"KEY-'73----AN ESCAPADE IN ECUMENISM"

INTRO:

1

A.-Preparatory Message:

1-Last week----"IS CONTROVERSY CHRISTIAN?"

I.-The NEED for Controversy:

II.-BIBLICAL EXAMPLES Of Controversy:

III.-Important HISTORICAL Controversies:

IV.-RULES For Controversy:

2-Saw that with controversy there is a clarifying of truth and a preservation of God's Church from error

3-Saw that when controversy is avoided:

--We prove our own cowardice

--The cause of Christ suffers

4-We may not win every battle, but not to fight for the truth is unthinkable

5-Churchill: "Still, if you will not fight for the right when you can easily win without bloodshed; if you will not fight when your victory will be sure and not too cost ly; you may come to the moment when you will have to figh with all the odds against you and only a precarious chanc for survival. There may be even a worse case. You may have to fight when there is no hope of victory, because it is better to perish than to live as slaves."

B.-Rules For Controversy: (See Overhead under Gal.1:6-9 mess- age)

1-Let us be persons of integrity & principle

2-Fight for truth----in a manner worthy of the truth!!

3-RULE # 1--Controversialist must HAVE THE FACTS:

--Polemics ought never to be based on half-truths, rumors or opinions

--Go to the documents; Use opponents own words

--State the case CLEARLY

4-RULE # 2--Controversialist must DEMONSTRATE CHRISTIAN LOVE:

--Proper spirit is imperative

--Lack of manners or abusiveness is out of place

--That doesn't mitigate our uncompromising opposit- ion to the wrong

--Just determines how we unmask the wrong

5-RULE # 3--Controversialist needs to PRESENT A CASE:

--Not an attack on a person or an institution

--But an argument which is both SCRIPTURAL & LOGICAL

--Principles are at stake; not personalities

6-RULE # 4--Controversialist needs to present his case & defend his cause IN GUARDED LANGUAGE:

--Not broad generalizations

--Not innuendos & implications

--But a closely reasoned case

--Not inflamatory language---but conservative

7-That puts quite a set of standards upon us, but with these self-imposed criteria of presentation, let's now look on at....

C.-"KEY-'73---AN ESCAPADE IN ECUMENISM:

2

1-Outline:
I.-The PREPARATION Behind Key-73:
II.-The PARTICIPANTS In Key-73:
III.-The PRESENTATION Of Key-73:
IV.-The PROTESTS Against Key-73:

2-Proposition: (1) To present the facts
(2) To let those facts speak for themselves
(3) Mutually encourage one another to take the actions warranted BY GOD'S WORD

I.-THE PREPARATION BEHIND KEY-'73:

A.-Historical Background:

1-Berlin Congress On Evangelism--1966

2-Article in CHRISTIANITY TODAY, June 9, 1967, written by then-Editor Dr. Carl Henry entitled: "SOMEHOW LET'S GET TOGETHER"
- --Not on the basis of Scripture
- --Not on the basis of God's truth
- --Just "TOGETHER", & put aside all differences

3-42 churchmen assembled at a Motel near the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Washington, D.C., Sept. 28-30, 1967, at the expense of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Assn.

4-The men assembled agreed that:
"the only effort in which Christians would possibly consider working together would be in the field of evangelism."

5-Other developments--Minneapolis Congress on Ev.; 1969
- --Explo 72 in Dallas sponsored by C.C.
  - ** Mixed bag of speakers
  - ** Participation in leadership & organization by cults & R.C.'s
  - ** Worldly & unsaved musicians (Kris Christopherson)
  - ** "Christian Rock" music for a CHRISTIAN WOODSTOCK
  - ** Utter confusion by equal endorsement of believers & deniers
- --Key-'73: **1971; Yr. of Preparation
  **1972; Yr. of Presentation
  **1973; Yr. of Penetration
- --1974 World Congress On Evangelism among ALL RELIGIOUS GROUPS

B.-Personnel In Leadership:

1-Executive Committee lists men from:
- --Presbyterian Church
- --American Baptist Convention
- --Christian Churches of Christ
- --Campus Crusade for Christ
- --Southern Baptist Convention
- --Brethren in Christ
- --United Methodist
- --Anglican Canada
- --Ch. of the Nazarene
- --Christian Meth. Episc.
- --Billy Graham Ev. Assn.
- --Christian Reform Ch.
- --Salvation Army
- --Assemblies of God
- --Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod

2-These form the POLICY MAKING COMMITTEE

3-Executive Director--Dr. Ted A. Raedeke
--Resides & H.Q. in St. Louis
--Missouri Synod Lutheran; 14 years in their Evangelism Department

3

4-Chairman of Policy Committee--Dr. Thomas F. Zimmerman, Assemblies of God, Springfield, Mo.

5-Featured speakers & spokesmen:
--Ralph S. Bell (In S.F.) of Billy Graham Ev. Assn.
--Dr. Robert Marshall opened the KEY-'73 emphasis in St. Louis on Nov. 26, 1972, at the First Presbyterian Church. The Lutheran paper THE CHRISTIAN NEWS of Nov. 20, 1972, states: "Marshall is a theological liberal. He attacks the inerrancy of the Bible & the historicity of the O.T. in 'THE MIGHTY ACTS OF GOD'. He advances in this book many of the destructive anti-Christian theories of historical criticism."
--Dr. Ted A. Raedeke (more quotes later)

C.-S

C.-Sponsorship And Finances:
1-Call went out from CHRISTIANITY TODAY, which is virtually the publications "voice" of New Evangelicalism
2-Bill for the Key Motel conference picked up by Graham Assn.
3-Budget of $2 million
4-Contributions sought widely
5-Bulk of finances are from Billy Graham Ev. Assn. & Campus Crusade for Christ

D.-Recommended Reading:
1-Resourse Book available from Key-'73 H.Q.
2-Bibliography section where they recommend you go for help, inspiration & information
3-Some of the books listed:
--"CHURCH DOGMATICS, IV", Karl Barth; Originator of Neo-Orthodoxy who denied heaven & hell as real places; denied a Supernatural Christ, & believed all men were saved. They call this book "A gold-mine for the student of Ch. Growth"
--"DOCUMENTS OF VATICAN II", to help understand what they call revolutionary changes going on in Catholicism today.
--"THE MEANING OF PRAYER", Harry Emerson Fosdick; one of the most outspoken liberal deniers of Biblical Christianity the USA has ever produced. Called his book "One of the best studies on prayer available"
--"JOURNAL OF A SOUL", Pope John XXIII is said to be"excellent"
--Other liberal authors recommended:
** Martin Marty
** Richard Niebuhr
** Walter Rauschenbusch
** Elton Trueblood
--Official Book on KEY--'73 put out by United Methodist Publishing House in Nashville--"BRIDGES TO THE WORLD". The authors are Methodist men---one of whom is General Secretary of the Genral Board of Evangelism of the Methodist Church--Joseph H. Yeakel. We'll hear more of his views on "EVANGELISM" later.

*

4-With suggested reading like that, you won't be at all surprised as to....

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II.-THE PARTICIPANTS IN KEY--'73: (Display their "symbol")
(More than 140 denominations & Xn groups participating. ALL SHADES of belief & unbelief)

A.-The National Assn. Of Evangelicals:

1-Its leaders gave birth to the idea of KEY--'73

2-Dr. Harold J. Okenga (First Pres. of NAE; First Pres. of Fuller Theol. Seminary; Present Pres. of Gordon College) spoke at the 30th NAE 1972 Convention held in St. Louis. INQUIRER of May 1972 states: "He called for an evangelistic program that would put the NAE in the forefront of KEY--'73, a cooperative evangelistic plan endorsed by a number of American denominations and scheduled for 1973." (P. 10)

3-Floor voting led to a floor fight. NAE voted to send the recommendation back to committee by 1 vote, & that killed their endorsement as a body

4-General Director of NAE, Dr. Clyde Taylor--said this was the first division in the history of their movement.

5-That Convention was one in which one of the principle speakers was a Roman Catholic Priest

6-16 of the 40 NAE members have individually joined KEY--'73 as of Aug. 8, 1972, and probably more since then.

B.-The American Baptist Convention (Now "CHURCH"):

1-Publicized KEY--'73 a great deal

2-Feb. 19, 1972 article in THE AMERICAN BAPTIST:
--Called KEY-'73 a "NEW ECUMENISM"
--Carried this article title: "KEY-'73---What'll It Be For AMERICAN BAPTISTS?"
--Delighted with KEY-'73 as a tool of ecumenical cooperation

3-Same publication Oct. 1971:
--Describes KEY-'73 as "an ecumenical evangelistic thrust"
--Quotes: "The Rev. Dr. Jitsuo Morikawa, associate secretary of the American Baptist Home Missions Society expressing the hope that KEY-'73 might be a vehicle for COMBINING the best elements of 'old-time evangelism' which tended to emphasize the personal character of salvation and the larger concept of salvation as being corporate and social in character."

C.-United Methodist Church:

1-Denomination that's even more liberal than the ABC

2-United Methodist paper "STREET 'N STEEPLE"--2nd Quarter 1972: "Where possible the evangelistic efforts will be within an ecumenical context, as in the U.S., where it is proposed to be included as part of the interdenominational KEY-'73 evangelism movement. The worldwide Methodist effort will attempt to avoid setting personal salvation over against social salvation." (Page 2, Col. 1)

See Yeakel quote.

3-1972 Conference of UMC in Atlanta. Presentation to the Conference on April 25, 1972 by Dr. Joseph Yeakel--the man who wrote the Introduction to the Offical KEY-'73 book, "BRIDGES TO THE WORLD" really shows us the Methodist's view of evangelism:

D.-Christian Missionary Alliance: (attached articles)

E.-American Bible Society: (attached item) "Attached STREET + STEEPLE" (5)

F.-Roman Catholic Church:

1-Monsignor Baker of St. Louis has indicated that all of Missouri's Catholic bishops have shown "genuine enthusiasm" for KEY-'73. "They are very deemply committed...and see the program as a real opportunity for spiritual renewal."

2-At an April 1972 meeting of the U.S. Roman Catholic bishops in Atlanta, Cardinal John Carberry, an archbishop, spoke out in "support of KEY-'73, a national interdenominational evangelistic program with headquarters in St. Louis." (Article in St. Louis Globe-Democrat, Apr. 12, 1972) As a result of that meeting America's Roman Catholic bishops gave their sanction for joining with Protestants in KEY-'73.

3-At last listing 6 R. C. diocese have joined KEY-'73, including the Oakland area under Bishop Floyd L. Begin, according to the Oakland Tribune, Dec. 10, 1972.

4-NATIONAL CATHOLIC REGISTER published a lead editorial calling upon Roman Catholics to join in the revival planned for 1973: (See attached item headed "Christ's Mission")

5-COMMENT: It should be clear that this Catholic editor entertains a different understanding of evangelism than that held by Protestants."

6-If you don't think so, then I suggest this clarification quoted from the St. Louis Review of Nov. 24, 1972 as they presented a document signed by 9 R.C. Bishops of Missouri about their joining in KEY-'73:

"...our activity will have as its primary goal an intensive spiritual renewal within our church in accordance with Catholic teachings and traditions. At the same time, it will be pervaded with a spirit of genuine ecumenism.when we join with other Christian churches in certain undertakings in support of beliefs we share in common....Among the means of fostering our personal renewal with Christ are a wholehearted participation of Christ's offering Himself in the Mass, deep devotion to Christ present in the Eucharist, personal meeting with Christ the Healer and Reconciler in the Sacrament of Penance, frequent reading of God's Word in Holy Scripture, fidelity in personal prayer, use of the rosary to meditate on the mysteries of Christ, communal prayer as a family group, serious study of our faith both privately and in groups, spiritual renewal experience such as retreats, days of recollection, parish missions, and the like....We shall endeavor to deepen our love and loyalty to our Most Holy Father, Pope Paul VI, remembering him in our prayers daily and recalling our duty of filial obedience... In union with Mary, who first brought Christ to the world, and whom He has given to us as our spiritual Mother, and with the saints who have witnessed to Him through the ages" (See BLU-PRINT item 12/12/72)

G.-Campus Crusade For Christ: (Promulgator)

H.-Billy Graham Evangelistic Assn: (Promulgator)

1-Dr. Billy Graham is quoted in THE CATHOLIC VOICE, May 4, 1972 P.4 said: "I think it's wonderful for Catholics to come in and get involved in evangelism."
2-Pushed very hard....& frequently in his DECISION magazine

I.-HOLINESS & TONGUES GROUPS:
1-Mennonites
2-Pentecostals
3-Assemblies of God
4-Church of God
5-Church of the Nazarene

J.-Associated Students of BIOLA College: (See list of participant
1-Open declaration of what's long been denied by BIOLA's administration
2-BIOLA has gone over to the New Evangelical camp as a participating entity

K.-Summary Concerning Participants:
1-"Birds of a feather flock together"
2-If you're not"one of those birds", then you ought not to be in their crowd and doing "their thing"

III.-THE PRESENTATION OF KEY--'73:

A.-KEY-'73's Purpose:
1-Stated purpose acc. to their own "literature kit" (white slip)
2-NOTICE:--KEY-'73 is not designed to launch another Ecumenical movement or structure
--Nothing really different in this from what has been going on for years
--Just now "OUT IN THE OPEN" about it
3-Blue sheet----"Statement of Position" from Bay area Steering Committtee 5/3/72
4-David E. Kucharsky, Managing Editor of CHRISTIANITY TODAY wrote an article for Sept. 1972 issue of THE PRESBYTERIAN LAYMAN (P. 2)--"KEY-'73 is best described simply as an all-out evangelistic effort. It seeks to confront the people on our continent more fully & more forcefully with the Gospel of Jesus Christ..."

B.-KEY-'73's Program:
1-Dr. Paul Benjamin, Lincoln Christian Seminary of Lincoln, Illinois at the KEY-'73 Committee Meeting Oct. 25-26, 1971 described the program of KEY-'73 as:
"a smorgasbord of ideas."
2-Dr. Thomas F. Zimmerman, General Supt. of Assemblies of God, at that same KEY-'73 Committee Meeting Oct. 25-26, 1971 in St. Louis, described KEY-'73 as:
"an umbrella high enough raised so that under it we can all gather without sacrificing our particular heritage."
3-In Oct. 1971 Dr. Ted Raedeke in St. Louis outlined the program in this way:
(1) Do "your own thing" right-----YOUR WAY

(2) Do "your own thing"-----BUT SHARE
(3) Do "your own thing"-------- SIMULTANEOUSLY
(4) Do "OUR thing"-----TOGETHER

4-Not a pre-packaged H.Q. program, but a banner and a spirit for individual flexibility so each group makes KEY-'73 to be what it wants it to be.

5-Descriptions given KEY-'73--"A Christian Blitz"
--"An Evangelisitic Blitz"

7

6-"YOUR PART IN KEY-'73" yellow sheet sent to Pastors tells of the "cooperative continent-wide program calendar of KEY-'73"
(Page 2)-----UMBRELLA OVERLAY:

Overlay

** Phase One--Calling Our Continent To Repentance & Prayer
(Christmas 1972 thru Jan. 7, 1973)
** Phase Two--Calling Our Continent To The Word Of God
(Bible distribution of Lk/Acts to every home in US & Canada)
** Phase Three--Calling Our Continent To Resurrection
(Lay Witness emphasis during Lent)
** Phase Four--Calling Our Continent To New Life
(Summer program of "CREATIVE EVANGELISM"
** Phase Five--Calling Our Continent To Proclamation
(Plans"to lift up the preached word in new ways and new places"
** Phase Six--Calling Our Continent To Commitment
(Sharing in the needs of the world)

C.-KEY-'73's Problems:

1-Lack of a Biblical definition of "THE GOSPEL" which they seek to communicate to the continent
--Tongues
--Sacraments
--Works
--Lordship heresy
--Grace
--And who knows what else ????

2-Intrusion of a SOCIAL EMPHASIS to the message:
--P. 1, Item 4 on "YOUR PART IN KEY-'73" sheet
--"To apply the message and meaning of Jesus Christ to the issues shaping man and his society in order that the they may be resolved."

3-MIXED MULTITUDE of participants--Rank unbelievers
--False religionists
--Compromising brethren
--Some believers who're duped into something they don't understand because they do love the Lord & want to see souls saved
--Marion H. Reynolds, Jr--"EVANGELISM is the bait to entice the hitherto wary evangelical." (F.E.A. News & Views, July-Aug, 1972)

IV.-PROTESTS AGAINST KEY--'73:

(16)

A.-Who Has Taken A Stand?:

1-Dishearteningly few 1972

2-GARBC in their San Diego Convention--Resolution of June 30,

3-IFCA--Convention Resolution not acted upon

--Eight Regionals have adopted resolutions of condemnation

--Northern California, Iowa, Heart of America, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Rocky Mountain, Kansas, Texas

Now in VOICE

4-American Council of Christian Churches

5-United Missionary Fellowship

6-Schools--Western Baptist Bible College (Dr. Brock's Editorial in W.B. POWER, June 1972) + Mar 1973

--Los Angeles Baptist College (Policy Statement)

7-Others on record--Fundamental Evangelistic Assn. of L. A.

--Campus Baptist Church of Ames, Iowa

--Thomas E. Baker, Bible Truth Mission

--Jack Wyrtzen, Word of Life Mission.

B.-What Should Bible-Believers Do?:

1-REFUSE TO COOPERATE with those who walk disorderly:

--2 Cor. 6:14--"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers..."

--Rom. 16:17-18--"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrin which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."

--2 John 7-11

2-REVEAL ERROR in an unscriptural program

--Eph. 5:10-12--"Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret."

--2 Tim. 4:2--"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

--Tit. 1:13--"...Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;"

3-REJECT A PHILOSOPHY of compromise that says "INFILTRATE" or "PENETRATE", when God says "SEPARATE"

--2 Th. 3:14-15--"And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man and have no company with him that he may be ashamed. Yet, count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother."

--1 Tim. 6:3-5--"If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Chris and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness, from such withdraw thyself."

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE BOOK OF GALATIANS Gal 3 (1)

INTRO:

A.-Emphasis On Holy Spirit:

1-"I believe in the Holy Ghost"---APOSTLE'S CREED
2-Only 1 article, and that without illucidation
3-10 articles on the Person and work of Christ
4-WHY THE DIFFERENCE ??
--John 16:12-15
--Emphasis on Christ, not Spirit
5-As long ago as May, 1903 the Editor of Expository Times wrote: "The doctrine of the Holy Spirit still suffers neglect among us."
6-Some books & movements since then
7-STILL not too much improvement of clarity, except
--W. H. Griffith-Thomas
--Walvoord
--Unger
--Pentecost
8-Important doctrine and truth in N. T.--Holy Spirit
--24 of 27 N. T. books have references
--Omited from only 1 of Paul's 13 books (Phile)
--120 references in Paul's writings to the Holy Spirit
--Can't cover all of that now.
--Today we'll take 1 book

B.-Holy Spirit In Galatians:

1-The Holy Spirit RECEIVED
2-The Holy Spirit REALIZED
3-The Holy Spirit REPRODUCED

I.-THE HOLY SPIRIT RECEIVED:

"This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by the hearing of faith?"

A.-For Commencement:

1-Gal. 3:2
2-"Received"---Aorist
3-Indicates THE BEGINNING
4-Synonymous with being truly born again — Rom. 8:9
5-ILLUS----Acts 19:1-6a

"He that ministereth to you the Spirit, & worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the Law or by the hearing of faith?"

B.-For Continuance:

1-Gal. 3:5
2-Two Key Words--"Ministereth" (1)
--"Worketh" (2)
--Related to the Spirit's ministry
--Present participles
--Indicating continuance in the Spirit

"That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles thru Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit thru faith"

C.-For Completion:

1-Gal. 3:14
2-Tense (Aor. Subjunct.) indicates a future completion
3-Reception of the Spirit takes place at salvation
4-Full ministry of the Spirit is ahead
5-Eph. 1:13-14
6-Spirit is our "DOWNPAYMENT" on a full inheritance
--"More to follow"

--Not more of the Spirit
--But more of the inheritance
--ILLUS---Earnest money in the purchase of a house

7-The Spirit will keep us sealed until delivery to glory

II.-THE HOLY SPIRIT REALIZED:

"But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit."

A.-As To The Past: - BORN

1-Gal. 4:29
2-By being born after the Spirit
3-John 3:3-6
4-Conflict with those born after the flesh is apparent
5-WHY ??--Gal. 4:6-7
--Sonship has been actualized by the Spirit

"For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith"

B.-As To The Future: - WAITING, EXPECTING

1-Gal. 5:5
2-Text in context------EXPLAIN 5:1-10
3-Still not too clear
--Need other N. T. usages to clarify
--Key word is "WAIT"
--Rom. 8:23--"And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."
* --Adoption is in view
--NOW we are Sons
--THEN we'll have all the privileges of our sonship, including a NEW BODY as evidence of sonship
--That future body is by the power of the Spirit
--AT WHAT TIME ? ** 1 Cor. 1:7--"So that ye come behind in no gift, waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."
** At the Second Advent

"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, & ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh"

C.-As To The Present: - WALK

1-Gal. 5:16
2-"WALK"--Present
--Continuously & Progressively
--Command given
--With a consolation--"and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh"

"But if ye be led of the Spirit ye are not under the Law"

--ILLUS--This dependence will get you out of the SAND TRAP of powerless living

3-Conflict--Gal. 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit & the Spirit against the flesh: & these are contrary one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would
4-Consolation--Gal. 5:18
5-Contrast---WORKS (P1) of the flesh
---Gal. 5:19-21
6-So--at present we are to walk in the Spirit
--Move out in real dependence
--Not dependence upon self
--But dependence upon the Spirit
--CAST OURSELVES upon Him !
--This is our present responsibility

--Leave to the Spirit His responsibility to allow and cause our lives to realize His presence.

III.-THE HOLY SPIRIT REPRODUCED:

A.-Character: — WHAT YOU ARE

1-Gal. 5:22-23

2-"BUT"--Marked difference from 5:19-21
--There the works of the flesh — Plural
--Here the fruit of the Spirit — Singular
--Not FRUITS, but FRUIT
--ILLUS----Cluster of grapes
--Segments of an orange

3-First Division of the Fruit--In relation to God
--Love
--Joy
--Peace
--These indicate one's relation to the Lord as they are exhibited in one's life

4-Second Division of the Fruit--In relation to Fellow-man
--Longsuffering
--Gentleness
--Goodness
--Does our life daily exhibit these toward others with whom we work & live ?

5-Third Division of the Fruit--In relation to ourselves, our circumstances, our christian life
--Faith (faithfulness)
--Meekness
--Temperance == Self control

6-These are the Fruit--Produced by the Spirit
--They go TOGETHER
--Can't have more of 1 than of any other "segment"
--If lacking in 1, then lacking in all
--These are INWROUGHT CHRISTIAN CHARACTER
--These are the Spirit reproduced in our lives.

B.-Conduct: — WHAT YOU DO

1-How does the Fruit of the Spirit SHOW ?
--Walking the aisle repeatedly ?
--Series of crisis experiences ?
....--NO, though such may begin a process of the Spirit's work in you.

2-How then does the Fruit of the Spirit SHOW ?
←--Gal. 5:25
--"If we live in the Spirit" =="If our life is filled with the CHARACTER of the Spirit,"
--"Let us walk in the Spirit" == "Let us be marching in line & in step with the Spirit"

"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit"

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

--This deals with CONDUCT
--Character can only be seen in conduct
3-Does our conduct, display the character of the Spirit ??
4- IT SHOULD !

(4)

C.-Consecration: — WHAT YOU DECIDE

1-Gal. 6:8
2-CHOICE to be made
3-We decide the directions we'll go
--In salvation
--In Christian experience
--Some choose the HIGH ROAD of the normal christian life of victory in the midst of battles
--Some choose the LOW ROAD of the carnal life of defeat after defeat

"For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

--
EITHER IS A CHOICE !!

--What are you choosing ?
** Flesh living and reap corruption ?
** Spirit living and reap life that's really living

4-Are you really consecrated by your choice of the Lord's best for your life?

5-Illus

- In family + home
- In work
- In neighborhood
- In ministry

CONCLUSION:

A.-Outline:
1-Spirit RECEIVED at salvation
2-Spirit REALIZED increasingly in daily life
3-Spirit REPRODUCED --in character
--in conduct
--in consecration

B.-Outworking:
1-Radio Pastor recently said "If the Holy Spirit were taken out of the world today, I believe that 95% of church work would still go on."
2-DREADFUL IF TRUE !
3-How would it be in your life if the Spirit of God ceased to operate ?---Go on "business as usual"
--Or would there be a "POWER FAILURE" in your life?
--This is important
4-Need to--KNOW the truth about the Spirit (Mental)
--Be walking in the truth as we....
--"Walk in the Spirit, and we'll not fulfill the lust of the flesh." (Practice)

Westbrae--7/16/67-- "The Comforter Has Come"-----152
Grace Gospel Ch. "Blessed Quietness"----------318
6/18/2000 — S.S.

"IS CONTROVERSY CHRISTIAN?" Galatians 1:6-9

INTRO:

A.-The Question And The Answer:
1-"IS CONTROVERSY CHRISTIAN?"
2-That the question has to be asked:
--Shows it needs an answer
--Shows not all are agreed on the answer
3-Take a bit of DIGGING to come to an answer we can live with before the Lord,
4-But.....WE NEED AN ANSWER !!

B.-Many Christians Oppose Controversy:
1-Avoiders--Disagreement, debate & division are viewed as deplorable
--Seen as "contrary to the spirit of Christ"
--Believe it is detrimental to His Cause
2-Good people.....but AVOIDERS
3-"PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE--Political maxim between USA and the Communists
--Religious maxim adopted by many christians today
4-What's so vitally important about--Inspiration ??
--Deity of Christ ??
--Premillennial return of Christ??
--Why "HAVE A FUSS" with good christian brethren ??
--Spirit of the age finds....

C.-Many Christians Plead For Tolerance:
1-Bob Jones, Jr:--"There are many pleas made these days for "tolerance." But often 'tolerance' is not the right word for that which is demanded. What is meant is 'COMPROMISE'. Tolerance and compromise are not the same thing. This is tolerance--to grant to another the same rights which I claim for myself. This is compromise--to sacrifice heart-felt conviction in order that someone else may be pleased or in order to avoid a breach of peace." (Fellowship News, 3/16/57, P. 4)
2-To compromise with wrong in the name of tolerance is to dishonor God and His Word
3-Some criticize individuals or institutions: "THEY ARE ALWAYS FIGHTING"--Always fighting ??
--Fighting with whom??
--Fighting for what ??
4-The character of a man, an institution or a movement may be more readily recognized sometimes by the nature of THEIR ENEMIES than by the number of THEIR FRIENDS
5-NOT necessarily UNSPIRITUAL to be embroiled in controversy

6-ACCUSATION: "He fights with other christians"
--Is that wrong ??
--Wrong views held (Post or mid-trib)
--Wrong doctrines believed (Scriptures; Holy Spirit)
--Wrong practices (Baptismal regeneration; Moderation with alcohol; Pacifism)
--There is need for someone to uncover error and to OPPOSE THE WRONG !!

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

D.-Our Message:
1-Outline: I.-The NEED For Controversy:
II.-BIBLICAL EXAMPLES Of Controversy:
III.-Important HISTORICAL Controversies:
IV.-RULES For Controversy:
2-Prop:--Get a "God's-eye-view" of this subject
--Strengthen our resolve to know the truth & then to stand for it!!

I.-THE NEED FOR CONTROVERSY:

A.-The Moral Necessity: (Character Of God)
1-There IS a need for fighting
2-Entire universe is the stage for the CONFLICT OF THE AGES
--Struggle between good and evil
--Conflict between God and Satan
--It is a REAL CONTEST
--Though Divine victory is certain
--The fight is no less real
3-James M. Gray writing in the midst of the Fundamentalist/Modernist Controversy of October 1929 wrote: "God Himself was the first to create controversy, to His eternal glory be it said." (Editorial, Moody Monthly, 10/29)

B.-The Practical Necessity: (Problems of our day)
1-Controversy is most necessary if the testimony of Christ is to ring out pure & clear
2-Problems that we face today:
--Internal strife within a local church
--Doctrinal defection within a denominational fellowship
--Dulling of the cutting edge of truth in some educational institutions
--Broadening the scope of "cooperation" by some missionary agencies today
3-These problems EXIST. When we face them or run from them,

C.-The Personal Necessity: (Proof of our Character and Commitment)

1-Leaders that will not positionalize themselves & then engage in controversy for their positions will eventually see their works (churches, denominations, schools missions) lost to the position they once defended.

2-To be a Christian is to be IN THE ARENA of conflict

3-Old Camp Meeting song:

"We must fight the fight against all evil,
Never run nor even lag behind,
If you would win for God and the right,
Just keep on the firing line."

4-Christians who shirk the battles are not true soldiers of the Cross

5-Those who seek NO CONTROVERSY are attempting to live in a dream world.....which has no existence at all.

6-Controversy is a part of life----a necessary part of it

II.-THE BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF CONTROVERSY:

A.-Old Testament Prophets:

1-The Bible is a book of controversy. The O.T. prophets were men of contention.

2-MOSES--Controversy with Pharoah over deliverance
--Controversy with Korah over Divine Order in the Camp of God's people
--Controversy with Balaam over God blessing sinne

3-SAMUEL--1 Sam. 13:8-14
--Saul disobeyed God's commands
--Saul seeks to justify himself in his disobedie
--Samuel didn't just go home and "pray about it"
--Samuel delivered a STINGING REBUKE !!

4-NATHAN--Must have been loathe to believe David had sinned with Bathsheba
--Must have shrunk from a conflict & confrontation with God's anointed
--YET he came with boldness to David
--"THOU ART THE MAN"

5-ELIJAH--Confronted everywhere by the flagrant sins of the wicked Ahab
--Saw importation of heathen worship thru Jezebel
--Refused to maintain a "discreet silence"
--OPPOSED THE APOSTACY----and the apostate
--Dubbed a "troubler of Israel" (1 Kings 18:17+)

6-And I could go on--Micaiah (2 Chron. 18)
--Jeremiah
--Nehemiah (Ch. 13)
--Most of God's men have been CONTROVERSIALISTS of the worst sort!

B.-The Lord Jesus Christ:

1-Often presented by the Liberals as "the meek and mild Jesus"

2-Not a fair evaluation of Him

3-Practically every day of His public ministry found Him opposed by or opposing error & sin.

--Scourge used to cleanse the Temple (Jn. 2:13-17)
--Conflict with Pharisees over casting out of demons (Mt. 12:24++)
--Opposition from Peter as he rebuked the Savior for saying He would die and be raised again (Mt. 16:21-23)
--Overthrowing money changers' tables in Temple (Mt. 21:12-13)
--Denouncing by "WOES" upon Pharisees (Mt. 23:13-39)

4-He also taught His followers to expect trouble, opposition & controversy (READ Mt. 10:34-36)

5-Robert Haldane: "Many religious persons have a dread of controversy, & wish truth to be stated without any reference to those who hold the opposite errors. Controversy and a bad spirit are in their estimation synonymous terms, and to strenuously oppose what is wrong is considered contrary to Christian meekness. Those who hold this opinion seem to overlook what every page of the New Testament lays before us. In all the history of our Lord Jesus Christ, we never find Him out of controversy." (No source. From his writings)

C.-The New Testament Apostles:

1-Their approach with the GOOD NEWS
--False religions were RAMPANT in the Roman Empire
--"QUIET APPROACH" was disdained
--Frontal assault on sin & error
--"Turned the world upside down"
--Fires of controversy were lit which have blazed for centuries since

2-Challenge to soul liberty
--Acts 4:18--"And they called them, & commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus"
--Command to be subservient to human authorities
--Contradiction of their conscience & of Divine commands, so they went on with their witness
--REBUKED--Acts.5:28--"..Did not we straightly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us."
--PRINCIPLE--Acts 5:29--"Then Peter and the other apostles answered & said, We ought to obey God rather than men."
--This cost the apostles & disciples many beatings (5:40)
--But freedom to obey God was WORTH THE CONTROVERSY

3-Doctrinal conflict--Sincere people sometimes say that they do not feel there should be any controversy over doctrine---we ought to just PREACH THE GOSPEL, and not argue among ourselves.
--Certainly all spiritual christians want to avoid fleshly wrangling
But the N.T. is clear that the Church will be engaged in doctrinal conflict until Jesus comes for His Church
--Acts 15:1-2 ** Propagators of a false gospel
** Paul & Barnabas "had no small dissention & disputation"

** Where would the Church be today if they'd have shunned a controversy ??
** Galatian heresy of SALVATION BY WORKS (legalism) would have spread thru the Church.

4-DOCTRINAL BATTLES
--1 Tim. 6:12--"Fight the good fight of (THE) faith..."
--2 Tim. 4:7--"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept THE faith."
--Tit. 1:13--"...Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in THE faith."
--J. Gresham Machen in his last Chapel address at Princeton on "The Good Fight Of Faith"..
"The human instruments, however, which God uses in these triumphs are no pacifists, but great fighters like Paul himself. Little for the great apostle has the whole tribe of the considerers of consequences, the whole tribe of the compromisers, ancient and modern....It is impossible to be a true soldier of Jesus Christ and not fight."
(For this message see "VALIANT FOR THE FAITH", P.448)

5-Personal Confrontations:
--Paul wrote of LOVE in 1 Corinthians 13
--But Paul also stood up to fellow-Apostle Peter when Peter failed to stand for the truth
--Turn to & READ Gal. 2:11-14
** Unpleasant controversy
** Peter dissembled =="joined in acting the hypocrite"
** Others followed Peter's example
** So Paul "withstood him to the face" (2:11)
** And he did it "before them all" (2:14)
--An influential leader was giving leadership CONTRARY to the truth
--Paul could have taken a MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD position which would have preserved popularity at the price of silence
--W.B.Riley: "The middle-of-the-road man is the theological menace of the 20th Century...The middle-of-the-road man commonly mistakes compromise for discretion."
(Jan. 1938, THE PILOT)

6-Morals Case--Some well-meaning Pastors & Church Officers, thinking to maintain PEACE in their churches, flee any controversial issue on the grounds "They don't want to split the Church"
--Others seek harmony that will keep them from losing their pulpits
--GRANTED that great wisdom is needed to properly handle controversial issues
--EXAMPLE ** Nasty situation in 1 Corinthians 5
** Doubtless this created a CRISIS in the Corinthian congregation
** But Paul handled it forthrightly
--Sometimes we must HAVE trouble in order to AVOID trouble
--Controversy can be HEALTHY for a Church, when Pastor, Officers & People side with New Testament principles.

D.-The Polemic Books Of The N.T.:

1-Whole Books of the N.T. are given over to the setting straight of error--2 Cor.----Defense of Apostleship
--2 Thess.--Correction of error regarding the Day of the Lord
--2 Tim.----Apostasy of the Last Days
--2 Peter---False Teachers & teachings
--2 John----Deceivers who've entered into the world & into the Ch.

2-Epistle of Jude
--Entire book given over as a BATTLE-CRY AGAINST ERROR
--Doubtless many christians would feel that Jude ought to have been "more positive"
--But God led him otherwise

3-Large sections of other books also combat error
--By POSITIVE truth presented
--By NEGATIVE attack upon error

4-The truth of God stands in deadly combat with ERROR

5-ILLUS--Recently a former member said as he visited here again that his mother would no longer accompany him here to Westbrae because every time she'd come there had been something taught which was contrary to Roman Catholicism.

PRAISE THE LORD !! We are not Roman Catholics, But Bible believers, and that makes us FOR the truth and AGAINST error. Certainly the Roman Catholic Church is not going to expose its own errors & Heresies. If that mother is ever going to HEAR, to BELIEVE, and to be SAVED, it will require that someone speaks the truth in love to her. God grant that Westbrae is always that kind of a Church with that kind of a ministry.

III.-IMPORTANT HISTORICAL CONTROVERSIES:

A.-The Issue:

1-Would Christianity have been better off without the raging controversies that have characterized practically every era of its history????

2-How many times have christians been exhorted to "FORGET THEIR DIFFERENCES," win souls, & pray for revival ??

3-Machen's words can hardly be improved on in uncovering the fallacy of this attitude:

"The shibboleths of the adversary have sometimes a very deceptive sound. 'Let us propagate Christianity,' the adversary says, 'but let us not always be engaged in arguing in defense of it; let us make our preaching positive, and not negative; let us avoid controversy; let us hold to a Personaand not to a dogma; let us sink small doctrinal differences and seek the unity of the church of Christ"....
They deceive some of God's people some of the time; they are heard sometimes from the lips of good Christian people, who have not the slightest inkling of what they mean. But their true meaning, to thinking men, is becoming increasingly clear. Increasingly it is becoming necessary for a man to decide whether he is going to stand or not for the Lord Jesus Christ as He is presented to us in the Word of God."(See sermon in VALLIANT FOR THE FAITH, P. 448 ++)

4-Let's look at a short survey of Church History highlights at some GODLY CONTROVERSIALISTS....

B.-Earlier Church History:

1-ATHENASIUS--What a spectacle of controversy was the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D.! Here were the great leaders of the Church arguing over one word. Athanasius maintained that Jesus Christ was HOMOOUSIOS while his opponent, Arius declared strenuously that Christ was HOMOIOUSIOS.

"A ridiculous debate," some might say. "Let us get on with the job of evangelism & world missions." BUT WAIT!! Between those two little words was an unbridgable gap. The word that Athanasius used meant that Jesus Christ WAS IDENTICAL IN ESSENCE WITH GOD, that He was truly God in every sense of the word.

On the other hand, the word employed by Arius simply meant that Jesus Christ WAS LIKE GOD, but not identical with Him, thus robbing the Savior of His full & complete deity.

The position of Athanasius was finally accepted by the Church thru the struggle which lasted over several years. The full deity of Jesus Christ was placed in the NICEAN CREED & became the norm of belief. If Athanasius had refused to fight for a word, the doctrine of the complete deity of the Lord Jesus Christ might have been obscured if not erased in the creeds of the Church of that day.....and perhaps of ours.

2-AUGUSTINE--Here we see a converted wastrel who tenaciously fought for the doctrine of sovereign grace as against the theology of PELAGIUS, the British monk, who contaminated the gospel with the doings of men.

Pelagius said that men were not born sinners & so did not need the grace of God to save them.

Augustine, on the other hand, viewed man as a hopeless sinner unable to assist himself in any way. The two men had a notable controversy which raged through the Church. Proclaimers of free grace today are still blessed and helped by the reading of Augustine's writings on this subject.

3-JACOBUS ARMINIUS--Later in church history came the important debates over the matter of ARMINIANISM, which grew out of the teachings of this Dutch theologian who made definite attacks on the sovereignty of God and introduced a spirit of rationalism into theology, which in its later developments, did much damage to the cause of Christ.

It became necessary for men convicted of God by the truth to oppose Arminius and expose his errors. Had not men like Calvin, Zwingli and Knox done this, Arminius' teachings might well have plagued the Church even more than they have.

4-"Time would fail me"--Savanarola
--John Huss
--John Wycliffe
--Martin Luther
--John Wesley
--John Bunyan
--Charles Haddon Spurgeon, etc.

C.-Modern Church History:

1-Fundamentalist/Modernist controversy

--1890 it began in the USA after roots in German Rationalism & Higher Criticism of the text of Scripture

--1929 it culminated & 1930-1950 it consolidated

--Bible as the inerrant revelation of God to man

--Many deniers

--Many noble men took up the cudgels

** B. B. Warfield
** Robert Dick Wilson
** Arno Gaebelein
** J. Gresham Machen
** James M. Gray
** William Mc Carrol
** W. B. Riley
** Robert T. Ketcham
** Charles Woodbridge

--Where would the Church be today if these men had kept silence ??

--They didn't enjoy the battle, but they rallied to the CAUSE OF CHRIST

** Historic Christianity was in conflict and these men had to join the fight for the honor of the Son of God was at stake

** For purity of doctrine and faithfulness to ordination vows these men put their ecclesiastical lives on the line....and LOST...

** BUT THE CHURCH WAS PRESERVED !!

2-Walter Lipman, the newspaper man, in concluding his imaginary dialogue between a Modernist and a Fundamentalist, makes the Modernist ask that the question be discussed without heat.

But the Fundamentalist says, "Has it ever occurred to you that this advice is easier for you to follow than for me?"

"How so?" asks the Modernist.

"Because for me an eternal plan of salvation is at stake. For you there is nothing at stake but a few tentative opinions, none of which means anything to your happiness. Your request that I should be tolerant and amiable, is, therefore, a suggestion that I submit the foundation of my life to the destructive efforts of your skepticism, your indiff indifference, and your good nature. YOU ASK ME TO SMILE AND TO COMMIT SUICIDE."

3-More recently: --New Liberalism
--Neo-Evangelicalism
--Inclusive Evangelism

** 1966 Berlin Congress on Evangelism
** 1968 or 1969 Minneapolis Congress
** Explo '72 in Dallas
** Key 73 nationwide
** 1974 invitation to all religious groups to share in a Congress On Evangelism.

4-Thank God for men in every age who, with stedfast purpose battled against error and those who have held such error/

5-Commenting on the DANGER of christians unwilling to fight for truth, Bishop J. C. Ryle said:

"The only positive thing about them is that the dislike distinctiveness & think extreme and decided & positive views are very naughty & very wrong. These people live in a kind

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

of mist or fog. They see nothing clearly, and do not know what they believe...They are eaten up with a morbid dread of controversy and an ignorant dislike of party spirit; and yet they really cannot define what they mean by these phrases." ("Danger of Christian Complacency,",THE GOSPEL WITNESS & PROTESTANT ADVOCATE, 11/19/59)

IV.-RULES FOR CONTROVERSY:

A.-Biblical Verses:

1-See these later in our message: "HOW TO HANDLE HERETICS"

2-Too much to include them here

B.-Principles To Maintain:

1-Controversialist must HAVE THE FACTS:
- --Polemics ought never to be based on half-truths, rumors or opinions
- --Go to the documents; Use the opponents own words
- --State the case clearly
- --This is vital

2-Controversialist must DEMONSTRATE CHRISTIAN GRACE:
- --Proper spirit is imperative
- --Lack of manners, name-calling & abusive language are out of place
- --That need not diminish our uncompromising attitude toward wrong
- --Just that we build our case ON THE FACTS
- --Don't make it on a description of the opponent
- --Some in the Middle Ages & Reformation days really called one another loathesome names
- --"Brethren, these things ought not so to be."

3-Controversialist needs to PRESENT A CASE:
- --Not an attack on a person or institution
- --But an argument which is both Scriptural and logical
- --Controversy over principles is one thing
- --Controversy over personalities is another, and it is both useless and harmful.

4-Controversialist needs to defend his cause IN GUARDED LANGUAGE:
- --Not broad generalizations
- --Not innuendoes & Implications
- --But a closely reasoned case
- --Conservative language
- --Not inflamatory

CONCLUSION:

A.-Review Of "IS CONTROVERSY CHRISTIAN?"

1-Controversy is necessary--Character of God
- --Problems of our day
- --Proof of our commitment to THE FAITH

2-Bible is FULL OF EXAMPLES of controversy
- --O. T. Prophets

--The Lord Jesus Christ Himself
--The Apostles
--The Polemic Books of the N.T.

3-The History of the Church is full of Controversies
--Ancient Church
--Reformation Church
--Modern Church

4-Let's follow the "RULES"--Have the facts
--Demonstrate Christian grace
--Present a case
--Use guarded language.

B.-A Closing Word:

1-In these days when there is an abundance of pietistic objection that controversies & controversialists are hindering revival & the work of God, Let's listen once more to....

2-Machen--"Again, men say that instead of engaging in controversy in the Church, we ought to pray to God for a revival; instead of polemics, we ought to have evangelism. What WHAT KIND OF EVANGELISM is it that is indifferent to the question WHAT EVANGEL is it that is to be preached?

"Not a revival in the New Testament sense, not the evangelism that Paul meant when he said, 'Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel.' No, my friends, there can be no true evangelism which makes common cause with the enemies of the cause of Christ...Every true revival is born in controversy, and leads to more controversy." ("Christian Scholarship and the Defence of the Faith," in WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY?)

3-Let it be clearly realized that EVERY great Christian TRUTH is CONTROVERSIAL--God is a controversial Figure in this universe
--God's people are controversial as well, when they stand for Him

4-The truth stings, burns, angers and convicts the hearts of men, but we must be faithful to GOD'S TRUTH and the cause of its proclamation.

5-READ IN UNISON---Gal. 1:6-9

Westbrae--1/7/73--# 517--"The Fight Is On"
168--"Hold The Fort!"

S. L. Johnson Sept. 25, 1952

The Life of Christ — In Us

Gal. 2:20

Gal 1:16 — X revealed in us — the must of the Xn life. cf Jn. 14:20
position — power
justification - sanctification

Gal 2:20 — crucified - a past action
should read "I am crucified with X and I no longer live, but X liveth in me."
Our life is more than an imitation of X's life -- it is an identification

Gal 4:19 — refers to an inner likeness
+ not a physical likeness
- not doubtful that X is in them, but doubtful that the form is fully developed

Gal 5:22-23 — Fruit of the H. could be called the fruit of the life of X
The fruit of the spirit are "unit" fruit. It is one fruit with "nine different flavors"
All are part of the same + all are essential.

Gal 6:14 — world crucified to us — we aren't of them + so should not try to be of them
— I crucified to the world
We must be separate.
6:17 — He bears the marks of a bond-slave to X.

"GOD HAS A CHRISTMAS TREE TOO" Gal. 3:1-29; Rom. 5:1-11
1 John 5:9-13a.

INTRO:

A.-The Origin Of The Christmas Tree:

1-What is the ORIGIN of the christmas tree?

--Question reoccurs almost every year

--Matter of spiritual concern to some

--Matter of intellectual curiosity to others

--NO BIBLICAL ANSWER

--Certainly not Jer. 10:1-6, for that is a referenc to cutting a tree in order to make an idol of it

2-Decorated tree

--Some connect it with the Saturnalia of the ancient Romans & their use of evergreens over the door during the pagan festival. Severely denounced by the early Church, & by Tertullian in particular

--Some find it in Northern Europe amid the Druids, who were tree worshippers

--Others connect it with the superstitions of the corrupt Church during the Dark Ages of Europe

3-We really DO NOT KNOW what the actual origin was

B.-Occasions Of The Christmas Tree:

1-Some historical references can be traced

--Virgil casually alluded to the Roman custom of placing images on evergreens at certain times of the year

--Legend related by George Jacob, an Arabian geographer of the 10th century in which it is told that on the night Christ was born the forests---despite ice and snow---bloomed out like it was spring

--FIRST MENTION of the christmas tree was made by an unknown citizen of Strassburg, Germany in 1604---"At Christmas they set up fir trees in the parlours in Strassburg and hang thereon roses cut out of many-coloured paper, etc." (A. Tille, Yule And Christmas, Ch. 12)

--The idea of Christmas trees is doubtless of GERMAN ORIGIN

--Some attribute its use to the rise of Protestantism & Martin Luther, but though it is tru that he did have a tree in his home at Christmas with candles on it, we cannot say that he originated the practice.

2-Dr. Johan Dannhauer--"Whence comes the custom I know no It is child's play...Far better were it to point the children to the spiritual cedar tree, Jesus Christ."

3-The important consideration, then:

--Not the origin of the christmas tree

--Not the paganism which has undeniably crept in on the celebration of Christmas

--Not even the crass commercialism of all the exchanging of gifts associated with the christmas tree in our day.....

--BUT.....the message we have about....

C.-Outline: "GOD HAS A CHRISTMAS TREE TOO":

1-I.-God's Christmas Tree:

II.-Gifts Because Of God's Christmas Tree:

2-Proposition:
- --Recognize God's provision for mankind's desperate need
- --Receive God's free gift of ETERNAL LIFE thru His Christmas tree
- --Rejoice in all "the goodies" wrapped up in the GIFT OF GOD

I.-GOD'S CHRISTMAS TREE:

A.-Its History:

1-The law stated--Deut. 21:22-23--"And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree: His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance."
- --Obscurely located in Moses' "Second Law"
- --Generally Israel killed the victim first & then displayed him on a tree as a warning
- --Israelites never themselves used crucifixion as a death method
- --Peculiar feature: Bodies brought down & buried "that day" of their slaying to prevent defilement of the land

2-The Occasions recounted:
- --Joshua with the King of Ai (Josh. 8:29)
- --Joshua with the 5 Kings in a cave who were slain & hung up for all to see (Josh. 10:22-27)
- --Moses with the rebellious Israelites who sinned with the Moabites in response to Balaam's seductions (Num. 25:4)
- --John 19:31--"The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, & that they might be taken away."

B.-Its Occurence In History:

1-Not a PRETTY TREE like the ones in our living rooms
- --No baubles
- --No trinkets
- --No lights
- --No tinsel

2-But God DOES have a Christmas tree
- --It is the CROSS OF CALVARY
- --Proper name for the cross is "a tree"
- --Acts 5:30--"The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, Whom ye slew & hanged on a tree."

--Gal. 3:13--"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:"

3-That cross was the means of our REDEMPTION
- --ἐξαγόρασεν (Aor.)=="has bought out"
- --SIN has been dealt with
- --Substitute has paid the CURSE of the law of God
- --It was "FOR US" that He died
- --He became the One Who took our place & our sins
- --1 Pet. 2:24--"Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

4-Evidence of a REMARKABLE UNITY of the whole of these Holy Spirit-inspired Scriptures
- --Moses (Num. & Deut)
- --Joshuah
- --John (19:31)
- --Paul (Galatians)
- --Peter (1 Peter)

C.-Its Cost:

1-Already seen
- --On the cross
- --Redemption accomplished
- --DEATH was required

2-That means
- --God's Christmas tree COST GOD
- --Death of His Son was involved
- --Isa. 53:10--"Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He hath put Him to grief: when Thou shalt make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed..."
- --1 Pet. 1:19-20--"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptibl things, as silver & gold, from your vain manner of life received by tradition from your fathers: but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish & without spot."

3-Salvation is "free", but it was not "CHEAP"

4-It COST GOD very dearly to provide His Christmas tree for you and me.

II.-GIFTS BECAUSE OF GOD'S CHRISTMAS TREE:

A.-Their Character:

1-We're used to PHYSICAL GIFTS at this season

2-God's gifts Thru His Christmas tree
- --May not be recognized
- --W H Y N O T???
- --Because they are of a SPIRITUAL NATURE
- --Not in gay wrappings
- --Yet they are gifts of infinite beauty

3-Not bought at an expansion sale or a pre-christmas bargain counter

4-Perfect in character

5-Costly in their price to God to provide them

6-AND----------These gifts are PRACTICAL as well as SPIRITUAL

B.-Their Container:

1-Comparison: --BOX in which one will find a number of smaller but diverse and much appreciated gifts, all from one benefactor

--JESUS CHRIST, in Whom we find all the riches of redemption

--When you have THE BOX, you also have all its contents

--When you have JESUS CHRIST as SAVIOR, you also have all the catalog of Divinely bestowed benefits

2-We are used to the label "DO NOT OPEN UNTIL CHRISTMAS"

3-Some people think of their salvation in the same way, as though it bore the label:

"DO NOT OPEN UNTIL ETERNITY"

4-Not just--Golden streets
--Reward crowns
--Glorified body
--White robe
--All of which are YET FUTURE

5-But there is a receiveing .....RIGHT NOW !!

6-Rom. 5:1--"Therefore we are justified by faith"
--That's the ONLY WAY God is justifying anyone today
--By faith in Jesus Christ
--That's forgiveness and much more
--ILLUS--There was a famous case in Alabama years ago when a lad was brought before the Judge who was his father. It is always the custom that when a Judge has a relative to combe before him, someone else is asked to take the bench, but this Judge did not. And when the son---obviously guilty---was brought before him, the boy cried out, "CAN'T YOU FORGIVE ME?"

The Judge said, "Yes, I can and do forgive you, but I cannot justify you. I cannot justify before the community. I cannot justify you before the law. I cannot even justify you before God. You will have to pay the penalty."

--God justifies (="Declares righteous") sinners, & He does it without any cause in them.
--H O W ??
--Because of their faith exercised in the GIFT OF HIS Son on God's Christmas Tree

C.-Their Catalog: (Romans 5:1-11)

1-"PEACE"
--Romans 5:1
--That's always been the Christmas message
--Lk. 2:14--"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will to men."
--Peace among men has always been ELUSIVE
--Trouble today is not really COMMUNISM or INFLATION
--It is the ENMITY of man with God because of sin

** Rom. 3:11, 18--"There is none that seeketh after God...There is no fear of God in their eyes."
** Col. 1:20-21--"And having made peace thru the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometimes alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath He reconciled."

--Peace has been made by Christ "FOR US"
--That peace is available today
--Needed desperately ** Drunks on Skid-Row
** Intellectuals at U.C. Berkeley
** Affluent on Grizzly Peak Blvd.
** Poor on the Berkeley Flats
** ALL OF US in our suburbs
--Go to almost any bookstore & you'll find a table or a shelf laden with books on HOW TO HAVE PEACE
** Most are Psychological solutions
** Seldom do they tell of God's justice that has been satisfied, so that God freely offers PEACE
--Won't you accept this first of the catalog of gifts we find freely given in Jesus Christ?

2-"ACCESS"--Rom. 5:2a
--Gift of matchless beauty & rarity
--W.H. Griffith-Thomas: "Christianity is a religion of ACCESS"
--Religions of the world shut man OUT
--Rituals & liturgies never bring men into the presence of God
--Even Judaism's Tabernacle left the worshipper OUTSIDE 3 doors and "AFAR OFF"
--High Priest went into the Holy of Holies once a year with a blood offering
--But the Israelite worshipper was LEFT OUTSIDE
--Today we have intimate & Immediate access
** Heb. 4:14, 16
** Heb. 10:19-22
** What a miracle;;;WE HAVE ACCESS
--ILLUS--There is a form of gift that's growing in popularity today----THE GIFT CERTIFICATE. With one of these you walk in and present it---and it is honored just like money, whether it is for a suit or for a MacDonalds Hamburger
Similarly the Christian has God's LETTER OF CREDIT so he can come immediately into the presence of the Father to find grace to help in time of need.
How tragic when some believers leave this gift unused.....and unappreciated.

3-"GLORY OF GOD"--Rom. 5:2b
--What is this "Glory of God"?
--It is a fearful thing yet to be revealed on this earth
--Jesus Christ is coming in power & great glory
--Settle that FACT in your mind & don't let anyon budge you from it!!
--COMING FOR WHAT ??

--When Israel sinned, the glory of God moved thru the camp in JUDGMENT
--That glory of God will be present on the earth throughout the Millennium & sin will no longer reign unchecked
--The WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES held its convention in Evanston, Illinois in 1954 & had as their theme: "THE COMING OF CHRIST"
--Though those deniers of the truth have deteriorated a long way, the fact is settled
--There is a time of judgment & justice yet to appear on earth among men
--1 John 3:2--"Beloved, now are we the Sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is."
--The christian does not dread that coming in glory for he shall share in "the hope of the glory of God"----and has full assurance of the future.... .....NOW !!

4--"TRIBULATIONS"
--Rom. 5:3
=="Troubles"; Not The Tribulation
--Christian can glory in his troubles because he sees what God intends to produce thru them------Rom. 5:3-5a
--We are able to REJOICE in troubles
--1 Thess. 1:5-6--"For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in much power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. And ye became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost;"
** Much assurance
** Much affliction
** With joy
** The world never joins those words
** But the child of God can boast of the afflictions & discipline God brings
--Why such boasting ??
--Because he knows God is bringing to him "EXPERIENCE" which is "TRIED CHARACTER"
--Refining fires of trouble produce "pure gold"
** ILLUS--Assayer who takes a chunk of ore. He beats it fine; he heats it hot; he tests it & then he declares its value
** Job 23:9-10--"...I cannot see Him: But He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."
--Let us realize that Tribulations in our lives are among God's "GOOD GIFTS" that come thru His Christmas Tree.

5--"THE LOVE OF GOD IS SHED ABROAD IN OUR HEARTS"
--Rom. 5:5
--"Shed abroad"=="Gusher"
** As of an oil well or artesian water well
** Flowing freely

--Not human sentiment, but DIVINE LOVE as a fruit of the Spirit
--Expression of the heart of God (John 3:16)
--In this Christmas season there is often a sentimental outpouring & people break out their PIGGY BANKS of helpfulness
--But that is not christian love
--Divine love shed abroad in us means the breaking of an ALABASTER BOX of the ointment that sweetly shares with others because of God's love at work in us.
--That's real christmas love at work in us all year long.

6-"THE HOLY GHOST"
--Rom. 5:5
--He is given (Aor.) unto us
--Most wonderful gift Christ brings us
--Never alone any more
--Won't be left orphans bereft of comfort
--He is ours----ALL OF US---the moment we truly trust Christ as Savior
--John 14:16-18
--You and I can live the christian life in confidence because the Spirit is always with us to empower our living for Jesus.
--He is with us.....PERMANENTLY !!

7-"SAVED FROM WRATH"
--Rom. 5:6-10
--KEY text on our deliverance OUT OF and not THRU the Great Tribulation
--One of many texts on this subject, but a precious one
--From what wrath are we saved ??
--Rev. 6:17--"For the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"
--Seven Bowls (Vials) of wrath are outpoured (Rev. 16)
--If God sent Christ to die for us when we were still ENEMIES...
--Now that we are His RECONCILED ONES, He will see that we do not taste of the wrath to come upon unbelievers
--What a tremendous gift of HOPE we have in Christ!

8-"RECONCILIATION"
--Rom. 5:10-11
--Margin for "atonement" is correct rendering with "reconciliation"
--This means our boast is in what God has done for us
--Reconciled to God (same verb in 5:10 as in 5:11)
--God has done all that was necessary to straighten man out, & that is part of the the gifts we receive in Jesus Christ

D.-Your Contact:
1-God's provision has been seen as the gifts available to men thru GOD'S CHRISTMAS TREE
2-But this must be personalized as....."FOR YOU"
3-ILLUS--During World War I a British Detatchment had been

cut off from the main forces in the Front Lines---they had gone out to explore & had been caught in the terrific cross-fire of the Germans. Their telephone line remained open---and then it was was finally severed by a shell

The Captain called for a volunteer who would trace the line to the place of trouble, bring it together & splice it. He warned it would be a dangerous assignment. Several volunteered & one was chosen. He crawled out into no-mans-land & followed the wire---finally finding its end at a shell hole. Feeling around in the mud he finally located the other end, but he was unable to make them reach to each other, for the Germans had him under fire now.....So he just lay there and held the two wires together so that communication was restored.

A shell fell close to him---exploded---and he was killed, but the communication was not disturbed. The next day after victory they found this man frozen in death holding one line in one hand and the other hand holding firmly the other end of the wire, and THROUGH HIS BODY the message had been going.

The British Government took a picture of that man performing his duty in death & underneath they put only one word..... ....."CONTACT"

Nineteen hundred years ago there came down from heaven One who restored communication through a line that had been broken by sin. He laid hold of God because He was God.....and He laid h hold of man. He could not make the connection by His life---- it was made when He died on the Cross.

Today you and I have contact with God through the One Who came from heaven....The Lord Jesus Christ.

4-What has been YOUR RESPONSE ??
- --Gal. 3:26--"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."
- --Often misquoted by liberals
- --But we must take it all....or not at all

CONCLUSION:

A.-God Has A Christmas Tree Too:

1-God's Tree--Filled because of Christ going to the CROSS
- --Cost His DEATH as our Substitute
- --Provided because God loves lost & sinning men

2-God's Gifts:
- --ALL are thru that Christmas tree
- --Spiritual in nature, not just physical gifts
- --All are found "IN CHRIST"
  - ** Peace
  - ** Access
  - ** Glory of God
  - ** Tribulations
  - ** The Love of God is shed abroad in our hearts"
  - ** The Holy Spirit
  - ** Deliverance from WRATH
  - ** Reconciled to God
- --If you have JesusuChrist, you have all of these good gifts.....and much more.

B.-The Date Or The Event:

1-ILLUS--In the Long Beach PRESS-TELEGRAM there appeared an item several years ago. It dealt with the story of 1,800 American soldiers on their way to Japan for occupation duty. They were in danger of having their Christmas Day snatched right off their calendar.

They were aboard the Navy Transport MITCHELL due to reach the international dateline about Christmas Eve. That meant that they'd sail right on from December 24 into December 26 without even catching a glimpse of Christmas.

Military authorities solved that dilemna by plans of an after-Christmas-Christmas for those men in Japan. A summary line read: "They missed the DATE but they won't miss the EVENT."

2-Few of us here today will miss the DATE of Christmas

3-But are you sure you're really sharing in the EVENT of Christmas ??

4-You can only really share in THE EVENT of Christmas if you have...from the heart...believed that "THE GIFT OF GOD is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"

Westbrae--12/24/72

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®
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"WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD"
Gal. 3:13--4:7; John 10:7-10

INTRO: A.-Brotherhood And The Bible:

1-In the USA 1 week out of each year is designated "BROTHERHOOD WEEK". The general purpose of this occasion is to remind us that America does not have a monolithic religious culture, and that, as Americans, we must learn to live together in a heterogeneous society with respect for others.

2-In an age of violent passions, we need, no doubt, to be reminded of our mutual obligations. The Bible says: "None of us liveth to himself" (Rom.14:7) And John Donne expressed this truth quaintly when he wrote: "No man is an island, entire of himself; every man is a piece of the Continent, a part of the maine;...any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

3-THE GENERAL IDEA OF BROTHERHOOD OF MAN IS NOT IN ITSELF SPECIFICALLY OR EXCLUSIVELY CHRISTIAN

4-The Stoics of the time of Paul had apparently risen to the height of such an idea. The slaves, regarded by Aristotle as chattels, had come to be regarded, by a few noble souls, as members of the great human family.

5-BUT+is the Christian conception the same as this????????It is often assumed to be the same. But is it?? Is the brotherhood of the Bible similar to the Stoic ideal? More specifically, does the brotherhood of the Bible embrace all men irrespective of their faith & religious convictions?

6-AN INTELLIGENT CHRISTIAN is forced to face such questions & seek answers to them.

B.-Liberal's KEYNOTE:

1-HARNACK in "What is Christianity?" says: "God's Fatherhood is the main article in Jesus' message."

2-Harner & Baker in "Missionary Education In Your Church" say: "Missions is merely a particular expression of brotherhood under a Father God. The missionary goes to men whom he has learned through Christ to recognize as his brothers."

3-A recent declaration of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) states: "The heart of this gospel is the faith that all men are sons of God."

4-Objective IV of the International Council of Religious Education states: "Christian education seeks to develop in growing persons the ability & disposition to participate in & contribute constructively to the building of a SOCIAL ORDER throughout the world embodying the ideal of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man."

5-HOW DOES THIS STACK UP in the light of the Bible as our infallible rule of faith & practic ?

C.-Our Message: I.-Fatherhood by Div. Creation
1-Outline II.-Fatherhood by Intimate Relatin
III.-F. Over All Who Truly Believe

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2-PROP:--KNOW the truth as taught in the Bible
--TEST the words of the many who make authoritative-sounding pronouncements
--REJOICE in this truth when BIBLICALLY understood.

I.-FATHERHOOD OF GOD BY DIVINE CREATION: (NATURAL brotherhood based on CREATION)

A.-Creator Of Angels:

1-Col. 1:15-16--Jesus is BEFORE every creature
--He is the Creator of all
--He is the Purpose of all
--This includes the ANGELIC realm
** In heaven
** Invisible
** Thrones, dominions, principalities and powers

2-Angels are called "SONS OF GOD"
--Job 38:4,7--"Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding...When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy"
--Job.1:6--"Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, & Satan came also among them."
--Job 2:1-7

3-This "SONSHIP" is on the basis of God's CREATION of them, & not on the basis of RELATIONSHIP at all.

B.-Creator of All Men:

1-Gen. 1:26-27; Historical record of man made in the image of God

2-Acts 17:24-29--Poetic description of "his offspring"
--Flows from CREATORSHIP
--=="race", "stock"
--Has noting to do with an intimate relationship
--NOT the same meaning as "children"
--NO SPIRITUAL LIFE involved; just physical life

3-Luke 3:23-38--Race of Adam's descent
--Called "OF GOD", & the terms "the son" are in italics
--Again, creative descent is in view, but nothing spiritually

4-OTHERS--Isa. 64:8--"But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, & thou our potter; & we all are the work of thy hand."
--Mal. 2:10--"Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us?..."
--ILLUS--A missionary in Central America was once preaching on the subject of God's Fatherhood & man's brotherhood. At the close of his address, 2 professors from a local school said that they thought they had found a flaw in his reasoning. WERE NOT ALL INDIVIDUALS OF THE HUMAN RACE DESCENDED FROM ADAM & EVE? AND DID NOT GOD CREATE THEM ?

And therefore, were not all individuals thereby the children of God?

The missionary pointed to the benches in the room, & asked "WHO MADE THESE BENCHES?"

One of the professors answered that they had been made by a local carpenter.

The missionary then inquired, "And do you, therefore, call these benches the carpenter's children?"

"OF COURSE NOT", they answered. "They are not the carpenter's children because they do not have in them the life of the carpenter."

"And do you have the life of God in you?" was the searching question that revealed the reality of man's departure from God. NO ONE can be called a CHILD OF GOD, if he does not have within him the life of God.

5-This shows mankind as a NATURAL BROTHERHOOD by creation, but without any spiritual vitality or life. So, mankind are brothers and sisters only in the sense that we are each one the product of God's creative power, but not in any other sense.

6-Sonship by all of the creation dare not be confused with sonship of the REDEEMED by REGENERATION

7-SABIERS--"The devil would delight in having men think that God is the spiritual Father of all mankind...the 'UNIVERSAL FATHERHOOD OF GOD' is a tremendous lie sponsored by many modernist preachers & teachers of our day." (What Everyone Should Know About God The Father," P. 82).

8-SO-----No spiritual life is involved in the Fatherhood of God to creation.

II.-FATHERHOOD OF GOD BY INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP:

A.-Fatherhood To Israel:

1-Ex. 4:22-23

--Israel is God's new name for a people previously known as HEBREWS

--God is a "Father" to them and they are corporately "a Son" to Him

--Based on DIVINE CHOICE

--This is a NATIONAL relationship, but seems never to have been construed personally, except in Messianic passages

--NOT by regeneration, for they were not redeemed until later (Ex. 12)

2-Other Scriptures:

--Jer. 31:9--"They shall come with weeping, & with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel...."

--Isa. 43:6--I will say to the north, Gifve up; & to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, & my daughters from the ends of the earth;"

--Hos. 11:1--"When Israel was a child, then I loved him, & called my son out of Egypt."

3-This intimate, national sonship seems to have been totally at God's initiative, so that the nation should become a "PECULIAR TREASURE" unto God (Ex. 19:5)

B.-Fatherhood To Our Lord Jesus Christ:

1-65 times in the Gospels Jesus speaks of God as His FATHER--John 1:14
--John 1:18
--John 17:5
--John 17:24
--Jesus did not become a Son of the Father by the incarnation, but this was a part of his character
--ETERNAL RELATIONSHIP of the past, present & future.

2-What does this mean?--The Jews clearly understood
--John 19:7
--Accusation under which he was condemned to die

3-Jesus Christ's relation to God the Father is UNIQUE and different from ours
--John 20:17
--"My Father"---Christ's deity relating to the F.
--"Your Father"--Our dependance & relationship
--"My God"------Christ's humanity to the Father
--"Your God"---- -Our Creator
--Clear distinction in the relationship of Christ to the Father as compared with the relationship of believers to the Father

4-FULL RELATIONSHIP is spelled out in Eph. 1:3

5-This intimate relation of Christ with the Father is PERSONAL, not redemptive

6-So, in an intimate sense there is a "special relationship" between God the Father and--The NATION of Israel
--The PERSON of His Son

III.-FATHERHOOD OF GOD OVER ALL WHO TRULY BELIEVE: (SPIRITUAL brotherhood based on REDEMPTION)

A.-The Position---"Sons Of God":

1-This speaks of a relationship of intimacy with God as "OUR FATHER"

2-Gal. 3:26--Natural birth & brotherhood is UNIVERSAL
--Spiritual birth & brotherhood is LIMITED
--NOT ALL are sons (margin) of God
--Only those who've entered the family "by faith"

3-Gal. 4:6-7--"YE ARE SONS"
--1 John 3:2--Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is."
--Able to call "ABBA, FATHER" as family talk of intimate relationship
--No longer a servant, but a SON & HEIR

--Rom. 8:15-17--"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption whereby we cry,Abba, Father. The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, & joint-heirs with Christ..."

4-And it is all "THROUGH CHRIST" (Gal. 4:7) that we enjoy this position NOW

5-CHAFER--"Each individual who is born of God has thus become a son of God in the most vital & immutable meaning of sonship & has been received into the household & family of God." (I, P. 317)

6-ILLUS--Think with me of experience I had in Cairo some years ago. In the midst of a throng in the Bazaars, I saw a dirty beggar boy holding out his hand toward me. My heart went out to the child in pity.

However, the strangest thing happened. As I walked on by, that child whom I had never seen before ran after me & he called out in Arab-English: "DADDY; DADDY". You may surmise a bit of the sense of embarassment and self-consciousness that I felt as the gaze of all the passers-by turned to me---and to the little boy in his filthy clothing & dirty face.

DESIRE on the part of a child cannot create a parent-child relationship. IF I had taken the child with me, adopted him into my family, given him new cleanliness & new clothing, & the law would recognize that I would have the right to do such an adopting, but only on the authority of my own desire, not on the part of the child.

DIVINE SONSHIP is like that too---on the authority of the Father, and only through Jesus Christ as Savior.

B.-The Price----"REDEMPTION":

1-Gal. 3:13--Sacrificial substitute for our sins

2-Gal. 4:4-5--In God's own time

--"TO REDEEM"=="To buy out of the slave market of sin & free from the curse of sin & death & the law"

--Always it is the DEATH OF CHRIST that pays the price acceptable in God's sight

3-1 Pet. 1:18-19--"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver & gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers, But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish & without spot."

4-No price is acceptable except THE BLOOD

5-Lev. 17:11--"For the life of the flesh is in the blood: & I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."

C.-The Possession----"BY FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS":

1-Natural brotherhood of creation is entered INVOLUNTARILY

2-Spiritual brotherhood of NEW BIRTH is entered voluntarily

3-Gal. 3:26

4-John 1:12-13

5-NO OTHER WAY to enter into the family of all who truly be-

lieve & so gain God as your FATHER in the "family of faith" sense

6-When you accept Christ as Savior and God as Father, you receive the NEW BIRTH into the family of God

7-FAITH=="Belief or confidence in God to do what He alone is able to do, and what He has promised to do."

8-ILLUS--A Russian Emperor once disguised himself & went among his people. One winter's evening he went from door to door in Moscow begging for food & shelter. In many cases he was turned away with a harsh spirit. But one humble peasant welcomed him & offered him a crust of bread & a straw bed to sleep upon. The man aplogized for not giving him more, but explained that his wife was sick, just having given birth to a baby boy.

The next morning the Emperor left at dawn & returned to his mansion. That afternoon a royal company swept up to this humble door, & it was made known to the peasant that he had entertained the KING the night before. A large sum of gold was left by the Emperor & it was promised that when the child was of a certain age he would be taken to the royal court & given a place of honor.

This is somewhat the way it is with the Lord Jesus & men today. Our KING knocks at the heart's door of men everywhere. In many cases he is REFUSED admission. But whenever the door is opened & wherever He is given a welcome to enter, to that person He gives the RIGHT TO BECOME A CHILD OF THE KING & share in the heavenly mansion.

D.-The Privileges-----MANIFOLD:

1-A Heavenly Home--John 14:1-3

2-A Prayer Privilege--Mt. 6:9 "After this manner therefore, Pray ye 'OUR FATHER ...'"

--Take our praise & our petitions to God in prayer

--Know that He HEARS & ANSWERS

--ILLUS--"John-John" Kennedy with his father, JFK in the Presidential office of the White House. JFK always had time for his son, though kings & businessmen & statesmen might have to wait.

--Contrast with John 8:44 "Ye are of your father the devil..."

3-A Plentiful Provision

--Ps. 103:13--"Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear Him"

--Mt. 7:9-11--"Or What man is of there of you whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"

--2 Cor. 9:8--"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:"

--Phs. 4:19

4-A Keeping Power--1 Pet. 1:4-5

--John 10:27-30

5-A Concerned Correction
- --Prov. 3:12--"For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth."
- --Heb. 12:5-15

6-An Enabling Strength
- --Ps. 68:35--"O God, thou art terrible out of thy holy places: the God of Israel is He that giveth strength & power unto His people. Blessed be God."
- --Isa. 40:28-31
- --Phs. 4:13

7-AND MUCH MORE !!

CONCLUSION:

A.-Message's Content:

1-Fatherhood thru CREATION
- --All angels
- --All mankind
- --Natural brotherhood of creatures
- --NOTHING spiritual involved

2-Fatherhood thru INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP
- --To Israel Nationally, but not personally
- --To Our Lord Jesus Christ personally, but not redemptively

3-Fatherhood thru REDEMPTION
- --Based on Christ's shed blood
- --Makes one a "SON OF GOD"
- --Limited to those who put their faith in Christ as their only hope & substitute
- --Opens a cornucopia of PLENTY; "all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus"
- --ILLUS--Police court annals tell the story of a young man who registered at one of the leading hotels in N.Y. shortly after the turn of the century. He wrote down one of the most famous names in the USA, & the hotel clerk was very deferential to him, for he had an "air" of being born to wealth & position.

When packages began to arrive from several large furnishing houses & a jewelry store, the hotel received them & paid the accounts. After a few days the time for "SETTLING UP" came; the young man brushed them off with excuses------which aroused the suspicions of the management.

They notified the police & a quiet investigation was begun----revealing the startling fact that the famous man whose name the young man had written on the hotel register with "JUNIOR" after it, DID NOT HAVE A SON.

The young man --confronted by the authorities--put on an air of bravado, blustering that there was some mistake. Finally it was necessary to take him down to Wall Street to the office of a well-known millionaire. There the supposed father walked into a room, looked at the culprit & said, simply: "I NEVER LAID EYES ON THIS YOUNG MAN BEFORE"------That sealed the doom of the impostor.

Multitudes of people who claim that

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GOD IS THEIR FATHER are just as guilty as that young man. In order to have a personal, Father/child relationship with the Creator of the universe, one must believe the truths & trust the Person of God's Son to make such a relationship possible.

B.-Message's Contact:

1-Paul's prayer--Eph. 1:15-22, with especial emphasis on 1:18-19

2-Abraham's example

--Rom. 4:19-21--"And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform"

3-YOUR EXPERIENCE:

--John 10:9-10--"I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, & shall go in and out, & find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, & to kill, & to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

--Be saved

--Be communing

--Be enjoying life "MORE ABUNDANTLY"

--Franz Joseph Haydn: "When I think of God, my heart is so full of joy that the notes leap & dance as they leave my pen; & since God has given me a cheerful heart, I serve Him with a cheerful spirit."

--1 John 3:2--"Beloved, now are we the SONS OF GOD.."

--

Are you living the "MORE ABUNDANT " life now, because you know God as Father through knowing Christ as YOUR OWN SAVIOR ???

THE FULNESS OF TIME

Gal. 4:4-5

Read Gal. 3:19--4:5

INTRO: A.-True Intent Of The Law (3:19-24): — All of it — Moral Ceremonial Civil Ordinances

1-Added because of transgressions--3:19a
2-Added till the Seed should come--3:19b
3-Law concluded all under sin--3:22
4-Law was to prepare us for faith--3:23
5-Law was our schoolmaster--3:24

B.-Liberty In Christ (3:25):

1-Gal. 3:25
2-True for all the saved
3-3:26
4-THUS, the Law was UNTIL CHRIST should come in the fulness of time
5-Law was only an "ad-interim" dealing of God until Christ should come

Rom. 10:4 - "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."

I.-THE TIME WHEN CHRIST CAME:

A.-Greek Civilization:

1-Its Glories--Poetry, Art, Philosophy, Culture
--Love of beauty
--Athletic games
--Indefatigable inquiry — Philosophers

2-Its Defects--Political integrity was lost
--Religion was beautiful, but powerless
--Highly educated & openly profligate
--In a word--CORRUPTION HAD SET IN

3-Disease of the Greeks called for a HEALER

4-CONYBEAR & HOWSON--"And if the prevailing evils of the Greek population presented obstacles, on a large scale, to the progress of christianity,--yet they showed to all future time the weakness of man's higher powers, if unassisted from above; and there must have been many who groaned under the burden of a corruption which they could not shake off, & who were ready to welcome the voice of Him, who 'took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses (Mt. 8:17)'"--Page 10

B.-Roman Civilization:

1-Its Glories--Government — Caesars
--Law
--Empire
--Power
--Public works — Roads, Arches, Buildings, Forums
--Army

2-Its Defects--Miserable state of its mixed populations
--Tyranny & opression & slavery
--Cruelty & profanity of religion & politics

3-State of Rome called for a CONSOLER

4-CONYBEAR & HOWSON--"...a Messiah was needed by the whole Empire as much as by the Jews though not looked for with the same conscious expectation." (P. 14)

C.-Hebrew Civilizations:

1-Its Glories--Law & Prophets & Writings = Divine REVELATION
--Morality
--Line of Christ the Messiah — Ab, Isaac, Jacob, David
--Worship & service of the true God — TEMPLE OF GOD

2-Its Defects--Rebellious heart, except for a REMNANT
--Subjugate state to Rome
--Tail of nations instead of head

3-State of Judah called for a MESSIAH

4-There was a "consciousness" in Israel "of expectancy" for the fulness of time was come — Anna, Simeon, Zacharíah, Elizabeth

D.-Superscriptions On Christ's Cross:

1-In these three languages--Greek, Latin & Hebrew

2-Answered the Greek's need for a HEALER

3-Answered the Roman's need for a CONSOLER

4-Answered the Jew's need for a MESSIAH-SAVIOR

5-Yet, they crucified Him ! ! !

6-Latin & Greek continued as "living languages" because they became the linguistic vehicles for the propagation of Christianity. Hebrew had its last important day in the affairs of mankind when on the cross of Christ was written: "JESUS, the King of the Jews". There the ~~thread~~ thread was broken & broken it will remain until Jesus IS King of the Jews. Until then, "...blindness in part is happened unto Israel, till the fulness of the Gentiles be come in (Rom. 11:25)".

II.-WHAT CHRIST CAME TO DO (Gal. 4:4-5):

Read again

A.-Who He Was:

1-One sent in the fulness of the time — God sent Him "ON TIME"

2-Sent forth by God as His SON

3-Made of a woman--Virgin Birth

4-Made under the law
--thus, able to fulfill it
--ended the "ad-interim" dealing of God with man & provided a lasting solution to man's need

"The Law ~~was~~ given by Moses, but grace and truth by Jesus Christ came." John 1:17

B.-What He Did:

1-To redeem--lawfully
--substitutionarily
--sacrificially
--sufficiently
--fully and finally — Heb. 1:3, 9:11-12

2-To make possible our adoption as sons of God

3-Being "placed" in a position in God's sight through His merit alone.

C.-World Of Jesus Day Needed Such a Savior:

1-To Greeks---A HEALER

2-To Romans---A CONSOLER

3-To Jews-----A MESSIAH-SAVIOR

III.-AND WHAT OF OUR NEED?

A.-Day Of Relativism & Change Today:

1-Morals--new lows
2-Ethics--new definitions
3-Science--new textbooks
4Government--new laws--(2000 bills thru the last session of the Calif. Legislature alone)
5-International Relations--new treaties
6-Business--new scandals
7-Labor--new demands
8-Race--new violence & struggle
9-Yet, there is not satisfaction for the inward man in life on a social plane
10-We are a people without a mooring, an anchor, a chart, a compass, or a rudder who are cast forth on the restless sea of life

Religion — Jesus Way, Jesus Freaks Street People

B.-Need Of Our Day:

1-Relativism and change all around
2-Need an anchor for our souls
3-Need a chart and compass for our lives
4-Need an ABSOLUTE as much as...
--Rome needed a CONSOLER
--Greeks needed a HEALER
--Jews needed a MESSIAH-SAVIOR
—Heb. 13:8

C.-Christ Is THE Answer Today, As He Was Then:

1-Come in the fulness of time
2-Come from God
3-Come in the flesh
4-Come in the context of human life
5-Come to redeem
6-Come to place you in the family of God as an adopted Son
7-What will your response be to this One, Who comes to you in your time of need of an ABSOLUTE
--to live by
--to live for
--to die with
--to enjoy eternally
8-What will you do with Jesus which is called the Christ?
--The consoler of men's hearts
--The healer of men's wounds
--The Savior of men's souls
--The ABSOLUTE for men's hopes & fears.

Traveling Salesman.
Cindy Sikorski

Used Sept 29/63 in Blind Fellowship

7/4/71 - Communion - Westbrae

~~#11 - "At Calvary Rock Hill"~~

26 - "In the Cross of Christ"

12 - "Wonderful, Wonderful Jesus"

212 - "Crown Him With Many Crowns"

"Law And Grace Contrasted" Gal. 4:21

Intro: A.-"Forewarned is Forearmed"
1-Lament of those in trouble
2-"No one ever told me"
3-No excuse if you've been warned

B.-Why travel "steerage" when you can go 1st class?
1-To do so is to "fall from grace"---Gal 5:3-4
2-Two systems cannot co-exist----Gal 4:21

I.-CONTRASTS BETWEEN LAW & GRACE:

A.-Differ In Dispensations:
1-Law was "added" ---Gal. 3:19
2-Law served til Christ---Gal 3:19
3-End of the law---In Christ---Rom. 10:4
---Thru Cross---Gal. 3:13
4-Believer under Grace---Redeemed from curse---Gal. 3:13
---To live unto God------Gal. 2:19
---Grace rule----------Rom. 6:14

B.-Differ in Sacrifices:
1-Animals---brought daily--Heb. 10:11
--Blood only covered sin--Heb. 10:11; Ps. 85:2
--No final forgiveness; only provisional Heb 10:3
2-Christ---Sacrifice of self--Heb. 9:26
--Put away sin finally--Heb. 9:26
--ONCE in the end of the age--Heb. 9:26; Heb. 10:12
--Perfection forever thus gained--Heb. 10:14
--Any other entrance to heaven---Jn. 10:1

C.-Differ In Position:
1-Israel's Experience---Ex. 20:18-19 was Fear & Retreat
--Separation & expulsion as in Ge. 3:23-24
--Due to sin---Isa. 59:2
--God's face was hid---Ex. 33:23
2-Church's Experience---Formerly outcasts---Eph. 2:11-12
---Now made NIGH--Eph. 2:13-16
---Invitation to ALL---Eph. 2:17-18
---Basis is BLOOD
---Exhortation---"Come boldly"--Heb. 10:19 22
3-ILLUS---Paradise moved to heaven. Before the cross sin was only covered; now put away.

D.-Differ Regarding Perfection & Righteousness:
1-How good to be saved? --Matt.5:48-Perfect — Rom. 3:23 "Nearly perfect won't do.!!"
2-No perfection by law -- Heb. 7:19
3-Law shows sin -- Isa. 64:6; Rom. 3:19,20
4-Grace condemns sin Rom. 8:3 — Heb. 10:14
-declares righteous- Rom. 3:21,22
-grants perfection and righteousness- Col. 1:28;11Cor. 5:21

E.Differ in Justification — View of — Before — looking forward to / After — looking back to
1-Law was unable --Rom. 3:20;Acts 13:39b
2-Justified by Christ --Gal. 2:16
3-Full justification -- Acts 13:38,39
4- Peace is thru Christ -- Rom. 5:1
5-Sin's remembrance -- under law -- yes; Heb. 10:3
--under grace --no; Heb 10:17

F.

F.-Differ In Result:
1-Law brought DEATH---Ezek. 18:4
2-Grace brought LIFE--Rom. 6:23
3-Giver of Life---Jn. 10:28---Christ
4-Source of Life---1 Jn. 5:11---Father to the Son
5-How do we get life?????---1 Jn. 5:12----Col. 3:3-4

II.-LAW FOR THE CHRISTIAN?????

ILLUS — 2 Miracles — Big Ch. Communion Service. Thief — 7yrs in Jail. Supreme Ct. Judge — Miracle of Saving Grace to reach the "UP AND OUTER" Judge.

A.-Our Status:
1-Completely free????---Liberty-Gal. 5:1 & 1 Cor. 8:9
2-Free to sin?----Rom. 6:15---No
3-Under law of Moses??---No
4-UNDER ANY LAW?????????????????YES!!!!

B.-Our Law---Names:
1-Law of Christ--Gal. 6:2
2-Law of Liberty---Jas. 1:25
3-Royal Law---Jas. 2:8
4-"In-lawed" to Christ----1 Cor. 9:21

C.-Provisions of "Law OF Grace"
1-What is it??--1 Jn. 3:22-24
2-Is it all-inclusive??--Rom. 13:8-10
3-How can we fulfill this??--Rom. 5:5; 1 Jn. 4:10
4-LOVE is the Key.— 1 Cor 13; Col. 3:14

CONCL.---A.-Contrasts:
1-Law condemns the best; Grace saves the worst.---1 Tim. 1:15
2-Contrast is real
3-Contrast is Definative
4-Contrast is Important
5-Contrast is Decisive

B.-Law of grace--------"LAW for the Christian"----LOVE
1-Remember.....'You are MARRIED to Christ
.....Makes you LOVE everybody"
---Christ
---Saved ones
---Lost ones

"Satisfied Customers" Gal. 6:6-10 (Giving)

Intro: 1-ILLUS---A Negro preacher walked into the office of a newspaper in Rocky Mount, N.C. & said: "Mista Edito, they is 47 of my congregation which subscribe fo' your paper. Do that entitle me to have a Chu'ch notice in you Sadday issue?"....."Sit down and write," said the editor....."I thank you," said the preacher, and this is what the notice he wrote was---"Mount Moriah Baptist Church the Reverend John Obadiah, pastor. Preaching morning & evening. In the promulgation of the Gospel three books is necessary: THE BIBLE BOOK, THE HYMN BOOK, AND THE POCKET BOOK. Come tomorrow and bring all three."

2-Bible book---learn of God
Hymn Book----praise to God
Pocket Book--proof to God — and to yourself
3-THANKSGIVING = THANKS plus GIVING!!

I.-REASON FOR CHRISTIAN GIVING:

A.-Father Gave: (Jn. 3:16)
1-Love gift
2-designated for the whole world
3-Cost His son
4-For "Whosoever"

B.-Son Gave: (Mk. 10:45) "For even the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many"
1-Came not to receive or be ministered to
2-But to minister, serve, & be obedient
3-Gave His life--poured out in death
--the Pure for the impure
--the Sinless One for the sinner
--2 Cor. 8:9 — For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye thru His poverty might be rich
4-As a Ransom--to pay the price of our sins & set us free.

C.-Apostles Gave:
1-Their lives — unto martyr's deaths
2-Their good news about Christ to the world

D.-We Received:
1-Life & light
2-New birth & new nature
3-Duty to pass it on to others
4-ILLUS--After a pastor had spoken on the Christian's privilege in giving a wealthy and influential, but "tight" businessman curtly refused to give as he left the church, and ended by saying: "AS FAR AS I CAN SEE, THIS CHRISTIAN BUSINESS IS JUST ONE CONTINUOUS GIVE, GIVE, GIVE."....After a brief interval the Pastor answered, "I wish to thank you for one of the best definitions of the outworking of the Christian life that I have ever heard."
5-AND YET----"What! Giving again?" I ask in dismay, and must I keep giving and giving away? "Oh, no", saith the angel, looking me through, "Just keep giving till the Savior stops giving to you."
6-PROOF OF OUR LOVE--2 Cor (8:8, 24)
I speak not by commandment--Not to gain prosperity, but because it is but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love
Wherefore shew ye right!! to them + before the churches, the proof of your love + of our boasting on your behalf.

II. BACKGROUND OF GIVING:

A.-Before The Law:
1-Tithing came not only in the Mosaic economy, but confirmed the
2-Gen. 14:20--1/10 "off the top of the heap"
--Abraham & contemporaries (Code of Hammurabi)
3-Gen. 28:22--Jacob dedicates self to God
--Naturally includes his possessions
--PROMISES A TITHE

B.-Under Law:
1-Could trace the tithe thru Exodus, Lev., Numb., & Deut.
2-Summary in Mal. 3:7-11:
--Addressed to backsiders to RETURN
--Called ROBBERS----why??
.....
--Robbed of tithes---10%
--Robbed of "AND OFFERINGS"---20%
--Total required was 30%--BOTH EXPECTED
--To be brought to God--Storehouse THEN was in 1 nation
--Still to God as He directs.in PLACES
--Invitation to PROVE GOD----blessings will follow!!
3-Still in effect in days of Jesus--Mt. 23:23 --PAYING TITHES
Woe unto you, scribes + Pharisees, hypocrites! --Giving was above that too.
for ye pay tithe of mint + anise + cummin,
+ have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, + faith; THESE
OUGHT YE TO HAVE DONE, AND NOT TO LEAVE THE OTHER UNDONE
C.-Under Grace:
1-Law as a unit was abolished
2-Legal requirements removed
3-Proportionate giving now----1 Cor. 16:1-2
4-Judgment of "Nations" against JEWS & CHURCH who fail to give is predicted---Mt. 12:41-42
5-"You can't keep right with God spiritually if you don't keep right with Him financially."

III/-AMOUNT OF GIVING:
A.-Free From Tithe:
1-Yes, as a legal requirement
2-????Do less than Jews did under law?????
3-Ours is a HIGHER measure of grace & should call forth more
4-Free from law--yes
--Not an excuse to do less
Freely ye have received: --But a DEMAND to do more
Freely give → --Mt. 10:8
--ALL BELONGS TO GOD--Gal. 2:20 & 1 Cor. 6:19
--ILLUS--A gentleman called on a well-to-do merchant for a contribution to a cause which the merchant had indicated he desired to give to. "Yes, I must give you my mites," said the man. "DO YOU MEAN THE WIDOW'S MITES?" asked the gentleman?....."Certainly," answered the mercahnt....."I shall be satisfied with HALF AS MUCH AS SHE GAVE," said the gentleman. "Now, how much may you be worth?..... "Oh, about $70,000.--," said the merchant....."THEN," said his friend "GIVE ME YOUR CHECK FOR $35,000.--; THAT WILL BE HALF AS MUCH AS THE WIDOW GAVE, FOR SHE GAVE, YOU REMEMBER, 'ALL THAT SHE HAD, EVEN ALL HER LIVING.'".....That man was not the first person who has tried to shelter himself behind the "widows mites", but it is a DANGEROUS SUBTERFUGE

B.-Extenuating Circumstances:
1-In adversity???
2-In stress times----depression or boom???
3-In jobless times???
4-In small income times???
5-In debt????
6-When you or the kids are in school???
7-BIGGEST DEBT YOU'LL EVER HAVE IS TO GOD WHO GAVE His Son to die for your sins.
8-ILLUS---A little boy started to Sunday School with two nickels --one for the Lord and one for himself. One the way to church he lost one nickle. "There goes the Lord's nickle," he said. What the boy uttered concerning his loss is a reflection of the mind of his grown up parents---IT IS ALWAYS THE LORD'S MONEY THAT IS LOST---we must pay square with God. Give + it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down + shaken together, + running over, shall men give unto your bosom, For w/ the same measure ye mete it shall be measured to you again.
9- Luke 6:38

C.-What Can I Afford:
1-Puts others first
2-Puts God last
3-God wants first place--in life, finances, etc.
--worthy of ALL our trust
--always SATISFIED CUSTOMERS when God is
4-Can't begin too soon--NOW
--In Youth--Eccl. 12:1
5-"One who starts out to give according to his means usually winds up giving according to his meanness." F.O.Seamans

D.-Amount Dependent On Two Factors:
1-Gratitude to the LORD for What HE has done for you
--ILLUS--It is said that when Andrew Fuller went to his native town to collect for the cause of missions, one of his old acquaintances said, "Well, Andrew, I'll give you 50 dollars seeing it isyou."----To him replied the preacher, "No, I can't take anything for this cause, seeing it's I".....The man realizing the reproof, but quickly said, "Andrew, you're right. Here are $100, seeing it's for the Lord Jesus Christ."
--ILLUS--An Indian chief who, had been converted from heathenism, was exceeding fervent in his prayers & praises during worship, & extremely generous in his kindness and gifts to the missionaries and the needs of their work. The missionary at length asked the Indian why he was so jubilant in his devotions, and so lavish in his gifts. The convert made this pathetic, but telling reply: "AH, YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN IN THE DARKNESS."
2-How much you have TO GIVE FROM
--Proportionate to God's prospering--1 Cor. 16:1-2
--10% of $3,000.-- is a large portion
--10% of $50,000.-- is a small portion
--Stewards of ALL, not just of 10%
--Cheatham--"Riches tend to rob of devotion to Christ."

IV.-PLACES OF GIVING:

A.-Practical Problems:
1-Son or Daughter preparing for Christian service--NOT to reduce other giving for the Lord, for you'd help with education anyway, even if preparing for other work
2-Aged Parents--NOT to reduce other giving for the Lord
--Even unbelievers take this as a responsibility
1 Tim. 5:8

B.-Investment Opportunities:
1-Church---If sound & doing the job; NOT LIBERAL
2-Good missions, Radio, Evangelism, Youth work, Camps
3-Christian literature, schools, students
4-WHERE YOU GET FED---Illus---Regularly eat at home & support it but when you eat at a restaurant, you pay thebill there too.
5-Investigate & be sure of what you give to----make sure of the quality of investment you are making!!

C.-Avoidance Areas:
1-Liberal churches & missions
2-Off-brand missions and agencies
3-Overemphasis on Red Cross, United Fund, YMCA, etc.
4-BE SURE YOUR MONEY HAS A TESTIMONY FOR CHRIST
5-Principle---Gal. 6:6-10

V.-RESULTS OF GIVING:

A.-Tithing or Giving is not a license for UNHOLY LIVING because "paid Up" with God as a woman at S.W. BELL Tel. in Dallas

B.-Positive Results:

1-Satisfaction in sharing the gospel
2-Joy ---2 Cor. 8:2
3-Increased ability to give---2 Cor. 9:7-11
4-Increased Thankfulness to God---2 Cor. 9:12
5-God is glorified & the gospel is uplifted--2 Cor. 9:13-14
6-Praise - 2 Cor. 9:15

C.-Surprises Of Proportionate Giving:

1-At the Amount you'll have for the Lord's work
2-At the deepening of your spiritual life
3-At the ease of meeting your own obligations withthe remainder
4-At the ease of increasing of your giving yet more
5-At the preparation this gives to being a good steward over what remains in your hands
6-At yourself for not beginning sooner.

Concl: A.-Reason for giving---GIFT of God is eternal life thru Jesus Christ our Lord
B.-Background----------Tithe done away, but not reduced
C.-Amount----------Proportionate, but not LESS than the 1/10
D.-Places----------Where God Leads you
E.-Results----------Real & Positive joy & effectiveness
F.-----Question---Are YOU a "SATISFIED CUSTOMER"?????????????

Have you given BOTH THANKS AND GIVING?????

7- "If your giving still HURTS, you haven't given enough; give till it FEELS GOOD"
M. R. DeHaan

Westhope - 7/25/65

O, Jesus, I Have Promised 368
All For Jesus ——— 316
Take My Life + Let It Be 375