

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 Mircheal Jones
394-3725



Vol VIII Num 1 Jan 4, 1990 348 Lawrence ST Lake City, S C 29560

We sure did have a good Christmas this year. The Primary/Junior Play on Thursday Night before Christmas was GREAT. Mrs Hope got all her Primary kids to sit still during their play (And you don't believe in miracles!), Mrs Kathy got the Junior sheep to act just like humans, and Mrs Connie got the Junior Choir to sing like an adult Choir. The Church was completely full and I thought everyone connected with the play did an excellent job.

Things were a little bit more difficult for the Teens and Adults. We had the first White Christmas I ever remember seeing and it looked bad but (even though we had to start an hour later) Mrs Roxanne got the Teen to act so natural in presenting their play and the Adult Choir was completely full for the cantata. We had the best spirit and singing you could imagine and I praise the Lord for the ability and dedication of our people. Not only did they have to combat snowy roads but some of them had just lost a loved one and still they came and brought Glory to God. And to put the "Cherry on Top" our WHITE CHRISTMAS OFFERING WAS \$3859.34!!! Thank God for the work and dedication of our people.

We also enjoyed our "Watch Night" service with the Asaro Family of Darlington. The Music was wonderful and everyone seemed to really enjoy the Soup Supper that followed the services. (All of our Christmas and New years services are available on Video Cassette if you would like to share the Blessings with us).

As you will see from the Financial Statement on the following page, the Lord really Blessed this Outreach Ministry last year. The more we expand the more it cost but God continues to meet every need and I praise HIM for all He's done. (Just today someone picked up several of the Videos of our services to share in a Nursing Home; and I was talking to a friend at the Hospital about possibly greatly expanding our computer contacts). I believe this year will see us expand as never before; pray with me about that.

I appreciate several MEMORIALS that allowed us to get some things we needed in this new year. These were given in Memory of Dennis Lowder by Don and Kathy Lewis and Jack and Wilma Caskins. We thank them for these living memorials.

In Memoriam

I pray God will give you and yours the best year of service for him you have ever had. And I hope he comes back in 1990!!

Preacher Mike

WELCOME

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

Nonprofit Organization
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1989 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

GRACE & GLORY OUTREACH MINISTRY

	INCOME:	EXPENSE:
Balance 12-13-88	\$ 317.17	
January.....	991.66-----	\$ 782.94
February.....	516.25-----	452.19
March.....	302.37-----	766.38
April.....	411.75-----	81.80
May.....	421.18-----	233.53
June.....	551.20-----	631.00
July.....	596.27-----	486.42
August.....	487.76-----	910.62
September.....	854.11-----	290.08
October.....	456.21-----	573.13
November.....	707.91-----	1036.62
December.....	630.84-----	890.06
TOTAL	\$ 7244.68	\$ 7134.77

Balance 12-13-88.....\$ 317.17
 Income for 1989.....\$6927.51
 TOTAL TO ACCOUNT FOR-- \$7244.68
 Expense for 1989.....\$7134.77
 BALANCE 12-26-89-----\$ 109.91

BREAKDOWN OF EXPENSES:

Postage-----\$1290.72
 Paper/Supplies-----\$ 975.85
 Help Needy-----\$ 807.13
 Audio Tapes-----\$ 761.11
 Video Ministry-----\$ 990.43
 Booklets/tracts-----\$ 511.57
 Computer/Programs-----\$1620.10
 Grace Bible Institute-\$ 130.65
 Office Pot for Church-\$ 47.21 (Designated Money)
 TOTAL- - - - - \$7134.77



THANKS to everyone who helped make this the best financial year we have ever had. 57 individuals or families (from 6 different states) contributed during the year. Hundreds of Tapes and Videos, many Bible Study Booklets, and thousands of Newsletters were distributed.

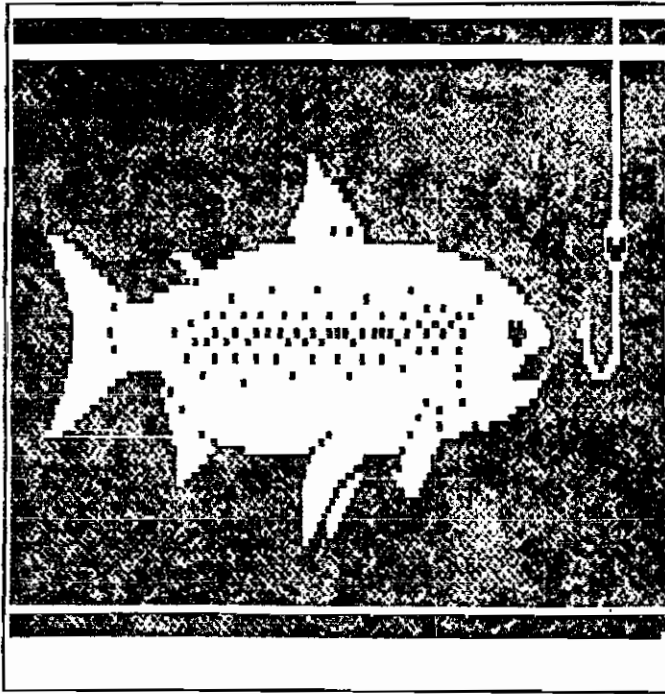
I am beginning to see the "Fruit" from the ministry in the people here at the Church, in the number of people who contact me for help and information, and in the number of other ministers who are beginning Bible Study Ministries like this one. That "Fruit" belongs in a large part to those of you who Pray FOR and contribute TO this ministry. I realize that I'm just a "pipeline" to share what God has given me with those in need. Thanks for helping me buy "pipe"!!

There is still a tremendous amount of work to be done for the Lord and I trust you will continue to Pray that God would give me strength and wisdom to do it effectively for HIS Glory. I'm looking to do more for the Lord in 1990 than we ever have before.

THANKS,

Preacher Mike Psalm 16:11

PARABLE OF FISHLESS FISHERMEN



Now it came to pass that a group existed who called themselves fishermen. And lo, there were many fish in the waters all around. In fact the whole area was surrounded by streams and lakes filled with fish. And the fish were hungry.

Week after week, month after month, and year after year these who called themselves fishermen met in meetings, talked about their call of fish, the abundance of fish, and how they might go about fishing. The plea was that everyone should be a fisherman and every fisherman should fish. One thing they did not do; they did not fish.

In addition to meeting regularly, they organized a board to send out fishermen to other places where there were many fish. The board hired staffs and

appointed committees and held many meetings to define fishing, to defend fishing, and to decide what new streams should be thought about. But the staff and committee members did not fish.

Large, elaborate, and expensive training centers were built whose original and primary purpose was to teach fishermen how to fish. They only taught fishing. Year after year, after tedious training, many were graduated and were given fishing licenses. They were sent to do full-time fishing, some to distant waters which were filled with fish. But like the fishermen back home they never fished. Like the fishermen back home they engaged in all kinds of other occupations.

After one stirring meeting on "The Necessity for Fishing," one young fellow left the meeting and went fishing. The next day he reported he had caught two outstanding fish. He was honored for his excellent catch and scheduled to visit all the big meetings possible to tell how he did it. So he stopped his fishing in order to have time to tell about the experience to the other fishermen.

Now it is true that many of the fishermen sacrificed and put up with all kinds of difficulties. Some lived near the water and bore the smell of dead fish every day. They received the ridicule of some who made fun of their fishermen's clubs and the fact that they claimed to be fishermen yet never fished. They wondered about those who felt it was of little use to attend the weekly meetings to talk about fishing. After all, were they not following the Master who said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Imagine how hurt some were when one day a person suggested that those who did not catch fish were really not fishermen, no matter how much they claimed to be. Yet it did sound correct. Is a person a fisherman if he never catches a fish? Is one following if he is not fishing?

Refreshments for 1990

We have light refreshments between the 9am Service and Sunday School (9:55-10:10). I appreciate the following ladies who "volunteered" to do this for the next 4 months.

Jan 7---Paula Jones & Leila Thrasher
Jan 14---Eulalia Jordan & Johanna Lowder
Jan 21---Devonne Hanna & Anne McKnight
Jan 28---Connie Mathis & Mary Knight
Feb 4---Sylvia Gowdy & Donna Sullivan
Feb 11---Miriam McAllister & Kay Matthews
Feb 18---Hope Frye & Billie Ard
Feb 25---Althea Coker & DeBe Miles
Mar 4---Kathy Lewis & Bonnie Lee
Mar 11---MISSION DAY (Dinner on Grounds) (Rev Norwood Gibson)
Mar 18---Susan Spring & Robin Matthews
Mar 25---Marjorie McAllister & Betty Lou Thompson
Apr 1---(Time Change) Jenene Brown & Janice Runion
Apr 8---Jackie Lowder & Mary Wilkes
Apr 15---EASTER BREAKFAST (Men Cook) (Following Sunrise Service)
Apr 22---Dot Sullivan & Anne Thigpen
Apr 29---Roxanne Young & Camala Newell

DIARY OF A BIBLE

JANUARY: A busy time for me. Most of the family decided to read me through this year. They kept me busy for the first two weeks. They have forgotten me now.

FEBRUARY: My owner used me for a few minutes last week. He had been in an argument and was looking up some references.

MARCH: Grandpa visited us. He kept me in his lap for an hour reading I Cor.13.

APRIL: I had one busy day. My owner was appointed leader of something and used me. I got to go to church services for the first time this year, Easter Sunday.

MAY: I have a few green stains on my pages. Had some early spring flowers pressed in me.

JUNE: I look like a scrap book. They have stuffed me full of clippings from the newspaper. One of the girls got married.

JULY: They put me in a suitcase today. I guess we are off on a vacation. I wish I could stay at home, since I will probably have to stay in this thing for a month.

AUGUST: Still in the suitcase.

SEPTEMBER: Back home again and in my old place. Have a lot of company. Two "True Stories" and four "funny books" are on top of me. I wish I could be read as much as they are.

OCTOBER: They used me a little today. One of them is very sick. Right now I am shined up and in the center of the table. I guess the preacher is coming.

NOVEMBER: Back in my old place.

DECEMBER: They are getting ready for Christmas, so I guess I'll be used as part of the decorations again.

IF YOUR BIBLE'S DIARY WERE PUBLISHED, WHAT WOULD ITS STORY BE?

PAUL'S CREDENTIALS:

The Book of Romans is one of the most important books in the New Testament. It was the book that led Martin Luther to begin the Protestant Reformation; and it was Martin Luther's commentary on Romans that was being read when John Wesley's Heart was "strangely warmed" by the spirit of God (thus beginning the great Wesleyan Revivals; from which sprang the Methodist Church). We want this year to be a year of "reformation" and Revival and I can't think of a better way to accomplish that than with a detailed study of this book.

Romans is different from most of the other books of the New Testament because it was written to people that Paul did not as yet know personally. Paul's other Epistles were written to answer questions or encourage people; Romans was written to explain Paul's Basic Beliefs to the Church at Rome in order to establish Paul's credibility with an established Church (Paul normally ministered in a missionary context; establishing a Church from the "ground" up).

God used this Treatise of Basic Beliefs to show the church at Rome (And all other churches) how a sinful man can have relationship and fellowship with a righteous God, why such righteousness is necessary, and then what man should do when he accepts God's righteousness.

Doctrine is not "delightful" to most people and this study will not carry most of the excitement and anticipation of our recent Revelation Study but you must always keep in mind that "WHAT YOU BELIEVE DETERMINES WHAT YOU DO". Doctrine produces Faith (Faith come by hearing the word of God) and it is by Doctrine that Faith can be: (1) Defined, (2) Defensed, (3) Distributed, and (4) Demonstrated.

If Doctrine is this important (and it is!) then you must have confidence in the person presenting it. Paul realized this so he begins this important letter with his Credentials. Today most of us accept Paul's authority without question but he needed to establish himself with the Church at Rome. In the same way today, Christians must establish their credentials to those around them. Let's examine the things Paul used for credentials and see if we accent the same things. ROM 1:1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

HIS CREDENTIALS CONCERNING:

A) Relationship to His Saviour- A Servant. Note that Paul could have used the credentials he gave in Phil 3:4-7 but instead he called himself a Servant. He didn't talk about his education or even the fact that he was a veteran missionary; he used the attitude of Christ- "The greatest of all shall be servant of all".

Do YOU consider yourself a Servant of God; or do you look for God to serve you!

A Servant must:

1. Have A single Master- Luke 16:13 No servant 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. Ye cannot serve God and Mammon.
2. Be realistic about Rewards- Luke 17:7-10 vs 10 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.
3. Be willing to work without oversight; knowing the master will return one day to examine your work- Luke 12:43-44

B) Relationship to the Church- Called to be an Apostle. An Apostle was "one who was sent by authority with a commission". Paul was specifically called by Christ on the Damascus Road to carry the Gospel to the Jews first and then to the Gentiles.

While we are not called to be Apostles today, every Christian is given a Gift FOR and Place IN the body of Christ. As we learn WHERE and HOW God wants us to work in the Church we change from spectators into participators and life become abundant with Peace and Purpose; and then we have a testimony the world will listen to!!

C) Relationship to his Job- separated unto the Gospel of God.

A Christian is Separated FROM the World in His relationship with Christ and he is to be Separated TO a task. Separation FROM produces RELATIONSHIP but Separation TO produces FELLOWSHIP. Far too many Christians measure their standing with Christ in terms of what they don't do instead of in terms of what they have become in Christ.

If you have Salvation without Separation you have influence without power, movement without achievement; you may try, but not trust; serve, but not succeed; war, but not win. Without separation unto God from sin, your whole Christian life will be "wood, hay, and stubble".

When the world demands to see your "credentials" (and they do every day!) do you produce some "phony badge of flesh" or do you show them Christ in your Attitudes and Actions. I can't think of a better way to begin this year than with a determination to be the kind of Christian God would have you be; one that will please God and show a lost world the wonder of Salvation in Christ.

ROMANS

I. THE DOCTRINAL SECTION 1-8

- A) The Doctrine of Sin 1:1-3:20
- B) The Doctrine of Justification 3:21- 5:21
- C) The Doctrine of Sanctification 6:1-8:39

II. THE DISPENSATIONAL SECTION 9-11

- A) Israel, It's past 9
- B) Israel, It's Present 10
- C) Israel, It's Future 11

III. THE DUTY SECTION 12-16

- A) Duty in Service 12:1 - 13:14
- B) Duty Concerning Disputed Issues 14:1-15:13
- C) Duty of Paul 15:14- 16:27

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394-3725

Vol VIII NUM 2 JAN 18, 1990

348 Lawrence St, Lake City, S C 29560

I think what we did was decide to let everyone get sick in January and get it "off our minds" so we wouldn't have to worry about it the rest of the year!! If we did, we sure did a good job; so the rest of the year should be virtually "sick free".

Now we can get on to making this the best year of service for the Lord we've ever had.

We began this year studying in the book of Romans and I hope to spend a great deal of the year in this vitally important book. I plan to incorporate a study of the major Doctrines of the Bible in with this book of "Doctrine" so that our Church will begin this decade of Service for the Lord on a Faithful Foundation. I stress that **WHAT YOU BELIEVE DETERMINES WHAT YOU DO** and I want our Church to Believe Right and Do right. Hope you will plan to be with us as much as possible this year so you can get this foundation in your life also.

It's been a busy busy week for me so far. I have written 2 sermons for the Florence Morning News, my weekly sermon for the Lake City News and Post, and this newsletter; in addition to the normal 3 sermons and a Sunday School Lesson I prepare. Add to this the normal letters I have to write for the Church and Outreach ministry, the contacts about bids on our parking lot extension, and the determination of tax

information for last year's W-2 forms for the Church (We now have 4 "employees"- Pastor, Cleaning Lady, Piano Player, and Organist) and it keeps me busy (Don't know what I'd do without my computer).

Then there is the copying of video and audio cassettes of Sunday's Services, as well as the audio cassettes of the Sunday School lessons. Church supplies must be bought and Church activities must be planned. Hospitals must be visited and weddings must take place (I've got one this week that started out with 5 people and looks like it will end up with 105!!).

There are also Personal Problems, Family Problems, and Job Problems that people need help with each week. One thing about being a Pastor, It's never dull!

I am happy to acknowledge MEMORIAL GIFTS to the Outreach Ministry given by Mrs Eris Jones in memory of Mimmie Grimes and Nora Brown. I was very low on Video Cassettes and these allowed me to purchase and distribute some more.

Thank you!

I also appreciate Brother Sully Sullivan for devising a plan that enables us to contact all our members each week by phone and share a Church Bulletin board with them.

Great People come to Grace Church. Hope to see you Sunday.

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

Nonprofit Organization
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REVIVAL

The Wages of sin
is DEATH



But the Gift of God
is ETERNAL LIFE
through Jesus Christ
our Lord

Grace Free Will Baptist Church

January 29-31, 1990

Evangelist: Earl Hanna



Brother Earl has been greatly
used of God in His Ministry and
presently Pastors the growing
Mission Work in Orangeburg, S C

Services begin at 7:30pm nightly

Special music each night

A Nursery will be provided.

Pastor Mike Jones invites you to
COME AND BRING A FRIEND

THE GREATEST VERSE IN THE BIBLE

Rom 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith. It is written, the just shall live by faith.

If I were to ask the average congregation what was the most famous verse in the Bible they would probably say, "John 3:16". If I asked them for the most famous chapter they would probably say, "Psalm 23". But if I asked for the "Greatest verse in the Bible" there would probably be a number of different answers (almost everyone has a "favorite verse". Most of you know that my verse is Psalm 16:11).

This morning I want to show you a verse that I think can justly be called the "greatest verse in the Bible" and then show you some reasons I have come to this conclusion. My objective in doing this is not to justify my position with you but to seek to get you to learn how YOU can be justified before God. After all, that's the most important information you'll ever receive; and that's what this verse is all about!

FIRST, I believe it is the greatest verse in the Bible because it is the only verse I know of that is repeated in 4 different books of the Bible- Habakkuk, Romans, Galatians, Hebrews. It's almost as if God keeps "hammering" at us with this verse so we won't miss it's meaning.

SECOND, It's not only found in 4 different books of the Bible but it is the "Key Verse" in each of these books. In Habakkuk 2:4 it is used in it's entirety to show God's people that God does not see people as "bad and better" but as Justified and Unjustified; thus punishment for sin must come on ALL who sin. In Rom 1:17 it keys on "The JUST"; in Galatians 3:11 it magnifies "Shall LIVE"; and in Heb 10:38 it stresses "by FAITH". It's almost as if God thinks that if we can learn the lesson of this verse then all other lessons will fall in place.

THIRD, this is the verse that God used in Martin Luther's heart to bring about the Protestant Reformation (that kept the Church from dying on the dogmas of Rome). I believe that when we get to Heaven and examine the 2000 year history of the Church we will see more revival coming from the impetus and inspiration of this verse than from any other single verse.

FOURTH (and most important), I believe this to be the most important verse in the Bible because of it's content. It answers the most momentous question a Human can ask, "How can a man, doomed by the penalty of sin and captive to the power of sin, be Justified by a Holy, Sin avenging, God?". The absolutely vital answer to this question it found in one simple sentence in this verse- "THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH".

Two questions of tremendous consequence come from this verse-

- 1) Who are the "JUST" and how did they become so?
- 2) What is "FAITH" and how do we obtain it?

A **JUST PERSON** is one who meets God's standards for His life. Paul is going to spend the next several chapters showing us **WHO declares men just- GOD**; Not the Law (as man interprets it) (Rich Young Ruler said he kept the Law but Jesus wanted him to examine his heart); Not Societies Standards (Men set standards that suit them in their present circumstances, see how standards have changed in the past 20 years).

He will then show that **It is impossible for man to meet this standard on his own!!** This will bring us to the Substitutionary Sacrifice of Christ as our only hope; and lead directly into the need and basis of Faith

The Faith Paul talks about is **not a mere act of intellectual assent; but a continuing and obedient trust in God through Christ**. This Faith is Belief that motivates to continued action. It is this kind of Faith that "Saves" us. It comes into our heart as we hear the Word of God (Rom 10:17). This Faith Justifies us and allows us to live. Do YOU have it?? That's the most important question you'll ever answer.

RESPONSIBILITY

Romans 1.

Having shown his devotion to "Other Christians" Paul now reveals his recognition of Responsibility to the Lost. Sometimes as we strive to be "Good" it's easy to lose sight of God's Goal (To Save the Lost) and in our "Busyness" we spent our time rearranging the curtains while the ship slowly sinks around us.

Paul gives us some idea of his recognition of his Responsibility in today's text; and in so doing showing us some of our own responsibility.

I. I PURPOSED vs 13 Responsible to Follow God's Plan

We need a GOAL: Desire and Determination are needed. Take it or leave it Christianity generally ends up leaving it.

We must accept GOD'S GUIDANCE: Like Paul, We must purpose according to the will of God. Paul purposed to come to Rome as a Preacher but he ended up coming as a Prisoner (Having first witnessed to kings, brought Revival to an island he would never have visited otherwise, and had his way paid by the Roman empire!!).

II. I AM DEBTOR vs 14 Responsible to share God's Blessings: Ps 116:12 What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me.

A) Accountability Ez 33:

1. To the Greeks: "Wise" Saved- For showing me Christ. Because they're brethren

2. To Barbarians: "Unwise" Unsaved- Cause Christ died for them. Because I'm God's Method.

B) Usability- God must have a man. The only Problem God can't solve is Self Will- Jonah

III. I AM READY vs 15 Responsible to be Active

A) Motivation- The Love of Christ constrains me

B) Mission- To Preach, to Reach, to Each

IV. I AM NOT ASHAMED vs 16 Responsible to make a stand- Luke 9:26 For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory,

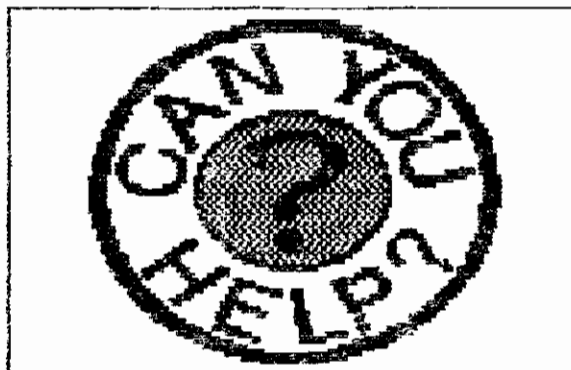
A) The Person- Christ

B) The Power- To Save

C) The Plan- Faith (Believeth)

D) The Prospects- Jews first, and also the Greeks (Everyone).

Have you accepted your Responsibility? or do you think Christianity is a spectator Sport??



OTHER CHRISTIANS

Rom 1.8-9

One of the dangers Christians must be aware of is the "Isolation Syndrome". This is when we think no one cares about us and we don't care about anyone else- We'll pout at the drop of a hat, become critical about any and every thing, and determine to get our way at any cost. Worship become work, it's easier to Talk About someone than to Testify about the Savior, and our Prayer become "Lord, Bless me and my wife, my son and his wife; us four and no more. Amen".

There are many reasons we get into this spirit of isolation and condemnation: (1) Things aren't going the way we want at home or work and we can't vent our feelings on fellow workers or family; so we pick a Christian to "scream" at (After all, They're Christians, they can't scream back!). (2) Sickness and depression hover over us like a cloud and we feel no one has it as bad as we do (And what's the fun of being a "Martyr" if no one tells us how great we are at being one!). (3) We get into one of our "I've worked at Church long enough, let someone else do it now" cycles and we come to Church to be served instead of to serve.

Everyone, and I mean EVERYONE, gets into this syndrome sometimes. It's mainly aggravating and frustrating to those around you as they wait for you to get over your "moody blues" but there are times when it can do a tremendous amount of harm. It's these times I want us to look at today- Times when the "Isolation Syndrome" becomes a deadly Sickness that destroys the Power and Purpose of a Church.

Donald Wildmon (Executive Director of American Family Association) tells a "Parable" in the January 1990 edition of the AFA "Journal" that shows the danger a church faces in this Isolation Syndrome:

"Once upon a time there was a region on the northeast coast that was extremely dangerous for ships. The area was dangerous because of many hidden shoals and rocks and because of sudden, unexpected storms. Ships were being sunk, lives were being lost, families broken apart, and many sailors were injured for life because of shipwrecks in the area.

One day a concerned individual came up with an idea. Why not build a life-saving station in the area. The purpose would be to warn ships in advance and to rescue those who were wrecked. He shared his idea with a few friends and neighbors, and before long they had built a life-saving station, bought boats and buoys and even built a lighthouse.

It was such a good idea that many people joined in. Many lives were saved, many families held together and many injuries avoided. For years people were proud of the good that the life-saving station did.

Over a period of time the life-saving station became a central part of their lives. They held fellowship suppers, social events and special meeting at the building. Then one day some of the members of the life-saving station decided that the old building needed repair, the furniture was worn, the seats and facilities uncomfortable. So the people decided to build a new life-saving station.

When it was completed, they had the largest, most beautiful, most functional life-saving building around. They increased the number of activities in the building. They held all kinds of social events. More and more people became a part of their life-saving fellowship.

But a strange thing was happening. Fewer and fewer people were willing to go out and warn the ships, and even fewer were willing to go out in a storm to rescue sailors from a wrecked ship. The activities at the life-saving station took all their time. They just didn't have time to save lives. So they decided to hire others- professional life-savers, to do the job for them. They could support the life-saving station without becoming directly involved in the difficult, unpleasant job of saving lives.

Several years later the members of the life-saving station decided that the life-saving activities were taking too much of their money. It was costing more and more to support the life-saving station and it's activities in the manner to which they had become accustomed. They needed the fund to support their life-saving station, so they stopped paying the professional life-savers.

Many years later a member of the life-saving station asked what their purpose was, why, of course," answered a member, "to provide a nice place for us and our families to fellowship, to have our community and social events. Why do you ask?".

The "Isolation Syndrome" is bad enough when we simply lose our Manners; but it becomes fatal when we lose our MISSION. What can we do to maintain our concern for those in Our Church, those in other Churches, and those without a Church? The evidence of Paul's concern in today's text gives us some wonderful guidelines to work from.

I. RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF A PERSON'S TESTIMONY- vs 8 "Your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world". While a Christian must be willing to be made of "No Reputation" (Phil 2:7) he also knows that the world always matches what we say with what we do and our reputation for holy living will have a tremendous effect on our ability to effectively witness for Christ.

The next time you're tempted to take "Pot shots" at an individual or church take time to consider their circumstances, their consistency (is this a one time or continuing problem), and the effect your statements will have upon their Character. Will it help your situation or your feelings to tear someone else down??

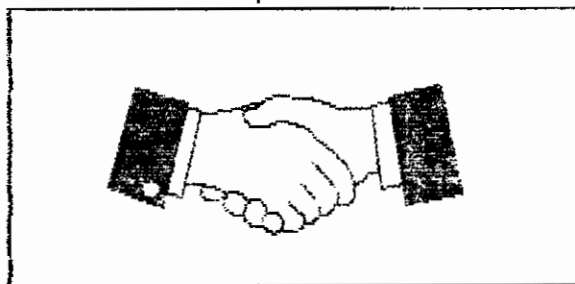
II. HAVE YOU PRAYED FOR AND ABOUT THE PERSON?- vs 9 "Without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers". If we prayed as much about Problems as we do about Profits we wouldn't have so many disagreements! If the average Christian would spend ONE DAY A WEEK Praying exclusively for Others, it would change them in marvelous ways. If everyone would make it a point to talk to God about a person before they talked to someone else about them it would cut gossip down to a trickle!

Your Prayer time should include praying for Your Enemies (Matt 5:44) as well as Your "Eyeless" (Missionaries are out of sight and, all too often, out of mind!).

III. ARE YOU COMMITTED TO CONTACT?- vs 10-11 "For I long to see you"

Satan knows that isolation breeds DEPRESSION, DISTRUST, and DISCORD (Note the example of Elijah- I Kings 19:- First He "requested for himself that he might die" (vs 4) in a bout of Depression, then he proclaimed "I, even I only, am left" (vs 10) showing he Distrusted everyone, and, finally, he was in such a state of Discord with God until he had to be recommissioned with someone to help him).

Some times Pastors will come to me "ranting and raving" about their sorry no account members. After talking awhile I generally find it's more in the Pastor's mind than in the People's conduct. If he'll build a bridge over those troubled waters he'll generally find his people are Crying FOR him instead of Against him.



When we start Contacting instead of Condemning we'll be able to use our Spiritual Gifts to Build up the Body of Christ and we'll be "comforted together by the mutual faith both of you and me".

Do you Build up the Testimony of others, or do you tear down their character? Do you Pray for or talk about others? Do you build bridges to others or wall them out? Remember, Christ didn't die to save Buildings, he died to save people.

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 VIII Num 3 Feb 1, 1990 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, S C

The Lord gave us a **Marvelous REVIVAL** this week. I appreciate the fine messages given by Brother Earl Hanna (Available on Audio Cassette for anyone desiring them). They were a challenge to the Church and to the Lost. Brother Earl is doing a fine job building a work for God in Orangeburg and I thank the Lord for sending him into our state.

Our 9am Service will be more special than normal the next 2 weeks. This Sunday, Mr Howard Godwin will give our annual report from the **GIDEONS**. The 9am Offering will go to this worthy cause.

Then on Sunday, Feb 11, Rev **Pete Bove** will be our Special Speaker. Brother Pete is a young preacher just getting started and we looking forward to hearing him.

Our 9am Services are very well attended as it is but we hope it won't be long until we have as many for the 9am service as we now have for the 11am service. After all, if we're going to build our new 500 seat Church this year we've got to pick up attendance in **EVERY SERVICE**.

THANKS to everyone who continues to give that this Outreach Ministry may continue to reach Out. I try to use your money as economically as possible and I'm always on the look out for any "free" methods of distributing the Gospel.

I have this week carried more video tapes of our services to another Convalescent Center; so we now minister to the elderly in two Nursing Homes. I am awaiting response from another newspaper about carrying one of my sermons each week; and I hope if it comes

thru it will be but a stepping stone to many more areas newspapers.

My thoughts are these- Why share

the videos of our services with only three people when we can possibly reach 300. If I'm going to write an article for one newspaper each week; why not use that same article in 10 papers and reach 10 times as many people? If I have to pray and prepare and study for a message for 75 people; why shouldn't 375 get to hear the same message?

Isn't it great to be involved in the greatest work in the world

..... Preacher Mike

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SECOND HAND SINS

ROM 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

One of the prevalent evils in society today is what I call "Second Hand Sins"- No ones wants to be an "outcast of society" by going into "Gross sins" so they won't have an affair, but they don't mind viewing "R" and "X" rated movies; Many people wouldn't take drugs or alcohol but they don't mind selling them; and, while many people would not even own a gun they fill their life with hate and jealousy. I want us today to see that these "second hand sins" can do just as much harm as actual participation; and I want us to repent of and renounce them.

[Just a little "side bar". It's also possible to have **Second Hand Faith**- Mark 2:5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee. I think there are numerous times when others "travel along" with someone else's faith- Sometimes Pastors lead a lot of "doubting Thomases". And how many times in a Church have you heard someone say, "I don't think it will work but I'm willing to let you try"!]

WHAT ARE SECONDARY SINS?

1. Sins of "Accomplice"- Rom 1:32

a> The **BAD** we Condone or Congratulate. We don't participate in the wrong but we encourage it by our support as spectators. We won't commit Adultery but we'll laugh at and support TV shows that promote it. We pay Rock Stars Millions to glamorize drugs and sex for our Children.

b> The **GOOD** we Fail to do- James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin. Much Church work "dies on the vine" because no one is against it; but they won't support it either.

2. Sins of Attitude- Heb 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled. The Poison of Passions destroy so many people.

3. Sins of Influence- JAM 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. No man is an island, We affect others by what we say and do.

a> The Influence of Family-

1. There is no such thing as "Second Generation Sin" - EZE 18:19-23 Yet say ye, Why? doth not the son bear the iniquity of the father? When the son hath done that which is lawful and right, and hath kept all my statutes, and hath done them, he shall surely live. The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.- but there is a tremendous **INFLUENCE** given by **PARENTS**- Over and over in the Scriptures God tells the Children of Israel they have "walked in the ways of their fathers and done wickedly". Children learn so much from the example of their parents.

2. Then there is the **INFLUENCE OF THE SPOUSE**. God gave the Rules for the Man to be the Head of the Household for specific reasons. One of these is the fact that the Husband is the "Priest" of the Household and is responsible for it's spiritual leadership. Wives who won't do right cause great hardship on Husbands (Think what it would mean to my ministry if my wife would not attend church; went into sin...). Husbands who are more interested in sleep than they are in Church or serving God hinder many wives and children.

b> The Influence of Society-MAT 13:57-58 And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country, and in his own house. And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief. (Peer Pressure, Public Pressure, Professional Pressure)

Second hand sin can bring First hand punishment. Repent

ARE THE HEATHEN LOST??

Rom 1:18-20 2:12-16

ROM 1:18-21 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 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.

ROM 2:12-16 For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;) In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

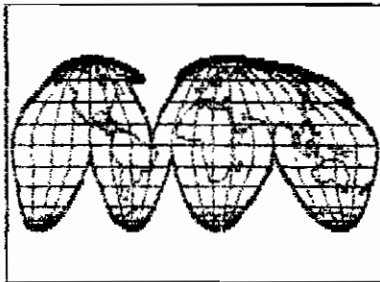
"Are the Heathen Lost??" This sounds like an "Interesting" question that would make a good discussion for a group of preachers gathered around a coffee table; but one that the average Church member wouldn't find interesting. Yet, I believe it is one of the most vital questions Christians must face today. If we are going to change our emphasis from the "ME" Generation to the "MISSION" Generation then we must become convinced of the fact that ALL MEN WITHOUT CHRIST ARE GOING TO HELL for Eternity and that we have a responsibility to them.

In order for us to see this, I want to reveal 4 PRINCIPLES:

- I. EVERYONE WHO HAS NOT TRUSTED CHRIST AS SAVIOR IS LOST
- II. EVERY LOST PERSON WILL FACE THE WRATH OF GOD
- III. THE ONLY WAY TO BE SAVED IS THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST
- IV. THIS INFORMATION CONFERS RESPONSIBILITY TO THOSE WHO HAVE IT.

Paul begins by "getting Everyone Lost". You cannot correct a problem unless you admit you have it. It is fairly easy for us to quote "ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23) but it is much harder to admit that your son, or your spouse, or YOUR SELF is a sinner, separated from God. So Paul "eases" his Jewish readers into this by showing 3 Groups of People are that are Lost:

1> The HEATHEN (Pagan) 1:18-32; 2> The HYPOCRITE (Moral) 2:1-16; and 3> The HEBREW (Religious) 2:17-3:8. This covers Everyone! Today we are going to look at the "Heathen"; but realize that, in one sense, this message applies to Everyone.



The first statement that is normally made about the Heathen is that a "Loving God" would not send them to Hell without an opportunity to be saved-- and since many of them do not have the same privileges of being exposed to the Gospel messages that we have here then they will somehow be "saved". (If this statement were true then it would be better to call our missionaries home and leave the Heathen in the dark; if being in the dark absolves them of responsibility for

sin. But if you follow this thru then it means we should also close all our churches here as well! If darkness saves then we need to put out all the light; since light imparts responsibility!).

I believe a JUST GOD is able to judge the Heathen on the Basis of: **THE WITNESSES THE HEATHEN HAVE:** You find among all cultures a sense of Sin, a fear of Judgment, and an attempt to atone for sin and appease a "God". This is caused by-

A) The Witness Within- Conscience: Conscience= "To Know with". There is within every man "something" that bears witness to right or wrong. There are many types of Conscience mentioned in the Bible-- Defiled (Tit 1:15), Seared (I Tim 4:2), Weak (I Cor 8:10-12), Pure (I Tim 3:9, Acts 24:16), and Witnessing (Rom 2:15). When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden they immediately knew to hide their nakedness.

B) The Witness Without- Nature 1:20 Ps 19:1-3 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

ACT 14:15 And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein: Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

While the Heathen does not have enough knowledge to Save them they do have enough to cause them to Seek God (Cornelius). Since they know to seek God and do not do so then they are responsible to answer to God.

THE WRATH THE HEATHEN FACE: "The Wages of Sin is Death" (Rom 6:23). The ONLY WAY to escape the Penalty of Sin is through Faith in Christ- (Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby ye must be saved).

[I do believe there will be:

1. Degrees of Judgment- Many stripes LUK 12:47-48 And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. 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.

2. Degrees of Accountability- Parable of Talents]

This brings us to:

A DUTY WE ALL HAVE:

- a> Be Saved and Sure of it ourselves
- b> Share the Gospel- We do not come to Church to ISOLATE ourselves but to EDUCATE ourselves that we may go out and EVANGELIZE others.

If the Heathen are Lost (and they are), our Responsibilities are:

- 1. EVANGELISM- Do it, Support it, Pray for it
- 2. MISSIONS- Become a Missionary, Support Missions, Pray for Missions (Ladies Aux responsible to give Mission request during Wednesday Prayer Service following their monthly meeting)
- 3. OUTREACH- Do it, Support it, Pray for it, Help Distribute it

The ONLY HOPE a lost world has is the light of the Gospel. We have been made "keepers of the light". Will we hide it under the "bushel of busyness" or under the "bed of Laziness"; or will we do what we can to shine the light as far as possible in a sin darkened world?

THE GOSPEL OF GOD

Rom 1:1-5 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God. (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

We are about to begin a new year, as well as a new decade, and I can't think of a better way to begin than with a clear presentation of the Gospel of God. Many TV and Radio programs have been devoted to looking at the important events of the past year/decade and many new things have come our way but the greatest news the world has ever heard continues to be the Good News of the Gospel of God.

Paul is going to go into great depth about the need of, and results from, Salvation later in the Book but it's almost as if he can't wait to get started so he slips in a few sentences about the Gospel even as he is greeting the church at Rome. These few sentences show us some of the basic doctrines of Salvation; and as such help us to examine our own relationship with God.

Paul's declaration of the essence of Salvation here follows the same guidelines as his presentation in I Cor 15:1-4 and lays stress on the Scripture Promises as well as the evidence of Resurrection. Salvation must have a FOUNDATION in order to Establish Faith (the Word of God) and then it must have FACTS as Evidence to show the Faith works (The resurrection of Christ from the dead).

This is a good way to give your testimony also- Tell what you were, tell how God's word convicted you of sin and converted you by Faith, and then tell how Christ has changed your life. (Just a side "note"- The advertising world had copied this: See the dirty clothes, see how only our detergent will clean them, see how happy the children are who wear clothes cleaned in our detergent).

THE GOSPEL OF GOD IS BASED ON:

I. THE PROMISE OF SALVATION-

A) BY the Prophets- The problem with some preaching today is that it is Man Directed instead of God Revealing. It's goal is to show people how to live better in this world instead of preparing them for the next. Prophets of old preached about the "sins of Society" but they did so in the context of revealing man's responsibility to God. Today man acts as if HE is GOD and expects preaching to tell him how to be the best HE can be instead of becoming what God intended. Most people today aren't looking for a Saviour from sin as much as they're looking for a short-cut to happiness.

B) IN the Scriptures The birth and redemptive death of Christ has been the theme of the Bible since the Garden of Eden. A Protected Line, A Chosen Nation, a Coming Messiah; all are spoken of over and over in the Scriptures. That is why the Word of God is still being taught in churches today. It is still revellent today as it continues to show us God's past promises fulfilled and His future Promises yet to come.

II. THE PERSON OF SALVATION- CHRIST. The marvel of Christianity is that it's not simply a Plan for Self Improvement or Preaching about being Better; it's a Person who lived like I live, died in my place, and sent the Holy Spirit to convict, convert, and guide me.

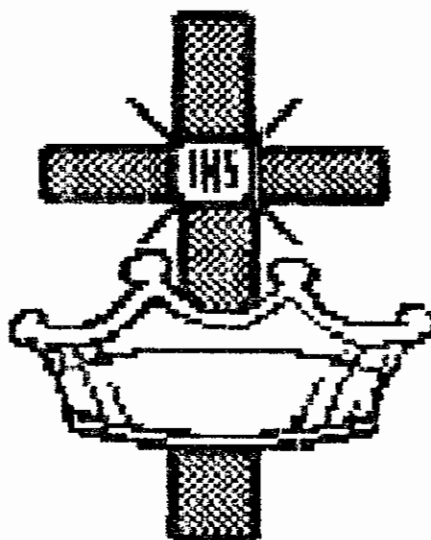
A> His Marvelous Birth- Made of the seed of David according to the Flesh. Jesus is man, and yet more than a man. He is not God AND Man, but the God-man. He is God in human flesh. His two natures are bound together in such a way that the two become one, with a single consciousness and will. The Incarnation of Christ is one of the Basic Beliefs of Christianity. Jesus was not just a good man or a prophet, but God in the Flesh who came to die in the place of sinful man.

B> His Manifested Power- Declared to be the Son of God with Power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. Many have been raised from the dead but He was resurrected; never to die again. This power over the final enemy, death, is one that only God has and it was used to prove that God had accepted the sacrifice of His Son for the Sin Debt owed by man. The Resurrection is God's Big "Paid in Full" for our sins. (Side Note- Men are not rejected anymore because of sin but because of unbelief. The Sin debt has been paid but many refuse to accept the pardon offered in Christ and as a result are cast into hell)).

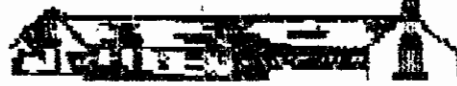
C> His Ministry to Us- By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for the obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

1. Grace- God's Unmerited Favor
2. Apostleship- Part of the Body of Christ
3. Mission- To share the Gospel with the entire world- Outreach
4. Glory- To His name.

The Gospel of God centers in a Person (Christ) and is established by Power (Resurrection from the dead). God wants you to accept His "good news" today. 1) Admit you are a sinner and unable to save yourself. 2) Believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins in your place. 3) Turn from sin as your turn toward Jesus for Salvation. 4) Trust God's Power to deliver and keep you. Won't you be saved today???



GRACE AND GLORY



Grace Free Will Baptist Church
A Little Church with a BIG Vision
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Bible Study Hour 10:00am
Second Worship Service (WJOT) 11:00am
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm
Pastor Mitchell Jones

394-3725

Vol VIII Num 4 Feb 20, 1990 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, S C

As most of you are aware, the **REVIVAL** did not end on Wednesday but continued on until Friday. The Lord gave us one of the best Revivals we have had in years and I Thank Him for His goodness. (Maybe one day I'll learn not to mail newsletters until after the fact!!).

Video and Audio tapes are still available. They have been such a Blessing until we have given away more tapes to the services than we had people attend the services! And we had good attendance each night.

We enjoyed Brother Earl's Preaching so much until we are going to take our Prayer Meeting to Gilead FWB Church this Wednesday (Feb 21) for their Revival Services with Brother Earl. We're looking for a great service.

Our **Teens** are becoming more and more active for the Lord and that's a Blessing to everyone. They were in charge of Decorations for our Valentine Banquet and did an excellent job. This week they will make a return trip to the Nursing Home on Thursday night, have a lock-in on Friday night, and clean up around the Church on Saturday Morning.



BAPTISM

We're marching toward March with a great deal of

anticipation. Sunday Night, March 4, we will join with the Gilead FWB Church in a special **Baptismal Service**. We appreciate this fine Church allowing us to use their Baptismal (Our New Church will have a Baptismal in it!).

Then Sunday, March 11, we will have **MISSION DAY** here at Grace with Special Speaker Rev Norwood Gibson. The entire day's offering will go to help Missionary to India, Carlisle Hanna. We will have Dinner together after the Morning Service and then Brother Norwood will share with us the slides of his recent trip to India. It's going to be a special day and I hope YOU'LL be here.

Wednesday marks the first day of publishing a **Devotional Article** in the "Kingstree News". I hope you'll pray for this new outreach and let the editors of the papers that carry these devotional articles know that you appreciate them giving us this means of sharing the Good News about Christ.

THANKS to everyone who helps us spread the word in the world.

..... Preacher Mike

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Isn't it strange that we "glorify" "Bad" sinners when they accept Christ but act as if it doesn't take as much to save a "good" person?? Paul is faced with a little of this attitude today. Since he has "convicted" ALL men of Sin and established that ONLY GOD can make a way for a sinful man to be accepted by a Holy God some men were asking if it was not GOOD TO SIN since that allowed God to get greater glory by saving a "worse" Sinner!

There are many ways this attitude affects us today:

1. The man who is "eternally secure" says it doesn't matter if he sins a little because Jesus has already paid for ALL his sins and it will only mean that he might lose some of his reward (Which he willingly exchanges for a few of sin's pleasures!).
2. Teens and Young Adults think it's better to "sow your wild oats" and then get saved since you'll be a better Christians after having seen the "horrors" of sin (Forgetting that Satan Blinds their eyes so they see sin thru "rose colored glasses!").
3. "Good" little boys and girls think they don't need to repent when they come to Christ since they aren't as "bad" as many others; failing to realize that this very Pride is an abomination to a Holy God!

I think it's time we took a realistic look at how God judges Christians (It may interest you to know that the Saints will judge the world as well as Angels- I Cor 6:2-3!)

God Judges with a:

I. REALISTIC JUDGMENT- According to Truth- Rom 2:2 "But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things". God will give an Honest Evaluation of your Work

II. RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT- According to men's deeds- Rom 2:5-6 "the righteous judgment of God; who will render to every man according to his deeds:" God will take an Honest Evaluation of your Actions

III. REVEALING JUDGMENT- The Secrets of Men- Rom 2:16 "In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel". God sees an Honest Evaluation of your Heart.

Ask yourself these questions-

How will God Evaluate my work as a: (1) Christian (2) Family Member (3) Witness in the World

How will God Evaluate the way I accomplish my task?? Do you do the right thing in the wrong way? Do you give your best on the Field of Prayer or the Field of Play??

How will God Evaluate the Motives of my Mission?? Do you work only when others honor you? Are you building YOUR Kingdom or God's Kingdom? When the secrets of your heart are revealed, will you be ashamed of what motivated you (The Love of Christ constrained Paul to witness- II Cor 5:14)

God will Judge us with a True Judgment and a Thorough Judgment. When your Mind and your Mission and your Motive are laid out for the world to see, will it Honor God or Humble You??

We have spent the first 2 months of 1990 in the first section of the book of Romans trying to show you that ALL have SINNED and stand guilty before God. Paul ends the first section of his letter by showing WHAT SIN DOES. He wants us to see that Sin is not simply a Doctrine we believe but Deeds we Do that Damn us.

I. WHAT SIN IS:

1. Failure in Righteousness (vs 10) - Our STANDING with a Holy God is broken resulting in Condemnation.
 2. Failure in Reasoning (vs 11a)- "none Understandeth"- Our MINDS have become Polluted and incapable of right reasoning (Controlled by Pleasures, or Passions).
 3. Failure in Reverence (vs 11b)- "none seek God"- Our ATTITUDE is Proud instead of Repentant.
 4. Failure in Right living (vs 12a)- "They are all gone out of the way"- Our PURPOSE in life has vanished.
 5. Failure in Responsibility (vs 12b)- "They are together become unprofitable"(like spoiled Milk)- Our ACTIONS are Harmful instead of Helpful.
 6. Failure in Reformation (vs 12c)- "There is none that doeth good, no, not one"- Our BEING is corrupt. Man achieves neither innocence before God or positive good (All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags).
- The whole of man's inner being is controlled by sin:
 His MIND- None that understandeth
 His HEART- None that seeketh after God
 His WILL- None that doeth good

II. WHAT SIN DOES

A) Drives us from God- Our Failures should drive us TO God but instead we run FROM God! Gen 3:8-10, Luke 15: Luke 19:10

B) Destroys Our PEACE with:

1> Others-

Their throat is an open sepulchre- graveyard mouth
 With their tongues they have used deceit- forked tongues

The poison of asps is under their lips- deadly words
 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness- foul mouths

Their feet are swift to shed blood- Look for trouble

2> Ourself- Destruction & misery are in their ways: The way of peace have they not known

3> God- There is no fear of God before their eyes



WHAT SIN BRINGS- Rom 3: 19-20 "Now ye know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin". We become "Lawyers" instead of "Lovers of God". We become people who Tolerate, then Spectate, and finally Participate in Sin until the Wrath of a Holy God falls upon us. We end up wallowing in the "Hog Pens" of sin instead eating at the Father's House.

Sin will Contaminate you, Control you, and Condemn you- Abandon Sin today and accept God's offer of forgiveness by Faith in Christ.

WHEN GOD GIVES UP

Rom 1:18-32

One of the most awful things imaginable would be to believe that you were abandoned by God. We can expect to be disappointed by, and sometimes abandoned by, people in this world but we always have the Love and Grace of God to cling to. What a horrible thing to believe God had abandoned us.

It has happened several times in the Scriptures as men or countries went so deep into sin until God told Prophets not to pray for them and even to "Let them alone". But we normally think that only someone who is a "hard down dirty" sinner would find themselves in this situation. I want us today to see that it CAN HAPPEN TO US; and, I believe, has already begun to happen in America.

God says 3 times in these verses that He gives up on men (24, 26, 28). The reasons for this drastic action are **FALSE IDEAS ABOUT:**

- 1) Who God Is- Went from God to Idols
- 2) What God Says- Went to Man as God
- 3) What God Wants- Believe Man's Pleasure is God's Goal

Because of these False Ideas God brings 3 **JUDGEMENTS UPON MEN:**

- 1) God gives them up to uncleanness and idolatry 24-25
- 2) God gives them over to be controlled by vile passions 26-27
- 3) God gives them over to a REPROBATE MIND 28-32

The Downward spiral is

INDIFFERENCE- Hold the Truth in unrighteousness vs 18

INGRATITUDE- Knew God Glorified him not as God, neither were thankful

IGNORANCE- Professing themselves wise, became fools

IDOLATRY- Worshipped the creature instead of Creator

INDULGENCE- Do those things which were not convenient.

NOTICE THE ERRORS THESE PEOPLE MADE:

I. IGNORING WRATH 18-20

Like many people these men thought the Way God's Wrath worked was like a billboard I saw once- "Believe in Jesus or Burn in Hell". While this statement is true it does not show the ONLY way God's wrath is revealed. It is also revealed in man's misuse of man and nature. God keeps allowing mankind to receive "payments" for his sin before the final "Pay Day" to try to get man to repent.

Mankind first of all Refused this Truth, then Turned the Truth into a lie, and finally Abandoned the Truth

II. VAIN IMAGINATION 21-23

They failed to give God Glory or be Grateful for God's Goodness- Just like Hogs, they never thought to look up at their provider. (Note that man is NOT a product of Evolution but of "Devolution"- went from Worship of God to worship of man, to worship of Birds, then beasts, then reptiles. As men became worst so did their worship.

III. INDULGENCE 24-27

Because they worshipped what God created instead of God who created, God gave them up to be controlled by the power of sinful desires. This degrading passion led to deeper and deeper sexual perversion until Homosexuality became a way of life. (God does not call Homosexuals "Gay", He calls them Ghastly!).

IV. IMPENITENT 28-32

They did not like to acknowledge God, or consider God, so God allowed them to be filled with ever kind of sin. Having abandoned God they were now abandoned by God.

If you continue in Sin, God will one day give you up to be controlled by your passions and perversions. Today is the day of Salvation. Will you accept God's Mercy; or His Wrath??

THINGS THAT LEAD TO REPENTANCE

Rom 2:4-6 Or despisest 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; Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

We live in the day of the "Christian" Stripper (She doesn't want you to lust after her body, just admire how good God has been to her!), the "Christian" Pick-pocket (He steals your wallet with one hand while putting a gospel tract in your pocket with the other), and the sexually driven, money desiring, TV Preacher (No explanation needed!).

It seems that Christians act like the world, the world acts like the devil, and no one seems to know right from wrong except Oprah and Donahue! The main reason for this is that we've come to the day of "Cheap Easy Believism" where all a person has to do is "Believe" on Jesus to be saved. The problem with this "belief" is that it is a mental acknowledgement instead of a Heart commitment. (That's why a man can be "saved" on Sunday, not be changed on Monday, and not think enough of God to even come back to Prayer Meeting on Wednesday). The "missing ingredient" in most Salvation today is REPENTANCE.

I. REPENTANCE DEFINED- Repentance means to "have another mind" and is used to indicate a change of mind in respect to sin, God, and self. Repentance does not simply means to "feel sorrow for something" I have done (This was the kind of Repentance Judas had). That's like crying over "spilt milk"- it won't help you or the milk! Repentance is not simply a desire to start "doing good"; multitudes of very good New Year's resolutions have already been broken.

Repentance is primarily A JUDGMENT UPON SELF. It is an acknowledgement that I am wrong; that I am unable to correct that wrong; and that only the mercy and Grace of God can help me. This is why REPENTANCE IS THE NECESSARY FIRST INGREDIENT IN SALVATION.

II. REPENTANCE ILLUSTRATED-

A) By a City's action- Jonah 3:10 And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not. The Principle is this: The city of Nineveh saw the errors of it's ways and turned from them toward God. God accepted that.

B) By John the Baptist's Preaching- Luke 3:7-14 The "Fruits of Repentance" here were (1) A turn from selfishness to sharing- vs 11, (2) A turn from Stealing to Honesty- vs 12-13 (3) A turn from a Violent Spirit to a Peaceful Spirit- vs 14

C) By a "Backslidden Boy"- The Prodigal Son in Luke 15 was willing to say, "I have sinned. I am unworthy." and he left the hog pens of the world for the father's house.

REPENTANCE MAKES US FORSAKE SIN AND TURN TOWARD GOD

III. REPENTANCE DESIRED-

A) The men who preached Repentance- John the Baptist, Jesus (Matt 4:17), and Paul (Acts 26:20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance).

B) The Methods that lead to Repentance-

1> Knowledge of Wrath to Come- Acts 17:30-31 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. As man becomes aware of the consequences of his actions he is prone to turn from them and adopt a new life style. This is the FEAR Method and it works as long as the person fears the bad enough to motivate him.

2> Sorrow- II Cor 7:9-10 Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. This is the EMOTIONAL method- The person is sorry that the Results of his sins affect him and those whom he loves. If he becomes sorry for what he's done to God then it can lead to Salvation; but if he's only sorry for the way it effects him or his loved ones then it will make only a surface change.

3> Sermons (To make a person aware that THEY are the ones that need to repent)- Matt 9:12-13 Jesus said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. This is the MENTAL Method- It brings a person to an intellectual acknowledging of their sinful state and their need of God. While Repentance must continue into actions; it must begin in the Mind (A man must admit he is lost before he will come to be saved). This deals with the ROOT of the Problem: not the Fruit- Most people are willing to throw away their spoiled apples but they don't want you pulling up the tree!

4> Goodness of God- Rom 4:6. Of all the Methods, this is probably the least expected or understood. All of the other methods go at changing a person from the NEGATIVE side while this one looks at the POSITIVE side. God provides men with His goodness and His mercy and in return expects them to lovingly desire to leave sin and sinfulness to enjoy Fellowship with Him. When they continue in sin it brings about:

C) Wrath stored up by failing to repent- Rom 2:5 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; Spurning God's Love and forgiveness; accepting God's Goodness without even so much as a "Thank You"; Man continually stores up God's wrath until it will one day thunder down upon him.

Repentance is a necessary first step to Salvation. It begins when we see our sinfulness and our hopelessness. It brings about a departure FROM sin and a clinging TO God. It is produced in many ways but the most common is the Goodness of God that leads you to Repent and accept God's Love. Will you Repent and accept Christ today??

Let me close with a final exhortation of Peter: (II Pet 3:9) The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

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 (WJCT) 11:00am
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm

Pastor Mircheal Jones

394-3725

Vol VIII Num 5 Mar 8, 1990 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, S C

MISSIONS



This Sunday
(March 11) is
our First
Annual MISSION
DAY here at
Grace and we're
looking for a
tremendous

Blessing. Our Speaker will be Rev
Norwood Gibson, S C State
Association of Free Will Baptist
Promotional Director; member of
the Foreign Mission Board; and a
fine Christian Gentleman!

Because of this
Special Day we will
have a few TIME
CHANGES:

10am- Sunday School
11- Worship Service
NOON- Church Dinner
Around 1-1:30 Brother Norwood
will show the slides of his
recent trip to the mission work
in India.

All of the money we receive in
our Offerings Sunday will be
given to REV CARLISLE HANNA, our
Missionary to India. I hope
you'll be here and share this
great day with us; and I hope
you'll give generously to this
very worthy cause.



We're very happy to WELCOME
into the Fellowship of the Church
Mrs Tracy Lowder. Tracy was saved
several months ago and has been
very faithful to the Church. She
joined Sunday Morning and was
baptized Sunday night (along with
Mr and Mrs O Z Thrasher). The
Baptismal Service was very well
attended and we appreciate the
fine hospitality shown us by the
Gilead FWB Church. They are doing
a Great work of the Lord and we
praise God for what He's doing
among them.



A number of our
readers have been going
thru some times of great
difficulty recently and
I'm more aware than ever
of the need of this
ministry to encourage and up lift
people. I want all our readers to
know that God cares about them
(and I care about them)! I tell
you about many of the Physical
ministries of this outreach work
but I want to remind you that it
also involves praying for those
in need. Remember that today; and
let God's love Bless you in a
special way. . . Preacher Mike

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ABRAHAM'S EXAMPLE

Rom 3:27-4:16

Having shown the sinfulness of man and the Righteousness of God Paul now comes to a "reasonable" conclusion- *We conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.* This sounds wonderful;... but how do you explain this principle to people who have "worshipped" the Law for hundreds of years?? Paul decides the best thing to do is to go back to the "Father" of the Nation of Israel and show from Abraham's Example how God used this principle from the very beginning.

As we look at Abraham's example I want us to see the things in our own spiritual life that God expects us to do to bring Glory to Him. This will change Abraham's example from a "mind-game" into a life changing demonstration.

ABRAHAM'S GLORY- 4:2 *For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.* Abraham did many wonderful works- He left home at God's bidding, went into the Promised land and claimed it as his own (Even though he never owned anything in it except a grave!), expected his seed to be as the "sand of the sea" (Even though he was 100 years old before the child of promise was born), and built many altars to the Lord God as a means of worshipping God and as a witness to the surrounding tribes. Yet all of this is not counted as his glory; instead the scriptures say *Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness (vs 3).*

PRINCIPLE #1- Man Looks at Physical works to ascribe glory to a man while God looks at Man's Faith. (When you try to "justify" yourself before God remember that. Things that please men do not affect God).

ABRAHAM'S RIGHTEOUSNESS- 4:9b *for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness.* Abraham's righteousness was not a "reward" for his works (4:4); this would only incur increased debt! The more you try to "pay" off your debt to God with works the bigger the hole you tear in the "old cloth" (Matt 9:16). 4:5 *But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.*

PRINCIPLE #2- The only Righteousness that can have fellowship with a Righteous God is that that enters thru the door of Faith. Later on Paul is going to be so bold as to say (Rom 14:23) *whatsoever is not of faith is sin.* The things that God is looking for in a "saint" is a settled Faith in God's Provision and Plan (Which will in turn affect a man's character and conduct. Just don't get the cart ahead of the horse).

ABRAHAM'S FAITH-

A) Manifested in a sign- "Circumcision" (vs 11): This sign was received AFTER Abraham's Faith was manifested and was the symbol of his covenant with God. This relates to many areas of Christianity today- Faith must precede Feelings, Salvation must precede Service, Believing must precede Baptism.

PRINCIPLE #3- There are many Manifestations of Faith but they must never be accepted IN THE PLACE OF FAITH!!

B) Multiplied to the world- vs 16 *Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all.* Abraham's way of access to God (Faith) is also OUR WAY OF ACCESS. Jesus was a Jew; but He's MY Savior!

PRINCIPLE #4- The People in God's Family have different talents and abilities but they all must come into His house by the same door! Never let Pride or Popularity make you forget that.

RESPECT OF PERSONS

Rom 2:5-11

Rom 2:11 *For there is no respect of persons with God.*

Having shown the sinfulness of the Heathen and the failure of the Moral Man; Paul now goes to the "Religious" man and begins to show him that he too must come to God as a sinner to be saved by God's Grace. In order to do this he must first break the "shell of Pride" that these people had wrapped around themselves.

These people thought that because they were "better" morally than others that God would somehow accept them. In their particular case, it was the fact that many of them were Jews; and, as such, God's "Chosen people". In today's Church it is the person raised in the Church who knows just enough Bible to make them dangerous; the moral man who has a reputation but no relationship; the young married couple who is "good" but who worships at the Idols of Work, Family, and Pleasure.

These people think that a youthful profession somehow cancels all their present sins. They think it's alright to drink as long as you don't become a drunk; to play with some "recreational" drugs as long as you don't become an addict. They think they're alright with God as long as they meet most of Societies Standards. Somehow or other the fact that they're "average Americans" makes the Bible requirements for Faith and Faithfulness unimportant. Like many of the people in the Bible they're easing their way into Hell by slow stages.

These people must come to the place of acknowledging that ACCEPTANCE BY THE WORLD IS NOT RESPECT BY GOD. They must abandon their "Shell of Pride" and come to God for Salvation and Service because it is this "shell of Pride" that is a direct contributor in sending more people to Hell than any other single factor! This Pride cause men- 1> To Fail to admit they are lost. 2> To refuse to accept the fact that they cannot save themselves with their own works. 3> To refuse to come to God even when they find they are helplessly lost.

Isn't it strange that everyone expects God's People to follow the admonition of James 2:1 *My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.* And yet somehow they think that God will follow a different plan and accept them because of who they are or what they wear! Let Peter say again what Paul has just said, (Acts 10:34-35) *Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.*

Now that you know the Negative let's look at the Positive. I have found that when someone clears up a forest and doesn't plant something in this "new ground" that Thorns come up and make the situation as bad or worst than before. Since we know that God does not respect our "Person", let's find some things that He does respect and sow these seed in our lives.

THINGS THE LORD RESPECTS:

1. The Humble: Ps 138:6 *Though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.* The reason God said the greatest of all shall be servant of all is because this shows an attitude of Humility. Remember "the meek shall inherit the earth". Instead of taking pride in your abilities or adornment you should Praise God for His Blessings and Pray to God for guidance in using what He's Given.

2. His Word: 11 Kings 13:23 *And the Lord was gracious unto them, and had compassion on them, and had respect unto them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them, neither cast he them from his presence as yet.* The Lord is Faithful and He expects Faithfulness. It is true that God does not respect the Jew above anyone else in regards to sin but it is also true that God honors those who honor Him. I believe that God "spoils" me today because of some commitments that we made to each other in my early Christian Life!

3. Coming to God on God's Terms: Gen 4:4-5 *And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.* The Lord doesn't look for what YOU think is best; He wants what He has demanded in the Word. That's why it's so important to find God's Plan for your life and get in it. A Good person doing a good work doesn't please God UNLESS that work is what God is looking for!

4. Holy Living: 1 Peter 1:16-17 *Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.* God can't use Dirty Vessels. A "beat-up old pot" available for service is better than the best pot you've got that's dirty and can't be used.

5. Obedience: God lists a series of Blessing upon those who obey in Levi 26:3-8 and then says in verse 9 *For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish my covenant with you.* But then in vs 14-32 lists as horrible a list of punishments as could be imagined to those who are disobedient. God gave 4 Reasons for Obedience:

1. I will respect you
2. I will make you Fruitful
3. I will multiply you
4. I will establish my covenant with you.

God does not respect the our Pride in our Person or Personality but He does respect our Committed Service to Him. Cast off your rags of self righteousness today and put on the garment of Salvation. Find the things that God is looking for and commit yourself to them.

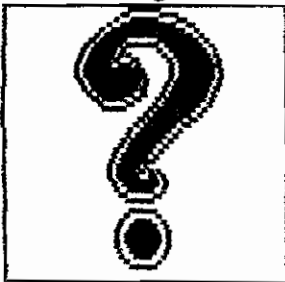
HOW MAN DEFEATS GOD

Rom 3:1-4

Paul has spent the first 2 chapters bringing the condemnation of sin upon all men- The Heathen, the Moral Man, and the Religious Man. Now, before he makes some final statements about sins in order to show Faith as the only way out of Sin, Paul stops to show the Jews that even though they are sinners they have been entrusted with Special Privileges. This is a natural question. The Jews would want to know what would be the advantage of being God's chosen people if it didn't protect them from sin.

Paul tells them that the Jews have been entrusted with some Special Privileges (The mark of the Covenant- Circumcision, and the distribution of the Oracles (sayings) of God). These Privileges have allowed them to be Blessed of God as well have continual access to the Plan of Salvation. This should have brought about Faithfulness TO GOD and Love FOR GOD; instead, the Jews developed into a self righteous society that was more interested in Separation from the world than in Salvation for the world.

The Church today has been given the same type Privileges- the "mark of the Covenant" (The Holy Spirit) and the responsibility to distribute the "Sayings of God". And, sadly, we seem to be making the same type mistakes- Joining the Church takes the place of Submitting to God, Enjoying God's Blessings becomes more important than worshipping the God who Blessed us, and we're more interested in bettering our Conditions than in Bearing our Cross!!



This brings us to the amazing statement of Paul in vs 3, "shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?". Is it possible that the God of the Universe can be defeated by mere mortal man!? (The answer is given in the next verse, "God forbid"! We can and do defeat God's plans for our lives but we can't Defeat God. God will remain GOD in spite of all we do, or fail to do; but His heart will be hurt and His work will not be accomplished in the way He desires when we fail to follow through with our

Faith).

The question we must ask ourselves today is, "Does the Privileges God has given us require a corresponding Obligation"? What does God expect from us??

God expects us to TRUST Him for Salvation and then to obey his plans for our life. This is the "Rub" with many people. They don't mind going to Heaven but they don't want to commit themselves to following God's Plan when they don't know every detail of what that means (Walking by Faith). They fear that somehow God will demand too much of them; or God will ask them to do something that they will hate doing. Because of this, they end up making "half hearted" commitments and live miserable life themselves as well as displeasing God. Let's begin by looking at some ways we "limit" God's ability to work in and through us and then see how we end up "Defeating" God; and then let's determine to completely obey Him.

WE LIMIT GOD BY:

1. Disobeying Him- Ps 78:41 Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel. They allowed themselves to be controlled by Senses and Sight instead of Faith in God's word and as a result spent 40 years dying in the desert. I wonder how often we limit God by refusing to obey His plan for our lives??

2. Disbelief- Mark 6:5-6 And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief. Familiarity killed their Faith and Jesus was unable to do much to help them! Today we get so familiar with the Worship service and with the Word of God until we "go thru the motions" instead of receiving a Blessing. Men will launch a Million Dollar Business on the basis of a Survey while the Church won't do anything extraordinary even though it's commanded in Scriptures!

It's bad enough when we limit God but it's even worst when

WE DEFEAT GOD BY:

1. Lack of Love- The one thing God wants from us is our Love. We offer Him our Money or our Morals or our Minds but it is our Loving Devotion He desires. He won't force it from us; we must willingly give it. This Lack of Love is shown by:

a> Failing to Obey Him- John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

b> Failure of Zeal for Him- Rev 2:4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

2. Giving God our Emotions or Mind without giving Him our will.

Emotions are largely governed by Circumstances

Intellect is governed by Reason

Will is guided by Faith that sometimes must ignore Circumstances and Reject Reason and "against Hope believe in Hope" (Rom 4:18).

"Will" causes us to Persevere in God's Plan when Emotion and Intellect would have us give up.

People who give God just their emotions are those who "make a commitment" during a stirring revival or crisis time in their life and then "cool down as they calm down"!

People who Give God only their Intellect are those who decide it is the best and proper thing to "make things right with God". They strike a bargain with God in which they promise they'll do "good" things in return for God's Blessings here and Heaven in the Future. They know the Plan of Salvation and the Purpose of the Bible but they've never met Christ as a Person who they will follow as Lord and Savior.

People who yield their "Will" to God are those who deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Christ. They don't serve God by Feelings but by Faith. They don't try to make bargains with God because they know they have nothing to bargain with! They are sincerely sorry for their sinful state (Repent) and by Faith accept God's provision of Salvation through Christ. Then they live their lives for God- first, last, and always!

Are your "Making the Faith of God without Effect" by your lack of Love or Commitment?? Jesus said you must come to Him "as a little Child". Let me tell you how a Little Child comes, "Lord, I don't have many 'things' but I do want to give you ME". Are you willing to give God YOU?? He'll give you Pardon and Peace and a Place- the Abundant Life you've longed for.

GRACE And GLOBE



Grace Free Will Baptist Church
A Little Church with a BIG Vision
 First Worship Service 9:00am
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Pastor Mircheal Jones
394-3725

Vol VIII NUM 6 MAR 22, 1990

348 Lawrence St, Lake City, S C 29560

Those of you that have followed the history of our church know that I'm not one for a lot of "Gimmicks" in promoting attendance. I believe that a person who loves the Lord will consistantly come to the house of God to Worship and learn of Him.

But from time to time I think it's good to "stir the pot" by doing something exciting. **THIS SUNDAY IS THAT SUNDAY!!!** It's **ROLL CALL SUNDAY** among Free Will Baptist and we want everyone in our Church to be here to answer the Roll Sunday (We have about 3 "shifts" of people that attend our Church. I just hope to get them all on the same "shift" this Sunday}.



In order to accomplish this I have appointed 10 "volunteer" captains to bring 10 people each to Sunday School this week. With their work, and the extra work of the rest of us, we hope to have the biggest attendance in the history of the Church (Our old record is 109, set nearly 13 years ago).

Just one word of warning, don't let the "fluff" take away from the Fundamental- Our purpose in getting these people here is to bring them to a decision about their Salvation or Dedication. It's not our Pride that's at stake but their eternal destiny. So Pray, Invite, and be sure to be here this Sunday.

Our Mission Day with Brother Norwood Gibson was very good and we appreciate the fine message he brought (He just gets better and better) and the good offering we received for the work in India (\$1250). I hope this annual Mission day is going to be one of the most "looked forward to" days in our Church calender.

Speaking of looking forward- Better make your plans to be here early for our annual Good Friday Program. This year we are presenting the "Living Lord's Supper" and I'm expecting a very large attendance for this excellent program (Friday, April 13 at 7:30pm).

We're also making our final plans for our Annual Sunrise Service (including Breakfast). This is, of course, on Easter Sunday. It will begin at 7am and will continue until 11am (Radio listeners should note that our Radio Broadcast will be from 10 to 11 on Easter Sunday).

I hope today's newsletter looks better than previous ones. I have recently purchased a new 24 pin printer to replace our old 9 pin printer and I hope it will improve the looks of the newsletter as well as the books I publish. God continues to increase our Outreach and I want it to honor God in the way it looks as well as in it's contents (My nephew recently opened a Computer Shop in town and he let me have the printer at his cost or I wouldn't have been able to [back]

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purchase it. Isn't it amazing how the Lord always seems to work out means and methods!).

Of course, I wouldn't have been able to do anything without the faithful help of those who felt led to support this work- people like: Jack B Hanna, Billie Ard, Mr and Mrs Haron White, Damon, Janice, and Debbie Runion, Mr and Mrs Mixon, Norma Hanna, Viola Trammell, Sallie Parrot, Mr and Mrs Marion Tunstall, Tom and Anne McKnight, Kathy Lewis, Danny Broach, Bill and Elise McBride, Mr and Mrs Elmore, Paula Jones, Elise Stevens, Victoria Webster, Marion Coker, Josie Poston, Rev J.N. Howle, Rev Pete Bove, Eris Jones, Wilma Gaskins, and Bessie Grooms. These (Plus some others I'll probably think of as soon as I mail this!) enable me to buy the Video and audio tapes we distribute (as well as the equipment we record it on), buy the paper, ink, and supplies we need to publish newsletters and books, Help the needy, and use every means available to publish the Gospel of Christ.

THANKS to everyone who shares and prays to enable this ministry to get as many people as possible to KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST.

Preacher Mike

ABRAHAM'S FAITH

Rom 4:17-22

Paul says that it was Abraham's Faith that "impressed" God; not his works. And we have stressed that the *Just shall live by his Faith*. That should make it important for us to determine what kind of Faith Abraham had. ABRAHAM'S FAITH WAS:

A "SENSELESS" FAITH- *Who against hope believed in hope, (vs 18)*

A) Believed the Impossible- He believed God who quickened the dead.

B) Believed the Invisible- He called those things that be not as though they were.

THE RESULT- "He became the father of many nations"

A STRONG FAITH- (vs 20) He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; He would have

A) As opposed to being "weak in Faith" if he would have considered his own body now dead, (vs 19)

B) As opposed to "Staggering" at the promise of God through unbelief (vs 20).

THE RESULT- "He Gave Glory to God"

A SAVING FAITH-

A) Because it Trusted God's Promises (vs 21) Being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

B) Because it accepted God's Pardon (vs 22) Therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

THE RESULT- He was delivered from Sin's Penalty and made part of God's Family.

Do You have Abraham's Faith... or an absence of Faith??

GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

Rom 3:21-26

Having Convinced and Convicted the entire world of Sin, Paul now begins showing that the only method God has ever accepted for the remission of sins is Faith in the Sacrifice God Provides. This goes against the grain of Gentile as well as Jew because all mankind wants to believe that somehow he can master anything, even his sinfulness. This means that, having shown man how sinful he really is; Paul must now show how hopeless he is apart from God's intervention. This causes us to come to grips with the "righteousness of God". For it is this Righteousness that shows that only a Holy God can offer a sinless sacrifice to enable sinful man to be forgiven and returned to fellowship with a Righteous God.

"Righteousness" is an abstract term that is hard to grasp in today's society. The world today is shifting and changing so fast until it's difficult to keep up with it. Things that used to be thought of as "unrighteous" are now considered all right. Standards have shifted to such a degree until men can "religiously" desire to ordain homosexuals to be preachers; "Christians" can roll in the muck and dirt of the world all week and yet smilingly sit in church on Sunday and sing "Jesus, I my cross have taken, All to leave and follow thee"; and Prayer, Fasting, and regular Church attendance are thought of as Fanatical instead of Faithfulness.

"Righteousness" is defined as the character or quality of being right or just. It was formerly spelled "Rightwiseness" and is used to denote an attribute of God that shows his character as faithful and true. This means that God cannot overlook sin just because He loves someone and that the punishment for sin must be consistent. God cannot allow man's sins to go unpunished and He cannot allow the punishment to be anything less than His Holy nature requires.

This is why man cannot provide the payment for sins- anything he "pays" is not sufficient to meet the righteous requirements of God. It's like a little boy with three pennies trying to buy a baseball glove; the three pennies are all he's got, and to him they're very valuable, but they are nowhere close the price of the glove.

Before we go on and see how the righteousness of God requires the Justification of God; I want us to see some of the "Requirement of Righteousness" so we will more clearly understand how and why God used the method He did to bring about our Justification. And that brings us again to look at What Sin Does to us: (Look at the example of Adam and Eve)

1. **Robs us of our clothing-** We hide from God and from each other. No longer able to face our frailty we hide behind the "bushes" of hostility and hypocrisy.
RIGHTEOUSNESS MUST FIND A WAY TO CLOTHE US. (And Remember- All OUR Righteousnesses are as filthy rags, so it must come from God).

2. **Causes us to run from God-** We run FROM Responsibility; failing to realize that the string makes no music until its bound by the bow.
We run FOR the greener pastures of the world and find they're really "Hog Pens".
RIGHTEOUSNESS MUST DEAL WITH OUR FEAR (Perfect love cast out all fear).

3. **Brings disorder into our lives-** a line of authority becomes necessary (Adam over Eve, Man over Nature, etc) and the more regulations we make the more we rebel against them. **RIGHTEOUSNESS MUST CHANGE OUR CHARACTER** - Greatest of all is servant of all

4. **Incurs Penalties-** cursed ground, driven from garden. **RIGHTEOUSNESS MUST GIVE POWER OVER OUR PROBLEMS-** Holy Spirit
"Do this and live; the law commands,
But gives me neither feet nor hands.
A better word the gospel brings.
It bids me fly and gives me wings."

5. **Requires a Payment-** Blood sacrifice to cover nakedness **RIGHTEOUSNESS MUST SATISFY OUR SIN DEBT-** The Cross met God's Righteous Requirements.

JUSTIFICATION

Rom 3:21-26

During a recent Revival service we attended the Preacher stressed in his message to be "sure that you're sure that you're sure" of your salvation. In the context of the message he was delivering it made a person really sit up and examine their relationship with the Lord. Later on my wife and I were talking and she said that even though she had no doubts about her salvation sometimes messages like this caused her to wonder if she could ever COMPLETELY KNOW SHE WAS SAVED. This people had cast out devils and done many wonderful works and yet when they faced God He said, "Depart from me, I never knew you!".

This is one of the most common problems I face as a Pastor; how do I get a Christian to rest peacefully in the security of their salvation and at the same time keep them from resting so peacefully until they become unfruitful in God's work (Which eventually would mean being cut off and cast into the fire!). (In reality, the way preachers try to accomplish this is to have some services where they "hold the Christians close" and tell them everything will be all right and other services where they "scold" them for not being all they should be- It's called the hold and scold method! Most parents have developed it to perfection years ago). (Just a side note- when a Pastor or Parent uses only one side of this "sword" they will eventually get into trouble).

Well, Today's message is one of the "Hold" Messages where we find out how stable our Salvation really is. Paul has just finished the first part of Romans where he has shown the sinfulness of man. Now he's going to the second part where he's going to show God's way out of this sinful state. A key word he's going to use is "JUSTIFICATION". I want us to look at what that word means and see how marvelously it affects our relationship with God.

JUSTIFICATION IS:

1. An act, not a process. There are no degrees of justification; each believer has the same right standing before God (That is why Paul could call the people in the Corinthian Church "Saints" even though they had many problems). I am not going to have Eternal Life if I somehow learn to live a certain way; THE MOMENT I RECEIVE CHRIST AS SAVIOR THAT MOMENT I RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE (John 3:36).

Justification does not mean God ~~makes us righteous~~, but that He **declares us righteous**. Do not confuse Justification and Sanctification. Sanctification is the process whereby God makes us more and more like Christ each day. Justification never changes; as long as we maintain faith in Christ we are absolutely justified before God. We must continually realize that the Blood of Christ covers ALL MY SINS ALL THE TIME.

2. Something God does, not man. No sinner can justify himself before God.

God does this:

WITHOUT LAW- vs 21

BY FAITH- vs 22

FOR ALL- vs 23

THROUGH THE SACRIFICE OF CHRIST- vs 24-25

THAT GOD MIGHT REMAIN RIGHTEOUS- vs 26

Faith means trust, reliance, confidence; and always involves a personal commitment of oneself to Christ. It is based on confidence in Him and His work, which is in turn based on a conviction about the facts of who He is and what He had done. Genuine faith always involves these three elements: Conviction, Confidence, Commitment.

We are justified BY the Death of Christ- Peace with God

We are justified THRU the Grace of God- Access for all

We are justified ONLY by Faith's acceptance of God's Provision.

God had to provide a way to be "Just and the Justifier of them that believe". This Justification can be your today; Accept God's Provision by trusting Christ.

THE REJOICING LIFE

Rom 5:1-5

The Christian life should be an Abundant Life and a Rejoicing Life. Yet we still are human even after we're saved from our sins and become a Child of God. How can we live in a sinful world, inhabit a "sickly" body, and yet rejoice in Life? Paul gives us several answers today.

We rejoice in our:

I. SPIRITUAL POSITION: vs 1 In reference to

A) Our Ability- Justified by Faith. I can rejoice because it's not my Talent but my Trust that God looks at!

B) God's Anger- Peace with God--through our Lord Jesus Christ. I rejoice because God's anger has been turned away because of Christ's Sacrifice.

C) Mutual Access- Stand in Grace--in which we have access by faith. I rejoice in the access to the throne of God that is mine as a Christian.

II. FUTURE PROSPECT vs 2

Hope (Overwhelming Confidence)-- of the Glory of God. Heaven is not "Pie in the Sky" but a Mansion with the Master.

It is easy to rejoice in my Spiritual Position and my Future Prospects BUT the hardest part of the Rejoicing Life to understand or withstand is--

III. PRESENT PROBLEMS vs 3-5 We GLORY in Tribulation.

A) KNOWING- The Secret of rejoicing in problems is KNOWING God is using them for our good and His Glory- James 1:2-3 *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

B) GROWING- We can glory in Troubles when we see what results:

1) Tribulation- means pressure (That when endured squeezes out joy!) and brings us to having:

2) Patience- Capacity to abide under (as if you exercise an arm), which will in turn lead us to:

3) Experience- Proof of our approvedness (To try something out) which causes us to look beyond the Trouble to the Triumph as we get:

4) Hope- Confidence (That we have the above). This hope then makes us not ashamed--because the Love of God is shed abroad in our heart.

Problems are not for our enduring but our enjoying. We can fight against them or learn from them.

The Rejoicing Life is not a life without problems or pressures but it is a life of Peace with God, Promises from God, and the Presence of God in real world situations. And it's wonderful!

DIVINE PROVISION

Rom 5:6-10

I was born again 28 years ago tomorrow (March 19, 1962). That Monday night, kneeling at an altar in New Prospect FWB Church in Shinbonealley, SC, this 14 year old "Jones boy" from Crow Corner, S C changed from a sinner headed to Hell into a child of God with a title deed to a mansion in Heaven. During the past 28 years I have preached and taught and wrote and used every means God would give me to "multiply the ministry". My motivation has been condensed into a simple little slogan; I want to get everyone, everywhere, to KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST.

This Two-pronged Mission means I want to get as many people as possible to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior; and then I want to see them develop a relationship with God to such a degree that they live rejoicing fruitful lives for God

The way this will happen is if I can get people to realize the Divine Provision for our new life in Christ (It's not my abilities or talents that have brought me this far, it's the fact that God has provided what I need). Two Divine Provisions from God have allowed me to Come to God and Live for God. They are the:

A) Love of God 6-10

1. How He loved--gave Jesus
2. Who He loved
 - a. without strength
 - b. ungodly
 - c. sinners- miss the mark
 - d. enemies

B) Life of Christ-- 10

This Life of Christ saves sinners from:

1. What he's done- We are justified by divine blood
2. Where he's going- We are saved from Righteous wrath
3. What he is- It is no longer "I" but "Christ" living in me. It's not by Trying to live right but my allowing Christ to live in and through me.

Before the foundation of the world God already had Provisions made for Sinners like me to come to Him for Pardon from Sin and a new life in Christ. But it wouldn't have meant anything if someone hadn't told me about it! Is there someone waiting for YOU to share the Good News with them???

GRACE and GLORY



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First Worship Service . 9:00am
Bible Study Hour . . . 10:00am
Worship Service (WJOT) 11:00
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm
Pastor Mike Jones 394-3725

Vol VIII Num 7 April 4, 1990 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, S C

"See-Saw" has
never been my
favorite sport!
Roll Call

Sunday was as
good as we
thought it
would be- 95 in
Sunday School

(well over 115 if you count the
extras that came in for Worship
Service- like some churches do!);
and a marvelous spirit of
fellowship with the people and
the Lord.

And then there was last Sunday
when the time changed- the first
15 minutes of the 9am service was
VERY SLIM (We're talking major
league slim here!). It picked up
considerable by the 11am service
but I sure hope everyone has
their Time changed by this Sunday
{Had good services though; ought
to get the videos and see for
yourself}.

It's been a very very busy
first part of the year so far but
I'm still looking at new and
better ways to reach more and
more people with the Gospel. The
most recent addition has been a
FAX board added to my computer.

I can't receive Fax but I can



send them so if you need Bible
help on a particular subject, and
have access to a Fax machine, I
can get it to you very quickly (I
got this {free on a swap, by the
way} to enable me to send
articles to newspapers; saving me
time and gas). If you need Bible
help I can now send it to you by
mail, by computer modem, or by
Fax. It's also available on
Video, Audio, and in Booklet
form. I've got the Message you
need and the Method to get it to
you; Now it's up to you to get
it.

The "Living
Lord's
Supper" will
be presented
on Friday,
April 13 at
7:30pm here
at the

Church. The
program is not lengthy and it
carries a vital message. Hope you
can join us. Remember also that
Sunrise Service will begin at 7am
with Breakfast to follow, then
SS, and the preaching service at
10am on Easter day. Join us for
all these activities.

. Preacher Mike



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GIDEON'S ARMY

Judges 6:,7:

On days like today- Time change, rain, lots of sickness; it's encouraging to know that the Lord is not limited in what He can do by the size of the congregation! One of the best examples of this is the story of Gideon's Army. I want us today to see how God can take a few people and win the victory; and then determine to be part of God's army.

Gideon lived in a dark period in the history of his nation. The people kept drifting into sin and God kept allowing them to be defeated in order to show them the error of their ways. At this time the Midianites were invading the land and taking all the gains and goods of the Nation until the children of Israel were "greatly impoverished" (Judge 6:1-6). Today, we in America, are fighting this same kind of battle. We have never had so many opportunities to have the "good life" and yet we must constantly fight divorce, drugs, lukewarm living, and unconcern. We must learn to fight God's way if we are to accomplish God's results.

I. THEIR LEADER- Gideon

A Promise to Believe- Judges 6:16 *And the Lord said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.* (A PRIVATE Promise. If the Leader does not have a Vision then the people will walk in darkness!).

An Alter to Build- (A PUBLIC Proclamation). He had to take down the altar of Baal and then erect an altar to God. A leader must Remove sin and commit himself to the task God's called him to.

An Army to Lead- (Performance) A General without an army is not much good!! Have a Dream, Tell a Dream, and then Do a Dream.

II. THEIR CHOOSING-

God ordered the Tests to see who really was serious. Today, God allows many things to come our way in order to determine our commitment.

Reason- so God would get the Glory. Remember it's not your Ability but your availability; not your Talents but your Trust, that God wants.

Method-

a. Fail the Fearful 22 Thousand out of 32 Thousand were afraid and went home. Fear defeats Faith but perfect love casts out fear.

b. Seek the Serious- Of the 10 Thousand that remained only 300 drank water in such a manner as to be ready for a surprise attack (Used their hands to scope the water up). The remainder bowed on their knees and drank; they weren't serious about the fight yet. Remember, your Attitude determines your effectiveness.

III. THEIR VICTORY

Promised by God- God used the enemy to encourage Gideon!

Accomplished in an unusual manner- Using Light and Voice instead of Force.

The Vessel had to be Broken- To allow the light to shine

A Trumpet to Blow- To disturb the enemy

Are you ready for God to break you so you can shine for Him? Are you willing to Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins (Isaiah 58:1)? Remember, It's not how many we are but how Faithful.

TRUTH AND TRADITIONS

I want today to look at some of Easter's Traditions and then see the Truth about them.

SPRING HOUSE CLEANING

Tradition- The Jewish Passover is celebrated at the same time Christians celebrate Easter. Passover was when God delivered the Jews from Egypt by sparing the first born of all who had the blood applied to their doorpost. One of the requirements of Passover was that no bread be cooked using Leaven. Jewish women began the Tradition of "Spring House Cleaning" to make sure there was no leaven left in their house during this season. Other people picked up the Tradition (After all, it's a good time to clean up the house after the long winter of being closed in).

Truth- Leaven represents Sin in our lives. Leaven decays and corrupts and that is what sin does to us. Do you need to do any Physical "House cleaning" about your Spiritual life? Any Books, Records, Games, etc, you need to throw out??

LENT

Tradition- Originally the early Christians would ask those who wanted to join them to prepare for the hardships that would come with their public stand for Christ by, among other things, "Fasting" (Doing without any meat or eggs) for the 40 days prior to Easter. Because of the difficulties endured during the 40 days they began to be called "Lengthened days" and finally "Lent". (Mardi Gras has become the big blow out before this 40 day period begins. Originally 1 day {Mardi Gras means "Fat Tuesday"} it is now several weeks long and includes parades, parties, revelling, and sin).

Truth- Easter should be a time we look at the seriousness of sin and what it cost Christ (Death on the Cross). It should also be a time we rejoice in the victory Christ accomplished for us over Death, Hell, and the Grave. It is not a time to "Pleasure the flesh".

Are you willing to give up a meal this Easter season and spend that time reading the story of the Crucifixion and resurrection?

EASTER EGGS AND BUNNIES

Tradition- One of the things the early Christians gave up during "Lent" was eggs. So on Easter day the other Christians would give them a few eggs (Possibly in a basket) to welcome them into the Church. These eggs were dyed Red to represent the shed blood of Christ and when they were cracked they represented Christ coming forth from the tomb. (Is this how the act of hiding eggs began? Because the early Christians looked for eggs on Easter.).

No one seems to know for sure how the rabbit came into the picture. Maybe because he lives in a hole in the Ground (Grave) and comes out at this time of year.

Truth- The tradition of Easter eggs and bunnies is pretend; but the reason for the season is Jesus' resurrection. Easter should be a time of rejoicing in the victory we have in Christ; not in finding Easter eggs.

WEARING NEW CLOTHES TO CHURCH ON EASTER

Tradition- In the Early Church many people wanted to be baptized the day before Easter to symbolize the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Then on Easter Sunday they would wear new clothes to Church to signify their new life in Christ.

Truth- New Birth should mean new Life. Does the world know you are a Christian?? Do you wear new clothes or have a new life?

PROMISE VERSUS PERFORMANCE

Rom 4:20-22

Moved any mountains lately?? Jesus said (Matt 17:20) *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.* Seems to me like there are a lot of Christians with extremely small faith...or sometimes the promises do not translate into performance. (Just for Information, Jesus said the problem with these disciples was their "Unbelief".... and yet he ended his admonition by saying *Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.* So was the Problem their Faith or their Fasting??).

Abraham was in somewhat of this dilemma. He had received a Promise from God but Time (Almost 25 years had transpired since the Promise), Circumstances (He had to consider not his own body now dead, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb (vs 19)), and Emotions (Who against Hope believed in Hope-vs 18) all combined to defeat the performance of this Promise. If you too have been "buffeted in your belief" lately maybe it's time we examined the difference between Promise and Performance.

FIRST, let's see how you tell a Promise from a "Pipe Dream". Then let's see how you turn the Promise into reality.

Everyone has "Pipe Dreams"; that is, things they desire to have or to have happen. These can be anything from wanting dad to stop for ice cream to having a millionaire like your looks so much until he gives you a million dollars. "Pipe Dreams aren't altogether harmful (Sometimes they may even be a little helpful) but they must be recognized for what they are- WISHFUL THINKING!!

"Pipe Dreams" are caused by CONDITIONS (You're broke and so is your car! Your child/husband/wife is not acting like you'd like and you want them to suddenly "magically" change into the image you've dreamed of); or FEELINGS (People would like you better if you had some great talent. If I won a million dollars today, I wouldn't have to go to work!). A "Pipe Dream" is just a HOPE-- that you'll suddenly lose weight, or become rich, or wondrously develop into the best basketball player in the world.

A Promise, on the other hand, is something that is based on the WORD of someone who is Able (and willing) to do what he has promised. There are CONDITIONAL PROMISES- You do this and I will do that (Whosoever Will may come. You make the decision and I will provide the way); and UNCONDITIONAL PROMISES- In spite of anything you do I am going to do certain things. There are very few, if any, of these promises to be found (Every time I thought I had found one I would find a condition attached to it somewhere. The closest thing I could find was a number of Promises based on Faith without Works; yet they were conditional upon Faith).

That Conditional aspect of the Promise is very important. A Performance is expected from the Person receiving the Promise as well as from the person who made the Promise. We will soon spend an entire lesson on the Performance required by the person receiving the promise, but right now I want us to look at what sort of Performance we can expect from the one making the Promise.

A FAITHFUL Performance- If the conditions are met the Promise WILL BE KEPT.

A TIMED Performance- God seems to always wait for the "fullness of time" so the fulfilled promise will do good instead of harm.

A GOD HONORING Performance- The outcome of the promise is not simply to bring you pleasure but to build your trust and adoration of God.

You can count on the Performance of the one giving the Promise; can He count on the Performance of the one receiving the Promise???

REDEEMING THE TIME

Ephesians 5:15-16 *See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*

On this day, when the "Time Changes" by Government Regulation, I thought it would be a good idea to see what the Bible says we should do with time. Isn't it strange that we have the same 24 hours in a day that our forefathers did and live in a society filled with "Time saving" devices; yet we seem to have less and less time; and end up longing for the "good old days" when life was pleasurable instead of Pressure packed.

"Times" have changed but Time is still the same; and we are still answerable to God for what we do with it. Let's see what God expects of our time, and try to use it wisely.

Look closely at what our verses say:

1. We are to Walk (a continuous action)- This points to the PATTERNS in our life. Some people are consistently late (a Pattern) while others consistently waste time (a Pattern). If we are to do anything about time in our life we must learn our Patterns and see which of them need to be changed.

2. circumspectly (Looking around)- This deals with PERCEPTION. Some people never think about the consequences of their actions (Or lack of actions). Others have "tunnel vision" and spend tremendous time on one thing without regard to the many other things that are needful.

3. not as fools, but as wise (Knowing the PROPER way)- You can waste a lot of time wailing away at a tree with an axe handle, or you can take the time to put a sharp axehead on it and cut the tree down!

4. Redeeming the time (Buying up the opportunities we are given)- This means we should use our time PROFITABLY. We "Spend" our Time or "Waste" our Time. Sometimes the most profitable use of time is doing nothing while other times that the most wasteful use of time.

5. because the days are evil- The PRIORITIES of our time are very important. We know that TIME is RUNNING OUT for this world and it's important that we do what we can while we still have time.

(In the Amp. Bible these verses read: Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully and worthily and accurately, not as the unwise and witless, but as wise, sensible, intelligent people: Making the very most of the time- buying up the opportunity- because the days are evil.

Since we all have the same amount of Time it's important that we learn to use it correctly. Here are 10 Guidelines to help us make the Most of our Time:

1. Know what your life is all about and set your priorities accordingly. (Phil 1:21 *For me to live is Christ. If that is your goal then everything else will take lesser priority*).
2. Set Definite measurable Goals. (Are you more like Christ now than you were last year? How can you tell??)
3. Plan the use of time in regards to your goals and priorities.
 - A) List the things you need to do. Where no vision people perish.
 - B) Heed the Holy Spirit's Leading. Prov 16:9 *A man's heart deviseth his way; but the Lord directeth his steps.*
 - C) Plan your work- then work your plan. James 1:22-25
4. Don't wait until every detail of God's plan is known. Do what you know to do now. (The Word is a lamp unto my feet but it only shows a step at a time; as I take that one another is revealed).
5. Don't become obsessed with Past or Future Success (Last week's "steak" won't fill today's hunger! And if you starve to death today you won't be able to enjoy a steak next week!) Now is acceptable time.
6. Do the right thing at the right time in the right way. Ecc 3:17 *There is a time for every purpose and for every work. If a plane is to leave at 7 o'clock and you arrive at 6 you waste an hour. If you arrive at 7:30 you miss the plane!! Learn WHAT to do, WHEN to do it, and HOW to do it right (Is there a quicker better way?)*
7. Don't allow emotional impulses to dictate to you. (You must learn to work even when you don't feel like it. Ecc 11:4 *He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap*).
8. Learn to learn from mistakes to save time in the future. If you stumble over a rock remember where it's at. If you can't Move it then Mark it!
9. Don't talk about Life- LIVE IT!! Don't always Plan; Perform.
10. Know when to quit:
 - A) When the task is determined impossible
 - B) When the task is determined unnecessary
 - C) When the task is completed- I have finished my course

GOD HAS GIVEN US ALL THE TIME WE NEED TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSE.

But Remember; the most important thing you can do with your time is use it to accept Christ as your Savior. Now is the Time to do that! Heb 4:7 *Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

GRACE AND GLORY



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Vol VIII Num 8 April 26, 1990 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

I have purchased over \$100 Dollars worth of video tapes in the past 2 weeks; Does that give you any idea of how good our Easter Services were?!? The "Living Lord's Supper" was fantastic, the Ladies Sunrise Program was super, Breakfast was delicious, and we had a "jam full" church for the Worship Service. If you haven't gotten your videos yet then be sure and request them soon- you'll be blessed.



We enjoyed the way the camera we borrowed worked so well until the Church decided to purchase one for our own use (We have been using Brother Don Lewis' camera for the past year and a half and we felt that Video was such a normal part of our ministry now until we needed to quit wearing his out). Don recorded last Sunday's services with it and he did a great job with all the "trick" features it has (It almost made the Preacher look good! Major League Miracle!).



BUILDING PROJECTS

We have also finished the concrete work on our new parking area (8 more parking places) and we hope to have the asphalt and paint work done soon. Come visit us soon; We'll have a place for you to

park!

It was also decided at our last Church Conference to Paint the outside of the

Church, put down new carpet on the outside porches, and see about putting new shingles on the Church roof to replace the damage done by Hugo. With all the other "little" things we're doing inside the Church, we hope our building will be nice to look at and let everyone who visits with us know we love the Lord. We're also making all our preparations for our giant 30th anniversary/ Home Coming (Sept 16). More details later.

I appreciate MEMORIAL Gifts to this ministry in memory of Doris Coker by Tom and Anne McKnight; of Billy Joe McBride by Bruce Mixon and Helen Crisp; of Shane and Jarrett Poston by Eris Jones. The Ministry just keeps growing and growing and it's the support of people like this that enable it to continue.

I'm also happy to report another Devotional (Continued on Back)

To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST

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Article has been added to our Outreach. The Florence Morning News begins publishing a weekly supplement for the people south of Lynches River next week (The "Lynches River News") and I will be furnishing some of the devotional articles for them (And they'll use mine any week the other preachers they're contacting don't turn one in). This will reach 3500 homes in our area each week and I pray the Lord will use it to speak to many hearts.

I know that I've been promising you a new Bible Study Booklet for a while but the first 4 months of 1990 have been extremely busy. I'm trying to work on several booklets that are almost finished as well as revise several of the older booklets so I hope to advance this part of the ministry in the next few months. Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated. May the Lord Bless you as you work for Him. I remain In Christ Pastor Mike Jones

We are again Grateful for these Ladies who "Volunteered" to prepare the light refreshments between the 9 O'Clock service and Sunday School (I'm putting this list here so they'll know they "Volunteered"!).

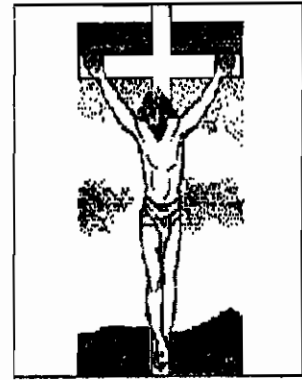


Apr 22---Dot Sullivan & Anne Thigpen
 Apr 29---Roxanne Young & Camala Newell
 May 6---Paula Jones & Leila Thrasher
 May 13---(Mother's Day) (Doughnuts)
 May 20---Eulalia Jordan & Johanna Lowder
 May 27---Devonne Hanna & Tracy Lowder
 Jun 3---Anne McKnight & Mary Knight
 Jun 10---Sylvia Gowdy & Donna Sullivan
 Jun 17---(Father's Day)?????????
 Jun 24---Miriam McAllister & Kay Matthews
 Jul 1---Hope Frye & Billie Ard
 Jul 8---Althea Coker & DeBe Miles
 Jul 15---Kathy Lewis & Bonnie Lee
 Jul 22---Susan Spring & Robin Matthews
 Jul 29---Marjorie McAllister/Teresia Coleman
 /Lila Tisdale
 Aug 5---Jenene Brown & Connie Mathis
 Aug 12---Jackie Lowder & Mildred Lowder
 Aug 19---Dot Sullivan & Camala Newell
 Aug 26---Roxanne Young & Anne Thigpen
 Sep 2---Betty Lou Thompson & Janice Runion
 Sep 9---Paula Jones & Mary Wilkes
 Sep 16---HOME COMING (Dinner on Grounds)

THE CROSS

Matt 27:33-44

The Basic Truth of Christianity is the Death, burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Next Week we will examine His Resurrection; but today I want us to look at the Cross- and see what it means for us now, and for eternity.



I. THE MAN ON THE CROSS- Jesus Christ

A) A Unique Background

1) Predetermined in eternity to die for man's sins- I Pet 1:19-20 Redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot; who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world.

2) Predicted in the Old Testament: To Eve in the Garden, As the Replacement Ram for Isaac in Gen 22; in Temple Sacrifices; In the Passover of Exodus 12; in the Brazen Serpent in the Desert.

3) Predominant in the Gospels and Epistles

4) Principle Theme in Heaven- Rev 5:8-13 "Thou art Worthy.."

B) An Unusual Death- He Did not die

- of Old Age, Accident, or Disease

- A Political Hero (Countrymen cried "Crucify Him")

- Simply as an Example

- As a martyr for a Cause (Disciple Fled)

- Because he was a Criminal

He died a WILLING ("No man takes my life, I lay it down"), SACRIFICIAL ("For sins debts"), SUBSTITUTIONARY (For you and I) Death.

II. THE MEANING OF THE CROSS

A) A Place of Peace between God and Men- Col 1:20 Christ made peace through the blood of his cross in order to reconcile us to himself.

B) A Place of Public Death- Gal 6:14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

III. THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS-I Cor 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

No man can leave here today without making a decision about the Cross.

Where do you Stand in regards to that Cross?

1. ABSENT; Like Peter- Maybe you're a backslidden Believer like Peter who is following afar off and warming at the world's fire; who will deny the Lord when put to the test.

2. ANGRY; Maybe, like Pilate, you're washing your hands of the entire situation and laying the Blame on someone else (Hypocrites, family). Warned by his wife, Convicted by his conscience (I find no fault in him), He finally washed his hands instead of his soul.

3. AMUSED; Maybe like the soldiers you're mocking Him and don't want to realize the seriousness of the situation.

4. AWAITING; Maybe like the Pharisees you want to see some special miracle before you'll come.

5. OBSERVING; Maybe like the crowd you're just observing- think it doesn't concern you-- in spite of what he's done for you.

6. But maybe like the thief, you're AWARE of your NEED and are willing to cry, "Lord be merciful to me a sinner"

Will you knell at the Cross today and give your heart and life to Christ as you accept his pardon and peace??

TRUSTING IN GOD

Matt 27:42-43 Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.

Jesus Trusted in God. What did it get Him?

1. In Followers- One Betrayed, One denied, Only one stayed while the rest forsook him and fled.
2. In Material goods- As far as we know, He left nothing physical at all. He had to give the care of his mother to John, and was buried in a stranger's tomb in stranger's cloths.
3. In Understanding- Rejected by his people; they finally asked for a robber and a murderer to be released instead of Jesus. Misunderstood by his own disciples.
4. In Fair Play and Justice- A "Kangaroo" court where everyone could find no fault in him but they scourged him and crucified him anyway.

(Was Jesus the only one to suffer unjustly?? Look at:
John the Baptist- Head cut off to satisfy a woman's anger
Stephen- Stoned because he spoke the truth
James- Killed by sword because it pleased the people
Peter- in and out of jail until finally crucified upsidedown
Paul- Jailed, stoned, run out of town, finally beheaded).

The Key is: "He trusted in God". Our sufficiency is of God; not what man says or thinks. That is why Christians should glory in Tribulation; that they may learn to depend on God.

- "Let Him deliver him now"- God chose to work different than man.
1. Rather than rescue him from death he let him conquer death!
 2. His Name was "defamed" to give him a name above every name.
 3. He lost eleven "followers" to gain eleven Disciples.

Sometimes trusting in God does not turn out the way we planned. That's when we must Trust IN GOD instead of circumstances. Are YOU Trusting IN GOD?? or Crying over Circumstances??

(This is a sermon my brother Ronnie had. In transferring some information for someone I put some errors in the sermons I planned to use and now don't have the time to re-write them. Hope this one speaks to your heart)

APPOINTMENTS WE HATE TO KEEP

II SAM 13:1-20

II Samuel 13:32b ...for by the appointment of Absalom this hath been determined from the day that he forced his sister Tamar.

What brought about this appointment?

Amnon, the playboy son of David, developed a warped, perverted infatuation for his own half-sister, Tamar. An evil plan was suggested by Jonadab who posed as his friend. Feigning sickness, Amnon brought Tamar within reach, accomplished the quenching of his lust by criminal assault, ordered her from the house, bolted the door behind her, and assumed, no doubt, that the episode was over. But Amnon became tangled in the backlash of his sin, and discovered two full years later that sin is never finished for an unrepentant sinner! His appointment was kept.

PSA 140:11b ...evil shall hunt the violent man to overthrow him.

PSA 51:3b ...my sin is ever before me.

Notice some things about this sin that led to this appointment:

I. HIS SIN WAS A SIN OF LUST

a. God intended for man to have a desire for a woman and vice-versa. (By the way, this rules out "all" homosexual activities.) However, the one and only way that sexual activity is correct and accepted is in the bonds of marriage.

GEN 2:18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

GEN 2:23-24 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

EXO 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

EXO 20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife...

1CO 7:2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

1TI 5:22 ...neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

b. (Speculation) Tamar may have been partly responsible for the sin.

2SAM 13:1 And it came to pass after this, that Absalom the son of David had a fair sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her.

2SAM 13:8 So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was laid down. And she took flour, and kneaded it, and made cakes in his sight, and did bake the cakes.

PRO 31:30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

c. Even though He was the King's son and had all the fame and fortune associated with it, he was not satisfied.

13:2 vexed - Hebrew word Yatsar (meaning distressed, straitened)
He made himself sick lusting after "something else."

ECC 5:10 He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.

JAM 1:14-15 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

COL 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence (a strong desire of any kind. example: an abnormal sexual appetite), and covetousness, which is idolatry:

Many people aren't "in love"; they're just lusting after one another! This lusting led to an appointment!

II. IT WAS ENCOURAGED BY A "FRIEND"

2SAM 13:3 But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab...

You better be careful when you choose your friends. The old saying, "Lie down with the dogs, get up with fleas" is still in true.

A true friend will tell you "no." PROV 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

It's not much of a friend who will help you go to jail, or get you in trouble.

Amnon's friend helped him keep an appointment!

III. IT DID NOT BRING THE DESIRED RESULTS

2SAM 13:15 Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her was greater than the love wherewith he had loved her. And Amnon said unto her, Arise, be gone.

ILL>. "Why is the young prince crying?" "I gave him the bumble bee he wanted."

A lot of rich, powerful, people have thought they would be happy if they could have a certain person for themselves. The divorce courts have proven them wrong.

To have someone out of the will of God is to have trouble upon trouble.

It will lead you to an appointment you don't want to keep!

IV. IT WAS A SIN THAT WAS SOON FOUND OUT

2SAM 13:19-20 And Tamar put ashes on her head, and rent her garment of divers colors that was on her, and laid her hand on her head, and went on crying. And Absalom her brother said unto her, Hath Amnon thy brother been with thee?

1TI 5:24 Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after.

NUM 32:23b ...be sure your sin will find you out.

It led to Amnon's appointment with death!

The way to prevent these types of appointments is to never make them!

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First Worship Service . 9:00am
Bible Study Hour . . . 10:00am
Worship Service (WJOT) 11:00am
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm
Pastor Mike Jones 394-3725

Vol VIII Num 9 May 10, 1990 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

I might need some protection for the next few days. As most of you know, I write devotional articles for several area Newspapers. I decided to look at Mothers from 2 different aspects in several of these articles but I didn't think about the fact that one of them comes out on Wednesday and the other comes out on Friday. The article about how bad Mother's are is in the Wednesday Papers and the article about treating Mom good is in the Friday Paper. I might need to sort of "lay low" until Friday!!



I do appreciate Mothers in general and My Mother in particular, however. She's a super lady and I'm thankful for her influence and encouragement thru the years. She did the best she could with what she had to work with! (I'm not exactly sure what happened with my brothers-- but that's another story!).

We will be honoring all our Mothers here at Grace during our services Sunday. The Church will provide the Refreshments before Sunday School and each mother will receive a Rose during the 11am service. Be sure and bring your mother with you this Sunday.

Talk about "Super Moms", Mrs Hope Frye has been out of work due to some surgery and she felt well enough to help me some around the office this week. She has really been a Blessing; She did some things in two morning that it would have probably taken me several months to accomplish the way I have to work. I certainly appreciate all she did this week and all she does in our Church on a regular basis (She's the kind of Church member you wish you had about 100 of) [You preachers will also appreciate what she did. Rev Dale Yarbough had given me a stack of old sermons someone had given him and Mrs Hope has been typing them into the Computer so I could get them ready for distribution. Should be ready soon].



I also appreciate MEMORIALS given by Jack and Wilma Gaskins, Tom and Anne McKnight, and Don and Kathy Lewis in Memory of Mrs Lillie Mae McAllister. This really helps with all that goes on in our Outreach Ministry now. I also appreciate 2 cases of paper from Sully and Donna Sullivan. God always meets our Needs. I'm glad I serve Him. Aren't You??

..... Preacher Mike

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TOTAL COMMITMENT

Rom 9:1-3 *I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:*

Having explained the wonders of Salvation by Grace thru Faith; Paul is now faced with a perplexing problem- If God's Promises are to be believed so readily and completely, why then was the covenant nation of Israel being dismissed?? If a man is simply to grab hold of Faith and hang on, how can he be sure that Faith will not fail him in latter years? This is part of the purpose of the next 3 chapters as Paul explains Israel's Past dealings with God, Their Present standing before God, and their Future Relationship with God.

Paul begins this section, however with one of the most astounding verses in the Bible. Paul says that he could wish himself accursed to Hell, if by doing this he would be able to save the nation of Israel! He wants his readers to know that his statements about the nation of Israel are not simply philosophical preaching but the statements of a man who longs for his people to be partakers of God's Grace and Goodness.

You would think that such a depth of love and dedication is a one time thing but the Bible gives several incidence of people with this kind of Total Commitment.

While MOSES was on the mountain getting the ten commandments from God; God suddenly told Moses to return to the people because they had turned to idols in his absence. Moses returned to find the people involved in immorality and idolatry (after he had been gone only 40 days!). He threw the 10 commandments of stone on the ground and broke them (signifying that Israel had done the same thing) and then makes an astonishing statement- *Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, it thou wilt forgive their sin-; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.* (Exodus 32:31-32). Moses was willing to be erased from God's Book in order to save his people. What dedication

This same dedication was shown by Jesus- John 10:11 *I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*

I understand this type commitment, for I am literally killing myself for this Church and this ministry. I work day and night, many times totally exhausted, in order to try to help as many people as possible KNOW and SHOW CHRIST. One day I will probably try to "jump start" my heart or my brain and they will simply refuse to work. But I willingly do it out of love for you and God.

Do I expect this same type of commitment out of you? Not really. There are some things I do expect of you however:

A) Consistent Attendance- Our services are 4 hours per week. Be Here.

B) Consistent Service- I must have help with the Church if I'm to run the ministry. YOU must become involved- Teaching, Singing, Caring about the Church, Praying, Tithing. Christians are spectators in Heaven (Heb 12:1) but they must be Participators on Earth.

C) Consistent Living- Christianity is not a game you play but a life you live. If we're going to make a mark for God in our area it will be by Godly Living.

When David was asked about facing the giant he said, "Is there not a Cause?" (I Sam 17:29). I ask you today, "Is not our Cause worth committing everything to"???

THE REGENERATED LIFE

Rom 6:1-6

Regeneration; the most important thing that can happen in your life. What does it mean to have a "Regenerated Life"?

I. **CONVERTED-** 6:2 How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? A Christian is one who is Dead to Sin's Penalty because Jesus Christ has paid the "Wages" of Sin (Death) and given us the "Gift" of God (Eternal Life). Convicted of his rebellion against a Holy God this person has Believed in his heart that Jesus died for him and has confessed with his mouth that God has raised Christ from the dead.

II. **CONDUCT CHANGED-** 6:4 even so we also should walk in newness of life. Performance is expected. God did not just save you FROM Sin's Penalty; He saved you FOR His honor and glory.

Our life is now lived according to God's will instead of our own.

Sometimes it's hard to determine what God's will is. Let's look at some things that "Weary" God and we can begin to see the positive by showing the negative.

1) **PLAYING CHURCH-** Is 1:14 Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth; they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.

2) **DISREGARDING HIS WORD-** Mal 2:17 Ye have wearied the Lord with your words, Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?

3) **CONTINUING IN OUR SINS-** ISA 43:24 Thou hast bought me no sweet cane with money, neither hast thou filled me with the fat of thy sacrifices: but thou hast made me to serve with thy sins, thou hast wearied me with thine iniquities.

4) **PRETENDING TO REPENTING-** Jer 15:6 Thou hast forsaken me, saith the Lord, thou art gone backward: therefore will I stretch out my hand against thee, and destroy thee; I am weary with repenting.

All of these focus on one common theme- Using God instead of Loving God. God does not like "Hypocrites" that give Him Lip service instead of Life Service. He expects you to Walk different as well as talk different.

III. **COMMITMENT GIVEN-** 6:6 That henceforth we should not serve sin.

A) To God- To Love Him and Let Him use your body as the temple of the Holy Spirit.

B) To the Church- We commit ourselves to

1. Attend it regularly- Heb 10:25

2. Prepare for the Worship Service-

3. Give to it as God has prospered us

4. Become a Member- that will take the place assigned to us in the Body by the Spirit of God.

Being Saved should be TRANSFORMATION as well as SALVATION. It should change us from "worms of the world" into "Believing Butterflies" that are a beauty to behold because of our Character and Conduct.

Are you Floating in the breeze or wallowing in the mud??



WORTHY WITNESSES

Rom 9:1 *I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,*

Having shown the NEED of Righteousness, the WAY of Righteousness, and the RESULTS of Righteousness; Paul now must deal with the puzzling fact that the Jews had REJECTED God's Righteousness for a Religious Righteousness that enslaved them to Law instead of liberated them for Life.

This is a "crossroads" that every Christian worker comes to- You know what you ought to do, and why you ought to do it, but you become discouraged and disappointed by the rejections and failures of people. At this Cross-Road you'll either keep going by Faith or Turn aside into unhappy, unfruitful, living because things didn't turn out as you expected.

The need in your life at this time is "TOTAL COMMITMENT", and we'll look at that in the next hour, but you also need to know that what you're doing is the right thing (Doubts come when you ask yourself this question, "Is it my fault that the people aren't being faithful?"). That's what I want us to look at now; Is your witness a "worthy Witness"? Are you on the right road giving the right message?

Paul gives three things about his witness in today's verse and these three things are what God is looking for in each of us as witnesses.

1. The Truth we Proclaim: *I say the Truth in Christ.*

a. "I say"- The Communication of a Witness. You must have courage enough to "come out of the crowd" and take the stand for Christ. There are multitudes of ways of communicating: Lips, Life, Light, Love, etc

b. "The Truth"- A Faithful Witness. You can't cry "wolf" and be believed. The Truth is not always easy to bear but it's the only thing to believe.

c. "in Christ"- A "Fellowship" witness- He speaks in fellowship with Christ, so that falsehood is impossible. He speaks the things that Christ would have him speak. (Which means we must ask ourselves what we are to be witnesses OF and who we are to be witnesses FOR. Christ did not come to simply save us FROM sin; He came to save us FOR God).

2. The Lie we Avoid: *I lie not.* A Big clean sheet with one spot of dirt will look dirty to everyone who sees it. Jesus was "death" on Hypocrites! We have learned to say what we think we ought to say instead of what is real- For example: "Christian parents will have good children" (Truth- Christianity is taught, not caught. If the Prodigal's father represents God then the Prodigal represents initial failure and the elder son represents continued failure).

Some people have a zeal for God but not according to knowledge; and their zest won't pass the test! And a witness who is false in one area is hard to believe in another.

3. The Conviction we claim: *My conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost.* This witness of the soul brings PEACE to the Life and PURPOSE to our work (It is this witness that gives us drive and determination in our work for God. Some people call it "Vision", others a "Call", but whatever it's name it allows us to know we're on the right road).

(It even bears witness with our spirit that we are the sons of God. Rom 8:16).

What kind of Witness are you?? Do you Know and Proclaim the Truth? Do you avoid hypocrisy and falsehood? Do you have the inner witness of God about what you're doing??

THE REIGNING LIFE

Rom 5:11-21

Now that we know that the way to have the Rejoicing Life is to KNOW the Reason for life's difficulties and then GROW thru them into the people God would have us be; it's just a logical step from the Rejoicing Life to the Reigning Life. After all, if the troubles of life make us better instead of bitter then we should feel like rulers instead of being beaten and battered by life's circumstances.

This is not how most people feel however. Most people feel their life is out of control instead of under their control. They're trapped in difficult jobs, difficult marriages, and prolonged diseases. They long to be masters of their circumstances and rulers of their own fate; but...it doesn't seem to work that way. And, since many of them expected Christianity to accomplish this for them, they feel like Christianity is a failure because Christians have more problems and pains than sinners do.

The Holy Spirit must have felt some of this coming into the minds of people because He led Paul to leave the Rejoicing Life and explain about the Reigning Life. And in this explanation I believe some Christians will find answers they desperately seek.

The word "Reign" means to "Possess sovereign power" to have "royal Authority" and carries the idea of "Ruling Over, Governing". That's what we long for, the ability to possess Power over Problems and to rule over our situation (Secretly, we want to be "God". We want to determine what's best for us and then have the ability to do anything we want).

"Reign" is used in 4 situations in today's scripture:

vs 14- Death Reigns from Adam to Moses

vs 17- They that have received abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness, shall reign in life by Jesus Christ

vs 21- Sin hath reigned unto Death

vs 21- Grace reigns through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Note two significant things immediately- Death reigned OVER man while Christians reign IN Life. One governs by Force, the other by Faith. Note also that Sin Reigns UNTO Death while Grace reigns THROUGH righteousness. And finally, see the RESULTS of the reigning- Sin reigns unto DEATH while Grace reigns unto ETERNAL LIFE.

Now, let's go back and catch the general theme of the verses. Paul is explaining that the Law is not God's method of Salvation- Faith is. He has given the example of Abraham's Faith and then shown how Faith is the only method available to us since we were enemies of God (Wouldn't seek Him) and without strength (Couldn't seek Him). Now he is showing that sin's penalty (Death) was visited upon men long before the Law was given- Therefore, if men must keep the Law to be saved then they should not have been punished for not keeping the Law when the Law was not yet given!

That brings us to "Father Adam" who brought sin into the world (vs 12). Adam's original sin has tremendous theological implications but today I want us to simply look at what it was and what it did; and how that affects our ability to Reign in this life.

WHAT WAS ADAM'S SIN? 3 Words are used to describe it and then 3 words are used to show it's results:

Offense-----Judgment
Sin-----Condemnation
Disobedience-----Death

Adam "Offended" God by not trusting Him, Sinned against God by "Missing the Mark" of God's Will, and was willfully disobedient to God's instructions (Remember that Eve was deceived and, although she was the first to eat of the fruit, Adam is contemned because he willfully disobeyed).

THE RESULTS OF ADAM'S SIN were that (vs 12) *by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men,*. Now instead of ruling in God's Garden, man labors among the weeds of this world awaiting the day breath finally stops. Adam's sin brought man from Reigning to Ruin.

It is the Promise and Privilege of the Gospel to bring man back to the Reigning Life--- A life that contains:

A TASK- Given by God and answerable to God for it's completion

Some TROUBLES- To build our Dedication and our Faith.

Many TEMPTATIONS (That bring consequences to you and others when you fail)

Ultimate TRIUMPH as you go through the training here for the future God has planned for you.

Rom 5:17 *For if by one man's offense 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.)*

It's essential that you realize the Reigning Life comes not from your TRYING but from your TRUSTING. We reign in life BY ONE, JESUS CHRIST. It is not our Ability, zeal, or strength that enables us to be the Victorious person God expects; it is allowing Christ to live thru me- Gal 2:20 *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*



**SET YOUR
GOALS HIGH**

Are you Reigning in Life?? Or is Life defeating and destroying you?? We're saved by Faith and we live by Faith. Have you put your faith in Christ today??

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First Worship Service . 9:00am
Bible Study Hour . 10:00am
Worship Service (WJOT) 11:00am
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm



Pastor Mike Jones

394-3725

Vol VIII Num 10 May 24, 1990 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

Probably the best way to describe it is the way Jeremiah said it in Jeremiah 20:9 I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay. Sometimes it's not so much that I've got hold of this ministry as it is that this ministry has hold of me! For as long as I can remember I've had this drive inside to extend the boundaries of the Kingdom of God. I know it would be easier (and much more popular) to build a big church here but I could never preach to my people to follow God's will for their life if I was not trying my best to practice what I preach.



The good thing about the Lord working out the details is that He has given me a marvelous church that accepts this kind of ministry. Many churches expect their Pastor to "baby or bully" delinquent members but my people know I simply invite and encourage people to come. I want them here, God expects them here, and they

know they should be here. If they aren't here then they'll answer to God for their failure to Participate in the worship of God and Educate their family in the things of God. You would think by some people's attitude that they're doing God a tremendous favor by showing up at Church. They need to realize that God is giving them a tremendous opportunity by allowing them to come to His house.

My Ministry has also changed in the way I'm available to help people. I used to spend (waste!) most of my time on the road talking with "Aunt Sally about cousin Clem's dog" just so I could be around if anyone needed me. Now my people get aggravated if they call and I'm not at home! This allows me time to do the ministry God has called me to and at the same time be available to help and encourage them when needed.

That brings us back to the "Heart" of my heart- Multiplying the Ministry. I believe that the basics of the Gospel will never change; but I also believe that the way we present it HAS to Change! If the multitudes won't come to Church then we must take [continued on back]

To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST

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the Gospel to where they're at - Newsletters, Newspapers, Radio Ministry, Bible Study Booklets (Not only do I give these away but I also leave them in Doctors offices, hospitals, etc), and Audio and Video Ministries. How can I be satisfied reaching a few hundred (that have heard the message over and over) when, with a little effort, that same message can reach thousands?

My Prayer is that God will fan the flames in my heart ever higher; and open more and more doors, until we've reached everyone we can reach.

Not only am I thankful for an understanding Church, I'm also very grateful for each of you that sacrificially give to, and earnestly pray for, this ministry. Without God's Power it would be totally ineffective and without God's Provision it would not be able to function. Thanks for being a part of this work. (Thanks also for a recent MEMORIAL GIFT to this work given my Jack and Wilma Gaskins in memory of Bobbie Joe McBride).

Another way that we've changed our outreach has been our "9 to Noon" format on Sunday. As most of you know, we've moved our Sunday Night service from 6pm to 9am and it has worked wonders. Since we've gone to this format EVERY service has shown an increase and everyone I've questioned in the Church so far has liked it. (If any of you pastors are considering trying it you might be wise to use the same schedule we used here at Grace- For the first three months I tried it on the last Sunday of each month with regular services on the remaining Sundays. Then I asked the people if they liked it well enough to try it for a month. Now it would be difficult to change them back).

We're continually looking for new "doors" and new ways to walk thru those doors- Pray with us that God would give the wisdom to use every opportunity to the very best advantage.

..... Preacher Mike Ps 16:11

=====

Congratulations to our New Sunday School Officers & Teacher for 1990-91

(They take Office Sunday, June 3, 1990)

SUPERINTENDENT	.....	Ralph McAllister
Assistant	.....	Sully Sullivan
SECRETARY	.....	Michelle McAllister
Assistant	.....	Teresa Lowder
ADULT	.....	Rev Mike Jones/ Damon Runion
TEENS (13-18)	.....	Roxanne Young/ Sylvia Gowdy
JUNIORS (9-12)	.....	Anne McKnight/ Dot Sullivan
PRIMARY (6-8)	.....	Marjorie McAllister/ Paula Jones
.....	.....	/ Susan Spring
BEGINNERS (3-5)	.....	Althea Coker/ Jenene Brown
NURSERY (0-2)	.....	Billie Ard/ Miriam McAllister



{Since many of these Teachers have taught faithfully for years I have devised a system for the Summer that will allow them to attend the Adult Class one Sunday a Month. The Beginner Church and Junior Church will meet during Sunday School during the Summer (They meet only once per month). This is only for the 3 months of Summer and I hope it will help refresh these faithful teachers}.

THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION

Today's message is much too serious to bring to a congregation exited by Easter activities, tired from a Sunrise Service, and looking for a quick "Hallelujah" about a risen Savior. If I asked for a show of hands on who believes in the Resurrection I would probably get a unanimous vote. Yet, I fear we just want to feel good about Jesus raising from the Dead so we'll have something we can remember when "cousin Clem" dies, or something to hold on to if WE become deathly sick.



In the next few minutes I want us to see the Importance of the Resurrection, the Power of the Resurrection, and the Practice of the Resurrection in our daily living. I want us to see the possibility that we've made an "idol" out of Jesus, that we put the empty cross above the empty tomb, and that one of the reasons Christianity has become more "talk than walk" is that we are trying to live in Silent Saturday instead of Resurrection Sunday.

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RESURRECTION, I could give you some good Human reasoning here but I think the best sermon ever preached on the Importance of the Resurrection was preached by the Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 15:13-19 *But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. Without the Resurrection, Paul says our Preaching, our Faith, our testimony, and our hope of eternal life are all worthless!! The Resurrection is not simply a doctrine we consider; it's the vital ingredient in everything Christianity stands for and is.*

II. THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION- It is critical that we understand the difference between "Raised from the Dead" and Resurrection. Many people in the Bible were "raised from the Dead"; but all of them had to die again-- they simply received an "extension" on their life. Jesus was Resurrected from the Dead- He received a new body and He will never die again!!

It is Important that we realize that The Source of this Power is God. We make the mistake of attributing Resurrection Power to Christ (as if He raised himself from the dead!). In our minds that means that we have to accept Christ's Payment for Sin's Penalty but somehow we must break Sin's Power on our own! We MUST grasp the truth of Rom 4:25 that Jesus was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification.... Delivered for our Offenses- Sin's Penalty Paid Raised Again for our Justification- Sin's Power Broken. [This doesn't mean that sin cannot Brother us- see Rom 7- but it does mean that we have the power available to CONQUER OUR SINFUL NATURE. And as we conquer our Sin Nature we conform more and more to the image of Christ-- Which is our ultimate goal!!!].

III. THE PRACTICE OF THE RESURRECTION Eph 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 us-ward 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,

A) In Our Salvation- It is NOT ENOUGH to simply believe that Jesus died on the Cross for you, that only takes care of your debt to death; now you must have power to Live-

ROM 4:24-25 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

ROM 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

I Pet 1:21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

B) In Our Service- Belief in the Power of the Resurrection changed scared fishermen into world shaking Missionaries. They witnessed many people being raised from the dead but that did not give them courage to stand when Jesus was arrested. However, A risen savior motivated them to preach to the multitude and stand fearlessly before religious leaders.

C) In our Relationship with God

Have we made an "Idol" out of Jesus because He is the only part of God that was seen by Humans??? Have we stressed Salvation by Jesus to the point we hardly recognize Justification with God? Has Redemption replaced Relationship??

When we begin living on the "Easter Side of the Tomb" then life will be abundant and meaningful. As long as we stay at the cross we will remember our past instead of living our future- Eph 2:5-6 Even when we were dead in sins, (GOD) hath quickened us together with Christ, (By grace are ye saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus;

The Resurrection was the greatest thing that has ever happened on the earth. It affirms our Salvation, Motivates our Service, and allows us to "sit together in Heavenly place in Christ Jesus". Is it a Doctrine in your head or a life changing power in your heart???



2 MEMORIALS TO WOMEN

We live in a difficult time to preach about "Mothers". Everyone wants to be sentimental and mushy on Mother's Day and talk about how marvelous Mom's are but in the back of our mind it's like watching a re-run of "Life with Father" instead of one of today's TV Shows. Mothers no longer slave over a hot stove baking bread and cakes for us; they throw Frozen dinners in the Microwave and dare us to use real plates instead of styrofoam ones! Children go to Pre-school, kindergarten, and then regular school. When they aren't there they're at a daycare center, an after school center, or a little league Ball game!

Addictive Babies, Abandoned Children, and Latchkey kids have become a part of today's language. Divorce, homosexual/lesbian partnership, and live together couples are a common part of today's society. And the modern "Model Mom" is one that divides the household responsibilities with the husband before she launches forth into the vulgar, cut-throat world of modern business. She's indeed "come a long way, Baby".

I think it's time we took a long hard look at where today's woman is going; and what the results will be when she gets there. In order to do that I want us to look at 2 Women in the Bible whose actions became perpetual Memorials- One of Shame, the other of Glory.

Mary; sister of Martha and Lazarus- Matt 26:6-13 vs 13 *Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.*

Lot's Wife- LUK 17:32 *Remember Lot's wife*

I. LOT'S WIFE-

A) A "Righteous" Husband- II Pet 2:7-8

B) A Praying Uncle- Abraham prayed for Sodom to be spared and many believe he stopped praying at 10 souls because he thought Lot's family would be that ten souls. What a difference it could have been had this woman won her family to the Lord.

C) A Visit from Heavenly Messengers- The Angels came to stay with her and even urged her to flee God's Wrath.

She chose the World for her children; and watched them perish

She chose Wrath for herself and ended up a perpetual memorial of turning back on God.

II. MARY-

A) Sat at the feet of Jesus while Martha was cumbered about with much serving. Today's mother has never been more active; or more miserable!

B) Sacrificed her life's savings to anoint Jesus for the burial. Willing to give up Money for the Master.

C) Accepted criticism from the Lord's own disciples- but the Lord commended her.

What kind of Memorial do you want to leave?? Popular children that were well thought of by society but end up burning in Hell!! Or a Godly example that will convict your family and honor the word of God.

GODLY EXAMPLES

Heb 11:7-29

On this day when we honor Mothers, I thought it would be good to give some Godly Examples for Children to emulate. Mothers have a tough time today finding "Heros" for their children to follow; Dad is so busy working or trying to be a "90's man" (afraid to be a leader for fear of being chauvinist) until he doesn't have time to be the example children need so they make heros out of "Ninja Turtles" and half-clothed, drug crazed rock stars.

Let me show you 3 genuine "HEROS" that you can model your life after:

I. NOAH, THE LABORER- Heb 11:7

A) Continued his Commission for 120 years of duty and derision

B) Prepared an ark to the Saving of his household- His work and his "religion" blended into the same thing. His Children knew what he stood for and what he was trying to accomplish

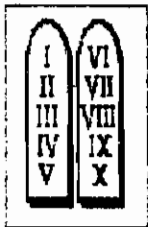


II. ABRAHAM, THE VISIONARY Heb 11: 8-13

A) Affected Where He Lived

B) Affected his family- had a child at 100 that was gift of God

C) Affected History- 3 of the main religions in the world today count Abraham an important part of their belief.



III. MOSES, THE LEADER Heb 11:23-29 (Article in Today's Paper- Leaders are better at leading than at doing. Of course, that's what makes them leaders!!) Everyone needs to know his place in life.

A) His Mother secured his childhood- refused abortion and society's answers, she committed her child to God

B) His Faith refused his flesh- Choosing rather to suffer affliction than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.

C) His dependence on God's word saved his life- put the passover blood on the door.

God had an example for every type of Child- laborer, visionary, leader. Let's share these with our Children regularly.

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Pastor Mike Jones 394-3725

Vol VIII Num 11 June 7, 1990 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

Bits & Pieces

Slowly but surely things are beginning to come along. The new carpet was put down on the Church porches week before last. Last week the outside of the Church was completely painted as well as one of the Sunday School rooms that's being developed into a Meeting room/class room combination. The Piano in the Fellowship Building was repaired and tuned and 20 new song books have been purchased so we can worship the Lord in song as well as Bible Study on Wednesday nights.

Follow up work is also being done on the asphalt part of our new parking area. And the new shingles for the Church will be installed as soon as warranty information can be completed.

New methods are also underway inside the Church. The Junior Church and Primary Church will meet this Sunday during Sunday School. This will allow the Beginner Class, the Primary Class, and the Junior Class teachers to attend the Adult Class (Many of which haven't had that privilege in years). [I appreciate Mrs Kathy and Mrs Hope giving these teachers this chance].

One of the great ministries of our Church year is VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL. We will have VBS next week (June 11-13) from 7-9pm. Our theme: this year is "Jesus came to Save Sinners". Monday night will be "How to be Saved"; Tuesday Night "Handling Temptation", and Wednesday Night "Christian Character".



Each lesson will be divided into several parts (centering around a person in the Bible and manifested with an Object Lesson). This is going to be an unusual format but one that I believe God will use to speak to hearts about their relationship with Him (This year's VBS is for ALL AGES and we look for Adults as well as Children to attend).

Each Family is asked to bring a bag of potato chips, a bag of cookies and a soft drink this Sunday.

We'll have special programs and activities all summer long to help People KNOW and SHOW CHRIST. Hope you can join us.

Thanks to everyone who help make this ministry Possible-

Preacher Mike.

To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST

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WHY GOD DOESN'T SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS

Rom 10:16-21

Your Mind tells you it can't be. You'll even confess it can't be with your mouth. Still, your heart craves Heaven on earth. All of us long to be free of the Trials, Temptations, and Struggles of this life. Paul is trying to use this thought to motive the Jews.

He has been showing the Jews that God wants them to be saved, has provided opportunity after opportunity for them to be saved, and yet now they are blaming God because things haven't worked the way they think they should work. Paul wants them to see that God can't solve their problem because they are LOOKING AT THE WRONG PROBLEM and then they are REFUSING GOD'S ANSWERS to their real problems.

1) vs 16 *But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaiiah saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? Equal opportunity has been given but people have not responded equally.*

A) For the Christian- Don't get discouraged when you don't accomplish what others accomplish- Seed falls in a lot of locations. Some will grow and some won't. Your job is to Keep on Sowing!

B) For those with Problems- Have you responded to God's Answer; Jesus? If you throw the Doctor's medicine in the trash then don't blame the Doctor because you aren't getting better.

2) vs 17 *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Your foundation must be the Word of God. Problems remain because we don't apply Bible Principles to our Situations- Be not unequally yoked. Don't put a stumbling block before your brother. Love God first and your neighbor as your self.*

3) vs 18 *But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world. The Word is available to all. Your Problem is not unique. The Word of God has the answer to EVERY Problem you will ever have! The marvel about Christianity is that it will solve a Russian's problems as easily as an Americans.*

4) vs 19 *But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you. God sometimes uses some STRANGE TEACHING TOOLS: God's strange method of winning Israel's Love- Jealousy, Paul's Thorn in the Flesh, the Heathen Nations who captured Israel (He called one a "Borrowed Razor"!), etc. Your problem may be the Helper of your life instead of it's Hinderer!*

5) vs 20 *But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me. If those who are supposed to serve God won't do so then God will provide others. Your Problems will make you Bitter or Better. If you don't learn the Lesson God is providing then God will have to teach it to someone else; and you'll miss the Blessing.*

6) vs 21 *But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people. Continued Pleading and continued rejection. What a sad statement. Sometimes the problem is just a plain case of REBELLION against what you know is right. Wuest translates the word rebellion as "Cantankerous". It may be that your Way is hard because your Heart is Hard.*

God allows problems in our life to develop us and to discipline us. Are you a good student or have you become Cantankerous??

MISSION OF OUR CHURCH

Rom 10:11-15

Paul is in the middle of showing how God is dealing with the nation of Israel- Chapter 9 tells about Israel's Past, Chapter 10 tells about Israel's Present, and Chapter 11 will tell about Israel's Future. Chapter 9 showed how a Sovereign God chose Israel for special blessings and now has a right to chose the Gentiles because Israel refused to follow Him. Chapter 10 has shown that God has required all along that men become righteous by Faith and that that Faith must come as a result of God revealing Himself, and His Plans, thru the Scriptures.

In the middle of this Chapter Paul clearly defines the Mission of God's people. This is tremendously important because today people have gotten away from that ultimate Goal. Today the average Church thinks it's goal is to Baby-sit the Young, entertain the Teens, Accommodate the Adults, and Busy the Elderly. Contest and Concerts seem to be the only way to get large crowds today; and that's because they appeal to the Flesh instead of the Faith.

The normal thing for the Preacher to say right here is "Our Job is to Win the Lost". Sounds good, has some truth in it, but it's not the mission of the Church. Number One, we can't "win" the Lost, only God can forgive sins and give a new birth. Number two, even God will not make a person repent of sins and trust Christ as Savior.

Look closely at our Scripture verses-- ROM 10:11-15 *For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*

Vs 11 talks about Shame- The Christian will not be ashamed OF God or BEFORE God because of his faith. So the first thing we must realize about our mission is that it imparts boldness to us. This is not necessarily Brashness or fool hardiness but it does give us a confidence that shows in our work-- The Choir will sing with enthusiasm, the Preacher will preach with energy, the Teachers will build their classes with zeal, etc.

vs 12 and 13 talk about Supplication (Prayer)- Riches and Redemption are available to anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord. The Ministry of the Church rises and falls on it's prayer life. I believe there are people called of God to be "Prayer Warriors" for this Church and it's outreach ministry. I also believe that we begin to fail when they begin to fail. You see, A church is not just preaching and performance and perspiration; it must be empowered by the Power of the Holy Spirit or it will a total failure. There must be a supernatural power if this is to be a supernatural work.

Vs 14 and 15 give the "Formula" for Success in the Ministry- In order to call on Jesus for Salvation you must believe that you need saving and that Jesus can save you. In order to believe this you must hear the Good News of the Gospel. In order to hear the good news you must have a "Proclaimer" proclaim it to you. In order for the preacher to preach he must have a MOTIVATION as well as a MESSAGE.

Dr Meyers Harrison give 4 reasons everyone should be motivated to carry the Gospel:

1. The Command from Above- Mark 16:15 Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.
2. The Cry from Beneath- Luke 16:27-28 The rich man in Hell cried for someone to go tell his brothers lest they come to Hell also.
3. The Call from Without- The Macedonian's Cry was Come over and help us Acts 16:9.
4. The Constraint from within- Paul said The love of Christ constraineth us II Cor 5:14

Our Mission is to Boldly Proclaim the Message of Christ in the Power of God. When men believe the message and are saved then we are to make disciples of them so that they can, in turn, boldly proclaim the message of Christ in the Power of God.

Several Principles to be aware of:

1. There is no interest without something invested. Satisfying service comes from Sacrificial giving. Spectator Christians will change to Serving Christians when they give of themselves to the Church and the Ministry. Do you want to come to Church or be a part of the Church?
2. The Word of God produces Conviction and Conversion and Confession. We must believe it, preach it, and practice it. The Word of God must be the center of everything we believe and do.
3. You miss God's purpose when all you want is to be a better person. Everyone today is looking for self improvement but the Call of Christ is to Deny Self, Take up your cross, and follow Him (as He followed the Father). Will you answer that call today??

My Ministry is to pastor this Church, extend it's outreach, and use every method God puts at my disposal to spread the seed of the Gospel. This is very time consuming. That's why I NEED your help in the other areas of the Church if we are to function effectively.

Each of the members of this Church must learn what their place is in the Body of Christ and determine to function in that place. We can go crippled thru life on one leg or we can really work for the Lord. That decision is yours.

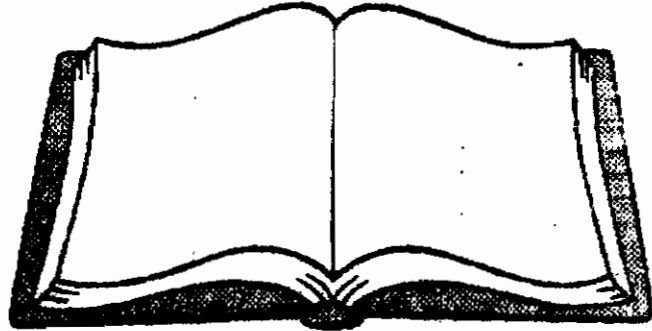
Our Church has the privilege of reaching more people than any other Church in this area (maybe this state!). Our Mission is clearly defined and vitally necessary. Jesus said, "To whom much is given, of them shall much be required". When you stand before the Lord and He ask you for a report of your stewardship will you be glad or sad??

SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

Rom 9:6-24

Paul has spent tremendous time and energy showing us that Salvation is available to all by Grace thru Faith. Then he has shown that Israel had tremendous privileges from God and yet were now being cast aside for the Gentiles. This brings us to an inescapable question, "Does God's Word really change people?". And if it does what caused these people to fail when they were supposed to be following God's Word?

Paul begins his answer by saying that the Word of God has not "gone off course" (Taken none effect). Don't think God couldn't Bless because People failed to live up to their privileges. The Word of God is effective but it will not force a person to do right. God gives men opportunities; explains the consequences of failing to use these opportunities; and then allows man's free will to make the correct (or incorrect) choice.



Now Paul shows that all are not Spiritual Israel who are Physical Israel (Just as all are not saved who attend Church or claim Christianity). In this case, as in most cases, men got into trouble because they assumed something about the Word that was not true- they assumed that all the seed of Abraham would be saved; ignoring the plain teaching of the Word of God that God has always made choices about men based on their choices about Him.

The Sovereignty of God allowed Him to chose:
Isaac over Ishmael- Choice not on natural descent
Jacob over Esau- Choice not on Human Merit
Moses over Pharoah- Choice not on Human Logic (Both were murderers- Pharoah killed the babies, Moses someone afflicting a slave. Pharoah was "King" and Moses was born to a slave.)

There are several things we must learn about the Sovereignty of God:

- (1) We must come on God's Terms vs 18
- (2) We must accept God's Right to make us like HE wants- HE IS GOD! 19-22.
- (3) We must trust God's Goodness to do the Right thing. 23-24

You can spend you life fighting against God or you can submit to God's Will and Work for your life. If you "kick against the pricks" you will find sorrow, disturbance, and failure. If you submit to God you will find Peace, Joy, and Abundant Life. Which choice are you going to make?

PRIVILEGES

Rom 9:3-5

Having made the astonishing statement that he would be willing to be accursed if that would save Israel, Paul now begins to show why his heart is so broken for this people. He wants Israel to know that it's not God's unwillingness to bless and care for them that's the problem; the problem is that they're "blowing" the tremendous opportunities God has given them.

In the 3 verses of our text Paul lists 9 Privileges of an Israelite. I want us to examine these Privileges and then determine if WE are wasting opportunities.

1. Brethren, Kinsmen according to the Flesh- Paul always went first to the Jews with the Gospel.
2. Adoption- Son-placing, Position of sonship. God treated Israel as if they were His own child.
3. Glory- Base of the Visible Shekina Glory of God in the Holy of Holies. It led them thru the Desert and guided many of their decisions until they finally forced it to leave (One of the saddest portions of scripture is in Ezekiel where you see the Spirit leaving the Temple, then the city, and finally lingering on a nearby mountain before finally departing).
4. Covenants- Abraham, Jacob, David. Divine "Contracts" in which God would fulfill His part but Israel would fail in her part.
5. Giving of the Law- The hand of God gave the Law of God to the People of God. Many other nations were fooled by wicked philosophies but Israel had the Truth from the beginning.
6. The Service of God- The Temple and the Offerings. They had the visible manifestation of the Worship of God.
7. The Promises- Over and Over God Promised Good for Obedience. The OT is full of promises to claim.
8. The Fathers- Bible "Heroes". Men and women who showed God's Power in their life.
9. The Line of Messiah- God's very Son and our Redeemer was a Jew. They knew that God had chosen them to be His special instrument of Blessing to the World.

With all of these privileges, you would think Israel would have loved and served the Lord with all their heart. Instead, they envied the world, became like the world, and eventually were conquered by the world. What a horrible thing to see Many Privileges turned into Mighty Punishment- Of whom much is given of them will much be required!

Sadder still is that the same thing is happening to the Church today. We have all the Privileges we could want:

1. All of the Gospel.
2. The Holy Spirit now lives WITHIN the Christian.
3. Tremendous Human Advantages and Opportunities to live for God. Little Persecution, tremendous open doors of service, a "flood" of Bible study material, and sermons, songs, and preaching services available to anyone desiring them.

Let's don't blow our Opportunities. If we do we'll miss the Blessings of completed work, the Joy of God's "Well Done", and, worst of all, multitudes will miss the privileges we have because they haven't gotten the message.

GRACE And GLORY

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Pastor Mike Jones

394-3725

Vol VIII. Num 12 June 21, 1990 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

Sometimes I wonder if the reason I'm going bald is because of all the "hats" I wear (Of course, it could be that the angel who keeps count of the hairs of my head can't do anything but subtract!). Whatever the reason, all my hair that's not turning grey is turning loose.

But I don't mind losing the hair if I get to wear the "hats".



The first "hat" I wear is the wonderful Position of being pastor of the best Church in South Carolina. The members are slack in their

attendance sometimes and lukewarm in their enthusiasm sometimes but they're always willing to "volunteer" when needed; and do a wonderful job of anything asked of them.

A good example is the recent VBS at the church. EVERY lesson was simply great, the puppets programs were very good, and everyone who came did what needed to be done. That's in spite of the fact that one teacher had a child at home with chicken pox and another had a child with pneumonia.



Another "hat" is the Outreach Ministry.

That's a BIG HAT. It includes mailing over 600 newsletters to 18 states twice per month, writing and publishing Bible Study Booklets, and copying and distributing audio and video tapes. Also under this ministry is the publication of devotional articles in newspapers and the broadcast of our worship service over radio.



Other "Hats" include the administration and distribution of our "Helping Hand" fund and the "Minister's Outreach" to help other pastors with sermons, study material, and encouragement.

There is a tremendous amount of paper work involved in all of this as well as a tremendous amount of time in the actual performance of all of these duties. But I thank the Lord for giving me the opportunities He has; and I continually look for more and better ways to do the jobs He has called me to do [see Back].

I couldn't do it without your prayers and support- THANKS. Bald head and all, I remain--

In Christ.....Preacher Mike

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I speak at a local senior citizen gathering twice a month. A couple of weeks ago I carried them a box of sermon tapes from the church so they could enjoy our services at home. Yesterday when I went back I noticed that they were bringing the tapes back and swapping them for others, but they were having to find them by sorting thru a cardboard box. As I was praying for them this morning it suddenly dawned on me that another way to make the Gospel available to these people would be to put up a tape rack so they would always have access to sermon and music tapes. Then I began to think, this same thing would work in nursing homes. We already have some videos and tapes of the Bible in several nursing homes but a system like this would keep fresh sermons for the people to listen to. I'll purchase the tape racks if I can get someone to volunteer to go by once a month to check and restock them. This looks like another way to Multiply our Ministry (I'm convinced that there are hundreds of ways of getting the Gospel to people if we are willing to look for, and work at, them).

I appreciate a Memorial Gift to our Outreach Ministry from Don and Kathy Lewis in memory of Mrs. Margaret McCumber. I also appreciate 2 boxes of paper (I use a large amount of paper in publishing books and newsletters) from Todd and Cam Newell.

One of the great Blessings to me this year has been the number of regular contributors to this ministry. We operate completely by faith and it's a real joy to have people who remember us every month. I try to use all the funds as wisely and economically as possible. Every penny goes toward the various parts of the ministry. There are no salaries paid and overhead is simply things like equipment, supplies, and postage to enable us to do the ministry. (By the way, I try to mention this once or twice a year so everyone is aware of it. This ministry operates under the Church but the Church contributes absolutely nothing to it's expense. All of the equipment we purchase belongs to the ministry and if the ministry leaves; the equipment goes with it. Who knows, one day the Church might get tired of a bald headed preacher and the next preacher probably wouldn't want to do all this. But I'm committed to this type ministry until the Lord comes back).

DOLLARS
AND
CENTS



Make you plans to join us for our annual 4th of July celebration; on the 3rd of July! We will meet on Tuesday night (July 3) from 7 - 9pm for a time of Prayer, Patriotism, and Play. Following the devotion and prayer time we will have a Play time that will include watermelons, hot dogs, maybe some ice cream, and lots of opportunity to get wet (Tug-of-war, water balloon toss, bucket brigade, sack races, etc). This is the one time in the year that we recommend that our ladies wear LONG pants (not shorts and not tight fitting) because they will probably end up in some awkward positions.



We're out of the Doctrine part of Romans and into the Duty part now. We'll be looking at how we should function as part of the Body of Christ, what kind of Citizens we should be, and how we relate to one another in the next weeks. These will be very practical, needful studies and I hope all of you will be able to attend. Remember we begin at 9am each Sunday Morning. Looking forward to sharing God's word with you.

THE REASON BAD WINS

Rom 11:1-15

One of the most perplexing problems Christians face today is why the world is becoming increasingly wicked and the Church is becoming increasingly lukewarm. We've never had so many opportunities to do good and yet we've never had so many unconcerned Christians. Why is the Church dying instead of overflowing at the seams?

Then there is the problem of prosperity. Why do the wicked prosper and most of God's children suffer financially or physically? Job makes a good preaching point but no one wants to follow his example!

Paul looks at Israel's future in this chapter and in doing so he explains some startling things about the way God works. Brace yourself, this is not going to be pleasant.

Israel determined to go their way instead of God's way and ended up with a slumbering spirit and sightless eyes (vs 8). After they were rejected the Lord selected the Church (Bringing in the Gentiles in order to provoke Israel to jealousy (vs 11)). Now the Church is becoming Apostate. Eventually God will rapture the faithful remnant of the Church and renew His dealings with the Nation of Israel.

Principles:

1. Bad overcomes Good- Adam in the garden fell. Throughout the Bible Godly men and nations have fallen. The Church is getting more and more lukewarm. Put one sick man in a room with 100 healthy people and they will get sick instead of him getting well (It's not that Bad is stronger than Good. The 100 well men are much stronger than the 1 sick man. The problem is that Evil can be Caught while Good has to be chosen).

2. God takes bad situations and uses them for good- Through the fall of the Jews Salvation is come to the Gentiles (vs 11). The struggle against sin draws us closer to God. The struggles of life strengthen us and expand our horizons (Almost all inventions are the answer to a problem). Whether it is Paul's Thorn in the Flesh that God used for His Glory or the man blinded for 40 years to allow Christ to show God's Glory or the fact that we glory in the Cross; all these are "bad" situations that God uses for good.

3. If God can use Bad Situations for good just think what He can do with Good Situations (vs 12-15)! What is the 100 healthy men refused to stay closed in the room with the sick man?? What if they opened the windows and let in fresh air and sunshine? What if they ate healthy food themselves and gave it to the sick man? What if they obtained medicine and gave it to the sick man?

Several things we need to stress:

(1) God is still on the Throne. Because Good is defeated does not mean God is defeated!! God works within our will to conform our spirit to the image of His Son. The circumstances aren't controlling God, God is controlling circumstances.

(2) Despite the fact that bad is winning we must keep up the fight. God gives rewards for faithfulness; not territory conquered. Look with eyes of Faith instead of eyes of Flesh or you will become discouraged.

(3) Keep in mind that when the final chapter is written in the Book "Good" will be in mansions in Heaven while "Evil" will be cast into the Lake of fire forever.

WILL YOU BE CUT OFF?

Paul has dealt with Israel's past and present and now he wants to show them, and us, that God is not through with the Nation of Israel. As he does so, he sounds a warning to the Church about it's Pride. A warning that I believe a lot of Christians need to hear today. A lot of Christians are lukewarm, lazy, and unconcerned about their relationship with God. They have a form of Godliness but deny the power thereof. I pray God will use this message to convict their hearts and renew their dedication.

Paul list 5 witnesses in this chapter that show God is not through with the nation of Israel:

1. Paul's Conversion- Paul says in I Tim 1:16 that his Damascus Road Conversion was a "Pattern". Yet noone else is saved today by a blinding light and an audible voice. This is evidently the way God will use to bring about the sudden miraculous conversion of the Jewish nation. Paul says he was one "born out of due time" and he looks forward to the day the Jewish nation will come to know Christ.
2. Elijah's Remnant- A Remnant according to the election of Grace- vs 5. Today the Church is open to Jew as well as Gentiles and some Jews are being saved.
3. The Gentiles- Used by God to "Provoke Israel to Jealousy" vs 11
4. The "Olive Tree"- Even though the Gentiles have been grafted in, the Root is still God's promises to the Jews.
5. God Himself- vs 26 shows that God gave His word to Israel and God will keep His Word.

In the middle of this wonderful news for Israel Paul sounds a warning to the Gentile Church. This warning is about PRIDE in the fact that the Church has been grafted into God's Olive Tree. Paul lists several warnings about this Pride:

1. The Root of the Tree is still the nation of Israel (vs 18)- Jesus is our Savior but He came as the Jewish Messiah.
2. Unbelief broke off the original branches and it can break off you (vs 19-21)
3. It is the goodness of God (not YOUR goodness) that brought you into the tree (vs 22)
4. God is able to graft the original branches back into the tree to replace you (vs 23-24)
5. Don't let your own thinking mislead you about God's Plan (vs 25).

Remember that John 15 says that fruitless limbs are cut off and cast into the fire- Faith without works is dead being alone (The devils believe in God and tremble but they don't live different).

Faith is not a one time decision; it's a life time dedication- vs 22 *Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.*

God's plans are long range plans (for Israel and for you). You can ignore them, or wander from them, and be cut off; or you can follow God's leadership and obey God's will and be a fruitful part of His work.

THE WAY TO GO

Rom 9:30- 10:10

All of Paul's talk about the Sovereignty of God and His choices of people have brought us back to the main theme- "The Just shall live by Faith". Paul is trying to show that God always has, and always will, choose those who by Faith choose Him. Now he wants us to see the dire consequences Israel faces because they chose the wrong way.

He begins with a puzzling paradox in 9:30-33. The Gentiles had not sought to come to God thru the years but when they did they came by "Faith" highway. The Jews had been seeking God for years but they had not found Him for they were looking on "Work" Street. And here is a Principle to remember- No matter how earnest or energetic you are, you will not find what you're looking for if you look in the wrong place.

Paul says this is like a "stumblingstone". When you look in the wrong place and can't find what you want it trips you up- Discouragement sets in because you can't find what you're seeking even though you're doing the best you can. Here are some guidelines to help you: (1) You can't find Peace in the World. *There is no peace, saith the Lord to the Wicked.* (2) You can't grow strong spiritually on a diet of Hog slop and Husk (ask the Prodigal Son). (3) The Journey's Destination is more important than any Desires along the way.

Now Paul gives us some of the most famous Scripture there is on the most important subject in the World; How to come to God and be Born Again. You see, it's not enough that we know the wrong way; we must find and follow the right way.

10:1= A Soul Winner must have a Heart and a Prayer life for the Lost

10:2-3= Wrong zeal only makes you do more wrong. You must learn to DIRECT YOUR DESIRE; Anger, lust, and envy are some desires that will destroy you if not used according to knowledge. A desire to meet Man's righteousness instead of God's righteousness will lead you to eternal lose.

10:4-7= Man's Law says do the best you can and that will help pay your debt (They forget to add that the "interest" grows every day more than anything you can pay). Christ says, "I have paid the debt. Trust me".

10:8-9= The Word of God produces conviction of sin and Faith in Christ. This Faith motivates us to confess Christ with our Mouth and Trust Christ's resurrection Power in our heart (We believe the Cross paid for our past and the Resurrection assures our ability to change in the Future).

10:10= We show God our heart is toward Him and we tell man our direction in life has now changed. This is not turning over a new leaf, it's beginning a new life. Like a new born baby (We're Born again) we must grow (which involves mistakes as well as accomplishments) and develop into the person God always intended us to be. That will involve finding, and taking, our place in the Body of Christ. That's because Christianity is not just a Decision, it's a Destination. We get on the right road and with God's help and guidance we walk that road every day.

Do you know the Way to Go? Are you stumbling on the wrong road looking for something you can't find?? Jesus not only knows the Way, HE IS THE WAY. Come to Him today.

GOD'S MERCY

Rom 9:25-29

The Sovereignty of God scares me but the Mercy of God rejoices my heart! Having shown that God is able to set up whom He will and take down those who refuse to accept Him; Paul now shows that God mingles His Mercy with His Judgment. This is a principle we need to recognize today.

It seems that everyone on TV today is either a "Liberal" or a "Fanatic". They either want to let the murderers go or send in "Rambo" for litterbugs! We can't allow these attitudes to infect the Church. We need to examine, and adopt, God's attitudes toward those who fail to do what they should.

From Cast-offs to Children of the Living God vs 25-26 (vs 25 is from Hosea 2:23 and vs 26 is from Hosea 1:10. Hosea was instructed by God to marry Gomer. She was an unfaithful wife that eventually went so deep into sin until she was sold as a slave. God told Hosea to go purchase her back; symbolizing the fact that God would "purchase" Israel off the slave market of sin one day and restore them to their place as people of God. Note that during the Tribulation the 144,000 come from ALL of the Tribes (except Dan whom God cut off completely for leading Israel into Idolatry)).

God's chosen people did not measure up to what was expected of them. God chose them, gave them His word, promised them His Blessings, and personally guided them to the promised land. Instead of loving Him and serving Him they quickly turned to idols and wickedness. Time after time God rebuked them thru the Prophets or by allowing them to be captured by a wicked King. Time after time they would repent long enough to get out from under and then return to their wicked ways.

Do you know any people like that?? Isn't it easy to become discouraged when people fail to measure up to what you expect of them? Children fail to reach their potential, Divorce comes to marriages, Even Preachers don't always act like you think they should.

You shouldn't overlook the sin but you should be willing to completely forgive and put back into service those who leave their old ways (Forgiveness does not mean we should act as if they never did wrong. I think that if the Prodigal Son would have asked the Father for \$10,000 dollars to go back to the Hog Pens with then the Father would have turned him down because he would know that would not be best for the boy). Anyone who shows signs of genuine repentance, however, should be given every opportunity.

A Remnant out of the Wrath vs 27-29 (Quoted from Isaiah 10:22-23 and 1:9. Isaiah prophesied entirely to the southern kingdom of Judah during the time Hosea prophesied to the Northern kingdom of Israel. The Northern Kingdom was dispersed by Assyria while the Southern Kingdom was carried captive into Babylon where a Remnant returned after 70 years).

Don't let the fact that most people are bad keep you from trying to help some people. Sometimes a rose can grow in a manure pile! God has promised to save some from every tribe and nation.

Try to find some good out of even bad situations- The fact that I'm going bald means I soon won't have to worry about the wind blowing my hair!

God's mercy provides a method for us to escape His wrath and become His Children. Don't reject it.

GRACE And GLORY

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A Little Church with a BIG Vision

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



Pastor Mike Jones

394-3725

Vol VIII Num 13 July 12, 1990 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

Hot, Dry, and Tremendously Blessed! It has been as hot as anyone could want it to be (100+ regularly). It's so dry until even the weeds won't grow (and my heart breaks for area farmers). But the Lord's Blessings just keep on flowing.

I was trying to put together several copies of the study booklet on I & II Thessalonians just before I went to speak at Senior Citizens today and needed 5 more copies of one page. Normally that would have been a disaster but thanks to the new copier the Church is purchasing I was able to make the 5 copies and complete the booklets (By the way, You're welcome to a copy if you want one).

Then at Senior Citizen numerous ladies gave me money on the Outreach Work and several more signed up to receive this newsletter. I also received

permission to install an Audio Tape rack for the Seniors and I hope they will soon have access to a constant flow of our services. Then I came home and ran off the heading for today's newsletter on a stencil cutter someone has "loaned" us (I have prayed for a stencil cutter for years. I believe it will help the looks and content of the newsletter ministry).



{When someone "Loans" us things like this we assume we'll use them until the Lord comes back!}

And I haven't even told you yet about the new Bible the McCumbers and Runions gave me, or the object lesson I had wanted for so long that Charlie Purvis gave me, or the great time we had at Freedom Fun night when several members proved what I knew all along- They're all wet!!

But the Blessings haven't stopped. More are on the way.



This Sunday (July 15)

Rev John Weaver, summer youth minister at

Black River FWB Church, will be speaking during the 11am Service. John has been greatly used of the Lord and we look forward to his message.

Sunday, July 22, we will have an Old Fashion Singing during the 11am service. We're just going to sing our way out of the summer doldrums.

Then Sunday, July 29, we will have a special service followed by a Baptismal Service. More about this in the next Newsletter.

It sure is great being a Child of God. If you don't know Him, I'd be very glad to do the introductions!.

THANKS to everyone for your help and Prayers. Preacher Mike

To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST

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Having explained the wondrous Doctrine of Salvation; and then shown God's extraordinary dealings with Israel, Paul now concludes this section of the Epistle to Rome with a Prayer to God and a challenge to the readers. In these last 4 verses Paul shows 4 things everyone has to consider about the Lord. He knows they are beyond the scope of normal human understanding but he wants us to be aware of them. For each of them is an important gateway to understanding and loving God.

One of the most perplexing things about God are the perplexing things about God! He just won't fit into the box we want to make for Him. We want Him to be a nice elderly Father Figure that supplies our every need, comforts us when we're sad, and takes care of the bad guys. Over and Over in the Bible, and in life, He doesn't do things this way, however. And since He doesn't fit our preconceived notions we decide to doubt His love and ability.

In a real world of sin, sickness, disaster, and disorder there are 4 things you should know about the Lord:

(1) The "Depth" of the Lord- Rom 11:33 *O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!*

a. Wisdom- He is ALL Wise

b. Knowledge- He has ALL Knowledge

c. Judgments- unsearchable because He is a Just Judger

d. Ways- Past finding out. We can't find them out but we can Walk in them- Hosea 14:9 *Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the LORD are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.*

The Ways of the Lord don't fit in a box because there is no box big enough to hold Him!! We just have to keep in mind that God doesn't play by the same rules we do.

(2) The Mind of the Lord- Rom 11:34 *For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Goes doesn't think the way we think- Isaiah 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. {9} For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

We can't out-think God but we can learn to think Like God- 1 Corinthians 2:16 *For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. Philipians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

(3) The Rewards of the Lord- Rom 11:35 *Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? You can't out give the Lord. We give God our Faith, He gives us Salvation. We give Him our "filthy rag" righteousness and He gives us mansions in Heaven.*

(4) The Glory of the Lord- Rom 11:36 *For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*

All things come From Him, all things must go Through Him, and all things will return To Him; for He alone must receive all glory. It is when man attempts to get God's glory that trouble comes.

Are you trying to worship a fictional "Santa Claus" in the sky? or do you know GOD, the LORD?

VICTORY THRU THE SPIRIT

Rom 8:13-39

Paul has been telling the Romans why they needed to be saved, and how God has made Salvation available. Now he's dealing with the sinful nature that refuses to accept it's defeat at God's Hands.

Paul says that the way to live victoriously is to walk thru life obeying the Spirit instead of the flesh (8:1). He then goes on to show the many ways the Spirit gives us victory; victory that eventually makes us More than Conquerors.

3 Relationships to the Spirit:

1. you have not the Spirit - Lives in the Flesh and For the Flesh
 - a. in the flesh/in the spirit 8:5
 - b. death/life 8:6
 - c. war with God/Peace with God 8:6-7
 - d. Pleasing Self/pleasing God 8:8 "I" Will or "Thy" Will
2. You have the Spirit 8:9-11
3. The Spirit has You 8:12-17

When the Spirit has you then you have Victory:

1. Over the deeds of the body vs 13 We do not habitually live under the direction of the Flesh but thru the Spirit we mortify (Put to death) the deeds of the flesh (Not by trying but by yielding- You don't overcome the darkness by trying; you turn on the light-- and then you can see how to walk without stumbling.

2. Over Childish, Immature living vs 14 The Spirit leads us to act like mature sons, not babes in Christ. We grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ as the Spirit teaches us of Him.

3. Over fear and Doubt vs 15, 16 Eternal Assurance thru the Witness of the Spirit.

4. Over Suffering vs 17-18 The Spirit points to the Glory ahead that makes the suffering seem as nothing.

5. Over Death vs 23 The Spirit points to the Blessedness of the new Body.

6. Over failure in our Prayer Life vs 26 The Spirit teaches us HOW to pray and WHAT to pray for.

7. Over Self Pity vs 28-30 We are the Clay and God is the potter. Knowing that He loves us means that the Spirit will not allow us to be tempted or tried above our limit.

8. Over Everything vs 30-39 More than conquerors means that we not only defeat the enemy; WE TURN THE PROBLEM INTO A PLUS. (Example of man on desert island who lost everything in a fire that brought his rescue ship!).

Do you have the Spirit?? Does the Spirit have You??

Chapter 6 deals with the believer being Dead to Sin, Chapter 7 deals with the believers death to the Law, and chapter 8 deals with the believers Spirit given Victory. I want us today to look at chapter 6 and see some things about our relationship with sin that will hopefully change our attitudes and our actions.

(Sin here is not acts of sin but the old sin nature that produced these acts. Sins are the fruit, sin is the root).

1. Sin's Payment PAID: vs 3- Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? vs 4 THEREFORE we ARE Buried with him that we should WALK in newness of life. We don't OWE Sin anything. Sin tries to claim our passions for the "pleasures" it's given us but that debt is paid.

2. Sin's Power Destroyed: vs 6- Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that HENCEFORTH WE SHOULD NOT SERVE SIN. vs 18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. God did not take away the ability to sin but He did change our Appetite for Sin- Now it's a pain instead of a pleasure.

3. Sin's Penalty Conquered: vs 9- Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. vs 11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. You faithfully believe that sin's power is broken and God's Power is at work in you life. Eternal life is something you live instead of look forward to.

4. Sin's Patterns Broken: vs 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? You change character (new Creature), Companions (Ps 1:1), and Conduct (Let him that stole steal no more but rather labor to give, Ep 4)

3 Things you YIELD-

1. Your Body unto God: vs 13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

2. Your Obedience unto God: vs 16-

3. Your Life unto Holiness: vs 19- I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

These are a daily attitude of life not an emergency measure when you face some special temptation. The answer to the sin problem in the believer's life is NOT determination, discipline, starvation, resolution, reformation, legislation, or any other fleshly means. Victory comes thru Crucifixion- see Gal 2:20

The REWARD of Obeying what you Know- vs 22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the and everlasting life.

The RESULT of Disobeying- vs 23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. We apply this verse to sinners all the time but Paul is using it in a statement to Christians! John said there was a sin unto death. Paul told the Corinthians that sin caused many of them to be sickly and die. And Samson had tremendous strength for God when he yielded himself to God but when he yielded himself to sin he died among his enemies.

PARTS OF THE BODY

Rom 12:4-8

One of the reasons the Church is failing to win the Lost and influence the world is the fact that it is paralyzed! By that I mean that many of it's body parts fail to function and as a result the rest of the Body cannot go forward. I want us today to begin looking at our obligations and opportunities as part of the Body of Christ.

There is ONE Body but many Members. The Head of the Body is Christ. The Body exist to exalt the head and obey it's will. The Head, in turn, will protect and nourish the body. Let's see some basic things about the these BODY PARTS:

The Body is made up of MANY PARTS- All members have not the same office. We are one and yet individuals.

The Body needs ALL THE MEMBERS- Different Functions are not reason for pride or superiority (See 1 Cor 12:14-26). Therefore when we talk about Gifts it is for Edification, not Exaltation. Warren Wiersbe said about Gifts, "Spiritual gifts are tools to build with, not toys to play with or weapons to fight with."

1. WHAT IS A GIFT? The Word "Gift" is the Greek work "Charisma".

A "Gift" of the Spirit is "an extraordinary endowment bestowed by the Holy Spirit sovereignly and undeservedly on believers as instruments for Christian service and church edification". Thayer- "Gifts are extraordinary powers, distinguishing certain Christians and enabling them to serve the Church of Christ, the reception of which is due to the power of divine grace operating in their souls by the Holy Spirit".

Talents are natural techniques and methods; Gifts are supernatural abilities or supernatural powers given to Christians only. God may use a natural ability or inclination in the endowment or use of a Gift but talent is not necessary for (sometimes it even hinders) the Gift God gives.

Gifts are not Offices in the Church; although every Church officers needs certain gifts to effectively do their duty.

The Gifts of the Spirit are not the Fruits of the Spirit. Gifts have to do with service, Fruits with Character.

2. HOW DO WE GET A GIFT?

From the Spirit as He wills- vs 6 (1 Cor 12:11) But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. (Therefore they are not to be turned down- For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. (Rom 11:29)). EVERY member of the Body has a function to perform, given to them by the Spirit, when they become a Child of God.

From the 4 lists that Paul makes [The other 3 lists of gifts are found in 1 Cor 12:8-10; 1 Cor 12:28; and Ephesians 4:11] there are 18 Gifts identified. These are not the only gifts and most of them have "branches" (For example- Giving could be gifts of money or gifts of hospitality).

SPEAKING GIFTS	SERVING GIFTS	SPECIAL GIFTS
Apostleship	Helps	Miracles
Prophecy	Giving	Healings
Evangelism	Ruling	Tongues
Pastor/Teacher	Showing Mercy	Interpretation
Teaching	Faith	
Word of Wisdom	Discernment	
Word of Knowledge		
Exhorting		



Now let's look at the List Paul uses in today's text:

1. Prophecy-

A) The Office- "The inspired delivery of warning, exhortation, instruction, judging, and making manifest the secrets of the heart" (Vincent).

B) The Action- according to the proportion of faith. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: (1 Pet 4:11)

2. Ministry-

A) The Office- Same word used to describe Deacons but it refers to anyone who renders service.

B) The Action-let us wait on our ministry (Active serving).

3. Teaching-

A) The Office- To cause to understand

B) The Action- Actively engage in Teaching. In classes, by example

4. Exhorter-

A) The Office- To motivate the heart and will

B) The Action- Actively seek to motivate others. How many times does a project begin to grind to a halt until someone says, "Come on now, let's get back to work."

5. Giver-

A) The Office- The ability to share your resources with others.

B) The Action- Let him do it with simplicity. You're not interested in who gets the credit but in who receives the gift.

6. Ruler-

A) The Office- Rule means to "place in front of" and refers to a position of authority.

B) The Action- With diligence (Determination).

7. Shows Mercy-

A) The Office- To Show Compassion, to be moved by others needs.

B) The Action- with cheerfulness. Cheerfulness comes from the Greek word "Hilarity". It means that those who minister to the sick should do so with so much cheerfulness until they are like a sunbeam in the sick-chamber.

vs 6-8 in the Phillips Translation- "If our gift is preaching, let us preach to the limit of our vision. If it is serving others let us concentrate on our service: if it is teaching let us give all we have to our teaching; and if our gift be the stimulating of the faith of others let us set ourselves to it. Let the man who is called to give, give freely; let the man who wields authority think of his responsibility; and let the sick visitor do his job cheerfully."

GRACE And GLORY

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First Worship Service . 9:00am
Bible Study Hour . 10:00am
Worship Service (WJOT) 11:00am
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm



Pastor Mike Jones

394-3725

Vol VIII Num 14 July 26, 1990 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

What a great service we had Sunday. We had a lot more singing than normal and it seemed to pick up everyone's spirit. Todd Newell sang as good as he's ever sung, the choir did an excellent job, and even the preacher did alright on his "Hallelujah" parts (They won't let me sing. They just let me say Hallelujah when we come to that part of a song!).

→ This Sunday should be as good or better. We have some "Special" special music on tap, a good Sunday School lesson, and a Baptismal service to follow the Morning Worship Service.



We've been very Blessed this year to have visitors almost every Sunday. Many of these visitors have found it beneficial to come at 10am to join in the light refreshments we have prior to our Sunday School class. Then they can enjoy the good Fellowship we have as we study the Bible together. It seems to make the Morning Service that much more enjoyable. Hope YOU will be with us for all of our services this week.

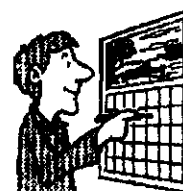
In Christ.....Preacher Mike Ps 16:11

You need to also plan ahead for a very special service on Wednesday August 8. Beginning at 7:30pm, Rev John Weaver will be leading a Family Night Service that will include

special music, a Bible Message, fun activities and a Hot Dog Supper. (We enjoyed John's recent visit with us so much until we asked him to come again for this special service. You're in for a Blessing so mark your calendars).

I have been trying to update our Prayer Booklet this week (A page of which is on the back of this page). If you haven't gotten a copy then I'd be glad to get you one. It contains Prayer helps and prayer lists and it's put together in a folder with pockets in the front and back so you can keep your mission maps, devotion books, and single sheet prayer request all together.

THANKS to everyone who gives so that this ministry can continue. I can hardly wait to get to Heaven and see the Rewards God has for you. I remain



Mark Your Calendar!

To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST

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DEVELOPING A DEVOTION

Have A PATTERN- Mark 1:35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed. Have a time EVERY DAY for Prayer and Bible Study

Have A PLACE- Matt 6:5-6 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily, I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet; and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to the Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. Have a place you can be alone and spread out your Bible and Prayer Book. Keep a Pencil handy to write Prayer requests and answers, or to underline Passages God uses to speak to you.

Develop PERSEVERANCE- Matt 26:44 And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. A Devotion Time is not a matter of the Emotions but of the Will. You must will to even when you don't want to.

Avoid Pride- Have you come to Worship God or order Him to do what you want

Acknowledge Problem Areas- Make restitution if you have wronged anyone or attempt reconciliation if you have offended anyone.

Give God your entire body- feet, hands, mouth, etc.; and your Will- including your mind, emotions, ambitions, desires.

Ask the Holy Spirit to do three things:

- a. Fill you with Himself Ep 5:18
- b. Give you a greater love for Jesus Christ Jn 17:26b
- c. Give you a greater burden for some lost soul Ps 126:6

Get into the habit of thanking God for everything! Thank Him for what He is doing in your life! Give Him all the praise for allowing your life to be a vessel through which He can work. Thank Him in every trying circumstance of your life that is sent to conform your life to His! Prayer must be seasoned with thanksgiving.

Remember that IT IS BY PRAYER WE RECEIVE:

WISDOM- James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

PEACE- Phil 4:6-7 Be careful for nothing; but in everything by Prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the Peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION- Matt 26:41 Watch and Pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

ALL GOOD THINGS- Matt 7:11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

Jesus did not teach His Disciples to Preach but He did teach them to PRAY!! Every important event in the life of Christ took place either immediately after or during a time of Prayer. Even in Death He Prayed!

OVERCOMING

Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. (Rom 12:21)

The thing that overcomes you becomes your master- anger, depression, habit (drugs, drink, lying, etc): While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. (2 Pet 2:19)

That's because they have such Strength- When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils. (Luke 11:21-22)

Sometimes these "Giants" seem much bigger than they really are- And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. (Num 13:30)

That's when we need to know the Way to Overcome-

Realize Jesus has Overcome the World. Rest in Him- These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)

The Word of God allows us to Overcome- I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one. (1 John 2:14)

The Spirit in us allows us to Overcome- Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. (1 John 4:4)

Faith enables us to Overcome- For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. (1 John 5:4)

Salvation allows us to overcome-Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? (1 John 5:5)

Don't be afraid when sometimes Good people are overcome by Satan. These things are to try our Faith and deepen our trust in God- And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed. (Dan 11:35)

Satan will have a time of overcoming God's People during the Tribulation-And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. (Rev 11:7) And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. (Rev 13:7)

Christ will eventually completely overcome Satan however-These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. (Rev 17:14)

Turn Your
OBSTACLES
Into
OPPORTUNITIES

Promises to Overcomers:

1- Access to the Tree of Life: He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. (Rev 2:7)

2. Freedom from Fear of Second Death: He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death. (Rev 2:11)

3. Provision and Renewal: He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it. (Rev 2:17)

4. Authority to rule: And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: (Rev 2:26)

5. Eternal Assurance: He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. (Rev 3:5)

6. A Permanent Memorial for God: Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. (Rev 3:12)

7. A Place with the King: To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. (Rev 3:21)

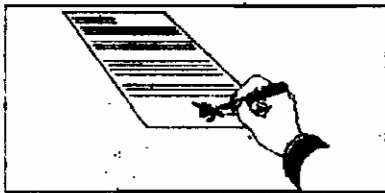
8. EVERYTHING: He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. (Rev 21:7)



LOVE'S DEBT

Having just told us to pay the debt we owe to the Governmental authorities, Paul now goes on to tell about the Debt we owe to each other. We owe a "Debt of Law" to the Government but we owe a "Debt of Love" to each other. It is this debt of Love that many people are failing to pay; and the "interest" on this debt can be disastrous.

Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery; Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Rom 13:8-10)



(The Financial Implications- Some take "Owe no man anything" to mean that Christians should never incur Debt. The Levitical laws about loaning money and Jesus' admonition to the servant to loan out his money seem to contradict this, however.

I believe that Christians should be concerned about how much and who they owe {The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender -Prov 22:7}. Debt should never become you master [If you have a debt and it's paid up then you don't Owe anything right now. It's when you make a debt you cannot pay that you get into trouble- worry, ill feelings, temptation to do wrong]].

The main idea in the verse however is not on the "owe no man anything" but on the "BUT". Paul is showing us a debt that we do owe and then showing us how to pay that debt. That's what we want to look at today.

THE DEBT:

We are to love one another. This will fulfill our "Debt" to the law about Men (It does not fulfill our debt to the law about God!). We fulfill this debt in 2 ways:

A) Love Fulfills the Law: If we truly love others then we will keep the law. We will not want to harm men or do anything against them. We won't murder them, rob them, Use them to simply satisfy our passions in an adulterous affair, lie about them, or covet their possessions.

B) Love Surpasses the Law: If we love people we will fulfill the law because we will go deeper than the law. Law can only cover so many situations while love will handle all situations. When we love someone else as ourselves we want them to be happy, have food and shelter, spend eternity in Heaven instead of Hell, etc.

Jesus makes the "Debt" very big by tying it to the example of His love for us: A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. (John 13:34)

THE PAYMENT: Numerous passages in the Bible show us how to repay this "Love Debt" we owe:

1. James calls it the "Royal Law" and specifically links it to prejudice against the poor. If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. (James 2:8-10)

2. Forgiving Others- In the parable of the debt in Matt 18 Jesus told of a man who had a tremendous debt forgiven him but when he would not forgive a minor debt owed him then he was cast into prison. How many of us want God's forgiveness but aren't willing to extend it to others.

3. Love doesn't bear a Grudge- Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: I am the LORD (Lev 19:18). For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. (Gal 5:14-15)

4. Love holds it's tongue- He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends. (Prov 17:9) Even when people don't treat you right- But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; (Mat 5:44)

5. Love will share it's possessions- But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? (1 John 3:17) Because Love is not simply words but deeds- My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. (1 John 3:18)

6. Love of man shows our love of God- If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? (1 John 4:20)

Try to find ways to "Provoke" love so you can make "advance" payments on your "Debt"- And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: (Heb 10:24)



GRACE And GLORY

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A Little Church with a BIG Vision

First Worship Service . 9:00am
Bible Study Hour . . . 10:00am
Worship Service (WJOT) 11:00am
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm



Pastor Mike Jones

394-3725

Vol VIII Num 15 Aug 09, 1990 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

My Sister in law's birthday is today. Since she and I are the same age, she asked me how it felt to be 43. I told her that if the rest of the year was like the first week then Middle age is the best time of a person's life.

I celebrated my Birthday last Wednesday and it was GREAT. The Church gave me a surprise birthday supper following Prayer Meeting (as well as a check for \$275!) and I appreciated all they did. But



the thing that made this Birthday so very special was the fact that my Baby Brother was saved on Tuesday night and he and his

wife visited with us during Prayer Meeting. I have had Tracy on the top of my 10 most wanted list for years and years and it felt wonderful to mark him off that list.

It was also a good week for the Outreach Ministry. I received a phone call from Dunnellon, Florida from a young man who was a former Satan worshipper who found one of

Rejoice!

our Revelation Books in a Trash can, read it, was saved, is now working in church, and

plans to attend Liberty University this fall.

I sent him a Prayer Book and some other material to help him and I have already received requests from others in his area for books. I also gave a copy of the Prayer book to a local pastor and he called Sunday needing 15 more copies because the people in his church wanted to use it in a prayer study (By the way, Pastors; The Prayer Book makes an excellent 5 or 6 week study course for Sunday night or Wednesday night).

The newspaper Devotional Articles go into over 12,000 homes this week, the Audio and Video tapes are enjoying wide distribution, and God continues to open doors. GLORY!!

I have been able to do all this because of continued faithful giving by some of you and thru some very generous

MEMORIAL giving-Janice Runion and Debbie Mack in memory of Margaret McCumber and Susan Spring in memory of Margaret McCumber, Doris Coker, and Lillie Mae McAllister.

As this world rapidly approaches it's end, it's wonderful to know that God's Word is still the most powerful force on earth. Let's spread it EVERYWHERE!

..... Preacher Mike



To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST

Grace FWB Church
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WHY CHRISTIANS DIFFER

Have 2 people examine and describe the same coin. But let one describe one side and the other describe the other side. Same Coin but with two different perceptions. A Lot of life situations are like that; it depends on your perception.

Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. -- Rom 14:1-5

1. There are going to be Problems in the Local Church.

A) Some will be Personality Problems: I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not (3 John 1:9). Can result from Family ties {My "great grand daddy built this church}, Financial contributions {The Church couldn't survive if I stopped paying my tithes}, or False Pride {Everyone knows that I'm the only one at that Church that does anything}.

B) Some will be Preacher Problems: For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ (1 Cor 1:11-12). These can result from a Pastor's Personality {Some will like one Pastor while others will like another}, the Pastor's Power {Pastors come and go but the Church's power base stays the same. And woe unto the Preacher that challenges it}, or the Pastor's Performance {One Pastor will visit "aunt Sally" more than another will. One will be at a church during a time of sowing while another comes just in time to reap the harvest}.

Note that not a one of these dealt with a Pastor's Preaching. People accept almost anything from the Pulpit if they like the Person!

C) Some will be Sin Problems: It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife (1 Cor 5:1)

Sometimes people who claim to be Christians aren't really Christians. But even Christians aren't Perfect so sometimes sin will capture someone. Sometimes it because Christians are various spiritual "ages" and "accidents" happen as they grow up in the Lord. And sometimes Christians backslide and sin (David).

D) Some will be HONEST DIFFERENCES OF OPINIONS about what is the right thing to do. The reason all Christians don't see things the same is that some are "Weak" in the Faith and some are "Strong" in the Faith. The "Weak" Christians need "Props" to lean on while the "Strong" Christians abound in liberty. This doesn't mean one is "better" than the other; simply different. These differences of opinion make all of us grow because they cause us to examine and explain our beliefs.

2. The two main things we must keep in mind are our standing with the:

A) Master- To his own master he stands or falls. If God is happy with the work I do then you better be happy with it!! A man who lets public opinion become his master will never know Peace or contentment because his orders will change with every new fad.

B) Mind- Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. The greatest joy in all the world is knowing what God wants you to do and then doing it.

People have Problems; God has answers. Keep your eyes on God.

3 Admonitions for CHRISTIANS

Rom 13:11-14

Paul ends this section on Christian Duties by giving 3 Admonitions for Christians that we all need to hear and heed.

I. **WAKE UP-** And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed (Rom 13:11).

A) Sleeping can cause you to miss the Lord- And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not (Gen 28:16). Multitudes of people pass by the marvels of God and never see them.

B) Sleeping in the lap of the World can be Fatal- And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him. And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him (Judg 16:19-20). The world will soothe your brow as it picks your pocket.

C) Sleeping can cause you to miss your opportunities- He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame (Prov 10:5). You allow opportunities for witness and service to pass you by as you "sleep-walk" thru life.

D) Sleeping while you're disobeying God can be Fatal to you and others- So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not (Jonah 1:6). How sad to go down from God yourself and then take others with you.

E) Sleeping during the Sermon can be Fatal- And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead (Acts 20:9). In this case the sermon was long and the time was late; What I'm concerned about is the people who "daydream" thru sermons week after week while their lives are destroyed and their souls are lost.

F) Sometimes we sleep thru a crisis when we should be praying thru it- And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour? (Mark 14:37)

H) The more you sleep the more lazy you become- Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger (Prov 19:15). The more you miss Church, Bible reading, Prayer, etc. the less important you think they are.

God call us to **WAKE UP-** Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. (1 Th 5:7)

II. **CLEAN UP-** 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 armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. (Rom 13:12-13)

a. Cast off the works of darkness

b. Put on the armor of light

c. Walk honestly

1. Not in rioting and drunkenness- Partying and Pleasure

2. Not in chambering and wantonness- Impurity of body and mind

3. Not in strife and envying- Disagreement and jealousy

III. **MEASURE UP-** But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. (Rom 13:14)

Abraham chose the mountains with God, Lot chose the well watered valley. Lot lost it all.

PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN DUTIES

Rom 12:9-21

It's sometimes difficult to know what to expect from Christians. We thought at one time they would suddenly become "Perfect"; but no one but the most naive sinner believes that now. Preachers succumb to lust and greed. Christians divorce and fight, and it's hard to determine even what version of the Bible you're going to believe in any more.

Paul deals with some of this in today's verses. He began this section on DUTY by showing the need of Dedication. Then he reminded us that we're parts of the whole body; each needing the other. Now he wants to show us how we should live as Christians. These practical Christian duties will go a long way toward giving your peace of heart and showing the Gospel light to your lost friends and neighbors.

I. OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD CHRISTIAN BROTHERS: 9-13

vs 9- Love without Hypocrisy (dissimulation).

- A) Abhor (shrink from) that which is evil in a person
- B) Cleave (Embrace) that which is good in a person

vs 10- Love as a Family. "Kindly affectioned" is the tender love of a close-knit family.

A) Brotherly Love- We love all men but there is a special relationship with our "Brothers" in Christ.

B) Selfless Honor- We count it an honor to serve one another because we joy in the good of other brethren (Jealousy and covetousness are gone).

vs 11- Spiritual Fervor- Not holding back from spiritual work

A) Fervent (Burning) in spirit; not wildfire, but some fire!

B) Serving the Lord- Our energy must be correctly directed and it is so when we use it is serving the Lord.

vs 12- Steadfast Outlook-

A) Continuous Rejoicing in our Hope (confident expectation)

B) Patient (bearing up under) in tribulation (trouble)

C) Continuing instant in Prayer- Pray without ceasing (A Habitual Prayer life).

vs 13- Sharing Attitude

A) Distributing to the necessities (needs) of saints (fellow believers). (The idea is that we become "partners" with a fellow believer to the place we know, and as far as possible meet, their needs).

B) Given to Hospitality- Making yourself and your home available to God's people in need.

II. OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD SINNERS: 14-21

vs 14- Bless the Persecutors

vs 15- Empathize with those that rejoice or weep

vs 16- Harmonize with each other- same mind (Don't let pride in your position or your wisdom cause friction).

vs 17 - Don't "pay back" evil. Build your Reputation instead of your rights.

vs 18- Make every attempt to live peaceably with all men

vs 19-20 Let God be the method of your vengeance- God has promised it. Our job is to make God's wrath more just by showing good.

vs 21- Don't allow the evil to control you; control it by doing good.

A Christian's Faith manifests itself in changed Actions and a changed Attitude. Are you a Doers as well as Believer???

CHRISTIAN CITIZENS

Rom 13:1-7

God established 3 major institutions for the benefit of mankind- (1) The Home (Gen 2:18-25), The Government (Gen 9:1-17), and the Church. (Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood (Acts 20:28)). Probably the least liked of these is the Government. I want us today to find out what our obligations to the Government really are, How we can fulfill them, and what results if we don't.

Christians thru the years have regarded their obligation to the Government within the context of 3 different interpretations:

(1) The Government is so corrupt until a Christian should have as little to do with it as possible. They don't rebel against the Government but they would not work for the government, vote, or serve in the military. Amish, etc.

(2) The Government and the Church each have authority in different areas- Physical and Spiritual. They are separate powers to be obeyed and separate areas to work in. Separation of Church and State.

(3) Others believe the Government is part of God's overall plan. As such the Christian has a responsibility to seek to make Government better by serving in it and actively trying to change it's faults. People in this category range from Preachers who promote certain parties and policies to Christian Politicians to Operation Rescue Demonstrators.

The Command- Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. "Be subject to" here means to place yourself under the authority of.

A) The Christian is obligated to obey the laws of the land unless these laws directly conflict with the Laws of God- The Disciples would not stop preaching at the command of the temple government because we ought to obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29). (This must never be for strictly personal reasons; and you, as the disciples, must be willing to accept the beatings, jail time, torture, and even execution that comes as a consequence).

B) Paul wrote this knowing that the Roman Government was corrupt and rife with unreasonable laws- They conquered nations and imposed their own standards and customs on the people. The leaders of the nation were crooks, immoral, and more interested in lining their pockets than in easing the burdens of the people. (Even Peter said to "Honor the King" 1 Pet 2:17)

The Reasons: Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. Wrath and Conscience

1) Governmental powers are given by God- For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. Jesus told Pilate that he could have no power except it were given him from above. This does not mean that God is responsible for each Person in Authority but He did establish the Governmental Authority. (Nebuchadnezzar had to learn that- they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will (Dan 4:25). And Cyrus knew it- Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. (Ezra 1:2)

We can lawfully Resist Government POLICIES that are wrong, replace Government PEOPLE that are Corrupt, Refuse Government PRACTICES that would violate the law of God, but we must submit to Government POWER.

2) Governmental powers discipline the lawless- For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

Government has a responsibility to administer JUSTICE to the law breakers (There are times when good laws are used by Bad people to hurt Good people but God will eventually bring justice to bear. Sometimes by sending in another Governmental power to conquer the Evil Government-- Numerous Old Testament examples and the Nazis in WWII).

Our Obligation is to make sure we are suffering for our Religion and not our Rebellion- But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. (1 Pet 4:15-16)

3) Governmental Powers must be supported- For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

Taxes, Customary consideration, Respect, and esteem are due to the Government. This means we must pay for services, salute the flag instead of burn it, always have a little faster heartbeat when we see a policeman, and honor the office even if we can't honor the man.



We see God's direction in the Government of the world. God is in charge of not only the physical world but also the Spiritual world. One day He will bring you before His court. Will you be declared "not guilty" by the blood of Christ or will you be sentenced to the wrath of God.

GRACE And GLORY

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Pastor Mike Jones

394-3725

Vol VIII Num 16 Aug 30, 1990 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

It never ceases to amaze me at how the Lord works out details. Brother Damon called Saturday afternoon and said he needed some extra time with the Sunday School Lesson so I combined the 9am and 11am messages to allow him to have the first part of Sunday School at 9 o'clock and the remainder at 10.

When I went to the Church first thing Sunday Morning I found that the Air conditioner in the Church was not working. The Lord already knew that we would need to meet in the Fellowship Building for the 9am and 10am service!

The Air Conditioner was fixed and the Church was cool in time for the 11am service. Sometimes it just astonishes me how the Lord works.

And to make it even better; Brother Damon did an excellent job teaching the Sunday School lesson both hours. Isn't it wonderful serving a God who works out problems even before they happen!!

The new roof has been put on the Church and Fellowship Building (\$5000) and we're glad to get that project out of the way. We still look forward to getting the rest of our parking paved in the next few weeks. That will make

everything look nice for HOME COMING on Sunday, September 16.

This Home Coming is our 30th Anniversary and we look for the best Services we've had in 30 years. Brother Roger Tripp (The first pastor) will bring the Message and The "Singing Couriers" will be singing in the 11am Service and in the Special Singing following dinner (around 1:30pm). I can hardly wait!! Complete details in the next edition.

August has been an extremely busy month with many books and tapes mailed or given away. Thanks to all of you who give so faithfully and generously to enable this ministry to continue. One of these gifts was a MEMORIAL given in memory of Henry Richardson by Eris Jones (That's my hard headed mother who checked into the Hospital and had surgery without telling any of her boys!). She's better now (Almost well enough to spank!).

Thanks for your Prayers and Support. Remember, if you're not ready for the Lord to return then you'd better start making preparations. Could be Today!

..... Preacher Mike

To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST

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GOD'S TRAVEL AGENCY

Rom 15:22-33

Having shared with the Roman Christians the great doctrine of Salvation by Grace through Faith; Paul now begins to close the letter with some personal notes. In today's scripture he shows how he was planning ahead to spend some time with the Romans.

I want us to see how God changed his plans and led him in a vastly different direction than he thought; and then I want us to see how God directs and guides our lives today.

The greatest joy in the world is finding God's will for your life and following God's directions for your life. It's not always easy, and it's not always understandable, but it is always best.

Paul's plans were to carry a gift from the Asia Minor Christians to the poor saints at Jerusalem. He then planned to travel to Rome; and from Rome to Spain (I believe he then planned to travel to England and anywhere else he could "beyond the next horizon" in order to spread the Gospel as far as possible).

Here's what actually happened- When he delivered the gift to Jerusalem he was arrested, was nearly killed, and finally ending up in the Roman jail at Caesarea where he spent nearly 3 years- This allowed him to witness to the town of Jerusalem when he was arrested, to the Sanhedrin when he was on trial, and to 3 Roman Governors- Felix, Festus, and Agrippa.

He was then carried by ship to Roman (Where God used a tremendous storm to help him witness to the ship's crew and start a mission on the island of Melita). He finally arrived in Rome where he spoke to the Jewish council, the Roman Government, and the soldiers ordered to guard him. And from his Roman Jail he wrote most of the New Testament Letters which make up our Bible today.

Finally released from Jail he journeyed to Spain, came back to Rome, was again arrested, and finally beheaded. His magnificent Journey was nothing like he planned but everything like God wanted.

That's the way it is in our "Life Journey" also. We must constantly remember the words of Jeremiah 10:23 *O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.* We need to make our plans and do the things we can but we must never forget to add "If the Lord Will" to everything we do.

The reason it is necessary to keep God's Providence and Plans in our mind as we go through life is to keep the mishaps along the way from defeating and destroying us. If you think you are controlled by the circumstances and catastrophes of life then you will eventually give up in despair as you are beat and buffeted along your daily journey. It's vital that you claim the words of Romans 8:28 *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

Paul mentions 2 things in today's Scripture that are important in our travels- Hindrances and Prayers

HINDRANCES- vs 22 says Paul was "much hindered" from coming to Rome (And he didn't know the half of it yet!). When life situations hinder us we must learn to make "lemonade when life gives us lemons". We must see Opportunities instead of Obstacles- When Jesus had to go thru Samaria he used it to Witness to the Woman at the Well.

PRAYERS- in vs 30 Paul asked the people to "Strive together with him in Prayer". What a major factor the prayers of fellow Christians play in our handling life's problems and using them to advantage. Like Samuel of Old we should say *God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: (1 Sam 12:23).*

One Final thought- Make Sure God is your Travel agent- not Satan!

PRAISE WORTHY PEOPLE

Rom 16:1-1

One of the things I do from time to time either before or after a funeral is to look at the tombstones in the cemetery. I have found some very interesting names and remarks this way- One in Mississippi had the name "Wages" on the tombstone. I've always wanted a picture of that one so I could illustrate that the wages of sin is death. Another in North Carolina had the name Dunn on it. I pronounced it Done and thought about the fact that the tombstone meant that person's Physical work was done.

Paul is not going to read tombstones in today's message but he is going to give us a brief insight into the life and ministry of a number of people. I believe this can be a very informative time as we find descriptions that fit our friends, our neighbors, and even ourselves.

Remember, Paul had never been to Rome. These are Converts and acquaintances. 26 different people and 2 households are mentioned in the first 16 verses. That should show us the importance of building Relationships as well as becoming Righteous.

Paul begins by saying "I commend unto you".... Paul wanted to recommend these people to the Church at Rome as examples. If you were visiting in a foreign country and your Pastor was asked to write you a letter of recommendation to the Church there, what would he say about you??

1. Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.

She is the one who carried this letter from Corinth to Rome. The words "servant of the Church" is the feminine of Deacon and some think she was a deaconess (In the early church some women served by visiting the sick, assisting the young women, and helping the poor). She appears to have been a Business woman and as such would have been able to help with her influence as well as her finances.

The truly liberated woman is one who is the servant of the Church and of the Lord.

2. Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. Likewise greet the church that is in their house. See Acts 18:1-3, 18-19, 26; I Cor 16:19 and II Tim 4:19. Like Paul, this couple were tentmakers. Paul had stayed in their home in Corinth and took them with him when he began the church at Ephesus. They had Churches in their home everywhere they went, they had journeyed with Paul, and were mature enough in the Faith to correct a young preacher (Apollos) before he led people astray. Now Paul says they were willing to die in his place!

These two saints had used their livelihood, their homes, and their wisdom to help the cause of Christ. Now they were willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to advance the cause of Christ. Doesn't it make our little sacrifices for Christ seem insignificant?!

3. Salute my wellbeloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ. How fondly we remember that first convert to the Lord (In my case it was my Dad). Do you know there are multitudes of Christian who have never won their first convert to the Lord!

4. Greet Mary, who bestowed much labour on us. How, Why, Where??? So many "unknown Soldiers" in the Lord's Army.

5. Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me. Although they had been in prison they had a good reputation. They were some of the early converts (Maybe even Pentecost Day Converts).

What a joy it is to see people who start out for the Lord continue with the Lord. Many turn back or become lukewarm and it's always a joy to see people keep on keeping on.

6. Greet Amplias my beloved in the Lord. By this shall all men know you are my disciples, if you have love one for another.

7. Salute Urbane, our helper in Christ, (Just like Priscilla and Aquilla this one was a "helper in Christ". Some helpers receive much praise while others simply do their job. Are you faithful without the Praise?).

8. Stachys my beloved. Multitudes of People long for anyone to say to them, "I love you". Paul wanted them to know that circumstances and distance didn't change that.

9. Salute Apelles approved in Christ. "Approved" here means tested and found sufficient. What a Marvelous Commendation! Have YOU passed the test?

10. Salute them which are of Aristobulus' household. What a joy to have fellow Christians in your household.

11. Salute Herodion my kinsman. Very possibly the chief servant of Governor Herod. Even power and politics can't stop the advance of the wonderful Gospel of Christ.

12. Greet them that be of the household of Narcissus, which are in the Lord. What a burden when only a few members of a family are saved. Will the circle be unbroken in your family??

13. Salute Tryphena and Tryphosa, who labour in the Lord. God's work is the greatest work anyone can do.

14. Salute the beloved Persis, which laboured much in the Lord. Paul gives an extra "boast" here. I wonder what special work this one had done to merit this commendation. Maybe it was just continued faithfulness.

15. Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine. (This apparently means that Rufus' mother had been like a mother to Paul). Jesus said that Christians would have to desert their own family at times in order to do His work but that he *shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.* (Mark 10:30)

16. Salute Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, and the brethren which are with them. Salute Philologus, and Julia, Nereus, and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints which are with them.

Maybe all you do in the Church is show up every service and do whatever you can. You'll never know how important that is. Everyone can't be a "main part" but everyone can do THEIR PART. Don't ever think you're not wanted or needed.

Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you. We give a "holy hug and a handshake" today. And that's very important; everyone needs to feel that they're important to the rest of the body of Christ. Praise God for His People!!

ACCOUNTABILITY

But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. -- Rom 14:10-12

Paul says the reason we should be careful in the judgement of Fellow Believers is because we also will face judgement one day (Lost people like to use this to attempt to keep Christians from condemning their sin- "Judge NOT", they say. The Bible really says, Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: (Mat 7:2). It means to be willing to be judged by the same rules you apply to the sinner. Christians are SUPPOSED to condemn sin and sinful practices).

This idea of Accountability is one of the most awesome aspects of living. "Give an Account" is a Book keeping Term. It means to bring the books into balance. You were given something and now you must answer for what you were given. The weaker brother will answer for his understanding and the stronger brother for his understanding. Our job is not to "figure up our brother's accounts" but to be ready to give an account for that that was entrusted to us.

1. Young People are Accountable-

A) For their Actions- Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment (Ecc 11:9). We're accountable to God not only for what we know but what we do.

A) For Their Reputation- Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right (Prov 20:11).

2. Parents are Accountable

A) To Control Children- For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not (1 Sam 3:13). (This does not mean we will be judged for children's sins- The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him (Ezek 18:20).

B) To Teach Children- And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up (Deu 6:7).

3. Christians are Accountable- For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad (2 Cor 5:10). For the use of our Talents, Tongues, and Testimonies

4. Sinners are Accountable- And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire (Rev 20:12-15). For their lack of Faith, Their acts of Unrighteousness, and their Rebellion against God.

CHRISTIAN DEPENDANCE

For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. -- Rom 14:7-9

As most of you know, I had been looking for a set of "hanging balls" for sometime to use as an object lesson. Thanks to Charlie Purvis I now have them and want you to see some lessons from them today. If you drop the first ball on the remaining balls it causes the ball at the other end to swing out. Then when that ball swings back and hits the middle balls it causes the first ball to swing back out again. On and on it goes; one action causes a reaction that causes another reaction.

People are like this. Everything you do affects those around you. You may not see it in the person right beside you but eventually it shows up in the people you contact-

It can be **BAD** things: Alcoholics many times have alcoholic children. Child abuse passes from generation to generation.

It can be **COMMON** Things: Language, Accents (That's why Yankees talk so funny), taste in food, clothing, etc., and recreational activities (Football is an American sport while Soccer is played in the rest of the world).

It can be **GOOD** Things: Good Manners, a work ethic, an appreciation for Nature, etc.

Two Principles in today's verses:

1. No man is an island- For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. We need Companionship (Adam's Bride) and Cooperation (The Church as a Body). We must Care about one another, Pray for one another, and seek to build the entire body up (realizing that when we build the body we actually help ourselves).

2. The main principle in today's scripture, however, is the fact of our obligations to the Lord. We belong to the Lord. It is up to Him to determine what we do- For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. We must accept the **PLACE** the Lord puts us, The **JOB** the Lord gives us, and the **CIRCUMSTANCES** the Lord gives us to labor under (When Jesus told Peter about the obligations that he must face he immediately looked back at John and said, "What about him?". Jesus said *If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me* (John 21:22). The world is filled with unhappy Christians today who have never realized the truth of 2 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.

Our Action will have an effect now and in the future- For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. If Christ is not our **LORD** here and now can we really believe He will be our Lord in the hereafter!?

GRACE And GLORY

GRACE F W B CHURCH

A Little Church with a BIG Vision

First Worship Service . 9:00am
Bible Study Hour . . . 10:00am
Worship Service (WJOT) 11:00am
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm



Pastor Mike Jones

394-3725

Vol VIII Num 17 Sept 13, 1990 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

HOME COMING This Sunday (Sept 16)



10:00am Special Sunday School. Special Music, Special Activities, and a Shortened Schedule.

10:45am Home Coming Worship Service

Hymn #111 "Take The Name of Jesus With You" (First song sung when Church was organized)/ Prayer

Hymn #221 "How Firm a Foundation" (First Song Sung in

Church Building)/ Welcome and Announcements/ Choir Special

Offering- For the Church Building Fund (as we look toward beginning our new Sanctuary in the near future)/ A Brief Review of Church History

Special Music: The Singing Couriers

Message- Rev Roger Tripp, Pastor of Southside FWB Church of Hickory, N C and first pastor of the Church)

Home Coming Dinner 12:15 - 1:30pm Plenty of Food and Fellowship for everyone. Displays of past Church activities and accomplishments will be placed around the Church and Fellowship Building to view after the meal.

SINGING SERVICE 1:30- 3:00PM The Singing Couriers, Brandy Jackson, Gene Fulton, Betsy Hulett, Anne Thigpen, Todd Newell, and ???

Help us Celebrate 30 Years of Service for the Lord: 1960 -1990

I will be preaching REVIVAL SERVICES Monday - Friday (Sept 17-21) at Salem FWB Church. I invite all of you to pray for and attend these special services (Our Choir will be singing on Wednesday Night).

We have been Very Blessed during September with Visitors. The First week in September the David Johnson Family of Bratt, Florida visited us. Last week Bill and Elise McBride of Florence, Wayne Mixon of Webster, Florida, and Betsy Hulett of Florence visited us (She even sang for us!). We're always glad of visitors and look forward to a "HOUSE FULL" this Sunday. Why don't you be one of them. Preacher Mike



To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST

Grace FWB Church
P O Box 1003
Lake City, SC 29560

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THE HISTORY OF GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

A meeting was held on Friday, June 17, 1960, in the home of Mr and Mrs Robert Sullivan for the purpose of organizing a Free Will Baptist Church in Lake City. [Rev Walter Jernigan, Pastor of Bethany FWB Church had felt led of the Lord to conduct a survey in this area and had done much of the foundation work leading the group to this point].

The Meeting was opened by singing "Take the Name of Jesus with You" followed by prayer by Rev. Watford. The Church creed was discussed by Rev Clarence Lambert and the following people voted to organize a Church: Marion Coker, Althea Coker, Genevieve Rogers, Kenneth Miles, Wilma Gaskins, Betty Lou Thompson, Robert Sullivan, Dorothy Sullivan, Blondell Buckles, and J. W. Gaskins (as a candidate for baptism).

A Presentation of the Bible was made by Rev. Jernigan. Rev Watford discussed the Church Covenant and the group voted to adopt it. Rev Julius Vause led the prayer of Consecration. Rev Jernigan submitted the names "Mt Hermon" and "Grace" to the Group and they chose "Grace".

Rev Bobby Poole was called to work with the Church until he left for the mission field. The first collection was \$24. A Ten Day Revival, conducted by Rev Willard Day, was then held at the Lake City Elementary School Auditorium to "launch" the church.

It was decided that Sunday School would begin as soon as possible so a committee was appointed to look for a suitable lot and building. The first Sunday School was held on July 3, 1960 at the home of Mr and Mrs Marion Coker with 19 in attendance. Soon afterward Church services began to be conducted at the Masonic Building on West Main Street.

Members met after Sunday School on August 28, 1960 and voted to call Rev Roger Tripp as the First Pastor. He would minister the first and third Sundays of each month and his salary was \$20 per week. His first service was Sunday, Sept. 4, 1960.

The Church voted to purchase the land where the Church is now located in October of 1960. A League program was begun on Oct 16, 1960 with 30 members.

The Church purchased it first 50 song books in January of 1961 and agreed to increase the pastor's salary to \$29.40 per week. The Ladies Auxiliary gave it's first report at the April 20, 1961 business meeting with a membership of 14. The Building fund was \$2894.97 at this time.

The Church met on July 26, 1962 and accepted the plans for the Church Building with a low bid of \$19,650 to be financed by a bond plan. Most of the actual work of building the Church was done by the members but many in the Lake City area contributed time, talent, and help. The new Church Building consisted of Sanctuary, 6 class rooms, and 2 rest rooms and was completed in time to be dedicated on Sunday, June 17, 1963. Folding Chairs were used until the Church purchased new pews and carpet in February of 1975.

The Parsonage (3 bedroom, 1½ Baths, large den and living room) was built during the ministry of Rev Ned Pattillo and, again, much of the work was done by the members. Rev Dennis Lowery was the first pastor to occupy the new Parsonage.

A Much needed Fellowship Building was begun in 1979 and dedicated on the 20th anniversary of the Church in 1980. Again, much of the work was done by the members. Since 1985 the Church has paved all it's parking area, remodeled the front of the Church, added new lights, windows, and pulpit furniture, and installed a new PA system.

The ministry of the Church has been expanded to include broadcast of our Sunday morning Service over WJOT and distribution of the services by Audio and Video cassette.

In September of 1989 the Church moved it's Sunday Night service from 6pm to 9am and began the present "nine to Noon" format.

We are now ministering to the Third generation of the founders of this church. It's future is as bright as the promises of God. Throughout the past 30 year we have added new people and new programs and expect to be doing all we can when the Lord returns. We invite you to join us.

OBEYING GOD'S COMMAND

I hope each of you would readily agree that obeying God's Commands is an absolute must in our lives. Then why don't we do it?? What keeps us from letting the "will of God be done on earth as it is in Heaven"?

Let's look at several times God gave commands to men; and they hesitated to do what He said. Then as we find out why they wouldn't do God's Will it may help us realize why we fail to obey God's Command.

1. II Kings 5:9-14 Naaman was told to dip in the Jordan River 7 times in order to cure his leprosy. He didn't want to do so because he was looking for some great magic show instead of a simple act of obedience- **The Command of God deals with our PRIDE.** Naaman's servants said that if Elisha's had told him to do some great thing then he would have done it but he didn't want to do anything that would make him look foolish. We must come to God thru the Foolishness of Preaching, Become Fools for Christ's sake, and live by what the world calls "Foolish Faith".

Will Pride keep you from Obeying God in the matter of Salvation or Service?

2. Acts 10:9-16. Peter didn't want to eat with, or associate with, the Gentiles so God used this vision to show him that anything God made was not unclean. **The Command of God deals with our PREJUDICES.** Christians are color Blind and pocket book blind (James 2:1-4); although we are not character blind (We love everyone equally- which means we dislike sin or slothfulness in anyone).

Some sinners are prejudice against the hypocrites in the Church. If they're good enough to spend eternity in Hell with they're surely good enough to spend a Sunday with!

3. And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue (Exo 4:10). Moses was willing to go back to Egypt but he didn't want to speak- **The Command of God deals with our PERSONALITIES.** Many People don't mind serving the Lord as long as it doesn't require any real effort or stress.

We become New Creatures at Salvation. We are indwelt by the Holy Spirit to conform us to the image of Christ. God uses the Bible and the events of life to mold and make us.

Are you going to miss Heaven because you think you aren't good enough, or bright enough, or strong enough?? Obey God's Command.

"Look at your life as you will see it on ETERNITY'S MORNING when life will be all behind you. What will you and I count on Eternity's morning? Money? No, that will be gone, never to come back again. Position? That will have passed away forever. Pleasure and ease? They, too, will have gone.

But there will be two things which we shall value with all our being on Eternity's morning. The first is to know that we have done His will with our lives, and the second thing will be to know that there are precious souls standing around the throne on the solemn morning that God used us to have a share in winning." (G.S. Graham)

The world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. (1 John 2:17)

CIRCUMSTANCES

If I asked you today if you believed the Bible was the Word of God I believe most of you would readily say "YES". Now let's look at our text verse and see if you still believe that: *There shall no evil happen to the just: but the wicked shall be filled with mischief.* (Prov 12:21)

That simply doesn't seem to be the case. It seems more and more that the Wicked are blessed and the righteous suffer. Why is this? What really determines a man's circumstances?

1> Some circumstances happen to people irregardless of their:

A) Intellect- The wise man's eyes are in his head; but the fool walketh in darkness: and I myself perceived also that one event happeneth to them all. Then said I in my heart, As it happeneth to a fool, so it happeneth even to me; and why was I then more wise? The said in my heart, that this also is vanity. (Eccl 2:14-15)

B) Relationship to the Lord- There is a vanity which is done up the earth; that there be just men, unto whom it happeneth according to the work of the wicked; again, there be wicked men, to whom it happeneth according to the work of the righteous: I said that this also is vanity. (Eccl 8:14)

C) Ability- I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all. (Eccl 9:11)

2> Some Circumstances happen in our live to teach other people:

A) The Events in Israel- Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. (1 Cor 10:11)

B) The Events in Paul's Life- But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; (Phil 1:12)

3> Some Circumstances are a trial from Satan:

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

4> Some Circumstances happen because of Sin:

Because ye have burned incense, and because ye have sinned against the LORD, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD, nor walked in his law, nor in his statutes, nor in his testimonies; therefore this evil is happened unto you, as at this day. (Jer 44:23)

The thing to remember is that God uses these Circumstances to Shape us into the Vessel we're supposed to be. The Sculptor hammers at the stone- not to harm it, but to make it into a thing of beauty. It was persecution that drove the early church from the "safety" of the "nest" at Jerusalem to spread the Gospel around the world (Acts 8:1). It is the file, and not the feather, that sharpens the axe!! Heb 5:8 Though he were a son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered.

Ps 119:71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.

Remember also that Hell doesn't just "Happen". It comes to those who refuse to accept Christ as Savior. Don't ease your way into destruction. Accept Christ today

TROUBLE MAKERS

Rom 16:17-20

Paul used the first 16 verses of this Chapter to acknowledge the good characteristics of the people he knew in Rome. Now he wants to give a word of warning to the congregation.

That's the way it is in any group of people; there are many good people that combine their talents to advance the work and there are some people who cause trouble and trial to everyone else. I hope your tombstone does not have the epithet that Achan had- "The Troubler of Israel" (I Chron 2:7).

Paul gives us three guidelines when confronted with Trouble makers:

I. MARK THEM-

A) Their Actions- They cause Division. Instead of Building up the Body they try to tear it down- (Power Problems and Pastor Problems)
They cause Offenses (Eating Meat offered to idols)
They are a PROBLEM for the Church instead of a PLUS

B) Their Beliefs- Contrary to the doctrine you have learned.

1> They have a form of Godliness but deny the Power.

2> They teach salvation by works instead of Faith.

3> They tell people what they want to hear- *Because with lies ye have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should not return from his wicked way, by promising him life: Ezek 13:22.*

That's why it's so important that we Study the Scriptures together each week- *These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so (Acts 17:11).*

II. AVOID THEM- "Avoid" in the Greek is a continuing Action. It means to continually avoid. The protection and purity and peace of the body is the goal here. We don't try to avoid getting them saved; we avoid their contaminating influence.

A) Because of Who They Serve- *For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. -- Rom 16:18*

1. They Serve not the Lord Jesus Christ. The reason they cause divisions is because they have a different master than Christians.

2. They Serve their own belly (Desires). As in the book of Judges, Every man is doing that which is right in his own eyes.

B) Because of What They Do- Their good works and fair speech deceive the hearts of the simple (Emotions). The Church does not need a naive piety that believe everything and everyone is good. We need courageous, intelligent exposure of hurtful heresy.

III. NOTE THE OBEDIENCE OF THE RIGHTEOUS-

A) Their Reputation- *For your obedience is come abroad unto all men Rom 16:19a.* Do you have a Reputation for Righteousness??

B) Their Sincerity- *I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil Rom 16:19b.* Longing and looking to do Good. Not playing at being a Christian; while in reality you are a hypocrite (Simple about Evil means- inexperienced, pure, undefiled, and undeceived).

Jesus said *Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves (Mat 10:16).*
We need to be aware of the Bad but look for the Good.

THE WINNING SIDE

Rom 16:20-27

Paul closes this marvelous book on a tremendous "up note". He wants the church at Rome to know that because we have the right doctrine about the right God then we are on the WINNING SIDE. He also knows that Satan will try to defeat and discourage them so he ends with 3 marvelous truths to hold to and depend on.

1. A PROMISE TO CLING TO- Rom 16:20:

A> The Defeat of Satan- And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. One of the earliest Promises in the Bible- And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel (Gen 3:15).

One day SOON, the father of all lies, the accuser of the brethren, the murderer of men will be cast into the bottomless pit while we rule and reign with Christ on this earth. Then He will be humiliated in front of the whole world as he bows before the King of Kings and Lord of Lords; then cast into the eternal torments of the lake of fire.

B> The Grace of God- The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen. God doesn't give us what we deserve; He gives us what Jesus deserves!! Marvelous grace that could save and keep a sinner like me!

2. SOME PEOPLE TO RELY ON-

Timotheus my workfellow, and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen, salute you. I Tertius, who wrote this epistle, salute you in the Lord. Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you. Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen (Rom 16:21-24). Paul lists some of the people with him as he writes this letter. Each of them are a sermon unto themselves but the main point is that he had some people around him that he could depend on.

One of the great things about the Christian life is that we become part of the body of Christ- individual, yet working together as a team. That's the way it is here at our Church. Most People here know their responsibility and do their jobs- music, teachers, etc.

We not only become part of the Body, we also become Brothers and Sisters in Christ. We depend on each other's prayers and partnership.

NOTE that he ends this section again by calling on the Grace of God to keep you. People WILL sometimes fail you but God's grace is unchanging, THANK GOD!

3. THE POWER TO ESTABLISH YOU-

Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen (Rom 16:25-27).

In a world of constant change and turmoil it's good to know that we're doing something to really help people. A Million years from now a cure for aids won't matter much but a person's relationship with the Lord will be all important.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the most important information that anyone can ever receive. It will cure the Drug problem, the Divorce problem, and the Discouragement problem (Some Christians still have these problems but that's because they refuse to take the "medicine").

Because of this, I believe we ought to do EVERYTHING we can to reach EVERYONE we can EVERY TIME we can.

Do you have this Power in your life? Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior? Today is the day of Salvation.

GRACE And GLORY

GRACE F W B CHURCH

A Little Church with a BIG Vision

First Worship Service . 9:00am
Bible Study Hour . . . 10:00am
Worship Service (WJOT) 11:00am
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm



Pastor Mike Jones -- 394-3725

Vol VIII Num 18 Sept 27, 1990 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

We had a marvelous Home Coming. Good attendance (put out chairs to seat everyone) and a great time of Singing and Preaching. I've already given away nearly 20 videos of the services and have a number more requested. I can hardly wait until next year.

The Revival at Salem FWB Church was also very Good. There was a good Spirit and the people were very nice. I was able to give away a number of Bible Study Booklets and added several more names to our Newsletter Mailing List. It's marvelous how the Lord continues to Bless.

Another Blessing has been Brother Damon Runion's Burden for the growth of our Adult Sunday School Class. He enlisted a "baker's dozen" of prayer warriors last Sunday to Pray for the Class each day. If that many people pray and work then that class will soon need more sitting room!



I haven't had the opportunity to say much about the Outreach work recently but it

grows every week. Since I included a prayer list for the Outreach Ministry in the last Prayer Book I have been amazed at how God has blessed every aspect of it. More people are listening on Radio than

ever before. I am giving away books and tapes as fast as I can get them prepared. The Pastor Help Ministry and the Helping Hand Ministry are doing great. And I don't remember a week that someone hasn't called or commented on the Newspaper articles Ministry.

All of this is possible because of- (1) the gifts of some wonderful people; A number of whom are monthly contributors. Their faithful giving has allowed continued and sustained growth.

(2) The Involvement of the people of the Church in the ministry. They have become increasingly involved in the Physical as well as Spiritual and Financial aspect of the work. They help put together and label newsletters; help put together and bind up Study Booklets; help distribute tapes; and even inform people about the Radio Broadcast.

In fact, many times now the "hang up" is the fact that I am not able to get material for them to work with (and I try to correct that as soon as I can!!).

There are very few weeks now that the ministry of this Church doesn't reach between 10 and 15 Thousand people; all because a "faithful few" are willing to do everything they can for the Lord. Isn't it just wonderful to see what the Lord will do!!

..... Preacher Mike

To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST

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AND YET BE LOST

And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question (Mark 12:34) This text shows that one can be in the "suburbs" of the kingdom of God and yet die & be lost.

One of the saddest things today is the number of People in Church who have a form of Godliness but have no Power or personal relationship with God [I call it "First Baptist Church" religion- good enough to meet the social standards of the community; but not good enough to face a Holy God with].

Let us notice a few who were close to the door but perished.

1). **"YOU MAY MAKE AN OFFERING LIKE CAIN" "AND YET BE LOST"**
But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell (Gen 4:5). Self Effort/self Will. You don't want to come by the way of the cross (Foolish)

2). **"YOU MAY WEEP LIKE ESAU IN REPENTANCE" "AND YET BE LOST"**
HEB 12:16-17 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears. Some things can't be changed. God can forgive ANY sin but there are some results of sin you must live with. Esau was sorry he had sold his birth right but it was still gone. At the Judgement there will be plenty of weeping but Judgement will still come.

3). **"YOU MAY LEAVE SODOM LIKE LOT'S WIFE:" "AND YET BE LOST"**
GEN 19:26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. Some leave the presence of sin but never give up the desire for sin.

4). **"YOU MAY MAKE LONG PRAYERS LIKE THE PHARISEES: "AND YET BE LOST"** MAT 23:14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. Saying without Being

5). **"YOU MAY TREMBLE LIKE FELIX:" "AND YET BE LOST"**
ACT 24:25 And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee. Conviction is not conversion.

6). **"YOU MAY BOW AT JESUS' FEET LIKE THE RICH YOUNG RULER:" "AND YET BE LOST"**- Mark 10:17-22 vs 22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions. Coming to the Cross is not accepting Christ. You must turn from the old way and trust Christ.

7). **"YOU MAY BE ALMOST A CHRISTIAN LIKE AGRIPPIA:" "AND YET BE LOST"**- ACT 26:28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. On the Brink of Blessing you must make the next step. God has provided all His part. Now you must decide to come- or be lost!!

"AND YET BE LOST" Are you YET LOST?? Come to Christ today.

(From a Sermon by Rev Dale Yarborough)

WHAT SIN DOES

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

We are always asking men to turn from sin to God - WHY???

The BIBLE CALLS FOR:

1. A Changed Mind - Repentance
2. A Changed Heart - Regeneration
3. A Changed Life - Conversion
4. A Changed Standing - Justification
5. A Changed Service - Sanctification

The reason men aren't Changed (Converted) is because of what sin does. (It's important to realize that "man does what he does because he is what he is". Man is not basically good - He is a sinner by nature and a servant of sin my choice. Left to himself he will go deeper into sin).

What then does Sin do that empowers it to draw men away from Heaven into Hell?

SIN:

I. DECEIVES PEOPLE

A) By the Way it LOOKS: Jesus said in Matt 23:47 that sin is like a Graveyard; it looks pretty but it's full of dead mens bones. The Best ads on TV are Liquor ads; they picture one thing and deliver another.

B) By the PROMISES it Makes: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat (Gen 3:5-6).

How many people have started on Drugs for the thrill and stayed for the kill!

II. HARDENS HEART Heb. 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. Prov. 29:1 He, that being often reproveth hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy. (Pharaoh - hardened till God hardened) If you wind sewing thread around your hand enough times even a strong man can't break it! The same sun that melts snow hardens concrete.

III. FINDS YOU OUT Num. 32:23 But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the Lord; and be sure your sin will find you out. (You think it's hidden but it's not) Samson - Arose as before but had no power. I once planted most of my peanuts in a hole at the end of the row. Everything was fine until the peanuts started coming up and my dad started coming down on me!

IV. REPRODUCES SELF Gal. 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. (What you put in mind you get back with interest) Plant peanut - Get Peanuts, Plant Anger - Get Anger; except it gets bigger and bigger.

V. KEEPS FROM GOING TO HEAVEN Rev. 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

The wages of sin is death - But the gift of God is eternal Life thru Jesus Christ our Lord. Turn from Sin to Christ today

How does God bring Conviction?

Daniel Chapter 1 By putting Christians in the place of Testimony.

1> Daniel and his friends were captured in order for God to use them as witnesses.

2> The little captive girl that told Namaan how to be cured of his leprosy (Go to Elisha).

3> Paul in the Philipppians jail- Sang up an earthquake.

Be sure you are known as a Christian instead of a complainer.

Chapter 2 SECOND- By showing that only HE has the answers for the future. Nebuchadnezzar began to wonder what the future held. God revealed it to him in a dream. No one could interpret the dream and this angered him. Finally Daniel said God would give him an answer. He called his friends together and they prayed. God gave the answer and Nebuchadnezzar said, *Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldst reveal this secret (Dan 2:47).*

In an uncertain world where war, crime, and disease can conquer you at any time you need a Rock to hold to (and hide under).

Are you fearful of the future?? God holds it in his hand.

Chapter 3 THIRD- by showing you can't overcome God's Plans

Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold (Trying to over rule God's plan by making the entire image of Chapter 2 of Gold) and required everyone to bow before it. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego decided to burn instead of bow and this angered Nebuchadnezzar. (The Life Application Bible list 8 excuses these men could have used to justify bowing- 1) We will bow but not actually Worship the idol. 2) We will do it this one time and ask God's forgiveness. 3) The King has absolute power and we must obey him. 4) The King appointed us- we owe him this much. 5) We must obey the customs of this country. 6) We aren't as bad as our ancestors who set up idols in the Temple! 7) We're not really hurting anyone. 8) If we don't do this then we'll be killed and some heathen will take our place and our people will be treated roughly as a result. The one thing they couldn't get by was "Thou shall have no other gods beside me".

He ordered them thrown into the fiery furnace but God turned on the "Holy Air Conditioner" and the fire became a place of fellowship with God!

This brought Nebuchadnezzar to realize that God was not only A god but the MOST POWERFUL GOD- Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, *Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God. Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort (Dan 3:28-29).*

Have you told God, "I'll marry who I want to marry, get the job I want to get, live where I want to live, etc.".

Chapter 4 By finally Brings you to the place of admitting your own helplessness. Nebuchadnezzar in his pride refused to believe God's proclamation and was stricken with a disease that make him act like a wild animal. Finally Nebuchadnezzar was willing to admit that God was truly God.

What will God have to do to get YOU to acknowledge Him??

LIMITING GOD

Ps 78:32-41

God is all powerful, all knowing, and never fails. He speaks and worlds come into being. He holds man's breath in His hand. He sees the future; knows everything about the past, and is everywhere present right now. How then can I talk about Limiting God???

The answer is found in the Free Will of Man. God could have made man a slave to His every command but instead God wanted man to WANT to Love and Serve Him. In order to do this man had to be allowed a Free Will so He could chose God. It is this Free Will that allows man to Limit God (My car might be able to go 100 miles per hour but it can't do so if it's out of gas or has a flat tire)

Today we're going to look at some ways we fail to reach out potential and limit what God is able to accomplish thru us.

I. CHRISTIANS LIMIT GOD

A) Thru Lack of Prayer- James 4:2 Ye have not because ye ask not. God tells His Children to ask Him:

For STRENGTH: Luke 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him? Christians limit God by failing to be filled with His Spirit. Instead of being filled with the Spirit for Power we grieve and quench the Spirit and end up with a form of Godliness without the power. May God help us to allow God to Do anything with us HE wants to do.

For SUPPLY: Matt 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you:... (Example of man who ate cheese and crackers on board ship because he didn't know that meals were included in the ticket)

God's Eyes are open and His ears listen for our Cry but we limit God by our Lack of Prayer. WHY Don't we Pray?????

1. Lack of Faith- Matt 21:22 And all things, whatsoever, ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive: (We think God is not concerned with the little things when He knows the hairs on our head)

WHAT COULD GOD HAVE DONE FOR US IF WE SIMPLY HAD FAITH TO ASK??

2. Sin in our Lives- Ps 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me. (Instead of working THRU us the Holy Spirit has to work IN us.)

Ps 81:10-11 I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it. BUT my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me.

B) We limit God by wasting our TIME- Redeeming the time because the days are evil Ep 5:16 Have you "bought up" every opportunity??

C) We limit God by failing to TITHE- Mal 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, If I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it. (90% with God is more than 100% without Him) GOD'S WORK IS LIMITED BECAUSE THE MONEY HE PLANNED TO USE TO DO IT IS USED FOR SOMETHING ELSE. Neh 9:37 And it yieldeth much increase unto the Kings thou hast set over us because of our sins: also they have dominion over our bodies, and over our cattle, at their pleasure, and we are in great distress.

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. Where your Treasure is there will your heart be also. [If a man misses paying his tithes he is to add the fifth part to it as interest. Lv 27:31]

D) We limit God with a bad TESTIMONY- Abstain from very appearance of Evil II Thes 5:22. We must be Aware of our Brother's Conscience and of Sinner's observation (No one wants good soup from a dirty bowl).

It not only hurts others when we limit God but it also hurts us:
II Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

IS THIS CONSECRATION??

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 go, 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.

GOD EXPECTS NO MORE THAN YOU ARE ABLE TO GIVE BUT HE EXPECTS THAT MUCH.

IT IS NOT ENOUGH NOT TO DO WRONG. YOU MUST DO RIGHT.

WHEN GOD CALLS YOU TO ACCOUNT FOR YOUR TALENTS WILL HE SAY, "WELL DONE" OR "DEPART FROM ME"?????

II. SINNERS LIMIT GOD- By refusing the Salvation God freely offers: It is not the will of God that any should be lost but that ALL should come to life. God has provided the payment for your sins, the Holy Spirit is convicting your heart, and I'm proclaiming the Gospel of Christ. The only "Hold back" is YOU. You limit what God can do for you by your stubborn rebellion-- Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear (Isa 59:1-2).

WHAT SHOULD CHRISTIANS DO?? CONFESS OUR FAILURES. GET BACK IN GOD'S PLAN

What should Sinners do?? Repent of sin, Accept Christ as Savior.

REMEMBER. YOU CAN LIMIT WHAT GOD CAN DO THROUGH YOU BUT YOU CAN'T LIMIT WHAT GOD CAN DO TO YOU!!

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Vol. VIII Num 19 Oct 11, 1990 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

MISSION OFFERING

Sunday, October 14, 1990
Our Entire Offering will go to
MEDICAL AID FOR INDIA
(Carlisle Hanna's Account)

Brother Carlisle Hanna's account is in desperate need of \$10,000 to help with the Indian Pastor that was so badly burned. In order to help we have decided to have another Mission Day this year and give all of this Sunday's offering to this worthwhile cause. I trust you will pray and give generously.



Not only will this be a Special Sunday as far as Offering is concerned but every service will have something SPECIAL.

This is the Sunday for Beginner and Junior Church so our teachers get to hear Brother Damon teach the Adult Class. The Messages will be- 9am "The Greatest Sermon ever Preached at Grace Church".
11am- "3 Ways to Die".

The Woman's Auxiliary will have a **TRAINING COURSE** on the **WOMAN'S AUXILIARY MANUAL** this coming Monday (Oct 15) beginning at 7:00pm.



Mrs Ada Miles will lead the Study. ALL of our Ladies are urged to attend (And any of the ladies from surrounding Churches are invited).

Janice Runion and Debbie Mack have been an invaluable assistance recently by putting together Prayer Books. I've been giving them away almost as fast as they assemble them! If you haven't gotten your copy then I urge you to get one soon.

In fact, I was working on a book of all of the past year's Newspaper articles when I got several calls for Revelation Books. I stopped to work on them but I got so many calls for Prayer Books until I had to stop the Revelation books to replenish them!! I hope to have several hundred of each put together soon. Thanks for your Patience.

I couldn't do all this without the prayers and concern of so many of you. Thanks for being a part of reaching others for Christ. Hope to see you Sunday

Preacher Mike

To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST

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This man coming to Jesus shows us the Good and Bad of Faith. It also shows us how to go from a Weak Faith to a Strong Faith.

I. THE SIGNS OF A WEAK FAITH

1) Demands Visible Proof- Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe (John 4:48). Unbelief puts our circumstance between us and God, but faith puts God between us and our circumstances (F.B. Meyer). Thomas was called "Doubting Thomas" because he had to see to Believe!

2) Must have an overwhelming need before it comes to God- John 4:47 "For he was at the point of death" The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die (John 4:49). This man had probably had numerous opportunities to invite Christ to His home but didn't until his child grew deathly ill (What about YOU??). Vance Havner related the story of an elderly lady who was greatly disturbed by her many troubles both real and imaginary. Finally she was told in a kindly way by her family, "Grandma, we've done all we can do for you. You'll just have to trust God for the rest." A look of utter despair spread over her face as she replied, "Oh, dear, has it come to that?" Havner commented, "It always comes to that, so we might as well begin with that!"

3) Dictates to God instead of seeking God's Will- Come Down (to my house). Weak Faith tells God what to do as if God is not capable of making the right decisions without your input!

As children bring their broken toys
With tears for us to mend,
I brought my broken dreams to God,
Because He was my friend.
But then, instead of leaving Him
In peace, to work alone,
I hung around and tried to help
In ways that were my own.
Finally I took them back and said,
"Dear God, why are you so slow?"
"My child," He said, "what could I do?
You never did let go."

4) Impatience- Come down before my son dies (Hurry). Weak Faith demands an immediate answer; missing many of God's Blessings! (Daniel's answer was delayed 3 weeks. Over and Over in Scripture God waits until HIS time is right).

II. THE SIGNS OF A STRONG FAITH

1) It believes God's Word- Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way (John 4:50). I said to the man who stood at the gate of the Life, "Give me a light, that I may thread safely into the unknown," and he replied, "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

2) Rests in the Lord- It was the Next Day before he got home. We HAVE the Answer before we SEE the answer!

3) Receives Confirmation of God's Words- Servants came to meet him and told him his son was healed the same hour Jesus said it (How many many times have I had a message from the Lord confirmed like this).

4) Continues to Grow- So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house (John 4:53). Faith in the Ability of God becomes Faith in God; And that's the goal of Faith!

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Mark 4:1-13

Do you ever wonder if all the money and effort we put into the Church and the work of the Lord is worth while?? Especially considering the type of Faith Ministry we have here at Grace. We minister to thousands of people each week; most of which we never see or hear from. Are we doing anything; or are we just "spinning our wheels"?

The parable of the Sower shows us what to expect of the work we do; and by doing so, shows us how people respond to the Word of God.

This Parable is one of the most basic parables in the Bible. In fact Jesus said that if we did not know this parable? how then will ye know all parables? (Mark 4:13). That means it's important that we under the main ingredients in this message- What is the Seed?, Who is the Sower?, How do the kinds of Soil apply to us today.

I. THE SEED IS THE WORD- The seed is the word of God. (Luke 8:11)

A) It has LIFE in it- For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Heb 4:12)

A dry stick won't grow a tree but an acorn will!

B) It is Powerful- Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces? (Jer 23:29). Leave grass seed under a parking lot and soon it will come up thru every crack and crevice; and presently it will cause cracks and crevices!

C) It Produces Fruit- There are Numerous KINDS of Fruit we want:

1> **SOULS WON TO CHRIST:** Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles. (Rom 1:13)

2> **HOLINESS OF LIFE:** But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. (Rom 6:22)

3> **CHRISTIAN CHARACTER:** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. (Gal 5:22-23)

4> **CHRISTIAN GROWTH:** That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; (Col 1:10)

5> **CHRISTIAN TESTIMONY:** 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. (Heb 13:15)

If the Word of God is to do all these things it must be Planted and allowed to Grow. In the remainder of the Parable Jesus tells the helps and hinderance to this process.

II. THE SOWER SPREADS THE WORD- His part in the work is vital.

Remember the story of the man who turned a vacant lot into a beautiful garden. Someone came by and said, "God has certainly made a beautiful garden here". The man replied, "You should have seen this lot when God had it by Himself!" The Seed of the Word needs the sowing of man if it's to do any good- How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? (Rom 10:14)

THE SOWER MUST:

A) Have a Personal Concern- They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. (Psa 126:5-6)

B) Accept being a Partner in the Work- I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. (1 Cor 3:6)

C) Be Patient in his task- Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. (James 5:7)

CAREFUL- Don't sow to the Flesh- Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that sows to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting (Gal 6:7-8)

III. THE SOIL REPRESENTS MAN'S RESPONSE TO THE WORD. God made man from the earth so it is no surprise that Christ compared the human heart to soil.

A) The Hard Heart- Seed is Stolen by the Devil

B) The Shallow Heart- The Plant is Killed by Persecution and shallow roots. The Sun represents Persecution here; that means it's a necessary part of growth.

C) The Crowded Heart- Seed Sprouts but the Fruit is killed by the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lust for other things.

--D) The Fruitful Heart- Receives the Word, understands the Word, Holds fast that which it receives. Fruit is the true test of Christianity- Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. (Mat 7:19)

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 (John 15:2). You are saved by Faith but a Faith that does not produce Works is a faulty faith

Each of us has to deal with each of these kinds of hearing in our own life. Some times we don't allow the word to penetrate our lives, Sometimes we start off with good intentions and end up forgetting before we get home, Some times we allow other things to take the place of the word. And some times we allow the word to bring change to our lives.

WHAT SHOULD BE YOUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD?

BELIEVE IT- Having to do with the Mind- So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Rom 10:17). This is where the battle takes place for the WILL. Believing means to Trust in and Rely on. It is a trust so strong until we DETERMINE to accept Christ; OR NOT- ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. (John 5:40)

RECEIVE CHRIST- Having to do with the Heart- But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: (John 1:12). You open the inner most part of your being to the examination, care, and correction of the Holy Spirit. This is not a New Leaf but a New Direction in your Life. You take self off the throne of your heart and allow Christ to be your Sovereign Lord.

ACKNOWLEDGE SALVATION- Having to do with the Mouth: Public Stand-- For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation (Rom 10:10). You don't establish your love for someone by simply "Feeling" good about them. You tell them you care for them. There are only two "Sides" in the World; Satan and the Lord. Jesus said, He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad (Mat 12:30). You cannot serve two masters- Which one will you chose to make a public stand for today??

GETTING CLOSE TO GOD

Ps 63:1-8

The desire of every Christian ought to be to get close to God. One Problem is that many people have just enough religion to make them miserable. They aren't sold out to God and yet they're ashamed to go back into the world. They're like the man who decided to be neutral during the Civil War. He wore a Blue Shirt and Grey Pants; and both sides shot him!



I. WHAT YOU WANT- The Heart is a restless hunter seeking only Love. God has put a "God conscience" in us that lets us know we can only find real Peace in a personal relationship with Him.

A) A Personal Relationship- Thou art MY God vs 1

1> Christianity is not a Religion but a Person-Christ

2> Our Soul should thirst for Him and our Flesh should long for Him. Like Paul we should 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, (Phil 3:8). We should MAKE GOD YOUR GOAL.

We Know this; and we really want to get close to God, but we have FEARS:

1. About our Abilities to meet God's Standards- Taken care of in Christ (I don't have to be perfect; Christ was).
2. About our Pride- We live in a society that tells us we've always got to look out for ourselves. If we go weeping to an altar then we fear people will think we have some great hidden sin or that we are not "man enough" to face life on our own (we aren't!).
3. About the "foolishness of Faith". We fear that somehow God will ask us to be a "Holy Fanatic" that people make fun of. And some people fear public opinion NOW more than they fear Hell in the future.

These fears cause us to want to see:


B) A Power Demonstrated- To see thy power and thy glory so as I have seen thee in the Sanctuary vs 2. We want to know that the "picture" the Preacher draws in the pulpit can be lived in daily life (We aren't really sure the preacher knows how contrary our husband is, or how much pressure is put on us at work to conform to the world's standards in order to make a good living [compared to just surviving]).

We'd like to see God "knock my husband side the head with a two by four" so he'd realize what a good wife I am; or let my boss give me a thousand dollar bonus because he saw me pray- before we get completely involved in getting close to God.

That's not the way it works however. God has already shown His part in this committal by giving us the best Heaven had (Jesus). Now He expects us to joyfully and lovingly give Him our all (God doesn't want to USE us. He wants us to SERVE Him. When you USE someone it's a joyless frustration. When someone SERVES you it's a joyful consummation).

II. WHAT YOU DO vs 3-6

A) Praise God 3-5 Praise God for WHO He is and WHAT He has done (God inhabits the Praises of His People. Don't expect to get close to God complaining all the time- Don't be a nagging Bride!!). Your Lips (vs 3), Your Limbs (vs 4), and Your Life (vs 5) should proclaim the goodness of God. Even when your circumstances aren't good; GOD IS!



God is so
good to me

B) Meditate about God vs 6 The Devil tries to control your thought life with music, TV, Discouragement, Gossip, etc. Paul tells us we are to Cast 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; (2 Cor 10:5).

This mediation must also involve Prayer because The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth (Psa 145:18). Chew the Cud with God- Talk with God and let God talk with you! After all, who knows more? God or You!! Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice. (Psa 55:17)

III. WHAT YOU GET vs 7-8

A) Protection is realized - By trusting in His Power we find Rest in the Shadow of His Wings. What a joy to Rest in His Strength instead of having to do everything on our own.

B) Proximity is reached- God is near you and you are near God. You're up under Him; ready for use and for Fellowship.

IS GOD A FAR AWAY IDEAL TO YOU?? HE WANTS TO BE A LOVING HEAVENLY FATHER. TODAY IS YOUR CHANCE TO GET CLOSE TO HIM.

The Sad Truth, however, is that you're as close to God right now as you WANT to be! You wouldn't mind God Blessing you (and you surely want to go to Heaven when you die!) but you don't think it's important enough to give up sin and take up your Cross.

May God give you a Holy Hunger today that will only be satisfied with a continual feast of the Bread of Life and Water of Life.

Acknowledge the Fact that you are a sinner and you can't save yourself.

Believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died to provide a payment for YOUR Sins.

By Faith, Accept Christ as Savior, Acknowledge that fact publicly, and begin a new life of commitment and service to the Lord. You're going to like the difference!!!

GRACE And GLORY



GRACE F. W. B. CHURCH

A Little Church with a BIG Vision

First Worship Service 9:00am
Bible Study Hour 10:00am
Worship Service (WJOT) 11:00am
Wed. Prayer Service 7:30pm
Pastor Mike Jones--394-3725

Vol VIII Num 20 October 25, 1990

I praise the Lord for the generous giving of our People. We received over \$2000 for Brother Carlisle Hanna's Medical Account during our special offering. It's great to see people willing to give to such a special need.

Several Special Events will be happening during the next few days:

TIME CHANGE: Remember to "Fall back" an hour this Sunday. With that extra hour to prepare, **EVERYONE** ought to be here for our 9am Service.



CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE: The Choir will meet Sunday night at 5:30pm to begin practicing for the Christmas Cantata. If you can help then we **NEED** you to be here for this first practice.



Mrs Roxanne Young and the Teen Class will be producing "Christmas Fever" for the Junior and Teen group. We also plan to have a Primary age Program. Everyone can (and **NEEDS TO**) take part at this special season.

FAMILY FUN
NIGHT will be
Wednesday, Oct
31 beginning at
7:00pm. Each



year we try to provide a positive alternative to Halloween and "Trick or Treat" by showing people they can have fun without dressing as witches and receive goodies without threatening people.

Each family is asked to bring a bag of candy and a soft drink. The candy will be used as prizes in the games we play and the soft drinks will be used as part of the Hot Dog supper to follow.

We encourage everyone to dress in some type of costume (There will be a prize for the best one) but we ask you to remember that the goal of our activity is to glorify good instead of bad.

THANKS to Wilma Gaskins and Janice Runion for their Gifts to this work in Memory of Mrs Margaret McCumber. Thanks also to the Senior Citizens I speak to twice a month. I carried them 50 prayer books and many of them gave to this work. Thanks also to Russel Lowder, Todd and Cam Newell, the Elmores, Billie Ard, Marion Tunstall, Viola Trammell, Rev Julius Vause, Wilbur Hicks, the Mixons, and many many more for your recent gifts.

It takes a large income with all the outreach we do but God has marvelous meet every need we've had. Praise His wonderful Name.

Hope to see you Sunday

..... Preacher Mike

To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST

Grace FWB Church
P O Box 1003
Lake City, SC 29560

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CONCERNING CAPERNAUM

Jesus moved from his hometown of Nazareth to the nearby town of Capernaum when he began his ministry (about 20 miles- same distance from Crow Corner to Lake City). There are a number of reasons for this; and in understanding these reasons we can begin to see WHY God allows certain things in our own life.

What was there Concerning Capernaum that brought Jesus There?

IT'S PHYSICAL LOCATION: Nazareth was off the beaten path while Capernaum was a cross-roads town of commerce on the Lake (!). It was the home town of Andrew and Peter and James and John (And we know that Jesus and the disciples stayed at Peter's home at least some of the time- healed Peter's mother in law). It was where He Paid His Taxes (With the help of a fish!) and where Jesus went to Church (John 6:59).

God is very Practical in many of His decisions- If I pastured my Home Church we could not have a radio ministry and I would not have the contacts to have started the Newspaper ministry.

IT'S REMOVAL FROM FAMILIARITY: The People in Nazareth would not ACCEPT Jesus or BELIEVE His Ministry because they "knew" Him. And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things? And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house. And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief (Mat 13:54-58).

This caused Capernaum to be a SOURCE OF JEALOUSY to Nazareth- And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country (Luke 4:23).

Have you ever noticed how people on a bank fishing throw their lines as far out as possible while people in boats come as close to shore as possible- we always overlook the obvious.

LIVING THERE FULFILLED PROPHECY- And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, (Mat 4:13-14). God has a Place for you to serve and if you don't then many people will suffer (Most of the ministries in our church function because God brought People in to do the jobs that needed doing).

IT PROVIDED A PLACE TO LOOK FOR JESUS- When the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, neither his disciples, they also took shipping, and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus (John 6:24). When people stop "playing the game" of religion; I want them to know they can find the Lord here in the "city by the Lake".

Possibly the saddest thing about Capernaum, however, was it's MISSED OPPORTUNITY- And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day (Mat 11:23). The Lord lived there, taught there, performed miracles there; and yet the people refused to repent. Doesn't that sound like our "Lake City". May God help us to realize the opportunities and obligations He has given us.

9 WAYS TO BE HAPPY

Matt 5:1-12

The Word "Blessed" means O, How very Happy. It originally came from the idea that God's favor was bestowed on an individual. Jesus lists 9 things in the beginning of this famous sermon that describe the kind of happiness he was offering His followers.

The First 4 Deal with ATTITUDES; and the Last 5 Deal with ACTIONS.

1. BE HUMBLE- "POOR IN SPIRIT"- Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. {3} Jesus uses this sermon to show That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven (Mat 5:20). The Pharisees were Proud of their outward show (see Luke 18:9-14). Christ begins by showing that the Kingdom of Heaven is for the HUMBLE (This is not downgrading self, "I am a nobody". It is seeing your self against a holy God. It is the Prodigal son awaking in the far country looking at the hog pen and remembering the Father's house). The Road to true Happiness begins at the door of Humility.

2. BE SERIOUS- "MOURN"- Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted {4} "Those who laugh shall lament, but those who sorrow shall sing". This is not crying over your Situation but over your Sin! To grieve over sin means that you are sorry that they have committed it and are afflicted and wounded that they have offended God. These shall find comfort in the Gospel.

"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"

3. BE PATIENCE- "MEEK"- Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. {5} "He has the best of this world who thinks the least of it!". Meekness is Patience in the reception of injuries. It is not cowardice but control. Moses faced Pharaoh and led 5 million people but he was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth (Num 12:3).

4. DESIRE GOD- "HUNGER AND THIRST"- Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. {6} Your desire is for the Divine. The motivation in your life is to be like God.

5. EXTEND MERCY- "MERCIFUL"- Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. {7}

"What we are to Others, God will be to us" With the merciful thou wilt show thyself merciful, and with the upright man thou wilt show thyself upright. With the pure thou wilt show thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt show thyself unsavoury (2 Sam 22:26-27).

6. KEEP YOURSELF PURE- "PURE IN HEART"- Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. {8}

Dirt in the Heart dims the eyes. Jesus said that sin originated in the heart. The outward things you do are simply a manifestation of the inward person you are.

To See God is to recognize Him in the things He does. Others see chaos, we see the circumstances of God.

7. BUILD BRIDGES TO OTHERS- "PEACEMAKERS"- Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. {9}
We should not cry "Peace, Peace" when there is no Peace (Jer 6:14); and we must ever remember that the Pure in Heart come before the Peacemakers- But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. (James 3:17), but true happiness comes from building bridges instead of walls.

8. ACCEPT OPPOSITION- "PERSECUTED"- Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. {10} Those who in the first Blessing were Poverty Stricken are here Persecuted; and given another assurance of the fact that the Kingdom belongs to them.

9. BE THE TALKED ABOUT INSTEAD OF THE TALKER- "SLANDERED"- Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. {11} Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. {12}

The slanders of the tongue put us in the company of the Prophets.

Jesus was called a Samaritan and told he had a devil- Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil? (John 8:48)

He was called Mad- And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him? (John 10:20)

Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: (1 Pet 2:23)

9 Ways to be Happy. None of them would make a talk show host very happy! They aren't what the world expects or looks for; they are what God requires. These tell us how to have Happiness as a result of change in Character. The World seeks to have Happiness resulting for good Circumstances- Anyone can be happy when things happen to happen happily.

God shows us how to have the Victory in a world set for defeat. Will you follow God's Plan or will you live in defeat and despair??

= = = = =

Some use these Beatitudes as a type of Salvation:

Our ATTITUDE in coming to God:

1. Poor in Spirit- His attitude toward HIMSELF (sees Need)
2. Mourn- His Attitude toward SIN (Sorrow for sin)
3. Meek- His Attitude toward OTHERS (No excuses)
4. Hunger and Thirst- His Attitude toward GOD (Desires)

Our ACTIONS after we meet God:

5. Merciful- Has a forgiving Spirit toward others because forgiven
6. Pure in Heart- Holiness of life comes from within
7. Peacemakers- Instead of a Troublemaker; He brings Peace
8. Persecuted- Because his light exposes darkness
9. Slandered- Because you are at war with the father of lies

The Way to Happiness goes down the road of Holiness. The Door to enter this way is Jesus. That's Him knocking at your heart right now.

3 WAYS TO DIE

David said furthermore, As the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish (1 Sam 26:10).

Talking about "3 ways to Die" is probably one of the least appealing subjects I could chose. Most people would love knowing "9 ways to be Happy" (Be here Wednesday Night to learn that!) but most people don't want to talk about (or even think about) dying.

It's becoming a subject of tremendous concern to many people, however, whether they want it or not. From the moment of conception to the moment of death man is becoming increasingly puzzled about where life begins and ends.

The Abortion controversy pits those who believe life begins as conception against those who believe life begins at birth (Thus making it alright to kill the unborn).

On the other end of the spectrum, Science continually develops new and better ways to extend the life of a person. Sadly however, these great marvels of scientific advancement increasingly leave us with the question of QUANTITY of Life verses QUALITY of life (When do you "pull the plug" on someone? When do you know that the pain a sick person endures is so overwhelming until it requires you to stop using every resource available to maintain a heartbeat?).

We certainly can't answer all of these questions today but we can look at 3 ways Death comes to man; and, hopefully, get you prepared to face God when you die.

I. DIVINE JUDGMENT- the LORD shall smite him There are times that Death comes to men suddenly because of some grievous sin:

A) It Happens to PEOPLE- Ananias and Sapphira sold a possession and kept back part of the price. God brought Judgment on both of them-- Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband (Acts 5:10).

B) It Happens to RULERS- Herod failed to give God the Glory and was killed- And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man. And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost (Acts 12:21-23).

C) It Happens to PREACHERS- Nadab and Abihu- And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD (Lev 10:1-2).

D) It can even happen to the ENTIRE WORLD AT ONE TIME- Flood- The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth (Gen 6:11-13).

The thing to remember about Death by Divine Judgment is that it is not the result of "normal" causes- If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the LORD hath not sent me (Num 16:29). It is also possible for men to die "normal" death, but in a specified time frame, as a result of God's Judgment- All Israel over 20 in the desert: For the LORD had said of them, They shall surely die in the wilderness. And there was not left a man of them, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun (Num 26:65).



II. NATURAL DEATH- his day shall come to die This is the death of the Physical body that results from the sin nature in our bodies- But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die (Gen 2:17).

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Rom 6:23).

Man is given a predetermined time by God- Jesus continually said His time was not yet come. Paul didn't die until he had "finished his course" (II Tim 4:7). Even the Psalmist wanted to know how long his time was- LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am (Psa 39:4).

It is possible, however, to lengthen or shorten this time: He weakened my strength in the way; he shortened my days (Psa 102:23).

Fear of the Lord can lengthen your life while sin can shorten it- The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened. (Prov 10:27) Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time? (Eccl 7:17)

Honoring your Parents can lengthen your days- For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death: (Mark 7:10). Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth (Eph 6:2-3).

III. CATASTROPHE- he shall descend into battle, and perish. Evidently, sometimes men die as they live- time and chance happen to all men (Eccl 9:11). It could be a Natural Disaster, War, or an Accident (As when a man goeth into the wood with his neighbour to hew wood, and his hand fetcheth a stroke with the ax to cut down the tree, and the head slippeth from the helve, and lighteth upon his neighbour, that he die; he shall flee unto one of those cities, and live: (Deu 19:5)). While I believe that God is able to protect people during these events (The Passengers in Paul's Ship saved during the Hurricane in Acts 27); yet I know that multitudes of people die in war, famine, earthquakes, etc. God is ABLE TO OVERRULE anything in nature but many times He seems to allow things to progress in a natural order.



While there are 3 METHODS to die, there are only 2 WAYS to Die: Saved or Lost. It's important that you make the decision about what state you will die in for it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: (Heb 9:27). Death is simply leaving the physical world for the Spiritual world; There to be judged by Almighty God. His Judgment will not be based on your fame or fortune but on the fact of whether or not your name is written in the Lamb's book of life- And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life (Rev 21:27).

There is no need for you to die without Hope today- For we must needs die, and are as water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect any person: yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him (2 Sam 14:14)

Jesus wants to give you ABUNDANT LIFE and ETERNAL LIFE. Accept His offer of Salvation today.

Remember, there is coming a day that men will seek death and it will flee from them- And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them (Rev 9:6). Don't let that deathly day overtake you. Accept Life today.

Grace and Glory

GRACE F W B CHURCH

A Little Church with a BIG Vision.

First Worship Service..9:00am

Bible Study Hour.....10:00am

Worship Service.....11:00am

Wed. Prayer Service....7:30pm

Vol VIII Num 21 11-15-90

Pastor Mircheal Jones * 348 Lawrence St. ** Lake City, S C 29560

We're entering a busy couple of months with all the extra holiday activities, play practices, cantata practices, and Christmas parties but it can be a time of anticipation instead of anguish if we just keep our priorities in order. That means we need to continually remember the reason for the season so we won't get caught up in the rat race that the world is in during this time of year.

Thank God for Thanksgiving! In a time of sickness, death, and war-worry, it's good to lift our eyes from the troubles of this world in order to give Thanks to God for His continued Presence and Provision. We'll do that during the service I look forward to as much as any service we have



during the year; our annual PRAISE SERVICE on the Wednesday Night before Thanksgiving. EVERYONE in the church will be asked to give thanks with a testimony, some scripture, a poem, and/or a song. It's a marvelous service and I hope you will plan to attend.

The Adult CHRISTMAS PARTY will be Friday, December 7 at 7:30pm at Shoney's in Florence. This is always a great time of fun and fellowship (Last year we learned all our women lust after Tom Selleck?? Wonder what this year will reveal).

MISSIONARY BOBBY POOLE will be speaking for us during the 9am service on December 9. You'll get a Blessing from this.

We are in the middle of practicing for a PRIMARY CHRISTMAS PLAY, the Teen class Presentation of CHRISTMAS FEVER, and the ADULT CANTATA. All of these will be presented the week before Christmas as well as the Sunday before Christmas. We look for the Lord to use them to reach people with the good news that the Birth of Christ means they can have a New Birth also.

Thanks
Be To GOD!

While the world is worrying and wondering about what the Future holds, we can go confidently forward knowing who holds the Future. What a great joy it is to know the Pardon and Peace of God.

Preacher Mike

Grace Free Will Baptist Church
P O Box 1003/ 348 Lawrence St
Pastor Mike Jones 394-3725

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HAPPY

What makes you Happy? Can you list 5 things that if they happened in your life they would make you Happy? It seems everyone wants to be happy but few know how to accomplish that goal. The thing to do (like always) is to go to the Bible and see what God says.

As I went thru the Bible I found the word "Happy" listed 28 times. These are the main thoughts of those verses. They show 11 things that should make us Happy. Note how similar they are to the Beatitudes.

1. Happy to be Saved- Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee; O people saved by the LORD, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places. (Deu 33:29)
2. Happy to be Corrected by God- Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty: (Job 5:17)
3. Happy to have Children to raise for the Lord- Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate. (Psa 127:5)
4. Happy when you stand in awe of God- Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways. For thou shalt eat the labor of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee. (Psa 128:1-2)
5. Happy when God is on your side- Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God: (Psa 146:5)
6. Happy to obtain Wisdom- Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. (Prov 3:13)
7. Happy to Help Others- He that despiseth his neighbor sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he. (Prov 14:21)
8. Happy to Obey the Lord- If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them. (John 13:17)
9. Happy to Witness for the Lord- I think myself happy, king Agrippa, because I shall answer for myself this day before thee touching all the things whereof I am accused of the Jews: (Acts 26:2)
10. Happy when you have a Clear Conscience- Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. (Rom 14:22)
11. Happy to Suffer for our Stand for the Lord- Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy. (James 5:11)
But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; (1 Pet 3:14)
If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. (1 Pet 4:14)

Are you Happy? You can be. Let go of Self desires and accept Christ as Savior.

WISDOM ABOUT WEALTH

Ecc 5:1-20

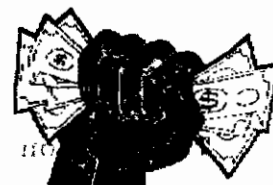
Money is a dangerous thing. Too much or too little can cause troubles (Prov 30:7-9). Here are some Guidelines to Help.

A) Be Watchful of Quick or Careless Obligations 5:1-7 (Credit cards are like "Sugar to a Diabetic" to some people. They must avoid them). Credit of any kind will be your slave or your master. If you become a slave you will find it a hard taskmaster.

B) Accept the Injustice of the "system"- If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for he that is higher than the highest regardeth; and there be higher than they (Eccl 5:8). Some people will find oil under their land while others will have their land destroyed by an oil spill.

C) Be Aware of "Circumstances"- Moreover the profit of the earth is for all: the king himself is served by the field (Eccl 5:9). Even the King would starve if farmers didn't plant a crop. The rich man needs the poor man; and the poor man needs the rich man to buy his crop

D) Don't let Wrong Desires deceive you- He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity. When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes? (Eccl 5:10-11). More is not necessarily more! Sometimes Opportunities bring Obligations that actually make More Less! (New Car requires more insurance, more taxes, etc).



E) Wealth for Self brings Poverty- The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep. There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt (Eccl 5:12-13). A new "Toy" that no one knows about doesn't bring much joy. When Gold is your god it builds walls that keep out Friends and the Spirit of God.

F) Earthly banks don't contain Heavenly Wealth- But those riches perish by evil travail: and he begetteth a son, and there is nothing in his hand. As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand. And this also is a sore evil, that in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind? All his days also he eateth in darkness, and he hath much sorrow and wrath with his sickness (Eccl 5:14-17). God doesn't check your Bank Book; He looks at the Book of Life. A gold lined casket doesn't help a hell burning soul!

G) Look to accumulate JOY instead of Things; Don't make money your motive- Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion. Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God. For he shall not much remember the days of his life; because God answereth him in the joy of his heart (Eccl 5:18-20).

Sometimes a Hot Dog is better than a Steak- Better is an handful with quietness, than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit (Eccl 4:6).

WEIGHING THE WAY

Isaiah 26:1-8 (7)



The word "Weigh" comes from a word meaning to "Level" or to "Balance". It come from the fact that the first method of weights men used were based on balancing a known weight on one side against an unknown weight on the other.

Normally we think of weighing merchandise or people but the Bible says God weighs other things:

ACTIONS- Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed (1 Sam 2:3). God looks at what we DO as well as what we SAY. Do you just TALK Christianity or do you WALK Right??

GRIEF- Oh that my grief were thoroughly weighed, and my calamity laid in the balances together! (Job 6:2). We don't have an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; For He was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. (Heb 4:15) God knows your situation as well as your sadness and HE CARES!

SPIRIT- All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits (Prov 16:2). The Lord looks at our heart as well as our head. You may be able to justify what you do in your mind but deep in your heart you know it's wrong; AND SO DOES GOD.

That's what we do when we "weigh out a decision". And the most important decision you'll ever make is your decision to Trust Christ as Savior. Let's look at what God says about that decision, weigh it out, and see if it's "on the level".

I. PERFECT PROTECTION- (vs 1) In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks. Our Walls are God's Salvation- I'm in God's hand and no man can pluck me out. Jesus paid the Price for my sins and I rest in HIS finished work.

II. PERFECT PLACE PREPARED- (vs 2) Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in. The Gate is Open so you can get in! Only the Righteous can enter, however. No Sin there to hinder or hurt.

III. PERFECT PEACE- (vs 3) Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Absolutely sure that God will do right so circumstances can't defeat us.

IV. PERFECT PROVISION- (vs 4) Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength: God can be trusted in youth and in old age; in sickness and in health; in poverty and in wealth.

V. PERFECT PUNISHMENT- (vs 5-6) For he bringeth down them that dwell on high; the lofty city, he layeth it low; he layeth it low, even to the ground; he bringeth it even to the dust. The foot shall tread it down, even the feet of the poor, and the steps of the needy. The proud and rebellious are brought down; no one gets by with anything here.

VI. PERFECT PATH- (vs 7) The way of the just is uprightness: thou, most upright, dost weigh the path of the just. God directs our way so He is able to consider the circumstances we encounter. He knows our weaknesses and our strengths as he guides us along life's journey.

VII. PERFECT PRAYER- (vs 8) Yea, in the way of thy judgments, O LORD, have we waited for thee; the desire of our soul is to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee. The Desire of our soul is the Lord!! We crave Him in our hearts so we can serve Him in our lives.

STORM STANDING STONES

If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do? (Psa 11:3)

Jesus said you must build upon the rock if you were to withstand the storms of life. That Rock was hearing and heeding what He said (Matt 7:24-27). Paul said the Church was built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone- Eph 2:20. Now the Psalmist is telling us of a grave danger; that the foundation might be destroyed.

The Deacons and I met after Church Wednesday night and decided to purchase metal pipes to hold the Parsonage garage. The temporary wooden ones we put up several months ago have worked alright but we fear a snow storm might cause them to buckle. That would do great damage to the garage, the parsonage, and my car! That makes it important that we have a strong sturdy foundation. In the same way, I want us today to see the same need as we re-examine our Spiritual Foundation and make sure it will stand the storms of life.

We live in a world that is sliding on greased skids directly into the fiery wrath of God. Murder, robbery, and rape are a normal part of life in America today- from the school house to the church house.

We are drowning in a sea of our own garbage and pollution and no one cares as long as the garbage dump is put in someone else's county!

We have no statesmen in government any more; only politicians who are out to squeeze as much from the people as they can while getting as much for themselves and their friends as they can. They moan and groan on TV and laugh and party behind closed doors while the average American knows it's every man for himself any more.

Saddest of all, however, is the way that many so called "Christian" live today. They claim to be Christians but they live like the devil. They drink, commit adultery, swear, lie, steal, and attend the same activities the world attends; but somehow they think that saying something about "the man upstairs" when the preacher is around makes them alright (If you walk like a duck, quack like a duck, and fly like a duck; as far as I'm concerned when I go hunting, you're dead duck!).

Many of these "Christians" only attend the 11am service on Sunday morning (and that when it's convenient). They don't read the Bible, pray, or witness to their faith (Knowing that if they did so their friends would look at them and say, "Are YOU a Christian?").

I fear that many people are fooled about their Foundation; and when some stress is placed on them, their house will come crashing down around them. Let's make sure you've got some STORM STANDING STONES to build your life on.



Those are the PROBLEMS. Now let's look at the PROPER FOUNDATION to Build with so that you can withstand any storm that comes your way. This Foundation is build upon what you believe and what you do as a result of that belief. We'll look at 7 Key Foundation Stones:

1. JESUS CHRIST- I believe Jesus Christ is fully and absolutely God. I Believe Jesus Christ lived on this earth as a perfect sinless man. Believe He died on a cross outside of Jerusalem as a payment for the sins of mankind. I believe that He was raised from the dead on the third day, that He ascended to Heaven to await the completion of God's plan on earth, and that one day He will return to earth to claim His "Bride" (Followers). HAVE YOU ACCEPTED CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOR??

2. THE BIBLE- I believe that the Bible is the Word of God. I believe it contains principles and applications for every situation of life in every age. I believe it should be read, study, and obeyed. DO YOU??

3. SALVATION- I believe Christianity is not an EXPERIENCE but a COMMITMENT. I believe it will effect not only my emotions but also my attitudes and actions. I do not believe Christianity makes me perfect but I do believe it makes me a new creature in Christ that will continue to grow. I believe a religion that stirs my heart without effecting my Hands is a faulty faith (The demons believe and tremble). IS THERE A TIME AND PLACE THAT YOU HAVE REPENTED OF SIN AND TRUSTED CHRIST? ARE YOU LIVING DIFFERENTLY AS A RESULT?



4. THE HOLY SPIRIT- I believe that the Holy Spirit convicts a person of sin and is the power in conversion. I believe that to try to do the work of God without the power of God is like trying to empty the ocean with a pitch fork; you'll work yourself to death and never accomplish anything. You must submit yourself to the Holy Spirit's control so that He can accomplish God's will in your life. ARE YOU CONTINUALLY BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

5. CHRISTIAN LIVING- I believe I should follow the example of Christ in my ever day life by always putting the will and work of the Heavenly Father first in every thing I do.

I believe that the greatest thing any person will ever do on earth is to find his place in the body of Christ and function effectively there. ARE YOU WHERE GOD WANTS YOU TO BE DOING WHAT GOD WANTS??

6. WITNESSING- I believe it's not the will of God that any should be lost but that all should come to repentance. I believe it is the happy duty of every Christian to Be a witness and to bear witness of the gospel of Christ. We are to reach every one we can, every time we can, with every method God gives us. DOES YOU LIGHT SHINE?

7. THE END OF TIME- I believe that the end of time is very very near and what I'm going to do for the Lord I need to do as soon as possible. I believe the next event on God's calendar is the Rapture of the Church in which all believers will be "snatched" from the earth in the twinkling of an eye to meet the Lord.

I believe that will usher in a time of Tribulation such as has not been known on the earth to this time. During this time of Tribulation billions of people will die, antichrist will reign, and men will long for death, and it will flee from them. ARE YOU READY FOR DEATH OR THE RAPTURE??

Those are 7 foundation stones I believe will stand the storms of life. My anchor holds and grips the solid rock today. Does yours??

GRACE And GLORY



GRACE F W B CHURCH

A Little Church with a BIG Vision

First Worship Service 9:00am
Bible Study Hour 10:00am
Worship Service (WJOT) 11:00am
Wed. Prayer Service 7:30pm
Pastor Mike Jones--394-3725

Vol. VIII Num 22 November 29, 1990

If we had a service as good as our Praise Service every week the Lord would have to go ahead and rapture me; because I couldn't stand the Joy! It was great, and I hope you can get one of the videos and share the wonder of this Special service.



December is always a busy month for everyone so we've tried to schedule activities that will Bless instead of Burden people. Sure hope you can join us for these Special Dates:

December 2: Pancake Breakfast between the 9am Service and Sunday School. We'll also begin our new study in the Book of Acts in Sunday School.

December 7: Adult Class Party at Shoney's. Lot's of special activities.

December 9: Missionary Bobby Poole at 9:00am and Cereal for Breakfast. Primary and Beginner Church during SS.

December 16: Breakfast Casseroles

December 17: PRIMARY PLAY/TEEN PLAY (Christmas Fever) beginning at 7:30pm.

December 19: ADULT CANTATA "The Birthday of a King" at 7:30pm.

December 23:

WHITE CHRISTMAS OFFERING.

9am- Primary Play/Teen Play

10am- Finger Food Fellowship

11am- Adult Cantata

The place to be each and every Sunday in December is Grace Free Will Baptist Church. If you miss a service you'll miss a Blessing.

Special THANKS to everyone who has given to help expand the ministry; including MEMORIAL Gifts honoring Mrs Granger given by the Lewis Family and the Runion Family.



In spite of "Goof ups" like today (The Back page of "Minding the Mind" and "Hair Care" have been reversed!!) the Lord continues to put His Blessings upon this Ministry.

Just today as I was up town I met the publisher of the new weekly newspaper in town and he said I could put an article a week in it. Their circulation will over double our present circulation and allow us to reach even more people with the Gospel. Ain't God Good!!

It's yet to be seen what God can do with a person completely committed to Him. By His Grace, I hope to be that person.

Preacher Mike Ps 16:11

To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST

Grace F W B Church
P O Box 1003
Lake City, SC 29560

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THE MEANING OF DISCIPLESHIP

Luke 14:25-35

Multitudes were following Christ now because of the supply of bread, the healings He was doing, and the "Mob Syndrome". Christ feels compelled to explain to them the true meaning of Discipleship lest they come to accept "Cheap Easy Believism" (The Devils also "Believe" and Tremble).

Discipleship means 3 things:

I. **CONVERSION**- *If any man come to me.*

A) Repentance- Turning from Sin to the Savior

B) New Birth- Not a new leaf but a New Life and a New Lord (Sin is coming short of God's Glory. You are now for God's Glory).

II. **COST**- *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.*

A) A New Love- Above all your earthly relationships

B) A New Outlook-

1> Your Sins- They are now your ENEMIES. You once cherished them but now you realize they destroy you. When the boat is sinking you must throw out the cargo.

2> Your Self-Righteousness- HEAVEN IS ONLY FOR SINNERS!! (This is really PRIDE- Naaman would give money to be cleansed but didn't want to look foolish).

3> Your Security of:

a. Residence- *And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head (Mat 8:20).*

b. Riches- *And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! (Mark 10:24). So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:33)*

4> Your Social Prestige- We become "Fools" for Christ's Sake. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub...

5> Your Self- *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me (Gal 2:20). WHAT IS A MAN PROFITED IF HE GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL??*

CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES AS YOU COUNT THE COST- Don't Start to Build and then Stop. Don't Go to war without the ability to beat the enemy.

III. **CROSS**- *And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple (Luke 14:27).*

A person has 3 Daily Needs: (1) Daily Bread- Pray For
(2) Daily Work- Be Faithful in
(3) Daily Cross- Take up and bear

This is NOT- the Cross Jesus bore- Only He could die for Sin

- A Cross around the Neck as jewelry.

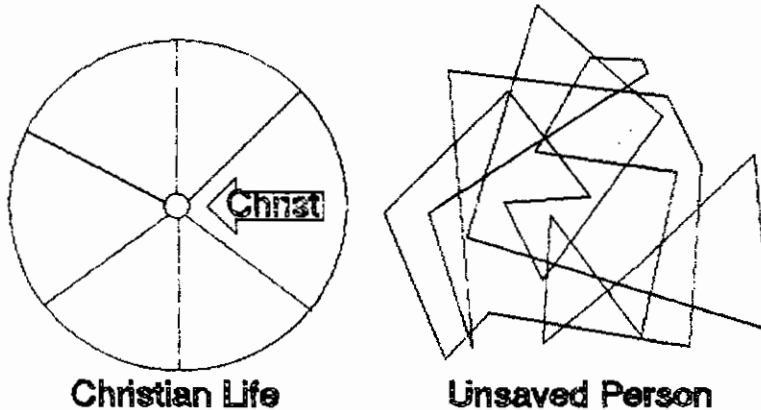
It is death to Your wants and desires. The Cross must come before the Crown.

Christianity is not just a Help for your life; A good set of principles to follow; or a life insurance policy. It is a life submitted to God for His Glory. Have you ever Trusted Christ as your Savior and Submitted to Him as Lord? Today is the day of Salvation.

MINDING THE MIND

For 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 higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts (Isa 55:8-9).

Many people today have Tired Minds and Troubled Minds. This effects their character, their conduct, and, if they are a Christian, their testimony. That's because their minds are set on short term goals instead of life changing Purposes. These pictures show the difference:



It's easy to see how this could be when we see how the Bible describes the Mind controlled by Sin as compared to the Mind of a Christian.

SINNER'S MIND:

1. Carnal Mind- Directed by Flesh (Rom 8:7)
2. Evil Mind - Directed by Crowd (Acts 14:2)
3. Blinded Mind- Directed by Satan (II Cor 4:3-4)
4. Demon Controlled Mind- Directed by Demons (Mark 5:15)
5. Reprobate Mind- Directed by God to Destruction (Rom 1:28)

CHRISTIAN'S MIND:

1. Mind of the Lord- Desiring the Ways of the Lord (Lev 24:12)
2. Willing Mind - Motivated to Work for the Lord (I Chr 28:9)
3. Renewed Mind - New Priorities for God (Rom 12:1-2)
4. Single Mind - New Peace with God and Others (I Cor 1:10)
5. Christ Mind - New Attitude of Life [Service] (Phil 2:5)

Are you tired of momentary happiness? Wouldn't it be great to know that Everything in your life had Purpose? That would bring you the greatest Peace you've ever known.

Look at the Pictures again. Which Picture Describes you- Without Purpose or Peace..... or Christ as the Center? Which Mind describes you- Chaos or Christ??

If you're not a Christian then you need to repent of Sin and Accept Christ as Savior today.

If you are a Christian but have never given control of your life to God then you need to do so today. God's ways are not always understandable but there is a peace in them that passeth understanding!

You must be careful, however, that a certain color of hair, or amount of hair doesn't lead you into ABSAKOM'S SIN OF VANITY- And when he polled his head, (for it was at every year's end that he polled it: because the hair was heavy on him, therefore he polled it:) he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels after the king's weight (2 Sam 14:26). Remember that in Absalom's case it left him dead in a tree!!

The Proper attitude is that shown by Mary when she anointed Jesus for burial aided by her hair- And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment (Luke 7:38). Use your Hair (as everything else) for God's Glory and not self glorification.

II. Hair was the **SOURCE OF SAMSON'S STRENGTH** because it **REPRESENTED KEEPING HIS VOWS TO GOD**- he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man (Judge 16:17).

III. Hair was **PART OF CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS**- I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting (Isa 50:6).

IV. Hair can be a **SYMBOL OF GOD'S JUDGMENT**- 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, the head, and the hair of the feet: and it shall also consume the beard (Isa 7:20). The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws (Dan 4:33).

The Main thing I want us to see, however, is that God's **CARE of HAIR** is a **SIGN OF GOD'S:**

PROTECTION- And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them (Dan 3:27). In the Fires of Persecution, God will be with us.

PROVISION- And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you (Isa 46:4). From a babe in arms to an old man in a rocking chair we can trust in God.

In the midst of terror and trouble let us always remember that the very hairs of your head are all numbered (Mat 10:30). If God cares about that little detail then you can bring all your troubles and trials to Him.

A Closing Thought. Even God is Pictured with Hair- His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; (Rev 1:14). When you see His Hair you had better be ready to face His eyes!! You can't face life until you're ready to face Death. Have You repented of sin and trusted Christ as your Savior? Have you made a public proclamation of that fact?

HAIR CARE

But there shall not an hair of your head perish (Luke 21:18).

One of the things that impresses me about God is His delight in Details- He has a Place for everyone to be, A time for everything to happen, and a provision for every problem. This is very clearly brought out in the way He wrote the Scriptures.

He passes over hundreds of years of history without a comment but will stop to tell how various men found their wives. He doesn't seem interested in how man discovered fire, or machinery, or even the atomic bomb but He often stops to tell about inter-personal relationships between family members.

One of the most intriguing of these tiny details, however, is the interest God takes in our Hair. The Bible tells us that *even the very hairs of your head are all numbered*. {That is sufficient reason for us to *Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows* (Luke 12:7) [The idea being that just as God knows when a sparrow falls to the ground, so He knows when a hair of our head falls to the ground; and He's concerned about both!!].

As we face a recession, a war, and an uncertain future; it's good to know that God cares about every aspect of our lives, even our Hair!! In our Scripture today Jesus has just told His disciples about the persecutions and problems that will come on the world as the end of time approaches. His assurance of caring for even their hair is a tremendous comfort to our hearts.

If God values our Hair so much then it behooves us to know some things about it also.

I. HAIR IDENTIFIES YOU:

COLOR- *And the first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau (Gen 25:25).*

AMOUNT- *And the man whose hair is fallen off his head, he is bald; yet is he clean. And he that hath his hair fallen off from the part of his head toward his face, he is forehead bald: yet is he clean (Lev 13:40-41).* How many people have trudged thru life nicknamed "Red" or Baldy because of something they couldn't help? Remember this, the original color of your hair was given to you by God and is nothing to be ashamed of; and the Bible says it's alright to be Bald!!

The Amount of your hair can also represent a person's ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY- *Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering (1 Cor 11:14-15).* The first thing a man does when he wants to rebel is let his hair grow long. The first thing a woman does when she joins the work force is cut her hair. The man is fleeing responsibility, the woman is seeking to be co-captain of the ship; both are contrary to God's purposes.

It's not simply a hair cut we're talking about but a type of character exemplified by both Husband and Wife- *Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; (1 Pet 3:1, 3)*

MIND CONTROLLED BY SIN: (Note the downward progression)

CARNAL MIND- Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be (Rom 8:7).

EVIL MIND- But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren (Acts 14:2).

The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination: how much more, when he bringeth it with a wicked mind? (Prov 21:27)

BLINDED MINDS- But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them (2 Cor 4:3-4).

DEMON CONTROLLED MIND- And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid (Mark 5:15).

REPROBATE MIND- 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; (Rom 1:28).

MIND YIELDED TO GOD:

MIND OF THE LORD- And they put him in ward; that the mind of the LORD might be showed them (Lev 24:12).

WILLING MIND- And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever (1 Chr 28:9).

For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not. (2 Cor 8:12)

RENEWED MIND- I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God (Rom 12:1-2).

And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; (Eph 4:23)

And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: (Col 3:10)

SINGLE MIND- Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. (1 Cor 1:10)

CHRIST MIND- Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: (Phil 2:5) Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews: (Acts 20:19)



Grace and Glory



Grace Free Will Baptist Church
348 Lawrence St/PO Box 1003
Lake City, S C 29560
Pastor Mike Jones 394-3725

First Worship Service-----9:00am
Bible Study Hour-----10:10am
Worship Service (WJOT)---11:00am
Wednesday Prayer Service--7:30pm

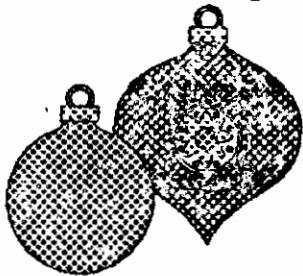
Vol VIII Num 23 December 13, 1990

To Know and Show CHRIST

We had a very good service with Missionary Bobby Poole Sunday. Brother Bobby brought a wonderful message and I appreciate the fine offering for him (Nearly \$600 for his account and \$500 for him personally). I praise the Lord for the work he's doing in Brazil.

The Adult Christmas Party was also a great success. Everyone seemed to have a good time and we learned several spiritual lessons as well as some astonishing information about kissing behind pine trees!! (That's all I can say. You'll have to attend class to find out more).

This would be a good week to attend class, anyway. We're having Breakfast Casseroles at the beginning of Sunday School (Everyone will bring Christmas Finger Food on the 23rd) so you can feed your body before we feed your soul.



Next week will be busy --Monday, Dec 17 at 7:30pm the Primary and Teen Plays will be presented and Wednesday, Dec 19 the Adult Choir will present their Cantata, "The Birthday of a King" (There will be a special repeat performance of all of these on Sunday Morning, December 23 beginning at 9:00am). We've done all the work; all you've got to do is come enjoy the presentations.

Our Annual WHITE CHRISTMAS OFFERING will be received on Dec 23. We don't exchange gifts at the Church. Instead we each try to give a special offering on the Sunday before Christmas for the Lord's work. Through the years we have paid off buildings, paved parking, and taken care of many special projects for the Church with this offering. We encourage EVERYONE to give something (So parents are asked to make arrangements for their children to participate).

I'll have a full year end financial statement plus share with you some of last year's blessings and next year's goals in the next edition (This week our Outreach work will reach nearly 25,000 people-GLORY!!). Until then **MERRY CHRISTMAS** Preacher Mike Ps 16:11

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WORKING UNTIL HE COMES

At the beginning of this year I preached a message that people have remembered as much as any other message this year- W-A-T-C-H. Watch your Words, Actions, Thoughts, Companions, and Habits. Often through out the year I have mentioned that I confidently expected the Lord to return Very Very Soon. I'm doing all I can, every way I can, to reach as many people as I can because I believe the Time of His return is approaching faster than anyone believes.

We will probably spend the first part of 1991 looking more closely at some of the end time teachings in the Bible (If we aren't observing them in Heaven!) but today I want us to re-examine our responsibilities as we confidently await His return.

I. THE DUTY OF OUR WORK

A) Orders to Obey- And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 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. Amen (Mat 28:18-20). Getting people to KNOW and to SHOW Christ is not an option. We must do it because God said do it!

B) Rewards to Earn- Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward (1 Cor 3:13-14). The test of our works is not the world's approval but God's Fire!!

C) Faithfulness of our Work- Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord (1 Cor 15:58). Stick to it, stick to it, stick to it.

II. THE DIVERSITY OF OUR WORK

A) Different Duties- Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord? (1 Cor 9:1) One Body with different parts. Each important.

B) Different Directions- But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another (Gal 6:4). Paul Plants, Appolos waters, But God gives the increase.

III. THE DEADLINE FOR OUR WORK

A) The Night is approaching- I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work (Jn 9:4).

Persecution is already becoming a fact of life for Christians. Sinners used to approve of Christians, then they were annoyed by Christians, now they are Angry at Christians. The day is turning into night and there is still much work to do.

B) The Fullness of Time is coming- God has an alarm clock and it will go off someday soon.

You're either working for the Lord or for the Devil? The Devil seems like the best deal until Payday comes!!

What Went Wrong with Christmas?

This is the time of year when everyone should be singing Christmas songs, anticipating Christmas joy, and smiling about the decorations that fill our land. Instead, people are pushing and shoving at the mall, longing for Christmas to finally be over, and fearing that the next lights we see will be bombs instead of bulbs.

How did we move from *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men* (Luke 2:14) to "Gloom, despair, and agony on me! ". How did Christmas become such a hassle?

There are no Simple answers but I think the answer can be found in 2 basic problems we face at Christmas. After I expose these problems I want us to see the way back to Christmas the way God intended.

I. LOST OF CONTROL: The key word at Christmas anymore is "Lost of Control". We've allowed things to get so far out of control in our life until now we have to endure Christmas instead of enjoy it. This lost of Control is evident in our:

A> GIFTS: Christmas shopping is a dreaded job instead of an anticipated joy because we have to spend money we don't have to buy presents we don't like to give to people who don't need them anyway! Kids don't care about the Love in your gift; they want to know how much loot it cost!

Everyone spends more than they can afford but rather than seek control we take a second job or go into debt that will control our lives until July! And we wonder why we don't enjoy Christmas!!

B> GOVERNMENT: It's not just gifts that we've lost control over, however. It's a government that can't control it's self or it's spending. In utter frustration we watch as the Government ploughs ahead like a bull in a china shop cleaning out our pocket book and demanding our sons and husbands to offer on the altar of war.

Most people are so frustrated anymore until Honest people won't run for office and citizens are too apathetic to vote for the crooks that do run. No wonder Christmas is gloom instead of Glory.

C> GHOSTS: of Christmas Past when we used to enjoy the candy and fruit and now all we can do is quarrel at our kids cause they don't. We somehow want to go back to the time of slower days and easier ways while at the same time retaining all the "things" we've grown so accustomed to. We're not happy where we're at and we wouldn't be happy where we want to be!

If you think this sounds like Christmas has really "gone to pot" let me remind you about that first Christmas-

GIFTS: there were none (The wise men came as much as 2 years after Jesus was born!). Joseph was unemployed and had to move a pregnant wife to a new town in order to sign up to pay more taxes!!

GOVERNMENT: Rome ruled the world with an iron fist. Might made right and Rome had all the Might.

GHOSTS: The Priests taught in the temple about the glory days gone by but it had been over 400 years since God had even sent a Prophet to Israel. The Past seemed to be Past and now it appeared to be every man for himself.

Let's see what Christmas is really about:

I. GOD'S POWER- ...there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God (Rom 13:1). You can't control the Government but He can. You may not understand all He's doing but you can rest in His love and ability-- For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Isa 9:6)

II. GOD'S PERSON- God doesn't expect you to give Him a gift you can't afford; instead, He reminds you that the reason for the season is that HE became a Gift for us. Christmas is not all the "things" we put into it; it's the birthday of the Son of God who came to earth to live and die as a man in order to redeem mankind- 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 (John 1:14) in order that as many as received him, would receive power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God (John 1:12-13).

III. GOD'S PARDON- God wants to make you a New Creature in Christ Jesus. He gives a new birth, a new Character, and a new purpose to life. The only "Ghosts" you have to live with is the Holy Ghost!!

Accept Christ as your Savior this Christmas and find the joy you've been looking for.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY?

One reason some people have lost the joy of the Christmas season is because the Christmas story seems old and jaded to them. Maybe that's because we think we know more than we actually do.

Here is a "Mistake Filled" version of the Christmas story that my wife made up for her Primary class. See if you can find the errors.

The Correct answers to this quiz (and other problems of life) are in your Bible. Read it again and find the joy you've been missing.

JESUS' BIRTH

LUKE 2:7-14

7. AND SHE BROUGHT FORTH HER FIRST BORN SON, AND WRAPPED HIM IN A BLANKET, AND LAID HIM IN A CRIB; BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE HOTEL.

8. AND THERE WERE IN THE SAME STATE SHEPHERDS ABIDING IN THE PASTURE KEEPING WATCH OVER THEIR FLOCK BY DAY.

9. AND LO, THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD CAME UPON THEM, AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHONE ALL OVER THEM AND THEY WERE FILLED WITH JOY.

10. AND THE SHEPHERD SAID UNTO THEM, FEAR NOT: FOR, BEHOLD I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT GLADNESS, WHICH SHALL BE TO ALL ISRAEL, FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM A SAVIOR WHICH IS JOHN THE BAPTIST.

12. AND THIS SHALL BE A SIGN UNTO YOU, YE SHALL FIND THE BABE WRAPPED IN A PINK BLANKET, LYING IN A BED.

13. AND SUDDENLY THERE WAS WITH THE ANGEL AN ENTIRE BACK UP BAND PRAISING GOD AND SINGING.

14. GLORY TO GOD IN THE HEAVENS AND ON EARTH CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR ALL PEOPLE.

WHEN GOD CHANGES MAN'S MIND

The Mind is a powerful thing. When a Person "gives up" in their mind they will probably die; even though they may not have died if they would have continued to make an effort.

When I was growing up one of the things I wanted to learn was to cut a flip off the diving board. I tried and tried, and ended up hitting the water on my back or full in my face time after time. One day, just before I tried the flip again, I began to picture just how I would look doing the flip. I could see myself on the end of the board, then I could see myself turning in the air, and, finally, I could see myself slicing thru the water in a perfect dive.

When I tried it that day it worked just like I had thought about it. From then on I would simply picture the dive in my mind first and it was easy to accomplish.

Let's apply this principle in our relationship with God. I believe that if we can get God's mind into our mind then we can accomplish all the tasks that seemed too hard for us before. The "Catch" is the fact that God's 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 higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts (Isa 55:8-9). This means we have to learn to think like God.

There are many things in life that God uses to affect our Minds and our attitudes. These things can change us and change those around us.

(1) **GRIEF**- Which were a grief of mind unto Isaac and to Rebekah. (Gen 26:35). Esau married wrong. It effects him and it Grieved (Worried) his parents. It brought about the result [that God wanted!] of sending Jacob back to the home country to get a wife. (During our Praise Service Wednesday Night several people told how Grief in their life had brought about change in their relationship with God).



(2) **ENTHUSIASM**- So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work (Neh 4:6). When you enjoy a job it's not a job, it's a joy!! Your attitude about your work for the Lord (and everything else) will go a long way toward determining how successful you are.



(3) **CONFIDENCE**- One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind (Rom 14:5). Doubts bring Discouragement and drudgery. Faith is really Confidence in God's Ability and Word. When you're confident in God's purpose for your life you can withstand the "low" places that come your way.

Just a Note-- There is coming a time that God will completely change our mind- For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind (Isa 65:17). In the mean time, it's important to see WHY He changed men's minds in the Past and HOW He went about changing them. Then we must determine to allow Him to direct us in the way He would have us go.

TIMES GOD CHANGED MAN'S MIND:

1. Abraham about to slay Isaac- (Gen 22:) Just as Abraham was about to plunge the knife into his son the Lord called to him and told him to stop. Hebrews 11: 17-19 says that Abraham believe God would resurrect Isaac; instead God delivered him. God did this to prove something to Abraham and to Himself.

Sometimes God puts us into some very difficult positions to see if we'll follow His instructions. From these tests come some of the sweetest victories you can imagine.

2. Joseph Marrying Mary. When Joseph found Mary was pregnant he wanted to divorce her and avoid the public shame but God had other plans. Joseph had to suffer in silence to accomplish God's will for his life (Joseph died before Jesus became famous!).

Sometimes God changes our mind from the easy way to the Better way!

3. Nathan told David to Build Temple (2 Sam 7:1-7) but later had to go back and say that God had another plan. There was no Prayer before he spoke and he mis-spoke. When "every man does that that is right in his own eyes" it is usually not right in God's eyes. It made sense but it wasn't God's will.

4. Paul about to go to Asia to open it as a Mission Field- Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not. And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us (Acts 16:6-9). God wanted the Gospel in Europe, not Asia! Remember, you don't understand God's Ways sometimes; But you must learn to accept whichever direction He sends you.

HOW DOES GOD CHANGE OUR MIND TODAY?

First- We must change our mind toward God and His way. That's called **REPENTANCE**. We turn from Sin to the Saviour and from Self control to Spirit Control. We don't just believe IN a God, we accept Him as OUR God to Save us from our Sin debt and direct our lives.

Second- We listen to God speak **IN HIS WORD**. Bible reading becomes a part of our life. Prayer allows us to talk to God and Bible reading allows God to speak to us. We don't just see ink on a page, we allow the Holy Spirit to speak to our heart about things we should do; or not do.

Third- We learn to **HEAR THE SPIRIT'S VOICE** as God directs us in life's situations. I have lived with my wife long enough until I can almost tell what she's thinking. I have listened to God long enough until I can distinguish His promptings and proddings. I try to be like the Psalmist says (123:2) *Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the LORD our God, until that he have mercy upon us.* When God's eyes move I try to know what that means for me to do.

Has you been "banging your head against a wall" trying to understand life apart from God? You need to change your mind about Sin and look at it's Penalty instead of it's Pleasure. Then you need to allow God to change your mind about your priorities.

Are you minding the Lord??