

GRACE And GLORY



Grace Free Will Baptist Church
"To Know and To Show Christ"

BIBLE STUDY HOUR	10:00AM
MORNING EVANGELISTIC SERVICE (LIVE OVER WJOT)	11:00AM
EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE	6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICE	7:30 PM

MIRCHEAL JONES, PASTOR
(803) 394-3725

VOL. IV NUM 01 01-05-89 LAWRENCE STREET • PO BOX 1003 • LAKE CITY, S.C. • 29560

Truly God is to be Praised for HIS BLESSINGS during the Christmas Season. We had some of the best services we've had recently and I thank everyone for their effort and participation.

THE SERVICES: The Adult Cantata and the Children's program were very good. I have mailed a number of the tapes of the Adult Cantata out already and the videos of both services are available. Many people helped in the Christmas Morning Service and made it not only one of our best attended but also one of the most enjoyed of the year. Then on the Wednesday following Christmas we were privileged to have REV ROGER TRIPP speak for us. He was visiting his family for the Christmas holidays and his visit came at a most opportune time for me; since I was so tied up with a death and the sickness of my Mother-in-law. It never ceases to amaze me at how the Lord provides.

THE SACRIFICIAL GIVING: I can't say anything but "Praise the Lord" for our Christmas Offerings. "White Christmas" was over \$4600 (For our Building Fund) and the Christmas day offering was over \$1200!!

THE SORROW: Christmas night our hearts were saddened at the death of Miss Linda Thrasher but I appreciate the way everyone helped during this time of sorrow.

Then Paula's Mother took critically ill the day after Christmas [actually she had her first attack the Wednesday before Christmas but was able to be home for Christmas] and Paula and I spent most of the rest of Christmas week in the hospital. She is continuing to improve but we still covet your prayers.

We plan to begin the New Year with a Blessing instead of a "Bang" when the RICHARD LEE FAMILY join us this Sunday (Jan 8) at 6:00pm for a special Musical Worship Service. You might as well come expecting to get your heart blessed!!

I'm writing this at 4:00am so I hope it makes sense. Just wanted you to know that God is still Blessings us far more than we deserve and we're still praising HIM for everything. It sure is good being a Christian! Hope you have a great year of service for the Lord.

Preacher Mike.

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THE BABE OF BETHLEHEM

Luke 2:11 FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOUR, WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD.

Bethlehem is a Place of:

1. **Fulfillment** [God keeps His **PROMISES**]- Beginning at Eve and weaving thru the entire Bible is God's promise of a coming Messiah. It was finally fulfilled at Bethlehem

A) God is Dependable- He'll do what He said He'd do. He said He would provide GRACE and He did so; He said He'll bring JUDGMENT and He'll do so!

B) God is Punctual- He has an accurate watch! Gal 4:4 BUT WHEN THE FULLNESS OF TIME WAS COME, GOD SENT FORTH HIS SON, Sometimes in your heart of hearts you think God doesn't know or care but He's working circumstances in such a way that the "cake" of your crisis will come out of the oven exactly done; instead of half-baked!!

C) God is Accurate- When He chose Joseph and Mary in Nazareth He already knew "Tax time" was coming! and they would be in Bethlehem when the Christ child was born.

The "Babe of Bethlehem" means we can rest in Peace about the Promises of God!

2. **Freedom** [God Provides us **PARDON**]- A Saviour is Born.

A) The WAGES of sin is DEATH- But the Babe of Bethlehem would die on the Cross of Calvary to pay sin's Price for all who believe.

B) The WORK of sin is SLAVERY- We become servants of sin and dupes of the Devil until the Truth sets us free! The Babe of Bethlehem shows us that it's not Pleasures, Prosperity, or Power that satisfies the craving of our heart but PEACE WITH GOD.

No wonder the Angel choir broke forth into song when the Babe of Bethlehem was born; They knew it was the beginning of the end of Satan's hold on mankind.

3. **Fellowship** [God comes in **PERSON**]- John 1:14 AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH, AND DWELT AMONG US, (AND WE BEHELD HIS GLORY, THE GLORY AS OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER,) FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH. God came and dwelt among Men to show Man God and to show God man! Now we can grasp God (who is Spirit) and God can understand man (who is flesh).

John says there are 4 reasons why Christ was Manifested in the Flesh?

I. **REVEAL ETERNAL LIFE**- I Jn 1:1-4 THAT WHICH WAS FROM THE BEGINNING, WHICH WE HAVE HEARD, WHICH WE HAVE SEEN WITH OUR EYES, WHICH WE HAVE LOOKED UPON, AND OUR HANDS HAVE HANDLED; OF THE WORD OF LIFE; (FOR THE LIFE WAS MANIFESTED, AND WE HAVE SEEN IT, AND BEAR WITNESS, AND SHEN UNTO YOU THAT ETERN LIFE, WHICH WAS WITH THE FATHER, AND WAS MANIFESTED UNTO US;) THAT WHICH WE HAVE SEEN AND HEARD DECLARE WE UNTO YOU, THAT YE ALSO MAY HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH US: AND TRULY OUR FELLOWSHIP IS WITH THE FATHER, AND WITH HIS SON JESUS CHRIST. AND THESE THINGS WRITE WE UNTO YOU, THAT YOUR JOY MAY BE FULL. Jn 17:3

II. **TAKE AWAY SIN**- I Jn 3:5 AND YE KNOW THAT HE WAS MANIFESTED TO TAKE AWAY OUR SINS; AND IN HIM IS NO SIN.

III. **DEFEAT SATAN**- I Jn 3:8 HE THAT COMMITTETH SIN IS OF THE DEVIL; FOR THE DEVIL SINNETH FROM THE BEGINNING. FOR THIS PURPOSE THE SON OF GOD WAS MANIFESTED, THAT HE MIGHT DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL.

IV. **REVEAL GOD'S LOVE**- I Jn 4:9 IN THIS WAS MANIFESTED THE LOVE OF GOD TOWARD US, BECAUSE THAT GOD SENT HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON INTO THE WORLD, THAT WE MIGHT LIVE THROUGH HIM.

As the world celebrates the Birth of the Babe of Bethlehem let's not get so wrapped up in the PARTY until we miss the PEACE, the PARDON, and the PERSON of Jesus. And be sure not to miss the Gift He's giving you- Eternal Life by Faith.

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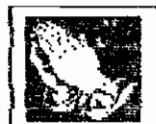
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Someone asked me what to do if it "rained on your picnic". I told them to sing in the rain!! It's that time in our Church right now; almost every family in the church has a sickness or Circumstance right now that is causing them distress. I have been expecting such a time to come to us after the great year we had last year. Now it's time to "sing in the rain" and use this time to manifest our trust in the Lord as we reach forward to an even greater year of service for the Lord in 1989.

I have shared some far reaching and Miracle demanding goals with the Church for the up coming year; goals that will demand a great deal of effort, energy, and enthusiasm. I have some of those same type goals for the outreach work but it can basically be condensed into one sentence- "We want to at least DOUBLE the number of people we reach thru the Outreach Ministry this year!" I presently mail around 600 newsletters twice per month; I'd like to have at least 750 on the list by the end of the year. I hope to add at least 4 new Bible Study Booklets to the ones I presently have on the shelf- "Revelation", "Nehemiah",

"James", "I Timothy", "Old Testament Survey" and "A Teacher Training Course". We have recently added Video Cassettes of our services to the Audio Cassettes we have been distributing and look for 1989 to give us a way to include TV in with the Radio broadcast of our Morning Services. There are several more "Spoons in the Pot" but it all boils down to trying to reach as many people as possible with the Gospel. Those that will come to our Church we'll Welcome; those that won't we'll try to reach!



Those of you who cannot attend our Services we ask that you Pray for the work here and for the Outreach Ministry. [Paula and I also covet your prayers for her mother. She is to have open heart surgery again this Friday. It has been a very difficult 3 weeks but we hope this will be the beginning of the healing process].

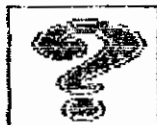
Sunday Night at 6:00pm we are pleased to WELCOME Tommy Graham for a special Musical Presentation. Hope you can share the Blessing!!.



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Every since Adam asked Eve "What do you mean, a Fig leaf dress doesn't go with your hair!" men have been trying to figure out women. This Sunday's final Video in the "Focus on the Family" series we have been using in our Sunday School tries to answer some of those questions as Dr. Dobson talks about What Wives wish their Husbands knew about Women.



The Videos have generated a great deal of Discussion and comment and I look forward to having some entire class periods to reach some biblical conclusions during the remainder of this Sunday School quarter. (The Adult Class meets in the Fellowship building each Sunday at 10am. Coffee, Hot Chocolate, and (If I can get a "Volunteer") some sweets are available as we look at the Bible together. We're very informal and our desire is not to talk AT you for an hour but to help you learn how to KNOW Christ as your Personal Saviour or SHOW Him in real life situations. I really believe it can be one of the most profitable hours a person can spend during a week).

JOIN US IN SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS WEEK

January is normally a "Slow" month for the Outreach Ministry but it hasn't been that way this so far!! I APPRECIATE the help I have received from these fine folks and trust God will richly bless for sharing in this work-- Mellow Bellflowers, Janice Runion, Lila Tisdale, Joshua and Matthew Frye, Mable Parker, Mr and Mrs W C Bell, Mr and Mrs W M Nixon, Marion Coker, Mr and Mrs David Brown, and Wilma Gaskins (In Memory of Linda Thrasher and Stella Rogers). Couldn't do it without you and I thank you.

During our Prayer Meeting tonight we'll be looking at a minute video about "Joshua conquering Jericho". Then we'll discuss some unconquerable "walls" in our lives and try to determine God's Formula for bringing them down. Here are a few of the lessons we learn from Joshua:

1. One Miracle often leads to the need of another (God brought them across the Jordan River but He did so at one of the most fortified cities of Canaan. I would have picked a "nothing" city to begin but God wanted to deal with the main problem first. How often in our lives are we so busy emptying the ash tray until we ignore the blinking oil light that signals real danger!).

2. You must be willing to be "foolish" to follow God's Plan It seemed ridiculous to Joshua's army and to the inhabitants of Jericho for the army to simply march around the city but that was what God wanted. One of the turning point days in my life was when I decided I would be a "fool for Christ". Every Christian comes often to the question, "The Cross or the Crowd". Their reaction determines their usefulness to God.

3. Sometimes Miracles take time If Joshua would have stopped after 6 days and said it was no use then Jericho would not have fallen. I'm convinced that multitudes of people miss their miracle because they are not patience with their Faith. God's delays are not God's denials.

I pray God will give you Joy in your Journey and Faith in your Trial. Once we get past "Jericho" and avoid the sins of Ai there's a whole promised land just waiting to be conquered. Let's get to it!!!

Preacher Mike Ps 16:11

W A T C H

Mark 13:32-37 BUT OF THAT DAY AND THAT HOUR KNOWETH NO MAN, NO, NOT THE ANGELS WHICH ARE IN HEAVEN, NEITHER THE SON, BUT THE FATHER. TAKE YE HEED, WATCH AND PRAY; FOR YE KNOW NOT WHEN THE TIME IS. FOR THE SON OF MAN IS AS A MAN TAKING A FAR JOURNEY, WHO LEFT HIS HOUSE, AND GAVE AUTHORITY TO HIS SERVANTS, AND TO EVERY MAN HIS WORK, AND COMMANDED THE PORTER TO WATCH. WATCH YE THEREFORE: FOR YE KNOW NOT WHEN THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE COMETH, AT EVEN, OR AT MIDNIGHT, OR AT THE CROCKING, OR IN THE MORNING: LEST COMING SUDDENLY HE FIND YOU SLEEPING. AND WHAT I SAY UNTO YOU I SAY UNTO ALL, WATCH.

The Lord's Return ought to be a time of EXPECTATION but it also ought to be a time of PREPARATION. Christians ought to LONG for His return and LIVE so as to be ready for it at any time. This involves more than "Theological Discussions" about future events; it means we actively alter our lifestyle to SHOW Christ so we can get as many people as possible to KNOW Christ as their Saviour. I hope an Acronym of the Word "Watch" will show us these Responsibilities.

Words- What you Say- Matt 12:36 BUT I SAY UNTO YOU THAT EVERY IDLE WORD THAT MEN SHALL SPEAK THEY SHALL GIVE ACCOUNT THEREOF IN THE DAY OF JUDGMENT.

A) About God- Don't use the Lord's name in vain/ Do spread Gospel

B) About People- Gossip- thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer in thy land.

C) To People- Words can cut deeper than a sharp sword (See Heb 4:12 where the Word of God cuts this way. Sadly YOUR words can also)

Actions- What you Do- Matt 16:27 FOR THE SON OF MAN SHALL COME IN THE GLORY OF HIS FATHER WITH HIS ANGELS; AND THEN HE SHALL REWARD EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS WORKS.

A) Wrong You Do- Is society your Judge or God

B) Right you Fail to Do- James 4:17 TO HIM THAT KNOWETH TO DO GOOD AND DOETH IT NOT, TO HIM IT IS SIN.

Thoughts- What you Think- Prov 23:7 FOR AS HE THINKETH IN HIS HEART, SO IS HE: I I Cor 10:5 CASTING DOWN IMAGINATIONS, AND EVERY HIGH THING THAT EXALTETH ITSELF AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, AND BRINGING INTO CAPTIVITY EVERY THOUGHT TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST;

A) About your PROBLEMS- Don't yield to Despair or Depression

B) Lust- Looking with lust. Men shouldn't look and women shouldn't dress to make them (Example of the house in our community that no one lived in; they had to put a sign up saying it was not for sale to keep people from asking them if it were for sale! When you dress to expose yourself don't think it unusual that someone looks).

Temptation is not sin but can lead to sin.

Companions- Who You Associate With- Ps 1:1 BLESSED IS THE MAN THAT WALKETH NOT IN THE COUNSEL OF THE UNGODLY, NOR STANDETH IN THE WAY OF SINNERS, NOR SITTETH IN THE SEAT OF THE SCORNFUL.

A) Wisdom- "Counsel of the ungodly" Where do you get your basic beliefs? Television, Tell-a-friend, or Trashy newspapers

B) Way- What guides your goings? Do you dress like the world wants and say what the world thinks is fashionable? "Lay down with dogs and pick up fleas"!!

Habits- What Controls You- I Cor 6:12 ALL THINGS ARE LAWFUL UNTO ME, BUT ALL THINGS ARE NOT EXPEDIENT: ALL THINGS ARE LAWFUL FOR ME, BUT I WILL NOT BE BROUGHT UNDER THE POWER OF ANY.

A) Indulgences- Nervous eating, smoking, TV, etc. Things that control you in a Bad way. How Can you Tell?? Try to stop! Can you Fast for a day? Can you leave TV off for a week? Can you honor the church by not smoking at Church? A "Right" becomes a wrong when it gains control of you.

B) Wrongs- Drugs, Alcohol, etc. Things that defile or disable the temple of the Lord (Your Body).

The reasons for Watching:

1. So Christ won't be ashamed of us when He returns- Mark 8:38-39
THEREFORE SHALL BE ASHAMED OF ME AND OF MY WORDS IN THIS ADULTEROUS AND SINFUL GENERATION; OF HIM ALSO SHALL THE SON OF MAN BE ASHAMED, WHEN HE COMETH IN THE GLORY OF HIS FATHER WITH THE HOLY ANGELS.

2. So You won't be caught by surprise- Mark 13:33, 36 TAKE YE HEED, WATCH AND PRAY: FOR YE KNOW NOT WHEN THE TIME IS. LEST COMING SUDDENLY HE FIND YOU SLEEPING.

3. So you won't have to dwell with the Hypocrites- Matt 24:48-51 BUT AND IF THAT EVIL SERVANT SHALL SAY IN HIS HEART, MY LORD DELAYETH HIS COMING; AND SHALL BEGIN TO SMITE HIS FELLOWSERVANTS, AND TO EAT AND DRINK WITH THE DRUNKEN; THE LORD OF THAT SERVANT SHALL COME IN A DAY WHEN HE LOOKETH NOT FOR HIM, AND IN AN HOUR THAT HE IS NOT AWARE OF, AND SHALL CUT HIM ASUNDER, AND APPORTION HIM HIS PORTION WITH THE HYPOCRITES: THERE SHALL BE WEeping AND GRASHING OF TEETH.

HOW DO YOU DO THIS?

1. The Power of the Spirit is able to produce change in your life and life style. That Power is only available to the Born Again. The Spirit enables the Christian to remove a "negative" and replace it with a Positive (See Eph 4:22-32)

2. The Faith and Admonition of the Word

A) Faith Comes by Hearing the Word of God.

B) Wisdom comes from Heeding the Word of God.

That's why constant regular attendance in Church is so important.



Christ could come TODAY.

ARE YOU READY??

Are you SAVED?

Are you SERVING?

THE PASTOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

I Peter 5

There are many jokes and comments about how a Pastor knows he's called to preach (I knew I was called to preach because I woke up with a craving for fried chicken and wanted to go fishing!) and about the amount of work he does (No wonder preachers get so tired, working 3 whole hours a week!!!). But being called to be a Pastor is one of the greatest honors and responsibilities a person can attain.

Because every Pastor is a Person as well as a Pastor his personality should blend with that of the people of his church (That's why some Pastor's "fit" at one church but not at another). Therefore every Pastor will need traits and talents for his particular situation; but there are some general Characteristics that every Pastor must have and these are what Peter talks about.

1 PE 5:1-4 THE ELDERS WHICH ARE AMONG YOU I EXHORT, WHO AM ALSO AN ELDER, AND A WITNESS OF THE SUFFERING OF CHRIST, AND ALSO A PARTAKER OF THE GLORY THAT SHALL BE REVEALED: FEED THE FLOCK OF GOD WHICH IS AMONG YOU, TAKING THE OVERSIGHT THEREOF, NOT BY CONSTRAINT, BUT WILLINGLY; NOT FOR FILTHY LUCRE, BUT OF A READY MIND; NEITHER AS LORDS OVER GOD'S HERITAGE, BUT BEING ENSAMPLES TO THE FLOCK. AND WHEN THE CHIEF SHEPHERD SHALL APPEAR, YE SHALL RECEIVE A CROWN OF GLORY THAT FADETH NOT AWAY.

A PASTOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES MEANS HE MUST:

1. Fellowship in Christ's suffering & Glory. He must have something:

A) To Show (a witness)- Paul gave his testimony 3 times in the book Acts. When a Pastor has been at a church for a short time his members should know HIS testimony almost as well as theirs! A Pastor's Message should be about his Master!

B) To Share (a partaker). The messages of a good Pastor are simply overflowing of his relationship with Christ. He too was a sinner; and too faces the trials and temptations of life. His messages are experienced before they are exhorted.

2. Feed the Flock among you- The Pastor is both Shepherd and Sheep! As Shepherd- he is responsible to see that the Sheep Grow, are Guided green pastures, and are Guarded against the world's wolves.

B) As a Sheep- he mingles with and understands the needs of the other sheep. (See Heb 2:16-18 for Christ's example of this.) A Pastor must live with the people to know their problems and live with God in order to solve them.

3. Fulfill leadership responsibilities:

A) Motivated to lead -Not because it's what people expect but because it's what God requires. A sign post tells you what's ahead; a leader shows you how to get there.

B) Money is not his goal- He ministers not for Profit but as a Prophet. He must accept the fact that he will seldom be paid what he's worth but he must never be just worth what he's paid!

C) Manages by example, not just orders- He does not try to "lord over" his people, he tries to lift up his people. He is not building his kingdom but the kingdom of God.

D) Must labor by Faith- Sometimes one plants, one waters, and another reaps the fruit (I Cor 3:6). You must labor realizing your reward will come when you meet the Lord. Success in the ministry is simply to Preach and Pray, and Plug away! If you're where God wants you to be, doing what God wants you to do, God will take care of results; and Rewards!!

(See II Corinth 6:3-10 for a practical example of such a Pastor)

I'd rather be a Preacher than President!! For a President only leads a nation while a Pastor points men to a forgiving Saviour and a future in Heaven.

I PETER: knowing the truth

THE LORD'S RETURN

II Peter 3:3-11

I. THE PREDICTION- 3-8 Scoffers- Mockers; they don't just deny that the Lord will return they mock against it.

A) They shall come in the last days- a "sign" (That means they are not normally present; there are many today who are unaware or unconcerned about the Lord's return but only recently has there been a spirit of mockery and denial).

B) They will walk after their own desires. The Amp Bible translates this "ordering their manner of life according to their own personal desires". Their God is self; Humanism is their religion.

C) They will depend on human reasoning

1. Things haven't changed in years (Oh Yeah !! Things we take for granted today were unheard of 100 years ago). They say all changes are caused by Evolution or Revolution and not by God.
2. They are willingly ignorant of God's Past Judgment:

- a. on Individuals- every man's death is the wages of sin
- b. On Nations- the Bible is full of examples
- c. On the World- the Flood. The Mockers say that since God has not judged a wicked world in thousands of years then it seems unlikely that He would do so now. They refuse to recognize God's judgment on the world in the Flood and thus will not consider His coming judgment by Fire.

3. They forget the fact that God is eternal- 1 day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as 1 day with God. He is not bound to the same time schedule as man.

II. THE PROMISE- 9-10 Christ will Return

A) Delayed due to mercy not slackness- God wants all to be saved.

B) It's accomplishment will be unexpected and sudden; as a thief.

[NOTE: There are 4 "Days" in Scripture:

1. Day of man- from Adam's fall until the Second Advent when unsaved man has liberty to do as he pleases
2. Day of Christ- When Christ comes to rapture His bride
3. Day of the Lord- when the Lord has His day of visiting judgment upon the ungodly; the Tribulation and Millennium time.
4. Day of God- the great White Throne Judgment and the restoration of the earth and heavens to it's former glory.

III. THE PURPOSE OF ESCHATOLOGY- 11-14 Not to entertain; to enlighten us in order to:

A) Prompt toward Holiness- SEEING THEN THAT ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE DISSOLVED, WHAT MANNER OF PERSONS OUGHT YE TO BE IN ALL HOLY CONVERSATION AND GODLINESS- vs 11 (I John 3:2-3).

B) Push us to Witness- The way to "Hasten" the coming of the Lord is to win His Bride [Matt 24:14 AND THIS GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM SHALL BE PREACHED IN ALL THE WORLD FOR A WITNESS UNTO ALL NATIONS; AND THEN SHALL THE END COME.] Witnessing saves the lost and hurries the Lord. See also Acts 1: 6-8.

C) Anticipate the new world- vs 13 NEVERTHELESS WE, ACCORDING TO HIS PROMISE, LOOK FOR ALL HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH,

D) Prepare to meet God- SEEING THAT YE LOOK FOR SUCH THINGS, BE DILIGENT THAT YE MAY BE FOUND OF HIM IN PEACE, WITHOUT SPOT, AND BLAMELESS. When He returns we want to be found of Him:

1. IN PEACE- No matter if the world dissolves!
2. WITHOUT SPOT- As a Bride (Washed in Blood)
3. BLAMELESS- "Jesus Paid it All"

THE LORD WILL RETURN; MAYBE TODAY. ARE YOU READY???

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I returned at noon today from a 3 day stay in Columbia while Paula's mother was having heart surgery. As most of you know she was on the operating table ready to begin her surgery on Friday the 20th and the doctors had to stop. The Surgery was finally completed yesterday and we hope everything will go alright now. Paula and I have been "separated" for a month now and my members hope she will soon be back home so the preacher won't be so grumpy!! Our 19th Anniversary is Monday the 6th of February so I told her to tell the doctor her mother had to be home by then or I'd expect him to treat us to a night on the town!

Seriously, I APPRECIATE the many prayers that have gone up for Paula's mother. We have put her in the Lord's hands and I can't think of a better place for her to be.

It is at times like this that you realize how important it is to have Christian friends to Pray for and with you. Thanks.

PREACHER MIKE PS. 16:11

We are pleased to WELCOME Mr. W C Sauls as our special Gideon Speaker this coming Sunday. He will speak during the 11:00am service and I know it will prove a blessing to everyone. Brother W C recently had a major Heart attack himself and we're thankful the Lord had allowed him to stay and minister to us.

*** **

One of our Church goals this year is to average 75 in our Sunday School. It can be done but it's going to take a lot of "Prayer and Perspiration". A combination of those two is at work in our Prayer Meeting right now. We have prepared a list of over 100 names of people who we believe should attend our Sunday School (We actually think a lot more than that should attend!!) and we are praying for them each week. Step 2 will involve contacting each person and showing them that we are interested in them and in their relationship with the Lord.

Join us in Sunday School this week. You just might learn something that will change your family, your personality, or your eternal destiny!!

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TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

I. WHAT BOOK DOES IT COME FROM? (Circle correct answer)

1. The Burning Bush: A) Genesis B) Exodus C) Leviticus D) Numbers
2. "Blessed are the Meek; for they shall inherit the earth"
A) Mark B) Revelation C) Matthew
3. The Ten Commandments: A) Genesis B) Exodus C) Numbers
4. A Description of the "Virtuous Woman whose price is above rubies": A) Esther B) Ruth C) Psalms D) Proverbs
5. "For God so loved the world He gave his only begotten son"
A) Titus B) Jude C) John D) II Peter

II. OCCUPATION (Draw a line connecting the Person to their occupation)

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1. Gehazi | A) Hunter |
| 2. Cain | B) Harlot |
| 3. Esau | C) Handmaid to Sara |
| 4. Rahab | D) Servant to Elisha |
| 5. Hagar | E) Tiller of the Ground |

III. BIBLICAL NAMES AND WORDS: (Underline the correct explanation that applies to the word listed)

1. Dorcas: A Woman or a City
2. Festus: A Weed or a Governor
3. Hermon: A Man or a Mountain
4. Shekel: A Dish or a Coin
5. Tarsus: A City or a Spice

IV. FOUR LETTER NAMES (Fill in correct answer)

1. The Beloved Physician: _____
2. Israel's first king: _____
3. The man Ruth married: _____
4. Writer of next to last New Testament book: _____
5. Killed his brother: _____

V. PARABLE POINTERS:

(connect the Parable to something in it)

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| 1. The Rich Fool | Neighbor |
| 2. The Prodigal Son | Word |
| 3. The Good Samaritan | Bigger Barns |
| 4. The Sower | Hog Pen |
| 5. The House built on Rock | Storm |

A PRAYER FOR TODAY

What God Claims	I Yield
What I Yield	God Accepts
What God Accepts	He Fills
What God Fills	He Uses

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO YIELD TO GOD TODAY??

WHEN JESUS PASSES BY

People were lined up by the thousands Friday to catch a glimpse of the new President as he passed by. The winner of today's Super Bowl will have a parade in the next few days and thousands of people will stand out in cold or rain to see them pass by. Yet here we are in the House of God where we can meet with and worship the God of the Universe and no one seems to care if He passes by!!!

We are at a time in our Church where almost every family has a major sickness or difficult circumstance. I'm glad to know in times like this that Jesus is passing by and **HE HAS JUST WHAT WE NEED**. I want to look at several well known times in the scriptures where Jesus Passed by and helped people and then I want us to LET HIM DO THE SAME FOR US. (Example of Car in Curve; slow down before but accelerate in to defeat centrifugal force. Keep on keeping on when the problems come. The worst thing you can do is slow down. That just gives the problems more force).

1. Woman with the issue of Blood (Mark 5:25-34)- **He Gives you Help (In your Despair)**- Jesus was BUSY. He had just cast the demons out of a "graveyard stalker" and as soon as he returned to town he received word that Jairus's daughter was gravely ill. On the way to minister to her crowds of people thronged him wanting help and information (Isn't that the way it seems with you sometimes?? You can handle one crisis, maybe even two; but as soon as one thing goes wrong everything seems to fall apart and it's almost more than you can cope with. The example of Jesus here is very important. He dealt with each crisis as it unfolded. He didn't try to "get ahead of himself" nor did He try to do it all at once).

Suddenly in the midst of this throng of People someone TOUCHED Him. Her Situation was desperate- Spent all she had on Doctors and nothing better. Hope had dimmed, Health had deteriorated. But her faith brought her to Christ and she made a "Point of contact" in His robe. He's passing by here today and if you will quit thronging Him and in simple faith TOUCH Him, he can meet your needs.

2. Blind Bartimaeus (Luke 18:35-43)- **He Gives you Guidance (From your Darkness)**- Again Jesus was BUSY with a throng of people when this blind man hears his opportunity to have his needs met. He didn't get discouraged, nor did he allow himself to be sidetracked. He knew if he could contact Christ he could get light and he did!! Christ has direction for you in your darkness also (Example of new machine that reads words from a page and translates it into sound so the blind can "read" their mail. Christ Translates life for us!).

3. Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) **He Gives you Salvation (A New Life and a New Future)**- Zacchaeus was "up a tree"! He had everything but his heart was empty. When Jesus passed by Zacchaeus was willing to look "Foolish" in order to see Him. Jesus called him, came into his house, and transformed his life. He's passing by today to do the same thing for you-- but like the Passover in Egypt you must have the Blood Applied.

There are 3 Ways People deal with life's Problems:

1. Rowboat- Use their own power to try to get thru life
2. Sailboat- Allow the winds of circumstances to dictate what they do and where they go.
3. Steamboat- Power to maintain course and get a job done.

Jesus is passing by to deliver you from your own strength, and life's changing circumstances, to an abundant life. Don't Miss Him!!

LIVING ON TOP OF TROUBLES

Job 14:1 MAN THAT IS BORN OF WOMAN IS OF FEW DAYS, AND FULL OF TROUBLE.

The Opposite of Encouragement is Discouragement; and that's what a lot of people are. They are discouraged because of their Situation, their Vocation, or their Location. Like the Children of Israel, they quarrel about wearing the same clothes, eating the same food, or facing a fight to obtain the Promised land with little regard for the fact the God provided them freedom from slavery, food for the picking up, and a Promise to defeat all their enemies.

Today's Christian has more material goods than ever, more study methods and aids available than ever, and more opportunity to do something for God than ever before. But many of them spend all their time "Tripping over their troubles" and never learn to live the victorious life. Let's determine how we can Live on top of Troubles today.

1. THE CAUSE OF TROUBLES- You need to realize there is a reason for the troubles in your life. They don't just happen without rhyme or reason- Job 5:6-7 ALTHOUGH AFFLICTION COMETH NOT FORTH OF THE DUST, NEITHER COMETH TROUBLE FROM THE GOD OF THE SPRINGS: YET MAN IS BORN UNTO TROUBLE, AS THE SPARKS FLY UPWARD. You never get OUT of trouble- you must learn to live on Top of Troubles. You must learn to keep on and NEVER, NEVER QUIT. The only way you can do this is if you see the reason for the troubles and accept that reason.

It May Be:

- A) Chastisement for sins- to Develop and correct us.
- B) A Way for the Lord to Redirect you (Disciples would not leave Jerusalem until persecution came).
- C) A way for the Lord to humble you- Paul in II Cor 12
- D) A means to conform you to the image of Christ- Heb 5:8

II. THE CURE FOR TROUBLES- God never puts more ON you than He puts IN you to bear it!

- A) Belong to God- He Cares for His own Rom 8:28
- B) Believe in God- Just shall live by Faith Psalm 37:39 FOR THE SALVATION OF THE RIGHTEOUS IS OF THE LORD; HE IS THEIR STRENGTH IN THE TIME OF TROUBLE.
- C) Bear it for God's Glory and your good

THE WEAVER

My life is but a weaving
Between my Lord and me,
I cannot choose the colors
He worketh steadily.
Ofttimes He weaveth sorrow,
And I in foolish pride
Forget He sees the upper
And I, the underside.
Not till the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly
Shall God unroll the canvas
And explain the reason why
The dark threads are as needful
In the Weaver's skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned
Grant Clofax Tullar

PETER'S PROBLEM

Rev Mircheal Jones

John 21:1-25

When the Children of Israel arrived at the Jordan River on their way to Canaan they also arrived at a "Cross-roads" situation in their life. They were faced with 3 choices: (1) Go Back to Egypt and Captivity, (2) Continue to wander in the Wilderness and die, or (3) Cross Jordan with Faith in God's Promises. The Disciples in today's lesson are at the same place in their lives. Would the Disciples forget what Christ had done, continue to hide in fear, or "Turn the world upside down for Christ"??

Many in the Church are at this "Cross-roads" also- Some will "drop out" and go back to serving Self and the World, Some will be satisfied to be Lukewarm Christians (wondering why God gets so sick around them!!), and Some will deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Christ. Which course have YOU chosen??

1. PETER'S ERROR 21:1-14 He Left God's Plan for his Life and went back to what he was doing before Christ called him. There are several factors that may have caused this error- (1) Sorrow and Shame over denying the Lord (2) Anxiety over physical needs (No more contributions coming in with Christ gone. Did Judas steal all the money in the Treasury?? How was he supposed to support his family?) (3) Peter's natural inclination to do something (ANYTHING) rather than sit and wait. Most of us get into problems for the same reasons: Depression (so we take that drink, or look with lust, ...), Economic Pressures (so Church begins to take a back seat to worry or wealth), or Our Fleshly Nature (We don't have any Patience and we don't want God to Try our Faith to produce any [see James 1:3]. We'll trust God with the Cancer but we'll handle the Colds!!)

What were the Results of Peter's Error??

A> He Influenced Others to do wrong- Peter was a leader, but in this case he led the wrong way! Leaders need to be aware of this. Every Privilege has a Responsibility; and the greater the Privilege the greater the Responsibility! Peter should have been leading these men into service for the Lord; instead, he leads them back to where he started from. **WHERE ARE YOU LEADING PEOPLE TODAY???** Some people in Church are "natural" leaders. Their responsibility is great.

This responsibility is especially great for a Pastor. People today need someone to show them the right way and lead them confidently in that way. This means a Pastor must: (a) Preach the Word of God, (b) Live the Word of God, (c) Provide Leadership (People need a leader, not a signpost. A sign tell you what is ahead. A leader shows you how to get there), and (d) Love his people.

B> He labored in Vain- "That Night they caught nothing."- When you get out of God's will for your life life becomes barren and unfruitful. You work and try but life has no meaning and you accomplish nothing of lasting value.

C> He failed to recognize Christ- Christ reveals Himself to us many times as we go about our activities- Do we Recognize Him in our work, in our Homes, in all of Life's activities? (See Matt 25:24-46 "When saw we thee naked, or sick, or hungry?")

Are YOU where God told you to be today? Or have you gone fishing??

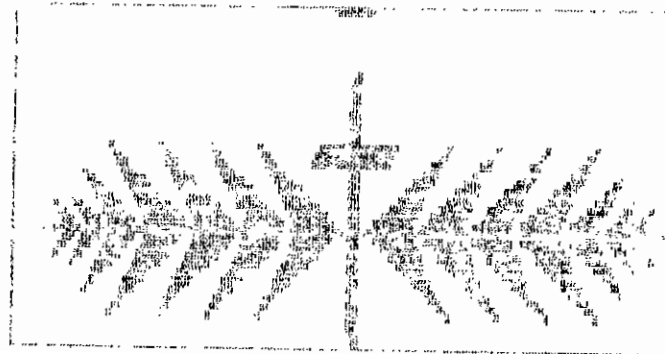
11. PETER'S EDUCATION- In 21:15-22 Peter needed to be taught what Christ expected from him and the motivation for that work so Christ gave him a "one word quiz".

1. What about your DEVOTION - "Lovest thou me?". Earlier He had told the Disciples If you Love me, Keep my Commandments (John 14:15). Now He brings Peter back to this PRIMARY PRINCIPLE. (He had to learn the difference between DUTY [A boss doesn't HAVE TO CALL you and invite you to work every day!! It's your duty to be there and his to fire you if you aren't!] and DEVOTION [My Wife doesn't have to invite me to come home to her, I love to do so]. Note the Comparison- "MORE". I LIKE my Work but I LOVE my Wife!

2. What about your DUTY- "Feed my lambs, tend my sheep". An awareness of His commission to us. Peter had forgotten that Christ had called him away from being a Fisherman to be a Fisher of Men. Today it seems that many Christians fail to realize that Christ has made them part of the "Body of Christ" and as such they have a function that only they can perform.

3. What about your DEDICATION to HIM- "Follow me"- A devoted following of Him; without comparing ourselves with Others!!!! (MOST CHURCH PROBLEMS RESULT FROM EITHER GUILT (about lack of duty or devotion) OR FRUSTRATION (Over lack of participation or recognition)). God expects us to do our VERY BEST for HIM regardless of the rewards or recognition. He died for us, He called us, and He saved us. We owe Him everything.

Christ expects from you today a Complete Devotion to Him, A realization of your Duty to Him, and a Dedication to HIS will for your life. Don't take the world's "Bait". Keep on keeping on for the Lord.



GRACE And GLORY



Grace Free Will Baptist Church
"To Know and To Show Christ"

BIBLE STUDY HOUR 10:00AM
 MORNING EVANGELISTIC
 SERVICE (LIVE OVER WJOT) 11:00AM
 EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE 6:00 PM
 WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICE 7:30 PM

MIRCHEAL JONES, PASTOR
 (803) 394-3725

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Paula's mother finally arrived home late today (Wednesday) and we thank you for your prayers in her behalf. As far as we know Paula will continue to stay with her mother for awhile but at least she's only 20 miles away instead of 80. 50 days in the hospital have been long and hard but the Lord's strength was always there and we praise HIM.

Even though I have been "tied down" to some degree the Lord has continued to work. It

appears the Hymntime program over WJOT will be "resurrected" soon and we look forward to that outreach. We also have "Knocked on the door" to begin televising our



Sunday Worship Service. So far no one has come to the door but we're still on the doorstep waiting!! I can hardly wait to see what's in store in the days to come.

I have been using any "Spare" time to work on our booklet and tape ministry. More about this soon. Continue to Pray for God's direction and guidance.

PREACHER MIKE PS. 16:11

[Thanks to Mrs Elise McBride for this]

"MARY HAD A LITTLE BOY"

Mary had a little boy,
 His soul was white as snow,
 He never went to Bible School,
 'Cause Mary wouldn't go.
 He never heard the story of Christ
 That thrills children's minds;
 While other children went to class,
 That child was left behind.
 And as he grew from babe to youth,
 She saw to her dismay
 A soul that once was snowy white
 Become dingy gray.
 Realizing that he was lost,
 She tried to win him back;
 But now the soul that once was white
 Had turned to ugly black.
 She even started back to church
 And Bible School, too--
 She begged the preacher,
 Isn't there a thing we can do?
 The preacher tried and failed
 And said, "We're just too far behind.
 I tried to tell you years ago,
 But you wouldn't pay me any mind",
 And so another soul is lost
 That once was white as snow;
 The Bible School would have helped,
 BUT MARY WOULDN'T GO.

COPIED

Hope to see you in Sunday School
 THIS WEEK.

Grace Free Will Baptist Church
 P O Box 1003 348 Lawrence St
 Lake City, S C 29560

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SHORT SHEETS

Isaiah 28:20 FOR THE BED IS SHORTER THAN THAT A MAN CAN STRETCH HIMSELF ON IT; AND THE COVERING NARROWER THAN THAT HE CAN WRAP HIMSELF IN IT.

One of the "negatives" about the wonderful fact of marriage is when your wife (or husband) pulls the cover off of you in the middle of the night and you are awake enough to be miserable and too asleep to get enough cover! This is about what Isaiah was writing about in this scripture. You're supposed to be resting comfortable but instead you are cramped or cold. The preacher has preached to come unto Jesus and "find rest for your soul" but sickness, circumstances, or sin have invaded your life and, like the constant aggravation of a rock in your shoe; discomfort, disease, or discouragement have caused you to question God's Plan or Purpose.

I want us today to look at some situations that seemed like the "Sheet was too short" and yet see how God was still in control and able to bring Triumph out of Tragedy. And then I want to apply these principles to everyday situations and learn to rest confidently and completely on God.

Let me begin with a simple object lesson- It is approximately 24 inches around my head (How can so much brains be contained in such a small space!!!). If my math is correct, that's about 7 inches from front to back. I can take a piece of paper 3 inches by 6 inches and cut a hole in it that will enable me to put it completely over my head and pass down to my shoulders. It appears to be impossible but if the hole is cut correctly it can be done. In the same way, many times it appears that situations in life can't possible be worked out but God has a way!

1. When you're "boxed in"- The Children of Israel were led by God into a situation where mountains were on 2 sides of them, the Red Sea was before them, and Pharaoh's army was behind them (Exodus 14:). The "sheet" was too short for the situation! The Children of Israel had no way out--but God did!! God provided a way for the people to go forward, and in doing so they not only escaped but also led their enemy into destruction. **ANSWER-** Go Forward in Faith

2. When you're surrounded- When Elisha's servant came out one morning he found the city surrounded by a vast army (II Kings 6:). He was terrified until Elisha opened his eyes and he could see the army of angels between them and the enemy. The "Bed was too narrow"! but God opened the eyes of the Servant and closed the eyes of the enemy and 1 preacher was able to conquer an entire army!.

ANSWER- Look in Faith and see things the way God does.

3. When your resources aren't sufficient- 5000 men to feed with only 2 fishes and 5 loaves and not enough money in the bank to buy any more (John 6:1-13). Every time you pull the "Sheet" up to your chin your toes get cold and if you cover your toes your chest freezes! Your Outgo always seems to be more than your Income. You plug one leak and look behind to see 3 more that have opened up.

The **ANSWER** was 3-fold:

1. Organization- "Make the men sit down" in groups of 50 or 100 (Mk 6:40). Break a "big" problem into manageable parts.

2. Prayer- "When he had given thanks". Human effort is only going to move the "sheet" from one place to another; you need Divine Guidance

3. Work in Faith- "he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down". I can almost see the disciples distributing to that first group of 50 and wondering what they would do when they went back to Christ; and doing that over and over!!

Is your Sheet too short?? God has a "sheet-stretcher" that will work in your situation and circumstances. Look for HIS ANSWER today.

THE GREATEST THINGS IN THE WORLD

I Cor 13:-

What is the greatest thing in the World?? Paul (I Cor 13:13); Peter (I Pet 4:8); and John (I John 2:8) all say LOVE. James calls Love the ROYAL LAW (James 2:8) and Paul says Love fulfills the Law (Rom 13:10). It was Love that brought Christ to the Cross and allows us to come to God (John 3:16). We should learn about and practice, Love; for Love is of God and God is Love.

I. LOVE CONTRASTED vs 1-3 (Love is the "cement" that binds all other Spiritual gifts together. Love is needed to make them operative).
Paul Contrasts Love against:

A) Special Speech- Eloquence. Though I have the tongues of men or angels, they are a sounding brass or tinkling cymbal without love.

B) Special Gifts- Prophecy (Preaching), Wisdom (understand all mysteries), Knowledge (have all knowledge), and Faith (to move mountains) are all NOTHING without Love.

C) Special Deeds- of Charity: give all my goods to feed the poor.
of Sacrifice: Give my body to be burned.

Without Love it does not Profit anything- Actions cannot overcome Attitudes [Notice that all Bible Epistles begin with Doctrine and then go to Deeds].

II. LOVE DEFINED vs 4-7 Love is:

A) Patient- Suffers Long

B) Kind- Considerate

C) Not Envious- Not Covetous

D) Humble- Does not Push it's self up or Puff it's self up.

E) Courteous- Does not behave in an unseemly manner.

F) Unselfish- Seeketh not it's own only

G) Good Temper- is not easily provoked

H) Pure- Thinketh no evil

I) Sincere- Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in truth

J) Stable- Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

III. LOVE DEFENDED It never Fails (ceases) vs 8-13

A) Prophecies, tongues, and knowledge all pass away

B) Love is a sign of maturity

C) Love will stand the test of time

HOW DO YOU RECEIVE LOVE?

1. Accepting the Person- Rom 5:5 Love of God is shed abroad in our heart by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

2. Actions that are seen- I John 4:19 We love him because He first loved us.

"Romantic" Love comes from shadows in the moonlight; REAL LOVE come in the brightness of light that allows you to see the faults as well as "fancys" and still loves for WHO the Person is and WHAT the Person does.

The Greatness of Love is that the more you give the more you receive!

WHAT LOVE DOES

Rev 2:2-5

We have examined "What Love Is" in our Sunday School class; now we want to see "What Love Does". That's the Bible way- First we find what we are supposed to Believe and then we learn how to live that Belief in our life.

This is an important subject today. Love affects our relationship with God and with man and is the single most important ingredient in a person's life. A writer's famous quote sums it up, "The heart is a desperate hunter, seeking only love". EVERY ILL in the world today can be traced to Leaving or Lacking Love- Men make gods of wealth, and fame, and 1000 other things because they lack a love for God. Divorce, Strife, and war all come from lack of love. People allow themselves to be abused with Drugs, Drink, and Lust because they are seeking someone to love them or they don't love themselves.

I want us today to see What Love Does FOR us and FROM God and then I want us to rekindle our Love for God and each other.

I. WHAT LOVE DOES FOR US:

A) Develops Trust- Rom 8:28 WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THEM THAT LOVE GOD, TO THEM WHO ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE. Love allows us to have CONFIDENCE in God even when we don't understand; and EVEN WHEN WE HURT. This same attitude of confidence will carry over into relationships when we Love people and believe they love us [An Example- The difference between a Murderer and a Doctor; One puts a knife into you to HARM you while the other does so to HELP you! Both hurt, but you submit to one and resist the other].

B) Disciplines Us- Heb 12:6 FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVETH HE CHASTENETH, AND SCOURGETH EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVETH. Love not only Builds Confidence, it also Corrects. Love give you the Right and the Responsibility to correct- Prov 13:24 HE THAT SPARETH HIS ROD HATETH HIS SON; BUT HE THAT LOVETH HIM CHASTENETH HIM BETIMES. Failures and Faults can many times be traced to lack of desire; a desire love will give you! If you know someone loves you, instead of becoming angry when they attempt to correct you you will see the need of change.

C) Displays Salvation- I John 3:14 WE KNOW THE WE HAVE PASSED FROM DEATH UNTO LIFE, BECAUSE WE LOVE THE BRETHREN. HE THAT LOVETH NOT HIS BROTHER ABIDETH IN DEATH. The world is not very interested in Sermons but it's excited about "Saints". If your relationship with the Lord has not changed your relationship with others then you need to examine your relationship!

II. WHAT LOVE DOES FROM GOD

A) Provides Salvation- John 3:16 Love brought Jesus to the Cross and sends the Holy Spirit seeking you!

B) Provides Security- Rom 8:35-39 WHO SHALL SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF CHRIST? SHALL TRIBULATION, OR DISTRESS, OR PERSECUTION, OR FAMINE, OR NAKEDNESS, OR PERIL, OR SWORD? AS IT IS WRITTEN, FOR THY SAKE WE ARE KILLED ALL THE DAY LONG; WE ARE ACCOUNTED AS SHEEP FOR THE SLAUGHTER. YAY, IN ALL THESE THINGS WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH HIM THAT LOVED US. FOR I AM PERSUADED, THAT NEITHER DEATH, NOR LIFE, NOR ANGELS. NOR PRINCIPALITIES, NOR POWERS, NOR THINGS PRESENT, NOR THINGS TO COME, NOR HEIGHT, NOR DEPTH, NOR ANY OTHER CREATURE, SHALL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD, WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. Nothing in this world, or out of it!, can separate me from God's Love. That assurance allows me to endure all life can toss my way and come out "More than conquerors" (You're more than conquerors when you turn a Problem into a Plus).

Have you left your first Love? You'll never know Peace and Joy until you return. Remember, it was YOU THAT LEFT LOVE, not God.

THE REASONS FOR HIS WRATH

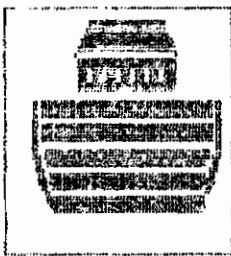
As we Christians look forward to the RETURN of Christ we must realize it is a Time of WRATH as well as WONDER. This wrath will begin with a period of intense problems in the world (Death, Disease, Famine, etc) in which over 1 billion people will perish, increase at the end of the first 3 1/2 years to a time called the "Great Wrath" of God, and culminate after the Millennium with the cleansing of the earth by fire. Millions upon millions of people will suffer intense pain and persecutions during this time (even to the point of desiring to die and not being able to do so) as the God of Love and Mercy shows a rebellious world that He is also a God of Judgment.

Why would a God who loved the world enough to send His own Son to die for them bring such wrath and judgment upon mankind?? I think the only way to find reasonable answers are to look back at History and see the times in the past when God brought massive Judgment on men and then try to learn from their mistakes. While we know we cannot prevent this future Wrath; yet we can learn WHY it will come and how not to be a part of it.

1. SATAN'S REBELLION: The first time we know of God bringing wrath on a massive scale was following the rebellion of Satan and his angel cohorts. God covered the world with water and cast it into darkness (This happened between Gen 1:1 and 1:2) and only brought it back into the "sunshine" in order to be inhabited by man. Isaiah 14:13-14 tells what Satan did that incurred such wrath- FOR THOU HAST SAID IN THINE HEART, I WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN, I WILL EXALT MY THRONE ABOVE THE STARS OF GOD: I WILL SIT ALSO UPON THE MOUNT OF THE CONGREGATION, IN THE SIDES OF THE NORTH: (Place of Control) I WILL ASCEND ABOVE THE HEIGHTS OF THE CLOUDS; I WILL BE LIKE THE MOST HIGH. Translated into common English this simple says, "I will be my own GOD".

So the first time God brings wrath on the world on a massive scale was because those who served Him tried to take His Power and deny His authority (Remember, the first commandment is always, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me").

2. MAN'S SINFULNESS: The second time the earth feels the full force of God's Wrath was the flood in Noah's day. Gen 6:2 and 5 tell why God brought this destruction- THE SONS OF GOD SAW THE DAUGHTERS OF MEN THAT THEY WERE FAIR; AND THEY TOOK THEM WIVES OF ALL WHICH THEY CHOSE. AND GOD SAW THE WICKEDNESS OF MAN WAS GREAT IN THE EARTH, AND THAT EVERY IMAGINATION OF THE THOUGHTS OF HIS HEART WAS ONLY EVIL CONTINUALLY. God had given Adam and Eve His Plan that called for Marriage and producing Children (To repopulate the earth and, after sin, to bring forth Messiah to save the world). Now Man put Pleasure ahead of God's Plan and let his desires overcome God's directions. We don't know much about Satan's pre-adamic world but we do know that in Noah's day God's Wrath



would mean the destruction of every man, woman, boy, and girl on earth; except those in Noah's family [In fact, it even changed the world so that rain became a part of nature's cycle- and man's life cycle was greatly shortened following the flood]. Man had put his plans in the place of God's plans and destruction was the result.

3. **REJECTION OF CHRIST:** The Third time God's Wrath will fall upon this world is because men refuse to accept the Person of God in Jesus Christ- REV 6:15-17 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: FOR THE GREAT DAY OF HIS WRATH IS COME; AND WHO SHALL BE ABLE TO STAND?

3 reasons then for Wrath:

1. Refusing to yield to God's POWER
2. Refusing to Follow God's PLAN
3. Refusing to Accept God's PARDON as found in Christ.

How is this applicable to today?

1. We live in a world in which man refuses to acknowledge God's Power- Man has become his own God (Humanism) and feels he must answer only to self. He only wants to USE God when he's sick or in trouble; otherwise, if God doesn't brother him he won't brother God.
2. God's Plan of Marriage and Family is under constant bombardment by a world bent on making Pleasure it's God. Abortion, Homosexuality, live-in Lovers, and divorce are the order of the day. God's plan may be good to talk about but noone expects you to really live the way God commands if it cramps your style!
3. Men are willing to give Money, time, and work to the Lord but don't ask them to humble their heart at the foot of the cross and accept Christ as Saviour. Everyone wants to "go to Heaven" but few want to bear a cross and be counted a fool for Christ's sake.

It is not a question of IF GOD'S WRATH WILL COME but WHEN WILL GOD'S WRATH COME??? You have 2 choices today:

1. WAIT FOR HIS SON FROM HEAVEN, WHOM HE RAISED FROM THE DEAD, EVEN JESUS, WHICH DELIVERED US FROM THE WRATH TO COME I Thess 1:10
2. OR DESPISE THOU THE RICHES OF HIS GOODNESS AND FORBEARANCE AND LONGSUFFERING; NOT KNOWING THAT THE GOODNESS OF GOD LEADETH THEE TO REPENTANCE? BUT AFTER THY HARDNESS AND IMPENITENT HEART TREASUREST UP UNTO THYSELF WRATH AGAINST THE DAY OF WRATH AND REVELATION OF THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT OF GOD. Rom 2:4-5

You can acknowledge God's Power, follow God's Plan, and accept God's Pardon; or you can keeping "storing up wrath" until one day God says enough and His wrath falls upon you. No one but you can make the choice!!

OB I R I C E

AND

OB I R I D

"To Know and Show Christ"

Grace Free Will Baptist Church

March 2, 1989

Bible Study Hour 10:00am
Morning Evangelistic Service 11:00am
(Live over WJOT)
Evening Worship Service 6:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm
Mirchaal Jones, Pastor (803) 394-3725

Vol VII Num 5 348 Lawrence St * P O Box 1003 * Lake City, S C 29560

REVIVAL SERVICES - GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday, March 5 - Wednesday, March 8

Special Speakers and Special Singers for each service:

	Speaker	Singer
Sunday (11:00am)	Pastor Mike Jones	Todd Newell
Sunday (6:30pm)	Rev Lamar Smith	Anne Thigpen/Damon Runion
	[Pastor - Free Will Baptist Bible Church, Florence]	
Monday (7:30pm)	Rev Theron Scott	Merry Grooms
	[Pastor - West Side Free Will Baptist Church, Johnsonville]	
Tuesday (7:30pm)	Rev Rick Cason	Tommy Graham
	[Pastor - Bethany Free Will Baptist Church, Timmons ville]	
Wednesday (7:30pm)	Rev Larry McAlister	Gilead FWB Church
	[Pastor - Gilead Free Will Baptist Church, Scranton]	

Join us for this time of Spiritual Renewal and Refreshment

I am greatly excited about, and have great expectations for, this Revival. This has been a "Wearisome Winter" for my people- almost every family has had a major sickness, a job problem, or a serious family problem; and we need for God to renew our Spiritual Energy and Dedication (Problems seem to always make people look at their needs instead of God's Work). We also have MULTITUDES of Lost Family and Friends that we want secure in God's Ark before the flood of His wrath is unleashed.

We have GREAT Preachers and WONDERFUL Special Music and we hope you'll take the opportunity to join us for these services. I ask that those of you who are unable to attend to remember us in Prayer during this week. (We hope to make videos of all of the Services so even those that can't come will get to share the Blessings).

NEW MEMBERS- We were very pleased last Sunday to WELCOME into the Fellowship of the Church **Tom and Anne McKnight**. They have been such a Blessing to the Church already. I hope this is the first of 100 new members this year!!!!

The Outreach Ministry continues it's slow but steady progress. Video, Audio, Booklet, and this newsletter ministry enable us to greatly multiply our ministry. Thanks for your Help- Preacher Mike

Grace Free Will Baptist Church
P O Box 1003
Lake City, S C 29560



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4 THINGS NECESSARY FOR A MAN TO BE SAVED

Acts 16:30

The most important decision anyone will ever make is their decision about Salvation. What are the necessary "ingredients" for such a decision? What's your part?

1. **GOD**- The Supreme One we ALL must ANSWER to.

A) Reveals His HOLY STANDARD we must meet; not our Personal Standards (goodness) or Society's Requirements. God is the one that has been sinned against and He is the one you must answer to.

B) Reveals His CONCERN for us by the convicting work of the Holy Spirit (Unless the Spirit draws you you cannot be saved). Problems, Pains, and Preaching all combine to bring you to the knowledge that you need God.

2. **SINNER**- One who has offended God in some way. Must be SAVED

A) FROM God's Wrath- All have sinned and Wages of Sin is Death.

B) TO God's Wealth and Work- TO AS MANY AS RECEIVED HIM TO THEM GAVE HE POWER TO BECOME THE SONS OF GOD. From a Hell bound Sinner to a Heaven Bound Saint!!

3. **TRUTH**- The Message from God to the Sinner

A) Must be the Truth II Pet 1:16 FOR WE HAVE NOT FOLLOWED DUNNINGLY DEvised FABLES, WHEN WE MADE KNOWN UNTO YOU THE POWER AND COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, BUT WERE EYEWITNESSES OF HIS MAJESTY.

There are multitudes of beliefs and doctrines in the world today. Some teach you are saved by joining the Church or by being baptized. Some teach meditation and mind control. Some teach "doctrines of Devils". But the only one that is right is the one that exalts Jesus Christ as the Saviour who died on the cross as payment for your sins, who was buried, and then resurrected and will one day come again for His people.

B) Must be Proclaimed- In Acts 8:26-40 the Ethiopian Eunuch had to have a man to lead him. He was reading the Bible, had been to Church, and was concerned enough to travel hundreds of miles but someone had to proclaim the message.

C) Must be Accepted- Jesus continually warned about people who had ears to hear and yet would not hear. You cannot simply know the "boat" will save you; you must take a step of faith and get in.

4. **FAITH**- The "bridge" between God and Man. To Believe means to Cling to, Rely on, Trust in. FOR BY GRACE ARE YOU SAVED THROUGH FAITH; AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES: IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD, NOT OF WORKS LEST ANY MAN SHOULD BOAST. Eph 2:8-9 This Faith Produces

A) Repentance- A turning away from sin. A sorrow for sin that causes you to want to "Break" with it. Not just sorrow because of what happens as a result of your sin but because it was against God.

B) Acceptance- The "vacuum" of abandoned sin must be replaced with Abundant Life in Christ or you'll end up worst off than before.

What do you receive when you receive Christ? II Tim 1:9 WHO HATH SAVED US, AND CALLED US WITH AN HOLY CALLING, NOT ACCORDING TO OUR WORKS, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS OWN PURPOSE AND GRACE, WHICH WAS GIVEN US IN CHRIST JESUS BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN.

1. Pardon from Sin's Punishment

2. Peace WITH God and the Peace OF God.

3. Placement in the Body of Christ that gives you Purpose in life and rewards at death.

Everything Necessary for your Salvation is in Place. ARE YOU SAVED?

NEW CREATURES

II Cor 5:17-21. THEREFORE IF ANY MAN BE IN CHRIST, HE IS A NEW CREATURE: OLD THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY; BEHOLD, ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW. AND ALL THINGS ARE OF GOD, WHO HATH RECONCILED US TO HIMSELF BY JESUS CHRIST, AND HATH GIVEN TO US THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION; TO WIT, THAT GOD WAS IN CHRIST, RECONCILING THE WORLD UNTO HIMSELF, NOT IMPUTING THEIR TRESPASSES UNTO THEM; AND HATH COMMITTED UNTO US THE WORD OF RECONCILIATION. NOW THEN WE ARE AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST, AS THOUGH GOD DID RESEEK YOU BY US: WE PRAY YOU IN CHRIST'S STEAD, BE YE RECONCILED TO GOD FOR HE HATH MADE WITH US SIN FOR US, WHO KNEW NO SIN; THAT WE MIGHT BE MADE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM.

One of the things that first attracted me to Christianity was the message of THE POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE. Even as a 14 year old boy I knew that I needed help with my life. I was undergoing changes in my own life, Society was going through major changes (this was the beginning of the "Kennedy Era"), and I had just begun to realize the despair that can set in when you are "locked in" a bad situation (My dad had been a mechanic for 15 years and was still being paid the same base pay with little hope of advancement). The greatness of the message of Christianity to me was that God COULD Save me (He was able to do what I couldn't), God WOULD Save me (Because He LOVED ME), and Salvation would produce a Change in me.

Many other people are looking for that same thing today- To know someone loves them and that they can change their life. The sad thing is that some have stopped looking and have given in to the "demons" of despair or drugs and now live lives of quit desperation hoping someone somehow can reach and help them. For these and others, let's look at how God makes us NEW CREATURES.

I. THE OLD THINGS THAT PASSED AWAY. God always begins by "cleaning up the New ground"; removing the hindrances so the help can work. Remember That!! Far too many people seek to stack righteousness on top of rottenness and find themselves with a faulty foundation!

You must have a:

A) DESIRE TO LEAVE THE OLD- As long as you are content living in sin, then you'll never change. We call this CONVICTION

B) DEFINITE DECISION to turn from Sin to God. This is not a vague "someday I hope to do better" thing; it's a conscious decision that God can and will help you and you're willing to follow His direction. We call this REPENTANCE.

When you do this there are 3 things that change in your life:

1) Sin's Bondage- You used to serve your master the Devil but now you have changed "Bosses". Satan may still issue some orders sometimes (and you may still find yourself obeying them!) but his power over you has been broken and you now can learn to live in liberty.

2) Sin's Burdens- The bondage of sin stacks many burdens on your back: No Peace, inability to maintain relationships (divorce and family problems), destruction of your body, and wasted time and energy.

3) Sin's Punishment- You were under God's Wrath with Hell only a Heartbeat away but now you are a Citizen of Heaven with a mansion prepared and waiting for you!! If that doesn't change a man's outlook then I don't know what will!!

11. THE THINGS THAT BECOME NEW. But when you accept Christ as Saviour you don't just give up something; you BECOME something new- a New Creature (Creation); with a new desire and a new destination. We call this being BORN AGAIN.

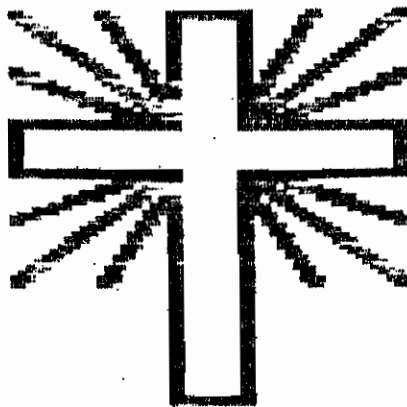
A) The Source of the Transformation- "All Things" are of God. It is not a New Leaf but a New Life; not your Ability but God's Spirit. It is not like a diet where your will power determines the alterations but like a doctor prescribing medicine; your part is to accept the help and the medicine does the work. A "Born Again" Person is indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:9) and his body becomes the Temple of the Holy Spirit (I Cor 6:19-20). The Spirit Baptizes the person into the Body of Christ where they are given a function to perform (a spiritual gift to enable them to do their part in the Body of Christ- I Cor 12:-). As they yield themselves to Him, they can also be Filled with the Spirit in order to faithfully fulfill their place in their family and Society (Eph 5:18-6:9)

B) The Serenity of the Transformation- Reconciled to God by Jesus Christ. We were enemies of God but a "peace treaty" was signed at calvary and we now have Peace WITH God as well as the Peace OF God. We still must fight Satan but we do so with the armor of God about us and the knowledge that the outcome is already determined!!

C) The Service of the Transformation- given us the ministry of reconciliation= sharing the Gospel of Christ with a lost world.
Our Mission is: Well Defined- Show men Christ
Satisfying- Eternal Value
Rewarding- Pleases God and Man

So there you have it. God is able to Take away the old things that were defeating us and bringing about death and replace them with a new birth that gives us POWER to change, PEACE in the Change, and a PLACE of service that is glorious and Good. Isn't it sad that some people are rejecting His offer and remaining in sin. How awful Hell will be to remember what you could have had and instead suffer pain and punishment in outer darkness while you see the Saints of God enjoying Eternity with Him.

ARE YOU SAVED????



The Way of the CROSS
Leads Home

CHANGE

II Corinthians 5:17 says that if any man is in Christ he is a "New Creature". This New Creature begins at the moment of New Birth and is enabled by the Power of God, but it is not simply a moment of Decision; it is a process of Growth. Growth involves CHANGE and it is this Change that is so difficult.

Change involves WORK (It's easier to stay like you are), WORRY (I'm scared to try something new), and WOES (You can't try new things without failing sometimes). I want us to examine some of the Areas God Changes us in and then become Motivated enough to desire this change even with the Pain and Problems that accompany it.

I. SOME AREAS GOD CHANGES (These are not listed in any particular order because it depends on WHAT God wants changed and WHEN He wants it changed).

A) Our Personality- (1) Submission to the Holy Spirit changes us from the works of the Flesh to the Fruits of the Spirit- Gal 5:16-26. (2) A New Mind makes us a New Man as we learn to replace the bad in our lives with an active good- Eph 4:22-29. Far too many Christians are difficult to live with because they are willing to submit their souls to God but they won't give Him their personality.

B) Our Location- (1) Promises- to Abraham and to the children of Israel make them leave one place and go to another. Today we might call this a "vision" for a new work.

(2) Persecutions- Made the Apostles move when they weren't quick enough to go where God wanted- Acts 8:1-4; but it also put Moses in the Wilderness for 40 years when he tried to do God's work ahead of God's timetable- Ex 2:11-15

C) Our Activities- God takes fishermen and turns them into "fishers of men", persecutors and turns them into Preachers, and even chooses the foolish things of the world to confound the wise! (I Cor 1:27-29)

II. THE METHODS GOD USES TO CHANGE US

A) Education- Col 3:10 AND HAVE PUT ON THE NEW MAN, WHICH IS RENEWED IN KNOWLEDGE AFTER THE IMAGE OF HIM THAT CREATED HIM. Many times God uses Preaching to Educate us- The Word Points out our Faults and Produces Faith. Many people aren't changed because they keep the sermons they hear to a minimum and even when they are "exposed" to one they try to keep their mind on other things so it won't do too much "damage". God does not "feed us the whole cow" at one time, He uses the principle that PRECEPT MUST BE UPON PRECEPT, PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT; LINE UPON LINE, LINE UPON LINE; HERE A LITTLE, AND THERE A LITTLE (Is 28:10) as He gradually builds us into the person He has planned.

B) The Indwelling Spirit- II Cor 3:18 BUT WE ALL, WITH OPEN FACE BEHOLDING AS IN A GLASS THE GLORY OF THE LORD, ARE CHANGED INTO THE SAME IMAGE FROM GLORY TO GLORY, EVEN AS BY THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD. The Spirit tries to conform us to the image of Christ but we either Quench the Spirit (Won't do what He asks us to do) or Grieve the Spirit (Allow wrong to defeat our purity and power). If we would but yield ourselves to the Spirit's directions we would find a Peace and Purpose that passes understanding.

C) Challenge- Jesus was continually challenging people to make a stand for Him; and while this process "weeded out" some that thought riches were more important than righteousness (Mark 10:17-22) and a home on earth was more important than a home in Heaven (Luke 9:57-62, it brought those who remained to a decision to "take up their cross" and follow Christ.

Can you identify any changes in your life as a result of your becoming a Christian? What areas need to be changed??

PIERCED EARS

Exodus 21:1-6

Before I was saved I was the Servant of Sin, Satan, and Self. Now I belong to God and I love to serve Him- I didn't lose joy, I found abundant life! I want to look today at a man who made such a life changing decision and see how we need to make the same decision.

Let's begin with an Object Lesson- Jesus said many times that men have "eyes to see and yet see not". He was stating a Spiritual principle but it works in the physical world as well- Without looking, can you tell me what color tie your husband or father is wearing? If your wife or mother is wearing a necklace?

We tend to see but not see all the time; that's why coke and pepsi spend millions and millions of dollars every year to show the same advertisements over and over. They have a constant theme that you remember when you go to buy a soft drink. That's one of the main purposes of advertisements; to establish a readily identifiable symbol for a product (Andrew could see a sign advertising Burger King when he was 18 months old and say, "This is a Burger King town!").

That "recognizing mark" is what I want us to look at today. I want us to see a man who allowed a hole to be placed in his ear so that anyone who saw him walking down the street would immediately say, "This man is a bond-slave by choice". And then I want us to willingly make the same choice about serving Christ; and live so everyone we meet will say, "That person is a Christian".

I. THE CIRCUMSTANCES- This man has somehow incurred a debt that was so big until he was unable to pay it with money and had to use his daily labor as a method of repayment. Christians have the same circumstances and obligations- I Cor 6:20 FOR YE ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE; THEREFORE GLORIFY GOD IN YOUR BODY, AND IN YOUR SPIRIT, WHICH ARE GOD'S.

II. HIS CHOICE-

A) He had a free Will- He could leave or stay: just as God has given us freedom to live dedicated lives for Him or slack lukewarm lives. God asks for our Dedication but does not force us to give it.

B) His choice affected his family- I try so hard to get our Young Married couples to realize this. If they attend church spasmodically and never get involved then their children grow up without a spiritual foundation. In latter years, when the storms of life come upon them, their "house" will come crashing down.

C) His choice was based on love- I LOVE MY MASTER. Fear could not motivate him because he had the choice to leave but he enjoyed the fellowship and work of his master so much until he wanted to spend the rest of his life in his service [That's the demonstration of love John 14:21 HE THAT HATH MY COMMANDMENTS, AND KEEPETH THEM, HE IT IS THAT LOVETH ME:] IT'S NOT A JOB SERVING THE LORD, IT'S A JOY!!

III. HIS CONSECRATION-

A) A Clear Decision- vs 5 He Plainly said.

B) An Open confession- vs 6 Before the Judges (You must believe in your heart and confess with your mouth).

C) A Permanent Dedication- vs 6 He joined the "order of Pierced ears" and determined to serve his master for ever- everyone who saw him knew that he had made the decision.

Paul called himself a bonds slave of Christ- Do you have that attitude today? Do you seek to serve the Lord or to make the Lord serve you (Like a 4 year old trying to help mommy; and making more of a mess that being a help). Consecration is like handing God a blank check for our lives with our names signed on the bottom; and trusting Him to use it wisely. Have you done that??

GRACE And GLORY



Grace Free Will Baptist Church
"To Know and To Show Christ"

BIBLE STUDY HOUR 10:00AM
 MORNING EVANGELISTIC
 SERVICE (LIVE OVER WJOT) 11:00AM
 EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE 6:00 PM
 WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICE 7:30 PM

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I'm copying videos of the Revival Services, making Audio Cassettes, and writing up a Newsletter all at the same time. The Revival was very good with several decisions for Christ and a large number of Rededications but trying to multiply it's ministry makes for a busy time. It's the kind of busy I like however and I hope I can always be found working hard as a good steward in the service of the Lord. (Any of you that would like audio or video [we've put all 5 services of special music and preaching on 1 video] cassettes of the Revival are welcome to them. They're free for the asking).

I'm making cassettes of the music for our Easter Cantata during the time I'm not copying Revival Tapes. We've make up our own program this year and I believe it will bless and stir people's hearts. The young people in the Church are also preparing for an Easter program as we look to one of the "highlight" times in the Church year. I hope you can join us this Sunday (A very special Sunday for me- see back of this page) and Easter Sunday also.



EASTER SERVICES

Good Friday, March 24
 at 7:30pm the Adult
 Choir will present the
 Easter Cantata "The

Road to Calvary" followed by a
 very special Communion Service.

Then on
 Easter Sunday
 we have one of
 the great days
 in the Church
 year.



7:00AM-----SUNRISE SERVICE
 (Featuring a play by the Youth of the
 Church as well as an encore
 presentation of the Adult Cantata)
 8:00AM-----FULL BREAKFAST
 (Brother Russel Lowder, Arnold Lowder,
 and Marion Coker prepare a meal that
 worth getting up early for)

9:00AM-----BIBLE STUDY HOUR
 "The Fruits of the Resurrection"
 10:00AM-----EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE
 I'll be speaking on "Living in the
 Light of the Resurrection". I won't
 try to prove Jesus was Resurrected but
 will show how we are to live as a
 Result of the FACT that HE IS RISEN.
 (We won't have a Wednesday Service on
 March 22 since we are having the
 Friday service and we won't have an
 Evening Service Easter Sunday).

Isn't it wonderful being a
 Christian and serving a risen
 coming Saviour!!!

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THANK GOD, I'M SAVED!

Ps 107:2 LET THE REDEEMED OF THE LORD SAY SO, WHOM HE HATH REDEEMED FROM THE HAND OF THE ENEMY;

This coming Sunday, March 19th, is my 27th Birthday!! I was born again on Monday Night March 19, 1962 at New Prospect FWB Church in "Shinbone Alley", S C. It was the greatest thing to happen in my life and I want to share some of the details with you today.

The first thing I think of relating to my Salvation is **CONCERN**. I grew up in a home where we very seldom attended Church. My parents taught us good moral principles but we had little to do with the Church. My next door neighbor was Mr. Buster Poston, a deacon in New Prospect FWB Church. As a young boy growing up I watched Mr. Buster and realized that he had "something" that made his life different- and he kept trying to share it with me!! Even though I was "one of those Jones boys", he loved me and kept inviting me to attend Church with his family so I could learn about the Person who made such a difference in his life. He made a special effort to invite me to the Revival being held in March of 1962.

That brings us to my **CONVERSION**. On the Friday night of the Revival I felt God dealing with my heart about my sin and realized that I was lost and doomed for Hell without God. I passed it off that night by saying that I would get saved on Saturday night. Saturday night I did not feel God's Spirit at all- and I was one more scared 14 year old boy (First lesson God taught me was that HE is God and you come on HIS terms!!!). I determined in my bed on Saturday night that I would go to the Altar Sunday and beg God to accept me; but my dad decided to go on a Picnic Sunday Morning and I had to go with the rest of the family. I thought I had missed my chance until I learned the next day at School that they had decided to continue the Revival another week. Monday night I could hardly wait for the Evangelist to finish speaking so I could go forward to accept Christ. When the invitation was given I started forward and felt a tug on my coat; one of my friends was trying to encourage me, but I thought he was trying to stop me, so I left my coat with him and went to the Altar!!

I didn't know much "Theology" but I knew I was lost and wanted to have my sins forgiven. As I knelt at the Altar someone leaned over and told me to "Trust Jesus". I did- and have been doing so ever since. He forgave my sins, came into my heart through the Spirit, and made me (yes, ME) a son of God. I still can't get over the fact that God Could, and Would, and Did Save ME.

And, finally, because of that night 25 years ago, my life has been **CHANGED**. My body became the temple of the Holy Spirit and He has been conforming me to the image of Jesus Christ. I've had ups and downs, made mistakes (and felt the chastening hand of God!), and found that the greatest part of Salvation is not it's beginning but the fact that it just keeps getting better and better.

I'm glad God loved me enough to let Jesus die for me. I'm glad someone shared the Good News of the Gospel with me. And I'm very glad that God now allows me to spend my life and energy sharing the Gospel with others.

Several years after I was saved I adopted Ps 16:11 THOU WILT SHew ME THE PATH OF LIFE: IN THY PRESENCE IS FULLNESS OF JOY; AT THY RIGHT HAND THERE ARE PLEASURES FOR EVERMORE as my "life verse" because it described what I have found in Christ- 1) a Path for my Life, 2) a "partner" that brings joy in the journey, and 3) a home in Heaven that awaits me. The journey has been long and eventful (Ask to see the "scrapbook" the Church gave me several years ago) but I wouldn't take anything for the road I've traveled or the friends in Christ I've made; and wait until you see what's ahead!!!

Preacher Mike Psalm 16:11

ENLIGHTENMENT ON EASTER

1. The Word "Easter" is found ____ times in the Bible while the word "Christmas" is found ____ times.
 2. The Birth of Jesus is detailed in ____ of the Gospels while His Death and Resurrection are told about in ____ of the Gospels.
 3. What is the Jewish holiday that is celebrated at the same time we celebrate Easter _____?
 4. When Jesus washed the Disciples feet following the "Lord's Supper" was Judas present and did Jesus wash his feet _____?
 5. What Strengthened Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane as he Prayed _____ and what did His sweat look like _____? (Lu 22:44)
 6. How did Jesus identify His betrayer at Supper _____? (Jn 13:26)
 7. How did Judas identify Jesus to the mob _____? (Mk 14:44)
 8. What charge did the Jewish council use to judge Jesus worthy of Death _____ (Mk 14:63-64)? What Charge did Pilate find to crucify Him _____ (Matt 27:22-26, 37).
 9. What 3 names are used for the place where Jesus was Crucified? _____ (Mat 27:33) _____ (Mk 15:22) _____ (Lu 22:33)
 10. Who carried Jesus' Cross for Him _____? (Lu 23:26)
 11. While Jesus was being crucified it became dark for _____ hours?
 12. When Jesus yielded up the ghost the _____ of the temple was torn in two from _____ to _____ and there was an earthquake that caused many _____ to open? (Matt 27:50-53)
 13. _____ and _____ performed the burial services for Jesus (Jn 19:38-42).
 14. What 2 things did the Pharisees do to the tomb of Jesus to insure that His disciples would not steal His body _____?
 15. What part of the burial garments of Jesus was not found with the rest of his wrap _____? (Jn 20:7)
 16. To Whom did Jesus appear on that first resurrection day _____ (Mk 16:9) _____ (Lu 24:13) _____ (Jn 20:19) _____ (Matt 28:9-10) _____ (Lu 24:34, I Cor 15:5)
 17. If Christ is not raised from the dead then our _____ is useless and our _____ is no good. (I Cor 15:14)
- "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope BY THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE DEAD," (I Pet 1:3).

THE LAST WEEK

SUNDAY- Entrance into the city on an Ass with Palms and Praise
(First time meek and lowly on ass, second time on white horse as conquerer. How will you receive Him?)

- Cast out Money changers and healed diseased (Just like He did at the beginning of His ministry).
- Home to Bethany

MONDAY -On the way to Jerusalem He cursed Fruitless Fig Tree (Example of Jews who looked like something but had no fruit. He called the religious leaders "Unmarked graves" that men walk on and don't know are there= live and die and made no difference!)

TUESDAY -Fit tree withered, the power of Faith

-Religious leaders challenge Christ's Authority, Parable of 2 sons (Which obeyed?), wicked husbandman (sharecropper) who wanted it all, Marriage feast (excuses and no wedding gown)

-Question of tribute to Caesar- render what is his-Herodians

-Saducees question Resurrection, wife of 7 brethren

-Pharisees ask greatest Commandment: Love God first and Neighbor as self.

-Jesus pronounced woe on Scribes and Pharisees (House left to them desolate)

-Widow's Mite

-Jesus tells the future Matt 24,25

-Jesus is anointed for burial at Simon the Leper's home (Judas mad about "waste")

-Judas agrees to betray Jesus at convenient time.

WEDNESDAY -Silent Wednesday

THURSDAY -Preparation for Passover (Upper Room)

-Passover, Feet washing, Lord's Supper (The walking sayings of John 14-17. Promise of Place, Power, Prayer)

FRIDAY (Before Dawn) -The agony of Prayer in the Garden

-The Arrest (The Disciples flee)

-Peter and John follow Christ to High Priest's Palace where Christ is on trial. No witnesses can be found but Christ himself gives enough evidence to allow them to condemn Him. (Peter also on "trial" but fails in denying Christ 3 times).

-Christ is taken to Pilate's Hall (Judas tries to return 30 pieces of silver- He confessed to Priest; Peter confessed to God!)

-Pilate finds no fault in Christ and sent Him to Herod who has him beaten and mocked (Christ says nothing at all to Herod)

-Christ is returned to Pilate who tries unsuccessfully to have him released. Finally despite the advice of his wife and his own conscience Pilate has Christ beaten, mocked, a crown of thorns put on him and crucified while Barnabas the murderer is released by the request of the people. (Simon of Cyrene is compelled to bear the cross; it does not say Christ fell with the Cross!)

-Christ tells the women of Jerusalem to weep for themselves

(Around 9:00am) -Jesus is Crucified between 2 thieves

1. Father, Forgive them for they know not what they do.

-Soldiers part his garments, Jews mock, thief repents

2. Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise

3. Woman behold thy Son, Behold thy mother

-Darkness from noon til 3pm

4. My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me

5. I thirst (Fulfill Scriptures)

6. It is finished

7. Father into thy hands I commend my Spirit

-Veil in temple rent in two, graves of saints opened

(Earthquake after veil, before graves open)

-Buried by Joseph and Nicodemus

We are entering a Revival that we hope will be a turning point in the life of many people- and in our Church.

What is Revival? The dictionary gives it several meanings: 1) To return to activity again. 2) To restore to life or consciousness. 3) To reanimate or renew the spirit, the mind, or the heart.

REVIVAL, therefore, deals with RESTORATION instead of Evangelism (Although Evangelism will follow as a natural result of Christians being restored to their Love for God and men).

Revival, however, must be more than a DEFINITION; it must produce a DEMONSTRATION! When REVIVAL comes to the CHURCH the Holy Spirit (As the "Breath of God") 1) Eliminates all foreign matter that blocks it's work and restores to normal function the body of Christ (The Church) [It does this by showing Christians how they have Grieved or Quenched the Spirit]. 2) Awakens the sleeping Christian by whatsoever means necessary in order to get him back into the work of the Lord. [Renewing First love, setting our hearts to prayer, etc] [See Rom 13:11-14]. 3) Returns JOY to the Church, the Christian, and the Community- Ps 85:6 WILT THOU NOT REVIVE US AGAIN; THAT THY PEOPLE MAY REJOICE IN THEE? Revival, therefore, produces Christians that are Holy, Dedicated, and Happy; and we need a lot more of those!!

When do we Need Revival?

1. When members who were once faithful begin to miss Church Services on a regular basis.
2. When Church members want to fellowship with those outside of the Church more than with God's family.
3. When the Church has no Burden for lost souls, and there are no new births into God's family.
4. When Tribulations and Trials attack people's faith and discourage their hearts.

Why do we Need Revival??

We have leaders, Sunday school teachers, and members of our church that attend mainly on Sunday Morning. We must decide (1) if this is a problem; (2) Is it a Personal Problem or a Spiritual Problem; and (3) what, if anything, can and should be done about it.

Most of our Teens and Young Adults attend only on Sunday Morning and have no dedication to the Church and it's work. They are excellent in doing what they do when it's convenient but are seldom willing to sacrifice to get the job done.

Almost all of the Families in the Church have a sick family member, shaky job situation, or sticky family problem that depletes time and energy. How can we maintain a high Spiritual level of enthusiasm while living in a world that constantly batters and beats us.

Most of the "prospects" for enlarging our Church have become so familiar with the Gospel until their hearts are calloused and it's very very difficult to win them to the Lord. Many of them are family members that were in Church at one time and have ceased to come for one reason or another. Most of them have claimed to be "saved" at one time or another and have little confidence in their ability to live the Christian life or in God's ability to help them.

What do we want the REVIVAL TO ACCOMPLISH? 1) Christians to Confess and forsake Sin. 2) Workers for God and the Church to become dedicated and determined to fulfil God's plan for their life. 3) Lost Men and women, boy and girls to be brought to Christ and born again.

Today's Scripture brings out one of the main problems we must deal with if we are to experience genuine Revival; the Hypocritical life. Men must be brought face to face with the reality of "What is Said versus What is So". We must learn to see ourselves as the Master sees us instead of as the Mirror shows us. And then we must do something about what we see- James 1:23-25.

IN OUR PERSONAL LIFE - I John 1:6-2:2

I. RELATIONSHIP- vs 6-7

- A) What is Said- "If we say" that we have fellowship with him,
- B) What is So- and walk in darkness
- C) What Results- We lie, and do not the truth:

We say we're Christians but our daily walk says that isn't so.

II. CHARACTER- vs 8-9

- A) What is Said- "If we say" that we have no sin,
- B) What is So- the truth is not in us.
- C) What Results- We deceive ourselves

We say we're good moral people instead of lost hell bound sinners. (The pig farmer could not understand why he had only pig farmers for friends until he took a bath!).

III. ACTIONS- vs 10- 2:2

- A) What is Said- "If we say" that we have not sinned,
- B) What is So- His word is not in us.
- C) What Results- We make him a liar.

Our Sins are only "slips"; regardless of what the Bible says.

Note the progression- We lie, then we deceive ourselves, then we make God a liar. We lie about our relationship, we begin to feel there was never a need for a relationship, and finally we question God for questioning us! We don't have any JOY, we don't want to do any JOB for God, and yet we smile and say, "Isn't Heaven going to be grand"!!

IN OUR CHURCH LIFE -Rev 3:17-18

- A) What is Said- BECAUSE THOU SAYEST, I AM RICH, AND INCREASED WITH GOODS, AND HAVE NEED OF NOTHING; Self Sufficient: we use the world's standards to judge with.
- B) What is So- AND KNOWEST NOT THAT THOU ART WRETCHED, AND MISERABLE, AND POOR, AND BLIND, AND NAKED; Deceived: about how God sees us. We think God sees our "flash" when He really sees our Flesh.

C) What we Need to Do- I COUNSEL THEE TO BUY OF ME GOLD TRIED IN THE FIRE, THAT THOU MAYEST BE RICH; AND WHITE RAIMENT, THAT THOU MAYEST BE CLOTHED, AND THAT THE SHAME OF THY NAKEDNESS DO NOT APPEAR; AND ANOINT THINE EYES WITH EYESALVE, THAT THOU MAYEST SEE

1. Regarding Riches- get gold tried in the fire; not "fool's gold".
2. Regarding Clothes- Get white raiment to cover nakedness instead of the "filthy rags" of your own righteousness.
3. Regarding Sight- Anoint thine eyes with eyesalve so you can see what needs correcting- without glasses all I can see is a blur; a lot of people look at their life that same way AND THEY NEED GLASSES. The Church must have a correct Vision if it is to accomplish God's will.

How do you distinguish a Backslider?

1. Sits at the Devil's Fire- Peter, lost Testimony
2. Lays in the Devil's Lap- Samson, lost Power
3. Loses sight of Reality- Laodicean Church, lost Christ!

When you face God it will not be "What is Said" but "What is So". If you can't sing "Just As I Am" and mean it today then our altar is open.

DESTINATION DEATH

Spring is one of the most exciting times of the year around here. The weather is beginning to become consistently warm so people can get out of their homes and "stir around" a little; most people have finally begun to shake those pesky winter colds; and the great Easter services here at Grace are only a few weeks away (Good Friday Cantata and Communion and Easter Sunday Sunrise Service and Breakfast).

While we anticipate with Joy this special time, we look thru the scriptures and see that Jesus also anticipated it; but in a different way. He knew that he was journeying not just to Jerusalem but to Calvary! He realized the pain and suffering that were ahead and he tried to explain it to his disciples to prepare them.

Our Revival brought many dedications and determinations on people's part to be the Christian God wants them to be. Now we must go from Determination to Doing. I want to look at the way Jesus prepared his disciples for the coming Cross and see if we can't learn from that how we as Christians are to take up our Cross and follow Him.

Mark 8:31 AND HE BEGAN TO TEACH THEM, THAT THE SON OF MAN MUST SUFFER MANY THINGS, AND BE REJECTED OF THE ELDERS, AND OF THE CHIEF PRIESTS, AND SCRIBES, AND BE KILLED, AND AFTER THREE DAYS RISE AGAIN.

Mark 9:31 HE TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES, AND SAID UNTO THEM, THE SON OF MAN IS DELIVERED INTO THE HANDS OF MEN, AND THEY SHALL KILL HIM; AND AFTER THAT HE IS KILLED, HE SHALL RISE THE THIRD DAY.

Mark 10:32-34 AND THEY WERE IN THE WAY GOING UP TO JERUSALEM; AND JESUS WENT BEFORE THEM: AND THEY WERE AMAZED; AND AS THEY FOLLOWED, THEY WERE AFRAID. AND HE TOOK AGAIN THE TWELVE, AND BEGAN TO TELL THEM WHAT THINGS SHOULD HAPPEN UNTO HIM. SAYING BEHOLD, WE GO UP TO JERUSALEM; AND THE SON OF MAN SHALL BE DELIVERED UNTO THE CHIEF PRIESTS, AND UNTO THE SCRIBES; AND THEY SHALL CONDEMN HIM TO DEATH, AND SHALL DELIVER HIM TO THE GENTILES: AND THEY SHALL MOCK HIM, AND SHALL SCOURGE HIM, AND SHALL SPIT UPON HIM, AND SHALL KILL HIM: AND THE THIRD DAY HE SHALL RISE AGAIN.

I. EDUCATION- He taught them- This was part of the Preparation of His Disciples.

A) They didn't understand His purpose- They still thought he was going to set up a great Physical Kingdom (See 10:35-45 where immediately after Jesus told them of the coming Cross James and John asked to sit on his right and left hand in His coming kingdom). That's the way it is today- People are more interested in God saving their marriage or job than they are in Him saving their souls! People must be taught that their Spiritual Well being is much more important than their Physical needs FOR WHAT SHALL IT PROFIT A MAN, IF HE SHALL GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD, AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL? Mark 8:36

B) They were afraid of what was to come- They knew that the religious leaders were out to kill Jesus (which meant they too might be on the "hit list"). When Jesus had returned to raise Lazarus the disciples must have hesitated to come with Him and Thomas(!) had urged them to go die with Him if necessary. Now Jesus was talking about going to Jerusalem to die and they didn't want to hear that.

Isn't this the way it is today? Everyone wants to go to Heaven but no one wants to go by way of the cross! People die and spend eternity in Hell because they are afraid of Public opinion, Persecution, or yielding their life to God. Some how we must make them understand what Jesus meant when he said, WHOSOEVER WILL SAVE HIS LIFE SHALL LOSE IT; BUT WHOSOEVER SHALL LOSE HIS LIFE FOR MY SAKE AND THE GOSPEL'S, THE SAME SHALL SAVE IT. Mark 8:35

But the Christian Journey is not just Education, it is also-

II. DEDICATION- "The Son of Man MUST SUFFER many things" "They shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him".

A) Perseverance- Christianity is not simply a religion of the mind, it affects a person's life and relationships. As you journey to Jerusalem your actions and attitudes will be in such sharp contrast to those of the world until they will begin to resent and resist you. Friends will become foes (Sometimes a man's enemies shall be those of his own household- Matt 10:36). But we must go with a Dedication and Determination that will not look back or stop along the way- Mark 8:38 WHOSOEVER THEREFORE SHALL BE ASKED OF ME AND OF MY WORDS IN THIS ADULTEROUS AND SINFUL GENERATION; OF HIM ALSO SHALL THE SON OF MAN BE ASHAMED, WHEN HE COMETH IN THE GLORY OF HIS FATHER WITH THE HOLY ANGELS.

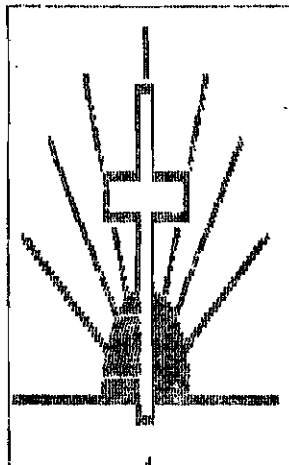
B) "Preaching"- We don't hide From the Cross (to avoid persecution) or Behind the Cross as "pitiful Martyrs" but we boldly Carry our Cross so the world will know that we belong to Christ; and by so doing show them the way of Salvation. Gal 6:14 GOD FORBID THAT I SHOULD GLORY, SAVE IN THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, BY WHOM THE WORLD IS CRUCIFIED UNTO ME, AND I UNTO THE WORLD.

III. SALVATION- But the Cross cannot affect our relationship with others and bring us the Peace we long for unless it affects our relationship with God.

A) Jesus knew that his Death was coming- His purpose in coming to earth was to die for the sins of mankind. We must boldly come to the Foot of the Cross and lay not only our sin debt but also our very lives down and begin a new life in Christ- Mark 8:34 WHOSOEVER WILL COME AFTER ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME.

B) His Resurrection would follow- "After 3 days he shall rise again" Everything was worth the "Now" because of the "After" to come. Later the Disciples could rejoice that they were counted worthy of suffering shame for the name of Christ because of the realization of His Resurrection. If we can grasp today that we are on a journey instead of a "joyride" it will change the journey into an abundant life that will include joy even if it means going through Calvary!!

Is your Destination Heaven today? Everyone has to go by Calvary to reach the Promised Land. Have you been there for Salvation?? Are you willing for Calvary to be a part of God's Plans for your life??



GRACE And GLORY



Grace Free Will Baptist Church
"To Know and To Show Christ"

BIBLE STUDY HOUR 10:00AM

MORNING EVANGELISTIC
SERVICE (LIVE OVER WJOT) 11:00AM

EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICE 7:30 PM

MIRCHEAL JONES, PASTOR
(803) 394-3725

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It was a Blessed Easter Season. The Holy Spirit graciously attended each service and I'm glad we were able to get Video and Audio tapes of the services to re-live over and over. I hope you can get a copy and rejoice with us. The Audio Tapes contain the Children's Program /the Message given during the Sunrise Service and the Easter Sunday Cantata. Another contains the Friday Night Cantata as well as the Sunday Morning Cantata (Great music on both sides!). The Video tapes contain all of this (in living Color!). Order your free copies today.



Some special things will be happening this Sunday: 1) The Time will Change to daylight savings time (Don't be late). 2) Brother Damon Runion will teach the Adult Sunday School Lesson for the first time. 3) The Choir will begin practicing for it's next big concert.

Why don't you GET a Blessing and BE a Blessing by Attending Services At Grace this week.

I really APPRECIATE the continued support for this outreach work.



Branching out into videos has been very expensive but the Lord has continued to meet every need through these wonderful

supporters- Mrs Jeanetta West, Mr and Mrs Olee Elmore, Billie Ard, Jack B Hanna, Marion & Mary Tunstall, Mr & Mrs W C Bell, Josh and Matthew Frye, Bill and Elise McBride, Mr and Mrs W M Mixon, Janice Runion, Marion Coker, Bessie Grooms, Mr and Mrs E F McCumber, and several Anonymous. I also Appreciate **MEMORIAL GIFTS** from Mrs W R Calcut in memory of Sadie Green and Eris Jones in memory of Rev Paul Clayton, Manuel Ard, and Jessie Lou Gaskins.

Our Radio outreach enables us to at least double our congregation each week and with audio and video cassettes we probably double again. Wouldn't it be great if we could reach 1000 people each week!! (On weeks we mail the newsletter we probably reach more than that). Wouldn't it be great if we could reach 5000 people each week!! Pray!! Preacher Mike Ps. 16:11

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SERVICE OR BETRAYAL

Mark 14:1-11 John 12:1-8

Today is a very special day for me. It's my 27th birthday in the Lord! On Monday night, March 19, 1962 I knelt at an altar in New Prospect FWB Church and had my sins forgiven, my name written in the Lamb's book of life, and I became a son of God. The journey has been great and the destination is Out of this World!!

On that Monday night I was faced with a decision that every one of us must face- To serve the Lord or deny Him and face life (and death) on my own. I, of course, decided to Serve Him and determined that if I was going to Serve Him that I wanted to be the best Servant I could be. That's what impresses me about today's scripture; here is a woman that served the Lord so as to be remembered always! Let's look at how she served, determine to serve the same way, and heed the caution of one who decided to betray instead of serve.

I. THE SERVICE- She WANTED to do something for Jesus. She accepted Him as her Saviour, sat at His feet to hear His teachings, and wanted to work for Him. Service like this includes:

1. PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT You can't be a Spectator and Serve!

A) Personal Sacrifice: The Best she had- God doesn't want our "Seconds"; He demands first place as our God (Ex 20:3) and in our Love (Mk 12:30). This alabaster Box of spikenard ointment was usually saved for a woman's wedding dowry; What a Sacrifice!

B) Financial Sacrifice: Equal to a year's wages. Most people are willing to serve the Lord if it does not involve time or money but Mary was willing to give her time and a tremendous amount of money. (Compare to the Rich Young Ruler who went away lost because he valued his money above God).

C) Social Sacrifice: "They murmured against her". You'll be misunderstood and talked about. [Note that they had "indignation within themselves" until Judas made a public statement and then they all jumped on the "bandwagon"].

2. PROPER PRIORITIES- Mary learned early there is a difference between being "Busy" and Serving the Lord. Martha was cumbered about with much serving (Still at it! Jn 12:2) but Mary did the needful.

A) Determine the Timing: Poor you have always but only anointing Jesus would get for burial. It is so important to learn When God wants things done- He has a timetable and you must follow it.

B) Determine your Talent: She did what she could. She couldn't preach but she could anoint His body. Blessed is the person that does what THEY'RE supposed to do

3. PERPETUAL MEMORIAL- Her service became a Perpetual Testimony for God. It accomplished its purpose and God honored it. That's what you want to do with your life!

II. BETRAYAL- Judas

1. More concerned with money than the Master- "why was not this ointment sold and the money given to the poor" when actually he wanted it for himself since he was a thief of the disciples treasury.

2. Quick to Criticize those who serve. Hate to be "shown up".

3. Infected the other disciples with his discontent Mk 14:5. Wrong always wants a "lynch mob" to justify it.

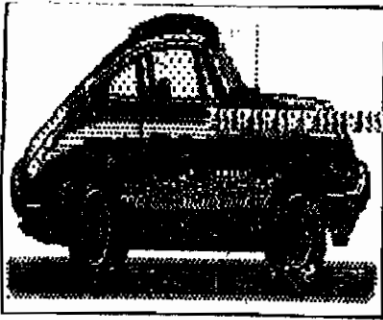
4. Used this rebuke as an excuse to betray the saviour- Mk 14:10-11
Looking for an excuse instead of an opportunity.

He had every opportunity to do right:

1. With Jesus continually 2. Had preached and cast out demons.
He chose to Betray Christ instead of serve Him. How about You???

THE RACER

Heb 12:1-2 WHEREFORE SEEING WE ALSO ARE COMPASSED ABOUT WITH SO GREAT A CLOUD OF WITNESSES, LET US LAY ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT, AND THE SIN WHICH DOETH SO EASILY BESET US, AND LET US RUN WITH PATIENCE THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US. LOOKING UNTO JESUS THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH; WHO FOR THE JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM ENDURED THE CROSS, DESPISING THE SHAME, AND IS SET DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE OF GOD.



We're going to have a special "Grace Spring 20" during Prayer Meeting tonight. Our young people will be the "cars" and the rest of us will be their "crew". Each car will run one lap around the "race track" and make a pit stop; there their crew [chosen in a random drawing before the race] will find the answer to a question in the quiz on the back of this page. Once the answer is found the car can compete another lap. The first car to complete all 20 laps will win.

Before we begin the "Race" however, let's look at what the Bible says about how to be a good "Racer".

1. The Encirclement- COMPASSED ABOUT WITH SO GREAT A CLOUD OF WITNESSES. You need to have some Spectators to cheer you on. The writer here is referring to the Heavenly Host that observes Christians as they live for the Lord and we need to be constantly aware that they're witnessing our work (Elijah and Moses talked with Jesus about his coming crucifixion on the Mount of Transfiguration- Luke 9:30-31). When you get weary in the way may their "cheers" provide incentive to continue.

2. The Encumbrances- LAY ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT, AND THE SIN WHICH DOETH SO EASILY BESET US. A Racer soon learns that things that may not be "wrong" may be "weight" and cause him great difficulty in the race. He must chose between winning and keeping the weight; and as he grows in the Lord more and more of the weight will be shed.

3. The Endurance- LET US RUN WITH PATIENCE THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US. A good racer learns that his Stops as well as his Speed are important in the race (See Is 40:31). Not only must the Racer learn that the race is more than one "lap" but he must also learn to trust and depend on his "pit crew". In the same way a Christian must learn to work WITH other Christians as well as work OUT his salvation (that's why in our race the racer will carry the Bible that the Pit Crew needs to find the answer to the questions. The Racer presents it to the Pit Crew chief upon arrival in the "pit area" and then this chief will find the answer so the racer can continue on his journey). This develops Patience and cooperation; two things that are greatly needed in many churches!

4. The Example- LOOKING UNTO JESUS THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH; WHO FOR THE JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM ENDURED THE CROSS, DESPISING THE SHAME, In today's race the Pastor will show you how everything is to be done so everyone will understand; in the race of life the Lord has given us His example in the Word of God and if we are to bring Glory to God (as HE did) then we must follow in the footpath he has left.

Not only is He our Example, He is also our Encourager, and our Enabler. He knows the "race course" we're running and continually gives us encouragement to keep on and the power to do so.

What is a Race without a Reward? In the case of Jesus he- IS SET DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE OF GOD. In our Case it will be to glorify God on earth and live with God in Glory! (In our physical race tonight it will be "cookies and coke" for everyone. Not exactly Heaven!! but it will let you know that at the end of this life's race there is a marriage feast for the Bride of Christ that every Christian will attend).

BIBLE CONVERSATION STARTERS

- A) The Longest verse in the Bible is Esther 8:9. The Shortest verse in the Bible is John 11:35.
- B) Ezra 8:9 contains every letter of the alphabet except "J". Daniel 4:37 contains every letter of the alphabet except "Q".
- C) The Longest word in the Bible is: "Maher-shalal-has-baz" (18 letters) found in Isaiah 8:1.
- D) II Kings 19 and Isaiah 37 are the same. Verses 8, 15, 21, and 31 of Psalm 107 are the same.
- E) These words occur only once in the Bible: Eternity (Is 57:15); Reverend (Ps 111:9); Grandmother (I Tim 1:5); and Gnat (Matt 23:24).
- F) Boy and Boys occur 3 times in scripture (Joel 3:3, Gen 25:27, Zech 8:5) while Girl and Girls occur only twice (Joel 3:3, Zech 8:5).

Unusual Things in the Bible:

- 1) Man who lived to be 969 years old (Gen 5:27). _____
Do you know what happened the year he died? _____
- 2) Man who used a stone for a pillow (Gen 28:11) _____
- 3) Baby who had a scarlet thread tied around his hand before he was born (Gen 38:28-29) _____
- 4) The man who controlled a battle by holding out his hands (Ex 17:11) _____
- 5) The man whose donkey saved his life (Num 22:28-30) _____
- 6) The man who had a bed 13 1/2 feet long and 6 feet wide (Deut 3:11) _____
- 7) The women who had to shave their heads before they could marry (Deut 21:11-13) _____
- 8) When the Sun stood still for a day (Josh 10:13) _____
- 9) The woman who killed a man by driving a tent stake through his head (Jud 4:17-21) _____
- 10) An army with 700 left handed men (Jud 20:16) _____
- 11) The man whose hair weighed about 6 2/3 pound when it was cut annually (II Sam 14:26) _____
- 12) The man who had 12 fingers and 12 toes (II Sam 21:20) _____
- 13) When an Axe floated on the water (II Kings 6:1-6) _____
- 14) The man who had 700 wives and 300 concubines (I King 11:3) _____
- 15) The man who had 88 children (II Chron 11:21) _____
- 16) When did the Sun travel backward (Is 38:8) _____
- 17) The Preacher who walked naked for 3 years (Is 20:2-3) _____
- 18) When an entire graveyard came to life at one time (Ezek 37:-) _____
- 19) The Harlot who was the ancestor of Christ (Matt 1:5) _____
- 20) The man who ate locust for food (Matt 3:4) _____

LIVING IN THE LIGHT OF THE RESURRECTION

There is probably not a person here today that does not know that Jesus rose from the grave (And most of you claim to believe it!). It's a marvelous truth but one we've gotten used to (Example of my wife and I- we used to sit in the car for hours and talk; since we've gotten married we don't sit 5 seconds!!!. We love each other more, it's just that we've grown past that stage). I believe this is the same way we should look at the Resurrection today. We don't need to prove it as a fact but move past that to living it's reality in our lives.

If the Resurrection is going to affect our lives then we must learn it's Implication and our Obligations

I. RESURRECTION IMPLICATIONS:

A) REDEMPTION IS ACCEPTED- (God's Big "PAID IN FULL" over our Sin debt). Rom 4:25 WHO WAS DELIVERED FOR OUR OFFENSES, AND WAS RAISED AGAIN FOR OUR JUSTIFICATION. Rom 1:4 AND DECLARED TO BE THE SON OF GOD WITH POWER, ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT OF HOLINESS, BY THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD. I Cor 15:17 IF CHRIST BE NOT RAISED, YOUR FAITH IS VAIN; YE ARE YET IN YOUR SINS.

1. Resurrection is more than new life- Many have returned from the dead (widow's son that Elijah raised, dead soldier raised by touching Elisha's bones, Lazerus, Jarius' daughter, widow of Nain's son, etc) but Christ was resurrected never to die again (The wages of sin have been paid and death has no more hold over him).

2. Christianity is not based on the teachings of Christ but on His death and resurrection (See I Cor 15:1-4). The rich young ruler had kept the commandments but he went away lost because he would not come to Christ by way of the Cross.

[Isn't it strange how easily we get used to the fact that Christ died in our place!! If you paid off my car right now so that I didn't have a car payment I'd be ecstatic; yet most people sit unmoved and look almost bored when I tell them Christ died in their place!].

B) ALL POWER IS AVAILABLE- Matt 28:18-19 ALL POWER IS GIVEN UNTO ME IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH, SO YE THEREFORE... The Holy Spirit has come and His power is available to us (To kill giants and capture walled cities in our "Promised Land"). Resurrection enables us to see the power God has given us- Ep 1:18-20 THE EYES OF YOUR UNDERSTANDING BEING ENLIGHTENED; THAT YE MAY KNOW WHAT IS THE HOPE OF HIS CALLING, AND WHAT THE RICHES OF THE GLORY OF HIS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS, AND WHAT IS THE EXCEEDING GREATNESS OF HIS POWER TO USWARD WHO BELIEVE, ACCORDING TO THE WORKING OF HIS MIGHTY POWER WHICH HE WROUGHT IN CHRIST WHEN HE RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, AND SET HIM AT HIS OWN RIGHT HAND IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES. FAR ABOVE ALL PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS AND EVER NAME THAT IS NAMED. We're like the 2 shoe salesmen who were sent to Africa; one came home in despair and said, "No one wears shoes in Africa", the other sent a telegram to the home office ordering cases of shoes and saying, "NO ONE wears shoes in Africa!". Multitudes of Christians don't realize that God has already conquered our worst enemies and surely can help us conquer those that remain.

(NOTE- This is not Freedom from Failure as some advocate (Jesus was broke, homeless, used a borrowed tomb, and had to let one of his disciples care for his mother. Paul was run out of town, stoned, jailed, and counted all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ). It is POWER TO BE WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO BE- II Cor 9:8 AND GOD IS ABLE TO MAKE ALL GRACE ABOUND TOWARD YOU, THAT YE, ALWAYS HAVING ALL SUFFICIENCY IN ALL THINGS, MAY ABOUND TO EVERY GOOD WORK.)

C) DEATH HAS BEEN CONQUERED- I Cor 15:26 THE LAST ENEMY THAT SHALL BE DESTROYED IS DEATH. Rev 1:18 I AM HE THAT LIVETH, AND WAS DEAD; AND, BEHOLD, I AM ALIVE FOR EVERMORE, AMEN; AND HATH THE KEYS OF HELL AND DEATH. Heb 2:15 THRU DEATH HE HAS DESTROYED HIM THAT HATH THE POWER OF DEATH AND DELIVERED THEM WHO THRU FEAR OF DEATH WERE ALL THEIR LIFETIMES SUBJECT TO BONDAGE. I Tim 1:10 BUT I NOW MADE MANIFEST BY THE APPEARING OF OUR SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST, WHO HATH ABOLISHED DEATH, AND HATH BROUGHT LIFE AND IMMORTALITY TO LIGHT THRU THE GOSPEL:

II. RESURRECTION OBLIGATIONS: The Benefits of Resurrection are tremendous but great rewards also mean great responsibilities. The Resurrection is not simply something we discuss in the Past and look forward to in the Future; it is something we LIVE IN THE PRESENT. It not only declares our Salvation and empowers us to live the Christian life; it also presents us with obligations.

A) PREACH THE GOSPEL- After His resurrection Jesus had one great theme- Matt 28:19-20 SO YE THEREFORE, AND TEACH ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST; TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER I HAVE COMMANDED YOU; AND LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN UNTO THE END OF THE WORLD. Mark 16:15 SO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD, AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE. Acts 1:8 YE SHALL RECEIVE POWER AFTER THAT THE HOLY GHOST IS COME UPON YOU; AND YE SHALL BE WITNESSES UNTO ME BOTH IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA, AND IN SAMARIA, AND UNTO THE UTTERMOST PART OF THE EARTH.

1. Witness- of Christ. He said that if HE was lifted up HE would draw all men unto Himself. Men need to know that Jesus has paid their sin debt and is living to make intercession for them.

2. Make Disciples- Salvation is not the end of the Journey; just as the Cross was not the end of Christ! Now we must make "disciples" of those who believe and accept Christ. That's the purpose of the Church.

B) PREPARE FOR HIS COMING- The fact that He went away and said He would return:

1. Gives us Hope- Titus 2:13 LOOKING FOR THAT BLESSED HOPE AND THE GLORIOUS APPEARING OF THE GREAT GOD AND OUR SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST;

2. Makes us Holy- I John 3:2-3 BELOVED, NOW ARE WE THE SONS OF GOD, AND IT DOETH NOT YET APPEAR WHAT WE SHALL BE; BUT WE KNOW THAT, WHEN HE SHALL APPEAR, WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM; FOR WE SHALL SEE HIM AS HE IS. AND EVERY MAN THAT HATH THIS HOPE IN HIM PURIFIETH HIMSELF, EVEN AS HE IS PURE.

3. Promises us a Home- John 14:2-3 IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE ARE MANY MANSIONS; IF IT WERE NOT SO, I WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU. I GO TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU. AND IF I GO AND PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU, I WILL COME AGAIN, AND RECEIVE YOU UNTO MY SELF; THAT WHERE I AM, THERE YE MAY BE ALSO.

If you lack assurance of Salvation- The Price has been paid

If you need power- He has conquered every enemy.

If you fear death- He has defeat it

And He's Coming; Are you ready for His Return.

GRACE And GLORY



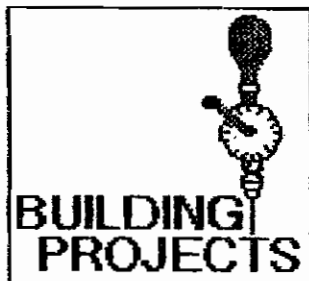
Grace Free Will Baptist Church
"To Know and To Show Christ"

BIBLE STUDY HOUR 10:00AM
 MORNING EVANGELISTIC
 SERVICE (LIVE OVER WJOT) 11:00AM
 EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE 6:00 PM
 WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICE 7:30 PM

MIRCHEAL JONES, PASTOR
 (803) 394-3725

VOL. IV NUM 08 04-13-89 LAWRENCE STREET • PO BOX 1003 • LAKE CITY, S.C. • 29560

It must be getting close to Spring around here because it's becoming a "Beehive" of activity. During Quarterly Conference last week the Church



decided to put a 2 car garage on the back of the Parsonage. The Men of the Church will do the work and it will be a welcome addition. We also decided

to purchase the Microphones and cables we need to ensure that our PA System works correctly so that the Radio, Cassette, and Video Ministry can hear the same wonderful singing that those that attend Church hear.

Brother Damon Runion, Todd Newell, and David Gowdy have already spent several nights at the Church adjusting the system and practicing their music and the results have been very encouraging. We hope it won't be long until the "Mechanical" parts are all fixed and the people who watch and listen won't notice anything except how natural it all sounds.

I hope it won't be long until when people think of Grace they not only think of our Outreach Ministry but also of our Music Ministry. Just one more step in developing a Great Church for God here in Lake City.

We are trying to get as many of the "odd jobs" out of the way as we can so that we can concentrate all our efforts on our new Church Building. We'll probably take it a step at a time- new parking, rework plot of ground where the new Church will sit, and then the final drive for the new building. Of course, if we can start having 150 in Sunday School very soon then we can advance our schedule!!

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The Outreach Ministry continues to be used of the Lord also. The audio and video cassette ministries enable many people to enjoy our services when they aren't able to attend. Several needy families have been assisted thru the Outreach Ministry and numerous pastors have received books or tapes to assist them in their work. Thanks to everyone who helps make this possible.
 Preacher Mike Psalm 16:11

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TEMPTATION'S COLORS

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations: The word "divers" here comes from a Greek word meaning "motley" or "Many colored" (usually translated "Different"). James wants us to know that Temptation takes many forms, and sometimes it's difficult to identify, but I think it will be easier if we learn to recognize the Many Colors of Temptation:

1. Black- Black comes from the absence of light and is usually associated with "the blackness of Despair" or Discouragement. This is a Temptation that everyone must endure as Satan continually tries to hide the light of God from our faces. In the Dark you must deal with an Active Imagination ("Boogie men") and Isolation (You lose the "sight sensor" and only relate to things that YOU can feel). It was in the Blackness of Despair that Job's wife said, "Curse God and Die" (There is no Hope) and in the Blackness of Discouragement that Elijah sulked under the Juniper Tree saying, "I, alone, am left" (There is no Help). This Temptation can be conquered by the Light of God thru His Word (Ps 119:105) and thru the Witness of Christians (Matt 5:14).

2. Red- Red is normally associated with Danger. In this regard I think we can classify this as the Temptation to "Open Sin". These are the sins of the "red light District". This was the Temptation the Prodigal Son succumbed to. He thought the world would be wild and wonderful but it turned out to be poverty and hog-pens. Young people especially are attracted by "Red" but people in their mid forties seem to get "red-eye" also. The way to Avoid this temptation is to AVOID THIS TEMPTATION!! When you see "Red", Stop.

3. Yellow- Yellow is the color of a Coward and is linked to the temptation to lack of Faith- Rev 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, ...shall have their part in the lake of fire which burneth with fire and brimstone: This Temptation can be avoided by putting on the whole armor of God (Ep 6:10-17) so you can defeat Satan and then Building your life on Christ the Rock so life's Storm won't frighten you.

4. Green- This is when people are "Green with Envy". This Temptation is seldom preached on today but it greatly affects our society. It was such a prevalent Temptation until God made the 10th Command to deal with it; Ex 20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's. And Paul told the Colossians that it could lead to a far worst sin; Col 3:5 covetousness, which is idolatry;. The Answer to this Temptation is found in Heb 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.- Count your Blessings and Remember God's constant care and protection are yours.

5. Blue- This is a subtle temptation because it deals with Pleasures that become Problems- The "good" replaces the best. Every life needs some Blue Skies but Blues Skies alone produce desert- "I walked a mile with Pleasure, she chattered all the way, but I was none the wiser for all she had to say. I walked a mile with sorrow, not a word said she, but O the things I learned that day when sorrow walked with me". It is when you are rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing that you wander away from God. Remember the admonition of Ps 62:10 if riches increase, set not your heart upon them

Temptation has many shades and colors but a Christian knows to keep his garment white as all times.

FALSE THINGS ABOUT GOD'S WILL

Col 1:9-10 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Paul's Prayer here shows that The Will of God allow us to:

A) Walk Worthy of the Lord unto all Pleasing- Please God

B) Being Fruitful in every good work- Bear Fruit

C) Increasing in the Knowledge of God- Learn about God

You can't ask for 3 greater goals than that. Why then do so many people fail to commit themselves to God's Will for their lives?

The Problem is that many people have a false concept of what God's Will is and how you Determine it.

Men Falsely say that God's Will is:

1. **Dangerous**- Somehow it will harm you or cause you a great deal of pain if you obey God (If I commit myself to God He will make me be a Preacher or Missionary (There are worst things, you know!!!))

The Truth: It's Dangerous NOT to do God's Will. Do you want to face God with a wasted life and unused talents??

2. **Distant**- God's will does not involve youth. It's something for older people to be concerned with.

The Truth: Get in God's Will as soon as possible. A little veer at first can cause a big deviation in the long run. The Longer you delay the less useful you'll be.

3. **Divided**- God has a Good, Acceptable and Perfect Will (Rom 12:2) and most people don't want to be dedicated enough to chose God's Best so they settle for the "good".

The Truth: God has One Will that is Good, Acceptable, and Perfect; Don't settle for cheap substitutes [Remember the man during the Civil war that wore a Blue Coat and Gray Pants so he could please everyone; and then both sides shot him!!!].

4. **Difficult to Discover**- It's almost impossible to determine what God wants you to do.

The Truth: God reveals His will thru His Word, thru the Urges of Life (What do you WANT to do?), and by Faith (We do not live by Explanations but by Promises. Many people want to understand God's Plan before they will follow it. But the Truth is that when we follow God's Plan then we begin to understand it. God is not obligated to explain Himself to us but He will make Plain the Path He expects us to take).

A) It's God's Will that we do our job well- Eph 6:6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart See I Pet 2:15

B) It's God's Will that we Live a Holy Life- I Thess 4:3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication;

C) It's God's Will that we Trust Him in all Circumstances- I Pet 4:19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

ARE YOU DOING GOD'S WILL?

GRATITUDE

1 THESS 5:18 In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Let's begin with a "Quiz". List the Following in the order you feel they belong. "The Problem with People is":

1. Not Grateful
2. Not Showing Love
3. Critical
4. Prideful
5. Not Understanding

I sort of "stacked the decks" in this list. Each of these is basically the same form of Ingratitude. Many years ago someone took a poll as to the greatest sin committed by mankind and the surprising answer was "ingratitude". Let's look at 10 ways we can cultivate the habit of Gratitude.

1. Remember that there is no such thing as a self made man. All Christians are part of the Body of Christ and each part is vital to the others- 1 Cor 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body being many, are one body; so also is Christ.
2. The Foundation of Gratitude is to expect nothing- Luke 17:10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do. Remember it's better to be asked to come up to the head of the table than to be put down.
3. Weigh a Small Gift- Prov 17:8 A gift is as a precious stone in the eyes of him that hath it: whithersoever it turneth, it prospereth. Remember that "money is time wrapped in a paper sack" (\$10 is 2 hours of a person's life at \$5 per hour!).
4. Do Not Weigh a Large Gift- Deut 16:19 Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.
5. Never lose appreciation for a gift. Kids expect big Christmas Presents and don't appreciate them as much as a surprise.
6. Let nothing extinguish gratitude- Don't Second Guess the Giver.
7. Feel Gratitude as you remember things done for you- Keep a "Gratitude Book" instead of a "Grudge Book".
8. Express Gratitude- Remember the 9 lepers who didn't return. Send Cards, Calls, etc.
9. Be Grateful for the USUAL- Anyone can be thankful for bonus; be thankful for a salary.
10. Be Grateful for not receiving what some others receive- Those with less responsibilities also have less pressures! Don't Covet until you know the groaning that goes with the gift!

Storms of Life

I. The Inevitability of Storms. Ecc 3:1-8 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. Life is not a "Movie Script" where the Hero can get shot at 100 times and never get scratched while every shot he makes kills 2 or 3 enemies! Life is a Battle, with wounds and worry. Even as Christians, God did not promise us an escape from Life's Problems and Perils; He simply said He would give Grace sufficient, His Power to overcome, and Heaven awaiting us. In the "real world" Storms are part of every life and as such are:

A) Unavoidable- Into every life a little rain must fall. Land with only Sunshine become desert. It is not a case of avoiding storms but of dealing with them when they arrive. Many people refuse to accept this point and seek an escape from dealing with life in Drugs, Drink, isolation, or numbing themselves with laughter and fantasy in front of a TV every night. But regardless of how deep you bury your head in the sand the storm still rages.

B) Uncontrollable-

a. In it's Arrival- It never seems to hit when it's "convenient" for you. Storms aren't Scheduled! They make you Make Time for them.

b. In it's Duration- You want it to stop but it's stronger and mightier than you and continues far past where you think it should. And they sap your Strength and Spirit. You start off trying to be brave but eventually you just want it to stop!!

But, Thank God, There is a REFUGE from the Storm!! The "Good News" of the Gospel of Christ is that God Saves and Shelters and, while He doesn't eliminate the storms, He does give us ways to find Refuge and Rest in their midst as we await the Sunshine to come.

II. The Refuge from Storms

A) Build on the Rock (Jesus Christ)- Matt 7:24-27 It's Sand or the Saviour!! You can build on either but what will you do when the storms strike. This means you need to come to Christ for Salvation and live a life of Dedication.

B) Build of Eternal Substances- I Cor 3:11-15 The materials you use will be "tried by fire" and many people will lose everything they have put their life into. Wood, Hay, and Stubble may be easy to purchase and build with but they sure do burn fast!! A Hap-Hazard Half-hearted life may be easy now but what will you do in the test?

C) Build With Eternal Purpose- To Glorify God I Pet 4:16 if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. Note the example of Paul in Phil 1:12-18 where Paul turned a Jail term into a "preaching time". If all you want out of life is to be "happy" then storms will devastate you but if your goal is to glorify and please God then you can turn a storm into a sermon!

D) Build for Eternal Living- Eph 2:20-22 Matt 6:19-21 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. There is coming a place where the Storms will be stilled, where the tears will be wiped from our eyes, and where faith will become sight. The trip may be long sometimes but when we get to the end of the journey it'll be worth every mile of the way.

3 FINAL THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT STORMS:

1. They are part of God's Work- Ps 148:8 Fire, and Hail; snow, and vapors; stormy wind fulfilling his word: They may take YOU by surprise but God knows exactly When they will strike, How long they will last, and How powerful they are. REMEMBER THAT! God has not forsaken nor Forgotten you.

2. It's human nature to want to avoid or escape them- Ps 55:6-8 And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest. Lo, then would I wander far off, and remain in the wilderness. Selah. I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest. In order to Build us they must Batter us and the flesh wants to escape instead of endure. God does not expect you to welcome the storm but He does expect you to hold on to Him during the storm.

3. God is our Refuge IN and FROM Storms- Ps 107: 25-30 For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wit's end. Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven. What a comfort it is to sit calm and safe in His arms while the winds howl and roar. What a joy to know that one day He will speak the word and all the storms will cease!

In Mark 4:35-41 Jesus and the Disciples are going across a lake when a storm comes up. The Disciples do all they can, the boat is about to sink, and Jesus is still asleep in the back of the boat. They panic and awaken Jesus to ask why he's not concerned that they're dying in this storm. Jesus simply speaks a word and the storm calms down and then he asks them a simple question, "Why were you afraid?". I learned from that that as long as Christ is in the boat with me I need never fear the storms of life. No matter how bad it looks, as long as He is in the boat that's all I need. IS HE IN YOUR BOAT????

OB R 21 C E

AND

OB L O R D

"To Know and Show Christ"

Grace Free Will Baptist Church

April 27, 1989

Evening Worship Service	9:00am
Bible Study Hour	10:00am
Morning Evangelistic Service	11:00am
(Live over WJOT)	
Wednesday Prayer Service	7:30pm
Mirchaal Jones, Pastor	(803) 394-3725

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TIME CHANGE- We will "Experiment" with a different Time Schedule This Sunday (April 30). Instead of having a Morning and Evening Service we will have a combination of both in the Morning.

9:00-9:50am First Worship Service including Special Music and a Choir Special and the message, "Things God Calls Sin".

9:50-10:00am Coffee and Doughnuts in the Fellowship Building.

10:00-11:00am Sunday School. Brother Damon Runion will teach the Adult Class on "The Origin and Work of Satan".

11:00-Noon Second Worship Service (Live over WJOT) including Special Music, a Choir Special, and the Message, "Why People Sin".

This is something the Pastor has wanted to try for a long time. It will allow a greater continuity of Messages, Eliminate the need of two trips (and having to get ready twice!), and allow the people in the Church a "Free" afternoon to visit and minister to others. If it succeeds we will probably have at least one such day a month (If it doesn't I "Fall back", regroup, and try something else!). I hope you'll be here, and bring a friend, because we expect God to use these services to speak to hearts and save souls. And that's our ultimate goal. Change for the sake of change is "Novelty" but change to improve our outreach is our goal.

Last Wednesday Night was a Special Time for us- We had a "Clean up" night just prior to Prayer Meeting to clean outside the Church and then we were treated to a home made bisquit "syrup sopping" during Prayer Meeting. I appreciate everyone who help clean up and especially appreciate the ladies who cooked the bisquits- they were delicious.

The Messages in today's Newsletter on "Christian Conditions" and "Spiritual Positions" are adaptation of two of my brother Ronnie's sermons. He gave me a number of computer disk full of sermons recently and as I was putting them on the Computer I picked out several to work with. The disk also contained a number of newsletter type articles that you'll see in the future as I am able to adapt them to a useable formats. Ronnie pastors Black River FWB Church of Andrews, S C and, from the looks of the sermons I've seen, I've done a pretty good job of developing him (Considering what I had to begin with!!!). He also puts out a newsletter (The "Black River Bulletin") and is an excellent writer. The Lord has some big things in store for him.

Thanks to Mrs Sybil Anderson, Mrs Roxanne Young, Mrs Josee Poston, and Mr & Mrs Marion Tunstall. I would be unable to distribute these Sermons without your help. Preacher Mike.

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WHAT DOES GOD WANT?

Paul told the Corinthians that if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? (I Cor 14:8). By that he meant that if you don't know what you are being asked to do then it's difficult to do it. Many people find themselves in that situation today. They hear many different voices calling them to follow a multitude of different paths and, despite the fact that they want to do the right thing, they aren't really sure what that is anymore.

What I want us to do today is let God speak for Himself and reveal to us what He Wants us to do. Let me warn you, however, that it's not enough to simply find out what God wants; you must be willing to Obey His Instructions. Now, **WHAT DOES GOD WANT?? GOD WANTS YOU--**

To Come to Him for Salvation on HIS Terms-- Micah 6:6-8 Whenewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

To live right and do right-- Deut 10:12-13 And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the Lord, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good? .

To Obey HIS Word-- Deut 18:18-19 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth: and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

To Keep YOUR Word-- Deut 23:21 When thou shalt vow a vow unto the Lord thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the Lord thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee.

To Warn the Wicked.-- Ez 3:18 When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his live; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

To be faithful in your responsibilities-- I Cor 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. Luke 12:48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

God wants you to Accept His Way of Salvation (The Sacrifice of Christ for Sins), to follow His Plan (as revealed in the Bible), and to be Faithful in your duties. **Will you do what God wants??**

SPIRITUAL POSITIONS

During the course of a day we find ourselves in numerous Physical Positions. In much the same way, as we live for the Lord we find ourselves in many Spiritual Positions. I want us to look at some of them and determine to make the most of every situation we find ourselves in [Sometimes we think we must "bow our heads to pray" but that is difficult (and Dangerous!!) while driving a car. Today preachers stand to preach while in Jesus' day they sat (Luke 4:16-21). Not many years ago people would "walk the aisles" Praising God; today we're much too sophisticated for that (Unless of course it's at a ball game and our team is winning!)].

I believe it's possible to worship God in the Sick Bed as well as the Church; in the Work Place as well as the Worship Service. We simply must look for Opportunities.

The Seven Spiritual Positions We can use to advantage are:

I. Lying Down- Spiritual Rest Psalms 23:2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. A time of Spiritual Rest has been one of God's requirements from the very beginning (Gen 2:2-3); but today it goes like this- rush to Church (Coming in breathlessly at the very last minute), leave church and throw together something for dinner before rushing off to do some shopping or other activity so you can just get back in time for the evening service (and pat your foot during it because you've got more things to do as soon as it's over). Then we wonder why we don't enjoy fellowship with God or feel so tired on Monday.

And we go through the entire week like that also. Try this for one week and see if you don't find a noticeable difference-- Take 5 Five minutes breaks during the day to read a Chapter in the Bible and think about what God is telling you. You'll find increased energy, tremendously less stress, and a wonderful relationship with God.

The Three Elements the Psalmist lists are: (1) Requirement "He Maketh Me", (2) Refreshment "Green Pastures", and (3) Reflection "Beside the Still Waters". Do you need Spiritual Rest??

II. Sitting- Spiritual Instruction Luke 10:39 And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. As long as you're "roaming around" it's hard to instruct you but when the teacher can get you seated then they can get your attention. Many people fail to understand (and as a result fail to accomplish) God's Will for their lives because God can't get them to focus on what He's trying to say to them. They're so busy with living until they miss the purpose of life.

Try this for a week- Take a Half Hour of your "television Time" and use it to sit and read the Bible. You'll find God has been saying a lot more than you've been hearing!

III. Standing- Spiritual Warfare Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with the truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness. You need something firm to stand on- Get on the Rock so the Storms of life won't undermine you. You also need a good pair of Shoes to grip the Rock, Eph 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace;. If you don't stand for God you'll fall with the Devil.

IV. Walking- Spiritual Fellowship

A) Walk by Faith- II Cor 5:7

B) Walk in the Spirit- Gal 5:25

C) Walk with Christ and His Church- I John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Wouldn't it be great if they could write on your tombstone as they did on Enoch's "He Walked with God"? But it can't be just on Sunday, It must be a Daily Fellowship.

V. Running- Spiritual Progress Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. A Runner realizes two things-- He must run within Boundaries (God's Guidelines) and He run toward a Goal (God's Purpose). How far have you progressed from the time you were saved?? Have you laid aside the hindrances and determined to patiently go forward (A long distance runner realizes he can "dash" the entire way. He learns to get in the proper "stride" so that he can manage the long haul).

VI. Leaping- Spiritual Praise Acts 3:8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping and praising God. Sometimes we simply must leap in exhalation as we praise the Lord and Rejoice in His goodness. While Christianity can not be based solely on emotion, one of the things that is missing in many people's relationship is emotional involvement. No wonder some people dread coming to church instead of joy in serving the Lord.

When is the last time the Word of God so excited you until a hearty "AMEN" burst from your lips?? When's the last time God so blessed you until you couldn't wait to get to Church and testify?? When is the last time you really ENJOYED serving the Lord??

VII. Mounting Up- Spiritual Energy Isaiah 40:31 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. Isaiah uses this verse to include all the positions- Waiting (Resting and Sitting), walking, running, and leaping (Mount up with wings of Eagles). He shows us that when we position ourselves correctly with the Lord then we receive the power we need to do the jobs on life's journey. Instead of being tired all the time we are able to accomplish exactly what the Lord intends; and enjoy life while we're doing it!

What Position are you in?? Do you need

REST- Matt 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Lay or Sit at His Feet

SECURITY- Plant your feet securely on the Rock

FELLOWSHIP- Walk with the Lord and His People

JOY- Count your Blessings

ENERGY- Wait on the Lord. Most of the pressure you are under is of your own making!! because you're following your timetable instead of the Lord's. Stop trying to be what everyone else wants you to be and become what God intends you to be.

CHRISTIAN CONDITIONS

One thing wrong with today's Christians is that they try to live the "Christian" Life without realizing it's supposed to be the CHRIST LIFE lived in and Thru them. All that self effort makes them tired and discouraged so that the Abundant Life become the Agonizing Life. It's time we looked at what the true CHRISTIAN CHARACTERISTICS are:

I. The Christian's Past -- without Christ. Eph 2:11-12 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, ...at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: No Peace, No Pardon, No Purpose in Life---And sinners think coming to Christ will limit their life!!

II. His Present -- in Christ. Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. Being IN CHRIST makes us New Creatures (II Cor 5:17). We are now free from the debt of sin and part of the Body of Christ.

III. His Pattern -- live Christ. Philippians 1:21 For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain.

A) Regardless of the Cost- Philippians 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life or by death.

B) Regardless of the World- Col 3:1-3 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, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

IV. His Passion -- to know Christ. Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; This passion overcomes all other passions and projects- Phil 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.

V. His Purpose -- for Christ. Philippians 3:7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. As part of the Body of Christ, He has a function that is specifically suited to him; and realizes that if he does not perform his part in the body then the entire body will suffer. This means living the way God wants instead of the way the World or the Flesh says live but the Peace that comes from being in your Place is almost unbelievable.

VI. His Power-- through Christ. Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. ALL THINGS!! WOW!!

VII. His Prospect -- the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Phil 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Not only was there the Prospect of Reward for his Service but also promise of Resurrection- Philippians 3:21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Are you living the "Christian Religion" or does Christ live in and Through You???

CONSIDER

Consider- "To reflect upon carefully, to deliberate seriously"
Today I want us to look at some things God has told us to "reflect upon" (consider) and then let these reflection drive us to action.
LET US CONSIDER:

I. THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD- Deut 4:39 Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the Lord he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath; there is none else. "The final authority in your life is your God". While many people do not raise up "graven images" in their homes they do have "idols" in their heart! Public Opinion keeps many from coming to Christ for Salvation. Pleasures keep many from committing their life to God. Societies Values have replaced Scriptural Principles. **CONSIDER:** Who is your GOD?? Don't be like the people Isaiah preached to- Is 1:3 The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.

II. THE WONDROUS WORKS OF GOD- Job 37:14 Hearken unto this, O Job: stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God.

A) In Space- Ps 8:3-4 When I consider thy heavens, the works of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

B) In Nature- Is 41:19-20 I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together: that they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the Lord hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.

III. THE BLESSINGS OF GOD- I Sam 12:24 Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you. Grumpy and Gratitude can't stay in the same heart! How easy it is for us to forget the good things of God because the Devil sends a little bad our way. **CONSIDER:** The Lilies of the Field and the Ravens (Matt 6:28, Luke 12:24). If God cares for them don't you think He cares for you.

IV. THE LIFE YOU'RE LIVING- Haggai 1:5 Now therefore thus saith the Lord of Hosts; Consider your ways. Does your life contain Purpose and Peace or do you simply exist? (In Context here Haggai is telling the People to Consider their Ways in regards to Giving to the House of God. They were using God's money to do what they wanted and as Such had "holes in their pockets" (vs 6))

A) In Regards to those around you- Heb 10:24 Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Do you boast people up or are you a Burden to those you come in contact with?

B) In Regards to Suffering- Heb 12:3 Consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Remember that we have an Heavenly High Priest that knows what we're going thru and is able to help us. It's even important to Consider what God is trying to do when He punishes you- Deut 8:5 Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the Lord thy God chasteneth thee. Heb 12 says Chastening comes as a result of Love and is intended to better us.

IV. THE END OF LIFE- Deut 32:29 O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end. You'd better consider where your road is going to end. It may seem alright to go merrily down the road you're traveling but what will happen when you reach your destination?? Are you Saved??

GRACE Free Will BAPTIST CHURCH

Grace Free Will Baptist Church
"To Know and to Show Christ"

Bible Study Hour

10:00am

Morning Service (over WJMT)

11:00am

Evening Worship Service

6:30pm

Wednesday Prayer Service

7:30pm

Pastor Mircheal Jones

394-3725



Vol VII Num 10 May 11, 1989 * 348 Lawrence St * PO Box 1003 * Lake City, S C

Greetings in the Name of Christ. I hope you have had a wonderful week of service for the Lord and have been able to tell at least one person the wonderful Gospel of Jesus Christ. Sometimes when I think about all the people that God has allowed me to minister to each week it overwhelms my heart with gratitude and humility. And the "sad" part is that I'm never satisfied!, I always want to minister to more!!!

Thanks to Mr. W C Sauls, the Church now has 2 parking spaces at the front door of the church designated for Visitor Parking. We want our Visitors to know that we appreciate them and want them to return. I expect them to find not only a place to park but also a WARM WELCOME from all the members when they attend. I also hope these spaces will break people's hearts each Sunday they walk by them and they're empty! When People stop saying, "I wish we had Visitors" and begin saying, "I'll work to have Visitors" then we'll begin to see a lot of new faces in our services.

Speaking of New Faces, We'll have some "new" faces teaching the Adult Class the rest of May: May 14- Wyman Lowder May 21- Russel Lowder May 28- Damon Runion [This will also be another "Everything in the Morning" Sunday; from 9am until 11am. The first one worked VERY well and I plan to have at least one per month for a while].

Not only will Sunday School be special this Sunday but we will also have a Special Gift for Each Mother in attendance. We want them to know that we appreciate them coming to Church on Mother's day-- and bringing all their Children with them!!

JUNE is also going to be a Special time here at Grace: June 4- 6:30pm Video "Noah's Ark" June 7-9 7pm-9pm VBS June 11 6pm VBS Graduation June 18 9am-11am "Father's Day" June 25 3pm- Christmas Cantata (Yes you read that right. The Choir will present a special encore performance of their Christmas Cantata. Maybe it will make it feel cooler outside!). Free Will Baptist Youth Camp will take place June 19-30 also.

The new microphones and cables have been installed and Everything sounded very good

Why don't you visit with us at Grace this week?? We'll be glad to see you and, I believe, You'll be glad you came

Sunday. All the cables are hidden and we not only sound better but look

better also. Now our task is to consistently fill our Choir with good singers and our congregation with good listeners.

A reminder to our Readers, I have many Bible Study Book and Audio Cassettes of our Services that are available free of charge. You're also invited to get one of the Videos of our services and share the Blessings. Let me know if I can help you.
Preacher Mike

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HAS THE CHURCH LOST ITS YOUNG PEOPLE ?

WE OFTEN HEAR PEOPLE SAY THE CHURCH IS LOSING ITS YOUNG PEOPLE. EXACTLY WHAT DO THEY MEAN BY THIS? IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THIS IS NOT USUALLY GIVEN AS A STATEMENT OF FACT, BUT RATHER INTENDED TO BE AN INDICTMENT OF THE CHURCH FOR FAILURE OF SOME SORT.

THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THAT THE CHURCH HAS NO YOUNG PEOPLE TO LOSE. GOD HAS ENTRUSTED CHILDREN TO THEIR PARENTS, NOT THE CHURCH. "AND YE FATHERS PROVOKE NOT YOUR CHILDREN TO WRATH; BUT BRING THEM UP IN THE NURTURE AND ADMONITION OF THE LORD" (EPH.6:4).

THE CHURCH HAS THE SAME RESPONSIBILITY TO YOUNG PEOPLE THAT IT HAS TO ANYONE ELSE, PREACH THE WORD. IT IS NOT THE CHURCH THAT MUST DECIDE AT WHAT HOUR YOUR TEEN MUST BE IN. IT IS NOT THE PREACHER THAT TELLS YOUR CHILDREN WHAT TV PROGRAMS THEY CAN OR CANNOT WATCH. THE CHURCH DOES NOT CHOOSE THE FRIENDS YOUR CHILDREN CAN HAVE IN YOUR HOME, NOR THE ONES THEY RUN WITH AT SCHOOL. THE SONG LEADER CANNOT MAKE YOUR CHILDREN SING IN THE CHOIR. TEACHERS ARE NOT THE ONES WHO ALLOW A BOY OR GIRL TO LEAVE SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK UNDONE AND THEN LEAVE WORKBOOKS AT HOME. WHO SHOULD SEE TO THESE THINGS?

PARENTS, WHO IS KIDDING WHOM? IF YOUR CHILD IS LOST, DO NOT BLAME THE CHURCH!

YOUNG ADULTS
AND
TEENAGERS

IF YOU ARE TIRED OF
BEING HASSLED BY
UNREASONABLE PARENTS
NOW IS THE TIME
FOR ACTION!!!!

LEAVE HOME AND
PAY YOUR OWN WAY WHILE YOU
STILL KNOW EVERYTHING!

CONCERNING THE CHURCH

THE MEANING OF THE CHURCH- The word "Church" comes from the Greek word "Ecclesia" and means "Called out ones". It is composed of people who have been called out of the ways of the world and are now "Pilgrims and Strangers" on their way to Heaven. These "called out ones" are:

The Bride of Christ- Set Apart for one "man" (Christ)- Companionship

The Body of Christ- Individual Members of one Body- Service

The Temple of the Holy Spirit- The Habitation of God- Power

The Church, then, loves Christ, Serves Christ, and is empowered to Work for Christ by the indwelling Spirit. Are these Attributes in YOUR life?? Are you a member of the "Church Club" or are you a "Called Out Christian"???

THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH- What responsibilities do Christians have to the Church??

A) To come in the Front Door- Jesus is the Door and if you come over the wall you are a thief and robber (John 10:1). You can "Buy" your way in the world but you must be "Born" into the Church.

B) To be Participants instead of Spectators- Christianity is not a spectator Sport; it is a Transformed Life!! Here are 4 ways to help:

I. ATTEND IT

A. First there is the commandment in Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is.

B. Second there is the comfort in doing it.

- the approval of Christ.

- fellowship with other Christians.

- fulfillment in helping others. Galatians 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

- * to find Christ

- * to face their difficulties

C. Third there is the cheerfulness of doing it. Psalm 122:1 I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord. Christians enjoy going to the "Father's" House and eating at His table while fellowshiping with "Brothers and Sisters".

D. Forth there is the commitment of doing it. Jesus always asked people to make a commitment ("Take up Cross") because He knew that a Commitment would provide motivation. Today, people don't want to get involved and so their lives are shallow and hallow.

II. ACCEPT FROM IT. Most people want the Church to do something for them. Here are two things the Church will gladly give you:

A. A place in its ministry. EVERY Christian has a Gift from the Holy Spirit to use in the work of God (I Cor 12:7) and if you don't function in your place the entire body suffers.

B. A place to invest your life. When Jesus asks you to give an account of your use of your talent will you say, "I was scared and hid my talent" or "I invested and Profited"?? (Lu 19:12-27).

III. APPROPRIATE TO IT- II Cor 9:6-7 But this I say; He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

A. GOD'S TITHE- I Cor 16:2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him,

B. OUR OFFERINGS- Acts 20:35 I have shewed you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Isn't it amazing how men will pay hundreds of dollars a year for tickets to ball games and then give God a Two Dollar "Tip" on Sunday Morning. It shows you what he really loves, doesn't it??!!

IV. ADVERTISE IT- Christians come to Church because of Christ; the World comes to Church out of Curiosity. You must stir their interest often if they are to make the effort to attend. Bad Advertisement majors on the Church's Problems instead of it's Pluses. Good Advertisement shows that while men (and Christians!!) aren't perfect yet they can find forgiveness and help in Christ (Christ said if HE was lifted up HE would draw all men unto himself). Talk often about what God is doing in your Church (and if He isn't doing anything the Church needs to spend some time on the Altar "unblocking the flow of water"!).

THE MESSAGE OF THE CHURCH- Many people attend a Church without really understanding it's Purpose and how it's trying to accomplish that purpose. That knowledge is the key to Motivation and accomplishment in the work of the Church.

A) The Gospel- The Message of the Church is simple-

TO SINNERS: Jesus died for your sins, was buried, arose from the dead and offers forgiveness of sins and newness of life by simple Faith.

TO SAINTS: After you accept Christ as Saviour by Faith you become a Son of God and part of the Body of Christ. You have Peace with God, a Place in the work of Christ, and Power through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

The Purpose of the Church, therefore, is to Win the Lost and Equip the Saved to live the Christian Life. There are a lot of "junctions" on this Main Road but we must never take the "rabbit trails" instead of the Heavenly Highway.

B) The Goals- The difficulty many Churches encounter is in determining their place in God's overall program. Somehow we have assumed that EACH individual Church is to perform the function of EVERY individual Church. We forgot the words of Paul (II Cor 10:12 For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves; but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise,) and as a result end up dissatisfied and disenchanted when OUR Church does not accomplish the same things as THEIR Church. I believe that as each Christian has a different place in the Body of Christ so each Church has a different objective in the plan of God. Some Churches are "family" churches, some are "Community" Churches, and some are "Ethnic" Churches. Some are "Success" Churches, some are "Spiritual" Churches, and some (Like us!) are "Service" Churches. When a Church can determine it's own Ministry, and then Perform that Ministry, then the world will marvel at what God accomplishes thru His People.

ARE YOU PART OF THE FAMILY OF GOD??? ARE YOU FUNCTIONING???

THINGS GOD CALLS SIN

Rom 6:23 The Wages of Sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord. This is a classic "commonly Known" verse that has tremendous implications. While most Christians would willingly say "amen" to the verse they find it a little harder relating it to real life situations. It is easy to say that God's wrath rests upon the sinner but it has become increasingly hard to define just what sin really is. It used to be "sin" to own a TV but today almost everyone has one and our Church is using Videos as a method of outreach. Drugs, Divorce, Preacher Scandal, etc. have all invaded the Church today and many preachers who preached against sin now find an excuse for it when it happens in their life.

If sin is as bad as it seems- it will send a person to hell and it cost Jesus his death on the Cross - then we need to know What Sin really is and learn how to Avoid it.

I. THE PRINCIPLES OF SIN--The Westminster Short Catechism defines SIN as "any want of conformity unto, or any transgression of, the law of God." Paul says in Rom 14:23 ~~for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.~~ Faith is responding to the Will of God. When I do not seek, or do not obey, the will of God then it is Sin. It may seem cultured or refined; or crude and vulgar, but if it is a violation of God's will it is Sin- That's why Jesus would Berate "righteous" Pharisees and offer forgiveness to prostitutes.

"Sin" is from an old English word that means "To miss the mark" and was used to describe an archer missing the bull's eye on the target. It is used several ways:

A) A Transgression of the Law as laid down by God.

B) Iniquity- an act that is Wrong (Usually known by the conscience even if not written in the Law- Rom 2:12-15)

C) Scofield also lists Trespass (the intrusion of self will into the sphere of divine authority), lawlessness (Spiritual anarchy), and Unbelief (Insult to Divine veracity) but all of these are basic to the original meaning of sin MISSING THE MARK.

The basis of Sin therefore is to go outside of the bounds and plan of God. You may be "good" as far as the world is concerned but you've missed the mark of God's Plan either by Omission or Commission and have violated the Divine plan.

The Word Sin is used in three ways:

1. A Man's Actions in regards to God's Laws. Man Sins

2. A Man's Nature of Rebellion against God's Plan. Man is Sinful

3. A Man's Standing in Regards to Relationship with God. A Sinner

Sin Separates us from God; Deteriorates our lives; and Slaves us.

One Basic principle you must keep in mind is that YOU must answer for YOUR sins- Deut 24:16 The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers; every man shall be put to death for his own sin.

II. THE PRACTICE OF SIN - People practice sin in Two ways:

A) Attitude Sins-

1. Jealousy- To allow someone's elses success to cause you to fail to do your part (Saul has just been make King and Samuel said) I Samuel 12:23 Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way. James 2:9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

2. Hating Brother- Lev 19:17 Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbor, and not suffer sin upon him. I John 3:15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

3. To demand Your "Rights" at the expense of a weaker Christian I Cor 8:12 But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.

B) Action Sins- There are a number of "Common Sins" listed in the Bible by Godly Men- Joseph called Adultery Sin- Gen 39:9.

Moses Called Idolatry Sin- Ex 34:31 And Moses returned unto the Lord, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold.

But there are some things that God calls Sin:

1) Blaspheming: Levi 24:16 And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, Whosoever curseth his God shall bear his sin.

2) Failure to Function for God- Deut 32:23 But is ye will not do so, (That is, be faithful to your service for God) behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out. James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

3) Not heeding the Cry of the needy- 24:14-15 Thou shalt not oppress an hired servant that is poor and needy, whether he be of thy brethren, or of thy strangers that are in thy land within thy gates: At his day thou shalt give him his hire, neither shall the sun go down upon it; for he is poor, and setteth his heart upon it: lest he cry against thee unto the Lord, and it be sin unto thee.

4) Failure to keep a Vow to God- Deut 23:21 When thou shalt vow a vow unto the Lord thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the Lord thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee.

5) God even lists some things that will keep you out of Heaven:

I Cor 6:9-10 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Rev 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

III. THE PARDON FOR SIN- II Cor 5:21 God made Christ to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. Christ paid the "wages of Sin" (Death) for us and now we can receive PARDON and FORGIVENESS by placing our Faith in Christ.

But God does not just pardon our Past sins; He provides us ways to avoid sin-

Reverence God Ex 20:20 And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not. Ps 4:4

Avoid Sinners- Ex 23:33 They shall not dwell in thy land, lest they make thee sin against me: for if thou serve their gods, it will surely be a snare unto thee.

Read the Bible- Ps 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

ARE YOU A SINNER? OR ARE YOU SAVED BY GRACE???

SIN

Gen 3:

Why is life filled with Troubles and Trials?? Why is there sickness, and sorrow, and death?? Why do are thousands of dollars and multitudes of hours spent in Churches talking about Revival, Witnessing, and living so as to be ready to Die?? The answer to all these questions is one little 3 letter-word; SIN. Surely something that effects us so drastically in this world and the next needs to be examined.

I. SIN'S RINGLEADER- Satan/Lucifer; the angel whose beauty was so great until he decided to challenge God for authority over the earth.

A) He appeared as an Angel of Light- The Hebrew for Snake is the "Shining One". He was beautiful to behold.

B) He was more Subtle than any other (Gen 3:1)- He knew a "half-truth" was better than a Bold lie. Tennyson wrote, "A lie which is all a lie, may be met with, and fought with outright, But a lie which is part a truth, is a harder matter to fight". The Method Satan used is still in practice today:

1. He questioned Eve's understanding of God's Word- "Hath God Said" James tell us that if we don't have wisdom to ask God

2. He Denied God's Word- "Ye shall not surely Die"

3. He Substituted his own word- "Ye shall be as gods"

[That Pattern has been repeated over and over through the ages. Men have said, "God's word is right but only certain people can understand it"; then they say, "It doesn't really mean what it says. A God of Love couldn't mean that Hell is a reality"; until finally they say, "Every man should be able to do what he thinks is right. God will surely accept that!"].

II. SIN'S REASONS. Why did Eve listen to Satan??

A) Curiosity- "Ye shall not eat of EVERY tree of the garden". Like the Prodigal son, Eve felt like something good was being denied her. As one writer put it, "The Grass is always greener over the septic Tank, but what will happen when the roof falls in!". Curiosity killed the cat; and it won't do you any good either! Satan implied that God was "keeping" something from Eve and by doing so called God's love and care into question. [Multitudes of people today seem to think that the Church is trying to keep them from having a Good time while the world really loves and wants the best for them].

B) Rebellion against Authority- "Ye shall not surely die"- You can break the rules and get by with it. Prov 20:17 Bread of deceit is sweet to a man but afterward his mouth shall be filled with gravel. You will reap what you sow, with interest. You can't "get by"

C) Self Gratification- "Ye shall be as gods". Puts "ME" on the Throne where I can "do my own thing". So many people spend so much time trying to "discover themselves" and find they're rotten thru and thru.

D) Desire of the Flesh- "good for food, pleasant to the eye". It doesn't LOOK bad; in fact it looks like it might be nice. Sin has always worn the best clothes possible before it gets its iron grip in you.

E) Pride- "A tree to be desired to make one wise". This is something that will make me special and it's something I need to check out. Sin does teach you a lot of lessons, none of which end up being fun when final exams come up!!

III. RESULTS OF SIN-

A) In the Person's Life:

1. Shame- "They knew that they were naked". A Classic "morning after". I've never seen anyone hide their face in shame over coming to Church but I've seen numerous "dodges" over Saturday night.
2. Self Effort to Cover Up- "Sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons". Like all sinners they were DEALING WITH THE FRUIT AND NOT THE ROOT of the Problem. Their nakedness was not the problem; the Sin that had caused them to see the nakedness was!
3. Hiding from Help- "Hid themselves from the presence of the Lord". Jesus said, "They will not come to me that they might have life". People ought to bang down the Church doors instead of Christians having to beg them to come and find eternal life.
4. Break down in Communication- "Adam, Where art thou". You turn in on self and let depression and despair take over. You think no one else has ever had the same problems or circumstance you have.
5. Fear- "I was afraid because I was naked"
 - a. Fear of facing the problem
 - b. Fear of Public condemnation
6. Blame Shifting-
 - a. The woman THOU gavest me- She made me do it but it was really YOUR fault for giving me such a wife.
 - b. The SERPENT beguiled me- I wasn't as smart as I should have been (Which, of course, is God's fault for not giving me enough wisdom). How smart do you have to be to obey??

B) In Their Relationship with God-

1. Cursed:
 - a. Serpent- crawl on belly, hated
 - b. Woman (Deceived)- Under man with pain of Childbearing
 - c. Man- Earn living by sweat of brow
2. Death:
 - a. Spiritual separation from God immediately and then forever
 - b. Physical death to come

IV. SIN'S RANSOM-

A) An Innocent's Blood shed for a Covering-

B) Faith is God's way of restoring the sinner- A messiah will come and you must live in Faith.

Will you allow Sin to ruin your life and send you to Hell?? Or will you come to God by Faith in Christ today?

GRACE AND GROW



Grace Free Will Baptist Church "A Little Church With a Big Vision"

First Warship Service 9:00am
Bible Study Hour 10:05am
Second Warship Service (WJOT) 11:00am
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm

Pastor Mircheal Jones

394-3725

Vol VII Num 11 May 25, 1989 ** 348 Lawrence St ** PO Box 1003 ** Lake City, S C 29560

Greetings in the Name of Christ. Did you Notice the new "MOTTO" we're using now?? "A Little Church with a Big Vision". We used that motto 16 years ago when I first came to Grace but we abandoned it for our overriding Goal of getting people "To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST". I have decided to use it again in order to help define our place in the Community (Our Motto is Changing but our Goal will NEVER Change; we will always seek to get men to KNOW Christ as Saviour and then to SHOW Him in their changed life).

I found that it was difficult for "John Q Person" to really identify with "To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST" while they seem to much more easily grasp "A Little Church with a Big Vision". Most people want a church that's small enough for them to feel like they're part of the "family" and we try to promote that friendly Family attitude here at Grace. But, while we're small enough to be Friendly, we've got a vision that's as BIG as they come!!!

I want our people continually aware of the Opportunities of serving in a local Body of Christ but I want them to never forget the Obligations of spreading the Gospel of Christ. So why don't you join us this week in "A Little Church with a Big Vision" that striving to get people "To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST". [Can You identify YOUR church in a

Sentence?? There are a lot of churches "drifting" through life never accomplishing anything because they don't know what they're trying to accomplish!].

I hope you also noted that we will use the REVISED TIME this Sunday-

9am- First Warship Service

10:05am- Sunday School

11am- Second Warship Service.

Brother Damon Runion will be teaching the Adult Class and we'll have Special Music from individuals and the Choir during each of the Warship Services. Join us this Sunday and make this a Memorial Day to Remember.

I'm also happy to announce the donation of a used VCR to our Outreach Ministry by Mr Danny Thigpen. I am using it to copy some tapes even as I type this and it's going to be a real asset to the Church. I started adding up the equipment the Lord has given the Outreach Ministry in the past few years and I was amazed!!!- Computer with hard disk, color monitor, IBM proprinter, and over \$500 worth of programs. 3 VCRs, 4 electronic staplers, a heavy duty stapler, and a saddle stitch stapler. An electric driven Memo Machine with 3 drums and a hand driven memo machine with 2 drums. A binding machine, 2 audio cassette recorders, a high speed audio cassette recorder, 4 portable cassette players, an IBM selectric II typewriter, and

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hundreds of dollars worth of audio and video cassettes and booklets. God has continually met our every need and I cannot Praise Him enough. (I also cannot THANK enough those people who consistently give so that this Outreach Ministry can continue. I don't receive any "pay" for the work I do in the Outreach Ministries and I try to follow God's direction in the use of everything that comes into the Ministry. As partners with you in spreading the Gospel of Christ, I try to make sure every dollar is used frugally and faithfully and I appreciate the honor of directing the spread of the Good News about Christ through sermons, books, tapes, and through any "door" the Lord will open to us.

Another "Door" has recently opened just a crack and I'm praying for God's wisdom in knowing how to open it correctly. Through the years of the Outreach Ministry I have tried to share a portion of our income with Widows and the Needy. It has never been much (Depending on income, from \$25 to \$75 per month) but

I was recently approached by someone who wants to consistently give to such a "help for the Needy" fund. My plans for now are to simply channel it through our Outreach Ministry (While keeping it separate on the record books) but if it grows into a significant amount then I will start a separate account with some sort of oversight board. I have prayed for a long time for some means of consistently moving Christianity from Preaching into Practice and I think this might be a major First step.

Thanks to Mrs Billie Ard for supplying some of these questions.

QUIZ:

1. Who was taken from a Pit and then from a Prison to become a Prime Minister?
2. Who was a captive who became a Commander because he could read a special message?
3. Who was the richest man in the land of Uz; but his wife talked too much?
4. Who is only mentioned in the Bible when he went to sleep during a sermon?
5. Who was Adam's first grandchild?
6. Who was the first

convert in Europe?

7. Name 3 Preachers who rode in ships.
8. Which Disciple gave a party for Jesus when he was saved?
9. What prophet has a sister that sang and a brother that worshipped an idol?
10. Name the thief on the Cross that was saved while Jesus was dying for our sin.

ANSWERS

1. Joseph- Gen 37:28-41:14
2. Daniel- Dan 5:25-29
3. Job- Job 1:3, 2:9
4. Eutychus Acts 20:9-12
5. Enoch Gen 4:17 or
6. Lydia Acts 16:14
7. Noah- Gen 7:1
8. Joseph- Gen 1:3
9. Paul- Acts 27:9-25
10. Matthew (Levi) Lu 5:27
11. Moses
12. William- Ex 15:20-21
13. Aaron- Ex 32:1-4
14. No Names are listed for either man.

Did you notice from the Quiz that God can take Ordinary people and use them in Extraordinary ways when they're dedicated to Him?

I used to think that the Gospel was supposed to take imperfect people and make them Perfect. Instead, I've found it takes Sinners and makes them Saints; continually being molded into the image of Christ. I'm glad I'm part of the Process. Preacher Mike

WHAT KIND OF ATHEIST ARE YOU?

Psa 14:1 The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

The word ATHEIST comes from a Greek word meaning "No (a) God (Theos)" and was originally applied to those who deny the existence of a Supreme Being. While the word "Atheist" is not found in the Bible, the idea of "Denying God" is. And the amazing thing is that the vast majority of the world falls under the heading of Atheist! I want us today to look at the 3 "kinds" of atheist, the Perils of being an Atheist, and then I want to determine how we can recognize and build a relationship with God.

I. THE THREE KINDS OF ATHEIST:

1) Professing Atheist- Those who deny the God of the Bible. Rom 1:20-23 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: 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. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

2) Philosophical Atheist- The crowd Paul had to contend with on Mars Hill (Acts 17:23) For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

3) Practicing Atheist- Those who talk like they're active but live like they're Atheist! Tit 1:16 They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

Each of these "roots" has numerous Branches (and many times it's difficult to connect the two but careful observation will reveal where the "sap" is coming from!); But the "fruit" they produce is destroyed lives and damning souls! Let's examine them closer.

1. **The PROFESSING ATHEIST**- The easiest to recognize because they stand vocally and Visibly against the God of the Bible. They may recognize A God but they stand against THE God. This is the majority of the Eastern World (Moslems, Hindus, Buddhist, etc.). Many of them are VERY Religious and have a standard of morals and manners that are to be envied but they refuse to acknowledge God and accept His Son, Jesus Christ. These are the Millions and Millions of "religious" people who have seldom (if ever) heard the Gospel and so they cling to idols and ideologies that are like giving aspirins to a man dying of cancer; they provide temporary relief for minor symptoms but do nothing to change the awful fate to come.

2. **The PHILOSOPHICAL ATHEIST**- Because God cannot be "put in a jar" or shown through "Scientific Reasoning" they make up something to replace God. Humanism (Man is God), "New Age" (The World is God), and the "Force" (Some impersonal power that cast us into a world to do the best we can) are branches of this root. These people are governed by Conscience, the Crowd's Opinion, or the "Cosmos" (Astrology, mysticism, etc.). They refuse the Bible's Authority or application.

3. The PRACTICING ATHEIST- The "Worst" of all because they say one thing (that they believe and follow God) and live another thing (in works they deny Him). The Pharisees of Jesus' day were like this- Matt 23:27-28 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. Many people today who profess to be Christians worship at the altars of SELF, SUBSTANCE, or SUCCESS and think God doesn't know or care. They will be offended today that I call them "Atheist" but they must realize (before it's too late) that God doesn't simply listen to your words, He examines your Fruit!! (Matt 7:20).

II. THE PERILS OF BEING AN ATHEIST:

a. You can lose your mind- Rom 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; (Then follows a list of some of the most despicable sins known to mankind; that are being practiced and proclaimed on TV today!).

b. You will lose your Soul- John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

III. HOW CAN YOU KNOW THE REAL GOD?

a. Look at the Example He's Given us- Jesus. he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; (Jn 14:9)

b. Look at the Evidence He has given us- Ps 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

c. Listen to the Exhortation of Paul- Phil 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord; for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,- God reveals Himself to those who SEEK to Know Him. He seldom reveals Himself to those with only a "passing interest"; Knowing God is not the Dedication of a Moment but the Determination of a Life Time.

d. Labor in the Exercises He has Left us:

1> His Word- John 17:8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. Read, Study, and Meditate on the Word of God.

2> His Witness- The Spirit. John 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; The "Spirit bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Rom 8:16). Don't Grieve or Quench the Spirit but allow Him to reveal Christ in and to your heart.

3> His Works- Christians are part of the body of Christ. As we function FOR Him we learn more OF Him. Christianity is not a "mind game" we play but a changed life we live. We learn to have the Submitted Mind of Christ (Phil 2:5), the Serving Hands of Christ, and the Saving Witness of Christ (Luke 24:47-49).

Are you an Atheist in Word, Mind, or Actions?? Are you building a Relationship with God as you continually get to know Him more and more?

REAL BEAUTY

Pro 31:30 Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.

Mothers should know the truth of this verse very well:

1. Favor is deceitful- The same children that pick that special Mother's day card to give you today and say such nice things about you in public will sit down at your loaded table and eat that meal you've slaved over before adjourning to the living room to talk and rest while you clean up and wash the dishes!!
2. Beauty is Vain- The physical strain of bearing and bringing up children is enough to make even the most beautiful of women a little "ragged around the edges" [It still amazes me that there aren't more bald headed women from "pulling out their hair"!]. Children are much more interested in a Mother's LOVE than they are her LOOKS!
3. A woman that feareth the Lord shall be praised- A mother's relationship with the Lord is the most important thing she can show and share with her children.

Because there are more than mothers here today I want us to notice something about women that everyone is concerned with; BEAUTY, and see how Vain it really is.

1. THE POWER OF BEAUTY-

A) Caused Satan's Fall- Ez 28:17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness;

B) Caused Abraham's Lie - Gen 12:11-13 And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon: Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive. Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee.

C) Caused Isaac's lie - Gen 26:6-7 And Isaac dwelt in Genar: And the men of the place asked him of his wife; and he said, She is my sister: for he feared to say, She is my wife; lest, said he, the men of the place should kill me for Rebekah; because she was fair to look upon.

D) Caused Jacob to work 14 years- Gen 29:17-18 Leah was tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured. And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter. (Then he was tricked with Leah and had to serve 7 more years in order to get Rachel).

E) Leads to Curiosity and discovery- ECC 3:11 He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end. The Beauty of the Mountains or lands in the distance has caused many an explorer to continue when his mind said stop. There is a beauty and wonder to most scientist; that maybe only they can see, but it continually drives them to greater discoveries.

F) Leads to Debauchery, Divorce, Disease, and Death-

1. Be Warned of the Wayward Woman- Prov 6:23-25 For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman. Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids. (See Prov 5:3-11)

2. Be Warned of the Lustful Look- II Sam 11:2 And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house; and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. In the day in which we live, in which everything from toothpaste to Toyotas are sold by scantily dressed women; we need to remember afresh the words of Jesus- Matt 5:28 But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

II. THE TRUTH ABOUT BEAUTY

A) Beauty is in the eye of the beholder- Prov 20:29 The glory of young men is their strength; and the beauty of old men is the grey head.

B) A beautiful person loses their beauty when their sin is revealed: Ps 39:11 When thou with rebukes dost correct man for iniquity, thou makest his beauty to consume away like a moth; surely every man is vanity. Selah. It changes the beauty of their countenance and of their reputation (Remember, sometimes beauty is what you think of a person)

C) True Beauty is found in a Relationship with the Lord: Ps 90:17 And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us; and establish thou the work of our hands upon us;

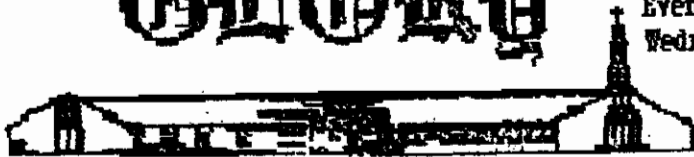
D) Worthy Worship produces real Beauty- Ps 29:2 Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. Ps 96:6 Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. (Remember the Glow on Moses' face after being with God.)

E) Real Beauty is not just a clean face, but a clean heart- Ps 149:4 For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people; he will beautify the meek with salvation.

FAVOR IS DECEITFUL....BEAUTY IS VAIN...BUT A WOMAN (OR MAN) THAT FEARETH THE LORD SHALL BE PRAISED.

One closing Thought from a sermon Jesus preached- Matt 23:27 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. If your Beauty is only "skin deep" the blood of Christ can wash you from the "inside out" and change you from a blighted son of Satan to a Saved son of God.

GRACE AND GLORY



Grace Free Will Baptist Church
"A Little Church With a Big Vision"

Bible Study Hour	10:00am
Morning Evangelistic Service	11:00am
Evening Worship Service	6:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Service	7:30pm

Pastor Mircheal Jones

394-3725

Vol VII Num 12 June 8, 1989 **348 Lawrence St** Lake City, S C

"Multiply your Ministry"!!

That's something I keep telling our People all the time. Never be satisfied to witness to Two people if you can find a way to use that same witness to reach Twenty! That's the premise behind much of our Outreach Ministry-- I preach a message to 50 to 75 people on Sunday Morning; many more listen to that same message live over Radio, then some get it later in the week on audio and Video tapes, hundreds more read it in the newsletter within two weeks, and later many of the messages are adapted by other preachers and "recycled" to their congregation. You drop a small stone in a pool and watch the waves get bigger and bigger as they expand!!!

I've had several opportunities to "watch the waves expand" recently: I spoke at the Senior Citizens meeting last week (I normally speak about twice a month) and had the privilege of doing something I've wanted to do for a long time. I was able to get enough of a "backlog" of booklets and sermon tapes to enable me to give one to every one who attended the meeting. This allowed me to minister in person, with a sermon on tape later, and then with a book they can study for a long time.

The Adult Sunday School Lessons this quarter are from the Minor Prophets; and we're covering a book a week! Because I made tapes and kept extra copies of the outline of each book when I taught Old Testament Survey I have already been able to assist several Sunday School Teachers with an audio and printed outline of each book (and I still have several available on a first come, first serve basis).

One of the men in the Church recently was able to go to his first Family Reunion since committing his life to the Lord. He wanted to carry something that would leave a witness for the Lord with several members of his family so I copied a number of sermon tapes for him to give them. (Now you know why I prayed so hard for that high speed tape duplicator several years ago).

The "wave" is not nearly as big as I want it to be yet; and I know that if we can increase the "stone" we throw in at the beginning that that will help a great deal; but I praise the Lord for opening so many doors and for burdening so many people's heart with this work so I could get the necessary equipment and funding to Multiply the Ministry

Grace FWB Church Nonprofit Organization
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Vacation Bible School will be held next week (June 12-15) with the Theme "Noah's Ark". It will kick off with a showing of the Video "Noah's Ark" on Sunday Night and then Monday - Wednesday we will have a visit from "Noah's Wife" in addition to object lessons and Puppet Presentations. The Second hour will include Refreshments, Songs, and Preparation to "Build the Ark". Monday - Wednesday the sessions will be held from 7:00pm - 9:00pm. Graduation will be held on Thursday Night beginning at 7:30pm and will include a musical program of building the ark and loading the animals aboard before our Hot Dog Supper Celebration.

Because of the fact that all of our time will be involved in Message, Music, and preparing to build the ark, we will not have craft this year but will instead offer the kids an opportunity to shop at the "General Store" on Graduation Night. Each Child can earn "Bible Bucks" each night of Bible School to use in the "General Store" using this simple formula- \$1 for attending, \$1 for bringing your Bible, and \$3 for each Visitor you bring (A Visitor is someone who does not presently attend our Sunday School. They can be counted by only one person and only for one night. Each Visitor receives \$2 on their first visit). On Graduation night the children will be lined up to enter the "General Store" with the person with the most money first and then down the line. If people have the same amount of money the youngest will go first. All items will cost at least a "dollar" but every child that attends all three nights will be able to purchase several items (There will be one Main item that will be so expensive that only the person with the most money can purchase it). We

hope this will be a learning experience for the Children as they learn to "walk with God", to "Get into the ark with God", and to begin a new life with God; and we hope the graduation service on Thursday night will be a means of reaching many parents for the Lord.

Father's Day will be one of our **SPECIAL SUNDAYS** again. We will begin at 9:00am with a Worship Service, 10am will be Sunday School (Brother Russel Lowder will teach the Adult Class), and the 11am Service will include a special honor for Fathers (Then Dad will have all afternoon off to relax in his new chair!).

Just an Update on an item in the last edition-- The Fund to help Widows and the Needy has a new Name- "The Helping Hand" Fund (suggested by one of it's contributors). My plans are to begin an account for this fund in the near future and to cover all administration costs from the Grace and Glory Outreach Fund so that every penny given to this fund will be used to help someone in need. Already nearly \$200 has come in and been distributed and I see a problem trying to keep it's funds separate from the Outreach Ministry Funds. Separate checks would also allow people to more easily identify the source of their gift. So if you would ever like to help this fund (All donors are anonymous) please designate your gift to the "Helping Hand" Fund and we will make sure that those in need receive help.

I hope I've "made some waves" with you today and God has spoken to your heart. If you know Christ as your personal Saviour then tell someone about Him this week; if you don't know the pardon and forgiveness of sins offered in Christ, ask me, I'll be glad to share the "Good News" with you. Preacher Mike

Getting Away With Sin

Ps 10:1-2 Why standest thou afar off, O Lord? why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble? The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined.

We are living in a difficult time for Christians; Sinners are prospering and Saints are being persecuted. The Good seem to always come up short while the Greedy get richer and richer and seem to "Get By" with almost everything.

I want us today to look at how God deals with Sin and see why He doesn't "zap sinners with lightening bolts" as we sometimes want.

I. THE TIMING OF GOD'S JUDGEMENT:

A) Sometimes Swiftly and Publicly-

Haman (Esther 7:10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai.)

Nadab and Abihu [Aaron's sons] (Num. 3:4 And Nadab and Abihu died before the Lord, when they offered strange fire before the Lord.)

When Uzzah touched the ark of God as it was being transported he was killed immediately (II Sam 6:6-7)

B) Sometimes Slowly but Surely-

Pharaoh drowned the Israelite babies, but he was drowned in the Red Sea.

Ahab "got by" with sin for years until one day in a battle an archer shot an arrow "by chance" and killed him.

You may get by 99 times, but "be sure your sins will find you out." Prov 5:22 His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.

The swift method is necessary to show there is a God that rules on the earth; the slow method is necessary to show there is a judgment to come. But most of the time it appears that the "mills of God grind exceedingly slow"; and often it appears that, since vengeance belongs to God, He takes it after death instead of during life. Let's look at some reasons that God does not always punish bad men (women) when they do wrong.

The Frailty of man- If God dealt with Every sin instantly then the world would soon be destroyed- for all have sinned! God would be the destroyer, not the governor of the world.

The Nature of God- Longsuffering: 2PE 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

The Need of Man- Repentance: God expects man to TURN FROM Sin as well as Receive Pardon for it. Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent.

The Desire of God- Voluntary Love: Because man is a free agent and present punishment would drive him to slavery rather than voluntary submission.

The Love of God- God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked; He loved them enough for His only Son to die for them and this love makes Him patience in His punishment.

The Need to "Protect" the Righteous while the wicked are being punished- Because the "bad" can't be properly punished without sometimes harming the good (Pulling up the tares with the wheat).

The Faith of the Righteous must be tested and purified- Is 48:10 Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.

Sometimes sins are not "ripe" for punishment.- Isreal stayed in Egypt 400 years til the sin of Canaan was "full" (Gen 15:16).

You can Rest assured that God will act [By the way, aren't you glad God does not deal with you the way you want Him to deal with others?]

Because God puts off sentence, it does not mean He has forgotten.
Ecclesiastes 8:11-13 Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: but it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God.

The Evidence of Sin's Punishment is not always obvious- The wicked flee when no man pursue. We can see if a person suffers in his body, or social position, or reputation; but we can't see the inward man that knows he's done wrong - the roiling turmoil, the constant threat of being "found out," etc..

Many Times God allows the Bad to punish the Bad- Assyrians, Romans. Is 7:20 In the same day shall the Lord shave with a razor that is hired, namely, by them beyond the river, by the king of Assyria,

But remember, whether sentence is executed swiftly or slowly; Privately or Publicly; court has been held and sentence has been passed on every sin (all evil and all evil workers): Ezek.18:20 The soul that sinneth, it shall die.

The only way to "get away" with sin is to give it to Jesus. Admit it, forsake it, trust only in His Grace.

POWER TO PERSEVERE

Col 2:21-29

The life of a Pastor is filled with Tragedies and troublesome circumstances as he tries to help people deal with marital problems, serious sicknesses, and the normal difficulties people face; but one of the saddest things any Pastor has to face is when a Christian turns back on the Lord. This is a "Double" problem for the Pastor since the Backslider not only turns BACK but also turns AWAY from the only real Help he has.

I want us to look today at What Happens when a Person looks back after putting their hands to the plow; at how such a Tragedy could happen; and, finally, I want to see how we can be Faithful to the end.

I. What a Backslider loses: In Relation to-

A) The World- His testimony and character. He is considered a coward and a traitor; people don't even name their dogs Judas!! The world will try to get you to turn away from Christ but they will be repelled if you actually do so.

B) The Church- Some of the saddest words in the Bible are Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, (II Tim 4:10). A Backslider abandons the Fellowship of the Body of Christ and His Work in the Body of Christ. He turns his back on two of the main things every person needs; Help and Purpose. And the Church has to function without a "finger".

C) The Lord-

1. His Love for Christ Rev 2:4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

2. His Power to work for Christ - Samson

3. His Fruitfulness- Mark 4:18-19 And these are they which are sown among thorns, such as hear the word, and the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful. (And Remember "Fruitfulness" was the way God judged whether you were pruned or placed in the fire!! John 15:2)

4. His Peace- Peter went out and wept bitterly. David Prayed Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit (Ps 51:12).

5. Eventually His Soul- James 5:19-20 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

II. HOW A PERSON BECOMES A BACKSLIDER- Example of Abraham (Gen 12)

A) He left Bethel (House of God) "By easy Stages" vs 9. Gradually the Fires of Faith cool until one day you notice only ashes instead of flames.

B) Problems (Famine) came to him and he sought a worldly answer instead of resting in the Lord (Went to Egypt to live) vs 10

C) He began to rely on His Ability to handle problems instead of seeking God's directions (Told Sarah to say she was his sister) vs 13

The Word never takes root in some hearts, has only a limited root system in others, but many people become distracted and then distrustful before finally becoming disbelieving (Mark 4:14-20).

ARE YOU "EASING" YOUR WAY BACKWARDS???

If Backsliding is so harmful; and even a "giant" like Abraham had to content with it, how can we (mere "normal" Christians) hope to avoid it's traps?? The answer is found in one of the most dynamic concepts in the New Testament- Christ IN YOU, the hope of Glory.

The Sin Problem is not a simple Problem; not only is it fatal (Wages of Sin is Death), but it is also highly infectious!! Jesus on the Cross deals with the PENALTY of Sin but it takes Jesus living in you to deal with the PRESENCE of Sin!

Here are some things to know to "cut the Power on":

1. The Source- IN Christ (Gal 2:20) Are You "Plugged In"??
2. The Switch- Faith Are you "turned On"??
3. The "Substation"- Knowledge. Do you have a "Battery" Christianity that runs down regularly; or are you constantly Connected??

To Begin: He cannot have Faith in what he does not know!

To Claim: Eph 1:17-19 Paul prayed for vision to comprehend what the Christian has in Christ.

God has provided Pardon and Power for the Christian Life. Don't turn down either! "Greater is He that is in you than He that is in the World". Hold on to God's Unchanging Hand .

Don't Quit

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When funds are low and debts are high,
When you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must, but don't you quit
Life is odd with it's twists and turns
As every one of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about,
When he might have won had he stuck it out;
Don't give up, though the pace seems slow-
You may succeed with another blow.
Often the goal is nearer than
It seems to a faint and faltering man.
Often the struggler has given up,
When he might have captured the victor's cup.
And learned too late, when the night slipped down
How close he was to the golden crown.
Success is failure turned inside out-
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt.
And you can never tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems afar;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit-
It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit.

THE PILGRIM

HEB 11:8-10 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Abraham is one of the most revered men in the world. He is held in respect by Moslems, Jews, and Christians; and the Bible calls him "the Friend of God" (James 2:23). There are several reasons Abraham is so well thought of but the most important is our message today- Abraham has the FAITH OF A PILGRIM. This Faith Caused Him to Get Out of the "world", Get On with living for God, and then Get Home with the Lord. That's some of the best advice a pastor can give anyone. A Pilgrim is someone who:

1. **GETS OUT** (Separation)- This is a Separation FROM Sin and the World- Abraham left his Town and his Job to commit to the Lord's Plan for his life. That is also what Jesus asked of His Disciples, "Leave Family and Fishing and Follow me"; and it's what He asks of you today! Many people try to begin the Christian Life with a lot of excess "baggage" but Jesus says you don't have the energy or room to carry it.

ARE YOU WILLING TO BEGIN A NEW LIFE WITH CHRIST?? OR DO YOU SIMPLY WANT A NEW BEGINNING ON THE OLD LIFE YOU'VE BEEN LIVING??? A Pilgrim realizes that committing to Christ means your Friends will change (The Friend of the World is the enemy of Christ); Family Relationships will change (Submission and Love will replace Selfishness and Lust); Sometimes even your job will change (There are some jobs a Christian can't do. The Pilgrim also seeks a job that's in God's Plan for their life). You must trust God with a future you can't see.

2. **GETS ON** (Dedication)- Obedience does not stop with just getting out; it means going on. Christianity is not a Place you stop but a Walk you begin.

A) By Faith: It's not so much in knowing the way as it is in knowing who leads the way! (Several men were deep in the jungle without a path to follow. One of them became worried until the Guide said to him, "We haven't lost the way, I am the Way"). Abraham believed God when he did not know WHERE (8-10), HOW (11-12), WHEN (13-16), or WHY (17-19). One of the most important and oft repeated statements in the Bible is "The Just shall live by Faith".

B) In Fellowship: Can two walk together except they be agreed. (Little boy asked Granddad where he was going and the Granddad just walked off. Later the boy asked the Granddad why? The Granddad said, "If you want to be with me it doesn't matter where I'm going!"). We must agree with God about the manner of our life, about the methods we use, and about the manifestation of our works that the world sees (You must decide whether you want man's praise now or God's praise later).

By walking with God in Faith and Fellowship Abraham gained the Special: Promise of God Gen 12:2 To Bless and use

Presence of God Gen 12:7 To Worship together

Protection of God Gen 15:1 "Shield and exceeding reward"

Power of God Gen 14:13-20 Defeated army with 318

Provision of God Gen 17:1 (El Shaddai "All sufficient One")

3. GETS HOME (Continuation)- For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Christianity is not a Vacation but a Vocation. He completed the Journey: Don't die on Third base- Some "strike out" and never get on Base (Unsaved). Some "get a hit" and get on base (saved) but they stop on base and never make it home (to Heaven).

He eventually became a Citizen of Heaven instead of a Pilgrim on Earth: A Pilgrim doesn't settle down in the "motels" of the world, they look for a Mansion in Heaven. One day our mansion will be completed and we can sing "Home at last. Praise God, Home at last".

Are you a Pilgrim?? Or a Sinner set to face the Wrath of God?? Come join us by being saved and begin serving the Lord.

BIBLE OCCUPATIONS

Match the occupation with the name and then find it in the puzzle. They may be found by reading in any direction, even backward!

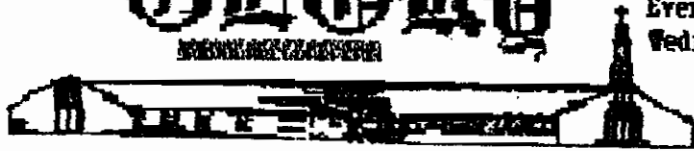
Carpenter (Matt 13:55)	Moses
Farmer (Gen 4:2)	Paul
Fisherman (Matt 4:18)	Cain
Governor (Matt 27:2)	Gamaliel
Lawyer (Acts 5:34)	Peter
Missionary (Acts 13:2,3)	Esther
Queen (Esther 2:17)	Joseph
Shepherd (Ex 3:1)	Pilate

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C A O N L E I L A M A G
A A J O S F U G A M F O
I N R E O A A P E T I R
N J S P P C A R P E S N
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N N S H E P H E R D O O

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GRACE And GLORY



Grace Free Will Baptist Church "A Little Church With a Big Vision"

Bible Study Hour 10:00am
Morning Evangelistic Service 11:00am
Evening Worship Service 6:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm

Pastor Mircheal Jones

394-3725

Vol VII Num 13 June 22, 1989 **348 Lawrence St** Lake City, S C



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL was very good. We averaged between 40 and 45 pupils per night and I thought their Graduation Program on Thursday Night was Super!. The Adult Help for VBS put forth an extra effort and I'm proud of all of them. I believe the young people know a lot more about "Noah's Ark" now than they did before VBS; and I hope it will help them live pure in a wicked world.

As Always, we have a number of SPECIAL SERVICES lined up for the next weeks:

Sunday Night, June 25, we will have a SALAD SUPPER following the Evening Service (Tossed, egg, chicken, 7-layer, etc). **EVERY SUNDAY IN JULY** we will begin at 9:00am and have Preaching, Sunday School, Preaching and no Night Service. (I want to see what response and attendance an entire month will produce. So far the results have been good). Wednesday Nights will be expanded to an hour and a half (7:30-9:00pm) in order to have Choir Practice and increase our Bible Study Time. My goal in doing this it to make our Time at Church as Profitable as possible in worshipping and learning about the Lord.

Our "Fourth of July"

service will be on the 5th of July this year (A Wednesday

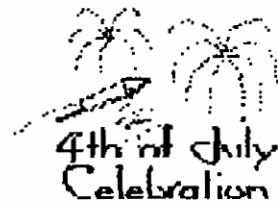
Nite). We will

celebrate the Liberty we have in our Country and in Christ with a number of activities- Many outside and VERY WET. I'll also get some "Grace Volunteers" to fix us some good groceries so we can celebrate with good fun, food, and fellowship before a time of reflection about the real meaning of Liberty.

A number of other special activities are planned during the month but a recent addition that I think is very important is a joint venture we've undertaken with Gilead FWB Church. On Sunday Night, July 23 at 6:30pm Rev Mike McDaniel will be presenting a special slide presentation at the Gilead Church about the Dangers of ROCK MUSIC. He will show samples of what is actually being said and expose some of the evils involved. More Details later.

I hope you'll join us in Church soon. God has a Blessing for you here.

Preacher Mike Ps 16:11



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SUCH AS I HAVE

Acts 3:1-10

Here is the well known story of the Lame Man who was 40 years old and yet had to be carried to the door of the Church each day to accept charity from the people who were going to and from worship.

I wonder how many people had said, "Something ought to be done about all these bums that block the way to the Temple! We've got a beautiful temple here but it spoils the effect to see all these poor people around". Of Course, there were probably some that had said, "It looks like SOMEONE could do SOMETHING for these needy people. I'd be glad to help if I had lots of money but what can my little bit do?". I want us to see today that God is not as concerned with What we have as He is in What we do with What we have.

I. THE LITTLE THINGS GOD USES:

A) Moses' rod (Ex 4:1-5)- God uses a simple "stick" that Moses was carrying as a Sign; to Smite the Rock in order to obtain water; and to Ensure Victory when Joshua was fighting Amalek (Ex 17:). What do YOU have in your hand that God can use?? A Pencil to write stories and poems; a paint brush to do art work or keep something from decay?

B) David's Sling (I Sam 17:40-50)- David was offered armor and swords but he had not proved them so he used a simple sling to defeat a giant. Pornography has been removed from many places simply because ONE person complained.

C) Little Boy's Two Fishes and Five Loaves (John 6:9)- were used to feed 5000 men; besides women and children. I wonder how many people go hungry because we would give a bag of groceries if we had it but aren't willing to give the can of soup we do have.

II. THE WAY GOD LOOKS AT "LITTLE" THINGS:

A) The Widow's Mite (Mk 12:41-44) this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury; for all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living. God is more interested in what you have LEFT than in what you Give!

Ps 37:16 A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked. Prov 15:16 Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith.

B) Mustard Seed Faith- Matt 17:20 Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. It is not the Amount of Faith you have but the Application of that Faith.

C) A Cup of Cold Water- Matt 10:42 And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward. We look for a great work to do but God rewards the little ability we have.

Most people don't stumble over mountains but they do stumble on rocks!! It's the "little Foxes that spoil the vines" (Song 2:15) and A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump I Cor 5:6. Solomon put it this way- Ecc 10:1 Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour; so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honor. Don't allow the "Little" things to cause you to stumble; but don't allow the "little" you have to keep you from doing the Work God intends.

NOAH'S DAY

Luke 17:26-27 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

The Story is told of a man who decided to fight a Flood with Faith: The Police came by and told the man a flood was coming and offered to move him but he replied, "I'll stay here. The Lord will take care of me". Soon the water reached to the porch and a boat came by offering help; again the man declined saying the Lord would care for him. Soon the water reached so high until the man had to sit on top of his house and a helicopter came by offering help. Again the man said "No, I'll trust the Lord to deliver me". Finally the water completely covered his house and the man had to swim. He looked up to God and said, "Lord, why did you fail me. I trusted in your deliverance!". The Lord replied, "I sent a car, a boat, and a plane for you; what more could I do!!".

I fear many people are like this man, they trust the Lord to help them in trouble but they aren't able to see His help when it comes. Thankfully, Noah was not like this; he was able to determine over 100 years before it happened that the Lord would send Judgment on the earth. That knowledge enabled him to prepare a way to save himself and his family; and also carry out God's Plan for the earth.

Jesus says in our text that we would face the same conditions in the last days that Noah faced in his day. I want us to see what Noah's Day was like so we can determine how close the coming of the Son of man is and then I want us, like Noah, to make preparations to escape God's wrath.

I. CONDITIONS IN NOAH'S DAY.

A) Contrasting Philosophies: As we read thru Genesis 4 and 5 we see some interesting Patterns; Cain and his line went AWAY FROM GOD and became known as City builders, Artist, inventors, etc while the "Godly" line of Seth is known only for HAVING CHILDREN and WALKING WITH GOD!!! That contrast has held throughout history and into the day we live- Sinful man wants to WORSHIP with his own works (Fruit of the field instead of a Blood Sacrifice), WALK his own way instead of walking in Fellowship with God, and WORK for this life instead of the World to come. Today you must decide if you are going to be guided by the Philosophies of the World or the Teachings of the Word of God.

B) "Church" Polluted: The Two things Seth's line were known for; Marriage and Morals were allowed to break down- 1) The intermarriage of the "Sons of God" with the Daughters of men violated God's plans and purpose (Whether it was Seth's children marrying Cain's children or Fallen Angels having relations with fleshly women). Today many Christians marry unbelievers without a second thought while divorce is a common accepted thing in the Church. 2) The Imagination of their heart was only evil continually. This led to Selfish absorption and Violence in the land as everyone looked out for "Number One". As long as this was in the world God did nothing but when it infected His followers Judgement was decreed (See I Tim 4:1-5). There is nothing wrong with Eating and Drink until it becomes your purpose in life and then God must act (Meat for the belly and the belly for meat and God shall destroy both!).

C) Condemnation Pronounced; God's Wrath finally comes.

RESPONSIBILITY: Fathers often "kid" about being head of their household and the respect that involves but with Respect also comes responsibility. Not only did these Father die but their wife and children died also. Are you leading your Children into Wrath??

REPENTANCE- God Repented; not man!!

REMOVAL- "God said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them." There comes a time when God finally says He will not put up with sin anymore- When the iniquity of the Ammorites was full everyone was destroyed. Isreal would not listen and so faced death and captivity.

How close is the world to wearing out God's Patience Today???

II. HOW CAN WE LIVE PURE IN A WICKED WORLD?:

A) Pray- How do you get Wisdom enough to guard and Guide your Children? "If any man lack wisdom let him ask of God."

- How do you know what God is Planning? Communicate with Him!

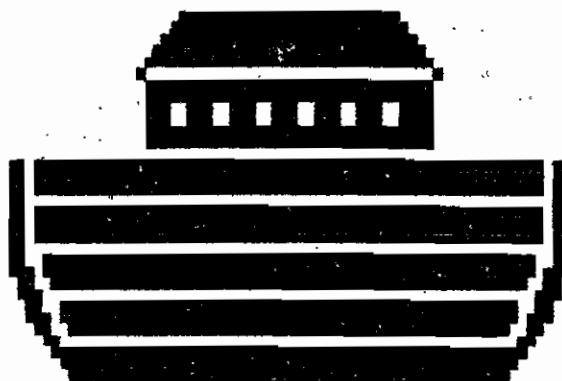
B) Plan-

1. Dedicate Yourself and your Family to God

2. Walk with God in your Daily Life.

3. Establish Long range Goals and Guidelines that will show your family you are doing more than talk; you are building something for the Lord (as Noah did in building the Ark).

We're living in the last days. Are you worried about the "water" or the World??? Remember EVERYONE not in the ark perished!!



The Morning Cometh

Psalm 30:5 For his anger endureth but a moment; In his favor is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

Charles Swindoll in his book "Come before Winter" relates a story about a man who had Troubles that we all can relate to (Which supposedly came from a true accident report!):

When I got to the building I found that the hurricane had knocked off some bricks around the top. So I rigged up a beam with a pulley at the top of the building and hoisted up a couple barrels full of bricks. When I had fixed the damaged area, there were a lot of bricks left over. Then I went to the bottom and began releasing the line. Unfortunately, the barrel of bricks was much heavier than I was-- and before I knew what was happening the barrel started coming down, jerking me up.

I decided to hang on since I was too far off the ground by then to jump, and halfway up I met the barrel of bricks coming down fast. I received a hard blow on my shoulder, I then continued to the top, banging my head against the beam and getting my fingers pinched and jammed in the pulley. When the barrel hit the ground hard, it burst its bottom, allowing the bricks to spill out.

I was now heavier than the barrel. So I started down again at high speed. Halfway down I met the barrel coming up fast and received sever injuries to my shins. When I hit the ground, I landed on the pile of spilled bricks, getting several painful cuts and deep bruises. At this point I must have lost my presence of mind, because I let go of my grip on the line. The barrel came down fast--giving me another blow on my head and putting me in the hospital.

I respectfully request sick leave.

There are many ways of describing "Troubles piled on top of Troubles" like this man had- "Going from bad to worst"; "Jumping from the frying pan into the fire". "Between a rock and a hard place" "Cheer up, things could get worse. So I cheered up and sure enough things got worse!" "My mother said there would be days like this but she never said they would come in bunches like bananas"; but, however you describe it, all of us have to go through a time like this from time to time. One of the great things about being a Child of God is that we know no matter how dark the night gets there is coming a morning light that will chase the gloom away and put a smile back on our face.

The Psalmist made Two points in this passage-- 1) There is a Possibility of Problems and 2) God Promises the Morning.

I. A Possibility "...weeping may endure for a night..."

A) WEeping- Death, Disease, Debt, Dissatisfaction, Sorrow, trouble are all part of the world today. Weeping is a way of life!

Not only is this a problem for a sinful world but servants of God have been known as "Weepers" throughout history:

Job was a man of tears. Job 6:2,3 O that my grief were thoroughly weighed, and my calamity laid in the balances together! For now it would be heavier than the sands of the sea: therefore my words are swallowed up.

David wrote many of his psalms in the midst of sorrow and sadness. Jeremiah (the weeping prophet) Jeremiah 9:1 Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

Jesus was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. [He Wept for Jerusalem and Lazarus. John 11:35 Jesus Wept]. Christians are not immune from troubles or tears!

B) MAY ENDURE- This is REAL sorrow that MAY last the entire night!! (I once tried to comfort some people weeping because "Sarah died" until I found Sarah was on a Soap Opera!!) Life is full of REAL tears over REAL troubles that last and last and last.

C) FOR A NIGHT- We are now living in the night (Spiritual Darkness) of Sin and Satan. And in this battle we are going to have some Conflict and Casualties! But the Darker the night the brighter our lights will shine!

II. A Promise "...joy cometh in the morning." The Christian is not left without Help or Hope however.

A) This Promise is not simply "Positive Thinking"- Trying to smile during troubles is like painting a burning building; it makes it look better but it's still burning!!

B) Neither is it "holding on by the skin of your teeth"- Four boys decided to go mountain climbing one weekend. In the middle of the climb, one fella slipped over a cliff, dropped about sixty feet, and landed with a thud on the ledge below. The other three, hoping to rescue him, yelled, "Joe, are you alright?" "I'm alive...but I think I broke both my arms!" "We'll toss a rope down to you and pull you up. Just lie still!", said the three. They dropped down the rope, tugging and grunting together, working feverishly to pull their wounded companion to safety. When they had him about three-fourths of the way up, they suddenly remembered he said he had broken BOTH arms. "Joe, if you broke your arms, how in the world are you hanging on?" Joe responded, "With my TEEEEEEEEETH..."

C) It is a:

Firm Commitment from God in this life- That He will be WITH US (Holy Spirit living within) in the midst of Life's Storms (Jesus in the boat in Mark 4, "Why were you afraid?")

Blessed Hope of His Coming to change night into day- the Second Coming-- Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

1. Weep no longer for departed loved one. (They will be with us.)
2. Pain of body will be gone. (New body)
3. Poverty gone. (streets of gold)
4. Persecution, criticism, and ridicule gone.
5. Joy will reign supreme. (We will forget that we ever had sorrow. ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy - John 16:20)

Christians will have some tears in this life but May our tears become telescopes to better see Him when He appears.

If you are unsaved my advice to you is (Romans 13:12) The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Come to Christ today.

GRACE AND GLORY

Grace Free Will Baptist Church

"A Little Church with a BIG VISION"

First Worship Service

9:00am

Bible Study Hour

10:00am

Morning Evangelistic Service

11:00am

Tuesday Prayer Service

7:30pm

Pastor Mircheal Jones

394-3725

Vol VII Num 14 July 13, 1989 **348 Lawrence St** Lake City, S C

GRACE means "Unmerited Favor" in "religious" terms and it has meant the same thing for me recently. Several weeks ago I hit a "Brick wall" physically and have been running at about 50 percent power every since. I have 2 new books nearly complete and have not been able to make myself do the fine tuning finishing work; Plans for the numerous Fall activities here at Grace should have been made and confirmed and I haven't been able to do so; and worst of all my preaching has been below par (I've triple boggled the last 3 Sundays!!).

With all these things in mind, it wouldn't have surprised me if the Deacons would have called me up and eased me out; Instead, 19 individuals and families in the



Church gave me over \$800 Sunday Morning to go to the National Association Meeting in Tampa, Florida next week!!!

I know it was undeserved but it certainly was not unappreciated! I tell the people here at Grace that they must be careful in what they do because so many other Churches look at their example thru the Outreach Ministries. They sure set a good example this time!!

Even though I'll be gone to the National Association this Sunday the Lord has provided Wonderful replacements:

9:00am Rev Larry McAlister will bring the Message. Brother Larry has been attending our 9am services as much as possible before going to his own church and I am pleased he's going to speak. He has led nearly 100 people to the Lord in the past year and almost tripled his Sunday School attendance, so I know you will get a Blessing.

10:00am Brother Russel Lowder will teach the Adult Sunday School Class. Brother Russel has been a tremendous help to me in Sunday School as well as in getting things ready for the new garage for the parsonage.

11:00am Brother Calvin Grooms, a deacon from Tabernacle FWB Church will bring the message. Brother Calvin is a fine Christian and a student of the Word. I believe God will use him to Bless your heart.

I can't wait to get back from the National Refreshed and Renewed. THANKS to Everyone. I'm planning some improvements in the Church and Outreach Work. What an "awesome August" we'll have.

Preacher Mike Ps 16:11

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SATANIC INFLUENCE

Why is Suicide the Number ONE Cause of Death among Teens??

Why are Law Enforcement Agencies required to Train people to look for signs of Satanic Worship when collecting evidence??

Why have our Schools changed from worrying about "Passing Notes and Throwing Spit-balls" to security controlled establishments where teachers worry about Rape, Robbery, and Riot???

Some of the ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND

SUNDAY, JULY 23 6:30PM



at GILEAD FWB CHURCH
with a Special Presentation by



REV MIKE MCDANIEL

On

PATHWAYS TO SATANIC INFLUENCE

This is a joint presentation of Gilead FWB Church and Grace FWB Church and more information can be obtained by contacting
Pastor Larry McAlister (394-8887)
Pastor Mike Jones (394-3725)

WHAT GRACE BRINGS

Rom 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

One of the things missing from many people's Christianity is Joy and Peace! While we need to realize that the Christian life means taking up our Cross and following Christ; as well as enduring Persecution for Righteousness sake, still it is the ABUNDANT LIFE of a Pilgrim on their way to Heaven! We should feel that Joy, and convey that Joy, to a world desperately looking for meaning to the madness of life.

That can happen only when we realize what the Abundant Life really is-- The Abundant life is not Riches, Relaxation, or Reveling; it is a Relationship with God (The heart is a restless hunter seeking only God). This relationship is not built on my Trying or even my Triumphs, it is based on Trusting God for Salvation and life- Not my Goodness but HIS GRACE. That brings us to a need of understanding What Grace is and What Grace Does.

I. WHAT GRACE IS: One of the Most popular ways of describing Grace is the acronym God's Riches At Christ's Expense. A short accurate description but it doesn't really "Move" us. Grace is simply a method that allows a Righteous God to save Sinners (like us) that could not save themselves- Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. GRACE MEANS SALVATION IS NOT SOMETHING WE WORK UP BUT SOMETHING WE BELIEVE IN!!

II. WHAT GRACE DOES: Here are 20 "Samples" of what Grace Brings us--

1. Includes us in God's Plan- Chosen in the Beloved before the foundation of the earth- We're not an afterthought on God's part. God determined before the earth was made that He would redeem believers by the sacrifice of His Son Jesus.

2. Redeemed - Bought from Slave Market of Sin. I was expensive; it cost Jesus his life, but God paid the price for me.

3. Justified- Sins blotted out- Cast into the sea of forgetfulness, as far as the east is from the west.

4. Reconciled- Renewed Fellowship- What God forgave He forgot so now we can have fellowship.

5. Sanctified- Set apart for God- A Peculiar Person that God loves and cares for.

6. Forgiven- As only love could- Nothing between God and I now.

7. Glorified- Sees as we will be (Potential); not the dirt but the destiny!

8. Accepted in Beloved- Not our Ability but Christ's ability. What a relief.

9. Freed from Law- able to live in Liberty without the "Law" breathing down my neck every moment.

10. Union with Christ- We're in God and He's in us. 'GLORY!
11. Children of God- Able to call "Abba, Father"
12. Members of Household of God- Brothers and Sisters in Christ.
13. Delivered from dominion of darkness- No longer Blinded by sin
14. Translated into the kingdom of light- Able to see God's wonders
15. Heavenly Citizen- with rights and responsibilities
16. Seated in Heavenlies in Christ- God sees me as if I'm already in Heaven with Christ! (Like woke up in White house; have to learn what you're able to do. Many people live in the "out house" when God's put them in the White house!!).
17. Sealed by the Holy Spirit- "Branded" by the Holy Spirit who is IN, WITH, and UPON us to teach us and empower us.
18. Makes us One of God's Sheep- Christ is the Shepherd. That gives us PROVISION (We go in and out and find pasture) and PROTECTION (Christ is the door of the Sheepfold to keep out the "Wolves").
19. We become a new Creature- II Cor 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. You have a new "Heart" that gives you a new desire. You can still sin but you don't want to.
20. Peace- Rom 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: We have Peace WITH God and the Peace OF God.

Wonderful Marvelous Grace. Grace that is greater than all our sins. Grace that can save you today and give you ABUNDANT LIFE in Christ.

Rom 15:13 Now the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

God wants our Faith to FILL us with Joy and Peace. This can only happen when you are Saved, Sure you're Saved, and know what you receive the minute you're saved.

WHAT I MEAN BY BEING SAVED

- A) Realize you're lost in sin without Help or Hope
- B) Repent of sin and turn to God for Help
- C) Receive Christ as your personal Saviour.
 1. Put your trust in HIS Sacrifice for YOUR Sins
 2. Publicly Profession Him as Saviour
 3. Become Part of the "Body" of Christ (Church)

Noah Found Grace and lived while the rest of the world faced God's Wrath. WILL YOU SEEK A SAVIOUR OR TRY TO SWIM UNTIL YOU DROWN???

OING...NOT KNOWING

How do you know when it's time to change jobs? or go in a new direction in you life??

How do you change the Christian life from the ordinary hum drum into adventures and opportunities (Abundant Life)?

Far too many Christians have a "Saving Faith" that never turns into a Sanctifying Faith or a Satisfying Faith. They never "leave the Nest" and spread their wings to fly; instead, they sit in envy or anger at those who do try to do something for God.

The reason for this is because one of the most fearful things about Faith is that it requires us many times to take Action without knowing the results of that action (That's why it's called Faith!!). Yet this same "fearful Faith" brings an excitement and energy into our lives that can be found no where else.

Abraham is a man who made this step of Faith- Heb 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should often receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. At the "tender age of 75" Abraham was told to leave his home and friends. When people asked him where he was going he would simply shrug and say, "I don't know. I just know God said Go". He must have taken a lot of ridicule from friends who couldn't understand that kind of faith; but today Abraham is a world known example of Faith! Let's Follow his Example.

I want us to look first at what it means to walk like this (Going without knowing) and then I want to share several principles that will enable us to distinguish Faith from Folly as we apply this kind of Faith to daily living.

1. THE WALK OF FAITH- Abraham determined to join his life with God and follow God's Plan for his life. Such A **JOINT WALK REQUIRES Agreement-** Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed? You must agree that God is the leader and you are the follower. Have YOU agreed with God about your life or are you constantly "fighting your fate"?? Stop Fighting and start following.

Confidence- Ps 23:4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil. You must accept the fact that the walk will be filled with "unknown" obstacles as well as Opportunities. You must learn to trust God THRU the Obstacles and FOR the Opportunities.

Faith- 11 Cor 5:7 We walk by faith, not by sight. 1 Cor 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face; now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. You must follow even when you don't know how, when, where or what. Look at the example of Paul- Acts 20:22 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

Paul did not know what God had in store for him as he traveled the road God had "staked" out (and what he did know was not very reassuring- vs 23 the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me). But Paul was Committed to the Task God had given him and nothing would stand in his way- vs 24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God. Are you Committed to God's Purpose for your life??

Common Sense- Eph 5:15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. A walk of faith is not the way of foolishness or feeling; It accepts the natural and Expects the Supernatural!!

Are you willing to follow God's Directions EVEN IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY'RE LEADING YOU?? Faith does not know where the Future will lead but it does know who will go with it as it travels and will be there when it arrive!

II. SOME GUIDELINES FOR THE WALK:

1. Trust God's Protection on the Path of Faith- Ps 121:8 The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore. Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world!!
2. Trust God to take care of the Results- II Tim 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. God does not always "pay up on Friday" but He keeps accurate books!
3. Don't wait until you can see the end of the path before you begin the walk- Prov 20:24 Man's goings are of the Lord; how can a man then understand his ways? Your responsibility is the next step!
4. Make sure it's God's Direction you're following or you'll end up on a "dead end street". Don't let Parental Pressure, Peer Pressure, or Prideful Pressure cause you to get on the wrong road.
5. Make sure it's Faith and not just "Feelings" because the Feelings will change or ebb. We tend to begin with great Enthusiasm and Anticipation; Until the trouble comes! If it's the right road troubles may "bump" you but they won't Break you.
6. Make a Definite, Determined Commitment to the way God wants you to go- When you know the road God wants you to take; Don't let anything or anyone cause you to turn back or turn off. If you can't make this kind of commitment then don't start--- Better not to start than to put you hand to the plow and look back! (Luke 9:57-62)
Have a Dream, Tell a Dream, Do a Dream.
7. Prepare for an Exciting Life!! No longer will you bog in the mud of mediocrity; you will travel the path of life- Ps 40:2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

God has a road with YOUR NAME on it! It starts at the foot of the cross and leads to an abundant life. Get on it today-- Who knows if you will be the one to change a "Billy the Kid" into a Billy Graham?

Whatsoever He bids you, do it:
Though You man not understand,
Yield to Him complete Obedience,
Then you'll see His mighty hand.
Fill the waterpots with water;
Fill them to the very brim.
He will honor all your trusting,
Leave the miracles to Him.

GRACE AND GLORY

Grace Free Will Baptist Church "A Little Church with a BIG VISION"

First Worship Service 9:00am
Bible Study Hour 10:00am
Morning Evangelistic Service 11:00am
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm

Pastor Mircheal Jones

394-3725

Vol VII Num 15 July 27, 1989 **348 Lawrence St** Lake City, S C

What a wonderful Joint Service we had with the Gilead FWB Church Sunday Night. Rev Mike McDaniel gave a graphic overview of the dangers in today's Rock Music and 8 people were saved with over 20 rededications! What a wonderful way to come back from Vacation (I have already made 10 videos of this service for distribution and will make more if needed. Let me know if you would like a copy).

Everyone did an excellent job in my absence; We had more in Sunday School the Sunday I was gone than the Sunday I returned! and the videos of the services show that the speakers were wonderful (Those videos are also available). It is such a Blessing to have a Church that realizes it's responsibilities even when the Pastor isn't present to oversee them.

Our Vacation was good. We were able to see many of our Friends at the National Association; including the "Bratt Bunch", and enjoyed the Fellowship. We left Tampa and spend a day at Epcot Center before driving to the Mountains to spend the day. We arrived home Saturday Night-- and haven't slowed down since! But it sure was good to have a few day of relaxation.

AUGUST SCHEDULE: We decided Sunday Morning that we liked the "Nine to Noon" Schedule so much until we would continue it thru August. (The "Nine to Noon" Schedule simply means that we move our Sunday Night Service from 6pm to 9am; just before Sunday School. That allows us to make one trip to Church on Sunday instead of two; and it allows me to connect the Messages better). The 9am attendance has been consistently more than we would normally have at 6pm and we're beginning to pick up more and more visitors for this service.

JOIN US THIS
SUNDAY

9:00am First Worship Service
9:55-10:10 Refreshments
10:10-10:55 Bible Study Hour
11:00-Noon Second Worship
Service (Over WJOT)

I was able to meet several people who receive our Newsletter while in Tampa and I appreciated the opportunity to put "Faces to the Names". We're doing a lot of "extra" things through our Outreach Ministry now but God has graciously met every need. Thanks to everyone who has given recently.

Preacher Mike Ps 16:11

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YOUR TESTIMONY

One of the Problems in Christianity today is our failure to properly communicate our Faith. The world's idea of Christianity is a "Fanatic" with a closet full of hidden sins or a "Liberal" who spouts mushy mushy love and tolerates everything in the world. Christianity rises or falls on Communication (Rom 10:17) and we must learn to be more effective in WHAT and HOW we communicate.

One of the most effective means of communication is first person testimonial- You tell someone what actually happened to you. Let's look at some guidelines in giving your Testimony about your relationship with Christ and then allow you to practice what you've learned.

I. THE REQUIREMENT OF TESTIMONY:

MATT 10:32-33 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

Mark 8:38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

II. THE RULES OF TESTIMONY Ps 107:2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, who he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;

A) WHAT should you testify about? Testify of your: FOUNDATION- When, where, why, and How you were saved. FRUIT- Things God has done IN and WITH You since being saved. FAITH- In God's PLANS for this life and PROMISES for the next.

B) WHEN should you Testify? I Pet 3:17 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Ps 119:46 I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed.

C) HOW should you Testify?

1. Make it interesting- It's a contradiction to talk about how exciting Christ is in an uninteresting way. If you don't care to tell it then they won't care to hear it!!

2. Make it understandable-

a. Use Language that the Lost can understand

b. Use Logic that allows them to follow what you're saying:

A) Before I accepted Christ I was lonely, felt unloved, had no peace about his life, and feared death. B) The change came in my life when I trusted Christ by Faith. C) Here are a few of the changes that have taken place in my life as a result of being Born Again.

3. Make it as specific as you can- Use the date if you know it, Name the place, describe the circumstances, etc.

4. Make it as Realistic as Possible- Don't promise that Salvation will solve all your problems, or cure all your aches. Let them know that you have taken up your Cross to follow Christ and it's no picnic; but the Holy Spirit lives within and you have a power and a purpose you never had before.

5. Don't get bogged down in Religious Questions- Cain's Wife, Revelation, etc.

6. Show your Concern, your love, and your genuine desire that this person accept the Pardon and Peace found in Christ. Don't be a Salesman; be a Sharer. Don't be a "Better than thou"; be a Burdened Heart.

7. Look for opportunities to share your testimony on a regular basis. I Thess 1:8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

UNHOLY COUNTRY

II Peter 3:10-14

Is there any hope for America?? NO! I fail to find America in End time Prophecy and believe that it will continue it's present deterioration until it's finally destroyed. I think the Church must turn it's attention from trying to "save the sinking ship" to providing "life preservers" for as many of the passengers as possible!! The people in Noah's day probably had nice homes and thriving businesses but they didn't matter on flood day! The only hope or help was for those inside the ark.

America today has many SYMPTOMS of her fatal disease:

1. Drugs- something is missing in your life
2. Disease- Aids, etc. No Purity
3. Divorce- Family Deteriorating
4. Dollars- Inflation, covet, materialism
5. Depression- No Peace or Purpose
6. Devilishness- Violence, Vice
7. Decline in Church Influence- Attendance, Respect

The Church has preached against these symptoms; the government has spend Billions of dollars and passed hundreds of laws to correct these problems, and yet it gets worst ever day! We can keep wasting our energy "hitting at shadows" or we can admit that the Sickness is fatal (as God does!! He said His kingdom was not of this world. He's saving a people out of this world to inhabit a new Heaven and a new earth!).

O K, Here's where we are- The Boat is sinking, We can't repair it, we don't know how much longer we have before it finally goes under. Here are our Options: (1) We can PRETEND nothing is wrong and continue our normal activities until the boat finally sinks. (2) We can PROTEST against the Icebergs that destroyed the ship until the cold clammy waters rush in; while the icebergs continue on their merry way! (3) We can PRACTICE our Christianity and PREACH the Gospel so that we'll have "rapture rafts" for us and can show the other sinking souls where they can find safety.

Excuse me while I look over my "life Preserver":

We have looked at the fact that the "Church" has a problem with Pollution which defeats her Purpose. It sounds alright to talk about "Them" in an abstract situation but when I know the boat is sinking I don't want to know about "life preservers" in general I want to know about the One I'm wearing!! Let's look at some Problem areas, see some Practical Helps, and then Purpose to do our job while we can.

I. PERSONAL PROBLEMS FOR CHRISTIANS:

A) We become Self Centered instead of Saviour Committed.

Look at 4 traits of the Self-centered Christian:

1. Convenience replaces the Cross
2. Comfort replaces work
3. Covetousness replaces sacrifice ("ME" Generation)
4. Compromise replaces commitment

In a "Nutshell", Self has replaced the Saviour. It is important to reverse the flow of expectation in your life: You want to change from looking for everything to please self to the joy of giving to others of yourself and your means.

B) We allow Sin to block the Pleasures of our Salvation and the Power of our Testimony- Ps 51:12-13 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Sin causes us to Fear God instead of Fellowship with Him, to be timid instead of a "Testifier".

God is looking for a PURE Church, endowed with His POWER, to PREACH His word to a lost and dying world. Are you part of the Problem or part of the solution?

II. PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH We want to make sure that once we have our "Life Preserver" on that we never get careless and take it off! Here is a checklist to determine if we are getting careless with the most important thing we possess.

1. A growing Hunger in your Heart for God
2. An increasing desire to Know God's Word.
3. A greater sensitivity to sin in your life.
4. A decreasing desire for the world and it's attractions.
5. A greater Love for others
6. It becomes easier to forgive those who offend you.
7. An increasing desire to obey God.
8. Ever increasing Faith
9. Increasing concern for the spiritual condition of other people
10. Increasing Love for God.

Is your "Life Preserver" in good shape?? Remember, when the icy waters come rushing in, it won't matter how neat you've made your bed! What will matter is if you have your "Life Preserver" on. If you've never been "issued" a "Life Preserver" they are found at the foot of the cross. They're available only for a limited time so get yours today!!!

AN UNHOLY CHURCH

I Cor 5:6-7 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

I once asked someone where the best seafood in town was but I stopped eating there when several mice ran across the table as we were eating!!

I declined to eat at someone's home once because when I entered thru the kitchen the cat was on the stove sampling supper!!

I once advised my sister-in-law not to eat a sandwich because when she lifted it up I saw a roach hanging on the back side!!

One of the few times I was sick at sea I tried to calm my stomach with some coke from the coke machine but I got worst instead of better. The next day when they were cleaning the machine and found the container of coke syrup was full of roaches explained the problem.

In each of these cases, something that should have been good and beneficial had lost it's value because of contamination. I want us today to see that this same thing has happened in the Church; and then I want us to remember that if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I John 1:9

We see this "trend" in the story of Jonah. God had to get the Prophet right before He could save a country! This same situation is facing America today. We are living in the age of the Lukewarm, non committed, ineffectual Church that is more interesting in Meeting than in mattering! In Society than in Salvation! If there is any hope for America it will be when the Church rediscovers it's PURITY, it's PURPOSE, and it's PRIORITIES.

I. THE PURITY OF THE CHURCH- God's Command is still Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, (II Cor 6:17). We are IN the World but we must never be OF the World- It's alright for the boat to be in the water but we're in trouble when the water gets in the boat! We live in a day when it's impossible to tell the Church from the world in activities, attire, or affection:

A) Activities- Church people today do things and go places without a thought for testimony or moral pollution. It's almost a case of anything goes as long as the law doesn't catch me, forgetting that you'll answer to the LORD as well as the Law!

B) Attire- Bikini, hip hugger bathing suits are found on Church people today as often as on the world. Christians are "walking Billboards" (With messages on their clothes) for anything the world offers. God's command is Modest, practical attire to emphasis the man of the heart instead of the body of the person!

C) Affection- I John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. I know God must be sick to His stomach with people who say they love Him but talk only about the world and make every excuse imaginable to keep from coming to God's house so they can go to the pigpens of the world! When you love someone or something you look for opportunities to be with them (You make a date, you go fishing or shopping, etc). When GOD is your FIRST LOVE then you seek ways to be WITH Him and Learn OF Him instead of seeking excuses to avoid Him.

A Natural Progression [WITHOUT FAIL] is that when you lose your Purity you lose your purpose- A dirty drinking glass is set aside.

II. THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH- Matt 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. The Purpose of the Church can be described in 2 simple Principles:

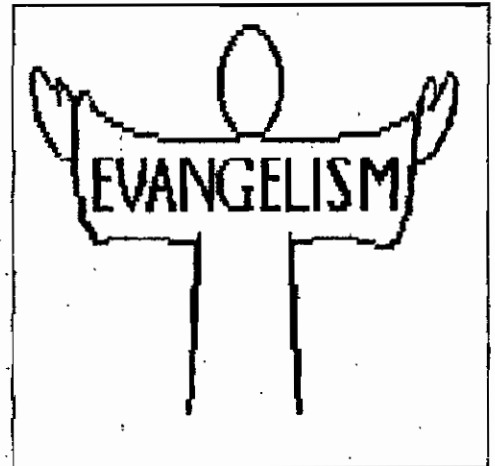
It is to get people to:

A) KNOW CHRIST as their personal Saviour.

B) SHOW CHRIST in their Changed life.

A Church in which people are not being Saved or are not being Developed as Christians is failing in its function and should either be Revived or Abandoned!!

The Reason the Church loses it's Purpose and it's Purity is because it forgets it's Priorities- A child dressed for Church thinks it's Purpose is to Play and Purity doesn't matter; until it learns Mother's Priorities!!



III. THE PRIORITIES OF THE CHURCH-

A) Love for God above all else-Rev 2:4 I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. When we love the Praises of Men, the Pleasures of the World, or the Pursuit of "Fun" more than God God has to stop working THROUGH us and start working ON us. One reason God is not doing more today is because His "tools" are dull so God has to spend His time sharpening His tools instead of clearing up new ground!

B) Light for a Sin Darkened World- Ye are the light of the world. The world is like a little kid in a room full of toys; every new flashy thing that comes along attracts his attention but when he gets in trouble he wants "Mommy". The world laughs at the Church a lot but it looks for it's light when the skies grow dark.

No matter how bright the light inside, if the "lamp shade" is covered with dirt the light can't get to a sin darkened world!!

Has God "put you on the shelf" because of impurity?? Come take a "bath" at the altar and become the person God intended you to be.

GRACE & GLORY

Grace Free Will Baptist Church
P O Box 1003 348 Lawrence St
Lake City, S C 29560
Pastor Mike Jones 394-3725

First Worship Service 9:00am
Bible Study Hour 10:00am
Second Worship Service 11:00am
Wednesday Service 7:30pm

Vol VII Num 16 Aug 10, 1989 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, S C

Do you know the hardest line to write in a Newsletter? The First!! There is a tremendous amount of work involved in writing, running off, putting together, addressing, and mailing a newsletter and sometimes the flesh hates to get started doing all that! There is also the thought that every time I start a Newsletter exclaiming about how good God is to us that you will think it's just a lot of "Hype" because I say it every edition. But it's True!! God is continually doing great things for our Church and for the Outreach Ministry and I'm going to Praise Him as long as He gives me opportunities to do so.

I know there are a number of factors involved in why God does so many good things for us (Not counting the fact that the Pastor is so very Handsome!) but 3 come to mind immediately:

PEOPLE: I think the fact that we have the best people in all the world attending our Church is a contributing factor. We're not a "Family" Church and sometimes our members seldom see each other during the week but we come together to Worship as Brothers and Sisters in Christ and each one knows that help is only a request away. We try not to "Meddle" in each other's

Private life but we do try to maintain contact and communication in order to help when needed. I believe this is what Jesus was talking about when he said You'll know they are my Disciples by their Love. **FPAISE:** I was cleaning out a box this week and came across a stack of letters and cards from members and Outreach Partners that told of their love and appreciation. They Blessed my soul all over again! And I'm constantly hearing about members sending cards or calling one another and telling how much they appreciate one another. (While I was preparing this one of the ladies in the Church called and asked for several addresses in order to send appreciation notes!!)

A lot of this can be "Blamed" on Mrs Elise McBride (Whom the Lord allowed to attend here several years). She maintained an extensive letter writing ministry and many of the members have picked it up since she had to move.

Last, but by no means least, is **PRAYER:** Just as the Outreach Ministry could not function without the tremendous number of people who Pray for it regularly so the Church would be in dire

[continued on back]

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straits but for it's Prayer Warriors. When you have 200 or 300 attending every week it's no big deal if one family misses but when you only have 50-70 each week one family missing can make a tremendous difference. (You would have to be here each week to see how God miraculously

brings people in. Many times on Saturday night when I begin to count up the number of people who have told me they will not be able to be here it looks

bad but God always seems to bring in someone- Relatives, Someone passing thru the areas, visitors from here and even from other states! If it happened one time I would say, "Glory"; but it happens week after week!}).

Let me give you an illustration from last week. I knew that several families would be out on Vacation and things looked "Slim" but unbeknownst to me one of the Deacons had found out that 3 couples needed a Baby-sitter Saturday night so he "bargained" with them to keep their children Saturday Night if they would come to Church Sunday! (See what I mean about having good people).

These are the same factors that have helped our Outreach Ministry continue and expand in the past 4 1/2 years also. I have given away hundreds of dollars worth of books, tapes, and videos; mailed out thousands of Newsletters; and bought thousands of dollars worth of equipment and supplies-- and EVERY SINGLE BIT of it has been because God directed someone to help. Some people are faithful to give every month and others give as they can but God always supplies just what we need exactly when we need it. I

haven't listed any contributors lately so here's a SPECIAL THANKS to: the McBrides, Billie Ard, Mrs Nellie Howard, Damon and Janice Runion, Mr Paul Miles, Mrs Viola Trammell, Wayne and Lois Mixon, Jack and Devonne Hanna, Ted and Norma Hanna, Charlie Purvis, Mrs Victoria Webster, Mr and Mrs Olee Elmore, Mary and Marion Tunstall, Marion Coker, Marcelle and Nita Mann, Rev Floyd Coleman, Rev L V Pinson, Pedro Lee, Rev Larry McAlister, Eris Jones, Dale Lynch, Marion Lynch, and several Anonymous.

Because of the demands for Videos recently I brought over 50 video cassettes last week plus another VCR (to enable me to record 2 at a time!). It amazes me that we're always able to do this when there's a need!

Speaking of Needs, I recently was able to carry a large number of "Revelation" booklets to the Senior Citizen's group I speak to every so often and I told them to distribute any that were left over. Mrs Sallie Parrott took upon herself to help distribute them as she sold her Avon; and I gave her 25 more copies just this week! (This may be an area that some of you can help in- Distribution. I have a lot of material available but it's doing no good on the shelf. If you can distribute books, tapes, or newsletters then let me know and I'll work with you the best I can).

Next quarter's Sunday School lessons will be from Revelation so any of you that teach in a FWB church may want to get a book to help in your teaching.

Remember to pray for our "Helping Hand" ministry also. Funds are limited but I'm trying to use them as wisely as possible to help people who have genuine needs.

Hope to see you in church this week; and in Heaven one day soon! Preacher Mike Ps. 16:11

SATAN'S PROPAGANDA

Is 36:-

We are beginning a study of some of the methods Satan uses to distract and Attack People. It's important that we understand what the enemy is trying to do so that we can withstand his attacks.

In this message God allows us to see how Satan attacks a godly king by using Propaganda instead of Power; and in so doing, allows us to see the most common method of attack on Christians today (Remember that Jesus had to defeat Satan with his mind before he could begin preaching His message!).

We'll begin by noticing some important things about Propaganda and then we'll see how it can be defeated.

1. Propaganda is Powerful- Recent events in China, Advertisements, and the destructive power of Gossip all demonstrate this. That's because **YOU ARE WHAT YOU THINK** Prov 23:7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he. Success or Failure ON THE FLESHLY LEVEL depends most times on your mental attitude. Note the effect on Eve-- Satan took a simple fact (God has given you everything in the world except one tree) and brainwashed Eve into believing that God was keeping everything from her!

2. Propaganda is Primary- Satan had to change Eve's mind before he could change her. What you believe determines what you do. That's why Paul admonished the Corinthians (II Cor 10:4-5) The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

3. Propaganda is Perilous- Prov 18:8 The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly. Prov 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue; and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. "Sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me" is a nice nursery rhyme but makes for poor living. Tell someone a lie long enough and often enough and they'll begin to believe it-- Put an official stamp on that lie and it will be believed almost immediately-- Put it in print and no one will even question it!!

4. Propaganda's Purpose- There are almost as many purposes for Propaganda as there is Propaganda but the PRIMARY PURPOSE for all Propaganda is To destroy Confidence vs 4. Once I destroy your Confidence it's easy to capture your "castle". When you lose confidence in the Church (Why do you think Satan causes so many of them to split?), in the Pastor (Why do you think there are so many fallen Ministers now?), or in the Bible (Why do you think There are so many different Translations today?) then it won't be long before you'll be come a lukewarm or backslidden Christian.

Note the reasons Satan said "Don't be confident":

- A) Your "Friends" will turn on you vs 6
- B) You've failed to be perfect with God so don't depend on Him vs 7
- C) Your Strength is too feeble to even be considered vs 8
- D) God is against you vs 10
- E) Don't trust your Leaders vs 14-15
- F) Satisfy the Flesh now without worrying about the future vs 16-17
- G) Look at the others who have tried and failed vs 19-20

See God's Answer:

1. Don't argue with the Devil vs 21 Jude 9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. Faith has to accept the fact that sometimes God's ways cannot be explained - Isaiah 55:8-9 My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

2. Join with others for strength vs 22 Two are better than one. Where 2 or 3 are gathered together in His name he is in the midst. Get IN and INVOLVED in a local Bible Believing Church where you and your family will be exposed to Truth instead of Error.

3. Pray about the Propaganda 37:1 God many times waits on us to tell Him what the Problem is before He provides the solution. (This helps us recognize the Propaganda much easier the next time).

4. Rest in God's Protection- 37:36 Then the angel of the Lord went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses. And then the king who had boasted so against God's people was killed by his own sons as he worshipped a false god!!

Has Satan been Playing "mind games" with you?? Defeat him in the power of the Truth of God.

And Here's the Truth--- THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR YOU NOT BEING SAVED OR COMMITTED TO GOD. Satan's lie is that:

1. You can't make it- You can't but it's CHRIST that saves you!!
2. You won't enjoy it- You receive an Abundant life knowing that if you die you go to Heaven and if you live God will care for you!!
3. There's too many Hypocrites in the Church- Better to worship with them in the Church than be tormented with them in Hell!!!
4. Maybe Tomorrow would be a better day- Today is the day of Salvation; Tomorrow may be too late!!

SATAN'S SYMBOLS

Just as God has a Bible and "Seeable Symbols", so Satan has a "Bible" and Symbols that his followers can recognize. Tonight we are going to Expose some of these Symbols; and relate how they are being used today. I am not doing this to stir your curiosity but to increase your awareness. We are entering the Last days of the "Last Days" and Satan is becoming increasingly active. We must learn to recognize him; and warn our children about his tactics so that they will not ruin their physical lives and damn their eternal soul.

Many young people see these symbols all around them and are not even aware of what they represent. I don't want them to become "scared of their own shadow" but I do want them to become aware of the fact that (EPH 6:12) We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. It is only by chopping at the tap root of Sin; instead of simply raking leaves, that we can hope to destroy the fruit.

WHAT IS SATANISM- The Worship of Satan as god. It's goal is to destroy the person physically and Spiritually. It's belief is "Evil is good, and good is evil". Initiation into Satanism usually involves: A spoken denial of the Christian Faith, rebaptism in Satan's name, the taking of a new name to replace the "Christian" name you received at birth, an oath of allegiance to Satan while standing in a magic circle, a promise to sacrifice your children to Satan (Figuratively but sometimes literally), and the reception of a mark identifying you as belonging to Satan. The Atoning blood of Christ is mocked by drinking blood from human or animal sacrifice, the cross of Christ is turned upside down, and the communion bread is mixed with blood, urine, feces, and/or semen before eating.

Satanist believe that there is power or energy within the souls and bodies of animals and humans that can be released to them through specific rituals ranging from sexual activity to torture to murder to dismemberment to cannibalism. The Satanist think that the younger the victim, the more innocent; the more innocent, the more precious to God; the more precious to God, the greater the defilement.

Anton LaVey, founder of the First Church of Satan and author of the "Satanic Bible" states the belief of the Satanist: "We feel a person should be free to indulge in all the so called fetishes that they would desire, as long as they don't hurt anyone that doesn't deserve or wish to be hurt. This is a very selfish religion. We believe in greed, we believe in selfishness, we believe in all of the lustful thoughts that motivate man, because this is man's natural feeling". There are three basic types of Satanist:

1. Self-styled Satanist, usually young people dabbling in the occult through ouija (Yes in French and German) boards, Horoscopes, seances, Dungeons and Dragons, etc,;
2. Religious Satanist- public worshippers of Satan
3. Cult Satanist- Highly organized but largely clandestine about their activities; which include committing criminal acts such as molestation, torture, and murder.

Satanism is not new. Sexual perversion brought the Flood in Noah's day and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. The Children Israel deserted God for it while Moses was on the mount. Lev 18 and 20 talk of sacrificing human babies to the ancient god Molech. The entire New Testament talks of the spiritual battles Jesus and the disciples had to fight.

RECOGNIZING SATANIC INFLUENCE: In Your SURROUNDINGS-

A) Music: Many Record Covers contain "secret Messages" and Satanic Symbols (as testified to by the musicians themselves); these are used to attract Young People and show them the way of Rebellion.

Many of the songs contain lyrics urging violence, to satisfy any sexual feelings, and praising the Devil.

The life style of most Rock Singers is a life of Drugs, Perverted sex, and anything for a dollar (And these are the "Heroes" of today!)

B) Missing and Mutilated Animals: Multitudes of missing cats, dogs, and other animals are used in Satanic Ceremonies. Some signs to look for are animals who have had the blood drained from them or have had their genitals and/or heart removed).

C) Mind altering drugs do just that, they alter the mind! We live in a society today in which even the Police have almost given up hope of stopping or even stemming the use and sale of drugs. These drugs gain such a hold on a person until they are willing to steal, become prostitutes, or even murder to get them. They are also a major economic force today (Who wants to work for \$4 an hour when you can make \$500 an hour selling drugs!).

D) Mayhem among our youth: ABC News "20/20" reported 2 million children a year are reported missing, many of whom are too young to be runaways. Dr James Dobson reports that 5000 unidentifiable bodies of children are found each year in the US. Suicide is the number one killer of youth in America today.

[EXAMPLE: 10 straight "A" teenagers in Ontario, California recently put together a two page, step by step plan on how to get rid of their parents and systematically take over their homes. Step 10 was to cut up the bodies of the parents, feed them to the dogs, and then sacrifice the dogs!]

In Mendocino County several Children claimed to have been raped at a preschool while being forced to chant, "Baby Jesus is Dead". 12 boys said they were sodomized by four neighborhood men during Satanic rituals. An eight year old girl said that she was made to stab a baby by her father in a candle-lit room adorned by an upside-down cross.]

E) Murders: Many "big names" killers have Satanic symbols on their bodies and in their homes but it is not reported so as to keep down hysteria or the use of a "Religious Liberty" defense. In Massachusetts, a Satanic cult killed a 20 year old woman, cut off her fingers, slit her throat, severed her head, and then kicked it around before the leader of the group had sex with the decapitated body.

F) Miscellaneous Sightings: Satanic graffiti can be found on highway overpasses, walls, buildings, and in abandoned homes all over America. Cemeteries are being desecrated and graves are being robbed. Abandoned or little Used Churches are often used for Satanic Activities. Certain Trees (Many times near a cemetery) are often used as meeting places.

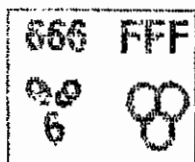
There will also be an increasing acceptance of Satanism by Society: A well known Christian talk host was successfully sued because he called someone a Satanist (The person said he was a "Wicca" (Studier of Wisdom)). The Salvation Army was successfully sued by a woman who said her constitutional rights to freedom of religion were violated when she was fired because she used Salvation Army equipment to copy Satanic- Wiccan Rituals.

Note how many "talk shows" are now featuring Satanist in a very positive light; showing it to be a "harmless" religion that anyone should have the opportunity to partake in when desired.

RECOGNIZING SATANIC INFLUENCE: In Behavior-

1. The Child loses his sense of humor and instead is serious, sober, and "angry".
2. Their taste in clothing changes to dark colors.
3. They become increasingly rebellious and violent; often using very vulgar language. Many will become self destructive as shown by abuse of their bodies with drugs, alcohol, and even suicide attempts.
4. They will become almost hypnotised with heavy Rock music (Which will help foster the suicide attitude as many Rock songs promote Reincarnation (The person doesn't think of death as an end of life but as simply a way to gain a new beginning!)).
5. A Love of Graphic Violence (Horror Films, Desire to torture animals and then people)
6. Fascination with the Occult. Books on the Occult, Black Candles, weird incantations, etc. are observed.
7. Increasing disdain for anyone representing Righteousness or Authority. (NOTE: Many Children who have been ritually abused won't go near a church or have anything to do with the clergy because their abusers have molested them in churches while dressed as priests or other clergy members. Others have been abused by people dressed as policemen so they would fear to talk to policemen. Others have "magic Operation" that implant ice, ants, or bombs in a child's stomach or heart that will cause them to die if they ever talk).

COMMON SATANIC SYMBOLS:



A) 666- The number of the Antichrist



B) Pentagram- Sideways it represents the "Il Cornuto" (Goat's Head)

Upside down it represents demons (Man upside down)

Wizards and Sorcerers often stand in the middle of the Pentagram with their disciples at each point as they work their spells.

C) Hexagram- "Star of David" Used to control Demons



D) Inverted Cross- causes the person being crucified to send their spirit into Hell (down) instead of Heaven (up). Also used to ridicule Christ's death



E) Goat's Head "Il Cornuto"- Jesus Said he would separate the Sheep from the Goats. The Sheep is a female follower. The Goat is a male leader (Which Satan claims to be).

This is the most common symbol today. It is signified by clenching your fist and then extending the little and index fingers (The horns of the Goat). Almost all Rock groups use this.

F) Swastika- Used in Nazi Germany it represents a "crooked Cross" to show that man is master of his own fate (Any way you look at it it is the same. Normally it points clockwise but many times it will be reversed to show that it's followers are out of sync with even nature).

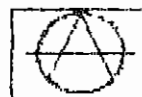


G) Pyramids- Used to depict Satanic "Trinity"



H) Quarter moon and Star- The moon goddess "Dianna" and the morning star "Lucifer" (Note that the quarter moon is also the symbol of the Moslems-- antiChristians).

I) "Anarchy"- An encircled "A" with the middle line extending past the outside of the circle. Used by Rock groups to say, "Let there be no laws, only what pleases me"



TOO TRUE

A YOUNG MARRIED COUPLE WAS CONTACTED AND INVITED TO THE SERVICE OF THE CHURCH. THIS IS THE RECORD:

THE FIRST CALL: "WE ARE GOING TO START AS SOON AS THE BABY GETS OLD ENOUGH TO COME."

ONE YEAR LATER: "THE BABY'S IN THAT STAGE WHERE SHE CRIES A LOT. I DON'T GET ANYTHING OUT OF THE SERVICES AND I KNOW SHE DISTURBS OTHER PEOPLE. WHEN SHE GETS OLDER..."

THREE YEARS LATER: "WE ARE NOT COMING TO CHURCH BECAUSE SALLY DOESN'T WANT TO GO. WHY DO YOU THINK SHE IS DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER CHILDREN HER AGE?"

ELEVEN YEARS LATER: "I'M SO GLAD YOU CALLED. I WANT YOU OR SOME OF THE DEACONS TO SEE IF YOU CAN TALK TO SALLY. SHE IS HUNNING AROUND WITH THE WRONG CROWD. PERHAPS IF THE CHURCH WOULD PROVIDE SOME KIND OF ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE, SHE MIGHT GET INTERESTED."

TWO YEARS LATER: "YES, SALLY IS MARRIED. THEY WERE AWFULLY YOUNG, AND HE IS NOT A CHRISTIAN, BUT WE HOPE IT WORKS OUT."

TEN YEARS LATER: "WELL, SALLY HAS FINALLY MARRIED A MAN WHO CAN GIVE HER THE BETTER THINGS OF LIFE. THIS IS HER THIRD HUSBAND, BUT SHE COULDN'T GET ALONG WITH THE OTHERS. I HAD HOPES THAT THIS ONE WOULD BECOME A CHRISTIAN, BUT THE PREACHER PREACHED A SERMON ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE, AND HE SAYS HE WILL NEVER ATTEND THAT CHURCH AGAIN. THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH THAT CHURCH OR ELSE IT WOULD HAVE HAD A BETTER INFLUENCE ON SALLY. MAYBE THEY NEED TO CHANGE PREACHERS. I DON'T KNOW..."

BIBLE FRUITS

WE FIND IN GALATIANS 5:22,23 THAT THERE ARE NINE "FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT" MENTIONED. CAN YOU UNSCRAMBLE THESE WORDS AND IDENTIFY THESE FRUITS?

NDGGOSES _____

TIHAF _____

QJY _____

REFFGNLOSUGNI _____

LTGNENSESE _____

VLOE _____

CEPEA _____

PERMETCANE _____

SEKEMSGNE _____

GRACE & GLORY

Grace Free Will Baptist Church
P O Box 1003 348 Lawrence St
Lake City, S C 29560
Pastor Mike Jones 394-3725

First Worship Service 9:00am
Bible Study Hour 10:00am
Second Worship Service 11:00am
Wednesday Service 7:30pm

Vol VII Num 17 Aug 24, 1989 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, S C

We are very pleased to have several new families visit with us for the past several weeks. We look forward to them becoming part of our fellowship so they can turn from Spectators into Participators. They'll learn that they don't have to attend long before the Pastor will turn them into "Grace Volunteers"!

It's good to see the Lord expand our "base" at the same time He's expanding our Outreach. The Beginner Church and Junior Church decorated 3

Bulletin Boards at the Local Convalescence Center recently that will help people in Pain and despair realize there is hope in the Lord (Thanks Hope and Kathy). I just got off the phone with the editor of the local paper and unless some unforeseen snag comes along I'll be submitting an article every week for publication (There is a possibility that this can expand to other papers in this "Chain". Help me Pray about this). Both of these are ways to "multiply our Ministry" at no cost!! Thank God for His Provision.

Several of you have asked about the concept and contributions to our **HELPING HAND FUND**. This fund is a method of giving Financial help to those in need. Presently the amount of money we receive is VERY limited; and, as a result, our ability to help people is also limited. I presently try to make sure that every thing that is received is distributed; and that it is distributed to a known, verifiable need.

I am trying to keep the records and distribute the assets right now but I've got about all I can handle so I plan to enlist some kind of oversight committee in the future as the income and responsibilities increase. If you would like to help with this fund please make sure your contribution is clearly marked "Helping Hand Fund" so I can distinguish it from Outreach Ministry Money (Some people have sent money and told me to use it where it was needed. I make sure all the Outreach Ministry Bills are paid and then apply the remainder to "Helping Hand").

There is so VERY MUCH WORK to do. Thanks to all of you who have given me the means to do what I can. May the Lord Bless.

Preacher Mike Ps 16:11

Grace FWB Church
P O Box 1003
Lake City, SC 29560

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THE SECRET OF FRUIT-BEARING IS ABIDING

John 15:1-17

Fruit bearing is of utmost importance in Your Life; It's Fruit or Fire! This Fruit comes from Abiding in the Vine so that the life of Christ can flow thru us and change Flesh into Fruit. We want to look today at How We can Abide in the Vine and How we can know we are Abiding, and then we want to look for Fruit.

I. WAYS WE ABIDE:

A) Through the Word- 15:7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you. The Word GUIDES our life (Ps 119:105), GUARDS our life (Ps 119:11), and GROWS our relationship with Christ- They testify of Christ so we get to Know him and become like Him. The Word is a Christian's Food and Drink; when it stops coming into a Christian's life their leaves begin to wilt and die.

B) Through Obedience- 15:10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love. The "Branch" cannot have it's own purpose, it must maintain it's place in the vine. Rebellion produces Rot!

C) Through Prayer- 15:7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask whatever you will, and it shall be done unto you.

II. EVIDENCE OF ABIDING:

- A) Fruit-
1. Winning People to Christ
 2. Practical Holiness of life
 3. Christian Character
 4. Good works
 5. Sharing what we possess
 6. Praising and Thanking God

B) Pruning- 15:2 Every branch that bears fruit, he prunes it, that it may bear more fruit.

1. "Cutting"- Note the Example of Abraham: God had to prune his father, his nephew Lot, His son Ishmael, His son Isaac. He had to leave Babylon and then Egypt. The more you find God setting you apart for Himself the greater the sense of Abiding.

2. Choices- The Abiding Christian learns to chose between the Good and the Best- The "Good" has less pain for ME, the Best has more Profit for GOD. A Mature Christian is one that is able to consistently make the right choices.

C) Submission- 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. You learn to abide in the Vine in the "Winter" of no growth as well as in the Spring of abundant growth and the Fall of Harvest. The greatest peace in the world is knowing you're where God wants you to be, doing what God wants you to do.

D) Answered Prayer- 15:7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. Prayer is not a servant showing up for orders but a friend sharing our heart. When we abide in Him our desire is what's best for the vine; not just for our branch! And because of this attitude answers are regular to our prayers.

E) Love for Christ and His People- 9-10 12-14 Christian Love is simply treating others the way God treated us.

F) Inner Joy- 15:11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. First symptom of backsliding is lose of Joy. David said, "Restore unto me the Joy of Salvation" Ps 51:12. How can you NOT have Joy when you're in constant contact with the Vine!!

Are you ABIDING in Him? or just come to visit every now and then??

THE SECRET OF LIVING- FRUITBEARING

John 15:1-8

One of the earliest lessons I learned as a Christian was that "Still waters stagnate". I learned that I am saved by Faith; completely apart from my own works, but that once I was saved God demanded Fruit! God, the Farmer's, system is very simple- Branches that do not Produce Fruit are cut off and fed to the Fire. (Many of you will immediately yell, "Salvation based on works". NO, But the Salvation talked about in the Bible produces Works; or it is faulty!)

I want to look at How we can produce Fruit, How God looks at Fruit, and then see the Kinds of Fruit God expects. And I want us to remember the entire time that God's statement is very plain, "Fruit or Fire"!!

I. THE BASIS OF FRUIT-

A) Connection- Fruit is the result of being connected to the Vine. You can't just Tape a branch to a tree; there must be a sharing of life between the vine and the branch- You must be Born Again!!

B) Care- "Paul plants, Apollos waters, but God gives the increase" (I. Cor 3:6). The Father is the Farmer and He knows what part you have in the actual Harvest (I was visited by a young man this week who told about being Saved and Serving the Lord in another Church now but the foundation for all of this was laid when he used to attend our Church. The Heavenly Father knows how much credit each deserves).

II. THE JUDGEMENT OF FRUIT- We are judged by our Fruit in two ways:

1. THE KIND OF FRUIT: Matt 7:15-20 vs 17 every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Because you put an apple tree in the middle of a vineyard does not mean it will begin to produce grapes- If you call it a grape vine, feed it grape vine food, and cut it to look like a grape vine; it still produces apples! Because a man starts coming to Church, reading the Bible, etc....
2. THE QUANTITY OF FRUIT: 15:2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Some people think that because they have simply stopped producing bad fruit that God will accept them- God says No fruit is as bad as bad fruit.

Even Christians are asked for "Fruit, More Fruit, Much Fruit". God keeps cutting away things in our life that would hinder our production because He knows It's possible for a fruit bearing Christian to become FRUITLESS- Mark 4:18-19 And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

FRUIT OR FIRE

III. THE TYPES OF FRUIT:

1. Winning People to Christ: Rom 1:13 Often I have planned to come to you...in order that I might obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles. There are a number of ways a Soul Winner is Described:

A) Prov 11:30 He who wins souls is wise. To "Win" means "To capture a trophy". You make an ultimate effort to get some thing that is very valuable.

B) Fishers of Men- To cast a Net into the "sea" and hope to catch some "fish". Sometimes you fish all night and catch nothing but sometimes the net is full!!

C) Firemen- Snatching Men out of the Fire (Jude 23)

D) Farmer- Fields white unto harvest that needs reaping

E) Ambassador for Christ (II Cor 5:20) - Showing Christ. Bearing Fruit is not memorizing words but living life- as we abide in Christ we produce fruit; People see our Light, Our Love, and Our Lord.

2. Practical Holiness of life: Rom 6:22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. Holiness is the beauty and character of God displayed in our everyday life. Holiness is simply a way to describe our "Spiritual Health" that results from a continued relationship with Christ.

3. Christian Character (Inner Development): Gal 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Not manufactured by self effort but produced by the Spirit's Control. This Fruit results in a Change in Character.

4. Good Works- Col 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God. We do Works that are show our Love for the Lord and for People (A woman's husband died. One neighbor was a Christian. She came over and had prayer with the widow. Another neighbor belonged to a cult. She brought several meals and helped the widow get things organized. Guess where the Widow goes to "church"?)

NOTE- Be careful of comparing Fruit- Every Christian has his own ministry (Gift) to fulfill, and no Christian is competing with any other Christian who is in the will of God. We're not trying to show each other up; we're trying to share Christ.

5. The Sharing of what we possess: Rom 15:28 When therefore I have performed this, and have sealed to them this fruit, I will come by you into Spain. Paul was bringing a "love Offering" to the Christians at Jerusalem. It's important that we give Generously and from the Heart- II Cor 9:6-7 He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver. The Branch does not bear fruit for itself but for others! Fruit has the seed for more fruit! (See II Cor 9:9-10)

6. Praising and thanking God: 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. Sacrifice of Praise- not forced words but joyful witnessing.

WHAT KIND OF FRUIT ARE YOU PRODUCING? Bad Fruit, No Fruit, or Much Fruit?? Bad Fruit and No Fruit result in Fire!! Abide in the Vine.

THE SECRET OF ABIDING- OBEYING

John 15:1-17

The Secret of Abundant Living is Fruit Bearing.

The Secret of Fruit Bearing is Abiding in the vine.

The Secret of Abiding is Obeying- Jn 15:10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. Jn 15:14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

There is a principle that even a Child knows: **Disobedience brings disaster** (Pain, "I told you you'd get hurt if you did that" and Punishment; Spankings) and **Obedience brings Blessings** (Hugs, extra Privileges, and Rewards). This same principle is used by the Lord- Is 1:19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

But while all of us know the benefits of Obeying, we find it hard to always obey as we should. **There are several reasons we don't Obey:**

1. **DISTRACTION:** Something comes along that turns us away from our task (Husbands are notorious about this. Wife tells him to carry off papers. On shelf beside papers finds wrench he'd lost, goes to car to tighten bolt, then checks oil, etc. 3 hours later wife has to gently and with a very loving spirit (1) remind him of his original task).

2. **DELAY:** We put off doing what we are supposed to do and either forget or get so involved with what we're doing until we don't feel like accomplishing our task ("I'll wash the dishes after this program goes off". "I'm so sleepy, can I wash the dishes tomorrow"). [Do you have any idea of how many people each year die and go to Hell because they put off Salvation til "Tomorrow" or Christians put off witnessing til later!].

3. **DISCERNMENT:** We fail to **UNDERSTAND** the Purpose of the Order (Why do I have to do this silly science project, I'm going to marry some rich man and the only science I'll need is the ability to distinguish between gold and silver credit cards!) [In the Spiritual life we have to learn to accept God's Commands by Faith; even when we don't understand].

We fail to **COMMUNICATE**- "I know you told me you wanted dish detergent; not hair spray". Many people fail to obey God because they don't take time to listen to His still small voice (And if God has to "holler" at you, He knows how to get your attention!!).

4. **DEFIANCE:** We **"WILL"** not do what we're told to do. We must grasp the fact that the **basis of Obedience is YIELDING THE WILL**- Jn 6:38 For I am come from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.

A) Some hide Defiance behind **Education**: Ever learning but never doing anything. Some people won't do Anything until they know Everything which means they'll do Nothing! (More people are won by new converts who don't know much about the Bible than by "Scholars" who know Theology but never tell the Good News).

B) Some hide Defiance behind **Emotion**: Obedience is tied to how we feel. These are the people who determine to be good Teachers, singers, or workers when they go thru a good emotional time but then can't be counted on when their down cycle comes along.

C) Some hide Defiance behind Substitutes:

1> Sacrifice for Obedience- I Sam 15:22 And Samuel said, hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifice, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. I won't teach a class, God, but I'll work hard at my job so I can give you 10% of the bonus I'll get.

2> Words for Obedience- Matt 21:28-31 One son said he would go but he didn't. We try to hide behind our words but God sees our Hearts; and our actions!!

3> Excuses for Obedience- Matt 25:14-30 vs 25 I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: We fear Failure and Public Opinion and so we blame our lack of Ability; or God's lack of Provision! instead of trusting in the Power and Presence of God.

Ask God to help you Want to do His Will- Phil 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Make obeying God's Will the most important thing in your life- Jn 4:34 My meat is to do the will of Him who sent me, and to accomplish his work.

If you will Abide you must Obey! Are you a Disobedient Disciple or a Submitted Servant?? Commit your Will and your Works to God today.

IS THIS YOUR COMMITMENT?

I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord,
Real service is what I desire;
I'll say what you want me to say, dear Lord-
But don't ask me to sing in the choir.
I'll say what you want me to say, dear Lord,
I like to see things come to pass:
But don't ask me to teach girls and boys, dear Lord
I'd rather just stay in my class.
I'll do what you want me to do, dear Lord,
I yearn for the Kingdom to thrive;
I'll give you my nickels and dimes, Dear Lord--
But please don't ask me to tithe.
I'll go where you want me to do, dear Lord,
I'll say what you want me to say;
I'm busy just now with myself, dear Lord--
I'll help you some other day.

SATANIC STRONGHOLDS

Eph 6:11 We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

II Cor 10:3-6 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you. Submit is our Act TOWARD GOD. Resist is our Act TOWARD SATAN (Resist means to fight against. Many people submit to God but never fight against Satan. Submitting to God is like getting the Gun and learning how it works; Resisting is actually firing the "Gun" at the Enemy!).

Satan works thru darkness; and since we cannot see where the problem is coming from we often blame the problems he creates on ourselves, on others, or on God. It takes the light to expose him so that he can be defeated (Col 1:12-13).

Satan uses these dark areas to establish strongholds or power bases in our life: (Remember we're blaming our problems on what we see!)

A) Normally an area of our thought life that is erroneous or unyielded to God.

B) There are also pockets of self will that resist God's will and purpose; instead they develop into attitudes of bitterness, greed, criticism, jealousy, discouragement, doubt, fear, etc.

C) These strongholds sap our strength, harm our testimony, and decrease our usefulness for God.

I. THE STRONGHOLD'S DESIGN

A) To Divide the Mind- James 1:8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. This produces DOUBT (an indecision about what to do). You lose your effectiveness because you don't know what to do and you lose your peace of mind- Is 26:3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee because he trusteth in thee.

B) To Discourage you- Satan convinces you that you cannot achieve the goal God has for you and you cease trying (The Children of Israel failed to enter the Promised Land because they lost HOPE!!). Recurring Problems in your life or in the life of others do this.

C) To Defeat You- You are no good for God because you have lost all power and purpose.

II. THE STRONGHOLD'S DETECTION

A) Things done excessively or repeatedly

1. Punishment may or may not be immediate but regardless of that a HABIT is formed.

2. Need not to be wrong in themselves but become wrong when done excessively because they gain power in your life. (Example- Eating too much produces extra weight so you are unable to go like you should, and you don't fast as you should).

B) Things that become barriers to our good. We don't accomplish God's will for our life because of pockets of fear, doubt, bitterness, etc.

C) Things we do that we wish we didn't do- Rom 7:15 For that which I do I allow not; for that I would, that I do not; but what I hate, that do I. (Gossip, wrath, lust, etc).

III. THE STRONGHOLD'S DEVELOPMENT

A) Involuntary Development

1. Family Training and Emphasis
2. Worldly pressures and propaganda

B) Voluntary Development

1. Thoughts- Prov 23:7 As he thinketh in his heart, so is he. One thought can lay the foundation for a life of misery.

2. Words- Thoughts put into words lock us into a position- I believed therefore have I spoken II Cor 4:13 (I hate you, I'm no good, etc).

3. Actions- What you think and say becomes what you do; and actions become HABITS. I think I can't, I say I can't, I don't, I won't try. THE ORDER: Thought, Consideration, attitude, action, Habit, Stronghold. (This same system will build Spiritual Strongholds in a person's life!!).

AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT:

A) Areas of neglected weakness- The longer they're neglected the worse they become

B) Areas of uncontrolled desire- It becomes your boss

C) An act of deliberate sin-

D) Compromise in conversation with Satan- Trying to "outsmart" Satan instead of resisting him thru the Word of God.

E) Not confessing Sin- an unconfessed sin is like an infection; untreated, it will poison the whole body.

IV THE STRONGHOLD'S DESTRUCTION

A) The Battle ATTIRE- Ep 6:

1. The Belt of Truth- Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free. John 8:32

2. The Breastplate of Righteousness

a. Positional Righteousness- right standing with God because of what Christ has done.

b. Practical Righteousness- Right conduct because of our union with God. NOTE- Satan tries to get you to believe that right standing with God is based on YOUR righteousness instead of that provided by Christ. We are saved by Grace thru Faith; not of our selves, it is the gift of God. Not of works lest any man should boast.

3. The Shoes of the Gospel- A firm stand against Satan based on the Gospel- so you cannot be moved.

4. The Shield of Faith- To ward off the fiery darts of the devil

5. The Helmet of Salvation- Keeps your mind thru Christ Jesus.

B) The Battle ARTILLERY- Offensive Weapons

1. The Word of God- The Sword of the Spirit (Don't use Fleshly weapons to do Spiritual Battle)

2. The Name of Jesus- The most powerful in the world

3. The Blood- The basis of our right standing

4. The Holy Spirit- Source of our Power.

C) The Battle ACTION

1. Acknowledge Spiritual Warfare- Rearranging the flesh will not correct a Spiritual Problem

2. Identify the Stronghold- You must see it for what it is- SIN

3. Find God's attitude toward the stronghold- Search the Bible for answers.

4. Try to identify where the strong hold began- Find the Root (Can't get rid of Nut grass unless you pull it by the root)

5. Have a season of Prayer about the Stronghold- Battle!!

6. Stand fast in Faith against the Stronghold (Abraham "against Hope believed in Hope") Habit is built thru Use; it is broken thru non-use!

7. Replace the Satanic Stronghold with a Spiritual One- VERY IMPORTANT!! If the house is swept and garnished and left bare it will be worst than before.

GRACE & GLORY

Grace Free Will Baptist Church
P O Box 1003 348 Lawrence St
Lake City, S C 29560
Pastor Mike Jones 394-3725

First Worship Service 9:00am
Bible Study Hour 10:00am
Second Worship Service 11:00am
Wednesday Service 7:30pm

Vol VII Num 18 SEPT 7, 1989 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, S C

I hope you will take special notice of the announcement for the GRACE BIBLE INSTITUTE on the back of this page. The two courses offered this semester can be very beneficial and I hope we have a large number of students. I taught Eschatology at a Bible Institute in Darlington several years ago but I have revise my notes now to include more methods to help the students study Prophecy for themselves. This will be especially useful as we are studying the Book of Revelation in our Sunday School this quarter. All of the session will be taped on audio tapes (video also if the Lord will provide a camera and cameraman!!) so if you have to miss a class you will be able to catch up.

I will be speaking Sunday night (Sept 10) at Gilead FWB Church at the conclusion of their week-end Revival and I invite everyone in the area to attend this service. Brother Larry McAlister is doing a fine job at this growing Church and I know you'll receive a warm welcome. (Friday night's speaker is Rev Wayland Owens and Rev Dale Yarborough will speak on Saturday night).

Sunday, September 17 will be a Special Day here at Grace as we celebrate the DEDICATION of Miss Abby Sullivan to the Lord during the 9:00am service. We appreciate so very much Donna and Sully and look forward to helping them raise Abby in the ways of the Lord (If I understand it correctly Abby is supposed to help lead our Choir in the years to come!).

We also look forward to Sunday, September 24 when we will celebrate OLD FASHION DAY/ HOME COMING. On this Sunday only, we will begin at 10am since we will have dinner following the Morning Service and then a Singing following Dinner. Rev Norwood Gibson will be our guest speaker and we plan to have a wonderful day in the Lord (Get to wear my overalls to church that day!!).

The Lord continues to open "doors"; I just signed up to write at least 2 sermons for the Florence Morning News in the next year. THANKS to all of you who pray and give that we might continue to reach out with the Gospel. God loves you--and so do I !!

Preacher Mike Ps 16:11

A little Church with a BIG VISION

Grace FWB Church
P O Box 1003
Lake City, SC 29560

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GRACE BIBLE INSTITUTE



Fall Session



Classes meet on TUESDAY Nights

September 12 - November 14 (10 weeks)

Meeting in the Fellowship Building of

Grace FWB Church 348 Lawrence St. Lake City, S C .

**7:00-7:50pm- Eschatology (End Time Studies) taught by
Rev Mike Jones, Pastor of Grace FWB Church**

7:50-8:10pm- Devotion, Coffee Break

**8:10-9:00pm- Methods of Bible Study taught by
Rev Ronnie Jones, Pastor of Black River FWB Church.**

**The Cost of \$25 per Student covers all expenses for
both courses**

This will be a time of Practical Bible Training for all Christians.
These courses are designed to help the average Christian learn to
study the most important book in the world, the Bible. They then
use the Bible to show you God's program and promises for the
last days.

For more information contact
Pastor Mike Jones
P O Box 1003
Lake City, S C 29560
394-3725

WHO HINDERED YOU?

Gal 5:6-7 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by Love. Ye did run well, who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

The Christian Life is not only a Blessing; it's also a Battle! We're in a warfare and Satan is trying every way he can to get us to either not accept Christ as Saviour or else live a defeated life. It's simply amazing to me to see how many people think that when they're saved all they need do is just "exist" until they die and go to Heaven. If this is all God wants then why doesn't He kill a person as soon as they accept Christ as Saviour??

The truth is that God looks for Fruit (Mk 11:12-14) and Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; (Jn 15:2). This makes it of utmost importance that we not only be IN the vine but that we also bear fruit. It's not an optional thing that we can decide to do or not do! As James says (2:26) For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

You know, of course, that this does not mean a person is saved by their works. The Bible is abundantly clear on the fact that by Grace one ye saved through Faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast (Ep 2:8-9). But a Faith which does not produce works is a faulty Faith. Look at the great Faith Chapter of the Bible, Hebrews 11; vs 4 "By Faith Abel Offered", vs 7 By Faith Noah prepared, vs 8 By Faith Abraham went out, etc. It remains ever true, Show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show you my faith by my works (James 2:18).

One of the sad things about a person who claims faith and doesn't work is that he is easily led into sin and eventually into disbelief. The writer of Hebrews had this in mind when he wrote, Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin (Heb 3:12-13). It happened several times to Paul's followers (II Tim 4:10) and may have been the reason he exhorted the Corinthians, let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall (I Cor 10:12).

Not only does this Fruitless Believer go astray himself but he also leads others astray. How many die without the Gospel because the men with the message simply don't do what they're supposed to do? Others may have listened to the message but are "put off" by the unholy and barren lives of these professed believers. The old saying that "your life speaks so loud I can't hear what you're saying" is especially applicable here.

The motivating Force behind our work must be Love- Faith which worketh by Love (Gal 5:6b). Jesus said, If ye Love me keep my commandments (Jn 14:15). It was love that brought Christ from Heaven to the Cross to die for sins (Jn 3:16) and it must be Love that compels us to work for God- not to be saved but because we are saved.

What a difference it is when we work from love instead of duty. Burdens become Blessings, Jobs become Joy, and life becomes Abundant. This is what it's supposed to be! Salvation by Grace thru Faith so that we can willingly and lovingly serve God as Saved Saints instead of Burdened Bondsmen. That's why Satan puts up some of his greatest battles at this point to defeat the Child of God.

This is what Paul had in mind when he asked the question in our text, Who did hinder you? WHO DID HINDER YOU??? Why did you leave your first Love (Rev 2:4)? Why do you have to be begged and bullied to do God's work? Why do we find so many who love in word and tongue but not in deed and truth (I Jn 3:18)? The answers, I believe, are found in finding out what the Bible says hinders us.

The first one I notice is found in I Thess 2:18 Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us. Again I say, We're in a Warfare and Satan is out to destroy or defeat Christians. I really don't know all the methods Satan uses to hinder people but one that comes to mind immediately is when Satan hindered the answer to Daniel's Prayer (Dan 10:12-13). I wonder how many Christians have failed to know the joy of prayerful fellowship with God because one of their first prayers was not immediately answered (In Daniel's case it took 3 weeks to get an answer). If Satan has hindered you here then you need to find a place NOW and tell God of your sin of impatience and unbelief and then determine to Wait on the Lord. Remember the words of Habakkuk (2:3) though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

One of the ways Satan hinders Prayer is thru dissension in the family. Peter addressed this problem in I Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered. The man is the priest of his household and when he refuses to take his place as leader, or abuses that position, then his prayers are hindered. Who's hindering YOUR prayers, Satan or Self???

Another thing that hinders people is Family Ties. Genesis 24 tells the story of Abraham sending out his servant to seek a Bride for his son Isaac. The Servant is directed by God to the Bride and then makes preparation to return with her. The Bride's family seek to get him to stay for awhile but he answers, Hinder me not, seeing the Lord hath prospered my way (Gen 24:56). I would venture to guess that family ties keep more people out of Church or away from active serve than any other single thing. Even Jesus' family tried to take Him away from His work (Mk 3:31) and you need to realize that one of your greatest "enemies" will be your own family (Matt 10:36).

There are numerous ways that family ties hinder a person. It may be thru DIVISION- some in the family are saved and some are not so naturally they'll be at odds. It may be thru DIVERSION- Some want to go to Church while some want to go to the Lake, etc. Some want to attend one church while others want to attend another. It can also be thru DIVORCE- a Divorced man is automatically disqualified from being a Deacon or Pastor (I Tim 3:2,12). Or it may be thru DEDICATION- How many people never do a great work for God because they're unwilling to leave home and, like Abraham, go out, not knowing where they're going (Heb 11:8)? Jesus settled the Family question when he said, If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple (Lu 14:26). Your family will either help you or hinder you but regardless of what it does you must put God first.

Another hinderance is Public Opinion. Paul found that even though he had rights he had to forgo them that the Gospel be not hindered (I Cor 9:12). Public Opinion is a strong Force and must be reckoned with lest our liberty become a stumbling block to others (I Cor. 10:24-33) but, too often, a man's service is determined by Public Opinion instead of God's Word. It's hard to "buck the tide" and be counted a "fool for Christ's sake" (I Cor 4:10) but Christ demands that we deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him. Think for a moment, what does it matter to a man on the cross that the dogs howl beneath it? His eyes are on another world! And so should we be.

These are a few of the things that hinder men in their service for God. Perhaps you've seen something that has kept you from whole hearted service to God. If so, ask God to give you the victory over it and find the joy of Loving Service for the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

I close with one other time the question of hindrances comes to mind. In Acts 8:36-40 Philip is asked by the Ethiopian Eunuch, What doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If you believe with all your heart, you may. You can never do the Work of God until you're in the Will of God- and it's not the will of God that any perish but that all come to the knowledge of the truth (I Tim 2:4). What hinders you from being saved today? Is it really worth going to Hell over??

Why don't you accept Christ as Saviour today:

1. Admit YOU are a sinner and you cannot save yourself
2. Believe that Jesus Christ died as a payment for your sins.
3. Confess Christ as your Saviour publicly
4. Determine to live for Christ by serving Him in a local Bible Believing Church.

What Hinders YOU???

HURTLING YOUR HINDRANCES

There are numerous ways we can be hindered in our progress-

- 1) Someone can grab us from behind and hold us.
- 2) Something can Block our way.
- 3) We lack the necessary equipment to do our job.
- 4) We don't have the strength or motivation to accomplish what needs to be done.

These same type hindrances face us in our Christian life.

- 1) **Who grabs us from behind and holds us?** **SATAN-** I Thess 2:18 Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.
- 2) **What can block our way?**

A) **PRESSURES OF DUTY-** Rom 15:22 For which cause [maintaining my ministry in Asia Minor] also I have been much hindered from coming to you. A Christian is not OF the world but he must live IN the world and sometimes the "daily duties" keep him from showing concern and compassion as he should. But isn't it strange how men will wait in a doctor's office for hours because of some physical problem and yet expect someone to beg and bribe them to come for help with their spiritual problem?

B) **PEOPLE'S OPINION-** I Cor 9:12 If others be partakers of this power even you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ. Many times a servant of God must sacrifice even things he needs in order to maintain his testimony. He may be able to win that woman to the Lord if it were not for the fact that he can't be alone in her home. We must continually walk that "narrow line" between not caring what they say about us and caring tremendously about what they say about our Lord.

- 3) **What keeps us from having the necessary Equipment to work for God?**

A) **MISAPPLICATION OF DOCTRINE** (They were being taught that they had to be circumcised as well as believe the Gospel to be saved)- Gal 5:7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? The Bible has given us EVERYTHING we need to do the work of God but it can destroy life instead of save lives if wrongly used. People are also hindered because they don't STUDY the Scriptures so they can know what is right. They don't APPLY Scriptural Principals and so become hearers and not doers.

B) **FAMILY PROBLEMS-** I Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered. Our Home life is wrong so our prayer life is wrong so we don't have the power we need to accomplish God's will and work.

- 4) **What can steal our strength and motivation?**

A) **JEALOUS NEIGHBORS-** Neh 4:7-8 But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth, And conspired all of them together to come and fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it. We become so busy fighting the world until we don't have time to save it!!

B) **FAILURES AND FIGHTINGS AMONG CHRISTIANS-** We sow the seed and give our all to see it begin to take root; and then weeds come along and kill it, or some careless Christian steps on it!! And we get tired and discouraged.

How can we Hurtle these Hindrances? Job 9:12 Behold, he taketh away, who can hinder him (GOD)? who will say unto him, What doest thou? Let God guide and control our lives. He not only knows the way but HE IS THE WAY!!!

What's Hindering YOU from coming to or Continuing with Christ?? It's time to remove the Hinderance and take up the Cross.

Grace



Glory

Grace Free Will Baptist Church
P O Box 1003 348 Lawrence St

Pastor Mike Jones 395-3725
Lake City, S C 29560

Vol VII Number 19 September 21, 1989

A little Church with a BIG VISION

OLD FASHION DAY/HOME COMING is THIS SUNDAY (September 24). As we celebrate the 29th Anniversary of the Church we are looking for a SPECIAL DAY in many ways:

SPECIAL TIME- For this Sunday only we will go back to starting at 10:00am with Sunday School for all ages. Be sure to be here on time and Study the Word of God with us.

SPECIAL DRESS- Everyone is invited to wear "old" clothes, but don't let that keep you away!! We'll let you come in your regular suit or dress if you want (Although we may make you take off your tie before the day is over!!).

SPECIAL SPEAKER- (11:00am. Over WJOT) Rev Norwood Gibson, Promotional Director of South Carolina Free Will Baptist, will bring God's word. Come expecting a Blessing.

SPECIAL OFFERING- All of the days Offering will go to Missionary to India, Rev Carlisle Hanna. Brother Norwood is scheduled to leave for a six week visit to India on Oct 2 and we hope he will be able to carry good news to Brother Carlisle about this offering. Brother Carlisle is in poor physical condition, many of the Buildings he uses have been damaged by Earthquakes or rain, and much needs to be accomplished before Brother Carlisle becomes unable to work. Pray about this and give very generously.

SPECIAL MEAL (12:15pm)- We're looking for all our friends and family to join us in this great time of fellowship.

SPECIAL SINGERS (Following Dinner, around 1:30pm)- Our Guest Singers will be the John L Floyd Family. You can expect a Blessing as they minister to us in Music; and we also anticipate some of our own singers sharing their talent.

Y'ALL COME

Grace Bible Institute is doing well with 12-15 students on campus and several more who are using the Audio and Video tapes of the sessions to keep up (Thanks to Don Lewis for videoing these sessions for us!). There is still time for you to attend and learn what the Bible has to say about "End Time Events" as you learn "How to Study the Bible". We meet on Tuesday Nights from 7-9pm. Why don't you come out this week?

This newsletter, the video and audio cassettes, the books, and many other means of outreach would not be possible without your prayers and support. **THANKS** Preacher Mike

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5 DEBTS WE OWE

Paul told the Romans about 5 debts that were owed. Now none of us like to have a debt hanging over our head; especially since Paul also told the Romans (ROM 13:8) Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. Let's find what these debts are and then see about getting them paid:

1. **THE SOUL WINNERS DEBT-** ROM 1:14-16 I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

People didn't seek to win me to Christ because I was "worthy" or showed great potential; they sought me out of Love for a lost soul bound for a Devil's Hell. The Gospel is not something to keep to yourself, it should be shared as often as possible with as many as possible.

2. **THE SERVICE DEBT-** ROM 4:3-5 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

Many people try to Bargain with God by saying they will do certain things if God will do certain things failing to realize the Grace is "Unmerited Favor". It's much better to allow God to graciously Give than to Bargain with Him because His "bucket" is always pressed down and running over! Out Debt is to Trust in His goodness and Grace.

3. **THE SPIRITUAL DEBT-** ROM 8:11-14 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

We have a Debt to be led by the Spirit now Instead of being controlled by the desires of the Flesh. We are no longer under bondage to the Laws of Moses but instead enjoy the marvelous Liberty of the Messiah. This Liberty involves Obligations however. We are Obligated to Walk in the Spirit and be Filled with the Spirit.

4. **THE SHARING DEBT-** ROM 15:25-27 But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints. For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem. It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.

A Debt owed to the Poor Saints- Part of the same family. We have some obligations to the "poor" in general but our primary obligation is to help our Brothers and Sisters in Christ. (Helping Hand Fund)

5. **THE SIN DEBT-** ROM 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. This is a debt we can NEVER PAY; but, Thank God, it has been paid for us by Christ! We have only to claim His gift and the debt is paid. How sad that multitudes of people will spend eternity paying a debt that has already been paid (!) simply because they refuse to believe Christ paid it.

PROPHETIC PRINCIPLES

Deut 29:29 The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of his law.

I. What is PROPHECY?

A) To Foretell Events to come-

B) To Forthtell God's Message- I Cor 14:3 he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. Note the difference in the way God gives the message- The prophecy of future events came not by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost (II Pet 1:21) whereas the Prophet as a Preacher realizes that the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets (I Cor 14:32).

II. 3 Dangers in studying Prophecy:

- 1> The MISINTERPRETATION of Scripture- Making it say what we want it to say (The Jews refused to accept Christ as Saviour because they made all references to Him say He would come as a KING first). Also be aware that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation (II Pet 1:20). When only one person interprets Scripture a certain way that should ring warning bells in your brain.
- 2> The MISAPPLICATION of Scripture- Putting things in the wrong place (Many of the descriptions of the Millennium age are applied to Heaven. Many of the promises to Israel are applied to the Church).
- 3> The "MYSTICISM" of Scripture- You become so interested in what God is going to do a hundred years from now until you fail to Witness of, and live for, Him right now! (See Acts 1:6-11).

III. What is the PURPOSE OF PROPHECY?

A) A PROOF of God- Ezek 39:27-28 When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations: Then shall they know that I am the Lord their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there. (See 38:23, 37:28, 36:38, 35:15, 33:33). The Purpose of Prophecy is not to satisfy your curiosity but to demonstrate God! When we see His words come true time after time then we know that He is GOD- Deut 18:21-22 And if thou say in thine heart, how shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

B) A PURIFYING Influence- I John 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. I Thess 5:4-9

C) A PROMISE to look for- John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. I Thess 4:13-18

IV. How does God Give Prophecy? Daniel was given Prophecy by:

A) Vision- Dan 7:1

B) Angels- 8:15-16

C) Study- 9:2 coupled with prayer, fasting, confession of sin.

(Note that Satan delayed an answer 3 weeks in 10:1-14)

(THERE IS NO NEED FOR FURTHER PROPHECY AS GOD HAS ALREADY REVEALED THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD FROM IT'S BEGINNING TO THE NEW EARTH- See the warning of Rev 22:18-19)

V. How do we UNDERSTAND Prophecy?

A) Look for Bible Explanations- See Dan 8:-
Rules for Interpreting Scripture:

- a. What does the Word normally mean? (When the Plain sense of the Scriptures makes common sense, seek no other sense!).
- b. What is the context the word is used in?
- c. What is the Historical background of the word or the writer?
- d. What is the grammatical construction of the word in the original?

B) Identify the WAY the Word is given-

- a. Figure of speech- "Behold, the Lamb of God"
- b. Parable- The Prediction is given in a "story" form-
(Nebuchadnezzar's Golden image in Dan 2:)
- c. Present Prophecy- Many of the Prophets of the Old Testament.
- d. Conditional Prophecy- John the Baptist/Elias Matt 17:10-13;
Jonah's Prophecy to Nineveh
- e. "Double" Prophecy- Present Prediction/ Future Prediction
[Example of Brazen Serpent: Healed the children of Israel right then (Num 21:4-9); Was used wrongly later (II Kings 18:4); and pictured the Cross of Christ (John 3:14)]
- f. Symbols: (a) Multi-used symbols- "Time, Times, and Half a Time"-
Dan 12:7, Rev 12:14. Abomination of Desolation- Dan 9:27 11:31,
12:11, Matt 24:15, Mark 13:14 (b) Bible Identified Symbols-
Ram= Media, Persia (Dan 8:20); Goat= Greece (Dan 8:21);
Dragon= Satan (Rev 12:9)

C) Identify the "Cast"- The Bible is not a systematic study of Theology, or Morals, or History, or Science, etc. It is a REVELATION of God, of the fall of Man, of God plan to Redeem Man, and of God's Plans and Purpose for the Ages. It reveals:

3 main "Players"- God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), Satan (Devil, Antichrist, Demons), and Man (Man, woman, child)

3 main Places- Heaven, Hell, Earth

3 main Peoples- Jews, Gentiles, The Church of God.

God the Father is married to the Jew, Jesus has the Church as a Bride, and the Holy Spirit seems to be the "bachelor of the Bunch"!

D) Identify the Perspective- Is it talking from the point of view of Heaven or earth? Jew or Gentile? Is it Predictive or Corrective?

Mystery- A mystery is something previously hidden that God has now revealed. There are numerous "Mysteries" in the New Testament:

- 1) The fact that God's program with Israel would be interrupted was a mystery- Matt 13:11; Rom 11:25
- 2) The Wisdom of God in His way of Salvation- I Cor 2:7; Rom 16:25
- 3) God's work thru Christ- I Tim 3:16
- 4) The development of evil into it's culmination in the man of sin (II Thess 2:7) and the development of the great apostate Religious system (Rev 17:5,7) are called Mysteries.
- 5) The Rapture is a Mystery- I Cor 15:51
- 6) The Formation of the Church (Centered around Gentiles) as the body of which Christ is the Head was a Mystery- Col 1:23-29 Eph 3:3-9

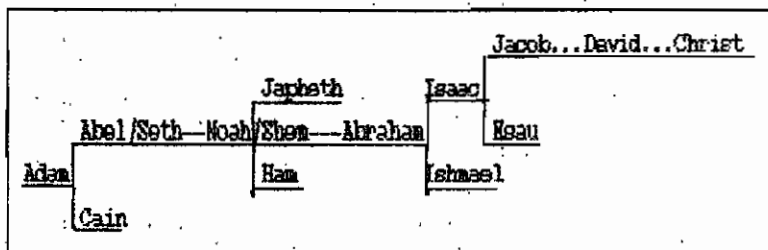
Paul called himself not only a Minister of Christ but also a "Manager of the Mysteries of God"; and, as such, realized his responsibility to share these "Mysteries" faithfully- I Cor 4: 1-2

THE RETURN OF CHRIST/THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

Any Study of Eschatology must come to grips with 2 main Biblical Truths- The Return of Christ WITH His Saints in contrast to the coming of Christ FOR His Saints (Rapture). There is a great deal of Controversy and Confusion about these two events because people have tried to isolate them from the rest of the Bible.

Another reasons for error and misapplications in Eschatology is the fact that people use "common sense" and present day circumstances to translate promises made by God whose "thoughts are not our thoughts, neither His ways our ways". God's Program has been consistent and continuing from the garden of Eden. It is not some "stop gap" measure implemented at the last moment to cover unknown circumstances.

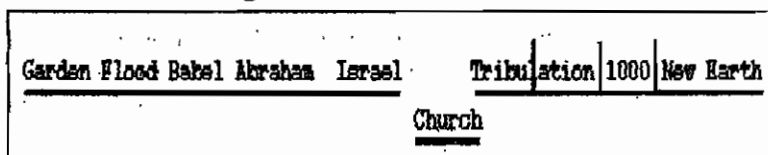
In order to understand the Future it is necessary that we examine the Past. One of the most obvious things we see is that God had a plan (REDEMPTION) that involved God CHOOSING and CARING for a specific group of people (Israel).



God's Proclamation of this coming Redeemer and the need to prepare for Him (In addition to the accounts of Satan's Attacks on this Plan and these People) are the major focus of the Old Testament.

The New Testament begins with the birth and ministry of this Promised Redeemer, Christ. He presents himself to Israel by Message and Miracles as their promised Messiah but is rejected and crucified. Upon being raised from the Dead He instructs His disciples to continue His ministry but their miracles and Message are also rejected and so Christ seeks a Bride among the Gentiles (The Church).

Once this Bride has been selected and Raptured (Snatched away from "Jacob's Trouble"-



Tribulation), God will finish His program with

Israel. This will include the 1000 year reign of Christ on the throne of David, in the "capital country" of the World- Israel, as God fulfills all His promises to Abraham and David.

At the end of this time Satan will be released for one final rebellion and God's victory over him will conclude with the casting of Satan and all his followers into the Lake of Fire. God will then purge this earth with fire and set up a New Heaven and a New Earth- Dominated by a New Jerusalem and Governed by God Himself!!

Once we grasp God's Purpose and Plan, the Promises and Prophecies of the Bible become relatively clear- Dan 12:10 Many shall be purified; and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

REMEMBER, Prophecy is not given to satisfy your Curiosity but to show God's Plans and Purposes in order that GOD might be glorified. It is not a "Trick" we show off but a Tool we use to Warn and Win!

Once we realize God's General program for the ages we can then begin to pick out some specifics; because it is these specifics that will determine our understanding of When and Why Christ will Return (and this will, of course, have a major impact on our understanding of the Rapture of the Church).

We have shown that God CHOSE certain people to Proclaim and Produce the Saviour that mankind needed. It is His COVENANTS with these Chosen People that have had a bearing on the entire history of the earth until now; and will continue to do until the new Earth.

There are TWO KINDS OF COVENANT GIVEN:

A) Conditional ("IF") Covenant in which certain obligations or conditions must be fulfilled by the receiver of the covenant before the giver of the covenant is obligated to fulfill that which was promised (See Deut 28:-)

B) Unconditional Covenant ("I WILL") in which that which was covenanted depends upon the one making the covenant alone for the fulfillment- Rom 9:16 So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. (It should be noted that even an Unconditional Covenant can have some conditions- God's would not give His Unconditional Covenant to Abraham until he had finally left his family as well as his home).

The Primary Unconditional Covenant God made was the **ABRAHAMIC COVENANT**. This Covenant resulted in much of what happened in the Bible, and will be the reason for much of what will happen in the Future. This Abrahamic Covenant was amplified in the Palestinian Covenant (Deut 30:3-5) which assured final, permanent restoration to the LAND, in the Davidic Covenant (II Sam 7:11-16) which promised a DYNASTY, nation, and throne to David's Descendants, and the New Covenant (Heb 8:6-13) which promised REDEMPTION and a new Relationship.

It is important, therefore, that we understand the Basics of **The Abrahamic Covenant**: (Gen 12:1-3; 6-7; 13:14-17; 15:1-21; 17:1-14; 22:15-18)

1. Abraham's name shall be great
2. A great Nation shall come from him
3. All families of the earth shall be blessed in him.
4. To him personally and to his seed should be given Palestine forever as an inheritance.
5. The multitude of his seed would be as the dust of the earth
6. Whoever blessed him would be Blessed, and whoever cursed him would be cursed.
7. He would be the father of many nations
8. Kings would proceed from him
9. This would be an "everlasting" covenant
10. The land of Canaan would be an everlasting possession.
11. God would be a God to him and his seed
12. He would process the gates of his enemies
13. In his seed shall all nations of the earth be blessed.

Many of the Promises given to Abraham (and his descendants) have yet to be fulfilled-- Which is a primary reason for the Millennium! The last week of Daniel's 70 "weeks of years" (Dan 9:23-27) is distinctively the time of "Jacob's Trouble" (Jer 30:7). This points to the Church being taken away before this "Tribulation" begins.

Now that we have some Background we're ready to look at the Theories about the Return of Christ and the Rapture of the Church.

GRACE & GLORY

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Vol VII Num 20 OCT 12, 1989 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, S C

In case you're wondering, "Hugo" is not my favorite name in all the world!! It's been a long difficult 3 weeks but, Thank the Lord, things are beginning to return to some degree of normality (If you disregard the fallen trees, houses with holes in them, destroyed buildings, etc). At least we've got electricity and water now and we can cope with the rest (Someone told me the other night in Eschatology that all the Antichrist would have to do was tell people in our area he was going to cut off their power and water again and they'd be lined up to take his mark!).

I appreciate everyone who prayed for us during this time and all the people who shared with those in need. I especially appreciate the Lew Gowdy family, the Marion Coker family, and several others in our Church that took the time and effort to help in securing and distributing food and supplies for those in need.

Being without power and then being busy helping take care of those in need has made me late on many of our Outreach Ministry activities so please forgive me if you haven't received a receipt yet. It's coming soon.

We were forced to cancel Old Fashion Day (It would have been REALLY Old Fashion!) and due to the timing problem and the fact that many of our people lost everything in all their freezers we have decided to put it off until next Spring. I'll let you know the date when we make final plans.

I am pleased to acknowledge Memorials to this ministry from Don and Kathy Lewis given in Memory of Mr B F Frye and Mrs Bebe Thompson. This gift, combined with regular gifts, during the past month have enabled me to continue to distribute Audio and Video cassettes of our Church services as well as of our Bible Institute classes in addition to helping several who had financial needs resulting from "Hugo". I try to make your gifts accomplish as much as I can for the cause of Christ and I appreciate your being concerned enough to give to this work.

I realize that "Hugo" was only a "sneeze" compared to God's wrath that will soon come on this sin-sick world. I'm glad I'm sheltered in the Rock waiting for the Rapture! I hope you are too.

Preacher Mike Ps 16:11

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REVELATION RIDDLES

1. Where was John when he wrote the book of Revelation? (1:9)
2. What did the 7 stars and the 7 candlesticks represent? (1:20)
3. Name the Poor-Rich church (2:9) & the Rich-Poor Church (3:17)
4. Which church was built where Satan's Seat was? (2:13)
5. Which church was promised that their names would not be blotted out of the book of life? (3:5)
6. What were the 4 beasts that were before the throne like? (4:7)
What was described like this in the Old Testament? (Ez 10:14)
What 4 books of the New Testament describe Christ like this?
7. What was the odor in the golden vials? (5:8; 8:3,4)
8. What were the names of the riders on the Pale Horse? (6:8)
9. How many Seals were there? (5:1) Trumpets (8:2) Vials (15:7)
10. How many sealed witnesses were there? From what nation? (7:4)
11. Which of the Twelve tribes is not listed? Why? Judges 18:29-31?
12. Why do some people say there won't be any women in Heaven!? (8:1)
13. What was the name of the star that fell when the 3rd angel sounded his trumpet? (8:10-11)
14. Who were the only ones the "locust" could bite and torment for 5 months so that they would seek death and not find it? (9:4-6)
15. What river has 4 angels bound in it? (9:14)
16. How long would the Two Witnesses preach? (11:3) How long would their bodies lie in the streets of Jerusalem? (11:9)
17. Who fights the "war in Heaven"? (12:7)
18. Name the 3 things necessary to buy or sell during the last half of the Tribulation? (13:17)
19. Where will the blood come from that flows for 177 miles as high as the horses bridle? (14:18-20)
20. Why do some say no one will be able to be saved during the last half of the Tribulation? (15:5-8)
21. What river was dried up to allow the king of the East to come to the battle of Armageddon? (16:12-16)
22. What does "Mystery Babylon" represent? (17:-)
23. What was the merchandise of Babylon the great? (18:12-13)
24. What was the Feast of the Fowls? (19:17-18)
25. Who were the first 2 cast alive into the Lake of Fire (19:20)
26. Who is the third person cast into the Lake of Fire (20:10)
27. What 2 other groups were cast into the Lake of Fire? (20:14-15)
28. What is the name of the sea on the new earth? (21:1)
29. How long will the days be in New Jerusalem? (21:25)
30. What name will be in the forehead of the servants of God? (22:4)

BONUS QUESTION- Are you ready for Revelation to become a Reality?

Fruitful Facts

God does not look for a sign on a tree to identify it, He looks for Fruit! He's not interested in what you say; but What you are!! These Fruits were 6-fold: (1) Converts to Christ, (2) Holiness of Life, (3) Holiness of Character (fruits of Spirit), (4) Good Works, (5) Sharing with others, and (6) Praising and Thanking God.

We produce these Fruits as we ABIDE in the Vine (Christ). We Abide in the Vine as we continually OBEY the Lord. We Obey the Lord because we LOVE HIM, and We Love Him more and more as we get to KNOW Him.

I want us to conclude this study by looking at some "Fruitful Facts" that will change these Powerful Principles into Practical Living; in other words, I want us to go from knowing WHAT to do to actually DOING what God has commanded us.

Fact Number 1- The Law of Sowing- Gal 6:7 Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the spirit shall of the spirit reap life everlasting.

A) You reap what you sow. Two kinds of "seed" are revealed here:

1) Flesh which reaps Corruption. "Flesh" is work motivated by the actions and attitudes of the world.

2) Spirit which reaps life everlasting. Spirit is seed produced in us by the witness of the Word and the Work of the Spirit.

B) You reap more than you sow. You sow the grain and reap the full stalk or as one writer said, "You sow the wind and reap the Whirlwind".

C) You Reap after you sow. If there is no sowing there will be no reaping. Patience is required to wait on the seed to grow into harvest.

Fact Number 2- The Language of Sowing- I Cor 14:14 If I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. I Cor 14:8 For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to battle? There is a language spoken by all that is largely unsaid, it is the Language of Love. Salvation is not a Formula but a Faith; it needs concern to turn conversation into conviction that leads to Conversion (One man said, "We're asking the Unconcerned to witness to the Unconcerned about a matter of great Concern!"). We must sow our seed so that the person receiving it can understand what fruit we're trying to produce; always bearing in mind what Jesus said about the sower (Matt 13:19) When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart.

Fact Number 3- Laziness in Sowing- Prov 24:30-31 I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; and lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall was broken down. Lazy Christians don't maintain their Relationship- little Prayer, witnessing, Bible Study, Etc- and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lust of other things enter in and choke the word. SOMETHING will grow in your "vineyard". If you don't sow the proper seed then weeds and briars will grow in their place. It takes constant attention to keep the weeds out.

After the Seed is sown there are still some DANGERS TO AVOID:

Spoiled Fruit- Song of Solomon 2:15 the little foxes spoil the vine: for our vines have tender grapes. These little Foxes eat the tender fruit and bruise the more mature fruit. In our Vineyard we have to combat the "little foxes" that rob our Time and distract our Witness. We also have to be aware that our Fruit is sometimes bruised beyond use by our character faults- impatience, anger, etc. I Cor 15:33 Evil communications corrupt good manners. Ecc 10:1 Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savor: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honor.

Wild Fruit- (Is 5:-)- We expect one fruit but get another in spite of the favorable circumstances. Children raised in Church turn into Prodigal Sons. Preachers preach, Christians witness, and instead of being saved some people go deeper and deeper into sin. This brings discouragement and disappointment but we must always remember that the Father is the Farmer and He knows the effort you put forth.

Artificial Fruit- Eph 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. Sometimes when we hear about the "great grapes" on someone else's farm we are tempted to abandon our vine for some new variety. Through the years I have learned that God's Program of Fruit Bearing demands patience, sometimes Pain, and often Pruning; but it is the only Program that produces Fruit you can get "paid" for.

II Pet 1: 3-7 says God has given us Power and Promises that we might be Partakers of the Divine Nature. He also said (vs 8) For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you are going to bear Fruit then there must be Fellowship with God. This fellowship will enable you to be Fruitful and also will guarantee the right kind of Fruit.

Now you know the "Secret" to Abundant Living--Bearing Fruit. Can you continue to be satisfied to be an "artificial plant", admired by those that pass by, but barren instead of Blessed? Can you be content to be simply attached to the Vine or will you become a Fruitful Christian??

GOD PROVES HIMSELF

Ez 38:23, 39:27-28, 36:38, 37:28, etc

I Sam 7:-

The Glory was Departed!! Israel had forsaken God, been defeated by it's enemies, and the ark of God had been captured. It was a day of death as well as defeat. Phinehas and Hophni, the sons of Eli, had died on the battle field, Eli the Priest has fainted when he heard the ark was captured and as he fell he broke his neck, and the daughter-in-law of Eli died as she gave birth to "Ichabod" (The Glory is departed). A dark day indeed for the nation of Israel.

God allowed Israel to be defeated but He did not forget them; nor would He allow the Philistines to get the glory from the victory. It was not their power that defeated Israel but the lack of God's intervention in behalf of Israel. God would now manifest His power to the Philistines in order to show them who was in control of the situation.

The Philistines took the ark of God and put it in the house of their god Dagon. The next morning they found Dagon on his face on the floor. Thinking something had moved him they set him back in his place; but next morning he had fallen again, only this time he had fallen in such a way as to break off his hands and head and lay prostrate before the ark of God!! Then the Lord began to smite the men of that city with a disease (Possibly "black Death" since it seemed to be spread by mice) that caused emerods (Hemorrhoids) on the men that didn't die. The people in that city requested that the ark be moved. When it was moved to the next city the same thing happened also. They wanted to move it to another city but noone would accept it now!

The rulers of the Philistines called for the priests and asked them what they should do to stop this plague on their people. The priest advised them to give 5 golden emerods and 5 golden mice as a trespass offering and to send the ark back to Israel. Their method of transporting the ark back to Israel was most unusual; and is the basis of today's message.

They were told to get a new cart and yoke 2 milk cows to the front of it. The cows were never to have been under the yoke before and their calves were to be taken from them. Then they were to be released. If they went back to Israel then the Philistines would know that God was directing them, if they stayed where they were or went back after their calves then they would know that the plague had been a chance happening. The cows were released and they went straight back to Israel. I think these cows are a type of what God is looking for in dedication and I want us today to determine to be used like them in order to "Bring back the Glory" to God.

That's what a Pessimistic world is really looking for-- PROOF that GOD is ALIVE AND WELL. They are willing to admit that their world is in a mess; war, drugs, disease, family break up, etc have taken the hope from many people and they long to see a demonstration that God is real. BUT!! they've seen enough Jim Bakkers, Jim Jones, and Jim Swaggarts to make them skeptical of flashy religion. How can we prove God to them??- By living this "milk cow Religion" before them. Living so that they will know our lives and our actions are directed by God.

How can we follow the example of these cows and Demonstrate God?

LIVE THE EXAMPLE OF THEIR:

DEDICATION - They Had to leave what they loved behind. Jesus always calls for a definite commitment to Him. A turning from everything and Everyone that would come before Him.

WALK - The straight road to God. A commitment to God means a new walk. It not only means a new Destination, it also means a new Deportment- Christians walk to please Christ instead of self or the world. We get on the straight and narrow instead of the broad road leading to destruction.

COMMUNICATION - "Lowing" all the way. Let people know what they were. Christians are constant witnesses. By our words we are justified or condemned.

COOPERATION - Worked together, turning neither to the right hand or to the left. Christians don't always agree but they are always agreeable. You'll Know they are Christians by their Love

SACRIFICE - They were sacrificed as an offering to God. We are not called to simply OFFER a Sacrifice; we are called to BE a Sacrifice.

ACCOMPLISHMENT - Brought the ark back to Israel and the Glory back to God. And isn't that what we all want?

God used some strange animals to do His work- (1) A Dove told Noah the earth was dry and symbolized the Holy Spirit when Christ was Baptized; (2) A Donkey preached to Balaam and carried Jesus in Triumph into Jerusalem; and (3) A Rooster preached Peter under conviction! He can use you and your particular talent today also if you are willing to be an "animal" God can use. It will involve Service and Sacrifice but the rewards are simply "Heavenly"!!!

Do you seek Proof of God?? Don't look to the failing empires on TV, look at the Changed lives in this Church!! There are so many "experts" and so many books; yet people are still confused. They need to look at the lives transformed by the power of God for (II Cor 3:2) Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

WILL YOU ACCEPT THE PROOF?? OR FACE THE PUNISHMENT??

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I enjoyed a good day with the fine folks at Little Star FWB Church last Sunday during their Home Coming while the people here at Grace were doing an excellent job in my absence. I preached here at the 9am Service and got Sunday School under way, and was still able to get the last part of the Sunday School lesson at Little Star!

Brother Todd did a good job in leading the Church in an extended Song Service before Brother Sully delivered an Outstanding message on "Commitment" here at Grace and I appreciate everyone who worked so hard in my absence. I haven't had time to view the Videos yet (I didn't get them until last night) but I have listened to the audio tapes of the Sunday School and Worship Services and both were great.



The Time will Change back to Standard Time this Sunday but **WE WILL STILL CONTINUE WITH OUR NINE TO NOON**

FORMAT!! Everyone still likes having our night service at 9am and so we've decided to continue with it this way until further notice.

The Nine O'clock Service will be even more special than normal this week as we will have the **DEDICATION SERVICE** for Miss Abby Sullivan that we were unable to have in September. You'll have an extra hour to get ready this week so everyone should be here on time for this Special Service.



FAMILY FUN NIGHT will be Tuesday, Oct 31 from 7-9pm. We try to provide good clean fun for our Children as an alternative to

"Halloween" and This Tuesday is going to be **SUPER!** Lots of activities, a Costume Contest (Parents are in charge of "Screening their children's costumes"), and, of course, a **HOT DOG Supper**. Each family is asked to bring a bag of candy and something to drink and come out for a good time of clean (and sometimes wet!) fun. [Grace Bible Institute will be held on Monday Night next week because of Family Fun Night].

Many special activities are planned for November and December so I hope you'll make your plans to be with us here at Grace. Preacher Mike

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DEFEATING SATAN

THE CHRISTIAN HAS 3 THINGS HE NEEDS TO BE AWARE OF WHEN HE DEALS WITH SATAN:

1. HIS CLOTHES- THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD:

- A. FEET- PREPARATION OF GOSPEL OF PEACE (FOUNDATION)
- B. HELMET- SALVATION (PROTECTS THE MIND)
- C. BREASTPLATE- RIGHTEOUSNESS (PROTECTS THE HEART)
- D. LOINS- TRUTH ("HOLDS UP" EVERYTHING ELSE)
- E. SHIELD- FAITH ("HIDE" BEHIND TO ESCAPE SATAN'S DARTS)
- F. SWORD- WORD OF GOD (ONLY OFFENSIVE WEAPON)

2. HIS CONDUCT- ROM 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

3. HIS CROSS- Mk 8:34-35 Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

XX

WHEN GOING INTO BATTLE THERE ARE 4 BASIC THINGS YOU NEED TO DO:

1. Distinguish the Enemy. WHO ARE YOU FIGHTING??? For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against ... Ep 6:12

2. Determine the objective. WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH OR PREVENT? that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Ep 6:11

3. Evaluate the Forces. WHAT ARE:

A) YOUR WEAKNESSES- SELF

B) YOUR STRENGTHS- BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT. Ep 6:10

C) ENEMY'S WEAKNESSES- HE IS ALREADY DEFEATED IN THE CROSS. FAITH IS THE "METHOD" WE USE TO AVAIL OURSELVES OF THAT WEAPON.

D) ENEMY'S STRENGTHS- TEMPTATION, SIN.

4. Pursue a Plan of Attack. Go FROM THE DRAWING BOARD TO THE BATTLEFIELD. GOD DID NOT CALL US TO BE "HOthouse" CHRISTIANS. WE MUST LIVE AND WORK IN A SINFUL WORLD. WE CAN IGNORE SATAN WHILE HE BUILDS STRONGHOLDS IN OUR LIFE-- OR WE CAN LIVE THE LIFE OF VICTORY IN CHRIST.

And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. REV 20:10 (WE KNOW THE OUTCOME OF THE BATTLE. DON'T BECOME ONE OF THE CASUALTIES OF THE CONFLICT.)

APOSTASY

Jude 5-7

Jude has just told of God's command to him to "Defend the Faith" and then he gave several of the Deceitful Doctrines false teachers were bringing into the Church that were leading men astray. Now he's going to give them some examples of how FALSE DOCTRINE LEADS TO DOUBT AND THEN DAMNATION (What you Believe determines what you do).

I. THE DISBELIEF OF ISRAEL vs 5 Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Rom 10:17). If Satan can destroy your Faith in the Word of God then he will eventually destroy you! The Children of Israel were SAVED out of Egypt (a Type of Sin) by the Blood of a substitute sacrifice. They were defended by God, Guided by God, and given the Commandments of God. Yet when they came to the borders of the Promised Land they allowed Fear to replace Faith and ended up dying in the desert. Everything was fine until 10 of the spies reported that not only was the Promised Land a land of "Milk and Honey" but also a land of Giants and walled cities. These 10 spies became False Teachers who mixed Human reasoning with God's Promises and destroyed the faith of the People.

Faith is the "Evidence of things not seen". You have to trust God's word even if it doesn't make sense!

II. THE FALL OF ANGELS vs 6 Indications are that these angels are the "sons of God" who came in into the Daughters of men (Gen 6:1-4 II Pet 2:4) and were then cast into Tartarus to await God's final judgment. They left their holy habitation to satisfy the lusts of the mind (The angels that fell with Satan apparently still operate with him in Principalities, Powers, etc (Ep 6:12) so they cannot be bound in "Prison" now. These must be other angels).

It is so easy to see this same thing happening today to Ministers and Ministries that fall because people follow Flesh instead of Faith. People must face constant temptation and never give in to the "siren voice of desire" that says Abraham and David had concubines, why can't you?? Society constantly screams at us, "Everyone is doing it. Your Faith causes you to miss all the Fun in life. Why don't you enjoy life a little. Don't become "Bad"; just ease up a little!".

Flesh lives for the moment; Faith lives for eternity. Jesus calls us to Deny ourself; not pamper ourself.

III. THE DESTRUCTION OF SODOM AND GOMORRHA vs 7 God sent a WARNING to Sodom when he allowed it to be captured and then delivered by Abraham. Lot was supposed to be a WITNESS to Sodom as he vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds (II Pet 2:8) but they continued to go down the ladder from Fornication to Homosexuality to destruction (Does that sound like America today!?).

Like many people, Sodom thought that since God did not Punish their sin immediately then it must be alright. So they kept going deeper and deeper into it until there was no hope (Rom 1:22-32). How many people today have started the downward spiral of sin by doing a little thing the Preacher said was wrong and then when "lighten didn't strike" they began to think they could ignore God all together.

God does not always "pay up on Friday" but PAY DAY WILL COME!

It is important for to realize that we are Saved by Faith, Live by Faith, and Walk by Faith. There is no work that we can do that will save us and there is no work that we do that "unsaves" us. The only way we can become an Apostate is by denying Faith in the sacrificial death of Christ for our sins.

This Faith is not just a head knowledge ABOUT Christ but a Heart ACCEPTANCE OF Christ that not only changes our Destination but also our Character. We are not saved by works but a Faith that does not produce good works is a faulty faith (James 2:17).

This is why Satan sends his false teachers into the Christian world. He knows that if he can destroy our Faith he will not only destroy our soul but also get us to begin working for him- No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. (Matt 6:24)

Notice how Hebrews 10:26-38 describes the same situations Jude described:

1> Disbelief Heb 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

2> Willful Disobedience Heb 10:26-27 If we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

3> Disregard of God's Provision Heb 10:28-29 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

False Teachers and Preachers are DANGEROUS because they bring DOUBTS into a person's life and this can lead to DEADLY consequences. Are you on this downward road that leading away from God?? "You did run well, what does hinder you?". Don't allow anything or anyone to draw you away from God.

II Tim 3:1-5 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

THE PROBLEM WITH PREACHERS

Jude 1-4 Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called: Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied. Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

I feel much like Jude this week. I had planned to preach some messages this week to highlight the Lord's Return but as the week progressed I felt more and more compelled to expose some serious problems among preachers. The problems are not simply Personality differences (Which we all have) but are areas (like Jude saw) that are so serious until it calls for a "call to arms" in order to defend the Faith.

This week I have seen a Preacher turn Christ from the Messiah into simply a Martyr in order to tell a family what it wanted to hear. I have seen another Preacher turn Christian Liberty into a license to do anything you want to do in order to satisfy Lukewarm Christians. And I have wrestled with "Preacher Politics" that will destroy some Men's Ministries because of Personalities and Preferences.

The Christian Faith (The Word "Faith" here is not referring simply to Saving Faith but the entire Doctrines of the Christian Life) is the most important thing in all the world. It determines our Relationship with God; and should determine our relationship with man. It is the Foundation of the Christian Religion and if it is weakened it will endanger everything that is built upon it.

In the next few services I want us to examine this small but powerful Epistle from Jude in order to identify the strategy Satan's Ministers are using and learn to save ourselves, and others, from it's deadly influence.

I. JUDE'S SALUTATION vs 1-2 Jude is identified by many as the Brother of Christ who, along with his brother James, became a believer when he met with Christ following His resurrection. Note that he identifies himself as a SERVANT (Almost all of the Disciples used this identification. Why are Christians so anxious today to be everything in the church except Servants when Christ said that was the way to be greatest of all?!)

Notice the work of the Trinity in those who the letter was written to: (1) Sanctified (Set Apart) by the Father. (2) Preserved (Kept) in the Son. and (3) Called by the Holy Spirit. These are some things that every Christian needs to be aware of: (1) God Saves us for HIS PURPOSES; not for our Pleasures. He sets us apart for a specific function in the body of Christ. (2) While I believe in the Possibility of Apostasy (Next message), I rest in the Security of the Son. Thank God, My Salvation does not rest on my feeble efforts but on His Great Sacrifice! (3) It is the Holy Spirit that brings us to God and then indwells us to give us Power to work for God.

Note also what He wanted to be Multiplied (Continually increased) in their life- <1> Mercy: God had to have Mercy on us to bring us His Grace or His Judgment would have destroyed us! <2> Peace- with God because of our standing in Christ. <3> Love- The Love OF God and FOR God

II. JUDE'S EXHORTATION vs 3

A> His Intention- "I wanted to write to you of the common Salvation". He wanted to do something that he thought would have been beneficial to the Church but God had something else in mind. That's one of the first things a Servant of God learns; to put aside his personal desires and wants in order to accomplish what God wants.

It seems today that many Members (and Ministers!) are much more interested in doing what they think is right than in taking the time to determine what God really wants them to do; and, as a result, people's ears are "tickled" while their hearts grow harder.

B> His Inspiration- God changed his Examination of Salvation into an Exhortation to defend the Faith. "To earnestly contend" here means to put forth all diligence. God told him that right now the great Doctrines of the Faith did not need Definition as much as they needed Defending. Paul said people would be "ever learning and never coming to the Knowledge of the Truth" and that day has arrived. The average preacher today can preach any Doctrine he wants from the pulpit and his people will gladly accept it. The average Christians never witnesses for Christ at work because he thinks "everyone has the right to believe what they want to believe". Most people who attend Sunday School regularly cannot name 3 things they learned in SS the past year that affected their life or relationships.

How many people can follow Peter's command to Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: (I Pet 3:15). Since few people know what they believe it becomes very easy for False Teachers to move in.

III. FALSE PREACHER'S TRANSGRESSION vs 4

A> The Way they Come- "Crept in unawares" means to "Enter by the side door". They slip into the service of the Lord with all the right words but, like termites, they begin to slowly and silently eat away at the foundation of the Christian Faith. II Cor 11:13-15 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

B> The Warning that they were coming- "Before of old ordained to this condemnation". "Ordained" here means "to designate" and refers to the fact that Prophets of old had written that False Prophets would come. Since we know they are coming we should be looking for them; but few are.

C> The Wickedness they Preach- (Note that Jude calls these "Ungodly Men"; men without reverential awe toward God. To them God is a Doctrine to be examined instead of a Deity to be worshipped; and the more they examine the "Doctrine" the more they transform it into a means of satisfying the Flesh instead of building the Faith).

a. Turning the Grace of God into Lasciviousness. "Lasciviousness" means to acknowledge no restraints. These men said God's Grace was so great until it actually showed your Faith to live in sin (Rom 6:1)! Multitudes of people today are being taught this very Doctrine that if you make a "profession" of faith when you're 8 years old and then live LIKE and FOR the DEVIL you'll still be saved because you said the "magic words".

b. Denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. These deny that Jesus was the Son of God. They say He was a "Great Man" and a "Fine Example" but they refuse to acknowledge Him as Lord. Their Religion is built on Principles instead of a Person; and, of course, their Principles change with every situation.

Can you face God with the Doctrine you're building your Life on?

GRACE And GLORY

Grace Free Will Baptist Church
A Little Church with a BIG Vision

First Worship Service 9:00am

Bible Study Hour 10:00am

Second Worship Service (WJOT) 11:00am

Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm

Pastor Mircheol Jones

394-3725



Vol VII Num 22 Nov 9, 1989 348 Lawrence ST Lake City, S C 29560

OVERWHELMED!! SIMPLY OVERWHELMED. The Church voted last Sunday to give the Pastor a \$50.00 a week raise!!! It means more to Paula and I than we can possibly say but we sure do appreciate it. The Deacons had told me earlier in the week that they wanted time at the end of our 9:00am service to present a \$25 a week raise to the people but when the Church voted they decided to increase that to \$50 a week.

I don't ever remember being in such a situation before but (as you will see from the enclosed article) I felt that God could use this time to not only inform the people here at Grace about their obligation to support their Pastor but also use it to help some other Pastors (Video, Audio, and Printed copies of this message are available).

It distresses me to see so many of our FWB Pastors that are winning souls and building their churches have to struggle (and even take on part time jobs) to make ends meet (I still can't figure out why "pastors" that put more emphasis on money than on souls get paid big time bucks while those who labor in word and doctrine are taken for granted and always paid as little as possible). My prayer is that God will use this article to help many Church examine, and fulfil, their obligation to their Pastor.

I guess I'll just have to pray that God would give other Churches the same love and concern that the people here at Grace have. They're wonderful people; they allow me to try innovative programs (like "Nine to Noon" worship), accept being made a "Grace Volunteer" any time I need them, and even eat a lot of hot dogs during the course of a year because the Pastor likes Hot Dogs!! Thank God for them.

I normally try to share each month with the regular contributors to our Outreach Ministry some of the blessings of God on our work so they will know what their money is accomplishing but I thought it might be a good time to share it with everyone so you can understand some of what "Grace and Glory" is all about. It is a ministry that operates under the umbrella of the Church and works in close cooperation with the Church but is independent from the Church (in that it receives no funds from the Church. It functions solely from the contributions of people who feel they want to help a ministry like this advance the cause of Christ. I Pray in money, use what I receive to accomplish the things God has directed me to do, and then pray in more when needed. All of the materials we make available are always free because when we offer it it's already paid for).

Grace Free Will Baptist Church
P O Box 1003 Lake City, S C 29560

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There are presently 3 main BRANCHES to the Ministry:

1. PUBLISHING:

A) This Newsletter is sent to nearly 600 families twice per month with information about the Church and several sermons to help people KNOW Christ as Saviour and then SHOW Christ in their changed life.

B) I write a devotional article each week for the Lake City News and Post (I hope very soon that this will be expanded to other area newspapers). (This means we're in the Local paper each week, broadcast our 11am service live over the local radio station each week, and we're still looking and praying for a way to be on TV each week. It'll come; we just don't know when or where).

C) I have published 12 Bible Study booklets so far and hope to add several more in the coming year. In the past 2 months alone I have given away 100-150 of the Revelation booklets plus a number of other booklets. Several pastors use the notes in these booklets for Wednesday night Bible studies while a number of people use them in their personal Bible study.

2. TAPES:

Audio and Video tapes of our preaching services, special Sunday School services, and Grace Bible Institute Services have greatly expanded our outreach. You can receive a free tape of our services (each tape contains 2 services) by asking for a specific date or topic or you can get every Sunday's services mailed to you on audio tape (to keep) or video tape (to view and return) by asking to be a regular receiver.

3. HELPS:

A) Pastor Aids- I have tried, and am trying, to put 25 years of preaching on computer according to books and topics so that any preacher that needs help with a particular subject or sermons will be able to contact me and obtain it. I don't remember a week going by this year that I haven't been called on to help some pastor.

B) Grace Bible Institute- A means to help those who have a desire to discover greater Bible Truths learn what to look for and how to look for it. So far this semester 15-20 people have taken advantage of the class room instruction while a number more have "attended" thru audio or video tapes.

C) Tracts- I have purchased a number of tracts this year for people to distribute, have a number on order right now that someone wants to distribute, and hope to find time to write up some of my own for distribution in the near future.

D) Helping Hand Ministry- This ministry is used to lend a "Helping Hand" to people who are suffering financial or physical problems. The income is small right now (less than \$100 per month) but if you could see the faces of the people it's helped you'd think it was worth a million dollars.

God has great opportunities available for us, and it brothers me tremendously that I don't have talent enough to use these opportunities any wiser than I do, but I thank God for each of you that prays and supports this ministry so that we can continue to reach people for Christ. I hope that a year from now we'll look back in wonder and amazement at how God has multiplied this ministry.

Thank God for the Wonderful People He's allowed me to Pastor and the Satisfying Work He's allowed me to do. Come visit us this week and see what's going on for yourself.

Preacher Mike Ps. 15:11

PAYING THE PREACHER

I Tim 5:17-18 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The Laborer is worthy of his reward.

I am writing (and Preaching) this under an unusual set of circumstances. Because of our numerous outreach ministries I am frequently contacted by Pastors about a variety of subjects. Recently one of the principle themes has been the poor pay received by Free Will Baptist Pastors. From all the research I have been able to do regarding pay in other denominations, Free Will Baptist Pastors in this area are on the bottom of the pay scale (Average FWB Pastor receives pay in the \$200 dollar range while others seem to average from \$400-\$600 [The "Big" Churches in town are much more than this]).

Not only is the Pay low among FWB but the retirement benefits are non existent. A FWB Pastor who was ordained the night I was ordained was forced to retire due to poor health recently. He draws minimal Social Security (Because he drew minimal pay to pay Social Security on) and gets around \$40 dollars a month from the Conference he belongs to. (Compare that to the fact that I could leave FWB and join the Methodist where I could preach exactly the same thing I'm preaching now and in 10 years retire with full pay).

But you say, "You're not in it for the Money"; and I'm not. I have never asked a church what they pay (simply accepting what was given to me) and I have never asked a church for a raise; nor do I intend to!! While the Lord uses the Church to pay my salary, I am an employee of God and look to Him to meet my needs; and He always has, and I believe He always will (If I began to look to the Church for my salary then I would begin to preach to please them while now I can preach to please God).

With that background in mind, let me tell you why I picked this particular Sunday to preach on this subject. Friday Morning during my prayer time I reminded the Lord that when I wrote my Tithe check Sunday I would have \$8.59 in our checking account (don't have a Savings Account). I reminded the Lord that I don't have any hobbies that I spend money on, I buy small gas efficient cars instead of nice luxury cars (can't afford payments, taxes, or insurance on big cars), and the only new furniture we have is a bedroom suite that the Church gave us last Christmas. Every new suit I've received in the past 10 years has been a Christmas Present from a Church or a Personal Gift from an individual and I wear my other clothes until they "Shine".

The Lord heard and answered because Friday Afternoon one of the Deacons called wanting time at the end of this service to give the Church an opportunity to vote on giving me a raise. Since they have already decided on the fact and amount of the raise that gives me a chance to bring a message like this without fear of someone thinking I am asking for money. It also allows me to put this message in the Newsletter so that some other Pastors may reap benefits from it.

I've shared enough bad things about my finances so let me share some good things before I get down to Preaching: (1) The Church gave my wife and I over \$800 in July to go to the National Association in Tampa. (2) The Church put a \$5000 dollar garage on the Parsonage this year that I gain almost all the benefit from. (3) I was visiting someone recently and they gave me \$200 to enable me to go to the Doctor. (4) My problem is not starving to death but how to keep from gaining any more weight!

PRINCIPLES IN PAYING YOUR PASTOR:

1. A Prophet that pastors for Profit should not be a Prophet. I Pet 5:2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind. Money should never be a Pastor's Motive.
2. A Pastor who labors in Word and Doctrine should not have to worry about Debt- I Tim 5:17. If he is extravagant and wasteful then he should reap the results of his own carelessness but a Pastor who puts his life into the work should not have to worry about a livelihood. A Pastor who labors in Doctrine should not have to incur Debt!
3. How do you determine what is fair and equitable? II Cor 8:13-15 For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened; But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want; that there may be equality; As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack.
Some Suggestions- Find what you think is the Average Income for the Congregation and pay the Pastor that.
--Average the Deacon's Salaries and pay that (Compare "Apples to Apples". If you use the Deacon's take home pay then make that the Preacher's take home pay. The value of the Parsonage is always used as an excuse to pay a Preacher poorly but remember that he is in fact a "renter" and when he leaves the Church the Parsonage stays!).
--It might even be possible to find the average salary of the other churches of comparable size in your area and use that.
(Whatever criteria you use, the Deacons should have some sort of automatic annual review of the Pastor's Salary each year and make any needed recommendations).
4. Realize that it's wrong to expect God to use others to make up for your unconcern- II Cor 11: 8-9 I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service. And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man; for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied; and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.
5. Accept the fact that the Church will have to answer to God for the way they have dealt with God's servant. I Cor 9:13-14 Do ye not know that they which minister about the holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel. I fear that many Church members will hang their heads in disgrace when God shows them how carelessly they have dealt with his servants. Pastor's "take it" because of their love for God and People and many members seem to think they can do as they please but one day God will expose their actions and attitudes for what they really are.

A Pastor is called on to live where God calls him; be on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; attend social and family functions as a representative of the Church; "raise the dead, comfort the broken hearted, mature the saints"; and then figure out where Cain's wife came from to satisfy someone who wants him to do something in his "spare" time. He is not in a Profession to be Paid but in a Ministry to be honored. The Church can determine to pay him as little as possible while expecting the maximum from him or the Church can determine to lift every burden they can from his shoulders in order that he might do his best in the ministry God has called him to. You must determine if the "Laborer is worthy of his reward".

WRONG WAYS

Jude 11-16

Once while talking with my wife I got on the Wrong side of a 4 lane road and almost wrecked. I was busy explaining to my wife how right I was when I saw a car coming directly for me and realized that excuses will not stop a car!! Jude ends the negative part of his letter with this same admonition- Don't let these false teachers lead you down the wrong road to destruction. He identifies the direction they are taking, the conduct they exhibit, and the character they develop. What we need to see today is that we live in a land that is following false teachers into destruction and we need to beware of them to save ourselves and our families.

I. **THEIR COURSE** vs 11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

A) The WOE of their course- It is a course that will end in death and destruction for themselves and everyone who travels with them.

B) The WAY of their course- Gone, Ran, Perished- All words that indicate a direction of life that affects their destiny. 3 "Religious" failures are listed:

-**THE WAY OF CAIN**- Cain was a "Religious" Man who believed in A God, and in A "Religion" but after his own will. He rejected redemption by the Blood; instead choosing to give God HIS BEST instead of what God Required. He put WORKS OVER THE WORD. Like Multitudes today who when asked if they are saved will point to some work instead of Faith.

He ended up by killing his own brother and then shrugging it off to God with the statement, "Am I my Brother's Keeper?"

-**THE ERROR OF BALAAM**- Balaam put WEALTH OVER THE WORD and ended up corrupting a nation before being killed himself. He wanted to curse Israel for Reward and even when God said "No" he still persisted in seeking some way to make the money. After trying 3 times unsuccessfully to Curse the People he then led in Corrupting them. He felt it was perfectly find to "Profit as a Prophet" (This is not always Money; sometimes it's popularity or applause). Balaam was one who thought it's alright to "Tickle Men's ears" as long as they tithe!

But how many of US put a Check above the Church? Or Compromise our Morals if it means more Money? Preacher and Layman alike need to remember the Love of money is the root of all evil; which while some coveted after, they have earned from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows (I Tim 6:10).

-**THE GAINSAING OF CORE**- Korah put HIS WAY OVER THE WORD by denial of the authority of Moses as God's chosen spokesman; and then tried to replace Aaron as High Priest. These were areas of:

A) Rebellion- All are Holy, why should Moses rule? (Moses' answer, "God will show who is His"). Jude is telling his readers that the men about whom he is warning them will be people of influence and position; they will be men of strength and seeming character.

B) Pride- Why should Aaron be High Priest? Is he any better than we are? (This was when God gave Aaron's Rod that Budded).

Korah & the Rebellious Levitiles were swallowed by the earth. His Followers were destroyed by Fire.

How many of US put what We WANT over the WORD? If one preacher doesn't tell us what we want we'll "Church shop" until we find one that does. We refuse to accept our place in the Body of Christ because we'll never be an "elbow" if someone else is a "Hand".

II. THEIR CONDITION- vs 12-13

A) Spots- Coming from a Greek word meaning "hidden rocks" and thus a danger to the ship by the time they were spotted.

1. Fellowshiping with You- They desire to appear "religious" but there is no Commitment to either Christ or His Work.

2. Fearless in their sin- Hard conscience "Pretenders at the party"!! They are able to listen to the Word of God's pronouncements upon sin and ignore it's application to them.

B) Clouds

1. Without Water- Promise without fulfillment

2. Wind driven- changing directions with the "wind" there is no stability in their life or in their teaching.

C) Trees

1. Withered Fruit- no nourishment. Wasted away

2. Without Fruit- Twice dead! (See John 15: where a branch that did produce fruit and then stopped was cut off and cast into the fire.

D) Waves

1. Raging- destructive "Wild, fierce, untamed"

2. Foaming out Shame- people see results of their untamed spirit in their life.

E) Stars

1. Wandering- without purpose

2. Darkened- without light; or life!

III. THEIR CHARACTER- vs 16 These are some characteristics to look for in the Preachers and Pupils of False Doctrines.

A) Murmurers- One who discontentedly complains (The word used for the "cooing of doves" and as such refers to an undertone instead of an outspoken accusation). When a man gets out of touch with God one of the first things he does is murmur about his master.

B) Complainers- To find fault with their "lot" in life.

C) Selfish- walking after own lusts- Guided by the flesh

D) Mouths speaking great swelling words- pretentious

E) Having men's persons in admiration because of advantage- catering to personalities for sake of advantage.

Jude says "Woe unto them!"- an interjection of denunciation or desolation. Don't let them mislead you. The fastest growing religion in America today is Islam. Cults are sweeping the country. Mainline Denominations are becoming simply social clubs that cater to anything a man wants to do. Find a Church that Preaches and Practices the Truth and stick to it with all your heart.

GRACE & GLORY

Grace Free Will Baptist Church

P O Box 1003 348 Lawrence St

Lake City, S C 29560

Pastor Mike Jones 394-3725

First Worship Service 9:00am

Bible Study Hour 10:00am

Second Worship Service 11:00am

Wednesday Service 7:30pm

Vol VII Num 23 NOV 30, 1989 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, S C

I told the Church that we were not going to allow the world to "steal" Christmas from us this year so we're doing all we can to create a Christmas Attitude and Atmosphere here at Grace.

DECORATIONS: It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas because of the work of the Ladies Auxiliary. They did a marvelous job of decorating the Church during the Thanksgiving season and now they're at it again! Mrs Marjorie McAllister is in Charge and she plans to make our Church one of the most attractive Churches in Lake City during this Christmas season.

Several things will help accomplish this:

Each of the Sunday School Classes is going to decorate their Class Bulletin Board with a Special Christmas Message and Susan Spring and Mary Knight will decorate the bulletin boards in the hall and Fellowship building.

POINSETTIAS: Again this year, many of the Church families are purchasing a Poinsettia to decorate the Church during the Christmas Season (They get to take them home after the Christmas Eve Services). It really helps set the atmosphere.



PROGRAMS: Have we got Christmas Programs this year!! Some for every age and inclination:

Thursday, Dec 21- The Beginners will present "The Christmas Story" (Directed by Hope Frye) and the Juniors will present "Baa Baa Bethlehem" (Directed by Kathy Lewis).

Sunday, Dec 24- The Teens Program (directed by Roxanne Young) will be presented at 9am while the Adult Cantata (directed by Todd Newell and Anne Thigpen) will be present during the 11am Service.

More about all of these later. They're good and I hope you can come see them.

And, of course, there will be

REFRESHMENTS: Doughnuts and Cookies Dec 3, Breakfast Casseroles Dec 10, Grits and Eggs Dec 17, and Finger Food on Dec 24.

But we haven't forgotten the "reason for the Season". All of the **MESSAGES** in December will be about the Meaning and Message of Christ's Birth- Why Mary, Why Bethlehem, Why 400 years after Malachi, etc.

Christmas is going to be **CHRISTMAS** at Grace this year. Hope you can join us.

Preacher Mike

A little Church with a BIG VISION

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THE LORD'S LEADERSHIP

Acts 12:-

This Chapter shows us many things about how God handles some difficult situations. It raises many questions as we confirm again that God's thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my way, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts (Is 55:8-9). Several perplexing questions are raised that have practical applications.

1. Why did God allow James to be killed by Herod and yet delivered Peter?? (Why is one person healed of a disease while it proves fatal to another? Why is one person miraculously delivered from an accident while another dies in a "simple" accident?)
2. Why did God allow the Keepers of the Jail to be killed for something He did (18-19)? (Why is it a sin to lust after a woman when that's part of the physical make up of a man given by God? Why does Sin produce such "Pleasure" and Salvation produce such "Pain"?).
3. Why wasn't Herod killed at the beginning of the chapter instead of the end, when so many other people's lives could have been saved? (Why doesn't God Judge Sin Immediately? Why do the wicked seem to prosper in their wickedness while the Saints struggles to survive?).
4. Why did God wait until the night before Peter was to be executed to deliver him? (6) (Why does God put such a premium on Patience? Why do we spend so much time "waiting and worrying" when God already knows what the outcome will be?).
5. Why did the angel have to "Smote" (To give a blow with the hand or fist) Peter to awaken him? (7) (Sometimes I wonder if God couldn't get my attention a little easier than He does!)

Notice how God led Peter:

A) He sent someone to help him- We look for "Miracles" instead of men.

B) He gave detailed instruction to Peter

a. Arise up quickly--vs 7

b. Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals-- vs 8

c. Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me-- vs 8

C) God delivered him in spite of the "Unbelief" of Peter (9) and the Praying Church (15-16).

D) The Angel led Peter until he thought Peter could find his own way and then he left him (10).

E) Peter then went to John Mark's house after he "Considered" what to do (12)

F) After talking with the Church, Peter felt it safer to move to another unnamed place; AFTER HE HAD JUST BEEN DELIVERED FROM JAIL!

Note the Effect of all this

- vs 24 "The Word of God grew and Multiplied"

- vs 25 John Mark went with Barnabas and Paul to Antioch (Where he would eventually go with them on their missionary journey, turn back, cause the dissolution of the Barnabas-Paul team, and finally be recognized as helpful to the ministry by Paul just before he died).

If you are questioning "WHY" God is doing things the way He is today then realize afresh that HE IS GOD and MAKES NO MISTAKES.

If you are in a Difficult situation and think there is no hope; you need to realize that God has a Way out for you. Look for His leadership and ACCEPT HIS WAY.

Thank God For What He Hasn't Done

There are "Standout Moments" in everyone's life. One of these moments happened to me when I was a young boy helping put tin on a new shed Dad was building. Dad ran out of nails and sent me down to get some. As I was returning up the ladder the piece of tin Dad was about to nail slipped and when I stuck my head up over the edge the tin was bearing down on me. I "bobbed" right back down and the tin rubbed the top of my head as it went by. Had I been a half second slower in ducking my head I would have been killed or seriously cut by the tin. That's one time I Thank God for something that didn't happen to me!!

An "Anonymous" writer pinned a poem that described similar feelings

We thank you, Father, for the Care that did not come to try us,
The burden that we did not bear, the trouble that passed by us,
The task we did not fail to do, The hurts we did not cherish,
The friend who did not prove untrue, The Joy that did not perish.
We thank You for the dart unsped, the bitter word unspoken,
The Grave unmade, the tear unshed, the heart-tie still unbroken

During the Thanksgiving Season we generally try to make time to Thank God for all the things He has done for us. We will have such a time during our annual PRAISE SERVICE on the Wednesday Night before Thanksgiving; and it is generally one of the best services of the year. But I want us today to look at the other side of the coin; and see some of the things God HASN'T DONE for us and see why we should be Thankful for those things.

I. I Thank God He does NOT Love me Less When My Circumstances Change
Rom 8:35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 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 through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We must develop the Proper Attitude toward our Problems- Matthew Henry wrote in his diary one day after being robbed, "Let me be thankful first because I was never robbed before; second, although they took my wallet, 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." This is the kind of attitude that Thanksgiving is all about; Thanksgiving comes not from what you have in your pocket but from what you have in your Heart!

I believe that God HAS the answer and God IS the Answer to every problem I have. He may not lessen the pain, or even change the problem, but I can always come back to the focal point of His Love for me and find strength to endure and guidance to prevail.

We must develop the Proper Perspective of our Situation- I thank God at Thanksgiving I'm not a Turkey!! We develop "TUNNEL VISION" instead of TRUSTFUL VISION and see only the Problem instead of our Part in the Plan of God. This brings about Doubt, Despair, and Discouragement instead of Prayer, Praise, and Participation.
I THANK GOD HE DOESN'T CHANGE EVEN IF CIRCUMSTANCE DO.

II. I Thank God He has NOT Given Us the Spirit of Fear--II Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

A) I don't fear my Salvation- I am in the Hand of God (Jn 10:28) and, although I can Walk out on my own, there is no power in Heaven or Earth that can force me out. God attempts to correct my mistakes and He chastens my sins; but my Salvation standing with Him rests, not in my ability or lack thereof, but in the sinless sacrifice of Christ.

B) I don't fear to Serve God- The "One Talented" man in Matt 25 said he was afraid so he went and hid his talent. Many Christians today are doing the same thing. They seem to fear criticism for Doing something above Condemnation for not using their ability!! The body of Christ today is "crippled" by people more concerned with Pride than Performance. I'd rather make a mistake for God than be Perfect for the devil!!!.

III. I Thank God He Hath NOT Dealt With me According to my Sins- Psalms 103:10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

A. Dealt with Jesus instead.- Isaiah 53:5-6 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

B. An Act of Pure Grace- Eph 2:8,7 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

If God would have given me Justice Hell would have been my home. I thank God for His Grace and His Mercy. If God would have saved me and made me an abject slave I still would have needed to Praise Him every day; But God not only saved me, He made me a Child of God with an inheritance in Heaven. Praise the Lord!

IV. I Thank God He Hath NOT Appointed Us To Wrath--I Thessalonians 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

The Wrath spoken of here is the Wrath of God that will come upon a Christ rejecting world during the Tribulation. God will "Snatch us" (Rapture) away from this coming destruction. When I read in Revelation about giant Hail stones, water turning to blood, men seeking death and not finding it, and all the other tribulation that will come on a Christ rejecting world I'm more thankful than ever that I'm sheltered in the "ROCK" Jesus.

I'm Thankful (1) God's Love Doesn't Change, (2) God has not given me the spirit of fear, (3) God has not dealt with me as my sins deserved, and (4) God has promised I wouldn't be partaker of the wrath to come. No wonder I enjoy Thanksgiving so much!

How about YOU?? Do you Fear Life because you have rejected His Lordship and Leadership in order to live like you want. Do you fear Death because you have rejected the Salvation given in His Son and as a result are Troubled instead of Thankful?? God's "Thanksgiving Feast" is ready. He's waiting on you to accept His invitation.

CLOSED DOORS

Rev 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it:

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

One of the things I have had to get used to in recent years is locked doors!! For years and years I unlocked the door to the parsonage when I went to the Church first thing in the morning and then locked it again as we went to bed at night. Now it must remain locked most of the time and it's difficult for me to get used to it (I still bang into it regularly!). That same type situation exist in our Christian lives. God has doors that are opened for us and we can freely go and come; and then for some reason the door must be closed. I want us today to look at some of the open doors God has and WALK THRU THEM, and then see some of the doors God has closed and LEARN FROM THEM.

I> THE DOORS GOD OPENED

A) The Door of Access to God- The Door to the Holy of Holies (Where the Glory of God dwelt) was closed until Christ died on the Cross. Then God tore it in two; from top to bottom, to show us that God will make a way for man to fellowship with Him.

B) The Door of Resurrection- Matt 28:2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. The door to the Tomb was closed and sealed and, yet, God brought Jesus forth. Then God commanded the Angel to open the Door. The door was not opened to let Jesus out but to allow men to see that he had conquered death. Death is our greatest enemy; if Christ can conquer that then there is no problem He can't conquer.

C) The Door of Service- I Cor 16:9 For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.

1. Satisfying Service- Ps 84:10 For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand, I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

2. God has the ability to open doors that you thought were impossible to open (But you must use be willing to walk thru when God opens the door). I have seen God open Doors to free Radio time, Free Newspaper time, and a multitude of ministries. "Doors" are not a problem for a Doer!

God has opened the Door to His Presence, shown his Power to overcome any of our Problems, and lets us know that He can open any door to help us be Productive. The Doors are Open; but they do no good unless you're willing to go thru them.

II. THE DOORS GOD SHUT

A) The Door of Service- Doors of opportunity can change to "trap doors" when misused- Bakker. How many Christians have an opportunity to do something great for God and allow the door to close; never to reopen!

B) The Door of Speaking- Ps 141:3 Door of lips- Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips. May we allow God to Shut the door of our lips when Gossip would come out and open them wide when the Gospel would come forth.

C) The Door of Supplication- Matt 6:6 The Door to your Prayer Closet is supposed to be shut. When you start praying to impress men then God begins to tune you out (But, Remember, God is willing to open this door to someone who will consistently knock on it- Matt 7:7).

D) The Door of Salvation- The door to the ark shows us that God's Patiences will finally come to an end when we ignore His warnings. When Noah, his family, and the animals finally were aboard the ark the LORD shut the door and noone could open it. No man can come to the Father unless the Spirit draw him. What an awful thing it would be to have God close that door and send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie; that they all might be damned who believed not the truth; but had pleasure in unrighteousness (II Thess 2:11-12).

E) The door of Spiritlessness- The door was closed to the virgins without oil (Matt 25). This shows us God won't let us in even if we look good but aren't born again. It's not our outward look but our inward heart that produces the light for God to see.

John 10:9 I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

Jesus Stands at the closed door of your heart and asks to come in. The door to the Ladiocean church with Christ outside shows us that we must let Christ in if we are to be saved. Will you open to Him today??

GRACE And GLORY

Grace Free Will Baptist Church
A Little Church with a BIG Vision.
 First Worship Service 9:00am
 Bible Study Hour 10:00am
 Second Worship Service (WJOT) 11:00am
 Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm
Pastor Michael Jones
394-3725



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What a GREAT CHRISTMAS SEASON so far!! The Lord has really been good to us as we prepare to celebrate the Birthday of His Son. What a wonderful thing to go to someone else's Birthday Party and you get the gifts!!

NEW MEMBERS: We are very happy to WELCOME into the Fellowship of the Church- O.Z. and Leila Thrasher; Sammy, Kay, Russel, and Sammy, Jr. Matthews; and Janice Runion and Debbie Mack. We are glad they decided to become a part of the growing family here at Grace and we look forward to them doing a great work for the Lord here.

CHRISTMAS GIFT- The Church really surprised Paula and I this past Sunday. At the end of the service they presented us a check for \$1300 for a Christmas Present!!! We had no idea they were collecting it (The Church gave \$500 and members contributed the rest) and it left the Pastor speechless (Which was a miracle in itself!).

I had no idea they were doing this so on the same day they collected this Christmas present I had scheduled a special offering for one of our sick members (We received \$738 for the Dennis Lowder Family) and our normal offering for the day was over \$700!! Sometimes I just have to marvel at the sacrifices my members are willing to make.

And, Just Think, they're still over a week left until Christmas! I hope you can join us for these **SPECIAL SERVICES:**



Sunday, Dec 17: Grits and Eggs Breakfast following First Service.

Thursday, Dec 21: Primary and Junior Christmas Play (7:30pm).

Sunday, Dec 24:

9am- Teen Christmas Play (Finger Food Fellowship after).

11am- Adult Cantata (We will also receive our annual "White Christmas" Offering on this day. This offering goes to help with any building projects the Church needs during the year- As an example, we had EVERY parking space at the Church filled Sunday and several cars had to park on the grass. Due to the rain, they became stuck and had to be assisted out. We're looking at paving the rest of our land on Lawrence St. to provide additional parking).

Sunday, Dec 31 "Watch Nite Service" (7-9pm) Special Singers (Asaro Family from Darlington) and a Soup Supper to follow the service.

Merry Christmas Paula and I wish each and every one of you the best Christmas ever. I can hardly wait for 1990 and see what the Lord has for us. Hope you'll get the chance to share it with us here at Grace.

Grace Free Will Baptist Church
P O Box 1003 Lake City, S C 29560

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MARY'S MOTHER

Was she dead?? Was she uncaring and unconcerned? Or was she one of the "unsung multitude" that watch friends or family become famous while they labor in obscurity? We really have no way of knowing because the Scriptures are completely silent on the subject of Mary's Mother. We don't know her name, her family background, or anything about her character (In case you're interested, we also know nothing about Mary's Father except his name (Heli) and that only because Luke lists the genealogy of Mary when Jesus began his ministry).

Whatever the reasons, we do know that when Mary was told by the angel that she would be the mother of the Christ child she immediately went to see her cousin Elisabeth with the good news instead of going to tell her mother. And when these two mothers-to-be of divinely predicted children met the baby leap in the womb of Elisabeth and she was filled with the Holy Ghost while Mary uttered her marvelous Magnificat.

We don't know about Mary's Mother but we do know that God always provides Friends or Family for those who do His work (Mark 10:28-30). If God has called you to a difficult task this Christmas season remember that even if family forsakes you, God doesn't. Somewhere there's an "Elisabeth" that shares your Hurt and your Heart.

JOSEPH, THE FATHER

One of the most forgotten figures of the Christmas Story is Joseph. Ask almost anyone about the Christmas story and they will tell you about Mary, the Shepherds, the Wise Men, and the Angels but seldom, if ever, will they remember to mention Joseph. Yet, this "forgotten Hero" played a tremendously important part in the early years of Jesus (He evidently died between the time Jesus was 12 and 30 because nothing is said of him during Jesus' Ministry).

He didn't have an easy marriage. He knew the pain of being a "social outcast"- While he and Mary knew that Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit, the small town of Nazareth was a buzz with gossip. He knew what it meant to face unemployment and homelessness since he had to leave his job in Nazareth just before Jesus was born and move to Bethlehem. He could not find lodging there so Jesus had to be born in a Stable- away from family and doctors and help (I can almost see Mary's face as she looked up from the pain of birth to see Joseph wrapping her new born son in the clothes used to wipe down animals!).

Several years later, when Joseph was finally getting back on his feet, he again had to make a sudden move to escape Herod's sword. So he and Mary had been married several years before he could return to Nazareth and live a "normal" life. There he instilled in Jesus the religious principles a Jewish father was commanded to teach his child (Carried him to the temple each year and instilled a "habit" of church attendance in him (Lu 4:16)). This meant that when Jesus began his ministry he was well instructed in the Word of God so he could withstand Satan's temptations as well as the wiles of the Pharisees.

Joseph raised a big family (5 boys and some girls- Matt 13:54-56) on a small town carpenter's salary so he knew how to "make ends meet". He also knew about family disputes (none of Jesus' brothers believed on him until after his Resurrection). But through it all Joseph shows us that God can take ordinary people and use them in extraordinary ways if they will simply put themselves at God's disposal. Remember Joseph this Christmas.

SAINTS AND SINNERS

JUD 1:22-23 And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Jude has been detailing the unrighteous Beliefs and Behavior of those who were attempting to destroy the "Faith" of the Church. He has shown how dangerous such a system of belief is and warned the people about being taken in by it. He then gave some exhortations to the people to help their own Christian Growth. Now he wants to end his letter by showing how to deal with Saints that have fallen and Sinners who have never accepted Christ as saviour.

I. FAITHFULLY DEAL WITH SOME: (This would be Christian Brothers who are being, or have been, led astray by False doctrine)

A) Have Compassion- Show Love. Paul told the Corinthians that "Knowledge Puffs up but Love Builds up". We can allow our Pride in our "superior Knowledge" to destroy those who we say we love but when we do so we must remember I Cor 8:13 But when ye sin so against thy brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.

What does Love do? 1) Love calls for Commitment

2) Love Chastens in order to produce Fruitfulness.

B) Make a Difference = "Who are in Doubt". These False Doctrines had caused these Christians to begin to Doubt God's Word and God's Way. They were at a serious cross road in their life- one way would take them into the "wilderness of sin" to wander and die; the other way would take them to the promised land with the Lord. How can we "make a Difference" in their doubts?? (We must learn to distinguish between the False Teachers who were deliberating leading wrong and the "Followers". We are not to cast our "pearls before swine" but we are to attempt to enlighten those whose eyes are growing dim with doubts).

1. Restore the Authority of the Bible-Faith comes from hearing the word of God.

a. They had begun to put the Teacher above the "Teachings" of the Bible and, as a result, Differing Doctrines produced doubt in their life. (You can't build if the foundation is unstable).

b. Sin keeps us from the word or the word keeps us from sin! Notice that these false teachers were pushing "Liberty" to sin as the flesh desired. When you dig up the "plant" of doubt you'll find sin as it's tap root!!

2. Renew their Dedication to the Lord and His Service-They had to be brought back to the path of Faith and Faithfulness. It's not enough to expose the problem. Corrective action must be taken. REPENTANCE over the wrong Road they have taken; REDEDICATION to the Lord's Will and Way; and a RETURN to their work in the Body of Christ

II. FEAR DEALING WITH SOME: (This is Sinners who are falling into the Fire of Hell)

A) Fear of their Destruction- We must hate the sin but love the sinner! Hell is Hot and Long. We are Watchmen to warn of the wrath to come. EVERY PERSON who does not accept Christ as Saviour will be condemned. We must have CONCERN if they are to be Converted.

B) Fear of their Contamination- "Garments spotted with flesh"

1. They may contaminate us if we "get in the ditch" with them.

2. They may destroy others as well as themselves if they continue in their sins (Drug dealers, Assaults, etc).

Do you have compassion for those who are being led astray?

Do you Warn and Witness to the Lost?

Have you trusted Christ as your personal Saviour??

GOD'S ABILITY AND ADORATION

Jude closes his book by showing that there is no reason to turn from God; He has the ability to keep you and He is worthy of all our Adoration. You don't need a new Doctrine; you need a new Devotion to God!

I. GOD'S ABILITY- JUD 1:24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

A) To Prevent Falling ("Sure-footed" "Without Stumbling")

1. Because we're His Possession- Ps 4:3 the Lord hath set apart him that is godly for himself:

2. Because we're Prized by God- Zech 2:8 he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.

3. Because we're Protected by God- II Pet 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; The word Peculiar here means "encircled" or "Surrounded" and shows how God protects us from being overcome by Temptations (I 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 to escape, that ye may be able to bear it,) and Trials (I Pet 1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:)

Remember the young boy walking on the icy path with his father. As long as he held his father's hand he was alright but as soon as he let go he would fall. In the same way, when we try to "hold out" on our own we end up falling flat on our face. We don't HOLD OUT; we HOLD ON!!

B) To Present Faultless ("Without any shortcoming")

1. Because of God's Provision- the Blood; Not Effort or Enlightenment. Our standing before Him is not based on our "smartness" or our Strength but on His Sacrifice!

2. Because of God's Power: The Holy Spirit that makes our body His temple will guide us, convict us of sin, and empower us for service.

II. GOD'S ADORATION- JUD 1:25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. We are to adore God:

A) As God and as Saviour- Only HE could be our Saviour

B) As King of Kings- Glory and Majesty

C) As Lord of Lords- Dominion and Power

D) As Eternal God- BOTH now and ever.

This Adoration will show itself in a Dedicated life and a Holy Life. You show God He is worthy of your Service by Serving Him. You show God you Love Him by keeping His Commandments (Jn 14:15).

Are you Trusting in God's Ability to Keep you? Are you Actively Adoring Him with your Service?

KNOWING CHRIST

We have been talking about the necessity of Fruit in the life of a Christian. The Primary requirement of bearing Fruit is Abiding in the Vine. We abide in the Vine as we Obey and we are motivated to Obey because we Love. Now the question is, "How do we Love Him enough to keep His commandments"? How do we keep the Lure of the World and the Lust of the Flesh from cooling our Love and killing our Fruit??

Listen to a simple illustration. You sit through the 6 o'clock news and listen to stories about death and destruction with little or no emotion; but what if it were YOUR family member they were talking about!! The difference is in the fact that you KNOW them. In the same way we Love the Lord more and more as we get to Know Him.

1. We Know Him first in Salvation: Jn 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. We are Sinners and He is our Saviour.

2. We Know Him better in Service: John 15:15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth; but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Working with Him we learn about Him until we build a real relationship.

3. We Know Him Best in Sacrifice: When you read about someone you have a Second Hand knowledge of them. When you spend time with someone you have a First Hand Knowledge of them. When you share pain with someone you have a FIRST HEART Knowledge of them! Paul was willing to give up anything and make any sacrifice to gain this intimate knowledge- Phil 3:8-10 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

The Better we know Him the more like him we become (Conformed to his image). People who live together develop similar interest, language, and values (Example of Husband and wife becoming alike). The amazing thing is that we imitate Him and yet remain Individuals; our individual personality is conformed to Christ while remaining "Me". There are no "robot" or assembly line Christians.

HOW CAN WE GET TO KNOW HIM?

I can know Him Photographically thru the Scriptures:

A) The Gospels give an outline- Matthew shows Him as King, Mark shows Him as Servant, Luke shows Him as Man, John shows Him as God. Beware of only learning about Him as King when the greatest of all shall be servant of all. Beware of thinking of Him as an abstract God and forgetting he wept at a friends tomb and prayed about everything.

B) The writers also give Him a unique Character- tough on "religious" sin (money changers, Pharisees- serpents, how shall ye escape damnation of hell?); willing to associate with sinners in order to win them (The Well don't need a physician but the sick); concerned about the outcast (lepers and Samaritan woman) and the young (Suffer little children to come unto me); hard on "would be" disciples (take up cross and follow me, let dead bury dead). He was not little Jesus, Meek and Mild, always; nor was He a "goody two shoes". He was without sin but seldom without controversy.

I Can Know Him Professionally thru Salvation (Bought me off slave market of sin). Most People consider Salvation a Commitment and/or a contract. They will accept God's forgiveness for sin and in return they will serve God (to some degree) on earth in order to miss Hell and gain Heaven. Because they're "Christians" they stop certain things (Drinking, cussing, etc) and begin certain things (Church attendance, Bible reading (hit or miss), and Prayer (especially in time of trouble or need)).

I can Know Him Personally thru Suffering- Phil 3:10 Paul prayed to know Christ PERSONALLY, POWERFULLY, and PAINFULLY. We learn as Christians that if there are No new Troubles there are no new Testimonies. This causes us to allow Suffering and Circumstances to develop us instead of destroy us.

A) Beware of second Hand Relationships- Knowing about Christ but not building a Relationship. Learning about Him as a "historical Figure" instead of developing a relationship with the king of our lives and the Groom we will soon "marry". Don't allow Church to turn into a "Form". Keep in mind that when 2 or 3 are gathered together in His name He's in the midst to reveal himself. Look for Him!

B) Spend time with Him in Devotions. These intimate quiet times are vital in building a proper relationship. It's interesting to note that the Bible says Adam KNEW his wife and fruit was produced. The Bible pre-supposes this same type of relationship between Christ and the Church when it commands Husbands to love their wives even as Christ loved the Church (Ep 5:25).

The more we know Him the more we Love Him, The more we love Him the more we obey Him, the more we obey Him, the more we abide in Him, the more we abide in Him, the more we bear fruit, and the more we bear Fruit the more we live.