

May 2017

McInteer Sermon Outlines - John, 1

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THE FAMILY: TOGETHER IN BIBLE SCHOOL

1 John 1:1

- I. You've asked me to speak about the preacher's best friend; the Bible School.
- A. Every student is a blessing to him.
 - B. If the whole family is there you multiply the blessing.
 1. Myers card. #1
 2. Feucht poem. #2
 3. Steve Allen quote. #3

- II. Let me first say something about the Family.
- A. Royce Money in his book made some valuable points. *Clip on Family-Money #4*
 1. God chose the analogy of the family to reveal himself to mankind.

Gen. 2:23-24

Eph. 5:21-33 *Husbands love w. 25 Christ church*
Wollen 2. Clip #5 Jesus was concerned about family relationships & meeting human needs.

Mk. 5:18 *Go home to thy friends - tell them how*

Lu. ~~7:16~~

3. The Bible views people as whole people, living their lives in relationship to others.
4. Stability of the church depends on the stability of the family. *Troubled clip*

1 Tim. 3:4-5 *Knows not how to rule #6 Money*
B. He further pointed out 7 Traits of a Strong Family.

1. Healthy communication patterns.
 - a) Clip from Illustrated Treasury #7
2. Affirmation, support, appreciation expressed.

James 1:19 *Swift to hear, slow to speak, s. wrath*
a) Thatcher quote. #8

- 3. Sense of trust, mutual respect, shared responsibilities.
- 4. Basic commitment to the Family.
 - a) Mercer quote #9
 - b) Family changes #10
 - c) Better Homes clip #11
- 5. Time spent together
- 6. Religious convictions & values
 - a) Little girl poem #12 *E. De Wolf Families #14*
 - b) Bible not read #13
- 7. Reaching out to others.
 - a) Clip on child in furnace #15
 - b) Hatfield card #16

III. I believe the Bible School can definitely contribute to these 7 advantages.

- A. I will list 3 things.
- B. The 3--Aims, Appreciation & Accomplish-
ments of Bible School for the Family.
 - 1. Barnett article #17
 - 2. Sunday school--Boy #18

IV. Examination of the Three

- A. Aims - Guide book for Life
 - 1. Discover what the Bible really says.
 - a) Time--2000 years ago.
 - b) Culture of the East.
 - c) Culture of Rome.
 - 2. Teaches what God expects of man.
 - a) The one record of God revealing Himself to man.
 - b) Provides principles on which decisions can be made.

I Thess. 5:21

c) Sonship through Jesus
Nels ferre' quote #19

I Jn. 3:2 Beloved, now we are the Sons of God³.
Heb. 12:1-2 Wherein seeing we are surrounded

d) Reconciliation - De Wolf 1965 # 20

2 Cor. 5:19-21 God was in Christ rec. the world

Ps. 100:3 "Know ye that the Lord he is"

e) Feel & Find

Acts 17:27 "That they should seek"

(created by a personal Being for a holy purpose)

3. Answer life's great questions.

a) Edward G. Spalding, philosopher, said there are 3 qts.

(1) From what source do we come?

(2) Toward what goal do we rightly move?

(3) Why?

b) Others substitute for 3 and ask: "How can we get to that goal?"

4. Deal with the Scripture text.

a) What did it mean to the original readers?

b) What does it mean today?

c) Believe its inspired language.

2 Tim. 3:16 All S. is insp.

1 Thess. 2:13 Rec. the word of God... not as w. men

d) That it is the sum of truth.

Ps. 119:130

:160

e) Translate its 3 languages:

Aramaic, GK, Heb.

(1) God's name w/o vowels.

(2) Massoretic scholars added vowels.

Congo #21
clip

- (3) Study context, geography, economy. FRM clip #22
- (4) Understand strange words.

Ps. 16:7 Reids

Rev. 2:23 "

Col. 3:12 Bowels of mercy

1 Jn. 3:17 "

- (5) Grasp figurative language.
- (6) Error brings disaster.

B. Appreciation for Bible School

- 1. Something for every member--can be family affair. Wyckoff quote #23
- 2. Combat humanism.
- 3. Demands open communication.
- 4. Personal, not theological.

Jn. 4

- 5. Learning in a casual & relaxed atmosphere.
- 6. Leads to self examination--each disciple knew he could have been the betrayer.

Lu. 22:24-47

Mk. 14:17-19 Betray-Is it I?

7. Asks for a response.

Jn. 16:23-31 "Do ye now believe?"

Matt. 16:13 Who do men say that I the Son of m.

C. Accomplishments of the Bible School

- 1. Gain new believers
- 2. Encourages closer interpersonal relationships.
- 3. Diminishes gap between knowledge & application.
- 4. Easier to reach new folks (avoids preacher & contribution plate)

5. Leads to change & growth.

I Cor. 3:17 *Temple of God is holy which ye are*

6. Bible seen as final source of authority

7. Learn the truth of who Jesus is.

1 Jn. 1:1 *Word of life*

8. Show there is a tomorrow that one
heirs when he dies.

1 Pet. 1:4 *To an inheritance incorrupt. fading*

V. As you can see, I believe in the church
having a great Bible school program & I
thank all who share this dream.

A. Grace Crowell poem. #24

Shackle Island - Hendersonville, TN - 8/9/89

Beltline - Decatur, AL (BC) - 2/10/91

Oxon Hill church, Temple Hills, MD (BC) - 5/17/92

Elizabethtown, KY - 9/27/92 (BC)

Smithville, TN - 5/15/94 (BC)

No wonder William E. Hocking said, "Where there are no ^{#1} families, there can be no state!" Someone else has called home "the nuclear germinal cell from which comes the dynamic that shapes history." The family is the nucleus of civilization. Robert Ingersoll regarded "marriage as the holiest institution among men. Without the family relation, there is no life worth living; without the family fireside, there is no human advancement."

"Happiness is Still Home Made" - By T. Cecil Myers - Page 13

#2

The family is like a book,
The children are the leaves,
The parents are the cover,
Which full protection gives.
Love is the golden clasp
That binds it all in one:
Oh, break it not, lest all the leaves
Be scattered and be gone.

"The Family That Makes It" - By Oscar E. Feucht - Page 26



TEVE ALLEN, actor, comedian, author, com^{#3}poser: "Many of our problems—juvenile delinquency, crime in the street, drug addiction, alcoholism among young people—obviously grow out of problems in families. The family is the core strength of our society. If it collapses, our society collapses—unless we provide a strong, reasonable alternative."

Ministering To Families

Though the word "family" is used in the Old Testament 250^{#4} times, the word seldom occurs in any English translation of the New Testament. Yet, we see all the major truths of God's Word in relation to the concepts of family and family relationships. Like a brightly colored thread woven into the Scriptures, God establishes the family as the basic human institution created and ordained by Him.

MIRACLES HAPPEN IN GROUP BIBLE STUDY - Albert Wollen
p. 59

The Communications Decline

In a survey taken in the Midwest a few years ago, it was revealed that the average high school student had only seven minutes a week of private attention from his parents! That wasn't counting time when they sat down together and ate a meal, but time they had with the folks. Seven minutes was the average time!

But the family is in trouble. The breakdown of traditional family patterns has been hastened by declining moral standards, the cultural rise of individualism, and other forces of change and "progress" in society. Is it any wonder that current figures for family breakups, domestic violence, and crime are at all-time highs? MINISTERING TO FAMILIES - Royce Money, pg. 3

FAMILY LIFE—29

Perhaps the purest joy in the family relationship lies in the privilege of sharing. Precious hours that parents and children spend in each others company are remembered longest and with the greatest delight. Those little excursions made together, the useful and beautiful things built together, and — perhaps best of all — the books explored together, all form a chain of experiences which give a child a much needed sense of security and a feeling of being wanted and loved. — *The Illustrated Treasury of Children's Literature* (Grosset & Dunlap).

What else do you need if you have family and friends? With them you can get through anything. They are much more important than riches or luxuries.

—Margaret Thatcher

Happy family life #9 is modern goal

Eighty percent of the persons interviewed in a sample of the national population over 18 years, chose "a happy family life" as their number one goal.

Persons surveyed selected this as more important than "a fulfilling career," "the opportunity to develop as an individual," or "making a lot of money."

In addition, 3 out of 4 agreed with the statement: "The traditional family is important to Americans and should be preserved." Less than one in ten disagreed.

Earl D. Mercer

La. Baptist Children's Home News

#10
"The American family has changed more in the last 30 years than in the previous 250 years." So say the U of Washington sociologists Drs. William Blumstein and Pepper Schwartz in their landmark study entitled AMERICAN COUPLES.

One sign of this shift away from the traditional nuclear family is the phenomenon of stepparenting. Families find themselves coping with ex-spouses, former in-laws, stepchildren, and stepparents. Each day divorce and remarriage create thirteen hundred new stepfamilies with children under age 18. More than a half-million stepfamilies form each year. Thirty-five million Americans live in stepfamilies, and one out of six lives with one stepparent and one natural parent. According to a study by the School

of Sociology at Johns Hopkins U, by 1990 stepfamilies and single-parent families will outnumber traditional families consisting of two biological parents and children

FAMILY ISSUES - Bob Larson- p.168

A RECENT SURVEY by the Better Homes & Gardens Family Network indicates that family ties are becoming closer than ever. Sixty-two percent of the people surveyed said their family has become a more important factor in their lives in the last five years and only three percent of those surveyed said it has become less important.

#12
A little girl with shining eyes
Her little face aglow
Said, "Daddy, it is almost time
For Sunday School, let's go.
They teach us there of Jesus' love
Of how He died for all
Upon the cruel cross to save
Those who on Him will call."

"Oh, no," said Daddy, "not today
I've worked hard all the week
And I must have one day of rest
I'm going to the creek
For there I can relax and rest
And fishing's fine, they say
So run along, don't bother me
We'll go to church, some day."

Months and years have passed away
But Daddy hears the plea no more
"Let's go to Sunday School"
These childhood days are o'er
And now that Daddy's growing old
When life is almost through
He finds time to go to church
But what does daughter do?

She says, "Oh, Daddy, not today
I stayed up all last night
And I've just got to have some sleep
Besides, I look a fright."
Then Daddy lifts a trembling hand
To brush away the tears
So again he hears the pleading voice
Distinctly through the years
He sees a small girl's shining face
Upturned with eyes aglow
As she says, "It's time for Bible School
Please Daddy, won't you go?"

Patrick St. Church
Dublin, TX

Respected, but Not Read—*Christianity Today* #13
ported that, according to their recent poll, the Bible is the most revered book in the country. They also found, however, that it is little read. The Gallup organization was commissioned by *Christianity Today* to poll Americans aged eighteen and over to learn religious beliefs and practices of the American people.

The pollsters learned that 65 million adults believe the Bible is inerrant and 50 million go to the Bible first to test their own religious beliefs. But only 11 percent of those polled read the Bible every day, while 10 percent read it weekly, and 7 percent monthly. Thirty-seven million adults never read the Bible.

The findings of this survey agree substantially with one made in 1978 by the Christian Bible Society. This study (conducted by National Family Opinion, Inc.) found that 42 percent of those polled held the Bible to be the Word of God and completely accurate. At the same time, 47 percent of the women and 72 percent of the men surveyed had not read the Bible within the previous thirty days.

The results seem clear. We say that we believe the Bible; we just don't read it. Or we don't read it much!

But these polls represent a cross section of America, some might argue. Surely if members from our congregations were surveyed, they would have a much higher response in Bible reading.

Would they?

Would you?

No better way exists for us to know who God is and

for July 13, 1980

what He wants us to do than reading His Word. When you read the Bible, you can hear God talking. It is that simple.

Charles Schulz, the creator of Peanuts, also draws clever cartoons about Christian teenagers. In one he shows a high-school boy telling his girl friend, "I think I've finally begun to unravel the mystery of the Old Testament. I've started to read it."

The young man is right! Get your Bible from the shelf. Start to read it. Then respond in obedience to what God tells you to do. Saying that we love God and respect His Word is not enough. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

but also to reconcile human institutions to the purpose of God.

To families, we must be saying, "It is not enough for a family to be prosperous and secure, healthy and happy, close-knit and loyal. It is more important to be good than to be prosperous, to be faithful to God than to be secure, to be spending yourselves for the common good than to be healthy and happy, to be loyal to God than agreeably united among yourselves. Indeed, the highest security, health, happiness, and loyalty can be found only by families which continually acknowledge church and community and God above family."

The boy came home from Sunday school and told his mother that if he missed three Sundays in a row, his teacher was going to throw him into the furnace. #15

Horrified, the mother phoned the teacher.

"What I said," the teacher explained calmly, "that if any child missed three Sundays in a row, he would be dropped from the register." - LUCILLE S HARPER.

We are witnessing a massive failure of Christian education in some of our major denominations. The Sunday school, which originated as a tool to train Christians, has often become just another program that we feel obligated to support. We tend to measure its success by its size rather than by its ability to produce disciples for Christ.

#16

"Conflict and Conscience" - By Mark O. Hatfield - Page 139

Don't Sell Sunday School Short

The following from the pen of Ronald Milton, talented Tulsa minister, recently captured my attention:

"Have you ever wondered why it is so hard to convert a Catholic or a Jew to the truth? And have you ever wondered why we lose so many of our young people to so many different things?"

The minister then quoted from a recent **Look** magazine article:

"Jewish children enrolled in synagogue schools receive about 200 hours of religious instruction annually. Catholic children (including those in the public schools) get at least 100 hours of formal training in religion. But, a Protestant child, even if he attends Sunday school faithfully, receives only about 25 hours of religious instruction a year. 'All of the year's a child spends in Sunday school add up to about the same amount of time he spends in public schools in two months . . . 'It is small wonder the average child in most Protestant homes can give no adequate reason for his faith'."

Milton went ahead to point out:

"A child goes to school some 30 to 35 hours a week. Counting his homework, he may spend up to 7 or 8 hours on one subject—math, music or English. And everybody is encouraging him to learn these subjects, emphasizing their importance in later life. The same child may spend one hour that week studying the Bible."

These thoughts should "bring home" the vital necessity of having our children in every Bible class provided by the church. One of the wisest investments you can make is to roll yourself and your offspring out of bed in time to be in Sunday School every Sunday. Don't underestimate the power of the Bible class program. Don't sell Sunday School short!!

 Joe Barnett

When I Was a Boy

Sunday School Held Every Sunday ^{#18}

I remember going to Sunday School. We drove two miles with a team and carriage every Sunday morning. The weather didn't make any difference unless the road was blocked by snow. I remember some days when it was snowing and the road was rough. Some days would be hot.

We hurried on Sunday morning to get dressed for church. Sometimes I had to study my

By JIM CRAIG

Sunday School lesson a little more. We had a book with sentences that had blanks to fill. We had to find the right words.

The Sunday School room was upstairs. When everybody was seated the teacher called the roll. Each student would answer, "Present." If he had a penny for the collection he answered, "Present penny." We

had to memorize a verse from the Bible and repeat it. Most of the time we tried to find the shortest verse.

Everybody who got all the blanks filled and had his verse from the Bible memorized got a star pasted in his book. The teacher assigned the lesson for next Sunday. When class was over we went downstairs for the church service and sermon. Sometimes the sermon lasted an hour. Some of the little children went to sleep.

I still have the copy of my first "New Testament." It is signed and dated 1913 by my Sunday School teacher, Etta
for attendance at Sun-

The New Testament tells of one exception. Jesus, we are told, was sinless. Sometimes this is interpreted to mean that he was sinless in his mature ministry. Nels Ferré maintains that the Incarnation would not have been complete had not Jesus revolted against parental authority and in this rebellion sinned, as every youth must, to move from childhood to manhood.² But the argument seems self-defeating. ✓

TEACHING OUR FAITH IN GOD - L. Harold DeWolf #19
p. 125-126

in the sense that he created us, but also in the sense that we have come very far from him and profoundly need to return to the way which he had planned for us.

3. *God the eternal Son*

Toward what end ought we to go? God has made us for himself and we remain restless and discontented until we find our peace in him. But how are we to picture or understand the life which he intended for us? God has disclosed his will and way for us in the man of Galilee, Jesus of Nazareth. God the eternal Son, God the everlasting purpose for man is disclosed to us with marvelous beauty and purity in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus is our supreme example. In so far as we fulfill the purpose of God, we shall show a spirit like his. It is the rightful hope and expectation of every Christian that one day, as Paul says, we too shall be like him.

However, Jesus is not only an example to be imitated by us. By the purity of his devotion, his sacrificial obedience to God, and his love of man shown on the cross, he has disclosed to us at once the wretched character of sin, even our sin, and the Father's forgiving love. Through this disclosure he has reopened the way which our self-righteous defenses tend to close. He enables us to repent with understanding and with genuine hope that God will truly forgive and restore us. At the foot of the cross we find ourselves stripped bare of all those shells which we erect around ourselves to prevent others and even ourselves from knowing our own wretchedness and need. At the foot of the cross we humbly ask God to forgive us and save us; not because we have been righteous, but because he has shown to us his forgiving love in Jesus. At the cross we learn also that the way of sacrificing love is the true way of reconciliation between one person and another. If the holy God uses no thunderbolt to make us obey, but rather condescends to humble and sacrificing love as the way of supreme disclosure, how much more should we humble ourselves in willing, patient, and devoted search for reconciliation with those who wrong us.

#20

✓

✓

standard Version where the passage in John reads "yet closes his heart against him."

#21

Sometimes "heart" is used in the Bible as the seat of intellect, "For man believes with his heart and so is justified" (Rom. 10:10). Yet in our culture we do not consider "believing" to be a function of the heart.

In other parts of the world, these ideas must be translated into other forms. In the Sudanic languages of northern Congo, for example, the liver is considered the center of man's inward being. In this culture, Matthew 15:8 should be translated, "These people honor me with their lips, but their liver is far from me." Therefore, the missionary of today must go yet another step and understand the cultural patterns of the people to whom he ministers.



... cultural

Biblical Language More Oral than Written

All of the Bible was written many centuries before the invention of the printing press. The biblical languages (Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek) were used far more in speaking than in writing. To early people, the spoken word was much more important than it is to us. Most people could not read or write, so nearly all their communications were in speech.

When the ancient Hebrew and Aramaic languages were written, they were written without vowels. For this reason, the actual sounds and pronunciations of Hebrew and Aramaic words are surrounded by some mystery. Only the consonants were written and the exact word had to be determined by the context.

It is not always easy to determine the vowels by context. If this principle were applied to the English language, the words farm, firm, from, frame, form and forum would all be written "frm." Often it could be difficult to determine the correct word from the context. A sentence reading "He chose the frm" might mean he chose the farm or the frame, or the forum, or the firm.

Between A.D. 500 and 600—centuries after Hebrew had died as a spoken language—a group of men known as the Massoretic scholars decided that something should be done to preserve the pronunciation of the Hebrew words. The Hebrew text had been handed down through the centuries by hand copying and it was written with only the consonant sounds. The Massoretic scholars now added "vowel points" to the Hebrew words. By placing a point or a dot at a certain position above or below or within the consonant letters, the scholars indicated which vowels they thought belonged in the words. This has become known as the Massoretic text, and while it is helpful, it is by no means indisputable. After all, the Massoretic scholars had no way of

#22

✓

Good

D. Campbell Wyckoff well says that "in childhood the emphasis is likely to be more on perceiving the gospel, in youth on accepting it, and in maturity on discovering and meeting its ever-changing requirements." ¹

¹ From *The Gospel and Christian Education* by D. Campbell Wyckoff, p. 109.
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#73

TEACHING OUR FAITH IN GOD - L. Harold DeWolf, p. 53

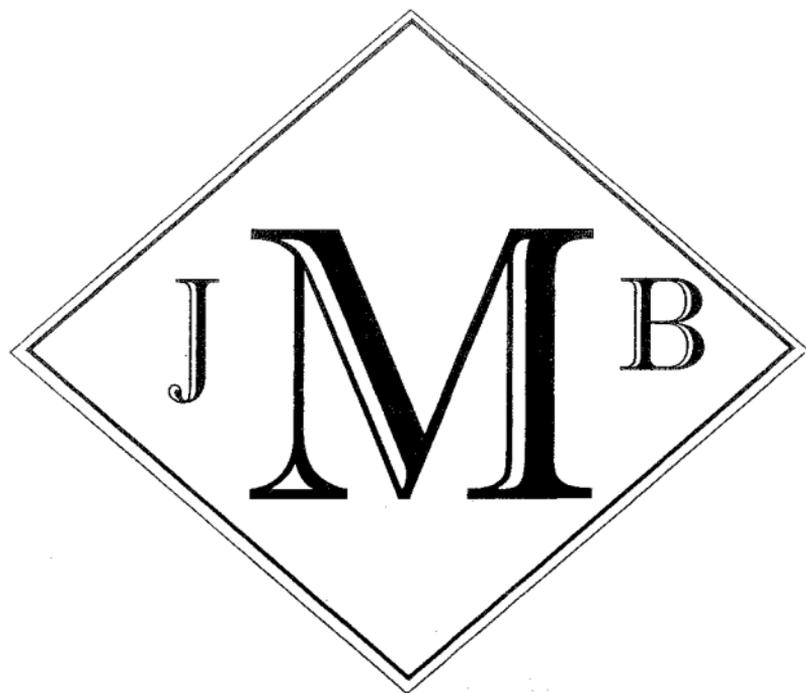
Grace Noll Crowell wrote:

So long as there are homes to which men turn
At close of day;
So long as there are homes where children are,
Where women stay--
If love and loyalty and faith be found
Across those sills--
A stricken nation can recover from
Its gravest ills.

So long as there are homes where fires burn
And there is bread;
So long as there are homes where lamps are lit
And prayers are said;
Although people falter through the dark--

And nations grope--
With God himself back of these little homes--
We have sure hope.

--from "A Man and His Religion"
by G. Curtis Jones
pg. 67



I. What item of your body is 2nd only to your face in expressiveness.

A. Not feet.

B. Not ears - I knew 3 who could move them.

C. Not nose - Chinese told Helen Young they stare at Americans because of their big noses.

II. Would it not be hands?

A. One defined them as "flattish masses of flesh, bone, cartilage & skin attached to the end of the arms. - 5 fingers, no symmetrical pattern, tend to be knobby."

1. Thumbs short & ugly.

2. Little finger too weak.

3. 4th can hardly raise.

4. Few hairs, creases, crevices, bumps, veins.

B. Yet expressive.

1. Point.

2. Clinch.

3. Negate.

4. Beckon.

5. Get attention.

6. Accent.

7. Applaud.

8. Thumbs down or up.

9. Shame.

10. Obscene.

C. Put c personality in lie detector test.

III. Multiple are the lessons but I want to talk about hands that touch. Song of Sol. 2:6

O that his left hand were under my head & that his right hand embraced me.

A. Elisha & Joash 2 Kings 13:14-19

1. Elisha sick & eventually died.

a.) Closing scene of his life.

b.) Great to live so as to gain those that mourn.

2. Joash - wept.

"O my father, my father, the chariot

a.) Unusual for prophet to be visited by King.

b.) Prince of amiable disposition.

c.) Leaned over & tears fell in his face.

d.) Used same words when Elijah translated.

3. Take bow & arrow.

a.) Short instruction.

b.) Note he's working to very end - no regrets.

c.) Didn't excuse himself with "I won't be here - your problem."

4. Put thine hand on bow.

a.) Margin, make thine hand to ride.

b.) Simple instructions to a King.

c.) King knew Elisha his only hope.

5. Elisha's hands upon the King's head.

a.) Was he touched by King's tears.

b.) Did he have a stake in tomorrow tho he wouldnt be there?

c.) Remember Elisha very old.

6. Shot thru eastern window - "arrow of deliverance

a.) Symbolic act.

b.) Men die, but work of God goes on.

7. Hand of kindred strength.

- a.) Words were not enuf - needed touch.
 - b.) Rises from despair.
 - c.) Gives hope.
 - d.) Kingdom was in disarray - victory to come!
 - e.) Your presence & prayers mean so much.
- B. Jehu & Jehonadab 2 Kings 10:15-18.
1. This is the hand of assurance - I need that touch.
 2. Jehu marched against Ahab & Jezebel.
 - a.) Ready to destroy their prophets.
 - b.) Kept his eye open for any who'd help him.
 3. He lighted (found) Jehonadab.
 - a.) Jehonadab founder of Rechabites.
 - b.) Mentioned only here & by Jeremiah 35:6-7.
 - c.) Folks lived in tents, no wine, never entered city.
 4. Blessed - saluted - "is thine heart right?" "It is."
 - a.) Open & frank Qt.
 - b.) Delighted c answer.
 - c.) Unhesitating & w/o a pause he answered.
 5. Give me thine hand.
 - a.) Not like a handshake - that not the custom in the east.
 - b.) Welcomed into chariot.
 - c.) We need to give approval.
 - d.) We need to give support.
 - e.) We need to give our influence.
- C. Jesus & Woman Luke 8:43-48
1. Hands that cry for help.
 2. Issue of blood - 12 yrs.
 3. Spent all - none helped.

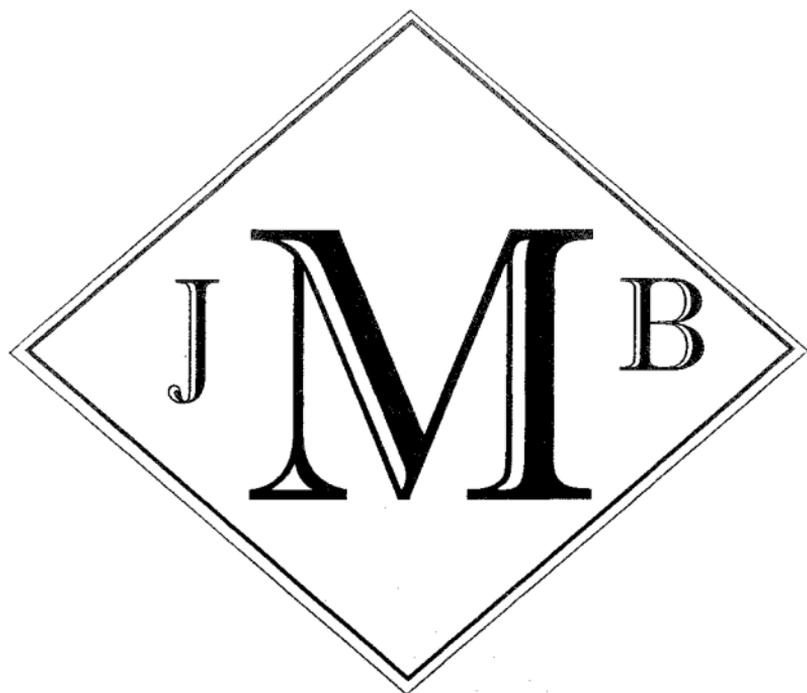
- 4. Touched border of garment.
- 5. Who touched me.
- 6. Peter that it an odd qt.
- 7. Woman came trembling, falling down, declared touch & healing.
- 8. Faith made thee whole.

Ps. 63:4 "I will lift up my hands & call on thy name

Ps. 143:6 "I stretch out my hands to thee

a.) Offer me \$1000 I must take it.

Leah Rose Residence 1-25-81.



DECLARATION OF LIFE, FELLOWSHIP, JOY

I John 1:2-4

- I. What more could I ask for: Life, Fellowship, Joy -- the Answer is found in Jesus. *Not in a*
- II. The Life was Manifested & Declared. *CORNER*
 - A. Jesus is not a hidden commodity. ~~Not a commodity~~
 1. Mankind knows he's come!
 2. He's passed from invisible to visible.
 3. From same word we get - phenomenon - with great clarity.
 4. He was in existence before manifest.
 - B. Witness is Borne *Life appeared! Real*
 1. Apostles communicate the experience.
 2. We as well must share it.
 3. Declare what you've found.
 4. Uses witness 17X in 5 chapters.
 5. It is the climax of certainty.
Illustrate with A. R. Holton --
Sister Webster said, "Not him".
He was! "Wish he hadn't come".
 6. Show him unto you - can we say as much?
 - C. It's Eternal Life You Show.
 1. Great quality of living given.
 2. Now and more later.
 3. Authoratively presented. *Except X Sohn always used double Jesus Christ*
 4. Cathedral Milano.
- III. There is a Result
 - A. Fellowship with Us. *Apostles*
 1. It has a definite aim - fellowship with this life - pure and undying.
 2. In that fellowship comes joy.

B. What is Fellowship?

1. Companionship, comradeship, intimacy.
(Torrey)
2. The most intimate of human relationship.
Buddy System.
3. Common, thus communion.
 - a) Generosity (Phil. 2:1)
 - b) Participation (Philemon 6)
 - c) Partner (Luke 5:12)
4. Originally a commercial term - joint ownership of a fishing vessel, i.e.
5. Close relationship or harmonious association as partners or sharers of the gospel - J. W. Roberts.
6. It is more than good natured fun at a picnic (ants don't come to one -- we bring it to them) or meaningless chit chat on non-controversial subjects - Tolbert.

C. The "So What."

1. It is a relationship of Christians to God, apostles, one another.
2. Thus a body - we belong to each other - we share.
3. Isolation is wrong.
4. God created a community - not saving one fragmented soul. Pegs in that triangle at Cracker Barrel.
5. Centre of it is Jesus.
6. Man hates loneliness - man left ship, went dockside & paid boy to wave as ship departed.

BUDDY SYSTEM

Decades ago in my youth at Boy Scout Camp Hugh Taylor Birch, the lifeguard would blow his whistle and we would all scramble to hold up a buddy's hand. If someone stood alone, that spelled disaster. Look for him at the bottom of the pool. Looking out for each other as taught by the buddy system is a missing ingredient in this age of confrontation and protest. —JIM KEEBLER, Editorial, *Automation*, 4-70.

Conversation

Man outside telephone booth: "Excuse me, but I'm in a hurry. You've had that phone 20 minutes and not said a word."

Man: "Sir, I'm talking to my wife."

Over the triple doorways of the Cathedral of Milan inscriptions span the length of the great arches. Over one is carved a wreath of roses with the words, "All that which pleases is but for a moment." Over another is sculptured a cross with the legend, "All that which troubles us is but for a moment." But over the great central entrance is the inscription. "That only is important which is eternal."

Which really did come first?
Was it the egg or the hen?
This enigmatic question
Crops up now and then.
Each side has proponents,
But I'd remind each booster
They both pre-suppose
A pre-existing rooster.

— *Wall Street Journal*

Religion, Philosophy

Charles H. Spurgeon was emphasizing to his class the importance of making the facial expression harmonize with the speech.

"When you speak of Heaven," he said, "let your face light up, let it be irradiated with a heavenly gleam, let your eyes shine with reflected glory.

"But when you speak of Hell — well, then your ordinary face will do."

Help

A teenager was lounging on the floor watching TV when the phone rang.

"Hello, son," said the voice. "Where is your mother?"

"She is out working in the garden."

Quote

You Can Use

"What? Your mother is not as young and strong as she used to be. Why aren't you helping her?"

"I can't," the son replied. "Grandma is using the other hoe."

Loan

A farmer asked a banker for a loan

Frequency

A traveler visited an old Greek monastery that was perched high on a steep mountain. The only access to the monastery was a rope basket.

The traveler got into the basket, and just as he was about to be hauled up the sheer cliff wall, he noticed that the rope attached to the basket was frayed.

He nervously asked the monk who was with him how often the rope was replaced.

"Every time it breaks," the monk answered.

— *Brenda W. Simonson*

ATHLETES

Every athletic team could use a man who plays every position, never makes an error, and knows just what the opposition is planning. But so far there's been no way to get him to put down his hotdog and come out of the stands. — *Mississippi Educational Advance* quoted in *Education Digest*, 2-70.

At the beginning of the decade of the seventies, *Look* magazine had an interesting symposium contributed by a variety of thinkers in our country. It was an attempt to analyze the problems of our world at the beginning of a new decade. Near the close of the issue, they got to the root of it all when they said, "Joy is the missing ingredient in our culture — the healing force that can join individual impulse with a common good."¹

In the same article, Vincent Harding wrote: "In most of America, there is no sense of joy at all—that is, apart from age four down. A society that I am seeking is a society where joyousness is a part of the very fabric of life. I want a society in which people can touch each other without fear."

grow strong by courage.

— *William Ellery Channing*

I conceive that the great part of the miseries of mankind are brought upon them by false estimates they have made of the value of things.

— *Benjamin Franklin*

Victory and defeat are each of the same price.

— *Thomas Jefferson*

Quote

Joy is the gigantic secret of the Christian. When pagans look at the very core of the Cosmos, he is struck cold. Behind the gods, who are despotic, sit the fates who are deadly. Nay, the fates are worse than deadly; they are dead.

--G.K. Chesterson
Orthodoxy, page 159

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Great character is more to be praised than outstanding talent. Most talents are, to some extent, a gift. Good character, by contrast, is not given to us. We have to build it piece by piece — by thought, choice, courage, and determination.

— *John Luther*

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Faced with crisis, the man of character falls back on himself. He imposes his own stamp of action, takes responsibility for it, makes the situation his own . . .

ler

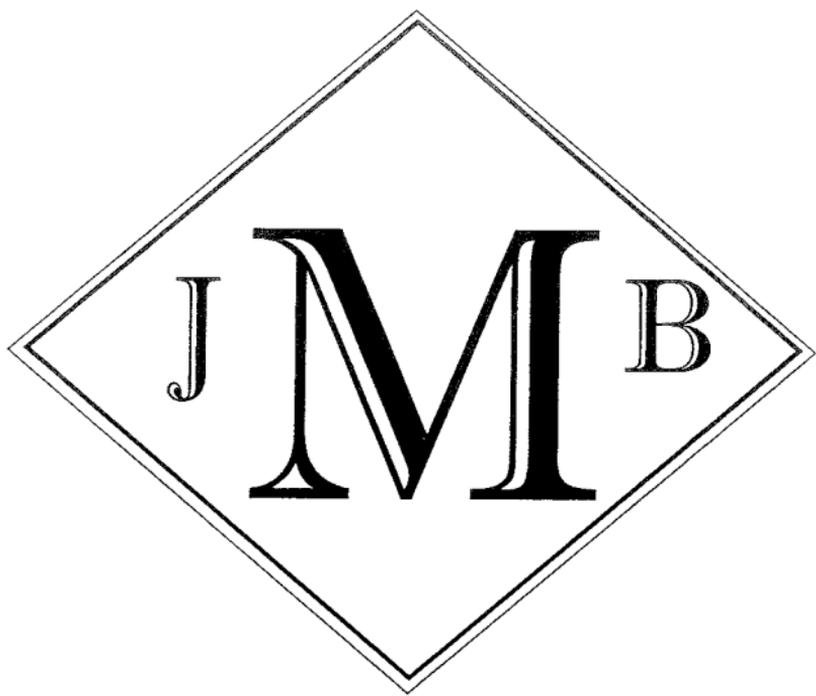
Difficulty attracts the man of character because it is in embracing it that he realizes himself.

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— *Charles De Gaulle*

No snowflake in an avalanche ever feels responsible.

Quote



FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD -- JUST HOW?

1 Jn. 1:5-10

- I. Perhaps nothing equals the thought of our union with God.
 - A. We point out "that's the preacher's boy."
 - B. She's the boss' daughter.
 - C. We salute a famous individual and marvel at those who closely knew them-- "he's Eliz. Taylor's 6th husband."
- II. But of all unbelievable areas it's amazing I can walk with God -- when I know not the famous, rich or powerful of this earth. Just how can this be?
- III. John in 1 John 1 tells us.
 - A. There is a message.
 1. There is a message that is essential to this fellowship.
 2. It is specific.
 3. Barnes says this is the substance of the announcement.
(Each of us has to ask what is the final summation of all our teaching?)
 4. Note it was a message received, not one manufactured.
 5. The message is -- "God", it was brought by Jesus.
 - a) Value of message depends somewhat on the messenger.
 - b) Son came from the Father.
 - c) "Christian faith is not a matter of spiritual speculation or the mastery of secrets & code words" - Ogelvie
 6. We heard & declared it.

B. Message: God is Light

1. 3 affirmations.

a) God is Spirit.

b) God is Light (1 Jn. 1:5)

c) God is Love (1 Jn. 4:8)

2. Many think "God is light" is a statement Jesus often used.

3. Jesus himself illuminates man & enriches his life.

4. Why think of God as light?

a) It reveals.

b) It illuminates - (we take stronger light bulbs & incense to cheap hotels -- tell what they cost by the thickness of their towels)

c) It is desirable - universal need.

d) It is essential - nothing grows without light - fish in Mammoth Cave have no eyes.

e) All growth - physical & spiritual depends on light.

f) Light is splendor, radiance, pierces darkness.

g) Knowledge

h) Unity & truth.

5. How does it show God?

a) It's seen - thus we can see God - (see Jesus, see the Father - they felt & saw & heard reality).

b) Nothing concealed or secretive about Him - Barclay.

c) It's pure.

d) It guides - makes the road easy - stopped on way to Sycamore Chapel - couldn't see the road. Road is plain in the light.

e) It reveals.

Our thoughts lie open to thy sight;
And naked to thy glance
Our secret sins are in the light
of thy pure countenance. Whittier

f) Penetrates - we saw in York Cathedral medieval glass let pure light pass through -- Westminster Abbey is not as old - it passes on the color.

g) God's dwelling.

1 Tim. 6:16 *Immortality, dwelling in light - approach*

Ps. 27:1 *The Lord is my light & my soul whom I fear*

6. Man's character is determined by the God he worships.

C. In God is No Darkness.

1. What does darkness telegraph to you?

~~1 Jn. 2:8~~

Eph. 5:8 *for ye were sometimes d. but now are ye l.*

Col. 1:13 *who hath delivered us from the power*

1 Thess. 5:4 *But ye br. are not in d. that the day*

Jn. 8:12 *I am the l. he that followeth me shall not*

1 Pet. 2:9 *Called you out of d. into his mar. light*

2. These facts:

a) Hostile to light yet can't stop it.

b) Ignorance

Jn. 12:35 *He that walketh in d. knoweth not where*

2 Cor. 4:6 for God who commended the life to shine

c) Chaos

Eph. 5:11 No fellowship & unfruit words

d) Unfruitful

Eph. 6:12 Wrestle against the rulers of the d.

e) Enemy of Jesus

f) Confuses & hides - light makes recognition possible.

3. Strong negative - not one speck of darkness.

a) Not 1 tiny particle.

b) Can be in his presence but none in Him.

c) Nothing unholy, unrighteous, evil, false in God.

Telephone
Book use
No nick
names

IV. What does all this do to my life?

A. Introduces our claim of fellowship.

v-6 "If we say that we have fellowship"

1. 2 cannot walk together unless in agreement.

2. God reveals himself for a purpose: that we may come into fellowship with Him.

3. Fellowship is joint participation in something held in common.

4. If we are in fellowship with God we will have to accept all God revealed about Christ & live in accord with his revelation. (Erdman)

5. Having learned what God is - Light- we must be like God.

6. If there is inconsistency - we lie and walk in darkness.

- a) Easier to seek & to be satisfied with outward religious confirmity than the sought immediate presence of God.
- b) We must properly behave.
- c) Thus a strong moral implication - Roberts.
- d) Test of any man is his relation with Jesus.

Matt. 16:13

- Whom do men say that I the Son*
- e) Lack of intimacy with God leads to impotency.

7. If inconsistent - we lie.

- a) It's a lie that sin is a matter of no consequence - Roberts.
- b) Are we in fellowship with those not in the light -- excusing their sins.
- c) 4X he accuses false teachers of being liars.
- d) Practice must fit profession - Barclay.
- e) Our claims must not be contradictory.
- f) God knows us absolutely - even our pretense.
- g) God's the foe of evil - Bakker & Hahn -- "Commit adultery - what helps the shepherd helps the sheep." Next day "God really ministered to us, didn't he."

h) 3 lies

- (1) To say one is in Christ & and walks in darkness.
- (2) To say we are not responsible for our sins (not by inheritance, environment, education, or social customs)
- (3) To claim sinlessness.
- (4) A. Lincoln, "If a man is going to lie he better have a good memory."

B. My task - Walk in the Trust

1. Lit. "They are not doing the truth.
2. Doing - practicing, living.
3. Truth properly held is always manifested in obedience. - Woods
4. We don't create truth - it originates with God.
5. It's the fd. house of faith & science.
6. Truth is something to know & do.
(White)
7. God is for truth & openness.

C. Do you walk in way of disclosure?v-7 "But if we walk in the light"1. Walk

- a) Implies effort not to sin.
- b) Keep on - continuous.
- c) Totality of human conduct - Coffman.

2. Must be in the light to have his fellowship.

Gal. 6:2 *Be ye one another's burdens*
 1 Cor. 12:26-27 *One member suffer all members suffer*

3. Eternal life is divine fellowship.

V. But suppose I stump my toe?

v 7-10 "But if we walk in the light"

A. Remember God knows us & we confidentially talk.

I Jn. 2:28 "We may have confidence"

(means to freely talk)

Ps. 139:1-6 - *Read*

Ps. 147:4-5 *Counts stars, names Great is our Lord*

1 Jn. 3:20 *God knoweth all things*

~~Rev. 2:2~~

1. Occasionally we sin, but not a deliberate & persistent pattern.
2. God is very personal, timeless, non-material, self-existent, merciful - he does not have to embrace evil to understand it - none (darkness) in Him - so he provides remedy for us.

B. Remedy - Blood of Jesus Christ

1. Blood shows gnostics wrong - Jesus had a real body, he suffered our sacrifice.
2. It confirms the Incarnation but Jesus is more than just a man tho He was a man.
3. Blood always stands for violent death - both Old & New Testament.

C. Cleanseth

1. Kept constantly clean if we walk in the light - Woods.
2. Not automatic - based on confession, penitence, renewal, keeping commandments - Morris.

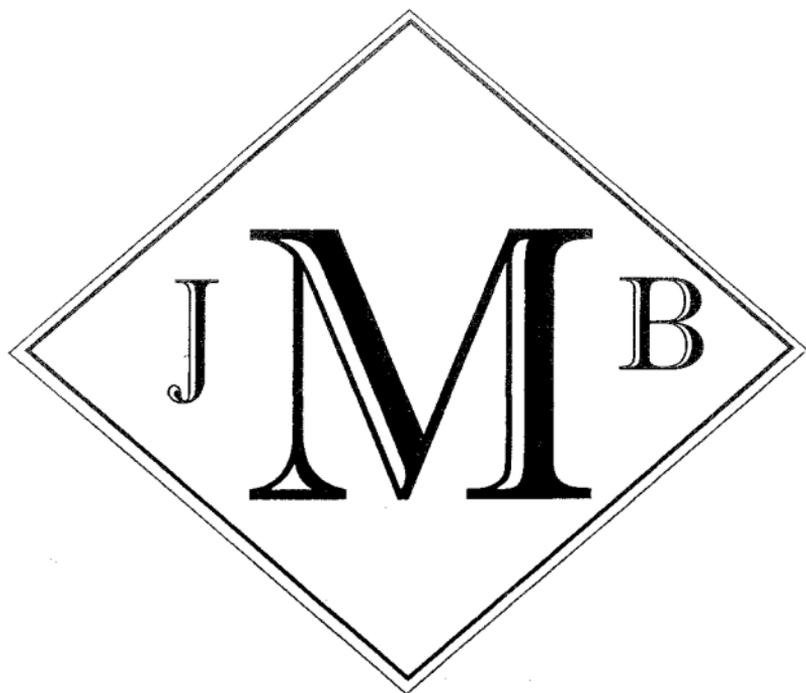
3. Operates unconditionally in instance of the believer's unawareness of sins that lie hidden from himself - Coffman.
4. He never need to fear that some impulsive, unintentional, atypical conduct might overtake him with the result of eternal damnation - Coffman.
5. Get word catharses from cleansing - to clean out.

D. All Sin

1. No exception.
2. Jesus' blood that powerful - are you so washed?
3. No stain so deep but the power of his blood can remove it - Barnes.
4. Sin singular - the principle of sin.
5. All sin rooted in the basic sin of trying to be a diminutive god for ourselves & others - Ogelvie.

VI. Now a Question - Will You Submit?

1. Fellowship demands cleansing.
2. Jesus visited earth to save us.
3. Answer to our problems is to have Jesus along side with us.
4. Confess means to agree or to declare alike.
5. We must agree with God about the nature of our crisis - Ogelvie.
6. Forgive lit. to leave behind, to abandon via costly blood of Jesus.



JESUS, THE PROPITIATION

I Jn. 2:1-2

I. How could anything be simpler or clearer than our text?

A. God does not want man to sin.

B. But man does sin.

C. Therefore God provides the Salvation from Sin.

I Jn. 2:1-2 "My little children, these things write

II. God does not want the Christian to Sin.

A. He's given them a family - My little children.

1. "My little children" *6:23:26-27*

(a) Lit. "My little born ones"

(b) Little 7X (Birth & infancy).

(c) Young 2X (Early education & childhood).

(d) Term of sheer affection.

(e) Diminutive words used with a caress.

(f) Here alone possessive adj. "My".

(g) Jesus uses children.

Jn. 13:33 "Little children, yet a little while I am with

(h) Once a sinner has been justified by God, his judge, he has entered the family of God & became related to God as his Father.

(i) Beautiful that God wants to keep age in sympathy c youth!

B. To His Children He Wrote a Letter.

1. It was a purposeful message - don't sin.

Ps. 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I

2. We cannot be antagonistic or indifferent to God - He's done too much for us.

C. That Message - Sin Not!

1. Sin is not a necessity.
2. Here he speaks of occasional sin - you are divorced from habitual sin. It's an act, not continuous habit.
3. Union c Christ involves imitation of Christ.
4. Knowledge involves obedience; union involves imitation.
5. Think of all the forces now that do not want you to sin.

III. Tragically, the Christian Does Sin!

- A. Tho not desired, the truth is faced - man does.
 1. Sheep may fall into mud - does not have to live there.
 2. Our committing sin can have various effects:
 - (a) Despondent - paralyze.
 - (b) Excusing - everyone does! - Easy attitude.
 - (c) Lie about it - say we don't.
 - (d) Presumptuousness - God won't do any judging!
 - (e) Turn grace into licentiousness.
- B. Tense of all this paragraph is Present. God knows where we are!

IV. God Has a Remedy.

A. Man can't do it. *For sin has a power over us*

I Pet. 2:24 "Who his own self bare our sins in his own b
 I Pet. 3:18 "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins,
 Lev. 1:2 "Speak unto the children of Israel, and say un
 Lev. 1:4 "And he shall put his hand upon the head of t
 Heb. 9:26 "For then must he often have suffered since
 Eph. 5:2 "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved

*Given .. offering .. sacrifice .. sweet smelling
 but now has in the presence of the world he has*

B. But all men need something.

- 1. We - plural.
- 2. We - believers.

C. We have an Advocate.

- 1. What is he?
- 2. Who is he?
- 3. Where is he?

D. What is he? - Advocate!

1. Define.

- (a) Pleader.
- (b) Intercessor.
- (c) A friend of the accused speaks - enlists sympathy for the accused.
- (d) Westcott, "One who pleads convinces, who strengthens on one hand & who defends on another."

(e) Original - Paraclete - helper.

(f) One who lends his presence to his friends.

Rom. 8:34 "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died."

Heb. 7:25 "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the utter."

~~Heb. 8:24~~"

(g) Comforter.

Jn. 14:16 "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give me another Comforter."

Jn. 14:25 "These things have I spoken unto you, being yet with you."

(h) One who comforts, exhorts, appeals to by a proxy, an attorney.

Job 33:24 "Then he is gracious unto him, and saith, Do not sin."

Jn. 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Rom. 3:26 "To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness without the law."

(i) Advocacy is God's family blessings.

(j) One who stands near to plead another's cause.

(k) I have a lawyer in heaven. *He lies on honest man, 2 lawyer, 2 in some of 2002?*

E. Where is He? - With the Father.

- 1. I do not appear alone in the courts of the most high
- 2. God alone can forgive - there is one ever with Him to plead our case & our lawyer has a claim on the Father!
- 3. He's ever c the Father - Christ - anointed to this task!
- 4. "With" = face to face -> He's there!

F. Who is he? - Jesus Christ the Righteous.

- 1. See the composite.
 - (a) Jesus - Human Nature.
 - (b) Christ - Messianic office.
 - (c) Righteous - Character - He alone is the Righteous one.

2. Our lawyer is blameless - no sins of his own.

Heb. 7:26 "For such an high priest became us, who is *holy*

1 Pet. 3:18 "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins,

Jn. 16:8-10 "And when he is come, he will reprove th

3. Augustine: "No saint or apostle set forth - only Jesus."

4. Your lawyer is God's Son - My Beloved.

Your lawyer is Righteous.

Your lawyer ever lives to make intercession for you.

G. What Can He Say?

1. Our earthly lawyers say:

- (a) Not guilty.
- (b) Or had a right to do it.

(c) Or if convicted, stand by & see no injustice done.

2. Not Jesus! He admits our guilt!

(a) Yet ask that we be pardoned.

(b) He does not plead we are innocent or adduce extenuating circumstances.

(c) Ask we be treated as tho never sinned.

(d) Assures court if pardoned we will behave & not rebel.

(e) Christ not mere supplicant petitioner but pleads on grounds of justice, righteousness as well as mercy.

(f) He can say nothing good of us but much for us!

3. If every time you sin that sin is discussed in Heaven's court, it should make us very careful about our sin.

4. He acknowledges our guilt & presents his vicarious works as grounds for our acquittal.

H. He is the Propitiation.

1. Define Propitiation.

(a) Means of appeasing.

(b) God's wrath struck on Jesus.

Isa. 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have

(c) God's "make to strike" literally for "laid" on Jesus.

(d) Action to remove defilement.

(e) Not so much to pacify & placate as to disinfect man from sin & fit him to enter fellowship of God.

- (f) God's offer of reconciliation does not produce it - it just prepares the way for it.
- (g) Doesn't change God - just removes what was in the way of His pardon.
- (h) God's wrath not capricious; neither satisfied by a bribe, but by that which He initiates.
- (i) Same as mercy seat - where God meets His people.
- (j) Therefore all must come to Jesus.

Jn. 10:9 "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved"

I Cor. 3:11 "For other foundation can no man lay than this which is laid, and which is Jesus Christ"

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

2. He covers our sins.

- (a) It's as tho Jesus died on the cross for ea. one of us alone.
- (b) From Adam till today Jesus saves.

3. And the sins of the whole world.

- (a) Atonement adapted to all men.
- (b) Sufficient merit for all - no other suffering necessary.
- (c) Not easier for one class of folk than another.
- (d) He undertakes our interest; one day to be surrounded by countless millions of human brothers in glory as He sees whom he has rescued.
- (e) God's grace is to all.

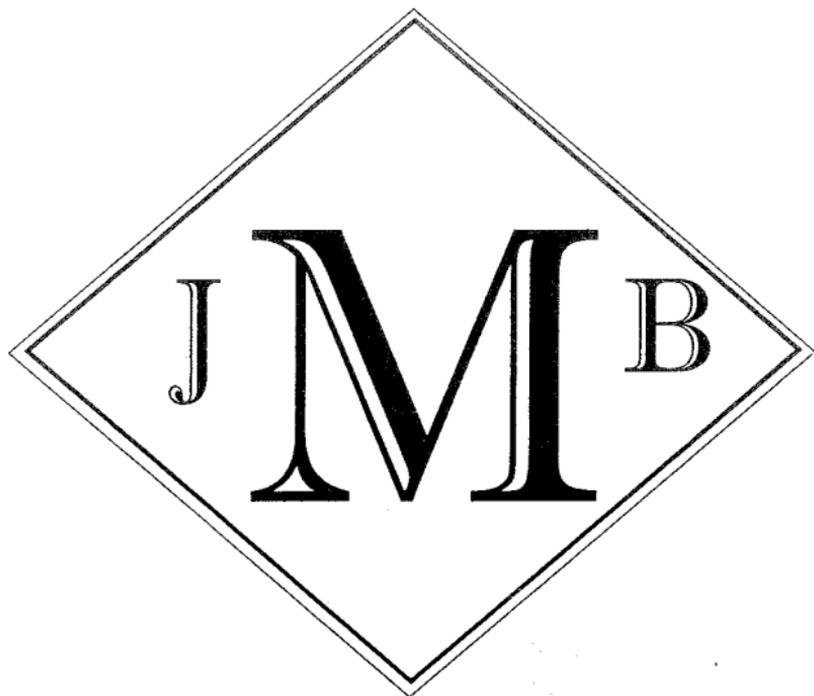
Jn. 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"

Jn. 12:32 "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me"

I Tim. 2:4 "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth"

*West End 10-7-75
Dodge City, Kans. 11-19-75*

Somerville, Tenn. church Bible Class 7-25-76



MERCY SEAT YESTERDAY; ADVOCATE TODAY

I John 2:1-2

I. It was so vital to the Jewish grasp of God.

A. Who was He?

B. What's He like?

C. May I come before Him?

II. The Tabernacle

A. The curtain cathedral.

1. The only true God wants to be with people.

2. There must be a place of meeting; and a place of worship.

3. God was to spell out the pattern.

Exo. 25:40 "And look that thou make them after their'

4. Complete it & cover it with cloud of glory.

Exo. 40:34 "Then a cloud covered the tent of the cong'

5. 150' x 75' outer enclosure in which it stood in the midst.

a) Sides covered with fine linen.

b) About 7' - fastened at top by hooks, bottom by silver clasp.

c) 60 supporting pillars of brass 7' apart.

d) East wall red, purple, blue curtain.

6. In it a brazen altar 8' sq. - 5' high.

a) Horns

b) Fire miraculously kindled & kept going by priests.

7. Also bronze laver.

8. Tabernacle - toward west wall

a) 45 x 15 ft.

b) Two rooms.

- c) 48 acacia boards - 15' high & 2' wide.
 - d) Boards overlaid with gold.
 - e) Horizontal bar at top.
9. Veil
- a) Embroidered cherubims in red, purple, blue.
 - b) Hung on 4 acacia supports.
10. Holy place 30' x 15'.
11. Covered by many "tents" - we do not know if flat or apexed.
12. Table of showbread - 3' long, 18" wide & 2' high.
- a) 12 loafs.
 - b) Renewed weekly.
13. Golden candlestick - menorah.
14. Altar of incense 18" sq. 3' high.
15. Most Holy Place.
- a) 15 x 15 ft.
 - b) Ark of covenant.
 - c) Acacia wood box.
 - d) 4' long, 2' wide, 2' high approx.
 - e) Covered inside & out with gold.
 - f) Gold rings for staves.
 - g) Lid - mercy seat - solid gold.
 - h) Cherubims either end with wings extended.
 - i) Meeting place with God.
 - j) Contained law (Exo. 25:16, 22), manna, Aaron's rod (Heb. 9:4).
 - k) Elaborate veil separated room & covered ark when moved.

l) Sprinkle with blood of atonement.

Lev. 16:14-15

m) God their via cloud.

Exo. 25:22 "There I will meet with thee, and I will"

n) Name brings to mind atonement.

o) Lid & cherubims all one piece.

B. It existed 1500 years - only to give way to a better one.

III. The Mercy Seat Today

1 Jn. 2:1-2 "My little children these things write I"

A. Begins with such tenderness - children.

1. Language of love - diminutive form (child) shows love. As we at "Y" - Billy.

2. Language of authority of one who speaks tho never identifies self or addresses a certain church.

B. F. B. Myer makes some great points.

1. Behind all we know of God there is a Father's heart.

a) Monarch, creator, Providence, Governmental control - behind it all is a Father's heart.

b) Behind all the mysteries one so tender.

2. Man tho a sinner is allowed to plead his cause in the Court of Mercy - Sin should be abnormal to saint.

a) Court of Merit - I am not as other men.

b) Court of Mercy - word for sin = fall short, do wrong.



3. An Advocate is provided.

(Only John uses Advocate - 5X)

- a) Blameless & pure , does not resort to questionable practice.
- b) Assumes our nature.
- c) Pleads our cause at right hand of God - called along side one whom we summon for aid - he appears on behalf of another to aid . Same word used for Holy Spirit (John 14:16).
- d) Courts open & Advocate awaits.
(Raleigh poem) Very personal aid.
- e) Righteous - clothes us with His
- f) One God - one mediator.

4. He advocates our cause on the basis of His propitiation - expiation.

- a) Whom God set forth!
- b) Mercy seat same size as law tablet
(Lev. 16:15-16)
- c) Encrusted with blood - wrath satisfied.
- d) God must maintain his law else whole world is chaos & there is no right or wrong.

5. Man by God's blessings may live a stainless life.

- a) Write that ye sin not.
- b) We seek this goal.

6. We add - Jesus is big enough for whole world

- a) He is personally known.

5.

b) Priest did not know irrational beast he was offering.

c) Yet no hint of universalism.

d) Remember God provides our "atonement".

John 1:29 "The Lamb of God that takes"

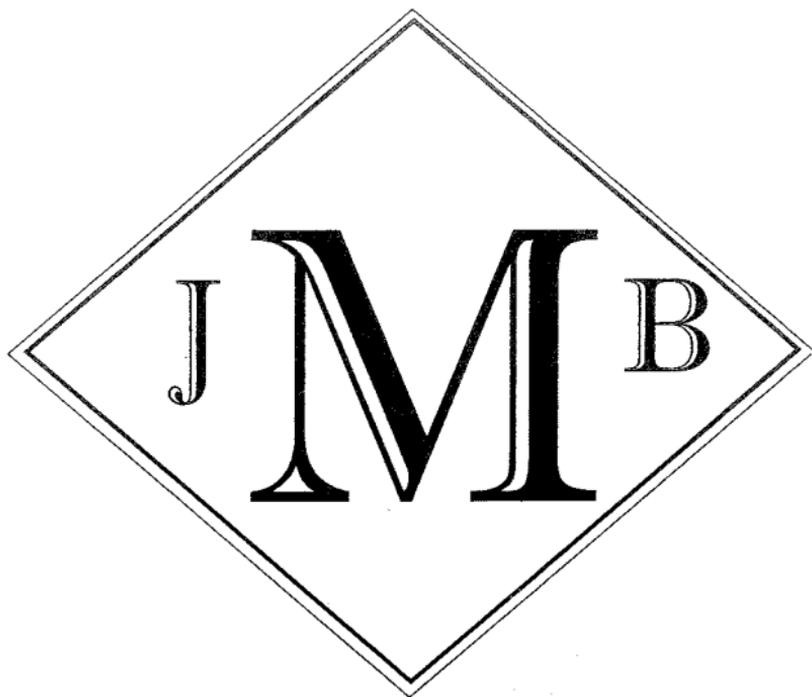
Western Hills Church, Temple, TX - 8/20/85

When Sir Walter Raleigh was being conveyed from Westminster Hall to the Tower, in the flickering light of the torch by which the ferryboat was lit, he wrote these words:—

From thence to heaven's bribeless hall,
Where no corrupted voices brawl,
No conscience molten into gold,
No forged accuser bought or sold,
No cause deferred, no vain-spent journey,
For He is there, the King's Attorney.

the joyful news would have been the same as that which
2. 2 so apposite as Charles Wesley's hymn, 'Arise, my soul, arise':—

He ever lives above
For me to intercede,
His all-redeeming love,
His precious blood, to plead;
His blood atoned for all our race,
And sprinkles now the throne of grace.
Five bleeding wounds He bears,
Received on Calvary;
They pour effectual prayers,
They strongly speak for me;
Forgive him, O forgive! they cry,
Nor let that ransom'd sinner die!



PUT THE LITMUS PAPER TO LIFE

I Jn. 2:3-6

- I. Anybody delight in being wrong?
 - A. It may be hard to admit--
 - B. It can be costly, as errors are--
 - C. It can be a very honest mistake--
 - D. But I find no delight in being wrong.
- II. Of all errors, none so sad as a Christian error.
Matt. 7:21 "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord,
Prov. 14:12 "There is a way which seemeth right unto
Jer. 7:8 "Ye trust in lying words that cannot profit.
- III. How do I know the genuineness of an item?
 - A. Is it diamond or paste?
 - B. Wine or gas - unleaded or regular.
 - C. Acid or alkaline.
- IV. God does not leave in limbo--we can put the litmus paper to life.
I Jn. 2:3-6 (Read).
- V. These features leap at you.
 - A. "And hereby do we know that we
 1. Hereby = in this, herein, by this only!
 - a.) Speaks of that which follows.
 - b.) There is an evidence of the soundness of our knowledge.
 2. Know.
 - a.) Present tense.
 - b.) Gnostics boasted of their knowledge, enlighten
 3. Him - refers to God & Christ.
 4. "If we keep his commandments"
 - a.) Keep = watch, guard.

- (1) Keep safe as a precious thing.
- (2) Watch safety of an heirloom.
- (3) Watch against all inroads of error.
- (4) Guard against lower nature.
- (5) Keep - John's favorite word - he uses it rather than "do".

b.) Commandments - his word.

- (1) Gnostics said knowledge is everything - they disdained moral excellency.
- (2) Is it a faultless conformity?
- (3) Or is it a hearty acceptance & willing subjection to God's way.
- (4) Is the test feeling or obedience?
- (5) Does everyone reach the same degree of excellence?

B. Look at the negative.

V. 4 "He that sayeth I know him and keepeth not his commandments."

1. Disobedience is not acceptable.

2. It makes a man a liar.

3. It extracts the truth, it's just not in him.

C. He adds another weight!

V. 5 "But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected."

1. Love is perfected in obedience.

Jer. 7:23 "Obey my voice and I will be your God, and you shall be my people."

2. The summation is restated.

V. 5 "Hereby know we that we are in him, if we keep his commandments."

D. Clincher.

V. 6 "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also to keep his commandments."

1. Abide.

a.) Constant condition.

- b.) Lasting.
- c.) W/o intermission.
- d.) W/o end.

2. Walk.

- a.) Action.
- b.) Deeds consistent c words.

3. Jesus Model (who never dies).

- a.) "Bottom line is always red."
- b.) Outgo of your love exceeds your income -
regardless of what I do to you.
- c.) Love is a careless spendthrift.
- d.) One walks as Jesus walked.

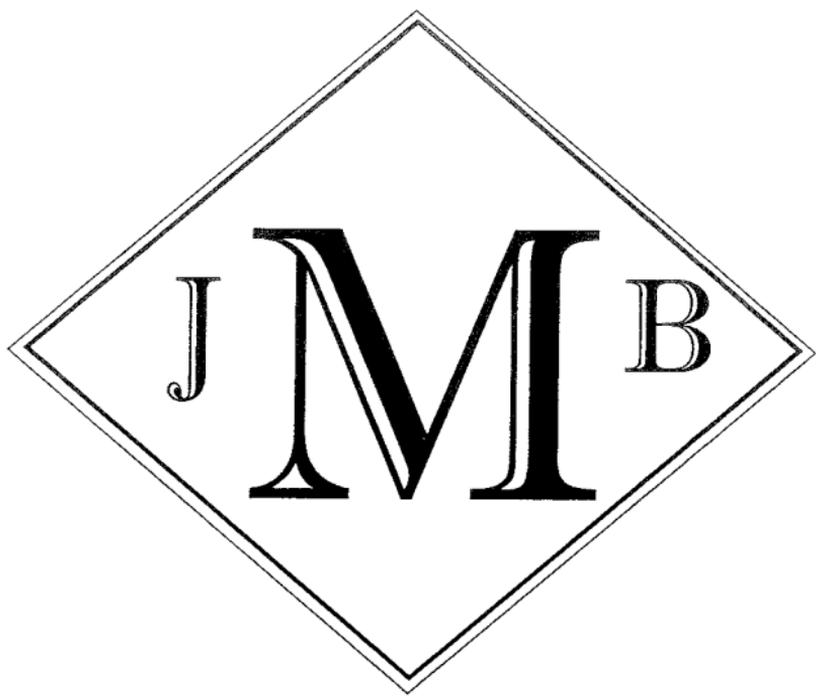
Wash End 2-24-80

MODEL DIES

Chief John Big Tree died on July 6th on the Onondaga Reservation in New York. He was the model for the Indian-head nickel minted in 1912. His stern, sharp profile has been seen by millions of people. But the coin is no longer minted. Eventually, only a few will remember and they will probably be the coin collectors.

Contrast this with the example of Christ "who went about doing good." (Acts 10:38). His example is as radiant now as it was 1,930 years ago. His example lives perpetually because He lives daily in the lives of His disciples. His character is etched in the hearts of millions. Coins may be defaced, lost, or rust away. But Christ in the heart is ever alive, fresh, and helpful.

Indianhead nickels are hard to come by now. May the time never come when the world has a difficult time of discovering the marvelous presence of Christ in the life of an humble disciple.



IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ANSWERED

1 Jn. 2:19-

- I. Life is filled with questions great & small.
 - A. Question mark is the badge of the teacher.
 - B. Honest questions increase one's knowledge -- we must not be ashamed to ask.
 - C. John, as did Jesus, answered what you would probably ask. Let's see some.

- II. Question #1 -- Why did you write me?
 - A. We quiz -- why did he call, what did he mean by that, what's implied?
 - B. Did you ever attend -- "I heard nothing new" -- maybe that's very good.
 - C. v-19, "I have not written because" -
 1. Not new but to cement what already knew.
 2. Bring to action & decisive use - Barclay.
 3. Awake the potential founded on knowledge.

- III. "Is There A Way Other Than Jesus?"
 - v-22 "Who is the liar but the man who denies that Jesus is the Anointed One."
 - A. Pope now trying to make peace with Jews -- \$300,000 day visit to USA - "Our elder bro. in Abraham."
 - B. Baptist preacher states salvation only in Jesus -- must recant?
 - C. Jud Collins asked me, "who will be saved?"

D. In our day it gets worse -- faith & loyalty confused for bigotry.

E. Deny Jesus - The master lie.

1. By Him reach God.

Matt.11:17 "We have piped & ye didn't lament"

Lu.10:22 "No man knoweth who the Father"

Jn.12:44-45 "He that believeth on me, b. not on"

2. Can't separate God & Jesus.

3. Great confession.

a) Peter

Matt.16:16

b) Paul

Phil. 2:11

c) John

1 Jn. 2:22

d) Jesus in John 9 with blind man.

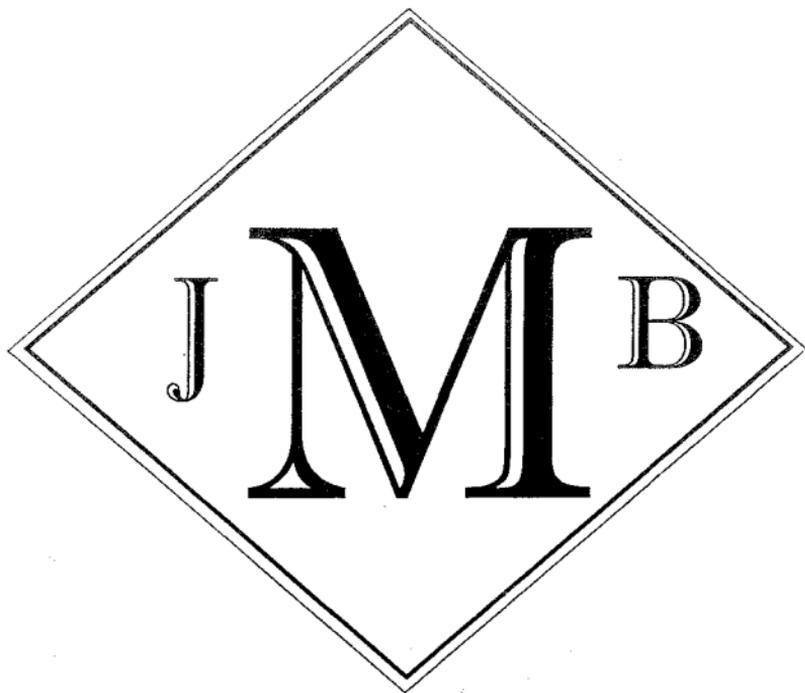
IV. What's For Me?

A. 1st imperative we remain faithful.

B. Jesus the Anointed One.

C. Eternal life for you.

Windermere, England - 8/26/87



CHOICE: OUSTING OR UNCTION

I John 2:19-21

- I. Always there is the threat of departures from the church.
 - II. I need to realize however I have two Christian choices:
 - A. Oust myself from Christ OR
 - B. Unction of myself from Christ.
 - C. I want you to choose the latter but there is a chance any of us will take the departure route.
 - III. There were and are those that went out from us.
 - A. It's a sad departure.
- I Jn. 2:19 "They went out from us"
1. Ever a time of shifting in the church.
 2. Went out implies they left of their own accord - they were not excommunicated. Voluntarily left. (J. W. Roberts) (Barclay)
 3. "Their going out was a real benefit to the church" - (Erdman).
 4. This is not to say they were not once Christians.
 - a) They did not possess same spirit of obedience the other disciples did.
 - b) Yet they were not mere professors or pretenders. (G. Woods)
 - c) Remember fallen angels were not wicked at first.

d) They were adequately enlightened before they became Christians.

5. Some things then are obvious.

a) "Membership in the church is no guarantee that a man belongs to Christ and not the anti-Christ."
(C. H. Dodd)

b) External membership is no proof of inward union.

c) Humiliating to know that some of the bitterest enemies of the church were once its fine members. (Barnes)

6. Here we are not told why they left.

a) Materialism see Service or Salary.

b) Pressure - McCord article.

B. Contrasts with those who continued with us.

1. The essentials of the faith can be possessed by every man.

2. Bruce calls this the introduction of the test of perseverance.

3. A straight line is an index of what is crooked.

4. "The best safeguard against bad literature is a full experience of good; just as a real and affectionate acquaintance with honest people gives a better protection against rogues than a habitual distrust of everyone." C. S. Lewis

IV. Those Who Are Constantly Faithful Have Something: **Uction & the Holy One.**

A. Defined

- 1. It's anointing
 - a) Chrisma
 - b) Pour Oil on.
 - c) Something rubbed in.
- 2. Anointing's purpose is to set one apart.
 - a) We are set apart.
 - b) We are set moving.

B. Significance

- 1. Manner & mode not told.
- 2. G. Woods says it's a miraculous measure of the spirit. He says it gave miraculous knowledge of false teachers.
- 3. Roberts says it's rare to call Jesus the Holy One.
- 4. Barnes: Does not mean:
 - a) Christians are literally instructed by the Holy Spirit.
 - b) That they understood all subjects.
 - c) No new facilities of mind conferred on them. The Christian has no superior mental endowment.
 - d) No new truth revealed to the mind by the Holy Spirit - all in the revelation of the Word.
 - e) Nothing perceived they did not have the previous natural ability to do so.

V. Faithful Christians also have a knowledge of His will.

v-21 "You know it and no lie is in the truth"

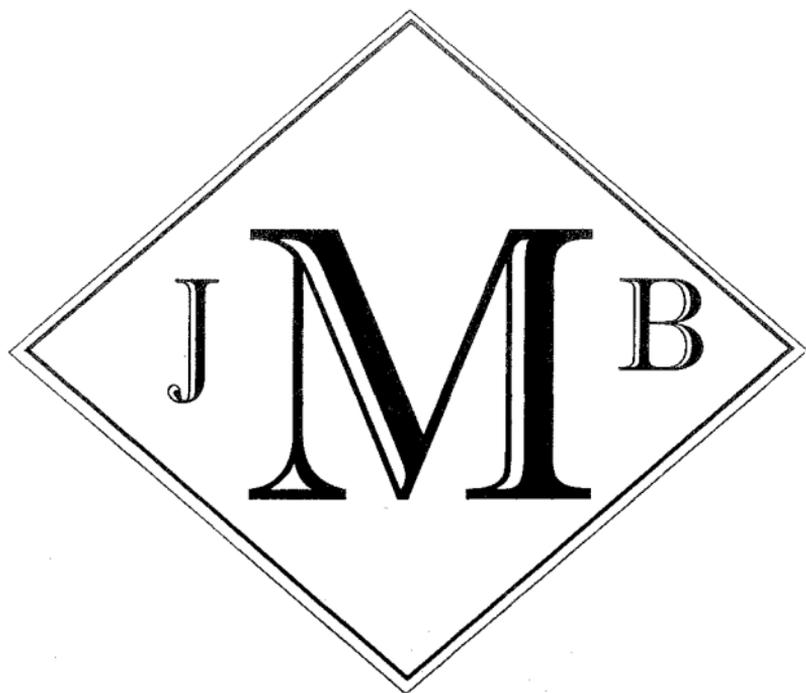
- A. Sought not to communicate something new but to bring into active and decisive use the knowledge already possessed - Barclay.
- B. We hold and we grow.
 - 1. Einstein on speech.
 - 2. Pilgrims & church.
- C. Every believer knows - not just a scholarly few. Always the fascination of the inner circle who know more than others.

Jn. 6:44 "No man can come to"

Col. 1:28 "Christ in you...whom we preach"

- 1. Clip on Cab Calloway
- D. Does not mean that they are infallible and have no need for further teaching.
 - 1. Child on fire film.
 - 2. How can it be late clip.
- E. Have to know the truth to become a Christian.

Jer. 31:31



MY PICTURE AT THE JUDGEMENT

I John 2:28-29

I. On the tablet of your mind I want to write 3 words: All A's!

A. At the top -- write Appear.

1. He promised this.
2. We shall see him as He is.
3. "At his coming" is another phrase used.

B. Now draw two lines -- one slants to the left, the other to the right.

C. At the end of the left line write "Ashamed" -- no need to define. *Sad face*

D. At the end of the right line put "Assured". *Smiley face* 

E. Now in the middle of all that put "Me" and some question marks.

1. Undoubtedly I'll be there.
2. Speaking now to religious people-- I'll be either ashamed or assured.
3. There is a way to achieve either status.

II. Surely everyone wants to be Assured.

How do I come by this? *Brain Clip #1*

A. 1st I must be taught.

1 Jn.1:5 "This then is the message which we have

1 Jn.2:21 "I have not written unto you because

1 Jn.2:24 "Let that therefore abide in you

2:24 "of that which ye have heard from

1 Jn.2:27 "Anointing teacheth you all things

1. What are we taught?

a) Truth - no lie.

b) "From the beginning" (1:1)

c) "That which we have seen & heard" (1:3)

2. Church in a time of shifting.

Coin #2
Words
1st #3
Robertson

- a) Obedience to gospel & faithfulness
- b) Avenues of worship.
- c) Organization of the church.
- d) Great commandment. *Van Aulen #4*
- e) All above fundamental - always true.

3. Have to know the truth to become & remain a Christian.

Jer. 31:31

will make a new cov. c. the house

4. What I teach must be instrumental in leading one to remain in Christ else it is dangerous.



5. Test it all by the truth of God.

B. In this must abide. *1st obey to abide.*

- 1. Defined = remain, continue, steadfast. *man falling out of airplane #5*
- 2. In this truth of Jesus I must stay.
- 3. Said repeatedly in these verses.

C. Abiding gives assurance.

Civil War Boy #6

v-28 - We may have confidence.

- 1. We can't have confidence unless we have right relation with the Father.
- 2. Lenski, "The undismayed confidence of faith".

What is confidence?

3. Feeling of freedom & joyfulness over against another person, especially a judge.



4. Boldness in day of judgement. *Bob #5*

1 Jn. 4:17 "Herein is our love made perfect"

5. In presence of a good friend we will unburden.



6. We are at "liberty of speech" to speak out all that we think.



7. Like freedom of a child to unhesitatingly all in full confidence tell all to parents.

8. Assurance *then how we confidence*

1 Jn.3:21 "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not

1 Jn.5:14 "This is the confidence that we have

9. If always doing good his return contains no fear.

III. Could be Ashamed.

A. Defined

- 1. Grow pale
- 2. To change color from shame.

B. Ashamed when hopes are disappointed.

- 1. A righteous judge is coming. The righteous will not be ashamed to meet him.
- 2. Either ashamed or accepted.

II Cor.5:9 "Wherefore we labour, that, whether

IV. Appear *hasore card #18*

Terms: A. He will come - ~~at hand~~ - come upon you. *James 5:8*

Coming Epiphany Appearance of Christ B. We prepare for the coming of Christ by living now in the presence of Christ.

Apokalypsis (Rev) Appear C. Appear - Parousia *Contrast 2nd & 1st*

- 1. Manifest *1st Advent - Presence of 2nd person*
- 2. See his glory *or Future*

1 Cor.4:5 "Therefore judge nothing before the

2 Cor.5:10 "For we must all appear before the

D. 7 views of Jesus.

- 1. Advocate
- 2. Propitiation
- 3. Life

*Publicly Visible
Power & glory
Theirs
Soon or Quickly*

- 4. Anointer
- 5. Christ - Son
- 6. Promiser
- 7. Coming One

E. Will He receive me?

- 1. Now on our chart where do you place yourself?
- 2. Appear -- Ashamed or Assured?

Lu 9:26 For whosoever shall be ashamed of me
 Matt 25:13 Watch - ye know neither the day nor the
 1 Thess 1:9-10 Turned to God, serve, wait

F. Appear & Me certain - what about
 assure or ashamed for you?

Sycamore Chapel, Ashland City, TN - 9/22/87
 Lindauer Rd., Forrest City, AR - 11/19/87

#1

MEMORY-43

It is only because human beings can remember so much and so well that it has been possible to develop the intricate code of symbols we call speech. The memory capacity of even an ordinary mind is fabulous. Consider how many faces we can recognize, how many names call up some past incident, how many words we can spell and define, and how much minutiae we know we have met with before. Estimates that in a lifetime, a brain can store 1,000,000,000 (a million billion) "bits" of information.

- ISAAC ASIMOV, "The Humanness of Man," NEA Jnl, 12-67.

Pat Robertson, *host television ministry*: "Instead of absolutes, our youth have been given situational ethics and the life-centered curriculum. Instead of a clear knowledge of right and wrong, they have been told 'if it feels good do it.' Instead of self-restraint they are often taught self-gratification and hedonism." *Truth*

#3

PLUG IN YOUR MIND

Jim Sikes

1. React with the following statement by Sheldon VanAuken (from *A Severe Mercy*): "The best argument for Christianity is Christians: their joy, their certainty, their completeness. But the strongest argument against Christianity is also Christians—when they are sombre and joyless, when they are self-righteous and smug in complacent consecration, when they are narrow and repressive, then Christianity dies a thousand deaths."

purpose to list here references in the other twenty-two books, since these can be found in other places. In fact, no work that I have consulted denies that the New Testament teaches that Jesus will return; the modern problem is one of interpretation.

THE TRUTH ABOUT ARMAGEDDON

LaSor P. 92

#5

When we were in Medina learned of man who checked rear door of plane. It suddenly flew open, he was sucked down it but head blown 1st, held out. Did not turn east, realized for search party to search sea. Scrambled plane - head inches above ground. Finger so clamped to metal head to manually, freeze them off

To The Point

By STEVE GOODIER

A second chance can change a life

Dr. Joe Harding tells a powerful story about the life changing effect a second chance had on a scared boy.

During the Civil War a young man named Roswel McIntyre was drafted into the New York Cavalry. The war was not going well. Soldiers were needed. He was sent into battle with very little training. In the midst of the battle he got scared and ran. He was court martialed and condemned to be shot for desertion in battle.

McIntyre's mother appealed to President Lincoln. She pleaded that he was young and inexperienced and he needed a second chance. The generals, however, urged the enforcement of discipline. One exception, they asserted, would undermine the discipline of the army and assure defeat of the Union.

Lincoln thought and prayed. Then he wrote a famous statement: "I have observed," he said, "that it never does a boy much good to shoot him." He wrote this letter in his own handwriting: "This letter will certify that Roswell McIntyre is to be readmitted into the New York Cavalry. When he serves out his required enlistment, he will be freed of any charges of desertion." Signed, Abraham Lincoln.

That faded letter is on display in the Library of Congress. Beside it there is this note: "This letter was taken from the body of Roswell McIntyre, who died at the battle of Little Five Forks, Virginia."

The novelist Robert Louis Stevenson #7

son was bedridden with tuberculosis. His wife heard him hacking loudly one day and said sarcastically, "I expect you still believe it's a wonderful day." Turning toward a window ablaze with sunlight, Stevenson replied, "I do! I will never let a row of medicine bottles block my horizon."

Stevenson's horizon, not his health determined his well-being.

So, if you're healthy, thank God.

But if you're in pain, or if your body is wearing out, do you see God?

Almost every book in the New Testament contains some statement relative to the Return of Christ. The only exceptions are 2 and 3 John and Philemon, each of which consists of only one chapter. The epistles to Galatians and Ephesians do not contain explicit statements, but the doctrine is certainly implicit. Thus Galatians 5:5 reads: "For through the Spirit, by faith, we wait for the hope of righteousness." Ephesians contains the statements: "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption" and "Be sure of this, that no immoral or impure man, or one who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God"(where the word "inheritance" looks forward to something to be bestowed in the future) It would serve no important

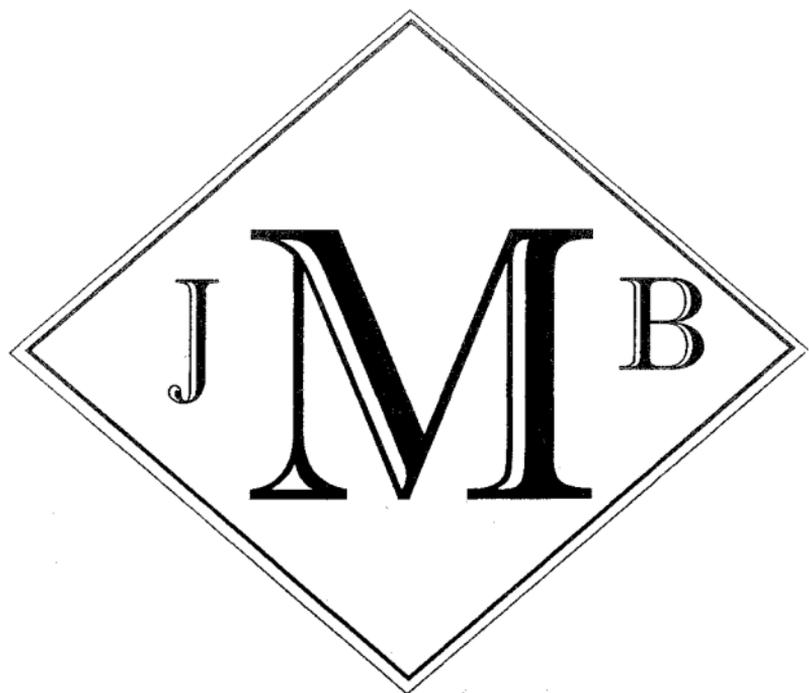
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THE TRUTH ABOUT ARMAGEDDON

#5

LaSor P. 92

When we were in Medina learned of man who checked near door of plane. As suddenly flew open he was sucked down it but head blown 1st, held out. Pilot shot him last, radioed for search party to search sea. Landed plane - head inches above ground. Finger so cramped to metal held to manually jigger him off



MAY I PRAY FOR A SUFFERER TO DIE?

1 JOHN 3:22

- I. Prayer is a powerful thing.
 - A. What I ask for, if in agreement with God's will, He is likely to grant.
 - B. Be sure the loved one is right with God--that would be my first request.
 1. Turner's Christian Words
 - a) "Ask" has twofold meaning.
 - (1) Seek an answer to a request.
 - (2) Reply to a question.
 - b) He says it was in classical GK. only to seek information--word for putting the question.
 - c) As sentries challenge--give the password.
 - d) Much later it came to beseech or entreat.
 - e) Hebrew word (sh'āl) to ask a question and to ask a request.

Jer.6:16 Ask for the old path
 - f) Inquire and request
 - C. I Peter 3:12 The eyes of the Lord are over
Judges 6:7 children cried (anguish) to the Lord
Luke 18:7 Shall not God avenge His own e.
Matt. 7:7 (Read)

Matt. 18:19 That if 2 of you shall
agree

1 John 3:22 and whatsoever we ask,
we receive

1 John 5:14 If we ask anything(Read)

D. Ps. 42:8, 10-11 (Read)

Ah, sleep that knits up the ravell'd
sleave of care

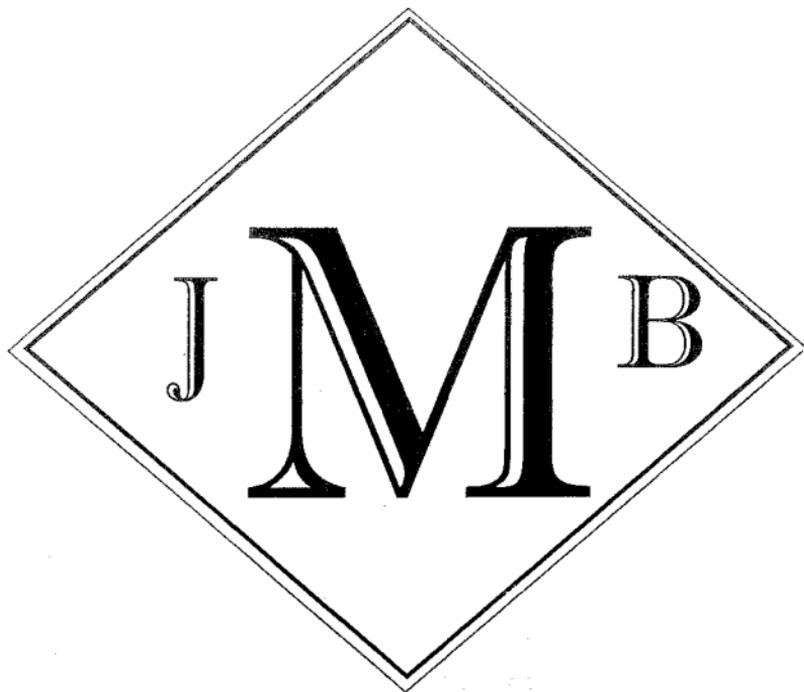
Elihu "Where is God my maker who
gives songs in the night" (Job)

1. Is God powerless or not caring?
Both omnipotent & loving?
Adversary or advocate?
God never gives us anything
that will ultimately separate us
from Him. (Ogilvie)

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side
Bear patiently the cross of grief & pain
Leave to thy God to order & provide:
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy
Heavenly friend

Through thorny ways leads to a
joyful end.

E. Tell of praying with Rose Brewer.



YOU CAN'T MATCH WHAT I'VE GOT

I Jn. 4:4-6

I. Seldom do we hold the top hand - one cannot touch what I've got!

- A. Best car
- B. Best house
- C. Best team

1. To have all this might appeal to sense of pride.
2. But surely there is nothing wrong in having the championship spirit!
3. I want you to know that as Christians we have what no one else does.

II. Hear It!

I Jn. 4:4-6 "Ye are of God, little children"

- A. We want to see this truth.
- B. Let it reassure us.
- C. Let it motivate us to share this with those that have it not!

III. What does this passage teach?

- A. We are of God.
 1. This is our origin.
 2. This is where we came from.
- B. We are victors - have overcome the work of the Devil.
 1. In the end Jesus was victorious and his victory belongs to every Christian.
 2. "Truth is that by which men live; error ultimately that by which men die." Barclay

Jn. 16:33 "In the world ye shall have tr."

Rev. 5:5 "Weep not, behold the Lion of the"

- 3. Efforts of false teachers are failing leaving you victorious, more confident than ever. (Lenski)
- 4. Coffman says I Jn. with the exception of Rev. uses "overcome" more often than any other book. 6X.
- 5. Thus you are right in refusing to listen to false teachers.
- 6. Christ won - we will!

C. We have a Superior Ally

v-4 "Greater is he that is in you"

- 1. Evil is powerful but righteousness and truth is more so.
- 2. Satan is prince of this world.

Jn. 12:3

Eph. 6:12

- 3. But he is limited.
- 4. God is love, Satan is destruction.

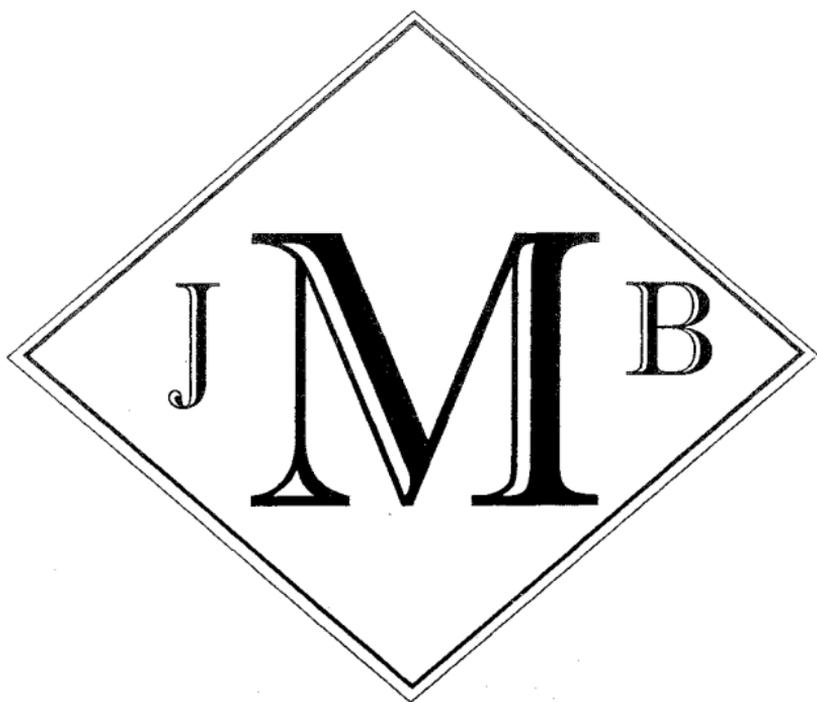
D. We recognize those that are of the world.

- 1. Which one influences us - world or Christ?
- 2. Does the world receive my teaching?
- 3. You can tell how you are doing by the class of people that approve you.
- 4. World has many errors about Jesus.
- 5. Barclay asked, "Can a man whose aim is self exaltation, survival of the fittest, who thinks the weak must go to the wall ever understand Christ?"

6. Are there some for whom mission work is useless?
 7. The absence of receiving plain truth shows what we are.
- E. Contrastingly - we are of God - he that knows God hears us.
1. True piety receives all that God teaches.
 2. You are of God if you agree with His word.
 3. If you don't, you aren't.
- F. We have two forces - spirit of truth vs spirit of error.
1. Truth.
 - a) If you do not confess Jesus you are not of God.
 - b) We have to take a stand - for or against the Lord.
 - c) Truth has an assured certainty.
 - d) T. S. Elliott, "Human Kind cannot bear very much reality."

Job 1:12

Job 2:6



DUAL LOVE AND CONFIRMING OBEDIENCE

1 Jn. 5:1

I. Marvin Kuehn asked me in Dodge City, "How can a man claim to be a gospel preacher & never preach on or show in his writings love?"

A. Answer is most simple - he can't.

B. God joins some things & the divorce of it is fatal.

1. I love God.

2. I love the children of God.

3. I prove my love to God & brethren by obedience.

C. Look at this again!

1. I'm born into 2 families & enter no other way.

2. I must love all other brothers & sisters born into that family.

3. I can't prove I love either God or man unless I obey His will.

1 Jn. 5:1-2 "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Chr

II. I must be born of God.

Jn. 1:12-13 "But as many as rec. him to them gave he

Jn. 3:2 "Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come

1 Pet. 2:2 "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk

A. Belief & birth.

1. Is mere intellectual knowledge enough?

2. Is believing Jesus a good man enough? Or must I believe more?

3. Is faith blind acceptance of something that has never been proven or has ever been subjected to a test?

Jn. 20:30-31 " And many other signs truly did Jesus it

4. Could you be a Christian and not believe Jesus to be the son of God.

5. Christianity is a rebirth.

Mk. 3:35 "For whosoever shall do the will of God, the

B. What about your own life, would I know you believe in Jesus?

III. Dual Love is Mine.

A. I love Him who begot.

1. Christians have noble parentage.

2. If we love the father - we'll love his child.

B. I love those Begotten.

1. Love of God & join love of man are inseparable.

Mk. 12:28-31 "And one of the scribes came, and havi

2. I must love every child of God - all His begotten regardless of age, race, education or finances.

3. It's natural for brothers to love brothers - we love whom our earthy father begets.

4. Is love blind? No - he saw & he loved!

5. Faith is the root, love is the fruit.

IV. Obedience is Proof of Love.

I Jn. 5:2 "By this we know that we love the children &

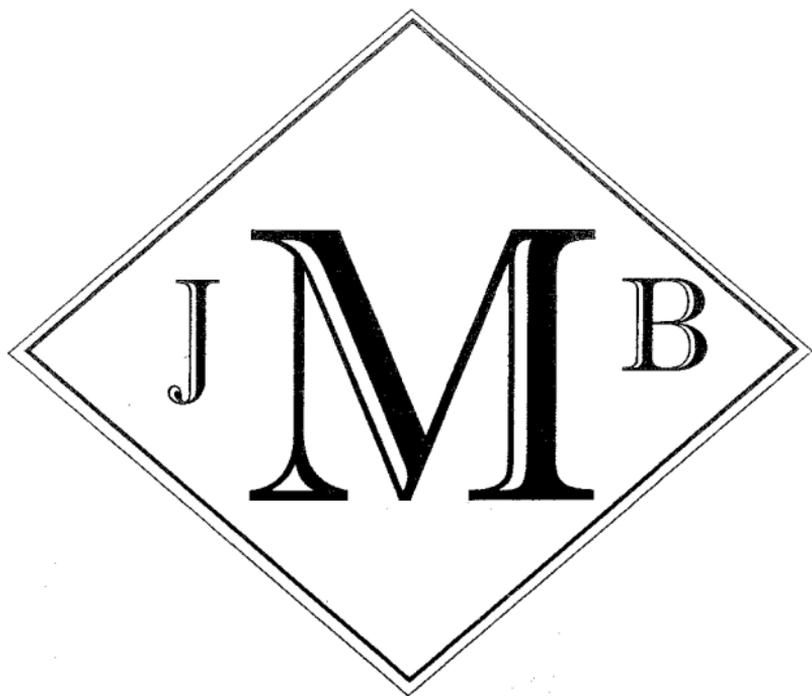
A. Note it makes 2 contentions:

1. Of God.

- (a) It's **doing** what He says.
- (b) Our love the right kind of it obeys.

2. Of man.

- (a) Very little love shown in home that's marked by suspicion, distrust.
- (b) Love requires faith.



CAN LOVE AND OBEDIENCE BE ENEMIES?

I Jn. 5:3-4

I. I've an insidious foe - he wants me to fail.

A. Attacks me via

1. Ignorance.
2. Prejudice.
3. Incompetency.

B. But I want to win - can I?

II. There is a Correlation between Love & Commandment Keeping.

I Jn. 5:3 "For this is the love of God, that we keep his

A. This is 7th of 13 declarations in Jn.

1:5 "This then is the **message** which we have heard of

2:25 "And this is the promise that he hath promised us

3:11 "For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning

23 "And this is his commandment, That we should believe

4:3 "And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ

21 "And this commandment have we from him, That

5:3 "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments

4 "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world

9 "If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God

11 "And this is the record, that God hath given to us

14 "And this is the confidence that we have in him,

20 "And we know that the Son of God is come, and he

B. Love defined.

1. Only way to prove love is to seek to please & bring joy.

2. Obedience is only proof.

3. Barnes says obedience provides evidence.

C. Content of faith important - it does matter what you believe about Jesus.

D. Love is the Perfect Law.

1. See these references.

James 1:25 "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of

Gal. 6:2 "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil

Jn. 13:34 "A new commandment I give unto you, That

III. The Commands are not Grievous.

A. Do you think only of "what you must give up?"

B. Who's harder as Master, Jesus or Devil?

1. We are not burdened c man's rules.

Matt. 11:30 "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is li

2. Grievous = heavy, difficult to be borne, a burden

3. Name me a law of the Lord that's unreasonable.

4. Can you think of any sin's laws that are?

Matt. 23:4 "For they bind heavy burdens and grievous

Lu. 11:46 "And he said, Woe unto you also, ye lawye

5. Jesus had light yoke.

Rom. 12:2 "And be not conformed to this world: but be

C. When are commands hard?

1. When I want to sin.

2. When you as a child of God hurt me. Wilson

Morgan told Cecil Kenter as he visited

Minneola, "You look speffy - but I guess a man

can buy nice clothes if he feels no obligation to

the Lord!"

IV. God didn't Design Me for Failure.

1 Jn. 5:4 "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh t

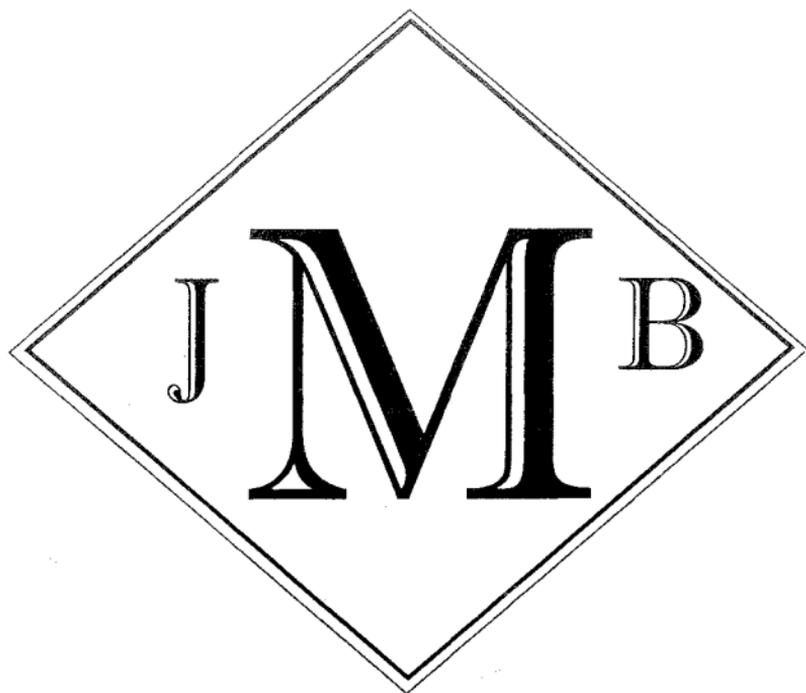
A. God gives strength to carry out every command.

B. He wants me to Overcome the World.

1. No duty too tough if approached in love. 3X

uses overcome!

2. Don't fail in ethics & virtue.
 3. In Christ's fascination of world loses its appeal.
 4. To determine to follow Christ automatically brings opposition.
 5. Don't flee from combat - meet it & win.
- C. He wants me to be victorious.
1. It's promised born believers who obey.
 2. No victory so glorious as ours in Christ.
 3. Is faith the victory? Saints, apostles, prophets, martyrs ans. yes.
- D. Even Our Faith.
1. Used only here by Jn. as a noun.
 2. He often uses belief but not Faith.



THE INESCAPABLE CONCLUSION

I John 5:6-8

- I. Some things come and know no alteration.
 - A. Jesus is the Son of God, or
 - B. Jesus is the worst claim fostered on man.
 - C. Surely something so dramatic demands our reasoned conclusion.
- II. John Declares This Divinity.
 - v-5 "Jesus is the Son of God!"
 - A. He then offers his proof.
 1. Our text called the hardest passage in I John.
 2. "Christian faith is based on the conviction that something happened in Palestine at a certain point in time AD 30-33 in the experience of a man (Jesus) that has ultimate & crucial significance for the salvation of humanity." (Thoundsen)
 3. If it be the greatest problem in John it has the greatest conclusion.
 - B. This is He!
 1. Sublime mystery--a God who undeservingly suffers himself in order to redeem men who deserve to suffer--defies all explanation.
 2. The He is Jesus.
 - C. He came by water & blood.
 1. Water--tho not water only.
 - a) Water essential part of the gospel.
 - b) Jesus baptized in Jordan--an essential part of his Messiahship. Is it not our essentiality too?

- c) At his baptism, he's introduced.
- d) But not just water only--need his blood.

2. Blood

- a) Cross
- b) Blood also essential to gospel.

John 19:34-35

- c) By blood on the cross he can say it is finished--complete.
- d) He must live the perfect life & the atoning death.
- e) Virtuous life & vicarious death necessary.
- f) Two cannot be separated.
- g) Our salvation costs the blood of Heaven.
- h) Self justification cannot do it--saved by Jesus.

3. Man assails this

- a) Cerinthus, Gnostic, taught that Jesus became the Son of God at his baptism & divinity departed before the crucifixion
- b) Gnostics claim Christ came on Jesus at baptism, departed at Calvary so it was only Jesus the man that was crucified. If divinity departed at the cross, man is robbed of the death value of Jesus.
- c) Jesus was the Christ all time, not off & on as Gnostics claim.

- d) He was flesh & blood like us--
no phantom.
- e) It was divine blood that was shed
for us.

III. He Had Witnesses

A. The Witness of the Spirit.

- 1. He champions the historic facts of
Jesus' life & had them recorded.
- 2. The Spirit is truth.
 - a) If you can't depend on Him to
whom will you turn?
 - b) And can you accept only part of
it as true--how would you
differentiate?

B. There are 3 Earthly witnesses: Spirit, Water, Blood.

- 1. But what about v-7?
 - a) Not a part of old MMS earlier
than 14th century.
 - b) Not in Jerome's vulgate.
 - c) Priscillan, Spanish heretic, died
AD 385, first to quote it.
 - d) Erasmus, 1516, omitted it.
 - e) He put it in his 1522 edition
however.
 - f) Stephanus had it in 1550 & called
it the Received Text.
 - g) KJV followed this.
 - h) Though what is said is not in old
MMS--the things referred to are
true.

2. The 3 that Bear Witness in Earth

a) Spirit

Mk. 1:9-11

Matt. 3:16-17

Matt. 3:11

Luke 1:35

b) Water

- (1) Barclay says it's for adults, upon a confession of faith, received into the church beginning a new way, burial, plunged beneath.

Matt. 3:16

c) Blood

- (1) Life

- (2) It is finished.

- (3) There are heights that the human spirit cannot scale, breath that imagination cannot comprehend, depth the human mind cannot plumb.

