

BUT WE ADULTS OFTEN WEEP OVER TRIFLES AND ARE CARELESS ABOUT TREASURES - SO SAYS SANGSTER! MANY ADULTS HEAR THESE WORDS: "WHAT SHALL IT PROFIT A MAN, IF HE GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD, AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL?" - AND PAY NO ATTENTION TO THE SPIRITUAL VALUES IN LIFE WHATSOEVER. SANGSTER ALSO TELLS THE STORY HOW THAT ON APRIL 14, 1912 THE TITANIC SANK IN THE MID-ATLANTIC. HE TELLS OF A CERTAIN WOMAN WHO SNATCHED THREE ORANGES AND STUCK THEM IN HER POCKET WHEN IT WAS OBVIOUS THE BOAT WAS GOING TO SINK. HER MONEY, JEWELS, FURS AND OTHER VALUABLES WERE LEFT IN HER STATEROOM. AN HOUR BEFORE THAT LINER HAD STRUCK THE ICEBERG, HER VALUES WOULD HAVE BEEN CENTERED ON EVERYTHING EXCEPT ORANGES. HOWEVER, IN THE FACE OF DEATH HER VALUES WERE TRANSFORMED. WHAT SEEMED TO BE IMPORTANT HOURS BEFORE WAS NO LONGER IMPORTANT. IN A SENSE, THAT IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A PERSON IS CONVERTED. HE SEES THE VALUE OF THE SPIRITUAL OVER THE MATERIAL MAYBE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE. YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS NEED TO LEARN THE RIGHT ESTIMATE ON PHYSICAL ATTRACTIVENESS AND BEAUTY. THESE PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES ALONE DO NOT MAKE FOR A WELL-ORDERED BALANCED MATURE LIFE. THE MORAL CHARACTERISTICS OF GOODNESS AND SPIRITUAL MATURITY ARE VITALLY IMPORTANT. A YOUNG PERSON IS NOT SAFE IN A HOME WHERE HE IS TAUGHT A SET OF WRONG VALUES!

Associates

III. HE IS NOT SAFE WHEN HE RUNS WITH THE WRONG CROWD

~~THIRTY DAYS AGO~~, AN ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE CHARLESTON EVENING PAPER TELLING OF A DEATH OF A LOCAL GIRL WHOSE BODY WAS FOUND IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. HER MOTHER, THROUGH

Tracey Macey

Bangs

*they have every right
to reason to know
who - where - when!*

✓✓✓ HER TEARS, RELATED HOW THIS YOUNG GIRL HAD
GOTTEN IN WITH THE WRONG CROWD WHICH
EVENTUALLY TOOK HER FAR FROM HOME AND TO HER
GRAVE. YOUNG PEOPLE OFTEN COMPLAIN OF THE
DISCIPLINE AND RESTRAINTS PUT UPON THEM BY
PARENTS. HOWEVER, PARENTS HAVE LEARNED A
FEW THINGS IN LIFE AND ONE THING THEY KNOW
IS THAT YOU AND I ARE IN LARGE PART VERY
MUCH LIKE OUR ASSOCIATIONS AND FRIENDS.
✓✓✓ IF A YOUNG PERSON'S ASSOCIATES SMOKE POT,
TAKE OTHER DRUGS, DRINK LIQUOR, STAY OUT
ALL NIGHT, LISTEN TO WILD SUGGESTIVE MUSIC,
READ VULGAR PORNOGRAPHIC LITERATURE - SO
WILL YOU! PARENTS KNOW THAT. THEY KNOW
THAT MANY A YOUNG PERSON WHO MIGHT HAVE
BEEN SALVAGED FOR A LIFE OF USEFULNESS AND
HAPPINESS HAS BEEN CAUGHT UP IN A WHIRLPOOL
OF CRIME AND IMMORALITY SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY
ASSOCIATED WITH CRIMINALS. TEENS OFTEN
COMPLAIN THAT PARENTS DO NOT TRUST THEM.
IT IS NOT JUST A MATTER OF TRUST BUT A
MATTER OF TRAINING. PARENTS ARE EXPERIENCED
IN AREAS THAT YOUNG PEOPLE NEED TO BE WARNED
ABOUT. THEOLOGICALLY, MEN ARE BORN WITH
THEIR BACKS TO GOD AND THEY WILL INSTINCTIVELY
TURN TO WRONG INSTEAD OF RIGHT. THE BIBLE
DECLARES THIS AS A THEOLOGICAL FACT. "THE
WICKED ARE ESTRANGED FROM THE WOMB: THEY
GO ASTRAY AS SOON AS THEY ARE BORN SPEAKING
LIES." (PSALM 58:3) NO YOUNG PERSON IS SAFE
WHO LIVES IN A HOME WHERE THERE ARE NO
RESTRICTIONS, NO DISCIPLINE, NO TRAINING
ON RIGHT AND WRONG, NO MORAL EXAMPLE
DEMONSTRATED BY LOVING PARENTS.

*Responsibility!
Before Trust!*

*Cities
in refuge*

IV. HE IS NOT SAFE WHILE HE REMAINS
OUTSIDE OF CHRIST —

MOST OF US EXPECT TO LIVE TO BE 70 OR MORE.
UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, THIS IS THE
LIFE EXPECTANCY FOR MOST PEOPLE. HOWEVER,
THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT ANYONE WILL
LIVE A DAY BEYOND TODAY. YOU AND I WERE BORN
WITH OUR BACKS TO GOD AND FROM OUR BIRTH WE
BEGAN WALKING AWAY FROM HIM. CONVERSION OR
REGENERATION OR THE NEW BIRTH IS A CHANGE
OF DIRECTION AND CONDITION. MANY PARENTS
ASSUME THAT CHILDREN RAISED IN A CHRISTIAN
HOME, REQUIRED TO ATTEND CHURCH ACTIVITIES
WILL SOMEHOW BE OK. WRONG. NO PERSON,
TEENAGER OR OTHERWISE, IS SAFE AS LONG AS
HE IS OUTSIDE OF JESUS CHRIST. YOUR
SECURITY AND MINE DEPENDS UPON OUR OBEDIENCE
TO GOD'S WORD. HIS NUMBER ONE REQUIREMENT
IS TO BELIEVE ON JESUS AND NO ONE IS SAFE
UNTIL THAT DECISION HAS BEEN MADE.
(ILLUSTRATE WITH THE ARK AS A TYPE OF CHRIST)

JN. 3:18

(No Harry Illus.)

"A Target For Terrorists"

NEHEMIAH: SPIRITUAL LEADER

Introduction: Joe Montana retired this week--in case you haven't heard! After 16 years in the NFL, having completed 7-1/2 miles of forward passes, he has been called, by many, the greatest quarterback to ever play the game of football. (Test: If you were behind 6 points in a game, on your own 1 yard line--99 to go--30 seconds to play--who better than Joe Montana?) He was by every standard a leader.

However, football is a game--a sport, men at play. Never mind that they are paid millions of dollars to do it, it is only a game. There is another field of conflict that is not a playground, it is a battleground. There have been some "greats" on that field too--Abraham, Moses, David, Paul--"heros of the faith". One we don't hear much about was a great spiritual leader, his name--Nehemiah. Let us examine his life and work--learn some lessons about leadership.

(OVER)

I. Nehemiah Prayed Before Making Decisions-- 1:4 ("Anointing Before Action")

Nehemiah was born in Persia--not Israel. He was living and working in Persia...700 miles from Jerusalem. His "boss" was Artaxerxes. Nehemiah had a high position, government job--cupbearer. Don't be misled, he was in a position of confidence and trust. Persian kings were "targets of terrorists" and plots were plentiful. Poison was the weapon of choice. Cupbearers tasted everything. The king ate or drank nothing that did not pass through the hands and mouth of the cupbearer. He was chief-of-staff. Like Joseph, a politically powerful person.

cf. To Joseph.

Prayer was first & fundamental NOT supplemental.

*Bad news broke his heart,
(~~shook~~) thundered his soul.
Wpt - sad - HAVE you ever had
a burden for God's
work?*

-2-

News came to Nehemiah that the Jewish community in Jerusalem was being persecuted. They were beaten, robbed, the city prey to all and any who turned to violence. The defense line of the city--walls and gates--in ruin. When news came of the bad conditions, Nehemiah prayed and continued to do so for 4 months.

The prayer life of a spiritually mature leader:
① He prayed about a situation he did not create or control. ② He prayed about a city and people far away he had never seen. He did not view the situation as their problem and not his. He got emotionally involved in the needs of people he had not seen and did not know. (*Oklahoma City*)

A. He Confessed His Own Sins--1:6 He understood that unconfessed sin hinders the work of God. It stops His blessing (Mel Trotter--"guess at it").

B. His Work For God Arose Out of His Prayer Life It began with a burden. It began in his heart. (The burden keeps leaders from bailing out when the work gets tough.) He did not make his plans and ask God's approval. He sought God's direction--first. Prayer did what nothing else could--changed the heart of a king (CH. 2). (*Clipping: "What makes you sad."*)

Life It began with a burden. It began in his heart. (The burden keeps leaders from bailing out when the work gets tough.) He did not make his plans and ask God's approval. He sought God's direction--first. Prayer did what nothing else could--changed the heart of a king (CH. 2). (*Clipping: "What makes you sad."*)

II. Nehemiah Volunteered For a Hard Assignment--(2:5,12) When God looks for a person to do a task for Him, He does not call the unemployment office. He looks for someone who is occupied--opportunity comes to the occupied. (Cf. David, Peter Wisers) *Don't tell Galt they got it. He was!*

Nehemiah made himself available. Many of us are waiting for a vacancy in the Trinity before we volunteer. We spend time isolating



They signed up
without solicitation!

ourselves--unlisted numbers, closed doors, do not disturb signs, so when God calls, He gets our answering machine! Or, a busy signal!

- (1) 1 Chron. 12 = "an army of availables".
- (2) Mattie Rice--still available at 90!
- (3) Train--pastor, push

PRAYER: "Lord, do you have any walls or gates that need attention? I am a cupbearer but contracting is OK with me! I'm available.

BCC: a. Bud Smith--doors--"greeters"--we care, more than in bulletin.

b. Umbrellas

Cove - at door
Living Room

III. Nehemiah Devised A Plan of Action--2:7

It had been 4 months since Nehemiah had received the "bad news" about broken walls and burned gates. The first phase of his plan involved risk--(1) a leave of absence from the king. He was sad and scared. The king understood! Granted passports, permits, provision and protection. (2) Travel to and survey of the site. No reception committee to meet him. A "one horse operation"--planning his work, working his plan. He prepared--private reflection before public recruitment. Work with the ruins--adequate. (3) Organized the work and the workers--CH. 3 (God gave Nehemiah a field to work in and a force to work with!)

④ Trusted To God
⑤ Fast: I trust the King

- a. There was a place for everyone.
- b. They worked near home. Their neighborhood.
- c. They started and stuck with it. Paralysis of procrastination on progress...time to move.

These are God-honoring plans. God can and does use organization. Nehemiah planned to succeed--not fail! (1:11)

West Virginia--growing up--3 matters:

- a. Not educated - Preparation (Prepared)
- b. Not paid

c. NOT planned.

Nehemiah left Nothing To
Chance! ☐ And Nothing
should me!

*Sometimes we
outlive them!*

c. No planning--no bulletins--no forethought or afterthought--let it happen.

BCC--a 20 year plan for growth. The plan--an instrument for growth. Road to a car/ tracks to a train/runway to a plane. No plan--no progress (New Hope 100 year anniversary)

God can and does bless order and organization.

IV. Nehemiah Overcame His Opposition--2:19

1 Cor. 16:9--the door of opportunity has hinges called opposition! It is the overcoming of obstacles that develops our character. These 3 were not Jews--they had no investment or involvement in any program of progress (mule/carpenter/barn door).

"We like to be liked & loathe to be laughed at!"

These people knew all the wrong answers:

- Why an outsider/stranger to do a local job?
- We don't need it.
- We've not done it that way before (7 last words of the church).
- It costs too much.
- Let's don't get ahead of the Lord--never behind!

They laughed, schemed, lied about, threatened--all to no avail!

TEST: What does it take to stop us? (V.R. Edman: "Its always too soon to quit")

POINT: The larger a church becomes, the greater the opposition. A Bible class in the basement is not a threat, but a large growing church is a target!

BCC: 4 years of peace, blessing--capacity and then chaos--staff--TV--steel 1/3. Murphy's law in full operation.

V. Nehemiah Finished the Task--6:15

Oh. Notebook on Neh - Finished Task

(5.)

V.

Several years ago, I was asked to
 characterize a contender who had
 worked for the church: (1) On Ahead of Time
 (2) On Under Budget.
 ["The Pursuit of Wow"]
 Tom Peters

There are four joys
 like the joy of a job well done. (1 Cor. 3:9)

["Well done... good and faithful servant
 ... enter them into the joy of thy lord"]
 (repeated) MATT. 25:19-23
2 Tim. 4:7

Along 119 So. a house that was never
 complete - "tar paper" on the side. It
 burned several years ago - rebuilt at
 twice the size - & not finished!
 (Our old church - never completed)

A reflection on over a $\frac{1}{4}$ of a
 century in same church - 1976 - 1st.
 (Costs in 1970 - \$20,000 1980 - Fam. Center
 " " 1995 - \$450,000) 1995 - 1.2
 in 4 yrs!

Summary:

- (1) God calls burdened people to lead
& others to share the burden.
- (2) God uses order & organization
 (Ants / Golf ball - "only safe place
 set on the wall")
- (3) Expect opposition. Overcome it.
- (4) Success is Satisfying.
 (C. J. Sambo -
 Sunday Night - prayer
 "Lord, I did my Best.")

A. J. Gossip
 - Three of all
Tasks

"A heart-~~beat~~
lesson"Jim
Age 1LEARNING ABOUT THE HEARTEvery ~~Someone~~ leaves

To Every ~~Someone~~ leaves
 LAST WEEK JOHNNY CASP LEFT THE HOSPITAL
 WHERE HE HAD UNDERGONE BY-PASS SURGERY
 SAYING THAT HE HAD A NEW APPRECIATION FOR
 THE HUMAN HEART AND VOWED TO WATCH HIS DIET,
 EXERCISE AND DO ALL OF THE THINGS NECESSARY
 TO LIVE A HEALTHY LIFE. MOST HEART PATIENTS
 LEAVE THE HOSPITAL WITH THE SAME KIND OF
 DETERMINATION. THE HEART IS AN AMAZING
 ORGAN. IT BEATS AN AVERAGE OF 75 TIMES A
 MINUTE, 40 MILLION TIMES A YEAR, 2-1/2
 BILLION TIMES IN THE LIFE OF A 70-YEAR OLD.
 AT EACH HEARTBEAT THE AVERAGE ADULT
 DISCHARGES ABOUT 4 OZ. OF BLOOD. THIS
 AMOUNTS TO 3,000 GALLONS A DAY, 650,000
 GALLONS A YEAR OR ENOUGH TO FILL 81 TANK
 CARS OF 8,000 GALLONS EACH. THE HEART DOES
 ENOUGH WORK IN ONE HOUR TO LIFT A 150 POUND
 MAN TO THE TOP OF A 3-STORY BUILDING, ENOUGH
 ENERGY IN 12 HOURS TO LIFT A 65 TON TANK
 CAR ONE FOOT OFF THE GROUND. THERE IS
 ANOTHER HEART, NAMELY, THAT INNER-PART OF
 THE SOUL OR SPIRIT, THE SEAT OF EMOTIONS
 OR CONSCIOUS LIFE. THERE WAS AN INTERESTING
 PARADOX IN THE LIFE OF PIONEER HEART SURGEON,
 CHRISTIAN BARNARD. HE WAS ABLE TO GIVE A
 NEW HEART TO A SOUTH AFRICAN DENTIST BUT WAS
 UNABLE TO DEAL WITH "HEART MATTERS" IN HIS
 OWN HOME FOR HIS FIRST WIFE AND HE SEPARATED
 AND NOT ON FRIENDLY TERMS. WHEN BARNARD
 ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD WRITTEN A BOOK ENTITLED
 HEART ATTACK TO HELP HEART SUFFERERS COM-
 PREHEND THE EXTENT OF THEIR DISEASE, HIS WIFE
 ANNOUNCED THAT SHE TOO HAD WRITTEN A BOOK
 ENTITLED HEARTBREAK FOR WOMEN WHO HAD TO LIVE
 WITH MEN LIKE THE NOTED HEART SURGEON! WE
 SPEAK OF THE HEART IN EVERY DAY SPEECH.

 NOT A
 Muscle
 but a
 Mental
 or
 Spiritual
 Center 3

 "Kap Sia" ... spells heart
 in Ch.

"about as welcome as a heart attack!"

FOR EXAMPLE, PHRASES LIKE TAKE HEART, HALF-HEARTED, HEAVY-HEARTED, SOFT-HEARTED, HARD-HEARTED, WARM-HEARTED, BIG-HEARTED, TUG AT THE HEART, LOSE HEART, HEARTFELT, ARE BUT A FEW EXPRESSIONS USED REGARDING THE HEART AS IT RELATES TO HUMAN EMOTION. IN THE BIBLE, THE WORD HEART IS USED TO DESCRIBE OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD. FOR EXAMPLE, PSALM 14:1, JEREMIAH 17:9-10; ROMANS 10:9-10.

1. A HEART THAT SHINES - (II COR. 4:3-6)

The Shining Heart

GOD SEES MAN'S SPIRITUAL CONDITION VERY CLEARLY. HE DEFINES THAT CONDITION IN SIMPLE TERMS, NAMELY, DARKNESS AND LIGHT. "FOR YE WERE SOMETIMES DARKNESS BUT NOW ARE YE LIGHT IN THE LORD: WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT." (EPH. 5:8) MAN IS BORN IN A STATE OF SPIRITUAL DARKNESS. THAT CONDITION CONTINUES UNTIL AND UNLESS HE RESPONDS POSITIVELY TO THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. MAN IS AS "BLIND AS A BAT" ABOUT SPIRITUAL MATTERS. HIS CONDITION MIGHT BE CALLED THE "BLIND-MIND SYNDROME." (VERSE 4) SATAN'S PHILOSOPHY IS TO KEEP PEOPLE IN THE DARK REGARDING THEIR SPIRITUAL CONDITION. DARKNESS IS HIS DOMAIN. THE GOSPEL IS LIGHT FOR THE DARKENED SOUL. IT IS GOD'S GOOD NEWS FOR MAN'S GREAT NEED. THE GOSPEL TURNS THE LIGHT OF GOD'S WORD ON THE DARKNESS OF MAN'S CONDITION. IN THIS PASSAGE PAUL COMPARES CONVERSION TO CREATION. IT IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR A PERSON WHO HAS COME TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST AS LORD AND SAVIOUR TO EXCLAIM: "HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO BLIND?" THAT IS EXACTLY THE CONDITION OUT OF WHICH HE HAS COME WITH NO EXAGGERATION!

no grey!

Blind! Dark!

Kittans

Outer (1) Darkness

Love Darkness

Eph 6:12

There's

Power outages -

sitting in dark - sudden light!

to B. Morgan... when?

knows - the light is shining!

Help For:
1 HEART
2 HAND
3 HOME

II. A HEART THAT SINGS - (Col. 3:16)

The Singing HEART

THE WORD OF GOD STORED IN THE HEART AND MIND IS A SOURCE OF RICH SPIRITUAL RESERVES. IT WILL MAKE THE BELIEVER WISE. IT WILL TEACH HIM. IT WILL CAUSE HIM TO SING IN HIS HEART. NOTE: THE SINGING IS NOT TO ONE ANOTHER BUT RATHER TO GOD. A RICH EXPERIENCE DOES NOT REQUIRE A RICH VOICE. AS A MATTER OF FACT, A BELIEVER MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CARRY A TUNE BUT STILL HAVE A GREAT SONG IN HIS HEART. (A FRIEND OF MINE SAID THAT HE REALLY HAD A GOOD SINGING VOICE, HE SIMPLY TORE IT UP TRYING TO GET IT OUT. FRED BROWN - STRAINED VOICE - SCREEN DOOR.) GREAT CHURCHES HAVE GREAT MUSIC ESPECIALLY GREAT SINGING. SINGING FROM REDEEMED HEARTS IS GREAT SINGING. THE SAVED KNOW HOW TO SING. (COMMENT ON NOTE - LETTER) THE NEXT TIME WE GRUMBLE UNDER OUR BREATH REGARDING A SONG IN CHURCH THAT IS NOT FAMILIAR, PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT PART OF A MUSIC MINISTRY IS TO LEARN ALL OF THE GREAT HYMNS OF THE CHURCH. WHEN WE LEARN TO SING THEM WE WILL LEARN TO LOVE THE THEOLOGY OF THE MESSAGE. DURING THE REFORMATION, MARTIN LUTHER NOT ONLY BROUGHT GREAT PREACHING BACK TO THE PEOPLE BUT IT WAS PRECEDED BY GREAT SINGING. COMMENT REGARDING MOODY-SANKEY, SUNDAY-RODEHEAVER, GRAHAM-SHAY AND BARROWS. PAUL DID NOT LEAVE HEARTFELT SINGING TO A FEW PAID PROFESSIONALS WHO MIGHT SING FOR PROFIT AND NOT FOR PRAISE. SINGING IN THE CHURCH IS A BIT LIKE SINGING IN THE SHOWER. IT'S WHAT IS IN THE HEART THAT REALLY COUNTS.

Teach Ministry

Strass
7/11 music
7 words
11 Times



3:16

3 Books

1. God's Book
2. Church Book
3. My own Book

(Richly) - allow the Word to work in your heart!
Calm, correct, Counsel
+ Comfort

No substitute for Word of God

(Meth. pastor - four Rec.
"What's the secret" - the Bible)

1+
14:27

III. A HEART THAT SORROWS - JOHN 16:6

The Sorrowing Heart

FOR THREE YEARS, THE DISCIPLES HAD BEEN WITH JESUS ON A DAILY BASIS. THEY HAD LEARNED WHAT HE TAUGHT AND LOVED WHAT HE WAS. THEIR FUTURE WAS TIED TO HIM. AFTER ALL, WHEN THEY LEFT THEIR OLD LIFE IT WAS WITH THE HOPE THAT MESSIAH'S KINGDOM WOULD COME AND THEY WOULD HAVE A VITAL PART IN THAT KINGDOM. NOW HE HAD TOLD THEM HE MUST LEAVE THEM AND THEIR HOPES AND DREAMS WERE SHATTERED. LIKE MOST OF US, WHEN FACED WITH A SPIRITUAL CRISIS, THEY WERE CONCERNED MORE ABOUT THEMSELVES THAN ABOUT HIM. THEIR STATE OF MIND IS DESCRIBED AS A HEART FILLED WITH SORROW AND GRIEF. THE IDEA IS THAT OF SOMETHING THAT HAD TAKEN POSSESSION OF THEM. (JOHN 12:3) AS A MATTER OF FACT, THIS CHAPTER HAS A GREAT DEAL TO SAY ABOUT SORROW: JOHN 16:6, 20, 21, 22) THE WORD FILL IS THE SAME AS TRANSLATED SHALL SUPPLY IN PHILIPPIANS 4:19 AND "COMPLETE" IN COLOSSIANS 2:10. THERE ARE TIMES WHEN SORROW INVADES THE LIFE AND FILLS EVERY FIBER OF ONE'S BEING. SICKNESS, DEATH AND TRAGEDY BRING SUCH EXPERIENCES. FOR EXAMPLE: 1 Thess. 4:13 - *Sorrow not as others which have no hope*

(1) THE PRODIGAL SON'S FATHER - HIS SON HAD GONE NOT TO THE DOGS BUT TO THE HOGS. FEW SORROWS CAN BREAK THE HEART LIKE A WAYWARD SON OR DAUGHTER.

(2) JACOB - NEWS ABOUT JOSEPH - GENESIS 37:34-35

(3) DAVID - (A Boredom)

* Arnold Cook
(Hearty of daughter)

Manisha 1999
car - Burg. Shale
Red Band
Stumbled, left car
dead -
2 children pick-up
- hosp.

Enice
U. Geo.
Personal

3 Favor. to
Fastimes

IV. A HEART THAT IS SLOW - LUKE 24:25

the SLOW HEART

THE EMMAUS EPISODE OF WALKING, TALKING AND EATING WITH JESUS IS ONE OF THE DELIGHTFUL EXPERIENCES IN SCRIPTURE. THE WORD "FOOLS" DOES NOT CONVEY THE JARRING SOUND IMPLIED IN ENGLISH BUT RATHER A REFERENCE TO THEIR FOOLISHNESS. THE WORD "SLOW" IS USED ONE OTHER TIME IN SCRIPTURE IN JAMES 1:17 WITH REFERENCE TO SPEECH AND WRATH. THESE DISCIPLES, LIKE THE TWELVE, AND LIKE OTHERS, MAY HAVE BEEN QUICK TO BELIEVE RUMORS, GOSSIP AND GUESSES BUT SLOW TO TRUST THE CLEAR AND SIMPLE STATEMENTS OF SCRIPTURE. PERHAPS THEY COULD QUOTE A VERSE FOR EVERY SITUATION IN LIFE AND THEN GO RIGHT ON IN UNBELIEF. TALKING ABOUT THE BIBLE AND TRUSTING THE GOD OF THE BIBLE ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS ENTIRELY. IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING, THE DISCIPLES "FLUNKED OUT" OF THE FINEST SCHOOL IN HUMAN HISTORY. THEY SEEMED TO HAVE LEARNED LITTLE AFTER A THREE-YEAR EXTENSIVE COURSE. THEIR SLOW HEART AND NO FAITH WENT TOGETHER. THE CONTEXT OF THIS PASSAGE TALKS ABOUT HEARTBURN AND HEART BELIEF (VERSE 32). FOR MOST OF US, CHRIST'S APPEAL WAS NOT FIRST TO OUR HEADS BUT TO OUR HEARTS. WE, LIKE A CHILD, DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY GOD LOVED US BUT WE HAVE FELT THE WARMTH AND BLESSEDNESS OF THAT LOVE. WE, LIKE THESE DISCIPLES, HAVE NO REASON FOR THE SLOWNESS OF OUR FAITH IN CHRIST.

V. THE HEART THAT IS SANCTIFIED -

I PETER 3:15

the Sanctified HEART

(WE HAVE NOT EXHAUSTED THE VERSES WHERE THE LETTER S APPEARS WITH REFERENCE TO THE HEART IN THE TEXT. ACTS 2:46 - SINGLENESSE OF HEART, JAMES 3:4 - STRIFE IN THE HEART,

I COR. 14:25 - SECRETS OF THE HEART.
 THE WORD SANCTIFY MEANS TO "SET APART CHRIST AS LORD...." THE VERSE IS ONE ON THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST. THE BELIEVER IS ENCOURAGED IN THE WORDS OF VERNON MCGEE TO "HAVE A CHAPEL IN YOUR HEART FOR CHRIST." THAT IS, NOT JUST A PLACE WHERE HE MAY COME OCCASIONALLY BUT A LIFE IN WHICH HE CONTROLS THE KEYS TO EVERY ROOM. PETER APPEALS TO THE SAINTS TO BE SURRENDERED AND SANCTIFIED OR USABLE FOR JESUS CHRIST. THE BELIEVER IS ENCOURAGED TO MAKE A COMMITMENT TO CHRIST TO BECOME A SPOKESPERSON FOR HIM. IT IS ONE THING TO TRUST THE SAVIOUR IT IS ANOTHER THING TO TALK ABOUT HIM TO OTHERS. THE WORD ANSWER IN THE TEXT IS THE ONE FROM WHICH WE GET OUR ENGLISH APOLOGETICS. APOLOGETICS IS NOT SAYING I AM SORRY FOR MY FAITH BUT RATHER IT IS A STUDY THAT SAYS THIS IS WHAT I BELIEVE AND WHY REGARDING MY FAITH. IT IS A DEFENSE OF THE FAITH. THE BELIEVER IS ENCOURAGED TO HAVE BIBLE ANSWERS FOR THOSE WHO ASK. THE BELIEVER IS ENCOURAGED TO "BONE UP ON THE BIBLE" AND BE ABLE TO GIVE REASONS FOR HIS FAITH. THEREFORE, THE SANCTIFIED SAINT IS ONE WHO IS SCHOOLED IN THE SCRIPTURES AND WILLING TO SHARE HIS FAITH WITH OTHERS. MANY OF US HAVE POOR EXCUSES FOR NOT TELLING OTHERS ABOUT OUR FAITH:

- (1) I AM NOT MUCH OF A TALKER.
- (2) I DON'T KNOW MY BIBLE VERY WELL.
- (3) IT MAKES ME NERVOUS.
- (4) I'M AFRAID I'LL BE ASKED SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW.

occupy

Pres.
Daily
news
"Spokes person"

via
McGee

Wesley
McGee

- (5) THAT'S WHAT WE PAY PREACHERS AND MISSIONARIES FOR.

QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT THIS VERSE? HAVE YOU SANCTIFIED THE LORD IN YOUR HEART? NOT JUST A SPOT ON SUNDAY MORNING BUT FULL CONTROL ALL OF THE TIME FOR WHATEVER AND WHEREVER HE DESIRES.

Jim Payne

...a matter of
life/death —
eternal!

should take it seriously.

Is He a ~~Temporary~~ ^{Occasional}
GUEST
or
Permanent
Resident!

"THE HEART"

JEREMIAH 17:9

Deceitful & Wicked

In 1949, TWO MEN SAT ON THE EDGE OF A HOSPITAL BED AND ONE MAN AND ONE MAN WAS DOING SOMETHING THAT HAD NEVER BEEN DONE IN ALL OF HUMAN HISTORY. - HE SAT WITH HIS HEART IN HIS HAND! THE TWO MEN WERE DR. PHILIP BLAIBERG AND DR. CHRISTIAN BARNARD. BLAIBERG THE PATIENT, HELD IN HIS HAND A TRANSPARENT PLASTIC BOX WHICH CONTAINED HIS OLD DISCARDED HEART. A CAREFUL LOOK SHOWED THAT 90% OF THE ORGAN WAS USELESS. BLAIBERG WAS THE FIRST MAN IN HISTORY TO LOOK AT HIS OWN DEAD HEART WHILE HE CONTINUED TO LIVE. IN OUR STUDY TONIGHT, WE ARE GOING TO LOOK AT THE HEARTS OF SEVERAL DIFFERENT MEN. COINCIDENTALLY CHRISTIAN BARNARD, THE PIONEER OF HEART SURGERY, HAS BEEN DIVORCED FROM HIS WIFE. AFTER 21 YEARS OF LIVING TOGETHER THEY DECIDED THAT THEIR MARRIAGE WOULD NOT WORK AND ESPECIALLY SINCE HE HAD BECOME INTERESTED IN YOUNGER, WEALTHIER WOMEN. DR. BARNARD'S BOOK ENTITLED HEART ATTACK WAS MILDLY UPSTAGED BY HIS WIFE'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SHE WAS GOING TO WRITE A BOOK ENTITLED HEART BREAK. TEN YEARS AGO, TOWNS LIKE CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA, AND HOUSTON, TX, WERE THE OUTSTANDING CITIES CONCERNING HEART SURGERY, BUT NOW IT IS BECOME ALMOST COMMON PLACE AND SUCH OPERATIONS ARE PERFORMED IN OUR CITY ON A REGULAR BASIS. WHEN ONE SPEAKS OF THE HEART HE MAY DO SO FROM SEVERAL DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW. ONE MAY REFER TO THE PHYSICAL ORGAN IN THE BODY. FOR EXAMPLE, II SAM. 18:14 DESCRIBES THE HORRIBLE WAY JOAB KILLED ABSALOM, BY DRIVING STAKES THROUGH HIS HEART. THE TERM HEART IS ALSO USED TO DESCRIBE MAN'S SINFUL NATURE AND CAPACITY FOR SIN. ALSO IN THIS VEIN, IT SPEAKS OF THE INNERMOST BEING OF THE HUMAN PSYCHE. (MARK 7:21-22, PROV. 3:5-6) IN OUR COMMON EVERYDAY LANGUAGE WE USE THE TERM HEART TO DESCRIBE CERTAIN INTENSE SITUATIONS: THE HEART OF A MATTER, THE YOUNG AT HEART, A HEART TO HEART TALK, HARD HEARTED, FAINT HEARTED, TENDER HEARTED, CHICKEN HEARTED, A BLEEDING HEART AND A LONELY HEART. *merry | Broken*

I. THE HEART OF A FOOL - PSALM 14:1

THE MAN IN PS. 14 IS NOT A PERSON WHO UPON

SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION AND HONEST INTELLECTUAL CONVICTION HAS COME TO THE CONCLUSION THERE IS NO GOD. INSTEAD, THE MAN IN THIS PSALM IS A MAN WHO IS MORALLY OUT OF PLACE AND HIS REASONS FOR DENYING THE EXISTENCE OF GOD HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH CREDIBLE EVIDENCE, HE SAYS THERE IS NO GOD BECAUSE HE DOES NOT WANT GOD IN HIS LIFE AND THERE FORE EXPLAINS GOD AWAY SIMPLY BECAUSE HE DOES NOT WANT GOD TO EXIST NOT ON THE BASIS OF OBJECTIVE FACTS. HIS CONCLUSION IS BASED ON HIS INNERMOST HOSTILITY AND THEOLOGICAL PERVERSION. THE PSALMIST SAYS THAT GOD'S EVALUATION OF SUCH A PREJUDICED AND IGNORANT PERSON IS - HE IS A FOOL. ANY PERSON, IRRESPECTIVE OF CULTURE AND EDUCATION, IS A FOOL WHO LIVES HIS LIFE WITHOUT CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE FACT THAT GOD EXISTS. ONE REASON FOR THE MORAL DECLINE OF A GIVEN CIVILIZATION IS BECAUSE MEN LOSE THEIR FEAR OF GOD AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN. GOD DESCRIBED IN THE N.T. THE ACTIVITIES OF A MAN MENTIONED IN THIS VERSE. ACCORDING TO LUKE 12:20 THE PERSON LIVES THIS LIFE WITH NO PROVISION OR PREPARATION TO MEET GOD IS A FOOL-GOD SAID SO. ANYONE WHO LIVES FOR NOW AND HAS NOTHING FOR ETERNITY IS A FOOL. UNDOUBTEDLY THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO WOULD NOT CALL THEMSELVES INTELLECTUAL ATHEISTS BUT ARE IN REALITY PRACTICAL ATHEISTS BECAUSE OF THE CONDUCT OF THEIR LIVES.

II. THE HEART OF A KING - Prov. 21:1

IN OUR MATERIALISTIC SOCIETY, WITH ITS EMPHASIS ON BLIND CHANCE AND FATALISM, PEOPLE BELIEVE IN THE "BREAKS" THAT BRING EITHER GOOD OR BAD LUCK AND THEY HOLD THEIR BREATH HOPING THAT GOOD FORTUNE WILL COME THEIR WAY AND NOT BAD. THEY CONSIDER THEMSELVES THE VICTIMS OF BLIND CHANCE. THE BIBLE SPEAKS OF A PERSONAL GOD WHO IS ABLE TO DEAL PERSONALLY WITH MEN. THIS PARTICULAR VERSE SPEAKS OF GOVERNMENTAL LEADERS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO GOD. Cf. Exo 7:14 WHERE PHAROAH WAS DETERMINED TO RESIST THE GOD OF THE ISRAELITES. EVEN IN THE MIDST OF JUDGMENT HIS HATRED ONLY VARIED IN INTENSITY, BUT HE REMAINED IN HIS PURPOSE AND DESIRE IN OPPOSITION TO GOD AND HIS PEOPLE. GOD SETTLED THAT MATTER AT THE RED SEA. EVEN IN THE MIDST OF JUDGMENT, PHAROAH'S HATRED REMAINED STEADFAST AND GOD DEMONSTRATED HIS CONTROL OVER HUMAN HISTORY IN HIS DEALINGS WITH PHAROAH. THE SAME IS TRUE IN DAN. 4:16

CONCERNING NEBUCHADNEZZAR. IN THE LIGHT OF GOD'S GREAT PROVIDENTIAL RULE OVER MEN IT IS OF SPECIAL BLESSING TO KNOW WE ARE THE OBJECTS OF HIS SPECIAL CARE AND THAT NOTHING IS BEYOND HIS CONTROL. ONE OF THE STRANGEST DECLARATIONS JESUS EVER MADE WAS BEFORE PILATE WHEN HE SAID IN JOHN 19:9-11 "THOU COULDEST HAVE NO POWER AT ALL AGAINST ME EXCEPT IT BE GIVEN THEE FROM ABOVE...." THE KING'S HEART IS IN THE HAND OF THE LORD AND HE DOES DETERMINE THE EVENTS OF HUMAN HISTORY.

III. THE HEART OF THE BACKSLIDER - Prov. 14:14

ONE PARAPHRASED TRANSLATION CONSIDERS THIS VERSE AS FOLLOWS: "THE BACKSLIDER GETS BORED WITH HIMSELF, THE GODLY LIFE IS EXCITING." SOME FOLK MISUNDERSTAND THE RELATIONSHIP OF SECURITY WITH BACKSLIDING. THEY THINK THAT BECAUSE ONE IS SECURE IN HIS POSITION IN CHRIST HE CANNOT ALTER HIS PRACTICE OR CONDITION AS A BELIEVER. QUESTION ? WHAT IS A BACKSLIDER? SIMPLY STATED, A BACKSLIDER IS A CARELESS, DISOBE-
 TIENT, INEFFECTIVE UNHAPPY CHRISTIAN WHO IS OUT OF FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD. IT MANIFESTS ITSELF IN A VARIETY OF WAYS. (1) THE LOVE OF THINGS AND THE NEGLECT OF ONE'S FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD. THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH HAVING THINGS, THE WRONGNESS IS THEIR HAVING US.

(2) LACK OF CONVICTION OF SIN. Ps. 19:12. A CONSTANT EXPOSURE TO THE WORD OF GOD AND THE THINGS OF GOD WILL MAKE THE BELIEVER SENSITIVE TO THE LITTLE SINS INSTEAD OF ALWAYS SEEKING TO JUSTIFY OR RATIONALIZE ONE'S ACTIONS.

(3) LAZINESS IN SERVICE. IT IS POSSIBLE TO BE OVERWORKED IN A CHURCH, BUT ONE OF THE FIRST SIGNS OF DECLINE OF SPIRITUAL INTERESTS IS THE DESERTION OF CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY IN THE THINGS OF GOD. THE BACKSLIDER IS ALWAYS INTERESTED IN THE BENEFITS THE CHURCH CAN PROVIDE FOR HIM IF AND WHEN HE ATTENDS RATHER THAN THE SERVICE HE CAN PERFORM FOR THE LORD IN HIS LOCAL CHURCH.

(4) CONCERN FOR WHAT MEN THINK RATHER THAN FOR WHAT GOD THINKS ABOUT US. SIMPLY STATED, THIS IS CONFORMITY TO THE WORLD, INSTEAD OF TO THE WILL OF GOD. (ROM. 12:1-PHILLIPS TRANSLATION)

(5) THE SETTLING DOWN IN THE WORLD AND THE LOSS OF SPIRITUAL GOALS. THERE MAY BE MANY CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO BACKSLIDING, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS UNWHOLESOME ASSOCIATION. HOWEVER, THERE ARE 3 PRIMARY CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO BACKSLIDING.

- (1) NEGLECT OF BIBLE STUDY
- (2) PRAYERLESSNESS
- (3) POOR ATTENDANCE IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

(RELATE MOODY'S STORY ABOUT COAL OF FIRE)
THE CURE FOR BACKSLIDING IS SIMPLE - CONFESSION.
(1 JOHN 1:9) RELATE MEL TROTTER'S STORY ABOUT
"CONFESS YOUR SINS"-GUESS AT IT.

IV. THE HEART OF A WISE MAN - Prov. 8:10

THE WISE MAN IS THE MAN WHO IS SENSITIVE TO AND FOLLOWS THE INSTRUCTION OF GOD. THE SELFISH, SELF-CENTERED MAN-PLEASING PERSON WHO IS ENAMORED WITH THE PHILOSOPHIES AND OPINIONS OF THIS WORLD WILL NEVER BE INTERESTED IN WHAT GOD HAS TO SAY TO HIM. THE WISE MAN WILL NOT ONLY READ THE BIBLE HE WILL HEED WHAT IT SAYS. THE WORD "PRATING" LITERALLY MEANS "A FOOL OF LIPS." ACCORDING TO 1 JOHN 5:3 THE LORD'S COMMANDMENTS ARE NOT BURDENSOME TO KEEP, THEREFORE THE PERSON WHO HEEDS THESE COMMANDMENTS IS A WISE MAN.

V. THE HEART OF A BELIEVER - Rom. 10:9-10

WITH THE WIDESPREAD USAGE OR MISUSAGE OF THE TERM BORN AGAIN, IT IS NOT UNUSUAL TO FIND CONFUSION OVER THE TERM CHRISTIAN. BILLY SUNDAY REMINDED US THAT PUTTING A MAN INTO A GARAGE DOES NOT MAKE HIM A CHRISTIAN AND NEITHER DOES PUTTING HIM INTO A CHURCH MAKE HIM A CHRISTIAN. CHURCH MEMBERS OR PEOPLE WHO BELONG TO RELIGIOUS ORDERS AND AFFILIATIONS ARE NOT CHRISTIAN BECAUSE OF THEIR IDENTIFICATION BUT THEY ARE CHRISTIAN BECAUSE THEY HAVE CHRIST IN THE HEART. TO CONCLUDE OUR STUDY ABOUT THE HEART WE HAVE AN INTERESTING ILLUSTRATION CONCERNING THE SUBJECT OF "HEART TRANSPLANTS." IT IS NO MORE POSSIBLE FOR A MAN TO DEAL WITH THE SINS OF HIS HEART THAN IT IS FOR HIM TO DEAL WITH THE DISEASE OF HIS HEART. IT IS NOT HUMANLY OR SUPERHUMANLY POSSIBLE FOR A MAN TO PERFORM SURGERY ON HIS OWN HEART-IT IS NOT POSSIBLE! NO RATIONAL PERSON WOULD ARGUE AGAINST THIS STATEMENT. NEITHER IS IT POSSIBLE FOR A MAN TO DEAL WITH THE moral sins of life.

ROBERT K. SPRADLING

NOVEMBER 3, 1985
EVENING

Bce. Am. Sect

THE HEARTS OF FIVE MEN

1991

MAN

a.g.

THIS ~~PAST~~ WEEK, I VISITED WITH A ~~FORMER~~ ~~NEIGHBOR~~ WHO SHOWED ME THE SCAR OF A RECENT HEART BY-PASS OPERATION. WE TALKED OF THIS COMPLICATED SURGERY AS IF IT HAD BEEN A SIMPLE TOOTH EXTRACTION! THE WORDS PACE-MAKER, JARVIK HEART, PENN STATE HEART, TRANSPLANT, BY-PASS ARE ALL TERMS TO REMIND US OF THE FRAILTY OF THE HUMAN HEART. IT BEATS AN AVERAGE OF 75 TIMES A MINUTE, 40 MILLION TIMES A YEAR, TWO AND A HALF BILLION TIMES IN THE LIFE SPAN OF A 70 YEAR OLD. EACH BEAT DISCHARGES 4 OUNCES OF BLOOD, THAT AMOUNTS TO 3000 GALLONS A DAY, 650,000 GALLONS A YEAR, ENOUGH TO FILL 81 TANK CARS OF 8,000 GALLONS EACH. IT IS AN AMAZING MUSCLE. IN THE LATE 1960's, DR. PHILIP BLAIBERG AND DR. CHRISTIAN BARNARD SAT ON A HOSPITAL BED WHILE BLAIBERG HELD IN HIS HAND A TRANSPARENT PLASTIC BOX CONTAINING HIS OLD, FIBROSED, USELESS, DISCARDED HEART. BARNARD COMMENTED: "DR BLAIBERG, DO YOU REALIZE THAT YOU ARE THE FIRST MAN IN HISTORY TO BE ABLE TO SIT AND LOOK AT HIS OWN DEAD HEART?" SINCE THAT TIME, ~~SEVERAL~~ HUNDRED HAVE JOINED THAT REMARKABLE FRATERNITY, BENEFACTORS OF THE HEART TRANSPLANT MEDICINE. THE WORD HEART IN THE BIBLE REFERS TO THE PHYSICAL ORGAN BUT IT ALSO REFERS TO THE PERVERTED OR SINFUL NATURE OF MAN. (MARK 7:21-22, GEN. 6:5) IT REFERS TO THE INNERMOST BEING OF MAN'S PERSONALITY. (PROV. 3:5-6) EVEN IN COMMON USAGE, THE TERM HEART SUGGESTS THE VITAL QUALITIES OF LIFE. THE HEART OF A MATTER, A HEART TO HEART TALK, A MOTHER'S HEART, BLEEDING HEART, LONELY HEART, THE YOUNG IN HEART, HARD-HEARTED, FAINT-HEARTED,

Dr's Book - open close

11

2

3

Revelation

2dus
TENDER-HEARTED, OR CHICKEN HEARTED. I REFERRED TO DR. CHRISTIAN BARNARD A MOMENT AGO. SOME YEARS AGO, AFTER DIVORCING HIS WIFE, HE WROTE A NEW BOOK ENTITLED HEART ATTACK. AT THE SAME TIME HIS WIFE ANNOUNCED THAT SHE HAD WRITTEN A BOOK TO DEAL WITH HEART PROBLEMS. SHE CALLED HERS HEARTBREAK IN WHICH SHE DESCRIBES THE AGONIES OF THEIR DIVORCE. IN OUR STUDY WE WILL LOOK AT 5 MEN AND 5 HEARTS:

I. THE HEART OF A FOOL - Psalm 14:1

MOF
THE MAN IN THIS PSALM IS NOT A PERSON WHO ON THE BASIS OF INTELLECTUAL CONVICTION AND SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION COMES TO THE HONEST CONCLUSION THAT THERE IS NO GOD. THAT IS WHAT SOME FOLK WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE ABOUT ATHEISM. RATHER, IT IS THE PICTURE OF A MAN WHO IS MORALLY OUT OF FOCUS. HIS REASON FOR DENYING THE EXISTENCE OF GOD HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH CREDIBLE EVIDENCE. THIS MAN WANTS TO RUN HIS LIFE, HIS WAY WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM GOD SO HE SIMPLY SAYS THERE IS NO GOD BECAUSE I SAY SO!
C ONE WAG SUGGESTS: "TO HAVE NO GOD IN YOUR HEART IS TO HAVE NO SENSE IN YOUR HEAD."
IN THE INNERMOST PARTS OF THIS MAN'S BEING HE SEEKS TO CONVINCE HIMSELF THERE IS NO PERSONAL GOD. HE, MAN, IS A COSMIC ACCIDENT STRANDED ON THE SHORES OF TIME WITH NOTHING BEYOND THIS LIFE. GOD SAYS THAT ANY PERSON WHO ADOPTS THIS ATTITUDE AND PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE IS A FOOL. HIS EDUCATION AND CULTURAL BACKGROUND MAY BE IMPECCABLE BY HUMAN STANDARDS BUT THE BIBLE SAYS HE IS FOOLISH BEYOND DESCRIPTION. THE NEW TESTAMENT DESCRIBES SEVERAL MEN LIKE THIS MAN. THE RICH MAN IN LUKE 12 SPENT EVERY WAKING

MOMENT TO IMPROVE THIS LIFE AND NOT ONE MOMENT TO PREPARE TO MEET GOD. IT MAY BE THAT HE WAS THE MOST INFLUENTIAL MAN IN THE COMMUNITY BUT GOD CALLED HIM A FOOL BECAUSE HE LIVED FOR NOW WITH NOTHING FOR ETERNITY. (RELATE STORY OF COURT JESTER WHO SAID TO HIS KING WHO WAS SICK, "THOU ART A GREATER FOOL THAN I." THE CURSE OF OUR GENERATION IS NOT SO MUCH INTELLECTUAL BUT PRACTICAL ATHEISM.

II. THE HEART OF A KING - PROVERBS 21:1

SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT THEY BELIEVE MANKIND IS SIMPLY THE VICTIM OF FATALISM OR BLIND CHANCE. THE BREAKS IN LIFE ARE EITHER GOOD OR BAD LUCK. MAN STUMBLES THROUGH LIFE HOPING FOR THE BEST USUALLY DESCRIBED IN WINNING A LOTTERY OR RECEIVING A FORTUNE IN SOME UNEARNED WAY. THERE ARE TWO INTERESTING HISTORICAL ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE TRUTH OF OUR TEXT.

(A) EXODUS 7:13

PHARAOH WAS DETERMINED TO RESIST GOD AND THE MOVEMENT OF THE ISRAELITES. EVEN IN THE MIDST OF SEVERE JUDGMENT, HIS HATRED ONLY VARIED IN INTENSITY BUT HIS PURPOSE REMAINED FIRM TO OPPOSE GOD AND THE PEOPLE OF GOD. GOD SETTLED THIS MATTER AT THE RED SEA HISTORICALLY ILLUSTRATING THAT HE IS IN FULL CONTROL. NOWHERE IN SCRIPTURE DOES IT SAY THAT GOD FIRST HARDENED PHARAOH'S HEART. NOWHERE IN SCRIPTURE IS THE HEART OF A GOOD MAN EVER SAID TO BE HARDENED. IT IS ALWAYS THOSE WHO ARE BENT ON EVIL WHO HAVE HARD HEARTS. THE DECISIONS PHARAOH MADE WERE CARRIED TO THE BITTER END - GOD SAW TO THAT. HE IS AN EXAMPLE OF PROVERBS 29:1.

(B) DANIEL 4:16

NEBUCHADNEZZAR CONFIRMED THE BIBLICAL TRUTH OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE. NOTHING IS BEYOND GOD'S CONTROL. JESUS REMINDED PILATE OF THIS GREAT TRUTH IN JOHN 19:10-11.

III. THE HEART OF A BACKSLIDER - Prov. 14:14

short attn. span...

John 15:4
BACKSLIDING IS A TERM SPOKEN OF OFTEN YET SELDOM DEFINED. SIMPLY STATED, BACKSLIDING IS A CARELESS, DISOBEDIENT, INEFFECTIVE, UNHAPPY CHRISTIAN WHO IS OUT OF TOUCH OR FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD. (RELATE STORY OF MAN IN TEXTILE FACTORY. A SINGLE THREAD BROKE AND THE WHOLE MACHINERY STOPPED UNTIL IT HAD BEEN REPAIRED.) BACKSLIDING MANIFESTS ITSELF IN MANY WAYS: *"Break alone"*

- CDIU*
- (1) A LOVE OF THINGS TO THE NEGLECT OF ONE'S SPIRITUAL LIFE. *(Low)*
 - (2) LACK OF CONVICTION OF SIN - PSALM 19:12. MANY OF THE LORD'S PEOPLE ARE NOT SENSITIVE TO LITTLE SINS.
 - (3) LAZINESS IN SERVICE - WANTING BENEFITS OF CHRISTIAN LIFE BUT NEVER CONTRIBUTING TO IT.
 - (4) CONCERN WITH WHAT MEN THINK RATHER THAN WHAT GOD THINKS.
 - (5) LACK OF HEAVENLY PERSPECTIVE, A SETTLING DOWN IN THE WORLD AND THE ADOPTING OF ITS PHILOSOPHY AND ATTITUDE. *REF*

MAJOR CAUSES OF BACKSLIDING ARE:

- (1) NEGLECT OF BIBLE
- (2) PRAYERLESSNESS

(3) PUBLIC WORSHIP

ILLUSTRATION MATERIAL - MOODY, COAL FIRE, MEL TROTTER - CONFESS YOUR SINS- I CAN'T THINK OF ANY. GUESS AT IT. GUESSED RIGHT FIRST TIME.

IV. THE HEART OF A WISE MAN - Prov. 10:8

THE WISE MAN WILL HEAR AND HEED INSTRUCTION FROM GOD. THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS EGOTIST IS PRE-OCCUPIED WITH PHILOSOPHIES AND OPINIONS ABOUT RELIGION. THE WISE MAN WILL FEED ON WHAT GOD HAS TO SAY. A STARTLING SHALLOWNESS HAS SETTLED OVER THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST. WHAT GOD SAYS IN HIS WORD IS NOT TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY MANY PEOPLE. IT IS READ, SEEN BUT NOT OBEYED. TRUTH KNOWN AND NOT OBEYED PUTS THE HEARER IN A DANGEROUS POSITION.

V. THE HEARET OF THE BELIEVEER -Rom. 10:9-10

A CHRISTIAN BY DEFINITION IS ONE WHO IS IN CHRIST. (II. COR. 5:17) HE HAS RECEIVED CHRIST INTO HIS LIFE AND IS THEREFORE PART OF THE BODY OF CHRIST. BISHOP MOULE TOLD THE STORY ABOUT A GROUP OF ENTERTAINERS IN LONDON WHO APPEARED BEFORE A HOST OF SOLDIERS ENROUTE TO THE FRONT DURING WORLD WAR I. WHEN THE PROGRAM WAS OVER, A YOUNG OFFICER STOOD TO EXPRESS THANKS TO THE ENTERTAINERS AND HE DID SO WITH GREAT HUMOR AND CHARM. SUDDENLY THE MOOD OF THE MEETING CHANGED DRAMATICALLY. ALMOST AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT, THE SOLDIER SAID: "SOON WE WILL BE CROSSING TO FRANCE AND THE TRENCHES SPEAK OF DEATH TO MANY. CAN ANYONE TELL US HOW TO DIE?" AFTER THE SHOCK AND STRAINED SILENCE BEGAN TO WEAR AWAY ONE VOICE SAID: "YES, TRUST THE LORD." THAT IS THE ANSWER TO THE INQUIRING HEART FOR TIME AND ETERNITY.

* THE PROBLEMS OF OUR RACE, NATION, COMMUNITY -
A HEART PROBLEM. (JEREMIAH 17:9) MAN NEEDS
TO HAVE HIS HEART FIXED AND IT IS NO MORE
POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO FIX IT HIMSELF THAN FOR
A PATIENT TO PERFORM OPEN-HEART SURGERY
ON HIMSELF. HE NEEDS HELP FROM GOD.

A Transplant
2Cm. 5.17

"THE HANDS OF JESUS"

Nav. ^{Hand} ^{Study} ^{make} ^{note}
Rom 10:13

LUKE 24:39-40

THE HAND IS USED IN SPEECH TO SYMBOLIZE CONDUCT. THE PSALMIST SAID, "WHO SHALL ASCEND INTO THE HILL OF THE LORD? OR WHO SHALL STAND IN HIS HOLY PLACE? HE THAT HATH CLEAN HANDS AND A PURE HEART." (PS. 24:3-4) PAUL SAID, "I WILL THEREFORE THAT MEN PRAY EVERYWHERE, LIFTING UP HOLY HANDS WITHOUT WRATH AND DOUBTING." (1 TIM. 2:8) THE HAND IS USED TO SUGGEST WICKEDNESS: "HIM, BEING DELIVERED BY THE DETERMINATE COUNSEL AND FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD, HE HATH TAKEN, AND BY WICKED HAND HATH CRUCIFIED AND SLAIN." (ACTS 2:23) "WHEN PILATE SAW THAT HE COULD PREVAIL NOTHING, BUT RATHER A TUMULT WAS MADE, HE TOOK WATER, AND WASHED HIS HANDS BEFORE THE MULTITUDE SAYING, I AM INNOCENT OF THE BLOOD OF THIS JUST PERSON: SEE YE TO IT." (MATT. 27:24) IN OUR LANGUAGE THERE ARE MANY IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS REGARDING THE HANDS.

(1) "MY LIFE IS IN YOUR HANDS."

(2) HAND IT OVER(3) HAND ME DOWN(4) HAND OUT(5) LAY HANDS ON(6) SLEIGHT OF HANDHand HoldingHand overHand outHand onHand inHand upHand downHand inHand outHand overHand upHand downHand inHand outHand overHand upHand downHand inHand outHand overHand upHand downHand inHand outHand over

MUCH OF OUR BODY LANGUAGE IS EXPRESSED WITH THE USAGE OF THE HAND:

(1) CLAP THE HAND TO INDICATE APPROVAL(2) EXTEND THE HAND TO GREET(3) WAVE THE HAND TO SAY FAREWELL(4) LIFT THE HAND TO TAKE AN OATH(5) FOLD THE HAND TO PRAY(6) SHACKLE THE HAND TO SUBDUE(7) SLAP THE HAND TO INDICATE DISAPPROVAL(8) LIFT THE HAND TO THE MOUTH TO INDICATE SILENCE(9) LIFT THE HAND TO THE BROW TO SALUTE(10) ELEVATE THE HAND OVER THE HEAD TO INDICATE VICTORY.

I REMEMBER A SEMINARY PROFESSOR WHO SUGGESTED THAT THERE ARE 4 BASIC GESTURES OF THE HAND:

(1) Instruct(2) Combat(3) Invite(4) StopRom 10:13Wiken - Speeding

THAT WHICH WAS SPOKEN BY ESAIASTHE PROPHET

MATTHEW 8:17

WE USE EXPRESSIONS SUCH AS: "WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?" WHEN WE MEET PEOPLE IN UNEXPECTED PLACES. (COMPARE GREENBRIER CHRISTMAS - SATURDAY SHOPPING.) SOME PEOPLE ARE SURPRISED TO DISCOVER JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT BOOK OF ISAIAH. SEVEN CENTURIES OR 70 DECADES BEFORE JESUS WAS BORN, ISAIAH LOOKED ACROSS THE MOUNTAIN TOPS OF BIBLE PROPHECY AND SAW HIS BIRTH AND HIS RULE AS ISRAEL'S MESSIAH. LET US EXAMINE SEVERAL KEY PASSAGES IN ISAIAH TO SEE EXACTLY WHAT HE SAW AND SAID IN PROPHETIC VISION AND UTTERANCE REGARDING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

I. ISAIAH WROTE ABOUT CHRIST'S VIRGIN BIRTH -

7:14

THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST WAS UNIQUE. IT WAS A SPECIAL ACT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHEREBY THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD WAS CLOTHED IN HUMAN FLESH. IT WAS THE ONLY BIRTH SINCE ADAM WHEREBY A CHILD WAS BORN WITHOUT TAIN OF ADAM'S SIN. (LUKE 1:35) THE SCRIPTURE IS CLEAR ON THIS POINT, IT WAS JESUS, NOT MARY, WHO WAS FREE FROM SIN! THE STORY IS TOLD OF SOME ROMAN MISSIONARIES WHO ESTABLISHED A WORK IN CENTRAL AFRICA IN THE FORM OF A MISSION SCHOOL. ONE CONVERT WAS GIVEN A MEDAL TO WEAR ON WHICH THE IMAGE OF THE VIRGIN MARY APPEARED WITH THE EXPLANATION THAT IT WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR HIM TO PRAY FOR MARY WHEN HE LOOKED AT THE MEDAL. SEVERAL MONTHS LATER, THE BOY INFORMED HIS TEACHERS THAT HE HAD READ IN

Problem:

*Don't think of
a single major
denominational
that
believes
this
doctrine!*

Survey:

*ministry
don't
believe
just
doctrine*

THE GOSPEL THAT MARY HAD LOST JESUS WHEN THEY WERE ON A JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM WHEN JESUS WAS A BOY. SO IT OCCURRED TO HIM THAT IF SHE FORGOT HER OWN SON ON THAT OCCASION, SHE MIGHT WELL FORGET HIM TOO, SO HE WAS GOING TO PRAY STRAIGHT TO JESUS AND NOT MARY. THE VIRGIN BIRTH IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE FOR MANY REASONS BUT WE WILL MENTION TWO:

(1) THE INTEGRITY OF MARY AND THE SCRIPTURES

THE ALTERNATIVE TO THE DOCTRINE OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH IS THAT MARY LIED ABOUT HER CONDITION. ACCORDING TO LUKE 1:34 SHE STATED THAT SHE HAD NOT KNOWN A MAN. MY THEOLOGY PROFESSOR WAS A STUDENT AT OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE IN CALIFORNIA AND ATTEND A LECTURE AS A STUDENT WHEN THE MAN WHO WAS LECTURING SAID IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO BELIEVE IN THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST. AT THE DISCUSSION TIME, DR. McCLAIN ASKED THE MAN FROM THE FLOOR WHAT WAS THE ALTERNATIVE TO BELIEVING THE VIRGIN BIRTH. THE MAN'S FACE FLUSHED WITH ANGER. McCLAIN HASTENED TO POINT OUT THAT THE SPEAKER WAS TEACHING SOMETHING ABOUT CHRIST THAT HE WOULD TURN PALE WITH ANGER IF SOMEONE SUGGESTED THAT ABOUT HIS MOTHER OR WIFE. THE CHRISTMAS STORY WHICH IS A FAVORITE OF CHILDREN EVERYWHERE COULD NOT BE SUCH A STORY IF THE PARENTS OF JESUS WERE OF QUESTIONABLE MORALS. NO CHILD BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK COULD EVER BE CALLED THE SINLESS SON OF GOD. ALSO, MARY COULD HAVE SAVED JESUS' LIFE AT THE TIME OF HIS CRUCIFIXION IF SHE HAD READILY ADMITTED THAT HE WAS BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK. THE BIBLE TEACHES THIS DOCTRINE IS FACT, NOT FANCY. IF THE BIBLE IS NOT CORRECT HERE, HOW DO WE KNOW IT IS RELIABLE AT ANY OTHER POINT?

(2) THE IMPLICATIONS OF SIN

WITHOUT THIS DOCTRINE WE HAVE NO SAVIOUR FOR A SAVIOUR WHO PARTOOK OF ADAM'S SINFUL NATURE BY BIRTH IS NO SAVIOUR AT ALL, IN FACT, IS IN NEED OF A SAVIOUR. A SAVIOUR WHO IS NOT QUITE GOD IS NO SAVIOUR AT ALL. GOD'S ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM OF MAN'S SINFUL DISPOSITION PASSED ON FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION WAS THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST. A PERSON WHO IS PERFECT MAN WITHOUT TAIN OF ADAM'S TRANSGRESSION BUT WHO WAS ALSO GOD - THE GOD-MAN. TEXT: (1) A SIGN - AHAZ WAS THE WICKED GRANDSON OF UZZIAH. TO SAY THE LEAST, HE WAS IDOLATROUS AND WORTHLESS AS A KING. AHAZ SOLD OUT TO THE KING OF SYRIA NAMED TIGLATH-PILESER. HE ENTERED INTO SECRET NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ASSYRIANS. ISAIAH CONFRONTED HIM WHILE HE WAS INSPECTING THE SAFETY OF THE WATER SUPPLY FOR THE CITY OF JERUSALEM INSTRUCTING THE KING THAT HE SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID OF SYRIA AND THE OTHER FOES OF ISRAEL FOR WITHIN 65 YEARS BOTH SYRIA AND SAMARIA WOULD NOT BE A THREAT ANY LONGER. WHEN AHAZ, IN A FAKED ACT OF PIETY, REFUSED TO HEED ISAIAH'S ADMONITION CONCERNING A SIGN, GOD CHANGED THE SIGN FROM AHAZ ALONE TO THE WHOLE HOUSE OF DAVID. A SIGN WAS USUALLY FULFILLED IN A FEW YEARS OR THE LIFE TIME OF THE PROPHET, BUT NOT THIS ONE.

(2) VIRGIN - IT IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR A WOMAN TO BEAR A SON, IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME. BUT FOR AN UNMARRIED WOMAN TO BEAR A CHILD AND NOT BE IMMORAL IN THE PROCESS REQUIRES A MIRACLE.

(3) IMMANUEL - A REFERENCE TO DIETY.

II. ISAIAH WROTE ABOUT CHRIST'S VICTORIOUS RULE - 9:6

THE PHRASE "A CHILD IS BORN" REFERS TO JESUS' HUMANITY AND THE PHRASE "A SON IS GIVEN" REFERS TO HIS DIETY. SOMEONE ASKED DANIEL WEBSTER IF HE COULD COMPREHEND HOW JESUS CHRIST COULD BE BOTH GOD AND MAN. WEBSTER CONFESSED THAT HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND THAT RELATIONSHIP BUT EXPLAINED THAT IF HIS SAVIOUR WAS NO GREATER THAN HIMSELF AND NOT INDEED A SUPER-HUMAN SAVIOUR, THEN HE WOULD BE NO SAVIOUR AT ALL. WE SPEAK OF THE TWO NATURES OF CHRIST, THAT IS, HIS HUMANITY AND DIETY AND WE MOVE INTO AN AREA WHERE THERE IS NO COMPARISON EITHER IN NATURE OR EXPERIENCE AND SOMETIMES ILLUSTRATIONS ARE HARD TO FIND. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT JESUS CHRIST WAS TRULY GOD AND HE WAS ALSO TRULY MAN, INDEED THE GOD MAN. HIS DIETY AND HUMANITY WERE DISTINCT AND SEPARATE IN EACH NATURE AND YET THESE TWO NATURES WERE READILY BOUND TOGETHER SO AS TO CONSTITUTE ONE PERSON ACTING IN A SINGLE CONSCIOUSNESS AND WILL. THE FOUR NAMES MENTIONED IN THE TEXT ARE NOT NORMAL OLD TESTAMENT NAMES OF PEOPLE BUT SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO MESSIAH.

(1) WONDERFUL - CHRIST WAS WONDERFUL IN NATURE AND DISPOSITION BUT IS HIMSELF A WONDER TO HUMANKIND. IT IS THEN A WORD TO DENOTE THE UNUSUAL AND REMARKABLE QUALITIES WHICH MAKE THE MESSIAH DISTINCT.

(2) COUNSELOR - MESSIAH GIVES GOOD COUNSEL BUT NEED NOT SURROUND HIMSELF WITH COUNSELORS FOR HE NEEDS NONE. THIS COULD BE SAID ONLY OF GOD. THERE MAY HAVE BEEN MEN WHO THOUGHT THEY NEEDED NO COUNSEL, BUT THAT IS TRUE ONLY OF DIETY. JESUS NEVER CALLED A CONFERENCE WITH HIS DISCIPLES TO SEEK THEIR ADVICE.

(3) MIGHTY GOD - THIS TERM EQUATES THE MESSIAH WITH GOD.

(4) THE EVERLASTING FATHER - THIS PHRASE IS VARIOUSLY TRANSLATED AS THE FATHER OF THE AGES, THE FATHER OF ETERNITY, REFERRING TO CHRIST'S EVERLASTING DURATION. THE SON OF GOD IS LINKED TO THE AGES OR ETERNITY. (JOHN 8:58, COLOSSIANS 1:17)

(5) THE PRINCE OF PEACE - WHEN JESUS CHRIST CAME TO EARTH THE WORD PEACE WAS ON EVERY LIP BECAUSE THE PEACE OF ROME PREVAILED. THE MESSIAH WILL BE A PRINCE WHO WILL REMOVE ALL OF THE DISTURBING ELEMENTS ON EARTH AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HUMAN HISTORY GENUINE PEACE WILL REIGN AMONG THE NATIONS. WHEN THE ANGELS ANNOUNCED THE CENTRAL CONCEPT OF HIS KINGDOM - PEACE WAS PRIMARY. HOWEVER, WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE THE WORD GOVERNMENT IN THE TEXT. THIS VERSE ILLUSTRATES DISPENSATIONAL DISTINCTIVES. THE FIRST PORTION OF THE VERSE DEALS WITH CHRIST'S FIRST COMING; THE NEXT WITH HIS SECOND COMING. WHEN CHRIST CAME THE FIRST TIME HE DID NOT ESTABLISH A THEOCRATIC KINGDOM ON EARTH. THAT GOLDEN AGE OR UTOPIA AWAITS HIS SECOND COMING. THE WORD SHOULDER IN THE BIBLE REFERS TO THE PLACE OF STRENGTH. THE DAY IS COMING WHEN THE AUTHORITY AND POWER OF HUMAN GOVERNMENT WILL REST UPON THE SHOULDERS OF JESUS CHRIST. CHRIST WILL BE THE NEW KING AND NEW GOVERNMENT UNDER HIS RULE WILL PREVAIL THROUGHOUT THE EARTH. LARGE SEGMENTS OF THIS TRUTH ARE PRESENTED IN THE BOOK OF ISAIAH. FOR EXAMPLE, ISAIAH 11:2-9. HIS RULE WILL BE A RIGHTEOUS RULE. IN NAVAL HISTORY, IT WAS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT LORD NELSON WAS A KIND AND GENEROUS MAN EVEN TO HIS DEFEATED OPPONENTS. AFTER ONE NAVAL VICTORY THE DEFEATED ADMIRAL WAS BROUGHT TO NELSON'S SHIP. KNOWING HIS

*throw down
your sword!*

-6-

REPUTATION FOR COURTESY AND THINKING TO TRADE UPON THIS SUPPOSED WEAKNESS, THE DEFEATED OFFICER ADVANCED ACROSS THE DECK WITH AN OUTSTRETCHED HAND AS IF TO SHAKE HANDS WITH AN EQUAL. NELSON'S HAND REMAINED AT HIS SIDE AND HE SAID: "YOUR SWORD FIRST, AND THEN YOUR HAND." MEN MUST BECOME THE SUBJECTS OF THE KING BEFORE THEY BECOME HIS FRIENDS.

III. ISAIAH WROTE OF CHRIST'S VICARIOUS SUFFERING - ISAIAH 53:5-6

A PASTOR WAS VISITING AN ART GALLERY IN ITALY MANY YEARS AGO. HE NOTICED TWO OUTSTANDING FEATURES IN THE METHODS OF THE ARTISTS. ON THE ONE SIDE WAS THE WORK OF MEN SUCH AS RETTO WHO IS ALLEGED TO HAVE PAINTED THE LARGEST CANVAS IN THE WORLD AT THAT TIME, THE DIMENSIONS BEING 75 FEET LONG AND 36 FEET HIGH INTO WHICH THE ARTIST HAD CRAMMED 600 LIFE-SIZED FIGURES. HOWEVER, IN THE EYES OF THE PASTOR THE MASSIVE PICTURE WAS DISAPPOINTING FOR IT WAS A CONGLOMERATE MASS OF CHARACTERS. ACCORDING TO HIM, THE PICTURE HAD NO CENTRALITY, NO FOCAL OR PIVOTAL POINT. IN CONTRAST WAS RAPHAEL'S WORK IN FLORENCE AND ROME. THE SISTINE CHAPEL ABOUNDS WITH HIS WORK. RAPHAEL NEVER UNDERTOOK A TASK WITHOUT A DEFINITE OBJECT IN VIEW. HOWEVER DELICATE THE DETAILS OF HIS WORK, THEY ONLY SERVED TO MAKE THE CENTRAL OBJECT STRIKING. THERE IS A FOCAL POINT OR CENTRAL THEME IN THE BIBLE AND IT IS THE CROSS OF CHRIST. ISAIAH 53:6 HAS BEEN CALLED THE JOHN 3:16 OF THE OLD TESTAMENT. IT SPEAKS OF MAN'S PERVERSION AND GOD'S PROVISION. THE VERSE BEGINS AND ENDS WITH ALL. (SOME FOLKS READ OR SUBSTITUTE SOME OR FEW FOR ALL BUT THE FAULTY TRANSLATION DOES NOT CHANGE THE FACT. ALL MEN ARE BORN ON "ASTRAY AVENUE." ALL MAY NOT BE TO THE SAME DEGREE, BUT ALL IN THE SAME DIRECTION. THE PROVISION WAS AS DEEP AS

Pollution

THE PERVERSION. THE WORD VICARIOUS MEANS
CHRIST DID SOMETHING FOR US OR IN OUR BEHALF.
THE SAVIOUR DIED FOR ALL MEN IN THEIR PLACE.
(RELATE THE STORY OF BARABBAS WHO REPRESENTS
EVERY MAN. CHRIST DIED THAT EVERY MAN, LIKE
BARABBAS, MIGHT GO FREE. MATTHEW 27:16-14

JULY 11, 1993

*what is real*TRUTH ABOUT THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

JOHN 14:17, 15:26, 16:13

*(Cady O'Leary)
the affirmation
of what is
in opposition to what
is not*

THREE TIMES IN THESE CHAPTERS JOHN REFERS TO THE HOLY SPIRIT AS THE - SPIRIT OF TRUTH. HE TRAFFICS IN TRUTH AND SO SHOULD WE. TWO IMPORTANT TRUTHS:

(1) THE HOLY SPIRIT IS NOT A GHOST. THE WORD GHOST SUGGESTS FANTASY OR FAIRY TALES. THEIR STORY OF A YOUNGSTER WHO DID NOT WANT TO RETURN TO SUNDAY SCHOOL. *webster - "a spook", to def. (S.S. girl)*

(2) THE HOLY GHOST IS NOT AN IT. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE WORD PNEUMA WAS TRANSLATED GHOST. BECAUSE THE HOLY SPIRIT IS UNSEEN HE IS SOMETIMES TREATED AS UNREAL. IN THIS DISPENSATION, THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE CHURCH. HOWEVER, MUCH IS NOT KNOWN OR RECOGNIZED OF HIS PRESENCE IN CHURCH SERVICES. THERE ARE TWO EXTREMES - THOSE WHO SEEM TO MAKE TOO MUCH OF THE SPIRIT'S MINISTRY AND THOSE WHO SEEM TO MAKE TOO LITTLE OF IT.

Tozier ... if ... would miss Him! "Book told me"

I. THE TRUTH ABOUT BIRTH BY THE SPIRIT -

JOHN 3:5-8

IN THE BOOK, "DAYS OF GRACE" ARTHUR ASHE, FORMER TENNIS STAR AND CAPTAIN OF THE DAVIS CUP TEAM, TELLS OF AN EXPERIENCE HE HAD IN A RESTAURANT NOT LONG AFTER HIS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE HAD CONTRACTED AIDS FROM A BLOOD TRANSFUSION GIVEN TO HIM DURING BY-PASS SURGERY. A ZEALOUS CHRISTIAN MAN RUSHED UP TO HIM IN A STARTLING FASHION AND ASKED ASHE IF HE KNEW JESUS AND WAS HE SAVED? FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL PAGES IN THE BOOK ASHE REVIEWS HIS RELIGIOUS HISTORY FROM PRESBYTERIANISM TO EPISCOPALIANISM TO SEVERAL PROTESTANT GROUPS IN BETWEEN, HIS WIFE'S

④ We go
To Ch.
at least
3 times /
a year

① Charlotte
works & gifts Story: "He didn't ask
me then."
② Our parent
were 2 -
③ your great grand father - Preacher
I don't think he answers!

CATHOLIC FAITH AND HIS AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT
SEVERAL DIFFERENT WORLD RELIGIONS. IN OTHER
WORDS HIS IDEAS ABOUT RELIGION WERE MANY AND
MIXED. THE ONE THING HE DID NOT MENTION WAS THE
NEW BIRTH. APPARENTLY THIS WAS AN EXPERIENCE HE
KNEW LITTLE OR NOTHING ABOUT. IN THE TEXT LET
US EXAMINE AT LEAST TWO IDEAS ABOUT SPIRITUAL
BIRTH:

① - blows wifes
when it likes:
(1) A MYSTERY - LIKE THE WIND, MEN DO NOT SEE
OR CONTROL THE MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT. HIS
MINISTRY IS REAL EVEN IF IT IS NOT REALIZED.
② ALSO THE WORD WATER IS ATTACHED TO THIS BIRTH
BUT IT IS NOT A REFERENCE TO BAPTISM. BAPTISM
IS A PICTURE OF DEATH NOT BIRTH! IF SALVATION
WERE BY BAPTISM, NOBODY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT
WOULD HAVE BEEN SAVED! (EPHESIANS 5:26, JOHN
15:3)

NICODEMUS WAS A PROFESSOR OF RELIGION, THAT IS
HE TAUGHT RELIGION IN THE SYNAGOGUE, YET HE WAS
SURPRISED WHEN CONFRONTED WITH THE TRUTH OF
SPIRITUAL BIRTH. LIKE NICODEMUS, MANY PEOPLE
ARE RELIGIOUS, BAPTISED, MEMBERS AND MONEY GIVERS
WITH RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS AND DEEP RELIGIOUS
FEELINGS AND INTERESTS BUT WITHOUT SPIRITUAL
BIRTH THEY HAVE MISSED EXACTLY WHAT NICODEMUS HAD
MISSED.

See (2 Cor. 5:10)
(2) A MUST - NOTE THAT THE TEXT DOES NOT SAY
① "HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED, ② DO YOU THINK IT'S A
GOOD IDEA, OR WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE
HEREAFTER. THE NEW BIRTH IS MANDATORY. IF ONE
EXPECTS TO GET TO HEAVEN HE MUST EXPERIENCE THE
NEW BIRTH. (SONGBOOK ILLUSTRATION) IT IS NO
MORE POSSIBLE FOR A PERSON TO GET TO HEAVEN
APART FROM THE NEW BIRTH THAN IT IS FOR HIM TO
GET TO A FUNERAL HOME WITHOUT PASSING THROUGH
THE MATERNITY WARD! IN HIS EPISTLE, JOHN MAKES
IT VERY CLEAR THAT SPIRITUAL BIRTH PRODUCES
SPIRITUAL BEHAVIOR. (1 JOHN 2:29, 3:9, 4:7, 5:4.)

Clint B. - foggy ideas
"hope I make it"

THE GENUINE BELIEVER PRACTICES RIGHTEOUSNESS, DOES NOT PRACTICE SIN, PRACTICES LOVING RELATIONSHIPS, OVERCOMES THE WORLD.

II. THE TRUTH ABOUT THE SPIRIT'S BAPTISM -

"ONE Baptism - many fillings"
1 CORINTHIANS 12:13

*End of story
here*

RECENTLY, THE MANAGER OF A LOCAL BUSINESS, ASKED MY OPINION OF BENNY HINN. HE HAS THE MOST INTERESTING HAIRDO IN TELEVISION! WHAT ELSE? IT MUST REALLY HURT TO GET HELPED IN HIS MEETINGS! I DON'T SEE HOW ANYONE COULD ESCAPE A HEADACHE AFTER BEING ZAPPED AND FALLING TO THE FLOOR. THIS IS NOT MY IDEA OF GOOD CHRISTIAN POSTURE. ALL OF THIS SPEAKS TO THE "PENTECOSTAL" APPROACH TO THE SPIRIT'S MINISTRY. THERE ARE TWO IDEAS ABOUT THE SUBJECT:

(1) THE BAPTISM IS AN ADDITIONAL BLESSING TO BE SOUGHT AFTER CONVERSION. THEREFORE, IT IS SOMETHING NOT EVERY BELIEVER HAS EXPERIENCED.

(2) THE BAPTISM IS FOR ALL AND TOOK PLACE AT CONVERSION. THE TERM BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT IS MENTIONED SIX OR SEVEN TIMES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT BUT THIS IS THE ONLY VERSE IN THE EPISTLES DEALING IN DEPTH WITH THE SUBJECT. NOTICE, THERE IS NO COMMAND TO BE BAPTIZED IN THE SPIRIT. THERE WAS NO MENTION OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES HERE. THE SPIRIT'S BAPTISM DID NOT MAKE THE CORINTHIANS SPIRITUAL - THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES THAT! (EPHESIANS 5:18)

I FIND NO BIBLICAL INJUNCTION OR ADMONITION TO BE ZAPPED OR SLAIN IN THE SPIRIT. THE BIBLE DOES COMMAND US TO BE CONTROLLED BY THE SPIRIT. WHAT ONE BELIEVES ABOUT THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES NOT DEPEND UPON WHAT SOMEONE PRACTICES BUT

Baptism = we are put into the element - in the Spirit
Filling - the Spirit fills or controls us.
repeated

①
"old"
Don't take me Bro

Automatic

- ① Birth
- ② Baptism

RATHER WHAT THE BIBLE PRESENTS.

III. THE TRUTH ABOUT THE SPIRIT'S BLESSINGS

EPHESIANS 1:3

IN THIS PASSAGE THE TRINITY IS PRESENTED AS HAVING BEEN INVOLVED IN THE BELIEVER'S SALVATION.

(1) THE FATHER - VERSES 1-6

He initiated the action...

CHOSEN - VERSES 3-4

"Before we chose Him" - Sov. act.

CAA

ADOPTED - VERSE 5

family - standing

ACCEPTED - VERSE 6

Welcomed to God's family - Sons!

(2) THE SON - VERSES 7-12

REDEEMED - VERSE 7

set free ... Price

RFI

FORGIVEN - VERSE 7

INHERITANCE - VERSE 11-12

God has love investment in us we are valuable to Him

(3) THE SPIRIT - VERSE 13

SEALED BY THE SPIRIT IS ONE OF THE GREAT BLESSINGS THE BELIEVER ENJOYS AND WHICH GUARANTEES HIS ULTIMATE SECURITY AND DESTINATION.

Now Hope Sealed For my eternal destination

IV. THE TRUTH ABOUT THE SPIRIT'S BIDDING -

(Acts 11:12)

THE WORD BIDDING MEANS TO SAY, SPEAK, COMMAND OR TELL. THIS CHAPTER RECORDS PETER'S

"Book" Post OFFICE

"I bid you, good bye"

Rom. 8:30!

OR Divine Express!!

Mr —
Magg's

of current.
World Crisis!

- 5 -

HISTORIC VISIT TO THE HOUSE OF CORNELIUS. GOD COMMANDED PETER TO ACT AGAINST HIS OWN RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY AND PREJUDICES. THE HOLY SPIRIT ENABLED PETER TO DO WHAT SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE FOR A JEW - TAKE THE GOSPEL TO THE GENTILES! THERE SEEMED TO BE THREE SIMPLE DIRECTIVES FROM THE SPIRIT:

(1) COME - "AND THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE SAY, COME, AND LET HIM THAT HEARETH SAY, COME, AND LET HIM THAT IS ATHIRST COME. AND WHOSOEVER WILL, LET HIM TAKE THE WATER OF LIFE FREELY."
(REV. 22:17) (Matt 11:28, Rev. 3:20)

ACCORDING TO JOHN 16:8 IT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO INFORMS AND INVITES MEN TO CHRIST. "AND WHEN HE IS COME, HE WILL REPROVE THE WORLD OF SIN, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND OF JUDGMENT."

(2) STOP - ACTS 16:6 SAYS "NOW WHEN THEY HAD GONE THROUGH PHRYGIA AND THE REGION OF GALACIA AND WERE FORBIDDEN OF THE HOLY GHOST TO PREACH THE WORD IN ASIA... BUT THE SPIRIT STOPPED THEM NOT." THE SPIRIT OF GOD STOPPED PAUL AND HIS MISSIONARY COMPANY FROM GOING EASTWARD AWAY FROM EUROPE; THE GOSPEL MINISTRY IS UNDER THE SPIRIT'S DIRECTION. WHEN HE SPEAKS, MEN KNOW HIS VOICE. - RKS - Jackson Mich = STOP!!!

(3) GO - THE GO IN THE GOSPEL IS THE SPIRIT'S BIDDING AND THE CHURCH'S RESPONSIBILITY IN OBEYING THE GREAT COMMISSION. (MATTHEW 28:19) FOR THOSE WHO MAY SAY: "THE SPIRIT TOLD ME...." AND THESE WORDS LEAD THEM INTO AREAS, MARGINAL AREAS, QUESTIONABLE AREAS, UNSCRIPTURAL AREAS - THE WORDS OF AN OLD SONG SPEAKS AS A WARNING TO US ALL: "HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION, YE SAINTS OF THE LORD, IS LAID FOR YOUR FAITH IN HIS EXCELLENT WORD! WHAT MORE CAN HE SAY THAN TO YOU HE HATH SAID, TO YOU WHO FOR REFUGE TO JESUS HATH FLED." - "HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION" SOME WANT "MORE" WHEN THEY HAVE NOT CONSIDERED "MUCH".

1. Birth
2. Baptism
3. Blessings
4. Building

IV. THE TRUTH ABOUT THE SPIRIT'S BINDING

Acts 20:22

THE NASV MARGIN CAPITALIZES SPIRIT - CORRECTLY SO. THIS IS PAUL'S FINAL MESSAGE TO THE EPHESIAN ELDERS. THE WORD BOUND IN THE TEXT IS THE SAME WORD USED IN ROMANS 7:2 TO SPEAK OF THE BONDS OF MARRIAGE. IT IS SOMETIMES USED TO DEPICT LITERAL PHYSICAL BINDING AS WHEN SATAN WILL BE BOUND FOR A THOUSAND YEARS. MANY OF US ARE BOUND BY HABITS, PLEASURES, AND OTHER THINGS. HOWEVER THERE IS NO BINDING LIKE THE BURDEN THE SPIRIT OF GOD GIVES TO THE BELIEVER CONCERNING A SENSE OF DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN CHRISTIAN MISSION. THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THE BELIEVER, LIKE PAUL, CAN DO NOTHING LESS AND NOTHING ELSE THAN FOLLOW THE CLEAR DIRECTION OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD EVEN WHEN THE PATH IS NOT FULLY KNOWN. ALONG LIFE'S WAY, THERE ARE SOME GOD GIVEN BURDENS, THINGS WE ARE BOUND TO DO FOR GOD. FOR EXAMPLE, KNOX WAS BOUND TO SCOTLAND, CAREY TO INDIA, JUDSON TO BURMA, TAYLOR TO CHINA. SURELY IN EVERY SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENT IN CHURCH HISTORY, THE MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT'S BINDING MEN TO THE TASK WITH GOD GIVEN BURDENS IS VERY CLEAR. JOHN FAWCETTE WAS A YOUNG BAPTIST PASTOR WHO HAD A SMALL CHURCH IN THE VILLAGE OF WAINSGATE, ENGLAND IN THE 18TH CENTURY. HE SERVED THERE FOR SEVEN YEARS BUT THE CONGREGATIONS' INSENSITIVITY TO HIS FINANCIAL NEEDS ESPECIALLY AS CHILDREN CAME ALONG CAUSED HIM TO CONSIDER A CALL TO BE PASTOR OF A LARGE CHURCH IN LONDON. HE ACCEPTED THE CALL HIS FAREWELL SERMON WAS PREACHED, HIS HOUSEHOLD GOODS LOADED ON THE MOVING WAGONS AND HIS NEIGHBORS CAME TO BID HIM FAREWELL. SUDDENLY,

WIFE BROKE INTO TEARS AND CRIED OUT TO HER HUSBAND THAT SHE COULD NOT BEAR TO LEAVE. HIS REPLY WAS THE SAME - WE WILL NOT GO - UNLOAD THE WAGONS! A LETTER WAS DISPATCHED TO LONDON DECLINING THE POSITION HE ALREADY ACCEPTED. WOULD YOU BELIEVE, THAT JOHN FAWCETTE REMAINED PASTOR OF WAINSGATE CHURCH FOR FIFTY YEARS! THROUGHOUT THOSE FIFTY YEARS HE REPEATEDLY REFUSED LARGER MORE LUCRATIVE OFFERS. DURING THOSE YEARS OF MINISTRY AT WAINSGATE HE WROTE THIS SONG: "BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS OUR HEARTS IN CHRISTIAN LOVE; THE FELLOWSHIP OF KINDRED MINDS IS LIKE TO THAT ABOVE. WE SHARE OUR MUTUAL WOES, OUR MUTUAL BURDENS BEAR; AND OFTEN FOR EACH OTHER FLOWS THE SYMPATHIZING TEAR."

CONCLUSION: THERE IS SOMEONE IN CHURCH TODAY WHOM WE HAVE NOT SEEN BUT HE DOES NOT NEED TO BE SEEN IN ORDER TO BE PRESENT. EVEN THOUGH HE IS NOT SEEN HE SPEAKS. HE AFFIRMS THE TRUTHS OF THE BIBLE. LISTEN TO HIS VOICE AS HE PROMPTS MEN TO FAITH IN CHRIST.

THINGS MOST SURELY BELIEVED AMONG US

LUKE 1:1-4

"A post mortem examination to determine cause of death."

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE WAS WRITTEN BY A DOCTOR AND IT IS LIBERALLY SPRINKLED WITH MEDICAL TERMS. In 1:2 THE WORD EYEWITNESSES IS THE GREEK AUTOPTAI FROM WHICH WE GET THE ENGLISH "AUTOPSY." DOCTOR LUKE DID AN "AUTOPSY" ON THE RECORDS CONCERNING JESUS CHRIST AND PRESENTED HIS FINDINGS IN THIS GOSPEL.

IT WAS WRITTEN TO THE GREEKS - THE THINKING MAN - TO GIVE HIM SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT REGARDING CHRIST, GOD'S PERFECT MAN. LUKE TALKS ABOUT THINGS THAT ARE CERTAIN.

Report

BELIEVING SOMETHING DOES NOT MAKE IT TRUE, IT WOULD BE TRUE IF NOBODY BELIEVED IT! OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH RESTS UPON CERTAIN CREDIBLE CERTAINTIES. LUKE STATES THAT AFTER A CAREFUL INVESTIGATION OF THE RECORDS, HE DETERMINED TO WRITE A RELIABLE RECORD OR GOSPEL CONCERNING THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST. BELIEVERS SHOULD JOIN HANDS WITH THE OLD SAGE WHO SAID: "I'D RATHER KNOW A FEW THINGS FOR CERTAIN THAN BE SURE OF A LOT OF THINGS THAT AIN'T SO." MANY CHRISTIAN LEADERS ARE DISTRESSED WITH A GENERATION OF CHURCHGOERS WHO KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT THE BIBLE AND WHAT THEY BELIEVE. SOME FOLK SEEM TO KNOW MORE ABOUT (1) ANTIFREEZE THAN THE ANTICHRIST, (2) ~~RUSH AND DUKAKIS OVER BIBLE AND~~ DISPENSATIONALISM, (3) FOOTBALL MORE THAN FUTURE BLESSINGS, (4) PRE-MARITAL SEX MORE THAN PRE-MILLENIALISM, (5) ELVIS AND GRACELAND OVER ETERNAL LIFE AND GRACE! USING DR. LUKE AS A BIBLICAL BASIS, LET US EXAMINE SOME BIBLICAL BASIC BELIEFS FOR BELIEVERS.

Discriminate

"Back to Basics"

"I believe what my pastor believes
He believes what my church believes
they believe the same thing."

"I believe" (Song)

I. WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD - II TIM. 3:16

Jameson

THE WORD INSPIRATION IN THE TEXT IS MORE THAN HUMAN GENIUS. IT IS A COMPOUND GREEK WORD WHICH MEANS "GOD-BREATHED." THAT IS, JUST AS OUR BREATH PROCEEDS FROM OUR NOSTRILS, SO THE SCRIPTURES HAVE COME FROM GOD HIMSELF. BY VERBAL INSPIRATION, WE MEAN THAT THE ORIGINAL AUTOGRAPHS ARE ABSOLUTELY INFALLIBLE, INNERRANT, THE DIRECT PRODUCT OF GOD. THE WORD PLENARY IS OFTEN USED TO DESCRIBE OUR VIEW OF INSPIRATION. IT MEANS FULL OR EXTENDING TO EVERY PART. THE WORD VERBAL ⁽²⁾ MEANS PERTAINING TO WORDS. THEREFORE, ALL THE WORDS EVERYWHERE IN SCRIPTURE IN THE ORIGINAL AUTOGRAPHS ARE THE PRODUCT OF A SOVEREIGN GOD. SOMEONE ASKED MY SEMINARY ⁽¹⁾ PROFESSOR HIS THEORY ON THE SUBJECT OF INSPIRATION AND HE SAID HE BELIEVED IN "JOT AND TITTLE INSPIRATION." HE WAS REFERRING TO MATTHEW 5:18 WHERE JESUS SAID: "FOR VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, TIL HEAVEN AND EARTH PASS, ONE JOT OR ONE TITTLE SHALL IN NO WISE PASS FROM THE LAW, TIL ALL BE FULFILLED." OTHER VERSES SUCH AS MATTHEW 24:35 AND JOHN 10:35 ATTEST TO THE SAME BIBLICAL FACT. TO ILLUSTRATE THE TRUTH OF MATTHEW 5:18, DR. JAMES M. GRAY POINTS OUT THAT IN GALATIANS 3:16, THE VERY ARGUMENT OF PAUL CONCERNING JESUS' MESSIAHSHIP RESTS ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SINGULAR AND PLURAL WORD IN THE GREEK TEXT - THE WORD SEED. HE ALSO POINTS OUT THAT IN THE HEBREW ⁽¹⁾ LANGUAGE THE WORD PRAISE AND THE WORD PROFANE ARE VERY SIMILAR IN CONSTRUCTION. THE DIFFERENCE IS IN THE FIRST RADICALS OR THE FIRST LETTER OF THE WORD. THE ONE LETTER IS THE HEBREW HETH AND THE OTHER IS THE HEBREW HE. THE DIFFERENCE IS A SLIGHT BREAK OR

Lincoln
Stationed

(X)

Psa
119:23
169

(2)

(1)

(1) Circle

(X) Psa 119:33/56

OPENING IN THE UPPER OR LEFT LIMB OF THE LETTER. IT SEEMS SO SMALL A MATTER UNTIL WE READ A VERSE LIKE LEVITICUS 18:21 WHICH SAYS: "THOU SHALT NOT PROFANE THE NAME OF THY GOD."

SUPPOSE THE WRITER OF LEVITICUS HAD BEEN CARELESS IN HIS TRANSLATION AND TRANSLATED THE WORD PRAISE FOR PROFANE THEN THE VERSE WOULD READ: "THOU SHALT NOT PRAISE THE NAME OF THY GOD."

THE SAME TRUTH MAY BE ILLUSTRATED IN ENGLISH. A BUSINESSMAN DICTATES A LETTER TO A COMPANY IN WHICH HE SAYS, "GENTLEMEN: WE UNDERSTAND YOUR LETTER, WILL NOW FILL YOUR ORDER." A CARELESS

STENOGRAPHER WRITES THE LETTER AS FOLLOWS: "GENTLEMEN: WE UNDERSTAND YOUR LETTER, AND

WILL NOT FILL YOUR ORDER." THE DIFFERENCE IN THESE TWO SENTENCES IS A SINGLE LETTER CHANGING THE W IN NOW TO A T IN NOT. HOWEVER, THIS SINGLE LETTER CHANGES THE ENTIRE MEANING OF THE CORRESPONDENCE. SURELY GOD WANTS HIS WORD TO BE ACCURATE AND THE SCIENCE OF TEXTUAL CRITICISM MAKES IT CLEAR THAT WE HAVE A CLEAR INDICATION OF THE ORIGINAL TEXT OF SCRIPTURE.

DR. GRAY ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SOME LIBERAL THEOLOGAINS HAVE REMARKED THAT IT DOES NOT MATTER WHETHER A PAIR OF TROUSERS WERE ORIGINALLY PERFECT IF THEY WERE NOW TORN. HIS REPLY IS CLASSIC GRAY WHEN HE SAYS IT MIGHT NOT MATTER OR MIGHT BE OF SMALL CONSEQUENCE TO THE WEARER OF THE TROUSERS BUT TO THE MAKER OR TAILOR IT IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE BECAUSE HE WOULD WANT IT CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT THEY DID NOT LEAVE HIS SHOP IN THAT CONDITION!

THE ORIGINAL SCRIPTURES ARE TERRIBLY IMPORTANT TO GOD AND THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD HAS GUARDED THIS AREA TO PRESERVE THE WORD OF GOD FOR US. QUESTION:

IF THE BIBLE IS INACCURATE IN AREAS SUCH AS STATISTICS, HISTORICAL INFORMATION AND OTHER SUPPOSEDLY INCIDENTAL MATTERS, HOW CAN WE BE SURE THAT IT IS ACCURATE ON THE SUBJECT

... God's purpose was not to give the world a new infallible record... who would die, but an infallible record...

OF SALVATION? IN II PETER 1:19-21, PETER DECLARES THE BIBLE THAT WE HOLD IN OUR HANDS IS A MORE SURE MATTER FOR US TO BELIEVE THAN SIGNS OR WONDERS OR EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS! OUR BASIS FOR AUTHORITY IN ETERNAL MATTERS IS EITHER (1) THE BIBLE - WHICH HAS SHOWN THROUGH ITS UNITY, INDESTRUCTIBILITY, TRANSFORMING POWER, PROPHECY, SCIENTIFIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL ACCURACY THAT IT IS INDEED OUR FINAL AUTHORITY CONCERNING FAITH OR PRACTICE OR WE ARE LEFT TO (2) THE LOGIC OF FALLEN MEN WHOSE THEORIES AND IDEAS ARE LIKE THE SHIFTING SANDS OF THE DESERT. THE TRUTH OF A GENERATION AGO IS NO LONGER VALID AND WE SEEK FOREVER TO FIND ANSWERS OF OUR ORIGIN AND DESTINY. JESUS INDICATED THAT HIS AND OUR FINAL AUTHORITY IS THE SUPREME COURT WE CALL THE BIBLE. IT IS THE MEASURING STICK FOR WHAT YOU AND I BELIEVE ABOUT GOD. JESUS' ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SCRIPTURES SHOULD BE MY ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SCRIPTURES AND THE SUPREME TEST OF ANY ARGUMENT OR THINKING ABOUT SPIRITUAL MATTERS IS "THUS SAITH THE LORD" OR "IT IS WRITTEN." IN MATTHEW 22:29, JESUS REMINDED HIS HEARERS THAT MEN GO ASTRAY WHEN THEY DO NOT KNOW AND HEED THE SCRIPTURES. IT IS MY OPINION, THAT MANY MEN ARE AFRAID TO COME TO THE LIGHT OF SACRED SCRIPTURE, NOT BECAUSE THEY HAVE INTELLECTUAL DOUBTS BUT BECAUSE THEY HAVE MORAL WEAKNESSES. DARKNESS IS ALWAYS MORE COMFORTABLE THAN LIGHT. WHEN MEN DO NOT KNOW THE WORD OF GOD AND LIVE BY ITS PRECEPTS THEY ARE DESTINED TO WANDER IN THE MORAL DARKNESS OF THEIR OWN DEPRAVITY. IN OUR GENERATION, SOME SUPPOSED INTELLECTUALS LOOK UPON JESUS CHRIST AND THE BIBLE AS THE LAST RESORT FOR SOME PEOPLE - ONE STEP FROM THE ASYLUM. PAUL LITTLE POINTS OUT THAT A FRIEND OF HIS WHO WAS STUDYING AT A WELL-KNOWN UNIVERSITY WAS DENIED A

"Eye witness" (cont.)

PHD IN SOCIAL SCIENCE BECAUSE OF THE PREJUDICE OF THE FACULTY WHO TOLD HIM THAT BELIEVING WHAT HE DID ABOUT GOD, HE WAS BY DEFINITION CRAZY!

II. WE BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD AND SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD -

MATTHEW 16:15-16, MATTHEW 1:21

IN THE MATTHEW 16 PASSAGE, PETER DECLARED THE DIETY OF CHRIST. HOWEVER, THE DIETY OF CHRIST DOES NOT REST UPON THE DECLARATIONS OF PREACHERS. THE FACT THAT PETER SAID IT, DID NOT NECESSARILY MAKE IT SO. THE DIETY OF CHRIST RESTS UPON MANY EVIDENCES SUCH AS: (1) HIS ABILITY TO FORGIVE SINS; (2) HIS WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT WORSHIP; (3) HIS CONTROL OVER DISEASE AND NATURE; (4) HIS OWN CLAIMS. ONE REASON WHY THEY CRUCIFIED CHRIST WAS THAT HE CLAIMED TO BE THE SON OF GOD. (JOHN 19:7) ALL JESUS HAD TO DO TO SAVE HIS LIFE WAS TO RETRACT HIS STATEMENT BUT INSTEAD HE DIED RATHER THAN DENY THAT SIMPLE STATEMENT. JESUS CHRIST WAS NO MERE LOCAL OR TRIBAL GOD. EVERYTHING IN THE BIBLE POINTS TO HIS UNIVERSAL CLAIM. (JOHN 3:16) FEW PASSAGES ILLUSTRATE OUR LORD'S DIETY BETTER THAN JOHN 9:24-25, 35-38.

III. WE BELIEVE THERE IS A LITERAL, REAL HEAVEN TO GAIN AND A LITERAL REAL HELL TO FLEE - MATTHEW 7:13-14,

MATTHEW 10:28, MATTHEW 25:46, (41)

(EMPHASIZE "FIRE") - *Anyone who goes to hell chooses to be like him who is there!*

THE DOCTRINE OF PURGATORY IS NOT A BIBLICAL DOCTRINE. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS EITHER A SECOND CHANCE TO REPENT AFTER ONE DIES

Devil doesn't get drunk, doesn't repent to God!

NOR IS THERE SUCH A STATE AS SOUL SLEEP WHEN ONE DIES. THE DOCTRINE OF HELL IS THE MOST NEGLECTED SUBJECT IN THE BIBLE. YET WINSTON CHURCHILL ONCE ATTRIBUTED THE MORAL COLLAPSE OF GREAT BRITAIN TO THE FACT THAT CLERGYMEN NO LONGER PREACHED ON HEAVEN AND HELL. WALK THROUGH THE STREETS OF OUR CITY, LOOK AT THE MARQUEE OF THEATERS, ADVERTISEMENTS ON TV. WHETHER IT BE ON AN ELEVATOR, IN A DEPARTMENT STORE, RESTAURANT, MOTEL WHEREVER GROUPS OF PEOPLE GATHER THEY SWEAR IN THE NAME OF GOD AND HELL. QUESTION: WHY IS THIS? NOBODY EVER SAYS "GO TO HEAVEN!" ANSWER: I THINK IT IS BECAUSE WITHIN MAN'S SUBCONSCIOUS HE IS BOTH AWARE AND AFRAID THAT THERE IS SUCH A PLACE AND UNWITTINGLY USES THE TERM TO EXPRESS HIS DEEPEST FEARS. JESUS TALKED ABOUT HELL MORE THAN ANY OTHER PERSON. AND ANY PERSON WHO GOES THERE, WHO HAS A BIBLE, DOES SO BECAUSE HE IGNORES GOD'S LOVING CALL AND GRAPHIC WARNING. C. S. LEWIS' ARGUMENT ABOUT ETERNITY IS COMPELLING. HE SAYS THAT A MAN'S HUNGER DOES NOT PROVE THAT HE WILL HAVE BREAD BUT IT DOES PROVE THAT HE COMES FROM A RACE WHICH PREPARES ITS BODY BY EATING AND INHABITS THE WORLD WHERE EATABLE SUBSTANCES EXIST TO SATISFY THAT HUNGER. HE GOES ON TO SAY THAT ONE'S DESIRE FOR PARADISE AND GOD IS A PRETTY GOOD INDICATION THAT SUCH A THING EXISTS AND THAT SOME MEN WILL BE THERE. HE GOES ON TO SAY: "A MAN MAY LOVE A WOMAN AND NOT WIN HER; BUT IT WOULD BE VERY ODD IF A PHENOMENON CALLED FALLING IN LOVE OCCURRED IN A SEXLESS WORLD." THE SAME ARGUMENT WOULD APPLY TO THE SUBJECT OF HELL. (I REMEMBER TALKING SOME YEARS AGO WITH A PERSON WHO HAD A PHD. HE WAS UNIMPRESSED WITH MY BIBLICAL PRESENTATION ON THE SUBJECT OF HELL. AFTER LISTENING TO AND TALKING ABOUT

SOME OF HIS ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE SUBJECT AND TO CONCLUDE OUR DISCUSSION, AND CALLING HIM BY NAME I SAID: "SUPPOSE I AM RIGHT?" HE HAD NO ANSWER.

IV. WE BELIEVE THAT MAN IS A GREAT SINNER AND THAT CHRIST IS A GREAT SAVIOUR -

I TIMOTHY 1:15

2 Senses
19:10
187.5.0

Mt 1:16

PLEASE NOTICE IN THE TEXT THAT THE WORD SAVE AND THE WORD SINNER APPEAR IN THE SAME VERSE. CHRIST'S PURPOSE IN COMING TO THIS PLANET WAS TO SAVE SINNERS. THEREFORE, IF A MAN IS NOT LOST HE NEEDS NO SAVIOUR. YET SCRIPTURE CLEARLY SAYS CHRIST CAME TO EARTH FOR THAT PURPOSE. LUKE 19:10 ACCORDING TO DR. KARL MENNINGER, THE WORD SIN SEEMS TO HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM OUR VOCABULARY. THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT SHIFT IN AMERICAN THINKING AND MOST AMERICANS NO LONGER CONSIDER THEMSELVES ANSWERABLE FOR EVIL. HOWEVER, WE MAY ELIMINATE THE WORD SIN FROM THE VOCABULARY BUT THE ACT AND CONSEQUENCES OF SIN IS VERY MUCH WITH US. IT IS AS IF SOMEONE CHANGED THE LABEL ON THE BOTTLE BUT THE CONTENTS IS STILL THE SAME. WE MAY CALL A LIE A FIB, STEALING SNITCHING, ROBBERY KLEPTOMANIA, FORNICATION AND ADULTRY PRE-MARITAL AND EXTRA-MARITAL ~~SEX~~ RELATIONSHIPS BUT THE PROBLEMS REMAIN. IN RECENT YEARS I HAVE NOT MET SOMEONE WHO WOULD SAY "I AM A SINNER" - IN FACT MOST SAY "I AM NOT SUCH A BAD PERSON." THEY EXPECT A CITATION OF MERIT FROM GOD RATHER THAN HIS DISAPPROVAL. SAUL OF TARSUS WAS JUST SUCH A PERSON! THE RICH YOUNG RULER WAS SUCH A PERSON! ROMANS 1, 2, AND 3 DESCRIBE THREE DIFFERENT KINDS OF SINNERS: 1 RENEGADE, 2 RESPECTABLE, AND 3 RELIGIOUS BUT SINNERS NEVERTHELESS AND IN NEED OF A SAVIOUR.

One does not see the great Saviour
until we thank the great Sinner!

V. WE BELIEVE GOD WANTS YOU TO BE SAVED -
TODAY - II Cor. 6:2

IN LUKE 23:43, THE DYING THIEF FACED THE FACT THAT HE HAD NO TOMORROW WITHOUT CHRIST. WITH HIM IT WAS EITHER NOW OR NEVER. MEN ARE FEARFUL THAT THEY WILL NOT WANT THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AFTER THEY GET IT OR THAT THEY CANNOT LIVE IT AFTER THEY GET IT. MEN MUST FACE THAT FACT THAT TOMORROW WILL NOT COME FOR SOMEONE WHO IS ALIVE TODAY. THAT SOMEONE MAY BE YOU AND THAT IS WHY THE BIBLE STATES THAT GOD WANTS YOU TO BE SAVED TODAY, BECAUSE TOMORROW COULD BE TOO LATE.

THINGS MOST SURELY BELIEVED

LUKE 1:1

Dr. LukeTerry
1988

THIS WEEK, WHILE DRIVING TO WORK, I WAS LISTENING TO A LOCAL RADIO STATION AND SPECIFICALLY A SPEAKER WHO WAS TELLING AN INTERESTING STORY CONCERNING HIS WORK AS A DOCTOR IN BANGLADESH. THE STORY SOUNDED SO FAMILIAR THAT I WAS NOT SURPRISED AT THE CLOSE OF THE PROGRAM WHEN THE DOCTOR WAS IDENTIFIED AS DR. VIGGO OLSON WHO IS THE AUTHOR OF THE CURRENT RELIGIOUS BEST-SELLER, "DAKTAR". THIS MISSIONARY DOCTOR HAS BEEN VERY MUCH IN THE NEWS CONCERNING THE EMERGENCE OF THIS NEW NATION. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTICE THE NUMBER OF MEDICAL MEN WHO HAVE BEEN INTERESTED AND INVOLVED IN CHRISTIAN WORK; MEN LIKE DR. M. R. DEHAAN, AND DR. WALTER WILSON, TO NAME BUT A FEW. THE WRITER OF THE GOSPEL OF LUKE WAS A MISSIONARY DOCTOR. THE GOSPEL OF LUKE, WHICH PRESENTS JESUS AS THE SON OF MAN ABOUNDS WITH MEDICAL TERMS. IN THE FIRST FOUR VERSES OF CHAPTER 1, THE AUTHORIZED VERSION DOES NOT BRING OUT THE FULL WEIGHT OF LUKE'S INTENTION. THE IDEA IS THAT LUKE, THE BELOVED PHYSICIAN, AFTER CAREFUL INVESTIGATION DETERMINED TO WRITE A RELIABLE ACCOUNT OF THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF OUR BLESSED LORD. THE PRESENTATION OF LUKE IS A FAR-CRY FROM THE MODERN IDEA THAT BELIEF IN THE WORD OF GOD IS FASTENING ONE'S FANCY UPON MYTH AND FOLKLORE WHICH REALLY ISN'T TRUE OR ACCURATE. FOR SOME PEOPLE, CHRISTIAN FAITH IS SIMPLY BLIND CREDULITY AND THE KISSING OF ONE'S BRAINS GOODBYE AS WE LEAP INTO THE DARKNESS OF FAITH! LUKE DESTROYS THIS FALSE IDEA. USING THIS INTERESTING PHRASE IN VERSE 1, I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST SEVERAL KEY DOCTRINES WHICH ARE SURELY BELIEVED BY CHRISTIANS. REPEATEDLY, IN THE WORD OF GOD, THE WORD "BELIEVE" AND THE WORD "SALVATION" ARE LINKED TOGETHER. FOR EXAMPLE, IN LUKE 8:12, JESUS LINKED BELIEVING GOD'S WORD AND SALVATION TOGETHER. COMPARE ACTS 16:31; ROMANS 1:16, ROMANS 4:3; ROMANS 10:9; 1 CORIN. 1:21. THE GOSPEL OF JOHN ABOUNDS WITH THIS WORD. FOR EXAMPLE: JOHN 1:12; 3:16-18; 3:36; 11:25; 20:21. IN AN AGE OF DISTRUST WHERE THE WORD "CREDIBILITY GAP" HAS BEEN USED TO REFER TO WHAT MEN BELIEVE AS AN OUT-AND-OUT LIE, VERY FEW PEOPLE BELIEVE ANYONE OR ANYTHING! ONE MAN WAS HEARD TO SAY SOMETIME

Bazil

Martin
Lloyd-Jones

(SURE)
AGO, "I'D RATHER KNOW A FEW THINGS FOR CERTAIN THAN BE SURE OF A LOT OF THINGS THAT AIN'T SO." LUKE IS GOING TO TALK ABOUT SOME BIBLE DOCTRINES THAT ARE SO--WE KNOW THEM FOR SURE. MAY I HASTEN TO SAY, THAT BELIEVING SOMETHING DOES NOT NECESSARILY MAKE IT TRUE. IT WOULD BE TRUE IF NO ONE BELIEVED IT!! ALSO, THERE IS THE MISTAKEN IDEA THAT THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS RIGHT ON A GIVEN SUBJECT. THIS IS NOT NECESSARILY TRUE. LUKE WANTS HIS READERS TO BASE THEIR FAITH UPON SOME REASONABLE TRUTHS. LET ME SUGGEST SOME OF THE BASIC BELIEFS THAT ARE NECESSARY IN OUR DISTRESSING TIMES. (Insist)

I. I BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD - Jn. 10:35

(A)
THERE ARE TWO KEY PASSAGES IN THE BIBLE WHICH DEAL WITH THE SUBJECT OF VERBAL INSPIRATION. II TIM. 3:16. THE WORD "INSPIRATION" IN THIS PASSAGE MEANS FAR MORE THAN HUMAN GENIUS. IT IS A COMPOUND GREEK WORD WHICH MEANS "GOD-BREATHED". THAT IS, JUST AS OUR BREATH PROCEEDS FROM OUR NOSTRILS, SO THE SCRIPTURES HAVE COME FROM GOD HIMSELF. BY VERBAL INSPIRATION, I MEAN THAT THE ORIGINAL AUTOGRAPHS ARE ABSOLUTELY INFALLIBLE, INERRANT, THE DIRECT PRODUCT OF GOD. THE WORD "PLENARY" IS OFTEN USED TO DESCRIBE VERBAL INSPIRATION. IT MEANS FULL OR EXTENDING TO EVERY PART. THE WORD "VERBAL" MEANS PERTAINING TO WORDS. SOMEONE ASKED MY SEMINARY PROFESSOR HIS THEORY ON THE SUBJECT OF INSPIRATION AND HE SAID IT WAS, "JOT AND TITTLE INSPIRATION." HE WAS REFERRING TO MATT. 5:18, "FOR VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, TILL HEAVEN AND EARTH PASS, ONE JOT OR ONE TITTLE SHALL IN NO WISE PASS FROM THE LAW, TILL ALL BE FULFILLED." (TO ILLUSTRATE THIS PRINCIPLE, DR. JAMES M. GRAY, IN A SERIES OF BOOKS ENTITLED, "THE FUNDAMENTALS", POINTS OUT IN GAL. 3:16 THE VERY ARGUMENT OF PAUL CONCERNING JESUS' MESSIAHSHIP RESTS ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SINGULAR AND PLURAL OF THE WORD "SEED". HE ALSO POINTS OUT IN THE HEBREW LANGUAGE, THE WORD "PRAISE" AND THE WORD "PROFANE" ARE VERY SIMILAR IN CONSTRUCTION. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THAT IN THE FIRST RADICALS OR THE FIRST LETTER OF THE WORD, THE ONE LETTER IS THE HEBREW HETH THE OTHER IS THE HEBREW LETTER HE. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS A SLIGHT BREAK OR OPENING IN THE UPPER OR THE LEFT LIMB OF THE LETTER. IT SEEMS TOO TRIFLING TO BE OF ANY IMPORTANCE WHATSOEVER UNTIL YOU READ A VERSE LIKE LEV. 18:2 WHICH SAYS, "THOU SHALT NOT PROFANE THE NAME OF THY GOD." SUPPOSE THE WRITER OF LEVITICUS

Psa 119:93

57

17

17

17

17

Praise

Profane

Gal 3:16

sign

place

HAD BEEN CARELESS IN HIS TRANSLATION AND TRANSLATED PRAISE FOR PROFANE, THEN THE VERSE WOULD HAVE READ, "THOU SHALT NOT PRAISE THE NAME OF THY GOD." THIS VERSE WILL INDICATE THE IMPORTANCE OF VERBAL INSPIRATION. THIS IDEA CAN BE ILLUSTRATED IN THE ENGLISH. A BUSINESSMAN DICTATES A LETTER TO A COMPANY IN WHICH HE SAYS, "GENTLEMEN: WE UNDERSTAND YOUR LETTER WILL NOW FILL YOUR ORDER." A CARELESS STENOGRAPHER WRITES THE LETTER AS FOLLOWS, "GENTLEMEN: WE UNDERSTOOD YOUR LETTER AND WILL NOT FILL YOUR ORDER." THE MISTAKE IN THE LETTER IS THAT OF A SINGLE LETTER, CHANGING THE "W" IN NOW TO A "T" IN NOT. HOWEVER, THIS SINGLE LETTER CHANGES THE ENTIRE MEANING OF THE CORRESPONDENCE. GOD WANTS HIS WORD TO BE ACCURATE. THE ENTIRE SCIENCE OF TEXTUAL CRITICISM MAKES IT CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT WE HAVE A CLEAR INDICATION OF THE ORIGINAL TEXT OF SCRIPTURE. DR. GRAY HAS POINTED OUT SOME LIBERAL THEOLOGIAN'S HAVE REMARKED THAT IT DOES NOT MATTER WHETHER A PAIR OF TROUSERS WERE ORIGINALLY PERFECT IF THEY WERE NOW TORN. THE REPLY TO THIS QUERY IS THAT IT MIGHT BE A MATTER OF SMALL CONSEQUENCE TO THE WEARER OF THE TROUSERS, BUT TO THE TAILOR WHO MADE THEM, HE WOULD PREFER TO HAVE IT CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT THEY DID NOT LEAVE HIS SHOP IN THAT CONDITION!! THE ORIGINAL IS TERRIBLY IMPORTANT TO GOD AND THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD HAS GUARDED THIS VERY AREA TO PRESERVE THE WORD OF GOD FOR US. QUESTION: IF THE BIBLE IS INACCURATE IN AREAS SUCH AS STATISTICS, HISTORICAL INFORMATION, HOW CAN WE BE SURE IT IS ACCURATE ON THE SUBJECT OF SALVATION? IN 1 PETER 1:19-21, PETER DECLARES THE BIBLE WE HOLD IN OUR HANDS IS A MORE SURE MATTER FOR US TO BELIEVE THAN SIGNS AND WONDERS OR EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS. IT SEEMS TO ME, THAT OUR BASIS FOR AUTHORITY IN ETERNAL MATTERS IS EITHER A) THE BIBLE WHICH HAS SHOWN THROUGH ITS UNITY, INDESTRUCTIBILITY, TRANSFORMING POWER, PROPHECY, SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACCURACY, THAT IT IS INDEED OUR FINAL AUTHORITY CONCERNING FAITH AND PRACTICE OR B) THE LOGIC OF FALLEN MEN WHOSE THEORIES AND IDEAS CHANGE LIKE THE SHIFTING SANDS OF THE DESERT. JESUS INDICATED THAT OUR FINAL AUTHORITY OR OUR SUPREME COURT IS THE BIBLE. IT IS THE MEASURING STICK FOR WHAT YOU AND I BELIEVE ABOUT GOD AND ETERNAL MATTERS. JESUS' ATTITUDE WAS THAT THE SCRIPTURES ARE THE FINAL TEST. THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE "THUS SAITH THE LORD" WAS THE SUPREME TEST. IN MATT. 22:29, JESUS

"THINGS MOST SURELY BELIEVED" (CONT.)

4

REMINDED HIS HEARERS THAT MEN GO ASTRAY WHEN THEY DO NOT KNOW THE SCRIPTURES. ONE OF THE CURSES OF OUR GENERATION IS THE ABYSMAL IGNORANCE OF THE WORD OF GOD. MEN ARE AFRAID TO COME TO THE LIGHT OF SACRED SCRIPTURE, NOT BECAUSE THEY HAVE INTELLECTUAL DOUBTS, BUT BECAUSE THEY HAVE MORAL WEAKNESSES. DARKNESS IS ALWAYS MORE COMFORTABLE TO THE SINNER THAN THE WHITE LIGHT OF GOD'S REVELATION. WHEN MEN DO NOT KNOW THE WORD OF GOD AND LIVE BY IT'S PRECEPTS, THE MORAL STRENGTH AND THE HIGH IDEALS WHICH IT CONVEYS TO ANY CIVILIZATION ARE LOST. NEED I SAY MORE ABOUT THE MORAL GAP OF OUR GENERATION-- WATERGATE HAS REVEALED THIS PROBLEM AT OUR HIGHEST LEVEL OF LEADERSHIP!! ONE OTHER BRIEF WORD OF EXPLANATION -- SOME CRITICS OF THE BIBLE ERECT THEIR OWN STRAWMAN ABOUT WHAT WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE, THEN PROCEED TO TEAR IT DOWN. WE WHO BELIEVE IN A LITERAL INTERPRETATION OF THE BIBLE ARE CALLED BOTH BIBLE-WORSHIPPERS AND LITERALISTS. HOWEVER, WE ARE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT OFTENTIMES THE BIBLE MUST BE INTERPRETED BY THE LANGUAGE OF APPEARANCE. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN THE WORD SUNRISE, SUNSET IS USED WITH REFERENCE TO THE SUN, EVERY PERSON KNOWS THAT THIS IS A CONVENIENT WAY OF DESCRIBING WHAT APPEARS TO BE. THEREFORE, I DO NOT LIKE FOR SUPPOSED INTELLECTUALS TO CALL BIBLE-BELIEVING CHRISTIAN "CRAZY" BELIEVING THE LITERAL PROMISES OF THE WORD OF GOD. NEITHER DO I SUBSCRIBE TO THE GENERAL IDEA OF SOME THAT CHRISTIANITY IS FOR EMOTIONAL CRIPPLES WHO SOMEHOW CANNOT MAKE IT THROUGH LIFE WITHOUT RELIGIOUS CRUTCHES. THERE ARE THOSE WHO THINK THAT BELIEVING IN CHRIST IS THE LAST RESORT SOME PEOPLE MAKE BEFORE BEING COMMITTED TO THE ASYLUM. PAUL LITTLE POINTS OUT THAT A FRIEND OF HIS WHO WAS STUDYING IN A WELL-KNOWN UNIVERSITY WAS DENIED A PH.D. DEGREE IN SOCIAL SCIENCE BECAUSE OF THE PREJUDICE OF THE FACULTY WHO TOLD HIM "BELIEVING WHAT YOU DO ABOUT GOD, YOU ARE BY DEFINITION 'CRAZY'." WE LIVE IN A STRANGE WORLD IN WHICH BY ADMISSION CANNOT DEAL WITH SIN, THE GREATEST MALADY IN THE HUMAN SOUL. (IF I HAD A PHYSICAL DISEASE AND WANTED THE LAST WORD ON THE NATURE OF THAT PROBLEM, I WOULD SEEK HELP AT A PLACE CALLED MAYOS. IF I HAD A PROBLEM OF THE MIND WHICH HAD PERPLEXED PSYCHIATRISTS, I WOULD SEEK THE HELP OF A MAN NAMED MENNENGER. BUT THE GREATEST NEED OF MAN HAS TO DO WITH THE PROBLEM CALLED SIN AND IT IS A MALADY WHICH ONLY THE BIBLE AND JESUS CHRIST CAN DEAL WITH EFFECTIVELY. IF THE BIBLE IS NOT THE WORD OF GOD, THEN NO MAN ON EARTH HAS HOPE FOR DIVINE FORGIVENESS.

"THINGS MOST SURELY BELIEVED" (CONT.)

MATT. 16:16⁵

We
II. I BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD
AND MY PERSONAL SAVIOUR - JN. 9:35-38 - vs. 24-25
AND Saviour of the World

Matt 16
JOHN 9 IS THE ACCOUNT OF THE HEALING OF A BLIND MAN. THE ACCOUNT ATTESTS TO THE FACT THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD BECAUSE OF HIS ABILITY TO DEAL BOTH WITH PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL PROBLEMS. SIMPLY STATED, THE BIBLE AND JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF CLAIMED TO BE GOD. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THIS WAS ONE OF THE CHARGES LEVELED AGAINST JESUS RESULTING IN HIS CRUCIFIXION. "WE HAVE A LAW, AND BY OUR LAW HE OUGHT TO DIE, BECAUSE HE MADE HIMSELF THE SON OF GOD," (JN. 19:7) JESUS DEMONSTRATED HIS DEITY BY FORGIVING SINS, COMPARE LUKE 5:20-24. *(Mettings)*

We
III. I BELIEVE THAT MAN IS A SINNER AND SALVATION IS BY GRACE ALONE - EPH. 2:8-9

1 Tim 1:15 (Luke 19:10)

Issue
IF MAN WAS NOT LOST IN SIN, HE WOULD NEED NO SAVIOUR. (LUKE 19:10) THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY THAT MAN HAS BEEN SAVED AND ALL HE NEEDS TO BE INFORMED OF IS THE FACT OF HIS RECONCILIATION TO GOD; THE TEACHING OF UNIVERSALISM. IF YOU DOUBT THE BIBLICAL FACT OF MAN'S PERSONAL SIN, LET ME INVITE YOUR ATTENTION TO ANY FRONT PAGE NEWSPAPER OF ANY GIVEN DAY OF THE WEEK!! IT CRIES OUT, PAGE AFTER PAGE, OF CRIME AND CORRUPTION THAT MAN IS A SINNER AND NEED OF GOD'S GRACE IN HIS LIFE TO CORRECT THE PROBLEM!!

If
QUESTION: IF MAN IS BASICALLY GOOD, WHY DO YOU HAVE TO LOCK YOUR HOUSE AT NIGHT? LOCK YOUR CAR? HAVE A POLICE FORCE? MAINTAIN A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR DEFENSE BUDGET EACH YEAR? HAVE DIVORCE COURTS? BANK VAULTS? IF MEN WERE GOOD, THEY WOULD ALWAYS DO THAT WHICH IS GOOD AND RIGHT. BUT EVEN THE MOST NAIVE AND GULLIBLE PERSON IN THE WORLD, REGARDLESS OF HIS PHILOSOPHY, KNOWS THAT MAN IS NEED OF DIVINE HELP IN ORDER TO MAKE HIM BETTER. THERE IS AN INTUITIVE AWARENESS IN THE HEART OF MEN THAT GOD MUST DO SOMETHING INTERNALLY TO CLEANSE US IN ORDER TO MAKE US FIT FOR HEAVEN. GOD SAVES MEN UPON THE BASE OF GRACE AND NOT BY GOOD WORKS.

We
IV. I BELIEVE IN THE REALITY OF HEAVEN AND HELL -
MATT. 7:13-14 *(Matt. 25:46)* *246*

IN THIS PASSAGE, JESUS TALKS ABOUT A BROAD WAY THAT LEADS TO HELL. THERE IS NO REFERENCE TO PURGATORY,

SECOND CHANCE, SOUL-SLEEP OR ANY OTHER FALSE DOCTRINE OF THE SUBJECT. THE DOCTRINE OF HELL MAY BE THE MOST NEGLECTED SUBJECT IN THE BIBLE BECAUSE OF THE WIDE-SPREAD OPPOSITION AND RESENTMENT AND MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS. WINSTON CHURCHILL ONCE ATTRIBUTED THE MORAL COLLAPSE OF GREAT BRITAIN TO THE FACT THE CLERGYMEN NO LONGER PREACHED ON HEAVEN AND HELL. WALK THROUGH THE STREETS OF OUR CITY, OBSERVING THE MARQUEE OF THE THEATERS AND THE ADVERTISEMENT CONCERNING THE LATEST FILMS FROM HOLLYWOOD. TITLES LIKE "HELL'S ANGELS" AND "HELL BENT FOR GLORY" MAY BE SEEN. YOU HEAR THIS WORD USED IN A PROFANE WAY ON ELEVATORS, IN DEPARTMENT STORES, RESTAURANTS, MOTELS AND WHEREVER YOU MEET GROUPS OF PEOPLE. WHY DON'T PEOPLE SWEAR IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN?? I THINK IT IS BECAUSE DEEP WITHIN MAN'S SUBCONSCIOUS SOUL, HE IS AFRAID THAT THERE IS SUCH A PLACE AND UNWITTINGLY USES THE TERM TO EXPRESS THIS DEEP FEAR. JESUS TALKED ABOUT HELL MORE THAN ANY PERSON WHO HAS EVER BEEN ON EARTH. HELL WAS NOT PREPARED FOR MAN BUT FOR THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS. ANY PERSON WHO GOES THERE DOES SO BECAUSE HE IGNORES GOD'S WARNING AND LOVING CALL FOR SALVATION IN CHRIST. THE BIBLE USES THREE SIGNIFICANT TERMS TO DESCRIBE THIS PLACE. 1. FIRE--GOD WARNS MEN OF THE BURNING CONSEQUENCES BEING FOREVER SEPARATED FROM GOD. 2. DARKNESS--A REMINDER THAT SEPARATION FROM GOD BRINGS ETERNAL DARKNESS. 3. DEATH--HELL IS DESCRIBED AS THE SECOND DEATH FOR ETERNAL SEPARATION FROM GOD. MAY I REMIND YOU THAT JESUS USED THE SAME WORD TO DESCRIBE BOTH THE DURATION OF BOTH HEAVEN AND HELL. THE WORD IS ETERNAL. ANY PERSON WHO GOES TO HELL DOES SO BECAUSE THEY PREFER THAT TO HEAVEN. NO PERSON HAS TO GO TO HELL. THE CHOICE IS THEIRS. BY CONTRAST, HEAVEN IS THE ETERNAL RESTING PLACE OF THOSE WHO KNOW JESUS CHRIST. THERE WILL BE NO CRYING, WAR, POVERTY OR ANY MALADY BROUGHT UPON HUMANKIND BY SIN. HEAVEN WILL BE THE PLACE OF ETERNAL REWARD FOR THOSE WHO LOVE JESUS CHRIST. IT WILL EMBODY ALL OF MAN'S UTOPIAN DREAMS AS HE SPENDS ETERNITY IN SERVICE TO THE ETERNAL GOD. (COMPARE JN. 14:6) HEAVEN FOR THE CHRISTIAN WILL BE SIMPLY BEING WHERE JESUS IS. (CONCLUDE WITH MY STATEMENT TO BOB BARNS, "SUPPOSE I AM RIGHT?" HE HAD NO ANSWER.)

"THINGS MOST SURELY BELIEVED" (CONT.)

7

Wa

(Folk)

V. I BELIEVE GOD WANTS YOU TO BE SAVED TODAY →

LUKE 23:43 *(2 Cor 6:1)* *(DON'T WAIT*

UNTIL Tomorrow)

THE DYING THIEF WAS AWARE OF THE FACT THAT HE HAD
NO TOMORROW WITHOUT CHRIST. IT WAS EITHER NOW
OR NEVER AND IN DESPERATION TURNED TO THE ONLY
PERSON WHO COULD POSSIBLE HELP IN THAT DEPERATE
HOUR OF NEED. MOST MEN, LIKE THE DYING THIEF,
WILL NOT BE SAVED UNTIL THEY RECOGNIZE THAT CHRIST
IS THEIR ONLY HOPE. YOU MAY HAVE MANY EXCUSES
WHY YOU ARE NOT SAVED TODAY. THERE MAY BE SOME
SIN YOU DO NOT WANT TO GIVE UP. THERE MAY BE SOME
QUESTIONABLE ASSOCIATIONS YOU DO NOT WISH TO
DISSOLVE. THERE MAY BE FEAR OF WHAT OTHERS MAY
THINK, SAY OR DO IF YOU BECOME A CHRISTIAN, BUT
EVERY EXCUSE WILL BE UTTERLY FOOLISH IF SOMEHOW
YOU WAIT ONE DAY TOO LONG TO MAKE LIFE'S MOST
IMPORTANT DECISION. TOMORROW WILL NOT COME FOR
SOMEONE WHO IS ALIVE TODAY. THAT SOMEONE MAY BE
YOU, AND THAT IS WHY THE BIBLE STATES THAT GOD
WANTS YOU TO BE SAVED TODAY. TOMORROW COULD BE
TOO LATE.

BIRTHMARKS OF THE BELIEVER

Acts 9

MANY PEOPLE HAVE BIRTHMARKS, UNIQUE, IDENTIFYING MARKS ON THE BODY - THE RESULT OF BIRTH. THERE IS A SENSE IN WHICH THERE ARE BIRTHMARKS ON THE SOUL OF THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED NEW LIFE IN CHRIST. LET US EXAMINE THE BEST-KNOWN CONVERSION IN THE BIBLE AND LOOK FOR SOME TELL-TALE BIRTHMARKS OR EVIDENCES OF SPIRITUAL BIRTH.

OBEDIENCEI. THE MARK OF SUBMISSION - VERSE 6

"Thou"
Before
"me"

FROM THIS DAY ON, JESUS WAS THE SOVERIGN AND SAUL WAS THE SLAVE. FROM THAT DAY FORWARD IT WAS NOT WHAT AND WHERE PAUL WANTED TO GO AND DO BUT "WHAT WILT THOU" WAS INDICATIVE OF PAUL'S TOTAL SUBMISSION TO CHRIST. IT WAS GOD'S WILL, GOD'S GLORY, GOD'S WORK THAT BECAME HIS SUPREME DESIRE. (THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SAUL AND DAVID WERE MANY BUT NONE MORE OBVIOUS THAN THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD.

1. DAVID'S ATTITUDE WAS OBEDIENCE AND SAUL'S WAS DISOBEDIENCE. COMPARE 1 SAM. 15:22 AND THE KEY WORDS "TO OBEY". SAUL'S HAUGHTY AND REBELLIOUS HEART WOULD NOT LET HIM SURRENDER TO GOD UNCONDITIONALLY. IT IS THE PROBLEM FOR MOST OF US IN THAT WE COME TO GOD ON OUR OWN TERMS AND NOT ON THE BASIS OF UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER. WE OFTEN WANT CLEANSING WITHOUT CONSECRATION. ROMANS 12:1 AND 2 IS SUCH FAMILIAR TERRITORY THAT WE OFTEN FORGET AND OVERLOOK THE VITAL MESSAGE OF THE VERSE.

Obedience: = To Hear + Keep!

a word we apply less + less to human behavior - more to pets! fit owners = necessary!

Heb. 5:8-9

Pets - Necessary to obey

'like 6:46) "Why dokest ge me"

(Beagle owned
- Tad - I whistle
+ the came ox
not my dogs for long!

"And is good... get

• Now I lay me down
To sleep.

1. Delight 2. Desperation

3. Duty (Came)

II. THE MARK OF PRAYER - VERSE 11

SAUL ~~HAD~~ PRAYED ALL OF HIS RELIGIOUS LIFE. RELIGIOUS PRAYERS WERE PART OF HIS RELIGIOUS LIFE. HE COULD RECITE OR SAY PRAYERS FROM MEMORY BUT THERE IS A SENSE IN WHICH HE HAD NEVER PRAYED BEFORE! (COMPARE DAD HEARD PRAYING AT BEDSIDE - KNEW SOMETHING HAD

HAPPENED.) PAUL NEVER SLACKENED HIS PRAYER PACE. FOR EXAMPLE, COLOSSIANS 1:9-10,

EPHESIANS 6:18 REVEAL PAUL'S INTENSE DESIRE TO PRAY MORE. THE BIBLE ABOUNDS WITH VERSES

ON PRAYER SUCH AS JEREMIAH 33:3, JOHN 16:24, HEBREWS 4:16, LUKE 18:1, 1 THESS. 5:17,

MARK 1:35 - ALL VERSES ENCOURAGING GOD'S PEOPLE TO PRAY!

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS:

IF YOU AND I DON'T MAKE TIME FOR PRAYER WE WILL NOT TAKE TIME FOR PRAYER. SET A TIME.

(KEEP YOUR APPOINTMENT WITH GOD AS YOU WOULD KEEP AN APPOINTMENT WITH A DOCTOR, OR ANYONE ELSE.)

MAKE A PRAYER LIST. ASK GOD FOR SPECIFICS AND THEN THANK HIM WHEN HE ANSWERS PRAYER. CAN YOU THINK OF A SINGLE ANSWER TO PRAYER GOD HAS GIVEN YOU IN THE PAST 30 DAYS?

IF NOT, WHY NOT? MAYBE IT IS BECAUSE WE DON'T KEEP CAREFUL RECORDS WITH GOD. PRAY ABOUT PERSONAL PROBLEMS. THERE ARE NO

IMPOSSIBLE SITUATIONS WHEN GOD IS IN THE PICTURE. CLAIM HIS PROMISES. THERE ARE SOME THINGS FOR WHICH WE PRAY THAT ARE UTTERLY

SELFISH AND WOULD RESULT IN OUR SPIRITUAL DOWNFALL. HOWEVER, TO FIND A PROMISE IN THE BIBLE AND CLAIM IT IS TO HAVE IT!

III. THE MARK OF BAPTISM - VERSE 18

THE SUBJECT OF BAPTISM IS ONE OF THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL IN SCRIPTURE. FOR CENTURIES PEOPLE HAVE ARGUED ABOUT ITS IMPORTANCE AND THESE ARGUMENTS HAVE LED TO EXTREMES ON BOTH ENDS OF THE SPECTRUM. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE ARE

-2-

Unsaved, Unspiritual
prayer - not "high
on prayer" - Fine
Escape
Only!

He
Praying
a
priority
①

Wash

②

③

① Everything
② Nothing

① THOSE WHO SAY THAT ONE IS NOT SAVED UNTIL HE IS BAPTIZED. THIS IS CALLED BAPTISMAL REGENERATION. ALSO, THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY WATER BAPTISM IS NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL. SPIRIT BAPTISM IS THE EMPHASIS OF THE BIBLE AND IS THE EMPHASIS IN THEIR PREACHING. BOTH EXTREMES ARE WRONG. IS BAPTISM NECESSARY? YES. IS IT NECESSARY FOR SALVATION? ^{NO} IT IS NECESSARY BECAUSE GOD SAYS BAPTISM IS AN ACT OF OBEDIENCE AND IT IS NOT AN OPTIONAL ORDINANCE! THERE WAS NO SUCH THING AS UNBAPTIZED BELIEVERS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH. TO BE SURE, BAPTISM IS NOT EFFICACIOUS OR MERITORIOUS IN GRACE BUT YOU AND I ARE NOT GIVEN THE LIBERTY TO CHOOSE TO FOLLOW OUR OWN TASTES OR CONVENIENCE OF CULTURAL PREFERENCES WHEN IT COMES TO BAPTISM. IN MY OPINION, THE MODEL OF BAPTISM IN SAUL'S DAY AS IN THE REST OF THE CHURCH WAS CLEARLY IMMERSION. AN UNPREJUDICED MIND WILL COME TO THAT CONCLUSION BY READING THROUGH THE BIBLE. ACCOMMODATION MODES SPRANG OUT OF CHURCH HISTORY BUT IN THE BIBLE PEOPLE ARE SAID TO BE BAPTIZED IN WATER, NOT WITH WATER. NEVER IS THE PICTURE THAT OF SOMEONE HAVING WATER PLACED UPON THEM BUT RATHER BEING PLACED INTO THE ELEMENT. BAPTISM IS LIKE THE DEVELOPING OF FILM OR LIKE A FLAG. IT IS ONE THING TO MAKE A QUIET PRIVATE PROFESSION OF FAITH IN CHRIST IN THE SOLITUDE OF ONE'S HOME WITH FEW PEOPLE LOOKING ON - IT IS QUITE ANOTHER THING TO PUBLICALLY IDENTIFY ONESELF IN THE WATERS OF BAPTISM. (RELATE TO MISSION FIELDS OF THE WORLD.) BY THE WAY, BAPTISM IS CALLED "BELIEVERS BAPTISM". IN THE BIBLE, PEOPLE WERE BAPTIZED AFTER THEY RECEIVED CHRIST.

IV. THE MARK OF ASSOCIATING WITH GOD'S PEOPLE - VERSE 19, 26 *Christian Fellowship*

THE WORD "WITH" IN THE TEXT IS THE WORD META. IT IS THE PREPOSITION OF PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS. THESE WERE THE PEOPLE SAUL HAD HATED AND SOUGHT TO KILL, NOW HE SEEKS TO BE IDENTIFIED WITH THEM. ONE OF THE INWARD ASSURANCES IN MY HEART THAT SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED OF A SUPER-NATURAL NATURE WAS MY LONGING TO BE IN THE HOUSE OF GOD WITH THE LORD'S PEOPLE AFTER CONVERSION. HEBREWS 10:25 IS A VERSE THAT TOO MANY CHRISTIANS TREAT TOO LIGHTLY! AN ISOLATED CHRISTIAN IS AN ILL-DEVELOPED, DISOBEDIENT CHRISTIAN. LET US EXAMINE SOME OF THE EXCUSES PEOPLE GIVE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES WITH A LOCAL CHURCH: *Moody*

1. "I DON'T HAVE TO GO TO CHURCH TO BE A CHRISTIAN"

IT IS TRUE THAT ONE DOES NOT HAVE TO VOTE IN ORDER TO BE A CITIZEN OF THIS COUNTRY. IT IS TRUE HE DOES NOT HAVE TO STAND UP WHEN "THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER" IS SUNG. HE DOES NOT HAVE TO RESPECT THE FLAG OR THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT BUT IF HE WANTS TO BE A LOYAL AND GOOD AMERICAN HE MUST BE CONCERNED ABOUT ALL OF THESE MATTERS. MOODY'S ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION WHEN HE TOOK A COAL FROM THE FIRE AND IT BEGAN TO COOL OFF AND TURN GRAY.)

2. "I BELONG TO THE TRUE CHURCH, THE INVISIBLE CHURCH"

IT IS TRUE THAT THE CHURCH IS PRESENTED AS BOTH UNIVERSAL AND LOCAL. HOWEVER, THE OVERRIDING EVIDENCE IN SCRIPTURE IS THE EMPHASIS OF LOCAL

CHURCHES. SOME PEOPLE BELONG TO THE INVISIBLE CHURCH BECAUSE THEY LIKE TO BE INVISIBLE. THEY ARE INVISIBLE ON SUNDAY EVENINGS, PRAYER MEETING NIGHTS, THEY ARE INVISIBLE WHEN THE OFFERING PLATE IS PASSED, THEY ARE INVISIBLE WHEN MISSIONARY SUPPORT IS NEEDED. THE ONLY TIME THEY ARE REALLY VISIBLE IS WHEN THERE IS SOMETHING VISIBLE TO BE GAINED! (Kirkville suggest!)

3. "THE CHURCH IS NOT VERY FRIENDLY"

THIS STATEMENT COULD BE TRUE OF ANY CHURCH IN AMERICA. IT IS TRUE OF SOME MEMBERS OF EVERY CHURCH. HOWEVER, SOME FOLK COME TO CHURCH AND ALMOST DARE FOLK TO SAY A WORD OR BE FRIENDLY TO THEM! HOWEVER, WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO A LOCAL CHURCH IF NOBODY IS FRIENDLY! NVL ① Not ② Super

V. THE MARK OF TELLING OTHERS ABOUT CHRIST - VERSES 20-22

DEAD PEOPLE DON'T TALK! PEOPLE CAN'T AND WON'T SHARE WHAT THEY DON'T HAVE! CAN YOU IMAGINE A PERSON IN THE NEW TESTAMENT WHO HAD NEVER SEEN, WALKED OR HEARD COMING INTO CONTACT WITH CHRIST AND THEN SITTING DOWN IN SILENCE ABOUT THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE? I HAVE AN ABIDING CONVICTION THAT MANY PEOPLE DO NOT SHARE FAITH IN CHRIST BECAUSE THEY HAVE HAD NO PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH HIM! THEIR CHRISTIANITY HAS BEEN A SIMPLE SIGN-UP PROCEDURE WITHOUT A LIFE-CHANGING SOUL-STIRRING EXPERIENCE. THEREFORE, SOME PEOPLE DO NOT SHARE THEIR FAITH BECAUSE (1) THEY DON'T HAVE A FAITH TO SHARE, (2) THEY ARE AFRAID, (3) THEY ARE APATHETIC. IF YOU HAVE LOST YOUR "TOUCH" OR ARE OUT OF TOUCH IN SHARING CHRISTIAN FAITH MAKE IT A MATTER OF PRAYER PRIORITY. (RELATE JWM EXPERIENCE IN CHATTANOOGA ELEVATOR - OLD STORY WHOSE TRUTH NEVER CHANGES. WE HAVE

Share home! Every day Take with you!

See Jn. Steward
Statement
Mary. Note - Acts
9

ALL DONE THAT WITH REFERENCE TO A DOCTOR,
A RESTAURANT, (RELATE TO ICE CREAM PARLOR
NEARBY.)

① Dr. Howard Kelly ^{Pin} ?
Life's Greatest Question

* ② Waitress - Eden N.C.
Excited about beef stew!
Song.

* ③ Jack Welch - "Winning"
It points
I've got a shot at it —
What a wasted egg!

* Jean Edwards
Charlottesville, Va. 1972

ROBERT K. SPRADLING

AUGUST 3, 1986

Mr. Francis
Reidville

BIRTHMARKS
ACTS 9

de. Spise! *Bee - Pm. Sept*
that went
for God! 1991

IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION: "WHEN WERE YOU SAVED?", A PERSON SAID: "I THINK I WAS SAVED A LONG TIME AGO IN A SPECIAL MEETING IN OUR CHURCH. I WENT FORWARD WITH SEVERAL OTHER PEOPLE AND THE PREACHER SEEMED TO THINK I WAS OKAY AND I GUESS I GOT SAVED, BUT I'M NOT SURE." THIS HAZY, AMBIGUOUS EXPERIENCE MAY HAVE BEEN A SMALL CHILD PLACING HIS FAITH IN CHRIST OR IT MAY HAVE BEEN A BOGUS EXPERIENCE. THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS WE MAY ASK TO HELP TEST OUR CONVERSION EXPERIENCE: (1) DID YOUR LIFESTYLE CHANGE AS YOU GREW OLDER? (2) DID YOUR INTEREST IN AND APPETITE FOR THE BIBLE INCREASE? (3) IF YOU WERE ABLE TO GET TO CHURCH, DID YOU SEEK A BIBLE-TEACHING CHURCH AND DID YOU CONTINUE TO GROW AS A BELIEVER? (4) DID YOU HAVE A LOVING CONCERN FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO KNOW THE SAVIOR? THESE ARE SOME OF THE SIGNS OF NEW LIFE IN CHRIST AND ARE EVIDENCES OF A BORN AGAIN, SAVED, CONVERTED EXPERIENCE. THE BEST KNOWN CONVERSION IN THE BIBLE IS THE STORY OF SAUL OF TARSUS. AFTER HIS CONVERSION, THERE WERE OBVIOUS CHANGES IN HIS LIFESTYLE, BIRTHMARKS OF A NEW BELIEVER.

1. THE BIRTHMARK OF OBEDIENCE - 9:6

IN SAUL'S STATEMENT OF SURRENDER, "THOU" COMES BEFORE "ME". SAUL WAS SUBMISSIVE TO GOD WHEREVER AND UNDER WHATEVER CIRCUMSTANCES THAT SUBMISSION REQUIRED. (CF. SAMUEL) THE WORD OBEY, COMES FROM A GREEK WORD THAT MEANS "TO HEAR". IT SUGGESTS AN ACTIVE RESPONSE OF COMPLIANCE WITH WHAT ONE HEARS. THE WORD DOULOS OR SERVANT IS ONE WHO HEEDS COMMAND OF HIS LORD. GOD IS ABLE TO HIS WILL KNOWN TO HIS SERVANTS. THE IT'S PROBLEM IS NOT USUALLY INFORMATION

"I'm listening, LORD!
and Lord, for thy servant hands!"

Del = a...
and to...
...long

Sent pets to "Obedience School" - 2- (Rev. 1) ^{Natural Bridge} ^{Chilton} ^{Bucksville}
To "Charm School" - 2- (Rev. 1) ^{when God says go, do it is not a suggestion - option - a command!}

BUT DISPOSITION. OBEDIENCE IS A WORD WE APPLY LESS AND LESS TO HUMAN BEHAVIOR. HOWEVER, **PET OWNERS** KNOW THAT OBEDIENCE IS BOTH NECESSARY AND LEARNED. GOD DOES NOT ASK OUR **OPINION** ABOUT SALVATION, HE REQUIRES OUR **OBEDIENCE** TO THE GOSPEL. (ROMANS 10:16, II THESSALONIANS 1:8) OBEDIENCE TO GOD CHARACTERIZES PEOPLE OF FAITH. IN SCRIPTURE, BEGINNING WITH NOAH, ABRAHAM, MOSES AND ON AND ON, PEOPLE WHO REALLY BELIEVE GOD OBEY HIM. OBEDIENCE WAS CHARACTERISTIC OF OUR BLESSED LORD. (HEBREWS 5:8-9, PHILIPPIANS 2:8, JOHN 14:21) FOR THOSE WHO WONDER ABOUT GOD'S WILL AND THEIR SUBMISSION TO HIS WILL, SAUL'S STATEMENT IS HELPFUL. **DO YOU SUPPOSE GOD WOULD HEAR AND ANSWER THE PRAYER OF ANYONE WHO PRAYED THIS PRAYER AND MEANT IT?**

II. THE BIRTHMARK OF PRAYER - v.11

SAUL HAD PRAYED PRAYERS EVERYDAY OF HIS ADULT LIFE. PRAYER WAS PART OF HIS RELIGIOUS HERITAGE, TRAINING AND PRACTICE. FOR SAUL, PRAYER WAS A **ROTE RECITATION OF STRUCTURED PRAYERS**. (RELIGIOUS PEOPLE CONTINUE THAT TRADITION EVEN IN OUR TIME.) THERE IS A VAST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN **SAYING** PRAYERS AND **PRAYING** PRAYERS. (COMPARE MR. TOLIVER) **UNSAVED AND UNSPIRITUAL PEOPLE ARE NOT "BIG ON PRAYER"**, THAT IS, PRAYER IS SOMETHING THEY SIMPLY DO NOT TAKE SERIOUSLY. PRAYER IS A ONCE A YEAR, MONTH, WEEK AND IN RARE INSTANCES DAILY PART OF A RELIGIOUS EXERCISE. IT MAY BEGIN WITH "GOD IS GREAT, GOD IS GOOD AND WE THANK HIM FOR THIS FOOD" AND IT MAY END WITH "NOW I LAY ME DOWN TO SLEEP. . . ." **PRAYER MEETING IS EITHER NONEXISTENT OR SOMETHING ONLY THE VERY PIOUS TAKE SERIOUSLY.** IN HIS BOOK ENTITLED "SENSE AND NONSENSE ABOUT PRAYER" DR. LEHMAN STRAUSS DEVOTES SOME SPACE TO WHAT HE CALLS "THE LOW VIEW OF PRAYER." THE SPIRITUAL

(*) Dad

Prayer
Measure of us
all - Stamp paper

See
NOTES

CHRISTIAN SEES PRAYER AS A DELIGHT, THE CARNAL CHRISTIAN SEES IT AS A DUTY, THE NON-CHRISTIAN SEES IT ONLY IN DESPERATION. IN THE TEXT, THE PHRASE "HE PRAYETH" IS IN THE PRESENT TENSE AND SUGGESTS CONTINUOUS ACTION, THAT IS, HE PRAYED AND KEPT ON PRAYING. A NEW BELIEVER PRAYS AND HIS PRAYERS GET THROUGH TO GOD - IT IS PRIORITY PRAYING! PRAYER IS IN A VERY REAL SENSE THE BREATH OF THE NEW BELIEVER. TALKING TO GOD IS NOT OPTIONAL, IT IS NECESSARY. (RECALL THE NEW BELIEVER WHO GAVE GOD HIS NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER - TOTALLY UNINHIBITED AND OPEN.) QUESTION: HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT PRAYER? DO YOU HAVE A SET TIME, PRAYER LIST, DO YOU PRAY ABOUT PROBLEMS AND PROBLEM PEOPLE, CAN YOU THINK OF A SINGLE ANSWER TO PRAYER OVER THE PAST YEAR OR MONTH? PUT SOME POWER INTO YOUR LIFE - TRY PRAYING!

III. THE BIRTHMARK OF BAPTISM - v.18 (*)

- (2 weeks ago - 3 weeks over 40 years ago!)

THERE ARE TWO EXTREME VIEWS REGARDING BAPTISM: (1) IT'S EVERYTHING (2) IT'S NOTHING. THE NEW TESTAMENT AND ESPECIALLY THE BOOK OF ACTS EMPHASIZES THE FACT THAT BAPTISM IS NOT AN OPTIONAL ORDINANCE. THERE WERE NO UNBAPTIZED BELIEVERS IN THE EARLY CHURCH. BAPTISM WAS A SIGN OF OBEDIENCE TO GOD. (1 PETER 3:21) WE OFTEN REFER TO BAPTISM AS "BELIEVER'S BAPTISM". (EXPLAIN PERSONAL EXPERIENCE REGARDING SPRINKLING.) THERE IS SOMETHING VERY HELPFUL IN ASSOCIATING OURSELVES WITH THE LORD IN PUBLIC BAPTISM. (RELATE OWN BAPTISM OF GRANDPARENTS, UNCLES, AUNTS, RELATIVES AND FRIENDS WHO WATCHED FROM THE SHORE.) ON THE MISSION-FIELD, MISSIONARIES TELL US THAT TO BE BAPTIZED IS OPEN IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST AND LABELS ONE AS A CHRISTIAN IN A UNIQUE AND WONDERFUL WAY. LIKE THE ETHIOPIAN IN

* Ind. cult had -

* * Butfield!! Testimony

ACTS 8, ONE IS IMPRESSED WITH THE FACT THAT BEING BAPTIZED WAS TERRIBLY IMPORTANT AFTER HE HAD HEARD THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST AND THE GOSPEL.

IV. THE BIRTHMARK OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP -

v.19, 26 (scattered) From Damascus To Jerusalem!

(*)
② RELATE THE EXPERIENCE RECENTLY OF MEETING ODELL PAULEY IN THE BARBER SHOP. IT BROUGHT BACK MEMORIES OF MY GUILT IN HIS PRESENCE AND BEING UNCOMFORTABLE BECAUSE HE WAS ALWAYS SO NICE, INQUIRED ABOUT SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE BUT NEVER WAS OFFENSIVE. HIS QUIET CHRISTIAN FAITH BOTHERED ME. I USED TO RUN FROM HIM OR CROSS THE STREET TO AVOID TALKING WITH HIM. I FELT VERY GUILTY. HOWEVER, AFTER CONVERSION, HE WAS A PERSON I SOUGHT OUT AND LIKED TO BE NEAR, IN FACT STOOD BESIDE HIM IN THE CHURCH CHOIR AND LEARNED TO SING TENOR. EVEN AT THE ADVANCED AGE OF 86 THAT QUIET CHRISTIAN FAITH WAS (VERY OBVIOUS.) IN THE TEXT THE PREPOSITION (META) IN VERSE 19 AND VERSE 28 DENOTES PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP. SAUL'S LIFESTYLE AND THE CHANGE IN HIS LIFE IS MARKED BY TWO WORDS - (V.I) - THE WORD (AGAINST). IN VERSE 19, THE WORD (WITH). ACCORDING TO VERSE 26, WHEN SAUL GOT SAVED HE SOUGHT THE LORD'S PEOPLE. HE NOW LOVED THE PEOPLE HE ONCE LOATHED. THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT BOTHER ME IN CHURCH AND ONE HAS TO DO WITH FOLK WHO COME FORWARD IN CHURCH, MAKE A PROFESSION OF FAITH IN CHRIST AND FORGET THE WAY BACK TO THE CHURCH. SINCE 1948, THE LOCAL CHURCH HAS BEEN CENTRAL IN MY LIFE. IT HAS BEEN THE SOURCE OF THE GREATEST BLESSING. I APPRECIATE CHRISTIAN FILMS, CHRISTIAN RADIO, CHRISTIAN TELEVISION, CHRISTIAN YOU NAME IT, BUT IT HAS BEEN THE LOCAL CHURCH

"with"

①

THAT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO MY SPIRITUAL STABILITY AND GROWTH.

V. THE BIRTHMARK OF SHARING CHRIST WITH OTHERS - vs. 20 - ~~25~~

21

FROM THE DAY OF HIS CONVERSION, SAUL BEGAN TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS. SIMPLY STATED, HE WOULD NOT SHUT UP ABOUT CHRIST, EVEN WHEN HIS LIFE WAS THREATENED. THANK GOD FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE BURDENED ABOUT PEOPLE. IT IS RELATIVELY EASY TO RECRUIT PEOPLE FOR CHRISTIAN CAUSES, BUT WITHOUT DOUBT THE SINGLE MOST DIFFICULT MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH IS TO SHOW PEOPLE HOW AND THE IMPORTANCE OF SHARING THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST. I WAS NOT LOOKING FOR THE LORD, HE WAS LOOKING FOR ME. I GOT SAVED - AND SO DID YOU - BECAUSE SOMEBODY CARED FOR MY SOUL. THE NEW TESTAMENT RECORDS THAT FORTY PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM SOME DISEASE WERE HEALED BY JESUS. OF THAT NUMBER, THIRTY-FOUR WERE BROUGHT TO JESUS BY FRIENDS AND IN ONLY SIX INSTANCES OF THE FORTY DID THE SUFFERERS COME TO CHRIST WITHOUT THE ASSISTANCE OF ANOTHER INTERESTED PERSON. THE VAST NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO COME TO CHRIST DO SO BECAUSE SOMEONE IS CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR SPIRITUAL WELFARE. (COMMENT REGARDING RECENT J.W. CONVENTION IN CHARLESTON - LITERATURE ALL OVER OUR DOORSTEP.) IF WE DO NOT KNOW HOW TO SHARE OUR FAITH WITH OTHER PEOPLE IT BEHOOVES US TO LEARN HOW! YEARS AGO A FAMOUS SURGEON, DR. HOWARD A. KELLY, HAD THE HABIT OF WEARING A QUESTION MARK IN HIS LAPEL BUTTONHOLE. THIS WAS LONG BEFORE LAPEL BUTTONS WERE MADE POPULAR BY TELEVISION PREACHERS IN AMERICA. HE USED THE QUESTION MARK AS A CONVERSATION STARTER ABOUT CHRIST. WHEN A STRANGER WOULD ASK WHAT THE QUESTION MARK MEANT, HE WOULD REPLY

Dr's
Rec'd
Cry
Elevator
(*)

40
34

Life-
style
classes

(*)

THAT IT HAD TO DO WITH LIFE'S GREATEST (Question) (DISCOVERY). SOME, KNOWING THAT HE WAS A FAMOUS PHYSICIAN, WOULD ASK IF IT HAD TO DO WITH HEALTH OR FAME AND HE WOULD REPLY NO, IT HAD TO DO WITH THE GREATEST QUESTION IN ALL THE WORLD, NAMELY: "WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?" I REMEMBER READING THE STORY OF A BUSINESSMAN WHO LANDED AT A CERTAIN METROPOLITAN AIRPORT AND REALIZED THAT HE HAD A LONG LAYOVER BEFORE THE NEXT CONNECTION. PRAYERFULLY HE WONDERED HOW HE COULD BEST UTILIZE THE TIME. HE HAD PLACED SEVERAL GOSPEL TRACTS AND BOOKLETS IN HIS ATTACHÉ CASE. HE TOOK SOME OF THESE TRACTS OUT, PLACED HIS BUSINESS CARD INSIDE THE TRACT AND APPROACHED SEVERAL PEOPLE SITTING IN THE WAITING AREA WITH THE FOLLOWING WORDS: "PARDON ME, I HAVE A SMALL BOOKLET THAT EXPLAINS HOW A PERSON MAY BECOME A CHRISTIAN. INSIDE IS MY BUSINESS CARD. I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU THIS MATERIAL AND IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS I'LL BE SITTING OVER THERE. IF MY PLANE TAKES OFF BEFORE YOU HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH ME, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO WRITE, MY ADDRESS IS ON THE CARD." WOULD YOU BELIEVE AT THE END OF THE LAYOVER TIME, SEVERAL PEOPLE HAD TALKED WITH HIM ABOUT CHRIST AND FOR A WEEK OR SO AFTERWARDS HE RECEIVED SEVERAL PIECES OF CORRESPONDENCE IN THE MAIL AS A RESULT OF THE TRACT AND HIS BUSINESS CARD. LET US RETURN TO SAUL'S QUESTION. MORE OF US COULD SHARE OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH IF WE SIMPLY OPENED OUR EYES TO THE OPPORTUNITIES GOD BRINGS OUR WAY EVERYDAY.

*us. trees - Eden vs

- Soap - "If you... let it myself
Exc. fed about Soap!
get you something else!"

Jack Welch - If... points -
Dean Edmonds a shot -