"GOD'S MODEL CHURCH" 1 Thess. 1:1-8 (Read thru 10)
Ps. 126:5-6

(1)

INTRO:

A.-Lead-In To First Thessalonians:

1-ILLUS--IFCA Regional Meeting at Edinburg, Texas, that I attended years ago, where 3 successive speakers spoke---all on 1 Thessalonians 1

2-Lessons I learned--I'll never forget 1 Thessalonians 1
--PLANNING needed for such a meeting
--View of "God's Model Church" as it is found in this passage

B.-Review Of Background:

1-Thessalonica--Strategic center where Paul evangelized
--2nd city in Europe to be gospelized, following Philippi
--Three Sabbath days in the Synagogue
--Persecution arose & Paul leaves
--SHORT TIME for Paul, Silas & Timothy there
** some say only 3-4 weeks
** Others think 5-6 months likely as their period of ministry there (Ramsey

God-Fearers

2-Paul has moved on--Berea
--Athens
--Now in Corinth, chief city in the south of Achaia (Greece)

3 Concern over these Converts — Sends Timothy

4-Writing to the Thessalonian believers less than 1 year after they first heard the gospel

5-Co-Laborers join in writing--Timothy & Silvanus
--FIRST of Paul's epistles
--Before any of the rest of the N.T. was written
X-Possible exception would be book of James
--Before 4 gospels & Acts
--SO .FIRST book of the N.T.

C.-GOD'S MODEL CHURCH:

1-Outline:
I.-The CONCEPT Of The Church:
II.-The CHARACTERISTICS Of This Church:

2-Prop--See what was true in that early Church and then
--Seek to see that REPRODUCED TODAY, also

INT. What do we need to know of the early church?

I.-THE CONCEPT OF THE CHURCH:

A.-Definition Of Church:

1-Term used 114 times in N.T. in 4 senses
--Assembly, Mob, Congregation
--Generic (="a called out body") ἐκ καλέω = ἐκκλησία
12-14 --BODY of Christ (Colossians, Ephesians, 1 Cor. 10:32)
* --Local congregations ** 93 times this way
** 81% of occurences
** Not a building but PEOPLE!

2-Def.=="A body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ in one locality who are organized for worship and service." Lester Pipkin

3-Prediction--Mt. 16:18

4-Not an O.T. entity, but something new from Pentecost until the Rapture

B.-Expressions Of The Local Church:

1-Philippi--Acts 16:12; Phs. 1:1; 4:15

2-Ephesus--Acts. 20:17, 28; Eph. 1:1

3-Philemon 1-2

4-Col. 4:15-16

5-Others--Rome, Corinth, Jerusalem, Damascus, Antioch, Joppa

6-"On these grounds it may be safely assumed that wherever there were believers, there was a church." (Hogg & Vine, P. 19)

C.-Particularization Concerning Thessalonica:

1-Geographically--In Thessalonica

2-Relationship--"Which is in God the Father"

3-Dependency & Channel--"and in the Lord Jesus Christ"

4-WHAT?????---"Unto the CHURCH of the Thessalonians"

5-Body of "called out ones" in that locality

- --Believers
- --Baptized
- --United in a congregation (committed)
- --Organized with Elders & Deacons
- --Taught by Pastor/Teacher
- --Under Church discipline & government
- --Gathered for Worship, Instruction & Fellowship

6-Greeting:--"Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ."

- --GRACE..."Unmerited Favor"
- --PEACE.....Result of being a believer
- --Paul the writer
- --God the Father & Son the source of both all blessing, and the truth written to Thessalonians.

II.-THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MODEL CHURCH:

A.-Your Work Of Faith: (1 Th. 1:3)

1-"Your work which springs from faith"

2-Faith is the response of the soul to the life-giving Word of God

3-Rom. 10:8-17

4-Initial act of BELIEF

5-No one is in the family of God without this exercise of faith being true of his heart

- --Not by works
- --But leads to works
- --Eph. 2:8-10
- --Titus 3:8

6-Cause of Paul's remembering both in thought and also in prayer as he thinks of them in Thessalonica

7-FIRST CHARACTERISTIC..

→"Your work of faith"

B.-Your Labor Of Love: (1 Th. 1:3)

1-"Your love which **gives** itself **unstintingly**"
2-Described in **1:9** as "**to serve** the living and true God"
3-**Labor**--Results in **weariness**
--It is WORK
--Outpouring of the heart & life of those who have been saved & want others to share in salvation too
4-**DIVINE EXPRESSION** of Love is at the **CROSS** !!
--Rom. 5:8
--1 John 4:10--"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."
5-HUMAN EXPRESSION of love--Seen in our **OBEDIENCE** !
--John 14:15, 21, 23
--1 John 5:2-3
--2 John 6
6-**SELF-GIVING LABOR** is the evidence that you've **become a partaker** of **agape love**
7-2 Cor. 5:14
8-SECOND CHARACTERISTIC..
→."And **labor of love**"

C.-Your Patience Of Hope: (1:3c)

1-Described in **1:10** as "**waiting** for His Son from heaven"
2-**Patience** is more than waiting
--Heb. 12:3 it is translated "**ENDURED**"
--**Endurance under trial** is what they had
--Thessalonians **had shown** this **endurance**
** Acts 17
** 1 Thess. 1:6; 2:14
** 2 Thess. 1:4
3-**HOPE** has to do with the unseen and the future
4-This christian confidence is based on **solid certainty**
5-Noteworthy that **FAITH**, **LOVE** & **HOPE** are **often united**
--1:3 & 5:8
--1 Cor. 13:13
--Col. 1:4-5
--**Order** is sometimes different, but the **content** is the same.
6-So, the **THIRD** CHARACTERISTIC is..
→."And **patience of hope**"

D.-Your Election Of God: (1:4)

1-This is something **Paul KNOWS**!.
--HOW ??
--Gk. oida ** Not gained in a vision in 3rd heaven
** Not gained by intuition or revelation
** **Knowledge** gained **from OBSERVATION**
** Knowledge that is **factual**
*--Knows they are "**elect**" **because** they **ACTED LIKE** elect people should
2-"**Brethren**"--Term used in Epistles of believers without distincion as to sex
--Heb. 2:11-12
--Used **21 times** in 1 & 2 Thess.
--BROTHERHOOD of believers; Very precious term

3-What is the **origin** of their election??
--They are "BELOVED"
--God loves all men **unconditionally** (John 3:16)
--This is the source of Divine election
--2 Thess. 2:13--"But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning **chosen** you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth."
--1 John 4:10--"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

KEY VERSES

4-What does "ELECTION" mean??=="Called" (Rom. 8:30)
=="Chosen" (Eph. 1:4)
=="Elect" (1 Pet 1:2)

SAME word; 3 different translations

* --**Not** a device **for sentencing** men to eternal torment, **but** for **rescuing** them from it.
* --Not dependent upon human whim, but **rooted in the will of God**
* --Not merely an **INVITING**, but also an **ACCEPTING**
--1 Cor. 1:26-29
--A work of God; A **Divine action**

Fourth characteristic is →

5-**Election** of these Thessalonian believers is **seen** in their **CHANGED LIVES** (1:5--2:1).....and ought to **be seen in ours, ALSO**

E.-Your Response To The Gospel: (1:5)

1-**Def.** of **Gospel**=="**GOOD NEWS**" (explain)
--Paul calls it "our gospel" identifying it with those who preach it
--Also called "**gospel of God**" (2:8-9)

2-**How** did the Gospel **come to them** in Thessalonica ??
--"Not in word only"=="Not as a **mere statement of fact**"
--"But also in **power**"
** Not necessarily a reference to miracles as none are recorded in Acts account of gospel preaching there
** But the preachers were with **freedom of utterance** & power
** Conscious of Divine help
--"And in the **Holy Spirit**"
** No evil power of delusion
** But the good & holy power of the Holy Spirit that leads people to the salvation God has prepared for them
--"And in **much assurance**"
** Term describing **spontaneity** & **liberty**
** Not a human persuading of ourselves
** But in a **settled confidence** based on the working of the Holy Spirit
** **BOTH** in the **lives** of the converts & also in the **minds** of the preachers
** There is **no comparable way** to have **ASSURANCE** before God... + no alternative way...
...Just **believe** the gospel & **receive** the Son.

"...as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake."

3-Life of the preachers
--"KNOWN" by their hearers (oida) by observation (same word as in 1:4)
--Lives open & commendatory of the message they preached
--Willing to spend & be spent for souls
--Made a profound impression in reinforcing their message to hearts
--DEEP CONVICTION was thus induced
--Leon Morris--"While many in modern times will feel hesitant about directing attention to their own lives it yet remains true that no preacher can expect a hearing for his gospel unless it is bearing fruit in his own life." (P. 58)

4-ILLUS--Many years ago the preaching of the Gospel was forbidden & illegal in Scotland. A faithful evangelist, JOHN WELSH, was pursued unrelentingly. He hardly knew where to flee. Relying on traditional Scottish hospitality, he knocked one night at the door of a man who was utterly opposed to the message of salvation. In fact, he was one of those who had sworn to kill Welsh, although he had never seen him.

The man of God was just a stranger who explained that he had much in common with the man of the house. "MY JOB IS TO APPREHEND REBELS," the preacher explained. "I know where Welsh is speaking tomorrow night and can put his hand in yours, if you'll come."

The wicked man eagerly agreed. The next evening the two went to the secret place where many folks had gathered to hear the message of eternal life. After Welsh found a seat for his companion, he walked to the front and expounded God's Word....

...all to the bewilderment of the man who had come with him.

The story of sin and salvation rang out clearly and the Spirit of God spoke to the man who was heartbroken to think of his wickedness. At the close of his message, Welsh fulfilled his promise, giving the man his hand as he had wished.

The man said, "YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE SENT TO APPREHEND REBELS, AND I--Brother Welsh--am A REBELLIOUS REBEL. I have been apprehended this day by the Lord Jesus as my Savior."

Indeed---God's grace can transform hearts of stone when we, as faithful servants, give out His Word. Our responsibility is to be FAITHFUL. The Lord will take care of giving the increase. — The fifth characteristic is Genuine Response to the Gospel

F.-Your Renovated Life: (1:6-7)

1-"Followers of us"=="IMITATORS"
--Life has touched life, and they are changed !!
--They'd had other models before, but now they had ones who lived & preached Christ before them
--"OF US"; Not Paul alone; Silas & Tim.

-Paul **frequently encourages** this **imitation**
** 1 Cor. 4:16; 11:1
** Phil. 3:17; 4:9

2-"AND (followers) **of the Lord**" --Christ is the **supreme example** for their imitation
--1 Pet. 2:21--"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps"
* "Becoming followers of the missionaries, they found themselves following the Lord." (Hogg & Vine, P. 38)

3-"Having **received the Word**"
--How could they become imitators??
--Because at **A POINT IN TIME** they had **received** the Word
--James 1:21b-"...and receive with meekness the engrafted Word, which is able to save your souls"
--Term used in Lk. 10:8 of **receiving as a welcome guest** worthy of honor
--**Dynamic** of their activity is in **THIS DECISION**

4-**Concommitants** of their salvation decision
"MUCH AFFLICTION" ** Term used for AFFLICTION was also used in the pressing of grapes in wine-making, til they burst & as it is is a **metaphor** of very **great trouble**
** Already noted this in 1:3 & Acts17
** 1 Th. 2:14
** **OPPOSITION** is naturally **to be expected**
** John 16:33--"...In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."
** Neighbors...Friends...Family
** Persecution did not soon cease

"**WITH JOY** OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
** Affliction is **external**; Joy is **internal**
** Lightfoot--"The degree in which the believer is allowed to participate in the sufferings of his Lord should be **the measure of his joy**."
** ILLUS--Paul & Silas in stocks in **Philippian jail** (Acts 16:23-25)

*--I believe this combination of AFFLICTION and JOY is noteworthy, for no worldly man would ever think that the two could be **JOINED**!!

5-Outgrowth--**1:7** "So that ye were examples to all that believe in Macedonia + Achaia"
--The **imitators** become **imitated**
*--Pattern they've followed...**THEY HAVE BECOME**
--Their christian conduct becomes **a model** for others
--**Whole region** is affected (N. where Macedonia & Thessalonica were)
(S. where Paul was in Corinth in Achaia)

WHO ??

--Only the **true believers** (to all that believe) will so show the effect of such an impact upon their hearts & lives. → The sixth characteristic is having a changed life pattern (7)

G.-Your Resounding Testimony: (1:8)

1-Just less than a year after the gospel was first preached in Thessalonica

2-Stragegic location & situation of Thessalonica
- --Jewish Synagogue
- --On trade roads
- --At mouth of 3 rivers there was a Port
- --Center & capital of Roman government of the area
- --Much coming and going at Thessalonica
- --Large commercial center

3-Believers "sounded out the word of the Lord"
- --Perfect tense indicates a past action with **continuing results**
- --They **had** & **were continuing** in their proclamation !
- --RESOUNDING TESTIMONY
- --**Reaching everywhere** !!
- --Their persecution did **not quench** their zeal
- --So persistent in testimony that **EVERYONE KNEW** of their new faith in Christ

4-Paul didn't have to tell of the gospel results in Thessalonica; Everyone he met was **TELLING HIM** ! — That is the seventh characteristic of a MODEL CHURCH

CONCLUSION:

A.-Model Church:

1-Only time in the N.T. where any Church is actually singled out as an example & model for others to follow

2-**SEVEN ELEMENTS** to their tremendous ministry:
(1) Work of faith
(2) Labor of love
(3) Patience of hope
(4) Election of God
(5) Response to the gospel
(6) Rennovation of life
(7) Resounding testimony

THE MODEL CHURCH

3-Characteristic of that WHOLE CHURCH in Thessalonica

4-**H O W** had this occurred ??
- --Spirit of God using the Word of God thru a Man of God about the Son of God
- --That's God's **PERFECT METHOD**
- --But there was **more** than a "perfect method" at Thessalonica
- --What was it ??
- --There was also a **PERSONAL RESPONSE** !! **

B.-Modern Church: ??

1-**Are these** Seven Elements **widely found** in churches today

2-Are these Seven Elements found in..
..**OUR CHURCH** today??

3-Review: (1) Work of faith
(2) Labor of love
(3) Patience of hope

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®
BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

(4) Election of God
(5) Response to the gospel
(6) Rennovation of life
(7) Resounding testimony

4-How can these be found in the Church today ???

5-Only as they are found...
...in EACH ONE OF US !!

6-The Church is made up of **individuals**
--As a **chain** is ONLY AS STRONG as its weakest link...
--So your church is only as strong as each of its members
--And there are some who are links that are **not linked up** with the rest of the "links" but are separate instead of united with the brethren

SAD! → UNATTACHED + UNINVOLVED

7-Could Paul both PRAY and PRAISE about those seven elements **in you** & your experience ?? VITAL QUESTION

8-This Paul (Reiter) wants to be able to do so----
-----and that is **why God** has **put us both here**....
.....SO....Let's
each one do his part..

9-Then ~~Westbrae~~ this Church can also be
"GOD'S MODEL CHURCH" for His glory

Great Hymns

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (3) # 38

Westbrae--6/3/73 (1) # 5--"Blessed Be The Name" # 32
(2) # 225--"The Church's One Foundation" # 186
(4) # 197--"Jesus Is Calling" # 247

Daniels Missy Bapt. Ch. - 7/17/77
Calvary Bapt. Ch. Salem, VA - 9/4/77
Grace Baptist, Westerville OH - 9/11/77
Grace Bapt. Ch, Paso Robles, CA - 7/5/81
Community Baptist Ch., Oak Hill, WV - 6/5/88
Harper Heights Bapt. Ch - 11/19/06

"ELEMENTS OF A GENUINE CONVERSION"

1 Thess. 1:6-10
Read 1:1-10
John 10:7-11

(1)

INTRO:

A.-Problem--Lack Of Good News:

1-A Fair Oaks, California man got tired of all the **BAD NEWS** in our newspapers--War
--Famine
--Earthquakes
--Economic crises
--Juvenile Delinquency
--Crimes & statistics
--Broken homes
--Political corruption
--Disasters

2-Decided to publish **THE AQUARIAN TIMES**, which would only publish "**GOOD NEWS**", that would uplift the spirit & avoid leaving one depressed

3-His **motive was good**

4-After **26** months of fighting doom & gloom, he has closed down his publication because there are **not enough** items of **GOOD NEWS** to make his publication feasible

5-Manager issued his "closing" press release with regret at having "let down" his loyal subscribers & supporters

B.-Perspective---Availability Of "Good News":

1-**God** has given **GOOD NEWS** in the Bible
--Related to Jesus Christ
--Free offer of salvation in Him
--By grace thru faith
--**BEST NEWS** of all the messages in the world !

2-**WHAT** IS THIS GOOD NEWS??--God's love for sinners
--Christ's birth, life, death & resurrection
--Forgiveness of sins provided

3-This message--**Transforms** the life
--**Thrills** the soul
--**Changes** the destiny
--This is "**THE DOOR**" into God's family thru faith in Christ

4-**Thankful** there'll **never** be a "**closing down**" or a "letting down" by the Author & Publisher of this Good News

5-**How** is that??--Salvation is **free**, so there'll be no lack of subscribers because of inability to pay
--Creator's resources are **unlimited**, so no bancruptcy or under-capitalization
--Everlasting **character** of this Good News

C.-Case Study From Thessalonica--"ELEMENTS OF A GENUINE CONVERSION":

1-**Typical case**--True **then** & there
--True **today** also
--Produces in the life such transformation as to allow others to say with Paul...
--"Knowing, brethren beloved, **your election** of God"

2-HOW can one's election be KNOWN?
--They acted like elected ones
--Their lives showed God's work in them
--Let's look at details

3-OUTLINE: --Three pairs of elements that comprise a case of genuine conversion (turned)
-1:9..TURNED to God & from idols
-1:10..To SERVE & to WAIT
-1:7-8..EXAMPLES & Evangelists

4-Prop: --[redacted] the conversion of the Thessalonians [redacted] gives us a standard for comparison of TRUE conversion
** Of our own lives' transformation
** Of our converts' lives
--Know what to expect God to accomplish in ourselves and also in others

I.-FIRST PAIR OF ELEMENTS-----(1:9):

A.-"Turned To God"--(SALVATION:

1-Key word is "TURNED"=="Were converted"
--Aorist indicates a change that's the immediate consequence of a deliberate choice
--Once & for all choice
*--Not reformation of life & then faith
--Rather it was faith in Christ FIRST, with the result that idols were forsaken

This is where it all begins!

2-Salvation came to these people because of a DECISION of heart and mind

3-Hogg & Vine--"Conversion is always the voluntary act of the individual in response to the presentation of the truth." (P. 44)

4-To Whom did they turn??--KJV--"To God"
--Greek--"To THE God"
--To the TRUE God from the FALSE & counterfeit gods represented by idols Greece — Center of idolatry

5-ORDER IS SIGNIFICANT
*--Pettingill--"They must first turn to God BEFORE they can turn from their sins" (P. 97)
--Motive of conversion is not that they were repelled by the grossness of idols
--Rather, they were attracted by the love and character of God

B.-"(Turned) From Idols"---SEPARATION:

1-Neil--"When we are inclined to stress the beauty & symbolism of paganism & shed a tear over the shattered statues of the Acropolis or the Forum, we should remember that PAUL CONDEMNS the whole system, root and branch---and he was there, and we were not...The idols that moulded life were not the austere images of Pallas Athene and Appolo, but the obscene figures that desecrated public & private altars.

2-Idolatry--Pretty well purged out of the Jews
--But characterized the Gentiles, who were the group from which most of the Thessalonian believers came

3-Christianity involves A MILITANT HOSTILITY!!
--Compromise is out
--Syncretism is an abomination
--NO attempt to put Christ "among the gods"
--RATHER, Jesus Christ was a REPLACEMENT for them
*--DECISIVE BREAK:
** Old ways changed
** Old crowd left
** Old habits shed
** Old standards replaced
** "Old things are passed away"
--Election of God showed visibly in their lives

NO EQUAL

TREATMENT

4-Leon Morris-"No matter how greatly their habitual practices had to be changed, the christians of the first century saw there could be NO PLACE for an idol alongside Christ."(B63

5-SEPARATION--Is a "dirty word" today to many
--Many prefer "INFILTRATION" or "PENENTRATION"
--But that's not what God's Word teaches
--2 Cor. 6:14
--Eph. 5:11 Have no fellowship w/ the unfruitful works of darkness"
--Expected that the true child of God will make a "BREAK" with his past life
--This is the expression outwardly of the salvation decision which is inward

This separation grows out of a genuine salvation decision

6-ILLUS--Item in a Missionary magazine describing the situation in ZAIRE. "One hundred miles over jungle trails --a ten day treck into an area accessible only on foot But how encouraging to find 467 attending the Church started 3 years ago by African Christians. At the close, 40 partook of the Lord's Table. The deacon presented the fetishes and idols given up by individuals who had turned to serve the living God. Everywhere Christians are witnessing, and the church is planning an outreach to an unevangelized tribe." (UFM Magazine, Submitted by Herb Harms, 6/73)

After the war these.

II.-SECOND PAIR OF ELEMENTS—(1:10):

A.-"To Serve"--OCCUPATION!

1-Key Word is "SERVE"; A present Tense
--"Turned" was an act
*--"SERVE" is the process and practice of daily going on with Christ
--The "OCCUPATION" of the one who has "turned to God from idols", regardless of how he makes his living

2-δουλεύω ="To serve as a slave"
--Paul often uses this metaphor to describe Christian life and service.
** Rom. 1:1--"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ..."
** 1 Cor. 6:19-20

+="To discharge the duties of the purchased slave, to which there are no limitations either in kind or in time of its performance." (Hogg & Vine, P. 45)

3-POINT--Christianity is not merely a negative thing in separation, but it is an ACTIVE faith at work.

4-Service is toward the God Who is characterized:
--"LIVING" as opposed to the lifeless idols; Active in the affairs of men.
--"TRUE" as "genuine"; Real as opposed to counterfeit
--1 John 5:21-"Little children, Keep yourselves from idols."

5-ILLUS--Mike Showalter's spiritual attitude of total dedication to the will and work of God, as contrasted with his past attitude toward any kind of christian ministry and service. Now "ALL-OUT and "ALL-CONSUMING"

6-Doing...while waiting... BOTH

B.-"And To Wait For His Son"--EXPECTATION:

1-Key word--"WAIT" is in the present tense as was "SERVE"
--Only actual use of this word in 1 Thess.
*--But this truth is dealt with at the end of each chapter in 1 Thessalonians
--Also in every chapter of 2 Thessalonians
*--ILLUS--Soldier on sentry duty EXPECTING his Commanding Officer to come during his watch
** SUSTAINED EXPECTATION
*** Could happen at any minute

2-Imminent Return--Prominent truth in the N.T.
●--One verse out of every 13 from Matthew to Revelation deals with either the RAPTURE or the RETURN
●--Point is that christianity gives not only Salvation for the soul Now
●--Also there is HOPE for the future!

3-WHO is this "Waiting" centered on??
--Waiting is for A PERSON
** "His Son";;;The Divine One; Prophetically announced
** "Jesus";;;;;The Human One; Historical Person
** "Deliverer";;;The Rescuing One; Savior from wrath
●--BABE of Bethlehem
●--CHRIST of Calvary
●-JUDGE AND RULER of all the world at His Second Coming

4-What is ahead?--WRATH for the unsaved
--JUDGMENT of God upon sin
--DELIVERANCE for Christians (1 Th. 5:9)
--Jesus Christ is THE DELIVERER
--He puts christians altogether beyond the reach of condemnation
--Rom. 8:1

5-Leon Morris-"It is not really possible to be rid of the idea of the divine wrath without sacrificing a very great deal that is important to our understanding of the ways of God, and the nature of God." (P. 65)

6-SO..Active SERVING...
While in Confident HOPE (1:10)

III.-THIRD PAIR OF ELEMENTS—(1:7-8):

A."Ensamples To Believers"--TRANSFORMATION:

1-Formerly idolators (1:9)

2-Now thoroughly changed !!

1:7

--"Ensamples"=="TYPES"

--Denoted a mark left by a blow

--Used in Jn. 20:25--"print of the nails"

--ILLUS--Type on a typewriter leaves a reproduction-mark on paper

--So these believers carried the "MARK" of the impact of Christ in their lives

--Became MODELS for all believers — SAFE TO FOLLOW

3-Notice the emphasis of 1:7-8

* --Our EXAMPLE is to believers (1:7)

--They can be influenced to godliness by what they SEE of Christ at work in our lives

* --Our EVANGELIZING is to the unsaved (1:8)

--They can be converted to Christ only by our message

PROCLAMATION

B."From You Sounded Out The Word"--EXPANSION:

1-Strategic location--Port city

--Trade routes

--Roman government centre

Part of Paul's METHODOLOGY

--Message went out because they used their opportunities

--GOOD STEWARDS (1 Cor. 4:2)

--In our day many folk come & go in our cities & towns & never come in contact with any vital christian experience or witness

--NOT SO in Thessalonica

* --Not a "HOTHOUSE" situation at all

--But rather a "HOTBED" of persecution & opposition

2-Sufficient message

--It had changed these Thessalonians

--Believed it could change others also

--So they shared it!!

--"SOUNDED OUT" is a perfect tense & so refers to continuous activity

--ILLUS ** As with a King's Herald on his trumpet

** Not an uncertain sound

** LOUD.....and CLEAR !

** The Good news of the gospel is what the unsaved need to hear

--Let's do all we can to see that EVERYBODY HEARS

3-Thessalonians are a marked illustration of the ever-widening influence of true spiritual conversion

--The individual

--The HOME

--The province — The city

--"EVERY PLACE" in the Roman world

--Their testimony & influence were not confined.

CONCLUSION:

A.-Summary:

1-Joseph Parker: "The Apostle insists that conversion is not a mere change of opinion, or a simple variety of attitude; it is a complete turning to God to serve the living and true God, and to hold in utterest contempt the paltry idols that once facinated our imagination or seduced us into irrational obedience after the mannor of superstition, and not after the manner of highest reason. We best wait for the Son of God from heaven by serving the living and true God upon earth. Our time of waiting is shortened by our diligence and energy in service." (Pp. 157-158)

2-ELEMENTS OF A GENUINE CONVERSION:

- ++ Turned to God; • Turned from idols
- ++ To serve; • To wait
- ++ Examples to believers; • Evangelists to the lost

3-Exchanged--An OLD BONDAGE to sin
--For a new bondage to THE SAVIOR
--This is both voluntary and joyous
--Brings TRUE FREEDOM
--Freedom to do:
** Not "whatever we want to do"
** But "to do what is right"

B.-Application:

1-ILLUS--As John Wesley rode across Hounslow Heath late one night, singing a favorite hymn as he rode, he was startled by a fierce voice shouting, "HALT", while a firm hand seized the horse's bridle. Then the man demanded, "YOUR MONEY OR YOUR LIFE"

Wesley humourously emptied his pockets of the few coins they contained and invited the robber to examine his saddle-bags, which were filled with books. Disappointed at the result, the robber was turning away when Mr. Wesley cried out: "STOP!! I HAVE SOMETHING MORE TO GIVE YOU."

The robber, wondering at this strange situation, turned back. Then Mr. Wesley, bending toward him, said in solemn words: "MY FRIEND, YOU MAY LIVE TO REGRET THIS SORT OF A LIFE IN WHICH YOU ARE ENGAGED. IF YOU EVER DO, I BESEECH YOU TO REMEMBER THIS---"THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST, GOD's SON, CLEANSES FROM ALL SIN."

The robber turned & hurried silently away, and the man of God rode along praying in his heart that the Word spoken might be fixed in that robber's conscience.

Years later, at the close of a Sunday evening service, the people streamed from a large building with many lingering around the doors to see the aged preacher---none other than John Wesley. That saint was still earnestly telling the story of Christ's redeeming love.

A stranger stepped forward and earnestly asked to

(7)

speak with Mr. Wesley. What a surprise to find that this was the robber of Hounslow Heath, now a well-to-do business-man in the city, but better still, a child of God. Indeed, those words spoken that night long before had been used of God in the robber's conversion. !

Raising the wrinkled hand of Mr. Wesley to his lips, he affectionately kissed it, and said in tones of deep emotion:

"TO YOU, DEAR SIR, I OWE IT ALL."

"Nay, nay, my friend," replied Wesley softly, "NOT TO ME BUT TO THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST WHICH CLEANSETH FROM ALL SIN."

A CLARIFICATION

2-Are you living so you can say to JESUS Christ, "TO YOU, DEAR SIR, I OWE IT ALL"? ?

A QUESTION

3-Why not begin NOW ?? --Saved today
--Separating now from all past evil
--Serving hereafter
--Expecting the Savior soon
--EXAMPLE/ EVANGELIZER.

2 Cor. 13:5

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves."

There are the Elements of a Genuine Conversion.

—— Heidi Hudkins Cripe

Great Hymns #57 #105 #224 #234

(2) "Jesus, I Am Resting"

Westbrae--6/24/73--# 8--"That Beautiful Name"
Daniels M.B.Ch. 9/24/77 # 264--"I Know Whom I Have Believed"
Calvary Bapt.Ch., Salem, Va.-# 163--"Wonderful Words Of Life"
Grace Bapt, Westerville, OH - 9/11/77
Grace Baptist Ch, Paso Robles, CA 9/5/81
Community Baptist Temple - 6/12/88
Bible Center Church - 1/20/91

DRUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®
DRUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

"THE MINISTRY AS IT OUGHT TO BE" 1 Thess. 2:1-13
1 Cor. 15:1-5 (1)

INTRO:

A.-Picture In Oakland Tribune: (7/6/73)

1-Man & woman in Tahitian grass skirts dancing
2-Woman is a professor at Mills College
3-Man is her husband and a minister in a liberal church
4-Quite a picture
5-Quite a representation of where their interests and priorities are:

"Dr. Aline Kidd and her husband, the Rev. Robert Kidd, visited Tahiti eight years ago and became interested in the **social attitudes** as well as the **dancing**"

B.-What OUGHT The Minister & His Ministry To Be?:

1-Varying opinions--Visitor
--Preacher
--Teacher
--Hand-holder
--Social activities organizer
--Civic leader
--Instant expert on all subjects
—Evangelist

2-**NO ONE MAN** is able to "**satisfy**" all the elements of a church and congregation's desires

3-ILLUS--At a Church's reception given for a young man who had just been called and installed as PASTOR a woman went up to the young man and said, "I do not understand how you dared attempt the task of **pleasing 700** people."

Quick as a flash he replied: "I did not come to this Church to please 700 people. I have come **to please only ONE**, and if I **please HIM**, all will be well."

4-See this in 1 Thessalonians:

Outline of Book
-Ch. 1--The Thessalonians
-Ch. 2-3--The Apostle
-Ch. 4-5--The Believers

5-Outline of Chapter 2--MINISTRY **RECOUNTED** (2:1-13)
--MINISTRY RESISTED (2:13-18)
--MINISTRY REWARDED (2:19-20)
--Two messages to cover it
--Deal with 2:1-13 in this one

6-Prop--See what "The Ministry Ought To Be" ideally
--Set a pattern for **myself** and **others** in God's family called for such a ministry
--PATTERN **for the congregation** also, for what is expected of the Pastor/Teacher is also the pattern for the WHOLE CONGREGATION--**no double standard !!** (6)

7-Paul's approach (2:1) is to **call** the believers in Thessalonica **to witness themselves** that his ministry among them was not in vain (w/o fruit; void of power)

I.-UNSELFISH LOVE---(2:2-4):

"suffered"—PHYSICAL
"shamefully entreated"—MENTAL TORTURE

A.-Bold In Spite Of Suffering: (2:2)

1-Severe persecution in Philippi
2-Didn't deter them when they came to Thessalonica
3-"BOLD"-Not characteristic of the disciples of Jesus before the resurrection
--Mk. 15:43--"Joseph of Arimathea, an honorable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God came, and went in BOLDLY unto Pilate, & craved the body of Jesus"
--Acts 4:13--"Now when they saw the BOLDNESS of Peter & John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; & they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."
--BOLDNESS was "in God"
--Freedom & brashness to speak the gospel of God
--This they did, even though it produced much "contention" (AGONY, Gk)
Much conflict in Philippi, STILL BOLD in Thessalonica
4-Minister of the Gospel is expected to have a holy boldness to speak the gospel

APPEAL NOT from MEN
" " UNCLEANNESS
" " GUILE, DECEIT, BAIT

B.-Love Of The Truth: (2:3)

1-Not at all willing to "shave" the message
2-Some things we cannot have & really have the truth of God as our message:
--"Not of deceit"==ERROR has no place; PURE TRUTH
--"Nor of uncleanness"===SENSUALITY.
***Many religions majored on a message that appealed to the fleshly passions
--"Nor in guile"=="BAIT"
** Not something with which to "catch" unwarry hearers. MOONIES
3-Rather, the Minister of the gospel must LOVE THE TRUTH
4-ILLUS-A young, new minister in a college town was embarrassed by the thought of criticism in his cultured congregation.
He sought counsel from his father, an old and wise Pastor, saying; "Father, I am hampered in my ministry in the pulpit where God has placed me. If I cite anything from Geology, there is Professor A, teacher of that science right in front of me. If I use an illustration from Roman History, there is Professor B, ready to catch me up for any little inaccuracy. If I mention something in literature that might illuminate the truth, I am cowered by the learned man that teaches that line of truth at the college. WHAT SHALL I DO?"
The wise old Preacher replied: "Do not be discouraged, PREACH THE GOSPEL to them. They probably know very little of that."

C.-Love Of The Task: (2:4)

1-Placement in the ministry is a STEWARDSHIP
"Allowed"=="Proved"; "Tested" thru former service.

TRUSTEES OF THE MESSAGE

--"PUT IN TRUST with the gospel" 1 Cor. 15:3-(3)
--God "trieth our hearts"==God seeks to determine if we approve ourselves to Him in our ministry.
2-FAITHFULNESS is what God is looking for
3-1 Cor. 4:2
4-Because accountable, the Minister is to speak
5-MOTIVE: --Not as pleasing men
--But as pleasing God
-Ultimate test of one's ministry: DOES IT PLEASE GOD ??
* 6-Minister is expected to unselfishly love
--The TRUTH he preaches
--The TASK he fulfills

II. 7-ILLUS--D. M. Panton of England writes of a young preacher without much natural ability or education, & certainly not possessed of a striking personality, who seemed to be God's instrument to melt many hearts and get people saved.

An old theological professor was asked what he thought of the young man, and his answer was: "There
** isn't enough talent in his sermons to fill a thimble, but there is devotion enough to float Elijah's Chariot to heaven---
---and that's what does it!,"

8-And may UNSELFISH LOVE characterize each man of God

II.-UNSTINTING LABOR---(2:5-9):

NEGATIVES re motives
- Not flattering words toward them
- Not covetousness for their possessions
- Not demanding as an Apostle

A.-Labor In Selflessness:

1-2:5-6
2-Two witnesses called
--Thessalonians calle
had not come with f
①--"As ye know"
②-God is called to wi
been with a pretens
--Only God could read
-BOTH ARE PAUL'S WIT
3-Glory for himself--Not sought from Thessalonians
--Not sought from others to whom he had ministered the Word.
--Not desiring to "PUFF" himself up.
--RATHER his desire was to selflessly minister in their behalf
4-Could have made many demands of them, because he was an APOSTLE, and because they owed their very hearing of the gospel to him
5-But he rather gave himself to UNSTINTING LABOR

POSITIVE #1

B.-Labor In Gentleness:

1-2:7
2-Tremendous word--"GENTLE"
--Apostle was not harsh, but tender
--Exemplifying something of the ways of God with sinners.

Ps. 18:35 -"Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great."

4-On occasion Paul had to use HARSH WORDS, but he sought whenever possible to use a SOFT ATTITUDE of graciousness toward other believers.

5-Truth could never be compromised

6-But Paul sought to conserve relationships

7-PAUL'S ILLUS--"Even as a nurse cherisheth her children"
--Nurse would always be "professional" and care competently for a child in her care
--But the Margin adds "OWN" meaning "HER OWN CHILDREN"
--Special carefulness would be added for the case of a mother's own child beyond that gentleness given on the job with another's child.

8-Reminds me of reading of a conversation between Andrew Bonar and Robert M'Cheyne, talking over the ways of the ministry, when "M'Cheyne asked me," says Bonar, "what my last Sunday's sermon subject had been."
It had been, 'THE WICKED SHALL BE TURNED INTO HELL.'

On hearing that text, M'Cheyne asked, "Were you able to preach it in tenderness?"?

9-Indeed, the Man of God must labor to be GENTLE, even with those who oppose themselves (2 Tim. 2)

C.-Labor In Devotedness: POSITIVE #2

1-2:8-9

2-"Affectionately desirous of you" --Rare term used here
--Not a rare attitude, but CHARACTERISTIC

3-"Willing to have imparted to you"
--Imperfect tense
--HABITUAL IMPARTING
--What were they giving to the Thessalonians??
** The Gospel of God
** But that was not all
** Also "our own souls"
--REAL DEVOTEDNESS
--Why such a pouring out of themselves?
-- "Because ye were dear unto us"
*** --Gk. =="BELOVED", from agape

4-Recalls for them his "labor & travail"
--Worked night & day
--Worked with his hands & with his ministry
--Not "too good" to do manual labor among them
--He carried his own freight.
--Made the gospel available to them WITHOUT CHARGE
--Though he elsewhere makes it perfectly clear that the man who ministers in the gospel ought to be able to live by the gospel (1 Cor. 9:6,12)

5-KEY WORD in Paul's devotedness was "OTHERS"!!!!

--Not ministering in such a way as to make it "easy" for himself
--But pouring himself out in UNSTINTING LABOR
** Selflessly
** Gently
** Devotedly
(5)
--ILLUS--Dr. Adam Clarke, the great Biblical Scholar of 200 years ago, lies in Westminster Abbey. On his tomb is a candle burned down to near the socket, and round it are these words:
XXX "IN BURNING FOR OTHERS, I MYSELF, ALSO, HAVE BEEN CONSUMED"

III.-UNSPOTTED LIFE---(2:10-12):

A.-Its Excellency:

1-2:10
2-This is the accreditation
3-DOUBLE WITNESS AGAIN (as in 2:5)
--"Ye" and "God" also
--What is seen on the outside
--What is true (& unseen) on the inside
4-"How...we behaved ourselves among you that believe"
--"Holily"=="devoutly"; life before men
--"Justly"=="uprightly"; life before God
--"Unblamably"=No handle of rebuke in the life
--1 Tim. 3:2--"A bishop then must be blameless..."
--Tit. 1:7--"A bishop must be blameless..."
--FREE OF CHARGES against him, so that if charged, no one would believe it
* --EXCELLENCY of such an "unspotted life" is an absolute requisite for the life of ministering

B.-Its Exhortation:

1-2:11
2-Paul was not content to "say it & let it lie"
3-Rather
-He exhorted
-He comforted
-He warned
--Message to every heart according as it had its need.
* --Parallel in Col. 1:28-29
--Reminds me of Dr. Roper saying that the work of the Pastor is to COMFORT the afflicted, and to AFFLICT the comfortable.
4-Easy thing for one to do when he is exhorted or warned is to strike back at the Pastor with words of counter-accusation
5-That's why the EXCELLENCY OF LIFE is spoken of first as the background for the exhortation which is given to those for whom the Pastor has a concern
6-PAUL'S ILLUS--In 2:7 he spoke of a Nurse/Mother
--In 2:11 he speaks of a FATHER'S CONCERN for "his own children"

C.-Its Effect:
1-2:12
2-This is the "END" toward which all of Paul's ministry is directed
3-What he is looking for in his converts is "That ye would WALK WORTHY OF GOD"
--Ultimately the Christian's standard is not a list of do's and don'ts
--Ultimately his standard is GOD HIMSELF !!!
--I ought to ask myself concerning my life---and you concerning yours, this...
*--"DOES MY LIFE SHOW WHAT I THINK OF GOD?"
** If it does, He gets the glory
** If it doesn't, He loses the glory that He has a right to expect from me....or from you
4-After all, He has "called you into His kingdom and glory"
5-Shouldn't your life show it?
6-THE PREACHER'S LIFE--Must be excellent !!!
--In order to back up his exhortations
--And also to produce this effect in the lives of those he ministers to.
7-That's why Edgar Guest wrote:
"I'd rather see a sermon,
Than hear one any day"
ILLUS - Woman in Columbus when I preached on the Christian Home - "He'd better live it if he's going to preach like that!"
** 8-RESULTS--Seen in 2:13
--Heard the Word
--Received that Word about Jesus Christ
** Not as the word of men
** But as the Word of God, as it is in truth
--"Effectually worketh also in you that believe"
--Undiminished light brought ETERNAL LIFE
--The Word of grace brought salvation to their lives in Thessalonica
--And...
...The Word of God is still doing the very same thing in our day, also

CONCLUSION:

A-Resume':
1-How Paul Preached In Thessalonica
--With Boldness (2:1-2)
--With Sincerity (2:3-4)
--With Honesty of purpose (2:5-6)
--With Gentleness & affectionate desire (2:7-8)
--With labor & pain (2:9)
** --With the POWER OF A GODLY EXAMPLE (2:10)
--With the aim of producing in others a HOLY LIFE...
...So God would get the glory.
2-That's the "standard"
3-Most preachers I know fall somewhat short of that standard
4-But the imperfection is with the preachers, not with the One about Whom we preach.

We were convinced that the message from God was his message
THE ISSUE is not of personality but spirituality

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

(7)

B.-Message For You Today:

1-Know what to expect out of a preacher if he does his ministry "AS IT OUGHT TO BE"

2-Know that if he's to accomplish his ministry according to such a standard, it will only be because you are "helping together by prayer" with and for him

3-Realize that God would reach out to **TOUCH MORE YOUNG MEN for such a ministry** for the days ahead

4-Recognize that **the purpose** for which God calls men into the Gospel Ministry is **to "perfect the saints"** by training them for ministry

- --So they can "walk worthy of God"
- --So they can **engage in the ministry** to which has called them as they are trained for that ministry by their Pastors.

5

C.-Invitations:

1-For salvation

2-For declaration of "**GOD'S CALL**" upon **you** for the ministry of the gospel

3-For determination that you will "WALK WORTHY of God"

As a godly Church member
As a vocational servant

We cared for you and so we spoke about your NEED OF THE SAVIOR!

(1) Westbrae--7/8/73--#9--The Name Of Jesus" -#64

Daniels M. B. Ch. 8/6/77 #293--"In The Service Of The King" 614

(3) Grace Bapt. Ch, #63--"A Charge To Keep" #317

Paso Robles, CA - 7/5/81 (2) How Great Thou Art" #37

Oak Hill Bible Ch. 7/3/88 (4) "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee" #437

Salina Bible Ch - 4/15/04

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

"THE MINISTRY RESISTED & REWARDED" 1 Thess. 2:13-20
(Read 2:10-20)
Jn. 16:1-3 or 1 Pet.3:12-16

INTRO:

(1)

A.-The Ministry Paul Had At Thessalonica:

1-"**Not** in vain", **but** with fruit

2-Thessalonians were **CHANGED**--They showed it
--They TOLD it
--So **EVERYONE KNEW IT**
--ILLUS:-Mark 5:19 w/ Lk.8:39

3-What PRODUCED such a **transformed people** ??

--Unselfish love ** Bold in face of persecution
** Love of the Truth of God
** Love of the Task of proclaiming

--Unstinting labor
** In selflessness (not a burden)
** In gentleness (as a nurse/mother)
** In devotedness (imparting gospel & their own lives also to Thessalonians)

--Unspotted life ** Excellency of EXAMPLE
** Exhortation as a father
** Effect of example reproduced in their lives

B.-The Results Paul Had At Thessalonica:

1-With the great Apostle Paul & the excellency of his ministry, one **might ASSUME:**
--That **EVERYONE** got **saved**
--That Paul was warmly received & made "Honorary Mayor"
--That they renamed the city in his honor: "PAULOPOLIS"

2-**BUT** the facts are **quite different**
--Acts 17:4-9
--Some believed
--But the **Jews** were stirred to opposition against the gospel
--Assaulted the house & household of Jason
--Sought to find Paul & run him out of town
--Forced Paul & his companions to **leave** Thessalonica without spending very much time to establish this church in the faith
--Acc. to Acts 17:13 they even followed Paul to Berea to oppose the preaching of the gospe

3-Fact is, there is always a mixed response to the preaching of the gospel of Christ
--"**Some** of them **believed**" (17:4)
--"But **some** of the Jews which **believed not**" (17:5)
--Received or Rejected
--Revival or a Riot
--2 Cor. 2:15-16--"For we are unto God a sweet savor of Christ, in them that aresaved, and in them that perish: to the one we are the savor of death unto death; and to the other the savor of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?"
--REMEMBER, it's **not YOU** they are rejecting !!

4-Our Message--"THE MINISTRY RESISTED AND REWARDED"
- --2:13 is a "**hinge verse**"--I.-The Ministry Received
- --Then follows: II.-The Ministry Resisted
- III.-The Ministry Rewarded

5-**Prop:**--See the actual outworking of the gospel as it comes into contact with the lives of real people
- --Learn **what to expect** as we give out the glad tidings, so we'll not be surprised or hurt in the rejections which are PART of the response
- --Be aware that "**PAY DAY**" is coming for our faithful service...
- ...and that we'll share it with our converts & with our Savior

I.-THE MINISTRY RECEIVED--(2:13-14a):

A.-The Agency Of Salvation:

1-The WORD was preached
- --Not as the words of men
- --But as the WORD of God
- --"Thus saith the Lord" emphasis
- --AUTHORITATIVE
- --**Pressures to "ACCOMMODATE"** were rejected
- --Viewed himself as God's mouthpiece
- --Truth was not submitted for discussion, but was **PREACHED**
- --God's Word is **the issue**---Rom. 10:17

2-Thessalonians--Heard the Word
- --**Believed** the gospel
- --**Received** the Lord
- --1 Pet. 1:23--"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever"
- --Jas. 1:18--"Of His own will begat He us with the Word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures."

B.-The Activity Of Salvation:

1-"...Which effectually worketh also in you that believe

2-God's Word does **bring forth a crop**
- --"**Crop**" is **SALVATION**
- --Occurs in those who have believed & continue to believe
- --Gospel is EFFECTUAL !!

3-"**Worketh**"--Used in the N.T. of some form of **superhuman activity** in every usage
- --Phs. 2:13--"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure"
- --Eph. 2:2--"Wherein in times past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience"

4-Truth received "**WORKS**" in the believer to produce **NEW LIFE**
- --In Paul, Silas & Timothy
- --In Thessalonians
- --TODAY ALSO---**even in YOU**

5-Result--2:14a
--"Followers"=="IMITATORS" of those in the truth before you
--**Now** counted among that company called "**BRETHREN**"

6-Cause of "thanks...without ceasing" by Paul & his companions
--For the Thessalonians **PERSONALLY**
--For them **CORPORATELY** as "The Church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ" (2:13a)

II.-THE MINISTRY RESISTED---(2:14b-18):

A.-Resisted By Countrymen:

1-2:14b-d

2-Those believers met **OPPOSITION**
--From countrymen as we've already seen in Acts 17:5-9
--As the Judean Christians had from their countrymen, the Jews
--Primarily the opposition in Thessalonica was from **GENTILES**
--Also some from the Jews (Acts 17:13)
--**HOW WE BEAR** that persecution shows the evidence of real Christianity possessed

3-Phs. 3:10--"That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death;"

4-Paul seems **concerned** for these Thessalonian believers lest this **persecution shake their faith**

5-THEREFORE, Paul instructs them that their case is **not unique**, citing that the Churches in Judea had been...

B.-Resisted By Jews:

1-SEVEN-FOLD ACCUSATION against the Jews:
--Killed the Lord Jesus
--Killed their own prophets
--Persecuted Paul & companions (2 Cor. 11:24)
--Pleased not God
--Contrary to all men (TACITUS' accusation: "The Jews are haters of the human race."
--Forbidding the gospel being preached to Gentiles
--Wrath of God has come upon them (Dispersion, Persecution, lack of God's blessing & ultimately the JUDGMENT OF GOD)

2-Tremendously **strong enditement**--One Jew **against his own**
--Strongest in all the NT
--Says Jews today are following in the train of their fathers who also opposed the truth & its messengers
--INDIGNATION of Paul is "righteous indignation"
--Parallel to Jesus' words

--Mt. 23:13--"But woe unto you, scribes & Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in."

(4)

3-Paul's **ANGUISH** (in addition to his INDIGNATION) is also recorded in Rom. 9:1-3; 10:1

4-**Why** does Paul speak of **Jews as persecutors** of the Church??

5-Given as **an EXAMPLE** of those who are enemies of Christ & so cause suffering to believers, so that believers won't be **surprised** or **discouraged.**

6-Better able to stand up against a danger we expect & understand

7-ILLUS--Henry Ward Beecher often received anonymous letters, as is also the case with most preachers. Among them was a most unusual one with only the word:

"F O O L"

written on a large sheet of paper.

Mr. Beecher took the letter into the pulpit with him. He said, "I have received many anonymous letters, but I hold in my hand the most unique one I have ever received. The anonymous writer **signed his name** "FOOL", but **failed to enclose the letter.**"

8-Let's not be surprised or discouraged when opposition comes

C.-Resisted By Satan: (2:17-18)

1-"But we"--**Contrast** of Paul & others with the countrymen who persecute the believers

--Term of **intimacy & fellowship** with them is intended by the address as "BRETHREN"

2-"**Taken** From YOU"==**"ORPHANED"**

--For a **short time**, but not **permanently**

--When we have loved ones who are away from us & we get word they are going thru deep waters of affliction, how we want to drop everything & rush to them. We think they need us, & our **comfort** to **help**. Paul felt just that way, but he could not go back to Thessalonica.

--"Not in heart" indicates that though they were **out of sight**, they were not out of mind or heart

--Rather it was Paul's desire & intention **to come to them**

--**REPEATED ATTEMPTS** to return to them & be of help spiritually

--A number of **strong terms piled up** to state his desire to come to them (2:17)

3-"But **Satan hindered** us"

--What does "**HINDERED**" mean??

==Verb that means litterally "TO **CUT OFF**"

Lightfoot shows a number of usages where it was used in a military sense of **cutting up a road to make it **impassable**---destroying bridges, tunnels & passability

The hindering did not obstruct Paul's "willing**", but it did cut off his "**endeavoring**" (Cambridge, Findlay, P.59)

--HOW did Satan hinder Paul ??
+ Not specifically stated
** **Several implications**
+ Countrymen persecutions
+ Jewish opposition
+ Peace-bond posted by Jason that Paul would not return to Thessalonica
** Other hindrances at various times & occasions
** Whatever kept them apart was not Paul's personal desires
** **SO**...++ Satan does make his **presence** & **opposition** felt against christian workers
++ But Satan often gets "CREDIT" for that which originates with the world or the flesh
++ Satan's hindering is always **subject to God's overruling**
++ However, **within** God's alloted **limits**, Satan does hinder God's servants

D.-What About Persecution??:

1-**Common lot** of Christians of every era
--Stephen, Peter, James, Paul, John
--Their converts
--**Us** today also

2-Because of--Their STAND for the gospel in their own lives
--Their SHARING the gospel to loved ones, friends and acquaintances
--1 Pet. 4:12-16 (read)

3-Walvoord--"**The opposition** of the world and of the unbelieving heart is especially brought out when a person faithfully preaches Christ. The world does not necessarily oppose **morality** as such. It often does not oppose **religion** as such, but it does oppose a bona fide, transforming kind of Christianity. The world does not want Christ & Him Crucified. When we **take our stand** for Christ we can **expect some opposition** from unbelievers." (Thess. Epistles, P. 35)

4-**Why** does **God allow** such **persecution** of "**HIS OWN**" ??????
--To show the **evil** nature of **man**
--To show the **righteous** character of **God** in His judgment when it comes
--To drive His children **to DEPENDENCE** upon Him

5-And REMEMBER----Though Satan had succeeded in hindering Paul from returning to the Thessalonians, Satan **could not prevent** the **consummation** of Paul's hope of seeing these believers again at the **RAPTURE.**

6-ILLUS--G.F. Hallock has written a very interesting note on the matter of **OPPOSITION:**

"As an old minister **5 years** in my first Pastorate & **41** in my second, I would pass on an encouraging hint to younger brethren. I left my first pastorate **scared away** by **criticism**, afterwards to learn the noise had all been made by one man. One man in a church, community, or organization, may

by loud & persistent effort create the impression that matters are all wrong & that everybody is demanding a remedy; which puts me in mind of the **old story** about the **"FROG FARM"**.

A farmer advertised a "frog farm" for sale, claiming that he had a pond that was thoroughly stocked with fine bullfrogs.

A prospective buyer appeared & was taken one late warm evening to the pond that he might hear the frogs. **The "MUSIC"** made so favorable an impression on the buyer that the sale was made.

Soon afterward the purchaser proceeded to **drain** the **pond** in order to catch & market the frogs. To his **surprise**, when the water was drained out of the pond, he found that **ALL THE NOISE** HAD BEEN MADE BY **ONE OLD BULLFROG**.

7-It can be that way in the opposition you face, too!!!

III.-THE MINISTRY REWARDED---(2:19-20):

A.-The Ministry's Reward Explained: (2:19a-b)

1-**Three terms** used to explain
- --"HOPE"------Anticipation of reward
- --"Joy"-------Ecstasy of pleasure
- --**"CROWN"** ** Not the diadem of the Ruler
  - ** **But** the **stephanos** of the Victor
  - ** Crown or Laurel awarded at Olympic Games
  - ** **Symbol** of **joy** & **victory**

2-"Are not even **YE**.."--Paul's joy was not in things
- --Rather, his hope was **in PEOPLE**
- --Those who were his converts

3-This is the **SOUL-WINNER's CROWN**
- --Paul earned it
- --**Available** for any and all who lead souls to Christ
- --**YOU** ALSO can gain this reward
- --There's nothing to compare with the joy of being used of God in this way

4-Remember--Not limited to Paul & the apostles
- --Not limited to PREACHERS or MISSIONARIES
- --Available **to YOU also**!!

B.-The Ministry's Reward Experienced:

1-True in a real sense that a faithful witness experiences **GREAT JOY** at the time of a **salvation decision** being made

2-But--That's not the **consummation**
- --That's **just** the **beginning**
- --There is "more to come"
- --See GROWTH & development in your converts
- --See STABILITY & service over the years

3-And when the **rewards** are **passed out:**
- --"...in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming"
- --That means we'll be rewarded **in heaven** at the BEMA when He comes for us
- --**THEN** the full weight of glory of a soul saved will be **experienced** & **appreciated**
  - ** Angels will rejoice (Lk. 15:10)
  - ** **Saved** will join in the Song of the Lamb (Rev. 5
  - ** God will get the glory due Him

** Christ will be appreciated
** And the soulwinner will think:
"IT WAS **WORTH THE OPPOSITION**, just to see this one participate in the grace of God & be saved eternally

--This is called the time of "EXCEEDING JOY" (Jd.24)
--1 Cor. 3:10-15
--2 Cor. 5:10

4-Paul kept in view **THE END** of presenting **every man perfect** in Christ
--To this end he PRAYED (Phs. 1:8-11)
--To this end he TOILED (Col. 1:28-29)

5-And, to Paul this was **a personal matter**
--2:19-"Are not even ye..."
--2:20--"For ye are our glory & joy."
--**Cause** of rejoicing is in **HIS CONVERTS**
--Lit. "You are our pride and joy" (Phillips)

CONCLUSIONS:

A.-Two Handmaidens:

1-Two things go along as **inevitable aftermaths** of our trusting the Lord
--**OPPOSITION** to our stand & to our sharing the g.
--REWARD of great joy as we see the fruit of our faith & faithfulness
2-Jesus came "not to bring **peace**, but a **sword**"
3-**Matt. 10:34-36**
4-But the persecutions "will be **worth it all**"
--When we **SEE HIM**
--And when we see those in heaven who are converts we were used to win to Christ

B.-Two Lessons For Us:

1-Not think it "**STRANGE**" when persecution erupts against us & our testimony, for it is **the COMMON LOT** of believers who really stand for the Savior
2-**Invest our lives** in reaching people for Christ
--Gospel witness
--Tracts
--Word in season.....and out
--Giving for gospel ministries
** Local Church at the top of one's list
** Solid radio ministries
** Biblical literature — Bible Schools + Colleges
** Camps
** Missionary outreach through others
--**Prayer** ** For the saved
** For the lost
** For Christian workers
--All this becomes **your investment** in

"TROPHIES OF GOD'S GRACE"

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

Westbrae--7/15/73--#352--"Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken" #395
Daniels M. B. Ch-8/14/77 #395--"Make Me A Channel Of Blessing" #3
Oak Hill Bible Ch, WV- # 94--"Am I A Soldier Of The Cross?" #41
7/17/88 "When We See Christ #149

"ESTABLISHED IN THE TRUE FAITH" 1 Thess. 3:1-8
Psalm 34:1-4

1

INTRO:

A. Understanding Our Text:

1-When we look at the Epistles of the N.T., they are **very little like** the letters **we write** today

2-"Signature" is at the beginning instead of the end

3-Chapter & verse divisions of N.T. Books
- --Not in the originals
- --Added to help identify where we're studying for sake of reference
- --Not inspired
- --**Not always** in the place where **they aid** our understanding
- --ILLUS--Matt. 16:28 with 17:1-13

4-Similar problem in 1 Thessalonians
- --2:1-13--The Ministry Recounted
- --2:14-18--The Ministry Resisted
- --2:19-20--The Ministry Rewarded
- --3:1-5--The **CONCERN** and **CURE** of Their Sufferings

5-Paul's anxiety over this infant Church's welfare is expressed in **Ch. 3**, but it **grows out** of their opposition as cited in Ch. 2
- --2:14--Countrymen
- --2:14-16--Jews
- --2:18--Satan

OPPONENTS

6-As "**THE FATHER**" who led them to Christ, Paul is deeply concerned as to their spiritual state and spiritual development

B. Understanding Our Message:

1-Where Paul was--In **Athens** preaching
- --ALONE because Timothy, Silas & Luke were ministering elsewhere —3:1
- --To be "alone" in the work of the ministry is a **very great strain**
  - Need co-laborers
  - Need co-prayers
  - Need encouragement
- --Then Timothy arrived with Paul and was **immediately sent** to Thessalonica
  - ** To learn how they fared there
  - ** To minister to their needs
- --Paul was not insensitive & did **not relish** the prospect of **working alone** in a place like Athens, but he "could no longer forbear" to know their state

2-Who **Timothy** was:
- Three-fold description of him (**KJV**)
- "OUR BROTHER" --Fellow christian; In the family
- "MINISTER OF GOD" 3:2
  - ** "Deacon of God"; Willing to do service of whatever sort was needed
  - ** Omitted from some translations
- "FELLOWLABORER IN THE GOSPEL"--Fellowservant w/ Paul

--This **combination of terms** shows
** Paul's appreciation for Timothy
** Timothy's authority in coming to the Thessalonian Church

3-Paul's evaluation of Timothy is **"TOPS"**
--Sent to Philippi on another mission by Paul
--Phs. 2:19
--How did Timothy rate with Paul?
--Phs. 2:20-22
--Paul couldn't be everywhere & do everything he wanted to...
--SO------he **often sent others** to do the work for him
--Phs. 2:23-24

4-Today's Message:
I.-PAUL BEING CONCERNED (3:1-5)
II.-PAUL BEING COMFORTED (3:6-8)

5-**Prop:** --That we **SEE** the expression of a PASTOR'S HEART
--That we **share** the ministry of GOD'S MAN
--That we **EVIDENCE** the activity of the TRUTH and the SPIRIT in our lives, as did these Thessalonian believers

I-PAUL BEING CONCERNED---(3:1-5):

A.-Concerned About The Thessalonians:

1-Paul knew the Church was facing opposition, **persecution** & **suffering**--From their countrymen
--From the Jews
--From Satan

2-Paul was **concerned** that they "should not be moved by these afflictions"--3:3
--Persecution is to be expected
--Paul told them this before also
--3:4

3-Afflictions are "**APPOINTED**" to us by God
--Very strong term
--Used in Phs. 1:16--"**being set** for the defense of the g."
--GOD has His hand in our trials to bring in experiences for our learning and maturing
--**JESUS'** words** John 15:18--21
** John 16:1-3
** John 16:33
--**PAUL'S** words--2 Tim. 3:12--"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."
--**PETER'S** words--1 Pet. 2:21--"For even thereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that ye should follow His steps:"
--Scripture says: "In the mouth of 2 or 3 witnesses a thing shall be established."

4-W H Y ?? does God **allow trials** to touch His own?? ?

5-Not an easy question to answer, but I can find at least **four reasons** in Scripture.

3

1. To burn the DROSS OUT of our lives because we begin to throw overboard that which is not essential when the heat is turned on.
   ILLUS--Acts 27:14-19

2. To burn the PROMISES IN to our lives, for when we are really in trouble, we turn to the Lord and to His Word and we really learn what we've heard from others in time past.
   ILLUS--Ps. 34:1-9

3. To be a TESTIMONY TO OTHERS because of the sustaining grace of God in our circumstances
   ILLUS--1 Cor. 4:9--"For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men."
   --Paul wrote this from Ephesus, where the huge ampitheatre seating 25,000 would come to his mind
   --Sense is---Some are saved JUST BY WATCHING us

4. To be prepared for FUTURE SERVICE.
   --Often almost overwhelming while we are going thru a trial
   --But it enables you to really weep with those who weep as well as to rejoice with those who rejoice
   --ILLUS--2 Cor. 1:3-7

6-Leon Morris--"Human nature being what it is, there are some things that we will only learn the hard way. If we are in trouble & need help & advice, we do not run over our list of friends & say: 'Ah, there's so-and-so. Just the person. He's never had a day's trouble in his life, and he'll be the one to help!' Rather, we know that there are qualities of character that are only brought out by affliction. In our hour of need someone who has these qualities will be invaluable (cf. 2 Cor. 1:4). Suffering, then, is part of the very process of living out the christian life, and we should not regard it as something strange and alien. The God Who is over all watches over His children, and the affliction that comes to them is only such as He permits. There is always some lesson to be learned from it. It is always part of our being shaped into what God would have us be. It is inevitable. We are appointed unto it." (P. 102, Commentary On The Thessalonian Epistles)

B.-Concerned About Satan's Tempting:
1-3:5
2-Paul knewSatan would be actively soliciting to evil:
--Gen. 3:1, 4--"And he said unto the woman, 'Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?... And the serpent said unto the woman, 'Ye shall not surely die:'"
--Mt. 4:3--"And when the tempter came to Him, he said, 'If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread."

--1 Cor. 7:5--"Defraud ye not one the other except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourself to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency."

--That's Satan's **typical ministry** in opposing the believer.

3-INDICATIVE MODE in the Greek here indicates that this tempting had, in fact, **already taken place**--Paul knew that to be a fact.

4-Paul's concern about Satan & the Thessalonians

--"...and our labor be in vain" -3:5

--SUBJUNCTIVE MODE shows that in Paul's mind the question of whether their labor in behalf of the Thessalonian believers being undermined by Satan or not **was in doubt or question**

--NO DOUBT they'd been **tempted**...

...DOES DOUBT they've been **yielding**

--If the Thessalonian believers did yield to Satan as a practice of their lives, then Paul's work would be in vain

--But **Paul doubts** that such is the **actual case**

5-Leon Morris--"The concluding part of the verse employs a change of construction, from the indicative to the subjunctive, which is impossible to reproduce in English. The effect of the indicative is to give the impression that the writer feels it is probable that the tempter has indeed tempted them. But the subjunctive **throws doubt** on the idea that the preacher's labor had been in vain." (Pp. 103--104--Thess. Epistles)

6-SUMMARY: --Paul expected Satan to **try** them

--But Paul also expected them **to stand** in the face of their trials.

C.-Concerned About The Ministry To Believers:

1-That's **why** Paul sent Timothy--To inquire about them

--To have a ministry to them

2-**Why** Timothy??--**Close** to Paul and trusted *

--GIFTED as a Pastor/Teacher

--**Instruction** is absolutely essential for the believer to grow & to stand & to serve

PRACTICE

DOCTRINE

3-Two-Fold Ministry--3:2

--"TO ESTABLISH YOU" reinforce, stabilize

** Idea of "**strengthen**" & "**support**"

** So that fixity in knowledge & practice are the result

** ILLUS--Buttress on a wall

** ILLUS--Very word used by our Lord to Peter in Lk. 22:32--"But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not and when thou art converted (turned about), strengthen (establish) thy brethren."

** Same idea in **Job 16:4-5**

"to prop up"

"I also could speak as ye do... I could heap up words against you... but I would strengthen you..."

--"TO COMFORT YOU CONCERNING YOUR FAITH"

**Not sent just to soothe their wounds

•console
•encourage

** But sent to prepare them for battles that are still ahead

** "To comfort" is the same root as:
++ "COMFORTER" in Jn. 14:16
++ "ADVOCATE" in 1 John 2:1
++ Meaning is "to call to the side to help"

--These 2 terms ("to establish" & "to comfort") are very similar & sort of reinforce one another
--Ministry of a PASTOR/TEACHER — FEEDING THE FLOCK OF GOD
--Seen in Paul in 1 Th. 2:11
--Roper: "The ministry of a Pastor is to comfort the afflicted & to afflict the comfortable

16

4-Here we really see an answer to a frequently asked question:
"WHY DO I NEED TO ATTEND S.S. & PM & Prayer Mtg. IN ADDITION TO THE A.M. SERVICE??""

REASONS
-Because each one of us needs to be both established and comforted
-Because that's the ministry of God's appointed Pastor/Teacher to us in a local church
-Because if a little is good...
...then more is better
--That's not LEGALISM; it's LOVE of the Lord!!

5-Paul's whole concern boils down to:
--Concern for the Thessalonians
--Concern about Satan's tempting them
--Concern that those believers BE ESTABLISHED
--Not expecting trials to be removed or lessened
--But expecting believers to be STEADFAST!!

II.-PAUL BEING COMFORTED---(3:6-8):

A.-Comforted By Timothy's Tidings:

1-3:6-7a
2-"GOOD NEWS" from Thessalonica
3-Timothy comes with news of the way the Thessalonian converts had not only stood firm, but had gone on in the faith and that news acts on Paul like a tonic
4-Reminds of Pr. 25:25--"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country."
5-Three-Fold Attitude Of Thessalonian Christians:
--(1) Toward God--"FAITH"—"your faith"
--(2) Toward Man--"LOVE"—"and love"
--Calvin--"...in these two words (faith & love) he comprehends briefly the entire sum of true piety. Hence all that aim at this two-fold work during their whole life are beyond all risk of erring: all others, however much they may torture themselves, wander miserably."
--(3) Toward Paul** LONGING--"ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we do also to see you."

** Happy memories of the past
** Hopeful of reunion

6-RESULT of Timothy's Report to Paul
--3:7a
--Not just "soothed", for this is the same word as "comforted" in 3:2
--ALSO given new strength because of this news of God's working in the lives of these to whom Paul has formerly ministered.
--ILLUS--Any Pastor feels this way when GOOD NEWS comes from a former place or person of his ministry.

B. Comforted In His Current Troubles: (3:7b-8)

1-3:7b
2-Paul's present ministry doesn't appear to be producing such fruit--Troubles from without
--Crushing kind of pressure
--2 Cor. 1:8-9
--POEM opposite above scripture
On P. 1232 b
3-Now moved over to Corinth to preach
4-Paul has seemed to have a series of 4 defeats
--Philippi----------Thrown into jail after a beating
--Thessalonica---------Run out of town by a mob
--Berea----------Sent away by the brethren
--Athens----------Very small response among those intellectual idolaters
--THEREFORE, Paul was discouraged
4-SO
--Timothy's news from the Thessalonian believers has brought a real revival of heart & energy to Paul
--3:8
--F.F.Bruce translates: "To know that you are standing firm in the Lord is life itself to me."
--Paul says HE IS REALLY LIVING with this news of their faith, love & longing
--He is expecting that they'll continue to stand fast in the future also

C.-Ca... l
1- ...s Prayer
2- ...'s Prayer
3- ... with that prayer as:
"PAUL'S PRAYER FOR PERFECTION"

JUMP TO P. 2 - I:- Paul's Prayer Perspective

CONC

A.-Lessons To Learn:

1-Longings of a Pastor's Heart
--To see his converts
--To be sure they are overcoming persecutions & trials
--To know they are GOING ON with God

2-Ministries of a Pastor/Teacher
--To establish (==strengthen)
--To comfort (==come alongside to aid)
HOW? --By TEACHING; By EXAMPLE; By ample exposure.

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3-Evidences of God at work in lives:
--Faith growing (GODWARD aspect)
--Love expressing (MANWARD outworking)
--Longing sharing (To Pastor of God's choice for you) — To stand w/ him?

7

B. Questions To Leave:

1-ARE YOU--In the family of God??
--In the local congregation ??
--In the process of growing??
--In the experience of expressing love ??
--In the practice of "standing fast in the Lord ???

2-Decisions are needed------TODAY!!!
- Meet the Lord personally
- Respond to His call to YOU

, "For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord."

Every pastor understands what Paul was saying. The demands of the ministry are great. But when they see someone they led to Christ growing and having a great impact on others, they're greatly uplifted. Particularly when they are discouraged, seeing such progress in the lives of their people spurs them on.

A football coach was asked concerning one of his players, "What position does he play? Is he a fullback?" The coach answered, "No, he's not a fullback. He's one of the drawbacks."

How about it? Are you a fullback or a drawback to your pastor?

Westbrae--8/22/73--#11 - "Wonderful"
Daniels M.B.Ch. 9/18/77
Oak Hill Bubla Ch 7/24/88
(2) #512 "Christ Liveth In Me" 466
77- I Love Him
(1) #98 "O Happy Day" 207
8/29/73
(3) 84 - "Love Lifted Me" 441
(4) 38 - "Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us" 294

"Paul's PRAYER FOR PERFECTION" 1 Thess. 3:9-13
Read. 3:1-13 & Rom. 1:8-11

(1)

INTRO:

A.-Background Of Passage:

1-Paul brought the gospel to Thessalonica with Timothy and Silas
2-Preached in the synagogue & in the streets
3-Jewish rejection of the gospel
4-Gentile reception of the message
5-**RIOT** that ran Paul out of town
6-Jason posted a **peace bond** that Paul will not return
7-Paul **ministers elsewhere**--Berea
--Athens
--**Now** in **Corinth**
8-Paul still is **deeply concerned** about the Thessalonian christians--Knows the ministry he's had to them
--Knows the opposition they're facing
--Knows the testimony they've had to the whole world
9-BUT---Paul **wanted** a **fresh progress report**, so he sent Timothy to Thessalonica, and he has now returned

B.-Timothy's "GOOD NEWS" From Thessalonica:

1-Tremendous **report**!!--3:6
--"FAITH"--Toward God
--"**Love**"---Toward **men**
--"**GOOD REMEMBRANCE**"--Toward Paul & his companions in the gospel
--Prov. 25:25--"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country."
--**So good a news** he uses the word "GOSPEL" to describe it!!

2-Result--3:7-8
--Not just **soothed**, but **given new strength**
--"REALLY LIVING" with such a good report

3-Really **a high point** in the letter, and in the whole of the N.T.

4-Paul is **encouraged** to believe that these believers will "**stand fast** in the Lord."

C.-Result Of Good News:

1-With some it might have produced **PRIDE**
2-In Paul it produced **PRAYER** instead
3-ILLUS--Before retiring one night, little Mary always knelt at her bedside to pray. On night she prayed unusually long. As her mother tucked her into bed, she asked: "**Why** did you **pray so long** tonight, Mary?"
Mary replied, "Mother, it was because I had **SO MUCH to thank God for** tonight!"

4-Paul was like that too (3:9-10)

"PAUL'S PRAYER FOR PERFECTION"

I.-Paul's Prayer Perspective--How he viewed it
II.-Paul's Prayer Purpose--How he used prayer.

5-**Prop:** --**Prayer perspective** for ourselves on the experience and **value of prayer**
- --REALIZE that prayer is a **powerful tool** in our hands to share in accomplishing the will of God, both in our own lives & in the lives of others.
- --Determine to **become a user** of the "PRAYER TOOL" God has provided so you can **minister to others** and to yourself in "REALLY LIVING"

I.-PAUL'S PRAYER PERSPECTIVE:

A.-Prayer Is Praise:

1-3:9-10a

2-Lightfoot--"What sufficient **thanks** can we repay"
- --Not just thanks
- --But the "**expression** of **thanks**"
- --Rendering God what is due because of what He is and what He has done

3-God is the **source** of Paul's blessings of news from Thessalonica, so his words turn to a PRAYER OF PRAISE

4-**Joy** in his heart--"We joy for your sakes"
- --His joy is **PEOPLE-RELATED**, for they are his "glory and joy" (2:20)

5-Note the PERSONALNESS
- --To God the Father **"To God"
- ** "Before our God"
- --"YOU" and "YOURS" used **10** times in **3:6-10**

B.-Prayer Is Persistent:

3:10a

2-**Secret** of Paul's success was in his **prayer ministry**
- --For those with him--**CO-WORKERS**
- --For those away from him--Thessalonians & other converts
- --"Night and day"--**PERSISTENCY**

3-Went before the Father to "express **a want, a lack**"

4-While Paul is **thankful**, he is **not** satisfied!

5-Paul wants to see **EVEN MORE** PROGRESS
- --**So** he **supplicates** (strong term)
- --Night & day (frequency)
- --"Exceedingly" (rare term of INTENSITY--5:13; Eph. 3:20)

6-ILLUS--**Luke 18:1-8a**

C.-Prayer Is Practical:

1-3:10

2-Deals with what Paul wanted to **pray into happening**
- --TO **SEE** the Thessalonian believers face-to-face
- --TO **SUPPLY** the lack in the faith and knowledge of the Thessalonian christians
- -These were the **real desires** of Paul's heart
- --**Therefore** he **prayed**
- --That is what **he could do** from Corinth where he was; **HE DID PRAY!**

3-Prayer is intensely practical!!!

4-WHAT CAN **YOU** DO???--You can labor in person — Physical
- --You can labor in prayer — Spiritual

--BOTH are practical contributions to an endeavor for God
--Need a balance between work and prayer
--NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE !!
--Motto: "You can do more than pray, AFTER you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray UNTIL you have prayed."
--Let's not be guilty of work without prayer
--Nor let it be that we pray without being involved in the work.
--THEY GO TOGETHER !!
--Like two sides of the same coin

NB

ILLUS

5-How is that!?--God ordains the means as well as the end
--(Explain this)
Prayer is as much a part of how God gets His will accomplished as is giving & going

6-ILLUS--A Pastor was watching some men repairing a section of highway. He especially noticed an elderly man in a kneeling position breaking the stones to fill the holes in the highway. This man was doing more work than the ones who did the same work standing up.

The Pastor said to the kneeling man, whom he knew well as one of the men of the Church he pastored: "Charles, I wish I could break the stony hearts of my hearers like you break those stones!"

With a twinkle in his eyes, the old gentleman answered: "Pastor, you can WHEN YOU WORK ON YOUR KNEES."

**

7-Paul understood this.....that Prayer is PRACTICAL

D.-Prayer Is Petitions:

1-God expects us to ASK in order for us to RECEIVE
2-Paul knew & followed that proceedure
3-Phil. 4:6--"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

4-PETITION #1--3:11
--"Direct"=="make straight"; remove the obstacles Satan has raised to hinder
--GUIDANCE to come to them is the issue
*--Parallel in Rom. 1:10-11
--Looked to the Father and the Son to bring this reunion to pass
--Made this a matter of petition to God; expecting that prayer will help to bring it to pass

5-PETITION #2: 3:12
--3:12
--"And"="BUT"
** "But whatever happens to me and my companions, may the Lord..."
--"Make you to increase & abound in love"
** "Increase & abound"==compounding of terms which intensify the meaning
** Morris--"Paul has already recognized that the Thessalonians exercise this quality (1:3; 3:6), and his prayer at this

point is that they may increase this divine activity. Characteristically he appeals to the example he had set them (3:12). Paul knew full well that no preacher can call on men to do what he himself is not prepared to do. He did not hesitate on more than one occasion to point out that he practiced what he preached." (P. 112, Thessalonian Epistles)

--Love's outreaches ** "One toward another" is INSIDE THE FAMILY
** "And toward all" is OUTSIDE THE FAMILY

--Love's example for them to follow is seen in PAUL HIMSELF
--Jesus' words on this matter of love...
--John 13:34-35
--Paul wanted not only GUIDANCE for himself to them, but also to see this GRACE of the Spirit in the Thessalonians (as it already was in them) and also to "increase and abound" even more
--This was his prayer for GROWTH in their behalf

Alternatives
--Paul knew they needed to make daily progress.....
.....or else they'd B A C K S L I D E !!

--Walvoord--"In other words, Paul said: 'Let us go on in our Christian faith.' The most dangerous thing in our spiritual experience is to ease off and rest on our oars. Normal Christian growth brings with it an increase in love to each other and to all men. While the Thessalonians were a MODEL CHURCH, there was still room for growth and improvement." (P. 43, THE THESSALONIAN EPISTLES)

6-PETITION # 3: 3:13

--3:13

--Desire to see God "STABLISH your hearts unblamable in holiness" ** Knew that the Pastor/Teacher's ministry would give the truth as the raw material for development
** But also knew it would take a work of God in their hearts
** DIVINE-HUMAN COOPERATION in seeing spiritual results in lives
** 1 Cor. 3:6-9
** Blessed interaction of God and men

--Same term as 3:2--"Strengthen"; "Support"; "Buttress"
--"UNBLAMABLE IN HOLINESS" indicates that Paul wants to see their lives characterized by GODLINESS
*** Expanded in next chapter of 1 Thess. (4)
** 4:1-8 Holiness before God
** 4:9-10 Holiness before Brethren
** 4:11 Holiness before yourself
** 4:12--Holiness before Unsaved
** We'll pursue this theme in weeks to come

--"At the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints"
** PAROUSIA=="personal presence"
** Reference to Christ's advent into heaven with the

entourage of the saints raptured & resurrected to appear at the BEMA

** THEN we'll be changed

** 1 Cor. 15:51--"Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed."

** THEN we will be "unblamable in holiness" since our sanctification will be complete

** But Paul is praying for PROGRESS IN GODLINESS in the meantime

E.-SUMMARY CONCERNING PRAYER:

1-Prayer is Praise
2-Prayer is Persistent
3-Prayer is Practical
4-Prayer is Petitions

What we've seen above

5-Walvoord:

"What does Paul say to us in this passage? He is saying that if we are really committed to the Lord--if we are really letting the Holy Spirit rule supremely in our hearts and lives--that there should be the evidence of the love of the Spirit and the compassion of the Spirit toward our fellow Christians as well as toward those who do not know the Lord Jesus. The challenge of this passag is to let the Spirit of God transform our hearts and make them tender, that we may not follow the pattern of this careless and indifferent generation which is unmindful o the spiritual needs of those about us.

"Are we really concerned about souls? Do we pray fo the salvation of that neighbor in the next apartment or the next house? Are we concerned in our churches about the backsliders and the indifferent who are not serving the Lord as they ought? Paul tells us that THE SECRET I * TO PRAY. If we have a real burden of prayer we will have Paul's experience of the joy of answered prayer." (Pp.42-

6-AND.....Prayer has a PURPOSE, not merely an end in itself, so let's look at....

II.-PAUL'S PRAYER PURPOSE-----"PERFECTION"!

A.-Perfection As Scriptures Teach It:

1-3:10

2-What did Paul mean by "Perfect"???????

--Cannot have doubted their salvation (1:4)
--Speaks of "knowing, brethren, your election of God"/
--So.....WHAT, then??

*** 3-TWO IDEAS about "perfection" in scripture

-# One: ** Idea of "coming to the end" of a journey or of a purpose
** This is as of a growth from childhood..to.. boyhood..to..manhood
** "Perfect" in the sense of reaching a goal of growth;;;;;;COMPLETED = PREPARED

-# Two: ** Idea of equipment; to be completely equipped
** This is as a home being fully furnished

** Everything present and in place and in use
++ Rugs; Furniture; Curtains; Pictures
++ Every tool and utensil ready for use
** =="To render complete" as with a net that has a hole and is mended to wholeness = REPAIRED

4-This second idea is the sense of PERFECTION presented in 3:10
--Sees that the Thessalonian christians still have some "lacks"
--So Paul PRAYS ** To see them
** To supply them thru his own ministry
--2 Tim. 3:15-17
--Eph. 4:12-13

B.-Perfection As Some Teach It:

1-There are some in our day who think that it is not possible to be saved unless one reaches a stage of moral perfection. They attribute to this word "PERFECT" ideas which are contrary to the Word of God.
2-NEVER used in the Bible in the sense of sinlessly perfect as regards man
3-Paul's point is progress in being "unblameable in holiness before God"
4-Some may recall how Harry A. Ironside, that great expositor of Scripture, in his early years struggled with the PROBLEM OF HOLINESS, seeking earnestly an experience of complete sanctification
--Tells his story in his book "HOLINESS, THE FALSE AND THE TRUE"
--Thought he had to be completely holy to be sure he was saved at all
--Some experience would lift him up and he was sure of his salvation.....for a week or two
--Then something would intrude
--DASHED into the conclusion he wasn't really saved at all
--Experience was UP.....and DOWN
--Then he read Heb. 12:14--"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord"
--He reasoned correctly that if one "FOLLOWS" something, then he has not yet ATTAINED to it, but that he will reach the goal when we see the Lord

5-That's Paul's point in 1 Thess. 3:10 and 13
--We are imperfect in this life
--We do constantly fall short of divine perfection
--But we will have a day in God's presence when we'll be perfect and unblameable
--That day will be when we are translated & transformed
--God will bring us to perfection in His presence & by His power
--IN THE MEANTIME...
...this is the subject of Paul's prayers
...and also
....the content of the Pastor/Teacher's ministry to the saints.

CONCLUSION:

A.-Ingredients Of Believer's Establishment:

1-Pastoral concern (3:1-2)
2-Pastoral teaching (3:3-4)
3-Pastoral prayer (3:9-10)
4-Pastoral participation (3:11)
5-PEOPLE'S OWN GROWTH (3:12-13)

B.-Incidental Lessons:

1-Paul didn't consider the GREAT COMMISSION fulfilled when people were saved
- -Not only TOLD
- --But also TAUGHT !

2-Paul was not blind to the failings of people, but he was sighted to their potentialities....
....EXPECTING MUCH GROWTH !!!

3-Paul considered prayer to be a powerful tool toward the accomplishment of God's will
- --In his own life (to come to them)
- --In other believers' lives
  - ** To grow in stability (3:2)
  - ** To increase in love (3:12)
  - ** To develop in purity (3:13)

-ILLUS--God called a young man to the mission field. He could not preach well, but he could pray. "I don't see how God can use me on the mission field; I have no special talent,"he lamented.to Hudson Taylor.

"Brother, God wants men on the mission field who can pray. We might have too many who can preach, but too few can pray," encouraged Hudson Taylor.

The young missionary was encouraged. All through the day, behind shut doors, he prayed. Hungry, needy souls began to flock to his door. Some said, "I have gone by your house many times. I have longed to come in. PLEASE TELL ME HOW TO BE SAVED."

Indeed, it is as James (5:16) says: "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

4-Let us DETERMINE to be prayerfully involved as well personally involved in the lives of those God gives us contact with...
- ** Personally & privately praying
- ** Publicly praying in the mid-week PRAYER MEETING also!!!!

* For "PERFECTION"
— Prepared
— Repaired

"NOTEAR" ® BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

Westbrae 8/5/73 — #313 - Dear Lord And Father (358)
Of Mankind
Daniels Mission Baptist Ch - 9/25/77 (354)
Grace Baptist Church, Paso Robles # What A Friend, We Have In Jesus (365)
7/6/81 #175 "Are Ye Able, Said
The Master
Oak Hill Bible Church # 60 - "Cleanse Me" (166)
8/7/88

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

"MORAL STANDARDS FOR CHRISTIANS" 1 Thess. 4:1-8
"WALK IN HOLINESS BEFORE GOD" 1 Cor. 6:19-20

INTRO: **A.-Once Upon A Time....:**

1-...there was a man by the name of **SIGMUND FREUD** And who was Sigmund Freud?? He was one of the very early **psychologists** who promoted the **false idea** that man is a hopeless, helpless, frustrated **animal** trapped by life itself.

2-According to Freud, there is a constant **battle inside** of you between socially unacceptable **sexual desires**--and YOUR DESIRE to **return** to your **mother's womb**, or else **to die!** In the Freudian interpretation nearly everything that a person does, becomes a disguised or distorted sexual act. Freud related everything to a "**REPRESSION**" of the **sex drive**.

3-In Freud's mind, moral standards are "repressive". In Freud's mind, crimes of sexual violence are due to "**repression**." In Freud's mind **the cure** for man's problems is simply to **remove the "repression"**----that is, let the individual do whatever he pleases, and **PRESTO**--all his **problems disappear**. = PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION

Jn. Dewey + Wm. James applied these views to education and

4-Our present "**PERMISSIVE SOCIETY**" is the **fruit of this Satanic philosophy** and the revolution in our streets is the inevitable result.

5-**Evidences** of Permissiveness

- --Laxity in child-rearing
- --Stealing from employers
- --High divorce rate
- --Pornographic deluge in books, magazines & movies, not to mention the THEATRE
- --Illigitimate births thru pre-marital sex
- --Soaring **AIDS** rates
- --Legalization of abortions — Live-in Relationships
- --Wife-swapping
- --Homosexuality & other perversions becoming "socially acceptable" — Same Sex Marriage
- --**Skyrocketing of abortions**

B.-WHY This Permissiveness?

1-**Undermining** of **AUTHORITY** of the Bible by liberalism over the past 100 years

- --Both in **DOCTRINE** and also in **PRACTICE**
- --No "right" or "wrong"; **ABSOLUTES** destroyed
- --Advent of a "New Morality"
- --Nothing less than the OLD IMMORALITY in new terms
- --Devotion to **INSTINCTS** rather than to **IDEALS**.

* **Social Gospel** as message / NOT THE GOSPEL!

2-Who are the **culprits**??????

** --**Men** in the **PULPITS** who **changed** the **message** from Morals to Manners; Conversion to Communism; Salvation to Socialism; Redemption to Rioting; Anti-sin to Anti-war; heaven

to humanism - MAN-centered
--Men & women in the PEWS who put up with the change in message, and did not throw OUT these underminers & deniers of the faith
--BOTH are to blame!
3-Results--Morality down the drain; [redacted]
--Respect for laws undermined; Police called "PIGS"
--Social rupture; MOBS in the streets / GANGS
--Crime skyrocketing upward; MAFIA & small-timers both DRUGS
4-Many are in despair
5-Need to return to basics

C.-GIBBON's "Decline & Fall Of The Roman Empire":
1-Witness of an unbeliever who was an AGNOSTIC
2-Lists 7 Reasons for christianity's spread & triumph in the early centuries
3-REASON #1--Inflexible zeal & enthusiasm of the christians to tell others of Christ
4-REASON #2--Christian doctrine of the FUTURE LIFE after death
5-REASON #3--Miraculous power of God in the life of the early church
6-REASON #4--PURE, AUSTERE MORALS of the Christians
--Christians would not compromise with the pagan immoralities
--Abandoned lives of sin when they were converted
--Lived exemplary lives & exhibited a standard of virtue otherwise unknown in the ancient world
--Christian's aim was to be CHRIST-LIKE
Q--How does your life measure up to that?
7-MESSAGE--"Moral Standards For Christians"
I--EXHORTATIONS CONCERNING CHRISTIAN MORALITY
II--ADMONITION
III--REASONS FO
8-PROPOSITION:--S
--S
--See that moral purity is LIFE-FULFILLING and GOD-PLEASING

WALK IN HOLINESS BEFORE GOD
I. EXHORTATIONS CONCERNING CHRISTIAN MORALITY (1 Th. 4:1-2):

A-What Is Christian Morality? Holiness (4:1)
1-Not a matter of legislation
2-Unsaved cannot be subject to the laws of God's morality, for they are in REBELLION against the giver of such laws
3-What does God expect of CHRISTIANS?
--1 Thess. 4:1-
a--"To walk"; ACTIONS of the believer
His whole manner of living
b--"To please"; ATTITUDE of the believer
His goal in living

--"To abound more and more";
** ACTIVITIES
** His progress is to "show"
--Progress in the christian's life is expected
--Not just a static condition, which is totally unacceptable
--ILLUS --Gen. 5:22--"And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah 300 years, & begat sons & daughters."
--Heb. 11:5--"By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; & was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that HE PLEASED GOD"

4-"OUGHT" = "MUST" in most New Testament usages
--This is a Divinely imposed obligation
--A MORAL IMPERATIVE
--God's standard is LAW for His children
--We're not free to choose our path
--W H Y N O T ??
--Because we've been bought with a price
--1 Cor. 6:19-20 (READ)
--Standard of Christian morality is OUTSIDE of the person — God-Given!
--Standard of Christian morality is OBJECTIVE, not subjective

5-Classical writers & pagan philosophers have preached that cleanness, honesty & morality must bring blessings and rewards! BUT how many of them have followed their own teachings?

B.-Why Is Morality Expected Of Christians? (4:1-2)

1-1 Thess 4:1
2-DOUBLE wording--"Beseech and exhort"
3-Paul beseeches them by HIS RELATIONS to the Thessalonian believers
4-Paul exhorts them by THE THESSALONIANS relations to the Lord Jesus Christ
5-Interacting PERSONS--The Messenger (Paul)
--The Message believers (Thess.)
--The Message's heart (Jesus)
6-Authoritative revelation given
--1 Thess. 4:2
--Channel of delivery was Paul & co-laborers
--ORIGINATION is with Christ
** Therefore, authoritative
** John 16:12-14
** PAUL is not "the authority", but CHRIST is, as the Author of this Truth
--"Commandments"
** = "Rules for living"; "Charges"
** Military term for orders passed along from higher authorities
** VERY STRONG term
** No options here

HORIZONTAL
VERTICAL

** God's Word determines our morality; our "rules of living", because we are HIS!

6-ILLUS--Rich and repeated experience has demonstrated the penetrating power of this WORD, which is sharper than any two-edged sword. A dissolute, sin-bound young man of the 4th century comes under the conviction of sin after he has heard, by chance, a disquieting sermon from the lips of the great AMBROSE.

As he kneels in a garden, convulsed in the agony of despair, a child's voice calls to him, "TAKE, READ!", "TAKE, READ!"

He rushes off to a friend, takes a manuscript of St. Paul's epistles and reads: "Not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying; but put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make not provision for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof." (Rom. 13:13).

He sees his Savior in a new and personal light. Faith is born. In an instant the sun of grace pierces the black clouds of anguish; the stranglehold of sin is broken. The Word has proved its sacred impulses to purity. A servant of sin has become a servant of God. A sensualist has died, but a saint has arisen, and AUGUSTINE strides forward in his career for Christ.

II. ADMONITIONS CONCERNING CHRISTIAN MORALITY (1 Th. 4:3-6a): HOLINESS

A.-Definition Of Sanctification (4:3a):

1-Same root word in "Holy", "Holiness", "Sanctify" and "Sanctification"

2-MEANING=="Set apart for holy use" according to the will of God

3-This does not imply a change in the thing sanctified, but a change in its use.

4-ILLUS--$1.00 bill from the offering plate

--Former uses: Food, clothing, medicine, cigarettes, whiskey, and payment for your labor

--Present status: "SET APART FOR HOLY USE"

--No change in the $100 bill or its immediate appearance

--But now to live a "NEW LIFE" set apart for God

5-"Sanctification"

--POSITIONALLY mine the moment of salvation

--ULTIMATELY mine when I get into God's presence

--PROGRESSIVELY or EXPERIENCIALLY mine as I grow in grace and evidence my yieldedness to God's plan of holiness in my life

--No "perfectionism" here on earth

--Nonetheless, every believer is sanctified

--1 Cor. 1:1-2

--That's why Paul calls them....and us... "SAINTS"

* --Sanctification, then, is NOT an attainment, but a POSITION

--AND that sanctification shows up in the practical implications of being saved---such as----

B.-Details Of Sanctification: (4:3,4,6)

1-"..that ye should **abstain** from fornication." (4:3b)

--"**FORNICATION**"=="illicit sexual intercourse" including adultery, except when distinguished from adultery.

** Since the Gentiles had refused to have God in their knowledge, God had given them up to a reprobate mind & doing of unseemly things (Rom.1:21,28 resulting in familiarity with vice & deadness to the claims of moral purity

** Heathen life in Paul's day was **Characterized** by **sexual laxity**. Ritual fornication played a large part in the heathen religious worship rites & **moral looseness** was common among people on all levels of society.

** Not at all out of date **TODAY**, as the attached TIME article shows with theologians advocating "**TRIAL MARRIAGES**" SHACKING UP

Marriage is not like getting a pair of shoes — NO "trying it on for size" to see if "IT FITS"!

"Marriage" Golden an

--"**ABSTAIN**" ** **Very strong word**, but it is **GOD's COMMAND**

** "Christianity does not take its standards from the society in which it is planted; it receives them from God Himself." (C.C. Ryrie, P.54--"1 & 2 Thess)

** The **pressure to conform** to the easy standards accepted throughout society must have been strong on the early church

--**BUT** as one evidence of the believer's sanctification, he is admonished "that ye should **abstain** from fornication."

--See also **Acts 15:29**

2-1 Thess. **4:4** --Some discussion of the meaning of "**his vessel**"

** His own body

** His wife's body

** TRUTH in **both** views

--In any case both his own body & that of his wife are to be "**possessed**"(-"**used** in the **best way**")

--This will advance sanctification in one's own experience & honor the Lord

--Sex **INSIDE** OF **MARRIAGE** fulfills this command

--Promiscuity **cannot**!!

IT's WRONG! SINFUL

3-1 Thess. **4:6a**

--Warning is clearly stated

--"**Defraud**"=="Overreach", "Transgress"

--**No man** is to enter into immorality with another man's wife

--The one "set apart unto God" cannot be living a life of **sexual "roving"**

4-These 3 admonitions show that **GOD HAS STANDARDS** for His people.

- ABSTAIN from fornication
- Possess his body in honor
- DEFRAUD not in any matter

C.-Difference In The Sanctified: (4:5)

1-1 Thess. 4:5

2-"GENTILES"--Heathen untutored in the standards of heavenly morality
--Jews at least had a moral code in the Law of Moses.

3-"Not in the lust of concupiscence"
=="Lust of evil desires"
--That is what characterizes the life of those without God
--Ps. 79:6--"Pour out thy wrath upon the heathen that have not known thee, and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon thy name."

4-----Rom. 1:18-20

5-Answer to "What About The Heathen"?

6-1 Pet. 4:3--"For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries."

7-ILLUS--In the year 1789 mutineers from the English government ship BOUNTY, together with a group of Polynesian men and women settled on lonely PITCAIRN ISLAND in the South Pacific. A ten-year orgy of drunkenness and debauchery, supplemented by continued bloodshed, decimated the colony and left only one white man. Isolated on that tiny speck in the vast Pacific, his thoughts turned to the BIBLE which had been salvaged from the wreck of the BOUNTY, and in the study of this Book both the sins of the past and the promise of the future were vividly impressed on his disquieted mind.

That was the beginning of a remarkable transformation. Nineteen years later, when a whaling-ship accidentally reached Pitcairn Island, its astonished sailors found a community of 35 English-speaking people with a high morality. Marriage vows had been introduced & faithfulness to these vows was now triumphantly enthroned. THE POWER OF THE BOOK had once more prevailed.

8-Can Buddhism, Islam, Confucianism or any other "religion" of men show a single transformed soul and an advance toward chastity as its result?

III.-REASONS FOR CHRISTIAN HOLINESS MORALITY (1 Thess. 4:6b-8):

A.-NEGATIVELY--"The Lord is an avenger of all such." (4:6b-)

1-Be surely aware that God will not "OVERLOOK" sin

2-"ALL SUCH" indicates that SEX SINS will be judged

3-Deut. 32:35--"To me belongeth vengeance and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste."
--God is One Who will deal with justice
--God will surely deal with defection from moral laws
--Rom. 12:19--"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

4-Paul & his companions FOREWARNED their converts

5-Fear of judgment with the wicked & for unrighteous moral

acts ought to be a reason for Christian morality

B.-POSITIVELY—"For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness." (4:7):

1-"Uncleanness"--Term associated with **MORAL EVIL**
--This is not the "calling" of a child of God

2-"**HOLINESS**"--That is **God's character**
--1 Pet. **1:15-16**--"But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of life; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."
--We are to enter into **GOD'S PURPOSE** for our lives
=="**Set apart** for holy use"

3-This has become our **CALLING** from the time of our salvat'n.

4-**Eph. 4:1**--"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called."

5-Christian morality is also based, positively, on the **HOLY CALLING** we have in Christ as Savior

6-A dominant power in achieving a satisfying life is **PURITY IN THE SOUL**. As **Sir Galahad** said: "My strength is as the strength of ten, because **my heart is pure**."

C.-SPIRITUALLY—1 Thess. 4:8:

1-**Rejectors** of Christian morality are not just despising a man, but **THE GOD**!!

2-The **living presence** of God is always with us in our daily lives

3-**HOW?** 1 Cor. 6:19-20

4-By the **Holy Spirit** indwelling us

5-Spirit is the **source** and **POWER** of morality in our lives

6-Impurity for a believer is a **SIN** against the **HOLY Spirit**

CONCL: **A.-Resume' On Morality For The Christian: Holiness**

1-Applicable only to the "**BORN AGAIN**"

2-**PRECISE standard** of behavior: **ABSOLUTE PURITY!**
--Standard **sexually**
--Standard is **LAW** for the Child of God
** "ought"--"MUST" in 4:1
** "commandments" in 4:2
** "will of God" in 4:3
** "should abstain"in 4:3
--Standard is **UNCHANGING!**
** God gave it at creation
** Moses recorded it in the Law
** Jesus taught it
** Apostles preached it
** AND **SO DO WE**
--That standard is **LIFE-FULFILLING**
--That standard is **God-Pleasing**

B.-Rationale For a Christian's Morality:

1-**CITIZEN OF HEAVEN**
--Born from above
--Personal relationship with God
--Fully trusting the merit and sacrifice of X

- Subject to the laws of heaven
- Journeying nearer heaven every day
- Living "in a foreign land" on earth

2-Has HEAVENLY STANDARDS to maintain

- Every realm has its laws
- ILLUS--When the Emperor Augustus conferred on the city of Philippi the status of a "COLONY", he demanded of the military settlers that they live as though they were in Rome itself. Because Philippi was a ROMAN COLONY the standards of Philippi must be ROMAN.

* So with the christian in the world. He is a citizen of heaven & his standards must be those of heaven. Though all about him OTHERS may partake of the permissiveness of the world around them, the CITIZEN OF HEAVEN is to reflect the standards of his homeland in an alien world. Only thus the christian will be DIFFERENT in morality as in every other facet of life

3-Let's get back to "primitive christianity" with its pure austere morals and the aim to be CHRIST-LIKE!!

4-The only way you can share in this is to come to Christ as your Savior + purifier ... and walk w/ Him in a NEW LIFE!

PROP:

We need to see that moral behavior is a matter of obedience to God's Law and that purity is life-fulfilling and God-pleasing.

"Blessed Assurance" (255)

Westbrae--4/12/70--#155 "I Love To Tell The Story" (431)
#305 "I Would Be True" (319)
#354 "Living For Jesus"

9/70 - Chinese College Camp Class on Romance
8/19/73 - Westbrae "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" (388)
8/3/75 - Calvary Columbus
10/9/77 - Daniels Mesa Bapt. Ch.
7/7/81 - Grace Bapt. Ch., Paso Robles, CA.
8/14/88 - Oak Hill Bible Church, WV
11/26/90 - ABC. Chapel
10/24/04 - Hilltop Bapt. Ch - Men's S.S. Completed 11/7/04

"WALK IN HOLINESS BEFORE MEN" 1 Thess. 4:9-12

Read 1 Th. 4:1-12; 1 Pet. 2:9-12

INTRO: "BRETHREN" – 15 times in 1 Thess. (1)

A.-Themes Of 1 Thessalonians:

1-WALK--Deals with behavior (3 times in 1 Th--2:12;4:1; 4:1
2-WORK--Deals with activity (5 times in 1 Th--1 in each Ch.
3-WAIT--Deals with attitude toward the coming of Christ
(1 time stated--1:9-10--; implied in each chapter)
4-LOVE--Badge of Christian discipleship among those who are saved (1:3; 3:6; 4:9a-10)
5-How are these put together??.....In a

B.-Walk In Holiness:

1-Stated in 1 Th. 3:13 as the GOAL OF GOD working in us to will & to do of His good pleasure
2-TWO-SIDED OUTWORKING
-4:1-8--Holy walk toward God
-4:9-12--Holy walk toward men
--Evidence of God at work in the life
** UPWARD expressions (4:1-8)
** OUTWARD expressions (4:9-10, 12)
++ Toward brethren
++ Toward unsaved
** INWARD expression (toward self)--4:11

3 DIRECTIONS

3-PROP:--Understand "how we ought to behave"; GOD'S STANDARD
--Then be able to bring our lives into harmony with the Divinely revealed pattern
--Bring glory to our God by a walk pleasing to Him and honoring of Him before others
4-W H Y ???
5-Because: "The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever."
6-Therefore, as a christian I ought to:
WALK IN HOLINESS BEFORE MEN

I. A HOLY WALK BEFORE BRETHREN (1 Th. 4:9-10) (Abounding In Love

A.-Explanation of Love: (4:9)

1-3 Greek words--EROS==Sensual, sexual desire
--PHILIA==Family affection
--AGAPE==Divine, self-sacrificing desire for the good of another above that which is for one's own good
2-AGAPE--Used of the Thessalonian believers in 1:3 & 3:6
--Also used in 4:9b-10
3-Something more is intended in 4:9a
--"Brotherly love"; BROTHERHOOD LOVE
--"Love which binds together children of the same Fath
--Distinctively christian virtue arising out of the rel ation of believers each to the other in the household of faith
--Based on the NEW BIRTH
--Driven by circumstances of persecution in Thessalon

ica, they have found comfort in one another; they have become A LARGER FAMILY:

(2)

** Not based on the accidents of birth
** But based on the affirmation of belief
** 1 John 3:10--"In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil; whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother

--CHRISTIAN LOVE among brethren
** Marked contrast with Gentile lust (1 Th. 4:3-8)
** What a difference !!
** Christian love is a GROWING EXPERIENCE
** Christian love is reciprocal; one toward another

4-There was a need to write about MORALS (4:1-8), but ther was no need to write about love among these christians

5-"Taught of God"

Is it thus today?

--Not a matter requiring human tutoring
--Common to all truly born again ones
--God Himself accomplishes this in the christian's heart
--H O W ??
** By the Holy Spirit given unto us (1 Th. 4:8)
** Rom. 5:5--"...because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us."
** 1 Cor. 2:12-13--"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Spirit teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual."
** 1 John 2:27--"But the anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you...."

6-Hogg & Vine--"Doctrine is never set forth in Scripture as an end in itself, but always for the sake of its effect upon the conduct of the believer." (P. 123)

B. Extent Of Love: (4:10)

1-Not a small & limited sphere--4:10a
--"Toward all the brethren..."

2-Who is included??--Christians in Philippi
--Christians in Thessalonica
--Christians in Berea
--Christians throughout all Macedonia
--Doubtless christians in other unnamed towns & countryside, for according to 1 Th. 1:7-8 their faith sounded out in all directions
--ALL the brethren

3-TAUGHT of God to love the brethren
--4:9
--And also TAKING THEIR OPPORTUNITIES to express a walk of holiness by their practice of love toward all the brethren in Macedonia
--God taught them; Thessalonian believers responded openly
--Their "ORTHOPRAXY" was limited only by their opportunities to express love.

(3)

--CALVIN--calls this an argument from the greater to the lesser; if their **love** is diffused **throughout Macedonia**, he infers that it is not to be doubted that they **love one another**

--1 John **3:14**--"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death

4-MORRIS--"Something which should give modern Christians much **food for thought** is the way in which the early church was characterized by LOVE. 'BEHOLD HOW THESE CHRISTIANS **LOVE ONE ANOTHER**' (Tertullian's APOLOGY, Chapter 39) is hardly the comment which springs spontaneously to the lips of the detached observer nowadays. But if our manner of life is based on the N. T. picture, something like it would be inevitable. The characteristic Christian attitude as we see it there is **a profound faith** in God, a **faith** which **spills over** into **all of life** in the form of self-denying, self-giving love." (P. 129)

HOW WE NEED THIS!

C. Expressions Of Love:

1-The **FACT** is clearly stated--4:10a

--**PRACTICERS** of brotherly love

--Expressed in daily life

2-The **DETAILS ARE NOT SPELLED OUT** for us

--But not hard to imagine without resorting to any "flights of fancy"

--Thessalonica was:

** Seaport town
** Trade-route crossroads
** Government center
** Site of a Roman garrison

--So, there were very **many people** coming, going, and being in need of help

EXAMPLES

--Likely two outward expressions of love would have predominated ** **Hospitality**
** **Helpfulness**
** These are especially "christian **graces**" when given without any thought of payment or of reciprocity.

3-HOSPITALITY--

--Needed because there were no Hotels or Motels then

--Only TAVERNS with a few rooms & often they were brothels

--Hardly the kind of place for a christian traveler or businessman to go in a strange city

--So.....**HOMES** WERE **OPENED** of one christian to another

** Rom. 12:13b--"...given to hospitality"
** 1 Tim. 3:2--"...given to hospitality"
** Tit. 1:8--"But a lover of hospitality..."
** Heb. 13:1-2--"Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."
** 1 Pet. 4:9 --"Use hospitality one toward another without grudging."

--Opened homes to brethren as evidence of **OPENED HEARTS**

4-HELPFULNESS to others when in need:
--As in business affairs for Phoebe
--Rom. 16:1-2
--As in financial aid for Jews of Jerusalem & Judea
--2 Cor. 8:1-5

5-There needs today to be similar EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE
--Hospitality:
** Traveling guests (Preachers, Missionaries, Fellow-christians)
** Dinner guests in your home
** Fellowship opportunities
** Spiritual encouragment of others
** USE YOUR HOME FOR GOD !! — Much APPRECIATED MINISTRY
--Helpfulnesses:
** Business encouragements by patronizing brethren
** Moving household goods for others
** Emergency "bail-outs" (Loans or gifts)
** Rides to Church
** Shopping for shut-ins
** Meals at times of illness or recovery from hospitalization
** Trading off labor to do home jobs, or as a GIFT of labor
** Spiritual investments in follow-up & visitation
--How do YOU measure up in such EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE??

Q

D.-Expansion Of Love:
1-1 Th. 4:10b
2-N.B. the terms of tenderness--"We beseech"==exhort
--"Brethren; affectionate term of spiritual intimacy

3-"increase more and more"
--3:12--of Love
--4:1---of christian Living
--4:12--of Practice of love
--3 uses in such a short space indicates something of the EXUBERANT QUALITY of the christian faith
--Fulfillment of Christ's purpose stated in John 10:10

4-Paul's words show he is never satisfied: ***
--Mindful of their achievements
--Nonetheless urges them on to new heights of love
--Believers are not to rest on their present measure of attainment
--Christians are not to be weary in their well-doing
--Paul sounds the DEATH-KNELL to any sitting back "satisfied" with any present accomplishment of our love
--Always room for increase & growth in our love
--1 Pet. 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently."
--Doesn't this loving ever end in its EXPANSION ??
* --NO, it doesn't
--Rom. 13:8 "Owe no man anything but to love one another: for he that loveth another fulfilleth the whole law.

+Seemingly a paradox

--"Strive; Seek strenuously to be quiet"
--TRANQUILITY OF LIFE is to be sought
--Opposite of "restlessness"
--A problem in Thessalonica that becomes full blowing in 2 Th. 3:11 is that of IDLE BUSYBODIES
--Paul lets it be known that we ought to be quiet & not engaged in sins with our mouths
--1 Tim. 5:13--"And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not."
--1 Pet. 4:15--"But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evil-doer, or as a busybody in other men's matters."
* --Such quietness is not ours "by nature", but by the conscious striving for a meek and quiet spirit.

2-"Strive...to do your own business"
--Some of these Thessalonian Christians were so exuberant in the things of their christian faith that they were not bothering to earn their own living.
--Believed the Second Coming of Christ was so near that they neglected the "EVERYDAY TASKS".
--Thought they ought to abandon working and give themselves to evangelism
--Relied on their Christian brethren to come to their rescue financially.
- Possible that such attitudes & actions could proceed from the good motive of getting people saved
- Also possible that it would very easily DEGENERATE into laziness, idleness & spiritual pride.

--Much easier to be "taken up" with the excitement of sharing the gospel than with "plugging along" in an unpleasant task of employment
--Paul counsels them to MIND THEIR WAYS!!!
--If the Lord is coming soon, then the best way for them to serve the Lord is to be found doing their ordinary work faithfully
--ILLUS--There is a historical "footnote" of interest in this regard. In New England there was "a day during one of those times of excited expectancy of the end of the world when a sudden darkness at noon interrupted the session of the Assembly. Some cried fearfully: "IT IS THE COMING OF CHRIST; IT IS THE END OF THE WORLD."

But the old President ordered lights be produced "Bring in candles", he said, "and get on with your work. If the Lord is coming, how better can He find us than quietly doing our duty?" (Cited in Morris, P. 133)

--REMEMBER--

No one will get into trouble with himself or anyone else if he is MINDING HIS OWN BUSINE

3-"Strive...to work with your own hands"
--Unashamed advocacy of MANUAL LABOR
** Haggai & Zechariahworked on building the Temple
** Jesus, Who was a carpenter & the "son" of a carpenter
** Paul, who was a tent-maker
** None of them---or of us---are too good for use of our own hands
** Rabbis taught that whatever field a son was to be prepared for, he must also be taught a TRADE
--Greek attitude was very different:
** SLAVES did all the work
** FREE MEN didn't stoop to physical labor
--CHRISTIAN VIEW
NB
** We do not take our standards from the community
** Rather, our standards are from the Scriptures
** Prov. 13:11--"Wealth gotten by untrustworthy methods shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase."
** Col. 3:17--"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him."
** Eph. 4:28--"Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."
** DIGNITY of honest labor
** Skilled or unskilled the man of God is expected to make a positive contribution of WORK.
--Most of the Thessalonian Christians were not high & noble of rank, but humble working persons & craftsmen
--ILLUS---Frank Roberts at DTS doing electrial work @ $1.00 per hour when he was a rich enough man to be subsidizing the educations of a number of us when we fell into need. But he recognized the value of working with his hands both in make in a contribution & in keeping his own value-structure straight.
--PROBLEM ** Today the idea & ideal set forth is to do as little as possible & to get as much as possible for it.
** Faulty attitude for a christian!!!
** Full measure of devoted service for our pay!!

C.-Commanded Attitudes:

1-1 Thess. 4:11d
2-Not a "new doctrine", but an old one
3-Fits in with previous instruction and examples
4-Not optional, but required
5-Commands reiterated because of the contrary practices which were beginning to infiltrate the Church.

III. -A HOLY WALK BEFORE UNSAVED (4:12):

A. -Two Requirements Before Unsaved:

1-**WALK HONESTLY**--4:12a

--**Life** of the christian should be **re-inforcing** of his profession

==**"Seemly", "in good form", "Becom-ingly", "decently"**

--Christian should **support himself** & **pay his debts**--**ON TIME!**

--CONTRAST w/ 2 Th. 3:6 where some "walk disorderly"

--Rom. 13:13--"Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting & drunkenness, not in chambering & wantonness, not in strife & envying

--1 Cor. 14:40--"Let all things be done decently and in order."

--Sometimes Christians are not care-ful enough about their walk being HONEST

--ILLUS---Millikens at DTS with his not working, but "living by faith", while he had a $1,000 Bond in the bank.

2-**WORK INDUSTRIOUSLY**

--4:12b

--"Of nothing"is ambiguous as to gender:

** NEUTER=="**of nothing**"; "Work, and then all your needs will be supplied You will be in need of nothing"

** MASCULINE=="**of no man**"; "Work, and then you will have need of no man to help you. You will be quite independent."

** Impossible to realy settle the translation here

** But the **point** is virtually the SAME

--Christian is to **WORK** INDUSTRIOUSLY

** So as to provide **for himself** & his own (1 Tim. 5:8) (Acts

** So as to support **the weak** by giving (20:35)

** So as to help **the needy** (Eph. 4:28)

** 2 Cor. 8:21--"Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men."

3-"Toward **them** which are **without**"

--We are not living "private lives"

--We are **being watched** and **read**

--Hogg & Vine--"If unbelievers could know nothing of the spiritual blessings of the gospel (1 Cor. 2:14), they could at least **appreciate the diff-erence** between order & confusion, between idle-ness & diligence, between sponging & dependence ...In a word, the good effects of the gospel were to be shown in every relation with all

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

men in daily life, lest the way of the truth be evil spoken of."
--Col. 4:15--"Walk in wisdom toward them that are without..."
--Christian lives are to **be an answer** to heathen suspicions

8

B. Two Reasons Before Unsaved:

1-FIRST--When the christian earns his own **living honorably**
--When the christian expresses his **love aboundingly**
--THEN it has **an EFFECT** upon those who are not saved
--In a thriving commercial city like **Thessalonica**, **indolence** & pauperism & unfitness for the common work of life, would bring peculiar **disgrace** on the new society of believers.
(1)--SO, THE FIRST REASON is to gain a hearing and a favorable impression for the gospel

2-SECOND--When the christian earns his own living honorably
--When the christian expresses his love aboundingly
--THEN it has ANOTHER EFFECT upon the **unsaved "watcher"**
--He sees that the christian is not a **parasite**, not afraid to be fully involved in life, not imposing on the generosity of their fellows
(2)--So, THE SECOND REASON is to **cut away** any **grounds for accusations** against the gospel by not having a "handle" of MOOCHING
--ILLUS--W.E.C. couple in Liner's house in Houston

10/30/77 - Pamida Missy Bapt. Ch.

CONCLUSION:

A. Walk In Holiness:

1-Before God (4:1-8)--Moral purity
--In sanctification & honor

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers & pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul, having your manner of life honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation."

2-Before **Brethren** (4:9-10)--Brotherly love
--Extending to ALL the brethren
--Expressions in practical ways
** Hospitality
** Helpfulness
--Expansion--"increase more & more"

3-Before Self (4:11)--SEEK STRENUOUSLY
** Quietness (1)
** Do your own business (2)
** Work with your own hands (3)
--This is a **command** !!

4-Before Unsaved (4:12)--Walk (1)
--Work (2)
--To commend your Savior & the gospel

B. What That Walk Will Produce:

1-1 Pet. 2:11-12
2-Manner of life must be **HONEST**
3-Stops the mouths that would speak evil
4-SEE your good works----Brings GLORY TO GOD
5-That's the "chief end of man"
6-Is **that** what **your life** is producing?
7-It will be, if you're WALKING IN HOLINESS

SAVED (1)
"Set Apart" (2) (SANCTIFIED)
(3) **Honoring** the Lord in all areas of life

Westbrae
Daniels Missionary Baptist Church – 10/30/77
Oak Hill Bible Church – 8/28/88 — Roman Numeral (I) only
– 9/4/88 – Roman II + III to complete it

Message #2

358 – "Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind"
342 – "Must Jesus Bear The Cross Alone?"
343 – "I Want A Principle Within"
386 – "All For Jesus"

Message #1

441 – "Love Lifted Me"
411 – "Victory Through Grace"
261 – "Trust And Obey"
343 – "I Want A Principle Within"

"WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE RAPTURE" 1 Thess. 4:13--5:11
The Rapture Explained Titus 2:13-14 1 John 3:1-3 (1)

INTRO: **A.-The Return Of Christ--IMMINENT:**

1-**ILLUS**-During the last week of 1958 David Harrison went with a group of boys to "BIG BEND COUNTRY", leaving his wife & family at home. Upon returning to Houston, he found neither his **wife**, his **children**, nor his **mother**. THEY WERE **NOWHERE** to be found. Not only that, but he couldn't find out where they had gone, because at the last minute they had gone to Dallas as counsellors for a Dallas Bible College **YOUTH RALLY**. When I heard of it, I was too slow to reply, but later wondered if the thought had crossed his mind: "**I WONDER IF THE RAPTURE** HAS TAKEN PLACE."

It well **could have** for husbands who have Christian wives, but are not saved themselves.

2-**SO**, we need to be **AWARE** OF CHRIST'S PROMISE

* 3-John **14:1-3**

4-**THEN**, we need to **KEEP READY** for His coming

--**Mt. 24:42**--"**Watch**, therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come..."

--**Mt. 24:44**--"Therefore be ye also **ready**: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

B.-The Rapture Of The Church:

From the Latin "RAPTO" = "To snatch away" as of a thief of a woman's purse

1-DEF.-=="**Catching up** and away from the earth"

=="To claim for oneself eagerly"

--The **TERM** is **not found** in the N.T., but the **CONCEPT** is a New Testament one

2-**Meaning**--**The gathering** to the Lord in the air with other believers of this Church age as our Savior returns for us.

3-**HISTORY** OF **THE DOCTRINE:**

--**Fully taught** in the **N.T.** Jesus, Paul, James, John

--Direct or indirect reference in **almost every one** of the **N.T. books**

*--Part of the **ESSENTIAL TRUTH** taught by the Apostles, as seen by Paul's dealing with this truth in Thessalonica, where he only preached for a short time.

→--**DIDACHE**--(About **120 AD**) Christians were exhorted: "Watch for your life's sake. Let not your lamps be quenched, nor your loins unloosed, but **be ye ready**, for ye know not the hour in which our Lord cometh."

→--**FULLY & UNIVERSALLY BELIEVED** in the early Christian Church for about **300** years, except by acknowledged heretics (Apostles, Irenaeus, Polycarp, Theodoret, Chrysostom, etc)

*--**Eclipsed** by the Roman Empire because of their wedding with the Church under Constantine so Christianity became "established"

--**BURIED** by the **Roman** Church because of its corruption, lack of learning, and because they considered **THEIR CHURCH** to **fulfill** all pro-

phetic promises ON EARTH-----As seen in Augustine's "City Of God"

- --REVIVAL of Biblical studies during the Protestant Reformation & the doctrine of the Rapture was taught by such men as Hugh Latimer (1470-1535), who was burned at the stake for his Christian convictions by the Church of ROME
- --Premillennialism & the Rapture were widely held in the 17th century and since by BIBLE teachers & preachers, though largely ignored by those "married" to a denomination or a philosophical approach to the Scriptures

4-RESTORATION of widespread understanding of PROPHECY in the past 200 years
- Spur to evangelism
- --Impetus to missions
- Depth in Bible study
- --Rise of Bible Schools & Institutes
- Several BIBLICAL Seminaries also

5-Widespread reference & implication in the N.T. to the truth of the RAPTURE —— BIBLICAL origin of this teaching

C.-The Message Of "THE RAPTURE":

1-Outline: I.-The Sureness Of The Rapture (1 Thess 4:13-15)
II.-The Sequence Of The Rapture (1 Thess 4:16-18)
III.-The Significance Of The Rapture

2-Method------Examine----1-Classic passage
--2-Fullest passage
3-First passage

Other things may happen before the imminent event, but nothing else MUST occur before it takes place

3-Then see its implications

4-PROP:---What the Bible teaches
We want to learn--What the importance is to this doctrine for both believers & unbelievers.

I.-THE SURENESS OF THE RAPTURE (1 Thess. 4:13-15):

A.-People's Anguish:

1-Truth of the Rapture had been taught in Thessalonica
2-1 Thess. 1:9-10
3-HURRIED TREATMENT in just a short stay there — Paul taught this wherever he went
4-Christians were expecting an IMMINENT COMING
- John 14:3--"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself: that where I am, there ye may be also."
- Phs. 4:5--"The Lord is at hand"
- James 5:8--"Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts; for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh" — James also taught it.

So did other N.T. writers

5-DISTURBED by the question of the portion of the BELIEVERS WHO HAD DIED since they had become believers
6-Their problem was as to the TIME of this event, not the FACT which they did not doubt
7-ILLUS-To recognize the approach of the DAY OF THE LORD is expected of all believers. Just as certainly they are warned that they will not know the day or the hour of His coming.

The good effect of this expectation is illustrated by the aged colored man who, when asked as

WHAT VALUE his believing in Christ's soon coming had on his life, said, "I'M SITTING WITH MY FEET UNTANGLED."

A.D. 50

First Book written & what became the N.T. w/ possible exception of JAMES

B.-Paul's Answer:

1-Beginning of Paul's epistolary ministry
- --Helped Thessalonians THEN
- --Preserved for us too
- --PERMANENT VALUE

2-Writes to set their hearts at rest

* 3-FACTS are the ANTIDOTE TO FEAR

4-Ignorance is out of place in the Christian; We are to KNOW!

5-I Thess. 4:13-15--So clear as to need little explanation
- --Needs only DECLARATION
- --Yet, not preached in most churches now
- --ILLUS--Minister at First Presbyterian Ch. of Berkeley when asked why he didn't preach the SECOND COMING of Christ, replied that too many didn't know about & appreciate the FIRST COMING of Christ, so he had little time to devote to the Second Coming.

PROBLEM was that he didn't preach a message of hope and salvation from sin through the FIRST COMING either.

6-Those dead in Christ are "ASLEEP"
- --The real "YOU" leaves the body at death
- --2 Cor. 5:8--"..absent from the body, and ...present with the Lord."
- --Christians are NOT TO SORROW as if there is no hope, or as the unsaved do.

* 7-Belief in the Gospel
- --Entails a FULL & FINAL SALVATION
- --Redemption of the Spirit, Soul & Body
- --All of you is to be raptured home to heaven by the power and personal presence of Christ

8-NO PARTIAL RAPTURE!
- --Rom. 8:30--"Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified: and whom He justified, them He also glorified."
- --1 Cor. 15:23--"But EVERY MAN in his own order..."
- --ILLUS--Like a package which is in "WILL CALL" at a Department Store. That parcel is BOUGHT AND PAID FOR, and is fully mine, but it is awaiting delivery until I as the owner choose to pick it up.

SO IS THE CHRISTIAN as he awaits the redemption of his body until HIS OWNER, the Lord Jesus determines according to His will that it is time to pick us up.

9-HOW DO WE KNOW?---What is the authority??
- --"For this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord..."
- --THE BIBLE SAYS IT because the Savior says it....
- --And we can be confident!! Amen

10-TWO CLASSES--Alive ones & Asleep ones
- --Living Christians won't get to heaven first
- --"Prevent"=="Precede"
- --Arrival time will be IDENTICAL for all.

11-ILLUS--In the Fiji Islands there is a **pathetic custom** of **calling to the dead**. The savage climbs a high tree or cliff, and after mentioning his dead friend's name, cries: "**COME BACK, COME BACK!**"

We stand by the graveside of our Christian dead, **knowing** that one day they **will come back**, when the Lord Jesus returns for His own!!!

II.-THE SEQUENCE OF THE RAPTURE: (1 Thess. 4:16-18):

FIVE STEPS SPELLED OUT HERE

A.-Step No. One--"The Lord Himself": THE PERSON 4:16

1-**Christ HIMSELF** is to RETURN
2-**Descend** from heaven
3-1900 years and more in heaven WAITING FOR THIS, so far
4-**SOON** TO RETURN, I believe
5-**Waiting** for the **last person** to be joined to His Body
6-Winning of souls is for the **BRINGING BACK OF THE LORD!**
7-**JESUS IS COMING**--As He went
--**Acts 1:11**--"Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven."

Mt. Olympus - 10,000 ft. + less Area of Satan's dominion - Jesus alone can provide SAFE CONDUCT, for He has defeated Satan

--He'll **come** into the "**AIR**" = 10,000 feet altitude or less
--**NOT YET** TO THE EARTH
* --**A secret rendevous** with His loyalists, the true Christians
* --This will be **INVISIBLE** to the eyes of the world's **unbelievers**
--**Not to be confused** with HIS SECOND COMING to the earth
--That is "**THE REVELATION**", which is **VISIBLE**

8-ILLUS--A noted preacher was invited to preach away from home one weekend. Arriving at the **airport** he picked up his suitcase and waited for someone to come for him. A car drew up and the driver asked: "**ARE YOU DR. BROWN?**"

"Yes," he answered, and his luggage was placed in the car's trunk------BUT----before he could get into the car, the **driver drove off**.

While Dr. Brown was standing there trying to figure o out what had happened, and was trying to decide whether to call the police, another and **finer** automobile **drove up** in front of him. "**DR. BROWN, I THINK?**" observed the gentleman who was driving.

"**Yes**," he replied, "but someone else has just asked me that---(and) drove off with **my luggage**!"

"Oh, that was **an employee** of mine. I sent him for your luggage, but **I'VE COME** FOR YOU **MYSELF**."

How like the plans Jesus has for His very own; "The Lord Himself" shall **come for His people**. Even an angel would not suffice.

PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST COMES FOR HIS OWN

B.-Step No. Two--The Sounds: 4:16

1-"WITH A **SHOUT**"--From Christ's own lips
--**Military-type command** is implied
--**Call of THE LORD** to **His own**

A Jewish bridegroom came at an unexpected moment to claim his bride w/ a SHOUT!

--Dead in Christ are to RISE and be CHANGED

--Phs. 3:20-21--"For our manner of life is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our bodies of humiliation, that they may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself."

2-"VOICE OF THE ARCHANGEL" Michael

-Archangel is named Gabriel

-Associated in Scripture with ISRAEL

--NOT here for Israel's resurrection (that's later)

--BUT as an encouragement

--"Jacob's Trouble" is coming

--Israel will be protected THRU the Tribulation time

--Church is to be KEPT OUT FROM that Tribulation (Rev. 3:10)

3-"The Trump Of God"--Used to signal "MARCH" in Roman army

--Used to signal "RISE" for the Church

4-Church's HOPE--A "Blessed Hope"

--Tit. 2:13--"Looking for that blessed hope, & the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;"

WHAT WE LOOK FOR

--Not Signs, but SOUNDS

--Not Undertakers, but the UPPERTAKER

--Not events but the PERSON of Jesus Christ

* --LISTEN for His call

--ILLUS--A naturalist was walking with a friend thru the busy streets of a great city; he suddenly stopped, and asked: "DO YOU HEAR A CRICKET?"

"Of course not," laughed his friend. "You could never hear a cricket with all this roar of traffic"

"BUT I HEAR A CRICKET", persisted the naturalist, and upon searching, found a stone which he overturned revealing the insect.

"DID YOU ACTUALLY HEAR THAT CRICKET chirping above the noise of the street?" asked the friend in astonishment.

"CERTAINLY," said the naturalist. I SPEND MY LIFE LISTENING TO NATURE, whether I am in the forest, the field or the town. EVERYONE HEARS that for which he is listening." Taking a coin from his pocket, he dropped it on the pavement, and each passer-by put his hand in his own pocket to see if it was HE who was the one who had dropped it.

* WHAT ARE WE LISTENING FOR???

** For GOLD....

** Or.....FOR GOD ?

** Christians should be listening for the UPWARD CALL of Jesus Christ Himself

SOUNDS

III.-STEP #3 THREE--The Resurrection:

1-The dead in Christ shall rise first

2-Precedance is to those "ASLEEP in Jesus"

--Christian dead

--From catacombs, graveyards, mortuaries, mausoleums,

They have 6 feet far-ther to go!

unmarked tombs, lone graves, cemetaries and the seas.

3-Reference of "IN CHRIST" — CHURCH VICTORIOUS

--Includes ONLY the BODY OF CHRIST (164 times in N.T.)

-Scofield's early editions do not make that clear, but the later editions just don't refer to it

--Related to the "Blessed hope" of the CHURCH alone !

-Eliminates saints from other ages from the Rapture

** ILLUS--MAGNET over a steel scrap yard attracts steel even if it is imbedded in the earth, and REJECTS anything that is not steel, even though it looks like steel. (Plastic, Lead, Copper, etc)

So Christ calls those from the graves who are "TRUE METAL" of being "in Christ" and leaves all the others behind, whether saved O.T. saints or the unsaved.

RESURRECTION

IV-STEP #4. FOUR--The Reunion:

1-"THEN"--1 Thess. 4:17

--AFTER the resurrection of the "asleep" christians

--The ALIVE christians will "go up"

** As Enoch • Jesus

** As Elijah • Paul

CHURCH MILITANT • Church • Two Witnesses

--Called a "MYSTERY"--1 Cor. 15:51-52--"Behold I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, & the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

* --CAUGHT UP with our Loved Ones — VIOLENTLY SPEEDY SNATCH OF LIVING SAINTS + Acts 8:39 + Rev. 12:5 + Acts 1:9-11

--"Together with them"

--"in the clouds"-----MYRIADS OF SAINTS involved

--"To meet the Lord"----------BLESSED REUNION

2-1 John 3:1-3--"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure."

3-This MAY HAPPEN IMMEDIATELY — Today — This week — This year!

4-ILLUS--I think of the young Scottish preacher of a few generations ago who faced his Elders after meditating long and earnestly upon our Lord's OLIVET DISCOURSE. Facing each in turn, he asked, "Do you think the Lord may come tonight?"

One after another, his Elders replied: "I THINK NOT"

Solemnly that Pastor, Robert Murray McCheyne, repeated the words of our Lord: "Be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." (Mt. 24:44)

5-Reading in "THE LATE GREAT PLANET EARTH" by Hal Lindsey & C.C.Carlson (P. 136):

----"There I was, driving down the freeway & all of a sudden the place went crazy... cars going in all directions... and not one of them had a driver. I mean it was wild! I think we've got an invasion from outer space!"

----It was the last quarter of our championship game and the other side was ahead. Our boys had the ball. We made a touchdown & tied it up. The crowd went crazy.

Only one minute to go & they fumbled----our quarterback recovered----he was about a yard from the goal when----ZAP---no more quarterback----COMPLETELY GONE, just like that!"

-----"It was puzzling----VERY PUZZLING. I was teaching my course in the Philosophy of Religion when all of a sudden three of my students vanished. THEY SIMPLY VANISHED! They were quite argumentative---always trying to prove their point from the BIBLE. No great loss to the class, However I do find this disappearance very difficult to explain."

-----"As an official spokesman for the United Nations I wish to inform all peace-loving people of the world that we are making every human effort to assist those nations whose leaders have disappeared. We have issued a general declaration of condemnation in the General Assembly concerning these heads of state. Their irresponsibility is shocking."

-----"My dear friends in the congregation. Bless you for coming to church today. I know that many of you have lost loved ones in this unusual disappearance of so many people. However, I believe that God's judgment has come upon them for their continued dissension and quarreling with the great advances of the church in our century. Now that the reactionaries are removed, we can progress toward our great & glorious goals of uniting all mankind into a brotherhood of reconciliation & understanding."

------"You really want to know what I THINK? I think all that talk about the RAPTURE and going to meet Jesus Christ in the air wasn't crazy after all. I don't know about you, fellow, but I'm going to find myself a Bible and read all those verses my wife underlined. I wouldn't listen to her while she was here, and now she's-----I don't know where she's gone."

6-WHERE ARE THE MISSING ONES----That will be the question!!!

7-ILLUS--A young girl who was under conviction occupied the same College Dormitory Room with another girl who was a CHRISTIAN. As she began to arouse herself one morning, early, she looked for her roommate, but she was gone.

This young woman remembered that they retired at the same time the previous evening. However, the other bed was now EMPTY, and she didn't know where the roommate had gone. She was reminded of the words of the PREACHER the day before--"ONE TAKEN AND THE OTHER LEFT"

This young woman did not take time to dress, but putting on a robe she went to the next room to awaken her companions. As she went from room to room, she saw that all who loved the Lord Jesus were GONE, and only the unsaved ones remained. She did not know what to do. SOME slept on in indifference, but this anxious girl searched the house, and at last found the saved girls of the dormitory in a LITTLE PRAYER MEETING.

With mingled joy and sorrow, she exclaimed: "I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU AGAIN UNTIL I KNOW THAT I AM SAFE WHEN THE LORD DOES COME."

May it be so with you, also 2 at the REUNION in the sky w/ the Lord

V. STEP #5. FIVE - The Comfort:

1- "So shall we ever be with the Lord" - 4:17
   - -No separation
   - -No more sorrow or pain
   - -No problems of life then
   - -Full & final redemption
   - -JOY of face-to-face fellowship

2- "WHEREFORE" == "As a result of this"

3- "Comfort" -- Hearts encouraged
   - --John 14:1-3
   - --Term "Comfort" can equally be translated by "EXHORT" — 1 Thess. 4:18
   - --No comfort in partial rapture or Mid-tribulation rapture (NB)
     - ** These are LEGALISMS that "OUT-MOSES Moses".
     - ** "Let them get what is coming to them" is the idea of those who propose this PROTESTANT PURGATORY !
     - ** Unwarranted from the Scriptures
     - ** Every believer deserves the pre-tribulational rapture, because Jesus Christ deserves it.
     - ** Mid or Post-Tribulation rapture position robs of IMMINENCY

4- ILLUS -- A preacher was once arguing with an infidel friend, a famous philosopher and scientist. They heckled back and forth but neither came up with any conclusive statements which could silence the other.

Finally the Scientist said: "See, you cannot give me an answer for your belief in the life hereafter & the truth of the Bible."

The minister stopped for a moment & said: "It is true that I cannot convince you, but I know someone who can silence your argument. Come with me."

He led his friend to a humble little house & introduced him to a poor widow who had just lost her dead husband. "This widow," said the minister, "wants to know if she will ever see her husband again. Will you give her the answer? What does SCIENCE say?" ? *

The scientist was silent.

"Answer if you can," said the preacher. "Have you a word of comfort for a mourning widow?"

The man hung his head. He had NOTHING TO SAY! !

"Then," said the preacher, "I shall answer her." He opened his Bible and read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 concerning the COMFORTING TRUTH that Jesus is soon coming back to reunite us with our loved ones, and said: "THE SCRIPTURE HAS THE ONLY FINAL ANSWER."

5- Explanation (5:1-11) — Use in next message
   - --CHRISTIANS (THE SAVED)
     - -No need of "times & seasons" info (5:1)
     - --Aware of the Day of the Lord coming as a thief in the night (5:2)
     - Not in darkness or night so as to be

obtain salvation (or deliverance) in the rapt...

III.-THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RAPTURE: BLESSED HOPE

A.-Rapture Is Related To An Important PERSON!

1-JESUS CHRIST is the central figure of the rapture
2-He is personally coming to retrieve "His Own"
3-His coming is imminent
4-His character gives importance to the rapture

B.-Rapture Is Related To An Important BOOK:

1-BIBLE is that Book
2-Interpretation of that book is necessary
3-Impossible to be literal in your interpretation of the Bible and not be a PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURIST
4-Elements related to the Rapture & the Revelation are in marked contrast

C.-Rapture Is Related To Important DOCTRINES:

1-Tie-in with many & varied issues
- --Israel & its distinction from the Church
- --Church as separate from Israel – 1 Cor 10:32
- --Kingdom promises for Israel
- --Tribulation period for beginning of sorrows
- --Dispensationalism

2-This is not just an "isolated issue"
3-CENTRAL to our "blessed hope"

D.-Rapture Is Related To Important PRACTICES:

1-Here we relate to every-day life
- --Purity of life
- --Comfort of heart
- --Faithfulness of service
- --Fellowship with Brethren
- --Relationship to the world
- --SALVATION DECISION

→ 2-Tell the importance by the "company this truth keeps"

BOORUM & PEASE "NoTEAR" ®

10
6

CONCLUSION:

A.-Holding The Hope?:

1-**Some** folks are "**holding the hope**" because they see it in the pages of Scripture

2-**Others** are "**HELD BY THE HOPE**"
- --Controls their actions
- --Controls their attitudes
- --Controls their aspirations
- --In a "**straightjacket**" to their **convictions** — THEY FIT!

3-**How is it with you?**

4-**PAUL** WROTE: "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing. (2 Tim. 4:8)

5-**JOHN** WROTE: "And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure." (1 Jn. 3:3)

B.-Heeding The Message:

1-Invitation to those who are **not already ready** for the RAPTURE

2-"**Prepare** to meet thy God"

3-**Trust** Christ **TODAY**, while it is still your privilege

4-M.R. De Haan-"The future is longer than the past and infinitely longer than the present; yet the eternal future **can be settled** in a **moment of time.**"

5-Won't you settle it **TODAY ??** — NOW!

Olney Gravestone:

"All I have longed for here below
Now I have seen and Know."

Waiheki Island, Auckland, NZ. - 2/25/96
Tampo Bible Church - 3/10/96
Dunedin Bible School - 7/20/99
10/14/10 - Fall Foliage

Westbrae--5/9/65
Westbrae--2/14/71--#137--"One Day" (103)
#482--"Face To Face" (511)
9/9+16/73 11/6/77 #491--"My Savior First Of All" (507a)
Daniels M.B. Ch. — 3/1/77 "Christ Returneth" — 156
Evergreen B. Ch. — #156 — O Word Of God Incarnate
Marrietta, OH
Mountain View Bapt. Ch. #455 — When He Cometh
Alderson, WV - 4/20/80 #138 — Must I Go Empty - Handel?
Snyder, Col. - 6/14/81
Oak Hill Bible Church - 9/18/88
Victory Bible Church, Alum Cr. - 10/19/90
Hamilton Bible Church — 6/23/92 - NZ
Liberty Baptist Ch - New Plymouth, NZ - 7/5/92
Onslow Chapel, Kendelah, NZ 7/13/
Calvary Bible Ch., Wichita, Ks. 1/17/93
Huntsville Bible Ch., AL. - 3/7/94
Hedgesville, WV 3/5/95

"THE SEQUENCE OF THE RAPTURE; 1 Thess. 4:13-18
THE CHURCH IS GOING UP !"

(1)

INTRO:

A."Going UP !" -Words of the express elevator operator in the EMPIRE STATE BUILDING---1250 feet to the top, and then stop.
-Rapture of the church will mean "GOING UP" all the way to heaven when Jesus comes to call away His Own.

B.-Review Of Definitions:

1-"Rapture"==Catching away (RAPTO) of the church from earth
2-Biblical doctrine taught by -Jesus
-Paul
-James
-John
-Writer of Bk. of Hebrews
3-Historical doctrine--Early Church taught & believed it
--Diminished after Constantine
--LOST after Augustine & the emergence of the Roman Catholic Church
-RECOVERED by some at and after the Protestant Reformation
-Widespread belief among Bible believers today

C.-Review Of Previous Message: ("What The Bible Teaches About The Rapture")

I.-THE SURENESS OF THE RAPTURE:
A.-The People's Anguish (What had happened to those who had already died)
B.-Paul's Answer:--1 Thess. 4:13-18
--FACTS as an antidote to FEAR

II.-THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RAPTRURE:
A.-Related to a significant Person
B.-RElated to an important Book
C.-Related to important Doctrines --Israel
--Church
--Kingdom
--Rewards
D.-Related to important Life Practices
1-Purity
2-Comfort
3-Faithfulness
4-Fellowship
5-Service
6-Relationship to the world

D.-Today's Message:

1-PROP--We propose to show the BIBLICAL SEQUENCE of the rapture in five steps.

2-Interrog: "What are the five steps of the Biblical sequence of the rapture ??

3-Let's look at the classic portion in 1 Thess. 4:16-18 to find these sequential steps.

I.-STEP # ONE--"The Lord Himself":---THE PERSON

"the fulness of the Gentiles"

1-Christ HIMSELF is to return
2-Descend from heaven
3-1900 + years in heaven WAITING FOR THIS TIME
4-SOON to return, I believe
5-Waiting for the last person to be joined to His Body
6-Winning of people is for the BRINGING BACK OF THE KING
7-JESUS IS COMING--As He went
- -Acts 1:11--"Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven."
- --He will come into the "AIR"
  - ** 10,000 feet altitude or less
  - ** Mt. Olympus is near 10,000 feet
  - ** Sphere of Satan's dominion as the "prince of the power of the air"
  - ** Only Jesus can provide "SAFE CONDUCT" through Satan's domain, for Jesus has defeated Satan on the Cross
- --Not returning to the earth at that time to establish the MILLENNIAL KINGDOM
- --This "COMING" is a secret rondevous with His loyalists, the true believers
- This will be INVISIBLE to the eyes of the world's unbelieving inhabitants
- -Not to be confused with Jesus SECOND ADVENT, which is visible and is called "the revelation"

8-ILLUS--A noted preacher was invited to preach away from home one weekend. Arriving at the airport, he picked up his suitcase & waited for someone to come for him. A car drew up The driver asked: "ARE YOU DR. BROWN?"

"Yes," he answered, and his luggage was placed in the car's trunk-----BUT----before he could get into the car, the driver drove off.

While Dr. Brown was standing there trying to figure out what had happened, & was trying to decide whether to call the police, another, finer car drove up in front of him. "Dr. BROWN, I THINK?" observed the well dressed gentleman who was driving.

"Yes, I am Dr. Brown, he replied, "but someone else has just driven off with my luggage."

overtaken by the Day of the Lord (5:4-5)
--Not to be asleep (5:6)
--**B U T** to be sober & active (5:8)
--"Not appointed to wrath, but to obtains salvation" (5:9)
--H O P E in either life or in death is CHRIST, Who saved us (5:10)
--Comfort and edification are to be the outgrowths of our prophetic studies (5:11)

**U N S A V E D
--Speak words of false hope, but they shall **NOT ESCAPE** WRATH (5:3)
--Asleep to the realities (5:6)
--Under false influences (5:7)
--**IF YOU KNEW** Jesus Christ was coming in just 15 minutes, wouldn't you:
- Call upon Him to save you ??
- Repent of any known sin ??

--Well, He is surely coming, even if we cannot say just when that coming will occur
--ILLUS--Gladys Liner's salvation testimony as she heard of the rapture being preached, and looked at a mural portraying His coming to call home His own.

** Won't you TRUST HIM while you can--------RIGHT N O W ??

6-Thus, the Christian is not appointed to wrath, but to obtain salvation (or deliverance) in the rapture--BLESSED H O P E !!

CONCLUSION:

A.-Illustration:

1-The MIGRATORY SEASON is almost on us. Birds go south to winter. **Winter descends** soon upon us here. Signs of winter's coming are all around us:
--Leaves are turning
--Days are shortening
--Nights are lengthening
--Temperatures are getting cooler by the week

2-We know not at WHAT PRECISE MOMENT winter will "H I T" our area, but we know that winter will come !!

3-Just so with Jesus' coming for His Church.

4-THE SIGNS OF HIS COMING relate to His **return visibly** to rule & reign. HOwever, if those signs are becoming visible now, then the RAPTURE, which must occur 7 years before the REVELATION, may well be speedily upon us.

B.-Heeding The Message:----"PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD"

1-INVITATION for salvation

2-COMFORT for those with loved ones awaiting resurrection of the body from the grave

3-EXHORTATION for all believers concerning their manner of life at this time

4-M. R. De Haan-"The future is longer than the past, and infinitely longer than the present; yet the eternal future can be settled in a moment of time.

5-Do it N O W !!!

TODAY !!!-------HERE !!

172--"O Word Of God Incarnate"
#150---"When He Cometh"
157--"What A Gathering"
#148---"Will Jesus Find Us Watching?"
9/16/73--Westbrae
11/13/77 Daniels MissionaryBaptist
9/25/88--Oak Hill Bible Church.

RAPTURE--- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Read also Titus 2:1-15

Intro.---A.- "Going up"-- Empire State Building in N. Y.--Built in 1931---1250 feet high....then that's all.

B.-All the way up when Jesus Comes for us.

I.-PARTICIPATION IN THE LORD'S RETURN FOR SAINTS---4:13-15.

A.-Misunderstandings--4:13

1-Afraid the dead would have no part in the Rature.

--told not to sorrow as the heathen do.

2-Afraid as to the time the Advent was to be expected 5:1-11

B.-Explanations---4:14-15

1-Portion of the dead--asleep--4:14

--Resurrection of Jesus is a sure fact--TWO PILLARS--as the house of Dagon which Samson wrecked, so the doctrines of Christ hinge on the 2 pillars of the death & resurrection of Christ.--No house that can be wrecked

2 --Resurrection of Christians is sure because of Christ's resurrection

--brought to heaven in a new body--"And if I go & prepare a place for you, I will come again, & receive you unto myself; thatwhere I am, there ye may be also.

illus

Mrs. Roper

To Holy Land or Heavenly Land

2-Portion of the Living--4:15

--IMMINENT return of X expected because Paul places himself in this group. STILL IMMINENT--nothing yet to be fulfilled before Jesus comes.

--Not necessarily IMMEDIATE--wasn't 1900 years ago.

--Order--Dead first & then the living--"prevent"=preceed.

--ILLUS---Magnet in a Steel scrap yard. True metal is attracted to the huge magnet whether it is on top of the ground, or buried. But, that which is not true metal is not attracted & it remains behind.

C.-Misconceptions---PARTIAL RAPTURE

1-Perfect holiness to participate in rapture

--Corinthians were ALL to participate--1 Cor.15:51-52.

2-Must be "looking for Him" in order to participate--He.9:28

--1 Cor. 1:7--same term "waiting" used of Carnal Corinth.

--"Looking," "Waiting," & "Watching" are the NORM for the Christian, but none will be left behind because of poor orthopraxy.

3-Not WRATH, but RAPTURE is the portion of the church: Rom. 5:9, 1 Thess. 5:9; Rev. 3:10

Ambassadors for X called home when WAR Declared against earth - dwellers, whether they have been good ambassadors or not.

II.-COMFORT OF THE LORD'S RETURN---4:16-18

A.-Resurrection of the Dead in Christ--4:16--Church At Rest

1-limited at the rapture to those "in Christ"- the church.

2-First Res.--Christ the Firstfruits
--Church at the Rapture
--Trib. Sts., Israel, & O.T. at 2nd Advent
} Res. to LIFE

3- accomplished by "For He, Himself, The Lord"

--ILLUS--O.T. Trumpet used to assemble Israel

--ILLUS--Trumpet used to sound out Roman army:
"Fall out" of tents--1st trump
"Fall in" to line-----2nd Trump
"Forward March"------Last Trump

--ILLUS--"Savior like a Shepherd lead us...to thy folds above"

4-Age of Grace ends with a "CATCHING UP" & not a "BUILDING UP"
--LISTEN FOR SOUNDS, & not to LOOK for signs.

B.-Resurrection of Living Saints --4:17---Church Militant

1-This is in reality a Res. for Heb. 9:27 & 1 Cor. 15:51-53 show death & change is portion of all. ILLUS-Metamorphosis

2-"Caught up"--ILLUS--Violent slight of hand trick happens so fast it cant't be seen---as last minute rescue from danger in a Western Movie. Acts 8:39; Rev. 12:5

3-"In the air"--Explanation. If on Mt. Olympus this would be below the 10,000 ft summit. Above 10,000 ft. a different word would be used, but below is Satan's Dominion as the "Prince of the Power of the Air"--Jesus alone can give us the necessary SAFE CONDUCT, for He alone has defeated Satan.

4-We will go on up TOGETHER--Reunion with Christ
--Reunion with Christians

--ILLUS--If my wife were in a foreign country, & I had a beautiful mansion ready for her, she would a good deal rather I should come & bring her to it than to have me send someone else to bring her. Christ has prepared a mansion for His bride, the Church, and He promises for our joy and comfort that He will come Himself and bring us to the place H e has been all this while preparing.

5-Be WITH Christ--speaks of Union with Him
--"that where I am, there ye may be also."

C.-Use of the Doctrine of the Rapture--4:18

1-Comfort--mutual aid

2-Exhort---mutual stirring up--(Lk.3:18 it is so used)

3-Purification--1 John 3:1-3

Concl.----Know ---Facts & Surety

Work----While it is yet day--time is short

Purify---Make sure I am constantly ready

Comfort--Ministry to one another of Christians.

1 Pet. 3:15. But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts & be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness & fear.

2.- Christ comes as a thief in the night - 1 Th. 5:2
— not known to all. "World knoweth not"
3.- Christ comes FOR the Church
4.- Christ takes the Church to Heaven
5.- 7 years of WRATH follow on earth 1 Th. 5:9

III REVELATION OF CHRIST — (Part 2 of 2nd Coming) 2 Th. 1:7-10, Rev 19: 1-19

A.- Attitude of Christ

1.- 1st Advent - meek + lowly + having salvation Zech 9:9
2.- 2nd Advent - making war on enemies + showing WRATH to rejectors

B.- WHAT HAPPENED?

1.- Christ puts down rebellion by his own power + ends the battle of Armageddon
2.- Christ JUDGES the nations acc. to treatment of Israel + of salvation.
3.- Christ JUDGES Israel acc. to salvation
4.- Christ sets up PROMISED KINGDOM
— over whole world
— Peace + Righteousness

C.- How Accomplished?

1.- Openly + Visibly — Contra Rapture
2.- By PRESENCE of Christ on EARTH + in his own power — Contra Rapture
3.- Christ comes WITH the Church + Angels.

Concl: A.- 1st advent - prophesied — Came to Pass
2nd advent - prophesied — Sure to Come to Pass.

B.- Illus - When the LOVER is absent we remember BIRTH Date + send gifts. When He is about to Return, we think of HIM -- the PERSON -- more than a date. ARE YOU READY FOR HIM?

C.- Jn 12:32 - Draw < in Salvation / in Judgment > where do you stand?

Some Golden Daybreak
What A Gathering
Will Jesus Find Us Watching?

"WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT PRE-TRIBULATIONISM" 1 Thess.5:1-11
Rom. 13:11-14

1

INTRO:

"NOT WRATH, BUT RAPTURE"

A.-The Questions:

1-Am I to expect Jesus to return in **my lifetime**?
2-Might He come **today**?
3-Is it possible that He could call us home **this very hour**? **NOW!**
4-**Not academic** questions--But **VERY PRACTICAL** !!
--They'll determine how we live our lives

B.-The Definitions:

1-When I was a beginning college **debater**, **I lost** an important decision though I thought my arguments were logical & flawless. The judge revealed my fatal weakness when he said: "**YOU WEREN'T TALKING ABOUT THE SAME THINGS.** **He proved** one case and **you disproved** another. You never challenged **his definitions**."

2-It was a wise professor at Harvard who said to his students: "**LOOK WELL TO YOUR DEFINITIONS**" !!!!

3-Definitions of terms:

--The **Church** is that spiritual unity of believers in Jesus Christ who are all baptized into one body by the Holy Spirit, and which embraces all saved persons from Pentecost to the rapture.

--The **Rapture** is a theological term used to describe the catching home to heaven of the living saints and those of the Church age who have died when Jesus comes for them. No specific date is set for this event in the Bible.

--The **Tribulation** is a 7 year period of unprecidented trouble upon the whole earth from the outpouring of the wrath of God, of man & of Satan. The special objects of this overwhelming tribulation will be the Jews, which is why this period is also called "THE TIME OF JACOB'S TROUBLE". This period is just before the millennium and is terminated by Jesus' bodily return to the earth.

--The **Millennium** is the 1000 year period of the visible rule and reign of the Lord Jesus Christ over the promised kingdom of God on earth as promised to Abraham, Moses and David.

--**Pre-Tribulationism** is the view of the rapture (place) which holds that this event will take PREvious to the Tribulation. Other views are MID and POST tribulationism, and there are some who believe there will be a PARTIAL rapture. Each view other than the PRE-TRIBULATION view expects true believers to go thru part or all of the wrath of God of the tribulation.

C.-The Clarifications:

1-**Two Prepositions**

--**FOR** His saints==The **Rapture**
--**WITH** His saints==The **Revelation**; Second coming

2-Clear understanding of WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES is essential if we are to be sure of our doctrinal & practical position.

3-ILLUS--Sign in a Dublin, Ireland, OPTOMETRIST's window:
"You can't be optimistic with a misty optic"

4-We, also, need to have a clear view:
I.-DELIVERANCE BEFORE WRATH------PICTURED
II.-DELIVERANCE BEFORE WRATH------PROMISED
III.-DELIVERANCE BEFORE WRATH------PRE-FIGURED

5-Prop:--To know the truth of the Bible on this subject
--To see its practical importance
--To order our lives according to the truth

I.-DELIVERANCE FROM WRATH--------PICTURED:

A Biblical PATTERN!

A.-Pictured In God's Character:

1-God is a God of MERCY

2-Micah 7:18--"Who is a God like unto Thee, that pardoneth iniquity, & passeth by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He retaineth not His anger for ever, because He delighteth in MERCY."

3-Words that indicate God's concern for His people

4-Mic. 7:19--"He will turn again, He will have compassion upon us; He will subdue our iniquities; and Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."

5-Demonstrated when Israel had been guilty of breaking the commandments also

6-Ex. 34:5-7-- Read

7-Douglas M. White--"The great heart of God delights in mercy, which is basic to all His redemptive purposes & activities. Judgment, which is required by the justice of God, is exercised only as an ultimate necessity, when His mercy is spurned. It is something in which God finds no pleasure. 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked' (Ez.33:11). Judgment is His strange work. 'Is not destruction to the wicked? and a strange punishment to the workers of iniquity'?(Job 31:3) In predicting the much-deserved punishment of Ephraim because of wholesale departure from God & continued rebellion against Him, the prophet stated, "For the Lord shall rise up as in Mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do His work, His strange work; and bring to pass His act, His strange act.'" (s.s.Times, Nov. 25, 1961)

B.-Pictured In God's Conduct:

1-Dealings with NOAH
--Luke 17:26-27
--Flood is authenticated by Jesus — WORLD WIDE JUDGMENT
--World population was busy with earth-centered activities, but NO THOUGHT OF GOD
--Noah was placed safely in the Ark
--THEN judgment fell destroying the unbelievers
--Righteous ones are always delivered before disaster

2-Dealings with LOT
--Luke 17:28-30
--Lot was bound up with a system in which he had no business being associated
--Yet he was a saved man, though he had no testimony
--Unrestrained wickedness all about

--Vexed Lot--2 Pet. 2:7--"...just Lot, vexed with the filthy manner of life of the wicked."

--Despite Lot's failure as a testimony & though he was a "SAD SPECIMEN", Lot was a true believer, so GOD DELIVERED HIM !!

** --AFTER Lot went out of Sodom, the brimstone fell

--Righteous, though not spiritual, Lot was still delivered before disaster

3-Dealings with LOT'S WIFE

--Luke 17:31-32

--Really a recalcitrant child of God

--Stubborn & self-willed because she had ALL HER TREASURE in Sodom

--God said: "Get out & keep going & don't look back"

--MRS. LOT got out, so she was not consumed with the ungodly Sodomites

--But Mrs. Lot was severely disciplined because of her wilful disobedience

--She wasn't judged with the ungodly Sodomites, for she was not "one of them", but God did hold her accountable for her disobedience

* --Deliverance, though disciplined, for God will not allow it to appear that "HIS OWN" share a common fate with the unsaved.

4-In the days of MOSES with the Children of Israel:

--God gave Pharoah ample opportunity to repent thru a call to "LET MY PEOPLE GO" & thru the 10 plagues

--Israelites were protected while the Egyptians were "plagued"

--Expression of God's mercy & longsuffering

--Finally, however, the issue was settled at the Red Sea

** God brought 2-6 million Israelites thru to safety dryshod

** Ex. 14:29-31

** Not one Israelite perished

** Not one Egyptian escaped that day

* --Israel (in totality) was "high & dry" BEFORE the judgment was visited on the Egyptians

--Jude 5--"..the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not."

5-Dealings with RAHAB:

--City of Jericho was filled with vileness, violence & great wickedness

--Curse of God against a re-building of Jericho (Josh. 6:26)

--But even there was to be found a "household of faith"

--Josh. 6:23-24

* --NOTE: It was not until Rahab & her family were OUT & in complete safety that God destroyed the city

--Heb. 11:31--"By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace."

--An incident illustrating the wonderful breadth of the grace of God. Regardless of the sin of the past, we can be accepted and safe because of what we are "IN CHRIST"

6-NOTE THE PATTERN !! --Deliverance of the saved *

--Then **judgment** of the **unsaved**
* --**No occasion** to the contrary
--**Ex. 19:3-4**--"And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel. Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, & how I bare you on eagles wings, and brought you unto myself."

7-Douglas M. White: "God's dealings with His people in a corporate manner are **disciplinary** (though punitive) & not destructive. God brings **corrective** measures to bear upon His redeemed ones, while He pours out His **destructive wrath** upon the incorrigibly wicked & perverse, who will not yield to redemptive overtures."

II.-DELIVERANCE BEFORE WRATH----------PROMISED: Biblical Promises

A.-The Character Of The Tribulation:

1-Distinguish **2 similar terms:**
2-**TRIBULATIONS**--Lots of them of **many varieties**
--**James 1:2**--"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations."
--**John 16:33**--"These things have I spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."
* --**COMMON LOT** of humanity to have problems, & christians are **not exempt**

3-**THE GREAT TRIBULATION**
NB * --Term **only** used in **Mt. 24:21** & **Rev. 7:14** TWICE
--Term has generally been applied:
** "The tribulation"===7 years
** "THE Great Tribulation"===last ½ of of 7 years
* --Description in **Mt. 24:21-24**
--**Other** designations: ** "Time of Jacob's Trouble"
** "Daniel's 70th Week"
--**JEWISH**-oriented dealing by God
--Effects the **WHOLE WORLD** (Lk. 21:35) "For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth"
--Characterized by the **WRATH OF GOD**
--**Rev. 6:16-17**--"And said to the mountains & rocks, 'FALL ON US, & hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, & from the **wrath** of the Lamb: for the great day of His **wrath** is come; & who shall be able to stand?"

** 4-Gen. Wm. K. Harrison: "The destruction of the tribulation will result from the wraths of God, of Satan & of mankind. **God's wrath** never falls **on His own people.**" (P.28, Hope Triumphant)

① John 14:1-3
5-**THEREFORE** we see that though the church age believer is to expect problems on earth THE TRIBULATION is something of a magnitude which is **singular** & **unique** from our daily "TRIBULATIONS".

B.-The Rapture **BEFORE** The Tribulation:

"Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."
1-Rom. 5:9--Present salvation thru Christ's blood is a **"MUCH MORE"** guarantee of future deliverance
3-Rom. 8:1--**Judgment** for sin **is PAST** & so can never again lay

claim to those for whom the payment has been fully made.

3-1 Cor. 15:50-58 — No need of G.T. To purge the saved one. (5)
--Change is essential, for we cannot enter heaven as we now are
--Bold statement: "we shall all be changed"
** Some by rapture (15:51-52a)
** Some by resurrection (15:52b)
** Rapture and resurrection are indissoluably linked together
--VICTORY is ours.....NOW !!
--Therefore, we can labor with confidence (15:58)

(5) 3:20-21 -Anticipation -Transformation (7) Col. 3:4

4-Phs. 4:5--"Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand."----IMMINENCY.

5-1 Thess. 1:9-10--3 Steps ** "YE TURNED"--Conversion
** "TO SERVE"---Activity
** "TO WAIT"----Anticipation
--WRATH is what we've been saved FROM

(9)
6-1 Thess 4:13-18
--Classic passage on the RAPTURE (see previous message)
--Presented here as the NEXT EVENT for prophetic fulfillment and our expectation

"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ"

7-1 Thess. 5:9--WRATH is what we're exempted from
5:1-11 --Much difference between the afflictions (3:3) by which we are beset & the wrath of God

2 Thess 2:1-2 (11)

8-Tit. 2:13-14 Because we're of the day + light, not night + darkness.
--Next prophetic event
--Believers are to LOOK FOR HIM, not look for signs
--This is a heart-encouraging hope
--Douglas M. White: "If the church must remain upon earth through the tribulation, then the rapture ceases to be a blessed hope & becomes a dreadful prospect" (S.S. TIMES, Dec. 9, 1961)

Well said

9-Jas. 5:7-9--Exhortation of patience in the light of the coming of our Lord
--This prospect is to be conceived of as IMMINENT for: "the coming of the Lord draweth nigh" & "behold, the judge standeth before the door"

10-2 Pet. 2:5-9--Case histories of Noah & Lot
--Principle of deliverance & judgment
--This is a CERTAINTY !!
--Deliverance is as sure as retribution

15-Perhaps one or two of these texts alone would not settle the case. However the combined might of the testimony of these passages is tremendous.

16-D. M. White: "It seems inconceivable that those who have been redeemed at such infinite cost, & by such measures, should for a moment be required to suffer as those who, because of unrelenting wickedness & rejection, must necessarily be the recipients of the final wrath of God.
Surely, for the redeemed of God to be present when 'the wrath of God...is poured out without mixture (undiluted with mercy) into the cup of His indignation' (Rev. 14:10), would be out of keeping with His character." (S. S. Times, Nov. 25, 1961)

13-The mid- or post-tribulation rapture becomes a sort of PROTESTANT PURGATORY, which is just not in keeping with

these marvellous & unconditional promises of God

III.-DELIVERANCE BEFORE WRATH----------PREFIGURED!

John 14:1-3

A.-The Church On Earth:

1-The term "CHURCH"--94 times in N.T before the Revelation
--19 times in Rev. 1-3
--Only 1 time thereafter (22:16)

2-Head of the Church seen in Rev. 1:10-18 — GLORIFIED

3-OUTLINE VERSE----1:19
① Ch. 1
② Chs. 2-3
③ Chs. 4-22

4-Rev. 2 & 3 deal with CHURCHES
--7 Historic churches in Asia Minor
--7 categories of spiritual conditions of individuals and churches
--7 PERIODS of Church History (with 6 & 7 running parallel to each other) — Can't press this too hard.

** 5-No warning to the Church or churches like Matt. 24:15-20 because the Church will be RAPTURED FIRST !!

6-Rapture promise in Rev. 3:10 "Come Up Hither"
--Church in Philadelphia==Spiritual & vibrant church which is obedient to God's Word
--"Keep thee from (ek==OUT OF) the hour of (the) temptation (or test, or trial) which shall come upon all the world to try them that dwell upon the earth"
--Only TWO TESTS or TRIALS that are universal
(a) ** Test of the Gospel, & that was already present, and not future to the churches in 96 AD.
** Test of the Tribulation which was yet future.
(b) --Very evident promise that the true Church WILL NOT GO INTO THE TRIBULATION, but will be kept "from" =="out of" the tribulation.

B.-The Church Called To Heaven:

1-Symbolic "rapture" of the Church in the experience of John in Rev. 4:1-2 — μετὰ ταῦτα in 1:19 + 4:1 indicates this is AFTER the Church era.

2-In heaven he sees 24 Elders
--Rev. 4:4
--These were never in heaven before (Isa. 6; Ezek. 1)
--Not angels because distinguished from them (5:11)
--Redeemed & glorified beings (5:9)
--In heaven BEFORE the Tribulation which we will see in Rev. 6-18
--These have been rewarded with their "CROWNS", which is a promise to the Church alone (4:4, 10)
--These are called "Kings & priests" (5:10 w/ 1 Pet. 2:9)

① Blood-bought ones - 5:9
② Crown-wearing ones - 4:4; 3:10; 4:10
③ White-clothed ones 4:4; 3:4,5,18
④ Appointed as Kings + Priests, or a Kingdom of priests - 1:6, 5:10, 20:6, 1 Pet. 2:9

3-John 14:1-3 is here fulfilled for the Church

C.-The Tribulation On Earth:

1-Rev. 6-18 --Seven Seal judgments
--Seven Trumpet judgments
--Seven Vial (or Bowl) judgments

though 19 times in chs. 1-3 + 28 in 22:16

2-NO MENTION of the Church in these chapters
--Scene is the earth during the Tribulation
--Church is in heaven at that time so the Church is not in view.

3-Many are saved in the Tribulation period.

--144,000 Jews in Revelation 7:4-8 ← All "Kosher" (7)
--"a great multitude which no man could number, of all nations, & kindreds, & peoples, & tongues" (7:9)
--There are many martyrs as seen by the WHITE ROBES (7:9, 13)
--These are said to be "coming out of great tribulation" (7:14)
--THEREFORE these saints must have been IN THE GREAT TRIBULATION in order to come OUT of it, and that is never once said of the Church

NB!

4-Church is said to be occupied elsewhere
--Judgment Seat of Christ for rewards (1 Cor. 3; 2 Cor. 5)
--Marriage Feast of the Lamb (Rev. 19:7)

Ministry in the Church
Deeds done in the body
Rom. 14 - Relationships w/ Fellow-believers

5-Must either be IN or OUT of the Tribulation
--Seen that God promises deliverance OUT FROM this time of Tribulation for the Church
--I'll place my confidence in those promises & exhortations to be comforted
--QUESTION: "What comfort is there if the Church was expected to endure the Great Tribulation?" ??

19:9 Marriage Feast in Jewish Custom takes place in home of the BRIDE, which puts the Feast on EARTH after 2nd Coming, which accords w/ Mt. 25:1-13.

D.-The Return Of Christ & The Saints: (in HEAVEN)

1-Rev. 19--Marriage Supper of the Lamb & the Lamb's Bride
--THEN the return of Christ in power to the earth
--2 Thess. 1:6-10
--Battle of Armageddon
--Doom of Beast & False Prophet (Cast into Lake of Fire (19:20))

2-Rev. 20--Satan bound for 1000 years (20:1-3)
--Resurrection of the righteous — 20:4b
--Millennium — 1000 Yrs spoken of 6 times in 20:1-7
--Resurrection of unrighteous dead and the GREAT WHITE THRONE

THRONES set (20:4a) for the Church as they join w/ Christ in judgment as kings + Priests. BIBLICAL ORDER is suffer now; reign later

3-Rev. 21--New heaven & new earth
--New Jerusalem as home of the Church

4-CLOSING PROMISES--Rev. 22:7--"Behold, I come quickly..."
--Rev. 22:20--"He which testifieth these things saith, 'Surely I come quickly...'"
--Rapture is not a REWARD, but a VEHICLE of deliverance
--Jesus will claim His Bride "WHOLE", & not marred or in segments

CONCLUSION:

A.-Resume':

1-PROMISE is plain
--In pictures of God's character & conduct w/ His saints
--In promises of deliverance
--In prefigured deliverance in the Book of Revelation

2-PROOF is positive--No case that answers this presentation
--No other case that deals with all the Scriptures that are pertinent
--So, we must decide for the truth

3-PREPARATION is personal
--No one can "get ready" for the rapture in your behalf, except you

--YOU must respond from your heart to the truth of the Pre-tribulation rapture

(8)

B.-Believer's Response:

1-ILLUS--When **Ernest Shackleton**, the great explorer, was driven back from his quest of the SOUTH POLE, he left his men on Elephant Island & gave them his solemn **word of promise**, "**I'M COMING BACK FOR YOU MEN.**" He tried to get back. He tried it once & he failed. The second time he failed, the third time he failed. WHY?? There was always more ice between him & the island than he could get around. It was dangerous. His boat could have been destroyed & the whole venture would have fallen apart. He tried to get back & fulfill his promise.

Folks said: "**Your men will understand**, they know the hazards of the way; rest quietly." He replied: "**I CAN'T REST** IN SPIRIT AT ALL **UNTIL** I GO BACK AND **REDEEM MY PROMISE**." So, one time, the **wrong time of the year**, he got nearer the island, & as he watched, he saw an open avenue between the sea & the place where he left his men. He ran the boat at **great risk** of being hit & he got all his men on board & he came out of it before the ice had opportunity to crash the vessel. It was all done in **half an hour**.

When the excitement was partly over, he turned to one of his men & said, "Well, all I have to say, is that **you men** were **packed & ready to go.**" The man to whom he spoke said, "YOU SEE, BOSS, WILDE OVER THERE, THE SECOND IN COMMAND, HE **NEVER GAVE UP HOPE** & WHENEVER THE SEA WAS AT ALL **CLEAR** OF ICE HE'D ROLL UP HIS SLEEPING BAG & SAY TO ALL THE HANDS, '**Roll up** your sleeping bags, boys, the **boss may come today**.'"

THAT is the way in which a black outlook was suddenly changed, & all these men in a matter of a half hour were safe, **HOMEWARD BOUND**.

2-Beloved, let's make it **practical**. Are we keeping our hope bright, based on the **PROMISE** OF A GOD WHO **CANNOT FAIL**, of a Savior who has never gone back on one single promise? Thank God He has made the promises. He is a God of His Word; He will not fail us.

→ 3-**Rom. 13:11-14**

4-**Do we DARE** not be looking for Christ's return FOR US to be soon?

→ 5-**1 John 2:28**--"And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming."

C.-Unbeliever's Response:

1-If **you knew** Jesus Christ was coming in just 15 minutes, wouldn't you **CALL UPON HIM to save you right away**?

2-Well, He **is coming** again **SURELY**, even if we can't say at what day or hour!!

3-Since that coming again appears to be **SOON**, won't you turn and trust Him **NOW**?

Bible Center Ch- 11/15/06
Westbrae--4/25/71--#498--"Wounded For Me" (128)
Daniels M.B.Ch. --#488--"I Know I'll See Jesus Some Day"
1/15+22/78 --#110--"Seeking For Me".

"BELIEVER TO BELIEVER MINISTRY" 1 Thess. 5:14-15
Gal. 6:1-4

1

INTRO:

A.-Background:
1-1 Thess. 4:13--5:11--Coming of Christ
2-Not to be ignorant, but informed
3-Not to be confused, but comforted
4-READY for His coming--5:6-8
--EXHORTATION
5-SURE HOPE--5:9
6-Therefore--"Comfort yourselves together"
--"Edify one another")))) 5:11

B.-Threefold Expression Of That EDIFICATION:
1-Admonition toward Leaders (5:12-13)
2-Exhortation toward Fellow-Believers (5:14-15)
3-Demonstration toward Spiritual Life (5:16-22)
4-"HINGE"--"And be at peace among yourselves"
--5:13b
--Relates backward**People & their leaders
** Leaders toward their people
** Exhibiting PEACE with those over them in the Lord
--Relates forward
** Interpersonal relationships
** Believer to believer ministries
** Manifesting PEACE with those around them
5-Note certain parallelisms:
--"We beseech you" (5:12)
--"We exhort you" (5:14)--Same as in Rom. 12:1
--Both addressed to BRETHREN
--Responsibilities are set forth succinctly!!!
* --Incumbent upon every believer to have these ministries one to another

C.-This Message:
1-Outline---I.-FOUR SPECIFIC DUTIES:
II.-TWO GENERAL ADMINITIONS:
2-Prop:--To show our interpersonal responsibilities to those who are fellowmembers of Christ's Body.
3-Warning--It is not "BIBLICAL" to leave these tasks solely to the Pastor or to the Church officers!!!

I.-FOUR SPECIFIC DUTIES: (5:14)

A.-"Warn Them That Are Unruly":
1-Key term is "WARN"--"To put in mind"; "Admonish"; "Confront"; "Bring blame"
2-Usages:
--1 Th. 5:12
--Acts 20:31--"Therefore watch & remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day."
--Rom. 15:14--"And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled

with all knowledge, able to **admonish** one another
--1 Cor. 4:14--"I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I **warn** you.
--Col. 1:28--"Whom we preach, **warning** every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:"
--Col. 3:16--"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and **admonishing** one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, sining with grace in your hearts to the Lord."
--Sense of **Drawing attention** to things that are **WRONG**, and **CONFRONTING** a brother with them

3-We have a ministry of **spiritual oversight**
--Pastor & Elders
--**Common believers** also
--"Big Brother" and "Big sister" relationships
--**Interaction** of believer with believer

Sp. Fathers
Sp. Mothers

4-Who needs this??--"Them that are **unruly**"
="**Insubordinate**"; "**OUT OF STEP**"; "**Idle**"
--ILLUS--Soldier who is not marching **in cadence** with the body of men who are obeying their commander's orders
--**Manifestations:**
** Idleness--Some Thessalonians weren't working, but were **sponging**
** Officiousness--Some Thessalonians **didn't respond well** to their God-ordained Spiritual Leaders
** Excitability--Some Thessalonians were so **emotionally ruled** that they had not stability
** Unruly--Those **not** walking **in the light** of God's Word on their path

5-Areas for **rebuke** & **warning**:
--Church & S.S. attendance (erratic)
--Prayer Meeting participation (For congregation as well as for the OFFICERS)
--Erratic performance in service responsibilities
--Laxity in separation
--Failure in giving for God's work
--Personal devotional life
--Failure to surrender to the LORDSHIP of Christ
--Harboring bitterness
--**ANYTHING** that is "**out of step**"
--ILLUS--2 Thess. 3:6, 14-15

Example - Floyd Bonneyen's words to Mike Nichols

6-Such a ministry to a brother **shows** that you **REALLY CARE** about that brother or sister in the faith!!!
--Stan Ginn with Bill Rowell
--Dr. Petrie with Tom Pearson
--Henry Hawkins with Paul Reiter in Chicago restaurant in 1960
--**Gal. 6:1** (explain)

"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself lest thou also be tempted."

7-Call it **CONFRONTATION COUNSELLING**;;; **YOU** can do it...**if** you **CARE ENOUGH**

B.-"Comfort The Feebleminded":

1-The WHO ??--"Feebleminded"=="Feeble in spirit"; "Little souled"; "faint-hearted"

--Those overtaken by sorrow, remorse or problems

--WYCLIFFE rendered it "Comforte the men of litil herte"

--Whatever concern is plaguing these, it generally produces despondency & depression

2-WHAT causes this ??

--Sensitiveness to criticism
--Dread of persecution
--Sense of failure to follow the Lord
--Apprehensiveness about the future
--Bereavement after death of loved ones
--Remorse over failure

3-HOW are we to help such brethren in their needs???

--"Comfort"=="ENCOURAGE"
--Show your concern over such ones
--REACH OUT !!
--Don't condemn those whose faith is not so robust as yours, but help, console, & build up!!
--Let discouraging words not be heard at all

4-EXAMPLES--Paul--1 Thess 2:11 (as in 2:10-12)
--Friends at death of Lazarus--John 11:19, 31
--Jesus--Luke 5:8-10

5-Especially those with the gift of mercy, who can exhibit compassion to the wounded

6-Y O U can do it if you "feel their hurt" in you

C.-"Support The Weak":

1-Doubtless there is a PHYSICAL SENSE to this

FOOD
CLOTHING
SHELTER
TRANSPORTATION
JOBS

--Widows & orphans in their need
--Famine in Jerusalem in N. T. times
--Natural disater occasions
--Those unable to find employment
--Those handicaped, so unable to help themselves
--Acts 20:35--"I have shewed you all things how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, & to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."

WEAK IN THEIR FAITH; Newly Planted

2-Even more pressing & widespread in the SPIRITUAL SENSE

--Spiritual needs aren't as obvious as physical ones
--But often even MORE "crying" types of needs
--Hurts & needs that are very deep-seated
--Sidney J. Harris--"When you run into someone who is disagreeable to others, you may be sure he is uncomfortable with himself; the amount of pain we inflict upon others is directly proportional to the amount we feel within us." (Readers Digest)

3-What are we to do???

--"Support"="Lay hold on them"
--Not just in the sense of HOLD UP those about to fall
--Stronger--We are to HOLD ONTO those who might easily slip away.

Close the holes in our bag

--Let these weak ones know that **SOMEONE CARES!!**
--Mark 6:34--"And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people and was moved with **compassion** toward them..."
--**Reassure** them that fellow-christians won't forsake them; **CLEAVE** to them in their times of trial
--Exercise the GIFT OF **HELPS** toward them & lift them by loving concern — People-Oriented Service
--Rom. 15:1--"We then that are strong ought to **bear** the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves."
--Gal.6:2--"**Bear** ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

4-**WHO** are these "**weak**" ones??--Described in N.T.
--Rom. 14 (14:1 esp.)
--1 Cor. 8: (8:9-12 esp.)
--**B E L I E V E R S !**
--But not well rooted, grounded & instructed
--**Not mature**
--**Recent converts** who need tender nurturing to bring them along
--Ones being **led astray**
--Ones being Satanically attacked

5-**Reminder**--Make them sense that they "**BELONG**" to the Christian community
--**TURN AWAY** from the **apostate** (2 Tim. 3:1-5)
--But don't turn away from the **weak**
--Rather, **EMBRACE THEM** !!
--**Teach** them to **lean** upon Jesus by your own concern and example

6-BIBLICAL PATTERN--**Paul**----**1 Cor. 9**:19-23

7-**Y O U** can do it if you'll **sense their weakness** & seek to hold onto that brother for Christ's sake

D.-"Be Patient Toward All (Men)":

1-"**Be patient**"--Generally translated in N.T. as "Be **longsuffering**"; "Be **long-tempered**"; "Bearing with"
--Bear long with a person or circumstance
--ILLUS--Matt. 18:26, 29
--Opposite of anger & hasty retaliation--**DON'T EXPLODE**
--Eph. 4:2--"With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love"
--**SELF-RESTRAINT** in the face of provocation
--Listed in Ga. 5:22 as a part of the **Fruit** of the Spirit
--More important to build others than to expand your own ego, so **BE PATIENT** with them

2-"**Toward all** (men)"--Men is in italics & is redundant
*--**Easier** to be patient with **some** than with others
--**Some** will need **special care** & treatment
--But since no one is perfect, at one time or another you'll have need of patience toward **All**!
--Just **wait**---**Sooner or later** you'll have

to exercise this grace, this **Fruit** of the Spirit
--Tremendous **revealer** of your own spiritual life

3-**Alternatives** to being PATIENT--Lash out
--Explode — "FLIP" (5)
--Excuses to answer charges
--Complaining spirit
--Self-justification to counter the charges
--These help neither you nor your christian brother

4-The christian should not be putting his own interests first & taking a hard line with all who disagree with him. RATHER we are to be patient, bearing with them & seeking to lead them in the way of the Lord.

5-**HOW ??** --By **practicing** a life of patience under trial in your own experience
--Others LEARN BY WATCHING
--Certainly those who think of themselves as "**STRONG**" ought to be patient in relation to others.

6-**YOU** can do it if you consciously **THINK** before you respond to the provocations piled on you

II.-TWO GENERAL ADMONITIONS:

NEG → **A.-"See That None Render Evil For Evil Unto Any (man)":**

1-Retaliation is **OUT**!--No "getting even"
--No revenge — NONE!

2-Three Standards:
(a) Wicked worldling--Does **evil** in response to good
(b) Cultured worldling--Does **good** in response to good
(c) Consistent christian--Does **good** to those who do **evil** toward him

3-Lack of **retaliation**
--Contrary to our **natural instincts**
--Contrary to the **world's ethics**
--BUT **TAUGHT** in God's Word:
** Prov. 20:22--"Say not thou, I will **recompense** evil, but wait on the LORD & He shall save you"
** Prov. 24:29--"Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me; I will **render** to the man according to his work."
** Rom. 12:17--"**Recompense** to no man evil for evil."
--Surely **makes** the **unsaved** "take notice" because such a christian attitude is **DIFFERENT** !!.

4-**What happens** if I strike back??--**Lose** my "peace of God" (Fellowship severed)
--**Lose** my testimony (No different in appearance from the unsaved)
--**Open** the door to **BITTERNESS** (Many will thereby be defiled)

5-But what about **the HOSTILE??**
--Will it help you to become like him?
--Will it help him if you **match evil** for evil?

--Perhaps you are **nursing** in your heart feelings of **spite**, of **revenge**, of **vengeance** under the delusion that REVENGE IS SWEET.
--**Think again!**
--Consider the words of Frances Jones Hadley.

"O laddie, my laddie, with quick-flashing eye,
With boyish cheek crimson and pulse beating high,
You say you'll get even, no matter how long
It takes you to pay for a slight or a wrong.

"But tell me, O laddie, just whisper it low,
The secret I long have been wanting to know;
When after your hurry and flurry and fret,
At last you get even, **JUST WHAT DO YOU GET?**

"Is it something that gives you a glad thrill of joy
That makes you a better, a manlier boy?
Is it something that conscience may whisper, 'WELL DONE,'
And bring you sweet peace at the set of the sun?

"O laddie, the whole world is waiting to know
The secret that puzzled wise men long ago;
If, after your worry and flurry and fret,
At last you get even, **JUST WHAT DO YOU GET?**"

6-Our first general admonition is **NEGATIVE**....
"See that none render evil for evil unto any (man)"
Our second general admonition is **POSITIVE**..

B.-"**But ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves and unto all (men).**": **POSITIVE**
1-**CONTRAST** with revenge is a life of **out-going** benevolence toward all
2-"But ever"--ALWAYS!!!
--A **rule** to which there is **no exception**
--Consciously **construct** a **new pattern** of life
3-"**FOLLOW**"--In the **continuous present**; **HABITUAL** ATTITUDE!!!
--"**Pursue**"; "**follow after**"
--No hostility in this pursuit; just the well-being of others & ourselves as the goal
--"**Make** this **your aim**"
4-Uses--"Follow righteousness (Rom. 9:30)
--"Follow hospitality" (Rom. 12:13)
--"Follow things which make for peace (Rom. 14:19)
--"Follow love" (1 Cor. 14:1)
--"Follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.." (1 Tim. 6:11)
--Follow peace with all men and holiness..." (Heb. 12:14)
5-This **following** that which is **GOOD** (="beneficial in effect")
--As it relates to yourself
--As it relates to others
--It is not enough to "**BE GOOD**"
--God expects us to be GOOD FOR SOMEONE.!.'
--Be **constructive**
--Whose life would be the **poorer** if you'd never lived?
--Whose life is the **richer** because you are living??

Important Q's

--**RESOLVE** that, God helping you, you'll **so live** as to "follow that which is good" and so invest in the lives of those about you

(7)

--This is "OTHERS-LIVING"

--**How??**

--The essence of AGAPE-love (Self-sacrificing love that seeks the highest good of the one who is loved)

--**Beneficial outreach** ** Not just toward those who treat us **well**

** But also toward those who are **perverse**!

** ACTS OF **LOVE** in the face of hostility

--Again, this **goodness** is a part of the **FRUIT** OF THE SPIRI

--Holy-Spirit produced

6-Supreme EXAMPLE is Jesus Christ--1 Peter 2:20-24

7-Pauline **EXAMPLE**----------Philippians 3:12-14

CONCLUSION:

A.-CONTENT OF "BELIEVER-TO-BELIEVER MINISTRY":

1-**Four specific duties**--WARN the unruly

--COMFORT the feeble in spirit

--SUPPORT the weak

--BE PATIENT with all

2-**Two general admonitions**--Don't retaliate (NEG)

--But be constructive--DO GOOD (POS)

B.-CONTEXT OF "BELIEVER-TO-BELIEVER MINISTRY":

1-"**Family needs**" **of our makeup**

--(a) human level (Parents, grandparents, brothers, sister aunts, uncles, cousins, etc.)

--(b) heavenly level (Heavenly Father, Compassionate Savior, Comforting Holy Spirit)

--(c) spiritual level (Pastor, Elders, Deacons, Deaconesse spiritual fathers, spiritual mother brothers, sisters, spiritual children in the faith)

NB → **MUST** have an **involvement** on **all 3** of these levels if we are to be a fulfilled person

-**Why??**

--Because God made us that way!!!

2-ILLUS



See flannelgraph of this

3-Local Church is God's provided vehicle for the needs of His children to be met on a "FAMILY LEVEL"

--Do you understand that this is God's gracious design for your spiritual well-being?

--Are you ** Attached & Committed???

** Attracted & Helped (but not involved??)

** UNattached (getting little & giving nothing??)

--Don't you want God's fullest and best for your life!

** INVOLVED in the family

** INTERACTING with the family

C.-Invitation:

1-Begin to function in this believer-to-believer ministry

** Warn the unruly

** Comfort the feeble in spirit

** Support the weak

** Be patient toward all

2-Become officially ATTACHED to God's vehicle for this ministry

-----THE LOCAL CHURCH.

(and) encourage OTHERS to do so also!

12/30/73--#213 ① "Glorious Things Of Thee Are Spoken" #165

394 ③ "Make Me A Blessing" OR #331

266 — "I Walk With The King" OR #428

② "The Name Of Jesus" #64

④ "I Am Thine, O Lord" #314

2/11/74 1st Bapt. Ch. of Walnut Creek

6/19/74 - Columbus - Calvary

2/19/78 - Daniels M.B. Ch.

7/8/81 - Grace Bapt. Ch, Paso Robles, CA.

10/30/88 - Oak Hill Bible Church.

"CHRISTIAN----BE JOY-FILLED"

1 Thess. 5:16
John 15:1-11
Ps. 51:6, 9-12

(1)

INTRO:

A.-ILLUSTRATION:

1-We've all seen the Charlie Brown cartoon that defines:
"HAPPINESS IS A WARM PUPPY"

2-**But**.....Suppose their is **no puppy** !?
.....Or suppose the puppy is cold ??

3-Then, NO HAPPINESS, because happiness depends upon things we have or can acquire.
Happiness is **CIRCUMSTANCE-ORIENTED**
** Latin--"fortuna" (=chance)
** Old English--"**hap**" (=happenstance)
** Related to how life "**falls out**"

4-EXAMPLES -Fame
-Fortune
-Good looks
-Position

5-BUT **JOY** issues from the character and work of God and joy wells up in those in whom the Spirit of God dwel
-Inner delight in God
-Totally **unrelated to circumstances**

B.-Shortest Verse In Bible:

1-Most think of "**JESUS WEPT**" (Jn. 11:35)
--2 words in the English translation
--**3 words** in **Greek** text
--And they are LONG words in Greek

2-Actually **the shortest** is 1 Thess. 5:16--"REJOICE EVERMOR
--Only **2 words** in Greek text
--And very SHORT words
--But they say a great deal

3-DEF.--Charles H. Spurgeon--"**Peace** is the **flowing** of the **brook**, but **JOY** is the **dashing** of the **cataract** when the brook overflows, bursts its banks & rushes down the rocks."
*--**UNCEASING GLADNESS**
--Repeated theme of Scripture, but I don't ever recall hearing a message on JOY

4-If all you knew about a Christian was that **he** "**REJOICED EVERMORE**", **what** would you actually **know** about him?
--That he is saved
--That he is in fellowship
--That he is growing in grace
--That he is walking in the will of God
--That he is exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit
--That he is living "by faith" and not by sight
--That he is living **ABOVE** his circumstances, and not **"UNDER"** them
--That's **quite a lot** as the outgrowth of "REJOICE EVERMORE"

5-Thus....."Being a Joy-filled christian is merely being **God's kind of Christian**" (Paraphrase of William Orr, How To Be A Happy Christian) P. 3)

C.-This Message:

1-Outline: I.-The NATURE OF JOY:
II.-The NEGATION OF JOY:
III.-The NURTURE Of JOY:

2-Prop: --Understand this spiritual quality that's spoken of so often in Scripture:
- -Rejoice & Rejoicing---277 times
- -Joy, Joyful----------196 times
- -Glad----------140 times
- -Especially in Psalms, Proverbs, Acts and Philippians

So that you
--Experience JOY in our own lives

INTER- Is our experience exhibiting God's kind of Christianity ?

I.-THE NATURE OF JOY:

A.-Joy Is For Christians Only:

1-By definition this is a CHRISTIAN VIRTUE
- -Non-christians are under Satan's domain & there is no joy there.
- -Never hear: "There is joy in serving Buddah"
  "There is joy in serving Mohammed"
- -NO JOY in religions of ritual or fear or works
- -Unsaved dwell in the lap of "chance" & happenstance for their exhileration — Win the LOTTERY
- -But JOY is of divine origin and "hangs in there" in times that are "bad" as well as when they are good

DEF.

2-ILLUS--Lawyer Gong, who lived in Foochow was a joyful Christian. His non-Christian neighbors said, "He is happy because God has smiled upon him."

One day Gong's little boy died and went to be with Jesus. The neighbors said, "In sorrow Gong will be just like the rest of us. Tonight we will hear no singing over the garden wall.

That night, however, Gong and his family gathered as was their custom for family worship. Although their hearts were filled with sorrow, they sang hymns and praised God just as before. How astonished the neighbors were to know that Christians have inward joy in time of sorrow.

Gong said that night, "Never before until this moment have I understood what being a Christian really means in the way of comfort. I shall never forget it. GOD IS ALWAYS WITH YOU--in happy times and in sad ones"

3-Someone has said that worldly happiness always ends in one of 3 ways --DISAPPOINTMENT (1)
--INDIFFERENCE (2)
--TRAGEDY (3)

4-ILLUS--Small child is promised the gift of a toy
--Always the possibility of DISAPPOINTMENT because the toy is not what he really wanted
--Even if he is delighted with it when he gets it, eventually the "new" wears off. After he's played with it for a time it ends up in a corner, a casualty to the child's INDIFFERENCE, not to be touched again.

--3rd possibility, He's not disappointed nor indifferent. He loves the toy, but **TRAGEDY strikes**, for it gets **stepped on** and **broken** (3)
--**THE END** of the happiness is **dissolved** in **tears**
---And ** Adulthood is **not exempted** to these 3 ends to happiness for grownups also
** We also can see our circumstances **shattered**

5-BUT **JOY**--**Never ends** in disappointment (1)
--Never ends in indifference (2)
--Never ends in tragedy (3)
--Because, according to the Scriptures, **JOY** IS ALWAYS

.....

B.-Joy Is Related To Jesus:

1-Virgin **Mary** gave testimony:
--After selection to be the mother of Jesus' humanity
*--Luke 1:47--"My spirit hath **rejoiced** in God my Savior"
--**Anticipation** of Messiah's ministry brought Joy

2-**Angel's** announcement:
--Lk. 2:10-11--"And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for
* behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David,a Savior which is Christ the Lord."
--**Good tidings** concerned the birth of the world's Redeemer
--Joy **proclaimed** because the lost would be found and the sinfull would be saved

3-Three and a half years of ministry we see **JOY** demonstrated as Jesus ministers to them--Dead are raised
--Lame made to walk
--Blind given sight
--Lk. 19:6--"And he (Zacchaeus) made haste, and came down, and
* received Him **joyfully.**"
--Contact with Jesus brought **JOY** into their experience

4-The Cross--Heb. 12:2--"Looking unto Jesus, the author and
* finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."
--**Not despair** in His agony
--**But JOY** in doing the Father's Will
--Set His face to that task steadfastly & with peace and **joy**

5-**Promises** to believers:
--John 15:10-11--"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's com-
* mandments, and abide in His love. These things have I spoken unto you, that **My joy** might remain in you, and that **your joy** might be full."
--**HIS JOY** is what we get
--H O W ??
--By **Keeping** His commandments and **abiding** in His love
--Result:-----"That your joy might be **full**"

6-**Matter of Prayer** to the Father:
--Jn. 17:13--"And now I come to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might

have My joy fulfilled in themselves."
--Christ's prayers are all answered in the affirmative
--"MY JOY" is the joy that has its source in the Savior
--Concern that His joy would be the portion of every believer.

7-Leon Morris--"...by and large the Christian's way is a happy way. His spiritual resources are so great that earthly things cannot disturb his composure, and he goes on his way with a song in his heart (Col. 3:16). It is natural for men to rejoice when things go well with them. But it is not this natural joy, dependent upon circumstances, that is characteristic of the Christian. It is the joy that comes from being 'IN CHRIST'." (I Thess., Pp. 171-172).

8-Therefore we have the commandments of the N.T.
--1 Thess. 5:16--"Rejoice evermore."
--Phs. 4:4--"Rejoice in the Lord, always, and again I say, rejoice."

9-SONG: "Jesus and Others and You---That's the way to spell JOY"

Another: Jesus --------You .....with "O" (nothing) between (J"O"Y)

C.-Joy Is The Fruit Of The Spirit:

1-Gal. 5:19-23--WORKS of the flesh------EVIL
--FRUIT of the Spirit------DIVINE
--Wuest--"The choice of FRUIT here instead of WORKS is due probably to the conception of the christian experience as the product of a new and divine life implanted in the saint." (On Galatians)

2-The FRUIT--"Love"(Agape)==Self-sacrificing love that sets the well-being of the other above one's own interests
9-Fold
--"Joy"==Delight in our great God
--"Peace"==Enjoyment of intimacy after warfare has ceased
--"Longsuffering"==Bearing with the shortcomings we see in others
--"Gentleness"==Kindness; Reaching out to others
--"Goodness"==Morally upright & helpful
--"Faith"==Faithfulness; Always able to be counted upon
--Meekness==Controlled strength
--Temperance==Self control

3-Details to notice--Fruit is of the Spirit
--Not flesh-produced
--But Holy Spirit generated
--And it is singular (FRUIT), not fruits
--These are produced together; in tandem
--Can't have 1 or 2 and lack the others
--ALL NINE TOGETHER, or not at all. !

NB

4-Who can have this JOY as a part of the Fruit of the Spirit?
--The saved one
--The Spirit-filled christian
--The growing believer
--Acts 13:52--"And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Ghost."

5-Thus, we see that JOY IS A BIRTHRIGHT of the Christian, but it is unattainable by the unsaved, or while walking in the flesh

6-ILLUS--Years ago a Scotchman arrived in Liverpool where he was to embark for his journey to America. He fingered the few schil-

lings that made up his total earthly capital, & decided that he would **economize** on **food** during the trip in order to have more money on hand when he reached New York. He went to a small (5) store & laid in a supply of **crackers & cheese** to get him through the days at sea.

However as the voyage progressed the sea air made him **very hungry**. To make matters worse the **dampness** in the air made his crackers **soft** and his cheese **hard**. He was almost desperate with hunger. To cap the climax he caught the fragrant whiff of food on a tray a steward was carrying to another passenger. The hungry man made up his mind that **he would have ONE GOOD, SQUARE MEAL**, even though it might take several of his schillings.

He awaited the return of the steward & asked him how much it would cost to go to the dining room and get a dinner. The Steward asked the Scotchman if he had a ticket for the steamship passage. The man showed his ticket, and the steward told him that **ALL MEALS WERE INCLUDED** in the price of the ticket. The poor man could have **saved the money** he **spent** on crackers & chees & he could have gone to the dining room and **eaten** as much as he liked every meal-time.

This is but a humble picture of the position of many people who have believed in Christ as Savior. Because of that faith they are **SAVED**, but they go about their miserable way without **appropriating** any of the blessings that God has for them in Christ.

HOW TERRIBLE is the responsibility--and **the loss**---of thes "cheese and crackers christians" who show **no joy** to those who are looking for the reality of joy in their lives.

II.-THE NEGATION OF JOY:

A.-An Example:

1-The case of **David**--Believer
--Experienced the delights of fellowship
--Wrote many of the Psalms
--Expressions of **joy** abound
--Ps. 16:5, 11--"The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot...Thou wilt show me the path of life; in Thy presence is fulness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

2-**Sin** with Bathsheba--Adultery with her
--Murder of Uriah, her husband
--Cover-up of both sins
--Nathan's story of "ONE EWE LAMB"
--**Confession** of sin before God & Man

3-David's **Prayer**--Psalm 51
--51:12--"**Restore** unto me **the joy** of thy salvation: and uphold me with thy free spirit."
--He hadn't lost his salvation, but he had **FORFEITED THE JOY**
--**W h y ??**
--Because of his **sins**. !?!

B.-An Extension:

1-POEM: "How tedious & tasteless the hours,
When Jesus no longer I see!
Sweet prospects, sweet birds and sweet flowers,
Have lost their sweetness for me."

2-Loss--of fellowship (1 John 1:10)
--Of prayers being heard (Ps. 66:18)
--Of desire for fellowship with christians
--of usefulness in God's work
--of sense of direction in life

3-ILLUS--A man wished to perform some kind of Christian service, so his Pastor suggested that he go to a RESCUE MISSION and help there. The man duly presented himself to the Superintendent. He was assigned to go out onto the street in front of the Mission and invite passing men to come into the meeting.

The man accosted the passersby and, in a mournful tone, asked them to enter the mission. Each man to whom he spoke glanced at him and went on. He learned his lesson, however, when one man responded to his doleful invitation, "Brother, wouldn't you like to come in to the meeting?" Cynically, the man looked at his solemn face and said: "NO, THANKS: I'VE TROUBLES ENOUGH OF MY OWN ALREADY."

We are not good recommendations for the Lord Jesus Christ if we have not learned the great truth that JOY IS ONE OF THE PRIME ATTRACTIONS of the Christian life.

C.-An Expression:

1-Phs. 2:14--"Do all things without murmurings & disputings"
2-MURMURING in the Book of Exodus
--Led by Aaron & Miriam
--People engaged in it on a wide front
--Some of the things we're prone to complain about also:
** Food
** Water
** Weather
** Leadership
** Campsite (home)
** Circumstances of life
** Comparison with the "GOOD OLD DAYS" in Egypt

3-What was the outcome??
4-1 Cor. 10:10--"Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer."
5-Antidote to the nitpicking & murmuring complex is....
.....TO REJOICE IN THE LORD (Phs. 3:1; 4:4)
6-You ask...
....HOW ???

III.-THE NURTURE OF JOY:

A.-Believe The Gospel In Your Heart:

1-What is the gospel??
--Acknoledge yourself a sinner
--Believe that God loves you
--Confess that when Christ died for sin & sinners & rose again it was to PAY FOR YOUR SIN
--Decide today to receive Christ as your Savior & His offered gift of eternal life is yours, permanently

STEP ONE

-EXPRESS faith openly

2-What will happen if you do that??---JOY !!!
--Lk. 10:20--"Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven."
--Lk. 19:6--"And he (Zacchaeus) made haste, and came down, and received Him joyfully."
--Acts 8:39--"And when they were come up out of the water, The Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, and the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing."
3-Find Jesus as SAVIOR & make Him the "HUB" around which your life revolves
4-Let Jesus be your CHIEF JOY

B.-Experience Holiness In Your Life: Rom. 12:1-2

STEP TWO

* 1-Choose your "side" as the side of right living.
2-Rom. 14:17--"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."
--What contributes to righteousness in my life?
--What contributes to peace in my life?
--What contributes to joy in my life??
--Anything else is to be PUT OUT !!!
-And let's be ruthless about it
3-How to tell??
4-Rom. 14:22-23--"Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin."

Do right + you'll FEEL right.

C.-Steep Yourself In God's Truth:

STEP THREE

1-Sound living grows out of sound doctrine
2-Where will I get that ??--Sunday School
--Worship Services
--Prayer Meetings
--Bible Classes
--Fellowship opportunities
--Good and necessary, but that is NOT ENOUGH — MORE is needed!
3-FEED YOURSELF by personal, daily reading & study
--Ps. 19:8--"The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart..."
--Ps. 119:14--"I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches."
--John 15:10-11
--Jer. 15:16--"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; & thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts."
4-As your KNOWLEDGE grows....
....and your OBEDIENCE grows.....
.....then your JOY will grow also !
5-WHY ??--Jas. 4:17--"Therefore to him that knowth to do right and doeth it not, to him it is sin."
--Ps. 19:11--"Moreover, by them (the Scr.) is thy servant warned; and in keeping of them is great reward.

STEP FOUR

D.-Endure Suffering:

1-Our joy is **not dependent** on **circumstances**, for PROBLEMS **WILL BEFALL US**.

--John 16:33--"These things have I spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of **good cheer**; I have overcome the world."

--James 1:2--"My brethren, count it **all joy** when ye fall into divers temptations;..."

--But we are to have **joy independent** of our current circumstances

2-G.G.Findlay--"The command to "REJOICE ALWAYS" (1 Thess. 5;16) is noteable in a letter **addressed** to a **suffering people** (see 1 Th. 1:6; 2:14; 3:2-4); it must have struck the readers as **a paradox**." (1 Thess., P. 126, Cambridge series)

NB

3-**Paul** was their **example**:

--ILLUS--Acts 16:22-25

--Book of **Philippians** is **full of REJOICING** by one who was in prison for the faith, and was rejoicing even there

4-**The result** will be that sorrow endured for Jesus' sake will open a new **well-spring of JOY !**

--2 Cor. 12:9-10--"And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

--Col. 1:24--"Who now **rejoice** in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for His body's sake, which is the Church."

--1 Pet. 4:12-13

STEP FIVE

E.-Help Others Spiritually:

1-To be saved--1 Thess. 2:19-20

2-To be **growing**--Phs. 2:2

3-To be **walking faithfully**--3rd John 4

4-To be serving as co-laborers--Phs. 2:17-18
--1 Cor. 16:15, 17
--Acts 15:3

CONCLUSION:

A.-Recapitulation:

1-The **NATURE** of Joy--For christians only
--Related to Jesus and eternal things
--Fruit of the Spirit

2-The **NEGATION** of Joy--Example of David
--Extension is of L O S S !!!
--Expression is in murmuring

3-The **NURTURE** of Joy--Believe the gospel
--Experience holiness in your life
--Steep yourself in God's Word
--Endure suffering for Jesus' sake
--Help others spiritually

B.-Where Is Joy?!?!

1-NOT IN UNBELIEF:
Voltaire, the infidel & gospel denier: "I wish I had never been born."

2-**NOT** IN **PLEASURE**:
Lord Byron--"The worm, the canker, and the grief are mine alone."

3-**NOT** IN **MONEY**:
Jay Gould, American millionaire when dying, said: "I suppose I am the most miserable man on earth."

4-**NOT** IN **POSITION** & **FAME**:
Lord Beaconsfield--"Youth is a mistake; manhood a struggle; old age a regret."

5-NOT IN MILITARY GLORY:
Alexander the Great--conquered the world and then sat down and cried because "there were no more worlds to conquer."

6-**WHERE**, THEN, **IS JOY** TO BE **FOUND**?
--Luke 10:20--"Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather **rejoice**, because your names are written in heaven."

--Phs. 3:1--"Finally, my brethren, **rejoice** in the Lord

--Phs. 4:4--"**Rejoice** in the Lord always: and again I say, **Rejoice**."

--1 Thess. 5:16--"**Rejoice** Evermore"

How about YOU?

7-ILLUS--In London, Buckingham Palace flies **the royal Standard** to show that the sovereign is in residence. Day or night the flag can be seen, and the people know that their queen is not away, but at **home**.!

Similarly, JOY FLIES AS THE **FLAG** OVER OUR LIVES to show that Jesus Christ our King is in residence.

Q → Is the **flag of joy flying** in your life **NOW**??

Use as Conclusion to Part II

Use as Conclusion to Part I

"NOTEBEAR" ® & PEASE

Westbrae - 1/3/74
First Baptist, Walnut Creek - 2/12/74
Daniels Missionary Baptist Ch - 2/26 + 3/12/74
Oak Hill Bible Church - 11/6/88 + 11/20/88

	GREAT HYMNS	INSPIRING HYMNS
		#302
1 "Hallelujah, What A Savior"	#127	
2 "Come We That Love The Lord"	#23	
3 "Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart"	#26	301
4 "Joy Unspeakable	FLYER	297
5 "Heaven Came Down + Glory Filled My Soul	#473	
1 "Christ The Lord Is Risen Today"	137	127
2 "O That Will Be Glory"	505	501
3 How Tedious And Tasteless The Hours"	FLYER	260
4 O Happy Day	207	98
5 Joy Unspeakable	FLYER	297

"THANKSLIVING WAYS"

1 Thess. 5:18

Col. 3:1-17; Ps. 105:1-5

1

INTRO:

A.-Thanklessness:

1-ILLUS--There was once a good king in Spain called Alfonso XIX. When it came to the ears of the king that his pages were neglecting their prayers--eating their meals without the customary prayers of thanks to God--the king gave a banquet for all his pages. Midway through the course of the dinner, a ragged beggar came in, sat down at the table and without a word, began to help hiself, eating ravenously. Finishing, he went out into the night again without a word to anyone.

"The ungrateful wretch!" shouted the boys. "He ought to be whipped, for he ate the king's food and never showed gratitude."

The king quietly rose to his feet & as silence descended on the group, quietly said, "You have all been MORE UNGRATEFUL than this beggar. Daily you have taken the rich blessings of life from the hand of your Heavenly Father. You have enjoyed His sunshine, breathed His air, eaten food He has provided, and yet you have not bothered to say--THANK YOU for any of them. More ungrateful are you than the beggar".

B.-We OUGHT To Thank God For Food:

1-Jesus did--"And He took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave them to the disciples..." (Mt. 15:36)
Feeding a multitude

2-Paul did--"And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat." (Acts 27:35)
Before a shipwreck

3-Biblical Principle--1 Tim. 4:4-5--"For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer."

4-POEM

All they who eat and ask no blessing,
Who rise from meat no thanks confessing,
Are like the oxen and the swine,
Which at heaven's table shall not dine."

C.-We OUGHT To Thank For MORE THAN FOOD Alone: !!

1-Thanks unto God
2-Thanks for God, as to His character
3-Thanks for God's Benefits
4-Thanks as a principle of blessing

PROP God's people ought to be thankful not only on Thanksgiving Day, but in Thanksliving ways.

INT. In what ways?

I.-THANKS UNTO GOD:

A.-What Thanks Are For!?

1-For His Son
- Proper place to begin
- Foundation of relationship
- 2 Cor. 9:15--"THANKS be unto God for His unspeakable gift
- Christ is like a tent's center pole * the central cause of all the thanks a Christian has reason to express.

Q - Have you thanked God for the SAVIOR?

2-For His Victory
- Because He lives, I live
- My hope is built on nothing less!
- The Savior is on the other side of death
- Nothing there can dislodge Him
- He is my victory; my hope
- 1 Cor. 15:57--"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"
- Foundation for 1 Cor. 15:58--"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

3-For His Triumph — ON THE CROSS
- --Seen already His Victory for us
- --Now see His Triumph in us — DAILY
- --Any experiencializing of Christ's victory IN MY LIFE must be by Him
- --Not from the flesh at all
- --Causative source is Christ
- --2 Cor. 2:14--"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of His knowledge by us in every place."
- --We're in a "train of triumph" because we're related to Him

ILLUS - Roman Generals that went thru the streets of Rome parading their battlefield victories before the populace.

B.-How Thanks Are Given?:
1-From the redeemed
2-To the Father
3-Thru the Son — By power of Holy Spirit
4-Related to every sphere of life
5-Col. 3:17--"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him."
6-We OUGHT to Give thanks "UNTO GOD"....Do you?

II.-THANKS FOR GOD: — HIS CHARACTER IS WHAT HE IS!

A.-For His Goodness:
1-Multitude of verses on this
2-Most of them in the Psalms of praise
3-Ps. 106:1--"Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good; for His mercy endureth for ever."
4-God is good & perfect!
5-This character of God is to lead us to repentance according to Rom. 2:4--"Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance."
6-Duty of praise for God's goodness, for He is WORTHY of our praise

* A Psalm a day will Keep discouragement away!

B.-For His Holiness:
1-Not sinful in acts
2-Not sinful in character
3-Pure and righteous altogether — Totally different
4-Ps. 30:4--"Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holiness.
5-What HE IS produces a reverential awe & thankfulness

6-Ps. 97:12--"Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holiness."

7-Do you? Are you thankful that THE GOD OF HOLINESS made a way to satisfy His Holy character's demands in order to save you?

THEN PRAISE HIM!

3

C.-For His Mercy:

1-Repeated theme of all Scripture

2-Seen especially in "The 'MERCY FOREVER' Psalm"

3-Ps. 136:1, 2, 3, 26.....and all the way in between

4-Def.--"loving kindness"; "Not receiving what we surely deserve"

Titus 3:3-7

5-Aren't you GLAD that the Lord is loving & kind toward you?

6-Have you ever thanked Him for
- that love ??
- that kindness??

= MERCY

7-Perhaps you've been thankful UNTO GOD, but have never expressed thanks FOR GOD Why not right now?!?!

III.-THANKS FOR GOD'S BENEFITS: (Ps. 103:1-11ff)

This is where we generally begin and end

A.-Toward The OUTside:

1-For deliverance from enemies

--Ps. 18:49--"Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen and sing praises unto thy name."

--Ps. 106:47--"Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the heathen, to give thanks unto Thy Holy Name, and to triumph in thy praise"

as a NATION

At work
At school
In neighborhood

2-For help in any situation — DIVINE INTERVENTION

--Ps. 30:10-12--"Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me: LORD, be thou my helper. Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness; to the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever."

3-Thanks leads to PRAISE of our God; or it ought to!

B.-Toward the Upside:

1-For answered prayer

--Jn. 11:41--"...And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me"

--Phs. 4:6--"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

2-For communion elements — God's LOCAL CHURCH / Pastoral care

3-For deliverance from spiritual schizophrenia

--Rom. 7:24-25--"O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord...."

4-For my call to my ministry — and you to YOURS!

--1 Tim. 1:12--"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry."

John 15:16

5-For my family
- Parents
- Helpmeet
- Children
- Brothers + Sisters

C.-Toward The BRETHREN side:

1-For belief of the Word in others

--1 Thess. 2:13--"But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth."

ROLF LUDWIG / ROGER ALLEN

2-For prayers of the brethren
--2 Cor. 1:11--"Ye also helping together by prayer for us
--1 Thess. 5:25--"Brethren, pray for us."

Tremendously encouraging to know someone prays regularly for you! Mrs. Cleland Rolf Ludwig

4

3-For encouragement of the brethren
--2 Th. 1:3--We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth."
--Acts 28:15--And from thence, when the brethren heard of us, they came to meet us as far as Appii forum, & the three taverns: whom when Paul saw, he thanked God and took courage."
--2 Cor. 8:16--"But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you."

We can either LIFT UP or DASH DOWN the brethren. Let it be lifting!

God help us to be the UPLIFTING Kind

IV.--THANKS AS A PRINCIPLE OF BLESSING:

A.-A Commanded Principle:

1-1 Thess. 5:18--"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."
--In everything — not just AFTER!
--Thankfulness
--THIS is the will of God
--In Christ Jesus
--For you — for me — for all of us!

2-At midnight--Ps. 119:62--"At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments."

3-At Place of worship--Ps. 122:3-4--"Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together: Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the LORD."

4-Publicly--Ps. 35:18--"I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people."

5-ILLUS — Clipping of Matthew Henry's words

B.-An Evidence Of The Filling Of The Spirit

1-The filling--Eph. 5:18--"Be not drunk with wine, but be filled w the Spirit"
2-The evidences--Speaking.....5:19
...ing.....5:19
...g thanks.....5:20
...itting yourselves..5:21

evidencing themselves in YOU ???

"Let Me Be Thankful"

MANY of us, even today, enjoy the ripe wisdom to be found in Matthew Henry's Commentary. One time he was intercepted by thieves and they made off with a fair-sized purse. Then he went home and made this astonishing commentary in his diary.

"Let me be thankful:

"First, because I was never robbed before.

"Second, because although they took my purse, they did not take my life.

"Third, because although they took my all, it was not much.

"And fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed."

Answer:

...f the sin of thanklessness!

...were then
...are now
...of hypocrit...

...pride in se...
...s to God
...rn for the c...

"The Pharisee stood + prayed thus w/ himself, God, I thank Thee that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even this publican." Lk. 18:11

B.-The **Sure Cure:**

1-**THANKS**--unto God
--for God, as to **His character**
--for God's **benefits**

2-**Remember.** Thanks is a **principle of blessing**
-**No** thanks, **no** blessing
-**Some** thanks, **some** blessing
-**Much** thanks, **much** blessing

3-**Ps. 140:13**--"Surely the righteous **shall give thanks** unto thy name; the upright shall dwell in thy presence."

4-Do you??
Will you??

5-**Ezra 3:11**--"And they sang together by course in praising and **giving thanks** unto the LORD: because He is good, for His mercy endureth for ever.."

6- Let's have
THANKSLIVING
WAYS

7- Oh — that this may be our daily experience.
Not just on Thanksgiving Day

Westbrae 11/21/65
11/25/73

457 For The Beauty Of the Earth 16 54

509 Come, Ye Thankful People 15 526

Thanks To God 119 527

Daniels M.B. Ch. 11/30/77

Portersville B. Ch. - 11/23/78

516 Count Your Blessings 370

Bluestone Bapt. Ch. - 11/20/81 - WV.

Putney Ch. - Charleston, WV - 11/20/19

Grace Gospel Ch - 11/19/2000

Harper Heights Bapt. Ch - 11/29/09

"Why God?" I Thess 5:23

Intro: A.-The Question:
1-Of all things to concentrate upon, why this?
2-Why not?--riches? --noteriety? --Immusements?
--fame? --service? -- good time?
--position ? ------Eccles. 1:1-3

B.-Answer:
1-All other "centers" leave you lop-sided, incomplete, unbalanced------like an egg.
2-ILLUS--Can't roll an egg in a straight line----goes in circles naturally
3-All other answers forget man's make-up:
---1 Thess. 5:23
---Spirit---God-consciousness
---Soul-----Self-consciousness
---Body-----World-consciousness
--must deal with all three if you are to be at your best & happy inside

C.-Ramifications:
1-Not all of them possible to consider now.
2-Pick out a few representative & impOrtant ones
3-Why God?.....Well.....

I.-GOD ALONE PROVIDES SALVATION FOR MANKIND: Why CHOOSE God?

A.-Salvation----What is it??
1-Deliverance--from guilt of sin
-from penalty of sin
-from power of sin
-from presence of sin------ultimately
2-Freedom---Bondage is severed forever
3-Restoration to FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

B.-Necessity Of Salvation:
1-Eph. 2:1-3; 12

C.-Provision of Salvation:
1-Acts 4:12 & Jn. 14:6---Only Source
2-Acts 10:43---Real forgiveness in Him

D.-Results Are Real:
1-Changed Life---2 Cor. 5:17
2-New Portion----Rom. 5:1-11

II.-GOD ALONE PROVIDES THE BEST PLAN FOR LIFE INVESTMENT: Why SERVE God?

A.-Kind Of "Deal" Desired:
1-Business proposition---terms
2-Life mate---personal qualities
3-Choice of School---ratings & opportunities
4-Best Deal------BOTH central issues,
AND fringe benefits

B.-Other Choices:
1-Many desirable features
2-Big pay for short-term
3-ILLUS ---Never have known an old man who drove a nitro truck
------just don't last & live

C.-God's Plan:
1-Peace, Joy, Service, & Satisfaction NOW
2-Incorruptable riches forever---Mt. 6:19-21

3-Crowns of reward----See 1 Cor. 9:25 & my note
4-Mt. 6:33------Eph. 4:1-3 OUR VOCATION
5-There is ONE BEST PLAN----------& it is God's plan

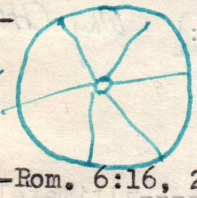
III.-GOD ALONE PROVIDES A UNIFYING PRINCIPLE OF LIFE: Why CENTER in God?

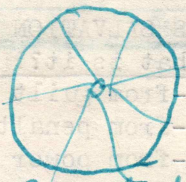
A.-Natural Attitude:
1-Compartmentalization
2-ILLUS---Water-tight compartments aboard-ship
3-Business, Home, Social, Educational, Recreational, Religious
------with none of them effecting theothers
4-ILLUS--Man wanted a church home which wouldn't interfere with his business, his politics, or HIS RELIGION

B.-Alternatives:
1-Only one throne
2-Only two persons who might be on it
3-Either Christ .....or Self
4-No co-regency-------one will be supreme

C.-Audacity:
1-To believe that I can do a better job of running my life than God can
2-To insist on "my way" at "my time" -----no real vision of GOD as Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer

C.-Choice is necessary:
1-





2-Rom. 6:16, 22

Correct choice brings peace to the heart.

Concl: "WHY GOD?"
A.-Nothing else is satisfactory
B.-God meets man's need for salvation
C.-God meets man's need for life investment values
D.-God meets man's need for a life-center & principle
E.-God meets man's need for the WHOLE MAN--1 Th.5:23
1-Body---food & indulgence
2-Soul---Education & fame ----Eccl. 11:9
3-Spirit---RELATION TO GOD
---Not just desirable, but ESSENTIAL
---Eccles. 12:1

Henrik Kraemer of Holland
WHY XNITY of all Religions?
① Xnity has X
② " "a right perspective of man — A SINNER
③ " proclaims help from above.

"The Coming Great Tribulation Upon The Earth" — 2 Thess. 2:1-17

Intro

A. The Tribulation:

70th week of Daniel — Great Devil of the wrath of the Lamb.

1-Terms used
- the great tribulation
- Time of Jacob's trouble
- coming hour of temptation
- Day of the Lord

2-Nature of the tribulation
- wrath
- judgment
- trial
- indignation
- trouble
- destruction
- darkness
- desolation
- overturning
- punishment

Travail, Terror, Triumph

"If the Church, the Body of Christ, was left on earth to pass through the Great Tribulation, it would mean that Christ's suffering for us was not sufficient, and that His redemption was not complete

Some sense of a PURGATORY for sins not fully dealt with at the CROSS

ILLUS — When a nation is going to war with another nation, it calls its ambassadors home. SO DOES THE LORD!

3-Sources of the Tribulation
- Devil's wrath against saints who have rejected Anti-Christ (Rev. 12:13-17 Israel)
- God's wrath and judgment upon an unbelieving earth

4-Purposes of the Tribulation
- Prepare Israel for her Messiah — EAGER/BELIEVING
- Pour out judgment upon unbelievers for their ungodliness

B. The Scriptures On The Tribulation

1-Deut. 4:26-31
2-Jer. 30:4-9
3-Dan. 12:1-2
4-Matt. 24:9-30 — 24:21-24

These things have I spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

C. The Distinctiveness Of The Tribulation:

1-Distinguish "tribulations" — Jn. 16:33

2-From "Tribulation" — Mt. 24:21-22

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those shortened, flesh be the elects s shall be ned.

3-This is an essential distinction

~Related to ISRAEL, not the Church.

Proposition:
We should be preparing *servants* impacting *our world for* Christ
Rather than retreating *servants* dancing *from the world for fear of* calamity

-Rapture had been clearly ... 1 Th.

3-Action — not soon shaken in mind
- not troubled, fearful or terrified + Confused

4-As a result of (2:1-2)
- spirit which purported to speak for God
- word of men which contradicts God's word
- letter which was said to come from the Apostle

5-False message being "palmed off"
- "Day of Christ"==="Day of Lord"==Tribulation — GK. Text — Related to JUDGMENT
- "at hand"====now present — 1 Cor. 1:8 Note — Related to REWARDS

6-Warning (2:3) — Let no man deceive you
- by any means
- because Tribulation will follow a certain event.

B. The Apostate Church And The Coming Of The Lord (2:3b):

1- This event must preceed the Trib.

2- What is it?

3- "A falling away" ---from the true church
--from true practice
--from true doctrine
--formalistic shell is all that remains

APOSTASY

in a RELIGIOUS SENSE

4- In other words- universal apostasy will reign in the Tri
- A great ecumenical church will emerge

5- PREPARATORY ELEMENTS TODAY

- Reunion w/ Romanism
- Emasculation of Protestantism — NO BIBLE / NO CHRIST / NO BLOOD
- ORGANIZATION rather than ORGANISM — -NCCC -WCCC
- Union above Unity — COCU
- Doctrinal denial
- Terrorism subsidized in Africa + Latin America by W.C.C. as missions — Near East / Europe
- Acceptance of homosexuals into the clergy
- Ordination of Women as Pastors
- Embracing the Cults + non-Christian religions — SATANISM; Exorcism
- Ecumenical Evangelism + linking w/ SOCIAL ACTION
- Charismatic confusion ← Protestants / Catholics / Holiness
- Call for unilateral disarmament
- Angela Davis Defense Fund
- Housing legislation called "evangelism"

That some should exercise lea
better, more godly leadership. B
observation. If someone like Jone
the Man of Sin—brilliant, magnet

A MOVE OF APOSTASY

6- ILLUS - F.B. Meyer on Social Action re Slums of London — Get the slums out of man more than getting men out of slums

7- Alternative interpretation
--"a falling away" === "a departure" — Wuest + E.S. English
--not from the faith
--but from the earth
--thus --- the rapture. — A departure from earth by the Church
--ILLUS ----- Suppose that a great city is in rebellion against its rightful sovereign, but there are in that city certain loyalists who grieve over the defection of the rest, & are faithful to their king. Word comes that the offended monarch and his great army are on the way to subdue the city and destroy it. Naturally the loyal citizens are anxious and troubled. They do not want to be exposed to the fire of the royal army, & they manage to get word out to the king declaring their loyalty & asking his consideration. Word comes back that his standard will be planted on a certain mountain outside the city before the bombardment begins. When that standard