THE AIM OF ALL PREACHING
Col. 1:
I. As Paul closes the 1st chapter he does it with 3 every's. These will be the pegs on which we hang the 3 banners of all preaching.
A. Warn every man.
B. Teach every man.
C. Present every man Perfect.
II. With the gospel, we warn every man.
A. 1st see the "every."
   1. Paul a univesary.
   2. In every way wants every man.
   3. Jews didn't believe God needed every man.
   4. Only thing in the world that is for every man is Christ.
      a.) Color blind can't paint.
      b.) Tone deaf can't sing.
B. Now note "Warn."
   1. Admonish.
      a.) Rebuke those who seek a Savior other than Jesus
         (1) Does God live in Indiana.
      b.) Rebuke sin.
   Prov. 28:13 "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper but whoso confesseth & forsaketh them shall have mercy."
   2. None are so good they can afford to be w/o Christ.
   3. None so bad they go beyond his ability to bless.
III. With the gospel, we teach every man.
A. Instruct all.
B. No restriction as to persons or subjects - the whole Christ is for every man.
C. Every man is addressed — every subject is thrown open.
D. Growth in grace depends larger on growth in knowledge.
E. Note it’s done in all wisdom.
   1. Gnostics said wisdom was kept back from many.
   2. Apostles said no exclusive class of intelligentsia.

IV. Present Every Man Perfect.
A. Aim is practical — every man perfect in Christ.
   II Tim. 3:17 "All Scrp.
   1. Full grown.
B. Perfection our goal.
Heb. 5:8–9 "Tho he were a son yet
   1. Perfection comes in Christ, not in ourselves.
   2. We are dogged by the hell hounds of our own deserving.
   3. It’s a perfection desired for every saint.
   4. We aim at highest of standards.
I Cor. 1:29–30 "That no flesh should glory in his presence but of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom & righteousness & sanctification & redemption, that according as it is written, He that glorieth let him glory in the Lord."

V. To This End, Paul Labored.
A. Labor.
   1. Great exertion.
   2. Wear out oneself.
   3. Used in burial inscriptions, stood for strenuous work.
1 Cor. 9:19-23 (Read)

B. Agonize.
1. Struggle like an athlete.
2. Not half hearted – pull you out of game for loafin'
3. Idea of a contest c obstacles, yet held in view is a definite goal.

C. He's divinely sustained.
Phil. 4:13 "I can do all things

West End 3-30-80
'TWAS A SHEEP, NOT A LAMB

'Twas a sheep, not a lamb, that strayed away in the parable Jesus told; A grown-up sheep that had gone astray From the ninety and nine in the fold. Out on the hillside, out in the cold, 'Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd sought; And back to the flock, safe in the fold, 'Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd brought.

And why for the sheep should we earnestly long, And as earnestly hope and pray? Because there is danger, if they go wrong They will lead the lambs astray.

For the lambs will follow the sheep, you know, Wherever the sheep may stray; When the sheep go wrong, it will not be long Till the lambs are as wrong as they. And so with the sheep we earnestly plead, For the sake of the lambs today; If the lambs are lost, what terrible cost Some sheep will have to pay! -- Selected
Some wish to live within the sound
Of church and chapel bell.
I want to run a rescue shop
Within a yard of hell.

C.T. STUDD
To correlate with these figures, let me add the following for your consideration: the average church membership in Arkansas and in Texas is 160 members with an average attendance of 150. The average number of souls converted, baptized by these groups is eight per year.

The most shocking aspect of these figures is that most church-members today do not realize that anything is wrong. Four billion souls on earth, and we are converting per congregation three souls a year—brethren, we are losing the battle.

Harding College Lectures 1977 - "How Can We Reach the Lost?" by Gary Beauchamp - pp. 1-2

Outside the town of Barre, Vermont, there is the famous "Rock of Ages" granite quarry. Some of the finest granite in the world comes from this quarry. The quarry is very deep. Once a visitor standing on an observation platform, looked down into the quarry and said, "My, you have a deep hole here." An official of the company replied, "Yes, we have gone as deep as we can go without going wider." He explained that the pressure of the surrounding earth is so great, if they drilled much deeper without going wider, there might be a disastrous cave-in.

Many Christians desire to go deeper in their Christian experience. They want to go deeper in their understanding of the power of prayer; in their grasp of the Bible's message; in their understanding of the power of love. But the answer comes back, "You have gone as deep as you can go without going wider. Go out to your brother in need. Find out what is troubling him. Take friendship to someone,
When a ship that had been in moth balls for fifteen years was being broken up for scrap, to the surprise of all and the embarrassment of many, workmen found in the hull 522 mailbags containing thousands of undelivered letters. No doubt many of them contained cash, checks, offers of important positions, orders for needed goods, words of comfort—perhaps even love letters and proposals of marriage. All those years they had remained undelivered, locked in the hull of the ship. How many of God's love letters to men, his offers of life eternal, and the wealth of heaven remain stored in the hull of the churches because the appointed messengers of the kingdom of God had not delivered them. The churches are not designed to be dead-letter offices, filled with the undelivered mail of the realm. The deputies of the
Too often, declares Reuel Howe, we say, "The world is not interested in what we have," and so we go into our churches and close the doors behind us. The clergy settle down to be chaplains to the faithful, and the faithful just settle down. Outside those closed doors go thousands and millions of men and women who in one way or another cry, "Please take me back." They do not know that they cry, or for what, or that the answer lies behind those closed doors. It is just possible that if we can hear their cry, they may hear our answer. Ours? No, not our answer, God's--God's answer to them through us, His Church.

"Helping Youth in Conflict" - Francis I. Frellick

Page 103
GREETINGS TO COLOSSE
Col. 1:1-2

I. Perhaps no book so emphasizes the Christ as this one.
II. We want to see if introduced & seek to find in it
the purpose of the Letter. The doctrine of the Person of
A. Written by Paul. Christ is not stated with greater
precision, fullness than in any
1. Shows name of writer other or Paul's epistles.
2. Erdman says Paul's name immediately arrests
attention.
a.) Keen intellect.
b.) Tender heart.
c.) Indomitable will.
d.) Roman citizen.
e.) Combined culture of Jew & GK.
B. Accompanied by Timothy. One who honors God
1.) Our bro. - simplest designation.
2.) Composed no part of letter.
3.) Delights to honor associates.
4.) Great souls never patronize – they elevate men
to true status.
5.) Bro. - we do not walk in aloofness - mutual
servants.
6.) T. = The brother yet no hierarchical sense.
C. To Saints & Faithful Brethren at Colosse.
1. Shows early, name of reader, mostly Gentile
2. Saints - all believers, not a special group.
   Union c God.
3. Word means separation unto God, then moral
   purity resulting from this separation.
   See 9-14 Know – see – head


5. Note names.
   Disciples = learner, sought fuller knowledge.
   Brethren: 1 brotherhood - show love.
   Believe: shared & lived by common faith.
   Christian - found in Christ the sum & substance of life. He's center.

6. Faithful & Good!

7. Never saw city before wrote epistle.

8. Knew by report 1:4, 9 2:1 not seen my face

9. Col. never important - only because of letter.
   Don't know how church started.


D. All to the Glory of God. (Note use of Divinity in Salutation)

1. Apostle of Jesus Christ.
   a.) Claims has the signs.
   b.) Never uses just Jesus in Col.

2. Apostleship by the will of God.
   a.) One sent, envoy, messenger.
   b.) Not earned or achieved but given him by will of God. Not telling how bad man was but how
   c.) Man is what God made him. Great God is
d.) Some epistles didn't cite apostleship.
   Thess. - 1st letter
   Philemon - Friends - Prisoner
   Phil. - never qt. - Servants of Jesus
   Others - authority necessary.

   e.) Will = words weighty due to fact came from God.

   a.) Every hope of Paul was in Christ.
   b.) Chr. in true sphere - in Colosse & in Christ.
c.) Fulfills duties to both worlds.
d.) In Christ more significant than in Col.
e.) Christ more important than a map! Word above life.

4. Peace & Grace via God & Lord Jesus Christ.
a.) Writes concerning the highest expression of welfare.
b.) Main theme - Jesus!
c.) Never uses Jesus as name alone in Epistle.
d.) God the Father - name stands alone - not connected c Christ - proves Almighty close to us.

III. Why so strongly the Divine reference - mentioned 4 times in 2 verses.

A. Colosse.
1. Head of gorge where 2 streams met.
2. On great highway. Church played no later great
4. Otherwise insignificant.

B. Something going on!
1. Lipscomb said Col. teachers refrain from saying anything directly opposed to gospel - only merely it was imperfect & they could supplement it.

C. Unusual Book. 34 words not elsewhere in NT
1. Specialized vocabulary. 1:19-21 & 2:8-23
Col 2:8 "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy:
a.) Philosophy.
b.) Vain or empty deceits.
c.) Tradition.
d.) Rudiments - elemental spirits.
1:16 "For by him were all things created, that are in [ 
  d.) Principalities. 
  e.) Powers. 
  f.) Thrones. 
  g.) Dominions. 
  h.) Completeness. 
  i.) Bodily. 
2. Judiaizers were liberal. 
  a.) Dual creation. God either created evil or is abot [ 
     (1) Creator evil yet God is good. 
     (2) Good God created good beings who created 
         lesser beings & on & on till evil being created. 
     (3) Many mediators, thus in between & must please 
         all. 
     (4) Wisdom personified. 
     (5) Whole universe full of evil spirits. 
     (6) All made war against supremacy of Jesus - are 
         we free of it today. 
  b.) Gnostism. 
     1. Jesus was just 1 being between God & man. 
     2. Still must cope c other spirits. 
     3. Jesus not in flesh. 
     4. Exclusive spirit - aristocrat in wisdom. 
     5. Speculated on creation, evil, angels. 
     6. Rigid asceticism or unrestrained licentiousness. 
  c.) Attitude toward flesh 
     1. Destroy or 
     2. Enjoy by running thru passion & thus degrade it. 
  d.) Hedonism. 
     1. Many GK gods to placate.
2. Today - lawkeeping, astrology, experienced religion, copper bracelet, religion has no solid base, thus needs high power devotionals to turn on.

3. Yet empty - not satisfied - none are, \textit{w/o} gospel, e.) Jesus supreme.
   
   1:15-20
   2:8
   3:1
   4:7 People Jesus loves.

2:6 - continues in power.

Buy area School of Preaching Lectureship
He presses three normative conceptions upon the minds of his readers—the uniqueness of Christ's personality, the completeness of his work, and the finality and perfection of his revelation. The Colossians sought a true idea of God—in Christ dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, of creation—Christ is the creator of all created being, including the angelic orders; of history—all things are from Christ and unto Christ; of redemption—believers in Christ are all buried with him in baptism, and rise with him to walk in newness of life; of atonement—Jesus Christ has by the blood of the cross secured the sinner's peace. They sought a philosophy—in Christ are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden; a higher life—it "is hidden with Christ in God." They sought initiation into the mysteries of God—Christ is the open secret of the universe. They desired to obtain perfection—man is complete in Christ.
Just Who Are We Anyhow?

Col. 1:1-2

I. Identity of ourselves seems to be one of today's problems. Who are we, what do we stand for?
   A. At Harding tough job: 1) Write your mission statement and 2) then write how you plan to accomplish this.
   B. Can any one sermon give details of who we are - but surely it can show part of it.
   C. Paul had never seen the Col. church but as he wrote to them his salutation will partially state whom he thought they were - this we will study.

II. Is the Col. Greeting Our Description
Col.L:1-2 Paul, an apostle of Jesus
   A. Colossee
      1. Small town on southern bank
         Lycus River, Phyrigia, Turkey
      2. Interior Asia minor, 100 miles
         Ephusus, Laodicea, 10 miles away, Hieropolis, 12 miles
      3. Oldest of these 3 cities
      4. All in ruins, Col. on a mountain above the other two
      5. Head of a gorge where two streams unite
      6. On a great highway
7. Valley was center of wool industry, dyeing a significant feature.
8. Between Epherius and Persia
9. Once big but road system changed and it dried up
10. AD 60, about time of this prison epistle major earthquake
11. Completely destroyed AD 700

B. Further background
1. No record of church's establishment
2. Mostly Gentile
3. Prison Epistle

4:18 "Remember my bonds. Grace be
4. Troubled church
   a) Heresy not known - Gnostics?
   b) Emphasis on circumcision, dietary laws, holy days
   c) Cloud over Jesus

III. Now the Salutation
A. Paul
1. He claims authorship
2. Used various terms to describe himself: Prisoner, servant, apostle
3. Was he ever there?

Acts 18:23 "Went over all the co. of Gal & Phry.
4. Name immediately arrest attention
a) Keen intellect  
b) Tender heart  
c) Indominable will  
d) Roman Citizen  
e) Well educated  
f) Fearless  

B. Apostle  
1. One sent  
2. Authorized spokesman  
3. Clothes with authority and endured with the powers of the sender (Vaughn)  
4. Cites his credentials to those who know him not  
5. Thus commends the preaching of Epaphras  
6. Shows Paul thinks he is engaged to the uttermost in work of Christ—pedal to the metal!  
7. Pay the will of God—not man  
8. Serving Jesus Christ—as he never uses name Jesus alone in Epistle  
9. Will of God  
a) Not self appointed  
b) Not man appointed  
10. Assertion of divine authority  
Declaration of independence of all human and earthing  
Lowly disclaimer of
individual merit or personal power.

11. Lightfoot says this expression is a renunciation of all personal worth and a declaration of God's unmerited grace."

C. Timothy
1. Often with Paul on tour
2. Not a joint author
3. A brother — no title
4. The brother not our brother

D. 4 fold designation
1. Saints
   a) Ever in the plural
   b) Holy
   c) Dedicated
   d) Set apart
   e) Not as much excellency of character as set apart to God
   f) Consecrated to service
   g) Holiness not just to persons

Ex 29:31 "See the flesh in a holy place
Ps 65-4 Holy temple
MI 5:17 Holy water

h) Root idea not excellency of character but dedication set apart
i) Moral purity results from this separation
2. Faithful  
   a) Believing  
   John 20:27 "Be not faithful but believing  
   b) Steadfast  
   c) Loyal  
   d) Faithfulness the crown of all relationships with character  
   e) We do well if we can commend all things worthy to be praised in a person (Meyer)  
3. Brethren in Christ  
   a) Brother - from same womb  
   b) As close as limbs joined in a body  
   c) Incorporate  
   d) Saints show union with God  
   Brethren show union with May  
4. At Colosse  
   a) Least important church to which Paul wrote  
   b) We all are somewhere  
   c) Importance only because of letter  
   d) In Christ - most important  
   In Colosse - lesser power
IV. Conclusion
A. Grace
1. Free and undeserving
2. Given by God to man what they can not achieve themselves
3. 155x in NT—if heard NT you heard it
4. Essence of God's saving activity in Christ
5. Grace is the sum of all God's blessings bestowed through Christ (Wesley)

B. Peace
1. 100 x NT
2. Part of every letter
3. Calm tranquility of a soul that looked to the Lord with confidence
4. Wholeness
5. Soundness

C. In God our Father
1. Only instance in salutation where God's name alone stands
2. Not with Christ
3. Shows God's majestic interest in sinner
4. Lord Jesus Christ not in some MMS - see RV

Memorial Service - Harold Warner - 2-1-96

Hixson C/C, Chattanooga 2/11/96
Beckwith (BC) 7/5/98
Westside church, Brownsville, TN (BC) 8/9/98
Neely's Bend - 5/16/04
Peculiarities about Col.

1. Any relationship between diet & religion?
2. Never mentioned in Acts
3. Paul never visited but heard of
4. Word "All" used 30x
5. Felt one religion as good as another - Deity - One Jesus
6. No criticism via Canon
7. 12 verses at end of Mark rejected because 3 words not in his
   VOC. (Decot + Ead 3 words T.J. 46)
8. 34 words here Paul never used by
9. Pray: unleashing? Presence had
   time yes; not haphazardly, viz mood
10. Thank 5x 1:12 2:7 3:15, 16 4:2
11. Loved all saints (Poem)
12. Hope 3x 1st Chapter
13. Fate in stars 1220 papers carry horoscope
14. Gospel speaks to all world
15. Word of truth from God reliable
16. Suitable gift to all
   Book can't read see
   Food can eat strawberry
   Clothes - what climate
   Money - different medium
   Only Gospel
17. Disciple 25 x NT learner
18. Holy Spirit only 8 
19. Hand up-set aside for someone else
20. Long sentences
IT MADE YOU SO HAPPY WHEN YOU HEARD WHAT?"  Colossians 1:3-5

I. These are the days of long titles it seems.
   A. Charlie Haslam told me about these:
      1. "I love you, Honey, but the Season's over."
      2. "Happiness is a stock that doubles in a year."
      3. "I used to think I had forever, now I'm not so sure."
      4. "Due to lack of interest, tomorrow has been cancelled."
   B. So I think it not amiss to have a long title for a sermon, "Paul, it made you so happy when you heard some things about the Colossian Church--would you this Feb. hear the same about us?"

II. The work at Colossae begot two emotions in Paul
   A. Thanksgiving  - did it always
      1. Gratitude ought to be a part of every Christian. Is ingratitude a sin?
      2. Shouldn't I live such a way as to be thankful?
         (a) Marion White, tho crippled is.
      3. Can I hear good reports from anywhere and rejoice?
         + 1000 little boys who'd be thankful for your Spinican - Name one two!
4. Note the object of Paul's prayer was God!
(a) Talked to him - no Gnosticism
(b) Felt God was interested in one certain spot as well as whole world
(c) He was Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
    Father of Jesus, Father of us

B. Second response was prayer
1. Do we express often ourselves to God
2. He's thankful they persevered
3. Are we concerned about the saints' steadfastness
   (a) Prayer at supper with Gene Bronstedder in St. Pete "Bless those we
       love away from us - we pray regardless of circumstances they may be true
       to the holy and eternal precepts we have taught them."
   (b) I knew one boy was in Dallas alone; one in Navy on atomic sub under ice cap
       somewhere
   (c) What do you ask for?
   (d) Do we pray always?
   (e) Prayer meeting at Marion White's, parakeet said, "Church of Christ,
       Church of Christ, preach, preach, preacher, chipper."

4. (Goes here)
5. Prayed for their needs: definite ones,

Consences of
III. He cited three things

A. Your faith in Jesus Christ
   1. They were ready to venture their souls on Jesus.
   2. They learned His way and didn't allow false teachers to sidetrack them.
   3. Gospel had spread to whole world—what they found they shared.
   4. Are we known for our simple confidence in Jesus?
   5. Is all our hope based on death and resurrection of Jesus?
   6. By your works show me your faith.

B. Love to all the saints
   1. This is the most important thing in the world.
   2. "New" Commentary said, "Love is the gospel's manward aspect."
   3. Sister Haslam asked me
      (a) In college did you have a course on love?
      (b) In Bible Class ever a series of lessons on love?
   4. Gloria Grant's idea on let's serve our community
      (a) Trips to hospital
      (b) Sit with sick
(c) Keep your children 
(d) Run emergency errands 
(e) I think of the help via ladies in the kitchen & cookies brought to help us with Open House for College Kids.

5. Do we love?

C. Hope laid up for you

1. It's a blessed thing

Titus 2:13 "Looking for that blessed

2. It's treasured up

(a) No enemy can take it
(b) It's out of danger

2 Tim. 4:8 "Hence there is laid up for me

(c) To be loyal & retain it may mean we must say goodbye to many things. Hope enables you to do thing - for what lies ahead!

(d) If loyalty to Christ brings trouble here it's not the last word or world!

(e) Touch silver - it tarnishes. Not this treasure!

3. What do you hope for?

(a) Victory
(b) Perfection
(c) Security
(d) Rest
(e) Happiness
(f) Answers
(g) Everlasting fellowship c Jesus
4. More we have in mind the other world the freer we can be in going there.
5. Do you hope for glory?
IV. Would we cause similar response as folk thank God for our faith, love, hope?

Heck End 2-2-09

Neely's Bend BC - 5/23/04
DON'T LIVE LIFE ON A FLAT PLANE
Col. 1:3-6

I. Paul wrote to a wide place in the Road – we'd never know it had been, had it not been for the church there.
   A. It was Colosse.
   B. It was a short letter to a church c size unknown.
   C. In his intro he spoke of:
      1.) The gospel principles.
      2.) The gospel fruit.
      3.) The gospel practitioner.

II. He spoke of the gospel.
   A. They had faith in Jesus Christ.
      1. God's Son.
      2. Came to Earth, Immanuel.
   B. They had love to all the saints.
      1. Love is agape.
      2. Note all the saints.
      3. It's love that moves men to favorable considerations – "Black" Woody – we sandbagged that Malibu house.
      4. But especially all saints.
   C. They had hope laid up for you in heaven.
      1. Faith – love – hope – 3 very important things.
      2. All possible because they heard in the word of the truth of the gospel.
      3. It came to them via another & went to all the world.
      4. It changed life – not on flat plane Card #0.
III. Brings Forth Fruit.

A. World Bible School.
   1. 50,000 baptized annually.

B. Pepperdine.
   1. $100 million campus.
   2. Sis. Seaver is leaving another $100,000,000.00 in irrevocable trust.
   3. Soon to launch campaign for $100 million.
   4. Baptize more per yr. than any college.

C. Eastern European Mission.
   1. 50,000 Bibles to Russia w/o restrictions.
   2. 30,000 to Yugoslavia, church bot 10,000 to give away.
   3. Sold two 10,000 lots of Children's Bibles to the Roman Catholics in Yugo.
   4. Teen-agers - not Christians - distributed 190,000 tracts in 6 months in Czechoslovakia.
   5. Unlimited Bible distribution in Poland.
   6. Spending $70,000 per mo. on literature.

IV. "As it does also in you"

A. Am I a spectator.

B. Or cheerleader for work you do.

C. Or do I really produce myself? What have I brought into reality?

D. Will the young people be moral?
   1. Brenda Hunter #1.
   2. Brenda Hunter #2.
   3. He jests at scars who never felt a wound - Shakespeare.

E. Will we be selfish?
1. Narcissism Card #3.
2. Habit 3 1/2.
F. Will the Bible be known & taught?
   1. "Full of nice quotations" #4.
G. Will we listen to older folk?
   Will older folk behave?

1. Cleaver Cards.

West End 7-31-83
That's living life on a flat plane, based on what can be seen. But hope lies in what cannot be seen here. Life is not merely physical; it is also spiritual. In a final sense man's treasures are not what can be seen and handled. What can be seen is passing away. Everything earthly perishes. Only the spiritual is eternal.

"Living & Dying" - By Gladys Hunt - Page 11

Solomon quotes these women as saying:

People are tired of pain. How many times have you heard somebody complain that every time she gets into a sexual relationship she gets hurt? Sure we love sex, and won't ever stop loving it, but I think we're all fed up with the ego games that seem to go along with it. It's better to wait around chastely until you're truly swept away by love.

This new chastity is more challenging, because the pressure from the culture is very strong not to be chaste. Most women feel about as satisfied after casual, perfunctory sex as they do after a sneeze.

"Where Have All the Mothers Gone?" - By Brenda Hunter

Page 74
Nonetheless, women's thrust for greater independence and equality has its dark side. An article in the "Wall Street Journal" entitled "The Cost of Equality" states that as women's roles become more like men's, so too do their problems. According to federal health officials, one of every three Americans with a drinking problem is a woman, as compared with one of six a decade ago.

"From 1965 to 1978, while the percentage of adult men who smoke was dropping from more than half to just 37%, the figure for women held almost unchanged at about 30%. Lung cancer in women is increasing so rapidly that it is estimated that by the mid-eighties it will overtake breast cancer as 'their leading cancer killer.'"

Although twice as many men as women kill themselves, women have become more serious about suicide. No longer do
they take overdoses with the possibility of being revived; now they kill themselves by the methods historically used by men—"hanging, gunshots, and deliberate car crashes."

Women are increasingly involved in property crimes such as embezzlement, fraud, and forgery. While in 1960 only one of every six Americans arrested for larceny and theft was a woman, today the figure is one out of three. The "Wall Street Journal" indicates that "employed, middle-class women have contributed disproportionately to the increase of women in crime over the past decade." This article suggests that women who work have more opportunities to steal.

"Where Have All the Mothers Gone?" By Brenda Hunter

pp. 79-80
Narcissism is the philosophy of the age. Articles and books tell us that our first responsibility is to ourselves. It is wrong to live for family or to allow mother-feelings to curtail the pursuit of self. Since our children may well mess up their lives or at best will simply grow up and leave home, it is unwise to invest too much time in them. Besides, we might turn into "moms" and cause our children to become superneurotic. Husbands? They, too, may fail us. The escalation of divorce supports the idea that "number oneism" is all that's left. If we do not look out for ourselves, we just may find ourselves old, divorced, unfulfilled, and unemployed.

These current ideas, as well as the reality of inflation, have sent millions of mothers to the marketplace. There, in the world of work, they are not only able to increase their family's goods, but they can insure against a lonely and useless middle age.
Habit
Never underestimate the pull that habit can exert. Consider the New York truck driver who was on his way to a certain address and on arriving at the street observed that it was marked “One Way” against him.

So he went one more block, circled around, came into the street from the other end. Not until he was within a few yards of his destination did he realize that he was on foot! That is the power of habit.
You may have heard of the lady who loved the Bible because it was "full of such nice quotations." Many people read the Bible that way, hoping to find one of those quotable verses. These readers ignore the setting in which the verses are found and give the impression that it is made up of meaningless or difficult words.

"Keys To Understanding and Teaching Your Bible" - By Thomas E. Fountain

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Extracts from speech I heard Eldredge Cleaver make:

I am a textbook example of going wrong. Both of my grandfathers were preachers, but my father hated all preachers, I was not forced to go to church--my dad was a jazz musician that made fun of religion. My mother made me go as a young person, but when I was old enough to stop I did and I could feel my life change. The foundation is the most important aspect of our development. I became the white sheep of my family. My family started fighting, all the kids would take their mother's side, Dad was warned and sometimes we hit him. Rebellion started when I resisted and resented my father's authority--when I lost respect for my father's authority, I lost respect for all authority. Vandalism was my first charge, I spent two hours in jail, later it was moved to
Extracts from speech I heard Eldridge Cleaver make:

As a Communist, I wanted to focus on the No. 1 enemy. It was the businessman, the capitalist. The police stood in the way, the politicians told the police what to do, so let's first get the police, then get rid of the politicians, then we will be able to get rid of the despised capitalists. I was Minister of Education of the Black Panther party—I had connections with all Communist and revolutionary parties and there was no shortage of it. We had plenty! I felt the grievances of black folk far above police confrontation. Police were usually white. We sought to confront police, we would follow them around. They would be armed, we would walk around with weapons exposed to show that we were armed just as they were. We were revolutionaries and didn't care if we lived or died, but it did matter what we died for.
Extracts from speech I heard Eldredge Cleaver make:

My Tour of Communism

After being wrongly set free from San Quentin following a fight with police after the assassination of Martin Luther King, April 4, 1968, when they let me go I kept going. I had the choice of many places to go, I had made contacts by way of the United Nations with all black groups. Black groups are cultivated by our enemies. I chose Cuba since it was close to the United States and they liked radicals. Cuba promised training facilities. We had access to all military equipment, but didn't know how to use them. They brought it to us from the United States Army. We could push the wrong button and blow ourselves up. We thought the United States would fall. We thought it was soon to be destabilized. Thus, I would train at
Cuba and come back by way of Canada or Mexico. I went to Havana Christmas Day, 1968. We were considered to be wealthy panthers. I was a presidential candidate. Got red carpet treatment—I always wanted a gun and I hated prison. Cuba promised me a gun and gave me a Communistic uniform, gave me a penthouse apartment, I had two guards, an automobile, cigars and rum. Took me on tour of Cuba to contrast Batista and Castro. They kept me on tours. Wouldn’t let me get down to business. I wanted to see Castro (Barbara Walters and George McGovern were taken on the same tour.) They told me I would have no facility. No black panther could come down, they did not want black power. They said in the books there was no racial problem, but I saw it was not true. They sent the blacks to fight in Africa. I was accused of going to black power meetings, but I didn’t know they had them. I found out and I went. I also found out they hated Castro and Communism. They wanted democracy. I thought they did not understand—but in the eight months that I stayed the last five months I used for investigation and I found the government is kept in place by terror and all the urbans were unhappy. They are frustrated. A lot of imports from the Communist food is bitter in the mouths of those who eat it. Man cannot live by bread alone. I saw Cuba was captive derived from the form of government. The people want free election.
Extracts from speech I heard Eldredge Cleaver make:

Eldredge Cleaver's Tour of Algeria

I went to Algeria and I met a highjacker who went to prison. He told me of the chemical, the surgery of brains, the torture that was in the Communist jail. I found this true as I talked to friends who had been in the Chinese prisons. This friend of mine lost his mind because he didn't want to make a decision. If you can really see Communism, you will be turned around. My first daughter was born in Algeria--I lived there four years. I visited Black Africa, Communist countries, I didn't go see any country that was friendly with the United States. I was always a guest of the government seeing the Communist countries. They showed me more tours--I wanted to get off the tour and see a better revolution, but I got just the opposite. I was always
disillusioned—there was brutality and exploitation. Everywhere I went even those under the Communist regime were looking to the United States for freedom. It all changed me as I saw the Communistic fruit. It was no international movement, but merely a conflict of many rivalries. I began to miss the Oakland police! (He has said I had rather be a prisoner in an American prison than a free man in a Communistic country). In Algeria they came through my wall in a little tank. They would arrest you and you would disappear. Trial by jury of peers is unknown, there are no warrants for arrest. I made comparisons with America and she came out favorably. It's the freest country in the whole world.

Extracts from speech I heard Eldredge Cleaver make:

My Dream for America

We must not stop. I was confused first before I embraced Communism. We need to broaden our system & the knowledge of our freedoms. Far more important to me than politics are my two children, a son and daughter. There is no way that a child could be here by accident. Does God monitor the earth? I despise the big bang theory. That's chaos. Matter in motion, moving around, lightening hits a rock and out crawled a lizard who was your grandfather. Communists do not want to leave the impression they interfere. They want to leave the impression that it is all indigenous—this is false, Communism has plans for the destabilization, to turn us from our symbols of patriotism such as the flag and any evidence of loyalty. We
need the unity of America, must have solidarity, must be concerned about the United States which is the last hope of mankind. I believe the United States will stop Communism.
What Report Would He Bring From Here

Col. 1:3-8

I. Sparse are the words about Epaphras but it's all good.

II. He brought a message to Paul about Colosse. We want to know:
A. Who was the messenger?
B. What did he bring?
C. If he came to see us today what message would he bring?

III. Who is Epaphras?
A. Name means charm, loveliness, Mr. Handsome.
B. Learn 3 things about him.
   1. Our dear fellow servant
      a) Dear shows he's precious to Paul
      b) We see Paul's humility in classifying Epaphras with himself.
      c) Alone called "fellow servant."
   2. Faithful minister
      a) For you; not of you.
      b) Paul appointed him.
      c) Preached in Paul's stead.
   3. Told us your love in the Spirit.
      a) Only mention of Spirit in Col.
      b) Faithful ministers are glad to speak well of people.
      c) Less pleasing report mentioned later - not in the greetings.
C. Other places we learn:
   1. In prison with Paul.
      Philemon 23 fellow prisoner
      2. Paul had high praise for him.
      3. Declared the gospel to Col.
      4. Declared to Paul the results of it.

   NOTE COL. 4:12 also

IV. What message did he bring?
   A. First the glorious triad.
      1. Note he "heard" - he'd not been there, but the report came to him
      2. But earlier assured them of thanks and prayers.
         a) Tense of thanksgiving shows its a constantly reoccurring theme grateful for those for whom we can ever be thankful.
         b) He will express thanks for matters that are of great concern for him.
   B. First of triad - faith in Christ Jesus
      1. Means commitment to.
      2. Means trust in another person Jesus
      3. Anchored, resting in Jesus
      4. As anchor sinks into floor of sea and holds the ship
      5. It is Christ centered
      6. Their deeds inspired by Christ
7. Christ the sphere not the object of their faith. (Bruce)

C. Second love of all the Saints
1. Agape - caring love
2. Count no sacrifice too great for the one loved.
3. Made no exceptions among Saints.
4. Do good to all. (Romans 12:13)

D. Third - Hope laid up
1. Laid up - secure
2. Devil can't enter Heaven
3. Christ object hoped for.
4. Came through word of truth of the gospel they had heard.
5. Knowledge of hope came through gospel.
6. Gospel instrument through which knowledge conveyed.
7. Came to you - personally.
8. Came to all the world - evangelistic.
9. Brings fruit to all.
   a) Fruit bearing.
   b) Ever attends its deepening influence.
   c) Knowledge not imparted or an end to satisfy our curiosity, but given with a practiced intent to live a life pleasing to God.

Note balance of these 3 items
Heaven's cube
Revel 16:16
fruitful results - which are spreading abroad
We ask about meetings
d) Only in the gospel do we know what pleases Him.
e) We are to conduct ourselves to please God in every way.
f) "Give Him entire satisfaction." (Moffatt)
g) Please is an attitude of mind that anticipated every wish.
h) Perennial fruit bearing.
i) Knowledge is the rain and sunshine.
j) Divine power helps you grow.
k) T. Roosevelt: "Take a man who has stolen a boxcar - give him an education with knowledge alone - he'll be able to steal the whole railroad."
l) Need wisdom and spiritual understanding. (v.9)
m) Growth and power of gospel continuous.

V. Let's now send our message - What would the messenger from this congregation convey to the Christ? Are we like Col.?

Memorial Service - Helen Bowers - 2-9-96
Hixson C/C, Chattanooga, TN 2/11/96
W. President, Greenwood, MS - 3/31/96
West 7th - Columbia, TN - 6/3/96
What Report Would He Bring From Here

Whitmore C/C, Modesto, CA 8/18/96
Smithville, TN (BC) - 10/6/96
Woodland Hills, Cordova, TN (BC) - 11/3/96
Westgate church, Dothan, AL - 3/2/97
Sheridan, AR - 4/20/97
7th & Mueller, Paragould, AR (BC) - 5/10/98
I. J. H. Armstrong used to say "God wrote to flesh & blood - what would your letter be?"
A. Imagine the letter to Nashville.
B. One to West End particularly.
C. But I don't need to guess - I know what he wrote Colossean.

II. Points of Introduction
A. Even before message Paul had a "start."
1. In every letter except Gal. he follows salutation with thanksgiving.
2. Lipscomb "apprec. 1st then criticism".
3. Has thanks to God
   (a) Note Jesus calls Him God! John 20:17
   (b) This does not lessen fact that Jesus too is God!
4. Note ceaselessness of Paul's prayer
5. Do we have prayers with thanksgiving? (P.C.)
   (a) Commanded to be thankful.
   Ps. 100:4  "Enter into His gates.
   (b) God gives the good
   James 1:17  "Every good gift, every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the
(c) Only He preserves from sin. Ps. 121:7  
(d) Only He is good.  
Lk. 18:19  
Why callest thou me good?  

B. Three Points of Gratitude  
1. "Your faith in Christ Jesus"  
(a) Means to move in the sphere of Christ  
2 Tim 1:13  
(b) It's more than fidelity - it is Christ centered,  
said Lipscomb.  
(c) Can't have faith in Christ w/o Word's testimony  
(Elder quote)  
(d) Can't have faith in Christ & not have love for man  
I Jn 3:14  
We know that we have passed from death unto life because he that loveth not his brother abideth in death.  
(e) Do I radiate "faith" & its power?  
(1) Hodge quote  

2. "Love which we have to all the saints."  
(a) Love is putting others 1st & self last  
(b) Love shows itself in absence of Jealousy (Pennington quote)  
(c) Love is a positive interest.  
Brownie Quote
(d) Love makes a difference in how we act.
   (1) Clip on "It's My Life."
(e) If you think charity is benevolence - it's more.
   (1) Pennington quote

Titus 3:7 "Being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternality.

3. The hope laid up for you in Heaven.
(a) Jesus came to bring life & immortality to light.
(b) He did it thru the Gospel - thus see the vitalness of His word.
   (1) Gospel is changeless, revelation of eternal truth.
(c) This hope will not deceive.
   (1) Founded on word
      I Cor. 15:15
      2 Pet. 1:16 "for we have not feared"
   (2) Laid up in a country where God is
      (3) Linked with 2 imitable things - oath & promise of God.
      Heb. 6:18-19 "Read soul"
   (4) Devil can't come where it is.

Titus 2:11-12 "for the grace of God that bringeth salvation."

"Amazing day Ahead!"
(5) Also free from corruption of moth & rust.
Communion quote
(a) Newsman poem
4. By hearing Word, leaving hope.
5. What hope is yours? At Schrader Lane I talked with black brothers who said, "Herbert Armstrong said, Heaven's where we all got good jobs - not what I want - I want a place where you don't do nothing, had all the jobs I want!"
6. What victory have we won?
(a) Antoine de Saint-Exupery
7. Is your hope on fact?
(a) Christian Reminder story.

Ohio End   3-15-70

Johnson Park Church, Borger, Texas, 4-9-71
3 Restored
Brainerd Church, Chattanooga, Training Series 4-19-71
Somerville, Tenn, Church 7-19-71
Red Boiling Springs, 8-2-71
Lincoln Park Church, 1-10-72.
Lincolnville Church, Orlando, Fla, 1-24-72
1 Restored
St. Martin Church, St. Augustine, Fla, 3-16-72
Lynne, Texas, Mon. Noon, 9-25-72
COMMUNISM—13

Communism is terror — godless, brutal terror over the minds, souls and bodies of men and women. It will fail because it lacks moral strength — a flickering candle before the power of God. — J EDGAR HOOVER, Moody Monthly, 3-69.

JOHN NEWMAN of Louisville offers an addition, the verse of all, to the indices of growing old that appeared here last week: "My glasses are perfect/My dentures are fine/My hearing aid functions/but I do miss my mind."

Our hope is never realized here — slim clearance or sewer installation!
With increasing acceptance of one another as members of the human family, we are able to reduce our tendency to be arrogant or rude. We recognize our varying gifts and our differing roles. There is no need to be arrogant to others, as if our function were superior; or rude, as if theirs were inferior.

"A More Excellent Way" - By Chester A. Pennington

A Meditation on First Corinthians 13 Page 29

Independence is a little over two weeks away. Many changes are rapidly taking place, what lies beyond the 24th only our Heavenly Father knows. Political changes and Africanization do not effect our work directly, but the new Central African Church does. It is called an indigenous church, by the people for the people. Its appeal... This church was planned to take care of our needs. It was established by indigenous people who are acquainted with the needs of its people. The religion which forbids multiple wives and beer drinking was established for the white man and meets his CUSTOMS. (only one wife at a time)

Since there are no men qualified to become elders of the church, or I should say there are not more than one man in any of the older groups, Ken has been trying to
get the churches to direct its work by the men of the
close working together to accomplish this. Usually in
each group there is one man who has the ability to lead
and then leave it up to him, especially if he is an old man.
According to custom he is the leader and they just can not
get out of that "rut".

This situation we feel might best be helped if we had a
couple of families of colored brethren out here. It should
show them that color had nothing to do with the rightness
of the Bible. There is the idea that it is a white man's
religion because most of our customs are in keeping with
the Bible. Ken has tried to explain to them that the Bible
was written and that the church had been established many
years before the American nation came into existence.
Pray with us that Christians may not be lead away by this
false teaching.

By way of illustration, the dynamo of power in our
city produce far more electricity than I individually can
use. The supply at the powerhouse abundantly exceeds
my personal needs. I receive in my house that abundant
supply according to the wiring and the installations that
I have placed in my house. I may have thousands of
watts at my disposal, but if I have placed only a twenty-
five-watt electric bulb in the house, the light which I
receive in my house will be of twenty-five-watt intensity,
not according to the abundant supply of the powerhouse,
but according to the installations which I have fixed in
my dwelling. Similarly, in our spiritual life and
ministry God can do exceeding abundantly above all that
we ask or think in our church and in our ministry. But
to become effective, that abundant supply must have corresponding installations in our faith. If our faith calls for a thousand-watt illumination, to carry the figure further, we will draw on the source of power to the extent of a thousand watts. But if our faith is of the ten-watt variety, we will have the feeble results which our faith brings. God’s power works in us according to the measure of our faith.

"Growth Toward Leadership" - By Melvin L. Hodges

A sales manager was approached by several girls selling Brownie cookies. They offered no sales pitch, so he began questioning them to see if they could develop one. "Why do you want to see me?" he asked.

One little girl piped up: "Because you are so handsome."

He couldn’t resist the argument. He bought six boxes. "There are no better sales tools," he said, "than truth and honesty."

"Strength for Living" - By Leonard Sanderson - Page 107
Chapter 11 "How to be Humble"
Paul indicates that benevolence can indeed lack compassion. And his insight is confirmed by contemporary psychology. What looks like generosity may be an attempt to ease one's sense of guilt. Or a man may give to benevolent causes out of conformity to community pressures. "Charity" is not necessarily an act of love.

"A More Excellent Way" - By Chester A. Pennington

A Meditation on First Corinthians 13 Page 25
"It's My Life, Isn't It?"

Not really. For to indulge ourselves today without thought of others is to squander our tomorrows—and thus dissipate one of our most precious bequests.

Evan Hill

The reproof was surprisingly gentle, considering that it came from a 21-year-old college student who really wanted to tell one of his professors to mind his own business. All I did was to ask him, out of curiosity, why he ran the risk of smoking.

"If the smoke offends you," he said as he stuffed his cigarettes back into his pocket, "I won't. But don't lecture me on health. It's really up to me, isn't it? It's my lungs, my health, my life, isn't it?"

"To live as you want? To use yourself up as you like? LSD? Marijuana? Too much whiskey?"

"If I want. As it happens, I don't. But if I wanted to, yes. As long as I don't harm anyone else."

"What about driving dangerously fast—100 miles an hour?" I asked.

"Okay on an empty road, with no passengers. See what I mean?"

I nodded slowly. "I see what you mean, but I don't agree. It's such a bleak and lonely view of man. It's as if you felt you had no value."

He left my office then, waiting until he was in the corridor before lighting his cigarette. I wondered if he thought that the corridor was an empty road and that he had no passengers. If so, he was wrong.

It's not his life; not completely. It's partly mine, and partly every man's, as every man's and mine are partly his. As his teacher, I've helped shape some of his life, as he has helped mold mine—and his loss or
How to enjoy regularity even during the middle and later years of your life

**True Facts About Irregularity**

**Q: Do I face any special constipation difficulties as I grow older?**

**A:** As you enter your middle years, you may find that you are more and more troubled by irregularity.

**Q: What can cause this "middle age" irregularity?**

**A:** Constipation often results from a lack of enough moisture in the food waste which slows up elimination.

**Q: Can I help overcome this problem?**

**A:** The fact is, your daily intake of food may lack enough of a gentle laxative ingredient that is known as hydrogel. The addition of an adequate amount of hydrogel to your diet could bring really effective relief from constipation.

**Q: How can I get enough hydrogel?**

**A:** You could eat more fruits and vegetables... probably a great deal more than you do. Or, you can take a hydrogel concentrate like Serutan.

**Q: How does Serutan help me?**

**A:** Entirely differently from pills, oils or harsh chemical laxatives. Taken daily, gentle Serutan simply provides the hydrogel help you need to get you regular and keep you regular. Try Serutan today.

Injury is a mutilation to a segment of myself. We cannot escape each other. No man can escape other men.

Your soap perfumes the air I breathe; your automobile fumes contaminate it. Your morning smile— even to me as a stranger—lifts my spirit; your muttered cursing in the subway vexes me. You are not an island; and you do not, cannot, live alone on one.

Simply because a man holds a kind of deed to his body, he has no right to outrage it, to abuse it, to risk it uselessly, to destroy it. "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God?" says the New Testament. "You are not your own" (I Corinthians 6:19).

Each of us is a social product, nurtured by the whole family of man, loved by parents and grandparents, taught by teachers and clergy, protected by policemen and soldiers and judges, encouraged by universities, inspired by artists and poets. None of us sprang forth untended, unheeded, a random by-product of some indifferent mating process. Each of us contains the cumulated investment of thousands of years, and is the product of a multitude of hopes. We have no right to squander this long-term inheritance without consultation of the future.

In some U.S. Army units during World War II, it was a punishable offense for a soldier to become so sunburned that he was incapable of duty. The purpose was quite clear:
to keep each individual fit because each other individual needed him; he was important to all. Our civilian law has quite similar purposes. It requires us to inoculate ourselves against some diseases lest we infect others. Motor-vehicle codes require safety inspections of automobiles because the condition of each auto is the concern of everybody on the highway. An old New Hampshire lawyer I know puts it this way: "A man's right to throw his fist around ends where the other fellow's nose begins."

Should a youth feel free, then, to take LSD and risk suffering permanent brain damage that will require institutionalization—to be paid for by other members of society? Is it, as he so angrily says, his business alone if he wants to drop out of high school, when this may provide his future wife and children with a life of need and the rest of us with welfare bills and social problems?

I know a man in his late 30s who ten years ago drank so heavily that his friends warned him he was endangering his health. He replied that he was harming only himself, and invited his friends to mind their own business. Today, married and afflicted with cirrhosis of the liver, he has difficulty keeping a job, and is uninsurable. During his carefree, unmarried, drinking years, he was steadily damaging a girl he was not to meet for at least five years; he was harming children yet unborn.

To say that we're minding our own business is often an excuse to
be selfish—to indulge ourselves, or to avoid living up to our promise. We say that we don't want to interfere, or to be interfered with, but what we really mean is that we don't want to get involved or to admit that we, too, must leave a bequest to mankind as it did to us.

But we must. It's tempting to live in the shade of the trees our fathers planted—but we must plant our own, not only for ourselves, but for our sons. That's our business.

Some of us believe that an indulgence is harmless if no one knows. "What harm could there be in a discreet, lighthearted affair?" a restless young executive once said to me. "My wife won't know, and the girl won't get emotionally involved."

He was right. His wife never knew, never even suspected, and his partner in the affair never became emotionally involved. But somehow, even after the affair was terminated in a most civilized fashion, some of him was missing. He liked himself less. He was less of a husband to his wife. He found he had difficulty looking his children in the eye. In silent, secret ways the lighthearted, discreet affair had tainted his whole relationship with his family.

Not long ago, I learned why one of my brightest students no longer attended classes. A pretty girl, close to her parents, she had, like many other young persons, become seriously involved in "self-discovery." She began dating a young married man. She told disapproving classmates, "I have a right to find myself, haven't I? I'm not harming anyone else, am I?" Then she became pregnant, had an abortion, and dropped out of college. She lives at home now, miserable and ridden with guilt. She cannot confide in her parents, and they are bewildered at the change in her.

Quite obviously her "right to be herself" is harming others—and probably will continue to do so. She fears that her college affair will not only affect her sexual relationship with the still-unknown man she will marry one day, but harm other relationships with him as well. There is a secret scar on her future, which may well affect those who will share it with her—even her children. She knows now that most human acts—even the most private—somehow, someday, influence others.

Recently, at a dinner party, I listened to a guest's bigoted remarks about a minority group not represented at the table. The host tried skillfully to change the subject, but the guest persisted. Then, glancing at his young children near him, the host said softly, "Please. Not in my house. I suppose your private attitudes are your business, but when you air them here, they become mine. I have to tell you that I disagree and disapprove. If I didn't speak out now, you—and the children here, and the other guests—might think that my silence is tacit approval. I hope you understand."

The dinner continued quietly, and the guest left early. I realized then that a man's personal opinions are
not always his business alone, for self-indulgent words can harm others as surely as selfish deeds.

Of course, a man does have a right to a private chunk of his life that he can reserve for himself. There—if he has carved out his retreat carefully with his fishing or his workshop or his card companions—he can truly say, “This is no one’s business but mine.” During these times he deliberately checks out of the world—but only temporarily. He intends to check in again, to help refill the wells of human experience from which we all draw.

If I had a choice of only one guideline to live by, I’d choose Horace Mann’s: “Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity.” That means all of us.

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How’s That Again?

FROM a handbill put out by a candidate for Congress in California: “Dalton is the only Democratic candidate in the district to take a firm stand against all the major problems of our time.”

—Herb Caen in San Francisco Chronicle

FROM the Fall River, Mass., Herald News: “The Lynch VFW Post will conduct a paper drive Sunday. Bundles of residents should be tied and left on the side of the street.”

REAL-ESTATE ad in the Aiken, S.C., Standard and Review: “Unusual home with fireplace, carpeted living room-dining room combination, and fully equipped kitchen which can be closed off with shudders.”

NOTICE in a London coffee bar: “The management is not responsible for any property left on the premises.”

—The Guardian, Manchester

FROM the Sherman County, Ore., Journal: “The Legion Auxiliary met on Tuesday. The principal business was that of arranging pippies for the annual poopy sale.”

FROM the New Haven Register: “Damage seemed negligible except for a bent venetian blond.”

Up to Scratch. The Seychelle Isles in the Indian Ocean are overrun with exotic bugs, as Noel Coward discovered when he stayed there in a small hotel. When he checked out, scratching assiduously, the manager asked, “May I post a sign reading ‘Noel Coward Slept Here?’” “Certainly,” replied Noel, “if you’ll add one word—fitfully.”

—Herb Caen in San Francisco Chronicle
THE WORD OF GOD: PROMOTES, PROGRESSES, PRODUCES  
Col. 1:3-8

I. No force ever so pertinent comes to you man as powerful as the Word of God.

A. It's dynamite  Rom. 1:16
B. It's potent  James 1:18
C. It's powerful  Jer.

II. Of this, Paul is quite conscious in his early Col. words.

A. The word Promotes.

V. 5 "Ye heard in the word of truth of the gospel;

1. Heard what?
2. His familiar triad - it promoted faith, love, & hope.

B. It progresses.

V. 6 (Word) which is come unto you

1. It was a Col.
2. It had spread thruout world.
3. Paul either at Rome or Ephesus (80 miles away) & in some type of confinement. Letter written in last 2 yrs. of his life.

C. It Produces.

V. 6 "It brings forth fruit

III. May we see the word as it comes Promoting, Progressing, & Producing.

A. It Promotes the Triad in Me.

1. 1st he gave thanks to God, and
2. Stated he was praying for them.
3. That's pretty good for an opener to someone whom you have never seen!
4. He'd "heard" about them.
   a.) Had heard (V. 4).
   b.) Heard before (V. 5).
   c.) Since day we heard (V. 9).
5. Never had seen them but was happy with the positive side of report brought to him.
6. Thus he begins by affirming a person: do we look for the good?
7. Words of appreciation prepare the heart to accept warnings & advice.
8. Gentle rain softens the ground & prepares for harder showers to come.
9. What had he heard?
   (a) Your faith.
      (1) Faith is grounded in the sufficiency of evidence.
      (2) We do not say, "We must have faith because we do not understand."
      (3) Faith is a word of action.
      (4) I trust my whole weight to the chair — it is what is strong — not me.
      (5) Results of faith depend on the reliability of the object.
   (b) Your love (none keep J. Stevens).
     I Jn. 3:23 "And this is his commandment, That we sl
   (c) Your hope (laid up for you).
      (1) Christ gives us the clues to the meaning of life & history.
      (2) What do we hope for? Victory, perfection, security, rest, happiness, answers, everlasting fellowship c Jesus.
(d) What a gospel that leads me to faith, love, hope
(e) Paul uses gospel more than 60X.

B. That Word Progress – Into Me & All the World!

V. 6 "Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world:
1. Individually I am touched.
   (a) Do I act like it?
   (b) "Momma, you wouldn't believe how those folks act down there", lady said her son's Bapt. companion said of another congregation.
   (c) Word's accessible - comes to me.
   (d) Came w/o seeking or sending for it.

2. It also goes into all the world.
   a.) Does that mean every place? Or known world?
   b.) False gospels address themselves to limited circle
   c.) Truth is catholic.
   d.) How mission minded c it are we?

C. It Produces.

V. 6 "Bringeth forth fruit as it doth also in you, since
2. If you obey gospel, you'll do good to others.
3. The fruit bearing was
   a.) Visible.
   b.) Permanent.
   c.) Prompt.
4. Gospel is a reproductive organism - a plant whose seed is in itself.
5. Gospel fruit bearing (middle voice) is like a tree that keeps bearing fruit - not like corn that dies to its roots.
6. 1st bears fruit in the church, then in whole world.
7. Truth makes a difference - it transforms lives.
8. Gospel has special servants - like Epaphras.
   a.) Alone called a fellow servant.
   b.) Faithful minister - servant, slave, helper.
   c.) Able to communicate - a conduit, a pipe thru which truth flowed.
   e.) Progress of gospel helped by mutual recognition & confidence on part of Chr. servants to each other.

Checked End 2-3-80
Chopped Supplement on FAITH

I. 3 men to Calvary
   A. 2. Knights of the Rd.
   B. 1 a preacher, guiltless
II. Crowd came- we love The bloody
   III. Robbers a wine, Jesus re-fused- even in cold world a bit of compassion.
III. Tree raised - fruit of infinite sin
II. Cries - forgive us Save Self
   A. One "This man) done nothings m'iss
   B. vs verdict of Rome, religious leaders,
      Mob, gray beards at Sanhedrin.
   C. Yet his conviction stand!' Justly we
      Suffer not him.
I. Do we come face to face do we sin?
   1. Courage to differ? "Semper Contra Him"
   2. Coward ?
D. Defended Jesus - 1 alone who did!
   1. Disciples forsook
   2. Women star
   3. Religious feared
   4. Rome crucified
   Man alone
St. His faith
A. Lord
1. Some of you never said it.
2. Peter did when saw miracle of fish
3. Thomas & Nail scars
4. Paul & Damascus
B. Remember me when (not it)
1. I'm important
2. I'm going somewhere
3. Kingdom
   2a. Throne's across
   3b. Crown - Thorn marks
   3c. Scepter - nails
   3d. Retinue - hoisting mob
   3e. Credentials - sign on cross - King
   3f. Loyal wardrobe - dire game
A. Dying speaks of life
C. Paradise
THE BY-PRODUCTS OF A PRAYER
Col. 1:9-11

1. In the opening words to an unseen church Paul repeatedly told them he was praying for them—
   Col. 1:3 "We give thanks to God & the Father of our L
   Col. 1:9 "For this cause we also since the day we hean
   II. In the acknowledged frequency of prayer, the 2nd
time he added content.
   Col. 1:9 "Pray for you & desire that ye might be filled
III. I want us 1st to see his main desire & then the by-
   products begotten by that possession.
A. The main desire.
V. 9 "That ye might be filled with the knowledge of hi
   1. Paul prayed for a filling.
      a.) Truly wanted a great amount – ever to increase.
      b.) Lit. be made complete. "Disteel; To be conscious
   2. Wanted a full knowledge of his will that you are
      a.) Tell sinner plan of salvation.
      b.) Tell saint plan of holy living.
      c.) Not speculation but prescribed will.
   3. Wanted its employment in all wisdom & spiritual
      understanding. Newton: Apple: Book: nothing
I Cor. 2:5 "That your faith should not stand in the wisc
   a.) Need understanding to apply spiritual principles
to practical situations.
   b.) List your points of application.
B. If this basic was there, it begot by-products.
V. 10 "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all
   1. Walk worthy.
   2. Pleasing to all.
   3. Fruitful in every good work.
4. Increase in the knowledge of God.
5. Strengthened with all might.
6. Unto all patience.
7. Unto all longsuffering.

IV. Let's see the by-products of the filling.
A. That ye might walk worthy of the Lord.
   1. Life is a walk – want it right in the sight of God.
   2. To walk worthy is to be competent, corresponding to the gospel.
   3. Yet we are never worthy to be saved.
   4. Good words won't do w/o good works.
   5. End of all knowledge is conduct.
B. Pleading to All.
   1. Satisfy God in every way. Mother be Kind to us.
   2. No other usage like this. like folks we visit.
C. Fruitful in Every Good Work.
   1. Actually produce.
   2. *Jacob Da Vinci’s Last Supper*

D. Increase in the Knowledge of God.
   1. What you believe determines the direction you walk.
      *Jacob Riis - long time blow splits*
2. Moral resources are released by decisions based upon knowledge.

3. Henry, "Those who have the inheritance of sons have the education of sons."

4. Ignorance is mother of superstition — Knowledge is mother of Religion.

5. Don't we hear, "But you can't understand the Bible!" — does God want it this way?

E. Strengthened c All Might.

1. "Glorious power" of God comes to bless you.

Eph. 3:16 "That he would grant you, according to the
2. Might = majestic, sovereign sway.

F. Unto All Patience.

1. Moral power is important. 
2. All who are designed for Heaven hereafter are prepared for Heaven now!

3. If not saint here, won't be saint in Heaven.

4. Patience is steadfastness & stoutheartedness under ill fortune.

G. Unto All Longsuffering.

1. Note my need for longsuffering — "with joyfulness

2. Must endure w/o being embittered. Don't endure passively but c joy!


4. Patience deals triumphantly with all life can throw at you -- longsuffering never looses faith in men.

5. [New International has joy with next phrase — give thanks]
"A Preacher's Ambition for the Church"  
Col. 1:9-11

I. Psychologists all tell us we must honestly identify our aims & dreams. Then on identification see what we can do about realizing them.

II. Paul, for Col. church, had a beautiful dream, but before telling you his dream I want you to know what he knew about this church.

A. "Since the day we heard it" (V. 9), he had heard:

1. "Heard of your faith" (V. 4).
   a.) Christ the object.
   b.) Christ the sphere in which it was exercised.
   c.) No novel message – had heard it before.

2. Heard of your love to all the saints (V. 4).
   a.) Their deeds inspired him.
   b.) What are ours?

3. Heard of the hope (V. 5).
   a.) In heaven – laid up w/o danger.
   b.) Via gospel – no rational hope for Heaven w/o gospel.

Titus 1:2 "In hope of eternal life, which God, that co

4. They had the gospel.
   a.) As it comes to all world.
      (1) Perhaps figurative.
      (2) Strong figure.
      (3) Shows it's adaptable everywhere – all races, all conditions.
   b.) Gospel a traveler to all world.
   c.) Gospel produces fruit – not barren. Truth makes a difference in fruit bearing.
d.) Gospel seed inherently reproductive.
5. Learn from Epaphras.
   a.) Minister.
   b.) Servant.
   c.) Helper.
   d.) Know little about him.
   e.) He taught nothing but truth.
   (1) Error is ethic.
   (2) Truth is catholic.
   f.) Only reference in Col. to spirit (V. 8).

B. This was the condition of the church for whom he
   had the following dream – thus if the dream is for
   us, we need earlier to reproduce their condition!

III. For the church:
A. Paul prayed (V. 9):
   1. Prayer a reality.
   2. Intelligent folk like Paul used it.
   3. Felt an anxiety for them.
   4. At no time did he cease praying for them.
   5. While busy at Corinth he had time to pray for
      Col. – not just a prisoner c time on his hands.
B. Wanted them filled c knowledge.
   1. Spiritual knowledge – some in Col. boasted of
      possessing superior wisdom & sharing secret
      mysteries. (Thus c larger knowledge)
      (a) Wants them filled. Nothing short of total!
      (b) Knowledge needs to accompany their great
          spirit. Know completely, precise, correct
      (c) Filled = completion, maturity, we have enuf
          knowledge & info to get us there.
Doing will of God is just thing of life.
(a) Increase shows progressive growth.
(b) Wants more than smattering knowledge.
Ps. 32:8 "I will guide thee with mine eye"

2. All wisdom:
   a.) Larger & more general term, mental excellency.
   b.) 6X in Col. PINK VANILLA 3
   c.) Love of wisdom - philosophy - degenerates into a passion to know something just for the sake of knowing. Brings pride.

3. All spiritual understanding.
   a.) Implies ability to apply principles to peculiar problems.
   b.) Spiritual because source is God - not man.
   c.) Critical judgment to distinguish between truth & error.

C. Wanted them to Walk Worthy of the Lord.
1. Knowledge would manifest itself in correct behavior.
2. Note unity of doctrine & doing.
3. "Right action results from right thinking; and right thinking will accompany right conduct." Erdman

4. Walking shows direction & progress.
5. Our constant qtn. "What will please God?"

D. Wanted them to Be Fruitful, not only do it but even anticipate what one would like - in classical Greek.
1. Harmlessness not enuf.
2. Be fruitful.
3. We are weighed & scales balance - Christ's action on one side & what we are doing & being on the other.
E. Wanted them increased in knowledge.
1. Strengthened in all might.
   a.) Results in spiritual power.
   b.) Character (strength of).
   c.) Conviction.
   d.) Moral action.
   e.) We get enabling power.
   f.) We walk amid danger — need strength.
2. Have:
   a.) Patience.
      (1) Steadfast endurance in face of opposition & temptation.
      (2) Perseverance as Chr. contends against his hindrances.
   b.) Longsuffering.
      (1) Forbearing in face of insult w/o retaliation.
   c.) Joyfulness.
      (1) Happy in so doing.
   
*West End, 2-10-30*
I would rather have my ignorance than another man's knowledge, because I have got so much more of it. — MARK TWAIN.

Two small boys, aged seven and two, were waiting in line at an ice cream stand. The little brother was announcing loudly: "I want vanilla. I want vanilla."

The supply of vanilla had given out. Interested parents stood by to see how the seven-year-old would handle such a crisis. Without flinching, he ordered two strawberry cones and handed one to his little brother.

"Here you are," he said briskly. "Pink vanilla."
I. I have no right to come before you unless there is something profitable I can give you.

II. I know nothing better than Paul's wish for Col. where he'd never been, seemingly.

A. The story of Michael and his "I don't know" mocked and then "He said it."

B. What then did Paul say that I can also say to you?

III. Paul's gift and I hope mine —

A. We do not cease to pray for you. Never neglected praying

1. Tho absent he still had time to pray for them. Thes. 1:3

2. Harrison said there is a relationship between time devoted to it and quality of it.

3. He knew their reputation and what was the petitions offered?
B. First, desire might be filled with knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

1. Knowledge of will and life commensurate with it. Picture spiritual experience.

Deep and accurate comprehension.

Fullness often used in Colossians.

"We do not receive divine illumination apart from our faculties, which are the means of our apprehension of the instrument of operation. The Spirit employs those faculties of which he has endowed and he expects us to use."

(Scroggie)

5. Knowledge - imparted and gained for a purpose to tell you how to live.

6. "We have a passion to know something for the sake of knowing - when we think our possessing of it is superior, it leads to pride." Harrison
7. Note knowledge is connected with obedience -- it's the purpose for it.

8. Knowledge in sphere of wisdom of spiritual understanding.
   (a) Knowledge is the means by which Christians grow -- it's our rain and sunshine.
   (b) Wisdom mentioned 6X in Colossians.
   (c) It's moral excellency.
   (d) If filled, you will have completion, maturity.
   (e) Spiritual understanding:
      (1) Critical judgment to distinguish between truth & falsehood.
      (2) Increase shows progress.

C. Secondly, walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing.
A. Attitude of mind to anticipate his uses and try.

B. Live in a way worthy of the Lord to His entire satisfaction.

C. Our individual duty. God wants each of us to please in everything, then know what he wants!

D. Right conduct aim and hallmark of saint. Knowledge is not an end in itself.

E. Thirdly, being fruitful in every good work & increasing in the knowledge of God.

   1. Perennially bearing fruit.
   2. Our individual duty.
   3. God wants each of us productive.

F. Fourthly, strengthened with all might according to His glorious power.

   1. Present tense - continuous empowerment and growth. Invigorated
   2. Divine power helps you reach high ideals the Word teaches.
   3. Service is repaid by strength.
F. Fifthly, Patience. long-suffering with joyfulness.

1. Threefold wish

2. Patience - Keller card
   (a) Opposite of cowardice.
   (b) Neither wrath nor revenge.
   (c) No retaliation
   (d) Even tempered in spike of injury and insult.
   (e) Perseverance
   (f) Lady and dog on clothes - didn't miss one.

3. Longsuffering
   (a) Opposite of wrath and revenge
   (b) Can take it.
   (c) Take down blankets

4. With joyfulness
   (a) Do all above with joy.
   (b) Don't endure with
passiveness but joy.  
(Fisherman & count record).

c. High end -- He suffered with joy.

G. Giving thanks unto the Father.

1. Gratitude necessary

2. 4 things God has done:
   (a) Made us **meet** to be partakers.

   (1) Meet, qualified, entitled.

   (2) An **instant act**
       aorest tense, one instant act.

   (3) Inheritance of saint in light.

   (4) Coin to fill house-stew

   (5) Blessedness awaits.

(b) Delivered us from power of darkness and translated us

   (1) Rescue

   (2) Liberate us out
Rescued us from the dominion of darkness transferred to kingdom of miserable state.

(3) Translate - remove from one country and put in another - not on a map of earth but spiritual kingdom.

(4) Kingdom a present reality.

(Rom. 14:17)

(5) Kingdom of Son, not of angels.

(6) Idea of exodus as moved whole nation of people.

(c) In whom we have redemption.

(1) Redemption - release brought about by payment of a price.

(2) Emancipation

(3) Set slave free by paying ransom.
(4) Blood not in some MMS.

(d) Forgiveness of sins.

(1) Central feature forgiveness.

(2) Pardon

Hixson C/C, Chattanooga 2-11-96
Maryville, TN (BC) 3/24/96
Old Union, Castalian Springs, TN (BC) 6/30/96
Whitmore Rd C/C, Modesto, CA 8/18/96
Smithville, TN - 10/6/96
Woodland Hills, Cordova, TN - 11/3/96
Neely's Bend - 7/4/04
WHAT ARE SOME THINGS GOD DOES FOR ME?
Col. 1:12-13

I. We are practical people - we've got a "What's in it for me?" attitude.
   A. Why buy your produce?
   B. Why go to your school?
   C. Why be in your church?
   D. What will your God do for me?

II. The latter is a good question - I want to tell you 3 things God does for me based on 2 verses of Script.
   Col. 1:12-13 "Giving thanks unto the Father, which
   A. Made us meet to be Partakers of the Inheritance
      of the Saints in Light.
   B. Delivered us From the Power of Darkness.
   C. Translated us into the Kingdom of His dear Son.

III. We want to examine these 3 Blessings.
   A. God made us to be Partakers. "Turn it up 2
      1. 1st note God said thanks.  "little lower, te"
      a.) That's the Christian tone, expresses itself in
         service and praise.
      b.) Service is not thru fear, not merit, but thanks;
      c.) We need to express joy & to do only that in
         which we can rightfully rejoice.

   2. Partakers of Inheritance.
      a.) Makes us meet (competent) (fit).
         Sick man wants no big meal.
   (1) We have position and title.
   (2) It's already done, therefore, have confidence.
   (3) Not by merit, but by God's grace.
   b.) It is God who gave me title to it.
   c.) We are set apart to God's service.
d.) We have a change of king and country.
   (1) Some inheritances are evil—Joseph Kennedy would bring his mistress home to dinner.
   (2) Thus, think what Heaven would be for an unreformed man—we have to be made fit for it.
   (3) We are being educated for Heaven—we are not Hollywood hillbillies.

e.) The question arises how we may meet—we are by doing the things Heaven delights in our doing, thus we get ready.

f.) Light characteristics of all that pertains to the inheritance.
   (1) God is.
   (2) Dwells in light.
   (3) God gives light.

3. If we call God Father, we must be children, thus heirs.

1 Pet. 1:3-4 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord.
Rom. 8:17 "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God,

4. We are trained for our inheritance – give a library to a man that couldn't read??

B. Who hath Delivered us from the Power of Darkness
1. I need not fear powers from which God has delivered me.
2. That evil sphere has no more call on my life.
3. Darkness is blindness & also danger.
   (a) Richard Pectol blew out a candle – wax sealed his eyelids – he yelled thinking he'd gone blind yet only stuck together – but even that terrified him!
1 Jn. 2:11 "He that hateth his bro. is in darkness, and
(b) it's also hatred.
4. Our deliverance is a rescue - drug out of jaws of
danger. (Aorist tense - delivered at certain time-
baptism).
5. Salvation originates from the Love of the Lord.
   It was first the Father's wish! (He has not w/draw
   from scene of action).
6. We'll see the 1st cause was God's love; the
   efficient cause - Son's blood.
C. Translated Us into the Kingdom of His Dear Son
(Son of His love).
Jn. 17:26 "And I have declared unto them thy name,
Eph. 1:6 "To the praise of the glory of his grace, wher
1. Translate is from transplanting races & settling
   them in a new home.
2. Baptism is for remission of sins & entrance into
   Kingdom.
1 Cor. 12:13 "For by one Spirit are we all baptized in
3. We leave a tyranny & enter a well ordered
   sovereignty.
4. 4 degrees of redemption
   (a) Payment of ransom for all.
   (b) Admission to church.
   (c) Exemption from tyranny of sin here.
   (d) Exemption from hell & death hereafter.
5. This Kingdom prepared from fd.
Matt. 25:34 "Then shall the King say unto them on his
6. God is its builder & maker.
2 Cor. 5:1 "For we know that if our earthly house of t
7. Only saints are in it.
8. It's His Son's.
9. It's now.
10. Cannot be shaken.

Heb. 12:28 "Wherefore we receiv. a kingdom which canst endure.

Lu. 1:33 "And he shall reign over the house of Jacob 1
12. Comprised of great things.

Rom. 14:17 "For the K. of God is not meat and drink

West End 2-17-80
C. S. Lewis said, "The human mind has no more power of inventing a new value than of planting a new sun in the sky or a new primary color in the spectrum."

(From "Changing and the Changeless" by J. P. Sanders, 20th CENTURY CHRISTIAN, Page 7, Vol. 35, No. 7, April, 1973)
SOME THOTS ON THE KINGDOM

Col. 1:13

I. On some subjects the Bible grants little information.
   A. Origin of Evil.
   B. Date of Christ's Birth.
   C. Order of Worship.

II. On others it speaks volumes - and the Kingdom is one of those subjects.
   A. Purpose of this lesson is to do some chance thinking on subjects not too frequently covered.
   B. 'Tis hoped it moves in some logical order.

III. There is a Kingdom to be desired.

Matt. 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me Ld, 13:23"Lord are thou dew - strive to enter in at the strait gate" aren't we.

A. Strain every nerve to enter.
   1. Goodspeed, "You must strain every nerve to get in thru the narrow door."
   2. Does this mean some are too casual, flippant, "water's warm" idea?
   3. Is it a game or is it for real?
      (a) Read Mike Dickerson's letter.
   4. Are we as exacting c our effort as we are:
      (a) Our investments
      (b) Our luxury desires
      (c) Our education
      (d) Our recreation
B. Born again

Jn. 3:5 "Unless one is born of water
1. Once this is done we can never be the
   same again. Stay at Five another chance.
2. We are baptized into Christ.
   Gal. 3:27 For we are all children of God
   Rom. 6:3-5 Know ye not that so many..."""

C. The Way May Be Hard

1. Many shall oppose your journey.
   Acts 14:21-22 "Continue on your hard road till..."
   (a) NEB says, "pass thru many hardships
   Matt. 5:10 "Blessed are they o..."

2. Surely these "hardships" are not
   absences from sin!
   I Cor. 6:9-10 "Know ye not that the unrighteous..."
   3. It should be we so love the Christ we
      contrast with those who don't.
      2 Tim. 3:12 "Ye are all those live godly in Christ"

4. Do we today stand alone for a conviction?

5. Do we deny the crowd?

D. One hindrance may be wealth.

Mk. 10:23 "How hard it will be for those
1. Wealth has many forms - Pride
   (a) See clip (I'm standing up inside)
   (b) Could be socially - who not what you
   know.
   (c) Could be intellect - Clip on mind
   (d) Religiously wealthy. It is impossible
   mortality of society to translate a Bible reading
   people - H. Greeley
2. Laz. was blessed not because he was poor but because "God is my helper"—what his name means.
3. We’ve no helper but God.
E. Kingdom's Good is Real Good!

1. We must go beyond externals.
2. We must cease self dependency.
3. We must distinguish between tradition & Scripture.
   (a) Rabbis slavish repeaters of tradition. Prefaced all c "R so & so saith" —storehouse of old things, Jesus New!
4. We must be humble.
   (a) A child is dependent—didn't worry about pot of beans—father will provide.
   (b) Any worry about torn pants.
F. In the Kingdom various fruits are borne.
   (a) Except ye be converted & become
   (b) Mysteries of the Kingdom
   (c) Recede seed; understand; bear fruit - 100, 60, 30
1. Drought in Japan—no food—destroy all over
70 - man took weeder and mother to mt. top to hill; bury sat to rest—why have you torn bits of shall? "I wanted yez to be able to find way back. Count that mt!"
Born again - story of another chance.

Young Dr., enfeebled by bronchitis, diphtheria, croup, threatened with death.

Nurse sat, accidentally fell asleep; boy died; Dr. swore she'd pay as he would return her; next day as she trembled with fear, heard report, "Have you anything to say?" "Please sir give me another chance!"

Dr. couldn't sleep, kept hearing; next day, tore up report; nurse became head of great big hospital.

Farmer trapped a hawk who stole his chicken. To punish, built a stick dynamite to blow him up - he blew into farmer's barn - blew it.

Mother told boy to sit in lobby, i wait - got up - sat him back down - I don't want to - forced it - looked back. "Mom, I'm sitting down but I'm standing up inside!"

West End 2-22-70

Maryville Church 3-10-50

Brend Hills, Atlanta 4-14-70

Episcopd Church, Sheffield, Ala. 5-6-70

Russelville, Ky. Church 7-30-70.
HUMAN MIND—Growth

... life however long, is too short if a mind is bereft of splendor, the passions underworked, the memories sparse, and the imagination unlit by radiant musings. Longevity itself is indistinguishable from vegetation. A man can acquire a pancreas, kidney, liver, heart, bone marrow and lung, but he will succumb to boredom if his mind is without a horizon.... The growth of the human mind if still adventure, in many ways the highest adventure on earth. — NORMAN COUSINS, quoted by DAVID POLING, Christian Herald, 10-69.
Philippians 2:9-14

1. Prayer c 2 requests
   - God fill readers c knowledge
   - of will thru all spiritual
     wisdom t understanding

2. Knowledge - in fullest sense
   - Perfection of knowledge
   - Foundation of character, conduct

   Foundation: truth, affection, purpose, plan
   - Live life worthy of God
   - Conduct - live a disciplined
     Commensurate with what He's done for us.

   Please anticipate wish
   - Bad use - subservient habit to do
     anything to please a patron - even
     anticipate his wishes

2. What does Please God?
   - Bear fruit - Phil 2:10
   - Pursue - Phil 3:12
   - Strengthen - Phil 4:13
   - Give thanks - 1 Thess 5:18
   - Endurance - Patient

   (opposite of impatience)
   
   See things through
   Hope, endurance
   Opposite of wrath, revenge
   Even tempered
Thank the crowning glory
Qualified to share inheritance
Made sufficient
Only God qualifies us
At first time in conversion
Not a process but instant act
Baptism
Believers position new - not future

God qualified by ountains
Rescue, liberate, save, deliver
from darkness Rom 13:12

In 3:19
Didn't drop us but Bapt into kingdom of Son
Kingdom not territory, place on map
Son of His love - Baptism Transfig.
All ours by union with Christ
Redeemed - release via payment
Forgiv (thru blood) v.p.
Send away
Nothing now separates us from God
We have now

Neely's Bend - 7/4/04
Jesus, The Magnificent One

Col. 1:13-20

I. We sing some very inviting songs of inquiry, i.e.
A. Who is this Jesus you talk about every day?
B. Tell me the story of Jesus
C. Who -
D. Ephesians 1:20-23, Philippians 2:5-11, Hebrews 1:2-14, Romans 9:5

II. In this lesson I want to tell you about the Magnificent One called Jesus.
A. Just stated is what He's given us.
1. Deliverance from the power of darkness.
2. Translation into Kingdom of His dear Son - Exodus, whole nation
3. In whom we have redemption
4. Even the forgiveness of sin - removal, sending away of sin & sins
5. Redemption one of 6 NT words to express work of Christ:
   Sacrifice (Eph. 5:2), Offering (Heb. 10:10), Propitiation (Romans 3:25), Ransom (1 Tim. 2:6), Reconciliation (Rom. 5:10) 5:10
6. Redemption is to lose by a price, buy back
7. It's complete though nowhere told to whom payment is made.

Was rich in heaven here poor 2:6/8:9
B. Who then could possibly do all this—Jesus! About Him—marvelous things.  
1. Who is the image of the invisible God?

   a) Thus a part of sentence of 137 words. Christ is the invisible expression

   b) Image—Exact reproduction

      1) Brought the image of God into our grasp

      2) Likeness—exactly as a reflection in a mirror.

      3) Manifestation—we see the nature and being of God.

      4) Makes knowable God to the physical and inward eye.

      5) Jesus was very form or essence of God—equal to God

      6) Jesus is none other than God Himself

     Greeks in a legal contract would write a description of the parties involved so there would be no doubt as to the involvement.

     8) We must also reflect God's image. (Matthew 5:44-45), (Ephesians 5:1)

2. The first born of every creature

   a) Only begotten—uncreated

   b) Sense of supreme

   love sinners—wrote in dust
2A. Some connected facts

a) Stands above creation as Master and Maker

b) He's the source and explanation of all things

c) Thrones are plural — no one has one like God

d) He shares it with His Son

Hebrews 1:7-8

e) Like the sea, angelic orders have their bounds

John 1:1-3

3. Before all things and by Him all things consist

a) He's before all creation and is over it in rank & dignity

b) The management of the divine household is His

c) He's the cause of all creation
d) He is the end for which all things exist.

e) He is the goal toward whom all things were intended to move.

f) All mean to serve His will.

g) Consists – held together

h) He has a cosmic significance

i) He is the unifying principle and the personal sustainer of all creation.

j) Makes the universe a cosmos instead of a chaos

Hebrews 1:3
Acts 17:28

4. He is the head of the body, church

  a) Directing brain

  b) Pronoun emphatic – He alone no other

  c) Not room for any other head nor freak multiple bodies

  d) Body a living organism

  e) Church – assembly, congregation, all the redeemed.

  f) Church is the means by which Christ carries out His purposes and performs His work.

  g) Union between Christ & His people very intimate and vital
h) He is the origin and source of church, life, the fount of its being.

5. In all things pre-eminence
   a) Primogenture threefold:
      1) From eternity – of the Father
      2) First born of His mother
      3) Of the church – He's supreme
   b) Priority in time and in dignity
   c) He's the Lord of the angels
   d) He stands above all
   e) Only other time 3 John Diotrephes

6. In Him all fullness dwells
   a) Christ, Man's only mediator is the very fullness of duty
   b) It makes its home in Him
   c) Made peace through the blood of His cross
   d) Hobbs dying "I commit my spirit to the great perhaps."

C. Words of G. Thomas
   1. Look up into space – Christ made it.
   2. Survey history – Christ rules over it and overrules it.
   3. See the church – Christ heads it
   4. Nothing has ever happened, is happening, or will happen apart from Him
D. Do you find Him via faith sufficient to save you? Ground firmly established.

1. All things reconciled by the blood of His cross. Illustration - you die for...

2. Accepting this, peace comes to your soul
   a) Restfulness in the heart
   b) Peace with God (Romans 5:1)

3. Universal reconciliation is not universal salvation, though sufficient for all, it's efficient only for those who actually accept it. Child's hands of divorced parents

4. "He impels but never compels."

5. We now see what God thinks of Christ - what do you?

Granny White C/C 2-15-96
Hixson C/C, Chattanooga 3/10/96
New Smyrna Beach, FL 3/5/96
New Concord, KY 3/19/96
Maryville, TN 3/24/96
Bentonville, AR 5/21/96
West 7th, Columbia, TN 6/2/96
Franklin, KY 6/16/96
Old Union, Castalian Spgs., TN 6/30/96
Whitmore Rd C/C, Modesto, CA 8/18/96
Smithville, TN - 10/6/96
Lectureship, Yucaipa, CA - 10/17/96
Paris, AR - 10/20/96
Smithville, TN - 10/6/96
Woodland Hills, Cordova, TN - 11/3/96
Adairville, KY - 12/16/01
Neely's Bend - 7/18/04 (Part I)
FAITH IN JESUS

To fully understand the power and compassion of God, we must see its culmination in his Son. Jesus, the one man who has changed the world unlike any other, calls every human who has heard his name to make a decision. It has been said that all the armies that have ever fought, all the kings that have ever reigned, all the parliaments that have ever sat, and all the nations that have ever ruled have not had the impact on the world that this one solitary man has. God incarnate calls us to model his life and ministry and thereby model
Once a young child's parents were going through a bitter divorce. In the middle of this ugliness, the child became terminally ill. As the child lay on his deathbed in the hospital, the father was on one side of the bed and the mother on the other. Without a word, the child took the father's hand and the mother's hand and brought them together. That is exactly what took place at the cross of Calvary. God and I have been separated by the ugliness of my sin. When Jesus was on His "deathbed," He reached into heaven and took the hand of God and reached down to earth and took my hand, and over His cross, mankind was reconciled to God. That is how Paul depicts salvation in Colossians 1:20 when he says that Jesus made peace between man and God "through the blood of His cross." We should put more emphasis on this blood in our teaching and in our lives. Look at some of the purposes of the blood of
Imagine you and your family sitting in your living room one evening. Suddenly, someone breaks into your home, ties you up, and systematically kills your mate and your children while you watch. You hear later that the individual was caught and sentenced to die in the electric chair. On the day of the execution, the person is strapped into the chair. Just before the switch is thrown, you walk over to him, unstrap his arms and his legs, lift him up, and sit down calmly in his place. Your arms and your legs are strapped down, and you are killed for the crime that the other individual committed against you and your family. Someone exclaims, “That is unbelievable! I have never heard of love like that!” Yes, you have! Have you heard of a world which turned its back on its Creator? Have you heard about mankind which shook its fist of rebellion in the face of Almighty God and was sentenced to death for it? Just before the execution was completed, God took your cross, walked up a hill, suffered, and died for the crimes which were committed against Him. Is that not the most beautiful story of love and compassion that you ever heard? That is the story of our redemption.
Additional Notes From Expositor & Wiersbe

Col. 1:15-

I. Similar to Eph. 1:20-25, Phil. 2:5-11.
   A. Lofty concept of Christ's person.
   B. Crucification only 30 years earlier--think of strides covered.
   C. What time of Christ's life is described? Before incarnation, earthly minister, after resurrection, or all time.
   D. False teachers aid matter is evil.
      1. Includes the body.
      2. Jesus had one--is He evil?
      3. Goes either to ascetism or wanton sin.

II. See His relationship to deity, creation, church.
   A. Diety
      1. Image--exact representation, full revelation; likeness, manifestation, nature perfectly revealed.

2 Cor. 6:3-8
   2. Exact representation--See Heb.1:3.
   3. Nature can't reveal the temple of God. Jesus can, therefore he is God.
   4. 2 Cor. 4:6
      2 Cor. 3:15
   5. First born
      a) Place, status, first rank.
b) Solomon not first child, but first born (Ps. 89:27)

c) Priority not in time but supremacy in rank.

d) Before, over.

B. Creation

1. All things "in," "thru," "for" Him.

2. In the spheres of his person.

3. For—the end which all things exist.

4. In—within the sphere of his person. Calvin...impossible to see without his enlightenment.

John 1:3

1:10

5. Goal of achievement, mind to be filled, meditation (John 1:10).

6. Serve Him constantly giving varies.

7. He was planned, all things produced.

8. Says all things twice for emphasis.

9. All things held together, unifying God revealed, he's fully one of power.


C. Relation to body.

1. Head

   a) Sovereign source of life seen in Corinthians.
b) Principles cohesive—held together, sustained.
c) One head, one body. Sovereign source, chief, guide, governor.
d) Sit and watch a sunset.
e) Don't worry and fret.
f) Body--living organism, members joined; union between Christ and folk

Heb. 9:24 "For Christ is not entered into the holy place "

2. Church, assembly.
3. Every Christian a member (Eph. 5:25-30).
4. Only head, no believer is the head.
5. Born-tomb-the womb.
6. Held together as atomic particles move about.
7. In, thru, by.

D. Purpose - all things preeminence.
1. Only here
2. Christ is all and in all.
3. Not one of man emanated
4. Only way to God (John 14:6)
5. If Jesus Christ is not Lord of all He cannot be Lord at all!
7. Only way to heaven.
8. Purpose all things preeminence (Col. 3:11). Where there is neither
9. Stress he is only head.
10. "All things" twice said.
11. Unifying principles, sustained.
12. Our bodies so serve us.

U-19 “For it pleased the Father that He is before Head Image Beginning
1. Ultimate Goal—Lord of All—1st Place
Revel 1:8 I am he that liveth, was dead Keys of hell and death
2. Note sketch but fullness
3. Dwell be at home permanently Always so
1. False teachers said matter is evil.
   a) Includes the body
   b) Jesus had one
   c) Either asceticism or full sin

2. Relation to Creation
   a) First born--place, status, first rank. Solomon not first child of David, but first born, Ps. 89:27, priority
   b) Image--exact representative, Revelation, Heb. 1:3 expresses image of his person. Nature can't reveal God. Jesus can, He is God.
   c) Created--for--wind and waves obey John 1:3, all made by Him.
   d) All exists for, in, through Him. He planned, produced, pleasure for Him.
   e) Holds together--atomic--moving particles--He held together.

3. Relation to church--body
   a) Every Christian a member
   b) Head--source, origin, ruler, originator, Eph. 5:25-30
   c) Only head, no believer is
   d) Born--tomb, the womb

4. Purpose--All things preeminence used only here
   Col. 3:11, Christ is all and in all
   Not one of many emanations
   Only way to God - John 14:6
Not one rung on a ladder.
"If Jesus Christ's not Lord of all
He cannot be Lord at all."

5. Savior, Creator, Head.
THE GLORIES OF THE KING  
Col. 1:15-18

I. Seven facts are immediately offered by Paul to Col. to prove that in all things Jesus is Pre-eminent.
   A. If it was your task to praise your Lord, what would you write?
   B. Let's compare Paul's 7 c yours.
   C. We'll see the 4 that touch Creation only now.

II. The Exaltation of Christ.
   A. "Who is the Image of the Invisible God."
      1. Define image.
         (a) Beyond similarity.
         (b) It's exact reproduction.
         (c) Nothing of God is lacking in the person of His Son.
      Heb. 1:3 "The express image."
         (d) Image - (eikon) - 20X in NT, 8X in Paul's. Originally meant representation or reflection - grew to mental image or likeness.
         (e) An eikon was a precise likeness - like King on coin. Also in legal documents not only signature but also a description of man's features & characteristics.
         (f) It was an observable exhibition, manifestation.
         (g) He is the Copy of God - & was prior to all creation. Not only resembles but Manifest God. Jn. 14:9 "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father
         (h) Creation may give evidence but Christ tells us who & shows us God.
         (i) Includes resemblance, representation, revelation
(i) We can't see God, nor discover Him by unaided reason, intellect or imagination - only thru Christ (Your girl friend's picture gives you a hint)

(k) God wanted man to look like Him.
Gen. 1:26 "And God said let us make man

(l) Jesus is the portrait of God.

(m) F.J.B. - image presupposes prototype - not merely resemblance but exact counterpart of real thing - like sun reflected in water; not like 1 egg looking like another.

2. Thus if you want to know how God feels about sin, sick, poor, opportunity, ask how Jesus felt.
John 1:18 "No man hath seen God

B. The 1st born of every creature.

1. Keep in mind what Paul is doing.

(a) When he wants to combat false teaching, he doesn't make plain the exact nature of the heresy

(b) He will show its defects.

(c) Absolute sufficiency of Christ His work & person, will meet the error.

(d) We are seeing Jesus in His relationship to God, to creation, to the church.

(e) No error like dualism; absolute separation between infinite God & finite earth - material world on lower plane.

(f) Can't be indifferent to current philosophical errors.

Rom. 1:20 "So they are w/o excuse

2. Problems with 1st born.

a.) Was Christ created?
b.) Does 1st born show priority in time & supremacy in place & position.
c.) 1st born has little time significance.
d.) It is a title, an honor.

Ps. 89:27 “I will make him my 1st born, higher

3.) 1st born’s related passages.

Exo. 4:22 ”Israel is my son, even my 1st born

Jer. 31:9 (Read)

Lu. 2:7 ”And she brot forth her 1st born

C. By Him were All Things Created.

1. See Jesus as agent of creation.
2. See Jesus Sustainer of creation.
3. See Jesus Purpose of creation.
4. This cuts ground from under Gnostics.

a.) They had view matter altogether evil & spirit altogether good.

b.) Christians believe in creation made out of nothing; Gnostics said made out of evil matter.
c.) Said God can’t touch matter therefore did not create world.
d.) Rather he put out aeons & emanations that did create - they were so far removed from God He could not claim connections c them.
e.) Paul says Jesus was God’s creating image.
f.) Jesus is unique, not one of many agents remote to God.
g.) Gnostics must say if Jesus is matter He is not real; said when he walked he left no footprint because his body not real.
5. Jesus was agent to bring divine idea to realization
6. He’s not brought by creation but stands above it as Maker.
   a.) Note plural of thrones. No created being has a solitary throne like he does c Father.
Heb. 1:7-8 (Read)
   b.) Angel orders have their bounds just like the sea.
   c.) All things at one definite time were created by Him.
7. Acknowledge Jesus above all.
8. Note all is For Him – Ultimately His.
D. Before All Things & by Him all Things consist.
1. This closes his part of the creation; we’ll move next to his relationship to church.
2. He is the Cosmic, Glue, Cement, Cohesion, Bond
3. He is the world’s continuing cause.
4. Bankhead asked Einstein to explain relativity – he that gravity would be more simple – did it & she said, "What will they think of next?"
5. Paul pays little attention to how much or how little truth there is in speculations about celestial beings – just says Christ handles it all.
6. He holds everything together.
7. Forms a cosmos not a chaos.
8. He creates & sustains.
9. He is in existence behind all laws – in: unto Him they are – thru. Mandates our being people
10. In Him all coheres - He holds it together.
11. He's Conservator as well as Creator.
12. Holds it together in orderly fashion.
13. Gnostics said Wisdom held all things together - God says His Son does.
14. He continually sustains the universe, Moule, "He is their Bond, their order, their law."
15. Universe is personal.

Bay Area School of Preaching, Lectureship
San Leandro, Calif., 4-5-79

Great Lakes Christian College Lectureship
Beamsville, Ontario, Canada 1-24-78

Western Hills Church, Temple, Sep. 8-18-80
Editors:

I have received the replacement copy of "Power for Today". It arrived at the end of the first week of Feb. Since each book covers a 2-month period, this means that well over one-half of that 2-month period had elapsed before I received the current book.

20th Century did not mention a 1-issue extension to my subscription, even tho the time had been paid for, and the issue not delivered, thru no fault of mine------ and I think this would have been fair and a good-will gesture on your part!

Also, I am constrained to ask for an explanation of the contribution by Lyn Rose, Santa Ana, Calif. (Page54). "The same Jesus who was with God in the beginning and who created everything there is......." YES! "The Word was with God....."--- but, beginning with Gen.I, we're told that God created everything!! Later we are told that we are "sons and heirs with Jesus. How many times are we shown Jesus' love of, and obedience to God? Even Jesus did not know "the hour and the day" which is ahead of us------"...only God knoweth....."because GOD is the Creator!

Do you care to comment on that?

Sincerely

(Mrs.) H. G. Johnson
CHRIST AND THE CHURCH
Col. 1:18

I. Earlier we have seen 4 things about Christ & Creation:
   A. Image of the Invisible God.
   B. 1st Born of Every Creature.
   C. By Him All Things Created.
   D. Before All Things & All Things For Him.

II. Now we see 3 things about Christ & the Church.
   A. All Harmony.
   B. All Planned.
   C. All Majestic.
   D. All Faith Building.

III. 3 Things About the Church.
   A. He is the Head of the Body.
      V. 18 "And he is the head of the body, the church
   B. He is the beginning, the 1st born from the Dead.
      V. 18
   C. In All Things He Might have the Preeminence.
      V. 18

IV. Christ is the Head of the Church.
   A. What is involved? 3 Words:
      1. Headship.
         a.) Controls.
         b.) Directs.
         c.) Rules.
         d.) Dual headship - creation & church. He who
            made the world is my brother! No sharp
            separation between natural order & spiritual
            order.
e.) It inspires.
f.) More than ideal – he is life source.
g.) Centre of unity, source of energy, direction of control.

a.) Unites members in one indivisible organism.
b.) Gives strength to it.
c.) Church both a family & a body.
d.) Body moves at head’s direction.
e.) Body dead w/o head. **Account 525-179**
f.) Every act of the church must be governed by Him – not Pope, Opinion, Popularity, or Power.
g.) We can make our body unfit for head’s direction.
h.) Jesus constant director & is Lord of all.
i.) Those who belong to Christ belong to the church – to be out of Christ is to be out of Church; in Christ, in the Church.
j.) Not isolated individuals but vital parts of united body. (Toe & nail all meaningful)
k.) Body essential in relationship to head.

Eph. 4:16 "From whom the whole body fitly joined

3. Church.
   a.) Called out.
   b.) Separated – for world’s good also.
   c.) He started it.
   d.) New creation by water & the word.
   e.) Don’t minimize it.
   f.) Wherever Church goes, Christ goes.

Eph. 1:22 "And hath put all things under his feet, and V. The 1st Born, is Christ.
A. 1st Born Implications.
   1. There will be others.
   1 Cor. 15:20-23 "But now is Christ risen from the dead
   II Tim. 1:10 "But is now made manifest by the appearir
   Rev. 1:5 "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful wi
   Eph. 4:10 "He that descended is the same also that asc
   2. Birth is beginning of a new life & a separate
      existence.
   3. Birth doesn't give life - it introduces it to a new
      state.
   4. His resurrection the beginning of a new humanity.
   5. Beginning = origin (Philosophical term means 1st
      principle, originating cause).
B. Remember again what is being overcome.
   1. Is there fellowship?
   2. Does the intellectual aristocracy shut out the
      common man?
   3. Is salvation for a limited caste or for every man?
   4. If Christ is superior to all, it's foolish to worship
      angels.
C. Remember:
   1.) Jesus headship of the church comes from a fact -
      His resurrection!
   2.) During life they cried for his blood "Kill him -
      his blood be upon us" -
   3.) In Resurrection God vindicated his every claim.
V. Preeminence due Christ
   A. Used only here.
   B. 4 X He is.
      1. He is before.
2. He is head.
3. He is image (who).
4. He is beginning (who).
C. Ultimate Goal – Lord of all.
D. Jesus must be above everything.
E. He is the authority & the life of the church.
F. Unity of origin and of redemption.
G. Note "in order that" – design is apparent.
H. He wants 1st Place.
1. He recovered lost ground & became preeminent by death & Resurrection.
Rom. 15:9 "I will confess thee among the Gentiles, an
2 Cor. 5:15 "Earnest of the Spirit"
Rev. 1:18 "I am he that liveth"
Bay Area School of Preaching Lectureship
San Leandro, Calif. 4-6-75
West End 3-2-80
When a customer closes an account at a bank in Houston, the president sends a letter of regret and asks for an explanation.

One young woman sent a card back saying: "I married Account Number 525-149."
WORLD FACTS

From the World Mission Information Bank I received this material and thought it pertinent to the directions we are moving as a church.

"The population of the world has passed the 4.2 billion mark and is increasing at the rate of 70 million per year. There are 165,000 people who die every day, but 343,000 are born every day for a net increase of 178,000 every 24 hours. By the year 2,000 the population will be 6.2 billion.

WORLD NEEDS

• The number of believers in Christ is approximately the same today as it was in 1830 though the population of the world has more than tripled.
• 3 million villages in the world are without a single Christian to share the Gospel with them.
• 2000 tribes are without one word of scripture for their languages have never been written down.
• Churches of Christ have under 600 fully supported missionary families serving outside the U. S.
• 94% of all Gospel preachers in the world minister to 9% whose mother tongue is English. 6% minister to the other 91% of the world’s people.
• 96% of all church funds are used in bringing the Gospel to the 9% who speak English. 4% is used for the other 91%.
• American members of the Church of Christ give 7 cents per week toward world evangelism outside their own area.
• American Communists spend 38% of their gross income for their cause."

—Ken Dye
More than 200 years ago, Antonio Stradivarius made a vow. “Other men will make violins,” he said, “but no man shall make a better one.” So far, experts say, no one has.

Frederic Loewe, Viennese-born composer of My Fair Lady, arrived in the United States during the Depression of the 1930s and could not make a go of it, reports Funny Funny World, despite the fact that he was a gifted pianist.

One morning, after he had failed to make a payment on his piano, he was waiting gloomily for the men to arrive to repossess the instrument. With a heavy heart, he sat down to play. Bent over the keyboard, he could hear nothing but the music, which he played with rare inspiration. When he finished at last and looked up, he was startled to find that he had an audience — three moving men who were seated on the floor.

They said nothing and made no movement toward the piano. Instead, they dug into their pockets, pooled together enough money for the payment, placed it on the piano and walked out, empty-handed.
1. Nothing in deity is lacking in Christ.

2. In Him all fullness dwells—and the Greek word for fullness is playronia.

3. Christ is not one of many divine beings. He is the one mediator between God and man—all not part of it, all the attributes of divinity and the activities of God are centered in Him.

4. Dwell—to dwell permanently, to take up residence, not temporary.

5. He is pleased to reconcile us to God. He changes us from enmity to friendship. He does it with the submission He feels and the harmony He shares with God. It is complete. It embraces all things, be it heaven or earth, but still it is not universalism (see Matthew 25:46). There is no disorder, but it is all permanent harmony.
WHAT THE FATHER SEES IN THE SON
IN MY BEHALF

Col. 1:19-23

I. We view things from different angles.
   A. What do I think of myself?
   B. What do you think of me?
   C. What do you think of me in relationship to my children?

II. So it is with God.
   A. What does he think of Jesus?
   B. What does he think of me?
   C. What does he think of Jesus in relationship to me?

Col. 1:19-23

III. First the Father sees all fullness dwelling in Jesus.

v. 19

A. Jesus not a sketch of God, but the fullness.
   1. Fay Deroney wanted a "false smile" of her house.
   2. Jesus is everything—nothing is left out. Nothing lacking in deity.
   3. Dwell—to be at home permanently. God is "down home" in Christ, permanent resident.
   4. Many times the Father was "pleased" with Jesus.
5. Divine fullness not something added to Jesus, but had always been at home in Him.

6. Note the fullness connected by AND to reconciliation—he has the credentials!

7. Fullness—entire number, measure, perfection. He's the exhaustion of deity. He is no fragment as Gnostion said of angels.

8. All play ro'ma - fullness.

9. Christ not one of many, but only mediator—all, not part.

IV. As His marvelous Son, He sees Jesus able to:

A. Make peace through the blood of his cross.

v.20

1 John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light..."

1. What Jesus has done for church gives Him the right to head it.

2. Glory in the cross.

3. Blood is one all sufficient atonement which brings men peace with God.

Isa. 53:6

1 Pet. 2:24

2 Cor. 5:21

4. Christ is agent and end.
5. We all need emotionally:
   a) Be loved.
   b) Feel forgiven.
   c) Experience security.
   d) Sense adequate hope.

6. No one person can do this--only Jesus.

7. Jesus equal to the task of reconciliation.

8. Aaron in day of atonement even put blood on floor. Jesus purified heaven for us.
   Heb. 9:12 "Neither by the blood..."
   9:23

9. He gives heaven's harmony.

B. The reconciliation of all things to Himself: to change from enmity to friendship.

v.20-21

1. Nature of Christ's work to bring reconciliation--means was by death on cross. All things heaven and earth.

2. God took the initiative in my reconciliation, to bring submission and harmony.

4. Reconcile completely implies previous resentment in him to whom the offender is reconciled. Note: This is not implying universal salvation (Matt. 25:46), And these shall go away.

5. Remember what once you were away from God "alienated and enemies by wicked worth."
   a) In your mind--not just mode of living, but even in your thoughts!

Ps. 12:4 "...Our lips are our own: who is lord over us?"
   b) Their mind--singular--all minds out of God think the same way.

   a) Gnostion said Jesus suffered only in appearance.
   b) Paul says "not so" -- in flesh too.
   c) Christian Science parrots the same thing.
   d) Jesus humanity suffered and died!
   e) Jesus suffered the sinner's punishment.

Matt. 27:46 "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried..."

2 Thess. 1:9 "Who shall be punished..."
C. Present you (v.22). (Results from Reconciliation).

1. Holy
   a) Christ died for a purpose—to make me holy.
   b) He removes God's wrath from us too.

2 Cor. 5:19 "Wherefore we labor that..
   c) Also glory in the word.
      (NOW) - it's an accomplished fact (v.21).
   d) Holiness has to do with our personal condition as God sees us.

2. Unblamable
   a) Once we were separated and we were the ones who did it—not God!
   b) Do you feel you are without blemish? Are or these failures? Yet because Jesus was without blemish God so sees us.

2 Cor. 5:21 "We might be made righteousness of God in him."

1 Jn. 4:17 "As he is so are we in this world"
   c) We are perfect in the perfection of Christ.
   d) Free from accusation—one whom no blame or fault could be brought.
3. Unreprovable - judicial image.
   a) This is a word of judicial pardon.
   b) It's a condition of non-liability to punishment because Christ took it for me!
   c) Reconciled are unchargeable.
   d) Paul piles these three words one on top of another:
      holy, without blemish,
      unchargeable--what a condition!!

Jer. 31:34 "I will forgive their iniquity."
Ps. 103:12 "As far as the east is from."
Micah 7:18-19 "Who is a God like unto thee."

   e) There is a clean sweep.
   f) We are not an accused culprit at the throne, but one who is free; living sensitive to sin, daily purify self and avoid careless living.
   g) No only condemned--my daily failures dealt with in Jesus.
   h) Unchargeable as long as in Christ.
      "if ye continue in the faith."

D. He sees me continuing in the faith--don't be moved from core of gospel.

v. 23

1. My salvation is conditional--exercised faith.
a) God laid foundation and it comes into effect when we accept it.
b) I'm to see I'm in faith.
c) Strong convictions for truth.

2. Ground
a) Foundation
b) We can be moved away!
c) He is grounded (established on a foundation), settled (seated on it), continues (rests in seat).

3. Settled
a) Rests first on foundation then inward strength which believers possess.
b) Building rests first on foundation, the afterward on cohesive security by which it stands via its own mass.

E. Facts of Gospel
1. Heard
a) Universally proclaimed.
b) They heard first the pure gospel--stay with it.

2. Preached
a) Past tense--accomplished fact.
b) Heralding of good news to those who originally did not know it.
3. Ministered
   a) Greatest hindrance to gospel, spread is lukewarmness of members.
   b) Personal consecration and devotion great needs.

WHAT THE FATHER SEES IN THE SON IN MY BEHALF

Col. 1:19-23

I. We view things from different angles.
   A. What do I think of myself.
   B. What do you think of me.
   C. What do you think of me in relationship to my children.

II. So it is with God.
   A. What does He think of Jesus.
   B. What does He think of me.
   C. What does He think of Jesus in relationship to me.

Col. 1:19-23 "For it pleased the Father that in him should all

III. 1st the Father sees All Fullness Dwelling in Jesus.

V. 19 "For it pleased the Father that in him should all

A. Jesus not a sketch of God but the fulness.
   1. Fay Downey wanted a "false smile" of her house.
   2. Jesus is everything - nothing is left out.
   3. Dwell = to be at home permanently. God is "down home"
       Permanently in Christ.

4. Many times the Father was "pleased" c Jesus.

5. Divine fulness not something added to Jesus but had always been at home in Him.

6. Note the fullness connected by AND to reconciliation - he has the credentials!

7. Fullness = entire no., measure, perfection. He's the exhaustion of deity. He is no fragment as Gnostics said of angels.

IV. As His Marvelous Son, He sees Jesus Able to:
   A. Make Peace thru the blood of his Cross.
V. 20 "And, having made peace through the blood of 1
1 Jn. 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the 1
1. What Jesus has done for church gives him the
right to head it.
2. Glory in the cross.
3. Blood is one all sufficient atonement which brings
men peace c God.
Isa. 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have
1 Pet. 2:24 "Who his own self bare our sins in his own k
2 Cor. 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, wh
Christ is agent & end.
5. We all need emotionally:
  a.) Be loved.
  b.) Feel forgiven.
  c.) Experience security.
  d.) Sense adequate hope.
6. No one person can do this - only Jesus.
7. Jesus equal to the task of reconciliation.
8. Aaron in day of atonement even put blood on
floor, Jesus purified heaven for us.
Heb. 9:12 "Neither by the blood of goats and calves
9:23 "It was therefore necessary that the patterns
9. He gives heaven's harmony.
B. The Reconciliation of All Things to Himself.
V. 20-21 "And, having made peace through the blood
1. Nature of Christ's work to bring reconciliation -
means was by death on cross.
2. God took the initiative in my reconciliation.
3. Other religions search for God - Chr. religion -
God searches for us.
4. Reconcile implies previous resentment in him to whom the offender is reconciled.
5. Remember what once you were - away from God "alienated & enemies by wicked works."
   a.) In your mind - not just mode of living but even in your thoughts!
Ps. 12:4 "Our lips are our own, who is lord over us
   b.) Their mind - singular - all minds out of God think the same way.
   a.) Gnostics said Jesus suffered only in appearance.
   b.) Paul says "not so" - in flesh too.
   c.) Chr. Science parrots the same thing.
   d.) Jesus humanity suffered & died!
   e.) Jesus suffered the sinner's punishment.
Matt. 27:46 "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with
2 Thess. 1:9 "Who shall be punished with everlasting d
C. Present you (V. 22) (Results of Reconciliation)
1. Holy.
   a.) Christ died for a purpose - to make me holy.
   b.) He removes God's wrath from us too.
2 Cor. 5:19 "To wit, that God was in Christ, reconcili
   c.) Also glory in the word NOW - it's an accomplished fact (V. 21).
   d.) Holiness has to do c our personal condition as God sees us.
2. Unblameable.
   a.) Once we were separated & we were the ones who did it - not God!
   b.) Do you feel you are w/o blemish? Or are
there failures? Yet because Jesus was w/o blemish God so sees us.

2 Cor. 5:21 we are "made rt. of God in him"
1 Jn. 4:17 "As he is so are we in this world"

c.) We are perfect in the perfection of Christ.

3. Unreprovable. 1. lit. not to be called to account:
   a.) This is a word of judicial pardon.
b.) It's a condition of non-liability to punishment because Christ took it for me!
c.) Reconciled are unchargable.
d.) Paul piles these 3 words one on top of another: holy, w/o blemish, unchargeable - what a condition!!

Jer. 31:34 "And they shall teach no more every man h
Ps. 103:12 "As far as the east is from the west, so far 1
Micah 8:19 "

e.) There is a clean sweep.
John 13:10 "Jesus saith to him, He that is washed need
f.) We are not an accused culprit at the throne but one who is free; living sensitive to sin, daily purify self & avoid careless living.
g.) Not only condemned - my daily failures dealt c in Jesus.
h.) Unchargable as long as in Christ.
"if ye continue in the faith."

D. He sees me continuing in the faith.

V. 23 "If ye continue in the faith grounded and settle
1. My salvation is conditional - exercised faith.
a.) God laid fd. & it comes into effect when we accept it.
b.) I'm to see I'm in faith.
c.) Strong convictions for truth.

2. Ground.
a.) Foundation.
b.) We can be moved away!
c.) He is grounded (established on a fd.) settled (seated on it) continues (rests in seat).

a.) Rests 1st on fd. then inward strength which believers possess.
b.) Bldg. rest 1st on fd. then afterward on cohesive security by which it stands via its own mass.

E. Facts of Gospel.  4. Be not moved away

1. Heard.
a.) Universally proclaimed.
b.) They heard 1st the pure gospel - stay c it.

2. Preached.
a.) Past tense - accomplished fact.
b.) Heralding of good news to those who originally did not know it.

3. Ministered.
a.) Greatest hindrance to Gospel's spread is lukewarmness of members.
b.) Personal consecration & devotion great needs.

I. Imagine if you will, a game of baseball.
   A. It has its hits.
   B. We see its errors.
   C. As we use some of its terminology may it help you remember the words of Colossians 1:20. That projects a glorious present and future for the child of God.
   D. Read Colossians 1:21-23.

II. First we must get you individually "at bat." No one else can stand there but you alone against two enemies, the pitcher and catcher.

Col. 1:21 "And you."
   A. Before anything else please see you individually are responsible in spite of cheers and jeers that come.
      1. You are there for a purpose.
      2. You want to score.
      3. What you achieve will help others.
      4. Thus seriously you accept your assignment.
   B. You haven't always been big league as you had trouble with two graduating pitches.
      1. You were sometimes "alienated."
2. Note two time elements: you were but you move to you now.

3. Alienated:
   a) Outlines former plight to show the rescue of hope.
   b) Made for fellowship with God yet sin came and spoiled it.

Eph. 2:12 At that time ye were sold Christ
4:18

   c) Means not belonging to a family being unknown, immigrant in a foreign land, deprived of your rights, banished. (Broadman)
   d) Sin makes man shun God.
   e) Morally distant from God.

4. Enemies, as alienation led you to being an enemy.
   a) Became hostile.
   b) Note progression.
      1) Religious estrangement.
      2) Psychological--hostile mind.

5. Came about first by thoughts--mind.
   a) Process of understanding--read and heard wrong thing.
   b) It develops into deeds.

6. Evil works.
   a) Evil deeds conform estrangement from God.
b) Thought then the act as each pushes the other into further corruption.

c) Mind pushes to misdeeds.

d) Wrong thinking leads to vice and to further moral corruption, mind and deeds become approp-
ably evil.

e) This was not what God wanted.

C. So you got a pass—reconciled.

1. He—the Lord did it and He will tell you how he did it.

2. He did it right now—you are safely placed.

3. God removes every obstacle to our salvation.

4. Only divinity could do this and give you forgiveness and peace.

5. God's not willing that any should perish—His love leads Him to want you to be with Him.

6. How can a sinless God take residence in a sinful man? only as he forgives him!

D. The Process of Reconciliation

1. It's now.

2. It's in the body of his flesh through death.
   a) Jesus here in the flesh as he entered humanity.
b) Spirits have no body of flesh---
   He said "touch me."

c) Jesus had to put on a human body that he might have an intro-relationship with us.

d) Disembodied angels do not assist in reconciliation.

3. He had to die.
   a) We are baptized into his death.
   b) He died to take our place, arose to declare his genuineness.
   c) Cross essential.

Rom. 8:25

E. The Purpose of Reconciliation

1. To present you.
   a) A petition at court to a monarch
   b) Now--in this life, acceptable to God.

2 Cor. 4:14

2. Now comes a triple three-base hit.
   a) Holy
      1) Sanctified to God.
      2) Set aside to Him,
      3) First condition to be met---holiness.
b) Unblamable
   1) As it relates to you.
   2) How you feel about yourself.
   3) New life in ascending scale.

c) Unreprovable
   1) Every day grows better.
   2) Bask in assurance.

F. Before the home run one more time at bat - "if."
1. God gives me something to do.
2. Condition to be met--fruit of the future.
3. It touches all four bases for your home run.
   a) Continue in the faith.
      1) Unswerving continuance.
      2) Trust--reality.
      3) No grounds for complacency.
      4) Maintain a place or locality.
   b) Grounded--never dislodged.
      1) Firm with us.
      2) Built on foundation.
      3) Exercise
      4) Stable, steadfast
   c) Settled--established, firm.
      1) Inward strength.
      2) Banded into the firm rock.
      3) Seated, restful, satisfied, undoubting.
d) Moved not away.
   1) Resist every device move.
   2) Don't get fruit from a frequently moved tree.

4. Hope of the preached gospel—good news.
   a) You heard.
   b) Obeyed
   c) Support
   d) Not opinion, but faith in Word.
   e) Adapted to every creature.
   f) Only the truth is universal.

Rom. 10:9-10

Branson, MO - 10/8/08
I. My sermon title emphasizes two things:
   A. You - Christianity is personal
   B. My movement is Past, Future, Present
      not the usual order.

II. And you - Past
   A. It starts with the spotlight on me -
      not someone else. The preacher
      points at me; estranged
   B. Alienated - Not belonging to a family
      1. You were astray - known, banished
      2. Involves actual hostility to God
         because of assertion of self
      3. Yet perhaps as a child you
         always wanted to be baptized.
   Exceptions to the above attitude.
   Enemies Actively Hostile
      1. Just no middle ground - either
         for or against
      2. Lukewarm - spew out!
         In your mind - Wicked Works
      3. Not so much open and gross sin,
         but rather state of heart which
         came from deliberate apposition
         to God
      4. Mind - process of understanding
      5. Thoughts & acts both tainted
4. First comes in the mind
5. Then thoughts express themselves in wicked works

III. Yet now - Future
   A. "Now" often in Paul's words in this life accepted
   Verse 26
   Romans 3:8
   Ephesians 2:13
   1. I see it not so much as immediacy in time, but your attention grapper
   2. We use is for emphasis - "now listen to me."
   B. Because of what has happened there is a great future.
   You were reconciled
   a) Our reconciliation depends on God's good pleasure - thus you see grace abound
   b) Reconcile - to change (from enmity to friendship)
   c) Important because the impotentinent are for everlasting punishment. Jonah, you ask him
   Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away
   d) Reconciliation means - the blood of the cross, body of His flesh
   e) Human nature of Christ essential to His work of reconciliation
f) His body the instrument to carry out the reconciliation — thus He's no phantom.

g) God showed His mercy in exacting payment, not from incapable folk, but Christ who could pay it. (Scott)

h) Sinner for whom Christ died is invested to the eye of God with all the sacredness and the value of Christ's substitutionary suffering, with all the righteousness of which these sufferings were expressed. (Vaughn)

i) He who accomplishes the reconciliation is God himself.

j) Actually the offended one is seeking the reconciliation

k) Impossible for God to be indifferent toward sin though He loves the sinner for whom Christ died.

l) Church doesn't do it, but flesh of Jesus does

m) Reconciliation is through death — the fundamental axiom of the gospel

n) It is at the price of Christ's blood
Petition at court to a monarch or another person at Dignity.

C. He wants to present you:

1. This the very end of the matter it given 2

2. It is Future

3. Present used by Paul:
   a) An oblation Romans 12:1
   b) Pride Ephesians 5:27
   c) Subject at court 2 Cor. 4:14-18 (Sacrifice, Spouse, Subject)

4. Also Jude

Jude 24 "Now unto Him that is able to keep...

5. The presentation is redeeming work's culmination.

   and to present you faultless by the pres. glory c

D. Way He wants to present you: exceeding joy

1. Holy
   a) Positive, Personal
   b) Entirely consecrated
   c) Separate to service of God, definite consecration, moral purity - if this not yours you would not enjoy Heaven!

2. Unblamable
   a) Without blemish - no disfigurement Temple sacrifice unblemish
   b) Immaculate
   c) Stainless character

3. Unreprovable - judicial term
   a) Impossibility of an accusation. Free from accusation.
   b) No charge that can stand
   c) Unchargable, no accusations, no blame. Devil accuser Rev. 12:10

Cop asked me at Newsing - "Why are you driving so fast?"
"Your license?"
Borrowed car, come help me fill gas in it - gave me no ticket - guess it proved my duress
4. All in God's sight
   a) Means to look down, look in
   b) Penetrating gaze

James 1:4  One day stand perfect and entire, mature and complete, lacking nothing

IV. Now you - Present
A. If you continue
   1. Continuance is the test of reality - necessary if you want to go to Heaven
   2. C.R. Nichol at Red Boiling - tonight is my night off
   3. Continue - to stay at a place
   4. Continue - in state or attitude
   5. Man must submit to God and stay there
   6. It is conditional
   7. Betwixt past and future is this little while in between
   8. Endure to the end to be saved

Matthew 24:13
9. To get the prospect we must adhere to the process.

B. In the Faith
   1. Apart from personal trust no salvation
   2. Yield everything to God and remain in that attitude

Romans 6:13
Not shifted away; never abandoning; never to be dislodged
3. All that Christ has done depends on our continuing faith - for our salvation.

4. Here is an act and exercise of faith, not content or matter of faith.

E. Grounded on Foundation
   1. Permanently so
   2. Permanent foundation
   3. Fixed condition
   4. Like house on field - slabs at Abilene
   5. Never shift, dislodge

D. Settled
   1. Stable - Steadfast Phil 3:1
   2. Securely grounded
   3. Steadfast - built up so as to correspond to foundation
   4. Continue - maintain a place

G. Moved not away
   1. Greatest hindrance to gospel's spread is lukewarmness of members
   2. Don't let it happen to you

F. Hope of the Gospel
   1. It originated in the gospel
   2. Presented only if you continue
   3. Hope learned from gospel
V. Gospel
A. Heard - understood
B. Preached - loudly heralded
C. To every creature - evangelism
D. Our duty - hear, believe, obey, live it, enjoy it, spread it.

Hixson C/C, Chattanooga, TN - 3/10/96
Maryville, TN - 3/24/96
Old Union, Castalian Spgs, TN - 7/1/96
Lectureship, Yucaipa, CA - 10/18/96
Neely's Bend - 8/22/04 (Pt. I)
Neely's Bend - 8/29/04 (Pt. II)
Neely's Bend - 9/05/04 (Pt. III)
How To Remain Faithful
Sam Jones

Diamonds from Rev

Luke 2:31 Simon, Sathan hath desired to have
Prayed for you; faith fail not, converted
Strong thou try brethren.

1. Satan tries to take possession for gospel
out of members.

Rev 2:4 I have some work... let thy love
Rev 3:1 I know thy works... name lie... dead
Jer. 2:13 2 evils: falseken, Pt... near cisterns
Jer 5:31 Horrible: prophets p. falsely
   Priest bear rule by their means
   People love to have it so

Jer. 6:14 Healed heart slightly... peace-No

Jer 8:22 Is there no balm in G. no phy.

Acts 4:20 We cannot but speak the

Prov 3:5 Trust in the Lord, lean not... and

2 Chron 20:12 We know not... eyes on

Prov 22:28 Remove not the ancient

Prov 4:22 Keep thy heart with d... issues

Prov 28:13 He that covers his sins shall not prosper; for whoso confess... takes them shall have mercy.
A preacher and an atheist were talking, and the atheist was ridiculing the Bible. He asked, “Do you really believe that Jonah survived for three days in the belly of a whale?” “I sure do,” the preacher replied. “Just how did he do that?” asked the atheist. “When I get to heaven, I guess I’ll ask him,” said the preacher. The atheist came back, “What if he is not in heaven?” The preacher replied, “Then you can ask him.” Hell is a real place which will be inhabited by those who have been caught in the clutches of sin. However, God has freed His children of this terrible fate.

its Power to Deceive

One of the greatest powers of darkness is its power to deceive. This insidious aspect of darkness is described in 2 Peter 2:17-19 which uses the figures of a well without water and clouds carried off with the wind. Sin and darkness promise great things, but their end is death.

When Benjamin Franklin was a boy, he was given some money by a friend of the family. Later, he saw a friend playing with a whistle. Benjamin gave him all of his money for it only to find out later that he had paid about four times more than it was worth. The whistle immediately lost its charm. Years later, whenever Ben Franklin saw a man neglecting his family for a career advancement or a greedy person sacrificing friendships for more money, he would say, “He pays too much for his whistle.” This story, applied to the deceitful nature of sin, becomes a powerful commentary. A person “pays too much for his whistle” when he buys into the relative morality that our society espouses. He “pays too much for his whistle” when he puts material possession before his devotion to God. He “pays too much for his whistle” when he believes a sinful lifestyle is the best and happiest lifestyle. We do not have to be deceived into buying Satan’s bill of goods, for we have His Word to guide us.
COLOSSIANS 1:24

Wiersbe

1. Enemies made much of Paul's imprisonment to ridicule him.

2. He turned the tables and said he rejoices in his suffering.

3. It was in fellowship with Jesus (Phil. 3:10).
   Acts 5:41 "...they were counted worthy to suffer..."
   I Pet. 4:15-16 "...not as thief or evil doer but Chr."
   Matt. 5:10-12

4. Secondly he was suffering because of the Gentiles.
   Acts 22:21

5. Third cause - the church.

6. Lit. feeling up in his turn the leftover part of Christ's suffering.

7. Affliction--pressures of life.

8. Christ's sufferings are over; we suffer because we stand for the truth.

9. Jesus feels it.
   Acts 9:4 Why persecute me?
   2 Cor. 1:5 Real suffering--our consolation.

10. He must be faithful to his calling (1 Cor. 4:2). Required in stewards that a man be found faithful.


14. No longer have to be a Jew to enjoy God.

15. Prayer warrior; striving, athletic conflict.

16. Whom—Jesus, preached a person.

17. Preach—announce with authority, herald.

18. Warned of positive truths—taught Christ.

19. Wisdom is right use of knowledge.

20. Perfect—complete, mature.

21. Encouragement— to comfort—"with heart."

22. Endearment—knit together, peace made, no troublemaker.

23. Enrichment.

24. Enlightenment—full assurance of understanding.

25. Understanding let to place together.

26. Intercession—agony, exert energy.

27. Spirit assests via word.
I. All of us who preach have one we greatly admire.
   A. It is Jesus first of all.
   B. It's Paul we put high in admiration.
      1. He's the preacher type every church needs.
      2. He's the one after whom we may model our ministry.

II. Since Paul was not known at Col. he begins to speak about himself.
   A. Paul the Minister. (Verse 24)
      1. Strange paradox—"rejoice in suffering."  
         a) Emphasis on "I."
         b) Personally satisfied and at rest with himself.
         c) Are we happy as Christians?
         d) Note the NOW!
         e) Chains did not stop his rejoicing.
      2. Minister — one who serves.
      3. Several times so used, minister of:
         a) Gospel Ephesians 3:7
         b) God 2 Corinthians 6:4
         c) Christ 2 Corinthians 11:23
         d) New Covenant 2 Corinthians 3:6
4. Suffered for others — "for you"
   a) Church is built by self denial
   b) Christ suffered for us all sufficiently—but left some for
      us to do.
   c) When we suffer we feel Christ bearing it with us.
   d) Suffer for entire church.
5. Won't have to carry this minister on a silver platter.
6. Hear the clanging of the chains but never the groan of the
   prisoner.  

B. Made according to the Dispensation of God.
   1. Means entrusted with great responsibilities, the economy.
   2. Like the management of a great estate, Stewardship!
   3. Ambassadors present credentials on arrival from his chief of state.
   4. Paul entrusted by God with wealth to distribute to others.
   5. For you — Gospel is world wide, but he has you individually in
      mind.
C. Expected to fulfill the Word.
   1. Task to make known the word.
   2. Not to organize or entertain, but make you know the word.
   3. Manifested mystery.
      a) Something unveiled when the time is ripe.
      b) Mystery 20 X in New Testament — something wonderful that once was hidden.
      c) At times referred to:
         Wisdom of God 1 Cor. 2:7
         Resurrection of the body 1 Cor. 15:51
         Church as Pride Eph. 5:22
         Incarnation Col. 2:2
         Lawlessness 2 Thes. 2:7
      d) F.B. Myers' illustration
         1) It's like a man who comes home after years of absence, sits at his mother's table as a stranger.
         2) She does not recognize him.
         3) Then he reveals himself and she delights in it.
         4) Lastly he tells her of his remarkable prosperity and the wealth he has brought to her.
e) Read Verses 26–27.
1) Gentiles on equal terms with Jews.
2) Gentiles repentance unto life. (Acts 11:18)
3) Magnifies Christ — gospel a personal proclamation.
4) Can't take message and set aside Christ who spoke it.
5) Can read Koran and not know who wrote it — not so with Christ.

f) Christ in you.
1) A possession
2) A prospect — hope of Glory
3) Live with hope in your heart
4) We know who Christ was in the past and believe he will so be in the future.

D. In preaching we warn
1. Admonish
2. Awaken non-Christian to see his needs.
3. Dangerous not to receive Christ
4. Double danger to backslide
5. Sin and its results are certain.
6. Apply salt to stop corruption.
7. Warn the indifferent, careless, presumptuous, scoffer — Franklin F. Whistle
8. Story of athiest and Jonah.
9. Every man
   a) 3 times in one verse
   b) Man is object of his concern.

E. In preaching we teach
   1. Win converts - persuade men
   2. Teach Babes in Christ
Isaiah 30:21 "This is te way, walk ye in it."
   3. Truth is inexhaustable
   4. Refresh the jaded spirits
   5. Follow the Light
   6. Every man - gospel is for all, not a peculiar few
   8. Note individual application
Judges 3:20 "I have a message from God unto thee."
   9. We still live and die alone - so individually I accept Gospel.
10. Teach wisdom.

F. Present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.
   1. Want to go to Heaven and take as many as I can.
   2. Know no man I do not want to be saved.
   3. Perfect - mature, ripe, (not sinless) growing from conversion til now.
4. Remove defects.
5. It too for every man.
6. All realized in Christ.
7. Present you in God's presence.
8. Proper end of man's existence – complete, full grown.

G. Where unto I labor – striving
1. Wearisome toil
2. Strive – agonize, intense struggle as an athlete
3. Demanding, fatiguing
4. As he worked Christ was working in him.
5. May we be:

Psalms 103:21 "Ministers of His that do His Pleasure"
6. God gave him the energy.

Granny White C/C
Hixson, TN (BC)
Neely's Bend BC - 9/19/04
Why do the innocent suffer? Because of love. God designed love to be based on our free will. He didn't want to be loved out of fear, or out of compliance. He wanted to be loved out of gratitude. But love has a price tag. If love is free, then a lover is free to be unloving. Otherwise love is forced. Because we are free to be unloving, many of us have been run over by the steamroller of the selfishness of others.

--Cloud & Townsend
Safe People

Old is not better. Old can be worse. The apostolic criterion is not whether something is old or new. The criterion is whether it is truthful—truthful in the sense of true to the apostolic testimony to God's revelation, the truth personally incarnate in Jesus Christ. There was a great suspicion of novelty in the first five centuries (of the church).

Now, modernity has turned that around and said the opposite; If anything is old we reject it. Novelty has become a criterion for truth. So there is as great a phobic response to anything antiquarian in modern consciousness as there was a resistance to novelty in classical Christian consciousness...

-over-
Believers perennially need and have a right to a living tradition of preaching, worship, and discipline.

--Os Guinness and John Seels, eds., No God But God
Christian Studies, No. 13, pg. 56

THE TRADITIONAL SPIRIT of the airborne soldier lives on at Fort Bragg, N.C., home of the elite 82nd Airborne Division. There the story is told of an in-ranks inspection conducted by the Division's commanding general.

A freshly recruited paratrooper from West Virginia was standing proudly at attention, jump wings on his chest, awaiting the commander's careful scrutiny. The general paused in front of the soldier and, spotting a loose thread on his uniform, said, "Trooper, your fatigue jacket is frayed."

To the guarded amusement of all within earshot, the noticeably affronted young private replied, "Sir, beggin' your pardon, but this here airborne jacket ain't 'fraid a nothin'!"

--Jim Russell (Makakilo, Hawaii)
Rick Warren did some research a while back among five hundred people who were not attending church at the time. What he learned is important to all of us who care about reaching lost people with the gospel.

Warren's survey revealed four reasons why unchurched people don't attend. (1) Sermons are boring, and irrelevant to their lives. (2) The members are unfriendly to visitors. (3) Churches seem more interested in your money than in you as a person. (4) They want quality child care if they go to church.

IN SEARCH OF WONDER Anderson
Page 85
WHAT AM I DOING FOR THE CHURCH?
Col. 1:24-29
I. Tell story of Job application - 10X what you’ve been giving will be the Christian’s salary.
   A. If money is the easiest thing I can give, in reality what am I really doing for the church.
   B. Dare I lay my life by another, comparatively speaking? Even an apostle?
II. This Paul Did for the Church: Abruptly changes to what Paul is personally doing for church.
Col. 1:24 "Who now rejoice in my s. for you
1. Some view it as a game - preachers play it & congregation fills the stands (pews).
2. 1st, we see Christ suffered & we follow suit.
3. But what kind of leader writes his followers from prison.
4. Who, with integrity, can say he enjoys suffering. For tho his ministry brot him much pain he rejoice in it.
5. A man will suffer if he has a strong sense of missic meaning & purpose - then he will endure all kinds of hardship.
6. Have you ever thot of reasons for suffering:
   a.) My stupidity.
   b.) My selfishness.
   c.) Unknown - little child c leukemia.
   d.) As discipline.
7. Albert Speer, Hitler's st. hand man was asked what he felt when engaging in the horrors of the holocaust, answered "I really don't know... because I didn't want to know."
8. Do we live comfortably & at ease – what have I suffered for Christ?
9. Remember anyone who serves the church is serving Christ. Suffering may not be released nor substitute for service but rather highest form of it.

B. How do I fill up what is behind of the affliction of Christ?
1. We have no supplement to offer – he perfectly satisfied God. Heb 10:11-14
2. No sufferings of apostles or others were expiation for sins. We edify; not redeem
3. Nothing lacking in Christ – He was sufficient to the suffering.
4. Paul's sufferings were not propitiatory.
5. Christ's were not insufficient.
6. Rather:
   a.) Only Christ qualifies you for the glory that's in God.
   b.) Faith allows the life of Christ to be duplicated in our lives. He did His part now I do mine.
   c.) A Chr. fills up what remains when he takes up his cross & bears patiently the afflictions God allocates. MUST Jesus Bear The Cross??
   d.) The afflictions of every saint is supplemental to the afflictions of Christ.
   e.) Church is built up by repeated acts of self denial in successive generations.
   f.) Only a suffering ministry is a saving one.
Heb. 5:2 "Who can have compassion on the ignorant, Heb. 5:7-8 "Who in the days of his flesh, when he had Isa. 50:4 "The Lord God hath given me the tongue of
C. Nicholson had some interesting things about sufferi
1. Were for his brethren - on their behalf.
2. Our afflications come only as measured, numbered
   & chosen for us by God & beyond that am't. they
cannot go.
1 Thess. 3:3 "That no man should be moved by these aff
Job 5:6 "Although affliction cometh not forth of the du
17 "Behold, happy is the man whom God correcte
18."For he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woun:
Jer. 46:28 "Fear thou not, O Jacob my servant, saith
3. What remains was a certain proportion of service
to the church.
D. Finally; Church doesn't exist for us but we for it!
1. Church is Christ's second self.
Eph. 3:17 "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by fait
2. Give all for it. Interest of Church demanded his
E. Paul Fulfilled the Word (V. 25):
1. It means to develop, unfold so his message could
   be seen to the full. Widest possible extension.
2. No spiritual secrets behind the gospel, incomprehensible
3. Mystery is made manifest, hidden now revealed
   a.) Illuminates truths c more light than had already
      been announced. Hope: past irretrievable, present
      is passing; we reach to un
   b.) Mystery from 1 word - to shut the lips. It's
      secrecy, concealment. Future 4 use hope -
4. He revealed Christ among you.
5. Did it by Preaching - Herald - announce.
F. Paul had 3 everys. 6. MUST Have Knowledge of
1. Warn every man.
   a.) Paul univerary - in every way wants every man
b.) Jew didn't believe God needed every man.
c.) Only thing in the world that is for every man is Christ. Color blind can't paint, tone deaf can't sing.
d.) Thus he warns him - cautions him.
e.) Admonish.

2. Teach every man.
a.) Instruct all.
b.) No restriction as to persons or subjects - the whole Christ is to be taught every man.
c.) Every man addressed - every subject is thrown open.

3. Present every man Perfect. (Full grown - not children.)
a.) Aim is practical - every man perfect in Christ.
b.) Gospel universal & individual.
c.) Christ made perfect by suffering - shall we?
Heb. 5:8-9 "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience through the suffering of death."
1 Pet. 4:1 "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same mind:"
d.) Perfection our goal.
e.) It's in Christ - are we dogged by the hell hounds of our own deserving?

G. To this end Paul Labored.
1. Labor = great exertion, wear out oneself. It was used in burial inscriptions. Stood for strenuous work. Rom. 1:9: 19-23
2. Agonize - struggle like an athlete, not half hearted, else they pull you out of game for loafing.
3. It's idea of a contest with obstacles, yet in view is a definite goal.
A. He's divinely sustained. Phil. 3:13-15
Milton was right—"I cannot praise fugitive and
cloistered virtue, unexercised and unbreathed, that never
sallies forth to meet its adversary, where garlands are to be
run for not without heat and dust."

The Village Tragedy and Other Sermons, by Clovis
Chappell, p. 97.

Dietzche "He who knows the why of his
experience can endure any trial."

A Christian business man advertised for new employees. He
stated that a generous salary was available, along with good hours
and pleasant working conditions. He stated that he would consider
only those who were faithful members of the Lord's Church.

This executive was convinced that no true Christian would even
consider giving less than the minimum the Jews gave. So, in his
advertisement, he stated that he would pay a salary that would be
ten times what the new employee had given to the church in the
year. Would you have accepted the job?
New Life

Through His Word

LifeLinks

Publication of

NT Publishing

Christian Memorial

in Sunrise

Enoch – this is where

Eternal recognition with Jesus

Hebrews 11:13
1. Read a paper to the
2. The message
3. Read materials
4. Write a letter
5. Suffer:
   a) Send a reply, you
   b) Send a letter, printed
5. Stated in
6. Results - worn
7. Created
8. Essential

RE say "suffering"
Defective, inadequate
Lacking in efficiency
Do not completely

*Federal Reserve Bank Regulation CO
A DADDY PRAYS FOR HIS BOY

Col. 2:3 In him are hid
1. V. 4 Judge the Poor. - Poor have rights
2. V. 5 Save children of needy - Judge the Poor.
3. V. 6 Fear thee as long as sun endures.
4. V. 7 Rain upon the mown grass - P. R. - Refresh
5. V. 8 Kings bring presents for - Free
6. V. 9 Uncivilized - Can't
7. V. 10 Distant - stop it
8. V. 11 Opulent - Necessary
9. V. 12 Deliver the needy, poor, no helper.
10. V. 13 Spare the poor - save needy (or kill enemy)
11. V. 14 From deceit, violence, precious
12. V. 15 Prayer and Praise.
13. V. 16 Corn, fruit, flourish, efficient.
14. V. 17 AMEN
15. 72nd Psalm
(a) Good news broadcast.
(b) Less likely of success.
(c) Small multiply.
(d) One seed takes root.
(e) Protected from attack.

Dogs & loneliness 20
Speeding 66-110
Forgives our trash baskets
Peanut Butter - Home cooked meal
Special prayer for (Preacher) Dad
Never know what God'll do next
Putter Bug Day 7-12-75
THE PURPOSE FOR SUFFERING  
Col. 2:1-4
I. Life's tough - to put up with its toughness man needs to see what he's getting.
   A. Feed family.
   B. Educate kids.
   C. Take care of Mother & Dad.
II. What about Christianity? Do you see the point of endurance?
   Col. 2:1-4 "For I would that ye knew what great conf
   A. All of us are doing for others what they may not know - but you could wish they did!
   1. Laodicea & Heirapolis stood in full view of ea. other - either side of valley - 6 miles apart.
      River Lycus flowed between.
   2. Col. 12 miles up river.
   3. Some knew of Paul, yet had never seen his face.
   4. He'll struggle for Chr. he's never seen.
B. What great Conflict I Have For You.
   1. Felt inner strain of anxiety, prayer, yearning.
   2. Strife of earlier chapter, now wrestler for them in prayer.
   3. Agonize - an athletic term.
   4. Couldn't charge Paul of not caring for my soul.
C. His Blessed Wish.
   1. That their hearts might be comforted.
      a.) Not just console, but strengthen.
      b.) Be reinforced, hearten, encourage.
      c.) He's in prison - can do nothing but pray - yet thinks of their comfort.
d.) Folks watch us - if we falter, others may.
2. Knit together in love.
   a.) Love the bond of perfect knitting.
   b.) Strength in harmony - knit.
3. Unto all riches of the full assurance of understandi
   a.) Unto - end of all knitting, object desired - hitched to.
   b.) Confirm via closer unity in love, deepened conviction & fuller knowledge.
   c.) Wants a church of gallant hearts who meet difficult situations c confidence.
   d.) Wants no imperfect teaching.
   e.) Knowledge is to apprehend truth.
   a.) Truth of Christinaity is not a secret which is hidden, but a secret revealed in the Godhead.
   b.) Those who seek will find it only in the Lord.
D. In God is hid the treasures of wisdom & knowledge
1. Apocryphos hidden = secret writing of the Gnostics.
2. Hidden is a technical word for secret teaching given only to the initiated.
3. They laid claim to esoteric knowledge - Paul says they are hidden in Christ - not Joe Smith, Pope, etc.
4. Treasures of wisdom & knowledge.
   a.) Note all; not some.
   b.) They do not lie on surface but must be earnestly sought, like search for a hidden treasure.
c.) Know an inexhaustible wealth.
d.) Knowledge & wisdom:
   (1) Knowledge.
      ((a)) Special, intellectual.
      ((b)) Apprehend truth.
      ((c)) Development of wisdom in spiritual perception
   (2) Wisdom.
      ((a)) Power of reasoning & application.
      ((b)) Practical – applying principles to any given situation.
      ((c)) Confirm & commend truth with wise arguments.
      ((d)) Experimental & practical truth.
      ((e)) Intelligent testing & harmonizing.
e.) Remember:
   1.) Hidden not from us, but for us in Christ.
   2.) No secret treasure of wisdom that's not in Christ Himself.
   3.) To know Christ is to know God's secrets.
   4.) Full meaning of Christ not disclosed to the superficial.

III. Warned against beguiling.
A. Beguile.
   1. Reason you aside.
   2. Use not solid facts.
   3. Can be deceived by plausible arguments & suave language.
   4. Satan spoils by beguiling.
2 Cor. 11:3 "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent 5. He could not ruin if he could not deceive."
6. Danger of accepting doctrines w/o knowing their consequences.

B. Enticing Words.

1. What a lawyer c persuasive power does in a court as he makes things look different from what they are.

West End 5-4-80
The current crop of college freshmen is more materialistic than any other entering class in recent years.

Nearly two-thirds of the 289,814 students responding to the 14th annual survey of "The American Freshman" said "being very well off financially" is a very important goal, the report said.

By comparison, only 43.5 per cent in a similar survey in 1967 considered that a very important goal.

The freshmen survey, supported in part by a grant from the National Institute of Education in Washington, was directed by Alexander W Astin of the University of California at Los Angeles in co-operation with the American Council on Education.

Nearly 64 per cent of the responding freshmen said an important reason for deciding on college was "to be able to make more money," according to the report.

Astin said, "This increasing materialism has also been accompanied by increased student interest in power and status." And the report found that "more students today than ever before express an interest in 'obtaining recognition from colleagues' — 52.2 per cent, up from 50.3 per cent last year and 39.0 per cent in 1974."

Students appear to be increasingly dependent on federal financial aid. Nearly one-third of all freshmen, compared to 21.7 per cent last year, are now receiving Basic Educational Opportunity Grants. Reliance on federally guaranteed student loans rose from 10.4 to 13.2 per cent.

The percentage favoring legalization of abortion fell from 56.7 per cent in 1978 to 53.7 in 1979.

Support for the legalization of marijuana declined from 49.5 in 1978 to 46.0 per cent.

Enrollment of black freshmen was higher in 1979 than in any previous year, up from 8.1 per cent to 9.2 per cent. Total minority enrollments — blacks, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, and American Indians — was up from 11.9 to 13.8 per cent.

Since 1966, women's interest in four careers traditionally dominated by men — engineering, law, medicine and business — has more than quadrupled, from 5.9 to 25.9 per cent. — UPI.
CONSTANT VALUES IN A CHANGING WORLD
by BEN WARREN, Pres, Agricultural Equipment Group, International Harvester.

According to Gallup, Lou Harris, and Roper, almost half of our nation's population believes business and business executives have lower standards of honesty and ethics than society in general.

Ethics may seem to vary depending upon the situation. As Mark Twain once remarked, "An ethical man is a Christian holding four aces." And then there was this sign on a Scottish golf course: "Members will refrain from picking up lost balls until they have stopped rolling."

When it comes to economics and ethics, the waters often are quite muddy.

One reason is the sheer complexity of modern life, and this is true not only in the United States but on a worldwide basis. Nearly every decision that is made by government or business benefits one group of people, but adversely affects another group to some degree.

In this day of an interdependent global economy, there are no simple answers, and every decision has pros and cons that must be carefully weighed.

A leading wit once said, "Man is the only animal that laughs. But then he is the only animal that has a legislature." I might add that he is the only animal to create government agencies that enforce policies that move off in diametrically opposing directions.

Our decisions must be able to withstand the sunlight of public view. Open disclosure is the acid test, the events of our time have triggered a process of enlightenment. There is one last ingredient that is needed to constantly fortify that enlightenment—and that is courage.

One little-known story about Abraham Lincoln illustrates this. The battle of Gettysburg had just been fought. Lincoln sensed an opportunity to end the Civil War by driving hard against Lee's forces as they retreated. A swift, daring attack might do it. As commander-in-chief of the army, he ordered General Meade to pursue. A friendly note in the President's handwriting accompanied the instructions, and I quote:

"The order I enclose is not of record. If you succeed, you need not publish the order. If you fail, publish it. Then, if you succeed, you will have all the credit of the movement. If not, I'll take all the responsibility."
WHAT KIND OF CHURCH ARE WE BUILDING?
Col. 2:1-7

I. Today we hear many ambitions voiced as to what kind of church are we building. Try some terms on for size:
A. Large
B. Mission minded
C. Conservative
D. Progressive
E. Traditional--know what to expect when you come.
F. Friendly, Free, Spontaneous (Crenshaw story with me)
G. True

II. But are these terms of the NT--if it's our guide why not look to ambitions voiced there?
A. One example--Paul relative to Colosse--Col. 2:1-7.
B. In the initial phase of this letter what did he want to see achieved there?

III. Paul, the builder at Colosse.
A. Conflict I have for you, and Laodecia who've not seen my face.

1. Laodecia and Heirapolis stood in full view of each other on either side of the valley & Colosse 12 miles up river.
2. So what he wants to do for one he does the other--there is a consistency, unity.
3. Conflict = struggle, extreme
4. He's in prison & can't get there.
5. Strive as an athlete.
6. What's good and desired in one should be in all!

B. States 12 Points of His Platform.
(Preacher on talk--one point won't linger long)

1. Hearts might be comforted.
   a) Encouraged as one translation rightfully has it.
   b) Not just console but strengthen.
   c) Confirm.
   d) Wants a church of gallant hearts who meet difficult situations with confidence. (Barclay)
   e) Comfort--to call to one's side.

2. Knit together in love. Neighbors
   a) Unity based on love.
   b) I know you and share our "mutual woes" as we sing "bless be the tie".
   c) Unto--end of all knitting--hitched to Christ.
   d) Britches offended.

3. All riches of the full assurance of understanding.
   a) True conviction.
   b) Unclouded perception.
   c) All, not some, are in Christ.
   d) God keeps his word. Else, I've always been wrong.
   e) Grandpa's beard.

4. Acknowledgement of the mystery of God and of the Father and of Christ in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Blessed to have true knowledge
5. A church that's not fooled by enticing words--reason you aside.
   a) Not deluded or led astray.
   b) Satan sports by beguiling.
   c) Deceives, then slays.
   d) Could not ruin us if he did not cheat and we allow him to do it--not "devil made me do it" as though helpless.
   e) Doesn't want me deceived by money, popularity, riches, recreation.
   f) Can't share Christ and error jointly.

6. Joying and beholding your order.
   a) Military term connoting the orderly array of a band of disciplined soldiers.
   b) Soldiers linked shields & formed roof against missiles from the enemies' wall.
c) Each soldier is in his place.
d) Trained troops face the opposition. (Cromwell card)
e) Troop under attack do not break rank.

7. Steadfastness of your faith in Christ.
   a) Solidarity Solid front
   b) Compactness
   c) Sustaining faith is something fixed once for all and conduct rests on it and is always growing.
   d) Stays with the faith.
   e) Church bulletin carried name of minister: "All members of this church."

8. Received Christ—walk with Him.
   a) As shows they received Christ in a certain manner as the
      Annointed of God (Christ) as the historic Savior (Jesus) and as the
      Sovereign (Lord). (Vaughan)
   b) We've agreed to take Christ in every relationship of life.
   c) Walk or live in Him.
      (1) 4 participles will describe this walk as we'll see.
      (2) Walk is living securely in Christ.
      (3) Our practices are conformable to his will.
      (4) Watermelon story.

9. Rooted
   a) Perfect tense, once for all experience, permanently rooted.
b) Like trees—top blows and moves but anchored with roots.
c) Get nourishment.

10. Built up in Him.
a) Established.
b) Present tense—continual process indicated.
c) Built up like a house.
d) House without completion—ever expands.
e) Card "Not enough to be orthodox"

11. Established in the faith as taught—continuous action.
a) Strengthened in present tense—still getting stronger.
b) Faith—body of truth.
c) Carry it all out as you were taught.
d) We are ever learning.
e) Faith is the cement of the building.
f) Continuous contact with Christ conforming to the doctrine taught as you came to Christ.
g) Good education is vital.
h) But those who pin their faith to other men's sleeves do not follow Christ. (Henry)

12. Abound With Thanksgiving.
a) Overflowing with thanks.
b) Thanksgiving 26 times in NT.
c) Let our gratitude increase.
d) God requires gratitude.
e) Abound—overflow like a river out of its banks.
f) "Thanksgiving the end of all human conduct." (Lightfoot)

Hixson, TN — 4/7/96
West 7th - Columbia, Tn — 6/5/96
Neely's Bend — 10/24/94
I. Kindness

II. Apostolic: Doctrine, Morals, Proper Spirit

III. Conflict (struggle) (Strive as Athlete)

IV. 12 points: task, linger long

1. Heart comforted (call to one's side)
   Encouragement, confirm, strength

2. Knit together in love
   Hitch to Jesus
   BUTTERFLIES story

3. All riches full assurance of understand. True conviction -
   Unclouded perception
   Grandpa's beard

4. Acknowledge mystery hid
   Concealed? No, contain
   Not another - what you believe

5. Not fooled by words
   Deceived by money, popularity, teen
   Devil made me do it

6. So - behold Order
   Military - orderly array
   Soldiers link shields
   Cromwell story
9. Steadfastness of Faith
   Solid, compact, once for all, stays
8. Recap Christ—walk with Him
   "in every relationship
   A participle describes it
   Watermelon spray
9. Rooted—Perfect tense—once for all
   Permanent—trees, tops blow
10. Build up—Present—continuous
    process
11. Established in faith as taught
    Present tense—ever teaching
    ever learning
    Conform to doctrine
    Those who pin themselves to others’
    sleeves do not follow Christ
12. Abound in thanksgiving
    Overflow—2 Cor
    Gratitude required
Pardon

I have read of a Russian soldier who, years ago, sat in his tent one night before a list of debts he could not pay. He had written at the bottom of the list, "Who is to pay for all this?" As the hours went by, he finally fell asleep. The Emperor came by, looked in the tent, saw the soldier, came up closer, saw the list of debts and the pitiful question. It is said that the Emperor affixed his own royal signature to the bottom of the list, so when the soldier awoke, he found his debts paid. I know that once I faced moral and spiritual debts which I could not pay. But Jesus, with the blood of Calvary, wrote, "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee."

Dennis J. Hester
The Vance Havner Notebook
pg. 242
HOW CAN WE HAVE A STRONGER CHURCH?
Gol. 2:5-8

I. I want the best chain.
   A. Get strong metal, great craft, proper size links.
   B. Yet weakest link its Key.

II. Best Baseball Team.
   A. All great - except one outfielder that can't hit.
   B. Here is weakness.

III. Great church - on this we agree.
   A. Tools.
   B. Leadership.
   C. Community & Programs.
   D. But individually I strongly color it as one person!

IV. What then can I do to help us all have a stronger church?
   A. Absent Paul saw Present Twins: Joy in Beholding:
      1. Your order.
         a.) Church is like soldiers - each disciplined to his place.
         b.) Like trained troops said in solid block against opposition.
         c.) Good order a metaphor for troops under attack - did not break & run.
         d.) Not divided by sectarian doctrines.
         e.) General ordered an "advance to the Rear."
   2. Steadfastness of your faith in Christ.
      a.) We'll later meet established. What's better? Steadfastly established!
      b.) Abides by convictions.
         (1) Card on Pickett.
c.) Love of your mother steadfast?

3. Is our unity & our steadfastness showing?

B. For each, there is a constant walk.
   1. I have received Jesus.
      a.) Means to take to, to join to one's self.
      b.) It came by instruction, not by miraculous intervention.
   2. Constantly walk.
      a.) As = in same manner - thus as I received Him in same manner walk in Him.
      b.) Our practice must conform to His principles.
      c.) Can't equal Him, but I can follow Him.
      d.) Church bulletin listed the "Ministers" of the church & had by it "all members of this church

C. Quartet of deeds.
   1. Be Rooted.
      a.) Like a tree.
      b.) Tense - rooted, once for all, having been rooted.
      c.) Solidly rooted.
      d.) Top of tree shakes, but root remains firm.
      e.) Stay solid in your faith.
      f.) Stability & nourishment all provided.
   2. Be Built Up.
      a.) Built up like a house - tense shows it's being continuously done.
      b.) Being built up.
      c.) In him - Moule, "Jesus the Stone of the Angle in which the converging lines of the structure hold together.
   3. Be Stablished.
a.) Never leaves the faith - back door is not open.
b.) Faith the Cement.
c.) It also is a continuous action.
d.) Faith progressively increased.
e.) It's like a contract - legally binding.
f.) Christ is Path, Soil, Foundation, Cement.
g.) All this yours via teaching.

4. Be thankful.
a.) Always grateful.
b.) True faith can't exist in ingratitude.
c.) God withdraws benefits from those who do not receive it c thanksgiving.
d.) He requires gratitude.
e.) Our duty to be thankful.

West End 5-11-80
On the third day of the battle of Gettysburg, when the Union artillery had ceased firing, creating the mistaken impression among the Confederates that the Union guns had been silenced, the Confederate chief of artillery, Alexander, sent word to Longstreet, who commanded the corps from which Pickett's division was taken for the famous charge. As soon as this message was received, Pickett sprang to his feet, and, looking toward Longstreet, said, "General, shall I go forward?" Unable to speak the order which he was convinced must end in disaster, Longstreet grasped Pickett by the hand and bowed his head. The next moment Pickett was on his horse and off at a gallop. In a few minutes he came riding back to Longstreet and handed him a letter addressed to his fiancée at Richmond. On the back of the envelope he had written in pencil, "If Old Peter's (Longstreet's sobriquet) nod means death, good-by, and God bless you, little one." As he went to the head of his
lines again, Wilcox, another of the commanders, rode up to him and, taking a flask from his pocket, said: "Pickett, take a drink with me. In an hour, you will be in hell or glory." Pickett refused to drink, saying: "I promised the little girl who is waiting and praying for me down in Virginia that I would keep fresh upon my lips, until we should meet again, the breath of the violets she gave me when we parted. Whatever my fate, Wilcox, I shall try to do my duty like a man, and I hope that, by that little girl's prayer, I shall to-day reach glory or glory." Thus "for her sake," without the smell of whiskey upon him, Pickett rode to glory.

"The Way of a Man with a Maid" – By Clarence Edward Macartney

pp. 161-162
Carl Jung adds: "About one-third of my cases are not suffering from any clinically definable neurosis, but from the senselessness and aimlessness of their lives." It is the boredom of living in tombs without a regeneration which is the general neurosis of our times.

The Miracle of Easter, compiled and edited by Floyd Thatcher.

Some men die by shrapnel,
Some go down in flames.
But most men perish inch by inch
Who play at little games.

The Miracle of Easter, compiled and edited by Floyd Thatcher, p. 19.
Jung said that every neurotic has a religious problem, for the illness is concerned with ultimates, such as destiny, realities, value, God: as Dr. Henry Stack Sullivan wrote, "As long as the individual in an acutely disturbed state is busy shouting about being God, he does not have time to be aware of the fact that he is puny, mortal, and scared to death."

The Miracle of Easter, compiled and edited by Floyd Thatcher, p. 53.
WALKING WITH JESUS
Col. 2:6-7

I. Walks that strike.
A. The stop lights on a handsome animal - the organ matches the tempo of his walk - he's the champion of the Walking Horse world - it's the walk of elegance.
B. Breath grows short as w/o a net the skin tight acrobat walks the circus high wire - it's the walk of balanced accuracy.
C. The guard either at Stockholm, London, or Athens with their red pompons is changed in exact precision - that a walk of training.
D. Nazi troops goose stepped across Europe - that's a walk of terror.
E. Kindergarten kids in a ragged line c "I'm this many" - "He pushed me, Miss Nell" Come in my office - that's a walk of pure patience so far as teachers are concerned.

II. But there's another walk above them all - it's day to day c Jesus. (Mother 1 hr. w/o subject).
A. Paul & others set it before us.
Col. 2:6-7 "As ye have therefore rec. Christ
1. This passage says much.
2. "As."
   a.) In same manner.
   b.) Same desire of Matthew for mushrooms.
3. Received.
   a.) To take to, to join one's self.
   b.) To personally appropriate to one's self.

Knew what you wanted
c.) Rec. by instruction.
d.) Keep the doctrine.
e.) It's by means of truth Christ is received - and note it is Christ, nothing else, that's so received.
f.) Gospel comes from another clime - divine - so we must protect it. (World provides its own weeds.)
g.) Rec. voluntarily.

4. Walk.
a.) Regulate your whole life by Christ.
b.) Continual walk of obedience.
c.) Walk suggests: Solomon's "Nzd religious"
   (1) Continuance. Conversion experience - couldn't
   (2) Activity. Sleep nights until I decided my
   (3) Progress. "Religion has nothing to do c my"
d.) Today we scorn traditional lifestyles - new freedom the motif.
e.) Relevance justifies a wide range of diversity in faith & practice.
f.) All subject to error.

B. He uses 3 metaphors.
1. "Rooted."
a.) Firmly anchored.
b.) Results produced thereby.
c.) Stability.
d.) Nourishment.
e.) Perfect participle form - rooted, grounded once for all.
   f.) When roots are deep, not easily moved.
2. "Built up in him."
   a.) Continuous action.
   b.) Like building a house - never completed.
3. "Established in the faith."
   a.) Present participle meaning continuous action.
   b.) Progressive increase as firmest need strengthen in
   c.) Tenses:
       Did receive.
       Now walk.
       Having been rooted.
       Being built up.
       Established as ye were taught.
       Abounding.
   d.) It's like a ship captain consulting his nautical tables - the more often he does, the more it confirms his faith in them.
   e.) Established is like a contract - legally binding.
   f.) Note faith a moment:
      (1) It's the instrument of my establishment.
      (2) As it's being constantly established need it in great abundance.
      (3) Can't come thru human philosophies.

**B. But** other passages speak of the walk - let's see our style now to be in Jesus

1. Abounding
2. Taught
3. W/ Thanksgiving.
1. Have you ever thought how encompassing many things of the Bible are?

A. Jesus growth
   Luke 2:52 Jesus grew in wisdom

B. The great commandment
   Mark 12:30 1st Comm - 2nd

C. The Lord's Supper
   1 Corinthians 11 - look forward, backward, upward

D. The gospel in you

   Col. 2:6 "As therefore you received Christ Jesus"

II. I call this the gospel escalator because it takes you both up & down. Shall we see the motion that's in this verse.

A. Words of action abound.
   1. Received Christ.
   2. Walk in Him.
   3. Rooted.
   4. Built up.
   5. Stablished in the faith, as taught.
   6. Abounding with thanksgiving.

B. Let's imagine we are in the parking lot of a shopping center:
   1. I receive Christ.
   2. I walk in Him.
   3. I enter the big store & ride the escalator.
      (a) I go downward - rooted in Him.
      (b) I go upward - built up in Him.
      (c) I go down again - stablished in the faith as taught.
(d) I go up & out - abounding therein with thanksgiving.

III. Let's see these 6 steps.

A. I received Christ Jesus the Lord.
1. It means "to take to, to join to oneself."
2. It's to personally appropriate to oneself.
3. It's voluntarily done.
4. It means to receive by instruction.
5. To receive Christ is to keep the doctrine of Christ recognizing His Kingly presence.
6. It means the entire life is regulated by Christ!
7. Aorist tense - rec. once for all.
8. Jesus is Lord.

John 14:21 "He that hath my commandments, and
23 "Jesus answered and said unto him, if
Gal. 1:16 "To reveal his Son in me, that I might |

B. I Walk in Him.
1. It is a continuous walk - one of obedience.
2. There is a progressive increase of faith.
3. We did receive (past tense); we now walk (present tense).
4. Walk suggests:
   (a) life.
   (b) Continuance.
   (c) Activity.
   (d) Progress.

Gal. 5:25 "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in
5. We live our lives conscious of His presence!

C. I'm Rooted in Him.
1. To be rooted is to be firmly anchored & results are produced thereby.
2. Roots give stability.
3. Roots give nourishment.

Eph. 3:17 "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith to which you were also called in Christ Jesus.
4. Shows vitality.
D. I'm built up in Him.
1. Word of continuous action.
2. Church is not going to perish but no promise the branch won't.
3. We stand fast because we rest on a solid foundation.
(Metaphors abound in this verse.)
4. Shows stability.

Acts 20:32 "And now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all who are sanctified."
E. I'm established in Him.
1. This is a present participle - meaning continuous action.
2. To be in Him is to be established in the faith.
3. Faith comes by teaching.
4. Faith can't come thru men's philosophy.
5. Christ is Path (walk) Soil (Root) Foundation (built up) & the Cement (established).
6. Christian is the walker, tree, building - ever in motion, never at rest.
7. It's like a sea captain consulting his nautical tables. He can't prove them right but the more he consults them the more it confirms his faith in them.
8. The more actively we try Christ, the more we prove His worth.
9. We never depart from teachings. Certain things are the foundation of all.
F. I abound in Him c thanksgiving.
1. Abounding & overflowing gratitude is expressed.
2. Thanksgiving is the end of all human conduct.
3. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
West End 1-13-74
A progressive increase of faith is the condition of all Christian progress. The faith which is already the firmest is still capable of and needs strengthening. Its range can be enlarged, its tenacity increased, and its power over heart and life reinforced. The eye of faith is never so keen but that it may become more longsighted; its grasp never so close that it may not be tightened; its realization never so solid but that it may be made more substantial; this continued strengthening of faith is the most essential form of a Christian effort at self improvement. Strengthen your faith and you strengthen all graces; for it measures our reception of divine help.

From Lipscomb's Commentary on Colossians, Chapter 2, Verse 7, Page 275
I. When I think of hurt & harm, I foolishly wish some things didn't have to be.
   A. No nerve in tooth - but how would I know decay.
   B. No weariness of muscle - but how would I know rest.
   C. No "bewares" - all peaches & cream - everybody, everything is all right - but how would I know the power of distinctive truth.

Matt. 16:6 "Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed & k
Mk. 12:38 "And he said unto them in his doctrine, Be
Luke 12:15 "And he said unto them, Take heed, and b
Phil. 3:2 "Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, be
Deut. 6:12 "Then B. lest thou forget the Lord
8:11 "In not keeping his comm.; j., & s.

II. Paul warns us:
Col. 2:8 "Beware lest any man spoil you through philo
   A. 1st the warning against spoiling.
   B. Then see the method.
   C. Finally the 1 surefire protection.

III. The Warning - Beware.
   A. The Constant Presence of Imminent Peril.
      1. I'm being wooed by heaven & hell.
      2. Devil unrelenting in efforts to grasp.

IV. Method of Spoiling.
   A. Spoil. Lest you off carry you away, Take prisoners.
      1. To carry off as boot, captive, slave.
   B. Philosophy.
      1. Speculative wisdom.
2. Love of wisdom (let it not be in vain).
3. Higher degree of good sense — Phillips translates it tho "intellectualism."
4. Greeks gave highest efforts of intellect to philosophy.
5. Paul used it in a good sense:
   Phil. 4:8 "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true (word for highest moral excellency — shows gospel disposed these terms as inadequate to its highest standards).
6. Vain — because it was reason carried beyond its bounds.
7. What man can rightly discern heavenly doctrine as to whether God should or should not have written it!
8. It's the counterfeit of good that makes it bad.

C. Tradition of Men.
   1. That which is handed down.
   2. Relevance justifies a wide range of diversity in faith & practice.
   3. We want to make God relevant to man rather than man to God.
   Gal. 1:1 "Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man.
   Gal. 1:11-12 "But I certify you, brethren, that the god

D. Rudiments of the world.
   1. Rudiments (letters of alphabet — ABC's of science, i.e.
      a.) What is not after Christ is Rudimentary.
b.) All apart from him is illusion & deceit.
c.) Note what we've seen — 5 deficiencies:
   (1) Tradition.
   (2) Human — thus no authority.
   (3) Elementary.
   (4) Material.
   (5) Anti Christ.
d.) Rudiments = 1st principles, elementary.

2. World.
a.) Material things.
b.) Scorn tradition lifestyles — new freedom is motif.

V. Sure Fire Antidote.
A. Be "after Christ."
   1. Christ did away with elementary rudiments of
      Lev. law.
   2. Divorce anything not after Christ.
   3. Let all we have be of Christ in:
      a.) Origin.
      b.) Substance.
      c.) Rule or standard.
   4. Our gospel superhuman, divine.
B. Is Christ the pinpoint of all we are?
One’s order of theological discovery need not begin with Scripture, nor must one’s subsequent order of theological presentation. But an adequate evangelical theology must always have Scripture as its final authority. This is not always easy to accomplish. Even if we use the Bible to initiate the theological process and subsequent presentation, we run the risk of confusion. For the Bible is also human words, so it demands a proper reading and understanding before it can function authoritatively.

The task of careful, critical, biblical scholarship has perhaps never been as apparent as today. But even this does not insure biblical authority. Perhaps the key issue in allowing Scripture to be heard on its own terms is the recognition that even the biblical interpreter must be a bridge builder. Biblical theologians who come to Scripture must overcome the gap that separates their world from that of the biblical writers — a gap that involves language, thought forms, cultural practices, and historical situations. Commenting on Calvin’s recognition of this, Karl Barth wrote of “how energetically Calvin, having first established what stands in the texts, set himself to re-think the whole material and to wrestle with it, till the walls which separate the sixteenth century from the first become transparent! Paul speaks, and the man of the sixteenth century hears. The conversation between the original record and the reader moves round the subject-matter, until a distinction between yesterday and today becomes impossible.”

Evangelicals believe that the biblical writers knew of God what others do not know, and their writings allow others to know what they knew. But only if we are open to biblical scholarship and are willing to undertake fresh exegesis can that authoritative message be heard in our day. As John Robertson said centuries ago, “God has yet more truth to break forth from His Holy Word.” — ROBT K JOHNSTON, Evangelicals at an Impasse: Biblical Authority in Practice (John Knox Press.)

The threat to the religious attitude lies not in science, but in the predominant practices of daily life. — ERICH FROMM.
Tax Limitation, Inflation and the Role of Govt, by Milton Friedman (Dallas: Fisher Institute, $5.95.)

The future of private enterprise capitalism is also the future of a free society. There is no possibility of having a politically free society unless the major part of its economic resources are operated under a capitalistic private enterprise system. The real question therefore is the future of human freedom.

One thing is clear, we cannot continue along the lines that we have been moving. In 1928, government at all levels — federal, state, and local — spent less than 10 per cent of the national income. Two-thirds of that was at the state and local level. Federal spending amounted to less than 3 per cent of the national income. Today, total government spending at all levels amounts to 40 per cent of the national income, and two-thirds of that is at the federal level.

Where shall we go from here? There are two possible scenarios. The one is that we will continue in the direction in which we have been going, with gradual increases in the scope of government and government control. If we do continue in that direction, two results are inevitable. One result is financial crisis and the other is a loss of freedom.

The other scenario is that we will, in fact, halt this trend — that we will call a halt to the apparently increasing growth of government, set a limit and hold it back.

There are many favorable signs from this point of view. I may say that the greatest reason for hope, in my opinion, is the inefficiency of government. Many people complain about government waste. I welcome it, I welcome it for two reasons. In the first place, efficiency is not a desirable thing if somebody is doing a bad thing. A great teacher of mine, a mathematical economist, once wrote an article on the teaching of statistics. He said, "Pedagogical ability is a vice rather than a virtue if it is devoted to teaching error." That's a fundamental principle. Government is doing things that we don't want it to do, so the more money it wastes the better.

In the second place, waste brings home to the public at large the fact that government is not an efficient and effective instrument for achieving its objectives.
2 ROUTES: CAPTIVITY VS COMPLETENESS
Col. 2:8-11

I. As a rule we are presented with two
routes: One long, one short; one smooth,
one rough; one true, one false--and in
religion the same is true.
A. I may choose captivity--and the road
signs are clearly marked--a slash is
across a left turn, or no turn on red.
(An old man said they taught me
figures, not letters--so now when I see
a sign by the side of the road I can
tell how fur but not whar to.)
B. On the other hand I can choose freedom
and victory and equally clear are signs
marking this path.
C. All this is presented to us in our text:
Col. 2:8-11

II. We look at life's map and the Truth says
"don't take this road."
A. Beware
1. That should sound danger enough
don't you think?
2. Imminence of Peril presented. (Wuest)
3. Take heed--alerts one to "take
care" - "see to it."
4. It points to real danger.
5. You can snow board to your peril.
B. Men Spoil You
1. Carry off as a booty.
2. Capture a slave--slave dealer
carrying away a conquered nation
to slavery.
3. Make spoil, rob, cheat, kidnap.
C. Method Identified--thru!

1. Philosophy.
   a) Love of wisdom---(does He want me dumb?)
   b) Only time this word is used.
   c) Must be the love and pursuit of the wrong kind of wisdom.

2. Vain Deceit is No. 2.
   a) Vain means empty.
   b) Reason carried beyond its bounds.
   c) Counterfeit of a good thing is bad.
   d) Wesley said it promises much but gives nothing.
   e) We allow ourselves to be fooled as puffed up about our superior knowledge.
   f) Havner quote.

3. Next traditions of men can spoil one.
   a) Means that which is handed down.
   b) It embraces:
      (1) Human therefore deficient in authority.
      (2) Elementary.
      (3) Material--not connected with souls true home.
      (4) Not after Christ.
   c) Let's examine these destructive tendencies associated with men's doctrines.

4. Examination of Rudiments
   a) Letters of the Alphabet--the ABC's of something.
b) Elementary spirits—wind, cold, heat, natural phenomena.
c) Stoicheia—things set out in a row; file of soldiers; ABC's.
d) You are not getting heavy instruction.
e) Enticed by spirits of planets and stars.
f) World—material things.
   (W. J. Bryan quote)

5. Not after Christ.
   a) Not of Christ in origin, substance, rule or standard.
      (Biblical Illustrator)
   b) Christ is not author, nor substance of their teaching.
   c) Must be captured by Christ only.

III. What Then Is Real?
A. Seeing Christ in his glory.
B. In Him:
   1. In Him is emphatic.
   2. Nowhere else will you find what He offers.
   3. All we need is found in Him.

Jn. 1:14 full of grace and truth
Eph. 1:7 Redemption
Col. 1:14 Forgiveness
Jn. 14:6 Way, Truth, Life
Jn 10:9 Door—by me enter—saved

4. Don't need astrology to give meaning to life.
5. Since Jesus is complete, if we are in Him we also are complete.
6. "What do you do for fun?" a girl was asked. "You don't drink, dance, dope, rock concerts, sleep around." She said, "For fun I get up in the morning without feeling embarrassed, ashamed, or guilty about what I did the night before."

C. In Him Dwells All the Fullness of the Godhead Bodily.

1. Dwells
   a) Permanent abode.
   b) To be at home, permanent resident of a town, not a transient or snowbird.
   c) Present tense denotes continuous action.
   d) No need to turn to pagan, Moses, celestial beings.
   e) In Christ alone the fullness of deity dwells.

2. Dwells all
   a) He shares
   b) In Him there are resources with which we may be filled—lacking nothing.

3. Fullness
   a) Unbounded power.
   b) In absolute terms shows divinity of Christ.
   c) In Him everything we need.
   d) No intermediaries between God and us—Just Jesus.
   e) He's the whole glorious total of what God is.
4. Godhead Bodily
   a) Found 3X.
   Acts 17:29
   Rom. 1:20
   Here

   b) Bodily
      (1) Incarnate.
      (2) Bodily manifestation.
      (3) Fullness of God really lived in human form on planet Earth in Jesus.
      (4) Jesus is the entire content of God.

   c) I need not a system:
      (1) Human tradition.
      (2) Depends on basic principles of this world--ABC's.
      (3) A system not after Christ.
IF YOU HAVE CHRIST, YOU HAVE IT ALL
Col. 2:8-11

I. I'm in a battle - terrible foe is marshalled against me - the question arises - can I stand my ground & win my fight?
A. Not alone I can't.
B. But if I've got Jesus, I've got it all!

II. The Col. text puts it in great focus c 2 phrases: "In Him" & "with Him." Emphatic usage.
A. 3 each - In Him:
   1. Dwells all the fulness.
   2. You are complete.
   3. You are circumcised.
B. With Him:
   1. Buried in Baptism.
   2. Risen.
   3. Forgiven all trespasses.

III. Let's look at the "In Hims."
A. In him dwells all the fulness of the godhead bodily.
   1. Called Paul's hardest paragraph, but we will get a blessing in studying it.
   2. Passage has unique & interesting words.
      a.) Dwell.
      b.) Fulness - only here.
      c.) Godhead.
      d.) Bodily.
   3. Dwell.
      a.) Permanent abode.
      b.) To be at home - permanent resident of a town, not a transient. Won't be replaced by further evolution.
4. Fulness.
   a.) Unbounded power.
   b.) In absolute terms, thus shows divinity & deity of Christ.
   c.) Gnostic said Jesus not sufficient, not unique, was one among many manifestations, necessary to worship other powers and angels.
   d.) You need nothing but Jesus if He's the fullness.
   e.) Christ the fountain head of spiritual life.
   f.) Remember Gnostics said demoniac powers served as intermediaries between God & the lives of people.
   g.) Christ is not another "emanation."
   h.) He is not part of the Big Picture.

5. Godhead.
   a.) Found 3 X. we ought not to admire the Godhead is Acts 17:29 "Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of Rom. 1:20 "For the invisible things of him from the cre
   b.) This Gk. word only here. we clearly see
   c.) Word is really deity, not Godhead.

   a.) Incarnate.
   b.) With bodily manifestation.
   c.) Jesus always divine but in the Incarnation this indwelling had been "for us men & our salvation
   d.) This was a temporary time but fully factual the Lord was here in a human body.
   e.) In that body & thru it was wrought & manifested his union c us.
   Not partial, approximate or temporary but total.
f.) World has many ideas - all stated authoritative!
But I stake my hope on the fact that Jesus is a
divine revelation of God.
g.) The fullness of God really lived in human form
on this planet in Jesus.
h.) If the fullness of God is in Christ;
If Christ is in you;
You have the fulness of life.
i.) Yet are you looking for it; in a;
(1) Boat.
(2) Bottle.
(3) Battle for some issue.

B. In Him is Completion.
1. We have in Christ everything we need, thus
   complete. Don't turn else where to meet needs
2. In Him we are fulfilled.
3. If you have Christ, you have it all.
4. He is not one among many. We need neither
5. Head of all principality & power.
a.) Live on the Fountain & not on its streams.
b.) God's the head of Christ & Christ is the head
   of all. c.) He stands at infinite distance & holds
   absolute power over all created beings.
C. In Him we are circumcised.

Aliz
1. Reference to the necessity under Old covenant.
   Gen. 17:10 "This is my covenant, which ye shall kee
2. It was the outward mark of a man totally the
   Lord's. Pharaoh of uncircumcised lips
   Exo. 6:12 "And Moses spake before the Lord, saying
   Lev. 26:41 "And that I also have walked contrary un
   is their uncircumcised hearts be humbled
Ezek. 44:7 "In that ye have brought into my sanctuary, 44:9 "Thus saith the Lord God; No stranger, un
Jer. 6:10 "To whom shall I speak, and give warning, 1
3. It was mark of ethnic & spiritual reality.
4. In Christ - w/o hands. WORK OF GREAT PHYSICIAN
   a.) It's not a fleshly operation.
   b.) It's not the work of men. Nor cuttings of part but
   c.) It is the cutting away of the body of flesh.
   d.) Total severance from old position & conditions.
5. It is a higher circumcision.
   a.) Not external, but internal.
   b.) Divests not part of flesh, but whole body of
carnal affections.
   c.) Not of Moses, but of Jesus.
   d.) Not just males, but all.
7. Excision from life of everything against will of
   God.

IV. In Him:
   A. Dwells all Fulness.
   B. Finds Completion.
   C. Knows severing from evil.
   1. In 5:11 "In Him, we have life!"
2 RESURRECTIONS
Col. 2:10-12

I. At Easter time, one of the very few KJV errors, everyone in Christendom thinks of the resurrections of Jesus.
(Havner quote)
A. But what someone does once a year—in hatching, matching and dispatching—I do 52 times a year.
B. And where there is a resurrection they can experience right here on earth—once for all even as Christ is the first born of the dead—I've experienced once for all—and it changed my life—even as it will yours.
C. Let's read about it:
   Col. 2:10-12

II. What then, looking for 2 resurrections, what have we here?
A. Christ is so wonderfully qualified his completeness allows me to be sufficiently and consequently filled.
   1. You won't find life's completeness in a boat, syringe, bank or bottle.
   2. But union with Christ will meet your every eternal need.
   3. Fullness of deity in its totality is in Christ.
   4. There is no element of divine nature absent in Christ.
   5. No need to resort elsewhere for our spiritual needs.
   6. For the Christian everything depends on what he thinks of Christ & makes him to be.
7. He is final, absolute.
8. His divinity was expressed in human form.
9. The glory of Jesus is communicated to us.
10. We are filled up from Him.
11. We need neither saint nor angel to intercede for us.
12. Christ is filled with God.

**John 1:16**

We are filled with Christ.

**Ps. 133:3**

Resist everything that devaluates Jesus.

13. That founded on men is wrong.
14. Christ's victory is potentially ours.
15. No horoscope for guidance nor looking to the stars but to the Christ who hung them there.

B. We've received the circumcision of Christ.

1. Under OT circumcision was essential, physically speaking.

**Gen. 17:10**

2. Outward mark that Jew knew.
3. Act once for all performed as preskin removed.
4. Christian's is for all and without hands.
   a) Excision from life of everything against the will of God.
   b) Without hands—not of man but of God.
3. Circumcision of Christ.
   a) Not external but internal.
   b) Not part of flesh but all.
   c) Not Moses but Jesus.
   d) Total break with old pattern.
   e) Circumcision of the heart—at time of conversion.

1 Jn. 5:11 "In him we have life"

III. What Do We Do With The Old Man?
   A. We bury him.
      1. He died—get rid of him.
      2. Funeral service of old life.
      3. We died to former way—we cut it away.
      4. Bury—dispose of old way—raise to a new way.

   B. In Baptism.
      1. Immersion from bury.
      2. It's adult, instructed, total immersion.
      3. Described
         a) "Primeval and ideal form of rite is immersion." (Moule)
         b) "The plunge beneath the water signifies identification with the buried Lord." (Moule)
         c) Immersion (new)
d) An act of obedience (Expositor)
e) In warm climates where immersion is safe it is the mode most accordant with the significance of the ordinance, but the spirit of the ordinance is kept safe by affusion where immersion would be inconvenient or dangerous, to insist on literal immersion in all cases would be mere legal ceremonialism. (FJB)

C. We resurrect a new man.
1. It's from our sinful state to divine life.
2. Come from watery grave. (Wuest)
3. Figure of Resurrection and only immersion grants it.
4. We've a quickening in Christ.
5. Being raised we depart from iniquity.

2 Tim. 2:19
6. Faith is the instrumental cause--without it, nothing.
7. "Working"--from it we get word for energy.
8. This gives validity.

D. This same God raised Jesus from the dead--the 2nd of two resurrections.
1. His is real--He's alive & ruling.
2. Yours will be if you will come to Him. Why set to pay for all this?

Hixson, TN - 4/7/96
West 7th, Columbia, TN - 6/4/96
Old Union, Castalian Springs, TN - 7/2/96
Whitmore Road C/C, Modesto, CA  9/19/96
Smithville, TN - 10/7/96

Woodland Hills, Cordova, TN - 11/4/96
Many Christians are living as if the putting away of the old man is the sum total of their responsibilities. It is not! Dalton Key wrote the following article entitled “A Good Christian?”:

I have a good friend. She doesn’t drink alcohol or abuse her body with tobacco. She does not destroy her mind with drugs. I’ve never heard her gossip or tell a single lie. She does not waste her time in night clubs or dance halls. I’ve never heard her speak with profanity or vulgarity. She has never cheated a soul in a business deal. Many people would call my friend a “good Christian.” And yet, you ought to know that I have been describing my dog, Paisley.
One of our biggest problems today is that most of our church people have never really made up their minds to follow Jesus Christ. They are like Mr. Looking-both-ways in Pilgrim's Progress, or like Lot's wife looking back toward Sodom. They are like the man in the Civil War who wore a blue coat and gray trousers, and was shot at from both sides. They are like a donkey between two bales of hay - undecided as to which to eat. They are like the son in our Lord's parable who said, "I go, Sir" (Matt. 22:30), and went not. They receive the word with joy, but have no root nor depth and soon fall away. They never really make up their minds, and are like the man who was asked, "Do you have trouble making decisions?" He replied, "Yes and no."

Dennis J. Hester
The Vance Havner Notebook pg. 60

I heard William Jennings Bryan say: "Those who live for money spend the first half of their lives getting all they can from everybody else and the last half trying to keep everybody else from getting what they have got away from them, and they find no please in either half.

Dennis J. Hester
The Vance Havner Notebook pg. 240
WITH CHRIST - I'VE INCOMPARABLE BLESSINGS!        Col. 2:12-12

I. Somethings you can't get anywhere else!
   A. Special Round - only Nashville.
   B. West End - 1st A/C church in city.
   C. Dead Sea - lowest part of earth.
   D. Last Supper - Milan Italy
II. Spiritually with Christ I have three unique, exclusive blessings.
   A. Buried with him in Baptism
   B. Risen with him for new life
   C. Quickened with him having forgiven all trespasses.
   D. All are "with's" - we shall study
III. Buried with Him in Baptism
      Col. 2:12 - "Buried with Him in baptism
      A. Action of Baptism
         1. It's in water
         2. Barclay said had 3 parts in Paul's time:
            (a) adult
            (b) Instructed
            (c) total immersion
         3. Pictures the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus
         4. Moule "Primeval and ideal form of rite was immersion"
         5. "The plunge beneath the water signified Identification with the buried Lord." Moule
B. Christianity is a powerful force.
1. It was God's power that raised Him.
2. It is thru faith in the workings of God that raises us.

2 Cor. 5:17: "If any man be in Christ, old things are passe..."
V. Finally I'm quickened - having been forgiven of all trespasses.

v-13 "And you being dead in your sins

A. Total forgiveness

1. Judicial condition
   (a) All are pardoned
   (b) All are justified
   (c) All are made righteous

2. God sees the believers only in Christ, never outside Him

3. I'm identified with his atoning works

B. Previous condition

1. Dead in your sins

2. Uncircumcision of flesh
   (a) Luther - "If you don't believe in the devil it's because you never tried to resist him"
   (b) Still carried all defilement.

3. Trespasses
   (a) Sometimes sin in its less grievous state
   (b) A falling beside
C. Totally Forgiven
   1. Quickening and forgiving came simultaneously.

   2. All trespasses
      (a) Full remission
      (b) "He got it all" in removing our cancer.
      (c) No sin too big and none too small to qualify

West End 6-1-80
Billy Jorge Family Encampment, Allentown, Pa. 6-24-80
To believe in God for me is to feel that there is a God, not a dead one, or a stuffed one, but a living one, who with irresistible force urges us towards more living. — VINCENT VAN GOGH.

1, 1980
One of every five adults 18 years old and over—31 million persons—is an evangelical.

Almost one in five adults (19 per cent) considers himself or herself Pentecostal or charismatic, but of those 29.4 million persons, 23.5 million have not spoken in tongues.

Better than one-third of the adult population have had a life-changing religious experience. For 50 million people, this experience involved Jesus Christ, and for 39.5 million people this was a conversion that included asking Christ to be personal Savior.

Almost half—69 million people 18 and over—are hoping to go to heaven only because of their personal faith in Jesus Christ.

More than eight of every ten persons believe Jesus Christ is divine.

Sixty-five million adults believe the Bible is inerrant.

Fifty million go to the Bible first to test their own religious beliefs.

Seven out of ten adults believe the devil is either a personal being (34 per cent), or an impersonal force that influences people to do wrong (36 per cent.)

Half of the adults in the US believe God created Adam and Eve to start the human race.

A whopping 84 per cent—more than eight of every ten people—believe the Ten Commandments are valid today.

More than 100 million adults are members of a church or synagogue.

Almost everyone (94 per cent) believes in God or in a universal spirit.

Nearly 40 million go to church every day, compared to 10 per cent who read it weekly and 7 per cent monthly. Thirty-seven million adults never read the Bible.

Fewer than three in ten correctly identify “Ye must be born again,” as the words of Jesus to Nicodemus.

Fewer than half (42 per cent) can name at least five of the Ten Commandments.

 Barely over one-tenth of the public tests religious beliefs first by what the church says. — Results of a Gallup Poll commissioned by Christianity Today magazine.

To grow rich without injustice is impossible. — JOHN CHRYSTOM.
I. Some questions arise:
   A. How full is full?
   B. How pure is pure? Even Ivory soap.
   C. How successful is a ball season?
      1. With you all the way=win or tie?
      2. "Jessee you are better than he are"
         Bill T. "Come on Jessee you are
gooder than he is"
      3. Barely--won but barely.
   D. I want you to know truly what is
      completion--something squashed and
      conquered.
   E. That is what God's grace does for our
      sins.

II. Paul introduces three words that should
      bring relief and happiness to your soul.
   A. Forgiven
   B. Blotted out
   C. Triumphed over

III. Hear Again--"Forgiven you all trespasses"
   A. You were:
      1. Dead in your sins.
      2. In the uncircumcision of your flesh.
      3. Pretty sad state!
      4. So you buried in baptism the old
         man.
      5. You experienced the circumcision
         with hands "putting off the body
         of the sins of the flesh."
   B. You now:
      1. Have been quickened--you are alive!
      2. "Together with him."
3. "Forgive you all trespasses."
   a) This is the great initial blessing in Christ--I am forgiven!
   b) Beyond cut away--I am forgiven!
4. Trespasses - falling beside.
C. That's completion # one!
   1. Forgive: from Greek built on root word for grace--to grant a favor.

IV. Next comes "Blotting out".
A. What was to be blotted out?
   "The handwriting of ordinances that was against us"--so what is that?
   1. Bond--a handwriting used with any document written by hand.
   2. An IOU.
   3. A charge list that you admitted was accurate. Illustrate with Barry asking about Atlanta flight bill--NO!--but wrong city listed.
   4. Law was man's debt to which he was bound.
   5. Written--permanent form.
   7. A written code.
   8. It's a debt bigger than our ability to pay--"He paid a debt he didn't owe."
B. What is "blot?"
   1. Cancellation.
   2. Wipe out, wipe away, take away, tear up, destroy, wash out, blot out.
   3. On the cross Jesus dealt with our IOU. Clip nailed to the cross.
4. Christ prevents the broken bond from usage against conscience. (Bruce)
5. "Christ disannulled our obligation to the law. (Henry)
6. This is our grounds for forgiveness.

C. Blotted out all:
1. Ordinances.
   a) All positive decrees.
   b) Bond of moral assessment—I was guilty.
   c) God had valid claim against us.
2. Contrary to us.
   a) Bond of indebtedness hostile to us.
   b) Law commanded but had no power in forgiveness—straight edge to show me the line was crooked but not how to straighten it.

C. How did God deal with my debt?
1. Took it away.
   a) Completely annulled.
   b) Took away and it remains taken away.
   c) Permanently removed.
   d) Claims now can never alienate us from God.
2. Nailed it to the cross—he suffered to satisfy the indictment which was against us—thus set it aside.
3. Removed Moses' law & my guilt.
4. Clip on "nailed."
V. Spoiled Principalities & Powers--Openly Triumphing Over Them.
   A. Christ disarms forces of evil--like wrestler casting from himself a disabled antagonist.
   B. Strips him of his weapon, armor.
   C. Puts him to public shame.
   D. Exhibits to the universe his captive as the triumphant General leads away the spoils of his victory.
   E. We've no power now to fear.
   F. Jesus tied the devil to his chariot wheel and led him forth in conquering splendor.

VI. How complete is complete?
   A. Forgiven
   B. Blotted out
   C. Triumphed over

Hixson, TN - 4/14/96
Nailed to the cross was a scroll. They took it down and read its contents. Written inside were their names and every sin they had ever committed. It was embarrassing to know that someone knew these things about them. There were other names and sins such as adultery, fornication, lying, cursing, stealing, strife loving, being drunk, and others written beside them also. Never had they felt so guilty. Knowing that their friends were sinners didn't soften the sting of their remorse. Sinful scenes were mentally relived and sorely regretted until they noticed something else written on the scroll. Written besides their names, in blood, as if by a supernatural finger, were the words, "Paid in Full"....Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain, he washed it white as snow.....

On a hill far away, I'm reminded that grace is still amazing and He still turns water into wine! (Colossians 2:14)
WHAT ELSE WAS NAILED TO THE CROSS?

I. Did you ever have this experience in paying a bill?
   A. Big stamp — Paid!
   B. Handwritten Paid in Full, date & initials.
   C. Torn to shreds.

II. How did you feel?
   A. Sense of accomplishment?
   B. Foolish gesture never to make such a debt again?
   C. Tear up note when nothing paid — how’d you feel then?

III. There was a bond, a promissory note against us — may I tell you the story?

Col. 2:14-15 "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances.
   A. The Handwriting of Ordinances.
      1. Word used only here.
      2. Word shows a note, hand signed by debtor,
         acknowledging his indebtedness.
         a.) Like I.O.U.
         b.) Old documents written on papyrus or vellum
            (skins).
         c.) When a debt is contracted, the debtor by his
            own handwriting acknowledges himself bound.
         d.) Handwriting identical to which our particular
            signature attached.
         e.) Word cheirographon = handwritten — note to
            say money loaned to us & will be returned.
         f.) Sense of promissory note.
         g.) Could have been a waxed tablet — stylus drawn
            over writings to smear it out.
B. Ordinances.
   1. Dogma = public decree.
   2. Bond, decree.
   3. God had an I.O.U. against us, signifying huge debt.
   4. List of charges made by God against us & signed by us that such is true.
   5. Stood over against, opposite, directly opposed to us.
   6. What was this?
      a.) Law of Moses.
      b.) Moral law to Gentiles.
   Rom. 3:19 "Now we know that what things soever the
      c.) Ritual laws.
      d.) The law - all obligations that rest on man.
      e.) Whole law - moral & ceremonial.
   7. "Against us" - list of commandments - a catalogue of our offenses - couldn't keep it.
      a.) We are unable to satisfy its righteousness, obligations we can't meet.

IV. It was Blotted Out!
   A. Complete removal.
      1. Ancients' ink had no acid - did not eat into writing substance, so you could wipe it off.
      2. When debt forgiven, it was blotted out.
      3. Word means to plaster, wash over, wipe off, cancel.
      4. Ancient papers show debts crossed out with letter chi (X).
      5. Usually effaced the names of creditor & amt. owed.
6. Employed some fluid – Christ blood does it.
B. Christ wipes out our charge list.
   1. Our note is cancelled.
   2. God keeps account of debt and imposes penalty.
      Christ relieves us.
V. But the Completeness Continues to be shown.
   A. "Took away."
      1. Note graduation – blot, take away – nailed to cross.
      2. Don’t trample blood – it alone takes away sin.
      3. Hath taken – shows finality.
      4. Never again found! Can’t be reproduced.
      5. "It is finished."
   B. Nailed to Cross.
      1. Barclay, "Our document of sin executed on the cross."
      2. Christ became sin for us.
Gal. 3:13 "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of sin.
2 Cor. 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, with whom we are joint-heirs.
   3. He cancelled our bond & tore it up.
   4. Tear it up – nothing remains.
Rom. 8:1 "There is now no condemnation to them which
VI. His Complete Victory for Us.
   A. Spoiled Principalities & Powers.
      1. Stripped the weapons from defeated foes.
      2. Not only get out of clothes, but away from them complete separation.
      3. We need fear no force – whether or not demons exist today.
4. Demerest, "Devil is alive & not well."

B. Made a Show of Them.
   1. This is Christ triumphant entry.
   2. It's more than the Jerusalem Sunday.

C. Openly Triumphed Over Them.
   1. Like Roman general who drags his conquered Kings behind him.
   2. Christ drags powers of evil defeated forever.
   3. We are all subject to Christ - need have no fear.

1 Pet. 3:22 "Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; who is far above all principality, and power, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come; And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all."

4. Scott, "Jesus tied the Devil to the Chariot wheel & rode forth in conquering splendor."

5. Display captives publicly - publicly proclaim openly = absence of restraint, reserve.

6. Jesus is the conquering King.

7. Let's live above sin.

Gal. 6:14 "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the fulness of that power."

Phil. 3:18-19 "(For many walk, of whom I have told ye before, even Titus, when he is come from you. For such men are heirs of wrath, even as our own before."

8. Where will you be - among captives or in Conqueror's train?
Of course it is not meant that Christian men are freed from the obligations of morality, but that we are not bound to do "the things contained in the law" because they are there. Duty is duty now because we see the pattern of conduct and character in Christ. The weakness of law is that it has no power to get its commandments obeyed; but Christ puts His love in our hearts, and so we pass from the dominion of an external commandment into the liberty of an inward spirit. The long schism between duty and inclination is at an end. So a higher morality ought to characterize the partakers of the life of Christ. Law died with Christ on the cross that it might rise and reign in our inmost hearts. (A. Maclaren, D.D.)

"Biblical Illustrator" - By Joseph S. Exell
Philippians & Colossians - Page 151
I. Perhaps there is no better time to speak of danger than today.
A. Neely's Bend road is in the headlines due to scores of accidents.
B. James Baird threw down golf clubs in lightening display.
C. Mark, 3 years old and bobbing up and down in Sprott's lake.
D. Paul in Colossians flashing red lights.

II. Colossians 2:16-17
A. Faces man-made laws via judging, condemning, take you to task.
   1. Rob you of your liberty--stay on your side.

Acts 15:23-29
   2. Test of fellowship.

Gal. 4:9-11
Gal. 5:1
Rom. 14:1
Mark 7:19
1 Cor. 8:1

3. Asceticism introduced.
   a) Bill Thurman's time gauge--if you wake up refreshed stay up longer.
   b) Our babysitter--never more than $5.00 for dress; only a quarter $8.98.
4. They feel rewarded in abuse of body and follow man-made rules.

B. Go back to verse 16-17.

1. Man's rules on eating and drinking
2. Sister at West End drinks nothing out of bottle lest they feel you are doing wrong and drinking--anti coke vs. beer bottle.
3. Was law of Moses current?
4. Do I stand before God approved or condemned because of what I eat or drink?
5. Fish on Friday--do Christians have dietary rites--brains and eggs.
6. How far do I go to respect a tender conscience?

C. God has the right to warn.

Deut. 6:12 "Beware lest thou forgot."
Matt. 7:15 "Beware of false prophets."

D. But I don't have to bow to legality with its rules and regulations. We are free in Christ--no yoke, bondage

Rom. 6:14
Rom. 9:4
E. Restriction took certain forms.
   1. Foods—eat, drink, abstain.
   2. Clean—Acts 10:9

1 Cor. 8:8

3. Dr. Cayce—no hot bread.

F. Festival, New Moon, Sabbath days.

Exo. 20:9–11
1 Cor. 16:2
Acts 20:7
Isa. 1:13

1. Law a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ.

Luke 24:27
1 Tim. 1:8 "We know what the law."

G. Tests of piety and fellowship. Christianity is too free and exuberbant to be trained sown to times and seasons—Eadie.

H. Every day is holy, our moon never wanes.

III. All a shadow!

A. It's an anticipation of things to come.
B. Don't hold to shadow, but to the reality (substance)—Christ.

Heb. 8:5
Heb. 10:1

C. Liberty is not license and individualism.
D. Live a life devoted to Jesus.
E. Days don't change hearts - Jesus does!

Neely's Bend C/C - 12-19-04
IN CHRIST, I AM FREE
 Col. 2:16-17.

I. Strangely, the church now sees that baptism is for adults, yet excepts us to act as children when I enter the Kingdom.
A. If I am old enough to be baptized, I should be mature enough to stand on my own 2 ft.
B. Do you have a right to advise? Surely!
C. Do you have a right to command?
   1. Can't have a cult w/o a commander.
   2. In whose army are you enlisted.
D. But am I totally free to chart my own course?
   1. Avoid extremist.
   2. Sail between C & Scilla.

II. Paul boldly faces it.
Col. 2:16-17 "Let no man therefore judge you in meat
A. Words to be grasped if this passage is understood.
   1. Man.
   2. Judge.
      a.) "Disqualify" - a verb like umpire.
      b.) No one to deprive you of the prize about to be received.
      c.) Take you to task.
      d.) Dictate on a philosophical, ascetic point of view.
      e.) Don't let any man have his own way in robbing you.
      f.) This was a continual attempt to defraud continuous.
      g.) Unjust judgements can unduly influence us - try to make us conform.
   a.) Now obsolete c removal of O.T. dietary restrictions.
   b.) Literally = eating.
   c.) Always someone wants to advance ascetic rules & regulations.
   d.) Gnosticism advanced ascetism. Either the body is all evil so let it do any way it wants/or give it nothing - no desires. Either immorality or rigid ascetism.
   e.) Moses said little about drink.
   f.) What he did is abolished.
Acts 10:11 "And saw heaven opened, and a certain ve
Heb. 9:10 "Which stood only in meats and drinks, and Acts 15:10 "Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put 4. Holy day, New Moon or Sabbath days.
   a.) All under Moses & for a purpose of measuring time or celebrating events.
   b.) All special days removed.
   c.) Nothing said to discountence postive Chr.
   institutions or observance of Lord's Day.
   d.) Days left as open qt.
   e.) Note if Sabbath intended as lasting duration could not use this language.
   f.) I'm not to be legislative in use of days.
   g.) Word heorte used 27X in NT always feast except in this passage - festival or celebration better.
5. Shadow.
   a.) All was prophetic & preparatory, thus purpose
fulfilled - removed.
b.) Food is destined for decomposition so unimportant
c.) Don't major on shadow & forget substance.
d.) Shadow is lifeless, an image cast by an object representing its form.
e.) It's dim & temporary.

a.) Christian stands in full possession - thus decline anything that is only a shadow of this.
b.) Body means substance.
c.) Reality is in Jesus.
1 Tim. 6:19 "Lay hold on eternal life."
Rev. 3:11 "Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man

B. Application.
1. Yield not to the tyranny of the bigoted.
Rom. 14:4 "Who art thou that judgest another man's se
2. Yet have a toleration for the conscientious.
3. Some things have to be left to individual tastes.
4. When one says the temporary is essential to my salvation, such teaching must be abandoned.
5. Listen to what's said.
Matt. 15:10-20 Read.
6. Abasement of man before unlawful objects is wrong.
7. In Christ I have great liberties.
1 Cor. 4:3 "But with me it is a very small thing that I
Rom. 14:17 "For the kingdom of God is not meat and
Gal. 5:1 "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith
8. Ceremony can bind; superstition enslave.
10. Moule, "Christian liberty is the opposite of license & has nothing in the world akin to the miserable individualism whose highest ambition is to do just what it likes."

[Signature] 6-15-80
Dear Minister:

I like your sermons in church a lot and I hope to hear them again but not too soon.

Sincerely,

Walter L
Age 10
Boston

Dear Minister:

Everybody in my family likes to go to church except my baby brother Stephen.

He is only 4 years old and he can't even cross the street by himself.

Paul T.
Age 9
Athens
Dear Minister:

My mother is very religious.

She goes to play Bingo at church every week even if she has a cold.

Yours truly,

Annette S.

Albany

Dear Minister:

Please say a prayer for my teacher.

She is sick and if you said a prayer, she would get better and come back to school.

Sincerely,

Susan C.

Age 9

Terre Haute

P. S. The other kids in my class said I shouldn't write this letter
I. Ceaseless is the effort of the Devil to get me divorced from Jesus the Head.
   A. He may do it via immortality.
   B. He uses disappointments and doubts.
   C. Strangely he uses a souped-up religion--really be better than the book.
   1. All this comes at a time of transition.
   2. It is an extra appeal to conscience.
   3. It employs ascetism--as though we need rules and regulators.
   4. Attack through the body which they said was evil.
      a) Evil, indulge it.
      b) Or deny and starve it.
      c) Avenue of attack--humility so-called and food that "perish with the using" - v-22.
      d) Food is destined for decomposition.

II. He warns "Let no man beguile you."
   A. This is a bad, perverse judge.
   B. It's like an umpire--throw you out of the game, disqualify you to his rules, cheat you, rob you, default you of prize, rule you out of court.
   Let no one deny your claim.
   Declare you unworthy of prize.
Disqualify because you did not obey rules--athletic term--his rule.

No experience beyond word--can't bypass the spirit.

Victory of Christ overrules and authority.

B. You have in store a reward.

1. But not in self-made religion.

Isa. 29:13 "This people draw near me with their mouth."

2. We are citizens of heaven--don't allow anyone to demote you.

3. God promises a reward.


5. Every vessel not same size.

C. Its attack via voluntary humility and worship of angels.

1. I'm too humble to go directly to God.

2. Please remember "he who does not hold Christ alone does not hold Him at all."

3. This humility is not commanded--nowhere told to worship angels--thus it's unacceptable.

4. Voluntary- to take delight in--like man voted most humble in town--got a medal--took it away because he wore.

   Delight only here.

5. Never told to worship angels or any lower being.
Ezek. 13:3  "Foolish prophets that follow own spirit, and have seen nothing."

b) Vainly puffed up, at random, without reason, cause, results.
c) He relies on what he has not, in reality, seen.
d) Exalted--inflated, swollen.
e) Visions imaginary.
f) Deprive you of independence.
g) Imaginary visions, inflamed with conceit.
h) Puffed up--See Prov. 16:18, pride before.
i) Inflated with conceit.

D. Not holding the heat (sovereign).
1. Treason, disloyal to Jesus.
2. He is supreme.
3. By Him nourished.
4. Anything not of Christ is to be lowered.
5. False teachers lack vital contact with Christ.
6. Cultism does this as major on rules
7. Knit--continuity, development.
8. Christ is completely sufficient.
9. Let no one lay down rules for you.
10. Each must hold the head for himself.
11. They took stand on their own imaginations.
12. Resulted in insult to marriage as they promote virginity, monasticism, self-torture.

E. Dead with Christ from rudiments.
1. Only to Jesus subservient.
2. Not to trivialities—touch, taste, handle an ascending scale of prohibition.
3. Death of Christ annuals laws demand.
5. Nothing must take the spotlight off Jesus.
6. Rules produce a pride of achievement.
7. We daily grow stronger in Jesus.
8. Regulated religion is usually negatives.
9. Don't give an inheritance value to things that perish.
10. Food perishes with using; digest, discard.
11. Shadow is lifeless.
12. Accept diversity and love him but avoid "inner circle" view.
13. Ever remember you are in "the complete Christ."
III. Always remember as we conclude the doctrinal part of Colossians:
A. Liberty in Christ, government, life is one of the most precious things you'll have and thus it will always be under attack.
B. Oppose the "super spiritualists and their rules--it does nothing in control of the flesh--it's only via the all powerful Christ.
C. The church is his body and we ever need each other.
D. You will be forced to say to the man of self-visions "I don't believe your testimony--I'll not be guided by private visions and your dictator laws
E. We cannot grow spiritually without help of each other--no isolated Christians--need the body.
F. With Christ you died to the world and its regulations as death changes our status.
G. Do not let the world dominate.
H. Things based on human commands reject.
I. Ascetism is a sham.
J. Don't worship anything but God. Angels are servants (Heb. 1:14).
K. You died - aorist - time definite--baptism.
L. Don't be dogmatized, salvation not by rules but by Christ, the supreme ruler.

M. Don't touch, there are human commands to imprison you.

N. Visions masquerade as wisdom.

O. Only authority "it is written."

P. Only one thing (Jesus) "puts the collar on the animal within us."

Q. Christianity not a religion of prescription, but a living relationship with Jesus--thus the value of the Lord's Supper to avoid weakness.

R. We glory in Christ, not our individual Christian experience.

S. Only through Jesus do we reach God. Pre-eminence of Christian not through angels, saints, rules, individual experience, ascetism, hair shirts, hard beds, silences.

Some Scriptures That Relate:

Mark 7:18-19 Thing without
Job 42:5-6
Luke 5:8 Depart from me, I am a sinful man.
Rev. 1:17 I fell at his feet as dead.
Eph. 4:4 One body, one spirit.
1 Cor. 12:12-14 For as the body is one.
Heb. 10:19 Boldness to enter into.
Heb. 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly.
1 Tim. 2:5 There is one God and one mediator.

John 14:6 I am the way, the truth.

1 Cor. 8:1 Knowledge puffs up but love.

1 Tim. 6:17 Charge them that are rich.

1 Tim. 4:3 Forbidding to marry, abstain

Mark 7:6-9 Isaiah prophet.

Rom. 14:14 There is nothing unclean of itself.

Ezek. 13:3 Foolish prophets follow own.

Neely's Bend - 12/26/04
Neely's Bend - 1/2/05
Even a genius is wrong sometimes

Mark Twain quipped, "Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint."

Even brilliant thinkers make mistakes. The nineteenth-century physicist Lord Kelvin theorized that "heavier than air flying machines are impossible," "radio has no future," and "X-rays will prove to be a hoax."

An internal memo at Western Union written in 1876 observed, "This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us."

An article in The Literary Digest published in 1889 predicted, "The ordinary 'horseless carriage' is at present a luxury for the wealthy; and although its price will probably fall in the future, it will never come into as common use as the bicycle."

"Everything that can be invented has been invented," declared Charles H. Duell, Commissioner of the United States Patent Office, in 1899.

In 1939 Winston Churchill said, "Atomic energy might be as good as our present day explosives, but it is unlikely to produce anything very much more dangerous."

The chairman of IBM, Thomas Watson, predicted in 1943 that "there is a world market for maybe five computers." Popular Mechanics predicted in 1949 that "computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons." Ken Olsen, chairman and founder of Digital Equipment Corporation, offered his opinion that "there is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home."

In 1956 Sir Richard Woolley, the Astronomer Royal of Britain, said "space travel is utter bilge."

Decca Recording Company rejected a young music group in 1962, saying, "We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out." The group they rejected? The Beatles.

Even Bible publishers aren't immune to human error. In 1631 a careless typesetter omitted the word "not" from the seventh Commandment. This edition of the Scriptures was nicknamed "The Wicked Bible." Because it said, "Thou shalt commit adultery."

Human wisdom has its limits.

In 1795 the so-called "Murderers' Bible" translated Mark 7:27 "let the little children first be killed" instead of "filled." However, in Psalm 119:161 the version exacted its own revenge on its publishers with another misprint. Rather than the intended word "Princes," the verse said, "Printers have persecuted me without cause."

Human genius amazes me. I stand in awe of skillful writers who paint colorful words on the canvas of our minds. I marvel when athletes perform their magic on a football field or an Olympic balance beam. I'm impressed by engineers who design bridges and skyscrapers, technicians who understand the mysterious inner workings of computers, musicians who play flawlessly in symphony orchestras, mechanics who know car engines inside and out, and farmers who can coax an extra bushel of soybeans out of every acre.

But just about the time I'm ready to give humanity a collective pat on the back, I remember that even the greatest among us make mistakes. Even the brightest and best are sinners—with limited knowledge, limited strength, and limited life-spans. That's why the Bible says, "Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men, who cannot save. . . . Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—the Lord, who remains faithful forever" (Psalm 146:3-6).

All the finest human achievements added together—all the insights in a thousand libraries—are but a drop of water compared with the ocean of God's wisdom. "Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit" (Psalm 147:5). Let's reserve our highest praise for him, and him alone.
Crammed Into a Cage

W. E. Sangster, famous British minister of the 20th century, told of going to a zoo one day. He was walking around and he came to this cage and inside the cage was an eagle and a man was standing next to Sangster said to him, “look at that, made for the skies, but crammed into a cage.” How many of us are living in cages when we ought to be soaring on the wings of eagles?

Harry Emerson Fosdick told of visiting Niagara Falls. He watched a vulture fly over the river, and floating down the river was a carcass of an animal. It was a very cold day. This vulture came down on the animal and started feeding on it. It was the vulture’s intention I assume just before the carcass got to the falls to let go and fly away. But what happened, his claws, because it was so cold, got stuck in the carcass and he went over the falls and fell to his death.

And like that vulture, many times we get stuck in things and we cannot let go and we end up crammed into a cage. If we are self-centered, we are crammed into a cage of selfishness. If we are always feeding on defeat, we are crammed into a cage of negativism. If we are hooked on chemical dependence we are crammed into a cage of escapism. If we insist on maintaining the status quo, we are crammed into a cage of a closed mind. If we are jealous or resentful, we are crammed into a cage of hate. If we are constantly anxious ridden, we are crammed into a cage of fear.

Many of the cages people live in today are built by the people themselves. Two men were working on a construction crew. Lunch time came and the two men were sitting next to each other. One man opened his lunch box, took out his sandwich and said, “Oh no, baloney again, I hate baloney.” His coworker said, “Take it easy, settle down, just tell your wife you do not like baloney.” He said, “You leave my wife out of this, I make my own sandwich.”

How much of the baloney in our lives is there because we put it there? We have a choice—we can live in a cage of confinement, or we can live in a castle of liberty. John 8:36, “So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.” As we look at our lives, are we crammed into a cage or are we set free by Jesus Christ?

- Allan Eldridge
I. I know 4 Things:
   A. I have a reward as a Christian.
   B. I can lose it.
   C. My fellow religionist can be the major influence.
   D. I know the method he'll use.

II. Of his method I know the errorist will utilize 4 procedures:
   A. Voluntary Humility.
   B. Worship of Angels.
   C. Intruding into things He Hasn't Seen.
   D. Not holding the Head.

III. With that CIA Report Why should I fall?

IV. Let's examine the above.
   A. I have a reward.
      2. See Jesus.
      3. Well done.
   B. I can lose it.
      1. Why warn against what can't happen.
      2. Grandpa used to talk about falling in dug well vs. drilled well.
   C. Man, Religious at That, is Culprit.
      1. Some men deny our claim at being a Chr. — it works both ways, what we say of them & they of us.
      2. Some delight in your falling. I can see where the Devil would but not where a supposed saint would want me to fall.
3. Not everyone wants me to stand.
D. His method is varied.
1. We can do it c rules, or attitudes.
2. Look at rules.
   a.) Start c rules emphasis centers on performance.
   b.) Seek to produce guilt feelings, via
       (1) Food & drink.
       (2) Holy Days.
       (3) False Humility.
       (4) Angel Worship.
       (5) Visions.
3. We always have a tendency to pick at each other
   tho our lists change.
4. Illustrate c food, essential to life:
   a.) Couldn't eat camel, rock badger, rabbit, pig.
Lev. 11:1-8 (Read).
   b.) From waters: fins & scales.
Lev. 11:9-12 (Read).
   c.) Birds.
Lev. 11:13-19 (Read).
   d.) Insects - legs above feet & leap.
Lev. 11:21 "Yet these may ye eat of every flying cree
   e.) Could eat locust, cricket, grasshopper - not
       weasel, mice, lizard, crocodile.
Lev. 11:29-30 (Read).
5. Some abandoned all rules in reaction against
   oppressive restrictions
6. Freedom has boundaries.
1 Cor. 8:9 "But take heed lest by any means this liber
7. Conformity of practice vs. unity of spirit.
8. To push for conformity results in manipulation.
9. See how they love one another vs. how they pick at one another.
10. Can you accept diversity & still love?

V. Now see his 4 prong method.

A. Voluntary Humility.
1. Heathen felt humility a vice, Christ made it a virtue.
2. Yet humility when it becomes self conscious ceases to have value.
3. Volunteer is to take delight in, devote himself to
4. Delights in self abasement.
5. Reality another form of spiritual pride.
6. Not good enuf to worship Jesus so will His Mothe
7. Voluntary humility was not commanded thus was unacceptable.
8. Pride was at the very bottom of it.

B. Angel Worship.
1. Never told to do it.

Rev. 19:10 "And I fell at his feet to worship him. An Rev. 22:9 "Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not:
2. Idea "worship angel instead of God" a humble thing.
3. Seek lower being as intercessor.
4. This would dilute souls' contact c Christ.
5. Thus angelolatry born.
   a.) Word close to trembling.
b.) Great devotion.
7. Some seek to make purely Chr. Worship insuffici
Ezek. 13:3 "Thus saith the Lord God; Woe unto the fo
8. We don't worship angels but say we are too sinful
to claim the promises.
C. Intrude into Unseen.
1. Really says those things which he has seen since
no negative in G.K. text.
2. Reliance on supernatural visions.
3. Takes stand on the imaginary.
4. There were cultic initiations, at climax of rite,
visions came when he penetrates secret of
universe.
5. Pretends to Know secrets of mysterious.
6. Unseen world has an unwholesome attraction for
some.
7. "Vainly puffed up".
a.) At random.
b.) W/o reason or cause.
c.) W/o results.
d.) Inflated, swollen by reason of the flesh.
e.) Inflamed c conceit.
f.) Bloated c pride.
g.) Creates an inner circle atmosphere.
h.) Often done in Youth work.
i.) Sense of superiority.
j.) Shut people out in the name of Christ.
k.) Takes delight in having one's own inclinations
    gratified - What one does of his own notion.
D. Not holding the Head.
1. Treason, disloyalty to head brings destruction to body.

2. Some erroneous opinions may be held w/o invalidating salvation but anything that depreciates ultimate of Christ is Robbery.

Heath End 6-29-80
ALLEGIANCE TO THE HEAD
Col. 2:18-19
I. List the essentials of Christianity - is anything more compelling than loyalty to Jesus.

A. Above parents.
Matt. 10:37 "He that loveth father or mother more than me.
Matt. 12:46-50 "While he yet talked to the people,

B. Above party.
1 Cor. 1:12 "Now this I say, that every one of you saith
1 Cor. 1:21 "For after that in the wisdom of God the

C. Above governments.
Acts 5:28 "Did not we straitly command you that ye
Acts 5:40 "And when they had called the apostles, ar

D. Above tradition.
Matt. 15:2 "Why do thy disciples transgress the tradit
Gal. 1:14 "Being more exceeding zealous of the trad

E. Yea above all - loyalty to Jesus.

II. Our Text explains it.
Col. 2:19 "And not holding the Head, from which all
(We'll show why we should be loyal by showing what
we have in Christ)

III. There are Four Factors.
A. To the head I give allegiance.

1. If not holding the head brought trouble, loyalty
to Him surely brings reward.

2. Robertson said, "He who does not hold Christ
alone does not hold Him at all."

3. The opposite of this loyalty is treason - it brings
destruction to the body.

4. False teachers lack this vital contact with Christ.
5. Some erroneous opinions may be held w/o invaliding salvation but anything that depreciates Christ is robbery.

6. Be it then remembered the Church has a head & the headquarters are with the Head.

Eph. 1:20 "Which he wrought in Christ, when he raise

B. From the Head I Receive Nourishment.

V. 19 "From which all the body by joints and bands he:

1. Severed from the body a member can only die.
2. Note the all - no part or member for a moment is to be out of direct life contact c the Head.
3. Direct coherence of every part of body c the Head.

1 Cor. 11:3 "But I would have you know, that the hea
4. Nourishment is thus being supplied.
5. There's a constant supply.
6. Lord is the atmosphere of our growth.
7. Christ is sovereign & source.
8. We judge via Scriptures.

Isa. 8:20 "To the law and to the testimony: if they spe
9. Jesus sets us the example.

Jn. 4:34 "Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the

Rom. 14:17 "For the kingdom of God is not meat and c

C. By the head I'm Unified.

V. 19 "Knit together"

1. Knit shows continuency & developing process.
2. We'll not be Knit by persecution - as we saw in Salzburg Castle.
3. We are asked to be one.
Eph. 4:3 "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit
4. It has a basic ingredient.

Col. 3:14 "And above all these things put on charity,
D. Thru the Head I receive growth.
1. There is seductive perils of false philosophy.
2. We cannot ignore divine source of all spiritual
increase.

Eph. 4:15 "But speaking the truth in love, may grow:

I Pet. 2:2 "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk:

IV. Magnify the Head, because:
A. To the head I give allegiance.
B. From the head I receive nourishment.
C. By the head I'm unified.
D. Thru the head I achieve growth.

2kst ind 7-20-80
Europe Must Hear

WIL C. GOODHEER

World War II is still a most vivid memory for some Americans, even though the war ended 35 years ago. To most Americans, World War II is either a vague memory or a history lesson. To others it became the challenge of the century to return to that war-torn continent and bring peace, joy and hope which can only be realized in Christ and his Church. A handful of Christians “spied out the land” as early as 1946. The names of Otis Gatewood, Bill Richardson, and Bob Hare have long been associated with ministries in Germany, the Netherlands and Austria.

Scattered across the great continent of Europe, with its 700 million inhabitants, congregations of our Lord’s people can be located. During a recent evangelistic meeting in Holland I was informed that about 9,000 members of Churches of Christ assemble to worship from the Scandinavian countries of Norway, Sweden and Denmark to the Iron Curtain countries of Hungary, Yugoslavia, and Poland.

For the battles won for Christ and the congregational beach heads obtained we praise and thank God. There are many great Christian men, women, and families, both Nationals and Americans who have done and are doing a great and wonderful work throughout Europe. Unfortunately, now while the greatest opportunity of proclaiming Christ throughout Europe is before us there has been a reversal . . . the retreat bugle is heard. Instead of praying, planning, promoting and promising more Christian troops and supplies, our forces are dwindling to a mere handful.

How has this come about and how can it be changed? It has come about partially by our interest in “home missions” and in “building bigger barns.” We did not intend to retreat; in fact we were not aware of the final results. But as our troops came marching home, we neglected to replace them. This resulted, therefore, in a full-time missionary force of only 55-60 Christian families for the entire continent of Europe.

This must be changed . . . and by God’s grace, power and help it will be changed.

Instead of 50-60 missionaries on the continent, we must have 50-60 in each country; and when possible, in major metropolitan world cities!

To accomplish this, the evangelization of Europe (not mere representation in most countries) several steps must be taken: 1. We must pray to the Lord of harvest to send forth reapers. 2. Churches, elderships, and Christians must send and 3. Christians must be trained into quality teams. These teams, in every major city throughout Europe, will bring about the harvest which the Lord desires. Where are the John-Marks, the Pauls, the Timothys, the Phoebes, the Priscillas who are willing to go? And where are the elderships and church leaders like those in Jerusalem and Antioch who are willing to send, encourage and make possible these missionary endeavors?

If you would like to become a part of the evangelization of Europe please pray, plan and prepare to become a part of “Europe Must Hear!”

590 West Valley Forge Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406
DISCOURAGER OF MEN

I read somewhere just recently the account of a soldier who, following a war, was court-martialled. The charge? He was accused of being a "DISCOURAGER OF MEN."

He had not sold valuable secrets. He did nothing more than to go among his fellow soldiers with discouraging words and with criticism for their cause. He broke the spirit and morale of many, and he hindered the task at hand. He simply discouraged men!

How much like him are some Christian soldiers! They do not actually sell out to Satan. They do not completely leave the church. They simply mingle with other Christians, constantly complaining about the work of the church. Openly criticizing the leaders, voicing skepticism concerning future plans and goals.

In a very real sense, these are "Discouragers Of Men," and they ought to be court-martialled, but unfortunately, it is all too difficult to define some sins of the spirit. And so, they continue spreading their venom and are doing their deadly work, hindering the progress of the Lord's church. Beware of them... and beware of your own words, lest you too, become a discourager of men.

Discouragement is one of Satan's most used devices. One of the reasons discouragement is so destructive is that the devil cunningly put it into the hand of our own brethren to use it against us.

Many of the children of Israel never reached the promised land because they were discouraged by their own brethren, they said, "Whither shall we go up? Our brethren have discouraged our hearts saying the people are greater and taller than we." [Deut. 1:28]

Let each of us examine ourselves, and ask ourselves, what am I saying to hinder and discourage the Lord's church today? Am I going to let the devil rob me of my soul, using me to discourage my brother who is striving to reach the promised land? How many soldiers have dropped out of the fight because of me and what I said? How many have been mortally wounded? It is a serious matter!

Selected
THE UNHOLY LAPSE
Col. 2:16-23

I. My liberty in Christ is challenged.
   A. Grace is too good to be true.
   B. Freedom is too precious to be truly free.
   C. Consequently comes what I'll call an "unholy lapse."
   D. Let's study its insidious intrusion.

II. Let no man judge you:
   A. He cannot put you back under ceremonial law.
   B. God's not interested in ceremonies.

Jer. 7:9-10
Isa. 1:11-17
Ps. 15:16
Amos 5:21-24

C. Defraud you as an umpire--declare you disqualified.

D. Don't let anyone deny your claim to being a free Christian.

E. Judge via: (take you to task)
   1. Meat
      a) Eat or drink.
      b) Can't judge a man by law taken away.
   2. Holy days, new moon, Sabbath.
   3. These things are not basis for your standing before God--Not even the Sabbath.

Exo. 31:27 Sign between God & children of Israel.

4. In Christ we have reality--not shadow.
   5. Rigid asceticism.
III. They'll try again via beguilement--Rob you of your prize.

A. Insurance is fascinating, you pay ahead of time for mistakes you might make in the future. (Cloer)

B. Your reward is worth guarding.

C. Don't lose it via:

1. Voluntary humility.
   a) Mock humility--self-imposed.
   b) Let no one lay down rules for you.
   c) It is a voluntary service when men choose for themselves at their own option without authority from God. (Calvin)

2. Worshipping angels.
   a) Had many long steps to reach Heaven.
   b) No arbitrarily invented worship.
   c) Man originated.

3. Intruding into those things not seen.
   a) Harps on visions as he knows more than anyone else.
   b) Inventions of man as laws result in human pride & rob true humility.

4. Puffed up by fleshly mind.
   a) Inflated with bellows.
   b) Vainly = without reason.
   c) Forerunner to a fall.

Prov. 16:18

5. Not holding the head.
   a) Head is Jesus.
b) So absorbed in other things no time for Christ.
c) Hold fast the Head each Christian for himself.

6. Separated from Head body dies.
7. We need neither saints nor angels to save us.

IV. Christ vs Rudiments
A. If dead with Christ
   1. Not an element of doubt.
   2. Don't receive ordinances Christ has not joined.
   3. Trappings of external impress some--ours a most simple way.

B. Rudiments
   1. Elementary instruction.
   2. To submit is to allow life guided by rules.
   3. You are Heaven's citizens, don't accept world standards.

C. Cites world laws.
   1. Touch not.
      a) Any unclean thing.
   2. Taste not
      a) Any forbidden meat.
   3. Handle not
      a) Any consecrated vessel.
      b) All negative.
      c) All perish.
      d) All doctrines of men.

Isa. 29:13
Matt. 15:9

  e) Warning against legalism
  f) Ascending scale of superstition.
D. Perish with using.
   1. Don't be restricted by the category of the perishable.
   2. All things fleeting & unimportant.
   3. Christ made all foods clean.

Mk. 7:19
E. May look wise but aren't.
   1. Ascetics legislated against flesh—
even taking a bath.
   2. We must live free of external laws.
   3. Don't confuse legitimate Christian discipline with man made rules of asceticism.

Hixson, TN - 4/14/96
1. I have 3 words that make all the difference in the world:
   A. If.
   B. Dead.
   C. Christ.

II. If.
   A. Could convey doubt.
   B. Could suggest a condition.
   C. Could, as is here, be an item of certainty.
      1.) It does not denote insecurity.
      2.) It is an unquestioned fact.
      3.) Expositor's Bible says carries sense of "since" or "because."

III. Dead.
   A. If you were to ask "Did you know Bro. So & So is dead?" My 1st answer would involve 2 qt.
      1. No - when?
      2. How did he die?
   B. I'd further know immediately a change of status had occurred.
   C. So the word is used here.
      1. Died at a specific time.
      2. Act not to be repeated as tense shows.
      3. "If ye died" literally - assumes death as a fact.
      4. When.

Rom. 6:3-7 "Know ye not, that so many of us as were
D. Because of death we now have a different life-style.
1. Laws previously binding are annulled.
   a.) Dead to law of Moses – it has no claims.
   b.) Death dissolves its binding powers.
   c.) Old rules & regulations are passe.
2. It granted a new existence – not annihilation.

IV. With Christ.

A. New centre.
   2. Present vs. Past.
   3. Nothing must take the spotlight off Him.
   4. Christian accepts death of Christ as supplying means to His redemption & is dead to all former religious principles.

B. New courage.
   1. Salzburg –
      a.) Periodical door to door distribution.
      b.) Coupon – get no more unless you mail this in.
      c.) Newspaper ad $700 per issue.
      d.) Radio & TV closed except to Roman Catholics.
      e.) 18 Mo. to get an interview with those getting mail.
2. Poland.
   a.) Walinty Dawidow (Da'-vi-dof)
      (1) Ph. D. in Theology.
      (2) Gen. Sec. of Pentecostal Church.
      (3) R. J. Smith, Dallas, in early 50's contacted him.
      (4) Tom Hicks, faith healer holding a meeting – Smith went.
(5) While going, sat by diplomat on plane, LBJ just fired him from Rome, sent to Poland because "he didn't help a little insignificant group called Church of Christ" - Smith didn't have nerve to tell him who he was.

(6) Met Dawidow - simplicity of NT Church appealed to him.

(7) Many church groups - all under name Baptist but not like any here. They baptize for remission of sins showing its necessity.

(8) Restoration Movement has strong appeal.

(9) 700 members in Poland - 6 baptized last week.

(10) Gov. tolerates meeting in private homes.

(11) Ship Russian Bibles to Kinsman in Warsaw - put in Jail 3 Mo. - Judge overthrew, gave him back 12000 Bibles. Polish pope helps freedom.

(12) Could get visa to USA - 1 way only.

(13) 9 congregations - 200 members in Russian underground church.

3. Vienna.

a.) 20,000 addresses in E. Europe.

b.) 500 folk in Western Europe post mail.

c.) IBM Computer MB4K

  2 tape drive system - 30 addresses to page.

d.) 1 per day to address.

e.) 3 yrs. before your name to do mailing comes up again, thus avoid censorship.

f.) Soviets & E. Germany have total censorship c multiple man hours.
g.) More guards than athletes at games.
h.) Only Co. build a wall to keep people in - Greg Anderson.
i.) Can't get into these countries.
j.) 70% caught – get telegram back as mail via international law must be sent or confiscated. If latter, must notify why. Soviets now "investigate material", thus forever on hold.
k.) Goal – Bible in hand of people – 1st tool to restore NT Chr.
l.) Hiring professionals to translate 20th CC & Bible school materials.
((1)) One a refugee.
((2)) One lady's husband originated "Black Theatre
((3)) One lawyer.
((4)) One Prague news editor.
((5)) One former Cath. Priest.
m.) Once "Forbidden Fruit" in country it goes rapidly.
n.) New printing plant $1 1/2 million by trucking center, canteen in it for truckers – Bldg.
20,000 sq. ft. – truckers take it out free.
o.) Oct. - Non profit corp. to print Bibles for Societies - enuf profit to pay for Bldg.
p.) USA – $13 million for good will NT – 6 million of them to be distributed by US Consulate at State Fairs.
q.) 1st print Bibles then confirmation lit. for members.
r.) DuPont $200,000 grant Q. T.
s.) McGehee (Kathleen) left 1 1/2 million - $100,000 per yr. into this.

West End 7-27-80
Please remove my name from your mailing list for the Christian Singles' Newsletter. as I am no longer single. Thank you for your interest.

Obera Wheeler
48 Country Club Drive
Brentwood TN 37027
Looking Ahead

by

Dr. George S. Benson

President

NATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Searcy, Arkansas

FACTS ABOUT AMERICA

Any nation has two chief responsibilities. The first responsibility is to assure security for the country, domestic and foreign. This means having adequate domestic laws and properly enforcing them. It means protection against foreign nations.

The second chief responsibility of a nation is to create and maintain a sound financial policy.

Up until 1945 America did a superior job in maintaining good laws and enforcing them and the American dollar had become the standard of currency valuation around the world. In our own country when we wanted to commend something, we had a saying, "It's as sound as a dollar."

Now in 1980, we look out on a very different picture. Our laws oftentimes are not carefully evaluated and they are not well enforced. In fact, crime keeps growing worse every passing year. We no longer have adequate internal security.

In 1945 America had the strongest Navy, the strongest Air Force, the strongest submarine force, the best equipped land Army and alone had the atomic bomb. Today we are not first in any one of these areas. We have intentionally and knowingly allowed Russia to surpass us in virtually every military area.

Russia has been spending about fifteen percent of her total gross national product annually on military preparedness. America on the contrary has been spending only about five percent of her gross national product on military preparedness.

We also know well the design of the Communists. They have two overriding determinations. In the first place, they declare that their determination is to free the "slaves of all the capitalist nations" including America. They maintain there can be no peace in the world as long as capitalism prevails anywhere. Their second overriding ambition is to create a total communist world. Under these circumstances, America's security from abroad is in great jeopardy.

In the second place, we no longer have a sound financial structure. America decided shortly after World War II to live with inflation and that possibly a limited amount of inflation each year would be good for the country. So we began tolerating inflation. Now finally, it's gotten so out of control that for the last five years we've averaged approximately $50 billion a year in deficit spending. This means we've been spending in the last five years about $50 billion a year above all of the national income. We've simply been adding that much each year to the national debt, which now approximates $900 billion and the annual interest alone on it is probably up to about $70 billion or more at the present time. For five years our government has been promising us it was going to reduce inflation. But instead inflation is now growing faster than ever. Each dollar will probably lose 25 percent of its value just in 1979 and 1980 — a period of two years.

We all know what to do to meet this crisis. But so far we lack the courage, the determination and the self-control to do it.
WHY BE ABSORBED IN FUTILITY?
Col. 2:20-23

I. Were you ever asked, "Why do you do that?", only to find your answer didn't hold water?
   A. Was it anything religious?
   B. If shown it was valueless, what did you do about it?
   C. Are you one who will continue in futility?

II. This situation faced the brethren at Col.
   A. Dead with Christ from Rudiments.
      1. It, law, has no claims on us.
      2. Resurrection assures new life for believer.
      3. Ways, ends, means & manners of world all over.
   B. Qt. - Why be Subject?
      1. Live in world = having life powers & int. in this world.
      2. Ordinances.
         a.) Dogmatized & overridden c decrees.
         b.) Not talking about baptism but Jewish ones.
         c.) Religion of mechanics, imposed by directors, purified by performance (Moule).
         d.) Life of faith gave way to arbitrary discipline.
      a.) Touch - to fasten one's self to, cling, not an inadvert touching but a conscious effort to do so.
      b.) Verbs grow stronger to where slightest contact is forbidden.
      c.) Ritualistic religion is usually negative.
I Cor. 8:8 "But meat commendeth us not to God: for n
Matt. 15:16-17 "And Jesus said, Are ye also yet with:
d.) Asceticism is not Chr.
e.) Some denounce marriage.
1 Tim. 4:3 "Forbidding to marry, and commanding to c
Heb. 13:4 "Marriage is honourable in all, and the be:
f.) Handle = in superficial way.
4. These Things Perish!
a.) Three reasons not to so subscribe.
(1) Things themselves are transient.
(2) Virtues are artificial.
(3) It fails its objective.
b.) Look at Perish.
(1) Food ceases to be food when eaten.
(2) Things forbidden were material, not moral.
c.) Alludes to passing O.T.
(1) Moses fulfilled in Christ.
(2) Moses good only for their period & time.
(3) To impose now is wrong.
d.) Any surface religion is shallow.
e.) Whether we eat or drink, do to glory of God.
1 Cor. 10:31 "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink or w
1 Cor. 3:17 "If any man defile the temple of God, hin
1 Cor. 7:24 "Brethren, let every man, wherein he is a
a.) Lipscomb, "To honor a command of man as an
honor of God is treason."
b.) Obedience is true essence of piety.
c.) These traditions originated c mind of man.
d.) Ordinances are humanly proposed & imposed
(P.C.).
The people come next to me, their voices honor me, they cry to me from near and far. Only I need fear no man.

Isa. 29:13 "Wherefore the Lord said, Forsaking as in their diversity as to what you can do & can't do."

3.) Expositors, "Rules of the ascetic both in origin & communication are strictly human." Matt. 15:9 "but in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines of men.

Only I need fear no man.
WHY OPPOSE ALL MAN MADE LAWS IN JESUS’ CHURCH?  
Col. 2:20-23

I. The Freedom we practice startles folks.
   A. No creed but Christ.
   B. No synods, bishops, conventions, Popes.
   C. No one speaks for the church.

II. Admittedly, in most religions there are man made laws.
   A. Presbyterians baptize in Nigeria - too involved to show why sprinkling is O.K.
   B. Names, ways of worship, offices, trappings of ceremonies.
   C. We come close in "offering invitation, invitation song, 3 songs & prayer, ritualistic prayers, & the "I don’t syndrome plus delight in what makes the preacher look good.

III. But why be wary of such?
   A. They perish c using.
   B. They are after man.
   C. They produce an unwholesome & negative effect.

IV. It is this latter we want to see.
   A. Give the devil his dues - they have a show of wisdom.

V. 23 "Which things indeed have a shew of wisdom in
   1. What gives them viability is that they seem to have certain values.
   2. They make the appearance of wisdom.
   3. It tho is a masquerade.
   4. Specious & seductive is their reasonableness & only in theory.
B. Secondly, they are to be avoided by virtue of what they beget.
1. "Will worship."
   a.) It's our own will.
   b.) It's self chosen - I like it.
   c.) Earle says word used only here & means voluntary, arbitrary.
   d.) It's worship one devises & prescribes for himself.
   e.) It's contrary to nature of the faith which ought to be directed to Christ.
   f.) It's self made religion.
   g.) It pleases the worshipper - not the Lord.
   h.) Abstain from devices of men in the worship.
2. "Humility."
   a.) Is this wrong?
   b.) It's a mock one. It still appeals to human pride
   c.) "Pride may be pampered while the flesh grows lean" - Woodsworth.
3. "Neglect of the body."
   a.) Chr. one of few religions that dignifies the body
   b.) God's law regulates but does not suppress natural life.
Ps. 128 - Read.
   c.) Others call body a burden, a prison.
   d.) Some religions have idea poverty brings purity.
   e.) They promote severity of body - see cards.
   f.) Body remains material & we never change this.
   g.) Sacrifice of God is a broken spirit, not macerated body.
   h.) Hair shirt is not a means of grace.
i.) If holiness consists of avoiding contamination, one finally avoids everything.
C. Lastly, they flat out do no good.
1. "Does it make man better?" is the eternal question.
2. Ordinances then do not resultanty restrict evil (Erdman).
3. Rules can't change the motivation of a person.
4. Ultimately, they produce a pride of achievement & avoid a whole soul dependency on Jesus (Demarest).
5. Human spirit cannot be transferred into divine harmony thru inflections.
6. Control of Chr. life comes from within & is generated by a conscious union c Christ.
7. Put Christ in command & one wins.

West End 9-10-80
DEALING WITH AN ALZHEIMER'S PATIENT
Colossians 3

I. May I start by saying this is not the only disease that tests one.
   A. Accident
   B. Stroke
   C. Hemorrhage

II. Nor of all who suffer this exactly alike: Belligerent, repetitious, mean, calm, compliant—Hardest Sermon.

III. Falls on our anniversary.
   A. Isabel, wheat stubble, reception at home, no rehearsal dinner.
   B. Doodlebug, Allison, Como, Repainted car, all gone—1943 July 20.
   C. Dean Sears $35.00—making $25.00 Sheridan, no showers or teas.

IV. But gradually came the disease.
   A. 7 months in bed for Sis and 3 years pink hospital sign, ate those anti-abortion pills, dressed her repeatedly—like a doll.
   B. When both left—what have I got?
      What started with=me.
   C. Best see psychiatrist—why?
      1. Give experimental medicine.
      2. Watch test—winder stumped her.
      3. One day paper had the dreaded word—Alzheimer's!

V. Earnest prayer—don't let it come.
   A. Gradual encroachment.
      1. Watch in water.
      2. Casserole of Irish potatoes.
      3. Descending Plateau
3. Hunter "You do too much."
4. Ability to drive last time--hose.
   a) Sign name? Gone
   b) Lose things?
7. Could she forget her own?

B. Things ingrounded remained.
1. Church
2. Bible reading
3. Modest as I changed her.
4. Good food.
5. Fading words "I love you."

C. Things Needed
6. Singing
   1. Cheer & teasing.
   2. Trips & people--might be too open--"Look at her size."
   3. Friendly additional help and where get it?
4. Children came--Mark walked her.
5. Grandchildren unafraid--some never saw normalcy.
6. Must not register frustration or discouragement, even our last ride together.
7. 5 days of waiting, closed her eyes, closed her casket.

D. Relief
1. Tell me what you remember.
2. Restraint in pattern of behavior.
3. It was my responsibility and no one else.
4. Do things in her memory.
5. Weekly visit to grave.
6. Realize where she is and nothing here could equal it.
7. Come face to face with what really is important.
8. Must live with hundreds of you who carry sorrows— I'm not the only one.
9. Don't mess up on 18th green.
10. What with infirmities could I possibly give her?
11. But what I do give to church and Christian education she helped make possible.
12. No apprehension as to her home—will I by God's grace make it?
13. I've a memory to uphold.
   a) No slang
   b) No immorality.
   c) No shoddiness.
   d) No unfaithfulness.
   e) May slip, Sis and her slick shoes, fall but get up again.
   f) I see her in my children.
14. I kept one vow—offer her a person that's pure as she did me—faithful unto death.
15. Vows

Ecc. 5:5

Rivergate - 7/20/05
LaVergne - 8/22/07
PROPER REACTION TO SPIRITUAL HEIGHTS
Col. 3:1-2
I. Differently, do we react to heights.
   A. Some want to jump.
   B. Others can't look - Alice Stevens.
   C. Some want to do something lofty - little boy at
      WEBE spat off bridge - "there goes my spit to the
      Atlantic Ocean."
II. What do you want to do?
   A. Are you a purer folks?
   B. Is refinement yours?
   C. Where's your affection: earth or heaven? - It all
      may be predicated on the height you've reached.
      Col. 3:1-2 "If ye then be risen c Christ, seek those th
III. I have a status - "If ye then be risen
   A. If.
      1. Not conjecture but assumed certainty.
      2. 1st of 4 compact sentences.
   B. Risen c Christ.
      1. Many scholars point out that it alludes to the
         definite time of your baptism. Tho I could name
         them - Robertson, Coffman, Weed, Moule, it's
         the scriptures we go by & not the writers - howeve
         I believe their assumption is correct.
      2. We are raised in Christ to a newness. MK1:10
         a.) Christ after His baptism turned toward Heaven.
         b.) Paul wrote of it. Saw hezrun opened(Re�)
            Eph. 2:6 "Hath raised us up together & made us sit for
            c.) Baptism has two sides: death & rebirth; end &
               beginning.
3. After baptism, we are in Christ.
   a.) Only remedy for sinful passion is union c Jesus.
   b.) In Christ we move out of one sphere of life into another. Ge 3:21  Rom 6:4
   c.) If Jesus is Source, Medium, & Giver, it destroys every hope of obtaining salvation w/o Him.

IV. But My New Position is Neither Passive nor Permanent - I have things to do!

A. Seek Those Things Which Are Above.
   1. "Seek."
      a.) Search out.
      b.) Inquire into.
      c.) Ask for.
      d.) Examine.
      e.) Strive, desire.
      Heb. 11:14 "For they that say such things declare plai

2. A new aim - man is born to aspire - Christ causes him to reach out for the greatest.

3. New life is active, not passive, we don't relax & turn it all over to God as tho driving thru a minute car wash! - Watery Hell is Kids yell

4. Two imperatives - seek & set - exhortation - have to do c inner life of thoughts & attitudes.

B. Looks for Things Above.
   1. When a man is baptized, he sets now his thoughts on things above.

   2. His interests are centered in Christ.

   3. He feels an allegiance that's above all earthly ones.
4. Coffman rightfully points out ethics do not produce doctrine but doctrine produces ethics. (See card).

5. Use the expression - "She's stolen my heart
man told Betty of his 11th trip to Venice.

C. Look where Jesus Sits!

1. Keep your eyes on Jesus.

2. Sits on Right Hand of God.
   a.) Right hand a place of supreme privilege &
       authority.
   b.) Seated Acts 2:33 "Therefore being at the right
       exalted having rec'd of the Father the
       (1) Repose. Proms of the Holy Ghost
       (2) He's done His sacrificial work.
       (3) Sits & dispenses blessings.
   c.) 2 exceptions.
      Acts 7:56 "Behold I see the heavens opened, and the!
      Rev. 5:6 "Midst of throne, 4 beasts, midst of elders
      stood a Lamb.

Western Hills Church, Temple, Dec. 8-21-80
The NT everywhere insists upon true doctrine . . . the whole tendency (today) is to discourage talk about doctrine and to urge that we work together, etc. . . . but the fact is that there is no unity apart from truth and doctrine; and it is departure from this that causes division and breaks unity.


"Commentary on Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians"
By James Burton Coffman - Page 393
What really determines growth is the intensity of belief that any group has in the particular doctrine it holds. . . What we have seen occurring from the time of Constantine in the fourth century has been a general watering down of our belief in our views of salvation and of the church.


"Commentary on Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians" By James Burton Coffman - Page 394
WHICH WAY ARE WE LOOKING?
Col. 3:1-4

I. We come to what Moule describes as "One of the golden paragraphs of the Bible."
It shows:
A. Which way we are to look.
B. New life in Christ is active, not passive. (We don't relax and "turn it over to God.")
C. Grants a glorious ambition and drive.
D. Man is born to aspire--I've a new aim--reach for the greatest.

II. If then ye be risen with Christ
A. We have a conditional clause.
B. We stand between two worlds--each beckons to us. (Meyer)
C. I've been baptized and raised for something.
   1. Death with Christ involves also participation in His resurrected life.
   2. Baptism is essential--so is this.
   3. I'm lifted into a higher world.
   4. I rose to God.
D. With Christ--what company!
   1. 4 times his name or title appears in 4 verses.
   2. All that is alien to Christ ought to be alien to the Christian.
   3. Song "Buried With Christ."

III. I Must Seek and Set.
A. Seek things above.
   1. Seek = search out, inquire into, ask for, examine, strive, desire.
   2. Seek is the same word as "set" means keep on seeking.
2. Give outward expression to your inward faith.
3. Though a sojourner here I seek things above.
4. Though I am free from ceremony (of last chapter) I am not free to live as I please.

B. Christ Sits--on Right Hand of God.
1. Seated--repose, he's done his sacrificial work--(no chair in the temple.)
2. He sits and dispenses blessings.
3. Right hand--supreme authority.

C. Because He sits, I set
1. This is my direction.
2. My affections (mind) is on things above. Firmly set
   a) It's Heaven that is in my thoughts.
   b) Seek Heaven--Think Heaven.
3. Things Above. Appeals to active mind
   a) After his baptism Christ turned his thoughts to Heaven.
   b) I've a new post baptism direction.
4. Not on Earth. Psalms 110
   a) Christian sees everything in light of eternity.
   b) He does not live as though the world mattered.
   c) Minds things of the other world more than this one.
Take mind from perishable to eternal d) "When you sank under the baptismal waters you disappeared forever to the world." (Lightfoot)

5. Set your mind where Christ sits enthroned.

IV. To further emphasize my new status I am:
A. Dead--I was baptized.
B. My life is hid with Christ in God.
1. I do not despise life's comforts but must not tarry among them or leave with regrets. (Vaughn)
2. "Life hidden now as it has no outward splendor as men count splendor." (Wesley)
3. It's hidden like a seed in the soil.
5. Christ is the believer's life.
6. Where the Head is the members of the body must also be.
7. Christ is our life--not ball, music, or work. Dance, ballet

V. But Something Glorious Is Going to Happen
A. When
1. Something is coming.
2. It's in the works--closer than ever.
B. Christ will appear--no longer hidden.
1. He will come again.
2. Appear--return.
3. Parousia--future presence, coming
4. Epiphaneia--manifestation, visible and splendid. World blinded by
1. At his coming is my hope for perfection as flaws of this life laid aside.

2. Then, and not until, will we find the perfect church.

C. You also will appear with Him.

1. Your life pants to get out of present state—at his coming you'll know release—as James Baird tried to get out of his body.

2. In acrons there are oaks with root, trunk, boughs—but the fullness comes later.

3. It will shine forth from hiddenness to full revelation when the Lord appears.

D. Glory Radiates

1. At his coming is my hope for perfection as flaws of this life laid aside.

2. Then, and not until, will we find the perfect church.

Woodbine Ladies Bible Class (TCC) - 4/17/96
Hixson, TN (BC) - 5/12/96
Neely's Bend - 1/23/05
Mt. Zion, London, KY (A.M) - 4/24/05
Fishinger & Kenny - 5/6/05
Funeral, Rowena O'Brien - 6/29/05
Heritage C/C - 8/7/05
I. It's thrilling to see how much Jesus wants out of me!
   A. Let's see 1st his elevation
   B. Then see his sharing experiences.
II. My Elevation
   v.2 "Set your affections on things
      A. I have a higher interest than this world!
         1. I can use world without abusing it, Lipscomb taught.
         2. It must be secondary to higher interest though.
         3. I make an effort to see things as they appear to God. Illustrate with workmen in Cathedrals put great artistry atop pillars where men didn't see them but they said "It's seen of God!"
         4. Lightfoot "Seek and think heaven."
         5. Affection is singular
         6. It means tendency, bias.
      B. Set
         1. Let me persistently & carefully pursue goal indicated.
         2. Do we have difficulty keeping doctrinal and practical in balance?
         3. There are joys here, not just a distant heaven.
         4. We are not invited to a dreamy, sentimental inactivity!
C. Not on things of Earth

1. Earth cannot satisfy immortal soul.
2. No longer live as though the world is all that matters. Lawyer told as he'd not been in church in 20 years -- "I don't know whether I'm still affiliated with my denomination or not."
3. All earth is not evil but neither is it the proper goal.
4. What's earth got?
   a.) Anxiety
   b.) Vanity
   c.) Ambition
   d.) Pleasure
   e.) Self indulgence
5. Earth and Heaven not so much places as they are principles.
6. Folly to set affections here:
   a.) Riches destroy
   b.) Philosophy apostatize
   c.) Applause dies.
7. World knows neither Christ nor Christians
8. All that's alien to Christ should be alien to us.

III. With Christ, I share:
A. Since His name is repeated so often I'm sure there is real purpose behind it.
B. With him, I share:
   1. The death and the hiding
2. We are dead
   a.) Dead know not nor care anything of this world.
   b.) We need to be this to worldly temptation.
   c.) There is a firm, irrevocable resolution to intention to renounce sin forever -- dying with Christ -- body no more given to indulgence of fleshly lusts.
   d.) Could mean legal aspects of dying in Christ

3. We are hidden
   a.) When a man was buried the Greek community spoke of him as hidden in the earth.
   b.) Goes under water -- is hidden.
   c.) Buried or hiding from world is union or incorporation into Christ.
   d.) Hid -- conceal
   e.) Safety
   f.) Lightfoot says means immersion.

4. With him I have life
   a.) Christ is our life -- not ball, music or work
   b.) Expositor's said Christ is called the believer's life -- the essence of all he is.
   c.) Poor expectients of a mechanical religious routine are needless & futile.
   d.) Our life includes self as recepient of bounty.

a.) We are to share the glory of the ascended and the returning Christ (Erdmore)
b.) The world which does not know a Christian will one day see and have one declared.
c.) Don't demand it sooner than Christ will give it to you.
d.) Appear -- return of Christ
   (1) Parousia - future presence with people
   (2) Epiphania - manifestation visible and splendid
   (3) Apokalypsis - revelation, inner meaning of event
e.) Grand display of his glory
f.) Jesus literally visible at coming
g.) New hope shall be made manifest - thus new aim, new heart, new life, new hope
h.) Purposes of Jesus reappearing are important
   (1) adversaries subdued
   (2) Friends honored and rewarded
   (3) He himself is vindicated as all acknowledge
i. Your life pants to get out of present state -- at his coming you'll know release
j. as acorn are whole oak -- root, trunk, boughs -- but fullness comes later.

West End 8-31-80
Some of our best Church historians believe that the Christian movement would have been much more effective in Christianizing the world if in the fourth century, when great numbers of people in the ancient world were joining the Church, there had been a more complete understanding and acceptance of the really fundamental obligations of a member to the Church. Typical of what took place then is the story of the regiment in the ancient Roman Army that was baptized by immersion. During the service, however, the soldiers kept their sword arms lifted over their heads. They wanted to be a part of the Church, but they did not wish to acknowledge the right of the Church to command their entire life. Something of this attitude is evident in Church membership relations today.

"Your Church and You" – By Fred Pierce Corson – Page 151
HEAVENLY HOMICIDE
Col. 3:5

1. The cry of "Kill, Kill, Kill." 
A. It doesn't sound civilized.
B. It doesn't sound Christian.
C. But it is!

Col. 3:5 "Mortify therefore your members which are of the earth:
1. Our task to see death to what?
2. Our task to see no quarter given in the life of the Christian to certain things.

D. The Execution Order.
1. "Mortify." that the body of sin might
   (a) We've often read of "put to death"
      Rom. 6:6 "Our old man is cruc'd c him
      Col. 2:11 "Putting off the body of sins
      Eph. 4:17-24 "Put off old-put on new
   (b) Mortify tho means "make a corpse of"
      FJB
   (c) Ellicott says only place told to kill
   (d) This says something to us:
      (1) Christianity makes demands - it's not like the powder puff joining of a church.
      (2) Certain things are no longer pursued these organs are put to death
      Matt. 5:29 "If thy rt. eye offend, pluck it out
      (3) We make dead our bodies for the purpose of sin
      Cast it from thee; for it is profit for thee
      that 1 of thy members should perish.
(4) If dead, no longer feel.
(5) Sin will not die out - it won't go away -
   Kill it.
(6) This is a command of God!
(7) Kill whatever binds us to earthly life.
   "Leave the old life behind."

2. How do we mortify? what type of death?
   (a) Some say slow process - like crucify.
      (Pulpit Com.)
   (1) While death is coming, the suffering is
       intense.
   (2) We are spurred by knowing if we do not
       kill sins, they will kill us.
   (3) Matt. Henry, 'Kill by continued stroke'
   (4) Illustrate c Christopher Wren tearing
       down ruins of old St. Paul's. 30 men
       on battering ram. Hammered all day -
       nothing - but he knew inner motions
       established. 2nd day ruins fell!
   (b) Nicholsen says "Make dead in a moment.
       If he can, luck to him."

3. By what means do we execute? Instrument
   of Execution
   (a) Do it by the Spirit.
   Rom. 8:13 "For if ye live after the fl.
   ye should do
   Rom. 6:13 "Neither yield ye your m.
   (b) Guard avenues of enemies' approach:
       associations, books, amusements,
       pictures, drinks, etc.
   But if ye thru the Spirit do mortify the deeds
   of the body ye shall live!
E. Things killed - he names leading features of female life.

1. Fornication.
   (a) Ancients condemned adultery but thot fornication necessary.
   (b) Yet this covers all sexual abuse.
   (c) Chastity a complete new virtue Christianity brot to pagan world.
   (d) Why flee? 1 Thess. 4:3 "For this is the will of God even Gal. 5:19 "Work of the flesh"
Eph. 5:12 "not once named" - Hos. 4:11 "takes away the heart" Eph. 5:1 9, 22 shipwrecks character I Cor. 6:18 "Flee f. Every sin that a man"

2. Uncleanness
   (a) Other synonyms are: impurity, dirty mindedness, indecency.
   (b) Some one has said man 1st denies his maker, then starts degrading himself.
   (c) With life perverted at its fountainhead, life becomes a vexation.
   (d) Do I feed on anything unclean?

3. Inordinate affection
   (a) This too has its synonyms: Passion, uncontrolled passion, lust.
   (b) Defined as that morbid, inflamed condition of sensual appetite.
(c) When religion dies, sexual passion follows - relaxes moral fiber, destroys social confidence.
(d) His passion becomes his tyrant.
(e) Lust comes from the devil. Jn. 8:44 "Ye are of your father the devil, and ye will do the lust of your father."
(f) Wars against soul.

1 Pet. 2:11 "I beseech you as s. & p. abstain.
(g) Led away c. diver's lust 2 Tim. 3:6
(h) Cleanse by:
   (1) Word
Ps. 119:9 "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?"
   (2) Prayer take heed to thy word.
   (3) Watch
Prov. 23:26 "Let thine eyes observe my ways".
   (4) Evil concupiscence
   (a) Means evil desire or "foul cravings" (NEB) Craves gratification
   (b) Unlawful desire grows by indulgence
   (c) Man must not be ruled by desire

5. Covetousness "fit" to have more"
   (a) Strange company, huh?
2 Pet. 2:14 Cursed children
   (b) Means to have more "grasping greed" "selfishness grown to a passion"
   (c) One said its serving the creature
   (d) It leaves little faith in God
Lu. 12:30 "Your father knoweth ye have
Heb. 13:5 "Let your conversation be w/o cov. I be content with such things as ye have..."
Matt. 6:34 "Take no thought for the morrow (e) Sets up one other than God - serves money, not God (f) Has definite article - The covetousness Well known servant of sensual indulgence (g) Cov. is a desire to get. He even serve God for what he can get out of him - bribes God! (h) Love of present good and outward enjoyment. (i) Seem strange to condemn sex of youth & praise cov. of middle age? Why hurt profligate youth & praise avaricious man? (j) Roman worshipped standard - eagle on it - are we far behind? Asked E.A. Po (k) Cov. is liking filling a bowl c water that has a hole in it. 

II. Some things you kill

A. Let the new man appear

2 Cor. 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in

West End - 1-19-69
I. For each of us there should be a radical change -- as abrupt as from darkness to light.
A. I have come into Christ
B. Certain things have happened:
   dead with Christ (4:20)
   risen with Christ (5:1)
   hid with Christ (5:2)
   appear with Christ (5:4)
C. Do I sense demands?
   1. Barclay "Christianity always makes its demands -- don't just join the church"
   2. What we know doctrinally must be daily applied -- Expositors
   3. Part of it is a religion of don't's -- "Coin won't always come up heads."
      Demerast.
   4. Past is seen in 3 imperatives
      a.) Put to Death
      b.) Put off
      c.) Lie not
   5. We come face to face with clear "yes" & "no"
   6. Doctrine relates to duty
      Creed to character
      Belief to conduct - Erdman
   7. We cannot accept dogma without ethical conduct
II. Only once am I told to kill -- "Mortify therefore your members"
   A. What does this mean
      1. Burton Coffman says a paradox -- we are already dead and now mortify members.
      2. Read this
         Rom.6:6 "Knowing this, that our old man is
         Rom.6:12 "Let not sin therefore reign in your
         Col.2:11 "In whom also ye are circumcised with
         Eph.4:17-24 (Read) "This I say therefore, and
      3. Whatever mortify means its a command given me.
      4. Synanoms:
         a.) Make corpse of
         b.) Reduce to helpless state
         c.) Weaken, become inoperative
         d.) Stay utterly -- don't control but wipe out old way of life.
         e.) It's like being caught in roller - cut off hand or pulled through to destruction.
         f.) Put to death -- hard, blood, pain, amputation, crucification.
   B. Consequences faced
      1. There are certain things I don't do any more -- put those organs to death
      2. We make dead our bodies for the purpose of sin -- like when shot in cops and robbers. Beyond feeling!
      3. It may be a slow process.
      4. Face the fact sin won't die out -- kill it.
5. Burton Groves dying, nurse said "It's as hard to leave the world as to enter it."
   Our suffering may be intense
6. Kill what binds us to earthly life.
7. We do not regulate but we dig it out by roots and utterly destroy
8. Man begins by denying his Master then degrading himself
9. It's kill or be killed
10. Spirit helps
    Rom.8:13 "For if ye live after the flesh, ye
    Rom.6:13 "Neither yield ye your members as
III. Members upon the earth
   A. No claim for sinless perfection
   B. New life has full control
   C. We've accepted citizenship in a new world and must learn to live in it.

Test End 9-7-80
REPEL THE TIDE OF IMMORALITY
Col. 3:5

1. Because I believe in Jesus Christ I adopt a definite lifestyle.
   A. Things I Do.
   B. Things I Don't Do.

II. We begin a study of some things I put to death.
Col. 3:5 "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth:
   A. Fornication.
      1. Define.
         a.) Covers every type of sexual abuse.
         b.) Covers adultery.
         c.) Some translate sexual debauchery.
         d.) Illicit sexual intercourse in general.
         e.) Alan Johnson Card #1.
      2. Some startling observations about the ancients.
         a.) Condemned adultery, but thot fornication necessary.
            (1) Demosthenes Card #2.
            (2) Cicero's speech #3.
         b.) Rome had a smorgasbord of heterosexuals, homosexuals, & anything from Caesar's Palace to the corner bar.
         c.) Corinth had its temple prostitutes.
         d.) Christianity was bringing a new virtue to the world.
         e.) Christians & Jews only had God's view of sex.
         f.) Their standard cut across accepted moves of the times.
         g.) They were saying:
(1) Sex is not evil.
(2) Bodies are not to be viewed c disdain.
(3) Rather abuse & misuse corrected.
(4) No sex outside of marriage.
(5) At issue is not whether we have sexual feelings but whether we control them.

B. What’s Happening Today?
1. Sexual exploitation appears on every hand.
2. Advertising appeal more on sex than spark plugs or sparkle water.
3. Situation ethics softens it.
   Larsen Card #4   Breslin 4 1/2
4. We’ve thot maleness & money make a difference (#5).
   See More Money – More Sex
5. Statistics on today.
   a.) Johns Hopkins Card #6.
   b.) Playboy #7.
   c.) Dobson #8.
   d.) Dallas Morning News #9.
   e.) Rowan & Census Bureau #10, #11.
7. VD Card 16-17-18.
8. What other fruit borne?
   a.) Guilt – Fisher #19.
   b.) Dull – McDowell #20.
   c.) Self control – #21.
   d.) Perish – Unwin #22.

III. How Stem the Tide?
A. Study Scrp.
1 Thess. 4:3-4 "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification.
Gal. 5:19 "Now the works of the flesh are manifest.
Eph. 5:12 Not once named.
1 Cor. 6:18 "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man
2 Cor. 7:1 "Having therefore these promises, dearly
Prov. 6:27-29 "Can a man take fire in his bosom, and

B. Remember
1. Avoid manifestation in word.
2. Avoid manifestation in look.
3. Avoid manifestation in deed.

Yesh End 7-14-80
Adultery, by its strictest definition, refers to having sexual intercourse with a woman who is betrothed or married to another. In a broader sense it comes to mean any violation of the sanctity of sex. In this latter connection, the rabbinic commentary sets forth gradations of gravity in the offense, depending on whether the other partner involved is unmarried, in her menstrual period, married, a heathen, another male, or a beast.

"God Speaks to an X-rated Society" - Edited by Alan F. Johnson

"The Seventh Commandment" - By Morris Inch - Page 63

From Demosthenes:

"We have courtesans for the sake of pleasure; we have concubines for the sake of daily cohabitation; we have wives for the purpose of having children legitimately, and of having a faithful guardian for all of our household affairs."
Cicero made this speech, "If there is anyone who thinks that young men should be absolutely forbidden the love of courtesans, he is indeed extremely severe. I'm not able to deny the principle that he states. But he is at variance not only with the license of what our age allows, but also from the customs and concessions of our ancestors. When indeed was this not done? When did anyone ever find fault with it? When was such permission denied? When was it that that which is now lawful was not lawful?"

You will recall the Greeks built their temple with the profits that came from prostitution.

This is the viewpoint known as "situation ethics" which we have considered in our chapter on "Wisdom and Chastity." It is a sincere attempt to salvage a biblical emphasis without a full return to biblical authority. It has produced a rather rubber and flexible ethic that can do no more than plead, "Thou shalt not commit adultery ordinarily."

"Wise Up and Live!" - By Paul E. Larsen - Page 228
Among the "liberated" is Catherine Breslin, author of "The Mistress Condition: New Options in Sex, Love and Other Female Pleasures". "Sex," she says, "is certainly a large part of the new game--rollicking, satisfying, non-exploitative sex, a grownup but playful sort of business." This "game" is self-fulfillment and gratification. The "new woman," she says, looks at life and sex from a different perspective than her older counterpart. Marriage to the new lady "looks like a strange and difficult, even burdensome, arrangement." One man can't meet all her needs. Says Breslin, "A mistress-of-her-own-life may have eight or ten important men she enjoys: One for jogging in the park, one for the opera, another for skiing, still another for gourmet cooking, and two or three for good sex, each of them a different sensual experience. Plus two or three good, loving friends--men she can tell anything to, and cry all over when times get rough."
MORE MONEY—More Sex

Harry J. Johnson, MD, chmn of NY's Life Extension Institute, reports the amount of an executive's income determines his amount of sex. He says executives with salaries less than $20,000 annually are near the monogamous line, with only 13.5 percent having affairs on the side. Executives making between $20,000 and $35,000 jump to 20.2 percent in the frequency of extramarital affairs. When an executive has an annual income between $35,000 and $50,000, 25 percent of the men in this category roam. Receivers of annual salaries of over $50,000 stray at a rate of almost one-third—32 percent.

May 25, 1975
A recent study by two Johns Hopkins University researchers shows a dramatic 30 percent increase in the sexual activity among the unmarried girls in the last five years. Professors Melvin Zelnik and John Kantner report that over half of all 19-year-old single women are sexually experienced.

Playboy magazine announced the results of a $125,000 survey of the sexual activities of Americans. The magazine found "dramatic increases" in sexual activities in the last 25 years. Some findings: about 75% of the single women under age twenty-five who were interviewed had had sexual intercourse, and 80% of the married women had not been virgins when they took their vows. Almost one quarter of the married women and nearly one-third of the married men, both under age twenty-five, had had extramarital sex.

"Who Stole the Sunset" Robert A. Liston p. 15-16
riage. Yet the threat of being an “old maid” (a term I detest) causes many girls to grab the first train that rambles down the marital track. And too often, it offers a one-way ticket to disaster.

7. I believe it is not harmful to have sexual intercourse before marriage, if the couple has a meaningful relationship.

This item represents the most dangerous of the popular misconceptions about romantic love, both for individuals and for our future as a nation. During the past fifteen years we have witnessed the tragic disintegration of our sexual mores and traditional concepts of morality. Responding to a steady onslaught by the entertainment industry and by the media, our people have begun to believe that premarital intercourse is a noble experience, and extramarital encounters are healthy, and homosexuality is acceptable, and bisexuality is even better. These views reflect the sexual stupidity of the age in which we live, yet they are believed and applied by millions of American citizens. A recent study of college students revealed that 25 percent of them have shared bedrooms with a member of the opposite sex for at least three months. According to Life Styles and Campus Communities, 66 percent of college students reportedly believe premarital intercourse is acceptable between any two people who consent or “when a couple has dated some and care a lot about each other.” I have never considered myself to be a prophet of doom, but I am admittedly alarmed by statistical evidence of this nature. I view these trends with fear and trepidation, seeing in them the potential death of our society and our way of life.

Mankind has known intuitively for at least fifty centuries that indiscriminate sexual activity represented both an individual and a corporate threat to survival. The wisdom of those years has now been documented. Anthropologist J. D. Unwin conducted an exhaustive
study of the eighty-eight civilizations which have existed in the history of the world. Each culture has reflected a similar life cycle, beginning with a strict code of sexual conduct and ending with the demand for complete “freedom” to express individual passion. Unwin reports that every society which extended sexual permissiveness to its people was soon to perish. There have been no exceptions.

Why do you suppose the reproductive urge within us is so relevant to cultural survival? It is because the energy which holds a people together is sexual in nature! The physical attraction between men and women causes them to establish a family and invest themselves in its development. It is this force which encourages them to work and save and toil to insure the survival of their families. This sexual energy provides the impetus for the raising of healthy children and for the transfer of values from one generation to the next. It urges a man to work when he would rather play. It causes a woman to save when she would rather spend. In short, the sexual aspect of our nature—when released exclusively within the family—produces stability and responsibility that would not otherwise occur. And when a nation is composed of millions of devoted, responsible family units, the entire society is stable and responsible and resilient.

If sexual energy within the family is the key to a healthy society, then its release outside those boundaries is potentially catastrophic. The very force which binds a people together then becomes the agent for its own destruction. Perhaps this point can be illustrated by an analogy between sexual energy in the nuclear family and physical energy in the nucleus of a tiny atom. Electrons, neutrons, and protons are held in delicate balance by an electrical force within each atom. But when that atom and its neighbors are split in nuclear fission (as in an atomic bomb), the energy which had provided the in...
ROBERT L. ROWAN, MD: “It is very difficult to determine how many people are living together but unmarried. There is a Census Bureau report that says 1.3 million unmarried people are living together as of 1976. It may sound like a large number, but remember there are more than 200 million people in the US today.”

The Census Bureau informs us that over one million unmarried couples now live together—a 600 percent increase in this last decade. Pollsters have learned that more people are having sexual intercourse outside of marriage than ever before, and that they're doing it at a younger age. What was a good-night kiss 20 years ago has today become an evening of full disclosure. All this talk, freedom, and experimentation has put the pressure on young people to perform.

For some, increased sexual awareness has been liberating. For others, it's become downright devastating.

"Givers, Takers & Other Kinds of Lovers" - By Josh McDowell &

Paul Lewis

Page 15
TEENAGERS—Pregnancies
An estimated 608,000 single American teenagers became pregnant in 1974. Despite more access to contraceptives and the Supreme Court's liberalization of abortion restrictions, teenagers continue to suffer unwanted pregnancies, said Eugene Vadies, director of youth and student affairs for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.—National Enquirer, 9-9-75.

PREGNANCIES—Youth
Katherine Oettinger, former chief of the Children's Bureau (HEW), first gives the facts: in 1975, 30,000 pregnancies to girls under 15 resulting in 13,000 births, and 1 million pregnancies to girls 15-19, resulting in 600,000 births; and second draws out the implications: infants of adolescent mothers are at-risk for a variety of developmental and physical handicaps; young mothers tend not to finish their schooling; are likely to be unmarried and on welfare, and are likely to become pregnant soon again. — MARGARET O'BRIEN STEINFELS, Commonweal, 5-23-80.

TEENS—Pregnancies
The figures are alarming. There are ten million young women between 15 and 19 years of age in the United States. Four million of them (40 per cent) are sexually active. The bottom line: one million pregnancies a year.

Little comfort can be taken from the statistics for 13 and 14-year-olds, either — a category in which sexual activity is accelerating rapidly. There are 3.8 million girls in this age bracket, and 420,000 of them (14 per cent) have had intercourse. The end result: 30,000 pregnancies a year. — MORT WEISER, Family Health, 6-80.

Quote
July
Syphilis and gonorrhea now rank just behind the common cold as the major infectious diseases among young people. Between 1960 and 1970 the number of reported cases of VD leaped by 144 percent, and *Time* estimated that "three out of four cases go unreported.

Illegitimate births, also cited as evidence, increased from 8.3 per thousand in 1940 to 19.8 per thousand in 1972. One third of the estimated 1.5 million abortions performed in 1971 were on teen-agers. Nationwide, the college pregnancy rate runs from 6 to 15 percent.

"Who Stole the Sunset" Robert A. Liston p. 18

"There is a silent epidemic in the land." This was the opening sentence in a recent article on venereal disease in a daily paper.

In recent years there has been a marked increase in cases of syphilis and gonorrhea, with 100,000 new cases of syphilis and 400,000 of gonorrhea in the United States in a single year. Furthermore, it is estimated that only one in four cases of syphilis and not more than one in ten cases of gonorrhea are reported.

The United States Public Health Service estimates that there are at least 800,000 persons in this country who are in need of treatment for syphilis. If these go untreated the Health Service says that one in thirteen will develop heart disease, one in twenty-five will be crippled, one in forty-four will develop syphilitic insanity, and
one in two hundred will become blind.

The American Medical Association has recently stated that "venereal disease is spreading so rapidly that it now represents the nation's most urgent communicable disease problem."

The most rapid increase in venereal disease in recent years has been among teen-agers. Teen-agers and adults should know that many authorities claim that venereal disease is the most communicable disease of mankind. It is communicable, however, only through skin contact.

It has been suggested that the only way to avoid venereal disease is to steer clear of venereal disease carriers. The added word is: "Who can be sure who that is?" This is one valid reason for pre-marital chastity and postmarital faithfulness.

The Conscience of A Christian By T. B. Maston
Page No. 65

"Venereal disease has replaced smallpox, TB, & diphtheria as the disease bearing the biggest threat to our youth. An estimated 12 M young American today are carrying sexually transmitted disease."

Norman Cousins
Sat Review 6/20
PREMARITAL SEX

Premarital intercourse is a source of guilt in morally responsible people. It is only right that it should be, since the New Testament alone condemns fornication over 30 times. God forgives the sin and thus removes the guilt, but the consequences of sin in the mind and feelings linger on and on. Premarital sex may be momentarily satisfying, but its effects damage mental and emotional tranquility, and above all, the soul's relationship with God. — LEE FISHER, War Cry of Salvation Army, 10-1-77.

Where do we go from here?

Interesting, isn't it? Amid all the talk and practice of sexual freedom, liberation, and fulfillment, right here in the middle of the sexual revolution, we find a lot of casualties and phrases like, "a train that's been derailed," "about as satisfying as a sneeze," "as unemotional as a No. 2 pencil." Could this be sex—the glorious, orgasmic, emotional experience worshiped by the masses? Something must have gone wrong. Could there be more to maximum sex than a rollicking game, "a playful business," a succession of lovers and one-night stands or marriages gone sour?

"Givers, Takers & Other Kinds of Lovers" — By Josh McDowell & Paul Lewis
But why wait? I think one reason is to build self-control; something all of us need a little more of. There are many times after you're married when you cannot have sex due to illness, separation, or some stages of pregnancy. When you learn to control your sex life before marriage, you can control it afterwards. And this self-control adds the factor of trust to a relationship.

"Givers, Takers & Other Kinds of Lovers" - By Josh McDowell & Paul Lewis

pp. 60-61

A young man came to Jesus, asking what he must do to inherit eternal life—a question of considerable moment. Jesus' answer was, "Keep the commandments." One of those commandments was, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." In Matthew 5:27 Jesus spoke about the man who becomes an adulterer in his heart because he has looked on a woman to lust after her. He said in striking language "If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell." He repeated the same saying with regard to the right hand. He used the word 'Hell' one that we don't like to think about. We say it is obsolete, old fashioned. Hell—fear is not the best motivation. I know that. Yet there the word stands, bleak and stark, staring from the page, coming from the lips of Jesus himself. Two of the twelve times in the Bible the word is used are in this paragraph. Jesus was saying, "Whatever
you must do, whatever sacrifice you must make, to avoid "this problem of adultery in your own heart, let it be done Jesus' words come to us with considerable force, in such a context.

The Word of Faith  by Anthony Lee Ash

Page No. 161
TWO SHOCKING WORDS

Col. 3:5

I. I've heard people use words that really shocked me.

A. Sometimes they are not very nice.
B. Sometimes they are insulting.
C. Other times they are strange and unknown.
D. But sometimes I know what they mean and the power of the words shock me.

E. Our verse has two!

1. Mortify
2. Your

3. Just what do they convey?

II. Mortify

A. Kill, put to death.
B. Render inoperative.

1. Suppress
2. Take decisive action with a sense of urgency.
3. Union with Christ encourages holy living.
4. Rid yourself of.
5. We are like immigrants to a new country, not yet completely inhabited in new ways.

C. No--don't weaken--it's kill.

1. Dig out the roots of the old life and destroy them.

Arndt & Gingrich: To put to death what is earthly in you
Rom 6:11 Reckon yourselves to be dead. Indeed, you sin but alive unto God through Jesus.
2. It's put to death.
3. It's lit. "make dead."
4. Make death to old life real.
5. One of the three imperatives:
   a) Put to death.
   b) Rid yourself.
   c) Do not lie.
7. Don't suppress but wipe out completely.
8. Remember the skier out west who got lodged in the rocks and cut his arm off with a pocket knife to get free. Matt 5:29, Rheyce offend
9. We are not just regulated by new life, but we dig out the roots and utterly destroy evil.
10. Do not merely suppress or control evil, but wipe out completely, exterminate the old way of life.
11. "Stay utterly" as you undertake decisively and urgently.
12. Our union with Christ works out and expresses itself in all our thoughts, actions and relationship.

D. Translation
1. So once for all put to death (Wms).
2. Crucify the flesh (Gal. 5:24).
3. Control members.
4. Render unserviceable.

None so strong as kill!
III. Purposes

A. You are a new man (Col. 3:10).
   1. New purposes.
   2. Not satisfy our desires, but Christ's.
   3. Motives are different.
B. God doesn't put it on, we do.
C. God gave man some exclusives:
   1. Intelligence
   2. Rational affection
   3. Free will
   4. Moral sense and conscience
   5. Memory
D. Our eternal blessedness has begun—let us walk in it.
E. Too many look like Lazarus—raised from the dead but still in our grave clothes.
F. How do we mortify? Shows us in this chapter

IV. Our other word "your:"

A. Some parts of this chapter I can no longer obey though I wish I could.
   1. V-18 Wives
   2. V-19 Husbands
   3. V-20 Children
   4. V-20 Parents
   5. V-21 Fathers provoke
   6. V-22 Servants
   7. V-22 Masters
B. But you get me in "your" member.

1. Members of my body all to be used for holy purposes.

2. Members--portions of my body.

Rom. 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

Neely's Bend BC - 1/30/05
Heritage C/C - 8/14/05
I. God states specifically five sins that ignite his wrath. 

A. Are there sins that do not?
   1. Sin is to miss the mark.
   2. Obviously God wants people that look like His Son.

Rom. 8:29 "For whom he did foreknow, he.."

   3. As long as there are many and few stripe variation, I know I serve a compassionate God.
   4. All sins are not the same--illustrate with bloody note.
   5. All sins are to be avoided.
   6. But some he said, bring his wrath.

B. Surely no person in his right mind would want knowingly to ignite God's wrath.

Col. 3:5-6 "Mortify therefore your members"

II. What are these sins?

A. The "your" members show we all are subject to their enticement.
   1. I cannot know how you feel, nor know your battles.
   2. Age and opportunity enter the equasion.
   3. But since we all have "members" we are all subject to the warning.
B. These sins are:

1. Fornication.
   a) Write in definitions.
   b) Illicit sexual intercourse.
   c) Involves at least two people.
   d) Porneia. Unmarried
   e) Sexual impurity in general.

2. Repeatedly stated.

Eph. 5:3 "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints."

Eph. 5:5 "For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolator, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."

Rev. 22:15 "For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie."

3. Defined--one can live in it.

C. Next word uncleanness.

1. In thought.
2. In word.
3. In act.
4. General term for all moral filth.
5. Dirty minded.
6. Lower earthly nature.
7. Earthly inclinations.
8. Gutter stuff.
9. Lustful impurities, luxury of loose living.

D. Inordinate affections. Any excess in:
1. Overlapping in words.
2. Lust
3. Feeling—that which befalls one.
4. Experience—that which one suffers
5. Leads to gluttony and drunkenness.
6. Pathos—one word for two in KJV.
7. State of mind that excites sexual impurities. Not kept in bounds

E. Inordinate affection cont.
1. Passion when tides of passion come
2. Inflamed conditions
3. Shameful speaking
4. Lewd
5. Indecent
6. Immodest—sign "Babes."
7. Passionate desires. Unrestrained

Rom. 1:26
1 Thess. 4:5
8. Depraved passion.
9. Remember to mortify.
   a) Deprive of power—Thayer.
   b) Destroy the strength of—Thayer.

F. Evil concupiscence
1. Desire, uncontrolled
2. Unholy desire and greed

State that precedes lust
3. Once for all put to death.
4. Cravings 
5. Desire that's impure.
6. Motion of the will.
7. Abusive evil desire, leads to death
8. Desire determines what we do.

Ps. 51:10 "Create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within me."

G. Covetousness which is idolatry.

1. Greed, always want more.
2. To have more, never satisfied.
3. Entire disregard for rights of others.
4. Everybody exists for my pleasure.
5. Puts self in the place of God.
6. Ruthless desire after material things.
7. Table pleasures lead to gluttony.
8. Keeps worse kind of company.
9. Exo. 20:17 - things or pleasure.
10. Envious of others.
11. People love money more than God.
12. We want what the other person has without giving value received.
13. "To make worldly things the goal of life and the subject of preoccupation is unworthy of those
that have been raised with Christ and look forward to sharing in His glory. (Expositor)

III. Wrath

A. On disobedience.
   1. Flood
   2. Sodom
   3. Israel in wilderness.

B. On account of these very sins God's wrath is coming.

C. Dreadful judgment is pending.

D. Brings down God's vengeance on the unbelievers.

Rom. 1:18 "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven.

Eph. 5:6 "Let no man deceive you with vain words..."

E. Be strong card.

F. Post-modernism card.

G. Barna card.

Eph. 2:2

1 Cor. 6:11

Matt 3:7 Pharisees came to be baptized. O Jerusalem, city of those who warned

John 3:36 Believe not the wrath of God.

Heb 3:11 Suffer in my wrath not enter

Rev 6:14-16 Mt & rocks fall

Hide face set throne - wrath of Lamb
According to Barna, large numbers of Christians view activities like abortion, gay sex, cohabitation, drunkenness and viewing pornography as morally acceptable. "Without some firm and compelling basis for suggesting that such acts are inappropriate, people are left with philosophies such as 'if it feels good, do it,' 'everyone else is doing it' or 'as long as it doesn't hurt anyone else, it's permissible.'" Barna went on to note, "In fact, the alarmingly fast decline of moral foundations among our young people has culminated in a one-word worldview: 'whatever.' The result is a mentality that esteems pluralism, relativism, tolerance, and diversity without critical reflection of the implications of particular views and actions."
Postmodernism, which we have already seen dominates our college campuses, sees "individuals as products of a specific culture who must guard against the temptation to inflate their own norms into universal standards and dress up their own interests as objectivity. To claim knowledge as universal truth is impossible. There is no truth, just narratives and stories that 'work' for particular communities" (Ibid). That such thinking has influenced our entire society cannot be denied. Two surveys show people believe truth is relative to circumstances. Barna Research conducted one survey among adults and another among teenagers to determine whether people believe there are moral absolutes that remain constant or that moral truth changes according to circumstances.
The wrath of God is coming (3:6). Everyone will be called to accountability in the future about their misappropriation of God's gift of sexuality, as well as every other form of idolatry. This period of God's judgment is customarily called "the day of the LORD" in the Old Testament prophets. The prophet Zephaniah warns, "The great day of the LORD is near... That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress" (Zeph. 1:14-15; see also 1 Thess. 5:1-3).

-- Clinton E. Arnold

Colossians

pg. 394

Be strong!

We are not here to play, to dream, to drift; We have hard work to do and loads to lift. Shun not the struggle; face it; 'tis God's gift.

Be strong!

Say not the days are evil. Who's to blame? And fold the hands and acquiesce--O shame! Stand up, speak out, and bravely, in God's name.

Be strong!

It matter not how deep intrenched the wrong, How hard the battle goes, the day how long; Faint not; fight on! Tomorrow comes the song.

(Maltbie D. Babcock.)
CHRIST MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN SEXUALITY
Col. 3:5-6

I. Christ makes a difference in every sense of the word.
   A. "When a man becomes a Christian there ought to be a complete personality change." (Barclay)
   1. We do not accept dogma without high ethical conduct.
   2. We'll see
      a) Doctrine relate to duty.
      b) Creed to character.
      c) Belief to conduct.
   B. If Christ is in you—you are a new creature!

Col. 3:11"But Christ is all, and in all"

C. Chapter begins in Heaven (1-4) end in kitchen (Spurgeon)

II. Christ Makes a Sexual Difference.
   A. Five Sins all connected with sex are listed.
      1. A Holy God feels the displeasures of sin.
      2. Remember your life is hidden with Christ.
   B. These are to be mortified.
      1. Means put these members to death—dig out by roots, destroy.
      2. Hard, pain, blood, amputation, crucifixion.
      3. It's not an easily satisfied thing—not satisfied with achievements now and then.
4. We are not free from sin if we refrain from doing it but still really want to!

5. Sin is not so much a pleasure but a thing to kill, slay utterly.

6. Painfully realize the state and the condition of the Christian do not always coincide.

7. Only place told to kill--reduces to state of helplessness, inoperative.

8. Lit. 'to make dead--beyond suppress, control. Rather wipe out.

9. Tense shows undertaken decisively with a sense of urgency.

10. Goodness is the only investment that never fails. (Henry David Thoreau)

C. The Filthy Five--All Sex Orientated.

1. Fornication (sexual immorality).
   a) Signifies adultery.

Matt. 19:9

b) Sexual debauchery.

c) Illicit sexual intercourse in general.

d) Makes no provision for carnal indulgences.

e) In 3 other catalogues of sins Paul puts fornication first.

1 Cor. 6:9-10

Gal. 5:19-21

Eph. 5:3-5

f) Any manifestation in word, look, deed of impure spirit is wrong.
g) When religion dies sexual passion follows—it relaxes moral fiber.

2. Uncleanness (Impurity)
   a) Moral insensitivity.
   b) Lustful
   c) Luxurious, profligate living.
   d) Any act unworthy of the pure Christ to be put to death.
   e) Uncleanness in thought, word or act destroy.
   f) Phillips "dirty mindedness."

3. Inordinate affection (lust) (passion)
   a) Depraved passion.
   b) Passions in other texts.
   c) Feeling moves to violent emotions.
   d) Uncontrolled desire.

4. Evil Concupiscence (Evil desires)
   a) Evil emotion an affection the mind suffers.
   b) Passion more narrow than desire.
   c) It's the outward senses ("I'm a dirty old man" car plate)
   d) Wicked cravings.
   e) Desire wrong thing.

5. Covetousness which is idolatry—Covetousness used 15X (greed).
   a) "That isn't sexual"—is, if it's neighbor's wife!
   b) It's the lust for gain by taking unfair advantage in pursuit of profit.
   c) Worship Gold instead of God.
d) Some spent youth in lust and man-
      hood in making money.
e) Covetousness is a desire "to have more", avarice. (Family Donations)
f) Inordinate love for money joins some unusual sins.
g) We set another object of worship above God.
h) Greediness, rapacity, disregards the right of others.
i) Paganism "Become what you ought to be!" Christianity "Become what you are."

III. Wrath via Walk
v-6 "For which things sake the wrath"

A. Wrath connected with Disobedience.
   1. Without wrath no meaning to mercy as justice must be.
   2. Not it's the disobedient that get it.

2 Thess. 1:8
   3. Obedience is connected with salvation.
   4. Wrath comes & ever comes, never ceases against such.
      "Cometh"--continuing fact, fixed principle.
   5. It's a disaster--God's reaction to sin and it is also what sin does to hinder us.
   6. Once you had life in these evil things.

B. Is all this past tense to us?
   1. Paul appeals to memory.
2. Remember you are joined now to a holy brotherhood.

3. Note emphasis "But now!" (v-8)

Savannah, TN (Noon) - 10/2/90
Hixson, TN - 5/12/96
COVETOUSNESS IS IDOLATRY
Col. 3:5-7


II. I see the Pantheon in Rome.

III. I've climbed Mars Hill & marvel at the worship of Heathen Gods.

IV. I saw the storks roost on the Pillars of Dianna's Temple & was amazed at the Ignorance.

V. "But you are an Idolator!"
   "I beg your pardon!"
   "But wait, I'll prove my point."

VI. "Covetousness is Idolatry." (Col. 3:5)

A. Define my disease.

1. Covetousness is: (12 definitions)
   a.) Grasping greed. (1)
   b.) Must have more, avarice. (2)
   c.) Selfishness grown to a passion. (3)
   d.) Serving the Creature. (4)

Rom. 1:25 "Who changed the truth of God into a lie
Jn. 8:34 "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of:
   e.) Unlawful desire that grows by indulgence. (5)
(Augustine of note) #4
   f.) It's the desire to get - we serve God for what
   we can get out of him. Robt. Mahaffey told of
Carl Wade's Rosemont sermon - 3 scoops in
visual aids - more you gave, the more God
gave back to you. Cards filled out c 2 figures:
income & what you gave - unsigned cards posted
on bulletin board. (Are we to bribe God?)
g.) Love of the present good & outward enjoyment - Henry.

h.) Greed, rapacity, entire disregard for rights of others.

i.) It's the "all-persons-and-things-exist-for-my-benefit" attitude. Grasping Ambition.

j.) Lust for gain by taking unfair advantage in pursuit of profit.

k.) Inordinate love of money.

l.) Holding, desiring more by avarice, greediness, fraudulently, exortation.

B. Now Idolatry - How Could It Be?

1. Covetous leaves little faith in the Lord.

Lu. 12:30 "For all these things do the nations of the w
Heb. 13:5 "Let your conv. be w/o cov.

2. Sets up one other than God.

Ps. 10:3 "For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire & blesseth the covetous whom the Lord abhoreth."

1 Jn. 2:15 "Love not the world, neither the things "Some of us don't know exactly what we want, but we feel sure we don't have it."

3. Serve money, not God.
   a.) Animal Clip.

4. Riches do strange things.
   a.) We admire them.
   b.) Love it (Orben & Oven).
   c.) Desire It.
   d.) Fear losing.
   e.) Trust.
1 Tim. 6:17 "Charge them that are rich in this world
Mk. 10:23-24 "How hardly shall they that have riches
f.) Rejoice (Phone in car story)
g.) Labor after.
Matt. 6:33 "But seek ye 1st the K.
VII. Final question: Am I guilty?
A. Impurity sin of youth.
   Covetous of old age.
1. Stocking over Sterno?
B. We are stewards, not consumers.
On an average day in America:

- 9,077 babies are born. (1,282 are illegitimate.)
- 2,740 kids run away from home.
- 63,288 automobile accidents occur in which 129 people will die.
- 5,962 couples will wed; 1,986 will divorce.
- 56,000 animals are turned over to animal shelters, and 36,986 dogs and cats are put to death there.
- 1,370 men will undergo vasectomies.
- 3 million people will go to the movies.
- Someone is raped every eight minutes, murdered every 27 minutes and robbed every 78 seconds. A burglar strikes every 10 seconds and a car is stolen every 33 seconds.
- 2,466 children are bitten by dogs.

500 million cups of coffee are drunk.
$54,794 is spent to fight dandruff.
Amateurs take 19,178,000 snapshots.
10,000 people take their first airplane ride.
679 million telephone conversations occur, of which 50 million are long distance.

MIKE FEINSILBER and WM B MEAD, American Averages: Amazing Facts of Everyday Life (Doubleday).

BOTTLED WATER

According to one market research firm, consumption of bottled water will more than double by 1990. Retail sales now account for only 15 per cent of bottled water consumption, but this figure may jump as much as 45 per cent by 1990, with the large five-gallon vats designed for homes and offices making up the remaining 55 per cent of the water market.
HUNGER

What force poses the greatest threat to international order? The Soviet Union? The Islamic world? Inflation? The energy crisis? None of these, according to a recent study. "The most potentially explosive force in the world today is the frustrated desire of poor people to attain a decent standard of living," says the report of the Presidential Commission on World Hunger. — Christianity Today, 9-5-80.

The ideas gained by men before they are twenty-five are practically the only ideas they shall have in their lives. — WILLIAM JAMES.
POVERTY

Overseas the pinch of poverty is worse. Not long ago, Time magazine declared that nearly 30 out of every 100 persons barely keep from starving. Millions struggle for existence on a per capita income of less than $200 a year. The World Food Council tells us that a third of the world’s children die of malnutrition and disease before they have had five birthdays. Each year 100,000 children go blind because they lack vitamin A in their early diets. Why do people still starve today? Why has society, in spite of all its resources, never solved the poverty problem? There are a number of reasons. One is simply that people are different: some are strong, aggressive, clever, even ruthless; some are less capable. In other cases, health may fail, accidents may strike, opportunities may be denied. Great numbers of people begin this life underprivileged, and never rise above the disadvantaged group. More important, the Bible seems to say that God allows the poor among us to test our compassion for our fellow men and women. Do we really love the poor? Will we help in their need? Our response to poverty reveals our attitude. In this new day of awareness, godliness is inseparable from service to the poor. — BEE-LAN WANG, Christianity Today, 9-5-80.

PRICES

The world’s highest prices are found in Saudi Arabia, and Switzerland pays the best salaries, but the US is the place where people work the least to make a living.

RELAXATION TANK

There’s good news at last for those who eschew tranquilizers, hate jogging, and feel the tension rising. A new device has appeared on the market to help the uptight unwind. Called a relaxation tank, a sensory isolation tank, or simply a “Lilly pond,” after its inventor, it consists of a black eight-by-four-by-four foot plastic box. Inside the pitch dark, silent chamber, one floats in a 20 per cent saltwater solution. With no interruptions and nothing to do, one gradually falls into a state of total relaxation. Health spas offering the relaxation tanks charge in the vicinity of $15 an hour — the recommended floating time. — Horizons.

SCIENCE

Science is nothing but trained and organized common sense. — THOMAS H HUXLEY.
Animals now outnumber people in the U.S. by more than two to one. The fastest selling category of merchandise on supermarket shelves is canned dog food. Now an Iowa insurance company offers prepaid hospitalization insurance for animals, with surgical benefits included. — ROBERT FUOSS, A.D., 10-73.

Business tycoons Joe and Dick spent their spare time trying to outdo each other. If one bought a $150 suit, the other bought one for $200. If one bought a Cadillac, the other bought a Rolls Royce.

One day Joe had a phone installed in his car. Dick immediately had one put in his car. Then he called Joe and said casually, “This is Dick. I’m phoning your car from my car.”

“Would you mind holding on a minute,” answered Joe. “I’ve got a call on another line.”

BOB HOPE: “I’ll never forget Christmas back home in Ohio. We were so poor when we were kids, we didn’t have a fireplace — so we used to hang our stockings over a can of Sterno.”
WHEN SIN'S A MOUTHFUL!
Col. 3:5-7

I. Some big words scare!
   A. In Medicine.
   B. In Finance.
   C. In Religion.
      1. Uncleanness.
      2. Inordinate Affection.
      3. Evil Concupiscence.

II. Our task to see the sins they convey & avoid.
   A. Unclean (moral insensitivity).
      1. It has to do our moral sense.
      2. Lustful, luxurious, profligate living. (Richards card) #1
      3. When religion dies sexual passion follows
         (Ford quote). #2
   4. It relaxes moral fiber, destroys social confidence.
   5. Look at lust a minute.
      a.) Comes from the Devil.
         Jn. 8:44 "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lust
      b.) Wars against soul.
         1 Pet. 2:11 "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from
      c.) Drowns men.
         1 Tim. 6:9 "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and the snare of unrighteousness, and into
      d.) Forbids truth.
         2 Tim. 3:7 "Ever learning, and never able to come to the
   6. Cleanse by:
      a.) Word.
         Ps. 119:9 "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his
      b.) Prayer.
2 Cor. 12:9 "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficienc
c.) Watchfulness.
Prov. 23:26-27 "My son, give me thine heart, and let
7. Chr. makes no provision for carnal indulgences.
8. He avoids occasions of sin.
9. It's plain old dirt!
a.) Wash arms before putting on shirt. #3
b.) Promiscuity article.
#4f - Parents listen!
B. Inordinate Affections.
1. Passion - morbid, inflamed condition of sexual
   appetite.
2. Passion becomes tyrant.
3. With life perverted at its fountainhead it becomes
   a vexation.
4. It's a man ruled by desires.
5. It's uncontrollable desire that makes man a slave
   to it.
6. It's depraved passion.
7. Hedonism cards. #5
8. Stephen card. #6
9. BBB card. #7 -> stopped watching soap
   opera when he realized
   the heroine had been
   pregnant 2 yrs
11. Sex Info card. #8
C. Evil Concupiscence.
1. It's passion out of control. Balance: child drew
2. It could be desire for:
a.) Food. Salon- "not drink anything, just to shoot
   1.) Diet & hunger card. #9
   2.) 30# not legally married. #10
   3.) Orben quotes, "I don't know what it is but
      every thing feels turns to me"
3. There are various monthly expenses on an
   a.) Rent
   b.) Clothes. "expensive line budget"
   c.) Money.

3. It's the outward senses - see license plate "I'm
   a dirty sexy old man."

4. One has described it a wicked cravings.

Street End 9-21-80
Sometimes even looking at a girl is wrong! You can read it in Matthew 5:28 (RSV): "Every one who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

Notice the key word here: "lustfully." It's not wrong to appreciate beauty, but it is wrong to think of a girl as a thing to use. Even to see another person as something to get is sin.

HOW FAR CAN I GO?
by Larry Richards
pg. 93

MISS FORD FOR
PRE-MARITAL SEX;
Shares Mother's Views

Miss Susan Ford, President Ford's daughter says she shares her mother's views on pre-marital sex, adding, "I agree people should live with each other ... before marriage, I

" — Associated Press
"Hedonism, which proposed that "good" is a term to be applied to whatever produces pleasure, and "evil" to that which results in pain, proved inadequate because of its lack of precision and its tendency to disintegrate into mere libertine behavior."

ALL TO THE GOOD - McLAREN and McLAREN

P. 6

Research indicates that the person who maintains virginity until adulthood better develops the ability to relate to people of both sexes, for he must learn to relate to persons as persons, rather than as objects of personal satisfaction. Significantly, early and frequent sexual experimentation appears to lower the chances of sexual fulfillment in marriage.

"The Issues We Face...and Some Biblical Answers" - Bill Stephens, Compiler
Several years ago a report appeared that dealt with what was described as "a sex backlash." The article stated that "one of the nation's well-known psychiatrists Francis J. Braceland of Hartford, Connecticut, told a three-day national convocation/medicine and theology that premarital sexual relations resulting from exposure to the so-called new morality have greatly increased the number of young people in mental hospitals." And, in the years since this report the number has increased even further.

The *Search for Happiness*, by Batsell Barrett Baxter and Dan Harless, pp. 54-55.
The Sex Information and Education Council guide on premarital standards points out four major premarital sex standards: abstinence; the double standard (boys can, nice girls don't); permissiveness without affection. (the playboy approach); and permissiveness with affection. "Permissive ness with affection," the guide says, "has today achieved a respectability and a sizeable minority following among both sexes.

What is "permissiveness with affection"? It's the idea that "love" makes it right, with "love" meaning to most people a "subjective feeling of deep affection based upon detailed acquaintance with the other party." This isn't one of those rabbit-hutch relationships in which each person really cares for the other as a person and finds the physical expression of that love an acceptable and valued thing.

The idea that love makes it right has a sizable following in high school and college. As a college freshman from Maryland says, "While at least one social circle in almost every high school practices intercourse, many of the other kids believe premarital sex is OK, but only for that 'special guy someday.'"

HOW FAR CAN I GO?
by Larry Richards
pg. 54
One fellow comments, "It's ludicrous how often a high schooler can fall in love forever." Maybe. But it's not funny. It's a very painful part of growing up.
The average man needs approximately three thousand calories in his daily diet; yet one-half of the world's population will receive fourteen hundred calories or less today. Because of the population explosion, even the "Green revolution" produced by our advanced knowledge of fertilizing processes and pest control may not long be adequate for the world's food needs. If every person on earth suddenly came into possession of a one hundred dollar bill, and simply wanted to buy one complete meal for himself, he could not—there is not that much food in the world. This seems unbelievable in a nation where hundreds of millions of dollars are spent annually to buy up surplus foods, or to pay farmers not to produce them, and where over a million dollars is spent each day merely to store surpluses we do have. It is easy for us to be unaware that a billion or more people now alive rarely if ever have rice above the daily subsistence level. World
population has doubled in approximately forty years; it is expected to double again within the next thirty years. The threat of mass starvation is frightening. Yet for the first time in human history, it is now possible to abolish hunger if we can find ways to implement our technical knowledge.

"The Search For Meaning In Life" - By Harold Hazelip

From "Spiritual Power" - Edited by J. D. Thomas - Page 103
WELL, WHAT BROUGHT THAT ON?
Col. 3:6-7
I. Ever have an experience like this?
   A. "Good morning, hope you'll have a fine day."
   B. "What's good about it? Why don't you mind your own business - I'll take care of my day."
   C. As this one walks away you are astonished & may ask, "Well, what brought that on?"
II. People do act irresponsibly.
   A. You may catch the backlash of a family or business argument. You may be totally innocent.
   B. But none of us need be surprised about the attitude of God and our impenitent sins.
   C. Purpose of this lesson is to show punishment pursues permissiveness - if we disobey, we get spanked.
III. It seems ridiculous to have to prove this. Read come
Col. 3:6-7 "For which things sake the wrath of God co-
Mk. 16:15-16 "And he said unto them, Go ye into a
Romans 6:21-23 "What fruit had ye then in those things
IV. The Col. Passage.
   A. Wrath follows disobedience.
      1. Demerast, "Without reform we place ourselves in the path of God's wrath."
      2. We are accountable for our actions - not a helpful pawn of society or victim of birth.
      3. It's true disaster - it's God's reaction to sin & also what sin does to us.
      4. Wrath's day is on its way.
5. It's earned!
6. Sins bring their natural consequences – transgressor's way is hard.
7. Wrath ever comes, never ceases.

B. You see somewhat the character of God.
   1. He is holy.
   2. Some gods are the deification of their own desires
   3. A holy God has great displeasure in sin.
C. We best avoid all occasions of sin.
   1. Not free from sin if you just don't do it – put it to death!
   2. True, some sins may have marked our pre-Christic experience – but this kind of life is over.
   3. If you formerly did these things & asked for a change and buried the old man, why would you want any more to walk in those ways?

V. The Roman one.
A. Wages of sin.
   1. Rations issued soldier.
   2. What he earned, deserved.
   4. Not a pain inflicted on sinner that he does not deserve.
   5. Every sinner in hell will be fairly treated.
   6. No that more horrifying than that we get what we deserve.
   7. Sin's pay day is sure – he's faithful.
   8. Sin promises only death at end of his services.
B. Gift of God - Eternal Life.
   1. Note Gift.
2. It's Eternal Life.
3. It's "thru Jesus Christ our Lord."
   a.) He saves.
   Matt. 1:21 "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou
   b.) Wipes out sin.
   Acts 3:19 "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, th
   (1) No acid in ink.
   (2) Obliterate, sponge away.
   c.) Washed from sin.
   Acts 22:16 "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and b
   (1) Soiled, marred, stained.
   (2) Wash clean.
   d.) Veil.
   Rom. 4:7 "Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities ar
   (1) Like snow obliterates a pathway.
   (2) Like covering eyes so can't see.
   (3) Draw a veil.
   e.) Not reckoned.
   Rom. 4:8 "Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will no
   (1) Accountant's word.
   (2) Set down to account.
   (3) Debit balance wiped out.
   f.) Liberated.
   Rom. 6:18 "Being then made free from sin, ye became
   8:2 "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ J
   (1) To give freedom.
   (2) Loose from bonds.
   g.) Cancel.
   Heb. 9:26 "For then must he often have suffered since
   but now once in the end appeared to put away sin
(1) Cancel contract – legal term.
(2) Forgiven.

Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be
(1) Remit a charge justly made.
(2) Absolve from duty you could compel one to
carry out.

This End 10-12-80
CENSORED SPEECH
Col. 3:8-9

1. There are traits of the Christian easily recognized; i.e.
A. Things he does do.
B. Things he doesn’t do.

II. We discuss 4 words he does not use.
Col. 3:8 "But now ye also put off all these; anger, wi
A. Malice.
1. Define.
a.) Deliberate attempt to do harm.
b.) Positive desire to hurt others.
c.) Root or spring to harm.
d.) Vicious disposition - spirit that prompts one to injure his neighbor.
2. Problems can arise from careless folk.
3. Humor at expense of someone else is sick.
4. Test: Is it true, is it Kind, is it necessary?
B. Blasphemy.
1. Offensive, injurious speech against any.
2. Counts God unworthy of greatness, holiness & truth.
3. Attributes the Scriptures use to describe Him are denied.
4. It seeks to injure another's reputation.
5. It’s like slander - the insulting speech.
6. Gossip can get close to it.
7. Railings.
C. Filthy Communications.
1. Define.
2. a.) Obscene.
b.) Filthy.
c.) Calculated to excite desires.
d.) Shameful speaking - foul mouth abuse.
2. It loves pollution.
3. Feeds on filth.
4. His memory a magazine where he stores all the ugly.
   a.) A man said, "Since no ladies present, let me tell you a story. Gen. Grant, "No, but gentlemen are."
   b.) Foul talk of playground & locker room origin.
D. Lie Not One to Another.
1. Entire truth is essential.
2. Called the most frequent sin toward others & manifest most ill will to fellow man.
3. It's falsehoods & cunning deceptions.
4. Mrs. Chick "McMinnville" ran off to get married. Was not 21 but when asked, she'd taken off her shoe, put a slip of paper in it c 21 written on it so she could say she was over 21. She said, "After all, I had some scruples."
5. Tense is "be not lying" - let it not be true of you at any moment.
6. Don't we distort truth by tone of voice, look, or silence?
7. Lying to one another in church is fatal to unity.
8. Falsehoods dishonor mind as impurity does body.
9. State things as they really are.
III. There is a New Man.

2 Cor. 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is
A. We are a new people.
   1. Radical change of lifestyle.
   2. We are new individuals & part of a new family.
B. Renewed in Knowledge after the image of him that created him.
   1. Continuously made new via resultant regeneration of vision of Christ & insight into His will.
   2. Constant state of renewal via knowledge.
C. All Religious, Intellectual, Social caste obliterated.
   1. Christ substituted Himself from all of this.
   2. Clothed in Christ's righteousness.
4. "There is neither" is most emphatic. It shows even the possibility of such is negative.
5. Barbarian was ba – ba folks – unintelligent language.
6. Christ takes out word barbarian & puts in brother
7. Scythian was a wandering race – wildest of all.
8. No longer any national privilege.
9. All distinctions are broken down.
10. Natural differences still exist, but are inconsequential.
11. Christ is the great principle of our unity.

West End 11-9-80
One lie engenders another. Once committed, the liar has to go on in his course of lying; it is the penalty of his transgression.
— FRANCIS JACOX.
"Universities Are Turning Out Highly Skilled Barbarians"

Steven Muller, a leader of America's higher-education community, is president of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Before becoming head of this noted private institution in 1972, Muller was a vice president at Cornell University, where he also taught comparative government and international relations. He has written extensively about the problems of higher education.

"The disintegration of social consensus"

The biggest failing in higher education today is that we fall short in exposing students to values. We don't really provide a value framework to young people who more and more are searching for it.

This situation has come about because the modern university is rooted in the scientific method, having essentially turned its back on religion. I'm not hostile to the scientific method—it is a marvelous means of inquiry, and it has been highly productive—but it really doesn't provide a value system. It has taken a long time for that to become apparent because our traditional value system survived intact for such a long time.

Since World War II, however, we've seen the greatest disintegration of the social consensus and the most accelerated pace and degree of change in human history. As a result, all our institutions have lost a coherent set of values—including universities. Now there is what educators call a "felt need" for coherence. The trouble is we don't know where we are going to get it.

Why "students have to be performers"

Without a value system, it is going to be very difficult to maintain high standards in the society. We can say everybody is equal under God and everybody is equal under the law, but clearly everybody is not equally gifted. We have to be able to differentiate without destroying people's egos when we say: "You're getting a C, not an A," or "You're flunking out."

Looking at another aspect of the standards problem, today when you say to kids, "You have to use the language properly," some will respond, "You're discriminating; English is my second language." I don't care where you come from, there is a basic standard. You can't communicate unless words mean certain things. There is a difference between "principal" and "principle." If you don't know the difference, you're not communicating.

Students are not entitled to pass a course because they've been at every class; they're expected to absorb some information. Testing is not an instrument of social discrimination; testing is the best instrument we have for evaluating performance. Students have to be performers. There's a value system behind this. Unfortunately, the system is under tremendous siege, and very few people are really prepared to rally around it.

"Looking for something that isn't there"

The failure to rally around a set of values means that universities are turning out potentially highly skilled barbarians: People who are very expert in the laboratory or at the computer or in surgery or in the law courts but who have no real understanding of their own society. We are not turning out very self-confident people, and in a democracy that is a potentially catastrophic problem because our society depends on people who are not passive but active, who are prepared to make choices and take responsibility. That requires individuals who have self-confidence—and to have that confidence requires a value structure.

I hear kids today who lack that confidence asking: "Why should I work? Where's it all going? What does it all mean? I don't have any control over anything. I don't understand anything. Why not just slide along?" There is on the fringes of campuses today the irrational: The attraction of addiction or mysticism or religious fundamentalism. People are looking for something that isn't there and find it very difficult to function without it.

People are aware that the society is dysfunctional. Their anger, confusion and cynicism all reflect that. And these attitudes will spread unless we restore some common framework of values.

Philosophers: "I don't think we have any"

Some of the traditional humanist or humanities disciplines, such as history and philosophy, aren't of enough help in devising a framework of values. History has been...
come more a new mode of scientific inquiry into what the past was really like than a discipline that represents the values of the past. Philosophy has become very preoccupied with meaning. Philosophy majors study Plato and Aristotle, but they are not necessarily committed to Platonist or Aristotelian values.

I don’t know of a period when society has been as short of what used to be called philosophical analysis as we seem to be now, especially analysis that has wide impact. In the 19th century, Ralph Waldo Emerson had a tremendous impact on the intellectual world of his time even if he wasn’t read in every farmhouse or by every trade unionist. Walt Whitman, in his way, also had such impact. But who has a comparable role today? You can find references to John Dewey and Alfred North Whitehead, but among contemporary thinkers whom would you classify as a philosopher of this society? I don’t think that we have anybody.

“Reaffirm traditional American virtues”

Universities have to be able to restore to people some sense of coherence, and that can’t be done without humanistic values. We have to find a way to reaffirm them.

One way is through organized religion, but I don’t think that’s going to happen in this country. A more likely approach is to take some traditional American virtues and reaffirm them. Our society still has a basic consensus on the values of democracy and on the values of a free market rather than a controlled market. If we could reaffirm these, we would have a major system of values.

Now, plenty of people would claim that these things are already taught in high-school civics and that’s what the churches and the home stand for. My answer to that is that I’m concerned about the people who come from broken homes or TV homes, who never go to church and who pay no attention whatsoever to anything taught in high school—to the extent that values are still taught in high school.

Undergraduates would profit from a “value focus”

In dealing with values, I would like to see universities focus on 18-to-22-year-old undergraduates. At Hopkins we are trying to do this by experimenting with four one-year courses: Mathematics, science and technology; human biology; modern society, which is essentially history and economics; and literature and values. In these courses, we are trying to have teachers and students, in a seminar context, look for some coherence in values.

My shrewd guess, however, is that at most institutions the value focus will end up coming much later in a student’s career. This will occur because increasing numbers of undergraduates are trying very hard to qualify for the job market in the most specialized way as quickly as possible. Already, universities are fighting the desire of students—supported by parents, the society and the absence of a value structure—to take only those premed or prelaw or other courses that are useful and relevant for a career.

Higher education “in terms of economic return”

Higher education has done itself and the society a tremendous disservice by selling itself in terms of economic return. This is leading to a highly specialized and fragmented undergraduate education. We would be better off if all students had an interruption between high school and college and worked for a couple of years. There’s nothing like working to find out why you might want to go to college.

As students who have specialized narrowly become more adult and more involved in the world, I think that they will begin to feel a tremendous sense of alienation and insecurity because they lack a values structure, and they will look for a way to address this problem. That may lead them to a concern about values. And so universities may be offering the material to 30 and 40-year-olds who return for additional education rather than to 18-year-olds.

Well, that’s better than not offering it at all. The worst thing that can happen is that the need will be satisfied either by drinking or watching the boob tube or seeing shrinks, which is what too many of us are doing now in large numbers.

Conducted by ALVIN P. SANOFF

Today’s universities are not producing “self-confident people. In a democracy that is a potentially catastrophic problem.”

58 U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, Nov. 10, 1980
CHRIST MAKES A DIFFERENCE SOCIALLY
Col. 3:8-9

I. We've seen in previous verses Christ makes a sexual difference. Now we see it socially.

II. We shall deal with 6 Soiled Shirts.
   A. All are sins of the mouth.
   B. They embrace our Speech & Our Attitudes.
   C. These are sins that not only affect us, but also others.
   D. We'll deal c heart, temper, tongue.

III. We deal with them Immediately & Dramatically.
   A. "But Now."
   1. The now is an emphatic contrast.
   2. Here's an imperative that we do not delay.
   3. Sins not a pleasure but a thing to kill.
   B. Put off all these.
   1. GK is imperative - act upon your divestiture from sin.
   2. Some things you put off - like clothes after baptism.
   3. Divestiture followed by investiture.
   4. Old rags are out of place in a good restaurant.
   5. Put off & wholly renounce.
   6. Strip like a filthy garment.

IV. 1st Shirt to Strip is Anger.
   A. Can we define it?
   1. Emotions aroused by insult or injury.
   2. It's continued in a sustained state.
   3. It's a settled feeling.
   4. Gives inordinate desire to injure one for past action.
   5. Appetite for revenge.
6. It's a short madness - wisdom is lost.  
Ecc. 7:19 "Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than ten men."  
James 1:20 "For the wrath of man worketh not the right thing in the sight of the Lord."  
Gen. 39:7 "And it came to pass after these things, that Israel was seven years in Egypt, for to reap the harvest of their corn."  
7. Angry man makes himself the judge.  
8. Temper is a blaze like fire soon over - anger slow burns, smoulders, refuses to be pacified.  
(Gibson card).  
9. Anger is chronic.  
10. The slow burn that's anger does us more harm than it brings to the other fellow.  
1. Shuts out the illumination of Spirit (Wesleyan Clip).  
2. Hinders forgiveness.  
(Killer Clip) (Vibes)  
Matt. 11:26 "Even so, Father, for so it seemed good unto thee."  
Prov. 20:22 "Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the Lord and he shall deliver thee."  
Deut. 32:35 "To me belongeth vengeance, and recompense."  
(Clip on Motorist).  
3. We can be angry & sin not.  
(clip 4:26)  
Mk. 3:15 "And to have power to heal sicknesses, and"  
a.) Jowett Card.
V. 2nd Shirt is Wrath.

A. How shall we define?
   1. Lipscomb, "Lasting anger."
   2. Weed - explosion, outburst.
   5. Moule - acute, an outburst.

B. Observations.
   1. If we have outbursts & say, "That's just the way I am", you aren't risen c Christ.
   2. Jesus makes a difference.

Frances Sperry, "shortens."
Teresa always Acts, used a little boy in her elders.

West End 10-19-80.
The fool "blows his top", and then excuses his conduct with the quip, "It's all over in a minute." Well, so is a tornado. But look at the mess it leaves behind!

"Happiness . . . Day and Night" - By Joe Barnett and John Gipson
ANGER—Harm

Anger is often more harmful than the injury that caused it.

When Leonardo da Vinci was working on his painting “The Last Supper,” he became angry with a certain man. Losing his temper he lashed the other fellow with bitter words and threats. Returning to his canvas he attempted to work on the face of Jesus, but was unable to do so. He was so upset he could not compose himself for the painstaking work. Finally he put down his tools and sought out the man and asked his forgiveness.

The man accepted his apology and Leonardo was able to return to his workshop and finish painting the face of Jesus.—Bits and Pieces.

"...He who has put his foot in it.—GIDEON WURDZ, American Salesman, 6-71

ANGER

I was reading...the following in Nazarene Information Service: Anger is a wind that blows out the lamp of the mind.—Wesleyan Advocate, 12-14-70

...Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind.—ALBERT EINSTEIN
ANGER, NOT ALCOHOL IS REAL KILLER!

Anger, not alcohol, is the real killer in many auto accidents, says an associate professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore.

Dr. Chester Schmidt and other researchers recently completed a 4-year study for the federal government of 50 male drivers killed in car crashes in Baltimore County.

It showed the dead drivers were belligerent, loudmouthed individuals who were far more aggressive, negative and hyperactive than other men. The study also showed that more than one-third had been convicted of speeding two or more times, nearly one-third had had their licenses suspended at least once and one out of five had been convicted of reckless drunken driving.

"Even though 80 percent of them had some alcohol in their blood at the time of their accident," Dr. Schmidt said, "we found it was their explosive nature, not their drinking, that led to their deaths."—National Enquirer.
As Dr. J. H. Jowett says, "A life incapable of anger is destitute of the needful energy for all reform. There is no blaze in it, there is no ministry of purification. . . . We are taught in the New Testament that this power of indignation is begotten by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit makes us capable of healthy heat, and it inspires the fire within us. The Holy Spirit doesn't create a character that is lukewarm, neutral or indifferent."

"Communication: Key to Your Marriage" - By H. Norman Wright

Page 90
Hold

Put c needs to

reach N. B. when it
get to Col 3.7
LYING, SO EASY TO DO

Acts 5:1-11

I. The Lord expects us to be an honest folk.

Col. 3:9 "Lie not one to another, seeing..."

A. Lying is something God hates.

Prov. 6:17

1. A sin often committed.

Psalm 116:11

2. To lie is to utter a false statement with the intent to deceive.

3. We can innocently utter a false statement and not be a liar.
   "Every teacher who teaches errors intends to lie." He could be honestly wrong.

4. Sometimes there are half-truths intending to create a false impression.
   "A lie which is half-truth is ever the blacket of lies." (Unknown)

5. Are there "little white lies?"
   "So glad you came"???

6. Are there Christians who would not lie to a neighbor, but will to Uncle Sam, a big company?

7. Satan, the father of liars.

John 8:44
Rev. 21:8

8. One of ten commandments.
Exo. 20:16


Eph. 4:25

Rev. 22:15

10. Lying is inconsistent with the "new man."

Rom. 3:4 "Let God be found true and every man a liar."

11. It is to be "put off" - meaning get out of, get away from.

12. "Put to death" - last item named.

13. Are we a hypocrite? "Bread like that doesn't stay long at our house."

B. Go to story of Ananias and Sapphira.

Acts 5:1–11

1. Another "certain man" - Barnabas. (Acts 4)

2. This Acts 5 deals with insincerity.

3. They wanted to deceive God and man. Can't God. Man at West End always gave a folded blank check.

4. Some attempt to imitate good folk.

5. Don't know what they sold, nor size of Barnabas' field.

6. Kept back part of price.
   a) More than they thought it would be?
   b) Wanted to look good in eyes of others?
c) What will happen when I'm old and need all the money?

C. Told Satan filled their hearts.

John 13:27
1 Cor. 10:13
2 Thess. 3:3
1 Peter 5:8-9

D. Lie to Holy Spirit (v-3).
1. While money remained it was theirs.
2. Volunteer to give to God.
3. Still your right.

E. Lied to God
2. Death came.
3. "Fear on all who heard."
4. If Ananias had fooled apostles respect for them gone.
5. Young men buried him.
6. Church did not honor him with funeral.
7. Single lady wanted only women pallbearers—men never took her out in life—won'd do it in death.
8. Do we honor people who dishonor God?
   (Brother Shrygley - head like a simlin).

F. Three hours later buried wife.
1. Lying thus seen as an enormous sin.
2. She was asked about size of money land brought.
3. She had the chance to repent last minute.
4. They had agreed together to deceive.

Ecc. 8:11

5. Suppose this happened today—any victims?
6. Fear came on whole church.
7. Material wealth is tricky!
8. Make every effort to be truthful.
YOU WERE--NOW YOU WON'T
Col. 3:5--

I. Does everyone think his day is the worst one?
A. I believe we could offer claim to these being the ugliest days we've ever seen.
B. Gambling, vulgarity, looseness, callousness about purity--from TV to the comic page.

II. If it is the worst for us, isn't it also the time for the richest opportunities?
A. There are things to which we "died"--sexual things.
B. There are things we "put off"--social things.
C. There are things we as Christians have "put on"--thus any skeptic should see the difference--let's see our contrasting condition. 3 layer cake & many fillings

III. Things I Executed! (No instant holiness)
A. Only time I'm told to kill.
   1. "We know the theology but do we know the practice?" (Cloer)
   2. An immigrant to America accepts the new citizenship and new way of life.
   3. We do not accept dogma without high ethical conduct. (Erdman)

B. Mortify
   1. To make dead--very slowly wipe out evil acts--slay utterly, decisively, urgently. (Vaugh)
   2. It is once for all putting to death the old way of living. (Bullard)
3. You don't wake up thinking "Am I going to do what's right today?"--you have already decided that.
4. We make dead our bodies for the purpose of sin. (P.C.)
5. May be slow process as we crucify the flesh.
6. With death coming sometimes suffering accompanies it.
7. Kill what binds us to earthly life.
8. We dig out the roots and utterly destroy them of the earthbound life.
9. Too many Christians are like Lazarus--quickened but still in grave clothes. (Meyer)
10. "I went down to the river to bury the old man only to discover that he could swim." (Luther)

C. Then he names the sexual ones.
1. Fornication
   a) Originally consorting with prostitutes but came to mean habitual immorality.
   b) Christianity came into a world that believed every appetite should be satisfied.
   c) It rather showed "controlled."
   d) It said purity is the goal.
   e) Are we soft on home?
   f) No sex outside of marriage.

2. Uncleanness
   a) Physical impurity in word or act.
   b) Dirty minded.

No wonder sexual drive second only to self preservation
c) Sex impulse not to be gratified but controlled.

3. Inordinate affection
   a) Depraved passion.
   b) Lust, uncontrolled desire to which man is a slave.
   c) Passion out of control.

4. Evil concupiscence
   a) Outward sense—"I'm a dirty old man" plate.
   b) Wicked cravings.
   c) That which once we would not dream of being in the theatre is now shown in our homes.

5. Covetousness—which is idolatry.
   a) Sexual? Shall not covet thy neighbor's wife.
   b) Greediness—sex or money.
   c) "I want what I want regardless of what God says" is greedy idolatry.
   d) Greed is the fundamental problem—wanting what is not rightfully ours.
   e) "We buy things we do not want to impress people we do not like."
      (Arthur Gish)

IV. What's The Results If We Give In?
   A. Wrath of God
      1. It's sure to come here and hereafter.
      2. It causes us to restrain in view of Judgement.
      3. There is a present and future reality.
      4. Future wrath of God is Hell,
B. Have we reached the stage where everything goes and we cannot legislate against anything—the moral fabric of society is destroyed? (Stedman)
1. All barriers gone?
2. Stand for little?

V. There Are Things We Put Off.
A. Deal with sins of the tongue.
1. Sins that indicate old way of life.
2. More than likely we've done some of these social sins.

B. Puff Off
1. Put aside—taking off ones clothes.
2. Shows total break with old way of life.
3. Like a complete change of clothing.
4. Tense shows constant progress in Christian life.

C. Lists them—(6)
1. Anger
   a) Sudden blaze of temper—quickly kindled, quickly dies.
   b) One letter short of danger.
   c) Deep down resentful.
   d) Bitterness that keeps record of wrongs.

2. Wrath
   a) Volcanic outburst.
   b) Long lasting, keeps burning.

3. Malice
   a) Viciousness of mind that desires evil for others.
   b) Hidden disposition of spite that takes revenge in secret.
5. **Filthy Communication**

- a) Abusive speech
- b) Soul rest in peace—sooner the better as splashed by car.

VI. **Put On (Dog Story)**

A. Old man is dead—have a new man with definite characteristics.
B. He's renewed.
   1. Growing.
   2. Engaging in never ending process.
   3. Does it via knowledge—we grasp what we are to be.

C. Image of Creator
   1. That's God.
   2. Looks like Jesus.

D. Beautiful Unity
   1. Unity—not just absence of conflict.
   2. Barbari was the name given Greeks to those who spoke any intelligent language to them.
   3. Uncivilized foreigners.
   4. Onomatopoeic word—ba! ba! ba!
   5. Matters not what man is externally.

E. Christ is All in All
   1. Tertullian spoke of Christianity as the "3rd Race."

Whitmore Rd. C/C, Modesto, CA 8/20/96
Smithville, Tennessee - 10/8/96
Woodland Hills, Cordova, TN - 11/5/96
Neely's Bend - 2/13/05
Heritage C/C - 8/28/05
CHRIST MAKES A DIFFERENCE SOCIA LLY
Col. 3:8-11

I. We've just seen in previous verses He makes a sexual difference. Now we see it socially.

II. We see our second figure--Put off.
A. 1st we put to death--mortify.
B. Now we put off--like clothes.
   1. New life wears a new dress.
   2. Note emphasis on purity.
   3. Will deal with attitude & speech.
   4. Idea--disrobe.

III. These Things We Put Off--Soiled Shirts
(All sins of the mouth!)
A. Anger
   1. Emotions aroused by injury or insult, desire to hurt because of it.
   2. Continual substained state.
   3. A settled feeling.
   4. Appetite for revenge.
   5. Angry man makes himself the judge
   6. Anger is chronic.

B. Wrath
   1. Lasting anger.
   2. Explosive outburst.
   3. Fire in a straw bed!
   4. Furious outburst of passion.
   5. Anger is chronic; wrath acute.

C. Malice
   1. Deliberate attempt to do harm.
   2. Positive desire to hurt someone.
   3. Only Christ can make us love one another.

1 Jn. 3:12
I Thess. 4:9

D. Blasphemy
1. Railing—slander.
2. Reckless, bitter abuse.
3. Shameful speaking—foul language directed against another.
4. It's offensive, injurious speech against anyone.

Jude 16

5. Count God unworthy of greatness, holiness & truth.
6. Denies truths about Him.
7. Contrast with Geo. Carver story

E. Filthy Communications
1. Filthy abuse in words.
2. Foul talk
3. Obscene language
4. Not clean language
5. Loves pollution & feeds on filth.
6. Pick up words of slander like picking up feathers.
7. "No ladies are present let me tell you a story." Gen. Grant, "No, but gentlemen are."
8. His memory a magazine where he stores his
9. God condemns that which excites wrong desires.

F. Lie Not One to Another
1. Some came to believe own falsehood.
2. Falsehood, cunning deceptive.
3. "Be not lying"—let it not be true of you at any moment.
4. We distort truth by tone of voice, look, or silence—can be yellow or golden.
5. Lying uttered in the church—to one another! This is fatal to unity.
6. Falsehood dishonors mind as impurity does body.
7. Don't lie to anybody.
8. State things as they really are.
9. Williams "Stop lying."
10. Continuous process of renewal in all these matters.

IV. We Have Put on a New Man

A. Put off old—Put on new—who is He?
   1. Divesture followed by investiture.
   2. Put off & wholly renounce; put on and fully confess.

B. We are to look like Jesus.
   1. Jesus created man.
   2. New birth once for all took place—a new character is in the of formation.

C. He makes us one—spiritual unity of mankind.
   1. He destroys barriers that divide. Distinctions on-existent.
   2. Took out the Barbarian (Sythian was the worst kind) and replaced him with a brother (Barbarian one who spoke ba-ba-ba)
3. National and social barriers cannot be where Christ is (only here does Greek
4. He obliterates all religions intellectual & social caste.
5. Church offers a better way.
6. He continually renews that he created.
7. Only Christ can substitute the word brother for barbarian!
8. National privilege, legal or ceremonial, culture & social caste obliterated. They "cannot" be. (ASV)

D. Christ is all, in all.
1. To have Christ is to have all one needs.
2. He substitutes himself for all these.
3. He occupies whole realm of human relationship.
4. We appear clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
5. Christ is superior.
6. Christ is in all Christians.
7. We share & accept the life of Christ.
8. Union so complete each believer is the embodiment of Christ.
9. Christ stands at the end of the sentence.
a) Common centre.
b) Standard of reference.
c) Sum of all knowledge & desire.
5.

d) All—common life & soul of his people.

10. Image of Christ to believer is analogous to that of the image of God in the original man.

11. Christ is:

Gal. 2:20
1 Cor. 1:30
Eph. 1:23

4:10

12. Christ further is:

a) Whole price of our redemption.
b) Lord of all our lives.
c) All our requirements.
d) Whole of our lives.
e) He's in all our people—perfect and imperfect.

Savannah, TN (Noon) - 10/5/90
TWO MEN WERE talking when the name of a mutual friend was mentioned. "Are you a friend of Harry's?" the first man asked.

"Friends?" the other man said. "I've known him since the third grade. There's nothing I wouldn't do for Harry and there's nothing he wouldn't do for me. In fact, for 40 years, we've gone through life together, doing absolutely nothing for each other."

"When I was young," wrote Dr. Carver, "I asked God to tell me the secrets of the universe. He told me that knowledge was reserved for Him alone. Then I asked God to tell me the secrets of the peanut. God said, 'Well, George, that's more nearly your size.'"

Dr. Carver found over a hundred products to make from peanuts. His research helped many farmers in the South. Dr. Carver was a humble man. He was humble because he knew he needed God.

God considers humility a very important characteristic. Today we'll learn from one of Jesus' parables how important humility is to our relationship with God.
CHRISTIANITY IS EXCITING
Col. 3:9-11

I. By any standard of measurement
  Christianity is the best, the most
  benevolent, and the superior in
  excitement of any way to live.
  A. It has the highest standard morally
     of any comparison.
  B. It is the most sacrificial of any
     system.
  C. And it's the most exciting manner
     of any code known to man.
  1. Our text has just completed a
     severe "mortifying."
  2. It follows by a strong "put off."
  3. Now it moves to a great positive.

Col. 3:10 "Put on the new man which is"

II. The Real Put On
  A. You have just "put off" the old man.
  B. Now you "put on" the new man.
     1. In youthful days we talked of
        those who "put on" and it was
        a shame.
     2. This "put on" is real. It is from
        the imagery of taking off your
        old, soiled clothes and putting
        on the new.
        a) We had "Sunday morning"
           britches we wore--even knickers.
        b) Child was chastened because
           he fell in mud puddle with new
           clothes on--"I didn't have time
           while falling to take them off."
3. There is always something New—developing, unfolding, increasingly better.

4. Old man would lie, hot temper, grumble, cheat, hoard, tell ugly jokes, see porno stuff, drink, gamble, flirt—evil deeds.

5. But he repented, confessed and started all over anew—new wardrobe of truth, righteousness, purity.

6. Translations put it this way:
   a) Having stript off the old man together with his practices.
   b) Get rid of your old self and its habits.
   c) Clothed yourself with the new man.
   d) Have begun life as a new man.

7. This new man is the new nature, for the creation of which God has provided in His Son. (B.I.)

C. What's exciting is that it is progressive in its nature, "which is being renewed."

D. Paul wrote "which is renewed unto knowledge after the image of him that created him.

1. Just as God watched over you in conception.

Isa. 46:3 "Which are borne by me from the"

2. So he watches you daily conform to the image of Christ.
3. Silversmith keeps pounding until he can see himself in the metal.

E. It's constant growth
1. At no point can I say I have attained, I am now perfect.
2. Ever press on to the glorious model--"after the image of Him," as Christ is the "image of the invisible God."
3. "Conformity to Him is the pattern of our renewal."
4. "Christ is all, and in all." (v-11)
5. "Renewed day by day" (2 Cor. 4:16)

F. Our challenge "being remodeled into full knowledge so as to become like Him who created it."
1. Be like Jesus--daily, Heavenly goal, ever higher.
2. "O to be like thee--stamp thine own image."
3. One translation "that is being refitted all the time for closer knowledge so that the image of God who created it is its pattern."
4. Continually made new via resultant regeneration of vision of Christ.

G. All distinctions blotted out:
v-11 "Where there is neither(cannot be) GK.
1. GK and Jew had national privilege--not anymore.
2. Circumcision nor uncircumcision--rituals obliterated."
3. Barbarian--onomatopoetic word as sound suggests its sense.
   a) Rude, rough, harsh.
   b) Repeated syllables "bar-bar" for one who speaks a foreign or strange language.
   c) Foreign--not understood.
   d) Lacked civility of GK or Roman culture.
   e) Any foreigner who speaks a language other than GK or Latin.
   f) No place in society.
4. Scythian
   a) Northern people near coasts of Black Sea, southern Ukraine.
   b) Violent, uneducated, uncivilized.
   c) Little better than savages.
   d) Proverbial means little to us.
5. Bond nor free.
6. Christ is everything--"He is my all."
7. "There is neither" is emphatic, possibility does not exist. Christ is the great, uniting principle as you are a new individual in a new family where all distinctions are broken down.

H. So we ask:
1. Are we truly an evolving new man?
2. Are we daily renewed?
3. Are we made after the image of Christ? Aborted in Him?
4. Are we one, united, undivided?
5. Are all cultural barriers gone?
6. Can we all sit together in one congregation?
7. Do we deny the creation of humankind in the image of God?
8. Differences are there (between male & female in Gal. 3:28 list) but when it comes to love, honor, respect they are irrelevant--right?
9. Is Christ truly in all--even old folks?

Neely's Bend - 3/6/05
New Concord - 9/18/05 (afternoon service)
Heritage C/C - 9/18/05
Over a hundred years ago, a group of fishermen were relaxing in the dining room of a Scottish seaside inn, trading fish stories. One of the men gestured widely, depicting the size of a fish that got away. His arm struck the serving maid's tea tray, sending the teapot flying into the whitewashed wall, where its contents left an irregular brown splotch.

The innkeeper surveyed the damage and sighed, "The whole wall will have to be repainted."

"Perhaps not," offered a stranger. "Let me work with it."

Having nothing to lose, the proprietor consented. The man pulled pencils, brushes, some jars of linseed oil, and pigment out of an art box. He sketched lines around the
Receive God's work. Drink deeply from his well of grace. As grace sinks deep into your soul, Lo-debar will become a dot in the rearview mirror. Dark days will define you no more. You're in the palace now.

--Max Lucado

Come Thirsty

pg. 36-37
Did you know that the smith in silversmith comes from the old English word smite? Silversmiths are accomplished smiters.

-- Max Lucado

**Come Thirsty**

pg. 121

So is God. Once the worker is satisfied with the form of his tool, he begins to planish and pumice it. Using smaller hammers and abrasive pads, he taps, rubs, and decorates. And no one stops him. No one yanks the hammer out of his hand and says, "Go easy on that silver. You've pounded enough!" No, the craftsman buffets the metal until he is finished with it. Some silversmiths, I'm told, keep polishing until they can see their face in the tool. When will God stop with you? When he sees his reflection in you. "The Lord will perfect that which concerns me" (Ps.138:8 NKJV), emphasis mine). Jesus said, "My Father never stops working" (John 5:17).

-- Max Lucado

**Come Thirsty**

pg. 121-122
I. Maxine Brown gave me Readers' Digest as one of my Christmas presents.
   A. One of the most enjoyable features is that section on Words.
   B. We all need to enlarge our vocabulary.
   C. One reason men curse is because of poor word choice.

II. Today I've got seven words and you can define, use, expound on all seven.
    A. Followed by magnificent eight that reform character.
    B. These we will study in detail because they are essential to our Christian character.
    C. But first via KJV I want you to see the beautiful seven words—I know you know every one of them.
    D. Turn to Colossians 3:12.

III. Introductory seven:
    A. Put on—new—discard soiled.
       1. Holy Spirit is going to dress us.
       2. Words killed: Fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, covetness.
          a) Bring wrath of God.
b) Employed only by children of disobediences—though some times walked and lived in them.

   a) Lie not—Paul Harvey story.
   b) Put off old man with his deeds.

4. First put on and away—new man, renewed in (out of way) knowledge after image of him that created him—continually renewed.

5. No Greek, Jew, circumcision, uncircumcision, barbarian, Sythian, bond, free (not blessed by any race).

6. But Christ is all and in all:

B. Second put on:

1. Put our first word—costume of the saints.
   a) Garments that suit.
   b) Coordinate
   c) Proper color and style
   d) Not brogans with a tux.
   e) If one pays attention to style much more attention to what God wants us to wear!
   f) Positive after negative—that's balance, coordination, proper.
   g) Virtue replaces vice—opposite of vices.
   h) Start of collective life.
3. At this time did not have the written word—not four gospels.

j) Costume of the saint.

k) Character comes out in way we are dressed.

l) Costume of saints, distinctive as Army vs. Navy—identify the branch.

m) Virtues our uniform to show we belong to Christ.

n) Garments that suit.

2. Therefore

a) See why we are here for.

b) Conclusive

c) No doubt—this definitely it!

d) Feel it—part of you.

3. Elect

a) God's chosen people.

b) God's picked representative of the new humanity.

c) His own—I belong to God.

d) As God's people.

e) Madison and Koppel cards.

4. God

a) Card on him—Lucado

b) Adalla Stephenson—boy drawing don't know what God looks like—will when I get done.

c) Teen card—feels right?
5. Holy
   a) Purified
   b) Consecrated
   c) Set apart—you are, you do!
   d) Holy life is made up of a number of small things—little words, little deeds, little evils avoided, inconsistencies.
   e) Dalton key.

6. Beloved
   a) The thought that someone loves you makes a difference.
   b) Beloved of God—I can't hate his child.
   c) Dear to him.
   d) Enjoying his love.

7. Bowels
   a) Tenderness of heart.
   b) Heart of pity.
   c) Tender affectionate.
   d) Clothed self with compassion.
   e) Lytle Thomas' dead son-in-law.
   f) Splanchna
   g) Summers

8. Mercies—comparison
   a) Merciful in action.

Luke 1:78
2 Cor. 7:15

Neely's Bend BC - 3-13-05
Heritage C/C - 9/4/05
Heard on Paul Harvey News

“We visit Raleigh, NC, where a state cop stopped a drunken driver. While he was ticketing the man, there was a multicar accident on the other side of the divided highway. The highway patrolman told the drunk to wait. The patrolman went across the highway to sort out the accident. After awhile the drunk figured he'd waited long enough and he drove on home and told his wife that if anybody asked she should say he had been in bed with the flu all day. Within the hour, two state patrolmen appeared at the home of the drunken driver and asked to see him. He came from the bedroom wrapped in a robe and coughing and wheezing. The patrolman asked if he'd been drinking that evening, and he said he'd been sick in bed. They apologized for bothering him and asked if they could take a look at his car. The drunk escorted them to the garage and inside was a highway patrol car, the blue lights still flashing.”

The fourth president of the United States, James Madison, observed in 1785: "It is the duty of every man to render to the Creator such homage and such only as he believes to be acceptable to him. This duty is precedent, both in order of time and in degree of obligation, to the claims of Civil Society. Before any man can be considered as a member of Civil Society, he must be considered as a subject of the Governor of the Universe."

--James Madison

--Pepperdine University
2003 Annual Report

pg. 9
Then, in perhaps the most poignant moment, Koppel sounded like a preacher reaching the conclusion of his sermon: "I caution you, as one who performs daily on that flickering altar, to set your sights beyond what you can see. There is true majesty in the concept of an unseen power which can neither be measured nor weighed. There is harmony and inner peace to be found in following a moral compass that points in the same direction, regardless of fashion or trend."

THE DEATH OF ETHICS IN AMERICA - Cal Thomas - P. 136

For our God is in the heavens, and he does as he wishes. (Ps. 115:3)

From eternity to eternity I am God. No one can oppose what I do. No one can reverse my actions. (Isa. 43:13)

Only I can tell you what is going to happen even before it happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish. (Isa. 46:10)

He chose us from the beginning and all things happen just as he decided long ago (Eph. 1:11)

-- Max Lucado

Come Thirsty
"By far the most common basis for moral decision making was doing whatever feels right or comfortable in a situation. Nearly four out of ten teens (38%) and three out of ten [sic] adults (31%) described that as their primary consideration.

Jesus: That I May Know Him

30th Annual Lectureship, East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions, Knoxville, TN.

pg. 84

Dalton Key wrote the following article entitled "A Good Christian?:"

I have a good friend. She doesn't drink alcohol or abuse her body with tobacco. She does not destroy her mind with drugs. I've never heard her gossip or tell a single lie. She does not waste her time in night clubs or dance halls. I've never heard her speak with profanity or vulgarity. She has never cheated a soul in a business deal. Many people would call my friend a "good Christian." And yet, you ought to know that I have been describing my dog, Paisley.
JUST WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
Col. 3:12

1. Self identification is important.
   A. To be over or under esteemed of yourself is devastating.
   1. Hester & chalk ball c Axel.
   2. Casper Milquetoast that can never do anything contrasts this.
   B. The Bible speaks clearly of your identification.
      1. "As newborn babes"
      1 Pet. 2:2 "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk
      2. Fellow laborer.
      Phil. 4:3 "I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help t
      3. Pilgrims.
      1 Pet. 2:11 "I beseech you as strangers & pilgrims, abx
      Gal. 3:26 "For ye are all children of God by faith in
      5. Heirs of Promise.
      Rom. 8:17 "Heirs of God & joint heirs c Christ
      Eph. 6:6 "The servants of Christ, doing the will of Gc
      Rom. 6:22 "Made free from sin & become servants to (ll. Paul let the Col. see who they were: elect, holy, beloved. Shall we study.
   A. Elect.
      1. Even O.T. has these terms.
      2. Elect has a connotation.
         a.) Chosen - of God, & by self.
         b.) It shows the highest of divine purpose &
            spiritual privilege.
c.) The election follows a process: It is one's choice by faith in Jesus Christ.

   a.) Jesus refused to believe Jesus.
   b.) Hardened in so doing.
   c.) Spirit of stupor came.
   d.) If we are determined to reject God, things for our betterment become items of ruin.
   e.) Judgement follows misuse of privilege.
   f.) If Israel believed today, could he be saved? Paul was.

4. Introduces election.
   a.) Hendricksen Card.
   b.) Thiessen, "Election the sovereign act of God whereby he chose some to salvation solely on the basis of sovereign grace apart from the merits or acts of the individual."
   c.) Other view, "God chose those whom He foreknew would respond to His gracious invitation."
   d.) Calvanist, "Election is a sovereign act because it is not due to any constraint laid upon God. It is an act of grace, in that he chose those who were utterly unworthy of saly."

5. Remember contrasting:
   a.) Saved are "in Christ"--& we got there by obedience.
   b.) God can foresee w/o foreordaining - He foresaw who would react favorably.
   c.) Christ is for all.
   d.) Thus, we evangelize.
B. Secondly, you are holy.
   1. This simply means you are set apart by God & for God.
   2. Each action of your life is set to honor God & for His service.
   3. Sanctification important.

Heb. 12:14 "Pursue peace c all men & s.
I Pet. 1:15 "Like the Holy One who called you
   4. Be pure from moral evil.
   5. Conform to image of Christ.
   6. Read about Hezekiah & Temple 2 Chron. 29:5-19
   7. We are washed.

Eph. 5:26 "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with
   8. Stay away from ungodly.

2 Cor. 6:17 "Wherefore come out from among them, a
2 Cor. 7:1 "Beloved let us cleanse ourselves from all li

Rom. 8:29 "For whom he did foreknow, he also did prep
2 Cor. 3:18 "But we all, with open face beholding as 1
1 Jn. 3:2 "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and
   10. We do some put on & put off.

C. Lastly, you are beloved.
   1. The terms holy & beloved are ones that ensue from election rather than determining it.
   2. Beloved is a perfect participle passive; it describes the position of those who carrying out their present holiness the purpose of their past election are objects of God's abiding love.
   3. What joy to know you are loved by God.

End 11-23-80
Scott Farms - Idaho.
Now election is the immutable purpose of God, whereby, before the foundations of the world were laid, He has, according to the most free good pleasure of His own will, of mere grace, chosen out of the whole human race, fallen by its own fault from its primeval integrity in to sin and destruction, a certain number of persons, neither better nor more deserving of others but with them involved in a common misery, unto salvation in Christ; whom even from eternity He has appointed a mediator and head of all the elect and the foundation of salvation; therefore He has decreed to give them unto Him to be saved.

Hendricksen's Commentary on John 17

When the noted theologian, Karl Barth, was speaking in America, a group of theologians asked him what was the most significant theological discovery of his life. Expecting to hear a complicated answer, they were surprised when he said, "The most important truth I've learned is, Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

"Givers, Takers & Other Kinds of Lovers" - By Josh McDowell & Paul Lewis
My friend, I stand in judgement now
and feel that you're to blame somehow
On earth I walked with you day by day
And never did you point the way.

You knew the Lord in truth and glory.
But never did you tell the story.
My knowledge then was very dim.
You could have led me safe to Him.

Though we lived together on earth.
You never told me of the new birth.
And now I stand this day condemned
Because you failed to mention Him.

You taught me many things that's true
I called you friend and trusted you.
But now I've learned that it's too late
You could have saved me from my fate.

We walked by day and talked by night
And yet you showed me not the light.
You let me live and love and die,
You knew I'd never live on high.

Yes, I called you friend in life
and trusted you through joy and strife,
And yet on coming to the end,
I cannot now call you my friend.
ALL DRESSED UP AND SOME PLACE TO GO!
Col. 3:12-14

I. You've heard of those all dressed up & no place to go - well, I'm dressed up & I'm going some place.
A. Let's see what the well dressed Christian's wearin:
B. Let's be fashionable ourselves.

II. It's a command to be "well dressed."
V. 12 "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy &...

A. Put on.
1. It's positive.
2. Had negative "Put off."
3. It's specific garments - always loved sox because they'd go on either ft. - till you wore them 3 day
4. He's going to name multiple garments - 9 or more
5. It's garments that benefit the new self.
6. Verbs show it's an action to be undertaken c sens of urgency.
7. Immediately we begin our growth.
8. Character like clothings is:
   a.) Known & recognizable.
   b.) It adorns.
9. We now look at Pentad of Chr. virtues.
B. Garments worn.
1. Bowels of Mercy.
   a.) Heart of compassion, lit. entrails of pity.
   b.) Feel.
   c.) Christ like for multitude, poor, widow.
   d.) Pity.
   e.) Tenderness expressed toward the suffering & miserable.
   f.) Empathy - our life in Christ leads us to a costly
g.) This spirit led to establishing hospitals & asylum.
h.) Ancients needed it as cared not for animals, age, or idiots.
i.) Sensitive to misery of others.
j.) Anthropologist judge a man by his skull, Chr. by his heart.
k.) Selfishness stifles this spirit.

2. Kindness.
a.) Goodness of heart to meet the world c a smile at each call for help.
b.) Goodness, affection, good will, friendship.
c.) Graciousness.
d.) It's opposite of self assertiveness.
e.) Sensitive to feelings & hurt of another.
f.) Word comes from kin, a kinned man, saints are kinfold.

3. Humbleness of mind. from "on the ground"
a.) Lowliness only one not listed c fruit of the spirit.
   Gal. 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, pe
b.) Temper of our mind which affects our estimate of ourselves. Claim little of desert
   Not proud or assesseive
   Near ground - not hi

4. Meekness. Petulant under injury
a.) Accept w/o murmuring what God assigns; w/o
   resistance to the inflections of evil men.
b.) Contrasts c harshness & rudeness. Mild, soft

5. Longsuffering. Not easily provoked
Patient endurance

a.) Bears insults w/o hasty retaliation.
b.) Do not fly into rage & demand revenge.
c.) Longsuffering to all who do us injury.

West End 11.50-5c
The average intellectual contrasts authority and freedom. I say that freedom is impossible without authority. The absence of authority is anarchy — and anarchy is a thousand-headed tyrant. — ERIC HOFFER.

As an illustration of what the apostle means by humility and severity to the body, we may take the modern instance of Lacordaire. "Immediately after Mass, and while his face was yet lighted up with ineffable joy, he would seek the cell of one of his brethren, kneel humbly down, and beg for the full severities of discipline. Rising from it, all bleeding, he would press his lips on the feet of him who had chastised him, and overwhelm him with expressions of gratitude. Sometimes he would place himself under the monk's feet, and remain there a quarter of an hour in silence; sometimes he would not be content without the bestowal of still ruder chastisement— he must be boxed on the ears, be spit upon, be ordered about like a slave, 'Go, wretch, brush my shoes, bring me this thing or that;' he must even be spurned like a dog. Once in the convent at Chalais, after having delivered an affecting sermon on humility, he felt irresistibly impelled to follow up
precept by example. He came down from the pulpit, begged the assembled brethren to treat him with the severity he deserved, and, uncovering his shoulders, received from each of them 25 strokes. The community was a large one, and the ordeal lasted a long time. Brethren, novices, and fathers stood by in deep emotion until all was over, and Lacordaire rose up pale and exhausted. One Good Friday he made himself a cross, raised it in a subterranean chapel, and, bound to it by cords, remained on it three hours."


Colossians - Page 131

Pascal "wore beneath his clothes a girdle of iron with sharp points affixed to it, and when he found his mind disposed to wander from religious subjects or take delight in things around him, he struck the girdle with his elbow and forced the points into his side."


Colossians - Page 143
ATTIRE OF THE WELL DRESSED CHRISTIAN
Colossians 3:12-14

I. All of us pay some attention to style.
   A. To some, clothes the major interest.
   B. Changing styles & colors good for economy.

   C. But in a more serious vein what should the Christian wear? Let me tell you.

II. First see the change in Paul's writing to Colossians.
   A. After all the negative now comes the positive.
      1. That's balance.
      2. Virtues take the place of vices.
      3. Positive has a clear claim on us.
      4. Dog clipping.

   B. Now Outlines Well Dressed Saint.
      1. Put off the old life, put on graces of the new life.
      2. There will be "garments".
         a) Some count 7. Phil. 3:12
         b) Some 8.
         c) One a pentad of virtues.
      3. At any rate it's our adorning.

   Titus 2:10
      4. It definitely is how to dress the new man.
      5. So you count them as I name them.

   C. Please note first what he calls you.
      1. Elect of God.
         a) God's chosen so cloth yourself appropriate to the Christian life.
             This is your school colors, your uniform.
Eph. 1:4
Eph. 2:10
c) It means God's in love with us—his chosen, elect.
d) We are in covenant relationship with Him.

2. Next, "Holy".
a) Christ is.

Mk. 1:24
b) He's sanctified.

Jn. 17:19
c) We should be like Him.

3. Then Beloved.
a) I repeat God loves us.
b) Christ was his Beloved.

Matt. 3:17
c) Let the similarity continue.
d) You are dear to God.

III. And Now The Clothing.
A. Put = to be undertaken with a sense of urgency. Pity those in destitute state
   B. Bowels of mercy
   1. We search of seat of emotions.
   2. We speak of broken heart.
   3. Upset—we get a stomachache.
   4. This is compassion.
   5. "If affections are right everything else should follow." (Thomas)
   6. Valda on Africa, "What does God expect us to do?"
   7. Those who owe much to mercy must be merciful.

8: Con(with) passus(to suffer)
1. This the opposite of harshness and severity.
2. Can you see spousal abuse here?
   Kindness acts--how about a call to encourage someone.
4. "Sweetness of disposition."
5. "Let your tenderest feelings come in contact with the miseries of the distressed as soon as they present themselves." (Clark)
   "As clothing touches you, so also be that close to the miseries of men." (Clark)

D. Humbleness of Mind
   1. Lowliness of mind.
   2. Lets you say the other man is more important than yourself. "Mother of Peter" Amazed et ego vir c.
   3. Think lowly of yourself because that is what we are.
Rom. 12:10 "Give preference to one another"

E. Meekness
   1. Power under control--like a wild stallion that is broken--power still there but harnessed.
   2. Prudent bridle of anger.
   3. Opposite of rudeness.
   4. Endure suffering rather than inflict it. Patient and self control under Dr. Get money
   5. Opposite of arrogance and self-assertiveness.
   6. Has a delicate consideration for the feelings of others.
Hab. 2:3 "Very meekly"
F. Longsuffering
1. Empathy—we feel with someone.
Sympathy—we feel for someone.
2. Patience = great heat.
3. It takes a lot to boil your blood.
5. Never contemplates revenge.
6. God saw need for only one like me—don't try to make everybody over.
   (Tappe) longer spirit, don't lose heart

G. Forbearing One Another.
1. To hold one's self back from another.
2. Self-control even under provocation.
3. Forbear with those whose faults and unpleasantness is an irritant.
4. Put up with things you dislike in others—gum chewing, i.e.
5. To be kind toward a present offense.
6. Avoid all occasions to irritate and provoke each other.

H. Forgiving One Another.
1. Sometimes we accidentally hurt—forgive. [Not case of actual injury]
2. Forgive those for whom you have grounds for complaint.
3. Forbear the present.
   Forgive the past.
4. Quarrels come = cause to blame.
   a) If Jesus forgives us, we must have to follow in relations to his servants.
   b) As Christ acted so must we.
c) He accepts our broken, penitent hearts.

I. Above All Put on Love--The Bond of Perfectness.

1. Put--continued idea of clothing--this being the girdle to bring it all together. Keeps garments in place.

2. Girdles--here and:

Eph. 6:14
Eph. 4:3

3. Above--in addition--on top of it all.
4. The cincture that keeps it all together is Love.
5. Love
a) It unites and consolidates.

Rom. 5:5

b) Agape--leads us to seek the other people's highest good.

c) This is our lifestyle.

Bethany church, Franklin, KY - 8/7/94
Hixson, TN (BC) - 5/26/96

6. Love most often repeated command of God

Rom 6:13 Be merciful as your Father also is to you.
Rom 12:14 Bless them which persecute you.
I Pet 3:8 Finally, being angry and not yet confessing, have mercy.

Jer 9:1
Matt 9:36
Luke 19:41
2 Cor 11:28

Neely's Bend (Part I) - 3/27/05
Neely's Bend (Part II) - 4/3/05
The survey was commissioned by the National Association of Scholars. Stephan Balch, who is part of that group, said, "The results show the dominance on campuses of postmodern thought, including the belief that objective standards are a sham perpetrated by the powerful to serve their own interests."

Jesus: That I May Know Him

30th Annual Lectureship, East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions, Knoxville, TN. pg. 84
John Leo, an editor for U.S. News & World Report, wrote, "A Zogby International poll of college seniors came up with a fascinating finding. Almost all of the 401 randomly selected students around the country--97 percent--said their college studies had prepared them to behave ethically in their future work lives." I suppose all of us would rejoice in such a finding. "But 73 percent of the students said that when their professors taught about ethical issues, the usual message was that uniform standards of right and wrong don't exist ('what is right and wrong depends on differences in individual values and cultural diversity')."

Jesus: That I May Know Him
30th Annual Lectureship, East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions, Knoxville, TN.  pg. 84
Unbending Realities

Our self-indulgent culture is teetering on the brink of an important insight: We have been mistaken
to reject our common-sense belief in right and wrong.

More than a quarter century ago now, some of our opinion leaders came up with the idea that
tolerance is the single real virtue and that self-esteem is the most important element in child-
rearing and education. That misguided notion was rooted, in turn, on the earlier thesis that there
are no fixed moral standards that apply to all people everywhere and at all times.

With absolute standards abolished, all that mattered was acting with some degree of consistency
with one's culture when possible and always with a view toward personal self-realization and
happiness. Everything from sexual behavior to spelling and grammar to corporate bookkeeping
became "just your opinion." And the uniform mantra for child-rearing and education was
limitless praise.

Have we ever paid a price for traveling that path! Promiscuous sex, drug abuse, unlimited
abortion rights, suicide--why not? It's my body, and nobody can tell me what to do! Businesses
producing child pornography, music to glamorize violence against women, and television to
legitimate homosexuality--why not? There are groups that value such things, and it's just terrible
to be judgmental!

Religion has had very little credibility for stemming this tide. It discredited itself long ago with
its abuse of power, hairsplitting judgments, and neglect of the very people with whose life
circumstances Jesus was most directly involved.

So today every child athlete gets a ribbon; every male athlete gets a pass for anti-social behavior.
Fifth-graders all get smiley faces and As; every college student needs counseling for a D or red
ink on a paper. Immature children are permitted to throw tantrums as self-expression; employees
can't understand why promotions and raises aren't automatic. Could these things be connected?

Psychologists and educators who blazed the trail of boasting self-esteem and protecting children
from failure are now reversing course. The unyielding realities of an adult world that requires
showing up, doing real work, and being accountable have combined to pop the bubble of phony
praise. Self-esteem really is important, but "Whatever you do is great!" is neither true nor
helpful.

The answer isn't cumbersome rules, hypocritical religion, and nitpicking morality. It is mutual
respect among persons who see the image of God in one another and who create communities
where right and wrong can be distinguished.

Article by... The FAX of Life
Has he ever spoken a word that proved to be false? Given a promise that proved to be a lie? Decades of following God led Joshua to conclude: "Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken (Josh. 21: 45 NKJV). Look up reliability in heaven's dictionary and read its one-word definition: God. "If we are faithless he always remains faithful. He cannot deny his own nature" (2 Tim. 2:13 PHILLIPS).

-- Max Lucado
Come Thirsty
pg. 122

and I never saw, in the whole course of my life, the smallest reason for supposing that he stated anything which he did not firmly believe to be the fact. (The Duke of Wellington.) Love of truth:—One drizzly March evening, Stonewall Jackson was about to start at dusk for the residence of a friend a mile distant. "Is it imperative that you go to-night?" he was asked. "Not specially so," he replied. "Then why walk a mile in the rain if to-morrow will do as well?" "Well, I was talking with Colonel M——this morning, and told him that my conversation with Cadet D——was held in barracks on Monday. I have since recollected that it was held on the parade-ground, and that it was on Tuesday." "Does anything depend on this statement?" "Nothing whatever." "Why, in the name of reason, then, do you walk a mile in the rain for a perfectly unimportant thing?" "Simply because I have discovered it was a misstatement, and I could not sleep comfortably to-night unless I corrected it." And go he did. (H. O. Mackay.) Truth and falsehood are the sin of lying. The youngest of us knows the
"It is necessary," he argued, "that constancy of mind, persistency of purpose and the grand simplicity of decision shall rule and guide the conduct of the English-speaking peoples in peace as they did in war." Constancy of mind and persistency of purpose—those are familiar Churchillian virtues: they led him out of the wilderness and England out of darkness.

—Edward Rothstein
Contemplating Churchill

Smithsonian - March 2005  pg. 102
*Raising teenagers is like trying to nail Jello to a tree.
*There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example, I am sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.
*Reason to smile: Every seven minutes of every day, someone in an aerobics class pulls a hamstring.
*The best way to keep kids at home is to make the home a pleasant atmosphere and let the air out of their tires.
*Families are like fudge, mostly sweet with a few nuts.
*Middle age is when you choose cereal for the fiber, not for the toy.
*The more you complain, the longer God lets you live.
*If you can remain calm, you don't have all the facts.
*Eat a live toad first thing in the morning and nothing worse can happen to you the rest of the day.
*You know you're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoe and wonder what else you can do whiles you are down there.
THE GARMENT THAT TOPS THEM ALL
Col. 3:12-14

I. The Scriptures take delight in telling us what to wear.

A. We have many undergarments.
Col. 3:12 “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy garments.
B. After adorning ourselves with these, we have an overall one to put on.
Col. 3:14 “And above all these things put on charity, C. We want to see what else we need to be properly dressed.

II. 1st - Forbearing One Another.

A. What does this imply.
1. Forbear shows self control when two are inclined to injury.
2. It is to put up with things you dislike.
3. It is an attitude toward those from whom regard or obedience is due.

B. Apply this.
2. Work.
3. Church.

III. 2ndly, it's Forgiving one another.

A. Define this.
1. I take out of my heart all resentment.
2. I do it freely, readily, gladly - not grudgingly.
3. Literally means "Forgive yourself" - that's how closely we are joined.
4. We forgive a Chr. brother as tho a man was forgiving himself.
B. That Quarrel Business.
   1. Complaint.
   2. Charge.
   3. Then I'm able to do something wrong to you.
   4. Montaigne Clip.
   5. Dick Gregory Card.
C. Christ our example.
   1. Christ forgave.
   2. God forgives.
   3. Christ is God – thus shows His divinity.
   4. But we ask & meet His conditions, do we not?

IV. Now the Overcoat.

V. 14 "And above all these things put on charity, wh
   A. What is it? Love.
      1. It's agape again.
      2. Dozen Hugs Clip.
   B. How wear it?
      1. Love is the belt to bind the garment – it is over
         all.
      2. We do not fly apart – love holds us together.
      3. Love is bond or band that encircles it all.
      4. Love is the garment that goes around all others.
      5. It holds everything in place.
      6. It's the tie that secures wholeness, harmony.
      7. Has the power to put all the graces together.
      8. 7 graces bound by perfect bond – perfect number
         secured by one more.
9. It's above knowledge, stainless purity, fiery zeal.

10. Why is it supreme?
   a.) It's the essential nature of God.
   b.) It's the source of all grace.
   c.) It's better than anything else.  (P.C.)

[Signature] 12-7-86
To relieve some of the tension we laughed at ourselves, using some of the material made famous by Dick Gregory's night club act:

"Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I understand there are a good many Southerners in the room tonight. I know the South very well. I spent 20 years there one night . . .

"Last time I was down South I walked into a restaurant, and this white waitress came up to me and said: 'We don't serve colored people here.'

"I said: 'That's all right, I don't eat colored people. Bring me a whole fried chicken.

"About that time these three cousins come in, you know the ones I mean, Klu, Kluck, and Klan, and they say: 'Boy, we're givin' you fair warnin'. Anything you do to that chicken, we're gonna do to you.' About then the waitress brought me my chicken. 'Remember, boy, anything you do to that chicken, we're gonna do
to you.' So I put down my knife and fork, and I picked up that chicken, and kissed it."

"People Lovers"—By William S. Taegel—Page 55

HUGS

A dozen hugs a day, administered by a loved one, is what social scientist Virginia Satir prescribes for the blues. At the American Orthopsychiatric Association in Toronto, Satir told the delegates, "Our pores are places for messages of love," and that physical contact is very important. She added specifically that "four hugs a day are necessary for survival, eight for maintenance, and twelve for growth."—Health, 8-80.
WHAT SHOULD I WEAR TO THE BANQUET?
Col. 3:12-14

I. Great to get to go somewhere—even if wanted to stay home.
   A. Husband worked all Sat. — missed TV — "Sitting?"
      Yes but not leaning back.
   B. Position on Ft. Ball team — Drawback.
   C. Mark Twain's scripture on Polygamy — No man can serve 2 masters.
   D. Truck ran into house — how to go to Council Bluff.
      Left at curio cabinet straight to Piano.
   E. Not an able man in Ireland
      "Don't let soldiers in garden"
      "Plant the Potatoes"

II. What Shall I Wear to the Banquet?
   A. Put On Compliments on New Dress — No Code
      1. Cloth garments that benefit new self.
         a.) Costly — our 7-11 now a 14-22.
         b.) Strip of bottom land c mud on tree. Flood?
            No hogs rubbed. See farm? No hogs.
      2. Action undertaken c sense of urgency.
         a.) So cold—adv. for roommate c high fever.
         b.) Jury's verdict — decided not to become involved.
   B. 1st who are you? Is it a boy? "Are we
      1. Elect — their choice via faith & obedience.
         a.) Fell 10 stories — what happened — Just got here.
         b.) Expectant dad — wife here? No, just came to get cigars.
         c.) Fairy Tales Once upon a X no
      2. Holy — Set aside to God. "If I were elected
         Would I get here — Stole — no natural births in 3 generations"
   a.) Borge, time by piano Sousa March - wall bangs "It's 1:30 in the morning."
   b.) Dr. I have suicidal tendencies - pay in adv.
   c.) Big dog knock down child - bit, no tasted me.
   d.) Loud speaker given church in memory of his wife.
   e.) Rt. Knee - left ankle - can't even limp.

III. Put on:
   A. Mercy - heart of compassion - Empathy - costly involvement of others.
      1. Man c hand on hip - reach billfold in left c right - Arthritis? Lost watermelon.
      2. Geese - stop honking - if you must pass, pass.
   B. Kindness - sensitive to feelings of others - from Kin - Kinned Man.
      1. Indians call America? Ours.
      2. Graffiti bad - try our chili.
   C. Humbleness - our estimate of ourselves.
      1. Veterinary to Congress. Animal Dr.? Yes, you ill?
      2. Liquid dissolve everything - what keep it in?

D. Meekness - accept w/o murmuring what's sent.
   1. Yo Yo ship - sang 164X.
   2. Robt. Benchley seasick - won't die "Thinking I was was the only thing that kept me alive."
E. Longsuffering – bears insults w/o hasty retaliation. no rage.
1. New cure for baldness – persimmon juice & allum won’t grow hair – shrink head to what you have.
2. Cure for baldness – alum & resin
2. Taking St. Bernard for walk

F. Forbearing toward those who owe you regards & obedience – Brethren – "yourself."
1. Hear what happened – kept in it
2. Physical Ed. – go out side with not enough

G. Forgiving – freely, readily, gladly.
1. Pardon - boy zeans silly, cat eteil family
2. Laundry Smile – Dorsett, "just her 3 yrs"

1. Won’t let me go home Mom
2. Red duck vs Green Umbrella

Harding Homecoming Black and Gold Banquet 11-7-80
THREE HARD REQUIREMENTS
Col. 3:15

I. Do you marvel that same things look tough when to you they are easy.
A. Make a bed.
B. Plow a straight row.
C. Arrange flowers.

II. I really wonder if Jesus felt this verse was going to be hard—it so naturally fits into His order of affairs.
A. The world doubts it.
B. The denominations & the church won't practice.
C. The ave. Christian forgets: to Col. 3:15 "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts.

III. I have an umpire—because you see after clothing comes conduct.
A. Peace of God.

1. The deciding factor in my life must be peace—not strife or division.
2. We desire not to hurt anyone but to help all.
3. You are determined to see how much good you can do.
4. When it comes to a final decision & you put the pencil to it—does it make for peace.
5. Remember Jesus at peace when submitting to Father's will (Purvis Card #0).
6. We have no pursuing vengeance, no depressing fear, we are strong amid trouble.
7. It's a gracious design—we are "called to it."
   a.) In the world tribulation.
b.) In me peace.
8. Ind. Star Editorial #1.

B. It's to Rule.
1. Here's a word used only this time in NT.
2. It means act as an umpire (Holmes Clip #3).
   a.) Umpire makes decisions on matters of dispute.
   b.) Also on priorities.
   c.) Decisions are forthcoming.
   d.) He arbitrates.
3. Peace then determines what course to follow – not by passion but by peace.
4. Peace the supreme umpire in all difficulties.

IV. We are to have it in One Body.
A. Last Time Body is named.
   1. Affectionate way to describe church.
   2. It demands we see unity not awkwardness.
   3. No peace in an arm – only in whole body.
B. One.
   1. How could you splinter & have several if peace the rule.

V. Be Ye Thankful.
A. Literally become Thankful.
   1. It takes cultivation.
   2. It takes effort. Graham Clip 3 1/2.
   3. It takes selflessness.
   4. It's a healthy occupation of the mind.
   5. It's hard to have seemingly.
      a.) Shakespeare #4 & 4 1/2.
      b.) Crusoe #5.
B. Paul insistent that thanksgiving be our attitude.
1. What are you thankful for? (Wilde # 5 1/2).
2. Have you expressed it?
   a.) Johnny's glasses #6.
   b.) Trading stamp #7.
   d.) Barnett #9.

   Halie End 12-14-80.
Some years ago a strange case was heard in the Court of Special Sessions, Brooklyn, New York. Mr. Harry P. Purvis, a local businessman, was charged with violating a community law by placing a sign on top his building advocating peace through world federation.

The advertisement was objectionable. Citizens brought charges against Mr. Purvis. They rested their case on an ordinance which declared that no firm should advertise anything on its property that was not available on the premises.

One of the chief witnesses for the defense was distinguished editor of the Saturday Review, Norman Cousins. Nowhere, he pointed out, did the ordinance specify that what was advertised had to be material. He asserted it was so rare few would recognize it. The product, he said,
was hope!

Like inhabitants of Thyatira, Christians need to hold on to their faith in Jesus. "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Heb.11:1, RSV).

Candles in the City
by G. Curtis Jones
Page 53
Thoughout our history we
as a nation have uncertainties
and imponderables. It was
these, no doubt, that moved
some unknown individual in
1692 to write a message for
his time and posterity, a mes-
age simply entitled “Deside-
rata” which was found in Old
St Paul’s Church in Balti-
more, Md. The counsel is
valid today:

“Go placidly amid the noise
and haste and remember
what peace there may be in
silence. As far as possible
without surrender be on good
terms with all persons. Speak
your truth quietly and clear-
ly, and listen to others, even
the dull and ignorant; they
too have their story.

“Avoid loud and aggressive
persons, they are vexations to
the spirit. If you compare
yourself with others, you may
become vain and bitter; for
always there will be greater
and lesser persons than your-
self. Enjoy your achievements
as well as your plans.

“Keep interested in your
own career, however humble;
it is a real possession in the
changing fortunes of time. Ex-
ercise caution in your busi-
ness affairs; for the world is
full of trickery. But let this
not blind you to whatever
virtue there is, many persons
strive for high ideals, and
everywhere life is full of hero-
ism.

“Be yourself. Especially, do
not feign affection. Neither
be cynical about love; for in
the face of all aridity and dis-
enchantment it is as perennial
as the grass.

“Take kindly the counsel
of the years, gracefully sur-
rendering the things of your
youth...

“With all the sham, drud-
gery and broken dreams, it is
still a beautiful world. Be
careful. Strive to be happy.”
— Editorial Indianapolis Star,
1-71.
When Oliver Wendell Holmes was leaving a hotel he was asked to write something as a souvenir in the hotel register. "With pleasure," replied Mr. Holmes as he wrote: "I was told to come to this hotel for change and rest. The waiter got the change and the landlord got the rest."

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GRATITUDE

Gratitude is one of the greatest Christian graces; ingratitude is one of the most vicious sins. Thankfulness is a mark of culture and refinement. Our English word "thank" comes from the same Anglo-Saxon word from which is derived our word "think." If we would stop to think, we would pause to be thankful.—BILLY GRAHAM, Decision, 11-76.

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I hate ingratitude more in man than lying, vanity, babbling, drunkenness, or any taint of vice, whose strong corruption inhabits our frail blood. —SHAKESPEARE.

Let never day or night unhallowed pass. But still remember what the Lord hath done. —WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

Ir 18, 1979 ————  Page 447
Daniel Defoe had Robinson Crusoe to say, "All our discontents spring from the want of thankfulness for what we have." Coming downstairs one morning an English peer heard the cook grumble, "Oh, if only I had five pounds, wouldn't I be content!" Anxious to see the cook satisfied, the nobleman shortly after handed her a five-pound note. She thanked him profusely.

Leaving the room he paused outside the door to hear if she would express gratitude aloud or thank God. Soon as the door was shut, she exclaimed, "Why didn't I say ten?"

Thanksgiving Messages, by Leslie B. Flynn, p. 98.

Oscar Wilde sold one of his manuscripts to a publisher for a price that figured out to a shilling a word. A British Lord wrote to Wilde saying that he didn't realize wit had become so expensive and all he could afford was one word for which he enclosed a shilling. Wilde kept the shilling and sent back a large piece of paper with one word, "Thanks."
One teacher assigned a composition on "Things I'm Thankful For." Johnny's list included this: "My glasses. They keep the other boys from fighting me, and the girls from kissing me."
Mathew Henry said after he was held up and robbed on a stage coach "Let me be thankful: first because I have never robbed before, (2) because although they took my purse they didn’t take my life, (3) because they took my all it was not much, (4) because it was I who was robbed not I who robbed."
On a stormy night in 1860, a side-wheeler steamboat was rammed by a lumber schooner in Lake Michigan. The steamboat sank a mile off-shore from the village of Winnetka, Illinois. Two hundred seventy-nine of the 393 passengers drowned.

One of the heroes of the tragedy was a strong young student of Northwestern University. This young man, Edward Spencer, plunged into the lake and swam out to the drowning people. He towed one of those persons to shore and immediately went after another. In all, he brought 17 persons to safety. The strain on this young man brought on delirium which rendered him an invalid confined to a wheel chair for life. On his 80th birthday someone asked him to relate his most vivid memory of that dreadful day. He replied, “Not one of the 17 returned to thank me.”

It’s an old story. One day Jesus restored health to 10 lepers . . . and only one of them returned to say “thank you.”

“Gratitude is a debt that is hard to collect,” someone has said. A man who had given away millions of dollars once said, “Don’t look for gratitude except in the dictionary.”

Gratitude surely is one of our most neglected virtues. We should cultivate the habit of:

. . . writing letters of appreciation,
. . . saying “thank you” for extended favors,
. . . being gracious and kind.

We are morally bankrupt if we have forgotten how to say “thank you.”

—Joe R. Barnett
CHRIST’S CHURCH SINGS!
Col. 3:16

1. I've really got something you can hang onto:
   A. One great thought - word of Christ.
   B. 3 moving modifiers.
      1. Dwell.
      2. Richly.
      3. All wisdom.
   C. Followed by melodic communication: "teaching, etc."

II. The Word & its Modifiers.
   A. When I say "Word", what do you see?
      1. Big Bible.
      2. Applied word - alive in you.
      3. Jesus.
      4. Look at some things the Psalmist says about the Word.

Ps. 119:9 "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his soul?
   11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.
   23 "Thy servant did meditate in thy statutes.
   71 "It is good for me that I have been afflicted;
   72 "The law of thy mouth is better unto me than silver.
   105 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
   113 "I hate vain thoughts but thy law do I love."
   130 "The entrance of thy words giveth light and understanding."

5. What's said of Word is said of Holy Spirit.

Eph. 5:18-19 "Be not drunk with wine wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.

B. The Modifiers.
   1. Dwell.
      a.) At home.
b.) Permanent.
c.) Lord & His truth at home in our hearts.
d.) Lit. to live at home. Christian yields himself so completely to word there is an at homeness in his being.
e.) It's like 1st finger down on trumpet for F.
f.) Word has unrestricted liberty of his life - no "off rooms."
g.) Lord is Master who rules our lives.
h.) Word a permanent part of our thought pattern.

2. Richly.
a.) Abundantly.
b.) W/o Limitation.
c.) Word has ample room to remain as rich treasure.

3. All wisdom.
a.) Know word.
b.) Handle c fineness.

III. Melodic Communication.

V. 16 "teaching & admonishing one another in psalms
A. "The Early Church Sang" Barclay.
   1. A battle long ago fought & readily recognized.
   2. If early church did, why don't we?
   3. Moule said, "Can't draw absolute limits on church music." I can as to type: Acapella or instrumental.

B. It had a blessed purpose: teach & admonish.
   1. Congregational or small group singing (I believe the only type we can use is accapella, not instrumental, but it can be done by groups as we speak) is a method of teaching.
2. It is not mere musical pleasure but since we speak it is a vehicle of instruction & warning.
3. We warn – and it’s all in truth.
   a.) Hark the Herald Angels Sing
       (eat like a bird)
   b.) Years I spent in Vanity & Pride.
   c.) Low to earth all prostrate bend.
4. Curtis Manor points out:
   a.) Song is an aid to memory.
   b.) Aid to fellowship.
Heb. 2:12 "In the midst of the congre.
   (1) Requires assembly.
   (2) Requires consideration of others.
   (3) Requires cooperation.
   c.) Means of motivation.
   d.) Adds interest & personal pleasure to participatio
5. Grace in heart to the Lord.
6. 3 types of songs.
   a.) Psalms.
       (1) Of David.
       (2) Scripture.
   b.) Hymns.
       (1) Praise.
       (2) Poem sung to God.
       (3) Augustine said it must be praise, addressed to God, sung.
       (4) Composed by Christian on Chr. themes – Wuest (?)
   (c) Spiritual songs.
(1) "Not inspired but by spiritual men in the sphere of spiritual realities." Erdman.

(2) Too many are subjectives sentimental, personal lack reality.

7. Let songs express adoration & worship in a way worthy of the Savior.

8. Use the variety the Scriptures authorize.

9. No explicit instruction on order of divine worship but singing should be a great part of it.

West End 12-21-80
Even if one does not accept the basic components found in any of the other religions, it is possible to adopt the view of the former Dean of the Yale Divinity School, Colin Williams, who was quoted in "Christianity Today" years ago as saying; "I'm not afraid of a plurality of truth. This doesn't mean that I don't make distinctions, but only that I hold it open that what is true for the Buddhist in his situation may be as valid for him as mine is for me."

"Turning Point" - Compiled by Roger Elwood - Page 92

("What Price Evangelism?" -By Dr. Harold Lindsell

It is not enough to give lip service to the authority of Scripture. The most urgent need of believers is to know, understand, apply, and obey the Word of God. But when we are faced with a constant stream of subjective experiences and personal impressions from even the most well-meaning Christian, we will inevitably produce immaturity and superficiality. When quality time is given over to the telling and hearing of exciting stories, it is no wonder that our churches grow fat but they do not grow strong. No one involved in working with Christians can fail to be heartbroken at the massive ignorance of the Word of God modern evangelicalism displays. Emotionalism wears very thin under the grinding pressures of life, and Christians who lack a solid foundation in the Word of God all too soon become brittle and broken. How we need to hear Paul's word, "Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction"
(2 Timothy 4:2). The old axiom, "The good is often the enemy of the best," surely applies here. Testimonies, experiences, sharing—all these are well and good at times. But when they become a staple in our spiritual diet, we are gorging ourselves on spiritual junk food.

"Turning Point" - Compiled by Roger Elwood - Page 129

("Christian Celebrities: Media Hype in the Church" - By John MacArthur and Gary Inrig

Does authority lie in the powerful, persuasive, confident leader who majors on the spectacular and the impressive? Or does it lie in the written Word of God which is "inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16, 17). Surely to ask that question is to answer it. It is not the words of men but the Word of God that is "the sword of the Spirit" (Ephesians 6:17), "living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). It is Scripture that is more to be desired than much fine gold (Psalm 119:10), that "will make your way prosperous" (Joshua 1:8), keep us from sin (Psalm 119:11), and enable us to be "approved to God as a workman" (2 Timothy 2:15). So important is the Word of God
that the Lord Jesus says, "If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine" (John 8:31).

"Turning Point" - Compiled by Roger Elwood - Page 129

("Christian Celebrities: Media Hype in the Church" - By John MacArthur and Gary Inrig)
WHEN WE SING
Col. 3:16

I. 10 N.T. passages - all sing.
   A. Generic - do anything.
   B. Specific - do acapella.
      1. Word "as in the chapel".
      2. Greek Orthodox, Free Methodist, others avoid instrument.
      3. Introduced 600 years later.
      4. Question is not "Why don't you use instrument" but "Why do you use it?"
   C. Breakdown in one area invites a weakness in another.

II. But we must not be content to be noise makers.
Ps. 95:1 "Come, let us sing unto Jehovah, let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation.

   A. Let's sing scriptural songs.
      1. "Low to earth all prostrate bend..."
      2. "Years I spent in vanity..."
      3. "Angels singing"—"Hark the herald"
   B. Sing intelligently.
      1. "Holy lays".
      2. "Panoply of God".
      3. Ebenezer raised.
      4. Read it through if time—if not just listen. We are not using "unknown" tongue.
      5. "O Happy Day"—washed, wilt pardon, cleanse.
6. Phrasing is sometime impossible—vary breath then.

C. Sing for a purpose.
   1. Praise God.
   Acts 16:25 "But about midnite, Paul and Silas...."
   2. Prayer songs to Jesus.
   3. Teach and admonish.
      "It won't be very long..."
      "Take Time To Be Holy"
      "'Ere You Left Your Room..."
      "Not a mite would I withhold..."
      "Faith of Our Fathers"
   4. Great time to teach children.
   5. Teach outsider.

D. Expect a benefit.
   1. G.C. Brewer: "Sing a better gospel than we preach".
   2. Youth: "Camp songs"
      Chants
      Rounds
   3. Welcome variation of types.
   4. Emotional charge.
   5. Determine to improve.
   6. Remember:
      Psalms
      Hymns
      Spiritual songs.
   7. Worship (Kiss the hand toward) God.

Philippi 5/3/92 (Sunday Bible Class)
I. It's a term physicians use, relative to treatment.
   A. It will not be invasive.
   B. It thus will be outside or over the body--not internal.
   C. But the gospel is invasive--as taught in this verse.

Col. 3:17 "Let the word of Christ dwell..."

II. The Invasive Gospel
   A. Let the word of Christ.
      1. Gospel
      2. Only time "word of Christ" used for the gospel.
      3. It's of Christ--holy relationship like unto nothing else we receive eternally.
      4. Speak often of Him.
      5. Salvation (Pittman) of Bible and He's the cause of it.

   B. Dwell
      1. Think often of the doctrine, dwell on truths.
      2. True devotion.
      3. Does the word have warm reception to you?
      4. Is the word the controlling feature of your life--you thus have to know it.
5. Let word be a constant inhabitant of the mind—not just public assembly.

6. Is it the power that molds and motivates our life?

7. Dwell implies a fixed abode—not a come and go visitor.

8. Not a transient visitor.

C. Dwell Richly
   1. Abundance—know it—memorize it.
   2. Be filled (Eph. 5:18).

Rom. 15:14

3. Scantily or richly?

D. Dwell with all wisdom.
   1. Wisdom in applying.
   2. Dan said Jesus had to be baptized to keep from sinning.
   3. He also said when he made water into wine it was unfermented—fermentation took four days????
   4. Songs must show wisdom.

E. Teach and admonish.
   1. Do this for yourself and for others (it's a pronoun of third person but also used for first person—Acts 23:14).
   2. Use wisdom in teaching.
   3. Our songs must reflect this.
   4. Singing is a means of doing this.
G.C. Brewer—we sing a better gospel than we preach.
5. Can't sing what we do not understand.
6. Adminish—her is a work of women in song as we speak to entire church via songs.

F. Psalms, hymns, spiritual songs.
1. Tertillian Apology 39 says after love feast, water had been furnished for hands, lights lit, each qualified one asked to sing praises to God.
2. Psalms set to music.

G. Sing
1. Vocal vs. instrumental.
2. No morality or spirituality with the instrument.
3. Two types of music—a book is not music.
4. So full can't help but sing—enjoy it.
5. Great way to communicate emotion.
6. Singing always a good test of spiritual state.
7. Songs can convert and win.
8. Sang alternately—no four parts.
9. Instrument can't convey thought or sound out the word—can neither show sincerity or insincerity.

10. Gives ground for mutual edification.

11. Sentiment constricts the worship—what is the end purpose?


H. Grace

1. Devotional, reverence.

2. Pleasure conveyed to hearers.

3. Joyful results.

I. Hearts

1. Deeper than the voice—the heard.

2. This is the instrument God authorizes.

Ps. 57:7

J. Lord

1. To God we convey our love.

2. He is our audience.

3. If in your heart, find conveyance in your lips.

4. Honor God, the Father.

5. Our first and abiding audience.

Neely's Bend & Heritage C/C - 5/29/05
Singing to God

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord (Colossians 3:16).

A visitor said to me following the Sunday morning worship, "I noticed your singing was without instrumental accompaniment. This is quite different from what I am accustomed to, but I must admit I was impressed with the simplicity and genuineness of it. I felt like we were actually singing to God—not just the audience."

Obviously, there were abundant musical instruments for worship in the Old Testament. Yet the worship in the church of the New Testament is vocal, without accompaniment of mechanical instruments of music. Christianity is a singing religion. When we contemplate all that God has done for us we have joys about which we must sing. God has extended his grace to us through Jesus Christ. We are redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus. Our hearts are filled with the hope of heaven. How can we keep from singing?

Worship in the Old Testament gave emphasis to priests and their assistants who represented the people in worship to God. In Christ's church all Christians are priests, with Jesus as the high priest. Notice the expressions in the New Testament: "I will sing...Singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord...In the midst of the church will I sing unto thee" (1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19; Hebrews 2:12).

It is only in recent centuries that mechanical instruments of music have been used in worship. John Wesley vigorously opposed the use of an organ or piano in worship.

Prayer for Today: Be with me, O Lord, as I sing praises to you. Although my talent for singing is limited I know I can make melody in my heart as I praise your holy name. Thank you for your countless blessings. In the name of Jesus. Amen.- Virgil Bentley, Glory Days I
I. There is in my life a Master that demands me serve Him.
   A. His name is Jesus.
   B. For years I've worn His name.
   C. I think I know what that means.

Col. 3:17  "And whatsoever ye do in...

II. His reign gives me the liberty to do tremendous good things.
   A. He must be the most prominent call on my services.
      1. That's why we are here--He asks us to worship God.
      2. That's why we will share in five avenues of worship.
         a) Sing
            1) Praises
            2) Teaching
            3) Pray
         b) Give
            1) Know what my check is.
            2) Schools second to church.
         c) Preach and teach.
            1) Preach Jesus, not Mary.
            2) Truth
            3) Understanding
         d) Pray
         e) Lord's Supper
3. Regulates my home.
4. Supervises my business.
5. Directs my recreation.
6. Tells me how to drive.

B. Can you think of anything I am to avoid that's not best for me?
1. Never fornicate.
2. Never rob.
3. Never lie to name a few.

C. He is the screening process—all life is fettered through Him.
1. Didn't steal the towels.
2. Didn't violate the rules of the motel.

D. Wear His name.

Acts 11:26  "And the disciples were called Christians..."

26:28  "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost persuadest me to be a Christian."

1 Pet. 4:16  "Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf."

1. Not given in contempt.
2. Name means authority--check or credit card.
3. Do nothing that dishonors Jesus.
4. Honor the family name.
5. I represent him as I act in His name.
6. He gives the courage to try and provides strength.

III. This to be done with thanks.
   A. Some I could not.
      1. Tractor vs. team.
      2. Buggy vs. car.
      3. Stomach growl
      4. Celibacy.
      5. Worship Saturday.
      6. Wake up tired.
   B. Every command of Jesus I'm grateful for.

Neely's Bend C/C - 5-15-05
GUIDELINE FOR LIFE'S ACTIONS

I. Our worship & our works are inseparably tied.
   A. 3:16 - sing.
   B. 3:17 starts c "And."
      1. Perhaps we are better known for how we act than how we worship.
      2. When I do not want to follow Bible, I can say you turn me off & use you as excuse for not obeying.
      3. Let's then see that we properly walk.

II. "And whatsoever we do"--
   A. Life of action.
      1. Do:
         a.) Can we do all we do c the blessings of Jesus.
         b.) Every action of my life - can I ask His help in it.
         c.) If I can't, it must be questionable.
      2. How extensive.
         a.) Word.
            1.) All we say.
            2.) All we write.
         b.) Deed.
            1.) Typical congregation coming & going as we please is not Biblical.
            2.) Rather we are accountable to God & to each other.
B. Do it in Name of the Lord Jesus.
   1. What does this mean?
      a.) Our names is that which one is known to be.
      b.) All we undertake is dependent on the Lord.
      c.) Or to act as His representative.
      d.) Also it is to do it for Him & as He directs.
         (1) Jesus had no will on earth but that of His Father.
         (2) We need to associate Christ c everything we do.
         (3) Robertson, "We are to gain Christ's approval in all things."
         (4) Challenge then to see His will & way.
         (5) Simeon, "Jesus name the litmus of our authority all we ask for must be in keeping c His life.
         (6) Thus, all by His command & in compliance c His authority.

C. And give thanks.
   1. We respect the authority of Christ in everything.
   2. Continual gratitude a duty & privilege.
   3. To sing c grace does not mean artistically, rather moved to sing in grateful response for God's loving kindness.
   4. Christian relationships are never direct, but always thru Christ.

21st End 12-28-80
The jury finally returned to the courtroom after deliberating three days.

"Have you reached a verdict?" the judge asked.

"Yes, we have, your Honor," the foreman said.

"Please tell us your decision," the judge said.

The foreman cleared his throat and declared, "We, the jury, have decided not to become involved."
One of my teenage memories comes from a conversation with my mother. I was angry, perhaps for the umpteenth time. I can still see the weary look on Mama's face as I said, "I just think I'll give him a piece of my mind." Softly, Mama replied, "If you keep that up long enough, you may just discover you won't have much left."

Walter Lippmann's comment during the summer of the Ervin committee hearings seemed all the more true: "Watergate shows how very vulnerable our constitutional system is. If the national government falls into the hands of sufficiently unprincipled and unscrupulous men, they can do terrible things before anyone can stop them." Yet most of the convicted men protested their innocence. H. R. (Bob) Haldeman spoke for more than himself when he said, "There's only one human being in the whole world who knows if I'm innocent or guilty. That person is me, and I know that legally and morally I'm totally and absolutely innocent." Perhaps he was. If there is no higher authority than ordinary human behavior, how can we judge him?
GOD EXPECTS THIS OF EVERY WIFE
Col. 3:18

I. He who has a good one knows he has earth's finest selection - a wife.
A. Praises for her abound.
1. "A house without woman & firelight, is like a body w/o soul & spirit.
2. "A little house well fill'd, a little field well till'd, and a little wife well will'd, are great riches."
(Both of above from Ben Franklin's "Poor Richard's Almanack)
B. Also criticism.
1. Oren Arnold "Junior Saints" Pg. 79 said little Marion in Sunday School ans. why Solomon was wisest man in the world "he had so many wives to advise him."
2. Lion's magazine: "There was the man who wanted to drown all his troubles, but he couldn't get his wife into the pool."

II. God has spoken to the matter:
Gen. 2:24 "Therefore shall a man leave his father and
Exo. 20:17 "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house
Lev. 21:7 "They shall not take a wife that is a whore
Ps. 128:3 "Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the
Prov. 18:22 "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing
Prov. 19:14 "House and riches are the inheritance of
Ecc. 9:9 "Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest
Matt. 19:9 "And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put
1 Cor. 7:2 "Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let e
Eph. 5:23 "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body."
Eph. 5:28 "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself."
Eph. 5:33 "Nevertheless let every one of you in particular also so love his wife even as himself; and let the wife see that she boweth submissively to her husband, that it be as Christ and the church."
1 Tim. 3:2 "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, the overseer of his own house, teaching with gravity, devoutly, soberly."
1 Tim. 3:12 "Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their houses well."
1 Pet. 3:1 "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not, they also may learn by fear."
III. We go back to our Col. text.
Col. 3:18 "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord."

A. Submission.
1. Emphasis on duty, not rights.
2. Duties are reciprocal — all not on one side.
3. Submit on one side, yet the prerogative of commanding is not enforced on the other.
4. Barclay: the Christian ethic is an ethic of reciprocal obligation.
5. "The husband's primacy is not for dominion, but for guidance with sweetness, wisdom, & peace."
   Quesnel
6. "Wife may influence but not control her husband". Lipscomb.

B. This has become a flash point in some of today's attitudes.
1. Gloria Steinem, "Today a woman w/o a man is like a fish w/o a bicycle."
2. We seek to unisex the age.
   a.) Dobson's "Woman's movement card."
   b.) We differ literally — card.
3. Man "My wife and I have an understanding — I make all the important decisions & she decides
whether we'll act on them."

4. Dobson Conclusion Page.

IV. How Can we make the Marriage last? (Late for wedding).

A. We have the highest motivation ever offered -- "in the Lord."

1. Weed "Many religions had lists of expectations of followers. Comparison shows similarity but Christianity alone has the motive stressed."

2. Fit = to reach to, pertain to, due one, duty.

3. All we do is "in the Lord."

B. Here are some practical things:

1. Husbands - be the epitome of dependability.
   a.) 1st wife clip.
   b.) I'm Mrs. Pie.

2. Share.
   a.) Activities - Krutza card.
   b.) Mutual interests - Krutza card.
   c.) Encouragements.
      (1) 6 o'clock card.
      (2) Mrs. Job card.
      (3) Crim card on tongue.
   d.) Work.
      (1) "Housework is something you do that nobody notices unless you don't do it."
      Free Press - Colo. Springs.
      (2) Letter & Button.
      (3) Thimble story.
      (4) Sheen & eggs.
   e.) Love.
e.) Marriage enrichment card.
West End, 1-25-81
The women's movement has, in fact, been remarkably successful in altering the way females "see" themselves at home and in society. In the process, every element of the traditional concept of femininity has been discredited and scorned, especially those responsibilities associated with homemaking and motherhood. Thus, in a period of a single decade, the term housewife has become a pathetic symbol of exploitation, oppression, and—pardon the insult—stupidity.

"Straight Talk to Men and Their Wives" - By Dr. James C. Dobson pp. 151-152

We differ in literally every cell of our bodies, for each sex carries a unique chromosomal pattern. Much is written today about so-called sex-change operations, whereby males are transformed into females or vice versa. Admittedly, it is possible to alter the external genitalia by surgery, and silicone can be used to pad the breasts or round out a bony frame. Hormones can then be injected to feminize or masculinize the convert. But nothing can be done to change the assignment of sex made by God at the instant of conception. That determination is carried in each cell, and it will read "male" or "female" from the earliest moment of life to the point of death. The Bible says emphatically, "Male and female created he them" (Gen. 1:27, KJV, emphasis added). Not one sex, but two!

"Straight Talk to Men and Their Wives" - By Dr. James C. Dobson Page 162
Conclusion

As a summary to these chapters dealing with male and female identities, let me offer two opinions with regard to masculine leadership. They are as follows:

1. Because of the fragile nature of the male ego and a man's enormous need to be respected, combined with female vulnerability and a woman's need to be loved, I feel it is a mistake to tamper with the time-honored relationship of husband as loving protector and wife as recipient of that protection.

2. Because two captains sink the ship and two cooks spoil the broth, I feel that a family must have a leader whose decisions prevail in times of differing opinions. If I understand the Scriptures, that role has been assigned to the man of the house. However, he must not incite his crew to mutiny by heavy-handed disregard for their feelings and needs. He should, in fact, put the best interests of his family above his own, even to the point of death, if necessary. Nowhere in Scripture is he authorized to become a dictator or slave-owner.

Other combinations of husband-wife teamwork have been successful in individual families, but I've seen many complications occurring in marriages where the man was passive, weak, and lacking in qualities of leadership. None of the modern alternatives have improved on the traditional, masculine role as prescribed in the Good Book. It was, after all, inspired by the Creator of mankind.

If this be macho, sexist, chauvinist, and stereotypical, then I'm guilty as charged. (Please address all hate mail to my secretary, who has a special file prepared for it.)
Wife — angrily — during argument: "You've never done anything right in your life! Why, you were even late for our wedding."

Husband: "Yeah, but not late enough."

**THE STORY TELLS**

**Precaution**

(Prize Winner)

"Why do you call your wife, 'My first wife'? I didn't know you had a second wife."

"I haven't. I just call her that to keep her on her toes."

Broken Bow, Neb. Fred

The wife of a handsome young business executive met her husband one afternoon. As they were going down on the elevator it stopped and a high octane secretary got on. Poking the businessman in the ribs, she winked and said, "Hello, cutie pie." Unperturbed, the young man's wife leaned toward the secretary and smiled sweetly. "I'm Mrs Pie," she said. — Elberton Star.
Discuss various areas in which you have interest or which excite your interests. Settle on a few well chosen pursuits, ones which you and your mate agree could be fascinating, emotionally enjoyable and satisfying, mentally challenging, and even financially rewarding. Help your mate enjoy his or her participation Uplift, don't constantly correct. Suggest ways to make each activity more meaningful. Better yet, provide the ways that will result in this goal.

Enjoy activities together. No matter how diversified a couple's interests, finding mutually enjoyable activities is a must. Sports, reading, home decorating, gardening, traveling, entertaining friends, crafts, educational pursuits—every couple can discover aspects of life which can be shared. And the more shared activities the better, because each one has the power of bringing mates together and helping them express their inner selves.
At six o'clock in the evening, however, you should look attractive and smell sweet. Perhaps your husband has worked all day with some beautifully groomed young ladies who wouldn't mind in the least flirting with him. If he comes home to a dowdy, ill-kept wife he might begin to take notice of some of the girls in the office. Meet your husband at the door with a smile and a kiss. Help him forget the pressures of the day. Perhaps his ego has been deflated, and it's your job to build him back up. Certainly you have pressures, too, but wait awhile before springing them on your husband. I'll tell you about the husband who loved his wife very much, and for no particular reason decided to bring her flowers one evening. When she saw him with the flowers she burst into tears. She sobbed out that the baby was
sick, the washer had broken down and that she burned the supper. "And now," she said, "you come home drunk!" There will be days like this but when the husband and wife truly love each other they can overcome any trial that confronts them.

The Family Tie by Faye Billingsley, pp. Xi-xii).
Have you ever wondered why Mrs. Job was not visiting the children the day they were all killed? If Satan were trying to hurt Job all he could, would that not have been the worst blow of all? Perhaps Satan pulled his meanest trick when he spared Job's wife—and then left her to discourage him!

"The Wonderful Word and Human Suffering" - By W. T. Hamilton
From Ft. Worth Christian College 12th Annual Lectures, P. 321

Crimm (1886-1950) preached extensively in East Texas and Oklahoma in the first half of the current century and became famous for the sensational and outlandish things said in the pulpit. One night, in a meeting attended by more than a thousand people, a woman came forward saying,

"Oh, Brother Crimm, I have come to lay my tongue on the altar." The woman was a noted gossip in that community.

Crimm replied:

"I'm sorry, Ma'am, our altar is only eight feet long, but go ahead and put whatever part of it you are able to get on it!"

"Commentary on Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians" by James Burton Coffman (Col. 3) Page 413
"John, I found this letter in your coat pocket this morning. Do you realize that I gave it to you a month ago to mail?"

"Yes, dear. I remember . . . I took that coat off for you to sew a button on and I'm still waiting."—LUCILLE J. GOOD- YEAR, American Legion Mag, 9-72.

Coming home from a Women's Lib meeting, the wife found her husband patiently trying to sew a button on the sleeve of his shirt. With her new air of superiority, she chided him: "You men think you're so smart. Why, you've even got the thimble on the wrong finger!"

"I know," he retorted. "It should be on yours."
The late Bishop Fulton Sheen reported entering a greasy spoon restaurant for breakfast one morning. The waitress, who seemed half asleep, asked what he wanted to eat.

"Bring me some ham and eggs and a few kind words for the day," he said.

She returned 15 minutes later and set the food before him. "There," she said.

"What about the kind words?" he asked.

The waitress looked him over for a moment and then replied, "I'd advise you not to eat them eggs!"

"Straight Talk to Men and Their Wives" - By Dr. James C. Dobson

Page 171

A woman attending a Chicago suburb marriage enrichment conference defined her love as something her husband gives to her. She seemed unable to comprehend love as something she gave to him. Her love was contingent on how he treated her, how he reacted to her words, actions, and embraces. "I love him when he treats me right," she unhesitantly said. For her, love was based on his actions and reactions. If these pleased her, she loved him, otherwise she pouted. Love originated for her in him, not in herself.

How Do I Say "I Love You" - By William J. Krutza

Pages 9-10
GOD GIVEN RESPONSIBILITIES OF A WIFE
Col. 3:18

I. We are thrilled the Lord looks at our domestic need
A. Holy Spirit presents a charming picture of a home
   1. Families are held together by authority & obedience.
   2. A blessed new presence, says Erdman, is intoduced Jesus.
      a.) All duties are performed in his sight.
      b.) Repeatedly, we will meet the phrase "in the Lord."
      c.) It applies to all parties concerned.
      d.) Wife nor anyone is ever asked to do anything contrary to way of God.

3. Thus, we study God's guide to our social duties.
   a.) Clip on Family.
   b.) Millionaire Clip.

B. Our study will take us:
   1. Wives.
   2. Husbands.
   3. Children.
   4. Servants.

II. God Given Responsibilities of a Wife.
Col. 3:18 "Wives, submit yourselves unto
A. Wife.
   1. In ancient world women only bore children & did domestic duty.
   2. Muslims still divorce if she gives no son.
   4. A relationship you voluntarily enter.
      a.) Napoleon grave meditation.
b.) Nathaniel Hawthorne story.
c.) Clip on her worth in $.

B. Submit.
1. Define term.
   a.) Same word that shows our duty to magistrates.
   b.) 1st used as a military term — "place under."
2. Application.
   a.) This is the one duty enjoined about wives — subjection.
   b.) She takes second place to her husband.
   c.) He cannot be a domestic despot.
   d.) He does have authority tho.
   e.) She subjects herself to his unselfish love.
   f.) Form of verb — middle voice — shows submission is voluntary — never forced by demanding husband.
   g.) She is not a vassal.
   1 Pet. 3:7 "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them a
   h.) Phyllis Scholafly clip.
   i.) American Institute of Family Relations: 33 out of 100 wives henpeck their husbands — makes you wonder what the other 67 call it.
   (1) Henpeck Club.
   (2) Say what I please to goldfish.
   (3) last word.

C. As it is fit in the Lord.
1. It means what is becoming & proper.
2. Means to reach to, pertain to, due one, duty.
3. All persons addressed are continually reminded they are in the Lord.
a.) Political wives.
b.) 10 commandments for wives.
FAMILY—Changes

A turbulent era of experimentation and change is underway in the American family. Marriage bonds are loosening under the strains of broad social and economic shifts in the nation at large—among them the quest of women for equality in the home and “fulfillment” in outside careers. Divorce rates, already the highest in the world, continue to rise, even among older Americans. Surveys suggest a marked increase in extramarital affairs, especially among women. A major “missing persons” firm in New York City reported that this year, for the first time, it was called on to find more runaway wives than husbands. As households change or break up, children are increasingly under the care of a single parent, a working mother, a day nursery—or the television set. And, in a growing shift from the past, more than 450,000 youngsters are living with their divorced or separated fathers.—US News & World Report, 10-27-75.
'Millionaire' Won't Trade Places

You won't find in my home any paintings by Rembrandt or Van Gogh. But on the east wall of my dining room hangs a very good likeness of a penguin done in water color by my six-year-old.

I can't afford tickets to the concerts at the music hall, but my canary puts forth a cheerful serenade daily. I don't own any jewels worth insuring, but I have a new grandson that I wouldn't exchange for the Hope diamond. Purr? I have none, but my six school children are dressed neatly and warmly for school each day.

I don't have a private checking or savings account but I have a husband who entrusts his paycheck to me every pay-day. I don't have a Cadillac, but my little 42 Chevy with broken door hinges and cracked windows runs very well.

I have no exceptional talents. I can't sing, draw, bowl or play bridge. But I can plan a birthday party for a dozen giggling girls and carry it off rather smoothly. And I bake a tremendous apple pie!

I can't call any famous people by their first name, but I call lots of people my friends and they are people I truly admire and enjoy. I wouldn't trade places with anyone in the world. The method I use of measuring wealth labels me a MILLIONAIRE.

Nebraska
HAT we may see the unexcelled value of love and friendship in contrast with forced power and ill-gotten glory we give the sentiments expressed by a man who stood at the tomb of Napoleon:

"A little while ago I stood by the grave of the old Napoleon — a magnificent tomb of gilt and gold, fit almost for a deity dead — and gazed upon the sarcophagus of rare and nameless marble, where rest at last the ashes of that restless man.

"I leaned over the balustrade and thought about the career of the greatest soldier of the modern world. I saw him at Foulon. I saw him walking upon the banks of the Seine contemplating suicide. I saw him putting down the mob in the streets of Paris. I saw him at the head of the army in Italy. I saw him crossing the bridge at Lodi with the tri-color in his hand. I saw him in Egypt, in the shadows of the pyramids; I saw him conquer the Alps and mingle the eagles of France with the eagles of the crags. I saw him at Marengo, at Ulm and at Austerlitz. I saw him in Russia when the infantry of the snow and the cavalry of the cold blast scattered his legions like winter's withered leaves. I saw him at Leipsic in defeat and disaster — driven by a million bayonets back upon Paris — clutched like a wild beast — banished
HOUSEWIVES—Worth

If the husband paid the typical American housewife a fair wage for the work she performs, she would earn more than $17,000 annually. The American Council of Life Insurance reports that the average housewife devotes about 100 hours a week at different chores. The hourly rates what she could probably command outside the home are:

Cook—13.1 hours at $3.50 per; $45.85 a week.
Nursemaid—45.1 hours at $2.70; $121.77 a week.
Dietician—1.2 hours at $4 per; $4.80 a week.
Food Buyer—3.3 hours at $2.70 per; $8.91 a week.
Dishwasher—6.2 hours at $2.80 per; $17.36 a week.
Housekeeper—17.5 hours at $4.50; $78.75 a week.
Laundress—5.9 hours at $3 per; $17.70 a week.
Seamstress—1.3 hours at $3.50 per; $4.55 a week.
Handyman—1.7 hours at $3.50 per; $5.95 a week.
Gardener—2.3 hours at $3.50 per; $8.05 a week.
Chauffeur—2 hours at $10 per; $20 a week.
Total 99.6 hours, $333.69 a week; $17,851.88 a year.

HUMAN RIGHTS
To improve their lives, the world’s 10,000,000 Gypsies are seeking better education and
To the middle-aged wife, women's lib says, "You poor wretch! You've lived for 20 years under a man's name! How could you endure such an indignity! All your labors are worthless because you haven't been paid a cash wage. You should take back your own name, establish your independent life, and seek your own identity." And so the wives walk out on husbands and children, seeking liberation from home, husband, family.

"Turning Point" - Compiled by Roger Elwood - Page 38

("Keeping the Family Strong" - By Phyllis Schlafly

Some of the harried husbands in the neighborhood had formed a "Henpecked Club" which met Saturday afternoons in one of the member's garage for a little beer and poker. The newest member was dealing the 1st hand when his wife sailed into the garage, collared her spouse and, as she shook him, exclaimed, "What do you mean by joining this club? You're certainly not henpecked!" — C Kennedy.

MAN: "Who is the boss in your house?"

Friend: "Well, my wife assumes command of the children, the servants, the dog, and the parakeet. But I say pretty much what I please to the goldfish."

WALTER MATTHAU: "I never mind my wife having the last word. In fact, I'm delighted when she gets to it."
In her recent book, "The Power Lovers", Myra MacPherson plays on this same theme with variations. Looking at political wives from several points of view, her logical conclusion seems to be that there is no way a congressional wife can be a normal, husband-family loving, patriotic, fulfilled person.

She states, "Most political wives are weary and dull and small-town and the appendages of clever public men who, for reasons of political safety, must endure these unions."

"Women, We Can Do It!" - By Irene Conlan - Page 36
I. Honor thy own womanhood, that thy days may be long in the house which thy husband provideth for thee.

II. Expect not thy husband to give thee as many luxuries as thy father hath given thee after many years of hard labor and economies.

III. Forget not the virtue of good humor, for verily all that a man hath will he give for a woman's smile.

IV. Thou shalt not nag.

V. Thou shalt coddle thy husband, for verily every man loveth to be fussed over.

VI. Remember that the frank approval of thy husband is worth more to thee than the sidelong glances of many strangers.

VII. Forget not the grace of cleanliness and good dressing.

VIII. Permit no one to assure thee that thou art having a hard time of it; neither thy mother, nor thy sister, nor thy maiden aunt, nor any of thy kinsfolk, for the judge will not hold her guiltless who letteth another disparage her husband.

IX. Keep thy home with all diligence, for out of it cometh the joys of thine old age.

X. Commit thy ways unto the Lord thy God and thy children shall rise up and call thee blessed.
Goes with
Col. 3:18
I. David Pharr had this lesson in the Freed-Hardeman 2005 Lectureship. We try to reproduce it.

II. It (same sex marriage) is okay since Jesus did not condemn it.
A. Many moral evils he did not address.
B. Nothing against incest, polygamy, bestiality, rape, pedophilia -- does that show then approval?
C. He upheld all moral principles and condemned the contrary.

Matt. 5:19

D. Apostles condemned homosexuality.

III. What Jesus taught about marriage condemns same sex marriage.

Matt. 19:3-12

A. Benchmark passage on marriage.
B. It covers all that would invent the unreasonable and unholy.
C. By telling what marriage is, he precludes all that is is not.

IV. Just what does the text present?
A. First there are God-given regulations.
   1. Faithfulness in marriage-- "shall cleave to his wife."
2. Prohibitions against breaking up a marriage—"let not man put asunder."

3. Law procedures in divorce—the "writing of divorcement."

4. Restrictions as to remarriage.

5. All these things pertain to heterosexuals.

6. If the Lord intended same sex marriage why are there no gay marriage regulations?

7. Marriage held too high standard, but nothing holding high gay marriage.

B. We must go back to how it was intended in the beginning.

1. Same sex from the beginning it was not so.

Matt. 19:4 :8

2. Note word "made" --God made them male and female.

3. Homos say "God made me this way." No, he made male and female.

4. The same sex has no science or Scripture to support it.

5. Homos not intend of creator.

6. Adam got a helpmate: meet (suitable) for him.

Gen. 2:18
7. Males and females have physiological and psychological make-up provided for their needs and desires.

8. Sexual activities is a primary component in marriage.

9. "Becoming one" can apply only to heterosexuals.

I Cor. 6:16

10. Male and male; female and female cannot become one.

11. Heaven blesses lawful marriage.

Heb. 13:4

12. Homo is "strange flesh" - Jude 7.

13. It is "uncleanness." - Rom. 1:24

14. God "give them up."

C. Heterosexual monogamy.

1. One woman, one man as long as alive.

Rom. 7:1
Matt. 19:6

:9

2. Divorce by hardness of heart.

Matt. 19:7
Mal. 2:14-16

3. True marriage suffers from today's abuse.

4. Some define marriage without any consistent objections.

5. See Card.
6. Procreation one reason.
Gen. 1:27

7. Pleasure also.
1 Cor. 7:1

8. Childless marriage is not an incomplete one though only heterosexuals can reproduce.
9. God made a "gay gene?" If so, the gay population would soon disappear—they cannot reproduce.
10. Adopt children? They do not need two mothers or two dads.

D. Celibacy
1. Sin is never satisfied.
2. Perversions increase.

Prov. 7:29
Ps. 106:29
Rom. 1:26

3. If tempted toward homo, since sin is by consent (Prov. 1:10).

4. Avoid enticement.
James 4:7
Matt. 19:12

5. Be celibate.
6. Issue is not in same sex marriage: companionship, shared finances, commitment, caring each for the other, but perversion.

Heb. 13:4  "Fornicators and adulterers God.."

7. Fornication covers all illicit sexual conduct.


2 Peter 2:7

9. Homo a capital crime.

Lev. 20:13
18:22
Rom. 1:24-26
1 Cor. 6:9
GOD'S SIMPLE ORDER FOR THE HOME
Col. 3:18-21

I. Wonder how many books are in print on the home?
A. Well there should be:
   1. We live in a time when might makes right.
   2. Or I do whatever I please.
   3. Drugs to escape reality.
   4. Marriage has lost its staying power.
      a) 1 man, 1 woman for life.
      b) Regardless of circumstances--rich or poor--we promise to remain true. (Cloer)
B. Social obligations one of the best plans to reveal our true Christianity.
Matt. 7:20  "By their fruits ye shall know them.
   1. Commanded to show piety at home.
   2. Commanded to show piety at home.
1 Tim. 5:4  "And to make some return to their parents.
   2. God champions marriage.
   3. Christ honors it.
C. But does any book have this simple outline.
   1. Wives submit
   2. Husbands love
   3. Children obey
   4. Fathers, provoke not.
D. We will study Paul's words of Col. 3:18-21.

II. Our Textual Outline
   A. Wives
      1. Submit to your own husbands:
         a) To some "submit" is an ugly word.
Eph. 5:21 Submitting yourselves to one another in love.
Gal. 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile.

b) Wife recognizes a God appointed leadership & is loyal to it.
c) Order is called Heaven's 1st law.
d) "To be subject is properly a military term alluding to that entire submission that soldiers pay to their generals. (Wesley)
e) Submission includes:
   (1) Honor
   (2) Truthfulness

1Cor. 11:3 Head man, Christ; head-woman, man; head-first is God

(3) Obedience
Eph. 5:23 So men ought to love their wives

(4) Cooperation
Titus 2:5 "Obedient to their own husbands

2. Note it's to her own husband.
3. "It is fit in the Lord."
   a) There are obligations on both sides.
b) She is not defenseless.
c) In the simplest domestic concerns the disciple should ever keep in mind the high claims of Christ.
d) No act of life can be left outside the sacred enclosure of his everlasting love. (Meyers)
e) The Lord and his authority are made to furnish a higher sanction for each of these natural duties. (P.C.)
f) The natural order of human life is grounded in the Lord.

Col. 1:16-17
B. Husbands
1. Head
   a) Buck stops somewhere.

1 Cor. 11:3
   b) In the home there has to be a head.

1 Tim. 3:4 “One that ruleth well his own house”
   c) House-band

2. Love
   a) Agape
      (1) An act of the will, not emotion.
      (2) Conscious decision.
      (3) Not an attitude but an action
           Not sentiment but sacrifice.
      (4) Not govern but love--so don’t marry unless you can do this.

   b) He delights in her.

Prov. 5:18-19 Read
   c) Pleases her.

1 Cor. 7:33 “How he may please his wife”
   d) Cherishes

1 Tim. 5:3  
   e) Protects

1 Pet. 3:7 “Likewise ye husbands, dwell with your wives according to the will of God, that ye may nourish and cherish her with all诚意.
   f) She is his glory.

1 Cor. 11:7 Woman is the glory of the man

3. Not bitter
   a) Absence of selfishness, ill temper, inconsideration.
b) Bitterness denotes exasperation prompting to hasty severity.
c) Manifest a pleasant, cheerful manner.
d) Home must not become a selfish convenience for the man--share life with her--not all time at work.
e) Don't magnify every trifling mistake.
f) Bitter is rough, rude, uncouth.

C. Children
1. Status
   a) In 3 relationships including slaves he lists the subordinate figure first.
   b) With each subordinate figure comes the reminder of the responsibility to the 2nd party.
   c) He will stress reciprocal duties as fitting in the Lord.

2. Obey
   a) Honor, respect parents.
   b) Authority exists and should be respected.
   c) This obedience to parents may find the child doing things contrary to his inclination or opinion.
   d) Let them show reverence.

Lev. 19:3
   e) They should receive instruction.

Prov. 1:8
   f) They at 1st are utterly helpless.
g) Long life, yet the complexity of natural laws forbid to consider this an absolute promise to each individual.

h) Most dutiful man that ever lived died young—the Christ.

i) Continue respect.

Gen. 19:14

j) Parents cannot discharge their duty by proxy.

3. Obey all things?
   a) All lawful commands.
   b) Modified via Christ.

4. Reason—it pleases the Lord.
   a) Giving pleasure to our Lord is an inspiring incentive for youth.
   b) An obedient child wins the favor of God & man.

Lu. 2:52

5. Note in the Lord.
   a) How do we get in Him?
   b) How do we worship Him?
   c) Is the church first?
   d) Solemn duty to bring them up in the Lord.

D. Fathers

1. Head
   a) Ultimate responsibility.
   b) Paul saw no danger from the mother's side.

2. Provoke note
   a) Maintain discipline—not harshness.
   b) Use not severity but kindness & gentleness.
c) Child must look on Dad as friend, not his enemy.
d) Our desire to "command his children after him" (Gen. 18:19) has restrictions.
e) Avoid extremes of spoiling & severity.
f) Christ didn't act harshly.
g) Make the temperament of each child a careful study.
h) Don't hesitate to revoke a hasty command.
i) Never punish in anger—saw State Fair mother jerk coke can and yell, "You can't open it, it's frozen."

3. Lest they be discouraged:
   a) Can easily lose heart.
   b) Go about their task in a listless, moody, sullen frame of mind.
   c) We can hold the rein too tight.
   d) Lose heart—used only here in N.T.
   e) Sullenness can lead to recklessness.
   f) Youth is a time of hopefulness.

Savannah, TN - 10/2/90
Typical Family - The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the "typical" family, where the husband is the sole provider for his wife (who stays at home) and two or more children, presently exists in only around six percent of United States households.

According to a recent USA Weekend survey of 26,270 readers, nearly 60 percent said they would rather eat at home than eat out. It may sound hard to believe, but it's all part of a trend back to the pleasures of home and family, called "co-cooning." The survey also showed that we'd rather spend time with the family than washing dishes, so easy clean-up is a key concern of those wanting a home-cooked meal. Not surprising, another survey reveals that 60 percent of Americans polled believe that the use of disposable tableware is more acceptable today than ever before.
A HUSBAND who had been out of work for several weeks came in the front door and cried, "Good news! I’ve found a great job. Good pay, only four days a week, a good health plan, good retirement, three weeks vacation every summer and a morning and afternoon coffee break."

"Wonderful," said his wife, giving him a big hug and a kiss. "When do you start work?"

"You start Monday," he said.

"Que Sera Sera" — The top four professions that American parents most hope their children will pursue are, in this order: medicine, science, law and education. But what American kids most want to be when they grow up are, in this order: professional athlete, dancer, movie star and cowboy. The choice of profession at the bottom of the parents’ list is politics, and the last choice on the kids’ list is television reporter.

Travel through Time — There...
HEN I GOT home from school the first night, my family asked how I liked first grade. Well, it’s hard sometimes.


I talked too much, and the class got noisy – and I got in trouble!

Someone took my pencil, and I ended up with a chewed-up one left over from last year.

It was hot, and I was the farthest one from the fan. We have to sit and sit when I would really rather be outside taking a bike ride.

There was this kid in class with a cast on his arm. I’m the one who gets to sharpen his pencils and cut out all his pictures.

I had only one bowl of cereal for breakfast, and we had beans and weenies for lunch. I’m the only one in my class who
Somehow I lost you, Son, along the way. . .
I do not know just how it came to be.
I only know that you were mine one day,
Then suddenly you slipped away from me.
Did I say suddenly? I do you wrong,
For not in rash decision did you go,
Setting your sail in anger, pushed along
By overwhelming force, or undertow.

No. . . it was gradual. . . your boat was new,
And I left you alone to try it out.
I walked the shoreline for awhile, and you
Held to your course with confidence, not doubt.

But when the night grew chill, I went inside,
Leaving you, Son, alone with wind and tide.

—Mary Oliver
Little mounds of butter,
Little loaves of bread,
Little fuzzy sweaters,
Sheets for each small bed.

Little books at bedtime,
Little cups for tea;
Little things... one total
One big world for me.

-Mary Oliver
WIVES - HUSBANDS - FATHERS  
Col. 3:18-21

I. My topic is a pretty important line-up, huh? I purposely skipped children--full study with that. So let's move to these 3 roles.

II. Wives  
Col. 3:18 "Wives submit yourselves to your"

A. Submit  
1. Barclay said, "Christian will see all things as they appear to God."
2. Submit  
   a) Troops in order of battle array under a commander is the word.
   b) "Our lives marked by a willingness to be guided for the accomplishment of a task." (Ogilvie)
   c) Form of verb--middle voice--shows submission is voluntary--never forced by a demanding husband.
   d) This submission is qualified by two things: fitting in the Lord and to a loving husband.
   e) Wife is asked to do nothing contrary to will of God.
   f) Fitting--what's becoming & proper.

B. Clip on her value.  
C. She is integral to a family.
   1. Clip on Priority - #2  
   2. Rules - #3  
   3. Ed Gray - #4  
   4. Boundries - #5

III. Next Husbands  
Col. 3:19 "Husbands, love your wives"

A. 1st order of business--love your wife.
1. Had in mind 1 man, 1 woman.
2. Love makes tyranny impossible.
3. Every action ruled by love.
4. Many are kind away from home, but a terror there.
5. Not always right but responsible.
7. Don't enter marriage unless you can love and submit.
   a) Hicks on sex - clippings #6 & #7

B. Note about bitterness
1. Different at home - Clip #8
2. Resentful of her in any way?
4. Ill temper, provoking.

IV. Fathers
Col. 3:21 "Fathers, provoke not"

A. No higher duty given us than to rear children. (Lipscomb)

B. What he doesn't say is amazing (earn living, be successful, etc.)

C. Moves to child rearing immediately.
   1. Clips #9 and #10.
   2. 3 from Harding--11, 12, 13.

D. Warns about "spoiling" child--but a different kind of spoilage.
   1. Provokes anger.
      a) Despotism is fatal.
      b) 3 types of parents.
         (1) Authoritarian--do it because I said so.
         (2) Permissive--no restraint.
         (3) Authoritative--listen but still directs.
2. Not constantly fault-finding.
3. Not unreasonably hard to please—boil wrong egg.
4. Rebukes hastily.
5. Anger clip.

E. Be Discouraged
1. Under protracted irritation a child becomes hopeless and sullen. (DL)
2. Don't spiritless your child. (Weed)
3. Lit. = lose heart, listless, moody, sullen frame.
4. Becomes either desperate or stupid.

F. Some advice.
1. Don't threaten.
2. Don't bribe.
3. Don't lose temper—kid heard "shut up" so much was 7 before knew it was not his name.
4. Don't abdicate—mother had strap with "I need thee every hour on it."
5. Don't use sarcasm.
6. Don't embarrass.
7. Don't crush or dash daydreams.
8. Don't be afraid to admit mistakes.
9. Standards vary—future from now, parents from us, don't send a child to hell for 2" of hair.
10. Don't forget to explain—"till death do us part."

11. Don't forget to lead him to the Lord.

Center Hill church, Paragould, AR - 4/21/96 (BC Hixson, Tn - 5/26/96
Neely's Bend - 6/5/05
Heritage C/C - 10/23/05
HUSBANDS - BE NOT BITTER
Col. 3:19

I. It seems rather pointless to warn a person against something that can't happen anyhow!
1 Cor. 9:27 "But I keep under my body, & bring
2 Pet. 3:17 "Beware, lest ye also being led away by
1 Cor. 10:12 "Let him that thinketh he standeth
Heb. 10:24-25 "Let us consider one another to provok
Col. 3:21 "Fathers, provoke not your children
1 Cor. 6:18 "Flee fornication"
Mk. 4:24 "Take heed what ye hear"
Luke 8:18 "Take heed how ye hear
Matt. 25:13 "Watch therefore for ye know
Mk. 14:38 "Watch ye & pray, lest ye enter

II. Why warn a husband against being bitter if he can't be--most likely he is!
   A. Older women are to teach younger women to love their husbands.
   B. Husbands are negatively instructed not to be bitter

III. Why is the instruction necessary?
   A. He is head of house - lady asked Ray Jerkins could husband sell the furniture & he ans. he could but it would be stupid.
   B. She is in subjection - so to carry too far he becomes a tyrant. Two safeguards:
      1. Husbands, love your wives.
         a.) Krutza card. ¶
      2. Husbands, be not bitter.

IV. Define Term.
   A. To be bitter means:
1. Sharp pointed.
2. Harsh.
   a.) Story of man who hit his wife.
3. Carries sense of being angry.
5. Not irritable.
   a.) Clip on efficiency expert vs. nagging
6. Does not drive to exasperation.
7. There is a consistency of action.
   a.) Many are kind away from home but cruel there.
James 3:11 "Doth a ft. send forth at the

B. What makes anything bitter?
1. Disagreeableness.
2. Sourness.
3. Cause of pain or smartness.
   a.) Unemployment cks.

V. How may this trait be encouraged?
A. Patience.
   1. Tired lady looked for something for husband
   2. Dobson card - mid life crisis.
B. Hold your tongue.
   1. Retired man & eggs.
Ps. 64:3 "Who whet their tongues like swords: bows
C. Avoid public embarrassment.
Matt. 26:75 "Before the cock crow
   1. Fatter in mink.
D. Ask forgiveness.
   1. Thoreau quote.
Jer. 4:18 "This is thy w. because it is bitter
James 3:14 "But if ye have bitter envying & strife in your hearts, glory not
E. Share.
Exo. 1:14 "They made their lives bitter c
Job 3:20 "Light is given to him that is in misery & life unto the bitter in soul"
Prov. 27:7 "The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet."
The dominant factor in true marriage love is giving. That goes for eros, phíleó, agapé. I must constantly be concerned that I love Vilma, not that I am being loved by Vilma. She must constantly be concerned that she is loving me, not that I am loving her. Sensing that the other loves is again a by-product of giving love. Thus, when each of us has the proper motivation and seeks to keep it in the right order, we enjoy benefits of mutual love. If one of us becomes self-centered, seeking to be loved more than giving love, we break the beauty of the relationship and the unity love produces and actually reverse some of the meanings of true love. We become selfish in disguise. Thus, no matter how the other person reacts (due to such factors as health, tiredness, preoccupations, busyness, and so on), one must not stop loving.

"How Do I Say 'I Love You'"  – By William J. Krutza – Page 42

Opportunity

☐ The unhappy little man was arrested for hitting his large, buxom wife.

“What made you do such a thing?” asked the judge.

“Well, Your Honor,” said the defendant, “her back was turned, the broom was handy, and the back door was open, so I just took a chance.”

– JOAN I WELSH.

First Woman: My husband is an efficiency expert.

Second Woman: What does an efficiency expert do?

First Woman: Well, look at it this way. If women did it, they’d call it nagging. – Scope, 11-1-68.
"What is a mid-life crisis." It is a time of intense personal evaluation when frightening and disturbing thoughts surge through the mind, posing questions about who I am and why I'm here and what it all matters. It is a period of self-doubt and disenchantment with everything familiar and stable. It represents terrifying thoughts that can't be admitted or revealed even to those closest to us. These anxieties often produce an uncomfortable separation between loved ones at a time when support and understanding are desperately needed.

Conway identifies four major "enemies" which plague a man entering his mid-life years. The first is his own body.

"Straight Talk to Men and Their Wives" - By Dr. James C. Dobson Page 174
A businessman had finally retired after forty years of catching the 7:30 train. The first morning after his retirement, he complained to his wife that he didn't like the way she fixed his eggs.

"My dear," she exclaimed, "I've been frying them 'once over light' all these years. Why didn't you ever complain before?"

"I just never had the time!" was his quick reply.

Every man is the builder of a temple, called his body, to the god he worships, after a style purely his own, nor can he get off by hammering marble instead. We are all sculptors and painters, and our material is our own flesh and blood and bones.

— HENRY DAVID THOREAU.
I. I'm so glad my God speaks to me about family relationships.
   A. A man does not have to marry
      (McCord on Singles--Part One of McCord Sheet).
   B. But he may also choose to marry.
      (McCord and Baird)
   C. Once married, husbands love your wives.
      1. Three loves.
         a) Eros  Prov. 5:15-21; 6:20-29; 32-35.
         b) Phileo
         c) Agape - this is the one used.
            Paul defined it in Eph. 5 Servant Clip #0.

II. Marriage needs growth and increasing devotion.
   A. Want to use seven stumbling blocks.
   B. May all marriages reach a higher level.
Parents as Role Models

Parents are powerful role models to their children. They teach their children through verbal communication, but their nonverbal behavior is probably even more influential. Children learn important lessons about marriage by observing how their parents communicate with one another—how they express their feelings of love, affection, and anger. Everything that parents do in their role as marriage partners will have profound influence upon their children's behaviors and attitudes as marriage partners.

No matter how good the parents' marital relationship, there are always
SEVEN STUMBLING BLOCKS AHEAD OF HUSBANDS

Seven barriers are there to the attainment of a good marriage, seven rocks on which a husband may stumble, and often does, if we may trust his wife's account. If the husband can avoid these seven difficulties, his wife will think herself fortunate above all others.

That is the report of Belgian wives who were queried by the League of Large Families, with its headquarters in Brussels. It is particularly interesting to find that these seven obstacles are also reported by American or Canadian wives, and probably one would find them repeated in every civilized country and some of the uncivilized ones. The Italian magazine, "La Casa," reprinted them with the statement that they applied equally to Italy. They are such standard hazards that every husband ought to know them by this time.

1. Lack of tenderness was put at the head of the list by most of the women, reported "Le Ligueur," the weekly journal of the Walloon group of the Belgian League. "A man full of energy and ability is certainly able to show tenderness to his wife, but a false diffidence or false modesty often prevents it," one wife complained. "If he could only be a little less self-centered. If he could only whisper 'I love you' once in a while. He is able to complain when things go wrong. Why can't he show a little appreciation when things go well, as they do most of the time?"

Closely allied to this is courtesy, common politeness. It is often remarked that any marriage would be successful if husband and wife were as polite to each other as they are to total strangers. Perhaps wives forget this sometimes, but in the present case they were the ones who were complaining. The husband is impatient, but sees no reason why his wife ever should be. He is tired, but can't understand that his wife might be tired, too. After all, what has she been doing all day? She was at home where she could rest any time she wanted to. He forgets to show her a little consideration, which he expects in large measure from her.

3. Sociability in the family came next on the list of qualities desired. "My husband is the most entertaining kind of person when he is out in company," one wife says. "Why can't he be entertaining at home once in a while? Why must he be brilliant only when he is among strangers? He has been away from home all day, and we'd appreciate it if he would bring some of the outside world to us, if he'd tell his wife and children what he has seen and heard, what has been going on. Instead, he slumps into a grouchy silence as soon as he crosses his own threshold." Of course the wife would like him not merely to be good company at home but to take her out once in a while into good
company outside of the home. This need for companionship was emphasized over and over, just as it is by wives in the rest of the world.

Husbands should understand their wives' temperaments and peculiarities and be more patient. That was a universal demand. A husband knows in theory that his wife goes through a cycle, or perhaps several cycles, of fluctuations of mood in the course of a month. Why can't he have enough self-control to bear this in mind and act on it? Why must he always assume that he has a right to give way to every feeling without the slightest attempt at self-control, but that she must exercise complete self-control regardless of her feelings?

Fairness in financial matters came next. "My husband doles out a little money for housekeeping expenses and seems to think that somehow I possess the magic of multiplying it by three," said one wife. Another husband was continually commenting on how well their friends and neighbors lived and assuming that it cost them nothing to live. Good business management in the home, just as in handling the family finances, those were two requirements that almost every wife felt were needed.

No more snide remarks and sneers at the wife in company or before the children. This is a demand on which there was no compromise. "I know my husband loves me, and when we are alone he tells me I am wonderful; but when we are out with others he is continually poking fun at me, ridiculing me, humiliating me. That doesn't make sense, and it doesn't make a good marriage." Even more common is the habit of making depreciatory remarks and criticisms of mother in the presence of the children. It is ruinous to discipline and family solidarity.

Finally, plain honesty, plain truthfulness, plain straightforwardness. "Those are supposed to be masculine qualities. Why aren't they shown in dealing with a wife as well as in dealing with a business associate?" Few things lower a man in the eyes of his wife more than to catch him in a deliberate and unnecessary lie; she feels that it is a forerunner of bigger ones. Many a time he gets the habit of misleading her, concealing what he is doing, what his means are, where he is going, whom he has seen. When she can no longer trust him, she finds it hard to love him.

Those are the seven threats to the success of a marriage which, in the opinion of these Belgian wives, were entirely under the control of the husband. He is not born with any of those defects. If he wants to be a satisfactory husband and have a satisfactory marriage, all he has to do is to take account of these seven faults and avoid them.
HUSBANDS: YOUR 1st OF TWO DUTIES
Col. 3:19
I. "Short & sweet" are the words the Holy Spirit gave Paul relative to husband's responsibilities.
A. One duty is positive - love your wife.
B. The other duty is negative - be not bitter.
II. In this lesson we look at the positive duty - love your wives.
A. Love your wives.
1. Rather interesting that the Old Testament goes quite awhile w/o stressing this fact.
   a.) Adam knew Eve - multiplied but no word about love.
   b.) Gen. 24 Abraham sent a servant to get Isaac a wife he'd never seen.
      (1) Put ring on nose & bracelet on arms.
      Gen. 24:47 "And I asked her, and said, Whose daughter?
      (2) Her dad said take her.
      Gen. 24:51 "Behold, Rebekah is before thee, take her.
      (3) She didn't even have a pencil sketch - saw him "Who is this man?"
      Gen. 24:67 "And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah.
      c.) 29 chapters of Genesis to find 1st mention of love other than Isaac - Rebekah.
      Gen. 29:30 "And he went in also unto Rachel, and he
2. Like pictures as it was - not ideal.
3. Women traded - dowry or politics.
   a.) Solomon 700 - name tags?
   b.) Polygamy practiced.
4. God had in mind always tho a helper - companion
not a servant - Gen. 2:18 for "helper" same word "God is my helper."

5. Love used 131X in OT.
6. NT has more to say on love.
   a.) Agape.
   Jn. 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his
   b.) Agape is God's type love - can't be surpassed - see card.
   c.) It is self-giving.
   Eph. 5:25 "Husbands, love your wives, even as Chri
   I Jn. 4:10 "Herein is love, not that we loved God, bi
   d.) It's self emptying.
   e.) It gives w/o asking are you in frame of mind to
   receive it.
   f.) Phileo is friendship love.
   Jn. 11:3 "Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying,
   g.) Agape not so much romantic but caring love,
   deliberate attitude that concerns himself with
   the well-being of his loved one.

5. Read explanations of it.
6. Love does not keep record of wrongs - see card.

B. Principle applied (Dobson cards).
1. Love makes tyranny impossible.
   a.) Violets or geraniums.
   b.) Kissing means longer life.
   c.) Krutza card on "To help".
2. Love is the guideline of every action.
   a.) Barclay said no man is w/o his rights but equall
       no man w/o his obligations.
   b.) It's the real adhesive - read Girl Scout clipping
   a.) Same word for troops in order of battle array under a commander.
   b.) Our lives marked by a willingness to be guided for the accomplishment of a task.
   c.) 10 commandments for Husbands.

Last edited 2-1-81
The New Testament gives a full record of how God demonstrated agape: "God so loved the world that he gave...." "Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." Such giving demonstrated not only the heart of God, but the ultimate limits to which agape love will go. God needs to do no more to bring about the salvation of mankind. Christ was the ultimate gift of God's agape.

To thus help his wife come to fulfillment makes great demands on a husband. His best creativity, energy, and full commitment is called into action. Christ didn't make a half-hearted commitment to His church. He gave His life—the ultimate in giving, the ultimate in sacrifice. With such an example, a husband is called upon to make a full commitment to his wife, to give himself unreservedly for her fulfillment and benefit.
"You think you'd know after 25 years of marriage. You've done it wrong at least a thousand times! When are you going to learn I don't like crisp bacon for breakfast? No more burnt offerings, please!"

"I've given up hope you'll ever change," she screamed. "You've treated me like mud on your shoes ever since we got back from the honeymoon."

Some couples keep marriage scores, and usually exaggerate their own lopsided losses.

Why do I place such importance on the involvement of men in determining the survival of a culture? Because no modern society can exceed the stability of its individual family units, and women seem more aware of that fact than their husbands. Consider the evidence. Who reads the books on family living? 80% are known to be women. Who attends seminars on meaningful family life? The majority are women. Who enrolls in Bible study classes devoted to Scriptural underpinnings of the family? Women outnumber men by an incredible margin. Who listens to family radio programs and cassette tapes on marriage and parenthood? Once again, they are likely to be female.
Her remark reminded me of the 80 year old man who said, "If I'd have known I was gonna live so long I'd have taken better care of myself!"

"Straight Talk to Men and Their Wives" - By Dr. James C. Dobson

Page 213
When I was ten, my parents got a divorce. Naturally, my father told me about it, because he was my favorite. [Notice that Vicki did not say, "I was his favorite."]

"Honey, I know it's been kind of bad for you these past few days, and I don't want to make it worse. But there's something I have to tell you. Honey, your mother and I got a divorce."

"But, Daddy—"

"I know you don't want this, but it has to be done. Your mother and I just don't get along like we used to. I'm already packed and my plane is leaving in half an hour."

"But, Daddy, why do you have to leave?"

"Well, honey, your mother and I can't live together anymore."

"I know that, but I mean why do you have to leave town?"

"Oh. Well, I got someone waiting for me in New Jersey."

"But, Daddy, will I ever see you again?"

"Sure you will, honey. We'll work something out."

"But what? I mean, you'll be living in New Jersey, and I'll be living here in Washington."

"Maybe your mother will agree to you spending two weeks in the summer and two in the winter with me."

"Why not more often?"

"I don't think she'll agree to two weeks in the summer and two in the winter, much less more."

"Well, it can't hurt to try."

"I know, honey, but we'll have to work it out later. My plane leaves in twenty minutes and I've got to get to the airport. Now I'm going to get my luggage, and I want you to go to your room so you don't have to watch me. And no long goodbyes either."

"Okay, Daddy. Goodbye. Don't forget to write."

"I won't. Goodbye. Now go to your room."

"Okay. Daddy, I don't want you to go!"

"I know, honey. But I have to."

"Why?"

"You wouldn't understand, honey."

"Yes, I would."

"No, you wouldn't."
"Oh well. Goodbye."
"Goodbye. Now go to your room. Hurry up."
"Okay. Well, I guess that's the way life goes sometimes."
"Yes honey. That's the way life goes sometimes."
After my father walked out that door, I never heard from him again.

Vicki speaks eloquently on behalf of a million American children who have heard those shattering words, "Honey, your mother and I are getting a divorce." Across this country, husbands and wives are responding to the media blitz which urges and goads them to do their own thing, to chase impulsive desires without regard for the welfare of their families.

"The kids will get over it," goes the rationalization.

Every form of mass communication seems mobilized to spread the "me first" philosophy. Frank Sinatra said it musically in his song "I did it my way." Sammy Davis, Jr., echoed the sentiment in "I've gotta be me." Robert J. Ringer provided the literary version in Looking Out for Number One, which became the best-selling book in America for forty-six weeks. It was flanked by Open Marriage, Creative Divorce, and Pulling Your Own Strings, among hundreds of other dangerous best sellers. The est program now sells the same sickness under the guise of psychological health.

It all sounds so noble in theory. It's called "the discovery of personhood," and it offers an intoxicating appeal to our selfish lusts. But when this insidious philosophy has wormed its way into our system of values, it begins to rot us from within. First, it encourages an insignificant flirtation with sin (perhaps with a man or woman from New Jersey) followed by passion and illicit sexual encounters, followed by camouflaging lies and deceit, followed by angry words and sleepless nights, followed by tears

*Reprinted by permission from American Girl, a magazine for all girls published by Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.
“Sorry we don’t have potted geraniums,” the clerk said, and then added helpfully, “Could you use African violets?”

“No,” replied the man sadly. “It was geraniums my wife told me to water while she was gone.”

WIFE-KISSING

A West Germany insurance company made a study and learned that husbands who kiss their wives before leaving for work in the mornings live five years longer than the average male. They also have 20 to 25 percent higher incomes, lose only half as much time through illness, and have fewer accidents.
"How Do I Say 'I Love You'" - By William J. Krutza

I Say It, Yet I Don't Say It

Writing down what one means when he says "I love you" is a testing experience for most people. It excites some, disturbs others, threatens a few. Yet it is one of the most challenging experiences to which marriage partners can put themselves. Get out paper and a pen, go to a quiet place, think it through, write it down, then share all your meanings with your mate.

Here are a few responses from marriage enrichment conference participants:

A man, married sixteen years, wrote: "I love you means you attract me physically. I do things for you sometimes that I don't want to do. I thank you for being mother to my children. I put up with your being late."
count you as my equal. I brag on you to others.”

A forty-five-year-old man, married seven years, said: “To laugh and cry with you. To hold you close physically, and when we’re apart, to hold you close mentally. To love you means I want to be with you, to share with you, to dream with you.”

Another man, age thirty-nine, married twenty years, wrote: “I love you because you gave me children, because God made you for me, because you love me, because you are you, because you are stuck with me, because you turn me on.”

After thirty-four years of marriage, a fifty-one-year-old woman made this brief, but potent, exclamation: “I love you is to say that at this moment I feel a complete oneness with you.”

A thirty-year-old woman, married ten years, declared, “I love you means that when you don’t have time to mow the lawn or do other things around the house, I do them without disagreeing. It also means that I care about your job and the problems you bring home from work. I love you means that I try hard not to take you for granted. It means
For Husbands and Wives...

A while back when we gave a sermon on the home, some of the members indicated they would like a copy of a couple of pieces we quoted at that time. We give them below for you to have, yes—but also to use!

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR HUSBANDS . . .

I. Remember that thy wife is thy partner and not thy property.

II. Do not expect thy wife to be thy wife and wage-earner at the same time.

III. Think not that thy business is none of thy wife's business.

IV. Thou shalt hold thy wife's love by the same means that thou didst win it.

V. Thou shalt make the building of thy home thy first business.

VI. Thou shalt co-operate with thy wife in establishing family discipline.

VII. Thou shalt enter into thy house with cheerfulness.

VIII. Thou shalt not let anyone criticize thy wife to thy face and get away with it; neither thy father, nor thy mother, nor thy brethren, nor thy sisters, nor any of thy relatives.

IX. Thou shalt not take thy wife for granted.

X. Remember thy home and keep it holy.
CHILDREN, OBEY YOUR PARENTS
Colossians 3:20

I. Within the scope of all practicability
God now addresses children.
A. Expects a normal home--Parents (2).
B. Children--plural yet one qualifies.
C. Training expected.
   1. Obey parents in all things--not in evil ways.
   2. Lord oversees and has a blessing for those that obey the parents.

II. This, of course, is one of many Biblical references about children--if they are important to the Lord they should be to us.
A. Normal
   1. Man & Woman beget, conceive.
   2. Accept task "rear in admonition of the Lord."
B. Abnormal
   1. Give me children or I die--Rachel and Jacob.
   2. We adopt--greatest love.
C. One Parent--death, divorce, admire those that succeed.

III. Bible speaks often of children--see these references:
Ps. 127
Prov. 19:18
Prov. 22:15
Prov. 23:13-14
Ps. 128:3
Jesus--Come Unto Me

Pray
Matt 19:13-15
Mark 10:13-
IV. Man speaks of children—Quotes
There is only one pretty child in the world and every mother has it.

--Chinese Proverb

Children need more models than critics.

--Joubert

V. Especially quoted in Discipline.
A. Shakespeare
1. Unruly children make their sire stoop. Richard II
2. How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child. King Lear
3. Better is a little chiding than a great deal of heartbreak. Merry Widow

B. Others
1. Give a pig when he grunts and a child when he cries and you will have a fine pig and a bad child. Thompson
2. The dutifulness of children is the foundation of all virtue. Cicero
3. The child is the father of the man. Wordsworth
4. Give us a child for 8 years and it will be a Bolvshevist forever. Lenin
5. The child says nothing but what is heard by the fire. Herbert
6. What children hear at home soon flies abroad. Cotgras
7. When children stand quiet they have done some ill. Herbert
8. It is not strange that he who has no children brings them up so well. Confucius
10. Evil not punished at the beginning grows greater. Aerop Fables
11. The Chinese say beat your children once a day; if you don't know why the child does.
12. He that will not use the rod on his child, his child shall be used as a rod on him. T. Fuller
13. Children are a constant torment and nothing more. Tolstoy
14. Brad Adcock article.

Neely's Bend - 7/10/05
Heritage C/C - 11/6/05
TERESA BLOOMINGDALE, author - A four-year-old who deliberately sasses his father, disobeys his mother, and drives his grandma up the wall is begging for punishment. Don't deny him.

Learning the truths and principles is not enough for your child's spiritual development. Parenting also involves helping her internalize the disciplines of spiritual life. Spiritual disciplines are the traditional activities people of faith have entered into for many years as a way to connect with God. Here are a few of the more central ones:

- Exposure to the Bible: hearing, reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating

- Prayer: personal communication with God, individually and in groups

---over---
Fellowship: being in relationship with other believers, for support and reality—
including church activities, family times, and small-group gatherings.

--Dr. Henry Cloud & Dr. John Townsend
Raising Great Kids

pg. 167

Fulton Oursler, in an article entitled "What Makes a Juvenile Delinquent?" makes this startling statement: "The most significant factor in any boy's life is his relationship with his father. When it is disturbed, the child is in danger. . . . If the father shows hostility or contempt, something is dammed up in the son. He has a deep, passionate need for emotional identification with his father."

"Let the Children Come" - By Elizabeth B. Jones - pp. 68-69
Our children need to know what is expected of them. Here are some of the basics they need to be taught:

- the standard for appropriate behavior
- the importance of respecting authority
- how to operate within boundaries
- the need to accept consequences

If they do not understand these concepts, they will have a rude awakening some day when they hold a job in the real world.

--Jill Savage
Professionalizing Motherhood

Dr. Paul D. Meier, a Christian psychiatrist, in his book Christian Child-rearing and Personality Development, makes a very significant statement. He says that approximately 85% of a child's ultimate personality is formed by the time he is six years old. That leaves only 15% to be molded and changed after the child is six. This is a startling statement, but we must not forget to take into consideration the work of the Holy Spirit on the heart and life of a person throughout a lifetime.

"Let the Children Come" - By Elizabeth B. Jones - Page 17
10 WAYS TO TEACH YOUR CHILD DISCIPLINE

1. Take your children to juvenile court to listen to some cases. Afterward take them out for a soda and discuss the subject of “consequences.”

2. Have them study a musical instrument long enough to learn about the discipline of practice.

3. Enroll them in a team sport where their faithful attendance and participation is required.

4. Assign daily chores and hold them responsible to perform them.

5. Have them tithe every Sunday from their allowance.

6. Make sure that they complete homework.

7. Have them write to a missionary once a month.

8. Give them an alarm clock, show them how to use it, and have them assume the responsibility of getting up on time for school for a whole year!

9. Help them memorize an elaborate poem.

10. Take them to a junkyard and show them the wreckage of cars involved in alcohol-related accidents.
Defiant Child?
I Was, Too. I'll Help You Turn Your Kid's Attitude Around and Get Back in Control of Your Family

James Lehman
MSW, LCSW
Behavioral Therapist
Creator of The Total Transformation Program for Parents

Is your child's behavior driving you crazy? Are you struggling with a child who's disrespectful, defiant or obnoxious toward you? Do your kids fight constantly - even to the point of verbal or physical abuse?

You're not alone. Millions of parents are trying to cope with kids whose behavior is out of control. But now you can get your kids to respect you and listen to you again—with The Total Transformation Program.

The Instruction Manual for Defiant Kids

The Total Transformation is the instruction manual for dealing with children and teenagers who are mouthy, disrespectful or resistant to authority. In this step-by-step program, I'll show you how to change your child's behavior and take back control of your family, with the exact techniques I use to get kids to behave appropriately. I know they work because they worked for me. I was a kid with horrible behavior problems. If these techniques can work for me, I believe they can work for anyone.

Tonight, When Your Child Acts Out, Do This

The Total Transformation program is a straight talk program that shows you exactly what to say and do to set the limits your child needs - with no screaming, arguing or frustration. You'll learn:

- How to stop arguments with your kids instantly
- How to defuse temper tantrums
- How to get your child to stop making excuses and start taking responsibility
- ADD, ADHD, ODD, bipolar disorder & more—How to get a child with a diagnosis to behave

No Screaming. No Arguing. Just Respect

If you've tried screaming, punishing, pleading and negotiating and your child still walks all over you, let me show you an easier way to get him to behave. I guarantee you'll enjoy being a parent again.

Call for a confidential risk-free trial
1-800-457-6402

FREE WITH YOUR ORDER:
10 Ways To Turn Around Your Child's Attitude in One Minute or Less

“The Total Transformation has helped us take back control again and restored the peace in our home. We would tell anyone to invest in the program because it’s going to make a difference.”

- Mike & Jean Walls -
In 1956, Ann and I took a footlocker full of letters that we had written to each other prior to our marriage. We had been lugging them around for about 8 years and saw no benefit in continuing the process. We burned them.

The apostle Paul wrote, “When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; But when I became a man, I put away childish things” (1 Cor. 13:11). Looking back over 56 years, I can tell you that all those letters were innocent, joyful, loving, kind and sweeter than the honeycomb.

Today, I was browsing through another box of letters, and found some “Letters to God” written by children. They too were innocent, joyful, loving, kind and sweeter than the honeycomb. The authors could have been any of your kids or mine, or maybe even you or I when we were young.

Dear God, please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There’s nothing good in there now. Amanda.

Dear God, Thank you for the baby brother but what I asked for was a puppy. I never asked for anything before. You can look it up. Joyce.

Dear Mr. God, I wish you would not make it so easy for people to come apart. I had to have three stitches and shot. Janet.

Dear God, If we come back as somebody else, please don’t let me be Janet Norton—because I hate her. Denise.

God, I read the bible. What does begat mean? Nobody will tell me, love, Allison.

Dear God, How did you know you were God? Who told you that you were? Charlene.

Dear God, Is it true my father won’t get in heaven if he uses his gold words in the house? Anita.

Dear God, I bet it’s hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only four people in our family and I can never do it. Sue.

Dear God, Did you really mean “Do unto others as they do unto you?” If you did, then I’m going to get even with my brother, Darla.

Dear God, I like the story about Noah. That was the best one of all. You really made up some good ones. I like walking on water, too. Glenn.

Dear God, my grandpa says you were around when he was a little boy. Just how far back do you go? Love, Dennis.

Dear God, Do you draw the lines around the countries. If you don’t— who does? Nan.

Dear God, It’s O.K. that you made different religions, but don’t you get mixed up sometimes? Arnold.

Dear God, Did you mean for giraffes to look like that, or was it an accident? Norma.

Dear God, What does it mean that you are a jealous God? I thought you had everything that you wanted. Jane.

Dear God, How come you did all those miracles in the old days and don’t do any now? Billy.

Dear God, Please send Dennis Clark to a different camp this year. He is a nerd. Peter.

Dear God, Maybe Can and Abel would not kill each other so much if they each had their own rooms. It works out O.K. with me and my brother, Larry.

Dear God, I keep waiting for spring but it never did come yet. What’s up? Don’t forget. Mark.

Dear God, You don’t have to worry about me. I look both ways before I cross the street. Dean.

Dear God, if you will watch church on I will show you my new shoes. Barbara.

Dear God, Is Reverend Coe a friend of yours or do you just know him through the business? Donny.

Dear God, In Sunday school they told us what you do for a job. Who does it when you are on vacation? Jane.

Dear God, In school we read that Thomas Edison made light, and in Sunday school they said that you did it first. Did he steal your idea? Sincerely, Donna.

Dear God, I do not think that anybody can be a better God than you. Well, I just want you to know that I’m not just saying that because you are already God. Dick.

Special note: Dear God, I thank you for our kids, made just the way you made them. You’re wonderful, majestic and full of goodness and grace — just like them. Is that why you wrote, “And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them,” and said, “assuredly I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore who ever humbles himself as a little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me” (Matt. 18:2-5). In Jesus Name, Amen.
“WHAT ABOUT SPANKING?”

The State of Massachusetts is considering a bill proposed by state representative, James Marzilli Jr., that would outlaw corporal punishment for children. The article reads, “... lawmakers are considering making ‘the willful infliction of physical pain on children under 18’, illegal. The measure would prohibit whipping, spanking, and pinching. Also forbidden would be washing a child’s mouth out with soap and administering electric shocks.”

The supporters of this bill say that it is about preventing abuse, not prosecuting parents. Recently, the city of Brookline, Mass. passed a non-binding resolution encouraging parents not to spank. A poll related to this question was offered online asking people to respond as to how they feel about such a bill being passed. At last count, 12,643 people had voted. 11,149, 88% of those polled, disapproved of this bill. 1,060, 85 of those polled, approved of the bill, while 3% were not sure.

It is surprising that a state would attempt to stop parents from disciplining their children. While you can appreciate their desire to stop abuse, one must understand, however, that there is a difference between discipline and abuse.

We are living in a world today that lacks restraint. This is becoming increasingly true among the children of our society. Many parents today are no longer punishing their children for improper behavior and thus, are raising children that have no respect for authority. You can go out in public and see cases of it everyday. Children are telling parents what to do instead of parents instructing the children.

With any question that arises, we must ask, “what does the Bible say?” May we consider the following scriptures in answering the question, “Is spanking wrong?”

Proverbs 13:24, “He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who lives disciplines him promptly.” Proverbs 19:18, “Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction.” Proverbs 23:13,14, “Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with a rod, and deliver his soul from hell.” Deuteronomy 21:18-21, “If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and who, when they have chastened him, will not heed them, then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of his city, and they shall say to the elders of his city, ‘This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.’ Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear.” 1 Samuel 2:12, 3:13, “Now the sons of Eli were corrupt; they did not know the Lord; For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them.” Ephesians 6:4, “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” Colossians 3:20, “Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.”

While this list of scriptures is not exhaustive, it shows us what God would have us to do concerning the discipline of our children. We know that there are other ways to discipline children apart from corporal punishment. However, we must never exclude the use of physical discipline if it is necessary. When parents get the upper hand and keep it, there will be little need for this type of punishment.

So then, in answering the original question, “Is spanking wrong?”, the Bible clearly teaches that corporal punishment is right and encouraged. May we do our best as parents to train our children in the right way and instill within them a respect for God, for parents, and for those in authority.

- Brad Adcock

“THE CHILD”

I am the child
All the world waits for my coming.
All the earth watches with interest to see what I shall become.

I am the child
I have come into your world, about which I know nothing. Why I come I know not; how I come, I know not. I am curious; I am interested.

I am the child
You hold in your hand my destiny. You determine, largely, whether I shall succeed or fail.
Give me, I pray you, those things that make for happiness. Train me, I beg you, that I may be a blessing to the world!

-Mamie Gene Cole
CHILDREN, OBEY YOUR PARENTS
Col. 3:20

I. God knows what He's talking about - and He addresses all groups.
   A. John & Jesus spoke to Kings & Gov. - so did Paul
   B. Jesus spoke to religious leaders - so did Peter.
   C. Further, he addresses military men like Cornelius.
   D. In the scope of instruction we find all brackets of society but so thankful it includes the children.
   E. Kids, you are right when you sing Jesus loves me - He does!
   F. He speaks to child & parent, so does the Holy Spirit via Paul.

II. We examine one verse.
   Col. 3:20 "Children, obey your parents
   A. Children.
      1. Wide range in Bible from infant to 30.
      2. Teen-agers, you are in the list - because you earnestly need parental guidance.
         a.) Card on 20 Problems.
         b.) UCLA - Aaron Hass.
         c.) Tardiness cured by car.
   B. Obey your Parents in All Things.
      1. Erdman, "Whole duty of childhood is to obey." (Also Expositors)
      2. Ogilvie, "Our lives must be marked by a willingness to be guided for the accomplishment of a task."
      3. Defined:
         a.) Hear & carry out orders.
b.) In present tense, thus action is habitual.
4. Disobedience is a crime.
Prov. 20:20 "Whoso curseth his father or mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness.
Prov. 30:17 "The eye that mocketh at his father & despiseth to obey his mother, the raven of the valley shall pick it out, & the young eagles shall eat it.
Rom. 1:30 Haters of God...inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents
For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, w/o natural affection  2 Tim.3:2
5. Obedience is complete - in everything.
C. Why should I?
1. Because you are loved by those parents.
   a.) Rent apt. story.
2. Because you don't know enuf to guide yourself.
   a.) 4 yr. old marry Billy.
3. Because God said to.
D. Parents, you have a task.
1. Lipscomb, "No higher duty given man than to rear children."
2. Might add nor more interesting.
   a.) Little boy in yd. c me this winter. "But I like summer lots better." "What do you do?"
   "I sweat."
   b.) It's my dark.
   c.) Gen. Grant.
3. Demerest - 3 types parents.
   a.) Authoritarian - do it because I said so.
b.) Permissive - no restraint.
c.) Authoritative - listens but still directs.

4. Are we doing our task?
   a.) Hunger (see clip) worse than physical.
   b.) Our example.
      1. Margaret Truman.
      2. Judy Norris.
      3.) Emergency candle.
   c.) Absentee can't do it.
      1.) Cry - I that you were out.
      2.) Dobson card.
      3.) Battista quote.
      4.) Bombeck.
      5.) Cat's in the Cradle.

E. For this is Well Pleasing unto the Lord.
   1. We must bring Him joy.
   2. Children belong to God - not to us - handle well
      His property!
20 PROBLEMS THAT TROUBLE TEEN-AGERS

1. Shyness.
2. Nervous habits.
3. Nail biting.
4. Speech defects.
5. Feelings of inferiority.
6. Feelings of differentness.
7. Sense of shame.
10. Unfriendliness.
11. Discouragement.
12. Loneliness.
15. Moodiness.
16. Fears.
17. Irritability.
18. Pouting.

"Better Ways of Growing Up" - John and Dorathea Crawford

Pages 37-38
A FATHER was telling a friend how he finally cured his seventeen-year-old son of habitually being late to school: “I bought him a car.”

“But how did that help?”

“Well,” replied the father, “he has to get going an hour earlier to find a place in the school parking lot.”

A FOUR-year-old was overheard talking with a playmate one day: “When I grow up, I’m going to marry Billy.”

“Why are you going to marry Billy?” her playmate inquired.

“Well, I have to. I’m not allowed to cross the street where the other boys live.”

The apartment was vacant, but the landlord was fussy about who it was rented to. One day a young chap appeared.

“All children, radios, phonographs, cats, dogs, or pets of any kind?” asked the landlord.

“No,” the young man answered. “But I think I ought to warn you that I have a fountain pen that scratches a little.”

The little girl refused to go to sleep in a neighbor’s house unless the bedroom door was left open.

“Why, you’re not afraid of the dark — a big girl like you,” the neighbor teased.

“Yes, I am,” the little girl cried.

“But you’re not afraid of the dark at your home?”

“I know,” answered the little girl, “but that’s MY dark.”
HUNGER

For some 800 million people around the world, about half of them children under five, there won't be much dinner at all. Count the minutes. As each one passes, twenty-one children die somewhere of starvation. In 1979, the Year of the Child, UNICEF estimates some twelve million children died of hunger.
—Commonwealth, 12-19-80.

MARGARET TRUMAN DANIEL: “As the mother of four sons, I feel that I have been running a toy store in my home for the last 22 years, and I think toys are fun. Play is a child's work. Toys are the tools of that work which help to frame a child's future physically, emotionally and socially. But the greatest influence on a child's attitudes and goals originates with his parents and his peers.”

A few years ago I passed out a questionnaire to teenagers, asking them to name the issues of most importance to their parents. At the top of the list was plenty of money and education so they could make a good living. Only one person named "relationship with God and Christ" as a parental top priority. These were the children of the elders and deacons in the church we were serving at the time. Now I realize children often misinterpret their parents. But it doesn't do any good to have fine ideas unless they come through loud and clear to our children. Millstones, here we come!

Have You Seen My Father? by Judy Norris, p. 52.
Always keep an emergency candle on hand so when the lights go out you can find the toys that have the batteries which were borrowed from the flashlight.

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**LET'S HAVE**

Don't Forget!

The young mother looked into the nursery and found her six-year-old son laboriously putting a bandage on his thumb.

"What happened?" cried the excited mother.

"I hit it with a hammer," said the boy » »

"You poor dear," sympathized mother. "I wonder why I didn't hear you cry."

"What was the use of crying?" shrugged the lad. "I thought you were out" » »
My point is that the breathless American lifestyle is particularly costly to children. Yet 1.8 million youngsters come home to an empty house after school each day. They are called "latchkey" kids because they wear the keys to their front doors around their necks. Not only are their fathers overcommitted and preoccupied, but now, their mothers are energetically seeking fulfillment in the working world, too. So who is at home with the kids? More commonly the answer is nobody.

"Straight Talk to Men and Their Wives" - By Dr. James C. Dobson

Page 38

Consider the findings of U.C.L.A. sex researcher Aaron Hass as reported in his 1979 publication "Teenage Sexuality." Basing his investigation on questionnaires completed by 625 boys and girls in five states, he drew several striking conclusions. Among students between 15 and 16 years of age, 43% of the boys and 31% of the girls have had sexual intercourse. 28% of the boys and 7% of the girls report having had at least ten sexual partners. Furthermore, among those 17 to 18 years old, more than nine-tenths of the boys and two-thirds of the girls approve of oral sex, and more than half of each group has experienced it! That is the world in which our children will be raised!

"Straight Talk to Men and Their Wives" - By Dr. James C. Dobson

Pages 49-50
Dr O A BATTISTA: "Human beings do a tremendous job using knowledge to raise cattle, fatten pigs, raise heavier turkeys, and make chickens double their egg production; but they fall flat on their faces when it comes to using knowledge for raising their families."
WOULD HAVE'S
...by Erma Bombeck

Someone asked me recently if I had my life to live over, would I change anything. My answer was No. But then I thought about it and have changed my mind.

If I had my life to live over again, I would have waxed the floor less and listened to my family more. I would never have insisted the car windows be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had just been teased or sprayed. I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained and the sofa faded. I would have eaten popcorn in the "good" living room and worried less about dirt when the fireplace was lit. I would have taken time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth. I would have burnt the pink candle sculptured like a rose before it melted while being stored. I would have sat cross-legged on the lawn and never worried about grass stains. I would have cried and laughed less while watching television, and more while watching real life. I would have eaten more ice cream and less cottage cheese. I would have gone to bed when I was sick instead of pretending the earth would go into a holding pattern if I weren't there for a day. I would have never bought anything just because it was practical or wouldn't show soil or was guaranteed to last a lifetime. When my child kissed me impetuously, I would never have said, "Later, now, go get washed up for dinner." There would have been more "I love you's"...more "I'm sorry's"...more "I'm listening," but mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute of it...look at it and really see it...try it on...live it...exhaust it...and never give that minute back until there was nothing left of it.

-Selected
"Straight Talk to Men and Their Wives"
By Dr. James C. Dobson

A Man and His Children

CAT'S IN THE CRADLE

By Sandy and Harry Chapin

My child arrived just the other day
he came to the world in the usual way—
But there were planes to catch and bills to pay
he learned to walk while I was away
and he was talkin' fore I knew it and as he grew
he'd say

I'm gonna be like you, Dad
you know I'm gonna be like you.

and the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon
Little boy blue and the man in the moon
when you comin' home, Dad
I don't know when
but we'll get together then—
you know we'll have a good time then

My son turned 10 just the other day
he said, Thanks for the ball, Dad, com'on let's play
Can you teach me to throw?
I said not today, I got a lot to do
He said, That's okay
and he walked away but his smile never dimmed
it said I'm gonna be like him, yeah
you know I'm gonna be like him

and the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon
Little boy blue and the man in the moon
when you comin' home, Dad
I've long since retired,
my son's moved away
I called him up just the other day
Son, I'm proud of you, can you sit for awhile
He shook his head and said with a smile—
what I'd really like, Dad, is to borrow the car keys
see you later, can I have them please?

When you comin home, Son?
I don't know when
but we'll get together then
you know we'll have a good time then

I've long since retired, my son's moved away
I called him up just the other day
I said I'd like to see you if you don't mind
He said, I'd love to, Dad—if I can find the time

You see my new job's a hassle and the kids have the flu
but it's sure nice talkin to you, Dad
It's been nice talking to you

And as I hung up the phone, it occurred to me—
he'd grown up just like me; my boy was just like me
and the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon
Little boy blue and the man in the moon
when you comin home, Son?
I don't know when
but we'll get together then, Dad,
we're gonna have a good time then

Do those words strike home to anyone but me? Have you felt
the years slipping by with far too many unfulfilled promises to
your children? Have you heard yourself saying,
CHILDREN, OBEY YOUR PARENTS... PLEASES GOD
Col. 3:20

I. Tell me something more precious than children.
   A. We want to see 3 things:
      1. What are children?
      2. What are they to do?
      3. Who else is involved with them?
   B. Read again our verse
      Col. 3:20 "Children, obey your parents"

II. What are children?
   A. Would you answer:
      1. Burden via blessing.
      2. Expense--He'll send food if we trust him.
      3. Trouble.
      4. Impossible to understand.
      5. Unwanted.
   B. How does the Bible identify them?
      1. Psalm 127 has some terms.
         a) "Heritage" or gift--perhaps an "assignment." See God assign and commission a duty that is not to be wasted--so immediately we seek to answer what can we do for them.
         b) "Reward"--not synonymous with curse, tragedy or accident--but an expression of God's favor. *(Hendrix)*
         c) "Arrows"--presupposes a target! also defend, support, protection--strength and accuracy.
2. Seems like to me that's pretty lofty terms.
3. Reader's Digest quote.
4. Don't all leave home!

III. What Are They To Do?
A. "Obey your parents in all things."
   1. In spite of the above he is not sharp enough to chart his own way.
   2. Fatherless homes today one of the causes of all our troubles.
   3. He can't obey unless he is taught.
   Isa. 38:19 "The father of the children shall make known thy truth"
   4. Standards must be placed before him with conviction.
   Rom. 14:5 "Let every man be fully persuaded (assured) in his own mind"
   I Pet. 3:15 "Be ready always to give an"
   5. Introduce child to the Lord.
   Neh. 8:8 "So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly and gave the sense and caused them to understand"

IV. Who Else Is Involved In This?
A. Parents obviously.
   1. Provide: 2. Request: One is roots
      a) Sense of worth.
      b) Basic needs. (Reiss clip)
      c) Life experiences.
      d) Fences--time limits, panel fence.
      e) Discipline--kept a strap with words "I need thee every hour" on it.
      f) Responsibility. Selling Robert
      g) Goals
h) An ear to listen. (See clip).
B. Lord—and please Him.
Neb. 8:10 "The joy of the Lord is your strength"

Children's Home, Paragould, AR - 4/20/96
Daniel Webster said, "If we work upon marble, it will perish; if we work upon brass time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon immortal souls, if we imbue them with principles with the just fear of the creator and love of fellow-man, we engrave on those tables something which will brighten all eternity."

...Eddie Lewis
The Wedding's Over...
What Now? pg. 114
sparking as young personalities touch live wires together, and the deep, smoldering hatred that may burn out a relationship for life. Brothers and sisters need each other, but they are individuals in their own right, and should be recognized as such.

Peel off the film which may be obscuring a higher view of your home. In a Reader's Digest article titled "Perfect Home," Norman Corwin wrote of children in these terms: "One child makes a home a course in liberal education for both himself and parents; two children make it a private school; three or more make it a campus. . . . All in all, the home is the great staging ground for the family's traffic with the world, as well as a fortress against the world's intrusions."

Single Adult Children
A phenomenon of Western world culture today is the large number of children who grow up and never leave home, postponing marriage or deciding against it. Many choose to live apart from their parents for a while and then return home. One recent study reported that among twenty-five to twenty-nine-year-olds, 16 percent of the men and 11 percent of women have returned to or had never left their parents' home. Young adults actually supported by their parents has reached a thirty-year high (Dallas Morning News, July 20, 1988, from Current Population Reports). Sociologists explain that reasons are unclear, but delays in
A boy was told by his father not to go swimming. When his father caught him in the water, the boy said, "I didn't mean to do it." "Then why do you have your swim suit with you?" he was asked. "I brought it along in case I was tempted," was the reply. So do we make provisions for the flesh.

Dennis J. Hester
The Vance Havner Notebook pg. 274
When we look into the eyes of young people, we can catch a glimpse of at least a shadow of their world. Christian leadership will be shaped by at least three of the characteristics which the men and women of tomorrow share: inwardness, fatherlessness, and convulsiveness. The minister of tomorrow must indeed take a serious look at those characteristics in his reflections and planning.

We might therefore term this generation the inward generation, the generation without fathers, and the convulsive generation. Let us see how these characteristics help us to understand more fully the men and women of tomorrow.

Henri J.M. Nouwen
The Wounded Healer pg. 27

David Riesman says: "As adult authority disintegrates, the young are more and more the captives of each other... When adult control disappears, the young's control of each other intensifies." (Psychology Today, October 1969) Instead of the father, the peer becomes the standard.

Henri J.M. Nouwen
The Wounded Healer pg. 32
This shift has very deep consequences, for if youth no longer aspires to become adult and take the place of the fathers, and if the main motivation is conformity to the peer group, we might witness the death of a future-oriented culture or -- to use a theological term -- the end of an eschatology.

Henri J.M. Nouwen
The Wounded Healer  pg. 33

Kid Bits

In the presence of the camp owner and two counselors, our neighbors were signing the necessary documents to send their boy to camp for the first time. Watching all this was the younger brother, who finally looked up with tears in his eyes and asked his father, “Why are we selling Robert?”

—Sam Levenson, Everything but Money (Simon and Schuster)

When we moved to Las Vegas, our children soon got used to the town’s main industry—entertainment and gaming. Witness the day our kindergartner rushed home with a list of the city’s summer-recreation programs available for children. “Mommy,” she asked excitedly, “can I take Arts and Craps?”

—Contributed by Mrs. Gerald Moffitt
Communication

There are probably more self-help books on family communication than on any other topic. Because communication contributes in such an important way to strong family life, this is probably as it should be. The dynamics of good communication boil down to clarity of perception and clarity of expression. Clarity of perception pertains especially to the receiver of communication. It involves good listening skills, the ability to pick up on the sender's intonations and body language, and willingness to ask for clarification when needed. In functional families, members have empathic skills, which include the ability to put oneself in the other's shoes and to understand what it feels like to be in that person's situation. This enables the communication to be on target and the receiver to make an appropriate response.

The more obvious dimension of good communication—clarity of expression—pertains to the sender. In strong families, members are able to communicate feelings, opinions, wishes, and desires in a forthright and unambiguous manner. In such families there will be a minimal amount of deceptive game-playing. Clarity in sending messages is often a result of agreement or congruency between the person's words and body language. Care in this area will go far to ensure effective communication.
Everyday in U.S.: 1 child dies every 53 min. from starvation. (27)
1 child runs from home every 26 sec. (3,323)
1 child is abused at home every 47 sec. (1,838)
1 child drops out of school every 8 sec. (10,800)
17 children are murdered - 1 every 92 min.

Hotline for "abuse" in Shelby County, Memphis, TN receives an average of 10,000 calls a month. In the Beethoven Elem. School, Chicago, IL 80% of 2nd graders are either crack cocaine addicted or HIV positive.

THERE IS A CRISIS AMONG AMERICAN CHILDREN!

Only 39% of American children born in 1988 will live with both parents through their 18th birthday. There are 23 million single parents and countless other non-traditional families forced to raise children outside God's plan. 44% of fathers who divorce the mothers never see their children again! Children of single parent families are six times as likely to be poor; two to three times as likely to have emotional and behavioral problems; more likely to drop out of school and be expelled or suspended from school; more likely to get pregnant as teenagers; and more likely to use drugs and to be in trouble with the law.

THERE IS A CRISIS IN AMERICAN FAMILIES!

One out of three high schoolers get drunk once a week. The average age of 1st time drug use is 13! Teen pregnancy is up 62% from 1940.

THERE IS A CRISIS IN THE MORAL CHARACTER OF OUR CHILDREN!

NOW LET'S GET A LITTLE CLOSER TO HOME!

Reported Abuse/Neglect in 1993: Ohio - 147,106, West Va. - 20,302 and KY - 57,706---- That's a total of 225,114!

Children placed in "out-of-home" care in 1993: Ohio - 15,922, West VA - 2,483, and KY - 3,363----- That's a total of 21,768! 9,360 of these went into Foster Care. In 1993 West VA and KY had 1,246 children available and waiting for adoption. Children living in poverty among the three states totaled 1,305,054 - 31% of the total children under 18 population!

THERE IS A GROWING CRISIS IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD!

Summary: Since 1960:
- 560% increase in violent crimes in U.S.
- 400% increase in illegitimate births
- A quadrupling in divorce rates
- A tripling in the % of children living with single parents.
- 200% increase in teen suicides
- 80% drop in S.A.T. scores for college prep.

OUR NATION IS IN CRISIS! THERE IS A CANCEROUS TUMOR GROWING ON THE SOUL OF AMERICA. NO GOVERNMENT PROGRAM CAN EVER SOLVE THESE CRISIES!

The major problem with children in the 1930's and 40's was death of the parents. Today the problems are abandonment, physical and sexual abuse, poverty, violence, drugs and divorce!
THE DADDY'S DUTY TO HIS CHILDREN
Col. 3:21

1. Suppose God had you on a one-to-one—how would you react to admonition:

Col. 3:21 "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger:
A. Would you thank Him.
B. Or blush because of temper.
C. Excuse self— I'm not there— it's his mother's job.
D. Irrespective of our reaction, the instruction is still there in stark reality. Shall we dissect it?

II. Fathers.
A. Who are they?
   1. Fathers are specifically mentioned.
      a.) He has head responsibility in the training of children.
      b.) D. Lipscomb, "No higher duty given man than to rear children."
      c.) James Dobson quote.
   2. Could mean parents in a broad sense.
Heb. 11:23 "By faith Moses, when he was born, was 1
3. Daddys, are you what you should be?
   a.) Career men clip.
   b.) Survey of 1254 families.
   c.) Mommy, tell me a story.
   d.) 37 sec. inter exchange.
   e.) Family Fd. - Divorce.
B. "Provoke not."
   1. Define word.
      a.) Irritate.
      b.) Not fault finding.
c.) Nagging – on my case all time.
d.) Word as old as Homer in GK – chafe, irritate, provoke to combat.

2. It is the over correction.
   a.) Bambeck, "3 ways to get something done: do it yourself, hire someone, or forbid the kids to do it.
   b.) You are to discipline – Michelangelo Card.
   c.) Criminal type card.

C. Its Effect – Discouragement.
1. Duty of daddy not only to discipline but encourage
   a.) Demerest Card.
   b.) Sweden Card.
2. It means literally "don't spiritless your child."
   a.) Lose heart.
   b.) Be listless.
   c.) Become sullen.
   d.) Be moody.
   e.) Broken in spirit.
3. Parents can be oversevere, abuse & keep from proper growth.
   a.) Lipscomb said protracted irritation brings hopelessness.
   b.) Child's 10 Commandments.
4. Too demanding attitudes make child think all things are impossible.
   a.) "Unreasonable exercise of authority makes kids better." Expositors.
   b.) Insanity is an inherited disease – you get it from your kids.
5. Parental despotism is fatal.
6. "The twig is bent a caution."
1. The primary responsibility for the provision of authority in the home has been assigned to men.

It will not be popular to restate the age-old Biblical concept that God holds men accountable for leadership in their families. Nevertheless, that's the way I interpret the Scriptures. 1 Timothy 3:4-5 (Phillips) states:

He (the father) must have proper authority in his own household, and be able to control and command the respect of his children.

Whether women's activists like it or not, a Christian man is obligated to lead his family to the best of his ability. This assignment does not justify iron-fisted oppression of children or the disregard of a woman's needs and wishes, of course. But God apparently expects a man to be the ultimate decision maker in his family. Likewise, he bears heavier responsibility for the outcome
of those decisions. If his family has purchased too many items on
credit, then the financial crunch is ultimately his fault. If the
family never reads the Bible or seldom goes to church on Sunday,
God holds the man to blame. If the children are disrespectful and
disobedient, the primary responsibility lies with the father...not his
wife. (I don't remember Eli's wife being criticized for raising two
evil sons; it was her husband who came under God's wrath. See
1 Samuel 3:13.)

"Straight Talk to Men and Their Wives " - By Dr. James C. Dobson
pp. 64-65
CAREER MEN HAVE HAPPY HOMES, GOOD KIDDIES

Contrary to some notions, men who are successful in their careers are also apt to be well-adjusted in their marriages and close to their children, reports The NATIONAL ENQUIRER.

A 35-year study shows that good adjustment in youth also seems to be maintained through mid-life. Harvard psychiatrist George E. Vaillant found in a study of 268 men, begun by others in the 1930s, that men who had adjustment problems as youths were more likely to be divorced, emotionally constricted, fearful of sex, and to have maladjusted children. — JACK KAHN.
A SURVEY of 1,254 U.S. families has revealed that “saving for the future” ranks third among the chief causes of strife and stress in the family. Tops on the list is “coping with high food costs,” followed by “meeting bills.”

The little four-year-old restlessly crept out of bed at 3 am and went into his parents’ room, where his mother sat glowering, her fingers drumming on the arms of her chair.

“Mommy, tell me a story,” begged the boy between yawns.

“Wait until your father gets home,” fumed his mother, “and he’ll tell us both one.”
Let's compare the thirty-seven-second interchanges between fathers and small children with another statistic. The average preschool child watches between 30 and 50 hours of television per week (the figures vary from one study to another). What an incredible picture is painted by those two statistics. During the formative years of life, when children are so vulnerable to their experiences, they're receiving thirty-seven seconds a day from their fathers and thirty or more hours a week from commercial television! Need we ask where our kids are getting their values?

"Straight Talk to Men and Their Wives" – By Dr. James C. Dobson

Page 36

Only one out of forty marriages of those who regularly attend church ends in divorce. And only one out of four hundred marriages ends in divorce when the couple reads the Bible and prays together. These statistics are significant—Christian homes that honor God's Word and follow His teaching have a greater potential for success.

"Family Foundations" – By Paul and Richard Meier – pp. 7-8
Over 400 years ago, Michelangelo wrote, "The more the marble wastes, the more the sculpture grows." This statement also applies to the psychological and spiritual development of our children. Approximately 85% of the adult personality is already formed by the time a child reaches his sixth birthday. After the sixth birthday, a parent's primary task is to chip away at the last 15% of marble in an attempt to sculpt his child into a Christian young adult.

"Family Foundations" - By Paul and Richard Meier - Page 19

But out of all the hundreds of criminal types we have counseled as psychiatrist or pastor, approximately two-thirds came from homes where at least one parent spoiled the child excessively, thus teaching him that he could always get whatever he wanted if he manipulated enough. One-third came from homes where at least one parent was physically abusive or severely verbally abusive. In nearly all the cases of sociopathy we have counseled, parental inconsistency was a major causative factor.

"Family Foundations" - By Paul and Richard Meier - Page 90
Some recently published research by Diana Baumrind of the University of California, Berkeley, more than substantiates what the Bible said long ago. For almost twenty years, she has been conducting a major investigation into how various types of parental discipline affect children's behavior. Studying three small groups of normal preschool children and their parents, her findings were summarized in a pamphlet prepared by The National Institute of Mental Health:

---The most assertive, self-reliant, and self-controlled children had parents who were controlling, demanding, communicative, and loving. Rather than ridiculing or frightening the child, or withdrawing their affection, these parents were ready to use corporal punishment. Generally, though, instead of punishing a child for behaving badly, they rewarded him for behaving well.
The children who were discontented, withdrawn, and distrustful had parents who were relatively controlling but also detached.

The children who had little self-control or self-reliance and who tended to retreat from new experiences had parents who were relatively warm but also non-controlling and non-demanding.

"Colossians The Mystery of Christ in Us" - By Gary Demarest pp. 173-174

The first major triumph for CRM was achieved in Sweden, 1979, when it became illegal for parents to spank or otherwise punish their children. The law, which the Swedish Parliament passed by a vote of 259-6, prohibits "any act which, for the purpose of punishing, causes the child injury or pain, even if the disturbance is mild and passing." The intent also prohibits psychological punishment such as scoldings, sending the child to the bedroom, withdrawing television rights, and similar humiliations. An emergency telephone service is provided 24 hours a day so that youngsters can report parental violations directly to an ombudsman.

"Straight Talk to Men and Their Wives" - By Dr. James C. Dobson

Page 62
* My hands are small; please don't expect perfection whenever I make my bed, draw a picture or throw a ball. My legs are short; please slow down so that I can keep up with you.

* My eyes have not seen the world as yours have; please let me explore safely. Don't restrict me unnecessarily.

* Housework will always be there. I'm only little for a short time—please take time to explain things to me about this wonderful world, and do so willingly.

* My feelings are tender; please be sensitive to my needs; don't nag me all day long. (You wouldn't want to be nagged for your inquisitiveness.) Treat me as you would like to be treated.

* I am a special gift from God; please treasure me as God intended you to do, holding me accountable for my actions, giving me guidelines to live by, and disciplining me in a loving manner.

* I need your encouragement to grow. Please go easy on the criticism; remember, you can criticize the things I do without criticizing me.

* Please give me the freedom to make decisions concerning myself. Permit me to fail, so that I can learn from my mistakes. Then someday I'll be prepared to make the kind of decisions life requires of me.

* Please don't do things over for me. Somehow that makes me feel that my efforts didn't quite measure up to your expectations. I know it's hard, but please don't try to compare me with my brother or my sister.

* Please don't be afraid to leave for a weekend together. Kids need vacations from parents, just as parents need vacations from kids. Besides, it's a great way to show us kids that your marriage is very special.

* Please take me to Sunday School and church regularly, setting a good example for me to follow. I enjoy learning more about God.

From the book: "Parenthood Without Hassles—Well, Almost", by Dr. Kevin Leman

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**TULSA WORKSHOP** - The Southwest Church of Christ is sponsoring a bus to go to the Tulsa Soul-Winning Workshop. They have issued an invitation to Mount Vernon to join them. If you are interested call 272-2551 in Phoenix and talk to Rosemary Hall or Steve Lane. The Workshop is April 9-11. Cost of the bus will be approximately $99.00.
I. Paul comes face to face with a terrible issue: Slavery. Wrong? Sinful?
   A. How did he deal with it?
   B. It's more that Paul--we see the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

II. Why did he not hit it head on?
   A. Christianity does not subvert political order (here it would be depriving heathen masters of their legitimate authority over Christian slaves.
      1. In some households the master was not a Christian, the slave was.
      2. Remember at Col. Philemon and Onesimus - "brother."
      3. Bit complicated when both are Christians.
   B. Arnold wrote "Christians are to live within the parameter of thoroughly entrenched social and economic structures.
      1. Confederate Hall stays at Vandy.
      2. $50,000 to put it there. Maybe 1/2 million to remove.
   C. Paul does not attack slavery, he transforms it. The slave knows himself to be the Lord's free man, transfigures his situation by acceptance, uses it to serve Christ and -cont'd-
C. (cont'd)
  to look beyond the earthly master, free of indignity and full of hope. (Broadman)

D. True Christianity does not consist in any kind of attack upon social institutions even so vicious and deplorable a system as slavery. (Coffman)

E. God did not break and destroy the relationships fixed by political governments suddenly. He breathed into them a spirit which softened their harse feature, and gradually prepared men to see the evil of such relations, and that influence finally destroyed it. Christians are to obey their master in all things. (D. Lipscomb)

F. Slavery was an established institution in Paul's day. At least half of the people were slaves. Many of them were well-educated people who carried great responsibilities in the homes of the wealthy. In many homes slaves helped to educate and discipline the children. (Weirsbe)

G. Why didn't the church of the day openly oppose slavery and seek to destroy it?
   (cont'd)
G. (cont'd)
For one thing the church was a minority group that had no political power. (Weirsbe)

H. Thou called being a servant (bond servant) care not for it, but if thou mayest be made (canst become) free, use it rather (1 Cor. 7:21-24).

I. The church was to spread the gospel and win souls, not to get involved in social action. Had the first Christians been banded together as an anti-government sect they would have been greatly hindered in their soul-winning expansion. (Weirsbe)

1. What about marches, segregation (and it at DLU) names, clement "what do I call you without offense?"

2. What about muslims?

3. Ira and night clubs.

4. Secretary asked to lie - "I'm not here."

5. Preach in denominational churches.

III. What did the Holy Spirit say do?
Read these:
Col. 3:22-25 (to slaves)
Col. 4:1 (to masters)
IV. Study of Colossians 3:22.

A. Servants, obey in all things.

1. "in our society we do not have slaves, but we can apply these principles to any kind of honest employment. A Christian worker ought to be the best worker on the job. He ought to obey orders and not argue. He ought to serve Christ and not the boss only. He ought to work whether anybody is watching or not. If he follows these principles, he'll receive the reward from Christ even if his earthly master or boss does not recognize him or reward him." (Weirsbe)

2. Brings into play crooked bosses, unions, sweatshops, youth services.

B. We serve not with eye service as men pleasers.

1. We all have bosses, overseers, supervisors.

2. Even elders and preacher relationships. Heb. 13:7,17 vs. lording it.

3. First precept - obedience.
   Second, manner of obeying
   Third, servant acts from the loftiest religious principles.
   1 Peter 2:18-20
5. This is negative obedience.
6. There is nothing degrading in service.
7. Discharge duties in a spirit of sincerity.
8. God gives a new basis for motivation--Many times in eight verses Paul uses "in the Lord."
9. Everything is to be evaluated in the light of the teachings about Jesus and the pattern he left his people to emulate.
10. Lipscomb spoke of service that must be watched to see if done properly is not good. Aim of service to be faithful. Dad Bergner went to the field to watch - "I make good wages."
11. Remember a Christian servant owed complete obedience to his master as a ministry to the Lord.

C. Rather we serve "in singleness of heart fearing God."

1. Some slaves thought we are above servitude, particularly if their master was a pagan. "What right have masters of servants of satan any mastery over me, one of Christ's free men?"
2. Contrarily we are moved to obedience irrespective of the master's presence, religion, or behavior. Whiskey Brother Hunter told me loaded for maneuvers. Stewardesses today serve liquor, mutual funds invest.

3. Christians serve in obedience from the heart, not by compulsion or unwillingly.

4. Obedience is granted in love as to the Lord.

5. Humility in service is demanded as they receive commands of another and we also noted alacrity was demanded in executing them.

6. All things lawful and honest we obey. Won't lie, steal, cheat.

7. "This gives moral dignity to the most menial employment and exalts the common drudgery of toil to a means of religious refreshment—thus do it heartily. No work is to be done with the heart not in it. (Have you heard all the commercials "I don't want to work—I want the car at your discount").

D. There is a day of reward and righting wrongs. (Verses 24-25)
1. There is an incentive to obedience—it is the promise that the Lord will bestow—good or bad.

2. Heaven may wait till the end of time to bestow its rewards.

3. The injustice done in the world, whether by master or servant, shall be impartially redressed, the injured one vindicated at the day of retribution—(But many do not want to wait that long!)

4. There is a time of judgment for the recompense of every injustice.

5. Pay day some day.

E. Some parting thoughts.

1. The church, or the worker, that needs constant exhortation and compelling accomplishes little.

2. The master is only an earthly master. Slavery is a physical, social, temporary condition in the world order. In the manual an ultimate destiny for the slave is Christ's free man. The slave is to offer the day's work as serving the Lord, not men. This transforms slavery to a vocation. (Broadman)

3. Slaves may have possessed nothing no rights of inheritance, but they do in the Lord.
4. God will hold accountability as unworthy the man who is not diligent and faithful in the absence of his employer as in his presence. (Lipscomb)

5. If anything, the servant strived to do a better job because he is a Christian. In singleness of heart his work is done heartily, not grudgingly as to the Lord and not to man. He serves the Christ.

6. Therefore of the unusual phrase Paul uses nowhere else the title Lord and Christ to stand together without the mane Jesus as well as could be brought out by paraphrase "so work for the true master, Christ."

Neely's Bend - 7/31/05
Heritage - 11/20/05
AFTER EFFECTS OF SLAVERY
Col. 3:22-25

I. That Slavery is addressed and not condemned puzzles many of us. Let's try to see the position in which the NT church found itself.

II. It is even more startling that slaves are told to behave properly while in this condition and also master how to treat them.
A. Does this suggest approval of the institution?
B. Or does it more basically outline the nature of the church?

III. Please see the conditions of the times.
A. Slavery was accepted in ancient times--making it neither right nor wrong.
   (Baptist had an uproar when youth program was to "buy a slave." Today is not like ancient times.)
B. Slaves were numerous and skillful.
   1. It was estimated 1/2 of the urban population were slaves.
   2. Many professional people were in the group.
   3. Slaves were more numerous than free men in some areas.
   4. Estimated at least 60 million folk were slaves.
C. What was their social standing?
   1. They had none.
   2. They were chattel (thus the first hearing to treat them fairly was ridiculous--do you have any obligations to a hoe?)
3. Had no rights, mere property, existing for comfort, convenience, and pleasure of owner.

IV. What did the Church, the Gospel do?
A. No blanket condemnation of slavery issued.
B. No march—against slum lords, sweat shops, or unfair wages.
C. No apostolic blasting of slavery—they were not social reformers but rather heralds of the gospel.
D. Announced principles that would kill it, as workmen strip the bark from trees to kill them.
E. Sought to solve it from within.

V. Does this method say anything to us?
A. March and overthrow.
B. Or leaven that shows we are all one in Christ Jesus.
C. Situation where I was a man's boss during the week and he was mine on Sunday in spiritual matters.

VI. What Then Was Said to Slave?
A. "Servants, obey in all things"
   1. Render complete obedience.
   2. Was he thinking only of Christian households as some teach?
   3. Obviously a Christian makes a better slave.
   4. Submit—obey.
B. Not with eye service.
   1. Some act one way when observed and another when left to ourselves.

Clock never stolen—always wetted
2. Only under observation do we work?
3. Bro. Gill went to sleep at Williams Printing--caught--said In Jesus' name, Amen.
4. Don't try to get by with as little as you can.

C. Singleness of Heart
1. Do right without looking any further.
2. Act from principles of faith.
3. Singleness = simplicity of heart.
4. Undivided purpose--please the Lord.
5. Work cheerfully with heart in it.
6. Can you eagerly serve and have a bitter grudge in heart toward whole business? Let him that stol steel, no more.

D. Fear God--Do Heartily to Lord.
1. Eyes of the Lord are in every place.
2. Every hard task is sweetened knowing it is done for the Lord.
3. Heartily--bring ardor to your work.
4. Christ affects work day as well as worship time.

VII. What Then Does This Say About Our Work Ethic Today?
A. Workman must do everything as if he was doing it for Christ.
B. "No longer is it 'my business--I do as I please' but it's the Lord's--I'll run it as he wants it." (Barclay)
C. Carry out what we are asked to do--we do not pick and choose.
D. Do work from the heart.
E. Show spirit of Christ.
VIII. What Will Help Me to do This?
A. Of the Lord I'll receive a reward.
   1. Promised me.
   2. It's an inheritance--paradox for a slave.
   3. Work for the Lord--He will repay you.
B. Wrongs Begets Wrong--we are all equal--no respect of person.
   1. Think how the slave feels when he hears this.
   2. God will not overlook misdeeds of slave or master.
   3. Just retribution in kind will come.

Hillsboro C/C 8/6/96
Bosses: some jewels, some jerks

By MICHAEL DAVIS
Staff Writer

The best boss Jim Miller ever heard about was the one who worked long days to mentor to his employees, helped them pay for graduate school and improved his own supervisor to support his efforts, telling him, "you and I are the past of this organization. Our job now is to ensure the future."

The worst would not let his employees call 911 until 5 p.m. for a colleague who had died at his desk during the afternoon because it would disrupt the routine and be non-productive.

"People always ask me, 'Did that really happen?' It really catches the interest of people, because everybody is either an employee or a boss," says Miller, a business consultant and author of Best Boss Worst Boss. "People just want to express themselves."

For the past three years, the Arlington, Texas-based Miller — who parlayed his family office supplies business into a corporate giant — has been soliciting stories from workers about their supervisors. The winning entrant gets a trip to Hawaii.

The best boss/worst boss contest started as a gimmick to promote Miller’s first book, The Corporate Coach.

But he says he discovered that employees would continue to submit their material after each contest had ended.

"Even if they don’t win, they want to put it down on paper and express their opinions," he says. "We provide a vehicle for them to vent."

The response each year has now prompted Miller to sift through the 4,000 or so entries and compile them into a book.

The results are by turns uplifting and troubling:

• A newlywed woman discovered that her new husband was about to be shipped out to England for two years, but she lacked the money to move herself and their belongings. Her boss, a dentist for whom she had worked for not quite a year, presented her with a check to cover the entire cost, saying, ‘Families should be together.’

• A worker received a balloon bouquet from the boss after landing an important client. The attached card read, “Good luck on your new job,” the boss had decided to fire the worker two months previously, but waited until the big account was secure.

• A vice principal tells of her school principal, a former policewoman, who would often leave school to take underprivileged students shopping for clothing, then pay for the items herself,

◆ Turn to PAGE 2E, Column 3
because they were too embarrassed to come to school. The educator also took students to the market and bought them groceries, because she knew there was no food at home.

A district manager forced his supervisors, in business suits, to chase a pig around the front yard of an elegant restaurant to prove their corporate mettle. One of the restaurant’s patrons called authorities to report the animal cruelty.

Common threads run through each type, Miller says. Good bosses are typically smart enough to give their employees responsibility and confident enough to leave them alone to do the job.

The worst offenders, meanwhile, are almost always insecure, incompetent and desperate to maintain their authority.

“If you think you’re a good boss, why would you treat people the way some of these people are treated?” Miller says.

Miller also puts his own spin on the book, explaining how readers might learn from the winners and avoid the weaknesses of the losers.

Miller says he plans to continue the contest, although he has not yet decided whether to update subsequent editions of the book with newer stories.

“I get excited,” he says. “I thought I could change the corporate world. I don’t want to give up.”
THE EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE RELATIONSHIP
Col. 3:22-25

I. If someone were to say to you about work - "I'm from the old school", what would that imply.
A. Tell of Marge & Terry Bell.
   1. "Are you in" - as phone rang.
   2. "Who's calling? - May he call tomorrow!".
   3. I believe in protecting. My 1st loyalty is to home & family - my second to my boss.
B. But that relationship should stir something on the boss' part.

II. Does the Bible speak to this matter?
Col. 3:22-25 "Servants, obey in all things your master.
A. Forget the slavery part of servants & masters.
B. Look now only to the employee relationship.

III. There are specific instructions given that say much in the field of economics. Shall we examine.
A. "Obey in all things your masters"
   1. That does have to do c slavery & we shall pass it w/o much investigation save a few observations.
      a.) Loyalty is expected.
      b.) That contrary to truth exempted.
      c.) Christian is not to get out of character.
   2. We'll look later to see how early church dealt c social reforms.
B. Not with eye service.
   1. Some work harder if overseer is watching.
   2. Dad Bergner made "good wages" just standing where others worked.
   3. Eyeservice used only here.
C. Not as menpleasers.
   1. Works only when inspected.
   2. Not motivation from unseen love & good will.
   3. We find God is concerned then c our vocational life.
   4. Gospel infuses dignity into work!
   5. Youth Cards.
D. But in singleness of heart.
   1. Sincere.
   3. I believe W.E. with these present men & women has such a staff.
   4. We can be pleasing tho insincere & conceal contempt - such is wrong.
E. Fearing God.
   1. Do it as if done for the Lord, not a human master.
   2. If a master does wrong - it's a double edge duty he will get his one day!
V. 25 "But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the Exo. 23:3 "Neither shalt thou countenance a poor man Exo. 23:6 "Thou shalt not wrest the judgment of thy 3. Note "no respecter of persons."
   4. Remember - part of our duty to God is to be faithful to men.
   5. See your service as rendered to God - not man.
   6. Fear = reverence.
   7. Money not our highest motivation.
   8. We find meaning in work.
   9. One wrote Jesus was not crucified between 2 candles in a cathedral but thief at a garbage dump.
10. Dobson Cards 3 & 4.

F. Do it heartily as to the Lord.
   1. Lipscomb, "When one is entitled to your service
      render it heartily & faithfully."
   2. We are to do our work as if we were working for
      Jesus.
   3. What affects our motivation?
      a.) Remuneration.
      b.) Recognition.
      c.) False pride.
      d.) Competitiveness.
      e.) Compulsion.
      f.) Fringe.
   4. Give honest, faithful, ungrudging work for pay
      received is the principle involved.
   5. Is it harder to experience Christ in our work than
      in our marriage?
   6. Is this "spiritual", "secular", "sacred", or what?
   7. Whatever your work, do it with all your heart.

West End 3-15-81
What does success signify to you? Does it mean dollars, or is success more than a financial statement. There are three important elements in success. First, you must make good plans that are practical for you. No. 2, You must work hard to accomplish the goal. No. 3, You must maintain good mental health.

Let me ask myself these ten questions about my vocation:

1. What kind of work interests me as a possible career?
2. In what field of activity are my aptitudes best?
3. What work seems to fit my pattern of interest and aptitude?
4. What are the prerequisites for entering the vocation I am considering?
5. Where can I receive this training and experience?
6. How much time and money will this training and experience require?
7. Will this training and special experience be a good investment for me?
Would you like to know what Americans think of money and the junk it will buy? Turn on a television set any day at 10:00 A.M., and watch the contestants as they compete for prizes and cash. Observe the coo-coo birds as they leap in the air, frothing at the mouth and tearing at the clothes of the moderator. Notice that their eyes are dilated and their ears are bright pink. It's an unfortunate condition known as **gameshow greed**, and it renders its victims incapable of rational judgment.

"Straight Talk to Men and Their Wives" - By Dr. James C. Dobson

Page 141
"The kids will get over it," goes the rationalization. Every form of mass communication seems mobilized to spread the "me first" philosophy. Frank Sinatra said it musically in his song "I did it my way." Sammy Davis, Jr. echoed the sentiment in "I've gotta be me." Robert J. Ringer provided the literary version in "Looking Out for Number One," which became the best-selling book in America for 46 weeks. It was flanked by "Open Marriage, Creative Divorce" and "Pulling Your Own Strings," among hundreds of other dangerous best sellers. The est program now sells the same sickness under the guise of psychological health.

"Straight Talk to Men and Their Wives" - By Dr. James C. Dobson Page 45

THOMAS JEFFERSON'S PRAYER
Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage; we humbly beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning and pure manners.

Save us from violence, discord and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitude brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues.

Endow with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in Thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that through obedience to Thy law we may show forth Thy praise among the nations on earth.

In time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in Thee to fail; all of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—Submitted by Eleanor Gay Lee who thinks we all can use it to advantage today.
HOW DID THE EARLY CHURCH DEAL WITH NECESSARY SOCIAL REFORM? Col. 3:22-25

I. Change is all around us--some for the better, some for the worse.
   A. View toward age vs. orphans.
   B. We've seen revolutions in color, hair, dress styles
   C. We've preached against movies & Sunday ball games, now they are worse & accepted.
   1. SEC.
   2. Tournament.
   3. T. V.

II. What's the church's role & where should we stand?
   A. Sign petitions.
   B. Boycott.
      1. Jello banned here.
      2. Buying it at LCC Chapel (for elderly).
   C. March.
   D. Lobby.
   E. Sue in court.
   F. Strike.
      1. Are any wrong?
      2. Are any the NT pattern?
      3. How'd they face it?

III. Surely no social ill ever so serious as slavery.
   A. In old country it existed among all races.
      1. Debts.
      2. Captured nations.
      3. Caste.
   B. Here it was mostly debts & blacks. Thus time lag our only difference!
C. The reaction of the early church has puzzled many. Shall we see it.

IV. Our text is Col. 3:22-25 — and I frankly believe I'm safe when I follow it.

Col. 3:22-25 "Servants, obey in all things your master.

A. What's the picture?

1. In NT times slavery was considered an indispensable institution to civilized society.
   a.) 1/2 Rome were slaves.
   b.) Such was the status of professional folk: Doctors, teachers, craftsmen.
   c.) Slave had no right — he was a living tool — he existed for the comfort & convenience of the owner.

2. Evidently, via Philemon there were slaves & Masters in NT church.

B. What's the instruction to slaves?

1. Obey in all things your masters.
   a.) Slavery will be abolished but while in it obey.
   b.) Obedience was to be complete.
   c.) God would not overlook slaves misdeeds based on his position.
   d.) Ephesians: Masters no partiality
      Col.: Slaves no partiality.
   e.) Put your heart in your work.
   f.) God's will expresses itself for man in ea. case of common duty.
   g.) Didn't have in mind obedience contrary to gospel.
2. What are some nuances of the text?
   a.) Remember I actually belong to the Lord - there is a future.
      (1) Slave on earth, recognized as a son in Heaven.
      (2) Relying on the eternal justice of God grants stabilization.
      (3) Of the Lord - rewarded (V. 24).
         ((a)) Rec. what is due & full - both ways!
         ((b)) Master of flesh is not Master of slaves spirit.
         ((c)) Love is recognized by love & thus rewarded.
         ((d)) Future is but the issue of the present.
   Gal. 4:1 "Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a
   (4) Lord Christ only 1 other X in NT.
   Rom. 16:18 "For they that are such serve not our Lord
   b.) God will right wrongs (V. 25).
      (1) Receive as justly due.
      (2) Reward = exact requittal.
      (3) It's to give back as equivalent - paid in full.
      (4) Receive = to take care of, carry off safe, paid back for wrong doing.

C. How then was it handled?
1. 1st see it put in context of family since slave considered part of household.
2. 2ndly, God didn't destroy it suddenly but he was administering a fatal dose. It was leaven.
3. 3rdly, Caesar enters the picture - a law of the land - Christian freedom tho did not let slave go free nor shirk his duty while in such bondage.
4. 4th, till it is correctly, properly remain: not denounced, overthrown - they were gospel
preachers, not social reformers.

5. 5th, teach the doctrine of accountability.
   a.) God holds us accountable for our work record:
       both in supervision & performance.
   b.) If we don't properly work, we wrong our boss
       here & our God too.

West End 3-22-81
GOD AND LABOR RELATIONS  
Col. 4:1

I. In America we've had many extremes.  
A. Sweat shops.  
B. Slop shops.  
C. Goldbricking.  
D. Paralyzing strikes.  

II. Would you believe God enters the picture & tells us a thing or two in labor relations?  
Col. 4:1 "Masters, give unto your servants that which  
A. Masters.  
1. We are not asked to abdicate.  
2. We are asked to exercise supervision as Jesus would if He were the boss on the job.  
3. He neither condemns, nor attacks slavery.  
4. Leads no rebellion.  
5. Slaves were not instructed to ask for their freedom.  
6. Christianity makes us better workers & bosses.  
   a.) Not c eyeservice – only under observation, false show of industry.  
   c.) Jesus rewards.  

B. Master's duties.  
1. Give unto servants.  
   a.) Lit. "exhibit on your part."  
   b.) Idea is reciprocate.  
   c.) Grant.  
2. Just.  
   a.) Lipscomb said slave had no court – so Paul gave him one – the Holy Spirit.
b. Servants should be treated as having like feeling & sensibilities c the Master.
c. Your example should influence them to a good life.
d. "Like Masters, like men."
e. Would "just & equal" free a slave?
f. NIV says "right."
g. Give justice.
3. Equal - fairness.
a. Little salary in those days for freed man, thus to make free would have been to hurt him.
b. Slavery vanishes when no office of church barred from a slave.
c. Never make a man sell his self respect.

e. Regulate conduct by equality, no caprice!
f. God shows no favoritism.
C. Master's Remembrance - we have a Master in Heaven.
1. No grudge or bitterness toward hold business.
2. Reason preachers lose their children - feel mistreated.
3. It's not "it's my business, I do as I please" – but it's God's & you run it like He would.

4. Masters own slaves & Christ owns Masters – thus let Masters deal c slaves exactly as Christ deals c Masters.

Yesh 3-29-81
THE MASTER'S OBLIGATIONS
Col. 4:1

I. Balance is an amazing part of the Scriptures.
   A. Slaves have just been told their duty.
   B. It's not one-sided; now Masters have
      their hearing before God.
   C. Let's see what's said--it will help us
      today if we are in any supervisory role.

II. Master
   A. Everyone has a boss.
   B. We are not required to abdicate master-
      ship but rather to exercise it as a
      servant of Christ. (B.I.)

III. Masters Give
   A. Show on your part
   B. Spontaneous
   C. You have an obligation to those who
      work for you.
   D. You are ever governed by what is
      right.

IV. Masters Have Servants
   A. It is the lot of the brotherhood of man
      that some boss and some work for
      another.
   B. No writer says free the slaves.
   C. Money so tight in those days if all were
      free the competition would be unbear-
      able. (Interpreters)
   D. Slaves had no court but Paul gives him
      one in the teachings of the Holy Spirit.

V. Of Masters Justice & Equality Are Demanded.
   A. Not all masters Christian and your
      attitude may be a puzzle & an opposition
      to those that aren't.
B. There is a Christian way to meet every situation that arises.

C. Servants are to be treated as having like feelings and sensibilities with the masters.

D. You want equality and fairness—so give him the same.

E. Justice is demanded.

F. Equal—your example should influence them to a good life.

G. Like Master, Like Men.

*Job 31:13-15*

H. Never make a man sell his self-respect.
I. Treat them as people with rights.

**VI. The Clincher—Masters too have a Master that's in Heaven.**

A. Masters own slaves.
B. Christ owns both Master & Slave.
C. Let the Master deal with slave as Christ would deal with him.
D. Christ is Lord of both.

E. Christianity made slaves master their consciences and the same for Masters.
F. Do we work to make the gospel attractive to the unsaved?

G. Don't let a master's misbehavior determine yours.

H. Don't be over anxious about earthly lot—there is a Heaven with its Judgement.

**Hillsboro C/C 8/7/96**
**Neely's Bend C/C 8/7/05**
**Heritage – 11/27/05**
7 SUNBEAMS OF PRAYER

Col. 4:2

I. Since the N.T. never grew weary of telling, Jesus of practicing, & the early church of using it - we should ever welcome a study of Prayer.

A. Prayer is called the vital breath of the Christian.
B. Prayer has a direct connection w/ the spread of the gospel.

Col. 4:2-4 "Continue in prayer, & watch in the
C. I want you to see 7 rays that arise from this Col. study of prayer.

II. We cite the rays.

A. Habitual, Continuous, Prayer.

Col. 4:2 "Continue in Prayer

1. "Can't do duty aright w/o prayer", Henry.
2. At time prayer seems unavailing but don't stop - go on!
3. God not moved by much speaking.

Matt. 6:7 "But when ye pray use not vain repetitions,
4. But responds to persistency.
Luke 18:1-7 . . to this end that men ought
Eph. 6:18 Praying always c all prayer & sup.
Rom. 12:12 Continuing instant in pr.
5. So continue - means to apply c ardor & assiduity to any difficult & laborous thing until you bring it to the desired end.
6. If not in the exercise we are ever in the spirit of prayer.

7. Be steadfast (Mail instructions).

Acts 1:14 These all continued c one acc.

Acts 12:5 Peter was kept in pr. but pr. was
8. Sleepy prayers never move God.
9. With church matters that concern us where do we first go: preacher's meetings, papers, or prayer? (Old Spot out front)
10. Pentecost precede by Prayer Mtg.!

B. Watchfulness.

Col. 4:2 "Watch in the same with thanksgiving
1. Allow nothing to erode your privilege.
2. Do we watch for opportunities to pray?
3. Clark says, "Be alive to opportunities."
4. Lit. be wakeful in your prayers.
Matt. 26:40 What could ye not watch c me
5. Do not be listless, tired.
6. NEB, "Pray c mind awake."
7. Watch - like a sentry awaiting an enemy; a docto - the approach of disease. He carefully keeps his charts.
8. Spurgeon - watch, we can't make the wind blow but we can spread the sails.
9. Oscar Wilde card.

C. Thanksgiving.

Col. 4:2 "Watch in the same with th.
1. I'm not always to ask - sometimes I am to thank.
2. Aristotle, "A return is required to preserve friendship." What can we give God but thanx & praise?
3. Thanx for:
   (a) Things deferred until more able to face them.
      (Dread examined)
(b) Things denied that would have been hurtful.
4. 37X Paul uses thanksgiving – often connected c prayer.
5. Recollection of earlier blessings will support in times of trial – thank God for it.
D. Pray for us. #4
Col. 4:3 "Withal praying also for us
  1. MacKnight said all who live in one family should pray for the successful affairs of others in the family.
  2. Little folk could bless an apostle!
  3. We need to pray for preachers.
  4. Paul asked live folks not the Virgin Mary to pray for him.
  5. Moses hands fell down when not sustained by Aaron.
Rom. 15:30 Strive together c me in your p.
2 Thess. 3:1 "Finally br., pr. for us that the w.
6. Note Paul is requesting prayers for his work – not himself, not prison release, not victory, not rest.
E. Door Opened. #5
Col. 4:3 "That God would open unto us a
  1. It's God's work – see Him first!
  2. What's a door?
    (a) Opportunity.
Acts 14:27 Had opened the door of faith
1 Cor. 16:9 For a great door & effectual is
  (b) Or else increased ability of the preacher.
  (c) Door embraces:
    (1) Liberty to speak.
    (2) Opportunity.
(3) Power.
(4) Courage to rebuke.
(5) Knowledge to impart.
(6) Success to achieve.

3. Let prayer be for power, not a release from duty.

F. Speak. 

Col. 4:3 "A door of utterance to speak

1. Holy Spirit guiding him – yet he wanted their prayers that he might speak properly.

2. Utterance.

Eph. 6:19 Open my mouth boldly to make known.

3.Chr. of necessity is a missionary.

4. Paul in prison & the only liberty he thought about was for the word.

5. Suffering & discouragement must not shackle you.

G. Speak the mystery (Boy & horse)

Col. 4:3 "To speak the mystery of Christ for

1. Make clear the revelation of Christ.

2. Declare plainly & boldly the gospel.

[Handwritten notes: West End 4-16-75 Central Smith Training for Service Series, Madison 4-17-75]
Brother Jack Zorn relates a story of the late Olan Hicks about old Spot, the family dog. Every time the team of horses was hitched to the wagon, old Spot would run ahead of the team with head in the air, wagging his tail. Spot would lead the way until they reached the crossroad. At this point Spot would start running in circles waiting for the team to turn on chartered course. As soon as the team indicated which road they were going to pursue, then Old Spot led the way again. Brother Hicks said, "Old Spot followed out front." Many professed leaders today wait until they can determine the course of action by the majority, then they take their stand. They follow out front.

From "The Church, The Body of Christ" - By Bill Harris
Harding College Lectures 1970    Page 48
One of the tragedies of the nineteenth century was the career of Oscar Wilde. He had a brilliant mind, and won the highest academic honours; he was a scintillating writer, and won the highest rewards in literature; he had all the charm in the world, and he was a man whose instinct it was to be kind; yet he fell to the temptation of unnatural vice, and came to prison and disgrace. When he was suffering for his fall he wrote his book "De Profundis" and in it he said: "The gods had given me almost everything. But I let myself be lured into long spells of senseless and sensual ease... Tired of being on the heights I deliberately went to the depth in search for new sensation. What the paradox was to me in the sphere of thought, perversity became to me in the sphere of passion. I grew careless of the lives of others. I took pleasure where it pleased me, and passed on. I forgot that every little action of the common day makes or unmakes character, and that therefore what
one has done in the secret chamber, one has some day to cry aloud from the house-top. I ceased to be lord over myself. I was no longer the captain of my soul, and did not know it. I allowed pleasure to dominate me. I ended in horrible disgrace." Desire is a bad master, and to be at the mercy of desire is to be a slave. And desire is not simply a fleshly thing; it is the desire for any forbidden thing.

"The Letters to the Galatians and Ephesians" - William Barclay
pp. 116-117
If you're a born worrier, you were born at the right time. Christianity, however, challenges the pessimism of our day with the powerful declaration that God is involved in human history. This involvement does not limit or squelch human ingenuity, but rather this action demands superlatives of both man's intellect and emotions. Really what the world is coming to—depends upon when, if ever, you and I come to! Christianity asserts that the pessimist is a person who ought to have his dread examined.

From "The Power in Peace" — By Virgil R. Trout
Harding College Lectures 1970  Page 159

Little Tommy, a true Cockney from London, on his first outing in (the country) had just seen his first blacksmith's shop on a car ride... with his parents.

He wrote home to his school pal: "Today we saw a man who makes horses. He had nearly finished one when we passed by. He was just nailing on his hind feet. — RICHARD B GRAVES, East Anglian Mag, England, 10-73.

Quote
Bear-ly Hunting

A CITY BOY decided to go bear hunting one day and headed out into the country. But as he drew near his exit on the freeway, he noticed a sign that said "Bear Left." So he turned around and went home.

—Rebecca Troyer
Berne, Indiana

Six-year-old Jimmy attended church with his parents one Sunday. When he knelt to say his prayers before going to bed that evening he prayed: "Dear God, we had a good time at church today. I wish you could have been there."

Mrs. Evelyn Pickering—Calhoun City, Miss.
A PRAYER'S TARGET
Col. 4:2-4

I. That I'm to pray surely every Christian knows.
   A. Jesus (Luke 12:1-2) made a speech stressing something "1st of all."
   B. Praying - what's most essential in my prayers.

II. Unashamedly, pray for --
   A. Me (for us).
   Col. 4:3 "Withal praying also for us, that God would
      1. Felt his work was important & wants it blessed.
      2. Wanted live folks, not Virgin Marys to pray for him.
      3. All who live in one family should pray for the
         successful affairs of others in the family.
      4. We need supporting prayers.
      5. If Paul needed prayers in order to speak properly
         how much more do we!
   B. That God would open a door of utterance.
      1. Prayer helps offerings.
      2. Prayer unlocks doors.
      3. Paul in prison & talks of open doors.
      4. God can use you anywhere.
      5. When we can't go forth to opportunities, God
         brings them to us.
      6. God can turn frustration to triumph.
      7. Evangelistic spirit.
         a.) Are we self sufficient?
         b.) Do we know how to precede in all matters?
         c.) Wants favorable circumstance.
         d.) Wants open door.
         e.) Ever know one not enthusiastic.
f.) Chr. of necessity is a missionary.
8. Note prayer was for his work:
   a.) Not himself.
   b.) Not prison release.
   c.) Not victory.
   d.) Not Rest.
9. Door.
Acts 14:27 "And when they were come, and had gathe
1 Cor. 16:9 "For a great door and effectual is opened
2 Cor. 2:12 "Furthermore, when I came to Troas to pri:
   a.) Either door of opportunity or
   b.) Increased ability of preacher.
   c.) Are we alive to our opportunities.
10. Utterance = logos - thus open door for the word.
Acts 28:31 "Preaching the kingdom of God, and teach
C. Speak the mystery of Christ.
   1. Used mystery 21 X - 11 X in Col. & Eph.
   2. Mystery now revealed.
D. For which I am in bonds.
   1. Moule, "hourly trial for a sensitive spirit tied to
      a pagan."
   2. Forgot his liberty & concentrated on that for the
gospel.
E. Make it manifest - as I ought to speak.
   1. To make it clear, not secret.
   2. Wants to be accurate.
   3. Wants to be full.
   4. Feels he can't do his duty aright w/o prayer.
   5. Banish all impure motives.
7. One thing to know how to proceed & another to have the strength to do it.

Heat End 4-12-81
Erika Turner - Sten.
Hoodale Church, Memphis 5-17-81
"The time is out of joint: O cursed spite, That ever I was born to set it right!" (act 1, scene 5). Hamlet was nearly correct. He sensed the crookedness, the brokenness of his time. In this he was right. But he was wrong to resent his role in putting things straight. He was also wrong in assuming that any man, even a prince of Denmark, could cure the ailments of his time.

"Colossians Speaks to the Sickness of Our Times" - By David Allan Hubbard

The names, the symptoms, the setting may change. But the sickness persists. The symptoms of our present illness are many and varied. Here are just a few: rebelliousness that strikes out blindly against the so-called system and tries to bludgeon it into changing; religious relativism that smiles benignly at all religions and proclaims them all equally good for the people who believe them sincerely; psychological manipulation that cons people into doing what others want them to do whether or not it's good for the people being used; humanism that thinks our conduct can be fully measured by human standards and our problems can be solved by human ability alone; legalism that yearns to set wrongs right by rigid regulations and a strict system of punishments and rewards; ethical confusion that brands right as wrong and wrong as right or erases all such distinctions; ingratitude that assumes the world owes us a living and takes for granted the lavish benefits that come our way;
irresponsible that neglects duties and drifts through life taking
but not giving; rugged individualism that brags about self-reliance
or independence and bulldozes its way through life without regard
for the needs or rights of others.

"Colossians Speaks to the Sickness of Our Times" - By David Allan
page 14 Hubbard
PRAYER'S THE CHRISTIAN'S LASER BEAM
Col. 4:2-5

I. I know of nothing at my command that has the power of my prayers.
   A. My voice grows hoarse.
   B. My legs tremble.
   C. My eyes close in fatigue.
   D. But prayer goes undaunted.

II. Let the Christian soldier rightly use this weapon. Col. 4:2-4 "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same"
   A. See first its Permanency.
   B. See next its Performance.

III. My Prayer Participation.
   A. Continue in it.
      1. Be unwearied.
      2. It's like a siege, perseverance.
      3. Not perfunctory.
      4. Not half-hearted, but earnest & assiduous.

Gen. 32:26 "And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh".
5. Prayer's not a spiritual luxury, but sacred business.

6. Lit. be wakeful in prayer - NEB "Pray with mind awake."

Lu. 9:32 "But Peter and they that were with him were heavy... when they were awake, said..."
7. Don't be listless & tired.

8. God responds to persistency.

Lu. 18:1-7 "And he spake a parable unto them to this effect..."

Eph. 5:18 "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess..."

Rom. 12:12 "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation;"

1 Thess. 5:17 "Pray without ceasing." Continue instantly.

9. Continue till you bring desired end.
10. Pentecost preceded by prayer.
11. Prayer embraces confession, petition, thanksgiving and ascription.

B. Watch c Thanksgiving.
1. Watch yourself - be aware of indifference & languor.
2. Prayer guards against slackness & moral failure.
3. We can't make the wind blow, but we can spread the sails.
4. Watch is like sentinel awaiting enemy, a doctor a disease.
5. We must be habitually grateful.
6. What can we give God really but Thanx & Praise.
7. Paul uses Thanx 37X.

IV. My Prayer’s Target.
A. 1st Pray for Fellow Chrs.
Col. 4:3 “Withal praying also for us, that God would
1. Felt his work was important & wants it blessed.
2. Wanted live folks, not Virgin Mary to pray for him.
3. Note it’s prayers for his work: not self, prison release, victory, rest.
4. Your prayers help others - Moses hands fell when not sustained by Aaron.

B. Pray for Open Door. God Ain’t Had yet

V. 3 “That God would open unto us a door of utterance
1. The answer’s not in the wind, but in the hand of God! He controls.
2. Your prayers help unlock doors.
3. Paul’s in a prison, but talking about open doors!
God can use you anywhere.

4. When we can’t go forth to opportunities, God brings them to us. Tipi thing which happen - Scripture: Phil. 1:12-14 "But I would ye should understand, breth

5. He turns frustrations to triumphs.

6. Then pray for favorable circumstances.

7. Wide door. Men working - we hope.

Acts 14:27 "And when they were come, and had gathered together, I Cor. 16:9 "For a great door and effectual is opened.

2 Cor. 2:12 "Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach

8. Either opportunity or else increased ability of preacher.

9. Direct connection between opportunity - watchful and prayer.

10. Wants to Preach - Utter!
    a.) Sole reason to Open Door!
    b.) Teaching vital.

Eph. 6:19 "And for me, that utterance may be given you

11. Mystery of Christ.
    a.) Uses 21 X.
    b.) 11 X in Col. & Eph.
    c.) Secret made clear.

12. He was in bonds.
    a.) Preaching caused his imprisonment.
    b.) Must have been an hourly trial for this sensitive spirit to be bound to pagan.

C. Manifestation of Truth - Desired End.

V. 4 "That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak

1. Declare plainly & boldly the gospel.

2. Holy Spirit guiding him, yet wanted their prayers to know how to speak.
3. Meet the needs of men.
Yosemite, Calif. Family Encampment 7-28-78
PRAYER IS THE CHRISTIAN'S LASER BEAM
Col. 4:2-5

I. Introduction.
A. Now offers counsel for the entire church.
   1. It relates to the personal life of us all.
   2. It touches two extremes:
      a.) Hidden prayer life.
      b.) Busy Outward life of the Marketplace.
   3. We will see continued prayer blended with unwearied action.
B. For now, we seek to see only what's said about prayer.
   1. I know of nothing at my command that has the power of my prayers.
   A. My voice grows hoarse.
   B. My legs tremble.
   C. My eyes close in fatigue.
   D. But prayer goes undaunted.

II. Let the Christian soldier rightly use this weapon.
Col. 4:2-4 "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same.
A. See first its Permanency.
B. See next its Performance.

III. My Prayer Participation.
A. Continue in it.
   1. Be unwearied.
   2. It's like a siege, perseverance.
   4. Not half-hearted, but earnest & assiduous.
Gen. 32:26 "And he said, Let me go, for the day breaks a.) Devote self used 10X in N.T.
b.) Has many translations: continue, continue instant, continue steadfastly.
c.) From strong root - from to be strong, earnest adherence to a thing.
d.) Implies persistency c fervor.
e.) Coffman, "Means Christian should never stop praying, not that prayers are interminable."

5. Prayer's not a spiritual luxury, but sacred business.
6. Lit. be wakeful in prayer - NEB "Pray c mind awake."

Lu. 9:32 "But Peter and they that were with him were
Matt. 26:40 "And he cometh unto the disciples, and f
7. Don't be listless & tired.
8. God responds to persistency. (See end of notes)

Lu. 18:1-7 "And he spake a parable unto them to this
Eph. 5:18 "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is ex
Rom. 12:12 "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation;
1 Thess. 5:17 "Pray without ceasing."

9. Continue till you bring desired end.
10. Pentecost preceded by prayer.
11. Prayer embraces confession, petition, thanksgiving

B. Watch c Thanksgiving.
1. Watch yourself--be aware of indifference & languor.
2. Prayer guards against slackness & moral failure.
3. We can't make the wind blow, but we can spread the sails.
4. Watch is like sentinel awaiting enemy; a doctor a disease.
a.) Lit. keep awake.
b.) Spiritual alertness.
c.) Never mechanical or heavy.
d.) Maintain your zest for prayer.

5. We must be habitually grateful.
   a.) "Be thankful" shows the spirit.
   b.) After all opportunities come via watchfulness so appropriate we express thanks.

6. What can we give God really but Thanx & Praise.

7. Paul uses Thanx 37 X.

Wrote 18

1. Object is explained by Christ himself — "The King hath set me upon his holy hill of Zion."  

2. Prayer is life breath of Christian — neglect it, a sure Road to falling.

3. What moves us to pray? Fear of death, pricked conscience, unusual need, want something!

4. Do we hurry, shorten, then omit, or pray e resolve, steadily, patiently, never babbling goodcons

5. Fear not God — Jesus knows there are such men in high places — "...all men!

6. Wear ye = "strike under the eyes"

7. When faith fail, prayer dies - Augustine

Blest End 4-5-81
In far too many churches the excitement of a new discovery has been slowly replaced by a dutiful adherence to boring ritual and routine. Consequently, there is more dust about us than dew. Because the natural and necessary effervescence of genuine faith has fizzled out, most of our "goodness" has become calculated and organized. Our giving is too sensible, our devotion too controlled our service too predictable. The electronic calculator has become a more appropriate symbol of our faith than perfume bottles. As a result, our books are balanced, but our lives are not. The heart has gone out of our giving, partially because we keep at least one eye on the Internal Revenue Service instead of both eyes firmly fixed on external Christian service.

"Throw Away the Garbage" - By Buckner Fanning - Page 82

At a presidential prayer breakfast in March, 1961, Pres Lyndon B Johnson said: "I rise to speak, remembering the most popular preacher who ever came to our Texas hill country. His popularity was due, he said, to the fact that he offered a silent prayer for himself each Sunday morning before his sermon.

"It went like this:
'Lord, fill my mouth
With worthwhile stuff,
And nudge me when
I've said enough.' "
WALKING THE WALK

Col. 4:5

I. I don't know who first thought of it: "We've got to walk the walk and talk the talk" to be what we should be.
A. Here Paul emphasizes the safeguards of our speech.
B. He's just told us how to use our words in prayer (v-2), and later will caution us in conversation (v-6).
C. But to say the least, the Christian is scrutinized in his public and private life—so we must be mindful of this influence.
1. Who has not been touched with a prayer?
2. Who has not been quoted in what he said?
   a) Arthur Smedley in born two times dies once.
   b) Some man at Lone Oak service.
   c) Louis Rutherford profane.

Psalms 119:97-105 - READ

II. So how we conduct ourselves is open for observation.

V-5 "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time."

A. I call this the 3W verse: walk, wisdom, without.
B. It's very current—redeem the time.
C. Let's see what God commands of all of us.

III. Walk (Eph. 5:15) circumspect, I Thess. 4:12

A. We are ever under scrutiny since we claim to be somebody: I'm a child of God.

1. Belong to earthly and heavenly family—no not bring reproach.

2. A boy restored Wednesday night at Lone Oak—his mother quickly down the aisle to sit by son, Jacob.

3. I'll meet you not just at church but:
   a) Market place—how do I treat clerk and one who gives me credit—pay bills?
   b) At entertainment places ball (bitting), dancehall, lottery tickets, business meetings.

1 Cor. 10:32 "Give no offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God."

C. Our living is authentic.

D. "The Christian life has a public circumference."
   (Broadman)
4. "Every believer has power."
   (Lipscomb)
B. Walk = our daily conduct.
   1. Nothing in life must jeopardize our testimony.
   2. Don't say or do anything that makes it hard to share the gospel.
   3. Do I keep my promises?
1 tim. 3:7 "Moreover he must have a ..."

IV. Those Without
   A. Outsider--outside the community of covenant believers.
      1. Jewish term of two groups--in and out.
      2. Paul uses it for unbelievers.
      3. I'll meet them in civic occasions, market place.
   B. Some Scriptures
      1 Cor. 5:12-13 - For what have I?
   C. What do I want to do with them?
      Bring them in.
   D. Is there anybody without?

V. Wisdom
   A. From Zingers
      1. Advice is like snow, the softer it falls, the deeper it goes.
      2. A stiffneck usually supports an empty head.
3. Why can't life's problems hit us when we're 18 and know everything.
4. If we could lock up all the feeble-minded who would write all our hit songs.
5. If you don't learn from your mistakes there is no sense in making them.
6. Diplomacy is the art of letting someone else have your way.
7. Buying cheap merchandise to save money is like stopping a clock to save time.
8. A wise man knows more than he tells, but a fool often tells more than he knows.
9. A born diplomat is someone who remembers your birthday but forgets how many.
10. No man really becomes a fool until he stops asking questions.
11. An efficiency expert is one who is smart enough to tell you how to run your business and too smart to start his own.
12. The beginning of wisdom is silence--the second is listening.
13. Diplomacy is the art of telling your friends the have "open minds" instead of "holes in their heads."
14. A man doesn't begin to attain wisdom until he recognizes that he is not indispensable.

15. Horse sense behind the steering wheel is more important than horsepower under the hood.

16. Horse sense is stable thinking.  
(Marvin Powell)

VI. Redeem Times

Eph. 5:16  "Redeeming the time because the days are evil."

Neely's Bend C/C - 8/21/05
The Left and the Right
by Jimmy Allen

I have been a Christian 55 years. Never during that period have I seen our people as polarized as they are now. In my judgment, there are those on the left and the right that need to rethink their positions in light of the Bible and move back toward the center. Some on the left will no longer use me for revivals because I am too conservative. Some on the right will not have me for a gospel meeting because I am too liberal.

The Left

In the following material, I give illustrations that tell something about the left wing of the Restoration Movement. Dr. Jerry Jones, a dear friend and brother, was speaking of these people when he said, "Jim, the church has moved off and left you."

Recently after a Bible class in my home congregation on a Wednesday night, I said to one of my brothers, "Surely, I have the right to quote Acts 2:38 to a person and tell him he must repent and be baptized to receive forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit." His response was, "That is just your interpretation. You are trying to play God. Hello, God!" I put my arm around him and said it was about the most sarcastic remark made to me by a fellow Christian. I have known the man more than 50 years.

We are also being told that there is a vast difference between gospel and doctrine. Everyone must accept and obey the gospel to be a child of God, however, if we attempt to bind anything on another in addition to initial belief in Jesus, repentance of sins, and immersion in the name of Christ, we are preaching another gospel. This is done so that no distinction will be made between ourselves and brothers who use instrumental music in worship. However, the point made is far broader in application than just instrumental music. To preach another gospel is to condemn (Gal. 1:6-9). If I attempt to prove that elders and deacons are to be leaders in the local church, that communion is to be taken only on the first day of the week, that the church can go into apostasy (2 Thess. 2:1-12), and the danger of false teachers (2 Jno. 7-11, 1 Tim. 4:1-2), I am guilty of dividing the church and preaching another gospel. Accordingly, the way to have unity is to recognize that all the born-again compose the church and to work and worship with every single one regardless of any practice beyond baptism.

Pattern is another area of concern. I was talking to a well-known preacher of ours who emphasized the importance of baptism. When he finished, I asked him about pattern. He told me there was no pattern. I asked if what he had just said about baptism was or was not pattern. I then added if there is no pattern, there is nothing to be bound on those whom we teach. Of course, Matt. 28:18-20 indicates there is something to be taught beyond baptism. Obeying God's commands, which certainly expresses our love for him (Jno. 15:10; 14:15; Jude 21), surely involves pattern in becoming and remaining loyal to him. When another disciple told me there is no pattern, I said there must be one if anything is to be bound on another. I then attempted to explain that the argument is not about pattern but about the size of the pattern. The larger the pattern, the smaller the fellowship. The smaller the pattern, the larger the fellowship but there is pattern morally and religiously that people must follow.

Another saint takes the view that Melchizedek was a pagan or idolatrous priest. This deals me trouble because of the deference Abraham showed to him and also the fact that Jesus is a priest after the order of Melchizedek (Heb. 7:14-17). This same man also holds that Job was not a historical character. I pointed out that Noah, Daniel, and Job are actually tied together four times in Ezekiel (14:14, 16, 17, 20). If Job was non-existent, perhaps the same is also true of Noah and Daniel. Suppose I were to say that Larrimore, Brewer and Tracy (meaning Dick) were righteous enough to save no one but themselves. Would you not consider all three as real people? Furthermore, James urged brethren to look to Job as an example of patience (Jas. 5:10-11). I asked if he was simply accommodating Jewish ignorance. If Job is not a historical character, would it not follow that all the others mentioned in Job would also be imaginary persons?

Back to the question of instrumental music in Christian...
A POTENT PRAYER PARAGRAPH
Col. 4:2-6
I. Paul wastes little time getting to his subject--but I'll do it.
   A. First I want the church to pray.
   B. Second, I see signs--meal time, conferences, family get-togethers, and I don't see prayer.
   C. The employment of it would be of great benefit--so let's go to Paul.

Col. 4:2-6
II. Continue in Prayer

A. Pursue
B. Persistent
C. Devote self to prayer.
D. Engage expectantly--pray with attitude you have already received your request.

Mk. 11:24
E. Daily-habitual--"the soul is a stupendous want, having its supplies in God."(PC)

1 Jn. 5:14-15
F. Prayer is the expression and index of the soul's vital appetite.
G. As need is perpetual so is prayer necessary.

H. Hindrances:
1. When we are least inclined to pray we are in most need of it.
2. Pressure of business.
3. Den of world affairs.
4. Uncongenial society.
5. Too absorbing church work.
6. Physical weakness.
1. Prayer
   1. We can reach the Father anytime—not so with other authorities.
   2. Have set times to pray.

   Ps. 55:17  "Nor will I go to the temple of God.
   Ps. 119:164  "I will meditate on your statutes with fear.
   1 Thess. 5:17  "No ceasing.
   Phil. 6:4  "Be careful for nothing.

3. Many reasons to pray.
   a) That ministers may be able to preach.
   b) With Power.
   1 Thess. 5:5  "Chill people of fire.
   c) With urgency.
   2 Tim. 4:2-5  "Have patience.
   d) With patience.
   1 Cor. 4:9  
   e) With consistency.
   2 Cor. 6:4  
   f) With fear.
   2 Cor. 4:8  
   g) With faithfulness.
   1 Cor. 4:2  
   h) With zeal.
   2 Cor. 5:11  
   1 Thess 2:12  
   i) With Heaven's approval.
   2 Cor. 2:17  

4. "Prayer is the abnegation of self-confidence and the prostration of the soul before the Lord." (P.C.)
III. Pray with Thanksgiving.
   A. Gratitude felt and expressed.
      1. Little girl at birthday party: "Did you thank your hostess?" "I was going to but the girl in front of me did and the hostess said 'Don't mention it'--so I didn't."
      2. Must attend with thanksgiving.
   B. Count and state your blessings.

IV. Pray Intercessorily
   A. For us
      1. Be selfless--pray for others.
      2. There are none who do not need it.
   B. For Open Door
      1. World does not willingly open its door.
      2. But open door useless unless church is ready to enter.
      3. Lit. "door for the word."
      4. To all races.
   C. Utterance to Speak
      1. Words spread the cause.
      2. There is value in preaching.
      3. Opportunity to preach if he can get out of prison--if not, do it while there.
      4. Cause of his imprisonment was his preaching the gospel of Jesus.

Sycamore Chapel (BC) - 8/30/98
Stroudsville (BC) 10/25/98
Hohenwald/Ethridge BC - 11/4/98
Old Hickory BC - 11/12/09
East Main, Murfreesboro, TN BC - 11/18/98
Riverwood BC - 12/2/98
Brentwood BC & Otter Creek Sr. Citizens-12/3/98
Joywood & Madison BC - 12/8/98
CHARACTERISTICS NECESSARY TO THE PERSONAL WORKER  Col. 4:5-6

I. All of us surely want to advance the cause.
   A. I may turn one off with the Word - I can't alter God's truth.
   B. But I must not turn one off with me.
   C. Paul gives me some guidelines.  
      Col. 4:5-6

II. Are these features mine?
   A. Walk in wisdom toward them that are without.
      1. I'm to do nothing to encourage the heathen in vice or discourage the spread of the gospel.
      2. I must face the fact there are those "without."
         (a) Not in the church.
         (b) Often divide society into two groups, i.e., Jews & Gentiles; saved & lost, etc.
         (c) Those w/out judge us by our practice more than profession of doctrine.
         (d) Reason for being evangelistic.
   3. World watches our behavior.  
   4. Walk in wisdom; not craftiness.
   5. I have a public as well as private circumstance.
   6. Deal in strictest principles of integrity.
   7. Means to behave c tact.
   8. Wisdom demanded.
   
   Col. 1:10 "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord untill.
   2:6 "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord . . . .
   3:7 "In the which ye also walked some time, when ye
   Eph. 2:2 "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the 
   2:10 "For we are his workmanship created in Christ . . . .
   4:1 "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, besee
Eph. 4:17 "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord

B. Redeem the Time.
1. Prudence will avoid persecution & give time for
gospel's spread.
2. Let me not increase prejudice against the church.
3. Chr. on the outlook for every opportunity.
4. Buy back the present time from evil.
5. Do you see time as short.
6. Seize the initiative. Days are evil (Eph. 5:16)

C. Let Speech Be c Grace.
   Eph. 4:29 "Let no corrupt communication proceed
1. Not enuf to ans. correctly; must also answer in
   the right manner.
2. Commend message c charm & wit.
3. Let it be full of the gospel, thus a limit on how
   far we can please men.
4. We need charisma.

D. Let Speech be Seasoned c Salt.
1. Salt preserves.
2. Salt makes palatable.
3. Our discourse must not be corrupt.
Mark 9:50 "Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his sa
I Pet. 3:15 "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, c
4. G.K. for salt meant wit, piquant, not empty speech.
5. Not insipid.
6. Let there be consistency of life & speech.
7. Off color language off limits.

E. Full Answer.
1. Right Answer demands:
   (a) Right time.
(b) Right person.
(c) Right material.
(d) Being patient.
2. Note it says "Know how" to ans.
   (a) Understand person to whom you speak.
   (b) Catch mood of moment.
   (c) Note also every man - each a bit different.
3. Demands we know reality of our faith.

Hoodson Chapel Visitation Program 2-3-78
I. Just don't know a better summation of what's expected of each Christian in evangelism than Paul states here:

Col. 4:5-6 "Walk in wisdom toward them..."

II. Let's study the five planks.

A. Walk in wosdom toward them that are without.

1. Some are without.
   a) They are not in the church.
   b) The church is the within.
   c) They are not in the family.
   d) But I have an obligation to them.
   e) Walls are invisible, but they are there.
   f) Some are shut out—we are not if Christian.

2. Walk in wisdom.
   a) We must be wise in action toward those outside the church.
   b) What impressions do we leave?
   c) Discreet conduct will commend the gospel.
   d) World watches our behavior.
   e) To know how to proceed is one thing—the strength to do it is another.
3. Wisdom necessary.
   a) Not in craftiness.
   b) If our lives deny the peace, joy, comfort, we do not walk in wisdom toward those without.
   c) Wisely do nothing to encourage the heathen in vice or discourage the spread of the gospel
   d) Don't increase prejudice against the church.

B. Secondly redeem the time.
   1. Seize the opportunity.
   2. Make proper use of specific occasions.
   3. Buy up the opportunity to use everyone at advantageous time--make the most of each chance.
   4. Lord wants us ready for those He's made ready.
   5. Joy to be awake--to be drowsy is to be discouraged.
   6. Be ready at all times, but especially at precise moment. Who kisses hello on a date?

C. Thirdly let your speech be always with grace.
   1. Hard to be courteous in speech.
   2. Harder to [underline]always be.
   3. Sometimes [underline]it's easy to be sweet.
   4. Don't be too hard on heathen customs.
5. Not enough to answer—must do so in right manner.
6. Commend message with charm and wit.
7. Banish all impure motives.

D. Fourthly let your speech be seasoned with salt.
   1. Avoid tastelessness.
   2. Salt does away with the dull.
   3. Salt brings out the best in food—our conversations should bring out the best in people.
   4. Salt perserves and makes palatable.

Eph. 4:29
Mark 9:50
1 Pet. 3:15

5. Greek work means wit, piquant, not empty speech.

E. Fifthly that ye may know how to answer every man.
   1. Meet inquiries with grace.
   2. Deal with each man individually—not one stock answer—little boy selling peanut brittle "it's finger-lickin good--if I'm a lyin then I'm a flyin."
   3. Not asked to withdraw from ordinary community life.
   4. Let your answer be accurate and full.
5. Christian on outlook for every opportunity to talk Christ.
6. We need be ashamed of no question neither weaken or enhance to please anyone.
7. Every Christian has an urgent mission--have right approach to others to bring him to Jesus.
THE TRIPlicate OF DUTIES
, Col. 4:5-6

I. What have I to do today?
A. Bill Banowsky produced his appointment book—red marked the blocks for speeches—"I like to look at it so I can keep the rhythm going he said."
B. Are your daily duties outlined—routine you follow?

II. I suggest our Lord has daily diagrammed a triplicate program every Christian must consistently follow.
Col. 4:5-6 "Walk in wisdom toward them that are wise.
A. "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without."

1. Some are without.
   a.) They are not in the church.
   b.) The church is not within.
   c.) They are not in the family.
   d.) But I have an obligation to them.
   e.) Walls are invisible, but they are there.
   f.) Some are shut out—we are not if Chr.
   g.) Unbelievers are outsiders.
   h.) Those without should be a great concern to us.

2. Walk in wisdom. Jn 17:27 "Keep unspotted"
   a.) We must be wise in action toward those outside the church. Jn 17:14-18 "In but not of the world"
   b.) What impressions do we leave?
   c.) Discreet conduct will commend the gospel.
   d.) World watches our behavior.
   e.) To know how to proceed is one thing—the strength to do it is another.
   f.) We must not fall into the trap of doing things
for appearances but we must be concerned with how we are seen by the world.

g.) What do folks across the street think of the church.

h.) Is there a gap between what they think & what we want them to think? Matt 5:37 “Swear not falsely.”

i.) We have one central purpose – declare Christ – can't do it when door is not open.

j.) Reports are often circulated that Chr. misbehavior see that this is corrected.

3. Wisdom necessary. How proper understanding of work assigned - not to one who

a.) Not in craftiness. “Sighs are one beating air.”

b.) If our lives deny the peace, joy, comfort, we do not walk in wisdom toward those w/out.

c.) Wisely do nothing to encourage the heathen in vice or discourage the spread of the gospel.

d.) Don't increase prejudice against the church.

e.) Be cautious, exemplary to give lie to scandals.

f.) Avoid antagonizing or alienating pagan neighbors. Need self preservation, extension

g.) Give favorable impressions of the gospel.

1 Thess. 4:12 "That ye may walk honestly toward them.

1 Tim. 3:7 "Moreover he must have a good report of th

B. 2ndly, Redeem the Time. Verb in middle voice.

1. Seize the opportunity. "Buy up to yourself – for your

2. Make proper use of specific occasions.

3. Buy up the opportunity to use everyone at advantageous time – make the most of each chance.

4. Lord wants us ready for those He's made ready.

5. Joy to be awake – to be drowsy is to be discouraging.

6. Be ready at all times, but especially at precise
moment. Who kisses hell on a date?
7. Reflect urgency.
8. Tragedy when door is open & we fail to go in.
10. Doors close as fast as they open.
11. Use appropriate time – the right moment.
12. "Make most" is a market term – buy out, purchase completely.
13. Make most of every opportunity.
14. Opportunity comes from a word that denotes a point in time contrasted to a duration.

C. 3rdly, Let your speech be always with grace.
1. Hard to be courteous in speech. "Spare blushes."
2. Harder to always be. No filthy conversations.
3. Sometimes it's easy to be sweet.
4. Don't be too hard on heathen customs.
5. Not enuf to ans. – must do so in right manner.
6. Commend message c charm & wit.
7. Banish all impure motives.
8. Is your speech always gracious?
9. Does grace relay pleasantness, charm?
10. Does our conversation impress the heathen?

D. 4thly, Let your speech be seasoned c Salt.
1. Avoid tastelessness.
2. Salt does away c the dull.
3. Salt brings out the best in food – our conversation should bring out the best in people.
4. Salt preserves & makes palatable.
Eph. 4:29 “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but such as is good for building up according to the need of the saints, that by grace ye may be built up into an habitation of God through the Spirit.”

Mk. 9:50 “Salt is good; but if the salt have lost its taste, whether you put salt on it, it is no longer good; it is only good for the outer world.”

1 Pet. 3:15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and always be ready to give answer to everyone that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and惧.”

5. GK. word means wit, piquant, not empty speech.
7. Speech pure & wholesome is never insipid.
8. How sad! Christian is dull; color him gray!

E. 5thly, That ye may know how to Ans. every man.
1. Meet inquiries c grace.
2. Deal c each man individually – not one stock ans.
   little boy selling peanut brittle, "It's finger lickin' good – if I'm a-lyin', then I'm a flyin.'
3. Not asked to w/draw from ordinary community life
4. Let your ans. be accurate & full.
5. Chr. on outlook for every opportunity to talk Christ.
6. We need be ashamed of no question – neither weaken or enhance to please anyone.
7. Every Chr. has an urgent mission – have right approach to others to bring him to Jesus.

West End 4-19-81, 4-26-81

Goodale Church, Memphis 5-17-81
SPARE YOUR BLUSHES

Do you ever suffer private agonies of embarrassment because of something you said, or did, that you wish to high heavens you hadn’t? Don’t be too hard on yourself. Lord Chesterfield, in one of his letters to his son, wrote: “Mankind is made up of inconsistencies, and no man acts invariably up to his predominant character. The wisest man sometimes acts weakly — and the weakest sometimes wisely.” So you see, better people than you sometimes get in jams like yours. As Mark Twain or somebody else once said, “Crying over spilled milk never helps; it only makes the milk salty for the cat.”

— The Little Gazette

Never throw mud. You may miss your mark; but you must have dirty hands.

JOSEPH PARKER
Cheerfulness and content are
great beautifiers, and are fam-
ous preservers of youthful looks.
— CHARLES DICKENS.

When somebody says, “I’m
glad you asked that question,”
you can be pretty sure he’s
wondering how he can duck it.

ULCERS.

Three centuries ago the great philosopher, Blaise
Pascal, wrote: “Kind words do not cost much. They
never blister the tongue or lips. Mental trouble was
never known to arise from such quarters. Though they
don’t cost much yet they accomplish much. They make
other people good natured. They produce their own
image on men’s souls, and a beautiful image it is!”

They do more. A physician we heard about achieved
some remarkable results through kind words. To one
of his more petulant patients, bedeviled by ulcers, he
gave this odd prescription, typed on a prescription
blank: “Say something *kind* to somebody — anybody —
three times a day, and at bedtime — especially at bed-
time.” The patient, finally convinced that the doctor
was serious, agreed to try it. In less than a month his
ulcers gave him no more trouble.

There’s magic in kind words. They can cure a lot of
things, not just ulcers — disappointments, unpopularity,
a testy disposition. Skeptical? Try using them!

*Gerald Horton Bath*
A VERSE WITH LIFE-LONG DEMANDS

Col. 4:6

I. First let's see the verse:

Col. 4:6 "Let your speech be always with grace..."

A. Immediately this implies:
   1. What I say and how I say it has an impact.
   2. I can grow in effectiveness with keeping this charge.
   3. It is a very personal responsibility.
   4. The tongue must be under the control of God.
   5. It, my speech, is one of the most effective tools given me and it is highly personable; it is not a team effort, but privately it is me.

B. What does this verse outline as to method and procedure? Shall we take it apart, word by word?

II. "Let"

A. It is something I can control.
   1. Let - allow.
   2. I am not called to be a "loose cannon."
   3. This is not exclusively tied to that which some call "witnessing."
4. "This invasions a group of people involved in the community of bearing vital testimony." (Arnold)

Matt. 10:19  "But when they deliver you up."

1 Pet. 3:15  "But sanctify the Lord God in.."

5. This is a vital part, but we are judged day-by-day from the church house to the market place.

6. Let--be conscious of your influence.

B. Your Speech

1. We have via speech the power of communication.

2. You cannot silently read my thoughts, but you can "hear" them.

3. Note it's "your," "my" personal.

4. It can be speech that is brash, boring, complacent, irrevelant, instructive.

5. "Be" is implied--it is alive.

6. Alex Selkirk--Robinson Crusoe's four-year isolation--spoke just half words and they thought him "wild."

7. Look to no one but yourself for this assignment.

C. Always

1. Not seasonal, but constant.

2. Can you think of a higher restraint - always.
3. No down time.
4. Ever alert to this charge.
5. Not "what will we day next."
6. Not "whatever."

D. With Grace
1. Double meaning: "God's grace" and gracious that's human."
2. Work at it making it interesting, lively, colorful.
3. "Speech that is pleasant marked by sweetness and courtesy that your conversation may favorably impress the heathen." (Peal)
4. "Say nothing and think you are a fool then open your mouth and prove it." (Lincoln)
5. Universal demand of every Christian man and woman.

E. Seasoned with Salt
1. Salty speech in a good way--not tedious, monologue.
2. Judicious use of humor, wit.
3. "Not insipid by wholesome." (Lipscomb)
4. Salt preserves, enhances, purifies, makes things better.
5. Thus modified.

F. May Know How
1. So glad he did not say "what" as implied perfect knowledge.
2. This demands patience as we deal with others.
3. It further demands sympathy with our communicants.
4. Yet it does demand a mastery of the rudiments of the faith.

G. Every Man
1. Each questioner is an individual to be respected and loved.
2. Implies competency in knowledge of the truth.
3. We've no hidden agenda or closet.
4. There is nothing we practice to be part of my faith and manner of living.

H. Our Answer
1. Implies the outsider can be interested in our faith.
2. Some questions are predictable.
   a) Only one saved.
   b) Why no instrument.
   d) Teetotaler.
3. Their question implies an ignorance of a matter—as does mine—I can win an argument or lose a soul.
4. No shame as Ed Craddock asked Dr. West in public for man "Is that the way you wanted me to do it?"
A VERSE WITH LIFE-LONG DEMANDS

Neely's Bend C/C - 8/28/05
THE PREACHER'S RESUME'

Col. 4:7-8

I. We often ask for a resume' if we want to try out a preacher.
   A. I was on two search committees for Harding's presidency—Ganus and Burks.
   B. One man recommended a man who was a pilot: "He could fly to cities and ask for money."
   C. If you were selecting a preacher what would you want to know?
      1. How many has he baptized—an elder in Cleburne, TX.
      2. What about his family?
      3. Is he a mixer?
      4. How old is he? (Is he going to play professional ball or box?)
   D. Tychicus had an enviable one—let's study it.

II. Impressive Resume' — Col. 4:7-8
   A. Who is a beloved brother?
      1. Understands the fellowship in the family of God.
      2. Some never unpack—can't leave past work.
      3. Trials of life good to have a brother at our side—shortly Allen told doctor he had 39—men's class at West End.

Shows relationship to church—brother
4. Somebody that sticks with you and doesn't run each time a cloud arises.

5. He's a fellow Christian.

6. What qualities does someone have to have to earn this title?

John 13:34-35  "A new commandment..."

7. Part of the greatest fraternity in the world—believers.

8. Adds much to see preachers love each other—not bad mouth.

B. Barry Chant said there are three levels of love.

1. Love others as yourself.

Mark 12:31  "Not they thing, but the rest

2. Love others more than self.

Phil. 2:3-4  "Not only esteem others

3. Love others as Christ did.

John 13:34  "Once commended Helper

C. Faithful Minister

1. Greater than ability is faithfulness.

2. Minister = diakonus = servant, deacon. Personal attendant.

3. Describe faithfulness.
   a) True to Christ's word.
   b) Reliable      yet nothing to show
   c) Durable     was a great man, but
   d) Dependable   a big heart

4. Doesn't give up.

Christianity sanctifies the commonest things even via letter: "Give him my regards if not in person
5. There when needed.
6. We have not been given the ministry of criticism. (Buddard)
8. "Trusted assistant" - Weymouth
9. Their tasks different, but both belonged to Christ.
10. Paul a prisoner, dangerous to be a friend of a prisoner.

D. Finally Fellow Servant
1. Sundoulou - "slave together."
   a) Two slaves in a galley or quarry or a building project.
   b) Master's needs come first.
   c) Don't thank slaves.
   d) We are to serve Christ without complaint or grumbling.
   e) Not the "I'm tired" commercials.
2. Paul had many enemies--not easy to be his servant.
3. No task too dirty, too small.
4. What's the use of writing a letter if no one is deliverit
5. Yet doubt To know this would make Him forever known - something done
   that so small
6. With Paul at 3 levels
   a) On way to Jerusalem 3rd mission
   b) Journey Acts 20-4 to Berea deal?
   c) Close of Paul's life
   AD 63-65
   2 Tim 4:12
   Titus 3:12
   2 Tim 4:12
I. From Paul's letters it's obvious he loved people
   A. He mentions a host of them.
   B. He has inciteful comments about his associates.
   C. One was Onesimus
      1. Named means profitable or useful.
      2. Name often given a slave.
      3. At first he is anything but that—runaway who may have stolen—"put to my account."

II. What do we know about him?
   A. From Colosse.
   Col. 4:9 "One of your number.."
Philemon 10
   B. Was a slave.
Phil. 16
   1. Belonged to Philemon.
   2. Carried a short letter to him.
   3. Philemon perhaps wealth and prominent member of Col. church.
C. Ran away as a slave.
   1. Went to Rome.
   2. Subject to harsh law.
D. Ran into Paul.
   1. Paul in his own hired house.
   2. A prisoner, military custody.
   3. A preacher.
4. How he got with Paul is unknown. Some have suggested hunger, guilty conscious as he remembered Philemon—who owed his conversion to Paul.

5. Converted by Paul.

Phil. 10 — "My child whom I have begotten in my bonds."

6. Paul wished he could have kept him—now "Profitable."

7. Necessary via repentance to send him back.

8. Calls him faithful and beloved brother.


10. Commended as faithful—no longer a runaway thief, now a Christian.

11. Receive him as my own heart—(v-12).

12. Now trustworthy and a reason to love him.

13. Receive him as you would me.

14. As a Christian and with Paul's letter he is not afraid to return.

E. Need to stop and note what change being a Christian makes.

1. Does not tell Philemon however to set him free.

2. We are not told how this all turned out.
F. Tychicus and Onesimus took the letter to Col. and to Philemon.
1. Make known Paul's estate.
2. Slave my brother? Receive as such?
3. It's a prisoner of Christ who wrote the letters.

G. Some think he became a Bishop praised in a second century church at Ephesus by Ignatius of Antioch.

H. The gospel makes us profitable, helpful.

Neely's Bend - 10/2/05
Heritage - 1/8/06
ARISTARCHUS

Col. 4:10

I. Names - they are important.
   A. Questions.
      1. Do you like yours?
      2. Do you know how you got it?
      3. Have you changed it?
         a) Jim Billie
         b) Mac = son of - arsenal.
         c) Dropped the y.
      4. Dad reversed his initials.
      5. Careful with daughters--as they marry.
      6. Initials - Ron Axel Swang.
      7. C.J.Long - J.C.Short - which?
   B. Bible names.
      1. We give them to our children.
      2. Due to meaning or sound?
   C. We have one today - Aristarchus (Best Ruler).

II. What do we know about him?
   A. My fellow prisoner.
      1. In Rome.
      2. Sent salutations.
      3. Must loved the church.
   B. Acts References
      1. Acts 19/29
         a) Re-baptism illustration.
         b) Synagogue.
1) Divers - multicolor.
2) Hardened, believed not.
3) Spoke evil of the way.
4) Left for school of Tyronus.
5) Two years--Ephesus.
6) All Asia heard.
7) Handkerchiefs and aprons.

c) Exorcists - Sceva
d) Book burning.
   V-20 mightily grew the word.
e) Silversmith
f) V-29 - Aristarchus
g) Town clerk

   a) V-7 Lord's Supper
   b) Long preaching - V-9

   a) He's from Thessalonica.

4. Thus with Paul in exciting times.
   a) Faithful in prison - how he got there?
   b) Was he the brother?

   2 Cor. 8:18

Neely's Bend BC - 10/9/05
Heritage - 1/15/06
THE MAN WHO LEFT HIS "MARK"

Col. 4:10

1. Bible men are so important.
   A. The Holy Spirit fairly tells their strength and weaknesses.
   B. They thereby become an inspiration, or an example, or an avoidance.
   C. One of the most interesting ones is Mark.
      1. Like so many the notoriety is spotty.
      2. But with it all, it's a learning process.
      3. We rightfully turn our attention to John Mark.
      4. We'll learn by his courage, his failures, the opportunity he blotched and championed.
      5. He had some of the greatest challenges, certain windfall.
      6. No one had superior association nor were closer to the Lord.
   D. Things for which he is credited.
      1. Wrote gospel of Mark.
      2. Was an early apostolic helper.
      3. Had fine kinfolk.
      4. Early church member.
      5. Greatest missionary companions Paul, Barnabas.
      6. Part of the biggest fuss in the Bible.
      7. Learned much from his mistakes.
8. Lived in Jerusalem with the start of the church.
9. Got his name in the Bible.

II. Events in his life.

A. First missionary journey with Paul and Barnabas.

Acts 13:1-3 (READ)

1. Sailed 60 miles southwest to Salamis on Cyprus.
2. Crossed island to Paphos.
   a) Paul moves to the front.
   c) Did this irritate Mark with his uncle in second place?

B. Then comes a strange note:

Acts 13:13 Then Paul and his companions put out to sea.
1. Don't know why Mark left and returned to Jerusalem.
2. Was it because:
   a) Grew timid to cross Taurus mountain?
   b) Didn't like demoting Uncle Barnabas.
   c) Why directly to Jerusalem instead of an Antioch report?
d) Prejudiced it was no longer an exclusive Jewish mission?
e) He was sent by the Spirit—did he begin to doubt his mission? It was a work—Acts 14:26-27. It was a door opened to Gentiles.

Acts 14:27
Acts 15:30 Mark abandons the work.

f) Did this Jerusalem citizen (Acts 12:12) struggle with the work assignment and latitude?
g) Note the Jews are not mentioned—it seems all Gentiles

C. The rift experienced.
Acts 15:36-41

1. Jews demanded circumcision.
Acts 15:1
15:5

2. Does this damn Mark or does he get over it?

2 Tim. 4:11
Col. 4:10
Eph. 2:10
Phil. 24
1 Pet. 5:13
Mark 15:39
3. Could the man who "abandoned" the trip get right? It was the Spirit's original assignment remember?
4. Can all agree we do not know why he turned back?
5. We do know he regained their confidence.

III. We do know he had a good mother. Acts 12:12-13
   A. Peter came to her house on release from prison.
   B. They could not believe they were getting a yes answer to prayer.

IV. He had a good teacher in Peter.

V. Spirited writer of one of the gospels.

VI. Was he the one that fed naked?

VII. He overcame mistakes.
Neely's Bend - 1/1/06
book the things suitable to whatever makes for progress toward knowledge. Thus he composed a more spiritual Gospel for the use of those who were being perfected. Nevertheless, he yet did not divulge the things not to be uttered, nor did he write down the hierophantic teaching of the Lord, but to the stories already written he added yet others and, moreover, brought in certain sayings of which he knew the interpretation would, as a mystagogue, lead the hearers into the innermost sanctuary of that truth hidden by seven veils. Thus, in sum, he prepared matters, neither grudgingly nor incautiously, in my opinion, and, dying, he left his composition to the church in Alexandria, where it even yet is most carefully guarded, being read only to those who are being initiated into the great mysteries.

**Legendary details**

An extensive and satisfyingly circumstantial account of Mark's life was written by Severus, Bishop of Al-Ushmunain, in the 10th century. According to this account, Mark was the nephew of Barnabas, who was cousin to Peter's wife. Mark was one of the servants at the wedding feast at Cana who poured out the water that Jesus turned to wine. This is Jesus' first public miracle, however it is not related in the Gospel of Mark. Mark was one of the Seventy Apostles sent out by Christ; he was the servant who carried water to the house of Simon the Cyrenian, where the Last Supper took place; and Mark was the one who hosted the disciples in his house after the death of Jesus, and into whose house the resurrected Jesus Christ came, although all the doors were shut.

The following details are also based on Severus' account, and need corroboration before they are accepted as more than 10th century pious legend: He eventually went to Alexandria and was the first to preach the Gospel there. He is said to have performed many miracles, and established a church there, appointing a bishop, three priests, and seven deacons.

Mark is considered by this writer to have founded the School of Alexandria, a school that encouraged studies in science, philosophy, music, math and language embraced by the early Coptic Christians, who believe such disciplines are not contrary to religion, but lead believers to a true spiritual life. The pagan Library and Musaeum are ignored.

When Mark returned to Alexandria, the people there are said to have resented his efforts to turn them away from the worship of their traditional Egyptian gods. In 68 A.D. they killed him, and tried to burn his body. Afterwards, the Christians in Alexandria removed his unburned body from the ashes, wrapped it and then buried it in the easterly part of the church they had built. His remains, except for the head, were later stolen and taken to Venice (see below).

**Representations in Western art**

Mark is frequently depicted in Western art, especially Medieval and Renaissance art. Like the other 3 evangelists, he is often shown holding a book with the text *Pax tibi Marce evangelista meus* (Latin for "Peace to you, Mark, my Evangelist"), but his special attribute is the winged lion.

As the patron saint of Venice, he was a particular favorite of Venetian artists and their patrons, and paintings of his life and miracles are a feature of some of the greatest Venetian art. His lion is ubiquitous throughout
Venice.

Relics

In 828 relics believed to be the body of St. Mark were stolen by Italian sailors and were removed from Alexandria to Venice in Italy. A basilica was built there to house the relics.

Copts believed that the head of the saint remained in Alexandria. Every year, on the 30th day of the month of Babah, the Coptic Orthodox Church celebrates the commemoration of the consecration of the church of St. Mark, and the appearance of the head of the saint in the city of Alexandria.

In 1094, during the construction of a new basilica in Venice, St. Mark's relics could not be found. However, it is said that "the saint himself revealed the location of his remains ... by extending an arm from a pillar" [1]

The newfound remains were placed in a sarcophagus in the basilica.


The delegation from Alexandria consisted of ten metropolitans and bishops, seven of whom were Coptic and three Ethiopian, and three prominent Coptic lay leaders. The delegation received the relic on June 22, 1968. The next day, the delegation celebrated a pontifical liturgy in the church of St. Athanasius the Apostolic in Rome. The metropolitans, bishops, and priests of the delegation all served in the liturgy. Members of the Roman papal delegation, Copts who lived in Rome, newspaper and news agency reporters, and many foreign dignitaries attended the liturgy.

On June 25, the Coptic Church celebrated the inauguration of a new St. Mark Cathedral in Dair El-Anba Rowais (also known as Dair El-Khandaq) in Egypt.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Mark

11/9/2005
For this occasion and for the return of the relic, a great religious celebration was organized. The celebration was headed by Pope Cyril and was attended by Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser, Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, and many of the heads of different religions and representatives of churches, including Mari Ignatius Yacoub the Third, the Antiochian Patriarch for the Syrian Orthodox.

See also

- St Mark's Basilica
- Four Evangelists

External links

- St. Mark's detailed biography by H.H. Pope Shenouda III (http://tasbeha.org/content/hh_books/Stmark/)
- St. Mark the Apostle, Evangelist, and Preacher of the Christian Faith in Africa (http://www.copticchurch.net/topics/synexarion/mark.html)
- History of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt which was founded by Saint Mark (http://st-takla.org/Coptic-church-1.html)
- The return of St. Mark Relics from Italy (June 1968 - zipped RealVideo) (http://www.zeitun-eg.net/stcyril6/stcyril6_v18.zip)
- Catholic Encyclopedia, 1908 (http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/09672c.htm)

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_the_Evangelist"

Categories: 63 deaths | Christian martyrs | Coptic Saints | Saints | Patriarchs of Alexandria

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I'M DOWN TO THREE  
Col. 4:10-11

I. How many true friends--whatever it takes--stick with you? Tell your friend both of them.
   A. 10?
   B. Don't be too sure--Paul, in prison, is down to three.
      1. They are Jewish.
      2. He can name 3 Gentiles but only 3 Jews who stuck with him.
   C. Let's study them.

II. First there is Aristarchus.
   A. Name means "best ruler."
   B. From Macedonia.
   C. Paul's "companion in travel." (Acts 19:29)
   D. 5 N.T. references to him.
   E. Meet him in Acts.

Acts 19:29 -- Ephesian riot
Acts 20:4 -- Goes to Macedonia
Philemon 24 -- Sends greetings.
Col. 4:10 -- Greets Col. church.
   F. My fellow prisoner.
      1. "My"--he's a real burden bearer--one of 3 Jews with Paul.
      2. Prisoner - one taken in warfare, knew scars of battle.
      3. Did he volunteer to share imprisonment so he could help Paul; OR
      4. Spiritually was he captured by Christ as Paul was; OR
      5. Did he break a civil law in preaching?
      6. We know little about him but he was there when Paul needed him.
   G. Sends his salutations.
III. Our next is Mark.

A. Knew more about him than all the rest combined.

B. Sister's son to Barnabas.
   1. Kinfolk are important—they can really help us.
   2. Barnabas a famous and respected man—though no record of him having been to Col.
   3. Good to be endorsed by relatives.
   4. Endorsed Paul when others were afraid of him.

Acts 9:26-27
   5. "Recommend for anything he is qualified to do." (Fred Ryan)

C. In the Bible.
   Acts 12:12 – Peter delivered to Mark's house.
   Acts 13:4-5 – Minister at Salamis
   1 Peter 5:13 – Babylon, my son
   Col. 4:10 – Come – receive.

2 Tim. 4:11 – Bring – profitable.

D. Paul and Barnabas blow up.
   1. Results in 2 mission teams not 1.
   2. Early apostles had fallouts.
   3. Broken relationships can be repaired.

E. Commandments—either by an earlier messenger or letter not preserved.

F. Receive Him.
   1. If Col. knew of Mark's departure this letter would restore confidence—Perga 110 miles away.
2. Grant utmost hospitality.
3. Need to forgive and forget.
4. Love can heal the breach.
5. Receive with endorsement.
5. We can get together again in spite of past.

IV. Now Jesus called Justus of the circumcision.
   A. All we know about him is told here.
   B. Jesus is Hebrew Joshua.
   C. Jesus Christ bore a name given to ordinary men.
   D. Would you name your son Jesus? Joshua?
   E. Justus means Righteous.
   F. But what do we know just from this?
      1. Name is in greatest book.
      2. He had great associations.
      3. He was on a noble mission.
      4. Holy Spirit content to leave him as just a name.
      5. Everything I know is good.

V. "These Only"
   A. Paul felt alienation from his own countrymen.
   B. One -- fellow servant.
      One -- Prisoner
      All workers.
   C. Are we disappointed by how few stick with us?
D. "Unto the Kingdom" -- though few they promoted the church.

E. Were a comfort.
   1. Many are helped by others.
   2. Private friendship gives cheer and strength to hands that carry a heavier responsibility. (Lipscomb)
   3. This word translated comfort used only here.
   4. From it we get paregoric.
   5. They were sweet relief from the pain of the day.

DLU Chapel – 3/28/96
Magnolia Bible Col. Chapel, Kosciusco, MS – 4/2/96
Smithville, TN – 10/9/96
Woodland Hills, Cordova, TN – 11/6/96
   Neely's Bend C/C – 10/16/05
Heritage – 1/29/06
I heard this story from George Romney, then Governor of Michigan, in 1955 when I was a junior in high school. It made a deep impression on me, and I have never forgotten it. It is a story about love. I have made up the names, but the rest of the story is told as I remember him telling it.

In the great Ohio Valley, where the fertile, black, loamy soil produces the wheat, corn, potatoes, and other staples for the tables of Detroit and Chicago, there is a small town called Steubenville. It is an old town. Two hundred years ago—and before that—the area was settled by German immigrants who were dissatisfied with life in their native land. What they found, they liked. They cleared their land, they built their homes, they established towns, schools, churches, they had their families—and they stayed.

There is a very old family there named Hansen. It is said that there have always been Hansens in Steubenville. The Hansens are good citizens, close-knit, solid, dependable, courteous, loyal, and helpful. It is a great tribute to the Hansens that, whenever a Hansen son or daughter is sent to
school, every teacher and administrator is pleased by the prospect.

Some years ago—in the early forties, actually—Lutz Hansen and his wife, Gwendolyn, had two sons in successive years. In fact, they were born eleven months apart. One, the older, they named Travis; the other, James. They had other children—older and eventually younger—but between these two, there developed a closeness, a relationship—a tie—that even in a close-knit family was remarkable—they were inseparable.

Blond, sturdy, intelligent, both were good athletes and good students—they were always together. They worked, played, even studied together. They were a year apart in school, but with his parents' permission and understanding, Travis stayed out his freshman year of high school so that he and James could play sports together and graduate together. Stories are still told of the way they blocked for each other in football and passed to each other in basketball, how Travis pitched and James caught in baseball, how they always double-dated, and how the girls said it didn't matter which one you went with, because you had a feeling that you were out with both of them.

When they graduated, it was the time of the Korean conflict. They both registered for the draft, and when inducted under the "buddy system," they went to basic training together and later were assigned to the same unit, the same company. They arrived at the Yalu River, north of Panmunjom in January, 1961, in time for a major offensive.

Normally they took their duties together, but one night, James was assigned to a routine perimeter patrol designed to prevent enemy encroachment upon their position. The patrol was ambushed, and only two members struggled back to the camp to report the disaster.
James did not come back.

When word reached Travis, he went immediately to his commanding officer and requested permission to go and search for his brother. It was denied. The place of the ambush was assumed to be in enemy control, and it would be suicide to send a rescue squad. Travis quietly explained his need to go, and even here, in this cold, barren, forbidding setting, a commanding officer realized that there was something unusual here, something not to be treated with normal rules. He also realized that the boy was going to go—with or without permission.

He finally said that although he could not grant permission, he would not prevent his leaving. Travis spoke to the two men who had made it back, learned the location of the ambush, and set out. It was completely dark, it was unbearably cold, it was a hopeless task, and even if found, his brother had little chance of being alive.

All through that dark night he searched, and just at gray light, he located the place. He moved quickly from one frozen, shattered body to another—not him—not him—and then he found him, nearly frozen, mortally wounded, but alive. He cradled the head of his dying brother in his lap and wept. James opened unseeing eyes, and with the last of his strength whispered—

"Is that you, Travis?"
"Yes."
"I knew you'd come—
I've been waiting."

It was the last thing he said. A short time later, he died.
Do things like that really happen? Does love that strong really exist? When Governor Romney told the story, I believed it with all my heart. I want badly to believe it now. Sometimes I need something like this to restore my faith in man’s power to do good. Governor Romney didn’t say whether or not these boys were religious—I have always believed they were. Travis trusted his brother because of the love between them, because love always produces a covenant of trust. He waited because he knew that if the situation were reversed, he would come or die trying. Because of his absolute faith, not just in his brother, but in the power of love itself, he found the strength, had the hope to stay alive—to wait for him to come.

We trust God because He has shown us and taught us love. His love has created a covenant between us and Him. We trust God because we know Him and believe that He loves us. We trust each other for the same reason. Because of our absolute faith in God’s unfailing, steadfast love, we find the patience and the courage—in the hour of our greatest need—to overcome this world and to wait for Him to come.

When every other reason falls, love will find a way.

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I will hope in Him.’” —Lamentations 3:22-23
JESUS, CALLED JUSTUS

Col. 4:11

I. Names are pretty important.
A. Census taker--asks for names of mt. couple.
   1. "There's James, Sally, Sue, John."
   2. "Not names, the number."
   3. All got names, ain't none no number."
B. How did you get yours?
   1. Momma read it in a novel.
   2. Named for famous one - "Roosevelt" - black folk.
   3. Carry on a tradition - 5th one named Thomas.
   4. Searcy "Here's the man with two first names."
   5. Mix me with BBB - your work on the NKJ - not me.

II. We come to a man of whom we know little.
Col. 4:11 "And Jesus which is called Justus."
A. Name changed from Jesus "salvation" is of Jehovah - Latin name.
B. To Justus (righteous).
   1. Of the circumcision - Jew.
      a) But I never see race or color.
2. I asked Frank Clement what title acceptable to blacks - negro, colored, black, African-American.

C. Fellow workers.
D. In Kingdom of God.
E. Comfort to me.
   1. Paragoric
   2. Personal helper at Rome.
   3. Faithful - church, family, spouse.
   4. Good reputation - all we know is good.

III. Any other Justus?
   A. Acts 1:23
   B. Acts 15:22 (?) Born on Sabbath
   C. Acts 18:7
   D. Was he dropped from Phil. 24?

IV. Other men named Jesus?
   A. Some say part of Barabbas name.
   B. Luke 3:29 Jose, Jesus, Joshua
   C. Acts 7:45
   D. Hebrews 4:8 Jesus, Joshua in margin
   E. Col. 4:11 Baseball Jesus Alou

V. Would you name your boy Jesus? Joshua? Matt. 23:8-11
   Resect only Father - Pope
   Matt. 23:8-9
1. 7 "To be greeted with honor in public places - William.
2. 7-8 To have men call them teacher - William.
3. V-8 You must not seek to be called by titles such as rabbi - NOR
4. V-9 Do not call any man on earth "Father" - NEB
5. V-10 Neither be called leader RHM nor must you be called "teacher" you have one teacher, the Messiah - NEB
6. V 111:9 Reverend

Neely's Bend C/C - 10/30/05
Heritage - 1/22/06
1. Latin Name. New Bible Dict.
2. Frequently used among Jews and proselytes.
3. Often combined with a Jewish name.
4. Like Joseph Barsabas, one of two possible apostolic successors to Judas (Acts 1:23).
5. Papias tells of his survival of a heathen ordeal by poison.
6. Barsabas - son of - i.e. born on a Sabbath.
7. Some think Barsabas, if true patronymic, he's a brother of Judas Iscariot.
8. Or with preaching of Paul the synagogue was split in Corinth, the House of Justus became Paul's centre.
9. Other MMS have his name as Titus or Titius.
10. Some identify him with Gaius of Corinth.
11. No proof he was Titus of Paul's letter.
12. Was his name dropped from Phil. 24?
13. Earlier season with salt (Mk. 9:49-50).
14. Salt fire extinguishment.
15. So is water.
16. Thus to save from sin alien must pass through water to be saved from fire???
17. Later verse proves it's right to read Scripture in public assembly.

   Nelson

19. Three men in New Testament had this name.
   a) Josephus had Justus, a surname also Barsabas (Acts 1:23).
   b) Godly man of Corinth - Paul stayed with him (Acts 18:7).
   c) Jewish Christian in Rome who sent greetings called Jesus.
20. Know nothing else but in good company.

   --JBM
A SLAVE'S DREAM FOR THE CHURCH
Col. 4:12-13

I. One of the joys of living is dreams.
   A. In Business
   B. For Education and Vocation
   C. Toward Retirement
   D. Why not for the church.

1. Paraphrase "Lives there a saint with
   wish so dead, who never to himself has
   said 'This is my dream, my very own
   for Jesus and His church'."

II. May I ask you do you espouse any ambitions
    for the church?
   A. Don't want it to drift--but don't confuse
      with progress--radio, TV, buildings,
      VBS etc. Air conditioning
   B. Increased numbers--for pride's sake only?
   C. We need more preachers.

III. Let me tell you of a slave's dream. There
    will be three qts. - who was he, what did
    he want, how did he seek to get it?

A. Who was he?

1. Name was Epaphras. Means charming or
   foamy. (Some people are so polite I feel
   I've been inundated in suds.)

2. Mentioned in Col. 1:7; 4:12, Philm 23

3. He's identified variously.
   a. One of you.
      (1) 1:1 - "called saints and faithful brethren
          in Christ."
      (2) Are you a Christian?
(3) He was a "we" Christian, not a "they". "One of you."
(4) Do we feel a part—what is this hour to you?
(a) Proximity without sympathy.
(b) Do we say "how are you?" without waiting for an answer?
(c) Is it a hebdomadal meeting and a week long parting.
1 Clip on Samaritan
(d) Are we homogenized or are we a heterogeneous group?
(5) Slaves in Rome yet he is "one of you."
Do you feel a part tho away?

b. Servant of Christ.
(1) If you like titles here's one you can get
(2) Can any motivation be higher than this?
(3) Also called "fellow servant", "fellow prisoner" and "faithful minister" in other verses.

c. Salutes you--He was Friendly.
(1) Are we courteous?
(2) Or are we mouthing malcontent?
(3) What conscious thing do we do for the peace of a congregation.
(4) Build up vs tear down.

B. What did he want--his dream?
1. "That ye may stand"—v. 12.
a. Life a ship in full sail.
b. If they could stand now also could in judgment.
c. Not to run well awhile but always.

2. Perfect.
   a. Our duty to seek entire conformity.
   b. Need perfect knowledge, else how would we know what to do and what could be more conducive to stability and perseverance.
   c. There must be perfection of Christian character.
   d. Are we content to do part--like give to poor, but also corrupt.

3. Complete in all the will of God.
   a. It is God we seek to please but only God can make us Chr.
   b. Must understand and do God's will.
   I Jn. 2:17 "He that doeth the will of...abid
   I Cor. 7:19 "Cir. is nothing & u...but the
   Matt. 12:50 "For whosoever shall do the
   c. At a Baptist encampment at Brazil boys quoted favorite verse and he said "Let no man ask what can my country do for me but what can I do for my country."

   (1) Can we do part of will--worship without instrument but with envy?
   (2) Must be baptized but not give?
   d. It was maturity and stability he wanted in the saints.

C. How did he propose to accomplish this?
   1. Always.
      a. How long is our always?
   2. Laboring--
a. Striving— it was holy not unholy meant wrestles who bend, writhe, stretch, strain to be victorious.

b. He worked.

3. Fervently.
   a. Who knows what one prayer can do?
      Brother Sutton, father of Sis. McGehee went to Castalian Springs. Mr. & Mrs. Young came out of Bapt. Matt. one of 12 kids. Look at their leadership today.

4. For you.
   a. Hath great zeal.
   b. Loved brotherhood—Lad. and Hierapolis.
   c. This was spirit of N.T. church.
      (1) Could we pray for a work of co-operation we couldn't do?
   d. Towns N. side of Lycus valley, a broad level terrace juts out, overhangs with precipitous sides. Over side tumbles cascades of pure white stone, deposit of calcareous matter from streams—glistens like foaming cataracts frozen in the fall.

5. In prayer.
   a. This crosses all barriers of time and space.
   b. Let it be the universal usage of every Christian.
      (1) They succeeded—we will when we do what they did!
   c. Giant in prayer—sought to get them to
stand via his kneeling.
d. Nursing home clip.

IV. What shall we do?
A. Do we have any vision--any plans to accomplish somethings?
B. Have a worthy dream--obtain it.

West End - 9/15/63

Van Ness San Diego - 10/4/65

St. Elmo - Chattanooga - 1/30/64
Abilene (College) - 11/3/63
Union Ave - Memphis - 4/24/64
West End - St. Louis - 4/26/64
Charlotte Ave. - 5/17/64
Maryville, Tenn. - 5/64
Waymere 6/21/64 (Columbia)
Central, ME, Minnville - 7/12/64

Murray KY - 8/1/2/64

Hattie Hurricane Mills, Tenn - 9/1/2/64
654 E 22nd, CR Ave 10/4/64
Eastview 10/28/64
Chapel Ave. - 4/11/65
Moshi Mo 4/28/65

Minneola, CA - 8/3/65
"TWISTING THINGS!"

It is strange how Christians sometimes conceive the idea that everyone in the church ought to do something for them, rather than considering how they might themselves be helpful to others. Their attitude somewhat reminds me of the following:

The Sunday school teacher had just told her class the story of the Good Samaritan. And to make sure that they had the lesson well in mind, asked her class what the story was intended to teach. One little fellow, with an eagerly upstretched hand, gained her attention, and this was his answer: "It means that when I am in trouble someone should come and help me."

That is about as much of the lesson as some Christians have learned!

---Mr. Selected.
WHAT IS YOUR GOAL?

In the days when Will Rogers lived, a football game was played in the far-famed Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. It was the game of the year. Two giant teams had met for a decisive struggle. It came to pass, at a moment of supreme importance, that a player caught a bounding ball. In the heat of the excitement, he lost the sense of direction and headed at top speed for the goal of the opposing team. Finally, just before reaching the goal, he was tackled by a teammate.

Then fell upon the poor lad an avalanche of criticism. Sportswriters—many of them—"raked him over the coals." But Will Rogers came to the player’s defense. In these words or in words with similar meaning, he wrote: "Why heap criticism upon this unfortunate fellow for running with the ball in the wrong direction? Is it not a fact that a vast majority of us are headed in the wrong direction and running at top speed toward the wrong goal?"

The great humorist scored an important point. Most people are running at top speed in the wrong direction, toward the wrong goal—that of sensual pleasure, of material wealth, of personal glory. Many Christians need to be "tackled by a teammate." Like the great Paul—one of God’s true athletes—let us make the high calling of God our aim. Christlikeness our goal.

"This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:13-14) —Frank L. Cox
While visiting in a nursing home at Lebanon, Tennessee, one of the ladies who was confined to her bed asked us to have prayer with her. After we had led the prayer, she said "Oh I wish I had asked you to pray for my children." It might be that if more parents both active and infirm had such a spiritual interest in their children that this world would be far better off than it is.
I. How little we know via facts but how much Epaphras means to us.

II. Contrast in biographies.
   A. Enoch  Gen.5:24
   Enoch walked with God and he was not, for God took him.
   1. 2 short clauses.
   2. Yet full, comprehensive.
   3. What more could be said?
   4. Whether he wrote, preached, clothed naked, gave—all summed up in this.

   B. Contrasts with Sam Moore dinner.
   1. Labanese immigrant.
   2. Knew 500 English words when he went door to door selling Bibles.
   3. Married Johnson City girl.
   4. Started Bible company, bought Thomas Nelson.
   5. Now biggest in world—over 3 million Bibles published.
   6. Last night (11-17-05) surprise salute.
   7. Two Bushes sent regards.
   8. Ned Ray McWherter, Bill Pursell, Pat Robinson, Jerry Falwell, authors, all preceded me to platform.
   9. Joe Powers said company has $147 million in bank.

C. Now contrast with Epaphras.
   1. Name means charming or foamy.
2. Nabal = Harsh—did he have it at first or earn it?
3. Though fellow laborer with Paul and fellow laborer yet best known for praying.
4. Read Col. 4:12-13 and Phil. 23.
5. From him we will learn much in few words.
6. One of 6 persons sending greeting to Col.: 3 Jews, 3 Gentiles, gay commentaries, but they surely can't count.

III. Let's go to our Text.
A. Who is one of you:
1. Native of Col.
2. Preacher for them.
3. Absent due to imprisonment and covers this by praying for them.
4. Don't think he's run off—he is spending time praying for you.
5. We will subsequently learn how he prays.

B. Next identified as Servant of Christ
1. This a term Paul uses for himself—bondsman.
2. This shows Paul's esteem for him.
3. Is this the only place Paul identifies anyone as a bondservant of Christ except of himself, say some commentaries.
4. What about Timothy?

Phil. 1:1 Paul & Timothy servants of Jesus
5. His ministry not a lordship but a servant who labors faithfully in the work.
6. He sends greetings as he loves the church there.

7. Proud to be one of you.

C. Now his prayer ministry "always wrestling in prayer for you"

1. Striving.
2. Agonizing.
3. Tireless warrior--interceeding for you.
4. See nature of his prayer's earnestness & desire.
5. Wrestling for his spiritual charges.
6. Patient, persistent, word of intense energy.

7. Prevailing.
8. Agony for fear they'd be lost.
10. Athletic term--contend, give fullness to it.

11. Need to be earnest in prayer for self and others.

D. Praying always stand firm.

1. Prayer had several purposes.
2. Stand firm--maturing in Jesus.
3. Prayers need to embrace.
   Purpose--not just "bless us Lord"-bless us with firm convictions.
4. Firm persuasion.
5. If all were doing this would we be in trouble we are with some using the instrument and fraternizing with error?
6. Labor--almost anguish--do we care?
7. No uncertainty with the position of the church.
8. To stand Purified & Complete in the will of God should be our aim--tolerate no infraction.
9. Obtain full maturity.
10. Obtain growth of every Christian.
11. Completely filled.

E. Firmness in the Will of God.
1. Know the word.
2. All via word.
3. Devoted to truth, working hard.
4. More intelligently seeing will of God, grounded in Jesus' truths.
5. Can't be full without this knowledge.

Heb. 5:11-14 (READ)
James 3:1-2 (READ)
6. Have grasp of God's will so via daily study of it nothing can shake us.
7. We are grown up--not babes.

F. Hard work for the Brotherhood.
v-13 I vouch for him
1. Mindful of Liodicea & Hierapolis.
2. Labors painfully, with deep anxiety.
3. Our neighbors are likely to be touched by whatever comes to us: busing, praise teams, etc.
4. We can't be isolationish, catering only to ourselves.
5. Town only 10 (Lad) and Hierapolis (16 miles away).
7. We must be concerned about welfare of others.
8. He carried a heavy load for them.
9. Wants them to be no longer babes—grow up.
10. Will they know he is praying for them?

IV. Observations
A. Are we thankful for praying preachers as much as writing, visiting, preaching men?
   1. Do their prayer closets mean much to us?
   2. Do we single out praying preachers?
B. Is this not something we all can do?
C. How much are we praying?
D. How deeply are we interested in others?
E. Are we ever in agony in prayer as was Jesus in Gethsemane?
F. Has the Devil discouraged our prayer life?
"Of all thy gifts we ask but one
Give us the constant power to pray
Indulge us Lord in this request
Thou canst not then deny the rest"

G. Do we take time to pray?
H. Do you know an Epaphras?
   Who: 1) Prayed constantly (always)?
   2) Fervently? 3) Personally for you?
   4) With a goal in mind?
I. Do we pray as if it all depends on
   God and work as all depends on us?
J. As Martin Luther said, "are we
   always beggars?"
K. Do we ever experience agony in
   Prayer?
   2. Jesus did—Greek says beside him-
      self in Gethsemane.
   3. Jesus knelt—intense verb—fell to
      his knees repeatedly—would try
      to stand but knees buckled
      under him. Get up, stagger and
      fall again.
   4. Saul was told he'd die next day--
      power drained out of him and
      fell to the ground.
   5. Do we intercede?
      a) Abraham for Sodom.
      b) Moses for his people.
      c) Epaphras for cities.
   6. Let's exert ourselves on behalf
      of others.

Romans 15:30-33 (READ)
Neely's Bend - 11/19/05
Neely's Bend - 12/11/05
WHAT ABOUT EPAPHRAS?

Kingwood Heights BC - 11/29/05
East Main BC - 11/30/05
Heritage - 2/26/06
PATH TO IMMORTALITY
Col. 4:10-14

I. What's your greatest claim to fame? Try some names.
   A. John Wilkes Booth.
   B. Richard Nixon.
   C. Arthur Rubenstein.
   D. Henry W. Longfellow.

II. Try another — Justus.
Acts 1:23 "And they appointed two, Joseph called Bar
Col. 4

A. We see nothing about this one but this sole mention
   1. 1st name was Jesus.
      a.) Obscure Christian.
      b.) See humble manhood of Jesus Christ who took a
          name many other Jewish boys wore.
      c.) We'd give to none of Jewish race now.
   2. Name never reappears.
   3. Was he of no further help to church.
   4. Significance of Justus.
      a.) Means Just or righteous.
      b.) Implies devotion to the law.
      c.) Familiar designation of the Jews who were of
          the circumcision & devoted to the law.
      d.) Use of full name shows he was converted.
      e.) Made immortal by very few words. Maclaren
          says 3 "Jesus called Justus."

B. Lessons to be Learned.
1. Note they all were of the circumcision — only 3.
   a.) Few will change religion of birth.
b.) Are we courageous to accept truth wherever it leads.
c.) Peter not in Rome.
2. Courageous.
   a.) Interesting he was mentioned at all c all the hostile Jews in Rome.
   b.) Risked danger to serve.
   c.) Moved c minority - "only these."
   a.) Luke was there - must be therefore a Gentile.
   b.) Luke not of the circumcision.
4. They were a comfort - from paregonia - sweet medicine for Paul.
   a.) When we have doubt & suspicion, great to have a trusted friend.
   b.) They were down in the trenches c Paul.
2 Cor. 11:26 "In journeyings often, in perils of water.
   c.) A medical term "a cordial for me."
5. Fellow workers - all kinds are needed.
6. Strictly obeyed word - Justus. (Jesus called the Just One).
   a.) Known for integrity.
7. In the Kingdom.
   a.) Rare Pauline mention.
   b.) Thus Messianic hopes realized.

West End 6-7-81
Hendersonville Church Whispering Pines Camp 6-9-81
Pianist Arthur Rubinstein consistently refuses to sign autographs after a concert—his hands, tired from playing, being his chief concern. He had made an announcement to that effect at the close of a concert in Carnegie Hall. Nonetheless, a pretty Miss of about 12 was waiting outside his dressing room with an autograph pad. "I know your fingers are tired, sir," she said, "but mine are too—from clapping."
I. We are blessed by having many doctors in the church.
   A. Dr. of Medicine—North and Pettus.
   B. Dr. of Kinesiology—Adams.
   C. Dr. of Law—Steve North.
   D. Best used Dr. Us and Them, Luke!

II. It's a bit hard to delineate the scope of the man's work when he never calls himself by name.
   A. From Paul we learn Luke is the beloved physician.
   C. Never uses his name, thus all we know biographically is what he wrote of association with others or what gospel writers tell us of his works.
   D. Thus from these sources we learn about him.

III. One of the most distinctive things is his accompanying of noted men like Paul on second and fourth missionary journeys—Book of Acts.
   A. I call him Dr. Us and Them.
   B. By the employment of "us" to show he was on the journey and "them" to telegraph he was not with them.
C. Some first person references.

Acts 16:10-17  "And after he had seen the vision, immediately we..."
Acts 20:5-15  "These going before us..."
Acts 21:1-18  "And it came to pass..."

(His account of the Med. voyage is most exciting and shows Luke had a great knowledge of the sea).

Acts 27:1-28  "And when it was determined that we should sail..."

D. Voyage is over--Paul's in prison.

2 Tim. 4:11  "Only Luke is with me."

IV. With the above we see personal references.

Phil. 24  M.A.D., Lucas my fellow.
Col. 4:14  "Luke the beloved physician, and Demas greet you."

(These three are the only New Testament references).

A. Reveals the humility of the man.
B. Also the esteem.
C. His occupation
D. His obvious humility and his talent.

V. We learn other things.

A. Luke from Lucious= light-giving and luminous, lucanus.
B. Know less about him than any other gospel writer.
1. Gentle?
2. Some wealth to afford travels.
3. Learned.
4. Scientist.
5. Exacting observer.
6. Faithful and accurate recorder.
7. Exacting in what he wrote.
8. Reliable historian.
9. Scholarly and skillful.
   a) Gospel of Luke called most beautiful work ever written.
   b) Chapter 24 most beautiful of all.

C. About his writings.
1. Via inspiration and research.
2. Best literary form.
5. Wrote as a doctor.
   a) Uses medical terms like surgeon's needle.
   b) Great fever.

Luke 4:38 "And he arose out of the synagogue..."
(Peter was married).

   Joseph to God via Adam.
D. About his writings.
1. Mission - proclaim Christ.
2. Shows Jesus came to save the lost.
3. Presents Jesus as one of empathy sociability.
5. Clearly presents plans of salvation via examples in Acts.
6. Jesus shares our woes and gives us joy.

E. His associations.
1. Knew the apostles.
2. Travels with Paul.
3. Faced great dangers of Rome and the sea.
4. Understood physical needs.
   Acts 28:8-9 Healings
   5. Some say brother of Titus.
   2 Cor. 12:18

F. Most quoted Scripture at Christmas.
Neely's Bend - 12/18/05
Heritage 2/12/06
I. Is it possible to take a fragment of a bone and make a whole man?

A. I've always marveled at the picture of the pre-historic man—the face of a cave man.

B. But science has a way of using three inches of bone and reconstructing a 6'2" man.

C. That's about what I have with Demas three references.

Philemon 24 "Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellow labourers."

Col. 4:14 "Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you."

2 Tim. 4:10 "For Demas hath forsaken me..."

1. A tragic example of backsliding.
2. All of us hurtlingly know some modern day Demas'.
3. Let's study what we know, each syllable of word so powerful for it we can gain something.

II. Let's start with his name—does it forecast something?

A. Demas means either popular or ruler of people. It is a Greek contraction of Demetrius or Demarchus.

1. Did Christianity not give him a popular status?
2. Does the humility taught by Christ hinder him in being a ruler of men?
3. Though he goes to Thessalonica, was he originally from there?
4. Recall Paul's introduction of the gospel to that city and while there did Demas hear the gospel?

Acts 17:1-4 (READ)

B. Are we today dissatisfied with the simple gospel and are looking for something easier, more exciting?

III. Let's go to our introduction of Demas.
Philemon 24 "M.A.D.L. my fellow labourers."

A. In great company of work.
B. All important in the church, especially Mark and Luke.
C. Paul compliments with terms "fellow labourers."
   1. Lit. "co-laborers."
   2. Paul puts them on an equality with him.
   3. All equally esteemed.
   4. Even gone to Paul in prison.
   5. Would you be pleased to be where Demas is in this reference?

IV. Now let's go some time, maybe a year later.
Col. 4:14 "Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas."

A. He's in jail and Demas is there.
B. Not one word is said about his service.

1. Is he hanging by a thread?
2. Why is nothing said about labors?
3. There is no attachment to his name.
4. This is not the normal style of Paul in his writings.
5. Does he see some evidence that Demas is not as solid as he once was?
6. Had I been with Paul (as of today) what would he say about me? Weaker or stronger? Laborer or not certain? Faithful or here occasionally?
7. You fill in the blanks:
   a) I'm struggling.
   b) I have questions.
   c) I'm not sure it's what it is cracked up to be.
   d) I'm about ready to throw in the towel.
   e) I'm not sure it's worth all the necessary effort.
8. What he said of Tim.
Phil. 2:20 "I have no man likeminded..."
C. If his name means Popular, does it not jibe with things of his experience?

D. Have his prayers not been answered affirmatively?

E. Is Paul not as great as he thought he was—what's going on?

V. Now what one calls that heartbreak line.

2 Tim. 4:10  "For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world and is departed unto Thessalonica."

A. Just what does this mean?

1. Is it worldly attractions that take his time and heart?

2. Did he really want to serve when he came to Rome?

3. Does he see contrastingly the great halls of Caesor, the gorgeous homes of the rich, the halls of music and go back to Paul's prison cell.

4. Is this glory of Rome greater than the glory of simple New Testament christianity?

5. Do the charms of the world glisten more than an imprisoned preacher?
B. Greek words here are generally understood to signify either the Jewish people or the system of Judiasm.

1. Therein is safety.
2. The church is being persecuted, not the Jewish nation.
3. It's a dangerous time to be a Christian - (can't even say Merry Christmas!).
4. Christians are not safe, so if you want to live under Nero forget Christianity.
5. I might have to die if I preach!
6. Barnes said: "This does not mean necessarily that he was an avaricious man, or that in itself he loved the honors and wealth of this world, but it means he desired to live. He was not willing to stay with Paul and subject himself to the probability of martyrdom, and in order to secure his life, departed to a place of safety."

a) Persecution and tragedy will on a misunderstanding of Scripture can cause one to lose faith and turn back.

b) Read: 1 Peter 4:12-19; Galatians 6:1-3.
c) Can he apply (1 Cor. 15:58) "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast..."

C. When Paul comes to write his final chapter what will he say about us?

Matt. 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God..."

1 Pet. 5:7-9 "Casting all your care upon him..."

Acts 5:29 "We ought to obey God rather than men."

Eccl. 12:13 "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter..."

Neely's Bend - 12/25/05
Heritage - 2/19/06
I. I started to call this lesson "I'm not sure she was a woman," but that introduces the transvestite attitude.

II. So I call it a vital part of a team - though to some Nymphas is a man - to others a woman - regardless a church secretary is a vital part of the team.

III. Paul has just told of the only 3 Jews that are with him: Aristarchus, Mark and Jesus called Justus - brave to accept new movement - christianity.

IV. Now he names 3 Gentiles and of one we know little. They are:

A. Luke, the beloved phepicean.
   1. Prominent in Acts (he wrote it), also gospel of Luke.

2 Timothy 4:11 Only Luke is one
Philemon 24 Sends greetings
2 Corinthians 8:18
Colossians 4:14 (makes the 4th)
   3. Since Demas such a questionable one, hard to image Luke with him.
4. Luke and Demas exposed to same influence yet poles apart.
5. We see it in children in the same family today and wonder why.

B. Demas is there.
1. Only one mentioned without comment.
2. Tells story of his spiritual journey - even the wrong way.
3. Why did Paul say nothing here - suspicious?
4. Sad to desert a man in hour of greatest need.
5. Was Paul still hoping for the best - so said nothing
6. Someone said Demas preferred a whole skin to a clear conscious.

C. Then Nymphas
1. Demerest says she was a woman, Nympha, the back bone of the church
2. Can't prove the sex of the name.
3. Name is feminine.
4. Manuscripts not consistent.
   Church in their house.
   Church in his house.
   Church in her house.
5. Frankly we do not know.

D. But we do know:
1. Church met in Nymphä's house.
   a. Church buildings did not exist in early century.
   b. Church is the assembly—never the place.
   c. Name? after person or after streets?
   d. Church and house different.

Romans 16:5  \textit{Pro. Church meets at their house.}
1 Corinthians 16:19 \textit{Ibid}
Philemon 2 \textit{Apphia our sister, Archippus our soldier}
Acts 4:32

   e. Size has nothing to do whether its the church versus mission.
   f. Literally - assembly

E. Lessons
1. Honor those who serve the church
2. We may not know all they do, God does.
3. Whatever our company, stay faithful.

Church secretaries luncheon TCC - 4/11/96
THINK ABOUT CHURCH: FELLOWSHIP, COOPERATION, IDENTIFICATION AND INSTRUCTION  

Col. 4:15-16

1. One very abused word is church.
   A. We make it a building.
   B. We make it an organization.
   C. We make it sectarian.

II. Perhaps in Paul's conclusions we can see 4 things about the church.
   A. 1st is Fellowship.
   V. 15 "Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, an
   1. Brotherly love needs to flourish among Chr.
   Acts 4:32 "And the multitude of them that believed we
   2. Interest should be felt in the work of others -
      prayers offered in their behalf.
   3. Wherever Christ has a child, I have a brother - I
      must be concerned about the family.

B. Identification.
   V. 15 "and Nymphas and the church which is in his ho
   1. Don't know who Nymphas is.
   2. Could be man or woman.
   3. Nympha is feminine, thus RSV speaks of church
      in her house. But word could also be masculine.
   4. Whoever it was honor was due & was bestowed.
   5. Church was in his house.
      a.) 3rd century before church met in separate house
      b.) Early church met in homes - this tells you
         something of size & informality of it.
      c.) The size has nothing to do whether it's a church
         or not - not a club c a minimum.


d.) We do not establish missions - rather churches.
e.) We may speak of the church.
(1) Locally.
I Cor. 1:18 "For the preaching of the cross is to them:
(2) Regionally.
Gal. 1:2 "And all the brethren which are with me, or
(3) World-wide.
Rom. 16:16 "Salute one another with an holy kiss. Th
f.) NT shows us many congregations.
Rom. 16:5 "Likewise greet the church that is in their
I Cor. 16:19 "The churches of Asia salute you. Aquili:
g.) Church lit. assembly.
h.) "Expositors." "Church always designates an
assembly, never the place where they met."
6. Nympha graciously offered the home for church
usage.
a.) Spud set aside 5A soybeans for school.
b.) What do we give?
c.) Do we choose Christian associates - would it
seem strange to have the church in our house?
d.) Do we choose Christian associates?
e.) Do we rear our families to be faithful?
C. Cooperation.
V. 16 "And when this epistle is read among you, caus
1. Bible's for all - cooperate in getting it to others.
2. Thankful for our Bible Correspondence work.
3. Word via joint efforts must be communicated.
4. "Cause it" lit. set to it; determination.
5. One church warns another.
6. Only incident where Paul salutes one church while writing to another.

7. Let there be an inner communication between churches.

D. Instruction.

V. 16 "that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

1. Everybody who can ought to read or hear read the
   Scripture.

2. Scripture written for whole church.

3. Public reading is helpful.

1 Pet. 2:2 "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk

James 1:21 "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and sup

Rom. 15:4 "For whatsoever things were written aforeti

2 Tim. 3:16-17 "All scripture is given by inspiration;

Acts 13:15 "And after the reading of the law and the

4. It keeps out error.

a.) Icons.

b.) Virgin worship.

c.) Altars.

d.) Tombs.

e.) Relics.

f.) Ceremonies.

5. Nearness of churches to each other exposes the
   risk they take.

6. Laodicea 12 miles from Col.

7. Laodicean letter - where is it?

   a.) Special lost letter.

   b.) One we call Ephesians.

   c.) One we call Philemon.

   d.) There are alleged ones.
8. Paul may be providing early impetus to collect NT letters by virtue of what he said about Lae. Thus they would circulate apostolic letters.
9. We've never found this letter.
10. All we know about Lae. is in Rev. 3:14-22.
11. God enters into letters lost as well as preserved.

II. This we see:
A. Fellowship
B. Identification - People
C. Cooperation
D. Instruction
E. Are we practicing NT pattern?

Sheet End 7-19-81
Neely's Bend - 1/8/06
THE UNFINISHED TASK
Col. 4:17

I. Always - duties to perform.
A. I need the criticism if not done.
B. I need the praise & encouragement if it is done.
   1. This spirit belongs to be employed toward those
      in or out of the church.
   2. It needs to be used toward leaders in the church;
      elders, deacons, preachers. (Tell of Stanley
      Allen's shock at Bob Simmons fussing about word
      I use. We all make mistakes - Malcom George
      at Acton said, "This morning I plan to speak
      permiscously.")
   3. I'll use the example of Archippus.
II. The Man Archippus.
   A. Know little about Him.
   B. Was he Philemon's son?
      Phil. 1 & 2
   C. Fellow soldier c Paul.
   D. Received a Ministry of the Lord.
      1. Was not self appointed.
      2. Was to magnify the Lord.
III. Take Heed to the Ministry - Fulfill It.
   A. The Ministry.
      1. Serious business.
      2. Great service.
      3. Preaching surrounded by many perils.
1. Wet clothes in elevator - I was 
the wet dog.
2. Gottfried Reische - children quit because 
support of Dad stopped in flood.
3. Munich - Home church sent money to folks 
on bread & potatoes - no ration stamp 
because they knew they were Jewish.

B. Take heed.
1. Was he being rebuked for failing to fully do his 
duty?
2. Tho this is problematical, what could cause a 
slippage?
a.) Weary.
b.) Discouragement.
c.) Lack of appreciation.
d.) Failure to see fruits of success.
e.) Sin.
f.) Can be sure he was remiss because he hasn't 
had his duties spelled out.
g.) Too much - what's the use?
3. Or was this a vote of confidence - I'm c 
Archippus.
4. Principles involved:
a.) Accountability is a part of discipleship.
b.) Sloppy work is unacceptable for the Lord's cause.
c.) We share mutual responsibilities to admonish & encourage brethren.
d.) All can be told faults.
e.) All can be told backing.
f.) What's said needs be said to the face. "And say to Archippus.
g.) Seriousness of our responsibility should inspire zeal.
h.) Love is expressed in recognizing the Christian worker, honoring his tasks & encouraging his best.

C. Fulfillment.
1. There is ever more to be done.
2. There is the need to complete what we've started, particularly what we have promised to do.
3. Souls are valuable - risks are apparent - for our ministries we give an account to God.

Heritage - 2/5/06

Heritage - 2/5/06
PERSONALLY AUTHENTIC—GENUINE IN CONVICTION—BETTERMENT IN WISH: THE INGREDIENTS FOR EXCELLENCY

Col. 4:18

1. And so it comes to an end.

V. 18 “The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remem

A. We'll see 3 things:

1. Author.
2. His current condition.
3. His final wish.

B. We'll also see the ingredients that make for excellency.

1. Personal authenticity.
2. Genuine conviction.
3. Selfless love for others' betterment.

C. May the study of the Book we began long ago benefit you now & always.

II. The Author & the Personal Authenticity,

A. By the hand of me, Paul.

1. Philemon only letter he wrote by hand.
2. Usually he signed the letters he dictated.
3. This makes for genuineness & personal quality too
4. Yet sometimes false teachers signed Paul's name to their letters.

2 Thess. 2:2 "That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or I

5. Chained hands make it hard to write.
6. Rest of his letter he dictated to amanuensis.

2 Thess. 3:17 "The sal. of Paul c mine own hand, whi

B. We need to be personally involved – we cannot farm it out to others.

1. I do not want a number.
2. I want more than computer attention.
3. This overcomes an impersonal world.
4. Parents need to give personal attentions; and as the latter elderly need to lovingly receive it.

C. What authenticates our faith?

III. Remember my Bonds.

A. Think of what Paul suffered for Christ.
   1. His bonds an often appeal.
      Eph. 3:1 "For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus
      4:1 "I Therefore, the Prisoner of the Lord, beseec
      6:20 "For which I am an ambassador in bonds: the
      Phil. 9:1 "Yet for love's sake I rather beseech thee, bei
      2. He who suffers for Christ can speak for Christ.
      3. His bonds gave weight to his words.
      4. It would make you regard his message c more
         sobriety. (Lady at Murfreesboro gave to school
         because Gus Nichols—the old saint—did).
      5. What are your last words?
         a.) Caesar "And thou Brutus
         b.) J. Q. Adams "This is the last of earth."
         c.) Geo. Washington "It is well."

B. What about Our Personal Conviction?
   1. We all have limits.
      a.) Parents.
      b.) Business.
      c.) Physical.
      d.) Material.
   2. Paul went the limit of his—saints in Caesar's
      household.
   3. Do we make it advance Christ?
Phil. 1:12-13 "But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the \_ \\_ \\
4. Do our bonds touch our:
   a.) Temperament.
   b.) Education.
   c.) Family.
   d.) Sin.
5. What kind of memory for life's dealing out hand - right or wrong - resentful or accepting?
   (Lemon vs. lemonade)
6. Does it mar our happiness?
Phil. 4:4-8 "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice."
   a.) Acts 16 - songs in the nite.
   b.) Content in my state.
   c.) "Can cage the bird, but can't cage the song."
7. Am I truly, genuinely convinced?
   a.) Don't walk path of dalliance.
   b.) Are our hearts larger than our means - the widows' mites.
8. It's something to know friends feel c us & care - even if they can't remove the Bonds they can remember.
IV. Wish for Betterment.
V. 18 "Grace be c you"
A. Letter ends as it begins - simple but profound prayer - Grace be c you.
1. Grace is all we need from God.
2. Each letter ends c grace.
3. Uses it w/o further definition - like in Christ I Thess. 5:28.
   2 Thess. 3:18 "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."
1 Cor. 16:23 "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all." 4. Here in shortest form.

5. Never so pressed for time he can't remember to call for divine blessing.

\[signature\]

Neely's Bend - 1/15/06