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Nuggets of Gold



Devotional Studies By

Outstanding Baptist Preachers

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Compiled by Sherman and Mike Harmon

M. N. Walters

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We are indeed grateful to the following men who took time out from their busy schedule to prepare the outlines contained in this book:

DR. E. HAROLD HENDERSON, Pastor
Central Baptist Church
Lubbock, Texas

REV. A. D. LIVINGSTON, Pastor
Fifth Avenue Baptist Church
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

EVANGELIST HAROLD BRUNSON
Laurel, Mississippi

REV. PERRY PURTLE, Pastor
Calvary Baptist Church
Morrilton, Arkansas

DR. GERALD KELLAR, President
North American Theological Seminary

REV. JIMMY HENRY, Pastor
First Baptist Church
Jacksonville, Texas

REV. JAMES RAY RAINES, Pastor
First Baptist Church
Gurdon, Arkansas

REV. TERRY JOHNSON, Pastor
Eastside Baptist Church
Jonesboro, Arkansas

REV. DONALD PRUITT, Ses.-Tres. of Missions
Baptist Missionary Association of Texas

REV. C. O. STRONG, Pastor
Central Baptist Church
Conway, Arkansas

EVANGELIST MIKE HARMON
Student-Central Baptist College
Conway, Arkansas

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PREFACE

History records that during the years of the gold rush to California, many men were disappointed. The reason being they found something that looked like gold, but when tested it proved to be "fools gold".

Not so with this book of "nuggets". These have been tested and proved to be "nuggets of pure gold".

The real luster can be brought out as these outlines are used by Ministers, Brotherhood and W.M.A. groups.

My prayer is that God will use each outline in the winning of souls and to enrich the lives of His people.

Sherman Harmon

CHARACTERISTICS OF BAPTIST PREACHING!

Matt. 3:1-12

1. POWERFUL IN ITS RENUNCIATION OF SIN:
 - A. Declares man's sinful nature — — Ps. 51:5; John 3:5-8; 8:24; Rom. 3:10; 5:12; Eccl. 7:20
 - B. Defies man's self-righteousness — — Isa. 64:6; Matt. 5:20; Luke 16:15; Matt. 9:12-13; 21:31-32
 - C. Demands radical change for life — — John 3:5-7; I Cor. 6:9-11; Luke 18:22
2. PLAIN IN ITS REVELATION OF SALVATION:
 - A. Announces God's love — — John 3:16; I John 3:1-2; 4:9-10; Eph. 5:1-2; Gal. 2:20; Rom. 5:8
 - B. Accredits redemption to Christ — — Acts 4:12; Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:13; 1:8-10; Rom. 10:4; Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:18-20
 - C. Assures all who will believe of salvation — — John 1:11-12; 5:24; 11:25-27; Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:8-10
3. PRODUCTIVE IN THE REGENERATION OF SINNERS:
 - A. Brings conviction of sin — — Acts 2:37; Jer. 23:29; Heb. 4:12
 - B. Points to the one who can save — — John 1:29; 3:30; Matt. 3:11; Acts 10:43; Gal. 6:14-15; John 8:24; 1 Cor. 15:1-4
 - C. Furnishes assurance of salvation — — Rom. 8:14-16; 1 John 4:7; 5:12; John 9:25

By Rev. Jimmy Henry—

DIVINE X-RAY

Matt. 23:25-28

Intro. Many people are like the Pharisees of Jesus' day. They appear to be religious as far as the eye can see, but the Lord has a divine X-ray which sees through the thin veneer of hypocrisy and exposes the truth about man's heart. Let us notice the facts revealed about the Pharisees when placed under the X-ray of God. Is there anyone here tonight who might be exposed in the same way if placed under God's X-ray?

1. A DECEITFUL EXHIBITION: "Appear beautiful outwardly".
 - A. Display a religious piety — — Matt. 23:5-7; Luke 16:15; 18:10-14

- B. Deceive many seekers of the truth — — Matt. 23:15; II Pet. 2:19; Gal. 1:8-9; II Cor. 11:13-15; I John 4:1
- C. Destroy the lives and souls of many through misleading — — Matt: 23:15

2. A BOLD EXPOSITION: "within full of dead men's bones; of extortion and excess".

- A. Reveal sinful nature — — Jer. 17:9; Eccl. 7:20; Matt. 5:20; Rom. 5:12; 3:10, 23
- B. Renounce selfish practices — — Matt. 23:14; John 6:26; popular thing to do
- C. Reprimand of inconsistent lives — — Tit. 1:16; Matt. 23:4; II Tim. 3:5; John 15:5; 14:15, 24

3. A WISE EXHORTATION: "cleanse first that which is within"

- A. Acknowledge sinful nature and practice — — I John 1:9; Acts. 16:30-31; 2:27; Luke 28:13
- B. Abandon evil activities — — Isa. 55:7; Eph. 4:28; 3:19
- C. Accept eternal cleansing by Jesus' blood — — John 1:12; Isa. 1:18; I John 1:7; Eph. 1:7

By Rev. Jimmy Henry—

THE MESSAGE THE WORLD STILL NEEDS

Mark 6:1-13

1. IT IS AN UNBIASED MESSAGE:

- A. Partial to no certain group — — Acts. 10:34-35; Rom. 1:16; 10:13; Matt. 3:8-12
- B. Plain in its condemnation of all sin — — Matt. 5:20; Luke 16:15
- C. Provides no short-cuts to salvation — — Pro. 12:14; Acts 4:12

2. IT IS AN UNPOPULAR MESSAGE:

- A. Reveals the truth about men — — John 3:18-19; Rom. 3:10
- B. Renounces "justifiable sins" — — I Sam. 15:22
- C. Respects no man made religion — — Tit. 3:5; Eph. 2:8-10

3. IT IS AN UNLIMITED MESSAGE:

- A. Reaches the vilest sinners — — Heb. 1:25; Rom. 10:8-10

- B. Redeems from all sin — — Isa. 1:18-20; I John 1:7; Heb. 10:11-12
- C. Reassures of eternal security — — John 10:28-30; 3:16; Rom. 8: 35-39

By Rev. Jimmy Henry—

JESUS SAYS "REPENT"!

Luke 13:1-5

1. CORRECTION OF FALSE IDEAS ABOUT SIN:

- A. Supposition that others are more wicked than we — — Rom. 3: 10-23; 5:12; Eccl. 7:20; Isa. 64:6; Jer. 17:9
- B. Sentiment that God will make an exception for us — — Prov. 14: 12; Acts 4:12; John 14:6; Acts 10:34-35
- C. Security in our own self-righteousness — — Matt. 5:20; Luke 16: 15; Tit. 3:5; Eph. 2:8-9

2. CLARIFICATION ON THE ELEMENTS IN REPENTANCE:

- A. Stimulated by the power of the Spirit — — John 67:63; 44; Acts 2:37
- B. Sincere sorrow for guilt — — II Cor. 7:9; Luke 15:17-21
- C. Supplied by the Grace of God — — Acts 5:31; 11:18; Rom. 2:4; II Tim. 2:25

3. CONSTRAINING FACTORS TOWARD REPENTANCE:

- A. Startling facts about Hell — — Luke 16:22-26; Mark 9:43-48; Rev. 20:12-15
- B. Sparkling truths about Heaven — — Rev. 21:1-4; 22:1-5; I Cor. 2:9-10
- C. Sobering idea of singular way of life — — Matt. 3:1-2; Acts 3:19; 17:30; 10:43; 4:12; I Tim. 2:5

By Rev. Jimmy Henry—

THE BLESSED DOCTRINE OF SECURITY!

John 5:24 10:27-30 Rom.8:31-39

Intro. A doctrine hated by Satan is the doctrine of eternal security of believers. He has done much to turn men from this glorious truth. Many sincere religionists are so deceived by Satan until they disbelieve and deny this blessed truth. In the face of this barrage of opposition, let us examine this doctrine in the light of God's Word. In order to understand this doctrine one needs to see just what the Bible teaches about salvation.

1. THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION:

- A. Pre-dedicated on God's Grace — Tit. 2:11; Eph. 2:8-9; II Cor. 8:9; Eph. 1:7
- B. Provided through Christ's sacrifice — I Pet. 2:24; 3:18; John 3:14-18; Heb. 2:9; I John 1:7; 9:10
- C. Procured through simple faith — John 1:11-13; 3:16; 5:24; 20:31; Rom. 1:16; 5:1; 10:8-10; Acts. 16:31

2. THE DECLARATION OF SECURITY:

- A. Proclaimed by Christ — John 6:37-40; 11:25-26
- B. Projected by Paul — II Tim. 1:12; Rom. 6:23; Rom. 8:1; Heb. 5:9
- C. Promoted by the Spirit — Rom. 8:9-17; Eph. 4:30

3. THE DENIAL OF SECURITY:

- A. Proposed by the Devil — II Cor. 4:3-4; John 8:44
- B. Propagated by false prophets — II Cor. 11:13-15; II Pet. 2:1-2
- C. Produced great error and fear — II Pet. 2:17-22; I John 4:17-18

4. THE DEFENSE OF SECURITY:

- A. Purged in the blood — Matt. 26:28; Eph. 1:7; I John 1:7; I Pet. 1:18-20; Rev. 12:11
- B. Power of the Trinity to keep — John 10:27-30; Eph. 4:30; Jude 24; I Pet. 4:19
- C. Penned in the Book of Life — Luke 10:20; Rev. 17:8; 20:15

By Rev. Jimmy Henry—

WILL YE ALSO GO AWAY?

John 6:63-69

1. DECISION: "will ye also go away?"

- A. Personal ^{YO MYTH} — Eccl. 12:1; John 1:12; 3:16; 5:24; Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 11:28
- B. Pressing ^{MAN} — Josh. 24:15; Isa. 1:18; 55:6; II Cor. 6:2; Heb. 3:15
- C. Paramount ^{MAN} — Jer. 21:8; Heb. 10:26-29; Matt. 7:13-14; Luke 13:3; Prov. 29:1

2. DELIBERATION: "Lord, to whom shall we go?"

- A. Admission of depravity — Eccl. 7:20; Rom. 5:12; Isa. 64:6; 6:5; Jer. 17:9; John 3:3; I Cor. 15:50; I Cor. 6:9
- B. Acknowledgement of dependence — Tit. 3:5; John 8:24; Eph. 2:1-3; Rom. 5:6-8
- C. Assurance of deliverance — John 1:29; Acts 4:12; II Cor. 8:9; Gal. 3:13; I Tim. 1:15; I John 2:1-2; 3:1-2

3. DECLARATION: "thou hast the words of eternal life:"

- A. Person of Redemption — Eph. 1:7; II Cor. 5:21; I Pet. 1:18-19; Heb. 10:11-12; Heb. 7:25; I Pet. 2:24; Isa. 53:11
- B. Plan of Redemption — John 1:11-13; John 5:24; 20:31; Rom. 1:16; 5:1; Acts 10:43; 16:31; Eph. 2:8-9; Heb. 11:6; I Cor. 1:20
- C. Provision of eternal life — Job 19:25; John 10:27-30; II Tim. 1:12; Rom. 8:1

By Rev. Jimmy Henry—

WIDE AWAKE CHRISTIANS!

Mark 13:31-37

1. AWAKE TO THEIR OBLIGATIONS:

- A. Love God supremely — Matt. 22:39; 6:33; 6:24
- B. Labor in the work of missions — Matt. 28:19-20; I Cor. 9:16; Acts 1:8
- C. Live a holy, clean life for God — Tit. 2:12-14; II Cor. 6:19-20; I Cor. 6:14-18; Rom. 12:1-2

2. AWAKE TO THEIR OPPOSITIONS:

- A. Snares of Satan — I Pet. 5:8; Eph. 6:12
 - 1. Temptation to do evil
 - 2. Envy and jealousy against others
 - 3. Center interest in materialism
- B. Snags from self — Matt. 5:20; Luke 16:15
 - 1. Puffed up with self-righteousness
 - 2. Pacified with past accomplishments
 - 3. Plagued with unconcern
- C. Stigma of sinners — II Cor. 11:13-15
 - 1. Twisters of the truth
 - 2. Mockers of the true
 - 3. Disturbers of the peaceful

3. AWAKE TO THEIR OPPORTUNITIES:

- A. Set a Godly example for others — — Matt. 5:20; I Cor. 11:1; Phil. 1:20; Ps. 1:1-2; Gen. 1:6-14
- B. Show a sinner the way of life — — James 5:20; 1:27; I John 3:17; Matt. 10:42; Acts 20:35
- C. Serve the true and living God in life — — Matt. 16:24

By Rev. Jimmy Henry—

INSINUATING INTEROGATIONS

Job 21:15 I Cor. 11:22

1. WHAT IS THE ALMIGHTY?

- A. The one who holds our breath in His hand — — Job 12:10; Dan. 5:23
- B. The one who gives every temporal gift — — James 1:17
- C. The one alone who can grant repentance, faith, and salvation — — Eph. 2:8-9

2. WHY SHOULD WE SERVE HIM?

- A. It is the distinguishing mark of His sheep — — John 10:14; John 10:27-28
- B. It is the way the world sees the reality of salvation — — Matt. 5:14-16
- C. It has been foreordained for His people — — Eph. 2:10

3. WHAT PROFIT SHOULD WE HAVE IF WE PRAY TO HIM?

- A. The profit of peace — — I John 5:14-15
- B. The profit of power — — Acts 4:31
- C. The profit of patience — — Heb. 10:36; Rom. 5:3-5
- D. The profit of purification — — Luke 9:29

By Evangelist Harold Brunson—

IF A MAN DIE, SHALL HE LIVE AGAIN?

Job 14:14

INTRODUCTION:

1. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE QUESTION!

- A. It is recorded in the Bible — — Matt. 24:35
- B. It concerns the termination of this life — — Gen 2:7; Heb. 9:27
- C. The many who are dying makes the question important!

2. THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION!

- A. Philosophy, literature, and the carnal reasoning of man do not have the right to answer!
- B. The Bible can answer authoritatively, and it says, YES! — — John 12:32
- C. Yes, we will live on, either in Heaven or in hell — — Matt. 25:46; II Cor. 5:1

3. HOW SHALL WE PREPARE TO LIVE ON IN HEAVEN?

- A. Not by church-joining — — Matt. 3:8
- B. Not by being good — — Psalm 14:2-3
- C. By repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ — — II Cor. 7:10; Gal. 3:26

By Evangelist Harold Brunson—

WHY IS THE HOUSE OF GOD FORSAKEN?

Neh. 13:10

INTRODUCTION:

1. A QUESTION OF EXTREME IMPORTANCE!

- A. The prominence given it in the Bible — — Psa. 26:8; 92:13; 84:4-10; Eph. 3:21
- B. The appalling circumstances that prevails — — Judges 21:25
- C. The help God's children receive at the House of God — — Acts 20:28

2. A QUESTION WITH ANSWERS HIGHLY OBVIOUS!

- A. Unbended knees — — I Thess. 5:17; James 5:16
- B. Unkept vows — — Eccl. 5:4
- C. Unconfessed Sin — — Hos. 12:10
- D. Unpaid tithes — — Mal. 3:8-10
- E. Undisciplined church members — — II Thess. 3:6

3. A QUESTION THAT CAN BE SOLVED!

- A. Be saved by God's grace — — Eph. 2:8
- B. Be filled with God's Spirit — — Eph. 5:18
- C. Turn away from the world — — II John 2:15-17
- D. Be a constant student of the Word — — II Tim. 2:15; Psalm 119:11

By Evangelist Harold Brunson—

IF YOU KNEW MY PREACHER

II Kings 5:1-19

INTRODUCTION:

1. THE MAN! NAAMAN (PLEASANTNESS)

- A. Captain of the host of the King of Syria.
- B. Great man with his master — — Job 32:9
- C. Honorable — — Prov. 18:12
- D. Mighty man in valour — — Prov. 16:32
- E. But, he was a leper. (Hereditary, contagious, repulsive, painful, and fatal)

2. THE MAID! A LITTLE MAID!

- A. She did not forget her God and religion away from home — — Heb. 4:13
- B. She did not return evil for evil — — Rom. 12:20-21
- C. She had great confidence in the man of God — — I Thess. 5:12-13

3. THE MINISTER! TO WHOM GOD IS SALVATION!

- A. A man not moved by worldly glitter — — II Kings 5:9
- B. A man who knew how to deflate human pride — — II Kings 5:10; Prov. 16:18
- C. A man who had confidence in his ministry — — I Tim. 1:12

4. THE MIRACLE! SUPERNATURAL!

- A. It happened differently from what Naaman expected — — Isa. 55:8-9
- B. It brought cleansing — — John 15:3; Psalm 119:9
- C. It brought peace — — II Kings 5:19; Isa. 26:3; Isa. 32:17
- D. It inspired gratitude

By Evangelist Harold Brunson—

THE DAY DAVID'S BABY WENT TO HEAVEN

II Samuel 12:15-23

INTRODUCTION

1. A DAY OF UNEXPECTED SICKNESS:

verse 15

2. A DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER:

verse 16 and verse 22

3. A DAY OF EFFORTLESS ADVICE AND COMFORT:

verse 17

4. A DAY OF PERPLEXED HUMANITY:

verse 18

5. A DAY OF HEART'S SADEST QUESTION:

verse 19

6. A DAY OF SINCERE WORSHIP:

verse 20

7. A DAY OF UNANSWERED QUESTIONS:

verse 21

8. A DAY OF HUMBLE SUBMISSION TO GOD'S WILL:

verse 22

9. A DAY OF FAITH, HOPE AND ANTICIPATION:

verse 23

By Evangelist Harold Brunson—

THE SPACIOUS HEART

I Sam. 10:26

INTRODUCTION: Ample, Large, roomy, commodious, inclusiveness
—(Ulmer Pitts—Star forward basketball game)
(Skilled surgeon—little girl—eye operation)

1. IS A TOUCHED HEART:

- A. By God's love — — Rom. 5:8-9
- B. By God's power — — Ps. 62:11; Isa. 40:29
- C. By God's grace — — Titus 2:11-12

2. IS SOMETIMES A TRIED HEART:

- A. By people — — III John 9
- B. By pathos — — Job 1:20-22; Job 13:15
- C. By Providence — — Rom. 8:28 Senator John L. McClellan
"When the Morning Comes"

3. IS A TRANSFORMED HEART:

- A. From darkness to light — — II Cor. 4:3-6
- B. From death to life — — Eph. 2:1; John 5:24
- C. From earth to Heaven — — Prov. 4:18

By Evangelist Harold Brunson—

3. FAITHFULNESS OF THE FATHER WHILE IN THE FURNACE —

Look what happened:

1. Their person wasn't hurt — — Dan 3:27
Surely the Lord must guard us with a guardian angel — — Psa. 34:7
2. Their clothing wasn't hurt — — "Neither were their coats changed." God has clothed His children with something that fire can't burn or water can't drown. What is it? The righteousness of God — — Isa. 61:10

3. "Nor the smell of fire had passed on them." They didn't even smell like smoke. You know, sometimes when people pass through the furnace it doesn't make them bitter but sweeter.

By Rev. Perry Purtle—

"THE MIRACLE OF THE GRAVEYARD"

Job 19:25-27

INTRODUCTION: The greatest miracle that has ever been staged in the history of this world is going to take place in the graveyard.

1. MUST — of the resurrection:

- A. Scripture declares it — — II Tim. 3:16; Dan. 12:2; I Thess. 4:16; I Cor. 15:51-53
- B. God's justice demands it — — God is a just God — — Heb. 2:1-3
- C. Empty tomb foreshadows it — — I Cor. 15:3-4
Science says, "He may live again." Philosophy says, "He hopes to live again," Ethics says, "He ought to live again." Atheism says, "He shall never live again." The empty tomb says, "Man shall live again."

2. MEANING — of the resurrection:

Wescott said, "To learn the meaning of the resurrection is the task, not of one age, but of all." However, as simply as I can, I want to tell you what the resurrection is going to mean.

- A. A new glorified body — — Phil. 3:20-21; I John 3:2; Psa. 17:15
- B. Power over second death — — Rev. 20:6 — What is the second death? — — Rev. 20:11-15
- C. Victory over the grave — — I Cor. 15:54-55

3. MOMENT — of the resurrection:

Not at death but at the Lord's return — — I Thess. 4:13-18

- A. Unknown moment — — Matt. 24:36

- B. Sudden moment — — I Cor. 15:51-52
The fastest movement of the human body is the twinkle of an eye.
- C. Happy moment — — Rev. 20:6

By Rev. Perry Purtle—

"THE PASTOR"

I Pet. 5:1-3

INTRODUCTION: Eph. 4:11-12

The pastor should be:

1. REMEMBERED — Heb. 13:7

- A. In prayer — — II Thes. 3:1
- B. In fellowship — — Heb. 13:24; I Thes. 5:13
- C. In financial support — — I Cor. 9:7-14 (13-14)

2. RESPECTED — I Tim. 5:19

- A. As a man
- B. As a man sent from God — — Acts 20:28
- C. As a man sent from God that many might believe — — II Tim. 4:1-4 (2)

3. RECOGNIZED

- A. As the leader of the Church — — Heb. 13:17; I Cor. 11:1; I Tim. 3:5; I Tim. 5:17
- B. As a laborer worthy of his reward — — I Tim. 5:18
- C. As a lover of lost souls — — Jer. 9:1; Rom. 10:1

By Rev. Perry Purtle—

"ALL SHOOK UP"

Acts 24:25

INTRODUCTION: This is the story of a governor who got all shook up.

1. MAN — who got all shook up:

- A. Convicted man — "Felix trembled". No one is ever saved until first convicted about their sins — — Ps. 51:5; Rom. 5:12
- B. Convinced man — He was convinced of the validity of the gospel. He was convinced he needed salvation. However, being convinced of the need is not enough.

- C. Careless man — "Go thy way for *this time*." — — Prov. 29:1
2. MESSAGE — that shook him up:
- A. It was a message about righteousness — — Matt. 5:20; Isa. 64:6
- B. It was a message about temperance — —
- C. It was a message about judgment to come — — Acts 17:31
3. MISTAKE — he made:
- He made the same mistake that multitudes are making today. "Some more convenient season." Don't make the mistake by saying "Tomorrow."
- A. Uncertainty of life makes it a mistake — — James 4:14
- B. The value of your soul makes it a mistake — — Matt. 8:36
- C. The length of eternity makes it a mistake.

By Rev. Perry Purtle—

"THE FAITHFUL FEW"

Rev. 3:1-6

1. REPUTATION OF THE CHURCH:
- A. Good reputation — "Thou hast a name that thou livest." They had a reputation for the best commodity in all the world — life!
- B. Deceiving reputation — "— — — and art dead." Many churches, like stuffed animals, look alive but are dead.
- (1) Not only had the church died but it had done so without knowing it.
- (2.) How did this happen? "I have not found thy works perfect."
2. REMNANT OF THE CHURCH:
- "Thou hast a *few* names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments."
- It is always the faithful few that carry on the Lord's work.
- A. There are few who get saved — —
- B. There are few who are real disciples — —
- C. There are few who really care — —
3. REWARD
- Observe the reward for the Redeemer's remnant.
- A. "And they shall walk with me in white." Phphetically this is true, but this is not so much a prophetic promise as a present reality. We can walk with Him now. Just as "Enoch walked with God".
- B. "And I will not blot out his name out of the Book of Life." — — Rom. 8:30; John 6:37
- C. "And I will confess his name before my Father and His angels." — — Matt. 10:32-33

By Rev. Perry Purtle—

THE GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY OF THIS HOUR

Luke 18: 35-43

1. THE MAN:
- A. He was conscious of his need and his condition. He was begging. Vs. 35; Ps. 51:5; Gal. 3:22; I Cor. 15:22; Rom. 3:10, 11,23
- B. He was concerned about aid — — Vs. 36,37
- C. He made an appeal for help — — Vs. 38
- He asked for the right thing — —
- He asked the right person — —
- He asked at the right time — — II Cor. 6:2; Heb. 4:7; Prov. 27:1
2. THE MULTITUDE:
- A. They were preventing the blind man from reaching Jesus — — Vs. 39
- The Devil will keep men from Jesus today if he can — —
- B. They proved their selfishness — — Vs.39 They could see and walk — — II Cor. 4:3-4
3. THE MASTER
- A. Jesus moved to the aid of this blind man who appealed for help — — Vs. 40, 41; Matt. 11:28
- B. Jesus met his need — — Vs. 42 "Receive thy sight." — — John 3:3; II Cor. 4:4
- C. The blind man was made whole — — Vs. 42 "Thy faith hath saved thee" — — Rom. 5:1; Gal. 3:26; Eph. 2:8-9

CONCLUSION: Vs. 43

- A. The man followed Jesus.
- B. The man glorified God.
- C. The people praised God.

By Rev. A. D. Livingston—

THE MAN WITHOUT GOD IN THE WORLD

Eph. 2:12

1. THE POSITION OF THE MAN WITHOUT GOD:
- A. The unbeliever is without God in a world filled with evidences of His wisdom and power — — Matt. 6:26-30

- B. The unbeliever is without God in a world which has no solution to man's problem — — Psa. 3:8; Jonah 2:9
- C. The man without God is in a world that seeks to draw men down into the pit — — Luke 15:11-24; I John 2:15-17; James 4:4
- D. A man without God is in a world where Christ is the only hope — — John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; Isa. 45:22; Acts 4:12

2. THE PREDICAMENT OF THE MAN WITHOUT GOD:

- A. He is dead spiritually — — Eph. 2:1
- B. Man is directed by an evil world — — Eph. 2:2
- C. The man without God is dominated by Satan — — Eph. 2:2
Satan dominated King Ahab's life.
King Herod a man dominated by Satan.

3. THE POSSIBILITIES OF A MAN WITHOUT GOD:

- A. Salvation — — Eph. 2:4,5,8,9; Rom. 6:23
- B. Transformation — — II Cor. 5:17; Luke 19:8
- C. Glorification — — I Thess. 4:16-18; Phil. 3:20-21; I John 3:2
Rom. 8:18,30

By Rev. A. D. Livingston—

IMPOSSIBLE.....POSSIBLE

Matt. 19:26

1. SALVATION IS NEEDED BY ALL:

- A. All men need salvation — — Rom. 3:10,11,23; Psa. 51:5; Rom. 5:12; I Cor. 15:22; Eph. 2:3; Gal. 3:22
- B. All men are under condemnation of sin — — John 3:18
- C. All men are under the wrath of God — — John 3:36

2. SALVATION IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH MAN:

- A. Man cannot blot out his own sins — — Gen. 3:7, 8, 21; Prov. 28:13; Isa. 55:7; Psa. 32:1; Acts 3:19
- B. Man cannot atone for his own guilt. The price is too great for we who are poor and needy and without strength — — Psa. 109:22; Rom. 5:6; John 1:3
- C. Man cannot change his own heart — Jer. 17:9. Man cannot change his heart any more than the black man can change his skin.

- D. Man cannot purchase salvation with his own works — — Eph. 2:8, 9; Titus 3:5; Isa. 64:6; Rom. 3:20; I Peter 1:18, 19

3. SALVATION IS POSSIBLE WITH GOD: Psa. 3:8. Jonah 2:9. Acts 4:12.

- A. God loves the sinner although He hates the sinner's sins — — John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; John 15:13; Gal. 2:20; I John 4:19
- B. He laid our sins on Jesus — — Isa. 53:5, 6, 10; John 1:29; You can be set free — — John 8:32; John 5:24; Rom. 8:1
- C. God is able to forgive and to save — — Heb. 7:25; John 1:12; Isa. 45:22

4. THIS SALVATION IS OFFERED TO ALL:

- A. By the invitation of God — — Matt. 11:28; Rev. 22:17; John 6:37
- B. By the promises of the Word — — John 5:24; John 3:36; Rom. 10:13

By Rev. A. D. Livingston—

WHAT THE LORD MEANS TO US

Psa. 46:1

1. GOD IS OUR PROTECTION: "God is our refuge".

- A. From the condemnation of sin — — John 3:18; John 5:24; Rom. 8:1; Acts 13:39; Isa. 53:6
- B. From His coming wrath — — John 3:36; II Thess. 1:8, 9; Rom. 5:9; Gen. 6:8
- C. From the death of the soul — — Ezekiel 18:4; Rom. 6:23; Rev. 20:14; Psa. 116:8; I John 3:9

2. GOD IS OUR POWER: "Strength"

- A. Power to save — — Matt. 28:18; Heb. 7:25; John 1:12; Psa. 3:8; Jonah 2:9
- B. Morality does not have the power to save — — Eph. 2:8, 9; Titus 3:5; Isa. 64:6; Acts 4:12; Luke 18:9-14
- C. Man has nothing to merit salvation — — John 1:3
- D. Power to secure — — John 10:27-30; Eph. 1:13; Eph. 4:30; Psa. 97:10; I Peter 1:4, 5; Gal. 2:20; Eccl. 3:14

3. GOD IS OUR PARTNER: "A very present help in trouble".

- A. Partner in sorrow — — Job 14:1; Isa. 53:3-6; Prov. 18:24; Heb. 13:5

- B. Partner in death — — Psa. 23:4; John 11:35; Heb. 4:15; Psa. 116:15; Ezekiel 33:11
- C. Partner in service — — Phil. 4:13, 19; Eph. 2:10; I Cor. 3:9. Daniel in the lions den — — Chap. 6: Three Hebrew children — Daniel 3:
- D. Partner in salvation — — This does not mean that we help God to save us. It simply means we produce the sinner and God will produce the salvation.

By Rev. A. D. Livingston—

"WE'RE GOING TO MOVE OUT ONE DAY"

John 14:1-6 I Thess. 4:16-18

1. BECAUSE JESUS FIRST LOVED US:
I John 4:19; John 3:16; John 15:13; Rom. 5:8; Gal. 2:20
2. BECAUSE HE SAVED US BY HIS GRACE:
Eph. 2:8, 9; Gen 6:8
3. BECAUSE HE HAS FORGIVEN OUR SINS:
Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14; Acts 13:39; I John 1:7; I John 3:9
4. BECAUSE HE HAS GIVEN US ETERNAL LIFE:
John 3:36; John 5:24; John 10:27-29; I Peter 1:4, 5; Psa. 97:10; Heb. 5:9
5. BECAUSE OUR NAMES ARE WRITTEN DOWN IN HEAVEN:
Luke 10:20; Rev. 13:8; Rev. 20:15
6. BECAUSE HE IS PREPARING A PLACE FOR US:
John 14:1-3; I Peter 1:4
7. BECAUSE HE IS COMING FOR US ONE DAY.
I Thess. 4:16-18; Heb. 9:28; Acts 1:11; Matt. 24:36

By Rev. A. D. Livingston—

OUR SALVATION — — — INCORRUPTIBLE

Rom. 1:21-23

Text Vs. 23

1. OUR SALVATION WAS PROVIDED BY THE ONE INCORRUPTIBLE GOD:
John 18:38; John 19:4, 6; I Peter 2:22; Matt. 27:24; Matt. 27:4

- D. The Bride's promise — — Matt. 16:18; 28:20
- (1.) Progress
 - (2.) Perpetuity
 - (3.) Promotion

By D. Gerald Kellar—

THE GREATEST LINE EVER WRITTEN

John 3:16

1. IT DECLARES THE GREATEST LOVE—"For God so loved the world"
 - A. This is an unmerited love — — Rom. 5:8
 - B. This is an unlimited love — — "the world"
 - C. This is an unmeasurable love — — "so loved"
2. IT INTRODUCES THE GREATEST SACRIFICE—"That He gave His only begotten son":
 - A. A sacrifice which was voluntarily offered
 - B. A sacrifice which was divinely approved
 - C. A sacrifice which was eternally effective
3. IT DEFINES THE GREATEST CONDITION—"that whosoever believeth on Him":
 - A. This is an impartial condition — — "whosoever"
 - B. This is a meaningful condition — — "believeth on Him"
 - C. This is an imperative condition
4. IT IDENTIFIES THE GREATEST RESULT—"should not perish, but have everlasting life":
 - A. Notice the negative of the result — — "not perish"
 - B. Notice the positive of the result — — "have everlasting life"
 - (1.) Eternal life is a present possession
 - (2.) Eternal life cannot be forfeited
 - (3.) Eternal life is secured by the promise of God

By Dr. Gerald Kellar—

LIFE'S SUPREME CHALLENGE

"And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men"

Matt. 4:19

1. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FOLLOW JESUS?
 - A. To follow Him in regeneration
 - B. To follow Him in obligation
 - C. To follow Him in consecration
2. WHAT DOES IT COST TO FOLLOW JESUS?
 - A. One must deny himself
 - B. One must take up his cross
 - C. One must follow Him daily
3. WHAT DOES IT PROFIT TO FOLLOW JESUS?
 - A. It guarantees one the best leadership for life
 - B. It guarantees one the best associates for life
 - C. It guarantees one the best happiness for life

By Dr. Gerald Kellar—

OUR GREAT SALVATION

Heb. 2:3

"So great salvation"

1. SALVATION IS GREAT BECAUSE OF THE MAGNITUDE OF ITS PLAN:
 - A. The declaration of the plan — Eph. 2:8, 9; Titus 3:5; Rom. 11:18; John 3:14-16
 - B. The explanation of the plan
 - (1.) It's basis — "by grace"
 - (2.) It's condition — "through faith"
 - C. The illustration of the plan
 - (1.) Abraham
 - (2.) The dying thief
 - (3.) The Philippian Jailer
 - (4.) One's own experience

GOD'S SECRET PLACE

Psalms 91:1

1. A PLACE WHERE ONE MAY CLAIM THE PRESENCE OF GOD:
 - A. God's presence gives blessed assurance — Rom. 8:15-16
 - B. God's presence dispels all fear
 - (1.) The fear of the adversity — Rom. 8:28
 - (2.) The fear of temptation — I Cor. 10:13
 - (3.) The fear of death — Psa. 23:4
 - C. God's presence inspires hope
2. A PLACE WHERE ONE MAY DISCERN THE PURPOSE OF GOD:
 - A. God's purpose for the Lost — John 3:16; Luke 19:10
 - B. God's purpose for the Saved — Eph. 2:9-10
 - C. God's purpose for the Church — Matt. 28:19-20
3. A PLACE WHERE ONE MAY ENJOY THE PROTECTION OF GOD—
John 10:28-30; Rom. 8:38-39
 - A. A protection from those powers within
 - B. A protection from those powers without
 - C. A protection from those powers beneath

By Dr. Gerald Kellar—

WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED!

Romans 10:13

INTRO:

- A. Let us read the first 13 verses of Romans 10.
 - (1.) Verse 8, "The word is nigh thee" — Some in my congregation tonight are very close to salvation!
 - (2.) Verse 12, "The same Lord over all is *rich* unto all that call upon Him." — My dear sinner friend, you cannot imagine the riches awaiting you if you will be saved, now!
- B. Now to consider my text — Verse 13:
 - (1.) "Whosoever" — God included you.
 - (2.) "Shall call upon the Name of the Lord" — God made it easy for you.

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 - (4.) One's own experience

(3.) "Shall be saved" — God made it a sure thing.

1. "WHOSOEVER" — GOD MADE IT INCLUSIVE!

Why Has God Made Salvation so Inclusive?

- A. Because all have sinned (everyone, regardless) — Rom. 3:23, 5:12
- B. Because all must die — Heb. 9:27; Gen. 5:5; Isa. 38:1
- C. Because all must face God — Rom. 14:12; Acts 17:31; I Pet. 4:1-5
- D. Because His way is the only way to really settle the matter of where you will spend eternity — Luke 16:22-23

2. "SHALL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD" — GOD MADE IT EASY!

- A. Rom. 10:6-7 — Not something high and hard nor deep and difficult.
- B. Rom. 10:8 — So near you that you speak the word that decides it.
- C. Rom. 10:9-10 — Act on the faith by confessing with your mouth.
- D. Nothing waits but the Sinner's consent — "If thou shalt" then God shalt!

3. "SHALL BE SAVED" — GOD MADE IT SURE!

- A. Our sins are forgiven — Psa. 103:10-12; Rom. 8:33-34
- B. We are sons of God — Jn. 1:12; I Jn. 3:1-2; Gal. 3:26
- C. We have everlasting life — Jn. 5:24; Rom. 6:23; Jn. 10:27-30
- D. Our names are written in Heaven — Lu. 10:20
- E. We have peace in our hearts with God — Rom. 5:1

CONCL:

- A. Dear friend is it possible to be so close and yet never have it.
- B. If you do not ask for God's salvation you will never have it.
- C. If it is not worth asking God for, then to you it is not worth having.
- D. As we bow our heads won't you now call upon the name of the Lord and be saved.

By Rev. Terry Johnson—

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By Dr. Gerald Kellar—

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(2.) "Shall call upon the Name of the Lord" — God made it easy for you.

from callous lips, but if so, they are turned into a lie in the act of utterance.

Let us learn to pray: "O God, all my heart needs are found in Thee. Do Thou but dwell within as Master of my heart and it will be enough. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer." (Psalm 19:14)

By Dr. E. Harold Henderson—

Subject: WHY THE BELIEVER IS SECURE

Romans 8:28-39

Proposition: To be truly saved is to be eternally saved.

INTRO:

"I've anchored my soul in the Haven of Rest... In Jesus I'm safe evermore."... H. L. Gilmour. This is a blessed truth. This is a cardinal Baptist doctrine. This is clearly stated in the scriptures. Its repetition should cause joy and inspire faith. The believer belongs to Jesus — eternally!

1. HE IS BORN OF GOD:

A. Spiritual birth is experienced by all believers — John 3:3; I John 5:1; John 1:11-13

B. Spiritual birth brings present possession of eternal life — John 3:14-16; John 3:36; John 5:24

C. Spiritual birth produces a new creature in Christ Jesus — II Cor. 5:17

D. Spiritual birth delivers from servitude to sin — Rom. 6:1-2; 6, 17-18, 22; I John 3:9

2. HE IS FREE FROM CONDEMNATION:

A.. He is under no condemnation at present — Rom. 8:1

B. He will come under no condemnation in the future — John 5:24

C. He is kept from condemnation by the power of God — I Peter 1:5; I Tim. 1:12

D. He has the Divine nature which cannot be condemned — II Peter 1:4; James 1:13

E. He is preserved from condemnation by the sealing of the Holy Spirit — Eph. 1:13; Eph. 4:30

(1.) The sealing Spirit then indwells — John 4:14; 7:37-39

(2.) The sealing Spirit becomes the guarantee ("earnest") of salvation — II Cor. 1:22; 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14

3. HE IS KEPT BY THE TRIUNE GOD:

A. Protection: He is in the hands of the Father and Son — John 10:27-30

(1.) Persecution cannot hurt — Rom. 8:35-37

(2.) Spiritual forces cannot banish — Rom. 8:38-39

(3.) Wicked One cannot touch — I John 5:18

B. Victory: He overcomes the evil world-system through faith — I John 5:1, 4-5

C. Righteousness: Sins are no longer imputed against him — Psa. 32; Rom. 4:7-8, 20-25; II Cor. 5:19

D. Inheritance: An inheritance is reserved for him — I Peter 1:3-5; John 14:1-3

CONCL:

True salvation is eternal salvation. The offer of such a salvation is extended to all the world (Isa. 45:22; I John 2:2) and, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved", — Rom. 10:13

By Dr. E. Harold Henderson—

Subject: LET GOD DO IT

Phil. 2:12-16

Proposition: Christian service does not mean that we work for God but that He works through us.

INTRO:

Salvation is the most wonderful word in our language. Next to it is sanctification. Both are Divine benedictions pronounced upon the Christian. Christ is in us and we are in Christ! The former means salvation, the latter sanctification. The former means we are fit for heaven, the latter means we are fit for earth. God has chosen us to both salvation and sanctification. Eph.2:10. But just as salvation was "by grace through faith", so is sanctification. The same faith which justifies, sanctifies. O God, teach us to give up our frantic efforts in trying to serve you and let you "will" and "work" your good pleasure in us. Then only are we truly sanctified! What we have been trying to do, let us learn to let God do it!

1. LET GOD DO IT BECAUSE OF OUR INABILITY:

A. Our inability is the consequence of depravity — Isa. 1:5-6; Isa. 64:6; Rom. 7:18a

B. Our inability leaves us destitute of spiritual strength — Eph. 2:8-9; John 8:34; Eph. 2:1

C. Our inability makes us unable to remedy our wrong. Neither salvation nor sanctification are accomplished by human effort — Rom. 7:18; John 15:5

2. LET GOD DO IT BECAUSE OF HIS PECULIAR PURPOSE:

A. What is God's purpose in us — Rom. 8:29; II Cor. 3:18; II Cor. 5:14-15; Col. 3:10

B. How does God work out His purpose in us? By instruction, correction, discipline, example, but especially by revealing more and more of Christ — II Tim. 3:16-17; I Peter 2:21

C. What is our part in realizing God's purpose in us? Yearn to see it; discipline life toward it; submit to God's leadings in it; claim what we already have in Christ! — Col. 2:9-10; Luke 9:23

3. LET GOD DO IT BECAUSE HE IS ALREADY AT WORK:

A. His is a personal work, entrusted to no man nor angel. "For it is God which worketh in you..."

B. His is an immanent work. "worketh in you..." — Col. 2:9-10; Gal. 2:20

C. His is a complete work. "both to will and to do..." God creates both the desire and the performance of His will in us!

(1.) He stirs a holy discontent — Rom. 7:15, 24

(2.) He arouses holy aspirations — Phil. 3:13-14; 1:20

(3.) He gives sufficient ability — II Cor. 8:9; Rom. 7:18, 24-25; Isa. 40:31

D. His is a satisfying work... "His good pleasure..." Yet, what pleases Him, pleases and benefits us most — II Peter 3:9; I Thess. 4:1, 3

CONCL:

There is no merit in the most punctilious service nor exhausting effort if God does not inspire it. It is possible for a church to be as busy as a bee-hive and just as destitute of spiritual power. Quit your frantic efforts of self-service and permit God to work in you as He wills.

"This very day let God begin to speak, and to will, and to work. God will not work apart from you, but He wants to work through you. Let Him! Yield to Him and let this be the day when you shall begin to live in the power of the mighty In-dwelling One." — F. B. Meyer

By Dr. E. Harold Henderson—

Subject: THE PHILOSOPHY OF A FOOL

Luke 12:15-21

Proposition: The man who takes no thought of spiritual things is a fool.

INTRO:

Some wise men are fools! Some highly successful business men are tragically bankrupt in spiritual resources. Jesus tells of such a man in this text.

Here is a man who has been a successful farmer for years. Wisdom in planting, harvesting and marketing had brought him great wealth. This year his harvests were more abundant than ever. He laid careful plans concerning the care of the produce and decided to retire from his work. He was a wise man. Yet, in the midst of his plans, God interrupts, calling him, "Fool".

1. WHY DID GOD CALL THIS MAN A FOOL?

- A. Not because he was rich. Great men of God have been rich — — Job 1:1-3; I Chron. 22:14-16; II Chron. 1:7-12
- B. Not because he operated an unlawful business — — V. 16. He was no "Damascus rum-runner" but a farmer who depended upon God for climate to produce a crop.
- C. Not because he made careful plans for preserving his harvested crops. Jesus taught thrift — — John 6:12
- D. But because he placed his trust in possessions and not in God — — VV. 18-19, 15
- E. But because he gave no thought for the spirit — — V. 19a. One cannot feed his soul on corn and wheat — — Mark 8:36
- F. But because he wasted his opportunity to send his money on ahead — — V. 19b; Matt. 6:19-21

2. HOW DOES GOD DEAL WITH A FOOL?

- A. He ignores his plans — — Gal. 1:15-16; Acts 9:1-9
- B. He upsets his time-table. Man speaks of "years" and God says "This night..." — — James 4:13-15
- C. He calls him for a sudden accounting — — Rom. 14:12; Heb. 9:27
- D. He strips him of all he has — — V. 20; Jer. 17:9-11

CONCL:

Jesus says *you* are a fool if you concentrate on earthly wealth and not on spiritual riches — — Luke 12:21

By Dr. E. Harold Henderson—

Subject: THE INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

John 14:16-18

Proposition: The Holy Spirit of God unceasingly lives within every Christian from the moment of salvation unto eternity.

INTRO:

All our relations with God are through the Holy Spirit. He convicts the sinner, grants power to believe, redeems the penitent soul through Jesus' blood, and seals him unto eternity. Yet, this only begins His work. Then He comes within the believer to abide there unceasingly. This "indwelling" (living within the believer) is no "second work of grace" but the blessed heritage of all saints. This truth should challenge to service, keep from sin, and make us breathe the very atmosphere of God every single day.

1. HIS INDWELLING IS UNIVERSAL AMONG CHRISTIANS:

- A. The Bible says so — — John 4:14; John 7:37-39; John 14:17, 23; Rom. 8:14
- B. Absence of the Spirit is proof one is unsaved — — Rom. 8:9; Jude 19; Acts 19:1-7
- C. He even indwells the sinning Christian — — I Cor. 6:19
- D. He comes as a gift of God and does not wait to be merited — — John 4:14; Rom. 5:5; II Cor. 5:5

2. HIS INDWELLING BEGINS IMMEDIATELY UPON CONVERSION:

- A. He enters simultaneous with true faith — — Eph. 3:17; I John 4:15
- B. He enters before baptism or any other deed — — Acts 10:44

3. HIS INDWELLING IS KNOWN BY THE BELIEVER:

- A. God has promised it and His promises are reliable — — John 14:17, 20-21
- B. The life the Spirit inspires proves it — — Gal. 5:22-23
- C. Physical emotions are no sure sign regarding it. The Christian lives by faith, not feeling.

4. HIS INDWELLING IS OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO THE BELIEVER:

- A. It makes his body a holy temple of God — — I Cor. 6:19; 3:16
- B. It assures of God's constant presence and care over him — — I John 3:24; Gal. 2:20; John 14:23

C. It gives a foretaste of what eternity holds for him — II Cor. 1:22; II Cor. 5:5; Eph. 1:14

D. It makes his sealing unto redemption sure — Eph. 4:30
God does not save, seal and leave, but remains to guard.

CONCL:

What a blessed assurance! What a glorious truth! This is, indeed, the mystery which manifests the riches of God's glory; "Christ in you, the hope of glory," (Col. 1:27b). Claim it; rejoice in it; live in the light of it.

By Dr. E. Harold Henderson—

Subject: WHAT TO DO WITH TROUBLE

James 1:2-4

Proposition: Troubles can become blessings when viewed through a Christian philosophy.

INTRO:

The man who walked from San Francisco to New York City said his greatest trial was not the Rocky Mountains nor the Mississippi River, but the sand in his shoe! Just so, our greatest trials are not found in life's catastrophes but in the daily cares which are our lot. It has been wisely said, "God had one Son without sin but He never had a son without sorrows." What can we do with trouble?

1. ADOPT THE CORRECT PHILOSOPHY TOWARD IT.

A. Shall we withdraw from reality, becoming unfeeling to its hurt? No. This is the incorrect philosophy of Budhaism.

B. Shall we resign ourselves to it, enduring it as a punishment of sins of a former existence? No. This is the incorrect philosophy of Hindoism — cp. John 9:1-3

C. Shall we deny its reality, saying, "God is good; God is all; therefore all is Good. Whatever is not good does not exist"? No. This is the incorrect philosophy of Christian Science.

D. Shall we admit it, know its cause, and face it with faith in God to see us through? Yes. This is the Christian philosophy — Job 5:7; Job 14:1; John 16:33

2. GET THE SCRIPTURAL INSIGHT INTO IT:

A. Trouble has a divine purpose behind it. It is never a mere accident — Phil. 1:12, 29; I Peter 3:17; Psalm 139:1-24

B. Trouble is not always the result of ones personal sin — Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6; John 9:1-3

C. Trouble assures us of God's interest in our spiritual growth — II Peter 3:18 "Sorrow is but the shadow of God's wings as He draws near to bless."

3. REALIZE THE VALUE TO BE GAINED FROM IT:

A. Trouble cultivates the finer elements of character — V. 4; II Peter 1:5-8

B. Trouble increases our compassion for our fellow man — Heb. 2:18 When you want help from anybody, go after he has passed through some great and serious affliction. The wells of sympathy are flowing freely then.

C. Trouble guarantees a heavenly recognition — James 1:12; Matt. 5:11-12

D. Trouble promotes spiritual growth. "There is nothing like the snow for feeding the springs." — I Peter 3:8-9; Rom. 5:3-5 I Peter 5:10

E. Trouble turns us to Jesus — Matt. 11:28

CONCL:

What a difference Christian faith makes when troubles come. Arthur John Gossip was a preacher in Glasgow, England, of a previous generation. One week his wife took suddenly ill and died. Members of the church thought surely their pastor would have a visiting preacher that next Sunday a she would be unable to preach. Yet, that Lord's Day he stood in the pulpit and preached a sermon entitled, "When Life Tumbles In". This became the masterpiece of his entire preaching ministry. O God, I do not rebel against today's trials for perhaps Thou art preparing me for tomorrow's masterpiece!

By Dr. E. Harold Henderson—

SIN, THE UNIVERSAL PROBLEM

Romans 6:12-23

1. THE ROLE OF SIN:

A. Sin separates from God — Isa. 59:2

B. Sin makes men sons of Satan — Eph. 2:1-3

C. Sin causes society decay — Rom. 3:23; 3:10; 5:12

2. THE RESULTS OF SIN:

A. Just Condemnation — Rom. 6:23

- B. Free Transportation — — Rev. 20:15
- C. No reconciliation — — Luke 13:3; II Cor. 5:18

3. THE REMEDY FOR SIN:

- A. Sacrificial — — John 3:16
- B. Simple — — Rom. 10:9-13; Acts 16:30-31
- C. Selective — — Acts 4:12

By Rev. Donald Pruitt—

THE GRANDEST THEME

John 3:16

This is the central theme of the Bible. All scripture centers in John 3:16.
This verse:

1. MAGNIFIES THE LOVE OF GOD — "For God so loved the world:"

- A. Negatively — God could have *Destroyed, Rejected,* or simply *Punished* His creation.
- B. Positively — Loved us — — I John 4:10 Had compassion on us — — Matt. 9:36

2. NULLIFIES MANS WORKS AS A MEANS OF SALVATION — "that He gave His only begotten Son:"

- A. Every promise of God is fulfilled.
- B. Every person must individually yield.
 - (1.) He must admit his condition.
 - (2.) He must submit to God.
 - (3.) He must commit himself and receive Jesus.

3. CLARIFIES GOD'S PLAN SO THAT ALL MAY UNDERSTAND — "that whosoever believeth":

- A. A priceless privilege.
- B. A positive promise.
- C. A protective possession. ("God Leads His Children")

4. VERIFIES THE CERTAINTY OF EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT — "shall not perish but have everlasting life:"

- A. God's gift is rejected.
- B. Condemnation is selected.

By Rev. Donald Pruitt—

DEVIL WOMAN

Mark 6:14-29

1. THE CONFRONTING:

- A. The Accusation — — V. 18
- B. The Anger — — V. 19
- C. The Arrest — — V. 17

2. THE CONSPIRACY:

- A. A Convenient Day
- B. A Pleased King
- C. A Devil Woman — — V. 24

3. THE GUILTY CONSCIENCE:

- A. A Mistaken Identity — — V. 14-15
- B. A Miserable Fear — — V. 20
- C. A Man of His Word — — V. 26-27

By Rev. Donald Pruitt—

THE CRY OF LAST RESORT

Jonah 2:2

INTRO:

It seems that almost every human being will wait until it is almost too late before he will turn to the Lord for mercy. Many examples of men crying out to the Lord as a last resort are to be found in the Word of God. Some of them are as follows:

- A. A Cry of Desperation — — Gen. 19:14
- B. A Cry of Affliction — — Jonah 2:2
- C. A Cry of Obedience — — Isaiah 6:1-8
- D. A Cry of Warning — — Matt. 3:3; Ezek. 3:17-19; Isa. 58:1
- E. A Cry of Repentance — — Luke 23:42; Mark 10:47

By Rev. Donald Pruitt—

MY FIRST FATHER

John 8:44

INTRO:

A few years ago I was in a revival effort in a small community and had already begun the reading of the Word in a morning service when a man entered the back door of the church with five little girls. After the service was dismissed that morning these little girls all gathered about me and I began to talk to them. I said, "Now, let me see — who are you?" The oldest of them, who looked to be about eight years of age, assumed the role of spokesman. She said, "This girl," and she pointed to the second in age, "and I are these girls sisters." She paused and then said, "No, that's not right. They are sisters." Then she paused again and said, "No, that's not right either. You see—we once had a daddy that was mean to us and to our mother. He would come home and beat our mother and we would go hide under the bed so that he couldn't beat us. Sometimes he would find us and then he would beat us too. He stayed drunk almost all the time. He didn't love us and we were afraid of him. But, you know something — we got rid of him. We traded him off for a new daddy. Our daddy now loves us and never comes home drunk and mean. The other day our first daddy came to our house and took a "billy club" to our good daddy and it took twenty-seven stitches to sew up the cut in his head."

This story stayed in my mind that day and that night I preached the following message:

1. THE DEVELOPMENT OF MY FIRST FATHER:

- A. Created — — Ezek. 28:13-15
- B. Fallen — — Isa. 14:12; Ezek. 28:17; Luke 10:18
- C. Prince of the Air — — Eph. 2:1-2

2. THE DEALINGS OF MY FIRST FATHER:

- A. A Thief — — Job 2:7
 - (1.) Of time
 - (2.) Of Talents
 - (3.) Of health
 - (4.) Of fellowship
- B. A Liar — — John 8:44
- C. An imitator
 - (1.) With preachers — — II Cor. 11:14-15
 - (2.) With churches — — I Tim. 4:1-3
 - (3.) With throne — — Isa. 14:13-14
- D. A Destroyer

3. THE DESTINY OF MY FIRST FATHER:

- A. The Bottomless Pit — — Rev. 20:1-3
- B. The Lake of Fire — — Rev. 20:7-10

By Rev. Donald Pruitt—

EXCITEMENT IN THE AIR

Gen. 24:1-7; 51-67

1. THE MISSION:

- A. Of Mercy
- B. Of Patience.
- C. Of Prayer.

2. THE MESSAGE:

- A. Of Love.
- B. Of Indefinite Time.
- C. From Another Land.

3. THE MARRIAGE:

- A. A Selected Bride.
- B. A Rejoicing Bride.
- C. An Eager Bride.

"Longing, longing for Jesus. I have a longing in my heart for him. Just to be near Him, to feel His presence. I have a longing in my heart for him."

By Rev. Donald Pruitt—

A SERMON BY A MAN NAMED PETER

Acts 2:1-42

1. THE PREPARATION:

- A. Much prayer by all — — Acts 1:14
- B. Self examination
- C. Presence — — Acts 2:1

2: THE PREACHING:

- A. Recalled fulfilled prophecy — — V. 16ff.
- B. Preached a crucified and risen Jesus — — V. 23, 24 Preached repentance to God — — V. 21, 38

3. THE POWER:

- A. Pricked — — V. 37
- B. Glad reception — — V. 41
- C. A pictorial declaration — Baptized — — V. 41

By Rev. Donald Pruitt—

THE CRY THAT SHOOK THE WORLD

John 19:30

"It Is Finished!"

1. THE SUFFERING HE CAME TO ENDURE:

- A. In birth he was hated — — Matt. 2:16
- B. His Life was debated — — Matt. 27:11
- C. At death he was vacated — — Mark 14:50

2. THE PROMISES HE CAME TO SECURE:

- A. Promised in Genesis.
- B. Pictured in Exodus.
- C. Performed in the Gospels.

3. THE VICTORY HE CAME TO INSURE:

- A. Became sin for us that we might go free.
- B. Though He died — yet He LIVES!
- C. The Grand FINALE' — "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"

By Rev. Donald Pruitt—

FROM RAGS TO RICHES

Gen. 3:7, 21; Isa. 64:6

1. FIG LEAVES — MAN MADE PLANS:

Indicates:

- A. Desire of Man — a covering — — Gen. 3:7
- B. Deceit of Sin — false security — — Isa. 28:15
- C. Desperation of Guilty — — Gen. 3:10, 12

2. FILTHY RAGS — MAN AT HIS BEST:

- A. Unclean — — Isa. 64:6; Matt. 23:27
- B. Undone — — Isa. 6:5; Num. 21:29
- C. Unfit to stand in God's presence — — Matt. 22:11-13

3. FUR COATS:

- A. Provided by God — — Gen. 3:21; Heb. 11:40
- B. Presented as Gift — — Jas. 1:17; John 3:16
- C. Purchased by Grace — — John 1:17

CONCL: Rev. 1:5; John 5:24

By Rev. James Ray Raines—

HIS OWN PLACE

Acts 1:23-26

INTRO: Rom. 14:4; Heb. 9:27

1. THE CHRISTIAN HAS HIS OWN PLACE:

- A. a place of service — — Eph. 2:10
- B. a place of security — — John 10: 27-29
- C. a place in death — — Acts 7:60
- D. a place in the second coming — — I Cor. 15:52

2. THE SINNER HAS HIS OWN PLACE:

- A. a place of condemnation — — John 3:18
- B. a place in the wrath of God — — Romans 2:5
- C. A place in the white throne judgment — — Rev. 20:11
- D. a place in Hell — — Rev. 20:15

3. CHRIST HAS HIS OWN PLACE:

- A. place as priest — — Heb. 7:21
- B. place as saviour — — Acts 4:12
- C. place as judge — — Rev. 20:12
- D. place as King — — Rev. 19:16

CONCL: Ecc. 12:14; II Cor. 5:10

By Rev. James Ray Raines—

THE MAGNETISM OF CHRIST

John 12:32

INTRO: Define:

- A. Magnetism — power to attract or gain affections
- B. Magnet — that which attracts
- C. Magnetic — capable of being attracted or magnetized

1. THE SOURCE OF THE ATTRACTION IS THE MAGNET — JESUS:

- A. Without the presence of the magnet the magnetic substance remains unaffected.
- B. Without the presence of Christ sinners remain undisturbed in sin.

2. THE OBJECTS OF ATTRACTION — MEN:

- A. Magnet attracts all particles that contain certain attractable elements.
- B. All men are created "in the image and after the likeness of God" — all have a soul.
- C. Magnet has power to attract and lift even in the presence of foreign substances.
Illust. Mary Magdalene, Zacchaeus, etc.

3. THE EFFECT OF THE ATTRACTION:

- A. Magnet disturbs, but does not lift all in its presence — All who are convicted are not saved.
- B. The magnet has the power to magnetize the attracted particles.
Illust. Screwdriver
- C. Christians receive power by being in contact with Christ.

CONCL:

- A. No man is the same after being in contact with Christ. He is either attracted or he rebels.
- B. Men can only be saved when Christ is drawing.
- C. Men lose their power when they lose contact with Christ. example: when screwdriver is not remagnetized, it loses its power.

By Rev. James Ray Raines—

THREE DIMENSIONS OF THE TRUTH

John 8:32

1. TRUTH ABOUT SIN:

- A. What it did to creation — Gen. 3:17
- B. What it did to Humanity — Romans 5:12
- C. What it cost to redeem from it — I Peter 1:18-19

2. TRUTH ABOUT GRACE:

- A. Source of Grace — Eph. 2:8-9
- B. Scope of Grace — Titus 2:11-12
- C. Hope of Grace — Titus 3:5-7

3. TRUTH ABOUT GOD'S POWER:

- A. Power to Assure — Matt. 28:20
- B. Power to Secure — Heb. 6:18-19
- C. Power to Endure — Heb. 7:16

CONCL:

- A. Sin Destroys — flee it
- B. Grace Redeems — accept it
- C. Power Protects — enjoy it

By Rev. James Ray Raines—

PAULS CHALLENGE TO THE CHURCH

Acts 20:17-35

1. BE FAITHFUL V. 28

- A. Faithful to the Faith — Jude 3
- B. Faithful to the Fight — James 2:18-19
- C. Faithful to the Finish — II Tim. 4:7

2. BE FEARFUL (REVERENT) V. 29-31

- A. In Conduct — I Thess. 4:11-12
- B. In Conscience — Acts 24:16; Dan. 1:8
- C. In Conversation — Titus 2:7-8

3. BE FRUITFUL V. 32

- A. Bear Fruit — John 15:2b
- B. More Fruit — John 15:2c
- C. Much Fruit — John 15:5

By Rev. James Ray Raines—

WHAT A TRAGEDY!

Jer. 8:20

1. UNFILLED PEW — 1 SAM. 20:18
 - A. One to stand in gap — Ezek. 22:30
 - B. Judas-Vacancy — Acts 1:26
2. UNUSED SPIRIT:
 - A. Instructs — Neh. 9:20; Job 52:8; John 16:7-11
 - B. Leads — John 16:13; Ezek. 56:27; Acts 10:19-27; Acts 13:4
 - C. Comforts — Isa. 51:12; John 14:16; Rom. 8:16, 26
3. UNPRAYED PRAYER — LUKE 18:1
 - A. Privilege of prayer — Heb. 4:16
 - B. Power of prayer — James 5:17
 - C. Place of prayer — Matt. 6:5-7
4. UNSAVED SINNER:
 - A. Inexcusable — Romans 1:20

By Rev. James Ray Raines—

REDEMPTION

Rev. 1:4-8

1. THE BASIS OF REDEMPTION — LOVE:
 - A. Source — God — John 3:16; I John 4:8, 10
 - B. Nature
 - (1.) eternal — Jer. 31:3
 - (2.) sacrificial — Titus 3:4-6
 - (3.) free — Romans 5:10
 - (4.) enduring — John 5:13
 - C. Object — Sinners — I John 4:10
2. THE AGENT OF REDEMPTION — BLOOD:
 - A. Loosed from
 - (1.) bondage — Heb. 2:14, 15
 - (2.) condemnation — Rom. 8:1; Col. 2:14

- B. Loosed with his blood
 - (1.) redeeming agent — Heb. 9:12; 13:12; Eph. 1:7
 - (2.) cleansing agent — V. 5
 - (3.) Conquering agent — Romans 3:24
 - C. Loosed for Service — Eph. 2:10
3. THE ACTION OF REDEMPTION — LIFTING:
 - A. From Moral degradation — Psa. 40:2
 - B. To a nobler plane of living — Psa. 40:3
 - C. Shall finally be lifted to eternal glory — Psa. 17:15; John 14:1-4

By Rev. James Ray Raines—

PAUL'S PATTERN FOR PEOPLE

Romans 1:13-16

INTRO:

In order to construct a beautiful building one must have a blueprint or "pattern". Paul has given us a "pattern" that can make our lives beautiful in the sight of God.

1. "I AM DEBTOR" Verse 14
 - A. To our friends, "Greeks"
 - B. To our foes, "Barbarians"
 - C. To the frugal and foolish, "Wise and Unwise"
2. "I AM READY" Verse 15
 - A. To pray — I Thess. 5:17
 - B. To prepare — II Tim. 2:15
 - C. To pay — Mal. 3:10
3. "I AM NOT ASHAMED" Verse 16
 - A. Of the person of the gospel, "Gospel of Christ"
 - B. Of the power of the gospel, "Power of God"
 - C. Of the provision of the gospel, "Unto Salvation"

CONCL:

A dear friend of mine made me a beautiful piece of clothing one time and gave it to me. It was beautiful because she had used a pattern. Let us Christians follow "Pauls Pattern for People" and we will have a beautiful life to give to the Master.

By Evang. Mike Harmon—

BEYOND THE SUNSET

Eccl. 1:1-5

INTRO:

Have someone sing the song, "Beyond the Sunset".

1. SOME STABLE FACTS ABOUT THE SUN:

- A. It was created by God. — Gen. 1:16; John 1:3
- B. It is controlled by God.
 - (1.) Joshua caused God to make it stand still — Josh. 10:12

2. SOME SPARKLING THOUGHTS ABOUT THE SUN:

- A. It gives life.
 - (1.) Christ gives life — John 1:4
- B. It gives warmth.
 - (1.) Christ gives warmth — Luke 23:32
- C. It is reflected by the moon.
 - (1.) The church is to reflect God — Eph. 3:21

3. SUNSET ON THE HILLS OF CANAAN Matt. 27:45

- A. The dear one on the cross.
- B. The detestable mob around the cross.
- C. The darkness that covered the cross.

4. SOMEDAY IT WILL SET FOR THE LAST TIME:

- A. The sunset of death — Eccl. 1:4
 - (1.) A dead person has seen his last sunset.
- B. The sunset of eternity — Rev. 22:5
 - (1.) When Christ returns the sun will have set for the last time.
- C. Beyond the sunset of life and eternity, where will you be?

CONCL:

While flying from a revival meeting in Texas, I saw a beautiful sunset from an airplane. As I gazed at it I thought about life's last sunset. Let us all be ready for the life, **BEYOND THE SUNSET.**

By Evang. Mike Harmon—

SIN, SIN, SIN,

I John 1:7-10

INTRO:

When a man tells me that he doesn't sin, I believe him about as much as I do the man that said he climbed up a 100 foot thorn tree, barefooted, with a bob-cat under each arm and didn't get a scratch.

1. THE BIBLE SPEAKS OF SIN OFTEN:

- A. Adam and Eve started sin — Gen. 3:6
- B. Tells how Noah got drunk — Gen. 9:21
- C. Tells how David committed adultery — II Sam. 11:4

2. EVERY PERSON IS A SINNER:

- A. Eccl. 7:20
- B. Romans 3:23
- C. Isa. 53:6

3. THE THREE TYPES OF SIN:

- A. Sins committed against God.
 - (1.) Using His name in vain — Exodus 20:7
 - (2.) Using His day the wrong way — Exodus 20:10
 - (3.) Stealing his money — Mal. 3:7-10
 - (4.) Rejecting His Son
- B. Sins committed against mankind.
 - (1.) Drinking — Isa. 5:11
 - (2.) Dancing — I Thess. 5:22
 - (3.) Stealing — Exodus 20:15
 - (4.) Adultery — Exodus 20:14
- C. Sins committed that are personal.
 - (1.) Gossip — Gal. 6:1
 - (2.) Evil Eye — Matt. 6:23
 - (3.) Pride — Prov. 6:17
 - (4.) Uncontrollable temper — Prov. 19:19

4. GOD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD ALL SIN:

- A. Conscience — Psa. 33:18
- B. He hates it (He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah)
- C. Aggressive — Heb. 9:27

CONCL:

We all sin, but let us remember that, "The blood of Jesus Christ, His son, cleanseth us from all sin".

By Evang. Mike Harmon—

DOING WHAT'S RIGHT

II Kings 18:1-7

INTRO:

Everyone wants a successful life. Hezekiah lived a prosperous, and very successful life because, "He did that which is right in the sight of the Lord".

1. HE HAD THE RIGHT MOTIVE, (A LOVE FOR GOD)

- A. It caused him to work.
- B. It caused him to give.
- C. It caused him to be humble.

2 HE PUT THINGS IN THE RIGHT PLACE, (HE REMOVED THE HIGH PLACES)

- A. Let's put our money in the right place — Mal. 3:10
- B. Let's put our lives in the right place — Eph. 3:21
- C. Let's put our love in the right place — Matt. 22:37

3. HE CALLED THINGS BY THE RIGHT NAME, (HE CALLED IT NEHUSHTAN)

- A. Let's call sin . . . sin!
- B. Let's call hell . . . hell!
- C. Let's call heaven . . . heaven!

4. HE TRUSTED IN THE RIGHT COUNSEL, (HE TRUSTED IN THE LORD)

- A. There is counsel through prayer — Luke 18:1
- B. There is counsel through study — Psa. 119:105
- C. There is counsel of the pastor — Eph. 4:11

5. HE HAD THE RIGHT KIND OF SUCCESS (THE LORD WAS WITH HIM, AND HE PROSPERED)

- A. Money possession is not success — Mark 8:36
- B. Men's popularity is not success.
- C. Messiah's presence is success.

CONCL:

Only one life, twill soon be passed, only whats done for Christ will last.

By Evang. Mike Harmon—

LOST, LOST, LOST,

Luke 15:1-24

INTRO:

While listening to a news broadcast in Michigan, I heard of a child who had gotten lost in some woods. Although many people know their way around their city like the back of their hand, in God's sight they are lost.

1. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE LOST?

- A. That you are under God's condemnation — John 3:18
- B. That you are under God's wrath — John 3:36
- C. That you are going to hell — Rev. 20:15

2. WHY ARE PEOPLE LOST?

- A. Because of birth into this world — Psa. 51:5
- B. Because of sin — Romans 5:12
- C. Because of failure to call on the Lord — Romans 10:13

3. THREE REASONS WHY PEOPLE LAND IN HELL:

- A. Because of heedlessness (Parable of lost sheep)
 - (1.) Won't heed the preachers' message.
 - (2.) Won't heed the good christians lives.
- B. Because of someone else (Parable of the lost coin)
 - (1.) The woman lost the coin
 - (2.) Many children are lost because of parents.
- C. Because of enjoyment of sin (Parable of the lost boy)
 - (1.) He chose sin over the Father.
 - (2.) He chose to repent of sin.
 - (3.) The Father chose to forgive him.

CONCL:

Let every lost person do as did the lost boy and arise and come to the Father. He will gladly forgive you.

By Evang. Mike Harmon—

IF I SHOULD AWAKE BEFORE I DIE

Romans 13:11-12

INTRO:

During my preschool years my mother taught me the simple prayer, "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep, If I should die before I awake, I pray the Lord my soul to take." If I should AWAKE before I DIE, I would realize four things . . .

1. THE RETURN OF THE SAVIOR IS A FACT:

- A. Ask Job if Christ is coming back — — Job 19:25-26
- B. Ask Paul if Christ is coming back — — I Thess. 4:16-18
- C. Ask the angels if Christ is coming back — — Acts 1:11
- D. Ask Christ if he is coming back — — John 14:1-3

2. THE RESULT OF SIN IS FILTHY:

- A. Gal. 6:7; Num. 32:23; Hos. 8:7
- B. Samson learned the result of sin is filthy.
- C. David learned the result of sin is filthy.
- D. Every sinner learns this great truth.

3. THE REALITY OF HELL FIRE:

- A. The Bible teaches it — — Psa. 9:17; Dan. 12:2; Rev. 20:15
- B. Logic demands it.
 - (1.) Crime deserves punishment.
 - (2.) Heaven must have an opposite.
- C. After death you will believe in it!

4. TRUE REST IS FOUND WITH THE FATHER:

- A. Mary rested at the feet of Jesus — — Luke 10:39
- B. I had rest of mind and soul after I was saved.
- C. Matt. 11:28

CONCL:

Quote the poem "Five minutes after I die".

By Evang. Mike Harmon—

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE
LAUREL MS 39440

NOTE: THIS BOOK CANNOT BE TAKEN
FROM THE HISTORY AND ARCHIVES ROOM.