.)
 2. Men must know the truth about worship. (John 4:24.)
 - D. Jesus talked of true worship. (John 4:24.)
 1. The scriptural avenues must be followed.
 2. Men who know God must follow these avenues if God is honored in worship.
- II. What It Means To Know God. (John 17:3.)
- A. Scholars have emphasized for a long time the "I-Thou" and the "I-It" knowledge.
 1. It is possible to know about a man without knowing the person, i.e., the "I-It".
 2. Know means love, friendship, oneness, communion.
 - B. To know God means to know more than certain facts about God.
 1. Important to know about God, i.e., nature of God.
 2. But the worshipper must know God. (Hebrews 8:10,11.)
 3. Know God personally as David knew the Shepherd. (Psalms 23.)
- III. How Can One Learn To Know God?
- A. Paul argued that the Gentiles could know

- that God exists because of nature's declaration. (Romans 1.)
- B. To know God one must read and meditate on God's revelation, the Bible. (Psalms 1.)
 - C. One must have faith in Christ as a revelation of God. (John 1:18; 14:8,9.)
 - 1. Christ lives in one as that person lives in faith. (Galatians 2:20.)
 - 2. Christ dwells in one's heart by faith. (Ephesians 3:17.)
 - D. One must talk to God often in prayer. (Romans 12:12.)
 - E. One must live the life God requires. (Romans 12:1-3.)

Conclusion

- 1. Worship can be a real blessing to an individual.
 - A. Helps keep one heavenly minded. (Colossians 3:1-3.)
 - B. Helps the Christian face the problems of life.
 - C. One gets to know God in sincere worship.
- 2. If one does not know God, worship may be dull and formalistic.
- 3. If one knows God and has walked with Him six days of the week, the first day finds the Christian worshipping with his brethren to their edification and to his spiritual strength.

MOTIVES FOR RIGHT DOING

Titus 2:11-14

Thesis **Stir people to live Christian life.**

Introduction

1. Taught in New Testament how to live Christian life.
 - A. Deny. (Isaiah 1:16,17: cease to do evil; learn to do well.)
 1. Ungodliness. (Rebellion against God.)
 2. Lust: uncontrolled desire.
 - B. Live. (Not good simply by what we give up--but take up.)
 1. Soberly "everything under control."
 2. Righteously "Justice: give to God and man their due."
 3. Godly "Reverence for God." (Hebrews 12:28,29.)
2. Christianity designed for people in this present world! (Titus 2:12.)
 - A. We can live Christian life.
 1. It is not too demanding, but we can!
 2. We are not too weak, but we can!
 - B. Must be motivated if we live it.
3. Most Christians know what should be done, often lack motivation.
 - A. Different things motivate different people:
 1. Why work? duty; enjoy it; creative.
 2. Why go to school? have to; prepare for future.
 3. Motivate children--rewards; threats; sense of responsibility.
 - B. Different levels of motivation needed:
 1. One's past--weakness, involvements.
 2. One's present--temptations, problems --job, home.

Discussion

- I. Grace Of God: His Favor Shown To Man.
 - A. Could not save ourselves. (Ephesians 2:1-10.)
 - B. "Amazing Grace"!
 - C. Most people can respond to favor shown--
 1. Not all--some impose on God's grace. (Jude 3)
 2. Can take grace for granted. (2 Corinthians 6:1.)
- II. The "Salvation" Implication.
 - A. Value God places on you! (Matthew 16: 26.)
 1. All of us want to feel needed and wanted.
 2. 2 Peter 3:9.
 - B. Salvation of soul: real valuable part of man!
 1. Body worth but very little.
 2. Greatness of salvation of the soul! (1 Peter 1:5-12.)
- III. Jesus Died For Me.
 - A. Appreciate people giving things to you; but (John 15:13.)
 1. Vicarious death. (Isaiah 53:5,6.)
 2. A sin offering. (2 Corinthians 5:21.)
 - B. Jesus gave Himself for us to:
 1. Redeem us from iniquity. (1 Peter 1:18,19.)
 2. Purify us.
- IV. Appearing Of The Lord.
 - A. "Look" in connection with "manner of life". (Philippians 3:20,21.)
 - B. When? (1 Thessalonians 5:1-5.)

- C. "Fear" (Matthew 25:41.)
 - 1. "Don't use fear"--doctors do.
 - 2. Doctors say--"quit smoking or die."

- V. Hope (Expectation).
 - A. "Anchor of Soul". (Hebrews 6:19.)
 - B. Power of hope. (1 John 3:3.)

Conclusion

- 1. God works in us. (Philippians 2:12-14.)
 - A. "To will and do".
 - B. If your heart has been stirred by the lesson, God has worked through His word.
- 2. Strive to be clean people in a dirty world.

THE SURE WAY TO HEAVEN

2 Peter 1:1-12

Thesis To give Christians confidence that they can be saved eternally.

Introduction

1. This is the age of insecurity, fear, and frustration.
2. We cannot stay on the earth forever. (Hebrews 9:27.)
3. We are not here for very long. (James 4:13,14.)
4. God has given us a sure way to heaven because he wants us to be saved! (1 Timothy 2:4.)

Discussion

- I. We Must Be Purged From Our Old Sins. (2 Peter 1:9.)
 - A. To be purged is to be redeemed from sin. (1 Peter 1:18,19.)
 - B. To be purged is to have the soul purified. (1 Peter 1:22.)
 - C. To be purged is to receive the answer of good conscience. (1 Peter 3:20,21.)
- II. We Must Add The "Christian Graces".
 - A. Virture.
 1. Course to stand for the right.
 2. Saints in Caesar's house.(Philippians 4:22.)
 - a. The young in the schools of to-day.
 - b. The young in the jobs of today.
 - c. The young in the homes of today.

3. Face that of which you are afraid.
- B. Knowledge.
 1. Courage and firmness may do harm unless directed by knowledge. (Romans 10:1-3.)
 2. Psalms 1.
 3. Hosea 4:6.
 4. The need for acquiring knowledge are:
 - a. study.
 - b. motivation.
 - c. concentration.
- C. Self-control.
 1. 1 Corinthians 9:27.
 2. We must control our temper--our thoughts--our tongues.
- D. Patience. (Steadfastness.)
 1. Acts 2:42.
 2. Galatians 6:9.
 3. Hebrews 6:9-12.
- E. Godliness
 1. Hebrews 12:28,29.
 2. Titus 2:11,12.
- F. Brotherly kindness.
 1. Ephesians 4:32.
 2. Galatians 6:1.
 3. "Too much of the milk of brotherly kindness has soured!"
- G. Love.
 1. 1 Corinthians 13:13. Why?
 2. "Bond of perfectness".

III. The Lord Will Minister The Abundant Entrance!

- A. Into the everlasting kingdom!
- B. Revelation 21:1-3.

Conclusion

1. We can do what God requires.
2. We must do what God commands.

NEGLECTING SALVATION

Hebrews 2:1-4

Thesis Arouse men to obey the truth.

Introduction

1. Salvation is used in two senses in the New Testament:
 - A. Saved (forgiven) of past sins. (Mark 16:16; Luke 24:47.)
 - B. Saved in heaven (eternal salvation). (1 Peter 1:3-5; Philippians 2:12.)
2. Men may neglect either of these salvations.
3. Neglect means a lack of sufficient attention is given to salvation.

Discussion

1. Salvation Was First Spoken By The Lord.
 - A. To know what to do to be saved, one must go to the Lord's word.
 1. Not to the words of Abraham, Moses, John the Baptist.
 2. Not to any latter day pseudo-prophet such as Joseph Smith, Ellen White, Mary Baker Eddy.
 3. Not to dreams, visions, still small voices.
 - B. Jesus has words of salvation. (John 6:68.)
 - C. Men must be taught the Lord's word. (John 6:44,45.)
 - D. Men must receive the word. (James 1:21.)
 - E. Men neglect salvation when they neglect the Lord's word.

II. The Danger Of Neglect.

A. How can one escape being hardened by sin? (Hebrews 3:12,13.)

1. How hard can the heart become? (Hebrews 6:4.)
2. The Gentiles were "past feeling". (Ephesians 4:19.)
3. To neglect salvation is to face this possibility.

B. How can one escape the judgment? (Hebrews 9:27.)

1. God has appointed the day of judgment. (Acts 17:30,31.)
2. All must appear in judgment. (2 Corinthians 5:10.)
3. To neglect salvation endangers the soul.

C. How can one escape God's wrath? (Hebrews 10:26-31.)

1. Impenitent people have God's wrath facing them. (Romans 2:4-10.)
2. The Bible still teaches that there is a hell. (Mark 9:43-ff.)
3. To neglect salvation imperils the soul.

III. Why Do Men Neglect Salvation?

A. They are often deceived by sin. (Hebrews 3:12; 11:24,25.)

1. Hearts are blinded by pleasures of sin.
2. Think that Christianity robs them of a "good time".

B. Some are too proud to admit their need of God. (Matthew 18:3.)

C. Some people look for a "convenient season". (Acts 24:25.)

D. Some reason that they are the exception. (Acts 10:34,35.)

- E. Others conclude that they have plenty of time to make things right with God.
(James 4:13,14.)

Conclusion

1. "Of all sad words of tongue or pen--it might have been."
2. Too much at stake for anyone to neglect salvation.
 - A. Christian life is too wonderful not to live.
 - B. Heaven too beautiful to miss.
 - C. Hell too horrible to endure.
 - D. Too many people can be led to the Lord by you.

1-25-81

✓ THINGS THAT ACCOMPANY SALVATION ✓

Hebrews 6:1-9

Thesis Eternal salvation is conditional, but the conditions are reasonable.

Introduction

1. All should be interested in this salvation.
 - A. Involves us personally.
 - B. Has to do with our souls.
- ✓ 2. "Salvation" is used in two senses in the New Testament.
 - ✓ A. From past sins. (Mark 16:16-cf; Luke 24:46,47.)
 - ✓ B. In heaven. (Titus 1:2; 1 John 2:25; Mark 10:39.)
 - C. Must experience first to enjoy second.
 - D. First does not insure second. (James 5:19,20; Galatians 5:4.)
3. Both salvations are conditional.
 - ✓ A. One must do something to be saved from past sins. (Acts 2:37; 9:6; 16:30.)
 - B. One must do something to be saved in heaven. (James 2:26; Philippians 2:12)
4. But now to these Hebrews:
 - ✓ A. Danger of their "drifting". (Hebrews 2:1,2.)
 - B. Had not developed. (Hebrews 5:12-14.)
 - C. Plight of impenitent. (Hebrews 6:1-8.)
 - D. Persuaded better things--that accompany salvation.

Discussion

1. Bible Study.
 - A. 1 Peter 2:2--"Milk" for new born; what one needs.

- B. Hebrews 5:12-14--"Meat" for older; what one needs.
- C. James 2:21. To Christians.
- D. Do you want to go to heaven? Only book to tell you how to get there.
- E. What Bible study will do for us:
 - 1. Convict us of sin. (James 1:23,24.)
 - 2. Cleanse us from sin. (Psalms 119:9; John 15:3.)
 - 3. Sword to overcome evil.
 - 4. Instructs us as to what to do.
- F. Why not study?
 - 1. Work--mental effort.
 - 2. Failure to realize blessings.
 - a. Now. (Psalms 1:1-3.)
 - b. Hereafter. (Acts 20:32.)
 - 3. Lack of conviction of necessity of--yet man's honest respect for God can only be shown by respecting His word.

II. Worship Regularly.

- A. Man who will fully misses is in the process of departure.
 - 1. Old fire place at home--take one coal out of fire.
 - 2. Acts 20:7--"came together"; (Hebrews 10:25.)
- B. Brief study of acts of worship show why important.
 - 1. Prayer. (Acts 2:42.)
 - a. Stay in communion with God; help. (Hebrews 4:15,16.)
 - b. 1 John 5:14; 1 Peter 3:12.
 - 2. Singing.
 - a. Jesus sang. (Matthew 26:30; Hebrews 2:12.)
 - b. Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16.

3. Apostles' teaching. (Acts 2:42.)
 - a. 1 Corinthians 14 teaches part of worship prophecy.
 - b. Acts 11:26.
4. Giving. (1 Corinthians 16:1-2.)
5. Lord's Supper. (Acts 20:7; Luke 22:19.)

III. Everyday Righteousness.

- A. Romans 12:1,2. "Holy."
 1. We are "saints"--consecrated; separated.
 2. Hebrews 12:14--without which can't see the Lord.
- B. Proper attitude:
 1. Toward God. (Matthew 22:37; 1 John 5:3.)
 2. Fellows:
 - a. Brethren. (1 Corinthians 12cf.) Human body.
 - b. Enemies. (Matthew 5:43-46.)
 3. Positive and negative aspects:
 - a. 1 Peter 3:10-12.
 - b. Titus 2:11-14.
 - c. James 1:27.
 - d. 2 Corinthians 7:1.

Conclusion

1. These aforementioned things should create within us the traits or qualities next listed which we should have.
 - A. Verse 10.
 - B. Verse 11--"Full assurance of hope".
 - C. Verse 12--"Faith"(cf. Romans 10:17.)
 - D. Patience--steadfastness.
2. God will do His part; we can do our--we

can be saved because the things that accom-
pany salvation can be in us!

"THAT YOUR JOY MAY BE FULL"

1 John 1:4

Thesis To cause hearers to see the joy Christ gives.

Introduction

1. The world is depressed, clouds of tension, doubt, and uneasiness hang heavily upon the world.
2. Americans spent \$200 million for tranquilizers in 1962. (Better Homes and Gardens, May, 1963.)
3. Christians must show the world that Christianity brings joy and happiness.
 - A. Acts 2:47. Why did the Lord add daily?
 1. Daily preaching. (Acts 5:42.)
 2. Members consistent. (Acts 2:42.)
 3. Gladness of heart could be seen. (Acts 2:46,47.)
 - B. Other examples in Acts of the joy of being a Christian. (Acts 8:8; 13:52; 16:34.)

Discussion

- I. Causes Of Unhappiness. (Things That Keep One From Being Full Of Joy--According To John.)
 - A. Sin. (1 John 1:5-10.)
 1. Sin brings sorrow. Peter wept bitterly after he denied Christ.
 2. Sin brings a sense of condemnation. (Adam and Eve hid behind the trees in Eden; Judas killed himself.)
 3. Today people hide behind the "trees" of hypocrisy, time, and the great

mass of humanity. However, God knows. (Hebrews 4:13.)

B. Selfishness. (1 John 3:17.)

1. Formula for joy:

J -esus first in life

O -thers second.

Y -ourself last.

2. Mark Twain said: "Grief can take care of itself; but to get the full value from joy, you must have somebody to divide it with."

3. (1 John 3:11, 12.) One cannot find joy at the expense of others.

4. "'Tis safer to be that which we destroy than by destruction to dwell in doubtful joy."-- Shakespear

C. Inordinate affection. (1 John 2:15-17.)

1. "Things". The rich fool placed much emphasis on things too. (Luke 12:20.)

2. People of the world today slave for "things, but gadgets do not make people happy".

II. Sources Of Joy.

A. Sons of God. (1 John 3:1-3.)

1. If children of God, then heirs. (Romans 8:14-17.)

2. The inheritance described. (1 Peter 1:3-5.)

B. Promises of God. (1 John 2:25.)

1. Eternal life not mere eternal existence. (cf. Romans 2:6,7.)

2. "I'm standing on the promises of God".

C. Hope. (1 John 3:2,3.)

1. Romans 5:1,2.

2. All human joy is tarnished by the presence of fear and uncertainty.

3. No man can be genuinely happy now who cannot with assurance look the future in the face.

Conclusion

1. Were the early Christians happy because they had no problems, or were they happy in spite of problems? (Acts 5:41; Romans 12:12.)
2. Contrast Christians optimism with worldly pessimism: World looks upon life as a note coming due; the Christian looks upon life as an unexpected dividend.

"WILL THE LORD FIND FAITH?"

Luke 18:1-8

Thesis Self-examination of the heart.

Introduction

1. Bible plainly teaches that Christ is coming again.
 - A. Matthew 25:13; Hebrews 9:27,28; John 14:1-3.
 - B. One out of 25 verses in New Testament deals either directly or indirectly with the second coming.
2. Many questions concerning His coming have been raised.
 - A. How?
 - B. When?
 - C. What will He do when He comes?
3. This lesson deals with a most important question: will he find faith? (Luke 18:8.)

Discussion

- I. Background Of The Question.
 - A. Jesus' lesson on prayer. (Luke 18:1.)
 1. If hard-hearted judge would grant petition of wisdom.
 2. God will hear His own elect. (Luke 18:7.)
 - B. Faith is inseparably connected with prayer.
 1. "Ask in faith" (James 1:6.)
 2. "Ask in prayer, believing." (Matthew 21:22.)
 - C. God will answer prayer; do we have faith to pray?
- II. The Lord Would Find Many Today Without Faith.

- A. Atheist doesn't believe in God.
- B. Infidel doesn't believe in Christ.
- C. Agnostic doesn't know.

III. Would He Find His People With Faith?

- A. Would some have little faith? (Matthew 8:26.)
 - 1. Let anxiety control them. (Philippians 4:6,7.)
 - 2. Need to be strong in faith. (Romans 4.20.)
- B. Would the Lord find some with weak faith? (Romans 14:1.)
 - 1. When circumstances are favorable, do the right. (cf. Hebrews 11:24,25.)
 - 2. Examine excuses often given for failure to faithfully attend worship services.
 - 3. Weak make issues of matters of liberty. (Romans 14.)
- C. Some would have dead faith. (James 2:26.)
 - 1. Dead faith will not save. (James 2:24; John 12:41,42.)
 - 2. Dead faith is an inactive faith. (James 2:14-17.)
 - 3. Saving faith is obedient faith. (Hebrews 11:7; 11:30; Galatians 5:6; Hebrews 5:8,9,.)
- D. Some would be found with a feigned faith. (2 Timothy 1:5.)
 - 1. These pretend to believe. (Matthew 23)
 - 2. Faith is a condition of heart. (Romans 10:10.)

Conclusion

- 1. Faith comes from God's word. (Romans 10:

17; Acts 4:4.)

2. Word of God is designed to produce faith.
(John 20:30,31.)
3. Would Lord find you today with an active,
living, honest, strong faith?

WHY BE A CHRISTIAN?
Romans 8:1-4,6,14-18

Thesis Secure obedience from alien and deeper appreciation from the Christian.

Introduction

1. People often give excuses for their refusal to become Christians.
2. Unfaithful Christians also give excuses for their lack of loyalty to the Lord.
3. In Romans 8, Paul outlines several reasons for being a Christian.
 - A. To see these should cause one to desire the blessings in Christ.
 - B. To be reminded of these reasons should prompt the erring Christian to come back to Christ.
 - C. These reasons should move God's faithful people to gratitude for the honor and blessings of being a Christian.

Discussion

1. The Christian Has Escaped Condemnation. (verse 1.)
 - A. "Condemnation" means that the sentence has been pronounced with the suggestion of punishment to follow. (W.E.Vine, An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words.)
 1. The punishment is subjection to God's wrath. (Romans 2:8,9; 5:9.)
 2. The punishment is "death". (Romans 6:23.)
 - B. God sent His Son to save a condemned

world. (John 3:14-17.)

- C. Men out of Christ have the sentence already declared. (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.)
- D. Men who have left the truth have the sentence declared. (James 5:19,20.)

II. The Christian Has Been Freed From Law Of Sin. (verses 2,3.)

A. The "law of sin" is the rule of sin in one's life.

- 1. Sin reigns in the life of the sinner. (Romans 6:12.)
- 2. Sin dominates the sinner. (Romans 6:14.)
- 3. The one who habitually sins in the bondservant of sin. (John 8:24.)

B. Sin does not dominate the Christian.

- 1. He does not claim sinless perfection. (1 John 1:8-10.)
- 2. However, he refuses the control of sin in his life.

C. This is the basic difference in the Christian and non-Christian relative to sin.

III. The Christian Is Blessed With Life And Peace. (verse 6.)

A. The Christian has the "abundant life". (John 10:10.)

- 1. He lives with a purpose.
- 2. He lives with hope.
- 3. He lives with confidence.
- 4. He lives with joy.

B. The Christian has peace.

- 1. He has made peace with God. (Romans 5:1.)
- 2. He has the peace of God. (Philippians 4:7.)

3. The peace of God rules in his heart.
(Colossians 3:15.)

IV. The Christian Is A Child Of God. (verses 14-18.)

A. God's children have many privileges now.

1. Prayer. (1 John 5:14; 1 Peter 3:12.)
2. Honor. (1 John 3:1.)

B. God's children are heirs of God.

1. Peter describes the inheritance. (1 Peter 1:3-5.)
2. Man will one day leave the earth. (Hebrews 9:27.)
3. God's children will go home to be with the Lord.

Conclusion

1. Can you afford not to become a Christian?
2. Will you accept the responsibilities and enjoy the blessings now and eternally?

WHY DOESN'T SAVING GOSPEL SAVE?

Romans 1:16-18

Thesis Secure obedience to the gospel.

Introduction

1. See condition of sinner is to see necessity of a power of God to save man.
 - A. Sinner is a bondservant. (Romans 6:17, 18.)
 - B. Sinner is dead in sins. (Ephesians 2:1; Luke 15:32.)
 - C. Captive of the devil. (2 Timothy 2:24-26)
2. God must save men. (1 Timothy 4:10.)
 - A. God uses power in saving man.
 - B. Direct or indirect power?
 1. If direct: universal salvation. (1 Timothy 2:4.)
 2. If indirect power--what is it?
3. Gospel is God's power to save men.

Discussion

1. The Real Power Of Gospel: It Is A Revealer! (Romans 1:17.)
 - A. Reveals the "righteousness of God", i. e., way God makes men righteous.
 1. God makes men righteous by justifying them, or forgiving men of sin.
 2. Two ways for men to be righteous:
 - a. Never sin. (cf. Romans 3:23.)
 - b. Obtain forgiveness of sins.
 3. Romans 10:1-3.
 - B. Unrighteousness of man is revealed in the gospel. (Romans 1:18.)
 1. Sin is a fact. (Romans 3:23.)
 2. Love of God painted on background

- of human sinfulness. (John 3:23.)
 - 3. Death of Jesus declares that man is a sinner. (Romans 5:6-9.)
 - C. Wrath of God is revealed in the gospel. (Romans 1:18.)
 - 1. "A day of wrath". (Romans 2:1-9.)
 - 2. Wages of sin. (Romans 6:23.)
- II. Gospel Doesn't Save Because Many Refuse To Believe It! (Romans 1:16.)
 - A. May refuse to believe the reality of sin.
 - 1. Man blames others for his sins.
 - 2. Man doesn't consider indifference as sin.
 - 3. May think God too good to let one go to hell.
 - B. Failure to believe gospel nullifies its power.
- III. Why Do Men Refuse To Believe Gospel?
 - A. Human vanity. (Pride.) May keep one from believing the gospel.
 - 1. Worldly wise. (1 Corinthians 1:20-24.)
 - 2. Become too wise for God. (Romans 1:22.)
 - B. "God of this world blinds minds". (2 Corinthians 4:3,4.)
 - 1. "God of this Age". (Ft. note, ASV.)
 - a. 100 years ago Americans had 72 wants and 16 necessities; now 484 wants and 94 necessities.
 - b. "...cares of this life choke the word". (Luke 8:14.)
 - 2. "Word open to many false interpretations". (2 Corinthians 4:2.)
 - 3. "Got to have miraculous operation of

- Holy Spirit". (1 Corinthians 1:22.)
- C. Gospel has often been perverted. (Galatians 1:6-9.)
1. Perversion of facts (D-B-R of Christ, 1 Corinthians 15:1-3.) equals Modernism.
 2. Perversion of the commands (F-R-C-B) equals denominationalism.

Conclusion

1. The gospel is still God's power to save.
 - A. Save means deliverance from consequences of sin.
 - B. Saved for heaven.
2. Believe it and obey gospel now.

REVIVE US AGAIN

Psalms 85:6

Thesis Move God's people to deeper devotion.

Introduction

1. Is religion compulsion or conviction; obligation or dedication; is the best of a worship service end or beginning?
2. Question designed to help us examine our:
 - A. Depth of godliness. (2 Timothy 3:5.)
 - B. Zeal for the Lord. (Romans 12:11.)
3. Time for revival in church:
 - A. Not clap-trap sensationalism (fervor must be tempered with faith; faith flavored with fervor.)
 - B. Look back see where we have been.
 1. Frustrated long for "good old days."
 2. Yet, some things good then.
 3. In material advancement, have we kept pace spiritually?
4. Application of text:
 - A. These people were forgiven. (verse 2.)
 - B. Yet needed reviving ("quickening, elevating, strengthening of life possessed".)
5. Three "R's" of reviving:

Discussion

- I. A Realization Of A Need. (Revelation 2:5.)
 - A. Often painful experience. (first sign of revival in frozen limb is pain.)
 - B. Realization of sinfulness of sin.
 1. Transgression of law. (1 John 3:4.)
 2. Romans 6:23; Hebrews 10:25-31.
 - C. Laodemia: lukewarm and didn't know it.

1. Needed eyes open to the facts.
 2. Symptom often accompanying lukewarm condition is unawareness of lukewarmness.
 - D. Realization of why it happened:
 1. Failure to exhort. (Hebrews 3:12,13.)
 2. Existence of doubt in society. This is age of skepticism.
- II. Repentance Is Required. (Revelation 3:19.)
- A. It is a hard command to obey.
 1. So hard men say--God repents for you.
 2. Challenge to man's will. (Matthew 21:28-30.)
 3. Command of God. (Acts 17:30.)
 4. The alternative. (2 Peter 3:9.)
 - B. Must be revival from heart and in heart.
 1. Superficial working up of emotion breeds hypocrisy.
 2. Zeal must be directly by knowledge. (Romans 10:1-3.)
 - C. Humility necessary.
 1. "Lord, is it I"? (2 Corinthians 13:5.)
 2. Too often look at other person.
- III. Return To First Love. (Revelation 2:5.)
- A. Put God back in our homes.
 1. Family worship.
 2. Let parents rear children in fear of Lord. (Ephesians 6:1-4.)
 - B. Put hearts in worship services.
 1. Fervent prayers...
 2. Zest in singing. (Too many funeral songs sung at worship.)
 3. Zeal in preaching. (vicious circle: cold pulpit...cold pew...cold pulpit.)

Conclusion

1. Men will accuse us of being insane "but maybe zeal of God's house has eaten us up!"
2. "Be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord."
(Romans 12:11.)

6-23-96

✓ BLIND, BEGGING, BUT BLESSED ✓

Mark 10:46-52

Thesis To prove that Jesus cares for you!

Introduction

1. Jesus on the way to Jerusalem--Calvary one week off:
 - A. Imagine the thoughts he had.
 1. He knew what would happen when he got there.
 2. He had already told the apostles. (Mark 10:32-34.)
 - B. A great crowd of people followed Jesus.
2. Blind, begging Bartimaeus was blessed by Jesus:
 - A. Bartimaeus was not a king, governor, nor rich man.
 - B. Jesus took time for one man even though a crowd was following; He took time for a blind man; He had compassion upon a poor man.

Discussion

- I. Bartimaeus' Plea:
 - A. Things to observe:
 1. Bartimaeus believed testimony. (see parallel account in Luke 18:35-43.)
 2. He recognized Jesus as the "Son of David", i.e., the Messiah. (note: the report was "It is Jesus of Nazareth; Bartimaeus said, "Son of David".
 3. Bartimaeus realized a need; a personal need. This realization was deep and urgent.
 4. He knew Jesus could help him per-

sonally.

5. He answered Jesus' call.

B. Application:

1. We believe testimony (written) about Jesus (John 20:30,31.) (note vs.29 to see setting of vs. 30,31.)
2. If we accept Jesus as Bartimaeus did, we realize that Jesus is no mere man:
 - a. We say with the centurion: "Truly this was the Son of God."
 - b. We see in Jesus a Savior. (1 Timothy 1:15.) (Not merely a great teacher and leader of men.)
3. We must see our need of Jesus, hence realize we are lost sinners. (Acts 2:36,37.)
 - a. We must see:
 - (1) Our need of a Savior.
 - (2) We must see Jesus as the Savior we need!
 - b. Without Jesus, we will die in our sins. (John 8:24.)
4. Personal matter. Over 3 billion people in world, yet God knows us individually and personally. (Luke 15. 100 sheep, ONE lost yet shepherd goes after one!)
5. Bartimaeus answered Jesus' call. (Matthew 11:28-30. Contrast Luke 14:12-24.)

II. The Rebuke Of The Crowd.

- A. "Never a knock at heaven's gate but that it is heard in hell, and devils come out to silence it."
- B. Why did the people rebuke Bartimaeus?
1. Perhaps they thought the Lord had a

crowd and was not interested in just one. (Philip was told to leave Samaria to preach to one. Acts 8.)

2. Maybe they thought Jesus didn't have time for a blind beggar.
- C. Many charged the blind man to hold his peace.
- D. Application:
 1. Ridicule because of former life. (1 Peter 4:3-5.) (Those with whom one associated prior to becoming a Christian will often make fun, accuse one of not really becoming a true Christian. In substance they are saying: "Why, you are too vile a sinner for Jesus to save you, or own you, so hold your peace.")
 2. Others will say: "You have lived in sin too long, you can't give it up." (see Romans 6:16-18.)
 3. "Who are you?" ("You have too poor, or too ignorant, or too wealthy, too educated, to be a follower of Jesus.") (see James 1:9,10; 5:1-5.)

III. The Beggar Blessed:

A. Bartimaeus knew:

1. What he wanted Jesus to do for him. (Mark 10:51.)
2. Believed Jesus could help him.
3. Followed Jesus.

B. Application:

1. We need to know we are lost without Christ.
2. Believe Jesus can and will save us.
3. Then obey the Lord. (Hebrews 5:8,9.)
4. Then follow Jesus. (1 Peter 2:21.)

Conclusion

1. Jesus stood still...He stopped to help...He waits to help you today.
2. "Rise, he calleth thee." That is what I am saying to you now:
 - A. Alien sinner: "Rise, he calleth thee"...
"Why tarriest thou?" (Acts 22:16.)
 - B. Wayward brother: "Rise, he calleth thee." (James 4:17.)

IMPLICATIONS OF THE GOSPEL

1 Corinthians 15:1-3

Thesis To emphasize the necessity of preaching and obeying the gospel.

Introduction

1. The context of 1 Corinthians 15:1-3 points up the importance of the gospel.
 - A. Most detailed discussion of spiritual gifts in the Bible.
 1. Paul enumerated these gifts in 1 Corinthians 12.
 2. He discussed the duration of the gifts in 1 Corinthians 13.
 - B. However, the Corinthians are reminded that they were saved by the gospel, not by spiritual gifts!
2. To see the implications of the gospel is to have a deeper appreciation for God and the gospel.
3. The gospel is still God's power to save. (Romans 1:16.)

Discussion

1. The Gospel Implies God's Foreknowledge.
 - A. Things have changed since the first century.
 1. Means of transportation have changed.
 2. Methods of agriculture have changed.
 3. Modes of communication have changed.
 - B. But man's basic needs have not changed.
 1. Men still need security; forgiveness; reconciliation to God; real purpose in life.
 2. The gospel still meets the basic spir-

itual needs of man.

C. Surely God knew how things would change from the first to the twentieth century.

1. God foreknew in centuries before Christ what would transpire in the century. (1 Peter 1:2.)

2. God gave a gospel that still fills the needs of men, if they will believe the gospel. (Romans 1:16.)

II. The Gospel Implies That God Loves Man.

A. The facts of the gospel are: death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:1-3.)

1. Why did Jesus die? (John 3:16.)

2. God's love was a giving love.

B. God commended His love to man. (Romans 5:6-9.)

III. The Gospel Implies That Man Is Incapable Of Saving Himself.

A. Contemporary man often emphasizes humanism.

1. "Glory to man in the highest".

2. Humanism is old. (see Genesis 3:5.)

B. Man cannot save himself. (Ephesians 2:8,9; Titus 3:5.)

C. Man cannot save himself by:

1. Intellect

2. Political power

3. Social standing

4. Educational attainments

5. Material things

IV. The Gospel Implies That Man Has The Ability To Respond To The Gospel.

A. The gospel places confidence in man.

- B. Sin does not make man incapable of responding.
 - 1. Some are not moved by the gospel. (1 Corinthians 1:20-24.)
 - 2. Others are moved to obedience by the gospel. (Acts 18:8.)
 - 3. Why? (see Parable of the Sower, Matthew 13; Luke 8.)
- V. The Gospel Implies That God Uses Man In Saving Man.
 - A. Jesus commanded His disciples to go and preach the gospel. (Mark 16:16.)
 - B. Why would the Lord use men in saving men?
 - 1. Sin is basically selfishness--so, men need to become interested in others.
 - 2. Men saved from sin can sympathize with those still in sin, and be more zealous in attempting to convert them.

Conclusion

- 1. Man's rejection nullifies God's power. (Romans 1:16.)
- 2. To reject the gospel is to invite destruction. (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.)
- 3. "Why not (obey) now?"

SOME CAUSES AND CURES OF RELIGIOUS INDIFFERENCE

1 Peter 5:6-11

Thesis Turn people from religious indifference.

Introduction

1. Necessary to watch for activity of Satan in area of religion.
 - A. He seeks to promote opposition to the cause of Christ.
 - B. Indifference is one of Satan's most successful ways:
 1. Subtle opposition has form of respectability.
 2. Indifference is a negative form of opposition.
2. Indifference: "having no concern or feeling; no interest; showing no preference"-Webster.
 - A. Religion does not have a monopoly on indifference.
 - B. One prominent preacher has estimated that there are 30 million atheists in the U.S.

Discussion

- I. Materialism: The Doctrine That Physical Well-Being and Physical Possessions Constitute The Highest Good In Life!
 - A. "One world in the hand is worth two in the bush."
 - B. In the United States, 1/6 of the world's population controls 1/2 of its goods.
 - C. Luke 12:15: "Take heed and beware of covetousness..."
 - D. Revelation 3:15...Why? vs. 17.

E. Cure:

1. Matthew 4:4.
2. 1 Timothy 6:7: "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out."
3. Colossians 3:5.

II. Judging Christianity By Perversions Of It.

A. Christianity is a way of life taught and exemplified by Christ.

1. Acts 1:1...He did and taught.
2. Did what he taught...hardly true of some of His contemporaries. (Matthew 23:1-3.)

B. Some current expects on Christianity have not even read the book which sets it forth.

1. Pretty easy to parrot a cliché or allegation which has been picked up in a classroom, club, or private conversation.
2. Easy to judge Christianity a failure because some who claimed to be Christians found the going too hard and gave up Christianity.

C. Some perversions:

1. Christian not concerned with man in this life, only with "getting the pie in the sky, by and by."
 - a. Look at the founder of Christianity...His concern for men. (see Matthew 4:17; John 6, etc.)
 - b. James 1:27; 2:14.
 - c. Titus 2:11-14.
2. "Christianity is a reversion to the dependency of childhood."
 - a. Soldier. (Ephesians 6:10-18.)
 - b. Great demands! (Matthew 16:

24-26.)

- D. Cure: sincere investigation of God's word.

III. Inconsistency Of Those Who Claim To Be Christians.

- A. Bible recognizes this problem:
 - 1. Philippians 1:27. "Let manner of life becometh the gospel..."
 - 2. Titus 2:10. "Adorn the doctrine."
- B. Which is worse:
 - 1. To state "God is dead!", or act like it?
 - 2. Have zeal without knowledge, or to have knowledge without zeal?
- C. Those who are supposed to be upholders of purity of life, often succumb to the pressure to compromise.
- D. Problem of division: (John 17:20,21.)
- E. Cure: realization of the human aspect of the church...
 - 1. The church has a divine side and is perfect.
 - 2. The church has a human side and this lacks perfection.

IV. Prevalence Of Immorality.

- A. Matthew 24:12. "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of man shall wax cold."
- B. Sick society?
 - 1. 7 million born out of wedlock; 5 million alcoholics; crime; dishonesty;etc.
 - 2. Why should I try to do right?
- C. Cure: worth and power of the individual.
 - 1. Christianity places emphasis on value of the individual.
 - 2. "Salt of Earth". (Matthew 5:14-16.)

3. "Light of world". "Darker the night,
brighter the light!"

Conclusion

1. God has not been indifferent to needs of man.
(Romans 5:6-9.)
2. Let us respond in loving obedience. (1 John
5:3.)
3. 1 Corinthians 15:58.
4. Devil is author of religious differences and
religious indifference!

AM I YOUR ENEMY IF I TELL YOU THE TRUTH

Galatians 4:16

Thesis To show that truth can and must be known.

Introduction

1. The importance of this question:
 - A. Paul talked about people falling from grace. (Galatians 5:4.)
 - B. Church had an acute problem: false teachers attempting to add to Christianity the law of Moses. (Acts 15:1-8.)
 - C. Paul discussed the true relationship of the law to the gospel of Christ. (Galatians 3:16-24.)
 - D. The question is RELEVANT: THE SOURCE AND THE NATURE OF TRUTH. (John 8:32.)
2. The attention given to truth in many areas of life:
 - A. Medicine.
 - B. Science.
3. This lesson will show that men need the truth in order to be saved and please God.

Discussion

1. Source Of Truth: Gospel, The Word Of God.
 - A. What was Paul preaching? (Galatians 4:16; 1:11,12;)
 - B. The gospel is in God's Word. (1 Peter 1:22-25; John 17:17.)
 - C. In the words of the inspired Spirit, guided apostles, one finds the truth. (John 16:13; Luke 10:16.)
 - D. Application:

1. Speak God's oracles. (1 Peter 4:11.)
2. People must abide in the doctrine of Christ. (2 John 9-11.)
3. The insignificance of; human opinion, human theology.
4. Avoid: latterday prophets, mystics (Matthew 7:15,16; Romans 1:16.)

II. God's Truth Is Narrow.

A. The Truth includes and excludes (1 John 2:21.)

1. How justified? (Galatians 5:4.)
 - a. By the law and Christ?
 - b. By Christ and the law?
 - c. By law and No Christ?
 - d. By Christ and not by the law!
2. Paul would deny the value and acceptability of a perverted gospel. (Galatians 1:6-9.)

B. Application:

1. "Beware"! (Matthew 7:15-16.)
2. There is a danger of a perverted gospel. (Galatians 1:6-9.)
 - a. The Gospel has facts to be believed. (1 Corinthians 15:1-3.)
 - b. The Gospel has commands to be obeyed. (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.)
 - c. The Gospel has promises to be enjoyed and the social gospel perversion of those promises. (Mark 16:16.)
3. Some points that need stressing:
 - a. One Church (Ephesians 4:4; 1:22,23.)
 - b. One Baptism. (Ephesians 4:5.)
 - c. Baptism is a burial. (Romans 6:3,4.)
 - d. Baptism is unto for the remission

- of sins (Acts 2:38.)
- e. God's children after Baptism. (Galatians 26:27.)

III. Truth Alienates and Divides.

- A. One may make enemies with God's Truth. (Galatians 4:16.)
- B. The Lord talked about the power of truth to alienate. (Matthew 10:32-39.)
 - 1. Even in families.
 - 2. Note the Lord's warning about denying.
 - 3. "For my sake" NOT because of opinions.
- C. Application:
 - 1. There is a danger of compromise both from the pulpit and the pew.
 - 2. "Preach God's Word" and pay the price.
 - 3. People should desire the truth. (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12.)

IV. Truth Saves!

- A. Truth frees one from sin! (John 8:32.)
 - 1. From the bondage of sin. (John 8:34.)
 - 2. From the defilement of sin. (1 Peter 1:22.)
- B. Application:
 - 1. One must obey the truth. (1 Peter 1:22.)
 - 2. Outline the plan of salvation.
 - 3. Outline the law of pardon for an erring Christian.

Conclusion

- 1. Summary of lesson.

2. Poem:

Truth crushed to the earth
Shall rise again
The eternal years of God are hers.
But error wounded writes in Pain
And dies among his worshippers.

FAITH
John 20:30,31

Thesis To demonstrate that salvation is dependent on an active faith.

Introduction

1. The importance of faith.
 - A. Without faith one cannot please God. (Hebrews 11:6.)
 - a. There are those who have pleased God by their faith. (Hebrews 11:5.)
 - b. Day of Judgment (2 Corinthians 5:10.)
It will be very important to please God!!!
 - B. Christ said "Except ye believe that I am He, ye shall die in your sins." (John 8:24.)
 - a. To die in sins means that one cannot go where Christ has gone. (John 8:21.)
 1. All men shall die. (Hebrews 9:27.)
 2. All shall die in sin or in Christ. (John 8:21; Revelation 14:13.)
 3. Eternal destiny involved in this matter!
2. What is faith?
 - A. Faith is the name of an action of a person's heart which is called belief. (Romans 10:10,17.)
 - B. What produces belief?
 - a. The word of God. (Romans 10:17.)
 - b. Illustrated: (Acts 4:4; 18:8.)

DISCUSSION

1. Salvation From Sin Is By Faith In Christ.

- A. The believer is promised salvation. (John 3:16; 3:36; 5:24.)
 - B. Justification is by faith. (Romans 5:1.)
 - 1. Justification: God pronounces a person pardoned or freed from sin.
 - 2. The basis on which his justification is done? Faith!
 - C. The power of God to save depends on faith of lost person. (Romans 1:16,17.)
 - 1. One is saved by God's Power!!!
 - 2. God's power to save is in the gospel of Christ. (Illustrated: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.)
 - 3. That power is rendered ineffective by unbelief!
- II. Salvation Is By An Active Faith.
- A. James said that salvation, justification was an 'active faith. (James 2:24.)
 - 1. Illustrated in the case of Abraham.
 - 2. Also illustrated in case of Rahab. (James 2:25.)
 - B. Faith must work by love to bless mankind. (Galatians 5:6.)
 - C. Biblical illustration which show the nature of saving faith: (Hebrews 11.)
 - 1. Noah (Hebrews 11:2.)
 - 2. Abraham (Hebrews 11:8.)
 - 3. Walls of Jericho (Hebrews 11:30.)
- III. Eternal Salvation Is Dependent On Faith.
- A. Emphasize that Bible speaks of eternal salvation.
 - 1. Peter said it was to be revealed. (1 Peter 1:9.)
 - 2. Paul admonished the Philippians to work out salvation. (Philippians 2:12.)
 - B. Peter affirmed the necessity of faith with

- regards to eternal salvation. (Acts 15:11.)
- C. John tells us that faith is the victory that overcomes the world. (1 John 2:15-17.)
 - 1. John says that the world will pass away.
 - 2. Also says the man who does God's will, abides forever. (1 John 2:15-17.)
 - D. We live by faith. (2 Corinthians 5:7.)
 - 1. Faith in the reality of unseen things. (2 Corinthians 4:16; 5:10.)
 - 2. Faith in the danger of falling into God's hands as a sinner. (2 Corinthians 5:11; Hebrews 10:26-31.)
 - 3. Coming judgement! (2 Cor. 5:10.)

Conclusion

- 1. Summarize the three main points.
- 2. Let us note the Lord's question in Luke 18:8!
 - A. Christ shall come again. (John 14:1-3; Hebrews 9:27,28.)
 - B. If today is the day will he find you a believer?
- 3. Unbelief is said to be an evil thing. (Hebrews 3:12,13.)
 - A. Denies God's testimony. (1 John 5:10.)
 - B. Robs man of salvation.
 - C. Denies hope to man. (Hebrews 11:1.)

REPENTANCE

Acts 17:30,31

Thesis To get the impenitent to repent.

Introduction

1. Repentance is to be preached among all nations.
2. Two classes of people that need to repent:
 - A. Alien sinners. (Acts 2:38.)
 - B. Erring Christians. (Acts 8:22.)

Discussion

- I. The Importance Of Repentance.
 - A. God commands all men to repent. (Acts 17:30.)
 - B. Hell is interested in this subject. (Luke 16:30.)
 - C. Heaven is interested in it. (Luke 15:17.)
 - D. The Choice: REPENT OR PERISH* (1 Peter 3:9; Luke 13:3.)
 1. To perish is to be subjected to the wrath of God. (Romans 5:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-9.)
 2. To perish is to incur loss of eternal life!
- II. What Is Repentance?
 - A. What repentance is NOT:
 1. Sorrow for sin. (2 Corinthians 7:10.)
 2. Conviction of sin. (Acts 2:37 cf. 38.)
 3. Change of life. (Luke 3:7.)
 4. Responding and signing a card. (An impenitent person may do this.)
 - B. The Lord explains it----- (Matthew 21:28-31.)

1. A change of will from a "not" to a "yes".
2. The will is the seat of power.

III. What Will Influence Men To Repent?

- A. Jesus sought to obtain repentance by reminding men of the coming judgment. (Matthew 11:22-30.)
 1. Imagine facing God with an impenitent heart?
 2. Some people have never heard the gospel, while you have heard it many times and still turn it down!
- B. Paul warned the impenitent of judgment. (Romans 2:5,6.)
- C. The goodness of God leads sensitive and appreciative people to repent. (Romans 2:4.)
 1. Forbearance of God.
 2. Longsuffering of God. (2 Peter 3:15.)
 3. Goodness of God.

Conclusion

1. If you are still impenitent--Why?
2. Eternity is reality! (Matthew 7:13,14.) What is so important that you don't repent? The decision is yours!

* See Vine or Thayer for a definition of repentance.

THE GOOD CONFESSION

1 Timothy 6:12

Thesis To show the importance of confessing faith in Jesus Christ.

Introduction

1. Have you confessed Christ?
2. How do you react when you hear someone confess Christ?
3. Paul told Timothy that he had confessed a good confession.
 - A. This confession is associated with Timothy's "call".
 - B. Scripture affirms that God calls men (Acts 2:39.)
 - C. What is the power or means of this call? (2 Thessalonians 2:13,14.)
 - D. The gospel which calls men has commands for men to obey. (Mk. 16:15,16.)
 - E. There is a good confession connected by Paul to the Gospel. (1 Timothy 6:12.)

Discussion

1. The Confession Of The Apostle Peter. (Matthew 16:13-19.)
 - A. The question concerning the Lord's identity and the responses:
 1. Some had the opinion that Jesus was John the Baptist. (Matthew 14.—Herod)
 2. Others taught that he was Jeremiah, Elijah or one of the other prophets. (Matthew 16.)
 3. There were different and incorrect opinions about the identity of Jesus Christ.

- B. Peter confessed that Jesus was:
 - 1. The Christ, the Messiah-the annointed of God - the one foretold in Old Testament Scripture.
 - 2. The Son of the living God! The diety of Jesus--that he is not a mere man. (John 1:1-4.)
- C. Basic of Confession: Revelation! (Matthew 16:16,17.)

II. Paul's Statement About Confession. (Romans 10:9,10.)

- A. The subject being discussed is salvation by calling on the name of the Lord. (Verse 13.)
 - 1. Peter had stated this truth on Pentecost. (Acts 2:27.)
 - 2. Peter is quoting Joel 2:28-40.
 - 3. There are some essentials in calling on the Lord's name:
 - a. Faith.
 - b. Hearing God's Word. (Romans 10:17.)
 - 4. There is an explanation of calling on the Lord's name--"Obeying the Gospel".
- B. Confess with the mouth: Christ Jesus is Lord!
 - 1. The argument "This is written to the church not alien sinners." (This is sometimes used to show that confession is not essential.)
 - 2. Romans 6 is written to the church, too. Is Baptism unessential?

III. God wants men to confess His Son. (Philippians 2:11.)

- A. Men should want to do that which pleases

God. (1 John 5:3.)

- B. God has decreed that one day all men shall confess His Son. (Romans 14:11, 12.)
- C. Have you confessed with your mouth that Jesus Christ is God's Son? If not, why not?

Conclusion

1. Some men would not confess Christ. (John 12:42,43.)
 - A. Some loved praise of men more than the praise of God!
 - B. Which do you love more???
2. Christ is the Christians creed!!
 - A. All religious orders have a basic creed.
 - B. The fundamental belief of the Christian is expressed in the "good confession": Jesus Christ is the Son of God!!! (John 20:30,31.)
3. Before John the Baptist immersed people they confessed their sins! (Mark 1:5.)
4. Before people are immersed by the authority of Jesus Christ, they confess their Savior.
5. Do you believe heaven's testimony about the Son of God? Why not confess it? (Romans 10:17.)
6. The Lord's promise to confess us. (Matthew 10:32,33.)
 - A. Not only should we confess the Lord with the mouth, we must confess him with the lives. (1 John 4:15.)
 - B. Picture the judgment and the Lord confessing you as his own.

BAPTISM

Matthew 28:18-20

Thesis To show the necessity and nature of New Testament Baptism.

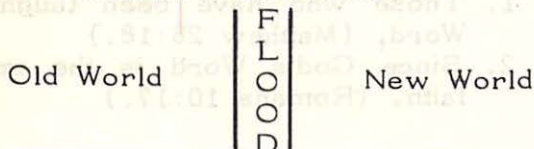
Introduction

1. The importance of this subject is seen in light of this text.
 - A. Jesus Christ instructed his disciples to go teach and baptize all nations.
 1. Who is the Christ? (Matthew 1:21; John 12:48.) Man's judge; God's Son; Man's Savior; (John 20:30,31.) God, Diety; John 1:1-4 He has all authority.
 - B. This process of teaching and baptizing is to continue until the end of the earth.
2. Salvation from sins dependent on obedience to this command. (Mark 16:15,16.)
3. We will emphasize three ideas in this lesson.
 - A. Some Bible reasons for being baptized.
 - B. A consideration of who should be baptized.
 - C. What is the nature of Baptism--action.

Discussion

1. Some Bible Reasons for Being Baptized.
 - A. To obey a command of the Lord, Jesus Christ. (Mark 16:16.)
 - B. To be saved. (1 Peter 3:20,21.)¹

NOAH'S SALVATION



- C. To obtain remission of sins. (Acts 2:38; 3:19.)
- D. To have our sins washed away. (Acts 22:16.)¹

	B	
	A	
	P	
Sinner	T	Sins Washed Away
	I	
	S	
	M	

- E. To reach the soul-cleansing blood of Christ. (Romans 6:3,4.)
- F. To get into Christ: (there are blessings in Christ)-
 - 1. Sons of God in Christ. (Galatians 3: 26,27.)
 - 2. Redemption is in Christ. (Ephesians 1:7.)
 - 3. Eternal Life is in Christ. (1 John 5:11.)
- G. To obtain Newness of Life. (Romans 6: 3,4; 2 Corinthians 5:17.)

II. Who should be baptised?

- A. Someone answers: "Infants should be baptized."
 - 1. Analyze this in light of the reasons already given.
 - 2. Children are not lost. (Matthew 18:3.)
- B. Believer's are to be baptized. (Mark 16: 15,16.)
 - 1. Those who have been taught God's Word. (Matthew 28:18.)
 - 2. Since God's Word is the source of faith. (Romans 10:17.)

- C. Those believers who repent. (Acts 2:38.)
 - 1. What does it mean to repent?²
 - 2. Because repentance prepares one to live for God. (Matthew 3:10.)
 - 3. Baptism corrects the wrong of one's past life. (Acts 2:38.)

III. What Is The Nature Of The Action Of Baptism?

- A. The general view: sprinkling, pouring or immersion. (see Webster.)
- B. What is the meaning of the word translated BAPTISM?
 - 1. To dip, to plunge, to immerse, to submerge. (Thayer)
 - 2. Consider a Biblical explanation. (Colossians 2:12.)
- C. The Element into which the believer who repents is to be immersed: water. (Acts 8:35-39.)
- D. Requirements for scriptural action in Baptism:
 - 1. Water. (Acts 8:36.)
 - 2. Much water. (John 3:23.)
 - 3. Going down into water. (Acts 8:36-38.)
 - 4. A burial in the water. (Rom. 6:3,4,; Colossians 2:12.)
 - 5. Coming up out of the water. (Acts 8:38.)

Conclusion

- 1. What doth hinder me? (Acts 8:37.)
 - A. Lack of teaching?
 - B. Belief.
 - C. Repentance. (Romans 2:1-11.)

- D. Will there be a convenient season? (Acts 24:25.)
2. Why do you tarry? (Acts 22:16.)
 - A. Are you afraid of the water?
 - B. Are you afraid of criticism?
 - C. It will be easier later? (Proverbs 27:1.)
3. This is the time, O then be wise, be saved now. (2 Corinthians 6:2.)

¹Use as Chalkboard illustration.

²See sermon, "Repentance", in this book p. 94.

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