"STIR UP YOUR GIFT" 2 Tim. 1:1-18, esp. 1:6-7
1 Tim. 4:14

INTRO: A.-Thoughtful Bridegroom:
1-Flowers for the bride-----sign of joy
2-Ring for the bride--------sign of relationship
3-GIFT for the bride--------sign of LOVE
4-So also when we became related by faith to Christ as Savior
--Figure of Bride & Bridegroom used
--Flowers of joy & peace over sins forgiven
--Ring of the Spirit's seal that we belong to Christ
--Gifts of the Spirit to enable us to please HIM Who loves us

B.-Thoughtful Bride:
1-Wears the flowers
2-Displays the ring
3-Cherishes the gift
4-SEEKS TO PLEASE her husband

C.-Thoughtless Bride:
1-Forgets the smell of flowers
(Shame on the husband who doesn't remind her)
2-No longer with her ring
3-Discards or neglects the gifts of her lover and husband
4-FOR SHAME ! !
5-All this to remind you of the VALUE OF YOUR GIFTS
- Given to you by the BRIDEGROOM as an evidence of LOVE
6-Proposition: To remind ourselves of the context of the subject of Spiritual Gifts and then to see the two Scriptural warnings to Believers about their gifts, so that no one of us fails to find & fulfill the will of God in our service.

I.-RESUME' OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS TEACHING:

A.-WHO Has Spiritual Gifts?
1-Every believer is endowed,
--1 Cor. 12:7, 11, 18
--1 Pet. 4:10--"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."
2-Endowment comes at New Birth
3-DEF.-Term "GIFT" occurs 14 times in Paul's usage & once in Peter's & "always means an endowment or gift of grace, bestowed by the Spirit for some special ministration or official service." PATRICK FAIRBAIRN, (P. 188, Pastoral Epistles)

B.-WHAT Are Spiritual Gifts?: — NOW OPERATIVE
1-Evangelist
2-Pastor-Teacher
3-Ministering or Serving

RULES FOR DISCERNING SPIRITUAL GIFTS:

A.-Rule # 1-The Authoritative Standard:
1-READ the Word & DESIRE in prayer to know what God has for you as your gift or gifts
--Pore over Rom.12; 1 Cor. 12, 13, 14; Eph. 4; & 1 Pet. 4:10
--Ps. 37:4--"Delight thyself also in the LORD, and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart."

B.-Rule # 2-The Inner Witness:
1-The Holy Spirit bearing witness with your spirit that you possess certain gifts
2-Always within the Biblical limits
3-Scriptures--1 Cor. 2:12--"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."
--Rom. 8:16--"The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God."

C.-Rule #3-The Outer Witness:
1-Others will see and recognize these gifts in you
--Pastor
--S.S. Supt. or C.E. Minister
--Nominating Committee
--Elders Board
--Why not quit saying: "NO", when you are given an opportunity to be useful, and ENTER INTO GOD's BLESSING FOR YOU-----
--------and to others also
2-Examples of this--Harold & Juline Casper
--Mike Moore
--Denny Threeton
--Jerrel Dean Chaddock Thompson

D.-Rule # 4-The Heavenly Witness:
1-Blessing accrues as you minister in your gift:
--Blessing to you & to others
--Blessing that has ETERNAL VALUES
2-Fruit accrues which follows your ministering
--FRUIT that REMAINS
--Jn. 15:16--"Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain..."
3-Do you still not know? --GOD SAYS that you have gifts !
--Henry Ford:-"Whatever you have you must either USE or LOSE"
4-Seriously consider these WARNINGS:

--Neglect of their gifts for service is a key to the low power level of many Christians today

B.-The Motive: (For Not Neglecting One's Gift)

1-Because that is your sphere of BEST SERVICE
2-Because if you don't do the tasks committed to you, no one else can do them
3-If you fail to make full proof of your ministry, you will miss the blessing
4-Because Gifts have been given for PROFIT & for USE
5-Because you'll be held accountable
--2 Cor. 5:10--"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

C.-The Ministry:

1-Ordination of Timothy
--Hands of Elders (Presbytery)--1 Tim. 4:14
--Hands of Paul----------2 Tim. 1:16
--Spiritually, at the hands of Christ
2-How could HE.....or WE.....neglect?
3-A certain man wrote:
"I seek not to survive in brass or stone,
But may I leave behind
Some blessing for my fellows, some fair trust,
To guide, to cheer, to elevate my kind
When I am in the dust"
4-And HOW was his prayer answered? He left behind the hymns-----"Abide With Me"
--"Praise, My Soul, The King Of Heaven"
--"Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken"
--"Pleasant Are Thy Courts Above"
--and many others
--His name was H. F. Lyte, a clergyman who died of T. B. while still quite young.
--Our gifts may be incomparably smaller, but such as they are, if offered to the Lord, will "leave behind some blessing when we are in the dust"
5-ILLUS---Ezra 7:10--"For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and judgments in Israel"
6-May God enable us to STOP NEGLECTING our gifts

III.-STIR UP THE GIFT OF GOD WHICH IS IN THEE (2 Tim. 1:6-7):

A.-The Appeal --(1:6):

1-Gift is--"in thee"
--Given at new birth
--Confirmed at ordination
2-Remembrance is called to this FACT
3-"Stir up"--Root means "FIRE"
--Prefix means "UP"
--Suffix means "TO LIFE"
=="Stir up the fire to life"; "Kindle afresh"

--ILLUS---Gen. 45:26-28 "revived"
--Fire has been concealed by the ashes which make one appear to look as dead & useless as the unsaved.
--Don't allow your gifts to slumber
--Stir them up; let the fire BLAZE UP
--Have you "COOLED DOWN" ?
--Are your spiritual gifts not being fully utilized ?
--If the "fire"of your love for Jesus Christ is not burning more brightly today than it did yesterday --or any other day--then you have BACKSLIDDEN by just that much
--This figure of speech is saying: "GET HOT for God"

4-Ground of this appeal to "Stir up"
--FAITH Timothy has shown before------1:5
--GIFTS he has received----------1:6
--Therefore not to become lax or careless

B.-The Apathy (1:7):

1-"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear"
=="of cowardice"; "of timidity"
--No need to be reticent
--No need to fear the tasks ahead of you
--No need to be timid before people
--Put away APATHY

2-"But of power"==--Power of the Spirit
---Power over sin
---Power out of bondage (Rom. 8:15)

3-"And of love"--Love for God
--Love for brethren
--Love for the lost
--Rom. 5:5--"And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit..."

4-"And Of a sound mind"--not in fantastic experiences
--not in emotional frenzies
--But in a healthy, disciplined mental attitude
--Lk. 12:29-31

5-Timothy's usefulness--Not endangered by doubt of his salvation
--Peril lies in timidity, self-consciousness and fear
--Timidity is showing
--Gift given at new birth & confirmed at ordination
--Needs to be stirred up to overcome apathy

C.-The Advice:

1-Be not ashamed of Christ--1:8, 12
2-Be not asleep to opportunity
3-Be not adrift without involvement
4-ILLUS---Luke 5:4--"...He said to Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught."
5-Won't you--LAUNCH OUT ?
--Stop Neglecting ?
--Stir up your gift ??

CONCLUSION:

A.-The Problem With SOME Believers:
1-Many are lacksadasical
--about service
--about their gifts
--about any ministry
--rather go their own wilful way
--"Couldn't care less" attitude
2-What's the cure?
3-Few seem to know.....or to care! !

B.-The Answer For ALL Believers:
1-More worshippers are needed
2-Because service grows out of worship
3-Mark 3:13-15
4-Must join with Moses
--Ex. 3:5--"And God said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground."
--Realize we're dealing with a HOLY God
5-Must Join with early disciples
--Spiritual results of Pentecost were numerically large
--Why did they not drift away?
--Because of adherence to spiritual exercises
--Acts 2:41-45
--This is the KEY
--Active service grows out of constant fellowship & growth

C.-The Warning For TRUE Believers:
1-Neglect Not=="STOP Neglecting"
2-STIR UP
3-Paul's concern for himself
--1 Cor. 9:27--"But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means,when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway (disapproved)"
4-Paul's concern for other believers
--Gal. 5:7-9--"Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion cometh not of Him that calleth you. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.
5-ILLUS--Chuck Templeton--Evangelist used of God
--NCCC sent him to Princeton
--Lost his "first love"
--Preached a social gospel
--Wife left him
--Out of the ministry
--DISC JOCKEY today on a "rock & roll" station in the east
6-May God help us--To stop neglecting our gifts
--To stir up the flickering embers for His glory
--Solemn words of 1 Tim. 4:16--"Take heed

unto thyself, and unto the doctrine, continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."

---May we...

...each one...know the solemnity of these warnings so we

FIND

.....and...

...FULFILL

the will of God in our service.

—Col. 4:17

Israel, when confronted with the aggression of foes or engaging in an offensive warfare, allowed only those with undivided hearts to participate. The position in this historical situation, as all others, demanded full consecration of every energy. If a man's thoughts were centered upon his new house, his vineyard, or his newly betrothed wife, he was reckoned unfit for the struggle and accordingly disqualified. Israel's armies could only be recruited from the whole-hearted.

The perils of divided hearts are obvious. Those who would fight evil in the world, a fight to which all God's people are basically committed, must themselves be delivered from every distracting influence. All things must be subordinated to the main intent of fulfilling His will and carrying out His plans. This purpose must take precedence over every other concern, whether material or emotional. Only the man who counts all things but loss that he may engage in the conflict single-hearted, single-minded, and, if need be, single-handed, can serve worthily as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. Such a one is inevitably endued from on high with a courage which expels all fear, determination which surmounts all obstacles, and zeal which transcends all considerations of personal convenience or expediency.

The Church, a lost world, and the cause of missions cry out for such undivided souls.

Westbrae 3/20/66

3/5/72

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN THE CHURCH
WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT C.E.

2 Tim. 2:2
Acts 13:1-2

Intro: A.-History of Christian Education:

1-Jesus Christ--"Follow me" — Personal
--"two by two" — Small Groups
--"sit down by 50s & 100s" — Organized Multitudes

1A- O.T. Pattern
1-Home
2-Synagogue + Temple
3-TEACHERS were prominent

2-Apostles taught
--Acts 2:42
--Acts 15:35
--Acts 17:1-3; 11-12, 17
--Acts 18:11
--2 Tim. 2:2

"Teacher"
** Jesus called Himself "Teacher" 5 times
** Others called Him "Teacher" 31 times
** "Taught with authority"

3-Apologists of 2nd Century--Irenaeus & Justin Martyr
4-Catechumenal schools 325-450 A.D.
5-Monasteries — Conservators of Bible Truth
6-Reformers--Luther, Melanchthon, Calvin, Zwingli, etc
7-"Every great reform in the church since the days of John the Baptist has been brought about by preaching; but the only way to retain a permanent reform is by christian training thru a process of interlocutory teaching." H. Clay Trumbull--The Sunday School

S.S. movement From 1780+ established by Robert Raikes in England + brought to USA in 1785

B.-Origin Of The Office of Christian Education Director:

1-Ministers have always done this
2-Added the S.S. about 200 years ago
3-With S.S. came the development of a S.S. Supt.
4-Development of need & a solution to meet that need has brought us to having a Dir. of C. E.
5-Curricula of Seminaries, Bible Institutes, & Christian colleges have added C. E. courses:
--for specialists
--for all students
--specialized training for specialized service
--specialized experience too
6-"It is realized that the better the preparation, the less likely will the person invite defeat in his service for the Lord."--Marion W Lawrance--"My Message To S. S. Workers

7- PROP
+ Perspective
+ Involvement

I.-THE NEED FOR A MINISTER OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN A LOCAL CH.:

A.-Biblically:

1-Mt. 9:37--"The harvest indeed is plenteous, but the laborers are few"
2-Example of Christ--Mt. 5:1-2
3-Example of Apostles (Paul)
4-Command of Christ--Mt. 28:19-20
5-Exhortation of Epistles--1 Tim. 4:16; Tit. 1:9

1 Cor. 4:17 - "For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, & faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church."

B.-Currently:

1-Religion is no longer taught in public day schools
2-Few parents are teaching in the home as they ought
3-In a majority of churches, the members receive ½ to 1 hr. of Christian education per week. — if they attend regularly, compared to 25-35 hrs weekly in Public School.
4-WE MUST make that time count for eternity.

5-Increases today in camps, S.S., & Ch. membership
--Sunday School--1949--28,893,789 enrolled
--1951--30,685,149 enrolled
--1955--38,921,033 enrolled
or a 1½ million increase per year.
Last year IFCA S.S. went Down!
--Church Membership--1950-- 86,830,490
--1955--100,162,529
or 3 million increase per year.

6-"With such an increase in the membership of church activities, it must have an adequate curriculum & trained leadership." Vernon R. Kraft

7-"Even with such an increase in enrollment in church activities, the average Protestant receives only 25 hours per year as compared with the 300 hours of religious instruction found in the R.C. Church"--James D. Much, "Christian Education And the Local Church."

C.-Practically:

1-Church has a mission to perform; a mission that has its roots in Jesus Christ
--Lead souls to Christ
--help them to grow into Christian maturity + reproduction
--Minister to all ages

2-Various arms to accomplish this:
--S.S.
--T.H.
--Men's fellowship
--L.M.S.
--Brigade
--Pioneer Girls
--Missions
--Teams,,,,,,,,,,etc.

3-One of the great needs of the church today is the improvement of its educational methods. The future of the church depends more than is realized upon the quality of its Christian education.

4-Experience proves that 7 out of 10 of all church members come from Sunday School, so these "arms" are vital to the church.

D.-Directionally (Pastor or someone else?):

1-Too big a job for 1 man in any size church; especially in a church w/ the opportunity we face

2-In reality, we have to settle for a compromise in what we want accomplished, and what we get accomplished.

3-No one streteches far enough for "doing it all"

4-Delegating responsibility in this area:
--frees the pastor for his peculiar work
--frees the pastor of the burden of undone work
--uses the pastor's talents where his training lies
--spreads responsibility
--removes his personality from being as much of an issue.
Areas of gift + ability

5-Close liason is essential in both planning and execution between Pastor & C. E. Dir. Not 2 kingdoms under 1 roof, but 1 program in a unity of spirit.

TEAM MINISTRY
↓
Acts 13:1-2
15:35

E.-Ministerially

1-Eight-Fold Ministry--worship
--teaching
--training
--Visitation
--service
--evangelism & mission
--preaching
--Counselling

Rapidly expanding expectations of a Pastor

MUST DIVIDE THE RESPONSIBILITY

2-The Pastor majors on:
- worship
- teaching
- visitation
- evangelism & missions
- preaching
- Counselling

3-The C. E. Director majors on:
- teaching
- training
- service
- evangelism & missions
- Leading the church program.

Youth Program & Recreation

4-C. E. Director ALSO
- coordinates & plans — Yearly Calendar
- leads & guides & gives unity
- works with youth of all ages
- works with music — MINISTER OF
- PROMOTION

II.-THE QUALIFICATIONS OF A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION [redacted]:

A.-Spiritual:
1-Experience of salvation
2-Call of God
3-Settled doctrinal convictions that are sound — (1) Fundamentalist
4-Filled with the Spirit
5-Separatist (2)

B.-Personal:
1-Humility
2-Genuine love for people
3-Aptitude for unselfish sharing
4-Self-control
5-Physical & emotional stability
6-Cooperative — able to work (3) "in harness"
7-Obedience to the Lord
8-Growing in wisdom & spirit
9-Able to work as a team-player
10-Courage of his convictions

C.-Professional:
1-Classroom schooling
2-Projects of being an understudy
3-Experience on the firing-line
4-Continued study

(4) Thoroughly competent
(5) Widely experienced

III.-THE AIMS OF A [redacted] OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:
MINISTER

A.-Importance Of Aims:
1-Aimlessness is a blight
2-Don't know where you were, are, or are going
3-Aimless------then useless!
4-Aims are needed so that the educational program can be properly planned, coordinated & systematized.
5-"Right aims give courage & confidence to the director & his workers. The Director who has his eyes fixed on distant objectives is enabled to overcome obstacles victoriously, until final success comes through his efforts." Vernon Kraft

B.-Determination Of Aims:
1-Conditions as found in a given church:
- current program

--current leadership on church boards
--current vision — physical plant + equipment
2-Present capacity for leadership
3-Present number of followers
4-Present number of unmobilized (or immobilized) force

* Questionaire out soon to help w/ this

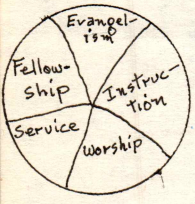
TOGETHER

C.-The Aims Of Christ: (Benson, P. 82-84)
1-To reveal to disciples God's gracious & glorious plan for mankind
2-To win mankind to an active faith in Himself as the Savior & King
3-To prepare & train His disciples to be His witnesses.

D.-The Aims of The Director Of Christian Education:
1-SAME as those of Christ
2-The best method to teach God's purposes is by the use of the Bible as the textbook in classes.
3-The Director must prepare & train his church workers as Christ prepared & trained the disciples.
4-"When the aims of the Director of Christian Education coincide with the aims of the Master Director, Jesus Christ, his service will be acceptable to those whom he serves." Kraft

This takes TIME

E.-Implementation Of These Aims:



1-Evalute & develop a program------several YEARS of work
2-Discover abilities, backgrounds, opinions & attitudes of the people
3-Lead his people in progress in development of attitudes, spiritual interests and values, the acquisition of right habits, and the ability to share in worship activities. — COORDINATION of the Pastor
4-Training courses & conferences
5-Testing of the administration staff & proceedures
6-Developing democratic leadership
7-Securing & maintaining needed buildings & equipment
8-Promoting of systematic visitation
9-In Summary — The meeting of needs!

F.-Summation:
"...the most important aim of a Christian Education Director: To win souls to Christ & to guide them into successful christian living, which means developing in them Christlike characteristics & teaching them to realize their privileges and duties toward their church...(and Lord)...This ultimate goal in Christian Education will be accomplished only through personal contact and successful leadership education." Kraft 62

Concl: A.-Work of a Director Of Christian Education Is:
1-Biblical 3-Essential
2-Historical 4-Monumental !!
5-"Who is sufficient for these things?"

Team Labor

:6 — illus - clipping

B.-Help Wanted!:
1-In the 4 Gospels we see Jesus the Organizer, Administrator & Teacher for future leadership in the Ch.

2-BUT, the disciples went to sleep on the job when Jesus needed them most

3-God grant that our Minister of C. E. will not face a similar problem here.

4-His promise--2 Chron. 15:7--"Be strong and let not your hand be slack; for your work shall be rewarded."

5- We encourage you to:

- See the opportunities before us (Growth, Strengthen, Outreach)
- Support the outreach financially
- Share the load personally and so share the blessings
- Pray without ceasing.

#38

Calvary Church — 1960
Westbrae — 8/30/70

— Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us
— He Leadeth Me — #71
— In The Service Of The King — #293

"THE WORD OF GOD IN THE WILL OF GOD" 2 Tim. 3:1-17
Rom. 12:1-2; Ps. 123:2

INTRO: A.-God's Priorities:

1-Most of us live by impulse. We do what we enjoy, what we feel like doing, what circumstances demand. We perpetually postpone the unpleasant or difficult---even when it is important. This is fatal. Worthwhile achievements can never be made by following likes & dislikes.

2-The industrialist Dougherty said, "I can hire men to do everything but two things---THINK and DO THINGS IN THE ORDER OF THEIR IMPORTANCE."

3-A few people naturally do things in their order of priority, but most of us must make a conscious effort---first to identify and list our primary responsibilities according to importance and then to exercise the discipline to get them done!

4-Perhaps this is why the Psalmist prayed in Ps.143 "Teach me to do thy will..."------Not just to KNOW it, but to GET IT DONE! // (143:10)

B.-God's Plans:

1-God is a God of plans. You don't have to look much further than the end of your nose to see that the world, and what we know of the universe as well, are filled to the brim with evidences of God's design. Everywhere you look you see the marks of God's planning, the exercise of His will

2-Consider the beneficence of the seasons. We know, of course, that the earth is tilted 23½ degrees on its axis, but what remarkable results come from this tilt. Instead of having the monotony of every day just the same and all parts of the world exactly alike as far as temperature is concerned, we have the delightful, exhilarating variation of spring, summer, autumn & winter.

3-Or consider how God planned the days & the nights. You see, there is co-ordination in this planning for man's body needs a certain amount of rest & during the hours of night there is restoration of strength & recuperation of ability. So, in order that man should have this needed rest, God divided the day from the night. During the daytime there is a huge brilliance of the sun in the sky which sheds abundant light the world around for work & activity. But at night time this light is removed & in its place there is the soft & soothing illumination of the moon which is conducive to rest & sleep.

4-Don't you see clearly that GOD PLANS EVERYTHING !

5-God has a plan FOR YOU too!.....

....AND IT IS PERFECT

If you are a SAVED PERSON

--That you have a part in WORLD EVANGELISM to all men

--Acts 1:8

--Great Commission
** Not just to Apostles
** Not just to earlier generations
** BUT to us also
--We are RESPONSIBLE to find our place in this plan
**May be in "regular" full-time service
**May be in "special" full-time service
**But ALL are in the service of the King
**WEISS--"The truth is that God calls everyone. The Great Commission is to all christians. You're a missionary the moment you become a christian." (P. 14)
** All believers are "called" to full-time christian service.

6-THEREFORE--God will not deliberately withold from His children the knowledge of His will
--To know the will of God is to think God's thoughts after Him

C.-God's Principles:

1-ABSOLUTE SUBMISSION to the WORD of God--True to His rev.
2-ABSOLUTE SURRENDER of the WILL of man--Yielding allegiance
3-ABSOLUTE SEPARATION from the WORLD
4-Let's prepare for Submission to the Word
--By seeing Specific Statements linked to the Will of God
--By seeing Several Spheres luminated by the will of God

I.-SPECIFIC STATEMENTS:

(Θελημα = basic gracious design)

A.-Salvation Of Men:

1-1 Tim. 2:4--"Who will have all men to be saved, & to come to the knowledge of the truth"
2-God's LOVE is universal
3-Salvation is NOT LIMITED
--By God's willingness
--But by man's unwillingness
--The "Whosoever wills" are ELECT
--The "Whosoever won'ts" are the NON-ELECT
--Jn. 5:40--"And ye will not come to me that ye might have life."
4-God loved men enough; God desired men's salvation enough to sent His Son as the first FOREIGN MISSIONARY
5-It is GOD'S WILL that you be saved
6-2 Pet. 3:9--"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

(Βουλημα = deliberate design)

WUEST--"It is not God's considered wish that any should perish. There is the sovereignty of God & the free will of man. God will not violate man's will... While God is always willing to save man, man is not always willing to be saved." (P. 71 - 2 Pet.)

7-Thus, none need to be lost
8-When you refuse to be born-again, you are rejecting the WILL OF GOD.

B.-Security Of Believers:

1-John 6:37, 39, 40
2-All will come who are given to Christ by the Father
3-None will be cast out who come to Christ.

EVERY ELECT ONE

4-None will be lost from those who believe — That's CLEAR!
5-Everyone will be safely delivered
6-Jesus wanted them to recive more than miracle loaves. He wanted them to receive the Bread of God from heaven which conveys ETERNAL LIFE ("if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever")
7-Jn. 6:51----------
8-Your security is the "will of God"

C.-Sacrifice Of Self & Substance:

1-2Cor.:8:1-5 — Example of the Macedonians
2-Application to ALL---8:6-7 "abound in this grace also"
3-Will of God--Gave themselves (Rom. 12:1-2)
--Gave their substance
--Give the first & you cannot withold the second
--When God has YOU, He cannot help but have what is YOURS
4-This is the life of ---JOY (8:2)
---DEDICATION (8:5)
---CHEERFULNESS (9:7)
---MULTIPLICATION (9:10)
---THANKSGIVING (9:12)
---GLORIFICATION to God (9:13)
5-I've never seen one who was sacrificed to the Will of God who did not feel that this was LIFE ON ITS HIGHEST PLANE

D.-Sanctification Of The Believer:

1-1 Thess. 4:3-5 (see vs. 17) (θελημα)
2-Eph. 5:15-18
3-1 Pet. 2:15--"For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:"
4-Principle says that life is a trust. The abundant life which it is the will of God for us to have is:
--Free from sins of the flesh
--Free from unwise living
--Free in the power of the Spirit
--Free to bring Glory to God by silencing the ignorant tongue-wagging of fools
5-How? — By being "SET APART" to the will of God

E.-Suffering Of The Believer:

1-1 Pet. 4:19--"Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to Him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator." (θελημα)
2-Not to suffer for wrong things------4:15 Notice the company!
3-Not to suffer for wrong attitudes---4:16
4-Not to suffer with a sense of superiority---4:17-18
5-But---in the will of God (4:19)
--commiting their souls to the creator
--in well doing, not with evil deeds
6-Someone has said that Christians are like TEA BAGS---It takes God putting us in "hot water" before our true strength comes out.
7-Suffering often is the will of God for believers, & is to be taken as "FROM HIM" — and w/ rejoicing!

8-2 Cor. 12:9-10--"And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therfore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

9-G. C. NEISS---"Imagine if you can, a father who desires his son to be well brought up & fulfill a real mission in life, but who is unwilling or reluctant to instruct him. Or think, if you can of the manager of a business corporation who has a specific job for each employee under his hand, but who refrains from informing them of their particular tasks. Think of a governor or ruler who wants people to obey his laws & respect his orders, but who fails to publish or make known what those laws & orders are.

You see how ridiculous it is for us even to think of such inconsistencies. Well then, bear in mind that it is EVEN MORE RIDICULOUS for a child of God to entertain the notion that God is reluctant to reveal His will & plan for our lives to us. Such a spirit is an affront to God's intelligence, love, & purity. Away with such false notions." (P. 32-33)

II.-SEVERAL SPHERES:

A.-Submission To The Word In BUSINESS ACTIVITY:

1-Honesty--Rom. 12:17--"Recompense no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men."

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

2-Diligence--Rom. 12:11--"Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord."

3-Not stealing--Eph. 4:28--"Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."

4-As employees--Eph. 6:5-8

5-As employers--Eph. 6:9

6-Avoiding even the APPEARANCE OF EVIL (1 Th. 5:22)

--No unholy alliances or partnerships

--ILLUS--Al Thweatt in Dallas who got saved & then refused a lucrative parnership because of no common ground, language, life, aims, or ability to fully trust each other.

--Not with sights on earthly riches

--1 Tim. 6:17-19--"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."

--ILLUS--Annanias & Sapphira
--Nothing WORLDLY or OFF-COLOR
--ILLUS--Marvin Franer & his pool-table business

B.-Submission To The Word In HOME, FAMILY & SOCIAL ACTIVITY:

1-No unequal yoke--2 Cor. 6:14-15--"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?
--If a child of God marries a child of the Devil, he is sure to have IN-LAW TROUBLE
2-No mixed marriage--1 Cor. 7:39..."only in the Lord"
3-No marriage to the "unyielding"
--He wants to go to the mission field & she doesn't
--She wants to be "all-out", but he wants to "rock along" on the path of least resistance
--Don't jeopardize your spiritual life & usefulness
4-Husband is head of the house & of the wife
--Woman is to "submit"
--Not hard to submit to a man who loves his wife with the kind of self-sacrificing love which Christ has for the Church
--BIG responsibility is on the MAN to be what he ought to be
5-Children in subjection to both
--Eph. 6:1-3
--This is RIGHT!
--"Obey"=="React with instant obedience", as in answering the ring of the telephone
6-Social activity yardsticks
--Col. 3:17, 23--"And whatsoever ye do in word or or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him..... And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, & not unto men."
--How do you measure up?
--Is your home, family & social life in submission to the will of God as revealed in His Word?

C.-Submission To The Word In SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES:

1-A "double set of standards" is unthinkable--SAME for all
2-BIBLE STUDY--1 Pet. 2:1-3
--2 Tim. 2:15
--Col. 3:16
--This is your spiritual food
--It's a "must" in the will of god
3-PRAYER--In secret with God (Mt. 6:6)
--In House of God with others (Mt. 18:19-20)
--Lk. 18:1
--1 Th. 5:17

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

4-SUNDAY SCHOOL, CHURCH, & PRAYER MEETING

--"I don't feel led to come"----BUNK!

--Belong regularly & faithfully in the House of God when the doors are open UNLESS PROVIDENTIALLY HINDERED
- ** Sick in bed
- ** Too aged to get out
- ** Able to minister to others' needs on that occasion
- ** Leading a soul to Christ

--Christian is NEVER led by the HOLY SPIRIT contrary to the explicit Word of God

--Heb. 10:25 — Lack of desire to participate reveals the state of the heart.

5-MEMBERSHIP IN A CHURCH

--Not a question of "SHOULD I?"

--But a question of "WHICH ONE?"

--Join a church
- ** Bible is taught
- ** Christ is exalted
- ** Salvation is preached
- ** Missions is stressed
- ** Souls are saved
- ** Spiritually unentangled from wrong alliances

--After all, it is CHRIST'S CHURCH

--Not enough to be "in the Body"

--Body of Christ has its visible manifestation in LOCAL, INDEPENDENT, BIBLE CHURCHES

--Are you submitted to the will of God in this?

6-WISDOM & GUIDANCE

--Jas. 1:5-7--"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind & tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord."

--What to do

--Where to go

--How to serve

--Continuous & serious re-evaluation of self, of plans, of motives & of attitudes

CONCLUSION:

A.-The Word In The Will Of God----SUBMISSION!

1-Specific Statements:
- --Salvation of all men
- --Security of believers
- --Sacrifice of self & substance
- --Sanctification of believers
- --Suffering of believers

2-Several Spheres:
- --Business activities
- --Home, Family & social activities
- --Spiritual activities

B.-The Application Of The Word In The Will Of God:

1-Wm. W. ORR--"If there is failure to ascertain God's will or a failure to follow that will, the failure will always be a human failure. It will be YOUR failure."

2-ILLUS---Some years ago we were polking along in the back woods of Massachussets trying to work our way back to New York City. I wasn't really lost, I was just meandering without knowing where I was or how to get where I was going. Then at one intersection there was a sign that said "ALBANY TURNPIKE---TURN RIGHT"

It wasn't too inviting a road. I knew I was headed NORTH. New York (state) was in the WEST, & if I turned right I'd be headed EAST. As I sat there trying to decide what to do, I was reasoning that this must be a long, long way around.

But, not knowing anything better to do, I turned right & followed that uninviting road for just a mile. There it merged with a larger highway, & the "ON-RAMP" to the Albany--N.Y.C. Turnpike was just a few blocks farther on.

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT?

I still haven't figured out how turning east got me onto a highway farther west.....but it did!

God's Word is like that too!

It may not look inviting. You may not be able to see where it will lead you. You may not recognize how following its truths will bring you onto the "SUPER-HIGHWAY" of God's will.....

.....but it will!

If you are to know the will of God
--the good
--the acceptable
--the perfect will of God.....

You must find it IN HIS WORD

Col. 1:9-10

6/26/66--Westbrae
8/5/73- Point I- Westbrae

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" #27
"Break Thou The Bread Of Life"
"A New Name In Glory" — #250

"THE CHURCH IN THE LIGHT OF APOSTASY" 2 Tim. 3:1-13

1

INTRO:

A.-Apostasy Teaching:
1-Found in 2 Cor., 2 Thess., 2 Tim., 2 Per., 2 Jn., Jude
2-Instruction to the CHURCH from the ASCENDED CHRIST
3-Not a "popular" topic in today's church...
but it is MUCH NEEDED !!

B.-Apostasy Preaching:
1-Part of "the whole counsel of God"
2-To be forewarned is to be forearmed
3-ILLUS--Man of God is like a "WATCH DOG" who needs to "bark" in the darkness of the night to awaken a sleeping church to a lurking danger
4-Cannot be "DONE ONCE", and then let the subject lie. It must be repeated frequently !!

I.-THE MIRROR OF THE LAST DAYS: (2 Tim. 3:1-9)

A.-The People of the Last Days: (3:2-4)

1-EXPLANATION-"Last Days"
(1) Whole church age
(2) Times just preceding Christ's return

THE FRUIT

2-Their behavior is all wrong: HUMANISM IS SELFISHNESS
a-Blasphemers==Abusive speech
b-Disobedient to parents==Rebellious; out of control
c-Unthankful==Ungrateful; taking it all for granted
d-Unholy==Irreverent
e-Trucebreakers==Relentless
f-False accusers==Scurrilous; gossips
g-Incontinent==Lacking self-control; dissolate
h-Fierce==Savage & unfeeling
i-Traitors==Treacherous, undependable
j-Heady==Reckless, headstrong

3-Their opinion is all wrong
a-Opinion of themselves--BOASTERS (3:2)
b-Opinion of others--DESPISERS of those who are good(3:3

THE ROOT

4-Their affections are all wrong
a-Without natural affection (3:3)
b-Lovers of their own selves (3:2)
c-Covetous (3:2)==Lovers of money
d-Lovers of pleasures more tha lovers of God (3:4)

B.-The Piety of the Last Days: (3:5) Creed means NOTHING!

Present Tense

1-Religion is a FORM to them--Buildings --Music
Ritual w/o REALITY --Budgets --Rituals
--Baptisms --Programs

2-Religion is a FORCE unknown to them
"Denying the power (of the resurrection) thereof"

C.-The Propaganda of the Last Days: (3:6-9) "The FORCE be with you"

Imitators of true faith

C.-The Propaganda of the Last Days: (3:6-9)

2

1-Masters of cunning: (3:6a-b)
- a-"Silly (=unstable) women"
- b-"Lead captive"==LOSS OF FREEDOM
- c-"Creep into houses" --Cults
  --T V "desperation channel"
  --Astrology

2-Exploiters of guilty consciences (3:6c-7) UNSAVED

3-Purveyors of counterfeits: (3:8-9) Ultimate Defeat is Certain
- a-"Withstanding" God's men
- b-"Imitating" God's miracles
- c-"Resisting" God's truth

4-DISTINCTIONS to be clear about: Beginning in the 1st century as seen in Rev. 2-3
Fruition today is far advanced

a-APOSTASY==A standing away from the truth by one who is outside the faith, though he may be inside the church. "Come out"
- --Roman Catholicism
- --Louis Farikand
- --Old mainline protestant denominations
- --Cults, New Age
- --Evangelicals & Romanists uniting today

b-HERESY==A factious spirit by a saved person concerning one or more doctrines whereby a following is drawn to the person. A saved person who may be either inside or outside the local church "Admonish"
- -Charismatics
- -Dominion theology
- -Lordship salvation
- -KJV only translation
- -"Name it & claim it" prosperity gospel

c-COMPROMISE==An inconsistency between professed biblical doctrine and actual practice by genuine believers.
- REVIVAL
- REMEDIATION
- REMOVAL
- --Cooperative evangelism
- --D.T.S. & dispensationalism
- --Promise Keepers
- --Membership without doctrinal agreement with the organization joined (IFCA & two natures issue)

II.-THE MEN FOR SUCH DAYS: (3:10-13) (BUT what a difference!!)

A.-A Pattern to be copied (PAUL): (3:10)

EXAMPLE

1-CONSISTENCY in living (A rare and elusive jewel)
- a-My doctrine==TEACHING
- b-Manner of life ==LIVING
- c-Harmony between preaching and practice

2-CONTINUANCE in laboring
- a-Purpose
- b-Faith
- c-Longsuffering

ALL-OUT service for God
Acts 27:23--"For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve."

4-CONTRAST Paul's loyalty & Today's feeble allegiance!

3-CONSTANCY in loving

a-Charity

b-Patience — don't give up on people

c-Keeping on in spite of all

d-Paul had both LEARNED and LIVED this

e-Wanted Timothy to display the same unwavering love
1 Cor. 13:8--"Charity never faileth..."

f-The spiritual father set the pattern for his son in the faith

B.-A Cause for praise: (3:11-12)

1-Paul's own experience

a-Persecutions & afflictions
CATALOGED in 2 Cor. 4, 6 & 11

b-Costs of his allegiance
Gal. 6:17--"From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus."

c-Recounting what Timothy knew well, for he had witnessed Paul's PRICE PAID in ANTIOCH, ICONIUM and LYSTRA

d-"D E L I V E R A N C E "out of them all"

2-Our common Christian experience (3:12)

a-The intention of godly living--"WILL"

b-The secret of godly living--"in Christ Jesus"

c-The COST of godly living--SHALL SUFFER PERSECUTION

3-A glad experience for us all

a-Delivered "OUT OF them all"

b-Not usually delivered "FROM" them, except for the rapture delivering us from the wrath to come

c-Believers may be HURT on occasion, but HARM to God's servants is rare

d-Dan. 3:17--"If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thine hand, O King."

C.-A Call for pity: (3:13)

1-The Enemies' progress

a-Seducers will grow worse & worse

b-There is NO "standing still" in sin

c-OUTWARD improvement may appear to occur

d-INWARD deterioration continues to develop

2-The enemies" practice

a-Deception is his tool

b-Gal. 1:6--"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel."

c-Energy of the FLESH, not the SPIRIT !!!

3-The enemies' position
a-"Being deceived"

6-ERROR comes under 3 headings:
APOSTASY - COME OUT
heresy - ADMONISH
COMPROMISE

REVIVAL
REMEDIATION
REMOVAL

CONCLUSION:

A.-The Appearances:

1-Degeneration all around us
2-Difficulties experienced by us
3-NO HOPE in this world and its Satanic system

B.-The Reassurances:

1-Jesus has ascended.... & WILL COME AGAIN to set it all right in His time
2-Godly men can make a difference in their generation
a-PAUL in the apostolic age
b-TIMOTHY in his generation
c-WE can follow in their train
d-ILLUS --Bill Gilmore at Westbrae Bible Church when he came forward to join and become a part of its membership & ministry, quoting: Rev.3:2--"Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God."
3-While persecutions will be experienced by those who are godly....
We are on the VICTORY SIDE !!!
4-Read Romans 8:35-39
5-Explain the meaning of "MORE than conquerors"
6-Dr. Graham Scroggie wrote it so beautifully:

"All Christians have eternal life; not all Christians have abundant life. There can be life without health, movement without progress; there may be war, but defeat. We may serve but never succeed. We may try, but never triumph, and the difference all along the line is the difference between possessing life and experiencing life abundant. This abundant life is simply the fullness in life of Jesus Christ made possible by His death and resurrection, and made real by the incoming of His Spirit. THAT is abundant life. That is the enabled life. The trouble with so many of us is that we are on the right side of Easter, but the wrong side of Pentecost, the right side of pardon, but the wrong side of power."

"Rise up, Ye Men of God"

(5)

4/23/96--Middletown Bible Church/New England Bible Conf.

3/9/98 - Pastor's Conf - ARK

5/14/03 - Bible Center Church series on 2 Tim

3-CONSTANCY in loving
a-Charity
b-Patience
c-Keeping on in spite of all
d-Paul had both LEARNED and LIVED this
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"WHY GOD GAVE US THE BIBLE"
THE PURPOSES OF THE BIBLE — 2 Timothy 3:14-17
"WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT ITS REASONS FOR BEING."

1

INTRO:

A.-Normal & Good Use For Everything:
1-Shovel---dig in the ground
2-Fork-----eat your food at the table
3-Auto-----provide transportation

PROP — 3 Reasons For The Bible which we need to understand

Ps. 119:97, 105, 138

B.-Misuse Of Anything Is Possible:
1-Shovel----weapon of attack
2-Fork------"skewer" someone
3-Auto------Death weapon to destroy person & property

C.-So Also The Bible--God's Word:
1-Misuse--argue religion
--prove pet points & theories (usually false)
--justification of own actions
2-Right uses (and correct in God's sight)
--Salvation of the soul
--Sanctification of the life
--Service thru the body
--ILLUS --Scrutinizing an owl, a man said, "That owl is not stuffed right; its head is not set on right, the body is not poised right, the feathers are not smoothed right; & if I could not stuff an owl better than that I would go out of the taxidermist' business.

Just then the owl MOVED. He had criticized a LIVE OWL!

The Word of God lives. It is not offered for criticism, but is a guide to life, and is a comfort in death.

D.-

I.-WISE UNTO SALVATION--(3:14-15)---(Born INTO Grace By God): FIRST REASON

A.-Background of Timothy: ——A Case In Point:
1-Taught--in God's Word
--from his infancy
--by a godly mother (EUNICE) & grandmother (LOIS) (1:5) Son"
--by Paul--2 Tim. 1:2--"To Timothy, my dearly beloved/
--2 Tim. 2:1-2a--"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me..
--An "INTERN" to prepare for the ministry
2-Learned--Not just "heard" these truths
--But had personally appropriated them
--Jn. 1:12-13
3-Assured--Because of teachers who'd taught him
--Because of truth he'd seen & heard
--Because of transformation in lives by the gospel
*--CONFIDENCE in God's Word
--"The candlestick that holds forth the Light of the world"

B.-True Wisdom: is needed!
1-Man's wisdom is not enough!
2-1 Cor. 1:21-25 (READ)
3-Scripture used to MAKE WISE
--wise to see need of salvation
--wise to see how to obtain salvation

--wise to know motives for salvation ***love
Varied by person to person. ***fear
***peace
***hope
***need
--wise to see effectiveness of gospel in changed lives
--wise to believe that YOU can be God's child

4-For whom is this wisdom?--for Timothy
--for ALL who believe the Scripture
--Jn. 5:39, 40, 46--"Ye search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me that ye might have life....For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me; for he wrote of Me."

5-When someone said to the great English believer, Coleridge, that children ought not to be prejudiced in favor of Christianity, he took them out to a garden full of weeds, & pointed it out as a garden "not prejudiced" in the springtime in favor of roses, flowers & fruits, so that in the summer & fall it yielded nothing but weeds. Then he said: "As for me, I prefer a garden prejudiced in favor of roses & strawberries. A child's mind needs to be "prejudiced" in the right direction when he is small that he might be "wise unto salvation"

A Genuine
C.-Salvation Itself:
1-Not "A WAY" of salvation, but "THE ONLY WAY"
--Not just a Plan
--But Salvation is a Person---Jesus Christ
2-"Through faith" in the shed blood of Jesus
--Faith is the "hand of the soul" or heart
--Must stretch forth that "hand of faith" to receive
--This is MAN'S PART in being saved
--Yet, even this is provided by God for the willing person
--Eph. 2:8-9--"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast."
3-OBJECT of faith---"which is in Christ Jesus"
---He and HE ALONE can save from sin
---No other Hope
---Acts 4:12--"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."
---TRUST IN HIM ! ! !
4-Salvation is INSTANTANEOUS when Christ is received
5-Jn. 3:36--"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."
6-ILLUS.---Here comes a man & he admits he gets frightfully drunk every week. That man comes to church & says he wants to be converted. Shall I say, "DON'T YOU BE IN A HURRY. I BELIEVE IN DOING THE WORK GRADUALLY. Don't get drunk & beat up your wife now but ONCE A MONTH."

Don't you think it would be refreshing to his wife

to go a whole month and only get knocked down and beaten up just once. Once a month; only 12 times a year. WOULDN'T SHE BE GLAD to have him converted to Christ and from alcohol in this way? (3)

Only getting drunk after a few more years on such special days as the anniversary of your wedding & at Christmas, and then it will be effective because it is GRADUAL

--Friends, the Bible doesn't teach this "modern mishmash" of "growing into grace"

--We are BORN INTO GRACE, by exercising faith in Christ as our Savior

--Salvation is INSTANTANEOUS !!

--Growth thereafter is GRADUAL

--Man passes from death to life as quick as the act of his will

--Each person must make the decision himself !!

--1 John 5:12--"He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

7-Two aspects--Timothy learned of Salvation — FACTS

--Timothy became assured of Salvation — FAITH

Q — Have you? Is the decision made? ?

--ILLUS--The dying words of the agnostic, John Wilmo Earl of Rochester, are true: "The only objection against the Bible is a bad life." A bad life may be law-abiding, respectable & scholarly, yet unregenerate and spiritually dead.

II.-DEVELOPING IN SANCTIFICATION--(3:16-17a)--(Growth IN Grace By The Christian)

SECOND REASON

A.-God's Gift--The Scriptures:

1-All scripture--the whole Bible; 66 books — History, Poetry, Prophecy, Law, Letters, Gospels

2-Given--Gift from God to mankind, to you, to me

3-Inspiration--of God

Out-breath

--God-breathed

--insures accuracy & authority

--details the method

--assures of the knowledge contained therein

4-Holy Scriptures--They are sacred writings; different from other books--REVEALED TRUTH !

B.-God's Reason For The Gift--"PROFITABLE":

1-God doesn't desert us after salvation

--Scripture is the OBSTETRICIAN to bring us to Christ

--Scripture is the PEDIATRICIAN to nurture us in Christ

--Scripture is given to help us in our spiritual life

2-If we are to become profitable, then it must be done GOD'S WAY

3-Provision for all our needs---ILLUS--The historian Xenephon tells us that one of the Persian princes had for the teachers of his sons the four best men in the kingdom--the WISEST man to teach wisdom; the BRAVEST to teach courage; the most JUST man to teach the moral nature; and the most TEMPERATE man to teach self-control.

We have all this & MUCH MORE in God's Word, both by precept and by example.

4-FOUR*FOLD USAGE---4 Steps Of Profitableness

--FORWARD Steps--Doctrine = Teaching — What's RIGHT
  --Positive setting forth of God's truth

--FALSE Steps--Reproof — What's WRONG
  --God's "Stop Sign" to show error
  --In LIFE and in THOUGHT
  --Conscience is not enough; not reliable

--FALTERING Steps--Correction of what is wrong
  --Restoring — How to GET RIGHT
  --Showing what is right
  --Ps. 119:9--"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his ways?

--FIRST Steps--Instruction in Righteousness — How to STAY RIGHT
  --Discipline by grace
  --Example of O. T. characters & lives
  --Training by precepts

5-Such is the purpose of Scripture
  --1 Cor. 10:6--"Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted."
  --1 Cor. 10:11--"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition upon whom the ends of the ages are come."
  --Rom. 15:4--"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience & comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."

6-PROFITABLE and NECESSARY to growth in Christian life

7-ILLUS--I recall the story of a man who had gone to New York City to work, & who was afraid to openly confess Christ. It seems that down in the bottom of his suitcase he had a Bible. He wanted to get it out & read it to the companion with whom he lived, but he was ashamed to do it. For over a week this went on. One night he determined to take out & read his Bible, no matter what might be said.

Soon he heard the footsteps of his roommate coming up the stairs. His first impulse was to put it away again, but then he determined that he must face his companion with it.

His roommate came in, & seeing him at his Bible, said: "John, are you interested in spiritual things?" "Yes", he replied. "How long has this been?", he inquired.

"Exactly a month," he answered. "For a whole week now I've tried to get out my Bible to read to you, but I have never done so until now."

"Well", said his roommate, "I was converted on the SAME NIGHT---just one month ago, and I've been too fearful to take my stand for Christ with you."

You can imagine what encouragement this was to both of them at that moment & in the days ahead. And so it should be to all of us not to be ashamed, but to be open in our reading of what God has called PROFITABLE reading.

TRY IT ON LUNCH HOUR or at a COFFEE BREAK

C.-God's Purpose Through The Gift---"PERFECT":

1-Addressed to the "man of God"
  --not just the preacher
  --any believer can be a "man of God"
  --ILLUS--2 Kings 4:9--"I perceive that this is a holy man of God, that passeth by us continually

2-Desire of God is the "Perfect" Christian
--Not sinless perfection
--1 John 1:8--"If we say that we have no sin (nature), we deceive ourselves, & the truth is not in us."
Meaning → --But "well-rounded", "mature", "complete", "fully tooled for service" — In a spiritual sense
--Not "LOP-SIDED," but rounded-out for Christ-BALANCED
--Eph. 4:13--"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."
Read → --In Heb. 2:10 it would be "prepared for official duty" & so also here.
3-The WORD is 1 of the agents of sanctification (growth in grace & life)
4-I Kings 8:61--"Let your heart therefore be perfect with the LORD our God, to walk in his statutes, & to keep his commandments, as at this day."
--To walk
--To keep
Well Stated → 5-OSIANDER--"He who will teach others rightly, and will himself live rightly, must beforehand learn rightly"

III.-FURNISHED UNTO SERVICE-(3:17b)-(Serve IN & BY Grace): THIRD REASON

A.-Basis Of Christian Service:
1-Not --in self
--in ability of natural man
--in flesh
2-But in "Perfect Standing" we enjoy because saved
3-Rooted in our "well-rounded" & "fully-fitted practice because we know the Lord thru the Word and are filled with the Spirit for empowerment.

B.-Furnishing For Christian Service:
1-Not sparsely, but fully
2-Not poorly, but richly
3-As of a SHIP fully "stored-up" for a long voyage
4-ILLUS.-Reiter's "furniture" when we moved into an unfurnished apartment in Dallas
--"Fully-furnitured" took time & effort & putting such provision ahead of other "wants" that were less important
** --Still adding furnishings at our house
--Still adding spiritual furnishings for service so as to be "THROUGHLY FURNISHED" unto all good works. in our lives

C.-Good Works In Christian Service:
1-Common thought in Scripture--Titus 1:16, 2:7, 2:14, 3:1, 3:5, 3:8, 3:14

No man can do "good works" unless he is already "justified by His grace" (Tit. 3:7)

7 verses in Titus

2-SAVED TO SERVE—Not Satan
—Not Self
—Not this world system
—But God & men — Whole-heartedly

CHORUS → "We're saved, saved to tell others of the Man of Galilee; Saved, Saved to live daily for the Christ of Calvary; Saved, saved to invite you to His Salvation free; We're saved, saved, saved by His blood for all eternity." Arthur Woolsey

3-God expects—WORKS from His children
—GOOD WORKS from His children
—ALL GOOD WORKS from His children

4-Ordained to salvation and good works—Eph. 2:10—"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

5-WHAT are "good works"?—Witnessing
—Counselling
—Visiting
—Teaching
—Preaching
—Ruling
—Helping

OBVIOUS ONES

...any service can be good works to the glory of God

—Doing your daily tasks
- **Washing dishes
- **Making beds
- **Cleaning house
- **Doing homework
- **Ditch digging
- **Bolt tightening, etc

- * Keeping books
- * Farming land
- * Operating a lathe
- * Teaching children
- * Operating a business

LESS OBVIOUS ONES.....

BUT YET ALSO "GOOD WORKS"

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

NB

*—H.A.I.(Pastorals, P. 229) "We may be sure that nothing is esteemed by God as a good work if it is contrary to the Word of God"

*—Lange—"...instruction by the Scripture will secure for every believer, continuous growing, inward capacity & readiness for the accomplishment of everything pleasing to the Lord." (P. 109)

6-RULES FOR GOOD WORKS

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

—Col. 3:23—"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;"

7-God wants us to be "ZEALOUS OF GOOD WORKS"—Tit. 2:14 (as recorded in)

8-"In the light of eternal realities, who would not rather be a MOODY than a MARCONI, a MARY SLESSOR than a MADAME CURIE?" Guy H. King

9-It is safe to say that most of the material of the Bible is designed to make men of God mature in doctrine, consistent in life, &

abundant in good works. Doctrine and theology are aimed at making sinners into saints, and saints into men of full stature in Jesus Christ, and men of full stature useful for eternal ends." (7)

CONCLUSION:

A.-Purposes Of Scripture:

1-Salvation--3:14-15--Born INTO God's family
2-Sanctification--3:16-17a--Grow IN holiness & purity
3-Service--3:17b--Serve AS FURNISHED unto all good works

Which of these have YOU received From God's Word?

B.-Exhortations:

1-1 Pet. 2:1-3--"Wherefore laying aside all malice & all guile, and hypocrisies, & envies, & all evil speakings, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word that you may grow thereby: if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious."

* --BE SURE that you have "tasted" salvation
--PROVE your salvation by what your appetite is & by what you feed that appetite

2-2 Tim. 2:15--"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

- GROW STRONG in the Word
- BE TRUE to what God's truth is

3-BEGIN NOW: DON'T DELAY.....at all!

Lifelong process

4-Make your vows and intend to keep them!

The Bible is given to teach us...

- What's RIGHT
- What's WRONG
- How to GET RIGHT
- How to STAY RIGHT

Hymns
(1) Only Trust Him #188 252 (OR)
(2) Trust And Obey - 402
(3) Channels Only - 387 160
(4) Thy Word Have I Hid In My Heart - 158 177

349 261

Westboro 5/23/65 6/14/70

Oak Hill Bible Church - 10/23/88

1/22/95 Hilltop Baptist Church. 9/24/97 - Men's Mtg - Sydney, Australia

4/24/96 New England Bible Conf. – Middletown, CT.
5/10/2001 ABC Bible Conference
9/5/2010 Harper Heights Bapt. Ch

(1) OUR PRIMACY OF THE SCRIPTURES

2 Tim 3:15-17

Address for Bible Conference at ABC
May 10, 2001

Begin with message The Purposes of the Bible (2 Tim. 3:14-17) + follow green line at left for Point I

I. - THE PURPOSES OF SALVATION

A. - Wise Unto Salvation (3:14-15)

1 - Background of Timothy - A case in point
2 - True wisdom is needed
3 - A genuine Salvation

B. - Developing In Sanctification (3:16-17a)

1 - God's Gift - THE SCRIPTURES
2 - God's Reason for the gift - "PROFITABLE"
3 - Four-fold Useage - 4 STEPS OF PROFITABLENES

a - FORWARD Steps - Doctrine — What is RIGHT
b - FALSE Steps - Reproof — What is WRONG!
c - FALTERING Steps - Correction — How to GET RIGHT
d - FIRST Steps - Instruction in righteousness — How to STAY RIGHT

4 - God's purpose thru this gift
"PERFECT"

C.- Furnished Unto Service: (3:17b)

1-The Basis of Christian Service

2-The Furnishing for Christian Service

3-The Good Works of Christian Service

II.-THE INTERPRETATION of the SCRIPTURES:

A.- A Biblical Precident — (Neh. 8:8)

1-Declaration - "read in the book of the law of God"

2-Interpretation - "gave the sense"

3-Application - "caused them to understand the reading"

B.- The Interpretive Principle:

1-GOLDEN RULE of INTERPRETATION:

"When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore take every word in its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context studied in the light of related passages + axiomatic fundamental truths indicate otherwise."

DAVID L. COOPER

2-Hermeneutics are basic + essential

3-2 Tim. 2:15

- Clearly discern distinctions
- Distinguish things which differ

(3) 4-EXAMPLES needing distinctions:

(a)-The Dispensations

* Def - "A dispensation is a distinguishable economy in the outworking of God's purpose." (Ryrie, Dispensationalism Today, 29)

* 3 obvious ones - LAW, GRACE, KINGDOM

* Others - Pre-Fall - INNOCENCE
  - Pre-Law - CONSCIENCE - After the FALL
  - HUMAN GOV'T. After the FLOOD
  - PROMISE - After Abraham

* Agreement on all is not essential to be a dispensationalist

- "Dispensationalism is the result of consistent application of the basic hermeneutical principle of literal, normal, or plain interpretation. No other system of theology can claim this. (Ryrie D.T. 96)

- AUGUSTINE - "Distinguish the dispensations and the Scripture is in harmony with itself."

- "A man clever enough to make the Bible coherent without dispensational truth has never been born." (Bonar)

- L.S. Chafer said in class "A dispensationalist is anyone who goes to worship in a Christian Church on Sunday,

(4) rather than taking an animal sacrifice to a Jewish Temple on a Saturday Sabbath day." (Laurel W. Hanely, "Is Dispensationalism important?," VOICE March 1960, 4)

(b) The Three EARTHLY PEOPLES — 1 Cor. 10:32

- All created by God
- All have a different course in this world
- All have a different end in the ages to come

- Jews
- Gentiles
- Church of God

(c) Another illustration emphasizes that differences in the Bible often hinge around who is being addressed. God does not write a new Bible with every change in His dealings. A salesman worked for a large company that had a factory, office force, and sales force. He came in late one afternoon to leave a report of a trip he had made and to get things needed for a trip from Philadelphia to Washington. Just as he was about to leave, a secretary handed him a booklet and said: "Here is the company's book of regulations. Your boss asked me to tell you to read it carefully and follow the instructions in detail." He tossed it in his bag and did not think of it again until he got on the Metroliner the next morning. When he opened the booklet, he happened to open it to the section that gave instructions to factory workers. To his dismay he read: "Appear promptly at the south gate at 7 a.m., clad in neat overalls, ready to begin your assigned task."

He said to himself: "This is terrible. I am in the wrong place." He rushed up to a conductor and told him that he had to return to Philadelphia immediately. "Where is the first stop?" "Wilmington," was the reply. Getting off at Wilmington, he caught the first train back to Philadelphia, rushed to the basement of a large department store, bought some overalls and a blue shirt and work shoes, and puffed up to the south gate, full of apologies. The gateman looked at him with amazement. "Who are you? I haven't seen you before. What are you doing here and so late?" Pulling out the handbook, the salesman pointed to the place that gave the instructions I have cited. A whimsical look spread over the face of the gateman, and he said:

"Man, you're all mixed up. You've evidently got the wrong section. What part of the organization are you in? Salesman?! Look at the top of this page. It says "Factory Workers." There is a section for them, and a section for you Salesmen, and a section for the Office Workers. Next time the company puts out a handbook, find out what is addressed to you, and what is not, or you may land in the cafeteria kitchen!"

(5)

We smile at this deserved rebuke. But that is just the mistake that most Christians make. They think that because it is the same company (Heaven) and the same boss (God), anything He says is addressed TO them, whereas the Bible is addressed to THREE large groups, the Jew, the Gentile, and the Church of God (1 Cor. 10:32). It is not humorous that some are running to the south gate when they should be selling in Washington or Pittsburgh! Confusion would reign in any company of the employees were as careless in reading their handbook as Christians are in reading their handbook (the Bible). A

Let's look at
ISRAEL / CHURCH CONTRASTS
Oswald T. Allis
Prophecy & The Ch.

CONCLUSION

A. What have we learned today?
1- Bible shows 3 purposes
a - Wise unto SALVATION
b - Use in developing SANCTIFICATION
c - Furnished for service

B. - How Can We Go Forward in the light of the Primacy of the Scriptures?
1 - Interpretation is important
2 - Study is essential
3 - Distinguishing the dispensations & other matters requires faithfully following what the Scriptures teach

C - Three Points To Remember
1 - The text of Scripture means what the inspired author meant it to mean - LITERAL INTERPRETATION
2 - Israel and the Church are DISTINCT ENTITIES
3 - Dispensationalism serves as a GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM showing the believer and the Church their place & purpose in God's plan!

5/10/2001 – ABC Bible Conference

"PAUL'S CHARGE TO PASTORS" 2 Timothy 4:1-5 (1)

INTRO: **A.-Reason** For This Message:

1-Graham Crusade upcoming Oct, 1970 in Oakland

2-See what you have reason to expect from your Pastor on such an occasion of CONFUSION ??
- --Silence ?
- --Sidestepping of the issue ?
- --Inflamatory attacks ?
- --Serious, sensible, BIBLICAL instruction ?

3-Not **our intention**--To malign a man
--To judge the motives of others

4-But it is **our responsibility** to "care for the sheep"
- --John 21:15-17
- --Heb. 13:7, 17
- --That involves judging DOCTRINE & PRACTICE

5-Pastoral **CONCERN**--For the flock
- --For the truth
- --For the testimony of Christ
- --For the local Church, which is God's ORDAINED INSTITUTION
- --Because the temple of truth has never suffered so much from woodpeckers on the outside as from TERMITES within.

6-Church--Not staggering from gimmick to gimmick
- --Not stumbling from stunt to stunt
- --But moving from victory to victory

B.-Revelation: "Paul's Charge To Pastors"

1-The MOTIVE (4:1)
2-The MINISTRY (4:2-4)
3-The MANNER (4:5)
4-PROP:--To discharge my Pastoral responsibility (Acts 20:28-31)
- --To instruct the believers
- --To explain the problems we're about to face
- --To gain UNDERSTANDING & SUPPORT for our Biblical position

I.-THE PASTOR'S MOTIVE------(2 Tim. 4:1): PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

A.-Paul's Charge (4:1a):

1-"I charge thee"=="I **SOLEMNLY** charge thee"
- --Before 2 witnesses
  - ** The Father & The Son
  - ** Divine witnesses
  - ** Invisible, yet real & present
- --**Authoritative**, since it has 2 witnesses
- --No intimation from Paul at the end of a full life of ministry that it would be better not to give oneself so drastically to God's work, not to be so self-sacrificing.
- --No note of **COMPROMISE** here !!

2-Charge is in the light that JESUS WILL JUDGE !! (2)
--Judge of the LOST
--Judge of the SAVED
--These words reinforce the seriousness of the Pastoral office & responsibility
--PASTOR must "give an account"
** 2 Cor. 5:10
** 1 Cor. 3:10-15
** IDLE builders
** JERRY builders
** SUCCESSFUL builders
** Eternal accountability of the preacher
--The living and the dead will have to answer
--HAVNER--"The preacher who jests and jokes with his people all week will soon find that he cannot stand in his pulpit on Sunday with power to reprove, rebuke & exhort. He may be the life of the party, but it will be the death of the prophet!"

B.-Jesus' Coming (4:1b):
1-"Appearing" or "Manifestation" at the BEMA is imminent
2-Kingdom of Christ will surely follow
3-Not talking about vagueries, but CERTAINTIES !!
4-Paul brings before Timothy the great realities of the future world which should infinitely outweigh any present considerations
5-THEREFORE, throw yourself into your God-appointed ministry:
--True for your Pastor
--True for YOU ALSO

II.-THE PASTOR'S MINISTRY ----(2 Timothy 4:2-4):---PREACHING

A.-Its Subject; THE WORD: (4:2a)
1-"Preach the Word"--Language is abrupt & emphatic
=="Proclaim as a herald"
--Our ministry is NOT...
** Philosophy
** Psychology
** Politics
** Social action
** Morality (or immorality)
** QUOTE from V.P. Spiro Agnew in Oakland Tribune 4/29/70
--BUT our ministry is the WORD OF GOD
the "GOSPEL"
o have a BIBLE ministry !
-"For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God."
a. 56:10--"..dumb dogs, who cannot bark, eeping, lying down, loving to slumber."
e Reformers--"AD FONTEM"=="Back to the
ch" was used of an EMPEROR'S HERALD pro-
age from the Emperor
--Dare not withold the Emperor's edict
--Dare not revise the Emperor's message

Agnew said campus radicals are the offspring of "affluent, permissive upper middle class parents who learned their Dr. Spock and threw discipline out the window — when they should have done the opposite.

"They are the children dropped off by their parents at Sunday school to hear the 'modern' gospel from a 'progressive' preacher more interested in fighting pollution than fighting evil — one of those pleasant clergymen who lifts his weekly sermons out of old newsletters from the National Council of Churches."

OAK. TRIB — 4/29/70

--Dare not delay its announcement
--Dare not neglect its importance
--AND, neither dare we trifle with God's WORD

4-WHY??--Because souls all about us are PERISHING and this Word is the POWER OF GOD unto salvation

5-ILLUS--The great Dr. Thomas Chalmers, of Glasgow, once lodged in the house of a nobleman near Peebles. He was the life & soul of the circle of friends at the nobleman's fireside. The subject of discussion was POVERTY, & Dr. Chalmers discoursed brilliantly about its causes & cures.

Among the folk present there was a venerable old Highland chieftain, who kept his eyes fastened on Dr. Chalmers, & listened with intense interest. The conversation was kept up to a late hour. When the company broke up, they were shown upstairs to their rooms. The room of Dr. Chalmers was directly opposite to that of the old chieftain, who had already retired. As the Doctor was getting ready for bed, he heard an unusual noise in the chieftain's room. He hastened across the hall to a room which was soon filled with all the company, who rushed in to help.

It was a melancholy sight which met their eyes. The venerable white-headed chief had fallen in the arms of Dr. Chalmers. HE BREATHED FOR A FEW MOMENTS AND EXPIRED!!

Dr. Chalmers stood in silence, with both hands stretched out, & bending over the deceased. He was the very picture of distress. He was the first to break the silence:

"Never in my life," he said in a tremuous voice, "did I see or feel before this moment, the full meaning of that text, 'PREACH THE WORD; BE INSTANT IN SEASON, OUT OF SEASON.'

Had I known that my old friend was within a few minutes reach of eternity, I would not have dwelt on that topic which formed the subject of this evening's conversation. I would have earnestly preached unto him & to you Christ Jesus, and Him crucified. I would have urged him & you, with all earnestness befitting the subject, to prepare for eternity.

You would have thought it, you would have pronounced it 'OUT OF SEASON'. But ah! It would have been in season---both as it respected him, and as it respects you."

B.-Its Season: IN AND OUT: (4:2b)

1-"Be instant"=="Be earnest & urgent"; "Press on"
--Be constantly looking for opportunities
** TAKE the ones that show themselves
** MAKE the ones that require some tact & considerateness
--Eph. 5:16--"Redeeming the time because the days are evil

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

2-"In season and out of season"
--No closed season for hunting souls; "OPEN SEASON" (4)
--Jesus was like that
--Paul was like this
--CONTINUOUSLY engaged in preaching the Word
--Satan is BUSY
--So ought the godly Pastor
** Menengitus wards; Houston
** Burn Room; Brookside Hospital
** Juvenile Hall; Oakland
** Middle-of-the-night calls
** House to house calling
** Not just at "SET TIMES" or at opportune occasions

AND the godly people also — Acts 8:4

3-To wait for a "CONVENIENT SEASON" (Acts 24:25--Felix) may well be to wait too long!!

C.--Its Scope---"REPROVE, REBUKE, EXHORT": (4:2c)
1-Comprehensive scope----whole range of the Pastor's resp.
2-"REPROVE"--Convictive ministry
--Used by Christ in John 16:8
=="CONVICT"; "POINT OUT A FAULT"
--Not merely in doctrine
--Also in anything blameworthy or anything unworthy of a Christian's behavior
--2 Tim. 3:16
--ILLUS--My reproving of Ron Mc Master
** Long hair & Hippie attitude
** Savors of the WORLD
***WRONG for the true christian who's been saved long enough to know better
3-"REBUKE"
--This is a corrective ministry, correcting what's wrong
--A sharper word than "reprove"
=="SHOW THE WRONG OF A FAULT"
--Describe how wrong that fault is
--Mt. 17:18--"And Jesus rebuked the devil..."
--CRAMER--"The office of correction must be guided by discretion
--ILLUS--A preacher, riding on a ship from London to the United States found that there were a number of Senators and Congressmen aboard. He was asked by a lawyer to preach on Sunday morning. The minister was surprised, and asked: "YOU DO NOT WANT ME TO PREACH TO YOU MEN, DO YOU?" "Yes, sir,"replied the lawyer, so it was arranged.

When the preacher began, it was with these words: "If I am to judge the character by the character of our Representatives and Senators, I would decide that we are a nation of drunkards, gamblers and blasphemers. I have been on board this ship 4 days & I have seen little but drunkenness, card playing, gambling and swearing;" and he continued to rub it in. The Congressmen got red-faced and then pale.

As soon as the whole of his message was over he hurried to his cabin. He did not wait for any comment from anyone. He said to himself, "I've put the fat in the fire now."

Not long thereafter there was a knock at the door. There stood the lawyer who had asked that Pastor to speak. (5) To the astonishment of the Man of God, he was handed a gift for speaking, as a "token of appreciation." Moreover, the lawyer asked if he would allow his name to be submitted as a possible CHAPLAIN OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

Flabbergasted, the Pastor replied, "You wouldn't want a fellow like me around there, would you?"

The reply was, "If we had more honest men to show us our faults, we would be better men for it."

--This is the aspect of preaching which reprimands sinners and corrects their ways

4-"EXHORT"--This is a constructive term

--For the one who has been brought to a place of correction, the servant of God is to BUILD THEM UP

--Meaning; "Encouragement, Edification & Instruction"

*--ALSO: "Encite to action"

--Words of hope, encouragement & comfort

** 1 Thess. 4:18

** Isa. 40:1

Comfort the afflicted
Afflict the comfortable

5-That's a FULL-ORBED ministry for the Pastor.

D.-Its Spirit--"WITH ALL LONGSUFFERING AND DOCTRINE": (4:2d)

1-Two characteristics to this matter of "SPIRIT"

--Longsuffering — CONCERN

*--Doctrine — CONTENT

2-FAIRBAIRN--"But it is of unspeakable importance for the success of their mission, that, when those severer methods have been resorted to, all should be done in a gentle & patient spirit." (P. 384)

3-"Longsuffering"--M'Cheyne said: "This is the heart of God toward sinners."

--2 Pet. 3:9--"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish.."

==Gentleness & patience

--EXAMPLE--2 Tim. 2:24-26

--W H Y ??

** To gain a change of heart & action

** To gain the person — Not enough to win a point + lose person

4-"And doctrine"

=="TEACHING

--Doctrine is the basis of "Practical" instruction

--Without doctrine, such "practical" preaching has no foundation

--Paul's method ** Doctrine & then practice !

** Eph. 1-3; 4-6

** Romans 1-11; 12-16

--Not enough to "talk about Jesus"

--Rather, there must be TEACHING in a mold or structure

--ILLUS--Bill Liner; Lacks a foundation doctrinally for what he urges of right actions

--Ps.119:133--"Order my steps in Thy Word"

--LENSKI--"Doctrine is the **foundation** & the fountain of all spiritual life

--**Rom. 6:17**-----ALL READ

(6)

E.-Its Seducers (4:3-4):

1-Foolish hearers

--Not endure sound doctrine----------**UNWILLING**

--Heap to themselves (a variety of) teachers--**UNSETTLED**

--Having itching ears----------**UNSATISFIED**; fickle

--Turn away their ears from the truth ----**UNBELIEVING**

2-Unbelievers usually crave the so-called "**broad-minded**" **preachers** who do not talk of eternal things nor stress the necessity of a holy life, but are **glib** with words and **great** with liturgy and ceremony

3-Note that **decline** in **morality** is tied to **departure** from **sound doctrine**

4-**Fables (Myths)**--Believing these is the logical end of those that refuse sound (healthy) doct.

--Eternal **truths** neglected for **MYTHS**

--C.R. ERDMAN--"Those who willingly reject the realities of revealed religion, are always most apt to become the **dupes of impostors** & the **victims of fraud.**" (P.120)

--Man's message interjected as God's authoritative Word is left off

5-ILLUS--Harry Ironside told of some years ago riding on a railroad car. While he sat reading his Bible, another man looked across & said, "Pardon me, is that the Bible you are reading?"

Ironside looked up & said, "Yes, it is the Bible, God's Word."

"Well, well," said the other, "that really astonishes me. You look to me like an intelligent man. **I didn't know intelligent persons ever read the Bible anymore.** I used to believe in that when I was a child, but when I became somewhat more educated, I found there was nothing to it. I believe the time will soon come when civilized people will have no more confidence in the Bible than they have in the OLD IDEA OF GHOSTS."

Ironside quietly replied: "You may be right, but when the day comes that people no longer believe in the Bible, **THEY WILL BELIEVE IN GHOSTS AGAIN.**"

And you can see the **evidence** of that **on every hand.** **Horoscopes** People turn away from the truth-----but to what??? They come up with **Theosophy, Spiritism, Satanism,** Ghost of Bridey Murphy and all sorts of wierd systems and cults. When men turn AWAY FROM THE TRUTH to Satanic doctrines, they are led into perdition. **NEW AGE**

6-Labels attached to the faithful Pastor by seducers:

--"Obscurantist"

--"Old-fashioned"

--"Funny-mentalists"

--WHY ??

** Because they're puffed up with their own intellects — some today are

** Because BALANCED BIBLICAL teaching is refused today

7-ILLUS--Daughter & Son-in-law of the President of Scripture Press; Living in S.F. as Hippies & Sensitivity addicts----as well as on dope.

III. THE PASTOR'S MANNER --- (2 Timothy 4:5): PERFORMANCE

(7)

A.-Be Alert--"WATCH THOU IN ALL THINGS":

1-**Personal admonition**; personal responsibility
2-"**WATCH**"=="Be sober"; "Be wakeful & alert"
--Danger is everywhere, so keep cool & collected
--In **ALL things**
--Total orbit of the ministry requires WATCHFULNESS
3-ILLUS--Remember the GREAT WALL OF CHINA? It was decades in building & was finished at the expense of vast treasure & thousands of human lives. It was intended **for a defense** against the marauding hordes of the north, who had so often laid waste to the land.

However, historians tell us that within a short time of its completion it was **pierced** & **proved inadequate**, not because it was not massive, but because of the HUMAN ELEMENT. There was **failure from within**, as the enemy bribed the guards.

The Pastor, as a **guard** of the flock, is to be **ALERT !!**

B.-Don't Be Soft--"ENDURE AFFLICTIONS":

1-**The going** will **not be EASY** in the ministry
2-Be ready to suffer for faith; HARDSHIPS will come
3-2 Tim. 2:3-5, 12
4-**EXAMPLE**--**Paul himself** in 2 Tim. 3:10-12
5-Go right on with an **uninterrupted ministry**
6-Don't worry about your reputation---IT WILL BE ATTACKED !!
7-"If you are a christian, you can expect folks to criticize, but you ought to live **so nobody** will **believe them.**"

C.-Be Telling The Good News--"DO THE WORK OF AN EV.":

1-Some men had (& have) the "**GIFT**" of an **evangelist**
--Eph. 4:11
--Philip (Acts 21:8)
--These are **MINISTERS TO THE UNCONVERTED**
--A.T.Robertson calls these "Gospelizers"; messengers of good news
2-**Not all** ministers **have such a gift**
--Timothy appears not to have had it
--P.C.R. certainly doesn't
3-**YET**--Not to neglect this ministry
--Not to leave this totally to others
--**Expected** to be an **EXAMPLE**
--**Perform this duty** as a **Pastor**, even if it is not your forte'
--Pastoral duties should be "**SPICED**" **with souls** saved as you deal with them
--One translates this: "**Let your work be evangelistic in nature**"
4-No one of us dare **lose sight** of **LOST SOULS** all about us
5-Pastor is **RESPONSIBLE** in God's sight

D.-Don't Fizzle--- "MAKE FULL PROOF OF THY MINISTRY":

1-Lit.=="Fully carry out the many duties imposed upon thee by thy great office."

2-Fulfill all of GOD'S DESIGN for you

--Use all of your ability
--Use all of your strength
--Use all of your talents
--Use all of your LIFE
--Don't be half-hearted
--Don't settle for half-way measures
--ACCOMPLISH your appointed sacred task

"Who is sufficient for these things?"

"Don't get divided" - 1 Tim. 4: 14-16

3-LANGE--"The obligation to fulfil, in all particulars, the office of an evangelist (PASTOR), in widely extended and large congregations especially, is so vast, that assuredly the question arises with many among us, in 2 Cor. 2:16. Hence the correctness generally of the NO ONE IS ABLE TO DO ALL, must be recognized also in this sphere; & it is to be much deplored, that it be demanded of so many a clergyman to be at the same time preacher, pastor, & catechist, not to mention once the continued study of theology as science, or ecclesiastical administration. By a more equal distribution of the work, especially in a field where many colleagues cooperate, we might be able to remedy many evils, if attention were directed especially to each particular character. But as matters now stand, that of every one strictly everything is required, it is best to ascertain, by conscientious self-examination, which is our strong & which our weak side, & then, while we neglect entirely no department of the ministry, to devote ourselves for the most part to that branch to which we feel ourselves outwardly & inwardly, most strongly called." (P. 114, Two Timothie

4-Don't FIZZLE -Chuck Templeton
** Evangelist
** Became NCCC's "Fair-haired boy"
** OUT of the ministry; Divorced
** Disc jockey------& finally tending bar
--William Knight ** Boy Evangelist in Calif.
** Moral degeneracy
** Star of "HAIR" in S.F.
--God help us all!

Marjoe Gortner →

5-Examples--JESUS: Jn. 17:4--"I have finished the work Thou gavest me to do."
--PAUL; 2 Tim. 4:7
--May we follow in their train

CONCLUSION: A.-Paul's Charge To Pastors: → Acts 6:4

1-MOTIVES--Solemn charge of Paul
--Soon coming of Christ
2-MINISTRY--Preach the WORD
--Scope is total; (Reprove, Rebuke, Exhort)
--Spirit; "with all longsuffering and DOCTRINE"
3-MANNER--Watch
--Endure
--Do the work of an evangelist
--Make full proof of thy ministry

4-Recently one of America's pulpit orators stated that expository ministry is the poorest type, because it leaves

(9)

no room for the imagination." THANK GOD for the kind of preaching which leaves little room for that, for God says: "the imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5)

5-HAVNER--"I believe in **being dogmatic**. When I go to the Pharmacist to have a prescription filled, I want him to be dogmatic about the **proportion** of the ingredients. I do not want a Doctor who says: 'Your ailment may be this or it may be that. We'll try these pills & if they don't KILL YOU, we'll try something else.' When I ride a plane I don't want the pilot to say, 'I'm tired of this old schedule. It is **too dogmatic**. We're going to throw it away & follow no set time-table. I want to hear **a DOGMATIC PREACHER** who preaches from **a dogmatic Bible**."

B.-The Practice: 1 Cor. 4:2

1-**Faithfulness** in this will raise PROBLEMS

2-Some object that you're making **PERSONAL ATTACKS** on them when you are preaching:

A-ILLUS--SAM JONES said: "If you throw a stone into a pack of dogs & one of them **YELPS**, you know **who got hit**."

--ILLUS--BILLY SUNDAY used to say: "They tell me I **rub the fur** the **wrong way**. I DON'T; **let the cat turn around!**" People who complain about straight preaching usually are cats **headed the wrong way**. People who walk in darkness squint when the light is turned on. The man who walks in the light welcomes more light (Jn. 3:19-21). This explains why some people do not like to come to a **BIBLE PREACHING CHURCH**. They have photophobia ----------They're afraid of the light.

C.-The REMINDER:

1-**High standard** for the preacher--Preach
--Reprove
--Rebuke
--Exhort

2-He is RESPONSIBLE before God

3-And **so are you** !:

4-No double standard in God's Word — AMEN

5-**Same is expected**--Of Elders
--Of Deacons
--Of Deaconesses
--Of S.S. Teachers
--Of T.H. workers
--OF **EVERY CHRISTIAN** — NO EXCEPTIONS

6-Let us declare war on the spiritual poverty of our day by taking up the Sword of the Spirit & fulfilling each his own ministry in this crucial hour.

WESTBRAE--5/3/70--# 133--"He Is Coming Again"
138--"Must I Go Empty-Handed?"
94--"Am I A Soldier Of The Cross?"

Chinese College Camp 9/1/70
Calvary-Columbus 6/16/74
Pastor's Conf-ARK-3/10/98

"SPIRITUAL INVENTORY" FOR 1976

2 Timothy 4:1-22
1 Cor. 3:10-13

(1)

INTRO:

A.-Where We Were—1966:

1-"The future of Protestantism---and indeed of Christianity---depends on the answer."..... So says Newsweek's latest issue in its article on Religion----- "U. S. Protestantism: Time For A Second Reformation"

2-The Meaning of this
--Inventory is necessary in business
--SPIRITUAL Inventory is essential
** in our church
** in our land
** in our lives-----individually

3-Where Protestantism goes depends on the answers
--We give
--and that others give

4-"In truth, for 2 decades U.S. Protestantism, with few exceptions, has been telling Americans exactly what they wanted to hear. DR. NORMAN VINCENT PEALE assured them of God's aid in Every man's drive for success. BILLBOARDS urged Americans to worship the God of their choice, and their choice, often enough, was a very chummy, accessible deity. The REV. BILLY GRAHAM, of course, drew audiences forward to make decisions for the authentic Christ, but these were relatively easy insurance policies to take out on the afterlife. SECULARIZATION as well as public RELIGIOSITY grew apace, and church attendance soared like the gross national product. The old, demanding, judgmental God of early American Puritanism went through a final transformation as a permissive jolly good fellow, amiably underwriting the great American future."

5-This secularization lead to
--Parading before the Pentagon
--Marching in Selma, Ala.
--Striking in the vineyards of Delano, Calif.
--Observers at Vattican II Ecumenical Council
--Methodist's Emery University religion professor espousing--in Jesus' name--the "DEATH OF GOD" theology

- ABORTION
- DIVORCE
- HOMOSEXUALITY
- AIDS
- INFIDELITY
- FEMINISM
- ORDINATION of Women

6-BUT
...When we take spiritual inventory
...Is this where we ought to be?
---"The future of Protestantism--and indeed of Christianity--depends on the answer
---Depends on YOUR ANSWER

- Apostasy rampant
- Compromise widespread
- Organizations deteriorating
- Morality crumbling
- Crime Increasing

Where We Are:

B.-So-----Let's Take Spiritual Inventory:

1-Pastoral Charge----------2 Tim. 4:1-5
2-Personal Confession-----2 Tim. 4:6-8
3-Particular Co-Laborers--2 Tim. 4:9-15
4-Personal Concern---------2 Tim. 4:16-22

- Days of the EVANGELICAL in Washington, D.C.
- + in nations
- Moral Majority

SPIRITUAL MINORITY

C. PROP - See what God has set forth as a pattern for SPIRITUAL INVENTORY + the right answers it ought to contain

D.-INTER - What does 2 Tim 4 show us of principles for a spiritual Inventory?

I.- PASTORAL CHARGE (4:1-5)! (Five Points)

PAUL'S

A.-"Preach The Word" (4:2-4):

1-Its Diligent Use

--"Be instant in season & out of season"
--In regular & appointed services
--In any circumstances
--No "closed season"
--ILLUS--Two WAACs, worldly & careless girls, were at a table in a Washington cafe during W.W. 2. When the waitress brought their check she leaned over and in a low voice tenderly said, "I hope you two girls know the Lord as your Savior. I'll be praying for you."

Just that. No more. But it is a strange thing that a personal word spoken to a sinner about the Lord is never forgotten. During the week the girls talked about what the waitress had said & next Sunday decided to go to church----something they had been neglecting to do.

Not knowingwhere to go, the Holy Spirit led them to a sound evangelistic church. They returned again that evening and that night yielded their hearts to the Lord

--Prov. 25:11--"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver."

2-Its Diverse Uses

--Reprove=="Point out a fault"
--Rebuke=="Show the wrong of a fault"
--Exhort=="Encite to action"
--One or another or all three may be needed
--"WITH LONGSUFFERING"
** Patience in the work
** Patience with people
** Patience in spite of opposition

"AND DOCTRINE" - Teach Them

3-Its Diverse Reactions

--People REFUSE what they need
** Won't endure sound doctrine
** Neglect of "spiritual vitamins"
** Flabby Christian life
** "More manna"? is their cry
** So they turn from the truth

--People RECEIVE what they like
**Not the truth
** But their own preferences & prejudices
** Teachers to suit themselves are sought
** That which tickles their fancy for something novel, or exciting, or experience centered
** Turn to myths, not healthy truth
** ILLUS---Unity, Christian Science, Jehovah's Witnesses, Unification Church, The Way International

--Thank God NOT ALL are like this !

B.-"Watch Thou In All Things" (4:5)

1-Personalness of the admonition is apparrent
2-"Watch"=="Abstain from wine"
--Used metaphorically of MORAL ALERTNESS
**Related to self
**Related to your people

3-ILLUS-- Major Thomas in Paris Railroad station. Not knowing French, & not having been met as planned because of a rescheduling of his train. WATCH and PRAY. Pray for the Lord's answer, and WATCH to keep a thief from stealing his suitcase

4-Christian leader is to be watchful IN ALL THINGS

5-Ever "on the lookout"

(3)

C.-"Endure Afflictions": (4:5)

1-Occupational hazzards--Prejudice
--Opposition
--Blank indifference / APATHY

2-Paul in 2 Cor. 4:8-9-----4 kinds of opposition & affliction
6:4-10----28 kinds
11:24-33--28 more kinds

3-"Besides all this, the care of the churches daily" (2 Cor.11:28)

4-Expect problems--from the world
--from the devil
--from the compromisers

5-But it's hard to take from FELLOW-BELIEVERS

6-If you are a christian---especially a christian leader---you can expect people to criticize, but you ought to live so nobody will believe them.

D.-"Do The Work Of An Evangelist": (4:5)

1-"Evangelist"--One of the spiritual gifts (Eph. 4:11)
--Ministry to saints----STIR them
--Ministry to unconverted----WIN them } BOTH
--"SHARER" of the good news

2-Philip is so called in the N. T.

3-Few have "the gift"

4-But ALL are to do that work--in preaching
--in teaching
--from house to house
--personally

5-No pleading that---"I am not gifted"

6-YOU'RE SAVED.....and that makes you an evangelizer!

E.-"Make Full Proof of Thy Ministry": (4:5)

1-Each person has a peculiar ministry
--Unique
--No carbon-copies
--"Unbalanced" to some degree — EACH of us; ALL

2-Fulfill to full measure of what you know to be God's ministry FOR YOU

3-Full proof, though you'll not be FOOL PROOF

4-Round out the ministry you have by using the gifts of other men before your people

5-This is the five-fold ministry of the Pastor
- --Preach the Word
- --Watch in all things
- --Endure afflictions
- --Do the work of an evangelist
- --Make full proof of your ministry

--BASIS of the decisions of the people under his ministry

- For salvo.
- For service
- For fidelity + faithfulness

II.-PERSONAL CONFESSION (4:6-8)

PAUL'S

A.-His Attitude (4:6):

1-"Ready to be offered"
- --Spared at previous trial
- --Expecting adverse decision now
- --Figure of speech is of the DRINK OFFERING
  - ** Poured out
  - ** Totally consumed
  - ** Sweet savor in God's nostrils

2-"Time of my departure"
- --as of a "loosing from mooring" of a ship
- --Homegoing is ahead
- --"At hand" indicates immediacy
  - ** No soul sleep
  - ** Absent from body; present with the Lord
- --Torch of truth is about to be passed, and that SOON !

3-Attitude of
- --expectancy
- --satisfaction
- --eagerness

GODLY KIND OF MAN

B.-His Affirmation (4:7):

1-"Fought a good fight"
- --Uses the figure of speech of the Greek Games
- --Follower of own advice
- --1 Tim. 6:12--"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good confession before many witnesses."
- --Life had been no "bed of roses"
- --Many decorations or crowns ahead

2-"Finished my course"
- --Path of service laid out by God
- --Immortal until life-work is done....
- --Full course from Jerusalem to Spain traversed
- --Acts. 20:24--"But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God."

3-"Kept the faith"
- --solid & sweetly serving to the end
- --Not a spiritual castaway
- --Truth of the Word still loved
- --Sacred deposit had been guarded, defended and shared

4-ILLUS--Miss Lavanche Barrows in her classes at McCormick Seminary

C.-His Assurance (4:8):

1-Crown ahead
- --of Righteousness
- --To be given at "Bema"
- --To be given by the Lord Himself
- --For zeal & fidelity

2-Not a "private" reward
--Given to Paul
--Given to all them that love His appearing
--Precious assurance to all who know & Love
** the coming of the Lord — The TIME
** the coming Lord Himself — The PERSON
3-Trust you can make a similar PERSONAL CONFESSION
•-Your attitude
•-Your affirmation
•-Your assurance

"OPEN" To you also (5)

PAUL'S, Personalization Issue

III.-PARTICULAR CO-LABORERS (4:9-15) (Of mice and men)

A.-of Mice: (4:10)

1-Demas--Mentioned favorably in Colossians (4:14) & Philemon(24
--Now, in time of trial, he's forsaken Paul
--Because of love
** Not for the gospel
** Not for the servant, Paul
** But for this present world
** No "long view"
** Living for the present
** Mk. 4:15-19 (READ)
** Benedict Arnold to Paul—TRAITOR
** Forsaker of the Gospel

Began well; Ended poorly!

2-Alexander the coppersmith — (4:14-15)
--Man who did Paul much evil
--Man who'll yet get his just recompence — FROM GOD
--Man who was an enemy of the gospel
--Man to beware of, for his opposition was subtle & disguised
--Opposer of the Gospel

B.-And of Men: → STRATEGY sends men to many places

1-Timothy--Urged to diligently come to Paul (4:9)
--Greatly desired for his comfort & companionship in the darkness of Paul's Roman dungeon
--Requested to bring
** Winter cloak for warmth
** Books & parchments for spiritual warmth thru study
--Urged "to come" 3 times over (4:9, 13, 21)
*--"No man likeminded" according to Phs. 2:20
--Son in the faith

2-Crescens--Gone to Galatia — (4:10)
--No condemnation, as with Demas
--Apparently on an assignment for Paul
--No other mention in N. T.
--A faithful man

3-Titus--Gone to Dalmatia — (4:10)
--Also on assignment — Did his job before in Corinth & Crete
--Previously used as an "apostolic trouble-shooter"
--Probably a relative of Luke's
--Organizer & developer of the churches on Crete.
--Addressed as "mine own son after the common faith" (Tit. 1:4)

4-Luke--"Beloved Physician" who "left all" to serve with Paul (6)
(4:11)--Author & historian
--Fellow evangelist with Paul
--Heroism seen in that he "stuck with Paul" when all others fled or went on other responsibilities
--Priceless companion & co-laborer

5-Mark--Cousin of Barnabas
(4:11)--Servant on Paul's first Missionary journey
--Rejected for Paul's 2nd journey
--Given a second chance by cousin Barnabas
--A FAILURE who "made good"
--Now accepted & appreciated by Paul as "PROFITABLE to me for the ministry."

6-Tychicus--Sent to replace Timothy in Ephesus, so Timothy could come to Paul
(4:12)--Mentioned in Titus as a bearer of messages, as doubtless he was of this last letter of Paul's
--Described as a "brother beloved,& faithful minister in the Lord" (Eph. 6:21)
--Valuable younger leader — Keep the pipeline of leadership being filled

C.-Of Mice And Men----TODAY:
1-The names are changed
2-But the calibre of men remains the same
3-Problems wear modern garb
4-But the need for faithfulness abides
5-Let's resolve------Not to be MICE
--But to be MEN !
1 Cor. 16:13--"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong."

PAUL'S

IV.-PRECIOUS CONCERNS (4:16-21):

A.-For Betrayers Of God (4:16): — ALONE now
1-No one who stood with Paul
2-All who could have stood, FORSOOK
3-Yet, he prays for their forgiveness
4-For they've betrayed their God more than just betraying Paul

B.-For Testimony For God (4:17):
1-The LORD stood with Paul--------His presence
2-The LORD strengthened Paul
3-The LORD enabled Paul to give strong testimony in Preaching
4-The LORD delivered Paul-------at that time + many times before

C.-For The Glory Of God (4:18):
1-Confidence as regarded the future — Deliverance Expected !
--From every evil work
--Continued preservation
2-Wanted GLORY to accrue to God
--Whether by life) Phs.1:20-21
--Of Whether by death)
--Whole ministry was that GLORY might redound

D.-For "Etceteras" of God (4:19-21):

1-Priscilla & Aquilla----Bible teaching couple
2-Household of Onesiphorus----An open home
3-Erastus
4-Trophimus----Left sick at Miletum
5-Greetings sent from--Eubulus
--Pudens
--Linus
--Claudia
--And all the brethren

Named, but not Known

6-"Little people" who were faithful where they were in little jobs for God

CONCLUSION:

A.-Recapitulation:

1-Pastoral Charge----------4:1-5
2-Personal Confession-------4:6-8
3-Particular Co-Laborers----4:9-15
4-Personal Concern----------4:16-22

B.-Realization: (2 Tim. 4:1)

1-A searching scrutiny------"BEFORE GOD"

2-A serious examination-----"WHO SHALL JUDGE"
--Idle builders---No building
--Jerry builders---Wood, hay, stubble
--Successful builders--Gold, silver, precious s.
--1 Cor. 3:11-15

3-A solemn moment--------"AT HIS APPEARING"
--Background for service
--Incentive for service
--Imperative for spiritual inventory

JESUS IS COMING SOON

4-Still true that: "The future of Protestantism---and indeed of Christianity---depends on the answer

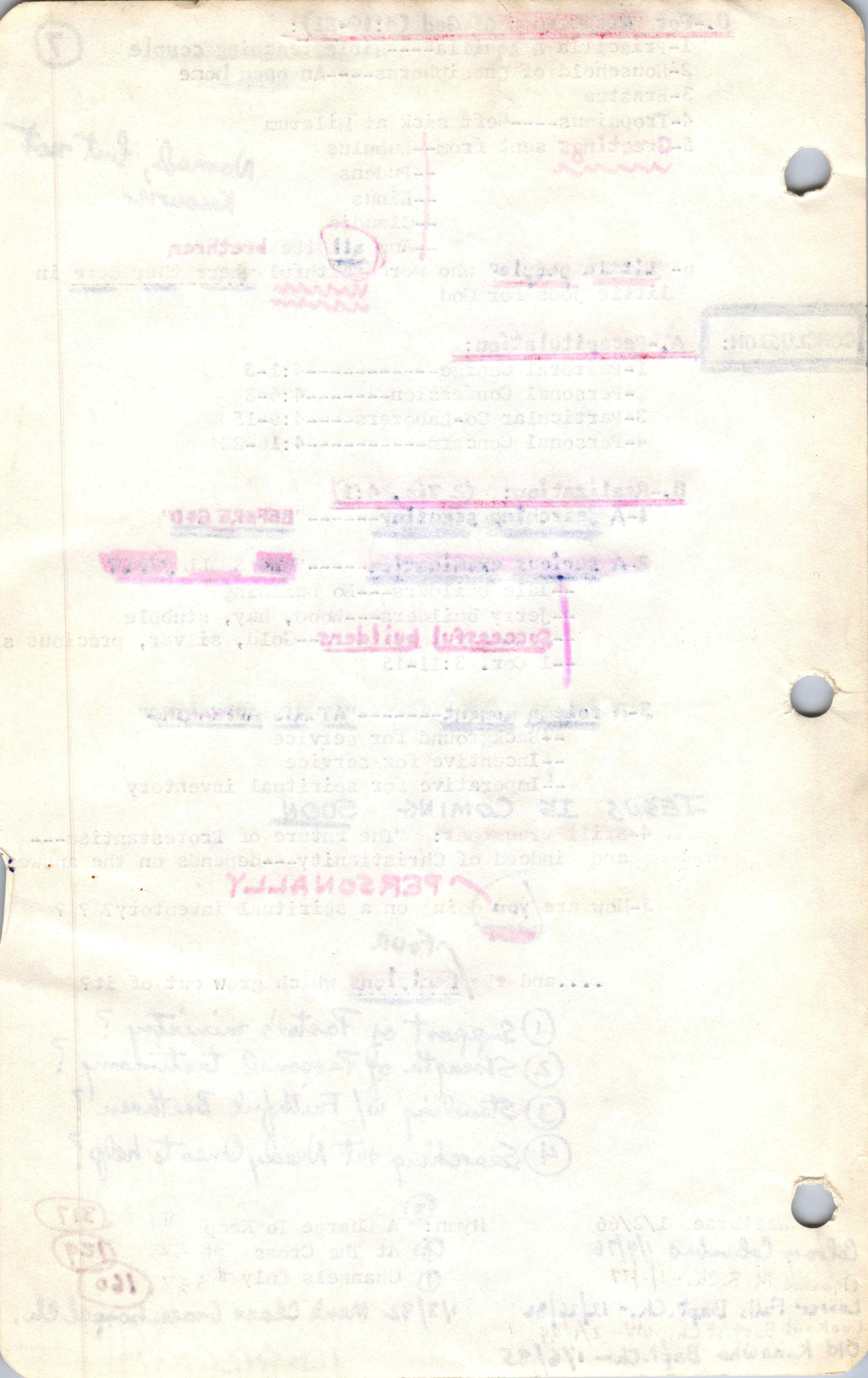
5-How are you PERSONALLY doing on a spiritual inventory? ? ?

....and the FOUR Decisions which grow out of it?

(1) Support of Pastor's ministry?
(2) Strength of Personal testimony?
(3) Standing w/ Faithful Brethren?
(4) Searching out Needy Ones to help?

Hymn: (3) A Charge To Keep #63 (317)
(2) At The Cross #55 (129)
(1) Channels Only #387 (160)

Westbrae 1/2/66
Calvary Columbus 1/4/76
Daniells M.B.Ch.- 1/1/77
Lower Falls Bapt.Ch.- 12/26/82
Lookout Baptist Ch. WV- 1/1/84
Old Kanawha Bapt.Ch- 1/6/85
1/3/92 Men's Class Grace Gospel Ch.


PERSONALLY