THE SIXTH SIGN - CONFLICT OVER HEALING THE BLIND MAN - Jn. 9:1-12

INTRO:

A. - Miracles In John's Gospel:

To this point:
1 - Water turned into wine - 2:1-12
2 - Healing of the nobleman's son - 4:46-54
3 - Healing the lame man in Jerus. - 5:1-17
4 - Feeding the 5,000 men PLUS - 6:1-14
5 - Walking on water + rescuing disciples on Sea of Galilee - 6:15-21 w/ Mt. 14:22-36

Today's Text
6 - Healing of a blind man met in the Temple area - 9:1-41 - Blind from birth

B. - Much Can Be Learned From This Event:

1 - Causes of Sickness + Physical Conditions

a - Hereditary sickness or conditions are due to SIN dating back to Adam

Thru the family genes

* Rom. 5:12 - "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so sin passed upon all men, for all have sinned."

* My familial tremor is an example of a physical cond.

b - Judicially imposed sicknesses due to sin -

Thru Sin

* John 5:14 "... sin no more lest a worse thing come unto thee."
* Rom. 1:27 - "And also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, + receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which is meet."

Thru discipline

c - Disciplinary sickness due to sin in CHASTENING by God on His people

* Num. 12:9-10 w/ 12:1-15 - MIRIAM became leperous
* Jas. 5:14-15 - SIN
* 1 Cor. 11:30 - "For this cause many are weak + sickly among you, and many sleep"

For our learning

2 - Cultural sickness to teach us what God wants us to know - Trial of Faith

* Job 1:6-2:10 + 1 Pet. 1:6-7

② Constitutional sickness for the glory of God ②

Thru God's Plan → John 9:3 + 11:4 - "When Jesus heard that, He said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God that the Son of God might be glorified thereby." "Thou shalt know hereafter"

I- THE HEALING OF THE BLIND MAN: (9:1-7)

A: The Blind Man Seen + Understood: (9:1-2)

1- Jesus passed by + SAW the man + his condition — Blind from birth (Jesus knew the whole story)

* — No story in the O.T. of giving sight to the blind
— In O.T. giving of sight is associated ONLY with God — Isa. 29:18 - "In that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness." Also Isa. 35:5 + 42:7

** — MORE MIRACLES of giving sight to the blind by Jesus than any other category.

2- Blind man probably sitting near the entrance to the Temple
* Not allowed to beg on the Sabbath
* There to be SEEN, PITIED + HELPED!

3- John 8 reveals to us Jesus as THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD + "The Light" opens the eyes of the man from darkness — BLIND NO LONGER! (9:5)

4- The disciples ASKED the Lord - (9:2) "Who did sin?"
* It was widely held that suffering such a disaster as blindness was DUE TO SIN.
Q * How could this man have sinned BEFORE HIS BIRTH??
* Loss of sight is the greatest loss a person can experience — HELPLESS + DEPENDENT
* Disciples did not understand Jesus paying attention to THIS BLIND MAN, because there so very many of them

B: The Savior Answering His Disciples (9:3-5)

1- Jesus rejected both options of the question
* The true answer is about "WHO" caused the blindness — Rom. 5:12 - "By one man sin entered into the world and death by SIN."
* Our Lord desired to SHOW by deeds as well as words that He was the LIGHT of the WORLD - Jn. 8:14, 15

* The man's blindness was permitted + overruled by God in order that His works of mercy + healing might be shown to men
ORDAINED OF GOD so Jesus could heal him — A KEY TRUTH!

N.B.

* God permitted the man's blindness that His power might be made manifest
* So also LAZARUS whose death was permitted "for the glory of God". (11:40)

2-TWO WORKS OF GOD

* The blind man was HEALED of blindness
* the blind man believed on the Son of God
* Jn. 6:29 - "the work of God is to believe on HIM whom God had sent.

3-[9:4] - A Solemn lesson - "I MUST" ! 3:17 + 4:4

- Gives us guidance about our need to use our opportunities - IMPERATIVE
- DO IT NOW should be our mantra
- Passage of time may remove our present opportunities
- Healing the blind man is one of the evidences of the greatness of Jesus' powers — OMNIPOTENCE

4-HOW LONG? - [9:5] - "As long as I am in the world"
- Jn. 1:4 + 8:12
- Seems to convey an urgency to do "while it is Day"
- Like our Lord, there is a WORK for us to do! We need to "GET TO IT" to do His will for us while we have life, strength + opportunities.

C. The Blind Man Healed: (9:6-7)

1-[9:6] - Jesus used means to heal the man - SPIT, CLAY, MIXTURE; Application
- Anointed the man's eyes, as He did on other occasions on deaf + blind
- It was not the clay + spit which healed blind eyes, but Christ's WORD + POWER! Unasked + Unexpected

2- To give sight to one who had lost his sight by disease or accident would be great, but this man HAD NEVER SEEN at all, so this was a mighty miracle!

3- Instructions — 9:7
- "GO . . . WASH" — The command
- He WENT + WASHED - The response
- ** - He came SEEING — The result
- A test of FAITH — The season

4- The name of the fountain — SILOAM - meant to refer the blind man's mind to the MESSIAH whom God had "SENT". It is fitting that the One who was "sent of God" should work a miracle in the pool called "SENT"

5- Reminds a pious Jew or us of Elisha's directions to NAAMAN, the Assyrian leper —
- "Go wash in Jordan" 2 Kings 5:10
- ** • BELIEVE and OBEY - A good pattern for us also
- Brought IMMEDIATE + COMPLETE healing

II. THE EFFECT ON NEIGHBORS (9:8-12)

A: The Neighbors' Dullness: (9:8-10)

1- They had always known him as BLIND, + that was all they knew about him. He was "the BLIND BEGGAR" to them.

2- The healing brought wide attention + great excitement

3- This circumstance raises a great Question. (?) Are the eyes of our understanding opened + sensitive (?) Opened enough to see people + needs they have which might reach out to help others ???

4- They knew his blindness, but they did not know him as a person

5- NONE of them knew HIM! Until they asked

B: The Blind Man's Testimony: (9:11-12)

1- He settled the issue himself - "I AM HE" 9:9

2- Then they asked "HOW? were their eyes opened?

3- A MIRACLE had been done + the neighbors were questioning - NEVER BEFORE

4- 9:11 — He answered: (The BLIND MAN)
- The simple, unvarnished account of the facts of his miracle cure.
- Apparently he knew little about Jesus so gives little of Him who had given his sight. His words centered on Jesus spoke + which he followed + found what only ALMIGHTY POWER could cause.
- Simple record:
  * He answered:
  * Jesus made clay + anointed = THEN
  * "I went + washed + received sight"
- Nothing less than the HAND of GOD.

5- 9:12 - "Where is He?"
- "I know not"
- The people's desire to see the worker of miracles was natural

6- The cured man knew:
- Jesus interest in him
- The sound of Jesus' voice, BUT NOT
  * What Jesus looked like
  * Who had been with Jesus
  * Where Jesus was at that time
- ALSO, he knew the value of listening to what Jesus told him + that OBEDIENCE was essential as one's response to Jesus' words

C: The Possible Cures For Sickness - 5

1- Medical Cures - 2 Kings 20:1-7; 1 Tim. 5:13; Jas. 5:14 + Paul
2- Psychological Cure - Low - PSYCHOSOMATIC - 40 to 80% of disease
3- Physical Therapy - Cure for a stroke or surgery
4- Demonic Cures - Exodus 7:9-22; Mt. 24:24; 2 Thess. 2:9; Rev. 13:3
5- Sovereign Cures - John 5:1-9; 9:3; 11:4 (The Blind Man; Lazarus revived from death); Phil. 2:25-27 (Epaphroditus)

The blind man by Pool of Bathesda

CONFLICT OVER HEALING OF BLIND MAN – Part II – John 9:13-41

INTRO:

A. Review of John 9:1-12:

1- Blind man healed
2- On a Sabbath day near the Temple
3- Blind from birth. A beggar
4- Seen by Jesus, anointed eyes w/spit + clay & sent to wash in the pool of Siloam
5- He came back SEEING
6- Effect on Neighbors of the blind man: (9:8-12)

B. Return To The Situation: (9:13-14)

1- Bad reaction by neighbors – 9:13
- Healing occurred on a Sabbath
- Neighbors took him to Pharisees =
2- THE SANHEDRIN – Jewish Leaders: Very Legalistic

I. THE HEALED MAN EXAMINED: (9:15-17)

A. The Pharisees' Questions: (9:15)

1- Asked "HOW he received his sight"
2- Reply by healed man – 9:15b
3- The word "AGAIN" infers repeated questioning 9:15
- BADGERING as if the man had done something wrong in being healed
4- A GOOD THING had been done for him!
5- Pharisees considered his being cured A BREACH of the Sabbath. God never intended to prevent works of necessity or mercy from being done on Sabbath
6- Pharisees only exposed their IGNORANCE of Moses' Law

B. The Divided Words: (9:16)

1- Pharisees: "This man is not of God" Reason? A good thing for this man had been done on the Sabbath 9:16b
2- OTHERS: Also Pharisees, but MODERATE!

3- DIVISION within Sanhedrin by minority; (2)
Likely those of John 7:51 — Read

C: The Renewed Questioning: (9:17)
"Same Song; Second Verse"
1- Blind man asked "AGAIN" — 9:15+17
2- An open-ended question — "What do you think of Him who opened his eyes?"
3- Reply: "He is a PROPHET"
* "PROPHET" was probably the highest he could assign to a man of God. This answer put Jesus in the highest place he knew about.
* John 4:19 - Same verdict as Samarian woman
* MAIMONIDES attested a common Jewish belief that a prophet had authority, even OVER the Law.
* This was a declaration that a man that could heal him had to be SOMEONE SPECIAL + that God had used Him to perform a miracle — like ELIJAH + ELISHA.
* "This is Jesus the PROPHET of Nazareth" Mt. 21:11; MK. 6:15; LK. 7:16; 24:19 — In all four Gospels

D: Pharisees' Response: (9:18)
1- They "did not believe concerning Him" Majority decision disregarded dissenters
2- Summoned the parents of the healed man

II: THE PARENTS EXAMINED: (9:19-23)

A: Pharisees Questions — 3 Q's: (9:19)
1- "Is this your son?"
2- "Was he born blind?"
3- "How doth he now see?"
4- This is the overreaching of unbelief because they now ask 2 CREDIBLE WITNESSES!

B: Parents' Replies: (9:20-23)
1- Answers to 2 of 3 questions: 9:20-21 Clear declaration to known FACTS
• "This is our son"
• "He was born blind"
2- NO ANSWER to 3rd question
3- What they declined to answer:
• "By what means he now seeth we know not!"
• "Who opened his eyes we know not"
• "He is of age; ASK HIM he shall speak for himself"
4- They discerned DANGER — Rightly left explanation to their SON

5- FEAR of Excommunication from Synagogue (3)
(9:22)
• Sanhedrin had already made this decision — & it was widely known.
• TWO KINDS: ① Temporary - One month
② PERMANENT
• A Stacked Deck!
• "Fear of the Jews" 7:13; 9:22; 12:42 & 19:38 (MULTIPLE OCCASIONS)
• Deprivement of Synagogue privileges was something to be feared by any godly Jew!
6- "ASK HIM" (9:23) was parents attempt to get themselves off the HOT SEAT.
NO OPINION EXPRESSED

III.- THE HEALED MAN'S SECOND EXAMINATION: (9:24-34)

A.- A Pious Declaration: (9:24-25)

1- Second summons & interrogation - "AGAIN"
2- Pious phrase: "Give God the praise"
• An exhortation? OR Tell the truth or else!
• Perhaps saying "Don't give Jesus the glory. Only God could do this."
3- IMPLICATION:
"We are learned men & we know best & not the healed man" They "stand pat" on their preconceived ideas.
4- Healed man's reply (9:25)
• He was not to be reasoned out of what he knew to be the TRUTH! He knew what had happened to him - WONDERFUL CHANGE - He could now SEE!
"What a wonderful change in my life
Was wrought when Jesus came into my heart"
5- He carefully avoids at present saying anything about the character of the Healer - JESUS

B.- The Dialogue: (9:26-29)

1- Third time - "WHAT?" + "HOW?" Relentless in pushing the healed man
2- FAITH looked at the result. UNBELIEF just raised questions.

9:27 3- He answered directly + adds sarcasm
Expected no answer! Becoming IMPATIENT + reacts to the Pharissee's bullying. Effectively he was saying "What is the point of answering if you are not listening?"

4- "They reviled him" — One sharp answer provoked another. (9:28) THEY knew that Moses had spoken for God, BUT they would not evaluate Jesus' words nor admit that He did miracles which could only come from God!

5- (9:29) - They said "We see NO PROOF! What would it take? Christ had repeatedly explained where He come from, BUT the Pharisees had not believed Him. WILFULL REJECTION of His message + person

C- The Verbal Tug-of-War! (9:30-34)

1- Healed man's answer - 9:30
- A simple + unanswerable argument!
- "How religious experts cannot work out a simple thing like this!"
- The great change brought about by the operation of the Holy Spirit in the heart + life of each believer is as great as the healing of this man born blind! KNOW THIS!

2- Healed man's contrasting "We Know" - 9:29+31
- "Tit for tatt" — POSITIVE ASSERTION
- Jesus has done an astonishing miracle; yet in the face of this miracle, you say you do not know where He comes from or WHO gives Him His power. His reasoning is impeccable — And goes on — 9:32-33
- ONCE in all of history — NEVER BEFORE done!
- UNPARALLELD + you "don't get it"!

3- SUMMATION (9:33) - How could this miracle of sight be done? This emphasises the VALUE of miracles in evidence of Christ's Divine mission to REDEEM LOST MANKIND!
- WHITBY: "We see here a blind man + unlearned judging more rightly of divine things than the whole learned Council of the Sanhedrin."

4- Their answer - (9:34) - TRUE, but words are

wasted on men like these. They pay no attention to the argument, but concentrate on putting down the person.

- ACCUSATION followed by EXPULSION from the Synagogue, a disciplinary action more extreme than for HERESY

5 - The HIGH, the GREAT, + the NOBLE are often the last to learn spiritual lessons - 1 Cor. 1:26-

"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not ... after the flesh, not many mighty ... are called"

Pick up HERE

6. ... charges (9:34)

Both can not be true!

... been blind + was an impostor
... of God's anger in blindness
... his birth
... as if he had LEPROSY

IV. THE ENCOUNTER THAT CHANGED THE MAN: (9:35-41)

A. The Initiative: (9:35) - Lk. 19:10

1 - Jesus - Found the healed man -
- Spoke to the man - "Dost thou believe on the Son of God" - He revealed Himself
- NO DELAY by Jesus
- FAITH in Christ is essential + personal

2 - See how great is the kindness + condescension of Jesus Christ!

B. The Inquiry: 9:36

A Simple Question

1 - IMMEDIATE RESPONSE - (9:36)

- The language of a mind ignorant of many things, but wanting to be instructed.
- Perhaps he recognized Jesus' VOICE. He clearly knew this One was his benefactor. Up 'til that moment He had NOT SEEN Jesus.
- He responds respectfully, but being in need for clarification:
  1. WHO the Son of God was?
  2. He evidences wanting to do what was RIGHT!

2 - Parenthesis re "THE SON OF GOD"
- What Jesus said of Himself - John 3:16-18; 5:25; 10:36; 11:4 + HERE - 9:35
- Our Lord bore witness of His DEITY

Clear REVELATION

C- The Outcome: (9:37-41)

1- REVELATION of His identity (9:37)
- "SEEN" must mean a lot to the man who up to that day had SEEN NOTHING!!
- A strait answer — Parallel to "Woman at the well - John 4:26-29
- The poor + despised + friendless are often those whom He favors with revelations of His kindness + mercy — ISA. 41:10

2- RESPONSE - (9:38) - Immediate - "I believe"

3- RESULT - "And he worshipped Him." - Jesus accepted worship

4- Jesus explained His purposes (9:39)

2 of them (a) Judgment on professions, BUT not yet - Jn. 3:17
(b) Revelation to the spiritually blind - Those that claim to have spiritual sight (apart from Him) may be shown to be blind, even that they really are.
- Public declaration of WHO He is + WHY He came

5- Words from self-satisfied Pharisees - (9:40)
- Their reaction was incredulous - YES THEY ARE
- Not likely a humble inquiry

6- Jesus' enigmatic reply (9:41) READ IT
- Here Jesus moves from the physical healing to the spiritual realm - THEIR GUILT
- This answer is paradoxical + probably unexpected. He says that blindness would have been an excuse if the Pharisees had been physically blind + if they would have had no understanding of spiritual things at all, they would have sinned in acting as they did.
- They could not be blamed for ignorance BUT they claim to see. They claim spiritual knowledge to act as they do. They have the LAW + know it. They claim TO SEE!
- Had they acted on the least knowledge they had, they would have WELCOMED the Son of God, but they did not act on the knowledge they had BUT acted like the blind!
- Therefore their sin was not taken away! Rather, their sin remains with them

7- Summary: Oh happy man! Having lost a place in the Jewish Synagogue, HE GAINED HEAVEN!

CONCLUSION:

A- The Progress of Revelation:

1- What have we learned about Jesus

- "A man" – John 9:11
- "He is a Prophet" – John 9:17
- "The Son of God" John 9:35-37

B- The Progress of Change:

1- The man born blind was made to see.

2- Unbelieving Pharisees judged with spiritual blindness

3- The newly seeing man also comes to SEE spiritually

4- Those who are enmeshed in a religious system without Jesus Christ are judged with spiritual blindness

5- Proof Text – Rom. 3:17

"Now we know that what things soever the LAW sayeth, it sayeth to them that are under the LAW, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God."

HEZEKIAH:

et his house in order"
ea for more time on earth
plishments
ady to die
spective
we face - Not longevity on earth
- But quality of life lived
n: In the light of the brevity of human life, let us be
and determined to live our life in its remaining days so
counts for eternity.

- Ps. 90:1-2:

e For Believers:

iverse:

MAN - Ps. 90:3-6:

Dust: (90:3a)

quired: (90:3b)

ity of Man's Earth Life: (90:4-6)

RAEL IN THE WILDERNESS - Ps. 90:7-11:

e Anger & Wrath of God: (90:7)

"Iniquities" & "Sins" of Israel: (90:8)

- Sure: (90:9)

UR YEARS: (90:10-11)

HE REDEEMED - Ps. 90:12-17:

d: (90:12)

od: (90:13)

Fully: (90:14-15)

Way: (90:16)

ave His Way In Us: (90:17)

Seen?
aracter of God
man's days
through the centuries

earn?

"LET THE BEAUTY OF JESUS"

Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me,
All His wonderful passion and purity;
Oh, Thou Spirit divine,
All my nature refine
Till the beauty of Jesus be seen in me.

* * * * * * * *

Let the fruit of the Spirit be seen in
Grant me grace all sufficient that I may
True and faithful each day,
Every step of the way,
Pointing souls to the Saviour on Calvar

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Conflict Over
The Good Shepherd — John 10:1-21 — Westbrae-7/7/68

Intro:

A.-The Man In Chapter 9:
1-Born blind
2-Cured by Christ
3-Testifies of Christ as--A Man — 9:11
A Prophet — 9:17
A Man of God — 9:33
THE Son of God — 9:35

Progressive understanding

B.-The Meaning Of Chapter 9:
1-Excluded from Temple worship
2-Included in the band who worship Christ
3-Cast out of the fold of Israel — Synagogue
4-Included in the fold of Christianity
5-Heb. 7:19

Blind man was

For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did, by the which we draw nigh to God

C.-The Transition From Chapter 9:
1-The blind are to see Christ
2-The rejectors are to be blinded spiritually
3-Pharisees object to inference — Because they understand it!
4-Christ accuses them of wilful rejection
5-Principle of 1 Cor. 1:26-29 is at work — not many wise, not many noble, etc.

D. The Message
1.- The Allegory - 1-6
2.- The Entrance — Door 7-10
3.- The Enjoyment — Shepherd 11-21
4. PROP: — Listen to Jesus speak
Apply Jesus' words to us
DECISION to be made

I.-ALLEGORY OF THE SHEEPHERD (10:1-6):

A.-The Sheepfold: — "Verily, Verily" — 10:1, 7
1-Enclosure with only 1 door
2-Guarded by door-keeper all night — Christ
3-Sheep picture the true children of God
4-Entrance by other ways show — that they had no right to enter
— that they had evil intentions

As thieves & robbers

B.-The True Shepherd:
1-Known and has free access — by His sheep
Heb. 10:20
Ep. 2:18
2-Owner, guide & caretaker of sheep — Goes before the sheep
Guidance was by Pillar of Fire + Cloud
as of old when it
Ex. 13:21-22
3-"Calleth by name" --orientals named every sheep
--shepherd knew each sheep; as individuals
--sheep knew their name & their shepherd
Mk. 10:32
As individuals
In biblical terminology means RULER!

--ILLUS--It is hard to realize that Jesus has an individual acquaintance with each of us separately. The very thought is bewildering in its magnitude, in view of the myriads of the redeemed. I once heard it said that Gen. Grant, when he was a Colonel of a regiment, knew every man of his command by name. Another incident from General Sherman's army in its northward march from Savannah illustrates in another way the magnitude of the thought that every soldier had a personal individuality. The army was passing along a rarely frequented roadway in N. Carolina. A woman stood in the doorway of her cabin & saw regiment after regiment of men in similar appearance and dress pass by, until, as the thousands upon thousand s came & went, she said in wonderment: "I RECKON YOU 'UNS AIN'T GOT NAMES AT ALL". It seemed to her an impossibility that each soldier was a distinct and recognized identity. It would have seemed stranger yet to think that one man could know each soldier by name. Yet far beyond these suggestions of human limitation of human knowledge & of personal sympathy, there comes the assurance knows His every disciple by name & that He daily & hourly speaks loving words of tenderness, counsel, & guidance accordingly.

4-"He goeth before them"--Orientals always LEAD sheep
--Never drove them
Contrast to FALSE SHEPHERDS
ILLUS--A party of tourists was on its way to Palestine & the guide described one of the different customs they would see. "Now, said he, "you are accustomed to seeing the shepherd following his sheep thru English lanes. Out in the East things are different & the shepherd always leads his flock. The party reached Palestine & to the amusement of the tourists, almost the first sight to meeet their eyes was that of a flock of sheep being DRIVEN along by a man. The guide was astonished & accosted the man saying, "How is it that you are driving these sheep?"...."I have told these folks that the eastern shepherd always leads his sheep."**** ***"You are quite right sir," replied the man. "The shepherd does lead his sheep. But you see, I'M NOT THE SHEPHERD, BUT THE BUTCHER."
--they know His voice
--He will take them to fresh pastures
--They will (not) follow a stranger
--ILLUS---A man who was traveling in the East heard of their custom to call sheep by name. He went up to a shepherd & said: "Let me put on your clothes & take your crook & I will call them, & see if they will come to me."----and so he did, & he called one sheep, "Mina, Mina," but the whole flock ran away from him. Then he said to the shepherd; "Will none of them follow me when I call them?"-------The shepherd replied: "Yes, sir, some of them will; THE SICK SHEEP WILL FOLLOW ANYBODY."-----Make your application!
Christ showed that HE was the TRUE SHEPHERD sent by God to lead Israel & be the REDEEMER
John 8:43--"Why do you not understand my speech even because ye cannot hear My WORD

II.-FIRST APPLICATION--CHRIST THE DOOR (10:7-10)

A. Central Truth---("I am the Door": ONLY ONE
1-"Verily, Verily"--extreme importance
2-"All others before me"--not speaking of true prophets
--but of false Christs
--these were misleaders
--True sheep didn't follow them
They had no care for any but THEMSELVES
Jesus applied this parable to HIMSELF
Israel's leaders Knew not God
3-"I AM THE DOOR"--Only 1 door
--Christ is God's provided entrance
No other Savior from God to save sinners
--Christ is our savior & shepherd
--Brought us salvation on the CROSS
--Made atonement for us
--Gives us the very life of God
--Provides power for daily life
How??
A change of METAPHOR
No OTHER entrance
At the cost of HIS LIFE!
"BY ME"
--Doors are for use! WIDE OPEN OPPORTUNITY
--ILLUS--A young man who often listened to a great Scotch preacher wanted to be saved. He had a longing in his heart to know the blessedness of God's salvation; although he wept, prayed & sought, he could get no sense of forgiveness, no assurance that he was received by God. One night the minister preachedon those words, "I AM THE DOOR: BY ME IF ANY MAN ENTER IN, HE SHALL BE SAVED," and he showed that "any man" took in poor sinners, no matter how vile, how wicked, how corrupt they were. As he preached, he could see the cloud lift from this young man's face; at the close of the meeting, he came to the front & said, "I GOT IN TONIGHT"******** ***"What do you mean," asked the preacher.----"Why, I got in at the OPEN DOOR tonight while you were preaching."*****"I am glad to hear it. But why did you not get in before? You have long been troubled,

and I have been trying to help you, & others have been doing their best to help you. How was it that you did not get in until tonight?" ***"Well, said the young man, "I have been at the wrong door all the time. I have been knocking at the saints door & I found it locked against me. I thought I had to become good enough for God to save me, but I said tonight, I will try the sinner's door, & when I came to it, I found it open & I got right inside."

B.-Human Decision---"If any man enter in":

1-God has provided
2-Man must recieve = Put his trust totally on Christ ALONE TO ACCEPT CHRIST AS YOUR OWN SUBSTITUTE — 10:11
3-The opportunity is wide open
4-But it takes a HUMAN CHOICE
5-ILLUS.--Some months ago I talked with another Pastor and learned ofa family who had a small child who was the center of their attention and affection. Suddenly it was taken from them. They demanded of their minister how God, if He were a God of Love, could deprive them of their only child. He promised to answer them at the funeral service, and said: "You ask of me why God has taken away your child? Listen! He wills to have at least one member of your family in heaven. You parents had not cared to enter heaven; and, had your child remained with you, you would not have allowed it to enter either....Now hear a parable: There was once a shepherd who prepared choice food in a fold for his sheep; he opened the door wide, but the sheep would not enter therein. Long did he weary himself to induce them to enter, but farther & farther they turned from the open door. At length he took a little lamb from the flock & carries it in; & lo, the parents follow after.....The good shepherd is Christ; the open fold is heaven; your child is the little lamb. If you have the heart of parents, FOLLOW AFTER IT. TheiLord has borne away your lamb that you might follow."

C.-Abundant Life--"He shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture..."

1-Promise is SALVATION--full, free, final,,,,,,sufficient
2-Collateral benefits NOW--go in & out --freedom & communion
--protection
--find pasture --sustenance
--life & that more abundantly
--Not just "pie in the sky by & by"
--But a "my cup runneth over" experience.

10:9
The THIEF takes life
The SHEPHERD protects life
The GOOD SHEPHERD gives life
Heb. 10:20
Ep. 2:18

III.-SECOND APPLICATION--CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD (10:11-16)

A.-Substitution for Flock--"Giveth His life":

1-One to die for many--11:50--"It is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not." Caiaphas, High Priest
2-Rom. 5:6-8
3-We have life BECAUSE OF HIM

3x5 illus

B.-Protection For Flock:--Beware of him.

1-Hirelings--would flee at danger
--more interested in fleece than flock
--leave them to the wolves
--have no concern for flock
Because they are not HIS SHEEP

10:12 CONTRAST

2-Good Shepherd--willing to die in our defense
--stands between & no harm will come to us
--He is the faithful & good Shepherd

SUBSTITUTIONARY SACRIFICE

NOT a Shepherd at all — Concern is WAGES, not SHEEP

3-ILLUS--One day as George Adam Smith was traveling he came across an Eastern shepherd and his sheep. He fell into conversation with him. The man showed him the fold into which the sheep were led at night. It consisted of 4 walls, with a way in. Sir George said to him, "That is where they spend the night?" ---"Yes," said the shepherd Wwhen they are in there, they are perfectly safe."*****"But there is no door," said Sir George. ----"I am the door," said the shepherd. He was not a Christian man. He was not speaking the language of the New Testament. He was speaking from an Arab shepherd's point of view. Sir George looked at him & said, "What do you mean by the door?" ***Said the shepherd, "When the light has gone & all the sheep are inside, I lie in that open space, & no sheep ever goes out but across my body, & no wolf comes in unless he crosses my body; I AM THE DOOR." *****How illuminating of the combining of the two figures of speach here in our Savior that He is both our DOOR & OUR SHEPHERD.

C.-Personal Relationship To Flock---"My Sheep": (10:13-14)

1-Knows them by name

2-They are His--by creation
--by redemption
--by concern

3-Loves them enough to count not his life dear for them.

4 - KNOWN by the sheep - 10:14b

D.-Scope Of The Flock---"Other Sheep": (10:16)

1-Not just 1 Jewish fold

2-Not just 2 folds for the privileged few

3-But out of EVERY tribe, kindred & nation

4-Yet, but ONE SHEPHERD + ONE FLOCK

5-All are saved; equally God's children regardless of--
--geography
--color
--year of our living
--other outward privileges

Answers? of Jn. 7:35

- Stone Age background
- Atomic Age background

Concl: 6 - DIVINE IMPERATIVE - "I must bring" Jn 10:16 4:4 "He must needs go thru Samaria"

A.-For The Believer---OUR SHEPHERD:

1-Substitution
2-Protection
3-Personal relationship
4-Scope includes all the saved

INTIMACY is prominent

B.-For The Sinner---OUR DOOR:

1-Central truth---"I am the Door
2-Human decision--"If any man enter in..."
3-Abundant life---"He shall be saved..."
4-Only door is Christ

EXCLUSIVENESS is prominent

5-Illus - "Some Other Way"

THE GOOD SHEPHERD John 10:11-21

INTRO:

A- What We've Seen: (10:1-10)

1- The THIEF that takes lives so he can rob + steal + destroy - Not Good

2- The TRUE Shepherd
- The DOOR to life + safety
- Abundant Life
  - He will go in + out freely (SAFETY)
  - He will find pasture (SUSTENANCE)

3- A human decision - "If any man enter in..." (10:9)

B- What We Need To See: (10:11-21)

1- The GOOD Shepherd - 10:7-11
2- The ONLY Shepherd - 10:12-16
3- The OBEDIENT Shepherd - 10:17-18
4- Division Again - 10:19-21
5- Jesus leads people to make a DECISION

I- The GOOD Shepherd: - (10:7-15)

A- A Substitution For The Flock: (10:10b)

1- Twice stated as "GOOD" - 10:11+14
2- A sacrifice for mankind in their place (10:11)
3- He gave HIS ALL to redeem us
- "Giveth His life (10:11) - 11:50
- "One to die for many"

Illus

B- Contrast with a Hireling: - (10:12-13)

1- An amazing difference between our Lord + false teachers among the Jews

2- Hirelings
- Would flee at danger
- More interested in a fleece than the flock
- Leave sheep to the wolves
- No concern for the flock because they are not his sheep

3- Not a shepherd at all

C:- Personal Relationship to Flock: (10:14) (2)

1- Shepherd knows sheep by name

2- Sheep are His
- By creation
- By redemption
- By concern

3- Sheep also know their shepherd, who LOVES the sheep enough to not count His life dear for them.

II:- THE ONLY SHEPHERD: (10:15-16)

A:- Relation To The Father: (10:15a)

1- A true relationship that the Father + Son have reciprocally KNOWING one another as persons in the TRINITY

2- They are linked together ETERNALLY

B:- A Voluntary Death: (10:15b)

1- "I lay down My life for the sheep"

2- Impossible for the ROMANS to take Him, hold Him, try Him or to crucify Him if He had not yielded to them VOLUNTARILY.

3- To die for sin + sinners was the purpose for His incarnation and going to the Cross VOLUNTARILY.

4- This is a DEEP MYSTERY for us.

C:- A Divine Imperative: (10:16)

1- Related to "OTHER SHEEP" who are distinguished from the Jews — GENTILES are all people in the world other than the JEWS.

2- A serious error in translating αὐλῆς as "FOLD," when it should have been shown as "FLOCK." It refers to PEOPLE, not places for security + sleep

3- "MUST" is used by Jesus in John's Gospel
- 3:7- "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye MUST be born again."
- 3:14- "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so MUST the Son of man be lifted up:

- 4:4 - "And He must needs go through Samaria."
- 9:4 - "I MUST work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."
- Therefore the Divine Imperative is set before us by the word "MUST"

4 - All who were saved — Jews + Gentiles would be together in what Jesus called "this flock" + "one flock and one shepherd - JESUS CHRIST

→ 5 - In the EPHESIAN letter another term is used in Eph. 3:1-6 and 4:4 as "ONE BODY"

6 - LUTHER: "The sheep, thought the most simple creature, is superior to all animals in this, that he soon hears his shepherd's voice, and will follow no other. Also he is clever enough to hang entirely on his shepherd, and to seek help from Him only. He cannot help himself, nor find pasture for himself, nor heal himself, nor guard against wolves, but depends wholly and solely on the help of another." (Gaebelein.. John, P. 185)

7 - All are saved; EQUALLY God's children, regardless of
- Geography
- Color
- Nation of birth
- Age
- Sex
- Stone Age background
- Atomic Age background
- Every tribe or Kindred

III - THE OBEDIENT SHEPHERD: (10:17-18)

A - The Father Loves The Son: (10:17a)

1 - Love is declared between them

2 - Because they are in harmony concerning Christ's commitment to do the Father's will

B - The Reason - Expecting DEATH + RESURRECTION! (10:17b)

1 - "Because I lay down My life..." He came to earth by incarnation to DIE to pay the price of REDEMPTION to render all Mankind saveable

2 - "That I might take it again" KNEW that He would be resurrected
- Firstfruits from the grave
- Fulfilled the plan of the Father

C.- Unity of the Father + the Son: (10:18)

1- Roman soldiers "took Him" as fulfillment of of Scriptural prophecies to follow the Father's plan of the ages.

- "I have power (authority) to lay down His life"
- "I have power (authority) to take it again."

2- Father + Son were always of one mind concerning Jesus Christ's coming to earth- BORN TO DIE —— His work of Redemption

3- ILLUS:- The Emperor Theodosius being seduced from the truth by Arian teachers, Bishop Amphilochus, at Rome took the following eccentric means of convincing him of his error. Theodosius had raised his son, Arcadius, to the dignity of Caesar. Together in royal state they received the homage of their subjects. Amphilochus, on 1 of these occasions presented himself & bowed his knee before the emperor, but took no notice of his son. Theodosius, offended, exclaimed: "Know you not that I have made my son partner of my throne?" The bishop thereupon turned on Arcadius, put his hands upon his head & invoked a blessing upon him, & then turned to go. Naturally dissatisfied with patronage in the place of homage, Theodosius asked in argry tones if that was all the respect the bishop paid to an occupant of the throne, but the latter replied: "Sire, you are angry with me for not paying your son equal honor with yourself; what must God think of you for encouraging those who insult His equal Son in every part of your empire

4- Reaction of the Jews shows His claim clearly.

IV.- DIVISION AGAIN: (10:19-21)

A.- Previous Divisions Among Jews:

1- John 7:43 - "So there was a division among the people because of Him (Jesus Christ)

2- John 9:16 - "Therefore said some of the Phatisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the Sabbath day. Others said 'How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles?' And there was a division among them.

B.- This Division: (10:19) Read this

1- Prophesied:

- O.T. - Isa. 8:14 - "And He shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offense to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem."
- N.T. - Luke 2:34 - "And Simeon blessed them + said unto Mary His mother, 'Behold, this Child is set for the fall + rising again of many in Israel; and for a SIGN which shall be spoken against.'"

N.T. - Matt. 10:34 - "Think not I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword."

2- Actually happened - (10:19)

3- Many make an ACCUSATON - (10:20)

4- OTHERS - (10:21)

- NOT a devil
- Jesus words did not match the accusation
- Jesus had invited hearers to TRUST Him in order to receive the life that He by His DEATH would provide
- QUESTION - "Can a devil open the eyes of the blind?" - NOT REALLY!
- Examples of "OTHERS"
  - * Gamaliel
  - * Nicodemus
  - * Joseph of Aramathea

CONCL.

A- Recap Of What We Have Seen:

1- The GOOD Shepherd - Gives His life to protect the sheep

2- The ONLY Shepherd - He is the ONLY One who is qualified to be Redeemer of ALL MANKIND - Jews + Gentiles to both be in ONE FLOCK in union + sharing Eternal Life

3- The OBEDIENT Shepherd who is following the will of the Father in sacrificial DEATH and RESURRECTION in unity of purpose of the Trinity

4- Jesus says THE ESSENTIAL in telling the Jews that their leaders were NOT SHEPHERDS, but hirelings who had NO CARE for the Jewish people, but only caring for themselves!

B. The Issue For US:

1- Jesus taught the Jews that they faced a choice.

2- So do each of us!

3- What is at stake? — (See) 10:10 b

4- What is YOUR DECISION ??

- Accusation against Jesus Christ - 10:20

or

- Acceptance which brings Eternal Life

THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH — John 10:22-42

Rom. 8:35, 38-39

1

INTRO: **A.-Time And Season (10:22-23):** (Of This Occasion)

1-Approximately 2 months after 10:1-21

2-Feast Of **Dedication**

--celebrated all over Israel, but Jesus was in Jerus

--Began (Dec. 25)

--Lasted 8 days

--In honor of the dedication ceremony after the renovation of the Temple under Judas Maccabeus

--**Renovation** because Antiochus Epiphanes in 167 B.C. sacrificed a sow on the Altar of Burnt Offering & made a broth with it with which he sprinkled the Temple in derision of the sacred services

--After 3 years the city was recaptured & the Temple was renovated & rededicated

--This extra-Biblical Feast was then instituted annually in commemoration of that rededication.

Joyous Festival remembering the rededication of the Temple + Divinely given VICTORY restoring Israel's national freedom

3-Called the FEAST OF **LIGHTS** where each home burned one lamp for each member of the family & then added 1 more lamp each evening for the 8 nights---& here is the One Who has (8:12) declared Himself **the LIGHT** OF THE WORLD

HANNUKAH

4-Called the **FEAST** OF **FREEDOM** because it commemorated the overthrow of the tyranny of Antiochus Epiphanes, and here present is the One who declared, "If the Son shall make you (free), ye shall be (free indeed)" (8:36)

5-Season was "**winter**", indicating inclement weather & thus He walked under the covering of Solomon's porch to do His teaching

B.-The "FEEL" Of The Scene:

1-It is the Feast that commemorates the cleansing of the Temple, and Christ's first appearance was in the Temple to (cleanse) it & to (claim) it as His Father's House

2-May there not be, then, a close connection between the statement that "it was the Feast of the Dedication and the question: "How long dost thou excite our souls"

3-**Was He**, the question would seem to ask, (really) the **Messiah**, (or) **not**? 10:24

4-Was He, like the Judas (Maccabeus) of whom they were thinking, raised up as **a Deliverer** from the **Roman** power, to give them the freedom that had long been the National dream

C.-Our Message:
I- Passage Examined
II- Points Elaborated
III- Purpose Explained
IV- PROP — See Security for ourselves

I.-THE PASSAGE EXAMINED (10:24-42):

Read

As he walked Jews crowded around Him + called for ANSWERS

A.-The Challenge Presented: (10:24):

1-Jews crowd around--doubtless a **mixed multitude**

--Yet, they are somewhat hostile as they "ring Him in", so there appears no escape.

2-Direct **question**--"**How long** dost thou make us to doubt", or "to be in suspense?"

3-Direct **challenge**--"**If** thou be the Christ, **tell us plainly**"

--Doubtless **some** in this crowd were honest seekers.

--Doubtless **some** were **planted** to **catch** Him

B.-The Challenge Answered: (10:25-30) Read 10:25 a

2

Previous Answer WORDS 10:25a

1-"I told you" --To disciples (Mt. 16:16-18)
His WORDS --To Woman at well (Jn. 4:25-26)
--To Blind man (Jn. 9:35)
--Many other occasions also (Mt. 21:23-27)

2-"And ye believed not" — Not listening w/ an open mind ness
--Accuses of deliberate rejection of His vocal wit
** --Jn.8:45--"And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not." = MIRACLES

Persuasive Witness WORKS 10:25b

3-Cites a collateral witness (10:25) b →
--"the works that I do in my Father's Name, they bear witness of me" WHO ELSE did what Jesus did? NONE!
--Doubtless many pictures passed before their minds of blind made to see, lame made to walk, deaf made to hear and of the dead raised to life, etc.

4-Jesus' accusation--THE REASON FOR THEIR LACK OF PERCEPTION
--(10:26)
** --they believe not--in spite of both WORDS and WORKS
--Because they are "not of my sheep"

Perception LACK 10:26 Read

* --Jn. 8:47 (Read)
--1 Jn. 4:6--"...he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth us not..."
--Uses the metaphor--SHEEP--of which he last instructed when in Jerusalem 2 months before, & says they are not of His sheep (John 10:1-2!)
* --Indication is that the problem is not in His lack of explicitness, but in their lack of perception
**of His clear declaration of Who He is
**of the true nature of the Messiah as DEITY
**of His ministry that leads to death for sin

Perception PROOFS 10:27 Read

5-Two marks of Genuine Sheep==True Believers
--"My sheep hear My voice"---EARS are attentive
--"and they follow Me"--------FEET are obedient
--"My sheep"--Christ's by creation and redemption
--They bear Christ's "brand" in the ears & hoof
--They are easily & clearly identifiable
--This does not include the unbelieving Jews, but only the true & real ~~christians~~ BELIEVERS
--ILLUS--I was standing with a friend at his garden gate one evening when 2 little boys came by. As they approached he said, "Watch the difference in these 2 boys."
Taking 1 of them in his arms he stood him on the gatepost & stepped back a few feet. Then he folded his arms & called to the boy to jump. In an instant the boy sprang forward toward him & was caught in his arms. Then turning to the second boy he tried the same experiment. But in the second case the result was different.
The child trembled & refused to move. My friend held out his arms & tried to induce the child to trust him & his strength, but nothing could move him. At last my friend had to lift him down off the post & let him go.
"What makes the difference in the two?" I asked. My friend smiled & said, "The first is my own boy & he knows me & trusts me; but the other is a stranger's child whom I have never seen before." THERE WAS A DIFFERENCE

3

7-RESULT---SAFETY!!!
--"They shall never perish" (10:28)
--strongest possible Greek construction
--Thus Christ guarantees our safety
***Perseverence of the Saints really becomes a question of the Perseverence of the Savior!
***We are as much--or as little--in danger of perishing as He is!
--Reassurance**Neither shall

they shall in no wise ever perish
Perfect Safety

C.-ILLUS--Some years ago at the great Keswick Convention in England, a brother said to George Silwood, "Is it not blessed to be safe in the arms of Jesus?" "Yes," said Brother Silwood, "but I am safer than that." "Why, how could you be safer than in the arms of Jesus?", he asked. "Well, I am as safe as an arm of Jesus," said the preacher, and he did not over-emphasise this glorious & great fact, "for we are members of His body, of His flesh, & of his bones."

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feelings, walking thru the dark & had come to meet him. The rest of the way they walked close & the boy was comforted. Nothing will ever make you feel real comfortable in the DARK, but a GREAT PRESENCE.

Ps. 23:4 - "Yeah, though I walk thru the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me: thy rod & thy staff they comfort me."

--Reinforcement** (10:29)
**"Save"; Perfect Tense; Permanent gift
**Just as no man (one) is able to pluck them out of Christ's hand, just so, no one is able to pluck them out of the Father's hand
**WE ARE SAFE in BOTH of Their hands!

them me

Is it possible to have Eternal life for a short time?!

8-Clincher--10:30
--Unity of essence, not of Persons
--Shows EQUALITY of Christ and the Father

DOUBLY SECURE!!

C.-The Discussion Engendered (10:31-39):
1-Reaction of Jews to stone Christ
--shows they understood His claim
--shows they did not believe Him
(10:31) --Stoning (Lev. 24:10-16) was for a blasphemer; not for one who spoke the truth
2-Ironic question--10:32 "I and my Father are one"

4

3-Response--10:33--For Blasphemy
--Clearly indicates that they realized both His words & His works demonstrated His deity.
--But they did not believe !!!

4-Christ DEFENDED that He had not blasphemed (10:34-36) His Words

5-Christ draws attention to His works as the works of the Father, so His claim to deity is thus reinforced

10:34-38

6-Another attempt to destroy Him & another Divine restraining (10:39) His hour had not yet come

"gods" = Men as Judges" Ps. 82:2,6
"Mighty One" → Ex. 4:16 Aaron; 7:1 Pharaoh + Moses

D.-The Departure Recorded (10:40-42):

1-Strong inferential proof in 10:40-
disciple of John the Baptist
2-Jesus & Disciples went to John the
ground"
3-Witness concerning John the Baptis
4-"THERE" many believed

10:42

--because of John's previous witness
--in distinct contrast to the unbelief in Jerusalem
--"John's ministry was more beneficial to this people after he was dead, than it had been during his life--and the end of his ministry was attained in bringing them to Christ." Melanchthon W. Jacobus
--"Present success in the conversion of men is not always to be required as the proof of one's ministry. What is faithfully preached may spring up as good seed, after we are dead. Even our Lord did not have equal fruits of His ministry at all times & in all places." Jacobus

① Et. Life to His sheep - 25
② Unity w/ the Father - 30
③ Sanctified by Father to provide Salvation - 36
④ Final appeal for faith - 30-37

II.-THE POINTS ELABORATED:

A.-Jesus Has Spoken:

1-No need for anyone to remain in doubt
2-Take His WORDS and His WORKS at face value
3-Proof is ample !
4-To remain in doubt is to take the voice of Satan in preference to the claims of Christ
5-We can be assured that Christ has, indeed, spoken "plainly"
6-Heb 1:1-2

B.-Marks Of A True Believer!

1-Problem isn't with the REAL but with the COUNTERFEIT
2-Be sure to be sure of yourself! !!!
3-2 Cor. 13:5--"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves."
4-2 Pet. 1:10--"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling & election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:"
5-How can I be sure???---Have I trusted Christ?
---Have I the "proving" brands?????
6-What are the proving brands??
--EARS--Hearing Jesus
--HOOFS--Following Jesus faithfully
This two-fold test is infallible

! ⁂

C.-Safety of Every Believer:

1-Doesn't depend upon us
2-Depends upon Christ!
3-Depends upon the Father } Double Protectors
4-They have promised
5-They are trustworthy!!
6-Our safety is SURE
7-WHY????-----BECAUSE OF THE EQUALITY OF THE FATHER & THE SON, WHO GUARANTEE IT

Perhaps Break Here

PURPOSE EXPLAINED

8-ILLUS---Perhaps I can drive this home to your heart by a very homely experience, to help you to see that God wants us to enjoy & be assured of our salvation. Traveling by air is something I have always enjoyed a great deal, though I recall one of my earliest flights at Christmas of 1948. I was returning from Pennsylvania to Nebraska on a M.A.T.S. plane while I was in the Navy. On the way over western Pennsylvania & eastern Ohio, we ran into "real weather" as the pilot called it. We were aboard a W.W. II B-25 that seemed to leak air everywhere. The engines seemed to me to miss every cycle. Every now & again we would hit what I know no better than to still call "air pockets", and I thought we fell a thousand feet every time! We tried several different altitudes, but the only place we could escape the "bouncing" was at an altitude we couldn't fly at because we needed oxygen & there weren't enough to go around & besides it was too cold for us without heat in the plane. Every time the plane would drop, I'd grab for the walls, or the seat in front of me & hold on for dear life. Of course the seat & the walls were falling as fast as the seat I was sitting in.

Aboard with us was another Navy man who had done a lot of flying & he said it was the roughest flight he'd ever been aboard.

Also aboard with us across the plane was a W.W. II pilot who was "just along for the ride". He was asleep by the time we were airborne & when he did "come to" occasionally, it was only to request that the rest of us would quiet down to allow him as much sack time as he could manage. He'd flown all over the S.W. Pacific & Japan, & so this didn't phase him at all.

When we finally had to make an emergency landing at Wright-Patterson Field because we couldn't go any farther in that weather, we were commenting as we scrambled out of the plane that it had surely been a "roughie". That pilot, on the other hand, said it had been "most enjoyable" to him, except for our noise!

Now, whatever security that B-25 offered was just as much mine as it was his. We both had the faith to enter the plane. He had the faith, understanding & experience to enjoy the flight in sheer relaxation. He had assurance, but I certainly didn't. What could have been less frightening & perhaps even enjoyable, had just been an ordeal.

God wants us to enjoy our salvation. The "plane" of God's salvation cannot fail.....and we don't even have to "hold on" to the seats or the walls!!! HE HOLDS US!

crash

Praise God! ——— and believe — "They shall never perish"

7/14/68 - He Hideth My Soul — 255
Security — 312
A Shelter In The Time Of Storm — 413
12/27/76 - Temple Bapt. Ch - Fredericksburg, VA - YP

A LIVING MIRACLE (Lazarus) John 11:1-46; 12:9-11

Jn. 5:25-29

(1)

INTRO: A-Lazarus of Bethany comes as near to Jesus of Nazareth, both in his character, and in his services, and in his unparalleled experiences, as mortal man can ever come. Lazarus' name is never to be read in the N. T. till the appointed time when he is to fall sick, and to die, and to be raised from the dead, for the glory of God. Nor is his voice ever heard. Lazarus loved silence. He sought obscurity. He liked to be overlooked. He revelled in neglect. You could have taken any liberty you pleased with Lazarus with the utmost impunity.

Our Lord and His disciples often found where to lay their head at Martha's house, as it was called. But where Lazarus laid his head at such times no one ever asked. The other evangelists pass over Lazarus as if he were a worm and no man. They do not give him the place of a man in his own house. But Lazarus never takes offence at that. 'He is a sheep,' said the men & women of Bethany. And so he was. For, when Jesus of Nazareth and His 12 disciples came to Martha's house, Lazarus hewed wood, fetched water, and washed the feet of the whole discipleship; and then, when they were they were all asleep, 'though he was the staff and sustenation of the family,' he supped out of sight on the fragments that remained.

All Bethany was quite right; Lazarus was a perfect sheep. They laughed him to scorn, they shot out the lip at him, & he never saw it. At any rate, he never returned it. Let Martha sweat and scold; let Mary sit still and listen; and Let Lazarus only be of use to them & that was his meat & drinks. So much so, that the world would never have heard so much as Lazarus' name unless the glory of God had been bound up with Lazarus' sickness, death, & resurrection.

WHYTE

B-But; On To The Story Itself.....

I-THE STORY OF LAZARUS .. (11:1-27):

A-The Principals: (11:1-4)

1-Martha -it was her house; OR Simon was FATHER of all 3 - Mary, Martha + Lazarus
-she is remembered by all for her service. Married to SIMON THE LEPER (Mt. 26:6)
• Perhaps dead
2-Mary -sister of Martha; perhaps younger
-she is remembered for her devotion to Christ • Perhaps cured by Christ
-she it was who anointed Him with the spiknard 12:1-3
3-Lazarus -brother of Mary & Martha
-doubtless considerably younger than Martha
called "our friend" by Jesus 11:11 -delighted in satisfying others
-quiet & non-talkative man
-used to demonstrate the GLORY OF GOD
-became a tremendous testimony — Even QUIET men can have a TREMENDOUS TESTIMONY
4-Jesus --the Son of God. — 10:36 — Read

B-The Relationships: (11:5-12)

1-Home where Jesus felt "at home" in Bethany; 1 7/8 miles from Jerusalem's outer wall
2-Considered by the 3 occupants to be their loved one (11:3) Review
3-Jesus was devoted to them (11:5) ἀγαπάω
("Now Jesus loved Martha + her sister + Lazarus")
"the natural affection of personal attachment." (Westcott, P. 165)

C-The News: (11:3-15)
1-Sent by the 2 sisters
2-Word that Lazarus was "sick"
3-Sent to Jesus who was 1 days journey away in Bethabara in Northern Perea.
4-Jesus' evaluation--11:4 - Sickness not unto death - God's glory
5-Jesus' reaction----11:5-6 - LOVE - Purposeful delay
* 6-Jesus' action------11:7 - Let us go - on His time schedule
7-Jesus' fearlessness-11:8-10 - In face of known opposition
8-Jesus' explanation-11:11-14 - Lazarus sleepeth ... is DEAD!
*** 9-Jesus' purpose----11:15 - So disciples may BELIEVE!

D-The Time Element: THE SEQUENCE
1-One days travel time for the news to be brought to Jesus
2-Two days delay by Jesus - 11:6
3-One days travel to Bethany for Jesus & disciples
4-Lazarus was dead (11:13-14)
5-Thus, Lazarus died the same day the news was sent to Jesus & was buried the same day acc. to the custom of the East.
6-Jewish mourning customs (article on MOURNING in B. Dict)
--3 days of weeping (fletus)
--7 days of lamentation (planctus) } 30 DAYS
--20 days of mourning (moeror)
--many guests who come to express interest & mourning, including paid mourners on some occasions.
7-"COMFORT"-11:19

WHY the delay in going? 11:15 - Purpose!

E-The Promise: (11:20-27) THE SAYINGS
1-Martha runs out to meet Christ
2-Mary sat still +11:31
3-"Lord" "If"--11:21--not a rebuke; only rembrse
4-"But"--11:22--alternative even yet
5-Reassurance--11:23 "shall rise again"
6-Resignation--11:24
7-Promise of Present LIFE---11:25-26
8-Affirmation-11:27--though with an imperfect understanding
9-ILLUS.--At the battle of Inkerman a soldier was just able to crawl to his tent after he was struck down. When found he was lying upon his face, his open Bible before him, his hand glued fast to the page by his life-blood which covered it. When his hand was lifted, the letters of the printed page were clearly traced upon it, and with the the ever-living promise in and on his hand, they laid him in a soldiers grave.

CHRYSOSTOM: "It was not that Martha was now more zealous, but Mary had not heard."

SON of GOD *

Man is like a WATCH case may be destroyed but the works is removed + transfered to a new case. So the Body is renewed in resurrection, but the Soul + Spirit are ALIVE

Those words were: "I am the ressurection and the life; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." I want a faith---AND I AM SURE YOU DO TOO---that can comfort even in death and that can reunite me with my loved ones. Oh, what gloom & darkness would settle upon this world if it was not for the glorious doctrine and hope of the resurrection!

Thank God, that glorious resurrection morn will soon break upon the world. For a little while God asks us to be on the watch-tower, faithful to Him & awaiting our summons. Soon the Lord will come to receive His own--whether they be living or dead!

II.-THE SYMPATHY OF JESUS ... (11:28-37)

A-Secret Summons To Mary: (11:28-33)

1-Relieve the troubled heart of Mary
2-Secrecy in order not to be deterred from a private conversation with Mary by the visitors from Jerusalem who might have been of an unfriendly disposition to ward the Lord
3-But... 11:31 - The JEWS thought they Knew Mary's intent
4-Mary - "at His feet"
- "Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died" ---- (sorrow) DELAYS are not DENIALS
- Same words as Martha used in 11:21

B-Touched With Our Infirmities: (11:34-37)

Sincere Sympathies

1-Heb. 4:15--"For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."
2-"groaned" & "troubled" === "shuddered" 11:33
- It was the indignation which the Lord of life felt at all that sin had wrought" Trench, MIRACLES (P.416)
- Compassion
- Concerned over misunderstood purposes
- Compelled--Rom. 12:15--"Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep."

3-"Wept" - at bringing Lazarus back into this world of woe, even though it was to be for the GLORY OF GOD
4-Some see Christ's true feelings--11:36 "See how he loved him"
5-Some speak sneeringly ---------- 11:37 Always someone to KIBITZ!

III.-THE SIGHT OF RESUCITATION ... (11:38-44)

The Particulars—

A-[illegible] Made Clear:

Jesus is the FIRSTFRUITS

1-Christ's resurrection is UNIQUE SO FAR
2-We are promised a resurrection "like His"
3-We will follow in this "Rose Parade Of Resurrection"
4-Christ is the "Grand Marshall"; the rest of the "sections" will follow
5-All others have been RESUCITATIONS - Lazarus & others
- restoration to physical life
- subject to infirmities of physical life
- subject to ultimate end of physical death AGAIN

B-The Preliminaries (11:38-40):

1-The command----11:39a - "Jesus said, Take ye away the stone"!
2-The protest----11:39b - "Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days"
3-The reminder--11:40 - Notice the ORDER — BELIEVE (+) then See

C-The Prayer: (11:41-42):

1-Confidence--11:41b - "Father, I thank Thee that Thou hast heard Me"
2-Purpose-----11:42 - "that they may believe that Thou hast sent Me"

The Pronouncements—

D-The Command: (11:43-44):

1-"Loud voice"--not for Lazarus to hear Him
--but to let the crowd hear Him
"CRIED" Rare word only used here by Christ. COMMANDED
2-"Lazarus, come forth"--Summons of the Lord God
--well that He limited it to Lazarus
3-Dead man was made ALIVE!
--came forth; alive by Christ's power
--bound; in manner of Egyptians in burial w/ limbs

Read * 5:28-29

wrapped separately; yet also in the manner of the Jews who did not damage the body by the removal of the organs.

unloosed—Lazarus needed HELP from others

4-Lazarus was never quite the same man after this "NEW LIFE" experience from Christ — subject of the greatest + most startling miracle of the gospel story.

5-What Jesus did for Lazarus, He does spiritually for all of His people. The new birth into RESURRECTION LIFE is a real & vital experience for all believers. The actual moral or circumstantial change which occurs at the crisis called "conversion" may vary, but in no way affects the reality of the occurrence. This new life & new nature are the actual positive present possession of every believer. Resurrection life is ALIVE!

IV.-THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RAISING ..(11:45-46; 12:9-11):

A-The Reaction: (11:45-46):

1-"Then"---immediately upon Lazarus' being raised by Christ

2-BELIEF--11:45

3-REJECTION--11:46 — Many mourners had come in the providence of God so that there were many witnesses + heralds of Christ's mighty work of power.

4-Confrontation with the POWER & GLORY of Christ requires such a choice

5-NEUTRAL you cannot be!

"The greatness of this miracle cannot be exaggerated" RYLE P. 107

LK. 16:31 — Jesus said unto him, If they hear not Moses + the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one be raised from the dead

B-The Attraction (12:9-11):

1-People wanted to "SEE" Lazarus; THE LIVING MIRACLE

2-This kind of good news travels fast

3-Lived on the main route of travel up to Jerusalem from Jericho

4-Lazarus so "LIVED THE LIFE" that sinners were attracted to him and he pointed them to The Lord A LIVING WITNESS!

5-Lazarus becomes a savor of life to those who believe

6-Lazarus becomes a savor of death to those who reject

7-"LAZARUS ALSO"--12:10 — because of 12:9
- subject to the priest's plot — Mostly SADDUCEES who denied the reality of RESURRECTION
- expansion of 11:50
- Blood of the martyrs is the seed of the ch.

8-Lazarus' faith was CONTAGEOUS--12:11 — Lazarus' resurrection threatened the life of Jesus. Sanhedrin determined to put Jesus to death.

9-Many others carried the news too--12:17

10-No further record of Lazarus — Probably forced to flee for his life. 12:10

CONCLUSION:

A-The Application:

Read!

1-Col. 3:1-4

2-We TOO are on Resurredtion ground

3-Are we "A LIVING MIRACLE"? ? ? ? ? — A LIVING WITNESS?

4-Old life has been put to death

5-New life implanted

6-Are you...ENCOURAGING it???? or DISCOURAGING it????

7-This new life in Christ is just as real and as revolutionary as that of Lazarus after he came from the tomb. If any man lives this life as naturally & quietly as Lazarus, quite apart from public ministering, then he will be a powerful testimony to the life-giving power of Jesus Christ. People will believe on Christ because of him. — And because of YOU also!

B.- The Comparison!

(5)

8- ILLUS.--On a cooperative venture some years ago a Christian gentleman of mature years and a young man began a gospel ministry among a number of their office associates. Some 40 or 50 would gather for games and refreshments & listen to a gospel address before they went home at night.

On one occasion, the speaker, anxious to bring a soul to a decision after his address, stopped a young man to talk with him while his co-laborer stood at the door saying "good night" to the others. This young man afterward came up to the younger co-laborer and said: "John, Mr. Stevens wants me to be saved. I want to know about some things....."

And then came a conversation which ended in the young man accepting Christ as His personal Savior. When John bowed his knees before God that night, he felt a glow over his soul as he realized that the young man who had received the Savior had been impressed enough with his life in the office day-by-day to come to him for spiritual guidance in his time of soul-crisis.

9- How many of us are living the resurrection life in sufficient power to stimulate lost souls to seek us out as LIVING MIRACLES? ??

10- How long since this has happened to you....IF EVER?

11- Dried up long ago?

People seeking Answers FROM YOU!

12- Come back to the Resurrected Savior for Resurrection LIFE

13- ILLUS.--William Borden--Borden of Yale--This young missionary to the Moslems of China died in Egypt while learning Arabic. Though he died in his 20's, this was the inscription placed on his grave:

"APART FROM CHRIST THERE IS
NO EXPLANATION OF SUCH A LIFE"

14- If your life can be explained--or lived--apart from X
****then you need Christ as your Savior
****you need to become a LIVING MIRACLE!

That is what Life on earth after salvation
IS ALL ABOUT!

~~The Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken~~

Great Is Thy Faithfulness ——— 403 (1)
Living For Jesus ——— 354 (4)
At Calvary ——— 174 (2)
Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken 213 (3)

2/23/64-AM-Westbrae
3/30/69-AM-"
3/1/87-O.K.B.C.

The denials of Destructive Criticism may be reduced to these three propositions: (1) John did not write this account at all. (2) The author of the Gospel of John invented the story, building it on a very slight foundation. (3) That it may be truth that Lazarus had been sick, but that the whole story was a fraud perpetrated by Lazarus and the sisters. Such is the infidelity in the camp of Christendom today. It deserves the most scathing denunciation and every true Christian should turn from it with abhorrence. The French infidel Renan held the same view as some of the Critics hold, perhaps they stole it from him. Renan declared that the death of Lazarus was only apparent; that the supposed resurrection was a fraud contrived by the friends of Jesus in order to give *éclat* to His anticipated entrance into Jerusalem, and that to this fraud He lent himself, in a moment of intense fanatical enthusiasm.

All these French, German and Theological Seminary infidels try to dispose of the reality of this miracle. We quote a simple, yet masterly answer to all their objections. The author of this defense we shall name after the quotation.

"The only alternative is belief in the miracle. The evidence of John's authorship of the fourth Gospel refutes the hypothesis that John did not write the account. The narrative itself is neither ideal nor dogmatic, neither an artistic picture nor a concealed argument. It is a perfectly colorless narrative of events concerning which there was no possible room for mistake. The writer does not draw from the narrative any conclusion; he does not say that any miracle was wrought or even that the dead was raised. He simply tells his readers what he saw and heard, and leaves them to draw their own conclusions. He was with Jesus beyond the Jordan; word came to them that Lazarus was sick; Jesus remained where He was two days; then He told the disciples that Lazarus was dead; when they reached Bethany they found a scene of mourning; the friends had come, according to Jewish custom, to console the sisters' family; both sisters stated impliedly and reproachfully that Lazarus was dead when they arrived at the grave, one of them said that he had been dead four days, and that corruption—though this apparently was only her presumption—had already commenced; Christ directed the stone to be taken away, commanded in a loud voice, 'Lazarus come forth,' and he came forth bound in his grave-clothes. A scientific commission could not have reported the facts with more absolute impartiality. The writer expresses no opinion whatever respecting the occurrence. This is not the method of an idealist who has invented the occurrence for the purpose of glorifying his Master, or of a dogmatic who has written it to prove a doctrine; it is the language of a pre-eminently honest, fair-minded and impartial witness. And upon this narrative the great mass of readers and students have come to but one conclusion—that to which both friend and foe came at that time—that it was a genuine resurrection from the dead, a great and notable miracle."

The author of this fine piece of logic in answer to the destructive infidels is Dr. Lyman Abbot, late editor of the "Outlook." It is quoted from page 148 of his commentary on the Gospel of John, published in New York City many years ago.

"It Is Expedient" Jn. 11:47-53; Mt. 26:57-68.

Right Way; Wrong Way; Navy Way.

Intro: A.-Ways of handling a problem:
1-Right way 2-Wrong way
3-EXPEDIENT way--Illus--Chamberlain at Munich.
B.-So also in the realm of the spiritual.--Gen. 50:20

Read Gen. 50

I.- THE PROPHECY Jn. 11:47-53.

Sanhedrin

A.-Council:
1-"What do we?"--indecision
2-Problem of many Jews trusting Christ
3-Half-way measures discussed.
4-Discussed serious results to follow: hurt business.
--lose place--ILLUS--Demetrius--Religous if it doesn't/
--lose nation--already lost, subject to Rome.

Look him up in Bible Dictionary

B.-Caiaphas the H.P.
1-Hadn't read "How to win friends..."
2-"Ye know nothing at all"---stops former train of thought.
3-EXPEDIENCY MUST RULE.

C.-Suggestion:
1-One man die--people go free.
2-Put the "bee" on Christ--don't disturb our "good thing"
3-Dastardly politics of expediency--not thought or care of right or wrong.
4-Explanation--God uses unwilling mouths--ILLUS--Baalam in Nu. 23:5-10--Spoke far more truth than he knew. God used the High Priest in spite of man's intention. "The wrath of man shall praise Him."
5-Jesus to die--not for Israel only, but for all the world Heb. 2:9; 1 Jn. 2:2.-----Gen. 50:20
6-Counsel taken--decision to take X, but didn't tell others of death they planned.

II.- THE TESTIMONY Mt. 26:57-64.

A.-Take Christ in Gethsemane:
1-Night-time betrayal
2-Disciples flee
3-Christ taken to an illegal night trial.

B.-False witnesses:
1-"What an array of witnesses they might have found had they wished to learn the truth! Here a company of those who had been lame, but now were running to tell the story of their healing; there a band of those who had been blind, but now could see; lepers who had been cleansed; demoniacs clothed and in their right minds; sick raised from their beds, and dead brought to life again; sad hearts comforted; sinful souls redeemed; ignorant minds enlightened; wandering ones restored. It is still the same; many men refuse to look at the true witnesses for the gospel which are many and strong."
2-Leaders deliberately chose false witnesses.
3-No agreement--facts too well known to palm off a poor story. No facts against Christ. First LIAR doesn't have a chance.
4-Mosaic law said 2 witnesses had to agree
5-No call for DEFENCE witnesses.

C.-True Witness:
1-Anger of Caiaphas--"he arose" "answerest thou nothing"
2-Christ holds his peace--Isa. 53:7 & 1 Pet. 2:23
3-Caiaphas puts Christ under religious oath
--no avoiding of answering now
--2 pronged question:--Yes, blasphemy or No, False teaching
--Remnant of Trinitarian concept seen here.
--DIRECT QUESTION.

Demand for the TRUTH

A NO WIN QUESTION

4-Christ MUST answer it Mt. 26:64
--"You said it"--Mk. 14:62 "I am."
--further declaration of deity in 26:64. They clearly understood

III.-THE DECISION Mt. 26:65-68

A.-The High Priest:
1-"Rent" his clothes--ceremonial sign of horror
2-Declares this to be Blasphemy--Understood X's claim
--never examined to see if true
3-Calls for a vote--Christ was condemned on own testimony.

B.-Council:—the Sanhedrin
1-"Guilty of death"
2-No examination to determine truth or falsity of the claim.
3-Couldn't execute a death sentence--Had to go to Pilate

C.-Crowd:
1-buffeted Christ
2-spit on Christ
3-Mocked Christ as a Prophet

Concl. A.-Subsequently Christ died
B.-Death of Christ caused the loss of both the "place" & the "nation" for the Jews, which they were concerned about.
C.-Death of Christ WAS EXPEDIENT for "the people"--both Jews & Gentiles--Christ died for YOU. Gen. 50:20 - Illus. of Joseph.

D.-Reactions
1-Rejection as did most of the Jews?
2-Accepting as have Christians ever since?

IT IS EXPEDIENT — (John 11:45-57) ①

INTRO.

A. Ways Of Handling A Problem:

1- Right way
2- Wrong way
3- Navy way
4- EXPEDIENT WAY - Illus. Prime Minister Chamberlain at Munich

B. Reminder About Lazarus' Resuscitation: 11:1-45

1- The Principals — Martha, Mary, Lazarus + JESUS
2- The Relationship
- 3 occupants loved Jesus - φιλεω 11:3
- Jesus loved the 3 — αγαπαω — 11:5, 36

3- The News + Time Sequences
- Lazarus was "SICK" + Jesus was SUMMONED
- Sickness "not unto death" — (11:4)
- PURPOSEFUL DELAY of 2 days
- Explanation — "Sleepeth" . . . DEAD! (11:11-14)
- Jesus said "Let us go (11:15)
- COMFORT by Jesus to Martha + Mary (11:19)

4- The Promise (11:20-27)
- Martha met Christ — NO REBUKE, Just remorse (11:20-24)
- Jesus' PROMISE of present LIFE + Resurrection
- Martha's affirmation - "Yeah, Lord: I believe that Thou art the CHRIST, the SON of GOD (11:27)

C. The Sympathy Of Jesus: (11:28-37)

(11:28-32)

1- Secret summons to Mary - Private conversation
- Called + came quickly (11:28-30)
- Jews comforted Mary + she wept at Laz.'s grave
- Mary wept + spoke her heart at Jesus' feet

2- Jesus "touched w/ our infirmities" — Heb. 4:15
"For we have an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."
- Compassion + Concern with tears (11:35-36)
- Sympathy recognized by Jews: "BEHOLD how He loved him (Lazarus)" (11:36)
- Some Kibitzers spoke of what He could have done IF HE BEEN PRESENT before Laz. died (11:37)

D. The Sight Of Resuscitation: (11:38-44)

1- The particulars made clear
- Christ's resurrection is UNIQUE til now

2- WE are promised a resurrection LIKE HIS - FIRST-FRUITS from the grave.

3- There will be a Rose Parade of resurrection with Jesus as the GRAND MARSHAL leading a parade of sections which will rise following Him.

4- Lazarus had a RESUSCITATION (11:44)
- Restored to life in his physical body brought back to the physical life that had before
- Subject to the infirmities of physical life
- Subject to ultimate end of death again

5- The preliminary elements (11:39-40)
- The command - "Jesus said 'Take away the stone'" (11:39a)
- The protest - "Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days." (11:39b)
- The reminder - (11:40)
  - NOTE THE ORDER!
  - "Believe" then "See"

6- The Prayer (11:41-42)
- Confidence - "Father, I thank Thee that Thou hast heard Me." (11:41b)
- Purpose - "that they may believe that Thou hast sent Me." (11:42)

7- The Pronouncements (11:43-44)
- "Loud Voice" - Not for Lazarus to hear Him, - BUT to let the assembled crowd hear Him
- "Lazarus, come forth" - Summons by the LORD GOD
  - Well that the Lord limited it to Lazarus
- A DEAD MAN was made ALIVE - Jn. 5:28-29
  - * Came forth - ALIVE by Christ's power
  - * BOUND in the Egyptian manner - limbs immobile + bound separately - ORGANS not removed
  - * UNLOOSED - Laz needed HELP from others
  - * Lazarus was never quite the same after this NEW LIFE! experience

E. The Significance Of the Raising: (11:45-46)

1- The reactions
- Belief - (11:45) "MANY BELIEVED"
- Rejection (11:46) Division Again

Neutral you cannot be

2- The confrontation with the POWER + GLORY of Christ demands a choice by each person

I. OPPOSITION TO JESUS CHRIST TO DATE:

1- Jn. 5:18 - "Therefore the Jews sought the more to KILL Him, because He not only had broken the Sabbath, but said also that God was His Father making Himself equal with God."

2- Jn. 7:1 - "After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to KILL Him.

3- John 7:19 - "Did not Moses give you the Law, + yet none of you keepeth the Law? Why go ye about to KILL ME."
4- Jn. 7:25 - "Then said some of them of Jerusalem, Is not this He, whom they seek to KILL?
5- Jn. 7:32 - "The Pharisees heard that the people murmured such things concerning Him; and the Pharisees + the chief priests sent officers to TAKE HIM.
6- Jn. 8:37 - "I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill Me, because My words hath no place in you."
7- John 8:40 - "But now ye seek to KILL ME, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham."

II. RESPONSE OF CHIEF PRIESTS + SANHEDRIN: (11:47-53)

A. The Council's Discussion: (11:47-48)

1- Organized opposition to Christ + His miracle working comes from blindly ignorant people who should have responded with FAITH, but instead they plot to kill. MIRACLES had occurred which these could not deny, nor could they cause many to stop believing and following Christ
2- Religious leaders + the Sanhedrin ally together to they are at whit's end in the face of the greatest miracle since CREATION — LAZARAS' RESTORATION. Pharisees were told of Jesus' miracle by ones who refused to believe He is the Son of God (11:46)
3- These made much of washings, fasting + ascetic observances of Jewish worship. They said to one another - "WHAT SHALL WE DO? for this man doeth many MIRACLES" There was no response of faith, rather, they were willing to plot + KILL one of innocent blood, even as they admitted His miracles
** 4- 11:48 - They feared what the Roman Army would do.
* "All men will believe Him" - Their Fear = The Temple + their privileged class
* Romans will TAKE AWAY OUR PLACE And TAKE AWAY OUR NATION - = Their civil organization AND their POLITICAL POSITION

B. Caiaphas' Declaration: (11:49-50)

1- A Sadducee who held the High Priest office 18 yrs. He verbally took over + berated them - "Ye Know nothing at all. That put him center-stage!
2- His solution: "It is EXPEDIENT for us that one man should die for the people, + that the whole nation perish not."

- Caiaphas conclusion was short + decisive
- He wanted to plausibly disguise his wickedness by apparently showing ZEAL for the common good
- Crimes + sins may be committed on the ground of EXPEDIENCY = On practical rather than moral grounds. "FOR US" he said, but that which is morally wrong cannot be politically right! DASTARDLY WRONG

3- That the leading Jews of Jerusalem had a strong suspicion that Jesus was the Messiah in spite of their outrageous enmity + unbelief, is evident not only from comparison with other Scriptures recording times when the rulers sought to KILL Jesus, but by their nervous anxiety to get rid of Him. Seven times recorded

4- Caiaphas did not say "It is lawful", BUT "Is it EXPEDIENT." Never was anything spoken more diabolically! (Poole) "FOR US" — Selfish

C- John's Explanation: (11:51-52)

1- John inserts into the historical record his explanation of this interaction which he witnessed.
- A Jewish High Priest at any time possessed by virtue of his office, the power of prediction of things to come was widely believed
- Caiaphas spoke these words unaware that he was under the influence of an overruling power making him say things for deeper meaning than he was conscious of himself.

Like BALAM + his Ass

2- Caiaphas had thought the matter out + gave his verdict. But God so overruled that while Caiaphas meant one thing with his words had another, and a deeper more important meaning.

3- Ryle: "Caiaphas' words proved true, though in a way he never intended, wished or expected. He was miraculously compelled by the H. S. to prophesy the redemption of mankind, at the time he thought he was only speaking of putting Christ to death. (131)

4- John saw a wider purpose in the death of Jesus than the salvation of the Jewish nation. Our Lord's death was a death for others, not a death for Himself.

D- The Result Of The Council's Decision: (11:53) READ

1- Caiaphas words marked a TURNING POINT
2- They were then committed!
3- Their difficulty was to
- find the way
- the time +
- the means to KILL Jesus

4- Of Gamaliel, Nicodemus + Joseph of Aramathea were there their voices were overridden + silenced

III. RETIREMENT OF JESUS TO EPHRAIM: (11:54-57)

A. Where Our Lord Went: (11:54)

1- Our Lord found it necessary to give up appearing openly in Jerusalem + could not again until the week of His crucifixion.
2- God ruled "NOT YET" to Caiaphas' plans
3- Our Lord chose a scene of quiet + seclusion as his abode before His suffering + death.

B. The Passover Season: (11:55-57)

1- Many came to Jerusalem 7 days before Passover to PURIFY themselves before the Feast
2- Atonements for cerimonial uncleanness + strict diet for 7 days in preparation
3- 11:56 - The plotting Priests + Sanhedrin were with mixed opinions as to whether our Lord would attend the Passover, but prepared to take + kill Him if He appeared, + so they gave commandment (11:57) A PLAN & AMBUSH.
4- It is doubtful whether the jurisdiction of the priests + Pharisees extended beyond the walls of Jerusalem, + whether they could lay their hands upon our Lord anywhere outside the city.
5- This may be the reason why Jesus + His disciples often lodged in Bethany

Consid.

A: What truth do you glean for yourself from these 13 verses from John's gospel?

B. What impact have these verses on your faith in Jesus Christ?

JESUS' LAST SABBATH AT BETHANY (1)

John 12:1-11

INTRO:

A- Supplement Information - Luke 18:31-34

B- The Setting: John 12:1

1- From the time of Israel's redemption from Egypt, the annual slaying of the Passover lamb had looked forward to the Lamb of God who, by His sacrifice, would provide redemption for those in bondage to sin.

2- Bethany - 2 miles east of Jerusalem
- Home of Martha, Mary, Lazarus + SIMON, the Leper - Husband of Martha or Father of 3 Syblings
- Place of hospitality for Jesus + 12 Disciples
- Previous visit to this home given in Luke 10:38-42 and the hosts, Jesus + Disciples were "home" during the Passover week

3- Lazarus' presence was a magnet to draw Jews to see the result of the miracle wrought in Lazarus when Jesus called him from the grave 4 days after death. No one could pretend to say that his rising from the dead was a mere optical illusion - HERE WAS LAZARUS - ALIVE! It is hard to conceive what stronger evidence of the FACT than to see eating with Jesus + His disciples. / LAZARUS

C- The Sequence of Passover Week:

1- Within two miles of Jerusalem and the temple, there lived for weeks, if not months, a man well known to many Jews, who had been actually raised from his grave after being four days buried. He had not been raised only, and then had disappeared from public notice, but he lived where he was raised.

Lightfoot draws out the following interesting scheme of our Lord's disposal of time during the last six days before His crucifixion:—(1) On Saturday He supped with Lazarus. (2) On Sunday He rode into Jerusalem publicly on an ass. This was the day when the Jews used to take out a lamb from the flock, for each family, and to keep it separate for the passover. On this day the Lamb of God publicly presented Himself in Zion. (3) On Monday He went to Jerusalem again, and cursed the barren fig-tree on the way. (4) On Tuesday He went again to Jerusalem, and spoke for the last

time to [illegible] sat on the Mount of Olives and delivered the [illegible] of Matthew xxiv. and xxv., and supped that night with Simon the leper. (5) On Wednesday He tarried in Bethany. (6) On Thursday He went to Jerusalem, ate the passover, appointed the Lord's Supper, and the same night was taken before the priests as a prisoner. (7) On Friday He was crucified.

2

2- Jesus arrived on the last Sabbath of His life on earth. The next Sabbath He rested in His Tomb after crucifixion.

II. THE SUPPER - Jn. 12:2

A. Who Were Involved:

Lk. 10:39

1- Martha + Eldest of the siblings + SERVER + Hostess
2- Lazarus - Set the Table + sat at the table
3- Mary - Sat at Jesus' feet "and heard His Word"
4- Simon the Leper - Not named, but his home - NOT PRESENT
5- Jesus + His 12 Disciples

B. What Happened?

1- This was no breach of Sabbath among the Jews to host guests for the meal + to be guests for the Passover week
2- Lazarus was served along with others, which proved that he was alive from the dead
3- ALL present LOVED JESUS, though each showed in his or her personal manner
4- A very HOSPITABLE feast enjoyed by all
5- The natural temperament of this good woman (MARTHA) comes out here as elsewhere. She was ACTIVELY stirring + trying to do what was needed.

II. THE SERVICE - Jn. 12:3-8

A. What Mary Did: (12:3)

1- Giving adoration + an expression of LOVE!
- Anointing Jesus' feet + head (Mt. 26:3 + Mk 14)
- A scented oil perfume of great value.
- Showed her humility + devotion to the Lord
- No rebuke of Mary by Jesus

2- Anointing Jesus + wiping His feet with her hair showed that she thought nothing was too great to bestow on the Savior. A COMMON ACTION in that culture, especially since showed her grateful heart of love for PARDON for her sins.

3- But unusual for a woman to unbind their hair in public

4- This is a GREAT EVENT of this occasion — Rollock — "Mary seemed to have had a deeper + more intimate perception of what there was in Christ + of the real dignity of His person than any of His disciples."

5- Gaebelein: "She expressed in this way that Christ was her all; she bore witness to His Deity + she alone among all His disciples had realized in faith (that He was on the way to the cross." (220)

6- And significantly Mary of Bethany did not go to Jesus' tomb, for she EXPECTED Jesus' resurrection." Gaebelein

!

B. What About Judas: (12:4-5)

1- What we know about Judas

- One of Jesus' disciples
- Jesus knew from the beginning that Judas was a traitor + often rebuked him with such words as "One of you is a devil." (Jn. 6:64)

2- "WHY was this ointment not sold...." Judas' action + expression is recorded. Judas found fault with Mary's conduct blaming her of wasteful extravagance. Evidence of his hardness of heart + unbelief in Judas

3- He said "Why was not this ointment sold for 300 pence?"

- Great value — 1 pence per day for day labor
- 300 pence = A year's wages required for purchase of the ointment

"Judas made a great to-do about this WASTE when he was about to sell out the Son of God for 30 pieces of silver — LESS than 1/10 of the worth of the ointment." (Quesnel)

4- This carping question is a specimen of the way in which wicked men often try to depreciate a good action + specially in the giving of money

C. John's Explanation: (12:6)

1- The Disciple tells us the true character of Judas + the reason he said what he did.

2- Judas did not care about POOR PEOPLE.

CONCL.

A.- What We Have Learned:

1- The worship of a woman leads her to give an anointing of our Lord + His defense of her expression.

2- The hospitality in Bethany was graciously given for the Savior + His disciples.

3- The disciple Judas was a THIEF who reveals his rebellious heart.

4- The testimony of Lazarus is freely given to the many people + leads many to belief in Jesus who brought Lazarus to life after death + four days in the tomb.

B.- What We Need To DO:

1- Let us be committed to serving others as MARTHA did — DEVOTEDLY

2- Let us learn to worship wholeheartedly at COST to us MARY did

3- Let us avoid hardness of heart + selfishness as Judas revealed in words of rebuke to Mary.

4- Let us join Lazarus in verbal response to people's willingness to listen to our sharing the GOOD NEWS of what Jesus has done to give us life eternal

1- The Lord Jesus Christ said "Now is My soul troubled..." Jesus knew what was ahead for Him to suffer on the Cross and die for the sins of the world

2- An address for exemption - PRAYER -
"Father, save Me from this hour..."

3- Immediate retraction - "but for this cause came I unto this hour." - Declaration of Jesus' ENTIRE SUBMISSION to the Father's will!

4- 12:28 - Read - GOD SPOKE!

- A great miracle
  1. Spoke at Jesus' baptism by the Baptist
  2. Spoke at Jesus Transfiguration.
  3. Spoke here before Jesus' Crucifixion

"I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again."

5- HOW had the Father been glorified?

- Christ's incarnation
- Christ's impecability - WITHOUT SIN!
- Christ's revelation of the Father
- Christs many miracles
- Christ's teaching to common people
- Christ's revelation of divine truth

6- HOW would Jesus yet glorify the Father?

- Jesus' sufferings
- Jesus' crucifixation
- Jesus' physical DEATH
- Jesus' resurrection
- Jesus' appearance to people ALIVE from the dead
- His ascension to heaven
- His enthronement at the Father's right hand

THY KING COMETH

2- Denied the Greeks request because of a more immediate priority

3- The time was not right. The hour had come starting a series of actions that would lead to Jesus' DEATH - GLORIFIED

III- THE IMMEDIATE PRIORITY- (12:24-28)

A- An Important Simile: (12:24-26)

1- "Verily, Verily" — A flag to signal a very important expression is about to be given
* 25 times in John's Gospel
* Followed by a significant SIMILE = "a figure of speech involving the comparison of one thing with another of a different kind" — Oxford Dictionary

→ 2- The statement — 12:24
- Christ's vicarious death, not His LIFE or MIRACLES or TEACHING, was to bring forth fruit to the praise of GOD + provide redemption for a lost world.
- His substitution on the CROSS, His atoning death, were to be the beginning of untold blessing to a lost world
HE was the corn of wheat! Unless HE died, His purpose in coming into the world will not be accomplished.

→ 3- The Opposites — 12:25
- LOVE Life / HATETH Life — 6 times in the Gospels. - Eternal Life - A GREAT GIFT
- Loving the life of SELF is a self-defeating process. It destroys the very life it seeks to retain.
- Antitheses between HATE + LOVE

→ 4- The PRINCIPLE — 12:25a
- Serving Christ = FOLLOWING Christ
- Serving involves being in the company of the Savior involved with Him with people

5- The PROMISE to those Serving/Following Christ — 12:25b - "Him will My Father honor!"

→ B- An Unusual Dialogue: (12:27-28)

B:- By Jesus' Disciples - (12:16)

1- At first they did not understand what Jesus had done

2- Their immediate reaction was that He was presenting Himself as the Jews KING in a political sense.

3- LATER, after Jesus ASCENSION to the Father + the Holy Spirit was bestowed on them at Pentecost, THEN they "remembered" this occasion + understood that He was now KING OF THE JEWS in a very different sense.

C:- By The Pharisees - (12:19)

1- These enemies of Jesus HATED Him as He rode the colt into Jerusalem

2- They were greatly perturbed by what they saw "BEHOLD" = STOP LOOK, LISTEN - "the world is gone after Him." - At their wits end!!!

3- Threatened because of the people's reaction to "THY KING COMETH." Cause of fear that Roman Soldiers would be pitted against them

4- An over-reaction, but the multitude ever attracted to Jesus in His TRIUMPHAL ENTRY into the City. - A momentary TRIUMPH - Proclaimed KING

D.- By Certain Greeks - (12:20-22)

1- Magi were Gentiles who saw a STAR in the west at Jesus' birth + came to worship Him

2- Now certain Greeks who apparently PROSYLYTES to Judaism had come to Jerusalem to worship at Passover - GOD-FEARERS, but probably not circumcised

3- Came to Philip of Bethsaida desiring his help - A man with a Greek name - Came from a town North of Sea of Galilee which had some Greek inhabitants - Their desire: "Sir, we would see Jesus" 12:21 - These Greeks wish to KNOW Jesus.

4- Philip told Andrew of their request. These men were fellow townsmen. Each time in the Gospels, when Andrew is noted, he was always bringing someone to Jesus.

5- These two Disciples told Jesus of the request of these Greek Gentiles desiring to converse with Jesus - 12:22

E.- By Jesus Christ: (12:23)

1- Jesus reply was unusual + unexpected

- Words fulfilled in Jesus Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem on that Sunday
- Calls for Blessing on the One who "cometh in the Name of the LORD"

→ 4- Dan. 9:24-27 - READ

- 7 "weeks" of years behind them in Daniel's age
- 62 "weeks" of years ahead in Daniel's day which ended on Sunday that Jesus made this entry to Jerusalem riding a colt of an ass
- One more "week" of 7 years of Tribulation ahead + not yet occurs.
- Messiah was prophesied to come to Jerusalem + then "cut off" = KILLED "but not for Himself" and thereafter "the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city + the sanctuary and the end (the 70th "year" of 7 years) thereof shall be with a flood..."
- The very day prophesied by Daniel was the day Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as we are reading of in John's Gospel

B- What Jesus Did That Day:

→ 1- 12:14 - Jesus found an ass + rode it into Jerusalem volunteering Himself as the Jews' MESSIAH - Comparable to a Monarch or a General riding a white horse into a city

→ 2- 12:15 - Our Lord offered Himself to Israel as THEIR KING - People met Jesus with

- Palm fronds and "HOSANNA's" indicated the people's attitude toward Him.
- Identified at His baptism by The Father as "My beloved SON"
- Revealed by the Father at His TRANSFIGURATION - "This My beloved SON, Hear ye Him."
- Now presented to the Nation in Triumphal entry to Jerusalem by a VOICE FROM HEAVEN - 12:28

II- THE RESPONSES:

A- By "Much People": (12:12-13, 17-18)

Emblems of victory

1- Palm fronds carried as they called out "Hosanna, Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord."

2- Recognized as THE MESSIAH

3- So prophecy was fulfilled! - JOYOUS!

→ 4- 12:17-18 - Many who had seen Jesus raise Lazarus from death + the grave testified of the miracle

I- THE PROPHECIES:

A- O.T. Prophecies:

1- Zech. 9:9- "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold thy King cometh unto thee: He is just, and having salvation; lowly, & riding upon a colt the foal of an ass." Written 500 years before

- Messianic prophecy
- Addressed to the people + place of their habitation - ZION = ISRAEL
- LOOK for your's Coming to Them and their place - STOP, LISTEN = "Behold"
- "Thy King" - The God-provided leader has come in God's time + to Israel where God had left His people.
- What is this King like??
  - x- "He is just" - His PERSON
  - x- "Having salvation" - His PROVISION
  - x- "Lowly" - His HUMILITY
  - x- "Riding upon a colt, the foal of an ass" - His DISTINCTION + DIFFERANCE
- Fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth THEN and THERE

2- Isaiah 62:11- "Behold, the LORD hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say ye to the daughter of Zion, BEHOLD, thy salvation cometh; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him."

**
- A double "BEHOLD"
- A message of importance for all the WORLD
- Coming through the people of ISRAEL, to the benefit of all people everywhere
- SALVATION is offered to the whole world, REWARD is under His control, and HIS WORK is to pay the price of redemption on the CROSS so that those who believe on HIM are saved by grace through faith.

3- Psalm 118:25-26- "Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech thee, send now prosperity. Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: We have blessed you out of the house of the LORD."

"THY KING COMETH" — John 12:12-28

Mt. 21:1-11 ①

INTRO:

A.- Bethany:

1.- Village situated on eastern slope of Mt. Olivet about 2 miles away from Jerusalem.
2.- Home of Simon, the leper with Martha, Mary + Lazarus.
3.- Place where Jesus + disciples had as an open offer of hospitality when they ministered in Jerusalem
4.- Home of Lazarus whom Jesus resuscitated 4 days after death + burial

B.- The Day After John 12:1-11:

1- Week of Feast of Passover began after John 12:1-11 record occurred
2- Pilgrims come from everywhere in the world.
- Josephus wrote of 2,700,000-3,000,000 in attendance for this feast week
- 256,000 lambs slain each Passover
- Began with what has come to be called PALM SUNDAY following a Sabbath Day
3- FEAST would be celebrated on Thursday by an immense crowd "camping out" on all of Jerusalem + surrounding area
4- Read Matt. 21:1-11
- A colt of an ass requisitioned by Jesus with no objection shows OMNISCIENCE
- The crowd heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem + swarmed where He would come from. east of Mt. Olivet.
- People took palm branches + met Jesus + His Disciples crying out "HOSANNA: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the "Lord"
- Recognizing Jesus as the promised MESSIAH
  - Riding on a colt of an ass, NOT a white horse as a conqueror or King would be expected to ride.
  - Palm fronds + clothing laid down for Jesus to ride over on the colt
  - Crowd calling out "Hosanna to the son of David: (= "Save us now"). Blessed is He "that cometh in the name of the Lord"; Hosanna in the highest."

Mt. 21:9

- Actions + words expressed peoples' PRAISE "

"The Blood of the Martyrs Is the Seed of the Church."
Read: John 12:20-28 & Mrk 14:3-9

Intro: A.-Samson--Jud. 16:30--those that he killed in his death were more than he killed in his life.
B.-Death--Sometimes physical (Jn 12), perhaps, but surely death to SELF and in Christ, and then ALIVE to Him alone ----Only key to effective service.
C.-Situation of 5 Martyred missionaries in Equador by savage Indians.

I.-HEATHEN INDIANS:
A.-Situation
1-Savage — Worst hated + feared of all in that area; always mal-treated.
2-They know nothing better. Didn't know Missionaries motives.
B.-Their REAL Need
1-Not education & culture--"Educate a heathen as the primary mission purpose & the result will be just educated heathen better able to war against the gospel." Roper
2-But CHRIST alone can truly change BOTH the INSIDE & the OUTSIDE of these savages. Clothes don't make the man; nor Education the Xn.
3-Losing the battle now--more born & dying each day than we are reaching for Christ.

II.-THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
A.-Marching Orders
1-What are they?
—Go ye into all the world
—Ye shall be witnesses unto me
—As the Father hath sent me, even so send I you
2-Ever altered, changed or revolked?
3-"We have been guilty of acting more like the beleaguered garrison of a doomed fortress than like soldiers of our ever-conquering Christ....Shal we beat a retreat & turn back from our high calling in Christ Jesus; or dare we advance at God's command, in face of the impossible?...Let us remind ourselves that the Great Commission was never qualified by clauses calling for advance only if funds were plentiful and no hardship or self-denial involved. On the contrary, we are told to expedt tribulation & even persecution, but with it victory in Christ." Stam--54-55
B.-Rebuke of the Business World to us Christians.
1-Singer Sewing Machines — New Guinea.
2-Johnny Walker Whiskey — Africa
3-Lucky Strike Cigarrettes — S. America
4-Many--Most will do more for MONEY than for GOD !!!!
5.-Livingston-spurred on to take Gospel to Africa by crossing grounds of white traders in slaves, "If they can do it for money, I can do it for souls."

III.-MISSIONARIES:
A.- Faithfulness:
1-"In God's work the value of a life lived for Him is measured not by length but by quality of service, & by the fulfillment of His purposes for that life." ---Stam P. 123---
Surely when we are true to Christ, then we are READY any time
2-ILLUS--Mary of Bethany in Mk 14:3-9--Served faithfully her Lord---Testified to in memorial of LOVING SERVICE in every place where the Gospel has gone.
B.-"The WRATH of man..."--Ps. 76:10
1-"Ye meant it unto me for evil, but God meant it unto me for good." Genesis 50:20
2-ILLUS--When Patrick Hamilton was burned in Scotland, so dared to say to his persecutors: "If you are going to any more, you had better do it in a cellar for the sm

Spoken X.
16 out of 17 Ch. Fathers + Apostles were Martyred.

of Hamilton's burning has opened the eyes of hundreds."

3-ILLUS--Boxer Rebellion in China in 1900--189 Protestant missionaries & their children were put to cruel death & thousands of Chinese Christians were martyred. "As to the effedt upon missions, never did a storm-cloud more truly have a silver lining. Never did a malicious blow of Satan hurled against the Church of the Living God more signally fail of its object & rebound to his own hurt. Once again it was demonstrated that 'the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.' The Boxer uprising not only put missionary work on a safer basis, through the new conditions insisted upon by the great powers, but it imparted to the movement the mightiest spiritual impetus up to that time. A comparison of figures shows that the direct results of the work during the first decade after 1900 far exceeded those the entire previous century." Glover, Pp. 145-46.

C.-This Occasion:

1-Work in Equador for Christ? Few really knew.

2-Work in South America for Christ? Few really new or cared.

3-Used of God to stir up a love for the LOST souls of the world thru the love of Christ constraining Christians.

4-Esther 4:14 "...and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Some saved then as a result of faithful testimony---NOW?

D.-Results??????

1-Souls saved

2-South American's inner recesses opened up

3-Volunteers to fill the ranks:

ILLUS--60 gave their lives for missionary service the day the martyrdom of John & Betty Stam was made known in the chapel service at Wheaton. Dec. 1934

ILLUS--At Memorial Service at Moody Bible Institute over 700 students stood to consecrate their lives to missionary work whereever God might call them

ILLUS--More from Moddy Bible Institute the next year volunteered to go to serve Christ in the HARD places than in any year before or since.

ILLUS--Bordon of Yale. Young man on the way to Moslem work in China. Died in Language training in Egypt of Spinal Meningitis. More than 1000 have volunteered to take his place & souls have been saved on every field of the world.

E.-Worthwhile???????????

1-Most people will question it

2-True Christians taught in God's way MUST say, "GOD KNOWS BEST ---ALWAYS" Rom 8:28 is still true "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose."

3-ILLUS--Williams--Called the "Apostle to the South Seas"--most successful over 30 years of activity. In 1839 he entered the Erromangoan Islands. Injuries had been received from sailors of some vessel shortly by these natives & the people were irriatated by the sight of foreigners. Mr. Williams when approaching the shore was struck with a club by one of the natives; then pierced with several arrows; & his body drawn into the bush, & probably the greater part of it was eaten by these cannibals. In 1889, the fiftieth anniversary of Williams' martyrdom, a monument was erected at Erromanga to his memory, and the man who laid the corner-stone was the son of that same murderous savage who dealt the death blow; while at the same time, another son of this murderer was preaching the gospel in Australia.

IV.-CHALLENGE

A.-Example:

1-God had only 1 Son--He called Him to be a FOREIGN Missionary & it cost God the Father a Son & it cost Christ his life for us

2-Christ died to Redeem Men
Are we willing to die to make it known??

B.-A Call to Parents:

1-Don't stand in their way--Have to answer to God for it.

2-Help them---Don't hinder them

3-Send them gladly that others may know Christ as Savior

4-Many are reluctant at first--PRAY--& then God will show His will, but don't you make the decision & then ask God to bless your willfulness or selfishness.

C.-Call To YOUTH

1.-There are some who are called to stay at home--I'm not speaking to you now, if you are sure of that.

2-There are some of you who simply can't go, & those who are free to go to serve God on mission fields. Why ~~sh~~ should both stay home for the same work & neglect the WORLD????

3-Won't you---BY GOD'S GRACE---Serve Christ to make Him known---Perhaps to fill the ranks where these have so gallantly fallen on the firing line for God.

CALL YOUNG PEOPLE, WHO INTEND TO GO TO THE MISSION FIELD, IF GOD CONTINUES TO LEAD AS HE SEEMINGLY HAS DONE. CALL THE TO THE FRONT TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED & PRAYED FOR.

AS ISAIAH FORETOLD

John 12:23-50

INTRO:

A. Triumphal Entry:

1- Jesus has ministered over Israel 3½ years teaching His disciples + common people. He also was DOING GOOD including many miracles or Signs.

2- Comes to Jerusalem at Passover Feast time to present Himself as KING of Israel + to be crucified as the Jewish leaders accuse Him to the Roman rulers.

3- Rode a borrowed colt of an ass as crowds call out for Him to proclaim Himself their King in rebellion against Roman occupiers + rulers. - CONTRAST!

4- This chapter leads us into the week + place of His DEATH

B. Purpose Of Christ:

1- "The hour is come that the Son of man should be glorified" (12:23) After 3½ years He means this to mean HIS TIME OF DEATH

2- Precipitate His arrest, trial and death on the Cross

3- "Verily, Verily" = IMPORTANT! (12:24)

- SIMILE - of a corn of wheat must die to bring forth a crop of 30/60/100
- Contrast: LOVE life, HATE life - (12:25)

Opposites!

- "Save Me" - 12:26 - A principle
- "Honor" from the Father - A promise - 12:26
- Prayer - "Save Me from this hour" (12:27)

I. EFFECT OF TRIUMPHAL ENTRY: 12:28-

A. Audible Approval: (12:28-30)

GOD SPOKE!

1- A voice from heaven - (12:28)

2- Confused people as to what they heard (12:29)

3- Explanation - TO GLORIFY THE FATHER (12:30)

B. Judgment of the World + Satan: (12:31)

1- Satan is a power usurper whose rule goes

against God.
• Judgement = Condemnation is that as a result of the CROSS, Satan's dominion + power has been judged + a large portion of authority stripped as Jesus died on the CROSS. (2)
• "Prince of this world" - here in 12:31 - GOVERNMENTALLY
• "God of this age" - RELIGIOUSLY - 2 Cor. 4:4
• "Prince of the power of the air" - MORALLY - Eph. 2:1-3
• His sentence is pronounced + will be executed - Rev. 20:10 - The Lake of fire + brimstone

C. - Drawing Power of the Cross: (12:32-33)

1 - Declaration - (12:32) + 3:14
- Meaning: That the death of Christ on the CROSS would have a drawing effect on all mankind
- His death as our Substitute + Sacrifice for our sins
- By virtue of Christ's death there be not only Jews in heaven, but every tribe + nation. GENTILES will there.
- Layman Abbott: "The world's battle was fought + the victory won at Calvary."

2 - Explanation - (12:33) - VERY CLEAR

D. - People Asked - "Who is This Son of Man?" (12:34)

1 - "Son of man" - Jesus' habitual self-designation speaking of Himself
• Prophetically - Dan. 7:13 + 92 times in Ezek
• In N.T. - 80 times used by Christ as the representative man

2 - Quoting the O.T. Law to the effect that "Christ abideth for ever" NOT FOUND IN O.T.

3 - "How saith Thou?" - The necessity of Christ's crucifixion + ONLY CHRIST is qualified

4 - The people expected Messiah to come with a triumphal entry and an overthrow of Rome's domination, BUT Jesus told them of HIS DEATH

5 - The people who asked did NOT UNDERSTAND! 12:37

II - EXPRESSION OF CHRIST'S PURPOSE: (12:35-50)

A - Jesus' Answer - BELIEVE!! (12:35-37)

(12:35) → 1 - Significant declarations • Time is SHORT!

- Opportunity is not forever
- Urgent necessity for acting to "THE LIGHT"
- The time to believe is NOW!
- Timeless truth that if they disregard/do not use the LIGHT, they will lose it

(12:36) 2- Believing is the FIRST STEP; the one step that is needful. Do it NOW!

3- Throughout this encounter Jesus Himself must be understood to be "THE LIGHT" 8:12 + 9:5
- He will surely die when He wills
- He will not be seized before His time

4- (12:37) - "So many miracles" (11:47) Read this
- 9 miracles = SIGNS in Matthew
- 9 miracles = SIGNS in John
- The number + kind of signs were of such quality which ought to have induced FAITH

5- "Yet they believed (not) on Him - A recurring theme throughout John's Gospel

B- Unbelief Foretold By Isaiah: (12:38-41)

1- John gives an explanation of unbelief by pointing to PROPHECY of REJECTION of Jesus foretold - Isa. 53:1; 6:10; 6:1

2- Isaiah in the Spirit foresaw the unbelief of the Nation of Israel which culminated in rejection of Jesus as Savior. The Messiah of these prophecies ought to have been welcomed when Jesus presented Himself to them. Isaiah predicted Jewish unbelief, but did (not) cause their unbelief
- (12:39) - WHY were they not able to believe?
- (12:40) is the answer. JUDICIAL BLINDNESS on the Jews as punishment for long continued + obstinate rejection of God's warning. Six times repeated in the N.T. Grant that God is just punishing the UNGODLY! - Gen. 18:25
- "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

3- These Pharasees (12:19) choose evil. It was their own deliberate choice! Christ's entry to Jerusalem for Passover as He did pressed these leaders to make a decision.

4- (12:41) John makes it clear that Isaiah had in mind the glory revealed in Jesus Christ

C.- Secret Believers: (12:42-43)

1-(12:42) Secret belief by MANY — Genuine trust in Christ, BUT widespread fear and cowardace to take a public stand. So those were SILENT
2-Concern that they would be excommunication from the Jewish Synagogue.
3-Exceptions — NICODEMUS + JOSEPH of Arimathea
4-Failure to make an open confession of Faith — (12:43) — A memorable condemnation of COWARDS — FAILURES

D.- Jesus Cried: (12:44-45)

1-Loud voice for getting ATTENTION -(12:44)
- Jn. 1:15 — John the Baptist at Baptism
  7:28 — Jesus in the Temple at Feast of Tabernacles
  7:37 — Jesus referring to ministry of Holy Spirit
  12:13 — Jews shouting HOSANNA
  12:44 — Jesus calls attention to the imperative of believing on Him

2-Reason is to make it known that He and God the Father were in perfect harmony cooperation —
3-Trust in Christ is simultaneous trusting in the Father because they are ONE in the Trinity
4-For John it is not the occasion that is important, but the CHALLENGE to men to believe in his record of Jesus winding up His public testimony to the Jews
5-(12:45) is a proclamation of UNITY + ONENESS in the Godhead and implies that the DEITY of Christ is sure.

E.- Final Words to the Passover Crowd: (12:46-50)

1-Darkness is the state of the NATURE MAN
2-"I am come a Light..." (12:46) A repetition - 8:12; 9:5; 12:35,36,46
- Perfect tense makes clear His existence before His incarnation
- Believers got the LIGHT when they believed + so are no longer darkness. They have been DELIVERED from DARKNESS

3-(12:47) Purpose of His incarnation was NOT JUDGMENT — He came TO SAVE those who trust Him
- First Advent — SALVATION - No one gets benefit from this if they refuse to believe
  Meet Jesus at the CROSS
- Second Advent - JUDGMENT - Meet Him at the Throne of Judgment

This is why Jesus came into the world

3- There is a HELL and all who do not believe will go there — ETERNALLY
- Those who have not received Jesus as Savior will meet Him as their JUDGE because they have refuse to believe Him.

4- Righteous judgment will come - (12:48) This truth is promised to all who rejected Christ + His offer of salvation. A final summary + appeal at the end His 3½ years public ministry + preaching

5- (12:49) The Father + the Son are TOGETHER in Christ's mission + is a fulfillment of Deut. 18:18-19

6- (12:50) - Jesus' final words of His public ministry contained a NOTE OF CERTAINTY
The gift of God because of His great love for all mankind — The gift of ETERNAL LIFE!
The Son + the Father are IN SYNC between them all times + about all matters (12:49-50)

CONCL:

A- TWO TRUTHS:

1- The reasons for Christ coming to earth:
- Not to judge mankind — John 3:17
- But to provide forgiveness of sins to pay God's purchase price requirement satisfying His righteous requirement

2- The final message was an INVITATION:
- Accept His words of truth
- Trust His person for salvation
- Receive Eternal life

"For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

LOVE-PROMPTED FOOT WASHING
John 13:1-20

INTRO:

A. Preparation:

The Gospel of John is like a Swiss Army knife which a friend once gave me—its designer had more than one purpose in mind. Although it appeared to be only a knife, it actually was designed to do much more: it served as scissors, nailfile, tweezers, even a toothpick. Similarly, God had several purposes in mind when he gave us the Gospel of John. In this second of three articles we will examine another purpose of John—to strengthen Christians.

John's concern (to build up) God's people in their faith is especially evident in chapters 13-17

Knowing he must shortly leave the world and return to his Father, Jesus is about to show his great love for his own by dying on the cross for them (13:1-2). As he spends the last hours before his death with his disciples, he does something unheard-of for them—he washes their feet (13:4-5). No teacher was to do that for his students. In fact, students were not even supposed to wash their teachers feet; this humble task was reserved for a servant. How shocked the disciples must be for their teacher to do this for them!

Most of the disciples are so amazed that they are probably speechless.

B. Peculiarites

1- Five consecutive chapters not revealed in 3 Synoptic Gospels — UNIQUE to John's Gospel

2- Great evidences of Jesus Christ's DEITY + ETERNAL LIFE + expanded revelation about the HOLY SPIRIT. Also a new promise to His disciples assuring them "I WILL COME AGAIN"

3- Our Lord knew the hour + it had come now!

4- Our Savior ate a regular meal before the Passover Feast — A FEAST OF FELLOWSHIP

I. PERFORMANCE of FOOTWASHING: (13:1-11)

A. Jesus' Love Unto The End: (13:1)

1- Jesus knew His hour of sacrifice was at hand. He would soon depart out of the world as His 3½ years of PUBLIC MINISTRY was done!

2- He begins teaching disciples of LOVE (ἀγαπάω) 13:1 To 17:26 — "UNTO THE END" = "w/o interruption"

3- Jesus looked forward to the CROSS + HIS DEATH w/ LOVE toward His people — A LOVE to which there is no match among men — Eph. 3:19 — "To know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge ..."

4- His lesson by WORD (13:1) + by ACTION is Love for others

B.- Jesus' Example of Humality: (13:2-5)

1- Judas, the betrayer (13:2)
- Already commited to betrayal - About to sell out the Lord
- Thomas about to doubt; Peter about to deny
- PRESENT at foot washing + Passover observance
- Wicked act of a wicked man

2- What Our Lord did (13:3-5) Read 3+4
- He knew all of what was ahead - PASSION WEEK
- Jesus was in complete composure + control of situation at the THRESHOLD of CALVARY
- Wonderful condescension to take the place of a SERVANT/SLAVE to teach LOVE + HUMILITY!
- No less than (7) distinct things are named
  - * Rising to His feet
  - * Laying aside garments
  - * Taking a towel
  - * Girding Himself in a Servant's position
  - * Pouring water into a basin
  - * Washing feet
  - * Wiping feet

NO POSITION

NO HONOR

Explain Public Baths + Touch-up to clean dusty FEET A RITE OF HOSPITALITY

- Our Lord, before leaving them alone like orphans in the world, gave one more striking proof of HIS LOVE by washing their feet, + then on the last evening before HIS DEATH, showed one more striking proof of His love to them to the very end of His ministry + He was not weary of them — "HIS OWN (13:1)
- (13:5) - Disciples (Lk. 22:24) were quarreling as to which of them would be GREATEST in the Kingdom which they expected the Lord to bring in to Israel

3 — WHAT AN EXAMPLE OF HUMILITY - Phil. 2:5-8

4- The submission to the foot-washing was a SIGN of confession of the need for cleansing and an affirmation of faith that when MESSIAH came, He would provide cleansing for His people

C.- Jesus' Lesson About Cleansing: (13:6-11)

1- Peter's Remonstrance (13:6)
- No comments from between our Lord + disciples until He came to Simon Peter
- Refusal was "IN NO WAY"

2- Explanation to Peter (13:7) "Thou shalt know HEREAFTER"
- The practical lesson of HUMILITY
- 1 Peter 5:5 - "Be clothed with humility"
- Love one another as Christ loved them, even when it costs us greatly
- Realize the deep spiritual lesson. ALL need to be WASHED ONCE — + ALL need dirty feet CLEANSED

3- Peter's Refusal - 13:8 + Jesus' Response

- If not cleansed, NO PART w/ CHRIST
- Peter considered this as UNTHINKABLE for Jesus to serve him
- If not washed, NO part with Christ. The issue + LESSON: Fellowship w/ God ONLY when one is CLEAN
- Uncleanness is an ABOMINATION to God
- Sin is not forgiven without confession and repentance before God.

4- Peter's Reversal (13:9) His pendulum swung from one extreme to another - Hands + Head also - Not a man who did anything by halves.

- An impulsive, exploitable, zealous + ardent man with more LOVE than Knowledge + more feeling than spiritual discernment
- The longer we live the more true we shall find it, that a Believer, like Peter, may make many mistakes + lack discernment + yet, like Peter, have a heart right before God + gets to heaven as you or I.

5- Jesus' Explanation (13:10) → Scofield Note 1134

- BATHED at the Cross we have a Regeneration bath
- Need for cleansing because going through the road of life we get our feet dirty
- Titus 3:5 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us by the washing (BATHING) of regeneration + renewing of the Holy Ghost." - ONCE FOR ALL
- 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. OFTEN
- 13:11 Jesus knew a betrayer (Judas) was in their midst, taking supper with them + allowing the Lord to wash his feet. Nonetheless our Lord walked up to death knowing every step He took led to the CROSS.

II- COMMENTARY ON FOOTWASHING: (13:12-20)

A- Jesus' Exhortation To Humility + Service; (13:12-17)

1- Do You Understand? (13:12-15)

- All 12 disciples had their feet washed.
- Jesus re-dressed + asked a Q "Do you know?" A challenge for them to THINK of the significance of what He had done in footwashing
- NO ANSWER by disciples

2- 13:13 - The FACTS are clear. He had been their Master for 3½ years. = TEACHER - He was BOTH. Expression appears their usual names of address.
• "for so I am" - NO "SO" in Greek text - Correctly translated "FOR I AM" = "Ye say well"
3- 13:14 - Learn from your Role Model = So you should observe what He had done and ought to express HUMILITY by your ACTIONS as Jesus did. These actions are your duty + debt.
MINISTER to the brethren in helpfulness + admonition and restoration — ANY + ALL as needed
4- 13:15 - As Jesus had waited on them, so He desired them to follow their MENTOR — wait on one another
READ → * Gal. 6:1-2 Restore one another in selfless LOVE
* Become servants to others; Especially BRETHREN
If the King of Kings condescended to leave Heaven to save souls + to dwell 33 years in this sin-defiled world, there is nothing we should think too lowly to undertake
5- EXAMPLES • Roger Allen - Trees down + firewood cut up
• Pastor Haynes - Flat tire in our garage when I had to get Lou to Morgantown for surgery
• Bob Lilly - Brick front on our fireplace + Vegetables
• Dave Cochran - Work on our car - repeatedly
• Ray Testerman - Moving Garage Sale goods to a yard Sale + back the unsold items.
Chair tightening
• Tim Gonzales - Garage Opener + attic fan
• Kenny Pack - Firewood
Love for the brethren should move us to service from the heart + a humble spirit

B. Jesus' Important Summary: (13:16-17)

1- "Verily, Verily" — Truth is obvious — 13:16, 20 + 21
• None of us is superior to our Master as SLAVES to our Lord.
• Those "who sent is not greater." - Also can be translated — "AN APOSTLE" Moses Jesus
2- (13:17) It takes a BIG MAN to be MEEK
• "Blessed if you do them"
• KNOWING leads to being blessed when one practices what you know
3- There is a solemn principle: Doing GOOD toward others is the only sure proof of spiritual life
4- The GREAT QUESTION: Are you WASHED = BATHED + Justified - 1 Cor. 6:11

CONCLUSION:

A.-

Our Lord is teaching his followers an important truth. Unsaved people need to trust Jesus as Savior to have their sins forgiven once and for all. Once they are saved from sin's penalty, however, they still need daily cleansing from its pollution. Since Peter already believes in Jesus, he does not need a bath. He and the others (except Judas, the betrayer) need only to have their feet washed, that is, they need to confess their sins frequently and accept the Lord's forgiveness.

These words of Jesus apply to twentieth-century Christians as well. Many believers are frustrated because they do not deal with their sins in God's way. Perhaps you have heard the joke about the foolish man who failed to heed the salesman's advice to read the instructions to his newly purchased gasoline-powered chainsaw. Angrily the man returned the saw the next day complaining that he had worked hard all day but had cut down only one tree. "What's the problem?" asked the salesman who proceeded to start the saw. The startled man jumped back as the saw roared. "What's that noise?" he exclaimed. Christians who fail to follow God's instructions on dealing with daily sin are as foolish as the man with the saw. We must often confess our sins to the Lord to be cleansed from their defilement and to enjoy ongoing fellowship with him.

By washing his disciples' feet, Jesus gives the eleven disciples an unforgettable example of humble service (13:12-17). By deed and word he teaches them that they too must humbly serve others and thereby find true joy. How we need to follow Jesus' example today! I have two friends who know the joy of which Jesus spoke. Ed and Bill drive the elderly to church, clean the church building, and generally help out in any way possible. They are not paid to do these things; they do them because they love the Lord and his people. God's work would be furthered if the world saw more Eds and Bills humbly serving in love. Do you stoop to "wash the feet" of other Christians? May God give us grace not to exalt ourselves above our Lord Jesus who took the place of a servant.

B.- Do To Others As You Have Seen Your Master Do:

1- Christians must never be ashamed of doing anything that Christ has done.
True Christian GREATNESS consists in doing good to others.

2- Religious knowledge is useless if it is not accompanied by practice.
KNOW → BELIEVE → DO
3 FINGERS

3- Jesus Christ has perfect knowledge of all of us who are His disciples
"I know whom I have chosen." (13:18) and He sees all things about all of us.

4- The true dignity of Christ's disciples as God's Ambassadors.
None who works for God in Christ's way have any cause to be ashamed

CONCLUSION

A-

A PROPHECY OF BETRAYAL (Jn. 13:18-30)

INTRO:

A. What We Have Learned: (13:1-17)

1- Last Passover observed by Jesus (13:1)
2- Jesus' LOVE for disciples without interruption
3- Prophesy of betrayal by one of them (13:2)
4- Jesus knew all that would occur (13:3)
5- Jesus washed the feet of all the 12 (13:4-5)
6- Dialogue with Peter (13:6-9)
7- Jesus' answer - 13:10

WASHING ONCE vs. CLEANSING FEET REPEATED clean-up

B. What Lessons Do We Need To Learn?:

1- IMPERATIVE of a spiritual BATH to get us CLEAN spiritually - Titus 3:5 - "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost"
2- Necessity to have our feet cleaned OFTEN as needed. 1 John 1:9 - "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"
3- Awareness that Jesus was about to be betrayed by one of them!

I: JESUS EXPOSING THE BETRAYER: (13:18-20)

A. Jesus Clarified to Disciples: (13:18)

1- They are not all guilty!
2- He had CHOSEN all 12 of them! of them was a traitor who would betray Him to enemies.
3- Prophetic words - Ps. 41:9 would be fulfilled "He who eats my bread has lifted up His heel against Me." Double entendre of this verse
- David wrote it to tell of one who betrayed him.
- Prophetic of Messiah also in Jesus of Nazareth.
4- MEANING of this metaphor. Derived from the lifting of a horse's hoof in preparation for KICKING. It represents a betrayal of an intimate friend
5- Sadly one must be prepared for much disappointment from friends + companions in this life - BUT - Jesus never fails!!

B:- Jesus' Declaration: (13:19)

1- Telling them before it happens will show them His OMNISCIENCE
2- Clarification that what was to occur was NOT to Him as a VICTIM who could not avoid his betrayal.
3- Rather this advance word was designed to confirm to them that He is MESSIAH
4- Overtone of His DEITY as he has told them that "ye may believe that I AM" in the light of Ex. 3:14 - "And God said unto Moses, 'I AM THAT I AM': and He said, Thus shalt say unto the children of Israel I AM hath sent me unto you."
   - 4:26 "I AM He" (Messiah, Christ)
   - 6:35, 41, 51 - "I AM the Bread of Life"
   - 8:12 - "I AM the Light of the World"
   - 8:58 - "Before Abraham was, I AM"
   - 10:9 - "I AM the door"
   - 10:10 - "I AM the Good Shepherd"
   - 11:25 - "I AM the Resurrection and the Life"
   - 13:13 - "Ye call Me Master and Lord: and ye say well for so I AM."
5- Jesus Christ was not the deceived + helpless victim of unsuspected treachery, but One sent by God to purpose going forward confidence + unafraid, to do what God planned for Him to do
6- Thus Judas was given another opportunity to turn from his chosen path of betrayal.

C:- Jesus' Comfort: (13:20)

13:16, 20, 21, 38

1- "Verily, Verily" - Second of 4 times in this chapter
2- His meaning - 13:20 clearly declares that to receive God is equivalent to receiving Him and the reverse is equally true - HE IS DEITY in flesh
3- His purpose - These words were spoken to COMFORT His true believers that they are unaffected by Judas' coming betrayal - Persevere + Fear NOT
4- His warning: The disciples were warned not to have too high an opinion of themselves, nor to stand on their dignity. To serve Jesus is to take the way of the cross + it necessarily leads men into lowly paths.

13:21-25

II:- JESUS' TROUBLED SPIRIT REVEALED:

A:- What Troubled Our Lord?: (13:21)

1- He faced Crucifixion which He went through for the sake of our souls. His death + suffering on the CROSS were leading to completion of His sorrows - Isa. 53:3 - "A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief."

2- His FOREKNOWLEDGE of His betrayal, suffering and crucifixion were very painful (3)

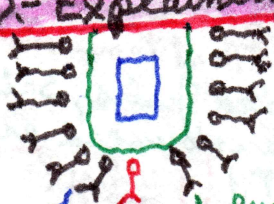
B.- Why Troubled?:

1- It was a bitter sorrow to see a chosen Apostle deliberately become an APOSTATE, a backslider + an ungrateful TRAITOR
2- The last scene between our Lord + Judas Iscariot before the false Apostle betrayed Him. Within a short time both the Holy Master + His treacherous servant were DEAD.
3- One would expect that what the Lord said would stir the conscience of Judas, BUT there is no record of such a reaction.

C.- Disciples Reaction To "Troubled" Master: 13:22-24

1- They also were troubled as to WHO was the betrayer, MK. 14:19 "Surely not I" Wider spread consternation in the 11 disciples. PERPLEXITY, but not doubt.
2- No verbal expression of response recorded.
3- John was next to Jesus on His Left + Judas was on the Lord's right - BOTH were place of Honor as they RECLINED around the food table. All reclined on their left sides so as to have their right hands free for eating
4- Neither here nor elsewhere does any suspicion appear to have fallen on Judas. For anything that was known, Judas looked as good as Peter, John or James
5- Peter did signal to John to ask our Lord WHOM Jesus was speaking of as a betrayer, for he was agitated
6- By leaning to his body backward John almost touched Jesus to whisper his inquiry.

D.- Explaining The Scene: (13:25-26a)



Blue Food Table
Green Head Positions
Black
Red - Jesus Christ

John #2 Honor
The one Jesus especially LOVED - 13:23+ 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20

Judas - #1 Place of Honor TREASURER

The general special AGAPE with which our Lord loved all his disciples. The Highest, Noblest + Refined LOVE

2- How very near to Judas was Jesus that evening. But in a short time after, by what a wide gulf did glory separate Jesus from Judas + destruction separate Judas from Jesus.

3- 13:26a First served was Judas + then all of the 12. • SOP = MORSEL - Bread + lamb with bitter herbs dipped in bitter sauce

III. JUDAS' BETRAYAL: (13:26b-30)

A. Jesus' Honor To Judas: (13:26b)

1- Place of honor because Judas was the TREASURER - RIGHT of the Lord

2- Served first as a last appeal to Judas from the Lord's heart of LOVE, even though He knew what Judas planned to do.

3- The Master of the Feast was reminding the participants of God's promise to provide salvation + the need for each who would participate to confess his sin

4- An oriental custom to dip a choice morsel of bread + meat into a sauce + hand it as a special token of kindness to a favored guest. This our Lord did to Judas. It was a LOVING ACT by our Lord; HIS LAST APPEAL to the heart of Judas.

5- How very near to Judas was Jesus on this occasion! But in a short time after, by what a wild gulf did glory separate Jesus from Judas, + destruction separate Judas from Jesus.

B. Satan's Temptation Consummated: (13:27a)

1- Judas took the morsel, BUT there is no evidence he ate it.

2- The moment Judas accepted it SATAN ENTERED INTO HIM.

3- Rejecting Jesus' gracious offer of Salvation, Judas left the upper room and went out from the Lord into the NIGHT.

4- Realizing Judas rejection and continuation of his betrayal, Jesus urged, "That thou doest, do quickly" - For the deluded Judas, Satan's instrument, these words announced everlasting, never-ending WRATH!! Why? NO REPENTANCE by Judas

5- The murderer from the beginning was about to use Judas to KILL the Lord of Glory

6- We see here the personality + awesome power

of our great spiritual enemy - SATAN

C: The Disciples' Confused Understanding: (13:28-29)

1- 13:28 In the upper room with Jesus, the other disciples were present, but understanding what the Lord's words meant - that betrayal was imminent.

2- John + all of the other 10 thought that Judas' departure was concerned with something Jesus had instructed Judas to do. 13:29 They saw Judas calm + undisturbed, not aware what his unbelieving heart had begun to do.

3- This shows the position Judas occupied among the Apostles - By no means inferior to the others.

4- Let us mark the snares which attend the handling of money. The very man who made a shipwreck of his soul forever through the love of money. It is not the having of money, but the misusing of money which is sinful

D: Judas' Departure: (13:30) Read it

1- Judas made a HASTY DEPARTURE - Into the NIGHT
A man who had great light + many privileges turned his back deliberately on the Savior

2- His going points to the strife between LIGHT + DARKNESS - Judas cut himself off from the "Light of the World + shut himself up to NIGHT!

3- Judas looked up the enemies of our Lord to gain 30 pieces of silver for giving them information how + where to TAKE HIM.

4- That night of sin on earth ended for Judas when he COMMITTED SUICIDE. But that did not end his night. His soul went "to his place" the place of outer eternal conscious DARKNESS. In that place, that eternal prison house, he is forever + ever with NO HOPE in all eternity.

1 John 2:19 - "They went out from us because they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us, but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."

Matt. 25:30 - "And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping + gnashing of teeth."

- Matt. 26:24 - "It had been good for that man if he had never been born."
- Heb. 10:31 - "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Lord our God."

CONCL.

A. Judas' Record:

1- Chosen by the Lord among 11 more men.
2- Walked with Jesus 3½ years, saw His miracles, heard His preaching + teaching + experienced many proofs of Christ's loving kindness
3- Never professed faith + never knew Christ as Savior + never called Him LORD
4- Judas shows us to what lengths a man may go in religious profession + yet turn out a rotten hypocrite at last and prove never to have been converted.

B. Our Warning:

1- Never detected by others as unsaved
2- Never one with the Lord + 11 other disciples
3- Never called Jesus Lord
4- Warnings - 2 Cor. 13:5 - "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates."
2 Pet. 1:10 - "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling + election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall."
5- ASSURANCES - 2 Tim. 1:12 - "... nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day."
- John 3:36 - "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

GLORIFIED

John 13:31-35

INTRO:

A.- The Context:

1- Jesus' public ministry - PAST 3½ years
- Called 12 disciples + taught them
- Ministered to Jews + performed many MIRACLES

2- Judas has departed to betray Jesus to Jewish rulers + priests for silver coins

3- 13:31 - "Therefore... NOW is the Son of Man glorified..."
- Marking a crisis in which Christ accepts the consequences of Judas' treachery
- "Therefore" is a HINGE word between the PAST and the NOW of the Lord's being glorified + giving His disciples FINAL INSTRUCTIONS (13:1 - 16:33)

4- "SON of MAN" was a common Jewish designation of the MESSIAH, + would have been so understood by His disciples. They came up to Jerusalem with anticipation of the CORONATION of Messiah as KING of the Jews + hailing Him as KING

5- The FUTURE → Signaled by both the words "Therefore" + "NOW"
→ To Getting to know the Father

B.- The Glorification:

1- Defination: Glorification is to make glorious or honorable or magnified, extoled and praised. It is begun by the departure of Judas and continued by obedience of Jesus (S.O.M.) as He looked to the CROSS which He regarded as if it were already accomplished. Glory is inherent to the nature of God.

2: Glorification of the Son had now begun with what appears to be opposite of glory - as Jesus is looking ahead to the CROSS which

speaks of GLORY

3.- This term is used 5 times in 2 verses - 13:31-32 which is shown to be:

- Related for Jesus' substitutional DEATH +
- The reciprocal nature of glorifying as the Son is glorified by the Father AND that the Father is glorified by the Son.

I.- THE SON OF MAN IS GLORIFIED:

Read Jn. 12:23

A: The Prophecy Of Glorification:

1- The Greeks of 12:20-23 said "Sir we would see Jesus"
2- But He does not receive these Gentiles for the time was not come then.
3- Glorification came AFTER death as demanded by 12:24 an important previous requirement of DEATH before producing "MUCH FRUIT"
4- Also, Judas was yet present among the 12.

B.- The Declaration Of Glorification: (Jn. 13:32)

1- What had happened?
- Matt. 20:20-22 - Two of the 11 had come privately to ask for the best offices be given to them in the Kingdom they thought He would soon establish.
- ALSO - Lk. 22:24 - The 12 had quarreled for pre-eminence as they were at supper in the Upper Room.

2- The immediate object in the discourse which follows is to prepare them for the terrible revulsion of feeling, the shock of disappointment + despair which TOMORROW had in store for them.

3- 13:32 - Jesus' glory will be contained in + identified with the Divine Glory. Unity in the TRINITY is reciprical as the TWO are ONE in their essential purpose of saving mankind.

4- No waiting for a coronation on earth because God is Glorifying the Son of Man NOW! Christ begins with the declaration that the glory of the MESSIAH is already an accomplished fact. GLORIFIED in incarnation + His life of loving self-sacrifice; His patience, His love; and in His life + character God had been glorified Spoken in anticipation of the CROSS soon to be Jesus' experience

C.-Three Certainties:

1-God is glorified in Jesus Christ in His passion of death
2-The Father will glorifying Jesus Christ in Himself in His own human Person. As the Father is glorified in the Messianic work of the Son, so the Son shall be in the eternal blessedness of the Father.
3-That the Triune God will do this without delay
4-After His work of self-sacrifice is over, the Son will return to the Father to share with Him the glory which He had from the foundation of the world. Because of the Son's DEATH, RESURRECTION and return to the Father's right hand in heaven.

II.-THE "LITTLE CHILDREN'S" NEW COMMANDMENT (13:33-35)

A.-The "Little Children": (13:33)

1-This term is used only here in the Gospels + in First John seven times + by Paul once in Gal. 4:19 Ones who were BORN AGAIN + as an expression of affection
2-Jesus has taken a role like a Father providing, protecting, guiding and instructing the disciples as children.
3-"Yet a little while I am with you"
- ONLY saying of our Lord repeated at 3 times exactly alike (8:21+22; 13:3 + 13:33)
- In a few hours Jesus would leave them!

4-They were also told "You shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you."
- This overwhelmed the 11. UTTERLY DESOLATE!
- He would be going back to the Father + the Father's house, while they were to remain here on earth.
- More about this in Chapter 14:1-6

B.-The New Commandment: (13:34a)

1-UNIQUE - In O.T. - Lev. 19:18 - "Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: I am the LORD"
2-Each movement in Israel's history had its identifying SIGN:

- Abrahamic Covenant — Circumcision
- Moses + Law — The Sabbath
- John the Baptist — Water baptism of repentance
- Pharisees — A phylactery on forehead or arm
- Christ as Messiah — MUTUAL LOVE

2 - NEW in the sense of NEW in TIME

- 1 John 3:23 - "And this is His commandment, that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as He gave us commandment."
- 1 John 2:8 - "Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in Him + in you: because the darkness is past, + the true light now shineth."

3 - This their TEST; to be bound one to another by LOVE

4 - NOT identical with the "Thou shalt" + "Thou shalt not..." in the Mosaic Law, which was to the Jewish nation. A NEW RELATIONSHIP now of the family of God — THE CHURCH

C. - The Standard And The Example: (13:34b)

1 - The Standard of the New Commandment is IMPORTANT — "that ye love one another"

LOVE within the BROTHERHOOD

- This was to be our standard awaiting the Lord's return to rapture the true believers

2 - The Example of the New Commandment is Jesus Christ Himself - "as I have loved you"

It was "NEW" because the love of Christ's friends for Christ's sake was the NEW thing in the world.

3 - Jesus is their EXAMPLE and ours. He does not ask them (and us) to do anything more than He Himself has done.

- John 13:1-20 - As our Lord's LOVE made Him a SERVANT, so should the disciples show their Love for one another + make them servants of one another.

D. - The Mark Of Discipleship: (13:35)

1 - LOVE for fellow believers ought to be the distinguishing mark of Christ's followers

2 - Our Lord pressed the disciples with their DUTY of loving each other after the same patient, tender, unwearied manner with which He has loved us ... and the disciples!

3- Jesus' love was strikingly set forth on the CROSS; and the disciples were to keep on LOVING one another, AND so are we !!!

4- HOW do we love one another?

- Romans 8:3-4 - "For what the Law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh. God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh. That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled IN US, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."
- Gal. 5:22 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith..."

5- Here we see the answer as to HOW we are to love the brethren

* Fulfilled in us by the enabling of the Holy Spirit empowering us
* And it is a first rank element of the fruit in our lives to exhibit LOVE as our Lord has told us to

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS - Jn. 13:33 - 14:7

INTRO

A. The "Little Children": (13:33a)

1- An expression of affection for born again disciples here + in 1 John seven times
2- Jesus had a relationship like a father toward sons with the disciples

B. The "Little While": (13:33b)

1- Only saying of our Lord repeated 3 times exactly alike — 8:21 + 22; 13:3 + 33
2- In only a matter of hours Jesus would LEAVE THEM
3- This statement OVERWHELMED the eleven.
4- "how will seek ME" but could not find Him.

C. The Large Leap: (13:34-36)

1- Jesus taught them A NEW COMMANDMENT, but Peter slept over this great teaching + landed with Question #1 — (13:36a)
2- Spokesman — Perplexed — They did not understand. HEARD only part of Jesus' words.
3- Peter could not think of any place where the Lord might go that he could not follow with Jesus

I. JESUS' ANNOUNCEMENT: (13:36) - 38

A. Response By The Lord: (13:36b+c)

1- Jesus' words retain the element of mystery
2- He told them He must go on alone at this time. Earlier He had told the disciples that He was going up to Jerusalem to be delivered into the hands of Gentiles, be crucified + raised from the dead, but they were in darkness of their understanding.
3- However, they will follow Him afterward.

B. Remonstrance + Answer: (13:37-38)

1- 13:37 — "Why cannot I follow Thee now?"
— Peter's answer revealed his ignorance of what Jesus had announced.
— Peter meant well + showed his attachment to our Lord (13:37b) He showed

that he thought too highly of himself, & did not know his utter weakness. He meant what he said, but did not know how he would react under pressure.

2- Jesus was in FACT about to lay down His life for Peter and all mankind.

3- Peter had an IMPETUOUS LOVE, but a lack of submission to the Lord's words. ALSO Peter did not remember that Satan had desired to have him to sift him as wheat, and that sifting was about to take place.

4- 13:38 - Omniscience evidenced about Peter's actions before they happened. The "Verily, Verily" conveys the reality of what Peter would do the next day.

II. JESUS' EXPLANATION: (14:1-4)

A. Jesus' Plea: (14:1a)

1- He looked beyond the trouble the 11 disciples are about to enter and reassured them.

2- To men who had left all for their leader to be told to be told that He is about to leave them is SHATTERING. They are all very DISTURBED. So Jesus told them to be CALM.

3- "TROUBLED" - The journey of life is full of trouble

- Disciples were troubled by seeing their Master "troubled" in spirit.
- Disciples troubled by hearing that one of them would betray Jesus.
- Disciples were troubled by their Master's announced that He would only be with them a little longer.
- Disciples were troubled by the warning of Peter that he would deny Their Master three times.

4- Isa. 26:3 - "Thou will keep in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee."

B. Jesus' Proposal: (14:1b)

1- Faith in Jesus was not something additional to faith in God. There is no way to the Father but BY ME (Jesus)!

2- Our Lord was urging His followers to continue to believe also in Him - "YOURS TO COUNT ON"!

3- They had every reason to trust both the Father + the Son.

4- The old lesson: Believe! Believe MORE! Believe distinctly on ME!!

C. Jesus' Preparation of Place: (14:2)

1- "My Father's House" is HOME; the abode for all

the children of God, born again ones.

2-ANSWER to Peter's 13:36 question:

A Jewish betrothal meant that a man + woman were legally bound in marriage. Before the actual presentation of the Bride to the Bridegroom, the Bridegroom would busy Himself preparing a place in His Father's house for the Bride. Using this imagery Christ said to those men, "In My Father's house are many rooms/dwelling places" (14:2). He told the 11 I am going to prepare a place where He + they would dwell together "in My Father's House." When the Lord had completed His work of preparing a place He would come back + take them to be with Himself.

3-PARTING WORDS were particularly significant + tender words:

- He is going away
- He will prepare a place for them - the 11
- He will come again

So our Lord graciously explained WHAT + WHY. Otherwise He would have told them.

4-FEAR NOT, There is room enough in heaven for all sorts - great ones, little ones, strong ones + weak ones. Jesus will not be content to dwell without His "little children" - NOT ALONE!

D.-Jesus' Parting And Promised Return: (14:3)

1-His SEPARATION would not be permanent; ONLY TEMPORARY - A round trip! Going + returning

2-Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. Jesus has prepared it by procuring a right for every sinner who believes in Him to enter in - OUR FORERUNNER - Heb. 6:20 - "Whither the forerunner is entered, even Jesus..."

3-The PROMISE - (14:3b) - They could look forward to a BLESSED REUNION. One day He would come as the Bridegroom for His Bride + take them to the place He had been preparing.

- Gracious assurance for troubled hearts
- Dwelling places being prepared
- A strong consolation that Jesus means to come again + take all Church age believers home
- We part temporarily, but believers will meet Him again

4-We + they have great COMFORT - (14:1-3). We have a True Friend while we live + a True Home in heaven

5.- What did Jesus mean by "where I am, there ye may be also?" Possible answers: (4)
- When the Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost. NO
- At the death of each believer. NO
- At the Rapture leading to His Second Advent. YES

6.- Until then we are in "WILL CALL" awaiting Jesus coming for us, HIS BRIDE. It is enough for the believer to know that each of us will be WITH OUR LORD!

E.- Jesus' Path Is Known: (14:4)

1- Jesus asserted that His disciples KNOW THE WAY! He had been showing them THE WAY in the whole body of His teaching. If they follow the instruction of 3½ years, THE WAY will be clear to them.

2- Doubtless the disciples knew more than they had supposed, but they had not their knowledge together in a systematic WAY.

3- Our Lord's words were designed to make the 11 to THINK + to ASK QUESTIONS. - AWAKE from your despondency; call to mind what He had taught them, for "I HAVE OFTEN TOLD YOU THE WAY" - You know the WAY!

III.- ONE WAY + ONLY ONE: (14:5-7)

A.- Thomas' Honest Question #2: (14:5)

1- Disheartened men do not think clearly:
- Judas had been denounced as a traitor,
- Jesus was going away to a place where the disciples could not follow Him,
- Peter had been predicted to deny the Lord 3 times

2- Doubter Thomas was the spokesman seeking clarification with an honest question - 14:5

3- Thomas wanted the answer to be CLEAR, + will not allow his Lord's words to stand as though he understood them when HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND. He said that he + his companions did not know where Jesus was going! Had not Jesus Himself said that the cannot come there? (13:33+36)! The whole situation is IMPOSSIBLE to Thomas!

4.- Second Question: "How can we know the way when we do not know the destination.

5- Thomas sought to know THE GOAL; Jesus shows that THE WAY is the important issue. "How do I get where you are going?

6- Jesus replied to the eleven

B: Christ's Glorious Answer: 14:6

1- The second answer to the second question
2- Jesus pivoted + introduced a somewhat topic. He has been talking about LEAVING the 11 disciples. But Jesus is to GO TO THE FATHER (13:3) + now He speaks of the WAY to the FATHER - Ps. 27:11 "Teach me THY WAY, O LORD, + lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies."
3- The "I AM" references of MESSIAH
- 4:25-26
- 8:58
- 6:48, 51 - "I am the bread of life"
- 8:12 - "I am the light of the world"
- 10:7, 9 - "I am the door"
- 10:11, 14 - "I am the Good Shepherd"
- 11:25 - "I am the resurrection + the life"
- 14:6 - "I am the way, the truth + the life"
- 15:1, 5 - "I am the True Vine"
- JESUS CHRIST is THE WAY to the Father, + He is all we need - The new + living way to God!

4- Only One who is possessed of life could come to the Father's House. Jesus is the EXCLUSIVE WAY to the Father. No prophet, teacher or apostle ever used such words as these. They are the words of One who knew that He was God!! Jesus Christ is not merely the way to our Father's house in heaven, but there is no other way, + men must either go in to heaven through Christ, by faith in His vicarious death + atonement, or not go there at all
5- Our Lord's words should never be forgotten! "There is no way to the Father but by ME" = ONLY ONE WAY! He is the true God + eternal life. He is the source + fountain of all life. This life, which He is, is imparted to the believer.

C: The Intimate Connection: (14:7)

1- Perhaps to the ancient world this was the most staggering thing Jesus ever said. To Greeks, God was invisible. The Jew would count it an article of faith that no man had seen God at any time.
2- The disciples had known Jesus well enough to leave their homes to follow Him wherever He went. But they did not know Him in His full significance. To really know Him is to know His Father. Up to now it all had been preparation. BUT NOW it is to be DIFFERENT. From now on they KNOW HIM, + they have SEEN HIM!

3- To see Jesus is to see the Father. There is perfect union between the Father + the Son. The Father is God + the Son is God + though distinct in PERSONS, they are ONE in ESSENSE.

4- Christ is very God of very God; Equal with the Father in all things, and One with Him — A DEEP SAYING

5- Understand from this time forward, that in knowing Jesus Christ, you know the Father, + in seeing Jesus Christ you see the Father, so far as the Father can be seen + known by man

6- Hebr. 1:2 - "He is the express image of the Father

7- The more we know of our Lord Jesus Christ, the more we know of the Father. Truth is a Person

CONCL:

This letter was received and read by Dr. Charles E Fuller on his radio program:

"Next Sunday you are going to talk about heaven. I am interested in that land, because I have a clear title to a bit of property there for 55 years. I did not buy it. It was given to me without money + without price. But the donor purchased it for me at a tremendous sacrifice. It is not a vacant lot. For more than a half a century I have been sending materials out of which the greatest architech + builder of the universe has been building for me a home, which will never need to be remodeled nor repaired because it will suit me perfectly, indivisably, + will never grow old. Termites can never undermine its foundations for they rest on the Rock of Ages. Fire cannot destroy it, Floods cannot wash it away. I hope to hear sermon, but I have no assurance I shall be able to do so. My ticket to heaven has not a date marked for the journey — no return coupon — and no permit for baggage. Yes, I am ready to go, and I may not be here while you are speaking next Sunday, but I shall meet you there some day.

Can you speak with that kind of assurance? Would you like to? Just trust Jesus Christ as your Savior and it will be as sure for you as for the author of that letter

"Heaven" — John 14:1-6

Intro. A.-What is it like??
Don't know?----3 witnesses(Paul-2 Cor 12
John-Rev. 4:1
Christ-came down from h.

I.-OUR HOME

A.-ILLUS--A traveling evangelist once related the story that: I picked up a RR timetable in a hotel writing room where men were smoking & swapping yarns. The map showed only 1 road & its connections. It seemed to cover all the many states. Up in an open space far away from the city where we were, some man had written the word "HOME". So also it is with the Bible. There is only 1 "thru-line" apparent. All the branches converge at Calvary & lead from there to "HOME IN HEAVEN"

B.-Our home will be with the triune God.

C.-Home will be in the 3rd heaven or Paradise (2 Cor. 12:1-4)
1-Mansions are already there
2-Place for you & me now being prepared there
3-We'll dwell with God in His presence.

D.-How do we get there?
1-ILLUS--"Fine sermon, wasn't it?" asked one of Farmer Peter friends, referring to a scholarly discourse with which the congregation had been favored that morning by a city preacher. "Maybe," returned Farmer Peter. "Why," persisted the 1st speaker, "that man knows more about the Bible, has made a deeper study of Biblical history & geography than almost any other minister in this country." "Has he now," inquired Farmer Peter mildly. "Well, then, I reckon that the trouble must have been with me. You see, I'd calc'lated I should hear something of the way to Heaven, & I only learned the way from Jerusalem to Jericho.
2-Thomas asked the ? of how to get there--Jn. 14:5
3-The Lord's answer--only 1 way---Jn. 14:6

II.-OUR BODIES

A.-Now:
1-vile--Phs. 3:21
2-fleshen ---1 Cor. 15; Jn. 3
3-earthen ---2 Cor. 4:7

B.-Then:
1-fashioned like Christ's--Phs. 3:21
2-glorious
3-limitations then??--none---John 20:19
4-Age??--33 years like the Lord??--Don't know.
5-Life principle:--Present--Lev. 17:11--Blood
--Then--1 Cor. 15:44---Spirit
6-"like him"--1 Jn. 3:2--in all ways--Beauty, Body, love, attitudes, Power, etc.
7-ILLUS--Perhaps I can convey the better situation there by means of this ILLus.--The story was once related how an old Aberdeen preacher was comforted by a personal incident. He had always feared death, & was powerless to comfort others facing it. Toward the end of his life he moved to another house. Yet when the furniture had all gone, the old preacher lingered in the home where his children had been born, and where his sermons had been prepared. At last his servant came to him & said, "SIR, EVERYTHING'S GONE; AND THE NEW HOUSE IS BETTER THAN THIS ONE. COME AWAY." It preached to him a lesson he never forgot. God has prepared a new house for all who will come--a better house--"a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." 2Cor. 5:1

III.-OUR RELATIONSHIPS

A.- To the Saved — face to face

1-we shall know them--1 Cor. 13:12

wife + husband — no marriage there

2-Meet the heroes of the faith--Heb. 11; esp 11:33-38

3-Reunion of the redeemed--Rev. 5:13--none absent

4-Children--2 Sam. 12:13; Mt. 18:3; 19:14

B.-To The Lord Jesus Christ: --1 Jn. 3:2

1-See Him without the shame of the cross

2-See Him with the scars of suffering --Jn. 20:27

3-See Him with splendor, power, & majesty--Rev. 1

4-See Him as He is

5-Know Him as we are known — 1 Cor 13:12

6-ILLUS--A young Xn, at the deathbed of an aged saint, said to him, "Shall I read you the sweetest verse in the Bible?" "Yes," was the reply. The young man read the verse in Jn. 14:) "In my Father's house are many mansuons: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." "No," said the dying saint,"that is not the sweetest verse. Read on." The young man read on: "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself that where I am, there ye may be also." "That is the sweetest," said the dying man. It is not the mansions,--it is HIMSELF I want."

C.-Relationship to the Unsaved

1-No memory of them--Rev. 21:4; Lk. 16--Lazarus never knew

2-Character in this life determines what is to come in the life to come--Rev. 22:11

CONCL.---God has made a very wonderful provision

---Are YOU prepared??????

ILLUS--This letter was received Dr. Chas. E. Fuller. "Next Sunday you are to talk about Heaven. I am interested in that land, because I have held a clear title to a bit of property there for over 55 years. I did not buy it. It was given to me without money & without price. But the donor purchased it for me at a tremendous sacrifice. It is not a vacant lot. For more than half a century I have been sending materials out of which the greatest achitect & builder of the universe has been building a home for me which will never need to be remodeled nor repaired because it will suit me perfectly, individually, & will never grow old. Termites can never undermine its foundation for they rest upon the Rock of Ages. Fire cannot destroy it. Floods cannot wash it away. I hope to hear your sermon, but I have no assurance that I shall be able to do so. My ticket to Heaven has not date marked for the journey--no return coupon--and no permit for baggage. Yes, I am ready to go, and I may not be here while you are talking next Sunday, but I shall meet you there some day."

Can you speak with that kind of assurance? Would you like to? Just trust Jesus Christ as your Savior and it will be as sure for you as for the author of that letter.

Jn. 14:1-11 SETTLED BELIEF

Intro — A.- Favorite of all Bible loving Xns. in time of sorrow in "walking thru the Valley of the Shadow".

B.- Thursday night before the Crucifixion on Friday

C.- Told disheartening news.

1.- Traitor denounced

2. Jesus going away where they cannot now follow.

3.- Prediction of Peter's denial.

D.- Words of Ch.-14 constitute a clear declaration of the DEITY of CHRIST

14:1-3 COMING

I COMFORT + CHEER — REUNION

A.- Let not your heart be TROUBLED = Strongly agitated.

1.- because of faith in God

2.- equality between θ + X should lead to perfect trust + belief in X. Genuine belief in the Father leads to belief in the Son.

3.- 14:27 — Peace that passes understanding is theirs

4.- This is the only remedy for the troubled heart.

B.- Mansions = abiding places = apartments

1.- Where? Heaven — in Father's house

2.- many —

a.- room for all — II Pet. 1:11

b.- welcome for all

3.- true - If it were not so, I would have told you. X appeal to His fairness. He'll make good

His promises

C.- ✝ Go To Prepare — for ~~you~~

1.- Must leave them to accomplish it;
2.- It is expedient for them 16:7
3.- Now preparing our place for us
4.- Now interceeding for us
5.- Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people — we too must be prepared.
   a.- Heb. 12:5-8 - testing + Chastisement.
   b.- illus of gold pot in which the workman must see self; X see self in us
6.- X is our forerunner into heaven; Our true Joshua - The leader into the Rest of God - Heb. 4:8-9

D.- And If... I will come again

1.- no doubt is here implied
2.- By death + ascension + glorification He has (He. 10:20) opened a "new + living way" of access + bliss to the Father's House ~~for~~ that "(Jn 17:24) They might be with ~~me~~ where I am; that they may behold my glory."
3.- Come again (I am coming again + will take you)
   Some { a.- resurrection
   b.- when believer taken to be with the Lord Phs. 1:23
   those who remain — c.- completed + consummated when the Lord comes in Glory 1 Th. 4:16-17

E.- Implications

1.- destination of our life 1 Pet. 1:4

2.- Confirmation of the Rapture before the Tribulation

a.- hosts prepared

b.- to be occupied

c.- not used in Mill. because

d.- X to come with Sts - Jd 14

e.- heaven to be made new at end of mill.

3.- ∴ These mansions in Glory are truly a part of the (TIT 2:13) "looking for that blessed hope, + the glorious appearing of the Great God + our Savior, Jesus Christ"

II THE WAY TO THE FATHER 14:4-11

A.- Jesus assumes they should know the way into these mansions after being taught for 3 yrs., but Thomas is still in doubt.

Thomas thinks the promises are too good to be true

B Clear declaration - 14:6 - Jesus is the only passage to the Father. There is no other

C THE Way - Thomas seeks the goal; Jesus shows that the way is the important thing.

1.- for X - death + resurrection for us - Jesus is the way

2.- 10:9 "I am the door"

3.- This Way - name for the Xns. after Resurrection + before called Xn. at Antioch (9:2)

D. THE TRUTH - Heb. 6:18 "impossible for God to lie

1.- Jn. 6:68 - To whom else can we go for Truth

2.- Jn. 8:32 - The Truth shall make you free

3.- Paul's witness before Festus - Ac. 26:25

E. The LIFE - Purpose of X's Coming

1.- "I come that they might have life" 10:15

2.- 14:19 - "Because I live, ye shall live also"

F.- Thus Jesus answers both the fundamental philosophical questions as well as the desires of the heart-tugs of each of us.

G.- Disciples still cannot see. "Men look for new revelations, when the great difficulty is, that they do not receive + comprehend what they have.

14:10 H.- Tells Philip to re-examine his faith

I.- 11 disciples addressed now; Believe either the words or the works ——— BUT BELIEVE

X is a true Revelation of God in word + deed,

20:31 — These things are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God and that believing, ye might have life through His Name.

THE GREAT FACTS-Jn.14:1-15

INTRO:

A:-Jesus is going away: (Jn.14:1-4)
B.-Jesus will prepare a place:
C.-Jesus will come again to receive them:
D.-Questions Asked:
1-Peter-"Wither goest Thou?" (13:36)
2-Thomas-"How can we know the way?" (14:5)

I-JESUS IS MANIFESTATION OF FATHER: (14:7-11)

A-Question #3 By Philip: (14:8)

1-"Lord, shew us The Father, + it sufficeth us."
2-Intimately acquainted with Christ, BUT he did not know the Father, so he asked the Lord to reveal the Father. This shows how little the disciples understood Jesus beyond SON OF MAN, + the promised MESSIAH.
3-He had no understanding of the great fact, of which the Lord spoke so often, the fact of ONENESS WITH THE FATHER as in 14:7
4-Perhaps, like Moses, he + the other disciples had a godly desire to have a more full vision and revelation of God's glory, as an authentication of their Master's Divine mission. "SHOW ME THY GLORY! (Ex. 33:18)

B-Jesus' Response to Philip: (Jn.14:9-11

(14:9)
1-The Lord rebuked Philip in a tender way: After 3½ years "hast thou not known Me, Philip?"
2-Jesus Christ + the Father are IDENTICAL in Essence + oneness between the Father + Son.
3-There is so close + intimate a union between the Persons in the TRINITY, that he who sees the SON sees the FATHER. YET, we must carefully beware that we do not confound the PERSONS!
4-The Declaration reminding: "I AM IN THE FATHER" (10a)
a. The point He declairs
b. The evidence He offers (14:10)
- WORDS
- WORKS

(14:10 b-c) These BOTH really show the complete dependence of the SON upon the FATHER

c-These both reveal the source of what SAID + DID was God the Father. The SON is incarnate to reveal the Father's PERSON

d- There is a mysterious UNION between the Father + the Son is that GOD the Father is IN CHRIST and also, God the Son is IN THE FATHER.

e- Thus, "The words that I speak to you, I speak not independently of the Father, and the works that I do, I do not do them independently of the Father. The Father who dwells in Me, speaks in Me + works in Me. What I speak, He speaks, + what I work, He works.

5- Jesus' Instruction is Repeated - (14:10 + 11)

a- Negatively - "Believest thou not... ? → 14:10

b- Positively - "Believe me that I am in the Father"

c- Take your choice - 14:11 - Jesus' words + His works are the EVIDENCES that He is in the Father, and that the Father is in the Son

d- Our Lord condescended to the weakness of His frail followers, "or else believe Me for the very works' sake" (14:11c) These were His CREDENTIALS - "Never man spake as this man" (Jn. 7:46)

e- Our Lord repeated His instructions for the benefit not of Philip only, but for all 11 of His disciples the great truths He had so often taught them.

6- What an example we have here of the necessity of repeating instruction over + over again. Our Lord had evidentally taught these things before to the eleven, + yet they had either not understood (1st) not remembered them.

II- JESUS' PROMISES TO DISCIPLES - 14:12-15

A- The Greater Works: (14:12-15

1- Emphasized by a double "Verily" - Makes a very significant impact.

2- 14:12 - These words which follow the answers our Lord gave to the questions asked by Thomas (14:5) + by Philip (14:8) must be linked back to the comforting assurances He gave His disciples (14:1) "Let not your heart be troubled." Verses 5-11 was an interruption in the Lord's address to His own. NOW He returned to the flow of words to what Jesus had been saying about the result of His going to be with the Father. He gave them a GREAT STATEMENT - 14:12

(3)

JOHN 14:12-14: *"Greater Things Than These."*

Not everything Jesus said was good news to his disciples. In John 14:12-14, we see that they are confused and downhearted because Jesus told them he was going back to his Father (13:33,36; 14:2). Jesus encourages them by saying, "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father" (14:12).

How is it possible for Jesus' followers to do greater things than he has done? How could anyone ever do something greater than the unique Son of God? Jesus explains, "And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it" (vv. 13-14). After his resurrection, Jesus will return to heaven, and he and the Father will answer believers' prayers.

As a result of Jesus' earthly ministry of salvation prayers will be answered as never before, enabling believers to do g r eater things."

Praying in Jesus' name does not mean merely tacking the words "in Jesus' name" onto the end of a prayer; in fact, we do not find even one example of the apostles' doing this in the New Testament. Instead, to pray in Jesus' name means to pray with an awareness of the new access to God that we enjoy due to the work of the Mediator, the Lord Jesus Christ.

An illustration helps clarify this idea. Since the Zimmerman family lived across from a playground, they often supplied the equipment for the games their sons Charles and Craig played with their friends. When a neighborhood boy would ask Mr. or Mrs. Zimmerman if he could use the equipment, he would be turned down. If, however, the boy said "Charles sent me to ask for the bats and balls," the Zimmermans would grant the request. This is what it means for us to pray to God the Father in Jesus' name. We do not approach God on our own, but we come to the Father through Jesus our Savior. Good illus.

When Jesus promises his disciples that they would do greater works than he, he does not mean works greater in importance. No one will ever do a more important work than Jesus' greater work of dying and rising again to save us from our sins. Jesus means that in answer to prayer his followers will do works which are greater in number and more widespread than his. Jesus ministered in first-century Palestine to thousands of people; Argentine evangelist Luis Palau has ministered around the world to millions! Nevertheless, Luis recognizes that he is successful only because of Jesus' redemptive work and his promise in John 14:12-14.

God expects every believer in Christ to contribute to the "greater works" of which Jesus spoke. Each of us is to pray with the confidence that our Savior has opened up for us a new access to God. And we are all to tell others of the love of God in sending his Son to be our deliverer. Perhaps God is calling you to be a missionary who will explain the message of salvation to people living in another culture.

The Greater Things - NOT
- Physical miracles

But must be
their witness testifying to Jesus as MESSIAH + Savior from sin.

The miracle of the NEW BIRTH is the greater works enabled by the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost when 3,000 were saved on ONE DAY!

Believers are able to do GREATER WORKS!

3 - This promise happens
- Thru the Son's Cross-work
- Thru the believers sharing the gospel message

B. The Glorious Prayer Promises: (14:13-14) (4)

1- The "Greater Work" of (14:12) is related to PRAYER in (14:13+14) by the word "ASK" in both verses
- Believers are privileged to come to the Father to ask for help in Christ's name.
- Whatever enablement they needed would be provided.
- The Son's help would be given by the Father as the Son glorified the Father while He is at the Father's house.

2- The breadth of the promise's details
- "Whatsoever ye shall ask" (14:13)
- "And ye shall ask anything..." (14:14)
- CART BLANCH - Unlimited access to enable these men to glorify the Father. ANYTHING can be brought before the Father in prayer

3- It is most blessed to come to the Father with our requests asked in IN HIS (Jesus) NAME, and to expect an answer to our prayers + the Father be glorified.

4- John 16:24 - "Heretofore have you asked nothing in My name: Ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." PROMISES of answer!

5- "I will do it" - (14:14) + "That I will do" (14:13) Jesus has AUTHORITY to fulfill believer's prayers.

C. The Conditional Exhortation: (14:15)

1- ATTITUDE required - "If ye love Me...
- The 11 did love the Lord + He loved them

2- The "IF" conveyed a condition requiring believers to "LOVE CHRIST" with AGAPE love - A self-sacrificial love desiring the well-being of the One loved above the well-being of the one loving

3- The uniqueness of the Exhortation - "Keep My commandments"
- A direct + practical exhortation - Always and Forever.
- This is the proof of one's profession - An ATTITUDE of heart to be OBEDIENT

4- DOING + not shedding tears is the best PROOF OF LOVE

5- We never read of Moses or any other Servant of God using such an expression. It is the language of One who is one with God the Father.

CONCL:

A- Relationships:

1- Three Persons in the Trinity Who are ONE
2- Essence + Unity of Persons one with another with individual roles + work
3- Eternal and Invisible in being until the Son became INCARNATE as the Messiah of Israel, the God-Man and Son of God
4- Spirit Beings forever eternally
   - Father - revealed in John's gospel by reference to His name 120 times
   - Son is the Creator / Sustainer of the universe out of nothing Who became Incarnate by a body created by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the VIRGIN Mary into the home of Joseph + Mary
   - Holy Spirit Who we will learn a great deal more about beginning in John 14:16
5- These are each individual PERSONS of ONE ESSENCE in one another - 14:7, 10.
To see One Person is to know the other 2 Persons

B- Promises To Believers:

1- 14:1- "Let not your heart be troubled"
2- 14:2- "I go to prepare a place for you"
3- 14:3- "I will come again and receive you"
4- 14:7-11- "If ye had known Me, ye should have known My Father also"
5- 14:10- Understand the WORDS which the Lord He speaks and the WORKS which the Father does through The Son
6- 14:12- And greater works than these shall he (a believer) do
7- 14:13-14- Enlarged understanding of prayer

8-14:15 - "If ye love Me, keep My commandments" (6)

THE COMFORTER WILL COME: ①

John 14:15-26

INTRO:

A: PREVIOUS CONCEPT:

1- Jesus is coming again - 14:1-6
"Let not your heart be troubled..."

2- Jesus is the manifestation of the Father
14:7-11 - Through the Son the Father is known
- Through the WORDS of the Son - 14:10
- Through the WORKS of the Son (MIRACLES) 14:10, 11

3.- Jesus will answer all prayers made in His name - 14:12-14 by disciples
- His people would perform GREATER WORKS through their preaching
- "Whatever" they asked / "Anything" they request in PRAYING + His ANSWERING

B: PROOF OF LOVE: (14:15)

1- Their Attitude of LOVE toward their Lord

2- Their Actions of OBEDIENCE which is evident both in Heaven + on Earth

I- THE PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT: (14:16-17)

A- The Comforter: (14:16)

PARACLETE - Gk.

1- The meaning of this name -
- Helper, Counselor, Enabler, Advocate - 1 John 2:1
- Literally - One called alongside to help
- "Another Comforter of the same kind"

2- The relationships of the Comforter
- These men had had been comissioned as Christ's apostles + sent out on preaching missions during their training
- NOW sent by Him to be HIS WITNESSES during the period of Jesus' absence.
- Christ had been their HELPER while He was with them. In His absence He would send them ANOTHER COMFORTER (of the same kind)
- What Jesus had done for the 11, the Comforter would do for them while He had been with them.

- Thus the disciples would not be left alone, not forsaken, not left to their own devices or to their own wisdom or strength. They would have an external power force + GUIDE
- The thought is that of ADVOCACY of one's cause more than of comforting in our sense of this word. A FRIEND, A LEGAL FRIEND with us.

3- This One will be unseen, unknown + unrecognized by the world, but sent to the disciples by THE FATHER — 120 times referred to by Jesus + recorded by John

4- This Paraclete (another of the same kind) is sent by our Lord's request

- To take up permanent residency of each of the 11 disciples
- Previously the Holy Spirit came upon Jews for specific tasks and times, and then was taken away
- Never before had this member of the Trinity been given to any human to INDWELL him permanently, never to be withdrawn
- The Father answered our Lord's prayer.

B. The Spirit Of Truth: (14:17)

1- His relation to TRUTH is basic to the Triune God

- The Father - "God is a spirit to be worshipped in spirit and in truth" - Jn. 4:23
- The Son - Jn. 14:6 - "Jesus saith unto him, 'I am the way, the TRUTH and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me'"

2- NOT available to the world

- Not received by the world
- Not seen by the world
- Not known by the world

1 Cor. 2:14 The world has rejected CHRIST — Read this

- This the mark of the unbelieving world
- BUT the Holy Spirit is how the Son of God will work in and for the believers - John 14:14 "I WILL DO IT"

3- The Spirit is PAST - God from all eternity along with the Father + Son - CO-EQUAL, but with different roles + responsibilities.

- Father is the Planner
- Son is Creator + Savior

• Spirit is the enabler who has come upon believers for God-ordained tasks for the time of fulfilling tasks. Dwelling "WITH YOU" up til now (14:17)

3-The Spirit's future would be different- "IN YOU" - 14:17- Teaches us He will come for INDWELLING, which would not be temporary, but PERMANENTLY given to go alongside to help believers to go into the world to witness of the Father, the Son + the GOSPEL.

• The Holy Spirit had been operative throughout the O.T. record as an external source of empowerment. He had been WITH God's people, + is promised to take up permanent residence IN THEM. From that reality the Holy Spirit can provide all the help they need.

▲ The Spirit's personal indwelling had not yet come. That was consummated at Pentecost.

→ 1 Cor. 12:13

4-Paul's explanation - 1 Cor. 6:19 - "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God + ye are not your own."

5-Let us never forget that HAVING THE SPIRIT, or not having the Spirit makes a great distinction between the children of God + the children of the world. BELIEVERS have the Holy Spirit. Wicked people have Him not!

6-We get the Holy Spirit, not because we pray, but because our Lord prayed.

II-THE PRESENCE OF THE TRINITY IN THEM:

John 14:18-26

A-Not Orphans: (14:18-20)

1-Jesus' declaration of a rich promise + precious assurance: All they have need of is available in Him!

• Though He is going away, He promised to return (14:18 & + 14:23)

2-WHEN will He return? 2 ANSWERS

Christ @ Physical presence post-resurrection (b) In the Holy Spirit's coming at Pentecost

3- No longer seen by the world (14:19)

- Crucified publicly + buried privately + then never appearing to any except believers.
- But because the Lord would be resurrected HE WOULD LIVE, and because He LIVED He guaranteed life for the 11 + for us (14:19)

4- Explanation of UNION with the Father (14:20)

- At "that day" of resurrection the Lord's promise would be fulfilled + the disciples knew + understood what Christ had told them, + even more was clarified on + after Pentecost. Jesus told them the FACTS without telling them the HOW's
- What was told the 11 was to start their thinking + understanding then + now that the purpose of the Spirit is to REVEAL THE FATHER in God's people.

B- The Commandment: "Brotherly Love" (14:21-25)

1- Jesus' explanation (14:21) centers on 2 words:

- Commandments ONCE, to reveal God's words + will for all Christians
- "LOVE" in 4 different directions because in the light of the truth that one measures his love by OBEDIENCE to God's Word wherein we gain our knowledge of HIM + His WILL
- The best test of love to Christ is good proof of our being true believers. Faith in the blood of Christ must always attended by loving obedience to Him + His truth, and will sense God's pleasure and blessings as he strives to keep His commandments. Such obediance in brotherly love is the MARK of TRUE LOVE!
- It is not a matter of WORDS; If love is real it is shown in DEEDS

2- Judas' QUESTION (14:22) — "HOW" or "WHY"?

- The promise of restoration after resurrection raised Judas' Question. The disciples' expectation that Christ was the Messiah who set up David's Throne + rule over a Jewish Kingdom with power + glory before all, so HOW would they see Him + others not see Him?

3- Jesus' Answer (14:23-25)

- He replied that intimacy with Himself + the Father would be restored. The ANSWER was LOVE ME, + the Father will LOVE HIM! Why? How? Because God is LOVE. Jesus insists that to love Him will be expressed in DEEDS
- Both Jesus + the Father will come to make their abode in the disciples, not a temporary lodgement, but PERMANENT dwelling. IN HIM, and HIM IN US — The Father, Son and Holy Spirit live in a believer's life body as a HOLY TEMPLE — A high privilege for the believer for the Persons of the Trinity to INDWELL each of us!
- Eph. 3:17 - "That Christ may dwell in your heart by faith: that ye being rooted + grounded in love."
- "We will come" (14:23) Jesus testifys again to His UNITY with the Father -

4- The Father sent the Son + was the source of what our Lord taught (14:24). This is a REVERSE to 14:23 which calls for obedience. "Where there is no obedience to Christ, there is no love"

5- The Upper Room teaching was given to prepare the disciples for His absence - (14:25)

C: The Ministries Of The Comforter: (14:26)

1- The Trinity works together harmoniously through the Comforter Who would supply all the needs. He is a PERSON, not an influence.

2- This chapter gives us the fullest description of the Holy Spirit found in Scripture. HOLY is the emphasis here + throughout the N.T. Sent by the Father in the Name of the Son would be the other Paraclete like the Son to be one called alongside to help

4/11/83

ACADEMIC OFFICES — Van Marseau
- Dean of Education
- Registrar

The Basics Of Christian Living — John 15:1-17

PROP — Analogy Of Vine + Branches

I. - The Main Characters

(source of life / sustainer of life)

A. - The True Vine — Jesus
B. - The Vine Dresser — Father
C. - The OT Vine — Israel — Failed
D. - The Branches — Disciples + other believers

II. - The Main Principles:

A. - Characteristics of a Fruitless Believer

1 - **Lack of productivity** — 15:1-5
- What is fruit?
- Gal. 5: 22-23
- Inward characteristics that change the outside.

2 - **Lifeless relationship** to the vine. Problem is not w/ the vine, but the branch is the problem — 15:6
Don't draw the analogy to its extremity. Loss of usefulness

3 - **Sterility in itself** — 15:4
Limited usefulness

B. - Characteristics of a Fruitful Believer

1 - 15:2 — Process for production. Ongoing pruning. Year around work to get the vine ready to produce. Cuts us back. Removal of the dead wood. The Father will prune

15:3 — clean — same root as prune

15:2 — Process of redemption

B. The Product of Abiding
1 – 15:5 — 2 Cor. 3:5; 1 John 1:9 — Quote it / PRACTICE it! — Keep clean
2 – Abiding produces fruit as we are clean
C. Alternative – 15:6 – The Purifying Of The Unabiding. Relates to the believer.
Aorist – A daily life experience
Burning is a continual burning. Pass the test of fire in 1 Cor. 3:12-16
D. The Prayer of the Abiding
15:7 – Prayers formed in regard to His work
Pledge or guarantee of fulfillment.
E. The Promise to the abiding – 15:8 – God is immediately glorified by fruit. Intimate relationship. The Lord's work is accomplished thru branches that produce for the Vine
F. The Motivation – 15:9-11
1 – LOVE – Father for Son – Mt. 3:16-17; 17:24
– Christ for disciples
– Jer. 31:3 – God's love is everlasting
2 – SUBMISSION – As Christ to Father
– So believers to God
– How? – 15:10
3 – JOY – Result of God's love + obedience to God's direction
– Perfect joy to those w/ X in O's love

III. RESULTS OF THIS UNION – 15:12-17

A. The Perfect Type of Love – 15:12
1 – 15:13 – Limitless, even unto death; SACRIFICIAL
B. The Changing Because of Love – 15:14-15
– Emphasis is not on the doing but on the friendship. Be A FRIEND of the Lord, told the plan of God, because they were friends.
C – Our Reaction To The Love – 15:16 – Produced lasting fruit
15:17 – Exhibit lasting love

"WHAT'S A PASTOR TO DO?"

Acts 6:4

John 15:16

Intro A.- Call To The Ministry:

1- Apr. 1950
2- Whatever "THE MINISTRY" was
3- John 15:16 was my verse

B.- Basic Truths I Gradually Learned:

1- PRIORITIES
2- PRINCIPLES
3- PRACTICE
4- Share them for a developing philosophy of the Ministry

I.- PRIORITIES OF THE MINISTRY

A.- The Historical Setting — Acts 6:1-7

B.- The Helpful Seven

1- Spiritual men
2- Physical Tasks

C.- Three Lessons — 6:4

1- ELIMINATION
2- DELEGATION — Deacons
3- CONCENTRATION ON ESSENTIALS

COOPERATION
Work thru others

Xerox, Mimeograph
Illus Custodian Care of Grants Pass Ch.
Church Sign Board

(a) Prayer
(b) Ministry of the Word
- Whole counsel
- Message is delineated — GOSPEL
- Methods are limited — WORD

II.- PRINCIPLES OF THE MINISTRY

A.- The Passage — John 21:15-17

B.- The Points:

1- ATTITUDE OF LOVE
- Toward Christ

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

- Needs constant checking — Jesus asked Peter ——— + He asks US!
- Openly confessed

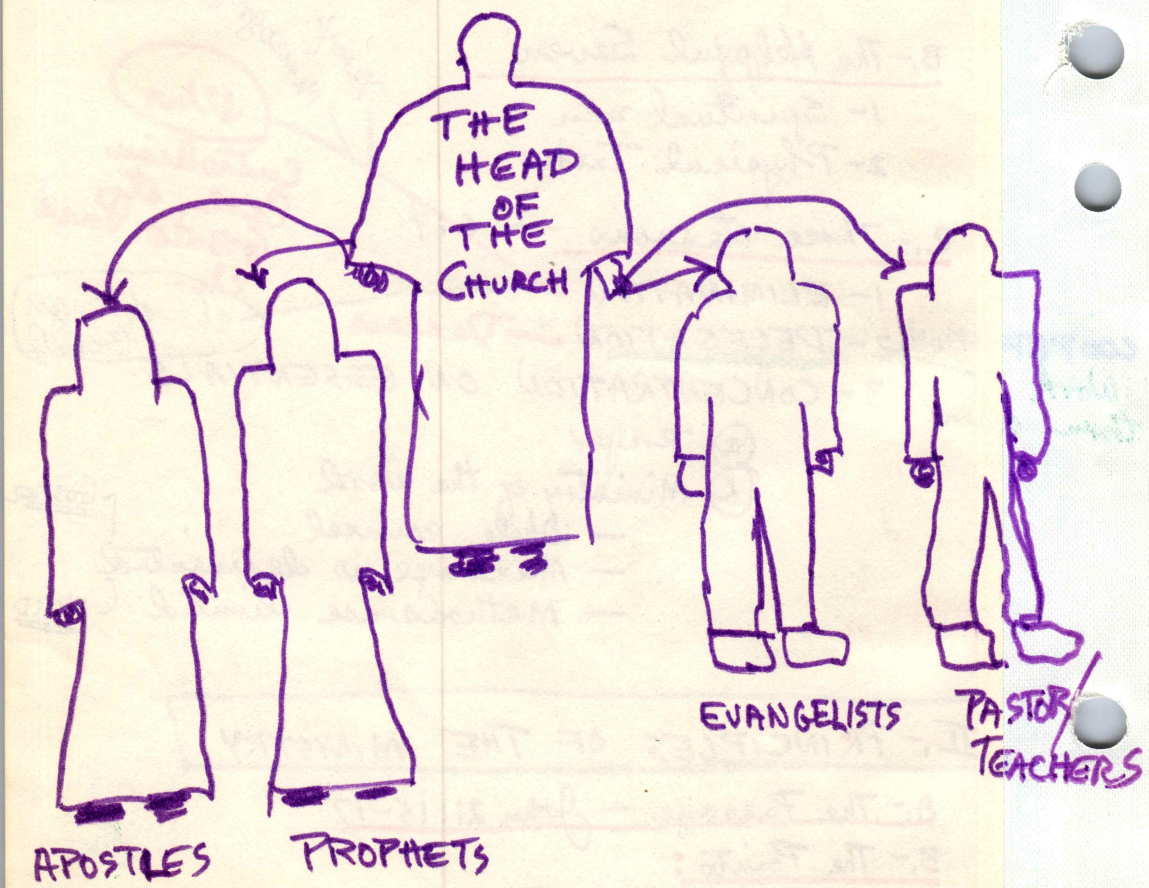
2- ACTIVITIES OF LOVE

- Always sheep-oriented
- 2 words for sheep — LAMBS, SHEEP
- 2 words for "feed" — "to feed as tending + shepherding" / "To feed w/ approp kind of food"
- 3 combinations
- Sheep vary in levels of development + needs
- Shepherd is to meet them where they are ——— + lead them on
- PEOPLE are our most important product

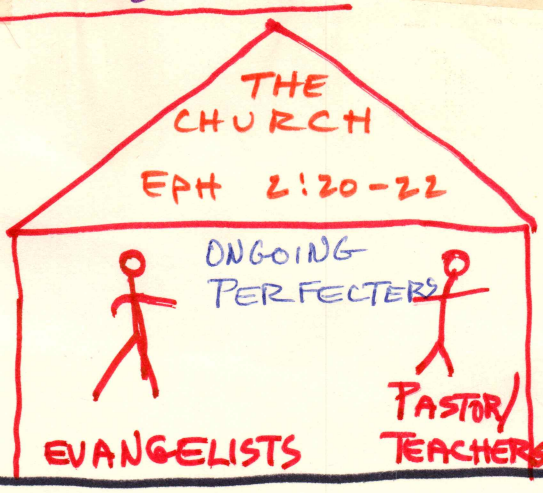
III.- PRACTICE OF THE MINISTRY

A.- Basic Passage — Eph. 4:11-16 Read

B.- Overhead # 1



C,- Overhead # 2 :



EPH. 4:11-16

Human — ~~THE~~ FOUNDATION — APOSTLES + PROPHETS
EPH. 2:20

THE ROCK — JESUS CHRIST
MATT 16:18
1 Cor. 3:11
Divine Foundation

1- Gifts to men / Gifted men to the Church
2- Ev. + P/T are currently found in the Ch.
3- Prophets + Apostles are NOT currently found — Contra MORMONS
4- Ministry is TO PROFIT the Saints; Body built up
- EDIFICATION COMPLEX
- Neglect of EVANGELISM COMMISSION

Biblical Ap. + Prophets have a CONTINUING MINISTRY to us today — Illus Wedding ring

5- Building up QUALITATIVELY (= Leadership)
- SPIRITUALLY (Quality)
- NUMERICALLY
- Both are intended!
- Never close be on either/or

6- Pastor is the KEY — BOTTLENECK is always at TOP

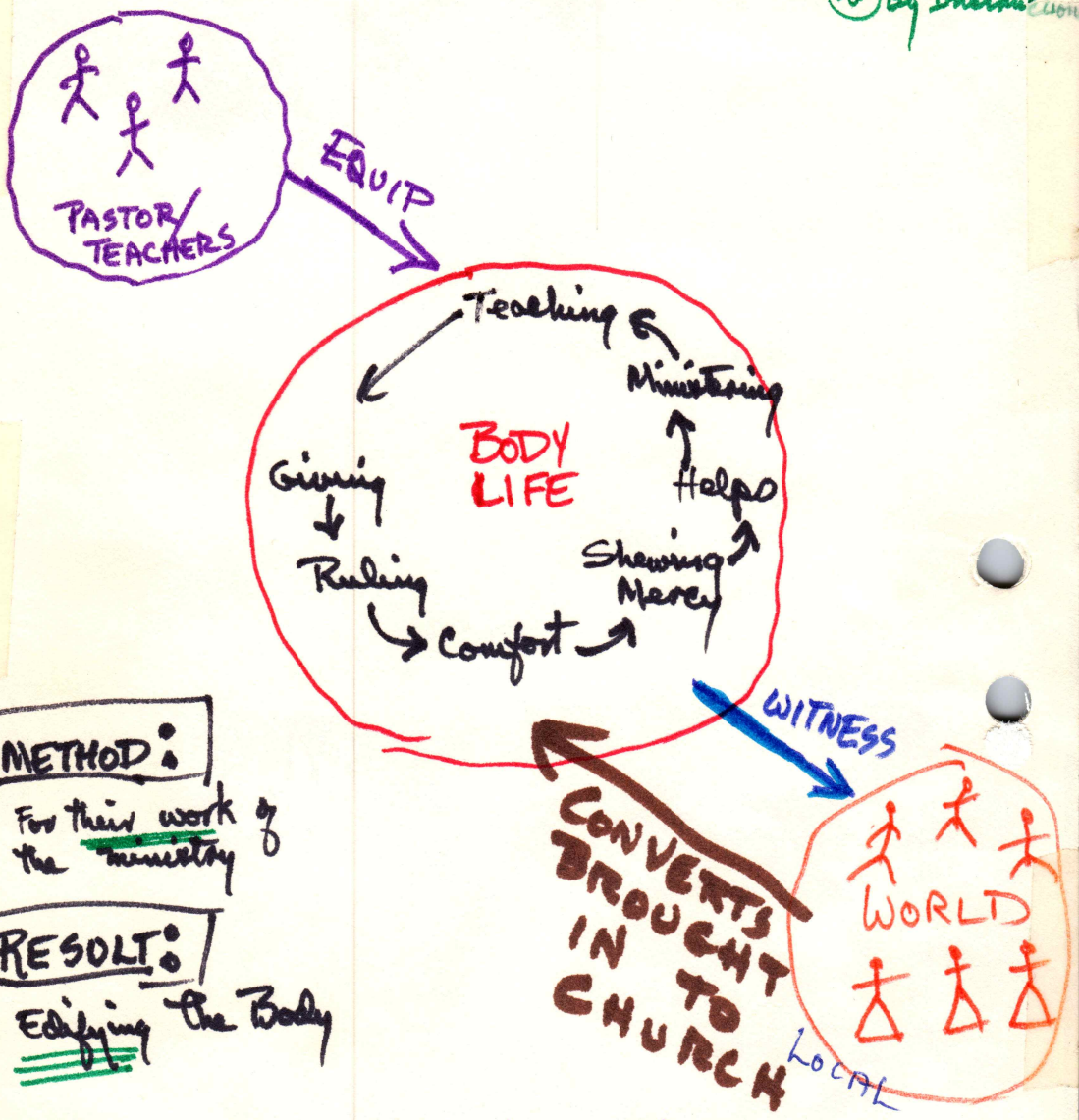
BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

D.- Overhead # 3

1- DUALITY of functions

- PASTOR = Shepherd — People Work
- Teacher = Equipper — Training Work
  - (a) By Example
  - (b) By Instruction

2- Explain Overhead :



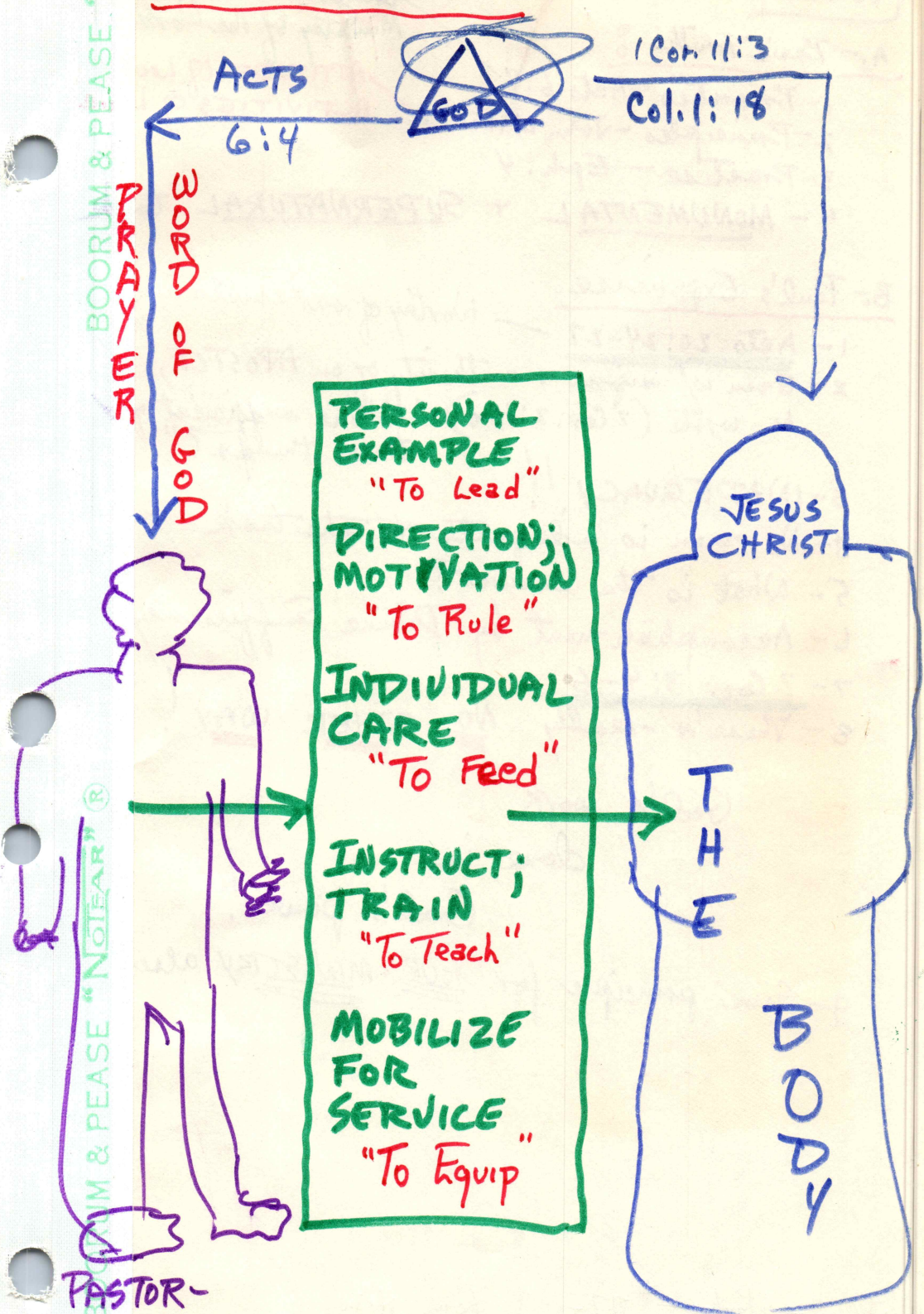
METHOD: For their work of the ministry

RESULT: Edifying the Body

3- As a Shepherd to the flock
As an Instructor to a class

VARIOUS FUNCTIONS ....

E. – Overhead #4



EPH. 4:7-12

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

CONCL

A.- Basic Truths:

1- Priorities - Acts 6:4 — Prayer / Ministry of The Word
2- Principles - John 21:15-17 — ATTITUDE of Love / ACTIVITIES of Love
3- Practice — Eph. 4
4 - MONUMENTAL + SUPERNATURAL task

B.- Paul's Experience

1- Acts 20:24-27 — Worthy of our emulation
2- Even w/ signs + authority of an APOSTLE, he wrote (2 Cor. 2:16c) "Who is sufficient for these things?"
3- INADEQUACY !!
4- No man is adequate ~~to the task~~
5- What is the answer?
6- Accomplishment by Divine Sufficiency
7- 2 Cor. 3:4-6
8- There's really NO OTHER WAY!

God's work
done in
God's power!

9- Same principle for YOUR MINISTRY also

Westbrae - 9/22/74 - #77 - "I Love Him"
Calvary Columbus 11/3/74 #387 - "Channels Only"

John 15:16 & 1 Thess. 5:24 — GOD'S CALL TO THIS PLACE

Intro: 1.- The call here to Spring Branch is by the church as it has been led of God.
2.- The message today is not to the world or the community---Message is to US --members and pastor
3.- Let us not look to ourselves for: 1-call; 2-power or 3-Results---but to God & our doing as He leads

I.- CHOSEN
A.-Man is not the prime-mover
1-Ways of man & ways of God are different--Isa:55:8-9
2-None that seeketh after God--Rom. 3:11
3-God reaches us when we are not looking for it--ILLUS-Man who walked into Mission in Dallas just killing time.
B.-God has chosen
1-God's choice is personal & not mass.---YOU
2-Not the high and mighty, but the poor & foolish--contrary to our self styled evaluations--1 Cor. 1:26-29.
3-Vessels for honor & service-Acts 9:15
4-The choice and plan are along God's lines & not ours. illus--my telling Lou---"I'll tell you one thing, You'll never make a preacher out of me.
C.-We must choose God's choice.
1-No man is coerced into salvation
2-Like a minister of whom I've heard who had printed on the back of his calling card a ballot & asked people to vote. He said God cast FOR our salvation. Satan cast AGAINST our salvation. It is up to US to break the tie.

II.-ORDAINED = CALLED
A.-Again it is Personal ---not a group.
1-illus. Paul the Apostle--Gal. 1:15 "it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by His grace"---Rom. 1:1 "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God."
2-One out of the whole group now & then for each job--each equally in the Lord's will--whether preacher, or teacher, Dr., lawyer, machinist, ditch-digger.
B.-GO FORTH
1-Fruit not gained by staying still & quiet--illus. James 4:3--cartoon of prayer meeting asking God to send souls when they were not willing to go out & get them
2-Schooling or preparation for whatever God has called you to do---
a.-Apostle Paul "D. T. S."--Gal. 1:17
b.-Me---work part time to determine gifts--then full time to exercise & develop gifts
C.-BRING FORTH MUCH FRUIT
1-Much or little is in His hands alone
2-Our responsibility is to be faithful--1 Cor. 4:1 "It is required of stewards, that a man be found faithful."
3-Just what & where & how much --as pleases Him.

III.- COMFORTED
A.-Not just to LABOR, but that the fruit should REMAIN....
1-because done unto Him
2-because done in His way on basis of the Word.
B.-Some will be in Heaven because of our:
1-Going
2-Giving
3-Praying
C.-Touchstone of all we do is "ask of the Father in my name"

IV.- CONCLUSION --The application to US
1-Our call will fail if it is of ourselves only
2-Our service will fail if it is of ourselves only.
3--BUT--when the call is from Him, He is Faithful to also do it.

4-illus- Charles Haddon Spurgeon, the prince of preachers, telling about his grandfather in one of his sermons, said: "He had a large family and a very small income, but he loved his Lord, and he would not have given up his preaching of the Gospel for anything, not even for an imperial crown. He has told me often how the Lord provided for him. He had a little farm to get his living upon it, and he had a cown which used to give milk forhis many children, and one day when he came up to the cow it fell back with the staggers and died. Grandmother said, "James, how will God provide for the dear children now? Wheat shall we do for milk?" Mother, he said, God said he would provide, and I believe He could send us fifty cows if He pleased.
It so happened that on that day a number of gentlemen were meeting in London, persons whom he did not know, were sitting as a committee for the distribution of money to poor ministers, and they had given it to all who had asked for it. My grandfather had never asked for any, any, he liked to earn his own money. He did not send in any petition or appeal. Well, after the gentlemen had distributed to all who had asked there was five pounds over, and they were considering what they should do with this balance.
Well, said one, there is a Mr. Spurgeon down at Stambourne, in Essex, a poor minister. He stands in need of 5 pounds. Oh, said another, don't send him five pounds. I will put five to it, I know him. He is a worthy man. No, said another, don't send him 10 pounds, I will give another 5 pounds if somebody else will put a fourth 5 pounds to it.
The next morning came a letter to grandmother with ninepence to pay! Grandmother did not like to pay out ninepence for a letter, but there was 20 pounds in it; and as my grandfather opened it he said, Now, can't you trust God about an old cow?"

Friends--We can trust God with our Salvation
Security
Service
Strength to do what He would do thru us....

1 Thess 5:24-25

Faithful is he that calleth you, who will also do it. Brethren, pray for us.

Great is they faithfulness

Read John 15:26--16:15 "He Will Reprove The World" - Jn 16:7-11

Intro.--A.-Part of the "Upper Room Disc."--on way to Gethsamene
B.-Situation--Christ has told them He is going away.
C.-Promise--Not to be left alone & comfortless.

I.- THE COMFORTER = THE HOLY SPIRIT (16:13)

A.-Old Testament--Sovereign--Ps. 51:11 - David prays
B.-Equality with God
1-Equal substitute for Christ--ANOTHER COMFORTER--another of the same character
2-Acts 5:3-4--called God
C.-Now to dwell, abide, and indwell--Jn. 14:16-17
RESIDENT***should be PRESIDENT
D.-To be known--not as Acts 19:2

II.-WORK OF THE SPIRIT TO THE WORLD THRU BELIEVERS

A.-Believers specifically mentioned as the instruments--15:27. The Spirit is equipment for operation in a hostile world---Acts 26:16-18
B.-Synopsis of the Spirit's work
1-Present the facts about SIN, RIGHTEOUSNESS, & JUDGMENT to the world or mankind. Reprove =Convict = Convince.
2-CONVICT all the unsaved of the truth of the facts.
3-CONVINCE those who will open their hearts--2Cor. 4:3-4 Effectual call of God is activated
4-ILLUS- Spurgeon used to say, "We have not to think of quantity. As an illustration: give me fire, I will not bargain for a furnace; give me but a single candle, and a city or a forest may soon be ablaze. A spark is quite sufficient to begin with, for fire multiplies itself; so give us the truth, a single voice, and the Holy Spirit with it, and none can say where the sacred conflagration will end. One Jonah sufficed to subdue all Nineveh by one monotonous sentence oft repeated, and despite the weakness of our present instrumentality, if God does but bless the Gospel, there is no reason why it should not speedily be felt by the whole of London." So also in S. B.
C.-Analysis of the Spirit's work:
1-"of (the facts concerning) sin"--Sins are symptoms. Sin is a malady
a.-Sin takes on a new perspective after Christ appears on the scene. Sin that is capable of DAMNING or CONDEMNING is the SIN OF UNBELIEF.
b.-Salvation is not by a mere mental assent to the facts, by a full trust in Christ as Savior.
c.-State of the heart of man is indicated by his response to the call of the Holy Spirit--ILLUS- A man was held hostage in a house in Chicago by a gangster. Though the gangster had died from bullet wounds, the hostage was afraid to leave the house for fear both of the gangster's friends and his enemies When the Police surrounded the house & called over a P. A. system for those inside to come out--the hostage did. But, if he had been alive, the gangster wouldn't have come out. The state of the hart determines the reaction.
d.-THE SIN--and it is only one--which sends men & women to HELL today is the sin of SON-REJECTION.
--Rejected God--Rom. 1:28
--Rejected God's Servants--Heb. 11:36-37
--Rejected God's Son---So, bound for hell.

illus-1500-244
Whitefield's Sermon - "Sinner, you crucified the Son of God + have rejected Him.

2.-"of (the facts concerning) righteousness"
a.-Man's righteousness is not acceptable--Isa. 64:6
b.-Melanchthon--"The Spirit will accuse this very opinion of human reason which feigns that men are righteous, that is, have remission of sin on account of creditable actions & virtues of their own."
c.-The STANDARD of righteousness is CHRIST--1 Cor. 1:30
d.-His righteousness is proved by His acceptance by the Father. That righteousness can & will be counted to our account if we put our faith in Christ.
3.-"of (the facts concerning) judgment.
a.-"As the world has its own false views of sin and righteousness, so it also has its own false standards of judgment. The Paraclete or Comforter convicts the world of its error here too. The world might think that "the powers of darkness" conquered at Gethseman & Calvary, but the Resurrection & Ascension proved that what looked like victory was a most signal defeat; instead of conquering, he was judged."
b.-conviction of Judgment deals with:
(1)--false judgments of men
(2)--judgment of Satan
(3)--all the judgment of sin which was poured out on X
c.-"is judged"---should read "has been judged"--PAST--not a coming judgment, but a past one.
-deals primarily with Satan--Jn. 12:31; Heb. 2:14
d.-Praise God there is ABSOLUTE DELIVERANCE FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST---Rom. 8:1----John 5:24.

ILLUS

III.-WORK OF THE SPIRIT FOR BELIEVERS

A.-Why????---not able to bear it yet
B.-Guide--Into all truth--concerning X--center of Christianity.
1-A guide implies a pilgrimage---and a process.
2-ILLUS--A man who had heard of the marvelous ministry of Moody said, "I have come a hundred miles to get some of Mr. Moody's spirit." "You don't want my spirit, was the reply. What you want is the guidance of the Spirit of God."
C.-Speak--not of self,---things heard between Father & Son
---but, what is in the Word.
D.-Shew things to come--1-Prophecy--2-N. T.--3-Daily guidance.
E.-Glorify Christ---not self
F.-Work of theSpirit to Believers is to have full sway in their lives

CONCL.
A.-The Holy Spirit is God
B.-Spirit convicts of Sin, Righteousness, & Judgment--shows the victory has already been won.
C.-~~Spirit is~~ & ~~show the Christian.~~
Illus-The Work of the Spirit is to GUIDE--unsaved ~~& saved alike.~~ Just as God provided the STAR to lead the wide men to the place where Christ lay shortly after His birth, so now the Spirit is given to lead men to Him.

ILLUS--Quarrymen find hard rock. make a groove. Use steel wedges if it doesn't break, then they use wooden wedges & pour water on. This process is slower, but it always breaks the rock. Just so when the Spirit works on the hearts of men. Sometimes they break under the claims of Christ with just a little pressure. Sometimes the hearts are hard & won't yield easily. Some may refuse Christ even to dying in their sins, but in an eternal hell their hearts will be broken when it is too late for salvation

THE ILLUMINATION OF THE BIBLE

John 16:1-15
Eph. 1:15-19

Isa. 66:1-2
Ps. 119:18

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT ILLUMINATION:

INTRO:

A.-Definition of A Philosopher: — Man groping without the benefit of REVELATION

1-Blind man searching
2-In a blacked-out room
3-For a black cat
4-THAT ISN'T THERE

B.-Man Is Like That:

1-Blinded by sin
2-Groping for knowledge of the Eternal
3-Knows in his heart that "something" must be existing that can explain to him
- --WHO he is
- --WHERE he came from
- --WHY he is here
- --WHENCE he is going
- --HOW he is to get there

4-Needed---------a "SPIRITUAL DAWNING" ← A REVELATION
- In Nature
- In Bible
- In Christ

5-Provided-------the Holy Spirit
6-Let's look at--The Spirit Himself
- --The Spirit & The Unsaved
- --The Spirit & The Believer

I.-THE HOLY SPIRIT HIMSELF:

A.-~~Spirit Is~~ A Person ~~Not~~ An Influence!:

1-Deniers arose--Arius in 2nd Century---Condemned by Council of Nicea
- --Socinus--After Protestant Reformation

2-Misleading translation
- --Rom. 8:26--"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."
- --Gk. is not "IT", but "HE"--Not Neuter, but Masculine

3-Jn. 14:26--"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things,"

Jn. 14:16-17--"Another Comforter"
- --Another of the same character as Christ
- --Thus, a PERSON.
- --Seen in the Personal Pronouns of 14:17

1 Jn. 4:4 — "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world."

B.-Spirit Is Equally God:

2-Linked with the Father & the Son--Mt. 28:19 "Go ye therefore and disciple all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father + of the Son + of the Holy Ghost"
- --2 Cor. 13:14--"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, + the love of God, + the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all."

3-Does equal work--creation
- --resurrection of Christ

1-Called God--Acts 5:3-4--"But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, & to keep back part of the price of the land?...why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men,

but unto God."

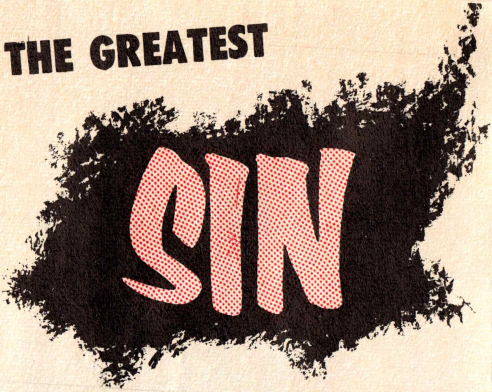
C.-Other Important Details:
1-Present in all ages to minister in some fashion
2-Especially active in this dispensation of the Church--
Sometimes called the dispensation of the Holy Spirit
3-"CAME" in a special sense
--After Christ was glorified & ascended(Jn.7:37-
--At Pentecost (Acts 2)— Incarnation of the Spirit
--Superintendent of the Church; Vicar of Christ on earth.
4-Christ was LOCALIZED in one place; Spirit is EVERYWHERE in all the world
5-Design--Not just RESIDENT
but PRESIDENT !

II.-THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE UNSAVED:

A.-Other Ministries: NEGATIVE
1-Striving with men about impending judgment
--Gen. 6:3--"And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years."
2-Restraining Sin--2 Thess. 2:7--"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only He who now letteth (hindereth) will let (hinder), until He be taken out of the way."
--Isa. 59:19--"...When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him."
--HOW ??--By human government
--By thought of God's judgment
--By conscience
--By presence of the Church

B.-"Reproving"=="Convicting"=="Enlightening": POSITIVE
1-Jn. 16:7-11
2-The sending of the Spirit is the final proof of the AUTHORITY of Christ in answering His prayer of 14:16-17
3-Areas of "Enlightenment" of the "WORLD" (Unsaved)
--Of SIN
--of RIGHTEOUSNESS
--Of JUDGMENT
--These are FACTS that the Spirit is charged with making the world reckon with
--These are the ONLY AREAS to expect the Spirit to convict of
--This is GOD'S WORK, not man's
4-OF SIN--Of unbelief
--Not drinking smoking, dancing, etc.
--Not even adultery, lying, idolatry, etc.
--But the SIN OF UNBELIEF
--In essence, it is the "SON question"
--Spirit woos to belief in Christ
TRACT
5-OF RIGHTEOUSNESS--Righteousness of Christ in life
--Righteousness of Christ in death
--Righteousness in acceptability into heaven so we see Him no more on earth

THE GREATEST SIN



You may have felt that the beginning of World War II was the greatest sin and that Hitler was the greatest sinner. But that is not true. Some have felt that the release of the atomic bomb on unaware Japanese victims was the greatest sin. But that cannot be true.

Common belief has been that murder is the greatest single sin. Then come the sins of adultery, fornication, drunkenness, robbery, and blasphemy. These are grave sins . . .; yet there is one sin even greater—one sin that will condemn a soul to Hell for all eternity!

Do you know that this greatest sin is one of the most common in the world today? Can you believe that many of our friends are committing this very sin and are not aware of it? Perhaps even you have never before realized the significance of this sin. What is it?

Let us turn to the Bible, and with the Word of God as our guide, let us see what God judges to be the greatest sin. In John 16:8, 9 we read the words of the Lord Jesus Christ: "And when He [the Holy Spirit] is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: *of sin, because they believe not on Me*."

Here God is telling men and women that THE GREATEST SIN IS THE SIN OF NOT BELIEVING ON CHRIST. God can forgive all sins, but if men and women go on rejecting or neglecting Christ, this sin will condemn them to a lost eternity forever and ever.

What have you done with Christ? If you have believed on Him you have eternal life. "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life . . ." (I John 5:13). If you have not believed on Christ, in the sight of God you are committing the greatest sin.

Do not make the sad mistake that many make here. They have believed *about* Christ all their lives. They mistake religion, culture and morality for salvation—but salvation comes only through believing *on* Christ as *personal Saviour*.

God sent His Son into the world. At Calvary's cross God judged Him and put Him to death for your sins and my sins. In Isaiah 53:5 we read: "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed." God took all the sins of the world—all the black sins, the vile sins, the sins of every degree and of every kind—and judged His Son for them.

Is it any wonder then if you do not believe on Christ, God has nothing to offer you? God gave the

best He had—His own Son—to die in your place and to be judged for your sins. If you reject Him or even go on neglecting Him, you are guilty of the sin for which there is no forgiveness. In John 3:36 we read: "He that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

"How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" (Hebrews 2:3.) "What shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" (I Peter 4:17.)

—Clyde H. Dennis

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the Greatest SIN

--Righteousness authenticates what Christ said
--CLOSES the door to Righteousness for us unless we are possessors of that righteousness in Christ
--Rom. 4:4-5--"Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."

6-OF JUDGMENT--Judgment is sure — Will come upon all — Heb. 9:27
--Judgment has been already accomplished, though not executed
--If the PRINCE OF THIS WORLD (Satan) could not escape judgment, then how shall any mere man?
--ILLUS--There is a wonderful picture called the "GAME OF DEATH", in which a young man is represented as playing chess with the Devil. The Devil has apparently won the game by the position of the chessmen. A noted chess player once went to see the picture, and after looking at it, he said, "I CAN SAVE THAT FELLOW". He then explained how the chessmen should be moved to save the game. "THAT," said Dr. Stuart Holden, "IS WHAT JESUS CHRIST HAS DONE. HE HAS IN ONE MOVE ETERNALLY CHECK*MATED DEATH and the Devil, and snatched the prey from the mighty."

* --Heb. 2:3
--Heb. 9:27
--Absolute deliverance is available----THAT'S the message the Spirit speaks to the person without Christ
--Rom. 8:1

C.-Conclusions About The Spirit's Illumination Of The Unsaved:
1-Stick to the facts
2-Present BIBLICAL ISSUES, not secondary ones
3-Pray for illumination to take place
4-2 Cor. 4:3-6 (READ)
5-QUESTION----Do you have this spiritual illumination?
--Has the light of the gospel shined in to you?

III.-THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE SAVED:

A.-Other Ministries:
1-Regeneration
2-Baptism
3-Indwelling
4-Sealing
5-Filling.....when conditions are fulfilled

→ Instantaneous, Simultaneous & Universal for all believers

B.-Illumination Of The Saved Person
1-Spiritual Equipment or Endowment
--Released from being a "Natural Man"--1 Cor. 2:14
(1) --Given the Spirit --1 Cor. 2:12—"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might KNOW the things which are freely given to us of God."
**Not the spirit of the world
**But the Spirit of God
**That we might KNOW the things that are freely given to us of God"
**Freely endowed ! !

(2) --1 Jn. 2:20--"But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things."

New ASB "and you all Know"

**Not an ordinance
**But a birthright — PRIVATE TUTOR inside
**As a result of the Spirit's indwelling

(3) --1 Jn. 2:27--"But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth and is no lie, and even as it (He) hath taught you, ye shall abide in him."

**Anointing (w/ the Spirit) abides in us & doesn't depart
**Anointing is to teach us
**Anointing is to make clear the truth
**Anointing is to encourage our abiding in Christ

2-Spiritual ~~Illumination~~ Enlightening

(4) --Jn. 16:12-15
**Not during Christ's ministry in their midst physically
**But after the Spirit's coming
**Called the "Spirit of TRUTH"

* --Three-Fold Illumination ***All truth (1)
***Things to come (2)
***Things glorifying to Christ (3)

* ***ILLUS--Gen. 24 where the work of the Servant was to testify to the BRIDE concerning the SON

***Pentecost--"The Holy Spirit, then, is an illuminator. He does not reveal new truth today; we do not discover new things about God"(P.32-The Divine Comforter)

* ***ILLUS--Guide leads into unknown area and "Turns the Light On" for you---- as in CARLSBAD CAVERNS.

3-Spiritual Teaching

(5) --Jn. 14:26--"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

--He makes it clear what Christ means for us to know

--ILLUS--Have you never wished in reading a novel or a textbook, that you could more clearly apprehend what a given paragraph was intended to convey? I have!
Well, with the Bible you have this rare privilege. He who is the "Channel of Revelation", the Spirit of God, is present with you to teach you authoritatively & accurately.

--Spirit is not an ORIGINATOR, but He receives from Christ to show unto us (Jn. 16:14-15)

--Spirit has access to the "deep things" (1 Cor. 2:10-11) which we could know in no other way.*

--F. O. Seamans--"Christ so perfectly & clearly answered questions put to Him on earth that we can logically assume that He will not let a prayer request for enlightenment & understanding go unheeded now." as He teaches us by His Spirit.

1 Cor. 2:13 — "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth, comparing spiritual things with spiritual"

ILLUS — Heb. 9:8

4-Spiritual Results---Eph. 1:15-19

--Spirit of wisdom & revelation
--center in a "knowledge of Him"
--To the point of understanding (Gk.--"heart") being "Enlightened"
--So you (and I) can KNOW — Precious Privilege
(1) What is the hope of His calling
(2) What are the riches of the glory of His Inheritance in the saints
(3) What is the exceeding greatness of His power to usward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.
--ONLY way we get these straight is thru the Spirit of God taking the Word of God and making it clear to the seeking Child of God

One condition for receiving more light is that we are faithful & true to the light already given.

Deductions

C.-Five [redacted] About the Illumination Of The Believer By The Spirit:

1. This Illumination is promised & given to ALL BELIEVERS
--Some "use" it
--Some "abuse"it
--Many neglect it
--But all have it----Him, who is the Spirit of God
--1 Jn. 2:20, 27

2. This Illumination admits of degrees
--Some study & some don't
--Some appropriate & some don't
--Some take time & some don't
--Some are, therefore, more effectively the recipients of the illumination of the Spirit than are others.

3. This Illumination depends not on sovereign choice, but on personal adjustment to the Spirit
--Can't sluff off the subject by saying: "Well, I'm just not endowed with the Spirit's illumination"
--YES YOU ARE ! ! ! !
--But, perhaps you're not in "focus" with the Spirit
--CHRISTIAN---Rightly related to Christ
MATURE CHRISTIAN--Rightly related to the Word
SPIRITUAL CHRISTIAN--Rightly related to the Spirit
.....WHICH are you? ? ?
--If there is a "bottle-neck"----------it is YOU!!
**Spirit is in you
**Truth is available
**Get with it !

4. Without the Illumination of the Spirit, none can come to salvation, or to a knowledge of God's revealed truth

5. Our glorying--Not in self
--Not in Spirit, but CHRIST
--Pentecost--"I think it significant that in the Word of God we have over two hundred names and titles applied to the Lord Jesus Christ, but when we come to the third Person of the Trinity the Holy Spirit who does the work of revealing, He is primarily referred to as the Spirit, or the Holy Spirit, or the Spirit of God. No long list of names & titles are used concerning the One who is as much God as the Father or the Son. Why? Because His ministry is not

to glorify Himself, but our Lord Jesus." (P. 33, The Divine Comforter)

--So,.....Gal. 6:14--"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."

CONCLUSION:

A.-Illumination Of Unsaved:
1-Convicts Of SIN
2-Convicts of RIGHTEOUSNESS
3-Convicts Of JUDGMENT
4-To bring men, women & children to a DECISION
5-Have made yours yet? Why not now?

B.-Illumination Of Believer:
1-Endowed with the Spirit
2-Illumined by the Spirit
3-Taught by the Spirit
4-Spiritual Results--His Calling known
--His Inheritance revelled in
--His Power appropriated

5-Are you
--A CHANNEL.....or
--A BOTTLENECK.....?????

.....

Westbrae 5/30/65
7/9/70
Servicemen in Vallejo - 11/24/73

Holy, Holy, Holy ——— #20
Open Mine Eyes, That I May See - 371
I Know Whom I Have Believed —— #264
Just As I Am

John 16:12-15 "He will guide you into all truth"

Intro---A.-The Spirit CONVICTS the World of Sin, of R., ofJ.
B.-The Spirit ENLIGHTENS the Christians
C.-Subject of the Spirit's enlighting is CHRIST--Center of Christianity is Christ.

I.-HE WILL GUIDE YOU---16:13 (if you are a X-n 1 Cor 2:14)

A.-When He is come---in the sense of this new & specialized ministry.
1-not while Christ on earth.
2-after X's resurrection & ascension
3Day of Pentecost--Baptism of the Spirit put believers into Christ---now He is able to guide them into truth

B.-Guide into all truth.
1-what is a guide---one who leads, but cannot compel
---takes you into an unknown land
a-turns on the light for you
b-shows you the path that is safe
c-explains and suggests
Illus--Carlsbad guide

2-Spirit of God shows the things of God to the people of God.
1 Cor. 2:10-12

3-ALL truth--no limit on our horizon
a- explorers of land are limited by the amount of the land to be explored, but truth is full of unexplored facets
b- particular reference to Biblical truth, but not limited thereto--all truth is God's truth--1 Cor.1:4-5
c- Christ is the center of Christianity Jn. 14:6
d- ILLUS--Someone wrote congratulating the Rev. Archibald Brown upon his devoted and successful work for Christ, and asked the secret of it. "The answer isvery simple," he said. "Fifty years ago Archibald Brown was joined up to the main, and the tap has been running ever since. As we open up the inner cells of our being to God's Holy Spirit and ask Him to teach us, He will surely guide us into all truth.

C.-Source of the Message.
1-The Spirit is not an author; --not an editor; --But, He is a REPORTER
2-Spirit takes the conversation of the Father & the Son and makes it clear to us what is the will of God.
3-Spirit takes the Word of God and makes it clear to us what is the doctrine of God.
4-There is perfect unity among the members of The Godhead. Subordination to do a job.
5-ILLUS --A man who had heard of the marvelous ministry of Moody said, "I have come a hundred miles to get some of Mr. Moody's spirit." "You don't want my spirit," was the reply. "What you want and need is the guidance of the Spirit of God into the truth of God."

II.-HE WILL SHOW YOU THINGS TO COME --16:13

A.-Revelation--Pre-authentication of the New Testament.
1-many things had not yet been told them--unable to bear.
2-promise that revelation would be complete--"all things"
3-Only a few persons chosen to be the human channels of revelation--Mt., Jn., Mk., Lk., Paul, Peter, James, Jude.
4-Message was still God's--human channels
--God's message
--How?--2 Pet. 1:21"borne along

A.-Revelation Illus.
B.-Apprehension--The container of God's revelation is full,& The Spirit makes it flow. The bottleneck that slows or stops---is you and me.

1-Prophecy--What God's plan is:
- a-Jew
- b-Gentlile
- c-Church of God
- d-earth and heaven's destiny
- e-Satan & his angels destiny

2-New Testament---Understanding the Word--Christ logically and clearly answered problems and doubts when He was on the earth. Does the same now through the Word & Spirit.

3-Daily guidance--illustration par-excellance--Pillar of cloud by day & pillar of fire by night.
- 1-moral issues
- 2-decisions
- 3-service
- 4-witnessing

5-"Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh" Gal. 5:16

III.-HE SHALL GLORIFY ME 16:14

A.-Spirit doesn't make much of self--glorifies Christ
1-error of Pentacostalism
2-Spirit teaches Christ's words, not His own--not another gospel.

B.-Spirit doesn't lead believers to glorify themselves--
Gal. 6:14 "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." 1 Pet. 5:6
Contra Rev. 18:7

C.-Spirit will GLORIFY CHRIST---CHRIST IS TO BE EXALTED.
1-bringing sinners to know Christ as savior
2-Bringing saints to trust Christ as the Lord of their lives.
3-Confirms to the heart of the believer the authority and glory of Christ.
4-Reveal the RICHES AND REALITIES of Christ to believers.
- a- Person
- b- Work.

Concl.---It is the Work of the Spirit concerning the WORD to:
1-guide into all truth
2-show us things to come
3-glorify Christ

It turns on the Floodlight in our presence. Upon the Book, down the corridor of time, + then upon the glorious Person of the Son of God.

440

FEATURES OF DIVINE REVELATION

John 16:1-15

GOD'S DIVINE REVELATION

Isa. 59:19-21

INTRO: A.-Bible's Importance:

When the TIME CAPSULE, a huge torpedo-shaped shell of Vitalloy, was buried 50 feet deep on Long Island at the World's Fair in 1939, to be exhumed 5,000 years later, more than 100 modern objects were inclosed in addition to microfilm & pictures of contemporary life. The Capsule purports to be a means of acquainting civilizations of the far-distant future with the achievments of our time. Except for the thin book of record explaining the Capsule, only one full-sized volume was inclosed. That was THE BIBLE.

An official of the company sponsoring the project was asked why the Bible was the book chosen. He replied, "The Bible, of all books familiar to us today, will most likely survive thru the ages. Therefore, the Bible that we place in the Time Capsule will be a sort of connecting link between the past, present, and future."

HOW RIGHT! The Word of God will survive the next 5,000 years, though the world may not. "For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in Heaven." (Ps. 119:89)

A. J. Moncrief wrote:

"The Book of God will stand secure
When sun and stars decline;
Its ageless truths will still endure
To prove its source divine."

B.-Bible's Popularity: = Durability

It is estimated that only 1 half of 1 % of all books published survive 7 years; that 800 out of every 1000 books are forgotten in 1 year. The Bible's popularity has steadily grown throughout its history of more than 3000 years. Truth can alone stand the test of time; error and falsehood and futility crumble away. And truth, to prevail as the Bible has done, must have a vital relationship to life.

I.-ATTITUDES TOWARD REVELATION:

(4 of them in 20th Century)

A.-The Historic View:

1-The Bible IS the Word of God

2-View held by--the Apostles
--the Church Fathers
--Early Romanists--Jerome & Augustine
--Reformers
--Fundamentalists of all ages

* 3-Heart of historic Christianity

4-"Verbal Plenary Inspiration"
--Verbal; ==extending to every word being inspired
--Plenary; ==extending to all parts being inspired

5-CALVIN--"But since we are not favoured with daily oracles from heaven, & since it is only in the Scriptures that the Lord hath been pleased to preserve his truth in perpetual remembrance, it obtains the same complete credit and authority with believers, when they are satisfied of its divine

origin, as if they heard the very words pronounced by God himself." (Institutes, Bk. 1, Ch. 7, P. 75)

6-LUTHER--"It cannot be otherwise," he says, "for the Scriptures are divine; in them God speaks and they are His Word" (Luther & The Scriptures, M. Reu, 1944, P. 17)

7-Summary---Edw. J. Young--"The disjunction between the Word of God and the Words of the Bible is one that is impossible to make." (Thy Word Is Truth, P. 230)

8-Master this historic Christian view so as to compare the heresies with it and be able to see their COUNTERFEIT NATURE

B.-The Modernist View: (OUTRIGHT DENIAL OF SCRIPTURE)

1-Roots--in German rationalism — MIND of man as the ultimate standard
--in German Higher Criticism — JEDP

2-Began--In Europe in 1800's, especially 1850 and following
--In USA at turn of century

3-Fundamentalist stand--In 1923 the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. declared among other things the following: '....the Holy Spirit did so inspire, guide and move the writers of Holy Scripture as to keep them from error....' This declaration on the part of the Assembly, a declaration which is in perfect harmony with the teaching of the Bible itself, was met by strong opposition.

4-Counterstatement of Denial--A counterstatement appeared in a document which, because of the city in which it was drawn up, has come to be known as the 'AUBURN AFFIRMATION.' The affirmation was an attack not only upon the particular declaration just quoted, but also upon several other cardinal doctrines of the Christian faith. With respect to the statement of the Assembly concerning the Scriptures, the AFFIRMATION MAINTAINED that 'there is no assertion in the Scriptures that their writers were kept "from error"'. They further departed by stating, 'We hold that the General Assembly of 1923, in asserting that "the Holy Spirit did so inspire, guide and move the writers of Holy Scriptures as to keep them from error," SPOKE WITHOUT WARRANT OF THE SCRIPTURES OR OF THE CONFESSION OF FAITH'

5-Modernism declared that the Bible was full of errors and contradictions

6-Exponents--S. R. Driver
--Harry Emerson Fosdick
--Bishop Oxnam
--John Mackay, etc

Henry P Van Dusen
Norman Vincent Peale
Henry Coffin Sloan
Theodore MC Gill
Nels F.S. Ferre

7-Generally discredited, but not departed as a view today

C.-Neo-Orthodox View: (NEW ORTHODOXY)

1-Post W.W. 1 and into W.W. 2

2-European exponents--Karl Barth
--Emil Brunner

3-American exponents--Paul Tillich
--Reinhold Niehbur

4-Their position

--A "new" orthodoxy
--Bible CONTAINS the Word of God
--But disclaims an objective statement that the Bible IS the Word of God
--Still maintains there are errors as well as truths in the Bible.

-This view is not really NEW, and it certainly is not ORTHODOXY.

5-Their attitude--Neo-Orthodoxy is a "half-way-house"
--Between Modernism & fundamental Christianity
--Still a DENIAL
--Still of the Devil, the father of all lies.
--Much closer to Modernism than fundamentalism
--Who chooses what is truth or what is error in the Bible

D.-Neo-Evangelicalism: (NEW EVANGELICALISM)

1-There was a time when "evangelical"" was equivalent to "fundamental" as a solid term of description

2-1948 and following
--Young intellectuals — No doubt of their salvation / Much doubt of their Biblical Orthodoxy
--Christian Life Magazine
--Christianity Today; ETERNITY
--Harold John Ockenga; Park Street Church, Boston, Gordon-Conwell Theol. Sem.
--Edward John Carnell; Fuller Seminary — The Case For Orthodox Theol.
--Vernon Grounds; CBA Seminary in Denver
--Bernard Ramm; Covina Baptist Seminary (ABC)
--David Hubbard; Westmont College & now Fuller Seminary

3-Contention--The Bible BECOMES the Word when it "finds you" or "speaks to you", but again it is not OBJECTIVELY the Word of God

4-Characteristics of Neo-Evangelicalism (Norman Linkart) Eight
- --friendlier attitude toward science(especially in areas of evolution and a universal flood)
- --willingness to "re-examine" beliefs concerning the Holy Spirit
- --a more tolerant attitude toward varying views of eschatology
- --a shift away from so-called "extreme dispensationalism"
- --an increased emphasis on "scholarship"
- --A more definite recognition of social responsibility
- --a reopening of the question of Biblical inspiration
- --a growing willingness for theological dialogue with liberals and Roman catholics.

5-Years ago at Moody B. I., R.A.Torrey used to say, "When the concensus of German scholarship contradicts the Word of God, we reject the concensus of scholarship and we accept the Word of God."

6-We need to remember that the concensus of New Evangelical scholarship which contradicts the Word of God deserves the same treatment!

E.-Various Views Again: (4) of them

1-Historic Christianity--Verbal Plenary inspiration of Bible
2-Modernism---Denial of Bible's accuracy & authority
3-Neo-Orthodoxy--Bible "CONTAINS" the Word of God
4-Neo-Evangelicalism--Bible "BECOMES" the Word of God
5-Each of these denials is SUBJECTIVISM for it makes man the judge of Scripture instead of Scripture the judge of man

II.-FEATURES OF BIBLICAL REVELATION:

A.-It Is Partial:

1-Deut. 29:29--"The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our law."

Fundamental Evangelistic Association

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F.E.A. NEWS & VIEWS

"Put in trust with the Gospel" — I Corinthians 15: 1-4

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Dr. M. H. Reynolds, Jr., Editor

DIMINISH NOT A WORD

Jer. 26:2

When God speaks, He wants people to hear ALL OF HIS MESSAGE - not a revised, altered, edited, abbreviated, watered-down version. God told Jeremiah to "Stand in the court of the Lord's house and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the Lord's house, ALL THE WORDS THAT I COMMAND THEE TO SPEAK UNTO THEM: DIMINISH NOT A WORD! Most people did not want to hear what God said, but God wanted them to hear it anyway. Had Jeremiah toned down the message to make it more acceptable to men, it would not have been acceptable to God.

If anyone thinks the Fundamentalist position and message is too strong, then that person should make his complaint to God Himself. We, as Fundamentalists, are only seeking to stand where He has told us to stand and to say what He has told us to say! The truth of the matter is that confusion abounds in the church today simply because too many pastors have "diminished the Word of God", to avoid offending their constituency. People need to hear God's message - not a computerized, psychologically phrased substitute. We are told that the gospel must be attractively presented so we must not use the words "hell", "born again", and "redeemed". Yet, Jesus Christ warned about hell and said that people need to be saved, born again, redeemed - and that is the message He gave us to preach. DIMINISH NOT A WORD.

Billy Graham Crusades, Key 73 Evangelism, Campus Crusade and other ecumenical evangelistic programs are leading thousands of God's people right into the ecumenical movement and many pastors are silent about these issues. The Far Eastern Broadcasting Association will not take any broadcast which deals with controversial issues. Similar policies are followed by many other Christian radio stations and groups. Jeremiah could never have preached God's message on these stations. He spoke too plainly on controversial issues. People were offended. But, friends, Jeremiah spoke the Word of God and he was under orders to "DIMINISH NOT A WORD."

NEEDED TODAY, more Jeremiahs who will proclaim the gospel and cry aloud against sin in the court of the Lord's house - and DIMINISH NOT A WORD!

9- So.....True Revelation is COMPLETE!

C.-It Is Progressive:

1-O. T. is the oldest book in existence

2-Bible was not given from heaven as a completed whole

3-Principle of Mk. 4:28--"For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear."

4-Reason--Jn. 16:12-13--"I have yet many things to say unto you but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth."

5-Provision--Jn. 14:26--"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

6-Accumulation--of books of the Bible
--of truths revealed
--of forcefulness & clarity
--AUTHORITATIVE canon becomes recognized by all
--Determines INCLUSIONS as well as EXCLUSIONS
--"And how was it that the early Christians came to recognize these writings as inspired of God & to accept them as the authoritative Word of God, so that the 27 books as we have them today were gradually fixed into a Canon of Scripture, rising above all other early writings as cream rises to the top of milk? We find the only satisfying answer in the words of the Psalmist: 'This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes' (Ps. 118:23). He who inspired the writing of the many parts, in many places, by many people, brought them together into the perfect whole, the New Testament."
(The Wonder Of The Word, Gwynn McLendon Day, P. 24)
--"The Canon of Scripture was formed, not suddenly by some startling miracle, not officially by some decision of Synod or Bishop, Prophet or Saint, but slowly, gradually, half consciously by the quiet influence of the Holy Spirit in the minds of men in the Church."
(How We God Our Bible, J. Patterson Smythe,
--The Council of Carthage gave the N. T. Canon formal recognition in the 4th century, but the Canon itself was actually fixed late in the 1st century when the last N. T. book to be written was circulated among the churches.

7-Example Of Progressive Character of Revelation
--Seed of woman
--Seed of Abraham } all in Genesis
--Seed of Judah
--Seed of David } both in 2 Samuel
--King's office
--Seed of God — from Isaiah
--Priestly function — in Psalms
--Prophet's function — from Deuteronomy
--Town of Bethlehem — in Micah

8-Thus, the Book of Revelation is GRAND CENTRAL STATION where truths from the other 65 books pour in

9-So.....True Revelation is PROGRESSIVE

WESTCOTT & HORT--"If comparative trivialities, such as changes of order, the insertion or omission of the article with proper names, & the like, are set aside, the words in our opinion still subject to doubt can hardly amount to more than a thousandth part of the whole N. T." P. 561.

D.-It is Accurate:
1-How? --2 Tim. 3:16
--Breathed of God
--Discuss more fully in a later message
2-Insures --No inaccuracies
--No falsehoods
--No contradictions
Mss. of Isaiah just found are in almost perfect agreement w/ those Mss. which we have had all along. though these are 1000 yrs. older.
3-Mt. 5:17-18 --fully fulfilled
--WHY? --Because they are the WORD OF GOD
(Read)
--Guaranteed by inspiration
--Given to us in a WRITTEN RECORD
--This has been the Church's historic stand
**Not an authoritative church (Romanism)
**But an authoritative Bible (Historic Xnity)
4-DISTURBING QUESTION---- CRUX ISSUE
"If we are not to regard the Bible as a trustworthy witness when it tells what kind of a Book it is, and if we should listen to modern scholars rather than to the Bible, HOW DO WE KNOW that the Bible is a trustworthy witness when it speaks to us about other matters also? Let us state this question as clearly as possible. The Bible, we (SOME) say, is not to be relied upon when it tells us what kind of BOOK it is. But if it is not to be depended upon when it speaks OF ITSELF, how do we know that it is to be trusted when it speaks about anything else?
5-Remember Jesus' own words again---- --Mt. 5:17-18
6-True Revelation is ACCURATE! --about itself
--about all other subjects
* And no doctrine is left in question.

E.-It Is Final:
1-Heb. 1:1-2--"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son..."
--Process of revelation in the past
--Culmination of revelation in the Son
A.T. Robertson says "hath spoken" evidences a finality which denies authority to any ADDITIONAL REVELATIONS as w/ Mormons or Christian Scientists (Gal. 1:6-9)
2-Jude 3--"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."
--Body of truth revealed
--Final & full revelation of that truth
Mt. 24:35 - "Heaven & earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."
3-Rev. 22:16-19 (Read)
4-So.....True Revelation is FINAL

F.-It Is To Show Redemption:
1-Witness of men is quickly received
--Train whistle
--"Fire" warning
--"Stop" sign on the street
--"Slippery when wet" on a curve

Robt Ingersoll, the noted American agnostic of the 19th century, once held a Bible in his hand & presumptuously declared: "In 15 years I will have this book in the morgue!"
In 15 years Ingersoll was in the morgue & the Bible was more alive than ever.

2-1 Jn. 5:9-10--"If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of Gad hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son."

3-Witness of God--GREATER than the witness of men
--Believer knows God thru His Son
--Unbeliever calls God a LIAR
--Unbeliever rejects God's testimony
--Unbeliever rejects a written record.

4-ILLUS--When witnessing you occasionally run into someone who says he is "TRYING TO BELIEVE"
.....Trying to believe WHOM?
--It is GOD who has spoken in His Word to reveal Himself
--What do you mean you are "Trying to believe", when you are dealing with the record of God
--1 Jn. 5:11-12--"And thisis the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; andhe that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

5-ILLUS---The amazing power of the Word of God to show redemption is dramatic testimony to its supernatural Source.

When Captain Mitsuo Fuchida, the Japanese Squadron commander who led the air raid on Pearl Harbor in 1941, and Jacob De Shazer, one of the famed Doolittle flyers who participated in the bombing of Tokyo in 1942, sat on a platform together in Christian evangelistic meetings in Japan, they created a great sensation. And so they should! Bitter national enemies, who had delighted in sending in fiery death and destruction to each other, were united in a tremendous cooperative effort for Christian evangelism. Their strange story is a striking demonstration of the power of God's Word in the lives of men.

When DeShazer dropped his bombs on Tokyo, he exulted in his task. It was joy to send flaming death to the Japanese enemy. But during his 32 months of solitary confinement in a Japanese prison camp, DeShazer turned to a Bible & it changed his life. He found, to his amazement, that he no longer hated his brutal Japanese guards or the Japanese people, but that he loved them. He solemnly resolved that if he were ever at liberty, he would become a Christian missionary to Japan. He kept that resolution. In less than 4 years after his release DeShazer returned to Japan from the United States to preach the gospel of Christ. His witness has won considerable success.

When Mitsuo Fuchida gave the fateful order, "WHOLE SQUADRON, PLUNGE INTO ATTACK!", he was jubilant with the thought of destroying the entire main force of the American Pacific Fleet. His was a great victory. During the next 4 years he continued participation in the war, miraculously escaping death on repeated occasions; the only Japanese officer in the Pearl Harbor attack to survive the war. Following the surrender of Japan, Fuchida returned to farming, but was restless, disturbed in mind & spirit, & miserable.

One day in Tokyo he was handed a Christian pamphlet, the testimony of Jacob DeShazer entitled, "I Was A Prisoner Of Japan"

Perusal of the pamphlet, which told of the power of the Word of God in DeShazer's life, created in Fuchida a strong desire to read the Bible. He bought a copy. Later he wrote, "Before reading the first 30 pages, my mind was strongly impressed & captivated. THIS IS IT!!

On April 14, 1950, this Japanese officer accepted Christ as his personal Savior & dedicated the remainder of his life to Christian service. Soon he began traveling throughout Japan with a team [redacted] w/ the Gospel.

It was the power of the Word of God which transformed these men & brought them together as Christian brothers and co-laborers.

6-HOW?---became "wise unto salvation" (2 Tim. 3:15)
--by believing GOD'S RECORD OF REDEMPTION, the Bible

CONCLUSION:

A.-Recapitulation:

1-Which Revelation?--Christianity is Superior & SUPERLATIVE

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

Previous Message

3-Features Of Revelation
--Partial
--Complete
--Progressive
--Accurate
--Final
--Shows Redemption

6 of them

4- Attitudes Toward Rev
- Verbal Plenary Insp
- Modernistic unbelief
- Neo-Orthodoxy's "half-way-house"
- New Evangelicalism's compromise

B.-Re-Application:

1-Why Revelation?--To answer; "What must I do to be saved?"
--To present the only Person who can save
--To reveal the WAY of acquaintanceship & reception of Him "By Faith"

2-Man--Can't discover God
--Desperately needs this heaven-sent revelat'n
--MUST BELIEVE God's RECORD as it is presented
--Bible is a Revelation from God.....
.....the only one God will ever give!

3-Edw. J. Young (108-109)--"In the city of Geneva, there is a monument to the Reformation, & on this monument are carved the figures of some of the great Reformers. Underneath their figures are inscribed the words, 'POST TENEBRAS LUX'=='After the darkness, light!'

It is a stirring inscription. After the darkness of the Middle Ages, when, to all intents and purposes at least, the Bible was a closed and chained Book, came light. And the light came in a most strange manner. Light came when the pages of the Bible were once more opened and its truths preached and believed in the hearts of people.

Today also darkness is covering the land and gross darkness the people. If light is to

come, it will not be through the work of man, but through the work of God's Holy Spirit. And light will come, we believe, when the Spirit once more causes men of our day to turn from the superficiality of so much of modern religious life to the Word of the one living God Who is ever true.

Then will the pages of the Bible once more be opened and men will turn to its life-giving words, for, being the words of God, they are 'profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.'

This turning will not be national, or widespread in our day, but it can be so in your heart!

Message #3 — God Revealed in Nature — Ps. 19:1-4 (1)
God Revealed in The Bible — 1 Cor. 2:1-16 (2)
Features Of Biblical Revelation — John 16:1-15 (3)
God Revealed in Jesus Christ — John 1:1-18 (4)

Westbrae 3/21/65 — Holy Bible, Book Divine 460 CHOIR — "Break Thou The Bread Of Life"
Calvary Columbus 10/5/75 Standing On The Promises 328
Wonderful Words Of Life 163

The Convicting Work of the Holy Spirit — John 16:7-11

INTRO

A: Previous Message:

1- Restraining of Sin in the World is the work of the Holy Spirit

2- Examples
- Gen. 6:3 - Before the FLOOD
- 2 Thess. 2:7 - During the TRIB.
- Isa. 59:19 - Now + during the MILLENNIUM

B. - This Message:

I. - Forms of Spiritual Darkness
II. - Means of Overcoming Spiritual Darkness
III. - The Holy Spirit's Convicting Work

PROP We need to understand both the need for divine enlightening and the work of the H.S. to bring a lost person to a faith decision

I. - FORMS OF SPIRITUAL DARKNESS:

A. - Gentile Blindness To Truth:

1- Biblical statements.
- Jn. 1:5 - "And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehendeth it not."
- Eph. 5:11 - "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them
- 1 Jn. 2:11 - "And he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, + knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes."

2- Due to THE FALL
3- Cause of "So death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned;" Rom. 5:12
4- HOPE - Isa. 9:2 - "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."

Prophetic anticipation

B. Satanic Blinding To The Truth:

1- 2 Cor. 4:3-4 READ
2- Gentiles + Jews w/ a veil upon their minds
3- A Satanically imposed incapacity to respond to the Truth
4- IMPEDES the normal mental ability to hear, understand + respond
- John 3:3 - "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"
- John 14:17 - "the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him."
- 1 Cor. 1:21 - "The world by wisdom knew not God"
- Rom. 1:19-32 - GOD GAVE THEM UP

C. Israel's Blindness To Spiritual Truth:

1- In addition to Gentile darkness
2- Judicially imposed by God
- Isa. 6:9-10
- Isa. 29:9-14
- Rom. 11:13-25 also 11:7 PARTIAL + TEMPORARY - Eph. 1:22-23
3- The time will come when this blindness will be

lifted + "ALL ISRAEL SHALL BE SAVED"

4- Isa. 66:8 - "Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such a thing? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in a day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travaileth, she brought forth her children."

D:- Carnal Blindness Of Christian Believers:

1- 1 Cor. 3:1-2 - READ

- Carnal = Fleshly or old nature dominated
- Saved, but not Spirit empowered
  - * Brethren - 3:1 } FAMILY TERMS
  - * Babes - 3:1
- Not able to imbibe strong + nourishing spiritual food
- Characteristics - 3:3
  - Carnal
  - Envying
  - Strife
  - Divisions
  - "walk as men"

2- Heb. 5:11-14 - Read

THEIR DESCRIPTION

- "Dull of hearing" - 5:11
- "Need that one teach you again" - 5:12
- "Need milk + not strong meat" - 5:12
- "Unskilful in the Word" - 5:13
- "A babe" - 5:13

THEIR NEEDS

- Strong meat or those of full age + development - by reason of use
  - b- Senses exercised

c – Able to discern

• ANSWER – Heb. 6:1-3 LET US GO ON... (4)!

• POINT – Unspiritual living hinders the normal illuminating ministry of the H.S.

II. – MEANS OF OVERCOMING SPIRITUAL DARKNESS:

A. – By God's Word

1 – Rom. 10:17 – "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

2 – Ps. 119:130 – "The entrance of Thy words bringeth light."

3 – Titus 1:3 – "But hath in due times manifested His Word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Savior."

Acts 10:33-43

(4) – 2 Tim. 3:14-15 – READ

5 –

a. Continue in what you have learned

b. Remember from whom you learned

c. From a child tought the Scriptures

d. They made him "wise unto salvation"

e. BUT ALSO there had to be a faith decision – "through faith which is in Christ Jesus"

B. – By God's Spirit:

1 – 2 Thess. 2:13 – Turn + READ! Everyone turn!

- "Chosen you to salvation thru sanctification of the Spirit"
  DIVINE SIDE OF SALVATION
- "and belief of the truth"
  HUMAN SIDE OF SALVATION

- Both are taught in God's Word
- The END + the MEANS are both ordained + essential

2- Illus - Truth held in tension
- ANTINOMY
- 2 children balanced on their respective ends of a teeter-totter
- Remove either one + the other drops.

Acts 10:44-

3-4 John 16:7-11

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S CONVICTING WORK — John 16:7-11

A. The Background:

1- Jesus tells them He is going away - 16:5
2- Altered circumstance calls for a new presence — THE COMFORTER - 16:7
3- Jesus must go away (7:39) before the Spirit will be given
4- THE CROSS will intervene + so provide salvation based solely on Christ's atoning death
5- ONLY THUS can the Spirit be given:
   - To CONVICT the world
   - To GUIDE believers into all truth 16:12-15

B. The Reproving Of The World:

1- Term "REPROVE" used 17 times in NT
2- Synonyms of "CONVICT", "CONVINCE", "ENLIGHTEN"
3- H.S. will be the "PROSECUTOR" to bring the unbeliever to an awareness + "conviction" concerning Christ + His cross-work
4- All other references to the Spirit's work is directed toward believers only
5- Illus - Acts 2:36-37 - "pricked in their heart"
6- This "REPROVING" or "CONVICTING" ministry of the H.S. overcomes the blindness which sin + Satan have imposed concerning the gospel + salvation
7- The Spirit does this by causing the individual to comprehend three indisputable truths which are

C. The Three Areas Of Convicting:

1- OF SIN - 16:8+9
- One sin only; the sin of unbelief
- Rejecting Christ is what sends men out into a lost eternity

*** - ONE ISSUE ONLY!
- Not a matter of what the lost person has done in life DRINK DRUGS IMMORALITY
- But the issue of believing or receiving what Christ has done in providing salvation A SUBSTITUTE!

2- OF RIGHTEOUSNESS - 16:8+10
- A comprehension that the invisible Christ

at the right hand of the Father (7) has provided every merit + quality which one will need in time or eternity - SATISFIES GOD!

- IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS is essential + available
- That Jesus has been "received up into glory" as proof that His sacrifice totally satisfied all the righteous demands of the Holy God.
- Confidence in anything else or anything less than total dependence upon Christ is UNACCEPTABLE

3 - OF JUDGMENT - 16:8,11

- The work of the judgment of Satan has been done at the CROSS + the dominion of the Evil One has been overthrown - Col. 2:13-15
- Deliverance of the captives has been bought + paid for.
- ANOTHER, by His intervening + suffering execution in the sinner's stead has BOUGHT + PAID FOR the sinner's freedom from the control of Satan

4 - L.S. CHAFER - "Certainly this is not a thing to be undertaken by the sinner, then, but is something to believe." (VII, 96)

5 - "THE ISSUE before the unsaved as God presents it is of believing what has now been accomplished by Christ, and of

resting with confidence in the Saviorhood of Christ." (LSC - VII, 96)

B. The Necessity of Personal Faith:

1 - Heb. 11:3 - "Through faith we understand ..."

2 - 2 Thess. 2:13 - "and belief of the truth." !

3 - "Apart from the understanding of the gospel + the Spirit-wrought willingness to receive it, none are saved." LSC VII, P. 95

4 - Heb. 6:4-8 implies that much enlightenment may come to the unsaved which they have the power to resist + that, so long as they continue to resist the grace of God, the hope for their salvation is by themselves set aside. (LSC - VII, P. 95)

5 - ILLUS Helen Reiter

Summary - We need to understand both the need for divine enlightening and the work of the H.S. to bring a lost person to a faith decision

9/26/99 - Grace Gospel Ch. + 10/3/99 (Pages 4b-8 ~)
(Pages 1-4a)
9/19/2001 - Bible Center Church

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT SECURITY---THE FATHER John 17:1-26
Rom.8:31, 38-39

(1)

INTRO:

A.-Divisions of Christendom:

1-CALVINISTS
--Followers of John Calvin
--Frenchman of the 16th Century
--Pastor in Geneva, Switzerland
--Largely a Biblical systematizing of doctrine, but not totally
--Emphasis on SOVEREIGNTY of God
*--FIVE POINTS of Calvinism:
** Total Depravity of man
** Unconditional Election
** Limited Atonement
** Irresistable grace
** Perseverance of the saints
--Calvin was a stern, zealous, angry man of great genius
--Prepared the ground for.....

2-ARMINIANS
--Followers of Jacobus Arminius (1560--1609)
--Hollander of the 17th Century
--Reacted to the doctrines of Calvin & took battle against them, gaining a host of followers
--Emphasis on the FREE WILL OF MAN
*--FIVE ARTICLES of Arminianism
** Partial depravity of man
** Conditional Election (predicated on God's foreknowledge of man's decision)
** Universal atonement
** Resistable grace
** Falling from grace

3-Cleavage has been constant thru the centuries

4-ILLUS--In Great Britain, as the work of George Whitefield & John Wesley developed, Whitfield became the father of CALVINISTIC Methodism & Wesley of the ARMINIAN Methodists. Most Methodists today are Arminian.

B.-Debate Of The Question:

1-Many areas of conflict & contrast between systems
*2-None more evident than over ETERNAL SECURITY
--Also: "Once saved, always saved"
--Or: "Once in grace, always in grace"

3-Arminian viewpoint:
--"DAMNABLE DOCTRINE of eternal security"
--Claim that E.S. leads to "loose living"
--Think it is presumptuous to claim sureness of one's salvation
--Claim you "Can't be SURE until you die".

4-Calvinist viewpoint:
--Agrees there are some questionable & difficult texts in the Bible
--Believes there are many more that are ABUNDANTLY CLEAR on the subject
NB--Interprets questionable ones in light of clear

--Foundation of Christian STABILITY---Security in Christ is clear & absolute

--Platform for effective Christian service.

5-WHO is right-------WHAT DOES the Bible teach?

C.-Our Message:

1-Series of 3--Et. Sec. and the FATHER
--Et. Sec. and the SON
--Et. Sec. and the Holy SPIRIT

2-PROP:--We seek to see from the Scriptures that salvation is a work of God, and to answer the question: "IS THE BELIEVER ETERNALLY SECURE?"

3-Today--------I.-REASONS FOR E. S. Related to the Father
II.-REALIZATIONS FROM E.S. RELATED TO THE FATHER

I.-REASONS FOR ETERNAL SECURITY RELATED TO THE FATHER:

A.-The Father's INFINITE LOVE:

1-"God is love"--1 John 4:8 "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."
--His very NATURE & character
--Also "LIGHT", "LIFE", "TRUTH", "RIGHTEOUSNESS"
--Wellspring of what God does flows from what God IS
--Love is not dependent upon conditions, but is descriptive of what God was even before the universe was created or before man came to be.

2-Eph. 1:4-5--"According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy & without blame before Him (in love): having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure o f His will."
--"in love" goes (acc. to the best MSS) with "having predestinated us"
--Salvation is seen to rise not from the misery of man which God in mercy might choose to relieve, but salvation springs from the love God has for His creatures, which love can be fulfilled by nothing short of their conformity to Christ in His eternal presence
--So, it is LOVE in God's being that moves God to action
--This is INFINITE love.
--Eph. 2:4--"But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us,..."

3-Rom. 5:6-10--"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. BUT GOD commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. MUCH MORE then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, MUCH MORE, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."

-Love for us when we were "without strength", "ungodly" "sinners", and "enemies"
--Yet this infinite love fastens on SUCH SPECIMENS
--Objects of the love of God
--John 3:16
--What happens when we respond to love & are saved?
*--"MUCH MORE" (5:9, 10, 15, 17, 20) toward us when we are justified, saved, reconciled & KEPT by the living Christ
*--Love of God actually INCREASES after we are saved!
4-Reminds of hymn--"Oh love that will not let me go..."
5-John 13:1--"...having loved His own which were in the world He loved them unto the end."
6-SO, the infinite love of God demands our eternal security

B.-The Father's SOVEREIGN PURPOSE:

ILLUS -"Full Service" Bank that is capable of fulfilling all your needs whenever you have a need to be met. SO our FULL SERVICE Salvation also!

1-Rom. 8:28-30--"And we know tha[t] ...er for good to them that love God, to ...l ac-cording to His purpose. For w... also did predestinate to be conform... ...on, that He might be the firstborn ...more-over whom He did predestinate, ...d whom He called, them He also j... ...sti-fied, them He also glorified."

FIVE GLORIOUS VERBS

--The "called" = all true believers
--These are all foreknown, predestinated, called, justified and glorified
--These are ACCOMPLISHED FACTS on the basis of Christ's death for our sins
--100% = 100% = 100%
--Purpose of the sovereign God embraces the loss of none "en-route" -The ultimate term of God's design
--5 glorious verbs that go together & are INSEPARABLE!! !!
NB *-Notice that God's PURPOSE precedes His FORE-KNOWLEDGE and choosing.
--Purpose of God is to deliver the believers ALL safely "home"

2-Eph. 1:11-12--"...in Whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him Who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will: that we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ."
--Inheritance is ours through Christ "in Whom" are all our blessings
--Predestination of our destination to glory is stated
--All according to "the purpose of Him Who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will"
--To the end of GLORY to God *
--Appropriated in our lives by the "trusting in Christ"

3-John 6:37--"All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out."
"ALL" = "every last one"
--These will "come to me(Christ)", because it is the will (sovereign purpose) of God
--NONE who comes will be "cast out"
--Clear & precious promise.

5 times "much more"

3

4-2 Thess. 2:13--"But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth."

--FACT stated

--"Because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salv."

--DIVINE PURPOSE is clear

--MEANS are also ordained

** "Thru sanctification of the Spirit"

** Divine side of this

** "And belief of the truth"

** Human side also

** These are not conditional

** But avenues of appropriation

--END 2:14--"Whereunto He called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord J. C."

5-SO, the Father's sovereign purpose secures man's salvation

--Covenanted to men

--Promised in the Scriptures

--Therefore that salvation is SECURE because of God's sovereign purpose.

--ILLUS---During a spring freshet an express train rode confidently thru a flooded area, even though the tracks were covered with water. The steel rails underneath accounted for the confidence of the engineer and the safety of the train.

No matter what covers the path of the believer, he can go forward with true courage, for God has laid out his path to safely lead "HOME".

C-The Father's INFINITE POWER:

1-The omnipotent God is set free by Christ's sacrifice!

--Free to Seek

--Free to save

--Free to KEEP --- to Keep saved!

--For 1 John 2:2--"He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

--OMNIPOTENT POWER has been made available, since God's righteousness has been satisfied in Christ.

2-John 10:27-29--"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand."

--Two marks of "My sheep" EAR & HOOF

--Known of Jesus Christ

--Recipients of a GIFT-----Eternal Life

--Promises ** "They shall never perish"

** "Neither shall ANY pluck them out of My hand"

** "MAN" is in italics, meaning not in the text

** Snatching by force is IMPOSSIBLE

Impossible to any MAN

Impossible to any DEMON, inluding Satan

Impossible to ANY --- period!

--"Gave" in 10:29 is a PERFECT tense; a permanent gift !!

--God's power is "greater than all"---Perfect protection by infinite power of the Father

--Eccles. 3:14--"I know that whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before Him."

--POWER OF GOD demands permanent protection for those who are His own.

--ILLUS---There is a beautiful story told of McLeod Campbell, the Scotch preacher. One day a friend came to him in spiritual perplexity. "Tell me, how do you know that you have always got hold of God?"

For a long minute McLeod Campbell was silent, and then, with great wistfulness in his eyes, he said: "How do I know that I have always got hold of God! I don't always know; but I do know He always has hold of me."

3-Rom. 8:31, 38,39--"What shall we say then to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?....For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creation, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

--God is FOR us

--NO THING, therefore, can "separate us"

--Why not???

--Infinite power of God is ours for our preservation

--Sufficient for EVERY creature, for EVERY onslaught

4-Eph. 3:20--"Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."

--He is ABLE

--Because of "the power that worketh in us"

--That power is GOD'S POWER

5-2 Tim. 1:12--"...for I know Whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day."

--Deposit of all I am is in God's hands

--He is "able to keep"

--All the way 'til "that day" at the Judgment Seat

6-1 Pet. 1:5--"Who are kept by the power of God, through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time"

--Inheritance kept for the "born again one"

--Born again ones kept for their inheritance also

--KEEPING is by God's power

7-Jude 24, 25--"Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen"----Able to keep

--BOTH now.....and ever after for all eternity!

8-This **MIRACULOUS POWER** Infinite Power
- Eph. 1:19-21
- "exceeding great"
- (AND) ..... it is "to usward"
- ILLUS--Someone has made the point that a LITTLE FLY in Noah's ark was just as safe as an ELEPHANT. It was not the elephant's size that made him safe, it was the ark that saved both the elephant and the fly.

So, it is not your power, your righteousness, your works or your "ANYTHING" that makes you safe in the family of God. It is whether you are "in Christ Jesus" that is the issue that determines your safety.

D.-Father Influenced By The Prayer Of The Son:

1-John 17 is Christ's **HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER**

2-Key Phrase--"GIVEN" (7 times)
- --John 17:2, 6, 9, 11, 12, 24
- --Included the Apostles and disciples then living
- --ALSO included all of us
- --John 17:20-"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word."
- --It is for such "Given ones" that Christ prays

3-These were "KEPT" by the Son during His earthly ministry
- -John 17:12-"While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Thy name: those that Thou gavest me, I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the Scripture might be fulfilled"
- --NONE was lost "enroute"
- --Except Judas, who was never saved

4-Jesus Prays -John 17:11 "... Holy Father, keep through Thine own Name those whom Thou hast given Me, that they may be one as We are one."
- --Asks for believers safekeeping to be undertaken and guaranteed by the Father
- --Through the POWER of the Father's own Name
- ILLUS--Luke 22:31-32--"And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: BUT I HAVE PRAYED for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted (turned around again), strengthen thy brethren."

5-**NO PRAYER** OF THE SAVIOR HAS **EVER** BEEN **DENIED**
- --Perfect Deity praying
- --Perfect Deity hearing
- --NO FAILURE.....and there never can be.
- --John 11:41b--42a--"And Jesus lifted up His eyes, & said, Father, I thank Thee that Thou hast heard Me. And I knew that Thou hearest me always..."
- --NOT EVEN GETHSEMANE IS AN EXCEPTION
  - ** Mt. 26:38-39 (Read)
  - ** Jesus was here seeking to escape PREMATURE DEATH at Satan's hand, & so He prayed for deliverance that He might move steadfastly to the DEATH OF THE CROSS which He welcomed as the will of the Father.

6-**WHY** this prayer in John 17 by Jesus **for believers safekeeping**??

7-**BECAUSE** each believer is a "JEWEL" of infinite preciousness to the Son.....Therefore, He prayed for our **SAFEKEEPING** to the Father.

II.-REALIZATIONS FROM ETERNAL SECURITY RELATED TO THE FATHER:

A.-He Is Sovereign: = He CONTROLS — Determined from before the foundation of the world

B.-He Is Sufficient: = He is CAPABLE (Phs. 2:13--"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.")

Salvation & HIS WORK !!

C.-He Is Solicitous: = He CARES and He cares FOR YOU!

∴ D.-WE ARE SECURE:

1-We've been given--Eternal life
--Eternal Salvation
--Eternal redemption

2-LOCKYER--"But how can these possessions be ETERNAL if we can lose them tomorrow?" (All The Doctrines, P. 224)

3-To phrase this another way: CAN ONE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE FOR A SHORT TIME ??

4-Bible's answer is clear as to "Is the Believer Eternally Secure" PROP

CONCLUSION:

A.-Recapitulation--Eternal Security Because Of The Father:

1-His Infinite LOVE
2-His Sovereign PURPOSE
3-His Infinite POWER
4-His response to the SON'S PRAYER

4 POINTS!

B.-What Kind of Christian Are You?:

1-ILLUS--In some parts of the foreign mission field it is said of the natives that they divide the Christians into 2 classes. They designate the position taken by one group as THE CAT RELIGION, and the other as THE MONKEY RELIGION. This is their rather quaint way of indicating that one group has the assurance of their salvation and the other does not.

Monkeys, as you know, carry their young by having them HOLD ONTO the mother's tail. If the baby monkey is healthy & well, there is little danger, but if the little one, thru sickness or weakness loses his grip when his mother makes a sudden leap from one branch to another, then it is "GOODBYE" as far as the little one is concerned.

With the mother cat the story is entirely different! She takes hold of her baby kittens with her teeth. The babies safety depends upon the hold of the Mother cat, not upon the ability of the weak kitten. Thus the kitten is safe.

SO, TOO, it is not our hold upon God that makes us safe, but HIS HOLD UPON US.

Every Christian can sing that chorus:

"Safe am I, Safe am I,
In the hollow of His hand"

2-Ps. 37:28--"For the LORD loveth judgment and forsaketh not His saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off."

3-Phs. 1:6--"Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:"

WESTBRAE--10/11/70--#413--A Shelter In The Time of Storm 243 (1)
Calvary Columbus 1/5/75 #312--Security 300
Daniels M.B.Ch - 12/4/77 #455--When He Cometh 150 (3)
Lower Falls Bapt. Ch. 1/30/83 #319 Builded On The Rock (2)
Lookout Bapt. Ch. 5/6/84
OKBC - 6/14/87
Grace Gospel Church - 1/25/98 - SS
Hilltop Bapt. Ch. - 7/10/05

Benediction — Jude 24-25

Jn. 19:17-37 Crucifixion of THE LORD —
Read also Ps. 22:1-21 The Fulcrum of the Ages

Intro - A.- Friday of Passion Week - last moments of life
B.- This is the way the scene was planned in God's Eternal Plan 12:27 "for this cause came I unto this hour"
C.- Testimony to Christ
1.- John the Baptist — 1:29, 36 The Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world"
2.- X - 3:14 - Son of Man Lifted Up
3.- X - 10:11 - Good Shepherd
4.- Caiaphas - 11:50 - Expedient
5.- X - 12:32 - draw all men
∴ 6.- Not voluntary testimony of a martyr to the truth of teachings, but an atoneing act for the sin of the world, Because 14:29 — "told before"

I CRUCIFIXION AND SUPERSCRIPTION 19:17-22

A.- Crucifixion - as a form of death
1.- Roman + pagan origin
2.- described in Ps. 22:14-15
3.- inflicted only on slaves + seditionists at this time

B.- Companions
1.- called theives - likely companions of Barabbas + guilty of Treason + Sedition
2.- Jesus likely under a similar charge for making self "KING"

C.- Superscription + Bitter

1.- Ironic — only king or deliverer these subject Jews could boast of was a helpless sufferer, dying the death of a malefactor

2.- Only hope of the Jews is to accept as their King, He whom they have crucify

3.- languages

a.- Hebrew - language of Religion

b.- Greek - language of Intellect

c.- Latin - language of Empire

d.- Thus they did "tell it out to the world that the Lord is King" + LXX of Ps. 96:10 reads "the Lord reigneth from a tree.

4.- Priests recognize Pilate's insult + mockery

5.- Pilate here is stubborn + wilful.- He gets His Spite in

II FOUR ENEMIES + FOUR FRIENDS 19:23-27

A.- Four Soldiers

1.- each took a part of the garments

2.- fulfilled executioners law

3.- callous unbelief leads them to clothes rather than to the person of X — their gain is paltry + they pass by eternal life

4.- Ps. 22:18 — Scripture fulfilled in not parting vesture.

B.- Four Women

1.- Mary (the Virgin), Salome (Jn's mother) Mary the wife of Cleophas + Mary Magdalene.

2.- contrast tenderness with callousness of soldiers

3.- Tender, human sympathy of X shown in time of deep personal anguish — Mary not committed to Brethren because they didn't believe on Him (7:5), but to John.

III.- TWO WORDS — 19:28-30

A.- These are 2 out of 7 last Words. These 2 chosen to show X fulfilling prophecy + in relation to the Sin Question.

B.- I Thirst - Voiced the utmost in anguish of physical + spiritual pain in all the experience of the world, as Christ bore our Sins / there

1.- vessel, sponge, hyssop — detail as seen by an eyewitness.

C.- It Is Finished - Only the final wages of Sin remain to be paid in actual death.

1.- redemption completed + earthly mission ended

2.- voluntary 10:17-18

3.- He gave up the ghost — voluntarily + freely.

4.- Now it is not the SIN question, but the SON question.

IV HOSTILE PETITION 19:31-37

To Fulfill Prophecy

A.- Crucifixion often took 4-6 days.

1.- Therefore Jews send to Pilate to have legs broken due to Saturday being both Sabbath + Passover
2.- bodies must be out of sight by sunset of "High Day" - De. 21:23

B.- Bones not Broken
1.- Ex. 12:46 with Jn. 1:29-36 because Christ was the TRUE Paschal Lamb offered for sin
2.- No blemish, spot, imperfection or broken bone allowed!
3.- Time of death coincided with proper time for slaying Paschal Lamb

C.- Pierced
1.- fulfillment in part of Zech 12:10
2.- looks forward to Re. 1:7
3.- Water + Blood
a.- difficult to interpret
b.- I Jn. - symbols of regeneration
c.- Medical experts - rupture of a broken heart in bearing grief + punishment of sin when the Father turned away + forsook Christ for the 3 hrs. on the cross.

D.- Witness is True
1.- John is eyewitness
2.- evidence adequate to produce faith
3.- evidence is True
4.- Purpose - Belief
5.- Link 20:31 with I Cor. 15:3-4
6.- Thus, the death of X as recorded by Jn. declares Him to be the Christ of Prophecy.

THE THIRD WORD — Jn. 19:25-27

INTRO: A.-Death Comes:
1-Not unlamented — Thank God!
2-Small group--sympathetic
--bereaved
--wondering souls
These "Care"
3-Contrast with the crowd--careless
--crude
--mocking

B.-Death's Companions:
1-MARY--Gossip has made her life a hard one due to Jesus' "irregular" birth
--Seen 4 times in Public with Jesus
**At Passover in Jerusalem when Jesus was 12
**At Wedding in Cana when Jesus was begining His ministry
**When a NEW RELATIONSHIP was declared of equality in the family of God
**Here, at the Cross
--Now old Simeon's sword was piercing her soul
--Lk. 2:35--"(Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."
--BUT.....she was there, at the Cross
2 Mary's sister Salome
3-MARY, the wife of Cleophas, the brother of Jesus' foster father, Joseph
4-MARY MAGDALENE--released from demons' slavery
--gratitude of heart
--one of the multitude He'd miraculously helped
5-JOHN--1 of the 12
--1 of the 3 who were the "inner circle"
--Remained there in spite of personal risk while other disciples fled
5-And JESUS.....Who speaks to them

I.-HIS MOTHER:

A.-Her Position:
1-What --special position of privilege?
--station in the Kingdom?
2-R. C. Church--Position of grandeur
--Mediatrix
--Mother of God
--Queen of Heaven
--Charged with the Treasury of His grace & to distribute His bounty
3-NOTHING of this in the text of Scripture
4-In fact, almost the exact & stark opposite
5-Almost seen as a safeguard against such in its simplicity

B.-Her Address:

1-Deals with the peculiar human relationship between Mother and Son

2-"Woman behold thy son (John)"

3-He is actually BREAKING the human relationsip!

4-Draws attention--not to Himself
--but to John

5-"WOMAN"--affectionate & respectful term
--But He didn't call her "MOTHER"
--Only the word, "MOTHER" would have satisfied her heart in that hour
--Broke her heart, as a mother

6-Mary was, from that moment on, no more to Jesus than any other woman. He is no longer any woman's Son.

C.-Her Portion:

1-Denied the position of "MOTHER"

2-No special relationsip any longer

3-Placed on the same human level & plane with the rest of mankind whom He loved

4-Not allowed to share His glory with any human

5-THEREFORE--No human being is closer to Christ than the Penitent Thief, or you, or I.....Not even Mary

6-No longer "MOTHER", but a believer

7-SCHILDER--"Mary discovered that she had been led from the natural union with Jesus to the mystical union with Christ. She gladly took her place among His sincere worshipers. It was not a special place; it was not on the platform; it was with the 120, AS A SIMPLE BELIEVER."

II.-HIS DISCIPLE:

A.-His Designation:

1-John identifies himself as the one "whom Jesus loved"

2-Glorious designation

3-Really didn't belong to John more than to you or to me

4-Jesus loves ALL

5-But, John seems to have had a greater capacity for appreciating Christ's love than some of the rest had.

B.-His Substitution:

1-"Then said He to the disciple, Behold thy mother"

2-Jesus makes John His Substitute---A SUBSTITUTE SON

3-Fulfilling the last detail of the Law of Moses--Ex. 20:12--"Honor thy father and thy mother;"

4-Traditions vary:
--Mary lived with John in Jerusalem until her death
--Mary lived with John in Ephesus
--Possibly both are true
--But the important thing is that John was FAITHFUL!
--Substituting for the SUBSTITUTE
--That was John's mission

--THERE IS NONE MORE GLORIOUS ! !

5-Is it legitimate for us to consider ALL BELIEVERS represented by John in this assignment? Can we say that, because our Lord's body of flesh has passed thru ascension back to the Father no more to dwell on the earth until this Gospel Age closes, the JOHNS OF HIS LOVE must take care of all the responsibilities He would have fulfilled had He remained in the flesh? Does He expect to go on ministering to the needy today through His Johns?

--I believe so

--Acts 1:1-2--"The former treatisehave I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which He was taken up, after that He through the Holy Ghost had given commandment unto the apostles whom He had chosen:"

.....

--Each member of the Body is to be under direction of the Head, doing on the human plane what the Lord commands.....

SUBSTITUTING for the SUBSTITUTE

6- POEM (Annie Johnson Flint)

Christ has no hands but our hands,
To do His work today
He has no feet but our feet
To lead men in His way,
He has not tongue but our tongues
To tell men how He died,
He has not help but our help
To bring them to His side.

.....

7-Here is a responsibility we cannot neglect except by despising the Cross. It is our privilege to substitute for the Substitute.

8--ILLUS--Myconius was one of Martin Luther's dear friends, a brother for many years in the same monastery. He knew of Luther's plan to leave the cloister and answer the Saviour's call to go out into the world with the gospel. He expressed interest and sympathy. "But," he said, "I can best help you where I am. I will remain here in the monastery, and, amidst its quiet & seclusion, will pray for you Brother Martin, as you toil out in the great world."

Myconius was true to his pledge. He prayed daily that the Lord would bless the efforts of Luther. But as he prayed, he became uncomfortable and lost his peace of mind. He could not sleep as once he did, on the straw pallet of his cell. One such restless night brought him a strange dream. The Saviour appeared and showed him His hands and feet wounded for the sins of the world. Never before had Myconius realized the cost of his redemption.

Then the Savior said, "FOLLOW ME"! The Lord took him to a high mountain & told him to look to the east. Myconius saw a vast plain, as far as he could see, dotted with sheep--thousands upon thousands of them; and one lone shepherd was trying to tend them. He recognized the Shepherd as Luther.

Then the Saviour pointed to the west, & he saw a field of standing corn stretching, it seemed, to the end of the world. One lone reaper was trying to harvest it all. Myconius looked carefully and saw that the harvester was Luther, tired & spent, but persisting at the task.

It was too much for Myconius. The Lord had said, "Shepherd those sheep; Reap those fields!"

"It is not enough," cried Myconius, when he awoke, "it is not enough that I should pray in my quiet cloister. The sheep must be shepherded! The fields must be reaped!

HERE AM I: SEND ME, SEND ME !". And he went out into the world to join Luther in his work.....

.....

SUBSTITUTING FOR THE SUBSTITUTE.

.....

Conclusion:

1-There is NO HOPE except in the Saviourhood of Jesus. Mary was honored & privileged in many ways, but----- A worthless, guilty thief discoveres himself equal to the blessed Mary in the privileges of grace

2-There is NO USEFULNESS except in the Lordship of Jesus Christ. That's where John found his highest calling---- ----Substituting for, and serving the Lord Jesus

3-By yielding to Jesus as my Savior & Lord, I find my place in God's plan for time and eternity....

....AND, I find "joy unspeakable"

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

"IT IS FINISHED" John 19:30

INTRO: A.-Illustration:

1-In the market places of the East, merchants display their wards for sale. The purchaser lays down the price he is prepared to pay. The moment the merchant lifts the price, the sale is consummated.

2-On Good Friday Jesus Christ laid down His life & on the first day of the week God raised Him from the dead to indicate DIVINE ACCEPTANCE of His sacrifice for our sins.

B.-Our Word:

1-Background--"Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished" (Jn. 19:28)

2-"I THIRST"--5th word on the cross
- --THE PERSON of Christ is in view
- --His physical needs indicated
- --I is in prominence; His Person

3-"IT IS FINISHED"
- --6th word on the cross
- --THE WORK of the Savior is in focus now
- --"It" which Christ did is presented
- --NOT, "I am finished" as the R.C. Church portrays Christ as expired on the cross.
- --Uttered in a LOUD VOICE
- --His death is triumphant
- --French translation: "All is accomplished"
- --Perfect tense used
- --"DONE"

NB

I.-The USAGE OF "It Is Finished":

A.-The Occasions:

1-At Creation (Gen. 1:31; 2:1)
2-In Gethsemane (Jn. 17:4)
3-On the Cross (Jn. 19:30)
4-At the end of the tribulation (Rev. 16:17)
5-Rev. 21:6

B.-The Relations:

1-Always in connection with the SECOND PERSON of the Trinity
2-Jesus Christ is "THE FINISHER"
3-Most momentous word spoken in all the history of the world

II.-The MEANING OF "It Is Finished":

A.-WHAT Is Finished:

1-Satan's defeat is accomplished
2-Sin's redemptive price is fully paid (Patriarchs & Prophets who were SAVED, but "on credit"
3-Guilt banished forever
4-Church's creation made possible
5-Israel's restoration secured

6-Judgment's righteous basis provided
7-Jesus' reign insured

B.-HOW Of "It Is Finished":
1-By Christ's sacrificial work
2-Heb. 2:9--"..that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man

C.-WHY Of "It Is Finished":
1-Vicarious death
2-NOT for His own sins
--"without sin"--Heb. 4:15
--In Him is no sin"--1 John 3:5
--"Who knew no sin"--2 Cor. 5:21
--"Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth"--1 Pet. 2:22
3-But for our sins
4-Isa. 53:6--"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all."
5-For the sins of THE WHOLE WORLD
6-Heb. 10:10--"By the which will we are sanctified thru the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all"
7-QUESTION & ANSWER-----Rom. 8:31-34

CONCLUSION----Ebenezer Wooten was an Englishman & an earnest but eccentric evangelist. Many years ago he held meetings in a tent on the village green at Lidford Brook. The last service had been conducted, the crowd was leaving, & the evangelist was busy taking down the tent. A young man approached the preacher & asked rather casually: "Mr. Wooten, what must I DO to be saved?"

"TOO LATE!" said the evangelist, in a matter of fact way, as he glanced up at the inquirer. "TOO LATE, MY FRIEND, TOO LATE."

This startled the young man, driving away every vestige of indifference. "Oh, don't say that, Mr. Wooten! Surely it isn't too late just because the meetings are over?"

"YES, MY FRIEND," answered the evangelist, looking his questioner straight in the eye, "it's too late! You want to DO SOMETHING to be saved, & I tell you that you are hundreds of years too late. TTHE WORK OF SALVATION IS DONE, COMPLETED, FINISHED. It was finished on the cross; Jesus said so with the last breath that He drew! What more do you want?"

THEN AND THERE the truth dawned upon the young man. There was nothing for him to do to finish the work that the Lord Jesus Christ had perfected at the cross. That is, there was nothing for him to do but to fall upon his knees & accept the Saviour & His finished work of grace

Have you done that???? Will you do it NOW ??

THE FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST

Jn. 19:30 "It Is Finished"

Intro- A.- What was finished?
1.- Life? What Part?
2.- Ministry? " "
3.- Work? " "

B.- When was it finished?
1.- Life essential, but not efficacious.
2.- On the Cross was the moment of culmination

C.- Who finished it — Refer back to Person of Christ.

D.- For whom was this Work

I.- Finished Work of Christ for the Unsaved

A.- Redemption — toward Sin
1.- Need — Man under Curse Gal 3:10
Man need righteousness
2.- Provision - By Blood - I Pet 1:18,19
3.- Appropriation - By Faith - Gal 3:11
~~4.- Declared~~
4.- Results - Declared Righteous Gal 3:6,21

B.- Reconciliation - toward man
1.- Need - Aliens & enemies - Col 1:21
To be brought nigh
2.- Provision - By Blood - Col 1:20,22
3.- Appropriation - By Faith - Col. 1:23
4.- Results - Declared Righteous - Col 1:22

C.- Propitiation — toward God
1.- Need - Man under Sin - Rom. 3:9
2.- Provision - By Blood - Rom. 3:25

3. Appropriation - By Faith - Rom. 3:26
4. - Results - Declared Righteous Rom 3:25-26

D. - Recapitulation
1. - Dynamic relationship between the blood + Faith
2. - Without blood there is no remission
3. - Without faith it is impossible to please God.
4. - He justifies + we are removed from sin + given righteousness in Christ.

II Finished Work of Christ for the Saved
A. - Ending of the Law Principle for Saved Rom 10:4
B. - Judgment of Sin Nature - Rom. 6
C. - Ground of Forgiveness + Cleansing I Jn 1:2
D. - Ground of Peace Rom. 5:1
E. - Secured of the Riches of Divine Grace Ep. 1:7, Phs. 4:19, Ep. 1:3

Rom 7:6-7, II Cor. 3:6-13

Father - Author of Salvation
Son - Agent of Salvation
Holy Spirit - Applicator of Salvation

"EASTER FAITH FOR THE WHOLE WORLD" John 20:1-10

Intro:

A.-Tomb Of Jesus:

1-Empty !

2-No doubt about that — Otherwise the dead body of Jesus would have been displayed when the disciples preached of the Res.

3-BUT, seen differently by different eyes

B.-Theories Of Explanation Regarding The Empty Tomb:

1-Body stolen by disciples — Gave life for a LIE

2-Body stolen by Jewish leaders They'd have produced it to disprove the Resurrection

3-Body stolen by Roman officials

4-Christ not really dead, but in a swoon & revived in the coolness of the tomb.— Pronounced DEAD by experts.

No reason for this — That would put them in jeopardy unnecessarily

5-Hallucination — Not possible for groups of 2, 7, 10, 11 & 500

C.-Circumstances As They Were:

1-Christ was crucified 3 days before

2-Entombed in Joseph's new tomb

3-Tomb closed & then sealed & guarded by Romans

4-Hopes of the disciples seemed ended — DESPONDENT

5-Promises seemed bleak

6-Visitors came to the tomb on the 1st day of the week following the Jewish sabbath to pay homage. TO THE DEAD !

GLANCES

I.-MARY MAGDALENE (20:1-2):

Who?
- Mary Magdalene + 2 other women
- Peter
- John

A.-What She Saw:

1-Stone had been removed

2-Early morning light, for it was "yet dark" as she came

3-No record she entered or examined the tomb

4-Gk.--Blepo--"she glanced"

B.-What She Felt:

1-"One-quick-look-is-enough" attitude

2-Too startled to do more

3-Too emotionally stirred to critically examine the facts

4-Not a clear picture of what happened in her own mind

5-Jumped to a wrong conclusion

6-Ran to tell Peter & John

7-Rashly stated her conclusion--20:2 "...They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, + we know not where they have laid Him."

C.-Application:

1-Have you too been content with a cursory "look" at the empty tomb?

2-Have you even looked at all?

3-Such a look---though inadequate--could begin a marvelous chain of events. — As it did for Mary M. so long ago

II.-PETER'S LOOK: (20:3-7):

"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."

A.-Circumstances:

1-John outruns Peter

2-Memory, rather than age, that slowed Peter

3-Remembered Christ's words---Lk. 22:31-32

4-Overtakes John at the entrance of the tomb & enters first

B.-Careful Examination:

1-Peter scrutinizes the scene

2-Critical examination---20:6-7

3-Expressed in the English word THEORY, which comes from the Gk. word Theoreo, used to describe this examination

4-Saw that no hasty theft had taken place

5-Body of Christ seems just to have "evaporated"

6-Grave clothes left just as they had been

7-Yet, Peter did not perceive what the real meaning of this state of events was, according to Lk. 24:12--"Then arose Peter, and ran into the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, & departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass."

Wilbur Smith tells the story of

8-ILLUS--Gamaliel Bradford, one of the most distinguished biographers of modern times, who could read all the imporant European languages, a master of classical literature, gifted in music & a lover of art, confessed that he was afraid to read the New Testament for fear it might prove that he was wrong, & his opinions would have to be changed--and he did not want that.

In his journal for Sept. 8, 1921, in his 57th year Bradford wrote: "I do not read the N. T., for fear of its awakening a storm of anxiety and self-reproach and doubt and dread of having taken the wrong path, of having been traitor to the plain and simple God. Not that I do not know perfectly well that no reading would make me believe anymore, But, oh, what agonies of fret & worry it would give me; for I should be able neither to believe nor to disbelieve nor to let it alone." And yet in his same journal, under the date of Feb. 19, 1919, he cries out, "Who will tell me something of God? I know nothing about Him whatever!"

Had he only opened his New Testament and considered the life and teachings of Jesus, His death and resurrection, with the same spirit of honesty, with the same desire to discover the truth, that possessed him as he approached the study of the many great men of history, into whose lives he saw so deeply and accurately, he would have found God gloriously revealed in Christ, His Son. (Wilbur M. Smith.1."Have You Considered Him")

C.-Application:

1-Peter is to commended for this careful examination of the evidence of resurrection

2-Examination was as deep as his doubts

3-Have you made such an examination?

4-Encyclopaedia Brittanica--"Resurrection of Christ is one of the best authenticated facts of history."

5-ILLUS--Frank Morison--Searched out the record of the resurrection in order to disprove it. Wrote in 1930 "WHO MOVED THE STONE?" Couldn't write as he'd planned. The irresistable logic of the facts and the stubborn logic of their meaning demanded a different conclusion.

6-YET, neither Morison nor you will ever come to see with the understanding eye of faith from critical study alone, any more than Peter could

7-"Critical seeing" doesn't affect morals, ethics, or the heart.....but they may lead to that

8-Something MORE YET is needed! — THEORIZING is not enough

III.-JOHN'S UNDERSTANDING (20:8-9):

A.-The Facts:

1-By now--- or long ago---you've become convinced that the evidence is conclusive that Christ's body was not stolen

2-Something happened.....BUT WHAT ????

3-Let us watch John------and learn with him

B.-The Seeing That Was Believing:

1-20:8 "Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, + HE SAW, and BELIEVED

2-John saw all that Peter had seen in terms of physical actualities

3-But John saw---Gk.--Eido--; John "saw it" with the EYE OF FAITH

4-John "saw through" the absence of the body to the reality of the Resurrection of the Savior

5-This is the meaning of "he saw" in 20:8

6-Touched not only comprehension of the mind, but the understanding which flows from the heart

7-"Saw through" to the reality of a satisfying faith

8-Significance of the Resurrection

--not in evidences

--not in cold facts, though they be true

--saw through to CHRIST — PERSON; ALIVE!

--Saw Him as Savior, Resurrected Leader & God

9-Note the humility of the record--20:8-9

10-"The belief in the resurrection was ### produced in spite of the mosT complete unreadiness on the part of the disciples to accept it. So far from being based on a previous interpretation of Scripture, the fact first illuminated the sense of Scripture" Westcott.

11-Many of the greatest thinkers of modern times have gladly confessed their faith in the Res. of Christ. If you are a lawyer, you will know that one of the greatest works on evidence in this country for nearly 100 years was A Treatise On The Law Of Evidence, first appearing in 1844, by Samuel Greenleaf.

This master of the important subject of evidence, trained in weighing facts, while still a professor at Harvard wrote a volume entitled An Examination Of The Testimony Of The Four Evangelists As a true believer, he says of the apostles: "It was impossible that they could have persisted in affirming the truths they have narrated had not Jesus actually risen from the dead, and had they not known this fact as certainly as they knew any other fact."

If you are interested in any of the various fields of physical science & research, you will know the name of the late Ambrose Fleming, emeritus professor of E.E. in the Univ. of London, honorary fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, recipient of the Faraday medal in 1928, given a biographical sketch in the 14th edition of Encyclopedia Britannica. Sir Ambrose Fleming wrote:

"Study at your leisure the records of the 4 gospels of these event (the resurrection and other miracles) and you will see that nothing in the certainly ascertained facts or principles of science forbids belief in those miracles. If that study is pursued with what eminent lawyers have called "a willing mind", it will engender a deep ### assurance that the Christian Church is not founded on fiction

or nourished on delusions, or, as St. Peter calls them, 'cunningly devised fables,' but on historical and actual events, which, however strange they may be, are indeed the greatest events which have ever happened in the history of the world."

C.-Application: ..... EMPTY TOMB / MANY EYE WITNESSES / CHANGED LIVES

1-Evidence is thorough
2-Record is clear
3-Do YOU comprehend their meaning?
--with your intellect?
--with your heart?
--with your will?.....to decide for Christ!
4-Are you able to confess...

"Coming short of the glory of God, as I do, I am a sinner. God is love and loves me, sinner though I am. He commends His love toward me in that while I was yet a sinner, Christ died for me. But though He died, He must not seek the living among the dead. He AROSE. He LIVES. He--My Savior--lives in heaven in His resurrection body, and lives also in my heart by the Holy Spirit.

In present life I am saved by His endless, unchangeable, heavenly life. He ever lives to make intercession for me. He prays that my faith will not fail. He can never leave me nor forsake me. I can boldly say, 'THE LORD IS MY HELPER'"

---Have you seen this BEFORE? ? ?
---Do you "see through" to this NOW? ? ? ← THIS IS AN "EASTER FAITH"

Believe it NOW & be saved today.

IV.-ONE MORE WORD (20:10-23):

A.-The Facts:
1-Same day in the evening
2-Hidden & fearful band of disciples
3-Jesus appears supernaturally
4-Jesus speaks "Peace be unto you" — 20:21
5-Jesus shows marks of death & resurrection to them
6-Disciples are GLAD
7-Disciples own Him as their LORD
8-"Peace" is repeated
9-Explanation--"As my Father hath sent Me"
--Delegated authority
--An equal sending an equal — Father / Son
10-Commission--"Even So, send I you."
--Delegated authority
--Despatched under athority — Savior / Saved one
--MASTER commands the SERVANT
--Empowerment is promised--20:22-23

B.-The Meaning:
1-Christ is Victor over death
2-Christ is Peace for Believers
3-Christ sends believers to share this word
4-This is the MAIN BUSINESS of the church
5-Export or Die; Propagate or Degenerate!
6-OTHERS for Jesus ——— THAT'S our business!

C.-The Application:

1-ILLUS--The days when great caravans of camels plodded ceaselessly across the forbidding Sahara Desert have gone, being replaced by airplanes and trucks. But the tales of the desert live on---stories of IBN BATTUTA, the Arab explorer; of the Songhai cities of Gao and Timbuktu; of the traffic in slaves, gold spices, but most of all, the TRAFFIC IN SALT. In the desert salt had as much value as gold, for salt was the great natrual wealth of the Sahara, now replaced by oil. In Taghaza the houses were built of blocks of salt---no rain to melt it. Slave dug the salt out of the salt-pan & it was soon on its way along the caravan routes to the south.

It is interesting to note how the salt was bartered. The chief payment for salt was SLAVES, so much salt for so many slaves. This was done not by weight but by the simple procedure of setting the block of salt on the ground & then placing the SLAVES FOOT ON IT, & cutting out of the blocks the contour of the slave's foot. The larger the foot, the more salt was given in exchange! The feet of slaves became the measuring rod of their value in the Sahara----with those having the biggest feet being the most valuable.

2-But even more interesting is the fact that God places a value on the feet of those who believe on Him to eternal salvation

--Isa. 52:7--"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good; that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth."

--Paul reminded us that believers with "BEAUTIFUL FEET" are those sent forth to bear swiftly to the ends of the earth the message of Christ as preachers of peace and witnesses of His power to save.

--As the size of the slave's foot was the measure of his worth, so the swiftness, the sureness of our feet can be measurement of the dedication to His service.

--NOT ENOUGH TO SING:

"I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord
Over mountain or plain or sea,"

--RATHER ** Lend motion to our words
** Really "GO"
** Bearing the message

3-Where are our feet bearing us?

--Worldly amusements?
--Pleasure seeking?
--Places where Christ is not honored?

4-"Beautiful feet" fit under the pew & before the fireplace, but that cannot be the whole story.

5-Beautiful feet are those dedicated to the Lord Jesus, that are busily carrying the GOOD NEWS.

CONCLUSION:

A.-The Resurrection Of Christ:

1-Glanced at the empty tomb
2-TERRIZED about the absence of Jesus' body
3-Believed in His resurrection as you "SEE THRU" to Chris

X

4-ILLUS--If the grave had ended all with the Lord Jesus, there would be utterly nothing beyond death for the children of God.

Before Columbus discovered the new world, the coat of arms of Spain bore the motto: "NE PLUS ULTRA," which means, "THERE IS NOTHING BEYOND." The 3-mile limit of their shoreline was the limit of their utmost horizon & furthest possibilities. But Columbus envisioned undiscovered worlds beyond & braved the terrors of the unknown and uncharted sea. With his discoveries, the "NE" was dropped from the Spanish coat of arms, leaving the "PLUS ULTRA" as their motto-----"THERE IS MORE BEYOND!"

Before the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world & brought life & immortality to light, the grave was the utmost limit of all human hopes & expectations. "NE PLUS ULTRA" was the motto of human kind, until Jesus divested death of its sting & turned the radiance of an endless life upon the valley of the shadow of death, so that now there shines from the portals of death the hope inspiring words:

"Plus ultra"--"THERE IS MORE BEYOND"

How much more, only the unfolding aeons of an immeasurable eternity can bring before our wondering eyes:

"EYE HATH NOT SEEN, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." (1 Cor. 2:9)

B.-Sharing The Resurrection?

1-The Resurrection of Christ commands our attention & our obedience

2-This faith of ours is an EASTER FAITH
- --IN a Resurrected Savior
- --FOR a whole world

WESTBRAE--3/29/64--"Christ Arose"----------#-121
--"He Lives On High"--------# 123
--"Christ The Lord Is Risen Today---#122
--"Wounded For Me"----------# 498

" 4/11/71
1st Baptist, Waynesville, PA. 4/5/77
Covington Bible Ch, VA - 4/3/83

20:1-31 — HE MUST RISE - YE MUST D[illegible]

Intro

A.- Early Monday morning Mary comes to complete the preparations of X's body for the grave & for removal to the permanent grave

Capstone of Xn Faith

20:1-10

I DISCOVERY THAT JESUS IS GONE

A.- Fact of Resurrection

1.- Enemies didn't steal the body or they would produce it to disprove the resurrection

2.- Friends couldn't have stolen it else they were to become martyrs to the cause of a lie — not possible

3.- Certainty — those who proclaim resurrection believed it to be a fact. Based not only on the EMPTY TOMB, but on the fact that they saw X alive 11 times after burial

4.- hallucination? — not possible for groups of 2, 7, 10, 11, +500

5.- Jesus in a swoon —?

a.- where would power to open tomb come from?

b.- new powers — thru closed doors & ascension.

6.- Records tampered with? Contemporary records show Xn belief

INTRO: **A.-Spiritual Realities:**

1-One day a Christian was speaking to an unbeliever about spiritual realities. The unbeliever said, "All you talk about is the RESURRECTION of Jesus. You are NARROW." *

He held up 3 books that he had utmost faith in: one by THOMAS PAINE, one by ROBERT INGERSOLL, and one by CHARLES DARWIN. The christian picked up the three books & asked him some questions that stopped his talking.

"WHERE is Thomas Paine?"---"Why he is DEAD"!
"WHERE is Bob Ingersoll?"---"He is DEAD"!
"WHERE is Charles Darwin?"---"Why, he is DEAD also."!

"WHERE is Jesus Christ?" ----The Christian answered this question himself. "HE IS RISEN; that's why we preach Christ. He is the only One who has defeated the powers of death!

2-Jesus Christ is THE ISSUE!!!

B.-Scriptural Record:

1-Miracle # 1--The UNDISTURBED GRAVECLOTHES
2-Miracle # 2--The REVIVED GRAVE-DWELLERS
3-Miracle # 3--The RESURRECTED CHRIST
4-PROP: --~~The main~~ See that these miracles of authentication force us to faith in Jesus Christ as both Son of God and our PERSONAL SAVIOR

I. MIRACLE #1--THE UNDISTURBED GRAVECLOTHES (Jn. 20:1-10):

A.-The Arrangement of The Graveclothes:

1-John 20:4-7
2-Body garments--Linen garments
--Still wound, but collapsed
--Body GONE; as if EVAPORATED
3-Head napkin rolled (AV "wrapped")
--Separate from the body garments
--No folds disturbed — No fasteners removed
--No change in position
--Body GONE out of it; wrappings collapsed.
4-UNDISTURBED!! VANISHED!! A miraculous demonstratn.
5-Idea is that without a change of position these grave clothes could have contained the body & so were lying by themselves
6-Body Gone; Grave clothes precisely as they had lain

B.-The Absence of The Body:

1-Not stolen by enemies
--They'd have taken body, clothes & all
--OR, They'd have left the clothes in a heap; not all neatly arranged
--Inconcievable that enemy thieves would have taken TIME or CARE to do this arrangement
--Such would have been contrary to the interests of those seeking to discredit Christ
--Moreover, they'd have later produced the body to disprove the story of His resurrection

2-Not stolen by disciples either
--Disciples didn't understand His predictions about His resurrection at all
--Moreover, they had a REVERENT attitude toward Jesus and His remains
--Wouldn't have stripped His body after its preparation for burial

3-IT WAS GOD Who had been there to remove the body
--Son; John 10:17-18 "Whom God ==== raised up..."
--Father; Acts 2:24 "... put to death in the flesh, but
--Spirit; 1 Pet. 3:18 quickened by the Spirit."

4-ABSENCE of the body is the foundation of the RESURRECTION

C.-The Apprehending of The Disciples:

1-Mary Magdalene--Jn. 20:1
-- βλεπω = "Seeth"
="Hasty observation without a conclusion as to what all this meant"

2-John--Jn. 20:2-5
-- βλεπω=="Hasty observation" also

3-Peter--Jn. 20:6-7
-- θεωρεω =="THEORIZED"
--Careful examination of the evidence ismade
--BUT without either faith or understanding

4-John again--Jn. 20:8
--"He saw and believed" — Arrangement of graveclothes caused him to BELIEVE
--ειδε**"He saw THRU!"
--Now John SAW with the eye of FAITH and realized the truth of the RESURRECTION, thru the ABSENCE of the body of Christ
--G. C. Morgan--"John entered the tomb, & he saw; that is, he understood. There had been no disturbance in that tomb. No rude hand had gone in & torn away the wrappings. Not even the hands of lovers had touched the dead body which Joseph of Arimathea & Nicodemus had left there. John saw & believed. His Lord was not there. He was risen!"

5-Still this truth of the Resurrection was not recalled from Christ's teachings by the disciples, though Jesus' enemies remembered it!

D.-The Appreciation Of The Undisturbed Graveclothes:

1-CONTRAST--Ressucitation of Lazarus still "BOUND hand & foot" in his graveclothes
--Lazarus was in the SAME BODY restored to life
--Resurrection of Jesus was without graveclothes
** Spiritual body now
** No limitations at all
--Resurrection of Christ is the pattern for us in OUR resurrection — STILL FUTURE

2-Graveclothes are discarded relics of earthly life & symbolize the truth of the freedom & "unboundedness" of the resurrection body

3-Jesus in the flesh--Often weary, hungry, footsore & exhausted

4-Jesus raised from the dead
--Now an incorruptible body
--Never weary; grand; glorious
--Able to move anywhere instantaneously ! (3)

5-Consummation of the incarnation
--"The Word became flesh..."
--Forever remains the GOD-MAN !
--His humanity is permanent
--So He may bring "many sons unto glory"
--Believers are destined to share His glory
--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."

MODEL of our resurrection to follow

II. MIRACLE #2--THE REVIVED GRAVE-DWELLERS (Mt. 27:51-53):

A. What We Know Here:

1-Basic facts--Graves were opened
--Many bodies of the saints arose
--These came out of their graves
--But AFTER the resurrection of Christ
--They entered into Jerusalem
--They appeared unto many

Talk to Abraham / Isaac / Jacob / David / Solomon / Isaiah / etc

QUITE AN EXPERIENCE

2-This was a miracle which attended Christ's resurrection
--Begun in OPENING the Graves when Christ died
--Continued AFTER Christ's resurrection on Sunday by their rising from the dead

3-Limited to the SAINTS being raised — No others -27:52

4-No merely human pen, having said so much, couldhave said so little.
--Nothing said of WHO these were
--Nothing said of WHERE these went, except "into the city"
--Nothing said of HOW they were effected by a return to this physical life
--Nothing said of WHETHER THEY SPOKE of the realms of the dead
--Nothing said of HOW OR WHEN they ultimately disappeared
--Nothing said of WHERE they ultimately went

B. What We Can PRESUME Here:

1-Six other restorations or resuscitations in Scripture
1--Son of widow of Sarepta (1 Kings 17)
2--Shunammite's son (2 Kings 4)
3--Restoration caused by Elisha's bones (2Kings13)
4--Daughter of Jairus (Mt. 9)
5--Son of the widow of Nain (Lk. 7)
6--Lazarus (John 11)
--In each instance the natural body was REVIVED, unquestionably to die again
--Probably a restoration on this occasion also

2-ENTIRELY DIFFERENT BODY
--For Christ on His resurrection on 1st day of week
--Promised also for believers at His 2nd Coming

--1 Cor. 15:42-44--"So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."

3-BODILY resurrection is associated with Christ's 2nd coming
--1 Cor. 15:22-23--"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming."
--Coming FOR the church age saints (RAPTURE)
--Coming WITH the church age saints (RETURN or REVELATION) for the earthly resurrection of Israel

4-WM. R. NICHOLSON--"Plainly, then, none of Christ's people have ever yet had the spiritual immortal body, & none shall ever have it until His coming. Those Calvary saints went forth from their graves, but only their natural bodies revived. God has provided some better thing for us, that those saints shall not without us be made perfect."

C. What We LEARN Here:
1-Truth & certainty of resurrection
--Hope of the O.T. saint was resurrection so as to enjoy the kingdom promises
--Fulfillment of this restoration is not the resurrection promised, but it is the shadow of it & the encouragement to believe it will yet come
--OMNIPOTENCE is here shown in our God
--Rehearsal of the glorious resurrection which is yet future
--Pledge & earnest of the Savior's return to raise all the saints !
--FIRSTFRUITS of the resurrection is Christ (1 Cor. 15:23)
--Wave sheaf always accompanied the firstfruits & these restored saints were that wave-sheaf

2-Power of the Resurrection
--When Christ said: "I am the resurrection and the life", and to prove it He raised Lazarus from the dead, the proof did not lie in the kind of body with which Lazarus came forth
--Rather, the proof lay in THE FACT that Lazarus was being restored to natural life
--This shows Jesus has sufficient power for res. !
--Here on Calvary we see death defeated & life rekindled to show Christ's power----an actual demonstration of His power to revive the dead

3-Personal deliverance on the basis of Christ's resurrection
--These saints of Calvary were revived only subsequent to & dependent upon Christ's own rising from the dead
--Mt. 27:52-53
--They came out "on the heels" of Jesus
--ONLY as Jesus defeated death is there victory available to His people
--Heb. 2:15--"And deliver them who thru fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

--Jn. 14:19--"...because I live, ye shall live also"
--FUTURE deliverance of our bodies is assured
--Phs. 3:20-21--"For our manner of life is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ; Who shall change our bodies of humiliation, that they may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able to subdue all things unto Himself."
--But we are privileged at present to enjoy a "NEWNESS OF LIFE" experience because we are united to Him
--Rom. 6:3-5

III.-MIRACLE # 3---THE RESURRECTED CHRIST:

A.-The Evidences of Christ's Resurrection:

that He is ALIVE!

1-Acts 1:1-3--"Many infallible proofs"
--Beeing SEEN 40 days
--SPEAKING the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God
--These who were present KNEW THE REALITY of the resurrected Christ

Emperical Evidence

2-The PHYSICAL Proofs
--Proof of hearing; Disciples heard His voice & they recognized it & His teachings
--Proof of sight; Disciples were shown His body (Lk. 24:37-40) & told that a spirit hath not flesh & bones as Christ has
--Proof of touch; Doubting Thomas was offered the privilege of physical examination of that body to see that it bore the marks of Christ's crucifixion
--Proof of reason; No mere spirit would or could consume food as the disciples saw Him eat (Lk. 24:41-43; Jn. 21:12-13)

3-The EMPTY TOMB--Many explanations thru the centuries
--All fail except the view that Christ was actually raised from the dead
WHY--WHY IS THAT ??
*--Because of the impact of the resurrection in the lives of the disciples; they became TRANSFORMED MEN !!!
--Acts 4:31--"...and they spake the Word of God with boldness"

NIB

4-GODET--"In reality, there is but one sufficient account to be given of the empty tomb: the tomb was found empty because He Who had been laid there Himself rose from it" (P. 363--Luke)

B.-The Eyewitnesses of Christ's Resurrection:

1-Validity of EYEWITNESSES
--On the scene, & so qualified to testify
--Must be more than 1 witness; 2 or 3 or more
--Must agree on the essence of their testimony
--Yet they may not all state all of the details
--If their stories are "carbon copies", that makes them suspect
--MARQUIS OF SALISBURY--"To me the central

point is the Resurrection of Christ, which I believe. Firstly, because it is testified by men who had every opportunity of seeing and knowing, and whose veracity was tested by the most tremendous trials, both of energy and endurance, during long lives. Secondly, because of the marvelous effect it had upon the world. As a moral phenomenon, the spread and mastery of Christianity is without a parallel. I can no more believe that colossal moral effects lasting for 2000 years can be without a cause than I can believe that the various motions of the magnet are without a cause, though I cannot wholly explain them. To anyone who believes the Resurrection of Christ, the rest presents little difficulty. No one who has that belief will doubt that those who were commissioned by Him to speak--Paul, Peter, Mark, John---carried a Divine message."

2-Various eyewitnesses (17 separate occasions)

--Mary Magdalene; Near the Sepulchre in the garden area
--To the 3 women; Returning to Jerus. from the sepulchre
--To Simon Peter alone; Near Jerusalem
--To Emmaus Road disciples
--To Apostles without Thomas
--To Apostles with Thomas present
--To 7 Disciples fishing in Galilee
--To 11 Disciples on a Mountain
--To above 500 brethren at once; Probably in Galilee
--To James only; Jerusalem probably
--To ALL APOSTLES at Ascension; Mt. of Olives
--To Stephen; Outside Jerusalem
--To PAUL ** Damascus Road
(4) ** In Arabia
** Jerusalem Temple
** Jerusalem Prison
--To John on the Isle of Patmos

Contrast - ISLAM that spread by the sword

INCONTROVERTIBLE PROOF

And Women

--These were RELIABLE MEN. These men wrote concerning other matters. In the Gospels and Epistles we find them telling minute details of geography, life, manners, morals, customs & historical fact. ALL the historical discoveries of archaeology, geology & other fields have CONFIRMED THE ACCURACY of their written material. This line of argument insures their accuracy on the matter of Jesus' resurrection as well !! Consistency demands that we accept their record in its entirety. !!!

3-VOLKMAR--"It is one of the most certain facts in the history of humanity, that shortly after His death on the cross, Jesus appeared to the Apostles risen from the dead, however we understand the fact, which is without analogy in history." (Die Evangel, P. 612)

4-M.R. De Haan--"There is more actual, factual proof that Jesus did rise bodily from the grave than there is for the fact that Columbus discovered America, or that the signing of the Declaration of Independence took place on the 4th of July, or that George Washington was the first President of the United States. So many infallible proofs are available that anyone who will take the time to study them must be convinced." (Pp. 9-10, The Empty Tomb pamphlet)

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

CONCLUSION:

They remained (7)

These came forth

He was changed + seen + changed his followers.

A.-Three Miracles Of The Empty Tomb:

1-The UNDISTURBED GRAVE-CLOTHES
2-The REVIVED GRAVE-DWELLERS
3-The RESURRECTED CHRIST

4-Godet--"The **IMPORTANCE** of the **resurrection**---This event is not merely intended to **MARK OUT Jesus** as the **Savior; it is SALVATION** itself; condemnation removed, death vanquished. We were perishing, condemned: Jesus dies. His death **saves us**; He is the first who enjoys salvation. He rises again; then in Him we are made to **live again.** Such an event is **everything**, includes everything, or it has **no existence.**" (Luke, P. 365)

5-**ILLUS.**--In South Africa, I am told by a missionary friend, when a heathen is dying the witch doctor will put in his hand a **DEAD BONE** as **a passport** into the world beyond. That is all the help the dying heathen has with which to **face the unknown** darkness of eternity.

BUT we Christians do **not grasp at a dead bone** as we passthru the valley of the shadow of death. We grasp the **HAND** of our **Lord** Who lives! **ALIVE** from the grave to lead us into the presence of our Father above

WHAT A DIFFERENCE !!!

PROP RESTATED

B.-The Miracle That Results From The Empty Tomb:

1-**ILLUS.**--One of the many inte
out of the annals of old England
of **two** great men who were **skepti**

One was the eminent
was **LORD LITTLETON**, famous Engli
literary world.

They were **agreed** tha
destroyed, but they further agre
troy Christianity, **two things** we

They must **disprove** t
and **explain** the **conversion** of **Sa**
demands of skepticism. There wa
master minds, & each accepted hi

West assumed the tas
resurrection & **Littleton** would d
that had its setting on the Dama
ample time----**a year** or more, &
pare notes.

These miracles of authentication force us to faith in Jesus Christ both as SON OF GOD and as our PERSONAL SAVIOR!

When they met, **BOTH** WERE **CHRISTIANS**, each confessing to his **conversion** as a **result** of his own **research.** The resurrection fact withstood the test of **unfriendly**, but **honest investigation**, as did also that of Saul's conversion. Both **facts still stand.**

There are so many things--tremendous realities--which cannot be explained without them !!

2-The **MIRACLE** of the **NEW BIRTH** is based upon there being a **Living Savior** to bestow life upon sinful men

3-**Heb. 7:25**--"Wherefore He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him..."

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

4-Have you received the NEW LIFE that is available in Christ??

5-What is the plan??

- Acknowledge yourself a sinner
- Believe that God loves you
- CONFESS that Christ died for YOUR SINS and was raised again to prove God's satisfaction with His sacrifice
- DECIDE To Take Jesus Christ as your OWN PERSONAL SAVIOR "by faith"
- EXPRESS faith in Believer's Baptism.

6-Won't you make this decision NOW to receive Jesus Christ as YOUR Savior today??

7-Quiet opportunity with heads bowed

A
B
C
D
E

Westbrae--3/29/70--# 122 - Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Calvary Columbus 3/30/75 #121 - Christ Arose

1st Baptist Waynesville, PA - 4/4/77 #124 - He Lives

Covington Bible Ch, VA - 4/3/83

OKBC - 4/6/86 Blessed Redeemer #516

Hilltop Bapt. Ch. - 4/16/95 Christ Liveth In Me #512

" " " - 4/2/06 - Men's S.S.

Putney Memorial Ch, Charleston - 4/12/09

"RECOGNIZING THE LIVING LORD" John 20:11-18
2 Cor. 5:16-18

1

INTRO:

A.-The Poem: (Grace Noll Crowell):

Each Easter morning I go with her into the garden.
I love to walk beside her, to carry, as she carries,
Alloes and cinnamon and myhrr,
And all the sweet burden of spices for our Lord.

The old garden is wet with the night dew.
Since last Friday many feet have trod the pathway
The bruised petals of white lillies and of pale purple flocks
Lift their faint fragrance like incense thu the dusk.

The shadows of grey olives lie deep across the old walls,
The dawn tarries over the hills.
Mary wears the trailing dark dress of the night;
But I wear the shining white garments of the dawn,
For I have long known something that she does not know.

Her eyes see the open sepulchre--stark before her in the darkness,
And there is a voice: "Woman, why weepest thou?"
"I weep", she answers, "because they have taken away my Lord,
And I know not where they have laid Him."

"Oh, Mary, Mary, I want to put my arms about you,
To tell you! To tell you! I want to call it through the dusk.
I want to sing it to the stars! I cannot breathe for it!
Mary--Look--See!...He is not the gardener. He is..."

But Mary's eyes are heavy with tears. She cannot see.
"Sir, if thou hast born Him hence, tell me where thou has laid Him."
And then, with the old-time tenderness, Jesus speaks her name:

"MARY." And she, with quick incredible joy
Cries aloud one word: "RABBONI".

B.-The Scene:

1-At the tomb in the garden near Calvary
2-Resurrection morning at dawn
3-Coming **to anoint** the body of Christ for permanent burial
4-EXPLAIN Jewish burial--what had already been done on Friday by Joseph & Nicodemus
5-**Many have come** to the grave:
- --To entomb
- --To seal the stone
- --To guard
- --to stare
- --To mock
- --To finalize the empty tomb
- --To find an EMPTY TOMB !!

--**BODILY RESURRECTION** is the event upon the whole redemption plan rests
--The **ULTIMATE SIGN** !!

6-Mary Magdalene: (Elizabeth B. Browning)

"Not she with traitorous kiss her Master stung,
Not she denied Him with unfaithful tongue.
She when Apostles fled could dangers brave
Last at His cross and earliest at His grave."

(2)

C.-The Progression:

1-Outline: I.-Mary ALONE
II.-Mary WITH THE ANGELS
III.-Mary WITH THE LORD
IV.-Mary WITH HIS MESSAGE

2-PROP:--All apostolic preaching centers in the resurrection and so does all of the Christian's perspective!

I.-MARY ALONE: (John 20:11):

A.-Her Appearance:

1-Dressed in dark mourning clothes
2-Reflecting her gloom and despair
3-Weeping==SOBBING!

B.-Her Attitude:

1-Thankful for Jesus' help while He lived, for He cast out of her seven demons (Luke 8:2)
2-Shattered hopes at His crucifixion
3-No permanent help, she thought
4-Perplexed by finding the tomb empty

C.-Her Actions:

1-Came to the tomb to complete the ritual of Jewish burial (20:1)
2-Saw (a mere GLANCE) the empty tomb (20:1)
3-Ran to tell Peter & John, who were still ignorant of the fact that Jesus was raised (20:2)
4-Now Mary returns to the scene to vent her anxiety and heartache
5-No thought that Jesus is ALIVE...LOVE makes her LINGER there.

II.-MARY WITH THE ANGELS: (John 20:12-14a):

A.-Their Position (20:12)

1-Seated in white apparel--TWO ANGELS
2-Truly there, for they are included in the record made by John, though he did not see them now, nor at their earlier appearance
3-REMARKABLE & INTERESTING!
--One at the head of the body's former resting place
--Other at the foot of the body's former resting place
--Presiding over an EMPTY GRAVE
--Ps. 91--"He shall give His angels charge over Thee"
4-Mary tarries at this HALLOWED SPOT

B.-Their Question: (20:13a):

1-"Woman" -Not a term of disrespect
-Used by Jesus to His mother (19:26)
-Tender sympathy
2-"Why weepest thou?"==VIOLENT SOBBING
3-Only questions came from the angels
4-NO ANSWERS....NO HELP from them. The wonder of talking to angels did not satisfy her heart

C.-Her Agitation: (20:13b)

1-Troubled by the absence of the body of Jesus
2-Still, Mary is unknowing of the truth of the resurrec.
3-Concerned about the present place of the dead body
4-Notice terms -"THE Lord" (20:2)
-"MY Lord" (20:13)
5-Still, He was her Lord, even in death! -Loving, loyal DEVOTION!!

D.-Their Insufficiency: (20:14):

1-Her heart was centered in CHRIST
2-She has no real interest in the angels
3-Even angels, without Christ, could not satisfy a broken heart
4-"She turned herself back"
5-Engulfed by sorrow:
6-Mrs. Stowe wrote:

"It is said that gardeners sometimes, when they would bring a rose to richer flowing, deprive it for a season of light & moisture. Silent & dark it stands, dropping one fading leaf after another, and seeming to go down patiently to death. BUT when every leaf is dropped, and the plant stands stripped to the uttermost, a new life is working in the buds, from which shall spring a tender foliage, and a brighter wealth of flowers. SO, OFTEN, in heavenly gardening, every leaf of earthly joy must drop before a new and divine bloom visits the soul."

7-SUDDENLY.....something happened!

III.-MARY WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST: (20:14b-17)

A.-His Presence: (20:14b)

1-Characteristics of Christ's post-resurrection ministry
-Jesus Standing
-Jesus Saith
-Jesus WITH those He loves in their times of trial
-ILLUS -Stephen in Acts 7:54-56
2-Jesus is NEAR to Mary, but UNRECOGNIZED
3-She sees Jesus, but without understanding or recognition of WHO HE IS!

B.-His Questions: (20:15a)

1-"WHY weepest thou? WHOM do you seek?"
- -Deep questions
- -Penetrating inquiries

2-NOTE -Even when Jesus Christ is not recognized, HE IS SPEAKING to hearts

* 3-Often His words come in times of sorrow, for we are more open to listen when we've engulfed in tears

4-Doubtless, that is why some of our trials come

5-1 Peter 1:6-9

C.-Her Mistake Of Identification: (20:15b)

1-No recognition of Christ--Why she did not recognize Him is not made clear to us

2-Many possible explanations of her failure to recognize Him
- -Her eyes dimmed with tears
- -Her mind occupied with other thoughts
- -Her not expecting to see Him alive
- -Her heavy concern over the unexplained circumstances she had found at the tomb
- -Her not looking clearly at the One Who spoke to her
- -His altered appearance from the long agony on the cross
- -READ Isa. 52:14; 53:3-6

3-Mary thinks the speaker is the gardener
- -A natural mistake in a garden area at an early hour
- -Questions him as to the place the body of Jesus has been taken
- -Seeking the DEAD, when she should have been looking for the Living !!

4-"I will take him"
- -Implication; "To give Him a decent burial"
- -Love beyond her strength
- -WESTCOTT--"Love makes her strength appear to be sufficient"

* -Language of a loyal heart
- -How PLEASED Christ must have been for her sinner's heart to cry out... "I WILL TAKE JESUS" !!!
- -"Whosoever will, let him take...."
- -WHO ever sought Jesus, and did not find??? NO ONE !!!
- -Those who seek, find not a corpse, but a LIVING SAVIOR !!

D.-His Identification: (20:16)

1-In the midst of Mary's perplexity, JESUS SPEAKS !!

2-"MARY" --Common name ("Miriam" in Greek text"
- -Much loved name
- -Song by Irving Berlin titled "MARY"
- -G.C.MORGAN--"Then He said, 'Mary'. I cannot interpret that in any tone of voice of which I am capable, so as to reveal all the significance of that 'Mary'. It is possible to utter a name in such a way as to call back

all memories, and reveal all endearment. That is what Jesus did. He just said 'Mary.'" (P. 313)

--Tone of infinite tenderness

--John 10:3, 27--"...He calleth His own sheep by name, and leadeth them out....My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:"

--Jesus can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities

--Heb. 4:15--"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

CONTRAST ----"ROBERT ALLEN" spoken in a harsh tone!!!

A little boy came home from school one day and asked his mother if "ROBERT ALLEN" was a swear word. When questioned, the little boy told his mother that "ROBERT ALLEN" was what Bobbie's mother called out to him when he did something he was NOT supposed to do.

------No such tone of voice from Jesus !!

3-"She turned herself"--responsibility of personal and individual response to Jesus' call to every person's heart

--CONTRAST 20:14, where Mary turned away from the angels

--Immediate response from Mary

4-"RABBONI"--KJV reads "Master", but the word comes from , and means "TEACHER"

--Mary was the FIRST to see Jesus as raised from the dead (Mk. 16:9)

** Incredible joy in recognition of Jesus
** Intricacies of what went on in her heart are not to be known by us
** Yet, a HEART response
** She had sown in TEARS, and now she reaps in JOY

--Rabboni was the strongest word of human reverence a woman in Israel could use

--HEART RESPONSE is what Jesus looks for in us

--Does He get it ??

--Not what we have done...or given, but

HIMSELF (Herb Jauchen)

"Once it was the blessing, Now it is the Lord;
Once it was the feeling, Now it is His Word;
Once His gifts I wanted, Now the Giver own;
Once I sought for healing, Now Himself alone.

Once 'twas painful trying, Now 'tis perfect trust;
Once a half salvation. Now the uttermost;
Once 'twas ceaseless holding, Now He holds me fast;
Once 'twas constant drifting, Now my anchor's cast.

Once 'twas busy planning, Now 'tis trustful prayer;
Once 'twas anxious caring, Now He has the care;
Once 'twas what I wanted, Now what Jesus says;
Once 'twas constant asking, Now 'tis ceaseless praise.

Once it was my working, His it hence shall be;
Once I tried to use Him, Now He uses me;
Once the power I wanted, Now the Mighty One;
Once for self I labored, Now for Him alone

Once I hoped in Jesus, Now I know He's mine;
Once my lamps were dying; Now they brightly shine;
Once for death I waited, Now His coming hail,
And my hopes are anchored, Safe within the veil."

E.-His Rebuke: (20:17a)

1-Mary throws herself at His feet
- -To "cling"; "hold on"
- -Nevermore wanting to be separated from Jesus
- -"STOP holding me; I am not yet ascending..."

2-Calling Him "TEACHER"--"RABBONI"
- --Term of human level address
- --Not yet calling Him LORD OF GLORY !

3-Rebuked by Christ here
- -Yet a similar falling at His feet allowed in Matt. 28:9
- -W H Y ??
- * (a) High Priestly functions were as yet unfulfilled as required by the O.T. typology---"I am ascending" referred to presenting His blood of sacrifice
- (b) Hereafter people on earth are to Know Jesus Christ, not after the flesh, but after the Spirit, and thus assume a new relationship
  - ** Intimacy on a new plane
  - ** 2 Cor. 5:16--"Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we Him no more."
  - ** "My Father; Your Father; My God; Your God"
  - ** HYPOSTATIC UNION is in view
- (c) Do not detain me, nor should you detain yourself now. You will see Me again soon
  - * ++ This is not revealed in the text of Scripture
  - ++ Promised only to the others (Mt. 28)
- -Explanations (a) & (b) are not mutually exclusive & I think are both true, while (c) is contrary to revealed truth.

IV.-MARY AND HIS MESSAGE: (20:17b-18):

A.-Instructions:

1-"GO" to my brethren; "SAY" to my brethren
- New term "BRETHREN" introduced in Mt. 28:10
- -How kindly & graciously our Lord speaks of His disciples-----"BRETHREN"
- -Mary is summoned to duty------TELL THEM !!

2-This was a higher honor than that which He denied her

3-FIRST to see the resurrected Lord and to bear record of His resurrection to the disciples.

4-Ps. 103: 13-14--"Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear Him. For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust."

7

B.-Implicit Obedience:

1-"Came and told"--Told WHAT ??

--Not of an empty tomb. That they already knew

*--But told of THE LIVING LORD !! His Person is alive !

--Like a good servant, she proceeds at once to do what she is told. She was Christ's apostle to the APOSTLES

2-OUR perspective

--Not known on the basis of sensory perception

--Not known on the basis of eyewitness experiences

--Not known on the basis of hearsay evidence

--Not known on the basis of personal contact

*--But known because of the VALID AUTHORITY & TRUTH of God's recorded revelation

--Eyewitnesses who were there have given us an accurate record

--Received as truth "BY FAITH"

** Thus, WE TOO are RECOGNIZING Jesus Christ here today

** He is OUR LIVING LORD !!

** Easter is the commemoration that HE IS RISEN, AS HE SAID !

"do is every Lord's Day

C.-Invitation: (1 Cor. 11:23-33)

1-Recognition--Christ is not in a tomb today

--His body has not been stolen away

--But He is THE RESURRECTED, LIVING LORD

2-ILLUS--Like everyone else who has ever owned an auto with a self-locking door, I once locked my keys inside my car. The ventilation window in the front was open, so I thought I could put my hand throught to unlock the door....but I could not make it. Three or four other people tried and failed. Finally a girl with a small wrist and slender arm was able to reach through the small opening, unfasten the door and let me in.

You and I do not have a right to approach the Cross of Christ unless we recognize that once there was a tomb that had the body of Jesus Christ in it, and that He was raised from the dead, and that cross is on the other side. You and I today must reach our hand through the open tomb of Jesus and grasp the cross on the resurrection side !

3-Death shown forth==Preached

--Because of His purchase of life

--Because others need to know HE DIED FOR THEM !
--Because others need to know HE IS ALIVE FOR THEM

4-"Remembrance"-Of ME
--THE Person of Jesus Christ
--Remembrance "til He comes"

5-Self-Examination-Not by a neighbor
--Not of a neighbor
--But of OURSELVES before God
--Judge sin in our own lives----1 Jn. 1:9
--Time of recognition
--Time of devotion

CONCLUSION:

A.-Mary's Communion:

1-ALONE and miserable
2-With ANGELS, but still perplexed and without help
3-With HER LORD---Comforted and Commanded
---An empty tomb...
---The LIVING LORD !

B.-Your Communion:

1-Have you recognized Jesus Christ as YOUR LIVING LORD ???

2-Have you recognized Jesus Christ as YOUR LIVING SAVIOR?

Westbrae---4/12/64
Westbrae---5/25/69
Lookout Baptist--9/11/83
OKBC---4/19/87 + 5/16/93
Grace G.Ch - 4/4/93
Lookout Baptist Ch-4/18/93
SBCC - 7/11/93
NEW MILFORD BAPT CH, PA - 7/25/93

"Wounded For Me" #498
"Face To Face" #482
"In The Garden" #268
or
"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" #379
"Take The Name Of Jesus With You" #483

INTRODUCTION:

A.-Thomas The Man:

1-Dubbed "DOUBTING THOMAS" by many
2-Listed among the Apostles (Matt. 10:2-3)
3-Called "DIDYMUS", which means "THE TWIN"
--David Smith suggests that the apostle's name was Judas, but that he was named "the twin" to distinguish him from Judas, the son of James, and Judas Iscariot." (Lockyer, All The Men of the Bible, 327)
4-Galilean by birth (Jn. 21:2)
5-WHYTE--"It was already the last week of his Master's life before we have Thomas so much as once opening his mouth." (LXVIII, P. 159)
6-All that we know of Thomas, except for his being listed among the disciples is derived from the GOSPEL OF JOHN. Three traits-which so exactly agree together, that slight though they be, place his character before us with a precision which belongs to no other of the 12 apostles except Peter, John & Judas.

1—7-Thomas' character is that of:
--A man slow to believe,
--A man who saw all the difficulties of a case
--A man subject to despondency, viewing things on the darker side, and yet full of ardent love for his Master.

2—8-MELANCHOLY and despondent; A PESSIMIST
--John 11:6--"Let us go that we may die with Him"
--Death seemed the easiest way out of life to Thomas
--Devotion of a man who looked on the gloomy side
--Eccles. 7:1-2--"A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth. It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men;"

Apprehensive of danger

3—9-HONEST about his ignorance
--Jn. 14:5--"Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?"
--Wanted answers enough to ask questions
--An open & honest desire for clarification
--Received MORE than he asked for
--Jn. 14:6

10-Vigeveno--He was beyond question the most pessimistic, the most melancholy, morose, and thereby the most stubborn of the disciples. Peter Marshall calls him 'the Palestinian Missourian.' He will not believe anything he cannot see. He is so factual, so realistic, that he looks at the world, at suffering, at life until he is a thorough-going pessimist, a brooder. To call him 'doubting Thomas' is not quite enough. The mule would be a better symbol: hard to move, stubborn, sullen serious.

What was he ever doing as an apostle of Jesus? Why was he chosen? I don't know. Unless Jesus wants to give all kinds of encouragement to anyone who is mulish and melancholy, to anyone pessimistic by nature and full of doubts. Nevertheless Tennyson may have the key with those famous lines:

'There lives more faith in honest doubt,
believe me, than in half the creeds.' "

(Twelve Who Changed The World, P. 75)

11-In Thomas THE TWINS of unbelief & faith were contending for mastery as Esau and Jacob, the old man and the new, once wrestled in Rebecca's womb.
Thomas was a TWIN-MINDED MAN !!!

B.-Thomas The Servant:

1-No N.T. record or authority for his service
2-Believed that he worked at Antioch for a time
3-Established churches in North Africa
4-INDIA--Arrived in 52 A.D. in Cranganoor
--Labored among both Jews & Gentiles
--Led many converts to Christ
--Established 7 churches, 4 of which remain even unto today, and one of them has 25,000 members and 148 branch churches
--Shot at with arrows
--Martyred by stabbing
5-Tradition credits him with the authorship of a gospel which is included in apocryphal literature

C.-What Happened Between?:

* 1-A changed man *
2-No longer in word only, but in deed also !
3-How was he changed ??
4-John 20:24-29 tells us.....THIS made the difference
5-PROP: If you really meet Jesus, as Thomas did, your life will be radically transformed !!

I.-THE ABSENCE OF THOMAS (John 20:24):

A.-The Meeting:

1-Crucifixion of Jesus was followed by FLIGHT of disciples
2-Resurrection of Christ occurred on Sunday following
3-Five Appearances on resurrection day
1--Appearance to Mary Magdalene
2--Appearance to the women returning from the tomb
3--Appearance to Peter in the afternoon
4--Appearance to the couple on the Emmaus Road
5--Appeared to the TEN who were regathered because they had heard of the resurrection
** JOY and TRIUMPH were the reactions
** Christ met with them in PRESENCE & POWER
4-Absentees ++ Judas, who had hanged himself
++ Thomas also was missing

B.-The Missing:

1-Thomas was **not there**--"But Thomas..." (Jn. 20:24)

2-**Where was he?**

--We **do not know** where he was

--**Nursing** his anguished & despondent heart ??

--Vigeveno: "**Why** was Thomas **missing**? He was so **moody**, so **melancholy**, so **pessimistic**, so **upset** that he could not bear to see his friends. He retreated into a shell. He lived with his frustration, his **disappointment**, his **disillusionment**. He was **absent** when **Jesus appeared**!

(Vigeveno, Twelve Who Changed The World, P. 77)

3-Thomas **MISSED** !!

--**Seeing** his Lord

--Gaining Christ's **peace**

--**Experiencing** Jesus' **joy**

--Receiving the Spirit's power

--**Hearing** the commission of SENDING

--Thomas really **ought to have been there** !!

$** Terribly punished for his absence

** Tremendous loss to Thomas

--"**BUT** Thomas..."

--"BUT Paul Reiter"

--"**BUT you**"..... What have you missed in your absence ??

4-The **first appearance** to the **assembled disciples** by their risen Master **LIFTED all** the present disciples up to the joy of heaven...

5-But that was a **last blow** to **cast Thomas down** !!!

II.-THE AGNOSTICISM OF THOMAS (20:25):

A.-Testimony Of Others:

1-Told of the **facts**

2-Told of the result--**LORDSHIP**

Jn. 20:20--"Then were the disciples **GLAD** when they **saw** the **Lord**

3-Vigeveno--P. 77

"Since **he was absent**, he **would not believe** the news. The others told him that they had **seen** THE **RISEN CHRIST**, that He was **alive**. Thomas **would never believe that!** He knew they were

trustworthy men, but now he would not trust them. He knew they were honorable, but he would not honor their word. He felt guilty, his conscience bothered him, and in his guilt he became defiant:

"UNLESS I SEE the mark of the nails on His hands, unless I put my finger into the place the nails were, and my hand into His side, I will not believe it."

4-Thomas totally rejected their testimony

B.-Thomas' Reaction:

1-Only willing to trust empirical knowledge
- --EYES shall see it
- --FINGERS shall be put in
- --HAND shall be thrust in
- --1 John 1:1-3 (READ)

2-Refusal to believe.....ANGUISH of soul seen here !!

3-Whyte: "We all understand Thomas' misery. We have all been possessed by it. It is the jealousy and rage of a guilty conscience. It is the jealousy and the rage of a disappointed and revengeful heart. When any good comes to others that we should have been sharers in, when we are absent through our own fault, and when those who were present come to tell us about all that we have lost, we have all been like Thomas. We said, 'I do not believe it.' It was not at all as you say it was. You are exalting yourselves over me. You are boasting yourselves beyond the truth. And if the truth cannot be hid from us, or denied by us, we hate them and the thing we have lost all the more." (Pp. 163-164)

4-WHY was Thomas doubting ??
- --Doubt centered on the message of the BODILY RESURRECTION
- --He was out of the presence of truth
- --He was not there when Jesus manifested Himself
- --WHY ??----Because Thomas was absent
- --Thomas was not an atheist, he was absent when others received the truth of the resurrection by Jesus' own coming to them/

5-Thomas is one in whom we see ourselves as in a mirror. Thomas, in all of his melancholy and resentment, is ourselves. Unbelief and obstinacy....loss of opportunity, and then increased unbelief, is no strange thing to us. (Whyte, P. 164)

6-ILLUS--Spurgeon: "You that are vexed at your own doubts are not to come to the conclusion that the Lord utterly rejects you. He discriminates between the FOLLY of a child and the WICKEDNESS of the rebel. He knows what is in your heart, and knows that you are His. You are like a ship that is well anchored, and though the tide is rushing in, and the tide makes your vessel roll from side to side, so that you yourself stagger, yet the vessel is not loosed from its moorings, neither are you in any danger.

Your faith is fixed on Christ, and THIS ANCHOR holds you; though you are tossed about a little, you will

suffer no shipwreck because of sin, but much seasickness because of folly."

5

III.-THE ASSURANCE OF THOMAS: (20:26-27)

A.-Aggravation (=Testing):

1-Our timetable is not always in harmony with God's
2-WE need our answers N O W !!
3-God often says for us to "WAIT", which we dislike
4-Eight days before the conclusion came
5-Time for anguish to mature to desperation
6-All week the other disciples talk to MULISH THOMAS. After much persuasion, he joins them next Sunday at the Meeting Place.

B.-Materialization (=Presence):

1-Brethren gathered together again
2-Door was again shut
3-Now no fear as there was before (20:19)
4-Jesus came back. HE APPEARS to the man who had come back to the assemblage of His disciples
5-Jesus speaks PEACE !
7-John 14:27--"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you, Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Remember His words!

C.-Invitation:

1-Jesus got right to the point
- *
  - -Used the same terms Thomas had blatantly demanded
  - -"REACH" "BEHOLD" "THRUST"
  - -No devastating rebuke
  - -No severe censure uttered
  - -But in tenderness Jesus invited Thomas

2-Active examination invited now as it had been to the other disciples a week earlier (20:20)
3-Jesus' body was REAL !!
4-Whyte: "How Thomas must have hated himself when his own words -scornful, unbelieving words of contempt--came back to him from his Master's gracious lips! How utterly odious his own words would sound as his Master repeated them. And worst of all when his risen Master humbled Himself to meet Thomas' unbelieving words and to satisfy tehem. Thomas would have killed himself with shame and self condemnation, had it not been given him at that grandest moment of his life to say, "MY LORD AND MY GOD!" (P. 165)
5-Overwhelmed by Jesus' presence as ALIVE !! No longer was Thomas unbelieving, but now BELIEVING !!

7-ILLUS--A theological student once went to Dr. Charles Hodge with his difficulties about the deity of our Lord and Savior. The Professor listened patiently and then said: "My dear young friend, your difficulties are of the HEAD. If I should answer them, new ones would suggest themselves. The best way to remove them and to guard yourself from future and similar troubles is TO EXPERIENCE CHRIST within you. LEARN His life; Learn to TRUST HIM more, to LOVE HIM more; become IDENTIFIED WITH HIM, and all your doubts will disappear..."

.....and they did !!

IV.-THE ABJECTION OF THOMAS: (20:28)

A.-Examination By Thomas:

1-Don't read that Thomas did engage in the examination
2-Don't personally believe that he did so; It was Not Necessary !!
3-Presence of Christ was enough !!
4-Despite all his doubts & fears, he arrived on SOLID GROUND. Once he doubted; Now he believes

Hands Feet Side

5-ILLUS--A Roman Catholic was dying and a nun sent for the priest. Before the priest arrived, a cleaning woman entered the room of the dying woman. The cleaning woman was a believer. Seeing the condition of the woman in the bed, she inquired if she knew the Lord Jesus.

Finding the woman ignorant of eternal salvation, she was led to speak to her about her pressing need of forgiveness of sin and eternal life. This remedy for her soul's need the dying woman happily embraced.

Some time later the priest arrived to find the dying woman happy instead of miserable. He announced that he was ready to hear her confession and to absolve her of her sins.

The woman asked, "MAY I SEE YOUR HANDS?" Thinking her delerious, he refused. But she insisted, "Let me see your hands!!".

When she took his hand, she felt its palm and then looked up into the face of the priest and said, "It won't do, father. The hand of the One who forgives sin has a nail-print in it!"

B.-Reaction By Thomas:

1-Terms-- "GOD" ** Thomas had known Jesus Christ as "GOD" in truth for a long time - Matt 16.
** A few days before Thomas had professed Jesus as "SAVIOR" (Jn. 14:5-6)
** Doubtless a "second-time decision" or a PUBLIC CONFESSION

"LORD" ++Term meant "Master"
++ Puts one in the position of a bondslave
++ It involves TOTAL OBEDIENCE !!

2-Personal commitment--"MY" Lord and "MY" God
--Thomas accepted the truth of LORDSHIP !!

3-ILLUS--P.C.R.'s call to the ministry & Rev. Warner's words that if God would let me be content in anything else, then I did not have call to the ministry.

4-You see, an obedience to LORDSHIP (20:20, 25) involves SERVICE (20:21-23) !!

5-Necessitates an OPEN CONFESSION for Lordship
- Mt. 10:32--"Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven."
- Rom. 10:9--"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

6-ILLUS--I have in my pocket a one dollar bill. Have you ever examined one carefully? There is no danger of my not recognizing it as a ONE DOLLAR BILL, for on it in one form or another there are 25 times that it says "ONE DOLLAR"
This piece of currency seems eager to let it be known that it is a one dollar bill. WHAT A CHALLENGE it is to those of us who know the Lord Jesus as our Savior.
Let us make it known that we belong to Jesus. This dollar makes no secret of what it is. Why should you or I ever hidethe fact that we own the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord ?

V.-THE APPLICATION OF THOMAS' CASE: (20:29)

A.-By Sight:

1-Thomas would have seen the Lord sooner if he had been in the assembly of the brethren, where he should have been

2-PRIVILEGE of seeing the Lord was Thomas' privilege
--Even if it was 8 days later than the others first saw the Risen Christ
--Issue is that Thomas SAW Jesus alive !!
--All doubts were settled
--Belief was well founded in fact
--Thomas responded positively to the evidence

B.-By Faith:

1-"Unbelief grows by what it feeds upon, just like faith and love." (Whyte, P. 166)

2-Not all have had or will have on earth the privilege of seeing the Savior in His resurrection body (2 Cor. 5:16)
--"We walk by faith and not by sight"
--"Whom, having not seen, ye love." 1 Pet. 1:8
--Jn. 20:29

3-No advantage--To an apostle
--No disadvantage to us, either
--Faith is open to all !

4-"Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God"
Rom. 10:17

5-Now, from Tomas and His Lord that night, let us learn this truth also, and take it with us always

6-Let us ACT ON THE FAITH we have
--By frequenting the places where Jesus meets us
--By feeding on the truth that changes us

CONCLUSION:

A.-Thomas:

1-Absence--Cost him dearly
--Never again absent from the assembly of believers (John 21:2; Acts 1:13)

2-Agnosticism--Hurt him badly

3-Assurance--Abundantly provided by our Gracious Lord

4-Abjection of devotion--What God wants from us, also
--"MY Lord and MY God"

5-Stevenson--"We have fallen into the habit of using the expression 'Doubting Thomas,' concerning those who refuse to accept the many infallible proofs of our Lord's resurrection. But a comparison between them and Thomas cannot be made, for conditions are very different The real difficulties which hindered Thomas from believing do not now exist, since the fact of the Resurrection is one of the best attested events in history. Although we have not seen Him in the flesh, we have seen the operation of His Spirit in works of mercy and redeeming grace. We are not called upon to believe blindly, but to accept what is most clearly proven and rational. Thomas DID believe when he saw the Lord, but those who refuse his testimony today do so in defiance of evidence no less real than that which convinced Thomas, and stand condemned by the apostle under whose hesitancy they think to shelter. To reject the Lord Jesus is to spurn His outstretched, pierced hand." (A Galaxy of Saints, P. 90-91)

B.-You And I:

1-Won't you join me in CONSCIOUSLY YIELDING to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the areas of life about which He has been dealing with you ??

2-Romans 12:1-2

3-[ILLUS]-Have you ever reflected on the failure of life when you insistently followed your own will rather than that which the Lord desired for you. Heartbreak, sorrow and even catastrophe sometimes follow.

The famed composer, Mendelssohn was one day visiting the cathedral in Fribourg. Ascending to the organ loft he asked the musician if he might be allowed to play. The organist, somewhat jealous at first, hesitated, and then finally moved from the console to let the unknown guest play.

When the tremendous thunder of beautiful and majestic melodies poured forth, the local organist stood there in sheer

ecstasy & delight. Finding out the composer's identity, he declared: "And can it be that I so nearly refused to let the great Mendelssonn touch this organ?"

Why is it that we refuse to let the Great Musician, the Lord of glory, touch our lives and fill them with the symphony of His own grace?

"I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice"

Christ will send no one away empty, except the one who is full of himself. Let the Great Musician of eternity bring majestic melodies out of your life, as He has control of you.

4-POEM "For all thy rankling doubts so sore,
Love thou thy Savior still,
Him for thy Lord and God adore,
And ever do His will."

Westbrae--5/3/64
6/8/69
Lst Baptist Ch., Warrensville, PA--4/7/77
Lookout Baptist Church--8/21/83
O.K.B.C.--5/3/87
Bible Center Ch - 3/3/04
Harper Rd. Bapt. Ch, Beckley - 3/8/04
Beulah Bapt. Ch, Summerville - 8/12/04
Hilltop Bapt. Ch. - Men's S.S - 4/23/06

#317--'Tis So Sweet To Trust In J
#171--Faith Is The Victory
#318--Blessed Quietness
#438--Have Thine Own Way, Lord

No Empty Pews.—*But Thomas . . . was not with them when Jesus came* (John 20:24). An Ulster minister met an adherent in the street face to face, and there was no escape. The man knew that he was "in for it" as the minister had oft spoken to him about church attendance. So he made a frank confession: "My seat was empty on the Sabbath." "Oh, no!" replied the minister quickly, "it was not." "What!" said the offender, "Who was there?" "Satan was there," replied the minister, "Satan was there, leering up at me and saying, 'I've got him again.'"—*From The Gospel Witness. Sent by J. B. Dengis, Hamilton, Ont., Can.*

"WHY THESE SIGN MIRACLES?" John 20:30-31
or
"THOSE (SIGNS) ARE WRITTEN THAT YE MIGHT BELIEVE"

INTRO:

A.-Signs: (σημεῖον)

1-There are 4 Gk. words used in the Gospels to characterize our Lord's miracles (Ryrie, MIRACLES, P. 10)
(a) DUNAMIS emphasizes that the mighty power of God has entered the world as displayed in Christ's miracles
(b) TERAS means "wonder" and emphasizes the extraordinary character of our Lord's miracles
(c) ERGON means "works" & is used both for Christ's miracles & also for His ordinary works of mercy
(d) SEMEION means "sign" or miraculous act. It indicates that Christ's miracles were to teach us spiritual truth.

2-Mt. 12:38-39--"Master, we seek a sign..."
3-1 Cor. 1:22--"For the Jews reqire a sign..."
4-THIRTY-FIVE miracles performed by Jesus Christ as recorded in the Gospels
5-DEF.--(C.S.Lewis, MIRACLES, P. 15--See Ryrie, P. 10)

"A miracle is more than something unusual (though in ordinary speech we often call such events miracles). A true miracle is something beyond man's intellectual or scientific ability to accomplish. It is not natural, even though it may be unusual; a miracle is supernatural (that is, from God or Satan). It is more than a highly improbable event; it injects a new element (the supernatural) into the natural order of things."

6-POINT:--Miracles are tokens of authority
--Jn. 3:2--"Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him."
--Jn. 2:23--Now when He was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in His name, when they saw the miracles which He did."

B.-Satanic Counterfeits:

1-Rev. 16:14--"...demons, working miracles"
2-Mt. 24:24--"For there shall arise false Christs & false prophets, & shall show great signs & wonders insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."
Self-assumed authorities
3-2 Thess. 2:9--"Even him whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power & signs & lying wonders
Anti-Christ
4-The enemy of men's souls has long sought to counterfeit spiritual power & reality---& to usurp the place God alone deserves in men's hearts & lives

C.-Statements By Disciples:

1-PETER--Acts 2:22--"Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles & wonders & signs, which God did by Him in the midst of you, as ye yoursel ves also know."
2-JOHN--Jn. 20:30-31
3-Agreement by others who wrote records of Jesus' life & work---Matthew
--Mark
--Luke
4-PROP: ----The sign miracles accomplished by Jesus Christ set Him apart from all other men and require a decision about Him by you !!

I.-MANY SIGN MIRACLES:

A.-The Times Of Miracles:

1-A long drought of miracles in Israel--Moses & Aaron
--Elijah & Elisha
--Now Jesus, after hundreds of years w/ no miracles
2-NONE from Jesus' boyhood, despite Roman Catholic tradition
3-Spread of 35 miracles over 3½ years of public ministry
4-O.T. associates miracles with DIVINE JUDGMENT
N.T. associates miracles with DIVINE BLESSING

B.-The Territories Of Miracles:

1-Galilee at Cana's wedding for the first one
2-Others--Perea
--Judea
--Jerusalem

C.-The Types Of Miracles:

1-Healed the blind
2-Cured the lepers
3-Raised the dead
4-Calmed the storms at sea
5-Cast out demons.....etc.

D.-The Traits Of Miracles: (Ryrie, MIRACLES, P. 11)

1-They were performed for high purposes:
--NOT for personal convenience (i.e., no bread for himself during 40 days of Temptation)
--BUT to meet definite needs of others
** Fed the multitudes
** Raised the dead
** Healed the lepers
2-They were not confined to a single sphere of life, so they could never be considered trickery:

--Done on HUMAN BEINGS (MK. 1:29-31, 40-42)
--Done on DEMONS (Mk. 5:12-13)

3-They were done openly in front of spectators & witnesses:
--Many eyewitnesses were still living when the Gospel accounts were written & circulated in Palestine
--Objections would have been raised against untruths or misrepresentations

4-They did not always involve the faith of the person healed, but sometimes were done in spite of the lack of faith (Jn. 5:7)

II.-THESE SIGN MIRACLES--In John's Gospel--SEVEN OF THEM:

A.-Water To Wine--John 2:1-11:

1-Miracle at Cana of Galilee
2-"BEGINNING of miracles" (2:11)
3-Done at a wedding feast, and this shows Jesus' approval of the ceremony & act of marriage
4-Host has run out of refreshments
5-CREATIVE ACT--No process is involved here
--Creation of wine without grapes, sun or time
6-Separation of Christ by this miracle
--From His MOTHER by His words to her--2:4
--From other mere MORTALS by His deeds od creative power which no one else can exhibit
7-Lesson is clear---Jn. 2:5

B.-Nobleman's Son Healed--John 4:46-54: (ONLY in John)

1-PERSON--Not of royal line of David
--But, a royal officer in the service of Herod Antipas, Tetrarch of Galilee
2-PROBLEM--Child is near to death--4:47
3-POWER--"Thy son liveth"--4:50
4-PERSONAL FAITH--4:50 & 53
--"Believed the Word"
--Called Christ's second miracle (4:54)
5-RESTORATIVE ACT--Not a gradual recovery as might have been expected
--But complete & immediate
6-FAITH--Object was Christ
--Channel was His Word
7-Lesson is clear--Jesus healed the nobleman's son and both he and his household believed

C.-Infirm Man Healed--John 5:1-16:

1-Location--At's "HOUSE OF MERCY", which is what Bethesda means
2-CONDITION--Impotent for 38 years
--Unable to help or move himself
--Looking for a man to help him (5:7)

3-Interrogation--"Do you want to be made well?"
--No demand for faith was expressed

4-RESTORATION--By Jesus when no other would or could help
--Instantaneous & complete cure (5:8-9)
--Cure demonstrated (5:10-13)
--Sovereign act of healing; OMNIPOTENCE has cured impotence

5-Remember--Physical afflictions (bad as they may be) are not nearly so serious as spiritual ones
--Saved by GRACE ALONE; Healing of the soul

D.-Five Thousand Men Fed--John 6:1-14:

1-Jesus & disciples--Had been BUSY teaching & healing
--Ministering on East side of Sea of Galilee
--Crossed the lake to get rest from their labors-----"COME APART"

2-Kyrie--"It is not sinful to grow weary in the ministry, but it is unChristlike to grow weary of the ministry. Compassion should motivate us to service." (MIRACLES, P. 104)

3-The multitude--Saw Jesus & disciples on the ship crossing the lake to the N.W. corner of the lake, some 5 miles across from departure point
--Crowd followed by land to be with Jesus; probably 10 miles by foot to meet Him
--Hungered for Jesus' TEACHING, for teaching was the most prominent characteristic of His earthly ministry
--So, Jesus taught them all dy long
--HUNGRY now for physical food also

4-The Resources:
--Jn. 6:6 indicates Jesus desired TO TEST the disciples
--They looked at the circumstances instead of at Christ
--INADEQUATE RESOURCES ** In their treasury
** In availability at that place
** In food among the people
--Only a lad's lunch (6:9)
** Probably something of an ironic statement
** 5 barley loaves (==food of the poor)
** 2 fishes (Enough to flavor the poor bread he had)
** "WHAT ARE THEY AMONG SO MANY?"
** Not shared, but given to Jesus

5-The Preparation--A true Shepherd not only teaches the flock, but He also tends the sheep
--Loaves are taken & given to Jesus
--Multitude is seated by 50's
--Prayer is offered
--Disciples are employed to serve "Give YE them to eat"

6-The Sign Miracle
--This miracle and the RESURRECTION of Christ are the only sign miracles recorded in all four gospels
--Food is distributed
--The more the disciples gave, the more the needy multitude received------so that they were FED and FILLED !

--ENOUGH for all to eat & some left over

7-The evaluation--6:14
--Intellectual answer without their hearts being touched
--Why did they not WORSHIP HIM ??

8-The MULTIPLICATION MIRACLE:
--A little boy brought a little lunch, which was made enough when put into Christ's hands. Nothing is too small, nothing too weak, IF it is brought to Him !
--Faithfulness of Christ to meet needs; He is our ALL-SUFFICIENT ONE !!

E.-Walking On Water--John 6:15-21:

1-Immediately after feeding of 5,000 men +
--Jesus avoids a carnal attempt to crown Him king
--Departs alone into a mountain to pray
--Sends the disciples to a ship to go 4 to 5 miles to Bethsaida
--He PROTECTS THEM FROM HARM of the crowd's reactions by sending them away

2-Storm--Now they face another problem; A BAD STORM !!
--Adversity is not always chastisement
--Adversity often lies in the pathway of obedience
--Often His "way of escape", though difficult, protects us from something worse
--Natural to ask: "W H Y ?"
--Not wrong to ask
--Often wrong when we rationalize the answers

3-SEPARATION--The disciples are ALONE on the lake
--Terrific trial through a storm on the lake
--Jesus is preparing them for a time when they will no longer have Him with them physically on earth
--Their maturity process takes T I M E !!
--He is no less active on their behalf & no less available to help, just because He is not visible to their sight

4-Jesus is seen walking on the water
--Appears to intend to pass them by
--Disciples are afraid
--Jesus wants them to call upon Him for help
--The greatest temptation a Christian faces is thinking he can get along without Christ's enablement

5-Point--CONTROL OVER NATURE
--Jesus can feed the hungry & He can also calm the storms of life
--He is SUFFICIENT !!
--Disciples' reactions:
** "sore amazed in themselves"(=Wondered) Mk.6:51
** "Worshipped Him" Mt. 14:33

F.-Opening Blind Eyes--John 9:1-41:

1-LIGHT and DARKNESS are always in conflict
  --Jesus has said: "I am the light of the world" (Jn. 8:12
  --Opportunity to contrast soon arises
    ** Darkness of the Pharisees
    ** Light of our Lord
2-Occasion for the discussion--Blind man seen (9:1)
  --Disciples' Quesion (9:2)
    ** Did he sin ??
    ** Did his parents sin ??
    ** Only answers they appear to have entertained
  --ANOTHER EXPLANATION by Jesus (9:3-5)
3-Miracle of opening blind eyes
  --Only recorded by John, but in great detail
  --Miracle claims DEITY and MESSIAHSHIP for Jesus
    * In O. T. the giving of sight to the blind was the prerogative of God only (Ex. 4:11; Ps. 146:8)
    * =And it was an activity of Messiah (Isa. 29:18; 35:5; 42:7)
  --Confrontation between light and darkness
  --Miracle is done---(9:6-7)
4-Testimonies--Neighbors (9:8-12)
  --Pharisees (9:13-17)
  --Parents (9:18-23
  --The man (9:24-38)
    ** "A man called Jesus"----9:11
    ** "He is a Prophet" 9:17
    ** "A man of (=from) God" 9:33
    ** "The son of God (RV, Son of Man)--9:35
5-Notice how little knowledge this man had of who Jesus was
6-Yet--A miracle of FAITH as well as of HEALING

G.-Raising of Lazarus--John 11:1-44:

1-A resusitation, and not really a resurrection (==reviving or revitatlizing"
2-Remonstrance at the thought of removing the stone--11:39
3-Reminder-----11:40
4-Reason-------11:41-42
5-Resusitation------11:43-44a
6-Release---11:44b
7-POWER OVER DEATH !!

H.-Review of Seven Sign Miracles:

1-Water to wine
2-Nobleman's son healed
3-Infirm man healed
4-Five thousand fed
5-Walking on water
6-Opening blind eyes
7-Raising of Lazarus

ALL are MIRACES

Point: They demonstrate the unique authority of Jesus

III.-POINT OF SIGN MIRACLES:

A.-To Bring People To Belief:

1-John 20:30-31
2-Deity----SON OF GOD is the issue
3-Life (36 times in John) through belief (98 times in J
4-These miracles were selected according to John's purposes, but by no means are they an exhaustive list of Christ's miracles

B.-To Bring Y O U To Belief:

1-THE QUESTION-------WHO is Jesus Christ ??

Jesus considered WHO men believed Him to be of fundamental importance. C. S. Lewis, who was a professor at Cambridge University and once an agnostic, wrote: "I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say abou Him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great mora teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God

That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of thing Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a LUNATIC--on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg--or else h would be the DEVIL OF HELL. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son o God: or else a madman or something worse."

MERE CHRISTIANITY, Pp. 40-41

2-Alternatives:

JESUS CLAIMS TO BE GOD

(TWO ALTERNATIVES)

Claims were FALSE

(Two Alternatives)

He KNEW His Claims Were FALSE

He made a DELIBERATE MISREPRESENTATION

He was a LIAR

He was a HYPOCRITE

He was a DEMON

He was a FOOL for He died for it

He DID NOT KNOW His Claims Were FALSE

He was SINCERELY DELUDED

He was a LUNATIC

Claims were TRUE

He is LORD

(Two Alternatives)

You can ACCEPT

You can REJECT

You cannot be neutral!

3-The personal question" (Josh McDowell, EVIDENCE, P. 109)

Jesus claimed to be God. He did not leave any other options. His claim to be God must either be true or false and is something that should be given serious consideration. Jesus' question to His disciples: "But who do you say that I am?" (Mk. 8:29) is also asked of us today.

Jesus' claim to be God must either be true or false. If Jesus' claims are true then He is the Lord and we must either accept or reject His Lordship. We are without excuse.

4-What is YOUR response ??

(1) Jesus is a L I A R

"Someone who lived as Jesus lived, taught as Jesus taught and died as Jesus died could not have been a liar. What other alternatives are there?"

(2) Jesus is a L U N A T I C

"Even Channing, the Unitarian writer, speaking of the lunatic theory said: "The charge of an extravagant self-deluded enthusiasm is the last to be fastened on Jesus. Where can we find traces of it in His history?" (Quoted by Schaff)

(3) Jesus is L O R D !!

5-The evidence is clear

6-The decision is yours--To ACCEPT....or....To REJECT

7-Why not join John, Thomas, Peter, Mary Magdalene, Paul, and a multitude of others through the centuries

Whom you decide Jesus Christ is must not be an idle intellectual exercise. You cannot put Him on the shelf as a great moral teacher. That is not a valid option. He is either a LIAR, a LUNATIC or THE LORD.

You must make a choice. "But", as the apostle John wrote, "these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God"., and more important....

...."that believing you might have LIFE in His Name"

The evidence is clearly in favor of Jesus as Lord. However, some people reject the clear evidence because of moral implications involved. There needs to be a moral honesty in the above consideration of Jesus as either a LIAR, LUNATIC or LORD and God.

----I have chosen

....So must you !!

Lookout Baptist Church--9/4/83
O.K.B.C.--5/17/87

#425--"There Is Power In The Blood"
#355--"I Owe Everything To Jesus"
#146--"Holy Ghost, With Light Divine"
#184--"True-Hearted, Whole-Hearted"



"FISHING IN LORDSHIP WATERS" John 21:1-14

(1)

INTRO:

A.-The PERSON--Jn. 21:1:

1-"After these things"--Sometime between the 8th & 40th day
2-"SHEWED"=="MANIFESTED"
--Very much a Johannine word ** 9 times in John
** 9 x in 1 John
--Manifested that Jesus might be seen
--21:1 & 21:14--"shewed **Himself**"
--Not always physically present with the disciples after His resurrection
--Appeared at intervals to prepare them for His physical absence which was soon to occur
3-HIMSELF--Jesus is the center of their attention
--LONGEST account of any appearance of the Risen Christ in Galilee

B.-The PLACE--Jn. 21:1:

1-Sea of Tiberias--John's term for it
--Synoptic gospels call it Gennesseret or Galilee
--LAKE in northern Palestine
--Place of many memories & experiences of the disciples
2-In Galilee--By commandment:"under orders"
--Matt. 28:7, 10
--Disciples **EXPECTED** to find Jesus there

C.-The PEOPLE:--Jn. 21:2:

1-Five are named--Simon Peter
--Thomas
--Nathanael of Cana
--Two sons of Zebidee; James & John, our writer
2-Two unnamed--Part of the ELEVEN
--Represent PCR and YOU
--Total of **7** disciples were present
3-Called by one writer "a convention of **PROBLEM CHILDREN**"
4-PROP:--Fishing under Jesus' direction bring spectacular results----LORDSHIP'S RESULTS !

I.-THE FISHING-----(21:3-5):

A.-The DECISION TO FISH: (21:3):

1-PETER--"I go a fishing"
--None of the disciples had professed so much & performed so sadly as Peter
--Leader **leads** the way, even despite his fall

- --Fishing is not commanded // Not forbidden // Not rebuked
- --Idleness of waiting
  - ** Led to frustration
  - ** Discontent with waiting::::: **RESTLESS** !!
  - ** "I am going to do something !!", said Peter
  - ** Spur of the moment decision

2-OTHERS
- "We also go with thee"
- --Power of INFLUENCE of a leader; set the pace for others
- --Disciples grab at Peter's idea
- --Followers do follow leaders
- --These were very common men

3-Fishing
- --Probably to meet financial needs they faced
- --The do what they know as a trade
- --Lawful business is **not sinful**
- --Provide for their families & for themselves
- --ILLUS--Paul, who often labored as a tentmaker
- --The time for witness had not yet come, for the promised Spirit had not yet been given

4-"Fished all night"
- --They persisted
- --They knewthe time for fishing there
- --**DARK** and **DEEP** was how most fish were caught
- --Aristotle--"Fishermen, especially, do their fishing before sunrise & after sunset."

B.-The DEARTH OF FISH--(21:3):

1-"Caught nothing"
- --Failure of **EXPERTS**
- --**ZERO** results------wet nets only!!
- --Long night of frustration
- --Discontent of waiting gives way to discontent of failure
- --**Hard** on the ego.....and the purse !!

2-Failure or Emptiness
- --Sometimes this is in the will of God
- --Not the usual results experienced by these professional fishermen
- --**Preparation** of these men for a FRESH WORD from God
- --Easy to fish when they are biting
- --Hard to fish when they are not

C.-The DIRECT QUESTION--(Jn. 21:4-5)

1-Jesus **stood**
- --Characteristic POSITION as seen in this age
- --Acts 7:55--Stephen
- --Rev. 2 & 3 as He is "in the midst" of the churches
- --Evidence of Jesus' **ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT** in the lives of His own

2-The Morning
- --After an empty night
- --Morning arrived QUICKLY
- --Dark----Dim----Daylight
- --Morning was coming on::::::: FIRST LIGHT

3-"Disciples knew not that it was Jesus"
--Same words as in Jn. 20:14 to Mary Magdalene
--DIMNESS of breaking daylight.....OR
--Eyes holden as on the Road to Emmaus
--We do not know which

3

4-"Have ye any meat?"
--Addressed to "CHILDREN"
** John uses this term in 1 John
** "Boys", "Lads" or "Fellows"
** Term of comraderie
--Do you have anything eatable ??
** Greek form anticipates a NEGATIVE resp.
** WHAT RESULTS ??
** What do you have to show for your work??
** PROBING QUESTION !!
++ We will each face this question at the Bema Seat
++ Faithful ??
++ Fruitful ??
++ Both faithful & fruitful ??

5-Note: (a) No rebuke to them for fishing
(b) Jesus manifested HIMSELF to them
(c) Jesus meets the disciples needs !!
(d) Jesus can give a GOOD morning, even after a BAD night !!

6-Disciples' REPLY--"NO";;;;Admission of failure
--Hard admission for a fisherman
--Tired men after a hard night
--All toil without the Lord directing our toil goes for NOTHING !!
--Jn. 15:5--"Without me,ye can do nothing"

II.-THE FINDING---(Jn. 21:6-11):

A.-The DIRECTIONS---(21:6):

1-Jesus speaks--20:19, 27, 29 and 21:7
--May have aroused suspicion that this is NO STRANGER

2-"Cast. right side"
--Orders require OBEDIENCE
--The LORD instructs
--The only acceptable response is TO DO !!
--Small differences can produce GREAT RESULTS !!
* Possibly the disciples thought this man on shore could discern that there were shoals & a school of fish on the other side of the boat
or.....MIRACLE !!
--Ps. 32:8--"I will instruct thee & teach thee in the way which thou shalt go; I will guide thee with mine eye."

3-Even experts NEED DIRECTION !!
4-Service without Jesus & His guidance is barren !!

B.-The DISCIPLES---(Jn. 21:6-7):

1-"That disciple"==JOHN does not use his own name
--Repeatedly seen as a man of **PERCEPTION**
--Characteristic quickness & sensitivity
--Contemplative man::::Aloof; a dreamer
--"Saw through" in 20:8 at tomb
--First to **SEE** (=discern) that it was Jesus----"It is the Lord"

2-Peter--Practical man of affairs
--Impetuous, affectionate, impulsive--An action man
--Goes immediately to Christ
--Did not walk on water as he had once done on this sea
--First to **ACT** ::::He forgot net, boat & everyting else to get to Messiah

3-Temperaments--**Not the same** with each of us
--One was melancholy (JOHN)
--Other was choleric (PETER)
--Yet, both served & honored their Lord
--Not wrong, just different
--**Both** are **needed** in a "ONE ANOTHER" relation=ship
--Eph. 6:24--"Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity."

C.-The DRAUGHT---(Jn. 21:6-11):

1-The Lord KNOWS ALL about **O U R** BUSINESSES !!

2-Bountiful catch--21:6--"multitude of fishes"
--21:11--"great fishes"
--Could not lift the net full of fishes into the boat
--Had to drag it ashore--300 feet +/-
--**153** fish
** ? Number of kinds of fish known then, according to Oppian
** ? Number of known nations & tribes of the world known in Roman era ?
** Symbol of all peoples ??
** More likely it is just an example of the love John had for exactness/

3-Nets--Broke in Luke 5 record of another occasion
--Nets **H O L D** here
--**NOT one** was **lost**----John 10:27-30
1 Peter 1:3-5
--**All** were **landed** & **kept**-------a large catch !!
--Christ is training PASTORS, so wants them to pay attention to every single one
--Let not even one get away !!
--Col. 1:28-29--"Christ...whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I labor, striving according to His working, which worketh in me mightily."

4-A. C. Gaebelein--"But if we take our directions from Him who is our Lord, especially as 'fishers of men', that is soul winners, and are obedient to His words, & follow His directions, His own gracious power will accompany our toil." (John, P. 405)

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III.-THE FELLOWSHIPING--(Jn. 21:12-14):

A.-FELLOWSHIPPING OVER FOOD (21:12-13):

1-Invitation--"Come & dine"=="Come & eat breakfast"
--Food provided after a long night's work
--Fellowship opportunity
--SOAP------SOUP------SALVATION
--"We don't object to a social concern. We do object to a social concern aprt from the gospel, in place of the gospel, ahead of the gospel or on a par with the gospel. (PRESBYTERIAN JOURNAL, editorial, 9/27/67)
--Not just KOOL AID and OLD CLOTHES !!

2-Jesus--Boththe HOST and the WAITER at this breakfast
--Memories flash back ** Feeding of 5,000
** Feeding of 4,000
** Upper Room (Jn. 13)
--J. D. Pentecost--"The One who had provided for them during their time with Him before the Crucifixion had promised in the upper room that He would continue to provide for them, and the fact of this meal substantiated Christ's promise that He would meet their every need. The disciples had thought the death of Christ would terminate His care for them; now they had a demonstration of His continuing care. Those who feared that His death would terminate their fellowship with Him now enjoyed sweet fellowship as they ate what He had provided." (The Words and Works of Jesus Christ; A Study of the Life of Christ, P. 507)

3-Jesus is an EXAMPLE of One who serves & ministers
4-We need to LEARN IT from His example, & then to practice it all the days of our lives

B.-FELLOWSHIPPING OVER THE PERSON OF CHRIST (Jn. 21:12-14)

1-"Knowing that it was the Lord"
--LORDSHIP is THE ISSUE !!
** 20:18--Mary Magdalene-----"the Lord"
** 20:20--The Ten----------"the Lord"
** 20:28--Thomas----------"My Lord"
** 21:13--The Seven----------"the Lord"
--THEY KNEW Jesus as Lord (==Controller, Master)
--Do we know Him as our LORD ??

2-He shewed (==Manifested) Himself as in 21:1
--Reaffirmation of the reality of the resurrection
--Not a phantom that came once and then disappeared
--Multiple reappearances
** 17 different times after the Resurrection
** To different people
** In different places
** Under different circumstances
--Manifested HIMSELF--21:1 & 21:14
--THIRD time of Jesus' manifiesting Himself to the disciples' band, in addition to individual appearances to others

3-"After that He was risen from the dead"
--EYEWITNESSES report that Jesus was R A I S E D !!
--Capstone of the work of redemption
--God is satisfied with His Son's sacrifice on the Cross
--Resurrection is the MIRACLE which no unbeliever had ever been able to explain away

4-Fellowshipping--Over food
--Over His PERSON
--Lead-in to PASTORAL SERVICE
--Based upon L O R D S H I P !!

CONCLUSION:

A.-THE FISHING:

1-On the Lake called Galilee or Tiberias
2-Caught--NOTHING as they labored on their own
--153 fish as they followed Jesus' instructions
--Difference--Direction of Christ as He gave the orders and His disciples obeyed Him

B.-THE APPLICATIONS:

1-Primary DUTY--Fishers of men
--This was their calling
--No freedom to substitute lesser things
--Bill Bartlett--"The main thing is to keep the main thing as the MAIN THING"

2-ILLUS--An outstanding missionary was Mackay of Formosa. That Scotsman asked the British East India Company to take him to Formosa, but they said they would not dare put in where many sailors had been murdered. He then applied to the Dutch East India Company. They replied, "We go into the harbor & trade with the boats that come out. If you are determined to go, we will put you and your trunk in a boat & let you go on your own responsibility-----but, the minute you land you will be killed." Mackay said, "GOD HAS CALLED ME."

They put him and his goods in a boat & said GOODBYE. He was often sighted on shore by ships. He married a native & lived on Formosa for 20 years without apparently making a convert. Upon his death a revival broke out, and it is said

that the number professing salvation at that time in Formosa was nearly 100% of the population.

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Mackay went through a night of throwing out nets and getting nothing. But the morning came to Formosa because Mackay had fished at the instruction of the Lord Jesus!

2-Primary LESSON
- --Without Christ, we can do NOTHING (Jn. 15:5)
- --Work is to be done "under His direction"
- --Question: "WILL YOU OBEY CHRIST?" ?
- --Ps. 32:8--"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go; I will guide thee with Mine eye."
- --Presence & Power of the Lord Jesus are needed
- --If you have had a BAD NIGHT...Jesus can give you a GOOD DAY !!
- --Revival can never come if we do not obey the commands of Christ

3-Primary QUESTION--Jn. 21:5--"Have ye any meat?"
- --Expected to have something to show for our labors
- --Accountable to Christ
- --What do you have to show and to give to Him ??
- --NIGHT is far spent as far as this age is concerned
- --DAYTIME of Christ's coming is at hand
  - ** Saviour will come
  - ** Surely it will be soon
  - ** At an hour and in a circumstance when He is not expected
  - ** As He did in Galilee when Peter & others went fishing
- --Are you READY ??
  - ** To meet Jesus as your Savior ?
  - ** To give Him an answer as to what "YOUR CATCH" is from your life of service?
  - ** To cast your crowns at the feet of Jesus (Rev. 4:9-11)

4-Fishing under Jesus' direction brings spectacular results
- -LORDSHIP RESULTS !!
- --These are the kind I want in my life
- --Are they not YOUR DESIRE also ??

Chorus--"I Will Make You Fishers Of Men"
388---"Proclaim It Wherever You Go"
400---"Throw Out The Life-Line"
138---"Must I Go Empty Handed?"

Lookout Baptist Church, WV--9/18/83
O.K.B.C.--5/24/87

LOVEST (or) THOU ME? Jn. 21:15-17

THE DISCIPLES' FINAL EXAM

INTRO:

A.- REMEMBER THE SCENE! (21:1-14)

1- Manifestation of X to the GROUP — 7 Apostles fishing
2- In Galilee — On the Sea (LAKE)
3- Frustrated fishing all night — CAUGHT NOTHING
4- Productive fishing at X's Command — 153 fish
5- Recognition of Christ
   - John discerns "It is the Lord"
   - Peter moves quickly to be with Christ
   - Impulsive
     * Into the water
     * On to the shore.
     * "with Jesus"

B.- RECALL THE SPIRIT:

1- Food on the shore — Warm + open fellowship
   - Precedes recommissioning of Peter
2- NO REBUKE from Christ
3- FIRES
   - Where Peter warmed himself + denied his Lord in Jesus.
   - Here in Galilee in warm fellowship w/ the Savior
4- Preparatory to a restatement of Peter's commission as an APOSTLE

C.- REALIZE THE SPECIFIC:

1- GROUP has been ministered to in the draft of fishes
2- INDIVIDUAL (Peter) is now singled out for dialog.
   - HE who DENIED Christ
3- Jesus has a word for Peter
   - SPECIFIC word
   - PERSONAL word
   - PIERCING word
   - PENETRATING word

The Disciples' FINAL EXAM

4- What is the essence of this word from Lord T.C.?

PROP – The Lord requires LORDSHIP over His own, + that means SERVICE in His Church

I.- CONFRONTATION BEFORE SERVICE:

A.-The Two Fires:

1- Fire at Caiaphas' house
- + Warming himself at fire
- + With Christ's enemies
- + Followed AFAR OFF

– AND it must be remembered that Peter had explicitly professed a devotion to Christ which exceeded that of the other disciples (Jn. 13:37; Mt. 26:33)

2- Fire on Shore of Sea of Galilee
- + Food provided by Jesus
- + Fellowship with the Savior
- + No word of rebuke
- + Just open warmth now; NEARNESS TO CHRIST

B.-The Two Responses:

1- At Caiaphas' house
- + Challenged 3 times
- + "THOU ART ONE OF THEM"
- + Denial – "I Know Him not"
- + Cock crowed 3 times
- + Peter went out + wept bitterly

2- Beside the Sea
- + Open communication
- + FULL RESTORATION
- + No specific challenge about those 3 denials
- + Yet I sense that Peter knew something had to "BE COMING"!
- + Unstated reminder of 3 DENIALS in Christ's 3 Questions

C.-The Personal Word:

1- Day of Res. + MK. 16:7- "But go your way, tell His disciples and Peter that He goeth before you into Galilee."

- Summons to ALL disciples
- Special word to PETER !
- Now fulfilled in Galilee

(3)

2- Day of confrontation
- Jn. 21:15
- "Simon, Son of Jonas" — Natural birth name is used — 3 times in 3½ years
  - * Jn. 1:42 - SALVATION
  - * Mt. 16:17 - CONFESSION
  - * Jn. 21:15 - RECOMMISSIONING

3- A.C. Gabelein - "If such a restoration + renewed commission had not taken place, others might have pointed to Peter + charged him w/ having forfeited his apostleship by his denial..." (P. 408)

4- What is the confrontation about?
- CENTRAL ISSUE
- Heart of the matter
- Heart of the servant
- * "Lovest thou Me?" This is CENTRAL!

II: QUALIFICATION FOR SERVICE:

A- The First Question:

21:15 'LOVEST THOU ME?'

1- Jesus' first question -
- THE QUALIFICATION above all others
- Love for the Lord, more than love for the flock
- Question of what Peter professed + performed
- QUALIF. for service is LOVE for the Lord
- AGAPE is the Question: REVERENT + SACRIFICIAL
  Very searching question about LOVE
  SUPERIOR type of love
- "More than these":
  1. * More than you love these brethren?
  2. * More than you love these tools of fishing?
  3. * More than the brethren love Me
- LESSON - Usefulness to others is the ground

We are sometimes inclined to think this question of his love was superfluous. But this is not the case. It is CENTRAL

SYMBOLS of way of life

test of love + working for Christ is the great proof of really loving Christ
- Mt. 20:26-28

2-PETER'S FIRST REPLY
- "Lord" - He acknowledges Jesus' person + place of PRIORITY
- "Thou Knowest"
  - No bragging profession
  - Appeal to Jesus' omniscience
  - OIDAS - Appeal to omniscience
- PHILEO is Peter's answer - DEEP AFFECTION + emotion

B.- The Second Question:

1-Jesus' Question "LOVEST THOU ME?"
- 21:16 - LOVEST THOU ME?
- Second address to "Simon, Son of Jonas" as in 21:15
- Indicative of a penetrating + pressing inquiry
- Not superficially or easily answered
- AGAPE again REVERENT + SACRIFICIAL!
- "What depth is there to your love, Peter?

2-Peter's second reply
- YEA, LORD
- Reaffirmed expression
- "THOU KNOWEST" - OIDAS again
- PHILEO * "I love Thee" Appeal to omniscience
  * Deep Affection + emotion
  * No overconfident assertion now.

C.- The Third Question:

3Q's designed to bring the OUCH of CONVICTION

1-Jesus' third Question - 21:17
- Addressed again to "Simon, Son of Jonas" 21:15 +16
- His word for love now ACCOMMODATES to Peter's reticence
- PHILEO * "Lovest thou Me?"
  * DEEP AFFECTION + emotion
  * Uses Peter's word for love

"In using both words, the Lord was asking Peter if he loved Him with every facet of love a person can have." RYRIE (186)

2- Peter's Grief
- Response of a sick heart
- Remembers previous failures
- Unwilling to overstate his profession now.
- STILL PRESSED by Jesus' questioning
- NOT ALLOWED TO SLIP off the issue easily

3- Peter's Response
- "Lord" - Full acknowledgement of His PREEMINENCE
- "Thou knowest all things" (OIDAS)
- "Thou knowest that I love Thee" - φιλεω
  - * GIVOSKW
  - * Experiential Knowledge
- HUMBLING has taken place

Love for Christ is the absolute prerequisite for service

4- Now, let's look at ...

III.- INSTRUCTION FOR SERVICE:

A.- The Perspective:

"Actions speak louder than words. The proof of our profession of love is in our practice. Peter was given specific instructions for service that morning." (RYRIE, MIRACLES, P.187)

1- "MY lambs" - "MY sheep" - "MY sheep"

2- Remember that those ministered TO belong to Jesus Christ; HIS CHURCH

3- Sometimes preachers speak of:
- * "MY work"
- * "MY church"
- * "MY people"
- * THAT IS WRONG!

4- Wm. Kelly - "He who treats Christians as his congregation is guilty of the same forgetfulness of Divine Grace and authority as the congregation in regards to the ministry as THEIR MINISTER, instead of Christ's."

5-Keep in mind that the Church
- BELONGS to Jesus Christ
- BOUGHT by Christ's blood
} IT IS HIS CHURCH, not ours!

6-LOVE Christ; LOVE Flock; LOVE Task

B.-The People.

1-Different terms used
- Ta apvia pou - 21:15 = "My lambs"
  * Diminutive significance
  * Symbolic of YOUNG CONVERTS
  * Found only in John's writings
  * Parallel to "LITTLE CHILDREN" in 1 John

- Ta ... 21:16+17

CALVIN - Christ does not give to Peter + others the office of FEEDING all sorts of persons, but only HIS SHEEP or HIS LAMBS. He elsewhere describes who they are whom He reckons to belong to His flock. MY SHEEP, says He, HEAR MY VOICE, AND FOLLOW ME; THEY HEAR NOT THE VOICE OF A STRANGER. (Jn. 10:5,27) (JOHN, P. 932)

...RE BELIEVERS

...ent

...MEN" +

2-Distin... "FATHERS"
*
*

3-POIN... ...ne attention
...or
- Individuals + Groups
- Younger + Older
- Care suited to needs

THIS is how love for Christ is to be expressed.

C.-The Performance.

1-Different words used:

"FEED" in 21:15+17 - Βοσκω
* Used of a herdsman
* Provide fodder or pasture
* Metaphor for spiritual ministry ON AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL

"well done is better than well said"

"FEED" in 21:16 - ποιμαινε
* Act as a shepherd
* R.V. has "TEND"

Exercise the office of a SHEPHERD

* 1 Pet. 5:1-3
* Acts 20:28

2- Vine - "The Lord, addressing Peter, first uses ΒΟΣΚΩ + then ΠΟΙΜΑΙΝΩ + then returns to ΒΟΣΚΩ. These are not simply interchangable. Nor, again, is there a progression of ideas. The lesson to be learnt ... is that, in the spiritual case of God's children, the feeding of the flock from the Word of God is the constant + regular necessity; it is to have the foremost place. The tending (which includes this) consists of other acts, of discipline, authority, restoration, material assistance of individuals, but they are incidental in comparison with feeding." (II, P. 88)

3- Peter is RE-Commissioned to tend these lambs + sheep to exercise a loving charge over them, doing a true shepherd's service appropriate to their needs.

He is to ACT LIKE A SHEPHERD!

COMPLETELY RESTORED!

4- G.C. Morgan - "Shepherding the sheep is not always the sweet + soft pastoral avocation of going through flowery meadows + beside still waters; sometimes it means leaving the fold + going out on the mountains wild + bare + grappling with the wolf ... in order to spare the lamb." (P. 330).

5- What QUALIFICATION? LOVE is the ONE qualification

The MODEL of Love is CHRIST!

6- Love is the great endowment of a true Pastor of Christ's flock, Love for Christ first ——— Then also for the SHEEP

CONCL:

8

A.- ATTITUDE REQUIREMENT:

1- LOVE JESUS — That's central

2- LOVE FLOCK — That's the out growth because of love for Jesus

3- Two Requirements
* HUMILITY about self
* LOVE for the Savior

IZHUS
Pastor at Mt Hermon over the issue of SUCCESS

B.- ACT

1- KEYS

"We, too, may have denied our Master, by word or deed; but if we have truly repented, + if in our hearts there is a sincere love for Christ we need not hesitate, in humble dependance upon Him, to enter anew even public service in His Cause." Erdman, The Gospel of John, Pp. 176-77)

2- FEE

No choice but to OBEY!

+ PERMANENT work of the PASTOR
+ Love the sheep by serving them

3- APPLIC — (A) Pastor / Missionary
(B) Elder + Deacon
(C) S.S. Teacher
(D) YOU

That morning Peter declared "YES, LORD, You know that I love You." CAN YOU say that?

What are you doing to show your love in serving the FLOCK?

#70 - It's Just Like His Great Love"
#84 - Love Lifted Me"
#77 - I Love Him"
#83 - Love Divine
#364 - "My Jesus, I Love Thee"

10/16/83 - Lookout Bapt. Ch., WV.
5/31/87 - OKBC

VERY PERSONAL WORDS

Jn. 21:18-25

INTRO

A.- PETER'S PRIORITY

1- 21:15-17 "Lovest thou Me?"

2- LOVE for Christ
- Christ asks about AGAPE
- Peter responds w/ PHILEO
- Christ accommodates Peter + moves to PHILEO

3- Attitude toward Christ is the top priority for God's man; Love on all levels

4- Searching questions to elicit Peter's commitment.

B.- PETER'S PRACTICES

1- 21:15-17

2- FEED = "SHEPHERD"
- Care for God's people in Christ's flock
- Suited to need
- Suited to level of sp. development
- PASTORAL CARE means meeting people's needs w/ God's answers

3- Activities toward those for whom Christ died show that attitude of LOVE in practical realms.

4- INVOLVEMENT is proof of heart commitment.

C.- VERY PERSONAL WORDS (This Message)

1- Jesus to Peter - "Verily, Verily, I say unto thee" 21:18

2- OUTLINE:
- I- Personal Words Concerning DEATH
- II- Personal Words Concerning LIFE
- III- Personal Words Concerning OTHERS

3- PROP - Realize that Jesus Christ has a very personal word to ME concerning all the areas which touch my life.

4- See it in PETER — first

I.- VERY PERSONAL WORDS CONCERNING DEATH (21:18-19a):

A.- PETER'S YOUTH — HIS PAST:

1- Galilean by birth
2- Fisherman by trade
3- Married man — WIFE / MOTHER-IN-LAW
4- Not an educated or sophisticated man
5- CHARACTERISTICS (CHOLERIC TEMPERAMENT)
   - Self-willed
   - Outspoken
   - Independent
   - Managed his own affairs
6- Came + went as he pleased
   "When thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, + walkest wither thou wouldest" 21:18
7- DESCRIPTION ..... Without any rebuke
8- A.C. GABELEIN:
   "In self-confidence Peter had boasted that he would go to prison with the Lord, + die with Him. He failed miserably. But what he offered to do + could not do, the risen Christ would make possible for him."
   (P. 411)

B.- PETER'S OLD AGE — HIS FUTURE:

1- "... but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, + another shalt gird thee, + carry thee whither thou wouldest not." 21:18
2- No prospect of ease in serving Christ
   - Partaker of suffering
   - Experienced martyrdom
   - Crucified head downward
   - Violent death
3- Some say this occurred in ROME, but no real proof.
4- Free as a YOUTH = Bound as an OLD MAN
5- Carried his cross to the scene of crucifixion + tied to it.
6- "LEAD" — A reference to the fact that those being taken to be crucified had their hands tied to the crossarm of their crosses + carried them to the place of the execution as they were led along to their place of death by a rope about the waist.

KJV — "carry"

C. - PETER'S DEATH — HIS PROSPECT

1- Knew in advance how ~~[illegible]~~ life would end
- Not luck
- Not chance
- Not accident
- But Christ's sovereign prediction

2- PROOF of Peter's confession — "Thou knowest all things" 21:17

3- Jesus predicted it
- Jn. 13:36 - "Simon Peter said unto him, Lord whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou ~~[illegible]~~ canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards"
- A CROSS DEATH AHEAD
- Peter understood it clearly
- 2 Pet. 1:14 - "Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me."
- CROSS would henceforth be the principle of Peter's life.
- Jesus perfectly knew all the circumstances of Peter's death long before it occurred.

4- John's interpretation
- 21:19a - "this spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God"
- Life is only a short season
- GLORIFY GOD by his death — SO SHOULD WE!
  - * By being ready for it whenever it comes
  - * By patiently enduring its pains
  - * By testifying to others the comfort & support he would find in the grace of God.

ILLUS * SAMSON - Did more in his death than he did in his life.

"Eusebius reports that at his own request Peter was crucified head downward" (Morris, JOHN, P. 876)

"The blood of the Martyrs has been the seed of the Church."

* JOHN WESLEY
When his people's doctrine & practices were found fault with, replied — "AT ANY RATE OUR PEOPLE DIE WELL."

5- Augustine -
"No man likes to die" Not afraid of DEATH; Dying is often a trauma

6- LESSON
- To Peter
- To us
- The future history of life + death is KNOWN + fully in the hands of the Lord — TRUST HIM!

Death is not a matter of luck, chance or accident for a believer; A divine appointment!

II.- VERY PERSONAL WORD CONCERNING LIFE (21:19 b)

A.- PRACTICAL PRECEPT — "FOLLOW"

1- Began at call to service
- Andrew + Peter together
- Mt. 4:19 - "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

2- Repeated after Peter's Confession at Mt. 16:18
- Mt. 16:24 - "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, + take up his cross + follow Me."
- Death to the self-centered life
- Life in the will of God

3- MEANING
- Walk in my steps
- Follow wherever I lead
- * Third of 3 GREAT INVITATIONS
  - * Come unto Me — Mt. 11:28
  - * Learn of Me — Mt. 11:29
  - * Follow Me — Jn. 21:19 b
- Fulfillment of Jn. 13:36 - "Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards."
- Road of life as a follower of the LAMB not as a trailblazer. He prepares the path we take.

Jesus had made this same call upon Peter on this same shore. Matt. 16:24

B.- PERSONAL PATTERN — "ME"

1- "Following" indicates progress

2- "ME" sets forth the EXEMPLAR
- Not a code of ethics
- Not a law of rules
- Not an organization of men

- But THE PERSON of the Lord
- we are to follow HIM!

3- Peter teaches this later in 1 Peter
- 2:21 – "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps."
- Two ALTERNATIVES
  - Stray from Him + slip – OR –
  - Stay close to Him + succeed
- * ILLUS – Writing Book Model

4- We need to be "LOOKING UNTO JESUS" / He is THE PERSONAL PATTERN we follow.
- Death to SELF; Life in Christ

C.- PRESENT EXPERIENCE:

1- Day by Day
- The way of the cross leads to GLORY
- Between the "PAST" of one's youth
- And the "FUTURE" of one's death

2- "As the Father sent the Son"
3- SO the Son sends His own
Jn. 20:21

4- LESSON
- Life in the will of God means a life that is concerned with FOLLOWING JESUS .... closely
- NB! Begin with your own spiritual life with Christ if you ever hope to be of aid to anyone else
- Song of Sol. – "... but mine own vineyard have I not kept"

III.- VERY PERSONAL WORD CONCERNING OTHERS (Mt. 21:20-23)

A.- RELATIONSHIP TO JOHN:

1- Close friends
2- Fishing companions
3- Fellow disciples
4- Members together of Jesus' INNER THREE
5- Older than John + protective of him
6- Closer to John than to any other disciple, includ-

CAPERNAUM home base

B.-RELATIONSHIP TO PETER'S QUESTION:

1- Began with address of "LORD"
- Good words do not always follow a proper profession
- LORD, He is, indeed

2- QUESTION:— "What shall this man do?" 21:21
- Perhaps a totally brotherly interest in John
- Perhaps a case of intrusive curiosity
- Maybe even something of latent jealousy
- CONCERN over John after he hears of his own future & fate

3- HENRY remarks: "Peter seems more concerned for another than for himself. So apt we are to be busy in other men's matters, but negligent in the concerns of our own souls."

4- Jesus' reply — 21:22 a, b
- What meaning?
- Remain alive until a natural death.
- Remain alive until Jesus returns to establish His kingdom.

HYPOTHETICAL

not actually answered

REBUKE! That much is clear!

"What is that to thee? 21:22 c

C. RYLE: "Of what use would have been to Peter to Know that his beloved brother John would one day be cast into a caldron of boiling oil, at Ephesus, during a persecution? What good would it have done Peter to know that John would spend years of weary captivity on the Isle

"Christ had previously said, 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself & take up his cross daily & follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it but whoever loses his life for Me will save it.' (Lk.9:23-24) Peter had fled the scene of the Crucifixion beause he wanted to save his life. Now Christ had revealed to Peter that it was His will that he should eventually die for Him. Christ invited Peter to submit to Him and to accept His will. Peters submission to the will of Christ would prove the genuineness of his commitment to Christ, not what happened at the trial." (Pentecost, The Words & Works of Jesus Christ, P. 509)

curiosity

of Patmos, + finally outlive all the company of the Apostles + be left last + latest on the troubled sea of this troublous world?" (P. 746)

5- **MEANING:**

- Mind your own business!
- Don't spoil your own soul's condition by fussing over another man's condition of service
- **REMEMBER** — The sovereign Lord deals differently + personally with each of His own. That is His business — He fries men as He sees fit
- None of us has the right to ask HIM questions — especially about OTHERS

"It is not speculation, but self-communication that is needed." (Toebus, JOHN, P. 341)

6- Special word to Peter

C.- RELATIONSHIP TO JESUS' ANSWER:

1- See 21:19d "Follow Me"

2- Re-emphasis on a personal level — "FOLLOW THOU ME — 21:22

- Precept — "Follow"
- Person — "Thou"
- Pattern — "Me"
- Notice the "THOU" addressed to P.
  - * Chief Shepherd orders the lives of others
  - * He also has a word for Peter
  - * Probably also a word for YOU and ME!
  - * And you + I listening for His word to us?

Gal 6:5 — "Every man shall bear his own burden"

3- **LESSON**

- Danger of over-concern about others
- Necessity to PERSONALLY + heartily follow the Lord regardless of all else

Each must do his own duty

CONCL

8

A.- JOHN'S AUTHENTICATION OF MESSAGE:

1- 21: 23-25
2- "WE KNOW" that His testimony is true
3- Personal + Eyewitness testimony
4- Parallel to 1 John + 3 times there "We know"
+ 5:18-20 (Read)

B.- JOHN'S AUTHORITATIVE MESSAGE:

1- Resume' - I Manner of Peter's DEATH
II Matter of Peter's DEPORTMENT
III Ministry of Peter's DEVELOPMENT

2- Lessons for our day
- TO GO
- TO DO
- TO BE

+ Life + death are in Jesus' hands
+ Pay attention to your own spiritual life
+ Don't worry about how the sovereign Lord works in others - FOLLOW THOU ME

3- PROP + need - You need - to realize that Jesus Christ has a VERY PERSONAL WORD to each of us concerning all the areas that touch my life.

4- One day we, too, will see how OUR LIVES are evaluated by our Lord

---illustration--The late Dr. Thos. Lambie, pioneer medical missionary to Africa, was in America on furlough in 1917. While here his brother-in-law urged him to stay and join him in his large medical practice. In a few years this could be turned over to Dr. Lambie for the rest of his days, an ample and attractive living. Later Dr. Lambie attended a missionary conference. The meetings were uninspiring & he was tired. "Either I dozed off and had a dream, or I actually had a waking vision---I have never known which. But this I saw vividly in that midnight hour: a map of northeastern Africa from the center of which came an arm and a hand. It was stretched out toward me pleading, beckoning---a hideous leper hand. What!! Must I clasp that hand in mine? I sought to evade it, but, compelled by some power beyond my own, I at last reluctantly took it in mine. To my intense surprise I found it was not the hand of a leper, but the hand of Christ, the beautiful hand of my Savior---the imprint of nails in the palm."---- That settled it. Dr. Lambie returned to Africa.

(1) #39 - "Where He Leads I'll Follow."
(2) #175 - "Are Ye Able, Said the Master"
(3) #343 - "Follow On"
(4) #346 - "His Way With Thee"

10/23/83 - Lookout Baptist Church, Lookout, WV.
6/7/87 - O.K.B.C.

the heart of every honest believer, enough to condemn man if he does not repent and believe, enough to glorify God. The largest vessel can only contain a certain quantity of liquid. The mind of all mankind would not appreciate more about Christ, if more had been written. There is enough and to spare. This witness is true. Let us deny it if we can." (J.C. Ryle, Gospels IV, P. 738)

OBSERVE:

"We have so many books in order that we may have a variety of independent testimonys — we have so many writers that we may have the excellent harmony of their statements, as given from every point of view. We have so few details recorded, lest the memory should be overburdened, and lest the Word of God, which is the Book of Life — the charter of salvation — should be unwieldly, and be confined to a few, or to a class, instead of being accessible and intelligible to all."

(P. 343, Melanchthon W. Jacobus, JOHN) 1961

"As much of Christ's sayings and doings is recorded as the mind of man can take in. It would not be good for the world to have more. The human mind, like the body, can only digest a certain quantity. The world could not contain more, because it would not. As many miracles, as many parables, as many sermons, as many conversations, as many words of kindness, as many deeds of mercy, as many journeys, as many prayers, as many warnings, as many promises, as many precepts, as many prophecies, are recorded, as the world can possibly require. If more had been recorded, they would have been only thrown away. There is enough to make every unbeliever without excuse, enough to show every inquirer the way to heaven, enough to satisfy

OVER

THE CHURCH

1. The Hidden Church – Eph. 3:1-6 2/13/05
2. Christ's Person Revealed – Matt. 16:13-18 2/20/05
3. Christ's Purpose Revealed – The Church In Promise – Matt. 16:18-20; Eph. 2:1-22 3/6/05
4. Christ's Purpose Clarified – Matt. 16:18-20 3/13/05
5. The Cross In The Believer's Life – Matt. 16:21-27
6. Fingerprints Of The Visible Church – Acts 2:42-47 3/20/05
7. The Thumbprint Of The Visible Church – Acts 2:41-3:12 4/3/05
8. God's Model Church – 1 Thess. 1:1-10 – 11/19/06 4/10/05
9. The Local Church – Why & Need It – Eph. 4:11-12
10. The Headship of Christ Over The Church – 1 Cor. 12:12-27; Eph. 1:19-23 4/17/05
11. Ordinances Of The Church Related to Dispensationalism – Acts 2:36-41 2/26/06
12. Need A Christian Be Baptized? – Acts 2:22-41; Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:14-16 – 2/18/06
13. Why I Became An Immersionist – 2/25/
14. Communion At Which Table – 1 Cor. 10:1-11:1
15. What The Bible Teaches About Communion – Mark 14:12-26; 1 Cor. 10-11
16. Church Discipline – 1 Cor. 5:1-13 3/5/06
17. Sabbath Day Or Lord's Day – Which? – Gen. 2:1-2; Ex. 20:8-11; 31:13, etc. 2009 2/15/09
18. Godly Use Of The Lord's Day – Acts 2:32-47; Ps. 33:12; Prov. 14:34; Luke 6:46
19. What Is The Church's Business? – Matt. 28:18-20; 2 Cor. 5:17-20 3/4/07
20. The Task Of The Biblical Church – Jude 3-4, 17-25 3/5/06
21. Church Government Development – Acts 6:1-7 1/21/07
22. Deacons – Co-Laborers For God – Acts 6:1-7 2/11/07
23. Organization In The Church – Titus 1:5 2/4/07
24. Elders In The Church – Titus 1:6-9 2/11/07
25. The Work and Worth of Elders – Titus 1:9; 1 Tim. 5:19-22; 1 Thess. 5:11-13 2/25/07
26. Offenders In The Church – Titus 1:10-16 2/25/07
27. A Good Minister Of Jesus Christ – 1 Tim. 4:11-16

(28) The Pastor – His Ministry, Life + Authority – Tit. 2:1-15
(29) The Pastor And The Men – Titus 2:1-2, 6, 9-10
(30) The Pastor And The Women – Titus 2:3-5, 10
(31) The Pastor And Working Folks – Titus 2:9-10; 1 Tim. 6:1-2; Eph. 5:18-6:9
(32) The Biblical Pattern For Unity – Eph. 4:1-6
(33) Unto Every One Of Us — GIFTS – Eph. 4:7-16; 1 Pet 4:1-11
(34) Exercising Spiritual Gifts – Eph. 4:12-16; Rom. 12:3-6
(35) What The Bible Teaches About Tithing – Mal. 3:1-18 2/4/07
(36) What The Bible Teaches About Grace Giving – 2 Cor. 8:1-24 2/11/07
Satan's SOP – 2 Cor. 2:1-17 – 2/5/06
(37) God's Model Church –
(38) How To Treat Church Leaders – Heb. 13 – 3/1/10