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McInteer Sermon Outlines - Thessalonians, 2

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AN ABIDING OBLIGATION

II Thess. 1:3

- I. Is there something I've forgotten?
 - A. Story on Lunar experiment.
 - B. But I wonder if I'm not more forgetful c/a spiritual obligation?
- 2 Thess. 1:3 "We are bound to thank God always for y
- II. Let me see my gratitude debt .
 - A. We.
 1. Sense of personal obligation.
 2. An expression of personal relationship he feels.
 3. Word conveys exclusive personal responsibility.
 - B. Are Bound.
 1. Ethical duty as well as spiritual delight.
 2. We owe - language of debt, like money due.
- Rom. 13:8 "Owe no man anything, but to love one an
 3. If requests of God or man (as he asked them to do certain things - be faithful) are done, then thank them.
 4. Obligated to express thanx - found only here & 2 Thess. 2:13.
 5. Some debts are overdue.
- C. To Thank God.
 1. I can't pay Him back, I at least can say thanx.
 2. In every epistle but Gal. he starts c thanksgiving
- D. Always.
 1. Spiritual development calls for continuous thanks
 2. Always - not spasmodic.
 3. Never miss a chance to say thanks.
 4. Motivated to keep on giving thanx.

- 5. Feeling never stopped.
- 6. Our perception ought daily become more extensive & clear.

E. Brethren.

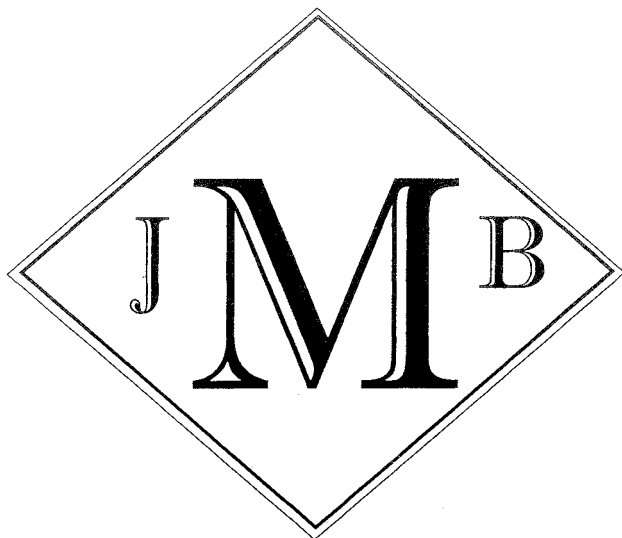
- 1. Saw his brothers grow in faith & love in spite of persecution.
- 2. Wanted to encourage others. Do we?
- 3. Does faith, love, patience cause us joy?
- 4. Regardless of their sins, Paul could still find a reason for thankfulness for his brethren.
- 5. Thanx not just duty's sake, but imposed by joyfulness & relief.
- 6. Gave credit where credit was due.

F. As it is meet.

- 1. Fit - justified by the facts.
- 2. Worthy, right.
- 3. Rightly so - just & fitting.

G. Reason:

- 1. Faith grows exceedingly - super, hyper, vigorous (only here).
- 2. Love abounding.



WHO'S GOING TO HEAVEN? To Hell?

II Thess. 1:5-10

- I. In our days of relativism it would be hard to get a fair hearing on anything that's absolute.
 - A. We've built in evasions for all.
 - B. But on no score could we be more out of step than to be judgmental.
 1. Dreams.
 2. Tongues.
 3. Healings.
 4. Gifts of money.
 - C. Only one step remains in some eyes: tell who is going to Heaven & who to hell.
 1. With this lesson we c fear & trembling take that step.
 2. We take it for the avowed purpose of emptying hell & filling Heaven via the Word of God.
- II. Our text is 2 Thess. 1:5-10. It says these things:
 - A. God has now a Kingdom which you should be counted worthy of & suffer for.
 - B. God Recompenses Tribulations to Them That Trouble.
 - C. Some Folk God will Banish.
 - D. Some Folk God will Receive.
- III. God Now Has a Kingdom for Which You Should Be Counted Worthy & Willingly Suffer.
 - 2 Thess. 1:5 "Which is a manifest token
 - A. God has a Kingdom.
 1. What is it?

(a) Jesus doesn't define.

(b) Occurs 150 X in NT, 100 X Jesus uses in gospels.

Mk. 1:15 "The time is fulfilled, & the K. of God is

(c) Wasn't earthy.

Jn. 19:15 "We have no King but Caesar.

(d) Jesus was a King.

Matt. 27:11 "Art thou the King of the Jews

Jn. 18:36 "My Kingdom is not of this world

Jn. 1:49 "Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God, thou art

(e) It is rule of God.

(1) Authority.

(2) Power of ruling itself.

Matt. 6:10 "Thy K. come. Thy will be done

Acts 2:36 "Both Lord & Christ"

On David's throne

(3) God's rule in all things.

(4) Sin violates this.

Col. 1:13 "Kingdom of his dear son"

(f) W/in you.

Lu. 17:21 "The K. of God cometh not c observ.

(1) What rules us must be within us.

(2) It is built into our very being.

2. Church an expression of it.

Matt. 16:16 "And Simon Peter answered and said, T

(a) Here God's rule is not extensive.

(b) But it's not infallibly done.

(c) Go to 'upper & better' - where will is perfectly done.

3. Let God rule in your heart.

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

Matt. 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and

B. Kingdom is worth suffering for.

1. Trials are severe - like being a besieged garrison

V. 5 "For which ye also suffer

2. God lets us endure to test us & punishes those who afflict us.

(a) Punishment was disciplinary.

(b) Refinement not an earthy purgatory.

(c) Suffer = defend it, as a consequence of being one of its citizens.

(d) If religion is worth anything, it's worth everything - suffer for it.

(e) You lose nothing & your enemies gain nothing by your suffering.

3. People variously react to suffering.

(a) Perplexed that good suffer.

Gen. 18:25 "That be far from thee to do after this manner

Ps. 73:1-14 "Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as

(b) Some deny.

Titus 1:16 "They profess that they know God; but in

(c) Some disobey.

Rom. 10:3 "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness

10:16 "But they have not all obeyed the gospel

Rom. 2:8 "But unto them that are contentious, and do

IV. God Troubles Those That Trouble You.

V. 6 "Seeing it is a righteous thing with God

A. It's a certain fact.

1. Preaching is not abstract but testimony to facts known.
 2. God sustains us.
 3. It is a "Just thing." It is an inexorable principle of existence - retributive justice.
 4. Very fact that good suffer & evil wins here demands a future judgment.
 5. God will trouble those who trouble you!
 6. See human constancy & divine consistency joined.
- B. Opposition will be brought to an end.
1. If God visits sinner here c tokens of His displeasure - it's expected He'll all the more do it properly in the day of judgment.
 2. Men have the ability to recognize God's principles in action.
 3. God appoints to each man the satisfaction of justice he must make.
 4. Need it to balance as some escape punishment here.
- C. Rest to the Troubled.
1. Rest = slacken a tightly drawn bow string.
 - (a) Freedom from pressure.
 - (b) Laborer from day of toil.
 - (c) Soldier - from perilous march.
 - (d) Ill - from pain.
 2. Rest = a letting loose.
 3. Rest "with us" - Think of all the great folks you'll be c in Heaven!

4. Would you think an earthly judge fair who treated just & unjust alike?

5. Reverses conditions.

Luke 16:25 "But Abraham said, Son, remember that

V. Vengeance Falls on 2 Groups.

A. 1st see the scene.

1. Lord Jesus -

(a) Origin of it all.

(b) Judgment committed to Him.

John 5:22 "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath

2. From Heaven.

(a) Rev. = apocalypsis.

3. With mighty angels

(a) Escort.

Mk. 8:38 "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of

Lu. 2:8-14 "And there were in the same country she

Matt. 28:2-6 "And, behold, there was a great earth

Acts 1:10 "And while they looked stedfastly toward l

Lu. 22:43 "And there appeared an angel unto him fr

Matt. 16:27 "For the Son of man shall come in the

Heb. 1:6 "And again, when he bringeth in the first b

4. In flaming fire

(a) What God is called (in fire) is transferred to Christ thus showing His divinity.

I Cor. 3:13 "Every man's work shall be made manifi

(b) Fire passages

Exo. 3:2-4 "And the angel of the Lord appeared unto

9:24 "So there was hail, and fire mingled with

14:24 "And it came to pass, that in the morning

Deut. 32:22 "For a fire is kindled in mine anger, at

Dan. 7:9-11 "I beheld till the thrones were cast down

B. Them That Know Not God

1. Vengeance.

(a) Not revenge but punishment.

(b) Retribution.

(c) Sin nor its punishment is trivial.

(d) God issues no threat He will not carry out.

2. Know not.

(a) Unwilling to know God.

(b) Those who choose to be ignorant are punished.

(c) God requires a submission.

Lu. 24:47 "And that repentance and remission of sin

Acts 11:18 "When they heard these things, they held

Rev. 22:3 "And there shall be no more curse: but the

C. Them That Obey Not the Gospel.

1. Man has earlier made his decision.

2. Gospel is more than an invitation - it's a command.

Acts 17:30 "And the times of this ignorance God winketh at

I Pet. 1:17 "And if ye call on the Father, who without

3. Repeated choices of godlessness ends in godlessness.

D. God's Patience is Not Forever.

1. Neither is man's ability to repent unlimited.

E. Punished.

1. Everlasting destruction.

(a) Not annihilation but like destroying health.

(b) It fails.

(c) Great purpose & happiness of soul destroyed by sin.

2. Presence of the Lord.

- (a) Means face.
- (b) Most disastrous effect of sin is that it isolate man from God.
- (c) "The wicked will be turned into hell."
- (d) Wicked deserve all they suffer for.
- (e) Not a hint here to suggest a future alteration of conditions entered.
- (f) Do sin's work, you'll be paid c sin's wages.

VI. Some Folks Are Welcomed Home.

V. 10 "When he shall come to be glorified.

A. We look for Him.

- 1. Sailors have a look of distance in their eyes - not stareing over side of ship at a sea to which it clings - but see Horizons.

Heb. 12:2 "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher

- 2. 3 words: parousia (presence - visible); apokalypis (unveil) & epiphania (appearing).

B. He's Glorified by Saints.

- 1. Be marveled at = to admire.

Lu. 7:9 "When Jesus heard these things, he marve

Mk. 7:37 "And were beyond measure astonished, s

I Pet. 2:9 "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal

- 2. We are on the winning side.
- 3. All settlement of affairs does not take place today - it awaits this day!
- 4. Today we imperfectly reflect His image. One day it will be full!

C. Admired In Them That Believe.

- 1. Naturally his folks welcome him.

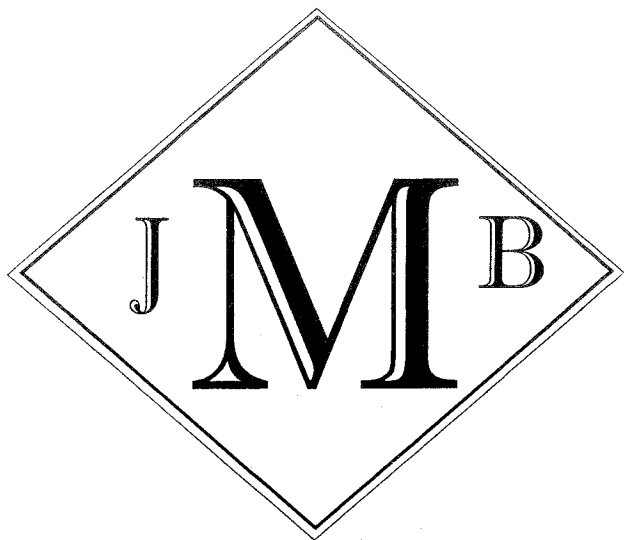
2. This is Jesus country.
3. It's for all who've placed their faith in Him.
4. Obedience is faith in practice.

Mk. 16:16 "He that believeth and is baptized shall
 Jn. 3:18-19 "He that believeth on him is not conder

5. Once they believed; at 2nd coming they see.

D. Questions:

1. Unless Christ is glorified in us now how can we be doing it at his coming?
2. Anyone who wants to go to Heaven surely want everyone he knows to go too, doesn't he?
3. Do you today count it an honor to be identified c the Christ?



If Ever I Need the Hand of God
It's On the Day of Recompense

II Thess. 1:6-10

- I. Our God is so imminently fair.
 - A. He tells me that in obedience to his will by his grace and mercy I can be saved.
 - B. He further contrastingly tells me that if I flaunt the day of grace I will be eternally lost.
 1. This day he describes.
 2. This day from II Thess. 1:6-10 I want to see and grasp.
 3. So doing, surely I'll sue for his mercy and grace.
 4. It is the most disturbing day of which I've ever read.
 5. He graphically describes its scenes.
 6. He reminds me rewards and punishments will be equally distributed, wherein in this world they are not.
 7. He makes an appeal to man's innate sense of justice.
 8. A right-minded man is indignant at wrongs and delights in the retributions that come to wrong doers.

9. This sentiment of justice is but a reflection of divine character. We are made in the image of God that hates sin. God is not unrighteous who takes vengeance (Romans 3:5).

II. Pay Day is Bound to Come.

- A. v-6 --"It is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you.."
1. This comes fully at Christ's return as he comes to be glorified in the saints and admired in all them that believe.
2. The saints cry of:
"How long, O Lord, holy and true, doest thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" (Rev. 6:10)
3. Jesus cannot endure eternal injustice.
4. Retribution is inevitable.
5. Withstanding present pressures shows righteousness of God's future judgment.
- B. Recompense tributions to those that trouble you.
 1. Recompense
 - a) How inexpressably awful and terrible is the fate of the willful rejector of the love of God.

- b) The vindication of the right and the overthrow of evil will come.
 - c) All these things are in the present tense.
 - d) Enemies of God will feel his wrath.
 - e) As the Lord returns we will see the unveiling of His glory and greatness.
 - f) It is not up to believers to pay back their enemies, but "vengeance is mine, I will repay" - the Lord.
2. Tribulation and Trouble.
- a) Cognate word - it is a righteous thing for God to afflict those that trouble you.
 - b) For those who suffer innocently for his cause, he promises relief.
 - c) Since God is righteous there has to be a time when wrongs are righted.
 - d) God loves you and he remembers how you were treated and will reverse the rolls.
 - e) It will come at Christ's parousia - it is an unveiling and unambiguous manifestation of Christ in all his glory, and

contrast of his humility and hiddenness in his earthly years.

- f) The time will come when the violations of justice will be rectified and matters will be completely reversed when the persecutors will be punished and the persecuted rewarded.

III. So he speaks to the troubled and gives them rest.

A. Troubled

1. Persecutions and trials since the early days of the church were endured.
2. Those who bear them will be counted worthy of the Kingdom of God.

B. Rest

1. In spite of trouble they remained faithful.
2. They rightfully have a great future.
3. They have rest or relief.
4. Literally denotes relaxation and ease.
5. This comes in the next world.

Job 3:17 - "There the wicked cease from troubling and there the weary be at rest."

Heb. 4:9 *There remain ∴ a rest to the people of God*

6. Enjoyable as shared with beloved friends.

IV. Comes at the time of Revelation.

A. When the Lord is revealed from Heaven.

1. Jesus in dual role - judge of the ungodly and source of glory of the believers.
2. Note the Lord will come in person not spirit or power.
3. He will be visible.
4. He will come from Heaven.
5. Every eye will see him and recognize him.
6. Come in power.
7. Come with his angels.

B. Come with his mighty angels.

1. "When" is the defining period when this takes place.
2. They will gather the elect from the four winds (Mark 13:27).
3. Gather out of the Kingdom all things that offend.
4. All that do iniquity and cast unto a furnace of fire (Matthew 13:41-42).
5. Sad thought that blessed angels loving and holy, guardians of us cast the hardened sinner into hell as once they cast Satan out of Heaven.

6. Folks will call to the rocks to fall on them, hills to cover them.
7. Call the dead from the graves, assemble the elect, separate righteous and unrighteous, consign wicked to abodes of woe.
8. As Jesus comes in justice punishing the ungodly and rewarding the faithful.

C. In Flaming Fire

1. Fire is often used as a symbol of divine judgment.
2. Fire an enhancement of divine glory of the divine presence.

D. Taking vengeance on two groups.

1. Terrible thought that vengeance could come from him, the most loving savior, with love so intense he died for them.
2. Literally giving, awarding, allotting vengeance - not the act of a conqueror, as the act of a righteous judge.
3. Awarding retribution.

E. Two classes:

1. Know not God.
 - a) Ignorance of God.
 - b) Greater the light, heavier the judgment.
 - c) Punished to the extent they held the truth in unrighteousness.

- d) He that wills to know the doctrine will be known.
2. Obey not the gospel.
 - a) Obedience is the test.
 - b) Disobedience as described with good dignity - as of our Lord.
 - c) We reject God by rejecting the gospel.
 - d) First way - know not God in personal commitment and suffer eternal ruin--now to disobey chance you had.
 - e) Disobeyed light they had - refuse gospel they heard.
- F. Punished with everlasting destruction
1. Literally there is a just penalty.
 2. Eternal - the mind shudders to contemplate.
 3. Everlasting.
 - a) As no end to the sins, so neither to their punishment - sin and punishment run parallel (Wesley).
 - b) Everlasting destruction used only here.
 - c) Does not imply annihilation.
 - d) Annihilation employes a time when the wicked cease to exist--destruction doe not.
 - e) Duration of the punishment is the duration of the blessedness.

- f) It involves separation from the face of the Lord and the glory of his strength.
- g) Some teach that the nature of man and a low concept of nature allows man to be placed under trial, work out a moral history and if he fails after a while, squelch them in the darkness of non-existence.
- h) Eternal points to the stretching away of punishment into the eternal world.
- i) The destruction represents the greatest of all deprivations - no look of love of the Savior ever theirs to see.
- j) Man should give cordial assent to the gospel and not come short of glorification.
- k) Destruction is the wreck, the dissolution of the organism, not annihilation (McGarvey).
- l) They are cut off from the good and all possibility of it.
- m) Annihilation cannot be external.
- n) Destruction refers to infinite and external pain - it means to be forever shut out from the presence of God.

- o) Forever barred from the glory of God.
 - p) It denotes ruin and death. It is the destruction of all gladness and hope and whatever makes life worth living.
 - q) It is exclusion from the face of God and the glory of his power. It sinned against the light - how could it recover itself if the light is withdrawn?
4. Away from the presence.
- a) We are everlastingly banished from the joys of God (McGarvey)
 - b) We are away from:
 - 1) Presence of the Lord.
 - 2) Blasted by the face of the Lord.
 - 3) Swiftly done - when He appears.
 - 4) Expelled from the joys of the Lord.
 - 5) Misery of hell - cut off from all that is good.
 - c) No scriptures to offer hope beyond the grave to these that die unblessed.
 - d) Who would dare trust any hope so thin as the imagination of man - we can now obey the Lord.

e) Remember we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ - be ready.

V. The next question - When!

A. Certainty is of God's timing.

B. You can now by holy conduct be glorifying Jesus.

C. There is a certain future - God knows

D. God appoints the day.

Acts 17:30-31 *the times of this ignorance God*
but now command all men every
where

E. Unknown to man is the day.

F. The fact of His coming certain - the day of it undertain.

1. Thief in the night.

2. To be glorified.

G. Comes to be admired, glorified, wondered at.

1. Glory seen in His mercy to us.

2. Faith now over - its sight.

3. Are you His?

H. Let His name be glorified in you.

1. Their faith grew in a steady continuance.

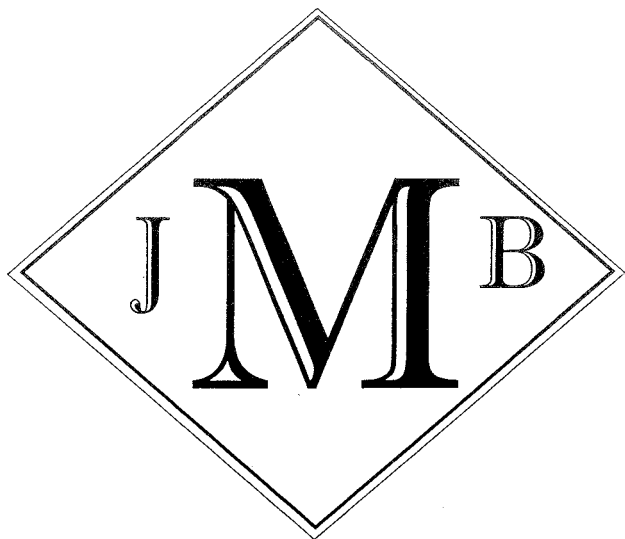
2. The saved reflect his glory as a mirror gives back the radiance of the sun.

3. The state of sight and glory are commenced.

4. Let your magnification of Christ continue all your life.

5. At one time they believed - now
a second coming they see.

West Nashville Hgts. - 8/7/02
Greenwood Park, Bowling Green, KY-10/16/02



A Highly Complimented Church

II Thess.1:1-5; 11-12

- I. What noble things can be said about the congregation where you currently serve?
 - A. Just what words of praise thrill you the most?
 1. It is a sound church.
 2. It has a great evangelistic spirit.
 3. It knows peace and unity.
 4. It basks in the Lord of God.
 - B. What am I personally doing that makes it have the reputation it enjoys?
 - C. As I compare where we currently serve with the salutation given the church at Thessalonica, how does it compare?
 - D. Naturally I want you to see the church at Thessalonica -- we do it by reading II Thessalonians 1.

- II. First see the compliments as they came via their second letter.
 - A. From Paul and companions, Silas and Timothy.
 1. He writes from Corinth.
 2. Good to love all the congregations.
 3. Great to come repeatedly to the same congregation--as I and II Thess. - not many months apart.

4. Note the courtesy Paul extends his listed fellow workers - Silas and Timothy.
- B. To the church at Thessalonica.
1. Not "from" but "to."
 2. We are not the voice of God.
 3. He'd written them before and the opening words are virtually the same both times.
 4. The exception being the description of God our Father and the fact peace comes from God and Jesus.
 5. The equality of God and Son is taken for granted.
 6. He prays they may be counted worthy, strengthened by God's grace.
 7. He will single one through love and faith.
- C. Some great couplets: grace and peace, faith and love, faith and patience, tribulations for those who trouble and rest for those who are troubled; know not, obey not; presence of the Lord, glory of His power glorified, admired; good pleasure of his goodness and work of faith.

D. Magnificence of grace and peace.

1. Desires nothing better for them than this - grace the origin and source, peace, the sweet and holy end, the very crown of Christian life.
2. No end to the resources of God and repeated suitableness to Christian needs.
3. Grace the origin; ^{peace} place the fruit.
4. Grace the first characteristic of the new covenant and the continued mercy to the sinner - we continue to live in it.
5. Peace, the first interest of a nation, a church, a soul - we cannot enjoy wealth, pleasure, or comfort without it.
6. Peace that inner tranquility of the soul.
7. All extended us by God and Jesus.

III. What kind of church was this to whom the letter came? (v.3-5)

- A. As brethren we hold to God's hand in the church. (The very word brother shows an affection Paul feels for them).
- B. It was meet - an obligation to feel respect for them - Because:

1. Your faith grows exceedingly.
 - a) What a great progress report.
 - b) Praise was due them - don't be late in expressing it.
 - c) He wants to keep thanking them.
 - d) Not static.
 - e) Thanks and praise for the pew was Paul's method.
 - f) Faith and love comprehend the Christian walk.
 - g) Rejoice in their growth.
 - h) Grows exceedingly, super abundantly, most vigorously - found only here - did it in spite of troubles.
 - i) Very notably!
2. Love of everyone of you toward each other abounds.
 - a) Individually experienced.
 - b) Agape.
 - c) Hyper - like McDonald's to increase the size.
 - d) Love shown by everyone.
3. So we glory in the churches of God--plenty reason to be grateful.
4. In spite of persecution - yet it never exhausted them nor led them to mistrust God (McGarvey).
5. No letup in persecutions.
6. Recognizing human achievements.

Believe & Faith in 21 Year Persecutions

Speak proudly of you among the disciples 5.

7. Their endurance a manifest taken of God's presence and their worthiness in the Kingdom.

perseverance

8. Kingdom a present reality as inaugurated by Jesus.

a faith in the midst of all your persecutions

9. Faithfully anticipate a great future.

& difficulties which you endure

IV. So what lies ahead? (v. 11-12)

A. I'll pray for you.

1. First, four prayers in letter.

2. Note what he prays for!

3. You'll be tried in the fire.

B. Count you worthy of your calling.

1. God has put good intentions in your heart.

2. Prays this will be carried out!

C. Fulfill all the good pleasure of his goodness.

1. It is God who implants the delight in mankind to do good.

2. All holy desires come from God - blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness - shall be filled.

D. Fulfill work of faith with power.

1) Faith is active.

2) It lives.

3) It produces good works.

4) With power fulfill all moral goodness, via faith that is energetic.

5) Faith is strengthened by trials - walk with me in white for they are worthy.

E. Name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you and you in Him.

1. Glorify God in daily life.
2. He is glorified when saints live in a manner that is a credit to Christ.
3. The church is to be the glory of Christ.

John 17:10,22 "The glory which thou gavest me I have given them."

4. All saints share his glory.
5. Marks of a great church:
 - a) Strong faith - grows surer each day.
 - b) Increasing love.
 - c) Endures constancy.

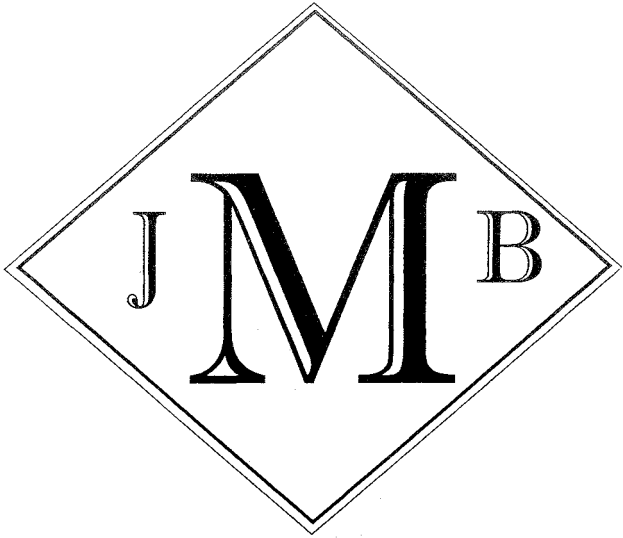
d) Name of Lord Glorified

West Nashville Heights - 8/4/02

Pond, Dickson, TN - (BC) - 9/22/02

Bethel, Joelton, TN - (BC) - 10/6/02

Jackson Park - 10/9/02



FILLED STOCKING OR FILLED LIFE

II Thess. 1:11-12

- I. It's pretty easy to be materialistic.
- A. We guard salary information.
 - B. We measure Christmas presents.
 - C. We see who got the pulley bone & the gizzard.

II. We review a prayer of Paul's & see what he thought was really important. Is it more important to have a filled Christmas stocking or a filled life?

(A) Power of intercessory prayer.

- 1. It avails.
- 2. It puts ambitions in focus.
- 3. It radiates & cements a love.
- 4. As a constant habit it's great.

(B) For the Thessalonians Paul asked first that they might be counted worthy.

2 Thess. 1:11-12 "Wherefore also we pray

1. This raises many questions?

(a) "What does God have to do c it?"

we need to learn to set our course by the stars & not by the lights of every passing ship
(1) Is He not necessary to make this all possible?

(2) Do we hunger & yearn for Him?
(3) Are we allowing for a daily inspection by God? Wouldn't prayer help bring this?

(b) What is worthiness?

Cyril Bratley
(1) It is the full realization of divine purpose in a life.

(2) Barnes used "vouch safed".

(3) Emphasis on you worthy.

Eph. 4:1 *I, the prisoner - beseech you*

Isa. 62:3 *Thou shalt be a crown of glory*

Jn. 21:10

Gal. 1:24 *And they glorifyed in me*

I Pet. 4:14 *If ye be reproached for the*

(c) What is the calling?

(1) Some said by the word to salvation

(2) Others it being the consumation of the Chr. task.

(3) This calling is hi & holy & to an inheritance among the saints.

Matt. 5:16 *Let your light so shine before*

I Cor. 10:31 *Whate ever ye do, do it to*

(4) Does this calling embrace faithfulr under all circumstances?

(5) Am I bound to live up to the deman of my calling?

C. Secondly, he wanted them to fulfill all the good pleasure of his goodness.

1. Note he asks for the ultimate - fulfill.

(a) Works of salvation are to be made complete & effectual.

2. He saw it was progressive - always in a state of filling.

(a) Will we be judged by our fellows as to where we make any progress?

3. He saw it was only goodness.

(a) Goodness is a fruit of the Spirit.

Gal. 5:22 *But the fruit of the " is - goodness*

both to will it to do at his good pleasure.
(b) Holy Spirit prompts lofty resolves.
Phil. 2:13 *For it is God which worketh in you*
I Thess. 1:5 *Because ye are not in words,*

(c) He wants them to do everything that will please God. *but also in power & HE*

(D) Thirdly, this was seen as a Work of Faith

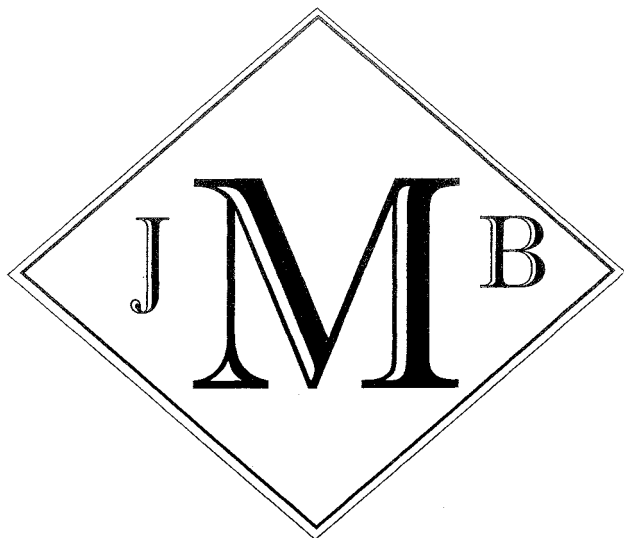
1. This endeavor is motivated by faith.

2. It is accompanied c power.

(a) Religion is always power.

(b) If this prayer for goodness were realized, would it not reform the world.

Thess End 12-20-70



MUTUAL MAGNIFICATION: JESUS IN YOU; YOU IN JESUS

2 Thess. 1:11-12

I. This Prayer of Paul, as do all things, come to a great end.

A. If you were to select the climax, what would it be for:

1. Work.

2. Life. *Settle prayer at that Gentiles would be baptised. 11:14. verses 4-12*

3. Church year. *Gifts come by apostles only.*

4. Prayer end. *Other Apostles sch. Peter*

B. We see Paul's conclusion. *Solve their other gifts*

V. 12 "That the name of our Lord Jesus *Gifts pass c coming of writer*

C. Are we a praying folk?

1. Brandt said we a vocal on its importance but short on its performance.

2. He said we defend it c our lives but do not practice it in our lives.

3. What about using prescribed times?

Ps. 55:16-18 (Robert Hoge) *And he shall*

Dan. 6:6-10 (Bob Estes) *near my side -*

4. Does it have a history of effectiveness? *don't stop - you get ans.*

Acts 4:23-31 (Buzz Rader) - *Boldness*

Acts 8:12-17 (Bob Swinney) *is the resumption of 1 saint's its other*

Acts 9:36-40 (Troy Van Vleet) *is 10 words*

Acts 10:1-6, 9 (Henry Hartman) *what about white*

Acts 12:1-5 (Bob Chaffin) *try to send for preacher*

Acts 13:1-3 (Jerry Ketchum) *solemnly comment*

Acts 16:25-26, 30-34 (Steve Chapman) *men to task*

3X what about prayer break? Behold the great things would c. Is a man in c. himself ev. church would talk

Ph 4:67 Jan? learn to talk too quick? no direction, not c. only

II. The Name of Jesus.

A. Significance of a name.

1. In ancient world it indicated the character of the bearer.
2. It stood for the personality it represented.

B. Glorification of the Name.

1. To glorify is to honor because of some work done.
2. Work of Jesus was our salvation.
3. How do we glorify?

(a) By applying His principles in daily living.

(b) Barclay says, "Master's glory lies in what he produces in us."

(c) Good works.

Jn. 16:8

(d) Does Jesus accept glorification from anyone but you?

III. Note the Mutuality.

A. Jesus is in Me.

1. Intimate relationship.

B. I'm in Jesus.

1. Are you?

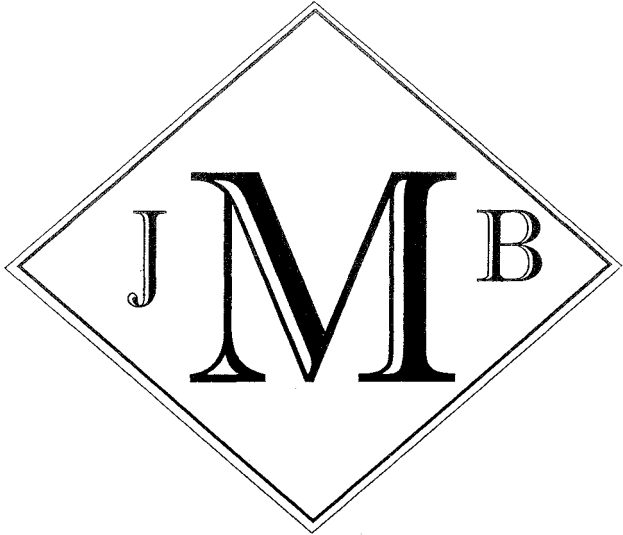
2. It's possible by grace on His part & faith on mine.

3. Is His grace greater than my sin?

4. Have I the forgiveness of Heaven?

5. Have you obeyed gospel?

2nd End 12-27-70



2 - 4 - 6 - 8 - WHO DO WE APPRECIATE?

2 Thess. 2:13-14

I. At Middleton I remember some yells.

A. 2 - 4 - 6 - 8.

B. 3 Rahs & 15 Rahs - really "sophisticated."

C. But I wonder today if we appreciate fully what God has done.

2 Thess. 2:13 - "But we are bound to give thanx

II. Reasons for Gratitude.

A. You, brethren.

1. West End gave \$1000 Wed. nite to CCC teachers w/o pay since July.

2. Cooked 32,000 cookies for T.P.S.

3. Fix fruit plates Wed. for shut-ins.

B. Beloved of the Lord.

1. You are loved by Highest Power.

2. If I loved you as God loves you, would I do the things to you I am doing?

(a) Criticize

(b) Ignore

(c) Freeze

(d) Serve

III. God's always wanted me. We will now a 4 step plan. It moves backward so far as chronology is concerned.

A. God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation (V. 13).

B. He wants you now sanctified of the spirit (V. 13).

C. He wants me to believe the truth (V. 13).

D. He's called me by His gospel (V. 14).

E. Wants for me the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

IV. Let's examine each step.

A. God's chosen me from the beginning.

- 1. He chose via election.
- 2. He chose from the beginning.
- 3. It was His eternal purpose to **save** man.

Rom. 8:29 "For whom he did foreknow, he also did

Jn. 17:2 "Thou hast given him power over all flesh

Eph. 1:3-4 "Blessed be the God & Father of our

4. Salvation has many origins in the meaning of the word.

(a) Latin - to save health.

(b) Hebrew = safety, breadth, deliverance, enlargement.

(c) GK = deliver, rescue, cure, preserve.

5. But is this salvation a result of arbitrary decree? Is God alone responsible?

6. Chose means some definite point in time - identified here "in the beginning."

7. Let's see if the rest of verse answers whether man is free or forcast irrevocably.

B. Chosen to Salvation Thru Sanctification of the Spirit.

1. Holy Spirit has a part in our salvation. None saved w/o His work.

2. To be sanctified is to set apart unto God.

I Thess. 4:7 "For God hath not called us ~~unclean~~ ^{unclean = holi}

3. Unless a man is holy his claim on Christ is nil. ^{90%}

C. Chosen to Salvation Thru Belief of the Truth.

1. None saved w/o believing the truth. Baby too

5 in pen/221

young; infidel too mean.

or 22 pen/1000

- 2. Not by good conscience or belief in what Daddy taught but rather belief of the truth of God.
- 3. All Good people saved? That not enuf - must believe the truth which of course means obey it.
- 4. Salvation has two parts - God's & man's. God started it, man accepts it.
- 5. Man must have every true doctrine & practice every virtue.
- 6. I can believe the truth (V. 13) or believe a lie (V. 11).
- 7. We are now seeing how God chooses - sanctified & faithful.

D. He called you by our gospel.

- 1. If it's God's salvation, it has to be via God's call. How does God call?
- 2. It is not mysterious - it's real & understandable - it's by gospel.
- 3. This gospel is the covenant of redemption.
- 4. Blackwelder wrote, "The timeless message of the gospel is the only hope of the world."
- 5. Even the predestinations, like Barnes, see "God has chosen man & the gospel is His means of carrying this into effect."
- 6. We raise the question - what happens if man does not obey it?
- 7. God has elected to have the gospel preached.
- 8. You elect whether to obey or disobey it. John Woodin had a long haired boy and boy asked, "I thot you'd make me cut my hair." Woodin,

"You decide how long you want to wear your hair--I decide who plays on the team."

9. Not called as McGarvey says by arbitrary election, but the gospel of Christ. ,

Rom. 8:17 "And if Christ their heirs

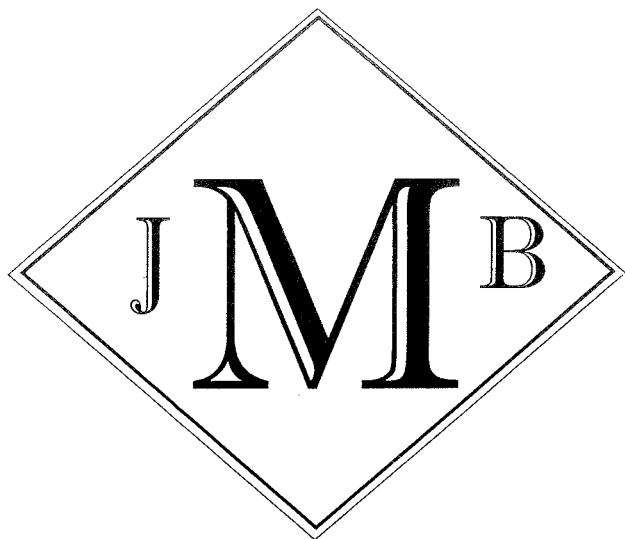
E. Ultimate End - to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Salvation is in Jesus.

2. Obtain comes by way of your earning & purchasing via grace thru obedience & continued faithfulness & holiness.

3. God has great things in store for you - are you His?

Best End 12-16-73



CHOSEN TO SALVATION!

II Thess. 2:13-17

I. What's the highest honor you've ever had?

- A. John J. Hooker said when Ali called his name after Frazier fight.
- B. When you had your 1st baby.
- C. When your company was chartered.
- D. Honor above all.

2 Thess. 2:13 "Br. Beloved of the Lord, because God

II. Our text says Things.

- A. For the Brethren we can be grateful.
- B. The Brethren Were Chosen to Salvation.
- C. The Brethren should Stand Fast.
- D. ^{PAULINE} The Brethren Have the Abiding Blessing of Jesus.

III. For the Brethren We Can Be Thankful.

II Thess. 2:13 "But we are bound to give thanks alway

A. Thanksgiving always in order. *"Tea house Talks"*

- 1. Think of achievements of brethren today.
- 2. It's apostolic example to express yourself.

B. These for whom he was grateful were Brethren, beloved of the Lord. *love whom with he loved us*

Jn. 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his

Eph. 2:4 "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great

~~Col. 3:12 "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy~~

IV. They Were Chosen to Salvation.

V. 13 "Because God hath from the beginning chosen ye

A. God Chose.

Eph. 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and

- 1. Salv. from Latin - to save; help; deliver; rescue.
- Salv. from Heb. = safety, enlargement.
- Salv. from GK. = Care, preserve.

B. God chose from the Beginning.

Eph. 1:4 "According as he hath chosen us in him before

- 1. Always wanted man saved.
- 2. If he's chosen, I can't live as I please.
- 3. He chooses none who do not meet His qualification

C. God chose method. *Chose sides - Thru bat 2's*

- 1. Sanctification of the Spirit *boy - picked best team mate*
 - (a) All who hear & obey revealed will are sanctified by the Spirit.
 - (b) Those who refuse word are not guided by the Spirit. *what part of Bible did you write?*
 - (c) We gradually progress in holiness.

Rom. 6:19 "I speak after the manner of men because of 6:22 "But now being made free from sin, and bec

2. Belief of the Truth.

- (a) To know the truth is not enuf - but be received & assimulated.
- (b) One of means to Salv.
- (c) Erdman, "Salv. by divine choice, wrought out by divine power, made effective thru divine message, perfected in divine glory, thus natural to thank God."

3. Called by our gospel *MAN'S Expected Response*

- (a) Divine grace does not exclude human effort.
- (b) You can see man vitally has a part to play.

4. To the obtaining of the glory of our Lord.

I Jn. 3:2 "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and

- (a) Final good the glory of our Lord.

V. The Chosen Are to Stand Fast.

V. 15 "Therefore br, stand fast, & hold the traditions

Tom Lawler "Superbuds don't stch wtn"

A. Faithful Essential to Salv.

- 1. Stand firm in the truth.
- 2. Lit. Keep hold - not take hold.
- 3. Doctrine & diligence both important!
- 4. Hold fast - a changed gospel loses its efficacy.

Gal. 1:6-7 "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from

- 5. If I hold, I add nothing & I let nothing go.
- 6. God's grace quickens our diligent care.
- 7. Hearts are fixed - firm in intellectual grasp.

B. "But what's this Tradition Bit?"

V. 15 "Hold the traditions which ye have been taught

- 1. Tradition has a good & bad usage.

Mk. 7:3-9 "For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except

Col. 2:8 "Beware lest any man spoil you through philo

I Pet. 1:18 "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not re

I Cor. 15:1-8 "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you

I Cor. 11:23-26 "For I have received of the Lord that

Col. 2:6 "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus t

- 2. Worth of a tradition lies not in its form but its source.
- 3. Our tradition is to cast off all tradition not contained in the Scripture - Wesley.

VI. The Brethren Have Jesus.

V. 16 "Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself & God, eve

A. We are loved by Son & Father.

- 1. Jesus mentioned 1st - unusual.
- 2. Grace freely given us.
- 3. Prayer to Jesus & God.

B. Everlasting Consolation & Good Hope.

- 1. Hope does not disappoint.

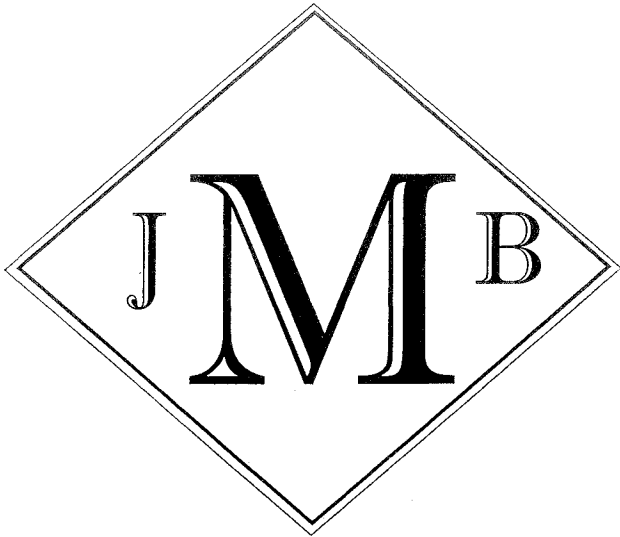
Rom. 5:5 "And hope maketh not ashamed, because the
C. Designed for our Comfort & Stablishment.

- 1. Firm & fixed.
- 2. Wants to impart strength & fortitude.

Phil. 2:15-16 "That ye may be blameless and harmless

- 3. Christians embrace the totality of life - word & work.
- 4. Brings life to maturity.

Best End 10-10-75



MIND OF MAN AND WORD OF GOD

2 Thess.2:13-17

- I. I can't think of a better text to fit my subject.
 - A. It comprises five verses.
 - B. It is a clear contrast to the troubling report on the Man of Sin.
 1. Have you heard many sermons on it?
 2. Raymond Kelsey would not do a commentary on 2 Thessalonians because of the need to deal with this subject.
 3. We'll find interesting facts from the KJV.
 - a) 37 religious terms
 - b) 5 verses
 - c) Stands with you and repeats it five times.
 - d) Add three ours, two us, one your and you have a very personal book.
 - e) Let me, as you follow, read you at least 37 religious terms.
 - f) It closes with a prayer addressed to Jesus and to God--oddly for the second time only in his writings Paul puts the name of Jesus first.
 - 1) That means he's divine.
 - 2) We may worship our Savior

g) Some very strong modifiers as I'll point out.

4. It is basically God's Word telling us of our salvation and how the saved ought to live.
5. Let's now read the passage.

C. Reading comments:

1. Brethren loved.
2. Salvation plan in the beginning.
3. His love is to save us and he specifies purity and faith.
4. Integral to our salvation the preached gospel.
5. End desire--man to gain the glory of Jesus.
6. Man has a duty to stand fast.
7. Traditions enter via God's grace--and these are good ones.
8. Everlasting consolation and good hope granted us via grace.
9. Let hearts be comforted.
10. You he stablished (2 times used) in good word and work.

II. Now let's go to the Scriptures themselves.

- A. But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you beloved brethren of the Lord.

Rom. 8:37 "We are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

Gal. 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ."

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world."

Eph. 2:4 "But God who is rich in mercy."

For His 1. Love of God is the spring and fountain for all the good or things hoped for.

great love
where with
He Grateful you are not captured by man of sin.

loved 3. Former epistle.

us! Beloved of God - I Thess. 1:4

Beloved of Christ - proven since equals his divinity

4. They had no control over Paul, Silas, Timothy coming to Thessalonica.

5. Are you thankful for your brethren and why so?

6. Do you ever stop to tell them?

B. Salvation from the beginning.

1. When God made the world He had our salvation in mind.

2. Thess. among first converted in Europe.

3. From eternity salvation was God's plan.

4. Allow you to choose.

5. Salvation the end of our faith.

I Pet. 1:9

6. Promised before the world began.

Titus 1:2

7. No afterthought with God--saw the whole redemptive scheme from the beginning.

8. Lam of God slain before the fd.

9. Chosen by plan, not as individual.

Rom. 11:5

Electing of grace

C. Next thing to see is salvation.

1. Adopted us as son.

Deut. 7:7

Rede

10:15

2. If we miss this, we miss God's purpose for us.

3. This the theme of all our preachers.

D. You are chosen (personally or via scheme of redemption).

1. We are all chosen by the same process.

a) Sanctification of the Spirit.

1) God's part.

John 17:17

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

b) Belief of the truth.

1) Man's part.

Acts 18:8

"And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized. "

2) Hears in order to believe.

3) With it, pure life is ordered.

Chosen father the bat-ova-shoulder 5.

2. Chosen do not live as they please but live showing they are chosen.

E. How did you know about salvation?

V-14 "Whereunto he called you by our gospel"

1. It's the good news.
2. We dare not change one line of it.
3. Gospel our invitation.
4. To extend invitation is not accepted in post-modern world.
5. Add nothing; subtract nothing - (Bengel).
6. Attempts made to move us from the gospel.

F. Its purpose is to lead you to the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Goodness and glory our desired end.
2. Heirs of God; joint heirs with Jesus.
3. Live in the present: salvation.
4. Look forward to future glory.

G. Stand fast.

1. Remain unshaken.
2. Hold tight--don't let go.
3. The more joy we have in the way of God, the more likely we'll stay with him.

Col. 1:25

4. Settled in these restless times.

5. It's possible to wander away as many today move to the denominational world.
 6. Evidence of our election is our steadfast devotion to Jesus and his church.
 7. No safety to the guilty, no glory to the unholy.
 8. Betty ever testing babies' grip.
- H. Traditions - something handed down.
1. Rome writes its own.
 2. My mother baked the communion bread--no "try" there.

- Gal. 2:11 "But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.
3. When canon completed the infallibility of living men ceased.
 4. We have the written word and it is all sufficient.
 5. Accept no violation of Scripture.
 6. Cast off all tradition not sustained by the word--such as right hand of fellowship at Locust Grove.
 7. Tradition seen in infant baptism.
 8. Scriptures are complete, alone binding.

2 Tim. 3:16-17

All Scrip is given by

III. What then do we have?

V-16 "Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself"

A. Order of the names.

- 1. Jesus is first, then God the Father.
- 2. Shows equality and divinity.

2 Cor. 13:14

- 3. Perfect unity in Godhead.
- 4. God and Jesus do not delegate the blessing, they themselves do it.

B. Gave us everlasting consolation.

- 1. This a divine gift as only God can do it.
- 2. In the midst of danger we have comfort as we are in the hands of God.
- 3. We live in an evil world: poverty, sickness, bereavement, death.
- 4. Deals with us as a father--dad picked my strawberries.

C. Good hope through grace.

- 1. Hope has a purifying effect.

1 John 3:4

- 2. How much do we pray for others?

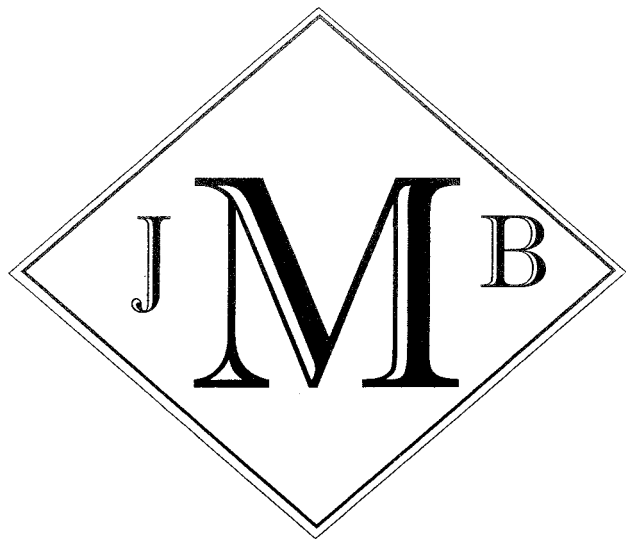
D. Comfort our hearts.

- 1. Paraklesis - an extensive word.
- 2. Like bursting of a blossom-- comfort in every direction.
- 3. Home of comfort--our hearts.

4. Eternal comfort balanced by our steadfast faithfulness.
 5. Truth the vehicle to our hearts, faith opens the door.
- E. Stablish you in every good word and work.
1. Calls for our stability.
 2. Word--what we say or write.
 3. Work what we do.
 4. Our words fit, true, wholesome, helpful, true.

East Wood C/C, Paris, TN

10/13/08



RESULT OF AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO FAITHFULNESS

2 Thess. 2:13-17

- I. Paul spoke to comfort persecuted brethren.
 - A. He was thankful for them.
 - B. He listed his reasons:
 1. Loved of God.
 2. Chosen from beginning.
 3. Sanctified by Spirit.
 4. Believed the truth.
 5. Called by the gospel.
 6. Heirs of Christ's glory.
 - C. But he knew they stood the chance of losing it all via unfaithfulness - so he wrote for their encouragement.

II. What did he say?

- A. Brethren, stand fast.
 1. World needs to see a consecrated Christian.
 2. Ultimate salvation depends on faithfulness.
 3. Why say "stand fast" if you couldn't "stand loose" & thereby be a loser?
 4. Diligence & doctrine are of twin importance!
 5. Some were shaken (V. 2). OR STOOD
Other stood fast (V. 15).
Which is it for you? - Shake OR Stand
 6. If you leave the course prescribed, you leave the salvation offered.
 7. If salvation & predestination are irrevocable, why warn to stand fast?
 8. If you can't quit the ground, why exhort to hold it?

9. Persecution no excuse to slip.

B. Hold the Traditions.

1. Is it always used in a bad light? *Phil. 2:10-11*
Col. 2:8 "Beware lest any man spoil you through

2. What are traditions? *After the tradition*

(a) Only that which the apostles taught - all must be traced to this authoritative source.

(b) Word of God eliminates human traditions as binding force.

(c) What you receive from God's word you must pass on.

1 Cor. 11:23 "For I have received of the Lord the

(d) Traditions often that of as that orally delivered - but not always - here it shows could be delivered by epistle.

(e) How does an apostle deliver today except by word?

(f) Whatever one can trace to apostles can be a matter of your faith. All else is questionable.

Acts 18:9-10 "Then spake the Lord to Paul in the

(g) Hold = masterful hold on something.

III. He offers comfort.

A. Jesus & God.

1. Two named - joined by "and" - two personalities.

2. Rarely Jesus named first.

3. Prayer addressed to both Jesus & God.

4. Word for God also used for Christ in V. 13.

B. Heaven loves us.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave

1 Jn. 4:9 "In this was manifested the love of God

toward us because that God sent his only begotten son into the world

Jer. 31:3 "The Lord hath appeared of old unto me,

C. Heaven Consoles Us.

Yea I have loved thee with an everlasting love

- 1. It is everlasting.
- 2. Unlike other joys, this one never fades.

D. Heaven Gives Good Hope Thru Grace.

- 1. We've a blessed hope.
- 2. Peter writes about it.

E. Heaven Comforts Your Hearts.

- 1. God comforts thru all of life irrespective of sickness, sorrow, age, victory.
- 2. Christian alone has sustainment in every trial.

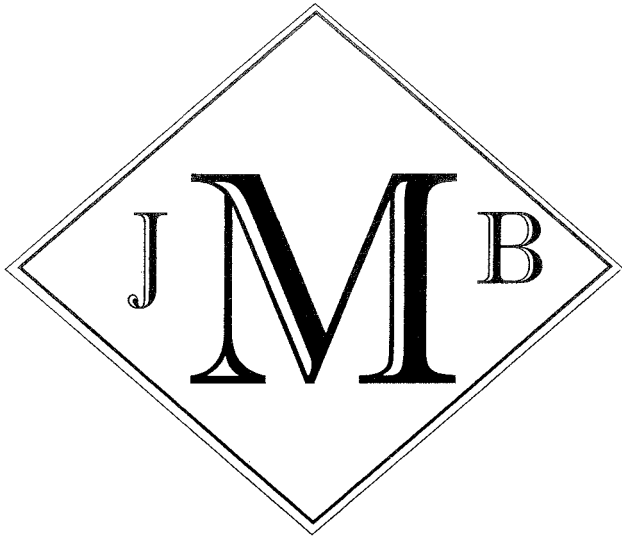
F. Heaven Stablishes In Every Good Word & Work.

- 1. Comfort & strength God gives.
- 2. Be firm.

Col. 3:2 "Set your affections on things above, not

1 Thess. 3:13 "To the end he may stablish your hec

Best End 12-23-73



SALVATION'S SCHEME IN MINATURE

2 Thess. 2:13-17

- I. Everything today has to be condensed.
 - A. Computers & chips
 - B. Microfilm
 - C. Dried foods
 - D. Even sermons!
- II. Paul, in 2 Thess. 2:13-17, surely condenses the scheme of salvation. Let's read our text.
- III. From it come these features.
 - A. Thanksgiving
 1. It is almost a lost art among mankind.
 2. It suffers at the throne of God too--especially in Lord's Supper.
 3. It is a reasonable emotion:
 - a) Thanks because they pursued the opposite course from those who hold the truth in unrighteousness. (Lipscomb)
 - b) Thankful they believed the truth and are delivered from delusions and divine judgement. (Expositor)
 - B. Brethren, beloved of the Lord.
 1. Christ yes, church no--hardly!
 2. Strong affection voiced.
 3. I Thess. 1:4 loved by God, here by Jesus--so they are one.
 - C. Chosen You From the Beginning.
 1. Such a glorious honor.
 2. We used to chose team mate by winning toss of bat--only time I was 1st if it was my bat and ball!
 3. It is not an arbitrary, random choice. It has requirements we will see.

4. If God made his plans so long ago they are not likely to be altered.
5. Scheme of redemption is older than the earth.

D. Chosen to Salvation

1. He moves from doom of unbelievers to salvation of believers.
2. It's life's highest aim.
3. Miss this, you've missed it all.

E. How chosen? Through--

1. Sanctification of the Spirit.
 - a) Logical to live according to the salvation received. (Bruce)
 - b) We'll see the Spirit's activity-- giving us the word; and man's response in believing it.
 - c) Obviously means of securing salvation is twofold: Spirit of God, mind of man.
 - d) God is at work in our lives via the Spirit transforming us.
2. Belief of the truth
 - a) Intelligent knowledgeable process-- not mysterious.
 - b) My part is to believe what the Spirit has revealed to me.
 - c) Truth is the divine revelation of God, the gospel.
 - d) God's choosing us operates in the realm of belief in the Truth & the Spirit's Sanctifying work as our lives set us aside from the world.
 - e) Salvation eludes those who do not believe the truth.

Rom. 6:17 "But God be thanked that ye were³"

Rom. 6:1 "What shall we say then?"

3. Got to know the truth by the call of the gospel.

a) This is the medium of His call.

Gal. 1:6-7

Rom. 1:16

b) Gospel imperative to our salvation-- else I would not know what I'm answering as a call.

F. End Result--Obtaining the Glory.

1. Took you out of the world & placed you in the way to glory. (Wesley)

2. These the end purpose--here and hereafter.

3. Called, chosen, beloved, cherished, forgiven, destined to glory.

IV. Our Duty Today

A. Stand Fast

1. Implies a continuous action.

2. An imperative.

3. The practical responsibility derived from God's elective purpose if others are to have it.

B. Hold the Tradition

1. Hold

a) Have a firm grip.

b) Don't add to or take from.

c) Cling--remain unmovable.

d) Cling to the doctrine.

e) Don't tire through discouragement.

2. Tradition

a) Teachings of the apostle.

b) Nothing but NT is binding on the church.

c) Can be both good and bad.

d) Here it is the teaching and precepts which inspire men.

e) What the apostles taught whether in writing or word of mouth.

f) Worth of tradition lies not in form but source & quality. (Lipscomb)

Mark 7:8

1 Cor. 11:23-24

1 Cor. 11:2

g) Continuity of truth essential.

V. His Prayer

A. To Jesus & God

1. Jesus 1st

2. He's one with God.

3. As one, both loved & gave.

4. Freely gave--not in discharge of any obligation.

5. No element of uncertainty.

6. We've consolation & good hope.

B. Comfort your hearts.

1. Inwardly blessed.

2. Comfort--impart strength

3. Encouragement

4. Inward hope expressed outwardly.

C. Stablish you in every good word & work.

1. Brings your spiritual life to maturity.

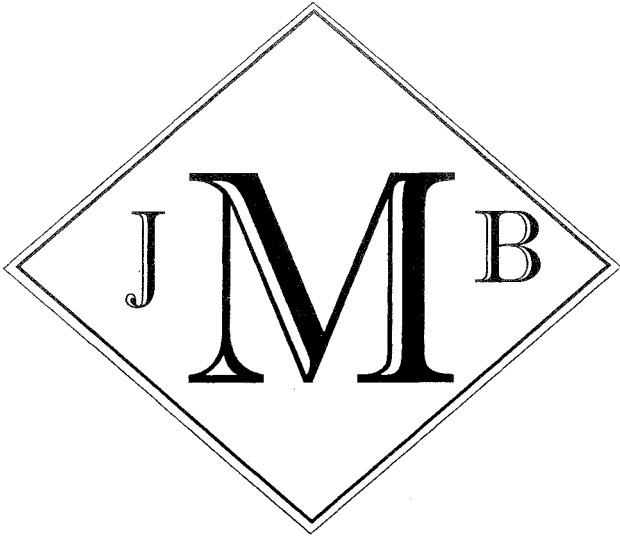
2. Embraces whole of Christian conduct
--public & private.

3. Combo--word & work.
4. Encourage & stablish are singular
in number.

Granny White - 8/13/97

Riverwood - 8/24/97

Many think to know the truth is sufficient; but the truth must be so received into the heart that it is warmed into life that it may assimilate the feelings and purposes of the heart to its needs in producing in the heart the new living plant of faith that bears the fruits of love and holiness. The seed that falls into the earth will remain barren and unfruitful unless it so comes into contact with the moisture and warmth of the soil as to excite to activity the germ of life within the seed. Then this aroused principle of life so appropriates to itself the strength and richness of the soil as to produce a new plant that will multiply the seed sown. The word of God is the seed of the kingdom sown in the heart; and when properly cherished, it appropriates all the better qualities to the growth of a spiritual plant that will abundantly multiply the seed sown. The great end, then, is not simply to get the seed sown—the word known—but to get it into the conditions that will energize the life principle and cause it to root and ground itself in the heart and direct and appropriate all the feelings of the heart. This can be done by cherishing the word of God in the heart and seeking to have it permeate our whole being.



THIS I WANT YOU TO HAVE

II THESS. 2:16-17

- I. I recall things my Dad wanted me to have.
 - A. An education.
 - B. Friends of every walk.
 - C. Business knowledge.
 - D. Emergency standby things -- Granny --
"Every cow needs a switch in the summer time."
 - II. It's thrilling for someone to want to do things for you -- but what would you like to see come to every member of the church?
 - A. 1st lets see who can do it! Our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father.
 1. Two joined together of equal value.
 2. It's a prayer, addressed to Jesus & God.
 3. Christ is mentioned before God.
 4. Two different personalities as seen by "and."
 5. Jesus is divine - verbs singular but nominative is Jesus - unity between divine persons.
 - B. Note their feeling for us.
 1. Loved us
 - a.) He freely gave to us
- Jn. 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he
1 Jn. 4:9 "In this was manifested the love of
Jer. 31:3 "The Lord hath appeared of old
2. Gave everlasting consolation.

2) Mc Donzeld card

3. Gave good hope through grace.

a.) Hope that does not disappoint is good.

Rom. 5:5 "And hope maketh not ashamed; because

b.) *Teen age clip #2*

C. God & Christ's wish for us.

1. Comfort your hearts.

a.) Means "one called or sent for"

b.) One to assist another

c.) One present to render beneficial service.

d.) Impart strength, fortitude.

e.) Give cheerful energy.

f.) Diety gives never ending encouragement -- now & hereafter.

g.) We are ever under the gun - need encouragement.

h.) We are often ready to quit.

i.) From God's gifts of the past we take heart.

j.) Free from pressure of guilt & pangs of judgement.

*College Colo. #3
Card*

2. Stablish you in every good word & work,
- a.) Request for strength (Rsb1:2) #3 1/2
 - (1) Stand unmovable
 - (2) Firm, fixed
 - (3) Hearts (affection) fixed
 - (4) Firm in intellectual grasps.
 - b.) We face much but not like persecuted Christians of Europe -- where bury, loose job, disowned, chased.
 - c.) As God prays so to speak so do we need to pray for our brothers
 - d.) We need to be bold

3. Word & Work

- a.) Embraces totality of life - what we say and do. We are responsible.
- b.) Let your hearts abound in every good work (Edwin Booth) #4
- c.) Remember how taught (v. 15)
 - (1) Tradition - that which is given along side Touching Article #5
 - (2) Hang feverishly on to your teaching
 - (3) Don't look for something new or different
 - (4) Ironside "What is new is not true & what is true is not new."

(5) Teach articles
#6 #7 #8

- (5) Tradition was the authentic teaching, apostles handed down orally.

#1

George MacDonald once said: "I would rather be what God chose to make me than the most glorious creature that I could think of; for to have been thought about, born in God's thought, and then made by God, is the dearest, grandest, and most precious thing in all thinking."

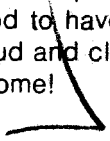
The Goodness of God by R. L. Middleton, page 19

~~Tell~~ to you, what would they say?

#2



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 their list was plenty of money and education so that 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!



Engraved on a bronze plaque that adorns the sundial^{#3}
on the campus of Colorado Woman's College are the
challenging words "I count none but the sunny hours."
What a wonderful philosophy for life; yet how few
there are whose lives are filled with only sunny
hours.

The Goodness of God by R. L. Middleton, page 96

With an abiding faith in God, we can say with the^{#3 1/2}
psalmist, "When my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to
the rock that is higher than I" (Psalm 61:2). In the
steadfast rock of God's love, we will always find
shelter from the storms of life.

The Goodness of God by R. L. Middleton, page 99

Years ago when Edwin Booth, the famous actor, was at the height of his fame, he received a letter #4

from a clergyman anxious to see his performance. At the time, many considered it sinful to attend theatrical performances. The minister requested that Mr. Booth permit him to enter the theater by a private door as he did not wish any who knew him to see him entering such a place. "Sir," replied Booth, "there is no door in my theater through which God cannot see."

#9

Aristotle said: "Those who educate children well are more to be honored than even their parents, for these only give them life, those the art of living well."

The Goodness of God by R. L. Middleton, page 26

THEY ASK ME WHY I TEACH

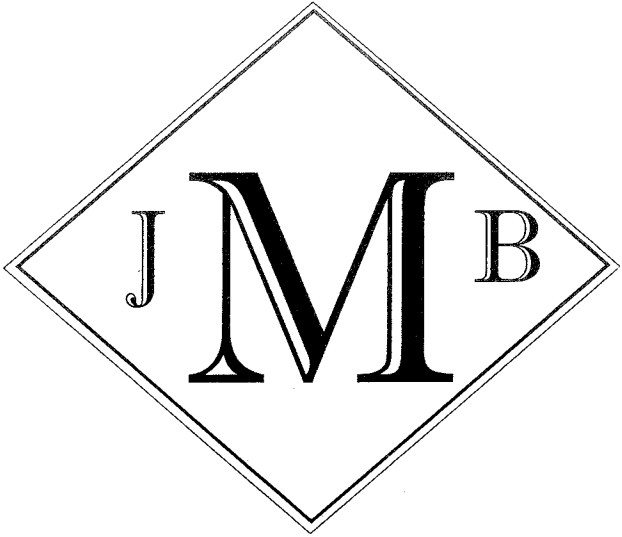
#8

They ask me why I teach,
And I reply,
Where could I find more splendid company?
There sits a statesman,
Strong, unbiased, wise,
Another later Webster,
Silver-tongued.
And there a doctor
Whose quick, steady hand
Can mend a bone,
Or stem the lifeblood's flow.
A builder sits beside him--
Upward rise
The arches of a church he builds, wherein
That minister will speak the word of God,
And lead a stumbling soul to touch the Christ.
And all about
A lesser gathering
Of farmers, merchants, teachers,
Laborers, men
Who work and vote and build
And plan and pray
Into a great tomorrow.
And I say,
"I may not see the church,
Or hear the word,
Or eat the food their hands will grow."
And yet--I may.

And later I may say,
"I knew the lad,
And he was strong,
Or weak, or kind, or proud,
Or bold, or gay.
I knew him once.
But then he was a boy."
They ask me why I teach, and I reply,
"Where could I find more splendid company?"

By Glennice L. Harmon, in "NEA Journal" 37, no. 1
(September 1948): 375.

"They Call Me Coach" - By John Wooden - Pages
61-62



THIS I CAN DO FOR YOU

II Thess. 3:1-

I. There comes the mutual charge and the cooperative granting.

A. Pray for us.

1. Word of the Lord free course.

2. Word of the Lord glorified.

3. You are the example of what we want for others.

4. Unreasonable, wicked, faithless men can impede.

(a) Mastor "One does not develop strong Christian character in a moral vacuum" tho.

B. The Lord is: (able)

1. Faithful.

2. Stablish you.

3. Keep you from evil.

C. Confidence secondly in you:

1. Now do.

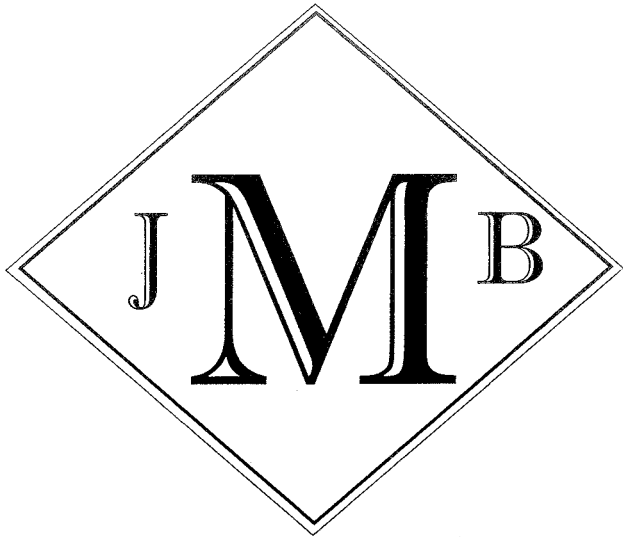
2. Will do "things which we command you"

II. Our wish for you

A. Lord direct your hearts into love of God.

B. Patient waiting for Jesus.

Mexico City 10-1-69



COULD YOU RIGHTFULLY
RECEIVE THE LETTER?

II Thess. 3:1-5

- I. At Skillman Avenue a man walked all the way to the front in the middle of a service to give me a letter.
- A. Addressed to the wrong church as the hatted man walked out.
 - B. Qwynn Trout put her rings in her mouth.
- II. Read our text--would you say on receiving it, "It's not for me--wrongly addressed."
- II Thess. 3:1-5 *finally Bro. Pray would see glorified*
- A. Let's read it.
 - B. I believe I know folk who could receive it.
- III. Text Examined--clip on Priceless Proverbs #1.
- A. Finally--
 - 1. Happiest word in preacher's arsenal-- Shoe repair clip - #2. *Byrd's - could*
 - 2. Means--for the rest. *back tomorrow*
 - 3. Means--I have a few more important matters to mention.
 - 4. Brethren--command not to a priest or presbyter but the whole church.
 - B. Pray for Us *God has made in a measure the success of his church depend on*
 - 1. Will assign subject--wanted them more interested in the progress of the *gospel* than personal welfare.
 - 2. Preachers rightfully depend on pew for prayer help.
 - 3. No one can well battle alone.
 - 4. Walvoord tells of college president who said, "We are going forward on our knees."

5. We are in a world where many bid for our affections--we want your prayers.

6. Request earlier made.

I Thess 5:25 "Brethren, pray for us."

7. Paul regularly made this request of folk.

8. We need confidence that our friends are on speaking terms with the Lord.

9. Paul here means keep on praying for us continuously.

10. Get if prayers are mutual.

11. Are we conscious of divine intervention.

2:13 -- chosen you

2:11 -- strong delusions

3:3 -- stablish you

3:16 -- give peace

12. Everywhere Paul went he left churches praying (DL).

Rom. 15:30 "That ye strive tog. w/me in your pray

2 Cor. 1:11 *also helping together by praying for us*

Eph. 6:18-19 *praying always on all prayer's sup.*

Col. 4:3 *praying that God would open unto us a door*

13. James Moffet card #3.

C. Word of the Lord Has Free Course.

1. No question about his feelings on the origin of the word.

2. What is important to us: God, loved ones, money, church!

3. Dangerous for Christian to have his heart set on something other than God.

Other from others → *speed on, go toward* 3rd
with number

4. Free Course

- a) Metaphor from race track.
- b) Lit. run & triumph. *spread rapidly*

Ps. 147:15

- His word runneth very swiftly*
- c) Be quick to take advantage of opportunity.
- d) Wants gospel to move rapidly.

Isa. 11:9

5. Glorified

- a) Triumph *winning converts (other receive c honor)*
- b) As it is with you--what a compliment!

6. Abide w/i the word--add not.

D. Deliverance Requested--Pling quote #4.

- 1. Deliverance Jesus gives from Sin.
- 2. Deliverance needed from men.
 - a) Unreasonable & wicked--came from idea "out of place."
 - b) Absurd, irrational, *unreasonable*
 - c) Jesus never this. *wrong headed*
- 3. Have not faith. *unbalanced*
 - a) No trust
 - b) No faith is the reason for their character & opposition.

IV. Reasons to Love the Lord.

A. He is faithful. *He is worthy of your confidence*

- 1. He completes what He begins *confidence*
- 2. Found it exactly as He said. *fully*
- 3. He is credible.
- 4. Faith in Him is not misplaced because of:
 - a) His character.
 - b) His providence.

5. Observe, copy, reproduce God's steadfastness.

6. Scripture speaks of God's faithfulness.

1 Cor. 1:8-9 *God is faithful by whom ye are called to him.*

1 Cor. 10:13 *God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted.*

1 Thess. 5:24 *For is he that calleth you faithful.*

2 Tim. 2:13 *If ye be not faithful, he is faithful.*

1 Jn. 1:9 *If we can confess our sins, he is faithful & just.*

7. His faithfulness declared in Scrp. & displayed in nature.

B. He'll Stablish You *Give strength*

1. See Paul is now more concerned about them than he is himself.

2. Since the Lord keeps his promise you can rely on Him to strengthen you.

3. If Christians must look on circumstances dire & ugly wherein he must depend on his own resources he will fail. (Ockenga)

4. Being mindful of the faithfulness of God one can stand like a rock.

C. Keep You From Evil.

1. Protects you against the Evil One.

2. We have many evils secretly and unknowingly to us, from which God delivers us.

3. There is nothing in the world worth doing wrong for. (Geo. Elliott)

V. I Have Confidence in You!

A. A certainty voiced and expressed for his reader--Letter of Reference #5.

B. Believed in their faithful obedience.

C. Do & will do things commanded.

1. Obeyed all they had been taught.
2. Will now add whatsoever else he enjoins. *Practice another word for do*
3. Obedience that springs from a loving heart. *Love of God reason*
(Jackson letter #6) *for new obedience*

D. Hearts directed into the Love of God and patient waiting for Christ.

1. Love of God. (Clips from Norvel's sermon -- #7) *one place; significant*
2. Steadfast waiting for Jesus' return. *100% devoted to*
3. Takes some endurance.

The most distant object one can see in the bright light of day is the sun. But in the dark of night one can see stars which are millions of times further away. Remember that the next time your own private world turns black.

From mag. "Good Reading"

Boles Home, Quinlan, TX - 5/25/91

Great Commission School Graduation - 5/26/91

Little River - Hopkinsville, KY - 6/12/91

Flat Creek church, Shelbyville, TN - 6/24/91

Brushy church, Centerville, TN - 7/21/91

Hilton Head, SC - 7/12/91

Silver Point, TN - 7/30/91

Collegeside, Cookeville, TN - 9/1/91

Hilldale, Clarksville, TN - 10/20/91

Palisades, Birmingham, AL - 10/30/91

College & North, Mt. Home, AR - 11/19/91

Maryville, TN - 2/11/92

Plainview, TX - 3/28/92

Skyline, Jackson, TN - 4/7/92

Ridgewood, Beaumont, TX - 11/4/92

During 20 years of teaching first-graders in Belvedere, Calif., Judith Frost Stark developed many ideas to motivate her students. One was to pass out the first part of well-known proverbs, asking the children to complete each of them. Here is a sampling of wisdom from her practical-minded six-year-olds

PRICELESS Proverbs #1

Condensed from

"DON'T CROSS YOUR BRIDGE BEFORE . . . YOU PAY THE TOLL"

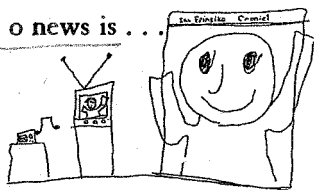
A miss is as good as a . . .

Mr. !

It's always darkest before . . .

daylight savings time .

No news is . . .



impossible .

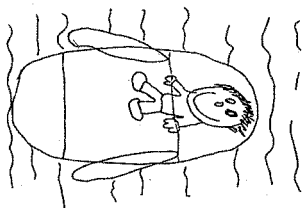
If at first you don't
succeed . . .

get new batteries.

L laugh and the world laughs with
you. Cry and . . .

you have to blow your nose .

Still waters . . .



will get you nowhere .

A penny saved is . . .

not much.

When the blind leadeth the
blind . . .

He who marries for money . . .

better be nice to his wife.

get out of thaxt way.

I close with a quote Norman's friend Jack Smith made recently:

"It is the mind that lives; and the length of life ought to be measured by the number and importance of our ideas; and not by the number of our days. Never, therefore, esteem men merely on account of their riches or their station. Respect goodness, find it where you may. Honor talent wherever you behold it unassociated with vice; but, honor it most when accompanied with exertion, and especially when exerted in the cause of truth and justice."

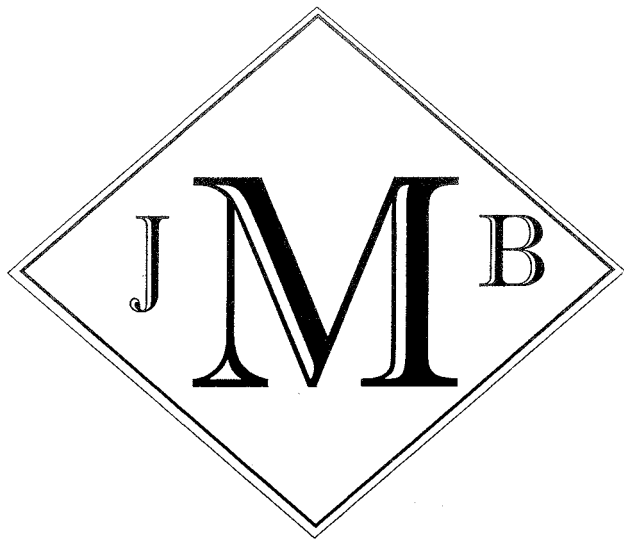
I will never forget Norman's formula for happy living:

To live fully you need someone to love, something significant to do and something to look forward to. I am grateful for this opportunity to express my own love and admiration and that of so many at Pepperdine University for Norman Cousins.

I asked them whether they were Christians, and if they confessed, I asked them a second & third time with threats of punishment if they refused, & release from Emperor Targan

Cousins

#7



AN IMPERATIVE NEED - IMPROBABLY MET

III Thess. 3:1-5

I. If I relied on men, I'd be most pessimistic
(Tenduft - Put on saddle backward)

A. I see a need.

B. I know at least partial victory can come.

C. But I'm not sure we'll do it.

1. Earnestly we need to take Paul's words to heart.

(a) One life - Haley's comment.

II. Today we must have:

A. A Praying People.

1. Humbly the stronger asks for the prayers of the weak.

2. Uses present imperative - Keep praying - durative action.

3. We need to learn to pray for one another.

4. Everywhere Paul went he left saints praying for him. *Trace Abingdon by Rom. 15:30 ^{Smoking sters.} Paul by praying st.*

2 Cor. 1:11

Eph. 6:18-19

Col. 4:3

1 Thess. 5:25

B. Green light on the gospel.

1. That the word may have free course.

2. Let it run.

3. Do we pray for its swift spread - or do just baptize our own?

(a) Areas of world closed.

- (b) Note prayer was not for self, but advance of gospel.
- (c) He wanted quick, immediate success.
- (d) Ps. spoke of word running swiftly.
Ps. 147:15

- 4. We want word to abound and be glorified - it is when sinner accepts it.
Acts 13:48
Gal. 1:23-24
- 5. Lit "run along" - c speed, security, no hesitation, no cautious picking of way.
(a) Granddad didn't keep it up.
- 6. We get everything out of racer's way - clear the course of obstacles so he can move!

C. Protection of the Preachers.

- 1. Some would destroy them.
- 2. Must ask for deliverance of these who preach. *Puppell called me a dumbhead*
- 3. Many would disgrace the preacher.

III. I'm a Realist - Things Seek to Hinder the Gospel Spread.

- A. Wicked, unreasonable men.
 - 1. "Pest Control Service"
- B. Faithless men, lazy, indifferent men.
 - 1. Pilot ran river - know every sandbar - there's one now!
- C. Men who discount their efforts as insignificant.

*West End Combined Visitation Teams 11-10-70
West End 12-6-70 - Mrs. Ed Frankum - Host.*

Sherbet offers diet bonus

Here is a sherbet dish for the sodium counter.

CRANBERRY SHERBET

1 envelope unflavored gelatin

1/4 cup cold water

3 cups cranberry juice

1 cup sugar

3 tablespoons lemon juice

Sprinkle gelatin over cold water to soften. Heat 1 cup

cranberry juice to boiling; remove from heat. Stir in softened gelatin and sugar until both are dissolved. Add remaining cranberry juice and lemon juice. Pour into ice cube trays and place in freezing compartment. Freeze to mushy stage. Transfer to mixing bowl and beat until mixture is pink

and smooth. Return to trays and freeze until firm.

Makes six servings: 226 calories per serving; 2 milligrams sodium.

Kill sogginess

When making sandwiches the night before, always butter bread right to edges so filling won't soak in.

CLOSED SUN. APR. 22

We will be closed Sunday so that our Employee's can spend Easter Sunday with their families.

Church membership is declining. Ninety-five percent of apartment dwellers never go near a church on Sunday or any other day. For most city dwellers, weekends are preempted as escape time—escape from the pressure of having to be at a certain place at a certain hour to do a certain thing. When death comes, many families now request, without embarrassment, "No funeral, thank you."

What's ahead? Is religion a defunct department of American life? Is the church capable of the renewal that will make its message congruent with a mobile, flexible man? Or is it urban man himself who has missed Dead Man's Curve and landed in a ditch of material confusion?

When pioneer Seventh-day Adventists organized their General Conference just over a century ago, adherents numbered 3,500, all of them living in the United States. Today 1,600,000 baptized members, meeting in 15,000 churches, are scattered around the globe.

This has been a century of miracles for the advent people. They have emerged from obscurity into a world movement.

Adventism has become a religious "united nations". Its missionaries now carry on their work in 900 languages and dialects. World travelers are familiar with the church's hospitals, clinics, mission boats, schools, and publishing houses in many lands.

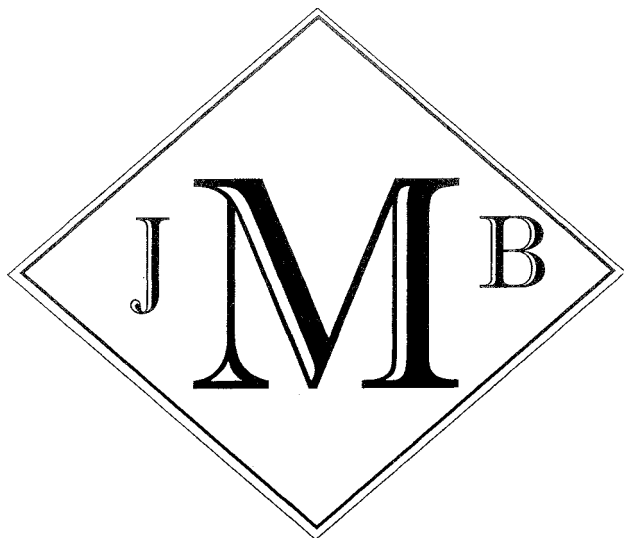
How has such growth been achieved? By the grace and providence of God. Jesus Christ assured His disciples, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth," adding the command, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations . . . and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Seventh-day Adventists take these words as their marching orders.

"A Century of Miracles" - By Richard H. Utt (Foreword)

That
ing to

turkeys,
berries,
apples,
pefruit,

A new American every 14½ seconds
—that's how fast the nation grows. The lowest birth rate in years doesn't halt the increase; it only slows it. Every 24 hours the population jumps by another 6,035 people (taking into account births, deaths, immigration, emigration). It's one more concern for the country as it moves into the new year.



I WORK FOR GOD; I WORK WITH MEN

II Thess. 3:1-5

I. Attitudes are improved and thus work is when we realize our own motivation.

A. Why are you here? *Don't do nothing half way, else you find yourself dropping men then u can't pick up*

B. Why are you a member of the church? *God's just up*

C. Who do you work for? God or men?

(1) Important to avoid discouragement, lest men overly disappoint.

(2) Important to keep perspective as to "who is boss."

(3) Paul puts it sharply in focus in our text:

II Thess. 3:1-5 *2 things: Men are Variable*

II. Men are variable. *God is Constant*

A. All men have not faith (V. 2).

1. If you are a believer, it does not take from you an understanding of reality - all men have not faith - just don't want it. *See the quote*

2. Some men say God's way is not reasonable.

3. Unreasonable men = bigot, outrageous.

4. Faith is doing the will of God - They wouldn't.

5. Faith is antidote to what's unreasonable and wicked.

B. In some men you have confidence and know why you do. *Computer - don't stand there, kiss me*

1. They both do & will do the things which we command you. (V. 4)

(a) Some men rather than obey seek to hinder work.

Macaulay quote: The train, men are their tutors; great actions are their elegance

5. Thess.

I Thess. 5:16-18 "Rejoice evermore. Pray w/o ceasing. In every thing give

III. Paul's Wish - All Signals Go.

A. He wanted speed.

- 1. No hesitation.
- 2. No picking way.

Ps. 147:15 "He sendeth for this com...his word run.

3. Literally he wanted gospel to run.

B. He wanted security.

- 1. No need for caution.
- 2. Wanted deliverance from monstrous people.

Thess End 5-21-72

Mens Breakfast, Paris, Texas 5-23-72

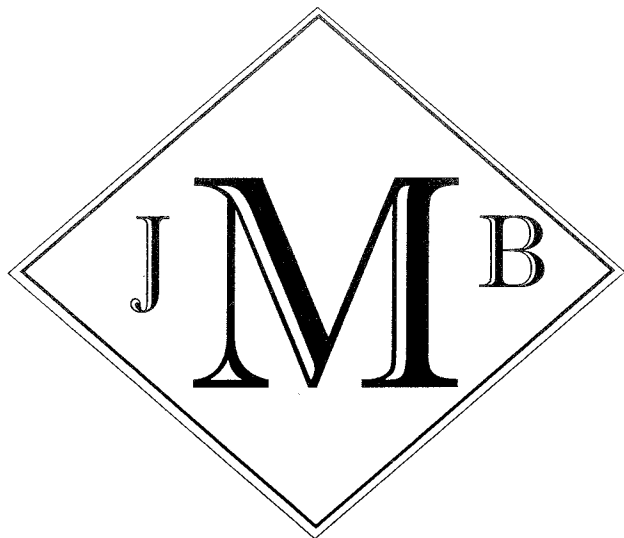
Olizon, Tenn. Church, Bible class 6-11-72

Sherrod Ave, Florence, Ala, 7-31-72

Bethel Church, Franklin, Ky. 9-11-72

Waymere Church, Columbia. 8-27-72

Overland Park, Kan. 10/8/72 (9.m.)



A NECESSARY CURRENT PRAYER: THAT ALL SIGNALS FOR THE WORD ARE "GO"

II Thess. 3:1-5

I. Do we feel the other's side of life?

- A. When we chew & tooth hurt, do you only then remember how pleasant it is not to ache?
- B. Must we be pained in walking to recall freedom w/o it?
- C. Must the word be shackled before we glory in its lost free course?
 1. We seek to study Paul's prayer request.
 2. We want to keep & pass on to others what we have.

II. Prayer for the Word's Advance.

II Thess. 3:1 "Finally br. pr. for us that the word of

A. Note the contrast of the Word.

1. Free course vs. Bound word. (2 Tim. 2:9)
2. Glorified vs. Despised.
3. Lives in you vs. dies in others.
4. Delivered from unreasonable & wicked men vs. controlled by unreasonable men.
5. Faith vs. Disbelief.

B. Pray was a means of getting the job done.

1. Strong man asks prayers of men who were weak.
2. Shows humility of Paul.
3. Prayer was specific: Advance word, deliver proclaimers from unreasonable men.

(a) Kenny Hahn said Teddy Kennedy would never run--wanted plain clothes man at all times plus always looking over shoulder.

(b) Roy Innis, head of Congress for Racial Equality, of Wallace, "Political assassination is becoming as American as apple pie. One might be tempted to say in this case the chickens came home to roost--but that would be unkind.

(c) In church the popes & their papers hinder the spread of the gospel.

4. How specific are we in prayers for the lost of the world?
 5. Are we concerned that vast areas are closed?
 6. Word for pray is present imperative, durative action--keep praying.
 7. But how can we pray honestly for what we don't support?
 8. Note no prayer for personal success--only that of the word.
 9. Do we pray for one another when absent from one another?
 10. Clear the course - remove obstructions.
- C. Paul left in many cities a praying people.

1. Rome.

Rom. 15:30 "Now I beseech you br. for the

2. Corinth.

that ye strive together come in ye

2 Cor. 1:11 "Ye also helping together by p.

3. Ephesus.

Eph. 6:18-19 "Praying always c all pr.

4. Colossee.

watching them unto

Col. 4:3 "Withal praying also for us *that*

God may open unto us a door of utter.

C. The Lord will keep you from evil (V. 3)

1. If you are inwardly confident, you can outwardly endure.
2. Have not confidence in men but always in God.

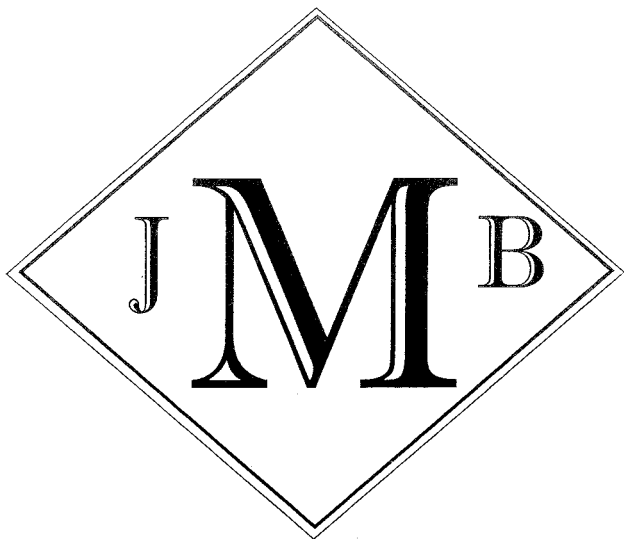
West End 5-28-72

Shenod Ave, Florence, Ala. 7-31-72

Bethel Church, Franklin, Ky. 9-11-72

Exthe: Tell me not of your doubts. Tell me
of your faith - I have doubts enough of my
own.

Waynes Church, Columbia 8-27-72



A VERY PERSONAL SERMON

II Thess. 3:1-5

I. The great union of souls that exists in the church is an inspiration to behold.

A. Paul is in the midst of trouble at Corinth.

B. He writes to a dear church where the gospel knew great success.

C. Let's see what he said - 2 Thess. 3:1-5.

II. He begins with Finally, Brethren.

A. Define

1. Come to a conclusion.

2. What remains.

3. I shall add - Coffman.

B. It does not mean end - Marshall.

I Thess. 4:1 "Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren"

Phil. 3:1 "Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord"

C. Brothers.

1. What sweeter term.

2. How keenly do we need each other.

III. "Pray for us"

A. Have you ever thought of praying for one another as a command?

V-4 "And we have confidence in the Lord touching you"

1. Whenever you do, I'm blessed.

a) Marie Bosworth.

b) Bob Neil

c) Sister Peek

d) J. R. Ewing & my back.

2. Do all of us for others obey this command?

B. Lessons here learned.

1. Don't confine prayers to selfish needs but remember burdens of others.

→ 2. We are commanded to make intercessions for others.

3. Success depends on prayer.

→ 4. Pray is in present tense - so keep on praying.

5. We may be separated by distances but meet at throne of grace.

C. Why pray for preachers?

1. Work is great.

2. There are many hindrances.

3. They feel their needs.

4. Prayer knits us closer together.

Little 2nd grader - "our substitute not as good as you has to use both hands to play piano"

D. What were they to pray for?

1. Word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified.

2. Be delivered from unreasonable & wicked men.

3. Note the order: word 1st; self 2nd.

Geo Wash. Clip #3

Kate Jackson # 3 1/2

IV. The Prayer Request.

A. Gospel's free course, glorification, as in you.

1. Free course - 1st of 3 parts.

a) Wants rapid spread of the truth.

b) Literally run - "run a meeting" vs hold.

c) Speed the word - like running as it out-distances every opponent.

d) Let it go quickly. *His word run. very swiftness*

Ps. 147:15 "He sendeth forth his commandment upon earth"

2 Tim: 2:9 "Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer"

bound - BUT the word of God is not bound

- e) Wants the Lord to run through him.
- f) Picture the Lord running through us.

2. And be glorified.

a) May he keep running & be glorified.

b) Lightfoot "May he have a triumphant career".

c) (We need to ask is there anything in my life that causes the gospel to stumble or be sullied?) (Does anything trip it up?)

d) Pray for triumphant.

Acts 6:7 "The word of God increased; and the # of disc.

12:24 "But the word of God grew and multiplied"

13:48 "When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad

e) Church must not be stationary.

3. Even as it is with you -

a) Thess. were examples - are we?

b) Everybody is not like you.

c) Great success there.

1 Thess. 1:5 "For our gospel came not unto you in word"

6 "And ye became followers of us & of the L."

8 "For from you sounded out the word of the L."

2:13 "For this cause also thank we God w/o ceas

d) Commendatory - as it is with you.

B. Be delivered from unreasonable & wicked men.

1. Paul most valuable man alive yet at the mercy of evil men.

2. The Lord cannot only preserve but change folks & unbind circumstances.

3. Expect a breakthrough.

4. Evil = out of place, odd, perverse, corrupt & try to make others so.
5. Wicked = lawless, outrageous, harmful acts.
6. All men have not faith. *Stress Attitude*
- They close countries to the gospel.
 - The Christian faith - not faith in general.

IV. The One to Whom You Pray.

A. The Lord is Faithful.

- He is trustworthy.
- You can depend on Him no matter how perverse men are.
- This takes away the unreasonable & the wicked.
- You can depend on Him to keep his promises.
- Trustworthiness of God more than a match for untrustworthy men.
- Contrasts men, faithlessness with His faithfulness.

B. He establish & keep you from Evil.

- Paul knew his appointment.

Gal. 1:1 "Paul, an apostle (not of men, neither by man"

Acts 13:2 "As they ministered to the Lord & fasted,"

- There is human opposition to missions.

- Evil could be evil one - Satan.

- 4. Keep = protect - military term - protect against violent assault.

V. Our Task.

A. Do & Will do things commanded.

- Pray for sinners to be saved.
- Believers become strong.

3. Money not sinew for missions.
4. All money in world can't convert a soul.
5. What's the character of our converts, not the numbers we make.
6. Confidence = being persuaded.
7. We've no commission to teach anything other than the commands of our Lord.

→ Matt. 28:20 "Teaching them to observe all things"

8. We damage by a misplaced affection.
9. Repeated call to stand & be guided by the word. *True biblical quote #5*

B. Direct your hearts into love of God.

1. Direct = to make smooth & straight.
2. Glory "Not the love of God to man but objectively our love to God".

C. Patiently wait his return.

1. Bengel says this is wrong translation.
2. But surely right to look for his return.

Caracas, Venezuela 6/9/85

West End - 7/28/85

Laura Pierce - 7/22/85) Baptisms

Jonathan Guy - 7/23/85) from

Beth Brazil - 7/26/85) WEBE

Wildwood Valley, Hurricane Mills, TN - 7/30/85

Western Hills Church, Temple, TX - 8/19/85

Dana Scott (Baptized)

General George Patton demanded that his men know and be able to articulate exactly what the current mission was. "What is your mission?" he would frequently ask. The definition of the mission was the most important piece of information a soldier could carry into combat. Based on that knowledge, he could make his decisions and implement the plan. That is exactly what happens when I pursue biblical rest. I take a hard look at my mission. And it has taught me to make a small pause even in my spiritual disciplines each morning to ask the question, What is my mission today? Not to regularly ask this question is to leave yourself open to mistakes of judgment and direction.

In a lonely moment in Washington when John Quincy Adams was overwhelmed by homesickness for his Massachusetts family, he wrote them a letter, addressing comments of encouragement and counsel to each son and daughter. To his daughter he wrote about the prospect of marriage and the kind of man she should choose to marry. His words reveal how highly he regarded an ordered private world:

✓ Daughter! Get you an honest man for a husband and keep him honest. No matter whether he is rich, provided he be independent. Regard the honor and moral character of the man, more than all other circumstances. *Think of no other greatness, but that of the soul, no other riches but those of the heart.*³

2. Anna Morrow Lindberg, *The Gift from the Sea* (New York: Pantheon, 1955), pp. 23-24.
3. Dorothe Bobbe, *Abigail Adams* (New York: Putnam, 1966), p. 206.

GEORGE Washington enjoyed telling this story about an over-zealous candidate campaigning for office.

"Fellow citizens," said the candidate, "I have fought against the Indians. I have often had no bed but the battlefield, and no canopy but the sky. I have marched over frozen

ground 'til every step has been marked by blood."

His story told well, until a dried-up looking voter came to the front and asked, "Did you say you'd fought in the war?"

"Yes!" replied the candidate.

"And agin' the Indians?"

"Yes, many a time."

"And that you slept on the ground with only the sky fer a kiver?"

"Certainly."

"And that your feet bled in marchin' over the frozen ground?"

"That they did," cried the exultant candidate.

"Wal then, I'll be durned if you hain't done enough for your country. Gowan home and rest. I'll vote for the other fellow."

After considerable research, various events common to all of us were assigned point totals by Holmes and his associates. Each point was called a "life-change unit." An accumulation of more than 200 of these units in any one year, Holmes suggests, could be the warning of a potential

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1. "Stress: Can We Cope?" *Time*, 6 June 1983, pp. 48-54.

heart attack, emotional stress, or breakdown of the ability to function as a healthy person. The death of a spouse, for example, commands the highest number of "life-change" units, 100. Being fired from a job produces 47 points, while the acquisition of a new family member provides 39. Not all stress-producing events listed by Holmes are negative. Even positive and happy events such as Christmas (12 points) and vacations (13) create stress.

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"No vital Christianity is possible unless at least three aspects of it are developed," writes Elton Trueblood. "These three are the inner life of devotion, the outer life of service, and the *intellectual life of rationality*."¹ The third aspect is the easiest for many evangelicals to ignore, thinking it too worldly and offensive to the gospel. But the dulling of the mind leads to ultimate disorganization of the private world.

