Comfort When Death Comes To Loved Ones. 2 Cor 1:3-4

Intro.- 1.- Read Gen. 5:1-5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20.
2.- Quote Heb. 9:27-"And it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.
3.- Death is the common lot of ALL men.
4.- The Lord turned my attention to the theme of death & comfort this week due to the death of Marilyn B.

I.- State of the Unsaved at Death:
A.- All who have not accepted Christ are (Eph. 2:12) "Without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, & without God in this world."
1-No relation to ISRAEL, the earthly people.
2-" " to CHURCH, the heavenly people.
3-" " to CHRIST, the Savior.
4-" " to God as Father.
5-ILLUS- Queen Elizabeth, in her last illness, "had fallen," said a contemporary, "into a state of moping, sighing, and weeping melancholy." When the Lord Admiral urged her to go to bed, she replied: "If he were in the habit of seeing such things in his bed as she did when in hers, he would not persuade her to go there." Afterwards, when alone with Lord Admiral Howard, who was her relative & confidential friend, she said: "My Lord, I am tied with a chain of iron about my neck." When quite near her end, she is said to have cried out:"A million for a moment!"
6-ILLUS. Cornelius Vanderbilt, one of the great railroad kings of America. His wealth at death was estimated to be the largest ever bequeathed to heirs in the U. S. When dying he said concerning the hymn "'Come, ye sinners, poor & needy! Yes, yes, sing that for me. I am poor and needy."

B.-Contrast of the State of Unsaved & Saved.
1.-Paul writes to those who were concerned about those whose bodies were asleep as they had loved ones who had gone on to be with the Lord.
2.-"I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others WHICH HAVE NO HOPE. 1 Thess. 4:13
a.-written to brethren
b.-written to give facts about the departed
c.-written for knowledge which leads to assurance
d.-written to relieve sorrow + instill hope
e.-written to show contrast with unsaved.
3.-ILLUS- A minister tells the story of how upon taking a new pastorate right out of Sem. that in the 1st week a messenger came with the word, "Brother Junkins is dying, and he wants to see you, pastor." What could I do? The man dying was 87 & the Xn. leader in the village. Had no message to give, yet prayed. When he arrived the man said, "Pastor, I am dying! For years I have been feasting on the promises of God, but this morning when I woke up, I could not remember one of them! What shall I do?" God's answer came. "Brother Junkins, do you think God will forget any of His promises?" With peace and joy on his face the man looked up & said, "that is wonderful. He'll remember them, won't He?... I'll just fall asleep & trust Him to remember His precious promises to me." In a few hours he was with the One who is even more wonderful than all His promises.

II.--State Of The SAVED.

A.-When born again they are lifted out of this world order & made citizens of heaven with their possessions & hopes there.

B.-Sent back into the world as an ambassador from a foreign court to represent Him here in "enemy territory".

C.-Constantly on call to obey a "quick summons" home to heaven

Illus.-Diplomat.

Phil 1:21

1- we work here---but long to be there

2- it is good for others to stay--"far better"for us to be with Christ

3- To live is Christ (i.e.-His living His life out in us)
--To die is gain (i.e.-To see Him as He is & be with him)

4-Illus of 2 Cor. 5:8 "Absent from the Body, at home with the Lord"---When John Quincy Adams was 80 yrs of age a friend said to him, "Well, how is John Quincy Adams?" "Thank you, " he said "John Quincy Adams is quite well. But the house where he lives is becoming dilapidated. It is tottering. Time and the seasons have nearly destroyed it, and it is becoming quite uninhabitable. I shall have to move out quite soon. But thank you, John Quincy Adams is quite well."

III.-Comfort In Death--Read 2 Cor. 1:3-4.

A."God of ALL comfort" --The PERSON OF COMFORT

1-Source--God

2-Character of God--Another Comforter

3-Kind of comfort-Webster-"to impart strength & inspire hope"

B.-"Who comforteth us in ALL our tribulation"--PLAN OF COMFORT

1-IN--not out of it or away from it--1 Cor. 10:13

2-Tribulation--He weeps with us when we weep

a.-bring victory for us out of seeming defeat--Rom. 5:3-5

b.-ALL our trib... example of Rom. 8:28
--Bring saved closer to X as comforter
--Bring unsaved to Christ as saviorr

3-Person of Comfort is the "God of all comfort"

Illus.-"What did you do to our daughter?" asked a Moslem woman whose child had died at 16 yrs of age. "We did nothing," answered the missionary. "Oh, yes, you did," persisted her mother, "She died smiling. Our people do not die like that." The girl had found Christ & believed on Him a few months before. Fear of death was gone. Hope, giving birth to joy had replaced it.

C.-"That we may be able to comfort.."--PROFIT OF COMFORT

1-speak & sympathize out of a heart of experience
--heart to heart---Rom. 12:15
--illus of X--Heb. 2:18

2-Speak to "them which are in any trouble"
--saved who lacks assurance
--unsaved who needs to know the GOD OF ALL COMFORT

Concl.--GOD'S PLAN OF COMFORT*****APPLIED TO YOU

1-Appointment of all men is for physical death--Heb. 9:27

2-Message of God to YOU: ----Saved -Hope- I Thess. 4:14-18
----Unsaved- Trust--Acts 16:31

3-Illus of "And he died"(Knight-230) --Mr. Goodear gave himself that very night to the Lord, who has said, "He that believeth in ME shall never die."

Christ did not die to show us how to die; He died that we might not die.

3-ILLUS---Henry Goodear, a merchant living in London, was very much inclined to scoff at the Bible & its teaching.

One day his niece, Mary Goodear, persuaded him to go to church, "just to please her." Greatly to her grief the lesson was from the 5th chaper of Genesis. As the verses were read she could only shrink back in her place. Why had God permitted such an uninteresting list to be read this day of all others?

Mr. Goodear made no comment as he and his niece walked homewards. A little quieter, a little more thoughtful than usual, that was all. And yet, with every passing footstep, every tread of his own feet, every throb of his heart, came the refrain, "AND HE DIED."

Up in his own room that night went Henry Goodear, and each hour, as it struck from Big Ben, seemed to echo the words,"AND HE DIED."

The next morning, busy at his ledger, as usual, his pen seemed to trace the words, "AND HE DIED". "This will never do", thot Mr Goodear, as he failed in a simple addition. "I MUST READ THAT CHAPTER." So, as soon as he reached home the half-forgotten family Bible was opened, and he read the words again, "All the daysthat Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and HE DIED." "All the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years: AND HE DIED." "All the days of Enos were nine hundred and five years: AND HE DIED."

Right to the end of the chapter read Mr. Goodear. Good or wicked, the same simple story was told of each, "He lived..... AND HE DIED."

The Spirit of God can use the most unlikely of instruments. By this uninteresting list of facts Mr. Goodear's life was entirely changed. He was living.....and he would have to die, and what then?

That very night this London merchant gave himself to the Lord who has said, he that "believeth in Me shall never die."

4-You see-----Christ did not die to show us how to die; He died that we might not die the death of the unrighteous; the second death.

Like A River Glorious
He Is Mine
Rock Of Ages

Westbrae 3/15/64

THE SEALING MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - 2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13+ 4:30

INTRODUCTION

A. - An Act Of God:

1 - Understanding is needed
- a - The FATHER sealed the SON John 6:27
- b - The SPIRIT seals the CHRISTIAN — 2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13+ 4:30

2 - Figure of speech for a completed transaction which will be brought to its conclusion.

3 - TYPOLOGY (F.E. Marsh, Emblems of the Holy Spirit, 29-36)
- a - Security
- b - Safety
- c - Ownership
- d - Authority
- e - Responsibility

B. Sealing — "is never presented as an exhortation, nor pictured as a goal to which Christians should strive" (J.F. Walvoord, The Holy Spirit, 157)

I.- SEALING OF THE SPIRIT IS UNIVERSAL AMONG CHRISTIANS:

A.- The Sealing MISUNDERSTOOD:

1- Arminian theologians often represent this as a work of God subsequent to salvation, and hence an experience to be sought.

2- Based on KJV rendering of Eph. 1:13 which seems to present a sequence of events with sealing occurring after salvation

3- TRANSLATIONAL THEOLOGY based on a translation & not harmonious with the Greek text.

II.- SEALING OF THE SPIRIT IS NOT EXPERIENTIAL:

A.- No Feelings
B.- No Experiences
C.- No Evidences
D.- No Conditions beyond hearing the gospel & believing it.
E.- No Praying or Asking
F.- (Next page)

F.- Proofs — 2 Cor. 1:22
— Eph. 1:13
— Eph. 4:30

III. SEALING OF THE SPIRIT IS SIGNIFICANT:

A.- Positively — A Work Of God:

1- Security — Seal on a letter to identify the sender
— Hospital wristband to identify a patient.

2- Safety — Seal on a boxcar to ensure safe delivery of its contents

3- Ownership — Brand on a cow in the Western U. S. A.

4- Authority — Signed contract — "Signed, Sealed + Delivered"

5- Responsibility — Sealed orders for the Captain of a Naval ship

B. Doctrinally — Related To Eternal Security:

1- Related to promise — Eph. 1:13

2- Secure until the day of redemption — Eph. 4:30

3- Dependent upon God — ALONE

4- Forbids any counterfeit because the Holy Spirit IS THE SEAL!

C- Clarification Of A Distinction:

1- Security is — True
— Factual
— A work of the Father, Son + Holy Spirit

2- BETTER TRANSLATION — Eph. 1:13

"in whom having also believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise." (NASB)

3- Preparatory steps
a- "Ye heard the Word of Truth"
b- "Ye believed"

D- The Sealing Correctly Understood:

1- Those conditions having been fulfilled produces the SIMULTANEOUS and NON-EXPERIENTIAL ministries of the Spirit:

a- REGENERATION = "Ye must be born again"

b- BAPTISM = Identification with Christ as a member of His body thru DEATH, BURIAL + RESURRECTION

c- INDWELLING = The gift of the Spirit to each →

"SATAN IN SECOND CORINTHIANS" 2 Cor. 2:11, etc.

"SATAN'S S.O.P."

2:1-17 - Read

INTRO:

A-"IF I Were The Devil"--Clipping by Paul Harvey

B-What Is The Devil Doing? — In the sense of PRINCIPLES

1-Must go to God's Word for the Answer

2-2 Corinthians tells us--Not all there is to tell
--But a brief view

3-BLINDING the Unsaved (2 Cor. 4:3-4)

4-BEGUILING the Unstable (2 Cor. 11:1-4, 13-15)

5-BUFFETING the Mature & Stable (2 Cor. 12:7)

6-Let's look in detail — PROP Learn Satan's S.O.P., so we can be protected from his methods

I-BLINDING THE UNSAVED --- (2 Cor. 4:3-4):

A-Satan's Titles:

1-Satan =="Adversary"

2-Devil =="Slanderer"

3-"god of this world"==false god in charge of this age
--Now is the time of his control
--Prince or ruler in charge of this sphere
--ILLUS--Luke 4:5-8 (READ) Offer to Christ

4-HODGE--P. 85, 2 Cor--"It is not necessary in order that men should serve Satan, & even worship him, that they should intend to do so, or even that they should know that such a being exists. 1 Cor. 10:20. It is enough that he actually controls them, & that they fulfill his purposes as implicitly as the good fulfill the will of God. * Not to serve God is to serve Satan. There is no help for it. If Jehovah be not our God, Satan is!" One or the other!

B-Satan's Tricks:

1-"Blinded the minds"

2-Satan does this

3-Problem--Not with the gospel
--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; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."
--But with the mind & heart of the unregenerate
--2 Cor. 4:3-4
--If any cannot see the SUN at midday, he must be BLIND
--If any cannot receive the GOSPEL, he is LOST!

4-Unbelief is the result of Satan's blinding

5-Man's power has no control over this condition

6-Satan's "trick" is to turn the unsaved away from the way of the cross

7-ILLUS--In a midwest packing house there is an animal that has become "an institution". For many years he has carried on. It is a GOAT, dubbed "JUDAS".

Regularly, unfailingly, he leads the sheep to the slaughter. They always follow the scoundrel; he delights in it. Unsuspecting, sheep-like, they follow his prancing feet to their destruction, certain & sure, while he darts out another way to safety, again to lead fresh victims on the morrow.

He has led many thousands to their destruction!

How like the "god of this age", leading the unthinking masses, custom-bound, blinded, in the succession of the generations one along the track of the other, sheep-like, to their unspeakable doom!

C.-Satan's Triumph:

1-2 Cor. 4:3--"them that are lost"
--"them that are perishing"
--This is their PRESENT state
--Not going to be lost, but lost already - Now!

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost."

2-2 Cor. 4:4--"them which believe not"
--This is Satan's Triumph; LOST, UNSAVED, UN* BELIEVING

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ Who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

--Morgan (P. 237)--"The one sin that will bring men ultimately to perdition is the sin of UNBELIEF, unbelief as refusal of Christ, refusal of the gospel, refusal to accept what God is offering them. To put it quite bluntly, if anyone goes down to perdition, WHY WILL THEY GO? Because of their sins?--NO! but because of their sin of rejecting Jesus Christ."

THEIR ONLY HOPE

3-"THE ISSUE" is belief
--John's gospel 98 times--"BELIEVE"
--Faith is not a matter of indifference
--Cannot be an atheist & be saved
--Some say it doesn't matter what you believe, BUT IT DOES!
--You cannot reject the gospel & get to heaven when you die
--Rom. 10:9-10

"That if thou shalt confess w/ thy mouth the Lord Jesus, & shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For w/ the heart man believeth unto righteousness; + w/ the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

4-ILLUS--The man who denies the existence of the evil one reveals the fact that he has not been considered a worthy foe by the prince of darkness. The great evangelist, Charles Finney, realized this truth from a deep experience of Satan's opposition.

On one occasion, after he had been preaching on the subject, a man came to him, & said: "Mr. Finney, I don't believe in the devil."

The preacher looked at him keenly for a moment, & replied: "Don't you now? Well, you really resist him for awhile and you'll soon change your views."

The author of evil is not slow to accept the challenge that is thrown at him by a holy life.

5-Satan's triumph is to so "BLIND" the mind that it not be enlightened by the gospel of Christ's glory.
6-For every one of us who is now saved, Satan is OUR OLD (former) MASTER, but his triumph is past in our lives
7-He is no longer our master-------HALLELUJAH !!!

II.-BEGUILING THE UNSTABLE ---(2 Cor. 11:1-4, 13-15):

A-Satan's Past--(11:3):

1-Appeared to Eve in the Garden
2-Operated by subtilty & slander--"Hath God said?"
3-THE GREAT SEDUCER — DECEIVER
4-"The serpent beguiled Eve"--He cheats on the truth !
5-Eve was led to disbelieve what was true & to believe what was false
6-Called a LIAR and a MURDERER from the beginning (Jn. 8:44)
7-ILLUS--Boys often entrap & catch sparrows by a simple

device. They roll a piece of paper into the form of a funnel & stick it in the ground, putting seed at the bottom. The bird thrusts its head down into the funnel to get at the seed, & when it would lift its head, THE FUNNEL STICKS ON, & the bird cannot see to fly away.

Satan is continually getting men ensnared in his "funnels" to get at his seed, & so he blinds them!

B- Satan's Present:

1-2 Cor. 11:3b-4

2-"Corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ"

3-The church is a "Second Eve", and is espoused to Christ, the New Adam

4-The Church, like Eve, must beware, lest she listen to the voice of the same tempter, who ever lieth in wait to deceive, & so the church would lose the privileges she is destined to enjoy

5-Let us not be--Unstable
--Corrupted
--Led away from simplicity, singlemindedness, unadulteratedness that is in Christ

6-To avoid this the Servant of the Lord says:
--"I am jealous over you" (PAUL)
--"I fear" for you
--Pastoral concern for the flock, especially for the unstable
--Paul's motives were related to their good

C-Satan's Preaching:

1-2 Cor. 11:4

2-Does it surprise you that THE DEVIL PREACHES?
--He does!!
--Preaches "Another Jesus"
--Preaches "A different spirit"
--Preaches "A different gospel"
--That's beguiling the unstable
--One may be saved, but not stable in the faith
Eph. 4:14--"...children, tossed to & fro, & carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, & cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;"

FOUND IN:
- Churches
- Para-Church organizations

That's why we need a BIBLE CHURCH + PASTOR

3-"He that cometh"--From where?
--From WITHOUT
--Acts 20:29--"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock"
--From WITHIN
--Acts 20:30--"Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."

4-Seductive preaching is to be expected--1 Tim. 4:1-3
--2 Tim. 3:1-8
--2 Tim. 4:3-4
--Gal. 1:6-9

READ

5-How does Satan preach?
--2 Cor. 11:13-15
--Deceptive masquerade
--HAVNER--"The devil is not persecuting christianity nowadays, he is professing it. He is not fighting the churches, he is joining them. It is the strategy of the MOCK ANGEL, Satan, disguised as an angel of light"

6-QUOTABLE QUOTE: "In other days, wars were won by direct frontal attack. Today some wars are won without fighting. They are won by infiltration, camouflage, deception & subversion. Spiritual warfare follows the same strategy nowadays. There is the sneaking infiltration of false doctrine, & the gradual inflow of worldliness into the Church. Satan does far more evil as an angel of light than as a roaring lion. And matters are made worse because it is considered UNLOVING & UNCHRISTIAN to expose these wolves in sheep's clothing. We are honored for killing lions, but condemned for battling angels. Some would have us believe it isn't considered nice to tackle these Mock-angels who preach heresy, using the language of orthodoxy." (AFRICA EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP Paper. Oct. 1967)

7-May God help us--To recognize the beguiling
--To stand on "THUS SAITH THE LORD
--ILLUS--Griffith-Thomas once told the story of a poor Negro who was a helpless slave to drink. He tried again & again to get free, & others tried to help him. But he could not get rid of his drunkenness until he was saved. When he was converted there was a wonderful change, & someone said, "SO AT LAST YOU HAVE GOT THE MASTERY OF THE DEVIL." "No," he replied, "But now I have got THE MASTER OF THE DEVIL"

Since Satan is a superhuman foe, it takes a supernatural power to overwhelm him. Christ is that power. Christ in the believer is our Hope of glory for the future, but He is also our HOPE OF VICTORY, NOW!

8-He--the devil--is not only Our old master from our unsaved days

9-He is also OUR DECEIVER in our unstable experience

III.-BUFFETING THE MATURE & STABLE (2 Cor. 12:7):

A-Satan's Ministry:

1-12:7--"To BUFFET me"
=="to beat me with the fist"

2-Satan doesn't waste his time & attacks upon
--The unsaved; they're in his grasp
--The unstable; they're easily swayed
--But on the mature & the stable

The "BELLY UP" crowd

3-If the "strong" & the "leaders" can be
--discouraged
--derailed
--disenchanted
--then many others may be led to ineffectiveness in their lives.

4-Such "buffeting" Is ALLOWED of God !
** Twice said to be "lest I should be exalted above measure"
** Nothing touches us except it comes thru the loving hands of our Heavenly Father!

--Is SENT of Satan
** Not as a single trial
** But continually
** Misunderstanding of Lk. 4:13
** ILLUS--Job 1 & calamities to Job's family, flocks & own body

"And when the devil had ended all temptation, he departed from Him for a season"
= "until an opportune time" NASB

--ILLUS--The storms of nature cause tree that is exposed to the gales to put down roots deep into the substructure of the earth.

--The storms of life cause us to "go deep" with God so we will be anchored in HIS SUFFICIENCY

B-Satan's Messengers:

1-Called a "THORN in the flesh"
--Literally, a "STAKE in the flesh"
--Not an irritation, but a debilitation
--Ophthalmia ??
--Malaria ??
--Migrane headaches ??
--We don't know which

Epilepsy ??

2-"Thorn" generally used--Of MENTAL pressures
--1 Th. 2:18--"Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us."

--Of BODILY diseases
--Lk. 13:16--"And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?"

3-Things may occur "in the normal course" of events, yet they have Satan as their source !

C-Satan's Motive:

1-Why does Satan send "thorns" as his messengers?
NB!
2-To disrupt our effectiveness
3-Only attacks the STRONG & the MATURE !!
4-Prayer for relief--12:8
--Paul did the right thing in taking the problem to God
--3 times he prayed
--As did Christ in Gethsemane
5-Can temporarily become a SPIRITUAL problem
--Thorn is not removed
--Seems that prayer is not being answered
--So we get disturbed in our spiritual equilibrium.
NB!
6-Used of God to teach us OUR DEPENDENCE UPON HIM
--Not on the flesh
--But on the LORD we are to depend
--"Though he slay me, I will trust in Him"

Job 13:15

- Answer to prayer ** 12:9a
  - ** "IS"; Present tense; continually
  - ** "God Is faithful --
    Not 'He has been',
    Not, 'He will be',
    Both are true;
    But today in this sore trial
    God Is faithful, now, to you!"
- --Not resignation, but REJOICING
- --12:9b-10
- --"He said"=="He hath said"
  - ** Not in one instance only
  - ** But in the experiences covering the 14 years since the buffeting began
  - ** Phs. 4:11--"I have learned..."

7-ILLUS--Gen. 50:20--"But as for you, ye thought evil against me; But God meant it unto good..."

8-Satan continues as OUR OPPRESSOR if we come to be strong & mature

9-ILLUS--At a testimony meeting, in a mountainous region, one man expressed discouragement because after 3 years of being a Christian & seeking to walk with the Lord, he was still having a severe struggle with Satan.

A believer who was a "veteran" in the service of the Lord replied to him: "It took me 20 years to get the hill back of my barn reasonably freed from rattlesnakes; and after 50 years I still meet one there occasionally. Brother, the Devil is harder to deal with than rattlesnakes".

10-D. L. MOODY--"The tempter will follow you from the cradle to the grave, & the nearer you get to Christ, the hotter the fight will be."

CONCLUSION:

A.-Summary:
1-Our Old Master-----BLINDING the unsaved
2-Our Deceiver-------BEGUILING the unstable
3-Our Oppressor------BUFFETING the mature & stable
4-Thank God that's not all the story....

B.-Our Adversary--2 Cor. 2:11:
1-His Purpose--"To get" an advantage over us"
--But we don't have to yield to his evil purposes
2-Our Protection--"We are not ignorant of his devices"
=="Wiles", "Tricks", "Things devised to destroy the christian"
--TOLERANCE of evil--Sinning man accepted without repentance is one of his tricks --Previous attitude
--UNDUE SEVERITY is another of his wiles, so that a repentant sinner will not be welcomed back
--These are ADVANTAGES to Satan
** If an individual christian should be driven to despair
** If the peace of the church should be disturbed

Pendulum swings to an opposite imbalance

** Mt. 13:28 -- "An enemy hath done this"

3-Our Plan--2 Cor. 2:10
--FORGIVENESS toward others !
--Lack of forgiveness gives the Devil an advantage over you
--1 Pet. 5:8--"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"
--Paul's urging is that if we Keep our own hearts right with God & with the brethren, our adversary will not have the advantage

4-ILLUS--On a summer Sunday evening, many years ago, a young man walked the streets of London, downcast & weary. He had been living a "fast" life, with the usual result of a tarnished character and emptied purse. He was to sail for New York the following morning, and a Christian friend, who had vainly sought to arrest him from his downward course, pleaded with him to spend his last night in England hearing Rowland Hill preach.

Surrey Chapel was filled that evening with an eager crowd, brought together to hear the faithful preaching of that earnest man. It may have been curiosity that led the young man there, but at any rate he found himself seated in the congregation that night.

Mr. Hill's text was: "WE ARE NOT IGNORANT OF HIS DEVICES." After reading it, he abruptly proceeded:

"I was walking along the street the other day, & saw a drove of pigs following a man. This excited my curiosity, for, as you may know, pigs are uncommonly queer animals to drive, & if you want them to go one way, they invariably take another.

But this man seemed to have no difficulty; the pigs followed him justling & grunting--as eager as possible. I followed on, & to my surprise I found they were going into the slaughterhouse. They went in, & the door closed behind them. I waited till the man came out, & asked him how he had managed to lead them so easily. The man laughed & said:

'Maybe you did not see the bag of beans under my arm. I knew I would have a pretty morning's work taking them there if I did not humor them a bit, so I got some beans of which they are particularly fond, & dropped them along the road. You saw how they scampered along picking up the beans, never thinking they were on their way to the slaughter.'

"And this is the way," continued the preacher, raising his voice, and turning his penetrating glance right on the pew where the young prodigal sat, "that the devil is leading some of you captives at his will down to hell. He knows full well how to please you, and lead you on. He drops his beans right along the road, and very soon, for you the last bean will be picked up and then the gates of hell will close behind you."

5-Our Condition:
5-How is it with you?--Led on to death & hell by the Devil's beans dropped in your path ?
--Then turn to Christ who loves you and died for you
--2 Cor. 4:3-4

BLINDED?

6-How is it with you? -Beguiled?
-Buffeted ?
--Then turn to the Lord for His sufficiency
--Exercise forgiveness toward others as well
--Illus--A little boy came to his father looking much in earnest, & asked, "Father, is Satan bigger than I am?" ..... "Yes, my boy," answered the Father.
"Is he bigger than you are, Dad?"
"Yes, my boy, he is bigger than your father."
The boy looked surprised, but thought again, & asked: "Is he bigger than Jesus?"
"No, my boy," replied the Father, "Jesus is bigger than he is."
The little fellow, as he turned away, said with a smile, "THEN I DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID OF HIM, DO I?"

PROP We must learn Satan's S.O.P, so we can be protected from his methods

Trust Jesus fully
Forgive others freely
TODAY!

Great Is Thy Faithfulness — #403 (1)
Westbrae--10/22/67--Yield Not To Temptation — #457 (3)
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God #66 (2)

Calvary Columbus - 9/14/75
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Fine Ye Able — # 175
#457

THE LIFE WHICH IS A MINISTRY -- 2 Cor. 2:14--4:1

Intro: A.-Entering The Ministry:

Cal Probasco's Question— "How many are in the Ministry here? -Please raise your hands"

1-True of every christian
2-As soon as he is saved
3-Not a reference to clergymen
4-But an assertion of the fact that to begin the Christian life is to begin a life which is a ministry
5-One cannot live the Christian life without being used of God in His service----or "a ministry"
6-Read 2 Cor. 2:14--3:1

B.-Explaining The Ministry:

1-Imagery of 2 Cor. 2:14
--Conquering general in lead chariot
--Victorious armies
--Chained slaves
--Incense being burned
2-Application to Christians
--Thanks to God
--Causes us to triumph in Christ
--Makes manifest the savor of His knowledge by us
--We are...a sweet savor of Christ
3-We have become a savor of death unto their eternal d.
--Some say frankly that if our life is the Christian life, they want no part of it
--Too dull; Too uninteresting; Too passive & tame
--They want the excitement of sin
--Calif. H. S. Teacher--"We need some sin in life just to keep life interesting
--A christian ministers DEATH to such people
4-To others we have become the savor of life unto eternal life--
--These are attracted by peace & purity of Christ in us
--Want the blessedness of salvation
--Want Christ because our life has been a ministry to them
--Not by intellectual or superior arguments
--Not by overpowering impression of personality
--But because we lived the life that ministers, they were won
--Christian life has ministered LIFE to such one
5-Remember---A Perfumer has said, "The difference betwe a STINK and a SCENT, is only a drop in difference."
--Drop of sin in life
--Drop of word in the mouth
--Drop of look on face
--Remember-----we're to be a SWEET SAVOR of Chris

Enablement

C.-Sufficiency For This Ministry:

1-2:16b--".. WHO is sufficient for these things?"
2-Implication----"We are, by the grace of God!"
3-Because we aren't as those who corrupt the Word
4-2:17
5-ILLUS---Missionary in Africa had been buying milk

from an African woman named Hawa. Missionary was getting perturbed by the fact that the milk was getting thinner & thinner; having been adulterated with water. Remonstration brought a hurt "Why, Mother of the House, I wouldn't put water in the milk I sell you. I'm your friend."

The missionary replied, "Nevertheless, I'll have to stop buying milk unless we get some cream. As they argued on about it, the missionary started to strain the milk thru a cloth.....and then she SQUEALED----"Hawa. How did pollywogs get in the milk?"

Poor Hawa! She knew she had been found out! The water from the Pond had pollywogs in it & she'd put that water into the milk.

6-So.....We're not of those who dilute the Word of God in our ministry for the Lord

7-Claim to sufficiency for this ministry is not self-commend/ation

8-3:1

9-But THEY ARE HIS LIVING PROOF of the sufficiency of God thru him

10-3:2-3

11-G. C. Morgan--"Christ the Author; Paul the Pen; Spirit the Ink; and YOU, the Epistles:"

I.-TWO PURPOSES OF 2 CORINTHIANS 3: The Two Purposes

A.-Comparison Between Old Covenant (3:14) & New Covenant (3:6)

1-The OLD was ministered according to the letter, the NEW was ministered according to the Spirit (3:6)

2-The OLD killed; the NEW gives life (3:6)

3-The OLD was a ministration of death (3:7); the NEW is a ministration of the Spirit (3:8)

4-The OLD was glorious (3:7); the NEW is rather (more) glorious (3:9)

5-The OLD was a ministry of condemnation; the NEW is a ministry of righteousness (3:9)

6-The OLD was made glorious with a glory that faded, the NEW inherently and essentially had a glory that excelleth---it will never fade (3:10) (3:11

7-The OLD has been done away, the NEW forever remaineth /

8-The OLD had a veiled ministry; the NEW knows great plainness (3:13) and an unveiled Christ in whose face is seen the light of the knowledge of the glory of God (4:6)

B.-Illumination Of The Fact That The Christian Life Is A Life That Ministers:

1-Always ministers

--Sometimes ministers conviction
--Sometimes ministers conversion
--Sometimes ministers encouragement
--Sometimes ministers reproof.....
--But it always ministers

2-Christian life ministers because of what it is....
....the Christ(ian) life.

3-See 4:10-11

II.-THE LIFE WHICH IS A MINISTRY:

The Seven Particulars

A.-It Is A Life Of Ability--3:5-6:

1-Question in 2:16---"WHO is sufficient?"
2-Answer in 3:5-6
3-Many things we can't do
4-But we can do the will of God
5-For our SUFFICIENCY, ABILITY, & ADEQUACY is of God, not of our own selves or flesh
6-Ministry is not the "New Testament" as a Book
7-But of the "New Testament" as a "NEW COVENANT"as contrasted with the OLD COVENANT of the Law
8-We're not to minister the law which leads to Death, but the New Covenant which "giveth life"
9-He knows the path we should take
10-"Our sufficiency is of God"---3:5 — 3X5 Card
11-How sad, then, the remark---"Let George do it; I'm not able
12-Rather, Ours is a life of ABILITY — "I Can't" has no place in a christian's vocabulary

B.-It Is A Life Of Spirituality--3:6:

1-Life not on the level of senses or flesh
2-But life on the plane of the Spirit
3-Paraphrase of Rom. 8:6--"To be so minded as to give your attention only to fleshly matters is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."
4-Convicted, regenerated & indwelt by the Spirit, the believer is now ready to enjoy life & ministry on the HIGHEST PLANE---good food on body level
---good music on soulish level
---good fellowship & nourishment on spiritual level
5-Life takes on NEW MEANING in such a way to illustrate that this NEW EXPERIENCE comes thru a NEW BIRTH
6-The Spirit giveth life-------so others are won to this life
7-Ours is a life of SPIRITUALITY----that ministers

C.-It Is A Life Of Glory---3:8:

1-Described in 3:8 as "rather glorious" or "rather more g."
2-Far more glorious than life under the old covenant,which was a covenant of death with its glory fading away
3-It "exceeds in glory"--3:9
4-Its glory "excelleth"--3:10
5-Why this glory?-----Because this new covenant "giveth life" which the old covenant could not do
6-Col. 1:27--"Christ in you, the hope of glory"
7-Not just future glory, but present glory as we live in & thru Christ
8-When man uses man, he abuses him — "SQUEEZED LEMON" istry
9-When God uses man, He glorifies him in that service & min/
10-To live so as that all of life is a ministry to God is man's highest privilege----WHAT GLORY!
11-Ours, then, is a life of GLORY

D.-It Is A Life Of Righteousness--3:9:

1-Man fell into disobedience, sin & unrighteousness
2-New Covenant gives rightousness to its recipients
3-Sin is a reproach, but righteousness is a glory

4-Given on a grace principle of unmerited favor to sinners who do nothing more than believe
5-Rom. 3:21-22
6-Rom. 4:5
7-This is IMPUTATION
8-Spirit IMPARTS righteousness to the behavior of the believer in precise proportion to the present submission of the believer
9-God will eventually, in His presence, fully perfect that righteousness in our character.
10-Meanwhile, ours is a life of RIGHTEOUSNESS which ministers

Are our actions ones of purity & righteousness?

E.-It Is A Life Of Hope---3:12:
1-It is a hope based upon a NEW Covenant which remains eternally the same
2-3:11
3-What a contrast with the transitory Old Covenant which has been done away
4-Secured by God's oath & promise (Heb. 6:17-8)
5-Our hope is in a glorious message which has reality & which message shall never fade or pass away
6-Thus, we can, with boldness & plainness of speech, proclaim it
7-This Hope gives--happiness to the heart (Tit. 2:13)
--an anchor to the soul (Heb. 6:19)
--and purity to the life (1 Jn. 3:3)
8-This hope's content is Christ---1 Jn. 3:2
9-The radiance of the life of hope is itself a ministry of encouragement to a world "without hope"
10-The life of HOPE is a life which ministers

F.-It Is A Life Of Liberty---3:17:
1-Free rendering of 3:17--"...and where the Spirit is Lord, there is liberty"
2-Salvation has brought--Life thru the Spirit (3:6)
--Liberty Thru the Spirit (3:17)
--Likeness Thru the Spirit (3:18)
3-Freed from sin
4-Not freed to do as one pleases, for that is but a new form of bondage
5-But freed to use our faculties and abilities for the good of man and the glory of God
6-THAT is true liberty
7-Since this life of LIBERTY is a life of service to man & to God, it is a life which ministers

G.-It Is A Life Of Advance & Progress----3:18-4:1:
1-What surpassing changes-----from Glory to GLORY!
2-From glorious experience to glorious experience
3-From glorious knowledge to glorious knowledge
4-This is PROGRESS.....ADVANCE
5-We need to be changed.....no doubt of that
6-But we're often intent on changing the other fellow
7-OUR NEED*----3:18 — WE ALL
8-Scripture exhorts 2 Pet. 3:18
9-This is the essence of the Christian life----growth, advance, progress, change, glory to glory; grace to grace

believer to permanently dwell in his/her body as a holy temple forever!!

d.- SEALED = Security of the believer until he/she arrives safely in heaven.

A GUARANTEE

2- REALITY - If you have believed in Christ & the saving of your soul, you have been sealed unto the day of redemption — IMMEDIATELY.

3- In spite of their many failings + carnality, the Corinthian believers are said to be sealed 2 Cor. 1:22 in context of 1:18-22

4- "Every reference to sealing, however contemplates it as a finished act dependent only upon saving faith." (JFW, 158)

a- Settled + beyond dispute

b- OBJECTIVE!

5- Assurance is - SUBJECTIVE!

a- May be present or absent.

b- Depends on Knowledge of the FACTS and TRUST

c- May vascilate depending upon day-to-day circumstances.

6 - See George Cutting's tract "Safety, Certainty + Enjoyment" (6)

E. - REINFORCING SCRIPTURES:

1 - Romans 8:1, 35-39
2 - Eph. 1:3-14
3 - 2 Tim. 2:15-19
4 - John 16:16-20

CONCLUSION:

A. - Recapitulation:

1-Regeneration----Beginning of life
2-Baptism---------Beginning of identification
3-Indwelling------Beginning of power
4-Sealing---------Beginning of hope

B. - Possess Your Possessions! — TODAY!

Eph. 4:31 - 5:2

3/16/2000 - Grace Gospel Church, Beaver
10/24/2001 - Bible Center Ch, Charleston

10-Great descriptives of the life that ministers

as we are LIVING ON THE GROWING & GLOWING EDGE

CONCLUSION:

A.-Recapitulation:

See Back of this sheet

1-Began with a life of ABILITY
2-Close with a life of ADVANCE
3-But it is an ADVANCE that has not close----until we see Jesus face to face
4-Christian life is an endless life
5-Christian life is an endless ministry

B.-Therefore:

1-4:1
2-Note "WE"------WE are involved !
3-Involved in a ministry from which we cannot resign & because of which we cannot faint
4-We MUST be good christians, living in such a way as that God can use us to attract others to Christ.
5-Don't be surprised or discouraged
- -if some get angry
- -if some are abusive
- -if some reject

6-We are a "SAVOR" unto all--
- -of life unto life
- -of death unto death

OVER

7-The same warm sun that melts the ice

also

hardens the clay

8-Ours is a life.....THAT MINISTERS
- -of ability
- -of spirituality
- -of life
- -of righteousness
- -of hope
- -of liberty
- -of advance

9-Ours is the Life Which Is a Ministry.

ARE YOU MINISTERING?

CAN'T "Hire" someone in your place!

Westbrae 11/26/67 - A Passion For Souls - 342
Are Ye Able, Said The Master - 175

III.- THE TWO PRACTICES

A.- Beholding

B.- Reflecting

ILLUS --Biographers of Fenelon tell us that he lived in such intimate fellowship with God that his very face shone with the joy of the Lord. Lord Peterborough, a skeptic, was obliged to spend the night with him at an Inn.

In the morning he rushed away, saying, "If I stay another night with that man, I shall be a christian in spite of myself."

Someone else said of him, "His manners were full of grace, his voice full of love, and his face full of glory."

As such, I'm sure he was indeed a "Savor of life" unto some and a "Savor of death" unto many others.....and so should both you and I be!

GOSPEL

Blindness ~~To God's Word~~ 2 Cor. 4:~~3-4~~ 1 Cor. 2:14

Intro: A.-Have you ever wondered why all are not saved?
1-Some haven't heard any message
2-Some haven't heard a pure message
3-Some have rebelled at the message
4-BASIC reason-------BLINDNESS = HARDNESS

B.-Kinds of Blindness:
1-Natural -------Due to the fall
2-Satanic--------Due to Satan & his demons
3-Judicial-------Due to Israel's rejection of Messiah
4-Carnal---------Due to fleshliness in the believer.
(Next message)

I.-NATURAL BLINDNESS 1 Cor. 2:14

A.-Creation Of Man:
1-In the image of God
2-Body, Soul & Spirit
3-Innocent of sin
4-Spirit cut off from God at the fall---no more fellowship

B.-Blindness Toward God Resulted:
1-No SPIRITUAL perception
2-infested all men thru inheritance---reproducing "after his kind"
3-Natural thing---"Doin' what comes naturally"--1 Cor. 2:14
4-Spiritual things and Christ not comprehended--Jn. 1:5
5- " " " " " discerned by worldly wisdom
1 Cor. 1:21
6-What kind of sin????---Rom. 1:21-23---God rejection !!!!
7-ILLUS ----No spiritual receiving set.

II.-SATANIC BLINDNESS 2 Cor. 4:3-4

A.-Reason For Satanic Blindness:
1-Attempt to thwart God
2-Attempt to capture and hold mankind in bondage
3-Outworking of Satan's hatred & rebellion

B.-Extent Of Satanic Blindness:
1-All who are lost---2 Cor. 4:3
2-Single issue---Know many facts, but not the PERSON
---Gospel blindness in order to keep from believing
---May be 18 inches from salvation
3-True only of unbelievers--1 Jn. 4:4--Greater is He that is in you than He that is in the world
--Jn. 14:17-Spirit is not the portion of any but believers
4-Control by Satan--Jn. 8:44---Unbeliever is of his father, the devil
--Eph. 2:1-3-energized by satan
--by nature children of wrath
5-Contrast--Col. 1:13-14
6-ILLUS ----1 John 5:19 We know we are of God, & the whole world lieth in wickedness.

III.-ISRAEL'S BLINDNESS --Judicially imposed--Rom. 11:25

A.-Reasons:
1-Prophetic---Isa. 6:9-11; 29:10-12; 60:1-2 "We will not have this man to reign over us."
2-Human--Isa. 29:13; Lk. 19:14; Acts 2:22-24
--National sin of Rejecting Messiah

B.-Conditions: Rom. 11:25
1-"Mystery"--Hitherto not clearly revealed
2-"Blindness in part"---not all; "a tenth"---Isa. 6:13
3-"Until"--Terminus at the end of this age
--2 Cor. 3:13-16

IV.-CURE OF BLINDNESS---Natural, Satanic, & Judicial

A.-ILLUS--"The Spirit must do for our souls an operation not unlike that which removes a cataract from a physical eye. When we can see we no longer need argument; until we do, argument is useless" F.O.Seamans.

B-Scriptures:---Rom. 10:17 "Faith cometh by hearing & hearing by the word of God."
---Jn. 16:7-11--Spirit to come
--Spirit to convict
--Jn. 3:3 "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

C.-"It is as useless to argue about the gospel with one whose mind is blinded as it is useless to argue color with one who is physically blind" F.O.Seamans.

Conclusion:---Man is naturally BLIND to the things of God.
---Means at our desposal:--Testify of Christ
--Exhort Patiently
--Pray Fervently
--Expect God to work & SAVE them

--ILLUS



" LOST " 2 Cor. 4:3-4------Read Ephesians 2:1-13.

Intro. A.-Child at World's Fair in Chicago in 1933 was LOST
1-separated from parents
2-no relation to anyone else there
3-LOST in a greater sense--Lost in relation to God.
B.-LOST---means more than "being out of place"
1-out of place with God
2-out of relationship with God
3-out of step with God
4-200,000 a day die without Christ----LOST

I.-LOST***IN RELATION TO GOD'S PERSON
A.-May Know God by reputation
1-Xn home they grew up in
2-Xn friends who speak of God
3-Knows the theological shibboleths
4-Never has come face to face with the Lord as SAVIOR
5-ILLUS--Foolish Virgins of Mt. 25:1-13
B.-Unknown By God
1-Sense in which He knows all, but
2-NO RELATIONSHIP
3-2 Requirements for Relationship--Heb. 9:22; Heb. 11:6
4-Lost one is not on speaking or meeting terms with God
5-Way of escape--ILLUS---Spurgeon---I had a friend, who standing by the side of a piece of frozen water, saw a young lad in it, & sprang upon the ice in order to save him. After clutching the boy, he held him in his hands and cried out, "Here he is! Here he is! I have saved him." But, just as they caught hold of the boy, the man himself sank, & his body was not found for some time afterward, when he was quite dead. OH, it is so with Jesus, My soul was drowning, From heaven's high portals He saw me sinking in the depths of hell; He, in His suprem mercy, plunged in: "He sank beneath His heavy woes
To raise me to a crown
There's ne'er a gift His hand bestows
But cost His heart a groan"
C.-Verdict----Without Christ--LOST with no claim on God
1-Lost because of personal neglect of the Savior
2-Lost because of sin
3-Lost because of Satan's blinding--2 Cor. 4:3-4
4-Lost bedause a sinner by nature

II.-LOST***IN RELATION TO GOD'S PEOPLE
A.-No Fellowship
1-Fellowship is on a spiritual plane
2-LOST one has not the Spirit and is none of Christ's
3-Nothing in common in REAL THINGS---No BOND.
B.-No comparable goals
1-Christian--To Please, Serve, & glorify Christ
2-Lost one---To please, Serve, & glorify SELF
C.-Suggestion for reaching the Lost:
1-Principle of 1 Tim. 1:15
2-ILLUS --Convicted murderer approached by many about his salvation very piously & always rejected the message because of method of presentation. Hardened to gospel. Doctor said, "Wasn't it gracious goodness on the part of the Almighty that He should have loved US so much as to send His only-begotten & well beloved Son in to the world to save sinners such as YOU and I?---Common level approach-

III.-LOST***IN RELATION TO GOD'S PURPOSE

A.-Plan for Christians:

1-Saved by grace thru faith in Jesus Christ

2-Conformed to the image of Christ

3-Gradually in life and then completed in eternity.

B.-LOST ONES:

1-No Claim--though He may thinks so--ILLUS----Man who thinks a deed he as to a mining claim is valid because he is convinced it is a valid deed, when in reality, it is just a sheet of paper.

2-No Part--gained through relationship alone. Xn. is a joint-heir with Christ thru faith

3-No hope for time or for eternity

4-ILLUS--Someone has illustrated the value of a soul with a modern parable in this striking manner. A householder took a trip into a far country and left with his servant a child and the child's clothes. After a while he returned & the servant said to him: "Sir, here all the child's clothes. They are in excellent condition---clean, mended & pressed. But as for the child, I do not know where he is." So in the last day some will say: "Lord, here is my body--I have neglected nothing that belongs to it. It is strong, & well & beautiful. But, as for my soul---I have lost it.

IV.-LOST IN RELATION TO GOD'S PLACE:

A.-On Earth--God's Church, the Body of Christ

1-Door of entry is Christ alone

2-No other entrance into this relationship

3-Many are lost in the physical church & are not aware that they have no part in God's true church.

4-ILLUS---In an English village a SS entertainment was being held in a small church. The place was croweded and in darkness as a film was being given. A knock at the door summoned an usher, who made his way to the door to find a man saying, "Little Mary Jones is lost. Her family & the town officers have searched everywhere for her." Announcing this in the meeting he asked anyone knowing the whereabouts of Mary Jones to go to the door & let them know. No one moved. At the close of the service the lights were turned on. A lady noticed Mary on the front seat. Going over to her, she said, "Why, Mary, didn't you hear them inquiring for you? Why did you not let them know you were here?" Surprised, the child asked, "Did they mean me? They said Mary Jones was lost. I am not lost. I knew where I was all the time; I thought it was some other Mary Jones." She was LOST in the church and did not know it. How many others are like her---a name that they live, but are DEAD IN TRESSPASSES & SINS.

B.-In Heaven---With Christ

1-Lost have no access---only way of access is Christ

2-Heaven is by "RESERVATION ONLY"---NonGeneral admission--1 Pet. 1:3-4---ILLUS--Rodeo Seats are Reserved only. No other way in

C.-Alternative Place

1-Curtain of hell is drawn aside in Luke 16

2-Place of Torments: --Sense of pain--"tormented
Sense of Memory--"Son, remember"
Sense of Loss-"Seeth"
Sense of fear--"Send Him"

3-Company throughout eternity--
--Satan & fallen angels
--Rebellious prophet & ruller of end times
--Lost men & woment of all ages
--No presence of Christ--at all

4-Those who go to hell have refused to wake up until it was too late

5-ILLUS--In a town in Switzerland a few years ago, some working men going early to work, walking along the street, saw a white figure on top of a high house. What was it? A lady in her night dress was looking down, quite happy, smiling in perfect security. She was a somnambulist. She had risen in her sleep without anyone in the house knowing it, and had taken her station, and was pleasantly looking about, and no doubt dreaming---dreaming pleasant dreams. They didn't know what they could do to save her from her peril. Just as they were talking together, the sun rose. A bright beam fell upon her eyes She wakened & saw where she was; gazed one moment around, and then fell headlong--killed on the spot-----IT WAS AN AWFUL AWAKENING--Sinner---Fellowsinner, if you are out of Christ--LOST--won't you awaken from the stupor of sin & trust Christ before it is too late?

CONCL.---A.-ILLUS---A colored preacher once said that a good many of his congregation would be lost because they were too generous. He saw that the people looked rather surprised; so he said: "Perhaps you think I have made a mistake, and that I ought to have said you will be lost because you are not generous enough. That is not so; I meant just what I said. You give away too many sermons. You hear them as if they were only for other people! There are agood many who listen for those behind them---pass the sermon back to them, & so it goes until the message is sent on out the back door.---THIS MESSAGE IS FOR YOU IF YOU ARE LOST**WITHOUT CHRIST.

B.-LOST**Relation to God's Person
People
Purpose
Place

C.-LOST***UNNECESSARILY****ILLUS---When the SQUALUS crew realized they had taken their last dive & that they were lying helpless at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean 240 feet below the surface, they sent up smoke flares and a buoy. Would one of the sister ships find them, and if so could they be rescued? Their help must come from ABOVE, and their waiting in silence was agonizing--------Within an hour after that fatal dive the submarine Sculpin set out in search. In a few hours the red smudge was found, then the buoy. But 24 hours passed before actual rescue work could be started. A giant 10 ton diving bell dipped and rose again and again, each time taking several men alive from those awful depths, until all 33 men who were alive in the submarine had been rescued. When that huge diving bell came for the Squalus crew not one sailor refused , but ALL GLADLY ACCEPTED THE WAY TO SAFETY.

Will you not TODAY accept God's way of Safety & Salvation out of your LOST condition ????

Mr. & Mrs Harrison

PRESENTED FAULTLESS 2 Cor. 5:1

Twice in my lifetime I have moved into a newly constructed house. The FIRST our family watched it being constructed with frequent visits to the site.
The SECOND I built myself with help by both friends & paid craftsmen. Both were enjoyable experiences involving some adjustment to new locations & peculiarities but in those experiences we knew much of what we would have in our NEW HOMES.

Our very dear friend has "moved into his NEW HOME. He does not yet have his resurrection body, but rather a temporary one awaiting the rapture when we — and he — will be re-united and "ever be with the Lord."

Jude wrote "Now unto Him that is able to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy." (1:24)

- This enterprise is strictly God's own
- The changes are incomprehensible
- We are to be reconstructed until we are completely adapted to & fit for that celestial home.
- This is guaranteed by infinite competency & sustained by sovereign intention
- NOT varied according to degrees of human merit BUT the standardized divine achievement in behalf of ALL WHO BELIEVE in ~~Jesus~~ Christ.
- Some CHANGES which are involved in this immeasureable TRANSFORMATION as we are "PRESENTED FAULTLESS"

I.- One is HEAVENLY CITIZENSHIP
- Begins in this life at salvation
- On earth possessed in RIGHT + in TITLE
- Nevertheless unoccupied and little understood because unexperienced.

An expressed fact now to be EXPERIENCED at one's homegoing

II.- A second is A NEW FRATERNITY.

This a feature yet future for us for it encompasses a vast field of eternal realities.
- Begins with the NEW BIRTH into an actual and legitimate sonship to God,
- Extends to encompass the WHOLE FAMILY of God into which we've entered
  - O.T. Saints
  - Church age saints
  - Unfallen angels also
- A relatively SMALL CIRCLE of acquaintances on earth, but an innumerable company in God's presence.

III.- A STANDING PERFECTED FOREVER is a third element.
- Begun in this life as IN CHRIST + a member of His BODY
- An incalculable richness of value to be experienced throughout Eternity
- Little can the human mind grasp the oncoming restfulness and blessedness of the consciousness that our standing is secured and divinely approved so we are fit to be in the presence of infinite holiness and purity

Thomas Binney — (1826)

"There is a way for man to rise
To that sublime abode:—
An offering and a sacrifice
A Holy Spirit's energies,
An Advocate with God.

"These, these prepare us for the sight
Of holiness above:
The sons of ignorance and night
May dwell in the Eternal Light,
Through God's eternal Love.

176 yrs.
280

IV. Another is A RENEWED BODY

On earth but little can be anticipated of the satisfaction, comfort & zest of a renewed body which will be fashioned like unto Christ's glorious body (Phil. 3:21)

- A wide distinction is to be observed between the POSSESSION of eternal life and the EXPERIENCE of it in God's presence which is yet to be.

Now we read of GROANINGS

- Nature in CREATION groans due to man's sin & the curse on all creation;
- CHRISTIANS groan within ourselves waiting eagerly the adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies;
- The COMFORTER groans with groanings too deep for words because we know not how to pray as we ought,

THEN

- The Apostle declared (1 Cor. 15:42-57)
- This body of corruption will put on incorruption...

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

- This body of mortality will put on immortality...
- This body of "dishonor" will put on glory...
- This body of weakness will put on inconceivable power
- This body which is "natural" — adapted to the soul — will become a spiritual body — adapted to the Spirit,
- AT THE RAPTURE

V. - Again we also anticipate FREEDOM FROM THE SIN NATURE — We shall be CHANGED!

- It is impossible with only our human capacity for understanding + for expression to anticipate what this will mean
- FREE AT LAST!
- "Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" (Rom. 7:24)
- "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin" (Rom. 7:25)
- NOW, on earth, "the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do that ye would." (Gal. 5:17)
- How glorious to be free from our in-born bent to sinning!!! And for-ever + ever!

FREE AT LAST!

VI. - Our destiny is TO BE LIKE CHRIST!

- Rom. 8:28 - "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are the called according to His purpose. For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son..."

- 1 Cor. 15:49 - "As we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly."
- 1 John 3:2 - "Beloved, now are we the Sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when He shall appear we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is."

Let us remember that salvation is wrought to the end that the GRACE OF GOD may be revealed.

a. TROPHIES OF GRACE (This our future!!!)

- Eph. 2:7 - "That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding greatness of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." — ON DISPLAY for HIS glory!

Salvation has been wrought to satisfy the infinite love of God, and in the satisfying of that love, God must do His utmost for the objects of His affection.

b. CONFORMITY TO CHRIST - image

is the supreme reality in the universe and divine love can be content with nothing less as the measure of love's achievement. — The BEST God can do for His redeemed.

VII. - Lastly TO SHARE IN CHRIST'S GLORY

- Christ prayed "Father, I will that they also whom Thou hast given me be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which Thou hast given Me." (Jn. 17:24)
- So also "And the glory which Thou gavest Me, I have given them." (Jn. 17:22)
- Consequently "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the

Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." (2 Cor. 3:18)

- "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." (2 Cor. 4:17)
- "It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power." (1 Cor. 15:43)
- "When Christ, Who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory." (Col. 3:4)
- "For it became Him, for Whom are all things and by Whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the Captain of their salvation perfect thru sufferings." (Heb. 2:10)
- "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." (Rom. 8:18)
- REMEMBER — Failure is impossible with God! — "He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." (Phil. 1:6)

"That will be glory for me," AND for our Lord!!

CONCLUSION

It would be enough for God to reveal the fact that He intends to bring many sons unto glory, but God is not satisfied with a limited revelation. He, rather,

honors them by spreading before all for their wonder and delight the steps which He takes for the redeemed, and the righteous ground upon which all that God undertakes is accomplished.

"My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' Name.
On Christ, the solid rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

Harold Freeman

"It is easy and sweet to think of him in heaven. His citizenship has been there for many years and he has learned the speech of that country."

of James Brookes

"The Lamb is all the Glory of Emmanuel's Land!!"

Harold Freeman — April 20, 2002 — Funeral

"ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW" 2 Cor. 5:1-21
2 Cor. 5:17, Ps. 40:1-3

INTRO: A.-New Or Old?:

1-ILLUS--Moody told of how a man got up in one of his meetings in New York, who had been pretty far down, but a wonderful change had taken place, and he hardly knew himself. He said the fact was, he was a NEW MAN in his OLD CLOTHES.

2-That's it---Not a man in new clothes, but a new man in his old clothes.

3-Advertisement--"If you want people to respect you, wear good clothes."
--That's the world's idea of getting respect
--BUT--A leper may put on good clothes, but he is a leper still
--Mere profession doesn't transform a man
--But Christ can.....and does!

4-2 Cor. 5:17--"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold all things are become new."

B.-Let's Look At The New Creature:

1-Begins with a New Birth
2-Endowed with New Possessions
3-Living a New Life:

I.-THE NEW BIRTH:

A.-Scientific Fact:

1-Six kingdoms in this world--Mineral kingdom
--Vegetable kingdom
--Animal kingdom
--Human kingdom
--Angelic kingdom
--Divine kingdom

2-BIOLOGICAL IMPOSSIBILITY
--to pass from one kingdom to another
--without DEATH as the exit
--and also RE-BIRTH as the entrance

3-Explanation--Mineral must cease to appear as a mineral & be consumed to become a part of a man or animal
--ILLUS----Salt
--Vegetable must die and be eaten to become a part of a man or animal
--ILLUS--Spinach or hay
--Animal must die and be eaten to become a part of a man to pass into the human kindom
--ILLUS--Bacon or T-Bone
--Human must die and be raised again with a resurrection body to become part of the Divine family
--ILLUS--Christ accomplished this death in our behalf on the cross & we are considered "in Him" by the NEW BIRTH

B.-Spiritual Fact:

1-Remarkably parallel to the Scientific fact (above)

2-John 3:3-7 (Read)

3-Without the NEW BIRTH--Religion is not enough
--Not SEE the kingdom of God (3:3)
--Not ENTER the kingdom of God (3:5)
--Never be anything but FLESH (3:6)

4-Distinct realms--Born of FLESH
--Born of the SPIRIT
--3:6--"That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."
--ABSOLUTE IMPERATIVE
--3:7--"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

5-HOW??? --Not by re-entering mother's womb
--But by Water of the Word
--And by the Spirit of God
--These are the agents
--Not by human agency or pressure
--Result ** "Born Again" experience
** "Born From ABOVE" source
** Prov. 15:24--"The way of life is ABOVE to the wise that he may depart from hell beneath"

--"Those born once, die twice--they die a temporal and an eternal death. But those who are born twice die only once; for over them the second death hath no power." Anon.

6-ILLUS--Cyprian of Carthage was of noble family, & was surrounded with all the advantages of wealth and rank. He rode thru the city splendidly attired & attended by a pompous retinue. Heathen as he was, he staggered at the doctrine of the new birth.

He wrote to Donatus, "I could not conceive how a man could receive the principles of a new life, cease to be what he was before, and become quite a new person, though retaining the same bodily constitution. How can I leave off, suddenly, old and radical customs? How can one who remains in the midst of the objects which have so long charmed his senses, strip himself of his former inclinations & inveterate habits, closely riveted in the very frame of his being? How rarely does a man become content with plain apparel & unornamented dress, who has been used to sparkle in gold, & jewels, & embroidered garments!"

From such thoughts as these Cyprian concluded that any considerable change was impossible to him, despaired of a cure, & hugged the chain of his vicious practices, which had become a part of himself. In spite of all this unbelief the change came.

He says, "The Spirit of God descended upon me, & I became a new creature. All my difficulties were surprisingly cleared, my doubts were resolved, and all my former darkness was dispelled. Things appeared easy to me which before I had looked upon as difficult & discouraging. I was convinced that I was able to do & suffer all that which before had seemed impossible.

I then saw that the earthly principle which I derived from my first birth exposed me to sin and death, but that the new principle which I had received from the Spirit of God in the

new birth, gave me new ideas and inclinations, and directed all my views to God

...How strikingly parallel is the experience of this 3rd century child of God, to that of our own in this 20th century.

7-New Birth is the "ENTRANCE REQUIREMENT" into the family of God

8-Now let's look at what comes as the outgrowth of the New Birth

II.-THE NEW POSSESSIONS:

A.-The New Name:

1-Inscribed in the "Book of life"

--Rev. 3:5--"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; & I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, & before his angels."

--Phs. 4:3--"...and with other my fellowlaborers, whose names are in the book of life"

2-Kept in heaven--Lk. 10:20--"...rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven"

3-Don't know PERSONAL new name

4-Do know CORPORATE new name----------"sons and heirs"

5-Because we're now in a new family

B.-New Nature:

1-Old nature gotten at physical birth

2-New nature gotten at spiritual birth

3-Likeness implanted--Likeness of physical parents

--Likeness of Heavenly father

--2 Pet. 1:4--"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precisous promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature,"

--Go thru rest of life with TWO natures

4-No GOOD in the OLD nature
No POWER in the NEW nature

5-New nature is vehicle--for Spirit's indwelling
--for Spirit's empowering

6-ILLUS--A Hindu said to a native believer in Jesus Christ, "I am sure that if I live a good life, & do what is right, giving up my bad habits, God will be pleased with me, & receive me into heaven

The believer replied, "You know the Babool tree (a tree with long, sharp thorns). Now suppose you break off from its branches a hundred or more of the nasty thorns that it has, will the tree on that account cease to be a Babool tree? Certainly not. Suppose you should apparently succeed in breaking off one or another or even many of your evil ways & habits, you would yet remain an evil tree---a NATURALLY BAD MAN. You must have an entirely NEW NATURE; must become a new man, in order to please God; and only Christ can give you a new heart.

7-What a wonderful provision to meet our need with a new nature.

C.-New Foundation:

1-Not shifting, sinking sand

2-Mt. 7:24-25--"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, & doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; andit fell not: for it was founded upon a rock."

3-"That ROCK is Jesus"

4-Ps. 40:1-2--I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings."

5-So that we have a NEW STANDING

- --As Saints
- --1 Cor. 1:2--"Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints..."
- --Not after death
- --Not after cannonization by men
- --But NOW.....By God's grace because set on a New Foundation
- --What a wonderful reassurance

D.-New Help:

1-Ps. 121:1-2--"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help? My help cometh from the LORD which made heaven and earth."

- --Question in 121:1
- --Answer in 121:2
- --Help is not in self
- --Help is not in circumstances
- --But FROM THE LORD — "A very present help in time of need"

2-John 14:16--"And I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever

- --Another Comforter==Helper=="One called alongside to help"
- --Another like unto the kind Christ had been
- --Gift of the Father
- --In answer to Christ's prayer
- --To abide WITH us (14:16)
- --To dwell IN us (14:17)
- --For ever
- --Never to be left comfortless (14:18)

3-Powerful Helper--1 Jn. 4:4

4-Wonderful enablement is ours

E.-New Joy And Peace:

1-Not of self or circumstances

2-But of Christ Himself--

- --Jn. 15:11--"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, & that your joy might be full."
- --Jn. 14:27--"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you:"
- --Gal. 5:22--"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace..."

3-Peace that passes understanding
4-Joy that is FULL--1 Jn. 1:4--"And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full"
5-Settled confidence on the inside as a Christian

F.-New Home:
1-"In my Father's house" (Jn. 14:2)
--Many mansions already
--Located in Heaven
--Place THERE being prepared for YOU...& for ME
--Wonderful to require such preparation for us
2-Christ IS Coming again
--Promise of love
--To take us to our NEW HOME
--The way is thru Christ alone
3-Eternally in the New Heaven & the New Jerusalem

III.-THE NEW LIFE:

A.-New Song:
1-Now--Ps. 40:3--"And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, & fear, and shall trust in the LORD."
--Eph. 5:18-20
--Col. 3:16--"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms & hymns & spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."
--Transforms a life of drudgery into a life of joy
--Not a life without problems
--REMEMBER--Not even a brook has a song without having stones in its path
--All you had of a song before
**Rock & Roll to deaden the pain
**Sentimental songs to warm the heart
**Funeral dirge to face as "THE END" in the eyes of the world
--BUT NOW, there is--**No end to face
**A new song
**A song of deliverance
2-Ages to come--Rev. 5:9--"And they sung a new song..."

B.-New Hope:
1-Not in riches of earth
2-Not in progeny
3-But in "Blessed Hope"
--The soon-coming Savior
--Tit. 2:13--"Looking for that blessed hope, & the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ."
--Col. 3:4--"When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory"
4-Alfred Kazin, in his chronicle--"STARTING OUT IN THE THIRTIES"--confesses to his socialist leanings & says, "I thought of socialism as orthodox Christians might think of the Second Coming;

a wholly supernatural event which one might await with perfect faith, but which had no immediate relevance to my life."

...That is a misunderstanding, for the New Home is relevant!

C.-New Love:
1-For the BRETHREN--1 Jn. 3:14--"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren..."
--Regardless of station in life
--Regardless of color of skin
--Regardless of native abilities
--Regardless of natural attractiveness
2-Closeness which we often lack with our blood relatives
3-ILLUS--Barbara Nelson when she met me to tell me of her conversion experience
4-We have a New Family and a love for them/....ALL

Illus — Bob Graves + PCR like Paul + Peter — "I withstood him to the face" — Years later Peter wrote of Paul (2 Pet. 3:15) as "our beloved brother Paul"

D.-New Commission:
1-World is our parish
2-Mt. 28:18-20--Four "ALLs"
--ALL power is given
--ALL nations to hear
--ALL things to be taught
--ALWAYS (All the days) He is with us
3-We are to--Evangelize
--Identify
--Indoctrinate
4-We are expected to be--INVOLVED
--Witnesses
--Putting the GO in the GOSPEL
5-Are we being faithful to that commission?
6-Need to examine ourselves
...which leads to the subject of our...

Witness in "the field" to which we have been led

E.-New Fellowship:
1-Later--Face to face
--Then "by sight"
--NO SEPARATION
--Rom. 8:38-39--"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
2-Now--1 Jn. 1:3--"That which we have seen & heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: & truly our fellowship is with the Father, & with His Son Jesus Christ."
--Fellowship with Him---VERTICLE Plane
--Fellowship with brethren--HORIZONTAL Plane
--"By faith"
--1 Pet. 1:8--"Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:"
--Practice His presence
--Meet Him at HIS TABLE....."Remembrance of Him"

CONCLUSION:

A.-New Things:

1-New Birth

2-New Possessions--New Name
--New Nature
--New Foundation
--New Help
--New Joy & Peace
--New Home

3-New Life--New Song
--New Hope
--New Love
--New Commission
--New Fellowship

B.-Silent Meditation:

1-Quiet before Him

2-Verbalized praise for His provision of grace

3-Firm & new resolve for the days ahead that
...all things be new"

4-Let us HAVE FELLOWSHIP ---With Him
---Today
---Until He comes.

Westbrae--10/3/65 Communion Hymns: (33) Jesus, The Very Thought Of Thee
10/6/74 Whiter Than Snow (382)
Oh, How I Love Jesus (211)
I Know A Fount (176)
(OR)
"Blest Be The Tie" (35)

"The Judgment Seat of Christ for Believers" 2 Cor 5:10
Read 1 Cor. 2:9-15; 4:5

Intro; A.- Orientation
1-Rom. 8:1--no condemnation
2-No more judgment for sin
B.- Read 2 Cor. 5:10 — Ambassadors for X called home when B declares WAR on "earth dwellers"

I.-TIME AND PLACE OF THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST FOR BELIEVERS:

A.-Orientation
1-Rapture is the next predicted event to be fulfilled.
2-Judgment of the believer is in Christ's presence & at His "Seat"--Roman Judge's raised bar of justice
B.-Place--Heaven, where the church is taken at Rapture.
C.-Time:
1-Begins immediately after the Rapture
2-Continues thru 7 years while Trib. is going on on earth
3-Culminates in the Marriage of BRIDE & BRIDEGROOM.
4-Judgment is an adjunct of "Coming FOR the Saints"
5-Elsewhere called the "Day of Christ"--1 Cor. 4:5; 2 Tim. 1:12; 18; 4:8

II.-PERSONNEL--WHO WILL BE THERE--AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST???

A.-Christ will be the Judge:
1-Isa. 9:7--"establish it with judgment"
2-Jn. 5:24-27--Not condemnation--5:24
--But still judgment--5:27.
3-Acts 17:30-31--Christ is the Judge in all cases.
4-2 Cor. 5:10--His seat of Judgment.
B.-ALL Church Age Believers will be there.
1-All church age believers will have been raptured.
2-Judgment Seat of Christ only promised to the Church.
3-Israel never promised either Rapture or Judgment Seat of X
4-2 Cor. 5:10--"For we must all appear...every one"
5-1 Cor. 3:13--"Every man's work shall be made manifest"
6-1 Cor. 4:5--"Then shall every man have praise of God"
7-ILLUS--The Ninety and Nine

Contrast Great White Throne Judgment

III.-PURPOSE OF THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST*****REWARDS*****

A.-NOT Condemnation or Judgment for SIN
1-Already past
2-Removed from us as far as the east is from the west
3-Forgotten by God when placed under the Blood
4-Seen thru the "Rose Colored Glasses"tinted by the BLOOD
B.-Works----The Fruit of Life Displayed --God utters no mere compliments--These rewards must be deserved.
1-Manifested clearly---ILLUS--Building inspector checks work of the various contractors to see that all is up to "snuff"
2-Tested--as by fire
--impure & improper is
3-None are "burned away completely"--1 Cor. 3:15; 4:5
4-Other Scriptures:
--Mt. 12:35-36--Idle words to be judged
--Rom. 14:10--Criticism is unwarranted because we will all stand before Christ.
--2 Cor. 5:10--"receive the things done in the body"--
ILLUS--A short time ago, one of our ~~blind~~ England's soldiers was playing the piano in a convalescent ward of a London Hospital. Presently some visitors entered the room, but he was used to such interruptions, & played on, filling the long ward with lovely music

Sp. one all to judgment

When the music ceased, a gentleman walked over the the piano & said "Well done, my friend!" The surprised soldier, thinking it was one of his comrades, swung round on his stool, & with a smile, said,"And who are you?" Quick as a flash, & as startling came the reply, "Your King!" In an instant the man was on his feet with his hand at salute, his whole being instinct with the pleasure at the honor being accorded him by the royal word of Praise.

--Gal. 6:6-10--Sow...Reap
--Eph. 6:5-9---Service to the Lord
--Col. 3:23-25--Reward

C.-Rewards--2 Tim. 1:12--Able to Keep--ILLUS--A man was dying during the war. He was asked what persuasion he was. He replied, "Paul's" "What, are you a Methodist? They all claim Paul." "NO" "Are you a Presbyterian then? They claim Paul, too." "NO" "Of what persuasion are you then?"" "I am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I've committed unto Him against that day."

--2 Tim. 1:18--mercy bestowed
--2 Tim. 4:8---Crown of Righteousness for Faithfulness

ILLUS--contra--A Persian poet died, & as his funeral was passing out of one gate of the city, camels , bearing royal present of gold for him entered by another gate. So often it happens that the wealth for which men have lived and labored, comes too late to be enjoyed by them. Not so with the Lord in His rewards to believers for WORKS

D.-Rank-- 1-Faithfulness here determines degree of blessing there. 12-17
2-Faithfulness here determines responsibility there--Lk.19:
ILLUS--A lady was bringing her plants into the house in the autumn. Some had hardly grown at all--they had made no progress, produced no bloom. They had just lived, and that was about all. They Others had grown strong and beautiful, & repaid her care by abundant blossoms. The former were taken in & saved from perishing, but had obscure places, with little regard or use--just saved & that was all--while those which had used their powers & opportunities were taken to grace the parlors & windows of the house, & given missions of beauty & power. So it is with people in God's garden & house, some are just saved, "so as by fire"; they hardly enter in." But those who live lives of loving service to God & humanity have an abundant entrance ~~int~~ into the joy of the Lord.

IV.- PROSPECT OF THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

A.-Factual Judgment---"A Fair Shake" then.
1-no untruths or part truths
2-All facts will be known
3-Righteous judgment will be rendered.

B.-Give God a "FAIR SHAKE" now
1-Lay by in store for that day
2-God demands are not for large accomplishments.
3-God DEMANDS---FAITHFULNESS---1 Cor. 4:2
---Godliness---Titus 2:12

Concl.--Let us live in the light of eternity, knowing that every word, deed & act will come up for judgment as to worthwhileness & for reward.

Faith in X brings you to this judgment.
Works for X determine your reward.

A New Creation " 2 Cor. 5:17-18

Intro: ILLUS---A man got up in a gospel metting some years ago, who had been pretty far down, but a wonderful change had taken place, & he said he hardly knew himself. He said the fact was, he was a NEW MAN in his OLD CLOTHES.....That was just it. Not a man in new clothes, but a new man in old clothes. ....I saw an advertisement which read like this: "If you want people to respect you, wear good clothes." That is the world's idea of getting the world's respect. WHY! A leper may put on good clothes, BUT HE IS A LEPER STILL. Mere profession doesn't transform a man. It is the new nature spoken of in 2 Cor. 5:17

I.-OPPORTUNITY:

A.-IF...
1-Conditional
2-Requires a decision on the part of every individual
3-Excludes only those who exclude themselves

B.-ANY MAN:
1-God doesn't limit salvation
2-Christ died for all--Jn. 1:29; 3:16; 2 Cor. 5:19; Heb. 2:9
3-True for ALL--ages, sexes, sizes, backgrounds, nationalities
4-Wide open invitation
5-Mt. 11:28-30--Come unto Me
--ye that are laden--all of you
--personally
--REST--is promised
--to soul, heart & conscience

II.-ISSUE:

A.-BE IN CHRIST:
1-Technical term for N. T. Believer
--United to Christ
--United to Christians
--Permanent relationships
--Member of the Body of Christ, the true church
2-Partaker of:
--salvation
--life
--redemption
--access
--joy
--forgiveness
--Holy Spirit
--eternity
--heavenly citizenship
--inheritance
--new nature--2Pet. 1:4
--Safety--Jn. 10:28-30
--reconciliation
--propitiation
--Adoption
--accepted
--Justified
--Delivered from hell
--Priesthood of believers
--Fellowship with God and His children
--Union with the Trinity
--Completeness--Col. 2:9-10
--Possessing every spiritual blessing--Eph. 1:3

B.-HE IS A NEW CREATURE:
1-Present Position
--True of all believers

--Not just future, but a present portion
--Standing before God is changed
--Supernatural work--not just renovation
--not just reformation
--not just turning over a new leaf
--but all of God--Jonah 2:9; 2 Cor. 5:18a

2-New Situation
--Positional truth
--Practice will begin to conform
--God's plan---Rom. 8:29
--Assurance in according to God's Word, not man's hopes

III.-RESULTS

A.-OLD THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY
1-Past tense---"have passed away"
2-Refers to position in sin & under Satan
3-Doesn't indicate sinless perfection
4-BUT, Christian will be striving to bring PRACTICE up to PROFESSION

B.-BEHOLD, ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW:
1-"Behold"--"Look diligently"
--invites close inspection
--expects the CHANGE to be showing on the outside!
2-New in Christ:
--Position --Thoughts
--Nature --Companions
--Attitudes --Values & Goals
--Desires --Fellowship
--Actions --Center of life
3-Position is instantaneous
4-Practice will follow gradually
5-Practice will follow surely as we walk with Him
6-Power---2 Cor. 5:18a--all of God
---Rom. 8:3-4----not of law
--but of law's righteous fulfillment
--done IN us BY the Holy Spirit
--Never BY us in the flesh

CONCLUSION:

A.-When God Comes To Require Our Life:
1-Not looking for--morality --church membership
--good deeds --Past PROFESSION
--reputation
2-But looking for-------changed life
--thru being "in Christ"

B.-Not Characterizing YOU???:
1-Saved but not changed---Confession--1 Jn. 1:9
--Yielding----Rom. 6:11-14
2-Not Saved--Never received Christ as Savior
--Rejection, Neglect, Ignorance
--Result is the same----LOST
--Need is Christ
--ILLUS---Xn. Mortician with Rabbi. Rabbi couldn't believe that God would condemn him who had "loved & served" God just because he didn't accept Jesus. Xn. said in that case both were safe. but if the N. T. was correct, Jesus was essential & he was safe,

But that the RABBI was BETTING AGAINST HIMSELF

THE CALLS FROM THE FOUR REGIONS 2 Cor. 5:10--6:2

INTRO: A.-The "Calls" Of The Past:

1-In 1878 General Charles Gordon wrote from the Sudan to his sister on the great need for Christian missionaries to that great dark land:

2-"Where will you find an apostle? I will explain what I mean by the term. He must be a man who has died entirely to the world; who has no ties of any sort; who longs for death when it may please God to take him; who can bear intense dullness of these countries; who seeks for few letters; and who can bear the thought of dying deserted. Now there are few, VERY, VERY FEW men who can accept this post. BUT NO HALF MEASURE WILL DO. A man must give up everything, understand EVERYTHING to do anything for Christ here. No half or three-quarter measure will do.....AND YET, WHAT A FIELD."

3-God only had one Son

4-He became a "foreign missionary"

5-Like living 33 years on "SKID ROW"

6-Christ did it to save us

7-We're saved today because of missionary activity getting out the gospel----Jerusalem
--Antioch
--Asia Minor
--Europe
--England
--America
--WORLD

Each of us is a LINK in a CHAIN that reaches back to Pentecost

B.-Four-Fold Call To Us:

1-Regions above call----------LOVE them
2-Regions beyond call----------HELP them
3-Regions below call----------WARN them
4-Regions within call----------RECONCILE them
5-The "call" still comes ringing o'er the restless wave
.....SEND THE LIGHT! ! !

I.-REGIONS ABOVE CALL----------"LOVE Them":

A.-John 3:14-17:

1-O. T. Illus. of love of God for sinful man (Num. 21:5-9)
--Sin brought serpents
--Grace brought the serpent of brass
--Lifted up for all to see
--Life for a LOOK

2-So with the Son of Man
--Love sent the serpent of brass
--Love sent the Son of God
--3:15

3-MOTIVE--"For God so loved..."
--Prompted the GIFT
--Rom. 6:23

4-RESULT---Eternal Life
--Jn. 3:16
--by "believing"
5-PURPOSE--3:17
--Not condemnation, but Salvation
6-God loves the WORLD — Do we? — We should. We must!

B.-Matthew 9:35-38; 10:6-7:
1-Compassion---of Christ for man in his need
2-Command------to pray for harvesters
3-Consummation---in going
--by those who pray
4-Exhibition of response to God's call to "LOVE THEM"

II.-REGIONS BEYOND CALL---------"HELP Them":

A.-Acts 16:6-11:
1-Where not to go is clear (16:6-8)
2-God's man was READY to hear.....and to do
3-Received a VISION (16:9)
--of the need
--of the place
--of the work
--Must have God's call or you won't last
--"As now, so then"--David Adney
4-Began IMMEDIATELY to go (16:10-11)
5-Settled conviction of a message from God to HELP THEM
6-Action issues in fruit for Christ (16:15)
7-SACRIFICE is called for on the part of all of us Xns.

SPIRIT-UALLY

B.-2 Cor. 10:16:
1-"Regions Beyond" are unevangelized areas
2-Nonetheless there are many "GAPS" in areas already reached
3-HALF of the world's population
--Hasn't even heard of Christ's name
--Let alone heard the true & pure gospel
--Salvation by grace thru faith is UNKNOWN
--We're responsible

C.-Statistics:
1-World population--3,200,000,000
2-Known world languages--2900
3-Translations of whole Bible--200
4-Translations of whole N. T.--200 more for a total of 400
5-Translations of less than the whole N. T.--500
6-Translations of less than 1 N. T. book-----100
7-Communism began with 17 in 1917
--Now we're 54 years after
--Controls absolutely the souls the 900,000,000 persons
--Influences the lives of ALL of us
--HOW? ? ?
--Due to a DEDICATED MEMBERSHIP !!
8-Yet, among God's people--Lethargy
--"Me first" ism
--"Every missionary society in existence has the same complaint today--lack of workers & lack of sufficient means to expand & meet the challenge of the hour" (IFMA News)

--Need for OUTREACH
**Youths to Bible School
**Bible churches to send them out
**Missionaries to "HELP THEM"

III.-REGIONS BELOW CALL----------"WARN Them":

A.-Background--Lk. 16:19-26:
1-Conscious torment there
2-The HERE determines the HEREAFTER

B.-Rich Man's Plea---Lk. 16:27-28:
1-No relief; No reprieve; No annihilation
2-Cry to GO AND WARN them
3-Cry from HELL--Aware of brethren's desperate need
--Wants them to avoid torment
--Knows they must decide before death
--Desires an "extra" witness from the dead
4-Plea is---"WARN THEM"
5-What kind of message?
--??the good, the true, the beautiful??
--??the moral life??
--??the social betterment??
--??the personal advancement & gratification??
--NO.....Decidedly NO!
--Biblical Message
**Warning
**Lead to Repenting
--Wants a messenger to WARN THEM while there is yet time & hope.

That the Church is a CAUSE + not a CLUB as Pike said 9/3/66 ?

MESSENGERS w/ a MISSION

IV.-REGIONS WITHIN CALL---------"RECONCILE Them":

A.-2 Cor. 5:10-14:
1-All believers to be judged
2-Judgment for faithfulness, not salvation
3-Need to be aware of the "terror of the Lord"
4-Love of Christ constrains

B.-2 Cor. 5:15--6:2:
1-Mankind was "dead" in sins
2-Christ died to free us from death
3-THEREFORE--we are alive and are to LIVE FOR HIM
--New relationship------5:16
--New creation----------5:17
--New ministry----------5:18
--New values------------5:19-21
4-EVERY BELIEVER--"to us"--5:18
--"we are"--5:20
--"by us"---5:20
--"for us"--5:21
--"we then as workers together with Him"--6:1
5-Involved in a MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION
6-Time is NOW!
7-"RECONCILE THEM" is the call from within!

Not a "Preacher Class"

CONCLUSION:

A.-The Four Calls:

1-From Above----------LOVE Them
2-From Beyond----------HELP Them
3-From Below----------WARN Them
4-From Within----------RECONCILE Them
5-Opportunity is not the "last word" in the missionary scene...but OBEDIENCE is
6-"To obey is better than sacrifice"--1 Sam. 15:22

B.-Response To The Four Calls:

1-Britain's Conclusion---"Export or Die"

2-Communist's Conclusion--Christians are "playing"
--Communists are working
--Communists mean business
--Communists will win

3-General Conclusion — NO — ALL MUST
--SOME can go---------begin here & now
--MOST can give-------more than at present — No — ALL MUST GIVE
--ALL can pray--------specifically & knowledgefully
--Sacrificial Christianity in its entirety - The Mission of the Church
--God FIRST & ourselves in proper subjection

4-Specific Conclusion:
--Every heart with Christ-----a MISSIONARY
**Every heart without Christ---a MISSION field
--Prove your status today & until He comes

A. H. Strong

"What are churches for, but to make missionaries?
What is education for, but to train them?
What is commerce for, but to send them?
What is life itself for, but to fulfill the purpose of missions, the enthroning of Jesus Christ in the hearts of men."

Go w/ THE MESSAGE

Here Am I — 391
Hymns: Anywhere With Jesus — 23
The Call For Reapers — 514

4/25/65 Westbrae

9/4/66 - N. Calif. IFCA Regional

"THE M AND M's OF MISSIONS" 2 Cor. 5:14-15
"HOW TO SPELL MISSIONS WITH SEVEN M's"

INTRO:

A.-Candy M and M's:
1-Tasty little round morsels
2-Variety of colors
3-Different --Kinds (Peanut or Plain)
--Sizes of packages
4-Unknown as to what the M and M's stand for

B.-Missionary M And M's:
1-Something good.....for OTHERS
2-Varieties--Home missionaries
--Foreign "
--Educational "
--Translator "
--Radio "
--Printing ", etc.
3-B U T, largely unknown as to what the M and M's of missions are, and what they mean
4-Prop:To understand God's missionary plans for His church and this church, we need to be clear on the M and M's of missions.

I.- M Number One Is THE MAN: (Used generically for man and woman)

A.-His Person:
1-Saved individual--Point of time & place when saved
--80% of missionaries saved before 19 years
--Often in home, camp, VBS or CHURCH
--By grace, and not by works
2-Sure individual--Secure because The Word teaches that Eternal life is the gift of God
--Assured because he believed what God has revealed the the Bible
--Security is a F A C T !
--Assurance is an understanding of the fact
3-Sanctified individual=="Set apart to holy use
--True positionally of every believer
--Needs to be true experientially
--Growing in God's grace and "CLIMBING ON TRACK"
--Spiritually minded as to priorities
4-Separated Individual--Old life before conversion is his PAST
--New life in Christ is in control now
--DIFFERENCE shows to all who see or hear or meet him/her ** Habits
** Amusements
** Practices
5-Spouse--Not all are married
--Some will remain SINGLE
--If married, then the spouse is committed & compatible , for they will serve as A TEAM !!
--Family is important for a servant of God.

B.-His Preparation:

1-Involved in the local church
- --Baptized as a believer
- --Member ** Faithful in attendance
  ** Faithful in stewardship
  ** Faithful in serving
- --Some specific area of service where he has found his niche

EXPECTED OF ALL

2-Trusted by the local church
- --Judged capable to serve
- --Judged faithful to lead
- --Judged worthy of increased responsibilities

(HE IS PROVEN)

3-Trained
- --Spiritually ** In the Word
  ** In personal walk with God
  ** In personal work of soulwinning
- --Vocationally ++ Biblical foundation
  ++ Some area(s) of proficiency
- --Experientially ** Not a novice
  ** Well qualified & proven
  ** Task is not FOREIGN, though the language & culture may be
- --Socially ++ Good mixer among people
  ++ Team worker
  ++ Adjustible to contingencies & change
  ++ Submissive to authority
  ++ Compatible

4-Remember: GOD'S METHOD IS A MAN !!

II.-M NUMBER TWO IS THE MOTIVE:

A.-The Inadequate Motives:
1-Travel or adventure
2-Philanthropy of education or medicine
3-Foreign Legion because disappointed in love
4-"Washout Haven" for failures in all else
5-Even THE NEED of the lost world

B.-The Acceptable Motives:
1-OBEDIENCE to Christ's commands
- --He has commanded us
- --Response to go & do as we are commanded
- --Because of gratitude for what He has done in saving our souls & redeeming our lives
- --Obedience leads to blessing to us and to others also
- --"God helping me, I can do no other" (spirit of 1 Cor 9:16)

2-LOVE toward our Commander
- --He first loved us
- --We love Him in return
- --Because of that love we go to serve Him
- --"If ye love me, keep my commandments"
- --Relationship makes us want to express our love
- --2 Cor. 5:14-15

C.-The Expected "CALL":
1-Not a vision or emotional experience
2-But a deep settled conviction--This is God's will for me
--Really, I am not free to do anything else or less
3-Not audible, but inescapable
4-Why support anyone as a missionary without such a conviction of a DIVINE SUMMONS to his service ??

III.-M NUMBER THREE IS THE MESSAGE:

A.-Its Character:
1-Life changing---Death to life
2-Life transforming--Sinner to saint
3-It has W O R K E D miracles in his own life
4-Confident that the gospel can work in OTHERS ALSO !!

B.-Its Content:
1-1 Cor. 15:3-4
2-Specific elements--Christ's death on the Cross
--Burial of His dead body
--Resurrection of His body from the grave
--Eyewitnesses who saw Him A L I V E !!
3-This UNIQUE MESSAGE
--Is to be proclaimed
--Is to be believed
4-"No degree of reformation, however great;
No attainment in morality, however big;
No culture, nowever attractive;
No humanitarian or philanthropic schemes and societies, however useful;
No baptism or other ordinances, however administered,
Can help the sinner to take one step toward heaven."
5-Acts 4:12

C.-Its Comparison:
1-SIMILE by D.L. Moody:
*God is not looking for REDIPE DEVISERS; the Bread of God is provided.
* God is not looking for BETTER BAKERS; the Bread of God has experienced the fire of Calvary
* God is looking for DELIVERY BOYSwho will take His message and get it to starving multitudes
2-Our message is F O O D to feed the multitudes
3-NARROW in the exclusiveness of the message (Mt. 7:13-14)
WIDE in its results in the lives of those who believe it and are transformed.

IV.-M NUMBER FOUR IS THE MISSION:

A.-Its Stand:
1-In Doctrine--Clear & full.....OR
--Skimpy ???
2-In Affiliation--With whom fellowshipping ??
--With whom cooperating ??

- "Birds of a feather, flock together"
- Missions as well as people are known by THE COMPANY THEY KEEP !!
- "Loners" or "One man Operations" give no assurance of quality ministry. They may be Unwilling or UNABLE to work in harmony with others

3-In Separation
- Tongues Movement
- Cooperation with Roman Catholicism
- NCCC; EFMA: IFMA
- Only go into an organization you are content with as it is, & not as a project for reformation

B.-Its Spheres:

1-Geographical areas of ministry

2-Types of ministries emphaized
- Medicine (Hospitals, Clinics, Nursing)
- Radio (HCJB, Trans-World Radio)
- Printing
- Translation (W.B.T)
- Tribal evangelism (New Tribes Mission)
- Educational (Bible Training//M.K.'s//Schools on various levels of secular instruction)
- Aviation (M.A.F.)
- Gospel Recordings
- Evangelization
- Church planting

C.-Its Services:

1-Preparation of candidates by screening, orientation & instruction

2-Deputation aid
- How to do it
- Literature to share
- Personnel to aid churches

3-Supervision
- Personnel
- Finances (Support levels for various fields)
- Performance oversight
- Problems resolved
- Fellowship with others of like mind & principles

4-Representation before governments
- Visas
- Medical conditions & requirements
- Judicial clearances (Police & Military)
- Organization responsible if evacuation became necssary

5-Consultation on strategy
- Where to work
- How to proceed
- Who to work together
- A TEAM ministry

6-Continuation
- During furlough
- If transferred to another location
- If incapacitated
- At retirement

V.-M NUMBER FIVE IS THE MAINTENANCE:

A.-What Is Needed?:
1-Passport
2-Prayer (see next message under Rom. 15:30-33)
3-Support--PERSONALLY--Housing
--Food & clothing
--Transportation (Round Trip)
--Children's support
--Education for children
--Health & Hospitalization costs
--Future ** Furlough
** Retirement
--MINISTRY--Vehicle
--Tracts, Booklets, Printing
--Facilities (Church, School, etc)
--Equipment (Tape recorder, Mimeograph, etc
4-Equipment for specialized activities
--Radio
--Printing
--Schooling
--Aviation

B.-Who Is Responsible ?:
1-Independently wealthy pay for it themselves--BORDEN OF YALE
2-Privately employed (Teaching English or Engineering overseas
3-The Mission--WHO are they, but a service arm
to the LOCAL CHURCHES ??
4-Local Church--Is it the missionary's work
OR
--Is it the church's work to which the
missionary has been assigned ???
5-WE of the LOCAL CHURCH are responsible to enable the mission
ary to do in our behalf the work WE ARE ALL COMMANDED to
fulfill.
6-Support only those who are harmoniously doing the work we
can enthusiastically & devotedly support
7-Cooperate with sister churches to get OUR and THEIR
outgoing missionaries to the fields

VI.-M NUMBER SIX IS THE METHOD:

A.-The Biblical Pattern: (Acts 1:8)
1-People of God as witnesses
2-Simultaneous outreach all around the world
3-The WHOLE WORLD is our field
4-HOW ??--Evangelize
--Identification by baptism
--Indoctrinate through teaching
--Congregate the believers into local groups
--Fulfilling Jesus' goal: "I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH"
5-What are we to do ??--GO with the gospel
--GIVE & PRAY for others who go
--Each and all committedly involved

B.-The Biblical Cooperation:
1-Church that sends
2-Missionary that goes
3-Mission board that supervises
4-Team that co-labors on the field
5-Church that emerges as the field ministry with local national believers rising to prominence & leadership & control

C.-The Biblical Goal==INDIGENOUS CHURCH:
1-Self-governing
2-Self-propagating
3-Self-supporting
4-Self-teaching
4 elements
5-That is a biblical local church !!
6-TAKES TIME to achieve these goals, but they need ever to be kept in view as what we are seeking
7-Missionary is working himself out of a job & then moving on to DO IT AGAIN, elsewhere !!

VI.-M NUMBER SEVEN IS ME:

A.-Who Else Is Involved??
1-Schools to train missionaries
2-Sister churches to send them, along with us

B.-Where Do We Fit In?:
1-Right in the M I D D L E !!
2-The Seventh M is M E ! --Pray
--Give
--Go
--Be committedly involved in the cause of Christ in missions

CONCLUSION:

A.-Recapitulation---"The M and M's Of Missions:
1-The Man
2-The Motive
3-The Message
4-The Mission
5-The Maintenance
6-The Method
7-The M E !
8-It takes a harmony of ALL SEVEN of the M's together

B.-Illustration:

Back in the 1930's a friend of mine, Ebinezer G. Vine became intimately acquainted with may deeply interesting relics of Dr. William Carey, who is often spoken of as the FATHER OF THE MODERN MISSIONARY MOVEMENT.

Vine visited the cottage that served as the Parsonage to the little Baptist Chapel in Harvey Lane, Leicester, England, where Carey had been Pastor. Here are preserved many Carey relics; among them the tools he was accustomed to handle as a cobbler of shoes, that he might support his family (for his tiny stipend as Pastor was far from being adequate for that bare necessity?..

Vine's heart was deeply stirred in handling Carey's hammer, pincers, knives, the lasts for the shoes, and all the rest of

the cobbler's paraphernalia---there they were in that same old tool box that had been Carey's daily companion. However, Vine was more deeply stirred when the actual CHURCH MINUTE BOOK was placed in his hands, the very book in use during Carey's pastorate at Harvey Lane Chapel. My friend copied out carefully the words recorded there,,,,,and here they are:

> "1792. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. Jan.: No business of importance, except that in Jan.(1793) our Pastor gave us notice that he should leave us in March, having engaged to go on a mission to Bengal in the East Indies."

To my friend, Vine, it seemed almost unbelievable that such a thing could ever be possible. It may not be doubted that Carey would have shared with his dear congregation the burden that was crushing him----the THOUGHT OF COUNTLESS MILLIONS IN INDIA LIVING AND DYING WITH NO ONE TO TELL THEM OF JESUS AND THE WAY OF SALVATION.

Over those matters Carey brooded until he could hold back no longer, whatever the cost might be. The call of the Lord was abundantly clear, and he must answer it with utter obedience. Undoubtedly at that very time, the Holy Spirit was bringing one of the mightiest movements that have affected the wold of men since the time when the Apostle Paul heard his call, and "was not disobedient to the heavenly vision."

The faithful Pastor of the company at Harvey Lane Chapel was held in the grip of the God-given urge that could not be denied. HE MUST ANSWER IT! Sharing it with his flock, he found them without the slightest understanding, and unresponsive. That Church MINUTE BOOK rings out a solemn warning across the years:

"NO BUSINESS OF IMPORTANCE"

Nearly two centuries ago the Baptist Chapel at Leicester gave up her pastor for the task of world evangelism, and viewed it as "NO BUSINESS OF IMPORTANCE." That congregation sank back into its wicked, sinful indulgence; its gross, careless indifference then.

Oh, for the breath of God to sweep through the ranks of this church two centuries later, energizing us---as never before ---for the great task of reaching a lost world, before our Lord from Heaven returns, and the NIGHT comes, when no man can work.

C.-Application:

1-God's method is a M A N !!

2-Will Y O U be God's man//God's woman for the cause of reaching our world in our generation with the gospel of Christ ??

3-Towards the end of the 19th century HENRY M. STANLEY went to Africa to search for one man, David Livingston, and he found him.

4-Will you go to Africa or Zanzibar; to Belgium or Vietnam to seek a MULTITUDE for Christ??

5-Will YOU become THE SEVENTH "M" IN MISSIONS?" ?

6-Will you say today:
"There is business of GREAT IMPORTANCE in which I will be involved---the business of building the Church of Jesus Christ until He comes?"

2/16/86---@.K.B.C. #473--"Regions Beyond"
#480--"From Greenland's Icy Mountains"
#31--"I'll Go Where You Want Me To Go"

"SPELLING MISSIONS WITH SIX M's"

2 Cor. 5:14

INTRO:

A.-Usual Ministry Of A Pastor:
1-Bible Teaching
2-Doctrine
3-Practical living
4-Evangelism to some extent
5-BRING IN OTHERS to deal with the subject of Missions

B.-Reasons For Exceptions To That Pattern:
1-Biblical Subject that needs my attention
2-Background experience with CAM

C.-Our Message:
1-Instruction for saints
2-Preparation for Missions Ministry of others
3-Outline: I.-THE MAN
II.-THE MOTIVE
III.-THE MESSAGE
IV.-THE MISSION
V.-THE MAINTENANCE
VI.-THE METHOD

I.-THE MAN:

A.-As To His Person:
1-Physically fit--Good health certified by doctor
--GENERALLY under 30 years of age
--Willing to endure hardness & to hazard his life
--Body as the temple of the Spirit
--Healthy body is conducive to a healthy soul & spirit
2-Mentally alert; the BEST for God
3-Morally full of integrity
4-Spiritually sensitive--Salvation experienc
--Assurance settled
--Genuine call for service
--Not divorced
--Doctrinally sound
--"Moral Jaw" set
--Separation settled
--Teachable spirit
--Disciplined
--Able to take initiative

B.-As To His Preparation:
1-Educationally--Spiritually minded
--Biblical training
--Technical skills comparable to USA
2-Socially minded--Good mixer with others
--Team worker
--Submissive to authority
--Adjustible

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

--Subject to discipline & leadership
--Compatible
--JUDSON QUOTE:--"In encouraging other young men to come out as missionaries, do use the greatest caution. One strong-headed, conscientious obstinate man would ruin us. Humble men of sound, sterling talents (though perhaps not brilliant), quiet, persevering men; of decent accomplishments and some natural aptitude to acquire a language; men of maiable, yielding temper, willing to take the lowest place, to be the least of all, and the servant of all; men who enjoy much closet religion, who live near to God and are willing to suffer all things for Christ's sake without being proud of it, THESE ARE THE MEN."

3-Adequately proven--1 Tim. 3:6-7
--Experienced in the life of faith
--PASSION for the souls of men
--Burden for the work of God (1 Cor. 9:16-23)
--Dedicated gifts & abilities for the work
--EXPERIENCED already in God's work, for we don't want "educated flops"
--Leadership
--FAITHFULNESS IN THE CHURCH
--Permanent success deals primarily with the QUALITY of the personnel.

II.-THE MOTIVE:

A.-His Attitude:

1-Constrained by the LOVE of Christ (2 Cor. 5:14)
2-Called by the Spirit (Acts 13)
3-CAN DO NO OTHER (1 Cor. 9:16-18)
4-Knows he is going where God has directed (Num. 22:26)
5-No reservations; mental or physical (Mt. 13:46)

B.-His "Call":

1-NEED of the world is recognized
2-But the "need" is secondary, since it is EVERYWHERE
3-Willing to become all things to all men (1 Cor. 9:19-23)
4-Intent on GETTING THE JOB DONE (Phs. 3:12-14)
5-Toward the end of the last century HENRY M. STANLEY went to Africa to search for one man, DAVID LIVINGSTONE, and he found him. The question now is "WILL YOU GO to Africa, or some other corner of the world and seek a multitude for Christ?"

III.-THE MESSAGE:

A.-Its Character:

1-NARROW in its exclusiveness (Mt. 7:13-14)
2-WIDE in its results and the breadth of its truth.

B.-What The Message Is NOT:
1-Not education
2-Not social betterment
3-Not hospitalization
4-Not vocational advantage

ITS CONTENT

C.-What The Message Is:
1-MORE THAN EVANGELISM. Much more needs to be included if we are to see a "well-rounded" & "balanced" ministry.
2-What else?
--"Be ye reconciled" (2 Cor. 5:20)
--"Be ye enlarged" (2 Cor. 6:13) GIVING
--"Be ye separate" (2 Cor. 6:17)
--"Be ye spent" (Getting the most out of ourselves for the investment God has made in us. (2 Cor. 12:15)
--"Be ye perfect (mature & strong)"2 Cor. 13:11
--"Be ye of one mind" (2 Cor. 13:11)

IV.-THE MISSION:

A.-Its Stand:
1-Governmental organization
2-Financial policy
3-Doctrinal standard
4-"SPIRIT" or "FAMILY relationship" inside the "team"
5-Separation principles VS. Entangling alliances.

B.-Its Service:
1-Geography; Does it work where you are being led?
2-Spheres of ministry; Does it MAJOR on what you believe God has called you to?
3-Can you labor with it as it is, without expecting to "REFORM" it??

C.-Its Contribution:
1-Government regulations in most countries now require that you be associated with some organization
2-What you get out of it:
--Fellowship
--Supervision
--Help
--Continuity when you leave
--Financial clearing-house & emergency help
--Deputation before the Christian public
--New candidates raised up.

NB

V.-THE MAINTENANCE:

A.-What Is Needed?:
1-Equipment & support
2-Prayer backing
3-BOTH are absolutely necessary to the missionary's success
4-ILLUS--Ex. 17:8-16. Aaron & Hur holding up the hands of Moses made possible the victory on

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

the battlefield below where JOSHUA and the army of Israel were engaged in fierce battle. IT TAKES BOTH for success

B.-Who Is Responsible?:

1-HOME END must provide the finances & prayer

2-W H O ??--Sometimes from individuals
--More often from Churches
--Stability when the job is done corporately
--One of the reasons we BAND TOGETHER in a local Church is to do together what we can never accomplish alone

3-Church Board recommends only such ministries as are WORTHY of your support

4-Do your giving WHERE YOU CAN TRUST THE OVERSIGHT
--We've removed missionaries who were not doctrinally sound
--We've removed mission boards that have departed into unscriptural practices
--We've removed schools that have drifted into compromise
--CONTINUOUS VIGILANCE here!!
--Worthy of your large giving

5-LOCAL CHURCH--Ought to be in the forefront of missionary enterprise
--Choose a church that is INVOLVED !!
--Support for its own young people
--Producing more young people into the service of the Lord * Alecq Sandt * Kathryn Stewart * Tim Stout
--Sharing in the support of sister-churches young people as they come along
** Neil Webster
** Carol Hastings
--Often there are churches that FAIL IN THIS---Phs. 4:15-19

6-Reciprocal Responsibilities--Church toward the missionary
--Missionary toward the Church

VI.-THE METHOD:

A.-The Biblical Truth:

1-Mt. 16:18--"I will build My Church"

2-Not--Orphanages
--Hospitals
--Rescue Missions
--Evangelistic Crusades
--Navigators
--Radio ministries
--Campus Crusade
--Bible Institutes
--Christian Day Schools
--Bible Translation

3-God's Method is BUILDING THE LOCAL CHURCH

4-Other ministries... ONLY as they contribute to & build into His "grand design". GROWING OUT OF LOCAL NEED

5-ABUSES abound

B.-Co-Participation:

1-Missionaries as the openers of a work

2-Lay-leadership developed
3-Pastors raised up & trained
4-Institutions as they are needed & as the serve in a framework of developing the local church
5-Nationals in places of prominence

C.-Characteristics:
1-Self-propagating
2-Self-supporting
3-Self-governing
4-Self-teaching
5-Takes time to reach these GOALS, but they are to ever be kept as what we are there for.
6-Work ourselves out of a job & then MOVE ON !!

7 of Them

CONCLUSION:

A.-The Six M's Of Missions:
1-The Man
2-The Motive
3-The Message
4-The Mission
5-The Maintenance
6-The Method

B.-What About Me?
1-Biblical terminology--"For six transgressions, yeah, for seven...
2-Parallel--"For six M's of Missions, yeah for seven..."
--What is the SEVENTH "M" of MISSIONS??
--It is "ME"
3-Same expectations God has of me for faithfulness and service.
4-These principles are not optional for me, but obligatory as they apply to me.
5-Generally the only distinctions are:
--GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION of our ministry
--SUPPORT PLAN for finances
6-May God help us to realize that Missions is the heart of the ministry of the Church.
7-A. H. Strong--"What are churches for, but to make missionaries? What is education for but to train them? What is commerce for but to send them? What is life itself for, but to fulfill the purpose of missions, the enthroning of Jesus Christ in the hearts of men?"
8-Be sure--You're in God's family
--You're in God's organization; the local Church
--You're involved with the missionary ministry God has entrusted to us TOGETHER.

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®
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Westbrae--3/25/73--# 480--"From Greenland's Icy Mountains"
474--"Till The Whole World Knows"

Overhead

"THIRTEEN NEW THINGS FOR THE BELIEVER" 2 Cor. 5:17 (1)

Read 2 Cor. 5:1-21. 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Eccles. 3:14

INTRO: A.-How Do I Know I Am A Christian?:

1-Same way I know I am a MARRIED MAN

--I was there when it happened

--When I was married

--When I was saved

2-Not a Christian--Until "BORN AGAIN"

--Until a receiver of Christ's life

--Until a POSSESSOR of Jesus Christ as my Personal Savior

--ILLUS ** Millionaire==Possessor of a million dollars

** Christian==Possessor of the life of Jesus Christ

--Otherwise--(NOT A CHRISTIAN, though a Church member, baptized, tithing, keeping "Golden Rule", etc.

3-How to KNOW you are a christian??

FACTS --Believe you are a sinner in God's sight

--Believe God loves you

--Believe Christ died for your sins & rose & was seen alive

PERSONAL --RECEIVE the gift of God, which is eternal life through Jesus Christ for your very own

** John 1:12 "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name"

** Eph. 2:8-9

--DO IT RIGHT NOW

B.-How Do Christians Live?:

1-As paupers

2-As princes

3-Like Yo-Yo's, going up & down

4-Some are a CREDIT to the Savior

5-Others are a DISCREDIT to the gospel

6-ILLUS--L. S. Chafer and his learning that he was a 33rd Degree Christian

C.-How Do Christians Understand Their Christian Relationship?:

1-Some few have CONFIDENCE

2-Most of them have CONFUSION

3-Contrasts:

--STANDING / STATE

--POSITION / CONDITION

--ILLUS------Vine and branches used by Christ in John 15 to illustrate this.

4-POSITION--Settled & sure

--Absolutely unchanging

--Based upon a living relationship

--Totally dependent upon Christ as Savior

5-CONDITION--Grows out of our POSITION in Christ

--Depends upon whether we live in the light of our POSITION or whether we don't

--This is the EXPERIENCE SIDE of Xn. life

- Position deals with FACTS
- Condition deals with APPROPRIATION for one's personal experience
- When POSITION is understood, it then becomes the launching pad for our practice or condition

6-Let's talk about this in this manner:
I.-THIRTEEN NEW THINGS
II.-THE DELIVERANCE OF POSITIONAL TRUTH
III.-THE NEW EXPERIENCE CONDITION

7-Proposition: --Learnof God's provision for our Christian life
--Learn of our living out what God has given us as a FREE GIFT

I.-THIRTEEN NEW THINGS:

A.-New Life: (1)

1-Previously DEAD in sin (Eph. 2:1-2) — And you hath he quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins: wherein in times past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience

2-Now a NEW BEGINNING --Tit. 3:5--"the washing of regeneration & the renewing of the H. S."
--Eph. 2:10--God's "workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto Good works"

3-This is a NEW BIRTH --NEW LIFE is communicated because of personal trust in Jesus Christ
--John 20:31
--John 10:28 — "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand."
--1 Jn. 5:11--"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life and this life is in His Son:"

4-This life which God gives is HIS OWN LIFE given through Jesus Christ, so it is eternal life

5-ILLUS.--Moody used to tell of a man who got up in one of his New York meetings, who had been very far down, but a wonderful change had taken place & he said he hardly knew himself. He said the fact was he was a NEW MAN in his old clothes.

That was just it. Not a man in new clothes, but a new man in old clothes.

Perhaps you've gotten the idea from the clothing advertisements that "if you want people to respect you, get some new clothes". That's the world's way of getting respect, but a LEPER could put on new clothes, but he'd still be a leper. Something outward doesn't TRANSFORM A MAN. What's needed is a NEW MAN .....2 Cor. 5:17

B.-New Nature: (2)

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great & precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature..." 1:4)

1-True christians are --"Partakers of the Divine nature" (2 Pet.
--"Partakers of Christ" (Heb. 3:14)

2-All came equipped with an ADAMIC NATURE from physical birth
3-Received a DIVINE NATURE by means of spiritual birth
4-New nature doesn't "gobble up" the old
5-Old nature --Doesn't shrivel up & blow away
--Isn't erradicated from us
--Doesn't improve with age or growth in grace
6-DUAL natured being as a Christian — Similar to the two natures in the ONE PERSON of Jesus Christ
7-Divine nature becomes the "HOME" for.....

C.-New Spirit: (3)

1-Previously--Possessed of a human spirit, and
--Energized by "the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" — By Satan

2-Now comes the **HOLY SPIRIT**--Convicting of the need of X
--Regenerating
--Baptizing
--Sealing
--Indwelling
--Filling (Empowering).

Holy Guest who lives within • I

3-He comes **TO STAY** when you are saved
--Rom. 8:9--But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.
--Rom. 8:16--The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God"
--Gal. 4:6--"And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father."

4-He has come as the **NEW POWER DYNAMIC** for this NEW LIFE
5-**Permanent residence** in our bodies, transforming them into TEMPLES of God (1 Cor. 6:19-20)

D.-New Hope: (4)

1-Because of **FACTS**--New life in Christ
--New nature inside of me
--New Spirit to empower me

2-I can be said to be **an HEIR OF GOD**
--Tit. 3:7--"heirs according to the hope of eternal life"
--Rom. 8:17--"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ..."

3-Indeed we have "Christ in you (us) the **HOPE** of glory" Col. 1:27

4-This hope--Not based upon what I am or do
--But based upon my **POSITION** in Christ
--This hope is an "anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil."

E.-New Access: (5)

1-Not only have I **HOPE** for the future, but I have **HELP** for the present also--**Heb. 10:19-22a**
--We are "**Welcome**" before God as His beloved child
--**ACCESS** has been opened
--Eph. 2:18--"For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father"

2-What does this **do for me?**--Opening for FELLOWSHIP
--Opening for HELP in time of need
--**Heb. 4:14-16**

3-God's **presence** opened means--**Not judgment** from God
--But rather Grace, Mercy, HELP

F.-New Assurance: (6)

1-**Because of** these POSITIONAL TRUTHS--New Life
--New Nature
--New Spirit
--New Hope
--New Access

means that →

2-I can **have CERTAINTY**
--Not based upon my works
--Not based upon my goodness
--Not based upon my faithfulness
--But **ALL OF GOD** "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus..."
--Rom. 8:1
--Rom. 8:29-30--"For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover w whom He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified: and whom He justified, them He also glorified."
--Jude 24 Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory...

3-Paul's assurance--2 Tim. 1:12--"..nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know Whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day."

4-All genuine believers have had the assurance made available to them by their God--John 10:27-28
--1 John 5:13
--How wonderful is this **KNOW-SO** assurance

These things have I written unto you that believe on the Name of the Son of God; that ye may Know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the Name of the Son of God

G. New Peace: (7)

1-Before Christ came into your life
--**NO PEACE**
--Isa. 57:20-21--"But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked."
--Constant **insecurity** & **frustration**

2-But in Christ--Rom. 5:1 "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"
--Eph. 2:14--"For He is our peace, Who hath made both one, & hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us."
--**HOW** ????? --- Col. 1:20

Experential
3-**RESULTS**--Phs. 4:7a--"And the peace of God which passeth understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
--**PEACE** ** With God
** Of God
** God of peace

"And having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself, by Him I say, whether they be things in earth or things in heaven."

H. New Joy: (8)

1-Unsaved do experience **HAPPINESS**, but are **not** at all **acquainted** with **JOY**

2-Salvation is not merely **endurable**, it is **ENJOYABLE**
--Ps. 132:9--"Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness, & let thy saints shout for **joy**."
--Ps. 51: 12 Restore unto me the joy of my salvation, and uphold me by thy free Spirit."
--Jn. 15:11--"These things have I spoken unto you, that my **joy** might remain in you, & that your **joy** might be full."
--Rom. 5:11--"And not only so, but we also **joy** in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the reconcilliation."

3-JOY is the peculiar portion of the believer:
--Rom. 15:13--"with all joy...in believing"
--Neh. 8:10 ... for the joy of the LORD is your strength"
--1 Pet. 1:8--"Whom having not seen, ye love; in Whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:"
--JOY IS NOT FOUND in the world & worldlings, even when are at "the top of the heap"

4-ILLUS--In a small town of Guatemala, a woman named MERCEDES Morales operated a saloon with a flourishing trade. Four years ago she was going thru a bunch of old papers & came upon a sheet nearly destroyed by rats----and it was a page her son had years before torn from a GOSPEL SONGBOOK.

She read it, and thought it must refer to the angels in heaven, & she spoke to her son about it. He answered: "No, mother, those are BELIEVERS in Jesus."

"But where are they?" she asked. "IN HEAVEN?". He said: "No, right here on earth." "Well, then," replied Mercedes Morales, "I WANT JOY LIKE THAT." Together they found a "Bible Woman" in the village who had a Bible. Meeting with her to hear it read and explained both of them had their LIVES CHANGED, because they believed the Gospel.

The following day when customers came for drinks, they were told: "You can't get any more whiskey here, because the woman who used to live here is changed today & JESUS-BELIEVER lives here, and she will not sell you any more of that stuff.

Because of that woman's changed life, when an itinerant evangelist came to town, 7 men and a woman were saved in the first meeting----------because of her new joy.!

I.-New Praise: (9)

1-Mouths of even "cultured" people are full of cursing
2-Never hear the lost--or even the cultists--saying: "PRAISE THE LORD" !!!
3-Why not??--1 Pet. 2:9--"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people that ye should shew forth the praises of Him Who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light
--Ps. 107:1-2--"O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy."
4-Believers will be the ones who have a "NEW SONG" (Ps. 40) of praise and thanksgiving in their mouths

J.-New Attitude: (10)

1-Previously living to be HAPPY; now living to be HOLY
2-Previously self-centered in home & work; now concerned with the Honor being brought to HIS GOD
3-Previously PROFIT & LOSS oriented; but now making decisions with eternity's values in view
4-2 Cor. 5:17
5-New attitude grows out of being a NEW CREATION of God

K.-New Understanding: (11)

1-When unsaved, the **Bible** was **largely a CLOSED BOOK** to unsaved (6)
--Could understand history
--Could perceive the facts
--But the spiritual import was CLOSED to you
--1 Cor. 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him...

2-But as a **Christian**--Bible opens up to study
--Gems are everywhere for the taking
--**1 Cor.** 2:9-10, 12-13
--Spiritual truth becomes an **OPEN BOOK** to us

3-Psalmist says: **Ps.** 119:97-100

L.-New Destination: (12)

1-Previously a sinner headed for hell, doom & judgment
2-Gloriously **saved** & **changed**--**Heaven**, instead of hell
--Bliss, instead of doom
--**Reward**, instead of judgment

3-Thoroughly a work of grace that I am **TURNED AROUND** TO A **NEW DESTINATION**

4-Col. 1:12-14 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son, in Whom we have redemption through His blood..." Heb. 10:27

M.-New Expectation: (13)

1-**No longer** "a certain, fearful looking for of **judgment**"

2-**NOW GLORY** is ahead--Jn. 17:22--"And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one."
--FORETASTE of that glory now
--Col. 1:27 "...Christ in you, the hope of glory"
--FULNESS at the Rapture & throughout all of eternity

3-1 Jn. 3:2--"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is."

4-ILLUS--Before the 2nd W.W., Heinz Nordhoff was the manager of **Opel**, the German branch of **G**eneral **M**otors. When the war ended he was forced to take a job as a manual laborer and existed on hand-outs from friends. The British knew his worth & offered him a job directing VOLKSWAGEN, a bombed factory that had manufactured small cars. He didn't want to leave the production of big cars, but he had little alternative. Under his leadership Volkswagen became one of the "miracle stories" in the great economic restoration in Germany.

Nordhoff has said of his association with this "wonder": "**THE FUTURE BEGINS** WHEN YOU **CUT EVERY TIE** WITH THE **LOST PAST**".

Each of us is born with a "lost past", an Adamic past. As long as we try to salvage something out of it, we are in spiritual poverty & hopelessness. But when we come to receive the Savior, then the Spirit gives us **NEW BIRTH**, and we become a **NEW CREATION**. The future begins when we **cut every tie** with our LOST PAST. We get **a new future** because of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

5-Oh, **what an expectation** we have of the future, when we already know of what **Christ has done** for us **Now**

II.-THE DELIVERANCE OF "POSITION TRUTH":

A.-Deliverance From STRUGGLE:

1-No longer a case of **depression** of spirit due to knowing what I "OUGHT" to do & be, but without the human ability to produce it

2-Now a realization of WHAT **GOD** HAS **DONE** on my behalf

3-RESTING in our eternal position frees us from the futile & sinful self-effort of trying to make our condition the basis of our security

4-**ABIDE** in what God has done for you

B.-Deliverance From SATANIC ATTACK:

1-Devil points out our **unworthiness** & **inadequacy**

2-Often we are "**ground down**" because of our weaknesses & failures

3-**Resist** such attack by the **FORTRESS** of the **position** of strength & blessing which God has given to us

4-Plead the **sufficiency** of God !

C.-Deliverance From SELF-IMAGE: Insecurities

1-Very often we have **an image** of ourselves we'd like to project to others

2-Difficult to maintain this, because our **"HALO" slips**

3-Pressed into some wierd situations to make others think well of us-----and not really wise up to the situation of HOW WE **REALLY ARE**

4-That kind of self-image is really a **FRAUD !!**

5-Deliverance when we project our confidence because of WHAT WE ARE **IN CHRIST**, & not because of WHAT WE ARE IN THE **FLESH**

D.-Contrasts:

1-**Experience to Experience**:
- --That's the description of most of us
- --Some victories
- --Some defeats
- --**MANY** "**mixed bags**"
- --Very little STABILITY

2-**Victory to victory**:
- --We hear about it
- --Victorious Christian Life truth
- --We think: "Maybe for **someone else**, but certainly not for me"
- --**OUTSIDE** of our own experiance patter n
- --Yet this is what **God wants** for us../ ....for all of us
- --2 Cor. 2:14-- "Now thanks be unto God which always causeth us to triumph in Christ..."
- --How can this be FOR ME ???

3-**POSITIONAL TRUTH** really understood will **make the difference** in your life.

4-ILLUS --Robert G. Lee tells of finding an item in an old Scrapbook that tells this so well:

"The Arabs have a saying about the **PALM TREE**, that it stands with its feet in **SALT WATER** and its head in the

SUN. They cannot often drink the brackish water found in the oasis where the palm grows, but they tap the tree & drink the sweet palm wine. The palm tree, by the magic of its inner life, can so change the elements found in the unkindly soil around it that they minister to its growth & strength & fruitbearing.

So you and I, in our earthly life, must often have our feet in the mire & bitterness of sin around us; and upon our heads will often beat the fierce heat of temptation. But in spite of these things we shall be able to grow & grow strong, rejecting the evil and assimilating the good....

IF there is within us the NEW LIFE through Jesus Christ.

III. -THE NEW EXPERIENCE BECAUSE OF POSITIONAL TRUTH:

A. -OLD Things Are Passed Away:

1-Old Habits --Begin to drop off gradually
--Seem out of place in our christian lives
--Begin to just not mean to us what they did befor
--Grip on us loosens as we grow in grace

2-Old HAUNTS --New friends replace the old
--New pleasures replace the old
--New activities replace the old
--New standards develop

3-Old HATES --People & groups become ones for whom CHRIST DIED
--Subjective prejudices are evaluated in the light of objective truth
--May not become best friends, but they don't evoke the reactions any longer

4-Old WORKS --Flesh activities are replaced (Gal 5:17-21)
--Spirit of God shows us what is wrong with them
--CHANGE OF DESIRE sets in gradually

B. -NEW Things Are Come To Stay:

1-New DESIRES --Fellowship with God
--Church activities & services
--Christian friends (1 Jn. 3:14)
--Purity of life
--OTHERS orientation

"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not abideth in death."

2-New APPETITE --Bible Study
--1 Pet. 2:2
--Real joy to gain spiritual truth
--Just can't get ENOUGH

"As newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby."

3-New AWARENESS --Not just failure & frustration
--But now victory & stability developing
--Fruit of the Spirit (Ga. 5:22-23)

4-ILLUS--In a PAPER MILL town a mannrenowned for his wickedness was converted through the personal witness of a co-worker, and became known as a man of great devotion and CHANGED CHARACTER.

In describing the change which Jesus Christ had brought into his life, he said: "I was like the rags which go into the paper mill. They are torn and filthy. When they come out, however, they are CLEAR, CLEAN, WHITE PAPER. That is like what has happened to me since I've come to Christ."

C.-Outgrowths Of Positional Truth:

1-LAXITY ??--Only by the one who has never understood and appreciated what his POSITION IN CHRIST is, and at what cost to God it was procured

2-STABILITY ??--Yes! For the one who knows the security of what GOD HAS DONE for him, he is not sent reeling by the passing panorama of circumstances.

3-ACTIVITY ??--Indeed, for the believer who appreciates what he is experiencing wants to share the GOOD THINGS of God with others too.

CONCLUSION:

A.-Summary:

1-POSITION--Accomplished in Christ
--Settled, sure & safe
--Part of God's work of salvation, and it comes to us as a PACKAGE DEAL
--This is more than promises; THESE ARE FACTS!

2-CONDITION
--Variable from moment to moment
--This is WHERE WE ARE
--To be brought into conformity to our position
--Rom. 6:17-18

"But God be thanked that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered unto you. Being made free from sin, ye became servants of righteousness."

3-Where shall I rest?
--Upon my condition of the moment??
--That vascillates !!
--Upon my position ??
--YES for that is SECURE & UNCHANGING.
--My full confidence rests on WHAT GOD HAS DONE
--IngGod's gift of MY POSITION in Christ, I can be "at ease"

B.-But What Of My Condition?:

1-IT VASCILLATES,,,,,,,,,but cannot destroy my POSITION!!
2-Even though the work of our salvation is COMPLETE in Christ so that "all things are NEW" in Him, there is nothing automatic about its effect in my daily life.
3-HOW can my daily condition be brought into harmony with my position???

--Heb. 12:1d-2--"..let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author & finisher of our faith."
--BRANCHES do not "work at" producing fruit
--They just abide in the vine, looking to it for the full provision of their own needs & of producing through them
** LIVE by faith
** WALK by faith
** GROW by faith
** SERVE by faith
--DAILY CONDITION, then, is brought into harmony with POSITION by "looking to Jesus"...and keeping on looking moment by moment.

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4-Our present experience is greatly inferior to our eternal **position**, no matter what the state of our spiritual growth

5-Development is TOWARD OUR POSITION becoming our **condition** .....

.....because of the Christ Who has eternally given us that position.

(10)

WESTBRAE--4/30/72--# 8-"That Beautiful Name" (1)
OKBC-9/28/86 # 250-"A New Name In Glory" (2)
Communion # "Praise The Savior"---# 144 (3)
Hilltop Bapt. Ch.-Men # 35 Blest Be The Tie (4)
6/20+7/16/10

"DELAY IS DANGEROUS" 2 Cor. 6:2 (Read 2 Cor. 5:14-6:2)

Intro: A.-Colored preacher was once asked what he knew about "Pro-cras-tin-a-tion!" "Oh, that," he replied, is a grand old doctrine of the church.
1-True too often
2-MUCH MORE true of the unsaved, for by putting off accepting Christ, they procrastinate until they die in their sins.
B.-Uncertainties of life make delay in making decisions a serious thing.
1-ILLUS--Painter with 8 kids who could do without Insurance & then stepped into the path of a car that killed him instantly. Insurance salesman was the last man to see him alive.
2-Let us look at 5 REASONS why DELAY is dangerous.

I.-LIFE WASTED Personal Aspect

A.-More time spent in a life of SIN with its damaging effects.
B.-No JOY & PEACE of what Christ can do for you NOW & LATER
C.-No reward for heaven because not in heaven & nothing done for X.
D.-ILLUS--Jack Grubbs--Moral ---Did some good
--Church attender ---BUT, Gone to HELL

II.-INFLUENCE WASTED Outreach Aspect.

A.-Sin in your own life
1-Robs self
2-Bear sin's marks in time
3-Bear loss because of sin in eternity
B.-Effect on others:
1-Heartache over your life & destiny by loved ones.
2-Not leading others to Christ.
3-In fact, --Leading others astray--ILLUS--Effect of P.C.R.'s unbelief on Ken Lindquist.

III.-CONVICTION OF SIN & NEED OF SAVIOR MAY PASS. The SON Question

A.-God's Word:
1-John 16:8-11---Convict of SIN, OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, & of JUDGMENT
2-Gen. 6:3- "My Spirit will not always strive with man..."
3-"Gospel-Hardened" hearts.
B.-Actual Cases:
1-ILLUS**In Princeton U. a wave of revival swept over the student body many years ago. A young man by the name of Aaron Burr came to the president and asked: "I feel that I should accept Christ; what would you advise?" The answer was: "Mr. Burr, if I were you, I would wait until the excitement of the revival has subsided; then I would think it out carefully." Aaron Burr thought for a moment, then said: "Mr. President, that is exactly what I will do." Not again did the desire to seek the Lord come, and he died Christless.
2-ILLUS--A sailor I once heard of said he had a pious mother in Scotland, who often in his boyhood urged him to give his heart to Christ; but for a long time without making any abiding impression. One Sunday morning she invited a neighbor's daughter, to go with them to God's house. She replied in a light & trifling manner: "Oh, no, I cannot go until next Sunday; I shall have a new bonnet then--my old one is too shabby!" But the next Sunday never came for her. On Monday she was taken sick, and on Wednesday she died. That procrastination on her part was the means of the young sailor's conversion.
3.- Illus — Ex. 4:21 — Pharoah hardened his heart in the face of God's RIGHTEOUS DEMANDS.

IV.-DEATH MAY CLAIM YOU — Not Pleasant to say, but true nonetheless.

A.-David said, "There is but a step between me and death."

1-ILLUS---Three men sat in a Chinese evangelistic service in Canton. They were well known round the world: Sun Yat-sen, the great revolutionary leader; Wu Tingfang, at one time ambassador in Washington; and Admiral Chen, of the Chinese Navy. When the sermon was over appeal was made for decisions for Christ, and cards were passed thru the audience. Admiral Chen had been touched by the message, and was about to write name on the card, when one of his companions whispered to him: "Don't be in a hurry to take that step; first think it over." Chen put his pencil in his pocket, and the three men arose & passed out of the meeting. As they emerged from the building, a Chinese soldier who had been waiting, stepped forward, and shot the Admiral killing him instantly. For him there was no other opportunity.

B.-Days of a person are NUMBERED & we don't know the count.

1-ILLUS--Moody once came to a city where the papers carried the account telling that he'd be there 30 days. Now there was a prominent lady in 1 of the churches who said, "I don't want my boy brought under the influence of those meetings. If they win him over, they'll have him out on the streets with tracts, and it would be very mortifying to me to have my son doing such a thing as that." She was ambitious for her son & wanted him to get into the society set. So she planned to take her son out of the city, & to be gone for those 30 days. She told her pastor why she had taken him away, but Moody knew nothing of it. The meetings went on & that pastor was there for all of them except the last, when he was absent. Just as the benediction was pronounced & the people were about to leave, he came rushing in & said he was so sorry he had not been there. "I have just been called on one of the saddest errands of my life," he said, & went on to tell of that mother who had taken her son away from the influence of the meetings had brought him back that day in his COFFIN, & he had just come from the funeral.

V.-JESUS IS COMING AGAIN.....SOON

A.-His Return:

1-For the Church to remove true Christians
2-Pour out the wrath of the judgment of God upon earth
3-Return to judge the Jews & Gentiles
4-No unfulfilled prophecy between us & Rapture.

B.-Promise of Jesus:

1-John 14:1-3
2-"In such an hour as ye think not..."
3-ILLUS--A Christian Railroad Engineer will be raptured & others who remain behind may well go to their deaths
-ILLUS--Christian Driver of a car---others in the car--perhaps in that very FAMILY will crash to their deaths.

CONCL: A.-Five Reasons to avoid delay in trusting Christ as Savior

1-Life is wasted without Christ
2-Influence is wasted without Christ
3-Conviction may pass if you remain without Christ
4-Death may overtake you while you are yet without X.
5-Jesus is coming soon & you'll be left if you're without Christ.

B.-If you have a good excuse, don't give it up for anything I have said; don't give it up for anything your mother may have said; don't give it up for anything your friend may have said. Take it up to the Judgment Bar of God & state it to Him. But if you do not have a GOOD excuse--an excuse that will stand thru all eternity--Let it GO NOW & flee to the arms of a Loving Savior.

C.-GOD SAYS: "Behold, now is the accepted time; Behold, NOW is the Day of Salvation."

1-ILLUS---A lady came to Dr. Chalmers & said; "Doctor, I cannot bring my child to Christ. I've talked, & talked, but it's of no use." The doctor thought she had not much skill, & said, "Now you be quiet, & I will talk to her alone." When he got the girl alone, he said to her: "They are bothering you a good deal about this question; now suppose I just tell your mother you don't want to be talked to any more upon this subject for a year. How will that do?" The girl hesitated a little, & then she said, "Well, I don't think it would be safe to wait a whole year. Something serious might turn up in that time. She might even die in that period of time." "That's so" replied the Dr.; "but suppose we say six months then?" She didn't think even this would be safe. "Well, let us say three months," was the Dr.'s reply. After a little hesitation, the girl finally said, "I don't think it would be safe to put it off for three months--- I don't think it would be safe to put it off at all," and they got down on her knees & she found Christ as her Savior---THEN & THERE.

2-ILLUS ---"Too late for Tea"--Nurse on 11 to 7 duty. Much to attend to, even at night. People, medications, instruments, etc. Call to Heart patient---"want orange juice?"--No--"Tea, please". Water put on--boils away while busy with others---hurried to tell patient tea would be late & found her DEAD---too late for oxygen. Too late for Coramine----Too late for even Tea....You too have heart trouble--- for your sinful heart needs to be cleansed by Christ..I...It need not be FATAL, If you get God's remedy--Jn. 3:16---2 Cor. 6:2.

Delay Is Dangerous — May BE FATAL

"SEPARATION AS SEEN IN THE SCRIPTURES" 2 Cor. 6:11--7:1

INTRO: A.-Divided Allegiance:

1-ILLUS---LOUIS ADAMIC, a Yugoslavian boy, came to the United States at the age of 14. He became absorbed in writing and eventually mastered a vivid prose style in his adopted language. His first book, DYNAMITE, was a history of the American labor conflict in its more violent phases. THE NATIVE'S RETURN made him famous; he wrote this book after a visit to the land of his birth.

From that time on the author's allegiance was divided. He wanted to do something for Yugoslavia; thinking that Stalin was Yugoslavia's best friend, he abandoned our democratic ways, fought against granting Trotsky asylum in America, and little by little became more interested in Balkan politics than in American democracy.

When Tito broke with Stalin, Adamic followed Tito. LOUIS ADAMIC was found dead at his New Jersey farm below Easton. It was widely suspected that he had been murdered by a member of an anti-Tito Slavic party. One commentator said, "THE MORAL SEEMS TO BE PLAIN: DIVIDED CITIZENSHIP, DIVIDED NATIONAL LOYALTIES, CAN MEAN TERRIBLE TRAGEDY IN THE MODERN WORLD."

2-The spiritual analogy is just as plain

3-God will never accept a compromise.

4-The world, the flesh & the devil seek to draw the allegiance of a believer in a thousand subtle ways, but God demands separation. The separation is in the heart, while the activity is in the midst of the market place, the church organization or the social whirl.

B.-The Doctrine Of Separation:

1-CLIFTON L. FOWLER--"Perhaps there is not truth of Scripture which is more UNPOPULAR than the truth of Separation..." (Fundamental Facts of the Faith, P. 106)

2-Areas of Separation

--Israel as a nation
--Church from apostasy & error
--Christian from sinful practices, sinful associations and world orientations

3-Previous messages to "MOVE" toward this one:

--Paul's Charge To Pastors-------2 Tim. 4:1-5
--The Obedience Of Love----------1 Samuel 15
--Jehoshaphat--Shouldest Thou Help The Ungodly
--Jehoshaphat--King Of Compromise (2 Chr. 17-20)
--Tests Of A True Preacher-------1 John 4:1-15
--How To Handle Heretics---------Rom. 16:17-19

4-Now we "ZERO-IN" on the classic N. T. passage, which most extensively deals with separation

C.-This Message:

1-OUTLINE--I.-APPEAL To Separation; 2 Cor. 6:11-16a
II.-ENCOURAGEMENT To Sep. 2 Cor. 6:16b-18
III.-EXHORTATION To Sep. 2 Cor. 7:1
IV.-PRACTICE Of Separation

2-PROP:--See the full-orbed setting of this doctrine apart from personalities and motives so we can learn to judge ISSUES
--Learn the encouraging side of the doctrine of sep.
--Take our own stand with God, though foes berate us and friends abandon us.

I.-APPEAL TO SEPARATION (2 Cor. 6:11-16a):

A.-Introduction (6:11-13):

1-KJV is hard to follow here
2-J. B. Phillips--"Oh, our dear friends in Corinth, we are hiding nothing from you and our hearts are absolutely open to you. Any stiffness between us must be on your side, for we assure you there is none on ours. D reward me (I talk to you as though you were my own children) with the same complete candor!"

Clear + distinct instruction

B.-Instruction (6:14a):

1-"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers"
2-"YE"---BELIEVERS are addressed
3-Commanded not to be unequally yoked
4-Yoke with unbelievers
--EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN — No trouble "interpreting" this
--Reference to a unionism with those who repudiate any part of the Word of God
--Believers are to refuse to be YOKED with unbelievers in any way, form or degree. We cannot go out of the world, and CONTACT with unbelievers is unavoidable, and some COOPERATION with them may be necessary and right---as in co-laboring in employment, acts of mercy and common good. But a YOKE is an arrangement which compells two creatures to act together and prevents them from separating
5-REALMS OF AN UNEQUAL YOKE
--Business partnerships
--Deut. 7:2--"And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, & utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor show mercy with them,"
--Marriage
--Deut. 7:3--"Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter shalt thou not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son."
--1 Cor. 7:39--"The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord."
--Religiously
--Deut. 7:5-6--"But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, & break down their images, & cut down their groves, & burn their graven images with fire. For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto Himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth."

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--Amos 3:3
--Spiritual Service
--Deut. 22:10--"Thou shalt not plow with an ox & an ass together."
--We are to go TO THEM with the gospel; but nowhere are we commanded to go WITH THEM with the gospel
--ILLUS--"Christian Century" magazine for Dec. 24, 1969 carried a feature article of praise called "The New Face Of Campus Crusade" in which it said: "The Crusade sends out groups of young workers to entertain, intrigue & captivate, possibly to convert"

Thus this religiously liberal magazine is lauding an organization which once professed to be evangelical in doctrine, as C.C.'s program seeks to USE THE WORLD TO WIN YOUTH TO CHRIST, thus disobeying the Word of God.

6-This unequal yoke is forbidden for believers in every area of life

C.-Interrogation (6:14b-16a):

1-Five key questions here
2-Progressive decline in the 5 verbs used in these 5 questions
3-Q. # 1--"For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?"
4-Q. # 2--"And what communion hath light with darkness?"
5-Q. # 3--"And what concord hath Christ with Belial?"
6-Q. # 4--"Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?"
7-Q. # 5--"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?"
8-These 5 questions culminate in the obvious---though unstated---conclusion that there is NO REALM OF COMMON PART

II.-ENCOURAGEMENT TO SEPARATION (2 Cor. 6:16b-18):

A.-Privilege Of The Separatist (6:16b,c,d):

1-TEMPLE of the living God
2-God--Dwelling in us; DIVINE PRESENCE
--Walking in us; DIVINE PRACTICE
3-"I will be their God"; DIVINE PROVISION
4-"They shall be my people"; DIVINE POSITION
5-If those privileges don't entrance you into a desire to walk with God, I think there is something wrong with your value system

B.-Position Of The Separatist (6:17 a-c):

1-"Wherefore"-----On the basis of these privileges stated in 6:16
2-"COME OUT"--The answer to the unequal yoke is to SHED IT !!
--Scofield footnote, P. 1234 (New - P. 1251), --"The underlying principle is that in a moral universe it is impossible for God to fully bless & use His children who are in compromise or complicity with evil.

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The unequal yoke is anything which unites a child of God & an unbeliever in a common purpose."

4-"From among them"--Means leaving behind that which is an unequal yoke
--You can't please God from within that yoke which is condemned

Infiltration + Penetration are condemned

5-"And be ye separate"
--God expects His children to be separatists
--Separation FROM SIN
--Separation UNTO GOD
--Spurgeon--"As soon as I saw, or thought I saw, that error had become firmly established, I did not deliberate, but quitted the body at once. Since then my counsel has been "COME OUT FROM THEM'. I have felt that no protest could be equal to that of distinct separation."
--Scofield--"Separation is not from contact with evil in the world, or the church, but from complicity with and conformity to it." (P. 1234, Note) (New P. 1257)

6-"Saith the Lord--This is on the AUTHORITY of God, not of man.

7-"And touch not the unclean thing"
--Separation has not only to do with the heart
--For one can be separated in heart attitude toward God, & not be a separatist
--Also has to do with our external relationships & affiliations
--Not even to TOUCH that which is not godly

8-ILLUS--Rev. Dick Cantrell's story to modernist church members on the showing of the documentary film strip: "DARKNESS AT NEW DELHI"----"Some of you will be just like horses snatched from a burning barn; You'll run right back in----to your eternal peril."

C.-Portion Of The Separatist (6:17d-18):

1-If we obey this command to be separate, we are sure to be despised, scorned & mistreated
2-It happened to me at PLACENTIA, and to others in unnumbered occasions
3-We will thus stand in NEED OF SUCCOR from SOMEONE in that hour of trial
4-GOD will be that "Someone"----6:17d-18
5-What a thrill
6-What an assurance
7-What a blessed portion
8-ILLUS--Ornithologists now know that the great albatross flies around the world several times in the course of its life. These birds can STAND BUFFETING by ocean gales for days, but they become seasick if they stand on the deck of a moving ship.

True Christians, likewise, can go across the face of life, BUFFETED by all the winds of time & space, as long as he remembers that he is in the world but not of it. When he comes down and becomes apart of the movement of this world, he loses his Christian joy and power, because he is entirely out of the element for which God created him.

9-G. Archer Weniger--"The simplicity of the command is such that ecumenical councils or churchly interpreters are not needed to make it sensible. Prompt obedience is so much more to be desired than compromising delay." (Foothill Blvd. Baptist Ch., Oakland)

D.-Pattern Of The Separatist: (New, P. 1257)

1-Scofield's footnote, P. 1234--"Here, as in all else, CHRIST IS THE MODEL."

2-Heb. 7:26--"For such an High Priest became us, Who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners."

3-Perfect & pure in His Person

4-Yet in contact with the impure for the purpose of their salvation

5-Christ was not ISOLATED from sinners, & neither dare we be isolated, but He did remain PURE and separated

III.-EXHORTATION TO SEPARATION (2 Cor. 7:1):

A.-The Promise Of The Exhortation (7:1a):

1-"Having, therefore these promises"

2-PHILLIPS--"With these promises ringing in our ears"

3-GOD EXHORTS to action because He has already promised peace & contentment & assurance available in no other way, than thru OBEDIENCE IN SEPARATION

B.-The Persons Of The Exhortation (7:1b):

1-"Dearly Beloved"--Term of intimacy & tenderness
--TRUE BELIEVERS

2-God doesn't bludgeon us with commands

3-But God does woo us with winsomeness

4-We are exhorted to be separate from sin & unto God because we are so precious to Him as His "Dearly Beloved"

C.-The Purpose Of The Exhortation (7:1c-d):

1-"Let us"--Personal; EACH must decide this for himself
--Voluntary; God wants OUR DECISION to be separated unto Him
--In the family exhortation for those who are already saved

2-"Cleanse ourselves"--Something we can do
--Something we MUST do
--Something no one else can do for us
--We must take the initiative

3-HOW to "cleanse ourselves"
--Action of the Word & the Spirit
--Action of our own will
--Jude 20-21--"But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."

4-"FROM all filthiness"
--Of the realm of the flesh (BODY)

--Of the realm of the spirit (SOUL & SPIRIT)
--These are FILTHY in God's sight
--Put off the "old man"
--Put on the "new man"
--N. T. Terminology for the yielded life

4-"Perfecting holiness in the fear of God"=="Let us prove our reverence for God by consecrating ourselves to Him completely"

D.-The Alternative To The Exhortation:

1-NOT STATED here in so many words
2-Left as an IMPLICATION in that only those who are separated are promised the enjoyment of the intimacy with the Father which has been provided
3-O.T. statement--Lev. 22:3--"Say unto them, Whosoever he be of all your seed among your generations, that goeth unto the holy things, which the children of Israel hallow unto the LORD, having his uncleanness upon him, that soul shall be CUT OFF from my presence: I am the LORD."
4-Enjoyment of fellowship is thus interrupted & not enjoyed
5-N.T. statement--Eph. 5:8, 10-11--""For ye were sometimes darkenss, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:...Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have NO FELLOWSHIP with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them!"

IV.-PRACTICE OF SEPARATION:

A.-Two Facets:

1-We have seen that the Bible teaches a pattern of behavior that has come to be called "THE SEPARATED CHRISTIAN LIFE"
2-Biblical separation--Not isolation
--Not a retreat from the main stream of humanity into a monastery
--Not a pattern of abnormal dress
--Not a peculiar religious behavior
--Not a "LEGALISM" parading under the guise of spirituality
3-Biblical separation is actually TWOFOLD
4-FACET # 1--It is a positive dedication of body, time, talents, & every issue of life into the hands of Christ Who has redeemed us. We are not our own, for we have been bought with a price (1 Cor. 6:19-20)
--This positive dedication is a voluntary committal of the whole man to God; the "presenting of your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1)
--Separation is FIRST OF ALL "unto God"
5-FACET # 2--On the negative side, separation is a steadfast refusal on the part of the Christian to be identified with the world in her godless behavior & sinful pleasures, and also...
--A steadfast refusal to be identified with a religious system that has apostatized from Christ.

B.-The Applications:

1-Ecclesiastical cooperation--World Council of Churches
--National Council of Churches
--Local liberal ministeriums
--National Assn. of Evangel.
--Cooperative Evangelism or Ecumentical Evangelism

2-Marriage--Believer with believer, ONLY

3-Business partnerships--Believer with believer, ONLY

4-Amusements

--There are certain familiar habits & entertainments which fill the horizon of the unregenerate, but can never cease to lead astray those who have been born into the family of God

--Not our plan or purpose to mention by name the unclean or doubtful practices in this message

--RATHER, to give methods of testing these areas

--Put them to these tests...

C.-The Questions:

1-Is it EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN by the Word of God, or does it violate any plain teaching of the Scripture? (1 Th. 5:22)

2-Would its participation dull the KEEN EDGE of my spirituality or rob me of my fellowship with my Lord? (Col.3:2

3-Recognizing that I have within me two opposing natures, which one DOES THIS PRACTICE FEED, the old or the new? (Col. 3:5-10)

4-Do the BEST CHRISTIANS I know participate in this thing? Even more important, could I imagine CHRIST DOING IT? (2 Thess 3:6)

5-Can I confidently ASK GOD TO BLESS IT? (Col. 3:17; 2 Tim. 2:4)

6-Would I like to be so engaged when Christ RETURNS? (Tit. 2:12-14; 1 John 3:3)

7-Might it cause me to be a STUMBLING BLOCK to some weaker brother? (1 Cor. 8:9, 13)

8-Will it involve a waste of God's money, time or talents entrusted to me? (1 Cor. 4:2)

9-How will it AFFECT MY TESTIMONY? Would I be willing for my friends to know all about it? (Phil. 2:15)

10-Is it one of the world's typical amusements or traps of ensnarement? Does it cause me to be with God's crowd, or with the Devil's? (1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4)

11-ILLUS---A boy does not give up playing with toy pistols and marbles. Play guns and marbles GIVE HIM UP.

He may be playing marbles one day when the older boys come by. If they are short a man for a ball game they may ask him to play. He plays his field as if his life depended upon it. When he is at bat, he swings hard enough to break himself in two. When the game is over, he walks--STRUTS--with the older boys. He sees the "little fellows" with whom he had played so recently, playing marbles. His lip curls contemptuously as he says: "KID STUFF"

He has not given up marbles, marbles have given him up for bigger and better things

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So=----the believer in the Son of God does not have to give up "things." The new life of Christ will push off the old, dead habits, & these THINGS will give him up, if he is really growing in the Lord.

CONCLUSION:

A.-God's Call:

1-A life of separation
2-A life of fellowship & privilege
3-A life of holy living

B.-God's Command:

1-"Be not unequally yoked"
2-"Come out from among them"
3-"Touch not the unclean thing"
4-In calling us to separation, God has not given us a NEGATIVE CREED, but a POSITIVE WALK of faith, obedience and fellowship with the Lord as our standard.
5-Will you walk----WITH GOD

--Or, in disobedience to Him?

—Will you learn that "Divided loyalties, divided citizenship can mean terrible tragedy in the modern world"?

Westbrae--6/28/70--#359--More Like The Master
--363--Abide with Me
--#354--Living For Jesus.

"YOU CAN GIVE MORE ABUNDANTLY" 2 Cor. 8:1-15; 9:6-15
or Phs. 4:14-19
"CHRISTIAN COUNSEL ON GIVING"

INTRO:

A.-This Matter Of Giving:

T-The matter of giving and money is a delicate and unpopular one in the church. Whenever anyone brings up the subject he is likely to be accused of being carnally materialistic or of plain "MEDDLING". So, when circumstances demand that something must be said, there is frequently an attempt to DISGUISE an unpleasant subject by referring to it as "stewardship" or by some other more spiritual-sounding term. Somehow the general idea prevails among "spiritual"christians that although it is correct to exhort people to pray, the mention of MONEY is unspiritual.

2-There are those who follow an altogether different practice. They not only do not find asking for money delicate or difficult; they seem to enjoy employing all manner of CLEVER SCHEMES & TRICKS to stimulate the flow of cash---even at the expense of taste & tact.

3-Have you noticed in some meetings:
--"We will now TAKE the offering" ??
--That's impossible !!
--You TAKE a collection, but you RECEIVE an offering.
--Though I've been in one or two meetings where both the offering---and the people---were taken.

B.

B.-Three Basic Questions:

1-Are there SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES of giving?
YES----2 Cor. 8:1--9:15

2-Is there a BIBLICAL PATTERN for our giving?
YES----1 Cor. 16:1-2

3-HOW can I PRACTICE the giving which"proves the sincerity of my love"??
PRACTICAL ANSWERS will be given.

4-PROP:--Honest & basic questions here
--Need for clear & scriptural answers
--"Touchy" area to handle, but AN IMPORTANT ONE !!
** To know God's Word on this subject
** To obey God's truth in our lives
** Many just "DON'T KNOW" what the truth is on this subject because they've never been exposed to the truth
--Well.....Here goes with answers to those THREE BASIC QUESTIONS:

I.-QUESTION # 1--ARE THERE SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES OF GIVING?:

A:-Divine Order (2 Cor. 8:1-6) SELF FIRST:

1-Macedonian BRETHREN (8:1)
--True believers
--Pr. 15:8--"The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD..."

--Backwoods area of Greece; VERY POOR financially

2-They ABOUNDED (8:2-5
- --Joy characterized their experience with God
- --Liberality characterized their giving
  - ** Beyond measure
  - ** "Willing of themselves"---NO FEELING OF PRESSURE
  - ** Intreaty to be privileged to participate
- --SELF SURRENDER TO GOD
  - ** First business of the saint *
  - ** Rom. 12:1 in action
  - ** SUBSTANCE follows naturally for the work of God
  - ** Sacrificial life

3-Pattern for the Corinthians & for us "moderns"
- --8:6
- --Their example is to inspire us
- --DIVINE ORDER is clear here !

B.-Divine Opportunity (8:7-11a) PROVE LOVE:

1-"Therefore"--Builds on the DIVINE ORDER
- --Enforces upon us our opportunity

2-Corinthians privileges--8:7
- --Paul wants this "GRACE" of giving to also be characteristic of them

3-NOT A COMMANDMENT ON GIVING
- --O. T. operated that way for Jews
- --Mal. 3:10a--"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house..."
- --Grace does not command
- --8:8 --"to prove the sincerity of your love." as the Cause of an implied exhortation
- --Example of the Macedonians is set forth
- --Divine opportunity to "prove the sincerity of your love"

4-DIVINE EXAMPLE--8:9
- --He impoverished Himself that we might be RICH
- --Proof if HIS LOVE for us was sacrificial giving

5-Paul's advice, therefore--8:10-11a
- --ILLUS-----Acts 10:1-4

C.-Divine Overflowing (9:6-7) CHEERFUL SPIRIT:

1-Principle of giving--9:6
- --LITTLE giving; LITTLE blessing
- --MUCH giving; MUCH blessing
- --It's a simple principle
- --Prov. 11:24-25--"There is that scattereth, & yet increaseth; & there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat: & he that watereth shall be watered also himself."
- --To become "SPIRITUAL CAPITALISTS" it is necessary to give away !!

2-Spirit of giving--9:7
- --Matter of PURPOSE OF HEART
- --EVERY MAN is to be a giver ** Not grudgingly
  ** Not of necessity

Purpose

--"God loveth a cheerful (hilarious) giver"
--This spirit is seen by God & it comes as a DIVINE OVERFLOWING because of love for the Lord
--Giving is the visible evidence of secret personal dedication
--If there is a cheerful spirit over giving, IT WILL SHOW !!

DiaDiv

D.-Divine Outcome (9:8-15) SUFFICIENCY & PRAISE:
1-Spiritual prosperity--9:8
--Sufficiency is promised (but not everything you want)
--Notice the "ALLS"
--Blessing out of giving
--9:11a
--Enrichment reaches out to EVERYTHING
2-Praise flows from the exercise of the privilege of giving--9:11b-15
--DOUBLE RESULT
** Needs of the saints are met
** God is glorified
--Distribution of the gospel "UNTO ALL MEN" is accomplished
--GRACE abounds because of the grace of giving

II.-QUESTION # 2--IS THERE A BIBLICAL PATTERN FOR OUR GIVING?:

A.-Purposefully & Responsively:
1-1 Cor. 16:1
2-Businesslike methods & disciplined spiritual life are expected in stewardship
3-NEEDS presented; People RESPOND !!
--"Orders" on this subject of giving were shared with the believers in Galatia
--Something expected of others: "even so do ye"
--F. Steele--"It is accepted practice to fix a time or times each day for prayer & to gather prayer materials to make that time of fellowship properly acceptable, personally blessed, & practically effective. WHY NOT FOLLOW THE SAME PATTERN FOR GIVING?" (Article; The Grace Of Giving)
4-ILLUS----Good Samaritan--saw a need & met it - Lk. 10
--2 Chron. 31:5a--"And as soon as the commandment came abroad, the children of Israel brot in abundance the firstfruits..."

B.-Periodically & Systematically:
1-16:2--"Upon the first day of the week..."
2-Sunday is THE DAY of worship, & as a part of worship, we bring our offerings to the Lord
3-Not just a "collection", but an OFFERING
4-This should be--REGULAR
--Systematic
--Not spasmodic
--Each & every Sunday

--If we miss one Lord's Day by absence, either mail it in or bring 2 weeks worth the next Sunday
--BETTER YET: give in advance, as when going away on vacation.

C.-Pleasurably & Willingly:
1-KEY WORD in 16:2 is "LET"
2-Giving ought to be a great JOY
--"God loveth a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7)
--M. R. De Haan--"If your giving still hurts, you haven't given enough. Give until it FEELS GOOD!!"
3-Biblical ILLUS--Abraham willingly offered Isaac
--Israelites willingly brought gifts for the Tab.
--Mary of Bethany freely gave the alabaster box of ointment of spikenard to anoint the Lord
4-CONTRAST--Case of Annanias & Sapphira
--Acts 5:1-11
--DREAD DISEASE----------"Cirrhosis of the giver"
--"It is an accute condition which renders the patient's hands immobile when he is called upon to move them in the direction of purse or billfold. This strange malady is unobservable at the golf shop, the supermarket, the clothing store, or the restaurant."
--Symptom of a HEART that's not right
--God wants us to take pleasure in joyful giving as "unto Him"

D.-Personally And Individually:
1-1 Cor. 16:1--"...let every one of you"
2-Equivalent to "EVERY MAN" in 2 Cor. 9:7
3-Giving--To be personal
--To be individual
--To be UNIVERSAL
--Each of us
--Boys, girls; men women
--NO PROXIES----------No one can do it for you
4-Biblical Examples--The Women in Lk. 8:2-3--"And certain women which had been healed of evil spirits & infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven demons, and Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto Him out of their substance."
--BARNABAS---(Acts 4:34-37)
--The WISE MEN who each gave at Jesus' birth, & thereby showed their WISDOM in their worship
5-Mutual sharing--Gal. 6:6--"Let him that is taught in the Word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things."

E.-Providentially And Preventively:
1-1 Cor. 16:2--"...lay by him in store,...that there be no gatherings when I come..."
2-DELIBERATE DECISIONS in advance so that there is the "wherewithall" with which to meet needs as they arise:
--By prayerful consideration

--By intelligent preparation rather than just in response to an EMOTIONAL APPEAL
--Before the needs arise !!
--No retrenchment; No deficits; No worry
--Budgets SET: .....and then PERFORMED

3-ILLUS--Howard Hudson had a separate GIVING ACCOUNT in the bank into which he put the Lord's money and then gave out of it----keeping the balance low and the gifts flowing

4-God will reward such giving (Col. 3:23-24)

F.-Proportionately As Prospered:

1-"...as God hath prospered him..." 1 Cor. 16:2

2-WHAT PROPORTION?--Tithe (10%) before the Law; PLUS offerings
--TITHES (23 1/3%) under the Law; PLUS offerings of appreciation
--A flat 10% of your income is totally inadequate !!!
--PRIVILEGES of the Christian under grace are greater than Abraham before the Law or of Moses & David under the Law
--NEEDS of the work of God today are much greater than under the law
** Only 1 central temple to support
** No missionary program

3-Inadequacy of the Tithe:
--$4,000 income////$400 offering is A SACRIFICE
--$10,000 income////$1,000 is very modest giving indeed
--$30,000 income/////$3,000 offering is a MERE PITTANCE
--ALL WE ARE AND HAVE is a stewardship
--Expected to live that way
--All used for His glory **Generously
** Thoughtfully
** Carefully
** Faithfully
--A small gift may manifest in the one case much greater WILLINGNESS TO GIVE than a much larger gift from another

4-Back to the question: "WHAT PROPORTION?"
--The Bible does not give us a N. T. Law on this
--Ours is a GRACE relationship; not of law
--Ours is to be a GRACE-GIVING: not a tithe
--10% is not an arrival point
--10% should be a minimum starting point from which to work upward continually
--ONLY WITH SACRIFICIAL GIVING can we accomplish in our generation the task of world evangelism which is committed to us
--We must GO,,,,,,GIVE,,,,,,PRAY----ALL THREE are expected of each of us

5-YOU MAY ASK:
--"Why me? Why should I be the one who bears the brunt of such a plan of giving?
--That's a good question
--Let's try to answer it
--WHO in this area of the world knows more of the truth of God than YOU DO ??

--WHO in this area of the world has experienced more of the grace of God than YOU HAVE ??
--WHO in this area of the world will take up the banner of the truth IF YOU DO NOT ??
--Jesus said: "For unto whom much is given, of him shall much be required..."

6-Biblical Examples:
--DAVID--"2 Sam. 24:24--"And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt-offering unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for 50sheckles of silver"
--WIDOW'S MITES --Lk. 21:1-4
** Poor widow cas in far more in proportion to what she had than did the rich man
** Perhaps the 2 mites were ALL SHE HAD; more likely her days wages. Her "mite" was given with immense self-sacrifice. Most people's "mite" today means something else----something not felt & not missed.
--Heaven's arithmetic notes not only WHAT WE GIVE, but also WHAT WE HAVE LEFT !!

7-What about when you're unable??
--Out of a job.....no income??
--Then you have nothing out of which to give of a monetary gift
--YET
--Acts 3:6--"Then Peter said, Silver & gold have I none; but such as I have give I unto thee: in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up & walk."

8-What about when I'm IN DEBT--How many are OUT OF DEBT ??
--Very few, I'm sure
--Begin to give generously---NOW !!
--C. Hodge--"Giving is, to the natural eye, the way to lessen our store, not to increase it. The Bible says it (giving) is the way to increase it (our store)." (2 Cor. P. 220)
--Peter Marshall: "Give according to your income, lest God make your income according to your giving."

9-THAT QUESTION AGAIN:::::
:::::"WHAT PROPORTION" ??

YOU
--Settle it before God
--Settle it EACH WEEK as you give
--Settle it with regular increases
--This is a SPIRITUAL ISSUE between you and the Lord
--2 Cor. 9:6-7--"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly, and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."
--DON'T FIX THE AMOUNT YOURSELF....
..Ask the Lord to do it!

G.-Places Of Investment:

1-Local Church is FIRST

2-Missionary outreach (preferably THRU your local Ch. program)

3-Others--Christian schools
--Christian radio
--Christian printing (tracts, books, magazines)
--Christian camps
--Rescue missions, etc.

4-These cannot be accomplished on 10% of YOUR income or of MINE.

5-Example of Philippian Church
--Phs. 4:14-19
--CORPORATE giving thru their local church
--Support for Paul's missionary labors
--Repeatedly sent to him
--FRUIT to their account was Paul's desire
--A SACRIFICE before God by this action
--"My necessity"....."your need". God will meet both "according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

III.-QUESTION # 3---HOW CAN I PRACTICE THE GIVING WHICH "Proves the sincerity of my love"?:

A.-Giving Of Money:

1-Salvation is by GRACE as a free gift

2-But some will arrive in heaven FLAT BROKE

3-"You can't take it with you----
---But you can SEND IT ON AHEAD"

4-"You can't keep right with God spiritually if you don't keep right with Him financially. Try cheating your friends and you'll see."

B.-Giving Of Manpower:

1-Perhaps that must be amended (or Ms.power) in these days of Women's Lib

2-What can you do???--Invest your TIME
--Invest your TALENT

3-JOBS:--Sunday School
--Children's Church
--Discovery clubs
--Library worker
--CHURCH CONSTRUCTION
--Hospitality
--Camp counsellor
--Kitchen crew
--Church officer
--Treasurer
--Bookkeeper
--Car use
--Visitation
--Office work
--Bulletin folding
--ASK FOR A JOB and we'll find one just for you

4-"Try it....You'll LIKE it"

C.-Giving Of Property, Stocks, Bonds, Coupons:

1-Property--70% own (or are buying) ahome
--Houses, farms, etc.
--Miss Agnes Dunn of Placentia who gave her home to BIOLA

--Also for missionary homes, Assistant Pastor, Widows, etc.

2-Stocks & Bonds--One out of 8 Americans today own them
--Income transfer for God's work
--Tax advantages in giving stocks
--CONSULT with Pastor about this

3-Coupons--Church Bonds interest payments
--Offering plate with these
--Some not yet redeemed from last February.

4-This IS an area of our ability to exercise our STEWARDSHIP

D.-Deferred Giving:

1-Obviously you can't give away EVERYTHING & make no provision for tomorrow

2-LEGAL WILL--70 % of americans die without a will
--These allow the STATE to write theirs--with much of the estate going to the lawyers and the government
--Christian ministries are totally LEFT OUT in these
--Care of wife & children according to a "standard formula"
--Remember the Lord's work in your "last will & testament"
--Unsaved relatives often reap what should go for God's work
--Sometimes "fattens" those who don't really NEED a legacy from you
--Ps. 39:6b--"...he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them."
** Fighting heirs; Greedy governments; Squabbling lawyers.
** All because of PROCRASTINATION
--Often believers can give MORE at death than at any other single time in their lives
--TAKE STEPS NOW if you haven't already
--Otherwise your family will be powerless to avoid many unnecessary fees & taxes.

3-LIVING TRUSTS--New & very valuable legal instruments for tax avoidance & gift enlargement
--Competent help needed

4-W. Stuart Harris:--"How long do we have down here on this earth? Time is swiftly passing. We cannot say, 'I will do it next year, or even next week'. It is only the present moment which we can say is really ours. Remember, too, that we cannot take anything with us. 'For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.' (1 Tim. 6:7). We have no control after death. Decision concerning these earthly possessions must be made this side of the grave. David's heart: "I will therefore now make preparation for it (the Temple's building". HOW ?? (1 Chr. 22:5--"So David prepared abundantly before his death."
(Booklet--The Blessing Of Giving, P. 12)

5-Guidance from Pastor--Lawyer on wills
--Consultant on trusts
--Recommendations on beneficiaries (Church, missions, camp, schools, etc.)
--Many "TIPS" because often dealing thus.

CONCLUSION:

A.-"You CAN Give More Abundantly":

1-This is a SPIRITUAL matter--OURSELVES first
--Then "what we have" will naturally follow
--Dedication of heart

2-This is a PHYSICAL matter
--Our Service ** Time
** Talents
--Our Substance ** Present gifts weekly in Church
** Deferred gifts also

3-This is an IMPORTANT matter--Jesus' counsel to us
--Mt. 6:19-21
--Paul's admonition to us
--2 Cor. 8:10-11
--ILLUS--When Queen Victoria asked a certain successful businessman to be her ambassador, he said: "I'd like to, but what about my business?"
She answered kindly but firmly, "You look after the business of ENGLAND, and I will see to it that your business does not fail."
ISN'T THAT WHAT JESUS would have us know also??

B.-Having LIFE More Abundantly:

1-You CANNOT BUY eternal life. That's God's GIFT
2-Eternal life is only thru Christ--Rom. 6:23
--John 3:36
3-However, if you do belong to Christ, remember that you owe a DEBT OF LOVE
--Discharged by giving with liberality
--Discharged by sharing with faithfulness
--Discharged by loving with Christ's love
4-DO YOU delight in giving God FIRST PLACE in your investment pattern??

5-Mt. 6:33

Westbrae--6/11/72
Calvary Columbus 11/9/75

#86--"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"
#446--"In Tenderness He Sought Me"
#423--"When I Survey The Wondrous Cross"

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"WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT GRACE-GIVING". 2 Cor. 8:1-24
Mark 12:14-17 (1)

INTRO: **A.-What We Learned About Tithing:** (Mal. 3:1-18 message

1-Tithing **originated** before the **Law** as a SYSTEM of GIVING

2-Tithing under the **Law**

--**Areas**; land & its produce

--**Amounts**; 23 1/3% annual minimum (10% Levites; 10% Temple; 3 1/3% Poor)

--**Abundance**; ADDED offerings

--Avenue; Temple **storehouse** only

--**Attitude**; Voluntary

--**Antecedence**; **TOP PRIORITY** - **"Firstfruits"** (of thy labors - Ex. 23:16)

--**Aftermaths**; **Material prosperity promised**

Ex 23:19-"The first of the firstfruits of the land thou shalt bring into the house of the LORD thy God"

Prov. 3:9-"Honor the LORD w/ thy substance, + w/ the firstfruits of all thine increase"

3-Tithing **ABUSED** - In O.T. days / - In Jesus' day (Temple ~~in~~ disciples + Levites not supported)

4-**Conclusions:**

--PURPOSES of giving: Develop us; Support God's work

--PRIORITIES of giving; FUNDAMENTAL ministries

B.-Is Tithing For Us In The Church Age?:

1-Part of the **pre-law revelation**, along with **SABBATH** & **MARRIAGE**, so **part of a moral law**

ASSESSED 2-Incorporated into the **Law** & made **an obligation** to the Jews

3-**Endorsed** by Jesus **for Jews** under the **Law**

NB ** 4-**NEVER** commanded or exhorted **for the Church** in this age ...

** 5-Neither is there **a "repeal"** of an obligation **to give.**

6-Need to **learn** what is the **N. T. standard**???

C.-Our Message---GRACE-GIVING IN THE AGE OF GRACE:

1-Outline--I.-The MOTIVES Of Grace-Giving

II.-The METHOD Of Grace-Giving

III.-The MINISTRY Of Grace-Giving

2-**REASONS** for my giving:

(1) It is **a command** of God (1 Cor. 16:1-2)

(2) It involves **my honesty**

** First & **BIGGEST debt** is to God

** Am I giving **honestly** ??

** Am I working to support myself and to support the **gospel ministry** ??

EXPECTED! WORK is expected!

It expresses (3) **Love** & **Gratitude**

** **Tangible expression** of my **heart attitude**

Giving Builds (4) **Faith**

** "Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all

** Lk. 12:15--"And Jesus said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

** **Trust of God** is developed thru

3-Note our **title**--"GRACE-GIVING"
--W H Y ??
--**Age of Grace**, yes.
--Much more than that, though
"GRACE" **7** times in **2 Cor. 8** & **3** times in **2 Cor. 9** = 10 times
attached to the N. T. pattern of giving
PROP--We are to abound in this grace-giving !

LONGEST N.T. GIVING INSTRUCTION

I.-THE MOTIVES OF GRACE-GIVING:

A.-The Example Of The Macedonians (2 Cor. 8:1-6):

"The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is His delight" Prov. 15:8

1-Their **place**--8:1
--Macedonia
--Northern provinces of Greece
--**Very poor** area **financially**
--"**BACKWOODS**" of the country (Thessalonica & Philippi were larger)
HILL COUNTRY

2-Their **performance**--8:2-5
They were BRETHREN
--"**Deep poverty**" ** They didn't wait til they got **a RAISE**
** They didn't wait for **BETTER TIMES**
** They didn't wait til they got their **BILLS PAID**
--Supernatural supply ** **TRUSTED GOD** !!!
AND ** They **abounded** !
--Voluntary virtue ** "**Willing** of themselves"
** Complete **absence of PRESSURE**
--**Pleaded to participate**--"much intreaty"
--**SURRENDER** ** The "business" of the saints is **self-surrender**
** **FIRST** gave **themselves**
** **THEN** their **substance**
** Their **method** was that they were FIRST devoted to the Lord & SECONDLY & consequently were devoted to the Apostles & the work of the ministry & the work of the local church

3-Their **pattern**--8:6
--**Expectation** that the Macedonian **example** would inspire these Corinthians
--Sends **Titus** to handle the finances
--"**IN YOU**" indicates **Paul's confidence** they'd follow the Macedonians as **a PATTERN**
--"the same **GRACE** also"

B.-The Exhortation Of The Apostle (2 Cor. 8:7—9:5):

1-"**THEREFORE**"==Built on the **example** of **others**, I have an exhortation to give you in Corinth

2-**Abounding, not commanding** (8:7-8)
--These Corinthians were **abounding** in **other areas**
** in every thing
** in faith
** in utterance
** in knowledge
** In diligence
** In love

--Exhorted concerning "THIS GRACE" of giving also (3)
* --Not a commandment under grace as to amount or percent
--Alan Redpath--"Christian giving is never by command-
ment, by human pressure or by appeals---what an ugly,
paltry level that is---for the giving of money and
life." (Blessings Out Of Buffeting, P. 149)
Quote
--RATHER "to prove the sincerity of your love."
* --Small giving, then, will indicate smallness of heart
NB
3-Proving, not paying (8:9-24)
--DIVINE EXAMPLE (8:9) CHRIST
--He impoverished Himself that we might be rich
--PROOF of our love to Him is the "performance" of
our giving out of a "willing mind"
--What we have is what we're accountable for as a
steward----------ALL OF IT!
--Monetary matters require honest handlers (Titus &
2 others) People to supervise the money
--Providing things honestly (8:21)
** Not only in the sight of the Lord
** But also in the sight of men
** Mk. 12:17--"And Jesus answering said
unto them, Render to Caesar the things
that are Caesar's, and to God the
things that are God's."
* --Impossible TO PAY our debt of gratitude --Rom. 13:8-10
--But we are TO PROVE "before the churches" our love
4-Providing, Not Unprepared--9:1-5
** --Paul's POLITE way of saying:
"Don't disappoint me."!
--Sends his EXHORTATION that the
Corinthians "might be ready"

The
C.-Encouragements To Giving (2 Cor. 9:6-15):
1-Privilege of Giving--9:6
--Little giving leads to little blessing
--Much giving leads to much blessing
--Prov. 11:24-25 "There is that scattereth, & yet
increaseth: & there is that withholdeth more than
is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal
soul shall be made fat: & he that watereth
shall be watered also himself."
2-Purpose of Giving
--9:7
--Purpose of heart
* --This is a SPIRITUAL DECISION more than a financial one
--NOT ** Grudgingly
** Of necessity
** Because "God loveth a cheerful (hilarious)
giver
--Back of the visible evidence of a believer's generos-
ity is his secret PERSONAL DEDICATION to the Lord
--This is expected of "EVERY MAN"
3-Prosperity thru Giving
--9:8-11a
--Notice the "ALLS" in 9:8
--Yes, God is able to bring blessing as we give
--Causes our "being enriched" in every thing to
all bountifulness.
** 4-Praise to God--9:11b-15 * Saints needs are met (1) (2)
--DOUBLE RESULT ** God is thanked & glorified

--Liberality is to reach out to "ALL MEN"
--GRACE abounds thru grace-giving
--9:14-15

II.-THE METHOD OF GRACE-GIVING (1 Cor. 16:1-2):

A.-Purposefully & Responsively:

1-16:1
2-Needs presented to God's people produce a response
3-This is expected of us--"even so do ye"
4-ILLUS.-Good Samaritan. Saw a need & met it.
--2 Chron. 31:5a--"And as soon as the commandment came abroad, the children of Israel brought in abundance the firstfruits..."

B.-Periodically & Systematically:

1-16:2--"Upon the first day of the week..."
2-Sunday is THE DAY of worship & as a part of worship, we bring our offerings to the Lord
3-Not just a "collection", but an OFFERING !!!
4-This should be--REGULAR !
--Systematic
--Not spasmodic
--Each & every Lord's Day
--If we miss one by absence, either mail it in or bring 2 weeks worth the next Sunday
--Better yet; give in advance, as when going away on vacation.

OR as paid

C.-Pleasurably & Willingly:

1-Key word is "LET" (16:2)
2-Giving ought to be great JOY-
--"God loveth a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7)
--M.R. De Haan--"If your giving still HURTS, you haven't given enough! Give until it FEELS GOOD."
3-Biblical Examples
--Abraham willingly offered Isaac
--Israelites willingly brought gifts for the Tabernacle
--Zacchaeus didn't wait to be instructed or asked, but he freely gave HALF of his goods to the poor & restored 4-fold all he'd extorted.
--Mary of Bethany freely gave the alabaster box of ointment of spikenard to anoint the Lord
4-Contrast that with ANANIAS & SAPPHIRA
--Acts 5:1-11
--DREAD DISEASE--"CIRRHOSIS OF THE GIVER"
--"It is an acute condition which renders the patient's hands immobile when he is called upon to move them in the direction of the billfold or purse. This strange malady is unobservable at the golf shop, the supermarket, the clothing store or the restaurant."
--Symptom of a HEART that's not right!
--God wants us to take pleasure in joyful giving as unto Him !!

to be a faithful & wise steward over that which remains.

(6) At himself in not adopting such a stewardship sooner.

(9)

CONCLUSION:

A.-Poem:

"It's not what you'd do with a million,
If a million should e'er be your lot.
But what are you doing at present
With the dollar and a quarter you've got?"

B.-Practice:

1-ILLUS--**Fred Paton** reporting of Missionary work in the New Hebrides told of the Christians of Matmissa, who were getting slack in giving & needed exhortation. Mr. Weir therefore preached on the believer's **need for financial honesty** before the Lord.

In his message, Mr. Weir referred to a heathen custom of Epi, where, at their sacrifice of pigs, the sacred men **cut off the pig's tail** and **presented it** to the spirits as their share of the feast----**THE REST THEY KEPT FOR THEMSELVES.**

Mr. Weir especially emphasized the fact that God does not want "**PIG-TAIL CHRISTIANS**". The striking epithet caught the native imagination and has passed as current coin of their everyday speech.

2-What will we be???

--**Pig-tail** christians ??

OR

--GRACE-GIVING christians??

--What will **your decision** be?

C.-

The Personalization

1-Regular/Local
2-Special + Extra
3-Missions
4-Students

Westbrae--2/28/71--#368--"O Jesus, I Have Promised"
#375--"Take My Life And Let It Be"
#423--"When I Survey The Wondrous Cross"

OKBC-11/16/86
Grace Gospel Ch.-2/16/92
Harper Heights Bapt. Ch 2/11/07
HilltopBapt. Ch-10/4/09 + 10/11/09

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makes **no difference** to their comfort.
** Our Lord is **deeply interested** in what we give
** Heaven's arithmetic notes not only **what is given**, but also what is **LEFT** !!

7-What about when **you're UNABLE TO** GIVE ? (7)
--Out of a job & **no income**
-Then you **have nothing** out of which to give of a monetary income
-YET.....
--**Acts 3:6**--"Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but **such as I have** give I thee: in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk."

8-What about **when I'm IN DEBT** ??
-**How many** of us are **OUT** of debt ?
--**Very few**, I am sure !!!
-**Begin** to **give generously**.....**NOW** !!!
--Charles Hodge--"Giving is, to the natural eye, the way to lessen our store, not to increase it. The Bible says it (giving) is the way to increase it (our store)." (2 Corinthians, P. 220)
-**Peter Marshall**--"Give according to your income, **lest** God make your income according to your giving

9-**THAT QUESTION AGAIN**.....**"WHAT PROPORTION" ???**
--Settle it **before God**
--Settle it each week as you give
*--Settle it with **regular increases** of both giving of money and receiving of His grace
-This is a **SPIRITUAL ISSUE** between you and your Heavenly Father.
--**2 Cor. 9:6-7**--"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

Don't Fix the Amount Yourself to show you what it ought to be. No matter what the gift is given for, Enjoy this ministry as His, and also I'm in you! Ask God to show you what it ought to be. Let Him be FIRST in your gifts. Proportionate giving + you'll see growth in your gifts.

III.-THE MINISTRY OF GIVING:

A.-Supports The Work Of God:
1-That's how you can **give to Him**
2-That's how you can **prove your love**
--**Rom. 12:8**--"..he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity;"
--**Mark 12:17**--"..Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."
--**Phs. 4:16-19**
3-**DO IT NOW**!!.....**not later**
--**Prov. 3:27-28**--"Withold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it. Say not unto thy neighbor, Go, and come again, & tomorrow I will give thee; when thou hast it by thee."
--**Luke 12:20-21**--"But God said unto him, Thou

fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

--POEM--"Do your giving while you're living,
You'll be knowing where its going."

4-Otherwise--The state gets huge chunks of it
--Unsaved relatives get the balance
--The work of God gets NOTHING !!!

B.-Strengthens The Life Of Faith:

1-Sacrificial giving removes funds from our hands so they are not spent on gratifying the lusts of the flesh
2-God wants us to learn TO TRUST HIM for our "daily bread" and all our needs
3-H O W ??-------Look at all of life--and especially "things" in the light of eternity
4-"You can't take it with you, but you can send it on ahead!"
5-MUCH MONEY is seldom a blessing--1 Tim. 6:5-11a
6-ILLUS--Faith can be strengthened thru giving
--Widow woman in 1 Kings 17:10-16
7-Let us learn that the MILLIONAIRES of heaven be those who were the GIVERS on earth !!
8-ILLUS--The Jordon River feeds 2 Seas (Galilee and Dead). What is the difference? One RECEIVES and GIVES, and in the process it stays fresh. The other only receives, but never gives out, and as a result is DEAD

C.-Shows The Grace Of God:

1-It takes the GRACE OF GOD to separate us from our money, and make us HAPPY about it!
2-That's why N. T. giving is called GRACE-GIVING
3-When FIRST things come first, then all of life is more likely to fall into line--Salvation
--Baptism
--Obedience
--Grace-giving
--WONDERFUL CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE
4-David--2 Chron. 29:2-3--"Now I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God...Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of my own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God over and above all..."

D.-Surprises To The Giver:

1-The christian who begins to give systematically & proportionately & cheerfully will have at least 6 surprises. He will be surprised:
(1) At the amount of money he has for the Lord's work
(2) At the deepening of his spiritual life as he increases his faithful giving
(3) At the ease he has in meeting his own obligations with that which remains.
(4) At the ease and joy of going on from a tenth to larger giving
(5) At the preparation this spiritual exerciese gives

D.-Personally And Individually:

1-"...every one of you" (16:2)

2-Equivalent to "EVERY MAN" in 2 Cor. 9:7

3-Giving --To be personal
--To be individual
--To be universal
--EACH OF US !!
--Boys, girls, men & women
--NO PROXIES !!

EVERY BELIEVER !

4-Biblical Examples

*--The Women in Luke 8:2-3--"And certain women which had been healed of evil spirits & infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, outof whom went seven demons, and Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto Him of their substance."

*--BARNABAS--Acts 4:34-37

*--The WISE MEN who each gave at Jesus' birth, and thereby showed their WISDOM in their worship

5-Mutual sharing Gal. 6:6 Let him that is taught in the Word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things

E.-Providentially And Preventively:

1-"...lay by him in store,...that there be no gatherings when I come.." (16:2)

2-Deliberate decisions in advance so that there is the "wherewithal" with which to meet needs as they arise.

--By prayerful consideration
--By intelligent preparation rather than just an emotional response
--BEFORE the needs arise
--No retrenchments; No deficits; No worry

Budgets SET and then PERFORMED

3-ILLUS--Howard Hudson had a separate GIVING ACCOUNT in the the bank into which he put the Lord's money and then gave out of it--keeping the balance low and the gifts flowing!!

4-God will REWARD our giving Col. 3:23-24

F.-Proportionately As Prospered:

1-"...as God hath prospered him..." (16:2)

2-WHAT PROPORTION ????

--Tithe (10%) before the Law PLUS offerings
--Tithes (23 1/3%) under the Law PLUS offerings
***--A flat 10% of your income is TOTALLY INADEQUATE !!!!!
*--Privileges of the christian under grace are greater than Abraham before the law or Moses & David under the Law
**--NEEDS of the work of God today are much greater than under the Law which had only a central Temple & no missionary enterprise.

3-What are those needs??

*--Local Church testimony that's FUNDAMENTAL
--More churches established
--Worldwide missionary outreach to both Jews and Gentiles
*--Bible Institutes, Colleges & Seminaries that are sound
--Christian Radio & T V
--Christian printing ministries with books, tracts & magazines.

10% Levites Support
10% Temple Support
3 1/3% Poor Fund

--Camps & conferences
--Rescue Missions
NB → -These cannot be accomplished on a 10% portion of your income and mine!!

4-Inadequacy of the Tithe:
--$3,000 income// $300 offering is A SACRIFICE
--$10,000 income // $1,000 offering is VERY MODEST GIVING
--$30,000 income // $3,000 offering is A MERE PITTANCE
* ALL WE ARE AND HAVE is a stewardship before the Lord
--All is to be used for His glory
** Generously
** Thoughtfully
** Carefully
** Faithfully

-A small gift may manifest in one case much greater willingness to give than a much larger gift in another.

5-Back to the question: "WHAT PROPORTION" ??
NB → --The Bible does not give us a N.T. LAW on this
--Ours is a GRACE relationship, not of law
--Ours is to be a GRACE-giving, not the tithe
--10% is not an "ARRIVAL POINT"
--10% would be a minimum starting point from which to work upward continuingly
--ONLY WITH SACRIFICIAL GIVING can we accomplish in our generation the task of world evangelism which is committed to us.
* --We must GO GIVE and PRAY--all 3 are expected of each of us
--You may ask: "WHY ME? WHY SHOULD I BE THE ONE WHO BEARS THE BRUNT OF SUCH A PLAN OF GIVING? ?
** That's a good question
** Let's try to answer it
Q1 ** Who in this area of the world knows more of the truth of God than you do???
Q2 ** Who in this area of the world has experienced more of the grace of God than you have ??
Q3 ** Who in this area of the world will take up the banner of the truth if you do not ??
** JESUS said: "For unto whom much is given, of him shall much be required:" (Luke 12:48)

6-Biblical Examples:
→ --DAVID--2 Sam. 24:24—"And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt-offering unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for 50 sheckles of silver."
→ --WIDOW'S MITES--Luke 21:1-4
** POOR widow cast in far more in proportion to what she had than did the rich man
** Perhaps the 2 mites were all she had; more likely her day's wages. Her "mite" was given with immense self-sacrifice. Most people's "mite" today means something else; something that is not felt & not missed & which

"The Grace Of Giving" 2 Cor. 8:1-15

Intro: A.-ILLUS--of Dick Bennett--Characiture of him with $ for eyes-----Thoughts always of money

B.-Two Views of Christian giving:

1-Direct Appeal--Personal appeals
--Pledges, Drives, or Assessments
--Definite amounts suggested

2-Spiritual Dependence--Ask in prayer
--Depend upon God's power
--Believes God's promises
--Gives God the glory
--Doesn't preclude making the FACTS known, but doesn't appeal. Difference between INFORMATION & SOLICITATION

I.-GOD'S PLAN OF GIVING

A.-Divine Order--2 Cor. 8:5

1-Self to be given
2-Then our possessions
3-True regardless of status of wealth...or debt...even when poor

B.-Giving is a Spirit directed grace--2 Cor. 8:7

1-Abounding in other things is good
2-All based on God's matchless grace
3-Don't "come behind" in this one though
4-Excell for God in ALL
5-ILLUS ---Once when a minister called on a noble Xn. merchant to pick up a contribution the merchant had asked him to call for, he was told that the merchant had just heard of a failure which meant a loss to him of half a million dollars. Excusing himself for coming at such a time, the minister was about to leave, when the merchant said, "My wealth is not mine, but the Lord's. Perhaps He is intending to put it in other hands, so I must make good use of it while I have control of it." Thereupon he gave twice as much as he had planned to give.....The loss of money will make some men penurious, but others will be spurred by it to a new sense of responsibility. They see in their loss a warning from the Giver of all good; "Use your possessions while you have them. They will be another's tomorrow. You are only a temporary steward: make good use of your stewardship. Today has its chances that will never come again.

C.-Giving is Right

1-Stories of blessing will inspire some
2-Stories of hardship will scare many, & inspire a few
3-Giving is RIGHT, regardless of the effect on our finances
4-NEED is for Xms is not to be told "HOW MUCH", but to be kept reminded in their memories (2 Cor. 9:15)

II.-GOD'S PURPOSE FOR GIVING

A.-Proper Giving Gives God His Proper Place:

1-Ab. gave 10 % "off the top of the heap"--the best
2-Israel gave FIRSTFRUITS--God got His first & thus His primacy in their lives is set forth
3-"Giving" vs "Affording"----Giving comes first; affording puts God LAST after all others
4-Our giving should not be less under GRACE than it was under LAW
5-ILLUS***Parable in Pigs
6-Give God first place in ALL.....including giving

B.-Giving Is TO God, FOR Men:
1-Because of God's gift to us--2 Cor 8:9
2-To provide things honest--2 Cor 8:21
3-Worship to God by our dedication
4-Service to Men by our giving--2 Cor 9:12-13
5-We often hear it said by short-sighted Christians that the work at home is likely to suffer if the church pays too much attention to missions & missionary giving. A colored preacher was taking an offering for missions, when a close handed deacon in his congregation called, "Preacher, you is gwine to kill this church ef you keeps on taking up money for missions." "Brother," was the reply, "Let me tell you somethin'. Churches don't die that way. An' ef you evah can show me a church that died of giving to missions, I'll go out an' climb up on the ruins of dat church in de light of de moon & preach on de tex', "Blessed am the dead what dies in de Lawd."

C.-Giving Is An Aid To Spiritual Enlargement:
1-Indication of spiritual status--not in amount, but in %--
2 Cor. 8:3 & Mk. 12:41-44
2-Often marks the time of real DEDICATION
3-Heavy givers are those who've tried God's promises & found them TRUE
4-Givers are concerned ones who help in all ways.

III.-GOD'S PROVISION FOR GIVING.....HOW MUCH????

A.-O. T.--Israel
1-Tithe of 10% was commanded
2-Included Money, fruit, seed, crops, flocks & herds
3-Legal requirement.....no choice to it
4-No easier then than now; in fact they had a poorer economy

B.-N.T.---Church
1-Commandment is missing, having been done away with law
2-Relationship to the Lord substituted for LAW
3-LOVE is the gauge of giving--2 Cor 8:8
4-Proportionately---1 Cor. 16:2
5-Our giving under grace should not be less than under law.....
Liberty is not license.

IV.-GOD'S PARTICULARS OF GIVING

A.-1 Cor. 16:1-2
1-Sublime to ridiculous; Resurrection to money; ch. 15 to 16
2-Responsive to the need
3-Systematically--on 1st day of week
4-Universally & individually--let every one of you
5-Proportionately--as God hath prospered you

B.-2 Cor. 9:7
1-Individually & Universally---every man
2-Deliberately--according as he purposeth in his heart
3-Voluntarily--not grudgingly or of necessity
4-Joyously---for God loveth a cheerful giver

Concl: A.-Plan
1-Self & then possessions
2-Spirit directed giving
3-It is right to give

B.-Purpose
1-Exalt God
2-Help men
3-Spiritual enlargement

C.-Provision
1-O.T.--Tithe
2-N.T.--Proportionate

D.-Particulars:
1-1 Cor. 16:1-2
2-2 Cor. 9:7

E.-Eternal Investment
1-"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully" 2 Cor. 9:6

2-In the Tate Gallery, one can see George Frederic Watts portrait "Sic Transit". On the table in the center lies a shrouded form. Against the table leans a lyre. On a desk nearby is an open book. In one corner of the room is the ermine mantle of a peer, in the other the armor of a knight, with roses entwined about the spear to show that the sterner duties of life were mingled with the gentler things of art & sentiment. But all that is NOW PAST. The dead nobleman cannot don the mantle of his rank. He cannot draw the sword or hold the shield. He cannot read the book or awaken music from the lyre. All that is past. On the wall in the background are the 3 clauses of the old German proverb, "What I spent I had; what I saved I lost; what I gave I have."..... What a true picture of life this is.

"TIPS...TOKENS....AND TREASURES"**2 Cor. 8:1-15; 9:6-15

Intro:

A.- Reactions To Ministries: Prov. 3:5-10; Ps. 118:8-9

1-Gospel ministry--some react; blessed, touched, converted
2-Bible Doctrine--some moved; instructed → Others rebell or question
3-Missionary message--many moved; some stony
4-Devotional type--MOST are helped
5-MONEY----ALL REACT ! ! ! ! ! !
--some few favorably
--some few under conviction
--most shrug it off as too worldly a subject for the Christian ministry to be taken up with
--LINK of the sublime of 1 Cor. 15: on Resurrection with the matter of Christian responsibility in 1 Cor. 16:1-4

B.- Christian Giving Characterized:

1-TIPS--Give more to a restaurant waitress than to God
--Then some think they are PAYING WELL for His services
--Do more for a waitress than for God, for to give less than a 10% tip is to be STINGY!

2-TOKENS--Give in small amounts (in relation to income)
--Give enough to have a small part, but no more
Attitude is---"Don't press me"
--Give to God---ILLUS--To give a child a dollar for a useless toy on Saturday and then give that same child a nickle for S.S.---Children see where you consider real values to center in this way.
--Lavish on SELF more than is necessary to live acceptably before God & men.....and give LEFT*OVERS to God.

3-TREASURES--Investing for eternity
--No crashes in the Bank of Heaven
--No fluctuation in the market there
--Investments SECURED by God Himself
--Substantial deposits
--Sacrificial gifts
--Really an exhillarating THRILL to give to God
--ILLUS---Doris & Bill Cole saved to get a Piano, but had no liberty to purchase it. Gave it to the church when the fund reached $350.00 toward Building Fund needs, and the next week a member of the church who was moving away GAVE them a better piano than the $350 would have bought! What a DOUBLE thrill--to give
--to see God meet all needs
--Souls in heaven because you gave; (REAL) treasures
--God asks us to "PROVE ME NOW HEREWITH"
--Is your pocketbook converted and baptized?
--ILLUS---Dick Yarnall's testimony that he just kept shoveling it out and the Lord kept shoveling it in, BUT the Lord had a bigger shovel than he had. "Them that honor Me, them will I honor". 2 Sam. 2:30

4. ——a witty person once said:

"There are three kinds of givers---the flint, the sponge, and the honeycomb."

To get anything out of a flint you must hammer it, and then you only get chips and sparks.
To get anything out of a sponge, you must squeeze it, and the more you squeeze, the more you will get.
But the honeycomb just overflows with its own sweetness.

Some people are stingy and hard; they give nothing away if they can help it.
Others are good-natured; they yield to pressure, and the more they are pressed, the more they will give.
A few delight in giving without being asked at all; and of these the Bible says, "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver".

I.-OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY OF GIVING TO GOD:

A.-Patriarchs Tithed:

1-Abraham--Gen. 14:20 — And [illegible] which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he (Abraham) gave him (Melchizedek) tithes of all" — Blessed be the Most High God,
--10% was "off the top of the heap"--Illus. Strawberri

2-Jacob--Gen. 28:22 "And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that Thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto Thee."

B.-Law Of Moses:

1-Three tenths required--1/10th for support of Levitical Servic
Num. 18:21, 24 - FIRST TITHE
--1/10th for maintainence of Temple
Deut. 14:22-23 SECOND TITHE
--1/10th for Poor Fund--De. 14:28-29
--This was the BARE MINIMUM — Presented every 3rd year — THIRD TITHE

"And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation."

2-Lev. 27:26-34--all firstborn animals--27:26
--all tithe of land & trees--27:30 (No area of produce omitted)
--all tithe of flock & herd--27:32

3-Prov. 3:9-10--Give the Lord His portion FIRST
--This is an Honor to Him
--Promises blessing to those faithful to Him in i

5-Mal. 3:7-12--Have forsaken the COMMANDMENT
--Have ROBBED God
--How? ? ? ? By not bringing the tithes AND offerings. The OFFERINGS AND GIFTS WERE EXTRA!
--widespread--the whole nation was guilty
--Promise; "open the windows of heaven"
--Invitation; "prove me now herewith"!

"all the tithes" = "The whole tithes"; MONEY AND HEART

C.-Time Of Christ:

1-Mt.23:23--Tithing practiced
--even reached to the minutia
--commended by Christ
--but He reminded them they were neglecting other matters in the process.

"Woe unto you, scribes + Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint + anise + cummin, + have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, + faith: These ought ye to have done, + not to leave the other undone

2-"Even a cursory investigation of the subject of giving and stewardship, from the Biblical point of view, will reveal that it is a vital part of the believer's life, growth, and service. It is significant to note that the Lord Jesus had more to say about money than any other single subject. The Apostle Paul, likewise, in cataloging

the spiritual gifts with which every believer is endowed, by the Spirit of God, had something to say about the matter of giving. Prominent among these gifts are teaching, evangelism, and pastoring. However, when we turn to the twelfth chapter of Paul's epistle to the Romans, the Holy Spirit includes another significant gift in the list.

"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy....or....he that GIVETH, let him do it with simplicity"

If giving, as indicated, is one of the spiritual gifts bestowed upon believers, why is it that we see so little evidence of it today? Judging from the ininitesimal amount that many of God's people give to support all Christian activities, in proportion to that spent upon everything else, we can COME TO ONLY ONE OF TWO CONCLUSIONS---either the Lord's people are ignorant of this spiritual gift, or they have failed to "stir up" this gift that is in them.

In this hour of spiritual declension and financial recession in X's Church, we would do well to pray for a revival of the GIFT OF GIVING. In view of the teaching of the Scripture passage which affirms, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (Mt. 6:21), it would appear that the Church needs a REAL CHANGE OF HEART when it comes to giving.

ILLUS--Mr. Fred Paton reporting mission work in the New Hebrides told of the Christians of Matmissa, who were getting slack in giving and needed exhortation. Mr. Weir therefore preached on the Christian's financial obligation. In his message he referred to a heathen custom of Epi, where, at their sacrifice of pigs, the sacred men cut off the pig's tail and presented it to the spirits as their share of the feast, -----the rest they kept for themselves. Mr. Weir especially emphasized the fact that God does not want "PIGTAIL CHRISTIANS". The striking epithet caught the native imagination and has passed as current coin into their everyday speech.

II.-NEW TESTAMENT HISTORY OF GIVING TO GOD

"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich."

A.-Example Set By Christ--2 Cor. 8:9:

"grace" 7 times in Chs. 8+9

1-Extends grace--"unmerited favor
2-Seen in His majesty in heaven---The LORD JESUS CHRIST
3-Rich in heaven with glory, dominion & power
4-"For our sakes"---because of our utter need
5-"He became poor"--Phs. 2:5-8
6-"That through His poverty we might be made rich"
  --no other way
  --no by-pass
  --no short-cut

Note at top of my Bible, P. 1236

"And again, the Kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when He had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that He had, and bought it.

7-ILLUS---Mt. 13:45-46
8-Jesus Christ gave all He had and was for us that we might have salvation

"I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love."

B.-Exhortation To Believers:

1-2 Cor. 8:8--"Not by commandment"--not O.T. commandment of tithe
  --not N.T. com. of a tithe
  --not a N.T. command of any other specific amount either
2-But because of the manifest love of others in their giving
3-To stir up & PROVE our love for Christ
4-Response of the heart to GRACE----notice context.

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." 8 9

4-Attitude---2 Cor. 9:6-7
---as a real investment for eternity
---in response to a "Purpose" in the heart
---Not grudgingly
---Not of necessity--of pledges or human pressure
---BUT CHEERFULLY--Hillariously!

ILLUS --I once heard about a Christian sailor at prayer. He said, "Lord, make us ships with two hatchways--one to take in cargo, and the other to give it out." His thought was that, if we spend our time always loading, we will end up OVERLOADED, and our ship will be in danger. If we unload, then we shall soon be reloaded. When praying thus, perhaps the sailor had in mind this passage from God's word, "Freely ye have received, freely give".

Surely it is a blessed thing to be able to give as well as to receive. We need to learn that life's greatest blessings are bound up in the ministries we exercise toward others.

The dictionary reveals that a parasite is one living organism living off another. This is not the spirit of Christianity, nor the purpose for which God has saved us!

What we receive from God is expressed in the first hatchway. What we give in the work of God is expressed in the 2nd hatchway. Are we.....Are you.....Am I, a one hatchway or a two hatchway ship?

C.-Examples Of New Testament Giving:

1-Barnabas--Gave fully of his return from sale of Cyprus estate. (Acts. 4:34-37)
2-Ananias & Sapphira --Lied to God & were punished--Acts 5
3-Macedonians--Gave Selves (2 Cor. 8:5) Gave out of deep poverty with liberality
--Gave substance
--Gave sacrificially by faith--(2 Cor. 8:1-6)
4-Philippians--Gave thru Epaphroditus; Phs. (4:16-18)
5-ILLUS---Teofilo said to Christobel, the new convert in the little mission chapel in Cuba:

"Christobel, if you had a hundred sheep, would you give fifty of them for the Lord's work?"

"Yes, I would," said Christobel

"Would you do the same if you had a hundred cows?" asked Teofilo.

"Yes, Teofilo, I would," was his answer

"Would you do the same if you had a hundred horses?"

"Yes, of course."

"If you had two pigs, would you give one of them to HIM?"

"No, I wouldn't; and you have no right to ask me, Teofilo, for you know that I do have two pigs."

Reminds me of the couplet:

"It's not what you'd do with the million
If a million should e'er be your lot
But what are you doing at present
With the dollar and a quarter you've got?"

III.-NEW TESTAMENT PRINCIPLE OF GIVING: (1 Cor. 16:1-4)

A.-Addressed to **BELIEVERS**:

1-1 Cor. 1:2--Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all them that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ."

2-"The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord" Prov. 15:8

3-ILLUS----Lamar Elliot; Led to Christ by the OFFERING. in Houston

B.-Giving Responsively To The Need: (16:1) "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye"

1-For the poor (Elder's Fund)
2-For the church
3-For the ministry
4-For the souls of men
5-For the training of workers.....etc. } Missions Xn. Schools
6-This is an ORDER, not an OPTION!

C.-Giving Systematically & Regularly (16:2)

1-"Upon the first Day of the week"
2-Regularly; Not spasmodically — Not by "annual estimate" as w/ Ruth Roberts in Placentia
3-2 Chron. 31:5--"As soon as the commandment came abroad..."
4-Whether in God's house or not
5-Whether on vacation or at home
6-Whether sick or well
7-Regularly and systematically
8-Not a VICIOUS CIRCLE, but a VICTORIOUS CIRCLE

D.-Giving Voluntarily and Willingly (16:2)

1-"Let"
2-This is a privilege as well as a duty
3-Not something into which one should be in need of cajoling.
4-Instruction should bring ready response of desire for the PRIVILEGE
5-ILLUS---Giving voluntarily reminds me of Mr. Applegate's cows in the neighborhood where I grew up. "How much milk does that cow give" asked a summer visitor one time. "Wal," replied Farmer Applegate, "ef you mean by voluntary contribution, she don't give none. But ef ye kin get her cornered so's she can't kick none to hurt, an able-bodied man kin take away about 'leven quarts a day from her."....."Be ye not as the cow.....Giving to God is voluntary

E.-Giving Individually and Personally (16:2)

1-"Every one of you"
2-Adults, Children, BOTH AND ALL
3-Salary, Income, Allowance, sale of property---all
4-ILLUS----Girl in Tulsa Bible Church on Faith Promise Offering

F.-Giving Providentially (16:2)

1-Deliberate action
2-"Lay by him in store"
3-ready to have it available for meeting needs
4-ILLUS - Elizabeth Dundas — "You don't keep enough for yourself to live on" — ANS. "That depends upon what you're living for"

G.-Proportionate Giving (16:2)

1-"as God hath prospered him"
2-Not the O.T. standard of 10% plus required
3-Not a stated N.T. standard of "so much" of a percentage
4-But in proportion--to prosperity
--to love for christ
--to pressing needs of the world
5-WEISS--As we previously stated, we do not regard tithing

as a law of the N. T., but we believe that EVERY Christian ought to have a regular plan for systematic giving. If you feel honestly before God that He does not expect you to give MORE than one tenth of your income, then be very careful to give at least the tithe to Him. Do it systematically."

6-The Tithe is not the N.T. standard

7-Grace is the N.T. standard of giving--Christ for us
--Us for Christ

8-But the tithe is a good beginning place, for we know it pleased God in time past.

9-~~Our Church family~~
--~~Over 250 families, plus children, widows, etc.~~
--~~Minimum average monthly income of $400.00~~
--~~At that rate a monthly income of $100,000.00~~
--~~Tithe would be $10,000.00 per month from MEMBERS~~
--~~Plus attenders & visitors~~
--~~Works out we're giving 2-3% of our income as a Ch.~~
--~~Exceptions of course!.....Bless God for them!~~
--~~Something is seriously wrong~~
--~~Prayer.....Fasting.....Seriousness...Self-Denial~~
~~NEEDED NOW~~

OMIT

10-To Give is to--have joy; "hilarity"
--have treasures in heaven
--have blessings in life from God
--have the knowledge you're being obedient
--show our love for the Savior who gave all for us!

Conclusion: A.-Read RESPONSIVELY Mt. 6:19-24

TWO PRINCIPLES
① Don't store up riches on earth
② Don't serve money

B.-Where do YOU stand???
Tips
Tokens
Treasures
Serving GOD or Serving MAMMON

C.-Hillis--"As ambassadors, we do our banking in heaven. The Ambassador's manual says, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth & rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break thru & steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." For the ambassador who banks on earth, God has a solemn word------"THOU FOOL"-----Have we been playing the fool?

How much banking have we done down here in this foreign land?

How much banking have we done in the bank of heaven?

Where is your treasure????

Westbrae 7/26/64
10/13/68

Hymns: Give Me Jesus -344
Follow On -343
I Gave My Life For Thee -341

WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE 2 Cor. 10:1-18

Was JOYFUL on giving

Intro: A.-Historical Background (10:1-2):

1-Abrupt change in the tone of this letter at Ch. 10
2-Strong words used here
3-Paul's ministry had been brought into question
4-Accusation--"Strong in letter, but weak in presence"
5-Paul uses Ch. 10-13 as a VINDICATION of his ministry
6-"It is not WHO is right, but WHAT is right, that is of importance." Thomas Henry Huxley

B.-Application:

1-Vindication of PCR--not intended today, at all
--"Friends don't need it & any enemies won't believe it"--JEEvans
2-But rather...METHODS & RESULTS desirable for our living our lives in victory
3-Perhaps we can see the DIVINE METHOD — PROP:
--Using proper weapons
--Waging proper warfare
--Winning spiritual battles & campaigns

I.-WALK AND WARFARE (10:3):

A.-Walk In The Flesh:

1-True of all men
2-Bodily existence
3-All are mere men with all of man's infirmities & limitations
4-REGARDLESS of spiritual condition--saved or unsaved--all of us are "in the flesh"
5-Vehicle of life--weak though it be
--exposed to temptation though we be

B.-Not War After The Flesh:

1-"War"=="Serve as a soldier.
2-An accusation against the Holy Spirit to suggest that we are waring after the flesh — BLASHEMY as in unpardonable sin
3-Such an accusation infers carnality, fleshliness & unyieldedness (1 Cor. 3)
4-To expect divisions, idleness, & unfruitfulness is not the mark of a believer in fellowship
5-2 Pet. 1:8-9--"For if these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be idle nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, & cannot see afar off, & hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."
6-EXPLICITLY DENIES that he wars after the flesh
7-That would be life in the gutter, not in the Spirit
8-2 Cor. 4:7--"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God, & not of us"

C.-Level Of Life:

1-Our Walk & Talk--low.....Personalities
--better.....Events
--best.....Issues

2-Our Warfare--Against the Flesh; Reckon it dead, but don't try to fight it — FLEE!
--Against the World; FIGHT the good fight of faith
--Eph. 6:13--"Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, & having done all to stand."

II.-WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE (10:4):

A.-Not Carnal:

1-Not human & weak
2-Not fleshly in devising as human weapons
--of craft
--of wisdom
--of coniving
--of eloquence
--of influence
3-ILLUS---Gen. 11:3-4---Tower of Babel; Attempt to do without God.....Get to heaven without blood
.....Escape any future flood
— Avoid being scattered over earth as God had said

B.-But Mighty:

1-Might is not in weapons
2-Might is "THRU GOD"
3-ILLUS---2 Chron. 20:1-19 — Jehoshaphat's concern over alliance of Moab, Ammon, Edom + others — Prayed — ANS — 20:15:17
4-ILLUS---Josh. 5:13--6:27; Joshua under Captain Jesus takes Jericho with God's method —
5-Result.....effective in pulling down strongholds== "bastions unable to be taken by human power

C.-What Are Our Weapons?:

1-Attitudes--2 Cor. 6:6-7; 7:1
--1 Thess. 5:8--"But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith & love; & for an helmet, the hope of salvation"
--Pure, longsuffering, kind, loving, sober, hope
--[redacted] the Fruit of the Spirit in us
--Gal. 5:22-23--"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

Can't serve God with attitudes that reek of the flesh + originate w/ the Devil.

2-The Word--Principles therein
--God can't bless worldliness or selfishness
--"by the Word of truth" we are cleansed & made usable for fighting the good fight of faith
--Heb. 4:12--"For the Word of God is quick & powerful & sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul & spirit, & of the joints & marrow, & is a discerner of the thoughts & intents of the heart"

3-Prayer--Power.....the Power of GOD is thus brought in
--Not "worked up", but "called down"
--This service is open to all who will work at it

--The highest & the lowest can both pray
--The richest & the poorest can both pray
--The oldest & the youngest can both pray
--The healthiest & the sickest can both pray

4-Work--Obedience & Action are weapons of work
--Put legs to our preparation
--Brings us into the conflict
--Each & every Christian with a ministry divinely appointed
--None so weak as to be unable
--None so strong as to be beyond it
--Exercise for the spiritual life
--Obedience to God gives victory.....HIS VICTORY
--ILLUS--Josh. 10:9-10--Victory over the alliance of Kings at Gibeon by Joshua

III.-VICTORY BY THE SPIRIT (10:5-18):

A.-The "HOW" Of Victory (10:5-6):

1-Area of this fight is the mind
2-Rom. 12:2---"...the renewing of your mind"
3-Military figure of speech of 10:3-4 is fulblown to show TOTAL VICTORY
4-To attain this total victory requires:
--A MENTAL DECISION
--A PURPOSEFUL FOLLOW-THRU
--Recognition that the power is by the Spirit--Zech. 4:6
--All I can do is to decide & depend upon Him
5-Garrisons torn down (EVERY ONE)....NEGATIVE SIDE of Spirituality
--reasonings & imaginings torn down
--opinions or convictions of those who set themselves & the deductions of their own reason against the Truth of God must be torn down
--every high & exalting thing torn down
--In other words, there must be a breaking & a destruction of all that is "man made" before there can be a building that is "of God"

Watch out for "convictions" that are not BIBLE-BASED

ILLUS
Josh. 5:13-6:27

6-Captivity of thoughts (EVERY ONE)...POSITIVE SIDE of Spirituality
--conquering the thoughtlife for Jesus Christ
--realizing that ALL areas of life are SACRED
--realizing that there is no compartment in a believer for SECULAR ideas that are not governed by the Spirit
--conquering & then setting a watch to KEEP CONQUERED
--Need to "crown Christ King" in perpetuity in this realm of the mind.
--ILLUS------Josh. 10:24-25

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus
Phil. 2:5

7-Readiness to avenge------(ALL DISOBEDIENCE)
--"at the ready"; all set
--"avenge"===cut off & stop
--Disobedience
..any thought that is sin
..any action that is sin
--ONLY revenge a believer is ever to have

--Rom. 12:19--"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord'".

B.-Action---PROOF OF VICTORY (10:7-18)

1-Attitudes--10:7
- --Asks if they are judging only by appearance or also by relationship & motive
- --gossip will be changed....& STOPPED...when we remember that the "Brother" or "Sister" about whom we speak belongs to Christ as much as we do
- --victory in attitude is seen when the externalities are left & the issues are taken up

Jn. 7:24 - "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment."

2-Building up & not tearing down--10:8

Leave TEARING DOWN to the Devil & his demons

3-True measurements--10:9-12
- --not by appearances
- --not by presence
- --not by counting noses
- --but by an authoritative standard
- --Eph. 4:13--"Til we all come in the unity of the faith, & of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."
- --NOT..."I think", but "God says"
- --ILLUS--*****How about us? Nothing is sillier than peeking into a mirror & using ourselves as our standard---"measuring ourselves by ourselves". Perhaps we can become like the teenager who told her pastor how much she admired her face in the mirror. She said, "I suppose I've sinned, because I'm so glad I'm beautiful."

ILLUS - 1 Sam. 16:7

The Pastor, laughing to himself said, "That's no sin, that's a MISTAKE".....Our measure is not to be PERSONAL, but BIBLICAL. How do we look to God is the true issue!

4-Work within the limits of God's call--10:13-14
- --Paul; Apostle to the Gentiles
- --Peter; Apostle to the Jews
- --Christians today; in terms of their spiritual gift
- --Pastor; where effective
- --ALL;.....TOGETHTHER

NB →

5-Reach OUT--10:15-16
- --Never remain stagnant
- --Never be satisfied
- --Pioneering, not proselyting

Measure by how many are still OUTSIDE!

6-Glory==Boast--10:17
- --"Boast" is used 30 times in 2 Cor.
- --Boast is always in Christ, not in self

7-Commendations--10:18
- --not of our own selves
- --GOD has used you; let HIM get the glory
- --ILLUS--A little boy trotted up to his mother & bragged that he was NINE FEET TALL. His mother scoffed. "But I am, Mommy. I measured", he insisted, as he held out a shoe; his own. "I'm as tall as 9 of them," he said. "NINE FEET TALL"

Look for HIS commendation →

**Look for HIS commendation; not our own
--Everything should be relegated to His judgment & evaluation.
-1 Cor. 4:3-5

CONCLUSION:

A.-Principles: = "Serve as Soldiers"
1-Walk in the flesh----our bodies
2-War not after the flesh---but the Spirit
3-Weapons----not carnal
---but mighty thru God

B.-Those Weapons:
1-Attitudes
2-The Word
3-Prayer life
4-Action
Four of them
5-We're not to neglect any of these
6-Read Eph. 6:10-20
7-ALL is within our reach to take, have & use

C.-Victory:
1-How?????--Victory is a decision of the mind
--Victory is in a follow-thru of dependence upon the Holy Spirit
2-Victory will work out into all of life's spheres
3-The secret of spiritual power, or the work of spiritual power, is that of casting down reasonings exalting themselves against the knowledge of God, & bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ
4-Here this is what Paul was doing as to himself "
5-He is bringing everything to submit to the Lordship of his LORD.
6 — Are you?

3/9/69 - Westbrae

Hymns:
(1) A Mighty Fortress Is Our God - 166
(2) Lead On, O King Eternal ——— 165
Soldiers Of Christ Arise
(1) Sound The Battle Cry — 178
(2) Victory Through Grace — 185

OUR WARFARE 2 Cor. 10:4

~~THE ENEMY~~

Intro: To effectively combat anything one must know what ~~one~~ is combatting and how the opponent works.

That ours is truly a combat is revealed in Ep. 6:12, "for we wrestle not against flesh + blood, but against principalities, against powers..."

I AGAINST WHOM DO WE BATTLE?

A.- Satan

1.- Author of sin - Rom 5:12, Ez. 28:12-19, Isa. 14:12-23

2.- Satan's Philosophy - Deny Word, Judgment, Sovereignty + Person of God. Ge. 3, MT 4, LK 4

3.- God of this world 2 Cor. 4:4, Ep. 2:2

4.- Accuser of Brethren - Rev. 12:10 Job 1

5.- Devourer - I Pet 5:8

B.- World

1.- Cosmos - corrupted at fall became Chaos

2.- dominated + energized by Satan Ep. 2:1-3

3.- antagonistic to the Lord Jn 15:18

4.- antagonistic to the Believer Jn 17:14

5.- Not in line with God's ways - Jn 17:9 Jn. 15:19

C.- Flesh

1.- incurably evil in God's sight (morally) Rom. 7:18, Je. 17:9

2.- source of all evil Gal 5:17, 19-21

3.- whatsoever is not of faith is sin - Rom. 14:23 Faith can go nowhere w/o God

II WHAT IS OUR ARMOR? Ep. 6:13

Organs
A.- Loin-girder — truth Ep. 6:14
Heart
B.- Breastplate — righteousness Ep. 6:14
Feet
C.- Shoes — gospel of peace Ep 6:15
Defence
D.- Shield — faith Ep 6:16
Mind
E.- Helmet — salvation Ep. 6:17
Comfort + Offence
F.- Sword of Spirit — The Word Ep. 6:17
Power
G.- Prayer — for power — Ep 6:18
H.- Put on the whole armor of God that ye may stand against the wiles of the devil. Familiarity & training in time of ease prepares for Battle

III ~~How~~ DO WE GAIN THE VICTORY?
(Faith is the Victory that overcomes the World)

A.- Victory over Satan:
1.- Submit to God + Resist the Devil. Jas 4:7 & 10.
2.- Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. I Jn. 4:4
3.- Kept by God from evil. Jn 17:15

B.- Victory over World:
1.- faith in Christ - I Jn. 5:4-5

C.- Victory over the Flesh.
1.- power of Christ in us - Jn 17:2

"Fight the good fight of faith"

This armor is for battle, for,
"It is awkward wear for an easy-chair"

"Heaven's Joys" 2 Cor. 12:1-6 d17

Intro.--A.-A Christian slave woman who had had a hard life had this written on her tomb:

"Don't mourn for me now,
Don't mourn for me never
I'm gonna do nothin'
For ever and ever"

B.-That was her idea of heaven--be away from a life of work

C.-Scripture gives a more full description, but 1/10th has not yet been told.

D.-ILLUS--A man whose youth & early manhood had been spent in evil ways, & who was converted to God, was one night giving his testimony. He had met an old drinking pal during the week who chaffed him for turning pious. "I'll tell you what," I said to him, "you know what I am"--for he was a lamplighter--"When I goes round turning out the lights, I looks back & all the road over which I've been walking is all darkness; and that is the way my past life is. I look on in front & ther's a long row of lights twinkling to guide me, and that is what the future is since I found Jesus." "Yes," said my friend, "but by and by you get to the last light & turn it out, and where are you then?" "Then says I, "why, when the last lamp goes out its dawn, and there ain't no need for lamps when the morning comes. So it will be in HEAVEN.

I.-KNOWLEDGE--1 Cor. 13:12 "... now I know in part; but then I shall know even as also I am known."

A.-Face to face.

B.-Full & not partial. ILLUS.--A little boy was born blind. At last an operation was performed; the light was let in slowly. Then one day his mother led him out of doors and uncovered his eyes, and for the first time he saw the sky and theearth. "Mother," he cried, "why did you not tell me it was so beautiful?"" She burst into tears as she said, "I tried to tell you, dear, but you could not understand me." So it is when we think of what it will be in God's own presence. It will be as if this earthly blindness has been lifted.

C.-We will know as we are known then.

D.-We will have time to enjoy God and our blessings-Rev.10:5-6.

II.-WORSHIP--Rev. 5:13 "That at the name of Jesus every Knee should bow; of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth."

A.-Heartfelt adoration

1-by every creature---Phs 2:10

2-The Lamb--The lamb is all the glory of Emmanuel's land.

B.-Praise & Honor to Him--Rev. 5:11-13

C.-Casting our crowns at His feet.

III.-REST--Rev. 14:13 - Contra - 14:11

A.-Trials of earth are over

B.-No more curse on self or on surroundings.

C.-Rest will be the portion of those who die in Christ--not having received their promises on earth, but in heaven.

D.-Labors are over--Labor is when it is WORK.

E.-ILLUS.--Bhagudbai Tode is the barefooted pastor of a barefooted congregation in Manubain His subject was "Heaven" and he was trying to make his people appreciate the prospect of a home in such a blissful land. Knowing, as he did, the many unpleasant things in the lot of his humble people, he majored on the things which are not in heaven. At the climax, he said, "And there will be no thorns up there." Instinctively the people glanced down at their unprotected feet which had known so many cruel wounds, and then they turned back to the preacher with a better interest than ever before. They heard heaven mentioned in terms they could understand & appreciate. We all have things which are "THORNS" to us here. Not there!

"And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it: and his servants shall serve Him." but PRAISE

IV.-SERVICE--Rev. 22:3

A.-A new type of service--no longer evangelism,

B.-No impediments to service

C.-Not a place of inertia, but activity:

1-Not--"just gonna roll around heaven all day"

2-Not--just riding a cloud & strummin' a harp.

D.-Real Service to God.

V.-SONG--Rev. 5:9

A.-"Let the redeemed of the Lord say so."

1-Exodus 15:1-21

2-Rev. 5:9

3-Ps. 40:1-4

B.-The LAMB will be the Theme.

1-Who He is

2-What He has done

3-Redemption by His BLOOD

C.-ILLUS--There was a Wesleyan preacher in England, Peter Mackenzie, full of native humor, a most godly man. He was once preaching from the text: "And they sang a new song,"and he said, "Yes, there will be singing in heaven, and when I get there I want to have David with his harp, and Paul, and Peter, and the other saints gather around for a sing. And I will announce a hymn from the Wesleyan hummal: let us sing hymn no. 749--"My God, my Father, While I stray..." But someone will say, "That won't do! You are in Heaven, Peter; there's no straying here." "And I will say, Yes, that's so, Let us turn to No. 651.--"Though waves & storms go o'er my head, Though friends be gone & hopes be dead--" But another saint will interrupt, "Peter, you forget you are in Heaven now; there are no stoms her." Well, I will try again --No 536.--"Into a world of ruffians sent--"---"Peter, Peter" someone will say, "We will put you out of the leader's spot unless you stop giving out inappropriate hyms." "I will ask, What can we sing? And they will say: Sing the song of Moses, Sing the song of the Lamb." Rev. 15; 3

VI.-GLORY --2 Cor. 4:17 "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

A.-In relation to suffering in this life

1-earth is the "front porch" of eternity

2-Rom. 8:17--suffer...glorified

3 Col. 3:4 "ye also appear with him in glory."

B.-ILLUS--A little girl was walking with her father one night under the starry sky. Looking up, she said, "Father, I have been thinking that if the wrong side of Heaven is so beautiful, what will the right side be?"

VII.-LIFE---Jn. 10:28; Rev. 22:2 And I give unto them eternal life; & they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." Tree of life

A.-The issue of a decision on earth

1-obtained by faith in Christ

2-Because of redemption from sin on the Cross

3-this life is eternal in nature

4-this life will be enjoyable because it will be in his Presence.

5-this life is sustained by God--Rev. 22:1

And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal proceeding out of the throne of God & of the Lamb

VIII.-ALL THINGS NEW--Isa. 65:17; Rev. 21:5 "...Behold I make all things new."

A.-Not renovation, but Re-Creation

1-By God's omnipotence

2-New heavens & new earth--Purged of all trace of sin

B.-ILLUS--Take eternity to see & enjoy God's creation and our God HIMSELF. Can't see Rome in a month nor heaven in any limit of time.

CONCL.- The inevitable alternative.

GOD-SENT THORNS 2 Cor. 12:1-21

INTRO:

A.-Paul's Disclosure:

1-Deep souls (& Paul's indeed, was one) do not lightly open up their secrets

2-Shallow souls do "tell all"

3-Let us not take up this treasure lightly. It is a sacred thing, not only in itself, but because of our getting it thru this personal disclosure & confession from Paul

4-Doubtless it was with great effort that Paul told
--Of the fact of his "rapture" vision
--Of the fact of his "thorn" in the flesh

5-Paul's spiritual privileges
--Sublime revelations
--Humbling infirmities
--MOULE--"The rapture to paradise, the unspeakable words, the messenger of Satan, the colloquy with Christ, are no more abnormal & no less credible than the light & voice from heaven outsid Damascus. To Paul they were absolute facts; & they may be abundantly so to us, too..." (114)

6-Order of revelations & infirmities
--Sometimes as with Paul (Revelation & then infirm.
--Sometimes infirmities lead to a close walk
**Martha Snell Nickolson
**Fanny Crosby
**Mother Mac in Sou. Calif.
**Ps. 119:67, 71-72--"Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word...It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes. The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold & silver."

B.-Paul's Discomfort:

1-Various views of what the "thorn" was
--Sensual temptations (R.C.)
--Temptation to unbelief (Luther)
} Couldn't "glory" in either of these
--Migrane headaches (Jerome)--Probably only a symptom, not the thorn itself
--Malaria in periodic attacks
--Epileptic fits
--Messenger of Satan as an unseen invisible emmissary of the Devil; A Demon
--Eye trouble--Gal. 4:15; 6:11; Acts 23:2-5

2-Not a "minor" affliction

3-Literally a STAKE in the flesh

4-Enough that it was, to a very strong man, a tremendous trial; a something which for the time darkened his whole spiritual sky; a conflict which brought him face to face with the powers of hell.

C.-Paul's Disposition:

1-The Messenger of Satan

2-The Message From God

3-The "Most Gladly" Of Paul.

I.-THE MESSENGER OF SATAN:

A.-Varieties Of Such 'Messengers':

1-Their Source--Satan himself as mastermind
--Demonic power as engergy
--Devices to distract from God
--2 Cor. 2:11--"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his divises"

2-Their Scope

--BLINDNESS**to the unsaved
**2 Cor. 4:3-4
**To keep out knowledge of the gospel
**To hide Christ from "dawning" upon sin-benighted men

--BEGUILING**To the weak & unstable
**2 Cor. 11:3-4
**Subtilty & corrupting
**Removal from the simplicity of the Gospel
**Spiritual discernment impaired

--BUFFETING**To The mature & strong
**Only to such can God entrust such opposition
**2 Cor. 12:7
**Repeated batterings that grind us down to press out the fragrance of Christ from our bruised bodies & feelings
**ILLUS ---Job 1 & 2
**ILLUS---The pearl oyster sometimes receives into its tiny shell a sharp & irritating grain of sand. The most natural thing would be to throw it out. But this would only rasp & irritate the sensitive flesh, and produce pain, disease, & death.

Instead of this, it throws out an exquisite crystalline fluid with which it covers & smothers the rude obstruction, & makes it free from all friction & annoyance, until gradually the rough grain of sand turns into a beautiful pearl.

Be careful what you do with that thorn that was given you, or you may miss the most precious experience of your life.

The Lord Jesus can meet the most trying circumstances of your life with His love, & grace, & comfort.

B.-Viewpoint Of Such "Messengers":

1-Here we see again, as in many other places in the Bible, the working together of what appears to be entirely evil AND the purposes of God
--Physical ailment from Satan
--Permitted by God

2-Reason Given--Twice stated
--"Lest I should be exalted above measure"
--NOT due to sin in Paul's life
--Job. 23:10-12
--But because of spiritual privilege

3-Lessons for our comfort
--Specific ailment is not mentioned in order that all the suffering saints might find consolation, regardless of the nature of their ills.

--Even the great Apostle Paul could be tempted to pride
--Purpose of God is being worked out
**perhaps unseen
**perhaps not understood at that time
**As in Acts 2:23--"Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel & foreknowledge of God, ye have taken & by wicked hands have crucified & slain
**So in Phs. 1:29--"For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake."
**Paul's thorn somehow came from Satan, but was permitted by God & used in His training of Paul

C.-Verification Of Such 'Messengers':
1-Paul did the right thing about his thorn; HE TOOK IT TO THE LORD
2-12:8--How good to pray about problems
--Much more satisfying than to "grumble"
--Cried out for release
--Repeated entreaty, yet without regret of feeling that he had to endure in silence
--"Learn to suffer without crying out" is a noble precept as regards "cries" to man, which are often best foreborne
--But such a maxim has no bearing on cries to God
--TOO ready, TOO outspoken, TOO confiding we cannot be in "telling Jesus all of our sorrows"
--Such crying out will not weaken us, but strengthen us
--It is taking a refuge in the ROCK
--By leaning hard upon HIM, we become like Him; Living stones
3-Parallel--Christ in Getsemane cried out thrice for deliverance
--Paul in pain from a "thorn" cried out thrice also
--God the Father did not see fit to remove for either
--God the Father rather gave a wonderful word of encouragement, as we'll see in a moment
--ILLUS--Paul's thorn was something like the ballast in a sailing yacht, which keeps the boat from capsizing & makes it possible to steer. If a novice lifted up the floor boards of a yacht & saw cinder blocks or pieces of iron down along the keel, he might think it would be a good thing to throw them overboard. BUT if he did, he would soon find that when he hoisted the sail he couldn't manage the boat
--ILLUS---And when a professional diver goes underwater in a diving suit, it is very important for him to have heavy weights on his feet, so he can stand upright.
4-William Cowper's poem, entitled "WELCOME CROSS" puts it this way

"Trials make the promise sweet,
Trials give new life to prayer;
Trials bring me to His feet,
Lay me low, and keep me there.

"Did I meet no trials here,
No chastisement by the way:
Might I not, with reason, fear
I should prove a cast-away?

(OVER)

"Bastards may escape the rod,
Sunk in earthly vain delight;
But the true-born child of God
Must not, would not, if he might."

5-ILLUS--John Bunyan could never have written such great works as "Pilgrim's Progress," "Grace Abounding," & "The Holy War" unless he had gone thru many trials. At one time some of his friends wanted to have him ordained, but others opposed it. Then his friend John Burton spoke in his favor & said: "This man hath been chosen not out an earthly but out of an heavenly university, where he hath by grace taken these three degrees, to wit, UNION WITH CHRIST, THE ANOINTING OF THE SPIRIT, AND EXPERIENCE OF THE TEMPTATIONS OF CHRIST.

6-So.....in the words of Job--"Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him."

II.-THE MESSAGE FROM GOD:

A.-The Message:

1-2 Cor. 12:9

2-Answer to Paul's 3-times praying

3-"And He said unto me"--Word of God
--Authority of God
--That settles it
--His Word is ENOUGH
--Totally satisfied now

4-In this sense the Thorn is beneath Paul's feet, overcome!
--Transformed
--From an occasion of "falling"
--To an occasion of "mounting up with wings"
--Because "he takes pleasure in distress that the power of Christ may rest upon him"

B.-The Meaning:

1-"MY"--used twice
--the grace & strength are not Paul's, but God's
--Gives the lie to SELF-SUFFICIENCY on the one hand
--Gives the lie to NO-SUFFICIENCY on the other hand
--ALL our hope & righteousness is because of "Jesus' Holy Name" & we dare not trust the sweetest frame of any other!

2-"IS"--Also used twice in 12:9
--Sufficiency is not historical
--Sufficiency is available for us at any & every moment
--It is an everlasting PRESENT TENSE ! ! !
--ILLUS--It is like the path of light that streams from the moon across the water to a ship at sea. As we steam along in a ship, the moonlight seems always to be in the same place
--POEM--"God is faithful--
Not He has been, not He will be--
Both are true;
But today in this sore trial
God is faithful, now, to you."

3-"SUFFICIENT"--"To an ocean fullness"
--Both "THERE", and also "HERE"
--Up to meeting any demands
--Up to solving any problem
--The grace & strength of God are ours!
--ILLUS--One evening, said Spurgeon, I was riding home after a heavy day's work, weary & sore depressed, when suddenly as a flash of lightning came the verse, MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR THEE, and I said; I SHOULD THINK IT IS, LORD, and he burst out laughing. It seemed to make unbelief so absurd. It was like a little mouse in the granaries of Egypt after 7 years of plenty fearing that it might die of starvation, & Joseph might say, "CHEER UP, LITTLE MOUSE, MY GRANARIES ARE SUFFICIENT FOR THEE."
--ILLUS--Rowland Hill used to tell a good story of a rich man & a poor man in his congregation. The rich man desired to do an act of benevolence, & so he sent a sum of money to a friend to be given to this poor man as he thought best. The friend just sent him 5 POUNDS with this note attached:
"THIS IS THINE. USE IT WISELY. THERE IS MORE TO FOLLOW"
After a while he sent another 5 Pounds, & said, "more to follow"
Again & again he sent the money to the poor man, always with the cheering words, "MORE TO FOLLOW"....
.....
....So it is with the wonderful grace of God....There is always "MORE TO FOLLOW"

4-"FOR THEE"--Best of all the thoughts on 12:9
--Grace & strength are "FOR THEE"
--Not just for the giants, but for the pigmies
--No need to be a GOLIATH, when by God's grace & strength you can be a DAVID !

5-"MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS"
--Not what we do
--But what we allow God to do for us
--Recognize our own inability
--As a drowning man who can only CLING to a life preserver
--As a man with a dislocated arm bone, who dares not fight the Doctor, but relax while he re-sets it for him

III.-THE "MOST GLADLY" OF PAUL:

A.-Reaction To God's Message:

1-"Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities that the power of Christ may rest upon me
2-Sees the Thorn from God's Point of view as a means of God's GRACE & STRENGTH being his
3-NOTE--Paul didn't say 'I will glorify my infirmities'
--Paul didn't say 'I will magnify my infirmities'
--Paul didn't say 'I will groan over my infirmities'
--But "GLORY IN my infirmities"
--Doesn't brag about 'his operation', nor display 'his scars', nor parade his 'pickled appendix'
--Most Christians are satisfied in trying to be resigned under suffering. They think it a great thing if they can bring themselves to submit to be the dwelling-place of Christ's power. TO REJOICE in their afflictions because Christ is thereby glorified,

is more than they aspire to." HODGE (287)

4-Not so with Paul!--12:9b
--"Rest"=="pitch his tent"
--As with the Pillar of God's glory over the Tabernacle, so Paul desired the Power of God to engulf him!

B.-Rededication After God's Message:

1-2 Cor. 12:10

2-New attitude--"I TAKE PLEASURE"
--By an act of the will
--By the decision of the heart
--In response to seeing God's hand at work

3-"In infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses"---FIVE kinds of life's problems
--"Infirmities"==weaknesses"
--"in reproaches"=="complaints & criticisms"
--"in necessities"=="in daily, everyday responsibilities"
--"in persecutions"
--"in distresses"=="in straits & pressures"
--any others?
--4:8-9----4 more
--6:4-10--28 more
--11:24-33---28 more.....TOTAL....60
--60 KINDS of problems summarized in 12:10
--Question--Which is a "singing brook?"
The one with the stones in it that break up the even, quiet, peaceful flow!

4-Motivation---"FOR CHRIST'S SAKE"

5-Reasoning---"For when I am weak, THEN I am strong (powerfully)"

6-What the Lord Jesus wanted for Himself, He wants for you and me who are His disciples.....Not SELF-COMPLETENESS,
But DEPENDANCE

CONCLUSION:

A.-The "Case":

1-The Messengers Of Satan--Blindness
--Beguilement
--Buffeting by a Thorn

2-The Message From God--Sufficiency
--12:9

3-The "Most Gladly" of Paul
--Glory in infirmities---REACTION
--I Take Pleasure--------REDEDICATION

B.-The"Clincher":

1-Story--I once heard of a man who lived in a provincial town & whose love of music was nourished by phonograph records, the best of which he played over & over again to himself. One day he invited another music lover to spend an evening with him, & during the evening he made a little experiement with his friend. 'I am going to play the same record twice,' he said. 'Listen carefully & tell me which rendering you prefer.'

As the music died away his friend said quite positively: 'I preferred the second rendering. It was purer, sweeter. What was

the difference?'

'Just this,' said his host, 'The first time I played the record with a NEEDLE, and the second time with A THORN.

2-Your life can have new dimensions of joy; of grace; of strength; of pleasure; of usefulness.....
.....
.....
....."With a thorn".

Hymns: A Mighty Fortress
I've Found Real Joy
He Is So Precious To Me

Special:- No One Ever Cared For Me

1/24/65 - Westbrae

"KEY-'73----AN ESCAPADE IN ECUMENISM"

INTRO:

1

A.-Preparatory Message:

1-Last week----"IS CONTROVERSY CHRISTIAN?"

I.-The NEED for Controversy:

II.-BIBLICAL EXAMPLES Of Controversy:

III.-Important HISTORICAL Controversies:

IV.-RULES For Controversy:

2-Saw that with controversy there is a clarifying of truth and a preservation of God's Church from error

3-Saw that when controversy is avoided:

--We prove our own cowardice

--The cause of Christ suffers

4-We may not win every battle, but not to fight for the truth is unthinkable

5-Churchill: "Still, if you will not fight for the right when you can easily win without bloodshed; if you will not fight when your victory will be sure and not too cost ly; you may come to the moment when you will have to figh with all the odds against you and only a precarious chanc for survival. There may be even a worse case. You may have to fight when there is no hope of victory, because it is better to perish than to live as slaves."

B.-Rules For Controversy: (See Overhead under Gal.1:6-9 mess- age)

1-Let us be persons of integrity & principle

2-Fight for truth----in a manner worthy of the truth!!

3-RULE # 1--Controversialist must HAVE THE FACTS:

--Polemics ought never to be based on half-truths, rumors or opinions

--Go to the documents; Use opponents own words

--State the case CLEARLY

4-RULE # 2--Controversialist must DEMONSTRATE CHRISTIAN LOVE:

--Proper spirit is imperative

--Lack of manners or abusiveness is out of place

--That doesn't mitigate our uncompromising opposit- ion to the wrong

--Just determines how we unmask the wrong

5-RULE # 3--Controversialist needs to PRESENT A CASE:

--Not an attack on a person or an institution

--But an argument which is both SCRIPTURAL & LOGICAL

--Principles are at stake; not personalities

6-RULE # 4--Controversialist needs to present his case & defend his cause IN GUARDED LANGUAGE:

--Not broad generalizations

--Not innuendos & implications

--But a closely reasoned case

--Not inflamatory language---but conservative

7-That puts quite a set of standards upon us, but with these self-imposed criteria of presentation, let's now look on at....

C.-"KEY-'73---AN ESCAPADE IN ECUMENISM:

2

1-Outline:
I.-The PREPARATION Behind Key-73:
II.-The PARTICIPANTS In Key-73:
III.-The PRESENTATION Of Key-73:
IV.-The PROTESTS Against Key-73:

2-Proposition: (1) To present the facts
(2) To let those facts speak for themselves
(3) Mutually encourage one another to take the actions warranted BY GOD'S WORD

I.-THE PREPARATION BEHIND KEY-'73:

A.-Historical Background:

1-Berlin Congress On Evangelism--1966

2-Article in CHRISTIANITY TODAY, June 9, 1967, written by then-Editor Dr. Carl Henry entitled: "SOMEHOW LET'S GET TOGETHER"
- --Not on the basis of Scripture
- --Not on the basis of God's truth
- --Just "TOGETHER", & put aside all differences

3-42 churchmen assembled at a Motel near the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Washington, D.C., Sept. 28-30, 1967, at the expense of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Assn.

4-The men assembled agreed that:
"the only effort in which Christians would possibly consider working together would be in the field of evangelism."

5-Other developments
- --Minneapolis Congress on Ev.; 1969
- --Explo 72 in Dallas sponsored by C.C.
  - ** Mixed bag of speakers
  - ** Participation in leadership & organization by cults & R.C.'s
  - ** Worldly & unsaved musicians (Kris Christopherson)
  - ** "Christian Rock" music for a CHRISTIAN WOODSTOCK
  - ** Utter confusion by equal endorsement of believers & deniers
- --Key-'73: **1971; Yr. of Preparation
  **1972; Yr. of Presentation
  **1973; Yr. of Penetration
- --1974 World Congress On Evangelism among ALL RELIGIOUS GROUPS

B.-Personnel In Leadership:

1-Executive Committee lists men from:
- --Presbyterian Church
- --American Baptist Convention
- --Christian Churches of Christ
- --Campus Crusade for Christ
- --Southern Baptist Convention
- --Brethren in Christ
- --United Methodist
- --Anglican Canada
- --Ch. of the Nazarene
- --Christian Meth. Episc.
- --Billy Graham Ev. Assn.
- --Christian Reform Ch.
- --Salvation Army
- --Assemblies of God
- --Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod

2-These form the POLICY MAKING COMMITTEE