"The Calls of Peter" — 1 Pet. 1:1

Intro.- A.- Begin a series on 1 Peter soon--Background of the author now.
B.-Peter--Fisherman--home in "Fishertown" (Bethsaida) of Capernaum. Moderate income. Owned own business.

I.--CALL TO SALVATION---CALL TO CHRIST--John 1:35-42.
A.-Background
1-Andrew & John were disciples of John the Baptist.
2-John the Baptist sent them to Jesus.
3-When with Christ, they found him as Savior and Messiah
B.-Andrew goes after Peter---his brother
1-ILLUS--Father preached on the text, "He brought them to Jesus." Little girl was asked by father whom she was going to bring. She answered, "First, I'll bring myself, and then Janie my sister."
2-Messianic claims of Christ fulfill the O. T. Promises.
3-Andrew & John found Christ to be the only one who fit those promises. So did Peter. Fit like a Jig-saw puzzle.
C.-"He brought him to Jesus."
1-Presence of Christ dispells all Peter's doubt. Intellect satisfied & then trust takes over.
2-New name written down in glory---and it's mine!!! "Lamb's book of life"--Rev. 21:27.
3-In this Peter was one of MULTITUDES during the life and ministry of the Lord who found Him as Savior.
a-made new creatures in God's sight--new name.
b-not much impression on Peter's life---went back to fish.

II. CALL TO SERVICE---FOLLOW AFTER CHRIST--Mark 1:14-20.
A.-Such a call MAY come immediately---or later.
1-Paul--immediately
2-Peter--6-8 months later
3-You and me????---1 year, 10 years---NOW
4-Call is just like salvation in that it CAN BE REJECTED. Fewer respond for service than for salvation.
B.-Involves:
1-Leaving off things & jobs having first place in your life. "forsaking all"
a-may leave them completely--Matthew and Peter.
b-may stay with them--but in subordinate place--Paul-tents.
2-Taking up cross & following.
a-Christ leads the way--we don't have to break trail.
b-CROSS--singular--not crosses--THE CROSS OF CHRIST.
c-Service for Christ involves fishing for men.
(1)teach a class--but must win men to Christ
(2)Deacon---------but must win men to Christ
(3)Preacher-------but must win men to Christ
(4)Gideon, etc.,--but must win men to Christ.
3-THINGS which mean much in the former life of self must be abandoned or relegated to 2nd or 12th place---1:20
C.-Obscurity to Prominence-----yet with Christ having the pre-eminence---Amos--Moses---Peter

III.-CALL TO SUFFERING---SENT FOR CHRIST--Matt. 10:1-8; John 21:15 ff

A.-"Apostle" = "Sent One"---Mt. 10:2 ff
1-bearer of a message
2-holder of a commission to tell
3-Peter is always listed first in these lists of apostles.
4-Call comes to all to go in some way.

B.-MessaGe--TO THE UNSAVED
1-help bodily ills, but that wasn't the core of the message.
2-Power over demons, but that wasn't the core of the message.
3-Preaching---Kingdom at hand.
--small range then--gospel of the Kingdom
--larger range later--gospel of the grace of God

C.-Method--TO THE SAVED
1-love--for the Lord is the basis of service & suffering
ILLUS--Scofield's first lady missionary.
2-Tending & Feeding the flock of God---Roper--"Comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable"

D.-Suffering--
1-Rejection b y the world--Mt. 10
2-Bodily injury--Jn. 21--crucifixion.

CONCL.*---A.-Calls of Peter are repeated every day to all of us:
1-Salvation---Come to Christ
2-Service-----Follow after Christ
3-Suffering---Sent for Christ
B.-Where do YOU stand???
Saved---Serving---Suffering??????

"WHAT THE WORD OF GOD IS" 1 Pet. 1:1--2:3; 2 Tim. 3;16-17

INTRO:

A.-The Book---The BEST Book Of All:

No fragment of any army ever survived so many battles as the Bible;
No citadel ever withstood so many sieges;
No rock was ever battered by som many hurricanes, and so swept by storms.....AND YET IT STANDS.
It has seen the rise and downfall of Daniel's 4 Empires:
* Assyria bequeaths a few mutilated figures for the riches of our national museums;
** Media & Persia, like Babylon, which they conquered, have been weighed in the balance, and long ago found wanting.
***Greece faintly survives in its historic fame; and
****ROME of the Caesars has long since ceased to boast.
----------and yet, the BOOK THAT FORETELLS ALL THIS...
.....SURVIVES!!!!!

While nations, kings, philosophers, systems, institutions have died away, THE BIBLE engages now men's deepest thought is examined by the keenest intellects, stands revered be=fore the highest tribunals, is more read, more sifted,more debated, more devoutly loved, more vehemently assailed, more defended, more denied, more industriously translated, more freely given to the world, more honored and more abused than any other book the world ever saw.

It survives all changes, itself unchanged; it moves all minds, yet is moved by none; it sees all things decay, its-elf incorruptible; it sees myriads of other books engulfed in the stream of time, yet is borne along til the mystic angel shall plant his foot upon the sea, and swear by Him that liveth, and ever after that time shall be no more.
THE OLD BOOK S T A N D S!!--The wonderful WORD OF GOD

Poem--"The Bible", Sir Walter Scott:
"Within this awful Volume lies
Thy Mystery of mysteries;
Happy they of human race
To whom God has given grace
To read, to fear, to hope, to pray;
To lift the latch, and force the way:
But better had he ne'er been born
Who reads to doubt, or reads to scorn"

B.-"WHAT THE WORD OF GOD IS":

1-To the man without Christ
2-To the man who KNOWS Christ as Savior
3-PROP:---Purpose of the message today is:
To think thru: "What is the Word TO ME?"

I.-WHAT THE BIBLE IS TO THE MAN WITHOUT CHRIST:

A.-A MIRROR for our self-knowledge:

1-Jas. 1:23-24--""For if any be a hearer of the Word, & not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass; for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was."

2-Bible--Shows it "LIKE IT IS"
--Scofield Mem. Ch. slogan--"The Bible as it is, for men as they are."

3-Not a pretty picture

4-Mk. 7:20-23--"And He (Jesus) said, 'That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: all these evil things come from within, and defile the man."

B.-A FIRE For our Purifying & A HAMMER for our obstinacy:

1-Jer. 23:29--"Is not My Word like as a fire? saith the LORD: and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?"

2-FIRE for burning out dross
HAMMER for breaking our stubborn will

3-Jonathan Goforth: "My own experience leads me to the holy book of God, for it the BIBLE which God uses in the conversion of sinners.

"I am so convinced of this that I never speak to the unsaved in China without having my open Bible,--'the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.' His Word is like fire and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces. In all the history of the Church of Jesus Christ there is no authentic instance of a soul being genuinely born into the Kingdom of God apart from the Bible or something derived from it."

4-Scripture will "break thru" and purify and break

C.-WISDOM For Our Conversion

1-2 Tim. 3:15--"And that from a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

2-Happy is the person--Who heard the Word in his childhood
--Who came to Christ early & before engulfment in deep sin
** Whether "AT" his mother's knee
** Or "OVER" it

3-Same source of WISDOM for knowing how to be saved:
--Saved as a child
--Saved as a teenager
--Saved as a young adult
--Saved as a middle aged one
--Saved as an oldster

4-This wisdom of God in the Scriptures reveals....

D.-POWER for our salvation:

1-Rom. 1:16--"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth."

2-"POWER"==dunamis in GK; "DYNAMITE" comes from this word but it ought to have been reserved for the H-BOMB

3-God works thru the Scriptures in human hearts

4-ILLUS--As a converted African cannibal sat reading his Bible, a European trader passed by and asked what he was doing.

"READING THE BIBLE" was his reply. "That book is out of date in my country," said the trader.

"If it had been out of date here," replied the African, "you would have been EATEN long ago."

5-Yes, the Bible is "alive and well", and it still has the POWER TO CHANGE MEN's lives....
....from unbelief .....to faith in Jesus Christ.

II.-WHAT THE BIBLE IS TO THE BELIEVER: (AFTER we are saved)

A.-As Related To Our GROWTH:

1-TRUTH for our sanctification
Jn. 17:17--"Sanctify them thru thy truth: Thy Word is truth."

2-LIGHT for our understanding
Ps. 119:105--"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

3-MILK for our nourishment
1 Pet. 2:2-3--"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby';if so be that ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious."

4-MEAT for our strengthening
Heb. 5:12-14--"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the Word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

5-CLEANSING for our lives
Ps. 119:9, 11--"Wherewithall shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to Thy Word. Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee."

6-CRITIC for our discernment:
Heb. 4:12--"For the Word of God is quick and powerful an sharper than any two-edged 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."

ILLUS-A commercial traveler, who was a christian, made

a practice of reading his pocket Bible while on his trips on planes. He was asked by a fellow-passenger WHY he spent so much time reading a book which everybody criticized so much these days.

"MY MAIN OBJECT," replied the christian salesman, "IS NOT TO CRITICIZE THE BIBLE, BUT TO LET IT CRITICIZE ME."

6-You can't grow without God's Word as your daily food!!
2 Pet. 3:18--"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."

B.-As Related To Our BLESSING:
1-HONEY for our delight
Ps. 19:10--"More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb."
2-CONFIDENCE for our hearts
Ps. 119:89--"Forever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in Heaven."
** Able to say "I K N O W !!"
** ILLUS--Rev. Seamans & story of his speaking on Phillipians chapter 1 in Prayer Meeting in Colorado Spring
3-JOY & REJOICING
Jer. 15:16--"Thy Words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of my heart: for I am called by Thy Name, o LORD God of Hosts."
4-GOLD for our enrichment:
Ps. 119:72--"The law of Thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver."
** ILLUS--There is something intriguing about a TREASURE HUNT. The thought of finding real pirate gold is enough to whip most any man into a frenzy. In Massachusets 2 fishermen have discovered 2 buccaneer hulls and have touched off a spirited hunt.

The hulls are thought to have belonged to the pirates Edward Lowe or Samuel Bellamy, who preyed on shipping between 1719-1730. There was also the discovery of a casket. Investigation disclosed that an English merchantman was lost with $5 million for the pay of the Hessian mercenaries in America. Then, too, there was the ship that went down some 80 years ago with a half a million dollars in tin. Weeks of searching brought NO GOLD and NO TIN....but the hunt goes on in hope.

The Bible has been a source of TREASURE to man for many centuries. Within its pages are truths DEARER THAN GOLD and more precious than fine jewels. The treasure in God's Word is at hand for anyone who will seek; the source is never expended. The real coin of living is to be found WITHIN THE BIBLE....."better unto me than thousands of gold and silver."
** Is that YOUR testimony?
** If it is....you've got God's BLESSINGS
** If not...YOU CAN HAVE IT!!

C.-As Related To Our USEFULNESS:

1-SEED for our sowing

Lk. 8:11--"Now the parable is this: The seed is the Word of God."

2-SWORD for our conflict

Eph. 6:17--"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God."

3-TORCH for our testimony

Phil. 2:15-16--"...ye shine as lights in the world; holding forth the Word of life."

4-R.A.Torrey:

"Other books tell us what men suppose; the Bible tells us what God knows. Other books tell us what other men, almost as foolish as ourselves, SPECULATE; this Book tells us what an infinitely wise God, Who made us and all things, and consequently knows all things, has INERRANTLY REVEALED.

"This Book makes men wise with the wisdom that is golden, the wisdom that brings eternal salvation. No one can study this Book aright, no matter how ignorant he may otherwise be, without becoming possessed of that priceless wisdom that means eternal life. No other book has the power to make us ACQUAINTED WITH GOD and with HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST, that this Book has

"Oh, study the Book that brings eternal life; make it in your own experience "the implanted Word, which is able to save your souls" (Jas. 1:21, R.V.)

CONCLUSION:

A.-Questions To Be Answered:

1-Have you--AS A MAN WITHOUT CHRIST--allowed the Bible to have its ministry to you???

--As a MIRROR for the knowledge of your sinfulness
--As a FIRE for your purifying
--As a HAMMER for your obstinacy
--As WISDOM for your conversion
--As POWER for your salvation
--ILLUS--Alan Webster of Albany, CA., whose first exposure to the preaching of the gospel was to the message of THE LOSTNESS of the man without Jesus Christ

2-Have you--MY BROTHER IN CHRIST--taken the Bible as God's appointed:means:

--Means of your GROWTH??
--Channel of your BLESSING??
--Avenue of your USEFULNESS??
--ILLUS--Mike Moore. Led to the Lord; Began to grow in grace; Called to the gospel ministry; "Difficult" season; Now out in the work of God.

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

B.-Poem by JOHN CLIFFORD:

"I stood one evening by the blacksmith's door
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime,
And looking in I saw upon the floor
Old hammers worn with years of beating time.

'How many anvils have you had,' said I,
'To wear and beat these hammers so?'

'Just one,' the blacksmith said, with twinkling ey,
'The anvil wears the hammers out, you know.'

And so methought the anvil of God's Word
For ages skeptic blows have beat upon,
And though the sound of clanging blows is heard,
The anvil is unharmed, the hammers gone."

THAT is what the Word of God is!!

C.-This Is The Book That Speaks To Us Of JESUS:

1-Savior/Redeemer
2-Companion/Friend
3-Source of all good
4-Power for all service
5-Lover of my soul
6-SO.....Let's enter into a
COMMUNION WITH HIM!!!!!

Westbrae--4/4/65 & 10/5/69 #156-"O Word Of God Incarnate"
Calvary Columbus--11/16/75 #99--"Break Thou The Bread Of Life"
#454-"Jesus Loves Me"
#100-"I Need Thee Every Hour"

"Grace and Peace" 1 Pet. 1:1-2.

Intro.--A.- Peter
1-Prominent in Jerusalem up to Acts 12.
2-Mentioned in Gal. 2
3-Acquainted by ministry with these geographical areas.
4-Now in Babylon--5:13.
B.- Apostle---"sent one"--Bearer of the World's most important message. Representative of Christ--"in Christ's stead."

I.--PLACE OF THOSE WHO RECEIVE GRACE AND PEACE.
A.- Who??--Jews primarily
B.- Living in dispersion among various nations--witness in all places for Christ.
C.- Living as strangers--"Christians who have settled down besid the unsaved"---TENT DWELLING.

II.--PREPARATION OF THOSE WHO RECEIVE GRACE AND PEACE
A.- ELECT---unto obedience---chosen to OBEY
1-Work of God the Father
2-Accomplished in eternity past
3-Elect = Chosen--Eph. 1:4--"called out ones"
4-Not merely knowing before, but sure before because of God's choice
a.-Acts 2:23--death of christ
b.-1 Pet. 1:20--sacrifice of Christ.
B.- SANCTIFICATION = "set apart unto service of God"
1-Work of the Spirit--He is the Means.
2-Accomplished individually in each heart.
3-Unto obedience--the end in view.
a.-the comma after "obedience"
b.-this is the human act of faith--ILLUS--Acts 6:7
4-The best obedience could not avail to save us apart from the precious blood and our best acts need that sprinkling"
C.- SPRINKLING
1-by the Blood of Christ--the purchase price--1 Pet. 1:18-20
2-ILLUS--Once in a S. S. a visitor was asked to teach a session for primary class. Having accepted, he found that the lesson was on Isa. 55:1. "Ho every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." The teacher thot this text could be intelligently taught to Senior students, but could wee tots be made to understand. The teacher thought a moment, and then decided to test "a little child shall lead them". He asked if one of the little scholars would explain the text. A little girl only six years old said, "Please sir, HAVE IT CHARGED." "Jesus paid it all; all to Him I owe, Sin had left its crimson stain, He washed it white as snow."
3-Sprinkling--uses the figure of speech of the O. T. Ritual. Heb. 9:19.
4-Result of this sprinkling:
a- a clean heart
b- a clean conscience
c- a new and eternal life in Christ.

D.-How to make "your calling and election sure." 2 Pet.1:10

1-Worried about being one of the "chosen ones"????

2-Put your faith in Christ as your Personal Saviour.

3-You will find that:

--God the Father Chose you

--God the Spirit Sanctifies you

--God the Son's blood avails for you.

4-ILLUS--The story is told of Dean Standley, who offered to take 2 soldiers around Westminster Abbey, seeing they had come too late for the official guide to conduct them thru the historic shrine. Dean Standley explained all he knew about the noble people whose names were inscribed on the walls and tablets, and in brass letters on the floor. As the soldiers were about to pass out of the gates, the saintly Dean said, "Now lads, you may never do anything great enough for your country to keep your names in Westminster, but I can tell you of a greater honor than that ofhaving your name in this old Abbey, that is of having it written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

III.-PORTION OF THOSE WHO RECEIVE GRACE AND PEACE

A.-Combination of Greek and Hebrew salutation.

1-Greek---Grace

2-Hebrew--Peace

B.-Grace

1-Constant Need of life

2-Saved by Grace (Jesus)

3-Kept by Grace---enabling grace.

4-ILLUS--When I think of the grace of God, I think of an old incident of a wee lad taken to the seashore from a tenement house in New York. He knew nothing of the country life, had few friends, and none of the comforts of life. When the ladies took him to the beach, he stood with his feet deep in the sand and his eyes fastened on the ocean. He had never seen the ocean before. "What are you thinking of?," they asked him. "OH" he said, "I am thinking how nice it is to SEE ENOUGH OF SOMETHING." So it is with the grace of God.

C.-Peace

1-follows, but never preceeds grace.

2-Justifying peace in N. T. elsewhere.

3-Peace of heart here--Work of the Spirit in the Believer

4-ILLUS ---On a house near Durham, England, there is a Latin inscription to the effect that it was built "in the year 1697 of the peace of the gospel, and in the first year of the peace of Ryswick." The peace of Ryswick is forgotten now, but as Macaulay points out, it was considered most vital and permanent at the time. However, the only permanent peace--as could be seen by looking at any history book of the wars of men since--the only permanent peace, is the peace of the gospel.

D.-"Be Multiplied"

1-grace upon grace--sufficient for every need.

2-peace upon peacefulness--Rest for every situation

3-multiplied--geometric progression.

Concl -

"Reserved and Kept" 1 Peter 1:3-9

Intro. A.- First 2 verses tell us that Salvation is the work of the triune God

B.- These verses which follow are full of description of our salvation.

I.--HERITAGE RESERVED IN HEAVEN.

A.-Heritage is gained by the NEW BIRTH

1-Mercy provided Christ on the cross.

2-Death of Christ on the cross provides the new birth--hath begotten us again--appropriated by faith

3-Death of Christ & res. are proof of new birth.

4-A LIVING hope--not a dead savior

--not a dead hope

--of divine life

--P

B.-A Reserved inherit

1-heritage gained

2-incorruptable--

3-undefiled- ----

4-fadeth not-----

5-reserved------

6-ILLUS.--"Reserve

a private place

II.--HEIRS KEPT ON EARTH

A.-Kept--"guarded"-

1-The power is G

2-Illus---"The g

3-The faith is

4-End is salvati

presence of s

5-(1:6)--Fuel f

B.-Present Trials

1-manifold --ma

2-temptations

3-Illus.--Bria

stoo

stre

4-Precious--to

--re

--I

the top & impurities

the molten gold. See

precious than gold

5-Limits to t

6-Purpose--Te

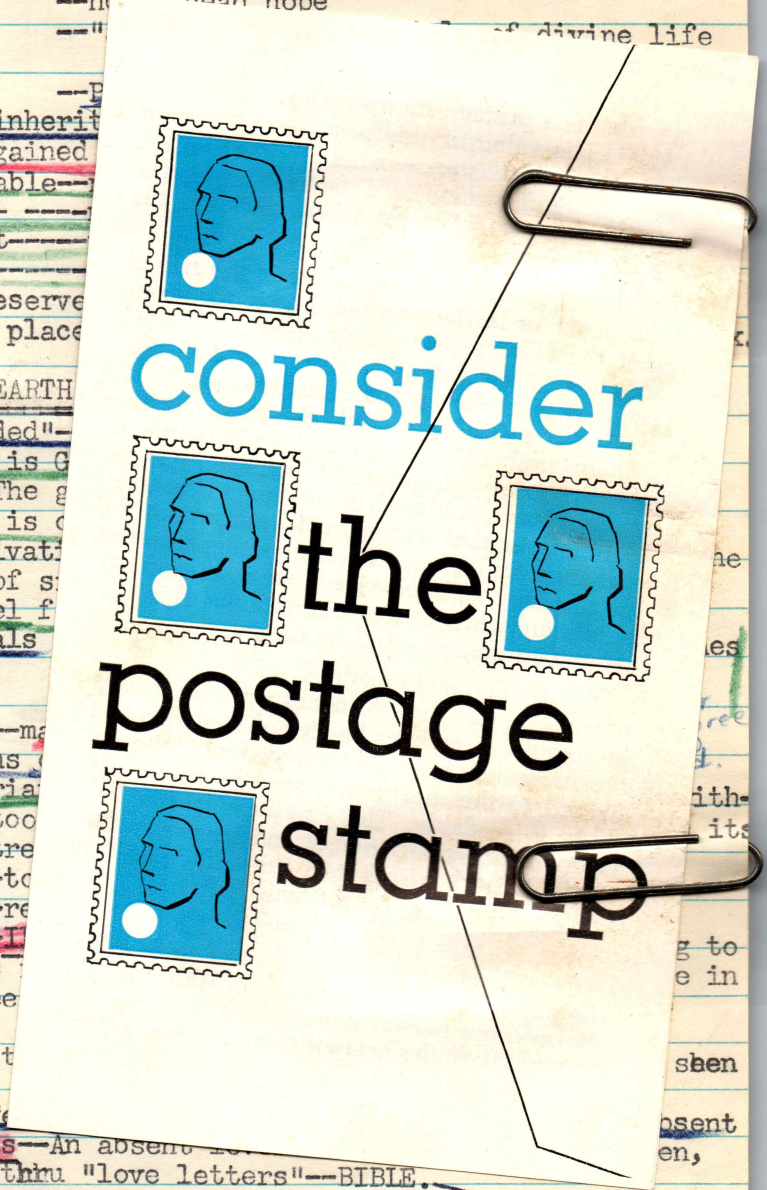
Lord--Illus--An absent

but known thru "love letters"--BIBLE.

C.-Precious Privilege--the end of faith

1-salvation

2-Kept--"guarded" by God to that end.



3000 - 422(1)
also Pp 420-23

"Salvation in the Church Age" 1 Peter 1:10-12

Intro.--A.-Salvation; the work of the Triune God----1:1-2
B.-Heritage Reserved in Heaven for us-------1:3-4
C.-Heirs Kept on Earth----------1:5-9
D.-O. T. View of Salvation---a real puzzle--1:10-12

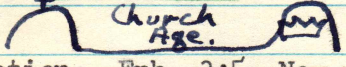
I.-O. T. PROPHET'S MINISTRY

A.-Prophets Prophesied of Grace To Come
1-Jews to be blessed---head & not the tail of the nations.
2-Gentiles to be blessed--though subservient in position.
3-No inkling at all of the Ch. Age Parenthesis.
4-Preaching of the immediate offer of the Kingdom in Acts2-3
B.-Inquired into Salvation---The Crimson Cord of the Scripture
1-manner of inquiry was diligent
2-Desire was to know: -----HOW?*******WHEN?
3-Relation of SUFFERING AND GLORY
4-Unintelligible to see the relationship--Illus--Dan.12:8-9

II.-OBJECTS OF THE O. T. PROPHET'S MINISTRY.

A.-Not to themselves
B.-To grace age Christians
1-to those who have heard the gospel
2-to those who have heard the gospel by the power of the S.
C.-Item of supreme interest to angels
1-desire---strong passion
2-"look into"---leaning over to see clearly--illus. the cherubim looking down on the Mercy Seat.
3-The Church is the University for Angels..Eph. 3:10
I Cor. 4:9

III.-SOLUTION TO THE RIDDLE

A.-Did you catch the riddle???
1-How you can have a suffering Savior who would reign in glory
B.-Solution---
1-By means of the Resurrection of Christ.
2-Shows that these are 2 separate ministries & not the same
3-Resurrection of Christ & 2 separate ministries are implied in much O. T. Scripture.---Proved in Acts 2.
C.-What about the Church Age?????????
1-Not seen or prophesied about in the O. T.--Eph. 3:5
2-Never known about before--Hid in God--Eph. 3:9
3-Illus-- 

4-New Revelation---Eph. 3:5--Now made known
5-New Position--Eph. 3:6----No middle wall of partition. ---all equal, both Jews & Gentiles. Contra. Millenium

NB

Concl. A.-Wonderful Salvation
1-Planned & Executed by the Trinity
2-Reserved for the Saints of the Lord
3-Saints Kept for the inheritance
4-Pre-planned for you and me in this age.
B.-Wonderful Savior to make it possible
1-Love H im More
2-Serve Him better.

"HE IS PRECIOUS" 1 Pet. 1:13--2:10; 2 Pet. 1:1-4

INTRO: A.-Precious Things:

1-ILLUS--One day a boy in North Carolina was digging in a mine in the foothills. About 2 feet below the surface he picked up a rock and as he rubbed it, he saw the sun shining through! He realized it was not an ordinary rock & after showing it around, he sold it for $700.

The "rock" which turned out to be an EMERALD CRYSTAL, changed hands twice before it was bought by Tiffany Company of New York. Tiffany's Vice President set the value of the crystal at $100,000!

The finished gem is about as big as a thumb nail and about half an inch deep. It is described as the largest emerald ever found in North America.

We are confident that the Lord enjoys the beauty of the precious stones, for He created them; and the emerald is mentioned a number of times in the Bible.

2-The garments of the priests in Moses' time were decorated with emeralds and also with other precious stones. Also "all manner of precious stones" were used in decorating Solomon's temple. Furthermore, we are told that round about the Throne in heaven there is a rainbow "in sight like unto an emerald." (Rev. 4:3)

3-As believers dig into the Holy Scriptures, they soon discover precious gems of divine truth. For instance, we learn that the Lord Jesus is building a temple which is made up of "LIVING STONES" --in other words, people! (1 Pet. 2:5). The Lord Jesus Christ Himself is the "CHIEF CORNER STONE" of the building (Eph. 2:20-22), and He is also the foundation (1 Cor. 3:11).

B.-"PRECIOUS" As Used In The Bible:

1-Usage:--11 times in the N.T.
--7 times in 1 & 2 Peter
--6 different words that seem to be virtually synonymous, except for minor emphases on several of them

2-Fitting word to study as a heart-preparation for the COMMUNION SERVICE today

3-Outline:

I.-Uses Of "PRECIOUS" Outside Peter's Writings

II.-Uses Of "PRECIOUS" In Peter's Writings:

4-Prop:--Be instructed of what God allows to be presented in His Word to us as "PRECIOUS"
--Rearrange our value systems to a "PRECIOUSNESS STANDARD"

I.-USES OF "PRECIOUS" OUTSIDE PETER'S WRITINGS:

A.-Uses In The Gospels:

1-Two uses and 2 words

2-Both describe the SAME EVENT:

--Mt. 26:6-7--"Now when Jesus was in Bethany,

in the house of Simon the leper, there came unto Him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on His head, as He sat at meat."

--Mk. 14:3--"And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on His head."

3-Indication that this ointment was VERY EXPENSIVE because of its rarity, so it was of great value

4-Pence or Penny was the daily wage of a field worker (Mt. 20:2), so this 300+ pence would be equal to a YEARS WAGES

5-This was the heart-gift of Mary of Bethany (Jn. 12:3) to the Savior to prepare Him for burying.

B.-Use By Apostle Paul:

1-1 Cor. 3:11-13--"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire: and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is."

2-Speaks of the materials with which the Christian BUILDS as he serves the Savior

3-SUPERSTRUCTURE construction upon the FOUNDATION of Christ

- --Wood, Hay & Stubble: ** Plentiful
  ** Perishable
  ** Worth but little
- --Gold, Silver, Precious stones: ** Rare
  ** Imperishable
  ** Worth very much

4-EXHIBITION DAY for our works is coming soon & that which gives those works their worth is that they are done for the Lord, and done in the power of the Spirit

5-Fire will purge away that which will not stand the test.

C.-Use By James:

1-Written by Half-brother of Jesus

- --SAME mother; Mary
- --DIFFERENT fathers
- --Calls himself "a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ"
- --Saved AFTER the crucifixion and resurrection of the Savior

2-James 5:17--"Be patient, therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain."

3-POINT is that we are to be patient in anticipation of the coming of the Lord as the farmer is patient in waiting for his crops--

- --WHY should we be patient?
- --Because that for which we wait---like that for which the farmer waits--is PRECIOUS!!

--Fruit of the earth is precious as the outgrowth of months of labor
--What we are expecting in Christ's RETURN is also precious **
** Because of our deliverance from sin & self
** Because of our redeemed & glorified bodies to be received at His coming
** Because of our reunion with loved ones
** Because of reward for service
** And, best of all, because "WE SHALL SEE HIM" then

II.-USES OF "PRECIOUS" IN PETER'S WRITINGS:

A.-Concering The Redeeming Blood:

1-1 Pet. 1:18-20

2-Redemption's purchase price
--NOT a corruptible price like silver or gold
--But rather by the PRECIOUS BLOOD of the Redeemer
--Takes a "currency" with value in heaven
--The Savior is God's sacrificial LAMB

3-"As of a lamb"
--"Without blemish"; No acquired irregularity
--"Without spot"; No inborn irregularity
--"Foreordained"=="Preplanned". Not an afterthought, but now revealed
--Lamb for an INDIVIDUAL
--Gen. 4:4--"And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel & to his offering."
--Lamb for a HOUSE
--Ex. 12:3--"Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, in the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house"
--Lamb for the NATION
--Num. 28:2-4--"Command the children of Israel, & say unto them, My offering and my bread for my sacrifices made by fire, for a sweet savour unto Me, shall ye observe to offer unto Me in their due season. And thou shalt say unto them, This is the offering made by fire which ye shall offer unto the LORD; two lambs of the first year without spot day by day, for a continual burnt-offering. The one lamb shalt thou offer in the morning and the other lamb shalt thou offer at even."
--Lamb for the WORLD
--John 1:29

4-What makes the Lamb's blood PRECIOUS???
--What it will buy; OUR SALVATION
--WHO GAVE IT; Our Savior
--How He gave it; WILLINGLY & VOLUNTARILY for me & for you

B.-Concerning The Faith:

1-"Like precious faith"

--2 Pet. 1:1

--Some folk talk of "MUCH faith" or of "LITTLE faith"

--But it is the OBJECT of our faith that makes it worth anything

--CHRIST is that object of our faith

--Each one of us has exactly the same and equal position in this "like precious faith" with all other believers

--No one is a "FAVORITE" of God's

--Rather, the faith that has brought us the righteousness of God is "PRECIOUS" because it makes us partakers with all other christians, and that ALL OF GRACE

2-"Exceeding great and precious promises"

--2 Pet. 1:4

--These are "given unto us" (1:3) thru our Lord's power

--Quite a change ** FORMERLY partakers of the "corruption that is in the world through lust"
** NOW "partakers of the divine nature"
** Human experience is either of DEGENERATION or it is of REGENERATION

--These promises
** Bring us into the faith of Christ
** Stabilize us after we've come into the faith
** Are "exceeding great and precious"
** Look ahead to a fulfillment when faith will give way to SIGHT in Christ's coming again

--How PRECIOUS an anticipation !!

3-"The trial of your faith"

--1 Pet. 1:5-9

--Indication that the END of our life of faith is sure to be the salvation of our souls and the reward of our service "at the appearing of Jesus Christ"

--But, in the interim there is the TRIAL of your faith
** Many of these troubles will be our lot in life
** ILLUS--Refining of gold or silver wherein the Refiner "turns up the heat" so the impurities ris rise to the surface and can be skimmed off. When the Refiner can SEE HIS FACE in the molten metal, then it is purified
Even so, "Our Refiner"---the Lord Jesus Christ is bringing trials into our lives to "turn up the heat" so as to purify us, because our faith is MUCH MORE PRECIOUS than gold that perishes.

--And, remember, there is a LIMIT to what trials our Lord will allow to press in on you

--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 which ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

--Our ABSENT LORD brings "tests" to prove the depth and preciousness of our loyalty to Him

--How are you doing on the tests of life?
** Passing with flying colors ??
** Failing the tests because you are not esteeming the Savior and the faith as you ought??
--How "PRECIOUS" is your faith?

C.-Concerning The Christ:
1-From GOD'S Point of view
--Two verses: 1 Pet. 2:4 & 2:6
--Various words compounded to give a Divine evaluation of our Savior
** "Chosen of God"
** "Precious"
** "Elect"
** "Precious"
** It is almost as if saying: "Christ is precious" in the sight of the Father was not enough, so the Spirit of God has it recorded TWICE!!!
--Marvellous Divine estimation
--WHY is Jesus Christ "Precious" ??
** He is Divine in His nature
** He did the Father's will on earth
** He became the world's ONLY SAVIOR
** He is mankind's only hope of heaven
** He has the power to change men's lives
--ILLUS--The story has come down through the centuries from the days of the building of the Jewish Temple. The stones were cut out ahead of time and fitted into place, but there was one stone which was always in the way. The masons could find no place for it. It looked like the others in material, but it had special different markings and shape. They were unable to locate a place where it fit, and consequently it became a nuisance to them. They were always stumbling over it---it was always in their pathway, so they rolled it down the hill from the temple sight into the valley below.

Finally when the temple was finished, as the story goes, they found they were missing the KEY STONE. Now we do not know for sure whether that meant a "capstone" as of a pyramid, or a "cornerstone" which contained important papers. In any case, either one of them would have been the LAST TO BE SET IN PLACE.

The point is, that finally, after seeing the thing kicked around and in their way year after year after year and not knowing what to do with it, they found it was the KEY STONE------the most important stone of all.
--Similarly, Peter quotes from Isaiah 28:16: "Behold I lay in Zion for a foundation stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation."
--In God's view, Jesus Christ is indeed "PRECIOUS"
--That leads me on to a final consideration concerning the Christ.....

2-From MAN'S Point of view:
--1 Pet. 2:7-8
--

--Note the contrast:
** To believers; "He is PRECIOUS"
** To disobedient (==opposite of "believe"; to the disbelievers; to the wilful rejectors); He is a STONE OF STUMBLING and a ROCK OF OFFENSE
** We've all heard of precious stones which were unrecognized as to their true value. Some folks have failed to perceive that they were confronted by REAL GEMS. So also with the Lord Jesus! Many people do not recognize Him!!

--How is it with you as you look at Jesus Christ???

--Charles Gabriel's hymn (#252--"He is so Precious To Me)

"So precious is Jesus, My Savior, My King,
His praise all the day long with rapture I sing;
To Him in my weakness for strength I can cling,
For He is so precious to me."

--IS THAT YOUR VIEW of Him?

--ILLUS--Remember the city in France which has a perfume Factory, in fact, it is the only industry there. Some member of every family works in the perfume factory. As the result of the presence of that factory in that city the entire village is permeated by a beautiful sweet fragrance night and day. The clothing of the laborers as they come home to every home, is so saturated with the fragrance of the perfume that it is like one great constant boquet.

So it is, dear friends, with the pages of THIS BOOK which you ought to love and cherish and read and memorize and cherish. It is FRAGRANT from beginning to end with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.

3-If the Lord Jesus is not precious to you, this day, there is some reason, and the reason undoubtedly is---like the stone of the temple----the Lord Jesus is NOT IN HIS PROPER PLACE !!!

--Yes, my friend, when the Christ of God gets into His PROPER PLACE in your life, then the building of your life----that spiritual house Peter talks about----will be unified and beautiful

--With Christ in His proper place, everything else will line up properly, because you'll be saying:
"HE IS PRECIOUS" to me

CONCLUSION:

A.-Precious Things Of The New Testament:

1-Ointment of dedication
2-Stones of building indicating spiritual service
3-Precious fruit of our faith, that we'll SEE JESUS SOON
4-Blood of our redemption
5-Faith we share
6-Promises we believe
7-Trials we face
8-Christ---------As God sees Him
9-Christ---------As believers see Him

B.-Heart Questions As We Face Communion:

1-Is Jesus Christ "PRECIOUS" to you, to me ??

2-Does my life show it to others?

3-Let's quietly tell Him how He stands in our heart attitudes today.

Westbrae--1/2/72--#9-"The Name Of Jesus" (1)
#258--"He Is So Precious To Me" (3)
#483--"Take The Name Of Jesus With You" (4)
#516--"Blessed Redeemer" (2)

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®
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"Holiness and Personal Dedication" 1 Peter 1:13-16

Intro.---A.-"WHEREFORE"
1-summs up the previous argument about salvation.
2-calls for personal dedication
3-calls for clear thinking.

I.--EXHORTATIONS.
A.-"Gird up"
1-Oriental figure of speech
2-Remove all encumberances---loose ends
3-Get down to BUSINESS
4-Set for action---- ILLUS--Ex. 12-Israel & Passover
1 Kings 18:42-46 Elijah
B.-"Be sober"---"be calm"
1-not--long faced like weaned on a dill pickle
2-Be in control of your faculties
3-This word is enjoined upon ALL in the N. T.
Elders, deacons, women, aged men, young men, & maidens.
4-Be correct in personal evaluation so as to truly serve the Lord.
C.-"Hope to the end"---"Set your hope perfectly"
1-challenge--hope perfectly
2-being brought---on its way
3-ILLUS- The standard of Light which was borne along in a Greek Relay race. Hope is the lamp of the soul.
D.-Divine Illustration
1-As obedient children--As children should be to parents; so Christians should be to a Heavenly Father--Obedient.
2-Not dressed in the rags of the old life, but in the garments of a new life for God.
3-Obedient to God.---ILLUS.-- Ex. 24:7

II.-EXPLANATION
A.-God's purpose for Christians is H O L IN E S S
1-Holiness is produced in us by the Holy Spirit
2-Our need is not to get more of the Holy Spirit, but for the Spirit to get more of us. YIELDEDNESS.
B.-The Plea 1:16
1-On the basis of who God is
2-"be"---"Become"---a process of becoming holy in life.
3-Holy--set apart unto God
4-in what realms??????"in all manner of behavior"
C.-Reason
1-"It is written"---quotation of Lev. 11:14
---Perfect tense--"it stands written"--
---eternal, unchanging Word of God.
2-"Be ye Holy"--Personal dedication
3-"for"--the reason---Be as credit to our Lord.

Concl.
A.-The What
1-Gird up, 2-be calm, 3-Set your hope perfectly, 4-Be obedient
B.-The why
1-Do that which is pleasing in the Lord's sight.

"Holiness and the Trinity" 1 Peter 1:17-22

Intro. A.-Verse 16 tells us that God is HOLY. 1:17-22 tells us the relation of each member of the Trinity to that Holiness

B.-Not alone does this passage teach of the Trinity, but also the application of holiness as it touches us.

I.- Father---1:17---Godly Fear

A.-"If God is your heavenly Father, then watch your life in view of the fact that He does not play favorites in His estimate & judgment of your work.

B.-Fatherhood of God to BELIEVERS is in view

C.-Judgment on the basis of life is due:

1-rewards or rebuke

2-holiness or hollowness

3-2 Cor. 5:10 life.

D.-"Fear"--Godly reverence; Self-distrust---an attitude of

II.- Son---1:18-21---Redemption.

A.-The reason for Godly fear is the tremendous price paid for your redemption and assurance in the death of Christ.

B.-What we are not redeemed with:

1-corruptible things)--incapable of being currency of
2-silver & gold) important things.

3-won't deliver from citizenship in sin.

C.-What we are redeemed with:

1-Precious blood of Christ--because of whose it was &
--because of what it did for us.

2-Lamb--without spot--inborn irregularity
--without blemish--acquired irregularity

3-Lamb--Gen. 4:4---Individual
--Ex. 12:3---House
--Nu. 28:4---Nation
--Jn. 1:29---World

4-"foreordained"--preplanned, not an afterthought but just now unveiled.

D.-Redemption of us is our ground of assurance.

1-God carried through with Christ all of the way from glory to glory.

2-Assurance that God will also carry thru with us:
--by faith
--with hope
--in a manner of holiness becauseof the coming of the judgment seat of Christ.

III.-Spirit--1:22---Brotherly Love

A.-Result of Godly fear by redemption is seen in the life in the form of the fruit of the Spirit--the major manifestation of which is the fruit of love.

1-Gal. 5:22 & 1 Cor. 13:13

2-Love-- --Sentimentality
-- --divine, self-sacrificing love.

B.-Past:

1-Purification of the soul from sin

2-By obedience to the truth--Jn. 17:17; Eph. 5:26;1Pet.1:2

3-Agent is the Holy Spirit

C.-UNTO:
1-Unfeigned love--no put on job--Jn. 13:34-35
2-Toward the Brethren--1 Jno. 3:14
3-with a pure heart--no sin in the way.
4-fervently--with real fire--meaningbbusiness.

CONCL.--Having God for our heavenly Father should instill holiness in our life because of the knowledge that He will surely judge sin.
--The thought of Christ should instill holiness in our life because of the price He paid to ransom us from sin.
--The work of the Spirit should instill holiness in our lives as we love the Brethren & walk in the Spirit & in newness of life as unto the Lord.

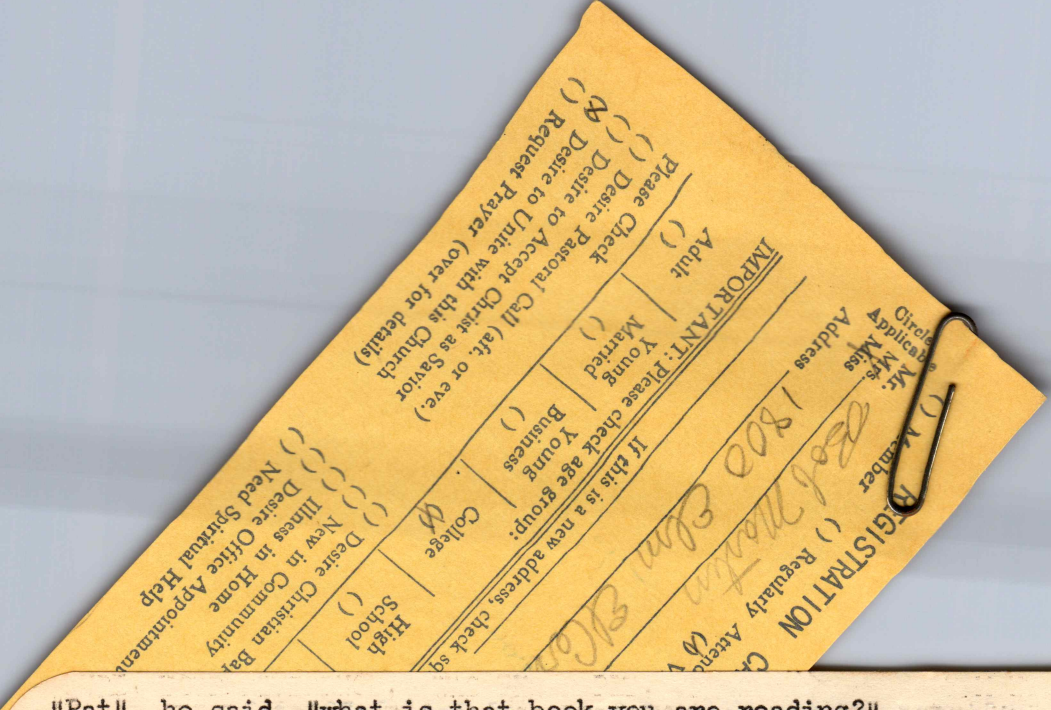
Good Title — "To Grow ... Or Not To Grow"

"Holiness and the

Intro. A.-Holiness—
--P
--Int

I.-NEW BIRTH
A.-Agencies of the New Bir
1-The Word: "Of His own w ... the Word of truth"
--Jas. 1:18
--1 Pet. 1:23
--Never found anyone Saved w ... Biblical Message
2-The Spirit: That which is born of ... flesh is flesh; and that
--Jn. 3:6 which is born of the Spirit is Spirit.
--Jn. 1:12-13 "... no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by
--1 Cor. 12:3 the Holy Ghost."
B.-New Birth likened to planting a "SEED"--1 Cor. 3:6-8.
1-bears fruit--"liveth"
2-fruit remains--"abideth")- 1 Pet. 1:23
C.-Incorruptible
1-"inheritance"-----1:4
2-"redemption"------1:18-19
3-"new life"--------1:23
4-ILLUS--from nature--1:24-25--Grass & its glory as against the abiding new life and word of God.
5-ILLUS--A Polish representative of the British & Foreign Bible Society reports that the only unharmed part of the ruined Bible depot in Warsaw is a pane of glass bearing the text, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my Words shall not pass away." The Warsaw window, with its graphic reminder of the indestructibility of the Word of God, has attracted the attention of many a passer-by.

II.-NEW FOOD
A.-Natural body
1-Regular diet is essential
2-So also the New man in Christ)- Diet must be right to grow strong
B.-New food necessary to grow up.
1-Knowledge of God and of His ways comes only by persuance of a diet of the Word. Ignorance dispelled by facts.
C.-What is our Food???
1-The Word of God
2-To be "craved" or "desired" or "longed for"
3-The Divine Life requires Divine food.
4-"Before conversion, wit or eloquence may draw a man to the Word, & possibly prove a bait to catch him; but when once he is born again, then it is the milk itself which he desires"
5-Lack of the WORD makes for PUNY Christians and makes the church resemble a children's hospital.
D.-Qualities of New Food:
1-Sincere = UNADULTERATED--ILLUS--Patrick was an Irish Catholic, who for years had longed for the assurance of peace with God. A visiting tourist, who fell into conversation with him, left him a copy of the New Testament, the Douay version, approved by the officials of his church. Through reading this, Pat was brought to a Saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and from that time on ,read and studied his Testament with eagerness, ever seeking a deeper knowledge of the things of God.
The Parish Priest, who had missed him from the regular services, called on him and found him deep in the study of the Word.



"Pat", he said, "what is that book you are reading?"

"Sure, your riverence," was the reply, "it's the New Testament."

In horrified accents the priest exclaimed, "The New Testament! Why, Pat, that's not a book for the likes of you. You'll be getting all kinds of wild notions from reading it and will be running off into here

"But, your riverence," remonstrated Pat, "I have just been reading here--it's the blessed apostle Peter himself that wrote it--"as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby," and sure it's a newborn babe in Christ I am and its the milk of the Word I'm after. So I can't see the harm of reading the Testament.

"Ah," said the priest, "It's perfectly true, Patrick, that you need the milk of the Word, but the Almighty has appointed the clergy to be the milkmen. The clergy go to the college and the seminary and learn the meaning of the Word and then the people come to the church to hear it as we give it to them as they are able to bear it, and explain it in a way they won't misunderstand."

"Well, sure, your riverence," said Pat, "you know I kape a cow of me own out there in the barn, and when I was sick sometime ago, I had to hire me a man to milk the cow and soon I found he was stealin' half the milk and fillin' the bucket up with water, and sure it was awful weak milk I was gettin'. But now that I am well again I have let him go and I am milkin' me own cow, and so it's the rich cream I am gettin once more. And your riverence, when I was dependin' on you for the milk of the Word, sure it was the blue, wattery stuff you were givin' me. But now I am milkin' me own cow and enjoyin' the cream of the Word all the time."------We may well emulate Patrick and each for himself milk his own cow and thus get God's Word firsthand as He opens it up by the Holy Spirit.

2-"grow"--strengthening--corrects what is spoken of in Eph. 4:14-15--allows us to grow up into the fullness of Christ.

III.-NEW APPETITE 2:1-3

A.-"Laying Aside"-----Unless we do this we are just "rocking horse Christians"--(a lot of movement, but no progress.)

1-Characteristics of the old life in sin must go to grow.

2-Malice = double distilled malignity

3-Guile = deceit--savors of craftiness and tricks.

4-Hypocrisy--masquerading as what we are not.

5-Envy--regretting another person's good

6-Evil speaking = poison in the mouth biting all around us.

7-ILLUS --Every member of a family was puzzled over the mystery of a fern that would not grow. Sulking, seemingly, the plant refused to put out new stems. That there might be no injury from transplanting it had been taken up carefully, and sheltered until it should have been well rooted. Everything in the way of plant food had been provided, but there it stood, no larger than when brought to the house, an ugly, awkward thing, in a mockingly large flowerpot. Then arrived a guest who was a horticulturalist. He forced a wire down into the earth about the fern's roots, and diagnosed the trouble at once. The plant had been set in stiff clay, and this had become packed hard. Reset in loose soil, the fern grew luxuriously. Even the flower of God's own planting cannot find root in a heart choked by the cares and riches and pleasures and evils of this life.

B.-Remember that growth depends upon feeding on the Word.

1-Christ-likeness comes from seeing Christ in the Scriptures.

2-GOD'S ILLUS--The babe craving the breast and its essential food. Therein is hope for normal active life.

3-God's way of feeding--Desire & then act for yourself.

C.-Sweetness of Past experience--Ps. 34:8 "O taste & see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him."

ILLUS--The Pear Test

(next Page.)

Illus.

The Pear Test: "You tell me that your book is the Word of God, but you do not prove it so." So said the owner of an orchard in North Italy to Colporteur Mariani, who offered him the Scriptures as he stood admiring the fruit trees. "What fine looking pears," said the Colporteur, suddenly changing the subject, "but what a pity they are of such poor quality." "What!" exclaimed the orchard owner. "Of poor quality? It is plain that you have not tasted them. Pick one or two and try them." The colporteur did as he was bidden, and began to eat. "Yes, you are right," he said, smaking his lips, "the pears are excellent; but sir, you must deal with my book as I have dealt with your fruit. Taste and you will see that the Word of God is good."

Concl. "Plant a tree and it begins to grow; set a post and it begins to decay. Which are you--a tree or a post?

—A Post has no life and no food.
—A Tree has life and takes food.

— Which are you????

"Snapshots Of You" 1 Pet. 2:1-12
Eph. 4:1-3

Contrast - Full length Portraits
- Snapshots

Intro: A.-What Is A Christian?:
1-Parables by Christ draw pictures
2-Images by Paul portray truth
3-Pictures by Peter explain FACTS AND EXPERIENCE
4-Metaphors explain the truth
5-Show WHAT a Christian is — Diffs. from what he DOES
6-Follows naturally to HOW they ought to behave
7-ILLUS---Changed behavior because of changed status----
I Cor. 13:11-12-------So also in becoming a Christian
"When I was a child, I spake as a child; I understood as a child, I thot as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see thru a glass, darkly; but then face to face, etc.

I.-NEW BORN BABES 2:2

A.-Birth:
1-"As" or "like" introduces the metaphor
2-New birth is in view----John 3 — 3:3,5,6
3-Issues into God's family by FAITH
4-On the basis of the Word---1:23 — 3 Avenues of Knowing God: Nature, Bible, Jesus Christ
--seed planted & watered
--ground cultivated; seed grows
--soul harvested
5-Only the BEGINNING, and not the END----Sir Winston Churchill in a speech about the Battle of Egypt,----"Gentlemen this is not the end; it is not even the beginning of the end; it may perhaps be the end of the beginning."
--not to stop here with birth only — Don't put infants out to fend for themselves.
--tragic to see spiritual DWARFS — Neither in spiritual realm
--Often hear--"Why doesn't he grow up?" in physical things.
How pained the Lord must be over those who STAY BABIES!!

B.-Beginnings
1-Can't grow until BORN--born into grace
--grow in grace
2-Means severance with past---2:1 — Associated w/ CARNALITY
--lay it aside
--all its sins too — No half-way measures
--God wasn't pleased with them before & isn't now either
--New experience withthe new life

C.-Growth: — Duty →
1-In faith---2 The. 1:3 — "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet because that your faith groweth exceedingly, & the charity of every one of you all toward each other."
2-In love
3-In holiness--1 Th. 4:1
4-In knowledge & understanding— 2 Pet. 3:18
5-HOW CAN WE GROW???????
--"Crave" the Word; Get a right diet

FURTHERMORE then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

--ILLUS---Pioneer Nurse Florence Nightingale wrote a book on Nursing---NOTES ON NURSING---& the last Chapter is titled, "Minding Baby" It was written for the benefit of older girls in the family who may be left in charge when motheris out.. In part it reads, "And now, girls I have a word for you. You must be very careful about the baby's food, about being strict to the minute for feeding it, and not giving it too much at a time. Neither must baby be underfed. Above all, never give it any unwholesome food. Baby when it is weaned requires to be fed often & regularly & not too much at a time."
.....Many Christians are not growing because they have not learned this elementary lesson about taking their food regularly — Stay away from GARBAGE of error.
--Regularity--Daily quiet time & meditation
--Daily prayers; Weekly assembling
QUALITY Unadulterated Word
--Experience--2:3---ILLUS---An infidel was lecturing to a great audience; and having finished his address, he invited any who had questions to ask to come to the platform. After a short inter-

val a man who had been well known as a notorious drunkard but who had lately been converted stepped forward. Taking an orange from his pocket, he coolly peeled it and then ate it. When he had finished his orange, he turned to the lecturer and asked him if it was a sweet one. Very angrily the man said, "IDIOT, HOW CAN I KNOW WHETHER IT WAS SWEET OR SOUR WHEN I NEVER TASTED IT?"----To This the converted drunkard retorted, "AND HOW CAN YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT CHRIST IF YOU HAVE NOT TRIED HIM?"

Built on the foundation — CHRIST Mt. 16:18, 1 Cor. 3:11

II.-LIVING STONES 2:5

A.-Privilege:

1-"Living"---life from above — Imparted in New Birth

2-"Stones"---part of the building "The church" — Both Universal AND local

3-United by mortar---unity with believers — Eph. 4:1-3; Ps. 133:1; 1 Cor. 12:13

B.-Duty----Fellowship:

1-Bound not only to Christ, but also to one another

2-Never seen stones suspended in mid-air

3-Solitary aspects, to be sure — Giving, Praying, Witnessing

4-Corporate aspects---Heb. 10:25----worship

---Acts 12:5-----prayer — by the CHURCH for Peter in Prison

III.-HOLY PRIESTHOOD 2:5

A.-Privilege:

1-Offer up Spiritual sacrifices-- Rom. 12:1 Bodies; Money; Thanks & Praise; Good works — Heb. 13:15-16

2-O.T.--Only Priests were NEAR to the Sanctuary where God was

--Only Priests OFFERED sacrifices

--NOW, no barriers!!!----No distinctions!!!---no classes among God's people — The VAIL is RENT

--ILLUS---One day a family was leaving Beaumont & saw a large sign along the highway calling upon people to acknowledge God. "GO AND WORSHIP GOD IN THE CHURCH OF YOUR OWN CHOICE" it read. As this family pulled up to a stop-sign, another car stopped beside it and a child in the other car read the sign and said, "Daddy, WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO WORSHIP?" The father replied, "It means to go to church and listen to the preacher preach."..... Could there be a more horrible definition of worship???? Worship 3 or 4 hundred years ago was pronounced WORTH*SHIP---meaning the acknowledgement of the worth that is our God. Worship in heaven is described in terms of God's angels & sons falling before Him saying, "Blessing, and glory, and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God forever and ever."

B.-Duty----Worship: — ILLUS — Yellow Card

1-Worship---most sublime experience of life

2-How many of us worship????

3-How often do we worship???? — Ever consciously decide to do this?

4-Busy serving like Martha or worshipping like Mary??

---both good; both necessary

---BUT, Let's do BOTH — See poem "Martha"

---There is nothing so calculated to liberate from self ad to truly worship

IV.-CHOSEN GENERATION 2:9

A.-Privilege:

1-Terms extracted from Ex. 19 — addressed ONLY to Israel

2-MUCH WIDER MEANING----now for all believers

3-Christians are "God's Chosen" now, & not the Jews — who are set aside

4-The great purpose of God in choosing His ancient people was that He might reveal Himself to them. And that they, having received His revelation might guard it. And guarding it they might dispense

it to the world.

5-Israel failed as a witness-----SHALL WE????

B.-Duty---Witnessing:

1-"You are God's people"----WHY???

2-In order "that ye should show forth the praises (spread abroad the excellencies) of Him..."

3-DUTY IS WITNESSING — All Believers — Acts 1:8

4-Danger of spreading too wide or not spreading at all,

--few people able to work with large numbers

--most better able to concentrate on 2 or 3 at a time

--Pray & speak & love; Speak & pray & love

--Work on those close to you--family, work, neighborhood

--ILLUS ---How 40 Became 150----There were 40 members of a little congregation in India. They had worshipped idols until someone came & told them about the Lord Jesus Christ. They were then converted and served Him. Somehow their numbers did not increase even though they were surrounded by thousands of unsaved people who were in just the same condition as they used to be. One day their leader gathered them together & said, "I want each one of you to make an earnest effort, under God, TO WIN ONE SOUL and make him or her a member here in the next 3 months. If you are willing, here is a paper for you to sign promising that you will do this with God's help."..... The members gladly responded to this appeal. As few of them could write, a list of names was prepared, & to this they appended their thumb marks, their leader reminding them that of all the millions of thumbs in the world, none exactly resembled theirs, so their thumb-print signatures could not be imitated.---It was a striking scene as that little band affixed their thum marks opposite their names..... .....And do you know what happened???????Each went after ONE, and in 3 months their number had increased to 150. Began on the BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE OF EACH ONE WIN ONE.....AND DID.

5-UNABLE??????????---Woman who couldn't talk for Christ when she was asked by her pastor. Pastor found her several days later really "preaching" to her neighbors about her chickens. Pastor told her that if she knew as much about her Savior and His Word as she did about her chickens, she'd have no trouble speaking for Him — AMEN!

V.-STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS 2:11

A.-Privilege:

1-"Strangers"--"aliens"---somebody who has no rights to where he lives

2-"Pilgrims"--"exiles"---somebody who has no home where he lives

3-Citizenship, home & treasure in HEAVEN

4-Aliens & exiles on earth

5-Should change attitudes toward:

--amusements

--affections on things----above — Col. 3:1-2

--suffering & pain---2 Cor. 4:17

--friends---win them for Christ

--"Homesick for heaven"--Phil. 1:23

Stand UP + Be Counted For What We PROFESS

B.-Duty---Holiness of Life:

1-Holiness of life due to the fact that we're "related" to a Holy God Lev. 19:2

2-Heavenliness of attitude on earth.

3-Not neglect other things---BUT SEEK THE BEST

***Not engrossed in THINGS

Good Better Best

4-ILLUS--I've read somewhere of a young man who found a five-dollar bill on the street. From that moment on he never lifted his eyes while walking. In the course of the years he accumulated 29,516 buttons, 54,172 pins, 22 cents, a bent back, & a miserable disposition ---Think what he LOST with his eyes on the gutter!!!

Concl:

A.-Metaphors:
1-Real Pictures of a Christian
2-Real exhortations to our lives
3-Lessons for each of us----SNAPSHOT OF YOU???

B.-Resume:
1-Newborn babes---duty is to grow on Word
2-Living stones---duty is to fellowship w/ Believers
3-Holy priests----duty is to worship True God
4-Chosen people---duty is to witness To Unsaved
5-Aliens & exiles---duty is to be holy- Before All
6------SNAPSHOT OF YOU?????

IF NOT, WHY NOT?

Do these snapshots combine to show you in full length portrait as one who has come "unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"?

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"I Will Praise Him" —— 24
Onward Christian Soldiers — 177
Look To The Lamb Of God — 73

1 Pet. 2:1-10 PRIESTHOOD OF BELIEVERS

Intro:---A.-What is a Priest?
1-Contrast with a Prophet--God's representative TO Man
2-Def.--Man's Representative BEFORE GOD.
B.-What a Priest is Not (necessarily)
1-Robed 3-One of the few "elect"
2-Collar backward 4-Member of 1 church group.

I.-HISTORY OF PRIESTHOOD:
A.-Pre-Patriarchal Period
1-Adam, Abel, Cain---all priests
2-All came to God by means of blood sacrifice
3-Came every man for himself
4-No women in this office--true only in pagan religions
B.-Patriarchal Period
1-Noah, Job, Melchizedek, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
2-Head of family for the whole family---Job. 1:5
3-Part of the birthright of the eldest son--ILLUS--Jacob & Esau
C.-Nation of Israel
1-Tribe of LEVI were ALL priests (except for those disqualified due to impediments)
2-Whole tribe served (males), but no others were allowed
3-High Priests---Family of Aaron & his descendents
--Offered sacrifices & intercession
4-This system was in effect UNTIL Judaism was done away when the vail of the temple was rent in two at the death of our Lord & thus the way was made OPEN for all to the presence of God.

II.-PRIEST'S INDUCTION INTO OFFICE:
A.-Born To His Office:
1-O.T.--Physical birth into the 1 priestly tribe
2-N.T.--New Birth into God's family
B.-Inducted into Service By A FULL Bath
1-O.T.--Lev. 8:1-6---Whole Body Washed
2-N.T.--Eph. 5:26 & Tit. 3:5--Washing of regeneration by the Holy Spirit & the Word of God
C.-3-ILLUS--John 13:4-11
C.-Serving Under Divine Appointment:
1-Specific Tribe was selected by God
2-God's choice, not man's
3-Service:---For themselves & then for others (Heb. 5:3)
4-N.T. Church---ALL BELIEVERS ARE PRIESTS--1 Pet. 2:5,9; Re.1:6
D.-Cleansing For Priests----To Keep Undefiled
1-Laver--for hands---deeds of life
--for feet----for walk of life
2-1 John 1:9--clean us up where poluted by the world, flesh, & the devil

III.-DUTIES OF PRIESTHOOD
A.-OLD Testament Priesthood:
1-Blood Sacrifices--efficacious as they looked FORWARD to the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins...
--once a year blood taken to Holy of Holies
2-Lead others in worship---from the OUTSIDE
3-Lead others by Intercession---stood in the gap
4-One family ministered for all others.

B.-NEW Testament Priesthood

1-Blood Sacrifices--not for us to make
--Completed by Christ & fully EFFICACIOUS
--Heb. 9:7 contrasted with Heb. 9:25-28

2-Sacrifices of the Christian--Body --Rom. 12:1-2
--Praise, Works, & Giving--Heb.13:15-16

3-Worship---For OURSELVES & from the INSIDE
---Vail is rent & now wide open
---Full access--Rom. 5:2

4-Intercession---Altar of Incense pictured an odor of a sweet savor to God when we pray for others.

NB 5-CONTRAST---Israel HAD a priesthood--The church IS a priesthood.

C.-Clarification

1-Priesthood---all the church of the living God
---all equal one with the others
---no spiritual hierarchy

2-Offices & Gifts of God
---vary & differ from christian to christian.
---each christian has some gift or gifts.

CONCL:----What a Priest is---Man's representative before God.

How to get to be a priest:
Born into priesthood
Inducted into priesthood
Serving as a priest
Cleansed daily

Duties of a Priest
Sacrifices
Worship
Intercession

All Christians are Priests---Let us minister as Priests.

"Holiness and Heavenly Access"----1 Peter 2:3-10

Intro.--A.-Summarize Mt. 16:13-18
B.-Peter = "Pebble" speaks in variegated terms of the True Rock. Peter - Neither Pope nor Foundation
C.-Our being "set apart" unto God gives us the privilege of heavenly access.

I.- HEAVENLY ACCESS IS BASED UPON WHAT CHRIST IS.

A.-To the BELIEVER.
1-We have tasted the Lord & thus proved him.
2-"to whom coming"--not salvation, but fellowship. ILLUS--"CLOSE RANKS"--command in Army.
3-OUR STONE: OUR ROCK OF AGES**Mt. 16:13-18.
a-living---in Him alone is life
b-disallowed--rejected by the unsaved.
c-chosen--God's Desire fulfilled in Him.
d-Precious--Value above all others in Person & in Sacrifice.
e-Chief Corner--Binds all Christians together--Illus- of the cornerstone in Solomon's Temple & stone not used at first (see Meyer)
f-secure--"not confounded" when built on Him. ILLUS
A street preacher in London was preaching to a crowd that had gathered around him. It was at the time of the Shamrock races, & everyone was talking about them. A ruffiean on the edge of the crowd thought he would have a little fun, so he called in, "Mr. Preacher, what do you know about the shamrock?"* The preacher never paused, but went right on. A second time the disturber called in, "I say, Mr. Preacher, what do you know about the shamrock?" Still the preacher paid no heed, but preached right on. Finally the third time, not to be silenced, the ruffian called again, "Mr. Preacher! I'm asking you what you know about the Shamrock?" Thistime the preacher paused. The crowd became very still. Pointing upward with one hand, he said, so clearly and distinctly that every one could hear him, "On Christ the SOLID ROCK I stand; all other rocks are----sham rocks!"

B.-To the UNBELIEVER = Disobedient = Non-Persuaded.
1-Disallowed = rejected.
2-Stone of stumbling---a Scandal to them.
3-Rock of Offence --Because the testimony of the Word of God is to Christ as the ONLY FOUNDATION.
4-Rejecting Christ, they build upon the SAND.

C.-PURPOSE OF THE HEAVENLY ACCESS.
1-"living stones"--speaks of individual responsibility
2-"spiritual house"--speaks of the corporate Body of Christ.
3-"priests"--to offer the spiritual sacrifices
--Rom. 12:1--Bodies
--Heb. 13:15-16--Praise, Good Works, Finances.
4-Access is for free and unhampered fellowship--Heb. 4:16; Heb. 10:19-25; James 4:8.

II.-THE EXPECTED HOLINESS BASED UPON THE POSITION GRANTED US.
A.-THAT POSITION.-----"But ye are"--contrast with those who are disobedient.
1-"chosen generation"--"elect race"--not confined to 1 gen.
2-"royal priesthood"--combination of King-Priest--True of Christ in Zech. 6:13 & of us in Rev. 1:6.
3-"holy nation"--contrast to unholy Israel. Play on Ex.19:6
4-"peculiar people"--Uniquely & privately owned by God.
5- 1 Thess. 4:3 "for this is the will of God, even your

B.-PRACTICE--"that ye should"---God saves men FROM sin, not IN sin. 1 Th. 4:3 "For this is the will of God for you, even your Sanctification..."

1-Position should lead us to practice of holiness. Declared HOLY; ought to become holy.

2-"shew forth"--public demonstration; spoken message.

3-"praises"---"excellencies"--prove that our God is holy by our holiness of life. WE ARE TO BE A CREDIT TO HIM.

4-Because:--called us out of darkness into His marvelous light
--made the people of God when we had no right to expect it.
---we were extended mercy.

Concl. ---YE ARE. . . THAT YE SHOULD. ---Are you?????

"SYMBOLS OF THE CHURCH---THE PRIESTHOOD" 1 Pet. 2:5, 9

INTRO:

A.-The NEED Of The Priesthood (TEMPLE is not complete without it

B.-The NAMING Of The Priesthood (1 Pet. 2:5, 9

I.-THE OFFICE OF THE PRIEST:

A.-Its Fundamental:
1-Heb. word "Cohen"=="to stand" in ministry
2-Primary thought is MEDIATORIAL (Job. 9:32=33; 16:21; 1 Tim. 2:5)
3-Stands as man's representative to God-------GODWARD
4-Contrast with Prophet; God's voice to man---MANWARD

B.-Its Functions:
1-See Exodus 19:3-8; esp. vss. 5 & 6
2-Israel HAD a priesthood;
Church IS a priesthood
3-Israel's High Priest had a once-a-year access to the Holy of Holies (Lev. 16)
4-Church's priesthood ALL has OPEN ACCESS--Heb. 10:19-21
5-Therefore exhorted to "draw near" (Heb. 10:22 in con=trast with Ex. 19:12-13

C.-Its Foundations:
1-Founded on Christ's finished sacrifice--Heb. 9:11-15, 24-28
2-That sacrifice is EXPIATORY
3-Though believer-priests bring sacrifices(see III, A), those sacrifices are in no sense expiatory. We receive salvation as a GIFT, our sacrifices are as a glory to God

II.-QUALIFICATIONS OF THE PRIEST: (Num. 16:5)

A.-CHOSEN By God:
1-Christ as High Priest--Heb. 5:1-6; 7:26-28
2-Believer-priests--1 Pet. 2:4-5; Lev. 8:1-2
3-F. B. Meyer--"It is of the utmost importance that the divinely appointed distinction between the priesthood & people should be clearly seen. It has been a common mistake to suppose from Ex. 19:5-6, that Israel had been set apart as a 'royal priesthood'. What was then offered was conditional upon their obeying God's voice indeed & keeping His covenant. But this they failed to do. And so the House of Aaron was taken out of the Nation, & set apart to discharge the priestly office in behalf of the people, as types &

shadowes of a better priesthood, which should in due time be brought in the Person and work of God's Anointed One."

B.-Sanctified By God:
1-"Holy" ="Set apart"--1 Pet. 2:5; Ex. 29:4
2-Saucy: "The emphasis on holiness of the O.T. priests, seen in the elaborate rites of consecration, is also evident in the sanctification of the priesthood of the Church."
3-The Ritual--Lev. 8:6-36
--Washed--8:6
--Robed--8:7-9
--Anointed--8:10-12
--Consecrated--8:13-36
a-Three-fold offering(Sin--8:14; Burnt--8:18; Unleavened bread--8:26
b-Living areas touched by blood--(ear, thumb, toe)
c-Hands filled with gifts for offering which are not natively his own (8:27-29)
d-Fellowship--8:31-32
e-Separation unto God; Abide--(8:33-36)
--ONLY READY FOR SERVICE after this whole procedure of consecration has been accomplished 15-
4-Emphasis on purity of life--1 Pet. 1:16; 2:9-12

III.-SERVICES OF THE BELIEVER-PRIEST:

A.-Service Of Sacrifice: (UPWARD)
1-His Altar--Heb. 13:10-13
2-His Body--Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 8:1-6
3-His Praise--Heb. 13:15; 1 Pet. 2:9 Ps. 107:22
4-His Thanks--Heb. 13:15; Col. 3:17; Eph. 5:20
5-His Good Works--Heb. 13:16; Tit. 3:8; Eph. 2:10
6-His Giving--Heb. 13:16; Gal. 6:6; Phil. 4:14-19; 1 Cor. 16:1=2; 2 Cor. 8 & 9
7-His Witness--Rom. 15:16
8-PURPOSE of these sacrifices--GOD'S GLORY--Mt. 5:16; John 17:10; 1 Cor. 10:31; Eph. 1:6, 12, 14; 3:21; 1 Pet. 2:12

B.-Service Of Witness: (OUTWARD)
1-Show forth God's praise--1 Pet. 2:9
2-Share forth God's message--2 Cor. 5:20; Acts 1:8
3-Show forth godliness--1 Pet. 2:11-12, 2-25

C.-Service Of Intercession: (UPWARD) 18
1-Intercession for physical needs--Acts 12:5; Jas. 5:14-/
2-Intercession for missionary activity--Acts 13:3; Mt.9:35-38
3-Intercession for spiritual needs--Acts 1:24-25; 14:23; Paul's prayers for saints (Eph. 1:16-23; 3:14-21
4-Intercession for those outside the faith--1 Tim. 2:1-2; Acts 7:60; Rom. 10:1

CONCLUSION:

Saucy (P. 44): "In the ministries of believer priests it must be remembered that they do not act as individuals alone, but are members of a priesthood which has its position & authority only in its High Priest, the Lord Jesus. All the ministries of the New Testament priesthood become valid and effectual through Him."

"WHAT ABOUT JESUS AS YOU SEE HIM? 1 Pet. 2:7

INTRO: A.-The INCOMPARABLE CHRIST:

More than 1900 years ago there was a Man born contrary to the laws of life. This Man lived in poverty & was reared in obscurity. He did not travel extensively. Only once did he cross the boundary of the country in which He lived; that was during His exile in childhood.

He possessed neither wealth nor influence. His relatives were inconspicuous, & had neither training nor formal education.

In infancy He startled a king; in childhood He puzzled doctors; in manhood He ruled the course of nature, walked upon the billows as if pavements, and hushed the sea to sleep.

He healed the multitudes without medicine and made no charge for His service.

He never wrote a book, and yet all the libraries of the country could not hold the books that have been written about Him.

He never wrote a song, and yet He has furnished the theme for more songs than all the songwriters combined.

He never founded a college, but all the schools put together cannot boast of having as many students.

He never marshalled an army, nor drafted a soldier, nor fired a gun; and yet no leader ever had more volunteers who have, under His orders, made more rebels stack arms and surrender without a shot fired.

He never practiced psychiatry, and yet He has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors far & near.

Once each week the wheels of commerce cease their turning and multitudes wend their way to worshiping assemblies to pay homage and respect to Him.

The names of the past proud statesmen of Greece & Rome have come and gone. The names of the past scientists, philosophers, and theologians have come and gone; but the Name of this Man abounds more and more. Though time has spread 1900 years between the people of this generation and the scene of His crucifixion, yet He still lives. That king Herod could not destroy Him, and the grave could not hold Him.

He stands forth upon the highest pinacle of heavenly glory, proclaimed of God, acknowledged by angels, adored by saints, and feared by demons, as the living, Personal Christ, our Lord and Savior.

We are either going to be forever WITH Him, or forever WITHOUT Him. It is that incomparable Christ Who asked:

B.-The Inescapable Question:

1-Mt. 16:13-16
2-General question--16:13
3-Uncertain answers--16:14
4-Specific question--16:15
5-PERSONAL answer--16:16
6-How would YOU reply ?????

C.-The Message:

PROPOSITIONAL TRUTH

PERSONAL TRUTH

1-The Objective FACTS ABOUT Christ
2-The Subjective RESPONSE TO Christ
3-Prop: Answer the question: "What about Jesus as you see Him"??

I.-OBJECTIVE FACTS ABOUT CHRIST:

A.-Pre-Existence Of Christ:

1-Isa. 9:6--"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:..."
2-John 1:1-4
3-Jn. 8:51-59

B.-Miraculous Birth Of Christ:

1-Isa. 7:14--"Therefore the LORD Himself shall give you a sign: Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."
2-Lk. 1:26-38

C.-Sinless Life Of Christ:

1-Mt. 7:28-29--"And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at His doctrine: for He taught them as One having authority, and not as the scribes.
2-Jn. 7:46--"The officers answered, Never man spake like this man."
3-Jn. 8:46--"Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?"

D.-Sacrificial Death Of Christ:

1-Isa. 53:6--"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all."
2-2 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."
3-Rom. 5:6-8--"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commended His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

E.-Triumphal Resurrection Of Christ:

1-Recorded in all 4 gospels
2-17 separate recorded references & occasions noted
3-"Best authenticated fact of ancient history" Encyclopaedia Britannica.
4-Acts 2:22-24, 32--"Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs which God did by Him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel & foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, & with

wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that He should be holden of it...This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we are all witnesses."

F.-Visible Ascension Of Christ:

1-Recorded in Mk, Lk (24:50-53) and Acts 1:6-11
2-Proof of acceptance of Christ's sacrifice for sin in the sight of God
3-Position of honor accorded Christ
4-Mk. 16:19--"So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, He was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God."

G.-Blessed Hope Of Christ's Return:

1-Tit. 2:13--"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ"
2-One of the three "THEMES" of the apostle's preaching
  --Jesus is the Messiah
  --Jesus is RAISED from the dead
  --Jesus is COMING AGAIN
3-Acts 1:11--"Which (angels) also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven."
4-Acts 3:20--"And He shall send Jesus Christ, which was before preached unto you:.."
5-His Return--Rapture FOR His saints
  --Revelation WITH His saints

H.-Summary:

1-Objective facts are straightforward and consistent
2-Present Jesus as "THE INCOMPARABLE CHRIST"
  --The God/Man
  --The Savior of the world
  --The Judge of the unbelieving
3-Mr. James Russell Lowell wrote:

Once to every man and nation
 Comes the moment to decide,
In the strife of truth with falsehood,
 For the good or evil side;

Though the cause of evil prosper,
 Yet 'tis truth alone is strong;
Truth forever on the scaffold,
 Wrong forever on the throne,

Yet that scaffold sways the future,
 And, behind the dim unknown,
Standeth God within the shadow
 Keeping watch above His own."

II.-THE SUBJECTIVE RESPONSE TO JESUS CHRIST:

A GIFT

A.-2 Pet. 1:1--"Like precious faith":

1-Obtained along with many others in the "family" of God
2-Centered in the reception of the Righteousness of God
3-The privilege of those who have "OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST"
4-To the child of God, this faith is "PRECIOUS"

B.-2 Pet. 1:4--"Precious promises":

1-These are "given unto us"--No works
--No merit
--No ritualism
2"Exceeding great and precious promises"
--Truths to believe
--Truths to live by
--Truths to hope in for the future
3-Confirmed in that we are ingrafted with the Divine Nature to respond to these promises
4-To the child of God, these promises of his God are "PRECIOUS"

C.-1 Pet. 1:18-21--"Precious Blood:"

1-Price of redemption--Not silver or gold
--Not any human coinage
--BUT with precious blood
--C O S T L Y indeed
--Required DEATH
2-Delivers from "empty manner of life received by tradition from your fathers"
3-LAMB--Without spot; Perfect in NATURE
--Without blemish; Perfect in LIFE & ACTION
--Foreordained
--Now manifested "FOR YOU"
4-Outcome------1:21
5-No wonder, the the child of God whose salvation depends upon that blood having been shed for him, it is "the PRECIOUS blood of Christ."

D.-1 Pet. 2:1-8--"He Is Precious":

1-Addressed to believers--2:1-3
2-Divine evaluation--2:4
--Coming as a living (life-giving) stone
--Jn. 1:4--"In Him was life; & the life was the light of men."
--Disallowed by men (ISRAEL)
--Jn. 1:11
--Chosen of God
--AND PRECIOUS in the Father's sight
3-Divine inclusion
--2:5
--"YE ALSO"
--Living stones in a Spiritual House (the church)
--Holy priesthood offering spiritual sacrifices
--ACCEPTABLE to God thru Christ
--How can that be?
--Eph. 1:6--"Accepted in the Beloved."

4-Divine provision--2:6
--ALL of God; NOTHING of man
--Promise: "He that believeth on Him shall not be confounded (==disappointed in Him)

5-Determinative division
--2:7-8
--Either Christ is PRECIOUS to you
--Or Christ is a "STONE OF STUMBLING" to you
--One or the other
--How about it ????

WHICH IS IT of You?
* Precious
* Stone of Stumbling

CONCLUSION:

A.-Peter's Responses:
1-Clearly on RECORD
2-"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God"
3-PRECIOUS--Faith
--Promises
--Blood
--HE IS PRECIOUS

B.-Reminder:
1-"Once to every man and nation
Comes the moment to decide
In the strife of truth with falsehood,
For the good or evil side." James Russell Lowell
2-What is YOUR subjective response ??
--To the Facts
--To the Savior

3-ILLUS--Last week I read the story of PHIL HAMER who had beeen gloriously saved from a life of wickedness.

"One of the happiest moments in my life," he said "was the day I led my little daughter, VASHTI, to accept Christ as her Savior. She was 12 years old at the time.

"A short time after she was converted, I had the joy of seeing her be immersed and join the church. I will never forget the expression on her face as she came up out of the water.

"As she grew to be a young lady she would often go with me on speaking engagements. At the close of the services she would come up and join me in singing "JESUS NEVER FAILS

"On October 24, 1941, she had been with me in a service. I drove her to the train to return home, while I went to another engagement. Just before we reached the station, I pulled the car to the curb. I took her hand and said: 'VASHTI, you have been a real sweetheart to your Daddy. We have been in many a storm together. I have never doubted your experience with the Lord, but I feel peculiarly led tonight to ask you HOW IS IT WITH YOU? DOES YOUR EXPERIENCE STILL HOLD GOOD?"

"I felt a tear fall on my hand. Then she replied 'YES, DADDY, MY EXPERIENCE STILL HOLDS GOOD. I KNOW I AM SAVED.

"I never saw her again. Two days later she was

on a bus which suffered a tragic accident. With 18 others, she was burned to death.

As I followed the body of the only child I had to the ~~cemetary~~ cemetary, I would not have taken a million dollars for the last words she said to me: "DADDY, MY EXPERIENCE STILL HOLDS GOOD."

HOW IS IT WITH YOU?

What about Jesus as YOU see Him?

Is He PRECIOUS to you?

Westbrae--12/14/69--Wonderful-------# 11
He Is So Precious To Me----# 258
The Name Of Jesus — #9

8/4/74 PM

"Holiness and Our Pilgrim Journey" 1 Peter 2:11-17

Intro.-- A.-Told Who We Are: -Chosen Generation
-Royal Priesthood
-Holy Nation
-Peculiar People

B.-Told What We Should Do: --Shew forth His Praises.
C.-2:11 marks a change from a largely doctrinal section to a largely practical section of Exhortation.

I.-HOLINESS ON OUR PILGRIM JOURNEY AS RELATED TO SELF

A.-The address:
1-"Dearly Beloved"--term of God's endearment. Odd for Peter
2-"beseech"--language of grace--reminds of Paul--Strong appeal
3-"Strangers & Pilgrims"--in the world, but not at home here.

B.-NEGATIVE---ABSTAIN
1-How to deal with lusts:
-Resist--Jas. 4:7 Walk in Spirit--Gal 5:16
-Flee----2 Tim 2:22 Put on X's fulness--Rom. 13:14
2-Lusts--matters of the flesh
3-Result is not merely bodily, but affects the inner man--the spiritual man--the SOUL

C.-POSITIVE---CONVERSATION = BEHAVIOR
1-"having"--durative in character
2-"honest"--of good report tion.
3-Pagans desire is to deride--but we are to give them no ammuni/
4-Rather, show good works to win them thereby.
5-Illus.-A certain evangelist sometimes uses this illus. Two merchants went to a revival service to listen to the preacher, a man of some reputation. These men were competitors in business, & each one knew the heart-burnings that arose in their business life. After some nights, one of them went forward to accept life in Christ. The other was under a measure of conviction, but unyielding. As he saw his competitor go forward, he said within himself: "I will watch him. If he lives it one year I will believe there is really something in it, & will become a Christian myself." For 1 year he watched that man & saw a complete change in his business life, social life, & everyday life. At the end of the year, the watcher sought & found God & the forgiveness of sins thru Christ. He then went to the merchant whose life he had been watching so closely, & said: "For 1 whole year I have watched you, & your life has convinced me there is something real in your XN. faith."

II.-HOLINESS ON OUR PILGRIM JOURNEY AS RELATED TO THE ORDINANCES OF MEN

A.-Submission--Pleasing to the Lord--Fruit of Obedience
1-Ordinances--liberties involve responsibilities. Illus. Traffic regulations.
2-Enforcer (king or governor)--honored, but not important.
3-For the Lord's Sake--for His glory
--for our testimony.
4-Submission--This is the WILL OF GOD
--intended to silence the foolish. Illus. Muzzle.

B.-FREEDOM
1-Free because of Christ--Jn. 8:36
2-Free of the law of O. T. -Rom. 6:14, 20, 22.
3-ILLUS--Booker T. Washington in UP FROM SLAVERY describes the scenes among the blacks on the night of the proclamation of their freedom. "There was no sleep that night. All was excitement & expectancy. Early in the morning we were all sent for. The proclamation was read & we were free & could go when & where we pleased. There was great

rejoicing, followed by wild scenes of ecstasy. But, the wild rejoicing did not last long. By the time the colored people had returned to their cabins, there was a marked change in their feelings. The great responsibility of being free seemed to take possession of them. It was very much like suddenly turning a youth of 10 or 12 out into the world to provide for himself. Within a few minutes the wild rejoicing ceased & a feeling of deep gloom seemed to pervade the slave quarters. Now that they were liberated, they found possession of freedom to be much more serious business than they had anticipated.

3-YET, Liberty is not Liscence.--1 Pet 2:16
4-Don't go back to the Law-- Gal. 5:1
5-"as the servants of God"--free to obey the right
--free to obey God above men. Acts5:29

III.-HOLINESS AND OUR PILGRIM JOURNEY APPLIED

A.-"HONOR ALL MEN" -----OUTWARD
1-Put a value on all men.
2-They are worth praying for. 1 Tim. 2:1
3-Worth Saving--ILLUS** Lk. 15:8-10

B.-"LOVE THE BROTHERHOOD"-----INWARD
1-Love is in response to the command of Christ--Jn. 13:34-35.
2-Love is self-sacrifice for others. ILLUS--A man was making his way over the mountains thru a terrible snow storm. He gradually got weaker & weaker, until at last he stumbled & fell. He said to himself, "This is the end. I shall never be found!" He was too weak to rise, but as he fell his hand struck the body of another man who had fallen in the same place. The first man was unconsious, & the man who had just fallen rose to his knees, & bending over the prostrate form, began to chafe his hands & to rub his face, until by & by the man's eyes opened. He had saved another man's life, but he had also saved himself, for the exercise had kept the life in his own body. And when you have a passion for souls, you find that loving others sacrificially, will "warm" you too.
3-1 Pet. 1:22--Work of the Spirit--Unfeigned love.

C.-"FEAR GOD"----UPWARD--Prov. 1:7
1-Not, Fear in the sense of torment
2-But, Fear in the sense of reverence & trust. tionship.
3-Implies a hatred of Evil. Holiness is involved in this rela-/

D.-"HONOR THE KING"----INSTITUTIONWARD
1-God ordains human institutions.
2-Respect them for WHO is behind them. ILLUS.--U.S.A. President
3-If no respect for KING, then how for the KING OF KINGS??

Concl.--A.-Separated Life of a Christian is one of God's most powerful ways of convicting the unsaved of SIN.
B.-Early Christians were accused of evil, but their lives proved otherwise.
C.-ILLUS --A humble servant girl arose & went down the isle to the front during one of C. H .Spurgeon's sermons. "I have been converted," she said simply. "How do you know," he asked, his keen eyes searching her face, "How do you know that you are converted?"
The little servant girl looked up at him shyly & said, "I am quite sure because now I sweep under the rugs! I used to be careless when I did the sweeping.

"H oliness and Christ's Example" 1 Pet. 2:18-25; Isa. 53:1-7.

Intro.---A.-Subjection is the subject of this section.
B.-Other items dealt with, but the point is Christ's example in subjection.

I.-EXHORTATION TO SERVANTS.
A.-Subjection
1-becomes servants--slaves or voluntary workmen in bonds for wages.
2-Many slaves in Roman times; large part of the church too.
3-subjection to master: (regardless of his attitude)
---good & gentle
---froward = perverse or ill tempered
4-"thankworthy"--"acceptable"--God says "Thank you"
B.-Suffering
1-this is one of the callings of the Christian--3:10-5:14
2-suffering when not wrong is a grace unto God.
3-suffering when wrong--what glory????
4-dow well---this is acceptable as action of the Christian.
5-ILLUS--We get the short end of the deal & we say in a surly manner, "I'll let it pass this time, but don't let it ever happen again!"

II.-EXAMPLE OF CHRIST IN SUBMISSION (SUBJECTION)
A.-Suffered in the flesh.
1-to be our example or pattern.
2-this is not atoning in any sense.
3-these are common to all men, though in varying degrees.
4-example is not sufficient as this passage does go on to show in presenting Saviorhood of Christ. ILLUS --
Dr. Jos. Parker, on one occasion referred to the Unitarian concept of Jesus Christ as a great example ONLY, and then went on to say: "We have been to hear Paderewski play. It was wonderful, superb, magnificent. Then we went home & looked at the piano. We would have sold it to the first man who would have been fool enough to buy it. That is the effect of your great examples upon us. I want not only a great example, but a great SAVIOR, one who can deliver me from my weaknesses & my sins." To follow a good example in the future will not blot out the black record of the past. We need the blood of Christ's atoneing sacrifice to do that. To hear a Paderewski play will not make us like a Paderewski. We need the Christ within to live the Christ without.
B.-Sufferings peculiar to Christ as the Mediator & Savior.
1-suffered FOR us--took our place.
2-"bare our sins"--terms of sacrificial offering
3-"in his own body"--2:20--face buffeted
2:23--heart broken
2:24--back beaten
2:24--body crucified
4-Vicarious death for me.
C.-Reaction to Suffering
1-"God had 1 son without sin, but never had a son without trial."
2-"did no sin"--committed no sin--ILLUS--Red H eifer- no spot
3-"did no guile"--no deceit in his makeup or actions
4-"reviled not"--silent before: accusers, Sanhedrin, Herod Pilate; in Palace hall & praetorium; & on the cross except in words of prayer & blessing.
Isa. 53:7
5-"threatened not"--took not his own cause,-"committed" not just himself, but also accusers & accusations to the Father.

III.-EXHORTATION TO "YE"

A.* Called--2:21

1-to suffering--ILLUS--just like a tuning fork for giving musical pitch; if we get out of tune, the Lord has to use pressure on us to get us into tune for Him.

2-follow in his steps--ILLUS--as though His life were to be laid down& traced as the pattern for ours.

B.-Recognize PROVISION IN HIM--2:24

1-Substitutionary death for me--my soul healed by Him.

2-My death too--Reckon yourselves dead

3-Alive in His Res.--"Set your affections on things above"

4-Live unto Rightieousness--"walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.

C.-Return to Him.

1-Ye were---before salvation

2-Ye are now--as Christians

3-Shepherd--Provider & leader

4-Bishop - Overseer--Protector

5-ILLUS--A lady was once summering in Switzerland, & in her mountain walks she came upon a sheep-fold. She stood & watched very interestedly, for there was 1 poor sheep lying there moaning & looking very sick. She saw his leg was broken, &, full of pitty, asked how it had happened. "I broke it myself," the shepherd said sadly. She was even more pitiful, for she thought it must have been an accident. "No," said the shepherd, "it was done on purpose; it was the only way. That sheep will follow me afterwards, when I've nursed it& got it better, & it will always come at my call then. But before it wouldn't; it was always wandering off into dangerous places, & it wouldn't let me take care of it along with the rest, & wouldn't come when I called. It would certainly have gotten killed if I hadn't done that." ---Sometimes we poor human sheep will have our own way, will stray into dangerous paths until the Good Shepherd & Bishop of our souls Himself has to send sorrow & pain to us, so that we will hear His voice& follow Him.

Concl.---This passage is trying to show us that a life of holiness is one which ischaracterized by humility and subjection.

---Subjection to suffering is but one kind of subjection, but is sufficient to illustrate the principle.

---Subjection is nothing more or less than OBEDIENCE.

"Testimony in Holiness" 1 Pet. 3:1-9

Intro.---A.-Principles in 2:11-17 & then specific application
B.-Servants in 2:18 ✓
C.-Wives in 3:1 ✓
D.-Husbands in 3:7
E.-All in 3:8-9.

I.- WIVES---BE IN SUBJECTION = Loving Obedience.

A.-ILLUS--The pastor of a certain Ch. in Manchester England was fairly beseiged by a certain woman with requests to pray for her husband. They would nearly succeed in winning the husband when this woman would fly into a violent temper & upset everything. Her husband would say, "Well, Mary if that is religion, I don't want it." Finally the pastor told her the fault was hers; that she must overcome her temper, and the Lord would give her grace to do it. In her shame & despair she took the matter to the Lord, and he gave her the victory. The time for spring cleaning came. She had just gotten a new lamp hung in the hall & a new carpet laid when John came home, carrying something on his shoulder, not knowing about the new lamp, and there was a clattering and a breaking up of things. He expected a row, but instead a quiet voice from a quiet woman came down the stairs, "Never mind, John dear, we can get a new lamp and it is all right." And he said, "Mary, what's the matter?" "Oh, my dear," she said,"I have trusted the Lord Jesus to cure me of my temper." He said,"Well if he has cured you, come right down and pray for me, for that is what I want." The pastor said he was converted that very day.

B.-Be in subjection to their own husbands--no loopholes Eph. 5:24
1-Unsaved Husbands--1 Cor. 7:10-16
2-Saved Husbands who are unspiritual--yes
3-Saved Husbands who are spiritual--yes.

C.-To win disobedient (to the Word) husbands.
1.-Give a true testimony at least once.
2.-If the husband rejects the verbal testimony, then ?
3-Then, don't NAG HIM, but LIVE the truth out before him of the different life you have in Christ.
4.-That they may "behold"----"examine & watch carefully"

ILLUS. 5.-A Christian woman once came to Ironside & said, "You know, I can't understand how it is that I can't seem to get Jim to be a Christian. I am at him all the time. He never comes in but what I am telling him, "Jim, you ought to be ashamed of yourself. You are going straight to hell and taking the children with you."---but he only gets mad. "I don't blame him," said Ironside, "I would get mad too." Often when the testimony will not budge a man, a life will. So with Mrs. Martha Rutherford of Dallas.

D.-Adornment--not of the world--Rom. 12:2
1-Negative--Not like before you were saved.
--Not the world's standard, but scriptural.
--Not outward show; gaudy display--MASQUERADE
2-Positive--Inward beauty.
--Not a forbidding of clothing, but emphasis.
--Spiritual and not physical adornment.
--Can't help but gain the man's salvation.
3-ILLUS--Wuest, the Greek scholar, points out how this principle of inward action controlling outward appearance is not an unreasonable demand, but in accord with God's ways all about us. The fur-bearing animals produce their fur of beauty from the inside. The plumage of beautiful birds is grown from within. So also the beauty of a Godly woman!

E.-Scriptural Examples:
1-Holy women---"set apart ones"---those who lived a separated life
2-Examples--Eve---Rebecca--Asenath--Zipporah
3-Faith in God shown by subjection to the husband.
4-Sarah--excellent example--even when Abraham was WRONG in Egypt--Gen. 12:10-20 and in Gerar in Gen. 20:1-18.
5-ILLUS--What a contrast these examples are to those which we find so prevalent today. A pastor who was commending religion to a boy expressed the hope that he would give his heart to Christ in his youth. "Religion is continual joy," said he. "Look at your sister, Joan. How much that dear girl enjoys her religion!!" "Yes," replied the boy, "Joan may enjoy her religion, but nobody else in the house does." May that not be your testimony as told by others.

II.-HUSBANDS--Dwelling--domestic situation.
A.-According to knowledge---"considerately"
Christian Chivalry
1-Christian husband should be the Perfect Christian Gentleman.
2-Illus--Sir Walter Raleigh and Queen Elizabeth.
3-Intelligent recognition of the marriage relationship.------ too often I hear "I didn't think" given as the excuse of men.
B.-Giving Honor
1-same word translated "precious" in 1:19.
2-vessel--vase--instrument for service
3-weaker--not morally
--not intellectually
--but physically & as to constancy.
4-ILLUS--Coffee mug or Haveland cup. Weakness is not inferiority
C.-Heirs--joint privilege of having a Godly union in marriage.
1-They have in common a spiritual life & unity
2-Disunity can hinder your prayer life.
3-ILLUS--Tombstone epitaph of Charles Kingsley's----
WE LOVE***WE LOVED**WE WILL LOVE.

III.-"YE ALL"---summary of 2:11--3:7.
A.-One mind--Likeminded--get the mind of Christ--Phil. 2.
B.-Compassion--sympathy for all--the high and the low.
C.-Love for the Brethren--more than just "liking them"
D.-Be full of pity or "mercy"
E.-Be courteous
F.-Not giving out evil, but rather blessing.
G.-----ALL OF THIS IS YOUR "CALLING" IN THE LORD.

Concl.------The contents of this message have not been theoretical or theological, but PRACTICAL----INTENSELY PRACTICAL, for they dwell where we dwell.
--Let me close with an ILLUS.---A minister of a colored church was hearing the experiences of his people at a class meeting. One woman spoke of the preciousness of her religion and the comfort and happiness she found in it. "That is delightful, plum delightful," said the pastor, but how about the practical side? Does it make you kind in the home, cheerful, sweet, and loving?" The pastor felt someone tugging at his coat-tail and a man whispering, "Press dem questions, pastor! Press dem questions! Dat's my wife"

See notes for more & a message under 1 Pet. 3:1-7

"HOW TO GET A NEW MATE" 1 Peter 3:1-7
or
"Blueprint For A Successful Marriage"

INTRO:

A. Changing Spouses In Modern America:

1-Marrying is a **big-time** activity in the USA
2-Divorcing is also a big-time activity
--**51%** of US marriages now end in divorce
--SUCCESSIVE **polygamy**
3-**Swinging** Society--Wife swapping
--Husband swapping
--**SIMULTANEOUS** polygamy
4-**Restless** spirits
5-**Need** to be shown--Salvation in Christ — Spiritual level
--Rest in God's love — Emotional level
6-**Lacking** that **rest** they go **through marriages** as easily as you go through a **revolving door**

B. Changing Spouses In Biblical Christianity:

1-Not a matter of **successive spouses**
2-But rather of **TRANSFORMED SPOUSES**
--**First**, a change in one's **own self** !
--Then, a change in one's spouse
--Actually, **BOTH** mates can be **CHANGED** !!!
3-**Problems**: --Can it really be so important that Christians should **marry only** other believers? ?
--Some married and **then saved**, but their spouse is **not** (yet) **saved** (Joyce Black)
--Others were **untaught** and married out of the faith in ignorance of the clear teachings of God's Word (Gary + Faye Walker)
--Some were saved and **knowledgeable** of biblical teaching, but **wilfully** & rebelliously proceeded to **marry out** of the faith and out of God/s will (McElrees)
4-WHAT TO DO ??
--Divorce and try again ??--**NO** !!
--Leave their spouse & remain single??--**NO** !!
--Suffer in silence ??--**NO** !!
--**Follow** God's **Word** ??--**YES** !!! !
5-**But what** ??--1 Cor. **7:10-13**
6-**WHY** ??--Marriage is "**one to a customer**" so long as the marriage partner lives
--**NOT FREE** to contract another marriage regardless of the details of the situation
--**And**, you have to think of the spiritual welfare
** Of your **spouse**
** Of your **children**
** 1 Cor. **7:14**
7-**Conclusion**--**Stay put** in your marriage & **work** to make it a workable relationship
--**Principles** of 1 Cor. 7:17, 20, 24

--HOW ??..That is our message today

8-PROP: Become all God wants you to be within your present marriage relationship by letting God work in both of you---you and your mate.

I. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CHRISTIAN WIFE: (1 Peter 3:1-6)

A. BE SUBMISSIVE: (3:1)

1-Proper relationship of wife to husband

--Ranked under to his authority

--Voluntary action of the wife

--Not a cultural issue only in Near East cultures

--UNIVERSAL requirement for God's institution of marriage

--Peter counsels subjection, not severance of the relations

--Same relationship of submission

** 2:13-14--Governments

** 2:18-----To Masters

** Used of Jesus to Mary & Joseph

Not a license for abuse or lawlessness !

NB

2-HEADSHIP of the husband over the wife is GOD'S ORDER

-Gen. 3:16--"Unto the woman He said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; & thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee."

--True whether husband is saved or unsaved

--To her "OWN HUSBAND" = To HER PRIVATE HUSBAND

** Not a comparison to another woman's husband

** Not-"Why can't you be like Mary Jane's husband, Bill."

NB -Husband's disobedience toward God's truth is no cause for dissolution of the marriage relationship

"If any obey not the Word" (1 Pet. 3:1)

** Unsaved state; unbelieving disobedience

** Very strong verb of OBSTINATE REFUSAL to be persuaddd

** Shows anger & hostility

** You've shared the gospel & he has said "NO!"

** Then you need to BACK OFF from pressing him about the claims of Christ

3-Winning the unsaved husband

--He has heard the gospel & refused to believe it

--THE WORD has been presented & rejected

--NOW WHAT ??

--Win him "without a word"

** No definite article here--"a word"

** Without constant quoting of Scripture verses

** Without nagging or badgering

** Sophocles: "Silence is the proper ornament for women"

** BEN SIRA: "A silent woman is a gift from the Lord...a loud crying woman & a scold shall be sought out to drive away enemies."

4-HOW GAINED FOR CHRIST And SALVATION ??

--Won by her conversation=="Behavior, manner of living, deportment"

--No neglect of her wifely role or housewifely chores

-But winsome & lovable;
cheerful & friendly
-WON TO CHRIST by her Christian testimony
-If a husband sees that her faith is genuine, he may fall in love with her all over again !
-To please her he may listen to the gospel or go to church with her because she's so exemplary in her
SILENT WITNESS
-Won by her behavior !! Watching her life
-Walter Wilson "A wife who has horse sense will never turn out to be a NAG"

5-How will this happen ?? ?

6-ILLUS--A Christian woman once came to Harry Ironside & said, "You know, I can't understand how it is that I can't get Jim to be a Christian. I am at him all the time. He never comes in but I tell him, "Jim, you ought to be ashamed of yourself. You are going straight to hell, and taking the children with you. And he only gets mad at me.

"I don't blame him," said Ironside. "I would get mad too." Often when a testimony won't budge a man....a LIFE will !!

So Be Submissive

B-BE PURE (3:2)

1-In addition to a submissive spirit, the Christian wife needs to cultivate purity which is motivated by her deep reverence for God

2-The Chastity
-"CHASTE" is a rare word in our age of moral impurity
** Pure from all carnality
** Pure from every fault
-A High standard,.... YES !!
-Accurate reflection of her relationship to the God who commanded: "BE YE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY"
-Modesty
** In words
** In actions
** In dress
** In deportment
** Certainly the revealing way that some women dress has an impact upon the outbreak of sex crimes across America.

3-The Beholding
-Here & in 1 Peter 2:12 "Good works, which they shall behold"
-Technical term of witnessing with their own eyes
-Having contemplated;
LONG & CONTINUOUS WATCHING
-Husband is inspecting your behavior to see if it is consistent with what you've said
-Watching your general deportment
* "Conversation"==Manner of living
* Favorite word of Peter's, which he uses 8 times

4-The Fear--"Coupled with fear"
==Literally, "IN FEAR"
--Also used in Eph. 5:32--"Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband"
--Point is that it is to be the wife's PHOBIA TO PLEASE her husband
--This will get and hold his attention to what God has done in her life
--A fear lest the husband see something in the life of his wife that would turn him away from the gospel.
--ILLUS--Richard De Haan writes that "a member of the Radio Bible Class staff recently talked with an unsaved man who had been deeply moved by the loyalty & faithfulness of his wife since she had become a Christian. He said, "I know I'm not everything I ought to be, and I find myself thinking I don't deserve the kind of good woman she is. I surely appreciate the fact that when I go away for a few days, I know my wife is praying for me, and that her love for God & for me will keep her true. Her faith has really made her a good woman."
Now is it any wonder that this man came to know the Lord a few weeks later ??

SO Be Pure !

C-BE INWARDLY BEAUTIFUL: (3:3-4)

1-What real beauty is not:
--EXTERNAL FASHIONS
** Hairstyle ++ Braided hair
++ To attract attention to her appearance
++ Historians of that day tell us how the women spent many hours working with their hair, weaving it intricately intertwined with strands of pearls & precious stone. Hair often rose like a mountain on top of the head as much as a foot above the head. In such cases they would sleep sitting up, so not to muss it up.
** Adorning of Jewelery
++ Flashy rings
++ Necklaces
++ Bracelets
++ Combs & chains in the hair
++ All dolled up like WALKING CHRISTMAS TREES !
** Clothing styles ++ Not forbidden to wear them
++ But not to go overboard into EXTRAVAGANCE
++ John Newton: "A Christian woman should so dress that people will not recall what she had on, but rather her Christian gentleness & modesty"
--Watch out for the extremes
** Miniskirts // Granny dresses // low cut blouses
** Gaudy appearance // Undue plainness
** ALFORD--"With regard to the much-disputed question whether by the preceding injunction all ornament of dress is forbidden or only the making such ornament the adorning, it may safely

be left to the Christian wisdom of believing women to be not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is, in this as in similar matters. Within the limits of propriety & decorum, the common usage is the rule." (V, 358)

--Real beauty is not something you put on, it is what YOU ARE !!

--Wuest points out how this principle of inward action controlling outward appearance is not an unreasonable demand, but in accord with God's ways all about us. The fur-bearing animals produce their fur of beauty from the inside. The plumage of beautiful birds is grown from within. So also the beauty of a Godly woman !!

EXAMPLE

2-What real beauty actually is !!

--"INNER BEAUTY" ** Attitudes of heart
** Actions of life

Inner Radiance LKR
Deanne Bennett

--INNER CHARACTERISTICS

** "the hidden man of the heart"
++ Equivalent of Paul's term "inner man" or "inner person"
++ Not someting of a "put on" adornment
++ But she has herself become an adornment because of her regeneration & growth in grac e
** "That which is not corruptible" --No decaying; NO TARNISHING
** "A meek spirit"
++=="Mild, gentle, opposed to anger, soothing"
++ Used in preChristian erra of OUTWARD CONDUCT
++ Now used in N.T. as an INWARD QUALITY
++ ILLUS---A gentle horse
++ Example in Jesus: Mt.11:28-29 "Take My yoke upon you, + learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; + ye shall find rest unto your souls."
Mt. 21:5--"Tell ye the daughter of Zion, Behold thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon a colt the foal of an ass."
++ DEF: "Controlled power; Keeping herself in control"
++ Proper response to her husband, even if he is unfair, thoughtless or hostile
** "and quiet spirit"
Inner Reality
+="Calm, tranquil, with equilibrium"
++ NOT IN A TIZZY !!
++ Guarding against emotional seizures & outbursts

Such INWARD BEAUTY is "of great price", a term used for costly ointment (Mk. 14:3), or a rare pearl (Mt 13:46)

3-What she IS shines out like a candle through a glass chimney

SO.. Be Inwardly Beautiful

D. BE TAUGHT BY HOLY WOMEN: (3:5-6)

Worthy of emulation

1-Others before you int the faith
--Learn from them
--Follow in their pattern of life & testimony
--If women in O.T. days could show such faith as to be called HOLY WOMEN, no wife has an excuse to be rebel-

lious, complaining & agitated.

2-GENERAL EXAMPLES
- Jockabed, mother of Moses (Ex. 2)
- Hannah, mother of Samuel (1 Sam. 1)
- Anna, Prophetess of God in the Temple (Lk.1:70)
- Tabitha/Dorcas, woman of works (Acts 9:36-43)
- Heb. 11:35--"Women received their dead raised to life again:..."

3 BIG LESSONS

3-What is to be learned from these holy women?

(a) Trust in God--Hope directed toward & resting in God
- Expectation is from HIM, not primarily from their husbands

(b) Adornment of life--Imperfect verb indicates their accustomed pattern
- Receive from these godly women a PATTERN of inward characteristics for their own lives

(c) Subjection to their own husband
- Ranked under to his wishes & directions

Voluntary decisions

- HOW to manage these lessons ??
  1. Daily prayer life
  2. Daily meditation on God's Word
  3. Daily obedience to known truth
  4. Daily living in proper relationship to their husband's wishes
  5. Faithful church attendance and involvement & fellowship to "CHARGE HER BATTERY" & learn how to be a good & godly wife

Learn from the Pastor-Teacher + older godly women

4-SPECIFIC EXAMPLE--SARAH
- Idealization of godly womanhood
- Historically in Genesis 11-23
- Heb. 11:11--"Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised."
- Called Abraham "Lord"=Master, husband (Gen. 18:12)
- Not that he was always right, for he was not !!
  - ** Went down to Egypt (Gen. 12:10-20)
  - ** Took Hagar to wife (Gen. 16:1-6)
  - ** Went down to Gerar (Gen. 20:1-18)
  - BUT Sarah had her dependent spirit toward Abraham as her head. She followed his leading & left the responsibility sit on his shoulders
- "Whose daughters ye are as long as ye do well, & are not afraid with any amazement."
  - ** ALFORD: "As long as the believing wives are doing good they need not be afraid with any sudden terror of the account which their husbands may exact from them."
  - ** Idea of "TERROR", "SCARE", "NERVOUS EXCITEMENT"
  - ** Fearlessness is part of the character which is set before them for emulation.

Well states it →

5-How can Christian women be taught?
- (a) By WATCHING examples (Titus 2:3)
- (b) By FOLLOWING teaching (Titus 2:4-5)
- (c) OLDER women are to be the pattern for the YOUNGER
- (d) Involvement in God's ordained "support group", local Church

NEXT →

6-Richard De Haan says at this point:

"I can well imagine what was going on in the churches of Asia Minor while Peter's admonitions to women were being read. Some husbands no doubt chuckled, & others gave their mates a good nudge. But ladies, now it's your turn to watch the men squirm, for the apostle turns his attention to Christian husbands. He sets down three specific admonitions telling them to manifest a considerate understanding of their mates, to develop an unselfish chivalry, and to maintain a spiritual awareness." (Booklet, All God's Children, P. 30)

II. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CHRISTIAN HUSBAND: (1 Pet. 3:7)

A. BE CONSIDERATE — UNDERSTAND HER:

1-She is different !!
- -Don't expect her to be "one of the boys"
- -PHYSICALLY weaker
- -EMOTIONALLY sensitive
- -SPIRITUALLY tender

She is DIFFERENT!

2-Get to know her !! "Dwell with her acc. to knowledge"
- TAKE A COURSE IN WIFE!
- -Learn
  - ** What makes her tick
  - ** What makes her happy or unhappy
  - ** Her moods
  - ** Her seasons
  - ** Her thought patterns
  - ** HOW TO PLEASE HER
- -ASK; she'll be glad to tell you,
  - ** IF you take her seriously
  - ** IF you'll listen carefully
  - ** IF you do not ridicule her
- -READ books about women to learn

NB "Likewise ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel..."

- -"According to knowledge"
  - * In an intelligent & reasonable manner
  - * Realizing women are MORE SENSITIVE than men:
    - ++ To compliments
    - ++ To complaints
    - ++ To teasing
    - ++ To gesting
    - ++ To crudities
    - ++ To unkind & cutting remarks

3-Work at being considerate toward YOUR SPECIAL PERSON: YOUR WIFE!!

B. BE CHIVALROUS — HONOR HER (3:7) "... and as being heirs of the grace of life."

1-Done before marriage
- -Hold coat;;Take arm
- -Open door;;Carry packages
- -DON'T STOP NOW because married

THAT'S ONE!

THAT'S TWO

1,2,3

*

2-OR---Begin again. if you have stopped !!

3-"Giving honor unto the wife"

--Indication that the CONTROL FACTOR in the marriage is in the husband's hands

NB →

--Show her that you see her worth VALUE HER !!!

** With words (Thanks for a good dinner; clean house)

** With cards (Birthdays, Anniversaries)

** With surprises (Gifts, going out to dinner)

** With deeds (Drawers repaired; Pictures hung; Doors oiled, etc.

--Portion out regularly these evidences of caring from "her man"

--Not enough to "bring home the paycheck" !! YES

-She needs to HEAR IT from "her special man"

--Soooooooooo TELL HER !!!

--NOT.

"Two lovers walking down the street--
She trips, he whispers, "CAREFUL SWEET".
Now wed, they tread that selfsame street;
She stumbles, he mutters, "PICK UP YOUR FEET."

4-WHY ?? --Because she is the "weaker vessel"

--Not inferior, but more fragile

ILLUS --Man---Pottery mug

--Woman--China cup

NB --Be aware that she will react to pressures & problems in ways we men know little about

5-Let your wife know how honored & how valuable she is to you. She needs this on a daily basis.

C. BE CARING—SHARE WITH HER — THAT'S THREE

1Pet. 3:7 "...that your prayers be not hindered."

1-Give her privilege --She's not property or chattel

--She's a person for wom you care

--SHOW IT !!

--She should be viewed as having rights & preferences not under your control

--Not wrong, JUST DIFFERENT!!

--Cultivate between you a ONENESS

--Heirs together !!

2-Give her priority

--Easy to come home & relax into quietness

--Wife has been home alone while you have been with people all day

--You want quietness ////// She wants companionship

--Give her attention, or she will feel slighted

--Result of her sensing neglect is a negative influence on your mutual prayers

--There must be a oneness cultivated & continually worked on to improve it

3-Give her participation --In your dreams & goals

--In your trials

--In your finances (checkbook & knowledge)

--In your time • Dishes • Home repair

TALK !

- YOU are the central earthly figure in her life
- * YOU need to GIVE HER YOURSELF
- Insensitivity here will freeze her out + wound her spirit

4- RESULTS

- Not likely that marriage will be a PERPETUAL HONEYMOON
- But it can be a marriage which is a SHARING + CARING
- ** Martin Luther:
  - "Let the wife make her husband glad to come home, and let him make her sorry to see him leave."

CONCLUSION:

A.- HOW TO PRESERVE A SPOUSE:

"First, use care and get one. Not too young; but tender and a healthy growth. Make your * selection carefully and let it be FINAL. Otherwise a spouse will not keep. Like wine, they improve with age.

* Do not pickle or put in hot water. This makes them sour. Prepare as follows:

SWEETEN with smiles according to variety. The sour, bitter kind are improved by a pinch of salt of COMMON SENSE.

SPICE with patience. Wrap well in a mantle of CHARITY. PRESERVE over a good fire of steady devotion.

SERVE with peaches and cream.

The poorest varieties of spouses may be improved with this process and Kept for years in any climate."

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

B.- HOW TO BE A GOOD SPOUSE:

1- Reminder to **WIVES**: **4** items

- Be submissive
- Be pure
- Be inwardly beautiful
- Be taught in godliness
- GOD has called you to represent & reflect Him in your meek & quiet spirit.

2- Reminder to **HUSBANDS**: **3** items

- UNDERSTAND her; Be Considerate
- HONOR her; Be Chivalrous
- SHARE with her; Be Caring

* • The Lord commands that you recognize your wife as your spiritual equal & share with her in Bible study, prayer and spiritual responsibilities in the home.

3- **BECOME** all God wants you to be within your present marriage by letting God work in both of you — **YOUR MATE AND YOU ALSO!**

(Human BECOMINGS)

4- The **BLUEPRINT** for a successful marriage involves **BEING A GOOD SPOUSE!**

5- Richard De Haan:

"When Christian husbands + wives take these biblical exhortations seriously, they will find joy, peace and beauty in living together. Their home will be more like heaven than anything else on earth. It will be a peaceful haven from the storms of life, a temple where God is worshipped, and a school where great lessons + spiritual truths are learned." (P. 32)

C.- PERSONAL APPLICATION:

1- Will YOU
- begin to change yourself by God's enablement?
- begin to take accountability for the condition of your home + marriage relationship?

2- Have YOU?
- Received Jesus Christ as your own Savior?

FOUR ELEMENTS

A ACKNOWLEDGE your need as a sinner who cannot save yourself + deserves divine judgment.

B BELIEVE the basic truths of Christ as God's eternal Son, as the Virgin-born Savior, as the sinless substitute who died for your own sins.

C CONFESS that you cannot save yourself +

must CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD

D. DECIDE — DO IT NOW!
Don't delay!

3- As you meet God in your need today, you can count on God to work in the heart of your spouse also! — TRUE!

D.- PASTORAL GUARANTEES:

1- I cannot say:
- If God will work in your spouse
- When God will work in your spouse

2- But I can say that if YOU ARE CHANGED to conform to God's "Blueprint"...

...then
- (a) Your own life will be more satisfying
- (b) Your witness will be more effective
- (c) You will be able to say "I DID WHAT WAS RIGHT in my life"

3- That's the best hope there is for God to work also in your spouse's life related to his/her need.

"NOTEAR" ® BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

"Blueprint For A Successful Marriage"

"May Jesus Christ Be Praised"
"Jesus Is The Joy Of Living"
"I Would Be True"
"I Would Be Like Jesus"

(13)

5/21/89 - Northwest Bible Church, Hilliard, OH.
9/26/90 - Bible Center Church, Charleston - FBI - WEA
6/15/93 - Sandton Bible Ch, S.A.
6/26/93 - Newcastle Bible Ch, S.A.
7/30/93 - Camp of the Nations, PA.
6/5/94 - Lookout Bapt. Ch., WV.

3/2/11

--YOU're the central earthly figure in her life & you need to GIVE HER YOURSELF
--Insensitivity here will freeze her out & wound her spirit

4-Result--Not likely that marriage will be a perpetual honeymoon
--But it can be a marriage that is a SHARING
--Martin Luther: "Let the wife make her husband glad to come home, and let him make her sorry to see him leave."

III. RESULT IN THE UNSAVED SPOUSE:

A. General Observations:

1-They'll enjoy you and marriage to you more
2-You'll be easier to live with if you follow 1 Peter 3:1-7
3-They may or may not get saved
--That's not a matter for you to control
--That is an inside decision for them to make
4-What you are to do is:
** TELL IT while they will listen
** LIVE IT consistently
5-ILLUS:

A minister of a colored church was hearing the experiences of his people at a testimony meeting. ONe woman spoke of the preciousness of her religion and the comfort & happiness she found in it.

"That is delightful, plum delightful," said the Pastor,"but how about the practical side? Does it make you kind in the home, cheerful sweet, and loving?"

The pastor felt someone tugging at his coattail, and a man whispering, "PRESS DEM QUESTIONS, PASTOR ! PRESS DEM QUESTIONS! DAT'S MY WIFE."

B. Specific Instructions:

1-Matt. 5:16--"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."
2-Four Items-- (1) LIGHT shown
(2) WORKS changed
(3) SEEN as because of Christ
(4) GLORIFYING of God for what your husband//wife sees in you

3-NUTCRACKER TECHNIQUE:

(a) LIGHT--Shine
--Deals with illumination
--TELL what has happened in your heart & life
--Let Jesus get the credit for all good seen in your life
--Keep it up continually & consistently

Tell it OFTEN !

b) WORKS
- Submit to spouse
- Do what is desired, as unto the Lord, but for the benefit of the spouse (except for illegal or immoral things)
- Make the changes IN YOURSELF!!

NB >
- Don't expect changes from your unsaved partner
- Pray that what you do can be pleasing to your unsaved partner

EXAMPLE - NUTCRACKER
- Squeeze gently
  - ** Apply equal force (BOTH light & works)
    - ** One area of life at a time
      - ++Housekeeping
      - ++ Meals
      - ++ Sex life
      - ++ Chores around the house
      - ++ Attitudes, etc.
    - ** Expect the pressure to cause some change in your spouse because he/she sees changes in you

ILLUS - A pastor was fairly beseiged by one woman with requests to PRAY FOR HER HUSBAND TO BE SAVED. There would be some progress with the husband, and then the woman would fly into a rage of violent temper, and upset everything.

Her husband would say, "Well, Mary, if that is your religion, I don't want it." Finally the Pastor told her: "Mary, the fault is yours. You must overcome your temper, and the Lord can give you grace to do it-----if you will."

In her shame & despair Mary took the matter to the Lord in prayer, & He gave her victory. The time for spring cleaning came. She had just gotten a new lamp hung in the hall when John came home, carrying something on his shoulder which obscured his view. Not knowing about the hanging lamp, there was a clattering , and a breaking of glass.

He expected a row, but instead a quiet voice from a quiet woman came down the stairs, "NEVER MIND, JOHN DEAR. WE CAN GET A NEW LAMP. IT IS ALL RIGHT."

John replied: "Mary, what has happened to you????"

Mary answered: "Oh, my dear, I have trusted the Lord Jesus to cure me of my temper, and He is working on it in matters like this."

John answered her: "Well, if He can cure you, come down here and pray for me, for that's the kind of life affecting faith I want too--------

----and he was converted that very day !!

c) SEEN as because of Christ
- Explain that you love the Lord and are seeking to be a better wife/husband because you are a Christian
- Keep up the pressure & enlarge it with new areas
- Be consistent !!

d) GLORIFYING GOD
- Sometimes in their comments about the changes they see in you
- Sometimes in their own minds as they

say, "God is really working in my spouse, and the changes are good.
-Some cases in a yielding to the Lord in their own hearts for salvation
-In any case, you have done what God wanted in your life and have given a true witness

CONCLUSION:

A. -How To Preserve A Spouse:

First, use care and get one. Not too young; but tender and a healthy growth. Make your selection carefully and let it be final. Otherwise they will not keep. Like wine they improve with age. Do not pickle or put in hot water. This makes them sour. Prepare as follows: Sweeten with smiles according to variety. The sour, bitter kind are improved by a pinch of salt of common sense. Spice with patience. Wrap well in a mantle of charity. Preserve over a good fire of steady devotion. Serve with peaches and cream. The poorest varieties may be improved by this process and kept for years in any climate. —*Selected*

B. -How To Be A Good Spouse:

1-**WIVES**--Be submissive
Be Pure
Be Inwardly Beautiful
Be Taught In Godliness
} 4 Areas

- God has called you to represent and reflect God in your meek and quiet spirit

2-**HUSBANDS**--Understand her----Be Considerate
--Honor her---------Be Chivalrous
--Share With Her-----Be Caring
} 3 Areas

- The Lord commands that you recognize your wife as your spiritual equal, and share with her in Bible study, prayer, and the spiritual responsibilities in the home.

3-**THIS** IS **how** to get a new mate, It is to **BE ONE** YOURSELF !

4-Richard De Haan: "When Christian husbands and wives take these biblical exhortations seriously, the will find joy, peace and beauty in living together. Their home will be more like heaven than anything else on earth. It will be a peaceful **haven** from the storms of life, a **temple** where God is worshipped, and a **school** where great spiritual truths are learned." (P. 32)

C. Application:

1-Will **you** begin to **change yourself** by God's enablement ??
2-Will **you** begin to **apply the pressure**:
- Of LIGHT by your witness, and
- Of WORKS by your actions ??

3-Expecting & praying specifically for God to wokk in you spouse

D. Guarantees:

1-Pastor cannot say that your spouse will be **saved**

(12)

2-But he can guarantee that YOU WILL BE CHANGED

3-And that's the best hope there is that your mate will be saved------when he/she gets a new mate in you

1/26/86--O.K.B.C.
5/20/86 - Pikeville, Ky
11/3/86 - Ephrata, PA.

#1 "May Jesus Christ Be Praised"
#295 "Jesus Is The Joy Of Living"
#305 "I Would Be True"
349 I Would Be Like Jesus

1 Pet. 3:8-13

INTRO

A.- LIFE IN THE FAST LANE TODAY:

1- Categories of people in US today
- Permanent UNDERCLASS
- MIDDLE-CLASS who endure a squeeze
  - * Housing costs escalate
  - * Car costs
  - * Education costs
  - * Family fractures
  - * Making ends meet
- SINGLE PARENTS — VERY SEVERE!
- LATCH-KEY KIDS — 8 year olds caring for 3 year olds

2- SYMPTOMS SEEN (All around us!!)
- Telephone cord long enough to reach 3 rooms
- Stress + suicide are common
- Overpushy parents (LITTLE LEAGUE MOMS)
- Depressed + Drop-out generation (STREET PEOPLE; HOMELESS)
- "TIRED" is my middle name
- Hectic pace of life
- THINGS-orientation being passed from parents to children
- SPIRITUALLY BANKRUPT FAMILIES

3- Specifics
- COMPUTERS (Office / Home / Laptop on plane)
- FAX machines (Office / Home / Deli / car)
- CELLULAR PHONES in car + golf cart
- "Fast lane" seen as synonymous w/ the GOOD LIFE

4- Illus - PAC MAN will gobble you up ——— quickly
— so will life in the fast lane
* Gobble You
* And, your family!

B. IS THE FAST LANE WHERE REAL LIFE IS FOUND?!

1- Important QUESTION
2- Imperative that you answer by DECISION, for if not, you will answer by DEFAULT!
3- RADICAL CONTRASTS:
- Pioneer days in America — OX CART
- My boyhood — Model A Ford
- Biblical Christianity — "A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth"
- John Wesley's "RULES OF LIFE"

"Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can."

4- We can choose the RIGHT WAY to LIVE if we consider carefully the options open to us + the commands given to us.
5- Q - Is the FAST LANE your optimal choice?

C. THIS MESSAGE:

1. Outline: I. REMINDERS FOR ALL BELIEVERS
II. REASONS FOR THESE REMINDERS
III. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REALISTIC LIVING

2- PROP Our lives need basic principles + workable practicalization if we are to win in our daily living.

I.- REMINDERS FOR ALL BELIEVERS!

(1 Pet. 3:8-9b) 3

A.- BE LIKEMINDED: (3:8a) ὁμόφρονες

1-"Finally, be ye all of one mind..."

2-NOT that there will be no differences of opinion
- Politics
- Colors
- Foods
- Climates

3-BUT, all agreed to ONE PURPOSE
- Agreed in doctrine
- Goals are harmonious
- Thinking of mutually desired ends
- A unique capacity of saved people in spite of all of their other differences.

4- Secret of the power of the N.T. Church
- "ONE ACCORD"
- Acts 1:14; 2:46; 4:24, 32

B.- BE COMPASSIONATE: συμπαθεῖς (3:8b)

1-"... having compassion one of another..."

2-Unique to those sharing Christ
- Heb. 4:15 - "For we have not a High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."
- Rom. 12:15 - "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, & weep w/ them that weep."

3- Interchange of feelings in SORROW or JOY
- Fellow-feeling
- Sympathetic sharing on an intimate level
- "Feeling your hurt in my heart"
- SYMPATHY / EMPATHY

C.- BE LOVING: (3:8 c) φιλαδελφοι

1- "... love as brethren"
2- Unique term: "BROTHER LOVING"
   - Common among blood relatives
   - Extended to FAMILY OF GOD
   - "Esprit de corps" among brethren
3- Mt. 23:8 - "But be not ye called RABBI: for One is your MASTER, even Christ; & ye are all brethren"
   - LOVE was the MORTAR that held the early church together
   - Jn. 13:35 - "By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another."
   - Acts 9:26-30; 11:29 - Barnabas to Saul; Relief to Judea
4- Spiritual family of the CHURCH is to reflect this BROTHER LOVING.

D.- BE TENDERHEARTED: (3:8 d) εὔσπλαγχνοι

1- KJV
   - "... be pitiful"
   - Eph. 4:32 translates it "tenderhearted"
   - Relates to SEAT OF AFFECTIONS
2- The first century was cold & hard-hearted. Christianity is to make a noticeable impact upon its adherents
   - Really open & caring toward others
   - Job. 29:11-16 - EXAMPLE of Job
   - A characteristic not found in the animal world.
   - Sometimes men & women to exhibit this CARING GRACE
3- Christians ought to exemplify this one toward another AND ....
   ... toward others also!
4- There is no worth in God's eyes if we love only in word & Tongue, & not indeed in Truth." Wm. Kelly; 1st & 2nd Peter P. 190

E.-BE HUMBLEMINDED: (3:8e)

1-KJV- "... be courteous" φιλόφρονες

2-NASB- "... be humble in spirit" ταπεινόφρονες

- BEST rendering
- Return to the sense of lowliness found in Christ
- Mt. 11:29- "Take My yoke upon you + learn of Me; for I am meek + lowly in heart: + ye shall find rest unto your souls."

3-The HUMBLE are great, but few GREAT become humble. PRIDE made demons out of angels. Let us not repeat that process! Be humbleminded!

F.-BE BLESSING: (3:9a, b)

1-"Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing, but contrariwise, blessing..." BE CONSTANTLY BLESSING

2-NO
- "Guff" or insulting words
- Return of negative responses
- "TIT-FOR-TAT" which escalates a stressed situation

3-Prov. 15:1- "A soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger."

4-Reminds of Christ's HIGHER STANDARD for believers in Mt. 5:38-41 Turn the other cheek

5-Wm. Bellshaw: "It is unthinkable that a Xn would return evil for evil against a fellow Xn, but how often this is exactly what is done. Insult is not to be received + returned in like measure. The believer is expected to be a source of BLESSING." (P.36, Real Faith For Rough Times)

6-SATAN is the "ACCUSER of the brethren". Let us leave that dirty work to him + not join in on it!

II.- REASONS FOR THESE REMINDERS:

A.- OUR DIVINE CALLING: (3:9c)

1- "Calling" = "Election" = "Choosing" - [Some Gk. from]
- Initiative is all of God
- We are people summoned to salvation

2- Terms used to explain this "CALLING"
- "High" — Phil. 3:14
- "Heavenly" — Heb. 3:1-2
- "Holy" — 2 Tim. 1:9

3- Life that honors God is that to which we are called
- Eph. 4:1, 4
- Eph. 1:4

4- IIIUS of "CALLING"
- Ab as distinguished from Terah + Lot
- Isaac distinguished from Ishmael
- Jacob distinguished from Esau
- NOTHING of man in this for them .... of .... for us!

5- Practicality in 1 Pet. 2:21-25

B.- OUR DIVINE CONSOLATION: (3:9d-11)

1- Not everyone has GOOD PLANS for us.

2- But GOD DOES!
- BLESSING = "benefits bestowed"
- Eph. 1:3
- ALL we could ever need for life + godliness
- Freely ours by God's grace

3- EXPRESSIONS
- From one who Knows God's consolations
- Quotes Ps. 34:13-17 as PROOF
- FORMULA presented for the person who loves life now + wishes to continue to do so.

BOORMAN'S PRECEPT "NOTEBAR" ®

4- What Formula? (3:10-11) = HOW?

- REFRAIN his tongue from evil
- SPEAK no guile (= snare, deceit)
- AVOID (= lean away from) evil
- DO (= make each practice complete in itself as) good
- SEEK peace + PURSUE it....
  .... even though it may not always be able to be found.
- Always LEAN that way!

5- How distinct is the blessing experienced as we translate eternal life into PRESENT LIVING!

- In the church
- In the family
- In our witness with winsomeness

6- AND — the one who blesses others is also blessed of God!

C- OUR DIVINE COMPULSION: (3:12-13)

1- EYES — God sees
EARS — God hears
FACE — God frowns

"Over (= UPON) the righteous
"Against the evil-doer"
God is AT HAND always!

2- Illus

- Gen. 16 — Hagar + God
- "Thou, God, seest me"
- Nothing UNKNOWN; Nothing HIDDEN!

3- PRINCIPLE of Heb. 4:13 — "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."

4- PRACTICALIZATION
- God sees + hears
- God approves or disapproves
- God will respond.

—∴ We are to order our lives so as to PLEASE HIM

5- Duties flow out of relationships conferred by the sovereign grace of God,

III:- RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REALISTIC LIVING:

A:- SET PRIORITIES:

1- Values to live by:
- GOD + His family — PEOPLE) TOPS!
- SPOUSE
- CHILDREN
- VOCATION / LOCAL CHURCH

+ then →

2- SPIRITUAL above the PHYSICAL Values

3- What do you want to be remembered by at your funeral? DECIDE NOW! EPITAPH in mind

4- QUALITY / QUANTITY — Illus of Boy + his mother re the boy evangelist father "HE'S ALL MINE"

5- HOW?
- Daytimer = "Bad Book"
- "POSTERIORITIES" — Things I don't have time for + will not feel guilty about something
- Eliminate something when you take on a new responsibility
- DE crease your sense of pressure

B:- SEEK COMMUNICATION:

1- Two-way street — Talking + LISTENING also

2- PHYSICAL aspect also — "Reach out and TOUCH someone"

3- Be open — Any time + Any place + Any subject

4-Techniques
- Family devotions
- PRAY together
- Family sharing
- FAMILY TIME (Friday night or Saturday)
  - Special times w/ each one (Spouse / Child)

C: SHOW LOVE:

1-Many ways (Outgoing Expressions)
- Kind words
- Physical touch
- Companionship TOGETHER
- Cards / Gift / Flowers
- Outings / Special occasions

2-Private times w/ spouse w/o children

3-Dinner or night out w/ one child

4-Others
- Share visions
- Share burdens
- Share yourself

5-REMEMBER:
- Why you married HER
- How you wanted child
- Input into OTHERS!

D: SCHEDULE PLANNING:

Day-Timer Discussion + more

1-This takes
- Time
- Preparation
- Freedom from phone + other pressures

2-"No one PLANS TO FAIL, they just FAIL TO PLAN"

3-Areas (SPIRITUAL LIFE + ACTIVITIES)
- Future
- Finances + Purchases
- Commitments + Schedule
- Family size
- Vacations
- Retirement
- Housing
- Kids' education
- Christian ministry
- RECREATION / LEISURE

4- Too little sleep,
Too few dreams,
Too few accomplishments
unless you PLAN AHEAD

5- TOOLS
- 3x5 card
- Calendar
- Datebook / DayTimer

E. SEPARATE ROLES:

1- God's Plan — DIFFERENT!
- HUSBAND as Head + provider
- WIFE as Homemaker + nurturer
- One parent families have real problems where ONE must do the jobs of TWO

2- Role reversal or competition
- Difficult for man + woman
- Devastating to children
- Two income families have THINGS ... but they suffer the LACK of Togetherness + leisure

3- While children are at home:
- Mother at home FULL TIME (though may work there. Pr. 31)
- Children's development
- Husband's SUPPORT + ENCOURAGEMENT
- Wife's own well-being instead of holding 2 F.T. JOBS

4- LATER
- Perhaps wife returns to work force
- Help w/ college expenses
- when children are less dependant
- BUT BETTER if she is now free from employment so as to pour her life into younger women.

5- HELP AT HOME
- Heavy work by husband (Lawnmower, Shampooer, Scrub floors)

- Shared work by both
  - * Babies
  - * Windows
  - * Dishes
  - * Cooking
  - * Cleaning

F.- SHARE ACTIVITIES:

1- Do things TOGETHER!

Wash + dry Dishes

- Wash + wax the car
- Cut + trim grass
- Hang pictures
- House cleaning, windows
- Painting
- Reading books
- Shopping
- Hospitality
- Travel / Vacations
- Church
- Christian ministries — TEAM TEACH!
- Camping

2- SOME
- Husband + Wife
- Parent + child
- WHOLE FAMILY

VARIETY!

Create Memories → Illus - Kathy's words to me at lunch when she got married

3- SHARING lightens the load + doubles the enjoyment.

G.- SPECIFY PRIVACIES:

1- Illus - Hilda Perry when George retired

2- EVERYONE needs some SPACE in time + in place
- Workshop
- Sewing room
- Study
- Hobbies

3- ALSO
- Time w/ "the girls"
  - Lunch
  - Shopping
  - Library
  - Bowling

- Time w/ "the boys"
  - * Golf / fishing / Ballgame
  - * Personal hobbies
- PRIVATE + PERSONAL

4- Improve yourself
- Reading
- Writing
- Classes taken
- UPgrade your skills
- DOWN grade your STRESS

PLAN what you want to BE + BECOME — Don't just DRIFT!

5- "I have only just a minute, only 60 seconds in it, forced upon me — can't refuse it, didn't seek it, didn't choose it, but it's up to me to use it. I must suffer if I lose it, give account if I abuse it. Just a tiny minute — but eternity is in it." UNKNOWN

CONCLUSION:

A.- REVIEW:

I.- REMINDERS FOR ALL BELIEVERS:
- A.- Be Likeminded
- B.- Be Compassionate
- C.- Be Loving
- D.- Be Tenderhearted
- E.- Be Humblemended
- F.- Be Blessing

II.- REASONS FOR THESE REMINDERS:
- A.- Our Divine Calling
- B.- Our Divine Consolation
- C.- Our Divine Compusion

III.- RECOMMENDATIONS — 7 areas

B.- RESOLVE:

1- Prop - "Our lives need basic principles + workable practicalization if we are to win in our daily lives.

2- HEARD the biblical requirements

3- CONSIDERED the practical recommendations

4- What are YOU going to do about this?

- SALVATION
- DEDICATION
- PARTICULARIZATION

Pick 1 or 2 areas to PERSONALLY DEVELOP.

C.- REVITALIZE:

1- "DECISIONS determine DESTINY"

2- "New Life" is needed
- Eternal life
- Daily life

3- Your home / marriage / family CAN BE DIFFERENT!!

4- Don't wait for
- Wife
- Husband
- Parent
- Child

5- Make YOUR DECISION ..... now!

5/22/89 – Northwest Bible Church, Hilliard, OH
1/20/91 – Bible Center Church
5/25/94 – Grethel Bapt. Ch., KY
6/5/94 – Lookout Bapt. Ch., WV.

Hymns

"Have Thine Own Way Lord"

"The "Be's" of Suffering." 1 Peter 3:10-17.

Intro.--- A.-Job 5:7 "Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward."
B.-Suffering is REAL.....and SURE.
C.-What God is interested in is our ATTITUDE toward suff.
D.-ILLUS--A Spirit-filled worker connected with the Afric Inland Miss. was giving his testimony after returning from a very dangerous service in the W. W. He said that if someone sent him on a journey & told him the road to take, warning him that a certain point he would come to a dangerous crossing of the river, at another point to a forest infested with wild beasts, he would come to that dangerous river crossing with the satisfaction of knowing that he was on the right road. So he told them that the Lord had predicted that Xns. would have tribulation, & when tribulations came he knew he was on the right road.

I.--BE GOOD**TO AVOID SUFFERING: — 3:10-13
A.-What to do:
1-Watch the tongue — 3:10
2-Avoid evil--Ps. 1:1-2. — 3:11a
3-Do good. 3:11b
4-Seek peace & pursue it---Rom. 12:18. — 3:11c
5-ILLUS--Red Skelton's character--"If I do, I get a whippin.... I do'd it."----Way to avoid trouble & suffering is to avoid being in trouble by spending time in good things.
B.-Why do good?:: 3:12 — There is a true God
1-Eyes---over the righteous---God sees all
2-Ears---open to their prayers--God hears all
3-Face--against evil doers---God opposes all sin.
C.-How to do good?:: 3:13
1-"Followers"--"imatators"--not imitations.
2-"that"--literally, "Him"--Follow the example (2:21) of Christ.
3-Gospel appeal

II.-BE NOT AFRAID**IF SUFFERING IS NECESSARY: — 3:14
A.*Make your suffering be "for righteousness sake".
1-Because you are in Christ
2-Because of atestimony for Christ.
3-"happy"--"blessed".
4-ILLUS--Down in Georgia there was a Negro nurse. She was very poor, but had 1 great ambition, & that was to have enought uniforms to have a clean 1 every day without having to wash several times a week. After a period of hard work & much saving, her ambition was realized. In her closet hung a row of beautiful white uniforms. One day while at work, word came that her cabin was on fire. She was rushed ot her home only to find what had been her home was now a pile of ashes. She walked to the pile of ashes & allowed her eyes to stray in the direction of what had been the closet that held her precious uniforms. This Negro Christian woman lifted her eyes toward heaven & remarked: "I is not only a Christian, I is a consecrated Christian, and nothing much can happen to a consecrated Christian."
B.-Be not afraid:
1-Mt. 10:28--all they can do is to touch the body
2-Rom. 8:28--For the Christian, God makes it "for good"--Ge. 50:20

Illus — Catfish among Codfish to Keep them moving & fresh,

III.-BE READY**TO GIVE A REASON FOR THE FAITH FOR WHICH YOU SUFFER: 3:15

A.-Sanctify--"set apart"
1-Sanctify Christ as Lord--Not just "things"--
2-Give Christ first place in all of life--Mt. 6:33.
3-ILLUS--Peking missionaries were astounded when an old man once rose & said, "I am glad I am a leper! For if I had not been a leper, I would never have come to this mission hopital; if I had not come to this hospital, I would never have learned to know Jesus. And I had rather be a leper with Christ than to be free from leprosy without Him."

B.-To Give An Answer:
1-to any man & to every man
2-concerns our Hope--the Person of Jesus Christ.
3-A reason--an account--"Great things He hath done"

C.-"WITH"--
1-not blatantly
2-Meekness---in order to win them.
3-fear--lest they be offended & run off too quickly.

IV.-BE ASHAMED;***LET THOSE FALSE ACCUSERS WHO MAKE YOU SUFFER, 3:16-17

A.-Leads to your clear conscience.
1-accusations mean nothing
2-truth is what counts.

B.-Leads to their being ashamed, because of false accusations.

C.-May be called upon to suffer.
1-Do so in the will of God--ILLUS--"Extraordinary afflictions," said Matthew Henry, "are not always the punishment of some extraordinary sins, but sometiès the trial of extraordinary graces." Sometiemes we are helped by being hurt. A skilled physician about to perform a delicate operation on the ear said reassuringly to the patient, "I may hurt you, but I will not injure you." How often the Great Physician speaks to us that same message if we would only listen.
2-Don't intentionally cause it.
3-Don't make your suffering for evil--ILLUS--Acts. 4:9.

"Better" 3:17

CONCL.:: A.- Suffering will surely come.
B.- We need to be sure of what it comes for:
1-Be good---to avoid it
2-Be not afraid--to bear it--(1Cor.10:13)
3-Be ready--to answer
4-Let those who persecute ---Be ashamed.

Poem C.- "I walked a mile with Pleasure,
She chattered all the way,
But left me none the wiser,
For all she had to say.

I walked a mile with Sorrow,
And not a word said she;
But, oh, the things I learned from her
When Sorrow walked with me!

"Spirits In Prison" 1 Peter 3:18-22

Intro....A.-Context deals with suffering.
B.-Christ suffers-----we suffer
C.-Christ enabled & rewarded.
D.-We will be rewarded & enabled.

This causes the digression as he mentions it.

I.- THE FACT.....3:18 ----ONE DIED FOR ALL

A.-Death of Christ
1-Once for all men----a sufficient death for all men
2-Once for all time---a sufficient death for all time.
3-Just One for the unjust.....Rom.5:6-10. (without strength, ungodly, sinners, enemies)
B.-Purpose of Death of Christ---lead us to God.
C.-Description of that Death:
1-Physical Death---God Died on Golgatha.
2-Quickened by the Spirit as to His body in Resurrection.
3-Christ's suffering---It was Real; it was rewarded.

II.- THE FEW.....3:19-20 ----SOME SAVED: MOST LOST.

A.-The Preaching---tell the story of Noah.
1-By means of the Same Spirit that raised Him---Gen. 6:3.
2-Preached to whom--the spirits NOW in prison.
3-When preached to?--at time of disobedience--"when once"
4-Preacher---Noah--Heb. 11:7; 2 Pet. 2:5.
B.-Errors taught by some from this passage:
1-Second chance for salvation after death--not in Scripture
2-Purgatory after death--not in the Scripture.
3-Christ preaches victory after His death--why to few????
--why at all????

Jonah 3:1 -- 2nd for service

C.-Result of this preaching:
1-Disobedient ones are now RESERVED unto final judgment----the deluge wasn't all for them.
2-Those who were believers of the message were saved by the instrument of water---a picture.

III.- THE FIGURE....3:21-22---JUDICIAL JUDGMENT ON SIN.

A.-"The Like Figure"
1-Flood was a "type" & this baptism is an "antitype", or a fulfillment of an O.T. picture. Picture - - - Reality
2-Water was God's instrument of judicial judgment & death upon sinners
3-The Ark was the safe transportation to safety for those who obeyed God. Ark pictures Christ---Now we are put into Christ by SPIRIT BAPTISM.
B.-Could Water Baptism "SAVE"????? No other N.T. Passage says yes.
1-The WORD--1 Pet 1:23; Jas. 1:18-----REVELATION
2-GOD--(the Spirit) Jn. 1:13; Jn. 5:21-25-----APPLICATION
3-Life is ONLY in the SON---1 Jn. 5:11-12 ---PERSON.
4-Water Baptism---commanded for every believer, but not a part of salvation---3:21 b; 1 Cor. 1:17

If water could save, then let's baptize them all -- RIDICULOUS

C.-What Kind Of Baptism is it?????
1-No merely external rite can save---this does.
2-Water is only figurative---this is reality.
3-Negation of externality---3:21b.
4-Links with Resurrection of Christ---omit () for sense.
5-Therefore:, it must be Spirit Baptism here.

D.-Because Christ is Raised from the dead & Because we are vitally united to Him:
1-Worship Him.
2-Be subject to Him.
3-Be willing to suffer, if so be the will of God.

CONCL....A.-Christ suffered----Christ Glorified.
-We suffer----------We shall be vindicated as well.

B.-Fact----------Christ died
Few----------Some Saved
Figure-------Picture of the reality of Spirit Baptism.

C.-Let us not be "in prison" to modes, or to Sin, but free in the freedom of Christ.-----John 8:36 "If the Son, therefore, shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

Suffering And The Mind Of Christ

"The Same Mind as Christ's" 1 Pet. 4:1-11

Intro. A.-Context--"Suffering" ing
B.-Passage before us shows--Victory, the value of suffer/

I.- SUFFERING AND SIN 4:1-2

A.-Christ
1-Bodily and in the flesh--4:1 & 2:24.
2-3:18--"for sins"
3-4:1---"for us"--Illus--Voluntary suffering for us seen in John 10:17-18 & here. Similar situation when arFrench soldier woke up in a hospital after a battle in WW. II. He was told that he had lost his right arm. Smiling and looking at the bandaged stump, he said "No, I didn't lose it, I gave it." So, with Christ who gave Himself for us.
4-He paid for sin and for sinners.

B.-Christians:
1-Arm ourselves--"to put on heavy armor"--"to be forewarned is to be forearmed"
2-ILLUS--In a venerable old church at Innsbruck, famous for containing the tomb of the great Emperor Maximillian, there is a magnificient bronze statue of Godfrey of Boulogne, the illustrious crusader. His head is covered with a helmet, and on the helmet rests a crown of thorns. The artist doubtless designed it as an apt illustration of the armour of the Christian and the recollection of the sufferings of our Christ.
3-Weapons: Humility---impossible to counterfeit
Submission--3x5 illus.
4-Suffering for sin has a purifying effect:
--ceaced from practice of sin--we'll not continue in the things if they bring us suffering. ILLUS--Gal. 6:17
--not given to lusts of men
--given over to the will of God.
--world only persecutes those who are given over to Him.

II.- SUFFERING AND THE UNSAVED 4:3-6.

A.-Will of the Gentiles 4:3
1-contrast with the will of God in 4:2
2-Christian is to make this all PAST TENSE--All fleshly indulgences--Gal 5:19-21
3-Gump's refusal to go along after saved.

B.-Attitude of the Gentiles 4:4
1-think your new actions are strange
2-think it strange you no longer run with them.
3-Therefore, they speak evil of you & cause you to suffer
4-Illus--Clancy & Paul at the U. of N.

C.-Judgment of the Gentiles 4:5-6
1-all--saved & unsaved to give an account ofthis life.
2-Quick--Living & dead
3-Without excuse:---witness of nature in Rom. 1
---Witness of gospel given
4-Contrast--Christians who received unjust judgment in this life, but now live in their spirits in God's own presence.

III.-SUFFERING AND THE END 4:7

A.-The End--the coming of Christ for His church.
1-At hand--Rom. 13:11 b.
2-Encouragement that suffering CAN'T last too long--imminent return of Christ
3-Eyes on the Blessed hope of the coming of our Blessed Savior & not on circumstances of suffering.
4-World rejects this warning, but it is the hope of the church.

B.-Be Sober--"sound-minded"

C.-Watch unto Prayer
1-provision for fellowship
2-provision for power or strength
3-ILLUS--Mr. Thomas in RR station in Paris watching & praying.
4-Implies studied activity & attention to the Lord Himself, & not merely with events.

IV.-SUFFERING AND THE BRETHREN 4:8-11.

A.-Love--helps avert suffering--4:8-9--~~"above all"--real important~~
1-above all--first class importance
2-love should characterize all remationships.
3-"among yourselves"--in the household of faith
4-covers sins--obscures bad past when consistently done. Blots out old memories in minds of self & others.
---"Hatred digs up; love buries sin.
5-Love expressed in hospitality--not grudgingly given.

B.-Gifts--help us express service--4:10-11.
1-each believer has them---"as"
2-"the gift"---"a gift"---not just 1
3-EXPLAIN difference between a "talent" & a "gift"
4-gifts to be ministered for believer's benefits & as stewards under God--1 Cor. 4:1-2
5-Exercise of gifts (Eph. 4; Rom. 12; 1 Cor. 12).
---speak--with authority
---minister or serve--with God's enabling

CONCL:---A.-Purpose of Suffering — Victory which issues in Glory
1--Christ's death--Glory to God
2-Believer's suffering---Glory to God
3-Persecution by unsaved---Glory to God
4-Relation to unsaved---Glory to God
5-ILLUS--Some willingly give part of the glory to God, but with all of us, If God is to get all of the glory, he really has to SQUEEZE. Like squeezing an orange--hard to get it all.
6--God would have us turn our eyes off of circumstances & unto H I M.

1 Cor. 10:31 "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.

Glory is God's--1 Pet. 4:11
1 Cor. 10;31
Col. 3:23

Christ's mind was the Glory of The Father.
What is yours?

1 Peter 5:5-14 "EXHORTATIONS AND ENCOURAGEMENTS"

Intro. A.-Orientation as to where we are in 1 Peter.
B.-Closing verses are "shot-gun" style. Subjection & humility are the thought.
C.-ILLUS---It was one of those bad nights. The team had lost that day. Coach Tuss McLaughry, in the privacy of his home was indulging in an old & familiar lament. "What I need is a good blocking back," he muttered. "If I had had one we could have saved that game." The youngster, ready for bed, looked up at his father gravly When I grow up, I'll be a blocking back, Pop," he said. Then , as he headed for bed, he turned again to his father & said, "What's a blocking back, Pop?" Tuss grinned at the youngster, but there was still a trace of grimness behind the grin. "He's the fellow, he said, who does the job & lets someone else get the glory. Now run along to bed." Fifteen years later John McLaughry is captain ofthe Brown Varsity team, & one of the nation's best blocking backs. He seldom makes a touchdown--but he sets the stage for all of them. "Never mind the glory"

I.-SUBMISSION & HUMILITY 5:5-6
A.-Submission
1-Taught by the actions of the elders in 5:1-4
2-Required of the "younger"
3-Expected of "all" toward "all."
B.-Humility---what is it?
1-a working garment --a part & parcel of life. ILLUS--A young minister was preaching on Jn. 13 about X washing the feet of the disciples. He said, "Do you know, friends, we are all fighting for the top in the church, but there are so few fighting for the towel of servi
2-God draws up ready for battle against PRIDE
3-God aids those who walk after the Master--Mt. 11:29.
C.-Humility---why have it?
1-Honor brought to God now.---difference between failure & success of a petition to the house of Lords was "humbly" being left out of "we humbly beseech thee"
2-Service to others now--ILLUS--Mt. 20:26-28.
3-Fellowship with God now--ILLUS--Ps. 32:4--"mighty hand"
4-Exhaltation in God's own due time.

II.-CARES 5:7
A.-Definition of"Cares" Persecution
1-cares are anxieties & worries---problems of suffering &
2-"WHY PRAY WHEN I CAN WORRY"
3How many of these cares???----ALL
B.-What to do with cares?
1-Once & for all get rid of each one as it comes up.
2-Cast--once for all committal--word used in Lk. 19:35
3-ILLUS--Man with a pack on his back given ride, but still insisting upon carrying pack because he doesn't want to impose.
C.-Why cast your cares on Him??
1-"For you are His concern"
2-Counts your hairs, knows the fall of a sparrow, bottles all your tears....."Too small?" Can you think of any worry of yours which would be BIG to God?
3-Why worry then if we are H i s concern?
4-Worry is unbelief & exhalting of self & not real humility.

ILLUS--One Christian brother could say, "I bless God I can lie down with comfort tonight, not being anxious whether I'll wake up in this world or in another."

III.- THE DEVIL 5:8-9.

A.-Attitude:
1-Sober--sound & ready mind
2-Vigilant--not mentally & physically dull, but active.

B.-Adversary:
1-Who is he??---the devil--the slanderer.
2-As a roaring lion--after unsuspecting lambs of God.
3-stalks & would like to devour---or maim.

C.-Action we are to take:
1-Resist--not "to fight", but to "withstand"--Stand still & watch God fight for you. Illus--Moses & Israel at Red Sea.
2-steadfast--as a rock--ILLUS--we can each be a modern Peter.
3-We can be encouraged by knowing all others have similar trials
4-He is our enemy as long as we"are in the world"

IV.- THE GOD OF ALL GRACE 5:10-11.

A.-Person of the Father--Gracious--Comforting 2 Cor. 1:3-4

B.-Christian's calling:
1-It is by Christ
2-It is unto the glory of the Father.
3-It is AFTER we have "a little while" of suffering

C.-God's work in the Christian:
1-perfect--not "mature", but"fitted together" as parts of body.
2-stablish--ground us on the sure foundation of Christ.
3-strengthen--power for life available & used.
4-settle--make us satisfied with Himself
5-PURPOSE*****His GLORY.

Concl: 1:1-12---Salvation
1:13- 3:9--Sanctification or Holiness
3:10- 5:14--Suffering

Close by reading 1 Peter 1:4-9 together.

"Leaders in the Church" ---(ELDERS) Titus 1:5-11 & 1 Pet 5:1-4

Intro. A.-Those called "elders" are not necessarily old men.
B.-These are the real spiritual leaders of the church.
C.-In Spring Branch Community Church this office is given the title "Deacon", but the job is what is here referred to.
D.-Our Deacons--Spiritual oversight
Our Trustees--Physical & temporal oversight.

I.-IDENTITY OF ELDERS

A.-Two terms--one office--Tit. 1:5,7; Acts 20:17, 28.
1-Elder--emphasises the ruling aspect of the office
2-Bishop--emphasizes the oversight or shepherding aspect.
B.-Usage and origin of the term "elder"
1-Hold-over from the Jewish Synagogue.
2-Used of two of the Official leaders of the church
--1 Pet. 5:1--Peter
--2 Jn. 1:1 & 3 Jn. 1:1---John
3-Elders were always plural in the local church--Thus, it is not just the PASTOR who is thus referred to.
4-Elders appointed in apostolic times, but qualifications are recorded in 1 Tim. 3:1-7 & Titus 1:5-9, and thus it seems that it was intended that after the Apostolic times they should be chosen by the church.
C.-Author--Peter (as Deacons in Acts 6
1-Veteran shepherd--Christ's commission to him in Jn. 21:15-17
2-Not a POPE, but a "fellow-elder"
3-Only superiority claimed is to have witnessed Christ's sufferings.

II.-DUTIES OF ELDERS:

A.-To RULE
1-This is a "God-given gift"--1 Cor. 12:28.
2-Proving ground is at home--Household--1 Tim. 3:4
--Children in subjection
3-Proof of ability in the house of God--1 Tim. 3:5
4-Not a novice--"newly planted"--1 Tim. 3:6
--dilagently--Rom. 12:8
5-Place of high honor, humanly--1 Tim. 5:17
6-People's Response--Heb. 13:7, 17, 24.
7-ILLUS---King of a nation is responsible to rule:

B.-To GUARD THE TRUTH: (Tit. 1:9)
1-Know the truth of the Word of God.
2-Hold it fast--Really Rooted & Grounded
3-Exhorter of others
4-Convincer of others--Tit. 1:10-11
5-Guard against Perversion & Error.
6-ILLUS---King of a nation is responsible to know the law of the land and to hold it firm and true, and to impose it regardless of who may be the offender.

C.-To OVERSEE or SHEPHERD THE FLOCK:
1-Peter's commission--Jn. 21:15-17 repeated in 1 Pet. 5:2
2-Speak the Word of God.--Heb. 13:7
3-Watch over the flock--Heb. 13:17; Acts 20:28-30.
--Tear down that which is wrong.
--Build up that which is right.
4-ILLUS--King of a nation should have the welfare of his people at heart + "TEND" them with loving care.

D.-HOW to exercise these duties. 1 Pet. 5:2-3.
1-Not by constraint, but willingly
2-Not for base gain, but readily
3-Not as Lords (lording it over others), but as examples.
ILLUS--The Pattern of our Lord was always for the good of those to whom He ministered & not for self.

III.-REWARDS OF ELDERS:
A.-Not earthly, but heavenly
B.-Not temporal, but eternal
C.-Crown of glory---The "WELL DONE" of Christ for a job of ruling, watching, guarding, and overseeing of the church.
D.-Received from the "Chief Shepherd" at His appearing to take us to the Judgment Seat.

Concl. ----See what God's expectations are of those who lead you.

--See how God expects these functions to be carried out.

--Do your service & fit it into these molds.

"Think it not strange" 1 Peter 4:12-19

Intro. A.-Once it seemed strange to Peter to think that his Master should speak of suffering. Now Peter thinks it strange that anyone should imagine anything else.
B.-It is STRANGE in our eyes to see God's own suffer & others go seeminly.free.
C.-God's view--Heb. 12:6-8.

I.- SUFFERING IS NOT STRANGE 4:12-14

A.-Natural result of Christianity:
1-Christ was rejected
2-Christians will be rejected--Proof we're on the right tra
3-Addressed to "Beloved"--a Christian term.
B.-"Fiery Trial"
1-come to "test" or "prove" us--show our mettle
2-ILLUS--"furnace" of Prov. 27:21-"As the fining pot for silver, and the furnace for gold;"
3-Rom. 8:17 "if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified with Him."
C.-Exhortation to the Christian:
1-Not to be overcome
2-But, to "REJOICE"--Phil. 4:4---ILLUS:--Acts 16:25.
3-"Happy"--"blessed"-spiritually profited.
4-Spirit rests upon us--The Spirit is sent in Christ's absence. ILLUS--The Spirit gives rest as land lying fallow is rested.--We are restrengthened by trial.

II.-SUFFERING IS NOT TO BE FOR EVIL 4:15-16.

A.-Suffer--"suffer reproach"
1-not to continue in the practices of pre-conversion life 2 Cor. 5:17.
2-ILLUS--I saw an advertisement which read: "If you want people to respect you, wear good clothes." That is the world's idea of respect, & how to get it. WHY?? A leper may put on good clothes but he is only a "well dressed leper." Mere profession doesn't save a man & the one who looks & acts the same as before the "profession" has no reason to believe that the inside "man" is a new man. We are to act differently, because we ARE different.
3-"Let NONE of you"--these things aren't Christian.
B.-Sins to be avoided for the Christian:
1-Murder-------Thief of life
2-Thief--------Thief of goods
3-Evil-doer----Thief of opportunity to do good.
4-Busy-body----Thief of reputation.
5--This list is not exhaustive--but note the company these sins keep!!!!
C.-Suffering in the life of the Christian--4:16
1-ILLUS-"Kaisarinos"--Worshipers of Caesar or "Christianos" who were worshipers of Christ. Rome saw that the imperial ism of Christianity was challenging the imperialism of the Caesars, and that it was by its propagation, striking at the very vitals of the empire. It answered this by the 10 bloody persecutions. It meant and cost something to be a "Christianos" in thos days.
2-Suffering to be done for Christian things
3-Suffering to be done As a Christian
4-Suffering to be done for God's glory

Col. 3:17,23

III.-SUFFERING LEADS TO COMMITTAL 4:17-19

A.-Christians:

1-Judgment and persecution are our lot now as we are tried.

2-The church gets little persecution now--ILLUS--Amos 3:2

3-The church will be the first to meet Jesus Christ for judgment at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

4-The church is the starting point.

5-If the children of God suffer so, with all of the alleviation of a Father's love, what will the rebels suffer????

B.-Sinners:

1-Righteous---"scarcely saved"-"saved with difficulty"
ILLUS--Acts 14:18 ----Mt. 19:26.

2-Where shall the ungodly & sinners appear???***Eternal Judgment---not mere temporal judgment.

3-ILLUS--It was the earnest wish of a holy man that his death might be so triumphant that his unconverted sons might be conviced and attracted by the evident power of the gospel to sustain & cheer in the dark passage of the valley. Instead he died & he was seemingly tormented to the uttermost. But these facts were the ones which most profoundly impressed his children. "For, said the eldest, we all know what a good man our father was; and yet we see how deep his spiritual sufferings were. What then may we not expect, who have given no thought to the concerns of their souls, & they were converted.

C.-THEM**the Christians who have experienced grace as well as judgment:

1-Keep in the current of the will of God.

2-Keep on doing well.

3-Commit their souls--banking term "deposit"
"Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit".

Concl.--Suffering is not strange, but designed of God to purify us.

-Suffering should not be because of evil in ourlives.

-Suffering should lead to total committal--Ps. 37:3-5

"Trust in the Lord, and do godd; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."