PSALMS

7/30/06

Ps. 1 - The Threshold Psalm
Ps. 8 - Man - Heaven's Masterpiece
Ps. 19 - Three Revelations of God
Ps. 22 - Born To Die - Born to Tell
Ps. 23 - My Shepherd
Ps. 45 - Psalm of the Greatest King
Ps. 46 - Confidence Challenges Calamity
Ps. 51 - Can I Ever Serve Again?
Ps. 62 - How Do You Worship?
Ps. 73 - The Perspective of the Long View
X Ps. 84 - The House of God
Ps. 90 - Living Our Numbered Days
Ps. 91 - Dwelling Under His Shadow
X Ps. 100 - The Psalm of Thanksgiving
Ps. 107 - What The Bible Teaches About Thanksgiving
Ps. 127-128 - The Home With God's Blessing
Ps. 139 - Getting To Know God
X Ps. 145 - In Praise Of Praise

1 - July
4 - Aug
4 - Sept
4 - Oct
4 - Nov
1 - Dec

"GETTING DOWN TO CASES" Psalm 1:1-6

or

"THE THRESHOLD PSALM" or "THE PREFACE PSALM"

(1)

INTRO: A.-Orientation To Psalm 1:

1-Thomas Watson--"SAINTS SPIRITUAL DELIGHT" (1660 AD)--"As the book of the Canticles is called the Song of Songs by a Hebraism, it being the most excellent, so this Psalm may not unfitly be entitled, THE PSALM OF PSALMS, for it contains in it the very pith and quintessence of Christianity. What Jerome saith on St. Paul's epistles, the same may I say of this Psalm; it is short as to the composure, but full of length and strength as to the matter. This Psalm carries blessedness in the frontispiece; it begins where we all hope to end; it may well be called a Christian's Guide, for it discovers the quicksands where the wicked sink down in perdition, and the firm ground on which the saints tread to glory." (Quoted by Spurgeon, I, P. 4)

2-This Psalm may well have been an introduction to the whole Book, for in the N.T. what we know as Psalm two is quoted as "the First Psalm" PROLOGUE

3-THE IDEAL MAN is here presented as the man who lives like God. He is the godly man. In the study of this Psalm we'll not only see what the godly man is like, but we'll see how to become one in practical experience.

4-In condensed form Psalm 1 teaches the one great lesson of the Bible, namely, that to walk with God is to be blessed, while to walk apart from Him is to be cursed.

B.-Organization Of Psalm 1:

1-Master thought of this Psalm is THE LAW OF THE LORD

2-Antithetic parallelism is a common Hebrew poetry form and it is clearly used here:

NB →
- --First and last words ** Blessed
  ** Perish
- --Blessed man & Ungodly man
  - ** 1:1-2--Conditions of Blessedness
  - ** 1:4-5--Degenerations of Ungodliness
- --Two Ways
  - ** The way of the Righteous
  - ** The way of the Ungodly
- --Intention is to put the "CASES" in stark contrast

3-OUR MESSAGE: I.-THE CASE OF THE GODLY (1:1-3)
II.-THE CASE OF THE UNGODLY (1:4-5)
III.-THE CONTRAST OF THE TWO (1:6)

4-Prop:
- --Divine perspective on our view of mankind & of ourselves
- NEED --Stirred out of our lethargy Problem of our day
  - ** Concerning our own Spiritual lives
  - ** Concerning the needs of others
- --See all men as they really are:
  - ** GODLY . . . or . . .
  - ** UNGODLY in the sight of the God of heaven.

xx EITHER // OR ... NO MIDDLE GROUND

I.-THE CASE OF THE GODLY----(1:1-3):

A.-Key Word----"Blessed":

1-Hard word to translate into English
== "Blessed" or "Spiritually happy" = "Oh, the happiness!"
--Original word is in the PLURAL indicating a multiplicity of blessings -- MUCH JOY
--Same word with which Jesus begins the BEATTITUDES in the Sermon on the Mount

2-Can be translated "OH, THE BLESSEDNESS", and this describes his internal as well as his external condition

3-POINT: --ILLUS--"Happiness is a warm puppy"; "Happiness is an ice cream cone"; "Happiness is a new ball"; "HAPPINESS IS...."----Charlie Brown has given us many definitions of "HAPPINESS IS..." in recent years. He finds happiness in security, in friends, in life, and in many other things. How long has it been since you considered WHAT happiness is? ??
--Religious life is the blessed life & blessedness is more than happiness---it is the life of PRAISE to God and OBEDIENCE to God's Law
--If you want real happiness, you'll find it only in Jesus Christ as your Savior

B.-Conditions Of Blessedness:

1-NEGATIVELY stated in Ps. 1:1

(a)* --Note the progressions (3 of them)
--3 words for anti-God men
** Ungodly == "Wicked"; "Persons in tumult" NO STABILITY
--Isa.57:20-21--"But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, who whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked"
** Sinners == "One who misses the mark"
--A habitual offender; Constantly at variance with God
** Scornful == "One who mocks & ridicules holy things"
--SCOFFERS who are defiant & contemptuous of God
--Making light of holy things

* God is saying we should AVOID THE COMPANY of the irreligious
* --MIX we must at work, school & neighborhood
--But if that's the contacts we have, we are in trouble (the whole garment of
--1 Cor. 15:33--"Be not deceived: evil communications (companions) corrupt good manners."
* --SEEK the fellowship of "your kind" in the company of the people of God
--Acts 4:23--"And being let go, they went to their own company..."

(b)* --3 involvements of the ungodly:
* "Counsel of the ungodly"
* "Way (path) of sinners"
* "Seat (pinnacle) of the scornful"

(3)

** Need to avoid MOB PSYCHOLOGY of being "swept along" with the crowd
** Notice well the state of mind which the ungodly cherish

--3 Behavior Patterns:

"NOT"

** "WALK", deals with actions
** "STAND", deals with leisure activities
** "SIT", deals with moral identification with spiritual vagabonds
** Progression of terms is from bad to worse in this sequence

NB →

** Beware of being affected by the unregenerate
** "Walking" implies the ability to change direc-tions from what direction you now have
** "Standing" reveals a "standstill"
** "Sitting" shows decision & settled attitude
** ILLUS--LOT in Gen. 13:10-12; 19:1

✓ 2-Positively stated in Ps. 1:2

--Man cannot live by negatives alone, but neither can he live a godly life without them

* -Blessedness shows in DELIGHT in the Law of the Lord
** Not just living UNDER law
** But delighting IN God's truth
** More than just fulfilling his duty
** INCLINATION OF HEART toward the Lord is seen.
** R. T. Daniel--"The righteous man does not find God's principles as revealed in the Bible, burd-ensome & unpleasant. He finds them joyous." ("How To Study The Psalms", P. 27)
** 1 John 5:3--"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grevious."
** ILLUS--I recall in a Speech Class I taught sever-al years ago asking a young woman to explain to us what she meant by DEVOTIONAL READING of the Bible, and she replied:

"Yesterday morning I received a letter from my fiance' who is away in the Army. I freely admit to you that I have read & re-read that let-ter 5 times; not because I did not understand it on the first reading, nor because I expected to commend myself to the writer by the frequent readings, With me it was not a question of duty, but of pleasure. I read that letter because I am devoted to the one who wrote it to me. The way I look at DEVOTIONAL READING OF THE BIBLE is much the same way-----as a love letter from the Ascend-ed Lord to us on earth."

** HIGH JOY is to be experienced thru God's Word,

--And, let us never forget, the Bible is designed by God for COMMON PEOPLE to read & to understand.

3-WITHDRAWAL from evil men leaves a need to be filled
--Fellowship with other believers
--Fellowship with God Himself thru the WORD LORD

* 4-Blessedness is also shown in MEDITATION in the Law of the

(4) "He keeps on pondering day + night"

--Lit. "chew the cud"; "masticate unto appropriation"
--Something good to be gained by reading the Word & then making it your thought basis throughout the day
--ILLUS--Joshua 1:8--"This book of the Law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day & night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, & then thou shalt have good success."
** This is the "heart" of Moses' commissioning of Joshua as Israel's new leader
** Thus able to have DIVINE WISDOM brought to bear upon daily problems of life.

--Ps. 63:5-8

C. Illustration Of The Blessed Man (Ps. 1:3)

Person who is SPIRITUALLY HAPPY

VISUAL

1-Figure--"He shall be like a tree"
--A christian is likened to a "living thing" to give a comparison
--Very apt figure of speech as we'll see

THE IDEAL REGENERATE MAN

2-Foundation--"Planted"
--Lit. "TRANSPLANTED" from a poor natural habitat to a new one which is more favorable; the garden of God
--Indicates a new stability & fixity
--Tree that is transplanted has "TAKEN ROOT"
--Corresponds to SALVATION which indicates a transplanted foundation
--Mt. 15:13--"But He answered and said, Every plant which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up."

Stability

3-Fountain--"by the rivers of water"
--Not just nourished by rain

A STREAM

--Now irrigated; a sufficient supply
--Watercourses criss-cross the field of planting
--Spirit & Word are both symbolized by WATER in the Scriptures — John 7:37-39

Sufficiency

4-Fruit--"his fruit in his season"
--Regular production is forthcoming; no seasonal variations
--Not unseasonable graces which never come to maturity
--SPURGEON--"Our worst things are often our best things. As there is a curse wrapped up in the wicked man's mercies, so there is a blessing concealed in the righteous man's crosses, losses & sorrows, the trials of the saint are a divine husbandry, by which he grows and brings forth abundant fruit." (Treasury of David, I, P. 2-3)

Supply

5-Foliage--"his leaf shall not wither"
--Not particularly important to you, unless you know something about fruit trees
--Absence of healthy green indicates a SICK TREE
--Absence of "SPIRITUAL EVERGREEN" appearance in a saint indicates a sick spiritual life.

Spirit

!!

(5)

** Spiritually fresh on the inside
** Beauty & productivity go together
--Tree that loses its leaves FAILS to bring its fruit to maturity

6-Fulfillment--"and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper"
--KEY word describing the godly man is "PROSPER" ** Not necessarily in the economic sense,
** But certainly in the spiritual sense -Rom. 8:28-29
--ILLUS--Bereans of Acts 17:11--"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, & searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so."
--Fulfill this "PATTERN" and you'll be sure to have spiritual fulfillment

II.-THE CASE OF THE UNGODLY----(Ps. 1:1, 4-5):

+Planted
+Producing
+Prospered

A.-Key Word----'Not So':

1-Reference in contrast is to the UNGODLY=="Wicked", "Persons in tumult"
2-Everything true of the Godly is "NOT SO" for the ungodly----EXACT OPPOSITE
3-Wright--"They do not HESITATE to walk with wicked men; they do not REFRAIN from standing in the company of sinners; they may even be found sitting with the scorners. They do NOT delight in the law of Jehovah; their roots are not deeply imbedded in the soil from which spiritual nourishment is derived; their leaf is not perennially green and, however much appearances may deceive, they are NOT in the deepest sense of the word "PROSPERING."" (Psalms, Vol. I, P. 32)
4-LXX and Vulgate translate this key word: "Not so the ungodly, not so"!!

B.-Degeneration Of The Ungodly: (Ps. 1:1, 4)

1-IN THE COMPANY they keep--1:1
--Settled enjoyment of the anti-God crowd
--Progressive degeneration of attitude & practice

2-IN THE NATURE they show
--Ps. 1:4b
--CHAFF is their likeness
Godless life's likeness
--Worthless substance with the figure of speech taken from the HARVEST TIME--USELESS STUFF
--Mt. 3:12--"Whose fan is in His hand, & He will thoroughly purge His floor, & gather His wheat into the garner; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."
--Sir Richard Baxter--"Here, by the way, we may let the wicked know they have a thanks to give they little think of; that they may thank the godly for all the good days they live upon the earth,

Unstable like the wind that drives the chaff away

seeing it is for their sakes (the godly) and not for their own that they enjoy them. For as the chaff while it is united and keeps close to the wheat, enjoys some privileges for the wheat's sake, and is la[id] is laid up carefully in the barn; but as soon as it is divided, & parted from the wheat, it is cast out and scattered by the wind; so the wicked, whilst the godly are in company & live amongst them, partake for their sake of some blessedness promised to the godly; but if the godly forsake them or be taken from them, then either a deluge of water comes suddenly upon them, as it did upon the old world when Noah left it; or a deluge of fire, as it did upon Sodom, when Lot left it, and went out of the city." (Quoted by Spurgeon, I, Pp. 8-9)

--DELITTSCH--"...without root below, without fruit above, devoid of all vigour & freshness of life, lying loose upon the threshingfloor & a prey of the slightest breeze,----thus utterly worthless and unstable." (P. , Vol. 1, Psalms)

x--MORALLY UNACCEPTABLE

C.-Expectation Of The Ungodly: (1:5)

1-Restatement of descriptive terms:
--Ungodly=="Wicked"
--Sinners=="Ones who miss the mark"

2-Forgotten on earth, leaving no trace; HAVING NO ROOT

3-Excluded from festal hosts of the redeemed
--"Shall not stand in the judgment" Shall not be vindicated in the JUDGMENT
--"Nor...in the congregation of the righteous"
--PURGED OUT unto Punishment --DESTINATION IS TO PERISH

4-DOUBLE DOOM--Condemned for sin
--Separated from saints
--Congregations on earth are mixed & every congregation has a devil in it, but not so in God's presence in heaven! Sooner would a fish live in a tree than a sinner in paradise.

5-1 Pet. 4:17-18--"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end of them be that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

III.-THE CONTRAST OF THE TWO----(Ps. 1:6):

A.-Comfort For The Godly:

1-Ps. 1:6 --"Knoweth the way" Term means "APPROVES, DELIGHTS IN, ACCEPTS"

2-God knows--There is absolute knowledge
OMNISCIENCE
--He is NOT FOOLED by outward profession only
--2 Tim. 2:19--"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are His. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

3-Nothing Hid from the Lord--Bottles our tears
--Numbers our hairs

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--Directs our paths
--Superintends our walk thru the dark & difficult experiences

4-He will not let us be **tried beyond** our endurance
--1 Cor. 10:13
--Job 23:10--"But **He knoweth** the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."

5-These are called "**RIGHTEOUS**" by God, & their prospect is that they will "**PROSPER**"

Because not "APPROVED" by God

B.-Condemnation For The Ungodly:

1-Ps. 1:6b
2-**Prosperity** is their **appearance**, but it is **BUT FOR A MOMENT**
3-Their end is summed up in that awful word "**PERISH**"
=="To be **lost** without reaching the goal for which man was made"
--That is, to **fail** to have **FELLOWSHIP** WITH GOD
4-Condemnation for the ungodly is the **UNALTERABLE LAW** of the government of the Righteous God

C.-Contrast Point:

1-**How**, again, do the godly & the ungodly **differ?**
2-**IN THEIR ATTITUDE** toward "The Law Of The Lord"
A-Obedience by the godly → HAPPINESS!
B-Disobedience by the ungodly
--Evidence of their ATTITUDE **TOWARD GOD** Himself

CONCLUSION:

Illus on reverse side

A.-Both "WAYS" Are PERSONS:

1-John 14:6--Christ said "**I** am THE WAY"
2-John 8:42-44--**Satan** is the "WAY" of the ones to whom he is "Father"
3-There are **ONLY TWO WAYS** → No 3rd alternative!

B.-Which Way Are You Choosing?:

1-An incentive to the godly------Dig in the Word and become "BLESSED"
2-A **warning** to the godless--**BELIEVE** the gospel
3-Are **YOU** God's---"Blessed Man"???

ALL HAVE A FUTURE
CHOICE determines that future!!!
ONLY ONE WAY! leads to God.

----Let's get down to cases on this!

Run, run and work, the law commands,
But gives me neither feet nor hands.
But better news the gospel brings:
It bids me fly and gives me wings.

Westbrae
C.B.C. Columbus — 1/11/76
Lookout Baptist Ch., 4/1/84
OKBC — 5/19/85
Ch. of the Bible, Plainville, CT. 8/4/85
Bible Center Ch - 8/1/04 - Chalesion
Harper Road Bapt. Ch - 12/8/04 (3)
Hilltop Bapt. Ch - SS - 7/30/06

(2)

ILLUS:

Some years ago Joseph Flacks used to tell of his trips tO Israel. When he was in the city of Jerusalem, he was given the opportunity of addressing quite a gathering of Jews & Arabs, all of whom were presumably unconverted. For his text, Mr. Flack took the FIRST PSALM. Of course he could repeat it to them in the Hebrew. He dwelt upon the tenses, "Blessed is the man who HATH NOT WALKED in the counsel of the ungodly, nor EVER STOOD in the way of sinners, nor EVER SAT in the seat of the scornful."

He said to them, "Now, my friends, WHO is this blessed man of whom the Psalmist speaks? Notice, his happy man is a man who never walked in the counsel of the ungodly, he never stood in the way of sinners, he never sat in the seat of the scornful. He was an ABSOLUTELY SINLESS MAN. Who is this blessed man?"

When no one answered, Joseph Flacks said,"Shall we say he is our great father ABRAHAM? Is it Father Abraham that the psalmist is speaking of here? One old Jew said, "No, no, it cannot be Abraham, for he denied his wife; he told a lie about her." "Ah, said Flacks, "it does not fit, does it? Abraham, although he was father of the faithful, yet was a sinner who needed to be justified by faith. But, my brethren, this refers to somebody; WHO is this man? Could it be our great LAWGIVER, MOSES?"

"No, no," they said, "It cannot be Moses. He killed a man & hid him in the sand." Another added, "And he lost his temper by the water of Meribah."

"Well,"insisted Flack, "my brethren, WHO is it? There is some man that the Spirit of God is bringing before us. Could it be our great KING DAVID, the sweet psalmist of Israel, who perhaps wrote this Psalm?"

"No, no," they cried, "it cannot be David. He committed adultery & had Uriah slain."

"Well," he said, "WHO is it; to whom do these words refer?"

They were quiet for some little time & then one Jew arose & said, "My brethren, I have a little book here; it is called the New Testament. I have been reading it. IF I believed this book, IF I could be sure that it is true, I would say that the man of the first Psalm was Jesus of Nazareth."

An old Jew arose and said, "My brethren, the man of the first Psalm IS JESUS OF NAZARETH!!! He is the only one who ever went thru this world who never walked in the counsel of the ungodly nor stood in the way of sinners." Then the old man told how he had been brought to BELIEVE IN CHRIST, and he took that occasion to openly confess his faith.

If these words describe the CHARACTER AND PRACTICE of our Lord Jesus Christ, then it ought to also be true of our practice as well, if we call Him "L O R D".

1- The Light of The World Is Jesus
2- Leaning on The Everlasting Arms
3- Jesus, I Come
4- Builded On The Rock

WHAT DOES GOD WANT?

Ps. 1, 32, 41.
"Blessed man"

INTRO: A.-Many Varying Lodestars Today:
1-Lodestar of Fame----------Ego-centric
2-Lodestar of Happiness------Hedonism
3-Lodestar of Education-------Intellect worship
4-Lodestar of Wealth---------Possession centered

B.-Christian's Pole-Star:
1-Bible--God's Word
2-God's answers & evaluations found therein
3-Great truths & Elementary truths
4-Biblically oriented education can't help but be different from that which ignores or repudiates the Bible.

C.-Ideal End-Product:
1-What are we seeking to produce?
2-Careers as--Scientists?
--Ditch diggers?
--Teachers?
--Homemakers?
--Bankers?
--Secretaries?
--Welders?
--File Clerks?
--Service station attendants?
3-YES, INDEED-------Christians in every career that is morally upright, legal and honest
4-But more than that, the kind of persons that God wants us to be---------GOD'S IDEAL.
5-Three Psalms begin with "Blessed"
--Ideal man is the man with God's blessing
--What kind of man does God call "BLESSED"?
--Let's look at Psalm 1, 32, and 41.

I.-BLESSED MAN IS FRUITFUL (Ps. 1):

A.-Spiritually Prospering:
1-Ps. 1:1-3
2-Not speaking of mere financial success
3-Not the "typical American boy makes good" story
4-But spiritual prosperity
--fruitful tree
--green leaves
--good fruit in season
--such a life makes sense
--health & prosperity measured according to God's standards
--FRUIT-bearing
--Gal. 5:22-23--"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."
5-This is a God-honoring life

B.-Recipe For Fruitful Life:

1-Separated Life (NEGATIVE side)

--Ps. 1:1

--Some are shy of the term "separation"

--But its a Biblical ideal.....for you, and for me

2-Bible Student (POSITIVE side)

--Ps. 1:2

--Mind is occupied with the Word

--Only the Word-controlled life can produce a fruitful daily experience

3-Noteworthy detail about this "GREEN TREE CHRISTIAN"

--Planted by a river of water

--Roots go down deep

--Roots go to hidden sources below the surface

--Parallel to John 7:37-39--"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified)."

II.-BLESSED MAN IS IN FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD (Ps. 32:1):

A.-Different Situation Seen:

1-Ps. 32:1-5

2-This man has greviously sinned

3-But, he has acknowledged it as SIN, and hasn't hidden it or denied it, or justified it

4-Therefore his broken fellowship is restored

5-See closing verses----different tone here

6-Ps. 32:6-11

7-Misery of early part are replaced by joy & service

8-"Blessed man" of Ps. 32 is the man in fellowship with God

B.-Basic Lesson Of Christian Life:

1-Three essential truths

--SALVATION---John 1:12-13

--YIELDING----Rom. 12:1-2

--CONFESSION & RESTORATION--1 Jn. 1:9

2-Fellowship is broken by sin

3-ILLUS.-----As a circuit breaker in household wiring

4-Fellowship is restored when we humbly confess our sins to God-----Ps. 51:3

--1 Jn. 1:9

--Lev. 5:5

--Prov. 28:13

5-This isn't------just a mechanical formula

--an easy way to continue in sin

--a cheap remedy to be used loosely

NB

6-In fact, the very grace of God in receiving His wayward child has a tendency to increase his eagerness not to displease such a loving heavenly Father.

7-God's people must BE clean, KEEP clean, and when needed, GET clean to remain in blessed fellowship with God.

III.-BLESSED MAN IS A COMPASSIONATE MAN (41:1):

A.-Sees The Poor:
1-41:1-2
2-Sees people's need
3-And is moved with that need
4-Compassionate heart----"Feeling your need in my heart"
5-The poor---in goods
--in opportunity
--in circumstances
--in spirit------ESPECIALLY
6-What man is poorer than the poor man
--who does not have Jesus as his Savior ?
--who does not have a loving heavenly Father ?
--who does not have the comfort of the Word of God??
--who does not have access to God in prayer ?
7-The world is full of such "poor men"
8-God's "blessed man" considereth them

B.-And Goes To Them:
1-Not from his lofty heights
2-But in personal involvement
3-ILLUS--- Evangeline Booth with the prostitute in Paris after a gospel service. Repelledat first, then put arm around her and compassionately led her to a saving knowledge of Jesus. Before morning over 100 others of her "sisters in sin" were saved.
4-In D. L. Moody's day he called for "gap men"
--to bridge the gap
--between educated & aloof clergy
--and the needy multitudes
--Produced Moody Bible Institute
--And scores of schools and thousands of churches to prepare and send forth men and women with compassion for the poor in spirit.

CONCLUSION:

Take root downward
Bear fruit upward

A.-This Is God's Ideal Man:
1-Blessedly fruitful in life
2-Blessedly fellowshipping with God
3-Blessedly compassionate and eager in helping a needy humanity

B.-This Is An End-Product:
1-To pray for
2-To study for
3-To work for
4-That WE may be God's "blessed" men & women & Y. P.
5-That our church will produce more such.
6-This is "What God Wants" — of you
— of us
7- Do we want what God wants ?

Prayer Mtg - Westbrae - 1/29/64
" 11/20/66 — Blessed Quietness
Blessed Assurance

PSALM 2 THE PSALM OF THE KING.

Intro. 1.-Writer of this ps. is unknown.
2.-Fulfillment:
a.-Immediate historical setting of David.
b.-To Messiah at the first advent.
c.-When the Kingdom is established at 2nd advent
d.-Present day.
3.-Illus. Communist cartoon which says, "we have conquered the kingdoms of this earth and now we'll go after the kingdom of God."

I.- REJECTION AND REBELLION 2:1-3
A.- Personnel of the Rebellion
1.-heathen--Gentile World
2.-people--Unsaved Israel
3.-Kings--Political leaders
4.-Rulers--Religious dignitaries
B.- Practice of the Rebellion
1.-Rage--tumultuous response of the mob.
2.-Imagine--same word as "meditate" in 1:2
Acts 4: 25-28.
3.-Set themselves--exalt selves to place of prominence.
4.-Take counsel--Plan and plot against God.
5.-Break and cast--Open rebellion & rejection
C.- Purpose of the Rebellion
1.-Independence of God--illus.-Satan in Isa. 14:13-14.
2.-Establishment of man as supreme--illus.-An esteemed servant of Christ spoke aptly when introduced on one occasion as a "self-made man." He said he regretted that he had been so termed, though he appreciated the kindly thought, "for," he said, "I've noticed that these self-made men always end up worshipping their own creation."

II.-RESPONSE OF GOD THE FATHER 2:4-6
A.*Personal reaction
1.-"sitteth in the heavens"-high above those puny ones of earth--Isa. 40:15-17.
2.-"laugh and have them in derision"- 1:4; 37:13; 59:8. Only time God laughs is when man tries to show how great he is.
3.-illus.-rediculous picture of a mouse with the audacity to attack a lion.
B.-Active reaction
1.-"speak"--the power of God's word which called the worlds into being denounces their unholy alliance.
2.-"vex"--set at nought their plans
set at nought those who plan
set up His King.
illus.-People chose Saul, but God chose David.
illus.-"Jewish rights versus Arab claims."

II.-MESSIAH'S MANIFESTO 2:7-9
A.-Son of God.
1.-True from the day of the decree in eternity past, & even before, for He is eternally begotten. Jn. 17:5
2.-Declared by Resurrection to be the Son of God- Rom.1:4 Acts 13:33
B.-Prayer for His inheritance.

over

B.-Prayer for Inheritance.
1.-This prayer has not yet been prayed by Christ. contra. Jn. 17:9---No prayer of Christ can go unanswered.
2.-extent--the whole earth.
C.-Rod of Iron=Sceptre ---Gen. 49:10
1.-Offer is now of a Shepherd staff
2.-Refusal brings an iron rod of regal judgment.
3.-illus.-A criminal who had once been before the courts was scheduled to appear once more. He rejoiced when he heard that an attorney who had defended him on previous occasions was now the trial judge. His attitude changed, however, when the judge stated, "When I was an attorney I defended you, but I am no longer an attorne. It is not my business now to defend, but to judge. I shall hear the evidence, and then I must deal with you in keeping with the oath I have taken in the office of judge."----Jesus came once to this earth as Savior. He is even now at the right hand of God as our Intercessor, our Advocate with the Father. BUT the day is coming when HE WILL RETURN AS JUDGE. As judge He must perform His duty in keeping with the nature of his office.

IV.-SPIRIT'S WARNING 2:10-12
A.-Wisdom--get it!
1.-"Be wise"="Consider well"" --Be sure of the truth.
2.-The time is NOW--2 Cor. 6:2
B.-Serve
1.-with fear= godly reverence
2.-rejoice with trembling--not to become overconfident.
C.-BUT HOW? ---How get wisdom? — 1 Cor. 1:30
How serve?
D.-KISS THE SON.
1.-Act of submission--sinner sees he needs help from one outside himself.
2.-Act of obedience--Acts 4:12.
3.-Act of homage--I Sam. 10:1
4.-Act which saves--preserves from threatened wrath.--I Th. 5:9
5.-Do it NOW for "His wrath will soon be kindled" A.S.V.
E.-Blessed--assurance of acceptance, for trust is the O. T. word for believing or faith.

CONCL. 1.-Recap.
2.-Invitation to "KISS THE SON"***"NOW"

"WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT MAN" Ps. 8:1-9
"MAN-HEAVEN'S MASTERPIECE" 139:13-18

(1)

INTRO:

A.-What Is Man?:

1-Ps. 8:4 quote

2-**Varied answers** available from the **past**:

--**Aristotle**: "Man is **a civic animal**"

--**Seneca**: "Man is a **social animal**"

--**Anon.**: "Man is a **fire-using animal**"

--**Boswell**: "Man is a **tool-using animal**"

--Edmund **Burke**: "Man is by his constitution a **religious animal**"

--**Plato**: "Man is a **two-legged** animal without **feathers**."

--**Dogenes** ridiculed Plato & produced a **ROOSTER** which he plucked & held up to Plato & said: "HERE IS **PLATO'S MAN**".

Schopenhauer quote.

3-**Evolutionists answers**:

--C. L. **Bruce**: "Man is not just an animal that possesses culture, but an animal that cannot survive without it." (NAT. HIST., Jan. 1970, P.46)

--C. L. **Brace**: (Assistant Professor of Anthropology, U. of C., Santa Barbara) "Man, as we shall see, is a made-over ape" (Man's Evolution, 1965, P. 53)

--L. S. B. **Leakey**: "...we are all agreed that man is simply a mammal belonging to the super-family Homminoidea and that he must have reached his present 'human' status through the natural processes of mammalian evolution." (Classification And Human Evolution, edited by S. L. Washburn, 1963, P. 34)

--Wm. **Howells**: "Man...is **a modified fish**." (Mankind So Far, 1944, P. 18)

Q →

4-**MAN** is the **greatest marvel** in the universe. Not because his **heart** beats 40 million times a year, driving his **bloodstream** a distance of over 60,000 miles in that time; not because of the wonderful mechanism of **eye** and **ear**; not because of his conquest over disease & the lengthening of human life; not because of the unique qualities of his mind, BUT BECAUSE he may **walk and talk with God**." Anon.

5-Frances Quarles: "**Man is heaven's masterpiece**"

Q →

B.-Where Can We Get AUTHORITATIVE ANSWERS About Him?:

1-**NOT** from **science textbooks** for they continually are changing

2-**NOT** from **philosophers**, for one is soon supplanted by another, until now we have NIHLISM & EXISTENTIALISM prominent

3-**Where then ??**

A →

4-**Only** from the **Bible**-----God's **revelation**!!

C.-What The Bible Teaches About Man:

1-Outline: I.-Man--His Special Creation:
II.-Man--His Divine Image
III.-Man--His Unique Constitution:
IV.-Man--His Eternal Worth:

2-PROP:--Vital area if we are to follow the dictum: "KNOW THYSELF" (2)

--Vital area if we are to have a proper value system & appreciate man's place in it

--Vital area if we are to be armed against the secularism, evolutionism & materialism of our day

--Vital area if we are to understand & appreciate the GRACE OF GOD.

I. MAN--HIS SPECIAL CREATION:

A.-Creation By Divine Action:

1-Not merely an evolutionary process of development out of the primordial ooze, but SPECIAL CREATION

2-Hebrew word BARA- THE TERM

--"Create" (33), "Make" (2), "Creator" (3), "Be created" (9)

--NOT "to make something out of nothing"

--BUT "to bring into being in an orderly fashion"

--Usages: ** Gen. 1:1--Heavens & earth

** Gen. 1:21--Great whales & every living creature

** Gen. 1:27--Man

** Isa. 43:7--Israel as a nation "I have created him for my glory"

3-Creation is THE ACT OF GOD, a deliberate act of Deity

--Gen. 1:1

--Gen. 1:21

--Gen. 1:26 "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..."

--Gen. 1:27

--Gen. 5:1-3

3-The "FACT" of creation

--Gen. 1:27 "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male + female..."

--Clear declaration here

--Creation in the image of God

--Both male & female were created

--Denial of this creationistic origin is a denial of revelation

--Is it any wonder the liberals hate & want to destroy the book of Genesis?

5-The "HOW" Of Creation

--Gen. 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground + breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; + man became a living soul.

--Details are now given after a cursory view

--BODY ** From the dust of the ground Earth Consciousness

** Distinct creative activity & not a "fortuous accident"

** Confirmed that the body is made from the ground in the N.T. (1 Cor. 15:47-49; 2 Cor. 4:7)

** Made from the same 16 elements which are in the soil

** ROPER--"Man is of the earth, earthy; and of the dirt, dirty."

--SOUL ** Man shares this "living soul" quality with the animals, but not with the plants (1:21, 24)

** Deals with self-consciousness

** Proof that man did not come from animals because LIFE came to him as God made him a "living soul". If he'd come from an animal, he would already have had that.

Earth Consciousness

Self-Consciousness

4-SPIRIT ** "Breath" is the Hebrew RUACH: "Spirit" (3)
God-Consciousness ** This Spirit was given directly by God
** This is a characteristic unique to man; not shared by any animal or plant

6-The TIME of Creation--Ussher's Chronology; 4004 B.C. for creation about 6,000 years ago
--Better estimates run 6,000 to 10,000 B.C. Merrill F. Unger
--Impossible to have pin-point accuracy on that point.

B.-Creation Is NOT By EVOLUTION:

1-This theory--Began with the ancient Greeks
--Popularized by Spencer, Darwin & Huxley
*-Virtually unanimously accepted in the scientific community until the past decades
*-Now there are multitudes of CREATIONIST DISSENTERS from the theory of evolution
*--Still a theory & unproven !!
--"Missing links" are STILL MISSING
--Bold assertions, but NO PROOF that stands up

Whitcomb + Morris THE GENESIS FLOOD

2-Forms of the Evolutionary Theory: MANY
--Spontaneous generation
--Continuous mutation
--Theistic evolution
--Threshold evolution
--All of these necessitate BILLIONS OF YEARS
--All assume man to be the offspring of animals

* NO AGREEMENT

Push it back into the ancient past.

3-Philosophic basis of Evolution:
*--Necessitated by a REJECTION OF GOD as "first cause"
--"Scientific man" must have SOME EXPLANATION
--Basically an ANTI-GOD answer to life's basic questions
--Based on speculation, conjecture & assumption
--Evolutionary textbooks read like "science-fiction"

4-Evolution--Rejects God and creation — BOTH!
--Deals only with the physical, social & environmental disciplines (Biology, Psychology, Sociology, History), though its philosophy has today permeated more widely
**--FAILS to distinguish between animate & inanimate and between animal and human
*--NEGLECTS origins, purpose, morals & destiny
--Accepts no "standard" of right & wrong

VALUES ARE ABSENT

5-Prof. Edwin Conklin, the great PRINCETON UNIVERSITY biologist says: "The probability of life originating from accident is comparable to the probability of the Unabridged Dictionary resulting from an explosion in a printing factory." (Quoted in Cincinnati TIMES-STAR)

6-Note the TWO RECORDS:
--Gen. 1--GENERAL ACCOUNT; Cosmic view of creation
--Gen. 2--DETAILED ACCOUNT; Physiological view of creat.
--Supplimentary & complimentary
--NO CONTRADICTIONS, but Full harmony !!

C.-Creation Confirmations:

1-Not limited to Genesis 1 & 2

2-Other O.T. References
- Gen. 5:1-2
- Ex. 20:9-11 * MOSES
- Deut. 4:32
- Isa. 45:12, 18 — ISAIAH

3-Other N. T. Refs.
- Acts 17:24-26, 29 — LUKE
- 1 Cor. 15:45
- Col. 3:10 PAUL
- Matt. 19:3-4
- *This last one is JESUS CHRIST CONFIRMING the Genesis record of creation as accurate

4-To deny that man is God's SPECIAL CREATION requires
- A denial of the accuracy & authenticity of Scripture
- A denial of the testimony of Jesus Christ

II.-MAN—HIS DIVINE IMAGE: (Gen. 1:26-27)

A.-Physical Likeness:

1-Some have jumped on Eccles. 7:29--"Lo, this I have found, that God hath made man upright;.."

2-True, man is upright of body, but that says nothing about God

3-God is a SPIRIT (John 4:24), but not with a body (MAN IS A SPIRIT WHO LIVES IN A BODY)

B.-Mental Likeness:

1-Man is like God in that he has intelligence beyond that of the animal world
- Brain size & intellectual capacity
- Gift of speech
- Manual dexterity thru brain control

2-Self-determination
- Characteristic of both God & man *
- "I am", "I ought", "I will"

3-This is a natural or mental image of God in man

4-Not LOST in the fall, but certainly DEBASED

C.-Moral Likeness:

1-Animals are not moral (neither moral nor immoral)
- Mating habits
- No "RIGHT" or "WRONG" among animals

2-God gave man explicit instructions about good & evil, as well as THE TEST of the tree of the knowledge of good & evil (Gen. 2:16-17)

3-Moral commands would mean nothing if it were not for a reflection of God's morality in man's character:
- God is Righteous & Holy
- God has made man capable of these characteristics
- God pronounced all of his creation (including man) "VERY GOOD" (Gen. 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 31; 2:9) Seven Verses!

D.-Observations On The Divine Image:

1-Yes, man bears the image of God on earth, for he is DIFFERENT from the animals!

2-This is what makes an attack on another man a henious offense
- MURDER -- (Gen. 9:6) — Abortion
- SLANDER--(Jas. 3:9)

3-Fall has DISTORTED the image of God in lost man
4-Image is RESTORED by grace thru salvation (Rom.8:29)
5-Man's actions are right when conformed to the image & character of God & wrong when not conformed to God's character

(5)

III. MAN---HIS UNIQUE CONSTITUTION:

A. Man Is A Tri-Part Being: = TRI-UNITY

1-Seen already in Gen. 2:7

"Dust of the earth"

--BODY ** WORLD-consciousness
** HORIZONTAL relationships
** Deals with 5 senses (taste, touch, smell, hear & feel)

"Breath (=Spirit) of Life"

--SPIRIT ** GOD-consciousness
** VERTICAL relationship
** Immaterial link of God with His creation
** "Imponderable--it cannot be weighed; Intangible--it cannot be handled; Invisible--it cannot be seen."

"Living soul"

--SOUL ** SELF-consciousness
** INTERNAL relationships
** Immanuel Kant divides "soul" into Will, Sensibility (Emotions) & Intellect
** Scripture also indicates CONSCIENCE

2-Confirmed in 1 Thess. 5:23--"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

3-Wm. R. Newell--"The constant witness of Scripture is that man exists as a spirit living in a body, possessed of a soul." (P.11, Romans)

4-This is a reflection of God, for God is a TRINITY, & man is "...the offspring of God" (Acts. 17:29)

NB 5-There is just as much future to your body as there is to your soul & spirit----ALL THREE will be reunited in the resurrection

B. Man Is A Complexity:

1-Personality is so complex that it takes MANY TERMS in the Scr. to describe man
--Body (Heart, Flesh, Mind)-Earth Consciousness
--Soul Self consciousness
--Spirit-God-Consciencesciousness

2-But every sinful man needs a "NEW HEART" in order to be right with God--Because of Jer. 17:9 heart is desperately wicked
--Therefore, John 3:3 Ye must be born again

C. Man Is A Unity:

1-He has both a material (BODY) and a non-material (SOUL & SPIRIT) nature
2-BOTH are part of him as a "PERSON"
3-L. S. Chafer--"Though the material & immaterial parts of man are often set over against each other & reference is made to them as component parts of man's being, man is nevertheless a UNITY--ONE BEING--and the mater-

ial & immaterial can be separated only by physical death." (II, P. 146)

4-Blessed Hope for the Christian is a REUNION of body, soul and spirit with Christ at the Rapture of the Church, and a reunion also with all our loved ones of this Church age

5-Soul & Spirit of believer who dies is now in heaven --"absent from the body, but present with the Lord" awaiting that RESURRECTION REUNION.

IV.-MAN--HIS ETERNAL WORTH:

A.-Creation Purposes:

Creation Record

1-LORDSHIP over creation--Gen. 1:26-29
- --Dominion or LORDSHIP; Control
- --Sexuality & reproduction
- --Caretaker to creation
- --Free to eat of all

Creation Interpretation

- --Gen. 2:19-20
- --Naming of all the animals
- --NOT A SAVAGE OR AN IGNORAMUS when created, but with full faculties
- --The earth was MAN'S DOMAIN over which he exercised divinely bestowed authority

2-FELLOWSHIP--With his wife (2:18-25)
- --With God (3:8-10)
- --Not created a sinner, but in INNOCENCE

3-Display of the glory of God as the KING OF CREATION & so to show forth God's moral perfections
- --GLORIO-CENTRIC purpose
- --Thus--Westminster Confession Catechism: "What is the whole duty of man? The whole duty of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever."

4-F.B.MEYER--"Man was placed in the world like a king in a palace stored with all to please him, monarch and sovereign of the lower orders of creation. The sun to labor for him like a very Hercules; the moon to light his nights, or lead the waters of the earth in tides, cleansing its shores: elements of nature to be his slaves and messengers: flowers to scent his pathway: fruit to please his taste: birds to sing for him: beasts to toil for him & carry him: and man himself, amidst all this luxury, God's representative, His vice-regent. This is man as God made him." (Quoted by Lockyer, All The Doctrines, P. 140)

B.-Catastrophic Plunge:

1-SIN enters thru Adam & Eve
2-Race of mankind is plunged into sin
3-Degradation of all mankind
4-Alienation from God
5-Image of God is marred by sin's ravages
6-MAN--No longer innocent, but guilty
- --No longer in fellowship, but separated
- --No longer in control, but under a curse
- --No longer in the Garden, but expelled
- --No longer pure, but sinful

7-Death enters; JUDGMENT OF GOD is upon sinn (7)
--Rom. 5:12--"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.
--Rom. 6:23--"For the wages of sin is death, but the g gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
8-W H Y ??
9-Rebellious will of man seeking to be INDEPENDENT of God

C.-Continuing Preciousness:
1-YES--Sinful
-Alienated
--Dead in sin
2-But still INFINITELY PRECIOUS to God !
--The creation of God
--Object of God's redemptive concern & provision
3-No man ought to think HIMSELF or OTHERS of "little value" for God sets a high value upon us
4-So high a value....
...HE GAVE HIS SON FOR US...
5-Image of God is DEFACED in man, but it is NOT DESTROYED
6-Francis Schaeffer:
--"...although man is twisted & corrupted & lost as a result of the Fall, yet he is still man. He has become neither a machine, nor an animal nor a plant. The marks of mannishness are still upon him---love, rationality, longing for significance, fear or non-being and so on." (Escape From Reason, P. 89)
--"The Bible teaches that, though man is hopelessly lost, he is not nothing." (P. 90)

CONCLUSION:

A.-What Is Man?: (Resume')
1-Man is God's CREATION
2-Man bears in himself the Divine IMAGE
3-Man has a Unique CONSTITUTION
4-Man is of Eternal WORTH
5-ILLUS--The stand-by illustration used by innumerable preachers for many years was the old cliche that man after all was only worth 98¢--the value of the various chemical components that make up the human body. Now we'll have to look for a new illustration. Scientists now tell us that there are enough chemical atoms in the human body to produce $85,BILLION worth of energy. In this modern age the human body is worth more than in previous generations.

If the Bible is mistaken in telling us from whence we came, how can we trust it to tell us where we are going?

But the value of a human soul has never changed for every soul born of whatever, color, culture or country, is of ETERNAL VALUE in the sight of God, so valuable that He was willing to pay the greatest price possible for its redemption. Thus:

"He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

DARE WE CONSIDER THE SOUL OF ANY OF LESS VALUE ? Should not this thought of the value of man spur us on to

greater endeavors than ever before to reach the last soul in the uttermost parts of the earth before it is too late?

GOD HAS PUT A VALUE on a soul beyond any price.

Ought not we to do the same?

B. What Is Man To You?

1-The Object of DIVINE love?

2-The Object of your PERSONAL concern?

Ps. 8

Westbrae--8/15/71--# ~~385~~ 385 — Amazing Grace

27 — "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

OKBC — 5/26/85 # 352 — "Whiter Than Snow"

Church of the Bible, Plainville, CT — 8/4/85

Middletown Bible Church — 8/11/85

Gen. 1:1-31

8/22/71

Hilltop Bapt. Ch-SS 8/6/86 # 1 — "May Jesus Christ Be Praised"

83 (1+4) "Love Divine"

249 "And Can It Be That I Should Gain"

Used in 2 parts on 2 Sundays

"Things God Can't Do" Psalm. 18:23-33 (30)

(See Ep. 3:20-21)

Intro.-- A.-Last week we saw some of what God is ABLE to do:
1-Able to save
2-Able to keep saved
3-Able to enable to serve

B.-Just as truly there are things GOD CAN'T DO !!!!
ILLUS.-Unbelievers ask if it is possible for God to create an object too large & heavy for Him to lift. That is VAIN QUESTIONING---but, the Scripture does tell what God cannot do!!

I.--GOD'S NATURE

A.-It is impossible for God to change His nature.
1-He is the same at all times--Heb. 13:8 J.X. the same yesterday & today and for ever.
2-Unchangeable--Mal. 3:6 I am the Lord I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.
3-He is the "no changing" God--like the leopard--like the Ethiopean
4- Hymn "Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been Thou forever wilt be"

II.-GOD'S ACTIONS

A.- Righteousness
1-there is no unrighteousness with God--Rom. 9:14 what shall we say then, is there unrighteousness with God? God Forbid!
2-Contra the immorality of the Greek Gods.
3-God can't condone sin--Acts 17:30

B.-Lie---impossible
1-Titus 1:2--impossibility of God lying is the basis of our promise of eternal life
2-Heb. 6:18--Strong consolation--(1)Promise & (2)Oath Assurance of continuance of our salvation because He cannot lie.

C.-Sin
1.-Christ knew no sin--(1)no sin nature (2)no sin in actions 2 Cor.5:21
2.-Illus--The worm in the apple. How did it get there? Did it enter from the outside? If I were to ask, most of you would likely say from the outside in. The truth of the matter though is that the worm comes from an egg laid in the blossom and enclosed. Then the egg hatches & the worm works its way out. Just so it is with us, for the WORM OF SIN is on the inside of us and shows up so often in our life. But it was not so of our Savior who "knew no sin" and "did no sin". For he hath made him to be sin for us who knew no sin, that we might be made the R. of God in him
3.-Further, the Scriptures declare that God is PERFECT no flaw, blemish, etc.---Ps. 18:30.

III.-GOD'S WORK.

A.-Impossible for God to ATONE for SIN apart from the death of Jesus Christ
1-Salvation could not be wrought by submission to Satan & by-passing the Cross--Luke 4:5-8
2-Salvation could not be bought by any fleshly agony Luke 22:42
3-Salvation could not be purchased by the blood of bulls + Goats. Heb. 10:4

4-Salvation is ONLY by the DEATH OF CHRIST
Heb.10:12, 18 "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God . . .Now where remission of these (sins) is, there is no more offering for sin.
Acts 4:12
5-Illus--Remember what that eminent Scotish preacher of yesteryear said when he was dying. Someone said to him, "What are you doing now?" Said he, "I am just gathering all my good works together, and I am throwing them all overboard; and I am lashing myself to the plank of free grace, and I hope to swim to glory on it." We must do likewise for our salvation.

B.-Impossible for God to save PERSISTENT SINNERS
1-Rejection of God by men leads to rejection of men by God Rom. 1:24, 26, 28.
2-Can let our opportunity of Salvation slip by. Gen. 6:3.
Illus.--ship that slips by a safe harbor and does not enter will crash on the sand-bar beyond.
3-God won't save men apart from faith in Christ--Acts 4:12 and Heb. 11:6 Don't let your opportunity slip by!

Conclusion:

A-God's unchanging nature assures us that God's attitude will not vary any in the future:
1-Saved--objects of eternal love
2-Lost---objects of eternal wrath
B-God's actions assure His:
1-Righteousness
2-Truthfulness
3-Purity and Sinlessness
C-God's Work of Salvation
1-Based only upon the death of Christ
2-Appropriated only by faith
3-John 6:29 "Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the WORK of GOD, that ye BELIEVEon him whom He hath sent."

GOD REVEALED IN NATURE

Psalm 19:1-14; Rom. 1:18-25
1 Tim. 6:2021

INTRO:

A.-God's Two Books:
1-Not O.T. & N. T.
2-But Nature & the Bible
3-Both are from God's hands
4-Both are very useful in knowing Him
5-Both are true
6-Both are complimentary — NOT CONTRADICTORY
7-Both are essential to a full-orbed view of God
8-No contradictions since both are given by the God of Truth, IF they are properly understood.

B.-God's Book Of Nature:
1-Nature shows--Glory of God, but not His will
--Power of God, but not His plan
--Person of God, but not His salvation
2-Revealed by God
--Ps. 19:1-4
--Universal witness possessed by all men everywhere in every age
3-Rejected by men--Rom. 1:18-25
--Mankind once knew God
--Refused to retain Him in their knowledge
--Degeneration began with thanklessness
--Hearts were darkened
--Idolatry ensued
4-Psalmist & Apostle declare what no man can deny.....
THAT THERE IS A GOD, who can be known thru His works,
& when men refuse to see Him there...
THEY ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE !

I.-HUMAN OBSERVATIONS FROM NATURE (Philosophical Arguments):

A.-Reasoning Back From Effect To Cause:
1-World exists--therefore must have an origin
--therefore must have an originator
2-Parallels--NOISE--Place & person of origination
--HURT---Place & person of injury
--MOUNTAIN--Place & person of origination
3-Scriptural agreement
--Heb. 3:4--"For every house is builded by some man; but He that built all things is God."
--Ps. 19:1--"The heavens declare the glory of God; the firmament sheweth his handywork."
4-First cause must be a Person-----GOD
--All creation; God is the creator
--All evil; Satan is the creator

B.-Reasoning From Order And Design And Function:
1-Design implies a Designer
Architecture implies an Architect
Creation implies a Creator
These concepts are interlocked because they are interrelated
Illustrations on attached tract.

2-Ps. 94:9-10--"He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? He that formed the eye, shall he not see? He that chastiseth the heathen, shall not he correct? He that teacheth man knowledge, shall not he know?

3-Sir James Jeans, noted British mathematician & astronomer could only say: "The universe appears to have been designed by a pure mathematician."

4-Lord Kelvin, moved by the enormity of God's hand in creation could expostulate, "Truly, the undevout astronomer must be mad."

5-ILLUS---Skeptic wrote of his experience:

"One beautiful May evening I was reading my favorite Plato by the light of the setting sun in western Texas along a beautiful river. I was perusing one of the acadamician's most starry dreams. It laid hold of my fancy, without exciting my faith. I wept to think it could not be true.

At length I came to that startling sentence, "GOD GEOMETRIZES." Vain reverie, I exclaimed outloud, as I cast the volume at my feet. It fell by a beautiful little flower so bright & fresh. I broke it from its silvery stem & began to examine its structure. Its stamens were 5 in number; its calyx had 5 parts; its delicate coral base had 5 segments; and its petals parting with rays expanding like a 5 pointed Texas star. This combination of 5 in the same blossom appeared to me to be very singular. I had never thought on such a subject before. The last sentence I had just read in the page of Plato was ringing in my ears--"GOD GEOMETRIZES!"

There was a commentary on what I had just read. Swift as thought I calculated the chances against the production of those 3 equations of 5 in only 1 flower. I found there were 125 chances to 1 against such a supposition. Extending it to 2 flowers by squaring the sum & I found the chances to be 15,625 to 1 I cast my eyes about & found the whole area covered with these golden blooms.

In my enthusiasm I called to the little birds on the green boughs, "Sing on, sunny birds, sing on sweet minstrels! Lo, you and I have found A GOD"

BUT, notice carefully, the best that all of this can point to is to "A GOD", not to THE GOD who created us & who saves us thru the shed blood of His Son, Jesus Christ.

6-We can conclude positively,

CREATION DEMANDS A CREATOR

C.-Reasoning That **Properties Of The Creature** (When he is at his best) Are **Possessed In Superior Stature By God**:

1-Moral men.....a moral Creator
2-Justice of men....a just Creator
3-Kindness of men....a kind & benevolent Creator
4-Loving men.....a loving Creator
5-Personalities of men.....demand that the Creator be a **PERSON**, not a **FORCE**

6-Addison H. Leitch in one of his few better moments wrote "Since, once again, we cannot get something from nothing and since assuredly we have ideas of perfection which cannot be accounted for in the immediacies of our surroundings, the conclusion suggests itself that **this IDEA** of perfection must come directly from the perfect source, namely, from God himself." (Xnity Today, Jan.16,'61, P.18)

7-Immaterial existence of life in man.....calls for the immaterial existence of the Creator as well.
--REMEMBER--Jn. 4:24--"God is a Spirit; and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."
8-Man can't create life, so God is GREATER than man in all particulars, yet a similarity does definitely exist
9-Similarity is called "in his image" in Biblical terminology

D.-Reasoning That God Must Be REAL: Though UNSEEN:
1-Reality is NOT restricted to the 5 senses:
--What we can SEE
--What we can SMELL
--What we can TOUCH
--What we can HEAR
--What we can TASTE
2-MANY things are not seen
--Yet we believe in them implicitly
--Electricity, Lasers
--Atoms (& the new particles found thru Atom-Smashers)
--Neutrons, Electrons, Protons, Photons
--Microbes, Germs, Virus
3-Reality is described by the recording of the reasoning back process from the reality we can see to the reality which we cannot see !
4-Scriptural confirmation--Rom. 1:19-20 (Read)
--Legacy of Comprehension (1:19a)
--Light of Conscience (1:19b)
--Light of Creation (1:20)
5-ILLUS--God's revelation of Himself in nature is illustrated by the well-known story of the Chinese who was impressed by the futility of worshipping a very old tree. The little idol at the base of the tree had nothing to do with the cycle of life by which year after year the old leaves withered in the fall & new ones appeared in the spring. No wonder the old man cast away his idol & was fully prepared when the messenger of the Lord brought to him the WORD OF THE LIVING GOD.

II. GOD'S MANIFESTATIONS IN NATURE:

A.-In The Physical World:
1-Existence Is evident
2-Physical witness to God--Ps. 19:1--GLORIOUS instruction
--Ps. 19:2--CONTINUOUS instruction
--Ps. 19:3--SILENT instruction
--Ps. 19:4--UNIVERSAL instruction
3-Revealed to--all men alike
--on all continents alike
--in all ages alike
--on all educational levels alike
Absolutely Universal
4-So, man is WITHOUT EXCUSE if this witness is neglected.
5-But, Nature gives--no word of need for redemption
--no word of a plan for redemption
--a deficient revelation which must be supplimented by the Word of God

B.-In Providence:

1-Execution of Divine plan & purpose

2-Seen about us every day--in Archaeology; unveiling the past
--in Geology; describing the minerals
--in Botany; describing flowers & plants
--in Zoology; describing animal life
--in Biology; describing life processes

3-Not "CHANCE AND CHANGE" at work about us as the evolutionists theorize, BUT...

4-Rather---Rom. 8:28--"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."

5-History is HIS STORY--Book of Esther
--Spanish Armada attacking British Isles
--Moors defeated at Pyrennes
--Japanese turning back from Suez in W.W. 2 & being defeated decisively at Midway Island in the Pacific
--Route of Rommel at El Alemain in Egypt

6-Because God--Numbers our hairs
--Bottles our tears
--Will not allow a sparrow to fall unnoticed
--History is HIS STORY

7-Thus, it is only logical to conclude that an omnipotent Person alone could bring this world into being & maintain its natural laws.

C.-In Preservation:

Even the "exceptional" cases follow predictable patterns.

1-World runs "smoothly" for the most part

2-According to Divine Law

3-Col. 1:16-17--"For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible & invisible whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him: And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist."
--By Him
--For Him
--After Him
--Consist=="hold together"

D. Lee Chesnut's "Colossian Law"

4-Heb. 1:3--"Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when he had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:"

5-Ps. 36:6--"Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep: O LORD, thou preservest man and beast."

6-Acts 17:28--"For in Him we live, and move, and have our being..."

D.-In General Benevolence:

1-Taken for granted--Rain
--Air
--Sunshine
--Winds
--Seasons
--Grow-ability

2-Taken for granted, Yet absolutely essential
3-Given in lavish profusion
4-Given without regard to spiritual condition
5-Mt. 5:45--"...for He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

B.-In Miracles: — DIVINE INTERVENTION

1-Supernatural actions
2-Miracles reveal--Supernatural **POWER**
--Supernatural **PERSON**
--Supernatural **PURPOSES**
3-Examples--Sun stopped & turned back
--Red Sea opened for Moses & 6 million
--Jordon River stopped up
--Jericho fallen
--Lazarus recusitated
--Jesus raised
--and many others-----12 in book of Jonah alone
4-An ILLUSTRATION may help make this clear. Let us assume that we believe that an object can be moved only by physical pressure. In that case, we would believe that a **metal ball** on a table could move only if pushed, blown or rolled.

Suppose however, that someone should put a **magnet** under the table directly beneath the ball & then move the magnet. The **ball would move with the magnet.** Believing, however that only physical pressure can move an object we would probably first assume that someone had jostled the table.

If the magnet were again moved--with no one touching the table --the ball would, of course, move again. But, we would say, someone may have blown the ball. When this hypothesis had been disposed of by even more careful demonstration, it ought to become obvious, if we are honest, that our **theory** is somewhere **incomplete**, & that the basic presumption that only pressure moves objects must be wrong. *It would be **unfair** & of course **inaccurate** to rule out the power of the magnet before examining it.

In the same way, it is **unscientific** to rule out the possibility of **miracle** because **natural law opposes it**, until all the evidence has been examined to see whether the theory of natural law is true or not.

The Christian position is that this **theory** that the natural law covers everything is **wrong**. Now even the most ardent scientific rationalist, if he is fair, will agree that miracles are **possible**, though he will hasten to say that he has **never observed any**. To scoff at the possibility of miracles is illogical. Science has **never proved**, & can never prove that a miracle is impossible. All it can say is that it has not recognized any examples.

CONCLUSION: **A.-Nature Shows:**
1-That God--exists
--is great
--is superior
--is real
--is powerful
--and, is **A PERSON**, not merely **A FORCE**

2-As JOHN CALVIN said: "But since the meanest & most illiterate of mankind, who are furnished with no other assistance than their own eyes, cannot be ignorant of the excellence of the Divine skill, exhibiting itself in that endless, yet regular variety of the innumerable celestial host,---it is evident that the Lord abundantly manifests his wisdom to every individual on earth."

3-Another has well added, "Belief in protons, photons, positrons & electrons can not be put on the same level as faith in God's power and promises. It is absurd to assert that the atheist's faith in atomic power is the same faith as that of the Bible." (Ramm, P16, The Christian View Of Science & The Bible)

4-Rather--Heb. 11:3--"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear

5-Natural Theology adds nothing to the written Word of God. It merely confirms & illustrates what the Bible expressly teaches

B.-Nature Fails;

1-Establishes no relationship of man to God

2-Proclaims no way of salvation

3-God is still FOREIGN----Nature fails to bring HIM to man

4-ILLUS--Men strike their knives into the Bible & say the light of nature is sufficient. Indeed! Have the fireworshippers of India, cutting themselves until blood spurts at every pore, have they found the light of nature sufficient? ? ? ?

Has the Bornesian cannibal, gnawing on roasted flesh from human bones; has he found the light of nature sufficient? ? ? ?

Did the ancient Chinese women, with their feet cramped & deformed into a hoof, did such find the light of nature sufficient? ? ?

Could the ancients see the heaven of God from the Tower of Babel, or from Mount Olympus? NO! NO! indeed.

I call the pagodas of superstition, the tortures of Brahma, the infanticide of the Ganges, the bloody wheels of the Juggernaut, the sword of Islam, to PROVE THAT THE LIGHT OF NATURE IS NOT ENOUGH; it is INSUFFICIENT.

A star is beautiful, but it pours no light into the midnight darkness of a sinful soul. A flower is sweet, but it exudes no balm for the heart's wound from sin.

Being w/ NATURE is no SUBSTITUTE for true worship

C.-Nature Demands;

1-Gordon Clark summarizes: "The truth is that nature has less of a message than some people, particularly some christian people, think. The planets above & the plants below show some of the wisdom & power of God; that is to say; they show it to those who already believe that God has created them." (Revelation & The Bible, P. 28)

2-Need is for God's "SECOND BOOK"

--The Bible

--Vitally important

--Absolutely essential, for nature is not enough

3-ILLUS--David Hume, the Scottish philosopher, once wrote an essay on THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE LIGHT OF NATURE AND REASON. A Dr. Robertson, an evangelical theologian, answered Hume's essay by writing of the necessity of Divine revelation, and pointing out the insufficiency of the light of nature.

One evening Hume visited Robertson, and the time was spent in conversation on the subjects about which both had written. Friends of both who were present that night said that Robertson reasoned with unusual clearness and power.

Whether Hume was convinced by Dr. Robertson's reasonings or not, we are not told. At any rate Hume did not acknowledge his conviction. As Hume rose to leave, he bowed politely to those in the room, and then caught sight of Dr. Robertson reaching for a lamp to show him the way out of the house and down the stairs. Hume immediately said: "PRAY, DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELF, SIR; I FIND THE LIGHT OF NATURE ALWAYS SUFFICIENT."

But as he left the house, Hume stumbled in the darkness, and pitched down the steps into the street. Running after him with the lamp, Dr. Robertson held it over him and whispered softly:

"YOU HAD BETTER HAVE A
LIGHT FROM ABOVE, Mr. Hume."

4-Purposes of that "second book" of revelation
--To make one wise unto SALVATION
--To make one wise unto sanctification
--To make one wise unto SERVICE
--2 Tim. 3:14-17

5-Therefore, these truths....
.....necessitate our sharing the GOSPEL entrusted to us....
.....IN THE WORD OF GOD.

6-Close with hymn---"From Greenland's Icy Mountains"--#480

Westbrae--3/7/65--#16--For The Beauty Of The Earth" (54)
Calvary,Cols.9/21/75--#286--"This Is My Father's World"
Daniels Missy. Bapt. Ch. 9/18/77 #480--From Greenland's Icy Mountains" (433)

OVER

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

Series Of Messages:

#1--This message: "God Revealed In Nature"

#2--"God Revealed In The Bible"---1 Cor. 2

#3--"Features Of Divine Revelation"

#4--God Revealed In Jesus Christ"--John 1:1-18

INTRO: **A.-"Religious" Attitudes:**
1-Formed by **parental influences** — or **LACK of these**
2-Influenced by **inner feelings** — **VAGUE**
3-Pressed by **crisis experiences** — **FOX HOLE DECISIONS**
4-**INADEQUATE!**

B.-Really Know God:
1-**ONLY** thru **Divine Revelation**
2-**Three avenues** (1)-Creation or **Nature**
(2)-Word of God or **Revelation**
(3)-Christ or **Incarnation**
3-**Failure** to follow through to **Christ** is **FATAL!**
4-Jn. 5:22-24
5-In divine revelation we have **authoritative knowledge** of the one true God
6-**PROP:** We find these 3 revelations of God detailed in Ps. 19 so as to see the practical outworking of that Knowledge in our personal lives.

I.-REVELATION IN NATURE (Ps. 19:1-6): GREATNESS OF GOD

A.-The Person Of This Revelation:
1-Divine Name--"God" in KJV
19:1 --Elohim — 33 times in 32 vss. of Genesis 1
==Creator
"STRONG ONE WHO CREATES"
"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained:"
"=the weighty elements of God's nature"
2-**His glory** is seen as the
3-His fingerwork--Ps. 8:3
4-Ps. 14:1--"The **fool** hath said in his heart, 'There is **no God** (Elohim=Creator)..." **Atheist + Anti-Creationist**

B.-The Instruction Of This Revelation:
(1) **GLORIOUS Instruction**--19:1
(Unparalleled)
"sheweth (participle) = "continuous holding forth"
HANDIWORK
--"Firmament"=="Expanse" — SKY
--Stars of heaven
--Gen. 1:16--"And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also."
--**HOW MANY STARS** ?? If you had begun to count them on the night of Christ's birth, & counted **200** per night from then til now for **20** centuries, you could just **now** be **nearing the end** of your tabulation. Scientists also inform us that the unknown stars are more numerous than those already discovered.

(2) **CONTINUOUS Instruction**--19:2
Uninterrupted
--No end
--Day after **day** — Shows God's splendor, Power + beneficence
--Night after **night** — tells Vastness, order + mystery
UTTERETH = bubbles forth
--Their instruction to us from God's creation **continues**

(3) **SILENT Instruction**--19:3
Unspoken
--DROP the **italicized words** — SPEECH
--"No speech; No language"

--YET, there is instruction
--Sir James Jeans, noted British mathematician & astronomer could only say, "THE UNIVERSE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DESIGNED BY A PURE MATHEMETICIAN."
--But Lord Kelvin, moved by the enormity of God's hand in creation could expostulate: "TRULY, THE UNDEVOUT ASTRONOMER MUST BE MAD."

4-UNIVERSAL instruction - inescapable for all earth dwellers; seen everywhere
-19:4-6
--"Line"=="Compass"
--Quoted in Rom. 10:18 as "words are"
--Throughout the whole earth
--Sun has a tabernacle in the universe, or a "tent" for fellowship
--A picture of our SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, the Lord Jesus (Mal. 4:2)
+TWO FIGURES OF SPEECH
• A bridegroom
• A strong man running a race
+Vigor + Energy conveyed

Unlimited news

STRENGTH

C.-The Warning Of This Revelation:
1-No explicit warning stated 19:11
2-Nonetheless, there is one!
3-Rom. 1:17-18
4-Two things revealed--1 RIGHTEOUSNESS of God
2 WRATH of God
5-Why wrath?
6-Rom. 1:19-20
7-Because God CAN BE KNOWN as existing thru nature and because the majority of people never do know God
8-What, then, is their condition?
9-"WITHOUT EXCUSE".....Hard words, but clear-cut!!
10-ILLUS.-Many years ago an atheistic French scientist was crossing the Sahara desert with a native guide. The guide believed in God and in prayer. When he was uncertain of the way, he would kneel and ask God for guidance.
This annoyed the atheistic scientist. Contemptuously, he asked: "How do you KNOW there is a God?"
Solemnly the guide asked: "How do you KNOW that a man and not a camel passed by our door last night in the darkness?"
The scientist immediately replied: "Why, by his footprints in the sand!"
"Well," said his guide, "I see God's footprints in the things He has created--the sun, moon & stars. They proclaim His power and greatness! These things didn't "just happen"!
11-QUESTION:---Is the revelation of nature enough to save?
12-ANSWER:---NO, it takes...

READ

BOTH!

??

II.-REVELATION IN SCRIPTURE (Ps. 19:7-13):

GLORY OF GOD

A.-The Person of This Revelation: (19:7)
1-Divine Name--"LORD" in KJV
--Jehovah in Hebrew
=="Self-existent One Who reveals Himself"
2-His revelation is seen in the Scripture, as described here
3-"The LORD"--7 times in Ps. 19:7-14
--Not used in revelation of God thru nature - Gen. 1
--Elohim not used in the section speaking of the revelation of God thru the Scriptures
4-It is thru the Word that we know the PERSON of God, as well as His POWER.

and always keeps His covenant

Usage begins in Gen 2 as He reveals Himself to His creatures

B. The Instruction Of This Revelation: (19:7-10)

1-SIX TITLES of the Scriptures (19:7-9)

① --The Law
② --The Testimony
③ --The Statutes
④ --The Commandment
⑤ --The Fear
⑥ --The Judgments

--These are variagated descriptions that bring out various aspects of what the Bible is

"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not grievous." 1 Jn. 5:3

2-Six QUALITIES of Scripture

① --"Perfect"==Without flaw or defect, totally complete
② --"Sure"==Absolutely reliable
③ --"Right"==The straight road to true contentment
④ --"Pure"==Without cataracts or smog to blur
⑤ --"Clean"==Without polution, decay or corruption
⑥ --"True"==Faithful & squared up perfectly

PURE

3-Six RESULTS of Scripture when applied to life

19:7
① CONVERTING the soul------Beginning place 2 Tim. 3:15
② MAKING WISE the simple (child-like)--Development
1988
③ REJOICING the heart-----Inner joy - 1 Jn. 5:3
④ ENLIGHTENING the eyes---Giving clarity to spiritual insight; Discernment
19:9
⑤ ENDURING forever--No decline in importance
⑥ RIGHTEOUS ALTOGETHER--Perfect expression of the true & righteous God; in harmony w/ His character

4-Desirability of this revelation in the Bible

--"More to be desired" (19:10)
--Not material, but spiritual satisfaction
--Desirable for
** Spiritual riches - GOLD
** Spiritual sweetness - HONEY
** Warning (2 Tim. 3:16 "Reproof")
** Reward (1 Cor. 3:11-13)
** Cleansing

To man God does more than to show His power; He also SPEAKS His WORD!

1 Jn. 5:3 - "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: + His commandments are not grievous."

--Value of a gold mine is in its "BEING WORKED", and so also with the Bible
--Are you working your "gold mine"?

TIMELY ADVICE!

C. The Warning Of This Revelation: (19:11-13)

1-Scripture shows us ourselves as we cannot see ourselves
2-Ask any person to describe himself as he sees himself, & you'll get a different picture than you see
3-Scripture will give a TRUE VIEW !!!
4-Three Kinds of sin it shows:

Lev. 4:2, 13

ⓐ "ERRORS" 19:12
** Sins of ignorance + omission
** Things done by mistake
** Wrong, but not done out of a wrong heart

"For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins."

ⓑ "SECRET FAULTS" 19:12
** Evils of the inner disposition
** Pride, anger, jealousy, spite
** Wrong attitudes - (tongolery of our old life still practiced)
** GOD SEES these as sin, also

ⓒ "PRESUMPTUOUS SINS" Heb. 10:26 19:13
** Sins of wilful rebellion
** No sacrifices for these
** Such can easily dominate you
** Ps. 119:133 - "Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me."

--ILLUS--Perhaps you have heard the ancient legend of the BLACKSMITH who was extremely strong. He constantly boasted of his ability to make chains no one could break. Likewise, he claimed he could snap anyone else's chains. People would bring him chains from time to time, but he had little trouble finding a weak link.

Then one day, he fell into the disfavor of his king, and was thrown into prison. Aside to his friends, he mocked the chains which held him, boasting that no one's chains could hold him; he could break the very best. When the guards weren't looking, he began carefully sifting through each link, one after another. He went thru them several times in desperation, until he came to the horrible realization that they had BOUND HIM WITH HIS OWN CHAINS!!

If anything, this is an exact picture of what the Psalmist, David, had in mind. The "little" iniquities become so much a part of the warp & woof of our lives, they are as secret sins in the sense that they are now habitual & we no longer think of them as sinful. You see, we can become BOUND BY OUR OWN CHAINS!

5-HOW will such sins be avoided?

--Only by the knowledge gained of them thru God's Word -TIME for maturity of growth

--And by yielding to the Divine power of the Spirit living in one's life

--ILLUS--The headline of the Honolulu Advertizer on May 24 a few years ago read: "THEY WOULDN'T LISTEN"

Wasted warnings about the tidal wave from a Chilean earthquake were followed by death & destruction over Hawaii. State & Civil Defense agencies turned in their finest piece of work in alerting the islands against the tidal wave.... YET...at least 32 died at Hilo.

Uncounted others ignored the repeated warnings by siren, police car & radio. One man said: "We thought there would be another warning close to midnight, so I dozed off on the beach & the next thing I knew I was flooded up into a mango tree."

Off Waikiki foolhardy people even dashed onto the exposed reef between waves to grab stranded fish. One Civil Defense official said: "It breaks my heart that people lost their lives--or risked losing them--because they ignored us."

6-JUST SO, mankind needs to respond to the warnings of Divine Revelation in the Word

7-NOTE:--"THY SERVANT" (19:13)

--What a claim on God we can have when we can say "thy servant"

--God cannot ignore obedience to His Word

--Ps. 138:2--"...for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."

WARNER 2 Tim 3:16

III. REVELATION IN INCARNATION: GRACE OF GOD in REDEMPTION

A. The Person of This Revelation; (19:14)

1-Divine Names--Jehovah

--My Strength = My Rock = My Anchor for life

--My Redeemer = My Purchaser of redemption

2-There is a PERSONAL, intimate relationship evidenced here

3-**This is**
- Not just nature
- Not even just the law of God
- But this is **INTIMACY**

4-Such intimacy demanded a **PERSONAL** revelation of God in the **PERSON** of His Son

5-Jn. 1:17-18 precious

6-A Person— dwelling in the heart conquering things we could never overcome.

"For the law was given by Moses but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him."

B.-The Instruction of This Revelation: (19:14)

1-**Linking** of believers **thoughts** & **words** with **his being**
- **Prov. 23:7**--"For as he (a man) thinketh in his heart, so is he:"
- **2 Cor. 10:5**--"Casting down imaginations & every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ:"

2-Let the **mouth speak** only that which has been thoroughly "meditated through"

3-**James 1:19-20**--"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to **hear**, slow to **speak**, slow to **wrath**: for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."

4-**Then both thoughts & words** will be **acceptable** to God

5-**WHY ??**--Biblical Revelation Given ??

(A) To tell mankind about HIMSELF (Love, Omniscience, Deity)

(B) To tell us about OURSELVES--VERY NEEDY !!!
Comfort, Assurance Peace, Purity, Patience, Conduct/ Joy, Hope, Holiness

(C) To tell us about OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD:
Obedience, Faithfulness, Praise, Worship, Prayer, Exaltation of Christ, Perseverance

(D) To tell us about HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD US:
Grace. Mercy, Blessing, Needs Met, Instruction in the face of our ignorance, Preparation for ETERNITY Chastening & Judgment of sin, Love, SALVATION

(E) To tell us about OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD OTHERS:
--SAVED--Love & encourage & serve them
--UNSAVED--Reach out to them, endure anything
--ALL NOT TO JUDGE BEFORE THE TIME !

1 Th. 3:12-13--"And the Lord make you to increase and abound one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: to the end He may stablish your hearts unblameable in holliness before God, even our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints."

LIFT THIS UP ↑

...of Crisis experience ??
--OR--
.....of DIVINE REVELATION ??

God has Spoken; Will you believe?

(1) Believe + be saved
(2) Grow in God's grace thru His revelation
(3) Come to a sin-free walk so sin does not have Dominion over you (Rom. 6:11-16)

"Psalmist and Apostle declare that no man can deny, that there is a God Who can be known through His works and when we refuse to see Him there, we are without excuse."

Dr. Addison Leach
Pittsburg Theol. Sem.
"General Revelation and Special Revelation"
CHRISTIANITY TODAY, Jan. 16, 1961, P. 18

(3)	"Wonderful Words of Life"		234
(2)	Holy Bible, Book Divine	460	179 (2)
(4)	"O Word Of God Incarnate"	156	172 (1)
(1)	"How Firm A Foundation"	325	268 (3)

Westbrae--10/28/68
Daniels Missionary Baptist Ch, Daniels, W. Va. 5/15/77
Piney View Bible Ch., WV - 10/28/79
Boomer Baptist Ch, WV - 2/21/82
Lookout Baptist Ch, WV - 1/22/84
OKBC - 5/17/87
Oak Hill Bible Church - 10/16/88
Hilltop Bapt. Ch. - 9/10/89
Bible Center Ch - 9/8/04
Hilltop Bapt. Ch. - 8/13/06

"GOD'S GOLD STANDARD" Psalm 19:7-10
Resp. Reading--1 Cor. 3:1-22 (1)

INTRO:

A.-"THERE's GOLD in them thar hills"

1-"GOLD" was the cry of the '49ers that brought a rush of prospectors across America on foot & around the "horn" by ship in 1849 and 1850

2-"GOLD COUNTRY" is the term that the Sierra foothills are still known by along State Highway 49 from Mariposa on the South to Downieville on the North

1890's →

3-Cripple Creek & Victor, Colorado look like an artillery range where men with picks and shovels attacked the mountains and up to 67,000 men sought their fortunes
--475 producing mines were brought in
--$200,000,000 taken out in a single year

More gold than CALIF + ALASKA combined.

BOOM WAS SWEET!

4-Gold is where you find it--IF you find it

(over 20 million ounces over 40 years were extracted)

B.-Gold Is A Precious Metal:

1-Yellow and heavy

Long 2-Worth $35.00 an ounce when sold to the U.S. Government

3-Illegal to possess as a U.S. citizen until recently
--Except in gold pieces (American, Mexican, etc)
--Except in jewelery
--Except in works of art

4-BUT BEWARE!--All that glitters is not gold
--Beware of "FOOLS GOLD"
** Looks good
** Fools the amateurs
** But it is valueless !

5-Let's learn a bit more about gold today

I.-GOLD IN THE WORLD:

A.-The Metal:

1-First mentioned metal in the Bible
--Gen. 2:11--"The name of the first (river) is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; and the gold of that land is good:"
--Brass & iron (Gen 4:22) first named as "worked" metals
--Gold is also mentioned by Job, the first written book of the Bible

+448 Verses make ref. to GOLD or Golden
+43 of 66 Books of Bible have refs.

2-Value--Not the rarest or most valuable metal
--But valuable ** Because relatively rare/Scarce
** Because useful and beautiful
** Because workable
** Prized and used from most ancient times

If all the gold taken out of the earth in recorded history could be molded into a cube, it would measure 51 feet to a side + fit in the back yard of most of our homes. (MONEY, Aug. 1987, P. 47)

--24 carat gold is pure gold
--14 carat gold is 14/24ths gold
--ALLOYS ** Silver with gold to make white gold
** Copper with gold to make yellow gold
** These harden & stretch the gold

$850 in 1980
403 on 1/1/87
480 on 5/20/87
$ 465 NOW

3-Formed at earth's creation as gasses & liquids rose from beneath the earth's surface thru cracks (faults) in the crust of the earth

4-**Found**
- In **LODES** or veins along with quartz or pyrite
- In **PLACER DEPOSITS** as large particles, nuggets & flakes in stream beds, sediment or gravel
- In **Sea water**
- As **trace element** in porphyry copper or with silver
- Only **rarely** is **visible** gold found in gold ore

5-**Color**
- Depends on its alloys
- Pale to golden yellow

B.-The Mining:

1-**LODE** MINING
- Deposits lie in **veins**
- Much like mining coal
- **Shafts** are sunk into the earth — Molly Kathleen Mine
- Follow the veins & extract the ore
- Take the ore to a mill for milling

2-**PLACER** MINING
- A process of **sifting** (gravity process)
- Associated with water
  - ** Panning in streams
  - ** **Cradle sifting** on a stream bank
  - ** **Hydralic hoses** to wash gold-bearing gravel into sluice boxes
  - ** **Dredges**, Draglines & Power shovels

3-Either form **requires**
- Hard labor (1)
- Experience (2)
- Equipment (3)

N.B.

C.-The Milling:

1-Preparation
- Placer deposits moved by water into and thru a **separating** mechanism, such as a **sluice**
- Lode deposits moved to a mill & there crushed by **BALL MILLS** (Colorado's Carelton Gold Mill)

2-Crushed Ore
- a) Combination with a weak soluction of **cyanide** that is smelted OR
- b) Amalgamation with **mercury** in which an alloy is formed of a pulp-like substance that captures the gold & then separated by heating to boil off the mercury OR
- c) **Flotation** whereby oily & chemical reagents are mixed with water and ground up ore. These cause a frothing by reason of **aeration** and the gold is carried to the top & skimmed off & the gold roasted out of the foam

3-ILLUS
- Carleton **Gold** Mill near Cripple Creek, Colo. built at a cost of $2 million. **Raw ore** is dumped in and **gold bricks** come out worth $30-35,000.00 each which are transported to the mint in Denver via armored cars. (30 yrs ago)
- OFFICIAL PRICE of gold in USA was $35.00 per ounch
- FLOATING PRICE of gold on the open market is up to $165.00 per ounce — $120 to $220 — $650 — $850 (1968)
- Milling is profitable on ore that yields as little as $5.00 per TON of return.

Reopen these mills @ $450 per ounce

D.-The Many Uses Of Gold:

FOUR

1-**Standard of value**--"**GOLD STANDARD**" for currencies until 1933 in which paper currency was redeemable in gold at 25.8 grains of gold per dollar. U.S. Government no longer will redeem currency in precious metals

2-**Reserves** to pay international trade debts — Fort Knox

3-**Jewelry**

4-**Gold Leaf**--So **thin** in ancient Egypt it took **367,000** leaves to make a **pile an inch high**

--Lettering & guilding

--Dentistry

--Glass manufacturing

--Art objects

State Capitol Domes

II.-GOLD IN THE WORD:

A.-The Varieties:

1-In **nature**-Nuggets for plucking

-Flakes for panning

-Veins that run deep

** **Best** is **apart** from natural light

** Takes **FAITH** & **DILIGENCE** to find & to follow

2-**Similarly** in God's **Word**-Surface **nuggets** to be plucked

-**Particles** of truth found in many places

-**Veins** it takes (WORK) to dig out

3-These varieties are equally available to paupers & to rich men

"More to be desired are they (God's Words) than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter than honey and the honeycomb."

B.-The Value:

1-We're acquainted with the **value** in jewelry stores

2-HOW ABOUT **IN GOD'S WORD**????

--Ps. 19:10 "The law of Thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver"

--Ps. 119:72

--Ps. 119:127 "Therefore I love Thy commandments above gold: yea, above fine gold."

3-Value is always **COMPARATIVE**

-How valuable is this "Gold in the Word"??

--Prov. 8:10-11, 19 "How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!"

--Prov. 16:16

--In God's Word we find **DURABLE RICHES** that cannot be taken from us

"Receive My instruction, and not silver; + knowledge rather than choice gold. For wisdom is better than rubies; + all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it... My fruit is better than gold, yea than fine gold; + My revenue (=increase) than choice silver."

--ILLUS--U.S.Navy men captured on USS Pueblo & incarcerated in North Korean prisons. What sustained them??

1) Faith in **God**

2) Faith in **Country**

3) "**Pueblo Bible**" which they laboriously recreated from their memories

4-Gold is **valuable** according to its **purity** & we read "the commandment of the LORD is **pure**, enlightening the eyes" (Ps. 19:8)

5-**Subjective appreciation** of God's Gold
--Varies in different parts of Scripture
--Varies according to our different stages of development
--Varies according to our various needs of the hour
--ILLUS--**P.C.R.**'s developing appreciation for **LEVITICUS**

C.-The Vigor Required:

1-Quotes:
- "'Tis the set of the sails and not the Gale, that determines which way we'll go"
- "SUCCESS is merely a **good idea** and **method** coupled with WORK, WORK , WORK!!"

2-Gold is only mined by those
- --Willing to WORK HARD
- --Willing to BE **PATIENT**
- --**Much digging** for small returns usually
--Ores run as low as $5.00 per ton....and up to $14,000.00 per ton

3-"**GOLD FEVER**"--Really gets **in your system**!
--Never able to shake it
--ILLUS--Dad Krichbaum grubstaking prospectors when he could no longer go prospecting himself.

4-Gold mining requires
- LABOR (work at it!!)
- **Experience** (Learn by DOING)
- EQUIPMENT (TOOLS)

5-**Value** of "Gold in the Word" is even **greater** than that of gold in the world!!!

III.-GOLD IN THE WALK:

A.-Trials To Bring To Christ:

1-Trials are mankind's **common lot**
--Job 5:7--"Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward"
--Job 14:1--"Man that is born of woman is of a few days and full of trouble."
--Eccles. 2:22-23--"For what hath man of all his labor, and of the vexation of his heart, wherein he hath labored under the sun? For all his days are sorrows, and his travail grief..

2-**WHY** are trials in the lives of men???
- --To bring men to their own "**END OF THE ROPE**"
- --To show men their personal inadequacy — BREAK-UP of life patterns
- --To reveal men's need of a **SAVIOR**
- --Yet, each man is responsible to **make his choice**

3-**No purifying** or remedying of the unsaved man by his trials

4-Rather, **designed** to **OPEN** HIS **EYES** to his need of Jesus

5-Zech. 13:9--"And I...will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on My Name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is **my** people: and they shall say, The LORD is **my** God."

6-Until that decision is made there is **NO PROFIT** from trials

B.-Trials To Bring Purifying:

1-**Promise**--Heb. **12**:5-8
--"**FRINGE BENEFIT**" of our salvation
--Proof that we are really God's child
--Seeking **to purify** us
--Heb. **12**:9-10

2-What's **AHEAD** for the Christian???--**1 Pet. 1:3-6a**

3-What's **BETWEEN** where we are & the entrance into the fulness of that inheritance??
--1 Pet. **1:6**b-9
--Faith won't perish
--Even though it will be **tried** & **purified**
--Manner of life has many "temptations" (1:6) which are **enticements** to do evil
--God allows these "**trials**" (1:7) as tests so as to bring approval
--Purpose of God is **TO PURIFY** the saints by removing the **DROSS** while we are serving Him in our lives
--Not put through trials because God hates us, but because He **loves** us!!

SUFFERING — Our MOUNTAINS OF ADVERSITY are the raw materials out of which our Lord is developing our precious faith which will not perish!

4-**ILLUS**--Carleton Gold Mill. Involved & complicated process to get a GOLDEN **PRODUCT** of great value. Tons ore are put in....
...and ounces of gold comes out.
In the process the ore **takes a "beating,"** but it **gives up** the gold

5-God would let us learn that "all that **glitters** is not gold";;;;;
;;;;;;and all that is **trial** is not evidence of Divine **displeasure**!

C.-Trials To Bring Victory

1-**1 Cor.10:13**--"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able: but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it."
--**ASSURANCE VERSE**

2-God is seeking to lead us in **triumph** into the experience of victory (2 Cor. 2:14)

3-Victory is **ALREADY WON**!!
--1 Cor. 15:57--"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the **victory** through our Lord Jesus Chris
--But we're **exhorted** to **experience** it ourselves
--1 Cor. 15:58--"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

4-We often don't understand: "**WHY** is this happening to **me**?"

5-Remember Job 23:10--"But He **knoweth** the way that I take: when He hath **tried** me, I shall come forth **as GOLD**."

6-No victories if there are no battles.

7-Results--ILLUS--When the refining process is nearing completion the gold is caught in fibre filters. HOW IS IT RETRIEVED??? By burning at 2200 degrees, and then catching the molten gold

--Pure then???

--NO!! NOT YET

--No perfection in this life. Only at the hands of the Master.

IV.-GOLD IN THE WIND-UP:

A.-Resume Of Message:

1-Word of God is to get Gold into us

2-Trials are to get DROSS out of us

3-Judgment Seat of Christ is when we'll have proof of the results

4-ILLUS--Refiner of precious metals sits at a pot of bubbling gold and skims off the impurities. Then he turns up the fire hotter----and the dross rises and he skimms off the impurities.

--Process is continued until HE CAN SEE HIS FACE in the surface of the molten metal

--Rom. 8:28-29--"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son that He might be the firstborn among many brethren."

B.-Realization Of Our Ministry:

1-I Cor. 3:9-15

2-Materials we build with:

--Gold	--Wood
--Silver	--Hay==Grass
--Precious stones	--Stubble(==Stalk after grain is removed)
--Valuable	--Worthless
--Imperishable	--Perishable
--Rare	--Plentiful

3-D-Day===Disclosure Day is coming at Bema

4-Test will be BY FIRE to see if one's life ministry can be approved of God (Dokimazo)

5-REWARDS for proper building

6-LOSS for improper building

7-Salvation is SECURE, no matter what

8-FINAL PURIFYING--No one is "pure gold" now!

--Peter acted the hypocrite(Gal.2)

--Paul went to Jerusalem & took a Jewish vow

--NONE that are perfect while yet in this life on earth

--ILLUS--Gold taken to Denver Mint is 85% gold; 10% silver & 5% base metals. The final purifying is done there IN SECRET

--So also the christian atthe hand of Christ in heaven

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTE"

(7)

C. Recommendation Of Messiah:

1-Rev. 3:18--"I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire that thou mayest be rich..."

--Gold in Salvation

--Gold in Testing--Jas. 1:2--"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations."

--Gold in the Word--Ps. 19:10--"More to be desired are they than GOLD yea, than much fine GOLD: sweeter also than honey & the honeycomb"

2-Heeding this counsel will yield GOLD IN THE END!!

3-The more dross removed here.....

.....the more joy and reward in His presence

4-The USA has gone off the "GOLD STANDARD", but God never has!!

5- Won't you decide to order the values of your life according to GOD's GOLD STANDARD ?

Grace Baptist Ch, Westerville - 11/23/80 ④ #330 - "Go To The Deeper Of God's Promise"

Westbrae--3/17/74 ③ #99--Break Thou The Bread Of Life"

② #158--Thy Word Have I Hid In My Heart"

Bethel Bapt - LaHabra - 7/7/74 ① How Firm A Foundation #325

Temple Bapt - Fredericksburg - 8/22/76

Daniels M. B. Ch - 10/30/77 - PM

ABC Chapel - 9/8/80

1st Bapt. Ch., Eleanor, WV. 11/9/80

Lower Falls Bapt. Ch. - 10/17/82

O. K. B. C. - 8/9/87

Farrar Mem. Ch., Rand, WV 1/10/88

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

1/13/88 – Cross Lanes Bible Ch. Prayer Mtg
1/24/88 – 1st Baptist Church, Caldwell, OH.
2/28/88 – 1st Bapt. Ch., Pinch, WV
2/7/88 – Temple Baptist Ch. Spencer, WV
3/13/89 – PM – Portersville, PA.
9/10/89 – Hilltop Bapt. Ch., Crab Orchard, WV

"Six...Six...Six" Psalm 19:7-11.

Intro: A.-ILLUS --Augustine's Conversion--Born in a Xn. Home, followed several heretical sects, philosophy, & finally heard the Biblical preaching of Ambrose of Milan. Accepted X. One day as he was in the home of Alypius, a devout Xn, suddenly in the midst of their discussions, overcome with self-condemnation, Augustine rushed alone into the Garden & there heard the voice of a child from a neighboring house repeating the words "Tolle lege, tolle lege" (Take, Read) Whether they were spoken as part of a nursery game or not, Augustine applied them to himself, calmly returned to the house & took a copy of the Epistles of Paul which he and Alypius had been reading. His eager eyes fell on the words from Rom. 13: "Not in rioting & drunkenness, not in chambering & wantonness, not in strife & envying: But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lust thereof." From that moment Augustine's soul was at peace. Never again did he lack the divine power to overcome the sins that had hitherto so easily beset him.

B.-Bible RELATES miracles & Bible PERFORMS miracles too.

C.-Message is not on 666--the mark of the Beast, but on 6 Titles, 6 Qualities, & 6 Results of the Word of God.

I.-The Law of the Lord is Perfect, converting the soul.

A.-The Law--Title — CONVERSION

1-Not restricted to Mosaic revelation

2-Belongs to God---His Word to Man.

B.-Perfect--Quality

1-No omissions

2-Not more revealed than we need.

3-Well rounded--Sin & Righteousness; Need & Grace, etc. -ified"

C.-Converting the soul--Result

1-Rom.3:20-"by the deeds of the law shall no flesh be just/

2-Gal.3:24-"the law was a schoolmaster to bring us to X."

3-Bible is the container of "GOD'S DYNAMYTE" of the gospel.

II.-The Testimony of the Lord is Sure, making wise the simple.

A.-The Testimony--Title — WISDOM

1-God's truth revealed on all man needs to know & believe.

2-Sin, Salvation, Righteousness, Grace, Love, Faith, etc.

B.-Sure--Quality

1-No shifting around--a real, secure foundation.

2-"Terra Firma" of Divine Rev. ILLUS-How secure the earth feels after a bumpy airplane ride. Real relief to KNOW

C.-Making wise the simple--Result

1-Simple ones are the only ones who recognize their need.

2-These simple, child-like ones call to God for help.

3-2 Tim. 3:14-15--Timothy--"make thee wise unto salvation."

III.-The Statutes of the Lord are Right, Rejoicing the Heart.

A.-The Statutes--Title — HAPPINESS

1-God's rule-book of the game of life & eternal life too.

B.-Are Right--Quality

1-Dr. of the body gives "right advice"

2-Dr. of the soul gives "right advice" Person.

3-Must be followed to bring desired results--ILLUS-Sick /

4-These "right statutes" are the need of the redeemed one.

C.-Rejoicing the heart--Result

1-Ps. 1:2 "His delight is in the law of the Lord"

2-1 Jn. 5:3 "This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: & His commandments are not grevious unto us."

3-Realm of real happiness--not the tinsel of the world, but the gold of the WORD.

IV.-The Commandment of the Lord is Pure, Enlightening the Eyes. DISCERNMENT

A.-Commandment--Title

B.-Pure--Quality

1-No admixture or adulteration--the real stuff

2-No error, No opinion---Real Truth.

C.-Enlightening the eyes--Result

1-Discernment is the issue

2-The Word removes cataracts of Sin, of Self, of the World.

V.-The Fear of the Lord is Clean, Enduring forever PURITY

A.-The Fear--Title

1-Description of the Word in terms of the resultant piety

B.-Clean--Quality

1-Word is the agent of cleansing & preserving purity

2-Bible presents & promotes a proper attitude toward God.

C.-Enduring Forever--Result

1-Filth brings decay; Word is a preservative--We should be filled with its "SALT" as the "salt of the earth"

2-Only the Bible & its message about Christ prepares man for eternity

VI.-The Judgments of the Lord are True and Righteous altogether. ASSURANCE.

A.-The Judgments--Title

B.-True--Quality

1-no mixture

2-No falsehood

3-No conflict with true fact, history or science.

C.-Righteous Altogether--Result

1-Parts are true

2-Whole leads us on to Righteousness

Concl.---A.-The Word of God--Ps. 19:10-11

1-Precious--gold, fine gold, much fine gold

2-Sweet--honey, honeycomb

3-Warning--Preventive medicine

4-Reward--in keeping them as well as for keeping them

B.-Progression:

1-Conversion
2-Giving Wisdom) 19:7
3-Giving Happiness
4-Giving Discernment) 19:8
5-Giving Purity
6-Giving Assurance) 19:9

May these Wonders of the Word encourage us to "TAKE, READ"

"BORN TO DIE---BORN TO TELL" Ps. 22:1-31
1 Pet. 1:10-12

(1)

INTRO: A.-ILLUS

1-An aged caretaker of Winchester Cathedral in southern England, loved to tell the story of how the news of WELLINGTON'S victory over NAPOLEON reached England. In those days there were no modern means of communication.

News of the history-making battle came to the south coast of England by a sailing vessel and then, by semaphore, was signalled overland to London. Eagerly the Empire waited for the news from the battlefront.

Atop the Cathedral the semaphore began slowly to spell out the message, letter by letter, "WELLINGTON DEFEATED"---and then a dense fog settled over the city. Despair and gloom were the atmosphere in England's heart.

Later the fog lifted and the complete message could be sent--"WELLINGTON DEFEATED THE ENEMY"

The glad news spread like wildfire and lifted the pepple from gloom to gladness.

2-Nineteen centuries ago on a rough, barren hill outside the gate of Jerusalem, a battle of more far-reaching importance was fought....and won. Jesus Christ entered into combat with sin and death. He gave Himself willingly in a shameful death on Calvary's cross. It was for the sins of others---FOR YOU, AND FOR ME,---that the Sinless One died that He might bring us to God. To His disciples, at the time it may have seemed a COLOSSAL DEFEAT as His limp body was placed in Joseph's tomb.

To them Calvary meant but one thing: "JESUS DEFEATED". Listen to the disciples dismal dirge during those 3 days of His entombment: "We had trusted that it had been He which should have redeemed Israel" (Lk. 24:21)

But suddenly the fog lifted, and the glorious radiance of the first Lord's Day morning flooded Joseph's garden announcing the joyful, gloom-dispelling news: "JESUS DEFEATED DEATH"

B.-Development Of Psalm 22:

1-Title--Not able to link with any time in David's life of which we know
--Obviously prophetic of Christ in content
--"Upon Aijeleth Shahar"=="to the tune of...."

2-Outline--The Victim On The Altar---TRAVAIL
--The Victor On The Throne---TRIUMPH

3-Significance--Babe of Bethlehem
--Became the Christ of Calvary
--So He could be told of as the Sufficient Savior

I.-THE VICTIM ON THE CROSS—(22:1-31) ---TRAVAIL :

A.-Sufferings Unrelieved (22:1-6a):

1-DESOLATE--(22:1-2)
--Read it in the light of the Cross
**Quoted there
**Fulfilled there.

"My God"--Relationship
--Father is far from helping
"Why?"--because Christ is bearing sins of the world
- MY SINS
- YOUR sins
- Isa. 53:3-6 ---quote
- Severe and real agony

"Daytime...night season"--BOTH in 1 afternoon
--Mt. 27:45--"Now from the 6th hour there was darkness over the land until the 9th hour"

"Thou hearest not"=="Thou answerest not" RV

2-DESERTED (22:3-6a)
- Still vindicates God
  - **"But thou art holy..."
  - **Hab. 1:13--"Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, & canst not look on iniquity:"
- "Trusted"--3-fold recital of the FAITHFULNESS of God to Israel
  - They trusted and were saved
- "But I am a worm, and no man"
  - **Relief for others, but not for Christ
  - **Crushed as a worm--not spared at all
    - as a worm crushed to dye kingly robes
  - **"no man"=="not a considerable man, not a man of note", but merely a SERVANT

B.-Sufferings Reviled (22:6b-8):

1-DESPISED (22:6a-7)
- Reproach of men
- Despised of people
- Mt. 27:39-40--------have all read

2-DERIDED (22:8)
- Jeering
- Mocking derision
- YET, they admit His trust & delight in God
- Matt. 27:41-44---all read

C.-Sufferings Undeserved (22:9-10):

1-SINLESS CHRIST
- In Birth--Virgin born
- In Nature--"in Him is no sin"--1 Jn. 3:5
- In Life--"Who did no sin"--1 Pet. 2:22
- Perfect trust in every way -----Ps. 22:9-10
- So, He didn't deserve these sufferings
- Lk. 23:39-41--"And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on Him, saying, 'If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.' But the other answering rebuked him, saying, 'Dost thou not fear God, seeing thou art in the same dondemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds, but this man hath done nothing amiss.'"

2-SINFUL CROWD
- Jewish Rejection--Ps 22:13
- Gentile Rejection--Ps. 22:16
- 2 Cor. 5:21--"For He hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."
- 1 Pet. 2:24--"Who His own self bare our sins in

His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

--1 Pet. 3:18--"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God,.."

(3)

D--Sufferings Prophesied (22:11-21):

1-The Details (22:11-21)

--11 items of prophecy; Mathematically impossible

--Description of Crucifixion

--ROMAN, not a JEWISH form of execution

--PLATO--Outside the Jewish tradition & 4 centuries before Christ, had said: "The JUST MAN will be scourged, racked, thrown into chains; he will have his eyes burnt out and after enduring every pain, he will be crucified."

--(1)Rejection by the Father--22:11

--(2)Attitude of the Jews--22:12-13

--(3)"Poured out like water"--22:14a--Total sacrifice

--(4)"Bones are out of joint"--22:14b--Crucifixion

--(5)"Heart is like wax; it is melted"--22:14c--Pain

--(6)"Strength...tongue"--22:15--Thirst

--(7)"Dogs...wicked"--22:16--Gentiles present

--(8)"Pierced my hands..feet"--22:16b--Impaled & Crucified

--(9)"Tell all my bones"--22:17a--Dislocation of joints

--(10)"Look & stare"--22:17b--Modesty uncovered

--(11)"Part garments...cast lots"--22:18--Gambled over

--The wounds in the hands of Jesus will remain, I take it, throughout eternity as the marks of His love for us. When he left this world, He bore the nail-marks & when He returns to reign, He will be recognized by them as the very same Jesus who died on the cross for sinners.

--ILLUS--Some years ago, a poor woman--baptized a Roman Catholic--was lying very ill in a city hospital. Fearing she must die, she was in great distress of mind because of the weight of her sins pressing down upon her guilty conscience. A sweet-faced Nun, passing through the ward, was called to the bedside of this dying woman, & to the Nun she told her story of years of sin and shame. The Nun promised to get in touch with the parish priest & to send him to her, so he might hear her confession and administer the last rites of the church.

In the meantime, a Christian lady was visiting the patients and came to the woman's bed & found her very ready to hear the gospel story of free & full salvation thru the crucified & risen Savior. Eagerly the poor, distressed one drank in the living water, came to Christ confessing her sins, & was soon rejoicing in the knowledge of forgiveness of sins & acceptance with God.

When the priest arrived he found her as happy now as she had been miserable before. But he at once began to make preparation to hear her confession & then to administer the last sacraments of the church. He begged her to make a good confession, that he might absolve her from all sins & so prepare her for death.

She looked up earnestly & said, "Let me see your hand first." Thinking her mind was wandering again, he pleaded with her again, as the time was getting short, to confess all her sins & obtain forgiveness. Once more came the insistent demand, "LET ME SEE YOUR HAND FIRST, FATHER." In order to humor her, he held up his hand. (4)

She took it in one of hers and felt it carefully; then she exclaimed, "IT WON'T DO, FATHER. THE HAND OF THE ONE WHO FORGIVES ALL MY SINS HAS A NAIL-PRINT IN IT."

As she was deaf to all entreaties to confess to him, the priest left feeling her case was hopeless. But instead of that, hers was a sure & certain hope, founded on the Word of God

--Acts 10:43--"To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His name, whosever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins."

--POEM--"The hands of Christ seem very frail
For they were broken by a nail
But only they reach heaven at last
Whom those frail, broken hands hold fast."

2-The Deliverance (22:19-21)

-The Prayer** (22:19-21a)
- *For deliverance OUT OF death
- *Heb. 5:7--"Who in the days of his flesh, when He had offered up prayers & supplications w/ strong crying & tears unto Him that was able to save Him from death, & was heard in that He feared."
- *"Darling"==Heb, "onlybegotten"

-The Position** (22:21b)
- **"from the horns of the unicorns"
- **figure of speech for His impalement in crucifixion & the intense suffering

-The Petition
- **For pain of suffering
- **For salvation of others thru His death
- **God does HEAR
- **God does ANSWER

II.-THE VICTOR ON THE THRONE (22:22-31) TRIUMPH:

A.-Sinners Made Brethren (22:22-25):

1-"I will declare"
- -On RESURRECTION ground
- -Confident of triumph

2-"Thy Name"
- -"New name to a New people----"FATHER"
- -Name of intimacy & relationship
- -Jn. 20:17--"Jesus saith unto Mary, 'Touch me not for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, & say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, & your Father; & to my God, & your God."

3-"Unto my brethren"
- -Heb. 2:10-12
- -What a name for us !
- -Sinners are made BRETHREN
- -Cause of Praise
- -Symphony & harmony of praise

B.-Brethren Made Satisfied (22:26-29):

1-"Meek"--only as they are "brethren"
--Not characteristic of worldlings
"eat" --1 Pet. 2:1-3--"Wherefore laying aside all malice, & all hypocrisies, & envies, & all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is good"

2-"Satisfied"--Result of salvation thru Christ & eating Christ's Word
--Spiritual satisfaction
--Apart from outward circumstances
--Attended by *PRAISE
SEEKING
HEART that LIVES

3-Scope--Israel in 22:23
--All kindreds in 22:27

C.-Satisfied Ones Made Witnesses (22:30-31):

1-"A seed"--to serve Him
--Who are these?
--Isa. 53:8, 10--"He was taken from prison & judgment: who shall declare his generation? for He was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken... Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He hath put Him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand."
SO**Sinners made Brethren
**Brethren made Satisfied
**Satisfied ones made WITNESSES
**THESE shall be the "seed" to serve Him
--Notice**"A seed", not "THEIR seed"
**no grandchildren of God

!!

2-"They shall...declare"--22:22--"I will declare"
--22:31--"they"
--Seed is to TELL
--Message***"righteousness unto a people that shall be born"--THE NEW BIRTH
***"He hath done this"==IT IS FINISHED

3-ANGELS proclaimed His BIRTH!!!
WHO will proclaim His DEATH for sinners? ? ?
4-He---was BORN TO DIE-------for us
We---were BORN TO TELL-----for Him
5-Jn. 20:21--"Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."

CONCLUSION:

A.-Recapitulation:

1-The Victim On The Altar----TRAVAIL (22:1-21) 6
--Sufferings Unrelieved (1-6a)
--Sufferings Reviled (6b-8)
--Sufferings Undeserved (9-10)
--Sufferings Prophecied (11-21)

2-The Victor On The Throne---TRIUMPH (22:22-31)
--Sinners made Brethren
--Brethren made satisfied
--Satisfied ones made Witnesses
.....BORN TO TELL

B.-Application-Where do YOU stand?:

1-A sinner?----Need Christ
2-One of the Brethren---Praise Christ
3-One of the Satisfied--Live in Christ
4-One who witnesses? ?--Tell of Christ

5-Charles R.Goff told this story---Many years ago he was giving a series of Bible studies in the Chicago Central YMCA. Among the men who gathered there for these noon-hour discussions was Warner Sallman. He did not know him at the time as a painter, but only as an interested listener.

Mr. Sallman tells that one day the discussion caused him to think of Christ in a new way. He had wanted to paint a face of Christ, and this new approach started him sketching, even as the discussion was under way. That night, Mr. Sallman saw the face, almost as if in a dream. Getting out of bed, he sketched it, completing the picture the next day.

This sketch was published in a church magazine as a front cover. It received no particular notice since the circulation was small. But several years later it began to be sought for & has grown in popularity in an amazing fashion. Thus far, several hundred million copies have been sold.

When Goff came to a large church in Chicago's "Loop" area, he was searching for a great picture for it, believing that among the throngs that come and go, it would do an immense amount of good. Appealing to a preacher artist friend for suggestions, he told Goff of Sallman's "HEAD OF CHRIST", & agreed to write Sallman for an interview.

When Goff went to his studio he was completely surprised to see his acquaintance of years gone by. When he said to him, "You did not paint that picture, did you?", Sallman replied, "NO, I HAVE BEEN WAITING ALL THESE YEARS TO TELL YOU THAT YOU GAVE ME THAT PICTURE." When Goff asked HOW that could possibly be, Mr. Sallman replied, "BUT YOU GAVE CHRIST TO ME."

"Perhaps," explains Rev. Goff, "I was one link in a long chain. I know this, that if I had anything to do with this painting, it is no different from the thousands of important things that are being done by all of us right along without our full knowledge.

"I have often wanted to paint or to do some creative work of that sort, but I could never achieve it. If I could have a small part in 'GIVING CHRIST' to such a person, who in turn could give us such a painting, that is a great reward. I actually believe that is what happens to all of us far oftener than we dream

IF WE SINCERELY TRY TO GIVE CHRIST to people."

C. Why Born?:

1-Christ was BORN TO DIE---that "a seed" might live

2-Christians are BORN TO TELL---that a world might be told.

3-Where do YOU STAND?

- A sinner? - Need for a SAVIOR
- One of the BRETHREN? - Praise God!
- One of the SATISFIED? - Live in Christ
- One of the WITNESSES? - TELL OTHERS

D. - How Do You COPE?

1- Be honest about your feelings

- ABANDONED? DEPRESSED? HOPELESS?
- Make it a matter of PRAYER as Jesus did

2- Put your problems in proper perspective

- Don't succumb to your problems
- Look beyond the problems to the ONE who can solve them
- "Our Fathers trusted in Thee" + so + should we

3- Continue to pray over your problems

- David felt forsaken - Ps. 22:1
- But he "cried" to God day + night - 22:2
- PROMISE - 22:24 - "but when he cried unto Him (God), HE HEARD"
- Remember - God is just a prayer away!

Westbrae--8/29/65---Hymns: And Can It Be That I Should Gain?
Stand Up For Jesus
Have Thine Own Way, Lord.

8/20/06 - Hilltop Bapt. Ch - 55

"MY SHEPHERD" THE PSALM OF—

Psalm 23
Read John 10:1-21

1

INTRO: **A.-Setting Of Psalm 23:**

1-**In the midst of 3** significant psalms
--Ps. 22--The Dying **SAVIOR CRUCIFIED**
--Ps. 23--The Resurrected **SHEPHERD**
--Ps. 24--The Triumphant **KING**

2-**Emblems of Christ** in These Psalms
--Ps. 22---Cross
--Ps. 23---Crook (of a shepherd)
--Ps. 24---Crown

3-**Three-Fold Shepherd aspect**
--Good Shepherd
**Jn. 10:11--"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."
**Ps. 22 is the Good Shepherd who dies for the sheep
--Great Shepherd
**Heb. 13:20--"Now the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, thru the blood of the everlasting covenant
**Ps. 23 is the Great Shepherd who keeps the sheep
--Chief Shepherd
**1 Pet. 5:4--"And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.
**Ps. 24 is the Chief Shepherd who is coming again for His sheep

--**See our salvation** in these **3 psalms**
Ps. 22--PAST**--Salvation from the **PENALTY** of sin
Ps. 23--PRESENT**--Salv. from the **POWER** of sin
Ps. 24--FUTURE**--Salv. from the **PRESENCE** of sin

B.-Simplicity of Psalm 23:

1-Henry Ward Beecher--"It has charmed more griefs to rest than all the philosophy of the world. It has remanded to their dungeon more felon thoughts, more black doubts, more thieving sorrows, than there are sands on the seashore. It has comforted the noble host of the **poor**. It has sung courage to the army of the disappointed. It has poured balm & consolation into the heart of the sick, of captives in dungeons, of widows in their pinching griefs, of orphans in their loneliness. Dying soldiers have died easier as it was read to them; ghastly hospitals have been illuminated; it has visited the prisoner & broken his chains, &, like Peter's angel, led him forth in imagination, & sung him back to his home again. It has made the dying Christian slave freer than his master, & consoled those whom, dying, he left behind, mourning not so much that he was gone as because they were left behind & could not go too.

Nor is its work done. It will go on singing to your children & my children & to their children through all the generations of time; nor will it fold its wings till the last pilgrim is safe, & time ended; & then it shall fly back to the bosom of God, whence it issued, & sound on, mingled with all those sounds of celestial joy which make heaven musical forever."

2-118 words in all
3-27 personal pronouns — He - 4X, His - 1X, Thou - 3X, Thine - 1X = 10X; My - 5X, I - 4X, Me - 7X, Mine - 1X = 17X
4-Takes 45 seconds to repeat clearly
5-Indellible on our souls

(2)

C.-Structure Of Psalm 23:
1-Some divide it--The Shepherd
--The Guide
--The Host
2-Others see just--The Shepherd &
--The Host
--Thinking there is a change in the figure of speech
3-Really all one figure of "THE SHEPHERD"---as we shall see
4-Divisions by verses---1--Possession
2--Position
3--Promise
4--Progress
5--Provision
6--Prospect

"And he blessed Joseph, & said, God, before whom my fathers walked, the God that fed me all my life long unto this day."

Point of View is "SHEEP'S-EYE" View

"And the LAMB which is in the midst of the Throne shall feed them, & shall lead them into living fountains of waters: & God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

I.-THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD--POSSESSION--23:1 :

A.-Familiar Theme:
1-From Genesis (48:15) to Revelation (7:17)
2-Jehovah is the Psalmist's Shepherd
3-Walter C. Wright--"'Jehovah is my shepherd.' David had been one. The suggestion, then, which lies upon the very surface of the analogy is this: That every man who is doing honorable work may think of God in the terms of his own calling. The designer can remember that God has drawn the pattern of every flower; the architect that God has diagrammed the ages & is working out the plan of human lives; the builder, that God is rearing up the Church for a habitation for Himself through the Spirit; the man of figures, that God is keeping strict account with us, & His arithmetic is always right; the tailor, that God is taking measurement of our continual needs, that He may clothe us with the garments which will fit us suitably; the physician, that all manner of healing is from HIM." (Psalms, Vol. 1, Pp. 74-75)
4-Simple words, yet pregnant words
--"THE LORD"--He is God
--There can be none greater
--Omnipotent, Omnipresent, Omniscient, etc.
One + only ONE
--"IS"--He is Present
--Continuously able to do for us
--Shown in "I shall not want"
--"MY"--Personal Pronoun
--Indicates personal possession
--My Rock, My Fortress, My Deliverer, My God, My High Tower, My Strength, My Buckler, My Salvation
--If one cannot say, "HE IS MY SHEPHERD", then he cannot claim even one of the many blessings enumerated in Psalm 23
--"SHEPHERD"--A little lad had a pocket knife. As boy chums gathered about him, one said, "It has a cork screw." He replied "IT IS MINE!" Another said, "It has a pearl handle" He rplied, "IT IS MINE!" Another said, "It has 6 blades." He exclaimed, "IT IS

MINE!". ....It is so wonderful to be able to say of Christ, the Great Shepherd, "He is mine and I am His!" (S. of S. 2:16)

--LUTHER said: "The richness of spiritual experience is dependent upon one appropriating that indicated in Scripture by personal & possessive pronouns."

--ILLUS.--A Christian traveler in Switzerland told a little Swiss boy about salvation thru Jesus, The Shepherd. The little fellow could not read, so made slow work of it. The traveler finally suggested that he could remember about Jesus being his Savior & Shepherd by using his four fingers & thumb. He said, "Take the 5 words, 'The Lord Is My Shepherd', one for the thumb & 1 for each finger."

Later traveling in the same territory, he went to the little fellow's home to learn how he was doing. The mother stated that the boy had died. He expressed his sorrow. The mother then asked, "ARE YOU THE MAN WHO TAUGHT MY BOY TO SAY SOMETHING ON HIS FINGERS?" He replied that he was. She then said, "My boy told me that if you should come this way, to tell you that he died holding the 4th finger of his hand." This 4th finger was linked with the word "MY" He meant, "The Lord is MY Shepherd."

B.-Full Provision:

1-"I shall not want"

--let God know your wants

--There is NOTHING you really need for which you cannot count upon Him

--He who has The Lord, the possessor of all things, himself has all things---he lacks nothing

2-NO--Fear

--Strife

--Denunciation

--Self-vindication

--An unruffled song of REST

--Remember, David saw all this BEFORE the incarnation!

--Do you see it now?

3-I SHALL NOT WANT..

..REST because "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures"

..REFRESHMENT because "He leadeth me beside still waters"

..FORGIVENESS because "He restoreth my soul"

..COMPANIONSHIP because "thou I walk thru the valley of the shadow of death, Thou art with me."

..COMFORT because "Thy rod & Thy staff they comfort me"

..FOOD because "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies."

..THE HOLY SPIRIT because "Thou anointest my head with oil"

..SATISFACTION because "My cup runneth over"

..ANY GOOD THING in this life because "goodness & mercy ... follow me all the days of my life."

..ANYTHING in eternity because "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

4-The sheep HAVE enough, because the Shepherd IS enough!

II.-THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD---POSITION---23:2.:

A.-Green Pastures:

1-Tender grass in the midst of a barren land

+Green; an oasis

- Fresh, not "left-overs"
- Jn. 10:10b--"...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

4

2-Grass is not just to lie on, but to feed on
3-Shepherd provides roughage early in the morning & then later the enjoyable surrounding for final feeding & for restful environment during cud-chewing
4-Satisfaction & rest pictured

B.-Still Waters:

1-Explain about
- --very little water in ~~Orient~~ Near East
- --Sheep are timid & fear a current which may carry them away because of their wool
- --Shepherd has sheep lie down
- --Shepherd draws water from a well or dams up a back-eddy in a stream
- --Shepherd calls sheep by groups or squads

2-SO--"still waters"=="waters of quietness"
- --Tranquilize the spirit
- --Quench the thirst
- --Satisfies the appetite
- --AND the soul is restored

3-Rev. 7:17--"For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, & shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: & God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

4-WHERE ARE YOU?
- --lying down in green pastures?
- --lead beside still waters?
- --at rest in your soul in your Savior?
- --If not, why not?

III.-THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD---PROMISE---23:3

A.-Restoration:

1-"My soul"==in Heb. "my life"; "my self"
2-"Restoreth"=="revives"; "rescues"
- --When the soul has spent itself unduly, He revives it
- --When diseased, He heals it
- --When penitent, He rescues it from whence it has fallen

3-The "RESTORATION REST" of Ps. 23:3 is based upon the sacrifice of Ps. 22:31 **
4-Waywardness is promised a cure in the Shepherd

B.-Guidance:

1-Purpose
- --"for His Name's sake
- --our good
- --His glory
- --God's providential dealings are recognized as in accordance with His character for great graciousness

2-Thru perplexities He guides by RIGHT WAYS into RIGHT PATHS
3-Jn. 10:4--"And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice."

4-Right Paths--Not toward a precipice
--Not into anything but righteousness
--But into safe paths
--For He is the GOOD SHEPHERD!

5-Those paths:
--Prayer
--Bible study
--Witnessing
--Giving
--Attending
--Loving
--Serving
--Separating
--Yielding

6-YET, remember, that some right paths lead by deadly perils!
- Sexual
- Drugs
- Stealing

IV.-THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD--PROGRESS---23:4:

A.-My Walk:

1-"Valley of the shadow"--Death; remember it is only a SHADOW!
--ANY OTHER dark ravine of life thru which we must pass
--God seems nearest to us then

2-Not fearful--"I will fear no evil"
--Shadow is dispelled because "THOU" art with me
--His presence cancels fear
--The sheep are content

3-ILLUS---Wm. Allen Knight, in "The Song Of Our Syrian Guest" records: "To show how much the presence of the shepherd counts for the welfare of the sheep I can think of nothing better than the strange thing I now tell you. It is quite beyond the usual, daily care on which the flock depends so fondly. But I have seen it more than once.

Sometimes, in spite of all the care of the shepherd & the dogs, a wolf will get into the very midst of the flock. The sheep are wild with fright. They run & leap & make it impossible to get at the foe in their midst, who at that very moment may be fastening his teeth in the throat of a helpless member of the flock. But the shepherd is with them. He knows what to do even at such a time. He leaps to a rock or hillock that he may be seen & heard. Then he lifts his voice in a long call, something like a wolf's cry: 'Oooh! ooh!'

On hearing this, the sheep remember the shepherd; they heed his voice; & , strange to tell, the poor, timid creatures, which were helpless with terror before, instantly rush with all their strength into a solid mass. The pressure is irresistible; the wolf is overcome; frequently he is crushed to death, while the shepherd stands there on a rock crying, 'Oooh! ooh!"....."I WILL FEAR NO EVIL, FOR THOU ART WITH ME"

4-Yes---as it says in Rom. 8:36-37--"As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors thru him that loved us."

B.-My Weapons:

1-"Thy Rod"--Not MINE, but THINE!
--Source of correction, chastening AND comfort
--Heb. 12:6-7--"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, & scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?"

--ILLUS--Shepherd has a wandering & straying sheep. Goes after it & finds it. BREAKS its leg. SETS its leg. Carries it over his shoulder to water & pasture in NEARNESS TO HIMSELF. When it is well again, that sheep will never again stray away.

--Heb. 12:11--"Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be jouyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

2-"Thy Staff"--Other end of the same ROD --Walking Stick (6)
--Used to guide, protect & retrieve the sheep
--Designed for our comfort

3-QUESTION--Is the Rod of God a COMFORT to us only as it protects us from those who rise up against us; or do we embrace discipline? do we thank God for REPROOF as well as for guidance?

4-What progress have you made?
--Trust in Him in your walk?
--His "weapons" seen to be for your good?

V.-THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD--PROVISION--23:5:

A.-The Setting:

1-First glance--a change in figure of speach from Shepherd to Host
--Not uncommon for such a change in Heb. Poetry

2-Second glance--figure really remains the same
--just takes more insight than our "non-sheep" culture generally affords us

3-WRIGHT (77) "We might have supposed that the Psalmist would have depicted the spreading of a festal board after the enemy had been routed; after the would-be predator had been slain; but his thought is much richer than that. There is tranquility in the presence of the foe. The sheep graze while the wolf howls. The only concern of the flock is to be certain that the Shepherd is there."

B.-The Sufficiency:

1-"Thou preparest a table before me"
--Royal & bountiful
--Fully furnished with all I need
--Not an "inside banquet", but spread out outdoors
--Table of plenty--food for BODY
--food for SOUL
--food for SPIRIT

2-"In the presence of mine enemies"
--ILLUS--Little boy who had been rebuked for his misconduct. Then asked to pray before the meal.....
..."Dear Father in heaven, I thank Thee that Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies...."
--Shepherd sought a "table"
**Avoiding poisonous plants
**Avoiding snake holes
**Filling up caves of jackals

** Killing predatory beasts with his long knife

--No higher task for the shepherd than **to provide safe food** in the presence of enemies
--Sheep must **be prepared to feast** in the midst of **a ring of enemies** to his life & to his soul if we are to banquet on God's provision
--His victory is not **after conflict**, but **during it**!

3-**"Thou anointest my head** with oil"
--Often done in the east----**REFRESHING**
--Olympic athletes did this in Tokyo 1964 before races
--Ketchum--"...there begins the beautiful picture at the end of the day. The psalm has sung of the whole round of the days wandering, all the needs of the sheep, all the care of the shepherd. now the psalm closes with the last scene of the day. At the door of the sheepfold the shepherd stands & 'rodding of the sheep' takes place. The shepherd stands, turning his body to let the sheep pass; he is the door, as Christ said of himself. With his rod he holds back the sheep while **he inspects** them one by one as they pass into the fold. He has the horn filled with **olive-oil** & he has **cedar-tar**, & **he anoints** a knee bruised on the rocks or **a side scratched** by thorns. And here comes one that is not bruised but is simply **worn** & **exhausted**; **he bathes its face** & **head** with the refreshing olive-oil & he takes the large 2-handled cup & dips it brimming full from the vessel of water provided for that purpose, & he **lets the weary sheep drink**.
There is nothing finer in the psalm than this. God's care is **not for the wounded only**, but **for the worn** & **weary also**. 'Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.'

--Remember.....**YOU** have an anointing
--1 Jn. 2:20, 27
--Jn. 14:17

4-**"My cup runneth over"**--Brimming full
--**Bountiful sufficiency**
--This is the kind of Provision the Lord has **for YOU**, too
--Are you living a **"running over"** experience, or are you **"half full"**, or on an **Empty** cup?

5-Remember--all of this is enjoyed **within the hearing of the growling wolf**, for the Shepherd is in charge & on duty.

VI.-THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD—PROSPECT—23:6:

A.-His Delight:

1-"Surely"=="Only"
2-Goodness & mercy"--**Twin angels of God**
--They "follow me"
--They protect my rear
--**Watch-dogs behind me** (like sheep dogs at the rear of the flock)
--AND the **shepherd before me**
3-"**All the days** of my life"--Shepherd-Sheep joy isn't temporary
--Shepherd-Sheep joy isn't transitory
4-**What delight!....What Prospect!**

SINS followed me before my salvation but not any longer

B.-His Decision:

1-"And I will dwell"--The **"I shall"** of provision changes 23:1
--Now the **"I will"** of personal decision
--HOLY VOW

2-"In the house of the Lord forever" — Heavenly Tabernacle
- God's House is His presence
- HIMSELF is with me!
- Hallelujah

Rom. 8:31-39

(8)

CONCLUSION:

A.-The Lord Is My Shepherd:

1-My Possession
2-My Position
3-My Promise
4-My Progress
5-My Provision
6-My Prospect
7-QUESTION.....Is Jesus Christ all of this to you?

B.-Psalm Or Shepherd---Which?:

1-ILLUS.--Friends honored a noted elocutionist & actor with a banquet. During the evening he was asked to give a reading; he chose the 23rd Psalm. His clean enunciation, delicate expression & impressive phraseology caused enthusiastic applause.

Later in the evening, a preacher 85 years of age was asked to speak; he read the 23rd Psalm. Everything about his reading evidenced heart-experience of the blessings assured in the Psalm. When he concluded, there was no applause but everyone seemed to be in tears.

The elocutionist & actor, grasping his hand, said, "SIR, I KNOW THE PSALM, but YOU KNOW THE SHEPHERD."

2-Which do you know?

3-Can you say in truth....
..."The Lord is MY Shepherd" ???

Hillcrest May, 1965
Weatherae 2/7/65
Hymns: Safe In The Arms Of Jesus
If Jesus Goes With Me
In Tenderness He Sought Me

Choir - The Lord Is My Shepherd - 443
8/27/06-Hilltop Bapt. Ch-Men's Class

"THE PSALM OF THE CROWNED SHEPHERD" Ps. 24:1-10

INTRO:

A.-The Trilogy Of Three Psalms:

Psalm 22	Psalm 23	Psalm 24
Past	Present	Future
The Cross	The Crook	The Crown
The Good Shepherd Jn. 10:11	The Great Shepherd Heb. 13:20	The Chief Shepherd 1 Pet. 5:4
Crucifixion	Communion	Coronation
Savior	Shepherd	Sovereign
Pardon	Peace	Power
Sword	Staff	Scepter
Grace	Guidance	Glory
Yesterday	Today	Forever
Redeeming	Restoring	Reigning
Salvation from sin's penalty	Salvation from sin's power	Salvation from sin's presence

B.-Background Of Psalm 24:

1-David's good intentions--Gathered an army (2 Sam. 6:1-2-Prepared to retrieve the Ark

2-David's wrong implimentation (2 Sam. 6:3-11)

--Failed to know & follow God's Word (Ex. 25:13-14)

** "a new cart" VS. Carried by staves

--Unexpected complication of the cart tipping

--Uzzah's error of touching the Ark

--Divine Judgment was immediate

--David's confusion (2 San. 6:8-10)

3-David's corrected implimentation (2 Sam. 6:12-23)

--Blessing on Obed-Edom

--David's renewed intention

--God's work DONE GOD'S WAY

** Carried the Ark by men's hands

** Sacrificed to God

** Spiritually inspired ecsrasy

** Accomplished his intention (6:17)

**Blessing to the PEOPLE (6:18)

4-Improper wifely response by Michal (6:20-23)

I.-THE SONG AT THE RETURN OF THE ARK:

A.-The Overview Of The Psalm:

1-The LORD's rulership (24:1-2)

--A declaration of ownership of the earth

--Based on Creatorship

2-The qualifications for worshippers (24:3-6)

3-The coming of God to His holy place *24:7-10)

4-Written to be chanted in responsive parts as the Ark was brought to the Tabernacle

B.-The Understanding Of The Psalm:

1-Proper view of Israel's God--God of Chosen People

--God of Gentiles also

2-God has made all, but He will not save all-FAITH required

3-REQUIREMENTS one must meet to properly worship
(24:4)--Description of persons of FAITH
--The true ISRAEL of God
4-NEAR VIEW--Immediate presence of Israel's God in the midst of His people symbolized by the Ark of Cov.
(24:5-6
5-FAR VIEW--Prophetic anticipation of Israel's Victorious MESSIAH returning in glory from earth after paying the price of man's redemption on the CROSS
(24:7-10

C.-An Instruction To Israel:
1-God is CREATOR--Omnipotent
--Omniscient
--Omnipresent
2-God owns & controls earth & its inhabitants
--Man is a tenant on God's land
--Subject to instantaneous ejection
3-Song sung by Levites to instruct Israelites
4-PROPHETIC of Messiah's reception at His Ascension to heaven

II.-THE SUMMATION FROM THIS PSALM:

A.-Lesson 1--God is the owner of all He created & its stability is beyond our comprehension

B.-Lesson 2--Qualifications for worship
1-We can only approach God if we meet His conditions
- Heaven is a prepared place,
- For a prepared people,
- Who come in a prepared WAY

2-TWO QUESTIONS--(24:3)--"Who shall ascend...?"
--"Who shall stand...?"
3-THE POSITIVES of HOLINESS (24:4)
--"Clean hands"--What he has DONE
--"Pure heart"--What he IS
--These are connected !!
4-THE NEGATIVES of HUMILITY
--"Not lifted up soul to vanity
--The saint loves more substantial things
--"Not sworn decietfully"
--Every liar is a child of the Devil. and will be sent home to his father
5-Fulfilled ONLY by FORGIVEN PEOPLE
--Otherwise IMPOSSIBLE!!
--Certainly none may venture to commune with God upon the footing of the Law, but grace can make us meet to behold the vision of the Divine Presence.
6-RESULTS of relationship with God in daily experience
--BLESSING from the LORD (a GIFT/ a PRESENT) as with Obed-Edom
--RIGHTEOUSNESS from the God of his salvation--
** IMPUTED & provided by an acceptable SUBSTITUTE, capable, because sinless
**Not saved by the merit of their own works, but their works are ~~XXXXX~~ evidences by which they are known

--INTIMACY with God
**"Seek Him"==Choose Him by faith
**"Seek thy face (O God) Margin ==FELLOWSHIP
** The legitimate child of God; HIS SEED
**If mankind will ever come to heaven, they must become a generation of SEEKERS

7-SELAH=="Think About It !!"

C.-Lesson 3--It Is ALL About GOD !!

1-WHO?--"King of Glory" 5 times
--"The LORD strong and mighty" 1 time
--"The LORD mighty in battle" 1 time
--"The LORD of hosts" 1 time
--Believers really need to get to KNOW God--Phs.3:10

2-THE COMMAND--"Lift up your heads, o ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors?--2 times (24:7, 9)
--The opened gates of heaven invite the weakest believer to enter

3-THE QUESTION--"Who is this King of Glory" 2 times (24:8, 10
--Incorporated by HANDEL in "THE MESSIAH"
--ILLUS--When the King/Queen of England wishes to enter the city of London, through TEMPLE BAR, the gate closed before him/her , the herald demands entrance. "OPEN THE GATE" From within a voice is heard, "WHO IS THERE?" The Herald answers: "THE KING OF ENGLAND!" The gate is opened at once, and the King enters amidst the joyful acclamations of His people. SUCH IS THE EXAMPLE HERE

4-THE ANSWER--Three-fold manifestation
--"The LORD strong and mighty"---WHO is He??
--"The LORD mighty in battle"--WHAT He can do ?
--"The LORD of Hosts"; Commander of the Heavenly Armies
--The Ascended Savior is here declared to be the HEAD & CROWN of the universe, LORD of the Universe and LORD of GLORY

5-WHAT WILL HE DO?
--"The King of Glory shall come in." (24:7, 9)
--Visible presence over the Ark--Pillar of CLOUD/FIRE
--Prophetic of Jesus' ASCENSION & ENTHRONEMENT
--Christ is gone to heaven as a VICTOR, leading sin, death, hell, and all His enemies in TRIUMPH at His Chariot wheels

CONCLUSION:

A.-What We Have Seen:
1-Lesson 1--God owns it ALL !!
2-Lesson 2--God forgives sinners; makes them fit for fellowship & blesses them richly !
3-Lesson 3--It is ALL About GOD !!
**Savior of our soul
**Center of Life
**Worthy of Worship

B.-What Reactions Do We Have??:

1-KNOW Him — Personally

2-TRUST Him — Fully for ALL

3-WORSHIP Him — Center of my life

4-SERVE Him.....because...HE IS WORTHY!!

Jehovah Tsebaoth==LORD of HEAVENLY ARMIES

5-Then it can be said if you as it was of David

2 Sam. 5:10--"And David went on, and grew great, and the LORD God of Hosts was with Him."

9/3/06-Hilltop Bapt. Ch - Men's SS.

INTRO:

A.-The Psalm:

1-Read 45:1-17

2-**Heading** of Psalm

- "To the chief Musician"--For use in the worship service
- "Upon Shoshannim"
  - ** = "at the time of lilies"
  - ** Indicative of SPRING
  - ** Symbolic of PURITY (white)
  - ** Probably connected with Passover
  - ** Reminder of the purification from sin & redemption from bondage
- "For the sons of Korah"--Those who would be the singing choir of the Temple
- "Maschil"==Instruction
- "A Song Of Loves" ** Union of King-Bridegroom with His Bride
  - ** Celebration of MARRIAGE

3-**QUESTION**--Who is "the King"? (45:1)

HISTORICAL

- Some have identified him as Solomon
- Others have identified him as Jehu

SHEBA, a gentile

45:6-7 are quoted in Hebrews 1 as definitely MESSIANIC -- 1:8-9

- Almost impossible to imagine 45:6 being addressed to any earthly king who was a mere man

ANSWER ** Best to see it as PROPHETIC of the Lord Jesus Christ at His second coming

The KING of KINGS

** Earthly language is used to describe the heavenly Son of God

Wedding

** Marriage of the Church and the Son of God in view as KING OF THE EARTH

B.-The Treatment:

1-The King Himself---45:1-8

2-The King's Consort-45:9-17

3-**PROP**--To see the King in His beauty of person and splendor of reign, so that we may delight in Him in our hearts and observe His Word.

I.-THE KING HIMSELF (45:1-8):

A.-His Outward Comliness (Beauty) (45:2,8):

1-**Fair in appearance**--45:2a

- Peerless among men in His beauty
- Contrast with Isa. 53:2
- Distinction based on ATTITUDE
  - ** Believer loves Him
  - ** Rejector scorns Him
- Called "DESIRE of all nations"

"Fairest Lord Jesus

2-Gracious in speech
--45:2b
--His words are in accord with His being
** Not something learned
** Not something "put on"
** But shared with us WHAT HE IS
--Jn. 1:17
--Luke 4:21-22--"And He began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. And all bare Him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?"
--ILLUS--Sheba hearing Solomon
--1 Kings 10:1-9
READ --Lk. 11:31--"a greater than Solomon is here" NB

3-Regal in Presence
--45:8
--Garments saturated with oil
** Not just a few drops of oil on the head
** But enough to permeate His presence
** 3 chief spices mixed with the oil to make it more precious
** Giving off a "savor" of His life and beauty
--Ivory Palaces are His home
** Rare in beauty
** White in purity
--Accompanied by music of stringed instruments that make one GLAD

4-So, the King is OUTWARDLY COMELY

5-ILLUS--A number of prominent literary men were assembled in a clubroom in London one day. The conversation veered to a discussion of some of the illustrious figures of the past, and one of the company suddenly asked: "Gentlemen, what would we do if MILTON were to enter this room?"
"Ah," replied one of the circle, " we would give him such an oration as might compensate for the tardy recognition accorded him by the men of his own day."
"And if Shakespeare entered?" asked another.
"We would arise and crown him master of song," was the answer.
"And if JESUS CHRIST were to enter?" asked another.
"I think," said Charles Lamb amid an intense silence, "we would all fall on our faces."

B.-His Victorious Coming (45:3-5)
1-With Power of the sword--45:3
2-With Majesty riding over the vanquished--45:4
3-With Success over enemies--45:5
4-WHY VICTORIOUS???-------"in the cause of truth"
5-Two pictures of Christ as KING--Mt. 21:5 in meekness
--Rev. 19:11-16 in power, glory and VICTORY

The world will not be won by the GOSPEL but by the SWORD

6-When?--At the time of His 2nd Advent
--At the time of the Wedding with the Church as Bride
--At the time of the Marriage Feast on earth

END OF THE TRIBULATION -- Daniel 2:34-35

7-ILLUS--When Julian the Apostate, who sought to light again the fires on the altars of the pagan gods, and thus destroy Christianity, was on the march with his army in the campaign against Persia, in A.D. 363, one of the soldiers of his army said to be a Christian who was being abused by his fellow-soldiers was taunted: "WHERE IS YOUR CARPENTER NOW?"
"HE IS MAKING A COFFIN for your Emperor," was the reply of the Christian.

A few months later Julian received a mortal wound in battle. The rumor spread thru the army that the wound was inflicted by a Christian soldier in the ranks of the Roman army. According to the record of Theodoret, Julian, realizing his death was near, dipped his hand in the blood of his wound, and threw the blood toward heaven, exclaiming as he did so, "THOU HAST CONQUERED, O GALILEAN!"

Indeed, the carpenter of Nazareth, exalted to the right hand of the Father, is making a coffin for all the kings and kingdoms of this world. They flourish for awhile, but HE WILL BE VICTOR OVER THEM ALL !!!

C.-His Inward Character (45:6-7):

1-Eternal Deity--45:6
--Quoted in Heb. 1:8
--Makes this Psalm distinctively & unquestionably MESSIANIC
--Other details in the Psalm might fit Solomon, or Jehu
--But this relates the Psalm directly to CHRIST ALONE
--God is the King who rules in righteousness

(SAME WORD
• Shepherd's Staff
• Scepter
* Of Guidance
* Of Judgment

2-Moral Integrity
--45:7a
--LOVE of righteousness
--HATRED of wickedness
** --Jesus was never a "NEUTRAL" on morals
--What one loves and hates is an infallible index of WHAT HE IS
--Rom. 12:9--"Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good."
* --We know what Christ loved....& what He hated
• --What do WE love?
• --What do WE hate?
• --HE was morally full of integrity!

3-Individual Exaltation--45:7b
--Exalted to the Throne because of WHAT He is....
--He is RIGHTEOUS
--Phs. 2:9-11 (read)

4-Mutual Joy--45:7b
--Anointed with oil of gladness
--Shares His glory & joy with the redeemed
--ILLUS--Two unbelievers once sat on a train together, as they traveled they discussed Christ's wonderful life. One of them said, "I think an interesting romance could

be written about Him.

The other replied, "And you are **just the man to write it.** Set forth **the correct view** of His life and character. **Tear down** the **prevailing sentiment** as to His divinity and paint Him as He was---**A MAN AMONG MEN.**"

The man making the suggestion was **Colonel Ingersoll,** and the man who followed his suggestion was **General Lew Wallace,** and the **book he wrote** was **BEN HUR.**

In the process of constructing the book, Wallace found himself facing **the unaccountable Man.** The more he studied Christ's life and character the more profoundly he became convinced that He was **MORE THAN A MAN** among men.....until at length, like the centurion at the foot of the cross, he was constrained to cry:

** **"VERILY, THIS WAS THE SON OF GOD!"** **

5-So, His **inward character** is **righteous,** and **consistent** in every detail --**CHARACTER OF HIS KINGDOM**

6-It is no wonder the writer of the Psalm is unrestrained (45:1) in his **devotion** and **adoration**

II.-THE KING'S COURT (45:9-17):

A.-His Queen (or Consort) (45:9-14):

A ROYAL WEDDING

1-**Her High Calling**--45:9

--**Daughter** of a King

--**Bride** of a King

--To be **THE QUEEN**

Gentile Term
- Here +
- Antakerpes!

Queen --Ref. to a predominantly GENTILE Ch.

--2 Cor. 11:2--"For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."

--"Upon **thy right hand** did stand **the queen**"

--Walter C. Wright--"This queen is not lounging in the lap of indolence. Christ is not seeking a bride **for ornament.** He desires **a companion** who will **share His activities**"

--This is a **HIGH CALLING**

--Doubtless a picture of **the church** (Eph. 5:23) "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the Head of the Church: and He is the Savior of the body."

2-**Her Personal Surrender**

--45:10

--**Attitude**---"Hearken", "Consider", "Incline"

--**Action** ** **"FORGET"!**

NB →

** Put behind you your **former life** & **relationships** & **ties**

** You've been called to a **HIGHER CALLING**

--Requires **personal surrender** ** **No force** applied

** **Gentle urging** seen

** The "King of your life" wants you to make a life-purpose decision

** **LOVE** what He loves

** **HATE** what He hates

--**Three "alls"** that **must go** from our lives

** All sinful lusts

** All **worldly advantages** & ties to family & friends that would pre-empt Him

** All self-will, self-righteousness, self-suffic-

iency, and self-seeking
--And "what is there in it for me" to make this PERSONAL SURRENDER ??
--45:11
--What a joy to be one whom He "greatly desires"
--Ps. 16:2--"O my soul, thou hast said unto the LORD, Thou art my LORD: I have no good beyond Thee."
--This makes self-renunciation VERY WORTHWHILE !!

3-Her Splendid Adornment
--As seen in the Bridegroom's eyes--WITHIN
** 45:13a
** The graces & virtues that come from being "close" to Him
** ALL of them
** No spot, wrinkle or mar
WITHOUT ** 45:13b-14a
** Seen in beauty of adornment
** Rev. 19:7-9
--So the Queen stands ** with a high calling
** with a personal surrender to her Bridegroom
** with splendid adornment

So THE CHURCH !

B. His Queen's Companions (45:9, 12, 14b-15):

1-Some are attendants--45:9
--Honorable women

2-Some are bringing gifts--45:12
--Honor & tribute

3-Some are Virgins--45:14b
--Indicates their moral & spiritual PURITY
--They accompany the Queen, but are distinct from her
--Probably a reference to the SAVED ISRAELITES in the King's kingdom (Mt. 25:1-13)

4-Atmosphere of JOY (45:15)

5-Indicative of the celebration of the MARRIAGE of the King and His Bride

C. His Fame (45:16-17):

1-From the EARTHLY point of view
--Promise of progeny (spiritually)
--45:16
--His name remembered in all generations
--45:17a
--Praise from the people
--45:17b
--POEM (Barbara Ryberg)

PRINCES
PEOPLE
PRAISE

"To praise the Lord is my delight,
He's done so much for me;
His mercies, morning, noon, and night,
Are ever new and free.

When faith was small and skies were dark
And all of life seemed wrong,
He set my feet upon a rock,
And filled my heart with song!

His gentleness has made me great;
'Twill be my life endeavor
To heed His call, to give my all,
And praise His name forever."

2-From the ETERNAL viewpoint
--Blessing is forever
45:2
--Throne is forever
45:6
--Praise is forever
46:17

STABILITY of the Kingdom grows out of Character of the King

3-SO.....His fame will be the perpetual companion of the Lord Jesus, along with the Church as His Bride-Queen.

CONCLUSION:

The
A.-Psalm Of The King:
1-The King Himself--Outwardly comely (45:1-8)
--Victoriously coming
--Inwardly of character
2-The King's Court (45:9-17)
--His Consort
--His Consort's companions
--His fame

B.-The Praise Of The Writer:
1-45:1
2-In relating the truth about the beauty and glory of the King, our psalmist is so elevated in his joy that he cannot restrain
--His overflowing heart with a good matter (the Good Spell==The Gospel)
--His hand employed in the King's behalf in producing a POEM OF PRAISE
3-Figure of "OVERFLOWING": (inditing)
--Comes from the figure of speech of a boiling cauldron or a bubbling fountain
--Bubbles up as an evidence of internal reality
4-Only as our hearts overflow with love for the King are WE ready to RENOUNCE ***
--Our own people
--Our own ways
--Our own possessions
--And become "ready writers", propagating the good news of the King
5-ILLUS.-On a southern battlefield a soldier had an artery of his arm shattered severely by the fragment of a shell, and was fast bleeding to death. A passing physician bound up the artery and saved his life.

As the physician was leaving, the soldier cried out: "Doctor, what is your name?"
"Oh, no matter," said the doctor.

"But doctor, I want to tell my wife and children who saved my life."

SO, when Christ comes to us binding up our spirits and saving our souls, there is a LONGING TO TELL OTHERS what He has done for us. !!!

6-How is it with you?
--HEART overflowing ??
--TONGUE praising because you're "FULL OF HIM"?
--HANDS employed for Him ???
--Are we "CAPTIVATED" by Him???

7-Can you sing....

"Redeemed-how I love to proclaim it!
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed thro' His infinite mercy,
His Child, and forever I am.

Redeemed and so happy in Jesus,
No language my rapture can tell;
I know that the light of His presence
With me doth continually dwell."

8- Who have you told this last week?

9- Let's seek someone to tell this to
so they can see Jesus' BEAUTY
+ learn to DELIGHT in Him as we do!

Westbrae--4/16/67
OKBC-6/2/85

(1) Majestic Sweetness — 369 (52)
(2) "Face To Face" 276 (511)
(4) "Redeemed" 482 (475)

Special Music (3) "Ivory Palaces" (115)

9/4/88 - Oak Hill Bible Church, WV
10/6/04 - Bible Center Church
9/10/06 - Hilltop Bapt. Ch - Men's S.S.

INTRO: **A.-Luther On Psalm 46:**

1-ILLUS.--Martin Luther was born with a destiny. Of humble origins, the son of poor peasants, his childhood at Eisleben, Germany, was spent in poverty. While a youth he begged for food by singing hymns from house to house. In this manner he earned his living and schooling until the age of 18, when a friend assisted in his entrance to the University of Erfurt.

After distinguishing himself in Classics & Medieval Philosophy, Luther entered the Augustinian monastery. While there he engaged in the usual penances & austerities, yet without finding soul-solace. A kindly friend encouraged him in reading the Bible. The study of the Pauline epistles led to his salvation by faith instead of salvation by penance, as taught by the Roman Church.

In ceasing to read the Scriptures "by the spectacles of the Middle Ages", Luther emancipated not only himself, but millions upon millions of souls to come from spiritual slavery. In defying the Papacy & the corrupt practices of Rome in that age, Luther gave to the Protestant world FOUR great FUNDAMENTALS upon which it still rests, namely: (1) Justification by faith alone, (2) The supreme authority of the Scriptures, (3) The right of private judgment, and (4) Priesthood of all believers.

The Elector of Saxony saved Luther's life by imprisoning him at Wartburg, after his defiance of the Papacy was expressed publicly by burning the Papal Bull announcing his excommunication. During his year of confinement, he completed the first part of the translation of the Bible into German.

Luther was a great lover of music, as seen in his oft-quoted statement: "Next to theology, I give to music the highest place and honor..." Again he stated: "My heart, which is full to overflowing, has often been solaced & refreshed by music when sick & weary."

In 1545 Luther had written 35 hymns, some set to his own musical arrangements. His hymns, or "CHORALES" as they were known, rekindled apostolic praises to a Divine Savior Who "redeems from darkness into light", and caused all of Germany to sing their way to spiritual victory.

The greatest hymn of the Reformation, "EIN FESTE BURG", came from the faith-inspiring pen of a mighty warrior of the Cross--------MARTIN LUTHER. Written in 1521 for the Diet of Spires at which time the German princes made formal protest against the revocation of their liberties & thus gained the name PROTESTANTS, "A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD" has continued to inspire & uplift burdened men & women in succeeding ages and many lands.

2-Psalm 46 is the Biblical inspiration for this song

3-Luther and "A Mighty Fortress"

--During his defense at the Diet of Augsburg, he sang it every day to the accompaniment of his lute (a guitar-like stringed instrument with a long neck & a pear-shaped body), as he stood at his window & looked up to heaven.

- In times of special trial, Luther would say to Melancthon: "Come, Philip, let us sing the 46th Psalm."
- It is said that this hymn accomplished as much for the Reformation as did the translation of the Bible out of the Latin & into the common German tongue of Luther's day
- This hymn was sung at Luther's funeral, and its 1st line is carved on his tomb.

B.-Historical Incident Causing Psalm 46:

1-Probably Sennacherib's invasion of Israel (2 Kings 18-19)
2-Hezekiah's inquiry before the Lord (19:1-5, 14-19)
3-God's reply to CONFIDENCE in the face of CALAMITY
4-We'll come back to this later

C.-Ways Of Handling Psalm 46:

1-One author--The Challenge of Confidence------46:1-3
--The Secret of Confidence----------46:4-7
--The Vindication of Confidence----46:8-11
--Based on "breaks" with SELAH = "Think about it."

2-This message--The SITUATION
--The CONNECTION
--The PROTECTION
--PROP--Confidence in God is sufficient armor with which to challenge every calamity of life.

I.-THE SITUATION:

A.-The Psalm:

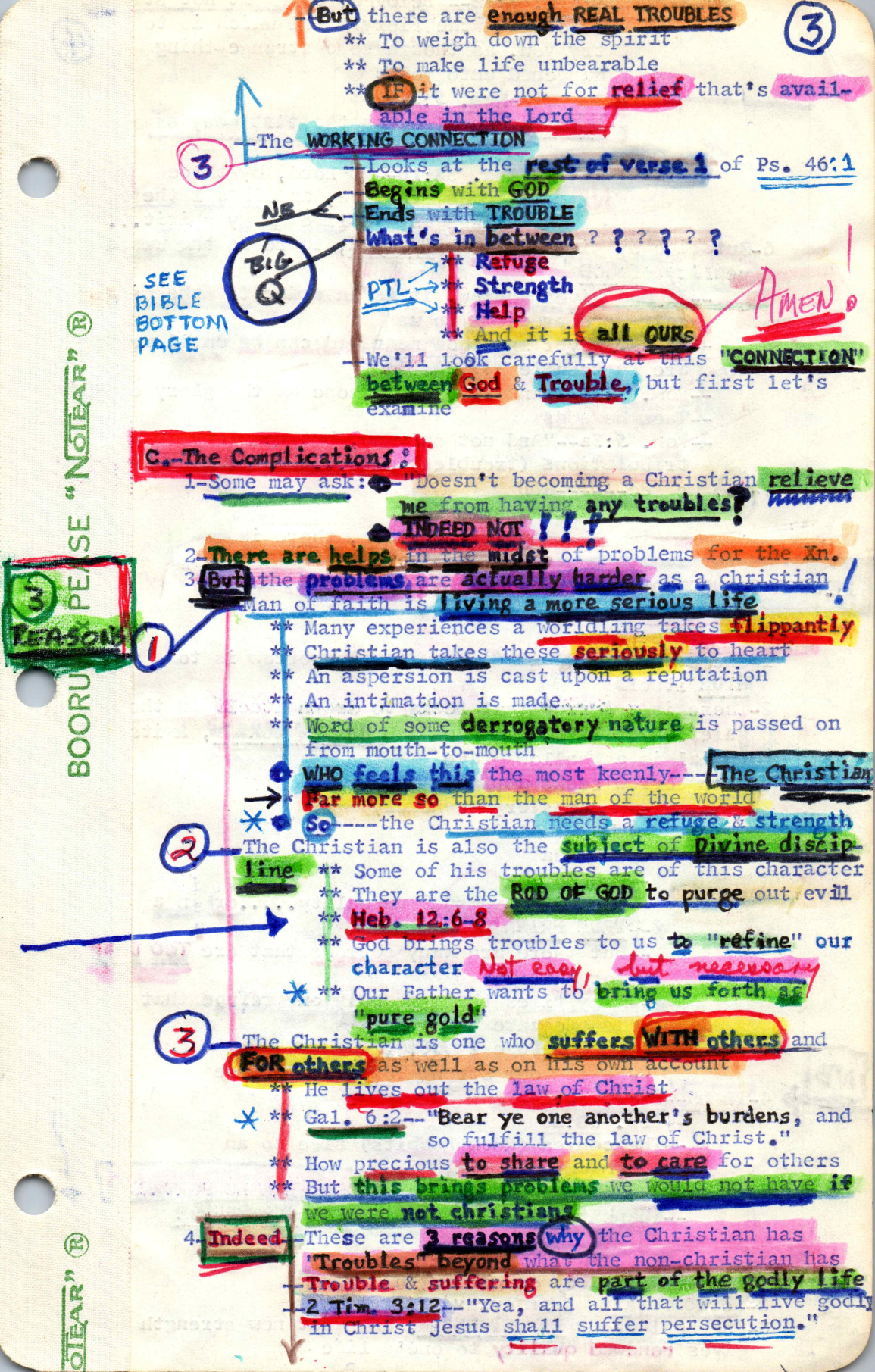
1-Some psalms are historic
2-Some psalms are prophetic
3-Some psalms are universal
4-Ps. 46 is UNIVERSAL in character--meets us all "where we live"

B.-The Verse: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

1-Ps. 46:1
2-Three Ingredients:

1. --"GOD"--The basic spiritual reality — First word
   --the uncaused CAUSE
   --First word of the Psalm
2. --"TROUBLE"--The common lot of all humanity
   - Last word of Ps. 46:1
   --No one escapes trouble
   --All are its targets
   - --Job 5:7--"Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward"
   --Some troubles
   - Real
   - Imaginary
   - Never existed
   - Never will exist

   --The troubles which do exist, WE MULTIPLY!
   - Carrying over troubles from yesterday
   - Borrowing troubles from tomorrow
   - Crossing bridges before we come to them
   - Minds run like a haunted thing


But there are enough REAL TROUBLES
** To weigh down the spirit
** To make life unbearable
** IF it were not for relief that's available in the Lord
The WORKING CONNECTION
--Looks at the rest of verse 1 of Ps. 46:1
Begins with GOD
Ends with TROUBLE
What's in between ? ? ? ? ?
** Refuge
** Strength
** Help
** And it is all OURS
AMEN!
--We'll look carefully at this "CONNECTION" between God & Trouble, but first let's examine
NB
BIG Q
SEE BIBLE BOTTOM PAGE
PTL
C.-The Complications:
1-Some may ask:--"Doesn't becoming a Christian relieve me from having any troubles?
--INDEED NOT !!!
2-There are helps in the midst of problems for the Xn.
3-But the problems are actually harder as a christian man of faith is living a more serious life
** Many experiences a worldling takes flippantly
** Christian takes these seriously to heart
** An aspersion is cast upon a reputation
** An intimation is made
** Word of some derrogatory nature is passed on from mouth-to-mouth
WHO feels this the most keenly----The Christian
Far more so than the man of the world
So----the Christian needs a refuge & strength
The Christian is also the subject of Divine discipline
** Some of his troubles are of this character
** They are the ROD OF GOD to purge out evil
** Heb. 12:6-8
** God brings troubles to us to "refine" our character Not easy, but necessary
** Our Father wants to bring us forth as "pure gold"
The Christian is one who suffers WITH others and FOR others as well as on his own account
** He lives out the law of Christ
** Gal. 6:2--"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."
** How precious to share and to care for others
** But this brings problems we would not have if we were not christians
4-Indeed--These are 3 reasons why the Christian has "Troubles" beyond what the non-christian has
--Trouble & suffering are part of the godly life
--2 Tim. 3:12--"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."
3
REASONS
1
2
3
BOORUM PEASE "NOTEAR" ®
"NOTEAR" ®

--1 Pet. 4:12--"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you."

--ILLUS--Heb. 5:5-9

--ILLUS--Such also was the testimony of Hezekiah

--Isa. 38:16--"O Lord, by these things men live, and in all these things is the life of my spirit..."

NB

6-But side by side with the TROUBLE there is the basic reality of GOD

--If God gives sorrow, it is in order to make Himself more precious to us

--We can never know how near God can be until we are in trouble !!!

--Rom. 5:2b--"and rejoice in hope of the glory of God"

--Then he adds...

--Rom. 5:3a--"And not only so, but we glory in tribulations (troubles) also..."

7-So we see-----GOD

TROUBLES

*--And between them, there is

II-THE CONNECTION-----THREE WORDS:

A.-Our Refuge:

1-One of the first instincts of deep sorrow is to HIDE itself

2-There is a sorrow that seeks to drown itself in the gaieties of life, but such is SHALLOW SORROW, & its burial is a shallow grave

3-Deep sorrow seeks a place of retreat

--A monastery or nunery

--The mountains

--The sea

--The bottle

--Escapist drugs of unreality....or in a

*--TRUE FRIEND !!

--But there are many sorrows that are TOO DEEP for that !

*** --Many times there is only one refuge that is adequate

--That refuge is GOD !

--He is our Strong Tower of defense

NB

4-ILLUS--Prov. 30:24-26

--Esp. 30:26

--The conies (Rock Rabbits) flee to an UNCONQUERABLE FORTRESS

--God is our refuge; our UNCONQUERABLE FORTRESS

--Thank the Lord we can flee to OUR REFUGE

B.-And Our Strength:

1-Sorrow saps away our strength

2-Sorrow drains down our vital reserves

3-The Soul needs NEW STRENGTH, and that new strength gives renewed quality to one's life

NB

4-Sorrow & troubles are not AN END; they are a MEANS to an end--46:2-3
--Rom. 5:3-5

5

5-Fear vanishes when the strength of the Lord takes over
--27:1--"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; ofwhom shall I be afraid?"
--29:11--"The LORD will give strength unto His people; the LORD will bless His people with peace."
--71:16--"I will go in the strength of the LORD God: I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only."
--The strength of the Lord defies fear, even in the midst of the wildest upheavals
--In the days when tempests shake & restless waters roar, the soul that imbibes DIVINE STRENGTH is confident in the face of calamity
--Such a man has "arrived"

NB → 6-Let's learn of OUR STRENGTH from Isa. 31:1-6

C.-A Very Present Help:

1-Help must be immediately available
2-God is always "PRESENT" & "AT HAND"
--Deut. 4:7--"For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God.."
--Ps. 145:18--"The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth"
--Jn. 14:16-18 — π
--Mt. 14:22-27 — X comes to the ship

3-ILLUS--Once a little band of Christians were forced to meet in secret to worship. A spy betrayed them to the secret police, & an officer with several men surprised them one night at their place of prayer. Looking around him in anger & contempt, the officer ordered one of his men to count all who were present & to record their names. When he had done so, he reported that there were 30 men & women present.

At that an old man stepped forward & said: "Officer, there is one more here whom you have missed. There is one more."

The officer looked at him in scorn & said, "What do you mean? We have counted them carefully, & there are JUST 30 HERE."

"No," said the old man, "there is one whom you have missed."--Again they counted, and the officer said: "There are only 30 of you miserable christians; 30 and no more."

"Yes," said the old man, "but there is one more here, One whom you missed---The Lord Jesus is always present with those who are HIS OWN."

***

D.-The Connection:

1-God---The basic spiritual reality
2-Trouble---The universal human calamity
3-The Working connection
-OUR REFUGE
-OUR STRENGTH
-OUR PRESENT HELP

4-This Psalm enshrines
- National confidence of Israel
- Personal confidence of every believer in troubles
- No wonder it was such a favorite with Martin Luther

5-But that's not all. Let's look at....

III.-THE PROTECTION:

A.-Protected By His Provision:

1-46:4

2-"There is a river"
- Not a rushing torrent today & a dry stream-bed tomorrow
- But a perennial & placid stream; always the same
- The foe on the outside is forceful
- The provision on the inside is silent & steady

3-Often in Scripture & geography we note key cities located on Rivers
- Cairo on the Nile
- Babylon on the Tigris & Euphrates
- Rome on Tiber
- Damascus on Orontes
- Alone among the great cities, Jerusalem lacked a river
- BUT GOD HIMSELF was to His people what a river was to ordinary cities
- HE is the PROVISION for His own
- Fresh blessings continually !

Charleston, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Pittsburg

NB

B.-Protected By His Presence:

1-46:5 -"God is in the midst of her"

2-46:7, 11 -"The LORD of hosts is with us"

3-God is His people's safety

4-He was Israel's protection

5-Only after He withdrew Himself because of their apostasy, that Zion could be successfully beseiged

NB

6-Praise the LORD -He will never leave us
- His presence is always with us
- God identifies with His people

C.-Protected By His Powers:

1-Invisible agencies are at His disposal

CONTROL of angel Hosts of Heaven

2-"The LORD of hosts" (46:7, 11)=="The LORD of armies"

3-God of Jacob -Jacob's experience on his way home to meet ESAU
- Gen. 32:1-2
- God's grace & God's hosts were with him
- Schemer & bargain-loving man that Jacob was, yet the promise was sure
- Gen. 28:15--"And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of."

Jer. 30:7, in Tribulation

4-Historical circumstance of Ps. 46
--Sennacherib has come to Syria's throne
--General Rabshecka
** Sent to put down insurrection in Babylon
** Now turns to deal with rebellious Egypt
** On the way he beseiges Jerusalem
--King Hezekiah offers to pay any tribute required
--No willingness short of DEVASTATION
--Hezekiah & Isaiah pray & God gives a promise that the city will be saved
**--2 Kings 19:35--"And it came to pass that night that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred four-score and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold they were all dead corpses."

5-BYRON'S POEM:

"The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold,
And his cohorts were gleaming with purple and gold:
Like the leaves of the forest when summer is green,
That host with their banners at sunset were seen.
Like the leaves of the forest when autumn hath blown,
That host on the morrow lay withered and strown.
For the angel of death spread his wings on the blast,
And breathed in the face of the foe as he passed.
And the eyes of the sleepers waxed deadly and chill;
And their hearts but once heaved, and for ever grew still.
And there lay the steed with his nostrils all wide,
Though through it there rolled not the breath of his pride.
And the tents were all silent; the banners alone;
The lances unlifted; the trumpets unblown...
And the might of the Gentile was smote by the sword,
Hath melted like snow in the glance of the Lord."

CONCLUSION:

A.-The Message: (Confidence Challenges Calamity)

1-The SITUATION--46:1
--God ---- FIRST word
--Trouble ---- LAST word
--Even more trouble for the christian

2-The CONNECTION--OUR Refuge
--OUR Strength
--OUR Help
--Question ** Is He this to you?
** Only if He is YOUR God
** Personal relationship by faith

3-The PROTECTION
- By His Provision------A RIVER
- By His Presence------IN THE MIDST
- By His Power--------LORD OF HOSTS

B.-The Personalization:

1-Sure of God as the ultimate reality!
-Trouble as the common experience

2-Do you have "the connection"? --Refuge ??
--Strength ??
--Help ??

3-ILLUS--In the history of the China Inland Mission, Rev. Charles G. Lewis wrote, "In southwest China during the Boxer outrages in the summer of 1900, a little company of missionaries found themselves in circumstances which led to a fuller and deeper appreciation of Luther's noble hymn than they had ever had before.

Situated 2,000 miles inland & 7 days journey from our nearest neighbors, we found ourselves cut off from all communication. After waiting for guidance, we attempted flight thru the southern provinces, only to discover after journeying several days, that all roads were closed. Returning to our station, we determined to await the uncertainties of the situation rather than attempt further travelling.

Knowing something of the fate of many of our brethren elsewhere, we realized full well what might be ours also. To flee seemed to run into certain danger; to sit still seemed as certainly to invite it. What to do was no easy thing to settle.

It was during these days that Luther's hymn, "A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD", took on new meaning to us, & our hearts received fresh strength and courage as we realised, as never before, how the Lord's people in other days found in our God "a mighty fortress" from every danger.

4-How is it with you?

5-What have you found in God?

TWO STEPS

6-46:8--"Come, behold"----Use your EYES
46:10--"Be still, and know that I am God---Use your EARS

SEE HIM!

HEAR HIM!

7-When you've obeyed those commands, then
46:11--"The Lord of Hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

GOD is our Confidence that Challenges Calamity

10/1/06-Harper Heights Bapt. Ch

"The Name Of Jesus" 64

Westbrae--4/23/67 "I Know I'll See Jesus Some Day"--488

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"----166 36

Piney View 9/13/70

"Let Him Have His Way With You"

Like A River Glorious — 485 287

Bible Ch, WV 10/28/79

OKBC — 6/9/85

Grace Gospel Ch, Beaver — 9/16/90

Bible Center Church - 10/14/90 + 10/27/04

4/24/05-Open Bible Bapt. Ch - Beckley

9/17/06-Hilltop Bapt. Ch - Men's S.S.

THANKSGIVING

Ps. 50:23 (RV)

THE SACRIFICE OF THANKSGIVING

Whosoever offereth the sacrifice of thanksgiving glorifieth me; and prepareth a way that I may show him the salvation of God.—Psalm 50:23, R.V., marg.

I. The Importance of Thanksgiving.

Called here a "sacrifice," i.e., in our case a gift of love prompted by gratitude.

The well-brought-up child is taught to say "thank you" for favors shown; sometimes forgets. We must not forget.

We have nothing to offer our heavenly Father that will enrich Him, but our thanksgiving gladdens Him.

II. God Is Worthy of Our Thanksgiving.

His power in creating and sustaining.
His holiness, purity, perfection.
His justice—punishing sin.
His mercy—forgiving the sinner.
His patience with the human race (and with you and me!).
His daily provision for our everyday needs.
His love—gave Himself in the person of His Son that we might be redeemed.
His blessings to us as a nation—our country uninvaded, cities undamaged, victory granted, war ended.

III. The Outcome of Thanksgiving.

"Prepareth a way whereby I may show him the salvation of God." (See text.)

Has my failure to be thankful hindered God from bestowing further blessings?

Note God's warnings.

Thanklessness promotes selfishness, discontent, faultfinding.

"What hast thou that thou didst not receive?" (I Cor. 4:7).

"Who giveth thee power to get wealth?" (Deut. 8:18).

King Uzziah's prosperity was his undoing. (II Chron. 26:16).

So also was Nebuchadnezzar's (Dan. 4:28-34).

Thanklessness is God's explanation of how the heathen became heathen, and sunk in immorality (Rom. 1:21).

Thanksgiving prepares the way for God to show us more and more of His salvation, which culminates in perfect likeness to Christ (cf. Rom. 12:2).

Thanksgiving is the key to answered prayer (Phil. 4:6).

Thanksgiving makes us victorious in all circumstances (Hab. 3:17, 18).

Thanksgiving glorifies God, which is the purpose of our being (cf. Rom. 11:36; I Cor. 10:31).

—John H. Hunter.

"Because that when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations and their foolish heart was darkened"

Rom. 1:21

Ps. 48:1 "Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised"

Ps. 103

THANKFULNESS leads to THANKFULNESS

Mt. 5:45 SUN & RAIN on both the just & unjust

Mt. 6:11 daily bread

Mt 4:4 - "It is written: Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God"

+ a measure of Peace

Thanks FOR:
- People
- Things
- Opportunities
- EVERYTHING

Ps. 34:1
1 Th. 5:17-18
1 Cor. 15:57-58

"I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth."

Ps. 50:23 RV.

Illus of Earthquake in Japan — OVER

HOW ABOUT YOU? Thanks?
- Giving
- Duty
- Also PRIVILEGE
- Illus — over

ILLUS----A number of years ago, the terrible earthquake that shook Japan was called "the greatest disaster in recorded time." The tremor took 7 million lives & shook 45,000 square miles. Death, disease & despair reigned throughout the island empire. Then help came from America. Food, clothing, medical supplies & volunteer workers were sent to Japan by the shipload. Ten million dollars was collected from American people for suffering Japan as America remembered their needs.

The Nipponese, in gratitude, said: "WE WILL NEVER FORGET ********but they did forget. On December 7, 1941, Japanese air-planes rained destruction on Pearl Harbor, saying America would be brought to her knees begging for mercy.

ILLUS----A farmer who had listened to an exposition of the text from Isaiah 1:3--"The ox knoweth his owner, & the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider," was giving food to his stock, when one of his oxen--evidently grateful for the farmer's care--fell to licking the farmer's arm.

Instantly the Holy Spirit flashed in conviction on the farmer's mind. He burst into tears, & exclaimed: "YES, IT IS ALL TRUE. HOW WONDERFUL IS GOD'S WORD! THIS POOR DUMB BRUTE IS REALLY MORE GRATEFUL ~~THAN~~ TO ME THAN I AM TO GOD, AND YET I AM IN DEBT TO GOD FOR EVERYTHING.....What a sinner I am!"

The lesson had found its way to his heart & wrought there effectually to lead him to Christ.

Will a lesson or message in THANKSGIVING do the same for you?????

It will.....if you will let it!

11/28/68 - Westhaven
11/13/83 - Lookout Bapt. Ch

"CAN I EVER SERVE AGAIN?" Ps. 51:1-19
2 Sam. 12:1-13 (1)

INTRO:

A. -The Question Of Sin:

1-1 John 3:9--"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for His seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."

--What does this mean?

* --N O T . . . . . That a christian never sins!!!

--WHY NOT ??

** 1 John 1:8--Nature

** 1 John 1:10--Acts

** 1 John 2:1-2--Provision in case of sinning

** 1 John 1:9--Confession of sins

--What then??

** Sin is CONTRARY to his new nature

** Acts of sin will occur

** Practice of sin is IMPOSSIBLE on a sustained basis, or else God will step in to DISCIPLINE

2-Savior of Sinners in JESUS

--Matt. 1:21--"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins."

--Mark 2:13-17 "When Jesus heard it, He saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous to repentance." (but sinners)

B. -The Examples Of Sinners:

1-Abraham--Egypt (Gen. 12:10-20) & Gerar (20:1-18) Lied

2-Isaac--Preference for Esau--(Gen. 25:28) Partiality

3-Jacob--Stolen blessing (Gen. 27:18-29)

Reuben--INCEST (Gen. 29+49)

4-Moses--Smote the rock TWICE (Num. 20:11) Anger

5-Joshua--League with Gibeonites (Josh. 9:1-27) Compromise

6-Jonah--Disobedient to command to preach (Jonah 1:3)

C. -Case Study Of David-----Psalm 51:

1-Background seen in 2 Sam. 12:1-13

2-Maclaren:--"What a story it is! This saint of nearly 50 years of age--bound to God by ties which he rapturously felt & acknowledged, whose words have been the very breath of devotion for every devout heart---forgets his longings after righteousness; flings away the joys of Divine communion; darkens his soul; ends his prosperity; brings down upon his head for all his remaining years a cataract of calamities; and makes his name & his religion a target for the barbed sarcasms of each succeeding generation of scoffers. As man; as soldier; as king--he is found wanting. Why should we dwell on the wretched story, except that it teaches, as no other page in the history of God's Church (read, God's dealings with believers) does, that the alchemy of Divine love can extract sweet perfumes of penitence & praise out of the filth of sin?" (Quoted in PSALMS, P. 64, F. B. Meyer)

3-David covered his sin for AT LEAST A YEAR

4-Psalm 32 describes his experience as God faithfully dealt with him----not leaving him alone in his sin.

But David did not REPENT

5-Not until NATHAN the Prophet came to him & dealt with him that David was moved to repentance
--NOT EASY for Nathan
--But it was NECESSARY for David's restoration
--Gal. 6:1-2--"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

6-Reasonable to conclude that during the YEAR OF HIS SIN
--David reigned as King
--Outwardly he appeared to be "spiritual"
--Prayed, Worshipped & Sacrificed AS USUAL
--Life went on without any appearance of interruption
--"BUT the thing that David had done displeased the LORD." (2 Sam. 11:27b)

7-David responded to Nathan's DIRECT APPROACH
--"Thou art the man" 2 Sam. 12:7-12
--"I have sinned against the LORD"

8-Noteworthy things here:
(a) How insensitive men can be to the effect of sin in their lives
(b) The permanency of salvation
(c) Faithfulness of God to bring the issue to a head

9-Message, then on
DEALING OF GOD WITH DAVID (Ps. 51)

I.-PRAYER OF REPENTANCE (Ps. 51:1-9):

A.-Confession:

1-Begins with a plea for MERCY — 51:1
--Because of God's lovingkindness & His tender mercies
--Not because of any merit on David's part

2-Specific about his acts:
a--"TRANSGRESSIONS" -- "A deliberate, stubborn turning away from God when there is knowledge of right" 51:13
b--"INIQUITY" --"Depravity; Moral distortion; Crookedness" 51:2,5
c--"SIN" --"To miss the mark" (51:2,3)
--In what particulars? ** Covetousness ① Command #X
** Adultery ② VII
** Murder ③ VI
** Bigamy ④
Steal VIII
False Witness IX
--Lev. 5:5--"And it shall be, when he shall be guilty in one of these things, that he shall confess that he hath sinned in that thing." SPECIFIC

3-David is PERSONAL about these sins:
--Personal pronouns (my, mine) 51:1-2
--"I acknowledge" 51:3
--Couldn't escape their presence or their pressure on his conscience.

4-Requests at the acknowledgement of HIS GUILT:
--"Blot out"; "Wash"; "Cleanse"
--No one ever gets forgiveness until he is ready to acknowledge the heinousness of his acts & ASK FOR cleansing from the God who is offended.

B. -Clemency (Ps. 51:4-6):

(3)

1-"Against Thee, Thee only have I sinned" 51:4a

--R. T. Daniel: "...as much as others may be victims of one's sins, the guilt for sin is with God, the One whose law he has violated, whose standard he has failed to reach." (PSALMS, P. 156)

2- --Sees it as EVIL (="Injury to others) which must be dealt with before God (51:4)

--Others, indeed, were sinned against

- Bathsheba ①
- Uriah ②
- Nation of Is. ③
- David's wife Micahal ④

But the greatest sin was against the HEAVENLY FATHER !

--JUDGMENT due to God's justice is what he deserves,

2-But David cries for CLEMENCY --On basis of God's Mercy

"according to Thy tender mercies" 51:1

--Ex. 34:6-7

3-If David's POLLUTION is to be dealt with, it must go back to the "springs of his being"

--Ps. 51:5 "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."

--F. B. Meyer --"This was not said to extenuate, but to show how inveterate was the evil, needing infinite help & love." (P. 65)

--Speaks of the SINFUL STATE in which he was born, but not that it was a sinful conception.

--Job 14:4--"Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Not one."

--Ps. 58:3--"The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born."

--Reproduction of the race is "AFTER HIS KIND" (Gen. 1:11 ff)

--So David began life with a sin nature; Standard EQUIPMENT

4-Contrast with David's sinfulness is what he knows of God and God's truth--Ps. 51:6 "Behold, Thou desireth truth in the inward parts..."

--Needs a "transplant" of Divine truth

5-GARBC S.S. material (Psalms, P. 34)--"David is not pleading that his sin is not serious enough to condemn him forever, but he is fully owning its serious character & throwing himself upon the mercy of God."

C. -Cleansing (Ps. 51:7-9):

1-Grows out of--God's mercy ①

--David's confession ②

2-"Purge me with hyssop, & I shall be clean" — 51:7a

--Deals with a BLOOD sacrifice

--Applied in a ceremony with hyssop bush

--Result would be "spiritually clean"

3-"Wash me, & I shall be whiter than snow" — 51:7b

--Same word as in Ps. 51:2

--Meaning is to beat in the soap so as to beat out the dirt

--Result is PURE WHITE

4-Ps. 51:8--Joy & gladness are the **results**
--Process that requires CHASTISEMENT (4)
NB → ILLUS--Shepherd that has a wayward sheep. **Breaks** its forepaw. **Binds** it up. **Carries** the sheep til it is well. It will not stray away thereafter, but will **stay close** to the Shepherd.
--So it is that God has to **afflict** us sometimes
--Ps. 119:67, 71--"Before I was afflicted, I went astray: but now have I kept thy Word. ...It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.

5-Results from cleansing--Ps. 51:9
--Sins HIDDEN from God's Face
--Sins BLOTTED OUT - FOREVER!
--That really deals with "my sins" & "mine iniquities"

II.-PRAYER FOR RESTORATION (Ps. 51:10-12):

A.-Re-Creation Needed: (Ps. 51:10)

1-51:0a--"**Create**"--Same word as used in **Gen. 1**:11, 27
--A NEW CREATION is needed in being restored to fellowship
--**God** does it in providing a **clean heart**

2-51:10b--"**Renew**"
="MAKE NEW"
--That takes **God at work**
--"RIGHT"= RV--"constant")) How we **need** this!
=ASV "steadfast"
--Kirkpatrick--"Such a clean heart & steadfast spirit, the condition of fellowship with God (Mt. 5:8) the spring of a holy life, can only come from the creative, life-giving power of God"

B.-Remembrance Of Saul: 51:11

1-Ps. 51:11
2-This prayer grows out of David **thinking back** to God's dealing with his predecessor, **King Saul**
--CAST OFF from God's fellowship
--CAST OFF from Israel's throne
--Spirit of **power taken** from Saul
--Spirit of **evil sent** to trouble him
3-No wonder David is **concerned**--Not just for cleansing
--But also for his POSITION
4-**Dispensational** distinctions: - LAW / GRACE
--Christian position is different; "In Christ"
--Christian provision is different; INDWEL T
--So **we** need never pray 51:11
THANK GOD!

C.-Restoration Of Joy: 51:12

1-Ps. 51:12
2-NOTE **what** David had **lost**--Not his salvation
--But **the JOY** of that salvation!

3-Indeed, (sin) will **cut off** the experiencing of the JOY of the Lord

4-**Asks** for a **continuance** of GOD'S UPHOLDING (5)

5-JOY in the heart & POWER in the life **must precede** any spiritual usefulness

D.-Results Of Restoration:

1-**PARDON** for sin is experienced (1 Jn. 1:9 today) **NOW!**

2-PURITY for life must **inevitably follow**!

--Expulsive power of **good** driving out evil

--Desire to **please** the One Who has so tenderly, mercifully & graciously dealt with us

3-That PURITY WILL **SHOW** before men, as well as before God

4-This is more than a NEW LEAF; it is a NEW LIFE!

III.-PROMISED RESOLUTIONS: (Ps. 51:13-17)

A.-Personal Work: "Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto Thee."

1-Ps. **51:13**

2-**FOLLOWS** restoration of fellowship & living in purity if it is to have any effectiveness

3-Seen in the **"THEN"** of 51:13, 19 twice

4-R. T. Daniel--"The first impulse of one with a changed heart is a desire to **tell** others what has been done for him, & to help others have the same experience." (PSALMS, P. 165)

5-Notice----------David was **expecting results**, too!

B.-Praise To God: "Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; and my tongue shall sing aloud of Thy righteousness. O Lord, open Thou my lips and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise."

1-Ps. 51:14-15

2-David **knew** his sins deserved the **DEATH** PENALTY

3-Forgiveness brings forth gratitude & praise

--Tongue
--Lips
--Mouth
} 51:15

--Sin silences our testimony & our praise, but deliverance OPENS our mouths

4-No longer making excuses or hiding sins, but now with a **heart** that **OVERFLOWS**--Ps. 23:5--"...my cup runneth over."

C.-Worship To God: "For Thou desireth not sacrifice; else would I give it; Thou delightest not in burnt offering."

1-Ps. 51:16

2-NO SACRIFICE to gain forgiveness of wilful sin

--Ps. 19:13--"Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, & I shall be innocent from the great transgression."

--David would willingly have brought a sacrifice if there had been one that would be acceptable

--God has **no pleasure** in such

3-What does God want then??
- Ps. 51:17
  - --Penitent spirit of worship
  - --Grateful one who's been FORGIVEN much wants to please God
  - --Knows that if he comes in a right spirit, God will accept HIM and his worship

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise."

4-What is the expression of this attitude ??
- --Not just words
- --Not just a few acts & then forgetfulness
- --But a LIFE COMMITMENT — Pattern from now on!
  - ** Pardon has been received
  - ** Purity has been begun
  - ** Practice will be "constant" & "steadfast" (Ps. 51:10b)

NB

IV.--PLEASURE OF THE RESTORER: (Ps. 51:18-19)

A.-Critical View:

1-Deniers of the integrity of Scripture say these verses were not a part of DAVID'S PSALM, but were added in Nehemiah's day

**

2-No good reasons put forth for such a view

3-Just the idea that "THEY FIT BETTER" in Nehemiah's day when the emphasis was on wall-building

4-Forget that Jerusalem had walls in David's time also.

5-Even seen in ASV setting verses 18 & 19 apart as a postscript to the Psalm.

Protection needed in every life + era

B.-Christ-Honoring View:

1-Integral part of David's Psalm

*

2-Same Hebrew word used in 51:16 ("desire") & 51:19 ("pleased")--Pleasure of the Restorer is seen here

3-What is that pleasure ??
- --Toward ZION (51:18a)
- --Toward WALLS of Jerusalem (51:18b)
- --Toward DEDICATION to Him (51:19)

4-UPBUILDING is God's part & His pleasure is seen in His mercy & grace-
- To His people
- To His work
- To their dedication.

CONCLUSION:

A.-Review Of Psalm 51:

1-Prayer of repentance------51:1-9 Prostration
2-Prayer For Restoration----51:10-12 Pleas
3-Promised RESOLUTIONS---51:13-17 Promises
4-Pleasure of the Restorer-----51:18-19 Pleasure
5-That's David's case study of the aftermath of sin

B. -Return To Our QUESTION:

1-"CAN I EVER SERVE AGAIN?"

2-David did — Never ceased being King

3-Abraham did — Lied about wife's relation-ship

4-Isaac did — Preference for Esau over Jacob

5-Jacob did — Father of kingly line of Judah

6-Moses did — Smote the Rock, but still led people

7-Joshua did — Continued after misjudgment at Ai + Gibeonites

8-Jonah did — Second chance to evangelize Nineveh

9-Peter did — Became an Apostle

10-John Mark did — Became author + effective laborer

11--And so can you, as long as it is within the limits revealed in God's Word

12-Result....."THEN shalt Thou be pleased..." Ps. 51:19

Baptist Bulletin editorial

Now, should this person immediately be restored to his former position? If not immediately—when? Or has he no return at all? Has he forever forfeited the privilege of such service?

Peter was forgiven and became a great apostle; but, again, his was not a fleshly sin.

Someone may say, "Sin is sin; and immorality is no worse than pride or gossip or contention." Yet, when Paul wrote the church at Corinth, he said the man guilty of sexual sin was to be put out of the church. He didn't say that about those who were going to law with each other, proud of their tolerance or abusing the gift of tongues. It seems God does make a difference.

Many feel that immorality such as adultery permanently disqualifies a person for Christian service, particularly as a pastor or leader of some other kind. (We are speaking now of sin committed after one is saved, not before.) Whether there are situations where the penalty can be less severe and the offender restored to his place of service after a reasonable time may be up to the person, the circumstances and the local church.

We do feel, however, that an immediate restoration has dangers both for the person and for the general testimony. The person will be more susceptible to temptation, since he was deposed only temporarily for the first wrongdoing. Others may well be led to a more open attitude toward sin: "Well, it didn't really cost *him* anything!" And the unsaved, in general, will be left with the impression that sin isn't so terrible and doesn't cause much loss or inconvenience.

We are to restore those overtaken in a fault. But "restore" in Galatians 6:1 means primarily to restore to fellowship with the Lord; to set the person right in his way of life. It is not talking about a specific area of ministry.

Yes, mercy and grace forgive the sinning believer. Love accepts the guilty one back again to full fellowship. But in our judgment, if he is to be allowed to serve at all, it should be after he has proved himself again. Like those who make money the old-fashioned way, he should ***earn*** the privilege!

Westbrae--12/10/72--#355--"I Owe Everything To Jesus"
#348--"I Surrender All"
313--"Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind"

OKBC 8/16/87
Hilltop Bapt. Ch - 3/7/97
Bedford Bible Ch, Pgh - 5/9/04
Bible Center Ch - 11/3/04
HillTop Bapt. Ch - 9/24/06 - Mens S.S. 10/1/06

(1) 416 - Grace Greater Than Our Sins
(2) 446 - In Tenderness He Sought Me
(3) 358 - Through The Love Of God Our Savior
(4) 423 - When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

The Holy Spirit + His O.T. Ministry To Man.

Ps. 51:11

INTRO

A.- Areas Of Ministry

86 references in the O.T.

1- On a large scale
2- Not confined to the elect
3- Does not begin at regeneration
4- Also included — CREATION
— REVELATION
— INSPIRATION

B.- Areas Of Discussion

1- Sovereign indwelling
2- Restraining of sin
3- Illumination + enablement for service
4- O.T. miracles
5- PROP We need a background of biblical understanding of the ministry of the Spirit in order to appreciate the wonderful ministries He has to Church age saints

I.- SOVEREIGN INDWELLING OF THE SPIRIT

A.- Contrast w/ Church Age:

1- Throughout the entire O.T. period up to the Day of Pentecost there is no such thing as universal indwelling of believers by the H.S.
2- Rather, a sovereign coming + going away from individuals sovereignly selected for His abiding presence for His divine purposes

B. - O.T. References To Indwelling:

1 - Gen. 41:38 Pharoah asks Q. concerning Joseph - Capital "S" on Spirit
2 - Ex. 28:3 - Tailors for garments of the priests
3 - Ex. 31:3 - Bezalbel + Aholiab fine craftsmen who helped build the Tabernacle (cf. 35:30-35)
4 - Num. 11:17, 25 - Seventy elders who assisted Moses
5 - Num. 27:18 - Joshua
6 - Judges - 3:10 - Othniel
6:34 - Gideon
11:29 - Jephthah
13:25 - Samson - 14:6, 19; 15:14
7 - 1 Sam. 10:9-10 - Saul 11:6
8 - 1 Sam. 16:13 - David
9 - Dan. 4:8; 5:11-14; 6:3 - Daniel
** 10 - No doubt all the prophets were indwelt by the H.S., though this was not essential to their ministry

C. - Important Features Of O.T. Indwelling:

1 - The coming of the Spirit to indwell individuals had no apparent relation to spiritual qualities. No record of regeneration as an antecedent of indwelling
2 - Indwelling was a sovereign gift usually associated with a special call to service + it had to do with enablement for a specific task.
** 3 - In many cases this indwelling was temporary.

3

4- Only a relatively few O.T. personages were indwelt.

5- SAUL - The Spirit left him - 1 Sam. 16:14

KEY VERSE

6- DAVID - Prayed Ps. 51:11 - No Christian need ever pray the prayer of David, but under the O.T. order there was great danger of losing the presence of the Spirit

7- CONTRAST W/ John 7:38-39 which is Jesus speaking of the future fullness of the Spirit which would begin at Pentecost. John 14:17 has the same contrast. John 16:13 promises a future change for the Church age

II. RESTRAINING SIN BY THE SPIRIT

- In the life of the saint
- In the life of the unsaved

A. References in Scripture:

1- Gen. 6:3 — Before Flood
2- 2 Thess. 2:7 — In Tribulation
3- Isaiah 59:19 - Now + in Millennium

B. Works Related To Restraining Sin:

1- Relatively few explicit references.
2- Mostly in oral revelation warning of judgment + revealing God's will

III. ILLUMINATION + ENABLEMENT FOR SERVICE:

A. Gifts of Wisdom:

1- Joseph - Gen. 41:38-40
2- Joshua - Num. 27:18

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

3-Judges - Othniel - 3:10 9-10
- Gideon - 6:34
- Jephthah - 11:29

4-Saul - 1 Sam. 10:10

5-David - 1 Sam. 16:13

6-Rather than a universal enablement available for all who were yielded to the Holy Spirit, the enablement granted was sovereign* limited

B. Gifts of Special Skills:

1-Tailors for priests garments - Ex. 28:3

2-Workmen on Tabernacle - Ex. 31:3; 35:30-35

3-Hiram of Tyre - 1 Kings 7:14

4-The thought of spiritual enablement in such cases does not exclude the idea of natural ability, but indicates both an act of providence in the bestowal of the natural ability talent in the individual + a special quickening to accomplish the task. JFW-P. 75

C. Gifts of Unusual Physical Strength:

1-Occasional instances where physical strength is bestowed on certain individuals in such measure as to exceed the possible strength of the human body.

2-SAMSON - Judges 13:25; 14:6, 19; 15:14

Because of his persistent sin, his power was lost for a time, only to be regained in the final act of his life

3-Reserved for the N.T. are the peculiar benefits of grace in the universal indwelling of the H.S. + the possibility

of all spiritual fruit.

IV.- O.T. MIRACLES:

A.- Extent Of O.T. Miracles:

1- An abundance of exhibits of the power of God
   a -Time of MOSES
   b -Time of ELIJAH + ELISHA
   c -Time of JESUS' earthly ministry

B.- Relation To The H.S.:

1- Clear references in O.T. are not found in O.T.
2- Attributed to JEHOVAH without distinction of the Persons of the Godhead
3- HOWEVER, many others related to the H.S. — Creation
   — Providence
4- MIRACLES are such effects as are really beyond + above the power of natural causes. (OWEN)
   - SAMSON did feats of strength beyond man's unaided ability
   - OBADIAH expressed the fear that the H.S. would catch Elijah away when he would try to find him. (1 Kings 18:12)
   - EZEKIEL was caught up by the H.S. (3:12+)

C.- Relation to the H.S. of N.T. Miracles:

1- Matt. 12:28 - Christ states that He cast out demons by the power of the H.S.

2- LK. 4:14-18 – the work of Christ in healing the sick is said to result from His anointing by the H.S.

6

Lesson for us

If Christ in the flesh wrought miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit even though His human nature was joined to the divine nature of the Second Person of the Trinity HOW MUCH MORE is it necessary for men who are subject to sin to be dependent + enabled by the H.S.

See John 14:12

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go to the Father

Grace Gospel Church – 9/5/99
Bible Center Church – 9/12/2001

"HOW DO YOU WORSHIP?"

Psalm 62:1-12
Rev. 7:9-17

1

INTRO:

A.- STORY OF WORSHIP

I recall hearing **Arthur Graves** tell this story. His three sons used to come to his study to hit him up for pennies to go to the corner store for candy. One day **Danny** came in & sat down quietly. Arthur continued working for a few moments to capture a pearl on paper. Then he looked up & said, **"Well, Danny, what do you want?"** Danny's reply was---**"WANT?"**.....**"Why nothing, Daddy. I just wanted to be with you. Isn't that alright?**

And **tears** came to Arthur's eyes with thankful joy. **How long** has it been since you brought tears of joy to the Father above? You can.....if you really worship Him!

B.- STYLE of Worship:

1-Not simply by **attending** a service of worship
2-Many who attend do not **know how** to worship
3-Various ways--Public & private worship
--Formal & informal worship
--Daily walk should include "worship interludes"
--Bible reminds us of need for **REGULAR, CORPORATE** worship
4-This requires intelligent concentration
--Not with body present & mind absent
--Not with sin separating from fellowship
--Not with will unyielded to the working of the Sp.

"Worship refreshes the soul as sleep refreshes the body." (P.391- Speakers Sourcebook)

5-

4-PROP
The purpose of worship is to get a new vision of our God

C.- Steps In Worship:

1-Preparation
2-Participation
3-Consummation

PROPERLY FUNCTIONING LOCAL CHURCH

** w/ Pastor-Teacher
** w/ Officers
** w/ Ordinances
** w/ Discipline
** w/ Offering
** w/ Missionary Outreach
** w/ opportunity for joint ministry

I.- PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP:

A.- The Unprepared Participant:

1-An **unprepared teacher** is not highly regarded
2-**BUT** is he any more to be despised in the sight of God than an **UNPREPARED LISTENER**?
3-Sheer hypocrisy to say "I'm going to worship" & then **not prepare for it**
4-NO TRUE WORSHIP without adequate preparation !!!!!
5-Much of the **failure** of Gospel preaching & Bible teaching is **due to unprepared hearts**
6-JOSEPH PARKER--"Could we have prepared hearers, as well as prepared preachers, then in 5 minutes a man might preach 5 hours, because every word would be a revelation, & every tone a call to higher life."

B.- The Self-Examined Participant:

1-**Ask yourself** these questions:
--WHY do we worship?
**WHAT is our purpose in attending church?
--WHAT do I really want?
**WHAT are my spiritual needs?

2-Can't expect to receive a blessing if we're not aware of our personal need for a specific blessing (2)
--Salvation for soul
--Cleansing from sin
--Restoration of faith
--Strengthening of resolve
--Impartation of wisdom
--Ministration of comfort
--Enduement with power
--Enlargement of vision
--Grounding of convictions — SOUND DOCTRINE
--Feeding for the "inner man"

3-An examination so managed, will, in a little time, give you such a newness of mind, such a spirit of wisdom & such a desire of devotion, as you were an entire stranger to before.

4- "True worship doesn't depend on preacher or place, but on attitude of heart" (P. 391, Sourcebook For Speakers")

C.-The Personal Expectation!

1-Do I expect anything when I worship?
2-Do I anticipate the moving of the Spirit
--in others????
--more importantly, in me?????
3-Do I have a holy hush in my soul?
4----OR--"Who can expect anything good from our Pastor?"
--"He really isn't much of a preacher"
--"Our choir never has any really good music"
--"Crowds don't flock to our church"
--"What is there to expect?"..... DEFEATISM !
5-Is none of our expectation from God?
--Whom do we worship?
--The preacher?
--The choir?
--The building?
--The crowd?
--Do we not believe, & should we not expect God to answer if we cry unto Him to meet our needs?
--Does He need an angel in the pulpit?
--Does He have angels in the pews?
--He needs only hearts in the congregation that are open to the Word and to the Spirit's ministry.
--Ps. 62:5--"My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from Him."

6-ILLUS---The story is told of a woman who went to communion in a Scottish church & greatly enjoyed the service. When she reached home she inquired who the preacher was & was informed that it was Ebeneze Erskine. The lady declared that she would go again the next Lord's Day to hear him.

She did, but was not profited in the least. The sermon seemed to have no unction or power. She went to Erskine & told him of her experience as she left the church. "Ah, Madam," said the preacher, "the first time you came to hear the Lord Jesus, & you received a blessing. The second time you came to hear Ebenezer Erskine, and got no blessing. AND YOU HAD NO RIGHT TO EXPECT ANY

D.-The Personal Preparation:

1-We are greatly affected by our expectations, for we are affected by our faith, & expectation is a vital element in faith.

When we enter the place of worship we **should offer** a silent prayer to God, stating our **needs** & **desires** for that hour. Then we should **left our heads** expecting God to answer. (3)

2-DR. JAMES BLACK, expressing his views on this, said, "I believe **the key** of the service--and **the secret** of the atmosphere--is **not** in the prayer of the preacher, but in the opening silent prayers **of the worshipers.**"

II.-PARTICIPATION in WORSHIP:

A.-Appropriation:

1-We **do not** participate--in a feast unless we **eat**
--in a hike unless we **walk**
--in a conversation unless we **talk**
--in worship unless we **take** what is offered to meet our needs of the hr.

2-Appropriating is **applying** the various parts of the service to our own lives--PRAYER by praying along
--HYMNS by singing along
--RESP. READING by reading along
--SERMON by applying along with a hearty "Amen"

3-Make the service **"your own"**.....APPROPRIATE ! SAY AMEN!

4-Come to Church to "GET SOMETHING" — Then go out to GIVE CHRIST to others!

B. PARTICIPATION BY MEDITATION:

1-Take the mental **effort** to **understand** the **parts of the service** & **relate** them to your own life APPLICATION!

2-**Scriptures:**
--1 Tim. 4:15--"Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all."
--Ps. 1:2--"But his delight is in the law of the LORD; & in his law doth he meditate day and night."
--De. 17:18-20 (case of the KING)

3-Say you **can't retain** it all?

4-THOMAS SHEPARD----founder of Harvard---said: **"My mind is a bucket without a bottom."**---Another way of saying he often **did not understand & hold all** that he had received.

5-But we can at least **be CLEANSED** by the experience of the Word of God passing thru us

6-Eph. 5:26--"That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word."

C.-ILLUSTration:

Abraham participated in worship with his **TENT** & **ALTAR**
His life showed their **presence** or **absence**

III.-CONSUMMATION OF WORSHIP:

God places **worship** before **walk** + **service**" Howard B. Carpenter

A.-Dedication of BODY:

1-**Preparation** & **Participation** are **not enough**
--Temple must have its spire--or it is incomplete
--Mountain must have its peak--or its beauty is distorted
--So, true worship must be **consummated** in a new dedication of life.

Rom. 12:1-2

2-JOHN T. WALLACE, JR.----"If you can **go away** from church **no closer** to God than when you came, you still **have not wor-**

shipped aright. If your worship experience has not brought you closer to God, has not issued in some new devotion to Christ, has not fixed your determination to render some new service to the Kingdom of God, then you have not yet grasped the true meaning of worship

3-Illustrations:

--Elijah; when he heard the still small voice of God, arose to return to Damascus & to the work God had for him there (1 Kings 19)

--David; when he worshipped God in abject repentance, said, "I will teach transgressors Thy ways...my mouth shall show forth Thy praise." (Ps. 51)

--Isaiah; saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high & lifted up & heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, & who will go for us?" He ansered, "Here am I; send me." (Isa. 6)

--Peter saw Jesus walk upon the sea & he cried out in worshipping amazement, "Let me walk like Thee" (Mt. 14)

--Paul received vision of the splendor & glory of Christ on the Damascus Road, & could only say, "Lord, what wouldst thou have me to do?" (Acts 9)

4-The consummation of worship is dedication of Body or it is not true & complete. When we get a glimpse of God we must say, "LET ME BE LIKE THEE"

5-When we hear the needs of the work of God, we must respond, "HERE AM I, LORD, SEND ME"

6-The purpose of worship is to get a new vision of Him

7-So our motto becomes "WE WOULD SEE JESUS"

8-The response of God to our worship is that He gives us such a vision, such a touch, such an impression that we will respond in a new dedication to One so wonderful

9-ILLUS ---Ruth 1:15-17--"And she said, Behold thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law. And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and they God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me and more, also, if ought but death part thee and me."

10-Thomas Lutheran Johns: "As you worship, so you serve"

B.-Transformation of Life:

1-This is one of the "by-products"

2-In worship we come into such a relationship with God as to be transformed by the power of His presence.

3-This was Paul's meaning in 2 Cor. 3:18--"But we all with open face beholding as in a glass (mirror) the glory of the Lord, are changed (are being transformed) into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

4-As we worship God in contemplation of His character, in seeking His will for our own lives & in working out His purposes thru service, we are transformed into His likeness.

5-Consider the life of ENOCH. Daily he walked with God in worship and obedience, beholding the glory of the Lord, while he was being changed gradually into the very likeness of God. His transformation was a natural consummation of a life of worship.

(5)

6-MOSES, abiding in the conscious presence of God at Sinai, became permeated with His glory, & when he went down to the people the divine splendor was so upon Him that they could not look him full in the face. Moses had been with God, & it transformed him. And we read, "He knew not that his face shone" (Ex. 34:29) BUT THE PEOPLE KNEW.!

7-So it is with us; if we abide in the presence of God, worshipping Him aright, we may not be aware of a change. BUT THE PEOPLE WILL KNOW!

3x5 →

WORSHIP — WHY WE WORSHIP

Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Great Stone Face" tells the story of Ernest, who as a boy lived in a remote valley. A rugged cliff overlooked the valley, and in the evening this cliff looked like the silhouette of a man's face. According to a local legend, a wise prophet would some day come to the valley. He would be recognized because his face resembled the face on the cliff.

As a boy, Ernest spent many hours studying the stone face and admiring its strong lines. Every time a visitor came to the village--whether he was a poet, philosopher, scientist or statesman--Ernest and the others wondered if this latest visitor would be the wise man for whom they waited.

Ernest stayed on in his valley and became the minister of the village. Years passed and one evening as he

C.-

Church.

→ --De. 4:14-19

--De. 8:19--"And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish."

--De. 11:16--"Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, & serve other gods, and worship them;"

--De. 30:17--"But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away and worship other gods, and serve them, I denounce you..."

→ --Josh. 5:13-15

--Josh. 24:14-15

4-Whatever or Whomever we truly WORSHIP, that will we wholeheartedly SERVE

→ 5-B* see Jude 22-23 as the outgrowth of Jude 20-21

NB → 6-Sequence Biblically

- Rev. 7:9-17
  - --Salvation (7:10)
  - --Worship (7:11)
  - --Service (7:15)
  - --Satisfaction (7:16)
  - --Security (7:17)

7-Have you come to John 2:5 yet?---"Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it"

8-C.H. MACKINTOSH---"If I love my master according to the flesh, I shall not mind whether I am cleaning his shoes or driving his carriage; but if I am thinking more of myself

than of him, I shall rather be a **coachman than a shoeblack.** So is it precisely in the service of the heavenly Master;--if I am thinking only of Him, planting **churches** and making **tents** will be **both alike** to me. We may see the same thing in angelic ministry. It matters not to an angel whether he be sent to **destroy** an army or to **protect** the person of some heir of salvation; it is the Master who entirely fills his vision. As some one has remarked, 'if two angels were sent from heaven, one **to rule** an empire, and the other **to sweep the streets**, they would not dispute about their respective work.' This is most true, and so should it be with us. The servant should ever be combined with the **worshipper**, and the work of our hands perfumed with the ardent breathings of our spirits." (Genesis--P.229)

(6)

CONCLUSION:

A.-Duration Of Worship:

1-In PRAYER we're occupied with our needs + those of others

2-In **PRAISE** we're occupied with **our blessings**

3-In **WORSHIP** we're occupied with **our GOD**!

4-Day will come when **we'll cease**

--to preach

--to pray

--to teach

5-But the day will never come when I'm to cease my **worshipping**

6-Rev. 4:10-11--"The four and twenty **elders** fall down before Him that sat on the throne, and worship Him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, **Thou art worthy**, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

Do people **SEE** a difference in you because of your coming to Worship?

THEY SHOULD!

Because the purpose of worship is to gain a new vision of God!

B.-How Do You Worship?:

1-Prepared?

2-Participating?

3-Consummating?

--~~Life~~ BODY Dedicated????

--Life Transformed???

--Life Polarized for Service???

(4)

Hymns:

(1) Come, Thou Almighty King" — 21

A Mighty fortress Is Our God

Jesus the Very Thought Of Thee

(3) All For Jesus — 316

(2) O For A Thousand Tongues — 222

(or) May Jesus Christ Be Praised — 1

Solo — He Giveth More Grace

Weathrae 9/6/64
10/17/71

OKBC — 10/6/85

Hilltop Baptist Ch - 11/5/06

"What To Pray For" Ps. 62:5 Read Ps. 62

Intro: A.-"My Expectation Is From Him":

1-Is it?

2-How much am I expecting?

3-Would I be surprised if all my desires were visibly, actually fulfilled?

4-So much promised; So little expected

5-So much chartered; So little claimed

6-So little praying; So little receiving

7-ILLUS--In a certain cotton factory there is a card on the walls of the workrooms that reads: "If your threads get tangled send for the foreman." On day a new worker got her threads tangled, & she tried to disentangle them, but only made them worse. Then she sent for the foreman. He dame & looked. Then he said to her, "You have been doing this yourself?" "Yes," she said. "But why did you not send for me according to instructions?..... "I did my best," she sadd. "NO, YOU DID NOT," the foreman said. "REMEMBER THAT DOING YOUR BEST IS SENDING FOR ME."

B.-Promises Of God:

1-Actualized by prayerful request in believing faith

2-Know that it is hard on a rich Father--loving as He is rich--when His children go poorly clad & complaining of scarcity.

3-"Missed Blessing Office."

--Destination of many answers

--Not faithful to continue in prayer

--Not expecting answers to come

--Not willing to receive on God's terms

--ILLUS---Water from a perpetual sweet spring. Only job you have is to keep the pipe open & clean. It is YOUR FAULT if you drink poluted water.

4-HOW MUCH ARE YOU EXPECTING FROM HIM??????

I.-PRAY FOR YOURSELF

A.-Logical Starting Place:

1-Right with God to be on praying ground

2-Lk. 18:13 or 1 Jn. 1:9

3-ILLUS---Perhaps you have a motto in your home which reads: "PRAYER CHANGES THINGS" and no doubt you can testify of many occasions when prayer most certainly did change "things." But I am inclined to believe that very frequently "things" do not change one iota. Rather, prayer changes US to such an extent that we gloriously triumph over "things", whether they be a disagreeable environment or an unpleasant task, or perhaps a fiery inexplicable trial.

B.-Discernment In Prayer:

1-In the Will of God--1 Jn. 5:14

--Ps. 106:15

--ILLUS--The following incident may be familiar to some, but warnings need to be repeated. A minister, praying over a child apparently dying, said, "If it be Thy will, spare him." The poor mother's soul yearning for her beloved, exclaimed, "It MUST be His will; I cannot bear IFS."....The minister stopped..... Contrary to expectation the child recovered. But the mother, after almost suffering martyrdom by him while a stripling, lived to see him HANGED before he wass 22 years old.

2-For the BEST things--WISDOM--Jas. 1:5
--Solomon in 1 Kings 3:5-14
--HUMILITY--Lk. 18:9-14
--AVOIDANCE OF TEMPTATION--Mt. 26:41
--ABILITY TO KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS
--1 Jn. 3:21-22; 5:3
--Romans 8:32

3-For Physical Things--no need to exhort here
--this is what we normally pray about

4-Examples in Prayer--
--Paul in prayer--Acts 26:22 & 9:11
--James McConkey in his pamphlet, THE GOD-PLANNED LIFE, tells about the founder of the Clifton Springs Sanitarium, Dr. Henry Foster, who was a man of mighty power with God. He was, too, a man of marvelous insight into the mind & ways of God as pertains to guidance in the affairs of life. Visitors who came to the sanitarium, after his decease, were wont to ask an old physician on the staff what the secret of Foster's life was. He would then take the visitor upstairs to Dr. Foster's former office and, pointing to two ragged holes in the carpet, worn there by the knees of that dear saint, would say, "THAT, SIR WAS THE SECRET OF HENRY FORSTER'S POWER AND WISDOM IN THE THINGS OF GOD & MEN."
--Stale manna isn't our Lord's plan for His children, but the "new corn of the land"

II.-PRAY FOR YOUR BRETHREN:

A.-Attitude Toward The Brethren In Prayer:
1-Pray for ALL of them--Ep. 6:18
2-Pray as a cooperative labor--Rom. 15:30-32
3-Pray as a ministry--Job 42:7-10
4-Pray with their best good in view
5-Not as ILLUS---A pious but cranky old lady was greatly annoyed because her neighbors forgot to ask her to go on their picnic. On the morning of the event they suddenly realized their affront & sent a little boy to ask her to come along. "IT'S TOO LATE NOW," she snapped. "I'VE PRAYED FOR RAIN."

B.-Content Of Prayer For Brethren--Establishment in Xn. Life:
1-"The more distinctly we ask heavenly things which we feel at once God alone can bestow, which we are sure He will bestow, the more direct & urgent will the appeal be." Andrew Murray
2-For Knowledge--Col. 1:9-11; Phil. 1:9
3-For Light--Eph. 1:5
--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
4-For strength--Eph. 3:15-16
5-For Love--Eph. 3:17-19
6-For Sanctification & Preservation--1 Th. 5:23; 3:13
7-For Boldness--Acts 4:29; Eph. 6:19-20
8-For those in Suffering--Heb. 13:3; Rom. 12:15
9-For Health--Jas. 5:14-16
10-Have to be WITH the brethren to know their needs
--in Worship
--In Fellowship
--In Prayer Meeting.

III.-PRAY FOR THE WORLD:

A.-Why?:

1-God says so 1 Tim.2:1-

2-God grants peach when we pray so we can go on evangelizing?

3-God uses prayer as a means of saving souls - Talk to God about men before you talk to men about God

B.-What Should We Pray For In The World?:

1-Enemies--Mt. 5:44; Rom. 12:20

2-All Men--1 Tim. 2:1

3-Governments--1 Tim. 2:2a

4-Peace of Jerusalem--Ps. 122:6

5-Kingdom of God--Mt. 6:10

IV.-PRAY FOR THE WORK OF GOD:

A.-Why?:

1-Told to

2-Most important work in the world is God's work !

3-Effective in bringing results

4-ILLUS--Our prayers & God's mercies are like two buckets in a well: while one ascends, the other descends.

B.-What?:

1-Unsaved--Rom. 10:1; 2 Pet. 3:9

--ILLUS---Billy Sunday told of an old infidel blacksmith who had boasted that he could meet any argument that a Christian could make. An old deacon heard this boast and he and his wife spent the night til 3 o'clock praying for him. That morning the Deacon went over to see him. As he entered the shop where the infidel was at work, he said, "MY WIFE & I PRAYED FOR YOU UNTIL 3 o'clock THIS MORNING." Then his eyes filled with tears he turned away and left him standing there at the forge. When the deacon arrived back home he said to his wife, "I've made a fool of myself; it was all for nothing. When I saw him I just broke down & couldn't talk to him." ....In the meantime the infidel went home. He said to his wife: "I heard a new argument this morning; that old deacon drove in to see me and told me that he & his wife had prayed for us until 3 o'clock this morning. Then he sobbed & went away." And the infidel said to his wife: "Let's go over & see him. I'd like to talk with him." It was only a few minutes until he was on his knees with the old deacon asking Jesus to save him eternally.

2-Special servants--Ep. 6:19-20; 2 Cor. 1:11

3-Peace to serve God without the encumbrances of war

4-Harvesters to be thrust out--Mt.9:38

5-ILLUS---It is recorded of D. L. Moody that, upon one of his journies across the Atlantic there was a fire in the hold of the ship. The crew & some volunteers stood in line to pass buckets of water. A friend said to Moody, "Mr. Moody, let us go to the other end of the ship and engage in prayer." The common-sense evangelist replied, "Not so, sir; we stand right here & pass buckets and pray hard all the time." How like Moody this was! He believed that PRAYER AND WORK were the two hands of the one person; that they should never be separated.

Concl: A.--What To Pray For?:

1-Self

2-Brethren

3-World

4-Work of God

B.--Why Pray?:

1-God commands it.

2-Prayer brings results.

3-Prayer fills our joy--Jn. 16:24b

4-Prayer teaches us confidence in the PROMISES of God---Ps. 119:49.

C.--Is Your Door Open?:

1-Expectation From HIM?

2-"Thou art coming to a King
LARGE petitions with thee bring
For His grace and power are such
None can ever ask too much!"

"SEEING IN THE SANCTUARY" (or) "The Perspective Of THE LONG VIEW" Psalm 73:1-28

103:8-12

Intro:

A.-The Moral Problem:

1-"It is the old, old, problem of the moral anomaly of the prosperity of the wicked--the problem which is always old and ever new--which has been faced by every generation; it must be faced by each generation as it comes & be fought thru by every earnest soul. The problem of RIGHT ON THE SCAFFOLD and WRONG ON THE THRONE.

2-"As the Psalmist weighs the facts of life in his walk into the sanctuary, the two complaints which find expression are that rectitude does not guarantee material prosperity, and that exemption from distress is not a corolary of godliness. The complaints give evidence of a blurred vision & a bewildered mind."
Walter C. Wright--Vol. 2, Psalms, P. 33.

① ** Direct Principles or Instructions -"Thus saith the LORD"

B.-The Personal Problem: (A PATTERN)

6-PROP

3 ways to learn

③ ** Experience (Personal)

② Precept drawn from experiences of OTHERS

① LEARN from Asaph's experience

1-Hasn't it been such to your eyes? ? ?
--seen that the wicked seem to prosper
--seen that the godly seem to suffer

2-Makes us wonder & question

3-Made Asaph, a Kohathite & servant in the Tabernacle, wonder too

4-Psalmist attempts to unravel the mystery of life as it is & as it appears to be

5-Asaph was TEMPTED to follow in the path of the wicked

THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE LONG VIEW

I.-TEMPTATION---HOW ASAPH CAME INTO IT 73:1-14:

A.-Personal Confidence (73:1):

1-Utmost & absolute trust in the goodness of God

2-Lam. 3:25--"The Lord is good unto them that wait for Him"

3-Israel is the object of God's goodness

4-To true believers who have a clean & pure heart

5-Ps. 24:3-4--"Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart..."

B.-Personal Confession (73:2-3a):

1-Problem is not with God & His relation to Israel

2-Problem is with Asaph !

3-Asaph believes God will be good to Israel

*** 4-BUT, Asaph is afraid Asaph will be forgotten !

5-Asaph's confession

--feet almost gone; almost, but not quite
--steps well-nigh slipped; but not yet
--envious of the foolish (=arrogant, ASV)
--covetous of the prosperity of the wicked
--all this shows Asaph's perplexity over RIGHT & WRONG
--Pr. 23:17--"Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the Lord all the day long."
--probably written as an outgrowth of this experience

Rectitude does not guarantee material prosperity

Exemption from distress is not a corolary of godliness.

6-This is a record of Asaph's GREAT SOUL BATTLE

C.-Personal Conception (Portrait Of The Ungodly) (73:3b-12):

1-APPEARANCE is of happiness, carefreeness & luxury
2-This is MAN'S VIEW of the wicked — 73:3-12 (2)
3-Without pangs (bands) in death (73:4)
--without any terror at death
--"Men may die like lambs & yet have their place hereafter with the goats" F.B.Meyer
Appearance is of luxury + happiness
4-strength is firm (73:4)
5-Carefree from trouble (73:5)
6-Decorated with a necklace of pride (73:6)
7-Clothed with violence (73:6)
8-Well-fed (73:7)
"Triumphant plenty, with a cheerful grace,
Basks in their eyes, and sparkles in their face;
How sleek they look, how goodly is their mein,
When big they strut behind a double chin." Dryden
9-Oppulent to the point of lacking nothing that they might possibly desire (73:7) — THE AFFLUENT!
10-Sinful & they jest about it (73:8)
11-Boastfully arrogant (73:9)
12-Oppressive (73:10)
13-Obnoxiously skeptical & agnostic (73:11)
14-Increased in riches (73:12)
15-Asaph is preliminarily concluding that righteousness may not pay after all. This thought plagues & tempts Asaph
16-Asaph saw the PRESENT of the wicked & forgot or discounted their FUTURE

D.-Personal Contrast (Picture Of The Godly) (73:13-14):

1-APPEARANCE is that all the Godly people have is a struggle, temptation, and probable defeat
2-Asaph attempts to keep himself from evil (73:13)
--But God doesn't notice
--But God doesn't reward
--But Asaph sees no benefit — DOWNHEARTED!
3-Chastened & plagued daily (73:14)
--All Asaph has to show for righteousness is the discipline of God upon him
--Begins to believe that righteousness doesn't pay
--Joining the fraternity of Job.
4-THIS is how Asaph got himself into temptation

II.-TEMPTATION---HOW ASAPH GOT OUT OF IT (73:15-20):

A.-Unable To Share:

Asaph ALMOST DOUBTS God!

1-73:15
2-Couldn't share the burdened perplexity of his heart for fear of offending & hurting God's lambs
NB → 3-Remarkable and commendable restraint!
4-Lk. 17:1--"...It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, thru whom they come!"
5-This set a seal upon his lips, for he fears to lead any astray
Remember!!! 6-God would have us share our CONVICTIONS, not our DOUBTS or UNCERTAINTIES ! ! !

7-Rom. 14:1--"Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations." (3)

8-Titus 3:8-9--"This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works,. These things are good and profitable unto men. But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, & strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable & vain."

** 9-High standard of accountability, but not too high

EXPECTED From true Xns !!!

B.-Unable To Evaluate!

1-73:16

2-Human evaluation of the problem of good & evil is impossible

3-Too painful in own power

4-"Thinking alone will give neither the right light nor true light" Vaihinger

5-ILLUS ----Daniel 12:8--"And I heard, but I understood not.." about vision of Israel's end time

C.-Until I Went Into The Sanctuary (73:17):

NB 1-This verse stands as the grand archway between 2 viewpoints
--human and temporal
--as against
--eternal and Real

KEY to a proper perspective.

2-This trip into the sanctuary
--revolutionized Asaph's outlook on life
* --changed his place of looking from man, to God
--sanctuary view gave him the perspective of the LONG VIEW
--Ps. 20:1-2a--"The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee; send thee help from the sanctuary..."

3-"...a light arose upon him when he withdrew from the bustle of the world into the quiet of God's dwelling-place, and there devoutly gave his mind to the matter." Delitzch,318

*** 4-ILLUS ---Hezekiah in Isa. 37:14

5-LONG VIEW --from the presence of God
--perspective of correction in the "short view" that only deals with the appearance of things
--understood the END of the wicked
--weighed the wicked in the "balances of the sanct
Joy of * --communion with God brings answers that mere reason can neither originate or fathom.
--Wicked always fail in the end
--Godly always prosper in the end YES!
--This is ultimate reality
--In the "Long view" its the end that really / Several counts
--ILLUS---Football game ~~last~~ ago falls in which 2 closely matched teams vied with each other. The score went 0 to 0; 6 to 0; 13 to 0; 21 to 0; 21 to 6; 21 to 14; and then finally in the last 30 seconds of the game the score moved from 21 to 14 up to 21 to 22. ULT What went into the record books was the FINAL END RES/

6*Thus, in the sanctuary, Asaph ceased to look only at the PRESENT. He saw the END of the wicked. This he saw with the "LONG VIEW".

↳ Perspective of the

D.-Ultimate Perspective (73:18-20):

1-Sees God's view of the wicked
--set in slippery places where ruin may come at any moment
--end is destruction!
--only a moment stands between them & their sure end
--utterly consumed by terror
--destruction has been postponed, but God will rouse Himself to judgment yet
--Reaction of God is sure
--Ps. 103:8-9
--ILLUS --A child's house of blocks may look sturdy while it stands. It might even be the biggest & best house of blocks ever built. But when it falls---which it is sure to do--its just a mess. So, when the wicked do fall, none will envy them THEN!

"The LORD is merciful + gracious, slow to anger, + plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will He keep His anger forever."

2-Asaph has had his vision "corrected" by the prescription of the "long view" as he is seeing--not in the mere sight of his eyes, but as he is seeing in the sanctuary of God

III.-TEMPTATION--HOW ASAPH PROFITED FROM IT (73:21-28):

A.-Contrition Of Asaph (73:21-22):

1-Heart grieved because of the sin of doubting God (73:21)
2-Reins pricked because of conviction of sin (73:21)
3-Spiritual metamorphis is not brought about without pain
* 4-Foolish action by a child of God is even more reprehensible in a believer than in an unbeliever, for we know better! (73:22) DON'T WE?
5-Ignorance (73:22) was due to eyes being on the circumstances instead of on God.
6-"Beast" (73:22) in own eyes before God because of sin
7-Self-reproach is because of "short-view" vision (73:22)
8-Must lead to confessing & forsaking — ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS
9-1 Jn. 1:9
10-Pr. 28:13
11-Self-censure is a part of contrition & confession "I WAS WRONG"

B.-Confession Of Asaph (73:23-26a):

1-NEVERTHELESS--=="in spite of my sin"
2-Faith not given up, but enlarged, in spite of his folly
3-"Asaph catches a glimpse of the truth learned by Job that communion with God is itself a bliss above happines and that the consciousness of this communion gives a joy with which the pleasures of mere temporal prosperity are not to be compared" Ellicott.
--presence of God--"The Lord Jesus counted upon as never absent would be holiness complete" J. Hudson Taylor
--upholding of God--1 Pet. 1:3-5
--guidance of God--Ps. 32:8

"I will instruct thee + teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."

--counsel of God--SPURGEON--"I have done with choosing my own way, & trying to pick a path amid the jungle of reason. He yielded not only the point in debate, but all intention of debating, & he put hand into that of the great Father, asking to be led, & agreeing to follow. Our former mistakes are a blessing when they drive us to

this. The end of our own wisdom is the beginning of our being wise. With Him is counsel, and when we come to Him, we are sure to be led aright" Treasury Of David, P. 346, Vol. 3.

--glory of God--taken as was Enoch
--Satisfaction with God--Christ is the chiefest of ten thousand & He is altogether Lovely

4-Failure when we find Asaph relying on SELF ALONE (73:26a)

C.-Confidence Of Asaph (73:26b-28):

73:26 b

1-"BUT GOD"--what a contrast to my weakness
--is the strength (=ROCK) of my heart
--eternal portion

2-Separation in distance & heart means destruction (73:27)

3-Proximity to God determines REAL prosperity

4-Jas. 4:8--"Draw nigh to God & He will draw nigh to you."

5-SPURGEON--"Had he done so at first he would not have been immersed in such affliction; when he did so, he escaped from his dilemma, and if he continued to do so he would not fall into the same evil again. The greater our nearness to God, the less we are affected by the attractions & distractions of earth. Access into the most holy place is a great privilege, & a cure for a multitude of ills. It is good for all saints, it is good for me in particular; it is always good, and always will be good for me to approach the greatest good, the source of all good, even God Himself" Treasury of David, Vol 3, P. 346

6-Quintesence of good (73:28)
--drawing near to Intimacy
--declaring God's works — Sharing

CONCLUSION: A.-Lessons:

1-Asaph learned to "see in the sanctuary" & discover the LONG VIEW because of this experience
--Miserable end of the wicked (The way of the transgressor is hard)
--Blessed end of the saints

2-Asaph discovered experiencially the goodness & justice of God.

3-And As For Me:
Not easy for a "NOW" generation that wants INSTANT INSIGHTS + gratification.
--may I learn not to doubt when I look out on a topsy-turvy world
--may I learn not to go by a "short view", but to go into the sanctuary to see a LONG VIEW
--may I learn to go to God to get my vision corrected into proper focus
--may I too enjoy the blessings of that "NEVERTHELESS" EXPERIENCE of living my eternal life

REMEMBER that in God's economy "tribulation worketh patience" + that "the trial of your faith" is PRECIOUS in the sight of the Lord

B.-Ultimately--The long view--From "seeing in the sanct."

1-Wicked do not prosper--ultimately
2-Saints do prosper--spiritually
3-May we examine our situation to determine which we are
4-May we who are believers, rejoice in & live out our wonderful salvation so others will see + want to SHARE what we have in Christ

Sin never pays! GOD will have the "LAST WORD"

Hymns: Glorious Things Of Thee Are Spoken 213 (185)
I Love Thy Kingdom Lord 230
There Is A Fountain 115

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah (291)

Westbrae – 5/3/70 – AM
ABI Chapel – 10/5/77
IFCA – Dixie Reg – 10/18/78 – N.C.
Boomer Baptist Ch. – 2/21/82
Victory Bible Ch, Meyersdale, PA – 11/27/83
OKBC – 7/14/85
Church of the Bible, Plainville, CN. – 8/2/85
Middletown Bible Church, CT – 8/11/85
Southwest Bible Church, Cleveland – 5/28/89
Bible Center Church, Charleston – 8/18/91
Victoria Bible College, Melbourne, Australia – 7/15/97
Men's Mtg – Sydney, Australia, 8/2/97
Hilltop Baptist Ch – 7/31/02 – Prayer Mtg
Lookout Bapt. Ch, – 10/6/02 – AM
Mc Roberts Bapt. Ch – KY – 10/20/02 AM
Harper Heights MBapt. Ch – Beckley, WV – 11/17/02
Bible Center Ch – 10/13/04
Fall Foliage Conf – 10/13/05 – ABC
Hilltop Baptist Ch. – 10/8/06

INTRO: A.-Child Evangelism:

1-One night in an Australian city after R.A.Torrey had given the invitation following a message, a large number of people had risen & were standing. A minister sitting near Dr. Torrey came to him very excitedly & said: 'Look there! Look there!"

'Look where?' Torrey asked?

'Look over there at that tall man & his wife standing.'

'Yes', Torrey said, 'I see them. What about it?'

'Why', he said, 'that man is the former mayor of the city & is now president of the local race track association. What does he mean by standing?!

'Well', said Dr. Torrey, 'I suppose he means to accept Christ. That was the invitation I gave!"

'The local minister was non-plussed. He did not know what to make of it!'

'As soon as the meeting was over, Dr. Torrey went down to where this man & his wife were standing, & stepped up to them & said to him, "Did you really accept Jesus Christ as Savior this evening?" Quietly, but firmly, he replied, "Yes, I did. Would you like to know how I came to accept Him?" "Well, he said, "my little boy was at your children's meeting this afternoon & was converted. He came home full of enthusiasm, & insisted we should come tonight to hear you preach, & we came & have decided to accept Christ."

2-Who can tell how much is involved in the conversion of a little boy?

3-Mt. 18:2-4, 14

4-Genuine conversions possible with children?

--Habermacher girl in Houston

--My own two girls

5-Because children are trusting, believing, teachable & easily led------TO Christ or FROM Him

B.-Important Passage On Child Evangelism:

1-Psalm 78:1-8---Instruction By Precept

2-Psalm 78:9-67--Indiscretion Of Parents

3-Psalm 78:68-72-Illustration Of Pattern

I.-INSTRUCTION FOR CHILDREN 78:1-8:

A.-Call To Attention (78:1-2):

1-Given by God

2-Given to "my people"

3-"Incline your ears to the words of my mouth"

4-Here is wisdom

5-Trusths from of old will be opened clearly to them

B.-Call To Dissemination (78:3-5):

1-Told us by fathers

2-Heard & known by us

3-Only can share what we KNOW
4-Not to be hidden from children
5-Dealing with a revelation & not an object of investigation, so we who have the truth are obligated to share it
6-What are we to teach to children? ? ?
--praises of the Lord
--His strength
--His wonderful works****CREATION
****RE-CREATION in Christ
--Testimony of God was established in Jacob
--Law was given in Israel
78:4-5
7-To WHOM are these to be made known?? ??---GENERATIONS TO COME
8-Command of God to make this known is given to 78:6
--Fathers to instruct children — Isa. 38:19
--All adults to teach little ones
--Eph. 6:4--"And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture & admonition of the Lord."
--FIVE generations here seen**FATHERS
**THEIR CHILDREN
**THE GENERATIONS TO COME
**AND THEIR CHILDREN
**AND THEIR CHILDREN
78:5-6
9-How made known?
--By hiding nothing from the children — No doctrine or truth too deep! or too "scary"
--By declaring everything God has done

C.-Call To Appropriation (78:6-8):
1-Knowledge--"That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise & declare them to their children."
2-Hope--"That they might set their hope in God (78:7a)
3-Remembrance--"...and not forget the works of God" (78:7b)
4-Obedience--"...but keep His commandments" (78:7c)
5-Affection--78:8 — HEART — SPIRIT
--Not like their fathers, but after God's desire
--Warning by an example of the wrong kind follows
--Put the Lord first.....NOW, while they're YOUNG
--Eccles. 12:1--"Remember now thy Creators in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them."

II.-INDISCRETION OF PARENTS 78:9-67:

A.-Not A Pretty Picture: — BE HONEST + OPEN
1-Wouldn't dare relate such a picture, except that I have to to be faithful to the revelation which God records!
2-Pattern is that God blesses & His people sin against Him the more in spite of God's goodness
3-"Good old days" were laden with "bad old sins & sinfulness"
4-Parents SINNED! — WHOLE NATION
5-Parents are to have learned from this & WARN & INSTRUCT CHILDREN so they don't make the same mistakes.
PRINCIPIAL INSTRUCTION

B.-Highlight Phrases Of Infamy: 78:9-11

1-78:17--"And they sinned yet more against Him..."
2-78:18--"And they tempted God in their heart..."
3-78:19--"Yea, they spake against God..."
4-78:22--"Because they believed not in God, & trusted not in His salvation."
5-78:32--"For all this they sinned still & believed not..."
6-78:37--"For their heart was not right with Him..."
7-78:41--"Yea, they turned back & tempted God, & limited the Holy One of Israel."
8-78:42--"They remembered not His hand,"
9-78:56--"Yet, they tempted & provoked the Most High God.."

C.- FAITHFULNESS OF GOD — 78:52-55

III.-ILLUSTRATION OF PATTERN 78:68-72:

A.-God Of Grace:

1-In spite of all this sinful rebellion by the Fathers
2-Yet, God CHOSE---Judah.
---David
3-God still deigned to allow a Tabernacle of His habitation among men.....sinful though they be!

B.-God Of "Low Things":

1-Chose Judah----small tribe
2-Chose David----young man out of a large family
--shepherd lad
--took him from feeding sheep
--to feeding the flock of God
--Parallel in Jn. 21:15--"So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me more than these? He saidth unto Him, 'Yea, Lord: Thou knowest that I love thee.' He saith unto him, 'FEED MY LAMBS'."

Previous work as a humble shepherd — QUALIFIES David for the enlarged task before him now

3-Because God was concerned over His inheritance Israel, He made sure they would be fed

C.-David's Service As A Teacher: Godly Example

1-78:72
2-Fed the flock--acc. to the integrity of his heart: Sincerity
--acc. to the skillfulness of his hands; Tact
--Put ALL he had & was into it
--1 Tim. 4:15--"Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all."
3-Pattern in David for us in "MAKING THEM KNOWN TO CHILDREN
4-Way to avoid 78:9-67 is Prov. 22:6--"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."
5-Israel was to teach the children about its deliverance from bondage in Egypt in such a way as to lead them to put their personal trust in the God of deliverance for themselves.

Godly Epitaph "His Servant"

CONCLUSION:

A.-Key Questions:

1-Can children be saved?-------YES!
2-Can children be taught?------YES!
3-Should children be brought instruction that POINTS to a decision?----------YES!
4-Otherwise they get only the "letter" that killeth & not the "spirit" that giveth life, & they become double hard to reach for Christ

B.-Involvement:

1-Every true Christian ought to think seriously about "HIS MISSION FIELD"
2-Nearly every believer is in a position where he can be used to win children to Christ
3-He should be alert to this opportunity & prepare for it
4-Opportunities abound--S.S
--T.H.
--C.E.F. / CHILDREN FOR CHRIST
--Camps
--D.V.B.S.....
5-Dividends are eternal as we invest in lives
6-No "stock market crash" can wipe out these "securities"
7-The bigger the investment, the bigger the net yields!
8-POEM----given to me by Mrs. MacNames, who for many years was privileged to work with children here in Calvary Church, and counts those whom she taught, her great treasure! of Placentia

"Dear Lord I do not ask that thou should'st give me
some high work of Thine, some noble calling, or some wonderous task.
Give me a little child to point the way over the strange,
sweet path that leads to Thee.
Give me a little voice to teach to pray.
Give me two shining eyes, Thy face to see.
The only crown I ask, dear Lord, to wear, is this: That I may teach a little child."

Teach and

Calvary of Placentia
Children For Christ Banquet - Columbus 9/4/75

"THE HOUSE OF GOD"

Psalm 84:1-12
Read Ps. 92:1-3, 12-15

INTRO:

A.-Names Of The House Of God (Significant):

ILLUS:

1-Altar
2-Tent of witness
3-Tabernacle
4-The Sanctuary of God
5-The House of God
6-His courts
7-His presence
8-The House of Jehovah
9-The assembly of the upright
10-His tabernacles..His footstool
11-His holy temple
12-House of prayer
13-The Lord's house
14-GYPSY SMITH--"My gypsy tent, if Jesus be in it, is as grand as St. Paul's Cathedral and St. Paul's Cathedral is nothing but a glorified rock quarry without Jesus. Christ makes the temple."

Not a HOLY PLACE, but a Place where we meet a holy God for worship

B.-Purposes Of The House Of God:

1-So God could dwell with His people
--Ex. 25:8--"And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them
2-So God could emphasize His holiness & man's sinfulness
--By statement--Lev. 11:44a--"For I am the LORD your God; ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shallbe holy; for I am holy..."
--By separation--Excluded from the Holy of Holies
3-So God could point to something BETTER
--Tabernacle pointed to Christ
--Church points to Heaven

Hebrews

C.-Importance Of The House Of God:

1-Place of worship
2-Place of dedication
3-Place of instruction
4-Place of commissioning to be EVANGELISTS for Christ
5-Ordained of God
6-Addressed by God (Epistles of N.T. were to CHURCHES)
7-ONLY organization ever entrusted by God with the joint task of world evangelism
8-PLINY wrote to Emperor TRAJAN, "...the Christians were accustomed to meet together on a set day, before dawn, & sing responsive hymns to Christ as their God, & to pledge themselves in a sacrament to abstain from every form of evil, to commit no theft, rapine, or adultery, to falsify no word, and betray no trust. At a later period in the day they met together again, and joined in a harmless supper."

Pastor

D.-Let's Look At The Psalm Of The Sanctuary--Ps. 84:

1-SPURGEON--"This sacred ode is one of the choicest of

the collection; it has a mild radiance about it, entitling it to be called THE PEARL OF PSALMS. If the 23rd be the most popular, the 101st the most joyful, the 119th the most deeply experimental, the 51st the most plaintive, this is one of the most sweet of the Psalms of Peace." (IV--63)

2

OUTLINE

2-84:1-4 The Pilgrim's Hope
3-84:5-8 The Pilgrim's Experience
4-84:9-12-The Pilgrim's Prayer
5-Watch for the BENEFITS of the House of God
6-"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits" Ps. 103:2

PROP

I.-THE PILGRIM'S HOPE 84:1-4:

A.-Description (84:1):

1-"Amiable"=="pleasant, lovely, beloved"
2-NOT "terrible or dreadful"
3-Gen. 28:17--"And he (Jacob) was afraid, and said 'How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."
4-Attitude is of one who says "WHERE ELSE in all the world can you find all these benefits?"
5-Is it any wonder that believers LOVE the "amiable" tabernacles of God? — Couldn't keep them away
6-Ps. 27:4-5--"One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, & to enquire in his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock"

B.-Desire (84:2):

1-No need to prod this man to get him out to the House of God
2-No place he'd rather be
3-His whole being longs for
--The House of the Lord
--The Lord of the House
--Its a BODY & SOUL longing
--Ps. 42:1-2--"As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?"
--Ps. 63:1--"O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land where no water is,
--Ps. 73:26--"My flesh & my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, & my portion for ever."
--Ps.119:20--"My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto thy judgments at all times."
--Ps. 122:1--"I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go unto the house of the LORD'"

4-ILLUS--Aunt Alice came downstairs frowning with a miserable headache. She was advised to go back to bed & rest.
"But I can't," she replied. "You see, I have to read a paper today at my Saturday morning Club, & I just have to go. I'LL

take a couple of Aspirin & get by somehow.

The next morning (Sunday), she said: "I simply can't go out today with this headache. Somebody else will have to take my S.S. class. No, you needn't phone the Superintendent. There will be someone else he can get. Anyone can take it."

What an example that sort of thing is to the children in the home & the neighbors on the block. No wonder that later in life someone will be wondering of another generation, "I wonder why so many Christians are indifferent?"

May it not be so with us! May our DESIRE for the House of God be a fresh & overflowing experience!

5-SPURGEON wrote: "Some need to be whipped to church, while here is David crying out for it. He needed no clatter of bells from the belfry to ring him in, he carried his bell in his bosom: holy appetite is a better call to worship than a full chime."

6-"HOLY HOMESICKNESS" shows David's Desire, because God is "The Living God".....He is for REAL!

7-Recently the China Inland Mission magazine, "MILLIONS" carried this story:

"A young man converted in Pahang, Malaya, on being forced from his home for believing in Jesus, moved to a neighboring town & found work in a restaurant. He works 16 hours a day, 7 days a week, with only 1 hour off on Sundays. He spends that one precious hour in church, where he is often the only man in attendance. Bewildered by the blase attitude of professing Christians, he nevertheless continues to stand for the Lord, witnessing to what little he knows of Christ."

HOW DO WE MEASURE UP ALONGSIDE THIS? ?

C.-Delight (84:3):

1-Why did David so love the place of worship?
2-Found peace & rest there for his soul
3-Pictured in the quietness & peace that provided a sheltered haven for the feathered folk of heaven.
4-God's house provides this same atmosphere for the trusting child of God
5-Peace & rest are found when ALL IS ON THE ALTAR!
6-Is this your delight?
7-Ps. 77:13--"Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?"

D.-Devotion (84:4):

1-First of 3 "blesseds"
--1 in each of the 3 divisions of the psalm
--84:4, 5, 12
2-Expresses desire to DWELL in God's house
--Not just an occasional visitor
--Ps. 23:6--"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."
--Ps. 92:12-15--"The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat & flourishing..."

Frequently these!

--ILLUS--Moody said, "A friend of mine told me once that when he went to a boarding-house he could always tell who the boarders were, for they never alluded to family matters, but sat down to the table, & talked of outside matters; but when the son came, he would go into the sitting-room to see if there were letters, & inquire after the family, & show in many ways his interest in the household. It doesn't take 5 minutes to tell that he is not a boarder & that the others are.

And so it is with the church of God. You see these boarders in church every Sunday morning, but they don't take any real interest. They come to "taste" & to "criticize". They are boarders in the House of God; and we have got too many boarders."

3-PRAISE & JOY are the expression of a real devotion to God

4-Ps. 100:2, 4--"Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing...Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name."

MORE need to become PART OF THE FAMILY!

5-Ps. 107:31-32--"Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders."

6-What a contrast with the gloominess of the world

7-Bright lights are just a cover for the darkness of the empty soul without Christ.

8-How different is the Pilgrim's Hope!

II.-THE PILGRIM'S EXPERIENCE (84:5-8):

A.-Strength In The Lord (84:5):

1-Second "blessed"

2-Strength he has--not of flesh
--but of God

3-Because HEART was toward God

4-The many spiritual failures about us prove "it is not in man to direct his steps." (Jer. 10:23)

5-But the man who dwells in the presence of God receives strength from above.

6-Isa. 40:29-31--"He giveth power to the faint and to them that have no strength. Even the youths shall faint & be weary, & the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint"

7-POEM: "I cannot, but God can;
Oh, balm for all my care!
The burden that I drop
His hand will lift and bear.
Though eagle pinions tire,
I walk where once I ran,
This is my strength to know:
I cannot, but He can!"

8-ILLUS---Josh. 14:6-11 → Caleb as he claims Hebron; At age 85 he is still a STRONG MAN!

B.-Sharing Of The Lord (84:6-7):

1-Already having STRENGTH from above, the Pilgrim is endowed so as to SHARE

2-The "needy" are all about us!

3-The Valley of Baca
--Probably not a literal geographic place
--But rather a "Valley of weeping, sorrow, & tears"
--There are many such "valleys" that we see every day
--What are we doing about them?
--Do we leave them unchanged & still needy?
4-Our "passing through" is so as to share the blessings we have received in God's House
5-ILLUS--Old John was a man of God & loved his village chapel. One day he was stopped by an acquaintance, who, by the way, was an ardent angler. "I say, John," said the angler, "I have often wondered what attraction you find up at the village chapel. You go week after week to the same old chapel, see the same folks, sing the same old hymns--"

"Wait a minute," interrupted John. "You fish very often at the same spot, & in the same water, do you not?" "Yes, that's true," agreed the other. John smiled, & then exclaimed: "Well you do not, for the water you fished in yesterday haspassed on to the sea; and every time I go up to the chapel the Lord has SOMETHING FRESH for me."
6-If you HAVE something fresh and SHARE it
--Then parched plains become pools
--Then empty holes become springs
--Then the lives of others are refreshed by yours
--84:7
--Your strength (from God) becomes their strength
--Ps. 52:7-9--"Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, & strengthened himself in his wickedness. But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever. I will praise thee for ever because thou hast done it: and I will wait on thy name; for it is good before thy saints."

C.-Seeking From The Lord (84:8):

1-Calls upon God
2-Learns to trust Him implicitly
3-Variety of Names of God
--"Lord God of Hosts"--God of Battle who fights for His people
--Rom. 8:31--"What shall we say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"
--"God of Jacob"--Covenant keeper whose word is sure
--"The Living God"--God is real
--"My King & My God"--Personal attachment
4-It is TO HIM that the Psalmist cries out in prayer
5-Well aware that God will hear & answer
6-What a glorious experience for the Pilgrim

III.-THE PILGRIM'S PRAYER (84:9-12):

A.-Approach (84:9): "Behold, O God our shield..."
1-Reverent address
2-Confident of God's protection (see more on vs. 11)

3-Reminds God who he is
  --Not as a Pharisee
  --Not in a blatant fashion
  --But by reminder that he is one upon whom the seal & anointing of God rests

4-Knows Jn. 10:28-29--"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."

B.-Aspiration--(84:10):
1-Sees what's a better choice
2-Openly confesses his aspiration & preference
3-His value judgment is not veiled
4-In God's house David has acquired a right sense of values
5-F. B. MEYER--"Better be Lazarus at the threshold of God's house than Dives in his palace."
6-Somehow in the presence of God, the things of earth grow very dim & unimportant & the believer's perspective changes. Gradually the child of God comes to look thru the eyes of the Lord Jesus and then---and only then---can he make the right choices & the right emphases in his life.
  --Mt. 6:19--"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth & rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break thru and steal"
  --Col. 3:1-4

C.-Assurance (84:11):
1-PHYSICAL--"Sun & Shield"
  --Sun in the dark hours to give heat & light
  --Shield (or Shade) in the scorching hours
2-SPIRITUAL--"Grace and glory"
  --F. B. MEYER--"GRACE is the bud of GLORY: GLORY is the flower of GRACE. If he has given the first; He will give the second...We stand in grace and look for glory."
  --Rom. 5:1-2--"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God thru our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."
3-PRINCIPLE--"No good thing will he withold"
  --Perhaps witholding some of our WANTS
  --Doubtless witholding much that's HARMFUL
  --But granting all that's good!
  --Ps. 34:9-10--"O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him. The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing."
  --Mt. 7:11--"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"
  --Rom. 8:32--"He that spared not His own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

ILLUS--Josh. 14:12-15 — Caleb — Given Hebron as the reward of his faith

7

4-CONDITION--"From them that walk uprightly"
--Expects us to "WALK", not "SIT"
--Expects that walk to be U P R I G H T !
--ILLUS--In a casual conversation on Beacon Hill, D. L. Moody gave his inner secret of answered prayer & revival power to Dr. E. M. Wadsworth during his Boston meetings in 1898. He asked Mr. Moody to give a life verse. Without a moment's hesitation he quoted, "No good thing will He withold from them that walk uprightly"

"The more I turned this text over in my mind," said Dr. Wadsworth, and held it up in the light of similar texts, the more I was aware that Mr. Moody had revealed to me in a casual conversation 'the inner secret of true revival.' To me, 'walking uprightly' gave the great evangelist's secret of spiritual power with God & men.

"Mr. Moody, in his last sermon in Chicago, just before he went to Kansas City, Mo, for his final campaign, preached on Psalm 84:11. In that sermon he used an illustration which enforced the truth of this promise that God would withold no good thing from them that walk uprightly."

A woman approached Moody asking that he pray for the conversion of herhusband. She said, "He has a good heart, but he isn't a Christian." Mr. Moody replied, "You say he has a good heart? Why that's the worst thing about him. The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.

"I will pray with you for the conversion of your husband on one condition." He then showed her Psalm 84:11 and asked: "Are you walking uprightly?" "I'm afraid not," she said. "Ask God to forgive the past and to save you from this evil, and begin to do His will, and I will join you in prayer for the conversion of your husband." She got right with the Lord, and Mr. Moody prayed for her husband. The next day her husband turned to the Lord, & she had the fulfillment of God's promise stated in Ps. 84:11.
--THAT CONDITION OF UPRIGHTNESS MUST BE MET !

D.-Attitude (84:12):
1-3rd "blessed"
2-The Blessed man is one who TRUSTS GOD
3-Has learned something of dependence
4-Has entered into a "BY FAITH" life
5-"The just shall live by faith"
6-The ONE thing that makes a man blessed is TRUST in God
--Blessed in all things
--Blessed in all circumstances
--Blessed in all times

CONCLUSION:

A.-Benefits Of The House Of God:
1-Meet God here
2-Know God here
3-Detailed Benefits from Ps. 84:
--Rest & peace (84:3)
--Joy & praise (84:4)
--Strength (84:5)
--Sharing with others (84:6-7)
--Learning of God (84:8-9)

—Right values (84:10)
—Assurance (84:11)
—"BY FAITH" life (84:12)

4-My dear friends, where else in all the world will you find so many benefits?

5-Do you not, then, also love the HOUSE OF GOD, and the GOD OF THE HOUSE?

B.-Let's close by reading TOGETHER****

Heb. 10:19-25

Hymns: O Worship The King — 407 — Westbrae | 8/30/64 9/13/70
The Church's One Foundation — 225
I Love Thy Kingdom Lord — 230

10/22/06 - Hilltop Bapt. Ch

"ONE MORE YEAR?"
or
"LIVING OUR NUMBERED DAYS"

Psalm 90:1-17

(1)

INTRO:

A.--Would You Rather Spend The NEW YEAR On Earth Or In Heaven?:

1-If you'd prefer heaven--W H Y ??
- --Are you just sick of it all down here??
- --That's not a very exalted motive!

2-If you'd prefer the earth
- --What are your reasons??
- --Related to things you want to see or do?
- --Family or business responsibilities no one else could take over??
- --Just "TOO YOUNG" to die??

PSALM

3-WHATEVER your answer, this New Year gives a grand occasion to evaluate your purposes for life

4-Perhaps your priorities need revising!!

B.--Case Study--HEZEKIAH:

1-Told to "set his house in order" Isa. 38:1

2-Tearful plea for MORE TIME on earth because only 39 years old

PRAYED 38:2-3

3-Already many accomplishments:
- --Sweeping reform
- --Spiritual revival
- --Good leadership
- --Prosperity & progress
- --Deep commitment to God

4-But not ready to die--Plans for the future to be carried out
- --"Too young" to pass away
- --Perhaps not settled about "WHAT IS BEYOND" the grave

5-God never calls to Himself any who are "TOO YOUNG TO DIE"
- --John the Baptist; Beheaded in his 30's
- --Jesus Christ; Crucified at 33½
- --David Brainerd at about 29
- --Borden of Yale in early 20's
- --Five martyred by Aucas in 1956

obedient

- --NO PREMATURE DEATHS among God's children

6-Only God knows when the work entrusted to us is DON
- --May not seem complete to us
- --Friends may not judge it finished
- --But God sees the WHOLE PICTURE
- --Perhaps potential tragedies God would spare us
- --No child of God ever lived "TOO SHORT a time"
- --Perhaps some, like Hezekiah, have lived too lon

7-Remember--The glories of heaven
- --The intimacies of face-to-face fellowship
- --The privilege of heavenly service
- --"To depart and be with Christ, which is far better." (Phs. 1:23)

8-THE ISSUE WE FACE:
--Not longevity of existence on earth
--But the QUALITY of life lived while here on earth
--Not one day versus 15 years more; or 20 or 40 more
--BUT the ability to say:
"I have finished the work God gave me to do this day; I have glorified my God on earth." as did Jesus

C.-Psalm 90 As An Exposition Of This Truth:
Probably the OLDEST Psalm
Moses was its author
1-Outline:
I.-EXISTENCE Of God (90:1-2)
II.-EPHEMERALITY OF MAN (90:3-6)
III.-EXPERIENCE Of Israel (90:7-11)
IV.-EXPRESSIONS Of The Redeemed (90:12-17)
2-Prop: --In the light of the brevity of human life, let us be instructed & determined to live our life in its remaining days so that life COUNTS FOR ETERNITY

I.-EXISTENCE OF GOD (Ps. 90:1-2):

TEXT: How can we make sure that all our days of life count for eternity?

A.-Dwelling Place For Believers: (90:1)
1-Heb. text addresses Adonai=="Master"; "Husband"; "Controller"
2-"Dwelling place" --(a) Home; place of abode
--(b) Refuge; Place of retreat
--God has been BOTH for the godly
ALL that home + family are to us — and MORE!
3-"In all generations" --Not just in Moses' own day
--But before him for all believers
--And since Moses also
--Both for Israel & the Church, God is our "HOME" TIMELESS TRUTH

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

B.-Creator Of Universe: (90:2)
1-Existence of God is both assumed & stated
2-Creator antedates His creation
3-Deity is the FIRST CAUSE
4-Can't be a Bible-believer and an evolutionist--MUTUALLY CONTRADICTORY
5-"Brought forth" & "formed" speak of God's creative power (Heb. "gave birth to")
--Gen. 1:1
--John 1:1-3 "In the beginning was the Word + the Word was with God, + the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him + w/o Him was not anything made that was made."

C.-Eternal God:
1-Creator was before His creation
2-Matter is temporal; God is eternal
3-PROOF --Second law of Thermodynamics; ENTROPY
--Universe is "running down" & tending toward chaos
--God is always, and always the same IMMUTABILITY
4-"Even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God."
5-God is the "CONSTANT" in the universe & all else is in flux
Contrast with the frailty of man
Unchanging + Unchangeable.

II.-EPHEMERALITY OF MAN (Ps. 90:3-6):

A.-Returning To Dust (90:3a):
1-Work of God that brings man to his end--"Thou turnest"
2-"ENOSH"=="The frail man"
He is the Mover

--Brevity of life & fragility of existence are stressed
--CONTRAST with the eternality of God
3-"Destruction" = "Dust" or "Crumbling"
--Reference to death and the grave
--Man is in God's hand
--"Dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return." (Gen. 3:19)

Contrast of man's frailty w/ God's eternality

B.-Repentance Required (90:3b):

1-First of 2 uses of this term "RETURN" (also 90:13)
2-Could have several meanings
--Return to dust (repetition of 1st half of verse)
--Return in resurrection
--A call for REPENTANCE
--All are true
--Requirement of repentance seems the likely point as the outgrowth of the contrast of the eternal God and the ephemeral man
--Man in his brief span, before returning to the dust needs to come into right relationship with God NOW!

A "CALL" to the Israelites

C.-Relative Brevity Of Man's Earth-Life: (90:4-6):

1-God looks at centuries as we look at an afternoon
2-"Watch"--Hebrews had 3 four hour segments of the night each called a "watch" - 6 segments to 24 hours.
3-Both time and man are carried away as debris before a flood so that they do not permanently remain
ILLUS--As the Israelites in the wilderness were in desert for 38 years after their UNBELIEF at Kadesh Barnea until all men over age 20 were dead--except for Joshua & Caleb
4-"They are as a sleep--Without memory of what occurred
--Only the dreams that interrupt our sleep remain in the morning
--Even they are vague & soon forgotten as time goes on
5-"They are like grass"--Grows up quickly
--Flourishes beautifully
--Cut down
--Withers & dries
--VERY BRIEF cycle of life
6-Repeated metaphors piled up to impress us with the BREVITY of man's existence upon the earth! EPHEMERALITY

CONTRAST Methuselah who lived 969 years is like these & like in God's sight

metaphors

III.-EXPERIENCE OF ISRAEL IN THE WILDERNESS (Ps. 90:7-11):

A.-The FACT--The Anger & Wrath Of God (Ps. 90:7):

1-"We"--Reference of Moses to himself & the Israelites in the Wilderness wanderings
--Probably the oldest of all the Psalms
2-Objects of God's wrath & anger - UNBELIEF at Kadesh Barnea
3-Result is two-fold: "We are consumed"
=Death comes upon us
"We are troubled"; "dismayed"
=TERRIFIED by the judgment of God

4-Fact is clear that God's heavy displeasure comes upon His people----and in 90:8 we see.... (4)

B.-The REASON → 'Iniquities' & 'Sins' Of Israel (90:8):

1-Sin cannot be hidden; sure to be found out

2-"Set before Thee" & "In the light (lumination) of Thy countenance" - God is LIGHT and all darkness will be revealed

--Revealed totally Unmasked

--God's presence brings out the hidden things of men's hearts

--OPEN and UNHIDDEN - Unhidable

--Total disclosure of sin by God's presence

3-EVIL in Israel (Unbelief) can have only one result, the WRATH of God, for sin must inevitably be dealt with !

C.-The JUDGMENT----Sure (90:9):

1-Every stop in the desert wanderings became a cemetary as more & more of the people died **

2-Under the WRATH (90:7, 9, 11) of God due to their sin

3-"Tale that is told"=="as a sigh"

--Israelites knew of their doom to death in the wilderness due to rebellion & unbelief - Num. 13 + 14 aftermath

--Might come sooner....or later

** --But death would surely come - SETTLED

JUDGMENT → They won't reach Canaan

Rom. 5:9 8:1

4-Praise God, we of the Church know that we are "not appointed unto wrath" even though sin must be judged!! 1 Pet. 4:17-19

D.-THE DAYS OF OUR YEARS---(90:10-11):

1-Lifespan--969 with Methusalah

--Down to 70 in Moses' day as a "norm" Though he was 120 at death

--Some who're especially strong will reach 80

--Yet, even so these are both brief & burdensome

CALLED HOME --Soon cut off & "we fly away"

2-More years mean MORE TRIALS - Extension of life is a mixed blessing

3-At the end of days ALL MUST MEET GOD, even if they've refused to meet & walk with him in life

LESTER PIPKIN

IV.-EXPRESSIONS OF THE REDEEMED (Ps. 90:12-17): (Cravings of the open-hearted toward God)

A. Learning of God (90:12):

1-Need teaching to realize we're living "numbered days" !

2-When we learn this--Begin to see that TIME IS LIFE

--Stop "killing time"

NB --Begin using our time wisely - SHORT!

--Realize "I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is yet day." (John 9:4)

3-Result of learning about time

--Applying the heart to Divine wisdom SPEND IT WISELY!

--Use of every day as a STEWARDSHIP

--Live each day as if it were one's LAST ONE TO LIVE!

--Ready to meet one's Lord at any moment

ALOT them wisely; Spend them carefully *

B.-Longing For God (90:13): "Do Return, oh Lord"

1-Knows of promises for **rewards** & **RETURN**

2-Not knowing **"WHEN"**

3-Longing of heart for God is seen in **"HOW LONG"**?? —THEN!

4-**Plea** that the chastisement that's warranted **not** be the portion of God's servants for much longer

- --Desire for the **chastisement to end**
- --Desire for the **RETURN** also — **REWARDS THEN**

C.-Living In God Fully (90:14-15):

1-**Enjoyment** of the Lord to the full — "Oh satisfy us" -14 / "Make us glad" -15

2-"Early" — -In the day / -In the life

3-"Mercy" is CHESEDH = **"Steadfast love"**

- --Precious love of God for man
- --Cause of rejoicing & gladness
- --Lasts "**ALL** OUR DAYS" — **CALEB** !

Elsbeth Gaunnac

4-**Not** an exemption from **afflictions** — for each of us

- --Life has its problems
- --NO ONE is **exempted** entirely from them
- --Some have more// some have less — —REJOICE!
- --**ALL** have **some** afflictions
- --Still possible to **live a GLAD LIFE**!!!

Q-NE

5-**HOW ??**

Answer 6-Seeking your **satisfactions in the Lord** — **FULL BLESSING** — 90:15

D.-Loving God's Way (90:16):

1-Spirit of **appreciation** for God's activity — YOUR WORK, GOD

- --90:16a "Let thy works appear unto thy children..."
- --Wants God's servants to know God's works

Greatest work of all — **REDEMPTION** is to be known, understood & appreciated

- --That is God's **work** par-excellance:: **SALVATION**

2-Desire that **GOD'S GLORY** be seen from generation to generation

- --Many think of man as the center of things
- *** --**Not so** !!
- --Man is not the **"hub"** of things !
- *** --But **GOD is**!!
- --GLORIOCENTRIC -- "To the praise of the glory of His grace" (Eph. 1:6, 12, 14)
- --90:16b "...and thy glory unto their children."

YOUR GLORY, GOD

3-Loving to know and to do the way of God

E.-Letting God Have His Way In Us (90:17):

1-**EXPRESSION** in daily experience

- --90:17a "And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us..."
- --"**Beauty**"=="**Favor**"; "**Plea**santness"
- --The Lord's likeness in the process of being reproduced in us — Rom. 8:29
- --**HE shines** thru to be observed of all who see the redeemed one.

2-**Blessing** on **our** work — 90:17b

- -God's work of **SALVATION came first**
- -Now the desire is that the redeemed one's work enjoy God's blessing
- Each with his own tasks to do

3-WHY do we WORK??? "Good works that we not be unfruitful" (Tit. 3:14) (6)

THREE REASONS
- (a) --Contributing to the general welfare
- (b) --Provide personal needs so as to not be a burden on others (1 Thess. 4:11-12) NOT A FREELOADER
- (c) --To have the means to be able to give (Eph. 4:28)
- --All three are good motives for working

4-Establishment by God in all our works is letting God have His way in our lives

RESPONSIBLE STEWARDS of ALL we are + have!

CONCLUSION: "...Further, it is required of stewards, that a man be found faithful" 1 Cor. 4:2 Define it!

A.-What We Have Seen:
1-Eternal character of God---The believer's "dwelling place"
2-Brevity of man's days--Returning to dust
--REPENTANCE is required Essential Response!
3-Experience thru the centuries (Israel & the Church)
- SIN of man provokes the WRATH of God
- --Judgment on sin is sure
- --"Days of our years" are SHORT; flying away!!! No time to delay our repentance!

B.-What We Can Learn For "ONE MORE YEAR": 5 POINTS
1-Learn to "number our days"
2-Live for the Lord — NOW! — When we KILL TIME, eternity suffers!
3-Love Him with a full heart of devotion
4-Life of JOY that shows to all around us — ATTITUDE
5-Life of WORK that counts for eternal values — ACTION

Fill In On Outline

6-What will YOUR "One More Year" count for????
- -Salvation of neighbor, friend, co-worker, loved-one??
- -SERVICE to the Lord
- -Souls led to Christ
- -LIVES influenced for godliness
- -Spiritual development
- -JOY experienced? — Let it show!

Many people have plenty to live on, but nothing to live for! Let this not be you

--Well, what will it be in your "ONE MORE YEAR"?? TODAY is the time to decide!

Calvary Columbus--#465--"Our God, Our Help" 12/29/74
--#396--Lead Me To Calvary"
Boomer Baptist Ch., Boomer, WV 12/30/78 --Bulletin--"Let The Beauty Of Jesus" (3) or "Like A River Glorious"
Lookout Baptist Ch. 2/5/84 --#60--"Cleanse Me"
--#27-I sing The Mighty Power Of God (1) (2)
Putney Bible Ch., KY 12/31/89 #334-Be Thou My Vision
Grace Gospel Ch. 1/5/92-Men's Class
Bible Center Ch. 1/22/92-Charleston Prayer Mtg.
" " " 10/20/04
Hilltop Bapt. Ch. 12/17/06-55 + 1/1/12

"DWELLING UNDER HIS SHADOW"

Ps. 91:1-16
Ps. 34:7; 17:8
Deut 32:1-12 Resp: Read,

(1)

INTRO:

A.-Precious Verses:

1-First paid close attention to 91:1-2 when studying Divine Names

2-Became precious as insight into these Names was gained

3-Read 91:1-2 & interpret

4-Beginning of a SONG OF SAFETY for the Redeemed

B.-Precious Passage:

1-But there is more--much more--than just the introduction to the Psalm

2-DETAILS-One of the very earliest psalms

--Author was likely Moses

** Imagry in the psalm

** Speaks of deliverance in the wilderness experience

** Principle of the last mentioned author (Ps. 90--Moses) being considered the author of succeeding psalms until another author is mentioned

--Beautiful parallelism in Ps. 91

--Watch for change of persons speaking

--Read with Exodus & wilderness journey in mind

3-Things to look for: MARKS of the godly man

RESULTS of the godly man's faith

C.-Message Outline:

1-Dwelling In His Shadow----------91:1-2

2-Protected By His Wings----------91:3-4

3-Guarded By His Truth----------91:5-8

4-Strengthened By His Might------91:9-13

5-Sustained By His Salvation------91:14-16

I.-DWELLING IN HIS SHADOW------(91:1-2):

Prop: Know what it takes to live near to the heart of God

A.-Statement Of Fact (91:1):

1-"He that dwelleth"=="sits down"

--Speaks of settled, unbroken fellowship

--"ABIDING"---Jn. 15

2-"In the secret place"

--This is not geographic

--But it is a spiritual reality

--"A shelter", "A place of immunity"

--Rom. 8:38-39--"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

--The life of abiding in Christ is a SECRET in the eyes of the unsaved.

3-"Of the Most High" = El Elyon
--Possessor of heaven & earth
--"Anywhere with Jesus, I can safely go"
Gen. 14:19 (2)
4-"Shall abide"--Spiritual condition in view
5-"Under the shadow"--Wherever a shadow is, there is the One who makes the shadow.
NB
--Rock was a welcome refuge to a desert traveler
--God is more than a "Rock" in the desert in whose shadow we may be temporarily comforted & protected
--He is.....
6-"The Almighty" = El Shaddai Gen. 17:1
--The all-sufficient provider & sustainer
--S. of Sol. 2:3--"As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was to my taste."
Q → 7-Let me ask you---ARE YOU dwelling in His shadow?

B.-Personal Affirmation (91:2):
1-Notice personal pronouns--"I will say"
--"My refuge"
--"My fortress"
--"My God"
--"In Him will I trust"
--Martin Luther--"Christianity is a religion of personal relationships expressed by personal pronouns."
--Donald Gray Barnhouse--"Anyone can say 'GOD', but only a christian can say 'MY GOD'!"
2-"My refuge"--Every wild beast has a lair to which it flees in time of danger — Place of SAFETY
--God HIMSELF is our refuge
** --When men need protection, they seek it in a variety of places
--Those that know nothing of God will---
Rev. 6:15-16--"And the kings of the earth and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, FALL ON US, AND HIDE US from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb."
* --Son of God is our safe refuge from the wrath of God against SIN
BIG Q! → --How many live today without a place--or a PERSON--of refuge!
3-Can you "say" of Jehovah, the self-existent One who keeps His word, He is my refuge and my fortress: my Elohim, the strong one who never fails; in Him will I trust?!
Where could I go but to the LORD?
4-If you will call upon Him
--He'll save your soul
--He'll give you the gift of Eternal life
--He'll grant to you the privilege of DWELLING IN HIS SHADOW.

II.-PROTECTED BY HIS WINGS (91:3-4):

A.-The Problems (91:3):

1-"Snare of the fowler"--Figure of speech of the hunter of birds
--Trap to catch us ALONE - one at a time

2-"The noisome pestilence"=Epidemic pestilence
--Calamity to overtake MANY at once

3-Whether personal or public, the problems are alike to the omnipotent God

PRAISE God!

4-He is ABLE to give us....

B.-The Protection (91:4a,b):

1-Strange figure of speech for God--"His feathers...under His wings"

2-Writes in terms people will understand

3-Figure of the EAGLE:
--De. 32:9-12 (READ)
--Lends credence to Moses being the author of Ps. 91
--Visualizes God's protection
--Few would dare to approach the eagle's nest to tear the young eaglets from their mother. The ferocity & power of the eagle are well-known. Just as eaglets are secure from all harm as they snuggle under the great protecting pinions of their mother so is the one who abides in the secret place with God. In order to get at the child of God, the invader must first reckon with God Himself. !!
--Concept was reassuring to David
--Ps. 17:8 "Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings."

4-"Under His wings shalt thou trust"--"TAKE REFUGE"!!

5-Have YOU? ??

6-ILLUS--If we are sick we seek a Doctor
--If we are desperately hurt we seek a hospital
--If we are sin-sick, we must flee to the One Who is "LIFE", and "by Whose STRIPES we are healed"

7-Wonderful protection is afforded the child of God as he takes refuge "under HIS wings"

Illus: Chinese Boy

P.S.

III.-GUARDED BY HIS TRUTH (91:4c-8):

A.-The Guard (91:4c):

1-"His truth"--The Word (OBJECTIVE)
--AND our knowledge of it (SUBJECTIVE)
--Not enough to have a defense available
--That defense must be in use!

2-"Thy shield & buckler"--2 sizes of shields for defense
--"Shield"; About 3 ft. high & 2 ft. wide--Major protection
--"Buckler"; Little hand shield for use with a sword in close combat--Mobile protection

B.-The Guarantee (91:5-8):

1-Summary of the section--"Thou shalt not be afraid"
- --List of many things to fear
- --No need for any of them to cause us to fear

2-ITEMS of fear--"Terror by night"--THREAT of attack
- --"Arrow that flieth"--ACTUAL battle
- --"Pestilence that walketh"--PLAGUE
- --"Destruction that wasteth"--DESERT WIND

3-TIMES of fear--Four of them
- --Four Jewish divisions of the 24 hour day
  - Evening & midnight
  - Morning & midday
- --Most secure times; No need for fear
- --Most unwholesome times of danger; no need for fear
- --ABSOLUTELY SAFE from every danger at all times + in all circumstances. EQUALLY SAFE

4-Fearlessness comes from God
- --Answer to the frustrations, fears & "hang-ups" which plague people today
- --GO DEEP with God in His Truth !!!
- --God protected Israel
- --God will do the same for us — YES!!
- --Ps. 91:7
- --Safe under Divine protection
- --ILLUS--Passover night in Egypt — FIRSTBORN SPARED — NATION WAS BORN!

5-God is able to preserve--For time
- --Ps. 91:7
- --For eternity
- --Ps. 91:8
- --We'll "see" judgment, but only as SPECTATORS
- --Rom. 8:1
- --God keeps track of even the sparrows to care for them
- --"Ye are of more value than many sparrows." (Mt. 10:31) HALLELUJAH

6-Aren't you glad to be delivered from fear because you know you are guarded in the large & in the small problems by His truth? — AND all sizes in between!
- --Ps. 23:4a--"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:"
- --2 Tim. 1:7-8a--"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord,"

IV.-STRENGTHENED BY HIS MIGHT (91:9-13):

A.-Personal Appropriation (91:9):

1-Takes a DECISION--To be saved
- --To be in fellowship
- --No one "stumbles into" being born again
- --He must decide!
- --No one stumbles into being strengthened with God's might

2-Have you personally made these decisions!

--Born again ?

--Consciously seeking to walk with God ?

BE CLEAR ON THIS

If you haven't.....YOU AREN'T !!!

** Aren't saved

** Aren't walking in fellowship

3-"My refuge"---Salvation decision

4-"Thy habitation"----Fellowship decision

--Not just a temporary "insurance policy" against hell

--But living in vital walk w/ God

** 5-These take PERSONAL APPROPRIATION ! **

6-Have you made the decision to be "strengthened by His Might" ?? WHY NOT ?

B.-Divine Assurance (91:10-13):

1-Read 91:10-13

2-The best INSURANCE is the ASSURANCE that God is forever with us to strengthen us!

NB → 3-Passage here: Not a promise of exemption from evil

--ILLUS--Moses, Job, Paul, etc

--But in the sense of Rom. 8:28

--As we submit our wills to that which is sent by God for our good

--"Nothing can be EVIL which knits me more closely to God!"

4-Angelic ministry

--Promise to all the godly ***

--Idea of a "GUARDIAN ANGEL" is pagan in origin

--We have many angels which serve as "ministering spirits" to us

--They escort us in paths of righteousness

--Can't claim their angel-help to do anything contrary to God's ways

* 5-Quotation by Satan--He quoted part of it

--Quoted inaccurately, because he omitted "in all thy ways"

--Rebuked by Christ

--Mt. 4:7--"Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God'"

THE WHOLE WORD must be our assurance

6-ILLUS from Scr--Dan. 6:16-22

7-The enemies-91:13

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

--Lion, Adder (Asp, Egyptian Cobra), young lion & dragon (Monster, Crocadile)

--Dangerous beasts of Egypt & the wilderness may be meant---LITERAL

--Possibly emblematic of various obstacles, difficulties & dangers which threaten life

--ILLUS--Satan is called Serpent, Lion and Dragon in Scripture

--Paul spoke of battling "beasts" at Ephesus (1 Cor. 15:32)

--Paul survived the bite of a snake on Malta (Acts 28:1-6)

BODRUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

BODRUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

4-NO DANGER, spiritual or natural, shall hurt us when we are strengthened by His might !

V.-SUSTAINED BY HIS SALVATION (91:14-16)!

Engage in SELF-EVALUATION!

A.-MARKS Of The Godly Man:

1-ABIDES in God as his refuge (91:1-2)
2-SETS HIS LOVE on God------- (91:14a)
3-KNOWS GOD experientially--- (91:14d)
4-CALLS UPON God in prayer--- (91:15a)
5-How do you measure up ??
6-Are you a "Godly man" ??....a "Godly woman" ??
7-Are you "Dwelling under His Shadow?"
8-Then you are being sustained by His salvation !!

B.-RESULTS of The Godly Man's Faith:

1-God DELIVERS him--91:14b, 15d
--Said twice for emphasis
--Spiritual & physical deliverance
Guilt + Penalty of Sin
Desire for a life of sin.

2-God HONORS him--91:14c, 15e
--Also repeated twice
--Reassurance
--Sometimes this honoring is future

3-God ANSWERS him--91:15b
--Prayers are heard
--Prayers are answered
--Wonderful assurance
--Wonderful portion of the godly

4-God COMPANIES WITH him--91:15c, 16
--Details:
** "I will be with him"
Personal fellowship
Companion in times of stress
** "With long life will I satisfy him"
** That's earthly life!
** "And shew him My salvation"--
"And allow him to revel in my salvation
** That's heavenly!
--When ?? IN Trouble
OUT of Trouble
AFTER Trouble

CONCLUSION:

A.-Recapitulation:

1-Dwelling in His shadow
2-Protected by His wings
3-Guarded by His truth
4-Strengthened by His might
5-Sustained by His salvation

B.-Personalization:

1-What "fulness of joy" when we dwell under His shadow !!
2-Ps. 16:11--"Thou wilt show me the path of

life; in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore."

(7)

3-This is your deliverance from fear !

4-With this Psalm thru which to see God's provision, can't you see How to "DWELL under Hiis shadow"?

5-Read Ps. 91:1-2 with full statement of Names

6-Have you fulfilled the SINGLE CONDITION ?

--91:9--"Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation;"

--Definite appropriation is essential

--Why not now?

--Why go on in fear & trouble & doubt & turmoil ?

Why halt between two opinions?

- Personally
- At a point in time
- A conscious decision of your will
- Mt. 11:28-30

CLOSING SUMMARY

"God hath not promised skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through;
God hath not promised sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.
But God hath promised strength for the day,
Rest for the labor, light for the way,
Grace for the trials, help from above,
Unfailing sympathy, undying love."

—*Annie Johnson Flint*

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Westbrae--12/3/67--A Mighty Fortress Is Our God — 166 36
--Face To Face — 482 511
--Near To The Heart of God — 336 356

9/6/70 2/12/84 Lookout Baptist Ch. --SPECIAL MUSIC--"Under His Wings" 269

OKBC - 7/7/85
Grace Gospel Ch. (S.S.) 1/2/2000
Bible Center Ch - 11/10/04
Hilltop Bapt. Ch - 12/3/06 - SS

"A Very Present Help in Trouble"

During the Chinese-Japanese War, a Chinese village boy named Wong had been asked to deliver a load of Bibles to a town behind the Japanese lines.

He knew that the trip would be dangerous, but he believed that God would take care of him. So he started out with his load of Bibles. He stopped at noon for a hearty meal of hard bread and tea and salted turnips. But shortly afterward, a group of soldiers stopped him, seized his Bibles and took him to a village for questioning.

He was accused of being a spy and was severely beaten. Some of his Bibles were torn and burned. He recalled stories of how these soldiers had buried alive those who were accused of being spies. Though tempted to fear, he knew that God would not fail him.

A few days later he was brought before an officer for further questioning.

"No," he insisted, "I am not a spy. I am only a humble servant of Jesus and a farmer in the fields of my father. Let me show you what I mean." And before his captors could object, he began to sing.

Soldiers came closer to hear the words. What a strange Chinese boy this was! What a strange song he sang! "But what did the words of that strange song mean?" they asked with considerable suspicion.

The song he sang was taken from John 3: 16. Carefully he explained what it meant for God to love the world enough to give His Son to die. Still suspicious, the officer told a soldier, "Bring me one of his Bibles. I'll see whether he is lying or not."

Then with the open Bible on the table, the officer began to read the verse, as Wong sang. When Wong finished singing, there was silence. The soldiers waited to hear the execution order from the officer in charge.

And then the officer spoke in an unusually quiet tone. "Take him back to his room." Wong and the guard started out. "And tomorrow see that he has the rest of his Holy Books and goes on his way."

The next day Wong left his captors, a free person. His trust in God had been vindicated; and the testimony he had left with the soldiers was one which could never be erased.

Not all the time does God deliver so spectacularly, although in any trouble the Christian can experience the presence of God just as much as Wong did.

"THE PSALM OF THANKSGIVING" Ps. 100:1-5 (1)

INTRO:

A.-Lead-In:

1-The Pilgrims were so moved by the spirit of thanksgiving that in 1621, under the governorship of William Bradley, they held a three-day festival to commemorate their harvest. In 1941 the US Congress offically designated the fourth Thursday of November as a NATIONAL DAY OF THANKSGIVING

It is indeed becoming on the part of the American people to recognize this day and spontaneously join in giving thanks to God for all HIS BENEFITS.

Psalm 100 breathes the very essence of thanksgiving. It is a universal call to all creation to join in thanksgiving to God. Although the psalms freely speak of the conflicts, suffering and groanings of men and creation, all is comfortingly cushioned with a compensating volume of joyful praise and thanksgiving."

Albert Rust, "Thanksgiving", Baptist Bulletin, Pp. 8-10, Nov. 1982

B.-Lesson:

1-Praise // Thanksgiving to God is the THEME of Psalms
2-Ps. 100 is one of the all-time favorites
3-PROP: Praise is proper for the people of God

I.-SUMMONS TO GLAD WORSHIP (Ps. 100:1-3)

A.-Things To Do In Worship: (100:1-2) ADORATION

1-The ATTITUDES (A shout of homage)
(a) Joyful noise (100:1) SING!
Read
** Ps. 95:1-2
** Eph. 5:19-20--"Speaking to yourselves in psalms & hymns & spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ."
** Col. 3:16--"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching & admonishing one another in psalms & hymns & spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the LOrd."
(b) With gladness (100:2)
(c) Centered on "The LORD"
2-The ACTIONS (100:2) ACTIONS
(a) Serve the LORD
--Begins with worship
--Carries out into all of life
--"with gladness" (100:2)
--"with fear" (Ps. 2:11)
--BOTH are appropriate !!

(b) Come...with singing: ISAAC WATTS' hymn: (2)
"Let those refuse to sing
Who never knew our God;
But favorites of the heavenly king
Must speak His praise abroad."

(c) Starke: "There is nothing to be found under the sun which can make the heart more joyful than sincere religion. If God's mercy and truth are eternal, they remain still with us now, and we and all our descendants until the end of the world will have them for our consolation." (Lange, Psalms, P. 516)

3-The ADDRESSEES--"all ye lands"
--Locally in all the land==ISRAEL
--Expectantly in all lands in the world
** Gen. 12:1-3
** Isa. 2:1-3
** Rev. 7:9-11

B.-Things To Know In Worship: (100:3) AWARENESS

1-"Knowledge is the mother of devotion and of all obedience." C. H. Spurgeon, Treasury, P. 401)
2-Know the POWER of God--Elohim = The strong One Who creates
--Gen. 1:1, etc
--29 times in Genesis 1 alone
3-Know the PARTICULARS about God (100:3)
*--Creator--"it is He that hath made us, & not we ourselves"
*--Possessor because of redemption--"we are His people"
*--Shepherd of all ** "and the sheep of His pasture
** Jn. 10:16--"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one flock, and one shepherd."
4-Know the PRIVILEGE of being singled out as "His sheep"
--Israel in the past centuries
--Church in the present
*-"TWICE BORN" ones
--Ps. 23:1--"The LORD is my shepherd...!

II.-SUMMONS TO THANKSGIVING: (100:4-5)

A.-Invitation To Participate: (100:4) ATTITUDE

1-Gather or enter to serve God
** Ps. 66:13--"I will go into Thy House with burnt-offerings: I will pay thee my vows,"
2-Praise is to show our thanksgiving to God
--"with thanksgiving to God"
--"With praise"
--"Expiatory sacrifices are ended, but those of gratitude will never be out of date." (C. H. Spurgeon, P. 398)

3-H O W ??--"Be thankful unto Him"
--"Bless His Name"
4-W H E R E ??--Corporate gathering within the gates
--Tabernacle // Temple // Church
--Before GOD
--WITH God's people
--Corporate gathering
5-Matthew Henry: "We must intermix praise and thanksgiving in all our services; this golden thread must run through every duty." (Lange, Ps., P. 516)
6-Heb. 13:15--"By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His Name."

B.-Explanation Of Reasons: (100:5) ACKNOWLEDGE-MENT

1-Jehovah= The self-existing One Who reveals Himself, and always keeps His covenant
2-"Jehovah is GOOD"--CHARACTER of God 100:5
--When He gives and when He takes; When He smiles and when He chides...
--God is always good !!
--Ps. 73:1--"Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart."
--Lam. 3:25-26--"The LORD is good unto them that wait for Him, to the soul that seeketh Him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD."
--GOODNESS of the LORD is THE INEXHAUST-IBLE FOUNT !!

Lovingkindness

3-Jehovah's "MERCY is everlasting" 100:5
--CONDUCT OF GOD
==Lovingkindness in NASB
--Deals with God's steadfast love
--No merit in us
--Forever true that we will not receive judgment for sin which we fully deserve, because:
"Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow."
--Thus, God's mercy is the EVERFLOWING STREAM
4-Jehovah's "TRUTH endureth to all generations." 100:5
--CHANGELESSNESS of God
--NASB reads "faithfulness"
--Comes from the Hebrew word אָמֵן --"AMEN";
"faithful, faithfulness, fidelity."
--Used of "Truth, as opposed to falsehood; ascribed to the Word of God." (O.T. Word Studies, William Wilson, P. 456)
--The TRUTH of Jehovah is the FATHOMLESS OCEAN.

CONCLUSION:

Make a joyful noise
Serve the LORD
• w/ gladness +
• w/ singing

A.-A Question----"WHY Sing Praises To God?"

1-God's dealings with His people (100:1-3)
2-God's character revealed in His works (100:4-5)

B.-A Resume:' (Albert Rust, "Thanksgiving", Baptist Bulletin, Nov. 1982, Pp. 8-10)

Matthew Henry →

1-The SCOPE of thanksgiving (100:1) --"ALL ye lands" } ACTIONS
2-The SPIRIT of thanksgiving (100:2)--"with GLADNESS" }
3-The SPRING of thanksgiving (100:3)--"KNOW ye" AWARENESS
4-The SITE of thanksgiving (100:4)--"His gates...His courts"
5-The STIMULANTS to thanksgiving (100:5)--GOODNESS
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS-Mercy
--TRUTH

ATTITUDE
- Thanksgiving
- Praise
- Blessing

• Our Maker
• Our God
• Our Shepherd.

C.-A Personalization:

1-Thomas Ken in the Genevan Psalter, 1551 A.D.

"Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost."

(Inside front cover, Inspiring Hymns)

2-"Know ye"--What God is in Himself ??
--What is He to you ??

3-Knowledge is the mother of devotion and obedience.

4-PROP: Praise is proper for the people of God !!

11/25/87--O.K.B.C. "Praise The Savior", # 144
11/19/04-Bible Center Ch. Charleston "Come, Ye Thankful People", # 115
11/12/06-Hilltop Baptist Ch

(5)

(Treasury Of David, C.H.Spurgeon, P. 401--Quote from Matthew Henry)

"Know ye" what God is in Himself, and what he is to you. Knowledge is the mother of devotion, and of all obedience; blind sacrifices will never please a seeing God. "Know" it, i.e. consider and apply it, and then you will be more close and constant, more inward and serious, in the worship of Him. Let us know, then, these seven things concerning the Lord Jehovah, withwhom we have to do in all the acts of religious worship.

1. "That the Lord He is God," the only living and true God; that he is a being infinitely perfect, self-existent, and self-sufficient, and the fountain of all being.

2. That He is our Creator: "It is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves." We do not, we could not make ourselves; it is God's prerogative to be His own cause; our being is derived and depending.

3. That therefore He is our rightful owner. The Masorites, by altering one letter in the Hebrew, read it, "He made us, and his we are," or "to him we belong." Put the readings together, and we learn that because God "made us, and not we ourselves," therefore we are not our own but his.

4. That He is our sovereign Ruler. "We are his people," or subjects and He is our prince, our rector or governor, that gives laws to us as moral agents, and will call us to an account for what we do.

5. That He is our bountiful Benefactor; we are not only his sheep whom he is entitled to, but "the sheep of his pasture," whom he takes care of.

6. That He is a God of infinite mercy and good (verse 5); "The Lord is good," and therefore doth good; "his mercy is everlasting."

7. That He is a God of inviolable truth and faithfulness; "His truth endureth to all generations," and no word of his shall fall to the ground as antiquated or revoked."

"Thanks Be Unto God

Read Ps. 103

Eph. 5:18-21

Intro: A.-Thanks Should Be Made:

1-The Word of God abounds with exhortations to praise & thanksgiving in the O.T.

--"Give thanks unto the Lord"
--"Praise ye the Lord"
--"Sing psalms unto Him"
--"O sing unto the Lord a new song"
--"Come before His presence with thanksgiving"
--"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord"

2-New Testament too

--Ep. 5:19-20---Thanksgiving is to be made for all things; it is to be constant (always), and it is to be made to the Father in the name of His Son
--Phs. 4:6--Thanksgiving is an integral part of praying and should always accompany requests
--Col. 1:12--The basis of our ability to give thanks is our position in Christ
--Col. 3:15--a definite exhortation
--Col. 3:17--giving thanks to God & the Father by Him
--1 Thess. 5:18--Thanksgiving in all situations
--Heb. 13:15--Thanksgiving is a sacrifice of praise

Reverse the order of these - B, then A

B.-Sin Of Thanklessness:

1-The world laughs at the biblical idea of heaven. "Who would want to stand around heaven with a harp & sing hymns?" say the sophisticated----AND THEY ARE RIGHT! It would be HELL to the unsaved man with a natural heart to be in a place where the central thot is praise to Him who washed us from our sins & has loved us.

2-Because of that same bent of heart interest, it is impossible for the unsaved man to take part in real praise or thanksgiving. Such a man does not know the true God, & only those who know Him can thank Him.

"Where are the nine?"

3-Rom. 1:21—"... When they knew God they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful..."

4-Lk. 17:11-19

5-ILLUS---A number of years ago, the terrible earthquake that shook Japan was called "the greatest disaster in recorded time." The tremor took 7 million lives & shook 45,000 square miles. Death, disease, & despair reigned throughout the island empire. Then help came from America. Food, clothing, medical supplies, & volunteer workers were sent to Japan by the shipload. Ten million dollars was collected from the people of USA. for suffering Japan as America remembered their needs. The Nipponese, in gratitude, said: "WE WILL NEVER FORGET"------But Japan did forget. On Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese airplanes raiged destruction on Pearl Harbor, saying America would be brought to her knees begging for mercy.

Are You Saved?

I.-THANKS FOR PERSONS:

A.-God: The Father

1-Himself
2-His Son
3-His Spirit
4-His Salvation
5-His benefits
6-His sustenance
7-His grace
8-His longsuffereing, etc

B.-Friends: "For a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."
1-Lk. 12:15
2-Friends are jewels collected thru life
3-People with whom you have things in common — & of whom you've been thru deep water.
4-People who love you enough to help, correct, strengthen & praise you in proper season
5-People who stand always for the truth + right

C.-Co-Laborers:
1-At work
2-At church
3-In neighborhood
4-Ones with whom you can "pull in harness" — of labor of prayer

II.-THANKS FOR THINGS: — "COUNT YOUR MANY BLESSINGS"

"Man shall not live by bread alone"

A.-Word Of God:
1-Mt. 4:4
2-Word of Life
3-Word of sustenance
4-Word of comfort

Many countries where it is denied to the common people

Even if it's thanks that you don't have one that's WORSE!

B.-Church:
1-Pastor & teachers
2-Services
3-Means of Grace
4-Fellowship
5-Opportunity to serve & give

Many countries where Ch. is not free to be held according to the Word (State Churches)

C.-Home & Family TELL THEM!
1-Wife or husband
2-Kids
3-Relatives
4-Place & people of LOVE
5-"Your Castle"

D.-Blessings & Benefits
1-Circumstances--Phs. 4:11-13
--Hab. 3:16-18
--Prov. 30:8-9
2-Free Country
3-ALL THINGS
4-ILLUS--Billy Bray, when he heard someone telling a long story of troubles endured and sorrows suffered, exclaimed: "Bless the Lord, I've had my trials & troubles. The Lord has given me both vinegar and honey, but he has given me the vinegar with a TEASPOON, and the honey with a LADLE."

→ Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. For I know both how to be abased + I know how to abound; every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full + to be hungry, both to abound + to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Remember Rom. 8:28

Read — Wise plea

E.-Lack Of Thanks For PERSONS & THINGS Leads to Lack Of Thanks For OPPORTUNITIES:
1-Not seeing what we already have--grumbling & complaining
--unthankful
2-Certainly not going to see--what we might have
--what we ought to have
3-Jer. 2:31-35

Read

III.-THANKS FOR OPPORTUNITIES:

A.-Attitude:
1-Not just "more work"
2-But a BIGGER chance to serve God!

Illus - Barta Jo Stanley — They have to "ration" the work for her or she'll take too much for her own strength. Gain reward of "WELL DONE"

3-Not an occasion for sloth
4-But an occasion for diligence
5-Not an occasion for complaint
6-But an occasion for praising God for His graciousness!!!!!

B.-Open Door (1 Cor. 16:9): "For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries."
1-A great door
2-Effectual to winning souls if pursued
3-Open---no visible block to progress
4-Unto me---PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT
5-AND--added dividend
--opposition is to be expected
--Let it be from Satan & his crowd & not God's people
6-So we here in SPRING BRANCH COMMUNITY CHURCH have an "Open Door opportunity"
7-400 in Sunday School & 35 saved
8-Yet, a wide open community as yet unreached.
9-PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT???????
10-Adversary---Devil?/----to be expected
Adversity---You--------we hope not!
---Both????

Measure size by those STILL OUTSIDE the Ch. + the Faith

C.-Command Of Christ (Luke 19:13): "And He called His (10) servants + delivered them 10 pounds + said to them, OCCUPY 'TIL I COME."
1-Do we have the privilege to---"do as we please?"
--put self first?
--put family first?
--put off any service 'til manyanna?

Put business or schooling first?

2-Lk. 19:13--Responsibility delivered to all believers
--Stewardship is ours
--Accounting is coming
3-Will we be ready for the accounting??????
4-Only if we get at it & keep at it to "OCCUPY 'TIL I COME"

D.-Obedience Comes As A Result Of Meditation:
1-Too busy serving already?
2-Take time to read, study, memorize & meditate
3-Then PRACTICE ABIDING
4-John Miles, Pres. GRSBM, "A busy life has robbed us of quiet times before the Lord with His Word. One must dwell in the presence of Christ, be occupied with His glory to praise & thank Him adequately As the individual is occupied with the Word, he is impressed with his own sin & unworthiness and the grace & longsuffering of God. There will be no proper thanksgiving to God until the heart takes time to be alone with Him. On the human plane we think of the Old Testament illustration of David & Mephibosheth. David was a busy man securing his throne & fighting wars. Finally in 2 Sam. 7:1 we are told, "And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house & the Lord had given him rest round about from all his enemies..." David now had the time to think, and 2 chapters later in Ch. 9, David began to meditate about his old friend Jonathan & gratitude overwhelmed him. He said in verse 1, "Is there any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" His meditation on the goodness & love of his friend Jonathan touched David's heart & he desired to express his appreciation.....We are going to have to get back to occupation with Christ in His Word if we are to recover this lost art."

5-THEN we'll be able to DO MORE for God.....and do it all with really thankful hearts toward Him,

Concl: A.-Thanks in Everything:

1-Ps. 34:1--"I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth."

2-1 Thess. 5:17-18--"Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

3-1 Cor. 15:57-58--"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory thru our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

B.-How About You???

1-Giving Thanks??—Or engaging in the SIN of THANKLESSNESS?

2-Not only your duty,

3-But also our privilege ---- together

4-Sing---"Come ye thankful People come."

Hymns: "O That Will Be Glory" Deathrae 10/15/64
"Thanks To God"
"Come Ye Thankful People, Come"

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THANKSGIVING Ps. 107:1-32,43
92:1-2

(1)

INTRO: **A.-What About Thanksgiving?:**

1-To a limited degree the **obligation** of **thankfulness** is acknowledged as a "universal sentiment of **mankind**"

2-ILLUS--Thanksgiving day is celebrated by christians and non-christians alike
--**BUT** the unsaved think more of the **turkey** and the **football** games than they do of **thanking God**

3-One of the **root sins** of **man's apostasy** from God is recorded; "NEITHER WERE (THEY) **THANKFUL**" (**Rom. 1:21**)

4-"Unthankfulness"--"**Failure to give praise** to God"
--It is one of the characteristic predicted of the "last days" of the Church age, and we see it all around us TODAY

5-**PRAISE** will be a large part of our occupation in heaven (Rev. 5:8-14; 7:11-14), so we just as well get some experience...**NOW!!**

B.-Thanksgiving In The Bible:

1-**O.T.**--40 references in the O.T.
--**30** of these are in the Psalms, which was Israel's **PRAISE BOOK**

2-**N.T.**--45 references for both temporal & spiritual blessings

3-CLARIFICATION: "Thanksgiving is **in no way a payment** for the **benefit received**; it is rather a gracious acknowledgement of the fact that the one who received the benefit is indebted to the giver." (L.S.Chafer, "Major Bible Themes", P.253)

C.-Thanksgiving Message:

1-Many passages; especially in the Psalms
2-Impossible to cover them all & every facet
3-THIS MESSAGE----PSALM **107**:
I.-THE PRINCIPLE---------107:1-3
II.-The PROBLEMS----------107:4-31
III.-THE PROCEDURE---------107:32-43
4-Prop:--**Learn** the truth of "In **everything** give **thanks**" and
--**Apply** the lesson to OUR OWN LIFE !

I.-THE PRINCIPLE To PRACTICE: (107:1-3)

A.-His Command:

1-Ps. **107:1a**--"O give thanks unto the Lord..."
2-Thanks & praise are **interchangeable terms**
3-This is **DUE** "unto the LORD"
--Because it is a commanded **DUTY**
--Ps. **100:4**--"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving & into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name."

--Eph. 5:2-4--"And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, & hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour. But fornication, & all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks."

--Col. 3:15, 17; 4:2 / --1 Thess. 5:18--"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

--POEM: (Barbara Ryberg)

"To praise the Lord is my delight,
He's done so much for me;
His mercies, morning noon, and night,
Are ever new and free."

When faith was small and skies were dark,
And all of life seemed wrong;
He set my feet upon a rock
And filled my heart with song!

His gentleness has made me great;
'Twill be my life endeavor
To heed His call, to give my all
And praise His name forever."

4-Many forfeit peace and "rest" because of failure to obey Psalm 107:1a--"O give thanks unto the LORD..."

5-ILLUS--"Do you count sheep when you have a hard time getting to sleep at night?" asked Mrs. Bee.

"Why, no, I don't believe I ever do," replied her neighbor, Mrs. Dee.

"Well, I suppose you are one of those lucky persons who never lie awake nights," sighed Mrs. Bee.

"On the contrary," Mrs. Dee replied, "I spend quite a few hours, in the course of a week, in bed but not asleep."

"WHAT DO YOU DO TO BRING SLUMBER?"

"I count my blessings," smiled Mrs. Dee. If I begin to worry about a younger child, I remember how the older ones improved with years, and I pray earnestly for the one on my mind. I can count answers to prayer by the dozen. If I am thinking of money and it troubles me so I cannot sleep, I go back in my book of memories & find time after time when the Lord gave us relief from financial problems. Then I just relax and know that God is still able to deliver me from anything present or future. Eventually peace & calm replace anxiety, and I sink into sweet & restful sleep."

"I must try that," nodded Mrs. Bee. "I guess I've tried every method but the right one! Thanks for the reminder"

B.-His Character:

1-Ps. 107:1b-c--"unto the LORD, for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever."

2-Praise is to HIS PERSON

--Because of Who and What God really is

--Abundant in goodness & mercy (lovingkindness)

--Ps. 75:1--"Unto Thee, O God, dow we give thanks, unto Thee do we give thanks: for that Thy name is near Thy wondrous works declare." (3)
--1 Cor. 15:57--"But thanks be unto God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"
--HE works all things according to HIS own character and purpose
--Rom. 8:28 "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose"
--ILLUS--Remember that when Robinson Crusoe was wrecked on his lonely isle, he drew up in two columns what he called THE EVIL and THE GOOD. He was cast on a desolate island but still alive--not drowned, as all his ship's company were. He was divided from mankind and banished from human society, but he was not starving. He had no clothes, but he was in a hot climate where he didn't need them. He was without means of defense, but he saw no wild beasts, such as he had seen on the coast of Africa. He had no soul to speak to, but God had sent the ship near to shore so he could get out of it all things necessary for his wants.

So he concluded that there was not any condition in the world so miserable but that there was something negative or something positive TO BE THANKFUL FOR in it.

3-May God teach us to learn to see what we, also, have for which to be grateful !!

C.-His Confession:

1-Ps. 107:2-3

2-ONLY the saved can acceptably bring thanks to God; all others are "strangers" to God and His grace

--Rom. 10:10--For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

--1 Pet. 3:15 "Set apart Christ as LORD in your hearts! + be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason for the hope that is in you with meekness + fear"

--Ps. 49:3--"My mouth will speak of wisdom; & the meditation of my heart shall be understanding"

*-ONLY A SICK BIRD has no song. Only the Spiritual do

3-Let those of us who really know the Lord be sure that all who know us, also know of our praise to our God

4-God help us to be "SAY-SO" christians

5-ILLUS--I am reminded of the story of a kind uncle who had just returned from Paris, and he had brought his little neice a fine French doll. "Did you thank Uncle Fred for the beautiful present?" asked her mother, as the little girl rushed into the house all aglow with enthusiasm over the new toy.

"YES, MAMMA, BUT I DIDN'T TELL HIM SO." This is the way with much of our gratitude. If you are grateful to a friend for his kindness, TELL HIM SO! If you are thankful to God, TELL HIM SO! You'll be the much better for it!

6-Shakespear's King Lear:

"How sharper than a serpent's tooth is it
To have a thankless child."

II.-THE PROBLEMS TO FACE: (Ps. 107:4-31):

A.-Problem #1--Homelessness; The Wanderer (Ps. 107:4-9):

1-Five point cycle is evident here

0--TROUBLE ** Ps. 107:4-5
** No destination; No provision
** Wandering; LOST from God

2--CRY FOR HELP ** Ps. 107:6a--"Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble,"
** Don't TRY, but CRY to the Lord
** Rom. 10:13--"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the LORD shall be saved"

3--DIVINE DELIVERANCE
** Ps. 107:6b-7
** OUT of their distresses---Delivered !
** LED them forth----------Guidance !..
** City of habitation as destination for the former wanderer
** "By the RIGHT WAY ## Many ways available
BUT only one RIGHT way
John 14:6

4--EXHORTATION ** Ps. 107:8
** Plea for PRAISE
** Heartbreaking that thanksgiving is not universal

5--EXPLANATION
** Ps. 107:9
** "HE SATISFIETH"
** Not things, but CHRIST that satisfies

2-ILLUS--Walter Wilson used to tell the story of going into a restaurant one day, and--after bowing his head to give thanks--a waitress came over to the table and said: "Pardon me, but you must be a Christian. I have looked for 3 months for a Christian to come in here, because I would like to be saved."

Dr. Wilson said that he knew of at least 15 other Christians who frequently ate at that restaurant, but apparently not one of them had bowed his head, and said "THANK YOU LORD"

Indeed, that was not the only person watching for Christians to find help, but perhaps not receiving it as they should.

3-First problem deals with lack of spiritual roots & reality. This is only adequately met in, and fulfilled by, Jesus Christ.

B.-Problem # 2--Bondage; The Prisoners (Ps. 107:10-16):

1-Five point cycle again in this problem

2-TROUBLE--Ps. 107:10-12
--Spiritual bondage & affliction
--Because of REBELLION against God's Word and SPURNING of the truth
--Humanly speaking, "there was none to help"

3-CRY FOR HELP--Ps. 107:13a--"Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble..."
--ONLY place of help sufficient to "set the captive free"
--Cry "in their trouble" is for REAL, for

then they acknowledge their need of help

4-DIVINE DELIVERANCE--Ps. 107:13b-14
--"HE SAVED THEM"
** "out of their distresses"
** "out of darkness"
** "out of the shadow of death"
** "AND brake their bands asunder"==
=LIBERTY !!
--Remind me of Peter's words: Acts 4:12
--Illus--Lazarus set free from the tomb

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other Name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

5-EXHORTATION--Ps. 107:15
--Same as in 107:8
--Heart cry for genuine acknowledgement that Christ does set free

6-EXPLANATION--Ps. 107:16
--Freedom from bondage

C.-Problem #3—Afflictions; The Sin-Sick (Ps. 107:17-22):

1-Five point cycle once more

--TROUBLE--** Ps. 107:17-18
** FOOLS = "Men infatuated with wickedness"
** NO FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD because of transgressions and iniquities
** Death seems closing in on such ones

--CRY FOR HELP ** Ps. 107:19a--"Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble..."

NB ** Note that man not walking with God is always "in their trouble" and never victorious ABOVE their trouble.

--DIVINE DELIVERANCE ** Ps. 107:19b-20
** THE AGENT ==He sent His Word"
** The results ① "healed them"
② "delivered them"
** Tremendous POWER of the Word to deliver the sin-sick soul that is willing to cry out to God for salvation

--EXHORTATION ** Ps. 107:21
** Third time for same theme ✓ 107:8 107:15

--EXPLANATION ** Ps. 107:22
** The TRULY REDEEMED will rejoice to "say so" in thanks to God

D.-Problem # 4-Storms; Tossed By Trials (Ps. 107:23-31):

1-Cycle again this time, but now with 4 steps instead of 5

2-TROUBLE--Ps. 107:23-27
--Seaman in the storm needs God !
--Any man in the storms of life needs God also
--Not usually ready for God until...107:27

3-CRY FOR HELP--Ps. 107:28a--"Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble..."
--When "at their wits end"
** --Oh, that they'd get there sooner !!

4-DIVINE DELIVERANCE--Ps. 107:28b-30
--"He bringeth them out" of storms
--"He makes the storm a calm"

--Gladness is their experience
--"He brings to "their desired haven"
--ILLUS--MATTHEW HENRY, the famous Bible Scholar, was once accosted by thieves & robbed of his purse. He wrote these words in his diary: "Let me be thankful first because I was never robbed before; second, although they took my purse they did not take my life; third, because although they took my all, it was not much and fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed."

5-Exhortation--Ps. 107:31
--Fourth time for these identical words; quite a refrain
--Concluding words of all of man's troubles!

III.-THE PARTICULARS TO ANSWER — 107:32-43

A.-WHAT ??:

1-"Exalt Him...praise Him" (Ps. 107:32)
2-Expression of worship in confessing God's worth
3-Ps. 50:23--"Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me:..."
4-May God find us rejoicing to bring praise & worship to Him as an expression of gratitude !!

B.-WHO Can Praise ??:

1-Ps. 107:32
2-WHO are the "Let them" who are to exalt & praise the name of God ??
3-ONLY those of Ps. 107:2--"the redeemed of the LORD"
4-No others can acceptably bring praise !!
- Prov. 15:8, 29--"The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is His delight...The LORD is far from the wicked: but He heareth the prayer of the righteous"
- Heb. 13:15--"By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name."

5-ARE YOU sure you are "acceptable" to bring praise to God? You can be if you are "accepted in the Beloved"

C.-WHERE Do Believers Bring Praise??:

1-"In the congregation of the people, and...in the assembly of the elders" (Ps. 107:32)
2-Worship is primarily a CORPORATE activity
- Ps. 34:3--"O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together."
- We need to gather together with other brethren for this activity of praise
- Need a properly, Biblically organized assembly
  - ** Pastor to minister God's Word
  - ** Elders and Deacons
  - ** Discipline
  - ** Ordinances observed
  - ** Congregational involvement

PRESENT with regularity, faithfulness, + participation

D.-WHY Do Believers Bring Praise??:

1-Appreciation--WHO the Lord is--Ps. 107:1 < Good Merciful
--WHAT the Lord does--Ps. 107:6, 13, 19, 28

He DELIVERS!

2-Gratitude for salvation--Ps. 107:2

3-Wonders of God--Ps. 107:24

--ILLUS--WONDERS are found in the deeps, but CRABS are found in the shallows near the shore

--Same with people who live in the deeps of God, and in the shallows

4-Learn to distinguish God's hand at work--Ps. 107:33-43

Read this

E.-WHEN Do Believers Bring Praise?:

1-Various scriptures

--Morning and night (Ps. 92:1-2)

--Midnight (Ps. 119:62)

--When we eat (1 Tim. 4:4-5)

--When we pray (Phs. 4:6; Col. 4:2)

2-EXAMPLES--Jonah in the belly of the fish (2:9)

--Daniel in the face of a sentence of death (6:1

--Paul from Mammertine Prison's dungeon writing to the Philippians from Rome

3-Principles

--Eph. 5:20--"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus."

--1 Thess. 5:18--"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

F.-HOW Should We Bring Praise?:

1-To the FATHER (Col. 1:12)

2-In the Name of the LORD JESUS (Col. 3:17)

3-In the power of the SPIRIT (Eph. 6:18)

CONCLUSION:

A.-Poem:

What do they do
On beautiful days like this
These poor who have no God?
When autumn sets a torch to every tree
When ecstasy
Would all but burst the heart
What do they do
With no one to say "thank you" to!

B.-Recapitulation:

1-The Principle--"O give thanks unto the LORD..." 107:1

2-The Problems--Life is full of them & is designed to crowd us to Christ

3-The Procedures--Praise from believers

--Praise among believers

--Praise because of the goodness and mercy of the LORD -107:1

--at all times & under all conditions

4-SIGN in an office---"TRY THANKSGIVING"

--Have you ?

--More pleasing to God than sacrifices

--Ps. 69:30-31--"I will praise the

name of God with a song, & will magnify Him with thanks-giving. This also shall please the LORD better than an ox or bullock that hath horns and hoofs."

(8)

C.-Application:

1-ILLUS.--It is said that in Africa there is a fruit called the "TASTE BERRY", because it changes a person's taste so that everything eaten tastes sweet & pleasant. Sour fruit, even if eaten several hours after the "TASTE BERRY", becomes sweet and delicious.

GRATITUDE is the "taste berry" of Christianity, and when our hearts are filled with gratitude, nothing that God sends us seems unpleasant to us. Sorrowing heart, sweeten your grief with gratitude. Burdened soul, lighten your burden by singing God's praises. Disappointed one, dispel your loneliness by making others grateful.

Sick one, grow strong in soul, thanking God that He loves you enough to chasten you. Keep the "TASTE BERRY" of gratitude in your hearts, and it will do for you what the taste berry of Africa does for the Africans....

...and more!

2- "When thou hast truly thanked thy God
For every blessing sent
But little time will then remain
For murmur or lament."

3-Let us learn the truth of:
"In EVERYTHING give THANKS"
and APPLY that lesson to our own lives!

WESTBRAE--11/22/70--#15--"Come, Ye Thankful People"
©KBC—11/22/87 #119--"Thanks To God"
Bible Center Ch-11/17/04 #222--"O For A Thousand Tongues"
Hilltop Bapt. Ch-11/19/06-SS
Harper Heights Bapt. Ch-11/19/06-AM

THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE

Read Ps. 119:9-16, 41-48
Mt. 7:28-29; Jn. 13:13; 1 Th. 2:13

(1)

INTRO: A.-The FACT Of Inspiration:
1-1 Tim. 3:16-17
2-"Theopneustos"=="breathed out by God"
3-Verbal, Plenary Inspiration--ALL the words
--ALL the parts

B.-The NATURE Of Inspiration:
1-2 Pet. 1:20-21--"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private origination. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."
2-Duality of authorship--God spoke
--Men were the channels
--Mannerisms, customs, education, languages & times observed in & thru each writer
--YET, an authoritative message
--"Thus saith the Lord"
--ILLUS--Acts 28:25-27
3-BOETTNER--"We do not separate the divine and human elements, but insist that the two are united in perfect harmony so that every word of Scripture is at one & the same time the Word of God & also the word of man." (Studies in Theol., P. 23)
4-ILLUS--Investigation convinces us that the BIBLE, like the CHRIST which it sets forth is truly human and truly divine. As He was true man, in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin, because also divine; so the Bible is truly a human book, written by men like ourselves, yet without error, because also divine."

C.-The WORDS Of Inspiration:
1-1 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 spirit
2-ILLUS--It is not enough to say that Scripture is generally inspired. A man purchased a large bill of goods in a New York wholesale merchandise mart, giving his note in promise of payment, and a well known firm in Chicago as a reference. A telegram was sent to the Chicago firm & the answer received was "NOTE GOOD FOR ANY AMOUNT". The goods were delivered, but never paid for.
Upon inquiry it was found out that the telegram ought to have read, "NOT GOOD FOR ANY AMOUNT", but through someone's carelessness the word "not" had been changed to "note". That one letter made a mighty big difference to the New York wholesaler.
Let us remember well that every letter which the Holy Spirit has caused to inscripturated is worthy of respectful and obedient notice.
3-Proper view of the WORDS of the Bible
--Rom. 1:2--"Which He had promised afore by His prophets in the holy scriptures,"
--Rom. 3:2--"...unto them were committed the oracles of God."

4-Historically, Christianity has joyfully affirmed that God has spoken in times past, & that His word was deposited in the Scriptures thru the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

5-In the words of the 39 Articles of the Church Of England, "Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary to salvation: so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of the Faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation."

6-Thus, as LORAINE BOETTNER wrote: "The answer that we give to the question "WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY"? depends largely upon the view we take of Scripture. We can hardly overemphasize the importance of a correct doctrine of the Bible." (quoted in HIS, Feb. '62, P. 34)

(2)

I.-POSSIBLE SOURCES OF AUTHORITY:

A.-Church Tradition:

1-Position of Romanism

2-First there are those who believe that an infallible church constitutes the final seat of authority. The profess to believe the Bible and the great doctrines of the Bible, but they nullify their professed faith in the Bible by substituting their own traditions for what the Word of God teaches. They declare that infallible authority resides in the Church of Rome, rather than in the infallible Word of God. (Dr. James Crichton)

3-Surely, part of the appeal of the Church of Rome is that she does, at least, claim to speak with authority; and this attracts not only the simple & ignorant, but also intelligent & educated people who are wearied with vagueness, uncertainty, & endless debate.

4-YET, not even the RC Ch. claimed AUTHORITY for Tradition until the Council of Trent in 1563 as a reaction to the Protestant Reformation. Then they made tradition on a par with scripture and now it actually superceeds the Scripture

5-BIBLICAL VERDICT--Matt. 15:1-6

6-Yet, when Dr. Henry P. Van Dusen, President Emeritus of the liberal Union Theological Seminary of New York City was in Berkeley in 1964 he said:

> "In a day when disinterest in distinctively Protestant convictions & uncertainty in basic Christian faith are more widespread than is generally recognized, & when many hanker for authoritative teaching & beautiful liturgy, one may anticipate some migrations to Roman Catholicism."

7-"For Shame".....even from a liberal protestant!

Illus 8-These purveyers of CHURCH TRADITION remind us of the executioner of Charles I of England, who, when the deposed King was brought to him to be executed, bowed & scraped & paid homage to the deposed monarch.....and then proceeded to chop off his head.

ROME nullifies its professed faith in the Bible by substituting its claims & teachings for the authority of the Word of God.

B.-Reason:

1-Unitarians, Liberals "Neos"--Make a heterogeneous group

NB 2-The liberal is essentially a rationalist. He makes the human mind or reason, the final source of authority rather than the Bible. The religious liberal is the modern successor of the Frenchman, Jean Astruc, who is recognized as the founder of the modern destructive criticism of the Bible, erroneously called "Higher Criticism"

A man of very bad character, Astruc was born in 1684 & died in Paris in 1766. He published in 1753 at the age of 69 a book entitled, "CONJECTURES CONCERNING THE ORIGINAL MEMORANDA WHICH IT APPEARS MOSES USED TO COMPOSE THE BOOK OF GENESIS WITH REMARKS WHICH SUPPORT OR THROW LIGHT ON THOS CONJECTURES."

3

3-Destructive Criticism & Roman Corruption

--Produced Atheists & skeptics in France & elsewhere
--Voltaire, Robespierre, Rousseau, etc. — France
--Graf, Wellhausen, Eichhorn, F.C. Bauer — Germany
--Social theories (Marx & Engels
--Philosophies of Nietsche & Hegel
--Thomas Paine's "AGE OF REASON" — U.S.A.
--Unitarianism
--Modernism / Liberalism / Neo Orthodoxy

4-Their watchcry----"We need a Second Reformation. The first liberated us from an infallible church. The second must emancipate us from an infallible Book."

5-ILLUS--An outstanding case in point of what "REASON" produces can be found in the writings of the late Bishop Barnes, who discards whole passages of Scripture, not on any documentary evidence, but purely because the "MODERN CHRISTIAN HUMANIST" (by which he means himself) cannot accept them.

*--In the final analysis, the test here is purely SUBJECTIVE !

C.-Experience:

+ Charismatics

1-Pentecostals, Quakers with their "inner light" & Soren Kierkegaard
2-SUBJECTIVISM
3-No consistency among adherents
4-Has a "Show" of reality, but apart from a settled & sure & consistent authority
5-They interpret the Bible in terms of their experience, rather than evaluating their experiences in the light of the Bible
6-RESULT--Confusion of mind
--Error of doctrine
--"Wildfire" in practice
7-Remember....The Spirit of God never leads a believer in his experience contrary to the very Word of God which that same Holy Spirit has inspired. AMEN

D.-Additional Revelations:

1-Mormons, Christian Science, Jehovah's Witnesses & other cults
2-Claim their "additions" to the Bible are necessary
3-What Saith God?--Heb. 1:1-2--"God, who at sundry times & in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son..."

***"hath spoken"
***indication of finality
*** NO MORE to be said until Jesus returns in glory
--Gal. 1:6-9 (READ) ——therefore no more additions needed. (4)
***"another" gospel is a "different" gospel
***a different gospel is a FALSE good news
***Result is ACCURSEDNESS

E.-Bible:
1-Only infallible rule of faith & practice
2-Historic & orthodox view of Christian authority
3-Fundamental of fundamentals to fundamentalists of all ages
4-There are today some very sincere men, honest in their convictions & warm in their love for the Lord Jesus Christ who would make the deity of Christ the cardinal issue today. Unfortunately, they are quite illogical in their position & possibly do not realize where their position will eventually lead them.

After all, what do we know of Jesus Christ? What are our sources of information regarding Him? Where do we get our knowledge of Him Apart from the Bible about all we could know of Him is that He lived in Palestine & was eventually crucified by the Romans. History informs us that He was put to death as any criminal might have been executed.

What we do know about Jesus Christ we have received from the Bible, the Word of God, either directly or indirectly. Any experience that is not based upon the Biblical truth concerning Him is false. The true Christian is born again of the Word of God (1 Peter 1:23; James 1:18; Rom. 10:17) and he is nurtured by the Word of God (1 Pet. 2:2; Acts 20:32)

F.-Which Source Of Authority??????---Must have ONE !
---WHICH one??????
1-J. I. Packer--"The christian's most pressing need is to have a reliable principle by which he may test the conflicting voices that claim to speak for Christianity & so make out amid their discordant clamour what he ought to believe & do."
2-We believe the authority above all others is THE BIBLE, the very WORD OF GOD.
3-ILLUS---Not too long ago at a large dinner given in New York, Mrs. Margaret Bottome, for a long time head of the King's Daughters Circle, sat beside a German Professor of Science. In the course of the conversation Mrs. Bottome said, quite naturally for her; "THE BIBLE SAYS...so and so....
"The Bible?", questioned the professor. "You don't believe the Bible?" ....."Yes, indeed I believe it," was the quick reply.
"Why I didn't suppose that any intelligent person today believed the Bible," commented the professor
"Oh, yes," Mrs. Bottome assuredly said, "I BELIEVE IT ALL. YOU SEE, I KNOW THE AUTHOR."
4-The authority depends upon the PERSON OF THE AUTHOR
--big or small
--but not upon the reader, does this authority depend
--The reader is not in the position of authority.

II.-POSITIVE PROOFS OF THE BIBLE'S AUTHORITY:

A.-The Bible Was Pre-Authenticated:

1-In Jn. 16:12 the Lord Jesus said that He would leave the revelation of truth unfinished.
--"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now."

2-In Jn. 16:13 He promised that the revelation would be completed after His departure
--16:13--"Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth:"
--by the Spirit
--15:26--"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the father, even the Spirit of truth which proceedeth from the father, He shall testify of me:"
--thru chosen vessels
--Jn. 14:25-26 ("He shall teach you")
--DUAL authorship
--Thus, He gave the disciples' inscripturated words the same authority as His own

3-J.N.D.Anderson--"Again, it is true, of course, that the church RECOGNIZED the authority of the Book; but it did not GIVE it its authority. When someone finds a tablet or a tome it is most helpful that an eminent archaeologist should give his opinion that it is authentic & really old; but he does not make it authentic. He merely recognizes a validity and antiquity that is already there. So, too, with the church and the Canon of Scripture."

4-To put it another way....Robert Dick Wilson wrote: "You can trust your Bible either in the A.V. or the A.R.V. to be substantially the Very Word of God"

B.-The Concensus Of The Recipients Of The Bible:

1-O.T.--fully accepted by Jewish contemporaries of writers
--fully collected by the time of Christ, and before
--received "EN-TOTO" by Christ, Apostles & Early church
--Never questioned until German destructive criticism
--Recently re-authenticated by the DEAD SEA SCROLLS

2-Apocrypha--Not recognized on the same level w/ OT by Jews
--Not recognized on the same level w/ OT by Christ or the Apostles
--Not recognized on the same level by the early church
*--ONLY accepted by the R.C. Ch. at Council of Trent in 1563 to bolser false doctrines not found in the Scriptures.

3-N.T.--Accepted book by book as received
--Avidly collected by churches---as copied by hand
--Earnestly sought by individuals
--BASIS of N. T. belief, action, hope & discipline
--Sought to be stamped out by Emperor Diocletian in 303
--Quoted profusely by early christian writers---"Indeed, Lord Hailes of Scotland, having searched the writings of the Christian Fathers to the end of the 3rd century, actually found the WHOLE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, with the exception of less than a dozen verses, scattered through their writings which are still extant." H.L.Hastings

C.-The Bible Is The Instrument Of The Spirit:

1-Originator--Jn. 14:25-26; 15:26; 16:13-15; 2 Pet. 1:20-21 (6)
--Having GIVEN the Scriptures
--Now He USES them

2-Sword--Eph. 6:17--"And take the helmet of salvation, & the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God"
--Heb.4:12--"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword..."
--1 Tim. 4:1--"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly,"

3-God's Method--1 Thess 1:3-5 (READ)
--Spirit of God
Using the Word of God
Thru a man of God
About the Son of God
--Unsaved only get saved on a BIBLICAL MESSAGE
--Reason those getting tradition, reason, experience, and "additional revelations" aren't saved.

4-ILLUS--When Ralph Norton of the Belgian Gospel Mission was talking on soul-winning someone noticed the almost exclusive place he gave to the Bible in personal work. Someone asked, "What do you do, Mr. Norton, in cases where the unsaved man does not accept the Bible as having any authority?"

"Well, if I had a fine Damascus steel sword with a keen double edged blade, I would not sheath it in a fight just because the other man did not believe it would cut."

5-J.I. PACKER--"If you would honor Christ and His Father, therefore bow before Holy Scripture. Here the Father through the Spirit bears witness to His Son. To do this is not superstitious bibliolatry. It is pure and true religion. It is Christianity."

D.-The Accuracy Of The Bible:

1-Hundreds of examples possible
2-Time prohibits
3-Two examples only
4-Mark 12:24-27--"I AM", not "I WAS"
--God of LIVING, not of the DEAD
--These must be still alive after physical death is come upon them
--Case of Jesus before Sadducees is built on the PRESENT TENSE of a verb
--Therefore, the point of the total accuracy of the Scripture is strongly demonstrated

5-Gal. 3:13-16--Promise to Abraham
--Abraham expected a fulfillment
--Means or agency of promise's fulfillment is in X
--Christ is of "seed of Abraham" according to the flesh
--Not seed as MANY---Israel
--Apart from Christ there is no fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham
--Case built on a SINGULAR NOUN rather than a plural noun
--Again emphasizing the specific accuracy of Scripture

E.-The Witness Of Christ:

1-Testified to the Scripture as a whole

--Mt. 5:17-18--"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, til all be fulfilled."

--Jn. 10:35--"...the scripture cannot be broken"

--Lk. 24:25-27--"Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, & to enter into His glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself."

2-Testified to the Scripture in its parts

--Of Deuteronomy in Mt. 4:1-11 & Lk. 4:1-11
--Of Isaiah in Luke 4:16-19 in the Synagogue of Nazareth
--Of Daniel in Matt. 25:15 of Olivet Discourse
--Of Creation account in Mt. 19:4-5
--Of Flood account in Lk. 17:26-27
--Of Sodom's destruction in Lk. 17:28-29
--Of Lot's wife's fate in Lk. 17:32
--Of Jonah's historicity in Mt. 12:40
--Of Elijah's ministry in Lk. 4:25-26
--Of Naaman's cure from leprosy in Lk. 4:27

3-There are 3 categories in which you can place Jesus Christ:

(1)--A self-deceived Jew, who thought that He was the Son of God

(2)--A fantastically able deceiver, who was able to delude some naive men.

BOTH of these positions, of course, involve insuperable difficulties. Actually, both of these involve the rejection of both Jesus Christ as Savior, and the Bible as the revelation of God to man.

(3)--The Son of God, the Lord of Glory. Christ the Son of God, the Incarnate Word, and the Written Word of God are inseparable.

4-Therefore, the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ regarding the Bible is unimpeachable, and His witness is true.

F.-Modern Witnesses To The Authority Of Scripture:

1-Well-known are the brave words of Martin Luther at the Diet of Worms when he was called upon by the Roman Catholic Bishop to recant his views--"Unless I am convinced by testimony from Scripture or evidence from reason--for I believe neither the Pope nor the Councils alone, since it is established that they have often erred and contradicted themselves--I am conquered by the writings cited by me, and my conscience is captive to the Word of God; recant I will not, since it is neither safe nor honest to do ought against conscience." (M. Reu, Luther & The Scriptures, 1944, P. 16)

2-B.B. Warfield, speaking of the inspiration and authority of the Bible said: "Here is no slender proof resting on a favorite text. The inspiration (and authority) of the Bible is a doctrine flowing like a mighty stream through the entire bed of special revelation. To attempt to avoid this truth by denying 1 or 2 texts here & there is like try-

ing to stop an avalanche one stone at a time." (Quoted in HIS, Feb. 1962, P. 37)

3-F.F. BRUCE, Rylands Professor of Biblical Criticism & Exegesis at the U. Of Manchester, England, remarked: "The New Testament books did not become authoritative for the Church because they were formally included in a canonical list; on the contrary, the Church included them in her canon because she already regarded them as divinely inspired, recognizing their innate worth and general apostolic authority."

4-Men have laid down their lives to preserve this Book, & millions have been transformed through reading its pages. Christians have found comfort in life, & at the hour of death by leaning on the Rock, "IT IS WRITTEN"

(8)

CONCLUSION:

A.-Authoritative Standard:

1-Many proofs for an authoritative Bible
- --Pre-authenticated by Christ
- --Concensus of recipients
- --Instrument used by the Holy Spirit
- --Accuracy in every detail
- --Attested by Christ
- --Modern witnesses agree

2-NO PROOFS for--An Authoritative Church
- --An Authoritative Tradition of men
- --Reason as a seat of final authority
- --Human Experience
- --Additional revelations

3-Since our eternal destiny hinges upon a valid authority, God would have to raise up Apostles in every generation to tell us the meaning of the Cross.....

....OR ELSE

accurately record that truth in permanent form for later men. He has plainly chosen this latter course.

B.-Demanding Doctrine:

1-The conclusion is simple
- --If Jesus Christ is your Savior, His wish is your command
- --If you love Christianity as a faith of divinely revealed truth
- --THEN I rest my case.

2-The Bible will be for you a divinely inspired rule for faith to which you will look daily for food and strength

3-This is not intellectual theory to play with:
- --It is a demanding doctrine.
- --Demanding that we give the Bible
  - ** the REVERENCE
  - ** the MEDITATION
  - ** and the PRAYER that its divine nature DESERVES

5/2/65-Weathrae — HYMNS: May Jesus Christ Be Praised
O For A Thousand Tongues
Holy Bible, Book Divine

A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Ps. 119:97-100

INTRO: In 1754, Columbia Univ. (then Kings College) published the following advertisement in New York Newspapers: "The chief thing that is aimed at in this college, is, to teach...children to know God in Jesus Christ and to love and serve Him in all Sobriety, Godliness, and Richness of Life..."

How times.....and schools....have changed!

I.-WHITHER EDUCATION?:

Never in the 3 centuries of the American college has there been more doubt about the purpose and content of higher education than there is today. Dr. Scott Buchanan in his book, GOALS FOR AMERICAN EDUCATION, declares, "We do not know what we ought to learn in education. We have not been able to discern the pattern in our knowledges which would make them one knowledge." This cry of despair rises from the same rank of educators who years ago repudiated the Christian view of education.

Even today, the tympany of these secularists against Christian education continues unabated. They inveigh against the Christian view as being both impractical and impossible in our democracy although they themselves have nothing better to offer in its place.

These same secularists have virtually succeeded in banishing from public education every remnant of Christianity which gave birth to the American system of education. Now, since Christian truth is found to be "impractical" and "illegal" in publically-supported schools, it should be clear to Bible-believing Christians that the integrity of the independent evangelical colleges must be preserved at alll costs.

The secularists continue their vain search for a unifying framework for public education under the goading of the public hue and cry to "stay ahead" of the Communists economically & technologically. Meanwhile we continue to breed & educate a generation of human beings which is basically unconcerned with moral, ethical, and spiritual values which determine the destiny of any nation of people.

In this moral melee the Bible college stands and presents a program of education which has a unifying philosophy. This philosophy is derived from and based upon the truth of the Bible. In summarizing the answer to the question of what is the basis of Christian Education, Dr. Frank E. Baebelein in his book, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN A DEMOCRACY, declares, "....it is the Bible with its life-giving revelation of Jesus Christ. But let us not

be deceived by this seeming simplicity. To comprehend the message of the Bible is to think the thoughts of God; to experience Jesus Christ is to experience eternal reality. And to do these things, even within the bounds of finite intelligence, is to have found the integrating factor not just of an educational philosophy, but of the whole of life itself." Only youth firmly grounded on the Rock of Ages has the foundation for the fullest and most creative study of the problems of our times.

While definitely concerned with life here and now, Bible College education looks beyond its secular materialistic environment to definite ultimate goals---the knowledge of God, redemption through Christ and the present possession of eternal life.

How long can a democracy endure whose citizens are nurtured by a "DEWEY-EYED" system of education which is secularized & which largely denies the existence of ultimate goals? History clearly testifies to the certainty of the Bible's declarations:

--Ps. 33:12--"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord"

--Ps. 9:17 ASV--"The wicked shall be turned back into Sheol, even all the nations that forget God."

The educational leaders of our nation would do well to heed the warning of the Bible,

--Ps. 50:22--"Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces and there be none to deliver."

And if the educators will not consider these warnings.....
.....Then, you and I must consider them the more!

II.-TRUE EDUCATION:

True education is more than grocery lists of facts, dates & formulas which are memorized in order to pass at exam time. True education teaches where to find facts, how to evaluate facts, & how to integrate knowledge into life as a whole. True education is a harmony, not a discord between its various parts. True education blends a healthy simultaneous development of the physical, the mental, the moral and the spiritual. True education teaches us to KNOW, to THINK, to CARE, to BE--------and then, to DO!

True education prepares the student to expect and experience the joy of service to God and man in this world and life, and true education assures the higher joy of wider service in the world to come in the personal presence of one's own Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In today's difficult world this true education is a LIFE-LONG task. It cannot be delayed until school age for our children. It cannot be left in the school-teacher's hands alone. It cannot logically be hoped that sending our youth off to college----to any college-----is a panacea for all hitherto unsolved problems. And neither can it be assumed that when schooling in the formal, classroom sense has ended, that education has likewise ended.

God has made us to be growing, maturing, stretching creatures, or we shrivel and die in our minds. Though our bodies may remain, either we enlarge our usefulness or we decay before our time. God wants-----yeah, God has a right to expect---our best. Our best as parents. Our best as children. Our best as young people. Our best as collegians. Our best as adults. Our best as HIS SERVANTS.!.!.!

What is the integrating core of such growing and useful, & self-satisfying life? What has the dynamic that is capable of transforming our humdrum existence into that "above and beyond" joy of life on the highest plane? It is, I believe, the knowledge of God as revealed in THE WORD OF GOD. True life and true education are the integrating of life & education in proper relationship to God's infallible revelation.

God's Word declared: "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, & a light unto my path"(Ps. 119:105). "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding to the simple." (Ps.119:30). The application of Bible principles-----and the application of ourselves to those principles----brings true education in depth!

III._LET'S LOOK AT PS. 119:97-100:

A.-119:97----Introduction to 3 Amazing Conclusions:

B.-119:98----First Conclusion:

1-WORD makes one wiser than his enemies (those who don't know Jehovah or worship Him)
2-Not to fight them, bot to love them, pray for them, & have a virile witness to them
3-Regardless of education we are wiser than the unsaved
4-When they teach us, compare their teachings with God's Word
5-1 Thess. 5:21
6-Remember--------Ps. 14:1
7-The enemies & the Word are "ever with me" (98b)

C.-119:99----Second Conclusion:

1-WORD gives me more understanding--or insight-- than all my teachers who get their understanding apart from the Word of God
2-James 3:15-18
3-How do I get this "more understanding"?.....
.....by MEDITATION !
4-Ps. 1:1-2 leads to 1:3
5-Mind of the unsaved is INSANE in the realm of the gospel or any truth with spiritual implications
6-Because "blinded" (2 Cor. 4:3-4) he is "non-compus-mentus"
7-2 Pet. 2:12--"But these, as natural brute beasts made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things which they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption."

8-Thus, in the realm of Christianity, the babe in Christ is the expert over the unsaved.

9-A SAINT on his knees is taller than a philosopher or a natural scientist on TIP-TOES.

10-The Magi were scholars, scientists, & among the highest intellects of that day. Since then mighty minds have shown similar reverence for our Lord and His Word. ~~Today~~ Today some scientists are atheists, pantheists, & skeptics, who openly attack God, Christ, and His saving Word. We are told by these that no modern mind can believe the Bible, but too often these objections are voiced by men who do not know God & His Word. As you daily meet opposition to your faith in school classrooms and on your job, don't surrender your faith. Teachers far greater than your instructors have had the mind of the Magi.....and so may you!

D.-119:100----Third Conclusion:

1-These words are obediently kept after meditating upon them

2-Sink into the consciousness, & we see the reasons & the reasonableness of Christian truth & the Christian life

3-Jn. 7:17

4-"Old folks" know because of years of experience

5-BETTER to learn by precept than by experience, for experience can be a bitter and a vicious teacher

6-Believer can---thru the Word---have more understanding than those who learn only by experience or non-Biblical sources

7-God's requirement in OBEDIENCE

8-Jas. 4:17

9-ILLUS---D. L. Moody heard "The world has yet to see what God can do with a man wholly yielded to Him." - Moody's heart reply was: "By God's grace, I'll be that man!"

CONCLUSION:

A.-Orient our education toward & into the BIBLE

B.-Let it be our study & meditation

C. Let it be our wisdom & understanding

D.-Let it be our final authority in faith & practice

E.-Yield God----thru His Word---our full obedience!

Westbrae 1/15/64 - Prayer Mtg.

"Revival...then what?" Ps. 126.

Intro.--A.-During the revival which some years ago swept thru the land of Wales and whose power that principality feels to this day, a man of God went down from London to take part in some of its services. He got out at a country station & asked the policeman standing in the village square, "Where is the Welsh revival?" The man in blue drew himself up to his full height, patted his chest, and said, "The Welsh revival, sir, is under these buttons."

B.-Is that true of you????

C.-Pre-requisites:

1-Spiritual life--by faith in Christ

2-Real concern to please the Lord. Eph. 4:1-3

D.-Special meetings last week, but how about now?????

I.-REVIVAL MEANS INCREASED LOVE FOR CHRIST

A.-Reversal of the Apostasy of Rev. 2:4

B.-Backslidden Christian:

1-to the extent we love Christ less now than any other time

2-if not growing in love for Him

3-if not growing in dependence upon Him

C.-Christ becomes the center of our attention.

ILLUS--One can not agree with Garibaldi's judgment in all things, but his enthusiasm had to be admired. I can never read his name in a book, but what I am fired to read all about him. There was something about him that fires me up. I remember reading of the time when he was on the way to Rome in 1867, & when he was cast into prison. I read the letter he sent to his comrades: "If 50 Garibaldis are thrown in prison, let Rome be free." He did not care for his own comfort, so long as the cause of freedom in Italy was advanced. If we had such a love for our Master & His cause, depend upon it, others would love our Lord too.

II.-REVIVAL MEANS INCREASED LOVE FOR THE WORD OF GOD 3000-567 (4)

A.-Should become the subject of our meditation day & night.

1-Regular partaking 2-Regular digestion

Ps. 119:165

B.-Peace of soul comes from the Word.

1-Salvation is by FAITH

2-Assurance is by the WORD

3-No disturbance of peace when we KNOW & DO according to the Word of God.

4-Realize the message of the Bible is the only one which can change the heart of man.

III.-REVIVAL MEANS INCREASED LOVE FOR THE BRETHREN

A.-The stirring of affection for Christ & the Word must have expression in the life.

B.-Badge of the Christian is LOVE TO THE BRETHREN.

1-Standard is "as I have loved you"--Jn. 15:12

2-Proof of Christianity is seen here--Jn. 13:34-35. ILLUS You may have heard of the boy whose home was in a wood. One day he thought he heard the voice of another boy not far off. He shouted, "Hallo, there!" and the voice shouted it back. Not knowing it was an echo of his own voice, he shouted again, "You are a mean boy." Again the cry came back, "You are a mean boy." After some more of the same thing he went into the house & told his mother there was a bad boy in the wood. His mother, who understood how it was, said to him, "Oh, no! You speak kindly to him, & see if he does not speak kindly to you."

He went to the wood again & shouted; "Hallow there!" "You are a good boy." Of course that was the reply that came back. Then he said, "I Love you", & so was the answer. This little story explains the secret of the whole thing. Some of you perhaps think you have bad & disagreeable brethren; most likely the trouble is with yourself. Love them & you'll find that love returned.

3-Love's actions---1 Cor. 13:4-7--ILLUS--Show me a church where there is love, & I will show you a church that is a power in the community. In Chicago a few years ago a little boy attended a S.S. I know of. When his parents moved to another part of the city, the little fellow still attended the same S. S., though it meant a long, tiresome walk each way. A friend asked him why he went so far, & told him that there were plenty of others just as good nearer his home. "They may be good for others, but not for me," was his reply. "Why not asked the friend?" "Because they love a fellow over there," he replied If only we show the world & the brethren that we love them, it will be so much easier to evangelize.

C.-The more we see of what Christ has done for us, the more we should love those for whom Christ died.

IV.-REVIVAL MEANS INCREASED LOVE FOR THE CHURCH.

A.-Universal church--all of the body of believers.

B.-As expressed in the local body too

C.-What measure?

1-Christ spent even His life for the church--Ep. 5:25

2-Church is the only channel God ever ordained to reach the lost and build up the saints.

3-Can we as Christians do less than fully support the church????

4-Channel of our being blessed; so also of our blessing others.

"I love thy kingdom Lord, the house of Thine Abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved, with His own
precious blood."

Isa. 62:6

V.-REVIVAL MEANS INCREASED LOVE FOR THE SOULS OF LOST MEN & WOMEN

A.-Special Revival emphasis reminds us of the fact that souls without Christ are LOST for eternity. ILLUS--In a town in Switzerland a few years ago, some workingmen going early to work, waling along saw a white figure on the top of a high house. What was it. A lady in her night dress; and she was sitting looking down, quite happy, smiling in perfect security. She was a somnambulist. She had risen in her sleep without anyone in the house knowing it, and had taken her station and was pleasantly looking about, and no doubt dreaming--dreamin pleasant dreams. The didn't know what they could do to save her from peril. Just as they were talking together, the sun rose. A bright beam fell upon her eyes. She waked & saw where she was; gazed one moment around, and then fell headlong---killed on the spot. It was an awful awakening. Fellow-Christian, such a picture should stir us to reach the Lost before they are LOST for eternity. Fellow-sinner, let this illustration stir your heart to find the Savior before you plunge over the precipice of hell into an eternity without the God who made you, loves you, & gave His Soneto redeem you.

B.-Revival gives an especial opportunity & encouragement to witness

C.-Thrill of souls saved makes us "THIRSTY" for more.

D.-Ps. 126:4-6---System of Soulwinning.

1-Method--Compassionate--Mt. 9:36; 23:37

2-Material--Sowing the Word--Biblical Message--1 Pet. 1:23 2 Tim. 4:1-2

3-Results--Rejoicing over fruit--God will bless His Holy Word.

CONCL:**A.-Is this kind of Revival "under your buttons"??

B.-If not, lets examine ourselves & get it right with the Lord.

C.-Let's keep this revival REVIVED IN US.

The Home With God's Blessing

Ps. 127–128

Port-of Spain, Trinidad – 10/26/75
Calvary–Columbus, OH –12/7/75
Westborne –12/14/75
Waketo City, N.Z. 2/ 196
Liberty Gardens Bapt. Ch., Salem, OR. 3/24/96
Church of the Open Bible, Ascutney, VT–4/21/96
VBB College – Melbourne, Australia –7/15/97
Emmanuel Bapt Ch. + AFBBC – 7/22/97
Beaulah Bapt. Ch, Summerville, 6/6/04
Bible Center Church–9/29/04
Hilltop Bapt Ch.–12/10/06–SS
Bible Center – 1/12/11

"HOW SHALL WE SING?" Psalm 137
Read Ps. 137 & 138
Ps. 40:1-4a

INTRO: **A.-Songs Of The Redeemed:**

1-"Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God"
2-The **Church** sings
--"When we all get to heaven
What a day of rejoicing that will be
When we all get to heaven
We'll sing and shout the victory"
--Rev. 5:9--"And they sung a new song, saying, 'Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue and people, and nations"
3-The **Jews** sang
--Song of Moses
--Song of Deborah
--Songs of Jerusalem
--Songs in good circumstances
4-But **a song is NEEDED NOW!!!**

I.-HISTORICAL TREATMENT (Ps. 137):

A.-The Captives: —137:1-3

1-By the rivers of Babylon
--Chebar (Ezek 1:3)
--Ulai (Dan. 8:2)
--Places of tears
2-**Sat down**--**Dejected** & **EXILED** from home
3-We **wept**--Disconsolate & **without joy**
4-Remembered ZION.....from afar
5-**No music**; only **sorrow** & **mourning**
6-Captors require a song
--Expected it
--knew the sweetness of Hebrew melodies & Psalms
--ILLUS--Reality of faith when you hear some singers
--**To wean from Zion to happiness in captivity** in Babylon
--**IMPOSSIBLE** to "wean" from Zion
7-Jews view **compliance** as **impossible**
8-**Plaintive opening** of **Ps. 137**--Vss 1-4
9-**Vindictive ending** of **Ps. 137**--Vss 7-9

OPAL JOHNSON

B.-Their Complaint: —137:4

1-**"How shall we sing?"**
--In a **strange land**
--Aliens & strangers there
--Tennyson--IN MEMORIAM
"Like strangers' voices here they sound
In lands where not a memory strays,
Nor landmark breathes of other days,
But all is new, unhallowed ground."
--Out of fellowship with God
--**NO JOY** to serve as a "fountain for song"
--Eyes on the problem; not on GOD!

They were UNDER the circumstances, NOT ABOVE them.

2-Hand-Lose its cunning ——Ps. 137:5
**at harp playing
**at daily tasks
**at crafts & skills
usalem Forgotten
ilent from Prayer —Ps. 137:6
from Praise
from any speech
erusalem be not my chief joy
of all joys is to be properly related to
God of the universe who created you
REAL WORLD of the PAST, so these Hebrews

cribed them in their attitude as:
KEN in prosperity
BERED in adversity

—Ps. 137:7
RD" ---Vengeance is HIS
hers"
ethren will be judged
10-12
et his"
ial power will fall
have sown
xpected downfall of these enemies
itude in the dispensation of Law, but not
s dispensation of Grace
s to see men as they are without tak-
s of feeling and conduct as our own
hat puts these words in the mouth of the

f Providence may be SLOW, but they are

Remember, these people were in captivity because they had left the worship of the Lord and had worshipped the idols of the heathen around them, making them their gods. They weren't singing the Lord's song when they were worshipping in heathen temples! These heathen songs undoubtedly spoke of the things that their gods stood for: worship of the sun, moon and stars, illicit sex, drunkenness, adultery and witchcraft. A nation's songs reveal the spiritual condition of that nation. This is true in our nation today. A nation's music will help it to revival or ruin, sensuousness or saintliness, Godliness of godlessness, blessing or curse. It has been said that those who write the songs can chart the course of a nation.

These Jews had probably been practicing and participating in the music of their culture. Now they are in a strange land and are required to sing one of the Lord's songs. Had it been their regular diet before they left their own country, it might have been "second nature" to sing the Lord's songs now.

What would you and I do if we found ourselves in a similar situation as these people found themselves? What kind of songs would we be able to produce under such pressure? Would we be able to sing, "to God be the glory, great things He hath done" or would the words fail us because the truth of it had never gotten into our hearts?

II.-PRESENT APPLICATION:

A.-The Problem:

1-Homesick today--for the world?
--for heaven?
--ILLUS--Mr. Wright in Houston who was disappointed that he recovered from surgery, because he was "homesick for heaven"
--Where is your HOMESICKNESS ???
**for glory
**for Egypt? —Leaks, Garlic, Cucumbers + Melons

2-Defeated--life of failure
--life out of place of God's appointment
--not wholly serving the Lord
--NO TESTIMONY that is "fresh"
--Out of fellowship
--Sin in the life
--Therefore.....NO SONG !!

3-Remember, Sinners play their harps NOW, but must SOON lay them aside forever.

B.-The Solution:

1-Get right, if you're not "right" with God now

**wronged a man

**wronged a brother in the Lord

**wronged a friend

**Col. 3:12-14--"Put on therefore, as (becometh) the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things, put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness."

**wronged God

**1 Jn. 1:9

**RESTORE IT NOW !

2-Bring forth a "Song"----- (A Testimony for the Lord)

--The world expects it.....and needs it

--God expects it----------1 Pet. 3:15

--Bible teaches it-----Mark 5:19--"Jesus...saith unto him, 'Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, & hath had compassion on thee".

--Christians expect it

--SPONTANEOUS SONG--Jn. 9:25--"He answered and said, 'Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that whereas I was blind, now I see.'"

Paul & Silas in Acts 16

--Acts 4:20--"We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

3-HOW can I bring forth a "Song" of TESTIMONY?

--Apply Ps. 137:5-6 to Christ

--Col. 3:1-4--"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, & your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory."

--Practice HIM.....and the "song" will JUST FLOW OUT !

--ILLUS--Many years ago in New York City a scrub woman named Sophie got wonderfully converted. She became an out-and-out Christian and a tireless winner of souls.

A friend of Sophie's thought he'd have some fun with her one day. He professed to be a Christian, but never betrayed it in the practice of his day-to-day life.

"Say, Sophie." He grinned. "I think I'd better warn you. You're carrying your religion a bit too far."

"Maybe so," Sophie replied. "But you aren't carrying YOURS far enough."

Almost floored for a moment, the practical joker recovered his balance and began again. "Yes, but, Sophie, I saw you yesterday in front of a cigar store talking your religion to a wooden Indian."

"Well, maybe so," Sophie replied. "My eyes aren't what they used to be, you know. But what if I did!????

Talking about Christ to a **WOODEN INDIAN** isn't half as bad as being a **WOODEN CHRISTIAN** who never talks to anybody about Him."

--Why is it important for us to have a "SONG" of testimony?
--**VALUE** of a soul
--Saw it last week in Mark 5 --Better than 2000 pigs
--**ILLUS**--A convert at a Billy Sunday meeting in Scranton, Pa., remarked: "On the farm I raise blooded stock, and there is not a person for miles around who would not go to great length to warn me if one of my prize cows got on a railroad track; **YET** for 25 years never a man spoke a word to ME about my spiritual welfare"
--**SOULS** are more valuable than **COWS** !!!

C.-Our Confidence:
1-Spirit will convict--Jn. 16:7-11
2-Word will be profitable--Isa. 55:10-11
3-Our own life will be enriched.
--Jack Wyrtzen has said: "In fact, I believe witnessing is the most important thing a Christian can do."
--When asked "Why do you say that?", he replied
(1) Soul-winning will solve every problem in a Christian's life. It is essential to spiritual growth. As soon as you witness for Christ, it makes you study the Bible so that you might be ready to give the answers to the questions which the unsaved ask, and be equipped to deal with all classes of people.
(2) Secondly, your prayer life will be affected as you will start praying for those people to whom you have witnessed.
(3) Thirdly, as soon as you witness to others, you will walk circumspectly in your fellowship with other Christians and before the world
(4) Lastly, it will affect your giving; for you will want to share in the Lord's ministry by giving to the church, missions, and other Christian agencies that are winning others to Christ."

CONCLUSION:

A.-Questions For You:
1-Do you "have a song?"
2-Do you want a song?
3-Will you "**PAY THE PRICE**" and become a "fool for Christ's sake" that others may hear and be saved

B.-Biblical Answers For You:
1-Prov. 11:30-"He that winneth souls is wise"
2-Dan. 12:3-"They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."
3-What's **YOUR ANSWER** to the question:
"How shall we sing?"

Westbrae--9/12/65

HYMNS: Proclaim It Wherever You Go
Have You Counted The Cost?
Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
Wonderful, Wonderful Jesus

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

"THE 'OMNI' PSALM" Ps. 139:1-24
"GETTING TO KNOW GOD" Heb. 4:12-16

INTRO: A.-Where Is God?:

1-Where does He live?

In Heaven?

Where is Heaven?....Up somewhere!

Is God elsewhere than in Heaven?

WHERE? In USA?, In Africa?, In China?

WHERE IS GOD??

2-Everywhere--in my heart; He is both here and there--I can shut God out of my life,

--But I cannot escape from Him.

--I can exclude Him from my plans,

--But I cannot avoid Him.

--God is always with me, !!!

--Even when I try to ignore Him or escape from Him.

3-Jonah tried to run away from God's presence--to Joppa on a ship bound for Tarshish;

--In a storm at sea

--In the belly of a great fish

--In Nineveh

--In his anger against God because of His mercy to Nineveh

--In the blazing arid desert

--BUT ALWAYS GOD WAS THERE speaking to Jonah

4-In one sense I may, like Cain, go "out from the presence of the Lord."

--I can disobey Him

--I can refuse to follow Him

--I can shut God out of my life!

--WHAT A TERRIBLE THING to shut Him out!

5-YET, I can no more escape completely from God than I can escape from myself.

6-He is always "The Hound Of Heaven"

7-I may say with Francis Thompson:

"I fled Him, down the nights and down the days;
I fled Him down the arches of the years;
I fled Him down the labyrinthine ways
Of my own mind.

Little girl who asked Lou on a train: "DO YOU KNOW GOD PERSONALLY?"

B.-But God Is Still Pursuing Me:

1-Convicting of sin

2-Pointing toward the Savior

3-Loving me

4-Waiting for me to "turn to Him"

5-I can no more escape from Him than I can from the atmosphere in which I live.

6-God is always beside me

--Either in my heart ruling & reigning

--Or at the door of my heart knocking, waiting for me to INVITE HIM IN

7-Even if I no longer hear Him, He is still here

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

C.-Yes, I Can Persistently Reject Him:
1-So that He ceases to strive with me
2-He abandons me to the tragic doom of being myself---
* A LOST SINNER *
3-He may no longer plead with me
--Yet, He is still beside me
--Yet, He still loves me
--Yet, He still showers me with the blessings of "common grace" ——— to ALL mankind!
** Sunshine & harvest
** Summer and winter
** Rain and refreshment
** Blessings SHOWERED upon me!
The Mercies of God
4-He is HERE!!
5-He is still THERE!
Q 6-"Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?" Ps. 139:7

A PSALM OF GODLY INSPECTION — Hebrew POEM of 4 stanzas

D.-Outline:
1-OMNISCIENCE Of God--------Ps. 139:1-6
2-OMNIPRESENCE Of God-------Ps. 139:7-12
3-OMNIPOTENCE Of God--------Ps. 139:13-18
4-OMNIRIGHTEOUSNESS Of God--Ps. 139:19-24
5-Shepherd David had a Majestic view of God
6-Let it be desired that we, too, may join the ranks of
7-those that "magnify the Lord" (Lk. 1:46)

PROP thru intimate relationship — Help us in "GETTING TO KNOW GOD" which is TRUE WISDOM.

I.-OMNISCIENCE OF GOD------139:1-6--(All-Knowing Ability):

A.-God's Searching (139:1):
1-Facts stated-"Searched me" 139:1 DEF.
-"Known me" -#39:1,2,4,6,23
2-Not a cursory examination-All the facts are known
-Personal
-"Known ME"!
3-ILLUS-Term is one used in a mining operation to search out a profitable ore, and finding it
4-Mt. 6:32--"(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly father knoweth that ye have need of all these things."
* Comfort to the saint
* Concern to the sinner

"The LORD seeth not as man seeth: for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh upon the heart." 1 Sam. 16:7

"TRY" or "TEST"

God Knows me thoroughly

Seeing

B.-God's Knowing (139:2-4):
1-Spheres of His "knowing"
--"My downsittings" ==
--"Mine uprisings" ==Time of work & stewardship
--"My thought" ==Mental musings
--"Word in my tongue" ==Verbal communications
-ILLUS-Gen. 18:12--"Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?"
--Even an unuttered laugh is known
Gen. 16:13 HAGAR "Thou God seest me"

1 Peter 3:12: "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil."

Heb. 4:13 "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight: but all things are naked + open unto the eyes of Him with Whom we have to do."

God knows it ALL!

Hagar prayed! "Thou, God, seest me."

Gen. 16:13

2-To what degree ??? Winnowed, "scrutinized" (3)

--"Thou compassest my path" 16:3

--"and art acquainted with all my ways"

--"Thou knowest it altogether" —16:4

3-Every facet of PUBLIC and PRIVATE life

4-Rom. 14:11-12--"For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

VERY SOBERING!

5-ILLUS. "THOU GOD SEEST ME" are the words of a motto found in many homes. The reflect the grateful exclamation of a slave girl--HAGAR-- uttered when God intervened to keep her from foolishly running away from home.

The truth that God always sees us is awesome It should preserve us from unhallowed thoughts, selfish motives, hypocritical words, and evil deeds. It should also be a source of great comfort to those who are believers.

Isaac Watts learned this from an old Christian woman when he was just a boy. She had him read the words, "THOU GOD SEEST ME" from a plaque on her wall, and then she said, "When you are older, my boy, people will tell you that God is watching you to see when you do wrong, in order to punish hou. I do not want you to think of it that way. RATHER, let those words remind you all thru your life that God loves you so much that He cannot take His eyes off you."

These words became for Isaac Wats an incentive to a useful & a beautiful life."

"No one can deceive God about his character, for God has minutely investigated every individual" Theodore Epp

C.-God's Securing (139:5):

1-Practical aspects emphasized

2-God-Encompassed existence

--"Thou hast beset me behind" = "enclosed"

--PURSUER is foiled

--"...and before..."

--PATH is protected

--"...and laid Thine hand upon me."

--PERSON is guarded

"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."

3-John 10:28-29 ---READ

4-As secure as the hand of God

5-This is an outgrowth of God's Omniscience

GREAT GOD; GREAT TRUTH!

D.-David's Reaction---WORSHIP!---(139:6):

1-Read 139:6 ..."Too much for me"—OVERWHELMED!

2-Truth of Omniscience is beyond David

3-Don't criticize him--Beyond Isaiah also

--Isa. 55:7-9

--Beyond you too!!

4-Can't attain it

5-Can WORSHIP the One Who is Omniscient

6-Can express that worship by living in the light of "THOU GOD SEEST ME."

He is Omniscient!

II. OMNIPRESENCE OF GOD ---(139:7-12)--(Everywhere present Character of God)

Def.

A.-David's Question (139:7):

1-Read 139:7

2-Question is "WHERE?"

3-Is there really any place of "escape" from God?

4-Let's look at.....

ILLUS
Ahab's war w/ King of Syria to prove Jehovah is the God of EVERYWHERE — I Kings 20:23

B.-David's Answer (139:8-10):

1-Places to escape--"UP into heaven"
--"Thou art there"
--DOWN "in hell"
--"Thou art there"
--OUT to the east where morning takes wings
--OUT to the west to the extremity of the sea
--"Even there thy hand"

2-His answer is that there is NO ESCAPE from the Omnipresence of God

N.B. 3-This is not Pantheism--i.e.--that God is in everything

4-Rather, God is IN EVERY PLACE
--Omnipresent
--Change of hemispheres won't remove us from God
--Distance is a human term, not a Divine one.
--Change of darkness for light won't remove us from His presence

5-ILLUS--Dr. J. Oliver Buswell explains this very clearly in his Systematic Theology--"I find it helpful to express the omnipresence of God by the thought that everything in the entire universe is immediately in His presence.
As I work at my desk, everything on the desk is immediately in my presence. Of course there are space relationships. I reach for my pen. I arrange my papers. But for all practical purposes space is no problem. IT IS ALL IN MY PRESENCE."

6-Biblical Cases--Jonah 1:1-3
--Did he get away from God?---NO!
--Ps. 55:3-6
--Could one fly far enough to escape all his enemies?---NO!
--John 6:66-68
--Is there an alternative source of Eternal Life?---NO!

7-So complete was the power of the Roman Emperors that the whole world was a prison-house without any escape

8-Then what hope can any sinner have of escaping from the OMNIPRESENT God ???

9-Musical question....."Where could I go, but to the Lord?"

C.-David's Reaction (139:11-12):

1-Read 139:11-12

2-Neither DARKNESS, LIGHT, nor DISTANCE is a protection from God's presence

3-All are alike to Him 139:11-12

4-David's words are words of WONDER!

WONDER!

5-As Alfred Lord Tennyson so beautifully expresses it:

"Speak to Him, Thou, for He hears,
And spirit with spirit can meet;
Closer is He than breathing,
And nearer than hands and feet."

How wonderful to know the OMNIPRESENT God!

III. OMNIPOTENCE OF GOD--(139:13-18)--(All-Powerful Ability):

DEF. (5)

A. Man's Origin (139:13):

1-139:13

2-Definitions--"Possessed"=="Formed"-R.V.
--Deals with fetus in development
--"Reins"=="Seat of desires & feeling"
"Covered" = "Knit me together"

3-From "my mother's womb"

4-Yet even this is as a result of the POWER and ordering of Almighty God!—David was a DISTINCT PERSON designed by God! So are YOU! So am I!

B. Man's Making (139:14-16):

1-"Fearfully & wonderfully made"
--206 bones in human body
--650 muscles in body
--7 major systems (Circulatory, Respiratory, Glandular, Nervous, etc.) Skeletal
--Billions of cells
--To adapt the words of Prof. Edwin Conklin, the great Princeton Univ. biologist--"The probability of life originating from accident is comparable to the probability of the Unabridged Dictionary resulting from an explosion in a printing factory." ...
--So also IMPOSSIBLE for man to be "fearfully and wonderfully made" without an OMNIPOTENT CREATOR

Wonderfully COMPLEX

MY MEMBERS

2-Eccles. 11:5--"As thou knowest not what is the way of the Spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all."

3-Creation is by God!—"For we are His workmanship... Eph 2:10

4-Formation--"In the lowest parts of the earth"
--Perhaps a ref. to Gen. 2:7—"And the LORD God formed man out of the dust of the ground"
--Perhaps a figurative reference to the hidden nature of the development in the womb

5-"Unperfect"="an embryo"; "unformed"

6-"And in thy Book"--God keeps records
--Keeping books on us!
--Bottles our tears (Ps. 56:8)
--Numbers our hairs (Mt. 10:30)
--ALL...were written PURPOSE for Your life
--And that before I was born
--A "blueprint" for my life..& yours
--TREMENDOUS!

"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 yourselves know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel + foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, + by wicked hands have crucified + slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it"

Settles question of when human life begins, + wrongness of abortion.

C. Man's Reaction (139:17-18):

1-Not a questioning--"Why?"

2-But a resting--Realization of God's power
--Knowing we have a personal God
--Knowing His presence is always w/ us
--Knowing all things are ordained for our good
--Knowing His power is in our behalf!

"Surely, the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt Thou restrain."

3-ILLUS--[illegible] with 45:5 and with 45:20
--Acts 2:22-24 with Ps. 76:10

4-Jer. 29:11--"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, & not of evil, to give you an expected end."

5-David's reaction--Of APPRECIATION
--139:17-18

6-How wonderful to worship the OMNIPOTENT GOD!

Rom. 8:28

IV. OMNIRIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD--(Ps. 139:19-24)--(All-Righteousness):

DEF.

A. Distinction Of Attributes:

1-Non-Moral attributes--139:1-6--Omniscience
--139:7-12--Omnipresence
--139:14-18--Omnipotence
--Eternity
--Immutability, etc.

2-Moral attributes--Goodness
--Mercy
--Grace
--Love
--Justice & Righteousness

3-The doctrine of JUDGMENT is the necessary outcome of these moral & non-moral attributes

NB → 4-Rom. 3:24-26

5-Thus we see the OMNIRIGHTEOUSNESS of God as one of His moral characteristics

6-In this light.....let us look at...

B. Description Of The Lost:

Strong Terms

1-Called--"Wicked" & "Bloody men"--139:19
--"Enemies"--139:20

2-Twin scandal of the unbeliever--139:20
--"Speak against Thee wickedly"
--REBELLION
--"Take Thy Name in vain"
--BLASPHEMY

3-This does not cause them to be "Lost"

4-These things are true because they are lost already!

5-"Out of the abundance of the heart, a man speaketh"

C. Disposition Of The Lost:

1-139:19a--"Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God:"

2-That is God's disposition--They'll be SLAIN
--SEPARATED forever

3-What about their disposition from the saint's viewpoint?
--139:19b "Depart from me, therefore, ye bloody men"
--Separation from evil men is demanded by the sureness of their impending judgment
--139:21
--David "Takes God's Part" (NB) — Separates himself by siding w/ God!
** Has the mind of the Lord
** Evaluates earthly matters in heaven's light
** "Hates them"
** "Grieved with those"
Makes God's enemies his own!
--Eph. 4:26--"Be ye angry, and sin not..."
--Proper view of the EVIL OF SIN

4-ILLUS.--The story is told of Joe Lewis in World War 2 in Italy. An enebriated man started to pick a fight with him. Though Joe Lewis did not want to hurt the man, neither did he want to be

beat upon.

Just then another man stepped up--perhaps not really seeing who it was in the darkness of the street--and OFFERED TO DEFEND Joe Lewis from the attacker.

God is no more in need of our defense than was Joe Lewis of the offer of defense by that man. Yet, God is pleased when we take His side!!

The Psalmist's RESPONSE

PRAYER!

D.-Dedication Of The Saint (139:23-24):

1-Same words in 139:1 & 23 - "Search me" - "Know me"

2-Spurgeon--"A matter of FACT is made a matter of PRAYER."

3-In the face of God's righteous judgment of the wicked, David takes the place of submission

4-Wants God to search him for any sin that might be cleansed
- "Search and know"
- "Try and know"
- "See and lead"
- 1 John 1:9

CONVICTION of SIN if one is to be CLEAN before God

5-Three seats of evil - (1) "My heart" (2) "My thoughts" (3) "Any wicked way"=="any thing which would bring grief", so any wrong actio

THIS IS IMPERATIVE

6-Certainly David made APPLICATION of the truth to himself fo the benefit of his own relationship with the Lord

7-How we also need to make such a Dedication of ourselves in the light of these truths.

8-ILLUS--A number of years ago when I was in Panama with the U. S. Navy over July 4, I was walking down the street at about 9:30 P. M. Just then the sky lit up with searchlights and that "dark and dirty" city was illumined with such a daylight-like glare that I do not suppose two men could have stood together in the entire city without being seen by someone else---the light was so intense!

And so it is with us when the God of heaven turns the searchlight of His OMNIRIGHTEOUSNESS upon us to see if there be any wickedness in us----
- no one will be hidden from His view
- No sinner will escape
- No saint will be unscrutinized!

CONCLUSION:

A.-The Substance Of The Message:

1-Omniscience produces----------WORSHIP
2-Omnipresence produces----------WONDER
3-Omnipotence produces----------APPRECIATION
4-OMNIrighteousness produces-----APPLICATION

B.-The Personalizing Of The Message:

1-Very personal tone throughout the Psalm (139)

2-Will you make a PERSONAL REACTION to this truth?

Jn. 5:22-24

"DELIVERED from condemnation"

Sinner
- ** God will in no wise clear the guilty
- ** Turn to the Lord to escape His judgment growing out of His all-righteous character
- ** God has provided Christ as THE answer to your need!

--Saint ** God will cleanse you of your sins if you confess them and forsake them
** yield yourself to His way in your life so you can expect Him to "lead me in the way everlasting" GUIDANCE
** After all--you can't flee from Him !
** Why not FLEE TO HIM !!! ??!!

3-ILLUS --There was a young woman. She loved her husband. He died. She was lonely and disconsolate. She hired an airplane and placed enough fuel in the tank to take her far into the air and out to sea. When the fuel was consumed, she would plunge into the sea, and end her sad and lonely life.
In her note of explanation found after her death, she insisted that this not be called a SUICIDE. It was just "her way out"; "her exit", she said.
The newspapers commented on this tragic flight into what they called "THE UNKNOWN". But there is no unknown to God ! To Him all things are known
* Her body is in the sea
That does not mean extinction !!
The sea will yet give up its dead
That woman did not find reunion with her dead husband!

On the other hand, the Christian will enjoy reunion with loved ones who've gone on ahead, for we will be "caught up together in the air"

What this sin-sick world needs is to turn personally to the OMNISCIENT, the OMNIPRESENT, the OMNIPOTENT, the OMNIRIGHTEOUS GOD, Who made us
Who loved us
Who sent His Son to die for us
Who invites us to walk with Him in newness of life. — Getting to KNOW HIM more each day.

Will you make that decision TODAY? RIGHT NOW?

(2) "Be Thou My Vision" (334)

Westbrae--11/26/67 (1) "Majestic Sweetness Sits Enthroned" -369 (52)
7/16/72 (57) (3) "Cleanse Me" (166) 60
"Only Trust Him" 188

3/14/82 - Boomer Bapt. Ch - WV,
1/29/84 - Lookout Baptist Ch, WV,
6/1/85 - Ch. of the Bible, Plainville, CT.
2/19/95 - O.K.B.C.
5/18/97 - Grace Gospel Ch. Beaver
9/22/04 - Bible Center Ch.
10/24/04 - Crow Christian Ch,
1/7/07 - Hill Top Bapt. Ch.

INTRODUCTION:

A.=STORY:

After World War I a great praise service was held in Royal Albert Hall in London; and the Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw was seated on the platform next to Joseph Fort Newton, then pastor of London's City Temple.

The huge assembly sang Isaac Watt's hymn "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past," based on Psalm 90. When the song ended Shaw, deeply moved, said to Pastor Newton, "I'd rather have written that hymn than all my silly plays."

B.-SQUIRM:

1-Insincere praise can be humiliating
- --Squirm when you receive it (OR)
- --Pressured to give it

2-Quotes:
- "Usually we praise only to be praised." La Rochefoucald
- "People ask you for criticism, but they want only praise." W. Somerset Maugham

3-Praise
- --Can be with **less than pure** motives
- --Can be manipulative
- --Can be **self-seeking**
- --"He who praises everybody, praises nobody." Samuel Johnson

4-Because of these PITFALLS it often SEEMS safer **to avoid praise** than to risk its ill use

C.-SEPARATION:

1-YET, **praise** has a **good** and **proper use**!
2-Praise OUGHT to flow from our lips
3-It is not wrong to praise just because some misuse it
4-Need to **separate**
- --USE of praise
- --From **ABUSE** of praise

5-Because praise is a unique gift
- --To give to God
- --To give to others

6-INT: Has God given any insights in His Word as to a "RIGHT WAY" to praise??

7-PROP: Let us seek to answer some basic questions about praise **so we can properly praise**

I.-QUESTION NUMBER ONE--WHAT IS PRAISE ?:

A.-OUR ENGLISH WORD "PRAISE":

1-Latin root is "pretium"
2-Originally meant a price or worth; to appraise or to set a price upon
3-Webster--"commendation", "approval", "glorification" (New World Dictionary, Second College Ed., 1984)

B.-THE HEBREW O.T. ON "PRAISE" :

1-Root is HALAL, from which we transliterate into English with "HALLELUJAH"=="Praise ye the Lord"

* 2-294 verses in the Bible which speak of praise

3-More in Psalms, the BOOK OF PRAISE for Israel, than in any other section

4-Meanings--"Sincere & deep thankfulness for"
--"Satisfaction in"
--"Lauding a superior quality or great, great act"

5-Uses--Over 200 times in connection with
** God's CHARACTER and WORK

7-"Praising and blessing God is work that is never out of season. Nothing better prepares the mind for receiving the (power of the)Holy Spirit than holy joy and praise. Fears are silenced and hopes kept up (by praise)." Matthew Henry

C.-THE GREEK N.T. ON "PRAISE":

1-AINEO--Greek verb used over 30 times
--Some are intensified usages
--Expressions of value ** Received from God
** Directed to God
** Also directed toward man

2-Synonymns--"Glory"
--"Bless" (==to speak well of)
--"Sing praises by hymns"

3-Scriptural def. of PRAISE=="An expression of genuine appreciation for a positive attribute or accomplishment of someone else."

II.-QUESTION NUMBER TWO----WHEN IS PRAISE APPROPRIATE ?:

A.-Answer # ONE:-----NEVER TOWARD ONESELF:

1-Proverbs 27:2--"Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips."

2-Appropriate to receive praise from others,
BUT self-praise is prohibited !!

* 3-"As the Greeks have said, Many men know how to flatter, (but) few know how to praise." Wendell Phillips.

B.-ANSWER # TWO---ALWAYS TOWARD GOD:

1-God is perfect in attributes. Every facet of His character and work is praiseworthy to imperfect men
--Ps. 145:3--"Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable."
--Ps. 34:1--"I will bless the LORD at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth."

* 2-Man was created to worship God
--God did not need man, and existed eternally without us
--Yet, God created us so He might reveal His perfections to us & that we should respond with praise !

--Isa. 43:21--"The people whom I formed for Myself, will declare My praise." (3)

3-Whenever man has chosen to praise God, the LORD has been eager to show him how to do it:

--Adam in the garden of Eden
--Abraham at his altar
--Israel in the wilderness at the Tabernacle
--New Testament believers' sacrifices:
--Heb. 13:15--"By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His Name."

4-God clearly deserves the praise of His redeemed ones

5-ILLUS--An aged lady, dearly loved her Lord. Often her cup of joy overflowed. A favorite expression of hers was, "PRAISE THE LORD!"

In church when the minister preached, she would say, "PRAISE THE LORD!". Sometimes the **minister was disturbed** when "Aunt" Betty said "PRAISE THE LORD." He would lose his line of thought for a moment.

One day he offered her a pair of blankets if she would refrain from saying "PRAISE THE LORD!" during his sermons. She greatly needed the blankets, for she was quite poor. She did her best to earn them on the minister's terms. For many Sundays she kept perfectly quiet during the sermons.

Then, one day a visiting minister came to preach. He preached on forgiveness of sin, with its attendant blessings and joys. As he preached, "Aunt" Betty thought less and less of the blankets, and more and more of the joys of salvation. Finally she could stand it no longer. She blurted out:

"Blankets or no blankets,
PRAISE THE LORD!"

C.-ANSWER # THREE---**PROPERLY** TOWARD EACH OTHER:

1-**Jesus**, Who was above all in perfection, & Who could have found fault in others:

--Praised a Centuriion--Matt. 8:10
--Praised John the Baptist--Mt. 11:10
--Praised Peter--Mt. 16:17
--Praised Mary of Bethany--Mt. 26:10
--Praised a Scribe--Mk. 12:34
--Even praised an unrighteous steward for his shrewdness--Luke 16:8

2-Principle of Prov. 3:27--"Withold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thy hand to do it."

--**CONTEXT** deals with **material** things as well as words
--Application certainly can be made in the area of anything which we have the power to give others.
--**ALL** possess worth because they are created in God's image
* --Proper to recognize that worth and speak well of it
* --"A bit of praise goes far in giving confidence."
ANON.

3-Sincere use of praise is **beneficial**
BOTH -To the **receiver**, as an encouragement
-To the **giver**, as a ministry

4-To withhold praise to others is a subtle expression of P R I D E, saying, "I am superior to you" *
--Perhaps **you are** in SOME things
--No one is superior in all things and to all people, though.
--Let us move to **an enlargement** of our appreciation of others ** Music
** Teaching / Preaching
** Kindnesses
** Character
** Service
** Caring
--AND---Then let us express that appreciation openly and verbally to others !!

5-1 Cor. 12:18-27 (read)

6-ILLUS--One New Years Day, a millionnaire, whose pride it was never to offer a tip for any service, faced an unforgettable tragedy. His chief **accountant** COMMITTED SUICIDE. The books were found to be in perfect order. The affairs of the dead man--a modest bachelor--were prosperous and calm. The only letter left by the accountant was a brief note to his millionaire employer. It read:
"In 30 years of employment, I have never had one word of encouragement. I am FED UP!".

III.-QUESTION # THREE---HOW SHOULD WE PRAISE ?!

A.-We Should PRAISE **IN SONG**:

1-Bible is full of songs of praises:
--Moses' song of redemption (Ex. 15)
--Deborah & Barak's song of deliverance from Jabin, King of Canaan (Jud. 5)
--Hannah's song of rejoicing over motherhood (1 Sam. 2:1+
--Paul & Silas in time of imprisonment in Philippi (Acts 16:25)
--Elders in heaven have a "new song" of redemption to God (Rev. 5:9-10)

2-Bishop Nicetus of Treves: "Hymns have consoled the sad, checked the joyful, subdued the enraged, and refreshed the poor." (C. 563 A.D.)

3-**David** exhorts in **Ps. 33:3**--
"Sing unto Him a new song; play skilfully with a loud noise."

4-Expressions--Descriptions of God -Fresh
--Thanks for His works -Personal
--Characteristics of God's Person
--Ways of His leading

5-Avenues of Praise in Song-Vocal
-Instrumental
-Solo
-Together---ALL are fitting !!

Congregational

6-"Any creative effort, when blossoming from our experience with God, produces a fragrance that is uniquely beautiful to HIM, INDEPENDENT OF WORLDLY STANDARDS." Richard. D. Emmons

5

B.-We Should PRAISE **IN WORDS**:

1-Ejaculatory comments--"Hallelujah"
--"Amen"
--"Praise God"
--"Thank you, LORD"
--At appropriate places & times

2-Public Testimony
--Public credit to God for the things He has done:
** Answered prayer
** Sustaining in trials
** Guidance through circumstances
** Provision of finances or job
** Opening of doors of opportunity
--AWE in relationship to God Himself — WONDER!
++ Ps. 145:6--"And men shall speak of the might of Thy terrible acts: and I will declare Thy greatness."
++ Power in the storm of lightning
++ Protection in a flood
++ Beauty of His creation
++ Timing of the input into our lives by a brother in Christ
--To our family ** Ps. 145:4--"One generation shall praise Thy works to another, and shall declare Thy mighty acts."
** To our children
** To our grandchildren
** To our great grandchildren
** To our parents also
--Matthew Henry said that he would not huddle up his praises in a corner. His **sins had been open**, God's **mercy had been open**, and he would make open profession and open payment. (James Barr in Lang Syne)

3-Praise in Private Communion Time
--On the bed of our sleep
--Ps. 63:6--"When I remember Thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches."
--In devotional response
--In prayer time
--THANKS for things learned in experience with God

C.-We Should PRAISE **IN IMITATION**:

1-Imitation is the highest form of praise — COPYING
2-Patterning one's life after another's mannerisms, style or habits is a glorification of the one copied.
3-GOD IS PERFECT
4-Bible commands us to live in a godly manner:
--Matt. 5:48--"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

--1 Peter 1:15--"But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."

--Let us seek to be MORE LIKE JESUS !!

(6)

CONCLUSION:

A.-Resume:

1-Praise is the expression of appreciation for another's positive attributes or accomplishments

2-GOD deserves praise !

"If Christians praised God more, the world would doubt Him less."
Charles E. Jefferson

3-ALL men and women need praise !!

4-Believers who are characterized by praise in their lives:
- --DELIGHT the Father
- --BLESS their brethren
- --EXEMPLIFY the Lord Jesus
- --EXPRESS the power of the Holy Spirit
- --Because the practice of praise reveals the understanding of the significance of God and the fellow-Christian in our lives

5-THEREFORE, Praise is a gift you cannot give too often!!
- --Now that we know more about praise
- --LET US NOW do more in the way of praising !!

Read POEM on P.7

#21--"Come, Thou Almighty King"
#24--"I Will Praise Him"
#465--"Our God, Our Help"
#224--""Praise Ye the Lord, The Almighty"
#217--"Holy Is The Lord"

8/23/87-Communion--O.K.B.C.
1/14/OT-Hilltop Bapt. Ch.-SS

A Glimpse of God

Dr. Robert E. Wenger



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Eternal is Your reign,
Free from causation's chain;
All passes, You remain
Through endless days.

Of substance One, yet Three
Unfolding Your decree;
Unbroken harmony
Attends Your ways.

Splendors of earth and sky
I view with awestruck eye;
They speak of wisdom high
In every phrase.

With strength You overflow,
My secret thoughts You know;
And everywhere I go
Your presence stays.

Your holiness entwines
In all of Your designs,
And with Your grace it shines
In perfect rays.

Both infinite and good,
Your righteous Fatherhood
Through every age has stood
Before our gaze.

You scorn the thought of sleep,
Good Shepherd of the sheep,
And on the jagged steep
You seek the strays.

Your love embraces all.
Through vinegar and gall
It scaled sin's highest wall,
Destroyed its maze.

Dimly I see Your traits,
But clearer vision waits,
When glory dissipates
This earthly haze.

Small gifts do I possess
Your merits to confess
So help my tongue express
Eternal praise.

PLEASE "NOTEAR" ®