

# **1 Thessalonians**

**Sermons Preached**

**by Dave Lueloff**

## The Church 1 Thess. 1:1-9

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**1 Thessalonians 1:1-2** Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, **unto the church of the Thessalonians** *which is* in God the Father and *in* the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. **We give thanks to God always for you all**, making mention of you in our prayers;

Paul to the church at Thessalonica...we give thanks for *you all*.

Who is "*You All*"

Members of the church – they are born-again believers baptized into this church. Verses 1-9 give us some aspects to them. They are elect / heard the gospel / Holy Ghost worked in their life / received the Word of God / turned from their idols and turned to the True & Living God.

### ➤ **Elect Vs. 4**

Elect = same as *chosen* – chosen by God. It is in passive sense – God chose you! How can a human mind understand that we have been elected by God?

**1 Peter 1:2** Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

Can you explain "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father" – no, but I believe it. I cannot explain **Genesis 1:1** In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth; but I believe it.

**Colossians 1:14** In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins – I cannot explain this, but I believe it.

### ➤ **Heard the Gospel Vs. 5a**

**Romans 10:14** 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?

You need the gospel – Jesus Christ died for your sins, was buried – totally dead. He arose the 3<sup>rd</sup> day and is seated at the right hand of God – a living Saviour.

What does that mean? He is God – the risen Lord Jesus Christ – and wants to live in your heart. He wants to be YOUR Saviour.

### ➤ **Holy Ghost Worked in their Life Vs. 5b**

It will be God, the Holy Spirit that will work in your heart – it will be a gentle tug on your heart.

He will plead with your heart to be forgiven. He will expose your sin – for one purpose:

Make you feel guilty – make you feel sinful = for you to turn to Christ & be saved!

➤ **Received the Word of God Vs. 6b**

**Luke 8:11** Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

**Luke 8:15** But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep *it*, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Is your heart receptive to the Word of God – or are you resistant to the Word of God. It is not the pastor that is speaking to your heart, it is none other than the Lord God Almighty.

Allow the Word of God to work in your life. It is what changes you – from the inside out.

The Holy Spirit and the Word of God work in conjunction with each other.

Today – has the Holy Spirit and the Word of God spoken to your heart?

The solution is the same as this epistle around 51 A.D. – vs. 9

➤ **Turned from Idols Vs. 9b**

Turn from your idols – sin, pride, rebellion, love of money, lust, greed, envy, religiosity,

Turn from – leave it all behind – in your heart, be willing to give all to Christ.

15 times Jesus said, “Follow me” – when you decide to follow Christ – it is automatic that you are leaving all behind. To turn to Christ is to turn from...

❖ **Turned to the True & Living God Vs. 9c**

**Matthew 4:19-20** And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left *their* nets, and followed him.

**Matthew 9:9** And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.

**Matthew 16:24-25** Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

**Matthew 16:26** For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

You have heard the gospel / the Holy Spirit has worked

Will you receive the Word of God and turn from and turn to Christ and be saved?

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## Your Position In Christ 1 Thess. 1:1

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**1 Thessalonians 1:1** Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians *which is* in God the Father and *in* the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**You were born In Adam.**

**1 Corinthians 15:22** For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

You receive your sinful nature from Adam and you will die a death because of Adam

**Romans 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:

**When you get saved, God puts you in Christ.**

In Christ, it is a very secure, stable and supernatural position.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

**Not only are you In Christ, but you are also In God.**

**1 Thess. 1:1** unto the church of the Thessalonians *which is* in God the Father and *in* the Lord Jesus Christ

**2 Thess. 1:1** unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

**Colossians 3:3** For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

**The Holy Spirit seals you**

**Ephesians 1:13** In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

**Ephesians 4:30** And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Secure? Sealed unto the day of redemption – the redemption of your unsaved body!

**The Holy Spirit Indwells you**

**John 14:17** *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

**1 Corinthians 3:16** Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

**Romans 8:9** But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

This was the whole commotion at Pentecost – the Holy Spirit coming down to earth to indwell humans.

### **Christ is in you**

**Galatians 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.

**Colossians 1:27** To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

**John 17:23** I in them, and thou in me...

The Invitation given

**Revelation 3:20** Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

### **God is in you**

**2 Corinthians 6:16** ...for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

**1 John 4:12** No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

**1 John 4:16** And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

**This is the position that God tell us that we are in when we get born-again.**

You were born **In Adam** / You are born-again **In Christ**. Thank God for His wonderful salvation.

**It is truly the job of the indwelling Holy Spirit to tell you that you are saved.**

**Romans 8:16** The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

**John 14:20** At that day ye shall know that I **am in my Father**, and ye in me, and I in you.

Referring to the Holy Spirit coming to indwell at Pentecost – that day – ye shall know... how? The Holy Spirit will assure you that Christ is in the Father and Christ is in you and you are in Christ.

## Faith That Works 1 Thess. 1:3-10

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**1 Thessalonians 1:3** Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

**2 Thessalonians 1:11** Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of *his* goodness, and the work of faith with power:

If you are one that is (1 The. 1:1) in God; in Christ; sealed by the Holy Spirit; indwelt by the Holy Spirit; indwelt by Jesus Christ and indwelt by God; then you have a faith that works.

Faith – not an intellectual belief

**James 2:19** Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

Faith – not a spiritual experience that does not motivate you to work

**James 2:26** For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Faith – we're talking about a faith that works. Hebrews chapter 11 is filled with people of faith – referred to as the *Hall of Faith*. All those heroes of the faith were *doing* something.

Faith – by grace / without works / by faith only...

**Ephesians 2:8-9** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

However – if your faith does not motivate you to do something – it is not saving faith.

What about Ephesians 2:8-9? Read:

**Ephesians 2:10** For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus unto good works**, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

When Jesus Christ indwells in you – it changes you!

**Colossians 1:27** To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

**2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

**Philippians 2:12-13** Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.**

Would you ask God, “Dear Holy Spirit, if you would speak to me today, I will obey what you tell me.”

What does faith motivate one to do?

❖ Followers of us & of the Lord

**1 Thessalonians 1:6** And **ye became followers of us, and of the Lord**, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

Jesus refers to saved people as *sheep*. Sheep follow. "Oh, I follow the Lord, not a pastor." Not Scriptural.

**Ephesians 4:11** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Pastor is a gift to the body. You are to follow the Pastor as / if he follows the Lord.

**1 Corinthians 4:16** Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

**1 Corinthians 11:1** Be ye followers of me, even as I also *am* of Christ.

**Philippians 3:17** Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

Sheep follow / Goats butt. It is the nature of a sheep to follow – follow the leading of the pastor and the Lord. 1 The. 1:6

Ye became followers of us and of the Lord – ye became – your life became...

❖ Receive the Word in spite of affliction

**1 Thessalonians 1:6** And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, **having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:**

Affliction does not stop you – outward tragedy, heartache, problems, difficulties do not stop inward grace. Affliction does not side track...

**Philippians 1:6** Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

**Hebrews 12:2** Looking unto Jesus the author and **finisher of *our* faith...**

I cannot speak for anyone else – I just know for me – the Word of God works.

❖ Now a life for others to follow

**1 Thessalonians 1:7** So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

The very ones who were lost; without Christ; no hope – are now the very ones that are ensamples for others to be saved! Wow – what the grace of God can do.

They followed Paul / now others are to follow them!

Paul became Christ-like and now they are Christ-like.

❖ Got involved in world missions

**1 Thessalonians 1:8** For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

A sure sign you are born-again – you love souls / you love missions / you want to see people saved  
you want the gospel to be taken to everyone...

This church had a world-wide influence.

Something we try to do at GBC.

**Romans 1:8** First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

❖ Looking for the Blessed Hope

**1 Thessalonians 1:10** And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

They were waiting for Jesus to come back – but they were not sitting on their hands / not sitting on their laurels / not all talk and no action.... No, they had a work of faith.

Let us follow in the example of these believers.

As God speaks to our hearts, let us obey and move forward.

Did you pray:

“Dear Holy Spirit, if you would speak to me today, I will obey what you tell me.”

Has the Holy Spirit spoken to you? Have the courage to obey His still small voice.

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## A Done Deal 1 Thess. 1:10

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**1 Thessalonians 1:10** And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

If Jesus had not risen from the dead, I would not consider what the Bible says to carry much weight.

There is a discussion in the Bible on the resurrection of Jesus 1 Corinthians 15:17-20

**And if Christ be not raised,**

Your faith *is* vain; ye are yet in your sins 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.

**But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.**

The certainty of the Bible / the proof of our faith is founded upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ. If they could disprove the resurrection of the dead and produce the body of Jesus, then the Bible would be proved fraudulent and Jesus Christ a scammer. The simple proof of a body would have been a deathblow to Christianity.

Did Jesus rise from the dead? Here are some significant things to consider

1. Transformed lives of the disciples
  - Peter – from denier to preacher at Pentecost
  - Thomas – from doubter to believer
  - James – half-brother of Lord – from indifferent to “camel knees”
2. The beginning of the church
  - From Sabbath to Sunday worship
  - From Circumcision to Baptism / Lord’s Supper
  - From Jews to one body of Jews and Gentiles
3. Testimony of changed lives over 1900 years – including myself
  - Wherever the Bible has significance in a culture, morality and sanity are prevalent
  - Compare that to atheism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam...
4. It was utterly unexpected by the disciples – they were astonished (Lk. 24:4)
5. The evidence of His power over death in His earthly ministry

If Jesus was God, virgin born, miracle worker, then it is not hard to believe that He rose from the dead. He did rise from the dead and He is God in the flesh.

**Philippians 2:9-11** Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## ❖ There is a future wrath to come

The existence of this wrath is real, whether men believe it or not; for the fact of its existence is not affected by our belief or unbelief. Rationalism, Ridicule and Religion try to deny a future wrath.

False views include Nirvana, Restorationism (a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance after death), Materialism (I was not, I became, I am not, I care not), Annihilationism (we become uncreated), Soul sleep, Limbo, Purgatory, Reincarnation.... All these are un-Biblical. The Bible teaches heaven or hell. The future wrath:

### Tribulation Period

7 seal judgments, 7 trumpet judgments and 7 bowl judgments. You will not want to be here

**Revelation 6:8** And power was given unto them over **the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.**

**Revelation 9:18** By these three was **the third part of men killed**, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.

If you live long enough in the end times to miss the Rapture, you will not miss the Tribulation Period.

**Hades** – temporary holding place until the final judgment

### Lake of Fire

Deserving

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

**Ezekiel 18:20** 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.

I deserve hell – God's grace and mercy saved me. Thank God for His mercy

**Titus 3:5** Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Description

**Jude 1:7** Even as **Sodom and Gomorrha**, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are **set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.**

Some Bible words used to describe the wrath to come:

Weeping, wailing, gnashing of teeth; outer darkness; blackness of darkness; unquenchable fire; place of memory; place of remorse; thirst; separation; prepared for the devil and his angels;

Everlasting contempt; everlasting punishment; everlasting fire; eternal fire; 5 times “lake of fire”

❖ **Saved are delivered from that future wrath**

**1 Thessalonians 5:9** For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

**Romans 8:11** But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

❖ **God sees the saved delivered from this future event as if it is past**

**1 Thessalonians 1:10** And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

The mind of God – God knows – foreknows who will be saved:

**Romans 8:29** For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

The foreknowledge of God does not violate your free-will. You choose.

❖ **Unsaved have an indescribable future ahead**

There is time to repent – while you are alive – while God is working on your heart

Would you turn to Christ and be saved today?

One says, I do not deserve hell? Do you deserve heaven?

The options after death are not up to us – God says:

**John 3:3** Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

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## An Example to Follow 1 Thess. 2:1-12

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We are to reproduce ourselves as servants of the Lord. We are to be an example for others to follow – so their life can be an example for others to follow. We see this in **1 Thessalonians 1:5-7**

Note the 3 “ye’s”

**ye know** what manner of men we were among you for your sake. And

**ye became** followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: So that

**ye were** ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

If you do not serve the Lord – you will have lived your life in vain

**1 Thess. 2:1** For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain:

**The work is a work of God – what could be a greater work?**

It is the gospel of God – vs. 2b

Gospel = good news – the good news OF GOD?

**1 Cor. 3:9** For we are labourers together with God....

**The message is to be practical – so apply this to GBC / apply this to our life**

- Entrusted by God – vs. 4

**1 Thessalonians 2:4** But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel

- Testing from God vs. 4

**1 Thessalonians 2:4** ...not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

- Witness of God vs. 5

**1 Thessalonians 2:5** For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; **God is witness:**

**1 Thessalonians 2:10** Ye *are* witnesses, and God *also*...

The one you really need to concern yourself with – God is witness – witnessing your heart; your motives; your life...

## **Paul set an example to follow – may we follow in his steps**

Afflictions did not stop them

Hypocrites in the church / offended / church member said something / pastor offended me  
someone doesn't like me / started going to church & car broke down

Paul's affliction – beaten in prison in Acts 16

Not selfish motives vs. 3

Bold vs 2b

No deceit – deceive you with false doctrine (vs. 3)

No uncleanness (pedophiles are to be prosecuted not protected) – it is a criminal act not to be protected because of a position they hold (Vs. 3)

No guile (trickery, manipulation) (Vs. 3)

Not pleasing men vs. 4 / not covetous vs. 5 / not seeking glory vs. 6

**People know the real deal when they see it.**

**1 Thessalonians 2:5** For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know

**1 Thessalonians 2:10** Ye *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:

**Compassion was included with truth**

Gentle

**1 Thessalonians 2:7** But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:

**1 Thessalonians 2:11** As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father *doth* his children,

Willing to give the shirt off their back

**1 Thessalonians 2:8** So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

**Conclusion: The challenge is for them to get involved in the work of the Lord**

**1 Thessalonians 2:12** That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

Getting saved and the Christian life is not a spectator sport, but a participation event

## Key to Success 1 Thess. 2:13-20

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Once again it is re-iterated that they became followers.

Last week -- the 3 “ye’s” in **1 Thessalonians 1:5-7**

ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. And ye became **followers of us, and of the Lord**, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

NOW:

**1Th 2:14** For **ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God** which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they *have* of the Jews:

What was the key to success that Paul would say “ye became followers of...”

**1Th 2:13 ¶** For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

- 1) HOW they received the word of God
- 2) THEY ALLOWED it to change your life

### **They received the word of God**

Not just another book. What do you think about the Word of God? Many think we are taking a leap into the dark, but rather it is a step into the light.

There are logical, reasonable, and intelligent reasons to believe the Word of God.

Fulfilled prophecy – 100% accuracy, 40 authors written over 1,500 years and it all dovetails into 1 book with one author – the Holy Spirit.

Thank God we have a guide to our life. God has given you a brain and a will for you to decide what you want to believe.

Success comes from YOUR HEART – like good soil – receiving the Word of God – like a seed.

### **They allowed it to change your life**

Change comes natural for as the saved person yields to the Holy Spirit.

If you are not changing, you are back-sliding. Measure change from 1 year to the next, not short increments... not week to week.

**Suffering / affliction / opposition will be expected**

**1Th 2:14** For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they *have* of the Jews:

It is normal and natural for a Christian to have opposition.

**Ephesians 6:12** For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but **against** principalities, **against** powers, **against** the rulers of the darkness of this world, **against** spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

**John 15:18** If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated* you.

**even as they *have* of the Jews (1 The. 2:14b)**

**1Th 2:15** Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men:

Paul, was a Jew – he ‘called a spade a spade’

What did the Jews do? Vs. 15-16

- Killed the Lord Jesus Christ John 1:11
- Killed their own prophets
- Persecuted Paul and disciples
- Please not God
- Contrary to all men
- Forbidding Paul and disciples to preach (1 The. 2:16)

Paul, a Jew, loved the Jews, but he really loved the brethren.

- Paul loved the Jews

**Romans 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:

**Romans 10:1** Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

- Paul really loved these brethren at Thessalonica

**1 John 3:14** We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren...

Note Paul's love for the brethren:

**1Th 2:17-18** But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your face with great desire. Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.

You've heard the expression "Blood Relative" – 2 kinds of blood relatives:  
blood relative of this life and blood relative of the next life

Paul's lived for the next life:

**1Th 2:19** For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Are* not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

**1Th 2:20** For ye are our glory and joy.

**Q)** For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing?

**A)** *Are* not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

What about GBC?

What is our hope, joy...?

Our Missions program is surely part of that – souls in heaven from an effective missions' investment.

Baptist Bible Institutes in        China / Bhutan / Vietnam / Nepal

Keep your eye on the prize – heaven forever.

Our life should:

Receive Word of God in our heart

Allow it to change us

Keep on in spite of opposition (Heb. 12:2)

Live for next life

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## Knowing Your Faith 1 Thess. 3:1-10

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**1 Thessalonians 3:5** For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.

Paul started a church at Phillipi – was cruelly scourged and put in bonds as Paul & Silas sang praises at midnight. He then left to Thessalonica, was run out of town and went to Berea, where he was run out of town again and then went to Athens. At Athens, he sent Timothy to go to Thessalonica to find out if they were keeping the faith or if they had gotten sidetracked by the Tempter.

**1 Thessalonians 3:1-2** Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone; And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:

He reminds them that afflictions come with serving the Lord

**1 Thessalonians 3:3-4** That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto. For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.

Timothy brought back a good report

**1 Thessalonians 3:6-7** But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also *to see you*: Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith:

Paul prays for them (1 Thess. 3:8-10)

Knowing your faith – lest Satan deceive you and Paul's labor to disciple them be in vain (vs. 5)

**1 Thessalonians 3:5** I sent to **know your faith**, lest by some means **the tempter have tempted you**, and our labour be in vain.

**1 Thessalonians 3:8** For now we live, **if ye stand fast in the Lord**.

How can Satan deceive us? The work of God used to reach you is in vain if you turn aside. Galatians has some areas that would cause one to be deceived:

- 1) Perverting the true gospel

**Galatians 1:8** But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

There is only one way to be saved.

**Acts 4:12** Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

**John 14:6** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

The Bible uses many terms to describe the same event – born again / saved / repentance & faith / call upon the name of the Lord / faith in Jesus Christ / believe in Jesus / faith in His blood...

Only 1 gospel – Jesus Christ saves. Are you saved?

## 2) False Doctrine

**Galatians 2:4** And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:

Bondage – you need something more --- not just getting born again...you need to stay saved; you need to speak in tongues; you need to be baptized; you need to keep it...

No, no, no...you cannot get unborn. Born again = saved forever

**Hebrews 13:5** *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have:* for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

## 3) Salvation is by faith only

**Galatians 2:16** Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

This is basically what we just said in a nutshell. Justified by faith – faith only.

## 4) Saved by faith; continue in the Christian life by faith

**Galatians 3:1-2** O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Once you are saved, you do not live the Christian life out by works. We live the Christian life out by faith.

**Galatians 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.

**Hebrews 4:9** There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

**Hebrews 4:10** For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God *did* from his.

5) Return to bondage of sin

**Galatians 5:1** Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

God did not save your soul so you could go back to the world. He delivered you from sin and slavery of sin.

**Galatians 1:4** Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

Jesus Christ delivers you from sin – to go back under bondage – is the Tempter to deceive you

Sin brings bondage – beer, booze, marijuana, drugs, gambling, pornography, cross-dressing, Facebook, world-wide web --- addictions ---liberty comes from the Holy Spirit

**2 Corinthians 3:17** Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty.

6) Victory in life by yielding to the Spirit

**Galatians 5:16-17** *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Paul was sooo proud of these new believers.

**1 Thessalonians 3:6** But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also *to see* you:

**3 John 1:4** I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

Keep your eyes on Jesus Christ; your mind walking with God; allow the Word of God to rest in your heart and be one of the few that are faithful until Jesus Christ comes back.

Rewards are given to the faithful

**Matthew 25:23** His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

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## Increase Your Love 1 The. 3:11-13

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**1 Thessalonians 3:12** And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all *men*, even as we *do* toward you:

**Love the brethren is natural for the Christian**

**1 John 3:14** We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death.

**1 Thessalonians 4:9** But as touching **brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you:** for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

**Anyone can love those that love them**

**Matthew 5:44** 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;

**Matthew 5:46** For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

**We are to love one another & all men:**

**1 Thessalonians 3:12** And the Lord make you to increase and abound in  
love one toward another, and  
toward all *men*,  
even as we *do* toward you:

Paul loved them. Paul poured his life into people; into ministry; into church; into missions. He gave all. Listen to him:

**2 Corinthians 12:15** And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though **the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.**

Ways we are to love:

- Love as a social person - Help others

Taking time to help people not only makes them happy, but it also makes you happy. Helping other people gives you a surge of oxytocin, serotonin and dopamine, all of which create good feelings. Research shows that spending money on other people makes you much happier than spending it on yourself. (Forbes.com – 10 habits of incredibly happy people)

- Love as a saved person – love other saved people

**1 John 3:17** 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?

- Love the lost – In your immediate area

People in this metro area will spend eternity in heaven or hell. We are to do something about it. You have a mouth / hands that can hold a gospel tract / a pastor that encourages you to use tracts...

**1 Thessalonians 3:12** And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love

You get saved – you want to see your family saved / then you want to see your friends saved / then you want to see your city saved – ones you do not even know / then you want to see Americans saved / then your love grows as your heart beats with the heart of God – what is the heart of God?

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son... When you want to see all peoples of the earth saved – your love has increased and abounded.

When you feel some responsibility to reach 7 billion people – your love has increased and abounded.

- Love the lost – in other countries - missions
- Love your enemies

We think – I have to take care of myself. This is true.

**Acts 20:28** 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.

We are to take care of ourselves / we are to take care of our family / we are to take care of our church... but as we...**1 Thessalonians 3:12** And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love...

Our love grows in capacity – we can love – at the same time – our family, our church, our city and yes, the world. Our love grows in capacity, in depth and in reach. Listen to Paul:

**2 Corinthians 10:16** To preach the gospel in the *regions* beyond you...

**How in the world can we do this? Exactly – it is impossible. It is a supernatural love to accomplish this. God has given us all we need to obey this passage of Scripture!**

Don't live for self

**Philippians 2:3** Let nothing *be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Others – others – others

**Philippians 2:4** Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

This is possible! How? We, the saved, have the mind of Christ:

**Philippians 2:2** Fulfil ye my joy, that **ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.**

**Philippians 2:5** Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

**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.**

If you are saved, **1 Thessalonians 3:12** And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all *men*, even as we *do* toward you:

You have access to the mind of Christ. If you live a selfish life – it is not that living for others was beyond your reach – it is that you decided to live a self-willed life.

Self is in the way. We can love others, the lost, missions.... Does it even matter?

**1 Thessalonians 3:13** To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

Jesus is coming soon. Our life will be over. It will matter. The Judge of all the earth will call your name.

### **1. Are you saved? If you are, Jesus will call your name!**

**Matthew 10:32** Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

**Revelation 3:5** 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.

### **2. All will give an account of their life**

**2 Corinthians 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.

### **3. We will go up at the Rapture and then come down with Him at His coming...**

#### **With all His Saints**

**1 Thessalonians 3:13** To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

**Jude 1:14** And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

#### **For all His Saints**

**1 Thessalonians 4:17** Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

**1 John 2:28** And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

## You at His Coming to Earth 1 Thess. 3:12-4:1

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**1 Thess. 3:12** And the Lord make you **to increase and abound in love** one toward another, and toward all *men*, even as we *do* toward you:

**1 Thess. 3:13** To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the **coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints**.

**1 Thess. 4:1** Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort *you* by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought **to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.**

**Our perfection will one day be complete 1 Thess. 3:13**

**Romans 8:29** For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

What will we look like?

**1 John 3:2** Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

**Philippians 3:21** Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

We will return with Jesus Christ at His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming at the end of the Tribulation Period

...with all his saints

**Jude 1:14** And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

Are you a saint? Saint = Holy one

What makes one a saint / holy one? It is WHO dwells within

**Colossians 1:27** To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Christ in me / the Holy Spirit in me! That is what makes me a saint.

My sinful nature and your sinful nature are made of the same stuff = sinful NATURE

When I got saved – the end result is Christ in me! Jesus spoke of the saved to His Father – God:

**John 17:23** **I in them, and thou in me**, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

The Bible teaches that we should **increase and abound more and more** 1 Thess. 3:12, 4:1

- **We should change**

**Ephesians 4:22-24** That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Change – humans are often resistant to change. **How can we change?**

- **We should grow**

**2 Peter 3:18** But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ...

- **We should obey...**

**Plain teachings of the Word of God**

**Promptings of the Holy Spirit**

**When God speaks to your thru preaching**

Dear Lord, if you speak to me today, I will obey OR

Dear Lord, if you speak to me today, I will ignore you

We are going to go to heaven. We are going to return to earth with Jesus Christ at His coming. We are going to be robed in white robes for all eternity.

Faith will not be needed in heaven – we are to live by faith here on earth – faith is

To obey / to yield our will to will of God

Dear Lord, if you speak to me today, I will obey OR

Dear Lord, if you speak to me today, I will ignore you

- **We should not get caught up in things of this world**

**2 Timothy 2:4** No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

**1 John 2:16-17** For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Lord make you **to increase and abound in love** one toward another, and toward all *men*, ye ought **to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.**

Life is short / death is sure / eternity is forever / Jesus is coming soon / the Bible is the Word of God

**Let us be wise**

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## This is the Will of God 1 Thess. 4:1-7

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**1 Thess. 4:3** For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:  
**Leviticus 11:44** For I *am* the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I *am* holy

Some ask, "What is the will of God for my life?"

We ought to follow the example of Paul... **Acts 9:6** And he...said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?

**It is the will of God for:**

### **You to be Saved**

**2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

### **You as a Saved person to be Sanctified**

**1 Thess. 4:4** That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

Your body is a vessel (a vessel that contains the soul) that you possess and you are responsible for your body and accountable for it. You will give an account for what you do with your body – your mind, your hands, your feet, your eyes, your ears, your mouth – what you say and what you eat...

**Your body should be possessed...“in sanctification and honour.”**

- Sanctification

**This** is the will of God -

❖ Your Body God's intention

**Genesis 2:24** Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

**1 Corinthians 7:1-2** ...*It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.*

Man's Perversion – self-centered (1 The. 4:3 ...**ye should abstain from** fornication / *just say NO*)

Greek word for *fornication* is – pornea. Pornea – we get pornography from. Porn is sin:

Definition of pornea: adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, intercourse with animals etc.

❖ Your Mind vs. 5

Not in *lust of concupiscence* – what does that mean? A craving, a longing, a desire for what is forbidden  
Our sinful nature is the exact opposite of holiness:

**Galatians 5:17** For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

The very concept of sanctification is to choose holiness over sinfulness

1 Thess. 4:3 For this is the will of God, *even your sanctification, that ye should abstain* from fornication:  
**1 Thess. 4:7** For **God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.**

I did a study on sanctification awhile back and was surprised that my definition of it was unbiblical.

When we get saved, the Holy Spirit sanctifies us / sets us apart for the Lord. However, the Holy Spirit does not do a second work of grace. It is up to the believer to choose to sanctify him/herself.

We get inner help from the Holy Spirit, but the actual work of sanctifying is done by you.

You choose to live a holy life – by sanctifying yourself:

**Leviticus 11:44** For I *am* the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I *am* holy...

The reason we should be sanctified  
The choice to be sanctified rests with you  
The result of sanctification is holiness

***I am the LORD your God  
ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves  
ye shall be holy; for I am holy...***

**Your body should be possessed...“in sanctification and honour.”**

- Honor
  - ❖ Your Fellow Human Being vs. 6

When one commits a sin with their own body and the body of another – it is a sin of defrauding. That body belongs to another – it is not yours’

I.E. Adultery – 2 are one flesh – and the body of a wife belongs to her husband and the body of a husband belongs to his wife. To commit adultery is to defraud to be a thief – a cheat – to take that which does not belong to you.

- ❖ Between you and the Lord vs. 8

You have a calling – from God – unto holiness...

There is much secret sin today. Because humans are sinful and access to private sins are easily accessed. Beware of the worldwide web, Facebook, or apps where secret chatting maybe done. Live right / Choose right / Abstain correctly / Know that God sees all

**Proverbs 15:3** The eyes of the LORD *are* in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

**Psalms 139:12** Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light *are* both alike *to thee*.

- ❖ Brotherly Love vs. 9      Increase more and more...

1 Thessalonians 3:12 And the **Lord make you to increase and abound in love** one toward another...

1 Thessalonians 4:1 ...how ye **ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.**

**1 Thessalonians 4:10** ...but we beseech you, brethren, that **ye increase more and more;**

## Your Personal Testimony 1 Thess. 4:8-12

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You have something that is of great value – your testimony. It is who you are.

We are not speaking today about your salvation, but of your current Christian life. Paul's testimony:

- **1 Timothy 1:12** And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;
- **1 Timothy 1:15** This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.
- **Philippians 3:8** Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ,
- **Galatians 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.
- **Philippians 1:21** For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.

That was Paul. Now in 1 Thessalonians 4:8-12, we have our testimony in 5 areas.

### 1) Personal testimony toward God

**1 Thessalonians 4:8** He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

Your testimony with God. God knows who you are – he knows your testimony.

Despiseth = set aside; reject; cast off

God uses human beings and a book, the Bible, to speak to your heart. When the God-called preacher preaches, and you despise (set aside; reject; cast off) what he is saying --- you are despising God.

When you receive the preaching like dry ground takes in gentle rain --- you are receiving the Lord.

You have a testimony with God.

### 2) Personal testimony toward the brethren

**1 Thessalonians 4:9** But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

Your testimony with the brethren. Do you love them? Your love to the saved reflects how you love God.

**1 John 3:14** We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death.

**1 John 3:16** Hereby perceive we the love *of God*, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

**1 John 3:17** 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 4:20** 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 4:21** And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

Why would a saved person love other saved people? They are brothers and sisters.

**1 Timothy 5:1-2** Rebuke not an elder, but intreat *him* as a father; *and* the younger men as brethren; The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God...washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood. Joint heir with Jesus as we travel this sod, for I'm part of the family, the family of God

### 3) Personal testimony toward missions

**1 Thessalonians 4:10** And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;

*Toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia;* which was a large province, wherein were planted many churches. Their love was not guided by interests, opinions, civil relations, or self-respects, but it reached to all that were brethren; and that in some real effect of it, in some work of charity, or liberality, or otherwise, not here mentioned, but we read of it      MATTHEW POOLE COMMENTARY

They loved missions. They did not even know the people of Macedonia – but they loved them. You know why I love missions so much?

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

God had only one Son, He made Him a missionary to the whole world.

I love them because God loves them. The Blood of Jesus Christ was shed for them.

**1 John 2:2** And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

GBC has a testimony about missions. What is your testimony toward missions? Love missions.

If you want a harvest in a year,	plant corn
If you want a decade,	plant trees
If you want a harvest in a lifetime,	plant people
If you want a harvest in eternity,	plant missions

I was in Bible college in 1984 – they said there are 4 ½ billion people on earth. Today – 7 ½ billion.

That means we can reach more souls for Jesus Christ than ever before. It also means more responsibility. 200,000 people enter eternity every day. *The Joshua Project* states that 41% of the world is unreached. 3 billion people unreached.

Mark Logan goes only to places that is *closed* to the gospel. GBC gives about 70% of all missions' dollars to the 10/40 window – where there is the least gospel.

Do you know that if it wasn't for missions, you would be a heathen? You are a debtor to missions.

You have a personal testimony toward missions.

4) Personal testimony toward yourself

**1 Thessalonians 4:11** And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

- **that ye study to be quiet**

Live a peaceful life without strife and disorder. Not restless and dissatisfied and bitter.

- **and to do your own business**

**2 Thessalonians 3:10-11** For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

Not prying into the affairs of others - not a nibby-noser. I have enough on my plate to concern myself...

- **and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;**

**Lamentations 3:27** *It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.*

Be ambitious – the is America – land of opportunity. God's plan for men (not Eve – this is for Adam):

**Genesis 3:19** In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.

**Work 6 days – 1 day of rest** is the principle in the O.T.

You have a personal testimony toward yourself.

5) Personal testimony toward others

**1 Thessalonians 4:12** That ye may walk honestly **toward them that are without**, and *that* ye may have lack of nothing.

You conduct when you are outside the church...

***May your testimony be above reproach.***

## Believers Have Hope 1 Thess. 4:13-14

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**1 Thessalonians 4:13-14** But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

We can categorize people in several ways. The Bible specifically states that there are only 2 groups of people:

Believers	Unbelievers
Saved	Lost
Born-again	Born one time & need to be born-again
Headed for heaven	Headed for hell
Those with hope	Those with no hope

### Believers have hope

Hope defined: to anticipate, usually with pleasure; expectation or confidence

Hope is an assurance that it will happen

**Titus 1:2** In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

Before salvation: **Ephesians 2:12** That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

**Colossians 1:5** For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

Hope (assurance) that difficulties in this life will work out ok.

**2 Corinthians 4:17** For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory;

**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.

Heaven forever will make everything ok.

**Revelation 21:5** And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

**Isaiah 65:17** For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Believers have hope. What is the basis or foundation for our believing?

## **If we believe Jesus died & rose again**

- **Jesus died**

### **He died for you – personal**

**Romans 5:8** But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

### **His blood shed for your sins – only way to properly address your sins**

**1 Corinthians 15:3** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

**John 10:1** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

**John 14:6** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

### **What kept Him on the cross?**

**Matthew 26:53** Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

If this is true, and it is true. Then it was love that held Jesus to the cross. The ability to leave the cross is something He had access to as He was God.

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**John 1:14** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

**Hebrews 1:8** But unto the Son *he saith*, Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness *is* the sceptre of thy kingdom.

**Titus 2:13** Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

**1 John 5:20** And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

### **What kept Him on the cross?**

**Hebrews 12:2** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The joy of you getting saved – that is one piece of the puzzle – a small piece, but a real legitimate piece...  
Jesus Christ died for me – loves me ---

**Galatians 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.**

- **He rose again – from the dead**

16 times in the book of Acts, it is recorded that Christ rose from the dead.

**Acts 2:32** This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

**Acts 5:30** The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

**Acts 10:40** Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;

**Acts 13:29-30** And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took *him* down from the tree, and laid *him* in a sepulchre. But God raised him from the dead:

It changed the lives of the disciples. It changed from Sabbath and the synagogue to the church & Sunday worship. It sent down the Holy Spirit to indwell believers. It verified the prophecy of Jesus Himself:

**Matthew 26:64** Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

- **He died and rose again – where? Prophesied by Jesus**

**Mark 16:19** So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

**Acts 2:33** Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

**Acts 7:55-56** But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

**Romans 8:34** Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

He is at right hand of God is also found in Eph. 1:20, Col. 3:1, Heb. 3:1, 8:1, and 12:2

**Hebrews 10:12** But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

If you want hope of eternal life – trust the glorious fact that the Blood of Jesus Christ will forgive your sins. Give your whole heart to Jesus Christ – trust Him as: *your personal Saviour*

1 Timothy 1:15 ...***Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.***



## The Blessed Hope 1 Thess. 4:13-18

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**Titus 1:2** In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

Last week: the believer has hope - a real hope; a lively hope; hope of eternal life. Other than heaven forever, what other hope do we possess?

- 1) **Dead saints will be raised from the grave**
- 2) **Alive saints will meet the Lord in the air**
- 3) **We will possess a new, glorified body**
- 4) **We will forever be with the Lord**
- 5) **Our authority for this – none other than the Word of God**

### **Dead saints will be raised from the grave**

Saved people that die are referred to as *asleep*. Note vs. 13-15 asleep & sleep / vs. 16 dead in Christ

**1 Thess 4:13-15** not be ignorant...concerning **them which are asleep**, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope...**them also which sleep in Jesus** will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain...shall not prevent **them which are asleep**.

Why are they called *asleep*? Because there is the wonderful hope of the resurrection for the *dead in Christ* to a heavenly home.

The body goes to the grave – and stays there – until the Rapture.

Saved are predestined to have a glorified body

**Romans 8:29** For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

How can a decomposed body rise from the dead and receive a glorified body?

**Jeremiah 32:27** Behold, I *am* the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?

**Philippians 3:21** Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

**1 Corinthians 15:35-36** But some *man* will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? *Thou* fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:

**1 Corinthians 15:37-38** And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other *grain*: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

Not only is God able to do this; He has promised to do this. He will do this. It is our hope.

### **Alive saints will meet the Lord in the air**

**1 Thessalonians 4:16** For the **Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout**, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

**1 Thessalonians 4:17** Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Some say – that never happened. Oh, yes it did – it happened historically.

**Hebrews 11:5** By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

**2 Kings 2:11** And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, *there appeared* a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

Alive Christians will become immortal in a moment of time

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54** Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

**Romans 8:11** But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead **shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you**.

Saved people are: Saved spirit / saved soul / unsaved body. What keeps a saved person on earth? Their unsaved body – keeps us here. When this body gets saved, we will be transported to where we belong – our true eternal home – our heavenly home.

This world is not my home, I'm just a passing thru, my treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue

This is our: **Titus 2:13** Looking for that **blessed hope**, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

### **We will possess a new, glorified body**

**1 Thessalonians 4:17** Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

If we are to meet the Lord in the air – it better be a new body!

Our glorified body

**1 John 3:2** Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Jesus had a glorified BODY

**Luke 24:39-40** Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not **flesh and bones**, as ye see me have. And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them *his* hands and *his* feet.

Before the fall of man, Adam and Eve had flesh and bones. I think a glorified body is without blood.

**Genesis 2:23** 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.

### **We will forever be with the Lord**

**1 Thessalonians 4:17** Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and **so shall we ever be with the Lord**.

Forever / eternity / forever and ever

Will you hear anything more important than what you hear this morning? There is some serious, sobering pondering to do.

It is not a matter of *if you will live forever*, but *where will you live forever*.

### **Our authority for this – none other than the Word of God**

**1 Thessalonians 4:15** For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

Is the Bible the very Word of God? Yes, it is and it will be 100% accurate. One day you will look back and see that everything I have told you from the Word of God is HISTORY.

The dead saints did get raised from the dead  
We did get a glorified body

The alive saints were raptured out  
We are living forever with the Lord

*Your future is determined by you. The hope is yours for the taking – turn to Christ today*

*Trust His blood as payment for your sins / turn from your sins and turn to Christ – NOW*

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## How to be Prepared for the Rapture

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**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

**1 John 2:28** And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

At His coming – not ashamed

Those left behind – all the lost – religious lost also:

**Matthew 25:1-3** Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish. They that *were* foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

The 5 foolish virgins were not prepared to meet the Bridegroom and were shut out.

Who goes up at the Rapture? HE – the Holy Spirit & His indwelling. There will be no fooling anyone at that time.

### Those who go up – how will we feel about it?

Contented with our life? Disappointed with how we live? Grateful for our investment in the work of the Lord? Sorry we lived selfishly?

Bible teaches:

1. Not ashamed – and have confidence!
2. Thus, conversely – ashamed

We do not have time to fully develop 2 Peter chapter 1, but here is what it says:

**1 John 2:28** And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

How can we not be ashamed – and have confidence!

- Little children – saved / humble

**Matthew 18:3** And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

- You possess all you need to fulfill what God asks. Note:

**1 John 2:27** But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

Ok – so we are saved / we humble ourselves before the Lord – now what is the condition that we need to meet – so we will not be ashamed before Him at His coming?

- **1 John 2:28** And now, little children, **abide in him**; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

You mean that's it? Is the Bible true? Do you trust what it says? --- What does it say?

**1 John 2:28** And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

There is only one place in the entire Bible that teaches on abiding in him – it is John 15:1-17.

What is taught in that passage?

### **Our relationship with God the Father**

- God chastises those whom He loves

**John 15:1-2** I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman...and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

**Hebrews 12:6** For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

- God uses the Word of God to cleanse you

**John 15:3** Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

### **Our relationship with God the Son**

**John 15:4-5** Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

- ✓ It is a life of self-denial (Gal. 2:20)
- ✓ It is a life of dependence (John 15:5)
- ✓ We abide in Him – He abides in us

**Galatians 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...**

- ✓ It is the life of Christ in us

**Romans 8:2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

**Negative Aspect:** A **rose with cut stems** may look beautiful – but only for a very short time. It is dead apart from the life-giving soil, water, and sunlight.

**Positive Aspect:** His divine help in your life --- **similar to sap in a tree**. By faith, we learn to *rest* in Him.

It is to be totally open and honest with God – confess all sin / take all our burdens to Him / draw all wisdom, life and strength from Him

Without Jesus Christ – you can do nothing that counts for eternity. As a plant cannot grow if plucked; even so you cannot grow without abiding.

He does not say – apart from my doctrine... apart from my church... apart from my Bible knowledge... no apart from ME – from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. He indwells you – He is LIFE. That Life in you is to help you rely upon for you to live your life.

One day we get to heaven – there will be no bragging on ourselves. I got here by the grace of God. I lived the Christian life by the grace of God. Without Christ, I could do NOTHING.

**1 Corinthians 15:10** But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which *was bestowed* upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Abide in the love of Christ

**John 15:10** If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

**If you abide in Christ**

**John 15:14** Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

If you abide in Him – friend of Jesus – He calls you *Friend*. And will not be ashamed at His coming.

The concept of abiding in Christ is more than a quaint saying –  
it is the essence of HOW to live the Christian Life.

It makes us ready for the Rapture / which also means ready for death / leaving a good legacy...

**Decide you will *ABIDE IN HIM* starting NOW**

## The Day of the Lord

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**1 Thessalonians 5:1-2** But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that **the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.**

There was a historical event – the Day of the Lord – was 70 years of God’s judgment upon Judah. Much of the O.T. prophets wrote around this time – 606 B.C. – 536 B.C.

That O.T. ***Day of the Lord*** was prophesied beforehand:

**Joel 1:15** Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD *is* at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.

**Joel 2:1** Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for *it is* nigh at hand;

**What is that day like?**

**Zephaniah 1:14-15** The great day of the LORD *is* near, *it is* near... That day *is* a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

**Some say – I will escape it:**

**Amos 5:18-20** Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end *is* it for you? the day of the LORD *is* darkness, and not light. **As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him.** *Shall* not the day of the LORD *be* darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?

**It is likened to a man with labor pains:**

**Jeremiah 30:6-7** Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? **Alas! for that day *is* great, so that none *is* like it...**

Jeremiah, the weeping prophet warned them. His warnings went unheeded by the vast majority. The prophesied Day of the Lord did come and is now a historical event from 606 B.C.

We are living in the year 2018.

Paul wrote: **1 Thessalonians 5:2** For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

Jesus warns us about that future *Day of the Lord*.

**Matthew 24:21** For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

**Mark 13:19** For *in* those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.

He spoke this about 2,000 years ago and it is still a future event.

I believe the words of Jesus Christ. He prophesied that He would rise from the dead on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day – and He did. He arose from the dead – He is God. Jesus Christ is the Living Word of God and the Bible is the Written Word of God.

Here is what the Bible tells us of the future *Day of the Lord*.

The Apostle **John** tells us what will occur during this future *Day of the Lord*. He saw it on the isle of Patmos and Rev. 6-18 speaks of this coming day.

**There will be 3 sets of judgments – 7 seal judgments; 7 trumpet judgments and 7 bowl judgments**

**The 7 seal judgments include:**

War, famine, and pestilences which results in death from hunger, sword and disease – ¼ of humanity will die Rev. 6:8

Also Christians will be killed during this time -- I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held...

**The 7 trumpet judgments include:**

Hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

As it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

Third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

And he opened the bottomless pit And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment *was* as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.

**Revelation 9:15-18** And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen *were* two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses *were* as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and



brimstone. By these three was the **third part of men killed**, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.

**The 7 bowl judgments include:**

There fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast

Upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead *man*: and every living soul died in the sea

Upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood

Upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory

Upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,

Three unclean spirits like frogs *come* out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, *which* go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

All followed by Armageddon.

This will all occur after the Rapture and during a 7-year period known as the Tribulation Period or also called the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel.

**A thief takes that which is most valuable:**

**1 Thessalonians 5:2** ...know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

**1 Thessalonians 4:17** Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Are you ready for the *Day of the Lord*? There will not be time to prepare – you need to be ready as it will come as a thief in the night.

**Matthew 24:44** Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

How to be ready?

Saved?

Last week - Abide in Him...

## Peace on Earth

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**1 Thessalonians 5:3** For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

The subject matter is the *Day of the Lord* – the Tribulation Period --

What will they say as the Tribulation Period begins? Peace & Safety

Peace – no war, peace at last  
Safe, sure, security...

Then – sudden destruction – like birth pains &  
They shall not escape

The N.Y. Times states: Of the last 3,400 years, humans have been at peace for 268 of them – 8 % if recorded history. At least 108 million people were killed in wars in the 20<sup>th</sup> century alone.

This peace?? What bring in this peace? The Antichrist brings in peace – but it is short-lived.

Antichrist signs a 7-year covenant with many / Antiochus Epiphanes, a type & foreshadow of Antichrist gained his rule thru peace. The peace is taken foretold in Revelation chapter 6. The Antichrist is revealed in the 1<sup>st</sup> seal and the 2<sup>nd</sup> seal brings war:

**Revelation 6:3-4** And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse *that was* red: and **power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another...**

The world desires peace. Why is there no peace on earth? Corrupt humanity is the reason. What will bring in desired peace? The Prince of Peace – the Lord Jesus Christ ruling on earth as King.

**Isaiah 9:6** 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.

This prophecy speaks of His 1<sup>st</sup> coming – history **For unto us a child is born**  
and His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming – prophecy **the government shall be upon his shoulder**

Jesus will bring in peace:

**Isaiah 9:7** Of the increase of *his* government and **peace there shall be no end...**

This world does not offer peace. You may search for peace, but you will not find true, lasting peace outside finding the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal Saviour.

There is an empty void in your life that only Jesus Christ can fill. People try many things to fill that void:

Seeking happiness, drugs, alcohol, sports-loving, workaholic, making money, hoarding money, taking pleasure trips, immorality,

There is a void – only Jesus Christ can fill that void

There is a social need – God gave Church to fill that need

Unselfishness truly makes us happy – serving Christ in a church gives one an inner contentment.

**GBC, the Bible, salvation, finding your niche here gives you a life of inner contentment.**

Most of this world will reject the message given today. But this world will still be seeking for peace – when they find it, they will find out it was delivered by the Antichrist.

The **Antichrist** is not Anti / against Jesus Christ. NO. He is **INSTEAD OF** -- Jesus Christ. Lexicon states:

The word *ANTI* -- opposite, instead, in the room of. Often used to denote contrast, substitution

**Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace**

**Luke 2:14** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

**John 14:27** Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you...

**Acts 10:36** The word which *God* sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ...

**Romans 5:1** Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

**Colossians 1:20** And, having made peace through the blood of his cross...

**Whatever you are doing to fill that void – is actually an antichrist --- instead of Jesus Christ.**

The end result of a false peace?

**1 Thessalonians 5:3** For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

For the unsaved – anything other than Jesus Christ to fill your void – will bring destruction.

**Hebrews 2:3** How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?

For the saved – anything other than Jesus Christ to fill your void in life – will bring:

**1 Corinthians 3:12** Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

**The only real contentment in the inner soul is found in being saved, sure and serving Jesus Christ**

**John 13:17** If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

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## Light vs. Darkness

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**1 Thessalonians 5:4-5** But ye, brethren, are not in **darkness**, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not **of the night**, nor **of darkness**.

The *Day of the Lord* will come as a thief in the night. Night-time is when thieves approach. It is night-time and darkness that more sins are committed.

Darkness is spoken of in the Bible as a metaphor for the lost. 162 times the word *darkness* is in the Bible. Here are some things the Bible says about darkness.

### ❖ **Whole world lies in darkness**

**John 12:46** I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

Jesus is the true light

**1 John 5:19** And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

How can the Bible say the whole world lies in wickedness / When did that happen? / How can it be?

**Genesis 1:26** And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and **let them have dominion over** the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Adam was King of all the earth! BUT Adam & Eve sinned – and the earth was cursed by God.

Satan stole the dominion that Adam had:

**2 Corinthians 4:4** 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.

**John 12:31** Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the **prince of this world** be cast out.

**John 14:30** Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the **prince of this world** cometh...

**John 16:11** Of judgment, because the **prince of this world** is judged.

Prince of this world = Chief Ruler (Prince)

**Ephesians 2:2** Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the **prince of the power of the air**, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Satan is the god of this world. He offered Jesus Christ:

**Matthew 4:8-9** Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

This is the state that this world is in. If you are born again – you are *going against the grain*. If you serve the Lord, you are going against the grain. But here is the good news.

The spiritual life is not governed by the god of this world.

**1 John 4:4** Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

One day – soon – Jesus Christ is going to take back that which was lost in the garden of Eden.

This is the whole crux of the book of Revelation. The key is chapter 5. Jesus takes the 7-sealed scroll from the right hand of God and when He opens the 1<sup>st</sup> seal, the Tribulation Period begins. The end result of this 7-sealed scroll being opened – is the earth gets redeemed, Jesus Christ Himself descends to reign as King on the earth and mankind lives in a perfect environment – as if Adam had never sinned.

That is the complex, but Biblical explanation as to WHY the whole world lies in darkness.

#### ❖ Before we were saved, we were in darkness

**Ephesians 4:18** Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

**Acts 26:18** To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

**John 3:19-20** And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

**1 Thessalonians 5:7** For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

Some of the children of the night *sleep*. These are the thoughtless and careless. They may be awake to secular business. But they slumber over spiritual truths.

Others of the children of the night are *awake only to evil*. They spend the night in drunkenness. They hide shameful practices under the cloak of darkness.

#### ❖ Darkness is to not be in fellowship with God

**1 John 1:6** If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

**1 John 2:9** He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

**1 John 2:11** But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

The darkness is not confined to the illiterate. Nor is it confined to the inhabitants of heathen lands. People in Christian countries, who are familiar with the language of the New Testament, may be totally ignorant of its spiritual thought.

Such people, though they sit in university chairs as professors of divinity, are blinded with midnight blackness. You could sit in a Baptist church and live in darkness.

#### ❖ **There is a power of darkness**

**Colossians 1:13** Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Ultimately you choose. Demons cannot prevent you from yielding to the Power of God

#### ❖ **What is done in darkness will be revealed**

**1 Corinthians 4:5** Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

#### ❖ **Hell is described as a place of darkness**

**Matthew 8:12** But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**Matthew 22:13** Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**Matthew 25:30** And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

#### ❖ **God wants to call you out of darkness**

**1 Peter 2:9** But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath **called you out of darkness into his marvellous light**:

## Light vs. Darkness

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**1 Thessalonians 5:4-5** But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children **of light**, and the children **of the day**: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

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**1 Thessalonians 5:4** But **ye, brethren**, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

Ye Brethren – born again into the family of God. If you are saved

**1 Thessalonians 5:5** Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

Ye are children of light and children of the day

**2 Corinthians 4:6** For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**Now, saved – are of the light**

**Matthew 5:14-15** Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

**Matthew 5:16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

**God is light**

**1 John 1:5** This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

**Jesus is the true light**

**John 8:12** Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

**1 Thessalonians 5:6** Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; but **let us watch and be sober**.

**1 Thessalonians 5:8** But let us, **who are of the day**, (A) be sober, (B) putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and (C) for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

## **A) Watch & be sober**

Watch – as opposed to being asleep --- vs. 6 let us not sleep... / vs. 7 sleep...

Those who are asleep...

- Are not even aware of danger – tornado coming, house on fire...
- Unconscious of the real world around him
- Immovable to all appeals
- May not even know that he is asleep

**Matthew 24:42** Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

**Matthew 25:13** Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

**Mark 13:35** Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:

**Luke 21:36** Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Easy to be lulled asleep – thinking Jesus is not coming – “I’ve been watching a long time and am weary”

**Galatians 6:9** And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

**1 Thessalonians 4:15** For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

**1 Thessalonians 4:16** For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

The coming of the Lord is sure. The Lord is longsuffering. The timing of the Lord is in His hands.

We do not know when – we are to watch – not be asleep.

**Matthew 25:5** While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

**2 Timothy 4:8** Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

## **B) Put on faith & love**

Two things to be reminded of – be a person of faith / be a person of love

**2 Timothy 3:1-5** This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,



Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

**Luke 18:8** I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. **Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?**

Love – love your spouse, love your family, love your church, love the lost, love souls, love missions, love your neighbor, love others, love your enemy

### **C) Helmet – hope of salvation**

**1 Thessalonians 5:9** For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

Hope – waiting in expectancy – salvation of the body...

Helmet protects the inside of the head. Want the inside of the head to stay OK? It is protected with the hope of salvation.

I am going to get a glorified body –

**2 Timothy 1:7** For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

### **No darkness in heaven**

**Revelation 21:23-24** And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb *is* the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

Lord will come to the wicked. They are like those who are asleep when the thief comes upon them. But it is not so with Christians. They are, in relation to the coming of the day of the Lord, as men are who are awake when the robber comes. They could see his approach, and could prepare for it, so that it would not take them by surprise.

Christians are always to be wakeful and vigilant; they are so to expect the coming of the Redeemer, that he will not find them off their guard, and will not come upon them by surprise.

## Christ Died For Us 1 The. 5:9-13

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Text: 1 The. 5:9-13

There are three persons living inside each of us

- The one we think we are
- The one other people think we are, and
- The one God knows we are

“If any man thinks ill of you, do not be angry with him; for you are worse than he thinks you to be.”

“**My hope lives** not because I am not a sinner, but because I am a sinner for whom Christ died; my trust is not that I am holy, but that being unholy, HE is my righteousness.

“**My faith rests** not upon what I am or shall be or feel or know, but in what Christ is, in what He has done and in what He is now doing for me.”

**1 Thess. 5:10 Who died for us**, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

**He died for us – for me – for a sinner like me.**

**Romans 5:6** For when we were yet without strength, in due time **Christ died for the ungodly.**

**1 Corinthians 15:3** ... how that **Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;**

Are you a sinner? Are you ungodly? Jesus Christ died for you. You know what you get?

**Heb. 12:2** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; **who for the joy that was set before** him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Salvation:**

**1 Thess. 5:9** For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

A full and final salvation – your soul and spirit are saved and your body will be saved at the Rapture.

**1 Thess. 5:10** ...whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

The “wake or sleep” refers to: the dead in Christ and the alive at the Rapture will both live together with him – forever!

**Psalms 27:4** One *thing* have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

**Psalms 23:6** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

### **Salvation:**

We are saved by trusting in Jesus Christ ONLY

**John 14:6** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

**Acts 4:12** Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

His blood paid for our sins

**Colossians 1:14** In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

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

We put our faith in His blood

**Romans 3:25** Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Give your heart to Jesus Christ & trust that His blood paid for your sins

**Romans 10:13** For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

**John 5:24** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

### **Salvation:**

- It should cause us to comfort one another vs. 11
- It should cause us to edify one another vs. 11

### **Comfort and build up one another**

**2 Corinthians 5:15** And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

**Hebrews 3:13** But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

There was a different time of apostasy – it was before the time of Jesus Christ – and it is recorded:

**Malachi 3:16** Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard *it*, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

God is keeping track / we need each other / stay faithful / be comforted – 1 The. 4:18

- **It should cause us to value those in the ministry vs. 12-13a**

Think of missionaries – live in foreign culture / love people that do not love him / sacrifice solid income / sacrifice assurance of retirement / raise their children in foreign land / lose support \$\$ over time rather than obtain raises on a regular basis / spend lonely holidays away from family on a foreign field

- **It should cause us to be at peace among ourselves vs. 13**

Saved ought to have peace – it ought to be a significant aspect to you on the inside:

**Colossians 3:15** And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

**James 3:18** And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

**Matthew 5:9** Blessed *are* the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

**Galatians 5:22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

**The sacrifice of Jesus Christ changes us – on the inside.**

Did you know that? If you know that, salvation is yours for the asking – be saved today:

**Hebrews 2:3** How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard *him*;

No one / no demon / no angel / no being can stop you from being saved – give your heart to Jesus Christ and be saved today, Today, Now                      INV   INV   INV   INV

## Life 1 The. 5:14-18

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There are many kinds of people in life. Salvation, church attendance, allowing the Holy Spirit to change us, and a relationship with the Lord gives one “stability.” Those of us who are stable, often take it for granted. Not everyone is able to share in this great stability that one has serving the Lord.

Those of us who are stable –

**1 Thess. 5:11** Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

But not everyone fits that category. There are many others in life. We are to love them and view them as the Bible views them. In these verses today, there are some instructions for the treatment of others and an admonition to stay stable in a crazy world. How practical is the Bible!

### ❖ Treatment of Others

**1 Thessalonians 5:14** Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all *men*.

Warn them = means admonish them...

**The Unruly** – the word means like a soldier out of ranks.

A well run church runs like an army. God works on the basis of authority. I have known churches near military bases and they do well – the officers are young and full of energy, but they also know that they need to submit to authority. The Bible is authority; submitting to the Holy Spirit in your life is authority; and the preacher preaches with authority. Military men know submitting to the authority is paramount...which is the essence of the relationship God has with humans.

**The feebleminded** – disheartened / downcast / down in the dumps – comfort them. Have empathy for others = put yourself in their shoes. Don't reprimand them / don't tell them – it must be sin...just give them a kind word / comfort them.

**All Men** –

- **Be Patient** vs. 14

All – people are fickle. Men or women may have sins, defects, idiosyncrasies. Be patient with them.

You will never go wrong being kind.

- **Don't Render Evil for Evil**

Have grace with people.

**Romans 12:19** Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, **Vengeance is mine**; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Let God even the score. You were not put on earth to win; you were put on earth to be a good testimony of what a Christian is be like.

Jesus did not win – in the eyes of this world:

**1 Peter 2:23** Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously:

Jesus did win – in the eyes of the Father:

**John 8:29** And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

Paul did not win – in the eyes of this world:

**2 Corinthians 12:15** And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.

Don't keep score – just love people.

#### ❖ Stay Stable in This Life

**1 Thessalonians 5:16** Rejoice evermore.

**1 Thessalonians 5:17** Pray without ceasing.

**1 Thessalonians 5:18** In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Seems pretty basic. Sounds like the power of positive thinking. No, it is actually the power of walking with God.

#### Walk With God

If you walk with God, you will be joyful and thankful = STABILITY

ILL Pastor Jones in FTL – people will try anything other than trust the Lord. He gives advice – turn to the Lord and give Him all your heart... “anything else please” is their response.

God wants you to walk with Him

**Micah 6:8** He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Oh, but it is sinful times

**Genesis 6:9** These *are* the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man *and* perfect in his generations, *and* Noah walked with God.

Is it for me?

**Psalms 1:1** Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Ps. 1:1 is a whosoever verse – it is for YOU. You can be “The Man”

Walking with God – your heart is a continuous direction toward heaven. Constant communion:

**2 Corinthians 13:14** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, *be* with you all. Amen.

### **Rejoice Evermore**

Christian rejoicing is a deep, calm joy. It is inward. It is priceless. It is attainable.

### **In Everything Give Thanks**

Being a thankful person – because God is good / because your sins are forgiven / because heaven is your home / because the Holy Spirit is your Comforter

What would it cost you to have someone comfort you 24/7? It comes with salvation!

What would it cost you to have a Book delivered to you from heaven? It is here – the ol KJV

What would it cost you to have a clean conscience? It comes with salvation!

❖ I know this all sounds basic – but it is the foundation to as stable life. This is a crazy world. The human mind is a complex entity.

Whatever you are going thru – this will help you greatly. You still have to face life on the outside. But on the inside – you will have Help From God!

So here is a little sermon filled with advice. As with all advice – it is there for the taking.

### **Toward Brethren at Church**

**1 Thess. 5:11** Wherefore **comfort yourselves together**, and **edify one another**, even as also ye do.

### **Toward Others**

**1 Thessalonians 5:14** Now we exhort you, brethren, **warn them that are unruly**, **comfort the feebleminded**, support the weak, be **patient toward all men**.

**For Yourself -- ALL THE TIME:**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16** **Rejoice** evermore.

**1 Thessalonians 5:17** **Pray** without ceasing.

**1 Thessalonians 5:18** In every thing **give thanks**: for this is the will of God...

## Quench Not the Spirit 1 The. 5:19

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**1 Thessalonians 5:19** Quench not the Spirit.

When one gets born again – it is none other than the Holy Spirit that comes and resides within the spirit of man. When I got saved, He indwelt me.

**The Holy Spirit, like a fire, can be quenched.**

Fire gives light, it warms and comforts, it consumes, it purifies and refines, it ascends upward.

**Saved – have a fire burning inside them – it is the Holy Spirit**

- Fire gives light

What is the great attraction to go camping – “blessed homelessness” – the attraction is the campfire.

This world is a dark place – Jesus Christ is the True Light

**John 1:7** The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all *men* through him might believe.

**John 1:9** *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

**2 Corinthians 4:6** For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**John 8:12** Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

The Holy Spirit gives light – He shines into your heart and reveals the dark places in your heart

- Fire warms and comforts

What a blessedness the saved have – no matter what comes in life – you have a Comforter indwelling. We possess that which is priceless. 4 times, Jesus called Him the Comforter – One to come along beside and help – He not only comes along side to help – He does this while He lives within your spirit.

**John 16:7** Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

He assures you that you are saved:

**Romans 8:16** The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

**2 Corinthians 13:5** Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?



- Fire consumes

You get a fire hot enough – it will consume just about anything. I've done it.

The Holy Spirit will work in your life – consumes – in a good way.

**1 Corinthians 16:15** I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and *that* they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)

Addicts spend about \$30 / day for their fix. They need their fix or they withdraw. Nothing wrong with being addicted to the Lord – not mentally unstable – but to love the Lord with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind....

The Spirit of God wants to wean you off this world and get you to:

**Colossians 3:2** Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Why should we do this? Col. 3:2 is after Col. 3:1

**Colossians 3:1** If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

- Fire purifies and refines

The sinful heart is purified as the Holy Spirit of God, the Word of God and the Blood of Jesus Christ all work together – to purify and refine your heart.

We cannot purify our heart – our nature is sinful. We need a supernatural work to do this.

- Fire ascends upward

When you get saved –

**Romans 8:15** For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby **we cry, Abba, Father.**

Natural to talk to God – as your Father. Natural for your inward spirit to ascend upward.

**Micah 6:8** He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and **to walk humbly with thy God?**

- Fire needs to be fanned. It needs to be stirred.

**2 Timothy 1:6** Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

*Put another log on the fire* keeps the fire burning. We need fellowship.

**Fire may be quenched** What quenches the Holy Spirit

**Sensuality** – not a Bible word – lust is a Bible word, evil concupiscence (longing for that which is forbidden) – unfortunately this world is filled with lust – guard your eyes & mind

**Galatians 5:17** For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

**Covetousness**

**Colossians 3:5** Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

How do we “not quench the Spirit”? Quench the lusts of the flesh – Col. 3:5

The flesh is sooooo dastardly – you feed it 1 meal – it wants 2 meals. You feed it 2 meals, it wants 3 meals. The flesh always wants MORE.

How much pornography is enough? How much cocaine is enough? How much drunkenness is enough? How much lust is enough? How much love of money is enough? How much gambling is enough?

Ask old people – how many fast food places where there when they were little? Today, they are everywhere - easily accessible. In a similar way – access to the lusts of the flesh is everywhere. We must be wise as it is sooo easy to get involved in something that will quench the Spirit.

**Pride**

**James 4:6** But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

**Lukewarmness** Keep your heart hot

**Revelation 3:15-16** I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

The Holy Spirit of God, God, the Holy Spirit is the One Who speaks to your heart – examine your heart. Does the Holy Spirit reside inside? Is He tugging on your heart for you to be saved? Is He shining a light on a particular sin in your life?

No one knows – but you and the Holy Spirit. The wisest decision is to give in and submit to God. Give Him all your heart.

God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

**He wants to forgive, He wants to save, He loves you – but it is your heart – your decision**

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## Despise not Prophecyings

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**1 Thessalonians 5:20** Despise not prophecies

The Messenger – once a prophet, now a pastor

➤ **Bible Preaching**

**A) To proclaim – to herald as a public crier**

**Matthew 3:1** In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

**Matthew 4:17** From that time **Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent:** for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

**2 Timothy 4:2** Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Also Mark 1:38, 1 Cor. 1:21, 2:4, Titus 1:3

**B) To declare good news – literally “to preach the gospel”**

**Acts 5:42** And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

**Acts 8:4** Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

**C) Prophecy**

Prophet – one who **spoke for God as a forth-teller or as a fore-teller**. Before the Bible was completed, the prophet would speak N.T. doctrine (*fore-teller*) while only possessing the O.T..

**Ephesians 4:11-12** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

**Ephesians 2:20** And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*;

Thus – apostles (only 12), prophets (N.T. preaching before it was completed), and now pastors....

God would grant miracles, signs and wonders as the prophets preached. (1 Thessalonians and 1 Corinthians written about 53 A.D. – no N.T. yet)

**Hebrews 2:4** God also bearing *them* witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

The prophecy before the completion of the N.T. would include inspired preaching of church doctrine without a N.T..

This **word** used for **prophecy as a fore-teller** of N.T. doctrine is found in **1 Cor. 14:6, 14:22 and 13:8**.

**1 Corinthians 13:8** Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail... (done away)...

The idea of **prophecy as telling-forth** is found in **1 Cor. 14:1-5, 14:24, 14:31, 14:39**. This is exactly the same as Bible preaching done today. Let us look at what Bible preaching does.

- Bible preaching edifies the church, not the man

**1 Corinthians 14:3** But he that **prophesieth** speaketh unto men to **edification, and exhortation, and comfort**.

- Bible preaching edifies the church, not the man

**1 Corinthians 14:4-5** ...but **he that prophesieth edifieth the church**. I would that ye all spake with tongues, but **rather that ye prophesied**: for greater *is* he that **prophesieth** than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that **the church may receive edifying**.

- Bible preaching convicts an unbeliever of the secrets of his heart

**1 Cor. 14:24-25** But if all prophesy, and there **come in one that believeth not**, or *one* unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: And thus are **the secrets of his heart made manifest**; and so falling down on *his* face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.

- Bible preaching teaches and comforts the saved

**1 Cor. 14:31** For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.

- Bible preaching is encouraged

**1 Cor. 14:39** Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.

➤ **Preaching – your attitude / your response to it**

**1 Thessalonians 5:20** Despise not prophesyings.

Definition of *despise*: Do not treat preaching as of no account. Do not disregard it, reject it or despise it.

Jesus spoke of a sower went forth to sow – sowing the Word of God – the response of the ground – is the heart of man --- **Luke 8:15** But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep *it*, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Your heart either receives Bible preaching or it is like water off a duck's back. The Bible says:

***Despise not preaching – receive it as it is – the very Word of God***

**1 Corinthians 1:21** For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

## Prove All Things – The Authority

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**1 Thessalonians 5:21** Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

Who is the subject of this sentence? Prove is the verb / hold fast is the verb

The Subject is YOU. You are to prove all things. YOU are to hold fast that which is good.

You decide. You have a brain, an eternal soul and a will. Ultimately you make your own choice.

- 1) No one escapes judgment

**Romans 14:12** So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

- 2) Be careful – as you may even deceive yourself

**Jeremiah 17:9** The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

We need to be extremely wise with our soul.

**Matthew 16:26** For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

**1 Thessalonians 5:21** Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

### Can you trust the experts?

Eggs are bad for you.	Eggs are good for you.
Coffee is bad for you.	Coffee is good for you.
Butter is bad for you.	Margarine is bad for you.
Global warming is here.	Record cold is here.
Bloodletting is healthy.	Baptism forgives sins.
There are 7 steps to heaven.	Just be good and you will make it.
The Bible has errors.	Jesus Christ was just a man.
Only our church can get you to heaven.	
Trust the Pope.	Evolution is true.
Sin is man-made.	

**1 Thessalonians 5:21** Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

What is found to be true – embrace it & hold it fast

What is found to be false – reject it and discard it

### Who do you believe? Who do you trust?

There is only ONE that you can trust without reservation – GOD.

There is only ONE Authority that you can trust – the Bible.

The Bible – changed lives / is ridiculed / is banned in 52 countries

The Bible – is hated / is loved / millions have given their lives and shed their blood for this Book

Commentaries will tell you that the word used “to prove” that which is good, is a word to test the value and nature of metals. There is a big difference between Gold and Fools Gold.

We must discern. BTW – The Bible encourages free inquiry.

**Acts 17:11** 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.

I am here to tell you that there are reasonable, logical, and intelligent reasons to believe the Bible is the Word of God and can be trusted as the Final Authority.

Trusting the Bible is not a leap into the dark, but a step into the light.

The Bible –

- **Proof of Inspiration** 40 human authors - written over a time span of 1,500 years - written on 3 continents – yet has one divine author – the Holy Spirit of God. 66 Books dovetail into 1 Book!

**2 Timothy 3:16** All scripture *is* given by **inspiration of God (God-breathed)**

**2 Peter 1:20-21** Knowing this first, that **no prophecy of the scripture** is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but **holy men of God spake as *they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.**

All Scripture = holy men - moved by the Holy Ghost – the end product is the very Word of God

**Proverbs 30:5** Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

**Psalms 12:6-7** The words of the LORD *are* pure words: *as* silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

**John 17:17** Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

- **Fulfilled Prophecy is proof of inspiration**

### **The Birth of Jesus Christ**

**Micah 5:2** But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting.

**Luke 2:1-6** And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (*And* this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house

and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

**Isaiah 7:14** Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

**Matthew 1:18-25** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

### **The death of Jesus Christ**

**Isaiah 53:5-7** But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

#### ➤ **Central Theme of Bible is proof of inspiration**

The Blood of the Lamb is the central theme

**Exodus 12:13** And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye *are*: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy *you*, when I smite the land of Egypt.

**1 Corinthians 5:7** Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

**John 1:29** The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

**Hebrews 9:22** And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

**Colossians 1:14** In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

**Revelation 5:6** And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

**Revelation 5:9** And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

**Revelation 7:14** And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

**Acts 8:32-35** The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

The authority – the Bible

The Bible teaches us to have faith – not blind faith – Faith...

**Romans 3:25** Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Faith has to have a foundation – the foundation is the Word of God

The Word of God tells us to put your faith in the Blood of Jesus Christ.

Forgiveness of sins is found in what is the central theme of the Bible –

The Blood of the Lamb

It is the ticket to heaven                      the only way to have sins forgiven

Trusting in the Blood of Jesus Christ is based upon the Word of God. If you would sincerely search and seek – you would find that there is reasonable, logical and intelligent reasons to believe the Bible is the very Word of God.

You will find that putting your faith in the Blood of Jesus Christ as payment for your sins is a step into the light, not a leap into the dark.

***Take a step of faith – and rest your eternal destiny upon this BOOK***



## Prove All Things – Your Salvation

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**1 Thessalonians 5:21** Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

- Who is the subject of this sentence? Prove is the verb / hold fast is the verb
- The Subject is YOU. You are to prove all things. YOU are to hold fast that which is good.
- You decide. You have a brain, an eternal soul and a will. Ultimately you make your own choice.

**Some sobering Bible verses:**

**Romans 14:12** So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Be careful – as you may even deceive yourself

**Jeremiah 17:9** The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

**Matthew 16:26** For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Commentaries will tell you that the word used “to prove” that which is good, is a word to test the value and nature of metals. There is a big difference between Gold and Fools Gold.

What could be the most important thing to *PROVE*?

**2 Corinthians 13:5** Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

### **HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM SAVED?**

**1. Ask the Holy Spirit** – He lives inside every saved person & it is His job to tell you that you are saved

**Romans 8:16** The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

**2. Does Jesus Christ dwell inside your spirit?**

**Colossians 1:27** To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

**1 John 5:11-12** And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

**3. Do you have unexplained Love, Joy & Peace**

**Galatians 5:22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

**4. Does the Word of God speak to you?** During preaching – it will comfort you and convict you

**1 Thessalonians 2:13** For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

## **5. Do you love Christians?**

**1 John 3:14** We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death.

## **6. Are you a new creature?**

**2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

There is a part of you that is – from above – from God – unexplained other than you got saved!

## **7. Are your sins forgiven?**

**Romans 8:1** *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

The Blood of Jesus Christ has quieted the voice of condemnation from the conscience.

Do you speak up for Jesus Christ? Do you love missions?

Being saved does not make you perfect, sinless, better than others. In fact, it ought to humble us to realize we are just sinners saved by grace. There is NOTHING good about me.

**Being saved is --- Christ in you. Does Jesus Christ live in your heart? Is He your Saviour?**

**Majority opinion means nothing.**

**1 Peter 3:20** Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

**Matthew 7:13-14** Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Invitation is an opportunity to respond to the Bible. God has spoken to you – now you can respond to God. If the Holy Spirit has been tugging on your heart / if God has been showing you how sinful you are - -- then you can be saved – TODAY.

Come to Christ and be saved.

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## Good & Evil

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**1 Thessalonians 5:21-22** Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil.

Here again – the verbs are: Prove / Hold fast / Abstain  
Who is the subject? You

Prove – means to test

Sincerely – one can be sincere, but sincerely wrong. Eternity is a long time to be wrong.

Each is to make a final decision for themselves.

There is Bible promises for the one who is truly sincere with God.

**Matthew 7:7** Ask, and it shall be given you...

**Jeremiah 29:13** And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Truth is a quest. Seek truth.

**John 14:6** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

**John 17:17** Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

### Beware

**1 John 4:1** Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

**2 Peter 2:1** But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

**Ephesians 4:14** That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

For every doctrine – there is only 1 truth. Some doctrines are more critical than others. Some truths are more important than others.

We naturally tend to do evil. Truth is one. Error is manifold.

To serve the Lord is to be singleminded. Sinfulness is many faceted.

Now to our text: Prove that which is good, hold fast / abstain from all appearances of evil

❖ **Abstain from all appearances of evil**

Lust of flesh – over-eating; pornography; homosexuality; adultery; fornication; drunkenness; drugs

Lust of eyes – covetousness; materialism; love of money

Pride of life – not being humble to the Lord

Sins of the spirit – bitterness, envy, jealousy, hateful, evil speaking, anger

Avoid apathy

**Revelation 3:15-16** I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

❖ **Prove that which is good – when you find it – hold it fast**

What is Good?

- 1) Do what the Bible says = this is Faith
- 2) Look for the Blessed Hope = this is Hope
- 3) You are spiritually married to Jesus Christ = this is Love

➤ **Do what the Bible says = this is Faith**

Not just know what the Bible says – but DO what you know to do

“Observe to Do” is a biblical phrase – found 26 times in the Bible

**Joshua 1:7-8** Only be thou strong and very courageous, that **thou mayest observe to do** according to **all** the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it *to* the right hand or *to* the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that **thou mayest observe to do** according to **all** that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and **then thou shalt have good success.**

**James 1:22** But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

If you DO what the Bible says – your life will have a solid foundation

**Matthew 7:24-25** Therefore whosoever **heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them**, I will liken him **unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock**: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

**Matthew 7:26** And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

**Matthew 7:27** And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and **great was the fall of it**

A house founded upon an improper foundation will not be discovered until some tragedy occurs.

Prove that which is good – hold it fast. Do what Bible says = Faith -- hold it fast

➤ **Look for the Blessed Hope = this is Hope**

**Titus 2:13** Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Jesus promised this

**John 14:1-3** Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

How will this happen?

**1 Thessalonians 4:15-16** For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

**1 Thessalonians 4:17** Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Prove that which is good – hold it fast. Look for the Rapture = Hope -- hold it fast

➤ **You are spiritually married to Jesus Christ = this is Love**

**Romans 7:4** Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, *even* to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

**Ephesians 5:30-32** For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

You are spiritually married to Jesus Christ. He will never let you go

**Hebrews 13:5** *Let your conversation be* without covetousness; *and be* content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

**Genesis 28:15** And, behold, I *am* with thee, and will keep thee in all *places* whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done *that* which I have spoken to thee of. (**JACOB**)

**Joshua 1:5** There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. (**JOSHUA**)

**1 Chronicles 28:20** And David said to **Solomon** his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do *it*: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, *even* my God, *will be* with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.

He will neither withdraw His *presence* ("never leave thee") nor His *help* ("nor forsake thee")

Prove that which is good – hold it fast. Stay in love with the Lord = Love -- hold it fast

**1 Corinthians 13:13** And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.

Hold it fast / abstain from all appearances of evil:

**Romans 12:21** Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

**Romans 8:2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Like an eagle soars in the heavens, so the Christian should soar above this sinful earth

**Romans 8:2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

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## Sanctification of the Triune Man

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

God sanctifies us = set us apart

He wants us to sanctify ourselves. Look at the definition of these words:

Preserved = to guard, to keep

Blameless = without fault

He sanctifies us WHOLLY = complete in all respects – through and through; altogether

He wants us our WHOLE spirit, soul & body be sanctified / WHOLE = in all aspects

Our spirit, soul and body works together to sanctify ourselves – to preserve blameless...

How do we do this?

➤ **1 Thessalonians 5:16-22**

- Rejoice evermore.
- Pray without ceasing.
- In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
- Quench not the Spirit.
- Despise not prophesyings.
- Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.
- Abstain from all appearance of evil.

For skeptics that say – I don't believe it if I don't see it. I just don't believe in soul or spirit

**That which you cannot see controls your whole life**

What is it that you cannot see? Thoughts / Feelings / Love / Attitude / Heart of a human being

Jesus said, Ye must be born again – **born from above – cannot see it!**

**John 3:8** The **wind** bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

You cannot see the wind – do you believe in it? It has great influence – note today's wind

God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless...

God sanctifies us / We are to be preserved blameless... **How are we to sanctify ourselves?**

Our spirit, soul and body work together – in our attitudes, thoughts, feelings... in the unseen areas of life

What area are you lacking in? SEE 1 The. 5:16-22:

**Rejoice** evermore.

**Philippians 4:4** Rejoice in the Lord always: *and* again I say, Rejoice.

**Pray without ceasing.**

Walking with God – an attitude of communion with God

In every thing **give thanks**: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Gratefulness – thankful for everything – Dan Freeman report – persecution is real

**Quench not the Spirit.**

Obey the Holy Spirit as He speaks to your spirit

**Despise not prophesyings.**

Don't treat preaching lightly

**Prove all** things; **hold fast** that which is good.

Last Week – Faith; Hope; Love – hold it fast

**Abstain** from all appearance of **evil**.

Avoid sin

**We need a balance – We need to examine ourselves.**

Am I born again?

What area do I – not my neighbor – but me – what area do I need to change?

The only one you need to please is the Lord. He sees all. God see into the innermost of your heart

He reveals yourself to yourself with the Word of God. It is alive

**Hebrews 4:12-13** 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 discern*er of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but **all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.**

As God speaks to your heart – obey. There is liberty in obeying the Lord!

***Today can be a life-changing day! Obey the Lord today***



## The Triune Man – the Body

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

God created us as a triune being. In the next few weeks, we will see what the Bible tells us about ourselves.

ILL Mechanic – Haynes manual

Dietician – books on good health

Human Physical Body – Grey’s Anatomy

How Body / Soul / Spirit work together – Bible is our manual

You need to know how God made you. Your spirit, soul and body are inter-related. They are intertwined and each one affects the other two.

### Your Body

Here are some things in the Bible that you can do with the body / things that affect the body:

Gluttony

Drunkenness

Drugs

Pornography

Fornication

Adultery

Homosexuality

Energy Drinks

Excessive Sleep

Ill Health (out of your control)

BTW 19 times in the Bible, “male & female” is referenced. No need to try to figure out your identity – you are either a guy or a girl. Period. End of story. Boy or Girl

Your body carries around your soul – similar to a car. The driver decides where the car goes – don’t blame a car for an accident; blame the driver.

ILL Car goes by – there goes Charley – the car is going around, but Charley is the driver. Your body moves from place to place, but the real you is your soul.

Your body does what the spirit and soul dictate.

There are two major entrances to the soul – entrances to the soul via the body:

**2 Peter 2:8** (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in **seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul** from day to day with *their* unlawful deeds;)

### Seeing & Hearing – can vex your soul

It is unbelievably important that you control your eyes and ears.

Major influences in life today are Internet, TV, radio, and music

You can vex your soul via eyes and ears. Two big areas are:

1. Pornography can vex your soul. It will plague, torment and afflict your soul.

2. Rock music is from the devil - -

**Ezekiel 28:13** Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone *was* thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

America has been transformed since the 1960's – what was the big influence of the 60's?

Immorality, Drugs and Rock & Roll

Also where you go

**2 Peter 2:8** (For that righteous man **dwelling among them**, in seeing and hearing, vexed *his* righteous soul from day to day with *their* unlawful deeds;)

**Who wants to reign in your life? Your body**

Gluttony	Drunkenness	Drugs	Pornography
Fornication	Adultery	Homosexuality	Energy Drinks
Excessive Sleep			

How are we to deal with this?

**1 Corinthians 9:27** But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Pulpit Commentary *I bruise my body*, (Keep under my body) *and lead it about as a slave* (into subjection)

Barnes Notes *to strike under the eye with the fist...as we say, black and blue; or, as is termed, to give any one a black eye* (Keep under my body)... *to bring it under slavery* (into subjection)

**Your body desires for you to obey it – Paul tells what to do!**

When you get saved – it is by grace. Does that give you a license to sin?

**Romans 5:20** Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

**Romans 6:1-2** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Just because you are saved, it doesn't mean you will not desire to sin

## **Who is going to reign in your life?**

The body loses its power via being crucified with Christ.

**Galatians 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.

**Romans 6:6** 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.

## **You have a choice**

**Romans 6:16** Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

- Pathway is to Yield

**Romans 6:13** 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.

- Delivered from the power of sin

**Romans 6:17** But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

**Romans 6:18** Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

## **Body – you will not do what you want –**

My spirit tells my soul to tell my body what you will and will not do

## **One day, the saved person's body will be saved**

**Ephesians 4:30** And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

**Romans 8:23** And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.

God will restore us to a position – just as if Adam and Eve had not sinned.

Body, soul and spirit all saved in a glorified state.

## The Triune Man – the Body

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### The Body Formed from Dust

Genesis 2:7 “And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”

Genesis 3:19 “In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.”

“With simplicity, the Word of God declares that God formed man’s body from the dust of the ground. Chemically, this is true. One scientific authority states that fifteen elements of the soil are represented in the human body.

These are as follows: calcium, chlorine, fluorine, hydrogen, iodine, iron, magnesium, manganese, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus, potassium, silicon, sodium, and sulfur.

Thus, it may be seen that the testimony of science reiterates the Biblical disclosure that the human body is of the earth, earthy (I Cor. 15:47-49), and the spirit of man, like a treasure, is contained in earthen vessels’ (2 Cor. 4:7).” (Lewis Sperry Schafer, Systematic Theology, Vol II, p.145-146)

The name *Adam* may be derived from ‘*adhamah*’ meaning *ground*.

### The Body - Fashioned by God

Psalms 139:13-16 “For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made: marvellous *are* thy works; and *that* my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, *and* curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all *my members* were written, *which* in continuance were fashioned, when *as yet there was* none of them.”

Your body has been uniquely designed and fashioned by the Creator. We need to understand we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

“Did you know that 80% of all teenagers don’t like the way they look? Are you one of them? Your self-rejection is a result of accepting the values of the world instead of God, so you may try to gain acceptance by compensating for your *deficiencies* in ways that will be detrimental to your spiritual life.

Remember, God’s purpose for you is not a beautiful and perfect body. It is to make you like Jesus Christ. The bottom line for most people is that they care more what people think than what God thinks. The clear thinking, clean hearted person is aware that, “Man looketh on the outward appearance, but God looketh on the heart.” They are smart enough to accept those things which cannot be changed.

You must accept yourself the way you are in most areas. Change what you can, but realize that God loves you as you are and will use you to bring praise and glory to Himself. God loves you as you are, so why don’t you love and accept yourself.” (Dr. Don Boys, Your Health, p.86)

## **Physical Health is Related to Spiritual Health**

Your spiritual life and attitude will directly affect your body and its health.

We should not neglect the outer shell while attending to our inner components. Our life shall suffer if we commit this blunder.

Proverbs 3:7-8 "Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones."

Every day you use up to a trillion red blood cells that must be renewed. Your red blood cells are manufactured in the bone marrow. How critical is it that we keep our bones as healthy as possible. The Word of God tells us that our bones can be made better or worse by our spiritual life.

Proverbs 14:30 "A sound heart *is* the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones."

Proverbs 16:24 "Pleasant words *are as* an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones."

Proverbs 17:22 "A merry heart doeth good *like* a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones."

Proverbs 18:8 "The words of a talebearer *are* as wounds, and they go down  
into the innermost parts of the belly."

If a person lives right, it will affect their body.

Proverbs 3:21-24 "My son...keep sound wisdom and discretion... thou shalt lie down,  
and thy sleep shall be sweet."

Proverbs 13:25 "The righteous eateth to the satisfying of his soul..."

Proverbs 14:30 "A sound heart *is* the life of the flesh..."

Proverbs 15:4 "A wholesome tongue *is* a tree of life..."

## **The Believer and the Body**

"The present body is unredeemed. The saved person is a saved being within an unsaved body.

Philippians 3:21 "Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 "So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

1 John 3:2 "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

Paul suggests that the life from Him is a treasure which is held in an earthen vessel

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

**There are some terrific Bible truths concerning the body. These truths have far-reaching implications.**

**The Holy Spirit indwells your body. He is a gift from God.**

Romans 8:9 “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

The Holy Spirit descended on the Day of Pentecost – He started His indwelling ministry that day. The moment you received Jesus Christ as your Saviour, the Holy Spirit also indwelt your body.

**The Holy Spirit stays in your body forever.**

John 14:16-17 “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

**This Bible truth is for all believers after the resurrection.**

John 7:38-39 “He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)”

**Your body belongs to God.**

1 Corinthians 6:13 “Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now **the body *is* not for fornication, but for the Lord**; and the Lord for the body.”

1 Corinthians 6:20 “For **ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.**”

**Your body is in union with Christ – one flesh**

Ephesians 5:30-32 “For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, **and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.**”

As husband and wife are united as one flesh, even so the relationship between Christ and our body is also one flesh. The Word of God teaches that we are „members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.“ We do not have to get to heaven for this union to be a reality – it is already so.

Being one flesh with Christ means that His body is joined to our body. This ought to change the way we live and act. But what ought to be more life-changing than this is the fact that all that He is, we are. We are members of His body, bone of His bones. What a blessed truth!

All that He is, I am one with Him. This is eternal security – He'll not be in heaven and leave me behind. I'll not go to hell and take Him with me! Where He is -- so also will I be there.

Martin Luther describes this great spiritual truth thusly: "By faith thou art so glued to Christ that of thee and him there becomes as it were one person, so that with confidence thou canst say: I am Christ, - that is, Christ's righteousness, victory, etc., are mine, because He clings to me and I to him, for we have been joined through faith into one flesh and bone."

John Bunyan stated, "The Lord led me into the knowledge of the mystery of union with Christ, that I was joined to him, that I was bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh. By this also my faith in him as my righteousness was the more confirmed; for if He and I were one, then His righteousness was mine, His merits mine, His victory also mine. Now could I see myself in heaven and on earth at once – in heaven by my Christ, my risen head, my righteousness and life, though on earth by my body."

In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells of our union with Him and the Father:

John 17:21-23 "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me."

We are in Christ / Christ is in God / The Holy Spirit seals us. (Eph. 4:30)

God is in Christ / Christ is in us / The Holy Spirit is in us. (Rom. 8:9)

This is an indissoluble union.

Hebrews 13:5-6 states, "...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

**Your body is sealed by the Holy Spirit until the day it is redeemed.**

Ephesians 1:13 "In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise."

Ephesians 4:30 "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

Romans 8:11 "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

***You will receive your glorified body in heaven. For the believer, this is a guarantee.***

## The Body of Jesus

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**Hebrews 10:10** By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

**Hebrews 10:11** And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

**Hebrews 10:12** But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

Last week we preached on the blood of Jesus Christ. Today we preach on the body of Jesus Christ.

5 great truths concerning the body of Jesus Christ: 1) His body was sinless; 2) His body was an offering; 3) His body was crucified; 4) His body was risen; and 5) His body will return to this earth

### **His Body was Sinless**

The Feast of Passover was 1 day the Feast of Unleavened Bread was 7 days.

Passover (blood applied to door posts) – speaks of the Blood of Jesus Christ

**1 Corinthians 5:7** Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

Unleavened Bread (bread) speaks of the body of Jesus Christ

**Luke 22:7** Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed.

Leaven is a picture of sin – like yeast – a little of it taints the whole.

Jesus Christ's body was without sin / untainted / never did a sinful deed / never had a sinful action never had a sinful thought

**2 Corinthians 5:21** For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, **who knew no sin**; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

**1 John 3:5** And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and **in him is no sin**.

**1 Peter 2:22** **Who did no sin**, neither was guile found in his mouth:

Guile = deceit

**John 1:47** Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

### **His Body was an Offering**



He was not killed against His will – He willingly offered His body

- Prophesied 700 years beforehand

**Isaiah 53:10** Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

- In His death, He did not fight back

**Isaiah 53:7** He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

**1 Peter 2:23** Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously:

- He could have been miraculously delivered

**Matthew 26:53** Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

**John 10:18** No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

- He submitted to the will of the Father

**Luke 22:42** Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

- He gave thanks for His body being broken

**Matthew 26:26** And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

### **His Body was Crucified**

**Matthew 26:67** Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote *him* with the palms of their hands,

**Matthew 27:30** And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.

**Matthew 27:35** And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots

**Matthew 27:36** And sitting down they watched him there;

They say crucifixion is one of the most painful ways to die:

**Isaiah 53:10** Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

### **His Body was Risen**

They went looking for His body:

**Matthew 28:6** He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

**Mark 16:6** And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

### **His Body will Return to this Earth**

**Zechariah 14:4** And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives...

**Revelation 19:11** And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

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- His body was sinless = proved He was God in the flesh
- His body was raised from the dead = proved He was God in the flesh
- His body and blood is the only way to forgive sins

There is no other way to be saved

**Hebrews 10:10** By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

If you are unsaved – give your heart to Jesus Christ – trust Him as YOUR Saviour

If you are saved – His body will return to this earth –

**James 5:8** Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

## The Triune Man - the Soul

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

**Mark 4:18-19** And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

**Mark 4:20** And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive *it*, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

You are a triune being – you have a body, a soul and a spirit. The soul is the *real you*. The soul consists of your mind, your will and your emotions. We may refer to the soul as *personality*.

The body will die, but **the soul will live forever**.

For ever = 380 times in the Bible

For ever and ever = 46 times in the Bible

What could be more important than you and your soul.

**Matthew 16:26** For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

It is the job of the pastor to try to wake people up – to get them to concern themselves with their own eternal destiny and if saved, the need to live for eternity.

Billions that have never heard – job of the pastor to stir you – to help with our missions program. It is not to *get your money*. It is to encourage you to invest in a plan that reaches people that have the least gospel.

After death, there will never be another opportunity to do something about those that are lost.

You are here. Where will you spend for ever. You CAN know.

**1 John 5:13** These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

How the soul responds to God.

There are three parts to the soul and two responses that would be here in church. There are four responses Jesus gave in the parable of the sower, but two of those four responses would not apply to a person that is sitting in church on a Sunday morning.

### **Three parts to the soul** Mind / Will / Emotions

Mind – brain

Will – decisions made

Emotions - feelings

#### **Mind – You think for yourself**

You must KNOW about God – we read the Bible and listen to preaching to know about God

You have a brain – you listen, read, and watch people

You think – can I trust the preacher / is what he says true

You think – can I believe the Bible?

#### **Will – You decide**

You decide to come to church

You decide what to believe

God speaks to your heart – now you decide between you & God

Yield to God / Resist God

What can get in the way between you and God? What would keep you from yielding to God?

**Mark 4:18-19** And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

What is keeping you from allowing God to be KING of your heart?

- cares of this world, and the
- deceitfulness of riches, and the
- lusts of other things

That is quite a list. Jesus simplifies everything for us.

**John 10:9** I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

It is not that salvation is too difficult to understand.

- It is that the door is narrow.
- It is that the entrance is Jesus Christ Himself
- He is the door

If “good deeds” was the door, we are all ready. If baptism was the door, we’d all get baptized.

It is a humbling thing – I can do nothing to be saved. I must yield my will – allow Jesus Christ to be KING of my heart – to be saved / if saved, to be right with God.

### **Emotions – feelings**

You may cry or you may laugh and be giddy

Never trust your emotions. Emotions of the soul are the weakest link. One may have an emotional experience without getting born again.

Demons can trick your emotions.

Moses encountered this – what the magicians did was demonic

**Exodus 7:10-11** ...and **Aaron cast down his rod** before Pharaoh, and...**it became a serpent**. Then Pharaoh also called...now the **magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner** with their enchantments.

**Exodus 7:20-22** And **Moses** and Aaron...**lifted up the rod**, and smote the waters that *were* in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh...and all the **waters that were in the river were turned to blood**...And the **magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments**...

**Exodus 8:6-7** And **Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt; and the frogs came up**, and covered the land of Egypt. And the **magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs**...

Don't let your emotions make decisions. Emotions are like the caboose on a train. The last part – not really needed. The caboose on a train makes one feel good.

### **Two responses to the Word of God**

**Mark 4:18-20** And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, **choke the word**, and **it becometh unfruitful**. And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as **hear the word, and receive it**, and **bring forth fruit**, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

Does the Word of God take root in your heart?

Not all saved people are sold out – some 30 / some 60 / some 100 fruit – but all have fruit.

What is fruit?

**Galatians 5:22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

ILL When I got saved – 20 yr. old / never knew any Bible until I got witnessed to. When I gave my heart to Jesus Christ – love, joy & peace were sooo evident...

## One person that decides - YOU

The same sun that melts wax hardens clay. The Lord is the same to all. It is the response of the human heart that determines the destiny of each one.

- The blood – will acquit you or condemn you.

**1 John 2:2** And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

- The Lord Jesus Christ – you will either confess Him as Lord on earth, or you will confess Him as Lord in your condemnation.

**Romans 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.

**Romans 8:1** *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus...

**Philippians 2:9-11** Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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## The Soul – The Will of Man

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### Text: Acts 26:13-19

What made Paul so successful as a Christian? Vs. 19 – he yielded his will to God.

This morning's message is on the will of man.

Your body contains your soul. Your soul is your personality. Your soul = mind, emotions & will

Your mind considers what you think about / emotions are fickle and are the weakest link of the soul.

Your will is the decider – You choose

Life is full of choices and the will of the soul decides

### The Will

#### Example of Jesus

Jesus yielded His will to the will of God

**Luke 22:42-44** Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: **nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.**

And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

**Philippians 2:8** And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and **became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.**

**Hebrews 12:2** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him **endured the cross, despising the shame**, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

#### Example of Saul

**Acts 9:6** And he trembling and astonished said, **Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?** And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

**Acts 26:17** Delivering thee from the people, and *from* **the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,**

**Acts 26:19** Whereupon, O king Agrippa, **I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:**

#### Example of Judas

**Luke 22:47-48** And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him. But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?

What was the problem with Judas – He knew Jesus was the Christ. He saw the miracles and walked side by side with the Lord, but his will was never broken. He was a lover of money.

Willful Judas

### Example of Antichrist

**Daniel 11:36** And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

Compare this verse to

**Luke 22:42** Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

### Example of Lucifer

**Isaiah 14:12-14** How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning...For **thou hast said in thine heart, I will** ascend into heaven, **I will** exalt my throne above the stars of God: **I will** sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will** be like the most High.

### Example of Nebuchadnezzar

**Daniel 4:30** The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

Neb got saved – an extremely prideful man gets saved!

**Daniel 4:37** Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works *are* truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

### What kind of example are you?

Probably one of the most difficult things for a human being to do – yield your will to the will of God

**Romans 12:1** 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*.

### How God deals with your will

- If you are unsaved

Salvation – Ye must be born again – 3 key aspects to it

- 1) The Holy Spirit must be drawing you
- 2) You give of your will



3) You mix faith with what you heard from the Word of God

Do you feel the tug of the Holy Spirit in your spirit? – not your mind –

It is an utterless voice showing you that you need a Savior

Consider these verses in the Bible

**Hebrews 3:7-8** ...the Holy Ghost saith, **To day if ye will hear his voice**, Harden not your hearts...

**Hebrews 3:15** While it is said, **To day if ye will hear his voice**, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

**Hebrews 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.

**Revelation 3:20** Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: **if any man hear my voice**, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

- If you are saved

Yield to the Word of God to allow ourselves to become Christ-like. Christ-like is described as:

**Galatians 5:22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

What is your life evidenced by?

You have a choice between you and the Lord – **Your Will Decides**

Yield to the Lord or be willful / selfish

A saved person has had his/her will broke.

After salvation, you need to allow the Lord to break your will.

**Psalms 34:18** The LORD *is* nigh unto them that are of a broken heart...

**Isaiah 57:15** For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name *is* Holy; I dwell in the high and holy *place*, with him also *that is* of a contrite and humble spirit...

ILL final answer on who wants to be a millionaire?

**Unsaved** Will you resist salvation / cling to self / cling to sin / resist Spirit of God  
When the Holy Spirit draws you and you yield your will – you get saved

**Saved** The 2 natures battle – your will is the decider

## The Soul – Emotions

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**John 3:7** Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

The soul includes the mind, the will and emotions.

**A) Emotions are God-given and are a part of our psyche. Emotions can be for good.** How tragic it would be if we had to be stoic at all times. Emotions help release pent-up feeling in the psyche.

- Tears – a language God understands

**Psalms 56:8** Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: *are they* not in thy book?

“The Romans had a custom at funerals - a friend went to one in sorrow, and wiped away the tears from the eyes with a piece of cloth, and squeezed the tears into a small bottle of glass or earth.” BARNES

**Job 16:20** My friends scorn me: *but* mine eye poureth out *tears* unto God.

**John 11:35** Jesus wept.

- Laughing

**Proverbs 17:22** A merry heart doeth good *like* a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

It is good to vent – to express grief and joy with tears, weeping, laughter, and rejoicing. We could also include praising the Lord, shouting to the Lord, and singing. It would seem that singing is intertwined with emotions. Singing is a sign of a Spirit-filled Christian.

**Ephesians 5:18-19** ...be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

**B) Emotions can torment us.** Dave Hyles wrote:

“Many people are struggling with feelings and their feelings are taking control of their mind. I think this is where depression often takes over. Our feelings tell our mind something and our mind believes it.

When your feelings say all is hopeless,  
your faith says my hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness.

When you're feeling say you are worthless,  
your faith must say I am accepted in the beloved.

When your feelings say go ahead and take your life,  
your faith says my life belongs to him.

When your feelings say I can't go on, your faith says I can do all things through Christ.

Feelings oppress	Faith releases
Feelings push us down	Faith lifts us up
Feelings bring despair	Faith brings hope
Feelings bring defeat	Faith brings victory

The key is strengthening your faith.

When we strengthen our faith, our faith can disarm our feelings and we can win victory in our minds.”

### **C) Emotions can be mistaken as a foundation for faith**

**John 3:6-7** That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

Emotions are not foundational for salvation. Salvation is a **work of the Holy Spirit in your spirit**.

Salvation is not to be drawn to Christ in your mind or with your emotions – your mind and emotions will be involved, but being saved is not a work of the soul.

ILL Man in Hong Kong waiting ‘to feel it’ before he will get saved

Emotions are not the foundation for the leading of the Lord in your life.

**Romans 8:14** For as many as **are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.**

What is the foundation for your spiritual life? TRUTH

John 14:6 **Jesus** saith unto him,

**I am the way, the truth,** and the life...

John 17:17 Sanctify them through

**thy truth: thy word is truth.**

**John 16:13** Howbeit when he,

**the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth...**

Truth never changes!

### **D) Emotions change**

What will change? Your mind, your feelings, your philosophy, your ideas, your circumstances...will all change. What will not change? Truth!

**Malachi 3:6** For **I *am* the LORD, I change not**; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

**Hebrews 13:8** **Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.**

Faith based on emotions is sinking sand. Faith based upon truth will last.

**1 Peter 1:23** Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

**1 Peter 1:25** But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

The Word of God tells us the Blood of Jesus Christ shed for our sins. Faith is based upon this.

**Hebrews 4:2** For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard *it*.

***Mix your faith with the Word of God today! Be saved today! Be forgiven today!***

## The Two Natures of Man

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**Colossians 3:9** Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

**Colossians 3:10** And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

**Ephesians 4:22** That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

**Ephesians 4:24** And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

When you were born, you were born with a sin nature. It is your very nature.

That is why you need forgiveness – to be saved – you are a sinner; guilty before God. Only one correct way to deal with your sin – the Blood of Jesus Christ was shed to pay for your sins.

Put on your thinking cap:

**1 Corinthians 5:7** Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even **Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:**

**Exodus 12:13** And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye *are*: and **when I see the blood, I will pass over you**, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy *you*, when I smite the land of Egypt.

The death angel will pass over you – if the Blood is applied to the door posts of your heart.

That nature did not change when you got born again

Unless you are more spiritual than the Apostle Paul.

- **The Old Man** – our sinful nature

**Romans 7:18** For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.

**Romans 7:24** O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

Salvation deals with the penalty of sin

How do we deal with the presence of sin. The pathway to victory over sin is DEATH

**Romans 6:6** 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.

**John 12:24** Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

**Galatians 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.

Being crucified with Christ allows the Spirit of God to live through you –

and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God,!!

**Galatians 5:16** *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

- **The New Man** – your new nature when you got saved

First of all being born again = LIFE in your spirit

**John 3:6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

**Romans 8:2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Your spirit has life. That life is supernatural. That life is divine. That life is:

**Colossians 3:10** And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge **after the image of him that created him:**

**Ephesians 4:24** And that ye put on the new man, which after God is **created in righteousness and true holiness.**

**1 John 3:9** Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and **he cannot sin, because he is born of God.**

**Ephesians 2:10** For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus** unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

- **Two Natures**

Consider this

**John 3:6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

**Galatians 5:17** For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

What could be more contrary than the sinful nature and the divine nature

**2 Peter 1:4** Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

❖ Jesus Christ = 100% God 100% Man

All God and all man

❖ Saved Person = 100% Holy 100% Sinful

A great desire to love God, serve God, attend church, give, read Bible, pray, witness...

A nature that still has a desire to do its own thing, to sin, to love this world, to live for this world...

When I got saved, the battle is over.

The battle for your eternal destiny is over; but the battle for serving the Lord has just begun.

You need a warfare mentality.

**Ephesians 6:10-12** Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

**Ephesians 6:13** Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

**1 Timothy 1:18** This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;

**1 Timothy 6:12** Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

**2 Timothy 2:3-4** Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

When the time of death arrives, may we say:

**2 Timothy 4:7** I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:

Don't be a softy toward the work of God

**Proverbs 24:10** *If* thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength *is* small.

**Galatians 6:9** And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

**1 Corinthians 15:58** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

## The Triune Man – Issues of the Soul

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### TEXT 2 Cor. 12:7-10

Paul had many issues in life. He had a thorn in the flesh. Most think he had an issue with his eyes. He also had issues – such as

...in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty *stripes* save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; *In* journeyings often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils by *mine own* countrymen, *in* perils by the heathen, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

Your issues are real. My issues are real. Paul's issues are real. They will affect us. Lord willing, we can understand how better to deal with these things in our life.

Because we are a triune being, our body, soul and spirit are intertwined. Our spiritual life can be affected by issues of the body and the soul.

Our body can affect our spiritual life. If you do not feel well, you may have a difficult time feeling spiritual. The body will affect the spiritual life - so will the soul.

What is the soul – the real you / personality / the Greek word for *soul* is *Psyche*

Issues of the Soul - these are real issues within the psyche that will affect us. Here are some of them:

Anxiety	Paranoia	Racing Thoughts	Schizophrenia	ADD
Asperger's	Bipolar	Panic Attacks	OCD	PTSD

Some think these issues are rooted in the spirit. After much reading, pondering and talking with real people, I have concluded that these issues of the soul are similar to having problems with your body.

- 1) We need to accept the issues we have in life and adjust our life accordingly.

The Bible states, "If any would not work, neither should he eat." Many are born with *issues* – one leg; one arm; no arms; blind.... Where there is a will, there is a way. You need to work.

ILL Susie – Dedra's sister – blind

ILL – I can't lift / I can't walk / I can't see good... rather than looking at what you cannot do; find out what you can do! This example would apply to other issues you have with your soul. Whatever it is that you deal with, it is not likely for it to just go away. So we need to learn how to adjust.

- 2) Issues do not negate 'personal responsibility'

Getting a *label* on an issue can be helpful to know that others have similar issues. However, having a label can give one a *victim mentality*. Again, personal responsibility comes into play.

We must learn to adjust our life with issues we have. We must learn *who we are*, and then live life accordingly. Everyone is unique and everyone is a person of value.

3) We are to rest in the grace of God to help us

Are you saved? If you have come to Christ to be saved – it is not of your good works; but it is by the grace of God that you are saved.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

**Titus 3:5** Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Look to Christ and be saved. You are saved by grace, by faith, by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ.

After you are saved, we are to live the Christian life by grace.

**1 Corinthians 15:10** But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which *was bestowed* upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

**What does this verse teach?**

But by the grace of God I am what I am (Accept who you are – it ok to have *issues*)

his grace which *was bestowed* upon me was not in vain (if you do not do anything for the Lord; His grace was in vain – don't attend church; don't give; don't witness; don't love bus kids...)

I laboured more abundantly than they all (God did not save you to sit, He saved you to get up & git)

yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me (We are not in this alone – the grace of God will help you)

**Matthew 11:28-30** Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

- Yoked together - the easy life.

Everyone wants an easy life. NEWS – there is no such thing.

“I’ll handle life by myself” - the difficult life / the lonely life



Jesus said – “My yoke is easy” – why? You are living life yoked up side by side... (2 horses that can pull 8,000 pounds each, can pull 24,000 pounds when pulling together)

- Yoked together – moving forward

**Luke 9:62** And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

- Yoked together – not looking at neighbor’s field but concerned with your life

### **My Issue makes me weak**

The Bible addresses this!

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10** And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: **for when I am weak, then am I strong.**

When we are weak – we learn to rest upon the grace of God.

God did not give you grace – just to be saved. He gives you grace – to help you live life!

36 times the Bible speaks of the *poor & needy*. It is referring to those that are destitute in life. However, in the Psalms, often the *poor & needy* are not those destitute in physical needs, but rather one that have issues! Poor & Needy in need of the Lord to help – poor, dirt poor in spirit – in need of the Lord.

**Psalms 40:17** But I *am* poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me: thou *art* my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.

**Psalms 70:5** But I *am* poor and needy: make haste unto me, O God: thou *art* my help and my deliverer; O LORD, make no tarrying.

**Psalms 86:1** A Prayer of David. Bow down thine ear, O LORD, hear me: for I *am* poor and needy.

**Psalms 109:22** For I *am* poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me.

**We need grace to help. The Bible addresses this.**

**Hebrews 4:16** Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

May God speak to your spirit – to help you know how to deal with your soul and glean wisdom from the Bible and that which has been preached this morning.

## The Soul – The Mind

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### **Text: Romans 7:21-8:2**

“I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

*There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”

### **The Mind is a Battlefield**

**Romans 7:23** But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

**Romans 7:24** O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

The mind is more complex than a computer. The mind, unlike a computer contains love, affection, hate, lust, imaginations, worry, happiness, fear, trust, depression, envy, greed, jealousy and addictions.

There is a battle within the mind of every human being.

Solution

- 1) Salvation

**Romans 8:1** *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

- 2) After Salvation: Spirit rule in your life – your will yields

**Romans 8:2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath **made me free from the law of sin and death.**

### **The saved have access to a new way of thinking**

**John 8:32** And ye shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free.**

Our way of thinking is typically selfish and willful. We need a new nature to allow that to change.

We have access to thinking like Jesus

**Philippians 2:5** Let **this mind be in you**, which was also in Christ Jesus:

**1 Peter 4:1** Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, **arm yourselves likewise with the same mind**: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

**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**.

How can we access this new way of thinking?

**Ephesians 5:18** And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but **be filled with the Spirit**;

It is a supernatural event to think like the way the Lord thinks.

**2 Corinthians 3:17** Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty.

The Holy Spirit & Liberty go hand-in-hand. It is yours for the taking.

Result of yielding to the Holy Spirit:

**Ephesians 5:19-21**

Speaking **to yourselves** in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,

**singing** and making melody **in your heart** to the Lord; **Joy**

**Giving thanks always** for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

**Thankful**

Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

**Others -**

Attitude of Submission to others

**Jesus – 2 days before Calvary – John 13**

**John 13:1** Now before the feast of the passover, when **Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father**, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

**John 13:13-16** Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for *so* I am. If I then, *your* Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

**John 13:17** If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

**Romans 12:3** For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

**Philippians 2:3** *Let nothing be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

### **It is a Daily Transformation**

**Romans 12:2** 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.

**Ephesians 4:22** That ye **put off** concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

**Ephesians 4:24** And that ye **put on** the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

How do we put off and put on?

**Ephesians 4:23** And be **renewed in the spirit of your mind**;

### **Unity in the church comes from each personality having the mind of Christ**

**1 Corinthians 1:10** 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.

2 women at odds – need to be of the same mind in the Lord

**Philippians 4:2** I beseech **Euodias**, and beseech **Syntyche**, that they **be of the same mind in the Lord**.

**Philippians 2:2** ...that **ye be likeminded**, having the same love, *being* of one accord, **of one mind**.

**1 Peter 3:8** Finally, **be ye all of one mind**, having compassion one of another, love as brethren...

You have a mind – your will decides to yield to the Holy Spirit or self. Would you yield your will and mind to the Lord today?

## The Triune Man – the Spirit

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### **Text: John 3:1-8**

There is a spirit in man – it is separate from the soul. The spirit of man is the part that needs to be given life. Ye must be born again – your spirit needs life.

I am talking to your soul – my personality to your personality. God is speaking to your spirit. Listen to the Spirit of God as He speaks to you today. The Holy Spirit will speak to you with (1) the Word of God and (2) an utterless voice – a tug on your heart; something you will just know is from God.

**John 3:6-7** That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

Why does your spirit need life? Sin separates you from God. Your first birth is from Adam – a sin nature. Anyone trying to deny their sinfulness is a huge liar.

Your second birth – from above – Christ in you – is a birth from the Holy Spirit. Let us look closely at the Bible and what it teaches.

**John 3:1** There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

Nicodemus was a religious person. He was an important religious person.

**John 3:2-3** The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Nicodemus was a good man. He was a moral man. He was a kind man. But Nicodemus was not born-again. You may have been a Baptist for your whole life. Perhaps your mother had you in a Baptist church right after you were born. You may have been a deacon, a Sunday School teacher, a pastor, an usher. You may be considered an upstanding church member – like Nicodemus, ye **must** be born again.

**John 3:4-5** Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

As it takes a male and female to reproduce, even so it takes both the Holy Spirit and the Word of God to give new birth.

**Ephesians 5:26** That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

**1 Peter 1:23** Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

**James 1:18** Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

While the Word of God is preached, the Holy Spirit desires to give new birth. This is why we have invitation. Many souls have been saved at the conclusion of the preaching of the Word of God. WHY? God uses preaching.

**1 Corinthians 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.

**1 Corinthians 1:21** ...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

Twice Jesus used the term *verily verily*.

- It is an expression of strong affirmation, denoting the *certainty* and the *importance*

**John 3:8** The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

The wind has a supernatural aspect to it. You cannot create the wind. You make the wind blow – it has a mind and will of its own.

Like the wind, you never know when the Holy Spirit will work, but one thing is for sure – you will know it when He arrives.

Conclusion

**Matthew 18:1** At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

**Matthew 18:2** And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them,

**Matthew 18:3-4** And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven...

**What is necessary to be born again?**

- God's part – the Holy Spirit works in your spirit
- Your part – faith

Jesus explains the simplicity of faith

**John 3:14-15** And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Faith – is a look. Look to Christ and be saved.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ – come to Christ today. Be saved today.

## The Spirit Calls Your Spirit

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**Revelation 3:22** He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

**Hebrews 3:7-8** Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

**God wants to speak to your spirit. God will speak to your spirit.**

Your body is here - church is not primarily for the body

Your soul is here – your emotions may get stirred; your brain may be stirred... but church is not primarily for your intellect to have more knowledge; church is not primarily for your emotions to be stirred...

**Church is primarily for God to speak to you.**

**Hebrews 3:15** While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

There is a grave danger – when God speaks to your spirit – how you respond is paramount.

You have 1 of 2 choices – submit & yield to God or resist & harden your heart.

God wants your heart – your heart will either soften to the Lord or it will harden toward the Lord. A person can sit under the preaching of the gospel for decades and resist the Word of God.

The proper response to the Word of God is to ACT upon it. To not act upon what you know to do is: UNBELIEF:

**Hebrews 3:12** Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

**What does God use to speak to me?**

**Hebrews 4:12** 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.

**What does God speak to me about?**

**Hebrews 4:13** Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

God exposes your heart for as sinful

We are all sinners before a holy God. We have a sin problem.

### **What is the solution?**

**Hebrews 4:16** Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

We tend to what to flee from God when our sin is exposed – God wants to forgive you

God wants to save your soul – His throne is a throne of grace – come to His throne for mercy & grace!!

Come to Christ today – Be saved today – God wants to forgive you today

### **Who is the answer?**

**Hebrews 4:14-15** Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin.

He is a perfect sinless Saviour. He is passed into the heavens, and if you want to make it there – you must go thru Jesus Christ

**John 14:6** Jesus saith...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

**Acts 4:12** Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

### **There is a danger in falling short of what God wants**

**Hebrews 4:1** Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left *us* of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

How do we come short of entering into his rest?

It is – to rest from your good works and rest in God's grace / Faith

**Ephesians 2:8-9** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

**Hebrews 4:10** For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God *did* from his.

You can come short of getting saved by procrastination

**Proverbs 27:1** Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

By not deciding now

**Acts 26:27-28** King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest. Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.



Not exercising faith

**Hebrews 4:2** For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard *it*.

If you hear His voice, and delay – you may say that you will have an opportunity later.

What you have really done – you have hardened your heart.

One of the most dangerous things to do – harden your heart

It is similar to a physical condition – hardening of the arteries – lead to slow blood flow in the body

**Matthew 13:14-15** And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and *their* ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and should understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

**Hebrews 3:7-8** Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

**Hebrews 3:15** While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

**Hebrews 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.

If today you have had God speak to you – you have 1 of 2 choices

Submit to God and give Him your heart – soften your heart to God

Resist God – and harden your heart

In your spirit – you decide – Invitation is a time to respond to the Lord.

This is an opportunity for you to talk to the Lord – at an altar

## The Greatest Day in History

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**Matthew 26:2** Ye know that after two days is *the feast of the passover*, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified.

**Matthew 26:26-28** And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Passover Day – the Day Jesus was crucified – the greatest day in history.

What is the most significant day in your life?

Mine – Day I was born / Day I was born again

What day does the Creator of heaven and earth think is most important?

It was the day the Son of God was rejected and shed His blood to pay for our sins

**God foreknew this would happen** – How does God foreknow?

I have no idea – but I believe it (ILL Electricity; Love of a father; love of a spouse; tornadoes – I have no idea how these originate, but I believe in them)

God foreknew:

- Foretold by Jesus while He was alive

**Matthew 16:21** From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and **suffer many things** of the elders and chief priests and scribes, **and be killed**, and be **raised again the third day**.

**Mark 8:31** And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must **suffer** many things, and **be rejected** of the elders, and *of* the chief priests, and scribes, and **be killed**, and **after three days rise again**.

- Foretold by the prophets

**Isaiah 53:3** He is **despised and rejected of men**; a **man of sorrows**, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

**Isaiah 53:7** He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is **brought as a lamb to the slaughter**, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

- Pre-planned by the Father

**Revelation 13:8** And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the **Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**

Sin separates us from God

Sin was paid for

**Matthew 26:28** For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Jesus' Blood paid for sin

**1 John 2:2** And he is the **propitiation for our sins**: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

**Romans 3:25** Whom God hath set forth *to be* a **propitiation through faith in his blood**, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

**Your eternal destiny HINGES on the blood shed on Calvary**

Jesus Christ gave His blood to pay for your sins.

- He was grateful to be able to do it!

**Matthew 26:27** And he took the cup, and **gave thanks**, and gave *it* to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

- He looked past His suffering:

**Hebrews 12:2** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; **who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross**, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

We too – look past our suffering – you serve Jesus Christ and have bad things happen – look past that – for the joy of others to be saved / the gospel to be spread / to glorify Jesus Christ with your life

**That day at Calvary was a significant day – as our sins were placed upon Jesus Christ**

- **Darkness over all the land** – saddest day for the Creator

**Matthew 27:45** Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

- **My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?**

**Matthew 27:46** And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

**Why?**

Jesus is quoting Psalms 22

**Psalms 22:1** My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? *why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?*

**Psalms 22:6** But I *am* a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.

**Psalms 22:14-15** I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.

**Why?**

**Isaiah 53:10** Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when **thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin**, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** For he **hath made him to be sin for us**, who knew no sin...

**Hebrews 1:3** Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when **he had by himself purged our sins**, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

➤ **Veil rent in two from top to bottom**

**Matthew 27:50-51** Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

Why did this happen?

No need to go thru a High Priest with innocent blood to cover our sins

**John 1:29** The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Jesus Christ – He was our High Priest – it was His own innocent blood – offered for us

**Hebrews 10:12** But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

Your sins have been paid for. You need to give your heart to Jesus Christ and trust His blood to forgive

**Romans 3:25** Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through **faith in his blood**

When you die – Why should you go to heaven?

*The only correct answer – I trusted Jesus Christ' blood to pay for my sins – I am saved*

## God Speaks to You Part 1

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**2 Corinthians 13:14** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, *be* with you all. Amen.

**Revelation 2:7** He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches...

7 times in Rev. ch. 2 & 3 - He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches...

- **God is primarily a Spirit and has a soul (personality) so He can speak to us**
- **Man is primarily a Soul (personality) which has a spirit so God can speak to us**

This morning we will look at the two main ways God speaks to you *in church*.

In the Old Testament, God met at the Tabernacle, later the Temple – on the mercy seat:

**Exodus 25:22** And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which *are* upon the ark of the testimony, of all *things* which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

Today, God meets at the church

**1 Timothy 3:15** But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Jesus is in the midst of the church:

**Revelation 1:13** And in the **midst of the seven candlesticks** *one* like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

**Revelation 1:20** The mystery...and the **seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches**.

In the church, God will speak to you in two main ways – The Word of God & The Holy Spirit

### The Word of God

**Hebrews 4:12** 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 discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

### The Holy Spirit

**John 6:63** It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

**Ephesians 6:17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

### The Pastor

What is the main responsibility of the preacher?

Spirit-filled preaching                      Preaching the Word of God

I can control whether I am preaching the Bible / I can control whether I am right with God

I cannot control the moving of the Holy Spirit

**John 3:8** The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

### **The Church**

How to build a N.T. church. I am not against methods – but the main way to build a solid N.T. Baptist Church is to preach the Word of God and with the help of the Spirit of God...

**Matthew 16:18** And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock **I will build my church;** and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

It is not *my church*.

**Acts 2:47** Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And **the Lord added to the church** daily such as should be saved.

### **God Speaks to You**

What does God speak to you about?

The Word of God cuts and convicts you of your sin

**Hebrews 4:12** 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.

**Ephesians 6:17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

It is a sword

Out of the mouth of Jesus comes the Words of God

**Revelation 1:16** And he had in his right hand seven stars: and **out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword:** and his countenance *was* as the sun shineth in his strength.

**Revelation 2:12** And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; **These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;**

**Revelation 2:16** Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and **will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.**

**Revelation 19:15** And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

A sword cuts and convicts – in the heart – in your heart

The Lord addresses more negative things than positive things – but He will address both:

**2 Timothy 3:16** All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, **for reproof (Negative), for correction (Negative), for instruction in righteousness (Positive)**

**2 Timothy 4:2** Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; **reprove (Negative), rebuke (Negative), exhort (Positive)** with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Your heart is your private area – no one knows what is going on in your heart

The Holy Spirit will woo you to get saved – He will gently prod you to give your heart to Jesus Christ

**Romans 8:16** The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

The Holy Spirit speaks to your spirit

**Romans 2:15** 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;)

Your mind ponders / Your spirit (conscience either accuses or excuses) / Your will decides

**Your mind & spirit work together – and ultimately your will decides**

The Word of God cuts and leaves you with a great need – the Holy Spirit gives you the solution

For the Unsaved:

**Romans 3:25** Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through **faith in his blood**, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

For the Saved:

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

**1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Each Sunday it is my privilege to preach the Bible. It is my obligation to preach it properly. I will be held accountable for what I say – a sobering responsibility.

What you do w/ what you hear = your responsibility. Yield your will to God = forgiveness, peace and joy.

## God Speaks to You Part 2

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- **God is primarily a Spirit and has a soul (personality) so He can speak to us**
- **Man is primarily a Soul (personality) which has a spirit so God can speak to us**

How does God speak to us?

We have a free-will and God is sovereign. God in His wisdom does not violate your free-will as He works in this earth. You choose.

You chose to shower this morning / you chose to come to church / you can chose to listen to the sermon or ignore it and think about other things

The Holy Spirit speaks to your spirit, but allows for your free-will to work.

The Holy Spirit will speak to you about things God cares about.

Some people want the Lord to tell them what lottery numbers to pick / what car to buy / what food to eat.... You have a free-will – you want to buy a house – pray, “Lord give me wisdom as I look....”

You buy a house, you work a job, you eat, you sleep, you live your life – and when you look back on your life, if you have sought the Lord, you will see that the Lord was at work in your life – He just does not micromanage your life.

The Holy Spirit will speak to you about things God cares about.

- **He will let you know that you are saved.** It is the job of the Holy Spirit to tell you that you are saved.

**Romans 8:14-16** For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Abba – croak of a raven / cry of a baby to Dada / Holy Spirit gives you a cry of ‘*God is my Father*’

If you got saved at an early age, you cannot get resaved. You may have left the Lord, but He has never left you. One of the great mysteries of life is the great mystery of who is saved and who is not saved.

It is not our job to figure that out. We learn from the Bible that many seem to be saved but are lost and vis-versa. Many saved live a carnal life.

- **He will open up the Bible to you**

**John 16:13** Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Some say, “I just don’t understand the Bible.” It is a spiritual book inspired by the Holy Spirit – when you are born of the Spirit, the Holy Spirit guides you into truth – it is His job.



**John 17:17** Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth.**

**John 14:6** Jesus saith unto him, **I am** the way, **the truth**, and the life...

- **He will help you overcome sin**

**Romans 8:2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans chapter 8 is the great chapter on the Holy Spirit. We overcome sin with the Holy Spirit helping us – that is a supernatural life – as it is our NATURE to sin.

ILL Eagle overcomes the law of gravity with the law of aerodynamics

**Galatians 5:16** *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

We see our sin and we want to address ‘stop sinning’ – the Bible says ‘walk in the Spirit’ and you will stop sinning!

- **He gives you fruit** – as you allow Him to rule in your life:

**Galatians 5:22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

The best life – Holy Spirit, I yield myself to you – help me to walk in the Spirit by submitting my will to you.

We grow as a Christian as we obey and we become Christ-like. It is a supernatural life!

- **Three Words that describe the Holy Spirit speaking to you**

One of the great quests in life is to discern the voice of the Holy Spirit. Here are the three words:

### **1) Conscience**

Conscience gives us a conscious presence of a supreme Personality to whom we as persons feel ourselves accountable. Conscience is at work in both the saved and unsaved.

It judges: 1) This is right (or, wrong) 2) I ought (or, I ought not)

- “This is wrong”

**Genesis 3:7-11** And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where *art* thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I *was* naked; and

I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou *wast* naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

Who told them they were naked? Conscience did.

Pharisees with woman taken in adultery:

**John 8:9** And they which heard *it*, being convicted by *their own* conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, *even* unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

Woman at the well:

**John 4:29** Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

- “This is right.” Conscience justifies the saved that he/she is living right

**Acts 23:1** And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men *and* brethren, **I have lived in all good conscience before God** until this day.

**Acts 24:16** And herein do I exercise myself, **to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.**

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

**1 Timothy 1:5** Now the **end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience**, and *of* faith unfeigned:

**1 Timothy 1:19** **Holding faith, and a good conscience**; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

- “I ought (or, I ought not)” – this aspect to conscience works with intuition and communion.

## **2) Intuition**

God speaks to you to witness to someone. As you ask God if this is from Him, the burden will increase or it will wane. If it increases, it is likely to be the intuition of the spirit from the Holy Spirit.

Intuition and communion are similar – sometimes intertwined. We must be careful to discern what is in your spirit and not of your soul (Mind / Emotions)

## **3) Communion**

Communion – Webster’s: “the sharing or exchanging of intimate thoughts and feelings, especially when the exchange is on a mental or spiritual level.”

Bible: **2 Cor. 13:14** ...the love of God, and **the communion of the Holy Ghost**, *be* with you all. Amen.

Salvation is to know Jesus Christ personally

**John 17:3** And **this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ**, whom thou hast sent.

Growth is to know Jesus Christ personally

**Philippians 3:10** **That I may know him**, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

God reveals to us via the Holy Spirit

**1 Corinthians 2:9-10** But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But **God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit**: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

**1 Corinthians 2:11-12** For **what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.**

Now **we have received**, not the spirit of the world, but **the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.**

**John 10:27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

How do the sheep hear the voice of Jesus Christ? The indwelling Holy Spirit.

**Acts 13:2** As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, **the Holy Ghost said**, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

**Acts 16:6-7** 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.

Commune with the Holy Spirit –

**Ask the Holy Spirit** – do you dwell in my spirit?

If not, give your heart to Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit will save your soul

If yes, why not yield your life to God –

Dear Lord, I yield my soul to you / again I give you my heart – not to be saved, but because I am saved and you want what is best for me.

Holy Spirit, I want to hear your voice – when I hear your voice, I will obey... Amen

## In The Spirit – Justified or Condemned

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**Genesis 3:9-11** And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where *art* thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I *was* naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou *wast* naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

**Genesis 3:12** And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

These verses are often recognized as the blame-game. Adam blamed Eve as he indirectly blamed God. Eve blamed the serpent.

They are guilty over their sin.

**Romans 3:19-20** Now we 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.

How am I guilty?

**Matthew 5:22** But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment...

**Matthew 5:28** But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

**Mark 7:21-23** For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness...

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

**James 4:17** Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin.

When humans are guilty over sin, they want to deflect; they want to blame; and they do not want to look inside at themselves.

Would you look inside today and allow God to speak to you: Dear Lord, if you speak to me this hour, I will obey. Would you pray that prayer: Dear Lord, if you speak to me this hour, I will obey.

**God seeks you**

**Genesis 3:9** And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where *art* thou?

**Psalms 14:2-3** The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, *and* seek God. They are all gone aside, they are *all* together become filthy: *there is* none that doeth good, no, not one.

**Romans 3:10-11** As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

God reveals Himself to every person. Creation declares...

**Psalms 19:1-4** The **heavens declare** the glory of God; and the **firmament sheweth** his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. *There is* no speech nor language, *where* their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world...

**John 1:9** *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

If one responds to the glory of God / the Creator, and seeks Him, God will reveal to them the grace of God, and they can be saved. Not everyone has enough light to save their soul, but they have enough light to damn their soul.

God will seek you to convict you of sin – so He can save your soul.

**Our sin is exposed to God** – the Bible uses a word to help us understand our exposure – “naked”

**Genesis 3:10** And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I *was* naked; and I hid myself.

**Hebrews 4:12-13** 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 discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but **all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.**

When God exposes your sin – there is nowhere to hide. Note this unusual verse:

**John 15:22** If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin.

People try to cloke their sin in religion, good works, baptism, give to charity, being a workaholic...

Who told thee?

**Genesis 3:11** And he said, Who told thee that thou *wast* naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

How did Adam & Eve know they were naked? God did not tell them. Their conscience told them. It was a work of the spirit in man.

The fact that we have a spirit 1) We are guilty before the Creator, 2) We are accountable to the Creator.

We are not animals – we were created in the likeness and image of God. If you die without Christ, you will die in likeness and image of sinful Adam. If you die with Christ as Saviour, you will obtain a glorified body like the glorified body of Jesus Christ.

**1 John 3:2** Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

**Romans 8:29** For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

### The Solution

**Romans 8:1** *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

The blood of Jesus Christ has quieted the voice of condemnation.

No condemnation = no guilt over sin

**John 8:32** And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

What makes us guilty? Sin

What is the solution? The Blood of Jesus Christ

- Are you unsaved? Trust the Blood as payment for your sin.

**Colossians 1:14** In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

- Are you saved, but sinned?

**1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- Are you saved? Stay right with God and walk in liberty.

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

## Spirit, Soul & Body Affect Each Other

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**2 Timothy 3:15-17** And that from a **child** thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the **man of God** may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

The Bible is for the complete human being. It is for the child and for the man of God.

The Bible leads a child to salvation and it thoroughly furnishes the man of God.

We are winding down our series on the triune man. The Bible is our manual for our triune being.

Our triune being is intertwined. The body will affect the spirit and the spirit and soul can affect the body.

- **Proverbs 17:22** A merry heart doeth good *like* a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Notice both the first part of that verse and the second part of that verse. Wow

When you have the flu, you will not feel very spiritual. Your body affects the soul. Here are some other ways our triune being works together.

### Your Body Directly Affects the Soul

- **2 Peter 2:8** (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed *his* righteous soul from day to day with *their* unlawful deeds;)

Our body directly affects our soul by

1. Where you go – ‘dwelling among them’ (Lot dwelt in Sodom and they influenced him)

**1 Corinthians 15:33** Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

You have seen a muddy glove, but you never see a glovey mud. The ungodly will bring you down if you spend your time there.

**Psalms 1:1** Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

One said, “Show me your friends and I will show you your future.”

2. What you see - ‘in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul’

For the most part, you control / you decide what goes into your eyes

Internet / TV / Reading / Bible Reading...

3. What you hear – ‘in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul’

For the most part, you control what goes into your ears

Type of music / Voices on Internet, radio, TV / communication with your acquaintances

#### 4. Your Daily Habits

The habit of Lot – ‘vexed *his* righteous soul **from day to day** with *their* unlawful deeds’

Your life consists of years, months, weeks, days – what you do every day will determine WHO you are.

On the positive side – church, Bible reading, and prayer as a daily habit will do much good.

#### **Your Spirit is affected by your Body & Soul**

The Bible is preached and the Holy Spirit is working on your heart.

It is the Word of God that works on the spirit, but it is the ears (body) and the mind (soul) pondering as the will (soul) decides to either accept or reject the message.

When one is born again, one of the factors is choice – the choosing to have the eyes and ears exposed to the Word of God.

#### **The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to change your Soul – to transform you from the inside out**

What gives a person lasting change?

It is not music, pizzazz, charisma...it is the Word of God. The soul with its emotions can encourage you, but real lasting change comes from the Word of God.

This is why it is primary in our church

**2 Timothy 4:2** Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

**2 Timothy 3:15-17** And that **from a child** thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the **man of God** may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

**1 Corinthians 1:17** For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

**1 Corinthians 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.

#### **After Salvation, Your Soul is affected directly by the Word of God**

We transform our lives by allowing the Word of God to change us



**Romans 10:17** So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

**Joshua 1:8** This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

**Psalms 1:2** But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

**Psalms 119:9** BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed *thereto* according to thy word.

**Psalms 119:11** Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Our mind becomes lined up with the mind of God. We allow the Bible to become a part of us / we get addicted to it and it changes us. Our mind thinks like God thinks, our eyes see this world as God sees it.

This occurs because as we hear the Word, we hear it with spiritual ears.

**Revelation 2:7** He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches...

### **Our Spirit is Strengthened by the Word of God**

**Ephesians 3:16** That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

The key word – faith

**Hebrews 11:6** But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

The key word to have faith – obey

**Hebrews 11:8** By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

**James 1:22** But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

The result of living by faith – we slowly wean off living for this world and we live for the world to come.

**Hebrews 11:24-25** By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

**Hebrews 11:27** By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

**1 John 2:17** And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

## Body, Soul & Spirit Surrendered

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

**1 Thessalonians 5:24** Faithful *is* he that calleth you, who also will do *it*.

**1 Thessalonians 5:25** Brethren, pray for us.

We will conclude our study in 1 Thessalonians today. These 3 verses give us 3 brief concepts:

1. God wants all
2. Stay Faithful
3. Pray

❖ **1 Thessalonians 5:23** And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**God Wants All**                      **Totality of the whole being...spirit, soul & body**

Love the Lord with all your being

**Matthew 22:37-39** Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Give the Lord your body

**Romans 12:1** 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.

If you give the Lord your body as a living sacrifice, He will also get your soul & spirit

ILL        Imagine a huge offering plate – put yourself in it

Do you want to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

Disciple – a follower / a learner

**Luke 14:33** So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

**Are You Serious About This?**

**Luke 9:57** And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain *man* said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

**Luke 9:58** And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head.

It will not be an easy life.

### **Are You Willing to Die to Self?**

**Luke 9:59** And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, **suffer me first** to go and bury my father.

**Luke 9:60** Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.

### **Are You Willing to Put God 1<sup>st</sup>?**

**Luke 9:61** And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; **but let me first** go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.

**Luke 9:62** And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

### **Stay Faithful**

❖ **1 Thessalonians 5:24** Faithful *is* he that calleth you, who also will do *it*.

**Philippians 1:6** Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

God rewards faithfulness

**Matthew 25:23** His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; **thou hast been faithful** over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

God rewards little things

**Matthew 10:42** And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold *water* only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

The Christian Life is Not in Vain

**1 Corinthians 15:58** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that **your labour is not in vain in the Lord**.

## Pray

❖ **1 Thessalonians 5:25** Brethren, pray for us.

**Hebrews 13:18** Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.

**2 Thessalonians 3:1-2** Finally, **brethren, pray for us**, that the word of the Lord may have *free* course...And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all *men* have not faith.

**James 5:16** Confess *your* faults one to another, and **pray one for another**, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

**1 Timothy 2:1-2** I exhort...supplications, **prayers**, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made

for all men;

For kings, and

*for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

**Matthew 5:44** 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;**

**Luke 6:28** Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.

Pray / Stay Faithful / Give God All

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Ye are not your own

Ye are bought with a price – the Blood of Jesus Christ

Would you die for Jesus Christ? The Lord does not want you to die for Him, He wants you to live for Him:

Would you give the Lord your body as a living sacrifice?

Would you give Him your heart today?

**Revelation 3:20** Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.