CORINTH

Background information about a person, place or literary piece help us to set that writing in its larger + more realistic setting.

"We possess more detailed information about the actual conditions within the church at Corinth than about any other church in the New Testament." (HIEBERT, 102).

Athens was a city of gods + goddesses, religion + philosophy, monumental buildings + temples, a showplace of art, architecture + culture.

Corinth, though having some features in common with Athens, had its own unique + distinctive character

I.- CORINTH; THE CITY:

A.- Corinth's Location:

1- Strategic location
   - a- Neck of an isthmus
   - b- 3 harbors
   - c- Bustling commercial center
   - d- Junction between East + West; Gateway leading to the Aegean Sea + the Mediterranean to the Adriatic, Italy + Spain

2- Strategic importance
- a- Land bridge of 3 miles across the Peloponnesian peninsula
- b- Plateau on which it was situated
- c- Overlooked by ACROCORINTH rising 1886 feet higher to the south
- d- Topography was easily defended + fortified
- e- Controlled trade routes
- f- Abundance of water
- g- Harbors + gulfs on 2 sides

B- Corinth's History:

1- Corinth's Past
- a- Long + illustrious
- b- One of the first regions of Greece to be inhabited
- c- Trade + commerce made it wealthy
- d- One of the early City States
- e- Always PROMINENT, but it never held first place until the last days of Greece's freedom

2- Corinth's Prominence:
- a- The CULT of Aphrodite was cultivated here
- b- Corinth was a colonizing

power in the 8th + 7th centuries BCE

3- Pottery + Bronze were central products, along with agriculture

4- Capital of the province of ACHAIA in the days of Alexander the Great.

Hellenic League

5- Capital of Greece under the Romans in Paul's day + a crossroads of travel, communication & commerce in Paul's day

C. Corinth's Commerce:

1- Trade was central-

a- On land + by sea

b- 3 harbors

c- Isthmus was a connecting link between trade centers + for shipping

d- Offload → Transport → Reload

e- Save 200 miles of treacherous seas around the Peloponnesian coast to the south.

f- Products - POTTERY, BRONZE, FRUIT, WINE

g- Trade made the city rich!

2- Strategic center for Paul to evangelize, disciple + congregate a people for God & establish HIS CHURCH.

3- DIOLCOS was a stone-paved road 5' wide + 3 mi. long to transport ships

4 - CANAL cut in 1881 - 1893

D - Corinth's People + Languages:

1 - The People:

a - Native Greeks were Gentiles
b - Romans due to Empire + strategic location
c - Some orientals
d - A thriving Jewish community because of commerce.

300,000 to 400,000 in this city

2 - The Languages:

a - GREEK (Koinè) was the local language, but it was also known + used worldwide since the days of Alexander's empire
b - LATIN was the official language of the Roman Empire, but it was never imposed upon its subjects

3 - The Mixture

a - Very cosmopolitan
b - Some freedmen
c - Many slaves
d - Wide variation in wealth, status + culture

4 - The Challenges Faced by Corinth

a - The rise of Athens to prominence + culture
b - The Peloponnesian Wars
c - The War of Corinth

(4)

12- Cantil's People + Campaigns

E.- Corinth's Culture:

1- Some areas were prominent
   - a- Pottery
   - b- Bronze
   - c- Corinthian capitals for pillars in architecture
   - d- Painters
   - e- Statesman

2- BUT it never produced any philosophers + so it was "second-tier" in culture

F.- Corinth's Sports:

1- Began + later restored the ISTHMIAN GAMES, held every 2 years

2- These were the most splendid + well-attended sporting events of all Greece's national festivals

3- Second only to the OLYMPIC GAMES held every 4 years

G.- Morals + Religion:

1- A wicked city, even as large cities of the Empire went

2- "A Corinthian" meant a moral degenerate + profligate

3- Immorality fostered by two influences:
   - a- Temple of Aphrodite (Roman Venus), goddess of sensual love — 1000 Temple prost-

b- titutes on top of Acrocorinthus
b- Sailors who come + went from 3 ports

4- Other Temples also
a- Temple of Apollo built 6th Century BCE w/ 38 columns + still standing today
b- Temple of Aesculapius, the god of healing
c- Others to Egyptian deities of ISIS + SERAPIS

5- "East + west mingled their dregs of foulness in the new Gomorrah of classic culture, + the orgies of the Paphian goddess were as notorious as those of Isis or of Asherah." (F.W. Farrar, The Life + Work of St. Paul, (1889, 316).

6- It was to this moral + spiritual cesspool that God brought Paul. And here he stayed and ministered for more than a year + a half in Corinth during his 2nd missionary journey.

H. Archaeology Tidbits:

1- Layout of the city was discerned thru 1896 excavations by the American School of Classical Studies in Athens

2- Part of a METROPLEX of the city, Acrocorinth, 3 harbors, the Isthmian

games facilities and the DIOLKOS portage road. Corinth was the hub + leading city

3- An underground system that brought into the city cool spring water into a cistern beneath a restaurant to cool the wine.

4- A Latin inscription "MACELLUM" = Market which is used in 1 Cor. 10:25 as a meat market which the KJV translates as THE SHAMBLES

5- A white marble door lintel with the inscription "Synagogue of the Hebrews", which gives a reflection of the Jewish community with which Paul had contact while in Corinth (Acts 18:4)

6- An inscription from the north market area which refers to ERASTUS, the AEDILE or public official who was responsible for laying the pavement in that area!. We are probably safe in assuming that the Erastus in this inscription is the same man Paul referred to in his letter to the Romans (16:23), written from Corinth

Amen

7- The site of the ISTHMIAN GAMES were several miles to the South of Corinth, + the athletic events there doubtless prompted Paul to use athletic metaphors when he wrote of the Christian life. (1 Cor. 9:24-27).

8- The BEMA was a very prominent feature of the AGORA. It was a large, raised speakers' platform, covered with marble. It was used for public functions such as hearings, presentation of cases before magistrates or proconsuls, and was most likely the place of Paul's appearance before the Proconsul, Gallio (Acts 18:12-17). An inscription in Latin — "ROSTRA" the equivalent of the Greek BEMA, was found in the area of the AGORA.

Paul used this term as the rewards seat for believers in 2 Cor. 5 + makes allusion to it in 1 Cor. 3

II. THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH:

A:- The Church's Origin:

1- Paul was the founder (1 Cor. 3:6, 10; 4:15 + the record is found in Acts 18; 1-18

2- Second missionary journey
a- After Philippi, Berea & Thessalonica
b- After short ministry in Athens which produced no Church
3- Eighteen months of ministry there is his longest stay in one place
4- More written by Paul to these than any other
a- 16 chapters of 1 Cor. + 13 of 2 Cor.
b- At least one other previous letter to them (1 Cor. 5:9; 7:1)
c- Possibly two other than those God has preserved for us

B. The Apostle's Co-Laborers:

1- He met Aquila & Priscilla there + ministered with them as tent-makers & co-workers in evangelism (Acts 18:2
2- Silas + Timothy come down from Macedonia + joined him in Corinth (18:5)
a- Silas had joined Paul for this second missionary journey after the disagreement between Paul + Barnabas.
b- Silas is not hereafter seen or heard of with Paul, but with Peter (1 Pet. 5:12) where he is called SILVANUS.

c- Timothy is the son-in-the-faith + co-laborer with Paul referred to in each of the groups of Paul's letters and in 10 of his 13 letters.

3- Sosthenes is mentioned in Acts 18:17 as the Chief Ruler of the Synagogue who was saved in Corinth through Paul's ministry. His name is included in the greeting in 1 Cor. 1:1

4- After Paul's departure APOLLOS had a fruitful ministry in Corinth (3:6) after spiritual ministry in Ephesus from Aquila + Priscilla

C:- The Church's Membership:

1- A goodly number when Paul left

- a- Greeks — Crispus + Gaius - 1 Cor. 1:14
- b- Romans — Fortunatus - 1 Cor. 16:17; Tertius + Quartus - Rom. 16:22-23; Titus Justus - Acts 18:7
- c- Jews + perhaps others
- d- Majority were GENTILES + some Jews (1 Cor. 12:2)

2- A few were of noble rank, but the majority were of humbler status in life (1 Cor. 1:26-31

- e- Marked SOCIAL Differences (Slaves + Freedmen - 1 Cor. 7:21-22; 12:13)
- b- Distinct ECONOMIC differences (Wealthy + Poor - 1 Cor. 11:21-22)

3- "The Corinthian church, planted in a notoriously wicked city, inevitably exhibited many characteristics of

its environment. The influences of heathen Corinth were not immediately overcome by the members. Some of the old moral habits + practices crept into the church + became the cause for apostolic concern (5:9; 5:1-2)!" (HIEBERT, 110)

4- Intellectual faults:

"Among so many freshly awakened + eager but undisciplined minds, the Greek intellectualism took on a crude + shallow form; it betrayed a childish conceit + fondness for rhetoric + philosophical jargon (1:17; 2:1-5), + allied itself with the factiousness that was the inveterate curse of Greece." (G.G. Findlay, 1 Cor, Expositor, Vol. II, 731)

D. - The Church's Opposition:

1- JEWS had a strong reaction + opposition to Paul's preaching that JESUS IS MESSIAH.

2- Expelled from the Synagogue, Paul turned to a ministry independent of the Synagogue.

a- Titus Justus, a Greek convert, opened his home for Paul's ministry

b- Some Jews saved, including Crispus + Sosthenes.

c- Greek converts by their family

connections + social positions formed a bridge to a larger audience. A large + fruitful ministry was carried on there

3- Anger of the JEWS was aroused by Paul's success among Gentiles. Paul considered leaving Corinth because of this repetition of the kind of opposition faced in Thessalonica + Berea.

4- God reassured Paul that he should remain (Acts 18:9-10), + so he settled in for a protracted ministry

E. The Ministry Of Paul In Corinth:

1- Continued to reach out
   a- To Jews
   b- To "God-fearers"
   c- To pagan Gentiles

2- METHODOLOGY

"Aware of the Greek fondness for oratorical eloquence, the Apostle in carrying on the mission at Corinth deliberately chose not to preach to them WITH EXCELLENCY OF SPEECH OR OF WISDOM" (2:1) in order that their faith "should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." (2:5)

3- PRINCIPLE - 1Cor. 2:1 - Major on the simple gospel presented in the power of the Spirit + not with human eloquence.

3- The immediate occasion:
- a- Three messengers come from Corinth to Paul (16:7) — STEPHANUS, FORTUNATUS, ACHAICUS
- b- This gives Paul a current insight into the state of things in the Corinthian church.
- c- These men brought a letter from the Corinthians with a series of questions (7:1; 8:1; 12:1; 16:1).
- d- This delegation + the letter they carried was the immediate occasion for Paul's writing.

B- Place + Date of Writing:
1- Written from Ephesus (16:8)
2- Likely toward the end of Paul's time in Ephesus as we read of his ministry there in Acts 19
3- SUBSCRIPTION of KJV- "The first Epistle to the Corinthians was written from Philippi by Stephanas, and Fortunatus and Achaicus and Timothy."
- a- Plainly a MISTAKE but not a part of the inspired text.
- b- Misunderstanding of 1 Cor. 16:5
  - "For I pass through Macedonia"
  - Present tense deals not with history, but with Paul's plans.

4- DATE - As early as 53 A.D. + late as 57 A.D.
- Preponderant opinion is 57 AD

5-BEARER

a- None is stated

b- Likely by the 3 men (Stephanus, Fortunatus + Achaicus) who had brought the Corinthians' questions when they returned home

C- Purposes For Writing:

1- TWO-FOLD:

a- To correct disorders existing in the Corinthian Church

b- To answer questions they brought to him

2- Paul begins by dealing with the carnal, contentious + divisive condition of the people as they divided into FACTIONS

3- The Answer — THE CROSS of Christ

4- Paul advises them that he plans to visit them again, but delays his coming to give them time to work out their internal problems

5- He studiously avoids the appearance of attempting to "have lordship over" their faith (2 Cor. 1:15-24)

D- Characteristics Of This Writing:

1- Concerning Contents:

a- Variety of subjects discussed

b- Orderly + logical development

SEE WOODBRIDGE

c- Application of THE CROSS in its social implication applies to every problem of the Christian life.

d- PRACTICAL emphasis on a strong DOCTRINAL foundation

2- Concerning Style:

a- The language is the simplest + most direct found in Paul's letters — EARNEST, IMPASSIONED + SUBLIME

b- "this epistle offers a beautiful illustration of the unconscious character of true eloquence." (HIEBERT, 116)

3- Concerning Insights

a- Revelation of Paul's self-control amid distressing conditions + his practical wisdom in meeting such conditions

b- "The letter also contains a distressing revelation of the interior life of an apostolic church. It forever dissipates the dream that churches founded + nurtured by the apostles were in an exceptional condition of holiness of life or purity of doctrine. Out of the sins and shortcomings of the Corinthian church our Sovereign God has seen fit to give us one of the priceless treasures of the New Testament." (HIEBERT, P. 116)

OUTLINE

1/12/2000 Bible Center Church — Wed. Series

"Is Water Baptism Necessary For Salvation?" 1 Cor. 1:17

Intro: A.-Problem:
1-More heat than light
2-Confusion
3-Contradictory teachings
4-More fuss over MODE than over MEANING

Mt. 28:18-20
Acts 8:26-40

B.-Importance Of Right Answer:
1-Affects our salvation if it is necessary
2-Affects our assurance if it is necessary
3-Affects our fellowship thru obedience whether necessary to salvation or just necessary to be please God

C.-Source Of Answer:
1-Scripture--Only infallible rule of faith & practice
--Authoritative answer
2-Not the teachings of men, no matter how godly or eloquent
3-Take the WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD & not just an isolated text
4-Compare Scriptures---1 Cor. 2:13

I.-HOW TO BE SAVED:

A.-There Are Not "Many Ways":
1-The Way is Christ-----Jn. 14:6
2-No other Name---------Acts 4:12
3-Only ONE Door---------Jn. 10:7,9
4-Read your Bible to see this----ILLUS---Meth Minister in Dallas
5-THUS--Salvation is provided ONLY in Christ Jesus
--Salvation isof the Lord ---Jonah 2:9

B.-Appropriation:
1-John's Gospel--Designed as God's Gospel tract
--Designed to show Savior & salvation
--Issue is BELIEVE in Christ to gain LIFE
--"Believe"--98 times in 21 chapters
--"Life"--36 times in 21 chapters
2-Things not required--good works
--church membership
--Lord's table
--water baptism
--or anything else----Eph. 2:8-9
3-Romans--Issue is believing a message--10:14
--Faith comes as we make a decision on the basisof the Word of God--10:17
4-Two greatest books in N. T.--John & Romans
--Foundation of Salvation
--Foundation of Christian Doctrine
--Both require Believing Faith
--Neither require anything else
--Neither require water baptism for genuine salvation

II.-SCRIPTURAL INSTANCES OF WATER BAPTISM:

A.-According To The Great Commission:
1-Mt. 28:19--Teach & Baptize
2-Mk. 16:15-16--Preach. Response is to believe & be baptized

3-Lk. 24:47--Repentance stressed, but no baptism mentioned
4-John 20:21--Christians sent as Christ was sent.
--Compare with John 4:2 to see emphasis in Christ's ministry

B.-According To The Experience Book Of The New Testament:
1-2:38--Repent & be baptized (see later treatment)
2:4 2-2:42-45--Water baptism is not one of the indispensible 5 parts of Apostolic faith
3-8:11-13--Mental Assent PLUS Baptism is still not sufficient for salvation when the HEART (8:20-23) is not right
4-8:36-39--Baptism must FOLLOW salvation & is not a PART of it.
--Should follow soon
5-9:18--Baptism follows soon after salvation, but is not a part of salvation
6-10:44-48--Water baptism follows & is a symbol of the UNION with Christ accomplished by Spirit Baptism
7-11:20-21--No mention of anything more than BELIEF in the gospel about JESUS as necessary (Jn. 20:31)
8-16:15--Baptism was taken as a BADGE that a convert means business for the Lord in his new Christian life
9-16:33--Baptism followed salvation
--Answer on what was necessary for salvation (16:31) says nothing about baptism
10-18:8--Proper Biblical ORDER
11-18:25--Water does not save!
12-19:4-5--Heard a NEW message & then they must have believed it to have been willing to submit to Christian Bapt.
13-Even the Experience Book of the New Testament doesn't speak of baptism in connection with every case of Salvation as if it were an essential part of it.

C.-According To The Settled Pattern Of The New Testament:
1-Thief on the Cross was saved without baptism
2-1 Cor. 1:17 gives relative importance of Salvation & baptism and makes it clear that baptism is not a part of the gospel
3-Emphasis is on presentation of gospel & genuine belief as the necessary response. Emphasis is not on outward symbol of the inward reality
4-Significantly absent from Epistles, except as the spiritual reality of Spirit Baptism

III.-PROBLEM TEXTS ON BAPTISM:

A.-Mark 16:15-16:
1-Understandable in context & not just as a phrase ripped out as a proof-text
2-Commission is to gospelize the world; not to baptize the world
3-Acceptable response is BELIEF
4-Result will be confession of Christ in Baptism
5-This shows salvation is real to the believer as he testifies in Baptism
6-Lack of BELIEF, not lack of BAPTISM is said to be the issue in damnation

B.-John 3:5:
1-Favorite of baptismal regeneration advocates
2-Even generally good commentators have fallen into linking John's gospel with WATER in Jn. 3:5

3-Need is to have the BIBLE'S answer which is true & in accord with all Scripture

4-TWO PRINCIPLES need to be kept in mind:

a.-Scripture tells us that a decision which results in salvation is always and only due to the Spirit taking the Word and making it clear to a lost soul

(1)-Jas. 1:18
(2)-1 Pet 1:23
(3)-1 Cor. 4:15
(4)-1 John 5:1
(5)-John 16:7-11

6 - So the H of G takes the Word of G to bring about the N.B. of an individual

7 - No hint of LITERAL WATER in that

b.-That the term "WATER" refers not to a literal element, but is often used figuratively as descriptive of the WORD in general Scriptural usage

(1)-Eph. 5:26
(2)-John 15:3

5-Thus, to be born of WATER and of the SPIRIT is to be born again by the operation of the Spirit engrafting the Word unto our souls so that we trust Christ for our eternal salvation

C.-Acts 2:38:

1-Repentance is seen as integral part of our positive reaction toward Christ--Lk. 24:47 & Acts 20:21

2-Question is as to the relationship of Baptism to the actual forgiveness of sin

3.-A.V. could mislead one to think baptism is responsible for remission.

4-Better translate "for" as "UNTO", "BECAUSE OF" or "AFTER" (as the concensus of good Greek Scholars)

5-Then no trouble with baptismal regeneration

D.-Acts 22:16:

1-Taken alone this could be confusing.

2-Sounds as if baptism washes away sin (Tit. 3:5)

3-Really only the outward symbol of that inward cleansining

4-Seen clearly in the light of the historical sequence of Ch. 9; esp. of 9:18

E.-Romans 6:1-6: + Col. 2:12 + Gal. 3:27

1-Though commonly quoted in connection with water baptisms, it deals not with a mere form, but a blessed spiritual reality true of every gemuine child of God, regardless of how or if baptized.

2-"There is not a drop ofwater in the 6th of Romans." Wm. R.N.

F.-1 Peter 3:21: (read w/o the parentheris) "The baptism there is Spirit Baptism"

1-As the Flood was a type of judgment

2-So this baptism is an antitype or fulfillment

3-Relationship of Picture with reality

4-Water only pictures the reality of what is accomplished when the Spirit baptizes us into Christ

Testimony that our sins are forgiven

PICTURE — Noah + family saved
REALITY - Salv. of believers unto

G.-If doubt remains on problem texts, settle the questionable area in terms of the multitudinous sure passages & don't disrupt the clear teaching of many passages for the seeming obscurity of the few.

— 19 passages in the NT
— 2 or 3 may have problems not include w. b.
— Salv. acc. to God's Word does

IV.-SCRIPTURAL REASONS FOR WATER BAPTISM:

Nec. for OBEDIENCE!

A.-Because Christ Commanded It:
1-Mt. 28:19--Identifies the converts
2-Mk. 16:15-16--Badge of the one who has believed

B.-Because Water Baptism Is a Picture Of Spirit Baptism: (Symbolic)
1-Same word is used for both in the Gk.
2-Close relationship--Acts 10:47-48
3-Indicates our IDENTIFICATION (or UNION) with Christ by the Spirit

C.-Because Water Baptism Is A Symbol of Remitted Sin:
1-Acts 2:38, 41
2-Testifies (or Testimony) to the reality of sin already being forgiven

D.-Because the Early Church Practiced Water Baptism:

CONCL:

A.-How To Be Saved:
1-Know the facts
2-Believe with your heart

B.-Is Baptism Necessary To Salvation:
1-Not indicated in the Scriptural INSTANCES of water baptism
2-Not indicated in the problem texts when properly understood
3-Not indicated in the Scriptural REASONS for water baptism

C.-Therefore; Water Baptism is not scripturally necessary for salvation, but should follow as a matter of LOVING OBEDIENCE. ....soon

* Salv. is nec. before baptism
* Baptism is nec. for loving obedience + fellowship.

499 - "His Loving-Kindness"
491 - "My Savior First Of All"
436 - "I am Resolved"

115 There is a Fountain.

See re-do of this in my Bible before Matthew.

GOD REVEALED IN THE BIBLE — 1 Cor. 2:1-16 & 1:18-31

Also--Ps. 12:6, 19:10; 1 Thess. 2:10-13

Read before message

1

INTRO:

A.-Elements Of Revelation: = the disclosure of divine truth from God"

1-Three in number

2-They are--Nature--The Power of God = What God has made
--Christ--The Person of God = What God is like
--Bible---The Message of God in permanent form = What God has said

B.-Need of Revelation:

1-Some questions man can get answers to by DISCOVERY

2-Some questions man can get answers to by INSTINCT

3-Some questions man can get answers to by INSTRUCTION

4-BUT, Some questions man can get answers to.....
.....ONLY by REVELATION = the process by which God made Himself + His Truths Known to man

4 BASIC Q's

5-
- Who am I?
- Where am I going?
- Why am I here?
- How do I get there? = "What must I do to be saved?"

6-DESPERATELY NEEDED
- -answers
- -right answers
- -permanently recorded answers
- -fully authenticated answers

7-AUTHORITATIVELY PROVIDED in the Bible
- -all we need for life
- -all we need for godliness
- -all we need for confidence
- -all we need for worship
- -all we need for service
- -AUTHORITATIVE !!

Direct communication
Dreams
Visions
In Jesus Christ
Through Prophets + Apostles

LOGOS--Perhaps you're acquainted with the famous case of the "Philosopher's Chicken". Each day it receives corn & water from the farmer. From this bit of evidence the chicken deduces that the FARMER IS GOOD, because all that the farmer does is for the chicken's welfare. Content with this induction, the chicken grows fat KNOWING that since the farmer is good, nothing evil can come from his hand, because the farmer cannot act contrary to his nature.

THEN one morning comes when the farmer approaches, not with corn in his hand, but with a HATCHET to chop off the chicken's head. We can hear the chicken protesting that this is an UNETHICAL ACT .....BUT THE COMPLAINTS SOON DIE AWAY as the chicken is separated from its head

The fact is that the FARMER, not the CHICKEN, is the standard of good & bad.....just as God & not man is the standard of good & bad in this universe. In vain therefore do men plead that, since God has given us sunshine & rain, He must also save our souls at the end of history.

Without the data outlined in Scripture, we are no better off than the chicken was in the barnyard.

C.-Biblical Revelation:

1-Which revelation?
2-True Revelation
3-Features of Revelation.

3 Subjects answered in this message

I. WHICH REVELATION?:

A. Claims:

1-Budhism--with its Sacred Vedas
2-Islam----with its Koran by Mohamed
3-Christian Science--with its writings "Science & Health with a Key to the Scriptures" by Mrs. Ed dy
4-Mormonism----with its Book of Mormon purportedly revealed to Joseph Smith by the angel Maroni
5-Confucianism--with its writings of Confucius
** 6-CHRISTIANITY--with its BIBLE
7-"Wherever there is an object of worship there must be described the worship that will be accepted."
8-Each of the above "revelations" CLAIMS to meet that qualification

Mary Baker Eddy (2)

OBJECTIVE INFORMATION

SIX

B. Criteria:

1. Fits the facts of History:
   - no external contradictions
   - Perhaps some silences in secular history (Lk. 2:1-2)
   - Often later proven as with HITTITES
   - but not contradictions of fact
   - as MORMONISM'S "Book of Mormon" fails to fit the facts of archaeology & anthropology regarding primordial races of men in N. & S. America
   - ILLUS--Bible, however, does "fit the facts of History" Seen in Harry Rimmer's offer of $1000 reward for proof of a single Biblical contradiction---STILL UNCLAIMED!! 90 years later
2. Fits the need of Consistency:
   - No internal contradictions
   - 16 centuries of writing
   - 36 to 40 different writers — No Discrepancies
   - No conflict between Moses, Isaidh & Paul
   - As ISLAM'S Koran fails to fit the criterion of consistency as immorality & personally degrading practices are condoned and encouraged (Place of women; Polygamy Shireah Law)
3. Fits the need of Universality:
   - Not limited to 1 culture
   - Roots are not Occidental or Oriental exclusively
   - As in the case of Budhism, Hinduism & Confucianism fail to appeal to all people in all areas.
4. Fits the need of Reality:
   - Not "systematic self-delusion"
   - Meets man as he is & where he is
   - Has the answer for his need
   - Not as CHRISTIAN SCIENCE which denies the reality of ******sin
     - *illness
     - *disease
     - *death

   Like Grape-Nuts
   Neither CHRISTIAN Nor SCIENCE
   - Such religous systems fail to grapple with reality & provide adequate answers as Christianity does in a superlative fashion
5. Fits A Requirement which all people can provide:
   - Not genealogy

came all

--Not geography
--Not duplicity
--Not gullibility
--But asks for FAITH; ----BELIEVING TRUST
--This can be provided--in all ages
--by all peoples
--from every clime
--The only "UNIVERSAL CURRENCY"

6-Speaks with a Valid Authority:
--Sober truth
--Derived from God---"Thus saith the LORD"
--Vital message
--Not trivialities
--"The Bible as it is for men as they are" / Scofield Memorial Church

EXAMPLE — Ps. 12 * Read it all
* Real-life situation
* ANSWER found in the WORD - 12:6-7

II.-TRUE REVELATION:

A.-The Derivation Of Revelation

1-Doctrine of the revelation & inspiration of the Bible which we must embrace must be derived from the Scriptures themselves
2-Strange that men fail to recognize this fact
3-Men often try to give other considerations priority over the testimonies of the Scriptures themselves
4-ILLUS.-It is as though a foreigner were to come to our church and we should desire to know his nationality, background & history. There are many ways we might proceed to obtain this information
--Call in people & have a guessing game (1)
--Appoint a committee (2)
--Have some "expert" make a study of his appearance, & clothes to give us his "unbiased opinion" (3)
(4) *** --OR--we might ask the man himself to give us the answers to our questions.

So it is with the Scriptures. We might judge the Bible by the standard of whether modern man thinks it relevant to his day. We might judge the Bible on the basis of what certain scholars are ready to say concerning it. We might submit it to the testimony of the "experts" & then abide by their testimony. Many seem content to do just that.

If however, we are to know what the Bible really is, it is TO THE BIBLE itself that we must go. We must HEED ITS TEACHINGS concerning itself. To do this won't require a mastery of linguistics & many "stratospheric sciences", but the reading of the OBVIOUS LANDMARKS in the Bible itself.

B.-True Revelation Is Not Discovered:

1-1 Cor. 2:9-10
2-Often misapplied--taken to a funeral
--that ignores context
3-What is said--EYES can't find God or His ways
--EARS can't hear His voice or His will
--EMOTIONS can't understand His provisions
4-All these are true and they do exist--as "prepared of God"
--"for those that love Him"
5-BUT they're not discoverable by man
6-Only known BY REVELATION in the Bible----2:10-11

REVELATION
ILLUMINATION
INSPIRATION

C.-True Revelation Is Revealed:

1-Sounds "elementary" when you say: "True revelation is revealed"
2-IT IS ELEMENTARY, but still not widely perceived
3-1 Cor. 2:10--Origin is in God
--Designation is "for us"
--Agent is "by His Spirit"
--2 Pet. 1:20-21 "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

Proofs

4-This revelation--Shows man his condition
--Unmasks man's need
--Enlightens his darkened mind
--Raises his moral condition from being sunk in degradation & wretchedness..
--FULL-ORBED in its presentation
--Provided in an understandable form
--Is communicable.

5-Progression of Revelation-John 16:12-13, 13-15

Ps. 19:7-11

D.-True Revelation Is Intensely Human:

1-Reference to the different channels
--varied in background (city or country)
--varied in education (schooled or unlettered)
--varied in station in life (Prophet, priest, king, shepherd)
--varied in temperament
--ALL SHAPED BY GOD:
--Benjamin B. Warfield--"As light that passes through the coloured glass of a cathedral window, we are told, is light from heaven, but is stained by the tints of the glass through which it passes; so any word of God which is passed through the mind and soul of a man must come out discoloured by the personality through which it is given, & just to that degree ceases to be the pure word of God. But what if this personality has itself been formed by God into precisely the personality it is, for the express purpose of communicating to the word given through it just the colouring which it gives it? What if the colours of the stained-glass window have been designed by the architect for express purpose of giving to the light that floods the cathedral precisely the tone & quality it receives from them? What if the Word of God that comes to His people is framed by God into the word of God it is, precisely by means of the qualities of the men formed by Him for the purpose, through which it is given?"

2-Examples--AMOS--Herdsman
--Not a prophet or the son of a prophet
--Blunt & brash
--HOSEA--Loving & compassionate
--Heartbroken over sin
--Very sensitive
--Felt a parallel in his home of what God put up with in Israel
--JEREMIAH--Unmarried
--Weeping prophet
--Persecuted & rejected
MOSES --MOSES--Birthright as an Israelite
--Trained in Egypt's learning
--Tempered by 40 years of desert experiences

TABLETS of the LAW

-PAUL
-LUKE....etc.

3-Since the human writers of the Bible seem to differ so greatly from one another, it would seem that God had chosen specific men to write specific portions of His Word (Young, P. 69, Thy Word Is Truth)

4-"Their personalities were not held in abeyance; their talents were not obscured; they were not placed in a state of suspended animation. Rather, God used them as they were. All their gifts of training and native talent God called into play." (Young, P. 69)

5-"When, therefore, the Spirit bore a holy man of old (2 Pet. 1:21" it was not ANY man who happened to be on the scene, but rather, just THAT holy man whom God, through years of training, had prepared to speak or write precisely that portion of the Scripture which He desired to have him write." (Young, P. 70)

E.-True Revelation Is Of Varied Themes:

1-Historical — God's past dealings — Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, Kings, Chronicles, Esther, Gospels, Acts — Moses, Luke + others

2-Doctrinal — God's truth plainly set forth — EVERY book has some doctrinal truths to state — Especially seen in the N.T. Epistles — Paul, Peter, John, Jude — Truth for the CHURCH!

3-Devotional — God's truths touching the heart — Psalms especially — David, Asaph — Also, Gospels & Song of Solomon — Solomon

4-Logical — Reasoned case presented — Righteousness of God in Romans — Superiority of Christ in Hebrews (Apollos)

5-Prophetical — Truth touching the future — "Things to come" — 1/3 of Scripture when written was prophetic — Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, 1 & 2 Thess, Revela. — Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezek.

6

7-Practical — Truth touching everyday life — Present experience — ALL scripture does this — Especially James, Proverbs & Philippians — James, 1 John

Poetical — Proverbs, Psalms, Eccles.

8-Variety of approach; Oneness of Truth!

9-Hints--When our Lord returned to Nazareth & read the Scriptures in the Synagogue of His boyhood, there passed thru the congregation a thrill of pleasure, but how their pleasure gave way to anger & their welcome to a violent expulsion from Nazareth.

They loved to hear the Scriptures read; they disliked the application to themselves. So long as Jesus sounded the swelling notes of Isaiah, they were thrilled, but when He brought Isaiah's message up to date & illustrated it from their conditions,

THEY WERE OFFENDED!!

CONCLUSION:

A. Recapitulation:

1-WHICH revelation?---Christianity is Superior and SUPERLATIVE!

2-TRUE Revelation--Not discovered
--But revealed
--Is intensely human - Yet Divine
--Has a variety of themes which are important

No comparison at all w/others

B. Reaffirmation:

1- ILLUS

A man was compelled one night to cross a wide, frozen river. Notwithstanding the assurances of those who were thoroughly familiar with the region & who had repeatedly crossed on the frozen ice, the traveler feared to undertake the trip. But he finally began.

As he got a considerable distance from the shore, he got down on his hands & knees to feel his way across so he'd be sure not to fall in if there was an end to the ice.

When he was near the middle of the frozen stream he was startled by a sound in the distance. Looking back over his shoulder, he caught sight of a huge Negro man driving a heavy team of horses pulling a wagon loaded with pig iron.

YET....

There was not the least sign of a crack in the ice.

Will the BIBLE HOLD?

WHY, MAN, IT CAN'T FAIL!!!

2- Why is that?

Read → 1Th. 2:10-13

Read → Ps. 138:1-2

We have attempted to establish that revelation came through the Holy Spirit, in many different forms, and gradually over long periods of time. The content of revelation was defined as the books of the Old and New Testament. And we made an effort to demonstrate that God's objective revelation is complete. Let us take our stand on the truth of God and put into practice our doctrinal belief that the Bible is our sole authority for belief and action.

#2 in a series on God Revealed
— In Nature - Ps. 19:1-4
— In Bible - 1 Cor. 2:1-16
(Features of Rev) - Jn. 16:1-16
— In Christ - Jn. 1:1-18

Westbrae 3/14/65 How Firm A Foundation #326 (268)
Calvary Columbus 9/28/75 10/2/77 Thy Word Have I Hid IN My Heart — 154 (177)
I Will Sing The Wondrous Story — 103 (468)
Daniels Mem'y. Bapt. Ch.
Harper Heights Bapt. Ch - PM - 9/5/10 Choir--God Of Our Fathers.

Unger - Sept. 23, 1952

I Cor. 2:12-13 - Spirit taught in the things of God

1.- How may we know of Gods will
— must have spiritual equipment.
1.- born again + indwelt by Π
2.- need to be spiritual.

Outline of
I Cor 2.- :
1.- Π alone knows the things of God
2.- Π alone can teach the things of God
3.- Π can teach only those who are spiritual

Π not necessary to learn the wisdom of the world — only brains + hard work. Brains + work are not sufficient unto Spiritual truth.

An important part of Π's teaching is in teaching the things to come. Prophetic message is God's way. Jesus said "He shall teach you things to come" Jn 16:13-14

1.- Knowledge is a prerequisite to teaching
2.- Π also is the best of all teachers
a.- not in words of human wisdom
b.- but in "sound words" II Tim 1:13
3.- Comparison of all of God's word on all points. I Cor 2:13.

"WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE CROSS" 1 Cor. 1:10-31
Phs. 2:5-8 (1)

INTRO: **A.-The Cross:**

1-ILLUS--It was on a visit to **Macao** in **1825** that Sir John Bowring, then Governor of Hong Kong was moved to write his great **hymn:** "**IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY.**"

At **Macao** the early Portuguese colonists erected as one of their finest buildings a massive cathedral on the crest of a hill. Three centuries ago, under the assault of a violent **typhoon**, the **cathedral fell**---all except the front wall. The cathedral was never rebuilt, & the ponderous facade has stood for 300 years now as **a monument** to the past. On top of the facade is a colossal bronze **cross** silhouetted against the sky, defying rain, lightning, & typhoon. It was this cross towering over the wreck of the past that moved Bowring to write:

"In the cross of Christ I glory,
Towering o'er the wrecks of time"

2-Indeed, the MESSAGE OF THE **CROSS** is the message of **Hope** which the church has for the world

3-**Definitions** of "The cross"

--THE **STAKE** on which Christ died
** Literal and physical
** Reserved for the death of criminals

--THE **SYMBOL** of Christ's **death**
** Electric chair
** Hangman's noose
** Guillotine
** Cicero: "The cross, it speaks of that which is so **shameful**, so **horrible**, it should never be mentioned in polite society." death

--THE **SYNONYM** for **suffering**, sacrifice &
** As such it has become the sign of God's redeeming grace available **ONLY in X**
** 1 Cor. 15:3-4

4-Called--"The FULCRUM of the ages"
--"The HINGE of history"

5-**Tragedy** of human folly proves to be the **triumph** of God over sin

B.-Death In Israel:

1-Normally by **stoning** in capital offenses

2-**Yet**, an additional provision is made
--Deut. 21:22-23 Hang him on a tree
--Reserved for those **ESPECIALLY CURSED**
--Josh. 8:28-29 — At Ai King hanged on a tree
--**Not a usual proceedure** according to O.T. history of the Jews

3-Death of Jesus
--John 19:16-18, 31
--**WHY** this **ignominious death** for Messiah?
--Gal. 3:13--"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is eve ery one that hangeth on a tree."

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"NOTEAR" ®

--The cross was **NECESSARY** in the plan of God for our redemption from sin
--Rom. 3:26--"To declare, I say, at this time His righteousness: that He might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."

C.-Our Message On "WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT **THE CROSS**"
1-Outline--The PERPETRATORS Of The Cross
The PARTICULARS Of The Cross — How does the cross affect people?
The PRODUCTS Of The Cross
The PRE-EMINENCE OF The Cross
2-**PROP**:--**Learn clearly** what God has done for us thru the Cross +
--**Be warned** against **watering down** the cross in our message!
--Appreciate our **Savior Who DIED** for us on the Cross

I.-THE PERPETRATORS OF THE CROSS:

"And I will put enmity between thee + the woman, + between thy seed + her seed: He shall bruise thy head, + thou shalt bruise His heel,"

A.-Perpetrators Visibly Seen:
1-Acts 4:26-28
2-Four "**culprits**" are clearly named--Herod
--Pontius Pilate
--The Gentiles
--The people of Israel
3-**None** of these can be **cleared** of the death of Christ, for they are **GUILTY** partners in the crime

B.-Participants Invisibly Seen:
"He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?
judged, crushed

1-**Satan**--Gen. 3:15
--1 Cor. 2:8
2-**The Father**--Acts 4:28
--Acts 2:23
--Rom. 8:32
--Isa. 53:10 — Made Jesus, His Son, a sin offering
3-**The Son**--John 10:18 — "No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, + I have power to take it again."
Lovingly + voluntarily
--Eph. 5:25
--Gal. 2:20
4-**The Spirit**--Heb. 9:14 — "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who thru the eternal Spirit offered Himself, w/o spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God"
offered by the eternal Spirit

C.-The Point:
1-God had a **plan** for **man's redemption** thru the **Cross**
2-Triune God clearly cooperated together to bring **TRIUMPH** out of **TRAGEDY**
3-Satan and men **willingly joined hands** to crucify the Lord of glory, & thus showed the exceeding wickedness of their hearts toward God

II.-THE PARTICULARS OF THE CROSS (1 Cor. 1:17-31):

A.-The Cross Separates (1 Cor. 1:17-21):
1-The message of the cross is **THE ISSUE**
2-Not a philosophy to be discussed, but a message of God **to be BELIEVED**!!
3-JUST **TWO classes** of people in God's sight
--"**Them that perish**" (=="ARE **LOST**")

"He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the Name of the only-begotten Son of God."

--"Us" which are **saved"**
--**BOTH** are present participles, indicating a **condition** of being
--**Not** "going to be" anything, but you **already are**
--Either **LOST** or **SAVED**.....now
--The **dividing line** is the message of the cross
--**John 3:18, 36**

--ILLUS.-An old Scotch woman had been very religious. She had gone to church all her life & she always **hoped** that at last she would get dying grace & be fit for heaven. She went one time to a meeting where 2 earnest servants of God were preaching & when she came home, they said to her: "Well Grandma, how did you like the preachers?"

"Well," she said, "I could not make them out. The first man got up & talked to the folk he said were **saved already**, to folk so good I did not know there were any in our town like them. And then the other man got up and he preached to folk so wicked that he said **they were lost** & **going to hell**. BUT THERE WAS **NOT ONE WORD FOR ME**."

According to **her estimation**, she was **not lost** & she was **not saved**.

* BUT ACCORDING TO GOD'S STANDARD, THERE ARE just **two classes** of people!

4-The **wisdom** of this world fails to bring one to God(1:19-21
5-**HOW** do folks **get saved**??
* --1 Cor. **1:21**
--"By the foolishness of the thing preached"
--"To save them that **BELIEVE**"
--Where do you stand in this separation of men?
** Saved ??
** Or Lost ??

B.-The Cross Offends (1 Cor. 1:22-23):

1-Each part of humanity has its **own "demands"** of God
--Jews want a **SIGN**
--Greeks want a **RATIONALISTIC ANSWER**
2-True message--1 Cor. **1:23**
--This is an **offense** !!
3-**Jews**-Are **offended** at the cross *
--This is a "stumbling block" to them
--Found in the cross a proof of weakness of Christ and of the christian gospel
--They **refuse** a clear **revelation** now
--They refused the very **signs** they demand when such credentials were presented by Christ & the apostles
4-**Greeks**--Clamor for **wisdom**
--Find the cross to be "foolishness"; an absurdity
--Only willing to believe what they can rationally understand
5-**YET**, the true message must be still heralded forth unchanged to fit the clamor of changeable men & times
6-G. Campbell Morgan--"We are sometimes told that we need as preachers to **catch the spirit of the age**. I deny that emphatically. Our work is not to **CATCH** the spirit of the age. It is to **CORRECT** it. There is a difference between catching it and being mastered by it--and correcting it. The people

(of God) were in Corinth, not to be affected by Corith, but to affect Corinth (for God)." (1 & 2 Cor., P. 27) AMEN ! (4)

C.-The Cross Attracts (1 Cor. 1:24-25):

1-There is a response by some

2-These are "THE CALLED"

--Called externally thru the Word of the cross preached to them

--Called internally thru the Spirit's conviction in them

--Not eliminating either Jews or Greeks from this attraction

--But some out of each group

--These who believe are "called" & become "THE CHURCH"

3-Christ the POWER of God

--Huegel--"One would not naturally associate POWER with the cross. God's power surely to be found in the creation & direction & maintenance of the 300,000,000 universes of which scientists speak today. Indeed, but that HIGHER POWER is released in the moral order for the redemption of man at enmity with God, because of sin, springs from Calvary's CROSS." (The Cross Thru The Scriptures, P. 136)

--THRU THE CROSS we see God's power is set free to act in behalf of the lost

4-Christ the WISDOM of God

--Huegel--"Indeed, it (the cross) is foolishness, until the Spirit of God may have opened your eyes to see. And then you behold the wonder of all the ages. You could not before conceive of one being so good. That the One by whom all things were made in Heaven & upon earth should leave His throne & stoop so low (from the throne to a criminal's cross of ignominy & shame) out of love for a sinful race--well, you could give the philosopher a million years to think, & the moralist no less time to surmise about right & wrong, & the statesman even more days to ponder over law & order, & crime & its punishment, and yet, in the most amazing flight of the imagination possible for man, nothing of this nature could be remotely conceived. This is of God. Take it as such, else it will ever be foolishness." (p. 147)

--Wisdom of God is seen in His plan of salvation THRU THE CROSS which is able to meet every man and to satisfy every need

5-Thus, the attractiveness of the Cross

6-EXPOSITORS--"Believing Jews found, after all, in the cross the mightiest miracle, while Greeks found the deepest wisdom." (II, P. 770)

7-WHY ?----1 Cor. 1:25 "Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men"

D.-The Cross Reaches (1:Cor. 1:26-31):

1-All strata & classes are touched by the Gospel of the Cross

--Mostly from the refuse of society — Folks like us !

--Not many wise

--Not many mighty (those having authority)

--Not many noble (of high birth)

--But the foolish, the weak, the base & those who are

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5

entirely overlooked as if they had no existence
--Gospel starts at the BOTTOM & works upward
--ILLUS--Lady Huntington, the friend of Whitfield and Wesley, who took such an active part in the great revival movement of those wonderful days, used to say that she was going to heaven by an "m". When asked what she meant, she stated that she was so thankful tha Scripture did not say, "not any noble are called," but"not many noble." Thus she got in by an "m".
2-WHY is it this way?
3-Had God taken up the wealthy & wise & powerful, it would have given the flesh a large place in the eyes of men. By choosing the WEAK THINGS, He had the opportunity to manifest His own POWER in their behalf!
4-WHO were the early christians?
--Fishermen, tax gatherers
--Harlots, sorcerers
--Peasants & simple people
--And then Paul & those of Caesar's house
5-1 Cor. 1:29-30
6-1:30--Wisdom--Which includes Righteousness, Sanctification and Redemption
7-Thru the Cross of Christ, all our glory is to be in our Savior.

III.-PRODUCTS OF THE CROSS:

A.-Sufferings ON The Cross:

1-PHYSICAL Suffering--Bodily pain to Jesus' body
--Excruciating experience
--Ps. 22:14-17
--"The nails could not have kept Christ there on the cross if Love had not bound Him."

2-PSYCHOLOGICAL SUfferings
--Sense of forsakenness by men
-Mk. 14:50--"And they all forsook Him, & fled"
--Unjust sentence passued upon Him
--1 Pet. 3:18--"For Christ hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust..."

3-SPIRITUAL Sufferings
--Substitutionary Sacrifice
-2 Cor. 5:21--"For He hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."
-Isa. 53:6
--CHAFER--"The value of the sacrifice is not to be discovered in the intensity of the Savior's anguish, but rather in the dignity & infinite worth of the One who suffers. He did not give more or less; He gave HIMSELF, He offered Himself, but this self was none other than the Second Person of the Godhead in whom measureless dignity & glory reside." (III, P. 68)
--Separation from the Father's fellowship

-Ps. 22:1
--"None of the ransomed ever knew
How deep were the waters crossed"
--We have no idea of what the Cross cost our Savior!

4-REMEMBER---"We are saved, not by the value we set on the cross of Calvary, but by the value God places on it." H. Hendricks

B.-Salvation THRU The Cross!

1-Sin judged thru the Cross
--Rom. 5:9; 8:1
--Gal. 3:13-14a

2-Satan judged thru the Cross
--John 12:31; 16:7-11
--Col. 1:12-14; 2:14-15

3-Sin nature judged thru the Cross
--Romans 6
--Col. 3:9-10

4-CHAFER--"Whatever God does in grace He is free to do because of the cross." (III, P. 60)

IV.-THE PRE-EMINENCE OF THE CROSS:

A.-Paul's Message And Ours (1 Cor. 2:1-5):

1-Paul's Declaration (2:1)
--Not in a methodology to cater to the wisdom of this world
--But with "the testimony of God" = "dispensation"
--He had an authoritative message, which he boldly declared

2-Paul's determination (2:2-3)
--In light of LITTLE FRUIT in Athens a few days previously (Acts 17)
--In light of MORAL WICKEDNESS of Corinth
--In light of LOVE OF ORATORICAL PROWESS of Greeks
--Unwilling for flowery speech to obscure the cross
--2:2
--Paul preached a PERSONAL CHRIST !
* --Paul allowed NO ACCOMMODATION to the locale in order to make the gospel palatable to pagans or relevant to their region
--Inner attitude-----(2:3)

3-Paul's Demonstration (2:4)
--NEGATIVELY--"Not with enticing words of man's wisdom"
--POSITIVELY--"But in demonstration of the Spirit & of power"
--POWER ** Not in the preacher
** But in the message
** ILLUS--G. C. Morgan writes:

"Years ago, a great man, a good man, scholarly & a saint, said to me, speaking of another preacher, "YES, HE IS A WONDERFUL PREACHER, BUT YOU KNOW HE HAS SACRIFICED THE PROPHET TO THE ARTIST."

4-Paul's Desire (2:5)

--When the influence of an overpowering man is removed, then the "props are knocked out"

--Paul desired more than his own influence to move these Corinthian hearers

--For 1½ to 2 years, therefore, he preached Christ & Him crucified so that the POWER of God could be clearly known

--PERSONAL FAITH in the Person & Work of Christ on the cross as "FOR ME"--The crucified Savior

--Not enough to "believe the Bible" for the demons also believe & tremble

--INTIMATE TRANSACTION of believing faith in the Crucified One

5-ILLUS--Clarence Macartney tells this story. There came recently to see me a young man who is contemplating the gospel ministry. Of evangelical family & heritage, he passed with distinction thru Harvard University. THERE in Appleton Chapel he listened to a preaching of Christianity which he recognized as totally different from, & in contradiction to, the faith in which he had been reared.

After a time he withdrew from these services & worshiped in a Cambridge church, where the preaching was more in harmony with his beliefs. Yet he recognized a certain attractiveness & appeal in the nonevangelical & modernistic preaching to which he had listened in the Harvard chapel.

Now, after 2 years in secular pursuits, he is contemplating the ministry; & he came to ask questions that were in his mind, as he wants to be sure of the ground upon which he will stand as a minister. One of his questions was this: "WHY IS IT THAT MODERNISM & LIBERALISM, if false & anti-christian, ARE SO POPULAR & APPEAL TO SO MANY PEOPLE?"

The answer that I gave him was the great answer of the Apostle Paul: "THE OFFENSE OF THE CROSS" (Gal. 5:11) Modernism & liberalism, however much they talk about the Cross --and that is now very little indeed--leave out its offense."

6-It should be added from 2:6-16, that Paul had a message of Christ GLORIFIED which was what he preached & taught those who believed in Christ Crucified.

B.-Paul's Glory And Ours:

1-Where do we rejoice??--Buildings?
--Converts ?
--Programs ?
--Numbers ?
--None of these is wrong, but none of these is ENOUGH

2-Paul's glorying--1 Cor. 1:31
--Gal. 6:14--"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."
--Glory is in the CROSS & in the CHRIST of the Cross

3-Many consider life an ENIGMA, but the solution to life's mystery & enigma is the Cross, & the Divine love of God

expressed by the One Who suffered there.

4-Let us forge **a CROSS-CENTERED THEOLOGY** to present to the unsaved, if we are to be true to our Redeemer before men.

(8)

CONCLUSION:

A.-Resume' Regarding The Cross:

1-**PEOPLE** at the cross
- --Common crowd----"passed by wagging their heads"
- --Jewish rulers---Connived the crucifixion
- --Railing malefactor---**REJECTED** Jesus
- --Roman soldiers-------Knew no king but **Caesar**
- --Superstitious beholders--Supposed that Jesus cried out to Elias for aid
- --Frightened disciples----- Confused & scattered
- --Penitent malefactor---------"**SAVE ME**"

2-**VIEWS** Of The Cross--**Jews** find it a STUMBLING STONE
- --**Greeks** see the cross as FOOLISHNESS
- --**Believers** see the cross as "the power of God and the wisdom of God."
- --Thank God there are still some who cry out: "SAVE ME"

(= PERSPECTIVES)

3-**Relationships** of the cross
- **TO CHRIST** ** Sinbearer for mankind
  ** Service to the Father's will
- **TO CHRISTIAN** ** Ground of salvation
  ** Realm of his service
  ** Mt. 16:24--"Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, & take up his cross, and follow Me."

B.-Reality Regarding The Cross:

1-Symbolism--**SACRIFICE** for sin
- --**SERVICE** for the Savior
- --Christianity is not symbolized by a cushion or by an easy chair
- --But by the **INSTRUMENT OF DEATH**-----A CROSS

2-What does all this mean to **you** .....**to me** ??

3-ILLUS--It is as if **a king** should say to some poor wretched commoner condemned to die on the gallows who had appealed for mercy: "I AM SORRY, **I CANNOT PARDON YOU**. As King of the realm I must be the first in establishing and honoring her just laws. But there is **one thing I can do.** I CAN **DIE FOR YOU**, and so the law will be fulfilled."

Let us presume that it so comes to pass---and now the analogy breaks down---that the good king, having **died** for the evildoer, **NOW ARISES** from his grave & returns to occupy his throne again. Ah, but it is a different throne now. Its glory has been **enhanced** a million times.

The king, before **good** & **just**, is seen in a light & a glory so great as to ravish the hearts of a hundred million subjects. The king in the light of the death he bore for another, and **clothed in resurrection splendor**, is now not only **obeyed**, but receives **adoration** never to be measured. Before such

justice and mercy combined the very worst are humbled & transformed.

Such an illustration may be very crude---as are all such human attempts to throw light on God's supreme glory, THE CROSS. Yet such was the way it actually happened when the King of glory came down, died on the cross and rose again. Our enthroned King bears the marks of His cross in heaven, and will do so forever.

4-Come now to Jesus Christ Who is ALIVE beyond the grave
--SINNER---To the Christ of the Cross
EXHORTATION! --BELIEVER ---To the Risen Christ, your Savior,
for the cross is EMPTY now !!

(9)

O teach me what it means

That cross uplifted, high,

With Christ, the man of sorrows

Condemned to bleed and die.

O teach me what it cost Thee

To make a sinner whole.

Teach me, Savior, teach me,

The value of a soul.

Message # 2

113

1

57 Beneath the Cross Of Jesus

309

2

123

Westbrae--6/7/70--#26--In The Cross Of Christ 1
#65--The Old Rugged Cross 2
#433--Hallelujah, 'Tis Done

#68 The Way Of The Cross Leads Home 197 3

C.B.C., Byrdstown, TN - 3/11/81
Grace Gospel Ch, Beaver - 3/29/93
Bible Center Ch., Charleston - 1/19/2000 - Wed.
Hilltop Bapt. Ch - 7/27/05 - Prayer Mtg
Harper Heights Bapt. Ch - 7/31/05
Calloway Heights Como Ch - 8/7/05

Used as 2nd Message Parts III & IV in evening Service for Communion

3 - #423 - When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

118

Outline is on plastic for the OVERHEAD

LUX, DOUG

1 Cor. 2:14--3:4

Heb. 6:1-3

(1)

INTRO: A.-These Pictures: Photos from my wallet — in the Bible

1-Yours is there....among others

2-Accurate in every detail....very revealing

3-Not yet finished.....room for some retouching for most of us!

4-Being adjusted to the way you change as long as you live

5-Capable of being radically altered, or gradually mellowed

ILLUS- 6-Reminds of the Portrait of George Washington in American school that was never completed while he lived.

B.-Divisions Of The Picture Album:

1-God is a God of order

2-Classifies all things living & dead

3-So do we---friends & enemies — Man's classification principle

---inlaws & outlaws

---Tall and short

---thin & heavy

---Our classification principle is based, primarily, on the PHYSICAL facts

4-God's classification principle is based on SPIRITUAL:

--those with natural life only, OR

--those with natural life and supernatural life too.

--those born only of human parents, OR

--those born of both human parents andborn of God too

--those whose state of spiritual experience abides in death, OR

--those whose state of spiritual experience abides in life.

--Those who are "of their Father the Devil," OR

--Those who are able to call God "Abba, Father".

5-Remember, this division is according to God's classification, not man's!

--NATURAL MAN--The way we're all physically born

--CHRISTIAN MAN--The way we're "born again"

****Spiritual christian

****Carnal Christian

TWO CATEGORIES

NB

6-Three Key Questions for each:

--(1)--WHO is he?

--(2)--HOW much of the Bible does he understand?

--(3)--WHAT message does he need?

I.-THE NATURAL MAN (1 Cor. 2:14):

Prop: We must understand these distinctions so as to understand God's Word to us.

A.-WHO Is He?:

1-Term "natural" is psuchikos =="of the senses" or "natural", indicating the descent from Adam

2-James 3:13--4:1

3-Such a person is "natural" and "unrenewed"

4-Jude 19--"These be they....sensual..." — what he can see, touch + smell + taste + feel

5-Created in the image of God

6-Depraved in the Fall — A SINNER

7-Only born ONCE--Eph. 2:1-3
A spiritual CORPSE--Eph. 2:12
--Eph. 4:18

TWO CATEGORIES:
① Professing
② Non-Professing

2

B.-HOW MUCH of The Bible Does He Understand?

1-"Receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God" (1 Cor 2:14)
--May know facts about christian things
--But does not know Christ personally
--And does not possess the new life in Christ
--Mt. 16:13-14--"When Jesus Came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets."

No settled convictions

2-Why not receiving spiritual things????
--because only discerned spiritually
--because the natural man does not have the Spirit
--Rom. 8:8-9--"...they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in ...be that the Spirit of God dwell... ...y man have not the Spirit of ... of his."
...ng not the Spirit."
...ng on only on our own level
Unable to communicate with a ...e same KIND & LEVEL; So also ...icate with God without the ... us, for God & man are ... ...evel".
...shness unto him" or "they just ...
...itual things without the ... the Spirit.
...'t know ANYTHING of the ...ble — Though he may know some of the FACTS that could lead him to true salvation

THE GOSPEL:
1- Man is a sinner before God
2- God loves mankind + each personally
3- God provided Jesus Christ as our sin-bearing substitute + Savior
4- Man must BELIEVE in his heart
5- Man must CONFESS with his mouth

THUS- on a TUNED of his faith

1-What does a corpse need?
--not need culture!
--not need education!
--not need wealth!
--not need position!
--BUT DESPERATELY IN NEED OF LIFE! — That's what the natural man is in God's sight — Spiritual Life

Salvation is the ONLY issue the this person can hear, understand + BELIEVE to be saved

2-LIFE is found ONLY in Christ
--Jn. 10:10b-11--"...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."
--1 Jn. 5:11-13 — THE GOSPEL — Presented, Heard, Believed + Received — ONLY HOPE

3-Needed message is Believe & Trust ON Christ:
--Jn. 3:7--"..Ye must be born again"
--Jn. 8:30--"..Many believed on Him."

4- HAVE YOU — Believed on Christ as your own Personal Savior ?

II.-THE SPIRITUAL MAN (1 Cor. 2:15-16):

A.-WHO Is He?:

1-Called "He that is spiritual"--pneumatikos--(2:15)

2-Meaning that the spiritual part of man that was severely damaged in the Fall--leaving an unsaved person merely a body & soul --has been renewed by God

3-The spiritual man is Spirit-filled & walking in fellowship with God in full communion

--Gal. 6:1--"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one..

--Rom. 15:1--"We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, & not to please oursely

4-Eph. 5:18-20 (Emphasize!)

5-This Spiritual man is GOD'S NORMAL MAN!

B.-HOW MUCH Of The Bible Does He Understand?:

1-"He that is spiritual judgeth all things" — 1 Cor. 2:15

--has discernment

--perceives the meaning

--insight into the heart of everything — UNLIMITED CAPACITY!

2-Doesn't make him a "know-it-all", but he does have the equipment by which to know

ILLUS - Broad band radio able to receive all frequencies

--1 Cor. 2:12

--1 Jn. 2:20, 27

--no limits in his spiritual horizons

3-"Yet he himself is "judged (examined) of no (unsaved) man" =="the spiritual man's insight is baffling to the man of the world" (PARAPHRASE)

(Good!) His understanding is BROAD BAND — The Mind of Christ + the whole counsel of God

--Perhaps untutored, but not untaught

--Perhaps uneducated, but with deep understanding

4-How did the spiritual man get this insight?

--2:16 — Has "the mind of Christ"

--Spirit of God takes the Word of God & makes it plain to the child of God---THE GREAT PEDAGOGUE

--2:10-12 — SPIRIT is his Teacher

--Has as his teacher the SAME PERSON who wrote the Bible

--Method---2:13 "comparing spiritual things with spiritual" ILLUS 2 colors which complement each other

--Where is this "mind of Christ" found?

--Found IN THE BOOK!

--Never arrives at full knowledge, but does move on, always yielding more.

1 Cor. 2:

C.-WHAT Message Does He Need?:

Eph. 5:19 "Be filled"

1-Gal. 5:16--"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." Quench not - 1 Thess. 5:19 Grieve not - Eph. 4:30

2-Essentially this means:

--Continue in the present pathway

--Continue under the power of the Spirit

--Continue to yield every area of life

--Continue to Grow.

3-When he stumbles — Use of 1 John 1:9 to REBOUND into personal fellowship + SINS

4-Remember — This is God's NORMAL BELIEVER — Is this YOUR NORM?

III.-THE CARNAL MAN (1 Cor. 3:1-4):

(4)

A.-WHO Is He?: (Saved)

CRADLE-ROLL CHRISTIANS

1-Addressed as "brethren"------So Christians
2-Yet **not** spoken of as "**spiritual**"---So not walking as God's Normal Christians
3-Called "**carnal**" and "**babes** in Christ"
--"carnal" is sarkikos, or "fleshly"
--"carnal" indicates a **spiritually renewed** man who, **walking** after the **flesh**, remains a babe in Christ
--SCOFIELD --"The natural man may be learned, gentle, eloquent, fascinating, but the spiritual content of Scripture is absolutely hidden from him; and the fleshly, or carnal, christian is able to comprehend only its simplest truths, 'milk' (1 Cor. 3:2)"P.1214
--Thus the "carnal" man is a believer
--BUT he doesn't act like it!
--Rom. 7:14--"For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am carnal, sold under sin."
--ILLUS.-----Matt. 16:15-16 and 16:22-23 w/ 1 Cor. 3:3-"walk as men"
4-Carnal man is **SUB*NORMAL** as a Christian

B.-HOW MUCH Of The Bible Does He Understand?:

His understanding is narrow + a limited BAND because of SIN, DISOBEDIENCE + IMMATURITY

1-**Been fed** with **milk** & not with **meat**
2-Not able to digest any more than that
3-**Problem**--is not with available food
--is not with the minister who feeds the food
--but with the **little-developed digestive & assimilative system** of the one who remains in spiritual babyhood.
--just hasn't practiced his christianity
--even though he may be **many years old** in the Lord
4-Couldn't bear strong meat before
5-Can't bear **strong meat** now.....EVEN YET
6-Though they are people who parade themselves for their spirituality & concern.
7-Their **LIVES** do not show signs of spirituality. Rather:
8-Lives show--carnality or fleshliness (3:3)
--envying
--strife
--divisions (3:4)
9-Questions--Are ye not carnal (3:3)
--Are ye not carnal (3:4)
--Answer is obvious!

(1) Repeated defeat in life w/ Flesh uppermost
(2) Barren + Fruitless
(3) Prolonged Babyhood
(4) Absorbs attention continually = SELF-CENTERED

C.-WHAT Message Does He Need?:

1-Saved man whose life and conduct is such that he "walks as men" (3:3)---Jas. 3:15-16
---Operating in the realm of the SOUL & not in the realm of the SPIRIT
1 Cor.
2-Remember--this **carnal believer** has **all the spiritual equipment** that the spiritual believer has
--not a question of getting more of the Spirit
--but a question of the Spirit getting more of him!

What he is to do

What he is to let the Spirit do

3-Needs to @ 1 Pet. 2:1-3 — Laying Aside; Desire; Crave
& Heb. 5:11-6:3 — If you're really saved

5

4-And needs to let the Spirit control ALL of us

--(The WHOLE man)
--every room of our "old house"
--every nook of our habits
--every crany of our thoughts
--every closet of our plans
--every niche of our "pet" sins

Get exercise & Go on

No Good in the old man

NO POWER in the new man

--Eph. 5:18
--Drunk is controlled by liquor's spirits
--Spiritual man is to be controlled by God's Spirit.

ILLUS — Control by a HAND in a GLOVE

CONCLUSION:

A.-Three Classifications Of Persons—3 Pictures Possible:

1-Natural
2-Spiritual
3-Carnal
4-Based on SPIRITUAL principles of differentiation

Not our human classifications

B.-Three Key Questions For Each Classification:

1-WHO is he?
2-HOW MUCH of the Bible does he understand?
3-WHAT message does he need?

C.-Blessed Truth:

1-The picture of YOU is as yet uncompleted
2-The picture of YOU can yet be changed
--Radically
--Gradually mellowed
3-Natural man can become a supernatural child of God
4-Spiritual man can become more experienced in spirituality
5-Carnal man can become spiritual
6-Can't change your "physical looks"
7-Can change your "PICTURE" in God's book above.
8-Won't you face yourself in the mirror of God's Word & make the necessary decision?

TODAY !

Calvary — / /62
Westbrae — 6/25/67
Dunedin Brethren — 2/18/96
Lester Bapt. Ch., WV — 6/2/96
Grace Gospel Ch, WV — 6/9/96
7/7/96-Tri-Cities Bapt. Ch., Parkersburg (OR)
8/1/04 Hilltop Bapt. Ch — SS:
9/19/10-Harper Heights Bapt. Ch~SS

Our God, Our Help — 465
Saved By Grace — 447
Have Thine Own Way — 438
Cleanse Me — #60
Search Me

I Co. 2:14-3:4

Reiter

9

YE ARE YET CARNAL

Intro A.- Paul vindicates his ministry
B.- Paul vindicates his message
C.- Paul classifies mankind preparatory to Application

I.- Extremes In Men — God's View
A.- Natural Man — The World's Man
1.- receives not the things of the Spirit
2.- Considers spiritual things foolish
3.- Without Christ, God, Life, or Hope
4.- without spiritual equipment - illus of Blindness
B.- Spiritual Man — God's Man
1.- judges or discerns all things
2.- judged of no man for he has the mind of the master, Christ.
3.- complete in Christ

II.- God's Sub-Normal Baby - Carnal Christian
A.- Position
1.- In Christ
2.- All Spiritual blessings
3.- Eternal hope
B.- Practice
1.- Saved, but only knows that he is saved, + no more
2.- Has no knowledge or experience or understanding of spiritual things even though he has the equipment.
illus - Babyhood on babies
3.- Carnality still dominates in flesh nature + reaps fruit of the flesh.

over

4.- Locus of dependence is self + not the Holy Spirit - Gal. 5:16

C.- Result of not "entering into" possessions.
- 1.- Envy
- 2.- Strife
- 3.- Divisions
- 4.- Walking as men of the world

— Compare with Gal 5:19-21

III.- Application to Situation at Corinth

A.- Division into party Spirit
- 1.- Paul's party
- 2.- Apollos' party
- 3.- illus - from Luther on "Party Spirit"

B.- Paul's Answer to party Spirit
- 1.- Paul plants
- 2.- Apollos waters
- 3.- God gives the increase

— illus of plant

- 4.- God is the important one - others are tools through their gifts.

C.- Positive Teaching
- 1.- Co-partnership with God in ministry
- 2.- We are God's Husbandry
- 3.- We are God's Building

Concl. - A.- Recapitulation
- 1.- Natural
- 2.- Spiritual
- 3.- Carnal

B.- Test yourself by the touchstone of fruitage.

C.- Application to local situation

D.- Exhortation to build God's way with materials acceptable to God.

Age – Not the issue in spirituality

Attitude – This is the issue as one is spiritual or carnal

RELATIONSHIPS	NATURAL	CARNAL	SPIRITUAL
To Word + Spiritual Things	Receives them not - REJECTS - UNABLE TO COMPREHEND	- Easily Deceived - UNDERSTANDS only simple truth - Capable of being led astray - Arrested development.	DISCERNING - Can understand all Spiritual truth
To the Holy Spirit	Does not possess - Spirit ministers To him + FOR salvation	Possesses H.S. - Not Spirit controlled - Ministers to him for YIELDEDNESS	Possesses HS + is possessed (controlled) by Him. - Ministers thru him.
To the World (John 17:6, 11, 14, 16)	- In the world - Of the world - Has the world within him dominating him	- In the world - Not of the world (Saved) - Has the world within him (Carnality: Worldly Attitude + Actions)	- In the world - Not of the world - Does not have the world within him.
↓	↓	↓	↓

Dr. Pinter — 8/29/83 —

Biblical View Of Man —

The Natural, Spiritual, Carnal Issue

Intro / CONTEXT

- 1:10 — Divisions problem
- 1:12 — Followers of leaders
- 1:17 — God's wisdom vs. human wisdom
- 2:6 — Wisdom of God
- 2:12-13 —

3-fold division

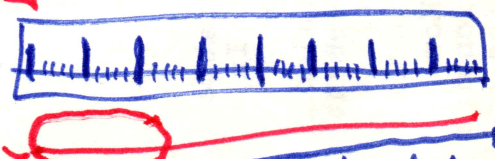
GOD

- UNSAVED
  - (1) Professing
  - (2) Non-Professing
- SAVED
  - (1) Spiritual
  - (2) Carnal (fleshly, worldly)

(Natural)
1 Cor. 2:14
= Of the senses; Related to what they can touch, see, feel, smell + taste.

A spiritual corpse
Eph. 2:1+
John 16:7-11 —

Salvation issue is the only issue the unsaved man can "tune in" on
Radio Band
Pre-tuned Radio set to receive only one station



Carnal Xn can understand a limited band of truth

Spiritual Xn can perceive on the whole gamut of truth — Mind of Christ

"HELP IN YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE" 1 Cor. 2:14 – 3:4 (1)

INTRO:

A.-Lead In:

1-When I planned this message as the "wrap-up" for our month of EVANGELISM in "March to S.S. in March", I had in mind suggestions on personal work---------- ----SOUL WINNING

2-God has a way of rearranging the preacher's view of what the needs are at a given moment.

3-Though we'll stick with the announced title, I want to talk about living the Christian LIFE in such a way

--as to **ACCREDIT** your witness

--As to **ATTRACT** your friends to what you have

--As to **ADVANCE** your readiness to speak of the Lord

4-If your life isn't "IN ORDER", it

--**Closes your mouth** about the sufficient grace of God, OR,

--**Creates a laughing stock** in the view of those who hear you who know your life

B.-This Message:

1-Building on the foundation of a recent message on Acts 2 "Progress In Christian Growth"

I.-THE BEGINNING (Acts 2:14-41):

A.-Preaching (2:14-36)

B.-Pricking (2:37)

C.-Personalizing (2:38-40)

D.-Professing (2:41)

II.-THE PROGRESSING (Acts 2:42-47):

A.-Apostle's Teaching

B.-Fellowship

C.-Breaking Bread

D.-Prayers

E.-Financial Sharing

F.-Regularity of Worship

2-Where do we go from there????????

3-Successive Issues---DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE

I.-Salvation:

II.-Security:

III.-Victory:

IV.-Your Body---God's Vehicle:

V.-Spirit-Controlled Christian:

4-Prop: --To **know what** REAL CHRISTIANITY is

--**To learn how** to experience victory in every-day life

--**To realize** what to do when sin overtakes us & not expect sinless perfection

--**To practice** the Spirit-filled life as your habitual experience.

I.-SALVATION:

A.-A Work Of God:

1-1 Cor. 15:1-4

2-Eph. 2:8-10
3-ALL of God-------NONE of it is "of man" at all!!!

B.-A Work In The Heart:
1-Assent to the facts
--Essential that you assent to the Biblical facts
--But that's (NOT) ENOUGH
--John G. Mitchell--"Too many folk who believe good doctrine are not saved. Once in trying to help a young man I said,"DO YOU BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR YOUR SIN?"
He said, "YES, I believe that. I believe He died for the world."
"BUT I DIDN'T SAY THAT. DO YOU BELIEVE HE DIED FOR YOU? FOR YOUR SIN?"
"Yes," he said, "that's what the Bible teaches."
"DO YOU BELIEVE GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD?"
"Yes, I believe that, he said. "I believe He was raised from the dead. The Bible teaches that."
Was that fellow saved???? No!
He was only giving assent to the truth, to the historical fact that Christ died, that He was buried, that He was raised again. ASSENT to historical fact does not bring life, does not bring forgiveness, does not bring acceptance. THERE MUST BE A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM!

You didn't know Jesus personally

2-Acceptance Of The Person
--John 1:12
--John 6:37
--Mt. 11:28
--Rom. 10:9-10
3-There must be more than a doctrine; it requires a RELATIONSHIP
4-Someone has said: "Belief is ASSENT of the intelllect, the CONSENT of the heart."

II.-SECURITY:

A.-The Fact Established:
1-Dozens of clear texts--Work of the Father
--Work of the Son
--Work of the Holy Spirit
2-A few "PROBLEM TEXTS"
--Usually cleared up by proper view of context
--Or by dispensational insight
--Even if we still have 1 or 2 that are not totally clear, these ought not to unsettle us from what is abundantly clear
3-Three KEY passages--John 6:37-40
--John 10:27-29
--Rom. 8:35-39

B.-The Security Assured:

1-**FACT** is settled by God's Word

2-Only **question** left is "AM I EXPERIENCING WHAT GOD HAS PROVIDED???"

3-**How** can I experience this security????

--**KNOW** of it thru the Word

--1 John 5:13--"These things have I written unto you that believe on the Name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life,..."

--**BELIEVE** that what God has promised, He is able to deliver to us

III.-VICTORY:

A.-The Promises Of Victory:

1-Abundant in number

2-Examples--Eph. 1:3

--1 Cor. 15:57--"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus 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."

3-**Not working UP** to victory .....

.....But **living OUT** a victory already **provided** by Christ at the cross - Rom. 8:37

B.-The Provisions For Victory:

1-For **HELP**--1 Cor. 10:13--"There hath no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, Who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

--Phil. 4:13

--Phil. 2:12-16

2-For **AVOIDANCE**--Rom. 13:14--"But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof."

--1 Cor. 6:18--"Flee fornication..."

--James 4:7-11a

3-For **RESTORATION**--1 John 1:9

--Prov. 28:13

4-ILLUS-The early Christians had a radical evaluation of life. **CELSUS**, an early and devastating critic of Christianity, said that while other teachers invited the clean and worthy Jesus called the **rag**, **tag** and **bobtail** of humanity.

ORIGEN, conscious of Jesus' radical evaluation of human life, gave a shattering answer: "**YES**, but He does not leave them the rag, tag, and bobtail of humanity; but out of the material you would have thrown away as useless, He fashions men, giving them back their self-respect, enabling them to stand on their feet and look God in the eye. They were cowed, cringing, broken things. **BUT THE SON HAS MADE THEM FREE**"

IV.-YOUR BODY----GOD'S VEHICLE:

A.-Who Owns Your Body?:

1-**Satan did** before you were redeemed

2-Eph. 2:1-3--"And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins: wherein in time 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: among whom also we all had our manner of life in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."

3-**WHAT NOW????**

4-All that is NOW CHANGED!!!

5-1 Cor. 6:19-20

--Body is a SACRED SHRINE

--Body is indwelt by the Holy Spirit

--Body is not yours now, any more than it was yours before your salvation

--"Bought"=="bought out" (ἠγοράσθητε)

** Price was Christ's death for sin by shedding of His blood

** 1 Pet. 1:18-19--"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain manner of life received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:"

** Same Concept is translated "redeem" here as "bought" in 1 Cor. 6:20 (ἐλυτρωθητε)

--THEREFORE.....Glorify God in your BODY...

6-W H Y ?? ---Because your BODY is the vehicle God wants to use-------CONTAINER in which is carried on your life of service to your God

B.-Who Controls Your Body?:

1-Satan--Controlled you in your unsaved state

--(Still) seeks to control you as a Christian thru your Old Nature

2-Christ **ought** to **now** control your body because HE BOUGHT IT when HE BOUGHT YOU

3-Will you yield to Him the **CONTROL** of that which He has purchased with His blood???

--Rom. 12:1-2

--Rom. 6:11-13

--"Yield"=="Present"=="Submit"

--**Jesus doesn't want your LIFE!!!**

** Your life isn't worth anything

** Your life is corrupt

** Nothing you have "in the flesh" is worth anything to God or for God's service

--What He wants is **YOUR BODY!!!**

--**THEN**...

...Christ will **provide** the **LIFE**--Galatians 2:20

4-Have you ever consciously yielded control of your body to Christ as a decision of your will?????

5-It's **the only way** that you'll be able to experience in everyday life that victory Christ has already paid for in your behalf

5

C.-Outworking Of A Yielded Body:

1-Life lived is THE LIFE OF CHRIST through you

2-Not 50/50---or 60/40---or 70/30

3-But **100%** Christ's life **lived out** through YOUR BODY

4-**What** will it be like???????

--Would you really like to know?

--Read Gal.5:22-23--"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, against such there is no law."

--Isn't that BETTER than what is happening with the living of your life...

...your way?????

5-**The price** of that Christ-life through you is.....

.....**YOU-SURRENDER** :::

* Submission;
* Yielding;
* Presenting yourself to Him

V.-SPIRIT CONTROLLED CHRISTIAN (By what power):

A.-Three Classes Of People:

1-**Natural**--1 Cor. 2:14

2-Spiritual--1 Cor. 2:15-16

3-Carnal=="FLESHLY"---1 Cor. 3:1-4

4-STRUGGLE in the Christian life

--Romans 6--Union & Identification with Christ is a Divine reality

--Romans 7--Life in the flesh (as a saved person) is a schizophrenic experience

--Romans 8--Power for a holy life is BY THE SPIRIT (Rom. 8:

5-ILLUS-Paul **Svehla's complaint** that he has trusted Christ as Savior & "tried" **to live** a christian life, but says "**I CAN'T DO IT**"

--RIGHT !!!!!

--Neither he-------nor you **can do it**!!!

--Supernatural life requires **supernatural power**

--Only life it by the power of the Spirit

--NO OTHER WAY

--**Power** of our new life in Christ is the HOLY SPIRIT

B.-Three Conditions Of Filling (Control; Empowering):

1-"Grieve not"---Eph. 4:30

--BY **KNOWN SIN**

--What you do that's wrong

2-"Quench not"--1 Thess. 5:19

--By **REFUSING OBEDIENCE**

--By what you fail to do that's right

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3-"Walk in"--Gal. 5:16
--DEPENDENCE is shown by this figure of speech
--Casting yourself upon your INvisible means of support

4-RESULT--"Filled"=="Controlled"=="Empowered"
--Eph. 5:18
--ILLUS--G L O V E

CONCLUSION:

A.-Review Of Development Of Christian Life:
1-Salvation
2-Security
3-Victory
4-Your BODY---God's vehicle
5-Spirit-empowered

B.-Personalization:
1-Where are you???
2-What decisions are SETTLED?
3-What decisions are "in focus" now for you
4-What will you do NOW??
--YIELD to the will of God
--Or will you REBEL??
--Are you stopping short of victory?

5-ILLUS--It is always too soon to quit. The truth of this statement is vividly illustrated by the story of a young man who jumped to his death from the window of a large downtown hotel. The young man had incurred considerable debt, including his hotel bill, and had no money. Concerned, he had wired his brother for help. The money did not come. Driven to despair, he took what seemed to him the only way out. HE QUIT.

The real tragedy was that at the very moment when he took his suicidal leap, there was a letter waiting for him at the lobby desk, with more than enough money in it to cover his bills. IF ONLY HE HAD NOT GIVEN UP!!!

6-In the things of God it's always TOO SOON TO QUIT!!

7How about your decison.....N O W ? ! ? !

Westbrae--3/31/74--#354 "Living For Jesus"
Harper Heights Bapt.,#438 "Have Thine Own Way, Lord"
9/26/10

TRIED BY FIRE

THE ULTIMATE

1 Cor. 3:9-15; 4:5; 2 Cor. 5:1-11

"WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST"

1

Rom. 14:8-12

INTRO:

A.-The Seven Judgments:

1-Must UNLEARN the mistaken notion of JUST ONE Judgment

2-Many, not one, in Scripture

3-Seven in number

--On the Cross	SIN	
--Of Self	SINS	3 FOR BELIEVER: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE
--Of Christian's Works	REWARDS	
--Of living Gentiles	ATTITUDE toward Jews	
--Of Rebel Jews	KINGDOM ENTRANCE	
--Of Lost Dead ones	GREAT WHITE THRONE	
--Of Angels	DISOBEDIENCE	

OVERHEAD

"EXAMINATION DAY FOR BELIEVERS"

ALL ARE RELATED TO WORKS

B.-The Judgment Behind Believers:

← OUTLINE ON OVERHEAD

1-At the Cross

2-Judgment of sin

3-Christ died for OUR sin

4-Judgment of God against man in his sinfulness seen here

5-Places in BOLD relief the fact that God considers the sin of man of such consequence that it took the death of His Own---and ONLY---Son to pay the penalty of our sin

6-Rom. 3:23 For All have sinned + come short of the glory of God

6:23 For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life Thru Jesus Christ our Lord

7-This Judgment is BEHIND us

--in terms of the history of the world

--but is it behind you in terms of the history of the decisions of your heart ?

--IF NOT, why not right now!

--Are you seen by God thru the "ROSE-COLORED GLASSES" tinted by the blood of X.?

C.-The Judgment Before Believers:

1-Called --Judgment seat of Christ

--"Bema"

--Trial by fire

--Judgment for REWARDS !

2-Not judgment for sin --THAT IS PAST

--Rather, it is judgment as to the quantity & quality of his WORKS

3-ALL the Judged ones are SAVED

4-Not all the Judged ones will be REWARDED

5-Judgment Seat deals with WORK & SERVICE as a Christian

REALITY

DETAILS CONCERNING THE

I.-THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST:

Rom. 14:10, 2 Cor. 5:10

A.-The Meaning Of The Term: "Bema"

1-2 words in N. T. translated "Judgment Seat"-

--"Criterion"=="the rule by which one judges"

--"Bema"=="the tribunal or throne of judgment" - A PLACE

--SALE-HARRISON--"In Grecian games in Athens, the old arena contained a raised platform on which the president or umpire of the arena sat. From there he rewarded all the contestants; and from here he rewarded all winners. It was called the "BEMA", or "REWARD SEAT". It was later used of a JUDICIAL BENCH.

A PRINCIPLE AND it was reserved for CITIZENS

131- "Christ Returneth"

6/13/65-Weathyse 5/2/71

38-Must I Go Empty-Handed

Jesus Calls Us

40-Will Jesus Find Us Watching?

2-Thus, associated with ideas of prominence, dignity, authority, honor & reward, rather than just justice & judgment as at the Great White Throne

2

3-I. M. HALDEMAN--"So clear and clean is this transaction between the believer and a once-crucified Christ that were I with other believers at this moment summoned to that Judgment Seat, did Justice appear before me with a naked sword & in stern & merciless tones say unto me that my life was a sinful failure, or infraction of Divine law, & that I must pay what I owed with my life, that rightly & fittingly I deserved to be banished from God and the glory of His presence forever I would turn & point to that great crimson blot uplifted on a Cross between two thieves & I would say:

"O Justice, as much as you know of all the sin in my nature, all the sin I am and all the sin I have done, I know it too; but, Justice, yonder on the Cross I was judged, punished, executed & done to death in the Person of my Substitute, the Substitute whom the Infinite & Almighty God Himself provided. I have paid all the debt I owe to the law, the government & the Being of God. I have not fallen short in one jot or tittle of the law's demand. I have paid to the last element of my being every thing the conscience of God could require. God has not winked at any debt I owe or have partially paid. He has required it all. He has got it all, & He got it all in my Substitute, in every drop of blood His Son, my Substitute, shed for me. The conscience of God is satisfied concerning me and my conscience is at rest in the satisfied conscience of God."

"I would say that. When I said that, Justice would sheathe the double-edged & gleaming sword, and turn away. "No matter who you are, worst or best of men, the moment you turn & claim the Crucified Son of God as your sacrificial substitute, you are safe. Safe because Justice cannot demand payment twice, once from your surety & then from you." (Pp. 434-35, Valliant For The Truth)

B.-The Time Of The Bema:

1-After the Rapture

2-While Great Tribulation is on the earth

AMBASSADORS for Christ now. Called Home when God declares on "earthdwellers" GOD'S WRATH

3-Lk. 14:14 associates reward with the Resurrection of the just

4-1 Th. 4:13-18 deals with the Rapture & Resurrection, so the Bema is a part of that program

5-PROOF--Church possesses these rewards already when RETURNING WITH CHRIST

"They shall be recompensed at the resurrection of the just."

--Rev. 19:8--"And to her (the Ch.) was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean & white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."

--Gk is plural; Righteousnesses

--Bestowed at the Bema.

6-Rewards have been promised in connection with His COMING FOR US---1 Cor. 4:5--"Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, & will make manifest the counsels of the hears: & then shall every man have praise of God."

--2 Tim. 4:8--"Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: & not to me only, but unto all that love his appearing."

Rev. 22:12--"And, behold, I come quickly; & my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

"...absent from the body, +to be present with the Lord." (3)

Rom. 14:10: "...for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

C.-Place of Judgment:

1-After leaving the earth at "Rapture"

2-"In the air"--1 Th. 4:17

3-In the presence of God--2 Cor. 5:8

4-THUS, "in the heavenlies" (Rev. 4-5) "Come up hither"

5-Where the Church is taken at the Rapture

D.-The Judge At The Bema:

1-Jn. 5:22--"For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

2-Acts 17:30-31--"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised Him from the dead."

3-A part of the exaltation of Christ is the RIGHT to obvious DIVINE AUTHORITY in exercising judgment.

4-ILLUS:-There is a story of a young composer whose music was being performed for the first time. He kept his eye fixed intently on the one man in the audience, watching every expression play upon his features. The one man who mattered was HIS TEACHER. He cared more for the slightest mark of favor on his face than for all the applause of the great company.

So in all our life we should watch the face of Christ, caring only that HE SHOULD BE PLEASED. If we live to win His approval now we shall not need to be afraid to have our deeds laid bare at the judgment seat.

5-1 Jn. 2:28-"And now, little children, abide in Him; that when He shall appear, we may have confidence, +not be ashamed before Him at His coming."

E.-The Subjects At The Bema:

1-Universal accountability is coming

2-Rom. 14:11--"For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, & every tongue shall confess to God."

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ that every one may receive the things done in the body according to that he hath done."

3-PERSONAL accountability

-Rom. 14:12-"So then every one of us (believers) shall give account of himself to God."

-1 Cor. 3:13-15 READ

-2 Cor. 5:10

ALL Church age saints will be these

3-Bema deals ONLY WITH BELIEVERS

4-Seen in the qualifying phrases of these verses.

F. Basis Of The Examination At The Bema:

That's already Settled! PAST HISTORY

1-Salvation is NOT at issue.

Jn. 5:24--"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, & believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, & shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

*--Rom. 8:1

-1 Jn. 4:17--Herin is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as He is, so are we in this world."

-Heb. 10:17--And their sins & iniquities will I remember no more."

(4)

--ILLUS--We are on "BURNED OVER GROUND"

2-Judgment is not "en-masse", but one by one (Rom. 14:12)

3-Deals with things done in the body

4-Doesn't include what we intended to do, but never did

5-"Whether good"

6-Or Bad = "worthless"

--Thus, unacceptable

--Wood; Hay, Stubble

"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

7-WORKS ARE THE ISSUE — In every judgment WORKS are judged

Col. 3:24-25--"Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: & there is no respect of persons."

1 Cor. 3:13 - "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by Fire; & the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is."

Eph. 6:8--"Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free."

8-God utters no mere compliments.....These Rewards must be EARNED!!!

II.-THE RESULTS OF THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST:

A.-Loss Of Reward:

1-One of two possible results (NB)

2-Trial is by FIRE — 1 Cor. 3:13

OR

3-Fireproof building with God will abide

GOOD

--Gold----------PRECIOUS building material

--Silver----------IMPERISHABLE building material

--Precious stones---RARE building material

*--Works done for God's glory

--Works done in the power of the Spirit

--Work motivated by God

--Not only "religious work"

--But even a cup of water

--ILLUS--When a great Grecian artist was fashioning a figure of sculpture for a magnificent new building, the purchaser said to him, "You need not finish the back of the figure, because it is to be built into the wall."

To which the sculptor answered, "Yes, but God can see in the wall." He had the right concept of what is meant in doing things--not as men-pleasers--but as unto the Lord our God. Building that shall abide the fire.

4-Inflamable Building materials will be burned

BAD

--Wood----------WORTHLESS building material

--Hay----------PERISHABLE building material

--Stubble----------PLENTIFUL building material

*--Works motivated by "appearance"

--Works done in the flesh

--Works done for "self-glory" — for advancing self-image

--Even good things may be done the wrong way

--It will involve SUFFERING LOSS — Not "enjoying loss"

--Not a light issue

--Judgment is LOSS, not something to be enjoyed

--2 Jn. 8--"Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward."

--ILLUS--Building inspector who checks the work of various contractors to see that they've met the CODE

5-Guaranteed "LOSS LEADERS"

--WHY ??-----Because when we are engaged in these we're not "REDEEMING THE TIME" (Ep. 5:16)

EXAMPLES of which there are many others

--IDLE WORDS ** Mt. 12:36--"But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment"

** Col. 3:17--"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God & the Father by Him."

** WRONG WORDS rob one of spiritual usefulness in God's sight

** Phil. 2:4--"Do all things without murmurings and disputings."

--PRIDE **Of Face
**Of Race
**Of Place
**Of grace
**These must all be ABASED
** Luke 14:11--"For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

--CRITICISMS of the brethren **Rom. 14:10-12 — Read
**Judge doctrine & practice
** BUT NOT HIS MOTIVES

--HIDDEN THINGS of darkness
** SECRET SINS
** 1 Cor. 4:5 — Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come..."

--LACK OF LOVE ****For God ("Left thy first love" Rev. 2:4)
**For man--1 Cor. 13 — Wife, Neighbor, Brethren, Enemies

"Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down on your wrath:"

--ANGER ** Eph. 4:26
** Moses failed here & LOST privilege of entry
** Not salvation lost, but privilege of entry & enjoyment of the Promised Land was at stake

--CARELESSNESS OF LIFE---1 Pet. 4:17-18

--JEALOUSY--As Korah toward Moses
--As Cain toward Abel

--DEFRAUDING OTHERS, etc., etc., etc.

6-LOSS Comes from---1--COMMISSION of sin
2-OMISSION of the good
3-PROCRASTINATION of decisions
4-NEGLECT of opportunities
--ILLUS--Isa. 59:16--"And He saw that there was no man, & wondered that there was no intercessor..."

NB

7-CONFESSED SINS will not appear at the Judgment Seat (1 John 1:9)

8-Meanwhile, you and I need to "GO TO CONFESSION" !!!
--Not to an earthly priest
--That is useless
--But to the One who has power to cleanse & forgive
--THERE you will find real absolution
--This is Christ's unfinished work
--Take sides with the Lord.....against yourself

9-REMEMBER--None will be "BURNED AWAY" — All SURVIVE!
-1 Cor. 3:15--"If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."
-1 Cor. 4:5--"...then shall every man have praise of God."

10-DORIS SALTER:--"The loss we sustain at the judgment seat, of which we read in 1 Cor. 3:13-15, is loss of the authority we might have had if we had been more obedient in our lifetime. Our unproductive work all disappears and only the fruitful is rewarded." (Article in PROPHETIC WORD, April 1970, Pp.22)

Gaining Of
B.-Rewards For Faithful Works:

1-CROWNS--Promised for faithful service to the Lord
-"Diadema"=="Kingly crown"--RESERVED for Christ alone
-"Stephanos"=="Victor's crown" of reward & honor

2-Crowns of reward--INCORRUPTIBLE crown for mastery of self (1Cor9:25)
Six
--REJOICING crown for soulwinners (1Th.2:19-20)
--LIFE crown for enduring trials (Jas. 1:12)
--RIGHTEOUSNESS crown for loving His appearing (2 Tim. 4:8)
--GLORY crown for faithfulness in the ministry (1 Pet. 5:4)
--MARTYR'S CROWN for being faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10)

3-WARNING--Rev. 3:11--"Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."

*4-Fruit tree is to produce distinctive fruit....SO IS THE CHRISTIAN....
...Not just LEAVES but FRUIT OF WORKS

5-ILLUS--A ship was wrecked on the Northwest coast of Ireland and a mother tried in vain to persuade her son, who had volunteered to go to the rescue of the last man on board the floundering ship, TO GIVE UP the perilous task.
She pleaded that his father & his brother had never come back from the sea, and that she would be left alone if he were lost. He resisted her entreaties, and put out to the sinking vessel. When the boat came back thru the surf, the crowds on the shore shouted: "HAVE YOU GOT YOUR MAN?"
The reply came ringing o"er the waves:
"YES, AND TELL MOTHER IT'S BROTHER WILLIAM!"

Can any of us be sure that the imperiled souls around us are not our brothers? Are we not our brother's keeper? and our brother's BROTHER?

CONCLUSION:

A.-Basic Distinction:

1-Salvation is a FREE GIFT. Salvation cannot be lost

2-Service that's faithful will be REWARDED. Rewards can be lost if we are not faithful to the Lord in them.

B.-The Issue Today To The Believer-----SERVICE: (7)

1-Knowing the terror of the Lord--Toward sinners
--Toward disobedient Xns.

2-"We persuade men"--This is our JOB
--Acts 1:8
--Dan. 12:3
--Prov. 11:30

3-How could we answer Jesus? CALL TO SERVICE?
--Failure to obey the Spirit as Philip did in Acts 8?
--Disinterest in reaching the "other sheep"?
--ILLUS--MK. 4:35-41--"Other little ships" not noticed or considered. PRE-OCCUPATION is with SELF alone
--WITHOLDING ** Prayer
** Ourselves
** Our means
** Our families
God spare us such LOSS!
--Remember: There is not the thickness of tissue paper between us who are Christians and the Judgment Seat of Christ

4-HOW WILL YOU ANSWER when you stand to receive.....
.....REWARD.....or SUFFER LOSS ??

5-I.M. Haldeman:
"Think of it! Redeemed by the blood, made partakers of the Divine nature, indwelt by the Holy Ghost, linked up to a risen Christ claiming all the guarantees of salvation; * and yet never doing anything for Him who has done all things for them. O the pitiableness of it. Redeemed and doing nothing for Christ. And these shall suffer loss of what they might have had." (P. 443)

CHRIST'S PLAN FOR ME

When I stand at the judgment seat of Christ,
And He shows me His plan for me,
The plan of my life as it might have been
Had He had His way, and I see

How I blocked Him here, and I checked Him there,
And I would not yield my will.
Will there be grief in my Saviour's eyes—
Grief, though He loves me still?

He would have me rich, and I stand there poor,
Stripped of all but His grace,
While memory runs like a hunted thing
Down the paths I cannot retrace.

Then my desolate heart will well nigh break
With tears that I cannot shed;
I shall cover my face with my empty hands;
I shall bow my uncrowned head.

Lord of the years that are left to me,
I give them to Thy hand.
Take me and break me, mould me now
To the pattern Thou hast planned!

—Martha Snell Nicholson

Mountain View Baptist Ch., Alderson, WV – 4/30/80
Snyder, Colo. – 6/15/81
Victory Bible Church, Alum Cr, WV – 10/20/90
Liberty Baptist Ch, Inglewood, NZ – 7/5/92
Huntsville Bible Ch, AL. – 3/8/94
Faith Bible Church, Hedgesville, WV – 3/6/95
Waiheke Island, Auckland – 2/25/96
Taupo Bible Church, N.Z. – 3/11/96
Turangi, N.Z. – 3/13/96
Dunedin Bible School – 7/21/99
Hilltop Bapt. Ch. – Men's SS – 9/5/04
Harper Heights Bapt. Ch. – 9/18/10
Fall Foliage – 10/15/10

"WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST"
1 Cor. 3:9---4:5; 2 Cor. 5:10-11; Rom. 14:8-12

INTRODUCTION: (see other side
A.-The Seven Judgments:
B.-The Judgment BEHIND Believers: (At the Cross)
C.-The Judgment BEFORE Believers: (Judgment Seat)

I.-DETAILS CONCERNING THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST:
A.-The Meaning Of The Term "Bema":
B.-The Time Of The Bema: (Luke 14:14; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 4:5; 2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 22:12)
C.-The Place Of The Bema: (1 Thess. 4:17; 2 Cor. 5:8; Rom. 14:10)
D.-The Judge Of The Bema: (John 5:22; Acts 17:30-31)
E.-The Subjects At The Bema: (Rom. 14:11-12; 1 Cor. 3:13-15 2 Cor. 5:10)
F.-The Basis Of Examination At The Bema:
1-Salvation is NOT at issue (John 5:24; Rom. 8:1; 1 John 4:17; Heb. 10:17
2-WORKS ARE THE ISSUE (1 Cor. 3:13; Col. 3:24-25; Eph. 6:8)

II.-RESULTS OF THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST:
A.-Loss Of Reward:
1-Fireproof building with God will abide
2-Flamable building materials will be burned
3-Trial is BY FIRE--1 Cor. 3:13
4-Many guaranteed "LOSS-LEADERS"
5-Preventive of loss of reward--1 John 1:9 and 1:7
6-None will be "BURNED AWAY"--1 Cor. 3:15; 4:5
7-Doris Salter: "The loss we sustain at the judgment seat of which we read in 1 Cor. 3:13-15, is loss of authority we might have had if we had been more obedient in our lifetime. Our unproductive work all disappears and only the fruitful ~~WK~~ is rewarded."
B.-Rewards For Faithful Works:
1-CROWNS--Promised for faithful service to the Lord
--"Diadema"=="Kingly crown"; Reserved for Christ
--"Stephanos"=="Victor's crown"; A reward and honor for the believer
--See message on crowns for varieties
2-Warning--Rev. 3:11
3-Fruit tree is to produce distinctive fruit; SO IS THE CHRISTIAN

CONCLUSION:
A.-Basic Distinction:
1-Salvation is a FREE GIFT. SAlvation cannot be lost.
2-Rewards come from SERVICE. Rewards can be lost if we are not faithful in our service.
B.-The Issue Today To The Believer---S E R V I C E:
C.-The Issue Today To The Unsaved----S A L V A T I O N:

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The Seven Judgments:

1-On the Cross----------SIN
2-Of our lives----------SINS
3-Of Christian's works------REWARDS at Bema
4-Of living Gentiles---------ATTITUDE toward Jews
5-Of rebel Jews----------KINGDOM ENTRANCE
6-Of LOST DEAD ONES---------Great White Throne
7-Of angels---- ----------Disobedience.

LOCAL CHURCH DISCIPLINE 1 Cor. 5

1

INTRO:

A.-Imperative Problems To Be Faced:

1-Cinese B Ch.--Alcohol
--Tongues
2-Grace B Ch.--Tongues
3-N. Highlabds B Ch.--Ultradispensationalism
4-Calvary Ch., Placentia--Incest by a Deacon
--Going to law by a millionaire
5-Westbrae--Fornication & pregnancy (Steve & Linda)
--Unwillingness to pay rent (Keith Brown)
--Dessertion & Divorce
--Marriage to unsaved (Ernestine Kaczmarek)
--Alcoholism (Margaret Robbins)
6-Carmichael B Ch.--Drug addiction
7-Richmond Bapt. Ch--Adultery between Ch. Secy & Custod.)
8-EDWARD ANGROVE: "The excess of our day is rooted in rotted religion." The Baptist Bulletin, 9/73, "Discipline in the Church"

B.-Insistent Need For Solutions:

1-Mt. 18:15-19--a.-Personal confrontation
b.-two or three in joint confrontation
c.-CHURCH ACTION
2-Alternatives of response
a.-REPRIMAND --K. Brown; Failure to pay rent
b.-PROBATION --Drug users who stopped using
--Lillyquists who repented & confessed
c.-SUSPENSION --Betsy Clark & Husband who lied re fornication & pre-marital pregnancy
--Marriage to an unsaved partner
d.-EXPULSION --Recurrent drunkenness
--Drug use not ceased
--Tongues practice & proseletizing
-OR Sin runs rampant & many are emboldened to sinful practices
NB
4-Church Discipline is SPIRITUAL SURGERY
--HOW to act---What extent done & response
--WHEN to act---When to respond ---TIMING
5-BRUCE & LORENDA JACKSON: "Christianity was not intended to be lived in isolation. The Church is a community of believers involving interpersonal relation (Eternity, 8/69, "Discipline: A Waning Emphasis")

C.-Individual Opponents Of Church Discipline:

1-The Devil
2-The culprits
3-Friends & family of culprits
4-Folks who "don't wnt to stir up trouble"
IT CANNOT BE AVOIDED!! IT ALREADY EXISTS!!
5-ALFORD: "We are not...at liberty to set aside direct injuntions of the Lord's Apostles." (The Greek N. T.)
JACKSON: "Some teachings prevailing in the Church today play down the idea of the Church discipline. God's love, it it claimed, covers all our sins."(Eter,8/69,8)

SO....Let's look at God's Word for AUTHORITATIVE ANSWERS

I.-THE IMMEDIATE OCCASION: (5:1-2)

A.-The Facts: (5:1)

1-Fornication=="A sexual act by an unmarried person outside of marriage with ANYONE

2-"Among you"=In the Church; Among true believers

3-Such sins as Gentiles would shun

- -Contrary to Roman Law
- -Contrary to God's Word
- -Lev. 18:8--"The nakedness of thy father's wife shalt thou not uncover: it is thy father's nakedne
- -Deut. 22:30--"A man shall not take his father's wife,nor discover his father's sk[illegible] en

4-Sexual intimacy with his father's wife

- -His own mother OR
- -His stepmother
- -EITHER IS SIN----WILLFUL SIN !!

B.-Their Reactions: (5:2)

1-"Puffed up"--They strutted around on the stage of life & in the church." Lloyd F. Dean,(Eternity 12/62, "When Scandaj Hits The Church.")

2-"Have not mourned"

3-Rejoiced in being BROAD MINDED; Actually boasting

4-Unwilling to face the unpleasant facts

5-NO EXCUSE for tolerating such degraded behavior!! Even the society from which they came condemned incest

BOTH-The TORAH & ROMAN LAW

6-Proper Attitude-Pricked to the heart to grow

Filled with sorrow

7-Proper Action--Preparedfor disciplinary removal EXPULSION from the assembly

8-DEAN: "It is impossible to get seed on a rock. In order for evil to have its way, it must have a soil that will bear it & sustain it. There is never the growth of evil within a Church unless, to some extent, it is countenanced & supported by the Church itself." (P. 21)

9-PARTAKERS of the sin of the guilty party

II.- THE SAINTLY ACTIVITY NEEDED: (5:3-5)

A.-Proceeds From Divine Authority: (5:3)

1-ApostlePaul is offended

2-Apostle Paul has passed sentence

3-Absent or present--NO DIFFERENCE--G U I L T Y !!

4-Divine authority DEMANDS Church discipline; The Word of God requires action!!

B.-Exercised By Local Assembly: (5:4)

1-In Christ's Name--A U T H O R I T Y

2-By the assembled body--"gathered together in My Name" Mt. 18:17--"tell it to the Church"

3-Agreeable to Paul's spirit

4-By the power of Christ exercised THROUGH HIS CHURCH !!

C.-Motivated By Love: (5:5)
1-Biblical EXCOMMUNICATION in this case
2-Deliverance into Satan's control--Expelled & given over to Satan so his disobedience can cost him & bring him to isolation & repentance
3-Flesh given over to destruction
4-Spirit of the sinner to be reclaimed
5-Discipline
- -Not in super-piety
- -Not in self-glory
- -But for remedy to lead to RESTORATION
- --JACKSON:--It must be emphasized that the purpose of the discipline is always to bring the offender to repentance & restoration. Reformation, not exclusion from the brotherhood is the object." (8)

6-If the Church does not repudiate him, they hand to the Devil an instrument of warfare in which he can say to those in the world/ "Look at the Church of Jesus Christ: they countenance anything. They talk about morality, but if a man is rich enough, prominent enough, well-liked enough, he can get away with anything & remain accepted in the Church. BUT when the Church does its duty before God, God promises that He will bless it.
7-R E S U L T---2 Cor. 2:6-10

III.-THE SUPREME IMPORTANCE DECLARED: (5:6-8)

A.-THe Rebuke Of Sin: (5:6)
1-They've boasted of liberty without contrition
2-Such glorying--"NOT GOOD"!!
3-Principle:
- -"A little leaven"
- -Leavens the whole lump (The Church)
- -Can't contain or restrain evil
- -MUST JUDGE IT!!

4-ILLUS:--One bad apple in the barrel. It must be removed to preserve the good ones from being affected by its rotting influence
Must "Put it OUT!"
--Otherwise expansion of the sin to others also

B.-THe Remedy Of Purging: (5:7)
1-"Purge out"
- -AN ABSOLUTE COMMAND
- -No alternatives
- -No half-way measures

2-"Leaven"
- -Symbol of SIN
- -Representstion of the old life
- -OLD NATURE

3-"That ye may be a new lump"
- -PURE Church is in view
- -Exclude the sinning
- -Cleanse that which remains

4-"As ye are unleavened. For Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us."
- -Explain Christ as Passover
- -Explain "UNLEAVENED in that connection

Eph. 5: 26-27

5-NO LEAVEN of sin is to be tolerated; PURE CHURCH

C.-The Right Way: (5:8) of Truth!

1-"Keep the feast"-----Durative action; Practice of the Ch.

2-Not with leaven--PURE!

3-BUT with unleavened bread of sincerity & truth

4-That is the RIGHT WAY !!

(4)

IV.-THE SPECIFIC PARTICULARS ENUNCIATED: (5:9-13)

A.-The Principle Stated: (5:19)

1-Written "TO YOU"----Believers

2-Church discipline has to do with Church MEMBERS

3-ALL believers ought to be included IF living godly lives

4-Not to company with fornicators

--Not to "mix" with them

--2Thess. 3:14--"If any obey not our word by this epistle, note that man & have no company with him that he may be ashamed?"

5-Church discipline deals with
- -Relation of believer to Ch.
- -" " " to others
- -NOT believer's relation to the WORLD as an attempt to reform the world

6-It is not that discipline is simply causing the offender to be ashamed & causing him to be hurt for the mere sake of extracting punishment, but RECLAMATION is in view. Do you cease loving your child when you spank him!? The Scriptures say that if you love your child, you will punish him! So discipline itself is an act of love, when it is under the principles of the Word of God.

B.-The Principle Applied: (5:10-11)

1-"Yet not altogether"

2-Cannot "GET OFF" the world;
Total separation while still in the world is impossible

3-Sinners -Fornicators
-Covetous
-Extortioners
-Idolators
-PLUS ** Railers ="Abusers of the character of others"
**Drunkards

5:10

5:11

--These are still near us, but we do not afford them the fellowship of a BROTHER; a fellow Xn.

4-"With such an one, no, not to eat"
- -Not at the Lord's Table
- -Not in personal fellowship (HOME or RESTAURANT)
- -Not until repentance for sin & forsaking it !!

5-When repentant, RESTORE HIM !!

Unsaved Non member

C.-The Principle Limited: (5:12)

1-Not to those "WITHOUT"--OUTSIDE our jurisdiction

2-But to those "WITHIN"--Here we MUST JUDGE SIN !!

3-Believers are to judge sin in the assembly

D.-The Principle Performed: (5:13)

1-Leave the judging of those OUTSIDE to others

2-"PUT AWAY" sinning saints

(5)

-Deut. 24:7--"If s man be found stealing any of his brethren of the children of Israel, & maketh mer= chandise of them, or selleth him; then that thief shall die; & thou shalt put evil away from among you

-Josh. 7:13--"Up, sanctify the people, & say, Sanct- ify yourselves against tomorrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand befor thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you."

--H. A. I: We do not like to carry out extreme commands like these, but this is THE WORD OF GOD, & the greatest kindness that the people of God can do to a man who is deliberately going on in deliberate sin is to REFUSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP to him. As long as you treat him as a brother, he will only be puffed up in his ungodly ways & it will be harder to reach him. BUT if you obey the Word of God, God will work toward his recovery & restoration. (1 Cor, P. 170)

3-Performance is expected & required;
Paul speaks more of the sin of the Chirch on Corinth than of the individual. The Church is GUILTY ALSO!

CONCLUSION:

A.-Reasons For Local Church Discipline: — THE QUESTION!

1-The Glory of God must be honored by OBEDIENCE

#-RESTORATION of the sinning brother is the goal

2-PURITY of the Church must be maintained & thus RESTRAIN OTHERS from following a sinful example

3-REMOVE DEFILEMENT of sin from the Church (=Impurity)

B.-Points of Distinguishment:

1-AN ACT of sin in a moment of weakness is sin — NOT RIGHT!

2-A HABITUAL PATTERN; a practice of life must be sternly addressed

--1 John 3:9--"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit (PRACTICE) sin; for His seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."

3-Also, levels of judgment appropriate to different sins---NOT ALWAYS EXCOMMUNICATION

** Rebuke or admonishment
**Censure
**Barred from communion & service for a time
** EXCOMMUNICATION when appropriate

C.-Alternatives:

1-More flagrant sinning must be STOPPED & JUDGED
2-Testimony in the community will be damaged
3-Name of God will be besmirched
4-Seduction of other saints as they follow the pattern of one who goes without discipline
5-SICKNESS / DEATH of the offender — Divine Judgment

Stages Weakness

(6)

6-To be a member of a biblical Church is not a small thing. Church membership involves entering into a solemn obligation of the discipline of the Church of Jesus Christ.

D.-Personal Application:

1-1 Cor. 5:6-8

2-H O W ??-In a spirit of meekness

-Gal. 6:1--"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of meekness,; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted"

-A firm stand for truth & purity

-1 John 2:12-17

-Love the brethren

-John 21:15-17

-Forgive the repentant sinner

Westbrae-- 5/1/66
Chinese College Group--9/4/70
Hilltop Baptist Ch. (Men;s SS)--9/26/04
Harper Heights Bapt. 2/5/06

HYMNS - "There Shall Be Showers Of Blessing" — #160
"Thou Art Worthy" — #11
"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" — #17

INV - "We Gather Together" — #597

"WHO WILL NOT BE IN HEAVEN?" 1 Cor. 6:9-11, etc.

1

INTRO: A.-A Prepared Place:

1-We've just sung--"When we all get to heaven"

2-But will we? ? ? ---NO!

----Not unless we are SAVED !!

3-ILLUS.--During World War II a luxurious French Villa lay in the path of the oncoming armies. Although deserted, it was shelled & left with great gaping holes in its stone sides.

A few pigs, which had somehow escaped extermination, rooted their way into the magnificently furnished drawing room. Over the rich, velvet carpet they tracked their muddy feet, overturned the upholstered furniture, tore the expensive draperies, & chewed up whatever gave promise of satisfying their hunger.

The beauty, the elegance, the cultural characteristics of the place meant nothing to these beasts. They were not partakers of the intellectual or spiritual qualities of the owner of the villa.

To the unregenerated millions on earth, the glories of heaven would be like that French villa was to the pigs. They are not partakers of the Divine nature. They would have no capacity for enjoying the holy atmosphere of the Glory Land.

4-In my early days as a christian, I became attached to that little motto: "Heaven is a PREPARED place, for a PREPARED people, who come a PREPARED way."

5-Are you one of the "Prepared people"? ? I am the Way, the Truth & the Life

6-The way has been prepared---John 14:6

7-The place is being prepared now--John 14:1-3

8--THE BIG QUESTION-----"Are you prepared?"

9-ILLUS.--Entering upon a crowded street car with his Bible under his arm, a young minister soon became the brunt of sneering remarks & wisecracks from a group of fellows on board.

These remarks continued, & as the minister prepared to leave the streetcar, one of the youths said, "SAY, MISTER, HOW FAR IS IT TO HEAVEN?"

The christian replied, "IT IS ONLY A STEP; AWAY, will you take it now?"

B.-A Prepared People:

1-Those who WILL be in heaven---next message

2-Those who WILL NOT be in heaven.

3-PROP:--Clearly show the picture of WHO DOES NOT GET to heaven, and why not!

--To press the need for a decision for Christ as "The Way"

I.-THE PRINCIPLE STATED:

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God?

A.-Key Passage--1 Cor. 6:9a:

1-A matter of supreme importance to KNOW clearly.

2-Know what they'll miss

--The Kingdom of God

--Sphere of reality

--Not merely profession, but possession

B.-Who'll Miss Heaven?

1-I Cor. 6:9a

2-"The unrighteous"--Who is that?

--The one in his sins

--The rejector of Christ

--The delayer who delayed too long

--The one not having Christ's righteousness put to his account "by faith" in Jesus as his substitute

3-Not a reference to moral goodness, but to spiritual condition before a HOLY GOD?

4-Are you an unrighteous one in God's sight?

5-It would seem impertinent & impossible to authoritatively speak on this subject apart from the Revelation of the WORD OF GOD----and He sets the rules of entrance

6-Let's see who is included in the "unrighteous"?

II.-THE PERSONS STIPULATED:

A.-First Text--1 Cor. 6:9&10:

SEX SINS

1-"Fornicaters"--indulging in sex sins inside forbidden bounds acc. to Lev. 18 (An unmarried person having sexual relations w/ANYONE)

2-"Idolators"--Having gods which supplant the true God

3-"Adulterers"--Sexual sins of permiscuity by a married person

4-"Effeminate"--Not merely a male who practices forms of lewdness -- The PASSIVE PARTNER

--But, all persons addicted to sins of the flesh

5-"Abusers of themselves w/ mankind"== Homosexuals

The ACTIVE PARTNER

--Not sickness, but SIN

--Notwithstanding Glide Memorial Methodist Ch.'s views-"HOMO-ball"

SPOILERS OF GOODS

6-"Thieves"==Ones who steal by craftiness

7-"Covetous" = Greedy

8-"Drunkards"

9-"Revilers"==Abusive, blasphemous mouthed -- Slanderers (* "Your God is my devil")

10-"Extortioners"--in interest or usury (Taking more than is FAIR)

--in rents or in labor

--in pillage, robbery or siezing by force

11-NONE OF THESE will inherit heaven!!!

12-ILLUS--I once heard of a gambling man on his way to some horse races, who--by mistake--went on board the wrong steamer (Mississippi) He found himself among a number of christians bound for a conference. In the salon, on deck, everywhere, hymns were being sung, & conversations going on of which the things of Christ were the topic. The gambler felt completely out of place, & his discomfiture ended in his offering the Captain a considerable sum to put him off at the nearest landing place.

People talk easily enough about going to Heaven when they die, but they forget that unless they have been made fit for heaven, and have received a nature that can enjoy the things of God, they would be as MISERABLE IN HEAVEN as that gambling man was among the Christians on that steamer.

B.-Second Text—Gal. 5:19-21:

1-These are works of the FLESH

2-Additional ones here added are:

--"Uncleanness" of a moral or spiritual nature — Defilement

--"Lasciviousness"=-Unrestrained indecency

--Eph. 4:19 lists it as among the unregenerate who are "past feeling"

--"Witchcraft"--Dealing with spells & sorcery whether by DRUGS, incantations or seances

--"Hatred"=Enmity: Unjustified feelings toward others

--"Variance"==Strife that "cuts apart"

--"Emulations"=="Jealousy"

--"Wrath"=="Hot anger"

--"Strife"==Sedition; seeking to upset & overthrow

--"Heresies"==Self-willed adherence to doctrines contrary to the revealed truth of God which is substituted for the truth

--"Envyings"=Feelings of displeasure produced by hearing of advantage or prosperity of others

--"Murders"

--"Revelings"=="a carousel", "a cutting-loose", DANCING

--Generally associated with drinking & loose morals

* --"AND SUCH LIKE"--The above are only samples

3-"They which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God

4-ILLUS.--A Pastor told how one Sunday night, because he was quarantined in his home because his child had diptheria, he watched his church next door---His church which he COULD NOT NOW ENTER. He saw the lights shining thru the windows. He watched the people going in. Then the service started & he could hear the music. At last he could stand it no longer. Silently, like a thief, he stole out his back door, & crept close to a window & listened.

Within all was bright; outside he stood in chill darkness. "I realized for the first time in my life," he said, what it meant to be SHUT OUT, what a TERRIBLE thing it meant to be SHUT OUT!

"And some day I should stand at the gate of heaven. What a terrible thing if THAT DOOR should be shut against me. Thank God, it won't be, because I've come thru the Door down here.

God does not want you shut out!

Neither do you want to be SHUT OUT ! ---But we must not neglect the only means of entering that gate, which is the personal acceptance of Him who said: "I am the way..."

C.-Third Text---Eph. 5:5:

1-"Whoremonger"=="Commiter of fornication

--Harlot; loose morally; Deviate

2-All these have no part with Christ or with God's kingdom

D.-Fourth Text--Rev. 21:8:

1-"Fearful"=="Cowardly"

--After all, it takes courage, resolve + repentance, to accept Christ

2-"Unbelieving"--REJECTING belief in Christ

--ILLUS.--Story on "Parson to Person radio show a woman asked about the state of some friends of hers who

have committed suicide without making a personal decision to receive Christ as Savior. "Will they have a second chance?"

Mr. Henderson had no authoritative reply. He said that since this concerned life beyond the grave, he did not know anything which would enable him to make a certain statement concerning the state of such who died "unbelieving."

Mr. Henderson may not have an answer. But the Bible does! God's Word is emphatically clear. The "UNBELIEVING" have no part with the redeemed in heaven. There is no "second chance" to trust Jesus Christ! It is now or never! — Heb. 9:27

3-"Abominable"==An object of disgust before God, though often highly esteemed by men — UNLAWFUL
--Frequently associated with idolatry of the heart

4-"ALL liars"--Not just some of them — Tellers of UNTRUTH
--Not just those telling "BLACK lies"
--Also including those telling "WHITE lies"
--ALL lies and all liars are unacceptable in God's heaven

5-These "shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

E.-Fifth Text--Rev. 22:15:

Dogs
Sorcerers
Whoremongers
Murderers
Idolators + whosoever

1-These are "WITHOUT"
2-Contrast with those who "may enter IN"
3-22:14
4-Whosoever loveth & maketh (practices) a lie
5-Not very enjoyable company!
6-Many Bible students believe one of the deep tortures of eternal separation from God will be that there will be total separation from all other creatures — ETERNALLY!
7-I incline to agree with this, but if it is not so, an eternity with the kind of folks the Bible describes as unfit for heaven would certainly not be "choice company"

F.-Sixth Text--Rev. 20:15: "whosoever was not found written"
1-These are all "MISSING ENTRIES" in the Book of Life
2-Only the saved are entered
3-All the unsaved are excluded!
4-ILLUS.-I read [illegible] of a father whose son had run away and joined the Hippies in San Francisco. The father was very greatly troubled over his son, so that he became both ill and despondent.

Eventual disillusionment set in on the son, and he wrote his father to ask if there was any hope of forgiveness and reconcilliation.

The father sent a telegram to his son. The telegram consisted of three words. The message was "COME HOME", and it was signed "Father".

The Good news of our Lord Jesus Christ is God's urgent telegram to the world, summed up in those same words. words of hope--"COME HOME"--and signed by that Holy Name: "Father"

5- Lk. 15:11-24

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

III.-THE AUTHORITATIVE STANDARD!

A.-Whose Word Will We Take?:

1-Psychologist-----Man is SICK.....he surely is
2-Sociologist---Man's environment is sick--Amen!
3-Religionist--Man is perfectable WORKS
--Who's kidding who?
4-Philosopher--Man needs to be true to himself
--Human standard for human behavior
--This ignores divine standards & human realities
5-Rationalist---Man needs to be reasoned with
6-Educator---Man's hope is in education
7-God's Word--Man is LOST, hopelessly lost
--Sin's penalty must be borne
--Rom. 6:23
--God has loved us
--Rom. 5:8
--Christ has come and DIED for us
--Man must make a personal decision

"God commendeth His love toward us in that we were yet sinners while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"

8-I'd rather cast my lot with an authoritative & objective standard, rather than to take the words of any man

9-Heb. 4:12-13--"For the Word of God is quick, & powerful, & sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight: but all things are naked & opened unto the eyes of Him with Whom we have to do."

B.-What Word Do We Need?:

1-TITUS---"Fine sermon, wasn't it?" asked one of Farmer Peterson's friends, referring to a scholarly discours with which the congregation had been favored that morning by a "?city preacher"

"Maybe," replied Farmer Peterson.

"Why," persisted the first speaker, "that man knows more about the Bible, and has made a deeper study of Biblical history and geography than almost any other minister in the country."

"Has he now" inquired Peterson mildly. Well, then, I reckon that the trouble must have been with me. You see, I'd cal'clated I would hear something about the WAY TO HEAVEN, and I only learned the WAY FROM JERUSALEM to Jericho."

2-Men's eternal destinies are at stake!
3-They need to know the WAY TO HEAVEN!
4-What need I believe?
5-1 Cor. 15:3-4--"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."
6-What need I do?
7-John 6:27-29---READ IN UNISON

8-Heaven is prepared !
9-Heaven's way is prepared !
10-ARE YOU prepared ?
1-What will you do about a decision?

CONCLUSION:

A.-The Question:

1-If all these "SINNERS" are barred from heaven
2-How can there be hope for any of us?
3-None of us has committed all of these
4-But, none of us has a perfect record that we've NEVER DONE ANY of these
5-Rom. 3:23--"All have sinned & come short of the glory of God"

B.-The Answer:

1-This only shows that no one will get to heaven on his "own merit"
2-Lk. 19:10--"The Son of man is come to seek & to save that which is lost"
3-Eph. 2:8-9--"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast."
4-Salvation is a GIFT
5-Heaven is prepared
6-ILLUS.-One of God's children, as he was about to die, and "ENTER LIFE", turned to his Christian wife and daughter, and said "GOOD NIGHT, my dear wife. We'll meet in the morning! GOOD NIGHT, daughter, the separation is but for a short while." Then he turned to his unsaved son, and said: "GOOD BYE, son"

The son asked his father, "Why did you say 'good bye' to me, and 'good night' to mother and Jane?"

"Well, son," the dying father lovingly and tenderly replied, "you, through the years have rejected Christ. The saved and the unsaved have different destinies. The lost are eternally separated from God, and their loved ones 'who die in the Lord.'"

God's Spirit brought deep conviction to the heart of that son. Weepingly, he said, "Dad, I here and now receive Christ as my personal Savior, and we'll not be separated in the ages ahead."

7-If you've never done so, will you make that same decision.... TONIGHT ?? !!
Now!
8-What will happen if you make that decision?
9-I Cor. 6:11--"And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."
10-Become---WASHED
-SANCTIFIED
-JUSTIFIED
11-Don't you wnat to be sure of heaven
12-You can be....
Right now....Here....TONIGHT ! (TODAY)!

C.-The Assurance

1- Twelve gates of heaven don't symbolize "MANY WAYS" of salvation

2-There's just ONE WAY

3-Jn. 14:6

4-ILLUS---Methodist preacher---"Bunnie" in Dallas

--Found there's only one way

--Have you found that out yet?

--Have you made a decision yet?

7

Westbrae--2/18/68--"When We All Get To Heaven" 296

" When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder 511

10/10/04 - Hilltop Bapt. Ch.

10/3/10 - Harper Heights Bapt. Ch.

Indwelling of the Holy Spirit 1 Cor. 6:9-20

Intro.--A.-Some things Jesus was able to tell those who walked with Him in their entirety. Others he could only tell of the facts and wait until his disciples should have insight and equipment to discern.

B.-Such was the case when our Lord prophesied of the coming of the Divine Comforter to ABIDE with them and in them. The Spirit was the EQUIPMENT needed.

I.--THE FACT of the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the believer.

A.-Prophetically

1-Jn. 7:37-39 ---out of the belly

2-Jn. 14:16-17---abide...dwelleth...in you.

B.-Doctrinally

1-1 Jn. 2:27---abideth in you....abide in him---permanent

2-Contra--the Jew in the wilderness with presence of the cloud, for they had to go look for that leadership.

C.-Practically

1Cor6:19-20

1-we are the temple to the Holy Spirit

2-He is the gift of God to believers

3-we are bought with the price of the precious blood of X.

4-we are not our own. Bought out of Market place of sin.

5-THEREFORE, glorify God in our body (present action)

6-Some years ago Louis T. Talbot addressed his morning congregation at C.O.D. in L. A. in these searching words:"We have a large company here. Many of you are strangers to me; nevertheless, I can say with absolute certainty that no one of you will pull out a cigarette, light it, and smoke it in this room. And yet the New Testament teaches us that it is not any earthly structure that is the temple of God for today the Holy Spirit dwells in the bodies of believers, born-again ones. It is right that we should have reverence for the place of worship, but why should men and women have less fear of desecrating the true temple of God?"

7-Rom. 8:9

a-If the Spirit is not in us, we are not in Christ

b-This verse is like a safety valve--no doubt

II.-THE PURPOSE of the Indwelling of The Holy Spirit in the believer.

A.-Spiritual Purpose

1- 1 Cor. 2:14--to give us a spiritual receiving set.

2- John 16:13-15 (Spirit & the Word)

a-guide us into all truth

b-take the things of Christ and show them all to us

c-glorify Christ

d-ILLUS--Many years ago, the throne of Russia was once occupied by 2 boys who were princes. They sat side by side and gave their decisions on the gravest quesions; their judgments were so wise & just, that men marveled that princes so young & inexperienced could know so much of statecraft, or speak with such discretion on questions so difficult. But the secret was that close behind the throne where they sat, hidden by a thin veil was the princess Sophia. The heard the cases brought to them, and gave the decisions which they pronounced. Those boys referred everything to her, and waited until she whispered to them the wise answer they delivered. Just so, we are to refer everything to the Holy Spirit and await His decision. He will settle

3-Col. 2:9-10---over

3-Col. 2:9-10
a-show us the fullness of Christ
b-show us that we are perfedted by that fulness.
c-show us that we are complete in Him, and lack NOTHING.
d-ILLUS--We are but the wick--the ladder upon which the oil of the Spirit is manifested. We are not burned or consumed, but act as a LIGHT BEARER

4-Phs. 1:6---Perseverence of the Savior

B.-PRACTICAL PURPOSE OF INDWELLING

1- 1 Cor. 6:19-20--base of operation for the Spirit. He works through us. ILLUS.-Dr. Walter Wilson, in his book, Miracles in a Doctor's life, tells of an interesting answer which Mr. Samuel Lerermore of London made. He told his sister of the call of God to him as a missionary in France, whereupon she replied, "Sammy, you will be wasting your time: to find a troubled soul in France would be like looking for a needle in a haystack." "Yes", answered Mr. Levermore, "that is quite true, but you must remember, sister, that the Holy Spirit knows where the needle is, and He will direct me to it."

2- 1 John 4:1--keep us from error

3- 1 Pet. 2:2--make understandable the "spiritual milk" of the Word so that we can grow thereby.

4-In other words, to supply the recources for the living of a supernatural life for God.

C.-DOCTRINAL PURPOSE

1-Rom. 8:16-17--Spirit's witness with our spirits that we are the sons of God.

2-Rom. 8:11, 29--We can expect resurrection because the Spirit that dwells in us raised Christ from the dead, and will "conform us to His image"

Concl. A.- Onee for all indwelling
B.-Instantaneous at belief (as also R. B. & S)
C.-It is God's work & can be depended upon--1 Thess. 5:24
D.-Our duty to work doctrine out into practice.

"BONDSLAVE" Read 1 Cor. 6:9-20

Intro:----A.-What is Christianity?
1-Relationship to a Person--Jesus Christ
2-Imparted gift of new & eternal life which He gives
B.-What happens when one is saved?
-Born again
-new life begins
-new creature
-passed from death unto life
-saint
-ambassador of Christ
-Temple of the Holy S.
-bought with a price
-child of God,
-Son of God
-servant of God
-worker together w. God
C.-Today we'll dwell on 1 aspect of that RELATIONSHIP
----servant, bondservant, slave, bondslave

I.-MEANING OF THE TERM "SLAVE"

A.-Historically
1-in the past, a person who was owned outright
2-today----HIRED servants
B.-Greek term in N. T.
1-Bondservant or bondslave, King James--"servant"
2-N. T. Uses: --"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ..." Rom.1:1
--"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; wheter of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered unto you." Rom.6:16-17
--"But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness and the end everlasting life." Rom. 6:22
--"James, a servant of God and of the Lord J. C.

II.-CHARACTERISTICS OF A SLAVE:

A.-A Bondslave is a BOUGHT slave:
1-Bought with a price--1 Cor. 6:19; 7:23
2-Price was the blood of Christ--1 Pet. 1:18-19
3-Therefore; we are not our own to do with
--Purchased out of sin
--Purchased out of sin's penalty
--Purchased out of sin's performance
--Purchased out of sin's patronization
--Not our own--talents, time, family, intelligence, money, A BLOOD BOUGHT PEOPLE
4-Salvation is FREE, but it is not CHEAP.
5-Surrender--not unusuall or heroic
--not to be considered exceptional
--our "reasonable service"
--the expected thing---the NORM
6-"It becomes a matter of honesty, that that which belongs to the Lord by right of purchase should be yeilded up to Him in a willing choice of absolute surrender."
B.-Slave has No Will of His own.
1-Often want to withold service from our Master--ILLUS--Hudson Taylor told the story of a Chinese Pastor meeting a young convert & asking him if it were true if he had known the Lord for 3 months. The reply was, "Yes, it is blessedly true." The pastor then asked him "How many have you won to Jesus?" "Oh", said the convert, "I am only a learner & never possessed a whole N. T. until yesterday." "Do you use candles in your home?" asked the pastor. "Yes" was the answer. "Do you expect the candle to begin to shine only when it is burned half

The young man saw the point & went to work immediately. Within 6 months he led several to the light. The gospel messenger cannot save anyone, but he can prepare the way with an effective witness.

2-Slave has no will to use to choose--doesn't make choices of work, residence, mate, or service----

3-Slave just OBEYS his master---& is lucky if he gets a loving master.....How wonderful we have Christ & not satan.

4-Not a FREE man, but a BOND*MAN. To abide where He is & serve there. ILLUS--A policeman in Birmingham, becoming a Christian, was so greatly troubled by the sights & sounds & sin among which he worked, that for a long time he & his wife prayed: "Lord, take me out of the police service. Give me some other work." No answer came, & no other work was opened to him. At last he said to his wife: "I think we have been making a great mistake. We have been praying that I may be taken out of the force, & I begin to think He has put me there to work for Him. Now I am just going to pray that He will help me to serve Him where I am." This was the beginning of a marvelous usefulness. His influence over the men was so great that he was promoted to be head of detectives. He was instrumental in the salvation of many criminals. The place where God has put you is the place where you can serve Him best, unless He does the moving of you.

5-Is this attitude of "LOVE-BONDAGE" to Him your relationship? ....My relationship?....We need to recognize it as so.

ILLUS--Often think there is no use---Dr. Rigg, a well known Methodist preacher of 50 years ago was approached by a devoted lassie in the days when the Salvation Army was in its infancy. She asked, "Are you saved?" "Go away!", was the reply. "No, I can't go away," replied the girl. "Are you saved?" "My good little girl,"replied the incensed Dr., "I would have you know that I am PRESIDENT of the Wesleyan Conference." She replied, "That makes no matter, there's hope even for the vilest!"

6-If we realized our "LOVE-BONDAGE" to Christ, there would be no lack of: -soul-winners, missionaries, funds for God's work, love & jealousy would end, as would strife, attendance in church & prayer meeting would greatly increase. UTTER DEVOTION TO HIM

7-Christ & Christian in a Love-bond--ILLUS --Social bondage of marriage for nearly 53 years. VOW---what could be more binding? Who could find a WORSE bondage?....Worse????????---ah, no!!!!!! rather SWEETER, for it has been good & precious as a BOND OF LOVE. I'd do it all over again in marrying Lou, if she were willing. So would Christ---He'd go to the cross again IF it were necessary, but sufficient has been done to bring us into LOVE BONDAGE already.

III.-SERVICE OF A SLAVE:

A.-Obedient to Explicit Commands:

1-"go" & he goes, "come" and he comes--ILLUS ---A missionary on his return from Africa was asked how many of the natives in his district had been brought to the Savior. He replied, "50" And how many of these are preachers?" Again his answer was, "50" So it was in response to Christ's commands, and so it should be again NOW

2-no questioning the the wisdom of the master

3-no postponing of the performance of any task

4-no excuses for lack of qualifications

B.-Unquestioned Allegiance:

1-Old times---because of fear

2-Us now------because of love

C.-Service itself:

1-Good quality----to please the master
-to help others

2-investment of time not even questioned or important

ILLUS---Boy falls overboard. Surgeon is uninterested when told there is no hope. Looks & sees it is HIS BOY. Works hard & is able to save the boy's life. "Oh, I will never see another boy drown without taking off my coat the first instant to try to save his life, asif he were my very own boy." Are we that concerned about service to our savior that we will "take our coats off" & go to saving men????

Concl. Bondslaves because of Love
--Bought with a price
--No will of our own, but in subjection to Him
--Immediately obedient to His commands
--Allegiance unquestioned
--Service of a high quality-----Because we are bound by cords of LOVE to Him.

What can I do?????ILLUS--China hospital cured a man of a cataract. A few weeks later 48 blind men from one of China's interior provinces, each holding on to a rope held in thenhands of the man who was cured, came to * the hospital. Thus in a chain they had walked 250 miles to the doctor & nearly all were cured. Just so, we can tell of what God has done for us & lead them to the one who can cure of the ills of the soul. HE WILL SAVE

WE MUST LEAD THEM.

"WHAT ABOUT GETTING MARRIED?" 1 Cor. 7:1-40 7:1-24 Read
Mt. 19:1-12; Col. 3:1-4 (1)

INTRO: **A. Questions For You Today:**

1-What do you think of a christian who puts the MAKING OF MONEY before the Lord's work?
2-You don't think much of such a christian, do you?
3-What would you think of the person who's SO BUSY BEING HAPPY that he can't settle down to really serve the Lord?
4-Well, you don't often see such a person, but you'd probably say such a person is OFF THE TRACK spiritually.
5-What would you think of someone who gets SO SORROWFUL, DEPRESSED, DEJECTED & DISCOURAGED because of some circumstances in his life that he can't do anything for the Lord?
6-Again, I presume you'd say that individual was WRONG: that he ought to live above the circumstances so they'd not interfere with his serving Christ
7-In each case something has come between the believer & his Lord
- Things
- Joy
- Sorrow
- NONE of these ought to take precedence over the Lord's work

8-ANOTHER QUESTION: "Should marriage hinder your doing the Lord's work"?
- Not so easy to answer, is it??
- Want to "fudge here" & reply: "THAT DEPENDS"

B. Questions From The Word (1 Cor. 7):

1-Subject of the Corinthians writing to Paul for instruction
2-We don't have their questions
3-But we do have Paul's answers
4-ILLUS.-Like hearing ½ of a telephone conversation
- You don't get it ALL
- But you get most of it pieced together; especially if it is a subject that's important to you

5-C.C.RYRIE-"Actually it isn't what I do not understand about this chapter's background that bothers me; rather it is what is so clearly taught in the passage that concerns me." (P.32, PATTERNS FOR CHRISTIAN YOUTH)

NB

6-Three questions from the Word:
I.-Is Marriage PREFERRED (7:1-9)
II.-Is Marriage PERMANENT (7:10-24, 39-40)
III.-Is Marriage PARAMOUNT (7:25-38)

3?.5

7-PROP:-
- Answering these three questions will enable us to have God's answer to: "WHAT ABOUT GETTING MARRIED?"

8-WHY is this question "WHAT ABOUT GETTING MARRIED"? important to us?

--The average church member puts pressure on the young single adult to get married---"OLD MAIDS" if unmarried by age 21 in some views

--Some consider it to be a TRAGEDY to be single

--Others find it to have been a TRAGEDY to have gotten married to the wrong person

--ILLUS: Two men were talking. One said, "I got married because I was tired of going to the Laundromat, eating in restaurants & wearing socks with holes." The other man said, "That's funny, I got divorced for exactly those same reasons."

--In 1989 there were over 30 million men & women over age 20 living without a mate (single, widowed, divorced & not remarried) in the USA

--Compare that with 22.7 million BLACKS in the USA to see the magnitude of the group we're talking about

--Only 92-93% of those who live to be age 50 will eventually marry

--Many consider marriage to be "THE DOOR TO HAPPINESS", but it is not always so.

9-Let's look at GOD'S WORD

I.-IS MARRIAGE PREFERRED?—(1 Cor. 7:1-9):

A.-To Be Unmarried Is GOOD (7:1):

1-Def.--"Good"=="Expedient, Profitable"

--Not necessarily BEST, but "Good" in God's sight

2-Not a matter of prohibiting of marriage & demanding of celibacy--That is the R.C. Church's position for priesthood

--The Council of Trent anathemetizes all who insist "that it is not better & more blessed to remain in virginity or in celibacy than to be united in matrimony." (Sess. 14, c.10)

--Paul teaches otherwise:

- 1 Tim. 3:1-2
- 1 Tim. 4:1-3

--Celibacy as a compulsary rule of life is seen to be of DEMONIC ORIGIN

3-Jesus also taught that there is a place for the unmarrieds in God's order

4-Matt. 19:10-12

5-Paul recognizes that some have the "GIFT" of singleness & that others do not (1 Cor. 7:7)

6-NO SUPERIOR HOLINESS for those who remain unmarried

7-Rather, a GREATER UTILITY under certain instances in the will of God

B.-To Be Married Is "NORMAL": (7:2)

1-"Normal" means usual & common

2-The unmarried is not to be considered to be ABNORMAL !!

3-Sexual purity normally is best served by marriage—Heterosexual.

--Every man having his own wife

--Every woman having her own husband

(2)

SWEET + SOUR

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

Dr. Johnson: "Marriage has many pains, but celebacy has no pleasures."

--MONOGAMY as the pattern
--This will be a deterrent to sexual impurity
--For the LIFETIME: "til death do us part" (Rom. 7:1-3)

C.-To Be Married Involves Responsibilities (7:3-6):

1-This is MUTUAL: a 2-way street
--Sexual needs are spoken of here
--Truth is larger than sex, but illustrated by sex
--Power over each other's bodies
--Not to withold or to withdraw
--Not to use sex as a "CLUB" to get your own way or bargaining instrument

2-"Defraud" = "Deprive"
--Not to be done, normally
--Exceptions:
** By mutual consent
** For a spiritual purpose
** For a limited time, only

3-Not "What SHE can do for ME", but "WHat I can do for her" ought to be a motive of one mature enough for marriage !

D.-Paul's Advice To BOTH The Married & The Unmarried (7:7-9):

1-Marriage or non-marriage is a matter of "GOD'S GIFT" for you
2-Determine which is the will of God in your case
3-Paul tells us his own status (7:7)
4-To the unmarried--7:8
--"Good", but doesn't say it is "BETTER" or "BEST"
5-BUT if they are "pressed" by strong desires, or one doesn't have the "GIFT" of celibacy
--7:9
--BETTER to marry than to burn with unfulfilled desires
6-ILLUS--Pastor Ralph Stoll, formerly of Altoona, Pa
--Banquet at the church for a returned & retired single missionary lady
--She said she'd decided that men were all "NO GOOD" and cited Ps. 84:11 as her proof text----"NO GOOD THING WILL HE WITHHOLD FROM THEM THAT WALK UPRIGHTLY"
7-Answer to our first question:
--"IS MARRIAGE PREFERRED?"
--"That depends" must be our reply
--"YES" for some, but marriage is not obligatory
--"No" for others, but celibacy is not improper
--"Later" for some also (Mrs. Doreen Woodbridge -EVER!

II.-IS MARRIAGE PERMANENT ?——(1 Cor. 7:10-24):

A.-The Rule (7:10):
1-Clear & simple
2-Departure from a marriage partner is NOT recommend

3-So, the answer to our 2nd question is "YES", marriage is permanent

4-C.C.RYRIE-"The standard as far as Christian couples is concerned is NO DIVORCE AT ALL" (P. 34)

5-However, Paul does deal with the fact that under some circumstances there may be reason for a SEPARATION, but if that does occur there should be NO DIVORCE !!

(4) DO NOT LEAVE

B-The Choices In The Case Of A Separation (7:11):

1-Choice # 1--"Let her remain unmarried"
--Separation, but not freedom or divorce

2-Choice # 2--"Or be reconciled" to spouse
--Return to the mate from whom a separation was made

NB 3-These are the ONLY BIBLICAL ALTERNATIVES ← In the Epistles To the Church

4-DIVORCE is never recommended in Scripture & was only ever allowed "because of the hardness of heart" + that for Jews under Moses' Law; NOT TODAY! GRACE

C-The Cases Of Questions (7:12-24):

1-Many complications are possible in this area

2-This section deals with a number of them now under GRACE

7:12-14 --What about an unbelieving spouse after you get saved? Should you continue with him??
--Dwell with them if they are willing (7:12-13)
--What about your children in that "mixed" marriage situation"
--Both the unsaved partner & your children are "SET APART" in a position of privilege to hear, see & believe the gospel thru your witness (7:14)

7:15-16 --What about a case of abandonment??
--You are not under a bondage to deny your faith to preserve the marriage (7:15-16) - Cannot contradict 7:10-11

7:17-24 --Should getting saved change my marriage relationships?
--"Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called" (7:20)
--Should getting saved change my social or employment relationships? Illegal Immoral!
--Remember, you've been made a servant of Christ which is a far upward jump, so no other change is necessary

3-Answer to the 2nd question--"Is Marriage PERMANENT" ?
* --Unequivocal "YES" !
--Divorce is never to be considered
--Separation & other problems may have to be dealt with, but never divorce, for marriage is permanent

VIRGINS

4-Oh yes, marriage for a christian is "ONLY IN THE LORD"--7:39-40
--Applies whether a virgin, widow or widower
--2 Cor. 6:14 is clear if you really want to follow God's word.

NB → YET
* Many have remarried
* Ignorant or Misled
* LOVE them, HELP them where they now are,

III.-IS MARRIAGE PARAMOUNT ?---(1 Cor. 7:25-38): (5)

A-Reasons For Marrying Or For Not Marrying: 7:25-35

1-Reasons for marrying — Many of them!

--Love
--Emotional security
--Economic security
--Sexual attraction
--Escape
--Protection
--Adventure
--Common interests
--Social position
--Parents wishes
--Pregnancy
--Pity
--Spite
--Rebound
--To conform to the expectations of friends or society
--Some of these are GOOD reasons
--Some of them are WEAK reasons
--A good marriage will be built on a number of good reasons.
--Remember: Marriage is not a "MUST" for a wholesome, happy, useful life

2-Reasons for NOT marrying ----(List is NOT EXHAUSTIVE

(a) --Those who WANT to marry & cannot

** Physical deformities
** Psychological & sociological inhibitions; Lack of adjustments
** Shy or self-conscious
** Responsibilities which prevent marriage (Dependent families; Parents)
** Shortage of eligible partners 7-8%
** Available partners don't meet your spiritual standards
** NARRAMORE--"The girl who starts labeling herself 'distress merchandise' is to be picked up cheaply by anyone. She should realize it is better far not to marry at all than to marry the wrong one. Being single never wrecked any girl's life; but being married to the wrong man has utterly destroyed many women." (The Unmarried Woman, P.16)

(b) --Those who prefer not to marry

** Career oriented
** Desire freedom & independence
** Consider marriage too great a risk; BITTER VIEW due to the problems observed in their own home & parents
** Sour on sex due to previous promiscuity or abuse
** Homosexuality
** Spiritual reasons (MORE LATER on this)

3-Be clear on this: All the reasons aren't on the side of action you choose. There is a case BOTH for marriage & for being single.

NB

B. Advantages To Marriage & Advantages To Single Life:

1-Advantages to marriage (6)

- --Someone with whom to share & upon whom to lean Partner
- --Purposefulness in life (Wife or husband, children, family)
- --Love and sexual purity
- --Acceptance as an adult by adults
- --Home & security that is YOURS
- --Mutual interdependence

2-Advantages to remaining SINGLE

- --Freedom from demands of others; INDEPENDENCY
- --Freedom of time & schedule
- --Freedom in use of "own" money
- --Variety of social contacts
- --Travel & educational opportunities
- --Energy to expend
- --Mother or father to MANY "borrowed lambs" — ADOPTIONS
- --In the will of God

Freedom to devote oneself to God + His service

3-Remember: All the advantages aren't in one course of action either.

4-Many marrieds would like to "TRADE PLACES" but it is too late!!

5-Also, many "singles" are fully happy in the will of God

C. Should Marriage Have FIRST PLACE?:

1-Remember my "opening questions?"

- --Should SORROW interfere with serving the Lord?
- --7:30--"And they that weep, as though they wept not"
- --Should JOY interfere?
- --7:30--"They that rejoice as though they rejoiced not"
- --Should MONEY or POSSESSIONS or BUSINESS?
- --7:30--"they that buy, as though they possessed not"
- --Should marriage interfere with doing the Lord's work?
- * --DEFINITELY NOT!!
- --It is just as wrong for marriage to interfere as for business, sorrow or joy

2-This is true whether you're married or you're single

- --7:29--"It remaineth that...they that have wives be as though they had none"
- --THAT'S A STRANGE WORD isn't it??
- --But the meaning is clear !!
- ** --The Lord should be FIRST **
- --First place doesn't belong to the husband, or wife, but to the LORD!

3-The important thing as far as marriage & the Lord's work are concerned, is the Lord's work, not marriage. or joy or sorrow or possessions or business

4-DETERRENTS to marriage — THREE of them. BOTH

(a) --7:26-28 ** "The present distress"
- ** Because of rampant immorality of Corinth
- ** Because of difficulty of persecution of Xns

(b) --7:29-31 ** "The time is short"
- ** In the light of Christ's expected soon return
- ** USE this world & its goods
- ** But avoid an abusing by living for THINGS

(c) --7:32-35 ** "Without carefulness" & "Without distraction"
- ** Caring for the things of Christ, rather than primarily for the needs of a mate.

** Paul wants GOD'S BEST for them all
** Because the work of Christ's service demands our best interests & labors
** The unmarried will be [illegible]

5-These three DETERENTS are still valid reasons to consider today !!

ILLUS

D.-How About "Single Blessedness"?: 7:3

1-In history--Joan of Arc
--Florence Nightingale
--Clara Barton
--Queen Elizabeth I
--Merry Slessor
--Fraser of Lisu-land
--Amy Carmichael
--Annie Johnson Flint

2-In my knowledge circle--Ron Furst
--Evelyn Stewart
--Carol Hastings
--Alice Sand
--These are WELL BALANCED people whom many others would envy

3-WHAT CAN THEY DO in the Lord's work?
--Visitation & Personal work
--Bible Clubs (Dorothy Tallman)
--Sunday School classes
--Camp counsellors (Mary Pomerville)
--Letters of encouragement
--Involvement in lives of Juniors & Teens (Schlegal & Smith)
--Music
--Missionary
--Secretary or secretarial volunteer help
--School teaching
--Friendship (Peanut lady)

4-So, there is a blessed place for singles to be useful & we conclude that the answer to question # 3: "IS MARRIAGE PARAMOUNT?" must be a resounding "NO"!

5-Just because a person doesn't get married doesn't mean he or she ends up on the SCRAP HEAP

CONCLUSION:

E.-What About Second Marriage?: 7:39-40

A.-Three Questions About Marriage:

1-Is Marriage PREFERRED ??--That depends on you & on the will of God in your life

2-Is Marriage PERMANENT ??--Emphatically, "YES"

3-Is Marriage PARAMOUNT ??--NO, it ought not to be taking "first place" in the life of a christian
** Either in prospect of hoping for marriage
** Or in practice of devotion to a mate & family
--CHRIST ALONE deserves to have the paramount place in our lives

B.-Four Conclusions About Marriage:

1-There is a **LARGE PLACE** in the Lord's work for the single worker--Some things a "single" can do that a "married" cannot do
--Matter of the **will of God**
--Not a "Second Best" at all
--"**AUNTIE**" to a multitude of "borrowed lambs"

talks for the MARRIED
UNCLE or

2-No christian dare entertain even the slightest thought that if his marriage doesn't work out he can simply dissolve it with a divorce. Marriage is **only dissolved** by **DEATH**.

3-Though marriage may well be God's will for you, it may be important for the Lord's work **TO DELAY** your marriage for a time

a--For **maturity** enought to be "ready" for marriage
b--For education (College, Bible School, Seminary or Medical school) Curtis Bostic to LAW SCHOOL
c--For **adjustment** to a pioneer mission field
d--For **a pressing task** that would suffer by delay from its immediate completion -Care of Parents
e--For **God to provide** the **RIGHT MATE** (Bobbie Roy)

Emery Bonne-son

4-Whether single or married, Jesus Christ and the work of His Church in preaching the gospel must have **TOP PRIORITY** call upon our time, our talents & our treasure if we are to be true to Him! — ALL of God's family!

C. Application:

1-Ask yourself these two questions & answer them HONESTLY

2- (1) "Is the work of my Savior **suffering** or **prospering** because of my involvement level as it now stands?
(2) "**What** would Jesus Christ have **me** **do** about it?"

3-**PLEDGE** yourself to a

- FAITHFUL,
- COMMITTED
- INVOLVEMENT which puts Christ FIRST in your life!

Do it TODAY!

#394 "Make Me A Blessing" (1)
#39 "Where He Leads, I'll Follow" (2)
(3)

Westbrae--4/19/70--#507--"The Sands Of Time"
#401--"To The Work"
#410--"Work, For The Night Is Coming"

Chinese College Camp 1970
OKBC — 7/13/86
Hilltop Bapt. Ch — 11/04-55

Discussion Of Wedding Policy:

#403 Great Is Thy Faithfulness
63 A Charge To Keep
#400 Throw Out The Lifeline
35 Blest Be The Tie.
#164 Hold The Fort"
#309 He Keeps Me Singing

"DIVINE GOVERNMENT FOR THE HUMAN FAMILY" 1 Cor. 7

INTRO:

A.-Causes Of Marriage Problems:
1-Spiritually mismatched
2-Sex & failure to adjust
3-Finances
4-Lack of Communication
5-In-laws and/or Friends
6-Temperaments not compatible

B.-Cures Of Marriage Problems:
1-Knowledge of the problem
2-Willingness to face & discuss it
3-Willingness to "GIVE" a bit
4-Love-----RESPECT-----Desire to honor Christ

C.-Course Of Consideration:
1-This Study---I.-Your Picture Of Home:
II.-Your Picture Of Family Government:
III.-Your Picture Of Family Finances:
2-Prop:--Face the issues
--Seek the answers from God & from competent counsel
--Impliment YOUR PLAN of action
--Find you aren't the only one facing problems
3-"Our concept of marriage is so unrealistic. To many people spend all their time getting ready for the wedding and none for the marriage."

I.-YOUR PICTURE OF HOME:

A.-Where You Live:
1-Apartment--Generally where newly-wed's begin
2-House--Often a later step
3-With relatives or others--If you have to live in a chicken-coop, make sure it is YOUR CHICKEN COOP
4-Home of your own--Investment grows
--Tax advantages
--Contributes to wife's stability
5-Geographic area (East or West; North or South; Urban or Suburban or Rural)
6-Ps. 68:6

B.-Who Brings Home The Bacon?:
1-MAN is the responsible breadwinner--1 Tim. 5:8
2-Wife helping--In early marriage years
--While husband gets schooling
--Because of husband's accident or illness
--After children come along (1 Tim. 5:14; Tit. 2:5)
--After children are grown
--If she does, the husband ought to "LIFT HER LOAD" by sharing housecare

3-Problems caused by wife working
--More costs (clothing, transportation, meals, taxes. Statistics show 45% costs & 55% takehome)
--Less energy for husband & for home
--Desire for her "SAY" to be larger in family decisions
4-Matter of mutual consent
5-Not a matter of a woman "buried" at home

C.-Marriage Adjustments:
1-Temperament--Tortise & Hare
--Day person/Night person
--Age differences (May & September)
--Cultural backgrounds
--OPPOSITES seem to have a "fatal attraction"
2-Friends--Former friends (His; Hers)
--Mutual friends
--New friends (especially christian ones)
--"Until their marriage means more to them than any or all their old friends, they are not ready for marriage." (W.E.Borne, PRE-MARITAL PASTORAL COUNSEL, Christianity Today, June 8, 1962, P. 9)
--Occasional "nights out" for each---MUTUAL TRUST
3-Family--His & Hers
--Now THEIRS, for you do marry a family
--"Leave" and "Cleave" (Gen. 2:24)
--Fair amount of time with each
--Avoid uncomplimentary remarks
--Luther W. Youngdahl, Senior U. S. District Judge District of Columbia:
"To strengthen families & help insure against family breakdowns, I want to stress the importance of family reunions. Not only does the family reunion satisfy the normal, natural craving for fellowship of one's own, but it arouses pride in one's ancestry, and pride in one's ancestry is no mean asset. It has saved many a man from dishonor and ruin. He would not yield to temptation because it would bring a blot on his family name.
"Normally man is proud of his blood and name and delights in keeping them unsullied. Frequently coming into contact with the whole family will make him more interested and careful to perpetuate the good name and standing of his people..." (Address given at Augustana Lutheran Church, Washington. Quoted by The Church Herald)
4-Food (National dishes; Variety; Tastes do differ!!)
5-Education--Somewhere near equals educationally
--BOTH keep learning & growing TOGETHER
--Otherwise there's danger ahead (Doctors, Lawyers, etc)
6-Health--Be aware of limitation this can cause
--Be willing to "give" & understand because of it
7-Social life--Ought to be thrashed out in dating & engagement
--Activist or passive?
--Sports or concerts?
--Hermit or gregarious?
8-PRINCIPLES--"My", "Mine" & "I" give way to "We" & "Our"
--Compromise for the sake of the one you love
--Willing to "SPOIL" each other
--Immediate handling of irritations (Eph. 4:26)

--Mutual respect as well as "love"
--Really "LISTEN" to each other
--Fix the problem-------not the blame!!
--Cultivate your love---It needs to be worked at

D.-Spiritual Life Pattern:

1-SAVED
2-Matt. 6:33
3-If that's not your desire, why do you ask God to bless your life, your marriage and your home?
4-In the home--Private devotions and study
--Family devotions
--Books & magazines
--Radio & tapes
--Christian friends
5-In the Local Church--Regular attendance
--MEMBERSHIP
--Some place of service & ministry
--Stewardship

II.-YOUR PICTURE OF FAMILY GOVERNMENT:

A.-The Biblical Pattern:

1-The Scriptures:
--Gen. 2:24--"One flesh"
--Gen. 3:16--"Rule"
--1 Cor. 11:3--"Head"
--Eph. 5:22, 25--"Submit/Love"
--Col. 3:18-19--"Submit, Love"
--1 Tim. 2:11-15--"Not to usurp; Place is the home"
--Tit. 2:2-6--Functions of various ages & sexes
--1 Pet. 3:1-7--"Wives in subjection/Husbands dwell with them according to knowledge"

2-What they teach:
--Man is the HEAD
--Woman is the HEART and the HELPMEET
--"Good" that they dwell together as heirs of the grace of life
--God holds the MAN RESPONSIBLE for his family
--By example is how he gains his family's following, not by making demands
--ILLUS--Gen. 18:19

3-Who rules??--The wife??
--The husband ??
--Or Christ ??
--Co-regency is impossible Monsters!

B.-The Decision Process:

1-Discussion--Thorough & free
2-Prayer--Phil. 4:6
3-Willingness to "GIVE" a bit & compromise to the viewpoint of the other---Rom. 12:10
4-Ultimately the husband is responsible for decisions
5-Decisions made become "OUR DECISION"
6-Wife should not "gloat" over husband's decisions that turned out poorly--Rom. 12:16

7-LEARN--From each other
--From mistakes
--From God's Word

8-ILLUS --Remember hearing about the CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD? Well, it really exists, and many couples are married there each year.

As the newly weds leave this sanctuary, the Pastor tells the bride to ring the church bell. She pulls the bell rope, invariably finding she is unable to swing the heavy toll. The Pastor then motions the bridggroom to help her, and the bell finally rings. The Pastor then remarks: "Remember, you will find married life much the same as the bell rope---it is so much easier when you pull together."

C.-COMMUNICATION:

1-Openness is essential---TALK about it
2-Frankness is encouraged
3-AVOID--Bottled-up fears or feelings
--Left-over problems that "build up" (Eph. 4:26
--Hogging the conversation
--Interrupting or correcting the other one in public
--Publicly ridiculing the other one
4-Build each other up (Col. 3:17, 23)
5-Value of discussion--Talking is THINKING
--Talking is SIFTING
--Talking is clarifying
--Talking is RELEASE
--Talking is THERAPY

D.-When You Need Counsel:

1-Peer group seldom will give you much help in early years
2-Parents--Real or adopted
--Don't rule them out; CULTIVATE THEM
3-Pastor
4-Physician
5-Lawyer
6-Realtor or Banker
7-Psychiatrist (as referred by Pastor)
8-Don't be ashamed to seek & follow good and godly advice

III.-YOUR PICTURE OF FAMILY FINANCES:

A.-The Problem Of Finances:

1-Not enough money---EVER !!
--Well, at least in the first 25 years of your marriage
2-So many THINGS are needed, especially in the first few years of marriage to "set up housekeeping"
3-HIGH standard of living to which we've all become accustomed in our parents' home
4-Emergencies that inevitably crop up:
--Broken baby bottles
--Car repairs
--Prescriptions needed
--Doctor & hospital bills
--Loss of a job by a breadwinner
5-Tight times financially during schooling years.

6-Loss of wife's income when a family is begun

B.-The Budgeting Of Finances: (MONEY MANAGEMENT)

1-The obvious items--Food
--Housing
--Utilities
--Transportation
--Clothing

2-The essential item--CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP
--Why??---1 Cor. 6:19-20
--How??---1 Cor. 16:1-2; Gal. 6:6-10; 2 Cor. 8 & 9; Phil. 4:14-19
--Put God FIRST in your budget
--Otherwise you'll be robbing God.... and also YOURSELF
--Faithfulness here will not go unnoticed by God

3-Items you don't dare forget:
--Savings (for major purchases; for future)
--Insurance ** On lives of both husband & wife
** Health, Accident & Hospitalization
** Car (It is required by LAW)
** Household goods
** Mortgage retirement
--Allowances for "Pin Money"
** Female necessities
** Haircuts
** A few "free" sheckles that don't have to be accounted for
--Occasional meals out
--Major purchases (Car, Furniture, Home)
--Medical & dental costs

C.-The Operation Of A Budget:

1-Differing qualifications in the persons of each couple
2-MAN is the Head of the home & so really must be involved in the decisions of financial expenditures
3-WIFE ought also to know "where they stand" and have some idea of how to manage finances in case something happens to her husband
4-Best to handle by mutual discussion & decision
5-Bookkeeping chores best done by husband, but can be delegated to wife if it is by mutual consent & after prior decision on the expenditures
6-Neither one has independent monies that are not "pooled" if, indeed, they are experiencing a "ONE FLESH" relationship. -----Avoid "MY"---"YOURS" attitude toward money
7-If you are able to control your finances by mutual consent and avoid friction here, it will make your marriage happier and more secure
8-Luke 12:15

D.-Why You Need A Will:

1-If you don't have one--State makes your will
--State determines guardianship
--State chooses executor for you

--Your survivor will have to go to court repeatedly for COURT CLEARANCE for expenditures for minor childre's care

2-If you do have a will, your own wishes for your family & for your estate will be followed

3-Wills ought to be made even before marriage and then revised and up-dated as conditions change through the years----
------a number of wills over the years

4-Isa. 38:1--"Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die and not live."

"THE CHRISTIAN VIEW OF SEX AND FAMILY LIFE" 1 Cor. 7

INTRODUCTION:

A.-Basic Facts:

1-Marriage is an institution of God, so it's here to stay
--Believer with believer--OK, if in God's will
--Believer with unbeliever--NEVER (2 Cor. 6:14)
--Unbeliever with unbeliever--OK, but not a spiritual union blessed of God

2-"TRY IT ON FOR SIZE" philosophy of marriage
--A tentative view of marriage instead of a commitment
--Hollywood's example has produced this "bitter fruit"
--13 million children in America growing up in broken homes

3-Divorce rates--1940--1 marriage out of 6 ends in divorce
1960--1 marriage out of 4 ends in divorce
1972--1 marriage out of 3 ends in divorce

4-Illegitimate births have increased 300% from 1940-1970

5-Sex is not the whole problem, but it is a significantly contributing factor, so it is worthy of a close examination.

B.-Basic Causes Of Sex Problems:

1-Sex is such a vital force in life that it requires expression or control or rechanneling

2-Personal and intimate nature of sex makes it hard for some people to discuss it and gain aid

3-Integrative nature of a sex problem, for this area of life relates to all areas of life & experience--------
------INTERACTIVE

4-Variation in level of intensity of sex drives in different people

5-Lack of knowledge--IGNORANCE leads to more problems

6-Popular secular emphasis--Ungodly people are assigning to sex a role that it cannot perform. Disturbs & disorients us all to have this sex-saturation of our society.

7-Wrong teaching & unwise handling of sex matters. Too often a "TABOO SUBJECT" between parents & their children

8-Human reproduction is involved & can't help but have some problems. However, if there is real love, then there will be real respect MUTUALLY

I.-SEX AND MARRIAGE:

A.-Biblical Perspective On Sex Functions:

1-Physical aspect--Procreation (Be fruitful & multiply)
--Purity (1 Cor. 7:2)

2-Emotional aspect--Tension release, ecstatic pleasure & satisfaction
--Expression of tender concern
--Sense of fulfillment, rest & security
--For many sex never gets beyond the physical or emotional level

3-Social aspect:
--Discovery of the dignity and meaningfulness of

another person is experienced
--Personal fulfillment is discovered to be dependent upon fulfillment of the needs of another by your own self-giving

4-Spiritual aspect--Expression of oneness
--Experience of agape-love
--Illustration of intimate & interdependent relationship between Christ and His Church
--Spiritual procreation in the home

5-It takes all four to develop a union enjoying God's full blessing
--Fulfillment of the "one flesh" aspect of Gen. 2:24
--ONENESS between a man and his wife
--Sex is not "making love", but it is the expressing love and enriching of the love which already exists

6-William W. Orr--"The question of the sex life is very important to the adjustment of a truly happy home. Far too many marriages go on the rocks at this point. Some have grossly misunderstood the complete normality of sex. Others have disregarded the divinely given instructions and have been wrecked on the rocks of riotous excesses. But the plan of sex including the normal sexual relations between husband & wife is God-purposed, right, honorable and quite necessary." (P. 16, "SEVEN RULES FOR A HAPPY CHRISTIAN HOME")

B.-Biblical Truths Regarding Sex:

1-Sex is always to be discharged within a marriage union:
--1 Thess. 4:3-8
--1 Cor. 7:1-2
--Martin Luther points out that in Gen. 4:1 it reads: "And Adam knew Eve his wife..."
--It is certainly full of significance that this intimacy was limited to the married state.
--Bible uses "KNOW" as a synonym for sexual intercourse
** Not just a delicacy of speech
** But an expression of the intimacy of the physical act of yielding

2-Sex is clean & holy within the marriage bond:
--Heb. 13:4
--Gen. 1:26-31 ("very good")
--Gen. 2:25--"naked" was not said to be sinful
--Prov. 5:1-23
--Prov. 18:22
--Sex is not "dirty"; it is a gift of God & this makes it healthy & spiritual
--Sex is not a regretable overplus of guilty desire which marriage helps us dispose of secretly
--Sex is not sinful in itself---only if it is ABUSED (Rom. 1:24, 26-28; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:5; 1 Tim. 1:9-10; Rev. 21:8; 22:15)
--1 Cor. 6:18
--Sex outside of marriage is sinful because it violates God's holy purpose of establishing full and permanent oneness between two persons

3-Sex is abandonment--A complete surrender to the one loved
--"Render" in 1 Cor. 7:3 means just that, for it means "to give up"; "to give over"

"to surrender"
--"Benevolence"=="Responsibility", "conjugal rights"
--When abandonment is fully achieved by both, then can the great joy of the possession each of the other be realized
--1 Cor. 7:4 indicates the MUTUALITY of this abandonment & surrender to the other

4-Sex is concerned primarily with GIVING:
--This does not eliminate the anticipation of receiving
--1 Cor. 7:5-9
--"Defraud"=="Deprive", "Do not withold sexual intercourse from one another" (Moffatt)
--This passage does not disclaim inspiration, but indicates it is an area not delineated by the Savior's teaching
--INdicates Paul's own status as a WIDOWER
--Sexual separation (1 Cor. 7:5)
** Only by mutual consent
** Only for spiritual purposes
** Only for a short time
** NOT PERMANENTLY, lest it become an area of Satanic temptation and defeat
--When each gives, then each must receive
--It is here that reception finds its greatest fulfillment & satisfaction:
** Not in "sexy-sex"
** Not in "Playboy sex"
** Not in "Playmate sex"
** But in "HELPMEET SEX" of a deep & intimate sharing
--"HELPMEET"=="A helper fit for him"
** God has fashioned a counterpart, a compliment, a being suitable to man
** Woman's essential nature answers to man's essential need
--Rabbinical statement: "The man is restless while he misses the rib that was taken out of his side, and the woman is restless until she gets under the man's arm from whence she was taken."
--Sex, then, is ** NOT "What can I get?"
** BUT "What can I give?"
--SELF is enlarged to include SELVES

5-Sex is creative as well as pleasurable:
--Read all of the Song of Solomon
--Especially 1:13; 2:6; 4:1-15; 8:3, 10-14
--Though I recognize the fact that two may plan their family, I believe that two do not have the right to marry if the intent is not to have children.
--"Babies are the coupons attached to the Bonds of matrimony. The Bond is valuable in itself, but the coupons make it even more valuable."
--Having children brings to a marriage:
** Increased sense of responsibilities
** Enlarged joy in parenthood of the jointly produced offspring
** Personal development of the parents.

C.-Biblical Interpretation Of Sex:

1-Don't expect TOO MUCH--Sex cannot bring complete satisfaction
--Sex cannot express your love fully & totally
--Marriage based on physical desires alone will not last. It is subject to the moral law of diminishing returns.
--Sex is not a substitute for all other values in marriage

2-Don't expect TOO LITTLE
--Sex should not be limited to physical satisfaction
--Sex needs to be the deepest symbol of interpersonal understanding, oneness, commitment & self-surrender
--Make much of its place as a language of expression between you and your mate!!!

3-Dwight H. Small--"More often than not, assumed sexual incompatibility in a truly Christian marriage is due to either ignorance of God's gift & its Biblical meaning, or to unwillingness to patiently compromise each to the other until harmonious fulfillment is achieved. Above all there seems to be need not to let the pressures of life's many duties persistently press the sex life into those hours when the least justice can be done to it. Many Christian couples are guilty of being so preoccupied with living as to leave no time for loving."

4-Conversion to Christ and growth process in grace can clear up or control problem areas which are a legacy of the past when linked with patient, understanding helpfulness and trust by the mate.

5-Meaning of Sex--Integration of each personality in all its parts (Physical, Emotional, Social & Spiritual)
--Sacrament & Symbol of Love---A channel of communication no language can equal.

D.-Sexual Hang-Ups:

1-Sex attitudes are often mis-shaped in early years by words or deeds. Facing these attitudes----Talking them out openly ----and frankly---and then GOING ON is imperative

2-William W. Orr--"There is no secret about it...God intended sex to be enjoyed. It's to be pleasure not only for the husband but also for the wife. Of course there are some 'reformers' who have taught that sex is pleasure for the husband but 'legalized slavery' for the wife. Such is not so. Actually God has made women as strongly sexed as men and as capable of as much sexual pleasure as their husbands. A number of times the Bible implies that women are to enjoy the marriage relationship equally as much as men.

"It is true that woman are less aggressive sexually than men, and this is a characteristic that pervades all parts of a woman's life. It is also true that women do not have the biological pressure that men have. Still, in a marriage union brought about by true love, and based on complete understanding the wife will learn to enjoy the pleasures of sexual love as much as her husband." (P. 18, "SEVEN RULES FOR A HAPPY CHRISTIAN HOME")

3-In rehabilitation there are several imperatives:

--Openness to talk---Discussion promotes understanding
--Willingness to trust one another
--Sex instruction that's competent & practical
--Willingness to learn & to adjust
--Time & patience to allow new development

4-Generally sex problems are ATTITUDE PROBLEMS. Sex is just the place where those attitudes tend to come to the surface

II.-FAMILY AND MARRIAGE:

A.-Family Planning Concepts:

1-How soon?--Recommend not less than 2 years after marriage
--Time of adjustment of husband & wife
--But not to wait indefinitely

2-How many???--Not dictated by Scripture
--Ps. 127:3-5; 128:3; Prov. 31:28
--Should be a MUTUALLY AGREEABLE decision
--Children are "blessed burdens" (Dr. Otto Piper)

3-How often?--Recommend a 2 year spacing between them
--Enables wife to fully recover from previous one
--Enables time for breaking from bottle & potty-training

4-It is NORMAL for a couple to want & to seek to have a family
--Woman gains her image of self-importance from her husband, her family and her home
--Man wants a son to carry on his name & to give him a sort of "immortality". Sense of protectiveness toward the mother of his children and those children themselves

5-What about the wife working after children are born??
--Sometimes it seems necessary
--BEST for the wife to be mother to her children & stay at home, at least until late High School years or College age

B.-Family Planning And Contraceptives:

1-Why are contraceptives being used??
--To prevent having any children at all??
--To space out the arrival of the family?
--To escape the aftermath of extra-marital sex?

2-What or which contraceptive??
--Abstinence
--Interruption before climax
--Rhythm method (Roman Catholic approved)
--The "Pill"
--Mechanical (Rubbers, I.U.D.(Inter-Uterine Device), Diaphram
--Foam after intercourse
--SURGERY ** for her; Tubes tied
** for him; Vasectomy
** According to best medical recommendation

3-Is family planning SINFUL??--NO! Not if it is for spacing & by mutual consent.
--YES! If it is to avoid the responsibility of parenthood.
--EVERYONE practices birth con-

trol in some measure and by some method

4-Sin of Onan--Gen. 38:1-10
--Onan was unwilling to do his duty to his dead brother's memory according to Deut. 25:5-10
--Why the slaying of Onan by the Lord?
** Roman Church says because he was practicing birth control
** Fact is that he sought to pervert the sacred institution of marriage
** Used marriage to cover his lack of respect for Tamar & lack of concern for her needs.
** GOD JUDGED HIS SIN

C.-Family Planning When Childless:

1-Make it a matter of prayer--Hannah (1 Sam. 1:2-11)
--Elizabeth & Zacharias (Luke 1: 5-17)

2-Medical aid--Examinations (BOTH for him & for her)
--Recommendations by competent doctors
--Surgeries as necessary

3-Adoption--Increasingly popular in our era
--"I'M A CHOSEN BOY (GIRL)"
--Some very real & very great problems associated with adoptions
--Considerable medical & legal expense
--~~Almost always 50% or more~~ Frequently a large percentage present SEVERE PROBLEMS
--Think hard..
..Talk much..
..Pray fervently..and
then DECIDE TOGETHER what to do.
--If you do adopt, do it legally & not "informally"

4-Foster Parents--Great opportunity to be of help
--Not as permanent a relationship
--Series of helpfulnesses over the years to many children
--"Adopt" a teenager or collegian (Rom. 16:13)

5-Concerns of the woman over a barren womb (Prov. 30:15)

6-Concerns of a man over lack of a male heir.

Romance

"Crowns in Heaven"------1 Cor. 9:25

Jim Thorpe — Must run carefully

Intro.---A.-We think of crowns as being alone for Royalty.
B.-We are Kings and Priests unto God and so have the right to crowns.....if we are worthy of them.

I.-THE RACE ON EARTH
A.-In life
1-all run.
2-only one crown.
3-running is to obtain or win.
B.-In spiritual things.
1-parallel breaks down for crowns are available to all who qualify.
2-Training and self-denial is required.
3-Reward:
--Olympic races--a fading garland
--Spiritual things--an incorruptible crown.
C.-Training rules
1-Must be actively running the race.
--not an armchair athlete
--not without an aim and a goal.
--not with shadowboxing.
2-Subjecting self
--keeps a leash on self--no breaking of training.
--literally, "beat myself black and blue"
--Reason--to be an acceptable servant
--Service & not Salvation is in view.

(3) WB

D.-Result.---ILLUS--Bennie Locke, an engine driver who has done 57 yrs. service on the Lakawanna RR., & has never received a demerit mark from his superior officers, had the habit, during the greater part of his service, of removing his cap on entering his engine and muttering a prayer for God's protection on each days run. On experience he thus describes: "Number 6 was 25 minutes late out of Scranton one day, & I had my little prayer as usual when I stepped into the cab. After I had asked for the safety of our train, I said, 'Lord, help me bring her in on time.' It was a stiff climb up the Pocono Mts. for the first part of the trip, and it never seems so steep as when you are late. I couldn't gain a second on the way up, but after we dipped over the summit, things began to break just right for me. It was a clear beautiful day, and we just flew down the mt. I just held her steady and let her go. At last the old train station at Hoboken loomed ahead, & as we pulled to a stop at the station we were right on the dot. As I stood wiping the sweat from my face there was a tap of a cane on the outside of my cab and on looking out I saw the president of the RR, all smiles, & he said to me, 'A good run, sir! A very good run!'. That mean more to me than anything that could happen in this wold. And brother, when I make my last run, and pull into the Great Terminal, if I can just hear Him say, 'A good run, sir! A good run!' the toil and the struggle down here won't matter."

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape that ye may be able to bear it.

II.-THE REWARDS IN HEAVEN.
A.-Crown of LIFE--------James 1:12
1-for enduring temptation
2-for claiming the promises of 1 Cor. 10:13
3-proof of our love to the Lord that we endure temptation.
4-proof of His love to us that He helps us endure and then gives us the crown.
5-ILLUS--over.

ILLUS --The story is told of the suffering in Russia many years ago; how the Xns. were persecuted & imprisoned: Some gave up Christianity & and their faith in Christ & were freed. Others chose to suffer, "not & accepting deliverance." The story went on to tell of seventy who had been imprisoned for a long time, underfed, and at last taken out, thinly clad, one cold winter night to a lake of ice where they wereleft to die. A Russian guard was in charge of them. He was warmly clad, & properly fed & did not mind the cold. However he seemed to see the prisoners fall 1 by 1 on the ice, & as 1 fell it seemed as if the heavens opened and an angel appeared with a golden crown. Then another would fall and another angel would appear with another golden crown. It seemed as if they had nearly all fallen, and the Russian Guard, thinking he must be in a trance or a dream aroused himself and found all had fallen save one. That one called to him and said:"Oh, sir, save my life I am dying! I'll not be a Christian, anything, only save my life." "Quick," said the Russian gurad, "change clothes with me." And he stepped out on the ice. He had seen there was one more angel and one more golden crown. There is one more for you too.

B.-Crown of RIGHTEOUSNESS ---2 Tim. 4:8 be found faithful.
1-to be awarded at the "Bema Seat"----"that day"
2-awarded for faithfulness--1 Cor. 4:1-2--Fighting the good fight of faith. "Let a man so account of us as of the ministers of X, & stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required in stewards that a man
3-ILLUS--There is a very human story told of a commercial traveler who presented himself before his chief after finishing his round. Taking the very small batch of orders in his hand, the manager looked at the man and said, "And is this all you've done?" In reply the man looked steadily at his employer and said, "No, sir, it isn't all I've done, but I'm afraid it is all I can show." In our work for the Lord it is often when we toil hardest that we canshow the least tangible results. Yet we can rest assured that He rewards according to faithfulness.
4-This crown is available to all who live for Christ in the light of His imminent appearing. 1 Jn. 3:3.

C.-Crown of GLORY--unfading--1 Pet. 5:2-4.
1-given to leaders and those in positions of responsibility
2-gained by being good under-Shepherds
3-Feeding or Tending God's flock
4-Awarded at the "Bema Seat"
5-ILLUS--Two men met on a steamer during a Scotch excursion and talked of many things, among others of Sunday Schools. "To tell the truth,"said one of the, "I am not very enthusiastic about that kind of work. I was a teacher for many years, and, after all, I seem to have done no good." "Well, I do believe in the value of S.S. work," said the other. "As a lad I received life-long influences for Christ and His work in my old class." And he named the school with which he had once been connected. "Were you there?" asked the other. "That is where I taught. Were you there in my time? My name is George Franks." "And I was your scholar. I remember you now,"said the younger man. "I owe everyting to you." There, side by side, stood the teacher and the man.

D.-Crown of REJOICING --1 Thess. 2:19
1-Soul-winners crown--"we will come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves"
2-Garland of souls snatched from the fire of Hell are these jew
3-For those who fulfill God's design for the Christian--Acts 1:8
4-ILLUS-A minister in England was preaching to a crowd of people in a street meeting. A rough man, driving past, shouted "Well, governor, you'll be getting half a crown for that job." Instantly the minister replied, "No, my man, you are wrong. The Lord Jesus Christ, my master, never gives half crowns. He gives whole crowns to those who serve Him."

E.-MARTYR'S CROWN--Rev. 2:10-- John 12:24-25
1-Blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church
2-Sealed their testimony with their blood.
3-Both PAST & PRESENT — TODAY'S CHURCH
EARLY CHURCH — ILLUS — Stephen in Acts 7

III.-DISPOSITION OF THE CROWNS.
A.-Crowns are to be ours to wear---Rev. 4:4
B.-Worship of the Worthy Christ causes the redeemed to cast them at the dear Savior's feet. Rev. 5:10-11.

Concl.--A.-Can you say 2 Tim. 4:8
B.-That was the testimony Paul bore at the end of life.
C.-Must be begun earlier to be true later.
D.-Crowns for Suffering
Faithfulness
Leadership
Soulwinning
Martyrdom
Crowns are INCORRUPTIBLE.

Strive for mastery in service for the Lord.

E.-ILLUS--Have you become discouraged? Have you allowed something to keep you from being what you know you should be? Have you allowed depression or disaster to make you lose heart and to slacken your effort? If so, remember the Word of the Lord: "That no man take thy crown." Be diligent; in season and out of season. Be faithful in the face of storm, as well as in times of sunshine, for if there is "no battle, there will be no victory; no cross, no crown."

See Worship & Service Hymnal

(Count Your Blessings (not in "Inspiring Hymns")
(Will There Be Any Stars? (" " " " ")

1 Cor. 9:16-27

OR "What The Bible Teaches About Reward - Crowns"

"WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT REWARD-CROWNS" 1 Cor. 9:24-27
or Eph. 2:4-7
"EXAMINATION DAY EXPERIENCE FOR CHRISTIANS"

INTRO: A.-The Judgment Seat Of Christ:

1-Time of ASSESSMENT, not of CONDEMNATION

2-Therefore anticipated with joy, not with dread

3-Time for passing out HONORS; a day of REWARDING

--"The day of Christ" (1 Cor. 1:8; 5:5)

--"The day" (1 Cor. 3:13)

--"THAT DAY" (2 Tim. 4:8)

--We will all in some degree, no doubt, experience LOSS; but we are constantly urged to prepare for that day as those who are confident of some reward!

4-Attitude toward the BEMA

--PAUL ** Eagerly anticipated his reward
** 2 Tim. 4:8--"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."
** Certain of reward for others as well as for himself

--PETER ** Joyfully confident of the future
** 1 Pet. 5:4--"And when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."

-"These men of God knew that they had loved & followed the Lord. It was (not) pride that them certain of reward. It was FAITH in the fact that they were in Christ & would share the rule with Him (Eph. 2:6-7; 2 Pet. 1:11)" (Doris Salter, Examination Day For Christians, P. 20, Prohetic Word, Apr. 1970)

--To seek for rewards is a SPIRITUAL ASPIRATION

--When Christians say: "I am not interested in rewards," they are denying their birthright as fellowheirs with Christ

B.-The Examination For Rewards:

1-The Church is already designated A RULING BODY to serve with Christ forever

2-As such, we shall be examined at the Bema for our VARYING DEGREES OF FITNESS TO RULE

3-(ILLUS.)-As in earthly kingdoms, so also in the eterna Kingdom of God

--INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

--2 Cor. 5:10--"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

--Rewards awarded according to OBEDIENCE.

--A King may have many sons and daughters and many responsibilities to relegate. He must do so according to the fitness of each son.or daughter. They are ALL ROYAL CHILDREN, but their duties vary some with great responsibility & some with less.

4-Doris Salter: "The loss we sustain at the judgment seat, of which we read in 1 Cor. 3:13-15, is LOSS OF AUTHORITY which we might have had if we had been more obedient in our lifetime. Our unproductive work all disappears and only the fruitful work is rewarded." (P. 22 of article above)

5-The first Church LEADERS encouraged their hearers to SEEK the promised rewards. When they warned of possible loss in that day it was not to fill the believers with a crippling fear that would bring them into bondage. It was to SPUR THEM ON to more intensive endeavor

C.-The Message On Reward-Crowns:

1-Outline: I.-OUR EARTHLY EXPERIENCE
II.-OUR HEAVENLY EXPECTATION

2-Prop: --To inform us of facts
--To challenge us to self discipline
--To spur us to active christian service
--To cure us of living for self or the praise of men
--To enable us to face life's trials & problems with eternal values in view

3-ATTITUDE--Gavin Hamilton--"To be unduly apprehensive of the Bema tends to throw us into the slough of despond & deprive us of real joy while serving the Lord. Such a condition is a positive contradiction of what true service should be." (Kings Business, P. 29, Jan. 1969)

--Ps. 2:11--"Serve the LORD with fear & rejoice with trembling."

--Phs. 4:4--"Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again, I say, REJOICE."

--1 John 4:8--"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

4-ILLUS--Dr. L. Sale-Harrison, the Australian Bible Teacher, reminds us that there are millions of cattle & 300 million sheep in Australia. When the PRIZE SHEEP are inspected & examined, it is NOT TO CONDEMN THEM, but to determine WHICH ARE CHAMPIONS; which is to receive 2nd, 3rd, 4th places; "Honorable mention" or---"No mention". Just so, he says, the Bema is not a place of condemnation, but of reward!

I.-OUR EARTHLY EXPERIENCE (1 Cor. 9:24-27):

A.-The Race Of Life:

1-All are running in "the race of life"
2-Competitors all; but only one can win THE PRIZE
3-Race to WIN !!
4-DISCIPLINE and lawful training is required
5-List of "TRAINING RULES" by Ray M. Conger in the Book, "Track and Field"

(a) Get down on the marks
(b) Go out with a fast sprint
(c) Think of others; not of personal fatigue
(d) Never trail a novice; he's bound to interfere
(e) Stay with the leaders no matter what
(f) Never look back
(g) Aim to finish beyond the finish line

--Learn some practical lessons here:
** Self-denial is required
** Not just "armchair athletes"
** Not aimless, shadow-boxers who win.

6-Paul uses the ILLUSTRATION of the OLYMPIC GAMES to make his point--First recorded in 776 B.C.
--Purpose: Let the athletes of the world vie with each other in a spirit of peace & friendship
--Rules of sportsmanship & fair play are agreed to bind all contestants
--OFFICIAL MOTTO: "Citius, Altius, Fortius"== "Swifter, higher, stronger"

7-PAUL'S EXAMPLE OF SELF-MASTERY
--Keeps himself on a leash
--1 Cor. 9:26-27
--Lit.=="I beat myself black & blue"
--REASON: To present acceptable service to God
--Service, not salvation is in view
--PROOF of this is seen in 1 Cor. 10 where Paul gives the explanation in terms of Israel. The nation was OUT OF EGYPT, and so redeemed, but Israel FAILED TO REACH CANAAN, their goal of victory. Most of them died in the wilderness short of victory & reward (Heb. 10:4-5)

8-ILLUS--Jim Thorpe; Called by King Gustav V of Sweden "the greatest athlet in the world." An American Indian from Oklahoma, who, in 1912 became the first person ever to win both the decathalon & the pentathalon. Later the officials took back his olympic medals because it was ruled he competed in amateur athletics AS A PROFESSIONAL because he had once received $5.00 "expense money" for playing professional baseball.-------DISAPPROVED in his victory;
A CASTAWAY.

B.-The Reward Of Life:
1-Corruptible crowns
--Olympic garland woven of oak leaves
--ILLUS--Modern case of Christos Papanicolaou of Greece. This 28 year old veteran POLE-VAULTER, who placed 4th in the 1968 Olympis, was representing his country in the 1970 international competition in Athens. Using an American-made fiberglas pole, Christos cleared 16 feet----then 17 feet & 3/4ths on his first attempts. Sensing something big the fans began to "BUZZ" Clutching his pole tightly, Christos began running as fast as his legs could carry him----his pole hit the ground & he began to soar into the air----------AND OVER THE BAR to become the first pole vaulter in history to clear the 18 foot mark. He rose slowly to his feet---then jumped off the soft padding that

had broken his fall following the record jump, and raised his arms to acknowledge the wildly cheering fans. The old mark of 17 ft, 10 inches had been held by an East German. (4)

After the record vault, Christos' home town of Trikalla in central Greece, where he was born during the German occupation in 1945, announced that a STATUE HONORING HIM would be erected in one of the main squares. This modern warrior had brought victory & honor to his town----and he was rewarded as in days of old.

2-Only ONE who is "winner" in such activities

3-Privileges & honors are TEMPORARY at best

4-Yet, we strive for them in a "success-oriented society"

5-AND WE SHOULD--Christ indicated service was to be rewarded in the Parable of the Talents

--Variable rewards for a variety of service

--The Lord requires of us no more than HE KNOWS we are capable of

--Lk. 12:48--"...For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required: and to whom men have committed much, of him will they ask the more."

6-ILLUS--BENNIE LOCKE, an engineer with 57 years service on the Lakawanna RR---and never received a demerit mark from his superiors---had the habit of removing his cap on entering his engine & praying for God's protection on each days run.

One experience he describes thus: "Number 6 was 25 minutes late out of Scranton one day & I had prayer as usual when I stepped into the cab. After I had asked for the safety of our train, I said 'Lord, help me bring her in on time.' It was a stiff climb up the Pocono Mountains for the first part of the trip, & it never seems so steep as when you're late. I couldn't gain a second on the way up, but after we dipped over the summit, things began to break just right for me. It was a clear, beautiful day and WE JUST FLEW down the mountain. I jest held her steady & let her go. At last the old train staion at Hoboken loomed ahead & as we pulled to a stop at the station, we were right on the dot. As I stood wiping the sweat from my face there was the tap of a cane on the outside of my cap--and on looking out I SAW THE PRESIDENT OF THE RAILROAD, all smiles, and he said to me"A GOOD RUN SIR, A VERY GOOD RUN!'

That meant more to me than anything that could happen in this world. And brother, when I make my last run and pull into GOD'S GREAT TERMINAL, if I can just hear Him say, "A GOOD RUN, SIR! A GOOD RUN!" the toil and struggle down here won't matter.

II.-OUR HEAVENLY EXPECTATION:

A.-The Contrasts In Crowns:

1-DIADEM crowns--Reserved for rulers

--Spoken of for Christ in Heb. 2:9-10; Rev. 19:1

--Men gave Him a crown of THORNS, but the Father will crown Him with a Diadem

2-STEPHANOS crowns--Given to those that are VICTORS

--Apostles urged saints to seek these

--To seek God's rewards is a SPIRITUAL ASPIRATION for us.

3-What will QUALIFY as crown-worthy??
--NOT "All or our service"
--NOR "What's done for Christ"
--NOR EVEN ""Whatever is good"
--Right things can be done with wrong motives or spirit or in the energy of the flesh
--DIVIDING LINE is Gal. 6:8--"For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."
--Whatever has been IN OUR ENERGY cannot receive reward from the Lord.
--If we are to receive crowns, we must WALK IN THE SPIRIT

4-ILLUS--Years ago a PERSIAN POET died, & as his funeral was passing out of 1 gate of the city, camels bearing a royal present of gold for him entered by another gate. So often it happens that the wealth for which men have labored & lived, comes too late to be enjoyed by them. NOT SO WITH THE LORD, for He rewards men according to their works in glory.

B.-The Character Of Crowns:
1-Crown of LIFE:
--James 1:12--"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."
--Beattitude of BLESSING is pronounced
--Benefits for NOW, as well as for the FUTURE
--"Endureth temptation"=PRESENT & continuing
--"successfully resists temptatio n
--CROWN for enduring temptation
--HOW GAINED????
--Claiming 1 Cor. 10:13--"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape that ye may be able to bear it."
--This crown is for APPROVABLE CONDUCT in the face of the daily trials of life
--Reward is sure if we are successful in the face of our trials.
--PROOF of our love for Christ in our being an overcomer of the temptations which press us
--ILLUS--The story is told of the suffering in Russia some years ago; how the christians were imprisoned & persecuted. Some gave up their faith in Christ and were freed. Others chose to suffer, "not accepting deliverance."

The story went on to tell of 70 who had been imprisoned for a long while, underfed, & at last were taken out--thinly clad---one cold winter night to a lake where they were left to die. A RUSSIAN GUARD was in charge of them. He was warmly clad & properly fed, so did not mind the cold.

One by one he saw the prisoners fall on the ice and as each fell, it seemed to him that HEAVEN OPENED AND AN ANGEL appeared with a golden crown-----one after another. It seemed as if they had nearly all fallen, and the Russian guard, thinking he must be dreaming, aroused himself to see that they had all fallen, but one. (6)

That one called to him and said: "Oh, sir, save my life, I am dying. I'll not be a Christian----ANYTHING, only SAVE MY LIFE."

"Quick," said the Russian guard, "change clothes with me." And he stepped out on the ice. HE HAD SEEN that there was was one more angel and one more golden crown.

AND THERE IS ONE MORE.....for you also !!

2-Crown of Righteousness
--2 Tim. 4:8--"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."
--CONCLUDING CONFIDENCE of the Apostle Paul
--Awarded for his faithfulness
--1 Cor. 4:1-2--"Let a man so account of us, as of the minister ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in a stewards that a man be found faithful."
--Paul gets this CROWN for "fighting the good fight of faith"
--ILLUS--There is the very human story told of the salesman who presented himself before his Sales Manager after finishing his weeks work. Taking the very small batch of orders in his hand, the Manager looked at the man and said: "IS THIS ALL YOU'VE DONE?"

In reply, the salesman looked steadily at his boss and said, "NO, SIR, it isn't all I've done, but it is all I can show in the way of results."

In our work for the Lord it is often when we toil the hardest that we can show the least tangible results. YET WE CAN REST ASSURED that He rewards according to faithfulness.
--YOU TOO can be the recipient of this "crown" if you love His appearing & are faithful while you wait for His return-----"Watching, waiting, & serving"

3-C --1 John 3:1-3
3-Crown of Glory--This one is a service-crown for leaders & teachers
--Not enough to be a RULER
--Also expected to be a FEEDER of the flock and an EXAMPLE to God's heritage also
--Some want authority----because it makes them feel "important"
--Such will recive NO REWARD
--This "Crown of Glory" is awarded for being a faithful UNDER-SHEPHERD to the Chief Shepherd
--Some will have so served publicly
--Others will have been less conspicuous
--CROWN that is UNFADING in its glory
--ILLUS--Two men met on a Scotch Excursion

boat and talked of many things. Among them was SUNDAY SCHOOLS. "To tell the truth," said one of them, "I AM NOT VERY ENTHUSIASTIC about that kind of work. I was a teacher for many years, and, after all the work I put in----I appear to have done no good at all."

"Well, I believe in Sunday Schools," said the other. "AS a lad I received the Lord as Savior and life-long influences in my life through the --------Sunday School", as he named the school with which he had been associated.

"Were you there?" asked the first? That is where I taught. Were you there in my time? My name is George Franks."

"And I was your student. I remember you now, said the younger man. "I owe my salvation decision and my spiritual growth to your teaching."........So there they stood, side by side.....Teacher and former-student.....And so it will also be in glory when the CROWN OF GLORY is given to those who've faithfully ministered the Word of God.

4-Crown of REJOICING

--1 Thess. 2:19-20--"For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For ye are our glory and joy."

--Crown of the SOUL-WINNER

--There is no thrill like it!!

--Ps. 126:5-6--"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth & weepeth, bearing precious seed shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

--Garland of souls snatched from the fires of HELL

--For those who obey Acts 1:8

--There is no "special training" or "gift" necessary to win this crown

--JUST TAKES WISDOM & WORK !!

--Prov. 11:30--"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; & he that winneth souls is wise."

5-Crown Of MARTYRDOM

--Rev. 2:10--"Fear none of these things which thou shalt suffer: behold the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, & I will give thee a crown of life."

--SUFFERING in all forms, shapes & fashions

--Blood of the martyrs has always been the SEED OFTHE CHURCH

--John 12:24-25--"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground & die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; & he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal."

--These seal their testimony with their blood

--ILLUS from the EARLY CHURCH

** Stephen in Acts 7:60

** James in Acts 12:1-2

--ILLUS from the present day; 5 who died taking the message to the AUCAS; Martyrs in China & Russia today; Those slain in Roman Catholic countries of Latin America & Spain.

6-When the Lord gives out HIS REWARDS there will be no old nature in any believer to complain about little reward or to boast about great reward. There will be perfect insight in that day

C.-The Conservation Of Crowns:

1-Matter of several warnings:

--Rev. 3:11--"Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."

--2 John 8--"Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward."

2-Some have begun well, BUT NOT CONTINUED..

--Gal. 3:1a--"O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth,..."

--"2 Tim. 4:10a--"For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, & is departed..."

3-LOSS IS A DANGER if we "let up"

4-1 Cor. 9:25-27 is Paul's example on conserving one's crowns

5-DON'T LOSE YOUR CROWNS

6-Martha Snell Nicholson's poem: "HIS PLAN FOR ME"

"When I stand at the judgment seat of Christ,
And He shows me His plan for me,
The plan of my life as it might have been,
Had He had His way, but I see...

How I blocked Him here and I checked Him there,
And would not yield to His will,
Will there be grief in my Savior's eyes?
Grief, though He loves me still?

He would have me rich, and I stand there poor,
Stripped of all but His grace,
While memories run like a hunted thing
Down paths I cannot retrace.

Oh, Lord, the years that are left to me,
I give them into Thy hand,
Take me, break me, mold me
To the pattern Thou hast planned."

7-Assurance we can count on--1 Cor. 15:58--"...forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

D.-The Consecration Of Our Crowns:

1-Crowns are for WEARING (Rev. 4:4)

2-Bestowed to us as believers at the Bema

3-BUT.....Those who love HIM Who first loved us will feel strange wearing these crowns in Christ's presence.

4-WORSHIP OF THE WORTHY LORD

--Causes believers to cast these crowns at the feet of Jesus

--Rev. 4:10-11--"

CONCLUSION:

A.-Resume':

1-Message on REWARD-CROWNS for how we've lived & served the Lord Jesus

2-OUR EARTHLY EXPERIENCE--The race of life
--The reward of life
--A pattern with which we are familia

3-OUR HEAVENLY EXPECTATION
--Contrasting crowns (Diadems & Stephanos)
--Character of Crowns ** For enduring temptation
** For faithful service
** For leading & teaching God's flock of believers
** For soul-winning
** For suffering & martyrdom
--Conservation of crowns
--Consecration of crowns

B.-Realization In Our OWN LIVES:

1-Can you say 2 Tim. 4:8--"Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day..."

2-That was Paul's HONEST TESTIMONY at the end of his life

3-MUST BE BEGUN EARLIER if it is to be true at the end

4-BE GIN NOW to strive for mastery

5-Gain crowns that are INCORRUPTIBLE !!

6-AND.....There can be more than one winner
..YOU can be a winner of these crowns of reward

7-"Only one life;
'Twill soon be passed.
Only what's done
For Christ will last"

8-QUESTION: Have you become discouraged? Have you allowed something to keep you from being what you know you should be? Have you allowed depression or disaster to make you lose heart & to slacken your effort? If so, remember the Word of the Lord: "That no man take thy crown." Be diligent; in season & out of season. Be faithful in the face of battle and storm, as well as in times of sunshine, for if t there is "NO BATTLE, THERE WILL BE NO VICTORY; NO CROSS, NO CROWN."

9-ERV.--"Let no man rob you of your prize" (Col. 2:18)
--By drawing us into an undisciplined flesh-walk
--By robbing ourselves if we "walk as men"
--LET NO MAN steal your reward!

10-Repetition of stanza by Martha Snell Nicholson:
"Lord of the years that are left to me
I give them into Thy hand.
Take me, and break me, and mold me
To the pattern Thou hast planned."

OVER

WESTBRAE--6/6/71--#311--"Blessed Assurance"
#463--"Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory"
#354--"Living For Jesus"

INTRO:

A.-Communion's Observance:

1-Early Church met in homes

2-There they "**BROKE BREAD**"--Acts 2:42, 46

3-Soon settled into a **SUNDAY** (First day of the week) worship gathering

4-Included **communion**--Acts 20:6-7

5-No specific mention of **frequency** in N.T.

--Some churches **WEEKLY**

--Some churches **MONTHLY**

--Some churches **QUARTERLY**

--1 Cor. 11:26--"For as **often** as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come."

6-And **so today** we come to observe this ORDINANCE OF CHRIST FOR HIS CHURCH:

--**BAPTISM** ** **Once** as a believer
** Immersion to indicate **UNION**
** Up out of the water to indicate **NEWNESS OF LIFE**

--**COMMUNION**
** **Often** & repeatedly as believers
** Never before personal faith
** Centers our thoughts on Jesus Christ our Savior, the true & living God

AFTER baptism as the Passover was after Circumcision for the Jewish men

FELLOWSHIP

B.-Communion's Preparation:

1-We are to **be CLEAN**

2-**HOW ??**--Thru God's **Word**

--Jn. 17:17--"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

--By **confession** of **sin** & **forsaking** it

--Prov. 28:13 — O.T.

--1 John 1:9 — N.T.

3-Let's go to God's Word to prepare ourselves today/

4-Our Passage--1 Cor. 10:7

Be Separated! 1 Cor. 10:14

"FLEE IDOLATRY"

Message repudiating **IDOLATRY**: showing the **exclusiveness** of COMMUNION and applying truth to LIFE

5-**PROP:**--**HEART** preparation for fellowship with Christ at HIS TABLE

--**LIFE** preparation for an experience of Him that exhibits Christ to others

I.-THE COMMAND------(10:14):

A.-Those Addressed:

1-"My dearly beloved"--Terms of love & intimacy

2-Christians at Corinth

3-**ALL** levels of development spiritually

Most CARNAL of all N.T. churches

B.-The Abomination:

DEF.

1-IDOLATRY=="**Paying divine honor** to any created thing or any image or symbol" (Summarized from Unger's Bible Dictionary, P. 512)

2-Forbidden in 1st & 2nd commandments to Israel

-FIRST ** Ex. 20:1-3
** False gods substituted for the true & real ONE
** Nature, spirits, demons, etc.
** FALSE GODS

-SECOND ** Ex. 20:4-6 — IDOLATRY
** Image making
** Image worship
** Image serving
** This provokes the JEALOUS WRATH of God as a reaction of wounded love
** Seen in the visible making of IDOLS
** FALSE REPRESENTATIONS of God

C.-The Admonition: (10:14) "Wherefore my dearly beloved, FLEE from Idolatry"

1-Very simple & clear--"FLEE" !!!
EXAMPLES
-As Joseph from Potiphar's wife
-As David from Saul's anger

2-Believer is to have nothing to do with idolatry, but rather TO FLEE!

3-Wm. Kelly-- "True wisdom in such cases is to keep wholly aloof. It is a misuse of knowledge to participate, or even give the appearance of participating, in what is religiously false." (1 Cor., P. 161)

4-Hodge wisely warns that: "By going to the verge of the allowable, they might be drawn into the sinful." (1 Cor. P183)

5-SO----The only safe thing to do with idolatry is to F L E E !!! GET FAR AWAY!

II.-THE CONNECTION:-----(10:1-13):

A.-Israel's Example (10:1-10):

1-Israel is used as an example of spiritual castaways who lost the prize of Canaan

2-W H Y ??

3-Because of tragic compromises --10:7; Worship of idols compromise
--10:8; Morals compromise of fornication

4-Because of tragic complaints:
--10:9; Against God's provision of Manna — Unbelief
--10:10; Against God's provision of Leaders — God's Men — MURMURING

B.-Church's Admonition (10:11-12):

1-God's dealings in O.T. days were for EXAMPLES TO US !!

2-The record is "for our admonition" — Learn by EXAMPLES

3-WARNING GIVEN --10:12 ("Take heed...")
--Don't think that you can't be tempted to idolatry also
** False gods
** False representations of God

C.-Christian Deliverance (10:13):

1-God's promise is clear
2-Christian's "escape hatch"
3-No need to be OVERWHELMED !!
4-GOD is "our very present help in time of need"

5-That's why 10:14 begins with "WHEREFORE"
6-Because deliverance is available, we are expected to FLEE IDOLATRY !!

(3)

III.-THE CELEBRATION------(10:15-22):

A.-The Corinthians Commended:

"Judge what I say"

1-10:15
2-"Wise men" = Sensible men
--Able to see the force of Paul's argument
3-These will be able to JUDGE RIGHT JUDGMENT
4-ACTIONS are evidence of wisdom —— or lack of it!

B.-The Corinthians Communions: (10:16-20)

1-Terms: "Communion" in 10:16
"Fellowship" in 10:20
--SAME WORD == "to have in common"
--Hodge:--"It is here assumed that partaking of the Lord's Supper brings us into communion with Christ. If this be so, partaking of the table of demons must bring us into communion with demons. This is the apostle's argument." (P. 185

2-Table of the Church (10:16-17)
--Various terms used ** Lord's Table
** Lord's Supper
** Communion
** Sacrament
** Ordinance
** Eucharist (Giving of thanks)
** MASS ==Festival; Sacrifice--NO
NO !
--CUP representing Christ's blood
--BREAD representing Christ's body
--These elements are symbols of Christ, about Whom we gather to worship
--ONEness ** One bread (=Loaf) (Symbol of our UNITY)
** One body
** Partakers of that one bread
NB
--Wm. Kelly--Communion is..."the central & standing institution of church fellowship." (P.161, 1 Cor.)

3-Table of Israel (10:18)
--Term used in Mal. 1:7--"Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The Table of the LORD is contemptible."
--Sense ** Part of the sacrifices were burnt before God as "His part"
** Portions of the sacrifices were eaten by the priests & by the offerers (De. 12:18)
--So there was a TABLE OF ISRAEL at which there was
NB
an O. T. era "communion"

4-Table of Gentiles (10:19-20)
DEMONS
Idolatry
--Hodge--"We must understand the apostle, therefore, as saying on the one hand, that the gods of the heathen were imaginary beings; and on the other, that their sacrifices were really offered to evil spirits." (P. 193, 1 Cor.)

DEMONS

--Wm Kelly succinctly states it; "The idols and their sacrifices may be utterly powerless; but demons hiding behind can and do thereby shut out from souls the true God and usurp the homage due to Him alone." (1 Cor., P. 165)

READ

--Deut. 32:15-18

--Absolutely cannot worship the true and the false at the same time

--Such "mixed worship" attempts are SATANIC!!

--Godet: "Behind all that mythological phantasmagoria (of Jupiter, Apollo, Venus, etc.) there lie concealed malignant powers, which, without being divinities, are nevertheless very real, and very active, and which have succeeded in facinating the human imagination, and in turning aside the religious sentiment of heathen nations to beings of the fancy; hence the idolatrous worships, worships addressed to those diabolical powers and not to God." (1 Cor., II, P. 88)

5-Centers of attention at THREE TABLES

--Table of Israel; Christ ANTICIPATED----Now fulfilled (1)(2)

--Table of Church; Christ ASCENDED-------Now ministering

--Table of Gentiles; Demons & Satan------Now Anti-god (3)

--DEMARCATIONS between them

--Mutually exclusive! AMEN!!

6-"And I would not that ye should have fellowship with demons" (10:20b)

--A father cannot allow his children to deliver themselves into bad hands

--Neither can Paul as a spiritual father

--Believer's fellowship:

** 1 John 1:3--"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son, Jesus Christ."

** With believers, with the Father & with the Son

xx BOTH Vertical & Horizontal planes

C.-The Clear-Cut Decision:

1-FELLOWSHIP IMPOSSIBLE--(10:21)

--This is unequivocal **"YE CANNOT!!!"

** Stated twice

--Spiritually IMPOSSIBLE to be on OPPOSING sides at the same time

--Hodge--"What the apostle means to say is, that, there is not merely an incongruity and inconsistency in a man's being the guest & friend of Christ and the guest & friend of evil spirits, but the thing is impossible." (IICor., P. 195)

--ILLUS--A young man is engaged to a beautiful young woman. She does not know that his ways are very careless, and eventually she learns that while he comes to visit her & treats her with kindness & affection------on other nights he is out with other young women----treating them with AFFECTION also.

When one day this young man comes back to his fiancee as though nothing was wrong------she refused to accept him on the same good terms.

(5)

XXX "No", she said. "YOU CANNOT GO ON WITH OTHERS IF YOU EXPECT ME TO BE DEVOTED TO YOU ALONE."

And so the Lord has called us to proclaim our whole hearted devotion to Himself and thus our separation from the world that has rejected Him.

THIS is what we are doing when we come to the Lord's Table

2-SEPARATION IMPERATIVE

"Wherefore come out from among them..."

--Scripture demands it ** 2 Cor. 6:17
** Eph. 5:11

NOTE THESE COMMANDS!

--Sense requires it

--3 different & EXCLUSIVE symbols--3 tables--used to describe relationships

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather reprove them" sc

--Wm. Kelly--"But the point before the apostle was rather that the Christian cannot go out to another fellowship if he enjoy this. Communion is the joint participation of the blessing for all whom it concerns; but it excludes as rigorously those who have no part or lot in it. Further it forbids from any other fellowship those who share this." (1 Cor., P. 164)

--ECUMENICAL COMMUNION and/or cooperation is thus seen to be ABSOLUTELY WRONG!!!

3-Decision is expected --10:22

"Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?"

--Character of God ** He is a JEALOUS GOD
** This is a feeling that arises out of wounded love

--Character of man; WEAK

"SACRAMENT" was a word used by the Romans as a "PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE"

--So it is with the Communion Table----It is a "Pledge of Allegiance" to Jesus Christ alone!

NB WELL SAID --Wm. Kelly--"...no one can have fellowship with the Lord and with demons; if he tampers with demons has he not virtually abandoned the Lord?" (P. 166)

-Mt. 12:30--"He that is not with Me is against Me and he that gathereth not with Me scattereth abroad."

IV.-THE CONDUCT-----(10:23—11:1):

A.=Principles Enunciated: (10:23-24)

1-"All things are lawful for me" (10:23a)
2-"But all things are not expedient" (10:23b)
3-"But all things edify not" (10:23d)
4-OTHERS are to be considered (10:24)
5-Point: Liberty HAS RESTRICTIONS in the life of faith"

BOORUM & PEASE "YEAR" ®

B.-Problems Experienced: (10:25-30) — OUGHT I TO DO THIS?

1-Your own conscience (10:25-26) — "IS THAT WHAT YOU OUGHT TO DO?"

2-Issue raised by others (10:27-28)

3-Conscience of others (10:29-30) — WEAKER BROTHER

4-Hodge--"Though it is right to each, and though you know it to be right, yet to avoid wounding or disturbing the conscience of your weaker brother, it is your duty to abstain." (1 Cor., P. 199) — LOVE LIMITED LIBERTY

C.-Overriding Considerations: (10:31—11:1) — GET THESE AS UPPERMOST!

1-GLORY of God----10:31

2-No OFFENCE-----10:32 EXALT GOD!

3-Paul's EXAMPLE-----10:33—11:1

--What Paul urges on others is what he himself practiced also

YOUR example is important also!

CONCLUSION:

A.-Principle----"FLEE IDOLATRY" (10:14) — Not only the Apostle Paul's

B.-Pre-eminence--Christ FIRST in your life — YOUR PRIORITY

--Make the communion your "OATH OF ALLEGIANCE" to Jesus Christ each time you partake

--BREAK with all other competitors — whoever — whatever

C.-Practice--Problems will arise (1) That's life! EXPECT IT!

(2)--Settle them, the best you can, in the light of God's Word

(3)--COME CLEAN as you come to the Communion table

Time of silent prayer & soul-searching (1)

(2) In The Cross of Christ - 408

(3) Crown Him With Many Crowns" 404

33 - Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee" 62 77

347 - "I Am Thine O Lord" 58 463

(4) 323 - "Leaning On The Everlasting Arms" 314 255 460 292

Westbrae--6/4/72--#212

Calvary Columbus 11/10/74

Daniels Mtn. Bapt. Ch.

Lower Falls Bapt. 10/2/77

Ch.-10/10/82

Old Kanawha Bapt. Ch. 12/30/84

Oak Hill Bible Ch., WV - 3/7/88

Grace Gospel Ch, Beaver - 3/7/94

Hilltop Bapt. Ch., Crab Orchard - 8/3/03

"THE DANGER OF FAILURE"
or
"THE ABUSE OF LIBERTY"
or
"THE ESCAPE HATCH VERSE"
or
"PROVISION FOR VICTORY"

1 Cor. 10:1-15
Deut. 8:1-18

#403--"Great Is Thy Faithfulnes
#222--"O For A Thousand Tongues

Our Overheads

INTRO:

A.-Universality Of Trials:

1-**QUESTION:** "How many of you have **NO TRIALS?**" ?

2-**ANSWER:** --**None of you?** ?
--That would seem to indicate that **EVERYONE** has them
--**Universality** of problems !

3-Prominent feature in city of Jerusalem is the "**WAILING WALL**"
--Interesting fact that there **is No WAILING WALL** at **this Church**
--**Why not ??**

** We see trials in **a different perspective** (or at least we should)
** Jews have the **PROMISE** of Messiah, but have **rejected** the **PERSON** of Messiah, and so they are without hope or help
• Thus — They **WAIL** w/o Help + Hope

B.-Understanding Of Trials:

1-**WHY** do trials come into lives of Christians??
2-IS THERE "**PURPOSE**" for the circumstances which come into our experience ??
3-What saith the **Scripture** ?
--**1 Pet. 1:6-7**
--**Refine** our **life of faith**
--**Rom. 8:28-29**
--**Conform us** to Christ's image

"Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness thru manifold temptation, that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise + honor + glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ."

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren."

4-ILLUS--**Carpet-beating** as a boy before the days of much wall-to-wall installation. Mother would hand me a **carpet-beater** & send me out to "do my thing". Carpet-beater looked like a cross between a **buggy whip** and an unstrung **tennis racket**
--I'd **beat OUT** the **dirt** while I **beat IN** the **impression** of the carpet-beater
--**RESULTS** ** **Clean** carpet (1)
** **Marks left** on the rug thru this "TRIAL" (2)
** **DIRTY BOY** ! (3)
** A **good end** thru a trial that would have produced a loud "**OUCH**" from the carpet if it could have spoken

5-Thus we can say there **is purpose** to the circumstances of our lives:
--Sometimes we see "**WHY**" immediately
--Sometimes we don't percieve the reasons
--**Jn. 13:7**--"...thou shalt **know hereafter**.."

C.-Uncomplicating This Truth:

1-1 Cor. 10:1-15

2-Its connection--1 Cor 8:::Christian Liberty
--1 Cor 9:::Christian Ministry
--9:23-27:::Paul's concern for his own usefulness being preserved — Not to become a Castaway

3-Its confirmation in experience 10:1
--Written to "BRETHREN" in Corinth to instruct them
--Written concerning ISRAEL as an example, or type for our learning
** "I would not that ye should be ignorant"
** Pauline phrase used often
** 1 Cor. 12:1 (spiritual gifts)
** Rom. 11:25 (blindness of Israel)
** 1 Th. 4:13 (rapture of the church)
** Formula used when something especially important is to be presented:
** Doesn't want Xns to LOSE OUT + become CASTAWAYS

4-Message:
I.-An ILLUSTRATION From Israel: (1 Cor. 10:1-10)
II.-An APPLICATION To Corinthians: (10:11-12)
III.-An ENCOURAGEMENT For Us: (10:13-15)

5-Prop: If we are to avoid spiritual failure we must claim God's provision for our daily experience of victory.

I.-AN ILLUSTRATION FROM ISRAEL: (1 Cor. 10:1-10)

A.-Privileges Of The Fathers: (10:1-4)

1-"ALL our Fathers were under the cloud"
--Universal for 6 million who came out of Egypt
--Protection & guidance in wilderness of Sinai

2-"ALL passed thru the sea"
--Total deliverance thru miracle of Red Sea being divided
--100% of Israelites were saved by power here as they had been saved by blood of Passover

3-"ALL were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea"--Every Israelite included
--"Baptized" was not by water; No allusion made to any mode of baptism
--"IDENTIFIED WITH"
--Moses became God's appointed leader for the nation and this was seen in the cloud of direction and the sea of deliverance

4-"ALL did eat the same spiritual meat" — MANNA QUAIL
--Provision for food was Divine
--No supermarkets in the desert
--Mana was provided by God's Spirit
--All physical needs were met

5-"ALL did drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ"--Physical water was provided in the desert
--Symbol of the meeting of all spiritual needs in the Person of Christ
--Not a "rolling stone in the desert" giving out water, but AN EVER-PRESENT SAVIOR Never leave you

6-Tremendous list of **PRIVILEGES** shared in by Israel in the desert

B.-Pleasure In The Few: (10:5)

1-**BUT** that doesn't mean that they pleased God

2-**10:5**

3-**MOST** displeased God by their unbelief, & **so died** in the wilderness

4-**EXCEPTIONS** were **Joshua** & **Caleb** — VERY FEW!!

5-No distinctions could have been **outwardly observed** between those who were real & faithful and those who were destroyed because of unbelief.

6-Still, in fact that **PRIVILEGED** COMPANY proved out to be a **"mixed multitude"**

7-H. A. Ironside:--"When people profess to be Christians, outwardly **profess** to be members of the Church of the Living God, and yet give every evidence that their **hearts** are still **in the world**, when there is **no separation** from the world, no **breaking** from the things that dishonor our blessed God, when they are still taken up with 'the **lust** of the flesh, and the **lust** of the eyes, and the **pride** of life'--one may stand in **grave doubt** as to whether they have ever really been brought to drink of that spiritual 'attendant Rock,' that Rock which is Christ." (1 Cor., P. 284)

N B

8-G. C. Morgan well says: "There is a **terrible danger** in **trusting our privileges** & in the fact that we are the privileged people, forgetting that privilege always **entails responsibility**." (1 Cor., P. 121)

refusal to trust God to give them the promised land (3)

C.-Parade Of Their Failures: (10:6-10)

1-**LUST**--**10:6** = Strong Desires
- --An example to us to teach us by a **NEGATIVE EXAMPLE**
- --**Num. 11** for historical record
- --Lust after the **food** of Egypt

FLESH, FISH, CUCUMBERS, MELONS, LEEKS, ONIONS, GARLIC

2-**IDOLATRY**--**10:7**
- --**Golden calf** made by Aaron while Moses was with God on Mt. Sinai
- --**Ex. 32** for historical record
- --Worship involved nakedness (32:25) as they **cast off restraint**
- --**False representation** of God; Worship corruption

3-**FORNICATION**--**10:8**
- --Balaam's strategy of **corrupting** Israel thru **whoredom** with the daughters of Moab
- --Led to worship of **false gods** of the heathen
- --**Num. 25** for historical record
- --Plague of deaths due to **moral corruption**

4-**UNBELIEF**--**10:9**
- --People spoke **against** God and **against** Moses
- --**Num. 21** for record
- --**Despised** the manna of God's provision
- --**Doubted** that God could supply their needs
- --**Serpents** sent to judge their **unbelief**

God of Mom + the man of God

5-MURMURING--**10:10**
- --DEF.=="**to complain** in a rebellious spirit"
- --**Num 14:1-4** (read)

--Rebellion against God-ordained leadership
--God judged them by death in the wilderness
--Num. 14:29-32 (read)

(4)

6-This was not the whole catalog of failure
--Just a few samples
--Many more could be cited
--Enough to show the variety of Israel's sins
--Proves to us that moral decline is CONTAGEOUS !
7-Israel is thus held up as...
...AN ILLUSTRATION...

II.-AN APPLICATION TO CORINTHIANS---(10:11-12)

A.-Witness Of The Case Study: (10:11)

1-1 Cor. 10:11
2-Historic examples of SIN among God's people
3-Why written here to Corinthians ??
--These experiences happened TO ISRAEL
--These experiences are recorded FOR OUR ADMONITION !
4-God expects us to LEARN from the example and experience of others, rather than having to make all our mistakes for ourselves
5-"Ensamples" = "Types"
--DEF. = "A divinely purposed illustration to teach us Divine truth"
--These sins of Israel are, then A WITNESS to us to protect us from making the same mistakes
N.B. 6-3 Ways to learn--By precept of truth
--By mistakes of our own
--By examples of others — Cheaper this way than our own!
7-Such a "case study" is given in the Bible so we don't have to make all the mistakes ourselves, but learn from others.

B.-Warning Of The Case Study: (10:12)

1-10:12
2-Don't be self-confident--THEY failed God in their generation
--So can WE in our generation
3-Dangers--In Egypt; YES
--In Wilderness; ALSO
--Perpetual danger of sinning
--No "ARRIVAL POINT" where you are beyond any temptation (="soliciatation to evil") LEARN THIS!
4-WARNING to the Corinthians on the basis of the experience & example of Israel
5-This looks on to...

III.-AN ENCOURAGEMENT FOR US---(10:13-15)

A.-Perspective On Trials: (10:13a)

1-10:13a
2-Your trials are NOT UNIQUE !! *!
--You may "feel" that they are unique
--But they are not
--Fate hasn't singled you out for a rough treatment
3-It is only HUMAN temptation that has come upon you
4-Such tests as OTHERS have faced & found Victory to be possible

(5)

5-We shouldn't look at our trials as being "different" & so **make excuses** for ourselves when we yield to sin

6-ILLUS--I am told that a Minister, who endured years of torture in a communist **slave camp**, was asked upon his release to comment upon **the secret** of his good physical & mental condition.

"I am not sure,," he answered modestly, "unless it could be that I **never once** allowed myself the **luxury** of **SELF-PITY**."

There was **his secret**. Thru years of prison, he had not indulged in the attitude of thinking that **HE HAD IT WORSE** than anyone else.

B.-Preservation Thru Trials: (10:13b)

1-1 Cor. **10:13b**

2-**Your preservation** in the face of testing:

--Doesn't depend upon **you**!...or upon **me**!!

--"BUT **GOD** IS **FAITHFUL**"

--**He**'ll never fail

--Hymn: "**Jesus Never Fails**" (#256, Service Hymnal)

#274 Great Hymns
#496 INSPIRING HYMNS

SING

3-Godet:--"...the true order of the apostle's thoughts: 'If you should fall thus (ver. 13), you **would be without excuse**; for the temptations which have met you hitherto have **not** been of **an irresistible nature**, and as to those which may come on you in the future, God is **always ready to sustain you** and to save you in time of peril.'"

4-**CONTROL** of temptation:

--G. C. Morgan--"**We shall hear** these seductive voice that call us to the false, but we **need not yield** to them, and that is true for every man." (1 Cor., P. 126)

"And lead us, not into temptation, but deliver us from evil..."

-**Mt. 6:13** with different punctuation

-Morgan--"That does not mean to say God will not allow us to fall; but God will so arrange and has arranged that **we need not fall**." (1 Cor., P. 126)

NB

--In other words; THE FAITHFUL GOD is our preserver

5-Your next and logical question will be:

..."**HOW?**"

C.-Provision For Triumph: (10:13c)

1-**10:13c**

2-**WAY OF ESCAPE**--There often **is one**, if we'll look to God to show it to us

--**ILLUS**---**Gen. 22:1-14** Offering of Isaac

--Sometimes, in answer to prayer, God will change the circumstances so that what seemed certain calamity has **a way out**!!

SUBMARINE ESCAPE HATCH

--**ILLUS**--**1 Sam. 23:25-28** Saul after David

--Remember; in every experience of life, **The LORD IS WITH YOU in it** !!

3-**WAY OF BEARING IT** &

--We see a problem/immediately we also see its **difficulties**

--Often those difficulties seem **OVERWHELMING** to us

--Godet: "**God knows** this measure (of our capacity),

Paul means to say, and **He proportions the intensity** of the temptation to the **degree of power** which the believer is **capable of receiving** from Him." (1 Cor., II, P. 72)

6

--**ILLUS**--It was due to the efforts of **SAMUEL PLIMSOLL** the British reformer, that the **Merchant Shipping Act** of **1876** was passed, requiring all ships to bear a mark known as the **PLIMSOLL MARK** and indicating the **maximum load line**. By this Act the Board of Trade of England was empowered to detain any vessel deemed unsafe, and the amount of cargo was restricted, thus making the perilous ocean voyage of those days **much safer**.

Because of his work, Plimsoll became known as the **"sailor's friend"**. The **PLIMSOLL MARK**, with its gradations & figures may be seen on the bow of merchant ships near the water line as they lie at anchor in a harbor.

In God's sight each of us has a similar mark, though it is **unseen**. The burdens & responsibilities He gives us **may seem unbearable, but HE KNOWS OUR LIMIT**. His everlasting arms are underneath, and by His Grace we can **bear these** burdens **WITHOUT SINKING!**

4-So we see that since **God** is in control of all that comes into our lives, we can be sure

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous: **but** the LORD delivereth him out of them all."

--Ps. 34:19

-Of a **way of escape** from an enticement to do evil

-**OR** of His grace providing the ability to **bear it** without yielding to sin

D.-Profit From Trials:

1-**How** do I **profit** ??

2-**Three ways** that I immediately think of:

3-**PROFIT # 1**-ASK: "**Is God trying to talk to me** thru this trial?"

--Several have said to me that they **never took time** to look to God, until they were FLAT ON THEIR BACKS

--Most of us scurry about being **very busy**

--Troubles make us **stop** our ratrace & **THINK** on **things eternal**

--Perhaps that's **why** God sends trials--to **get our attention**!!

--**DON'T COMPLAIN** so loudly you **can't Hear Him** speaking to you

4-**PROFIT # 2**

-Don't get thrown by Satan's whisper that "You're in this mess **because you've SINNED.**"

--TRUE that God's law of **sowing & reaping** will be fulfilled

-**IF** you've **sinned**, you need to **CONFESS** it and **FORSAKE** IT

-But **if** 1 John 1:7 is **your experience**, don't let Satan **rob you** of your joy of salvation — Jas. 5:16 — "Confess your faults one to another..."

-Remember **John 9:1-3 (read)**

--Believe that **God is working** in your situation for HIS GLORY

--"The **works of God**"

** **Patience** under trial

** **ILLUS**--**Annie Johnson Flint**'s stabbing pains of **arthritis**, thru which she wrote: "**He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater.**"

** **Love** for the Savior

7

ILLUS--Fanny J. Crosby, who thru her blindness was moved to write with such feeling: "I long to see my Savior first of all"

5-PROFIT #3--Enlarged ability to appropriate the provision of God in your next trial because you've proven to yourself in this one that "GOD IS FAITHFUL"

6-Indeed: God sometimes sends "His love letters in black-edged envelopes", to use Spurgeon's figure of speech. "He allows us to taste the bitterness of want and the desolation of bereavement." Many of us have been there. Even when it looks as if things have gotten out of hand --------1 Cor. 10:13 is still true!!

7-Advice of 10:14-15 is good so as to leave the temptations behind

8-ILLUS--One day Bob was given definite instruction by his Mother not to go in swimming in the nearby pond. Shortly afterward, Bob was to pass the pond enroute to the ball park. HE TOOK ALONG HIS BATHING SUIT with him, just in case he was tempted. That was "making provision for the flesh."

How different it was with the godly Negro brother who said: "When I pass a watermellon patch, I can't keep my mouth from watering, but I CAN RUN."!!!

CONCLUSION:

For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

A.-Person Of Our Deliverance:

1-Heb. 2:18

3-Heb. 4:14-16

1-JESUS CHRIST is in heaven to succour us now in our "time of need"

B.-Provision Of Our Deliverance:

1-ILLUS--Escape hatch on submarines so as to allow HELP FROM ABOVE in case of an underwater disaster that cripples the sub & makes her unable to surface

--Diving Bell comes; connects; delivers the ones who are HELPLESS TO HELP THEMSELVES

2-1 Cor. 10:13 is like that for the believer

3-That's why I call it "The Escape Hatch Verse"

--Learn from Israel's failures (10:1-10) HISTORY

--Learn from Application as "FOR US" EXPERIENCE

--Claim God's PROVISION OF DELIVERANCE....today!!

LEARN the truth

CLAIM the provisions

4-PROP If we are to avoid spiritual failure, we must claim God's provision for our daily experience of victory

5-What to do? YOUR DECISION. HOW? 5 Steps

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

7/16/72 - Westbrae
4/4/76 - Calvary, Colo.
12/29/76 - Temple Bapt. Ch., Fredricksburg, VA.
7/24/77 - Daniels Mining Bapt. Ch, Daniels, WV
9/6/82 - A.B.C. Chapel
1/25/87 - O.K.B.C.
8/14/88 - Oak Hill Bible Church, WV
2/26/95 - Hilltop Baptist Church
2/7/99 - Grace Gospel Chi (PM)
2/8/09 - Putney Memorial Church
~~2/24/09~~ - Harpers Heights Bapt. Ch
~~3/1/09~~ - Hilltop Bapt. Ch - 2/7 + 3/5/10

#321 "Does Jesus Care?" (289)
175 "Are Ye Able" Said the Master (365)
496 "Jesus Never Fails" (274) Day By Day
I Must Tell Jesus 430
"When We See Christ" (149)

"Fellowship At The Table" 1 Cor. 10:14--11:1

1 Cor. 8:6-9

Intro: A.-What Was The Corinthian Temple?:
1-Idolatrous worship
2-Super-market; meat especially
3-Social center
4-Licentious immoralities
5-etc.

B.-What Laws For The Believer Are Involved?: (as enunciated earlier in 1 Cor.)
1-Liberty — 1 Cor. 6:12a
2-Love for the weak brother — 1 Cor. 8:9
3-Expediency — 1 Cor. 6:12b

C.-Who Addressed----"My Dearly Beloved":
1-Christians
2-Accepted in the Beloved
3-Objects of the Love of the Infinite God

D.-Injunctions:
1-FLEE from idolatry — 10:14 (Only safe method of avoiding sin!)
2-Spoken to WISE men who know the Word
3-Expected that they will be mature enough to JUDGE the truth that Paul writes

I.-FELLOWSHIP IN UNITY:

A.-Purpose Of Worship: (WORSHIP is by participation)
1-Fellowship with God (Rallying center for God's people)
2-Same word as "Communion" in 10:16, 20 - also = "PARTICIPATION"
3-ILLUS Adam in the Garden of Eden worshipped God & as a result he enjoyed fellowship with God
4-Unsaved don't need fellowship; they need Christ.
5-Elements won't help anyone who rejects the death they represent

B.-The Unity: — Emphasis on "ONE" — 10:17
1-One in Christ (BAKED TOGETHER than the "fire" of Calvary)
2-One Bread (Loaf)---same thought as 1 Flock in Jn. 10 (so "we all" are ONE)
3-One Body----accomplished by Baptism of the Spirit
4-All (CHRISTIANS)-partake of 1 bread--body of death
--body of His new life
-partake of 1 cup--sacrificial blood's efficacy
(Fellowship w/X + w/ other Xns. in the Lord's Table — 1 Jn. 1:1-3)
(Calling it The MASS)
5-Errors--no need of communion
--adding unscriptural practices (Closed Communion — Wine only for Clergy)
--failure to recognize that it is more than for our good, but for a TESTIMONY to PREACH Christ + a line of demarcation from the world

II.-FELLOWSHIP IN SEPARATION:

A.-Three Tables: (Passover + Peace Offerings)
1-Lord's--looks backward to the cross---appreciation
2-Israel's--looked forward to cross--anticipation (FULFILLED)
3-Idolatrous--Idol is nothing; that's true
--but it represents the Devil's power thru DEMONISM
--fellowship of Heathenism, no matter what title is called because Demons are behind anything not of God.
—That's why we are a MISSIONARY Church!

B.-The Separation:

1-Commanded to FLEE — 10:14

2-IMPOSSIBLE to have fellowship with both--CANNOT --2 Cor. 6:17

"Wherefore come out from among them & be ye separate, saith the Lord," 10:21

Criminal Inconsistency

3-Either Christ or Demons CHOOSE ONE!

4-Idolatry--Key to contact with demons --Saul & witch of endor

Failure to do so provokes the Lord to jealousy — 10:22

5-Fellowship requires real separation unto Christ

--not formalism"

--but reality

Our God is a jealous God — Exclusiveness!

Emotion arising from wounded love

Ecumenical WORSHIP IS IDOLATRY

--ILLUS--A young man is engaged to a beautiful young woman. She does not know that his ways are very careless, & by-and-by she learns that while he comes to visit her & treats her with kindness & affection, on other nights he is out with other young women & is just as affectionate & free with them. He comes back to her as though nothing has happened. Do you think she would accept him on the same good terms? NO; she would say, "You cannot go on with others if you expect me to be devoted to you alone." And so our Lord has called us to devotion to Himself that is wholehearted, and thus requires our separation from the world that has rejected our Saviour

--Used to be called THE SACRAMENT

--Oath of allegiance in Roman Legions to their Emperor

--So confessing our allegiance to Christ

--Taking communion is an open "PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE" to Jesus Christ — and to them above all every time we partake of it.

By going to the edge of the allowable one may be drawn into the sinful

term meant

III.-FELLOWSHIP IN GOOD CONSCIENCE:

A.-The Rules:

1--All things are lawful--------LIBERTY

2-All things are not expedient--EXPEDIENCY

3-All things edify not----------EDIFICATION

4-"Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth"----LOVE

10:23

5-ILLUS----Meat from shambles set before you

--OK if no issue made--10:25-27

--Refrain if issue made--10:28

B.-The Reasons:

1-Conscience of OTHERS to be considered--10:29

2-Question is not--"Is there any harm in it?"

3-But--"Will it help my walk with God before others?"

4-The glory of God in ALL---10:31

5-No offense (occasion of stumbling) to any

6-To any class--Jew --Gentile --Church of God

(differentiate Titus 1)

HAI 3:10

HAI 3:12

Short skirts Long hair Motion Pictures Alcohol Tobacco Make-up

No compromise of testimony

What HELP will it be to my testimony

NOT USEFUL to make in it to me; to others

--ILLUS****I have said to some, "ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN?" They have answered, "NO" "Wouldn't you like to be?" I have asked. "Well, I have sometimes thought so, but I have seen so many hypocrites among people professing to be Christians that I have not much interest." That is, of course, a very foolish excuse to make. It is as if I were to offer a man a 10 dollar bill and he said, "Thank you, but I have seen so many counterfeit bills I don't like to touch it."----It would be a very foolish way of reasoning. I do not excuse anyone for reasoning like that, for no one will talk that way in the judgment. When the Lord says, "Why didn't you trust Me?" no one will dare to look up & say, "I

have seen too many hypocrites or I would have."----But on the other hand we are to be careful that there be no possibility of people getting a wrong conception of Christianity because our lives are not what they should be.....

Concl: A. Fellowship At The Table:
1-In Unity — w/ the brethren — all of those who are truly born again
2-In Separation — from all ungodliness
3-In Good Conscience — Toward God, Man + Self

B. No Complicity of Any Kind:
1-Heathen temples
2-Heathen rites — as Secret Societies
3-Heathenism in church, home, work, etc
4-Eph. 5:11
5-But fellowship with Christ & Separation unto Him
--that honors God with true fellowshipping worship
--that lifts you up
--that testifies of Christ
--that helps others in their life with & for Christ
— God's standard is clear on this.

Only 3 possible Tables of Fellowship
— Lord's,
— Israel's
— Demons + idolatry

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them"

6-WHY THIS SEPARATION? — The glory of God 10:31
— The good of man 10:32
— BIBLE teaches it clearly!

7/24/64 - A.M. - Westbrae

7-Personal example — 10:33 — 11:1
— Follow me
— As I follow Christ
— Not the "historical" Jesus
— But the "actual + living" Jesus

Break Thou The Bread of Life — 99
Jesus Paid It All — 104
According To Thy Gracious Word — 91
Blest Be The Tie — 35

Westbrae - 2/2/69
3/9/69

"GOD'S GREAT GROUPINGS"=
"CONFUSED ABOUT DISTINCTIONS?"

1 Cor. 10:32
Read 1 Cor. 10:1 — 11:1
Gen. 9:11-17

INTRO: A.-The Walrus Is Right:

1-Most of us have no personal acquaintance with the walru
2-All acquainted with his convictions in rhymn
"The time has come," the Walrus said
To talk of many things;
Of shoes--and shipps--and sealing wax
Of cabbages--an kings"
3-Friends; The Walrus is right!.....The time has come
--problem of ships is admitted
--queues for shoes do not amuse
--cabbages have joined the vegetable aristocracy
--and kings--well! "Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown"
4-Seriously, what I intends to point out is, that so great has been the eruption of the lava of mere opinion from the volcano of human existence, that "THE TIME HAS COME" indeed when we MUST again speak of things and be understood in terms of definition.
--what is a ship?
--what is a king?
--what is a Christian ?
--what is a Jew?
--what is a Gentile?
5-Now pause & think before you answer. It is not so obvious nor so easy! Let me frankly confess that I do not represent myself as an authority on shoes or ships or sealing wax; neither do I know much about cabbages or kings.
6-But I can authoritatively tell you the difference between a Jew, a Gentile, & a Christian. And you will be amazed to know that your eternal welfare depends upon your having this very knowledge!

B.-Confused About Distinctions?:

1-One dear Gentile acquaintance of mine said, "Oh! we're all christians,".....and then naively added, "Aren't we?"
2-On another occasion I heard a Jewish friend refer to Adolph Hitler as a "CHRISTIAN"
3-And there's another funny, foolish fallacy current that Britain is Israel. I pause to warn you against this unscriptural, human theory. British-Israelism is anti-Semitic; A satanic delusion causing people to confuse Britain--an uncircumcised nation of Japetic origin--with Israel--a circumcised nation of Shemitic origin.
British Israelism
4-In the face of human opinion, so grotesquely & dangerously erroneous, I affirm THE WALRUS IS RIGHT! The time has come to speak of many things, & to speak of them in terms of accurate definitions.
5-What is a CHRISTIAN? What is a JEW? What is a GENTILE?
6*Let's turn from confused human opinion & find clear answers in the volume of Divine revelation!

C.-God's Great Groupings:
1-Human classifications are intricate & manifold
2-God has only 3 groupings for the entire race
3-These are: JEWS, GENTILES, CHURCH OF GOD
4-No more than 3
5-No less than 3
6-1 Cor. 10:32 "Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:"
7-"None"=="no one", " " " not even one
--admits of no residue beyond the 3 groups
--admits of no exclusions by the 3 groups
--Thus, these 3 are the full limit of God's divine groupings.

D.-Important Questions:
1-What Makes These Distinctions?
2-Can individuals pass from one group to another?
3-Does it matter what group one is in?
4-What is my relation to each to be as a believer?

PROP! To answer these Q's from God's Word

I.-WHAT MAKES THESE DISTINCTIONS?:

A.-Introductory Considerations:
1-Distinctions originate in God
2-Principle governing these groups is their relationship to God
3-Spiritual relationship is the SOLE PRINCIPLE which determines one's classification
4-Relation to any individual or institution does not effect your place in this
5-Let us develop these distinctions in a chronological order.

B.-Who Are The Gentiles?:
1-Before Abraham--all people of earth
--Whether Shemitic, Hamitic or Japhetic
--all were "GOYIM"=="Gentiles" Descendants from Noah
2-First man Adam--full fellowship
--Sin entered in
--Awful taint of sin transmitted to descendants
--All are born unregenerate, estranged from God & spiritually dead
--Rom. 5:12--"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, & death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."
3-But, altho mankind deserted God, God did not desert man!
4-Promise of redemption--Gen. 3:15
5-God established a covenant with Noah
--Gen. 9
--Gracious promises
--To all mankind --- "every living creature of all flesh"
--9:11-16; esp. 9:16
--A REMNANT responded & God gave them a spiritual birth and eternal life instead of only physical birth and temporal life
--But a MAJORITY of Gentiles remained unregenerate & estranged from God.

Read

6-Thus, as a RACIAL standing before God, the Gentiles failed
7-Eph. 2:11-12
8-All unregenerate Gentiles are today in the same spiritual condition & estrangement from God
9-THUS, from Adam to Abraham all were Gentiles; some were regenerate, but most were unregenerate.

Define "REGENERATE"

C.-Who Are The Jews?:
1-God did not abandon the Gentiles
--called one from among them
--We know him as Abraham
--Native of Ur of Chaldea
--Descended thru Heber in the 9th generation from Shem
--God called out Abraham to establish a righteous nation thru whom He could continue the revelation of Himself in blessing to all.
--Rom. 9:1-5 — esp. 9:4-5

Read

2-Unconditional covenant by God with Abraham
--Gen. 12:1-3
--Gen. 17; esp 17:7
--Thus, Abraham became the human founder & father of the Jewish nation, also known as Israel & the Hebrews
3-Spiritually, Israel was to be the Divine channel of God's self-revelation, both as the cradle of the Messiah, the seed of the woman, and as the custodian of the Holy Scriptures. God also promised Palestine to the Jewish nation in everlasting perpetuity of OWNERSHIP, & thus Abraham entered into covenant relationship with God, received circumcision as the token of that unconditional covenant (Gen. 17:11) & was redeemed by God (Isa. 29:22)
4-Abraham was born again into relationship with God, & all members of the nation he founded who believed as he did, constituted that faithful, regenerate remnant which was in marked contrast to the majority of Israel who, through unbelief, remained unregenerate.
5-Mosaic covenant--unlike the Abrahamic covenant--was conditional. In this Mosaic covenant God promised to make Israel a holy nation & a kingdom of priests unto Him (Ex. 19:5-6), in peaceful possession of Palestine, conditionally upon their implicit obedience to the Law of Moses. All Israel entered into this Mosaic covenant & promised to obey (19:8). The token of this Mosaic covenant to Israel (and to Israel only) was the 7th-day Sabbath (Ex.31:16-17)
6-Israel's national failure to keep this Mosaic covenant is historic & self-admitted. As the result of this failure, the Mosaic covenant is broken (Jer. 31:32). — "...which my covenant they brake..."
7-Just as a remnant of Gentiles responded & were regenerated by God, so also a remnant of Israel responded & were saved
8-But Israel nationally, thru the broken Mosaic Covenant, is presently estranged from God
9-Mt. 23:37-39
10-The blessings of the unconditional Abrahamic covenant are not thereby abrogated to Israel, & 1 day a regenerated Israel will enter nationally upon their enjoyment.
11-Thus, from Abraham to Messiah Jesus there Gentiles and Jews some regenerate & most unregenerate

12-A Jewish lady once said to me, "If Jesus was the Messiah, the One predicted by our prophets, why is it you Gentiles seem to enjoy the blessings that Jesus brings while we are bereft of them?"

I had to say, "My dear friend, the blessed Lord came & spread a table laden with all good things & said, 'I am not sent but to the lost sheep of the house of Israel' & He invited the people of Israel to come & partake of these good things, but they turned away & did not come; they rejected the Savior & the blessings He brought. It was then He threw wide the door to the Gentiles & said, 'COME IN', 'TAKE OF THE GOOD THINGS THAT ISRAEL REFUSED,' & that is why we've come in.

D.-What Is The Church?:

Read

1-Eph. 2:11-14

2-God foreknew the failure of the Gentiles racially & Israel Nationally, & in His foreknowledge promised & provided for redemption thru the seed of the woman, the Messiah

3-A new covenant was promised to Israel to replace the broken Mosaic covenant was expressly announced by Jeremiah (31:31-35), & really had its roots in Eden. The O.T. not only prophesied concerning the Person & work of Messiah, but actually declared the time of His coming (Dan. 9)

4-In God's set time Messiah Jesus came and he promised a FUTURE church (Mt. 16:18). The remnant of Israel then living were ready for Him & joyously received Him. These believing & thus regenerate Jews soon proclaimed the good news of redemption to both Israel & the Gentiles, & thousands of both Jews & Gentiles were born again into the Church of God which began at Pentecost

Term of popular derision

5-Messiah is a Heb. word meaning "ANOINTED ONE" Its Greek equivalent is "CHRISTOS", & in the popular language of the day in 42 A.D. at Antioch, these Jewish & Gentile disciples of the Lord were first called "CHRISTIANS"

6-The Christian church consists of individual Jews and individual Gentiles who have acknowledged their sinnership before God, & have accepted by sincere heart-belief God's Messiah Jesus as their own personal Savior & Lord. The atoning death, burial, & bodily resurrection of the Messiah is God's provision for guilty sinners

7-"The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin"--1 Jn. 1:7

8-These believing Jews & Gentiles, having thus established an individual & eternal relationship with God thru the gracious provision of the New Covenant, have been born again by the Holy Spirit of God. Thus, not PHYSICAL birth, but SPIRITUAL birth makes a Christian, whether that christian be Gentile-Christian or Jewish-Christian

9-Jn. 3:3-7

10-Christianity is not a code, nor even "another code" of ethics & morality; IT IS ESSENTIALLY A RELATIONSHIP TO A PERSON. When that relationship is established by faith eternal redemption is secured.

B.-Summarization:
1-Total of 3 categories--Gentile
--Jew
--Church of God
2-From 1st advent to now there are 3 CONCURRENT categories
--2 are natural (Jew & Gentile)
--1 is spiritual (church)
--2 are unregenerate
--1 is regenerate
3-Church comprising--INDIVIDUAL Jews
--INDIVIDUAL Gentiles
--all of whom have come to know & trust Christ for their sins forgiveness.
--United regardless of origins

II.-CAN INDIVIDUALS PASS FROM ONE CATEGORY TO ANOTHER?:

A.-Basic Considerations:
1-Answer is YES
2-Since distinctions are based on relationship to God, it is obvious that if one adjusts his relationship with God, God will transplant us from one category to another
3-God---and only God--can lift us out of the categories of the unregenerate & into the category of the regenerate

B.-Historical Cases:
1-Abraham--Gentile by birth
--Gen. 15:6--"And he (Abraham) believed in the Lord, and He counted it to him for righteousness."
--Jn. 8:56--"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad."
--Thus, Abraham moved out of the unregenerate Gentile category & became a regenerate Jew, & the Father of the Faith.
2-Again, when the Lord Jesus came to establish the Church of God--His Church, He graciously turned to Israel both nationally & individually. Israel rejected Him NATIONALLY, turned from the Trinitarian Judaism of Moses & the Law, & laid the foundations of present day Unitarian Judaism, so contrary to the O.T., which was the inevitable negation rendered necessary by Israel's blind NATIONAL following of the decision of the corrupt leaders of the time.
3-Actually the Trinitarian Judaism of Moses is organically related to true Christianity, as the bloom is to the stalk that bears it, hence true Christianity actually preceded Unitarian Judaism.
4-But what of individual Jews in the nation? Thousands of them responded to "the Light of the World"; it is interesting to remember that the first Christians were all Jews.
5-Before the advent of Adolph Hitler it was estimated that there were about 1 million Jewish-Christians in the world.
6-MOREOVER, the church today is a witness that God is in the business of receiving GENTILES into the household of faith, on an equal footing with Jews.

III.-DOES IT MATTER WHAT CATEGORY ONE IS IN?:

A.-Yes! Vitally And Eternally Important!:

1-Adam--sinful & fallen
--Head RACIALLY of unregenerate humanity
--Head of both Jew & Gentile in spiritual death

2-Only God can save the spiritually dead and He has done all He can, "For God so loved the world that He gave His onlybegotten Son that whosoever--JEW OR GENTILE--believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life"

3-Thus, that Messiah died for sins is called the gospel & is described as the power of God unto Salvation unto all who believe, to the Jew first, & also to the Gentile" (Rom.1;16). God's promised New Covenant in the Lord Jesus is the only hope for the individual Jew or Gentile.

4-Acts 4:12

5-Abraham is the NATIONAL Head of Israel

6-The Lord Jesus is the SPIRITUAL Head of all the redeemed, & all individuals since Pentecost who accept Him as Savior are born again by the power of the Spirit of God into eternal membership of God's church, redeemed by the precious Blood of the Lamb of God.

B.-Relationships: (Of A Believer)

1-Life without offense = "causing to stumble"
--Toward Jew, Gentile, & Church of God

2-Life of glorification of God----10:31

3-Life of pleasing others to the end that
--others be profitted
--others be saved
--Following Paul as he followed Christ

CONCLUSION:

A.-Ships WE've Seen:
1-Worthwhile to discuss these "ships"
2-Sinnership—Born a sinner
3-Relationships—Do you have this w/Christ?
4-Ownership—Who's in charge?
5-Fellowship—With whom do you SHARE?
6-Membership—Are you PART— God's family
— God's Church

B.-Acknowledgement:
1-When one acknowledges one's sinnership before God, & passes into ownership of God's Christ, & then, and only then, is one in the right relationship to God & in enjoyment of God's loving fellowship, & membership in His eternal kingdom

2-The WALRUS was right
--NOW is the time to talk of these "ships"
--NOW is the time to talk of serious issues and distinctions and decisions

3-The WALRUS was right
--Now let us get right
and be right too

Hymns
May Jesus Christ Be Praised — #1
Go To The Deeps Of God's Promise #330
Leaning On The Everlasting Arms 523

Westbrae-AM-4/19/64

"A TIME FOR REMEMBERING" 1 Cor. 11:23-26
Read 2 Tim. 2:1-26

INTRO: A.-Meaning Of"Remember":
1-The Book of ECCLESIASTES has a very famous passage in 3:1-8 (read)
2-Strange to me that there is omitted from that passage "A TIME FOR REMEMBERING"
3-Explainable in that Ecclesiastes is the viewpoint of a man "under the sun" (1:3--29 times in book) and such a man is SPIRITUALLY BLIND
4-Remembrance takes on its true perspective only in the child of God who is no longer "under the sun", but is now seated with Christ "in the heavenlies"
5-Def. of "REMEMBER"
==="To recall to mind something or someone out of the past"
==="To keep in mind some feeling or emotion"
6-Speaks of both--our ability to remember &
--the worthiness of the thing to be remembered

B.-Who Can Remember?:
1-Vegetables ??--------NO !
2-Minerals ??----------NO !
3-Animals ??----------Yes, but only on a limited, rote memory level
4-Man ??---YES !!
--We are "remembering creatures"
--2 Tim. 1:3
--2 Tim. 1:5
--2 Tim. 1:6
--2 Tim. 2:14
--ETERNALLY possessed of these qualities
--Luke 16:23-25

C.-Importance Of Remembrance:
1-Preserves the past
2-Colors the present
3-Influences the future
4-ILLUS--Battlecry of the Spanish/American War was:
"REMEMBER THE MAINE"
--That cry ** Preserved the past
** Colored the present, and
** Influenced the future

D.-"Remember" In The Bible:
1-The word is used many times
2-We'll touch on a number of them
3-Single out three:
I.-Remember Me--The Personal Cry
II.-Remember The Word--The Instructional Need
III.-Remember Jesus Christ--The Inspirational Direction

4-PROP:--Preparation of our hearts for COMMUNION
--Good for us to have "A Time For Remembering"

I.-"REMEMBER ME"---(PERSONAL CRY): Inter— WHAT should we remember?

A.-Begin With Oneself:
1-Some are concerned about the "heathen", or about friends and family
2-Place to begin is with YOU ! ----Others thereafter
3-Case Study--Thief on the cross (Luke 23:39-43
--Malefactor == "Evil doer"
--Guilty & he knew it
--Receiving his "just deserts" in the death penalty
--Sees himself a SINNER
--Knows his case is HUMANLY HOPELESS
--Turns head & heart to Jesus:
** "LORD"--Recognized Jesus as DEITY
** "Remember me"--Personal decision & request
--Request addressed to the PROPER PERSON; the only Savior
** "When Thou comest into Thy kingdom"
++ FAITH in the promises of God
++ Seeminly contrary to the present circumstances of Christ on the cross
++ Believed that God would "work it out" according to His plan
++ Believed there was a place with Christ for a sinner like him
--Did the ONLY THING open to him----Pled for HELP from Jesus Christ
--Promise of the Savior is clear
--Luke 23:43
4-Basic Question--Have you called to Jesus: "REMEMBER ME" ??
--Not optional
--ONLY WAY to heaven
--Acts 4:12
--Rom. 10:9-10

B.-Begin NOW:
1-Yesterday is not reclaimable
2-Tomorrow is beyond your grasp
3-NOW is the time!! --Eccles. 12:1
--2 Cor. 6:2--"..Behold now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation"
4-Eternal help is not in us
5-MUST look to God--Don't delay
--Do it NOW
--Join that evil-doer on the cross and ask Jesus Christ to "REMEMBER ME, LORD"
6-ILLUS--God does see, and hear and remember
--Cornelius--Acts 10:1-4
--Not saved, but turned to God the best he knew how
--God gave a messenger of truth in Peter
--Cornelius & his household HEARD
--Acts 10:33-----What a congregation!!
--Peter gives the gospel (10:34-43

--They believe without waiting for the sermon to end

7-YOU can do that right now !!

II.-REMEMBER THE WORD----(INSTRUCTIONAL NEED):

A.-Context Of John 15:

1-Intimacy of relationship--VINE and branches
--Not SERVANTS, but FRIENDS

2-Key words--"ABIDE"--9 times
--"FRUIT"--6 times
--"COMMANDMENTS" or "WORD"--8 times
--Wm. Mierop--"In John 15, the secret of abounding is ABIDING; the secret of abiding is OBEYING, and the secret of obeying is ABANDONMENT to Christ."

3-Out of this grows the preparation for persecution
--John 15:18-20
--Persecution came to the Savior
--Persecution is sure to come to His true followers
--This is because of the dead-set opposition of the WORLD
--Sinners will oppose ** Christ
** Christ's gospel
** Christ's Church
** Christ's followers
--EXPECT IT !!

B.-Command Of John 15:20:

1-Primarily an instruction regarding persecution

2-KEY PHRASE for the whole of our Lord's instruction!

3-"Remember The Word"--ALL of it
--27 Books of the N.T.
--39 Books of the O.T.
--2 Tim. 3:16-17
--1 Cor. 2;12-13

4-This is for believers to TAKE SERIOUSLY the Book and its contents so we can GROW..and
KNOW..and
SHOW our faith

C.-Considerations Because Of John 15:20:

1-WHOLE Bible is for our admonition and rememberance
--Not all Scripture is TO us
--But all Scripture is FOR us
--ILLUS ** Abraham was commanded to leave Ur of the Chaldees, his family and to go where God would guide him
** No such command in the N. T. for us
--ILLUS ** Sabbath Day
** Ex. 20:8-11
** Not a day of work, but of REST
** To be kept "HOLY"=="set apart to the LORD"
* ** NOT repeated in N. T., so we're not legalistically under a Sabbath day.

** NEW DAY set apart as "HOLY" in the N. T. as a day of worship and spiritual service.

** We ought to be as careful to honor God now with the Lord's Day because of love and thankfulness for salvation as the Jews were with the Sabbath Day out of fear of being stoned to death for any violations

2-Num. 15:38-41--Remember to do ALL the commandments
--Preventive of evil in the life
--Resulted in them "being holy unto your God"

3-Eph. 2:11-13--Don't boast of your past life
--It counted for NOTHING before God
--Only our relationship to the Savior is our confidence
--Now I am "made nigh by the blood of Christ"

4-Acts 20:35--Laboring & giving to support the weak
--These are to be REMEMBERED as the "Words of Jesus"
--"It is more blessed to give than to receive"
--We're all left here to minister--Leaders & people alike !!

5-3 John 9-11--Evil doers are to be remembered for their evil deeds
--REBUKE is their due
--We are not to follow them in evil
--Separation is expected

6-Luke 17:32--"Remember Lot's wife"
--SHORT, but not sweet
--Warning not to "look back" to what we've been saved OUT OF.....leave it be, or you'll go down to destruction with it.
--Decisiveness is needed, and then stick-to-it-iveness to follow thru
--Otherwise we'll lose our effectiveness

7-Mal. 3:16--Book of Remembrance
--Fellowship of God's people
*--Their talk centered on the LORD
--He heard them and wrote down a testimony of the fellowship of the faithful
--May we be ones who are included !!

III.-REMEMBER JESUS CHRIST-----(2 Tim. 2:8) IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME------(1 Cor. 11:23-26):

A.-Remember His Sacrifice:

1-Reminded thru a MEMORIAL CEREMONY
--1 Cor. 11:23
--Instituted personally by the Savior
--After the Passover & Judas' departure
--Meal of Memory for the believers
--PURPOSE--"This do in REMEMBRANCE of Me"(11:24, 25)

2-Remembrance of His sacrificial death
--For sinners like us
--For satisfaction of the righteous demands of the Father

--Lev. 17:11--"For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."
--KJV reads "this is my body which is BROKEN for you"
--Margin reads "is for you"
--Lk. 22:19 reads: "This is my body which is given for you."
--His body was bruised & bleeding, but it was NOT BROKEN !!
--Ex. 12:46
--Num. 9:12
--Ps. 22:16
--Ps. 34:20
--John 19:33-37
--Let's be ACCURATE about His offered body

3-Remembrance of His New Covenant (11:25)
--Gentiles were strangers to the old covenant of the Mosaic Law
--Gentiles will not be partakers of Israel's New Covenant (Jer. 31)
--"Covenant"==Testament==Will, in the sense of a legal document
--NEW COVENANT purchased by Christ's blood
--Heb. 10:18 'Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.'
--Pays the price of our entrance into heaven
--Acts 20:28--"...the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

4-Remembrance that He gives NEW LIFE
--Christ in us=======POSITION
--Christ for us======HELP
--Christ with us=====Comfort
--Christ thru us=====SERVICE

5-Reminded of His soon-coming--1 Cor. 11:26
--Not far off
--Closer all the time
--Rom. 13:11
--Shows an ABSENT Lord
--Expects a COMING Lord
--This memorial is to be repeatedly celebrated "til He comes"...
...SOON, we hope !!

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

B.-Remember His Resurrection Also:
1-He's DIFFERENT !!--Moses is DEAD
--Confucius is DEAD
--Mohammed is DEAD
--Buddah is DEAD
--Mary Baker Glover Patterson Eddy is DEAD
--Joseph Smith is DEAD
--BUT JESUS CHRIST IS ALIVE !!

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

2-Christ died--1 Cor. 15:3-4
--Died for us that we might live !!
--Raised to prove our forgiveness
--Rom. 4:25--"Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification."
--That sacrifice was ACCEPTED BY THE FATHER

3-Forever alive--2 Tim. 2:8--"Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead,
--Keep your attention on HIM
--Never to die again
--He's on the resurrection side of the grave
--Because HE LIVES, we live also

4-Therefore we ought to keep our eyes on Jesus
--Heb. 12:2
--Then we can say: "In God will I praise His word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me." (Ps. 56:4)
--Our enemies & problems will be in perspective
--ILLUS--Josh. 5:13-15

CONCLUSION:

A.-Remember---"ME":
1-Get right with God thru Jesus Christ
2-Soul salvation straight and sure
3-Personal matter for you
4-But it is IMPERATIVE that this be settled

B.-Remember--"WORD":
1-Get correct on doctrinal and practical basis
2-Intelligent & informed relationship
3-KNOW-SO
4-Stability comes thru the Word
5-Instructional matter---GROW DAILY in this area

Yes, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance...

C.-Remember---"CHRIST":
1-Heart right...
2-Then get your head full of the Word
3-But also to have our emotions stirred:
4-HOW GREAT THOU ART !!
5-Appreciation for Him
6-Inspired by our relationship to Him & growth in knowledge
7-ILLUS--"Remember Pearl Harbor"
** Personal involvement of every American
** Knowledge of enemy and of our weapons
** Dedication of ourselves to the task

This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance...

--HOW ABOUT YOU ?? ** 2Pet. 1:13; 3:1
--Are you STIRRED UP because of your relationship to the Living Christ Who died for your sins ??

Westbrae--7/9/72--#38--"Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us" 294
Daniels M.B.Ch. 12/4/77 #33--"Jesus, The Very Thought Of Thee" 58
#114--"The Wonderful Story"
#148--"Nearer, My God To Thee" 357

"COMING TO THE LORD'S TABLE" 1 Cor. 11:17-34
Luke 22:13-16

INTRO: A.-Confusion That Exists:

1-IN TERMS USED:

--"Communion"==To fellowship & communicate togeth er

--"Lord's Table"==Table that belongs to the Lord; not to a church or denomination

--"Lord's Supper"--Time of fellowship with the Lord around the elements

--"Eucharist"==Lit. "A thanksgiving"; "A cause for praise"

--"Mass"==Roman Catholic term for the celebration of the Eucharist
** Low Mass; With words
** High Mass; Sung with music

--"Sacrament"==A commitment; A pledge of Allegiance (Rome has 7; Protestants either 2 or 3

--"Ordinance"==Teaching and practice of the Church authorized by Christ in the Bible

2-IN THE TRAPPINGS:

--Biblically authorized----BREAD & CUP

--Man-added----Crosses, Altars, Candles, Chalices Censers & Vestiments

--We ought to center on the simple basics

3-IN THE MEANING:

--No wonder there's a confusion abroad

--So much added to the simple ceremony that its message has been corrupted & obscured

B.-Essence Of Communion:

1-"THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME"

2-Jesus Christ--DIED ** Remember His death for us
** Divinely provided Substitute
** Savior of our souls
** Cross is EMPTY now

--BURIED

--RESURRECTED ** Both the cross & the tomb are EMPTY
** We have a LIVING SAVIOR

--SEEN

--ASCENDED TO HEAVEN

--COMING AGAIN.....soon

--Feed on Jesus Christ in your heart
** In this ceremony
** In your daily life
** John 6:51-58
** Mt. 5:6--"Blessed are they that hunger & thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled"
** Phs. 3:10--"That I may KNOW HIM, and the fellowship of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death."

3-Early Church's Practice
--Acts 2:46b--"...and breaking bread from house to house did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart."
--Acts 20:6-7
** On the Lord's Day (1st day of the week)
** Always connected with preaching of the WORD (Jn. 15:3; 17:17; Eph. 5:26; Acts 20:32; 1 Cor. 1:21-25)
** Not enough to just gather to "break bread"

C.-Instruction Concerning Communion:
1-Classic Passage---1 Cor. 11:17-34
2-Outline: I.-DISORDERS At The Lord's Table:
II.-DIRECTIONS COncerning The Lord's Table:
III.-DISCIPLINE Connected With The Lord's Table:
3-Prop:--Understandingof the meaning of this ceremony
--Avoid the disorders
--Examine our own selves
--Avoid discipline that is inevitable if we fail to honor our HEAVENLY FATHER

I.-DISORDERS AT THE LORD'S TABLE: (1 Cor. 11:17-22)

A.-Rebuke # 1:
1-Seen in 11:17
2-Contrast with 11:2
3-Rebuke related to their "coming together"
4-Not for the better, but for the worse
5-Serious matter that calls forth Apostolic REBUKE

B.-Division Into Parties: (11:18-19)
1-Pattern for this Corinthian Church (see 1:10-13)
2-Matter of FIRST IMPORTANCE to deal with this
--Body of Christ is united
--Schism is unthinkable
--Sect divisions are an evidence of carnality
3-YET --Heresies are inevitable
--And heresies are also useful
--Because they show who is "APPROVED" of God among a congregation
--Nonetheless unpleasant & injurious

C.-Distractions From Communion: (11:20-21)
1-Come together for a "PRE-COMMUNION EATING TIME"
2-Why was this done???
--Love feasts (Jude 12--"These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you...")
--Slaves brought a "sack lunch" because they came directly from work to worship
3-Degenerated situation--Rich ones brought sumptuous meals
--Refusal to share & share alike
--Gluttony & "show" had taken over
4-SINGLENESS OF PURPOSE NEEDED as we come to the Lord's Table

D.-Rebuke # 2:
1-11:22
2-Table of the Lord to be separate from DEMONS (Ch. 10) or from BANQUETS (Ch. 11)
3-Rebuke is the responsibility of spiritual leaders
4-Tit. 2:15--"These things speak and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee."

II.-DIRECTIONS CONCERNING THE TABLE: (11:23-28)

A.-As To History:
1-11:23-26
2-Communion instituted by Christ Himself
3-Observance--Daily
--Weekly
--Monthly
--Quarterly
4-"TIL HE COMES"

B.-As To Attitude And Meaning:
1-Observed "IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME"
--11:24, 25
=="Calling to mind"; Idea of intensively DWELLING UPON
--MEMORIAL of Christ until His second coming
2-Done with appreciation for our Savior
3-"Showing forth"=="PREACHING FORTH"
4-1 Cor. 1:18-21

C.-As To Procedures:
1-BREAD-------Speaks of His Body (11:24)-----OFFERED
2-CUP---------Speaks of His Blood (11:25)----SHED
3-SELF-EXAMINATION
--So as to avoid improper participation in communion if SIN being practiced
--So as to avoid improper exclusion, for communion will strengthen you
--Personal examination of one's own self
** In the family??--2 Cor.13:5--"Examine your selves, whether ye be in the faith;prove your own selves."
** In Fellowship??--1 Cor. 11:28; 1 John 1:9
** In progress pattern ??--2 Pet. 1:4-11
4-ALTERNATIVE is discipline; Judgment of God upon His erring child/

III.-DISCIPLINE CONNECTED WITH THE TABLE: (11:29-34)

A.-Explanation Of Discipline: (11:29)
1-KJV "damnation"==Discipline, household judgment"
2-Because of unworthy participation
3-What does that mean ??
--Because of unworthiness in approach
** Sin unconfessed & not forsaken

** Coming in OWN WORTHINESS, instead of Christ's
--Because of undiscerning attitudes
** HOLY approach
** REVERENT attitude
--Because of lack of unity with the BODY

B.-Experience Of Discipline: (11:30-32)

1-Stages--11:30 (weak, sickly, sleep)
--Deals with SIN UNTO DEATH (1 John 5;16)
--Gradual in some cases
--Instantaneous in others (Acts 5)
--Many christians are in a SPIRITUAL COMA because of unconfessed sin

2-Alternatives--11:31
--Judge selves (but they are not, acc. to Gk.)
--Judged by God.
--ILLUS--Daniel 10:12--"Then said he unto me, 'Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou dist set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.'"
--Self-judgment will preclude chastisement

3-Chastened of the Lord--11:32
--N.B. ** NEVER CONDEMNATION !!
** Rom. 8:1
** That's already settled for the child of God
--Discipline of God
** Always remedial
** Never punitive
** Part of our proof of sonship
** Heb. 12:6-8
** God desires our PROFIT
** Heb. 12:10-11
** So we don't identify with the world & get judged with it
** PUT AWAY the things of the world, the flesh & the devil

C.-Exhortation Of Discipline: (11:33-34)

1-"Wherefore" indicates the consummation of the argument
2-"BRETHREN" are the ones addressed
3-"Tarry one for another"--SHARE IN UNISON; Be in harmony
--So as to avoid discipline; Exercise self-discipline
--See how a little matter can get out of hand & hurt the body

4-Other Issues--Settled in due time
--FIRST THINGS settled first
--Immediate dealing with that which hinders
--1 John 1:9

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

CONCLUSION:

A.-Summary:

1-Disorders--Rebuked
--Divisions are to be put away
--Distractions are to be put away also

2-Directions--As to History of Communion
--As to Attitude & Meaning in partaking
--As to Procedures

3-Discipline--Explained
--Experienced
--Exhorted

B.-High Point Of Believer's Worship:

1-Present before God

2-Heart the Word preached

3-Cleansed from all sin

4-Filled with the Spirit

5-COMMUNING WITH CHIRST----"This do in remembrance of Me"

Westbrae--10/7/73--#2--"O Could I Speak"
#55--"At The Cross"
#33--"Jesus, The Very Thought Of Thee"
#26--"In The Cross Of Christ"

Worship At The Lord's Table 1 Cor. 11: 17-34

Intro: A.-Purposes Of Salvation:-
1-Service---Tell others ofChrist
--Be God's Ambassadors
2-Worshipful fellowship--Jn. 4:24
--1 Jn. 1:3-4

B.-Communion:
1-High point of worship
2-Remembrance of Christ
3-Spiritual renewal & recharging (A "means of grace")
4-Forces us to "keep short accounts"
5-Key passage---1 Cor. 11

#5-2-26-33-55-57

I.-THE LORD'S TABLE SHOULD UNITE; NOT DIVIDE

A.-Equality Of Believers:
1-No cliques
2-No parties
3-No family pre-eminence
4-No monetary distinctions
5-No divisions
6-All sinners saved by grace

B.-Love Feast In New Testament Times:
1-All brought food----PRE-MEAL
2-Designed as Love feasts---Jude 12
3-Planned so slaves didn't have to go home before the meeting
4-Led to gluttony, jealousy, & drunkenness
5-Led to ridicule of the poorer brethren — PRIDE + PARTY SPIRIT
6-Led to lack of proper attitudes at Communion which followed
7-Same problems not existent today---(BUT)-- Many still come to the Lord's Table CARELESSLY and THOUGHTLESSLY & DIVISIVELY
8-This is not praiseworthy--11:22

II.-THE LORD'S TABLE WAS ESTABLISHED BY GOD; NOT MAN:

A.-Establishment And Control:
1-What man established he may control (within God's laws)
2-What God establishes HE controls & not man
3-Established by Christ
4-Received by Paul from Christ
5-Therefore, to be carried out as the LORD'S Table & not man's
6-Open to whom?????---ALL TRUE BELIEVERS

B.-Content Of Service:
1-Not as a whip over men
2-But as an aid to their faith
3-Details---Time — on 1st day of week
--Thanks — as oft as ye eat...
--Bread
--Cup
--Remembrance-----a Look UPWARD to Him

III.-THE LORD'S TABLE IS A FEAST OF REMEMBRANCE AND HOPE

A.-Look Backwards:
1-To the cross---HIS DEATH
2-To the completed sacrifice
3-In grateful remembrance

B.-Look Forward:
1-To His coming again
2-Blessed hope---Tit. 2:13
3-Preach HIM in this service

IV.-THE LORD'S TABLE MUST BE APPROACHED WITH REVERENCE & CARE:

A.-Look Inward:
1-To see if you're genuinely saved---2 Pet. 1:10-11
2-To see if you can approve yourself before God
--Walking in the light--1 Jn. 1:7
--Thus worthy of participation
--Because all sin is under the blood
--Sins of flesh, spirit & soul
--ALL ARE EQUALLY REPUGNANT TO GOD
--Cure is 1 Jn. 1:9
3-Each examining HIMSELF alone----TRULY REPENTANT
4-Avoid discipline of God by self discipline
5-Otherwise--weak
--sickly
--asleep in Jesus
--many in a SPIRITUAL COMA because of UNJUDGED SIN
6-IF we judge ourselves, God won't have to judge us
7-Come with reverence & care

B.-Look Outward:
1-On a condemned world
2-Be a better witness------BEGIN HERE & NOW
3-Keep the feast--1 Cor. 5:7-8

Conclusion: A.-Perspective:
1-Look upward to Him
2-Look backward to the Cross
3-Look forward to His Coming
4-Look inward to self
5-Look outward to a needy world

C.-Ceremony:
1-Children as allowed by parents
2-For all true believers
3-Hold elements & partake together.

"COMMUNION" 1 Cor. 11:17-34

Intro:--A.-Prevailing Ignorance of it's meaning
1-Not preached
2-Not studied for ones-self
3-Therefore: Not clear & much less meaningful.
B.-Communion--
1-With a PERSON
2-By Persons who KNOW Him--Phil.3:10 "that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, & the fellowship of His sufferings."
3-ILLUS---The little lad slipped silently into the room where his father sat behind the big desk, busy over his business. For a moment the boy stood by the door, then noticed the chair close by the desk, moved over & seated himself. Not a sound passed his lips. He just sat there & watched his father working.....At length the man noticed him, eyed him keenly, & then inquired, gruffly, "Can't you see that I am very busy? What do you want this time?" The lad's eyes lowered for a moment. When he replied, the tone of voice matched the look of injury in his eyes. "Want, Father? Want? I....I....I don't want anything really. I...I just wanted to come in, sit down & look at you, that's all. The father who told of the incident turned aside with a trace of a tear in his eyes. "Indeed I felt very humble & convicted," he said. "The Lord had used my own boy to teach me the meaning of true communion with HIMSELF."

I.-WHY CELEBRATE THE COMMUNION OR LORD'S SUPPER????
A.-Command Of Christ:
1-He gave the ordinance to believers only
2-Given to show our OBEDIENCE to Him--Jn. 15:13-14 "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."
3-Christ instituted this ordinance on night before His death.
4-Significance of Communion centers in CHRIST HIMSELF.
B.-Reminder--"remembrance"--"call to membry" concerning Christ. Lk.22:19-20
1-ILLUS--New preacher's prompting Scroll--"calls to memory" by means of the subject passing slowly before the speaker. So we Christians are to call to memory Christ."
2-REMINDER Of Death
--Our Savior died--1 Cor. 11:26 "shew forth the Lord's death"
--Our Savior died for sinners--Rom. 5:6-8
--Our Savior's death was satisfactory in the Father's sight.
--Reminds us of the PRICE that was paid, & the PERSON who paid it.
3-REMINDER of The New Covenant:
--We are strangers to Israel's old covenant--Eph. 2:11-13
--We are not made partakers of Israel's new covenant--different provisions in it than for grace age.
--We are taken out of Adam's curse & made worthy for heaven Col. 1:12-13
--New Cov. is for HEAVENLY people with a heavenly calling, citizenship, hope, & life.
4 Reminder of NEW Life Now
5-REMINDER Of His Soon-Coming:
--"til He comes"--1 Cor. 11:26
--Shows forth an ABSENT Lord who is now in heaven because of His acceptable sacrifice.
--Shows forth the expectation of His soon returning.
C.-Symbolic Meanings of Communion:
1-Union of Christ with the Believer--
--Absent from view, yet bound by His love
--Inseparable union between Christ,& Believers & other XNS
ILLUS
ILLUS--Giant with HEAD above the clouds is nonetheless united w. all parts of Body

2-Absence of the Lord Bodily
--Communion celebrated as a memorial looking back
--Communion celebrated as a HOPE looking forward.
--As Jewish altar & Lamb was in the absence of the Lord a memorial of the Coming Lord, So the Communion altar & elements is in the absence of the Coming Lord a true memorial

II.-WHO HAS PART IN THE COMMUNION?????

A.-Whose Table Is It???
1-"my body" & "my blood"
2-"remembrance of Me"
3-The LORD'S Table
4-Open to all who are HIS--True Believers welcome; young or old
--All others are EXCLUDED

B.-Restrictions:
Illus - girl at Brethren Ch. in Dallas
1-Mostly man-made
2-God's restrictions:--must be one of His--Born again
--must be self-examined
1 Cor. 11:27-29
--no known sin
--no known disobedience
--must be discerning

C.-Who Serves????
1-Preacher??--The ministry of the WORD & PRAYER
2-Biblical Statement--Acts 6:1-7--DEACONS to be the serving & ministering ones.

III.-HOW & WHEN SHOULD COMMUNION BE CELEBRATED????

A.-Posture:
1-sitting in pews--because of crowds & for convenience
2-kneeling--oldest form though slower
--helps to humble us.

B.-Time of Day:
1-No restrictions given
2-Often in LATE night meetings in the early church.

C.-Place:
1-Church primarily; for it is an ordinance for God's church on earth to help communion
2-Other places when 2 or more Christians are gathered:
--shut-ins
--camps & conferences
--conventions
--Anniversaries
--schools
--before a time of ministering
3-Worship is not related to a PLACE but to a PERSON**Jn.4:20-24

D.-Elements:
1-Bread--unleavened wafers broken & distributed
2-Wine--THREE KINDS**New & unfermented
**Wine concentrate--fermented to help it keep, but greatly diluted before drinking
**Strong wine--for getting drunk
--New wine must have been used because all kinds of leaven & fermentation were prohibited from passover meal & Passover Season. Ex. 12:8, 15, 17-20.
--Likely each disciple had his own cup

E.-Frequency:
1-Daily--Acts 2:42, 46
2-Sunday--Acts 20:6-8
3-"As Oft"--1 Cor. 11:26

Concl - Recap - Why = Commanded
= Reminder
= Symbolic
Who — Believers

THE LORD'S SUPPER I COR. 11:17-34 LOOKING AT THE LORD'S TABLE

Intro. 1.-Lord's Supper reminds me of a RR track, for it is a landmark that runs straight back to the Cross where the Remembrance of the Savior began and straight ahead to the time when Christ comes for the church that it may be with Him in Heaven.

2.-Survey of the Passage.

a.-Rebuke of disorders--11:17-22.
Not over the Lord's table, but a pre-meal.

b.-Review of the Supper--11:23-32.
1.-Christ's order 11:23-25
2.-Paul's addition 11:26-28
3.-Worthiness or Worthily. 11:29-32

c.-Resultant appeal--11:33-34.

3.-Five LOOKS (Up, Back, Forward, Inward, Outward).

I.-UPWARD LOOK of the Lord's Table-"This do in Remembrance of me" 11:24, 25.

A.-This do--a matter of obedience to Christ--His command Jn. 15:14

B.-In Remembrance-- Word has active significance of "Calling to mind" & then "dwelling upon"

Illus My Bible Scotch Lassie

C.-Of Me--object of our upward look is the Lord Himself. A Person & not just a doctrine or a theory.

1.-Adoration--PERSON
2.-Appreciation--WORK
3.-Appropriation--POWER
Heb. 12:2-3

4.-Illus. Ralph Norton recently wrote in Moody Monthly of witnessing a communion service in a large church. Several women took of the bread as it was passed, then reached for their compacts, began regarding their mirrors, touched up their complexion, added rouge to their lips, then replaced their compacts just in time to reach for the Communion cup being extended toward them. This is an illus. of what Communion is NOT. May we not be guilty of similar superficiality. Contra. Indian who "Thinks Jesus"

II.-BACKWARD LOOK of the Lord's Table-"Ye do shew forth the Lord' death" 11:26.

A.-This look takes us back to the Cross and what the Savior did for us there.--Death, not life alone. Bruised + Bleeding, but not Broken - Remember what Calvary COST

B.-This look reminds us of our sins washed clean. 1 Cor. 6:9-11

C.-This look is basis of our TESTIMONY as a church here on earth.

1.-"shew forth" = "preach abroad", "declare."

2.-illus. of girl in Plymouth Brethren assembly in Dallas who first learned she was LOST thru the Lord's Supper.

III.-FORWARD LOOK of the Lord's Table-"Till He come" 11:26

A.-Coming of Christ to take her to be with Him.

1.-Promise of Christ himself- - Jn. 14:1-3.

2.-Hope of the Church thru the ages. Tit. 2:13.

B.-Hope of Israel--Time of removal of her blindness Rom11:25 (27)

C.-The time of the end of a MEMORIAL for the church and the beginning of the enjoyment of His VISIBLE PRESENCE.

D. Redemption of the WORLD from its curse "when He comes" — Rom. 8:18-22

Individual + Personal + Private

IV.-INWARD LOOK of the Lord's Table-"Examine himself" 11:28-29.

A.-Judge sin in your own life--private & relatively easy.

B.-Otherwise God will have to do it, & this is often painful. 2 Pet. 1:10-12

1.-Sin unto death of I Jn. 5:13-17.

2.-Progressive in severity-- I Cor. 11:30

3.-Sometimes public.--Acts 5. -Instantaneous!

C.-All are unworthy, but the point of the admonition is that we do not partake unworthily.

1.-Not the PERSON, but the MANNER.

2.-I Jn. 1:6,7,9 or Heb. 12:6. WALK in FELLOWSHIP or WALK under DISCIPLINE

3.-ILLUS. The quaint Scottish saint, "Rabbi" Duncan was minister of a Perthshire parish. One Communion Sunday he observed a woman, troubled by lack of "assurance", passing the cup untasted. He stepped down, took the cup, and handed it back to her, saying in broad Doric; "Tak' it, woman, tak' it; it's for sinners."

4- People may withdraw from the Table, but no one has the right to withdraw the Table From the People. - Earl Ward

V.-OUTWARD LOOK of the Lord's Table-"Condemned with the world" 11:32.

A.-Not possible for the Christian. Hallelujah

1.-Rom. 8:1, 38-39.

2.-Jn. 3:18; 5:24.

B.-Verdict of God upon the unsaved & this world system.

1.-Jn. 3:18

2.-Eph. 2:1-3

C.-Outward Look should spur us to:

1.-Remember the Lord--Person

2 Remember His Death--Work

Remember Till He Come--The time it is --2 Cor. 6:2

Remember to examine self--Clean vessels.

2.-TAKE them the message as it was brought to us. Mt. 28:19--GO YE.

3.-ILLUS. Physical eyesight is one of God's best gifts to men--but there is something better. A devoted Christian woman has suffered from dimming sight, and recently a physician was examining her eyes. He did not find much encouragement in his first examination, and expressed his sympathy. She was not disturbed, but told him, in a true and radiant Christian testimony, how good the Lord had been to her and her husband. The physician made a reply that is worth remembering, "You have no eyesight," he said, "but you have vision." And he spoke the truth--for she sees and rejoices in eternal treasures that can never be taken from her.

Prov. 29:18

What we need is a vision to see not only what God has done for us, but a vision to see that what God has done for us, HE CAN ALSO DO FOR OTHERS.

CONCL. 1.-Recapitulate.

2.-Administer the Lord's Supper.

Look Upward - Remembrance of Me

Look Backward - Cross

Look Forward - Coming

Look Inward

Look Outward

Self-Examination

Isa 45:22 LOST WORLD

"to the Lamb of God" looked Have You ?

Jesus, I Am Resting, Look To + 26 v

HYMNS:

- I Love Him
- Why Should He Love Me So. #90
- 5/2/65 - Westbrae
- 10/29/67 "

"The Story Of Jesus"

1 Cor. 11:24-25

Read Isaiah 9:1-13

Intro: A.-Subject:
1-Dearest to our hearts
2-Ever fresh; Always inexaustable
3-Seven Positions of Christ

I.-PRE-INCARNATE SON OF GOD:

A.-Christ Is God:
1-Isa. 9:6 & Mic. 5:2 — "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." "But thou Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."
2-ILLUS----One day a 6-yr. old lad came to his mother with this question: "Mother, who made God?"----Instantly the mother's face expressed astonishment & chagrin. Presently she said curtly, "What an awful question to ask. You had better run along & play."..... ...In another part of the community another lad approached his mother and asked, "Did God make himself?"-----His mother presently left her work , breathing a silent word of prayer. Taking off her wedding ring she gave it to her son & asked, "Where does this ring begin & where does it end?".....Before long the boy answered, "There is not starting or stopping place to a ring."..... .The mother remaked, "Just so it is with God. There is not any beginning or end to Him. He always has been & always will be."

B.-Christ Is The Creator:
1-Col. 1:15-17 READ — Also John 1:1-3
2-Firstborn before every creature
2-Maker, Purpose, & sustainer — "By Him all things consist"
"BY Him" "FOR Him"

II.-INCARNATE SON OF GOD:

A.-Birth At Bethlehem:
1-Supernatural union of 2 natures
2-Mediator---Son of God
---Son of Abraham, David, Mary, & Man
3-Prophet, Priest & King — Offices of Messiah

B.-Transfiguration:
1-Glory normally veiled during incarnation
2-Let us see a peek at transfiguration----Jn. 1:14
3-Preview of the Mill. — So considered in 2 Pet. 1:16-18
4-Godhead seen in Christ
5-ILLUS-----Leonardo da Vinci took a friend to criticize his masterpiece of the "Last Supper," and the remark of the friend was, "The most striking thing in the picture is the CUP."..... .Theartist took his brush & wiped out the cup as he said, "NOTHING in my painting shall attract more attention than the face of my MASTER."

C.-Gethsemane:
1-Last stop before Calvary
2-Christ prayed for some other way
3-Yet willing to do God the Father's will
4-Manhood proven fully-------Heb. 5:8 — "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered."

D.-Calvary:
1-Shadow of death til now
2-Death itself is now upon Him
3-1 Pet. 2:24 "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by
4-Our substitute, for WE deserved to be there whose stripes we are
5-Nailed there alive to die that we might LIVE healed."

6-ILLUS----A lady once said to a Jewish lad in Cairo, "Are you expecting your Messiah soon?"

"Yes," he replied, "we believe He will come within six years."

"Will He have wounds in His hands?" she asked inquiringly, and, as he looked at her, she continued, "Your Prophet Zechariah said of Messiah that when He comes, they shall say unto Him, "What are these wounds in Thine Hands?" Then shall he answer, "Those with which I was wounded in the house of My friends" (Zech. 13:6). Are you expecting to see your Messiah with wounds in His hands?????"

The lad left, but appeared the following morning looking greatly distressed. He said: "I could not sleep last night. All night I was asking myself, 'If He has wounds in His hands, how did He get them?" I have come to ask you if you can tell me more."

Imagine her joy to tell one who was eager to hear the wondrous story of the Cross, Where He was wounded for our transgressions..... He received Jesus, the crucified One as His Messiah & Savior then.

III.-DEATH OF THE SON OF GOD-

A.-Sufferings:
- 1-Unknown to man
- 2-Sufferings for sin----"The just for the unjust"
- 3-Ps. 22

B.-Death:
- 1-Sacrificial----BLOODY
- 2-Substitutionary******HE FOR ME
- 3-Real-----Col. 1:20, 22 READ

C.-Burial:
- 1-As Scapegoat to remove sin
- 2-Gone, Gone, Gone----Yes, My sins are GONE!!!!.

IV.-RESURRECTION OF THE SON OF GOD:

A.-Who Raised Him?:
- 1-Father---Acts 2:24, 32 — "Whom God raised up" / "This Jesus hath God raised up"
- 2-Son Himself----Jn. 10:17-18
- 3-Spirit---1 Pet. 3:18 — "quickened by the Spirit

B.-Why Raised?:
- 1-Because of WHO He is-----Rom. 1:3-4 READ
- 2-Because of WHAT He did---Rom. 4:25 — "Who was delivered for our offenses + was raised again for our justification."
- 3-Because of WHERE He was going----Heaven
- 4-Because of WHAT He had YET to do.....
- 5-ILLUS----Boy in Tulsa listening to his Pastor preach on the Resurrection of Jesus from the grave on an Easter sunday. The preacher asked the rhetorical question, "Who is this Jesus that came forth alive from the grave?"""""".....Loud & clear came forth the little boy's voice answering, "GOD."

V.-ASCENSION AND PRESENT SESSION OF THE SON OF GOD:

A.-Ascension:
- 1-To be with the Father
- 2-To prove the Father's satisfaction — God is SATISFIED w/ Jesus
- 3-To give us assurance of FULL SALVATION — ∴ I can be satisfied too!

B.-Session:
- 1-Authority; Headship; Bestowal of gifts
- 2-Advocacy & Intercession

VI.-SECOND COMING AND KINGDOM OF THE SON OF GOD:

A.-Two Parts To Coming:
1-Rapture---Coming FOR His church
2-Revelation---Coming WITH His church
3- Communion preaches the Lord's death "til He come"

B.-Kingdom Established:
1-Power, glory, judgment
2-Peace & righteousness
3-1000 years
4-Satan bound
5-Israel's covenants fulfilled

VII.-CONCLUSION OF MEDIATION:

A.-Final Events:
1-Loosing Of Satan
2-Final judgment of Satan & lost ones
3-Passing of present heaven & earth
4-Creation of new Heaven & New earth

B.-Eternal Reign:
1-Surrender of throne as Mediator
2-Eternal reign in own right

CONCL.

A.-Events:
1-Past-----interesting
2-Future---entrancing
3-Important----Death & Resurrection
----Rature

B.-So, Today-----LORD'S SUPPER
1-Looks BACK to death for sin
2-Looks FORWARD to coming for sinners saved by grace.

C.-Invitation:
1-ILLUS----Dr. Brummitt has given a remarkable illus. from personal experience: The town in which he lived had and elevated railway. One of the stations is near a great Roman Catholic burying ground, CALVARY CEMETARY. For many years, because in that part of th e town there were more dead than living folk, the trains did not stop at the cemetary station except on request. Just after leaving the nearest station the guard would open the door & say, "NEXT STATION IS CALVARY. TRAIN STOPS ON SIGNAL ONLY. ANYBODY FOR CALVARY?".....It is a parable of life's train. At all other stations every train stops. At Market Street, At School Street, University Avenue, Main Street, Vanity Fair, Broadway, Church Street, Home Avenue,-----no special notice needed. BUT, Calvary is the "offence of the cross", and no one stops there unless he CHOOSES to. It is unto the Jews a stumbling-block, and unto the Gentiles, foolishness. BUT, IT SAVES THOSE WHO BELIEVE because of the SAVIOR WHO DIED THERE.....Thru all eternity I'll praise & thank God that I CHOSE CALVARY.....

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.....What is YOUR choice???????

5/5/63- Westbrae